

Parkdale Book Club

Still Life, March 2024 and nominations draft 1

Schedule – 2nd Saturday each month, 10 am, Zoom

April 13*	<i>Demon Copperhead</i> , by Barbara Kingsolver	Beth
May 11*	<i>Snow Road Station</i> , by Elizabeth Hay	Janine
June 8	<i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i> , by Shelby Van Pelt	Lynn

Next month, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. See p. 8 for more

information and the zoom link. Beth says start now, because it’s a long one. I anticipate an interesting discussion because on the book blog FB pages I follow, it seems to be a love-it or hate-it sort of book.

Still Life

Thanks, Deb, for leading our discussion [this morning](#) on Sarah Winman’s *Still Life*. Here are some reactions to the book and our discussion.

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I had not read the book but the *Calgary Herald* had an article on an interview that they had done with the author Sarah Winman in 2015. The book was written in the wake of Brexit and during much political happenings in England. I thought I would share some tidbits with you. The idea of the book took shape when Winman found herself having lunch in a restaurant in Florence and was stunned by photographs on the walls depicting the devastating 1966 city floods that killed dozens of people and destroyed priceless works of art. The restaurant owner started to tell her about the “mud angels,” young men and women who traveled from all over the world to help clean up the city and its art. The article reiterates our discussion on the memorable characters in the story. She credits

her acting career for helping her create well defined characters and good dialogue. She says “I do know how to inhabit a character and with my dialogue, I always read it out loud to myself to get a sense of voice for that character. Once you have that you kind of have the actor’s personality.”

The story is about the quiet unfolding of lives, yet within such lives she demonstrates that it’s possible to encounter the extraordinary. In the closing of the article she said, “people are good and kind and, given half the chance, we can have good lives,”

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I loved the book--it's a balm for the soul during these dark times in the world. While many sad occurrences happen over the course of the book--war, death and family divisions, the themes of community and the importance of beauty in all its' facets emerge as true healers of the spirit. The author is masterful in the creation of character, place and the use of all of the senses. The book made me want to return to Florence and spend lots of time there.

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Still, Life

The moment stars align
and the shift of sweet wind
greet you at morning,
this is when mystery becomes knowing
and fortune becomes love
and the arc of flight settles
a small bird a thousand miles from home
within heat on its wings
and a calm delight at the mastery of navigation.
And he became aware of the universe,
that endless canopy of chance and wonder.

"Eternity is five minutes below the surface, you just need to be still enough for that long to listen" ~ Lynn Sloane. (The original is "Transcendence is five minutes below the surface..." but we hear/remember what we need. This was the final journal entry after a week-long journal retreat many years ago.)

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I appreciated the range of characters assembled in this novel and the coincidences and circumstances that brought them together into a family of friends. I enjoyed the fortune, luck, and chance peppered throughout this book, as well as the magical aspects of the talking (and cognisant) parrot and trees that replied when spoken to.

Winman seemed to have a good deal of fun with names and I needed to stay on my toes at times as to who's who: Ulysses (Uly, Temps), Alys (Kid), Evelyn (Linney) with Miss Everly. Eddie and Ted were nearly opposite characters but both names derived from Edward. Let's not forget the inconsequential Margaret *someone* in the first sentence. Even the name of the pub changed more than once.

Her inclusion of historical events was powerful. I looked up photos of the Mud Angels and some videos about globe craftsmanship. The globe then related to the iconic photo of earth from space. Characters often took pictures, which I see as

relating to the concept of a still life painting, a moment captured and frozen in time.

I agree with some others that the book could have ended very well with one less chapter. I didn't need the connections to *A Room With a View* to be so directly spelled out, the relationships in the last chapter really didn't add to the story, and Evelyn's raving about works of art was growing excessive in the last 50 pages. Over all, a terrific reading suggestion.

