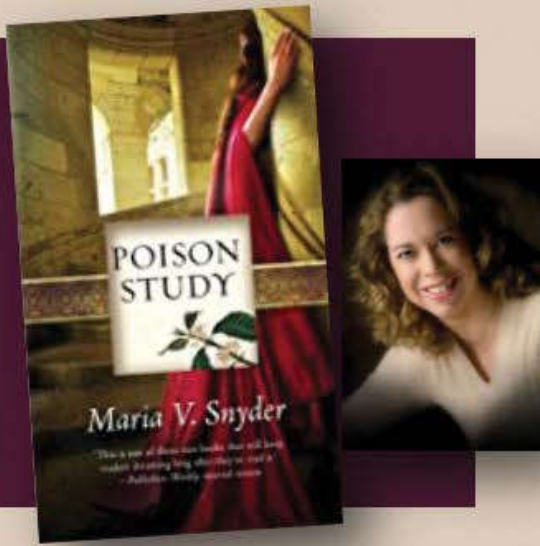


The 2018 One Book,
One Community choice is
Poison Study
by Maria V. Snyder



Join participating
libraries, bookstores,
and community
partners throughout
Central PA to read
and discuss this
title in 2018.

www.oboc.org

Our Region Reads *Poison Study*

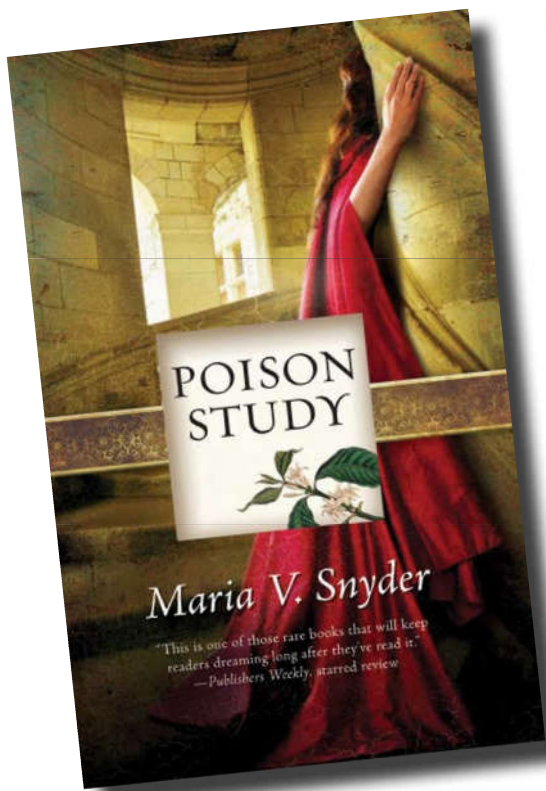
BY MARIA V. SNYDER

Given the choice to die or become the food taster to the Commander, what would you do? Yelena, the main character in Maria V. Snyder's fantasy novel, *Poison Study*, chose to live, even though that meant learning to discern the many different poisons that could possibly be added to the food or drink prepared for the leader of Ixia. She only survives each day with a daily antidote. Author Snyder has more in store for readers as Yelena tries to escape her situation only to run headlong into even more dilemmas. Add a cup of magic and a tablespoon of romance and you have a fine recipe for a Fantasy tale. We anticipate that readers won't want to put this book down and that they will also find that the characters will remain with them long after the last page is turned.

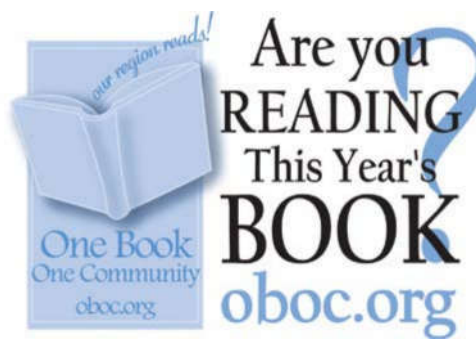
The regional reading campaign, named **One Book, One Community: Our Region Reads**, is intended to promote the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community in a common conversation. One Book programs encourage dialogue about a particular book, but also foster lifelong learning and the development of a strong community identity. Organizers encourage residents to read the book and to attend free programs and discussions.

