



Penguin
Random House
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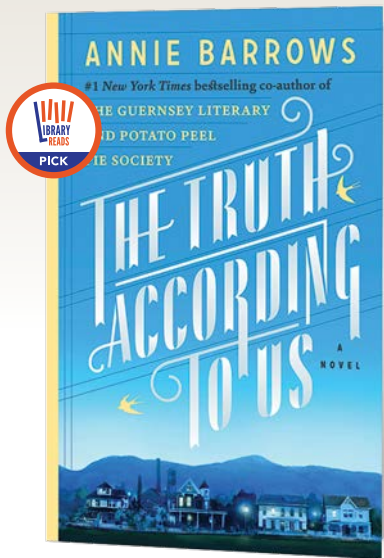
BOOK CLUB

What Will
You Read
Next?

Volume 10



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



Annie Barrows

The Truth According to Us:

A Novel

978-0-385-34294-0 | \$28.00/\$34.00C | The Dial Press | HC
978-0-8129-9784-2 | AD: 978-1-101-88995-4
CD: 978-1-101-88994-7 | LP: 978-0-804-19493-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the co-author of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* comes a wise, witty, and exuberant novel, perfect for fans of Lee Smith, Fannie Flag, and lovers of historical fiction.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the summer of 1938, Layla Beck's father, a United States senator, cuts off her allowance and demands that she find employment on the Federal Writers' Project, a New Deal jobs program. Layla is assigned to cover the history of the remote mill town of Macedonia, West Virginia, and destined, in her opinion, to go completely mad with boredom. But once she secures a room in the home of the unconventional Romeyn family, she is drawn into their complex world and soon discovers that the truth of the town is entangled in the thorny past of the Romeyn dynasty.

At the Romeyn house, twelve-year-old Willa's inquisitive nature leads her into a thicket of mysteries, including the questionable business that occupies her charismatic father and the reason her adored aunt Jottie remains unmarried. As Willa peels back the layers of her family's past, and Layla delves deeper into town legend, everyone involved is transformed—and their personal histories completely rewritten.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Early in *The Truth According to Us*, Willa resolves to acquire the virtues of "ferocity and devotion." Do you concur that these are, actually, virtues? Which of the characters in *The Truth According to Us* possesses them? Do you know anyone who does?
2. Much of the story of *The Truth According to Us* revolves around events that occurred when Jottie, Felix, Vause, and Sol were children and teenagers. Do you think the author believes that character is essentially unchanging from childhood to adulthood? Do you agree? Have you changed in essence from your childhood self?
3. *The Truth According to Us* is set in a small town where everyone seems to know everyone else. Have you ever lived in a situation like that? Would you find living in Macedonia appealing or stifling?

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

Amy Bloom

Lucky Us: A Novel

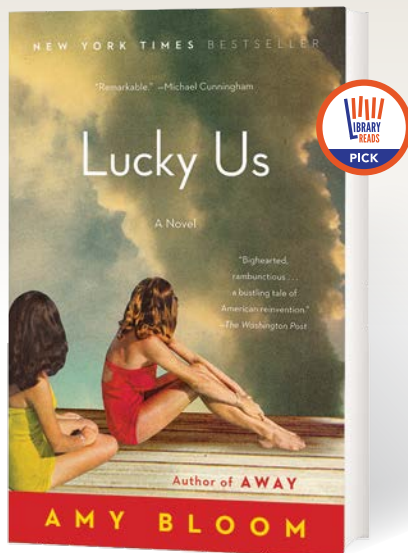
978-0-8129-7894-0 | \$16.00/\$19.00C | Random House | TR

📞 978-0-8129-9600-5

📍 AD: 978-0-804-19137-1 | 📍 CD: 978-0-804-19136-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the critically acclaimed author of *Away* comes a brilliantly written, deeply moving, fantastically funny novel of love, heartbreak, and luck perfect for readers of Jeffrey Eugenides, Meg Wolitzer, and Jess Walter.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

