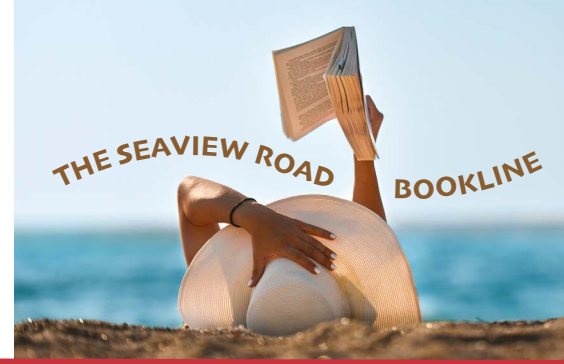


# FEBRUARY 2023 BOOKLIST

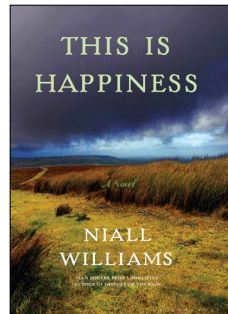


## THIS IS HAPPINESS

by Niall Williams

A sublime reflection of rural Ireland with every gorgeous imagination that might conjure in your mind. A slow moving, beautifully wrought tale of a small village forgotten by time entering the age of electricity. This is a coming of age story, a historical fiction, a long-lost-love story, a depiction of a simpler way of life and a testament to finding happiness within you. Truly exceptional writing.

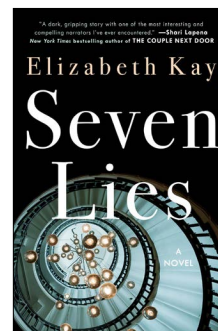
— Anne Farrer



Being project, see <https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/> to add the link). Gathered from voices all around the globe, each poem offers a unique perspective on what it is to be alive in the world today. The poems are introduced by Padraig's insightful commentary which provides an excellent companion for those not used to exploring the art form. This book and the podcast are both highly recommended. — Anne Farrer

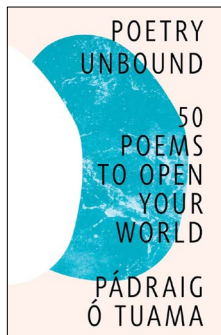
## SEVEN LIES

by Elizabeth Kay



When Marnie asks Jane if she likes her husband, Jane tells her first lie. If she had been honest, then perhaps her best friend's husband might still be alive today. For of course, it's not the last lie. In fact, it's only the beginning... Seven Lies is Jane's confession of the truth—her truth. Compelling, sophisticated, chilling, it's a seductive, hypnotic page turner about the tangled, toxic friendships between women, the dark underbelly of obsession and what we stand to lose in the name of love. — Sharon Muzzin

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## POETRY UNBOUND, 50 Poems to Open Your World

by Pádraig Ó Tuama  
(see last page for a sample)

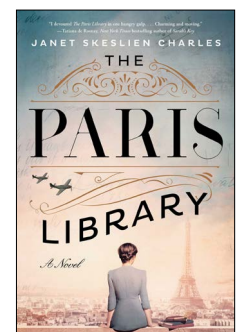
This collection offers selections from the successful podcast Poetry Unbound (part of the On

## THE PARIS LIBRARY

by Janet Skeslien Charles

Based on the true World War II story of the American Library in Paris, a novel about the power of books and the bonds of friendship—and the ordinary heroes who can be found in the most perilous times and the quietest places.

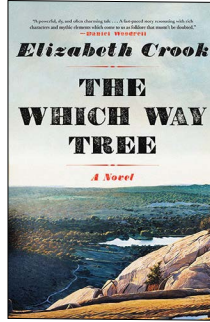
— Sharon Muzzin



**THE WHICH WAY TREE**

by Elizabeth Crook

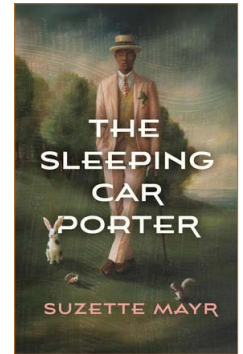
Narrated in her brother Benjamin’s beguilingly plainspoken voice, this is a poignant odyssey of a tenacious young girl who braves the dangers of the Texas frontier to avenge her mother’s death. Together in their quest, the two siblings enlist the help of a charismatic Tejano outlaw and a haunted, compassionate preacher with an aging but relentless tracking dog.  
— Sharon Muzzin



**THE SLEEPING CAR PORTER**

by Suzette Mayr

Congratulations to a former colleague, Suzette Mayr, for winning the 2022 Scotia Giller Prize for her fifth novel. It’s a compelling story of a queer Black sleeping car porter who, on a particular trip through Western Canada, must deal with passengers who are more unruly than usual, especially when the train is stalled for two extra days due to a mud slide. The sleep-deprived porter, Baxter, is caught up in the “perils of white passengers, ghosts, and a secret love affair”. Set in 1929, this story represents an important part of Black history in North America.  
— Elaine Prodor

