



Penguin
Random House
LIBRARY MARKETING

BOOK CLUB

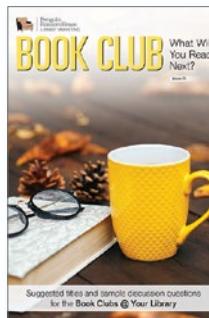
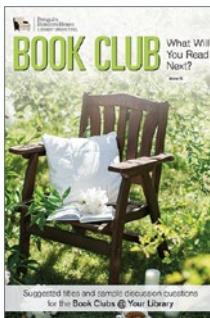
What Will You Read Next?

VOLUME 31



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

Want More Book Club Suggestions? Collect Them All!



[TinyUrl.com/PRHLibraryBookClubBrochures](http://tinyurl.com/PRHLibraryBookClubBrochures)

Be the first to hear about great upcoming reads from Penguin Random House!

Sign up for our eNewsletters at:
PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com/Subscribe

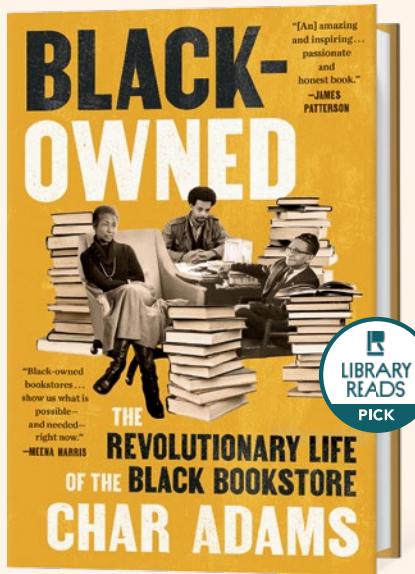
Char Adams

Black-Owned: The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore

978-0-593-47423-5 | \$32.00/\$42.00C | Tiny Reparations Books | HC
ISBN 978-0-593-47425-9 | D/N: 979-8-217-16149-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

Longtime NBC News reporter Char Adams offers a deeply compelling and rigorously reported history of Black political movements as told through the lens of the Black-owned bookstore. For readers of *Well-Read Black Girl* and *Begin Again*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

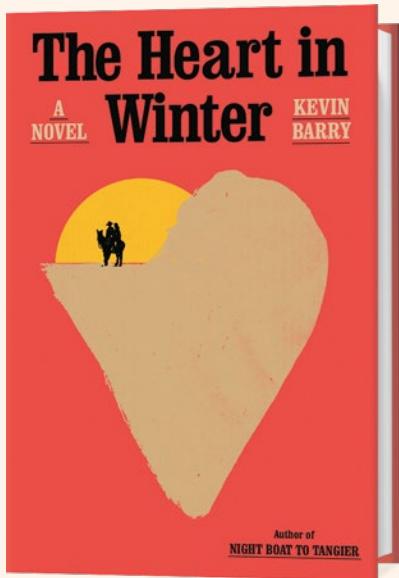
Black-Owned celebrates the history of Black bookstores and their role as centerpieces of resistance and liberation. Drawn from the author's in-depth research and reporting, *Black-Owned* is a story of activism, espionage, violence, and perseverance. Char Adams details Black bookstores' battles with racist vigilantes, local law enforcement, and federal agents as they fueled Black political movements throughout American history.

Today finds Black-owned bookshops in a position of strength—and as Adams will make clear, in an era of increasing division, their presence is needed now more than ever. Populated by vibrant characters, and written with cinematic flair, *Black-Owned* will be an enlightening story of community, resistance, and joy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What's the most memorable experience you've had at a bookstore?
2. Why do you think bookselling and activism have intersected so often in American history?
3. How have Black bookstores engaged with their community in the United States? How did their work change over the years?
4. Black bookstores faced backlash from individuals and government agencies. Why were Black bookstores seen as a threat?
5. Drum and Spear expanded from bookselling into book publishing—in what ways do authors, bookstores, and book presses interact in this book?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/BlackOwnedBCK



Kevin Barry

The Heart in Winter:

A Novel

978-0-385-55059-8 | \$28.00 | Doubleday | HC
978-1-0390-1075-8 | \$32.95C | Knopf Canada | HC
E 978-0-385-55060-4 | DN: 978-0-593-86555-2
LP: 978-0-593-91531-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Sally Rooney, Eimear McBride, Paul Murray, and Douglas Stuart.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

October 1891. A hard winter approaches across the Rocky Mountains. The city of Butte, Montana is rich on copper mines and rampant with vice and debauchery among a hard-living crowd of immigrant Irish workers. Here we find Tom Rourke, a young poet and ballad-maker of the town, but also a doper, a drinker, and a fearsome degenerate. Just as he feels his life is heading nowhere fast, Polly Gillespie arrives in town as the new bride of the extremely devout mine captain Long Anthony Harrington. A thunderbolt love affair takes spark between Tom and Polly and they strike out west on a stolen horse, moving through the badlands of Montana and Idaho, and briefly an idyll of wild romance perfects itself. But a posse of deranged Cornish gunmen are soon in hot pursuit and closing in fast. With everything to lose and the safety and anonymity of San Francisco still a distant speck on their horizon, the choices they make will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What aspects of Tom's personality make him suspect among the authorities of Butte? How might his more artistic and mystical interests have been received if he was living in a different time period?
2. Discuss the drifter characters that Tom and Polly meet on the road.
3. The townspeople describe Tom as having "a kind of witchery about him." What events lead them to this conclusion? What does it mean during this time for a man to be labeled with that word?
4. What aspects of Irish culture have become embedded in Butte?
5. Describe the couple's connection to their horse. Why does selling her seem like such a betrayal? How does Tom anthropomorphize the horse in his mind and behaviors?

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

S. J. Bennett

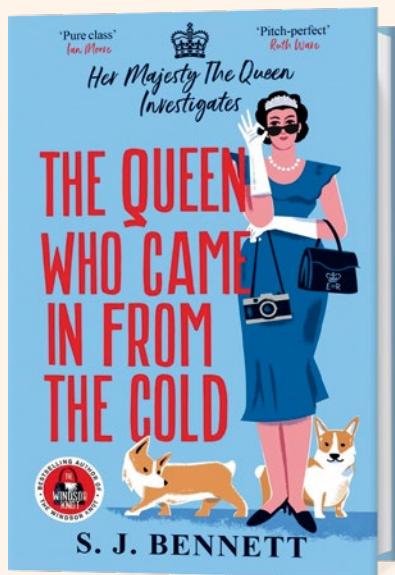
The Queen Who Came in from the Cold:

Her Majesty the Queen Investigates

979-8-89242-092-1 | \$29.99/\$39.99C | Crooked Lane | HC
ISBN 979-8-89242-093-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

Amateur sleuth Queen Elizabeth II is back on the case in 1960s England in the fifth installment of this historical mystery series *The New York Times Book Review* calls “sheer entertainment,” perfect for fans of Rhys Bowen and Richard Osman.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

1961, England.

The Queen is spending a night on board the royal train with her entourage and her sister, Princess Margaret. But before they reach their destination, an unreliable witness claims to have seen a brutal murder from one of the carriages.

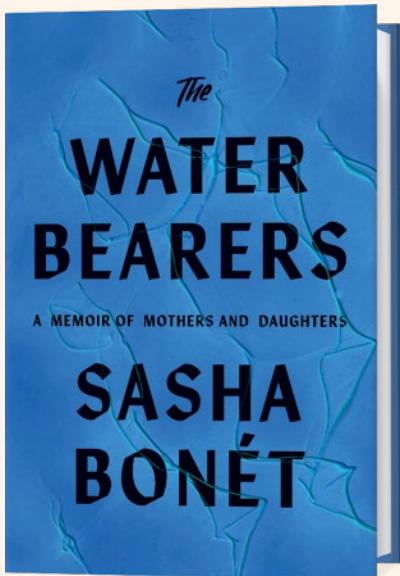
The Queen and her assistant private secretary, Joan McGraw, get to work on their second joint investigation. No one else saw the crime. If there is a victim, could he be the missing photographer friend of Margaret's new husband, Tony Armstrong Jones?

This time, the Cold War threatens to undermine the Queen's upcoming visit to Italy. She and Joan must tackle dark forces that follow them all the way in a tale of spies, lies, and treachery.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This mystery starts with a body seen from a passing train window. Why do you think trains are popular settings for crime fiction?
2. The characters in this book find themselves at a dangerous time in history, at the height of the Cold War and the Space Race. How do you think this compares with the times we live in today?
3. The Queen has some hard choices to make between protecting one of the main assets she needs to do her job and protecting two strangers. Would you have made the same decisions?
4. Joan McGraw enjoys her high-level access to interesting people and state secrets, but she must deal with palace protocol. Is this a job you would love, or hate?
5. The mystery seems to be resolved, until the Queen has a revelation and there is a final twist. How important is a good twist to your enjoyment of crime novels?

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



Sasha Bonét

The Waterbearers:

A Memoir of Mothers and Daughters

978-0-593-53608-7 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Knopf | HC
978-0-593-53609-4 | DN: 979-8-217-16612-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Toni Morrison's fiction and nonfiction, Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste*, Sarah M. Broom's *Yellow House*, and Imani Perry's *South to America*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Sasha Bonét grew up in 1990s Houston, worlds removed from the Louisiana cotton plantation that raised her grandmother, Betty Jean, and the Texas bayous that shaped Sasha's mother, Connie. And though each generation did better, materially, than the last, all of them carried the complex legacy of Black American motherhood with its origins in slavery. All of them knew that the hands used to comb and braid hair, shell pecans, and massage weary muscles were the very hands used to whip children into submission.

