

LIBRARY NEWS

North Chicago Public Library
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January 2020

“Creating a City of Lifelong Learners”

Showcasing the Best Books of 2020!



A sampling of the best fiction 2020 had to offer

With 2020 in the books, now seems like a good time to review the best literature the year had to offer. With many businesses and attractions still closed due to the pandemic, this is a great time to sit down with a couple great books you may have missed last year.

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting new novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision.

Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

Even though she knows they'll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her

Best Literature of 2020 (ctd.)

store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the jefe of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia's husband's tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.

Forced to flee, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride la bestia—trains that make their way north toward the United States, which is the only place Javier's reach doesn't extend. As they join the countless people trying to reach el norte, Lydia soon sees that everyone is running from something. But what exactly are they running to?

American Dirt will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page. It is one of the most important books for our times.

Already being hailed as "a *Grapes of Wrath* for our times" and "a new American classic," Jeanine Cummins's *American Dirt* is a rare exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for a glimmer of hope.

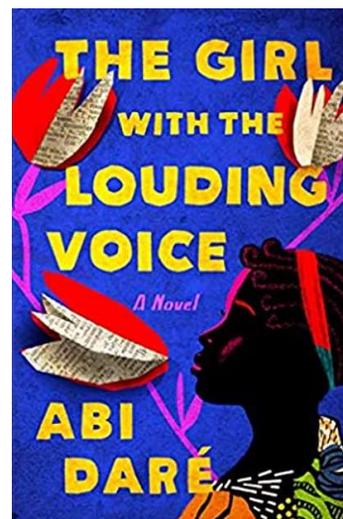
The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Daré

The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for your dreams.

Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping the life of poverty she was born into so that she can build the future she chooses for herself - and help other girls like her do the same.

Her spirited determination to find joy and hope in even the most difficult circumstances imaginable will "break your heart and then put it back together again" (Jenna Bush Hager on *The Today Show*) even as Adunni shows

us how one courageous young girl can inspire us all to reach for our dreams...and maybe even change the world.



Library Events

Children Events

Winter DIY Children's Craft

Throughout January

While supplies last, pick up a kit for a winter craft for your children from the library! To request a craft, call 847-689-0125 ext 103.

Children's Winter Book Club

Throughout January

Pick up book club books for your kids! To request the book club book, please call 847-689-0125 ext 103.

Adult Events

King in the Wilderness

January 25th, 2:00PM-4:00PM

Hop on Zoom with us to watch the acclaimed 2018 documentary chronicling the final years of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. To register for the event and get invited to the zoom chat, please call 847-689-0125.

Adult Online Book Club

Saturday, January 30th, 2:00PM-3:00PM

This month we will be reading the first half of the critically acclaimed suspense novel *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides on google chat. To register for the book club and request a copy of the book, please call 847-689-0125.