

**RPCVs of Madison Book Club List  
November 2010 - October 2011**

Date	Title/Author /Excerpt	Country/Region	Host
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, At 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Storyteller's Daughter: One Woman's Return to Her Lost Homeland</u> By Saira Shah</p> <p>Born in England and raised on her father's stories of Afghanistan, Shah spends her adult life searching for a mythic place of beauty. Shah first visits Afghanistan in 1986 as a war correspondent at the remarkable age of 21 and later returns as the documentary producer of Beneath the Veil, an expos, of life under the Taliban that predated the national interest in the embattled country.</p>	Afghanistan	Char
<b>DECEMBER – WE ARE SKIPPING THIS MONTH DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS</b>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, At 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Snow</u> By Orhan Pamuk</p> <p>After eight years spent living in exile in Frankfurt, Germany, the poet Ka returns to the isolated town of Kars during a historic blizzard. Cut off from the outside world, the town's ingrown tensions are thrown into sharp relief as Ka investigates the epidemic of suicides occurring among devoutly religious schoolgirls who prefer to take their own lives rather than remove their head scarves.</p>	Turkey	Darlene
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Bend in the River</u> By V.S. Naipaul</p> <p>A Bend in the River chronicles both an internal journey and a physical trek into the heart of Africa as it explores the themes of personal exile and political and individual corruption. The narrator, Salim, a Muslim Indian merchant, opens a store in a sleepy small town at a bend in the river (ostensibly the Congo River).</p>	Africa	Tom

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<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A Hundred and One Days: A Baghdad Journal</u> By Asne Seierstad</p> <p>Norwegian journalist Seierstad spent 101 days in Baghdad before, during and after the initial coalition attacks in March 2003. She calls the articles she sent back to Europe "glimpses from the war," and weaves them into a brisk, present-tense narrative.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Iraq</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Darlene</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, at 2 PM (April meeting)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China</u> By Leslie T. Chang</p> <p>Chang, a former Beijing correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, explores the urban realities and rural roots of a community, until now, as unacknowledged as it is massive—China's 130 million workers whose exodus from villages to factory and city life is the largest migration in history. Chang spent three years following the successes, hardships and heartbreaks of two teenage girls, Min and Chunming, migrants working the assembly lines in Dongguan, one of the new factory cities that have sprung up all over China.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">China</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coliseum Bar</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide</u> By Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn</p> <p>New York Times columnist Kristof and his wife, WuDunn, a former Times reporter, make a brilliantly argued case for investing in the health and autonomy of women worldwide. More girls have been killed in the last fifty years, precisely because they were girls, than men were killed in all the wars of the twentieth century, they write, detailing the rampant gendercide in the developing world, particularly in India and Pakistan.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Worldwide</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Judy</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the Fourteenth Century</u> By Ross E. Dunn</p> <p>Known as the greatest traveler of premodern times, Abu Abdallah Ibn Battuta was born in Morocco in 1304 and educated in Islamic law. At the age of twenty-one, he left home to make the holy pilgrimage to Mecca. This was only the first of a series of extraordinary journeys that spanned nearly three decades and took him not only eastward to India and China but also north to the Volga River valley and south to Tanzania.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Worldwide</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Grounded: A Down to Earth Journey Around the World</u> By Seth Stevenson</p> <p>Anyone familiar with Jules Verne’s Around the World in Eighty Days will already know the basic premise of Stephenson’s book: an around-the-world voyage in which we visit strange lands, meet unusual people, and have interesting adventures.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Worldwide</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Buttertea at Sunrise: A Year in the Bhutan Himalaya</u> By Britta Das</p> <p>Often seen as a magical paradise at the end of the world, Bhutan is inaccessible to most travelers. When Britta Das goes to work as a physiotherapist in a remote village hospital, her good intentions are put to the test amid monsoons, fleas, and startling conditions. But as she visits homes in the mountains and learns the mysteries of Tantric Buddhism, the country captivates her very soul.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bhutan</p>	

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<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea</u> By Barbara Demick</p> <p>Nothing to Envy follows the lives of six North Koreans over 15 years – a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il Sung, the unchallenged rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il, and the devastation of a far-ranging famine that killed one-fifth of the North Korean population.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">North Korea</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011, at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>War Trash</u> By Ha Jin</p> <p>Ha Jin's new novel is the fictional memoir of a Chinese People's Volunteer, dispatched by his government to fight for the Communist cause in the Korean War. Yu Yuan describes his ordeal after capture, when P.O.W.s in the prison camp have to make a wrenching choice: return to the mainland as disgraced captives, or leave their families and begin new lives in Taiwan.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Asia</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 2 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cutting for Stone</u> By Abraham Verghese</p> <p>Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Africa</p>	