## DKG Alpha Sigma/Kitsap Book Recommendations 12-12-17

## Non-Fiction

Alexie, Sherman, You Don't Have to Say You Love Me; a memoir (Kaye M top 5 and Laurie A)

Bates, Laura, Shakespeare Saved My Life; (Kaye M, oldies but goodies)

Brower, Kate, The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House; Kelly R.

Chernow, Ron; Grant; (MaryLou M)

Ghosh, Amitav <u>The Glass Palace</u> It's a compelling story of a world in transition as the royal family in Burma is forced to leave their palace to live their lives on the west coast of India. It follows three generations in Burma, Malaya and India and how intertwined families become. The British treatment of East Indians during the war was eye opening to me. (Susan F)

Iwaski, Mineko, Geisha: a Life; (Kelly R.)

Johnson, Mary, An Unquenchable Thirst; a memoir (Kaye M, oldies but goodies)

Nazaro, Sonia, Enrique's Journey; (Kaye M. oldies but goodies)

Pistorus, Martin, Ghost Boy; (Judie)

Springsteen, Bruce, Born to Run; autobiography (Kaye M, top 5)

Tizzano, Richard C., <u>An Accidental Safari: a Guide for Navigating the Challenges that Come with Aging</u> (Judy G)

Warren, William, Jim Thompson, <u>The Unsolved Mystery</u>; It gives an account of Jim Thompson's life including how an American businessman founded the modern Thai Silk industry in Thailand and of his disappearance in 1967. It's an intriguing mystery, one that hasn't been solved to this day. (Susan F)

West, Lindy; Shrill (Mary J.)

## Fiction

Calleti, Deb, <u>He's Gone</u> (Kaye M, oldies but goodies)

Franken, Al, Giant of the Senate; non-fiction (Kaye M, top 5)

Doyle, Brian <u>The Plover</u> (sort of sequel to <u>Mink River</u>- another book that lives in my heart) Declan runs away from his life in a tiny coastal village in Oregon in his odd retrofitted fishing boat, heading west, then west, then west. He wants solitude and peace from the life left behind. That is not what he gets! This journey helps him find himself with the cast of amazing characters- human and bird- and will fill your heart with writing that shines. (Kathy C)

Dray, Stephanie and Laura Kamoie, America's First Daughter; Kelly R.

Flagg, Fannie, <u>The Whole Town's Talking</u>; Set in Missouri, beautifully written, can't miss with a Fannie Flagg book! (Annamarie L)

Ferrante, Elena, My Brilliant Friend; Neapolitan Novels, Book One (Beth S)

George, Elizabeth, A Moment on the Edge: 100 Years of Crime Stories (Mary J)

Galbraith, Robert novels (alias of J.K. Rowling!)- Cormoran Strike novels- <u>Cuckoo's Calling</u>, <u>Silkworm</u>, <u>Career of Evil</u> J.K. Rowling can write crazy good crime fiction as well as fantasy! Cormoran Strike was a special ops soldier in Afghanistan who lost a leg to a land mine. Now working as a private investigator in London, he is barely getting by. With the help of his assistant, Robin, they take on tough cases putting both of them in harm's way. Great stories, emotional depth, and characters you care about! (Kathy C)

Hannah, Kristin, The Nightingale; This epic novel is about two sisters who lead different lives in France during World War II as they disagree about the imminent threat of occupation. (Susan F says this has been on our list before but if you haven't read it be sure you do)

Haruf, Kent, Our Souls at Night Fiction (Kaye M, oldies but goodies)

Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue, <u>The Smell of Other People's Houses</u>; the 2017-18 Kitsap Library One Read (Annamarie L)

Joyce, Rachel, <u>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</u>; Harold, recently retired, gets a note from a colleague he has not seen for 20 years that she has cancer and is dying, so he writes her a condolence note. But, when he goes to mail it, he decides to walk the 500+ miles to see her, believing she will live as long as he is coming to her. More ill prepared than the character in <u>Wild</u>, Harold walks. This is a story of friendship, relationships, pain, and what counts. (Kathy C.)

Lee, Harper; To Kill a Mockingbird; (Ilene A.)

Mankell, Henning, <u>The Shadow Girls</u>; By the author of the Kurt Wallander crime series, Mankell's 2001 story of three immigrant women in Sweden is surprisingly timely and relevant today as it tells of dangerous journeys, sacrifices, human trafficking, and discrimination. Yet warm, often funny, and certainly inspiring. (Pat B-F)

Merullo, Roaland, <u>Breakfast With Buddha</u>, written in 2007, the first of three, spiritual fiction (Kaye M top 5)

Mullen, Thomas, <u>The Last Town on Earth</u>; A remote mill town (fictionally placed near the Granite Falls area) confronts the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918. Quarantine, illness, death and great humanity - a very moving and intriguing story about what defines family, friendship and community and how they handle tragedy. (Pat B-F)

Nguyen, Viet Thank, <u>The Sympathize</u>r; winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize and the Andrew Carnegie Medal. I have just begun reading this but it came highly recommended by Dean, Bill Anderson and Bill

Gates (first on his best books he read). The narrator, a Vietnamese army captain, is a man of divided loyalties, a half-French, half-Vietnamese communist sleeper agent in America after the end of the Vietnam War. The Sympathizer examines the legacy of the Vietnam Way in literature, film, and the wars we fight today. (Susan F)

Noah, Trevor, <u>Born a Crime</u>; a memoir (Kaye M, top 5)

Read, Warren; Ash Falls (Erin M)

Russell, Maria Doria, The Sparrow (Beth S)

Smith, Alexander McCall, <u>The Number One Ladies Detective Agency</u>; a series 25 total works featuring Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's leading and only, private detective (Kelly R)

Stedman, M.L. The Light Between Oceans (Beth S.)

Towles, Amor, <u>A Gentleman in Moscow</u>; a charming book about a charming Count Rostov, who is deemed unrepentant, by the Bolsheviks and ordered to house arrest for life in his home, the grand Metropol Hotel. Great characterizations loving told by the author with affection. (Pat B-F)

Zadoorian, Michael, <u>The Leisure Seeker</u>; This is the unforgettable cross country journey of a runaway couple in their twilight years determined to meet the end of all roads on their own terms. (Donna F)