

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016



Welcome to the November 2016 issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads: *The Lost Hero*, *The Storyteller's Tale*, *Go Set a Watchman*

“Read the Book-Watch the Movie” *The Kite Runner*

Student Pics: See what students are reading and recommending

This Month: New Biography section in the Library

Selected Website of the Month: Digital Photography School

News from the Reading Club

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

***The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan**

Jason, the son of Zeus/Jupiter, from Rome is brought to Greece (Rome's worst enemy) with no memory of Rome or his past. In Camp Half-Blood in Greece, Jason develops an attachment towards his sworn enemies, the Greeks. Without his knowledge, his memory has been wiped out by Hera, the goddess of marriage and Zeus's wife. In Camp Half-Blood, Jason becomes one of the prominent demi-gods and rises to be a leader like figure for the camp.

Percy Jackson, son of Poseidon/Neptune, originally from Camp Half-Blood faces similar incidences as Jason, in reverse. Percy ends up in Rome, where he struggles to rise to fame and later becomes one of the leaders of the Roman demi-god army. A foreshadowing of a prophecy of seven states;

*Seven half-bloods shall answer the call,
To storm or fire the world must fall,
An oath to keep with a final breath,
And foes bear arms to the Doors of Death.*

The prophecy predicts the emerging war between the Titans, Gods and the demi-gods and what they must do to win against the Titans.

I recommend people read *The Lost Hero* because it illustrates Greek and Roman mythology in an interesting way. The author merges our modern civilization with mythological history of the past. There is romance, sacrifice, adventure and heroism with numerable plot twists. The book is clear and concise and uses lots of writing elements like flashbacks, fore-shadowing, and symbolism to entice the reader. **Pema Namgyal, Student, BSc Env Mgt**



Quotes:

“He knew he shouldn't be in this place. He shouldn't befriend these people, and certainly he shouldn't date one of them.”

“Piper's snowboarding jacket was flapping wildly, her dark hair all in her face. Jason thought she must've been freezing, but she looked calm and confident—telling the others it would be okay, encouraging them to keep moving.”

***The Storyteller's Tale* by Omair Ahmad**

Would you like a book to read that only takes about an hour and will transport to you to a magical place? It's a lovely tale, or rather set of tales, which will enchant you. It begins like this:

They had destroyed his house. Now he had nothing, or he had his freedom. It depended on how he looked at it, he supposed.

From here the tale of a 17th century storyteller unfolds. At that time, storytellers were important members of any society, both regal and poor. However after the destruction of his home and his city, he must leave to find his fortunes elsewhere. He wanders aimlessly, trying to hide from the marauding hordes that have burned his city of Delhi to the ground. Hungry and tired, he spies an inviting casbah only a day's ride from the city. He is invited in, as hospitality dictates, only to discover it is the home of the man who just led the army against his city. But it's too late to leave now as it would be rude to refuse the invitation from the absent man's beautiful wife. He offers the only thing he has: a story.

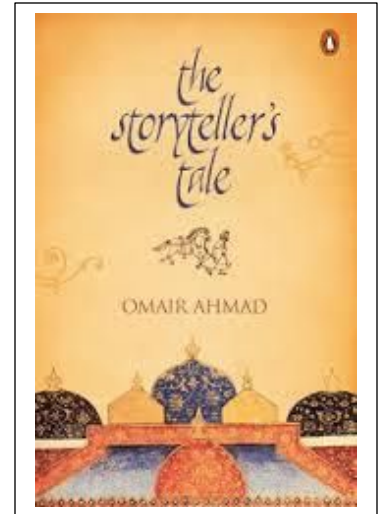
And then she offers a story in return...and so it begins—a storytelling duel! Each tale takes something from the previous one and in the course of all 4 tales, topics of betrayal, loss friendship, love, and loyalty emerge. At the same time, there is an undercurrent of desire between this forbidden couple as they discover the bond that each encourages the other to excel in the fine art of telling an exquisite tale.

Each tale could stand on its own as an enchanting story, but the interweaving of the tales and the growing passion of the tellers make this little 120 page book a rare treat.

Take an hour or two and get lost in this tale of tales. You won't regret it.

Phyllis Bergman, RTC adjunct

Location: FIC
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Quotes:

"After the leave-taking (the storyteller said) there is the leaving. And once you have left, you discover the ten thousand things that you still carry—memories of touch, scent and sight."

