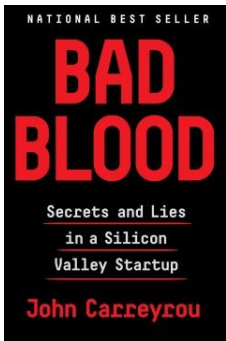


Elm Grove Library Staff Recommends

February 2021



Bad Blood: secrets and lies in a Silicon Valley startup by John Carreyrou



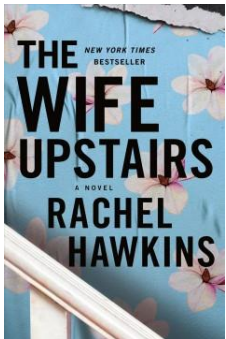
One of the best books I have encountered in years. The depths of that implied in the subtitle are startling, making for a deeply reported and riveting expose. The author, an investigative reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, and was one of the first to break the stunning deception of Theranos, a health technology startup once valued at \$9 billion dollars. Theranos' supposed proprietary blood testing technology promised to change the world. Its mercurial founder Elizabeth Holmes raised obscene amounts of capital and touted a murderers' row of board members and supporters. In truth, her 'technology' was a fraud of legendary proportions. *Bad Blood* reads like a thriller without getting bogged down by medical terminology; the narrative is propulsive and thorough. By the end of the book (the story is still unfolding), the comeuppance is deeply satisfying. The Theranos saga paints a disturbing regulatory picture, as questions of trust abound in a culture of FOMO. A twisted yarn expertly spun. ~Noah Weckwerth~

Elizabeth is Missing (DVD)

Retired from the big screen for nearly 30 years, the legendary Glenda Jackson is indomitable as a Maud, an elderly woman navigating Alzheimer's disease in this fascinating television drama for PBS Masterpiece. With the assistance of her daughter, a visiting nurse, and a myriad of post-it note reminders, Maud is able to maintain a precarious independence. One day, she helps her friend Elizabeth with some gardening, and they plan to meet for coffee later that week. But Elizabeth doesn't arrive, doesn't return calls and is apparently missing from her home without a trace, triggering Maud's memory of a similar trauma: the unsolved disappearance of her beloved older sister in the 1950's. As the details of both mysteries converge through her advancing dementia, will she be able to solve them both? ~Shannon McKeown~



The Wife Upstairs by Rachel Hawkins



I will readily admit that I am a sucker for retellings. This has led me to read some mediocre books, ranging from awful to ridiculous. I can thankfully say that *The Wife Upstairs* does not fall into this category. This modern retelling of *Jane Eyre* turns the originally gothic story into a domestic thriller that delivers everything it promises. Jane is now a dog-walker for the residents of a bourgeois neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama. One day while she is out walking the dogs, she is nearly run down by Thornfield Estates resident Eddie Rochester, whose wife, Bea, disappeared mysteriously the year before. The pair connect immediately and before long, she is living with Eddie in his palatial home. But the ghost of his missing wife still looms over the house and when the body of Bea's missing best friend turns up with her skull bashed in, Jane begins to question what she really knows about Eddie and what truly happened to Bea. Hawkins's ability to write multiple viewpoints and deft hand with a cliffhanger makes this a book you will not be able to put down. ~Rachael Fealy-Layer~

Under the Tulip Tree by Michelle Shocklee

Frankie Washington is a 101-year-old woman who was born in slavery before the Civil War. It's now 1936 and she has been asked to tell her story to Rena, a young white woman who works for the WPA Federal Writers' Project (a government program that sent out-of-work writers across 17 states to collect firsthand stories from former slaves.) What Rena learns, and the unlikely friendship that is formed, makes for a compelling story. Set in 1930's and 1860's Nashville, the author's research included reading over 100 of the original slave narratives (now archived in the Library of Congress), and *Under the Tulip Tree* includes many scenes based on the narratives themselves. A tale of pain, courage, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