“Poison Study rocketed over the other choices during One Book, Your Vote last August. Readers overwhelmingly chose a Fantasy title for the first time ever. Even if you are a non-fiction reader, pick this one up and journey along with Snyder’s well-developed, invented characters.”

Karen Hostetter, One Book Regional Steering Committee



Where do I get the book?



THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF our sponsors, public libraries in the participating counties have stocked up on trade paper copies of *Poison Study* where the book may be borrowed free of charge. The title is also available as an e-book in Overdrive or Hoopla. Check the participating library websites for more information:

Cumberland County Libraries
www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org

Dauphin County Libraries
www.dcls.org

Hershey Public Library
www.hersheylibrary.org

Middletown Public Library
middletownpubliclib.org

Perry County Libraries
www.pecoinfo.org

State Library of PA
<https://www.statelibrarypa.gov>

York County Libraries
<http://www.yorklibraries.org>

If you would like to purchase a copy of this year's selection, it is available for purchase at local Giant Food Stores, Aaron's Books, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Books-A-Million, Middtown Scholar, and at local area booksellers.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS:



THE ROBERT F. & BEVERLY U. FOWLER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Hudson News
Distributors, LLC



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Trustees of
participating
libraries

Thank you to our 2018 Friends and Trustees

Collinsville Community Library
 Dillsburg Public Library
 Dover Area Community Library
 Glatfelter Memorial Library
 Guthrie Memorial Library, Hanover
 Hershey Public Library
 Kreutz Creek Library, Hellam
 Martin Library, York
 Mason Dixon Public Library
 Middletown Public Library
 Newport Public Library
 Paul Smith Library of Southern York County
 Red Land Community Library, Etters
 Village Library, Jacobus
 William H. and Marian C. Alexander Family Library

Who picks the books?

A selection committee made up of community members representing all participating counties, reviews a number of books based upon broad criteria that include:

- A major author with a body of work, or an author who has received lasting literary recognition
- An author or recognized experts on the author, who would be willing to engage in discussion with readers at several events
- A good discussible book
- A book that is available in quantity, at a reasonable cost, in various media formats (paperback, large print, audio, or video)
- A book that is accessible to emerging adult readers (up to a high school reading level)

One Book, Your Vote

The selection committee then narrows the list to 3-5 finalists that are sent to the regional steering committee to plan for a public vote during the month of August each year. One Book, Your Vote is available online at oboc.org or at participating libraries. The selected title is announced in October, reading begins in January and book discussions and related events are held through spring.

For more information or to see the list of previous selected titles, visit oboc.org. Readers may send book suggestions throughout the year to oboc@yorklibraries.org.

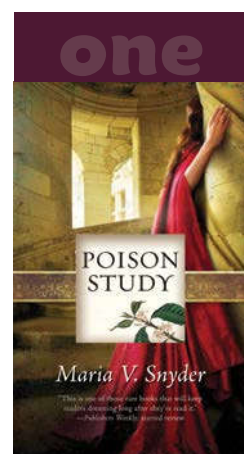
About the Author Maria V. Snyder

Meteorologist turned novelist, Maria's been writing fantasy and science fiction since she was bored at work and needed something creative to do. A dozen novels and numerous short stories later, Maria's learned a thing or three about writing. She's been on the New York Times bestseller list, won a half-dozen awards, and has earned her MA degree in Writing from Seton Hill University where she's been happily sharing her knowledge with the current crop of MFA students. She also enjoys creating new worlds where horses and swords rule, 'cause let's face it, they're cool, although she's been known to trap her poor characters in a giant metal cube and let them figure out how to get out. Readers are welcome to check out her website for book excerpts, free short stories, maps, blog, and her schedule at <http://www.MariaVSnyder.com>. (Goodreads.com)

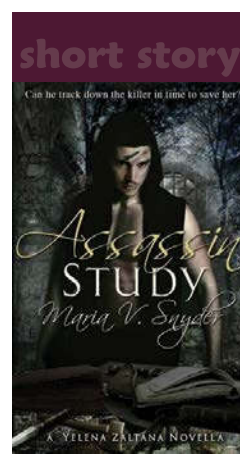
The whole realm of Maria's "Study" series is listed below in reading order:



