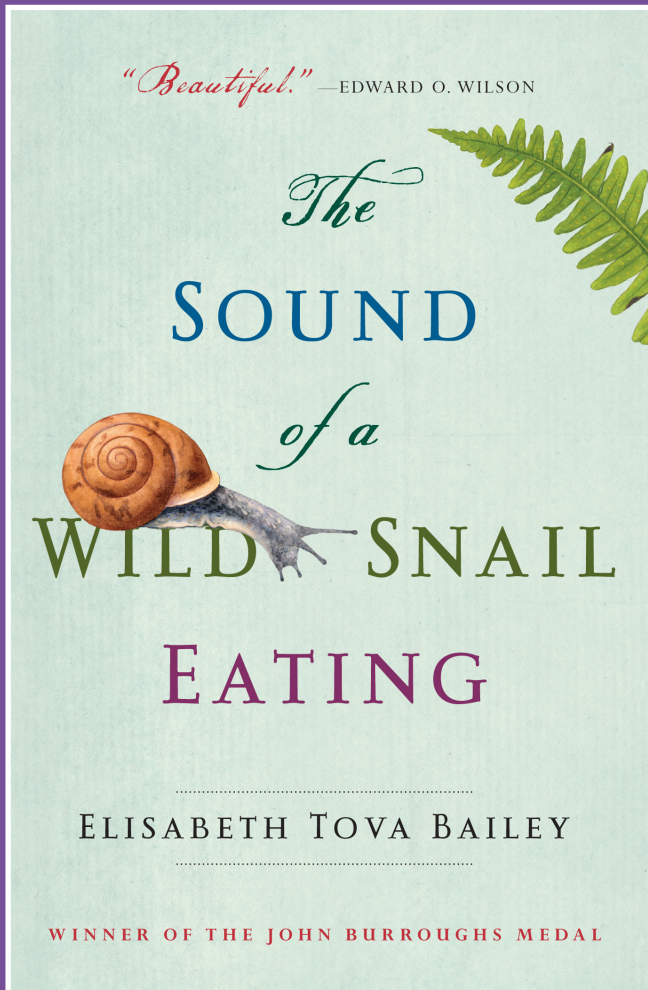


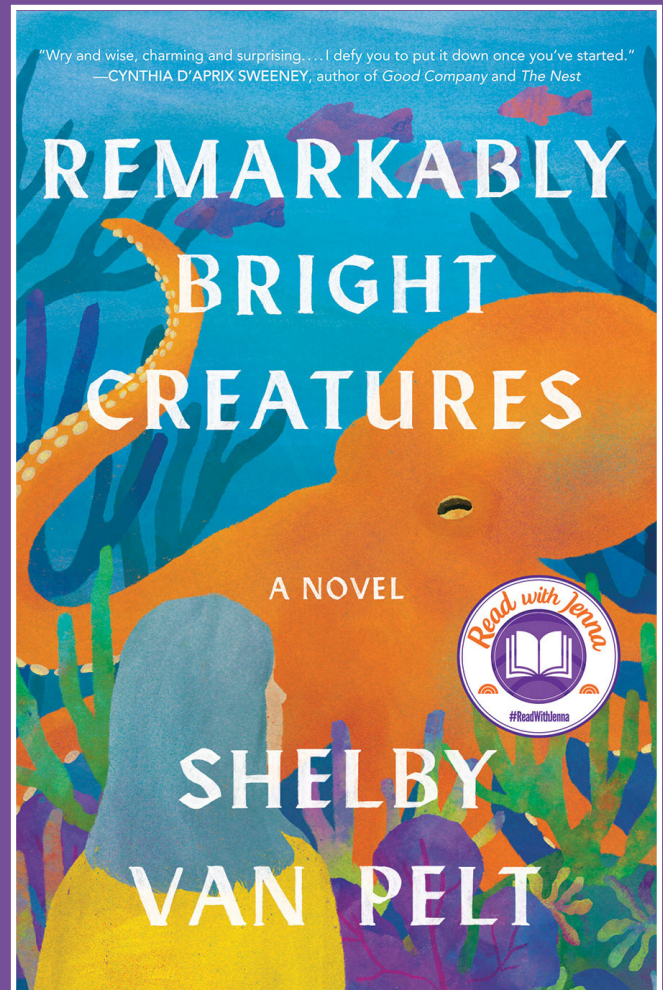
all alexandria reads

2023

The Alexandria Library
invites you to read



The Sound of a
Wild Snail Eating
by Elisabeth Tova Bailey



Remarkably
Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.
Central Library
5005 Duke Street
703.746.1702

