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Volume 25

Our
25th
Edition



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Shana Abé
An American Beauty:
A Novel of the Gilded Age Inspired
by the True Story of Arabella
Huntington Who Became the
Richest Woman in the Country

978-1-4967-3942-1 | \$16.95/\$22.99C | Kensington | TR

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *Therese Ann Fowler*, *Marie Benedict*,
Fiona Davis, and *Paula McLain*

"Abé is an exquisite storyteller, gracefully transporting the reader from Newport to Egypt to the cold seas of the Atlantic. Rich in detail and deeply moving." —*Fiona Davis, New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*



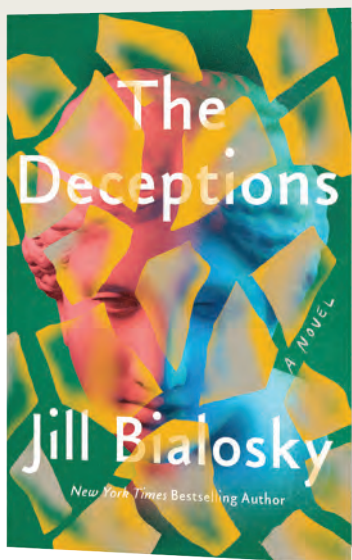
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Amidst the opulent glamor and vicious social circles of Gilded Age New York, this stunning biographical historical novel by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Second Mrs. Astor* conjures the true rags-to-riches story of Arabella Huntington—a woman whose great beauty was surpassed only by her exceptional business acumen, grit, and artistic eye, and who defied the constraints of her era to become the wealthiest self-made woman in America.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. By the time Arabella met the extremely wealthy and quite married railroad tycoon Collis Potter Huntington, she was seventeen, beautiful, and absolutely impoverished. Why do you think Arabella became romantically involved with the married man who was 32 years her senior? Do you believe she loved him? How were her feelings for him different from her feelings for Edward?
2. What do you think Collis's first wife, Elizabeth, thought when Arabella was hired to care for her? Did Elizabeth punish Arabella for the open affair she had with her husband?
3. Collis and Arabella each rose to riches after greatly impoverished childhoods. Describe how they each accomplished this. Do you think this was a bond between them?
4. Would you describe Arabella's rags-to-riches story as a "Cinderella" tale? What parallels are there, and where do the two stories diverge?
5. Arabella says early on that she is never afraid, but do you think that is true? What do you think she really feared?
6. Who do you think was the love of Arabella's life?

For more discussion questions visit: issuu.com/prhlibrary



Jill Bialosky

The Deceptions:

A Novel

978-1-64009-024-8 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | Counterpoint | HC

📞 978-1-64009-025-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Anne Carson, Donna Tartt, and Claire Messud, an explosive tale of art and myth, desire and betrayal.

***"The Deceptions is a deeply felt and formally original tour-de-force."* —Salman Rushdie**

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Something terrible has happened and I don't know what to do. An unnamed narrator's life is unraveling. Her only child has left home, and her twenty-year marriage is strained. Anticipation about her soon-to-be-released book of poetry looms. She seeks answers to the paradoxes of love, desire, and parenthood among the Greek and Roman gods at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. As she passes her days teaching at a boys' prep school, spending her off-hours sequestered in the museum's austere galleries, she is haunted by memories of a yearlong friendship with a colleague, a fellow poet struggling with his craft. As secret betrayals and deceptions come to light and rage threatens to overwhelm her, the pantheon of gods assume remarkably vivid lives of their own, forcing her to choose between reality and myth in an effort to free herself from the patriarchal constraints of the past and embrace a new vision for her future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you think of the narrator's relationship with The Visiting Poet?
2. How do you feel about the narrator? Is she a reliable character?
3. Images of sculptures and paintings the narrator mentions are included whenever the narrator references one. How did the inclusion of images in the book affect your reading experience?
4. What did you think about the narrator's relationship to the chorus and Greek and Roman gods? How do the stories of these deities tie into the narrator's journey?
5. What did you think about the academy and the other teachers the narrator mentions? Did the novel make you reflect upon the effect of the Patriarchy and its effect on the narrator and on your own lives?
6. What does the novel have to say about appropriation of ideas and stories?

For more discussion questions visit: issuu.com/prhlibrary

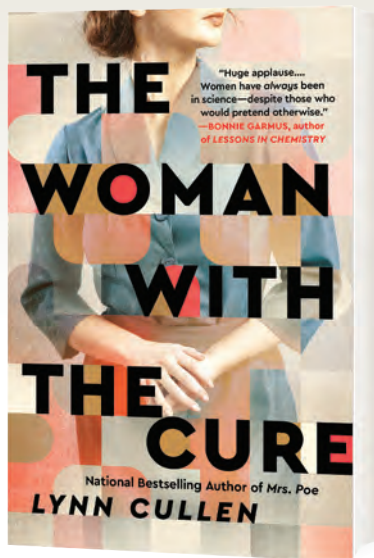
Lynn Cullen

The Woman with the Cure

978-0-593-43806-0 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Berkley | TR
📖 978-0-593-43807-7 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-67133-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A riveting novel based on the true story of the woman who stopped a pandemic, from the bestselling author of *Mrs. Poe*—perfect for fans of Marie Benedict, Lisa Wingate, and Beatriz Williams.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1940s and '50s America, polio is as dreaded as the atomic bomb. No one's life is untouched by this disease that kills or paralyzes its victims, particularly children. Outbreaks of the virus across the country regularly put American cities in lockdown. Some of the world's best minds are engaged in the race to find a vaccine.

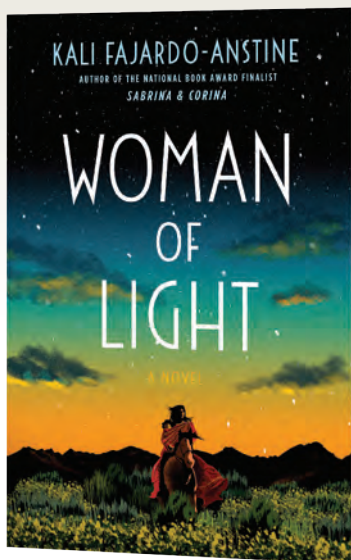
But Dorothy Horstmann is not focused on beating her colleagues to the vaccine. She just wants the world to have a cure. Applying the same determination that lifted her from a humble background as the daughter of immigrants, to becoming a doctor—she hunts down the monster where it lurks: in the blood.

This discovery of hers, and an error by a competitor, catapults her closest colleague to a lead in the race. When his chance to win comes on a worldwide scale, she is asked to sink or validate his vaccine—and to decide what is forgivable, and how much should be sacrificed, in pursuit of the cure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Examine the sacrifices made by the individual women in each lead-in chapter. Which of these women resonated with you the most?
2. As a reader, when did you understand Dorothy's mother's importance to Dorothy's success? How did her father contribute to building Dorothy's character? Who in your life has contributed to making you who you are, in quiet, easily unnoticeable ways?
3. What parallels can be drawn from the polio years and recent COVID-19 pandemic times? Did you find yourself reflecting on these recent years and making any connections to your experiences while reading?
4. In the book, Sister Kenny states, "We are what we have willed ourselves to be, whether we realize it or not." Do you believe that there is some truth to this?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.PenguinRandomHouse.com)



Kali Fajardo-Anstine

Woman of Light:

A Novel

978-0-525-51132-8 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | One World | HC

📖 978-0-525-51134-2 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-41625-9

📖 LP: 978-0-593-60830-2

Spanish-Language Edition: 978-1-644-73552-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

An epic of betrayal, love, and fate that spans five generations of an Indigenous Chicano family in the American West, perfect for fans of Isabel Allende's *A Long Petal of the Sea*, Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*, Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*, and Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman*, as well as the author's own *Sabrina & Corina*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Luz “Little Light” Lopez, a tea leaf reader and laundress, is left to fend for herself after her older brother, Diego, a snake charmer and factory worker, is run out of town by a violent white mob. As Luz navigates 1930s Denver, she begins to have visions that transport her to her Indigenous homeland in the nearby Lost Territory. Luz recollects her ancestors’ origins, how her family flourished, and how they were threatened. She bears witness to the sinister forces that have devastated her people and their homelands for generations. In the end, it is up to Luz to save her family stories from disappearing into oblivion.

Written in Kali Fajardo-Anstine’s singular voice, *Woman of Light* is a transfixing novel about survival, family secrets, and love—filled with an unforgettable cast of characters.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the significance of the novel’s title, *Woman of Light*. What role does light play in the book?
2. How does the novel address the importance of storytelling? How do you think we inherit the stories of our ancestors and what power do they hold over us? If you are comfortable with it, share a story about one of your ancestors and discuss the ways it influenced your life.
3. Kali Fajardo-Anstine writes, “Sometimes men were like that, treating a girl’s voice as if it had slipped from her mouth and fallen directly into a pit.” How does the author give the women of this novel a voice?
4. Discuss the novel’s visual imagery, from the landscape to the characters’ clothing. How does the author bring the setting to life?
5. How is *Woman of Light* a new narrative of the American West? How does it compare to older, more textbook literature in this canon?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/WomanOfLightBCKit

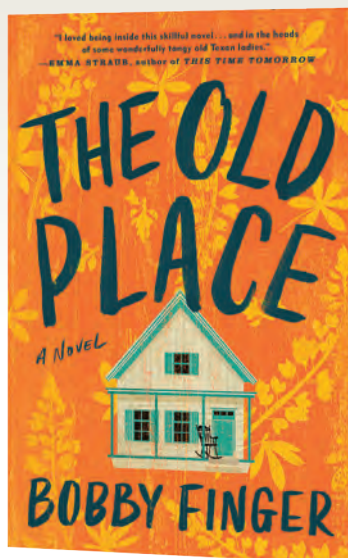
Bobby Finger

The Old Place

978-0-593-42234-2 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Putnam | HC
📖 978-0-593-42235-9 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-63041-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

A bighearted and moving debut about a wry retired schoolteacher whose decade-old secret threatens to come to light and send shockwaves through her small Texas town—perfect for readers of Emma Straub, Anne Tyler, and Elizabeth Strout.