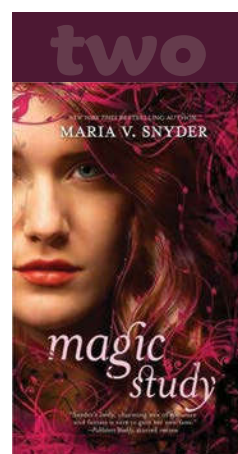
The Study Series



POISON STUDY



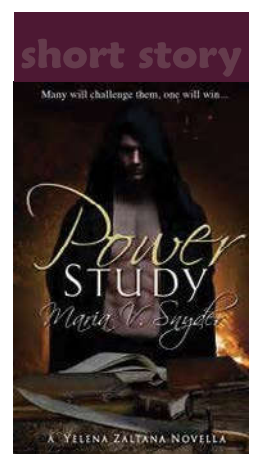
ASSASSIN STUDY



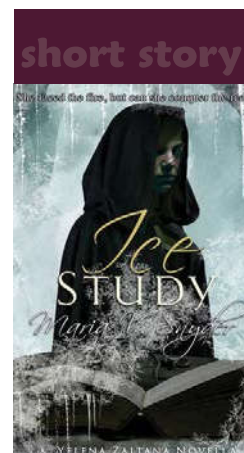
MAGIC STUDY



FIRE STUDY



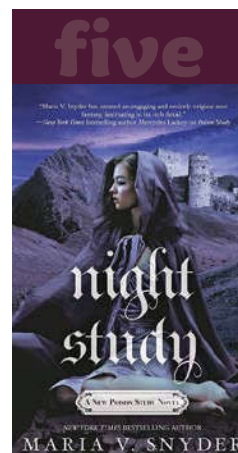
POWER STUDY



ICE STUDY



SHADOW STUDY



NIGHT STUDY



DAWN STUDY

ADDITIONALLY, THE POISON STUDY SHORT STORY COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND AUDIO. SEE THE AUTHOR'S WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF HER BOOKS.

Need more Fantasy? Try a few of these read-alikes:

PASSION PLAY BY BETH BERNOBICH: These suspenseful Fantasy novels combine an action-packed plot full of magic, political intrigue, and romance with a young woman's coming-of-age story. Traumatized yet resilient heroines are (reluctantly) trained in espionage and statecraft by enigmatic mentors whose intentions are often unclear.

THE BONE SEASON BY SAMANTHA SHANNON: A last-minute reprieve may prove to be a death sentence for the heroines of these suspenseful, intricately plotted fantasy novels, who must cultivate innate magical powers under the guidance of enigmatic appointed guardians while concealing these talents from their enemies.

MORTAL HEART BY ROBIN LAFEVERS: Tenacious heroines with dangerous vocations feature in these gripping fantasies filled with conspiracies, court intrigue and mysterious love interests. Annith, an assassin, and Yelena, a poison taster, must discern friend from foe and discover their power by unraveling their pasts.

THRONE OF GLASS SERIES BY SARAH J. MAAS: These fantasy heroines are given reprieves from death sentences -- if they're willing to risk their lives working for the king. As each girl embarks on her new life of service, she also encounters romance and unravels dangerous court secrets.

CLOSER TO THE CHEST BY MERCEDES LACKEY: Book 3 of the New York Times-bestselling author Mercedes Lackey's Herald Spy series, set in the beloved fantasy world of Valdemar.

THE EMPEROR'S SOUL BY BRANDON SANDERSON: Book 2 of the Elantris series, 2012 Hugo Award Winner - Best Novella.

THE NIGHT CIRCUS BY ERIN MORGENSTERN: "Erin Morgenstern has created the circus I have always longed for and she has populated it with dueling love-struck magicians, precocious kittens, hyper-elegant displays of beauty and complicated clocks. This is a marvelous book." —Audrey Niffenegger, author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*

See oboc.org for an expanded list of Fantasy books like Poison Study.

