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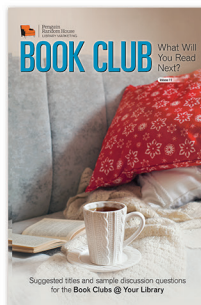
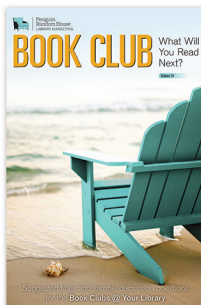
What Will
You Read
Next?

Volume 12

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

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Flynn Berry

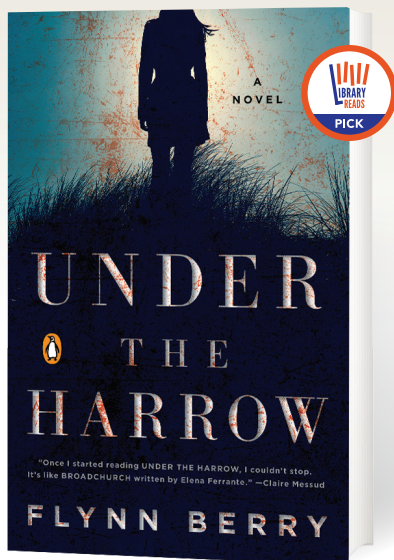
Under the Harrow:

A Novel

978-0-143-10857-3 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Penguin | TR
● 978-1-101-99206-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

"Once I started reading *Under the Harrow* I couldn't stop. It's like *Broadchurch* written by Elena Ferrante. I've been telling all my friends to read it—the highest compliment. Flynn Berry is a deeply interesting writer." —Claire Messud, author of *The Woman Upstairs*



ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Nora takes the train from London to visit her sister in the countryside, she expects to find her waiting at the station, or at home cooking dinner. But when she walks into Rachel's familiar house, what she finds is entirely different: her sister has been the victim of a brutal murder.

Stunned and adrift, Nora finds she can't return to her former life. An unsolved assault in the past has shaken her faith in the police, and she can't trust them to find her sister's killer. Haunted by the murder and the secrets that surround it, Nora is under the harrow: distressed and in danger. As Nora's fear turns to obsession, she becomes as unrecognizable as the sister her investigation uncovers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did Rachel's experience with sexual assault affect her relationship with her sister?
2. How does Berry choose to portray the considerable violence and trauma in this story through style?
3. What do you make of Nora's relationship with Lewis?
4. What kind of person is Nora? Why do you think she so relentlessly inserts herself into the investigation?
5. If you were in Nora's position, and you felt that the police weren't looking hard enough for the culprit, what would you do? Is retributive violence ever justified?

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



Miranda Beverly-Whittemore

June: A Novel

978-0-553-44768-2 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown | HC
● 978-0-553-44769-9
📍 AD: 978-0-451-48287-7 | 📍 CD: 978-0-451-48286-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of edgy and contemporary coming-of-age stories and fans of J. Courtney Sullivan, Curtis Sittenfeld, and Donna Tartt.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the author of the bestselling *Bittersweet*, comes a suspenseful and atmospheric story that crosses *Beautiful Ruins* with *The Bridges of Madison County*. It is a tale of an unexpected inheritance from a movie star that pulls a young woman into a world of wealth, celebrity, and haunting secrets, all in a ramshackle Gothic mansion in a picturesque small town.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Two Oaks is its own dynamic character in this book; have you ever lived or visited somewhere that felt “alive” in this way?
2. In 1955, when June and Jack met, he was a world-class movie star in his thirties, and she was an eighteen-year-old from a conservative small town; can a relationship succeed with that kind of power dynamic in play? Do you think Jack and June were truly in love?
3. Let’s talk about bloodlines. In what ways does Tate resemble Diane, Elda resemble Jack, and Cassie resemble June? In what ways are these descendants different from their forebears, for better or worse?
4. How has the experience of being a movie star changed from 1955 to today? What are the consequences of celebrity? Would you want to be one?
5. How will Cassie and Tate’s relationship develop beyond the confines of the book? Is it possible to cement familial ties even with those whose bloodline you do not share? Do you think Tate and Elda will be able to be “sisters” again?

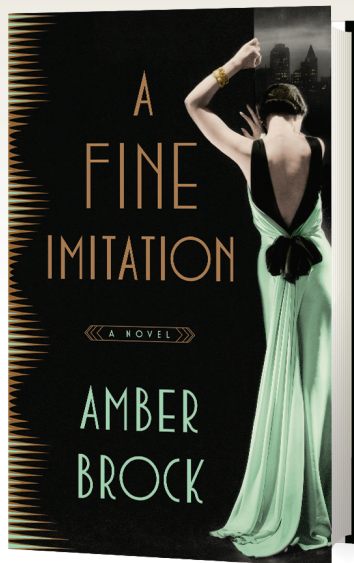
Miranda Beverly-Whittemore wants to Skype with your book club! Visit: MirandaBW.com

Amber Brock
A Fine Imitation:
A Novel

978-1-101-90511-1 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown | HC
● 978-1-101-90512-8
📍 AD: 978-0-147-52654-0 | 📍 CD: 978-0-147-52653-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For historical fiction fans, readers of *A Hundred Summers*, *The Chaperone*, *The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls*, and *Rules of Civility*, and for those who enjoy narratives of alternating time periods like *Water for Elephants*, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, and *Sarah's Key*.



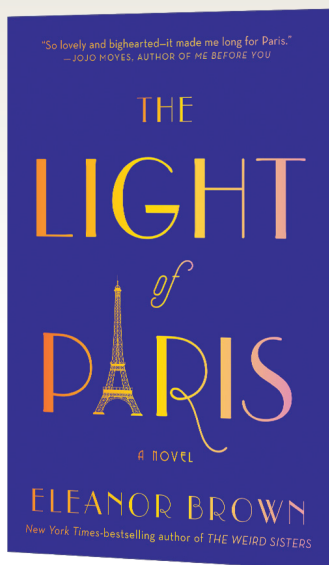
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Set in the glamorous 1920s, *A Fine Imitation* has a riveting, secret-driven dual narrative that sweeps readers into a privileged Manhattan socialite's restless life and the affair with a mysterious painter that upends her world, flashing back to her years at Vassar and the friendship that brought her to the brink of ruin. Perfect for book groups exploring topics of forbidden love, societal pressure, the complicated nature of female friendships, and the cost of happiness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Visual art plays a huge role in *A Fine Imitation*. In her college years, Vera explains why she studies art, saying, "Even when it's ugly or sad, it's beautiful." Why might she feel this way? Do you agree with her assessment?
2. Vera's mother makes it clear that she doesn't approve of Vera attending college. Why might Vera have wanted to go to school, knowing she would never use her education in a profession? Given the heartbreak that her time at Vassar leads to, would she have been happier if she hadn't gone?
3. Vera struggles to understand why *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* affects her so strongly. How do you interpret her reaction to the movie? Why do you think she claims it's the monster that upsets her? Is that really what makes her so emotional in that moment?
4. Much of the conflict in the novel comes from the secrets the characters keep. Are there times when keeping a secret is someone's right? Are there times when others have a right to know?

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



Eleanor Brown

The Light of Paris

978-0-399-15891-9 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC

● 978-0-399-57373-6

📍 AD: 978-0-451-48484-0 | 📍 CD: 978-0-451-48483-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

The bestselling author of *The Weird Sisters* returns with a new novel perfect for fans of Anne Tyler, Liane Moriarty, Sue Monk Kidd, Jojo Moyes, and Jane Smiley.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Madeleine has always felt like a failure: she's the one whose expression ruins sorority photos, the person at parties who would rather be at home reading, the old maid at the age of thirty. She has spent her entire life trying to fit in and when her marriage to a controlling husband is threatened, Madeleine panics. Until she discovers a journal detailing her grandmother's wild, romantic summer in Jazz Age Paris. Reading the journal introduces Madeleine to a version of her grandmother that she never knew: a dreamy writer who defied her staid family's expectations. By reading her grandmother's journal, Madeleine is encouraged to be true to herself and makes her question the miserable perfection of her marriage and life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The city of Paris becomes a character in its own right throughout the novel. What is the significance of Paris to the story itself?
2. Madeleine has a difficult relationship with her mother, Simone. Did you feel sympathy for Simone at any point?
3. The story takes place during two different time periods: 1924 and 1999. What do those years have in common, and how do they affect the story?
4. Did Margie make the right choice? What were the consequences of her decision?
5. At the end of the novel, Madeleine gets a studio to paint in—a room of her own. What is the significance of this space for Madeleine? How does it affect her character?
6. How have circumstances for women changed between the different time periods of Margie and Madeleine's stories? In what way are they the same?

