

## The Book Club of Grosse Ile 2018-Fiction

1. **A Piece of the World** by Christina Baker Kline, 320pp. The figure at the center of Andrew Wyeth's celebrated painting *Christina's World* has her back to the viewer, but Kline turns her to face the reader, simultaneously equipping her with a back story and a lyrical voice.
2. **Beartown** by Fredrik Backman, 336pp. In Beartown, where the people are as "tough as the forest, as hard as the ice," the star player on the beloved hockey team is accused of rape, and the town turns upon itself.
3. **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman, 336pp. Honeyman's endearing debut is part comic novel, part emotional thriller, and part love story.
4. **The Girl in Green** by Derek B. Miller, 336pp. Haunted by a Saddam Hussein henchman's coldblooded execution of a young Shiite girl, British war reporter Thomas Benton and ex-GI Arwood Hobbes reunite in Iraq 22 years later to investigate the unlikely possibility that she is alive.
5. **Glass Houses** by Louise Penny, 400pp. A dark, still figure, wearing long black robes and a hood, appears on the charming village green of Three Pines, a small Québec town; though at first it seems scary but harmless, it turns out to be something much more sinister. A meticulously built mystery that follows a careful ascent toward a breaking point.
6. **HIDDENSEE-A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker** by Gregory Maguire, 304pp. The author tells the story of Drosselmeier, the man responsible for creating the Nutcracker, as well as how he came to give it to young Klara. The author does not re-tell the classic story but ponders how a person who is abused by life, short-changed and challenged, can access secrets that benefit the disadvantaged and powerless.
7. **Idaho** by Emily Ruskovich, 320pp. A young music teacher, falls in love with the father of two girls in her school, over piano lessons. That summer, his family is ripped apart by a tragedy. A provocative first novel filled to the brim with dazzling language, mystery, and a profound belief in the human capacity to love and seek forgiveness.
8. **If We Were Villains** by M. L. Rio, 368pp. For a clique of aspiring Shakespearean actors at an elite arts academy, the line between performance and reality dissolves, with disastrous results. The author of this suspenseful debut novel cleverly weaves a whole new story of obsession from the poetry and plots of Shakespeare.
9. **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng, 384pp. The author describes the events that lead to the burning of the home of an outwardly perfect-seeming family in Shaker Heights, Ohio and casts into new light ideas about creativity and consumerism, parenthood and privilege.
10. **Maggie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz, 464pp. Fans who still mourn the passing of Agatha Christie, the model who's evoked here in dozens of telltale details, will welcome this wildly inventive homage/update/commentary as the most fiendishly clever puzzle—make that two puzzles—of the year.
11. **The Marsh King's Daughter** by Karen Dionne, 307 pp. In Michigan's Upper Peninsula, a woman must hunt down the dangerous man who shaped her past and now threatens to steal her future: her father.
12. **The Women in the Castle** by Jessica Shattuck, 368pp. Three German "widows of the resistance" embody aspects of the catastrophe that overcame their country. The author explores the complicity and the arc of individual responses to a mass crime.



## The Book Club of Grosse Ile 2018-Non-Fiction

1. **A \$500 House in Detroit-Rebuilding an Abandoned Home and an American City** by Drew Philp, 304pp. The story of the years long rehabilitation of the abandoned 1903 Queen Anne reveals the author's growing maturity and also becomes a window on the look and feel of present-day Detroit and the neighborly people struggling to achieve satisfying lives there.
2. **The Bright Hour-A Memoir of Living and Dying** by Nina Riggs, 288pp. A poet whose life was claimed by breast cancer this year has written a luminous, heartbreaking symphony of wit, wisdom, pain, parenting, and perseverance against insurmountable odds.
3. **The Kelloggs-The Battling Brothers of Battle Creek** by Howard Markel, 510pp. (362 pp. text). A dual biography of the highly successful Kellogg brothers, who "fought, litigated, and plotted against one another with a passion more akin to grand opera than the kinship of brothers."
4. **Killers of the Flower Moon-The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI** by David Grann, 352pp. In 1920s Oklahoma the Osage Indian nation were among the wealthiest people per capita in the world. Greed, depravity and a plague of violent death began to decimate the Osage in what they came to call the "Reign of Terror". Original research and a superb narrative provide a gripping account.
5. **The Long Haul-A Trucker's Tale of Life on the Road** by Finn Murphy, 256pp. Throughout his recollections, Murphy maintains an air of armchair philosopher, imparting common-sense wisdom and morals from three decades behind the wheel.
6. **Marcel's Letters- A Font and the Search for One Man's Fate** by Carolyn Porter, 352pp. On an antiquing trip in the early 2000s, the author acquired some old letters written by a man named Marcel, posted from Berlin during World War II to his family in France. This surface information was not enough for Porter who would spend the next decade on a search to piece together the context in which he wrote, and Marcel's life story.
7. **Mozart's Starling** by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, 288pp. Weaving together cheerful memoir, natural history, and biography, the author celebrates her "insatiably social" pet starling Carmen, and investigates Mozart's experience with his avian companion.
8. **Thanks, Obama-My Hopey, Changey White House Years** by David Litt, 320 pp. President Barack Obama's speechwriter offers his take on an extraordinary tenure inside the White House.