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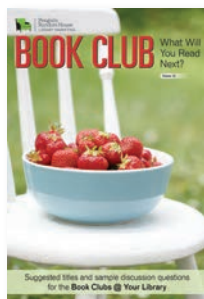
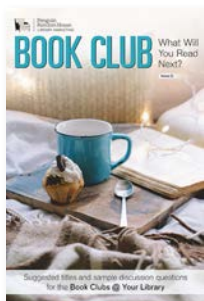
What Will
You Read
Next?

Volume 24

Suggested titles and sample discussion questions
for the **Book Clubs @ Your Library**

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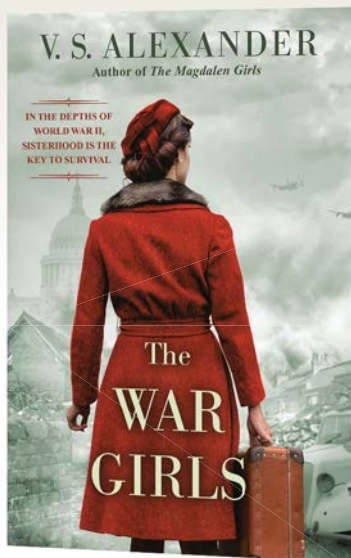
V. S. Alexander

The War Girls

978-1-4967-3479-2 | \$16.95/\$22.95C
Kensington | TR | July 2022

READERS' ADVISORY:

Based on true WWII stories of life in the Warsaw Ghetto, this powerful historical novel is perfect for fans of Alan Hlad's *Churchill's Secret Messenger* and Kristina McMorris's *Bridge of Scarlet Leaves*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Two Jewish sisters—one imprisoned in the Warsaw Ghetto and the other who joins the Special Operations Executive—attempt to free their family from the ever-tightening Nazi stranglehold.

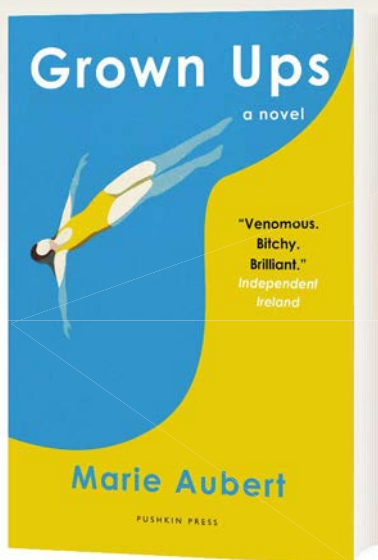
It's not just a thousand miles that separates Hanna Majewski from her younger sister, Stefa. There is another gulf—between the traditional Jewish ways that Hanna chose to leave behind in Warsaw, and her new, independent life in London. But as autumn of 1940 draws near, Germany begins a savage aerial bombing campaign in England, killing and displacing tens of thousands. Hanna, who narrowly escapes death, is recruited as a spy in an undercover operation that sends her back to her war-torn homeland.

Once a pretty and level-headed teenager, Stefa is now committed to the Jewish resistance. Together, she, Hanna, and Janka, a family friend living on the Aryan side of the city, form a trio called The War Girls. Against overwhelming odds and through heartbreak, they will fight to rescue their loved ones, finding courage through sisterhood to keep hope alive.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When World War II begins, the Majewski family, like others in Poland, believed that hostilities might be over soon. Without the benefit of history, would you have felt the same?
2. Different characters have varying opinions about the war. Even at his young age, Aaron wants to fight, much to the dismay of his father. Would you have been like Aaron?
3. *The War Girls* is dedicated to Emanuel Ringelblum, who preserved the history of the Warsaw Ghetto. Had you heard of him? How do you feel about the importance of preserving history through the written word?
4. Many Jews in Warsaw tried to preserve their religious and cultural traditions even after the Nazi occupation and eventual imprisonment in the ghetto. How hard would it have been to do so, knowing that such practices were often forbidden under penalties of imprisonment or even death?

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



Marie Aubert; Translated by Rosie Hedger **Grown Ups**

978-1-78227-708-8 | \$14.95/\$19.95C

Pushkin Press | TR | June 2022

📖 978-1-78227-654-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

A whip-smart novel about modern motherhood and sibling rivalry, from one of Norway's rising stars—perfect for fans of Emma Straub and the films of Greta Gerwig.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ida is a forty-year-old architect, single and starting to panic. She's navigating Tinder and contemplating freezing her eggs, terrified that time has passed her by, silently, without her ever realizing it, which feels even more poignant and common in our COVID era.

All she sees are other people's children, everywhere.

Now stuck in the idyllic Norwegian countryside for a gathering to mark her mother's sixty-fifth birthday, Ida is regressing. She's fighting with her younger sister, Marthe, and flirting with her sister's husband. But when some supposedly wonderful news from Marthe heightens tensions further, Ida is forced to mark out new milestones of her own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

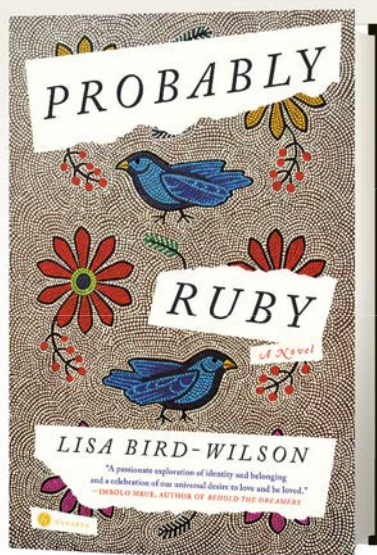
1. Ida and Marthe sometimes seem to be trapped in the dynamic that they had as young girls. Do you think that we outgrow our childhood sibling relationships?
2. Ida has plenty of opinions on how Marthe and Kristoffer are raising Olea—opinions, however, that she rarely voices. Why do you think that is?
3. *Grown Ups* is written exclusively from Ida's point of view—did being so fully immersed in Ida's perspective make her more sympathetic?
4. How do the parenting styles of Mum and Stein compare to Marthe and Kristoffer?
5. How did you view Ida's relationship with Olea?
6. What do Ida's feelings about the family cabin, and about how she is becoming side-lined in the ownership of the cabin, say about her status as a 'grown up' within her family?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/GrownUpsRGG

Lisa Bird-Wilson
Probably Ruby:
A Novel

978-0-593-44867-0 | \$27.00 | Hogarth | HC
978-0-385-69668-5 | \$29.95C | Doubleday Canada
📞 978-0-593-44868-7
📍 DN: 978-0-593-55681-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Tommy Orange's *There There*,
Louise Erdrich's *The Round House*, and
Terese Marie Maillhot's *Heart Berries*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

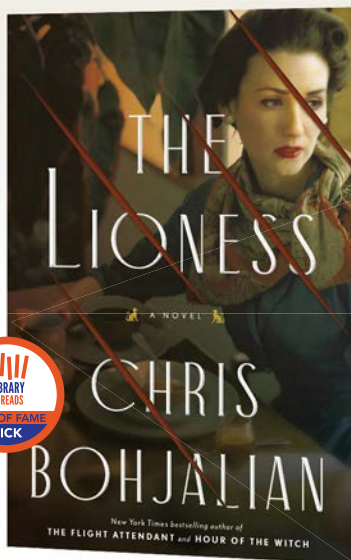
This is the story of a woman in search of herself, in every sense. When we first meet Ruby, a Métis woman in her thirties, her life is spinning out of control. She's angling to sleep with her counselor while also rekindling an old relationship she knows will only bring more heartache. But as we soon learn, Ruby's story is far more complex than even she can imagine.

Given up for adoption as an infant, Ruby is raised by a white couple who understand little of her Indigenous heritage. This is the great mystery that hovers over Ruby's life—who her people are and how to reconcile what is missing. As the novel spans time and multiple points of view, we meet the people connected to Ruby: her birth parents and grandparents; her adoptive parents; the men and women Ruby has been romantically involved with; a beloved uncle; and Ruby's children. Taken together, these characters form a kaleidoscope of stories, giving Ruby's life dignity and meaning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The events of Ruby Valentine's life don't unfold chronologically in *Probably Ruby*. Why do you think Lisa Bird-Wilson made this choice? How did it influence your reading experience?
2. Discuss Ruby's relationship with her adoptive parents, Alice and Mel. Does this change over time? Who owes who an apology? Who owes who forgiveness?
3. Ruby is drawn to people who are also part Métis, like her counselor Kal and former partner Moe. Why do you think that is?
4. Bird-Wilson writes that Ruby "spent her life being told she was chosen but constantly needing people to prove it." How do you see this playing out throughout the novel? Which characters "proved" this to Ruby in the end?
5. How does her boyfriend Bart's death continue to affect Ruby throughout her life?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/ProbablyRubyBookClubKit



Chris Bohjalian

The Lioness:

A Novel

978-0-385-54482-5 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Doubleday | HC
📞 978-0-385-54483-2 | 🎧 CD: 978-0-593-58953-3
📖 DN: 978-0-593-58938-0 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-60779-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *Out of Africa*, as well as readers of Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Tanzania, 1964. When Katie Barstow, A-list actress, and her new husband, David Hill, decide to bring their Hollywood friends to the Serengeti for their honeymoon, they envision giraffes gently eating leaves from the tall acacia trees, great swarms of wildebeests crossing the Mara River, and herds of zebras storming the sandy plains. The wealthy Americans expect civilized adventure: fresh ice from the kerosene-powered ice maker, dinners of cooked gazelle meat, and plenty of stories to tell over lunch back on Rodeo Drive.