Kate Waller Barrett
Branch Library
717 Queen Street
703.746.1703

Ellen Coolidge Burke
Branch Library
4701 Seminary Road
703.746.1704

James M. Duncan, Jr.
Branch Library
2501 Commonwealth Avenue
703.746.1705



About All Alexandria Reads

Facilitated by the Alexandria Library, this program is designed to create shared experiences through reading. Everyone is invited to read the featured titles and selected books for younger readers.

JOY

Our theme for All Alexandria Reads 2023 is "joy." It is an emotion that can be subtle or overwhelming. Loud or quiet. We all experience it differently, yet it is somehow universal. It can be sparked by an infinite number of sources—reunions, celebrations, or relaxing with a good book. This year, Alexandria Library encourages our community to look for joy in new places, make your own if you have to, and to share it with friends, family, or anyone who might need it.

Similar "Read-Alike" Books For Younger Readers

Young Adult (YA)

Love Radio

by Ebony LaDelle

Middle Grade

Small Town Pride

by Phil Stamper

Early Elementary

JoJo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend

by Dawn Quigley

Picture Book

This Joy!

by Shelley Johannes

Library Events

CHILDREN/ FAMILIES

Ukulele Jon of The Unlikely Strummers (Outdoors, Beatley)

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2 PM

Experience the joy of music in an exuberant concert with Ukulele Jon of The Unlikely Strummers, an award-winning ukulele group from Rhode Island. (Children and Families, children under age 8 must be with caregiver)

Zumba® Kids Jr. (Indoors, Beatley)

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 11 AM

Celebrate the joy of moving our bodies in this active dance-style class taught by a certified Zumba® Kids Jr. instructor. (Ages 5-8 with caregiver)

Story Time with the APD (Outdoors, Beatley)

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 11 AM

Join an officer from the Alexandria Police Department for a special story time featuring picture books about joy. (Ages 0-5 with caregiver)

Stories and Songs (Indoors, Duncan)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 11 AM

Join us for an especially joyful story time in celebration of All Alexandria Reads theme of "joy"! Stories and Songs is first come first served with open floor seating and limited chairs. (Ages 0-5 with caregiver)

Tween Art: Joy Scattering Stones (Indoors, Beatley)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 6 PM

Make joy scattering stones – handcrafted, colorful rock treasures to place around your neighborhood. We provide the paint and rocks; you design colorful pieces of art to share. (Ages 8-12)

Scribble Book Club: *Small Town Pride* (Indoors, Duncan)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11 & 25, 5 PM

Join us as we read our All Alexandria Reads pick *Small Town Pride* by Phil Stamper. (Grades 3-7)

Toddler Rock 'N' Read! (Indoors, Duncan)

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 11 AM

Twirl and sing in an especially joyful toddler story time celebrating All Alexandria Reads! Toddler Rock 'N' Read is first come first served with open floor seating and limited chairs. (Ages 0-5 with caregiver)

123 Andres (Outdoors, Beatley)

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 11 AM

Join Grammy-winning children's musician Andrés for an interactive musical performance in English and Spanish. (Children and Families, children under age 8 must be with caregiver)

Pre-K Story Time (Indoors, Duncan)

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 4 PM

We're spreading joy in the library through this magical, extra special pre-k story time. (Ages 3-5 with caregiver, siblings welcome)

Inside Out Movie Screening (Indoors, Beatley)

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 6 PM

Joy, sadness, disgust, anger or fear – whatever you may be feeling, come enjoy a movie on the "big screen" with friends and family. (Children and Families, children under age 8 must be with caregiver)

Joy Yoga for Children with Ms.

