

Maine Calling's Best and Overlooked Books of 2016

Guests: Joshua Bodwell, Executive Director of the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance

Emily Russo, co-owner of Print: A Bookstore

Frank O. Smith, author of 'Dream Singer' and book reviewer for the Maine Sunday Telegram

Book recommendations from Josh - 2016 BODWELL'S BAKER'S DOZEN

#1 THE UNAMERICANS by Molly Antopol (W.W. Norton, 2014)

#2 MARTHA CALHOUN by Richard Babcock (Random House, 1988)

#3 HERE AND NOWHERE ELSE: Late Seasons of a Farm and Its Family by Jane Brox (Beacon Press, 1995)

#4 THE ROAD TO LITTLE DRIBBLING by Bill Bryson (Doubleday, 2015)

#5 THE BOOKSHOP by Penelope Fitzgerald (Gerald Duckworth & Co., 1978)

#6 JUBILEE HITCHHIKER: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF RICHARD BRAUTIGAN by William Hjortsberg (Counterpoint, 2012)

#7 HEMINGWAY IN LOVE: HIS OWN STORY by A.E. Hotchner (St. Martin's Press, 2015)

#8 HALF WILD by Robin MacArthur (Ecco, 2016)

#9 EVERYBODY'S FOOL by Richard Russo (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016)

#10 THE DREAM LIFE OF ASTRONAUTS by Patrick Ryan (The Dial Press, 2016)

#11 THE BOOK OF ARON by Jim Shepard (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015)

#12 MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON by Elizabeth Strout (Random House, 2016)

#13 FATHER'S DAY by Simon Van Booy (Harper, 2016)

***2016 BONUS PICKS!**

Favorite Re-Read Short Story Collection

The Night in Question by Tobias Wolff

Favorite Short Story Collection of Men Behaving Badly

Middle Men by Jim Gavin

Favorite Paperback Original Novel

The Motel Life by Willy Vlautin

Favorite Debut Novel I Missed in 2013

The Next Time You See Me by Holly Goddard Jones

Favorite Audio Book

So You've Been Publicly Shamed by Jon Ronson

***READ MORE ABOUT THESE SELECTIONS**

<http://mainewriters.org/bodwells-bakers-dozen/>

Book recommendations from Emily:

GIRLS ON FIRE by Robin Wasserman

THE GENTLEMAN by Forrest Leo

SECURITY by Gina Wohlsdorff

INVISIBLE MAN GOT THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHING by Mychal Denzel Smith

CHILDREN OF THE NEW WORLD by Alexander Weinstein

SEARCHING FOR JOHN HUGHES by Jason Diamond

THE REGIONAL OFFICE IS UNDER ATTACK by Manuel Gonzales

THE VEINS OF THE OCEAN by Patricia Engel

Others I loved if there is time:

CHRISTODORA by Tim Murphy

GRACE by Natasha Deon

THE MOTHERS by Brit Bennett

Book recommendations from FRANK:

CLOSER ALL THE TIME, by Jim Nichols

- Winner of the 2016 MWPA Best Novel Award
- Written for “Esquire” and other magazines
- Resonant of Haruff’s PLAINSONG, and Masters’ WINESBURG OHIO

DARK MONEY, by Jane Mayer

- Named by the NY Times as one of the top 10 books of 2016
- Award-winning staff writer for “The New Yorker”
- About the insidious power and influence of “dark,” anonymous money on American politics and life

FATHER’S DAY, By Simon Van Booy

- By one of America’s great stylists
- Award-winning novelist, short story writer, and editor of 3 volumes of philosophy

GO SET A WATCHMAN, by Harper Lee

- The novel that was the “mother” of Lee’s classic TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
- Hugely controversial but important work

PLAYING WITH FIRE, by Tess Gerritsen

- Best selling Gerritsen’s most accomplished work
- Stands in the neighborhood with Styron’s SOPHIE’ CHOICE

THE BOOK OF THE MANDOLIN PLAYER, by Anne Britting Oleson

- Poet
- Debut novel about the messiness of family

THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION BOY, by Monica Wood

- By one of Maine's best known, most beloved writers
- Wood's most ambitious novel

THEY COULD LIVE WITH THEMSELVES, by Jodi Paloni

- Winner of Short Story America Prize
- Finalist for MWPA's Best Short Fiction Award
- Debut novel, a collection of inter-connected stories about life in a small Vermont town

WRITTEN ON MY HEART, by Morgan Callan Rogers

- Sequel to Rogers' debut novel, RUBY RED HEART IN A COLD BLUE SEA
- Life after coming of age, and the still haunting effects of the unexplained disappearance of a mother
- Native Mainer

UNKNOWN CALLER, by Debra Spark

- Colby college professor
- Award-winning author of 5 novels, numerous short stories and articles
- A most intriguingly constructed novel that bends time and probes the heart of what connects its characters