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

Elizabeth Brundage

All Things Cease to Appear: A Novel

978-1-101-87559-9 | \$26.95/\$34.95C | Knopf | HC

📞 978-1-101-87560-5

📍 AD: 978-0-399-56780-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Tana French, Kate Atkinson, Jennifer McMahon, Elizabeth George, and Donna Tartt.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

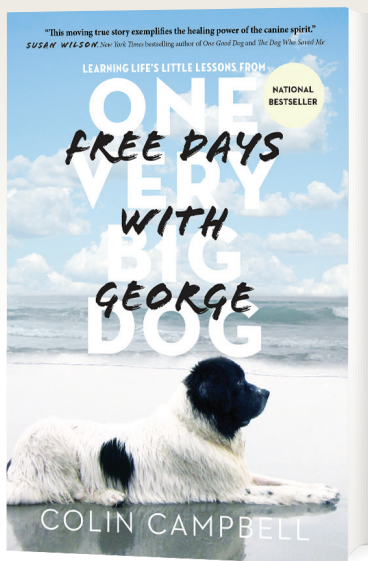
Late one winter afternoon in upstate New York, George Clare comes home to find his wife killed and their three-year-old daughter alone—for how many hours?—in her room across the hall. He had recently, begrudgingly, taken a position at a nearby private college (far too expensive for local kids to attend) teaching art history, and moved his family into a tight-knit, impoverished town that has lately been discovered by wealthy outsiders in search of a rural idyll.

George is of course the immediate suspect—the question of his guilt echoing in a story shot through with secrets both personal and professional. The pall of death is ongoing, and relentless; behind one crime there are others, and more than twenty years will pass before a hard kind of justice is finally served.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The issue of class differences weighs heavily throughout *All Things Cease to Appear*. Discuss the faltering farm economy in the area and how that affects morale. Which characters seem to represent the “old guard” of the town? How does distrust of the wealthy Manhattan set factor into the town’s perception of George?
2. Discuss the role of otherworldly influences. How does Brundage use voice and character to create a foreboding, eerie feeling throughout the novel? Discuss George’s hesitance to believe in these spirits. How does this create a gulf between him and Catherine? When, if ever, does Catherine feel validated for believing in the presence of these spirits?
3. Discuss the idea of “lost mothers” as explored throughout. How do the Hale brothers each cope with the loss of their beloved mother? How does Catherine become a mother figure for the Hales? Which brother does she have the greatest influence on over time?

For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)



Colin Campbell

Free Days With George: Learning Life's Little Lessons from One Very Big Dog

978-0-385-68289-3 | \$16.95/\$19.95C | Anchor Canada | TR
● 978-0-385-68288-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

Marley & Me meets *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Art of Racing in the Rain*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

After a short business trip Colin Campbell returned home to discover his wife of many years had moved out. No explanations. No second chances. She was gone and wasn't coming back. Shocked and heartbroken, Colin fell into a spiral of depression and loneliness.

Soon after, a friend told Colin about a dog in need of rescue—a neglected 140-pound Newfoundland Landseer. Colin adopted the traumatized dog, brought him home and named him George. Both man and dog were heartbroken and lacking trust, but together, they learned how to share a space, how to socialize and, most of all, how to overcome their bad experiences. An uplifting, inspirational story about the healing power of animals, and about leaving the past behind to embrace love, hope, and happiness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. "George is the dog who changed my life. When I was at my worst, he was there to comfort me. He was homeless when I took him in as a 'rescue,' but as it turns out, he's the one who rescued me." What do these opening sentences of the book mean to you after having read it? How were Colin and George able to lean on one another for support?
2. What kind of companionship does Campbell find with George that he is unable to find elsewhere in his life? Why is that connection to our pets so important to us? Do you feel a connection to a pet that is different from other relationships?
3. Campbell's idea of a "free day" requires some in-the-moment reflection. Do you think that many people already live like this? Does this reflective style of living seem appealing to you? Why or why not?

For more discussion questions visit: FreeDaysWithGeorge.com

Emma Cline

The Girls: A Novel

978-0-8129-9860-3 | \$27.00/\$34.00C | Random House | HC

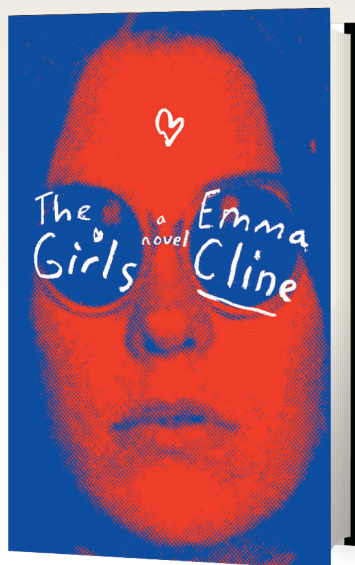
978-0-8129-9861-0

AD: 978-0-147-52402-7 | CD: 978-0-147-52401-0

LP: 978-0-735-20818-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

A stunning first novel perfect for readers of Jeffrey Eugenides's *The Virgin Suicides* and Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

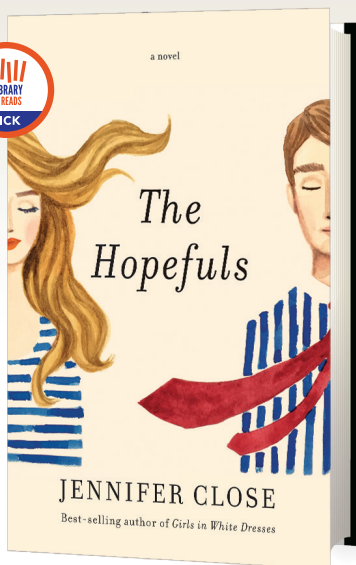
An indelible portrait of girls, the women they become, and that moment in life when everything can go horribly wrong.

Northern California, during the violent end of the 1960s. At the start of summer, a lonely and thoughtful teenager, Evie Boyd, sees a group of girls in the park, and is immediately caught by their freedom, their careless dress, their dangerous aura of abandon. Soon, Evie is in thrall to Suzanne, a mesmerizing older girl, and is drawn into the circle of a soon-to-be infamous cult and the man who is its charismatic leader. Hidden in the hills, their sprawling ranch is eerie and run down, but to Evie, it is exotic, thrilling, charged—a place where she feels desperate to be accepted. As she spends more time away from her mother and the rhythms of her daily life, and as her obsession with Suzanne intensifies, Evie does not realize she is coming closer and closer to unthinkable violence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Girls* takes place in the summer of 1969. When Evie explains the era to Sasha, she says “It was a different time . . . Everyone ran around.” Do you think that what happened to Evie could have only happened in the 1960s? Or is her story a timeless story? How might her story be different, if it happened today?
2. One of the central relationships in *The Girls* is between Evie and Suzanne. What did you make of their connection? The first time they meet, Suzanne is hesitant to let Evie come along. Does she sense something about Evie from the very beginning? What might it be?
3. Evie describes the “constant project of our girl selves” and the specific attentions that project requires—the make-up, the grooming rituals. Did you see a parallel in Evie’s mother’s behavior? What are the similarities and differences between Evie’s “constant project” and her mother’s new search for “an aim, a plan”?

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



Jennifer Close

The Hopefuls: A Novel

978-1-101-87561-2 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC

978-0-385-68514-6 | \$29.95C | Bond Street Books

● 978-1-101-87562-9

📍 AD: 978-0-7352-8728-0 | 📍 CD: 978-0-7352-8727-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Curtis Sittenfeld's *American Wife*, and viewers of *House of Cards*, *Scandal*, *The West Wing*, and *Madam Secretary*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Beth arrives in DC, she hates everything about it: the confusing traffic circles, the ubiquitous Ann Taylor suits, the humidity that descends each summer. At dinner parties, guests compare their security clearance levels. They leave their BlackBerrys on the table. They speak in acronyms. And once they realize Beth doesn't work in politics, they smile blandly and turn away. Soon Beth and her husband, Matt, meet a charismatic White House staffer named Jimmy, and his wife, Ashleigh, and the four become inseparable, coordinating brunches, birthdays, and long weekends away. But as Jimmy's star rises higher and higher, the couples' friendship—and Beth's relationship with Matt—is threatened by jealousy, competition, and rumors.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As a spouse who's not particularly interested in politics, Beth feels like an outsider. What should she have done to find her own tribe—or does that seem impossible in the atmosphere the novel describes?
2. Close introduces each section with a quote from a president or first lady—until the final one, which opens with this quote from Dylan Thomas: "Washington isn't a city, it's an abstraction." What does it mean?
3. The Dillons follow traditional gender roles when it comes to parenting. What is the reader meant to think about this? Does having well-defined roles help or hinder the Dillons' relationship?
4. Personal identity is one of the themes running through the novel. In DC, Beth struggles to find her sense of self. She considers it a matter of circumstance, but things are no better in Texas. Has she brought this about somehow?

