

Selections: June 2023



Cliequot Book Club

June 2023 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
Blaze Me A Sun	Christoffer Carlsson	Sandra	Mystery
Daughters of Nantucket	Julie Gerstenblatt	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Dirty Laundry ^{GMA}	Disha Bose	Sandra	Mystery
Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun	Elle Cosimano	Sandra	Mystery
Happy Place	Emily Henry	Sandra	Romance
It. Goes. So. Fast.	Mary Louise Kelly	Sandra	Nonfiction
Queen Charlotte	Julia Quinn & Shonda Rhimes	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Summer on Sag Harbor ^{GMA}	Sunny Hostin	Sandra	Fiction
The Audrey Hepburn Estate ^{CBS}	Brenda Janowitz	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Bandit Queens	Parini Shroff	Sandra	Mystery
The Mostly True Story of Tanner & Louise	Colleen Oakley	Sandra	Fiction
The Nigerwife ^{GMA}	Vanessa Walters	Sandra	Mystery
The Seaside Library	Brenda Novak	Sandra	Fiction
Your Plantation Prom Is Not Okay	Kelly McWilliams	Sandra	Fiction
Goodnight From Paris	Jane Healey	Sandra	Historical Fiction

NOTES:

GMA: Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick

CBS: CBS New York Book Club

Daughters of Nantucket by Julie Gerstenblatt

Interesting historical fiction about three women and their lives leading up to Nantucket's great fire of 1946. Liked the story, but the character voices were anachronistic to the times.

Dirty Laundry by Disha Bose

Is the grass always greener on the other side? Twisty novel of domestic suspense about a group of three mothers and the secrets they all hold when one of them is murdered.

Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun by Elle Cosimano

Fun third installment of the Finlay Donovan series.

Happy Place by Emily Henry

Cute romance.

Queen Charlotte by Julia Quinn and Shonda Rhimes

Loved this! Love this series, and the book really brought more details to life with the nuances of Queen Charlotte and Lady Dansbury.

Summer on Sag Harbor by Sunny Hostin

Fun summer novel about the Blacks in the Hamptons. Really liked the second in the Oak Bluffs trilogy.

The Audrey Hepburn Estate by Brenda Janowitz

Fun historical fiction about the legendary estate and the secrets that it held.

The Bandit Queens by Parini Shroff

A funny and complicated story of a widow in an Indian village who helps women with their husband problems. She exacts the revenge the wives deserve - sometimes with hilarious and devastating consequences.

The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise by Colleen Oakley

Beautiful story of the unlikely friendship (or not!) of the 83 year-old Louise and her caretaking young companion. It was a fun read.

The Nigerwife by Vanessa Walters

The opening question "What happened to the body?" is the premise of the book. The mystery of missing Cole, a British-Jamaican married to a Nigerian man in Lagos, Nigeria. This book is filled with secrets and lies, built on secrets and lies. At its heart is the real mystery of what is true, what we see, and what we can/should believe. I love the quiet tone of this novel that's built on the expectations of culture and class.

Your Plantation Prom is Not Okay by Kelly McWilliams

Smart and insightful story centering grief, racism, and the absurdity of trying to glorify and uphold antebellum history while ignoring the atrocities of enslaved people. Loved it.

Goodnight from Paris by Jane Healey

Wonderful historical fiction about the American actress Drue Leyton. So loved learning about her contributions in WW2. Great story.

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All the Dangerous Things	Stacy Willingham	Sandra	Mystery
Big Gay Wedding	Byron Lane	Sandra	Fiction
Black Candle Women ^{RWJ}	Diane Marie Brown	Sandra	Fiction
Drowning	T.J. Newman	Sandra	Mystery
Famous in a Small Town ^{GMA}	Viola Shipman	Sandra	Fiction
Ms. Demeanor	Elinor Lipman	Sandra	Fiction
The Celebrants ^{RWJ}	Steven Rowley	Sandra	Fiction
The Golden Spoon	Jessa Maxwell	Sandra	Mystery
The House Is on Fire ^{GMA}	Rachel Beanland	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Last Russian Doll	Kristin Loesch	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Senator's Wife	Liv Constantine	Sandra	Mystery
The Spectacular	Fiona Davis	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Wind Knows My Name	Isabel Allende	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Yellowface	R.F. Kuang	Sandra	Fiction
You Were Always Mine	Christine Pride & Jo Piazza	Sandra	Fiction

