



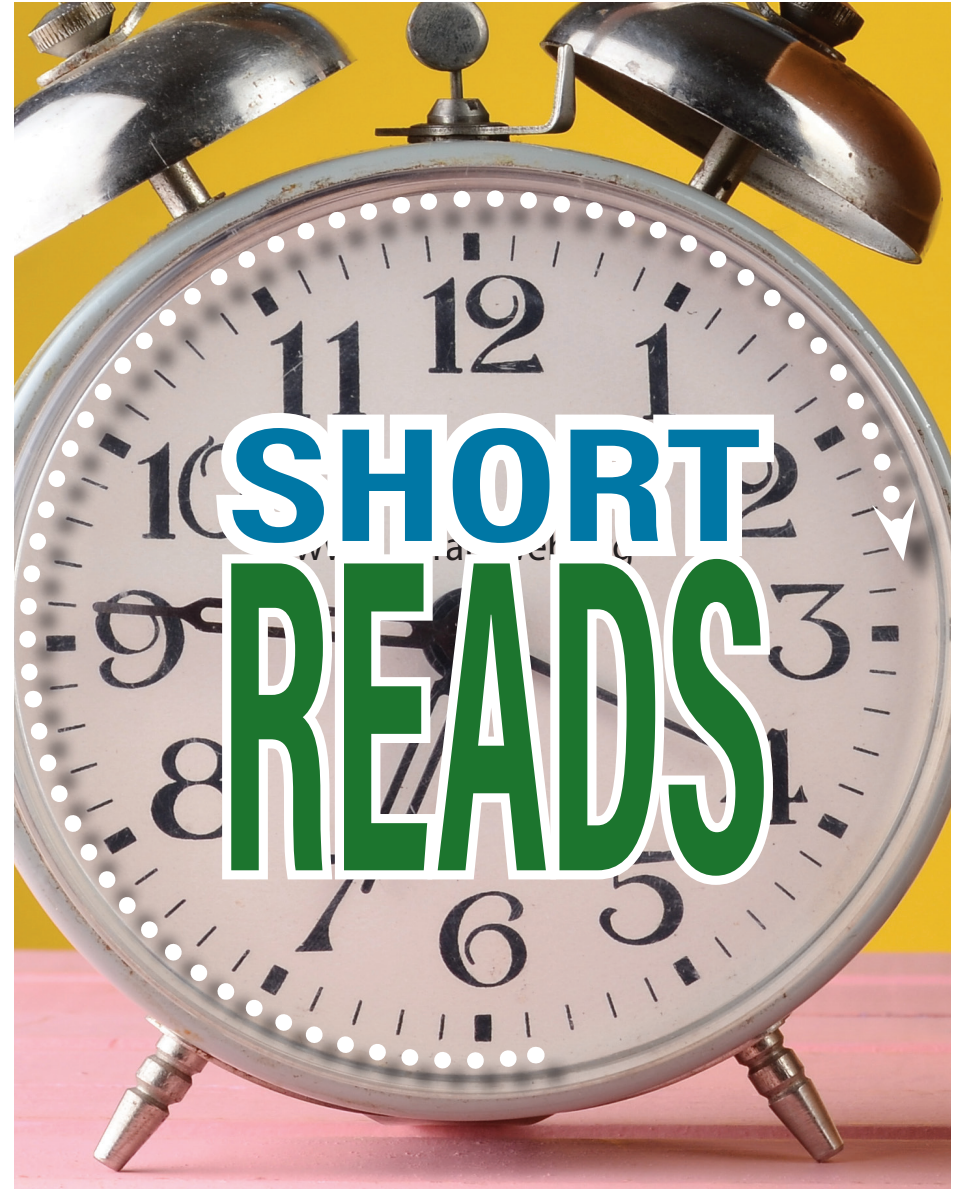
# SHORT READS



Monroe County  
Library System  
[www.libraryweb.org](http://www.libraryweb.org)

Prepared by the Adult Services Librarians of Monroe County  
2023

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All fiction and nonfiction titles listed are available  
at libraries in the Monroe County Library System.



