

## PAGE TURNERS 2019

### **April 15, 2019 Educated** by Tara Westover

An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education. Tara's quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. (Amazon Books)

### **May 20, 2019 The Two-Family House: A Novel** by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Brooklyn, 1947: In the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born, minutes apart. The mothers are sisters by marriage. Rose and Helen share an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic winter night. When the storm passes, life seems to return to normal, but as the years progress, small cracks start to appear and the once deep friendship between the two women begins to unravel. This debut novel is a heart-wrenching gripping multigenerational story, woven around the deepest of secrets. (Amazon Books)

### **June 17, 2019 We Were The Lucky Ones** by Georgia Hunt

An extraordinary novel based on the untold true story of a family of Polish Jews who are separated at the start of the Second World War, determined to survive and to reunite. It is the spring of 1939 and three generations of the Kurc family, are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate his or her own path to safety. When Georgia Hunter, the author, was fifteen years old, she learned that she came from a family of Holocaust survivors. We Were the Lucky Ones was born of her quest to uncover her family's staggering history. (Amazon Books)

### **July 15, 2019 The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry** by Michelle Richmond

A.J.Fikry is a 39 year old widower. He is a bit cranky and he drinks too much. His bookstore, located on an isolated island off Massachusetts, is failing. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen, and he bemoans the advent of e-readers, which he believes are a curse to books and the publishing world. This novel is an unforgettable tale of transformation and second chances, an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love. (Amazon Books)

**August 19, 2019 Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate

Two families, generations apart are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice in this poignant novel, inspired by a true story. It alternates between the historical story of the Foss Children and the modern day story of Avery Stafford from present day Aiken, South Carolina, who was born into wealth and privilege. This novel is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country. Wingate's riveting, wrenching and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. (Amazon Books)

**September 16, 2019 The Women in the Castle** by Jessica Shattuck

This novel is about three German women, haunted by the past and the secrets they hold. It is set at the end of WWII in a crumbling Bavarian castle. Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once grand castle of her husband's ancestors. Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's conspirators, to find and protect their wives, her fellow resistance widows. As Marianne assembles this makeshift family from the ruins of her husband's resistance movement, she is certain their shared pain and circumstances will hold them together. (Amazon Books)

**October 21, 2019 Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant who struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when she meets Raymond and Sammy. (Amazon Books)

“Beautifully written and incredibly funny, this novel is about the importance of friendship and human connection. I fell in love with Eleanor, an eccentric and regimented loner whose life beautifully unfolds after a chance encounter with a stranger; I think you will fall in love, too!” Reese Witherspoon

**November 18, 2019 This Is How It Always Is** by Laurie Frankel

This novel is about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow, but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever. Claude is five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess. (Amazon Books)

**December 16, 2019 The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See**

Lisa See has written a moving novel about tradition, tea farming, and the bonds between mothers and daughters. Li-yan grows up in a remote Chinese mountain village. The Akha people are ensconced in ritual and routine raising tea. Li-yan defies the tradition of killing baby girls by leaving hers, wrapped in a blanket with a tea cake tucked in the folds, near an orphanage in a nearby city. This daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. A powerful story about circumstances, cultures and distance.