

MVAH ZOOM BOOK CLUB

July 21, 2022

Next MVAH ZOOM Book Club Sept 15, 3PM

Host: Barbara Brennan	
Attendees: Carol Mattaino Sarah Tatum Cher Terry	Louise McLean Robert McLean Norma Brodsky

NOTE: I think in the beginning we decided to limit the books discussed to one or maybe two, but no more. It was suggested to expand a bit more on the book, the author – at least a paragraph about it and why you are recommending it. Thank you!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

No	Book	Page
1	Norma Brodsky. About James Patterson by James Patterson: Stories of My Life	1
2	Carol Mattaino – Pachinko by Min Jin Lee.	1
3	Sarah Tatum – Calypso by David Sedaris	2
4	Cher Terry – Letters from Nuremberg: My Father’s Narrative by Christopher Dodd	2
5	Louise McLean – Track of the Cat by Nevada Barr	2
6	Robert McLean – The Hidden History of MONOPOLIES by Thom Hartmann	3
7	Barbara Brennan – Where the Crowds Sing by Delia Owen	3

1. **Norma Brodsky. About James Patterson by James Patterson: Stories of My Life. Autobiography/Biography. 2022. 368 Pages.**

“It's quite a life, Patterson's, and this fizzing, funny, often deeply moving memoir is a perfect way to understand the dizzying world of a best-selling writer.” —Daily Mail

2. **Carol Mattaino – Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. Historical fiction. 2017. 496 pages.**
Pachinko tells the story of Korean immigrants living in Japan between 1910 and today, a family saga that explores the effects of poverty, abuse, war, suicide, and the accumulation of wealth on multiple generations.

3. **Sarah Tatum – Calypso by David Sedaris. 2018. 272 pages.**
In Calypso, Sedaris writes primarily about his family and aging, as he is approaching the age his mother was when she died of cancer (62) and his sister Tiffany had recently died by suicide.

4. **Cher Terry – Letters from Nuremberg: My Father’s Narrative by Christopher Dodd. 2008. 400 pages.**
For some sixty years, the Nuremberg trials have demonstrated the resolve of the United States and its fellow Allied victors of the Second World War to uphold the principles of dispassionate justice and the rule of law even when cries of vengeance threatened to carry the day. In the summer of 1945, soon after the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, Thomas J. Dodd, the father of U.S. Senator Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut, traveled to the devastated city of Nuremberg to serve as a staff lawyer in this unprecedented trial for crimes against humanity. Thanks to his agile legal mind and especially to his skills at interrogating the defendants—including such notorious figures as Hermann Göring, Alfred Rosenberg, Albert Speer, Joachim von Ribbentrop, and Rudolf Hess—he quickly rose to become the number two prosecutor in the U.S. contingent.

Over the course of fifteen months, Dodd described his efforts and his impressions of the proceedings in nightly letters to his wife, Grace. The letters remained in the Dodd family archives, unexamined, for decades. When Christopher Dodd, who followed his father’s path to the Senate, sat down to read the letters, he was overwhelmed by their intimacy, by the love story they unveil, by their power to paint vivid portraits of the accused war criminals, and by their insights into the historical importance of the trials.

5. **Louise McLean – Track of the Cat by Nevada Barr. 2003. 272 pages**
Patrolling the remote West Texas backcountry, Anna’s first job as a national park ranger is marred by violence, she thought she had left behind: the brutal death of

a fellow ranger. When the cause of death is chalked up to a mountain lion attack, Anna's rage knows no bounds. It's up to her to save the protected cats from the politics and prejudices of the locals—and prove the kill was the work of a species far less rare...

6. Robert McLean – The Hidden History of MONOPOLIES by Thom Hartmann. 2020. 192 pages.

Hartmann takes us from the birth of America as a revolt against monopoly (remember the Boston Tea Party?), to the largely successful efforts of both Presidents Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt and other like-minded leaders to restrain corporations' monopolistic urges, to the massive changes in the rules of business starting during the "Reagan Revolution" that have brought us to the cancer stage of capitalism.

He shows the damage monopolies have done to so many industries: agriculture, healthcare, the media, and more. Individuals have taken a hit as well: the average American family pays a \$5,000 a year "monopoly tax" in the form of higher prices for everything from pharmaceuticals to airfare to household goods and food. But Hartmann also describes commonsense, historically rooted measures we can take--such as revitalizing antitrust regulation, taxing great wealth, and getting money out of politics--to pry control of our country from the tentacles of the monopolists.

7. Barbara Brennan – Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. 2018. 400 pages.

Where the Crawdads Sing is part bildungsroman and part crime drama, centered around Kya, a wild and unkempt girl. The book follows the ups and downs of her life. She lives a lonely life, but her story is a hopeful one as well. With a little help, she's able to survive and even learn to read. ***Note: The movie in theaters now is also very good. Reading the book will provide more in-depth descriptions of her naturalist experiences. But the movie is quite good, too.***