

Read-A-Likes

If you liked *Picking Cotton*, you're sure to enjoy these other great reads!

Getting Ghost: Two Young Lives and the Struggle for the Soul of an American City

By Luke Bergmann

Grand River and Joy

By Susan Messer

The Help

By Kathryn Stockett

The Innocent Man

By John Grisham

Little Bee

By Chris Cleave

A Rip in Heaven: A Memoir of Murder and Its Aftermath

By Jeanine Cummins

Tested: How Twelve Wrongly Imprisoned Men

Held Onto Hope

By Peyton Budd

Then Came Evening

By Brian Hart

To Kill a Mockingbird

By Harper Lee



The Mission of the Neighborhood Library Association

is to bring people from neighboring libraries together to discuss & participate in programs selected to strengthen community ties & promote literacy among a diverse population.

Our Thanks to the NLA's Friends Groups for their generous support!

Come Visit Us Today!

Lyon Township Public Library

27005 S. Milford Road, South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-8800

www.lyon.lib.mi.us

Northville District Library

212 West Cady Street, Northville, MI 48167
248-349-3020

www.northvillelibrary.org

Novi Public Library

45255 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375
248-349-0720

www.novilibrary.org

Salem-South Lyon District Library

9800 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178
248-437-6431

www.ssdli.info

Wixom Public Library

49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, MI 48393
248-624-2512

www.wixomlibrary.org



<http://mynla.info>

The Neighborhood Library Association

 Presents

Community Reads 2012

"Few stories of wrongful convictions have happy endings, but the one told by Ronald Cotton and Jennifer Thompson-Cannino is far different. It is the powerful account of violence, rage, redemption, and, ultimately, forgiveness."

—JOHN GRISHAM

New York Times
BESTSELLER

PICKING

OUR MEMOIR OF INJUSTICE AND REDEMPTION

COTTON

JENNIFER THOMPSON-CANNINO

AND RONALD COTTON

WITH ERIN TORNEO

**Five Communities United
by One Book!**



Book Discussions

Oct 1, 7 pm, Novi Public Library
Oct 9, 6:30 pm, Wixom Public Library
Oct 10, 12 pm, Novi Public Library
Oct 16, 7 pm, Lyon Township Public Library
Oct 22, 7 pm, Northville District Library
Oct 25, 7 pm, Salem-South Lyon District Library

Discussion Questions

1. Were you surprised by how easily Ronald Cotton was convicted? How convincing do you think Jennifer's testimony was?
2. Do you think that memories can actually be corrupted, such that Jennifer actually saw Ronald's face in her memory even after she knew he was not really the rapist?
3. How much of an issue, if any, do you think race played in Ronald's wrongful conviction?
4. Did Picking Cotton change any opinions you held about the criminal justice system?
5. Why do you think Ronald and Jennifer were able to become such good friends? Did that surprise you?

Learn More

- <http://www.pickingcottonbook.com> - for more information about the authors, their story, and their cause.
- <http://thedianerehmshow.org/shows/2009-03-09> - to hear NPR's Diane Rehm's 03/09/09 interview with the authors.
- <http://www.cbsnews.com> - to watch Leslie Stahl's 03/08/09 *60 Minutes* interview with Ronald Cotton.
- <http://mynla.info> - to learn more about the Community Reads programs and the Neighborhood Library Association.

Community Programs

Self-Defense for Women*

Oct 6, 1 pm
Novi Public Library

*A youth craft activity in conjunction with this program will be available for children ages 4 years+.

They Didn't Do It!: True Stories From the Innocence Project

Oct 10, 7 pm
Northville District Library

Forensics: Investigation of a Crime Scene

Oct 29, 6:30 pm
Lyon Township Public Library

Personal Defense Mini Course

Nov 8, 6:30 pm
Salem-South Lyon District Library

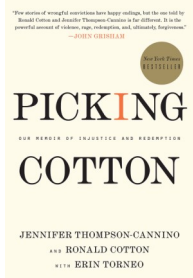
Meet the Co-Author:
Jennifer Thompson-Cannino
Nov 14, 7 pm
Novi Public Library



Everyone is welcome to attend programs at all NLA libraries. Registration for programs may be required. Please contact individual library for details.

About the Book

Picking Cotton is Jennifer Thompson-Cannino's story of being attacked by a man who broke into her apartment. She was able to escape, and eventually positively identified Ronald Cotton as her attacker. Ronald insisted that she was mistaken - but Jennifer's positive identification was the compelling evidence that put him behind bars. After eleven years, a DNA test proved Ronald Cotton's innocence and he was released. Later, Jennifer and Ronald met face to face and forged an unlikely friendship that changed both of their lives. In their own words, Jennifer and Ronald unfold the harrowing details of their tragedy and challenge our ideas of memory and judgment while demonstrating the profound nature of human grace and the healing power of forgiveness.



About the Co-Author



Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, a native of North Carolina and mother of teenage triplets, has become an outspoken opponent on the death penalty and speaks frequently about the need for judicial reform.

She is now a member of the Actual Innocence Commission, advisory committee for Active Voices, member of the Constitution Project and Mothers for Justice.