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## NON-FICTION

**In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers** written and illustrated by Don Brown (2021) Graphic Novel  
Immersive reporting of events following the 9/11 attacks that quickly illuminates where we are 20+ years later.

**A Series of Fortunate Events: Chance and the Making of the Planet, Life, and You** by Sean B. Carroll (2020) Book, eBook, eAudiobook  
For geology and biology fans, this book explores the role of chance in life and shows that accidents are more important than we might realize.

**Whale Day: and other poems** by Billy Collins (2020) Book  
A collection of poems by the former Poet Laureate of the U.S. and of New York State.

**Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging** by Sebastian Junger (2016) Book, LP, BOCD, eBook, eAudiobook  
A blend of history and psychology that shows how societies experiencing war and its aftermath can learn much from veterans about humanity, health, and happiness.

**World Of Wonders** by Aimee Nezhukumatathil (2020) Book, BOCD, eBook  
Creative anecdotes about animals and the natural world.

**Reflections by Rosa Parks** by Rosa Parks with Gregory J. Reed (2017) Book, BOCD  
Words from a woman whose quiet strength and faith moved a nation towards justice.

**Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid's Memoir that Inspired Upstairs, Downstairs and Downton Abbey** by Margaret Powell (1968) Book, LP  
Tales of domestic service in London before and after WWII.

**This is One Way to Dance** by Sejal Shah (2020) Book, eBook  
A perceptive memoir in essays from a Rochester native.

**Rochester Labor and Leisure** by Donovan Shilling (2002) Book  
Experience Rochester in its heyday through photos and informative captions.

**Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage, and Survival** by Velma Wallis (1993) Book  
An inspiring tale of two women who, abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine, live to teach their tribe valuable lessons. Based on an Athabascan Indian legend.

## FICTION

**The Final Solution** by Michael Chabon (2004) Book, BOCD  
Sherlock Holmes is brought out of retirement to solve the murder of a man and the kidnapping of a German boy's parrot in 1944.

**The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho (1993) Book [English and Spanish], LP, BOCD, Book Discussion Kit, eBook, eAudiobook  
In this classic for philosophers and seekers, a boy travels the world finding truths and treasures.

**The Sleeper and the Spindle** by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Chris Riddell (2015) Book, BOCD, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook  
The familiar story of Sleeping Beauty, retold with twists.

**Zorrie: A Novel** by Laird Hunt (2021) Book, eBook  
A moving story of a hardscrabble life lived in the mid-west during and after the Depression.

**Small Things Like These** by Claire Keegan (2021) Book, eBook, eAudiobook  
In a small Irish town, in the days leading up to Christmas, a coal merchant takes on a difficult situation at the local convent.

**Tiny Tales** by Alexander McCall Smith (2020) Book, LP  
Thirty short stories exploring romance, ambition, kindness, and happiness, with cartoons designed by Iain McIntosh.

**Sun-Daughters, Sea-Daughters** by Aimee Ogden (2021) Book  
When the land-dwelling Vo are beset with plague, Atuale returns to the sea to ask the World-Witch for help.

**Last Night at the Lobster** by Stewart O'Nan (2007) Book, eBook  
The Lobster is closing for good, a snowstorm is brewing, and Manny manages the kitchen. Before the night is over, you'll feel like you own the place.

**Strange Planet** and **Stranger Planet** by Nathan W. Pyle (2019 and 2020) Books, eBooks  
Comics that will make you think twice about traditions and quirky English language.

**Fox 8: A Story** by George Saunders (2018) Book  
A fox's letter to humans ends with a request: "be nicer."

**Another Brooklyn** by Jacqueline Woodson (2016) Book, LP, BOCD, eBook, eAudiobook  
Four friends have each other's backs — until they don't.

**The Secret Talker** by Geling Yan (2021) Book  
Hongmei is compelled to learn who is sending her emails and knows her everyday activities.