

## LIBRARY LAUNCHES BOOK/FILM SERIES IN APRIL

The Gates Public Library is excited to launch *The Art of Adaptation*, a unique monthly book/film discussion series starting in April.

The series explores movie adaptations of books. Each month, participants will read a designated book and then watch the movie version. On the second Wednesday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m., we will gather by Zoom for an informal discussion, exploring how the adaptation stacked up, and the strengths and weaknesses of different storytelling media. The diverse books cover the period 1939 to 2010, and the movie versions encompass a variety of genres, including drama, musical, horror, and works based on true stories.

The books and movies are available to borrow free from Gates Public Library, or to download/stream from the library's OverDrive and Hoopla services (details below).

### 2021 SCHEDULE

*All discussion on Zoom begins at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. After signing up you will be given the Zoom link.*

#### April 14:

*The Haunting*, based on *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson (book 1959, film 1963).

A small group of people investigate a purportedly haunted house. Considered by many (including Stephen King) to be one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's best ghost stories, the book has been translated to media multiple times, including two film adaptations, a Netflix series, a radio drama, and two stage plays. We'll discuss the top-notch 1963 film version, starring Julie Harris and Claire Bloom.

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#### May 12:

*The Accidental Tourist* by Anne Tyler (book 1985, film 1988).

William Hurt plays a man mourning the death of his son, but gradually coming out of his shell thanks to the efforts of a zany young woman (Geena Davis, in an Oscar-winning performance). Tyler's sensitive, nuanced book won the National Book Critics Circle Award and was a Pulitzer-Prize finalist, and the adaptation (by Frank Galati and director Lawrence Kasdan) is faithful to her text.

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#### June 9:

*Cabaret*, based on the novella *Goodbye to Berlin* by Christopher Isherwood (book 1939, film 1972).

Talk about a winding route to the screen: Isherwood's autobiographical portrait of "divine decadence" in 1930's Berlin, when Hitler is on the rise, became the John van Druten straight play *I Am a Camera* (filmed in 1955), then the Fred Ebb-John Kander Broadway musical *Cabaret*, before finally landing in director/choreographer Bob Fosse's lap for this version, winner of 8 Oscars and one of the finest films of the 1970's.

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#### July 14:

*A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson (book 1997, film 2015).

Celebrate summer and the great outdoors with our July selection. Travel writer Bill Bryson's autobiographical story, described by CNN as the funniest travel book ever written, portrays his quixotic attempt to walk the Appalachian Trail with a close friend. Robert Redford plays Bryson in the film, with Nick Nolte his fellow hiker. Nick Offerman, Mary Steenburgen, and Emma Thompson round out a fine cast.

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### **August 11:**

*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord (book 1955, film 1958).

Walter Lord's classic account of the 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic has never been out of print since its initial publication over 65 years ago, and is still considered a definitive resource about the doomed ship. The 1958 film version -- far less bombastic than James Cameron's 1997 mega-blockbuster *Titanic* -- remains highly regarded by historians for its accuracy.

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### **September 8:**

*Room* by Emma Donoghue (book 2010, film 2015).

A young boy and his mother are held captive in a small room for years in this bestselling novel, conceived by Donoghue after reading about the true-life Fritzl case in Austria. The claustrophobic film version, starring Brie Larson and Jacob Tremblay as mother and son, was cited as one of the best movies of 2015 and received numerous awards and nominations, including a Best Actress Oscar win for Larson.

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### **October 13:**

*Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier (book 1999, film 2003).

Chevalier's historical novel was inspired by Johannes Vermeer's celebrated 17<sup>th</sup>- century painting of the same name, and presents a fictionalized account of the relationship between artist and model. The screen adaptation stars Scarlett Johansson as the model, Griet, with Colin Firth as Vermeer. Nominated for many awards, the film deservedly won several for its luminous cinematography.

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### **November 10:**

*The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (book 1989, film 1993).

Tan's bestselling novel focuses on four Chinese-American families living in San Francisco, exploring the conflicting expectations of the China-born mothers and their assimilated American daughters. Tan adapted her own novel (with Ronald Bass) for the film version, which was later selected for preservation in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

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### **December 8:**

*A Midnight Clear* by William Wharton (book 1982, film 1992).

Set in the final days of World War II, the story focuses on a small American intelligence unit that encounters a German platoon in the Ardennes Forest. A truce is forged allowing both sides to celebrate Christmas together, but the tides of war soon change. Wharton's novel was adapted for the screen and directed by Keith Gordon and stars Peter Berg, Kevin Dillon, Ayre Gross, Ethan Hawke, and Gary Sinise.

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## **HOW TO BORROW THE BOOKS AND MOVIES:**

Copies of the books will be available for checkout at Gates Public Library one month prior to the discussion date. To borrow, you'll need a library card from Gates or another public library in Monroe County ([how to get a card](#)). Most titles (indicated above) are available in e-book and e-audiobook formats from OverDrive, though the number of e-copies is generally low.

The movies can be watched either by streaming them from Hoopla using the links above, or borrowing DVD and/or Blu-ray copies from Gates Public Library. To use Hoopla, you must have a Gates Public Library card, or a card from another subscribing MCLS library (Chili, Fairport, Greece, Irondequoit, Pittsford, Rochester Public Library).