When she had her own daughter, Sofia, Bonét was determined to interrupt this tradition. She brought Sofia to New York and set off on a journey—not only up and down the tributaries of her bloodline but also into the lives of Black women in history and literature—Betty Davis, Recy Taylor, and Iberia Hampton among them—to understand both the love and pain they passed on to their children and to create a way of mothering that honors the legacy but abandons the violence that shaped it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does the title *The Waterbearers* mean to you after reading the book?
2. What themes do you recognize that are threaded throughout the book? How are these themes connected to what we are collectively experiencing in the world today?
3. How do you see motherhood and womanhood defined in this book? Do you feel there are any distinctions made between the two?
4. What differences and similarities do you see among Betty Jean, Connie, and Sasha?
5. Which one of Betty Jean's daughters stood out the most to you and why?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com

Oyinkan Braithwaite

Cursed Daughters:

A Novel

978-0-385-55147-2 | \$29.00 | Doubleday | HC

978-0-385-70140-2 | \$37.00C | Bond Street Books

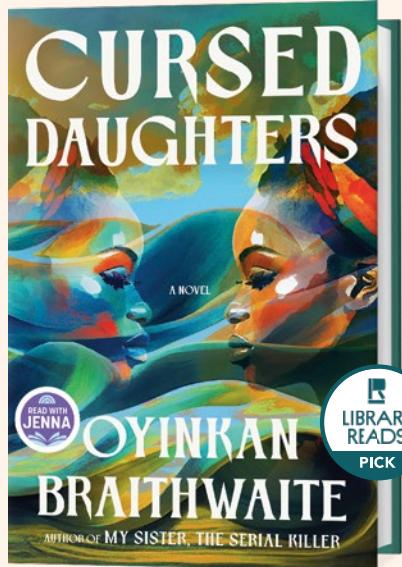
978-0-385-55148-9 | DN: 979-8-217-16597-1

LP: 979-8-217-16913-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

A READ WITH JENNA TODAY SHOW BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of Adebayo Ayobami, Brit Bennett, and Ann Napolitano.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

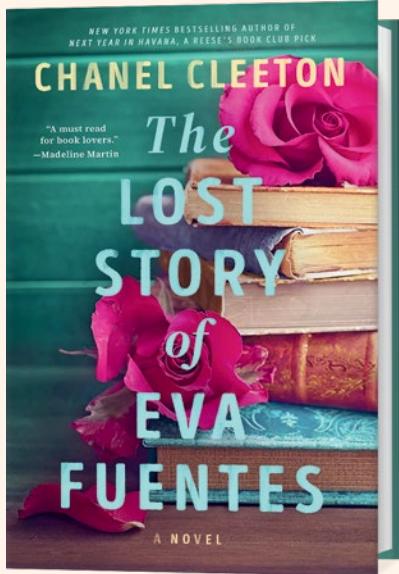
When Ebun gives birth to her daughter, Eniiyi, on the day they bury her cousin Monife, there is no denying the startling resemblance between the child and the dead woman. So begins the belief that Eniiyi is the actual reincarnation of Monife, fated to follow in her footsteps in all ways, including that tragic end.

There is also the matter of the family curse which has been handed down from generation to generation, breaking hearts and causing three generations of abandoned Falodun women to live under the same roof. But when Eniiyi falls in love with the handsome boy she saves from drowning, she can no longer run from her family's history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The Falodun women are cursed that "No man will call your house, home. And if they try, they will not have peace." Generations later 12-year-old Ebun tells her 16-year-old cousin Monife that she doesn't believe in curses. Monife replies "what if the curse believes in you?" Do you think the curse is real? How do you think the curse impacted each generation of the Falodun family differently?
2. Which of the Falodun women did you connect with most and why?
3. Do you see *Cursed Daughters* as a love story?
4. The Falodun women are fiercely protective, but also sensitive. How do you see them showing up for each other (or sometimes failing to do so) throughout the story? How about their uncle Tolu?
5. What did you think of the different ways of dealing with the curse. What do you think Ebun and Eniiyi end up believing about their own destiny? What do you think the future holds for the Falodun women?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Chanel Cleeton

The Lost Story of Eva Fuentes

978-0-593-81692-9 | \$30.00/\$39.99 | Berkley | HC

E 978-0-593-81691-2 | DN: 979-8-217-07538-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

A mysterious book with a legacy spanning from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present day unites three women—and their secrets—in this unforgettable novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Chanel Cleeton. For readers of *The Personal Librarian*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

London, Present Day: When American expat Margo Reynolds is hired to source a book that has only one copy in existence, it quickly becomes clear that her client isn't the only person determined to procure the book at any cost and she is thrust into a deadly quest.

Havana, 1966: Pilar Castillo's days are spent working at a library in Havana. But Pilar has a secret that could jeopardize her life. She's fighting Fidel's regime in her own way, and when she comes into possession of a book that was published more than sixty years earlier, she must decide how much she's willing to risk to protect the literary works entrusted to her care.

Boston, 1900: Cuban teacher Eva Fuentes, travels from Havana to Harvard. When a moonlit encounter with an enigmatic stranger alters the course of Eva's summer at Harvard, and as secrets, lies, and forbidden love rise to the surface, Eva's life—and legacy—is irrevocably changed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel alternates between three heroines in three different time periods—Eva in 1900, Pilar in 1966, and Margo in 2024. Which heroine did you identify with most?
2. All three heroines are trying to find their place in society and their purpose in the times in which they live. How do they find their voices? What empowers them? What challenges do they face?
3. *The Lost Story of Eva Fuentes* centers around a novel that changes the lives of the three main characters in different ways. Is there a special book that has changed your life?
4. Pilar believes that if someone doesn't love to read, it's because they haven't found the right book for them yet. Have you been a lifelong reader or was there a specific book or event that ignited your love of reading?

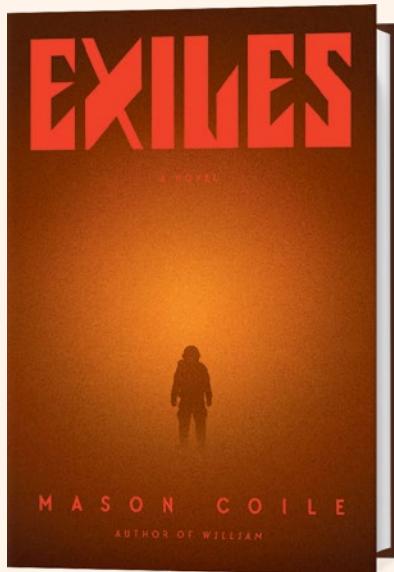
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/LostStoryofEvaFuentesBCK](https://tinyurl.com/LostStoryofEvaFuentesBCK)

Mason Coile **Exiles**

978-0-593-85163-0 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Putnam | HC
978-0-593-85164-7 | DN: 979-8-217-16117-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

A terrifying locked-room mystery from the author of *William*—this time set on a remote outpost on Mars. For readers of *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* and fans of Andy Weir and Grady Hendrix.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

The human crew sent to prepare the first colony on Mars arrives to find the new base half-destroyed and the three robots sent to set it up in disarray—the machines have formed alliances, chosen their own names, and picked up some disturbing beliefs. Each must be interrogated. But one of them is missing.

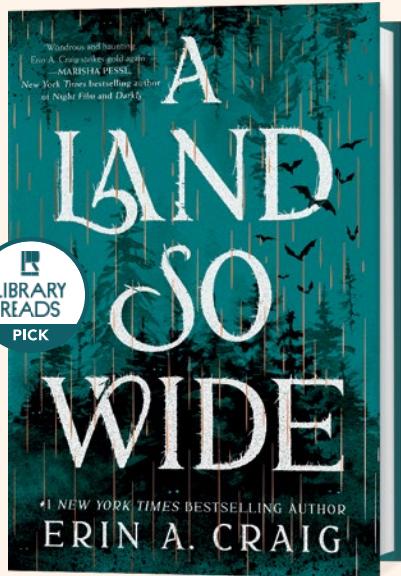
In this barren, hostile landscape where even machines have nightmares, the astronauts will need to examine all the stories—especially their own—to get to the truth.

Exiles is a terrifying, taut, one-sitting read, and Mason Coile once again blends science fiction and psychological horror to engage some of humanity's deepest questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think was the scariest moment in the book?
2. Would you ever travel to another planet?
3. What do you think this novel is trying to say about themes of forgiveness, escape, and redemption?
4. How might *Exiles* have read differently if it were told from the bots' point of view? What might you have learned about the crew members of the *Valiant*, and humanity in general?
5. What do you think this book is trying to say about human colonization and technological advancement?
6. Were you surprised by the novel's ending?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/ExilesBCK



Erin A. Craig

A Land So Wide:

A Novel

978-0-593-68680-5 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Pantheon | HC

E 978-0-593-68682-9 | DN: 979-8-217-16609-1

LP: 979-8-217-16914-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Katherine Arden, Naomi Novik, and Erin Morgenstern.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Like everyone else in the settlement of Mistaken, Greer Mackenzie is trapped. Founded by an ambitious lumber merchant, the village is blessed with rich natural resources that have made its people prosperous—but at a cost. The same woods that have lined the townsfolks' pockets harbor dangerous beasts: wolves, bears, and the Bright-Eyeds—monsters beyond description who have rained utter destruction down on nearby settlements. But Mistaken's founders made a deal with the mysterious Benevolence: the Warding Stones that surround the town will keep the Bright-Eyeds out—and the town's citizens in. Anyone who spends a night within Mistaken's borders belongs to it forever.