NOTES:

GMA: Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick

RBC: Reese's Book Club

RWJ: Read With Jenna

All the Dangerous Things by Stacey Willingham

Twisty novel about a son's disappearance in the night. It kept me guessing on what really happened and who was really telling the truth.

Big Gay Wedding by Byron Lane

I loved this book so much! Laugh-out-loud book of what happens when a man returns home to his small town to get married to his husband while his mom pretends everything is "normal". She was so stuck on "what will people think?!" It made the scenes extra fun!

Drowning by T.J. Newman

I love T.J. Newman. The countdown on this plane crash had me skipping a beat and wanting to know who was actually going to survive. I loved it.

Famous in a Small Town by Viola Shipman

Heartwarming and laugh-out-loud funny, it gave a whole new meaning for the love of cherries.

Sweet summertime read.

Ms. Demenor by Elinor Lipman

Funny recounting of a woman who gets caught doing something naughty on the roof of her building and has to wear an ankle monitor because of it. What she learns about the rest of the people in the apartment and herself is delightful and delicious.

The Celebrants by Steven Rowley

Beautiful story of friendship, love, loss, and how we hold it all together.

The Golden Spoon by Jessa Maxwell

I'm surprised no one's thought of this before. This is like a British Bake-off murder mystery - six bakers come together, and not everybody leaves.

The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland

Wonderful historical fiction based on the 1811 theater fire in Richmond, Virginia. The story focuses on four different characters and how they lived before and after the fire.

The Senator's Wife by Liv Constantine

Great domestic thriller that had me at the edge of my seat - I loved it.

The Spectacular by Fiona Davis

Fiona Davis does it again - I love her historical fiction! This centers on the famed Rockettes of Radio city music hall and the bombings that were taking place at the time. She's kicked off another spectacular read.

The Wind Knows my Name by Isabel Allende

Beautiful story about the sacrifices parents make for their children. Dual timelines of 1938 Vienna before the war and Arizona, 2019 at the US border crossing. This story reminded me that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Yellowface by R.F.Kuang

This book made me so angry because I could see it happening in real life.

You Were Always Mine by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

Beautiful and heart-wrenching story of two women, one in her late teens who's white, and the other in her 30s who's black. When the pregnant teen delivers and leaves her baby with her newly-made Black friend, questions arise about what constitutes a family and who can be called a mother.

Selections: August 2023



Clacquot Book Club

August 2023 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
A Little Ray of Sunshine	Kristan Higgins	Sandra	Fiction
Black Girls Must Have it All	Jayne Allen	Sandra	Fiction
How I'll Kill You	Ren DeStefano	Sandra	Mystery
Kantika	Elizabeth Graver	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Lady Tan's Circle of Women	Lisa See	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Meet Me at the Lake ^{GMA}	Carley Fortune	Sandra	Romance
Mrs. Nash's Ashes	Sarah Adler	Sandra	Fiction
Only the Beautiful	Susan Meissner	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Queen of Exiles ^{TV & GMA}	Vanessa Riley	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The First Ladies	Marie Perle & Victoria Christopher Murray	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Happiness Plan	Susan Mallory	Sandra	Fiction
The Twyford Code ^{BBOTY}	Janice Hallett	Sandra	Mystery
The Whispers	Ashley Audrain	Sandra	Mystery
The Wishing Game	Meg Shaffer	Sandra	Fiction
Crow Mary	Kathleen Grisson	Sandra	Historical Fiction

NOTES:

GMA: Good Morning America Book Club or Book Buzz Pick

BBOTY: Winner~Thriller British Book of the Year 2023

TV: The View ~ Ladies Get Lit with Sunny

Black Girls Must Have it All by Jayne Allen

Satisfying ending to the "Black Girls Must Die Exhausted" trilogy.