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- This is a book to savour, not rush through. Some books take place in a short period of time. This book documents Evelyn's life from age 20 to 99 years – 1900 to 1979.
- There are so many beautiful relationships that develop in the book. I love them all. Winman makes each character complex so there is depth in their development as individuals as well as depth in their connections with each other. Each one is endearing and I came to love them just as they loved one another. There are so many examples of tenderness and care in the way the characters watch out for each other and care for one another.
- There were funny parts to each character and poignant parts, making each one interesting.
- I loved Cressy and the brilliant parrot, Claude. I loved how Cressy talked to the trees and sought guidance from the trees that never disappointed. I loved that he trusted his gut and “put it all on the black” and won pots of money that he smuggled into Italy with a false-bottomed suitcase. I loved that he drugged the parrot to bring him along, and the parrot survived. I loved that they died at the same time. It seemed fitting.
- I looked up the symbolism of parrots in art – when used in paintings, “they represent virtuousness or marital chastity. The parrot has also been interpreted as a symbol of eloquence and eagerness to learn, because the brightly colored bird can be tamed and

taught to mimic speech.” Winman’s parrot Claude went way beyond mimicking speech – he seemed to have original wise thoughts and could carry on conversations and take initiative. He is the one who found his soulmate, Cressy when he went missing.

- The city of Florence becomes a character in the book and I found my self falling in love with her, too.
- The book was educational and I learned more about historical events, some I hadn’t known about (e.g., the flood of 1966, E. M. Forster, wartime, art preservation).
- Winman did a fantastic job of describing the flood of 1966. It was like I was really there. I looked it up to learn more about it. I wondered how David fared during the flood; being on a pedestal helped him survive. I saw him in 2006, 40 years after the flood, and he looked good to me. I was thinking about our own flood of 2013, with lots of people having their basements full of 8’ of water and sewage and mud. As in Florence, everyone pulled together to mop up the mess. I can’t imagine having all those treasures lost in the muck, beyond restoration. There were many “mud angels” in both our towns.
- I read more about E. M. Forster. Now I’m interested to read *A Room with a View* and also *Maurice*. I was so sad to learn that *Maurice* wasn’t published until after Forster’s death. Winman pays tribute to Forster in her last chapter. When he and Evelyn part, Evelyn says to him, “Good luck, Mr. Forster. I see good things for you. Wonderful things. And remember: cherish the body and the soul will follow.” It’s kind of a “back to the future” moment where Winman has the advantage of already knowing how Forster’s life unfolds. The relationship Forster has with his mother seems problematic. She is critical and judgmental, and one gets the feeling it would serve him well to get out from under her thumb. In the book, Evelyn encourages

him to step out and take risks. I found an article about Forster in *The Guardian* where he describes his relationship with his mother: "Although my mother has been intermittently tiresome for the last 30 years, cramped and warped my genius, hindered my career, blocked and bugged up my house, and boycotted my beloved, I have to admit she has provided a sort of rich subsoil where I have been able to rest and grow. That, rather than sex or wifiness, seems to be women's special gift to men."

- I liked the title, *Still Life*. Whether or not Winman intended it, it made me think of different levels of the story. The works of art in the galleries in Florence depicted “still life” scenes. The events Winman describes in the book are snapshots of moments in time, freeze-framed, “still life.” Then I was thinking about the resiliency the characters demonstrated and I thought “Still ... Life.” After all of this, there is still Life. That’s amazing and wonderful.
- *Still Life* is a love story on so many levels – loving people, loving places, loving experiences, loving events in time.
- I like the scene where Constance asks Evelyn to close her eyes and describe what she sees out her window. After Evelyn finishes, Constance laughs and says, “She is smitten already! You have caught the fever of Firenze! Oh, my dear Miss Skinner, there is no turning back. You shall die with those lights in your eyes. Miss Skinner has turned looking into loving! The first rule of art. Looking into loving! Oh welcome, my dear! Welcome.” What a beautiful thought.
- The book was divided into time periods from 1944 to 1979. It was an interesting writing technique to finish with the chapter, All About Evelyn, that spans her whole adult life from 1900 to 1979. We get to revisit some of the events described earlier in the book and we get to read, for the first time, about Evelyn’s first visit to Florence. The summary helped to tie it all up and gave

more context to understand the choices that Evelyn made throughout her life and why Florence was such an important place for her.

- It's the kind of book that invites a re-read. I'm sure I would get even more out of it, reading it a second time.

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Thank you so much for nominating this book! Here's how much I loved it. As soon as I finished first listen, I started it again. I bought an e-book copy so I could read it as well as listen to it. I bought three paperback copies to give to friends. I downloaded the audiobook of *A Room With a View* – it was a DNF for me though.

