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# BOOK CLUB

*What Will You Read Next?*

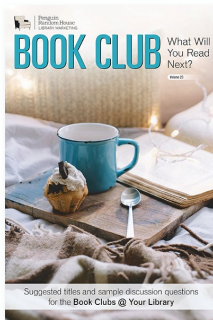
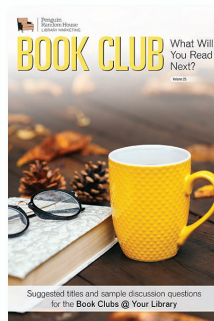
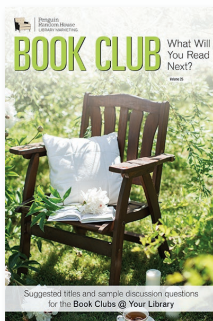
VOLUME 27



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

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Anna Bliss  
**Bonfire Night**

978-1-4967-4734-1 | \$17.95/\$24.95C | A John Scognamiglio Book | TR

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For fans of psychologically complex, emotional, character-driven historical fiction, such as *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles and *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

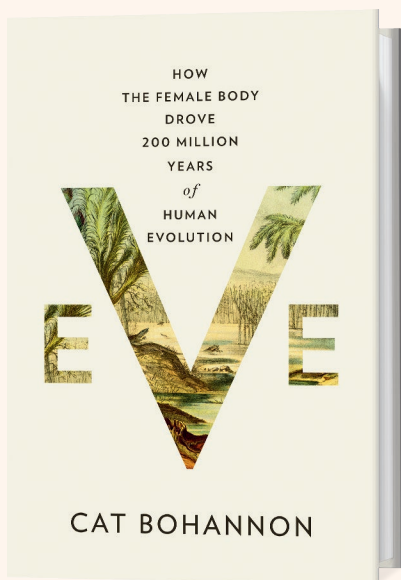
**L**ondon, 1936: Kate Grifferty is a press photographer in a Fleet Street agency, an unusual job for a young woman. But Kate is both talented and daring, recklessly going wherever the story might be—including to an anti-fascism protest in East London. There, she meets David Rabatkin, a brilliant Jewish medical student.

Kate is exposed to the dangers and demands of David's world, where marrying within the Jewish faith is seen as not only preferable, but key to survival. Kate neither expects nor wants to be any man's wife, and though she and David are both outsiders, as war looms, other differences between them are thrown into sharp relief.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Other than the need to keep her job, why do you think Kate initially tolerates Scargill's behavior? How do her reasons differ from Gordon's? *Bonfire Night* is set eighty years before the #MeToo movement. In what ways have things changed? How have they stayed the same?
2. Besides their different religions, were there other ways you felt Kate and David weren't well-suited for each other?
3. What do you think about Clifton? Would you have chosen him over David? Why or why not?
4. Kate's father is a difficult man, but in what ways are he and Kate similar? What makes their relationship untenable?
5. Do you think Kate is a good mother? How does the life Kate ultimately creates for her daughter reflect on the way she herself was raised?

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



Cat Bohannon

## Eve:

### How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution

978-0-385-35054-9 | \$35.00 | Knopf | HC

📞 978-0-385-35055-6 | 📺 DN: 978-0-8041-2755-4

📖 LP: 978-0-593-79300-8

#### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Hope Jahren's *Lab Girl* and fans of Mary Roach and Bill Bryson.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**H**ow did the female body drive 200 million years of human evolution? • Why do women live longer than men? • Why are women more likely to get Alzheimer's? • Why do girls score better at every academic subject than boys until puberty, when suddenly their scores plummet? • Is sexism useful for evolution? • And why, seriously why, do women have to sweat through our sheets every night when we hit menopause?

These questions are producing some truly exciting science—and in *Eve*, with boundless curiosity and sharp wit, Cat Bohannon covers the past 200 million years to explain the specific science behind the development of the female sex.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Bohannon grounds each chapter with an Eve, an evolutionary great-great-grandmother from whom we have all evolved. How did that organizational method feel to you as the reader? Was it helpful to get to know the various animals from whom we've evolved as humans? Did you have trouble imagining these species as ancestors?
2. What misconceptions about the female body did you confront while reading this book?
3. Have you noticed any of the evolutionary traits Cat Bohannon refers to in *Eve* in yourself or in women around you? If so, which ones?
4. Due to a combination of racism, sexism, ableism, and reduced public support for women's health, it's more dangerous for American women to be pregnant now than it has been in the last hundred years. What do you find most frustrating about this backslide? What are ways society can combat it?
5. As we think about the future, what evolutionary adaptations do you think female human bodies will make over the next several thousand years?

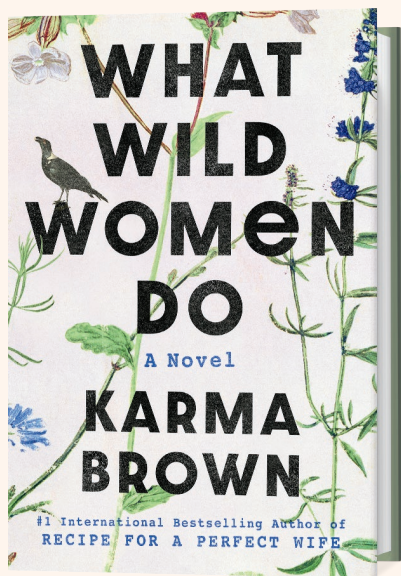
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Karma Brown  
**What Wild Women Do:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-18635-0 | \$28.00 | Dutton | HC  
978-0-593-18636-7 | DN: 978-0-593-78689-5

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

An aspiring screenwriter, a 1970s socialite-turned-feminist, and the camp in the woods that ties their stories together forever, in Karma Brown's new novel about ambition, betrayal, and the wildness that exists in all of us.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Rowan is stuck. Her dream of becoming a Hollywood screenwriter is stalled, and so she retreats to an isolated cabin in the Adirondacks to hopefully get out of her creative rut. There, Rowan finds herself drawn into a mysterious and unsettling story—that of socialite-turned-feminist-crusader Eddie Callaway, who vanished in these same woods the summer of 1975 and was never heard from again. But when a fateful discovery offers clues about what might have happened to her, Rowan finds herself with a shocking story.

As Rowan learns more about Eddie, she discovers that the camp leader's methods weren't welcomed by all. As Rowan draws closer to the truth of Eddie's unsolved disappearance, she realizes that the past may hold two keys: one that reveals what really happened to Eddie Callaway, and another that unlocks a future beyond her wildest imagination.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. After Rowan drunkenly admits that all their YouTube videos are staged, she and Seth record an apology video with a fake claim of alcoholism. How does this incident show their disjointed priorities? How do we see the effects echo through the plot?
2. How does knowing in advance about Eddie's mysterious disappearance impact how you read her sections? As you read the novel, what were your theories about what happened to her?
3. Rowan often dismisses or downplays Seth's YouTube channel, redirecting him back toward his unfinished dystopian novel. Do you agree with her about his potential and priorities?
4. How do Judith and Samuel compare to what we know of Eddie's ex-husband and previous life?
5. When Eddie sees Theo, he appears at different ages. Why do you think that is?

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



Elizabeth Castellano  
**Save What's Left:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-46917-0 | \$26.00/\$36.00C | Anchor | HC

📖 978-0-593-46918-7 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-73942-6

📖 LP: 978-0-593-86075-5

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

**A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK**

For fans of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* and  
*Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**W**hen Kathleen Deane's husband, Tom, tells her he's no longer happy with his life and their marriage, Kathleen is confused. They live in Kansas. They've been married thirty years. Who said anything about being happy? But with Tom off finding himself, Kathleen starts to think about what she wants. And her thoughts lead her to a small beach community on the east coast, a town called Whitbey that has always looked lovely in the Christmas letters her childhood friend Josie sends every year.

It turns out, though, that life in Whitbey is nothing like Josie's letters. Kathleen's new neighbor, Rosemary, is cantankerous, and the town's supervisor won't return Kathleen's emails, but worst of all is the Sugar Cube, the monstrosity masquerading as a holiday home that Kathleen's absentee neighbors are building next door to her quaint (read: tiny) cottage. As Kathleen gets more and more involved in the fight against the Sugar Cube and town politics overall, she realizes that Whitbey may not be a fairytale, but it just might be exactly what she needed.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What was your biggest takeaway from *Save What's Left*? Talk about the thematic meaning and importance of the title, from simple bumper-sticker slogan to full-fledged existential crisis. What was most compelling to you about this fish-out-of-water story? How, if at all, did you identify with Kathleen's journey?
2. The Sugar Cube is at the center of the action in *Save What's Left*. Talk about how this modern marvel of architecture, which stands in contrast to Kathleen's oyster shack, is a character in and of itself in the novel. Also, just for fun: If you had to choose between the two beach homes, which one would it be, and why?
3. Kathleen's estranged husband lives in her driveway, then on the water. Josie and Dan renewed their wedding vows only after a scandalous infidelity was revealed. What does a "normal" marriage and family look like in the world of this novel? What does *Save What's Left* have to say about the nature of love, betrayal, and forgiveness?

