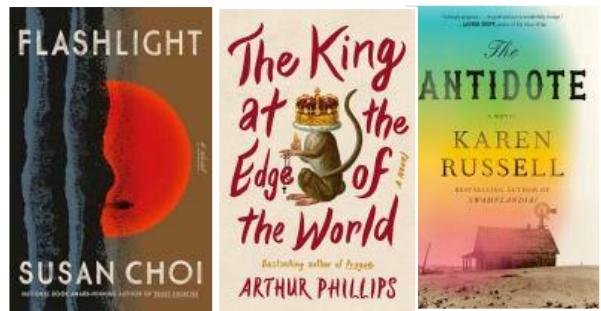




## Thursday Evenings!

with the

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



Book Discussion Series #50 - Spring 2026

**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 2026 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 19; 7:30-9:00 p.m. Location to be determined**

***Flashlight* by Susan Choi (2019 National Book Award)**

“A troubled American family suffers an insuperable loss during a year abroad....Serk is an ethnic Korean born in Japan; his family was among those thrust into chaos by the regime changes of the 1940s and he ends up moving on his own to the United States to pursue an academic career. There he meets Anne, a white Midwesterner whose teenage fling with a married man resulted in the birth of a son she barely saw before he was taken away; 10 years later, her marriage to Serk produces a daughter, Louisa, who's at the center of the storm that is this novel. Though she is never a happy or easy child, her life will go from merely bad to unbearable in the middle of fourth grade, when she's forced to go to Japan for her father's visiting professorship. While Serk and Louisa are walking by the sea one night, something happens. The girl is found half-dead on the beach with few clear memories, and her father has disappeared; it is concluded that he has drowned.... Never sentimental, never predictable, this aptly titled novel illuminates dark passages both fictional and real”(Excerpted from *Kirkus Reviews*).

**Thursday, April 16; 7:30-9:00 p.m. Location to be determined**

***The King at the Edge of the World* by Arthur Phillips (2003 The Los Angeles Times/Art Seidenbaum Award for best novel)**

“The year is 1601. Queen Elizabeth I is dying, childless. Her nervous kingdom has no heir. It is a capital crime even to *think* that Elizabeth will ever die. Potential successors secretly maneuver to be in position when the inevitable occurs. The leading candidate is King James VI of Scotland, but there is a problem. The queen's pymasters-hardened veterans of a long war on terror and religious extremism-fear that James is not what he appears. He has every reason to claim to be a Protestant, but if he secretly shares his family's Catholicism, then forty years of religious war will have been for nothing, and a bloodbath will ensue. With time running out, London confronts a seemingly impossible question- What does James truly believe? It falls to Geoffrey Belloc, a secret warrior from the hottest days of England's religious battles, to devise a test to discover the true nature of King James's soul”(Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

**Thursday, May 14; 7:30-9:00 p.m. Discussion at our 1 Library Road location**

***The Antidote* by Karen Russell (Shortlisted for the 2025 National Book Award)**

“*The Antidote* opens on Black Sunday, as a historic dust storm ravages the fictional town of Uz, Nebraska. But Uz is already collapsing--not just under the weight of the Great Depression and the dust bowl drought but beneath its own violent histories. *The Antidote* follows a "Prairie Witch," whose body serves as a bank vault for peoples' memories and secrets; a Polish wheat farmer who learns how quickly a hoarded blessing can become a curse; his orphan niece, a basketball star and witch's apprentice in furious flight from her grief; a voluble scarecrow; and a New Deal photographer whose time-traveling camera threatens to reveal both the town's secrets and its fate. Russell's novel is above all a reckoning with a nation's forgetting--enacting the settler amnesia and willful omissions passed down from generation to generation, and unearthing not only horrors but shimmering possibilities”(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.**