

For the Love of Reading

One Book One Bloomington Voting!



What if everyone in our local community all read and discussed the same book? Earlier this spring we read the excellent *Room* by Emma Donoghue and I am certainly looking forward to next year's selection as well.

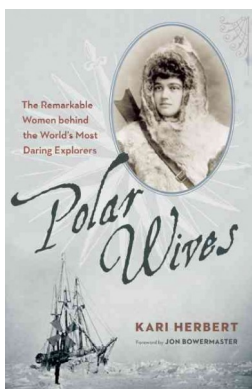
As in the past, we are asking the community what they want to read together in 2013. It's time to vote!

Anytime before December 15, you can cast your vote for one of six titles that are nominated for the 2013 One Book One Bloomington and Beyond community read. All of the nominations this year are books that have been banned or challenged. The winning title will be announced in January and book discussions and related programs will happen throughout the Spring of 2013. Read about each [nomination](#) and [cast your vote](#) on online!

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Posted by Sarah B. on Nov 28, 2012 [Sarah B.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



Polar Wives: the Remarkable Women behind the World 's Most Daring Explorers



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ISBN:

9781926812625

What a cool (pardon the pun) idea for a book. We read so much about men who have conquered the poles or Everest but hardly anything about the women who have explored alongside them or have waited patiently at home. The author knows both how it feels to travel to remote places on dangerous missions and also the anxiety and deep worry that comes with being left at home--she's the daughter of two explorers, Wally and Marie Herbert. She conceived the idea for this book while camping with her father in a tent on a Greenlandic glacier thirty years ago.

Many of the famous arctic and Antarctic explorers' wives are featured here beginning with Lady Jane Franklin, the powerful and persistent lady that pushed for rescue expeditions to find her husband's ship. Also included are portraits of Jo Peary, Eleanor Anne Franklin, Eva Nansen, Marie Herbert (the author's mother), Emily Shackleton

and Kathleen Scott.

What struck me most reading *Polar Wives* was how talented the women were in their own right, for instance, Eva Nansen was a leading singer in Norway while Kathleen Scott was a very talented British actress. In addition, Eleanor Anne Franklin, first wife of Sir John, was a Romantic poet who died young at age twenty-nine. Sir John then married her dear friend, Jane.

Imagine how it felt to watch your spouse ship away for a three, four, or five year journey to the coldest and most inaccessible parts of our planet. In the chapter "An Eagle in the Backyard" the author describes the feelings of both Emily Shackleton and her husband Ernest on the British docks. To make matters even worse, many explorers died on these journeys as Sir John Franklin and Robert Falcon Scott did. [Read more »](#)

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[Polar Wives: The Remarkable Women Behind the World's Most Daring Explorers](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Nov 21, 2012 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



Books Plus Holiday Tea--Dec. 2nd at 2 p.m.

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home." Anna Quindlen spoke about the importance of books in *How Reading Changed My Life*.

Whether you're reading about Antarctica or Vinegar Hill, Bloomington, Indiana, books teach us about the world and its interesting and quixotic people. Through books we expand our horizons and experience many lives in one. We're captivated by each of these created worlds for a few hours.

So please come to our annual Books Plus Holiday Tea and Open House on Sunday, December 2nd. The Friends of the Library will provide delectable treats, and we will also have two booklists to hand out: one of nationally recommended books of 2012, and another of library staff's favorite books of the year. Whether you're giving gifts, choosing next year's reads for your book club, or just want to gather a batch of good books before winter storms slam in, these lists will help.

You can meet and chat with other book lovers. Please come and share your favorite books of the year with us and each other.

[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Best of Lists Book Clubs](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Nov 21, 2012 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



The End of Your Life Book Club

The End
of Your
Life
Book Club
.....
Will
Schwalbe

[view in catalog](#)

ISBN:

9780307594037

You don't have to be in a book club to be touched and inspired by this generous, warm-hearted account of a son helping his mother through her last year of life with the help of books. Former teacher and refugee worker, Mary Anne Schwalbe, had always been close to her son, Will, who was an editor and worked in publishing. Not only did they constantly share books and recommend titles to each other, but they also had many discussions--some heated--about these same books.