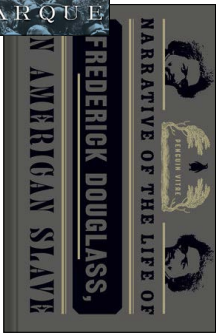
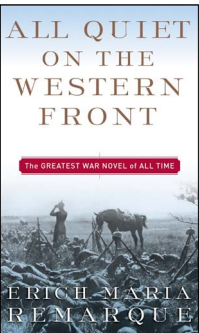


**ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT**

by Erich Maria Remarque

**NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE**

by Frederick Douglass



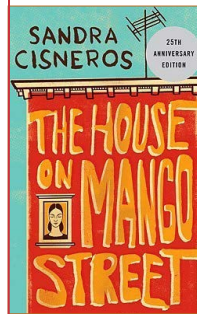
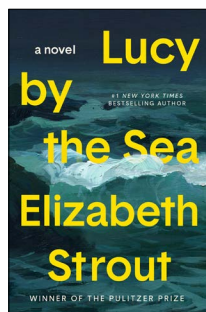
These two books, which I have found very worthwhile but not easy to find, are published by Folio. I would be happy to loan but would ask for them back. They are important historical documents, although one is a novel but a serious account of WWI. The other is written by a liberated slave.

— Helen Hays (available to borrow – [helenhays@shaw.ca](mailto:helenhays@shaw.ca))

**LUCY BY THE SEA**

by Elizabeth Strout

Lucy Barton, the protagonist and narrator, reappears once again in this most recent of Strout’s novels. Lucy, now in her late sixties, deals with loss, confusion, and disbelief as her first husband relocates them both from New York to the coast of Maine in an attempt to avoid the spreading global COVID health crisis.  
— Barb Staton



**THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET**

by Sandra Cisneros

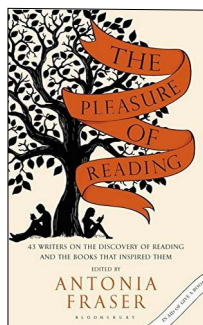
I have to confess that it’s taken me until now to read this beloved novel, first published in 1984. Beautiful and heart-breaking, the vignette chapters chronicle the growing up of a young Latina girl in inner-city Chicago. I highly recommend this book if it has also escaped your radar.  
— Elaine Prodor

**THE PLEASURE OF READING**

Edited by Antonia Fraser

OK, not fiction or poetry, but a great set of book recommendations from 40 leading writers, which also explains their interest in books and what keeps them reading. The list of contributors include: Margaret Atwood, Carol Ann Duffy, Judith Kerr, and Tom Stoppard. Also includes five essays from five younger writers. All royalties generated from this book will go to the ‘Give a Book’ charity, which ‘seeks to get books to places where they will be of particular benefit, “because reading matters”’.

— Elaine Prodor (available to borrow – [eprodor@gmail.com](mailto:eprodor@gmail.com))





“When they dig our poems up out of the rubble, we want them to know who we were, what consciousness was, but also how astounding and unimaginably infinite and mysterious life was.”

---

**Jorie Graham**  
poet

## HEART

by Gary Lenhart

Someone will walk into your life,  
 Leave a footprint on your heart,  
 Turn it into a mudroom cluttered  
 With encrusted boots, children’s mittens,  
 Scratchy scarves—  
 Where you linger to unwrap  
 Or ready yourself for rough exits  
 Into howling gales or onto  
 Frozen car seats, expulsions  
 Into the great outdoors where touch  
 Is muffled, noses glisten,  
 And breaths stab,  
 So that when you meet someone  
 Who is leaving your life  
 You will be able to wave stiff  
 Icy mitts and look forward  
 To an evening in spring  
 When you can fold winter away  
 Until your next encounter with  
 A chill so numbing you strew  
 The heart’s antechamber  
 With layers of rural garble.

## IN-BETWEEN THE SUN AND MOON

by Pádraig Ó Tuama

In-between the sun and moon,  
 I sit and watch  
 and make some room  
 for letting light and twilight mingle,  
 shaping hope  
 and making single glances last eternity,  
 a little more,  
 extending love beyond the doors of welcoming,  
 while wedding all the parted people,  
 even sons to violent mothers,  
 and searching all the others finding light  
 where twilight lingers,  
 in-between the sun and moon

.....

*Thanks to everyone who submitted to this issue. The Seaview Road Bookline now comes out bi-monthly; the next submission deadline is April 15th —you’ll receive a reminder a week beforehand. I’m also interested in articles that feature works of a particular author or that focus on a book series — one per issue — first submitted, first printed. Fiction only, please, and poetry is also welcome.*

[seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com](mailto:seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com)