One morning though, Greer watches in horror as her beloved disappears beyond the Warding Stones, pursued by a monstrous creature. Determined to rescue him, she figures out a way to defy Mistaken's curse and begins a trek through the cold and pitiless wilderness. But there, Greer is hunted, not only by the ruthless Bright-Eyeds but by the secret truths behind Mistaken's founding and her own origins.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do the time period and setting of *A Land So Wide* contribute to the story?
2. The female characters in *A Land So Wide*—Greer, Louise, Ailie—often find themselves subject to the whims of the men in their lives. How do their individual journeys reflect the restrictions their sex puts on them?
3. In what ways are Greer's and Ailie's stories different and in what ways are they the same? Do you relate more to Greer or Ailie? How and why?
4. Mistaken represents security, while the world outside the Warding Stones represents danger—but also freedom. How is Greer's internal dilemma reflected in the conflict between these two ideas?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com

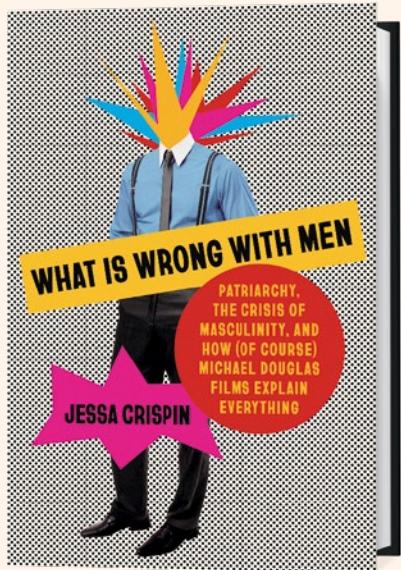
Jessa Crispin

What is Wrong with Men?: Patriarchy, the Crisis of Masculinity, and How (Of Course) Michael Douglas Films Explain Everything

978-0-593-31762-4 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Pantheon | HC
ISBN 978-0-593-31763-1 | ISSN DN: 979-8-217-07648-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Roxane Gay, Samantha Irby, Mikki Kendall, Chuck Klosterman, Ariel Levy, Hanif Abdurraqib, Rebecca Solnit, and Rebecca Traister.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

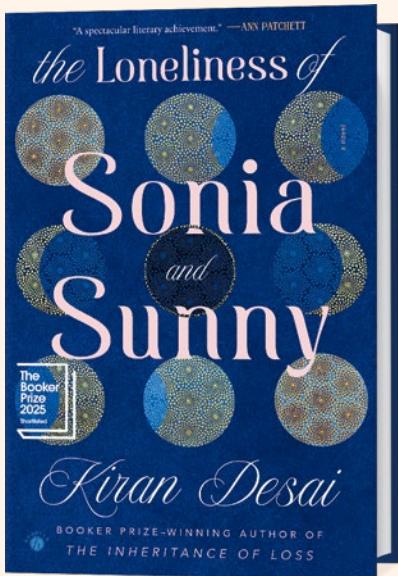
How to be a Man? That question—and all the anxiety, anger, and resentment it stirs up—is the starting point for a crisis in masculinity that today manifests as misogyny, nativism, and corporate greed; gives rise to incels and mass shooters; and leads to panic over the rights of women and minorities. According to Jessa Crispin, it is the most important question of our time, and the answer to it might be found in an unlikely place: the films of Michael Douglas.

Blending feminist arguments and pop culture criticism, Crispin uses the iconic roles of Michael Douglas as a lens to explore men's and our culture's ongoing anxieties around women, money, and power.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which Michael Douglas role stood out to you the most and why?
2. Crispin argues that “masculinity is always in crisis.” Do you agree? How does that resonate with the men (or masculine figures) in your life?
3. Choose one of the Michael Douglas films mentioned (*Fatal Attraction*, *Wall Street*, *Basic Instinct*, etc.). What does Douglas’s character reveal about society’s expectations of men in that era in that film? Could the story be told the same way today?
4. The book touches on gender as performance. What roles do you think men are expected to play now? Are there any roles they should play but don’t?
5. In what ways does the book complicate or challenge your views on feminism and its ripple effects?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Kiran Desai

The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny: A Novel

978-0-307-70015-5 | \$32.00 | Hogarth | HC

978-0-307-40121-2 | \$42.00C | Knopf Canada | HC

ISBN: 978-0-101-94749-4 | ISSN: 978-0-307-93375-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

A spellbinding story of two young people whose fates intersect and diverge across continents and years, by the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Inheritance of Loss*. For fans of *The Covenant of Water*; *The Lowland*; *The God of Small Things*; and *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Sonia and Sunny first glimpse each other on an overnight train, they are immediately captivated yet also embarrassed by the fact that their grandparents had once tried to matchmake them.

Sonia, an aspiring novelist who recently completed her studies in the snowy mountains of Vermont, has returned to her family in India. She fears that she is haunted by a dark spell cast by an artist to whom she had once turned for intimacy and inspiration. Sunny, a struggling journalist resettled in New York City, is attempting to flee his imperious mother and the violence of his warring clan. Uncertain of their future, Sonia and Sunny embark on a search for happiness together as they confront the many alienations of our modern world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do Sonia and Sunny's backgrounds and family histories influence their perspectives and decisions throughout the novel?
2. How does Kiran Desai use the settings of India and America to contrast the characters' experiences and cultural identities?
3. What role does art and creativity play in Sonia's journey? How does her relationship with the artist affect her?
4. Sunny's career as a journalist and his struggle with his family's expectations are central to his character. How do these elements shape his actions and choices?
5. How does Desai address themes of immigration and alienation in the novel? What insights does she offer about the immigrant experience?
6. Discuss the portrayal of tradition versus modernity in the book. How do Sonia and Sunny navigate these conflicting forces?

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

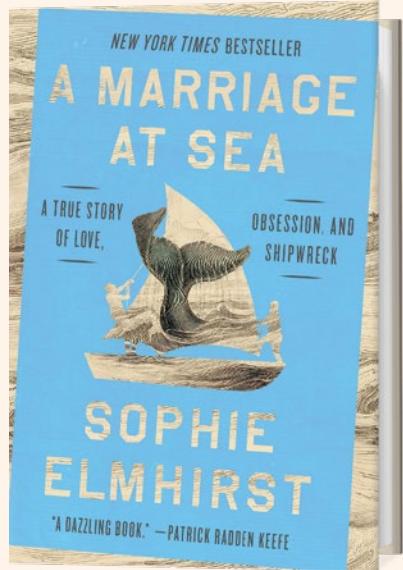
Sophie Elmhirst

A Marriage at Sea: A True Story of Love, Obsession, and Shipwreck

978-0-593-85428-0 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Riverhead | HC
978-0-593-85430-3 | DN: 979-8-217-07174-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

The electrifying true story of a young couple shipwrecked at sea: a mind-blowing tale of obsession, survival, and partnership stretched to its limits. For readers of *The Art Thief* and *The Lost City of Z*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Maurice and Maralyn make an odd couple. He's a loner, awkward and obsessive; she's charismatic and ambitious. But they share a horror of wasting their lives. And they dream—as we all dream—of running away from it all.

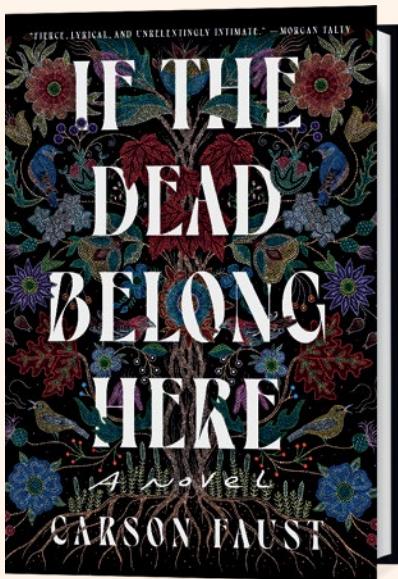
Most of us begin and end with the daydream. But Maurice began to study nautical navigation. Maralyn made detailed lists of provisions. And in June 1972, they set sail. For nearly a year all went well, until deep in the Pacific, a breaching whale knocked a hole in their boat and it sank beneath the waves.

What ensues is a jaw-dropping fight to survive in the wild ocean, with little hope of rescue. Alone together for months in a tiny rubber raft, starving and exhausted, Maurice and Maralyn have to find not only ways to stay alive but ways to get along, as their inner demons emerge and their marriage is put to the greatest of tests. Although they could run away from the world, they can't run away from themselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Maralyn and Maurice want to untether themselves from 1970s British society?
2. The acute stress of their situation unearths and intensifies parts of Maurice and Maralyn, good and bad—his self-sabotage, her fortitude. How does partnership operate to simultaneously reveal our innermost capabilities and exacerbate our greatest weaknesses?
3. Several ships sail past Maurice and Maralyn without rescuing them. What effect did these repeated failed attempts at rescue and dramatic fluctuations in hope have on you, the reader?
4. After Maralyn's death, Maurice learned that "he did not know how to live." How does the loss of Maralyn push him to take charge of his own survival, in ways he wasn't quite able to when they were lost in the ocean? What is communicated in that irony?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/AMarriageatSeaDQ



Carson Faust

If the Dead Belong Here:

A Novel

978-0-593-83089-5 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Viking | HC
E 978-0-593-83090-1 | DN: 979-8-217-16494-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

When a young girl goes missing, the ghosts of the past collide with her family's secrets in a mesmerizing Native American Southern Gothic. For fans of Victor LaVelle and Silvia Moreno-Garcia.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When six-year-old Laurel Taylor vanishes without a trace, her family is left shattered, struggling to navigate the darkness of grief and unanswered questions. As their search turns to despair, Laurel's older sister, Nadine, begins experiencing nightmares that blur the line between dream and reality, and she becomes convinced that Laurel's disappearance could be connected to other family tragedies. Guided by her elders, Nadine sets out to uncover whether laying the ghosts to rest is the key to finding her sister and healing her fractured family.

Steeped in Indigenous folklore and drawing from the author's own family history, *If the Dead Belong Here* examines what it means to be haunted—both by the supernatural and by terrors of our own making.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In *If the Dead Belong Here*, the Taylor family's personal tragedies collide with the enduring traumas that haunt Indigenous people in America. How do the specters of colonization, assimilation, and their forced removal from their ancestral homeland shape the ways that the Taylor family continues to be haunted?
2. The motif of wounds recurs throughout the book: Elgone and her daughters tend to people's wounds. Morgan, wounded from his car crash, materializes in front of Ayita. Ayita is described as "a wound in the shape of a body." How does imagery of wounds and scars tie into the book's themes?
3. Why was it important that Nadine and Rosebud traveled to South Carolina as part of their search? What did they gain from returning to their family's homeland?
4. Did the ending surprise you? Would you consider the Taylor family "healed" by the end of the book?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/IftheDeadBelongHereDQ](http://tinyurl.com/IftheDeadBelongHereDQ)

Francesca Fontana

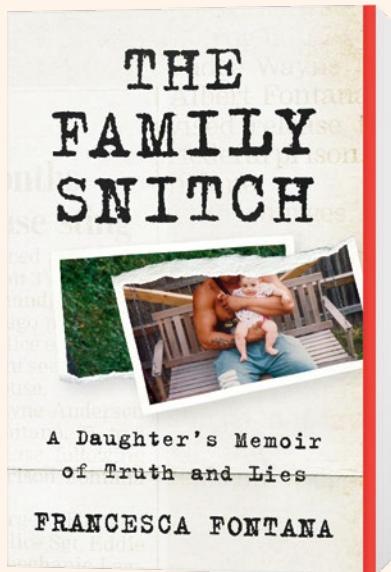
The Family Snitch:

A Daughter's Memoir of Truth and Lies

978-1-58642-422-0 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Steerforth | TR
ISBN 978-1-58642-423-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A *Wall Street Journal* reporter confronts the most difficult source she's ever encountered, her own father, in this unsparing interrogation of the ways we deceive ourselves and others. A stunning debut perfect for fans of Nicole Chung and Ashley C. Ford.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

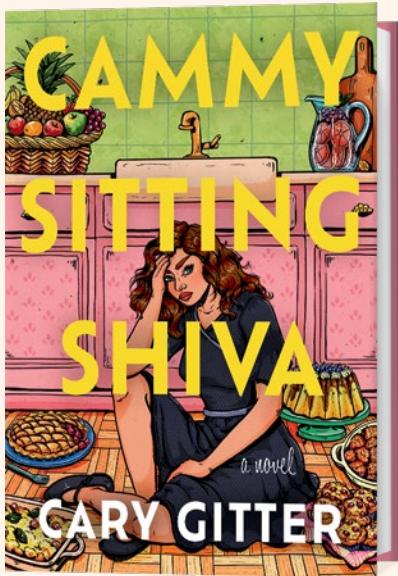
The first in her family to attend college, *The Family Snitch* started as a youthful experiment in journalistic investigation, as Francesca began to uncover her father's secret criminal past. But in her increasingly dogged pursuit of the truth at any cost, was she just selling everybody out?