What Katie and her glittering entourage do not expect is this: a kidnapping gone wrong, their guides bleeding out in the dirt, and a team of Russian mercenaries herding their hostages into Land Rovers, guns to their heads. As the powerful sun gives way to night, the gunmen shove them into abandoned huts and Katie Barstow, Hollywood royalty, prays for a simple thing: to see the sun rise one more time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does *The Lioness* demonstrate about the nature of survival? What role do fate, temperament, life experience, and other factors play in determining the probability of perishing?
2. As you read about the three married couples (David and Katie, Billy and Margie, Felix and Carmen), what did you observe about their relationship styles? Which partnership seemed to be the strongest one? Did the single travelers (Terrance, Reggie, and Peter) have any advantages by being solo?
3. In what ways do Juma, Muema, and Benjamin give voice to multiple generations in the period of sweeping social change in their homeland? How does the concept of wisdom shift as their circumstances change?
4. Are Katie's wealth and fame worth the price? How does her ability to bankroll the experiences of her guests affect the relationships—romantic, platonic, and familial—she forms with them?

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

Geraldine Brooks

Horse:

A Novel

978-0-399-56296-9 | \$28.00/\$37.00C

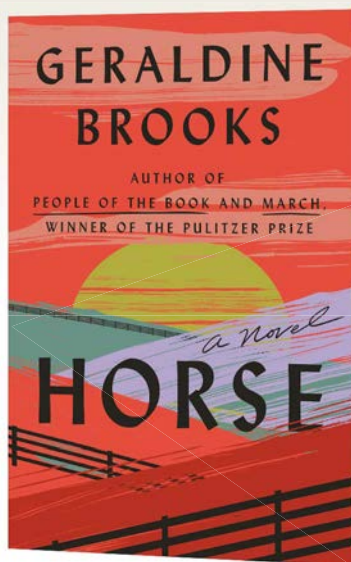
Viking | HC | June 2022

📖 978-0-399-56298-3 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-55294-0

📖 LP: 978-0-593-55648-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Barbara Kingsolver, Jane Smiley, and Alice Hoffman; for lovers of sweeping historical fiction and books about iconic racehorses like Seabiscuit and Secretariat.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks sets *Horse* in three time periods. The historical spine of the book is based on the true story of the remarkable racehorse, Lexington, whose blistering speed drew crowds and riveted the nation, even as the country was sliding towards Civil War.

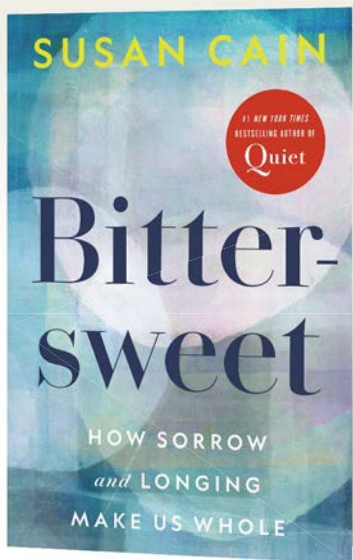
Lexington was painted many times. One portrait wound up in a 1980s bequest to the Smithsonian. That painting brings the novel to 1950s bohemian New York.

Meanwhile, in contemporary Washington DC, a scientist at the Smithsonian rediscovers the significance of a skeleton specimen simply labelled "Horse," while an art historian tries to learn more about the Black horsemen so vividly portrayed in nineteenth century American equestrian art. Even as they puzzle over these past mysteries, their legacy unexpectedly ensnares them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In his day, Lexington was an even bigger celebrity than Seabiscuit or Secretariat. Discuss the enduring human fascination with horses.
2. Theo and Jess are both obsessed with their fields of expertise. Does the author manage to convey why these unusual careers can be so compelling?
3. How does Jarret's dedication to Lexington help or hamper his transformation over the course of the novel?
4. How does the author draw out the similarities and differences between Northern and Southern attitudes through Thomas J. Scott, a practiced observer who moves between the regions?
5. Martha Jackson was a real American gallery owner and art collector. Discuss her portrayal in *Horse* and what her relationship to the painting of Lexington conveys about her character.

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



Susan Cain
Bittersweet:
How Sorrow and Longing
Make Us Whole

978-0-451-49978-3 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Crown | HC
📖 978-0-451-49980-6 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-50607-3
📻 CD: 978-0-593-50605-9 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-55957-4

READERS' ADVISORY:
The author of the bestselling phenomenon *Quiet* reveals the power of a bittersweet outlook on life, and why we've been so blind to its value. Perfect for readers of Angela Duckworth's *Grit* or Carol Dweck's *Mindset*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Bittersweetness is a tendency to states of longing, poignancy, and sorrow; an acute awareness of passing time; and a curiously piercing joy at the beauty of the world. It recognizes that light and dark, birth and death—bitter and sweet—are forever paired.

With *Quiet*, Susan Cain urged our society to cultivate space for the undervalued, indispensable introverts among us, thereby revealing an untapped power hidden in plain sight. Now she employs the same mix of research, storytelling, and memoir to explore why we experience sorrow and longing, and how embracing the bittersweetness at the heart of life is the true path to creativity, connection, and transcendence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think of the Bittersweet idea that “light and dark, birth and death—bitter and sweet”—are forever paired? Does this describe your life experiences? What areas of your life do you now see through a “bittersweet” lens?
2. “Longing is momentum in disguise,” Susan Cain says, “it’s active, not passive; touched with the creative, the tender, and the divine. We long for something, or someone. We reach for it; we move toward it.” What has longing meant to you? What are you longing for: your unique imprint, singular mission, wordless calling?
3. “Connecting with what matters and taking committed action—moves us from bitter to sweet, from loss to love.” Everyone experiences loss. It is part of the human condition. How have you moved “from bitter to sweet, from loss to love”? Are there coping strategies you recommend?
4. *Bittersweet* can be read as an antidote to a culture of “toxic positivity.” Do you think this term accurately describes our culture? And, if so, how does a bittersweet lens help to counter the pressure to always act positive, no matter what?

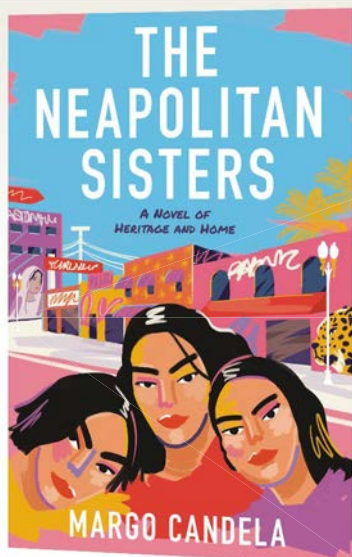
For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/BittersweetBookClubKit

Margo Candela
The Neapolitan Sisters:
A Novel of Heritage and Home

978-1-63910-084-2 | \$16.99/\$22.99C
Alcove Press | TR | August 2022

READERS' ADVISORY:

A riotous, provocative tale of family and sisterhood for fans of Therese Anne Fowler and Laurie Frankel.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

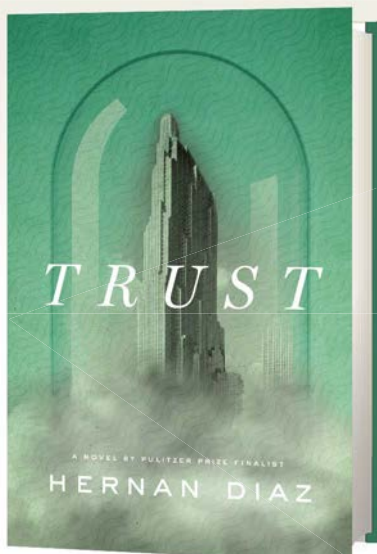
Growing up with a kind but alcoholic father and a suspicious, passive aggressive mother, the Bernal sisters each developed their own way of coping: Dulcina had her art and drugs and alcohol, Claudia plunged into her studies and fled to Princeton, and Maritza watched one Disney movie after another in between devouring romance novels.

Now all grown up, the sisters are reunited at last for Maritza's dream wedding. But they are no less different than they were growing up: Maritza is a princess bridezilla, Claudia is the family "fixer," and Dulcina "Dooley" is finally sober. With all three Bernal sisters back in their East L.A. home, each begins to take steps to come to terms with each other, their parents, and the secrets from their shared past. While their lives may have taken different paths, they are still sisters at heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Each sister refers to their parents in her own way—"my mother/Mamá" and "Daddy" for Maritza, "Mom" and "Dad" for Claudia and "our mom" and "our dad" for Dooley. What does this say about their individual relationships with their parents and how they see themselves in relation to them?
2. The book's title comes from a very specific memory from the Bernal sisters' childhood that is not a happy one. How do you feel about Claudia and Dulcina using the name "Rachel Neapolitan" to keep tabs on their abuser? How about Maritza presenting herself as "Rachel Cartland" when she shows up at her fiancé's office to whisk him away for an afternoon at a local hotel? What does this say about her?
3. Dooley has been sober and celibate for a year and a half. After Claudia tells her she needs to come home for Maritza's wedding, she quits her job at The Clap Trap and sleeps with Ted. On her way to Boyle Heights, she has sex with the hotel clerk and then starts hooking up with Ethan's production company's receptionist. Why do you think she decides to end her celibacy? Do you think she's replacing one addiction for another?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/NeapolitanSistersRGG



Hernan Diaz

Trust

978-0-593-42031-7 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Riverhead | HC

📖 978-0-593-42033-1 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-55712-9

📖 LP: 978-0-593-55656-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of historical, epic fiction by writers such as Amor Towles, Kate Atkinson, and Lauren Groff, an unparalleled novel about money, power, intimacy, and perception.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the brilliant daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth. But the secrets around their affluence excites gossip. Rumors about Benjamin's financial maneuvers and Helen's reclusiveness start to spread—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. At what cost have they acquired their immense fortune?

This is the mystery at the center of a successful 1938 novel entitled *Bonds*, which all of New York seems to have read. But it isn't the only version.

