

# A Novel Idea:

September and October 2020

from 10:30 am - 12 noon

# Virtual Book Discussions

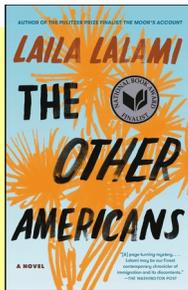
The books are real; the discussion is virtual. Place a hold and pick up the selection at your local branch.

Limited eBook availability: <https://monmouth.overdrive.com>

Sessions will be conducted on Webex. Internet access required to attend.

Register on EventKeeper and receive emailed information on how to join the discussion.

Any questions? Send a message to: [mcl@monmouthcountylib.org](mailto:mcl@monmouthcountylib.org)



## Wednesday, September 9 - *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami

The aftermath of Driss Guerraoui's death brings together a diverse cast of characters - deeply divided by race, religion, and class - who, in telling their stories, confront secrets, face a town's hypocrisies, and fall, in messy and unpredictable love. Timely, riveting, and unforgettable, *The Other Americans* is at once a family saga, a murder mystery, and a love story informed by the treacherous fault lines of American culture.

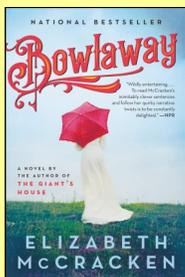
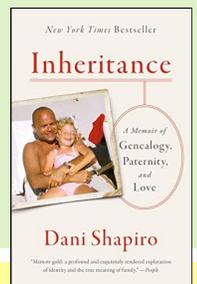
Moderated by Robyn Miller, Library Headquarters

## Wednesday, September 23

### *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* by Dani Shapiro

In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had whimsically submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her father was not her biological father. She woke up one morning and her entire history - the life she had lived - crumbled beneath her. *Inheritance* is a book about secrets within families, kept out of shame or self-protectiveness; secrets we keep from one another in the name of love.

Moderated by Stephanie Laurino, Library Headquarters



## Wednesday, October 7 - *Bowlaway* by Elizabeth McCracken

From the day she is discovered unconscious in a New England cemetery at the turn of the twentieth century - with nothing but a bowling ball, a candlepin, and fifteen pounds of gold on her person - Bertha Truitt is an enigma to everyone in Salford, Massachusetts. She has no past to speak of, or at least none she is willing to reveal, and her mysterious origin scandalizes and intrigues the townspeople. *Bowlaway* is both a stunning feat of language and a brilliant unraveling of a family's myths and secrets, its passions and betrayals, as well as the ties that bind and the rifts that divide.

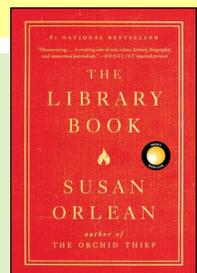
Moderated by Rebecca Gokberk, Library Headquarters

## Thursday, October 22 - *Who Tells Your Story?* Virtual History Book Club

### *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean

On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. By the time the fire was extinguished, it had consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. But more than 30 years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library - and if so, who? Orlean also traces the history of libraries in the United States, and the often quirky individuals who were the predecessors of today's professional librarians.

Moderated by Jeanmarie Kantor, Library Headquarters



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