



Thursday Evenings!

Briarcliff Manor Public Library

with the Westchester Great Books Council

**Contemporary Fiction by
Award-Winning Authors**

Book Discussion Series #43 - Fall 2022

Attention all readers! Are you looking for a book discussion of thought-provoking and well written books? Then join us on Thursday evenings for our Contemporary Fiction by Award-Winning Authors discussion series. Skilled leaders will help participants explore and interpret novels by today's award-winning authors. Gain new insights into these books through lively conversations with other inquisitive readers.

Our Fall 2022 selections are described below. Library copies are available to pick up one month before each discussion – or you may purchase your own book. These titles can also be downloaded from one of the library's free eBook services. It is recommended to have a copy of the book with you during the discussion.

Thursday, September 22: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue (2017 PEN/Faulkner Award)**

"'We should have known the end was near.' So begins Imbolo Mbue's exquisite and devastating novel *How Beautiful We Were*. Set in the fictional African village of Kosawa, it tells the story of a people living in fear amidst environmental degradation wrought by a large and powerful American oil company. Pipeline spills have rendered farmlands infertile. Children are dying from drinking toxic water. Promises of clean up and financial reparations to the villagers are made – and ignored. The country's government, led by a corrupt, brazen dictator, exists to serve its own interest. Left with few choices, the people of Kosawa decide to fight the American corporation. Doing so will come at a steep price" (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

Thursday, October 20: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***Hell of a Book* by Jason Mott (2021 National Book Award)**

"In Jason Mott's *Hell of a Book*, a Black author sets out on a cross-country publicity tour to promote his bestselling novel. That storyline drives *Hell of a Book* and is the scaffolding of something much larger and urgent: since Mott's novel also tells the story of Soot, a young Black boy living in a rural town in the recent past, and The Kid, a possibly imaginary child who appears to the author on his tour. As these characters' stories build and build and converge, they astonish. For while this heartbreaking and magical book entertains and is at once about family, love of parents and children, art and money, it's also about the nation's reckoning with a tragic police shooting playing over and over again on the news. And with what it can mean to be Black in America. Who has been killed? Who is The Kid? Will the author finish his book tour, and what kind of world will he leave behind?" (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

Thursday, November 17: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***Matrix* by Lauren Groff (Shortlisted for the 2021 National Book Award; 2022 Joyce Carol Oats Prize)** "In the twelfth century, former child crusader and 'bastardess heir to the crown' of France and England, 'poor illegitimate Marie from nowhere in Le Maine,' at age 17 arrives at the crumbling, dismal abbey where she will live ... during the many remaining years of her life. Marie was sent to save the abbey by Queen Eleanor, who prides herself on the brilliant move despite Marie's strong resistance to it.... When, decades later, Marie ascends to abbess, the sisters become her daughters, who respond with fear and inspiration to Marie's increasingly ambitious building plans for the abbey based on her visions of the Virgin Mary. Splendid with rich description and period vocabulary, this courageous and spine-tingling novel shows an incredible range for Groff and will envelop readers fully in Marie's world" (Excerpted from *Booklist*).

The September discussion will be held virtually via Zoom, but the location for the remaining discussions is to be determined. Registration is required by email to Lorraine Isaac at Lisaac@wlsmail.org.

For more information, please call the library at 914-941-7072 or visit our website.

Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Road www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org