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PT ALL-TIME FAVS

[To Kill a Mockingbird](#) by Harper Lee

"A brilliant book. So well written. Captures such a difficult time and contains such a beautiful character, Scout. I didn't read *Go Set a Watchman*. I didn't think it was meant to be published." ~Jane

[The Pillars of the Earth](#) by Ken Follett

"An epic story of a medieval England." ~Karen



February 2019 Book Report

- Judy: [Becoming](#) by Michelle Obama, [The Signature of All Things](#) by Elizabeth Gilbert
- Shawn: [Testimony](#) by Anita Shreve, [An American Marriage](#) by Tayari Jones, [A Thousand Mornings](#) by Mary Oliver
- Peggy: [Before We Were Yours](#) by Lisa Wingate
- Loretta: [Transcription](#) by Kate Atkinson, [A Spark of Light](#) by Jodi Picoult, [There There](#) by Tommy Orange, [Our House](#) by Louise Candlish, [The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: The Untold Story of a Lost World](#) by Steve Brusatte
- Barbara: [The 24 Doors](#) by Klaus Modick, [Big Little Lies](#) by Liane Moriarty, [Next Year in Havana](#) by Chanel Cleeton
- Carol: [Manhattan Beach](#) by Jennifer Egan
- Amy: [Small Great Things](#) by Jodi Picoult, [The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#) by Isabel Wilkerson
- Jane: [Middlemarch](#) by George Eliot
- Debbie: [The Immortalists](#) by Chloe Benjamin
- JoAnn: [Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers Who Helped Win World War II](#) by Liza Mundy, [The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II](#) by Denise Kiernan
- Allison: [The History of Bees](#) by Maja Lunde
- Cindy: [The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden](#) by Jonas Jonasson, [Sail](#) by James Patterson
- Kathy P.: [The Heart's Invisible Furies](#) by John Boyne, [The Legend of the Freckled Finn: A Mermaid Fantasy Childrens Book Mythology Fairy Tale Graphic Novel](#) by Eileen Lubore, Ron Noble
- Deb S.: [A Spool of Blue Thread](#) by Anne Tyler, [The Madonnas of Leningrad](#) by Debra Dean
- Lori: [Gone So Long](#) by Andre Dubus III, [Outline](#), [Kudos](#) by Rachel Cusk, [Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age](#) by Mary Pipher ([NPR Interview](#) & [Y Times Opinion](#))

True Love

"Let me keep company always with those who say 'Look!' and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads."

-Mary Oliver

This is a line from *Mysteries, Yes* and has been my email signature for years. I think it reflects the magic of awe. It is preceded by my other favorite MO line,

"Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers."

We sadly lost Mary Oliver last month. Her poems and prose reflect a love of nature like no other. Her thoughts were "real and right and true" (lyrics from a country western song). She viewed life/nature in totality and invited her audience to join her in celebration. I love this from *Wild Geese*.

"Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, / the world offers itself to your imagination, / calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting— / over and over announcing your place / in the family of things."

Her legacy encourages us to engage in all of life wholeheartedly and humbly. RIP MO.

[On Being Interview with Mary Oliver](#)

Romance

What makes a good romance novel romantic? I am not a romance novel reading but I will admit to falling in love with a few characters. That makes reality a little challenging for about 48 hours.

According to [New York Book Editors](#), the most successful romance novels follow a pretty simple formula

- Boy meets girl.
- Boy loses girl.
- Boy gets girl.

And plot

- Friends become lovers or
- You're my soulmate, it's fate or
- This is my second chance to love again

Although this seems pretty simple, the website offers other interesting advice that might not be so easy. Take a look! Here are the selected books according to "Be Still, My Heart: These Are the 20 Best Romance Novels to Read," found on [My Domaine](#) (I kind of like this website).