After his mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Will spent a lot of time with her in hospital waiting rooms before her doctor visits and chemo treatments. On one of those trips they decided to pass the time by exploring the same books. "But how can we have a book club without food?" Mary Anne asked.

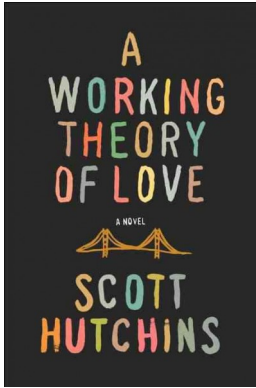
But *The End of Your Life Book Club* is so much more than analyzing contemporary literature *À deux*. Will also chronicles his mother's illness, her acceptance of her forthcoming death, and the effect these changes had on the family.

In one chapter Mary Anne and her husband revisit her favorite foreign city, London, where she lived as a young student. The book that mother and son shared that month was *Felicia's Journey* by Will Trevor. In another section, Mary Anne, Will and his brother discuss Russell Banks' *Continental Drift* while sharing a table with Mary Anne's birthday-bash barbecued pig. Will had stayed awake the night before regretting that he had encouraged his mom to read such a depressing book, but at the party, he heard her recommending it to many people. **Read more »**
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Posted by Dory L. on Nov 17, 2012 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



[A Working Theory of Love](#)



[view in catalog](#)

ISBN:

9781594205057

Scott Hutchins' first novel *A Working Theory of Love* is a wonderful spoof of California's trendiness. It also pokes fun at its computer geek population, but more importantly it's also a tender love story. In my experience few novels by men focus on love and relationships, so it's especially nice to explore this landscape from a male writer's perspective.

Recently divorced Neill Bassett just barely copes after his wife Erin leaves him shortly after their honeymoon (at least he can keep their charming San Francisco apartment). Each day begins with the same breakfast taco. Also boring and routine are his homemade dinners. He allows himself a glass of wine several times a week. The mission of Neill's day job at Amiante Systems is to give voice to his dead father who left thousands of pages of journals when he committed suicide. A non-geek himself, Neill has become the family representative at this small business working to perfect artificial intelligence and give voice to a dead man.

Why did the techies choose Neill's Dad? For years, Neill's father wrote long and extremely detailed journal entries about his life. This gave the engineers a large amount of material to parse and code into computer memory.

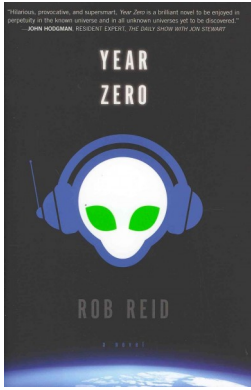
Hutchins knows enough about artificial intelligence to portray life at a small tech company. He also succeeds at exploring the weirdness of a character asking his own dead father questions and then having him both listen and analyze the simulated answers. Talk about father and son issues! **[Read more »](#)**

[For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews A Working Theory of Love Family Relationships Fiction](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Nov 7, 2012 [Dory L.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)



Year Zero



[view in catalog](#)

ISBN:

9780345534415

Take a touch of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, add to it a smidgeon of John Grisham, a dislike for the music industry, (not music, just the industry behind it), stir well and you have Rob Reid's book *Year Zero*. It's about a universe of beings that have discovered that humans have the best music of any race in the entire universe, only they can't contact us because we aren't part of the "Refined League." In a moment of universal insanity, their solution is to pirate every song ever made, and distribute these to every being in the universe. Suddenly, after coming out of their music- induced rapture, they realize that under earth law the universe owes the people of earth a very large amount of money. **[Read more »](#)**

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Posted by Keith C. on Nov 5, 2012 [Keith C.'s blog](#) [Add new comment](#)