"And with that discovery comes the knowledge that your own journey is still incomplete. The maps have changed, the continent has shifted, and the horizons are not the ones you remember. However, the road is still open if you have the courage to see that the first step is always a departure."

"But he was a storyteller and he said he would tell a story. He would keep his word. The story that he would tell rose within him, he felt the words, spoke them soundlessly as he discovered the tale, felt its texture as it emerged. By the evening, when he had bathed and eaten... the storyteller knew the tale he would tell."

Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee

In 1961, Harper Lee won the Pulitzer Prize for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. *Go Set a Watchman*, is Lee's first novel – the one that was rewritten and was to become *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Some critics say *Go Set a Watchman* should never have been published. I, for one, am glad that advice was not heeded.

Is *Go Set a Watchman* a masterpiece the likes of *To Kill a Mockingbird*? No, it is not. Is it as Lee herself said, a decent first effort? It is indeed. And I enjoyed it immensely. We are fortunate that Lee's early publisher saw the merit of *Go Set a Watchman* and guided Lee to tell the story that would become *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We are equally fortunate to now have the opportunity to read her more complex first story. I welcomed the opportunity to read the evolution of her writing as it developed and reinvented itself.

Although written prior to *To Kill a Mockingbird*, chronologically, *Go Set a Watchman* takes place some 20 years later. Jean Louise, aka Scout, now lives in NYC and is on her annual trip home to visit Atticus in Maycomb. Atticus is in his seventies and suffers with arthritis. Prior to her visit, the U. S. Supreme Court has declared that separate public schools for black and white students is unconstitutional. The white South is in turmoil.

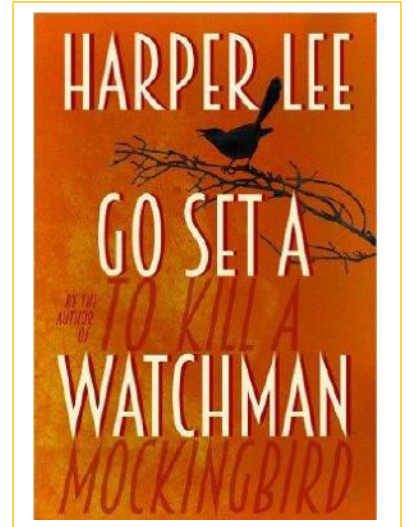
The background story as we know it is basically the same with a few differences. This story is written in the third person, Tom was acquitted of rape, and additional engaging childhood memories are added. Most of the characters we already know. Henry, Jean Louise's romantic admirer, is a new addition.

During this year's visit, Jean Louise discovers a side to her father she has never known before. And this discovery is what makes *Go Set a Watchman* a far different story than its later version. While the Atticus of *To Kill a Mockingbird* will always represent, for me, an ideal father, most of us in fact don't have ideal parents. And as we grow, we come to realize our parents are only human after all, far from perfect, with both strengths and weaknesses. Jean Louise, who has held Atticus on a mighty high pedestal, is devastated to learn he believes the black man to be inferior to the white man and feels that integration is a threat to Southern whites - that such mixing will lower the standard of education and lead to the 'mongrelization' of the races. Lee skillfully takes us into Jean Louise's confrontation with the men in her life and the roots of her anger.

While *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a heartwarming story of family and friendship, *Go Set a Watchman* presents a more complicated reality of adulthood set in 1950's Alabama. Whereas Scout once saw Atticus as the champion of right over wrong, she now must come to terms with her father's racist beliefs.

To Kill a Mockingbird reads with a beautiful flow and perfect cadence; *Go Set a Watchman* is rougher around the edges. But ... don't let that stop you! Do read *Go Set a Watchman* after, of course, you first read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Both are highly recommended. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: FIC Call no.: FIC L4771g



Quotes:

"The one human being she had ever fully and wholeheartedly trusted had failed her; the only man she had ever known to whom she could point and say with expert knowledge, "He is a gentleman, in his heart he is a gentleman," had betrayed her, publicly, grossly, and shamelessly."

"Prejudice, a dirty word, and faith, a clean one, have something in common: they both begin where reason ends."