Shelley (Indoors, Burke)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 10:30 AM

This is an imaginative and fun class that will encourage children to have joyful, positive feelings while breathing deeply and moving in different positions and poses (Ages 3-5 with caregiver)

Craft in the Afternoon (Indoors, Duncan)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 3:30 PM

Come spend the afternoon making a card for your BFF. Inspired by the Elementary All Alexandria Reads book *Jo Jo Makoons!* (Children and Teens, ages 0-18)

Doodle Workshop for Kids! (Indoors, Burke)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 11 AM

In this doodling and drawing event, author/illustrator Zara Gonzalez Hoang will lead everyone in some of her favorite silly drawing exercises focused on making interesting marks and embracing mistakes. (Ages 6-12)

Sidewalk Afternoon Art (Outdoors, Duncan)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 3:30 PM

Show your library pride and add some chalk art work to the sidewalks around the library in the butterfly garden. Limited supplies will be provided. (Children and Families, children under age 8 must be with caregiver)

CHILDREN/FAMILIES (CONT.)

Jr. Science Club: Planting Edition (Outdoors, Beatley)

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 4:30 PM

Join Miss Amy and Miss Amanda for songs, stories, and a science-based activity. (Ages 5-8 with caregiver)

Animal Fair (Outdoors, Beatley)

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 11 AM

Come dressed as your favorite animal and participate in a variety of fun activities, including a story, a craft, and a parade! (Ages 0-5 with caregiver)

The Great Zucchini: Laugh Out Loud Magical Fun (Outdoors, Barrett)

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 10:15 AM

There are few things more joyful than watching a bunch of kids watching the Great Zucchini's blend of comedy and magic! Join us on the Columbus Street lawn (outside the Children's Room) and bring a blanket to sit on -- no chairs, please. (Children and Families, children under age 8 must be with caregiver)

TEENS

Teens' Majestic Mornings Paint- Along (Indoors, Barrett)

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 12 PM

Join us for a fun and relaxing morning of painting along with the episode "Morning Mist." All materials provided. Space is limited and registration is required. (Ages 12-18)

Bracelet-Making for Teens (Indoors, Burke)

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 4 PM

Make bracelets for yourself or a friend! Knot together a string friendship bracelet or make your own upcycled beads. All supplies provided. (Teens)

YA Book Club: *Love Radio* (Indoors, Duncan)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 6 PM

Meet up in the Teen area at Duncan Library to discuss the All Alexandria Reads title *Love Radio* by Ebony LaDelle. We will have a themed activity and treats to enjoy during our discussion! (Teens)

Read Anything Book Club for Teens (Indoors, Beatley)

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 6:30 PM

Teens, let's talk books! Rather than reading an assigned book, you are invited to share and talk about any book you've been reading around a common theme. In honor of our YA All Alexandria Reads book, *Love Radio* by Ebony LaDelle, we'll start the conversation with books that discuss romance, dating, and friendship. (Grades 6-12)

Author Talk with Ebony LaDelle (Virtual)

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 7 PM

Join us online for a virtual discussion and Q&A session with Ebony LaDelle, the author of our YA All Alexandria Reads book, *Love Radio*. (Teens ages 13+ and Adults)

ALL AGES

Tiny Art Show Take & Make (Indoors, Beatley)

Starts SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1 PM

Pick up your choice of kit to make some tiny art. Kits are available one per person while supplies last. (Children ages 5+ to Adults)

Trash Trekkers (Outdoors, Burke)

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 10 AM

If you are disturbed by seeing trash on the sidewalks and streets on the West End, join the Burke Branch litter pickup club to make a difference in the place where we live. (All Ages. An adult must accompany children ages 12 and under)

Spring Garden Planting Party (Outdoors, Burke)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 10 AM

Help us weed, feed, and beautify the public art garden bed and plant stunning Spring/Summer annuals. (All Ages. An adult must accompany children ages 12 and under)