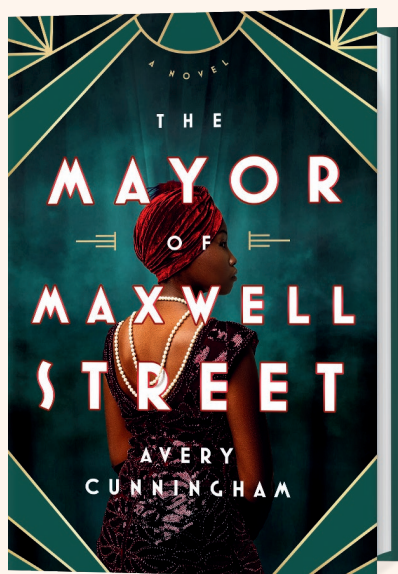
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Avery Cunningham  
**The Mayor of  
Maxwell Street**

978-1-36809-300-2 | \$27.99/\$36.99C | Hyperion Avenue | HC

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For fans of *The Vanishing Half*, *Seven Days in June*,  
and *The Personal Librarian*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

After the death of her only brother, Nelly Sawyer, daughter of the “wealthiest Negro in America,” becomes the premier debutante overnight. But Nelly has aspirations beyond society influence and marriage. For the past year, she has worked undercover as an investigative journalist, sharing the achievements and tribulations of everyday Black people living in the shadow of Jim Crow. Her latest assignment thrusts her into the den of a dangerous vice lord: the so-called Mayor of Maxwell Street.

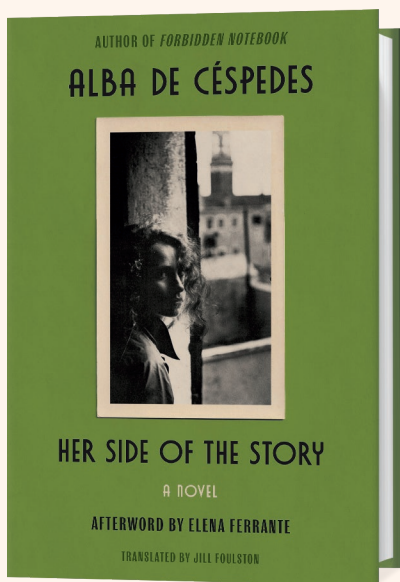
Born to a murdered biracial couple, Jay Shorey knows what it means to be denied a chance at the American dream. He forged his own way to running Chicago’s swankiest speakeasy, where the rich and famous rub elbows with gangsters and politicians alike.

When Nelly’s and Jay’s paths cross, she recruits him to help expose the Mayor and bring lasting change to a corrupt city. But Jay introduces a new world to Nelly, one where her horizons can extend beyond the confines of her ivory tower. Jay and Nelly work together and stoke the flames of a love worth fighting for.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. *The Great Gatsby* is one of the inspirations behind *The Mayor of Maxwell Street*. Where do you see the author paying homage to *Gatsby* in the novel? Where do you see her critiquing *Gatsby*?
2. “Passing” is a major theme in *The Mayor of Maxwell Street*, but not strictly racial passing. How do characters—Nelly, Jay, Tomás, and Sequoia especially—“pass”? What are they seeking to achieve, and what are they seeking to escape?
3. Throughout the novel, Nelly strives to balance her dangerous personal ambitions with her family’s legacy and the security it guarantees. Do you feel that one life-path is more favorable than the other? If you were faced with a similar choice, what would you do?

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



Alba De Céspedes;  
Translated by Jill Foulston  
**Her Side of  
the Story**

978-1-66260-143-9 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Astra House | HC  
📞 978-1-66260-144-6

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

Perfect for fans of Elena Ferrante and Domenico Starnone who enjoy narratives about Italian life and culture.

"De Céspedes' work has lost none of its subversive force."—*The New York Times Book Review*

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**A**lessandra Corteggiani recalls her youth during the rise of fascism in Italy, the resistance, and the fall of Mussolini, the lives of the women in her family and her working-class neighborhood, committed to telling "her side of the story."

Alessandra sees her mother, an aspiring concert pianist, suffer from the inability to escape her oppressive marriage. Later, she is sent away to live with her father's relatives in the country, in the hope she'll finally learn to submit herself to the patriarchal system. But Alessandra grows increasingly rebellious, conscious of the unjust treatment of generations of hardworking women in her family. When she refuses the marriage proposal from a neighboring farmer, she is sent back to Rome to her ailing father.

In Rome, Alessandra meets Francesco, a charismatic anti-fascist professor, who admires and supports her sense of independence and justice. But she soon comes to recognize that even as she respects Francesco and is keen to participate in his struggle to reclaim their country from fascism, this respect is unrequited, and her own husband is ensnared by patriarchal conventions when it comes to their relationship.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How does resentment toward an absent but idolized male figure, combined with her hunger for love and recognition, especially from her mother, set the stage for Alessandra's destiny?
2. How do these women's relationships, living conditions, and personal stories contribute to Alessandra's rage over the course of the novel?
3. How much of the action in this novel is provoked by a man misunderstanding a woman, in spite of her best efforts?
4. Is Alessandra's last act with Francesco an act?

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

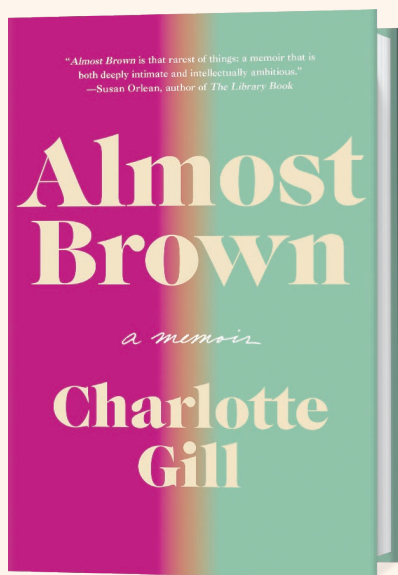


Charlotte Gill  
**Almost Brown:**  
A Memoir

978-0-59344-301-9 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Crown | HC  
📞 978-0-59344-302-6 | 📖 DN: 978-0-59374-089-7

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers who loved Mira Jacob's *Good Talk* for its hilariously poignant vignettes of interracial family life and Alexander Chee's *How to Write an Autobiographical Novel*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

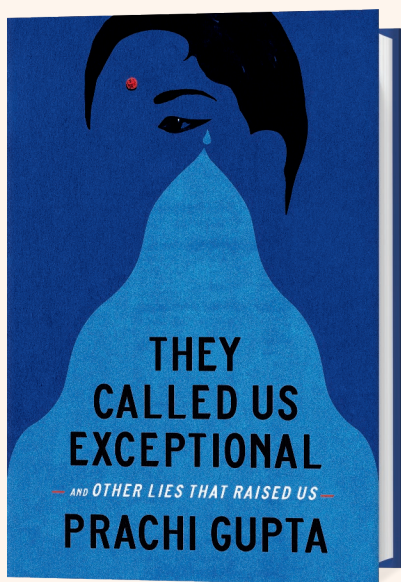
Charlotte Gill's father is Indian. Her mother is English. They meet in 1960s London when the world is not quite ready for interracial love. Their union results in a total meltdown of familial relations, a lot of immigration paperwork, and three children, all in varying shades of tan. Together they set off on a journey from the United Kingdom to Canada to the United States in an elusive pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness—a dream that eventually tears them apart.

In a funny, turbulent, and ultimately heartwarming story, Gill examines the brilliant messiness of ancestry, “diversity,” and the idea of “race,” a historical concept that still informs our beliefs about ethnicity today.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you think Charlotte Gill means by the title *Almost Brown*? How does her skin color affect her perception of others—and others' perceptions of her—and how does that shift in different situations throughout her life?
2. At times, Gill's writing is vividly detailed, almost literary. What stands out to you in her detailing of childhood memories? How does it affect your reading of the memoir? Does it make you reconsider how you might describe your own family?
3. In what ways are Gill's parents' religious beliefs similar? How do they differ?
4. Gill paints a picture of life as a kid growing up in the seventies and eighties. What stood out to you as particular to that time period? How do you think her experiences might have differed if she were growing up today?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/AlmostBrownDiscussionGuide](https://TinyUrl.com/AlmostBrownDiscussionGuide)



Prachi Gupta

# They Called Us Exceptional:

And Other Lies That Raised Us

978-0-59344-298-2 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Crown | HC

📖 978-0-59344-299-9 | 📻 DN: 978-0-59378-643-7

## READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of books about Asian American identity that do not center whiteness, like Cathy Park Hong's *Minor Feelings* and Michelle Zauner's *Crying in H Mart*.

## ABOUT THE BOOK:

Prachi Gupta's family embodied the American Dream: a doctor father and a nurturing mother who raised two high-achieving children with one foot in the Indian American community, the other in Pennsylvania's white suburbia. But their belonging was predicated on a powerful myth: that Asian Americans have perfected the alchemy of middle-class life, raising tight-knit, ambitious families that are immune to hardship. Molding oneself to fit this perfect image often comes at a steep but hidden cost.

But, tragically, the act that liberated Gupta was also the act that distanced her from those she loved most. By charting her family's slow unraveling and her determination to break the cycle, Gupta shows how traditional notions of success keep us disconnected from ourselves and one another—and passionately argues why we must orient ourselves toward compassion over belonging.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you think of the author's writing style? To whom is she speaking?
2. What was your understanding of or familiarity with the model-minority myth prior to reading the book? How does the author's perspective on it shape yours?
3. In what ways is the model-minority myth harmful? How did this myth affect the author and her brother's ability to understand themselves—and how did each of them respond to its pressures?
4. The author suggests that she initially wanted to write the book as a novel. Why do you think she considered that? Why does a memoir better serve her story?
5. Why are stories like Prachi Gupta's important? What about her story makes you examine your own?

