

*The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*  
by Terri Ryan  
April 14

Evelyn Ryan, wife of an alcoholic husband and mother of ten children, lived in a small town in a time and place when women did not seek jobs outside the home. When finances ran low, she turned to her parish priest who suggested she "take in laundry." Ryan had to laugh at the advice because she could barely keep up with her own family's washing and ironing. A lesser woman might have succumbed to poverty, but she was determined to keep her family financially afloat. In the early 1950s, Ryan started entering contests, composing her jingles, poems, and essays at the ironing board. She won household appliances, bikes, watches, clocks, and, occasionally, cash. When the family was faced with eviction, she received a \$5000 first place check from the regional Western Auto Store. Ryan's unconventionality and sense of humor triumphed over poverty, and her persistence makes the reader cheer her on.

The Brighton District Library  
Brunch Bunch Book Group meets at  
**11:30am the second Tuesday of each month between October and August.**

(We do not meet in September.)

The group is led by library staff, welcomes everyone, and does not require registration for its meetings.  
**Brunch foods, juice, and hot beverages will be provided during this discussion.**

Copies of each title can be placed on hold through our shared catalog system at any time, and we'll notify you when your book is ready to be picked up.

For more information, contact Jennifer Osborne or Sarah Neidert at 810-229-6571.



Your brunch is generously provided with funds from the Friends of the Brighton District Library

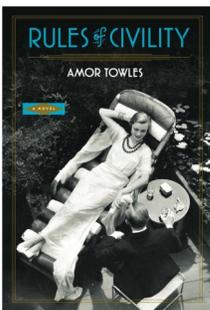


# BRIGHTON DISTRICT LIBRARY *Brunch Bunch* *Book Discussion Group* 2014 to 2015



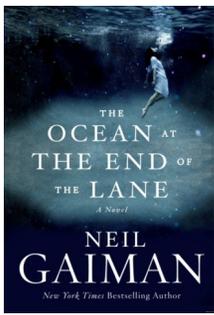
Brighton District Library

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*Rules of Civility*  
by Amor Towles  
May 12

On the last night of 1937, twenty-five-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar with her boardinghouse roommate, stretching three dollars as far as it will go, when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker with royal blue eyes and a tempered smile, happens to sit at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a yearlong journey from a Wall Street secretarial pool toward the upper echelons of New York society and the executive suites of Condé Nast-rarefied environs where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve.

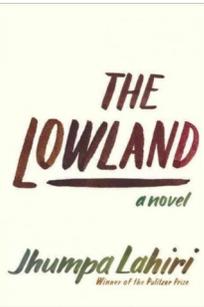


*The Ocean  
at the End  
of the Lane*

by  
Neil Gaiman  
October 14

Sussex, England. A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock. As he sits by the pond (a pond that Lettie claimed was an ocean) behind the old farmhouse, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.

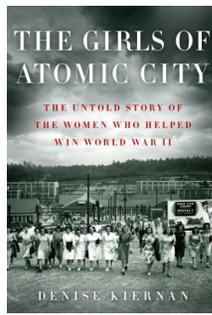
Forty years earlier, a man committed suicide in a stolen car at this farm. The darkness was unleashed, something scary and thoroughly incomprehensible to a little boy. And Lettie—magical, comforting, wise beyond her years—promised to protect him, no matter what.



*The Lowland*  
by  
Jhumpa Lahiri  
November 11

Growing up in Calcutta, born just fifteen months apart, Subhash and Udayan Mitra are inseparable brothers, one often mistaken for the other. But they are also opposites, with gravely different futures ahead of them. It is the 1960s, and Udayan—charismatic and impulsive—finds himself drawn to the Naxalite movement, a rebellion waged to eradicate inequity and poverty. Subhash, the dutiful son, does not share his brother's political passion; he leaves home to pursue a life of scientific research in a quiet, coastal corner of America.

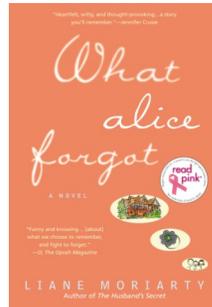
But when Subhash learns what happened to his brother in the lowland outside their family's home, he comes back to India, hoping to pick up the pieces of a shattered family, and to heal the wounds Udayan left behind.



*The Girls of  
Atomic City*  
by  
Denise Kiernan  
December 9

The incredible story of the young women of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who unwittingly played a crucial role in one of the most significant moments in U.S. history.

The Tennessee town of Oak Ridge was created from scratch in 1942. One of the Manhattan Project's secret cities, it didn't appear on any maps until 1949, and yet at the height of World War II it was using more electricity than New York City and was home to more than 75,000 people, many of them young women recruited from small towns across the South. Their jobs were shrouded in mystery, but they were buoyed by a sense of shared purpose and close friendships.

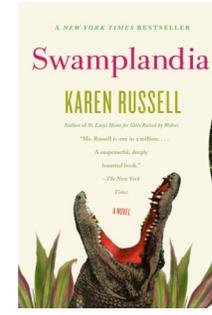


*What Alice  
Forgot*  
by  
Liane  
Moriarty  
January 13

Alice Love is twenty-nine, crazy about her husband, and pregnant with her first child.

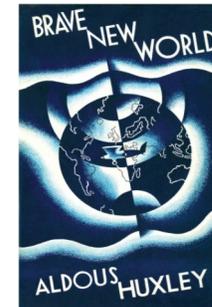
So imagine Alice's surprise when she comes to on the floor of a gym and is whisked off to the hospital where she discovers the honeymoon is truly over — she's getting divorced, she has three kids and she's actually 39 years old. Alice must reconstruct the events of a lost decade, and find out whether it's possible to reconstruct her life at the same time. She has to figure out why her sister hardly talks to her, and how is it that she's become one of those super skinny moms with really expensive clothes.

Ultimately, Alice must discover whether forgetting is a blessing or a curse, and whether it's possible to start over.



*Swamplandia!*  
by  
Karen  
Russell  
February 10

Thirteen-year-old Ava Bigtree has lived her entire life at Swamplandia!, her family's island home and gator-wrestling theme park in the Florida Everglades. But when illness fells Ava's mother, the park's indomitable headliner, the family is plunged into chaos; her father withdraws, her sister falls in love with a spooky character known as the Dredgeman, and her brilliant big brother, Kiwi, defects to a rival park called The World of Darkness. As Ava sets out on a mission through the magical swamps to save them all, we are drawn into a lush and bravely imagined debut that takes us to the shimmering edge of reality.



*Brave New  
World*  
by  
Aldous  
Huxley  
March 10

Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs, all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harboring an ill-defined longing to break free. A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations, where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress...

Huxley's ingenious fantasy of the future sheds a blazing light on the present and is considered to be his most enduring masterpiece.