

2025 The Brown Baggers 3rd Tuesdays 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 21 *Canary Girls* by Jennifer Chiaverini — This historical fiction tale tells the story of three women from different walks of life in WWI-era England who become friends while working at a munitions factory and as teammates on the soccer pitch.

Feb. 18 *The Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian — Mary Deerfield, the indomitable, 24-year-old protagonist of this twisty thriller set in 17th-century Boston, has been married for five years to Thomas, a well-to-do widower almost twice her age, whose abusiveness has escalated with her failure to become pregnant. After her attempt to get a divorce fails, Mary finds herself being charged with being a witch.

March 18 *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris — With the addition of Hazel, Nella Rogers is no longer the only Black employee at the prestigious New York Wagner Books publishing firm. But shortly after Hazel arrives, Nella begins receiving threatening messages. Is Hazel responsible, and if not her, who is sending the disturbing notes?

April 15 *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson — In the summer of 1914, Beatrice Nash arrives in Rye, East Sussex, to teach Latin at the local school. To have a young woman teaching Latin is a sign of change in Rye, but as WWI looms, more changes are about the visit the quaint English town. Filled with quirky characters and a spirited heroine in Beatrice, the novel balances a portrait of life in small town England, romance, and the specter of war.

May 20 *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy — Inti Flynn arrives in Scotland with her twin sister, Aggie, to lead a team of biologists tasked with reintroducing fourteen gray wolves into the remote Highlands. The wolves surprise everyone by thriving, but when a local farmer is killed, Inti knows the local community will blame the wolves. Can she discover if that's what really happened?

June 17 *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei — Actor George Takei has captured hearts and minds worldwide with his captivating stage presence and outspoken commitment to equal rights. But long before he braved new frontiers in *Star Trek* as Mr. Sulu, he woke up as a four-year-old boy to find the United States, his own birth country, at war with his father's (Japan) -- and their entire family forced from their home into an uncertain future in a relocation center during WWII. This is his memoir of that time, told in graphic novel form.

July 15 *Booth* by Karen Joy Fowler — This historical novel tells the story of the famous Booth family, including its most well-known member, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln. In addition to the idiosyncratic Booths, the novel also follows the lives of the Hall family, the slaves who live on the Booth property.

Aug. 19 *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus — When chemist and single mom Elizabeth Lott's scientific career hits a brick wall, she takes a job as the host of a TV cooking show to pay the bills. With her scientific approach to cooking and liberated attitude as major ingredients of the show, she causes a sensation in early 1960s America.

Sept. 16 *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride — National Book Award winner McBride (*Deacon King Kong*) tells a vibrant tale of Chicken Hill, a working-class neighborhood of Jewish, Black, and European immigrant families in Pottstown, Pa., where the 1972 discovery of a human skeleton unearths events that took place several decades earlier.

Oct. 21 *The Swimmers* by Julie Otsuka — The swimmers at a public pool are unknown to each other except through their private routines (slow lane, fast lane), and the solace each takes in their morning or afternoon laps. But when a crack appears at the bottom of the pool, they are cast out into an unforgiving world without comfort or relief. One of these swimmers is Alice, who is slowly losing her memory. For Alice, the pool was a final stand against the darkness of her encroaching dementia.

Nov. 18 *There There* by Tommy Orange — This award-winning debut novel offers a kaleidoscopic look at Native American life in Oakland, California, through the experiences and perspectives of 12 characters, who are all congregating at the Big Oakland Powwow. They include a documentary filmmaker, a boy who has taught himself traditional Native American dancing through YouTube videos, a woman who is to meet her three grandsons for the first time, and one young man who has darker intentions.

Dec. 16 *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams — Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams explore through intimate and thought-provoking dialogue one of the most sought after and least understood elements of human nature: hope, drawing on decades of work that has helped expand our understanding of what it means to be human, and what we all need to do to help build a better world.

The Tuesday Afternoon Group "The Brown Baggers"

- ◆ Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except where noted) at 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Leader: Peer-led discussions

The Brown Baggers meetings are free and open to the public, no registration or reservation is needed.

Bring your own lunch. Beverages are provided.

To get a copy of the book being discussed: Pick up a copy at the checkout desk. Library copies will be reserved in advance. Another option is to purchase a copy at area bookstores. These titles may also be available as e-books through the Hoopla or Libby apps (please ask a librarian if you need help accessing electronic versions of these titles).

Cancellations due to weather: The Brown Baggers book discussion group meetings will be cancelled if the library closes, or if the leader of the group notifies the library that the group will not meet due to weather conditions.



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