

Sharing Our Love of Books and Reading Kris Wiley for The News Review

For a fun and easy way to get book recommendations, try one of Roseburg Public Library's book groups.

The library's Online Book Group meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month on Zoom. Each participant shares a brief review of the titles they recently have read and enjoyed – or not enjoyed. If there is time at the end of the hour, we share TV shows, movies and other pop culture news.

I take notes and email the list, which routinely exceeds 35 titles.

For an in-person experience, join the Silent Book Group, which meets at the library at 6:30 p.m. the last Thursday of each month with a few exceptions. This month we will meet April 18.

Just as the name indicates, we quietly read whatever we choose for about 45 minutes. We then spend 15 to 30 minutes talking about what we're reading, watching and listening to.

I take notes and email the list, which usually is about 10 items.

Everyone is welcome at both groups. They are no-guilt gatherings, so folks can join when it works for them. Contact me at kwiley@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7051 for more information.

These groups have introduced me to books I never would have picked up, and my to-be-read list is insurmountable. Let's just say I'll never be lacking for good books to read.

Most recently, Linda and Kathy from Online Book Group raved about "Day" by Michael Cunningham, which was all the encouragement I needed to dive in.

"Day" takes place on April 5 in three consecutive years: 2019 in the morning, 2020 in the afternoon and 2021 in the evening. It's a pandemic story, although COVID-19 is never stated outright.

It's also the story of a family falling apart. Isabel, a magazine editor, married Dan, a second-rate rocker and recovering addict, basically because he wore her down. Suddenly it's 10 years later, there are two children, and they're cramped in a two-bedroom apartment in New York City with Isabel's little brother, Robbie.

Now they have asked Robbie to move out, upending the delicate balance, and the ramifications play out over the next two years.

As Linda noted, you don't necessarily read Cunningham for the plot; you read him for his gorgeous prose. I was hooked early on with this description of the adults' dynamic:

“Robbie’s in love with the person [Isabel and Dan have] created together – someone romantic, someone generous of heart, someone kind and gentle but wised-up and ironic, as well. There’s the fact, too, that Robbie may love them better than they’re able to love each other.”

Please consider joining us and watch your reading list overwhelm you in the best possible way.

This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, April 9, 3-5 p.m. – Maker Space Time

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. – Online Book Group (email kwiley@cityofroseburg.org for the Zoom link)

Wednesday, April 10, 11:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, April 10, 4-4:45 p.m. – Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

Thursday, April 11, 11:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, April 11, 3:30-5 p.m. – Building & Legos for all ages

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. – Umpqua Valley Winemaking presented by Joel Goodwillie