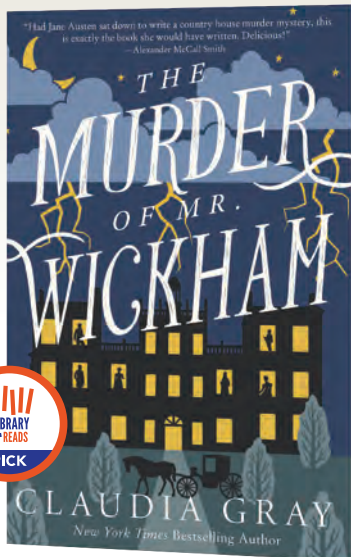
ABOUT THE BOOK:

A few months into her retirement, Mary Alice does not know how to fill her days. At least there's Ellie, whose reemergence in Mary Alice's life is the one thing soothing the sting of retirement. Mary Alice and Ellie were a pair since the day Ellie moved in next door. That they both were single mothers—Mary Alice widowed, Ellie divorced—with sons the same age was a pleasant coincidence, but they were forever linked when they lost the boys, one right after the other. Years later, the two are working their way back to a comfortable friendship. But when Mary Alice's sister arrives on her doorstep with a staggering piece of news, it jeopardizes the careful shell she's built around her life. The whole of her friendship with Ellie is put at risk, the fabric of a place as steadfast as Billington is questioned, and the unflappable, knotty fixture that is Mary Alice Roth might have to change after all these years.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the center of *The Old Place* is Mary Alice Roth, who is both loved and feared by the people of Billington. Why do you think that is? How did you feel about her as a reader?
2. What significance does the old place hold for the Roth family? What role has it played in their lives?
3. It's widely believed that Ellie is Mary Alice's only real friend. Talk about the relationship between them. What does each get out of their friendship? Do you think they are well-suited to each other?
4. What do you think of Katherine's decision to return to Billington?
5. Over a decade ago, Michael made a rash decision, with lasting consequences. Decades before that, Mary Alice made a rash decision of her own but quickly chose to walk it back. Why do you think each did what they did?
6. Throughout the novel, we focus on the experiences of three central women: Mary Alice, Ellie, and Josie. Did you find yourself relating to one more than the others? If so, how come?

For more discussion questions visit: [issuu.com/prhlibrary](https://www.issuu.com/prhlibrary)



Claudia Gray

The Murder of Mr. Wickham

978-0-593-31381-7 | \$17.00 | Vintage | TR
978-0-7352-4177-0 | \$22.95C | Viking Canada | TR
📞 978-0-593-31382-4 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-59235-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For Jane Austen fans, readers of classic whodunits, as well as fans of literary crossovers.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The happily married Mr. Knightley and Emma are throwing a party at their country estate, bringing together distant relatives and new acquaintances—characters beloved by Jane Austen fans. Definitely not invited is Mr. Wickham, whose latest financial scheme has netted him an even broader array of enemies. As tempers flare and secrets are revealed, it's clear that everyone would be happier if Mr. Wickham got his comeuppance. Yet they're all shocked when Wickham turns up murdered—except, of course, for the killer hidden in their midst.

Nearly everyone at the house party is a suspect, so it falls to the party's two youngest guests to solve the mystery: Juliet Tilney, the smart and resourceful daughter of Catherine and Henry, eager for adventure beyond Northanger Abbey; and Jonathan Darcy, the Darcys' eldest son, whose adherence to propriety makes his father seem almost relaxed. In this tantalizing fusion of Austen and Christie, from *New York Times* bestselling author Claudia Gray, the unlikely pair must put aside their own poor first impressions and uncover the guilty party—before an innocent person is sentenced to hang.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Murder of Mr. Wickham* features most of Jane Austen's principal characters from her novels, continuing their life stories after the original books. Which of the characters' "futures" felt most believable? Most interesting? Did any of these futures ring false for you, and if so, why?
2. Today, Jonathan Darcy would probably be understood as someone who is neurodivergent. How do the Regency-era characters—including Jonathan himself—understand him? In what ways do the differences between Jonathan's time and our own make his life harder, or perhaps easier?
3. Mr. Wickham deeply resents the other characters, above all the Darcys. What do you think lies at the core of his resentment?

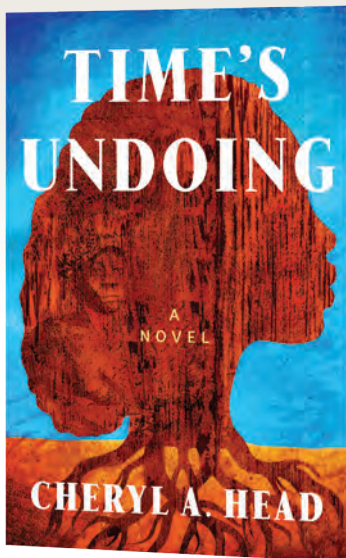
For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MurderofMrWickham

Cheryl A. Head
Time's Undoing:
A Novel

978-0-593-47182-1 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Dutton | HC
978-0-593-47183-8 | DN: 978-0-593-67133-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A searing and tender novel about a young Black journalist's search for answers in the unsolved murder of her great-grandfather in segregated Birmingham, Alabama decades ago—inspired by the author's own family history. For fans of Brit Bennett and Colson Whitehead.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Birmingham, 1929: Robert Lee Harrington has just moved to Alabama to pursue a job opportunity, bringing along his pregnant wife and young daughter. Birmingham is in its heyday—and while Robert and his family find much to enjoy in the city's busy markets and vibrant night life—it's also a stronghold for the Klan.

2019: Meghan Mackenzie, the youngest reporter at the *Detroit Free Press*, has grown up hearing family lore about her great-grandfather's murder—but no one knows the full story of what really happened back then, and his body was never found. Determined to find answers to her family's long-buried tragedy, and spurred by the urgency of the Black Lives Matter movement, Meghan travels to Birmingham. But as her investigation begins to uncover dark secrets that spider across both the city and time, her life may be in danger.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The opening scene between Cress and the detective starts the book out on an action-packed note. What did you think when you first read it? How does it set up the book?
2. We first meet Meghan at a funeral—her “fifth funeral in six months”, then in conversation with her grandmother, then in her editorial meeting at her newspaper. What do these three scenes tell the reader about Meghan's character?
3. The motto of the newspaper *Awaken* is “Progress Doesn't Happen While You Sleep,” which reminds Meghan of the BLM movement's phrase “stay woke.” How does this book compare and contrast the movements of the past and present?
4. Robert takes a lot of pride in his Franklin. What does the car symbolize to his character and to the story?
5. Even in the Jim Crow south, the Black population found ways to build robust and meaningful lives. What were the institutions and traditions that allowed Robert and Anna Kate to have endurance, creativity and faith in the face of segregation and race hatred?

For more discussion questions visit: [issuu.com/prhlibrary](https://www.issuu.com/prhlibrary)



Hua Hsu

Stay True:

A Memoir

978-0-385-54777-2 | \$26.00/\$36.00C | Doubleday | HC

📞 978-0-385-54778-9 | 📱 DN: 978-0-593-62819-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of friendship memoirs like Patti Smith's *Just Kids*, as well as coming-of-age memoirs around the Asian American experience of the 1990s like *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner and *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the eyes of eighteen-year-old Hua Hsu, the problem with Ken—with his passion for Dave Matthews, Abercrombie & Fitch, and his fraternity—is that he is exactly like everyone else. Ken, whose Japanese American family has been in the United States for generations, is mainstream; for Hua, the son of Taiwanese immigrants, who makes 'zines and haunts Bay Area record shops, Ken represents all that he defines himself in opposition to. The only thing Hua and Ken have in common is that, however they engage with it, American culture doesn't seem to have a place for either of them.

But despite his first impressions, Hua and Ken become friends. And then violently, senselessly, Ken is gone, killed in a carjacking, not even three years after the day they first meet.

Determined to hold on to all that was left of one of his closest friends—his memories—Hua turned to writing. *Stay True* is the book he's been working on ever since. A coming-of-age story that details both the ordinary and extraordinary.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the narrator's relationship with his parents, who are at times far away. How would you describe the Hsu family dynamic?
2. The memoir is set mainly in suburban California during the 1980s and 1990s. How does the time period and location shape Hua's experience of growing up? How does it mirror or contrast with your understanding of those decades?
3. Music is a prominent element in Hua's life throughout the book, influencing both how he sees himself and how he judges others. How does the music he listens to relate to or reflect the events in his life, from childhood to college years?
4. Have you ever experienced a sudden, shocking loss yourself or through someone you know? To which events in the memoir were you most able to relate? How would you choose to remember loved ones who have departed?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/StayTrueRGG

Taylor Jenkins Reid

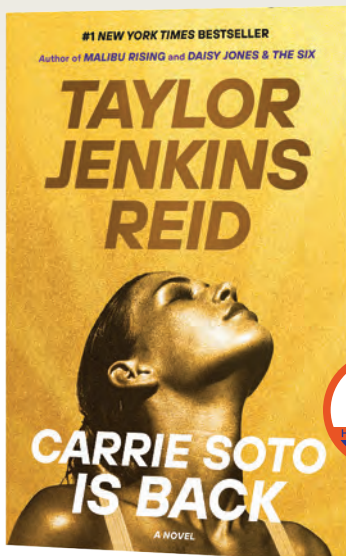
Carrie Soto Is Back:

A Novel

978-0-593-15868-5 | \$28.00 | Ballantine Books | HC
📞 978-0-593-15869-2 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-61417-4
📻 CD: 978-0-593-61415-0 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-63210-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

The bestselling author of *Malibu Rising* and *Daisy Jones & The Six* returns with a riveting novel perfect for readers of women's fiction featuring strong, inimitable female leads, such as Jojo Moyes's *The Giver of Stars* and Elizabeth Gilbert's *City of Girls*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Carrie Soto is fierce, and her determination to win at any cost has not made her popular. But by the time she retires from tennis, she is the best player the world has ever seen. She has shattered every record and claimed twenty Grand Slam titles. And if you ask Carrie, she is entitled to every one. She sacrificed nearly everything to become the best, with her father, Javier, as her coach.