For more discussion questions visit: KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center

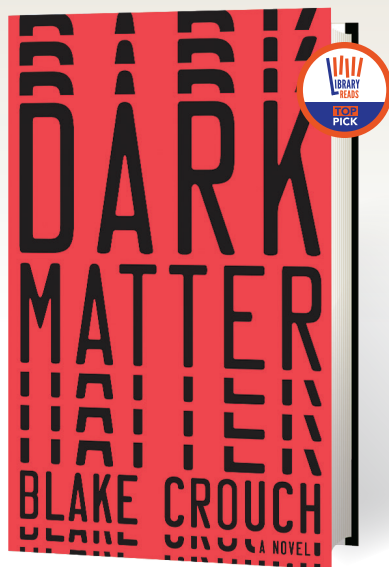
Blake Crouch

Dark Matter: A Novel

978-1-101-90422-0 | \$26.99/\$33.00C | Crown | HC
● 978-1-101-90423-7
📍 AD: 978-1-101-92450-1 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-92449-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers who love fast-paced, high concept, intricately plotted thrillers by authors like John Sandford, Harlan Coben, and Lee Child, and for fans of thrillers with a foot in science-fiction like Michael Crichton, Andy Weir, and Justin Cronin.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the author of the bestselling Wayward Pines trilogy comes a brilliantly mind-bending science-fiction thriller in which an ordinary man is kidnapped, knocked unconscious—and awakens in a world inexplicably different from the reality he thought he knew. Perfect for book clubs with its thought-provoking theme of what happens when we make one choice over another. A truly awesome chase thriller with a love story at its core. Jason's desperate struggle to reconnect with—and ultimately save—the wife and son who have been torn away from him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What makes us root for a character to live in a survival story? In what ways do you identify with Jason? How does the author get you to care about him?
2. Did you find the science and technology behind the box accessible? How did that information add to the realism of the story? Were you familiar with the concept of Schrödinger's cat before reading this novel?
3. Were there points in the novel when you became convinced Jason couldn't reunite with his family? What were they, and what made those situations seem so dire?
4. A survival story has to resonate on a universal level to be effective, whether it's set on a desert island, or a different dimension.
5. Does Crouch do a good job of ratcheting up the suspense? Does the novel live up to its name as a "thriller"?

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



Stephanie Danler

Sweetbitter: A Novel

978-1-101-87594-0 | \$24.95/\$32.49C | Knopf | HC
● 978-1-101-87595-7
📍 AD: 978-0-399-56631-8 | 📍 CD: 978-0-399-56630-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Devil Wears Prada*; *Kitchen Confidential*; *Bright Lights, Big City*; and *Blood, Bones & Butter*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Hot from a mundane, provincial past, Tess comes to New York in the stifling summer of 2006. Alone, knowing no one, living in a rented room in Williamsburg, she manages to land a job as a “backwaiter” at a celebrated downtown Manhattan restaurant. What follows is her education: in oysters, Champagne, the appellations of Burgundy, friendship, cocaine, lust, love, and dive bars. As her appetites awaken—for food and wine, but also for knowledge, experience, and belonging—we see her helplessly drawn into a darkly alluring love triangle. With an orphan’s ardor she latches onto Simone, a senior server at the restaurant who has lived in ways Tess only dreams of, and against the warnings of coworkers she falls under the spell of Jake, the elusive, tatted up, aching beautiful bartender. These two and their enigmatic connection to each other will prove to be Tess’s most exhilarating and painful lesson of all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The title appears within one of the novel’s epigraphs, a quote from a poem by Sappho: “Eros once again limb—loosener whirls me / Sweetbitter, impossible to fight off, creature stealing up.” How does this fit into Tess’s story?
2. Simone and Jake each influence Tess greatly. Whose influence proves more beneficial, and whose is more damaging? What does she want from each of them? What does she get?
3. What role does Howard play in Tess’s coming of age? What does he see in her that she hasn’t yet seen in herself?
4. Tess and Jake both grew up motherless. Simone becomes a mother figure for each. Which of them gets the most out of the relationship: Tess, Jake, or Simone?

For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)

Yaa Gyasi

Homegoing: A Novel

978-1-101-94713-5 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-385-68613-6 | \$30.00C | Bond Street Books
● 978-1-101-94714-2
📍 AD: 978-0-451-48419-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Toni Morrison,
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ayana Mathis,
and Abraham Verghese.



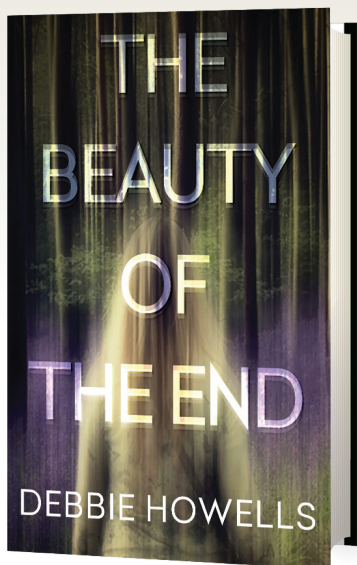
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of *Homegoing* follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization. The other thread follows Esi and her children into America. From the plantations of the South to the Civil War and the Great Migration, from the coal mines of Pratt City, Alabama, to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day, *Homegoing* makes history visceral, and captures, with singular and stunning immediacy, how the memory of captivity came to be inscribed in the soul of a nation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Evaluate the title of the book. Why do you think that the author chose the word *Homegoing*? What is a homegoing and where does it appear in the novel? In addition to the term's literal meaning, discuss what symbolic meanings or associations the title might have in terms of a connection with our place of birth, our ancestors, our heritage, and our personal and cultural histories.
2. Explore the theme of belief. What forms of belief are depicted in the book and what purpose do these beliefs seem to serve for the characters? Does the author reveal what has shaped the characters' beliefs?
3. Explore the theme of complicity. What are some examples of complicity found in the novel? Who is complicit in the slave trade? Where do most of the slaves come from and who trades them? Who does Abena's father say is ultimately responsible? Do you agree?

For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)



Debbie Howells
**The Beauty of
the End**

978-1-4967-0598-3 | \$25.00/\$27.95C | Kensington | HC
● 978-1-4967-0599-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Bones of You*, *The Silent Wife*,
and *The Girl on the Train*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

"I was fourteen when I fell in love with a goddess . . ."

So begins the testimony of Noah Calaway, an ex-lawyer with a sideline in armchair criminal psychology. Now living an aimless life in an inherited cottage in the English countryside, Noah is haunted by the memory of the beguiling young woman who left him at the altar sixteen years earlier. Then one day he receives a troubling phone call. April, the woman he once loved, lies in a coma, the victim of an apparent overdose—and the lead suspect in a brutal murder. Deep in his bones, Noah believes that April is innocent. Then again, he also believed they would spend the rest of their lives together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As the story opens, even with evidence to the contrary, Noah is convinced of April's innocence. As a reader, do you agree with him? Can we ever be so sure about someone, even when we know them very well?
2. Even as a young man, Will's behavior could be seen as self-interested. This is more apparent when you learn how he is as an adult. Would you describe him as narcissistic? Is human behavior ever entirely unselfish?
3. Ella's discovery of her past is extremely distressing for her. How better could her parents have prepared her? Or would it have been easier for her never to have found out the truth?
4. Was Noah the best person to represent April? Did his belief in her help or hinder his investigation? Would an outsider have been more able to uncover the truth?

