

Glacier National Park suggested reading list

(short and by no means complete)

There's something for every literary taste when it comes to books about Glacier. In thinking of books to recommend, one source is the Glacier Conservancy's Book Club, a virtual offering initiated towards the beginning of the pandemic. The engaging conversations are hosted by the Conservancy's executive director, Doug Mitchell, and the books re drawn from a wide panoply of genres and subjects.

**Books hyperlinked in blue are available for purchase via SubText Books
(subtextbooks.com)**

Books marked with [*] all have Zoom Glacier Book Club conversations that available to watch for free on [Glacier Book Club's website here](#).

- [Through Glacier Park](#) by Mary Roberts Rinehart*
 - A book that paints a picture that Margaret Hasse's mother would have been familiar with.
- *A Woman's Way West: In & Around Glacier National Park from 1925-1990* by John Fraely*
 - A wonderful account of park residents' experience in 1925.
- [A Fine-Spotted Trout on Corral Creek](#) by Matthew Dickerson*
 - Glacier Park is part of the largest intact ecosystem in North America, and home to key species galore. For those interested in learning more about geology, flora and fauna, a good way to set the scene is to travel along the rivers and tributaries. Glacier supports artists-in-residence, including the author of this beautiful read.
- [The Wolverine Way](#) by Douglas Chadwick*
 - Doug Chadwick is an incredibly engaging writer, and his book about one of the many species resident in Glacier is a delight.
- *Meltdown: The Earth Without Glaciers* by Jorge Daniel Taillant*
 - It's difficult to think of Glacier without considering the melting of the glaciers. This is a good overview.
- [Mortal Fall](#) by Christine Carbo*
 - For fiction fans, Glacier's craggy peaks and fast-flowing springtime cataracts have inspired many thriller writers.
- [The Wild Inside](#) by Christine Carbo*
 - Another of Christine's Glacier thrillers.

- ***Night of the Grizzlies* by Jack Olsen**
 - A true account of deaths from bear attacks in the park that brought about changes in bear management practices.

- **[A Culmination of Giants](#) by George Bristol***
 - The long history of the park lands, and the history of the national park and its establishment in 1910, is endlessly fascinating. The “bigger picture” can well be gleaned from this book.

- ***People Before the Park: The Kootenai and Blackfeet before Glacier National Park* by Sally Thompson***
 - The Park has two tribal neighbors, the Blackfeet and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai. This is an account of their history, intertwined with and inseparable from this landscape.

- **[Grinnell: America’s Environmental Pioneer and His Restless Drive to Save the West](#) by John Taliaferro***
 - For insight into how Glacier became a National Park, read this key biography of George Bird Grinnell.

- ***Wild River Pioneers* by John Fraley***
 - Some of the characters and goings-on that are the tales of legend are described here.

- **[Political Hell-Raiser: The Life and Times of Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana](#) by Marc C. Johnson***
 - The Wheeler family cabin, now donated to the Park for use as a meeting place, sits in a spectacular spot at the top of Lake McDonald. For those who appreciate political biographies, this will delight.

Many, many more Glacier-specific and more broadly relevant books are available, and we invite you to explore more! [SubText Bookstore's browser search is a good place to start](#) for more.

About Glacier National Park:

A brief history of Glacier National Park, from National Park Service website:
<https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

"Throughout time, people have sought out Glacier National Park's rugged peaks, clear waters, and glacial-carved valleys; its landscape giving both desired resources and

inspiration to those persistent enough to venture through it.

“Evidence of human use in this area dates back to over 10,000 years. By the time the first European explorers came into this region, several different tribes inhabited the area. The Blackfoot Indians controlled the vast prairies east of the mountains, while the Salish and Kootenai Indians lived in the western valleys, traveling over the mountains in search of game and to hunt the great herds of buffalo on the eastern plains.

"The majority of early European explorers came to this area in search of beaver and other pelts. They were soon followed by miners and, eventually, settlers looking for land. By 1891, the completion of the Great Northern Railway sealed the area's fate, allowing a greater number of people to enter into the heart of northwest Montana. Homesteaders settled in the valleys west of Marias Pass and soon small towns developed.

"Around the turn of the century, people started to look at the land differently. For some, this place held more than minerals to mine or land to farm . . . they began to recognize that the area had a unique scenic beauty all to its own.

"By the late 1800s, influential leaders like George Bird Grinnell, pushed for the creation of a national park. In 1910, Grinnell and others saw their efforts rewarded when President Taft signed the bill establishing Glacier as the country's 10th national park.”