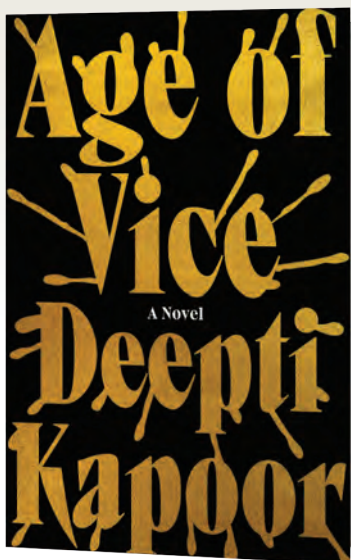
But six years after her retirement, Carrie finds herself sitting in the stands of the 1994 US Open, watching her record be taken from her by a brutal, stunning player named Nicki Chan.

At thirty-seven years old, Carrie makes the monumental decision to come out of retirement and be coached by her father for one last year in an attempt to reclaim her record.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe *Carrie Soto Is Back* to a friend? What would you consider as its major themes?
2. Describe the character Carrie Soto in three words. If you had the opportunity to change one thing about her, what would it be, and why?
3. Discuss the media's treatment of Carrie Soto. Early on, journalists called her "The Battle Axe." How much do you think that was warranted? How are the male and female players treated differently in the press?
4. Who were some of your favorite characters in the novel and why? Were there characters you considered villains? Why, or why not?
5. What makes Carrie's bond with her father so strong?
6. Carrie sees tennis as a world of winners and losers. What do you think of that view? How can such an outlook be beneficial, and how could it be detrimental?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/CarrieSotolsBackBCKit](https://www.tinyurl.com/CarrieSotolsBackBCKit)



Deepti Kapoor
Age of Vice:
A Novel

978-0-593-32879-8 | \$30.00 | Riverhead | HC

📖 978-0-593-32881-1 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-61202-6

📖 LP: 978-0-593-63268-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

This is the age of vice, where money, pleasure, and power are everything, and the family ties that bind can also kill—for readers of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* and Stieg Larson's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* franchise.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

New Delhi, 3 a.m. A speeding Mercedes jumps the curb and in the blink of an eye, five people are dead. It's a rich man's car, but when the dust settles there is no rich man at all, just a shell-shocked servant who cannot explain the strange series of events that led to this crime. Deftly shifting through time and perspective in contemporary India, *Age of Vice* is an epic, action-packed story propelled by the seductive wealth, startling corruption, and bloodthirsty violence of the Wadia family—loved by some, loathed by others, feared by all. Against a sweeping plot fueled by loss, pleasure, greed, yearning, violence, and revenge, will these characters' connections become a path to escape, or a trigger of further destruction?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the center of *Age of Vice*, is the astonishingly wealthy, dangerously corrupt Wadia family, whose elaborate web lures and entraps multiple characters. Theirs is a world where money buys pleasure, power, and loyalty—but what that loyalty is expected to look like differs depending on the person. Consider some of the different ways that loyalties are tested and proven, and how the outcomes vary.
2. Consider the novel's three main characters: Ajay, a servant born into poverty; Neda, an upper-caste, and educated woman; and Sunny, the playboy son of a crime family. How do their worlds, rules, and expectations differ and intersect? What do these characters illustrate about the different social realms of India?
3. Over the course of the novel, we follow Ajay through his formative years and witness his transformation from poor, young servant boy to a "Wadia man." What does it mean to be a Wadia man? Did his transformation surprise you? What does Ajay gain through this process and what does he lose?

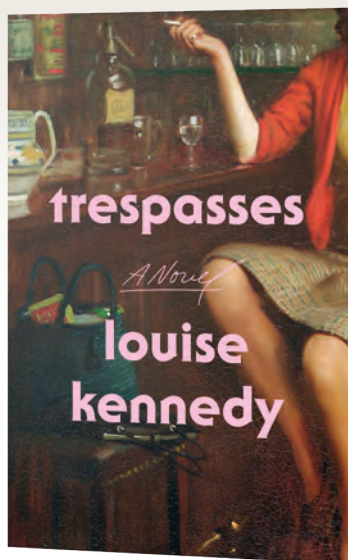
For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/AgeOfViceRGG

Louise Kennedy
Trespasses:
A Novel

978-0-593-54089-3 | \$27.00 \$37.00C | Riverhead | HC
📖 978-0-593-54091-6 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-61212-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

Set in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, a shattering novel about a young woman caught between allegiance to community and unsanctioned love—perfect for readers of Ann Patchett, Colm Tóibín, and Marilynne Robinson.



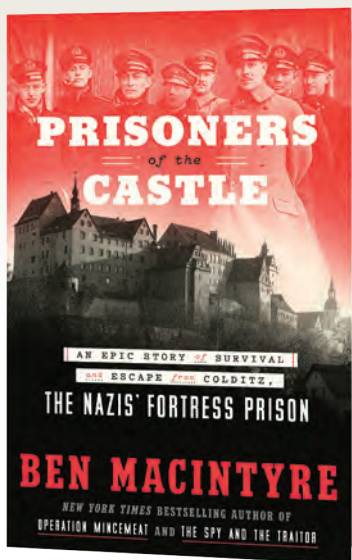
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Amid daily reports of sectarian violence, Cushla is living a quiet life with her mother in a small town near Belfast. By day she teaches at a parochial school, and at night she fills in at her family's pub. It's there that she meets Michael Agnew, a barrister who's made a name for himself defending IRA members. Against her better judgment—Michael is not only Protestant but older and married—Cushla lets herself get drawn in by him and his sophisticated world, and an affair ignites. Then the father of a student is savagely beaten, setting in motion a chain reaction that will threaten everything, and everyone Cushla most wants to protect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The book is set in the time of sectarian violence over control of Northern Ireland that came to be known as the Troubles. How does the conflict manifest itself, and how do the various characters situate themselves in relationship to it?
2. Cushla lives with her mother, a widow with a drinking problem. As the story progresses, we see how differently mother and daughter view the world. What are the most striking divergences in their perspectives?
3. Father Slattery, the priest at the school where Cushla teaches, is a character seemingly consumed with anti-Protestant hatred and bigotry. Do you think the novel lays this sin at the feet of religion, or is that simply the circumstance of this particular conflict?
4. Religion is only one of the differences that stands between Cushla and Michael. How do gaps in class, education, and age factor in as well, and how do they affect the balance of power in the affair and its ultimate fate?
5. Michael's career is as a barrister defending members of the IRA. How did you feel about Michael's sense of mission? Is he a hero?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TrespassesRGG



Ben Macintyre Prisoners of the Castle:

An Epic Story of Survival
and Escape from Colditz,
the Nazis' Fortress Prison

978-0-593-13633-1 | \$28.99 | Crown | HC

978-0-771-00197-0 | \$36.00C | Signal | HC

📞 978-0-593-13634-8 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-62926-0

📀 CD: 978-0-593-62924-6 | 📺 LP: 978-0-593-63207-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

The author of *The Spy and the Traitor* returns with the definitive and surprising true story of one of history's most notorious prisons. Perfect for readers of *Ghost Soldiers* and *The Monuments Men*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this gripping narrative, Ben Macintyre tackles one of the most famous prison stories in history and makes it utterly his own. During World War II, the German army used the towering Colditz Castle to hold the most defiant Allied prisoners. For four years, these prisoners of the castle tested its walls and its guards with ingenious escape attempts that would become legend.