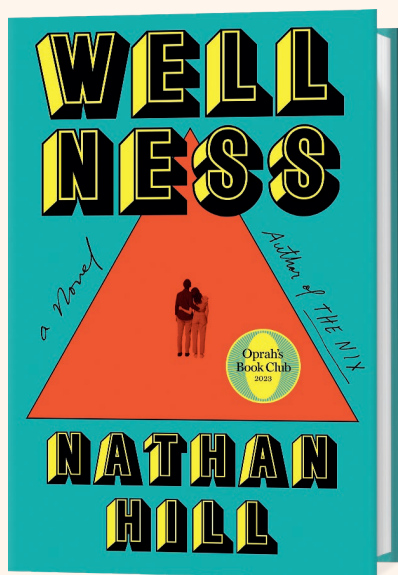
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/TheyCalledUsExceptionalDiscussionGuide](https://TinyUrl.com/TheyCalledUsExceptionalDiscussionGuide)

Nathan Hill  
**Wellness:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-53611-7 | \$30.00 | Knopf | HC  
978-0-385-68808-6 | \$38.00C | Bond Street Books  
📖 978-0-593-53612-4 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-78817-2  
📻 CD: 978-0-593-86337-4

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of Jonathan Franzen,  
Rachel Kushner, Jennifer Egan, Sally Rooney,  
and Taffy Brodesser-Akner.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

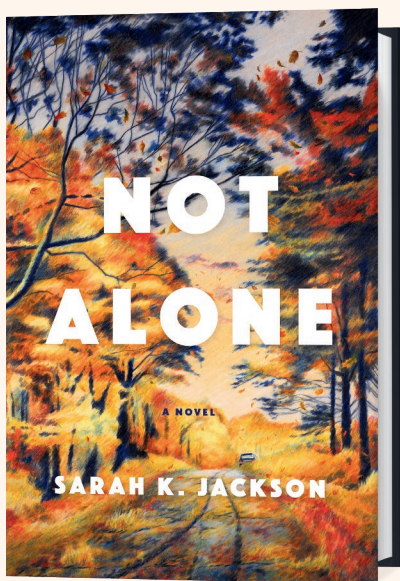
When Jack and Elizabeth meet as college students in the gritty '90s Chicago art scene, the two quickly join forces and hold on tight, each eager to claim a place in the thriving underground scene with an appreciative kindred spirit. Fast-forward twenty years to suburban married life, and alongside the challenges of parenting, they encounter the often-baffling pursuits of health and happiness from polyamorous would-be suitors to home-renovation hysteria.

For the first time, Jack and Elizabeth struggle to recognize each other, and the no-longer-youthful dreamers are forced to face their demons, from unfulfilled career ambitions to childhood memories of their own dysfunctional families. In the process, Jack and Elizabeth must undertake separate, personal excavations, or risk losing the best thing in their lives: each other.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Have you ever been under the placebo effect—in a medical or other context? After reading *Wellness*, can you look back on certain events, decisions, or changes that took place in your life and attribute those changes to belief alone?
2. Dr. Sanborne's theory of love is one explanation for why Jack and Elizabeth were attracted to each other (including the intimacy questionnaire that Elizabeth uses on their first date). Can you think of any other theories or explanations—from psychology, popular culture, or other traditions/systems—for how their relationship unfolds?
3. Which of the wellness trends mentioned in the book (Benjamin's diets and supplements; Jack's failed workouts; Elizabeth's and Lawrence's various healing potions, etc.) have you heard of or participated in? Did they produce the desired effect? Do you believe now, and did you believe then, that the product(s) or technique(s) "worked"?
4. Do you believe that Elizabeth and Jack are soulmates? Do you believe *they* believe they are? How does their own version of their love story change over time?

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



Sarah K. Jackson  
**Not Alone:**  
A Novel

978-0-385-54843-4 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Doubleday | HC  
📖 978-0-385-54844-1 | 📍 DN: 978-0-593-66663-0

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of *Room* by Emma Donoghue, *My Absolute Darling* by Gabriel Talent, *The Dreamers* by Karen Thompson Walker, and *Wanderers* by Chuck Wendig.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**F**ive years ago, a microplastic storm wiped out most of the population. No infrastructure. No safe havens. No goodbyes.

Since then, Katie and Harry have lived in isolation in their small flat outside London. Katie forages, hunts the surviving animal population, and provides for Harry, who was born after the storm, and who has never left their little home. After years without human contact, Katie and Harry are shocked by the arrival of a threatening newcomer, just as Katie's persistent cough seems to have taken a turn for the worse. But this proof of life beyond their familiar environment spurs Katie to undertake a previously unthinkable journey, in search of her fiancé, Jack, who never came home the day of the storm, and a different kind of life for Harry.

A debut that emphasizes the importance of resilience, hope, and sustainability today.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What were your feelings about climate change and conservation before reading *Not Alone*? Did reading the novel change your views? If so, how? How likely do you think it is that a catastrophic event like the storm will occur during your lifetime?
2. At the beginning of the novel, Katie and Harry live an isolated life in their flat, structured around Katie's foraging and trapping. What do you think you could survive on in your neighborhood if you were in a similar situation? What surprised you about their diet and practices?
3. Where did you think their adventure would take them when Katie and Harry discovered Jack's letter? Were you hoping that Katie and Jack might be reunited from the beginning? Did your perception of Jack change over the course of the novel?
4. Throughout the forward-moving plot, Katie flashes back to her life before the storm. How did these glimpses of Katie's life change your opinion of her? What did her memories reveal about her character that you might not have otherwise realized?

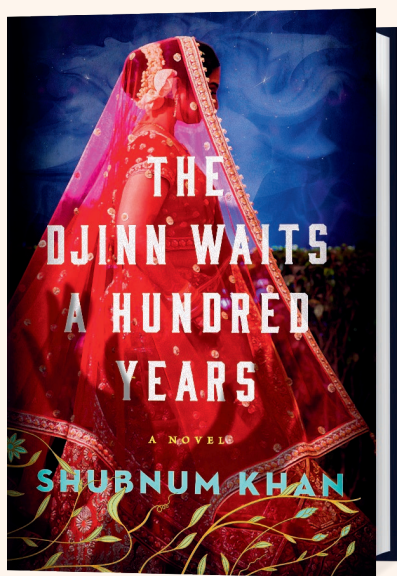
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Shubnum Khan  
**The Djinn Waits  
a Hundred Years:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-65345-6 | \$28.00 \$37.99 | Viking | HC  
978-0-593-65346-3 | DN: 978-0-593-78971-1

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

Perfect for readers of Silvia Moreno Garcia, Isabel Allende, and anyone who loved *The Haunting of Hill House*, *Bly Manor*, and *Chocolat*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

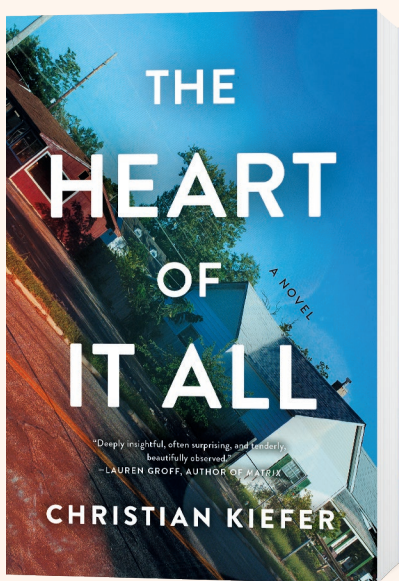
**A**kbar Manzil was once a grand estate off the coast of South Africa. Nearly a century later, it stands in ruins: an isolated boardinghouse for eclectic misfits, seeking solely to disappear into the mansion's dark corridors. Except for Sana who finds herself irresistibly drawn to the eerie and forgotten East Wing—and to the door at its end, locked for decades. Behind the door is a bedroom and a worn diary that whispers of a dark past: the long-forgotten story of a young woman named Meena, who died there tragically a hundred years ago.

Watching Sana from the room's shadows is a besotted, grieving djinn, an invisible spirit who has haunted the mansion since her mysterious death. Obsessed with Meena's story, Sana digs into the past, dredging up old and terrible secrets that will change the lives of everyone living and dead at Akbar Manzil.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. A bildungsroman, which roughly translates to a “novel of formation,” is defined as a coming-of-age novel that explores how a protagonist develops morally and psychologically, from childhood to adulthood. Would you say *The Djinn Waits a Hundred Years* is a bildungsroman?
2. The novel features a wide range of eccentric characters, each with their own story of love and loss. How does each character play a key role in Sana's character arc and that of the mystery at the heart of the novel?
3. Many of those eccentric characters are funny! What role does humor play in the novel?
4. Akbar Manzil, too, has a personality, as well as memories of its own. In what ways is the mansion a key character in the book?

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



Christian Kiefer  
**The Heart of It All**

978-1-68589-081-0 | \$19.99/\$25.99C | Melville House | TR  
📞 978-1-68589-072-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

The critically acclaimed author of *The Infinite Tides*, *The Animals*, and *Phantoms* returns with a stirring novel in the classic vein of Stephen Markley, Richard Russo, and Elizabeth Strout.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**A** small, declining town in Ohio. A family bereaved by terrible loss. A searing narrative about how American lives touch each other across divides both real and imagined...

*The Heart of It All* asks how one manages, in an America of increasing division, to find a sense of family and community.

Focusing on the members of three families: the Baileys, a white family who have put down deep roots in the community; the Marwats, an immigrant family that owns the town's largest employer; and the Shaws, especially young Anthony, an outsider whose very presence gently shakes the town's understanding of itself.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Two voices in particular—Sam's and Amy's—are left out of the chorus of individual perspectives that form the narrative. How do you think their inclusion would have changed the story and its themes?
2. With the division and isolation that has impacted the town, do you see commonalities in the experiences and feelings of the characters? Do you think that loss and heartbreak can create a bridge to connection or only deeper ruptures?
3. What is the role of fear as a driving force throughout the novel? Which characters are the most afraid? What are they really scared of?
4. *The Heart of it All* follows several families of multiple generations. What do these families represent in terms of American society in general? How do their fates embody the economic and social changes that have occurred over the last century? Are the youngest members trapped by these changes?

