

UMFPL's 2024 Book Discussion Selection Vote:

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[Family Lore](#)

by Elizabeth Acevedo

Flor has a gift: She can predict, to the day, when someone will die. When she decides she wants a living wake, a party to bring her family and community together to celebrate the long life she's led, her sisters are surprised. Has Flor foreseen her own death or someone else's? Does she have other motives?

[Life After Life](#)

by Kate Atkinson

During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born — then dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born — and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances?

[No Two Persons](#)

by Erica Bauermeister

Alice has always wanted to be a writer. Her talent is innate, but her stories remain safe and detached, until a devastating event breaks her heart open, and she creates a stunning debut novel. Her words, in turn, find their way to readers. Each reader discovers something different that alters their perspective and presents new pathways forward. Together, their stories reveal how books can affect us in the most beautiful and unexpected of ways — and how we are more closely connected to one another than we might think.

[The School for Good Mothers](#)

by Jessamine Chan

The state has its eyes on mothers like Frida — ones who check their phones while their kids are on the playground or let their children walk home alone. It's on the lookout for even a single lapse of maternal judgment. Now, a host of government officials will determine if Frida is a candidate for a Big Brotherlike institution that measures the success or failure of a mother's devotion. Faced with the possibility of losing her daughter, Frida must prove that she can live up to the standards set for mothers — that she can learn to be "good".

[The Great Mrs. Elias](#)

by Barbara Chase-Riboud

A murder and a case of mistaken identity bring police to Hannah Elias' glitzy, five-story, 20-room mansion on Central Park West. That visit sets off an odyssey that moves back and forth in time to reveal the dangerous secrets of a mysterious woman, the fortune she amassed and her precipitous fall.

[Agnes and the Hitman](#)

by Jennifer Crusie and Bob Mayer

Agnes Crandall's problems are roiling to a boil. First, a dognapper invades her kitchen, seriously hampering her attempts to put on a wedding that's she's staked her entire net worth on. Then a man climbs through her bedroom window to save her. "Shane" may be Agnes's hero, but he's also a professional hitman — so he's no stranger to trouble himself.

Fellowship Point by Alice Elliot Dark	<p>Celebrated children’s book author Agnes Lee is determined to secure her legacy — to complete what she knows will be the final volume of her pseudonymously written Franklin Square novels. Agnes’ more consuming quest is to protect a piece of majestic Maine coast known as Fellowship Point. To donate the land to a trust, Agnes must convince shareholders — including her best friend, Polly— to dissolve a generations-old partnership. Polly soon finds her loyalties torn between the wishes of her best friend and the wishes of her three sons. But what does Polly want?</p>
The Sentence by Louise Erdrich	<p>A small, independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted for a year by the store's most annoying customer. When Flora dies on All Souls Day, she simply won't leave the store. Tookie has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading with murderous attention. Now, Tookie must solve the mystery of this haunting while also trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.</p>
When All Is Said by Anne Griffin	<p>“When All Is Said” chronicles the life of Maurice Hannigan from a bar stool in a grand hotel, as the 84-year-old raises a toast to the five most significant people in his life. Even as he is talking to the reader, Hannigan is really addressing his son, Kevin, who is the absent witness of the entire tale.</p>
The Ten Thousand Doors of January by Alix E.Harrow	<p>In the early 1900s, a young woman embarks on a fantastical journey of self-discovery after finding a mysterious book. Carrying the scent of other worlds, the books and tells of secret doors, of love, adventure and danger. Each page turn reveals impossible truths about the world, and January discovers a story increasingly entwined with her own.</p>
Calling for a Blanket Dance by Oscar Hokeah	<p>Told in various voices, “Calling for a Blanket Dance” takes us into the life of Ever Geimausaddle and through the multigenerational perspectives of his family as they face myriad obstacles. His father's injury at the hands of corrupt police, his mother's struggle to hold on to her job and care for her husband, the constant resettlement of the family, and the legacy of centuries of injustice all intensify Ever's bottled-up rage.</p>
The House of Eve by Sadeqa Johnson	<p>In 1950s Philadelphia, 15-year-old Ruby Pearsall is on track to become the first in her family to attend college. But a taboo love affair threatens to pull her back into the poverty and desperation that have been passed on to her like a birthright.</p>
Hitman Anders and the Meaning of It All by Jonas Jonasson	<p>When Hitman Anders turns to religion, two new colleagues — a receptionist and a lapsed priest — concoct a scheme to market his illegal talents. Fast-paced and sparky, the novel follows these bizarre but loveable characters on their quest to create a New Church, as all of Sweden's gangsters hunt them.</p>

Yellowface by R.F. Kuang	Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars — same year at Yale, same debut year in publishing. But when June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she steals Athena's just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel. So what if June edits Athena's novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song — complete with an ambiguously ethnic author photo? Doesn't this piece of history deserve to be told, whoever the teller?
Take My hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez	A young nurse with big dreams of helping her community comes to an Alabama clinic and is immediately embroiled in the lives of two young Black girls. First caught in the trap of rural poverty, the girls are thrust into the spotlight of a national court case as their mistreatment at the clinic's hands comes out into the open.
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn	This novel explores the dynamics among codebreakers during World War II at Bletchley Park, England. The codebreakers must solve complex military codes, survive the pressures of secrecy and outwit a Soviet spy who tries to tear apart friendships.
Kitchens of the Great Midwest by J. Ryan Stradal	A young girl navigates a tumultuous childhood to become one of the top chefs in the country in this delicious debut. Eva Thorvald is just a baby when her mother leaves and her father dies. Despite never really knowing her chef father and sommelier mother, Eva finds out that cooking is in her blood.
Ghosted by Rosie Walsh	“Ghosted” tells the story of Sarah and Eddie, who, after a weeklong romance, make plans to reunite in a week's time. But Eddie completely disappears. Is he simply not returning her calls? Or has something terrible happened to him, leaving him injured ... or worse?
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin	Two friends — often in love, but never lovers — come together as creative partners in the world of video game design. Success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality. Spanning 30 years, “Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow” is a dazzling and intricately imagined novel. It examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play and, above all, our need to connect — to be loved and to love.