And here's why I loved this book:

It was a hundred little stories, each as compelling as the next.

The title – *Still Life*. Still, Life. Life is not still. Each part of a still life painting tells its own little story, like this book. *"The power of still life lies precisely in this triviality. Because it is a world of reliability. Of mutuality between objects that are there, and people who are not. Paused time in ghostly absence."* Evelyne's lecture to the art students about what is left out of still life paintings, women's work...

I was so engaged with the characters that I realized with alarm: as it's a longitudinal (1944 to 1979) novel, someone will die – OH NO!

The sex scenes were delectable.

The narration was amazing, and by the author! Then when I learned she was an actor as well as an author, it made more sense that she was so good at narration.

It reminded me of Coronation Street, and just as this thought crossed my mind, there was mention of the upcoming coronation.

I liked the magical realism aspect – Claude's messages ('Don't marry Ted'), Cress's dialogues with the trees.

The globe maker – making the world, a parallel for the plot. Hiding names in the countries.

People caring for each other, kindness. Chosen family.

The caring for each other after the devastating flood – an echo of the flood here.

Friendships span generations – Ulysses is 24, Evelyne 64 when they meet first.

Many stories of roads taken and not taken. The near-misses –when Evelyne & Dottie are in Florence while Uly lives there.

Margaret Somebody – who??? Why was she left un-named? Such a contrast to the significance of each other character and the significance of names..

Des & Poppy's generosity. Massimo's guidance ('too soon for a telephone, Ulysses') and kindness.

Pete the piano player's popping up here and there throughout the story.

Challenges, though:

How on earth did a woman like Peg end up with a Ted?? It was hard to make sense of her decision to go ahead with the marriage, especially after Claude's cogent advice. I'm so glad Peg got, eventually, a happy ending.

On 2nd listen, I found it jangling that the last part of the novel was back to Evelyne's youth in great detail. For me, it didn't fit. And that was a very long and detailed story for a 99-year-old to be telling.

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Nominations

1. Debbie: I'm thinking of ***The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*** by Daniel James Brown as a book for next year. ... I haven't read it yet, but have it on my "to be read" shelf. It has quite good reviews and I thought the theme of the Olympics might be fun, given that they are occurring this summer. It's based on a true story and has themes of overcoming adversity, which are common themes in America during the Olympics. It's being made into a movie. From Goodreads:

For readers of Laura Hillenbrand's *Seabiscuit* and *Unbroken*, the dramatic story of the American rowing team that stunned the world at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics. Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew is assembled by an enigmatic coach and mentored by a visionary, eccentric British boat builder, but it is their trust in each other that makes them a victorious team. They remind the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together—a perfect melding of commitment, determination, and optimism. Drawing on the boys' own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, *The Boys in the Boat* is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant. It will appeal to readers of Erik Larson, Timothy Egan, James Bradley, and David Halberstam's *The Amateurs*.

2. Janine offers for our consideration ***Girlfriend on Mars***, by Deborah Willis.

From Goodreads: Amber Kivinen is moving to Mars. Or at least, she will be if she wins a chance to join MarsNow. She and twenty-three reality TV contestants from around the world—including a hunky Israeli soldier, an endearing fellow Canadian, and an assortment of science nerds and wannabe influencers—are competing for two seats on the first human-led mission to Mars, sponsored by billionaire Geoff Task. Meanwhile Kevin, Amber's boyfriend of fourteen years, was content going nowhere

until Amber left him—and their hydroponic weed business—behind. As he tends to the plants growing in their absurdly overpriced Vancouver basement apartment, Kevin tunes in to find out why the love of his life is so determined to leave the planet with somebody else.

An audaciously original debut from an "immensely talented writer" (Emily St. John Mandel), *Girlfriend on Mars* is at once a satirical indictment of our pursuit of fame and wealth amidst environmental crisis, and an exploration of humanity's deepest longing, greatest quest, and most enduring cliché: love.

3. Lynn is nominating ***Hollow Kingdom***, by Kira Jane Buxton. From Goodreads:

One pet crow fights to save humanity from an apocalypse in this uniquely hilarious debut from a genre-bending literary author. S.T., a domesticated crow, is a bird of simple pleasures: hanging out with his owner Big Jim, trading insults with Seattle's wild crows (those idiots), and enjoying the finest food humankind has to offer: Cheetos®.