Prisoners of the Castle traces the war's arc from within Colditz's stone walls, where the stakes rose as Hitler's war machine faltered and the men feared that liberation would not come soon enough to spare them a grisly fate at the hands of the Nazis. Bringing together the wartime intrigue of his acclaimed *Operation Mincemeat* and keen psychological portraits of his bestselling true-life spy stories, Macintyre has breathed new life into one of the greatest war stories ever told.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Had you known about Colditz before reading *Prisoners of the Castle*? What surprised you most about this book? Did the story defy your expectations? Was there anything about World War II that you learned, especially about the lives of POWs? Please explain.
2. Tunneling out. Rappelling down ramparts. Walking through front gate disguised as a German soldier. Which method of escape most impressed you, and why? Which method would you choose, and why?
3. Name three qualities you believe best help someone survive being a POW. Tell us why you chose them.
4. *Prisoners in the Castle* seamlessly moves between intense drama, daring adventure, a bit of romance, and unexpected moments of comedy. How do you think this enriches the reading experience? Which parts did you like most?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/PrisonersOfTheCastleBCKit

Rebecca Makkai
**I Have Some
Questions for You**

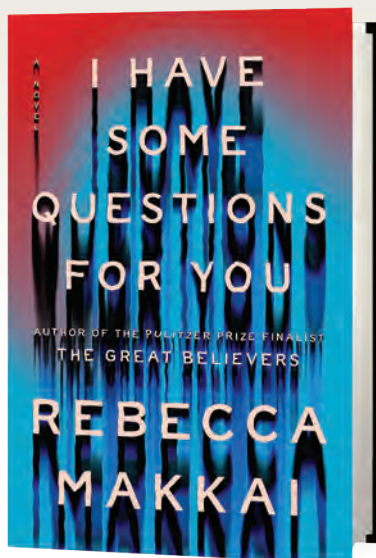
978-0-593-49014-3 | \$28.00 \$37.99C | Viking Adult | HC

📖 978-0-593-49015-0 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-67069-9

📖 LP: 978-0-593-67672-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

The riveting new novel from the author of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, *The Great Believers*, perfect for readers of Lauren Groff and Jennifer Egan



ABOUT THE BOOK:

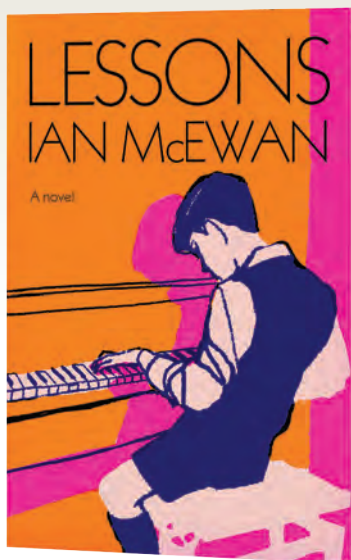
A successful film professor and podcaster, Bodie Kane is content to forget the family tragedy that marred her adolescence, her four largely miserable years at a New Hampshire boarding school, and the 1995 murder of a classmate, Thalia Keith. Though the circumstances of Thalia's death and the conviction of the school's athletic trainer, Omar Evans, are the subject of intense fascination online, Bodie prefers to let sleeping dogs lie.

But when The Granby School invites her back to teach a two-week course, Bodie is inexorably drawn to the case and its apparent flaws. In their rush to convict Omar, did the school and the police overlook other suspects? As she falls down the rabbit hole she was determined to avoid, Bodie begins to wonder if, perhaps, back in 1995, she knew something that might have held the key to solving the case.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Several characters in *I Have Some Questions for You* reflect on their adolescent selves—versions of themselves that feel at once remote and familiar. Do you think it's possible, with enough distance, for any of us—including Bodie—to see our high school selves clearly? How do you think cultural norms have shifted since you were a teenager? How does Bodie's sense of herself, then and now, affect her understanding of Thalia's case?
2. True crime media has become exceedingly popular in recent years. Why do you think fans of the genre find it so fascinating and even therapeutic to dissect such gruesome events? What considerations factor into being an ethical creator or consumer of true crime media?
3. Bodie's husband, Jerome, is publicly accused of predatory behavior in a relationship with a younger woman. Were you surprised by the way Bodie handles the allegations, or the fact that she was pressured to address them in the first place? How has the advent of social media shaped how public opinion forms and evolves when an alleged crime is made public?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/RebeccaMakkaiRG



Ian McEwan
Lessons:
A Novel

978-0-593-53520-2 | \$30.00 | Knopf | HC
978-1-03900-4689 | \$37.00C | Knopf Canada | HC
📞 978-0-593-53521-9 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-66399-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Amor Towles, Julian Barnes,
and Kazuo Ishiguro.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When the world is still counting the cost of the Second World War and the Iron Curtain has closed, eleven-year-old Roland Baines's life is turned upside down. Two thousand miles from his mother's protective love, stranded at an unusual boarding school, his vulnerability attracts piano teacher Miss Miriam Cornell, leaving scars as well as a memory of love that will never fade.

Now, when his wife vanishes, leaving him alone with his tiny son, Roland is forced to confront the reality of his restless existence. As the radiation from Chernobyl spreads across Europe, he begins a search for answers that looks deep into his family history and will last for the rest of his life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did your reading experience differ between passages and scenes related to major historical events and those that were more intimate and specific to Roland and the other characters?
2. Discuss the various "lessons" that Roland learns throughout the novel, whether they are explicit or implicit, asked for or imposed upon him. Who of his "teachers" leaves the biggest impression? How does he pass those lessons on to the future generation?
3. Which of the historical time periods that the novel traverses—from post-World War II to Covid—have you directly experienced? How did reading Roland's experience of them affect your own understanding, or lack thereof, of the events? In what ways do the circumstances of Covid, as explored in the novel, make us question the placement of the present in the fabric of history? Do you make efforts to preserve the present like Roland and others do, through journals, photographs, and other relics of memory?
4. Why does Roland's introduction of jazz music into his and Miriam's repertoire change the nature of their relationship? If you've heard "'Round Midnight," how would you describe the nature of the music, and perhaps why it was so threatening to Miriam's dominance over Roland?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/LessonsRGG](https://www.tinyurl.com/LessonsRGG)

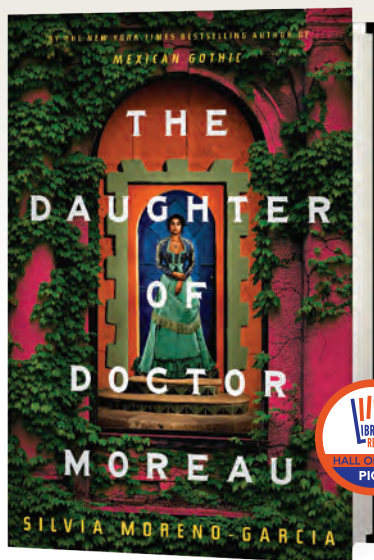
Silvia Moreno-Garcia
**The Daughter of
Doctor Moreau**

978-0-593-35533-6 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Del Rey | HC
978-0-593-35534-3 | DN: 978-0-593-61002-2
LP: 978-0-593-61355-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the bestselling author of *Mexican Gothic* and *Velvet Was the Night* comes a lavish historical drama reimagining of *The Island of Doctor Moreau* set against the backdrop of nineteenth-century Mexico.

Perfect for fans of *The Night Tiger*, *Washington Black*, *The Nightingale*, *Spinning Silver*, and *Circe*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Carlota Moreau: A young woman growing up on a distant and luxuriant estate, safe from the conflict and strife of the Yucatán peninsula. The only daughter of a researcher who is either a genius or a madman.

Montgomery Laughton: A melancholic overseer with a tragic past and a propensity for alcohol. An outcast who assists Dr. Moreau with his experiments.

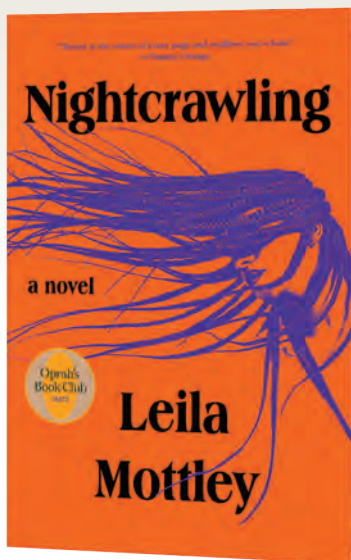
The hybrids: The fruits of the doctor's labor, destined to blindly obey their creator and remain in the shadows. A motley group of part human, part animal monstrosities.

All of them live in a perfectly balanced and static world, which is jolted by the abrupt arrival of Eduardo Lizalde, the charming and careless son of Dr. Moreau's patron, who will unwittingly begin a dangerous chain reaction.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Carlota has grown up in isolation on her father's estate. How do you think this has shaped who she is and the choices that she makes?
2. How did you feel about the relationship between Carlota and Eduardo? Between Carlota and Montgomery? What did you think about Carlota's relationship with the hybrids? How does her attitude towards them differ from her father's? From Lizalde's? How do you think you would react to the hybrids?
3. What is your reaction to Dr. Moreau's experiments? Do you think there are any circumstances under which genetic experimentation is ethical? Why or why not?
4. In the author's note, Moreno-Garcia talks about the historical context that inspired the story. How does the author use science fiction tropes to discuss subjects such as worker exploitation and the Indigenous experience?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/DaughterOfDoctorMoreauBCKit](https://www.tinyurl.com/DaughterOfDoctorMoreauBCKit)



Leila Mottley

Nightcrawling:

A Novel

978-0-593-31893-5 | \$28.00 | Knopf | HC
978-0-7710-5041-1 | \$32.95C | McClelland & Stewart | HC
📞 978-0-593-31894-2 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-59005-8
📖 LP: 978-0-593-60787-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers looking for exciting new voices that push boundaries, such as Jesmyn Ward, Yaa Gyasi, Brit Bennett, Tommy Orange, and Amanda Gorman.

AN OPRAH BOOK CLUB PICK

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Kiara and her brother, Marcus, are scraping by in an East Oakland apartment complex optimistically called the Regal-Hi. Both have dropped out of high school, their family fractured by death and prison.