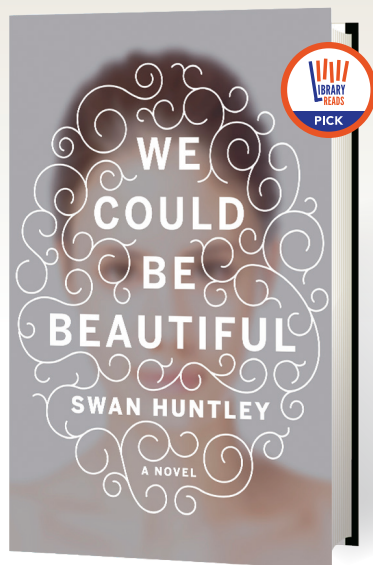
For more discussion questions visit: DebbieHowells.com

Swan Huntley We Could Be Beautiful: A Novel

978-0-385-54059-9 | \$25.95/\$34.95C | Doubleday | HC
● 978-0-385-54060-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

“More than a classic psychological thriller: it is also a haunting—and weirdly moving—portrait of love and family among Manhattan’s flailing upper crust. An intoxicating escape; as smart as it is fun.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review



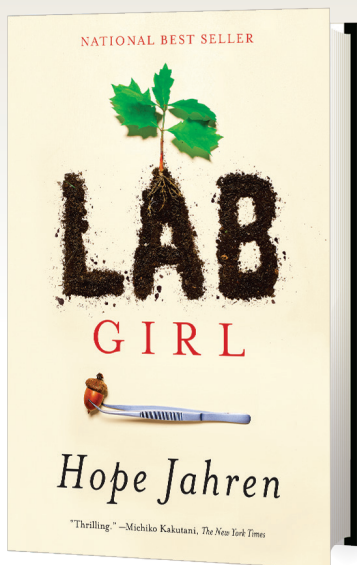
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Catherine West has spent her entire life surrounded by beautiful things. She owns an immaculate Manhattan apartment, she collects fine art, she buys exquisite handbags and clothing, and she constantly redecorates her home. And yet, despite all this, she still feels empty. One night, at an art opening, Catherine meets William Stockton, a handsome man who shares her impeccable taste and love of beauty. But as he and Catherine grow closer, she begins to encounter strange signs. Is William lying about his past? And if so, is Catherine willing to sacrifice their beautiful life in order to find the truth? Featuring a fascinating heroine who longs for answers but is blinded by her own privilege, *We Could Be Beautiful* is a glittering, seductive, utterly surprising story of love, money, greed, and family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you feel about Catherine as a character? Do these feelings change as the book progresses? If so, how?
2. Catherine says that people don't feel sorry for you if you have money. Did you feel sorry for Catherine when she starts to lose hers?
3. Money defines Catherine's life in obvious external ways. How does it define the way in which she sees herself on an internal level?
4. How does Catherine begin to see herself differently through her relationship with Susan? Why does Catherine question this friendship?
5. Catherine is very concerned with the idea of being a good person. Do you think she's a good person?
6. Are Catherine and her mother similar? If so, in what ways?

For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)



Hope Jahren Lab Girl

978-1-101-87493-6 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-345-80986-5 | \$32.00C | Knopf Canada
● 978-1-101-87494-3
📍 AD: 978-1-101-89021-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

An illuminating debut memoir of a woman in science for readers of *Wild*, *H is for Hawk*, and *Uncle Tungsten*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Acclaimed scientist Hope Jahren has built three laboratories in which she's studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. Her first book is a revelatory treatise on plant life—but it is also so much more. *Lab Girl* is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren's remarkable stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom's labs; about how she found a sanctuary in science. Yet at the core of this book is the story of a relationship Jahren forged with a brilliant, wounded man named Bill, who becomes her lab partner and best friend.

Here is an eloquent demonstration of what can happen when you find the stamina, passion, and sense of sacrifice needed to make a life out of what you truly love, as you discover along the way the person you were meant to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were Jahren's main motivations for pursuing scientific research as her career?
2. Describe Hope and Bill's work partnership and friendship. What makes them so well suited to each other, and what's unexpected about the dynamic of this male-female relationship?
3. How does Jahren balance the excitement and frustrations of working in a lab and researching in her story?
4. What are some of the unique challenges she faces as a woman in science, and what message does she convey to girls and women about following their dreams in this field—or any?
5. What was the most interesting fact about plants you learned while reading *Lab Girl*?

For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)

Paul Kalanithi;
Foreword by Abraham Verghese
**When Breath
Becomes Air**

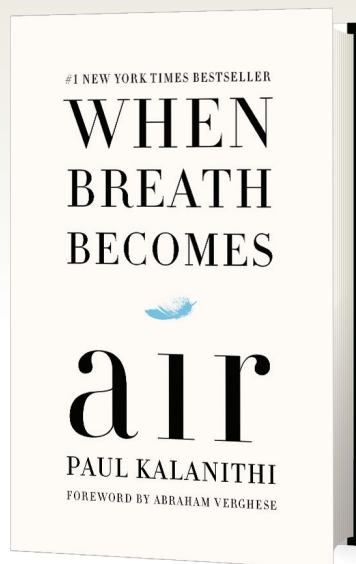
978-0-8129-8840-6 | \$25.00/\$33.00C | Random House | HC

978-0-8129-8841-3

AD: 978-0-399-56619-6 | CD: 978-0-399-56618-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

**For readers of Atul Gawande, Andrew Solomon,
and Anne Lamott, this inspiring, exquisitely
observed memoir finds hope and beauty in the
face of insurmountable odds.**



ABOUT THE BOOK:

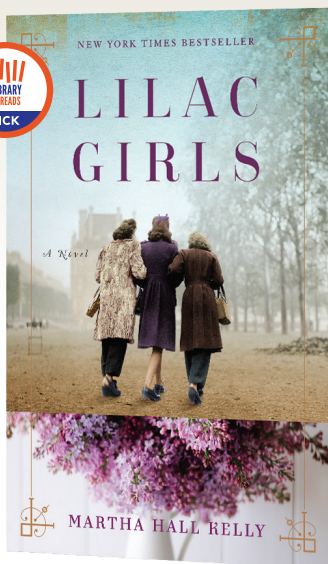
At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

When Breath Becomes Air is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did you come away feeling, after reading this book? Upset? Inspired? Anxious? Less afraid?
2. How do you think the years Paul spent tending to patients and training to be a neurosurgeon affected the outlook he had on his own illness? When Paul wrote that the question he asked himself was not "why me," but "why not me," how did that strike you? Could you relate to it?
3. What did you think of Paul and Lucy's decision to have a child, in the face of his illness? When Lucy asked him if he worried that having a child would make his death more painful, and Paul responded, "Wouldn't it be great if it did?" how did that strike you? Do you agree that life should not be about avoiding suffering, but about creating meaning?

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



Martha Hall Kelly **Lilac Girls: A Novel**

978-1-101-88307-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Ballantine Books | HC

📞 978-1-101-88306-8

📍 AD: 978-1-101-88961-9 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-88960-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Nightingale*, *Sarah's Key*, and *All the Light We Cannot See*. Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this remarkable debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate. But her world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France.

Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement, where one false move can have dire consequences.

For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways do you think the alternating points of view helped to enrich the narrative? Was there ever a time you when you wished there was only one narrator?
2. The primary settings of this novel are starkly different—Caroline's glamorous New York world of benefits and cultural events, and the bleak reality of life in a concentration camp. In what ways did the contrast between these two settings affect your reading experience?
3. Caroline's relationship with Paul is complicated, taboo even. Was there ever a time when you didn't agree with a choice Caroline made with regards to Paul? When and why?
4. As Caroline became more and more invested in her work with the French Families Fund, and eventually with the "rabbits," did you feel that she changed in any way? How were those changes apparent through her interactions with others?

For more discussion questions visit: MarthaHallKelly.com

Joan London

The Golden Age

978-1-60945-332-9 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Europa Editions | TR
● 978-1-60945-326-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Every character comes to life in these pages. Like her fictional protagonist, London is a virtuoso.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review



ABOUT THE BOOK:

An immensely satisfying and generous-hearted story about displacement, recovery, resilience, and love.

Thirteen-year-old Frank Gold’s family, Hungarian Jews, escape the perils of World War II to the safety of Australia in the 1940s. But not long after their arrival Frank is diagnosed with polio. He is sent to a sprawling children’s hospital called The Golden Age, where he meets Elsa, the most beautiful girl he has ever seen, a girl who radiates pure light. Frank and Elsa fall in love, fueling one another’s rehabilitation, facing the perils of polio and adolescence hand in hand, and scandalizing the prudish staff of The Golden Age.

With tenderness and humor, *The Golden Age* tells a deeply moving story about illness and recovery. It is a book about learning to navigate the unfamiliar, about embracing music, poetry, death, and, most importantly, life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do Frank and Elsa’s parents adjust their expectations of their children, as well as their families, after Frank and Elsa are checked into The Golden Age? Does it impact their marriages?
2. Is there a parallel being drawn between the trauma of polio and the trauma of the Holocaust?
3. In your opinion, how does the Gold family’s status as recent émigrés impact their descriptions and attitudes toward Perth? How is Perth compared to Budapest? How representative do you think this is of immigrants’ perception of their new home?
4. How is the Australian landscape used to characterize both the Briggs and the Gold families?
5. How do the physical and psychological effects of polio translate into Elsa and Frank’s adult lives?