Hernan Diaz's *Trust* brilliantly puts the story of these characters into conversation with other accounts—and in tension with the life and perspective of a young woman bent on disentangling fact from fiction. Provocative and propulsive, *Trust* engages the reader in a quest for the truth while confronting how power often manipulates facts, and recovers the voices buried under the myths that justify our foundational inequality.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Trust* is told through four separate documents—a novel-within-the-novel, an unfinished manuscript, a memoir, and a diary. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story this way? How do the different sections speak to each other?
2. Each piece of the book offers a different character's perspective on the same period, subjects, relationships, and events, revealing new truths and calling others into question. Which revelations surprised you most? Whose narrative did you most value and why?
3. One of the major themes of *Trust* is power, who has it, how they got it, how they maintain it. Another theme is history, how it gets decided and shared, and who gets to tell the story. How do you think the different characters would describe their own power?

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

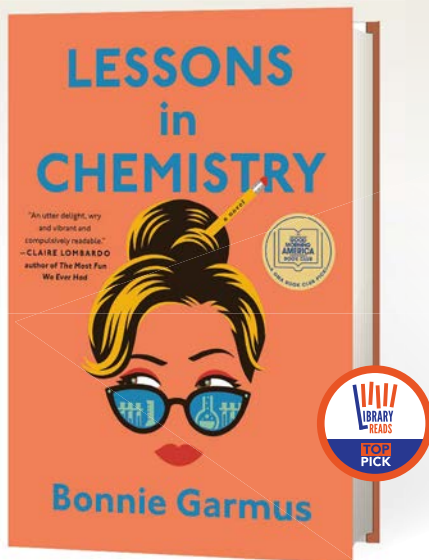
Bonnie Garmus Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel

978-0-385-54734-5 | \$29.00 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-385-69737-8 | \$24.95C | Doubleday Canada | TR
📖 978-0-385-54737-6 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-50754-4
📻 LP: 978-0-593-55667-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*,
Chemistry, *Lost and Wanted*, and *The Rosie Project*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

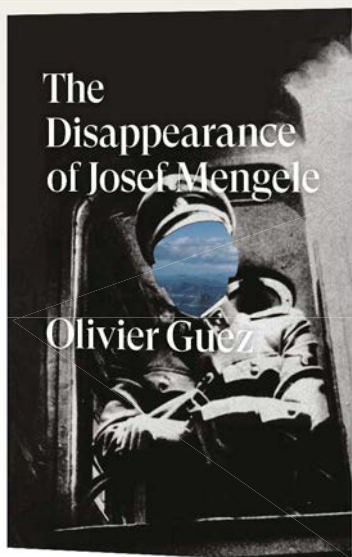
Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Elizabeth Zott had no formal education, and yet she was able to self-educate, thanks to her library card. With the advent of technology, the library almost seems outdated, though many would argue that the library is more important than ever. Do you think libraries are important? If so, why?
2. Elizabeth refuses to accept limits placed on her by society and insists that others also ignore those limits. How do each of those characters ultimately rise to that challenge? And in what ways have you or others been limited by societal norms?
3. The book includes male characters who are sympathetic to Elizabeth's plight, and yet, with the exception of Calvin and Dr. Mason, have trouble standing up for women or other minorities in the workplace. Why do good-hearted people have trouble speaking up? And what are the consequences of not speaking up?

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



Olivier Guez; Translated by
Georgia de Chamberet
**The Disappearance
of Josef Mengele:**
A Novel

978-1-78873-588-9 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Verso | TR | August 2022
📞 978-1-80429-050-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Isabel Allende's *A Long Petal of the Sea* and Samanta Schweblin's *Fever Dream*, an action-packed biographical novel about one of history's most reviled figures.

Winner of the 2017 Priz Renaudot

ABOUT THE BOOK:

For three decades, until the day he collapsed in the Brazilian surf in 1979, Josef Mengele, the Angel of Death who performed horrific experiments on the prisoners of Auschwitz, floated through South America in linen suits, keeping two steps ahead of Mossad agents, international police and the world's journalists.

In this rigorously researched factual novel—drawn almost entirely from historical documents—Olivier Guez traces Mengele's footsteps through these years of flight. This chilling novel situates the reader in a literary manhunt on the trail of one of the most elusive and evil figures of the twentieth century.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did so many Nazis flee to Argentina for refuge after Germany was defeated in World War Two?
2. How was Josef Mengele's family able to help him evade capture for so long?
3. Why did Josef Mengele become so infamous decades after the end of the war?
4. How did the German compatriots that Josef Mengele associated with in Buenos Aires maintain a connection to Nazism after the war?
5. How did Josef Mengele's personality help or hinder his ability to remain in exile for decades?
6. How did Josef Mengele's son Rolf react when he discovered who his father was?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/Josef-Mengele

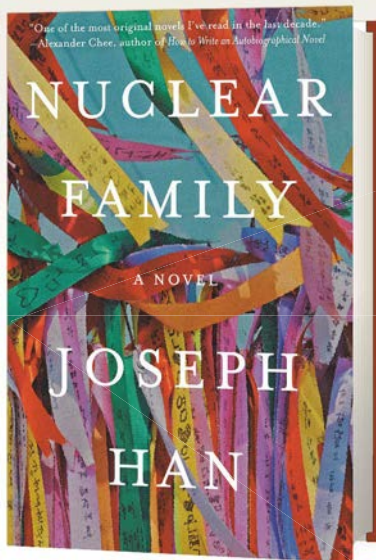
Joseph Han
Nuclear Family:
A Novel

978-1-64009-486-4 | \$26.00/\$34.00C
Counterpoint | HC | June 2022
📍 978-1-64009-487-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

"Han makes a smashing debut with this stunning take on identity and migration told through the multiple perspectives of a Korean American family ... This is a master class from a brilliant new voice."

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)



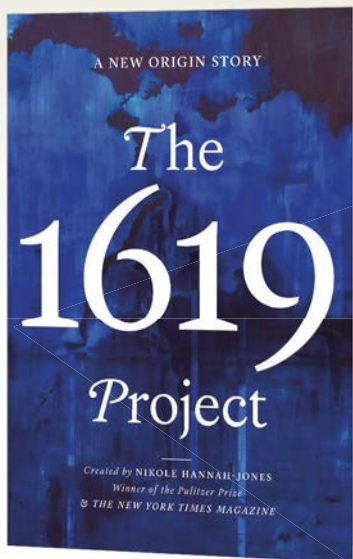
ABOUT THE BOOK:

No one knows that Jacob has been possessed by the ghost of his lost grandfather, who feverishly wishes to cross the divide and find the family he left behind in the north. As Jacob is detained by the South Korean government, Mr. and Mrs. Cho fear their son won't ever be able to return home, and Grace gets more and more stoned as she negotiates her family's undoing. Struggling with what they don't know about themselves and one another, the Chos must confront the separations that have endured in their family for decades.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Could Nuclear Family be read as an allegory of how generational trauma haunts us? Why or why not?
2. How does the author use food to bring you into the story? How does food tradition affect your family dynamics?
3. Many of the book's readers have commented on how funny it can be at times, in spite of its often serious subject matter. Can you think of some examples? Do you think Han used humor well, and if so how?
4. Nuclear Family asks us to empathize with characters often working at cross-purposes, even within a family—to preserve, to blame, to escape, to be seen. Was there a character you identified most closely with, and why?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/NuclearFamilyRGG



Nikole Hannah-Jones and
The New York Times Magazine;
Edited by Caitlin Roper, Ilena
Silverman and Jake Silverstein
The 1619 Project:
A New Origin Story

978-0-593-23057-2 | \$38.00/\$51.00C | One World | HC
📖 978-0-593-23058-9 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-45229-5
📖 LP: 978-0-593-50171-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Jill Lepore's *These Truths*,
Ibram X. Kendi's *How To Be an Antiracist*, and
Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present.

In late August 1619, a ship arrived in the British colony of Virginia bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival led to the barbaric and unprecedented system of American chattel slavery that would last for the next 250 years. This is sometimes referred to as the country's original sin, but it is more than that: It is the source of so much that still defines the United States.

The New York Times Magazine's award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to reframe our understanding of U.S. history by considering 1619 as our country's origin point? How does that reframing change how we understand the unique problems of the nation today? How does looking at contemporary American life through this lens help us better appreciate the contributions of Black Americans—not just to our culture but to our democracy itself?
2. Why do you think Nikole Hannah-Jones included creative writing in *The 1619 Project*?
3. Think of a time when you had to specify your race or ethnicity. Did you think twice about it? What are your thoughts about the ways in which people are asked/forced to reveal their race or ethnicity?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/1619ProjectDiscussionQuestions

Linda Holmes
Flying Solo:
A Novel

978-0-525-61927-7 | \$28.00/\$37.00C

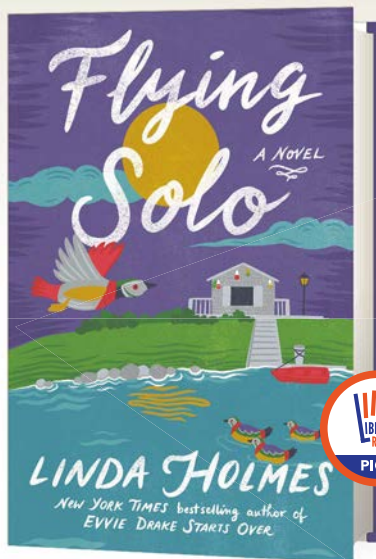
Ballantine Books | HC | June 2022

● 978-0-525-61928-4 | ♻️ DN: 978-1-9848-4576-4

♻️ LP: 978-0-593-60895-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

The author of *Evvie Drake Starts Over* returns with a novel perfect for readers of Gail Honeyman's *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, Clare Pooley's *The Authenticity Project*, and Rebecca Searle's *In Five Years*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Starting from her recently canceled wedding and about to turn forty, Laurie Sassalyn returns to her Maine hometown to handle the estate of her great-aunt Dot, a spirited adventurer who lived to be ninety-three. Alongside boxes of Polaroids and pottery, a mysterious wooden duck shows up at the bottom of a cedar chest. Laurie's curiosity is piqued, especially after she finds a love letter to the never-married Dot that ends with the line "And anyway, if you're ever desperate, there are always ducks, darling."