Then Big Jim's eyeball falls out of his head, and S.T. starts to feel like something isn't quite right. His most tried-and-true remedies—from beak-delivered beer to the slobbering affection of Big Jim's loyal but dim-witted dog, Dennis—fail to cure Big Jim's debilitating malady. S.T. is left with no choice but to abandon his old life and venture out into a wild and frightening new world with his trusty steed Dennis, where he discovers that the neighbors are devouring each other and the local wildlife is abuzz with rumors of dangerous new predators roaming Seattle. Humanity's extinction has seemingly arrived, and the only one determined to save it is a foul-mouthed crow whose knowledge of the world around him comes from his TV-watching education.

Hollow Kingdom is a humorous, big-hearted, and boundlessly beautiful romp through the apocalypse and the world that comes after, where even a cowardly crow can become a hero.

4. ***The Island of Missing Trees*** by Elif Shafak, with a talking parrot and a fig tree as one of the narrators, is another of Janine's nominations. From Goodreads:

A rich, magical new book on belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature and renewal, from the Booker shortlisted author of *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World*.

Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, meet at a taverna on the island they both call home. In the taverna, hidden beneath garlands of garlic, chili peppers and creeping honeysuckle, Kostas and Defne grow in their forbidden love for each other. A fig tree stretches through a cavity in the roof, and this tree bears witness to their hushed, happy meetings and eventually, to their silent, surreptitious departures. The tree is there when war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to ashes and rubble, and when the teenagers vanish. Decades later, Kostas returns. He is a botanist looking for native species, but really, he's searching for lost love.

Years later a *Ficus carica* grows in the back garden of a house in London where Ada Kazantzakis lives. This tree is her only connection to an island she has never visited - her only

connection to her family's troubled history and her complex identity as she seeks to untangle years of secrets to find her place in the world.

A moving, beautifully written and delicately constructed story of love, division, transcendence, history and eco-consciousness, *The Island of Missing Trees* is Elif Shafak's best work yet.

5. Beth is nominating **Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus. This book has been getting a lot of press on the book blogs, with a 4.3/5 rating on Goodreads: Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

6. Janine recommends Terry Fallis's ***A New Season***. From Goodreads: From beloved and bestselling author Terry Fallis comes a novel unlike any of his others. A thoughtful exploration of aging, loss, family, friendship, and love, all with his trademark humour and heart. Jack McMaster seemingly has it all. A beautiful house, a loving son of many talents (including cooking, which is great news for Jack, if not for his waistline), even a special bond with his buddies in his ball hockey league. But he's also learning to live with loss, leaving a gaping hole in his life—a life that will never be the same as before. Jack passes his days knowing he has the support of his family and his friends, but he can't shake the feeling that his life has gone gray, and that time is slipping by so quickly. Then, a short and shocking video from an unexpected source gives him the gumption to make a change and maybe even haul himself out of his melancholia. Inspired by his lifelong fascination with 1920s Paris, Jack finally visits the City of Light, following in the footsteps of Hemingway and Fitzgerald, and wandering the Left Bank. Slowly, the colour seeps back into his life, aided by a chance encounter in a café that leads Jack into the art world, and a Paris mystery nearly a century old. Full of

sincerity and warmth, *A New Season* shows us all that sometimes, making a change in your life can save your life.

7. Lindsay is nominating ***North Woods*** by Daniel Mason. The secret of "North Woods," its blending of the comic and the sublime, lies in the way Mason, deftly toggling between the macro and micro, manages to do both. He not only acknowledges cosmic indifference but celebrates it, even as he pauses to recognize the humans who experience jubilation and heartbreak as they wend their way toward oblivion. This is fiction that deals in minutes and in centuries, that captures the glory and the triviality of human lives. The forest and the trees: Mason keeps both in clear view in his eccentric and exhilarating novel.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/19/books/review/daniel-mason-north-woods.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

[Book review: Daniel Mason's 'North Woods' : NPR](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/sep/16/north-woods-by-daniel-mason-review-an-epic-of-american-lives>

[Book review: North Woods, by Daniel Mason](#)

8. ***Severance***, by Ling Ma, nominated by Lynn. This book has been described as post-apocalyptic anti-capitalist office satire. How can we resist?! From Goodreads: Candace Chen, a millennial drone self-sequestered in a Manhattan office tower, is devoted to routine. So she barely notices when a plague of biblical proportions sweeps New York. Then *Shen Fever* spreads. Families flee. Companies halt operations. The subways squeak to a halt. Soon entirely alone, still unfevered, she photographs the eerie, abandoned city as the anonymous blogger NY Ghost.