For more discussion questions visit: EuropaEditions.com



Alison Love
**The Girl from the
Paradise Ballroom:**
A Novel

978-1-101-90451-0 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Broadway Books | TR Original
● 978-1-101-90452-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of WWII fiction with romantic elements such as *City of Women*, *The Soldier's Wife*, and *Skeletons at the Feast* as well as readers of 20th century historical fiction.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The first meeting between Antonio and Olivia at the Paradise Ballroom is brief, but electric.

Years later, on the dawn of World War II, when struggling Italian singer Antonio meets the wife of his wealthy new patron, he recognizes her instantly: it is Olivia, the captivating dance hostess he once encountered in the seedy Paradise Ballroom. Olivia fears Antonio will betray the secrets of her past, but little by little they are drawn together, outsiders in a glittering world to which they do not belong. At last, with conflict looming across Europe, the attraction between them becomes impossible to resist—but when Italy declares war on England, the impact threatens to separate them forever.

The Girl from the Paradise Ballroom is a story of forbidden love and family loyalties amid the most devastating war in human history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Antonio and Olivia, as a singer and a dancer, are both able to captivate and hold the attention of an entire room but neither possesses the same confidence and authority in their daily lives. How is this contradiction reflected in their relationship?
2. The women in the novel, especially Olivia and Filomena, have to find ways of dealing with the social or family restrictions that limit their independence. How far do you think restrictions like these still apply to women in the 21st century?
3. The novel looks at what life was like for Italian immigrants in Britain and the prejudices they encountered, particularly in wartime. How do you think their experiences compare with those of immigrant communities in America?
4. Discuss the role that lineage and heritage plays throughout the generations in the novel.
5. Why do you think this time period in London is so entralling and captivating to Americans?

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

Clare Mackintosh *I Let You Go*

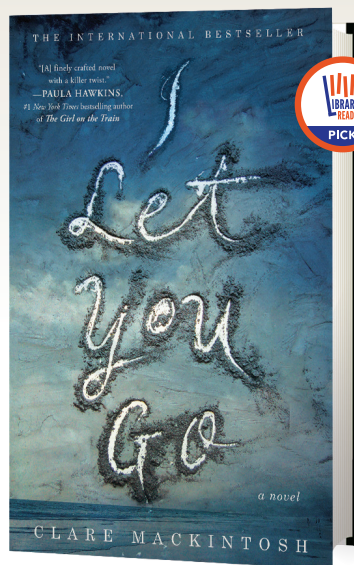
978-1-101-98749-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC
● 978-1-101-98751-3
📍 AD: 978-0-804-19511-9 | 📍 CD: 978-0-804-19510-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

The next blockbuster thriller for those who loved *The Girl on the Train* and *Gone Girl*.

“A finely crafted novel with a killer twist.”

—Paula Hawkins, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Girl on the Train*



ABOUT THE BOOK:

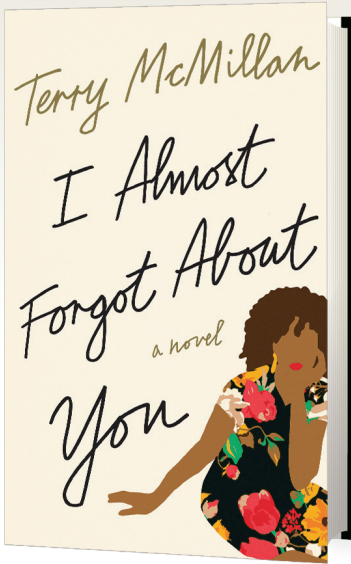
On a rainy afternoon, a mother's life is shattered as her son slips from her grip and runs into the street.

I Let You Go follows Jenna Gray as she moves to a ramshackle cottage on the remote Welsh coast, trying to escape the memory of the car accident that plays again and again in her mind and desperate to heal from the loss of her child and the rest of her painful past. At the same time, the novel tracks the pair of Bristol police investigators trying to get to the bottom of this hit-and-run. As they chase down one hopeless lead after another, they find themselves as drawn to each other as they are to the frustrating, twist-filled case before them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the title, *I Let You Go*, link to the themes in the novel?
2. The author of *I Let You Go* is a former police officer. Do you think this is evident in the storytelling?
3. How does the author pull the wool over the reader's eyes in preparation for the first major twist? How did you feel when you reached it?
4. Discuss the relationship between Ray and Kate.
5. Some of the scenes in *I Let You Go* present a high level of violence. Are these sections hard to read? Are they necessary for the story? Why did the author include them?
6. The ending is intentionally ambiguous: what do you think happened at the end of the story, and do you think it was the right ending? How would you have resolved the story?

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



Terry McMillan

I Almost Forgot About You: A Novel

978-1-101-90257-8 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Crown | HC
● 978-1-101-90258-5
📍 AD: 978-1-101-91308-6 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-91307-9
📞 LP: 978-0-399-56676-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of commercial fiction that explores contemporary women's lives and features strong female characters, from authors like Elizabeth Gilbert, Anna Quindlen, Jojo Moyes, and Elizabeth Strout.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In *I Almost Forgot About You*, Dr. Georgia Young's wonderful life—great friends, family, and a successful career—aren't enough to keep her from feeling stuck and restless. When she decides to make some major changes in her life, she finds herself on a wild journey that may or may not include a second chance at love. Like *Waiting to Exhale* and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, *I Almost Forgot About You* will show legions of readers what can happen when you face your fears, take a chance, and open yourself up to the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *I Almost Forgot About You* opens with Dr. Georgia Young sitting at home on a Friday evening, somewhat content with her routine. Yet deep down, she feels a strong sense of loneliness. How do you think routine can get in the way of happiness? Are there things you enjoy on a regular basis that might be holding you back from your dreams?
2. What do you think of Georgia's decision to pay homage to her previous relationships? Have you considered doing the same? If you have done this, what was the effect?
3. The advent of social media plays a large role in the book. Georgia uses it to find her exes. How do you think social media affects our relationships with loved ones (especially those with whom we've lost touch)? What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of finding people so easily?
4. Throughout Georgia's escapades, she has her friends Wanda and Violet by her side: both loving and challenging at the same time. However, without them, Georgia may not have had the motivation to pursue her dreams and revisit her past. Do you have friends like this in your life?
5. Do you believe in second chances? If you could change something in your life, what would it be? Do you feel inspired to do so?

For more Book Club Kits, visit TerryMcMillan.com, and follow the author on Twitter at [@MsTerryMcMillan](https://twitter.com/MsTerryMcMillan)

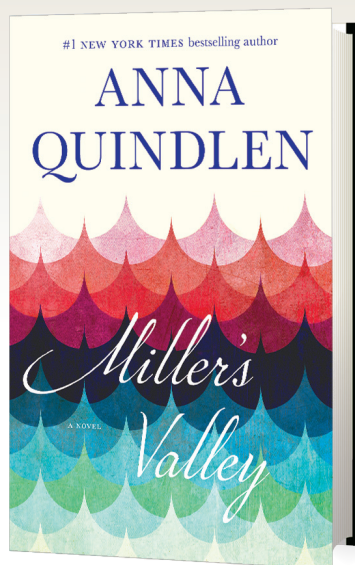
Anna Quindlen
Miller's Valley:
A Novel

978-0-8129-9608-1 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Random House | HC

● 978-0-8129-9609-8 |  LP: 978-0-399-56681-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

Fans of Elizabeth Gilbert, Anne Tyler, and Sue Miller—the story of a small town on the verge of big change, and a young woman who unearths deep secrets about her family and unexpected truths about herself.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

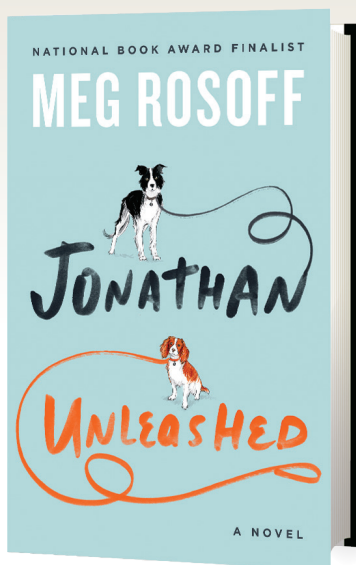
For generations the Millers have lived in Miller's Valley. As Mimi Miller eavesdrops on her parents and quietly observes the people around her, she discovers more and more about the toxicity of family secrets, the dangers of gossip, the flaws of marriage, the inequalities of friendship and the risks of passion, loyalty, and love. Home, as Mimi begins to realize, can be "a place where it's just as easy to feel lost as it is to feel content."

