

The Book Club of Grosse Ile-Non-Fiction 2024

1. **The Art Thief** A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession, by Michael Finkel, 240pp. Stephane Breitwieser (b.1971) claimed that his sole motivation for stealing was to surround himself with beauty and is possibly the “most prolific art thief ever.” Arrested in 2019, he awaits another trial in April 2024.
2. **Brave The Wild River**-The untold story of two women who mapped the botany of The Grand Canyon. By Melissa L. Sevigny, 304 pp. An adventure tale, dual biography and significant work of scientific, environmental, and women’s history.
3. **Code Name Blue Wren**-The True Story of America’s most Dangerous Female Spy-and the Sister She Betrayed, by Jim Popkin, 320 pp. The life of “the most important spy you’ve never heard of.”
4. **A Fever in the Heartland**-The Ku Klux Klan’s plot to take over America, and the woman who stopped them. By Timothy Egan, 432 pp. The author’s meticulous detective work describes how a viciously racist movement, led by a murderous conman, rose to power.
5. **Fieldwork** -A Forager’s Memoir, by Iliana Regan, 344pp. The author shares life experiences that have shaped her views of the natural world and shares her foraging excursions for life off the grid in a remote area of the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.
6. **For Blood and Money**- Billionaires, Biotech, and the Quest for a Blockbuster Drug by Nathan Vardi, 236 pp. An inside story of the extraordinary effort required to bring a breakthrough drug to patients through the delicate interplay between researchers, biopharma, investors, and regulators.
7. **The Wager**- A tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann, 352 pp. Drawing on firsthand accounts including logbooks, correspondence, diaries, court-martial testimony and government records, the author writes a vibrant narrative of a maritime tragedy and its dramatic aftermath.
8. **Who’s Your Founding Father?** One man’s epic quest to uncover the first, true Declaration of Independence, by David Fleming, 260 pp. The author provides a hilarious and thought provoking, personal travelogue as he investigates an enduring 250-year-old mystery about the founding of America while describing a spectacular cast of characters.

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1. **The Bird Hotel** by Joyce Maynard, 432 pp. The story of the assortment of characters associated with a beautiful but decaying lakefront hotel at the base of a volcano in a small Central American village.
2. **Birnam Wood** by Eleanor Catton, 432 pp. An eco-activist group in New Zealand becomes entangled with an American billionaire in this twisty thriller saturated with moral scrutiny, propulsive plotting, and drones.
3. **The Caretaker** by Ron Rash, 272 pp. Set in midcentury Appalachia this suspenseful romance has a twist.
4. **The Dog of the North** by Elizabeth McKenzie, 336pp. When her mad-scientist grandmother waves a gun at Meals on Wheels, Penny Rush is called to Santa Barbara, where her adventures begin.
5. **The End of Drum Time** by Hanna Pylvainen, 368 pp. Set in 19th-century Lapland the book's characters of Swedes, Finns and Sami reindeer herders clash cultures, points of view, human foibles and passions.
6. **Go As A River** by Shelley Read, 320 pp. Debut. The author evokes both the rugged wilderness of a small Colorado town in 1948 and the landscapes of her characters' troubled hearts.
7. **The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride, 400 pp. The story describes a series of extraordinary events that began years ago when Jewish and African American citizens shared lives, hopes, and heartbreak in the same Pennsylvania neighborhood.
8. **Hello Beautiful** by Ann Napolitano, 400pp. A saga of familial love, deception, and hope for healing as told by each family member's unique position in the narrative.
9. **In the Upper Country** by Kai Thomas, 352 pp. Debut. A killing in a town in southern Canada in 1859 sparks a chain of revelations that drift back and forth across the U.S.-Canada border.
10. **The Last Ranger** by Peter Heller, 304 pp. A fast moving nature adventure story full of descriptions of Yellowstone National Park's stunning beauty.
11. **My Father's House** by Joseph O'Connor, 440 pp. Inspired by a real historical figure named Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, who leads a perilous rescue effort surrounded by Rome's Nazi occupiers.
12. **Pineapple Street** by Jenny Jackson, 320 pp. Money makes the world go around, particularly the world of this elite Brooklyn family.