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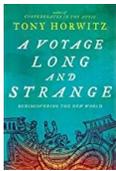
# Book Notes

**A Bi-Monthly Publication from the Hershey Public Library**  
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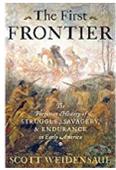
**May/June  
2017**

## Colonial America

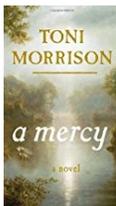
The following selection of fiction and non-fiction books portrays the European colonization of North America in all of its racial, economic, political, social, religious, and ecological complexities.



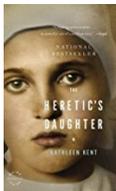
**A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World** (970 HOR, LP 970 HOR) by Tony Horwitz - Horowitz discovers just how much he doesn't know about the events that occurred between 1492 (the time of Columbus) and 1620 (the time of the Pilgrims). He focuses on the outrageous adventures of pre-Mayflower French and Spanish conquistadors slaughtering both Indians and themselves by tracing their footsteps from Plymouth Rock to Newfoundland, Florida, the Dominican Republic, the Southwest, and Roanoke.



**The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery, and Endurance in Early America** (974 WEI) by Scott Weidensaul - Weidensaul, a naturalist, charts the history of the frontier—not of the West, but of the shifting intersections along North America's Eastern Seaboard between the great colonial empires and the various Indian tribes 250 years prior to the American Revolution.



**A Mercy** (FIC MOR) by Toni Morrison - Slavery wasn't simply a black and white matter in colonial America. Africans were sold, women came from Europe as mail-order brides, whites served as indentured servants, and American Indians faced a hostile society. What Morrison emphasizes in this book is a sort of grim equality based on suffering.



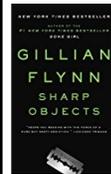
**The Heretic's Daughter** (FIC KEN, cd FIC KEN) by Kathleen Kent - Kent—an ancestor of a condemned Salem witch—presents familiar material from a new angle through her young narrator, who relates her tale from the perspective of old age. It is a beautiful and profoundly moving novel, stripped of sensationalism or heavy-handed parallels about tolerance for our age.



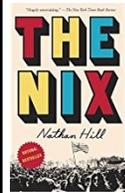
**The Winthrop Woman** (FIC SET) by Anya Seton - In 1631, the widowed Elizabeth Winthrop and her baby accompanied her uncle John Winthrop's family from England to the New World. This book illustrates the vicissitudes and spirit of early American settlement.

## Monster Moms

Manipulative, misguided and selfish mothers make for some of the most memorable characters in fiction. Here are some problematic favorites just in time for Mother's Day. These stories are guaranteed to make you a little more thankful for your mom.



**Sharp Objects** (FIC FLY, pb F 6028) by Gillian Flynn - Amy Elliott Dunne of *Gone Girl* wasn't the first deeply disturbed character to spring from the mind of Gillian Flynn. Her 2006 debut brought us the terrifying Adora Preaker. At first, Adora appears to be merely an overbearing Southern mom. But when Adora's daughter Camille comes home to investigate the murders of two local girls, she realizes her mother may be worse than she thought.



**The Nix : A Novel** (FIC HIL, LP FIC HIL) by Nathan Hill - A fairly extreme case of an absentee parent, hippie protestor Faye Andersen-Anderson abandons her son, Samuel, when he's only 11 years old. She only reappears in his life decades later when he sees her on the news, throwing a handful of gravel at a conservative politician. This sprawling satire tells both of Faye's and Samuel's stories, making painfully clear the impact Faye's choices through the years had on her son.



**The Bear and the Nightingale** (FIC ARD) by Katherine Arden - Evil stepmothers and fairy tales are a classic combo. In this enchanting tale rooted in Russian folklore, rebellious young Vasya attempts to hide her magical abilities from her spiteful stepmother and the strange priest that accompanies her. Both want Vasya out of the picture. Vasya must find a way to thwart her stepmother's plans to either marry her off or confine her to a convent in this literary fantasy.