Miller's Valley is a masterly study of family, memory, loss, and, ultimately, discovery, of finding true identity and a new vision of home. As Mimi says, "No one ever leaves the town where they grew up, even if they go." *Miller's Valley* reminds us that the place where you grew up can disappear, and the people in it too, but all will live on in your heart forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Miller's Valley* begins with an epigraph from James Baldwin: "Perhaps home is not a place but simply an irrevocable condition." Think about what home means to you. What does home mean for Mimi in the novel? Do you equate home more with people or places?
2. Water appears as a theme throughout the novel. What do you think the flooding of Miller's Valley represents for the different characters? For Mimi? For her mother? For Ruth? How does each one handle the change?
3. Consider Mimi's relationships with Steven and Donald. How do you think each man fits into her life at the time? Do you think Mimi loved Steven like she loved Donald?
4. "Maybe everyone stays the same inside, even when their life looks nothing like what they once had, or even imagined." Mimi muses on this line at the end of the novel. How do you think Mimi has changed? How do you think she has stayed the same?

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



Meg Rosoff

Jonathan Unleashed: A Novel

978-1-101-98090-3 | \$25.00 | Viking | HC
● 978-1-101-98091-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *The Rosie Project* and *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* comes bestselling author Meg Rosoff's charming, hilarious new novel about a young New Yorker's search for happiness and the two dogs who help him find it.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Jonathan Trefoil's boss is unhinged, his relationship baffling, and his apartment just the wrong side of legal. His girlfriend wants to marry someone just like him—only richer and with a different sense of humor. He doesn't remember life being this confusing, back before everyone expected him to act like a grown up.

When his brother asks him to look after his dogs, Jonathan's world view begins to shift. Could a Border Collie and a Cocker Spaniel have the key to life, the universe, and everything? Their sly maneuvering on daily walks and visits to the alluring vet suggest that human emotional intelligence may not be top dog after all.

A funny, wise romantic comedy set in Manhattan, about tangled relationships, friendships, and dogs, for anyone wondering what to be when they grow up, and how on earth to get there.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How much of the frustration that Jonathan feels do you see coming from his job or his relationship with Julie? What other measures of success does Jonathan believe in and how do his feelings and beliefs about happiness and success change over the course of the novel?
2. Jonathan only seems to find a refuge from his life with his dogs. To what extent does he use the dogs as an emotional crutch and how much do they help him work through the issues in his love life, his work life, and his overall emotional well-being? Have you ever experienced this type of emotional connection with a pet?
3. Jonathan draws great strength and wisdom from his relationship with Greely. Does Greely really offer Jonathan insightful life advice, or did the fact that their friendship always had an expiration date discount much of what they discussed?

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

Faith Salie
Approval Junkie:
Adventures in Caring
Too Much

978-0-553-41993-1 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Crown Archetype | HC

● 978-0-553-41994-8

📍 AD: 978-0-451-48303-4 | 📍 CD: 978-0-451-48302-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of essay collections by Sloane Crosley, Jenny Lawson, Heather McDonald, and Sarah Colonna, fans of NPR's *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me*, and Faith's segments on *CBS Sunday Morning*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

With thoughtful irreverence, comedian and journalist Faith Salie reflects on why she tries so hard to please others, and herself, highlighting a phenomenon that many people—especially women—experience at home and in the workplace. Equal parts laugh-out-loud funny and poignant, *Approval Junkie* is one woman's journey to realizing that seeking approval from others is more than just getting them to like you—it's challenging yourself to achieve, and survive, more than you ever thought you could.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Faith begins her memoir with this epigraph by Samuel Beckett: "Fail again. Fail better." How does it reflect the theme of the book?
2. When it comes to seeking approval, are you more of a Kanye West or a Sally Field? Do you think it's "a hunger" that we should try to "transcend"?
3. In "JSAP," Faith writes about her experience dating after marriage, when she often thought, "I didn't want to go out with you again, but why don't you want to go out with ME again?" Did you find this sentiment relatable?
4. Faith confesses her addiction to eyelash extensions in "On the Fringe: A Cautionary Tale." What lengths have you gone to in order to feel pretty? Do you regret anything, or do you agree with Oscar Wilde that "It is only the shallow people who do not judge by appearances"?
5. In "Book Marked," Faith explains how and why certain books moved her at different times in her life. What are the books that have "marked" you?

Faith Salie wants to Skype with your book club! Visit app.Snapapp.com/faithsaliebookclubs



Martin Seay

The Mirror Thief

978-1-61219-514-8 | \$27.95/\$36.95C | Melville House | HC
● 978-1-61219-515-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Grandly entrancing . . . Shimmering with intimations of Hermann Hesse, Umberto Eco, and David Mitchell, Seay’s house-of-mirrors novel is spectacularly accomplished and exciting.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The core story is set in Venice in the sixteenth century, when the famed makers of Venetian glass were perfecting one of the old world’s most wondrous inventions: the mirror. An object of glittering yet fearful fascination—was it reflecting simple reality, or something more spiritually revealing?—the Venetian mirrors were state of the art technology, and subject to industrial espionage by desirous sultans and royals world-wide. But for any of the development team to leave the island was a crime punishable by death. One man, however—a world-weary war hero with nothing to lose—has a scheme he thinks will allow him to outwit the city’s terrifying enforcers of the edict, the ominous Council of Ten . . .

Meanwhile, in two other Venices—Venice Beach, California, circa 1958, and the Venice casino in Las Vegas, circa today—two other schemers launch similarly dangerous plans to get away with their own secrets.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Mirror Thief* takes place in three different locations, all of which are named Venice. This seems to indicate that in addition to being a setting for the plot, the concept of “Venice” animates the novel as an idea in itself. What is this idea?
2. The word “Venice” never actually appears anywhere in *The Mirror Thief*, despite the fact that it is quite obviously set in three different places named Venice. What could be the significance of this? Why would the author refrain from using the name of the locations?
3. What is the role of magic in the novel? Is it actual magic, or just implied? Is the magic—whether the sense of magic, or actual magic—limited to the part of the story set in 16th century Venice setting, or is it in the two more modern-day settings as well? How might it function in each?

For more discussion questions visit: TheMirrorThief.com

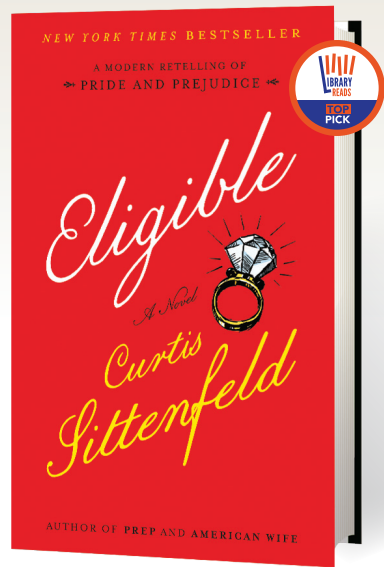
Curtis Sittenfeld

Eligible: A modern retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*

978-1-4000-6832-6 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Random House | HC
978-0-8129-9761-3
AD: 978-0-307-73667-3 | CD: 978-0-307-73666-6
LP: 978-0-399-56684-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

Wonderfully tender and hilariously funny, *Eligible* both honors and updates Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*—tackling gender, class, courtship, and family.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

This version of the Bennet family is one that you have and haven't met before: Liz is a magazine writer who, like her yoga instructor older sister, Jane, lives in New York City. When their father has a health scare, they return to their childhood home in Cincinnati to help—and discover that the sprawling Tudor they grew up in is crumbling and the family is in disarray.

Youngest sisters Kitty and Lydia are too busy with their CrossFit workouts to get jobs. Mary, the middle sister, barely leaves her room. And Mrs. Bennet has one thing on her mind: how to marry off her daughters, especially as Jane's fortieth birthday fast approaches.