In her thought-provoking exploration, Francesca also interrogates her own relationship to the truth, finding that she trusts almost no one and refuses to believe anything that can't be backed by hard evidence. She turns to experts on memory and psychology, in search of someone to help explain the secrets kept between parents and children, and the inheritances they leave us in the fallout of their choices. She pulls on the threads that lead her back through the forms that came before this one: theater and film, Greek tragedy and myth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Throughout the book, the author struggles with various forms of "truth," with journalistic, fact-driven truth clashing with personal, memory-driven truth. How do different types of truth clash throughout the book?
- Francesca's parents represent opposing worldviews regarding the past: her mother kept hers hidden, while her father celebrated his larger-than-life past. How did your family deal with privacy, secrets, and the past?
- Throughout the book, the author alternates between telling her story from a first-person perspective and reconstructing events from the past in the third-person. Why do you think she chose to shift perspectives in this way? How did it affect your experience as a reader?
- Do you think Francesca is a reliable narrator? Why or why not?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Cary Gitter
**Cammy
Sitting Shiva:**
A Novel

979-8-89242-254-3 | \$29.99/\$39.99C | Alcove Press | HC

TR: 979-8-89242-278-9

E 979-8-89242-255-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

This stirring debut novel is an unflinching, darkly funny look at loss, family, and coming home—perfect for fans of *This Is Where I Leave You* and *Competitive Grieving*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Cy Adler dies, it's a shock to everyone, especially his daughter, Cammy. Almost thirty, slightly aimless, and stuck in a basement apartment in Queens, she's forced to return to River Hill, her one-square-mile New Jersey hometown, to sit shiva. Cammy's fraught relationship with her mother, Beth, has never been easy. And now, with her beloved father gone, she would rather be anywhere but back in her childhood room, in a house filled with guests noshing on snacks and offering their condolences. So Cammy does whatever she can to make it through seven turbulent days of mourning.

Amid getting stoned, reconnecting with her best friend and her high school crush, evading the rabbi, and spending a debauched night in Atlantic City, Cammy must reckon with her roots—with the place she fled for the glamour of New York, where she thought she belonged. But is she really any better off than those she left behind? While navigating the swirl of emotions that accompany grief, Cammy also uncovers hidden truths about her father, which lead her to doubt how well she knew the man she adored. Then again, does she even know herself?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. After her beloved father's death, Cammy is supposed to be sitting shiva—the Jewish mourning ritual—but goes out of her way to avoid it. While such rituals can bring comfort and community, they can also be challenging and overwhelming. How do you relate to this experience?
2. At age twenty-nine, Cammy is still trying to figure out her life, and she makes many mistakes over the course of the novel before finally achieving some growth. What does it mean to go through this “second coming of age” in one’s late twenties or early thirties?
3. In the wake of her dad’s passing, Cammy reluctantly heads back to her small hometown of River Hill, New Jersey. What are some of the joys and anxieties of returning home?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com

Allegra Goodman

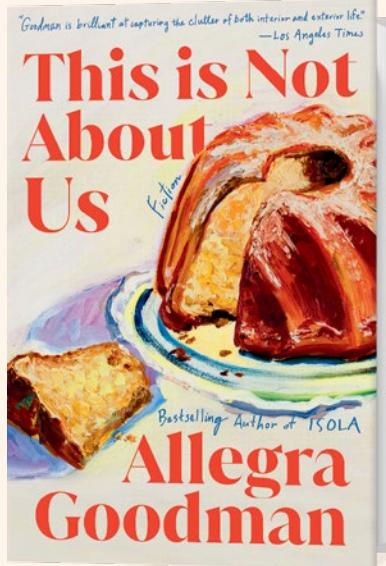
This is Not About Us:

Fiction

978-0-593-44784-0 | \$29.00/\$39.99C | The Dial Press | HC
E 978-0-593-44785-7 | O DN: 978-0-593-61276-7
E LP: 979-8-217-29411-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

A kaleidoscopic portrait of a modern American family, from the bestselling author of *Isola*—perfect for readers of *Olive Kitteridge*; *There, There*; and *The House on Mango Street*, as well as fans of Taffy Brodesser-Akner and Meg Wolitzer.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

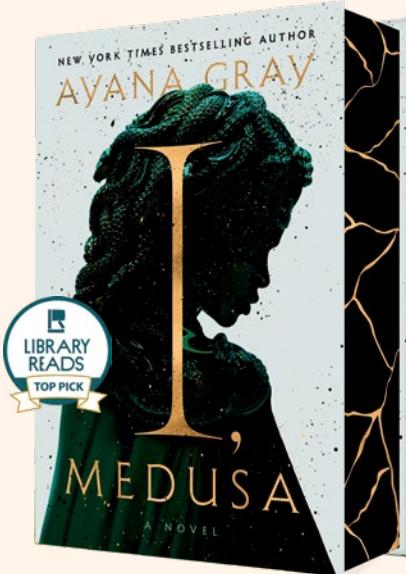
When their beloved sister passes away, Sylvia and Helen Rubinstein are unmoored. A misunderstanding about apple cake turns into a decade of stubborn silence. Busy with their own lives—divorces, dating, career setbacks, college applications, bat mitzvahs and ballet recitals—their children do not want to get involved. As for their grandchildren? Impossible.

With *This Is Not About Us*, master storyteller Allegra Goodman—whose prior collection was heralded as “one of the most astute and engaging books about American family life” (*The Boston Globe*)—returns to the form and subject that endeared her to legions of readers. Sharply observed and laced with humor, *This Is Not About Us* is a story of growing up and growing old, the weight of parental expectations, and the complex connection between sisters—a big-hearted book about the love that binds a family across generations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How is your own extended family like and unlike the Rubensteins? If you were to write a collection of stories about your family, what themes would surface?
2. Did your feelings about any of the characters change over time as you learned more about their pasts, their personalities, their traumas? Discuss.
3. How does the family's Judaism factor into their lives, personalities, and choices? In what ways is religion like an additional character?
4. Helen and Sylvia's disagreement over the apple cake recipe causes a rift in the family. What is each sister's perspective on the situation? Who do you think is “right”? Has there ever been a fight or misunderstanding in your life—or that of your family—that had outsized consequences? Discuss.
5. What roles do music, art, and dance play in the characters' lives?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Ayana Gray I, Medusa: A Novel

978-0-593-73376-9 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Random House | HC

ISBN 978-0-593-73377-6 | ISSN 979-8-217-16049-5

LP: 979-8-217-16996-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the *New York Times* bestselling author comes a “captivating villain origin story” (*People Book of the Week*), reimagining one of the most iconic monsters in Greek mythology as a provocative and powerful young heroine—perfect for readers of *Lady Macbeth*, *Circe*, *A Thousand Ships*, *Ariadne*, and *Gods of Jade and Shadow*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Meddy has spent her whole life as a footnote in someone else's story. Out of place next to her beautiful, immortal sisters and her parents—both gods, albeit minor ones—she dreams of leaving her family's island for a life of adventure. So when she catches the eye of the goddess Athena, who invites her to train as an esteemed priestess in her temple, Meddy leaps at the chance to see the world beyond her home.

In the colorful market streets of Athens and the clandestine chambers of the temple, Meddy flourishes in her role as Athena's favored acolyte, getting her first tastes of purpose and power. But when she is noticed by another Olympian, Poseidon, the course of Meddy's promising future is suddenly and irrevocably altered.

When her locs are transformed into snakes as punishment for a crime she did not commit, Medusa must embrace a new identity—not as a victim, but as a vigilante—and with it, the chance to write her own story as mortal, martyr, and myth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you think of the mythical character Medusa before reading this novel? How would you describe her after finishing?
2. How does Meddy's experience with Euryale's engagement—and the prince's death—set her life on a specific trajectory? What other events in the novel become major turning points for Meddy in her coming-of-age process?
3. Ayana Gray's version of Medusa is a Black woman who wears her hair in locs—which are lovingly cared for by her sisters until she leaves the island. How does this aspect of Meddy's identity affect the novel's plot? How does it add yet another layer of “othering” to Medusa, especially when she arrives in Athens?
4. Athena is, at first, a sort of savior and role model for Meddy. What are the positive aspects of their friendship—and Athena's mentorship? How does it turn sour? What does this reveal about Athena's true character?

