BEA Shout ‘n’ Share, 2013

Kaite Stover, Kansas City Public Library

These are the titles I think will be Book Group Breakouts for the Fall:

I’m ready to push ***The Tilted World*** from Tom Franklin, author of recent book group fave, *Crooked Letter Crooked Letter* and Beth Ann Fennelly, my favorite contemporary poet, her most recent collection is *Unmentionables*. The historic Mississippi River flood of 1927 is the backdrop for a compelling story of a bootlegger in love with a revenuer and a host of other characters fighting for redemption and survival. (Morrow/Harper) Fiction

***Explanation for Everything*** from Lauren Grodstein is a thoughtful and thought provoking novel about a hot button issue—evolution and creationism. A college biology professor has been asked by a student to direct her independent study on intelligent design. Everyone’s world is about to expand and explode. Book groups are great places for civic discourse. This one should lend itself to great conversation among readers since the author does not advocate for either side. (Algonquin) Fiction

***Cinnamon and Gunpowder***—think Major Pettigrew meets Julia Child adrift Patrick O’Brian’s wine dark sea. Lady pirate kidnaps chef, demands a delicious every meal every Sunday, and the chef will get to live to the next Sunday. A sprightly paced, uniquely charactered, delightful, and charming story of food, pirates, and love. (Macmillan) Fiction

Fans of The Elegance of the Hedgehog shouldn’t miss ***The President’s Hat*** by Antoine Laurain. What an alluring premise—an ordinary French citizen discovers Francois Mitterand’s forgotten hat in a bistro, doffs it, and finds his life is changing in small, subtle ways.

***Bookman’s Tale*** is a book after my own bibliophile heart. I love books about character’s obsessions with literature. In 1995, a bereaved bookseller opens an 18th century study of Shakespeare forgeries and a Victorian watercolor of his late wife slips from between the pages. Or is it his wife? A literary romance that crosses time that dances across time. A book about lovers of books that booklovers will love. (Penguin)

Before his escape from the Death Star, a contemplative Luke Skywalker holds a

stormtrooper helmet as he laments, “Alas, poor stormtrooper, I knew ye not”.

Quirk Press has put Hamlet and *Star Wars* in a cement mixer with dramatic and

comedic effect in ***William Shakespeare’s Star Wars***. Think Luke as Hamlet,

R2D2 & C-3PO as Rosencrantz & Guildenstern, with direction from Yoda. For

anglophiles, scifi nerds, and probably 9th grade English students. (Quirk)

Intrigued with a fantasy from Simon & Schuster, ***The Age of Ice***, about twins conceived in an ice palace. Prince Alexander learns he is immune to cold. He is also blessed, or cursed, with longevity. The prince’s search for the truth of his heritage spans centuries and continents. A sweeping, compelling novel for fans of historical fiction and fantasy. *War and Peace* meets *The Historian*. (Simon & Schuster)

Looking forward to two behind-the-scenes books about everyday things—air travel and the internet. ***Full Upright & Locked Position*** examines the culture of air travel since 9/11. The author, a former FAA counsel, explains air fares, a cockpit pilot’s work day, and why we get sick on planes. We all know about crime and the internet, but ***The Internet Police*** are on the case. A fascinating exploration of one facet of the world wide web. (Norton)

An account of Maggie and John Anderson’s decision to solely support Black

owned businesses in the Chicago area, with the goal of bringing attention to

such issues as leakage—where money flows out of Black neighborhoods and

businesses into more affluent areas—and the difficulties inherent in trying spend

money only at the few and hidden Black businesses. Blending memoir and

extensive research, Anderson and Gregory shed much needed light on the

economic situation of Black businesses and neighbors in and around Chicago, but

more importantly, they set an example of how to consciously engage with

capitalism in order to enact change in a meaningful way. ***Our Black Year: One***

***Family’s Quest to Buy Black in America’s Racially Divided Economy***.

Perfect for any book groups interested in social justice, economics, or memoir.

(Public Affairs)

Never before has a book required of its readers the hair of the dog upon

completion, but Suzette Field’s ***A Curious Invitation: The Forty Greatest***

***Parties in Literature*** requires just that. Rich wine and bathtub gin

flow from the pages as she describes each party thrown in the

pages written by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Plato, Jackie Collins, and James Joyce, along

with thirty-six other hearty partiers of literature. May require more than a

nightcap, maybe rehab. (Harper)

Frame, Ronald. ***Havisham***. New York: Picador, 2012.

Where *do* broken hearts go? And, *can* they find their way home? Well, in the case of Miss Havisham from Charles Dickens’s *Great Expectations*, the answer is an unsettling and resounding, “yes!” Blending two of the human race’s greatest cultural productions—Dickens and beer—Ronald Frame’s ***Havisham*** explores Catherine Havisham’s privileged upbringing as the daughter of a brewer, her jilting at the altar, and her devolution into the bitter, love-scorned woman generations of readers have grown both to loath and ultimately pity. Frame successfully transforms Catherine from simply a bitch into a lover, a child, a mother (of sorts), a sinner, and possibly a saint. (Macmillan)

Lightning Round:

**Stop Tweeting Boring Sh\*t** by Division of Labor (“Saying it with Conviction Does Not Make it True” and “It’s All Fun and Games Until the Intern Sues”): Tweet mindfully. Especially at work.

***Penguins Hate Stuff*** by Greg Stones (Chronicle): Penguins hate Halloween, clowns and snow sharks.