Candace won't be able to make it on her own forever, though. Enter a group of survivors, led by the power-hungry IT tech Bob. They're traveling to a place called the Facility, where, Bob promises, they will have everything they need to start society anew. But Candace is carrying a secret she knows Bob will exploit. Should she escape from her rescuers?

A send-up and takedown of the rituals, routines, and missed opportunities of contemporary life, Ling Ma's *Severance* is a quirky coming-of-adulthood tale and satire.

9. ***The Shoe on the Roof*** by Will Ferguson, suggested by Heidi, nominated by Beth? Remember *419* by Ferguson?

It was so good it was nominated a 2nd year. *The Shoe on the Roof*, from Goodreads: From the Giller Prize-winning novelist of 419 comes the startling, funny, and heartbreaking story of a psychological experiment gone wrong.

Ever since his girlfriend ended their relationship, Thomas Rosanoff's life has been on a downward spiral. A gifted med student, he has spent his entire adulthood struggling to escape the legacy of his father, an esteemed psychiatrist who used him as a test subject when he was a boy. Thomas lived his entire young life as the "Boy in the Box," watched by researchers behind two-way glass.

But now the tables have turned. Thomas is the researcher, and his subjects are three homeless men, all of whom claim to be messiahs—but no three people can be the one and only saviour of the world. Thomas is determined to "cure" the three men of their delusions, and in so doing save his career—and maybe even his love life. But when Thomas's father intervenes in the experiment, events spin out of control, and Thomas must confront the voices he hears in the labyrinth of his own mind.

The Shoe on the Roof is an explosively imaginative tour de force, a novel that questions our definitions of sanity and madness, while exploring the magical reality that lies just beyond the world of scientific fact.

10. *Two Old Women: An Alaska legend of betrayal, courage and survival*, by Velma Wallis, nominated by Lynn. From the back cover: Based on an Athabaskan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine.

Though these women have been known to complain more than contribute, they now must either survive on their own or die trying. In simple but vivid detail, Velma Wallis depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community and forgiveness "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom" (Ursula K. Le Guin).

Author is one in a family of thirteen, born in the fur-trapping country of Fort Yukon, Alaska.

11. *Worst Case Scenario*, written by Helen Fitzgerald, suggested by Lynn Mary Shields, middle-aged and menopausal, is a moody, acerbic probation offer, dealing with some of Glasgow's worst cases, and her job is on the line.

Liam Macdowall was imprisoned for murdering his wife, and he's published a series of letters to the dead woman, in a book that makes him an unlikely hero – and a poster boy for Men's Rights activists.

Liam is released on licence into Mary's care, but things are far from simple. Mary develops a poisonous obsession with Liam and his world, and when her son and Liam's daughter form a relationship, Mary will stop at nothing to impose her own brand of justice ... with devastating consequences.

A heart-pounding, relentless and chilling psychological thriller, rich with deliciously dark and unapologetic humour, *Worst Case Scenario* is also a perceptive, tragic and hugely relevant book by one of the most original names in crime fiction.

Note, Miriam Smith, one of the reviewers on Goodreads had this to say: You don't need a crazy and warped sense of humour to enjoy this book but it does help - the easily offended and wholly politically correct should avoid though.