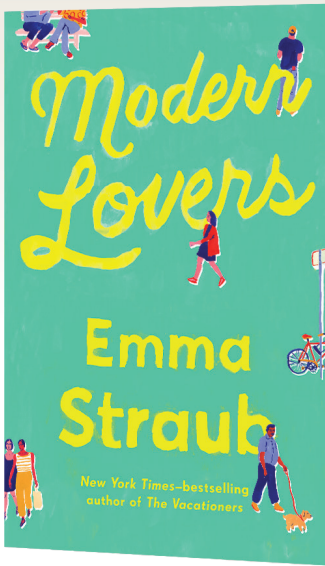
Enter Chip Bingley, a handsome new-in-town doctor who recently appeared on the reality TV dating show *Eligible*. Chip takes an immediate interest in Jane, but Chip's friend neurosurgeon Fitzwilliam Darcy reveals himself to Liz to be much less charming. . . .

And yet, first impressions can be deceiving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Eligible* is a modern adaptation of the classic novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Why is this story such a timeless favorite?
2. Which of the sisters do you most identify with, and why? Did that change at all over the course of the novel?
3. Were you surprised by Darcy and Liz having "hate sex"? Did it make the novel more or less enjoyable for you?
4. What prejudices does Curtis Sittenfeld explore in this adaptation? How do they differ from the prejudices of Austen's time?
5. If you've read *Pride and Prejudice*, do you think it is a feminist novel? Is *Eligible*?

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



Emma Straub Modern Lovers

978-1-594-63467-3 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Riverhead | HC
● 978-0-698-40797-8
📖 AD: 978-0-451-48498-7 | 📖 CD: 978-0-451-48497-0
📖 LP: 978-0-735-20816-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Sprinkled with humor and insight. Straub's characters are well rounded and realistic. Recommended for readers who enjoy domestic dramas built around the small moments of life.”
—*Library Journal*, starred review

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Friends and former college bandmates Elizabeth, Andrew, and Zoe, have watched one another marry, buy real estate and start businesses all while trying to hold on to the identities of their youth. But nothing ages them like having to suddenly pass the torch (of sexuality, independence, and the ineffable alchemy of cool) to their own offspring.

Now nearing fifty, they all live within shouting distance in the same neighborhood and the trappings of the adult world seem to have arrived with ease. But the summer that their children reach maturity (and start sleeping together), the fabric of their adult lives suddenly begins to unravel, and the secrets and revelations that are finally let loose—about themselves, and about the famous fourth band member who soared and fell without them—can never be reclaimed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How has the friendship between Elizabeth, Andrew, and Zoe changed over the years? How are their relationships with each other and their perceptions of themselves linked? How does one affect the other?
2. Lydia soared on to become a star, leaving the rest of the college grunge band behind. How do you think her success—and subsequent death—affected them? What if she hadn't died?
3. All of the characters in the book have specific ideas about themselves, and often, the realities don't quite match. Discuss how the characters want to be seen, in comparison to who they actually are.

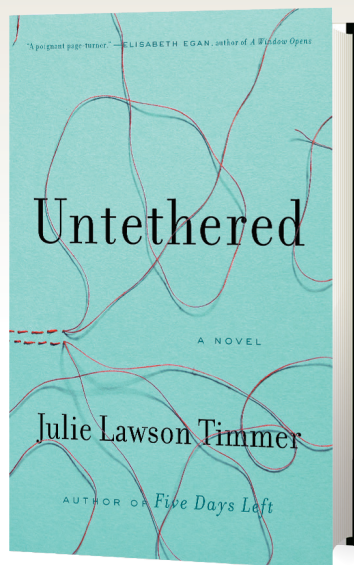
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

Julie Lawson Timmer

Untethered:

978-0-399-17627-2 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC
📞 978-0-698-40786-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Jodi Picoult, Wally Lamb,
Anna Quindlin, and Jojo Moyes.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Char Hawthorn, college professor, wife and stepmother to a spirited fifteen-year-old daughter, loves her family and the joyful rhythms of work and parenting. But when her husband dies in a car accident, the “step” in Char’s title suddenly matters a great deal. In the eyes of the law, all rights to daughter Allie belong to Lindy, Allie’s self-absorbed biological mother, who wants the girl to move to her home in California.

While Allie begins to struggle in school and tensions mount between her and Char, Allie’s connection to young Morgan, a ten-year-old-girl she tutors, seems to keep her grounded. But then Morgan, who was adopted out of foster care, suddenly disappears, and Char is left to wonder about a possible future without Allie and what to do about Morgan, a child caught up in a terrible crack in the system.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The decisions Char makes are those any mother would make. Are there women in your life that have played the role of ‘mom,’ even though they are not your real mom?
2. The decision Allie made to run away with Morgan could have had worse consequences. Do you think she would have made the same choice if she knew that things could have been worse for her and Morgan?
3. Lindy never wanted to be a mom to Allie, so her decision to have Allie move to L.A. seems out of left field. Do you think it was done out of malice for Char or real love for Allie?
4. At the end of the book, after everything, did you find yourself having any sympathy for Sara?

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



Dawn Tripp

Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe

978-1-4000-6953-8 | \$28.00/\$36.00C | Random House | HC

● 978-0-679-60427-3

🔗 AD: 978-0-147-52435-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

A dazzling work of historical fiction in the vein of Nancy Horan's *Loving Frank*, that brings to life Georgia O'Keeffe, her love affair with photographer Alfred Stieglitz, and her quest to become an independent artist.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1916, Georgia O'Keeffe is a young, unknown art teacher when she travels to New York to meet Stieglitz, the famed photographer and art dealer, who has discovered O'Keeffe's work and exhibits it in his gallery. Their connection is instantaneous. O'Keeffe is quickly drawn into Stieglitz's sophisticated world, becoming his mistress, protégé, and muse, as their attraction deepens into an intense and tempestuous relationship and his photographs of her, both clothed and nude, create a sensation.

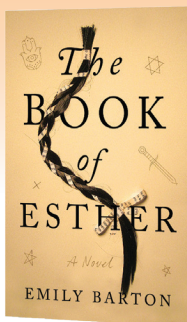
Yet as her own creative force develops, Georgia begins to push back against what critics and others are saying about her and her art. And soon she must make difficult choices to live a life she believes in.

Georgia is the story of a passionate young woman, her search for love and artistic freedom, the sacrifices she will face, and the bold vision that will make her a legend.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Georgia O'Keeffe is a woman many people know of, but her life as a young woman in New York is a chapter that is less well known. How did your understanding of O'Keeffe and her art change as you were reading *Georgia*?
2. O'Keeffe was a groundbreaking female artist at a time when the art world was dominated by men. O'Keeffe had to navigate this world—of male artists, male critics and gallery owners—to build a successful career without sacrificing her unique artistic vision and her sense of herself as a woman. Discuss some of the challenges O'Keeffe faces in *Georgia*. Discuss how those challenges as well as the risks she took—as a woman and as an artist—feel relevant to women today.
3. Think about O'Keeffe's childhood. Do you feel that the lessons she learned growing up shaped her early relationship with Stieglitz and the choices she would make later?

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

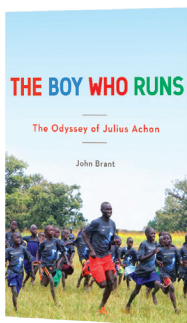


Emily Barton
The Book of Esther A Novel

978-1-101-90409-1 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | Tim Duggan Books | HC
 978-1-101-90410-7

For readers of Margaret Atwood, Amy Bloom, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Téa Obreht. In a counter-factual world resembling the 1930s, within an isolated nation of warrior Jews, Esther steals her father's steampunk horse and embarks on a perilous journey across land and sea. She must fight against the expectations and limitations of her society—in particular, the prejudice against women—in order to do what is right. A Jewish Joan of Arc!

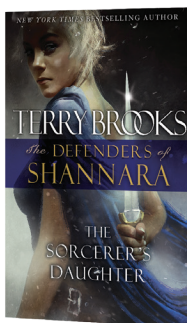
For discussion questions, visit PenguinRandomHouse.com.



John Brant
The Boy Who Runs: The Odyssey of Julius Achon

978-0-553-39215-9 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Ballantine Books | HC | August 2016
 978-0-553-39216-6 | AD: 978-0-451-48329-4

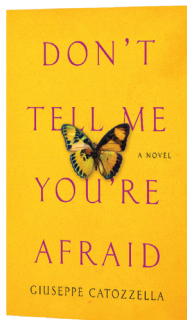
In the tradition of Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* by way of Christopher McDougall's *Born to Run*, this is the inspirational true story of the Ugandan boy soldier who became a world-renowned runner, then found his calling as director of a world-renowned African children's charity.



Terry Brooks
The Sorcerer's Daughter:
 The Defenders of Shannara

978-0-345-54082-9 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Del Rey | HC
 978-0-345-54083-6 | AD: 978-0-804-19074-9

The inspiration for the epic MTV series, the world of Shannara is brimming with untold stories and unexplored territory. Now bestselling author Terry Brooks breaks new ground with this standalone adventure, following *The High Druid's Blade* and *The Darkling Child*.