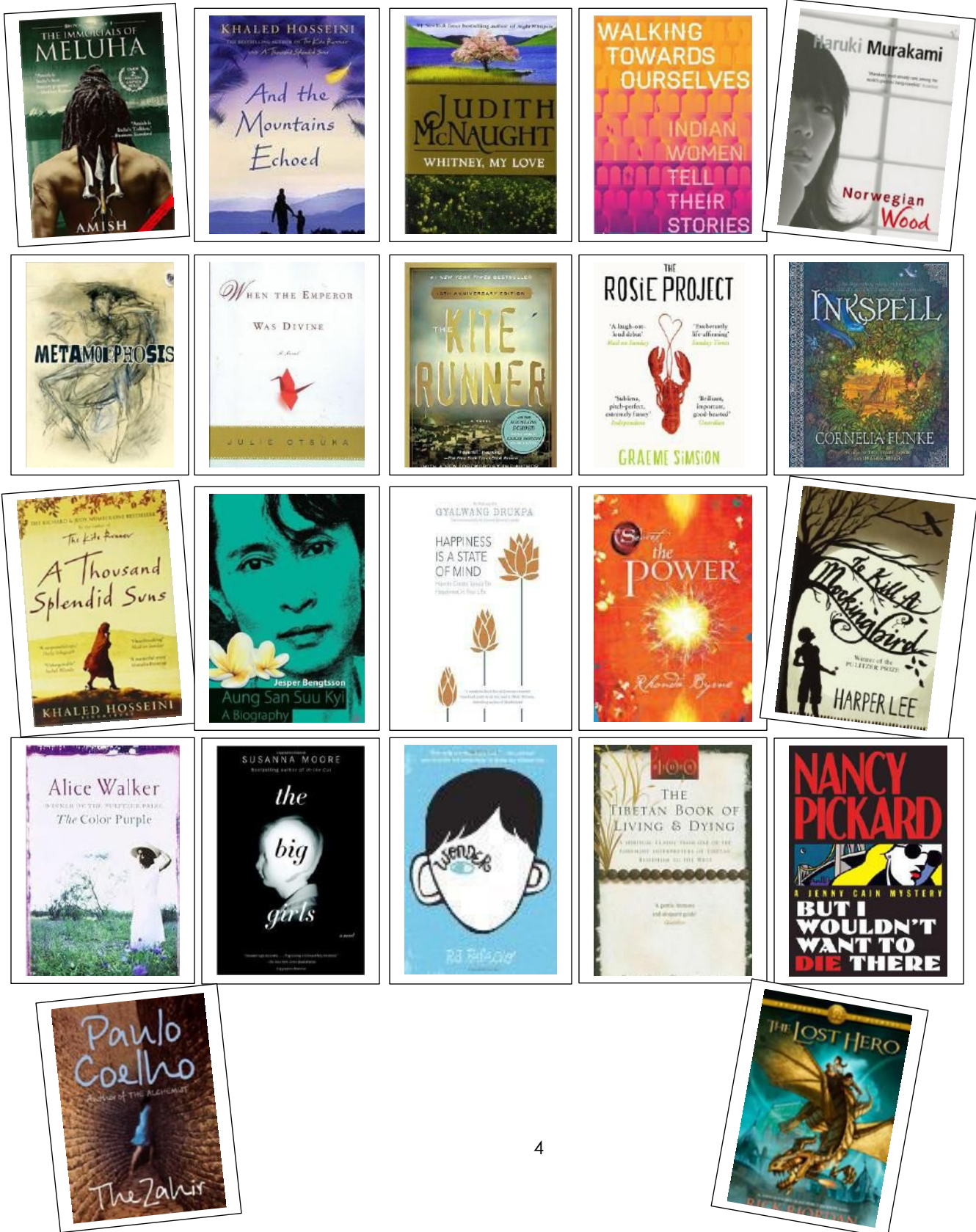
"She was a person who, when confronted with an easy way out, always took the hard way."

"Every man's island, Jean Louise, every man's watchman, is his conscience."

"As sure as time, history is repeating itself, and as sure as man is man, history is the last place he'll look for his lessons."

Wondering what RTC students are reading?

Come to the Library and see what students are saying about the books they have read.