When the duck disappears under suspicious circumstances, Laurie feels compelled to figure out why anyone would steal a wooden duck—and why Dot kept it hidden away in the first place. Suddenly Laurie finds herself swept up in a righteous caper that has her negotiating with antiques dealers and con artists, going on after-hours dates at the local library, and reconnecting with her oldest friend and her first love. Desperate to uncover her great-aunt's secrets, Laurie must reckon with her own past and her future—and ultimately embrace her own vision of flying solo.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Out of all of Dot's relatives and friends, Laurie is left to deal with cleaning out Dot's home by herself. She has four brothers, but they all claim to be too busy with their own jobs, children, and spouses to help. Do you think it's fair that Laurie handles all of Dot's affairs on her own? Why do you think she does it?
2. Dot kept a lot of souvenirs and trinkets from her adventures that Laurie finds and uses to piece together parts of Dot's past. What items from your own adventures would you want your family members to find? What stories would they tell?
3. Why do you think Laurie is so determined to figure out the story behind the decoy duck? What does this say about her? What would you have done if you were in Laurie's position?

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

Emily St. John Mandel

Sea of Tranquility:

A Novel

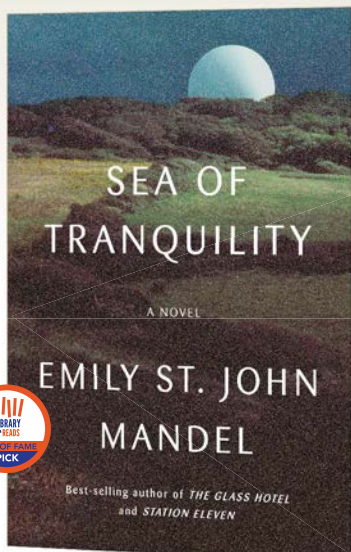
978-0-593-32144-7 | \$25.00 | Knopf | HC

📖 978-0-593-32145-4 | 📻 CD: 978-0-593-55207-0

📻 DN: 978-0-593-55200-1 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-55659-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *The Time Travelers Wife*, *Infinite Jest*, *Cloud Atlas*, *Black Mirror*, and *The Martian*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Edwin St. Andrew is eighteen years old when he crosses the Atlantic by steamship, exiled from polite society following an ill-conceived diatribe at a dinner party. He enters the forest, spellbound by the beauty of the Canadian wilderness, and suddenly hears the notes of a violin echoing in an airship terminal—an experience that shocks him to his core.

Two centuries later a famous writer named Olive Llewellyn is on a book tour. She's traveling all over Earth, but her home is the second moon colony, a place of white stone, spired towers, and artificial beauty. Within the text of Olive's bestselling pandemic novel lies a strange passage: a man plays his violin for change in the echoing corridor of an airship terminal as the trees of a forest rise around him.

When Gaspéry-Jacques Roberts, a detective in the black-skied Night City, is hired to investigate an anomaly in the North American wilderness, he uncovers a series of lives upended: The exiled son of an earl driven to madness, a writer trapped far from home as a pandemic ravages Earth, and a childhood friend from the Night City who, like Gaspéry himself, has glimpsed the chance to do something extraordinary that will disrupt the timeline of the universe.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Did you identify most with any of the main characters in the novel—Edwin, Mirella, Gaspéry, or Olive? What about their story resonated with you?
2. Does the novel offer a clear explanation with regards to Vincent's role in making the video clip from the forest?
3. If you were in Gaspéry's shoes, would you have changed the past to save Olive and help Edwin? How do you think he felt about the consequences of his decisions? Did you think he did the right thing, despite the agreements of his training?
4. If you were in Olive's shoes, would you have gone back home at Gaspéry's warning? What suffering and gratitude did she feel from having changed her fate?

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

Anthony Marra
Mercury Pictures
Presents:
A Novel

978-0-451-49520-4 | \$28.99/\$38.99C

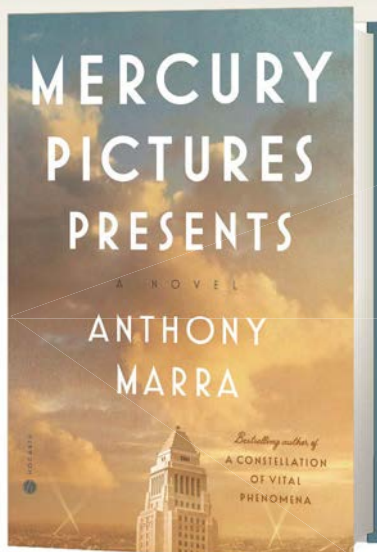
Hogarth | HC | August 2022

📖 978-0-451-49522-8 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-41638-9

📖 LP: 978-0-593-58377-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

The author of *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* and *The Tsar of Love and Techno* returns with an ambitious and inventive historical saga for fans of Amor Towles and Maggie Shipstead's *Great Circle*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Like many before her, Maria Lagana has come to Hollywood to outrun her past. Born in Rome, where every Sunday her father took her to the cinema instead of church, Maria immigrates with her mother to Los Angeles after a childhood transgression leads to her father's arrest.

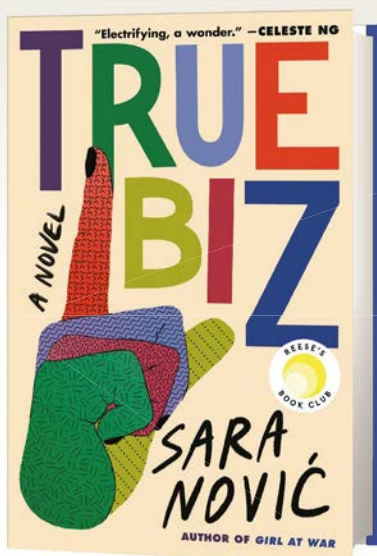
Fifteen years later, on the eve of America's entry into World War II, Maria is an associate producer at Mercury Pictures, trying to keep her personal and professional lives from falling apart. Her mother won't speak to her. Her boss has been summoned to Washington by congressional investigators. Her boyfriend, a virtuoso Chinese American actor, can't escape the studio's narrow typecasting. And the studio itself, Maria's only home in exile, teeters on the verge of bankruptcy.

Over the coming months, as the bright lights go dark across Los Angeles, Mercury Pictures becomes a nexus of European émigrés. But when the arrival of a stranger from her father's past threatens Maria's carefully constructed facade, she must finally confront her father's fate—and her own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the novel treat its bit players? What do you think Marra was trying to say about whose stories matter? How did he illustrate this point?
2. Why don't Artie and Ned get along? What do you think motivated Ned to betray Artie?
3. Why do you think Inspector Ferrando lets Nino live? How are his fictionalized police reports similar to Mercury's films?
4. Both Maria and her mother keep their emotions inside. How does this help them survive? How does it hurt them?

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



Sara Novic

True Biz:

A Novel

978-0-593-24150-9 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Random House | HC
HC: 978-0-593-24150-9 | 978-0-593-24151-6
DN: 978-0-593-55612-2

READERS' ADVISORY: A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of ambitious coming-of-age novels, like Brit Bennett's *The Mothers* and Celeste Ng's *Everything I Never Told You*, as well as viewers of CODA and Deaf U.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

TTrue biz (adj./exclamation; American Sign Language): really, seriously, definitely, real-talk
True biz? The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history finals, and have politicians, doctors, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf, where they'll meet Charlie, a rebellious transfer student who's never met another deaf person before; Austin, the school's golden boy, whose world is rocked when his baby sister is born hearing; and February, the hearing headmistress, a CODA (child of deaf adult(s)) who is fighting to keep her school open and her marriage intact, but might not be able to do both. As a series of crises both personal and political threaten to unravel each of them, Charlie, Austin, and February find their lives inextricable from one another—and changed forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

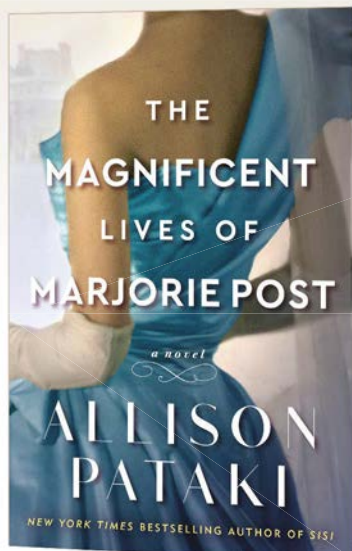
1. How much knowledge did you have about the Deaf community and/or ASL before you started *True Biz*? In what ways did the novel reflect or augment your understanding?
2. Novic shows so many varied examples of d/Deaf families and childhoods, from Charlie's ambivalent parents, to Austin's celebrated generations of Deaf folks, to Kayla's experiences code-switching from Black ASL to ASL, to the horrifying abuse Eliot suffers at his mother's church. Compare and contrast the experiences each student had growing up, and how those experiences helped mold them into the young adults they've become.
3. Discuss Charlie's relationship with her mother. What, if anything, do they owe each other?
4. February is hearing but is headmistress of a Deaf school. Did you have any concerns about this? Why or why not?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TrueBizBookClubKit