Giuseppe Catozzella
Don't Tell Me You're Afraid: A Novel

978-1-59420-641-2 | \$25.00/\$34.00C | Penguin Press | HC
 978-0-698-18916-4 | AD: 978-0-735-20865-0 | CD: 978-0-735-20864-3

Based on a remarkable true story, an unforgettable Somali girl risks her life on the migrant journey to Europe to run in the Olympic Games.

At eight years of age, Samia lives to run. Her best friend and neighbor, eight-year-old Ali, appoints himself her "professional coach." For both children, Samia's running is the bright spot in their tumultuous life in Somalia, where war rages and political tensions continue to escalate. And, despite the lack of resources, war, and the restrictions imposed on Somali women, Samia becomes a world-class runner, bringing the Olympic stadium to its feet.



Ernest Cline

Armada: A Novel by the author of Ready Player One

978-0-804-13727-0 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Broadway Books | TR

📞 978-0-804-13726-3

Armada is another fantastic nerd wish-fulfillment tale. But this time, the space-opera battles are real, not virtual—and the stakes are even higher, with our hero using his gaming skills to defend Earth from an alien invasion.

“A great book for teen gamers. . . Will also appeal to fans of science fiction and conspiracy theories.”—*School Library Journal*



Yasmine El Rashidi

Chronicle of a Last Summer: A Novel of Egypt

978-0-770-43729-9 | \$22.00/\$29.00C | Tim Duggan Books | HC

📞 978-0-770-43730-5 | 📄 AD: 978-0-735-20574-1

For fans of Azar Nafisi, Orhan Pamuk, and Jim Shepard. A young Egyptian woman traces her personal and political coming of age in this poignant and deeply personal novel. The story unfolds over three pivotal summers: As a six-year old absorbing the world around her, filled with questions she can't ask; as a college student pre-occupied with love, language, and the repression that surrounds her; and later, in the turbulent aftermath of Mubarak's overthrow.

For discussion questions, visit PenguinRandomHouse.com.



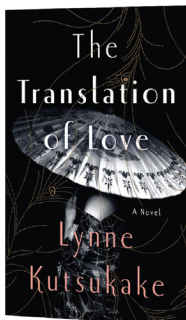
Christina Henry

Red Queen

978-0-425-26680-9 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Berkley | TR

📞 978-1-101-61819-6

The author of *Alice* takes readers back down the rabbit hole to a dark, twisted, and fascinating world based on the works of Lewis Carroll. Alice and Hatcher have escaped the Rabbit, Cheshire, and the Jabberwocky, but they are still on a mission to find Hatcher's missing daughter, a quest they will not forsake even as it takes them deep into the clutches of the mad White Queen and her goblin or into the realm of the twisted and cruel Black King. The pieces are set and the game has already begun. Each move brings Alice closer to her destiny. But, to win, she will need to harness her newfound abilities and ally herself with someone even more powerful—the mysterious and vengeful Red Queen.



Lynne Kutsukake

The Translation of Love: A Novel

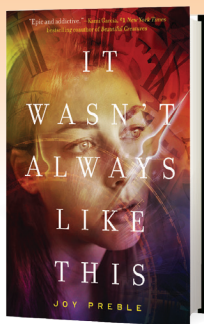
978-0-385-54067-4 | \$25.95 | Doubleday | HC

978-0-345-80937-7 | \$29.95C | Knopf Canada

📞 978-0-385-54068-1

Set against the pulsing backdrop of post-war Tokyo, *The Translation of Love* tells the gripping and heartfelt story of a newly repatriated Japanese-Canadian girl who must help a classmate find her missing sister.

For readers of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* and *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

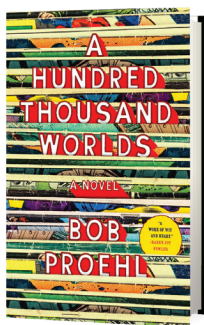


Joy Preble **It Wasn't Always Like This**

978-1-61695-588-5 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 978-1-61695-589-2

Tuck Everlasting meets *Veronica Mars* in this epic tale of an immortal girl searching for her long-lost immortal love—while staying a step ahead of the family who's been hunting her for generations.

For an excerpt, author interview, and more, visit JoyPreble.com.



Bob Proehl **A Hundred Thousand Worlds: A Novel**

978-0-399-56221-1 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Viking | HC
 978-0-399-56222-8 | AD: 978-0-735-20813-1

A literary-meets-genre debut where Valerie Torrey and her son Alex are on a road trip to reunite Alex with his dad. Along the way, Val makes appearances at comic cons, where for Alex, the magical world of fiction comes to life. But, as they get closer to their destination, Alex realizes that the fiction his mom is telling him about their journey may have a different ending than she wants him to believe.



Robert Repino **Mort(e)**

978-1-61695-621-9 | \$16.00/\$16.00C | Soho Press | TR
 978-1-61695-428-4

For fans of *Watership Down* and *Animal Farm*; a young housecat named Mort(e) has become instrumental as a war hero for the ant Colony. But his perilous missions double as a secret search for his lost love, a dog named Sheba, which will eventually lead him to the truth behind the Colony, EMSAH—the humans' most dangerous weapon—and the fate of all of earth's creatures.

For discussion questions, visit SohoPress.com.

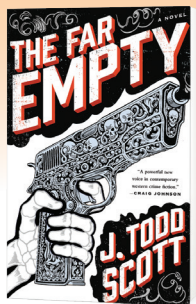


Ransom Riggs **Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Movie Tie-In Edition)**

978-1-59474-902-5 | \$11.99/\$12.99C | Quirk Books | TR

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. And a strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in the movie tie-in edition of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. An unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. Movie coming to theatres late summer 2016!

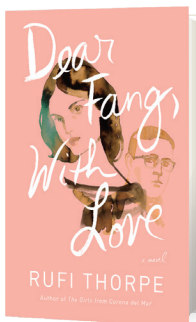
For more information, visit QuirkBooks.com.



J. Todd Scott
The Far Empty

978-0-399-17634-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC
 978-0-698-40827-2

In this gritty crime debut set in the stark Texas borderlands, an unearthen skeleton will throw a small town into violent turmoil. Dark, elegiac, and violent, *The Far Empty* is a modern Western, a story of loss and escape set along the sharp edge of the Texas border. Told by a longtime federal agent who knows the region, it's a debut novel you won't soon forget.

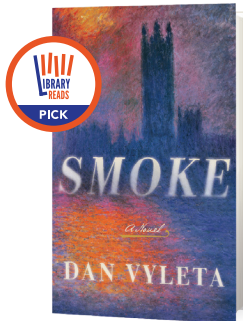


Rufi Thorpe
Dear Fang, With Love: A Novel

978-1-101-87577-3 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Knopf | HC
 978-1-101-87578-0

From the acclaimed author of *The Girls from Corona del Mar*, a sprawling, ambitious new novel about a young father who takes his teenage daughter to Europe, hoping that an immersion in history might help them forget his past mistakes and her uncertain future.

For discussion questions, visit KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center.

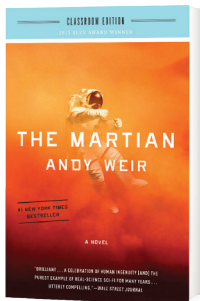


Dan Vyleta
Smoke: A Novel

978-0-385-54016-2 | \$27.95 | Doubleday | HC
 978-0-385-54017-9 | AD: 978-0-7352-0677-9 | CD: 978-0-7352-0676-2

A wildly imaginative, irresistibly page-turning novel set in an alternate historical England, in which the emission of Smoke marks the sinful and poor. *Smoke* is a narrative tour de force, a tale of Dickensian intricacy, richly atmospheric and intensely suspenseful.

For fans of *The Night Circus*, *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norell*, and *The Magicians*.



Andy Weir
The Martian: Classroom Edition

978-0-804-18935-4 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Broadway Books | TR

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—Astronaut Chris Hadfield, Commander of the International Space Station and author of *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*

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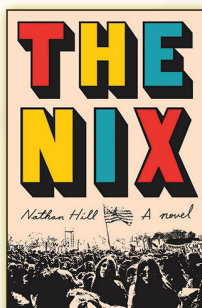
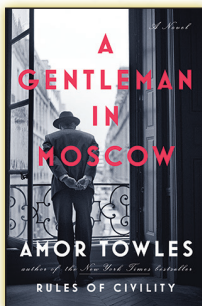
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