

It has been a long winter, and I am grateful for the diversion of reading and Netflix! Here's a sample of what I've read/watched recently:

I absolutely love British literature (it was a focus in college) and have enjoyed *The Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz. Pastor Bill recommended the novel to me, and I listened to it during my commute into Bloomington. A page-turning book-within-a-book and who-dunnit in the style of Agatha Christie, *Magpie Murders* is an intelligent, original and clever read. Perfect for sitting in traffic on 494. I recommend it highly.

I also picked up MC Beaton's *The Witches' Tree* -- another British murder mystery set in the Cotswolds. Beaton's investigator/mystery solver extraordinaire is the colorful Agatha Raisin, and there are a number of novels based on this character. This is a light, entertaining, and slightly odd, read.

I am currently enjoying *After This*, a family novel by Alice MacDermott. I find MacDermott's style deliciously spare, and yet her ability to set a story's tone is masterful. *After This* follows a family in Long Island after WWII. If you enjoy family novels, this is worth a look.

Three non-fiction reads have set my heart on fire:

- *Tears We Cannot Stop* by Michael Eric Dyson is an honest look at white privilege and the racial divide addressed to white America in the form of a worship service. Beginning with the prelude and ending with a benediction, Dyson passionately describes the problem, highlights points in history and offers hope and solutions. Reading this book made me cry, ignited guilt and shame, brought me to my knees and ultimately, stirred hope for reconciliation I had not felt in a while. Dyson is a sociology professor at Georgetown University, an author, *New York Times* contributor and ordained pastor. I recommend this book!
- *Love Warrior* is a memoir by Glennon Doyle Melton, the "mom" blogger and founder of Together Rising, a philanthropic and activist organization that raises money for people around the globe who are in need. *Love Warrior* is the story of Doyle's recovery from addictions, her discovery of self, her faith and her troubled marriage. Doyle's writing is brutally honest and compelling. While my experience of marriage and motherhood are different from the author's, fresh language around core truths and feelings were helpful for me in articulating my own experience. I am particularly moved by Doyle's activism, and how she prides herself with having connections around the world. Just last weekend, she was raising funds for humanitarian aid in Syria after the bombings and chemical warfare.
- I picked up *Becoming Nicole* because my old book group was reading it and the topic of the transgender experience interests me. The book is well written, educational and moving. I've put it (literally) in the hands of others, including Pastor Bill, so I encourage you to read his review. And then, read the book!!!