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

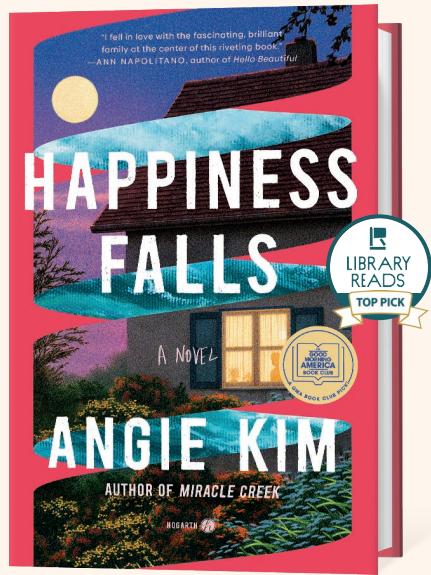
Angie Kim  
**Happiness Falls:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-44820-5 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Hogarth | HC  
● 978-0-593-44821-2 | ♻️ DN: 978-0-593-79043-4  
📻 LP: 978-0-593-79375-6

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A *GOOD MORNING AMERICA* BOOK CLUB PICK

A deeply moving portrait of a family in crisis from the award-winning author of *Miracle Creek*—for fans of Celeste Ng's *Little Fires Everywhere* or Laura Dave's *The Last Thing He Told Me*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

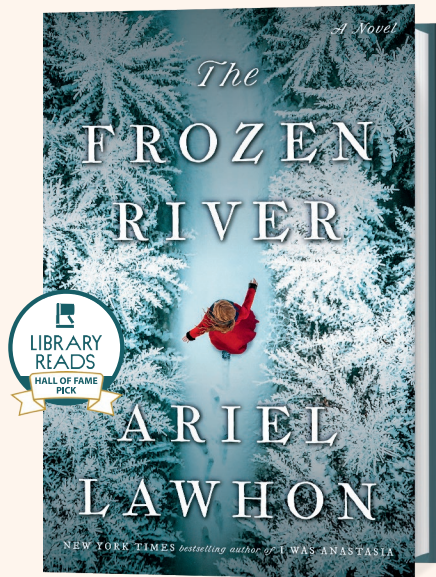
**M**ia, an irreverent, hyperanalytical twenty-year-old, has an explanation for everything—which is why she isn't initially concerned when her father and younger brother Eugene don't return from a walk in a nearby park. They must have lost their phone. Or stopped for an errand somewhere. But by the time Mia's brother runs through the front door bloody and alone, it becomes clear that the father in this tight-knit family is missing and the only witness is Eugene, who has the rare genetic condition Angelman syndrome and cannot speak.

What follows is both a ticking-clock investigation into the whereabouts of a father and an emotionally rich portrait of a family whose most personal secrets just may be at the heart of his disappearance. Full of shocking twists and fascinating questions of love, language, and human connection, *Happiness Falls* is a mystery, a family drama, and a novel of profound philosophical inquiry.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What were your first impressions of each member of the Parkson family? How did your perceptions evolve over the course of the novel?
2. How would you describe Mia's voice as a narrator? Is she "reliable"? How would the book be different if Angie Kim had written it in the third person?
3. Discuss the relationships between the Parkson siblings—and among the three of them. What do they learn about one another? How do you envision their relationships evolving after the events of the book?
4. Do you think it can be more difficult to see the people closest to us as they really are? Why or why not?
5. As Kim explores in *Happiness Falls*, we tend to equate oral fluency with intelligence (and vice versa). How did the character of Eugene challenge your assumptions about nonspeaking people?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/HappinessFallsBookClubKit](https://TinyUrl.com/HappinessFallsBookClubKit)



Ariel Lawhon  
**The Frozen River:**  
A Novel

978-0-385-54687-4 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Doubleday | HC  
978-0-385-54688-1 | DN: 978-0-593-74899-2  
LP: 978-0-593-79325-1

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of Diana Gabaldon, Chris Bohjalian, and Louise Penny, as well as fans of *Call the Midwife*.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**A** gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How did life in Hallowell in 1789 surprise you? Did the characters act as you expected for the historical period? What revelations were most interesting to you? How does our contemporary notion of the American dream apply to these characters?
2. "Memory is a wicked thing that warps and twists. But paper and ink receive the truth without emotion, and they read it back without partiality." Martha's diary is a critical component of the novel, and a key piece of evidence in Rebecca's trial. Have you ever kept a diary? If not, did reading *The Frozen River* influence you to start?
3. Did you read the author's note? If so, did it change your evaluation of Martha's life and the story of the "year of the long winter?"

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

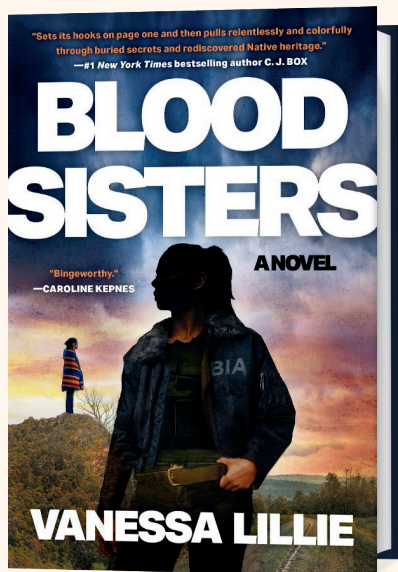


Vanessa Lillie  
**Blood Sisters**

978-0-593-55011-3 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Berkley | HC  
978-0-593-55012-0 | DN: 978-0-593-74694-3

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For fans of C.J. Box, Nevada Barr, Tony Hillerman, Louise Erdrich, *Longmire*, *Winter Counts*, and *The Only Good Indians*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**A** visceral and compelling mystery about a Cherokee archeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is summoned to rural Oklahoma to investigate the disappearance of two women . . . one of them her sister.

While Syd, an archeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs is dedicated to her job, she's haunted by a night of violence she barely escaped in her Oklahoma hometown fifteen years ago. Though she swore she'd never go back, the past comes calling.

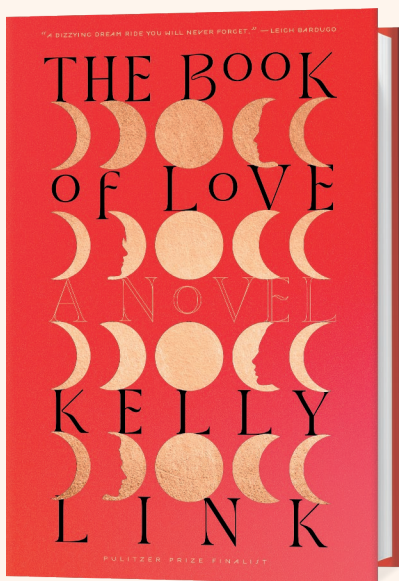
When a skull is found near the crime scene of her youth, just as her sister, Emma Lou, vanishes, Syd knows she must return home. She refuses to let her sister's disappearance, or the remains, go ignored—as so often happens in cases of missing Native women.

But not everyone is glad to have Syd home, and she can feel the crosshairs on her. Still, the deeper Syd digs, the more she uncovers about a string of missing indigenous women cases going back decades. To save her sister, she must expose a darkness in the town that no one wants to face—not even Syd.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Syd has used distance (both emotional and literal) to create boundaries with her sister, Emma Lou, and to some degree with her whole family. Do you think this approach is working for her, or is there an approach you think would have been better?
2. There's a lot of research and discussion online and in the media about the concept of trauma living in our bodies and even in our DNA. Did you see such trauma in Syd? And in what ways did it manifest?
3. Syd's pursuit of justice at any cost put her into some dangerous situations. Do you think she was too influenced by her past trauma and connection to the cases? Did Jo make a mistake in sending her to Oklahoma?
4. How does the loss of Luna impact Syd's relationships, and what could having her back mean?

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



Kelly Link

# The Book of Love:

## A Novel

978-0-8129-9658-6 | \$31.00/\$41.00C | Random House | HC

February 2024

📞 978-0-8129-9659-3 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-82259-3

### READERS' ADVISORY:

The long-awaited debut novel from bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize finalist Kelly Link, perfect for fans of David Mitchell's *The Bone Clocks*, Neil Gaiman's *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, and Erin Morgenstern's *The Starless Sea*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Late one night, Laura, Daniel, and Mo find themselves beneath the fluorescent lights of a high school classroom, almost a year after disappearing from their hometown, the small seaside community of Lovesend, Massachusetts, having long been presumed dead. Which, in fact, they are.

With them in the room is their previously unremarkable high school music teacher, who seems to know something about their disappearance—and what has brought them back again. Desperate to reclaim their lives, the three agree to the terms of the bargain their music teacher proposes. They will be given a series of magical tasks; while they undertake them, they may return to their families and friends, but they can tell no one where they've been. In the end, there will be winners and there will be losers.

But their resurrection has attracted the notice of other supernatural figures, all with their own agendas. As Laura, Daniel, and Mo grapple with the pieces of the lives they left behind, these mysterious others begin to arrive, engulfing their community in danger and chaos, and it becomes imperative that the teens solve the mystery of their deaths to avert a looming disaster.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does each character truly want? Do they get it?
2. What are the fundamental reasons Susannah and Laura don't get along? How is their relationship similar to or different from your relationship with your siblings?
3. How is Daniel's relationship with his siblings different than that of Susannah and Laura?
4. How does the concept of revenge play out in the story? Who wants revenge against whom? Who gets it? What happens when it's thwarted?
5. What role does music play in the novel?
6. When Laura, Mo, and other characters discovered their magical abilities, how did they use their abilities differently? What does each character's particular use of magic say about them?

