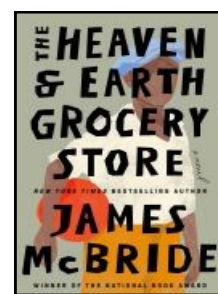
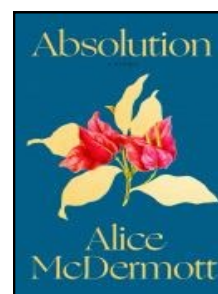
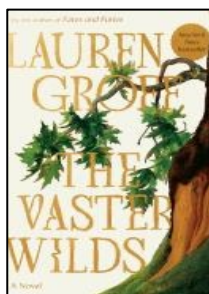




Thursday Evenings!

with the

Westchester Great Books Council
**Contemporary Fiction by
Award-Winning Authors**
Book Discussion Series #47- Fall 2024



Attention all readers! Are you looking for a book discussion of thought-provoking and well written books? Then join us on Thursday evenings at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library for our in-person 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 2024 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. Mark your calendars and tell a friend. New members are always welcome!

Thursday, September 19: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***The Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff (Shortlisted for the 2021 National Book Award and the 2022 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction)**

"Groff's seventh book, a captivating survival story, starts off running. A teenage girl, "bony and childish small," flees north on a winter night, leaving behind the diminished and starving settlement of others not of this place. She has nothing but a small bag of supplies on her person and a map, once viewed over a man's shoulder, in mind. In time, readers learn the girl's names, her circumstances as an orphan in a distant city, the hellish journey that brought her to this world, how she became more than a servant to her mistress and the woman's disabled daughter, who she loved and cared for; and the reason, ultimately, for the girl's flight. The work of survival overtakes all, though, as the girl battles weather, injury, and foes animal and human, real and imagined. In the wilderness, she finds gifts and warnings, depravity and beauty, boundless desperation and pinpointed clarity" (Excerpted from *Booklist Online*).

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

***Absolution* by Alice McDermott (1998 American Book Award; 1999 National Book Award)** "American women--American wives--have been mostly minor characters in the literature of the Vietnam War, but in *Absolution* they take center stage. Tricia is a shy newlywed, married to a rising attorney on loan to navy intelligence. Charlene is a practiced corporate spouse and mother of three, a beauty and a bully. In Saigon in 1963, the two women form a wary alliance as they balance the era's mandate to be "helpmeets" to their ambitious husbands with their own inchoate impulse to "do good" for the people of Vietnam. Sixty years later, Charlene's daughter, spurred by an encounter with an aging Vietnam vet, reaches out to Tricia. Together, they look back at their time in Saigon, taking wry account of that pivotal year and of Charlene's altruistic machinations, and discovering how their own lives as women on the periphery--of politics, of history, of war, of their husbands' convictions--have been shaped and burdened by the same sort of unintended consequences that followed America's tragic interference in Southeast Asia " (Excerpted from *Library Journal*).

Thursday, November 21: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride (2013 National Book Award)**

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive " (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

**Registration is required by email to Lorraine Isaac at Lisaac@briarcliffmanorlibrary.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