How I'll Kill You by Ren DeStefano

Delicious thriller about triplets that are serial killers and what happens when one falls in love with their next victim.

Kantika by Elizabeth Graver

Multi-generational saga with a sephardic family.

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

Gorgeous historical novel about 15th century China's first female medical doctor. Beautifully written, and a lot of Lady Tan's remedies are still in use today.

Mrs. Nash's Ashes by Sarah Adler

Sweet and laugh-out-loud funny of the whirlwind trip to secure Mrs. Nash's final resting place.

Only the Beautiful by Susan Meissner

Astonishing historical fiction about a young woman trying to keep her daughter and the lengths she must go to hide who she truly is.

Queen of Exiles by Vanessa Riley

Wonderful historical fiction about a little known Black lady in history: Haiti's Queen Marie-Louise Coidavid who escaped a coup in Haiti and held onto her royalty in Europe.

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Christopher Murray

Amazing historical fiction from the authors of "The Personal Librarian" about the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Doctor Mary McCloud Bethune.

The Twyford Code by Janice Hallett

Trippy suspense told in a whole book of audio files. You're not sure what you're listening to/reading until the very end. Well done!

The Whispers by Ashley Audrain

A young boy falls out of a window... or did he? What really happened and what did the neighbors actually see? An amazing, twisty mystery.

The Wishing Game by Meg Shaffer

A sweet book about the love of reading that starts at childhood and continues to adulthood for book lovers.

Crow Mary by Kathleen Grisson

Amazing historical fiction about Crow Mary/Goes First, who marries a white fur trader and their tumultuous life with her heroic results. I loved it.

Selections: September 2023



Clacquot Book Club

September 2023 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
Better Living Through Birding	Christian Cooper	Sandra	Nonfiction
Cassandra in Reverse ^{RBC}	Holly Smale	Sandra	Fiction
Dances	Nicole Cuffy	Sandra	Fiction
Did You Hear About Kitty Karr? ^{RBC}	Crystal Smith Paul	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Fourth Wing	Rebecca Yarros	Sandra	Fantasy
Hotel Laguna	Nicola Harrison	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Talulah's Back in Town	Brenda Novak	Sandra	Romance
The Brightest Star	Gail Tsukiyama	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Collected Regrets of Clover	Mikki Brammer	Sandra	Fiction
The Cuban Heiress	Chanel Cleeton	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Devine Doughnut Shop	Carolyn Brown	Sandra	Fiction
The Paris Daughter	Kristin Harmel	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Puzzle Master	Danielle Trussoni	Sandra	Mystery
The Sweetheart List	Jill Shalvis	Sandra	Romance
Zero Days	Ruth Ware	Sandra	Mystery
Family Lore ^{GMA}	Elizabeth Acevedo	Sandra	Fiction

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RBC: Reese's Book Club

Better Living Through Birding by Christian Cooper

Amazing memoir about the bird watcher who had the police called on him in Central Park. Read this and also listened to the audio. The audio is a special treat, as it's read by the author, who demonstrates bird calls.

Cassandra in Reverse by Holly Smale

Interesting twist on a woman who experiences Groundhog day, and each time she goes back she can change small bits to get the correct result.

Dances by Nicole Cuffy

A young Black ballerina at the height of her career has to make difficult choices as she takes center stage in the grueling world of ballet.

Did You Hear About Kitty Karr? by Crystal Smith Paul

Juicy story of a white old-Hollywood cinematic star who leaves her fortune to three Black girls - and everyone wants to know why.

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

Romantasy at its best: this book has all the tropes, all the drama, and all the fun. I loved it.

Hotel Laguna by Nicola Harrison

Cute historical fiction of a young woman in the Rosie the Riveter days.

Talulah's Back in Town by Brenda Novak

Heartwarming romance, thoroughly enjoyed it. The start of a new series; I'm looking forward to book two.