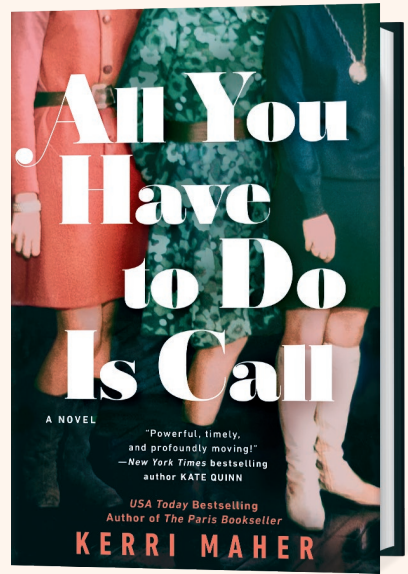
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Kerri Maher  
**All You Have  
to Do Is Call**

978-0-593-10221-3 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Berkley | HC  
📖 978-0-593-10223-7 | 🎧 DN: 978-0-593-61551-5

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A dramatic and inspiring novel based on the true story of the Jane Collective and the brave women who fought for our right to choose, from the *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Paris Bookseller*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Chicago, early 1970s. Jane is an underground women's health organization offering reproductive counseling and safe, illegal abortions. Veronica, Jane's founder, prides herself on the services she has provided to thousands of women. But when she's not at Jane, Veronica plays the role of a conventional housewife—which becomes challenging during her own high-risk pregnancy.

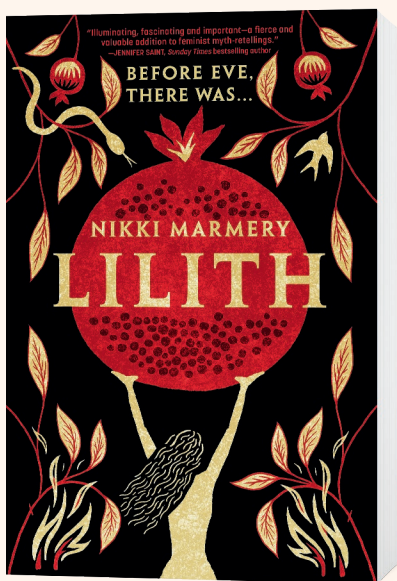
Two more women in Veronica's neighborhood are grappling with similar disconnects. Margaret secretly volunteers at Jane as she falls in love with a man whose attitude toward his ex-wife increasingly disturbs her. Patty is forced to come to terms with what it really means to love and support someone when her runaway sister shows up unexpectedly.

In this historic moment, Veronica, Margaret, and Patty must make choices that will change the course of their lives forever.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. The women of Jane have a very positive view of abortion. How does their view compare to views you've absorbed in your lifetime?
2. Did these women's lives feel like they could unfold today?
3. What is the role of female friendship in the novel?
4. Veronica has complicated feelings about having a second child. What are they, and can you relate?
5. Early in the novel, Margaret wonders if "perhaps love was antithetical to meaningful work." Do you think she would agree by the end of the novel?

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



## Nikki Marmery

# Lilith:

## A Novel

978-1-63910-571-7 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Alcove Press | TR  
📞 978-1-63910-572-4

### READERS' ADVISORY:

Perfect for readers who love feminist retellings in the vein of Madeline Miller's *Circe* and Jennifer Saint's *Ariadne*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**B**efore Eve, there was Lilith.

Lilith and Adam are equal and happy in the Garden of Eden. Until Adam decides Lilith should submit to his will and lie beneath him. She refuses—and is banished from Paradise.

Demonized and sidelined, Lilith watches in fury as God creates Eve, the woman who accepts her submission. But Lilith has a secret: she has already tasted the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Endowed with Wisdom, she knows why Asherah—God's wife and equal, the Queen of Heaven—is missing. Lilith plans to rescue Eve, find Asherah, restore balance to the world, and regain her rightful place in Paradise.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Lilith and Eve make very different decisions in response to Adam's attempt to control them. Do you, like Lilith, blame Eve for staying with Adam—or do you think Lilith's reaction to Eve's choice is unfair?
2. Lilith, and some of the other characters in this book, speak in a mix of modern slang and biblical language. Why do you think the author chose to write the dialogue this way? How did you respond to it?
3. Had you ever heard of the Hebrew goddess Asherah before? Has this aspect of the book—or any other—changed the way you think about the stories of the Bible?
4. This book retells the biblical creation myth, which became the foundation of the Abrahamic religions, and the origin story for the entire Western world. What is the difference between myth and religion? How and why do some myths acquire greater power than others?

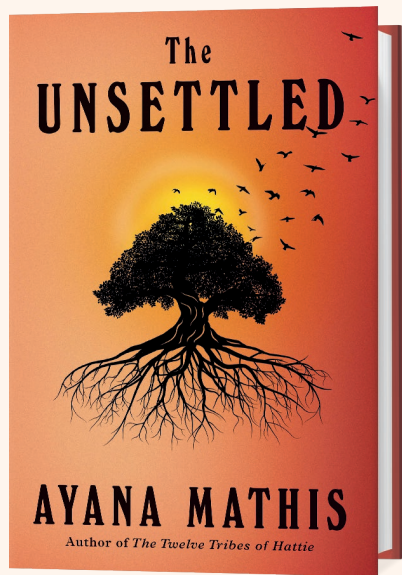
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Ayana Mathis  
**The Unsettled:**  
A Novel

978-0-525-51993-5 | \$29.95 | Knopf | HC  
978-0-525-51994-2 | DN: 978-0-593-78843-1  
LP: 978-0-593-79303-9

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of Tayari Jones, Brit Bennett, Charmaine Wilkerson, and Leila Mottley.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

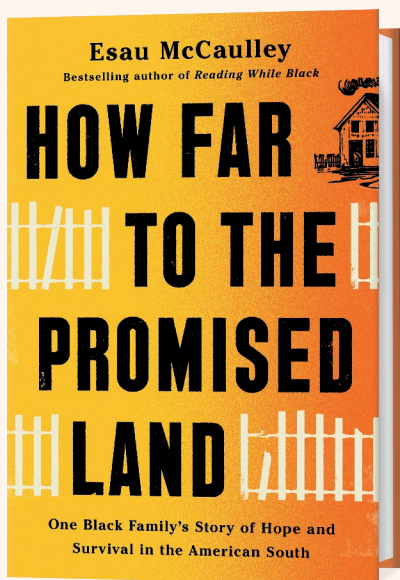
From the best-selling author of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, a searing multi-generational novel—set in the 1980s in racially and politically turbulent Philadelphia and in the tiny town of Bonaparte, Alabama—about a mother fighting for her sanity and survival. *The Unsettled* follows a mother and son as they navigate the challenges of homelessness and the inescapable tugs of history and family.

Brilliant, explosive, vitally important new work from one of America's most fiercely talented storytellers.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Many of the employees at Glenn Avenue judge Ava for behaving as if she is too good to be there. Is this judgment justified? From what we know of Ava's perspective of and experience at the shelter, why is she so determined to not accept it as her and Toussaint's home?
2. Throughout the book, the characters refer to themselves and their homes by numbers: 813 is Ava and Toussaint's room at Glenn Avenue; 248 becomes Ark. What effect do these references have on the characters' ability to achieve a sense of home? Are the numbers more or less distancing—and/or do they prevent too much attachment in a world where home is unpredictable?
3. Discuss the different vantage points we have of Toussaint while he and his mother stay at Glenn Avenue—from his perspective, his experiences at school and venturing around the city, versus how Ava sees his behavior and general appearance when he comes home every afternoon. How does the shifting perspective throughout the novel provide a more holistic view of Toussaint and other characters, as well as reflect the state of their lives? Which narration seems most accurate—a character's view of themselves, or someone else's?

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



## Esau McCaulley

# How Far to the Promised Land:

## One Black Family's Story of Hope and Survival in the American South

978-0-59324-108-0 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Convergent Books | HC  
📞 978-0-59324-109-7 | 📄 DN: 978-0-59379-073-1

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of landmark narratives that blend memoir with an examination of racial justice, Black culture, and family history, from authors like Ta-Nehisi Coates and Imani Perry.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

For much of his life, Esau McCaulley was taught to see himself as an exception: someone who, through hard work, faith, and determination, overcame childhood poverty, anti-Black racism, and an absent father to earn a job as a university professor and a life in the middle class.

But that narrative was called into question one night, when McCaulley answered the phone and learned that his father—whose absence defined his upbringing—died in a car crash. McCaulley was being asked to deliver his father's eulogy, to make sense of his complicated legacy in a country that only accepts Black men on the condition that they are exceptional, hardworking, perfect.

*How Far to the Promised Land* is a book that questions our too-simple narratives about poverty and upward mobility; a book in which the people normally written out of the American Dream are given voice.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Esau McCaulley begins *How Far to the Promised Land* with the death of his father and the fact that he had to deliver the eulogy for "the man who has caused us so much pain." How does this set up the rest of the memoir? Why do you think McCaulley made this choice and what effect does it have on the reader?
2. Which part of McCaulley's family history has stayed with you? Which members of his family did you find most compelling or inspiring?
3. When McCaulley defended his sister, her boyfriend knocked him down, hurting both his body and pride. "The problem was my inability to see that at bottom, he and I weren't combatants. We were fellow prisoners . . . struggling for the remnants of respect left after a society had stripped us of our dignity." Do you remember the first time you understood systemic racism? Please share.