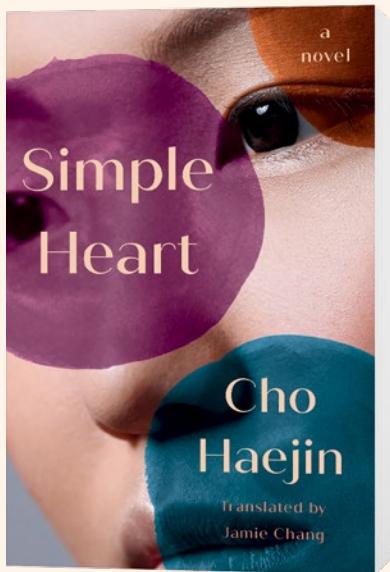
For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com

Cho Haejin;
Translated by Jamie Chang
Simple Heart:
A Novel

978-1-63542-581-9 | \$17.99/\$25.00C | Other Press | TR
E 978-1-63542-582-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

In this moving exploration of dual identities reminiscent of *Past Lives*, a Korean writer's pregnancy raises questions about her own childhood abandonment. For fans of Korean literature and readers of Kyung-Sook Shin.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

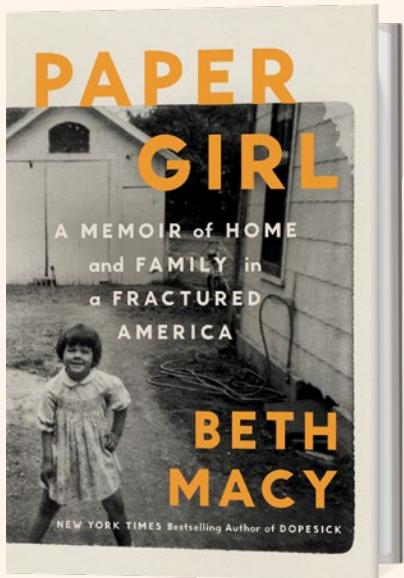
Nana, a Korean playwright, was adopted as a child by a French couple. Before she was Nana, she was Esther Pak, a girl growing up in a Korean orphanage. And before she was Esther Pak, she was Munju, an infant abandoned on the railway tracks of Cheongnyangni station in Seoul.

Pregnant with the child of her ex-boyfriend, Nana receives a request from a Korean filmmaker who wishes to make a documentary about her life. Following a sudden compulsion to learn more about her own roots, she heads to Seoul as she prepares to bring a new life into the world. There, through unexpected encounters, the dark threads of her memory gradually begin to unravel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How has the international adoption process influenced Nana's outlook on life? What does one gain through the perspective of multiple cultures?
2. Yeonhee and Nana share a plate of susubukkumi, a dish of significant importance to Nana's childhood memories. The relationship between the two characters is strengthened as a result. Why might that be?
3. Reflect on Cho Haejin's portrayal of the historic US military presence in Korea.
4. As a child in 1980s Korea, Bokhee faced discrimination. Discuss her experience as well as Yeonhee's decision to put Bokhee up for adoption.
5. What life lessons learned from Yeonhee might Nana pass on to her own child?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Beth Macy

Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America

978-0-593-65673-0 | \$32.00/\$42.00C | Penguin Press | HC
E 978-0-593-65674-7 | DN: 979-8-217-16476-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

From one of our most acclaimed chroniclers of the forces eroding America's social fabric, her most personal and powerful work: a reckoning with the changes that have rocked her own beloved small Ohio hometown. For readers of *Poverty, by America*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

This was not an assignment Beth Macy had ever imagined taking on, but after her mother's death, she decided to figure out what happened to her hometown of Urbana, Ohio in the forty years since she'd left. The result is an astonishing book that, by taking us into the heart of one place, brings into focus our most urgent set of national issues. *Paper Girl* is a gift of courage, empathy, and insight. Beth Macy has turned to face the darkness in her family and community, people she loves wholeheartedly, even the ones she sometimes struggles to like. And in facing the truth—in person, with respect—she has found sparks of human dignity that she has used to light a signal fire of warning but also of hope.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your relationship with your hometown and friends/family who still live there? Like Macy, have aspects of your values or interests drifted away from those of the people you grew up with? How have you navigated nostalgia for the way things were when you visit in the present? What's changed more—you or the place?
2. Have you ever known someone like Bill, who radically changed their opinion on a certain value or stance? Or perhaps you have yourself? What factors contributed to that realignment, and how did others in their/your old community react?
3. Do you think there's something special about music/arts education in uplifting kids and creating a sense of belonging? Both Silas and Macy found part of their identity in marching band. What do you think kids are losing with widespread cuts to arts education? What about sports?
4. Why do you think Mark Evans is committed to honoring his family's heritage in Urbana, instead of moving somewhere else where he might be among more like-minded people? What are the values and challenges of trying to change a system from within in this way?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/PaperGirlBCK](http://tinyurl.com/PaperGirlBCK)

Megha Majumdar

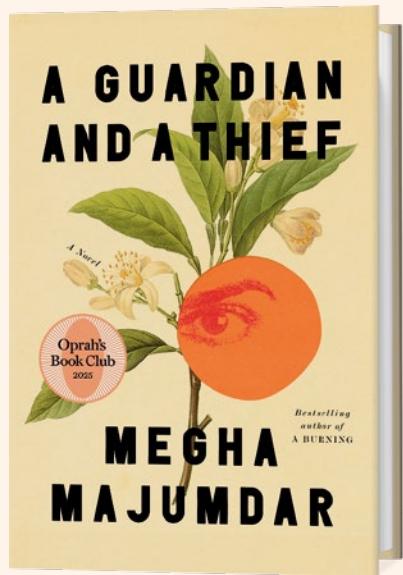
A Guardian and A Thief:

A Novel

978-0-593-80487-2 | \$29.00 | Knopf | HC
978-0-7710-2915-8 | \$36.00C | McClelland & Stewart | HC
978-0-593-80488-9 | DN: 979-8-217-17495-9
LP: 979-8-217-28778-9

READERS' ADVISORY:
AN OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of Kaveh Akbar, Tommy Orange, and Emily St. John Mandel.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

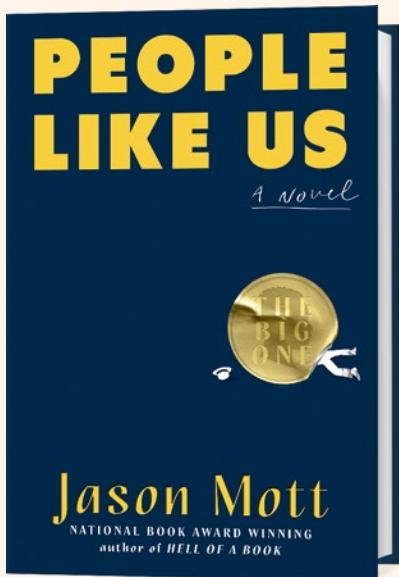
In a near-future Kolkata, Ma, her two-year-old daughter, and her elderly father are just days from leaving the collapsing city behind to join Ma's husband in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After procuring long-awaited visas from the consulate, they pack their bags for the flight to America. But in the morning they awaken to discover that Ma's purse, containing their treasured immigration documents, has been stolen.

Set over the course of one week, *A Guardian and a Thief* tells two stories: the story of Ma's frantic search for the thief while keeping hunger at bay during a worsening food shortage; and the story of Boomba, the thief, whose desperation to care for his family drives him to commit a series of escalating crimes whose consequences he cannot fathom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Majumdar suggests that “a guardian and a thief lives in each of us.” How do you see this play out in Ma’s and Boomba’s stories? Do you think their actions are more about morality or survival?
2. Kolkata is ravaged by famine, heat, and floods. In what ways does the city itself function as a character in the novel, shaping the choices of Ma, Dadu, and Boomba?
3. Ma risks everything—her integrity, her dignity, even her safety—for the chance to leave for America. What does the novel suggest about the costs and limits of hope?
4. Dadu and Mishti embody opposite ends of the age spectrum. How does each experience and interpret the crisis differently? What does their relationship reveal about resilience across generations?

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



Jason Mott

People Like Us: A Novel

979-8-217-04711-6 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Dutton | HC
E 979-8-217-04713-0 | DN: 979-8-217-15873-7
CD: 979-8-217-28993-6 | LP: 979-8-217-15794-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

The riveting new novel by the author of the 2021 National Book Award winner and bestseller *Hell of a Book*. For readers of *Harlem Shuffle*, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, and *Wandering Stars*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In *People Like Us*, two Black writers are trying to find peace and belonging in a world that is riven with gun violence. One is on a global book tour after a big prize win; the other is set to give a speech at a school that has suffered a shooting. And as their two storylines merge, truths and antics abound in equal measure.

People Like Us is wickedly funny and achingly sad all at once. It is an utter triumph bursting with larger-than-life characters who deliver a very real take on our world. This book contains characters experiencing deep loss and longing; it also is buoyed by riotous humor and characters who share the deepest love. Finishing the novel will leave you absolutely breathless and at the same time, utterly filled with joy for life, changed forever by characters who are people like us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. “People like us” is a refrain said by characters time and time again throughout the novel. What do the characters mean when they say it to The Author? Why do you think he always repeats the phrase back as a question?
2. What questions does the novel raise about being Black in America? How do the characters grapple with their American identity and the meaning of home as Black men?
3. Where do our main characters look for peace and belonging in a world that has precious little of that to offer? Do you think they succeed?
4. Why do you think Jason Mott chooses to share his own story in the final chapter of the book? Do you see the fictional characters and their journeys differently after learning about the author’s own experiences?

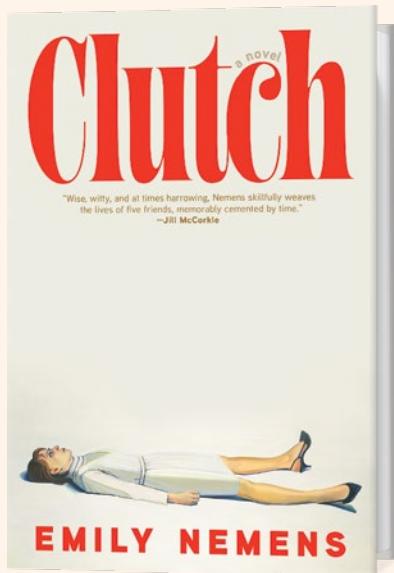
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/PeopleLikeUsBCK](https://tinyurl.com/PeopleLikeUsBCK)

Emily Nemens
Clutch:
A Novel

978-1-963108-66-8 | \$28.00/\$36.99C | Tin House | HC
E 978-1-963108-75-0 | DN: 979-8-217-40905-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *All Fours* by Miranda July, *Death Valley* by Melissa Brodeur, and *The Friend* by Sigrid Nunez.