Allison Pataki
**The Magnificent
Lives of
Marjorie Post:**
A Novel

978-0-593-35568-8 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Ballantine Books | HC
E 978-0-593-35569-5 | ♻️ DN: 978-0-593-50686-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
An epic reimagining of the remarkable life of
Marjorie Merriweather Post, for readers of Martha
Hall Kelly's *Lost Roses* and Daisy Goodwin's
American Heiress.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

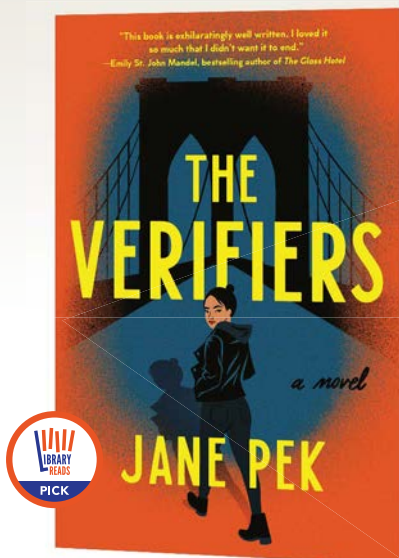
*M*rs. Post, the President and First Lady are here to see you. . . . So begins another average evening for Marjorie Merriweather Post. Presidents have come and gone, but she has hosted them all. Growing up in the modest farmlands of Battle Creek, Michigan, Marjorie was inspired by a few simple rules: always think for yourself, never take success for granted, and work hard—even when deemed American royalty, even while covered in imperial diamonds. Marjorie had an insatiable drive to live and love and to give more than she got. From crawling through Moscow warehouses to rescue the Tsar's treasures to outrunning the Nazis in London, from serving the homeless of the Great Depression to entertaining Roosevelts, Kennedys, and Hollywood's biggest stars, Marjorie Merriweather Post lived an epic life few could imagine.

Bestselling and acclaimed author Allison Pataki has crafted an intimate portrait of a larger-than-life woman, a powerful story of one woman falling in love with her own voice and embracing her own power while shaping history in the process.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was your first impression of Marjorie Merriweather Post? How did that impression change throughout the course of the novel? How did Marjorie change during her lifetime?
2. Marjorie Post had many roles in life: daughter, wife and mother, businesswoman, philanthropist, press target, press darling, hostess, collector, diplomat, style icon, etc. Which was your favorite side of her? Which do you think meant the most to her?
3. A wife four times over, Marjorie sought her happily-ever-after with four radically different men. How did each marriage shape her identity? In the end, do you think she found her ultimate happily-ever-after?
4. Love, family, and feminism are all major themes in the novel. What other overarching ideas did you notice? What did you take away from reading the book overall?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MarjoriePostBookClubKit



Jane Pek

The Verifiers

978-0-593-31379-4 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Vintage | TR

📞 978-0-593-31380-0 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-55491-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of amateur sleuths with bright, brilliant voices; anyone looking for the classic pleasures of a detective romp but from a queer, racially diverse perspective.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Claudia is used to disregarding her fractious family's model-minority expectations: she has no interest in finding either a conventional career or a nice Chinese boy. She's also used to keeping secrets from them, such as that she prefers girls—and that she's just been stealth-recruited by Veracity, a referrals-only online-dating detective agency.

A lifelong mystery reader who wrote her senior thesis on Jane Austen, Claudia believes she's landed her ideal job. But when a client vanishes, Claudia breaks protocol to investigate—and uncovers a maelstrom of personal and corporate deceit. Part literary mystery, part family story, *The Verifiers* is a clever and incisive examination of how technology shapes our choices, and the nature of romantic love in the digital age.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The premise of the novel is that there is an agency in New York investigating people's online-dating personas to check if they are being truthful about who they say they are. How do you think the increasingly virtual nature of our interactions has affected how we present ourselves to others, and what does it mean for us to think that we know somebody?
2. In the novel, online-dating platforms try to develop algorithms that can predict romantic compatibility. If such algorithms were accurate, do you think that would be beneficial or detrimental? What do you think we would gain and/or lose?
3. How does the novel explore, and subvert, Asian American stereotypes?
4. The novel contains a number of allusions to *Pride and Prejudice*. What aspects of *Pride and Prejudice* does the novel draw on, and also challenge?
5. How are the tropes of the murder mystery elucidated in the novel, and how does the novel play with aspects of the murder mystery genre?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/VerifiersRGG

Dolen Perkins-Valdez Take My Hand

978-0-593-33769-1 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Berkley | HC

📖 978-0-593-33770-7 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-55225-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

A searing and compassionate novel about a young Black nurse's shocking discovery and burning quest for justice in post-segregation Alabama, perfect for readers of *The Vanishing Half*.



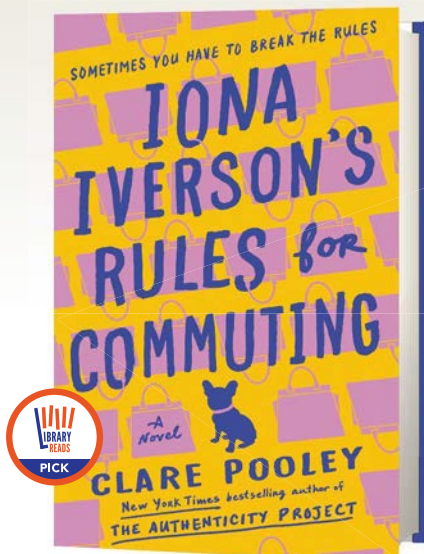
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Montgomery, Alabama, 1973. Fresh out of nursing school, Civil Townsend intends to make a difference. At the Montgomery Family Planning Clinic, she hopes to help women shape their destinies, to make their own choices for their lives and bodies. But Civil is shocked to learn that her new patients, Erica and India, are children—just eleven and thirteen years old. The Williams sisters are poor and Black, and for those handling the family's welfare benefits, that's reason enough to have the girls on birth control. One day, Civil arrives at their door to learn the unthinkable has happened. Decades later, with her daughter grown and a long career in her wake, Dr. Civil Townsend is ready to retire, to find her peace, and to leave the past behind. But there are people and stories that refuse to be forgotten. That must not be forgotten.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Perkins-Valdez used the real-life 1973 case *Relf v. Weinberger* as a launching point for writing this novel. Did you know about this moment in history or similar stories?
2. *Take My Hand* is told through the eyes of present-day Civil revealing to her grown daughter what happened in 1973. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story this way? Why is it important for us to pass on our family histories?
3. History repeats what we don't remember. With infamous cases like the Tuskegee syphilis experiment and the use of Henrietta Lacks's cells without her knowledge, what do you think is the importance of medical ethics in today's society?
4. So many people in this novel have good intentions—even Mrs. Seager believes she is doing what's right. What are the dangers of good intentions? What responsibility do we have for the fallout of our "good deeds"?
5. Civil and the nurses at the clinic try to make amends for the unintentional harm they have done to patients over the years. Do you think redemption was possible for them?

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



Clare Pooley

Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting:

A Novel

978-1-9848-7864-9 | \$27.00

Pamela Dorman Books | HC | June 2022

978-0-7352-3845-9 | \$22.95C | Viking Canada | TR

📞 978-1-9848-7865-6 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-16607-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Matt Haig and Sophie Kinsella, from the bestselling author of *The Authenticity Project*, comes a novel that will transport you, make you smile, and make you wish you had Iona's gift for bringing out the best in everyone.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Every day Iona, a larger-than-life magazine advice columnist, travels the ten stops from Hampton Court to Waterloo Station by train, accompanied by her dog, Lulu. Every day she sees the same people, whom she knows only by nickname: Impossibly-Pretty-Bookworm and Terribly-Lonely-Teenager. Of course, they never speak. Seasoned commuters never do.

Then one morning, the man she calls Smart-But-Sexist-Manspreader chokes on a grape right in front of her. He'd have died were it not for the timely intervention of Sanjay, a nurse, who gives him the Heimlich maneuver.

This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people with almost nothing in common except their commute discover that a chance encounter can blossom into much more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you ever talk to strangers on public transportation? Which of the characters would you most—and least—like to share your commute with?
2. Each of the characters in the book makes assumptions about one another. What assumptions did you make about them, and who surprised you the most?
3. All the characters in the story are changed, as the result of meeting one another. Who do you think is the most transformed?
4. Iona talks about having experienced sexism, ageism, and homophobia. Which one do you think has had the biggest impact on her life?
5. Iona loathes some of the "modern" ways of working. What are your least favorite aspects of corporate life, or the work world?
6. The characters in the novel span three generations. What do you think teenagers, millennials, and boomers can learn from one another?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/IonalversonDiscussionQuestions

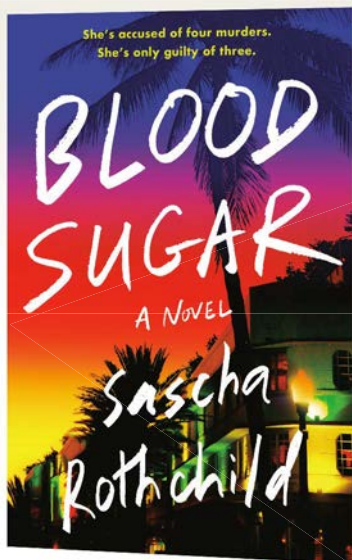
Sascha Rothchild **Blood Sugar**

978-0-593-33154-5 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Putnam | HC

📖 978-0-593-33155-2 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-55304-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

An utterly delicious debut thriller that tells the story of the most likable murderess you will ever meet, perfect for fans of Riley Sager and Jessica Knoll.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

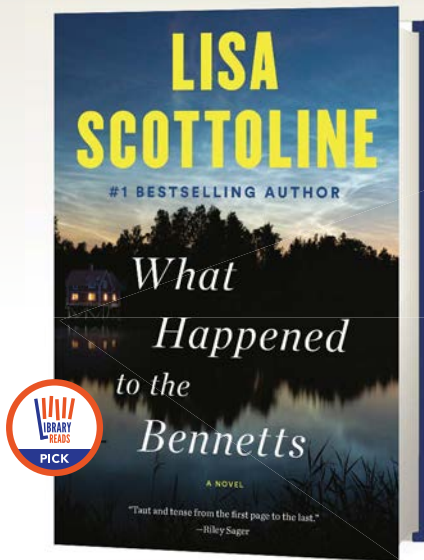
I could just kill you right now!" It's something we've all thought at one time or another. But Ruby has actually acted on it. Three times, to be exact.

