

Connie Paul's SEASON'S READINGS

2001

Patches of Godlight Jan Karon

A different Mitford book-this one contains the readings and notes that Father Tim uses for his sermons and his life. Lovely to dip into.

To Serve Them All My Days R.F. Delderfield

An old book (and a Masterpiece Theatre series) about a Welsh soldier whose recovery from WWI trenches led him to be a school master.

Holes Louis Sachar

It won the Newbery in '99 but this book is not just for kids (no great kid's book is!)

Remembering the 20th Century - an Oral History of Monmouth County

On the web at <http://www.visitmonmouth.com/oralhistory/index.html>. Look for Gibson, Williams, Hendry and Frenkiel!

2002

A Single Shard Linda Sue Park

A Newbery winner you will never forget. Tree Ear is a 10 year old orphan in 12 century Korea and he will steal your heart. Destined to be a classic.

Trinity Fields Bradford Morrow

Two boys grow up in Los Alamos in World War II, follow very different paths, and reconnect. Great story.

A Vision of Light Judith Merkle Riley

A medieval spellbinder about an unusual woman who wants to tell her story, her way, but has to find someone to write it for her.

City of Light Lauren Belfer

Mystery, romance, history of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, 1901. Like the others, great!

2003

The Goose Girl Shannon Hale

It might have been written for young adults, but all ages will love this great story

John Adams David McCullough

Did you know John Adams was fifth generation American? A long biography and worth every page.

No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Alexander McCall Smith

Listen to the lilting reading of this by Recorded Books. It will charm you, and Botswana and its people will steal your heart!

Persuasion Jane Austen

Her "autumn" novel, *Persuasion* is funny, warm, and lyrical. The movie with Amanda Root is good, too!

2004

At Home in Mitford Jan Karon

The best feel-good books in memory. Father Tim and his community will make you want to move right in.

Earthly Joys Philippa Gregory

This book kept our discussion group on topic! John Tradescant, gardener, saw a lot of British history. Great story.

Sand Reckoner Gillian Bradshaw

Actually any historical book by Bradshaw I love. This one is about Archimedes

Walking Across Egypt Clyde Edgerton

Not a travel book - a very funny, heartwarming story of a 78 year old woman in NC

2005

Memory of Running Ron McLarty

Wonderful on audio. A misfit hero on a mission. The characters stay with you.

Master and Commander Patrick O'Brian

The first of a series of 20+ books I love, even though naval military lore is not usually my choice. Read by Patrick Tull, Recorded Books version is a joy to be savored.

Eight Cousins Louisa May Alcott

Have you read only *Little Women*? The sequel is *Rose in Bloom*. Meant to be read and re-read.

Bootlegger's Daughter Margaret Maron

My mystery choice for 2005, this is the first in an enjoyable series featuring Deborah Knott and set in North Carolina.

2006

Bread Alone Judith Ryan Hendricks

A good read, set in a bakery in Seattle.

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time Mark Haddon

Every book group has discussed this - and with good reason. Engrossing mystery told by an autistic teen.

Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious Woman Alice Steinbach

This is who I want to be when I grow up - or at least what I want to do when I grow up. Is it too late?

Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality J. Philip Newell

What if Christianity had followed the lead of John instead of Peter? Our Iona reading...

2007

His Majesty's Dragon Naomi Novik

If I tell you that it's dragons in the Napoleonic wars, will you still believe me when I say that this series is entrancing? Great characters!

The Good, Good Pig Sy Montgomery

A true 14 year New England love story between the author and her pig. Another improbably good read!

Enchanted April Elizabeth von Arnim

A dream vacation and a dream book - back in print and as wonderful as ever. And good on the DVD movie, too.

2008

People of the Book Geraldine Brooks

The story of a special book unfolds through centuries.

Beekeeper's Apprentice Laurie R. King

Premise sounds dumb, but trust me on this one. You'll read the whole series!

In This House of Brede Rumer Godden.

Old book, great story, pretty good old movie with Diana Rigg.

Water for Elephants Sara Gruen.

My book club's favorite so far. A then and now story, both of which are equally compelling.

2009

Gilead Marilynne Robinson

In 1956 an ailing 76 year-old preacher in Gilead, Iowa writes a letter to his 7 year old son. The people you meet will stay with you a long while.

Mistress of the Art of Death Ariana Franklin

My new favorite mystery series set in England during Henry II. And two sequels!

Not Even Wrong Paul Collins

True, compelling story of an author's autistic son, well researched, compassionate and wise. You'll be glad you read this.

2010

Cutting for Stone Abraham Verghese

Set in Ethiopia, this story is fascinating and unforgettable. Human and loving, it is about healing in all its forms. Our book group never agrees totally on a book. We all loved this one!

Fall of Giants Ken Follett

First of a trilogy set in WWI, it is a stand alone great read. Long but worth it. You won't even notice how much you are learning about the time because you are so enjoying the story!

Wild China DVD from BBC

Six part series which is so beautifully filmed and researched that you will want to watch it again. China as we've never seen it here.

Maisie Dobbs Jacqueline Winspear

There are seven books in this series now (you'll get hooked on the first one). Set in England between the world wars, the story feature Maisie Dobbs who served in WWI and now has opened her own detective agency. I love listening to these as well as reading them.