Tiny Art Show (Indoors, Beatley)

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 4:30 PM

Artists' tiny art creations will be on display. (Children ages 5+ to Adult, children under 8 age must be with caregiver)

My Octopus Teacher (Indoors, Beatley)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2 PM

Join us for a screening of the documentary *My Octopus Teacher* by Craig Foster. (All Ages, children under age 8 must be with caregiver)

ADULTS

Clay Snails 'n' Things (Indoors, Beatley)

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 6 PM

Make your own snail or other creature with air-dry clay. (Teens 12+ and Adults)

Trash Trekkers (Outdoors, Barrett)

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 10 AM

Start your Saturday doing good. Join the Barrett Branch walking and litter pickup club. For this special event, we'll be spreading joy, too! (Adults)

Line Dancing (Indoors, Burke)

TUESDAYS, APRIL 4, 11, 18 & 25, 11 AM

Learn basic line dance steps while you work out to Golden Oldies music. This is a great class for beginners. Bring a friend or come alone. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothing. (Adults)

Pick-Up Pickleball (Outdoors, Burke)

THURSDAYS, APRIL 6, 20, 27 & MAY 4, 11, 18 & 25, 11 AM

Looking for a friendly place to play or learn pickleball? Join us and have fun playing one of the fastest-growing sports in the world. (Adults)

Board Game Bliss (Indoors, Burke)

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1:30 PM

Let's celebrate the joy of playing games! Play a wide variety of games, the classics and the new. Bring a friend or make new friends. (Teens 13+ and Adults)

Interested in more programs?



ADULTS (CONT.)

Freegal How-To (Indoors, Beatley)

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 6:30 PM

Learn how to download and stream music—all for free—using your library card. In a nod to our AAR YA book, *Love Radio*, you'll also put on your DJ hat and learn how to create your own playlists. (Teens 13+ and Adults)

Book Design (Indoors, Burke)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2 PM

A well-crafted book cover or design can delight the senses, streamline the reading experience, and sell more copies. Join Prof. Roger Lathbury of GMU as he delves deeper into the elements that make a book as beautiful to hold as it may be to read. Bring a book to get feedback on its design. (Adults)

Painting for the Fun of It (Indoors, Burke)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 6 PM

Join us for an art class where we focus on the joy of the painting process rather than the final product. The class will be taught by educator, artist and UpCycle Creative Reuse Center co-founder, Susan Miranda. All supplies provided. Space is limited. Registration is required. (Teens 13+ and Adults)

Majestic Mornings Paint-Along (Indoors, Barrett)

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 10 AM

Join us for a fun and relaxing morning of painting along with the episode "Morning Mist." All materials provided. Space is limited and registration is required. (Adults)

Are You Smarter Than an Octopus? (Indoors, Beatley)

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 6 PM

Test your knowledge of cephalopods and win prizes! (Teens 12+ and Adults)

DIY Terrarium Workshop (Indoors, Duncan)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 6 PM

Ever wanted to build your own world? Are you fascinated by terrariums or succulents? Come to our Adult and Teen terrarium workshop and build a tiny garden in a glass container! Registration is required. (Teens 13+ and Adults)

Joyful Decluttering (Virtual)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 3 PM

Clearing clutter doesn't have to be a chore. Log on and learn organizing humorist and author Jamie Novak's strategies for decluttering joyfully. (Adults)

Make Your Own Terrarium (Indoors, Barrett)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 11 AM

Take inspiration from our AAR title *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, and make your own mini terrarium. All supplies provided. Space is limited and registration is required. (Adults)

House Plant and Craft Supply Swap (Outdoors, Beatley)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2 PM

Share plants and craft supplies with others and find something new to you. (Teens 12+ and Adults)

Mission: Joy Screening and Discussion (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 7 PM

Watch this endearing film which investigates how two icons, His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, connect to joy even amongst sorrows and challenges. Join the discussion after. (Adults)