Though she may be a murderer, Ruby is not a sociopath. She is an animal-loving therapist with a thriving practice. She's had long-lasting friendships and relationships, and has a husband, Jason, whom she adores. But the homicide detectives at Miami Beach PD are not convinced of her happy marriage. When we meet Ruby, she is in a police interrogation room, being accused of Jason's murder. Which, ironically, is one murder that she did not commit. As she undergoes questioning, Ruby's mind races back to all the details of her life that led her to this exact moment, and to the three dead bodies in her wake. Because though she may not have killed her husband, Ruby certainly isn't innocent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Blood Sugar* is narrated in the first person, allowing us to become entwined with Ruby's inner thoughts and judgments. How did this affect your reading experience? Do you think that you would have felt differently about Ruby if the story had been told in a different way?
2. Many of the characters in *Blood Sugar* are guilty of lying, both to protect themselves and others. Think of some examples of different lies in the book, big and small, and discuss if you think they are justified.
3. Did you identify with Ruby or have empathy for her? Did you find yourself rooting for her to get away with her crimes? Why or why not?
4. Compare and contrast the different ways that characters cope with their grief in *Blood Sugar*, taking a particular look at Ruby, Gertrude, and Gabrielle.
5. Though *Blood Sugar* is a suspense novel, it is at times quite funny and poignant. How does the novel play with genre definitions? Did it surprise you?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/BloodSugarBCK



Lisa Scottoline

What Happened to the Bennetts

978-0-525-53967-4 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Putnam | HC
📖 978-0-525-53968-1 | 📻 DN: 978-1-9848-8304-9
📀 CD: 978-1-9848-8301-8 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-55636-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Jodi Picoult and Lisa Gardner, a pulse-pounding new thriller from #1 bestselling author Lisa Scottoline.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Jason Bennett is a suburban dad who owns a court-reporting business, but one night, his life takes a horrific turn. He is driving his family home after his daughter's field hockey game when a pickup truck begins tailgating them, on a dark stretch of road. Suddenly two men jump from the pickup and pull guns on Jason, demanding the car. A horrific flash of violence changes his life forever. Later that night, Jason and his family receive a visit from the FBI. The agents tell them that the carjackers were members of a dangerous drug-trafficking organization—and now Jason and his family are advised to enter the witness protection program right away, and they have no choice but to agree. But WITSEC was designed to protect criminal informants, not law-abiding families. Taken from all they know, the Bennetts begin to fall apart at the seams. Then Jason learns a shocking truth and realizes that he has to take matters into his own hands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the novel's early chapters, Jason reflects a lot on his old life and lost home. What do you think this novel is trying to say about the suburbs and their importance to the American family?
2. How differently do you think the events of the novel would have unfolded if Allison had survived the attack?
3. If you had to leave your home suddenly, which objects would be the most painful for you to leave behind, and why?
4. Discuss the different ways in which Jason, Lucinda, and Ethan each experience their grief. Do you think that these differences reflect the underlying cracks in Jason and Lucinda's marriage that led to her infidelity?
5. Do you think Jason's motivation to take matters into his own hands went beyond the desire to protect his family from Milo? What else do you think might have affected his decisions?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/WhttbBookClubQuestions

Josie Silver One Night on the Island: A Novel

978-1-9848-2063-1 | \$17.00/\$23.00C

Ballantine Books | TR

📖 978-1-9848-2062-4 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-50694-3

📱 LP: 978-0-593-55874-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the bestselling author of *One Day in December* comes a new novel perfect for readers of Emily Henry's *People We Meet on Vacation*, Jasmine Guillory's *Party of Two*, and Casey McQuiston's *One Last Stop*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

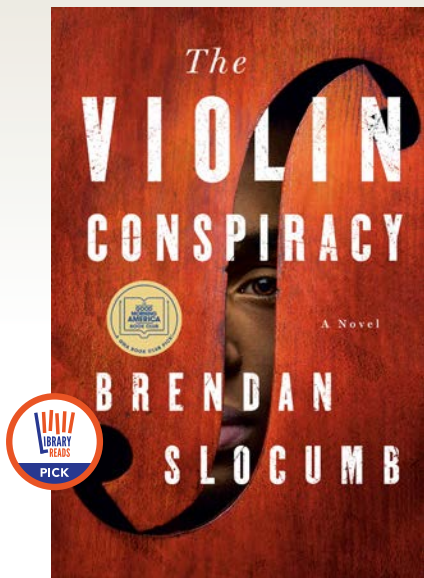
Spending her thirtieth birthday alone is not what dating columnist Cleo Wilder wanted, but she plans a solo retreat—in the name of re-energizing herself and adding a new perspective to her column. The remote Irish island she's booked is a far cry from London, but at least it's a chance to hunker down in a luxury cabin and indulge in some self-care while she figures out the next steps in her love life and her career.

Mack Sullivan is also looking forward to some time to himself. With his life in Boston deteriorating in ways he can't bring himself to acknowledge, his soul-searching has brought him to the same Irish island to explore his roots and find some clarity. Unfortunately, a mix-up with the bookings means both have reserved the same one-room hideaway on exactly the same dates. Instantly at odds, Cleo and Mack don't know how they're going to manage. But as the days go by, they no longer seem to mind each other's company quite as much as they thought they would.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *One Night On the Island* begins with Cleo in London and Mack in the United States deciding to take some time for themselves to think about their lives and where they want to go next, since life hasn't quite shaped up for either of them the way they thought it would. Have you ever been in a similar situation, where you wanted to take a step back and reevaluate? Did you find it was a good experience? Why or why not?
2. As Cleo and Mack realize that they'll be staying together in Otter Lodge for the foreseeable future, they (begrudgingly) decide to try and make the best of it by setting boundaries so that each can get some of the solitude they seek on Salvation Island. Were they successful in their approach?
3. Sometimes it can be easier for people to open up to strangers about difficult parts of their lives than to people close to them, as Mack and Cleo do throughout the novel. Why do you think they did? Have you ever had this experience?

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



Brendan Slocumb

The Violin Conspiracy

978-0-593-31541-5 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Anchor | HC

978-0-593-31543-9 | DN: 978-0-593-55497-5

LP: 978-0-593-58412-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of Jacqueline Woodson and Tayari Jones; for classical music lovers; for readers of inspiring personal stories, as well as fans of fast-paced mysteries like the work of Dan Brown.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Growing up Black in rural North Carolina, Ray McMillian's life is already mapped out. If he's lucky, he'll get a job at the hospital cafeteria. If he's extra lucky, he'll earn more than minimum wage. But Ray has a gift and a dream—he's determined to become a world-class professional violinist, and nothing will stand in his way. Not his mother, who wants him to stop making such a racket; not the fact that he can't afford a violin suitable to his talents; not even the racism inherent in the world of classical music.

When he discovers that his great-great-grandfather's beat-up old fiddle is actually a priceless Stradivarius, all his dreams suddenly seem within reach. Together, Ray and his violin take the world by storm. But on the eve of the renowned and cutthroat Tchaikovsky Competition—the Olympics of classical music—the violin is stolen, a ransom note for five million dollars left in its place. Ray will have to piece together the clues to recover his treasured Strad ... before it's too late.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were your initial theories about the disappearance of Ray's violin? How did the novel's multilayered timeline enhance the suspense?
2. Ray finds solace and invigorating challenges in a musical style that originated in Europe. He says that when considering the many facets of his identity, he's a musician first. Is music a universal medium? Do the cultural origins of your favorite music matter?
3. Who is the Janice in your life? When have you served as a Janice for someone else, lighting the way for others who lack the tools (or the hope) they need to thrive?
4. As you watched Alicia pursue leads, what did you observe about her ability to combine practical skills with an understanding of human motivation—including the motivation of an artist?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/ViolinConspiracyRGG

Tara M. Stringfellow
Memphis:
A Novel

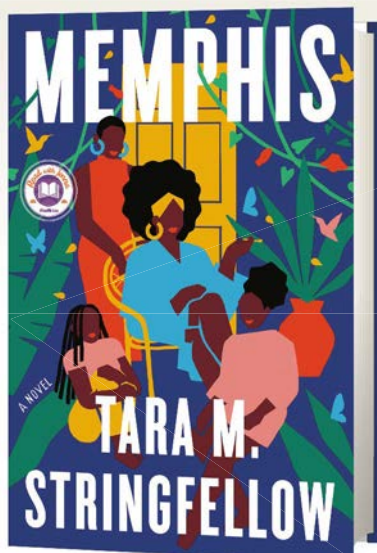
978-0-593-23048-0 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | The Dial Press | HC

📖 978-0-593-23049-7 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-50484-0

📖 LP: 978-0-593-55873-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
A READ WITH JENNA BOOK CLUB PICK

A spellbinding debut novel tracing three generations of a Southern Black family—for readers of Angela Flournoy's *The Turner House*, Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*, and Brit Bennett's *The Vanishing Half*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

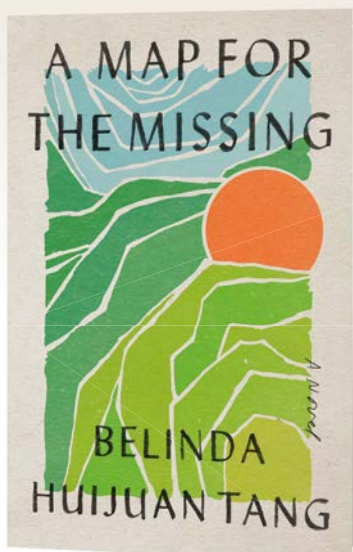
Summer 1995: Ten-year-old Joan, her mother, and her younger sister flee her father's explosive temper and seek refuge at her mother's ancestral home in Memphis. This is not the first time violence has altered the course of the family's trajectory. Half a century earlier, Joan's grandfather built this majestic house in the historic Black neighborhood of Douglass—only to be lynched days after becoming the first Black detective in the city. Joan tries to settle into her new life, but family secrets cast a longer shadow than any of them expected.