Sources: NoveList Plus, Goodreads, Fantastic Fiction, Boston Public Library, Barnes & Noble

An Evening with Maria V. Snyder

Come join Maria V. Snyder as she talks about how she sparked on the idea for her first novel, *Poison Study*, and how she developed that idea into a novel. Maria will also host a “poison” tasting for participants, by teaching them the tasting techniques she learned while doing research for the book. After reading an excerpt, Maria will answer questions and be available to sign books, which will be on sale before and after the program.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018 | 6:30PM
Guthrie Memorial Library
Hanover's Public Library
 2 Library Place
 Hanover, PA 17331
 717-632-518

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 | 2PM
Kreutz Creek Library
 66 Walnut Springs Road
 Hellam, PA 17406
 717-252-4080

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 | 7:30PM
Village Library
 35-C North Main St.
 Jacobus, PA 17407
 717-428-1034

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018 | 6:30PM
Red Land Community Library
 48 Robin Hood Drive
 Etters, PA 17319
 717-938-5599

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018 | 6PM
Dover Library
 3700-3 Davidsburg Rd.
 Dover, PA 17315
 Call the library to register
 717-292-6814

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018 | 6PM-8PM
Elizabethtown Public Library
 10 South Market Street
 Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania 17022
 717-367-7467

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018 | 6-8PM
Paul Smith Library of Southern York County
 80 Constitution Ave
 Shrewsbury, PA 17361
 Call the library to register
 717-235-4313

MEET MARIA V. SNYDER AT THE FOLLOWING BOOK DISCUSSIONS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018
6 pm
Middletown Public Library
 20 N. Catherine St.
 Middletown, PA 17057
 717-902-3016

Friday, February 2, 2018
1pm
Collinsville Community Library
 2632 Delta Road
 Brogue, PA 17309
 717-927-9014

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018
6:30pm
William H and Marian C. Alexander Family Library
 200 West Second Street
 Hummelstown, PA 17036
 717-566-0949

LADY JAYNE SALON READING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018
1pm-3pm
Cat's Meow Restaurant
 215 S. Charlotte Street
 Manheim, PA 17545
 717-664-3370
<http://www.thecatmeowmanheim.com/>

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018
6 pm
Hershey Public Library
 701 Chocolate Avenue
 Hershey, PA 17022
 717-533-6555
 The event is open to the public. Please register either online at <http://hersheylibrary.org/> or by calling the library.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
1 pm
Red Brick Bakery and Tea Room
 55 N. Main Street
 Red Lion, PA 17356
 Join the Red Brick book club from Kaltreider-Benfer Library to discuss *Poison Study*. Space is limited. Please call the bakery at 717-332-7427 to register.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018
2pm
Martin Library
 159 E. Market Street
 York, PA 17401
 717-849-6926
 Please call 717-849-6926 to register or online at yorklibraries.org/york-martin or here: <https://www.yorklibraries.org/event/poison-study-oboc-author-maria-v-snyder/>

Book Discussions:

NOVEL BUNCH
Thursday, January 25, 2018
6 p.m.
Collinsville Community Library
 2632 Delta Road
 Brogue, PA 17309
 717-927-9014

Thursday, February 15, 2018
1 p.m.
Dillsburg Area Public Library
 204 Mumper Lane
 Dillsburg, PA17017
 717-432-5613

Thursday, February 15, 2018
6:30 p.m.
Dillsburg Area Public Library
 204 Mumper Lane
 Dillsburg, PA
 717-432-5613

Tuesday, February 20, 2018
7 p.m.
Red Land Community Library
 48 Robin Hood Drive
 Etters, PA 17319
 717-938-5599

Thursday, February 22, 2018
6:30p.m.
Glatfelter Memorial Library
 101 Greenview Rd.
 Spring Grove, PA
 717-225-3220

GLEN ROCK LITERARY SOCIETY
Monday, February 26, 2018
6:30 pm
Arthur Hufnagel Library
 32 Main St.
 Glen Rock, PA 17327
 717-235-1127

Tuesday, February 27, 2018
12 p.m.
Kaltreider-Benfer Library
 147 S. Charles Street
 Red Lion, PA 17356
 717-244-2032
 Join the Mystery Readers Book Club to discuss *Poison Study*.

