

Holly Furtick Book Club
January 21, 2020 - 8:00PM
The Giver of Stars

Opening Questions

- What was your favorite book of 2019?
- What was your least favorite book of 2019?

About the Author

- Jojo lives in Essex with her husband and 3 children.
- Jojo was a journalist for 10 years and was writing on the side. Her first 3 manuscripts got rejected. She decided that if the 4th one was rejected, she was done. It was picked up.
- Her first 6 books didn't sell very well. Then her 7th book was Me Before You.
- You probably know JoJo for her book, Me Before You which was made into a movie and sold 14 million copies and spent 19 weeks on the NYT bestseller list. It was her 7th novel.
- The Giver of Stars was her 12th book. When Jojo read the story of the pack horse librarians, she raced to KY to write the book because she was afraid someone else would write the story better. "Someone else might write it better but I will write it faster." She said this book came easy.
- Jojo credits her days as a newspaper writer as helping her tell a story with conciseness and clarity
- What other books have you read by JoJo?

About the Book

This book is about the women of the Pack Horse Librarians in the mountains of Kentucky. Information about the real life pack horse librarians...

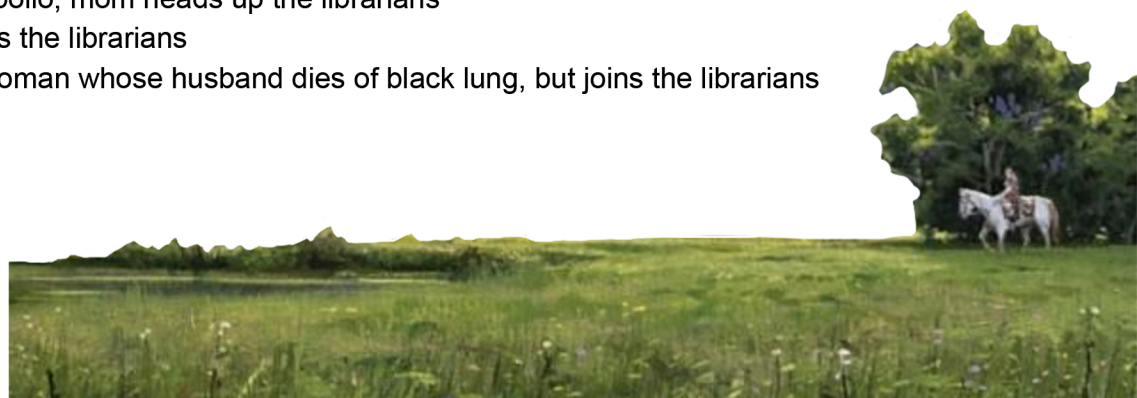
- Over the course of a month, women would ride and walk an average of 4,905 miles.^[23] The book packs that the librarians carried could hold around 100 books
- The [scrapbooks](#) also contained cuttings from other books and magazines and eventually, there were more than 200 different books generated by patrons and librarians
- "Book women" were hired by the WPA and worked for around \$28 a month delivering books in the Appalachians via horseback or on [mules](#).

Main Characters

- Marjery O'hare- main character, abusive father, a woman who does not need a man. No nonsense, does not care what others think of her.
- Alice van Cleve- english woman married to a spoiled man who doesn't want to have sex
- Sophia- african american woman who organizes the books
- Izzy- girl crippled from polio, mom heads up the librarians
- Beth- farm girl who joins the librarians
- Katheleen- mountain woman whose husband dies of black lung, but joins the librarians

Themes

- Friendship!!!
- Support



Libraries
Books
Strong women
Education
Literacy
Domestic violence
Misogyny

I think female friendships and books are two of the greatest things in my life (obviously besides family and ministry and my relationship with God).

Questions to discuss

- What are your memories of libraries? Do you still use the library?
- What is the book that made you fall in love with books?
- The title... Fred gives Alice a book of poetry and she finds this poem:

The Giver of Stars, by Amy Lowell
*Hold your soul open for my welcoming
Lett he quiet of your spirit bathe me
With its clear and rippled coolness,
That, loose-limbed and weary, I find rest,
Outstretched upon your peace, on a bed of ivory*

This poem causes Alice to pull out the blue book.

Jojo said that the title was the hardest title she ever had to come to. The working title was the Knowledge. She said they even went through country songs to look for titles.

- A book, not just any book, but Little Women, as a murder weapon???
- The blue book that they pass around

Favorite Scenes

- Alice's relationship with Kathleen's family. When she initially meets them trying to have a fake accent and scares them. Then she reads to the dying husband. Then when Katheleen joins the librarians.
- the blue book which was an actually book
- the end when Bennet's new wife wanted the blue book.

Closing

Book Club Items for Sale

Visit Hollyfurtick.com! (will post a swipe up tonight)

- Mug - \$10
- TShirt - \$20
- Keychain - \$5
- Pouch - \$10
- Ornament - \$10

Next Book Club

- Look At You Now by Liz Pryor | Tuesday February 25th | 8:00PM | ***Liz will be joining us LIVE!***