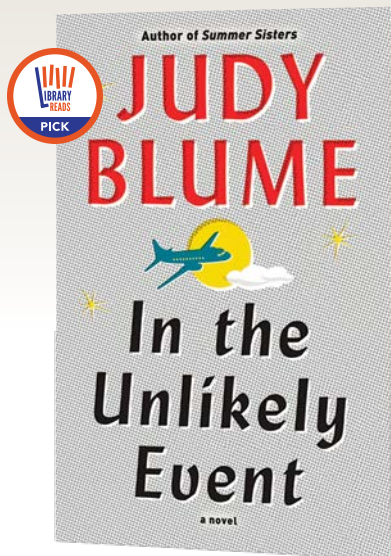
Disappointed by their families, Iris, the hopeful star and Eva the sidekick, journey through 1940s America in search of fame and fortune. Iris's ambitions take the pair across the America of Reinvention in a stolen station wagon, from small-town Ohio to an unexpected and sensuous Hollywood, and to the jazz clubs and golden mansions of Long Island.

With their friends in high and low places, Iris and Eva stumble and shine though a landscape of big dreams, scandals, betrayals, and war. Filled with gorgeous writing, memorable characters, and surprising events, *Lucky Us* is a thrilling and resonant novel about success and failure, good luck and bad, the creation of a family, and the pleasures and inevitable perils of family life, conventional and otherwise.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The day that Eva's mother leaves her at her father's house is the day that Eva loses one family and starts another. Have you ever been in a place where you have had to create a new family around yourself? What were some of the best parts? The worst parts?
2. Edgar's mother once told him, "It's good to be smart, it's better to be lucky." What do you think about that statement after finishing the novel? If you had to choose, would you rather be lucky or smart?
3. Iris's ambition is what sets Eva and Iris on the road at the beginning of the novel. How does Eva's ambition differ from Iris's? Which sister, do you think, is more successful?
4. Eva and Iris find themselves having to constantly reinvent their identities as they travel around America. Has there ever been a time when you've reinvented yourself? Was it difficult to do?
5. Though so much of the novel focuses on Iris's search for love, the relationship between Eva and Gus also becomes a central pillar. What do you think of their love for each other? How does their relationship compare with Iris's experiences?

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



Judy Blume In the Unlikely Event

978-1-101-87504-9 | \$27.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-385-68507-8 | \$34.00C | Doubleday Canada
📞 978-1-101-87505-6 | 📖 AD: 978-1-101-91407-6
📻 CD: 978-1-101-91406-9 | 📻 LP: 978-0-8041-9476-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

A richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life. Thirty-five years earlier, when Miri was fifteen, and in love for the first time, a succession of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving a community reeling. Against this backdrop of actual events that Blume experienced in the early 1950s, when airline travel was new and exciting and everyone dreamed of going somewhere, she paints a vivid portrait of a particular time and place—Nat King Cole singing “Unforgettable,” Elizabeth Taylor haircuts, young (and not-so-young) love, explosive friendships, A-bomb hysteria, rumors of Communist threat. And a young journalist who makes his name reporting tragedy. Through it all, one generation reminds another that life goes on.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the environment of Elizabeth, New Jersey, before the crashes occur. How would you describe the community? How does the community band together after the first crash?
2. Throughout *In the Unlikely Event*, newspaper clippings are interspersed among the text. How do those articles help to provide context for the events that occur? How did they aid your understanding of changes in Elizabeth?
3. Class and status play a role throughout *In the Unlikely Event*. How does Miri see herself in the socioeconomic structure of Elizabeth? When does she feel most uncomfortable with her family's position? How does her idea of relative wealth change once she meets Mason?
4. Discuss Miri's relationship with her mother. How would you define the relationship between Miri and Rusty at the beginning of the novel? Are there special pressures on Miri because she is an only child? How do Irene and Henry mitigate the mother-daughter disagreements between Miri and Rusty? Does the relationship change once Miri has her own children? If so, how?

