

Library Lines, Anne Debraggio, Kirkland Town Library

“Never judge a book by its cover” is a well-known idiom. The same could be said about a book’s size. Here are some titles which aren’t very tall or very thick but could widen your reading experience. Plus, they won’t take up that much room in a carry-on bag!

“The Cosmic Mystery Tour: A High-Speed Journey Through Space and Time” by Nicholas Mee.

Described as a “lightning tour of the mysteries of the universe” and a “brilliant, entertaining introduction to the discoveries of physics and astronomy,” this book is a good pick for any who look up at the stars and wonder. It explores topics such as the supermassive black hole at the center of the galaxy to the search for signals from extraterrestrials. Photos and illustrations and stories of some of the “colorful characters who created modern science” enliven the text.

“The Toni Morrison Book Club” by Juda Bennett, Winnifred Brown-Glaude, Cassandra Jackson and Piper Kendrix Williams.

“What is a book club but an excuse to talk to friends? The “Toni Morrison Book Club” brings that experience to life by telling the story of four friends-- black and white, gay and straight, immigrant and American born-- who use Toni Morrison’s novels as a springboard for conversations as they search for meaning in their lives. Not shying away from controversies, this book offers a radically new way to envision book clubs as a healing force in our lives.” (publisher)

“Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future” by Pope Francis

“In the COVID crisis, the beloved shepherd of over one billion Catholics saw the cruelty and inequity of our society exposed more vividly than ever before. He also saw, in the resilience, generosity, and creativity of so many people, the means to rescue our society, our economy, and our planet. In direct, powerful prose, Pope Francis urges us not to let the pain be in vain and why we must—and how we can—make the world safer, fairer and healthier for all people now.” (book jacket)

“The 10 Greatest Conspiracies of all Time: Decoding History’s Unsolved Mysteries” by Brad Meltzer, with Keith Ferrell

Adapted from Meltzer’s show “Decoded”, this book full of photographs and illustrations guides looks at the 10 greatest conspiracies of all time, from Leonardo da Vinci's stolen prophecy to the Kennedy assassination. Why was Hitler so intent on capturing the Roman "Spear of Destiny?" Where did all the

Confederacy's gold go? What is the government hiding in Area 51? And did Lee Harvey Oswald really act alone? Meltzer sifts through the evidence, weighs competing theories, and in the end, arrives at the most likely explanation. *Or does he?* (book jacket)

“Freedom” by Sebastian Junger

“Throughout history, humans have been driven by the quest for two cherished ideals: community and freedom. The two don't coexist easily: we value individuality and self-reliance, yet are utterly dependent on community for our most basic needs. In this intricately crafted and thought-provoking book, Sebastian Junger examines this tension that lies at the heart of what it means to be human.” (catalog description)

“The Book Collectors: A Band of Syrian Rebels and the Stories That Carried Them Through a War” by Delphine Minoui

“In 2012, Daraya, a town outside Damascus, fell under siege. For four years, no one entered or left; aid was blocked; and bombs fell every single day. Then a group of young men find books in the rubble. They create a secret library, a paper fortress to protect their humanity. The “Book Collectors” is a testament to bravery and a celebration of the power of words.” (book jacket)