Thursday, March 1, 2018
7 p.m.
Mason-Dixon Library
 250 Bailey Drive
 Stewartstown PA, PA 17363
 717-993-2404

OBOC-INSPIRED CHOCOLATE TASTING

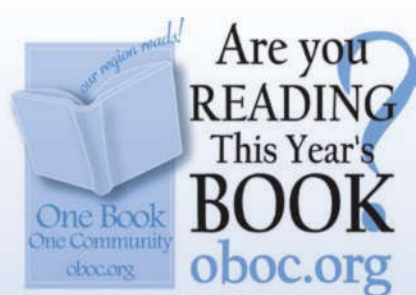
April 28
2 p.m.
Martin Library
 150 East Market St, York PA
 717-849-6926

York City's Sweet Melissa's Dream will conduct a chocolate tasting at Martin Library. Experience delicious chocolates and enjoy the different characteristics each chocolate has to offer. Understand the hidden elements and flavors of the chocolates as if you were a food taster like Yelena in *Poison Study*. Please call 717-849-6926 to register or at www.yorklibraries.org/york-martin, or here: <https://www.yorklibraries.org/event/oboc-inspired-chocolate-tasting/>

POISON STUDY

Discussion Questions

- 📖 **Yelena admits to murder in the first chapter.** Do you think she was justified in killing Reyad or do you believe that she should have explored other options? What options were available to her?
- 📖 **There are two references to butterflies.** One is the name of Valek's poison and the other is the pendant that Valek carves for Yelena. How do butterflies relate to Yelena? What other symbols in the book represent Yelena's quest for freedom?
- 📖 **The Territory of Ixia is ruled by a military dictator.** How does the book go against the stereotype of a dictatorship? What did you like about the Commander's style of governing? Do you think having the population wear uniforms suppresses their individuality?
- 📖 **Commander Ambrose is a strong character.** Were you surprised to find out his secret? Do you think he would have gained power without the deception? Has the revelation changed how you view the Commander?
- 📖 **Why do you think the Commander frowned on religion?** Should religion be a part of government?
- 📖 **In the beginning of the book Yelena empathizes with rats and cockroaches, feeling like she needs to run and hide.** How do her views change throughout the book? How does Yelena change?
- 📖 **The Commander's prohibition on magic doesn't change even when Yelena rescues him.** Were you surprised by this? Do you think his uncompromising laws (i.e. Code of Behavior) are an asset or a detriment to his rule?
- 📖 **Valek is a ruthless assassin who poisons Yelena.** Yelena should view him as her enemy yet she can't condemn him and eventually she falls in love with him. Why?
- 📖 **Butterfly's Dust is the poison Valek gives to Yelena to keep her from escaping.** Yelena eventually finds out exactly what she's been given. Were you surprised? Would you have been as understanding of Valek's tactics that Yelena was? Should she have been angrier at Valek?
- 📖 **Criollo is used to influence a person's will. This substance is used as a weapon.** What does Criollo resemble in real life? If Mogkan and Reyad had this substance sooner, how would it have affected Yelena's resistance to their attempts to wipe her mind?



How the One Book Program Started

The idea of community-wide reading of the same book came from the Seattle Public Library. Launched in 1998, "If All Seattle Read the Same Book" was the first effort to promote reading and civic engagement through a community reading project. Following their success, numerous cities and communities across the country have implemented a One Book campaign and others have adopted the idea and made it their own.

What we read during past campaigns...One Book, One Community Titles

2017

Rose Under Fire
by Elizabeth Wein

2016

Gaining Ground
by Forrest Pritchard

2015

Orphan Train
by Christina Baker Kline

2014

The Worst Hard Time
by Timothy Egan

2013

The Cellist of Sarajevo
by Steven Galloway

2012

Zeitoun
by Dave Eggers

2011

The Help
by Kathryn Stockett

2010

The Book Thief
by Markus Zusak

2009

The People of the Book
by Geraldine Brooks

2008

The Grace That Keeps this World
by Tom Bailey

2007

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
by Mark Haddon

2006

The Kite Runner
by Khaled Hosseini

2005

The White
by Deborah Larsen

2004

Rocket Boys/October Sky
by Homer Hickam, Jr.