But while Marcus clings to his dream of rap stardom, Kiara hunts for work to pay their rent—which has more than doubled—and to keep the nine-year-old boy next door, abandoned by his mother, safe and fed. One night, what begins as a drunken misunderstanding with a stranger turns into the job Kiara never imagined wanting but now desperately needs: nightcrawling. Her world breaks open even further when her name surfaces in an investigation that exposes her as a key witness in a massive scandal within the Oakland Police Department.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. A recurring element in *Nightcrawling* is the imagery of water, from the swimming pool in Kiara's apartment complex to the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. What do these bodies of water represent to Kiara and how do they manifest themselves in her emotional state throughout the text? Returning to the first and last pages of the novel, how does Kiara's perception of the pool change?
2. Which images of Oakland stand out to you most? How do development and underdevelopment contrast each other within the city? Could your own hometown be described in this way?
3. What are the different degrees of success and survival that Kiara sees in the characters around her such as Alé, Cole, and Uncle Ty?
4. Do you think it is important that the story is written from a first-person perspective? How would the novel be different if it was told by a character other than Kiara?
5. Read or listen to a few poems by Leila Mottley. As you reflect on the novel, what elements of her poetry do you notice being incorporated into *Nightcrawling*?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/NightcrawlingRGG

Celeste Ng
Our Missing Hearts:
A Novel

978-0-593-49254-3 | \$29.00 | Penguin Press | HC
978-0-7352-4534-1 | \$36.00 | Viking Canada | HC
978-0-593-49255-0 | LP: 978-0-593-63267-3
DN: 978-0-593-62963-5 | CD: 978-0-593-62961-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the number one bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, a deeply suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear.

A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK



ABOUT THE BOOK:

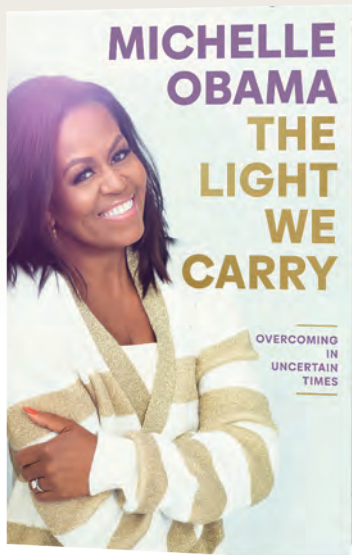
Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve “American culture” in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as un-patriotic—including the work of Bird’s mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old.

Bird has grown up disavowing his mother and her poems; he doesn’t know her work or what happened to her, and he knows he shouldn’t wonder. But when he receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, he is pulled into a quest to find her.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel takes place in a world that “isn’t exactly our world, but it isn’t not ours, either” writes Ng in the Author’s Note. What elements of the novel’s setting align with your understanding and experience of the events of the twenty-first century thus far? How close do you think we are to a society like that described in the novel?
2. The connection between literature and protest is powerful in the novel—from the proliferation and censorship of Margaret’s poetry to the network of librarians caring for the relocated. Why do you think this form of communication is so resilient against forces and events as big as the Crisis and PACT? How does it inspire individuals and groups in the novel to act?
3. Which form of storytelling resonated with you most in the novel, or in life in general: written or oral? How are they each used in ways to preserve the truth of lived experience when history or other dominant powers tried to erase them—such as the missing children, and Margaret herself?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/OurMissingHeartsBCKit](https://www.tinyurl.com/OurMissingHeartsBCKit)



Michelle Obama

The Light We Carry:

Overcoming in Uncertain Times

978-0-593-23746-5 | \$32.50/\$42.00C | Crown | HC
📖 978-0-593-23747-2 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-67789-6
📖 CD: 978-0-593-67787-2 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-67790-2
Spanish-Language: 978-1-644-73744-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of inspirational memoirs. In this follow-up to her #1 bestselling memoir *Becoming*, former First Lady Michelle Obama shares practical wisdom and powerful strategies for staying hopeful and balanced in today's highly uncertain world.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

There may be no tidy solutions or pithy answers to life's big challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux. In *The Light We Carry*, she opens a frank and honest dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much?

A rewarding blend of powerful stories and profound advice that will ignite conversation, *The Light We Carry* inspires readers to examine their own lives, identify their sources of gladness, and connect meaningfully in a turbulent world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discomfort is a teacher," Mrs. Obama writes: "Lack of reward is a teacher. Dealing with these things gives us practice at life, helping us figure out who we are when we're a little pushed." When in your life has discomfort been a teacher and what did you learn?
2. Mrs. Obama got her mother's permission to share some of her pearls of parental wisdom: Teach your kids to wake themselves up; Good parents are always working to put themselves out of business; Parent the child you've got.... Which of her maxims resonated with you most and why?
3. Mrs. Obama first publicly said the words "When they go low, we go high" at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Has your understanding of what Mrs. Obama means by "going high" changed after reading *The Light We Carry*?

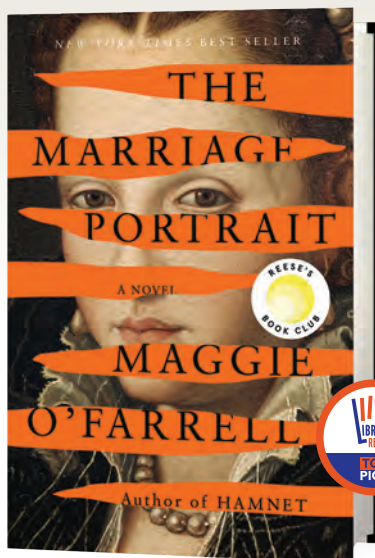
For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/LightWeCarryBCKit

Maggie O'Farrell
**The Marriage
Portrait:**
A Novel

978-0-593-32062-4 | \$28.00 | Knopf | HC
E 978-0-593-32063-1 | ♻ DN: 978-0-593-62809-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Anthony Doerr, Hilary Mantel,
and Jo Baker.

A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK



ABOUT THE BOOK:

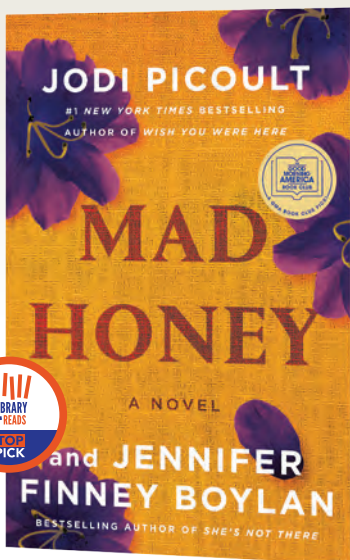
The acclaimed author of *Hamnet*—a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award—now turns her perceptive eye to the ruling families of Renaissance Italy, for whom marriage meant political power, while a woman's worth was measured by her ability to perpetuate a dynasty.

Inspired by a daughter of the House of Medici—Lucrezia di Cosimo de' Medici d'Este, who wed Alfonso II at the age of thirteen and died just three years later—*The Marriage Portrait* captures an opulent yet dangerous world. In the novel, Lucrezia is a gifted artist who is not afraid to speak her mind. But when her older sister dies on the eve of marrying the ruler of Ferrara, Modena, and Reggio, her father ensures that Lucrezia will become the bride instead. Forced to join an unfamiliar, often unwelcoming court after the pageantry of a high-stakes wedding, Lucrezia soon begins to fear her seemingly charming new husband. Why do his formidable sisters seem to tremble before him? And what will become of her if she does not produce an heir?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. From the start, Lucrezia's temperament is difficult for her mother to tolerate. Are Lucrezia's intellect and willfulness a liability or a benefit in shaping the course of her life?
2. What distinctions did you notice between the way girls and boys were raised in Cosimo's household? To what extent are Lucrezia and her siblings permitted to experience childhood innocence?
3. As you read the story of the tigress, what parallels did you see between the entrapment of trophy animals and the Duke's quest to preserve and expand his dynasty?
4. Discuss the novel's portrayals of motherhood. How do Eleanora, Sofia, and Emilia's mother (a cook and wet nurse) provide varied forms of sustenance to Lucrezia at key points in her life? Ultimately, who makes up her true family?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/MarriagePortraitRGG](https://www.tinyurl.com/MarriagePortraitRGG)



Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan **Mad Honey:** A Novel

978-1-9848-1838-6 | \$29.99 | Ballantine Books | HC
978-0-735-27693-2 | \$37.00C | Random House Canada | HC
📻 978-1-9848-1839-3 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-61411-2
📻 CD: 978-0-593-61409-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of thought-provoking fiction like Celeste Ng's *Little Fires Everywhere*, Liane Moriarty's *Apples Never Fall*, and Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*.

A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising their beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side.

Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start.

Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can't help but fall for him, too. Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police.

Mad Honey is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Both Olivia and Lily share a love for fun facts, especially about bees. What is the significance of having these bee facts in the book; is there one that particularly stood out to you?
2. Olivia's chapters move forward in time while Lily's move backward. How did this affect the story's narrative and the way information was revealed? Why do you think the authors specifically chose to focus the points of view on Olivia and Lily?
3. In many ways, Asher and Lily are two sides of the same coin. How does Asher's relationship with Braden (or lack thereof) mirror Lily's relationship with her own father and how does this contrast with the relationships they have with their mothers?
4. Do you believe someone who hits and abuses their partner can ever change? And if you were in Olivia's shoes, would you be worried about the potential cycle of abuse that could pass from parent to child? If so, what steps may you have tried to take to prevent this?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MadHoneyBCKit

Jill Santopolo Stars in an Italian Sky

978-0-593-41917-5 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Putnam | HC

978-0-593-41918-2 | DN: 978-0-593-67253-2

LP: 978-0-593-67668-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Light We Lost* comes a sweeping story of two star-crossed lovers in post-World War II Italy, and a blossoming relationship generations later that will reveal a long-buried family secret. For readers of Jojo Moyes and Fiona Davis.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

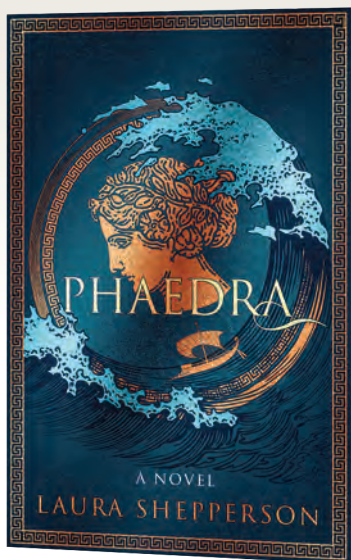
Genoa, Italy, 1946. Vincenzo and Giovanna fall in love at twenty-one the moment they set eyes on each other. The son of a count and the daughter of a tailor, they belong to opposing worlds. Despite this, the undeniable spark between them quickly burns into a deep and passionate relationship spent exploring each other's minds, bodies and their city, as well as Vincenzo's family's sprawling vineyard, Villa Della Rosa—until shifts in political power force them each to choose a side and commit what the other believes is a betrayal, shattering the bright future they dreamed of together.