As she grows up, Joan finds relief in her artwork, painting portraits of the community in Memphis. One of her subjects is their enigmatic neighbor Miss Dawn, who claims to know something about curses, and whose stories about the past help Joan see how her passion, imagination, and relentless hope are, in fact, the continuation of a long matrilineal tradition. Joan begins to understand that her mother, her mother's mother, and the mothers before them persevered, made impossible choices, and put their dreams on hold so that her life would not have to be defined by loss and anger—that the sole instrument she needs for healing is her paintbrush.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Joan's sections are told in first person, while the other North women are written about in third person. How did this change in perspective affect your reading experience? Did it make you identify more strongly with any of the characters?
2. Discuss the different generations of North women—and North men—and some of the defining characteristics of each person. Which traits were passed down through the family line? Which traits seem to belong to individuals?
3. Why do you think Miriam brought Joan and Mya to live with August and Derek, despite knowing what happened to Joan years before? Do you think she made the right choice? Why or why not?

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



Belinda Huijuan Tang

A Map for the Missing

978-0-593-30066-4 | \$27.00/\$36.00C

Penguin Press | HC | August 2022

📞 978-0-593-30067-1 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-58714-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Yiyun Li, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Madeleine Thien, an epic, mesmerizing debut novel set against a rapidly changing post-Cultural Revolution China.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Tang Yitian has been living in America for nearly a decade when he receives an urgent phone call from his mother: his father has disappeared from the family's rural village in China. Though they have been estranged for years, Yitian promises to come home.

Yitian struggles to navigate China's impenetrable bureaucracy, so he seeks out a childhood friend to help: Tian Hanwen. As a teenager, Hanwen was "sent down" from Shanghai to Yitian's village as part of the country's rustication campaign. Young and in love, they dreamed of attending university in the city together. But when their plans resulted in a tragedy, their paths diverged, and while Yitian ended up a professor in America, Hanwen was left behind, resigned to life as a midlevel bureaucrat's wealthy housewife.

Reuniting as adults, Yitian and Hanwen search for Yitian's father, while grappling with the past. Spanning the late 1970s to 1990s and moving effortlessly between rural provinces and big cities, *A Map for the Missing* is a deeply felt examination of family and forgiveness, and the meaning of home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the connections along the paternal line of the Tang family—Yitian and his brother, their father, and their grandfather. What makes each of these men different from one another, and how are they similar?
2. What are the different options available to men and women in China during this time? How do the paths of Mali and Hanwen, as well as Yitian's mother, compare to those of Yitian? Do any of the characters feel they have been able to fully thrive and attain happiness and success?
3. How does Yitian rely on both history and math to help him make sense of the world?
4. Have you ever experienced not being able to fully express your feelings to someone before they disappear from your life, like Yitian does with his father and Hanwen? Did any of Yitian's story resonate with you for that reason?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MapForTheMissingQuestions

Adriana Trigiani The Good Left Undone

978-0-593-18332-8 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Dutton | HC
978-0-593-18333-5 | DN: 978-0-593-50999-9
LP: 978-0-593-55645-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

A lush, immersive novel about a hardworking family of Tuscan artisans with long-held secrets.

Epic in scope and resplendent with the glorious themes of identity and belonging, *The Good Left Undone* is perfect for fans of Paula McLain and Lisa Wingate.



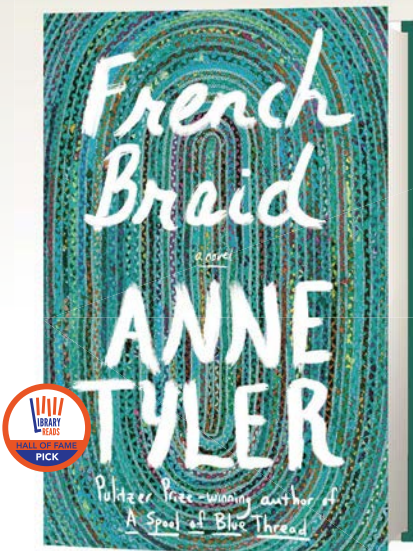
ABOUT THE BOOK:

As Matelda, the Cabrelli family's matriarch, faces the end of her life, she is determined to share a long-held secret with her family about her own mother's great love story: with her childhood friend, Silvio, and with Scottish sea captain John Lawrie McVicars, the father Matelda never knew. In the halcyon past, Domenica Cabrelli thrives in the coastal town of Viareggio until her beloved home becomes unsafe when Italy teeters on the brink of World War II. A hundred years later, her daughter, Matelda, and her granddaughter, Anina, face the same big questions about life and their family's legacy, while Matelda contemplates what is worth fighting for. But Matelda is running out of time, and the two timelines intersect and weave together in unexpected ways that lead the family to shocking revelations and, ultimately, redemption.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do shifts in Italian culture create tension between Matelda and Anina? Why was it so important to Matelda to tell her family stories from the past?
2. How does love—both romantic and platonic and, most importantly, self-love—change the course of the characters' lives? How do their decisions about who to love and when to follow their hearts affect generations to come?
3. "A family is only as strong as their stories." How do you see the Cabrelli family's story changing over the years?
4. Women from different generations are at the heart of this novel. Despite history changing around them, do these women feel different in the way they react to life circumstances to you? Why or why not?
5. What ending do you imagine for Anina? How did you experience her character's evolving over the course of the novel?
6. How did you understand the title, *The Good Left Undone*, upon finishing the novel?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TheGoodLeftUndoneBCK



Anne Tyler

French Braid:

A Novel

978-0-593-32109-6 | \$27.00 | Knopf | HC
978-0-385-69869-6 | \$32.95C | Bond Street Books | HC
📻 978-0-593-32110-2 | 🎧 CD: 978-0-593-55162-2
📄 DN: 978-0-593-55143-1 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-55660-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of the many writers who have been influenced by Anne Tyler over the years, such as Anna Quindlen, Amy Bloom, Jodi Picoult, Emily Giffin, and Julia Glass.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Brimming with warmth, wry humor, and endearingly eccentric characters, *French Braid* is a triumph of storytelling from Pulitzer Prize–winning author Anne Tyler. At the center of the novel (though she doesn't like being at the center of things) is Mercy Garrett, a dutiful wife who skillfully manages the care and feeding of her family throughout the 1950s and '60s. When the youngest goes off to college, Mercy at last feels free to pursue her passion for painting, gradually moving into her own studio and leaving ready-to-heat dinners for her husband, Robin.

Along the way, we follow Mercy and Robin's three children from their youth in a bygone era—when they took their one and only family vacation—to their own transitions to adulthood and empty-nesting decades later, just as the isolation of the pandemic is setting in. Raising poignant questions in every scene, *French Braid* reveals the gentle realities of family ties that constrict and those that fall apart altogether, while the daily hum of diligence and possibility reverberates in the background.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Revisit the novel's first chapter, now that you know the full story. What did you originally predict for Serena? What were your notions about why her family was so disconnected?
2. Which images stand out most clearly to you from the Garretts' summer vacation? What lifelong pursuits were set in motion for Alice, Lily, and David during their time at the lakeside cabin? Share your defining memories from a childhood trip.
3. Mercy's studio is free of clutter. If you were to set up a room of your own, what would it look like? How would you pass the time there?
4. Is Mercy a merciful person, including being merciful with herself? What do her paintings reveal about the aspects of home, and homemaking, that intrigue her?

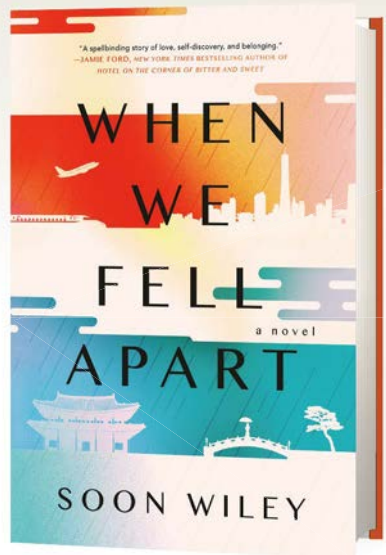
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/FrenchBraidRGG](https://www.tinyurl.com/FrenchBraidRGG)

Soon Wiley When We Fell Apart

978-0-593-18514-8 | \$27.00 | Dutton | HC
978-0-7352-4163-3 | \$23.95C | Viking Canada | TR
📍 978-0-593-18515-5 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-51009-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Everything I Never Told You*, a profoundly moving and suspenseful drama that untangles the complicated ties that bind families together as a young Korean American man's search for answers about his girlfriend's mysterious death becomes a soul-searching journey into his own bi-cultural identity.



