

The Book Club of Grosse Ile- Non-Fiction 2020

1. **breaking/ and/entering| the extraordinary story of a hacker called “alien”** by Jeremy N. Smith, 289 pp. A novelistic tech tale that puts readers on the front lines of cybersecurity. This biography of the pseudonymous ‘Alien’ provides a fast-paced cautionary tale.
2. **!Cuba Libre! Che, Fidel, and the Improbable Revolution that Changed World History** by Tony Perrottet, 378 pp. “History’s most unlikely revolution” is captured in all its wild absurdity. How a relentless dictator came to be deposed by a small group of scrappy rebels, “kids just out of college, literature majors, art students, and engineers.”
3. **Down from the Mountain** by Bryce Andrews, 298 pp. A thoughtful story of bears, humans, and their tragic interactions.
4. **Furious Hours-Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee** by Casey Cep, 336 pp. Cep’s debut blends true crime and literary lore as she recounts how a series of rural Alabama murders inspired Harper Lee to write again.
5. **The Honey Bus- A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved by Bees** by Meredith May, 336 pp. A fascinating and hopeful book of family, bees, and how “even when children are overwhelmed with despair, nature has special ways to keep them safe.”
6. **Inheritance-A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love** by Dani Shapiro, 272 pp. Through DNA testing the author discovers that she does not share any with half of her family.
7. **ME -Elton John Official Autobiography** by Elton John, 384pp. He was famous from his first record on, and then rich, and then a study in addictive personality. Now sober, a cancer survivor, and in his 70s, Sir Elton looks back at it all with grace and good humor.
8. **A Pilgrimage to Eternity-From Canterbury to Rome In Search of a Faith** by Timothy Egan, 384 pp. The author chronicles his travels, mostly via foot along the Via Francigena, a 1,200-mile medieval route, in a fascinating blend of memoir, travelogue, and history.
9. **The Vagabonds-The Story of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison’s Ten-Year Road Trip** by Jeff Guinn, 253 pp. An amusing account of celebrity travelers through the primitive and yet vaguely familiar America (including northern Michigan and Florida’s Everglades) of 100 years ago.
10. **We Are Displaced-My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the Word** by Malala Yousafzai, 224pp. Each refugee’s tale of survival is equal parts devastating and inspiring. The author states her purpose is to transform

refugees from nameless, faceless statistics into who they really are: humans whose identities are more than just their displaced status.

11. **The World According to Fannie Davis-My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers** by Bridgett M. Davis, 293 pp. A memoir set against the dramatic backdrop of 1960s and '70s Detroit. The author tells the story of how her larger-than-life mother used Detroit's illegal lottery to support her family.

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1. **Agent Running in the Field** by John Le Carre, 288pp. A chilling portrait of our time, now heartbreaking, now darkly humorous, told to us with unflagging tension as one unlikely person takes himself and those he loves down the path of political anger that ensnares them all.
2. **Ask Again, Yes** by Mary Beth Keane, 400 pp. Neighboring families in a New York commuter suburb are entwined through work, children and a tragedy. Immersive, graceful and mature.
3. **Bowlaway** by Elizabeth McCracken, 384pp. Unconventional storytelling where the author's Dickensian grotesques fall in love, feud, reproduce, vanish and reappear in a century-spanning novel set in a New England bowling alley.
4. **Disappearing Earth** by Julia Phillips, 256pp. A cleverly constructed thriller that is also a deep dive into the culture of a place many Americans have never heard of, illuminating issues of race, culture, sexual attraction, and the transition from the U.S.S.R. to post-Soviet Russia.
5. **Early Riser** by Jasper Fforde, 400pp. A madcap adventure through the Welsh winter, which has grown so deadly most humans literally sleep through it.
6. **The Lager Queen of Minnesota** by J. Ryan Stradal, 368pp. A family inheritance tears two Minnesota sisters apart but readers will love watching these truly original characters overcome their challenges and take care of each other.
7. **The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King-A Novel of Teddy Roosevelt and his Times** by Jerome Charyn, 320 pp. The author has Roosevelt tell his story in the first person. This portrait of Roosevelt's early life is a lively, warts-and-all portrait of an irrepressible man and captures Roosevelt's doubts, aspirations and ebullient spirit.

8. **Things You Save in a Fire** by Katherine Center, 320pp. A sharp and witty exploration of love and forgiveness as told by a woman firefighter in need of rescue from the emotional fortress she has built.
9. **This Tender Land** by William Kent Krueger, 464pp. 1932, Minnesota—the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. Forced to flee, four orphans embark on a life-changing odyssey over inner and outer terrain toward wisdom and freedom.
10. **The Water Dancer** by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 432pp. The author’s first novel merges magic, adventure, and antebellum intrigue. “An almost but not quite great slavery novel.”
11. **When All Is Said** by Anne Griffin, 336pp. Debut. An Irish octogenarian and curmudgeon plans a memorable night at a hotel bar and raises a narrative toast to each of five characters.