New York, 2017. Cassandra and Luca are in love. Although neither quite fits with the other's family, Cass and Luca have always felt like a perfect match for each other. But when Luca, an artist, convinces his grandfather and Cass's grandmother to pose for a painting, past and present collide and reveal a secret that changes everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What aspects of Giovanna and Vincenzo's and Cass and Luca's relationships do you think are the most important? The most challenging? Which relationship do you relate to more?
2. If Luca and Cass switched places with Vincenzo and Giovanna, do you think their love stories would have gone down different paths? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the ways in which class and social standing played a part in both Giovanna and Vincenzo's, and Cass and Luca's relationships. Do you think Vincenzo was right to feel the way he did about abolishing Italian nobility? What about Giovanna? Did you empathize with one perspective more than the other?
4. If you could live in New York City, or Genoa, Italy, which would you choose, and why? Have you visited or lived in either city, and if so, what was your experience like?
5. Do you think Vincenzo and Giovanna ultimately made the right decision in 2019? Why or why not? If you were Cass or Luca, how would you have reacted?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/StarsinanItalianSkyDC](https://www.tinyurl.com/StarsinanItalianSkyDC)



Laura Shepperson

Phaedra:

A Novel

978-1-63910-153-5 | \$17.99/\$22.99C | Alcove Press | TR

978-1-63910-154-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Madeline Miller's *Circe* and Jennifer Saint's *Ariadne*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Debut novelist Laura Shepperson offers a powerful feminist retelling of Phaedra and her unyielding quest for justice.

Phaedra has been cast to the side all her life: daughter of an adulteress, sister of a monster, and now unwilling bride to the much-older, power-hungry Theseus. Young, naïve, and idealistic, she has accepted her lot in life, resigned to existing under the sinister weight of Theseus's control and the constant watchful eye of her handsome stepson Hippolytus.

When supposedly pious Hippolytus assaults her, Phaedra's world is darkened in the face of untouchable, prideful power. In the face of injustice, Phaedra refuses to remain quiet any longer: such an awful truth demands to be brought to light. When Phaedra publicly accuses Hippolytus of rape, she sparks an overdue reckoning.

The men of Athens gather to determine the truth. Meanwhile, the women of the city, who have no vote, are gathering in the shadows. The women know truth is a slippery thing in the hands of men. There are two sides to every story, and theirs has gone unheard. Until now.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Phaedra believes she led a charmed life in Crete before relocating to Athens. Do you agree with her? What are the key distinctions between Crete and Athens, and can you see any cracks beneath the surface of the Cretan palace?
2. Care of children is a theme that recurs throughout the novel: Minos, Theseus, Medea and ultimately Phaedra herself all make difficult decisions in order to protect their children. Do you find yourself empathizing with any of these parents?
3. Similarly, both King Minos and King Theseus are prepared to make personal sacrifices for political expediency. Are their actions justified?
4. At the heart of the novel is a court case that pits one character's word against another. Which character do you find more compelling? Does this change throughout the novel?
5. Do you see any modern parallels with Phaedra's story?

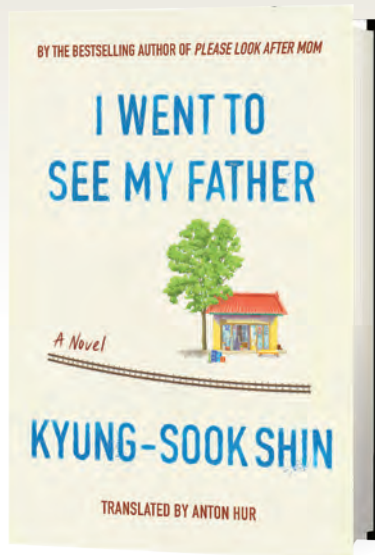
For more discussion questions visit: issuu.com/prhlibrary

Kyung-Sook Shin;
Translated by Anton Hur
**I Went to See
My Father:**
A Novel

978-1-66260-137-8 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Astra House | HC
978-1-66260-138-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

An instant bestseller in Korea and the follow up to the international bestseller, *Please Look After Mom*; centering on a woman's efforts to reconnect with her aging father, uncovering long-held family secrets for readers of Celeste Ng, Min Jin Lee, Yaa Gyasi, and Ocean Vuong.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Two years after losing her daughter in a tragic accident, Hon finally returns to her home in the countryside to take care of her father. At first, her father only appears withdrawn and fragile, an aging man, awkward but kind around his own daughter. Then, after stumbling upon a chest of letters, Hon discovers the truth of her father's past and reconstructs her own family history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The narrator returns home for the first time in years to stay with her aging father and is surprised to discover his rich past full of secrets. How does our perspective on our parents change upon entering adulthood? Or when we are thrown together by an emergency and suddenly have a lot of one-on-one time?
2. Food and farming are essential themes over which Hon and her father bond. How do these two themes bring the two central characters closer together, and how do they come to symbolize the distance between them?
3. Hon's father has lived through pivotal moments in South Korean history and yet he never spoke about it. How much can this be attributed to a generational reserve which is also typical of war veterans in general, and how much can this be indicative of his personality? As she uncovers the details of his life, how does it affect the way she thinks of him?
4. The book begins with the first time Hon returns home since the sudden death of her daughter. Yet this life changing tragedy remains in the background. How does this narrative choice reflect Hon's progress or lack thereof in processing what happened? How does this connect to the incidents Hon's father chose to withhold from his children? What does it tell us about the effects of personal trauma on family bonds?

For more discussion questions visit: issuu.com/prhlibrary



Parini Shroff

The Bandit Queens:

A Novel

978-0-593-49895-8 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Ballantine Books | HC
978-0-593-49896-5 | DN: 978-0-593-61524-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

A young Indian woman finds the false rumors that she killed her husband surprisingly useful—until other women in the village start asking for her help getting rid of their own husbands—in this razor-sharp debut. Perfect for fans of *All Adults Here*, *The Tiger's Wife*, *The Vanishing Half*, and *My Sister the Serial Killer*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Five years ago, Geeta lost her no-good husband. As in, she actually lost him—he walked out on her and she has no idea where he is. But in her remote village in India, rumor has it that Geeta killed him. And it's a rumor that just won't die.

It turns out that being known as a “self-made” widow comes with some perks. No one messes with her, harasses her, or tries to control (ahem, marry) her.

Freedom must look good on Geeta, because now other women are asking for her “expertise,” making her an unwitting consultant for husband disposal.

With Geeta's dangerous reputation becoming a double-edged sword, she has to find a way to protect the life she's built—but even the best-laid plans of would-be widows tend to go awry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the title, “The Bandit Queens.” How do you think it relates to the overall story? How does it apply to each of the characters in the book?
2. India and the village Geeta lives in are intrinsic to the story. Discuss the ways in which the setting functions as a character in the novel and how each of the other characters relates to it.
3. In what ways does the past seem to control, or at least influence, the present in *The Bandit Queens*? How do the characters try to repress or escape the pain of their pasts?
4. In what ways are the women in the novel limited in their choices? Did you find that Geeta's view on the matter in the quote above evolved over the course of the story? How?
5. What role does gossip play in the narrative? To what extent does it change the course of the characters' lives and help drive the plot within the story?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

Elizabeth Strout

Lucy by the Sea:

A Novel

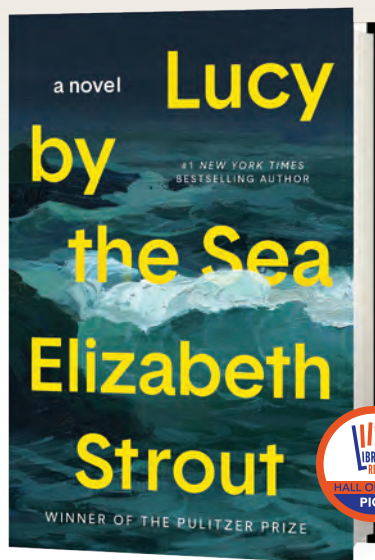
978-0-593-44606-5 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Random House | HC

📖 978-0-593-44607-2 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-66947-1

🎧 CD: 978-0-593-66945-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the Pulitzer Prize–winning and bestselling author comes a poignant, pitch-perfect novel about a divorced couple stuck together during lockdown—and the love, loss, despair, and hope that animate us even as the world seems to be falling apart. Perfect for fans of Ann Patchett’s *The Dutch House* and Lily King’s *Writers & Lovers*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

As a panicked world goes into lockdown, Lucy Barton is uprooted from her life in Manhattan and bundled away to a small town in Maine by her ex-husband and on-again, off-again friend, William. For the next several months, it's just Lucy, William, and their complex past together in a little house nestled against the moody, swirling sea.