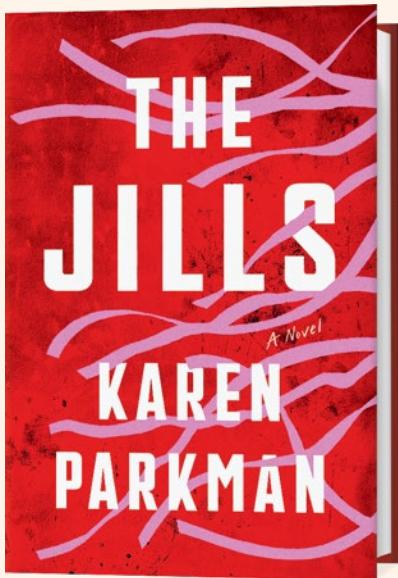
ABOUT THE BOOK:

As undergrads, Reba, Hillary, Carson, Gregg, and Bella formed the kind of rare bond that college brochures promise—friendship that lasts a lifetime. Two decades later, the women are spread across the country but remain firmly tethered through their ever-unfurling group chat. They've made it through COVID and childbirth and midcareer challenges, but no one can anticipate what's coming down the pike. Twenty years into their shared friendship, the stakes are higher than ever, and they must help one another reconcile professional ambition with personal tumult.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Clutch* opens in Palm Springs, during a weekend trip where the five friends—Gregg, Reba, Bella, Hillary, and Carson—reunite. Why do you think it was important to meet these friends on vacation, rather than in one of their hometowns or at a life event such as a wedding, funeral, or birth? What does this “neutral space” of a girls’ trip allow for?
2. Consider the title. Why do you think the author chose “clutch”? The word has many different meanings, and can be used as a noun, adjective, or verb. Which definition(s) resonated most with you?
3. *Clutch* is told from an omniscient point of view. Why do you think the author chose to write the story from this perspective rather than, say, an alternating first person?
4. Many of the characters in *Clutch* are in the sandwich generation (caring for both young children and elderly parents). How does this dynamic impact the women as the novel unfolds?
5. How do the women’s significant others impact the central group?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Karen Parkman **The Jills:** A Novel

978-0-593-98292-1 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Ballantine Books | HC

• 978-0-593-98293-8 | □ DN: 979-8-217-15977-2

□ LP: 979-8-217-16988-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

In this propulsive debut, a Buffalo Bills cheerleader will stop at nothing to solve the disappearance of her best friend and teammate—perfect for fans of *All the Colors of the Dark*; *I Have Some Questions for You*; *My Sister, the Serial Killer*; and *Long Bright River*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Virginia is a Jill—a cheerleader for the NFL's Buffalo Bills—living the life of her dreams: she spends her weekdays practicing, her weekends cheering, and her nights hopping between bars and clubs with her teammates, including the fearless, charismatic Jeanine, whose friendship has given Virginia confidence in spades and helped her forget her troubled past with her estranged sister, Laura.

One Sunday, Jeanine fails to show up for a game, and calls and texts to her go unanswered. Virginia embarks on an investigation into Jeanine's disappearance, aided by a network of Jills, ex-boyfriends, seedy fixtures of Buffalo's criminal underground, and unexpected figures from her past. But as her search grows increasingly dangerous and spirals into obsession, disturbing questions about who Jeanine really was begin to emerge.

Part bingeable mystery, part character-driven tale of a woman discovering her own strength in a system built by and for men, *The Jills* is a page-turning novel that brims with wit and heart while reminding us of the healing power of sisterhood.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The squad of Jills (Virginia's teammates) function almost like a chosen family. In what ways do they support each other—and in what ways are they constrained by the larger system (cheerleading/NFL culture)?
2. Trust and betrayal are major threads: whom does Virginia trust, and to what extent is that trust misplaced or challenged? How does her evolving sense of whom she can rely on drive the story?
3. Sisterhood appears in several forms—biological (Virginia & Laura), chosen (Virginia & Jeanine), professional (the cheer squad). How does the novel treat the notion of “sisterhood”? What are its strengths and vulnerabilities?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com

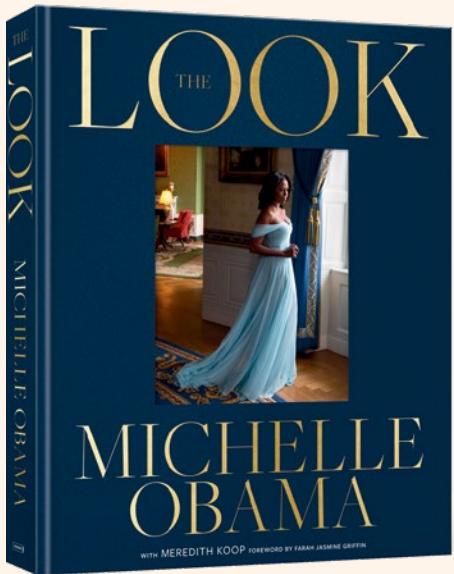
Michelle Obama with Meredith Koop; Foreword by Farah Jasmine Griffin

The Look

978-0-593-80070-6 | \$50.00 \$66.00C | Crown | HC
ISBN 978-0-593-80071-3 | ISSN DN: 979-8-217-29444-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

Beautifully illustrated with more than 200 photographs, including never-before-seen images, *The Look* is a stunning journey through Michelle Obama's style evolution, in her own words for the first time. For readers of *Becoming* and *The Light We Carry*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this celebration of style, from the moment she entered the public eye during her husband's U.S. Senate campaign through her time as the first Black First Lady and today as one of this country's most influential figures, Michelle Obama shares how she uses the beauty and intrigue of fashion to draw attention to her message.

Featuring the voices of Meredith Koop, Obama's trusted stylist, as well as her makeup artist Carl Ray, hairstylists Yene Damtew, Johnny Wright, and Njeri Radway, and many of the designers who have dressed Obama for notable events, *The Look* brings readers behind the scenes not only to reveal how her most memorable looks came together but also to tell a powerful story about how we present ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Mrs. Obama writes that while *The Look* is a celebration of fashion, even more so she hopes it is "a celebration of confidence, identity, and authenticity, and an inspiration to think deeply about how we choose to define style and beauty." How do you define style and beauty? Has that changed since reading *The Look*?
2. What role does fashion play in how Mrs. Obama defines herself? How does she use it to communicate—politically, culturally, or personally?
3. How did Mrs. Obama's wardrobe choices conform to—or challenge—traditional expectations of what First Ladies should wear or represent?
4. What messages do you think Mrs. Obama conveyed through specific iconic outfits? Who do you think the intended audience was for those looks? What different meanings might different audiences project onto them?
5. Mrs. Obama describes her earliest fashion memory of looking in the mirror and being proud of the brown Sears dress she'd picked out for herself. What was the first time you remember feeling confident in something you wore? What made that moment stick with you?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TheLookBCK

INDIAN COUNTRY



SHOBHA RAO A Novel

Shobha Rao

Indian Country: A Novel

978-0-593-79895-9 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Crown | HC

ISBN 978-0-593-79896-6 | ISSN 979-8-217-16657-2

LP: 979-8-217-16904-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the award-winning author of *Girls Burn Brighter*, a couple from India—so different from generations of white colonialists who came before them—move to Montana, only to discover the secrets the land holds in this stunning literary novel. For readers of *Homegoing* and *Pachinko*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Janavi and Sagar were never meant to end up married. Janavi is a wonderfully independent, young modern Indian woman. She works for an organization in India that helps street children, often lost to the world of human trafficking. Sagar is a trained hydraulic engineer, an expert in dam construction.

Yet the two are forced together into an arranged marriage which neither of them wants. Even worse, Sagar has already accepted a job in America, in a strange place called Montana, where he will be in charge of dismantling a dam.

Montana upends all their expectations. Sagar's white colleagues do not welcome him with open arms, and Janavi finds herself unable to forgive her sister who stayed behind in India whose betrayal led her to this marriage and this strange place.

When a colleague of Sagar's is found drowned, Sagar is the obvious scapegoat. But is this death one in a long history of people of color paying the price for the white man's arrogance and expansionism?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As readers, and as human beings, we all have to give up illusions, adjust to change, and sometimes even wake to the wholesale negation of our belief systems. What challenges do we, and Sagar, face when confronted with this kind of erosion in our lives? From a human standpoint, is erosion necessarily a bad thing?
2. What does the institution of marriage have to do with that “thing in our breasts” that wakes and decides to love? After all, Janavi's sister, Rajni, is also married and yet is facing violence in her relationship. Do you think Janavi's understanding of love and marriage is impacted by Rajni's relationship, and if so, how do they lead her to these questions?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/IndianCountryBCK](http://tinyurl.com/IndianCountryBCK)

Louis Sachar

The Magician of Tiger Castle

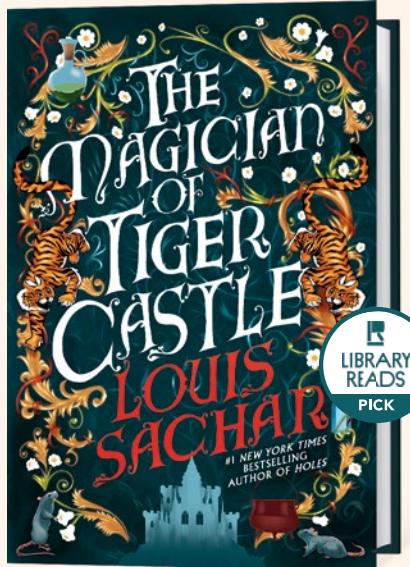
978-0-593-95230-6 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Ace | HC

E 978-0-593-95231-3 | DN: 979-8-217-07521-8

CD: 979-8-217-28979-0 | LP: 979-8-217-08259-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

The beloved author of *Holes* presents his first adult novel, a modern fantasy classic of forbidden love, a crumbling kingdom, and the unexpected magic all around us. For fans of *The Princess Bride* and *The Neverending Story*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Long ago and far away lies the kingdom of Esquaveta. There, Princess Tullia is in nearly as much peril as her struggling kingdom. Esquaveta desperately needs to forge an alliance, and to that end, Tullia's father has arranged a marriage between her and an odious prince. However, one month before the wedding, Tullia falls in love with a lowly apprentice scribe.