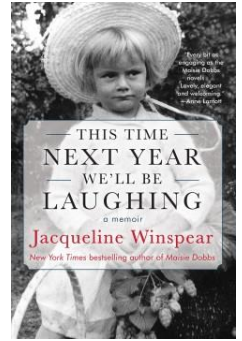
~Nancy Arevalo~



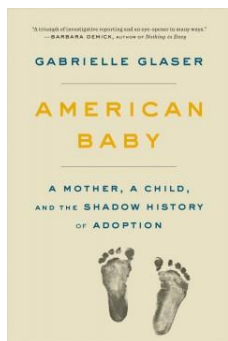
This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing: a memoir by Jacqueline Winspear

Of course, the title of this book made me pick it up. But then I couldn't put it down, because it's written by one of my favorite authors, Jacqueline Winspear. She's known for writing the popular "Maisie Dobbs" detective series. The first one, titled "Maisie Dobbs" and published in 2003, introduced Maisie as a former WWI nurse turned private investigator in London. I highly recommend it. (I've kept up with Maisie over the years and I look forward to the release of the sixteenth novel in the series in late March 2021.)

The writing of a memoir is unique however. Jacqueline Winspear tells her own story, as well as making it a tribute to her late parents, Albert and Joyce Winspear. Their childhood years during WWII and the difficult years together in post-war England forged a unique resourcefulness and resiliency in their marriage. Struggling to make ends meet, they left the bomb sites of London and sought out the openness of the countryside, working for a farmer and living on his property in a gypsy caravan. Their love for the land and a sense of adventure were gifts passed on to Jacqueline and her brother, being raised in the country, near a small village. Joyce and Albert had a knack for storytelling and Jacqueline had a knack for remembering the smallest details told to her at an early age. As an author, she weaves elements from the stories told by her parents and grandparents into the very believable characters and settings of her novels. The memoir is written with tenderness and humor. This unforgettable book gave me an appreciation for the events and relationships that helped shape Jacqueline Winspear into the effective author that she is. ~Nancy Arevalo~



American Baby by Gabrielle Glaser

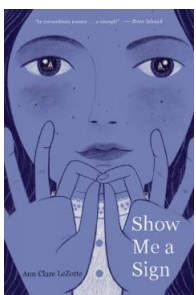
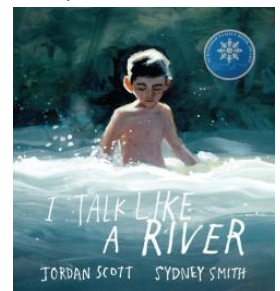


What would you hold more sacred: Personal privacy or the right to know your original identity? Gabrielle Glaser raises complex questions such as these, as well as others of ethics, human rights, and the laws surrounding adoption in her new book, *American Baby: A Mother, A Child and the Shadow History of Adoption*.

This book has two intermingled stories. One is a well-researched, detailed history of closed adoptions in the 1960's. Harrowing at times, this dark chapter of our history was eye opening in its description of the unethical treatment of both mothers and babies. The other is a love story told from a mother's perspective, of desperately trying to find the son she was forced to give up years before. I had to know. How would she find him? Did he want to be found? The bittersweet ending just posed more questions in this compelling read. ~Mary Hartwig~

The American Library Association Youth Media Awards were announced in January, including these well-known honors: the Newbery Medal (children's literature), the Caldecott Medal (picture book) and the Printz Award (young adult literature). However, one of the less-well-known awards is the Schneider Family Book Award for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience. The authors of each of the winning books have the disability they wrote about which gives each story an authentic perspective.

I Talk Like a River written by Jordan Scott (picture book). A boy who stutters begins to view speech in a new way after a visit to the river with his dad. The illustrations are soft, but they still demonstrate the turmoil the boy feels when his words won't come.



Show Me a Sign by Ann Clare LeZotte (middle grade book). A fictional story based on historical fact about a community on Martha's Vinyard in 1805 where there had been a high incidence of deafness in the population for generations. Sign language was spoken by most of the community, both hearing and deaf, so it is a rude awakening when a scientist comes to the island to study the phenomenon and treats the deaf residents as imbecilic, lesser people. Mary Lambert is deaf and has lived on the island her whole life, but her eyes are opened to discrimination against others when she experiences it herself for the first time.

This is My Brain in Love by I.W. Gregorio (teen book). If they want to continue to see each other, Will and Jocelyn must work together to save Jocelyn's family business while also dealing with anxiety and depression. The story is upbeat and humorous without downplaying the difficulty many young people have with admitting they need help with anxiety and depression. ~Sue Daniels~