Rich with empathy and emotion, *Lucy by the Sea* vividly captures the fear and struggles that come with isolation, as well as the hope, peace, and possibilities that those long, quiet days can inspire. At the heart of this story are the deep human connections that unite us even when we're apart—the pain of a beloved daughter's suffering, the emptiness that comes from the death of a loved one, the promise of a new friendship, and the comfort of an old, enduring love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the start of the novel, Lucy doesn't understand William's concern about getting out of New York City. Could you understand Lucy's ambivalence? How did you process the early days of the pandemic?
2. Reflective. Melancholy. Hopeful. Insightful. How would you describe the tone of *Lucy by the Sea*, and why?
3. Discuss Lucy's relationship with her ex-husband, William. Why do you think they have remained in each other's lives for so long? Were you satisfied with how they ended up at the end of the novel, or were you wary, like their daughters? Please explain.
4. Lucy's brother. William's half-sister. How did these siblings shape Lucy and William? What role did siblings play in their lives?
5. Why do you think Lucy invented a mother? What does this say about how we deal with trauma in the past?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/LucyByTheSeaBCKit](https://www.tinyurl.com/LucyByTheSeaBCKit)



Eoghan Walls

The Gospel of Orla: A Novel

978-1-64421-282-0 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Seven Stories Press | TR

📞 978-1-64421-283-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Anna Burns's *Milkman* and Eimear McBride's *A Girl Is a Half-Formed Thing*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Northern Irish poet Eoghan Walls's *The Gospel of Orla* is a debut coming-of-age story of a young girl, Orla, and the man she meets who has an astonishing and unique ability. It is also a road novel that takes us across the north of England after the two flee Orla's village together. Here the mysteries of faith charge full bore into the vagaries of contemporary mores. A humorous, wise, deeply human, and sometimes breathtaking work of lyrical fiction.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

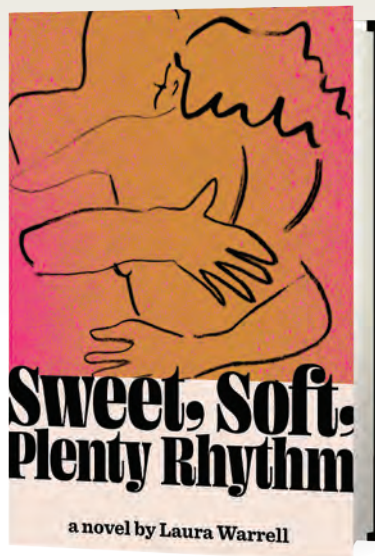
1. How might this book be considered an examination of immigration?
2. Orla is forced to consider different ideas about the afterlife. What version of the afterlife could be acceptable to a fourteen-year-old girl? What concept of the afterlife would you accept?
3. What resources—personal, material, societal—would Jesus need to make his return to humanity a success? What could “success” possibly mean here?
4. Would you forgive Orla if she was your daughter?
5. Why would anyone want an elephant?
6. Might this book be considered sacrilegious, or as a genuine questioning of the implications of resurrection?

For more discussion questions visit: issuu.com/prhlibrary

Laura Warrell
**Sweet, Soft,
Plenty Rhythm:**
A Novel

978-0-593-31644-3 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Pantheon | HC
978-0-593-31645-0 | DN: 978-0-593-62863-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Kiley Reid's *Such a Fun Age*,
Brit Bennett's *The Vanishing Half*, and
David Mitchell's *Utopia Avenue*.



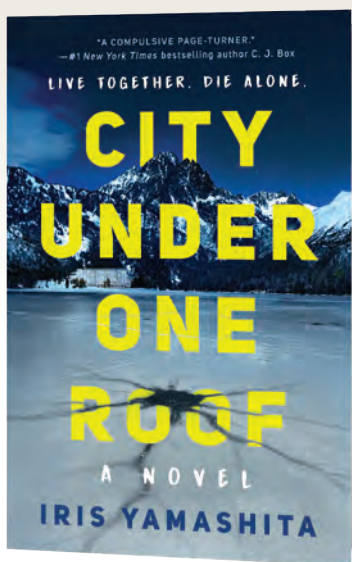
ABOUT THE BOOK:

It's 2013, and Circus Palmer, a forty-year-old Boston-based trumpet player and old-school ladies' man, lives for his music and refuses to be tied down. Before a gig in Miami, he learns that the woman who is secretly closest to his heart, the free-spirited drummer Maggie, is pregnant by him. Instead of facing the necessary conversation, Circus flees, setting off a chain of interlocking revelations from the various women in his life. Most notable among them is his teenage daughter, Koko, who idolizes him and is awakening to her own sexuality even as her mentally fragile mother struggles to overcome her long-failed marriage and rejection by Circus. Delivering a lush orchestration of diverse female voices, Warrell spins a provocative, soulful, and gripping story of passion and risk, fathers and daughters, wives and single women, and, finally, hope and reconciliation, in answer to the age-old question: how do we find belonging when love is unrequited?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Sweet, Soft, Plenty Rhythm* is set in 2013. How does the novel's chronological setting impact its plotlines and themes? Do you think the story would be different if it were set at another time?
2. When we first meet Circus Palmer, he is anxious about the approach of his upcoming fortieth birthday. As the novel continues, Circus is forced to confront his fears about aging and what it means to not have accomplished the goals he expected to achieve by this milestone year. Have you ever felt pressure to reach a goal by a certain age? Share your own experience of confronting those expectations.
3. Laura Warrell crafted this novel as a series of episodes told through an ensemble of women who have known and loved Circus. Whose story were you most curious about?
4. Music is used throughout the story as a bridge connecting lovers, family members, and even strangers to one another and to the joys of their pasts. Are there any songs in your life that evoke happy memories or have fostered specific connections with other people?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/SweetSoftPlentyRhythmRGG](https://www.tinyurl.com/SweetSoftPlentyRhythmRGG)



Iris Yamashita

City Under One Roof

978-0-593-33667-0 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Berkley | HC

📖 978-0-593-33668-7 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-62590-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

A stranded detective tries to solve a murder in a tiny Alaskan town where everyone winters in the same high-rise building, in this gripping debut by Academy Award-nominated screenwriter Iris Yamashita. For readers of Tana French and Jane Harper.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When a local teenager discovers a severed hand and foot washed up on the shore of the small town of Point Mettiet, Alaska, Cara Kennedy is on the case. A detective from Anchorage, she has her own reasons for investigating the possible murder in this isolated place, which can be accessed only by a tunnel.

After an avalanche causes the tunnel to close indefinitely, Cara is stuck among the odd and suspicious residents of the town—all 205 of whom live in the same high-rise building and are as icy as the weather. Cara teams up with Point Mettiet police officer Joe Barkowski, but before long the investigation is upended by a gang from a nearby reservation who are seeking shelter from the snowstorm.

Cara soon discovers that everyone in this town is keeping secrets. If there is anything as elusive as the residents themselves, it's answers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did having different narrators affect the storytelling? Did you identify with one more than with the others?
2. The author has said that she was inspired by Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Did you find any references in the story? Do you think there were any characters or moments that could have been inspired by the book?
3. Did your feelings about some of the characters change as you read the novel? Do you have a favorite?
4. What do you think you'd like most about living in Point Mettiet? What would you like least?
5. Do you think the ending was justified?
6. What do you think Cara will do after the revelation on the final page?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/CityUnderOneRoofRGG

Javier Zamora

Solito: A Memoir

978-0-593-49806-4 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Hogarth | HC

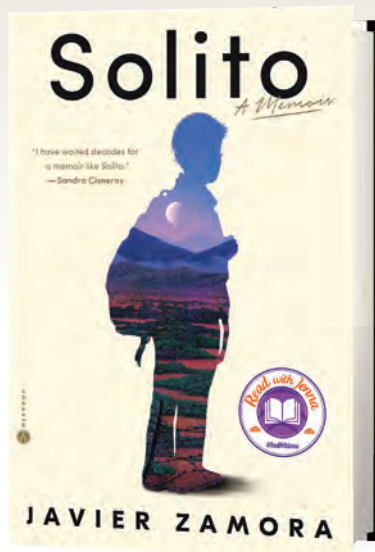
📖 978-0-593-49807-1 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-61114-2

Spanish-Language Edition: 978-1-644-73659-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

A young poet tells the inspiring story of his migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine in this “gripping memoir” (NPR) of bravery, hope, and finding family. Perfect for readers of *Enrique’s Journey*, *Educated*, *The Undocumented Americans*, *Sabrina & Corina*, and *The Line Becomes a River*.

A READ WITH JENNA BOOK CLUB PICK



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Javier Zamora’s adventure is a three-thousand-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a “coyote” hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks.

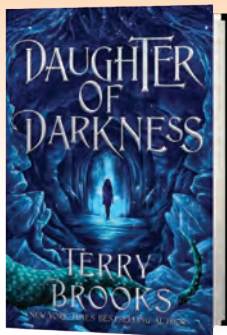
At nine years old, all Javier can imagine is rushing into his parents’ arms, snuggling in bed between them, and living under the same roof again. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family.

A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This memoir is told from the perspective of the author as a nine-year-old boy. How do you think that adds to the narrative? Would the book have a different effect if it was the story of an adult’s journey?
2. From Don Dago to others who remain unnamed, Javier relies on a network of coyotes to get him to America. What was your initial opinion on these coyotes? Did it change over the course of the memoir?
3. The journey wasn’t just physically taxing, but mentally, too. Discuss all that Javier—as a young child—has to memorize throughout the ordeal, from Mexican cities to political facts. Why might he have to pretend he is Mexican?

