Season’s Readings
From the Staff of Drexel Library

Elena Sisti

*If Nuns Ruled the World: Ten Sisters on a Mission* by Jo Piazza

The nuns profiled here are no shrinking violets. With courage and joy, they work for peace, justice, and equality, taking progressive action within the seemingly staid institution of Catholicism. A few of the featured nuns are local; they live on the Neumann University campus in Aston, PA. From there, they go out into the world to serve. If nuns ruled the world, stuff would get done!

Chris Dixon

*Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Her Daughter Mary Shelley* by Charlotte Gordon

The author cleverly alternates the chapters of her book between the lives of 18th century writer and women’s rights advocate, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin and that of her daughter, Frankenstein author, Mary Godwin Shelley. The women both lived similar challenging unconventional lives, but mother and daughter knew little of one another in life since Wollstonecraft died just 11 days after giving birth to Shelley.

Ashley’s War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

Lemmon delivers a powerful account of the women soldiers from the Combat Support Teams (CSTs) who volunteered to accompany U.S. Army Rangers on dangerous special operations missions inside Afghanistan. Lemmon’s narrative allows the reader to see these patriotic women soldiers as daughters, sisters, friends, wives and more.

Marian Courtney

*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Doerr has given us a well-crafted and engrossing tale of a blind French girl and an orphaned German lad. Set during WWII, the story weaves back and forth through the war years with snippets of their lives, culminating in the eventual intersecting of the two. [Library catalog](#).

Cynthia Slater

*Becoming Penn: The Pragmatic American University, 1950-2000* by John L. Puckett

*The Thousand Dollar Dinner: America’s First Great Cookery Challenge* by Becky Libourel Diamond

**Stephanie Riley**  
*Living with a Wild God: a Non-believer’s Search for the Truth About Everything* by Barbara Ehrenreich  
The journalist (and scientist) Barbara Ehrenreich discusses “mystical experiences” she had as an adolescent. Based on the author’s journals, she analyzes her past inquiry into the meaning of god and life. This is a very personal work that allows you access to the inner workings of her mind. This is a must-read for all Ehrenreich fans. [Library catalog](#).

**Anne Krakow**  
*So You’ve Been Publicly Shamed* by Jon Ronson  
Author Jon Ronson describes how social media sites such as Twitter have provided a “voice to the voiceless.” It is a place for one to express opinions and feelings, sometimes using this voice to right a wrong. This free expression, however, has turned into another venue for online shaming and internet vigilantism. Ronson details the experiences of people who have felt the brunt of the humiliation after making mistakes, on Twitter, in their personal life or career. The author explains that while the person in question may deserve some ridicule, the forcefulness and the extent of the damage makes Ronson draw comparisons to angry mobs brandishing pitchforks and putting the accused in stockades for public humiliation. More disturbing is that Ronson points out the schadenfreude and the sense of justice felt by those that have dehumanized the wrongdoer. Even if the person “had it coming” does the punishment fit the crime? [Library catalog](#).

**Michael Brooks**  
This memoir is an interesting read. It gives one a better understanding of what life is like for people living on the streets as a result of their own devices or through no fault of their own, what motivates them to survive, and what hinders their return to normalcy.

**Margie Guinan**  
*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah  
Historical World War II fiction about the choices two sisters must make in Nazi-occupied France. [Library catalog](#).

**Naomi Cohen**  
*The Suicide of Claire Bishop* by Carmiel Banasky  
Art theft, mental illness and possibly time travel will keep you guessing in this intriguing novel.

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