So, 11 nominations to date

1. *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, maybe – Debbie
2. *Girlfriend on Mars* by Deborah Willis -- Janine
3. *Hollow Kingdom* by Kira Jane Buxton -- Lynn
4. *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak -- Janine
5. *Lessons in Chemistry*, Bonnie Garmus – Beth
6. *A New Season* by Terry Fallis -- Janine
7. *North Woods* by Daniel Mason -- Lindsay
8. *Severance* by Ling Ma -- Lynn
9. Will Ferguson's *The Shoe on the Roof* -- Beth?
10. *Two Old Women: An Alaska legend of betrayal, courage and survival* by Velma Wallis -- Lynn
11. *Worst Case Scenario* by Helen Fitzgerald – Lynn

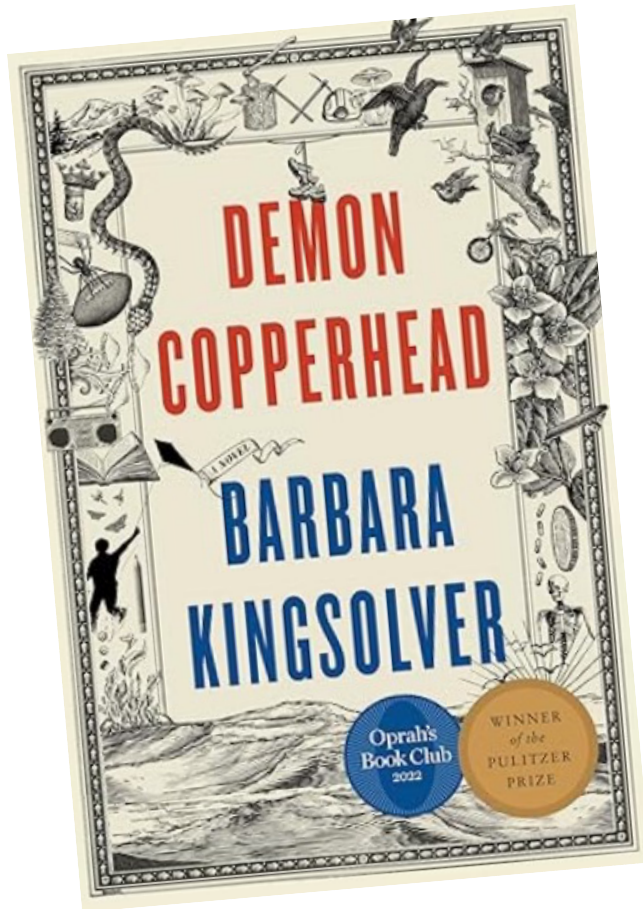
Send suggestions to Lynn at sloanelm@shaw.ca.

A: I wish I were worthy of love.

Genie: (Poof) Granted!

A looking down at self: Nothing's changed.

Genie: Correct.



Parkdale United Zoom Book Club

Saturday, April 13th
at 10:00 am

DEMON COPPERHEAD

by Barbara Kingsolver

From Amazon: Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82432011683?pwd=SEgwSFFIOTRZODVtSmVuYW1vOXNwdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 3201 1683

Passcode: 284356

If you're not able to join the meeting, you are welcome to send your comments about *Demon Copperhead* to sloanelm@shaw.ca or bethbalshaw@shaw.ca before April 13th so they can be shared with the group and included in our next Book Club Newsletter.

An Afternoon with Sally Armstrong



Saturday, April 27, 2024,
2:00 p.m. start

Maranatha Church, Belleville, Ontario

Presented by the Canadian Federation of
University Women (CFUW) – Belleville.



Tickets -
\$25 Adult
\$20 Livestream
\$15 Student

Go to: shorturl.at/bg037 (Eventbrite site)
Or visit-call Books & Co., Picton 613-476-3037



SALLY ARMSTRONG is an award-winning author, journalist, and human rights activist with decades of experience being on the ground working with women in zones of conflict. She has also witnessed the power of women to achieve change.

Join Sally as she shares stories from her travels including the shocking details from *Outspoken: My Fight for Freedom and Human Rights in Afghanistan* by Sima Samar, with Sally Armstrong. This is the memoir of Dr. Samar – public official, founder of schools and hospitals, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. She defied the Taliban at every turn and has the inside story on why the Afghan government collapsed.

Sally Armstrong is the author of four bestselling books: *Ascent of Women*, *The Nine Lives of Charlotte Taylor*, *Veiled Threat*, and *Bitter Roots, Tender Shoots*. Armstrong was the first journalist to bring the story of the women of Afghanistan to the world. She has also covered stories in conflict zones in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, Iraq and more. She is a four-time winner of the Amnesty International Canada media award, the recipient of eleven honorary doctorate degrees, and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Proceeds to University Women Helping Afghan Women (UWHAW) to help provide the tools for online education to women in Afghanistan.

Sponsored by