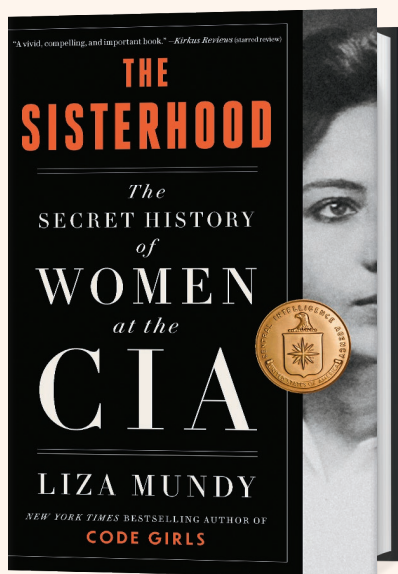
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/PromisedLandReaderGuide](https://TinyUrl.com/PromisedLandReaderGuide)

Liza Mundy  
**The Sisterhood:**  
The Secret History of  
Women at the CIA

978-0-59323-817-2 | \$32.50/\$42.50C | Crown | HC  
📞 978-0-59323-818-9 | 📖 DN: 978-0-59378-635-2

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

Readers of suspenseful tales of intelligence operations and international espionage with a feminist twist, like Sonia Purnell's *A Woman of No Importance* and Ben Macintyre's *Agent Sonya*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

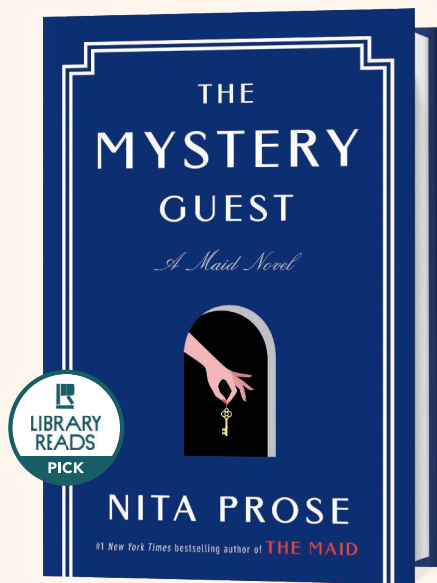
Created in the aftermath of World War II, the Central Intelligence Agency relied on women even as it attempted to channel their talents and keep them down. Women sent cables, made dead drops, and maintained the agency's secrets. Despite discrimination—even because of it—women who started as clerks, secretaries, or unpaid spouses rose to become some of the CIA's shrewdest operatives.

Propelled by the same meticulous reporting and vivid storytelling that infused *Code Girls*, *The Sisterhood* offers a riveting new perspective on history, revealing how women at the CIA ushered in the modern intelligence age, and how their silencing made the world more dangerous.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. *The Sisterhood* captures the experiences of three overlapping generations of women at the CIA. Which figures featured in *The Sisterhood* stood out most to you? What about their stories resonated?
2. How would you describe the attitudes and opportunities women experienced during each of these three generations? Put differently, what were the key differences in the experiences of Eloise Page, Lisa Harper, and Molly Chambers?
3. Mundy presents various examples of women conducting excellent spycraft, where being a woman is turned to the spy's advantage. What instances do you remember from the book? What unique qualities or perspectives might women possess that might make them good spies?
4. In your reading, did *The Sisterhood* celebrate or challenge your sense of patriotism? How so?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/TheSisterhoodDiscussionGuide](https://TinyUrl.com/TheSisterhoodDiscussionGuide)



## Nita Prose

# The Mystery Guest:

## A Maid Novel

978-0-593-35618-0 | \$29.00 | Ballantine Books | HC  
978-0-735-24130-5 | \$24.95C | Viking Canada | TR  
📍 978-0-593-35619-7 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-45271-4  
📻 CD: 978-0-593-86173-8 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-86114-1

### READERS' ADVISORY:

A standalone new novel from the bestselling author of *The Maid*, perfect for readers of quirky mysteries like *The Thursday Murder Club* and *Maggie Murders*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Molly Gray is not like anyone else. With her flair for cleaning and proper etiquette, she has risen through the ranks of the glorious five-star Regency Grand Hotel to become the esteemed Head Maid. But just as her life reaches a pinnacle state of perfection, her world is turned upside down when J. D. Grimthorpe, the world-renowned mystery author, drops dead—very dead—on the hotel's tearoom floor.

When Detective Stark, Molly's old foe, investigates the author's unexpected demise, it becomes clear that this death was murder most foul. Suspects abound, and everyone wants to know: Who killed J. D. Grimthorpe? Was it Lily, the new Maid-in-Training? Or was it Serena, the author's secretary? Could Mr. Preston, the hotel's beloved doorman, be hiding something? And is Molly really as innocent as she seems?

With the entire hotel under investigation, Molly must solve the mystery posthaste. Because if there's one thing she knows for sure, it's that secrets don't stay buried forever.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who did you first suspect might be responsible for J. D. Grimthorpe's death? What did you think about the red herrings in the story?
2. Gran has some of the best one-liners! What were some of your favorite quotes from Gran?
3. Molly says, "I've always been attuned to what others ignore." Why do you think Molly is able to see what others cannot? Do you think of yourself as someone who is often attuned to what others ignore?
4. Molly says, "Sometimes, fate has an uncanny way of delivering exactly what's deserved." In both good and bad ways, do you think fate delivered the proper ends for each character?
5. How has Molly Gray grown as a character? What changes did you notice since first meeting Molly in *The Maid*? What do you think is next for our favorite maid?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/MysteryGuestBookClubKit](https://TinyUrl.com/MysteryGuestBookClubKit)

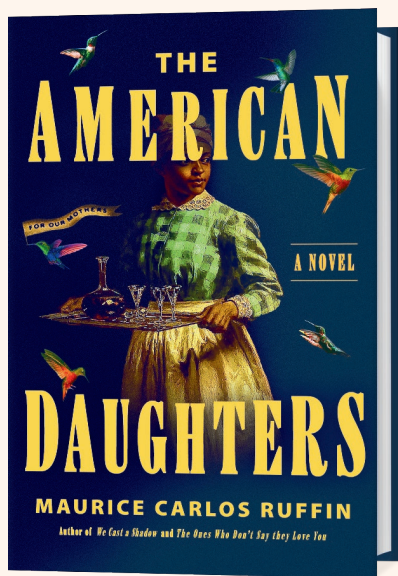


Maurice Carlos Ruffin  
**The American  
Daughters:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-72939-7 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | One World | HC | February 2024  
📍 978-0-593-72940-3 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-79565-1

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A gripping historical novel from the award-winning author of *We Cast a Shadow*, perfect for fans of *The Underground Railroad*, *The Water Dancer*, *The Prophets*, *The Vanishing Half*, and *Conjure Women*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

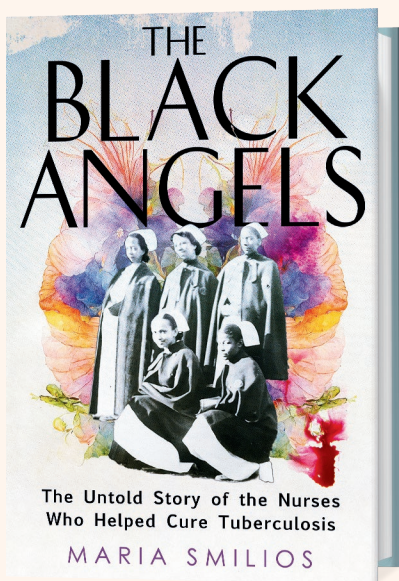
Ady, a curious, sharp-witted girl, and her fierce mother, Sanite, are inseparable. Enslaved to a businessman in the French Quarter of New Orleans, the pair spend their days dreaming of a loving future and reminiscing about their family's rebellious and storied history. When mother and daughter are separated, Ady is left hopeless and directionless until she stumbles into the Mockingbird Inn and meets Lenore, a free Black woman with whom she becomes fast friends. Lenore invites Ady to join a clandestine society of spies called the Daughters. With the courage instilled in her by Sanite—and with help from these strong women—Ady learns how to put herself first. So begins her journey toward liberation and imagining a new future.

*The American Daughters* is a novel of hope and triumph that reminds us what is possible when a community bands together to fight for their freedom.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Ady goes by many names: Ady, Adibempe, Antoinette, Mockingbird. What do each of these names signify to her? What role did she play while assuming each name?
2. What did you think of the epistolary sections? How was your reading experience with this book different from reading a straightforward historical fiction novel?
3. "I wasn't running away. I was running toward myself," Sanite tells Ady. Discuss what she means by this.
4. How did the setting of New Orleans factor into the plot? What is significant about New Orleans during the time in which the novel is set?
5. How do both the enslaved and free Black women retain their agency under an oppressive, brutal system?

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



Maria Smilios

## The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis

978-0-593-54492-1 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Putnam | HC

📞 978-0-593-54493-8 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-78751-9

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Hidden Figures*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *The Woman Who Smashed Codes*, *The Radium Girls*, *All That She Carried*, and *The Warmth of Other Suns*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the pre-antibiotic days when tuberculosis stirred people's darkest fears, white nurses at Sea View, New York's largest municipal hospital, began quitting en masse. Desperate to avert a public health crisis, city officials summoned Black southern nurses. But after arriving, they found themselves confronting racism and consigned to a woefully understaffed sanatorium.

The "Black Angels" risked their lives, but despite the "Black Angels" major role in desegregating the New York City hospital system—and their vital work in helping to find the cure for tuberculosis at Sea View—these nurses were completely erased from history. *The Black Angels* recovers the voices of these extraordinary women and puts them at the center of this riveting story, celebrating their legacy and spirit of survival.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How much did you know about tuberculosis before reading *The Black Angels*? Were you surprised to learn that it's still the number-one global infectious disease killer in the world?
2. What do you think makes the Black Angels' story so powerful? Was there a fact you learned about these courageous women that particularly resonated with you? Without the Black Angels, what do you think the health-care system, and world, would look like today?
3. Maria Smilios crafted the story of the Black Angels and their experiences using a narrative, almost novelistic approach. How do you think this style of writing aided in painting the picture of these women's lives, this time in history, and life at Sea View Hospital?
4. What was your favorite chapter in *The Black Angels* and why?
5. In what ways do you think society has progressed in the fight for equality in the workplace, and in what ways do you think we still have a long way to go? If you were one of the Black Angels during their time, how do you think you would have handled the obstacles they faced?