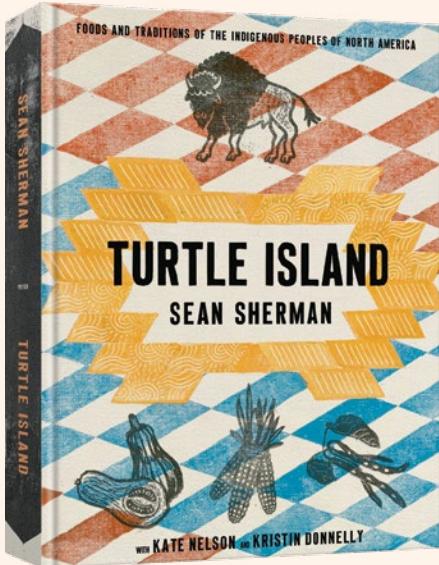
The king turns to Anatole, his much-maligned magician. Seventeen years earlier, when Anatole first came to the castle, he was regarded as something of a prodigy. But after a long series of failures—the only one who still believes in him is the princess.

When the king orders Anatole to brew a potion that will ensure Tullia agrees to the wedding, Anatole is faced with an impossible choice. With one chance to save the marriage, the kingdom, and, of most importance to him, his reputation, will he betray the princess—or risk ruin?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Anatole sees himself as a dignified, brilliant, and much underappreciated magician/physician/scientist. How much of that is true, and how much is self-delusion and boastfulness?
- When Pito is facing impending execution and Anatole tells Pito he's there to help him, why do you think Pito cuts him off, rejecting "false hope"?
- Why couldn't Anatole tell Tullia about the memory potion? If he could have told her, do you think she would have agreed to it?
- Anatole, Tullia, and Pito spend some time in a monastery. What do you think of the abbot's assertion that it is only through an ordinary and dull routine that true enlightenment can be achieved?
- All in all, did Anatole's tamperings make things better or worse?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MagicianofTigerCastleBCK



Sean Sherman; with Kate Nelson
and Kristin Donnelly

Turtle Island:

Foods and Traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America

978-0-593-57923-7 | \$45.00 | Clarkson Potter | HC
978-0-735-24552-5 | \$55.00C | Penguin Canada | HC
E 978-0-593-57924-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

Turtle Island is a beautiful exploration of ancestral and modern Indigenous recipes from three-time James Beard Award winner Sean Sherman, Oglala Lakota, founder of The Sioux Chef. For fans of cookbooks that explore underrepresented voices like *In Bibi's Kitchen*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Growing up on Pine Ridge Reservation, Sean Sherman always knew that the food of the Oglala Lakota tribe was rich in flavor and deeply connected to the natural environment. But as a chef, it took a mid-career revelation to recognize the absence of Native American cuisine in the modern culinary scene. Since then, he's been on a mission to understand and highlight these beautiful and diverse foods and traditions that have continued to thrive through the centuries.

Now a leading figure in the Indigenous food movement, he guides readers through the unique and varied Native foods of North America—sharing both traditional and modern recipes inspired by dishes that have nourished Native peoples physically, spiritually, and culturally for generations. Organized by region, this book delves into the bountiful culinary landscapes of Turtle Island—as the continent is called by multiple Indigenous cultures—that are as diverse as the many terrains from which they arise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Which images or passages most vividly brought a place, landscape, or moment to life for you?
2. What is the first recipe that you'll try from the book? What's one way you can honor the Indigenous community it comes from when you prepare it?
3. Can you share a moment or passage that changed or deepened your understanding of how food, land, and identity are connected?
4. Did the combination of cooking instructions, personal stories, and historical context help you “experience” these foods in a different way than a standard cookbook or history book might? How so?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/TurtleIslandBCK](http://tinyurl.com/TurtleIslandBCK)

Ariel Sullivan

Conform:

A Novel

979-8-217-09099-0 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Ballantine Books | HC

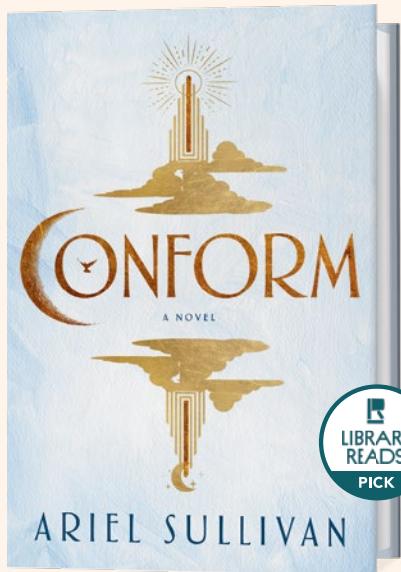
979-8-217-09100-3 | DN: 979-8-217-16876-7

LP: 979-8-217-16989-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

**FROM JENNA BUSH HAGER'S
THOUSAND VOICES BOOKS**

A sweeping dystopian romance for readers of *Red Rising*, *Divergent*, The Hunger Games series, *Fourth Wing*, *A Court of Thorns and Roses*, and *Silver Elite*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

A lifelong outcast, twenty-seven-year-old Emeline spends her days alone, sorting ancient art for destruction. Centuries after a catastrophic war nearly decimated humanity, society is now ruled by an elusive and technologically advanced group called the Illum, who constantly monitor the population's health and mandate procreation contracts. But Emeline's bleak existence is shattered when, for the first time in decades, an Illum named Collin takes a Mate: Emeline.

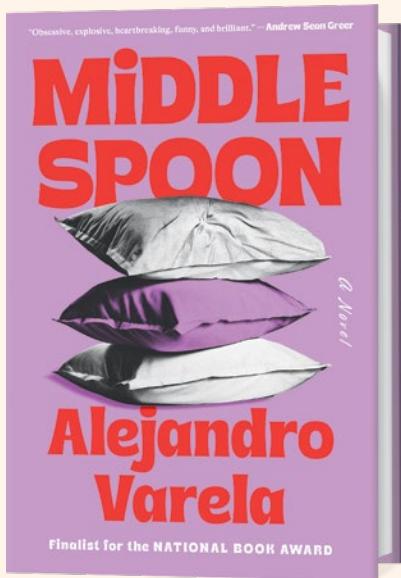
Baffled as to why she was chosen, Emeline is swept into the dangerous game of the Courting, where one wrong move can mean elimination. Soon, she discovers a rebellion rising in secret, and that her Mate may be keeping secrets of his own. Collin is confusing, both cold and protective, and worse, she finds herself drawn to the very last person she should be falling for: Hal, one of the resistance leaders.

As she draws closer to both Collin and Hal, the Illum exercise their power in increasingly brutal ways, forcing Emeline to question everything—most of all whether she'll have to give up her heart and even her life to stop them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The book opens with Emeline destroying precious artifacts—what did that immediately tell you about the world you were entering? What do you think it represents to these characters?
2. Emeline's family dynamic is revealed in pieces—what did you think about her siblings and their relationship to the society's power structure? What about her parents?
3. Do you suspect there's something larger at play with Emeline being chosen as the first Illum mate in years? Why do you think they chose her?
4. What does the novel suggest about the cost of love in a society built and reliant on complete control? What do you think that reflects about the nature of love?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com



Alejandro Varela **Middle Spoon:** A Novel

978-0-593-83517-3 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Viking | HC

978-0-593-83518-0 | DN: 979-8-217-16495-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

A whipsmart, blazingly funny novel about heartbreak, unconventional love, and the way society could be, from National Book Award finalist Alejandro Varela. For readers of *The Vulnerables*, *All Fours*, and *Catalina*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The narrator of *Middle Spoon* appears to be living the dream: He has a doting husband, two precocious children, all the comforts of a quiet bourgeois life—and a sexy younger boyfriend to accompany him to farmers markets and cocktail parties. But when his boyfriend abruptly dumps him, he spirals into heartbreak for the first time and must confront a world still struggling to understand polyamorous relationships. Faced with the judgment of friends and the sting of rejection, he's left to wonder if sharing a life with both his family and his lover could ever truly be possible.

With a big heart and just the right dose of the anxieties that define the modern era, *Middle Spoon* skewers the unspoken rules we still live by, offering a surprising perspective on love, loss, and reinvention.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Middle Spoon* offers us a radical reimagining of what relationships and domestic life could look like. What was your initial reaction to the narrator's love life and family structure? Did this book change the way that you view polyamory—or relationships in general?
2. How do Ben and the narrator's husband occupy different niches in the narrator's life? What needs do they each fulfill, and how do they complement each other? Do you think the narrator is unrealistic or selfish in hoping that these needs get met?
3. *Middle Spoon* is told through a series of email drafts penned to the narrator's ex-boyfriend. What did you think of the choice to tell this story in this way? How does this format affect the way you understand the narrator's journey? What details and perspectives are left out?
4. What did you think of the book's resolution? Do you think that the narrator has figured out a sustainable arrangement among his husband, his family, and Ben?

For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/MiddleSpoonDQs](http://tinyurl.com/MiddleSpoonDQs)

Mary Watson

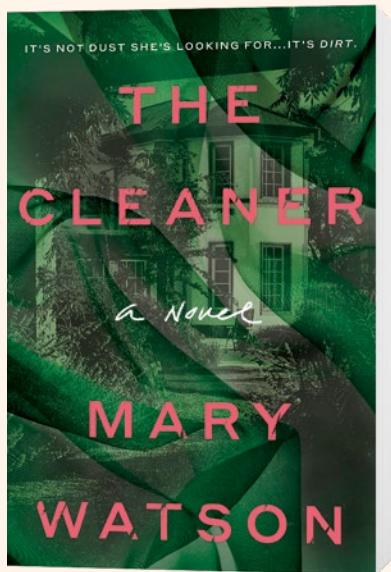
The Cleaner:

A Novel

979-8-217-08591-0 | \$18.00 | Crown | TR
978-1-039-01331-5 | \$26.00C | Random House Canada | TR
979-8-217-08592-7 | DN: 979-8-217-08343-5
LP: 979-8-217-15762-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

One of the estate's residents has ruined her life—and she's come for revenge—in a twisty psychological thriller that reveals the danger of underestimating the seemingly powerless. For fans of Freida McFadden and Ruth Ware.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Esmie is meant to be invisible. A cleaner for an exclusive gated neighborhood in Ireland, Esmie fades into the background, slipping in and out of kitchens and closets, quietly observing her clients' perfect domestic lives. These entitled families only see a quiet woman with a mop in hand, who speaks with an accent they don't bother to place, and this is exactly what she wants.