The Brightest Star by Gail Tsukiyama

Historical fiction about Anna Mae Wong, the first Asian-American woman to become a major movie star.

The Collected Regrets of Clover by Mikki Brammer

Heartwarming story of a young woman who is a death doula who really starts to begin living after her grandfather dies.

The Cuban Heiress by Chanel Cleeton

Intriguing historical fiction about the fate of two women onboard the S.S. Morro Castle when the ship catches fire.

The Paris Daughter by Kristin Harmel

Gripping historical fiction about what two mothers do and have to endure during WWII in order to save their children.

The Puzzle Master by Danielle Trussoni

This reminded me of "The Da Vinci Code", but from a Jew's point of view. Ancient texts, mysterious works, and greed characterize this thrilling novel.

Family Lore by Elizabeth Acevedo

Love love love this! Flor has an unusual gift: she can predict to the day when someone will die. She gathers all her family together so she can have a living wake so they can tell her what they think of her before she dies. This is a beautiful story of family, love, and loss.

Selections: October 2023



Cliequot Book Club

October 2023 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
Amazing Grace Adams ^{RWJ}	Fran Littlewood	Sandra	Fiction
Happiness Falls ^{GMA}	Angie Kim	Sandra	Mystery
I Wish We Weren't Related	Radhika Sanghi	Sandra	Fiction
Ink Blood Sister Scribe ^{GMA}	Emma Törzs	Sandra	Magical Realism
Just Another Missing Person	Gillian McAllister	Sandra	Mystery
My Murder ^{FBC}	Katie Williams	Sandra	Mystery
None of This is True	Lisa Jewell	Sandra	Mystery
On Fire Island ^{FBC}	Jane L. Rosen	Sandra	Fiction
The Bookbinder	Pip Williams	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store	James McBride	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Housekeepers	Alex Hay	Sandra	Mystery
The Librarianist	Patrick Dewitt	Sandra	Fiction
The Seven Year Slip ^{FBC}	Ashley Poston	Sandra	Romance
The Trade Off	Sandie Jones	Sandra	Mystery
Tom Lake ^{RBC}	Ann Patchett	Sandra	Fiction
The Little Village of Book Lovers	Nina George	Sandra	Fiction

NOTES:

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Happiness Falls by Angie Kim

A different take on a family whodunit where the only witness to what happened to the father is his non-verbal son. A book to make you think.

I Wish We Weren't Related by Radhika Sanghi

The title alone is fun! This is a compelling family drama when a young woman learns that the father she had thought died years ago has only recently passed and it turns her world upside down.

Ink Blood Sister Scribe by Emma Torzs

Magical realism at its best. The keepers of a library of magical books discover more about themselves and their family than they ever thought there was to know. Generations of secrets come out in a stunningly interconnected web where there are more keys than anyone realizes.

Loved it!

Just Another Missing Person by Gillian McAllister

Compelling whodunit that keeps you on your toes when the detective, in order to save her family, is not allowed to solve the crime.

My Murder by Katie Williams

A murder victim brought back to life tries to cope with the other survivors that have also been brought back, and their new reality as they attempt to confront the person who killed them.

None of this is True by Lisa Jewell

When you finish this book, it will leave you wondering what exactly was true. Lisa Jewell does it again; this is a book that left me on the edge of my seat. A true crime podcaster ends up being the subject of a true crime podcast.

On Fire Island by Jane L. Rosen

Beautiful and heartwarming story of a young woman who dies of cancer. Her spirit goes to Fire Island to make sure her family will be alright after her death.

The Bookbinder by Pip Williams

A heartfelt novel of World War I and a young woman desperate to join the bookbinding industry, a profession given exclusively to men.

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

In 1972 Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in a neighborhood that is Black and Jewish, stories come to life when they find a skeleton when breaking ground for a new construction project. This book is filled with a wild cast of characters, and at times you're not sure of who's who or what's what, but it all comes together in the end. This book highlights that what we consider differences are also what makes us the same.

