



Book club selections for the Berthoud Community Library 2014-2015 discussion group season (reviews excerpted from Goodreads.com and BarnesandNoble.com):

September 23, 2014—Memoir: Alexandra Fuller's *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* (to dovetail with the Sept. 21st Loveland Loves to Read event)—The author remembers her African childhood with candor and sensitivity. Though it's a diary of an unruly life in an often inhospitable place, it's suffused with Fuller's endearing ability to find laughter, even when there is little to celebrate. Fuller's debut is unsentimental and unflinching but always captivating. (Facilitator: Carole)

October 28, 2014—Fiction: Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* (to dovetail with the Nov. 9th Fort Collins Reads program)—In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is dancing and leaping between the towers, suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in this intricate portrait of a city and its people. (Facilitator: Barbara?)

December 9, 2014 (for Nov. and Dec.)—Classic: Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*—The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Smith's poignant tale is filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the tenement slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for decades. (Facilitator: Bettie)

January 27, 2015—Historical Fiction: Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain*—Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, Confederate soldier, Inman, decides to walk home to the Blue Ridge mountains and the woman he loves, Ada. His trek across the disintegrating South brings him into intimate and sometimes lethal converse with slaves and marauders, bounty hunters and witches. At the same time, the intrepid Ada is trying to revive her father's derelict farm and learning to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away. (Facilitator: Charlotte)

February 24, 2015—Young Adult: John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*—Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. (Facilitator: Krista)

March 24, 2015—Non-Fiction; True Crime: Dan Schultz's *Dead Run*—Evoking Krakauer's *Into the Wild*, Dan Schultz tells the extraordinary true story of desperado survivalists, a brutal murder, and vigilante justice set against the harsh backdrop of the Colorado wilderness. On a May morning in 1998 in Cortez, Colorado, three desperados in a stolen truck opened fire on the town cop, shooting him twenty times; then they blasted their way past dozens of police cars and disappeared into 10,000 square miles of the harsh wilderness terrain. The outlaws eluded the most sophisticated law enforcement technology on the planet and a pursuit force that represented more than seventy-five local, state, and federal police agencies with dozens of SWAT teams. (Facilitator: Viola)

April 28, 2015—Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits*—In one of the most important and beloved Latin American works of the twentieth century, the author weaves a luminous tapestry of three generations of the Trueba family, revealing both triumphs and tragedies. Patriarch Esteban's wild desires and political machinations are tempered only by his love for his ethereal wife, Clara. Their daughter, Blanca, whose forbidden love infuriates her father, yet will produce his greatest joy: his granddaughter Alba, a beautiful, ambitious girl who will lead the family and their country into a revolutionary future. (Facilitator: Marian?)

May 26, 2015—Hannah Kent's *Burial Rites*—A brilliant literary debut, inspired by a true story: the final days of a young woman accused of murder in Iceland in 1829. Set against Iceland's stark landscape, Kent brings to vivid life the accused, Agnes, who's charged with the murder of her former master. She's sent to an isolated farm to await execution and at first the family avoids her. It's only Tóti, the priest, who seeks to understand her. But as Agnes's death looms, the farmer's wife and daughters learn there is another side to the sensational story. Riveting and rich with lyricism, *Burial Rites* evokes a dramatic and distant time and place and asks the question, how can one woman hope to endure when her life depends upon the stories told by others? (Facilitator: Pam)