10 Easy Ways to Lose the Clutter and Find More Joy (Virtual)

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 3 PM

Is clutter preventing you from enjoying the fun things in your life? Log on and learn ten easy ways to clear the clutter to create a home that makes you happy while having more time for things that matter most from organizing humorist and author Jamie Novak. (Adults)

Joy: In Words/Inwards (Indoors, Beatley)

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1:30 PM

Join Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association Poet in Residence KaNikki Jakarta and internationally known spoken word artist 13 of Nazareth as they team up in a workshop for performance poets. (Teens 14+ and Adults)

Introduction to Hula (Indoors, Burke)

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 3, 10 & 17, 11 AM

Join us for a weekly introductory hula dance class (three classes total) where you will become familiar with basic Hula steps & hand movements. (Adults)

Mahjong: A Chinese Game and the Making of Modern American Culture Author Talk with Anneliese Heinz (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 7 PM

Join us for a conversation with author, historian and professor Annelise Heinz as she discusses how mahjong traveled from China to the United States and became a quintessentially American pastime. Registration is required. (Adults)



VIRTUAL ADULT BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Let's Talk Books - *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt (Virtual)

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 7 PM

Let's Talk Books - *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey (Virtual)

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 7 PM

Book Discussion - *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 3:30 PM

Transatlantic Book Club - *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt (Virtual)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1 PM

Join our friends from Dundee, Scotland, to discuss our AAR adult fiction selection!



Scan me for more programs and information

Questions to think about

while reading *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* and *Remarkably Bright Creatures*

Courtesy of elisabethtovabailey.net and readinggroupguides.com

- How do both authors express joy in their work?

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating

- There are two protagonists in *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, the snail and the human. Did you find yourself drawn to one more than the other? Does that say something about you as a person?
- How does one maintain one's outlook when illness—or any other type of challenge—results in numerous losses? Consider the ways in which major challenges reshape a life. What gets you through such challenges?
- The snail changed [the author's] understanding of the natural world as a whole. Did you feel the same way? Why?
- Discuss the real and metaphoric use of the “window” throughout the book. There is a window in the prologue at the hotel near the Alps, the window in the convalescent room, and the window at [the author's] bedside when [she] moves back home. Consider the importance of patient environment in palliative care.
- How did [the author's] decision not to name any humans in the narrative impact you as a reader? Why do you think [she] made that decision?

Remarkably Bright Creatures

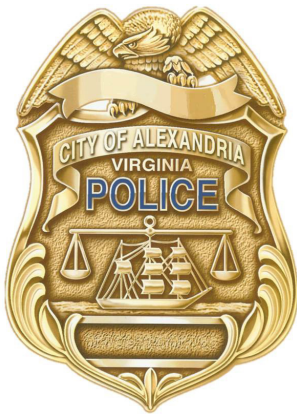
- What kind of person do you think Marcellus would be if he were human? What qualities do Marcellus and Tova both share that make this remarkable friendship a success?
- Each of these characters—animal and human—need each other in a specific way, even if they don't realize this at first. What qualities bind these characters to each other? Are they connected by loss, grief or something else?
- *Remarkably Bright Creatures* takes place in a Pacific Northwest coastal town in the recent past. The watery Puget Sound setting plays a major role in the plot, but how else does the setting inform the novel? How do you think the novel would be different if it were set somewhere like Arizona or Minnesota?
- Tova reflects on her experience caring for her husband through his illness and eventual passing, and with no surviving family to do the same for her, she worries about being a burden on her friends as she ages. How do you view the role of community and family in caring for older people? How did Tova's views on this change throughout the book, and why do you think they did?
- Marcellus' life in captivity is much different than the life of an octopus in the wild—and eventually, Terry reveals that Marcellus was rescued from the sea after a life-threatening injury. Aquariums play an important role in education and conservation, but some people view keeping animals, especially intelligent ones, in captivity with skepticism. What do you think?
- In the last few pages of the novel, Tova and Cameron realize how they are truly connected. What do you imagine they are doing a year from the novel's end?

Sponsors and Partners

All Alexandria Reads is made possible through a generous grant from the

James M. Duncan, Jr. Library Foundation, Inc.

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