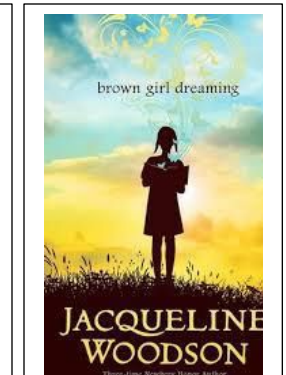
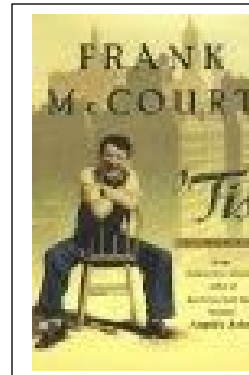
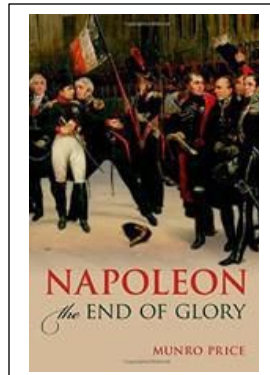
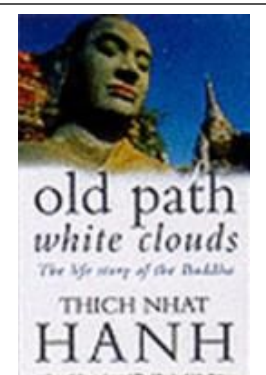
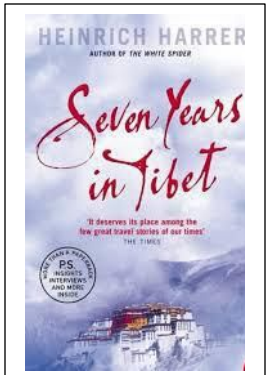
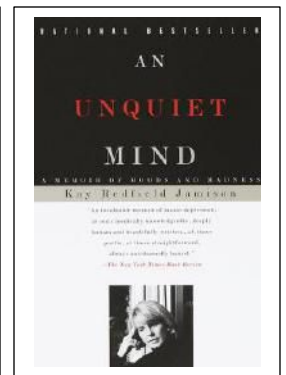
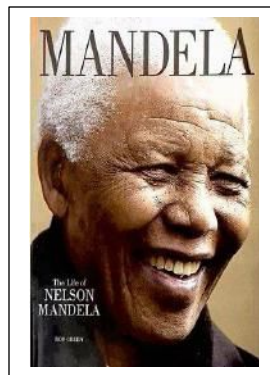
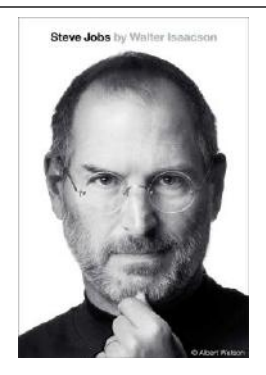
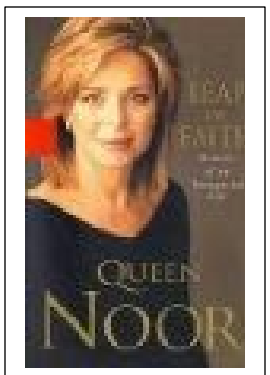
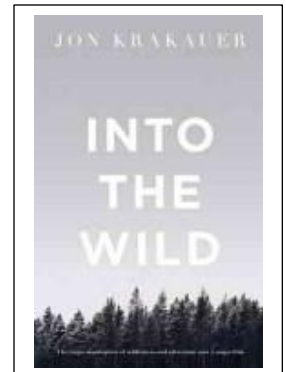
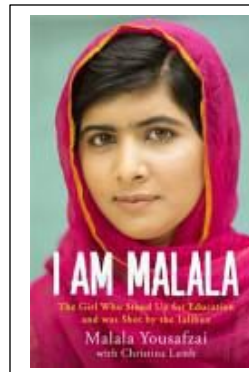
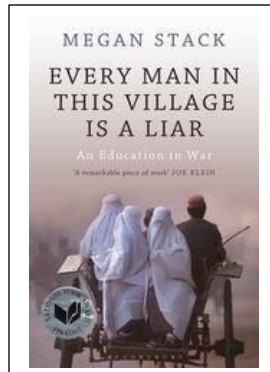
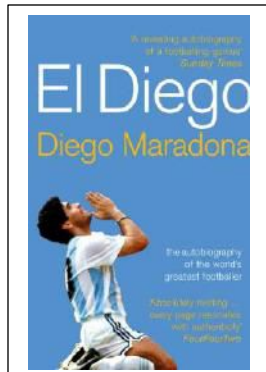
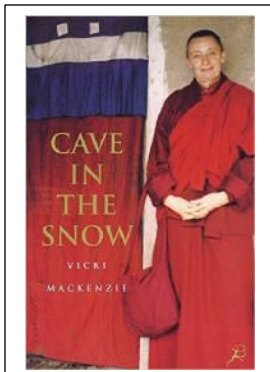
This month:

We've created a biography section to make it easier for you to browse our collection of memoirs, autobiographies and biographies.

Now you can find them shelved all together downstairs

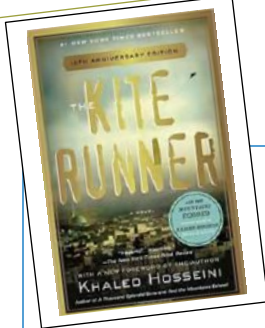
in the call number section: **920**

Here are just a few. Come browse and check them out.



Call No.: FIC H829k

Available on the MSS



Read the book, watch the movie!



***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

The Kite Runner is a heartrending story of friendship, betrayal, and forgiveness. Khaled Hosseini has written a moving account of the conflicting loyalties, the guilt, and the untold secrets that come to sever the close relationship between Baba and his son, Amir with their Hazara servants, Ali and son, Hassan.

Amir and Hassan have grown up together. Amir, from a privileged family, often uses his education and status to demean and trick the illiterate Hassan. But Hassan is a gentle, loyal soul, and would do anything for Amir. Even when falsely accused of stealing Amir's watch, Hassan takes the blame knowing to deny the accusation would be to put Amir in trouble. Amir's betrayal and refusal to stand up for Hassan in various situations are to burden him into adulthood.

After the Russian army enters, Amir and his father leave Afghanistan and settle in America. Twenty years later, in 2001, Amir receives a call from his father's longtime friend. On the phone, Rahim Khan tells Amir, "There is a way to be good again." Moved by these words and a desire to put his demons to rest, Amir returns to Kabul, a war-torn Kabul, now in the clutches of the Taliban, to find Sohrab, Hassan's son.

Kabul is no longer the city of his youth and the movie allows us to visually experience the city before the Soviet invasion and upon Amir's return. We see the destruction - by the Russians, the rival factions of mujahedeen, and lastly the Taliban who rule with a repressive ruthlessness.

While the movie is a close adaptation of the book, I thought it presented a sanitized interpretation. It's not that the book doesn't offer a glimmer of hope, it does. However, the book details a more realistic picture of the difficulties in bringing Sohrab to the US and the effect of the trauma that Sohrab has experienced at the hands of the Taliban.

A two hour movie can only pack in so much of Hosseini's wonderfully told story. As a result, important parts of the novel are omitted. Nevertheless, what the movie does include, it does exceptionally well. One reason I highly recommend the book, even if you have already seen the movie, is to have those missing parts filled in.

Website of the Month: Digital Photography School



Website: <http://digital-photography-school.com>



❖ Digital Photography School was founded in 2006 by Darren Rowse - a photographer and digital camera reviewer. This site is for all passionate photographers and beginners who are willing to learn about the digital world.



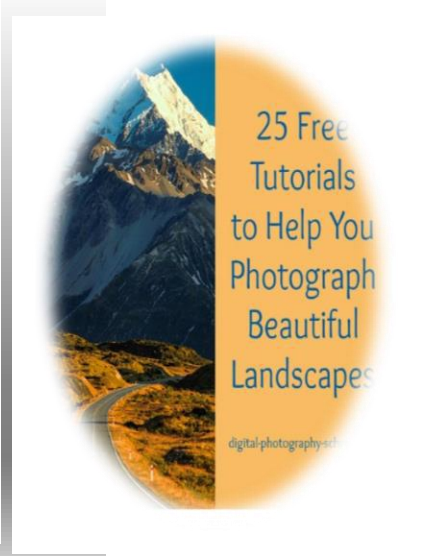
❖ DPS provides a handful of free photography resources: tips and tutorials for handling camera equipment, basic skills and techniques of photography, features of popular cameras and lenses, post production methods and publications of articles by renowned photographers on different themes.