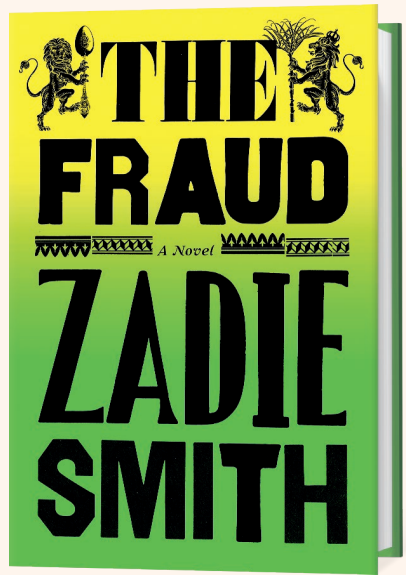
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Zadie Smith  
**The Fraud:**  
A Novel

978-0-5255-5896-5 | \$29.00/\$0.00 | Penguin Press | HC  
📞 978-0-525-55897-2 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-78878-3  
📻 LP: 978-0-593-79264-3

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A kaleidoscopic work of historical fiction set against the legal trial that divided Victorian England, for readers of *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, *Matrix* by Lauren Groff, and *The Magician* by Colm Tóibín.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**I**t is 1873. Mrs. Eliza Touchet is the Scottish housekeeper—and cousin by marriage—of a once-famous novelist, William Ainsworth. She suspects her cousin of having no talent; his successful friend, Mr. Charles Dickens, of being a bully and a moralist; and England of being a land of facades.

Andrew Bogle, meanwhile, grew up enslaved on the Hope Plantation, Jamaica. When Bogle finds himself in London, star witness in a celebrated case of imposture, he knows his future depends on telling the right story. The “Tichborne Trial” captivates Mrs. Touchet and all of England. Is Sir Roger Tichborne really who he says he is? Or is he a fraud?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What did you know about the historical figures and events around which this novel is centered? How did this story shape your understanding of pieces of history you already knew, or inspire you to inquire deeper into what you didn't?
2. Discuss the relationship between Mrs. Touchet and William. Besides familial ties, what about their personalities, ideologies, and interests maintains their bond until William's death?
3. What kind of legacy do you think Mrs. Touchet (as depicted in the novel) would have left on art and culture had she not been a woman, and/or born into her particular social class?
4. Did you interpret this novel to be the work of Mrs. Touchet? What aspects of the narration, the character development, and the setting make you think the way you do?
5. Why do you think England is so consumed by the Tichborne Trial? How does their obsession compare to the response to the work of Dickens?

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



## Clementine Taylor **Something About Her**

978-0-593-54430-3 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Putnam | HC  
📞 978-0-593-54431-0 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-78769-4

### **READERS' ADVISORY:**

A heartfelt and delicately crafted debut novel about two young women who become entangled in one another and embark on a surprising journey of self-discovery and modern love, for fans of Sally Rooney, Emma Cline, and Dolly Alderton.

### **ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**A**isling and Maya's connection is unexpected. Maya has recently returned to the University of Edinburgh for her second year, confident in her place there and in her first proper relationship with her childhood best friend, Ethan.

Aisling is a first-year student from Ireland. Reeling from her break-up with her ex-girlfriend, she struggles to make friends and finds herself isolated. That is, until Aisling joins the Poetry Society. That's where she meets Maya, and everything changes.

With vivid insight and tenderness, *Something About Her* exposes the fear, hope, and longing that can consume us, particularly when there's so much you still don't know about love, about life, and about yourself.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Throughout the story, Maya and Aisling tend to cling to what is familiar to them. How do they deal with these connections to their pasts?
2. Discuss how Aisling and Maya hide things from others and from each other. What do you think the author is saying about the role of shame or guilt in the process of self-discovery?
3. In *Something About Her*, anxiety is depicted in different ways: Maya's anxiety is portrayed as an insect, and Aisling often feels as if her mother is watching her or coming for her. How does anxiety manifest in their relationship?
4. Poetry plays a big role in the novel. How did you find the poetry references or text in verse to work throughout the book? In what ways does poetry tie Aisling and Maya together?
5. Talk about the apple tree scene. What does this moment represent for Aisling?
6. Who do you think is narrating the final chapters? What do you think motivated one of them to leave? Did this ending make you think differently about their relationship?

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

Leo Vardiashvili  
**Hard by a  
Great Forest:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-54503-4 | \$29.00 \$39.00 | Riverhead | HC  
978-0-593-54505-8 | DN: 978-0-593-82906-6

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of emotionally driven stories set against wartime, like *All the Light We Cannot See* and the novels of John Boyne, as well as readers of *The Kite Runner* or *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*.



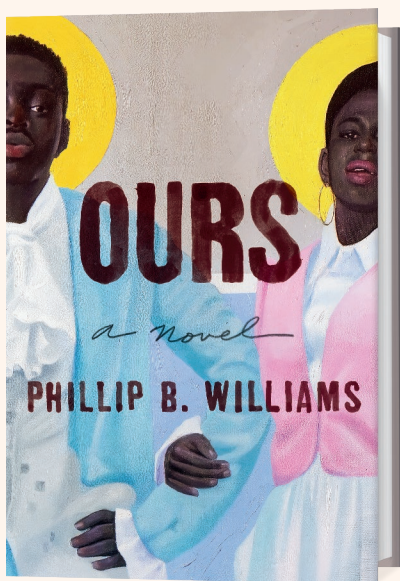
**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**H**aving fled conflict in the former Soviet republic of Georgia as children, Saba and his brother have fought to make peace with the past. They struggle with the sacrifices of a mother who remained in a war zone so that their father could get them out. Years later, the brothers are young adults, their mother is dead, and their father has been lured back to their beautiful, decaying homeland—only to disappear. Then Saba's older brother vanishes, too. Left alone to find his family, Saba sets off on his own urgent, haunted search across his homeland. Accompanied by new friends and old ghosts, he must wrestle the present from the past as he crosses into danger zones he thought he had left behind.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. *Hard by a Great Forest* tells the gut-wrenching story of a war-torn family. Saba and his brother escaped the war in the Republic of Georgia as children. Their mother stayed behind, while their father fled with the kids to find asylum in the United Kingdom. What does the book reveal about the traumas of war?
2. Years later, as a young adult, Saba goes back to Tbilisi, Georgia. While much of the city has changed, Saba feels at once a sense of belonging and displacement. How does Saba attempt to reconcile with his past when returning to his homeland?
3. Saba searches for his father, Irakli, and his brother, Sandro. As Saba follows a trail of clues, he unveils secrets that lead to dangerous sites and unknown people. Consider Saba's scavenger hunt as a hero's journey, in which the character embarks on a challenging adventure. What does Saba learn, and how is he transformed as a character?

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



Phillip B. Williams

## Ours: A Novel

978-0-593-65482-8 | \$32.00 \$42.00 | Viking | HC  
📖 978-0-593-65483-5 | 📱 DN: 978-0-593-82723-9

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Colson Whitehead, Jesmyn Ward, Akwaeke Emezi, and Marlon James; as well as fans of magical realism in the tradition of Gabriel García Márquez and Toni Morrison.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this ingenious, sweeping novel, Phillip B. Williams introduces us to an enigmatic woman named Saint, a fearsome conjuror who, in the 1830s, annihilates plantations all over Arkansas to rescue the people enslaved there. She brings those she has freed to a haven of her own creation: a town just north of St. Louis, magically concealed from outsiders, named Ours.

It is in this miraculous place that Saint's grand experiment—a truly secluded community where her people may flourish—takes root. But although Saint does her best to protect the inhabitants of Ours, over time, her conjuring and memories begin to betray her, leaving the town vulnerable to intrusions by newcomers with powers of their own. As the cracks in Saint's creation are exposed, some begin to wonder whether the community's safety might be yet another form of bondage.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Ours* orbits around Saint, a conjuror with supernatural powers, and is influenced by the Hoodoo spiritual tradition. What does magical realism allow Williams to explore that purely realist historical fiction might not? How does Williams use the supernatural and symbolic elements in the novel to explore the novel's central themes?
2. After a confrontation with Justice, Aba contemplates the nature of love: "Just because you can carry love don't mean it's light." What do you think he means? How do the characters try and fail to love each other over the course of the novel?
3. The privacy and seclusion of *Ours* can be both liberating and stifling for its inhabitants. Is it possible to have freedom without security? How does this tension play out in the novel's characters?
4. Most stories about Black Americans set in the antebellum period revolve around slavery. Discuss popular depictions of Black American life during this period that you've encountered in the past. How has your experience with those works differed from your experience reading *Ours*?

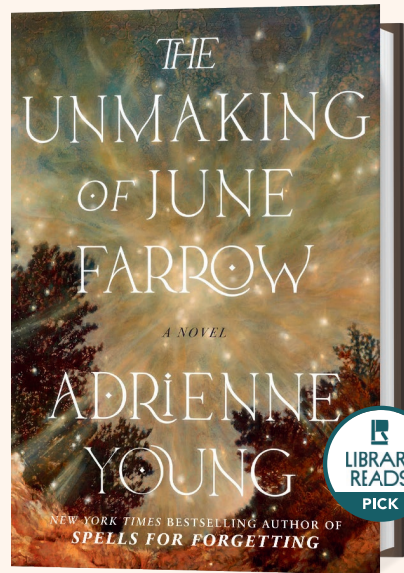
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Adrienne Young  
**The Unmaking of June Farrow:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-59867-2 | 28.00/\$37.99C | Delacorte Press | HC  
E 978-0-593-59868-9 | DN: 978-0-593-78733-5

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A mesmerizing new novel from the author of *Spells for Forgetting*, perfect for fans of Alice Hoffman's *Magic Lessons* and Sarah Addison Allen's *Garden Spells*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

In the small mountain town of Jasper, North Carolina, June Farrow is waiting for fate to find her. The Farrow women are known for their thriving flower farm—and the mysterious curse that has plagued their family line. The whole town remembers the madness that led to Susanna Farrow's disappearance, leaving June to be raised by her grandmother and haunted by rumors.

