

### **Scott LaMar's book recommendations**

- *Running with Sherman*, by Christopher McDougall
- *The Last Stone*, by Mark Bowden
- *The Presidents*, by Brian Lamb and Susan Swain
- *A Mother's Reckoning*, by Sue Klebold
- *Super Mad at Everything – All the Time*, by Alison Dagnes

**Russ Walker, Executive Editor of PA Post, tweeted his recommendations:** "Catch and Kill" by [@RonanFarrow](#), "She Said" by [@jodikantor](#) and [@mega2e](#), "Milkman" by Anna Burns; "Frederick Douglass" by [@davidwblight](#)

### **Smart Talk Listener recommendations**

- Mary recommends: "Carriers of Genius: Conversations with the Mothers of Twelve Famous Men" by Jan Helen McGee. This is a timely and timeless glimpse into the lives of unsung mothers of men such as Walt Disney, Ben Franklin, George Gershwin, Norman Rockwell, etc It was written by a talented writer who researched and then expanded the reader's awareness of these mothers lives, partly defined by the norms of married life, the rigors of bygone days and partly embellished by a deeper part of her mind. I met the author at Spooky Nook Women's Expo in Oct 2019, and she sold me her last copy. I have been a feature writer (Baltimore SUN 2003-2008) that hates to read! I also was Producer's assistant on biographies of famous people in history "Against the Odds" on cable Nickelodeon channel in 1981-2. As such I oversaw rewrites of scripts and know what it takes to write a biography. With this book, which I couldn't stop reading, the interviews that give a look at the lives of the mothers who nurtured these 12 famous men have a more personal approach. This is a keeper book to reread!
- Abby from Steelton – The Penderwicks series, by Jeanne Birdsall
- Debra Hervitz from Harrisburg – She authored a book for children called, *Where I Live*, a first geography book for young children in the State of Pennsylvania.

- Kristin from Fayetteville: I wanted to recommend the books by Diane Rehm. I love her, and she has written a few books about her life that serve as guides for a few different phases of adult life. My favorite is *Toward Commitment: A Dialogue About Marriage*. Diane and John Rehm wrote this together, and it was a beautiful reflection on all aspects of marriage and parenting that I found very useful when I was in the early years of my marriage.
- Claudia offers: The Inspector Gamache series by Louise Penny.
- From Sharon in the Shippensburg U. Dept. of English:  
I recommend *The Penguin Book of Migration Literature*, the first global anthology of its kind. about immigrants and emigrants. It's an important book about people. It's a slim book that includes short stories, memoirs, poems, a short graphic story - from writers all over the world. The book allows us to feel a deep sense of humanity and connection with other people - and the writing is moving, sometimes funny, and often beautiful.
- Kathryn auto dictates this email: We have a book at home called the Pennsylvania Dutch night before Christmas written Williams Chet Williams. It is an absolute hoot the bells nickel comes in a wagon pulled by cows and if you can read it aloud with a Pennsylvania Dutch accent it is totally a hoot. I work in a nursing home and I pull it out every year and read it to my residence too much laughter and delight.
- Debra emails: It wouldn't be Christmas without *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. Not just any version, of which there are many, but the original manuscript edition with a foreword by Colm Toibin and an introduction by Declan Kiely. The Morgan Library and Museum (holder of the original manuscript) had it published in 2017 by WW Norton. Each facing page consists of a facsimile of the original manuscript page on the left with a typeset version on the right. An elegant presentation of a timeless and timely tale.
- Heather from Linglestown recommends: *The Lost Lecture* by Randy Pausch and *The Secret* by Rhonda Burn
- Neil Gaiman, *Art Matters*: This short book of essays includes a manifesto in support of libraries. Good for adults and older children.

- Lin-Manuel Miranda, G'morning, G'night. Beautiful collection of short poems sent as tweets by the author and actor who created the role of Hamilton in Hamilton. Life-affirming, positive bookends for daily reflection.
- Ellen from York recommends: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.
- Carol recommends: The Vanderbeekers of 141st by Glaser is a delightful children story for ages 8 to 12 that runs in the same vein as the Penderwicks or Bobsey twins but is contemporary, delightful, has a touch of magic realism. A graphic novel for the junior fiction reader is Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon Hale- fabulous.
- Sue from Elizabethtown: The Lost Words, A Spell book. By Robert McFarlane
- Bethany would like to recommend a couple of books by Lancaster author, Shawn Smucker. His latest novel is light from distant stars and Two of his works of fiction for young adults are The Day the Angels Fell and The Edge of Over There. All three of these books are engaging and I think it's great to support our local artists and authors.
- Listener recommends: The best Christmas pageant ever. We read this as family read aloud every year. We can do in in one sitting but when the kids were younger, we did it over multiple nights.
- Chris recommends: The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley. Just finished this delightful mystery gem by Alan Bradley. Very clever - did not want to see this one end. The heroine is an 11-year-old girl. The author wrote this, his first novel, at age 70.
- Martin recommends for Dog lovers - nonfiction "Dogtripping" and "Lessons from Tara" both by David Rosenfelt. Chet and Bernie mysteries by Spencer Quinn. "Dog Songs" a poetry book by Mary Oliver.
- Mr. Ellie offers: How about more science fiction recommendations? I'm a fan of the 1632 books by Eric Flint about an entire town that gets zapped by an alien artifact and goes from West Virginia in the year 2000 to Germany in the year 1631. The books, all fun reads, tells about how the people in the town influence the new universe, everything from Barbie dolls to modern medicine.