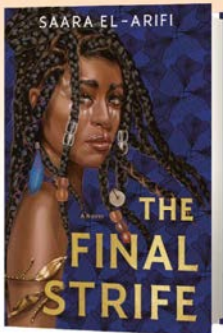
ABOUT THE BOOK:

When the Seoul police inform Min that his girlfriend Yu-jin has committed suicide, he's sure it can't be true. Min, born to an American father and Korean mother, has never felt quite the same certainty as Yu-jin about his life's path. After growing up in California, where he always felt "too Korean" to fit in, he's moved to Seoul in the hope that exploring his Korean heritage will help him find a sense of purpose. And when he meets Yu-jin, little does he know that their carefree relationship will set off a chain of events with tragic consequences for them both. Devastated by Yu-jin's death, Min throws himself into finding out why she could have secretly wanted to die. Or did she? But the more he learns about her, the more he begins to doubt he ever really knew her at all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Yu-jin's chapters are narrated from first-person point of view and Min's is told in third-person perspective. Did that impact the way you relate to these characters, and if so, how?
2. Min travels to Korea. Do you think he finds belonging in Korea? Why or why not?
3. In high school, Yu-jin describes herself as "focused, driven, ambitious, [and] obsessed." Do you think Yu-jin's approach to her own education is admirable? Why or why not?
4. How does Min's biracial identity interact with his experience in Korea?
5. All the major characters in the novel—Min, Yu-jin, So-ra, and Misaki—are drawn to Seoul for different reasons. What does Seoul represent to each character and what do they find so appealing about the city?
6. When talking to her mother, Yu-jin thinks "Even in my happiest moments, when I thought I was flying, I'd always been caged." How does Yu-jin come to understand her own happiness? Is Yu-jin actually caged? Why or why not?

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



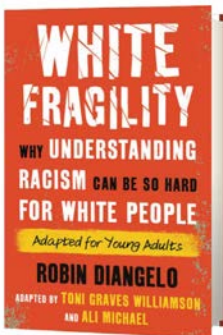
Saara El-Arifi

The Final Strife: A Novel

978-0-593-35694-4 | \$28.99/\$38.99C | Del Rey | HC | June 2022

📖 978-0-593-35695-1 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-60617-9

In the first book of a visionary fantasy trilogy with its roots in the mythology of Africa and Arabia that “sings of rebellion, love, and the courage it takes to stand up to tyranny” (Samantha Shannon, author of *The Priory of the Orange Tree*), three women band together against a cruel empire that divides people by blood.



Dr. Robin DiAngelo;

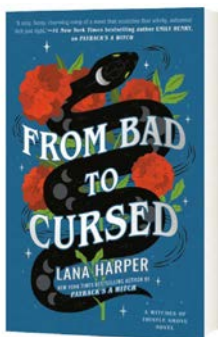
Adapted by Toni Graves Williamson and Ali Michael

White Fragility: Why Understanding Racism Can Be So Hard for White People (Adapted for Young Adults)

978-0-8070-0736-5 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Beacon Press | HC | August 2022

TR: 978-0-8070-1609-1 📖 978-0-8070-1610-7

A reimagining of the best-selling book that gives young adults the tools to ask questions, engage in dialogue, challenge their ways of thinking, and take action to create a more racially just world.



Lana Harper

From Bad to Cursed

978-0-593-33608-3 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Berkley | TR

📖 978-0-593-33609-0 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-55382-4

Opposites attract in this wickedly charming rom-com by Lana Harper, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Payback's a Witch*. Perfect for fans of *Practical Magic* and *The Discovery of Witches*.



Michelle Jabes Corpora, Thy Bui

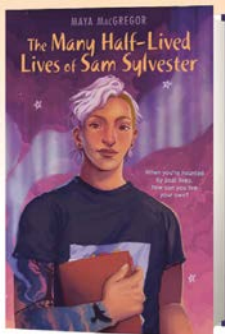
The Fog of War: Martha Gellhorn at the D-Day Landings

978-1-7826-9313-0 | \$12.95/\$17.50C | TR

Pushkin Children's Books | September 2022

📖 978-1-78269-314-7

The inspiring true story of Martha Gellhorn's perilous, secret journey to become the only female journalist to cover the D-Day landings of 1944. On board one of the hospital ships, disguised as a nurse, she talked her way onboard, hiding in a lavatory until it was too late to send her back. Now Martha is on her way to make history as the only woman to set foot on the beaches on D-Day.



Maya MacGregor

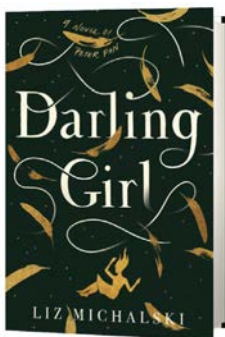
The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester

978-1-63592-359-9 | \$17.99/\$23.99C

Astra Young Readers | HC | June 2022

📖 978-1-63592-570-8

In this queer contemporary YA mystery, a nonbinary autistic teen 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.



Liz Michalski

Darling Girl: A Novel of Peter Pan

978-0-593-18563-6 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Dutton | HC

📖 978-0-593-18564-3 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-50997-5

In this beautiful, grounded, and darkly magical modern-day reimagining of J.M. Barrie's classic, one woman must take on the infamous Peter Pan—who is not the innocent adventurer the fairy tales make him out to be—to save her daughter's life.



Francesca Padilla

What's Coming to Me

978-1-64129-335-8 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Soho Teen | HC | August 2022

📖 978-1-64129-336-5

Seventeen-year-old Minerva Gutiérrez plans revenge on her predatory boss in this equally poignant and thrilling contemporary YA about grief, anger, and fighting for what you deserve, perfect for fans of Tiffany D. Jackson and Erika L. Sánchez.



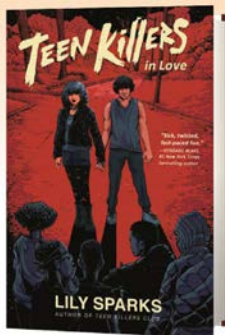
Rory Power

In a Garden Burning Gold: A Novel

978-0-593-35497-1 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC

📖 978-0-593-35498-8 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-55814-0

Twins imbued with incredible magic and near-immortality will do anything to keep their family in power—even if it tears the family apart—in the first book of a mythic epic fantasy duology from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wilder Girls*.



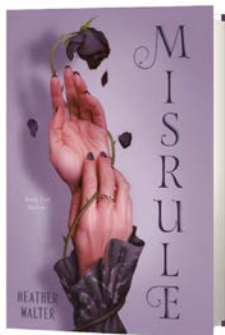
Lily Sparks

Teen Killers in Love

978-1-63910-076-7 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Crooked Lane Books | HC | August 2022

📖 978-1-63910-077-4

The Teen Killers Club is back in this “Sick, twisted, fast-paced” thriller (Kendare Blake, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author)—and this time, nobody’s taking any prisoners on a desperate run for their own lives.



Heather Walter

Misrule: Book Two of the Malice Duology

978-1-9848-1868-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC

📖 978-1-9848-1869-0 | DN: 978-0-593-55816-4

Does true love break curses or begin them? The dark sorceress of “Sleeping Beauty” reclaims her story in this sequel to *Malice*.

“Fans of reimagined fairy tales and LGBTQ+ themes will be delighted with the conclusion of this fantasy duology.” —*Booklist*, starred review



Andrew Joseph White

Hell Followed with Us

978-1-68263-324-3 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Peachtree Teen | HC | June 2022

📖 978-1-68263-449-3

A furious, queer debut novel about embracing the monster within and unleashing its power against your oppressors. Perfect for fans of *Gideon the Ninth* and *Annihilation*.

“Hands down the best YA horror book I’ve read.” —Aden Polydoros, author of *The City Beautiful*



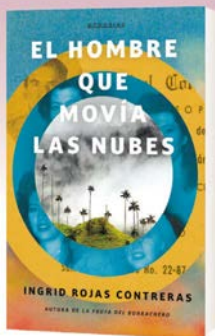
Karen Winn

Our Little World: A Novel

978-0-593-18449-3 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC

📖 978-0-593-18450-9 | DN: 978-0-593-51011-7

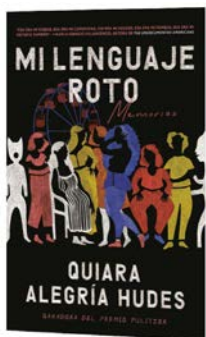
A powerful and lyrical coming-of-age debut novel that examines the complicated bond of sisterhood, the corrosive power of envy, and how the traumas of our youths can shape our identities for a lifetime.



Ingrid Rojas Contreras
El hombre que movía las nubes

978-1-64473-545-9 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

From the author of the critically acclaimed *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* comes a dazzling, kaleidoscopic memoir about liberating herself from Western notions of fact and fiction to reclaim her family's otherworldly legacy.



Quiara Alegría Hudes
Mi lenguaje roto

978-0-593-31486-9 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and co-writer of *In the Heights* tells her lyrical story of coming of age against the backdrop of an ailing Philadelphia barrio, with her sprawling Puerto Rican family as a collective muse.

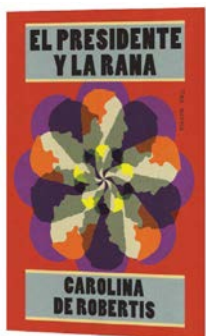


Ijeoma Oluo
Así que quieres hablar de raza

978-0-593-31462-3 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

📖 978-0-593-31463-0

In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from police brutality and cultural appropriation to the model minority myth in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race, and about how racism infects every aspect of American life.



Carolina de Robertis
El presidente y la rana

978-1-64473-450-6 | \$16.95 /\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

A PEN/Jean Stein Book Award Nominee

An incandescent novel—political, mystical, timely, and heartening—about the power of memory, and the pursuit of justice, from the acclaimed author of *Cantoras*.

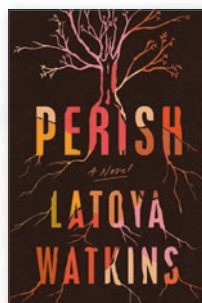
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