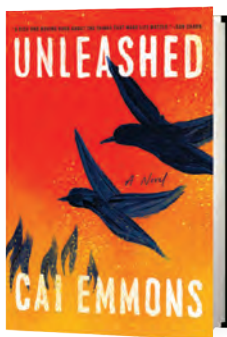
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/SolitoBCKit](https://www.tinyurl.com/SolitoBCKit)



Terry Brooks
Daughter of Darkness

978-0-593-35741-5 | \$28.99/\$38.99C | Del Rey | HC
 ⓘ 978-0-593-35742-2 | ♻️ DN: 978-0-593-45603-3

The thrilling second novel of an all-new fantasy series from the legendary author behind the Shannara saga, about a human girl adapting to her place in a magical world she's only recently discovered.



Cai Emmons
Unleashed: A Novel

978-0-593-47144-9 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Dutton | HC
 ⓘ 978-0-593-47145-6 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-593-62688-7

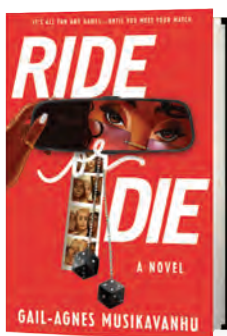
Set amidst California's wildfire season, a vivid and magical novel following a family in crisis thrust on a collision course with the world around them that has an outcome beyond their wildest imaginings.



Maya MacGregor
The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester

978-1-66262-042-3 | \$12.99/\$17.99C | Astra Young Readers | TR
 ⓘ 978-1-63592-570-8

In this queer contemporary YA mystery, a nonbinary teen with autism realizes they must not only solve a 30-year-old mystery but also face the demons lurking in their past in order to live a satisfying life.



Gail-Agnes Musikavanhu
Ride or Die

978-1-64129-420-1 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 ⓘ 978-1-64129-421-8

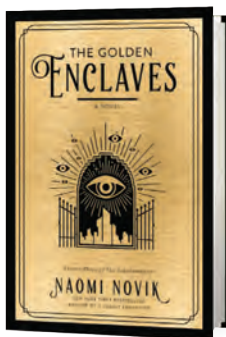
Complete with a unique playlist, this adrenaline-packed joyride of a debut is an ode to Gen Z and chaotic teens—perfect for fans of Grace D. Li, Ebony Ladelle, and *Baby Driver*.



GennaRose Nethercott
Thistlefoot: A Novel

978-0-593-46883-8 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Anchor | HC
 ⓘ 978-0-593-31417-3 | ♻️ DN: 978-0-593-62875-1

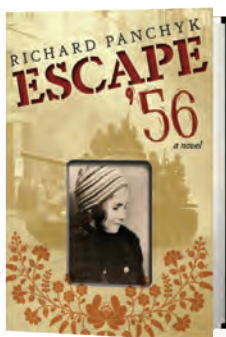
In the tradition of modern fairy tales like Neil Gaiman’s *American Gods* and Naomi Novik’s *Spinning Silver* comes an immersive fantasy saga, a debut novel about estranged siblings who are reunited after receiving a mysterious inheritance.



Naomi Novik
The Golden Enclaves: A Novel

978-0-593-15835-7 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Del Rey | HC
 ⓘ 978-0-593-15836-4 | ♻️ DN: 978-0-593-28746-0

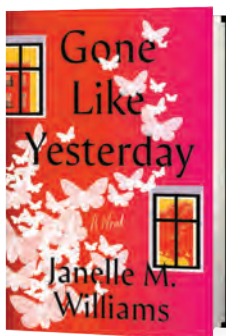
Saving the world is a test no school of magic can prepare you for in the triumphant conclusion to the *New York Times* bestselling trilogy that began with *A Deadly Education* and *The Last Graduate*.



Richard Panchyk
Escape '56

978-1-64421-253-0 | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Triangle Square | HC
 ⓘ 978-1-64421-254-7

For readers of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *Number the Stars*, a dramatic historical novel of escape during occupation and wartime and of starting life over in a new country. *Escape '56* is a novel based on the life of young Elizabeth Molnár (the author’s mother) and her family as they lived through the harrowing days of the Hungarian Revolution.



Janelle M. Williams
Gone Like Yesterday: A Novel

978-0-593-47163-0 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Tiny Reparations Books | HC
 ⓘ 978-0-593-47164-7 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-593-67139-9

A lyrical debut novel about a young Black woman who travels from New York to Atlanta to find her missing brother and develops a deep bond with a Black teenage girl along the way, as both women explore their connections with family, race, music, and activism and with the ancestors that haunt them.

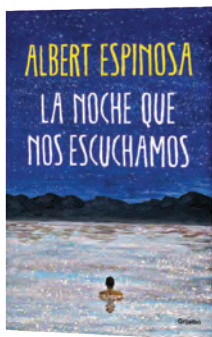


Yamile Saied Méndez **Furia (Spanish Edition)**

978-1-64473-558-9 | \$13.95/\$18.95C | Vintage Español | TR

In Rosario, Argentina, Camila Hassan lives a double life. At home, she is a careful daughter, living within her mother's narrow expectations, in her rising-soccer-star brother's shadow, and under the abusive rule of her short-tempered father. On the field, she is La Furia, a powerhouse of skill and talent. When her team qualifies for the South American tournament, Camila gets the chance to see just how far those talents can take her. *Furia* is the story of a girl's journey to make her life her own.

The Recipient of the 2021 Pura Belpré Young Adult Author Medal and a Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine Book Club YA pick, *Furia* is perfect for fans of *The Poet X* and *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*.



Albert Espinosa **La noche que nos escuchamos**

978-84-253-6107-4 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Grijalbo | TR

In his most personal story since *Red Bracelets*, Albert Espinosa returns with a novel full of action and excitement about second chances and the balance between dreams and promises. Enjoy the adventure of these two brothers who face a chaotic fate. It is important that we “get along” on the planet; in this absurd struggle, the losers will always be us.



Cormac McCarthy **El pasajero - Stella Maris**

978-84-397-4070-4 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Random House Literature | TR

The bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Road* returns with a two-volume masterpiece in an artfully designed box set. *The Passenger* is a fast-paced and sprawling novel while *Stella Maris* is a tightly controlled coda, told entirely in dialogue. Together they relate the thrilling story of a brother and sister, haunted by loss, pursued by conspiracy, and longing for a death they cannot reconcile with God.



Sue Zurita **El viaje de los colibríes**

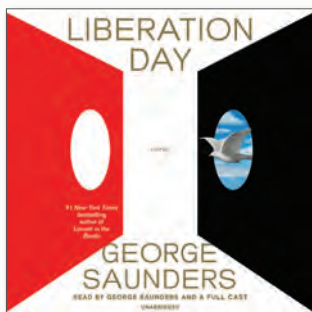
978-607-38-2100-1 | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Grijalbo | TR

Romina's life represents that of those who dream of going away and embracing a new future, with the main expectation of finding love and themselves. *The Journey of the Hummingbirds* is a flight without ending, in which Romina makes different stops to meet friends, to open strange cages, to discover unexpected wings, and to conquer the sky inside of her. *The Journey of the Hummingbirds* already has a place in the hearts of Mexican readers since Sue Zurita published her independent edition 8 years ago. This new edition, revised and updated, includes an unpublished chapter: A new ending for Romina.

ENHANCE BOOK CLUBS with AUDIOBOOKS

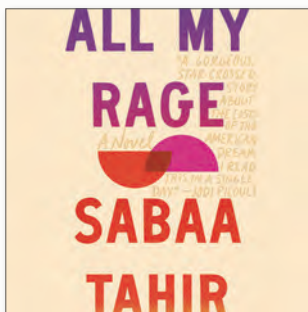
Finish the book on time; hear beloved voices read to you; play an audio excerpt at a meeting to enliven discussion. . . there's no end to the many ways that audiobooks can enrich any book club.

Here are just a few great listening recommendations:



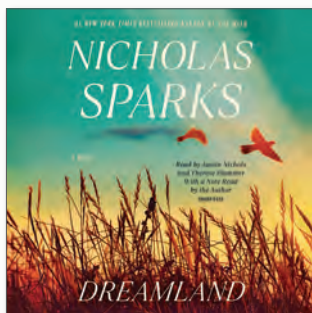
Liberation Day by George Saunders

Read by George Saunders, Tina Fey, Michael McKean, Edi Patterson, Jenny Slate, Jack McBrayer, Melora Hardin, and Stephen Root | CD & Audio Download
MacArthur “genius” and Booker Prize winner George Saunders returns with a collection of short stories read by the author alongside a fabulous and funny full cast including Tina Fey and Jenny Slate.



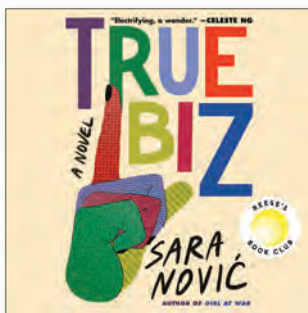
All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir

Read by Deepti Gupta, Kamran R. Khan, and Kausar Mohammed | Audio Download
Three narrators give voice to the varying perspectives of this National Book Award-winning YA title sure to captivate both teens and adults. A heart-wrenching contemporary novel about family and forgiveness, love, and loss, that crosses generations and continents.



Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks

Read by Austin Nichols & Thérèse Plummer with a note read by the Author | CD & Audio Download
Two beloved narrators bring this powerful audiobook to life in a discussion-provoking story about risking everything for a dream—and whether it's possible to leave the past behind. The perfect listen for romance listeners and music lovers and of course, fans of Sparks who lends his voice to the audiobook's author's note.



True Biz by Sara Nović

Read by Lisa Flanagan & Kaleo Griffith | Audio Download
This is a story of sign language and lip-reading, disability and civil rights, isolation and injustice, first love and loss, and, above all, great persistence, daring, and joy. Listeners will hear the sound of the American Sign Language in dialogue, recorded and layered under the spoken dialogue. A powerfully moving listen.

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