The Housekeepers by Alex Hay

'Downton Abbey' meets 'Ocean's 8'. Fun and campy heist where the housekeepers decide they're going to steal everything the night of a masquerade ball. I loved it.

The Librarianist by Patrick Dewill

A quiet novel of an introverted librarian and his life as he volunteers to read at a senior home. This book had a lot of promise, but was really slow in parts. The bits where the author goes back in time to highlight bits of the protagonist's life were there, but without resolution.

The Trade Off by Sandie Jones

The cut-throat world of tabloid newspapers and the ramifications when they publish the barely-there truth.


Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

Listen to the audio because it's read by Meryl Streep and it reads like a soliloquy. The book itself is simply 'okay', but Streep turns it into something beautiful.

The Little Village of Book Lovers by Nina George

A beautiful story of a young woman who can see the power of love and can make love matches through books. She's able to do this for everyone except herself. A lyrical and thoughtful novel.

Selections: November 2023



Clicquot Book Club

November 2023 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
All You Have to Do Is Call	Kerry Maher	Sandra	Historical Fiction
Banyan Moon ^{RWJ}	Thao Thai	Sandra	Fiction
Everything's Fine	Cecilia Rabess	Sandra	Fiction
Gone Tonight	Sarah Pekkanen	Sandra	Mystery
Hello Stranger	Katherine Center	Sandra	Fiction
The Book Club Hotel	Sarah Morgan	Sandra	Fiction
The Coworker	Frieda Mcadden	Sandra	Mystery
The Door-to-Door Bookstore	Carsten Henn	Sandra	Fiction
The Keeper of Hidden Books	Madeline Martin	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Last Devil to Die	Richard Osman	Sandra	Mystery
The Long Game	Elena Armas	Sandra	Romance
The Twelve Dogs of Christmas	Susan Wiggs	Sandra	Fiction
The List ^{GMA}	Yomi Adegoke	Sandra	Fiction
The Last Lifeboat	Hazel Gaynor	Sandra	Historical Fiction

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All You Have to do is Call by Kerry Maher

1970s historical fiction about the brave women who fought for the right to choose. Timely in today's political climate.

Banyan Moon by Thao Thai

Three generations of Vietnamese women come together with the passing of the grandmother. Over the course of the novel we learn the struggles of her life and the sacrifices she made for those she loved.

Everything's Fine by Cecilia Rabess

Complicated story of a young woman who falls in love with someone of a different race and different political views than her own and how she navigates that love in a tumultuous world.

Gone Tonight by Sarah Pekkanen

A cat-and-mouse mother daughter suspense. Who is telling the truth and who is the one that's truly evil. It had me at the edge of my seat.

Hello Stranger by Katherine Center

Fun story of a woman who has an accident and wakes up with face blindness. As a portrait artist, this makes her professional life, home life, and love life very complicated.

The Book Club Hotel by Sarah Morgan

Everybody should be able to do this. A book club that meets twice a year in a hotel with three friends and it just so happens that the hotel is picturesque in photos, but needs their particular brand of expertise. I loved it.

The Coworker by Frieda McFadden

Twisty dual perspective whodunit. And, because of it, I now know too much about turtles.

The Door-to-Door Bookstore by Carsten Henn

Charming and heartwarming story on how books can save us and uplift us even in our darkest despair, featuring an old man and a little girl who changes his life. I love this book so much!

The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin

Wonderful historical fiction on the length that librarians went to in order to preserve books in Poland that were destined to be destroyed by Nazis. A book of the courage found in the quietest of places.

The Last Devil to Die by Richard Osman

The fourth installment in the "Thursday Murder Club" series. The gang's all back together with a brand-new paper and I loved it.

The Long Game by Elena Armas

A privileged soccer executive is penalized and punished for her bad behavior and sent to a small town to work with the soccer team - which happens to be little girls. Romance blooms with the soccer coach (who the girls love) as she tries to win them over.

The Twelve Dogs of Christmas by Susan Wiggs

Adorable and full of holiday charm. Rescue dogs and romance - what else is there to say for a great holiday book?

