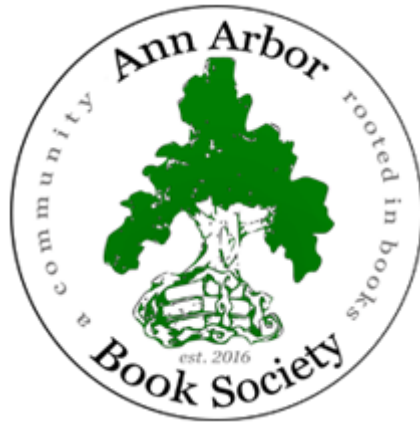


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Ann Arbor Book Society August Newsletter

a2books.org

August Book Event Highlights

Tuesday, August 6th at 7 pm: [Paul Vachon discusses *Detroit: An Illustrated Timeline*](#), AADL Downtown Branch, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Thursday, August 8th at 7 pm: [An Evening with Elizabeth Berg](#), Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd.

Saturday, August 10th at 1 pm: [Jim Benton signing](#), Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main St.

Saturday, August 10th at 3 pm: [Robert Crais, author of *A Dangerous Man*](#), Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

Tuesday, August 20th at 7 pm: [Olympic gold medalist Kaitlin Sandeno with Dan D'Addona discuss *Golden Glow: How Kaitlin Sandeno Achieved Gold in the Pool and in Life*](#), Literati Bookstore, 123 E. Washington.

Click on the below calendar for more great book events taking place in August!

August 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Event Photo Highlight

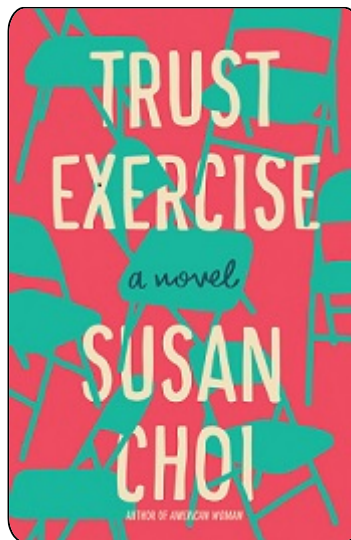


The Booksilanti Readers' Fair, which took place at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse

on July 6th, is the newest addition to the local bookscape, and I declare it a fine success! I have participated in a number of book events as a vendor, and this was the first time that I felt really taken care of. The volunteers came around often to make sure we had everything we needed and asking what more they could do for us. Despite the heat and lack of air-conditioning in the main part of the Freighthouse, the mood was festive, and every vendor I spoke to reported that it was one of their most successful events. There were local authors, jewelry makers, artists, community organizations, a live DJ playing actual vinyl records, the Friends of the Ypsilanti District Library, and three local bookstores, Black Stone, Bookbound, and Nicola's. Trader Joe's was also there passing out free re-usable shopping bags, bottles of water, and bananas. (If bananas didn't cut it for you, there were several nearby restaurants and the Food Coop to walk to.) For children, they offered storytimes in an air-conditioned side room, as well as a craft table where you could decorate your own bookmarks. Be sure to keep an eye out and mark your calendars for Booksilanti 2020!

~*Crysta Coburn*

On the Shelf



Trust Exercise: A Novel

by Susan Choi

Henry Holt & Co., April 2019

Hardcover, \$27

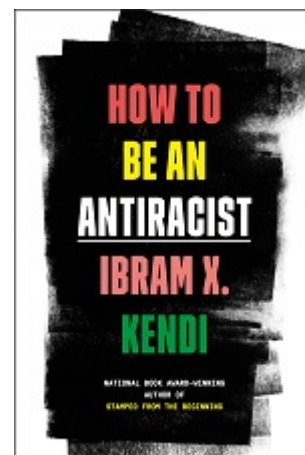
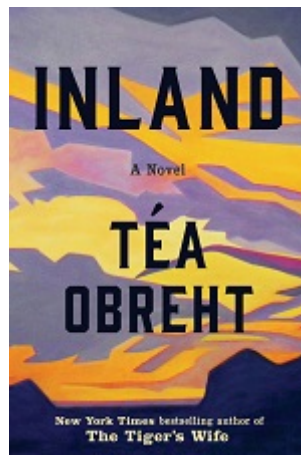
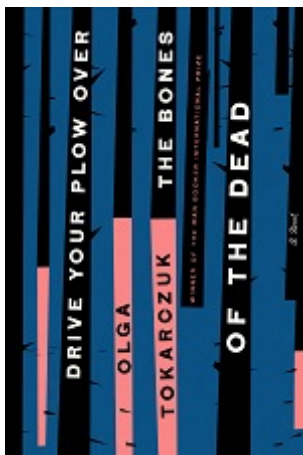
Trust Exercise is seemingly an account of the teenage angst and awkwardness that inhabit an elite performing arts high school in the 1980s. The reader is introduced to the first-love aches of David and Sarah, their passion, their heartbreaks and their humiliations. Their acting teacher, Mr. Kingsley gets involved, forcing them to perform trust exercises in his classroom, perhaps overstepping his boundaries. A sudden and jarring shift about halfway through casts a new light on the preceding section. The novel is separated into 3 parts, each entitled "Trust Exercise." These three manifestations of "Trust Exercise" each present the novel and its events in a different way.

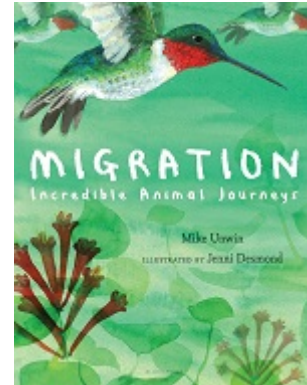
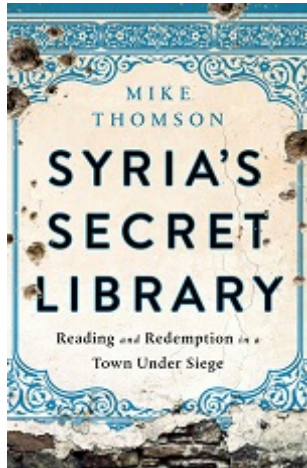
The second part reveals Choi's work to be a meta-novel of sorts and the trust exercise is suddenly between author and reader. What begins as a satire of the melodrama, egotism, and anguish within the characters and the setting they inhabit becomes a deep exploration into what it means to write a truth and capture a character/person truthfully. The gray area between childhood and adulthood that Choi's teenage characters are living is replaced by the gray areas between telling, appropriating and omitting in writing and the even murkier areas between art and reality.

While this is a novel I wholeheartedly recommend, I must also acknowledge the issues I found with it; the conclusion feels both predictable and awkward and the third section, which serves as an epilogue, might rival J.K. Rowling's infamous Deathly Hallows epilogue in pure wtf-ness. Part of me wishes Choi had expanded upon the epilogue to perhaps discern her intention while another part wants to ignore it completely. That said, I have not thought of any novel more this year than *Trust Exercise*. It is a fascinating, thought-provoking, if demanding, read - trust me on this one.

--A lover of literature, travel, pop music, and boba, Jesus Espinoza is a Librarian in the Learning and Teaching unit of the University of Michigan Library

Noteworthy New Releases





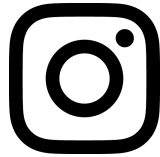
Snapshot of the Past



Andy Warhol signs autographs in front of Centicore Bookstore at 336 Maynard St., September, 1975. Click the image above to read about the role Centicore played to the intellectual crowd in Ann Arbor in the 1970s!

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