Esmie is well aware that her employers don't truly see her. To them, she's a foreigner who cleans up their messes. But there's one mess she refuses to clean up. Because Esmie is not a cleaner. She's come to this neighborhood for one purpose and one purpose only. Revenge.

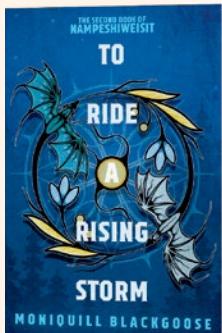
The Cleaner exposes the dark underbelly of a protected society, revealing the dirty truths that lie beneath its polished facades of privilege.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Esmie poses as a cleaner to gain access to The Woodlands. Why do you think the families she worked for were inclined to trust her from the beginning? What underlying assumptions or social dynamics might have influenced their willingness to do so?
2. Early in their relationship, Amber dismissively calls Esmie "nice," implying that it is a negative trait. Do you think being called "nice" is an insult? How does Esmie weaponize her "niceness"?
3. Esmie watches from the shadows, invisible and unseen, until she doesn't. Does crossing the line from observer to active participant change the direction of the story? What other lines are crossed in the book, and to what effect?

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

TITLES FOR TEEN BOOK GROUPS



Moniquill Blackgoose

To Ride a Rising Storm:

The Second Book of Nampeshiweisit

978-0-593-49830-9 | \$20.00/\$27.99C | Del Rey | TR

EB 978-0-593-49831-6 | DN: 978-0-593-67727-8

A young indigenous woman and her dragon fight for the independence of their homeland in this epic sequel to the bestselling and multi-award-winning *To Shape a Dragon's Breath*, "a remarkable novel that is bound to be a staple of fantasy shelves for years to come" (BuzzFeed).



K. X. Song

The Dragon Wakes with Thunder

978-0-593-64155-2 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Ace | HC

EB 978-0-593-64156-9 | DN: 979-8-217-07544-7

A young woman who wields the unimaginable power of the dragon must decide where her loyalties lie—and where her heart belongs—in this enthralling fantasy that reimagines the legend of Mulan. For readers of *Iron Widow* and *The Poppy War*.



Jesse Q. Sutanto

Next Time Will Be Our Turn

978-0-593-81687-5 | \$19.00/\$25.99C | Berkley | TR

EB 978-0-593-81688-2 | DN: 979-8-217-16410-3

A grandmother tells her granddaughter about her twisty, often surprising, journey to who she is now in this sweeping love story by USA Today bestselling author Jesse Q. Sutanto. For fans of Taylor Jenkins Reid.



Yueh Yang

The Omen Girl

978-1-998-34183-2 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Wattpad Books | HC

EB 978-1-998-34129-0

A chosen-one YA fantasy debut novel inspired by Asian culture with a richly developed world—perfect for fans of Elizabeth Lim, Amélie Wen Zhao, and Sue Lynn Tan.

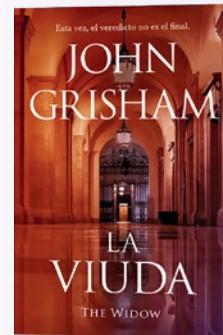
TITLES FOR SPANISH-LANGUAGE BOOK GROUPS

John Grisham

La viuda / The Widow

979-8-89098-600-9 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Vintage Español | TR

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author John Grisham is the acclaimed master of the legal thriller. Now, he's back with his first-ever whodunit, even more suspenseful than his courtroom dramas, as a small-time lawyer accused of murder races to find the real killer to clear his name.



Annette Chavez Macias

Las chicas grandes no lloran / Big Chicas Don't Cry

979-8-89098-382-4 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

Fifteen years ago, they drifted apart. Can one remarkable year bring them back together?

Cousins Mari, Erica, Selena, and Gracie are inseparable. They aren't just family but best friends—sharing secrets, traditions, and a fierce love for their abuelita. But their idyllic childhood ends when Mari's parents divorce, forcing her to move away. With Mari gone, the girls' tight-knit bond unravels.

As rocky as the cousins' lives have become, nothing can prepare them for the heartbreakin loss of a loved one. When tragedy reunites them, will they remember their abuelita's lessons about family and forgiveness—or are fifteen years of separation too much to overcome?

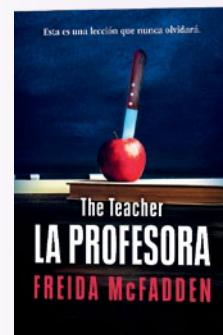


Freida McFadden

La profesora / The Teacher

979-8-89098-584-2 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Vintage Español | TR

From the bestselling author of *The Housemaid* comes a tale of twisted secrets and long-awaited revenge. Lesson one: Trust no one. Eve is content with her life. She wakes up every day, gets a kiss from her husband, Nate, and goes off to teach math at a junior high school. Everything's going as it should. Only... Last year, Caseham High was rocked by a scandalous teacher-student relationship, with teenager Addie at the center. But Eve knows there's much more to the ugly rumors. Addie can't be trusted. She lies. She hurts people. She ruins lives. At least, that's what everyone says. But no one knows the real Addie. No one knows the secrets that could destroy her. And Addie will do anything to keep them safe.



Mai Mochizuki

Un regalo en el Café de la Luna Llena / Best Wishes from the Full Moon Coffee Shop

978-607-38-6331-5 | \$21.95/\$28.95C | Plaza & Janés | TR

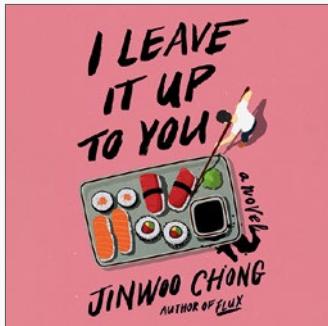
From the bestselling author of the Japanese sensation *The Full Moon Coffee Shop*, this charming and heartfelt novel showcases the magic of Christmas as lost souls find themselves—with a little help of from an enchanted café run by cats.



ENHANCE BOOK CLUBS with AUDIOBOOKS

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

Here are just a few great listening recommendations:

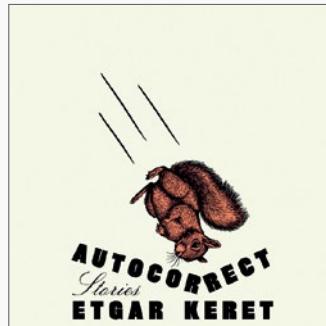


Jinwoo Chong; Read by Daniel K. Isaac

I Leave It Up To You: A Novel

"Narrator Isaac perfectly captures every quip, from wry to sardonic. The novel might have listeners tearing up... A truly moving story of a gay Korean American man making peace with his past and rediscovering his family and dreams."

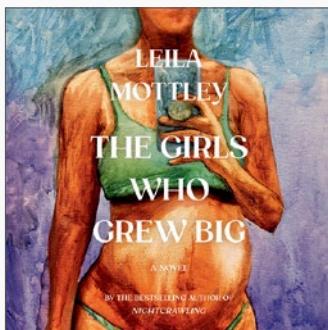
—Library Journal, starred review



Etgar Keret; Read by Multiple Narrators

Autocorrect: Stories

"The audiobook is narrated by a talented ensemble... Keret's work is both engaging and vital, providing listeners with a quick escape while illuminating the intricacies of human experience. This carefully cast and skillfully produced audiobook is highly recommended." —Library Journal, starred review

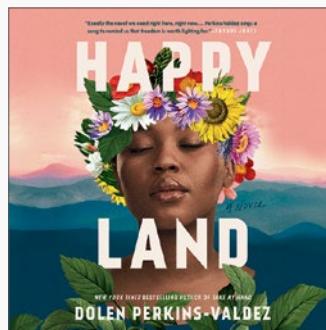


Leila Mottley; Read by AhDream Smith, Erin Spencer, and Khaya Fraites

The Girls Who Grew Big: A Novel

"Through alternating perspectives, the narrations capture each character's struggles and hopes... Mottley's character-driven writing, combined with the narrators' compelling performances, results in an unforgettable listening experience."

—AudioFile Earphones Award



Dolen Perkins-Valdez; Read by Bahni Turpin and Ashley J. Hobbs

Happy Land

"Multi-award-winning narrators Turpin and Hobbs skillfully bring Nikki's and Queen Luella's perspectives to life... Listeners will be riveted by this inspiring family saga, which reveals a community's tenacity and the hardships they endured to create a self-supporting haven." —Library Journal, starred review

ALL TITLES ALSO AVAILABLE IN HARDCOVER AND EBOOK

Love your library but hate the holds list?

Be the first to learn about the best new books
from Penguin Random House.



For recommendations on just-published and forthcoming books,
celebrity book club picks, book club brochures,
LibraryReads picks, award winners, and more,
visit us at BorrowReadRepeat.com

Sign up for our monthly insider enewsletter:
BorrowReadRepeat.com/Subscribe

Follow us @BorrowReadRepeat



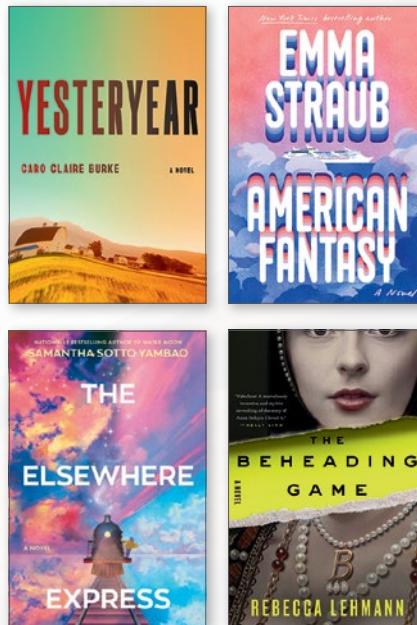
Wondering what the next great read will be? The next author that everyone will be talking about?

Join **First Look Book Club** and discover them first!

Sign up for our free e-mail book club and receive daily excerpts from just-published books in your inbox. We'll bring you the best in Mystery, Suspense, Romance, Memoir, Literary Fiction, and more.

The club is perfect:

- As a Readers' Advisory tool.
- To share with your patrons.
- As a great way to dip in to some of the best new books.
- For the chance to win free books.



Get a first look before you commit to a book!
Sign Up Today! TinyUrl.com/FirstLookBookClub

first look
book club