Recommended. **Ugyen Tshomo, Asst. Librarian**

*“Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still.”
-Dorothea Lange.*



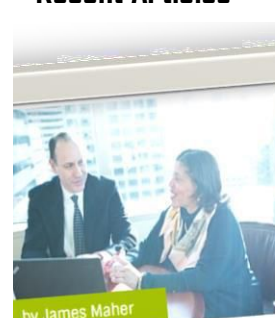
by Oded Wagenstein
Shooting Festivals and Events - Tips for Travel Photographers



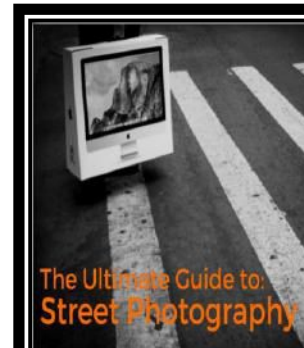
Recent Articles



by James Maher
7 Tips for Attending a Photo Walk

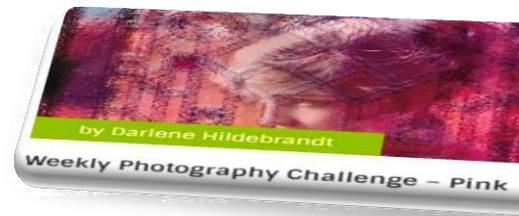


by James Maher
Sources Where You Can Make Money



The Ultimate Guide to Street Photography

Photo Competitions



by Darlene Hildebrandt
Weekly Photography Challenge - Pink



by John McIntire
A Guide to Black and White Conversion in Photoshop

Post Production



by Simon Ringsmuth
An Introduction to Photoshop Layers Possibilities and Properties



by Simon Ringsmuth
4 of the Most Important Elements of the Lightroom Library Module



3 Tips for Creating Double Exposures In-Camera Using Flash

News from the Reading Club

On October 4, the Reading Club gathered to discuss, **To Kill a Mockingbird**, which was well liked by all participants. The group asked questions about race relations in the U.S (then vs. now). We pondered why Harper Lee never wrote another book after *To Kill a Mockingbird* and discussed the importance of various characters in the book to the telling of the story, if the movie is as good as the book, and whether her first book, *Go Set a Watchman*, is worth reading.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, The Reading Club invited Aum Lily Wangchuk for a question and answer session on the "The Status of Women in Bhutan". Aum Lily provided attendees with an insightful analysis of gender issues in Bhutan, issues that often manifest in subtle ways. She emphasized the importance of fulfilling Bhutan's objective to increase the number of women in politics and stressed the importance of women adding important, necessary views on development that are often overlooked from a male perspective, yet are essential to the fundamental well-being of Bhutanese society.

This was the first event of the academic year that addressed one of the issues raised in Kunzang Choden's **The Circle of Karma**, which the Reading Club has selected as the "Book of the Year @ RTC. Stay tuned for future events that will address other issues brought to light in Choden's book.

For November, the Reading Club has selected to read **Everything Good Will Come** by Nigerian author Sefi Atta.

"Everything Good Will Come is a coming-of-age story about Enitan, a girl growing into womanhood in postcolonial Nigeria and England. Throughout the novel, Enitan is faced with personal entanglements: family troubles, rape, cheating boyfriends, and imprisonment. The novel is a biting commentary on post-independence governments in Nigeria and tensions between Igbo (Biafrans), Yoruba, and Hausa ethnic groups after the Biafran War."

As one reviewer commented, "The conclusion Enitan reaches, the choices she finally and deliberately makes, raise this novel to levels of bittersweet greatness.

Join us in reading and discussing **Everything Good Will Come**. The book is available on the MSS to download.

UPCOMING READING CLUB EVENTS

Tues. Nov 8. - Monu Tamang – Conversation with the author of *Chronicle of a Love Foretold*

Tues. Nov. 15 - Reading Club monthly book discussion - *Everything Good Will Come*

Tues. Nov 22 - Phyllis Bergman will give a session on Storytelling

Join others in sharing a book recommendation with the RTC community

If you've read a good book recently and would like to share your recommendation with others, the Library would love to receive your 200-500 word review. Send it to amckinney@rtc.bt or come by the library and see Amrita. THANKS.