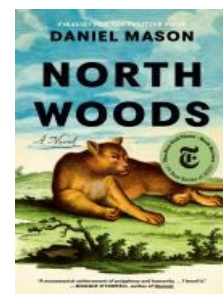
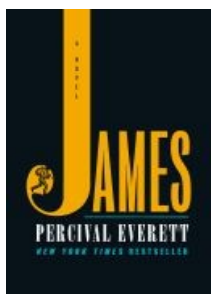




## Thursday Evenings!

with the

### Westchester Great Books Council Contemporary Fiction by Award-Winning Authors



Book Discussion Series #48- Spring 2025

**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 Spring 2025 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, March 20: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

#### ***James* by Percival Everett (2024 National Book Award)**

“When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. While many narrative set pieces of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light” (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

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

#### ***Creation Lake* by Rachel Kushner (Shortlisted for the 2018 and 2024 Booker Prizes)**

“*Creation Lake* is a novel about a secret agent, a thirty-four-year-old American woman of ruthless tactics and clean beauty who is sent to do dirty work in France. "Sadie Smith" is how the narrator introduces herself to the rural commune of French subversives on whom she is keeping tabs, and to her lover, Lucien, a young and well-born Parisian she has met by "cold bump"--making him believe the encounter was accidental. Like everyone she targets, Lucien is useful to her and used by her. Sadie operates by strategy and dissimulation, based on what her "contacts"--shadowy figures in business and government--instruct. First, these contacts want her to incite provocation. Then they want more. In this region of old farms and prehistoric caves, Sadie becomes entranced by a mysterious figure named Bruno Lacombe, a mentor to the young activists who believes that the path to emancipation is not revolt but a return to the ancient past. Just as Sadie is certain she's the seductress and puppet master of those she surveils, Bruno is seducing her with his ingenious counter-histories, his artful laments, his own tragic story” (Excerpted from WLS Online Catalog).

**Thursday, May 15: 7:30 -9:00 p.m.**

#### ***North Woods* by Daniel Mason (2021 and 2023 Pulitzer Prize Finalist)**

"When two young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to growing apples. A pair of spinster twins navigate war and famine, envy and desire. A crime reporter unearths an ancient mass grave--only to discover that the earth refuse to give up their secrets. A lovelorn painter, a sinister con man, a stalking panther, a lusty beetle: As the inhabitants confront the wonder and mystery around them, they begin to realize that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive” (Excerpted from WLS Online Catalog).

**Registration is required by email to Lorraine Isaac at [Lisaac@briarcliffmanorlibrary.org](mailto: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](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org)**