The List by Yomi Adegoke

Wow! Speaking true to power, this book is PHENOMENAL. The book highlights what happens when you are canceled and tried in the court of public opinion. Ola and Michael are 26 days away from their big, British-African wedding when Michael's name shows up on a list of 'Me Too' predators on twitter. The story is filled with secrets, lies, half-truths, drama, and stress. A juicy, timely read; I loved it.

The Last Lifeboat by Hazel Gaynor

Historical fiction based on the true events of the last lifeboat of children that were evacuated from London and torpedoed by a Nazi U-boat. The resilience and bravery of the one woman, Alice, that kept all the children and adults together shines through.

Selections: December 2023



Cliequot Book Club

December 2023 Selections

BOOK TITLE	Author	Reviewed by	Genre
A Christmas to Remember	Beverly Jenkins	Sandra	Fiction
A Master of Djinn	P. Djèlí Clark	Sandra	Fantasy
A Winter in New York	Josie Silver	Sandra	Romance
An American Immigrant	Johanna Rojas Vann	Sandra	Fiction
How to Say Babylon ^{RWJ}	Safiya Sinclair	Sandra	Nonfiction
Kiss the Girl	Zoraida Cordova	Sandra	Romance
Mother-Daughter Murder Night ^{RBC}	Nina Simon	Sandra	Mystery
Save What's Left ^{GMA}	Elizabeth Castellano	Sandra	Fiction
Strangers in the Night	Heather Webb	Sandra	Historical Fiction
The Leftover Woman	Jean Kwok	Sandra	Fiction
The Museum of Failures	Thrity Umrigar	Sandra	Fiction
The Summer of Songbirds	Kristy Woodson Harvey	Sandra	Fiction
The Twelve Days of Murder	Andreina Cordani	Sandra	Mystery
The Wishing Bridge	Viola Shipman	Sandra	Fiction
The Wildest Sun	Asha Lemmie	Sandra	Historical Fiction

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A Christmas to Remember by Beverly Jenkins

So fun visiting the old friends in Henry Adams. Wonderful new addition to the series, and a great addition to the lineup!

A Master of Djinn by P. Djèlí Clark

Unbelievably good historical fantasy. One-third mystery, one third historical fiction, one third fantasy, there's so much to talk about this novel. I loved it.

A Winter in New York by Josie Silver

Charming winter romance. All the feels of a great Hallmark movie.

An American Immigrant by Johanna Rojas Vann

Beautiful story of a Columbian-American trying to deny her heritage while living in an American world and realizing the inherent beauty of her homeland and the rich history that is a part of her.

How to Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair

Beautiful memoir. The writing is so poetic. A young woman's story of growing up Rastafari in Jamaica.

Kiss the Girl by Zoraida Cordova

Wonderful addition in the 'Meant to be Romance' series from Disney. This modern take on 'The Little Mermaid' has a great HEA.

Mother-Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon

Awesome family murder mystery with a grandmother-daughter-granddaughter. When the daughter is accused of murder, they all work together to find out who really did it.

Save What's Left by Elizabeth Castellano

Funny and light-hearted. One woman's move to a seaside town is not all that it's cracked up to be.

The Leftover Woman by Jean Kwok

Part mystery, part human drama - what happens when two women adopted one child.

The Museum of Failures by Thrity Umrigar

Gut wrenching story of loss and discovery when a man returns to India to adopt his first child. Family secrets abound, I loved it.

The Summer of Songbirds by Kristy Woodson Harvey

Heartwarming story of camp life and women's friendship through the years.

The Twelve Days of Murder by Andreina Cordani

Campy, totally fun story of friends who act out a murder mystery over the holidays and a murder actually occurs.

The Wishing Bridge by Viola Shipman

Charming, destined to become a Christmas classic. I could see this as a Hallmark movie about giving and the meaning of the holidays.

The Wildest Sun by Asha Lemmie

Asha Lemmie has done it again! From the author of "Fifty Words for Rain", comes this wonderful historical fiction novel about Hemmingway's lost daughter. My favorite line from the book: "Love is fickle, books are eternal."