



Sara Barnes Picks:

The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him

The Murder That Shocked Jazz-Age America

Both books by Karen Abbott - paired with George Remus in a Bootlegger's Gold Cocktail*

Brittany Allison Picks:

"Next Year in Havana" by Chanel Cleeton is the tale of a high society sugar family forced to flee Cuba during the revolution told by the perspective of each unique sister. It is my favorite book I read last year and the sequel "When We Left Cuba" is equally delicious. A little rum finish on your whiskey and tunes by Beny More' will enhance the reader's enjoyment of these books.

"Irrepressible The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham" by Emily Bingham is the biography of the alluring and storied Kentucky heiress Henrietta Bingham. Willett Pot Still Reserve is dynamic, approachable and beautiful - like this book's this leading lady.

"Furiously Happy" is an absolutely hilarious stream of consciousness by blogger turned novelist Jenny Lawson. My husband frequently shushed me as I read this book because I laughed out loud all night. Jenny's love for unique taxidermized animals that died of natural causes seem like a match for the Russel family.

Susan Reigler Picks:

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson and F.E.W. Bourbon - Narrative non-fiction that reads like a thriller. Set in Chicago during the 1893 world's fair, includes a serial killer preying on the city. F.E.W. bourbon is made in Evanston (Just north of Chicago) and named in honor of temperance leader Frances. E. Willard, who spoke at the fair.

Close Range: Wyoming Stories by Anne Proulx and Wyoming Whiskey - Includes "Brokeback Mountain" which was made into an Academy Award-winning movie. Wyoming Whiskey is a wheated bourbon.

Susan Reigler Picks continued:

"A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner and Four Roses Bourbon. - This is a short story by the Nobel laureate who always claimed he couldn't write without a bottle of Four Roses at hand. Choose your favorite expression, 80 proof, Single Barrel, or Small Batch.

Our Man in Havana by Graham Greene and your choice of bourbon or Scotch - Comic novel set in Cuba during the Cold War with a vacuum cleaner salesman turned British spy. A pivotal scene features two characters playing checkers with miniature of bourbon and Scotch in place of red and black game pieces. (Great potential for a drinking game here!)

Whisky Galore by Compton Mackenzie and any Islay Scotch - World War II rationing has hit a small Scottish island hard, until a shipwrecked cargo of Scotch washes ashore.

The Whiskey Rebels by David Liss and Dad's Hat Rye. Historical thriller set in Pennsylvania during the Whiskey Rebellion after the Revolutionary War. On the very first page is a mention of "that frontier delicacy Monongahela rye."

Kerri Richardson Picks:

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver; Elijah Craig

Kentucky-born Kingsolver chronicles an American missionary family in the Belgian Congo in the early 1960s. Pair this bracing novel with Elijah Craig bourbon, named for one of Kentucky's famed distillers and preachers.

Seven Storey Mountain by Thomas Merton; Heaven Hill or Angel's Envy

Merton's epiphany at Fourth and Walnut Streets in downtown Louisville led the monk to conclude that he loved everyone he met, who were "all walking around shining like the sun." Connect your spiritual side with an earthly spirit – we like Heaven Hill or Angel's Envy.

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald; Four Roses

The classic American novel notes that Daisy Buchanan married at the historic Seelbach hotel in Louisville. Swig a Seelbach cocktail while you read – a bourbon and champagne combination that echoes the Jazz Age.

Feather Crowns by Bobbie Ann Mason; Wild Turkey

Western Kentucky native Bobbie Ann Mason's heartbreaking novel of the first American woman to give birth to quintuplets requires a stiff drink or two. Read with two fingers of Wild Turkey 101; dilute with your own tears.

Lincoln and the Bardo by George Saunders; Knob Creek

President Abraham Lincoln's childhood on a farm at Knob Creek in central Kentucky created powerful memories that shaped his worldview and ignited a passion for fairness. Sip the spicy and high-proof Knob Creek bourbon in a nod to the president's Kentucky log cabin.

B is for Burglar by Sue Grafton; Larceny

Second in the so-called "alphabet mysteries" series, Louisville native Sue Grafton spins a sequel about private investigator Kinsey Millhone. Steal away with this breezy novel and a killer cocktail featuring Larceny small-batch bourbon.