



If you want to meet people who like to read, Books a la Carte might be for you. There is no assigned list. We talk about books of all types. Send comments to news@peopleplusmaine.org. Here is a list of the group's recommendations. Enjoy!

January 2025

FICTION

Second Growth by *Ruth Moore*. This 1962 book by a well-known Maine author is the insightful story of a struggling small Down East town. The well-written tale describes Mainers transitioning from a prime focus on fishing and farming.

The Magnificent Ruins by *Nayantara Roy*. A young Indian American woman inherits a family home in India and has to deal with family members.

The Shuttle by *Frances Hodgson Burnett*. This 1907 book is for anyone who loved *The Secret Garden* (by the same author) and *Downton Abbey*. It explores the relationship between wealthy Americans and titled, but often financially struggling, British.

The Berry Pickers by *Amanda Peters*. A 4-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine. The disappearance goes unsolved for 50 years.

NONFICTION

Master Slave Husband Wife by *Ilyon Woo*. In 1858, Georgia Ellen Craft, who passes for white, and her husband, William, go on an open escape from slavery with William as Georgia's slave. This is a well-documented gripping book with sad commentary on our nation's history. Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Biography.

Deep South by *Paul Theroux*. Theroux has written 10 travel memoirs, but this is his first book about his experiences in the U.S. The Deep South region can be as strange and exotic as any foreign country.

Thunderstruck by *Erik Larson*. This work tells the true stories of events which made the front pages of newspapers in 1900 and 1910. One was about a murderer and the other about Marconi, the inventor of the wireless. By the end of the book, these two stories connect in a suspenseful and dramatic way.

Lilibet by *Carolly Erickson*. While this is a very interesting and informative biography of Queen Elizabeth II, it tells us much more about Prince Philip than most people know – or want to know. Read it and find out.

The Demon of Unrest by *Erik Larson*. This is a readable, detailed account of the period (1860-61) between Abraham Lincoln's election and the attack on Ft. Sumter. There are certain similarities between that period of history and what is happening in our country today.

MYSTERY

The Man Who Invented Florida by *Randy Wayne White*. Third book in a series featuring a marine biologist in southwest Florida.