**Where'd You Go, Bernadette: A Novel** (FIC SEM) by Maria Semple - A hilarious domestic comedy about a Seattle mom who finally snaps under the weight of her picturesque life. Bernadette up and disappears after a fundraiser at her daughter's posh private school, leaving the family scrambling to track her down.

**Coming June 1**  
**The "New" Adult Summer Reading Program**  
**"Build a Better World Bingo"**

Complete five tasks on the bingo card and receive a raffle ticket that will be entered in the drawing at the end of the program for gift cards to local merchants. For more tickets, continue to read and complete more activities. The program runs through August 31, for those ages 16 and older.

Sign up and receive a coloring journal. The program, prizes and journals are provided by the Friends of the Hershey Public Library.

**Looking for Something New and Enjoyable to Read?**

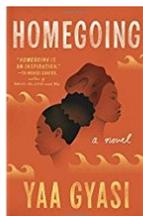
Don't miss the unveiling of the library's **2017 Staff Picks** due out at the end of May. Stop by to pick up your brochure to help plan your summer reading "bucket list."

**Adult Coloring Group**

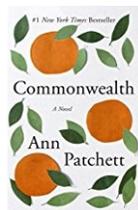
Check out the library's popular "hosted group." If you are looking for a way to relax this summer and/or to get out of the heat, stop by the group's monthly meetings that begin at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesdays June 14, July 12, and August 9.

Ages 18 and older are welcome.

**Top Picks for Book Groups**



**Homegoing** (FIC GYA) by Yaa Gyasi - A powerful novel that chronicles the lives of Effia and Esi, two lovely half-sisters who aren't aware of one another, and whose fates in 1700s Ghana are drastically different. As the novel progresses, Gyasi introduces new generations of the sisters' families, working up to modern-day Harlem.



**Commonwealth** (FIC PAT, cd FIC PAT, LP FIC PAT) by Ann Patchett—This novel has it all—a compelling plot, convincing characters and an insightful approach to storytelling. An exploration of the risks of romance and the consequences of rash acts makes for a captivating read. With this book—her seventh and most autobiographical—Patchett continues to prove that she's one of the best writers working today.

**Coming Soon to a Theater Near You**

**Everything, Everything** - based on the young adult novel by Nicola Yoon (May)

**The Dinner** - based on the novel by Herman Koch (May)

**The Dark Tower** - based on the novels by Stephen King (July)

**Don't Miss this Great Program Sponsored by Friends in May:**

**Creating a Cutting Garden with Jessica Walliser**

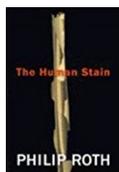
**Sunday, May 21 @ 2:00 p.m.**

Back by popular demand, Jessica Walliser will be with us to discuss how to create a cutting garden. Participants will be taught how to incorporate cutting flowers into their existing landscape and to tailor their choices to provide for bouquet possibilities all year long. Favorite non-traditional cutting plants will be illustrated by slides and tips for arranging posies will be shared.

The program is free but registration is necessary and can be done either online @ [www.hersheylibrary.org](http://www.hersheylibrary.org) or by calling the Circulation Desk @ 533-6555.

**Campus Novel**

**The campus novel is such an enduring form because it adapts so readily to the times. It isn't just a matter of setting but it's primarily a function of tone, plot, characterization and underlying themes. Below are some titles to enjoy.**



**The Human Stain** (FIC ROT) by Philip Roth - The university is an ideal context for this struggle between freedom of speech and thinking—core values of academia—and political correctness, which though ostensibly a liberal principle, limits both speech and thought.



**The Secret History** (LP FIC TAR) - by Donna Tartt - This was Tartt's debut novel set in Hampden College, a liberal art institution in New England. It is a story of intrigue, murder, incest, and ancient Greek ritual.



**White Noise** (FIC DEL) by Don DeLillo—This book involves a professor of Hitler Studies. He tackles our emotional and spiritual desensitization in a world dominated by mass-media products, information overload, toxicity, and terror.

**Interested in joining a book group? Check the library's website in August for openings and book schedules for the upcoming reading year.**

