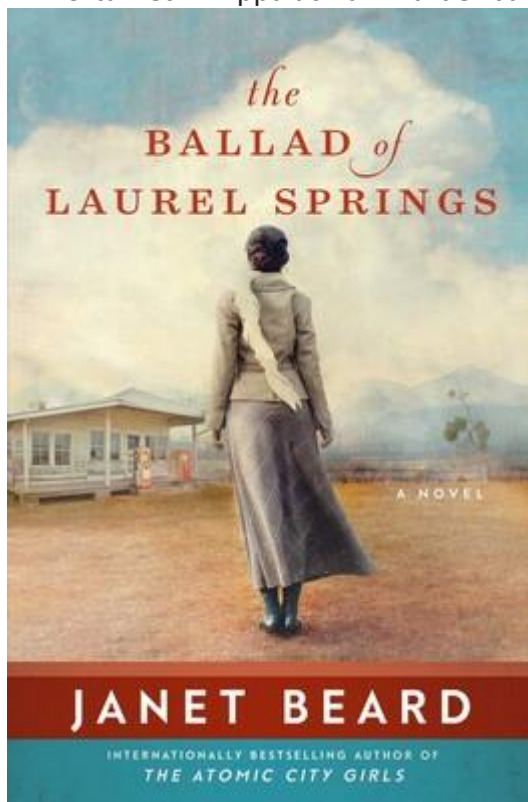


Welcome to [Radio Bristol Book Club](#) where readers from BCM and the [Bristol Public Library](#) come together each month to celebrate and explore books inspired by our region's rich Appalachian cultural and musical heritage! We invite you to read along and then listen to [Radio Bristol](#) on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon when we dig deep into the themes and questions raised by the books, learn more about the authors, and celebrate the joys of being a bookworm!

The Ballad of Laurel Springs is the story of a family in Tennessee who have been tangled up in a haunting legacy for generations. The story begins with a 5th grade Grace learning about how her great grandfather four generations ago murdered his lover, an act that became the inspiration for the ballad *Pretty Polly*. This revelation leads to a journey through the eyes of several generations of women in Grace's family as they are affected by the violence and tragedy immortalized in Appalachian murder ballads.



Janet Beard was born and raised in East Tennessee. She studied screenwriting at New York University and earned an MFA in creative writing from The New School. She has lived and worked in Australia, England, Boston, and Columbus, Ohio where she currently lives with her daughter. She published her first book - *Beneath the Pines* – in 2008. Her next book - *The Atomic City Girls* – became an international best seller in 2018. *The Ballad of Laurel Springs* is her most recent novel though she is already working on the next one. She is the recipient of the 2022 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award in Fiction.



Photo by Erin Yaeger. Simon & Schuster.

Please make plans to join us on **Thursday, October 26 at 12:00pm** for our discussion of *The Ballad of Laurel Springs*. You can find us on the dial at 100.1 FM, [streaming live on Radio Bristol](#), or via the Radio Bristol app. The book is available at the Bristol Public Library, so be sure to pick up a copy and read it ahead of time. The librarians will be happy to help you find it! We look forward to exploring this book on-air, and if you have thoughts or questions about the book that you would like to share with our readers, you can email info@birthplaceofcountrymusic.org (Subject line: Radio Bristol Book Club) – your book insights might appear on air with us!

Looking ahead: Our book pick for November is *The Coal Tattoo* by Silas House; we'll be discussing it on **Thursday, November 30, 2023**. Check out a full list of the books we have read in 2023 [here](#), where you can also listen to archived shows.

Erika Barker is Curatorial Manager at the Birthplace of Country Music Museum and an avid reader.