It's been a year since June started seeing and hearing things that weren't there. Faint wind chimes, a voice calling her name, and a mysterious door appearing out of nowhere. But June is determined to end the curse once and for all, even if she must sacrifice finding love and having a family of her own.

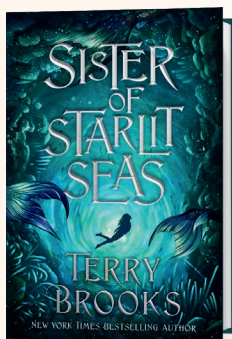
After her grandmother's death, June discovers a series of cryptic clues regarding her mother's decades-old disappearance, except they only lead to more questions. But could the door she once assumed was a hallucination be the answer she's been searching for?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Discuss June as a character. What were your first impressions of her? How did she change over the course of the novel? What would you have done differently in her position?
2. What did you think of the time travel aspect of the story? If you were to walk through a door in time, where would you hope to be transported?
3. Feminism and motherhood are major themes throughout the novel. The women at the heart of the story sacrifice so much for each other and for their family. Discuss the different women in this book— June, Susanna, Margaret, Birdie, and others— and their roles in the narrative. How is June's life shaped by these women? What lengths would you go to for the women in your life?
4. Eamon is the main love interest in *The Unmaking of June Farrow*. What do you make of his reaction to June's return? Would you be able to forgive her?

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

# TITLES FOR TEEN BOOK GROUPS



Terry Brooks

## Sister of Starlit Seas

978-0-593-12977-7 | \$28.99/\$38.99C | Del Rey | HC

📖 978-0-593-12978-4 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-82162-6

A rebellious young heroine begins a voyage of self-discovery in the third novel of an epic fantasy series set in the world of Viridian Deep, from the legendary author of the Shannara saga.



Molly X. Chang

## To Gaze Upon Wicked Gods

978-0-593-72224-4 | \$28.99/\$38.99C | Del Rey | HC | April 2024

📖 978-0-593-72225-1 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-82396-5

She has power over death. He has power over her. When two enemies strike a dangerous bargain, will they end a war . . . or ignite one?



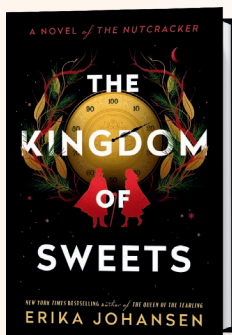
Ari Folman; Illustrated by Lena Guberman

## Where Is Anne Frank

978-1-5247-4934-7 | \$25.00/\$34.00C | Pantheon | HC

📖 978-1-5247-4935-4

A new graphic novel that brings to life Kitty, Anne Frank's imaginary friend to whom she addressed her diary—from the same creative team that produced the international bestselling and award-winning *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*.



Erika Johansen

## The Kingdom of Sweets:

A Novel of the Nutcracker

978-1-5247-4275-1 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Dutton | HC

📖 978-1-5247-4276-8 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-78687-1

This gloriously transportive reimagining of *The Nutcracker* tells the tale of twin sisters, divided by envy and magic, set against each other on one fateful Christmas Eve.

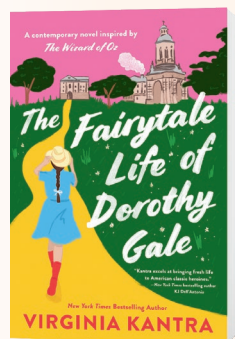


Virginia Kantra

## The Fairytale Life of Dorothy Gale

978-0-593-54771-7 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Berkley | TR  
 ⓘ 978-0-593-54772-4 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-74742-1

A woman learns to follow her own road in this heartwarming novel inspired by *The Wizard of Oz* by New York Times bestselling author Virginia Kantra.



Melissa Landers

## Make Me a Liar

978-1-368098-380 | \$17.99/\$24.49C | Disney Hyperion | HC

Veronica Mars gets a fantastical twist in this novel about a girl with a transferrable consciousness, who uses her power for good, only to have it turned on her when someone uses her body to commit murder. Now she must solve the crime before the killer comes after her. Caught red handed... for a crime she didn't commit.



Crystal Maldonado

## The Fall of Whit Rivera

978-0-8234-5236-1 | \$19.99/\$25.99C | Holiday House | HC  
 ⓘ 978-0-8234-5725-0 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-79467-8

Could you plan the Fall Formal with your (hot) nemesis? Whit Rivera is about to find out. Frenemies Whit and Zay have been at odds for years (ever since he broke up with her in, like, the most embarrassing way imaginable), so when they're forced to organize the fall formal together, it's a literal disaster.



Joel A. Sutherland

## House of Ash and Bone

978-1-77488-096-8 | \$17.99/\$23.99C | Tundra | HC  
 ⓘ 978-1-77488-097-5 | 📻 DN: 978-1-77488-099-9

*The Haunted* meets *House of Salt and Sorrows* in this young adult debut horror by acclaimed Canadian master of the macabre Joel A. Sutherland.



## TITLES FOR SPANISH-LANGUAGE BOOK GROUPS



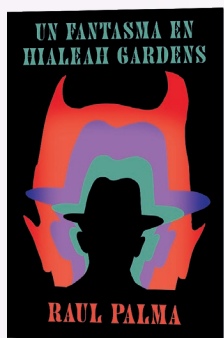
### Mario Vargas Llosa **Le dedico mi silencio**

978-1-64473-956-3 | \$23.95/\$31.95C | Alfaguara | TR

The most prestigious author in Spanish literature today returns with a novel set in his native Peru. *I Give You My Silence* is the story of a man who dreamed of a country united by music and went mad trying to write the perfect book to tell it.

"The waltz, born in the alleyways of Lima, integrated Peru. Here I tell this story, and with it I thank a secret love that has been with me my entire life: the love I feel for Creole music, specially, for my country's waltz."

—Mario Vargas Llosa



### Raul Palma **Un fantasma en Hialeah Gardens**

978-1-64473-752-1 | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Vintage Español | TR

Abrazingly original, postcolonial riff on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* by award-winning debut author Raul Palma. Set in Raul's multiethnic and multicultural home city of Miami, the novel explores the problem of indebtedness—and specifically, the financial and psychic weight of moving through a world where the odds seem to always favor the rich and powerful.

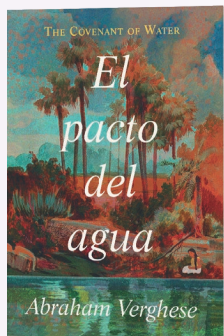


### Hiram Ruvalcaba **Todo pueblo es cicatriz**

978-607-38-3537-4 | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Literatura Random House | TR

Hiram Ruvalcaba is skilled at crafting unsettling plots and combining influences that range from true crime and Southern Gothic to Latin American chronicle, Juan Rulfo and Juan José Arreola. But his writing is also more than that: It is a moving testimony to twenty-first century masculinity and an attempt to face one's demons head on, without hypocrisy or, if possible, fear.—Julián Herbert

Three murders, among countless others that have left a death toll too high to process. Hiram Ruvalcaba uses them as the starting point for this impressive debut, an autobiographical novel that positions him as a worthy heir to a Mexican literary tradition founded by masters such as Juan Rulfo and Juan José Arreola.



### Abraham Verghese **El pacto del agua**

979-88-909801-5-1 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Salamandra | TR

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Cutting for Stone* comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret.

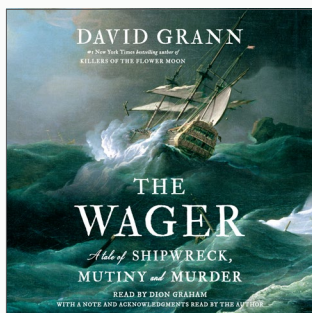
"One of the best books I've read in my entire life. It's epic. It's transportive . . . It was unputdownable!"—Oprah Winfrey, OprahDaily.com

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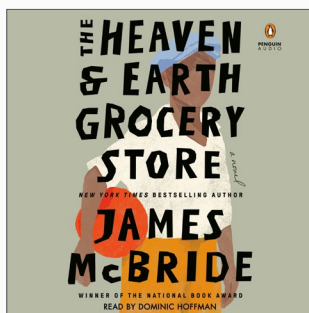


David Grann; Read by Dion Graham  
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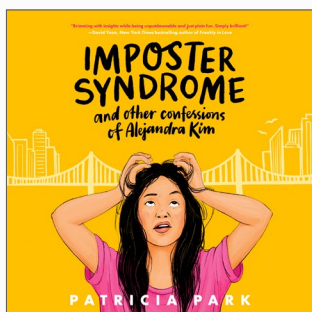
—AudioFile Earphones Award



James McBride; Read by Dominic Hoffman  
**The Heaven & Earth  
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"Dominic Hoffman fully inhabits the characters in McBride's fresh, vital, beautifully written historical novel, resulting in a deeply immersive listening experience." —AudioFile Earphones Award



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Confessions of Alejandra Kim**

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Written and Read by Barbra Streisand  
**My Name Is Barbra**

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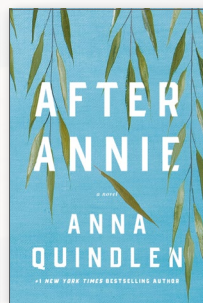
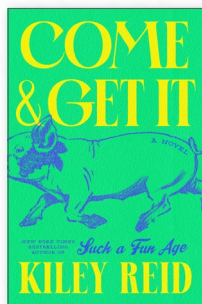
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