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

Kate Bolick **Spinster:** Making a Life of One's Own

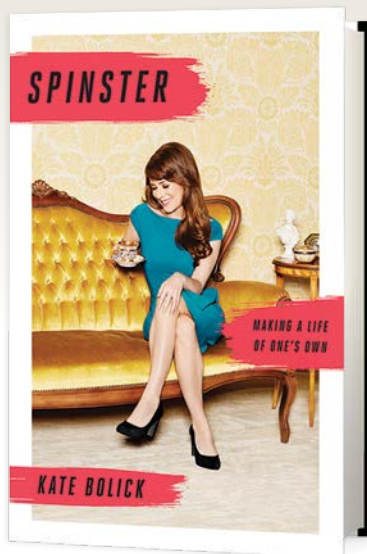
978-0-385-34713-6 | \$26.00/\$31.00C | Crown | HC

📞 978-0-385-34714-3

📍 AD: 978-0-553-39748-2 | 📍 CD: 978-0-553-39747-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *All Joy and No Fun* and *Lean In*; literary works by Edith Wharton and Virginia Woolf.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Intellectually substantial and deeply personal, *Spinster* is a slyly erudite, unreservedly candid work of memoir and broader cultural exploration that brings alive the pleasures and possibilities of remaining a happily unmarried woman.

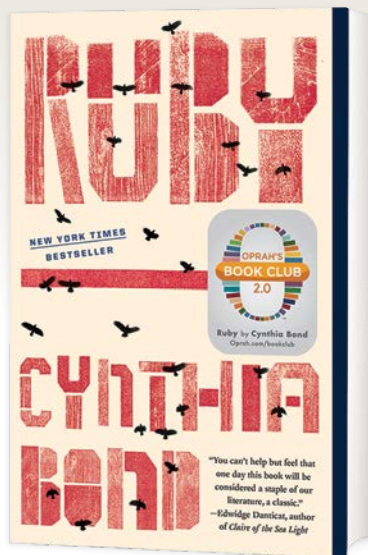
Vital to this private universe is a cast of pioneering women of the last century whose genius, tenacity, and flair for drama have lit the way for Kate and emboldened her at crucial personal junctures to remain single: poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, essayist Maeve Brennan, novelist Edith Wharton, journalist Neith Boyce, opera diva Ganna Walska, and social critic Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

By connecting the dots between single women past and present, Kate reveals the long arc of slowly changing attitudes toward women and marriage, and shows us why, even today, the choice to remain single is a source of considerable debate and societal handwringing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Spinster* opens with the following statement: "Whom to marry, and when will it happen— these two questions define every woman's existence." Do you find this to be true in your own life? If so, how have you navigated these expectations?
2. Bolick writes, "The single woman has always been stigmatized as a lonely old spinster with too many cats." What makes a woman single? Is it a matter of marital status? Of habits or state of mind?
3. How does spinsterhood compare to bachelordom? Does society celebrate the single man?
4. Bolick describes the "spinster wish" as "the extravagant pleasures of simply being alone." Are there solitary activities that you love? Are they necessary to your happiness?

For more discussion questions and a downloadable Book Club Kit visit: KateBolick.com



Cynthia Bond

Ruby: A Novel

978-0-804-18824-1 | \$16.00/\$19.00C | Hogarth | TR
978-0-804-18825-8 | AD: 978-0-804-16592-1
CD: 978-0-804-16591-4 | LP: 978-0-804-19495-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*, *Little Bee*, *White Oleander*, and *The Color Purple*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A haunting debut novel from gifted storyteller Cynthia Bond, *Ruby* brings to life a suffocating African-American community in East Texas—Liberty Township—where, nearly a century after emancipation, the residents are anything but free. When the glamorous Ruby Bell returns to her hometown after living in New York City, her sanity unravels as she faces the secrets of her past. All around her, the families from her youth spin gossip and shake their heads at her strange, wild behavior. At the root of her pain is a tale that no one dares to hear. The only one courageous enough to try is Ephram Jennings, a wounded soul himself who has loved Ruby all his life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did Ruby's story change the way you view the world? What does the novel show us about the nature of trauma and the power of compassion?
2. Celia copes with tragedy by putting her world in strict order, from her family life to her church life. But Ruby becomes lost to disorder. What accounts for their different approaches to emotional pain?
3. At the heart of the novel is Ruby's vision of her children, and her vision of herself as a mother. How is she able to respond with a nurturing urge although no one nurtured her? Discuss the roles of mothers and fathers in Liberty.
4. How did your understanding of the Dyboù shift throughout the novel? Do you believe that evil comes from the supernatural or spiritual, or that it is simply part of human nature?
5. What fuels the racism depicted in the novel? Do some of these factors persist today? Discuss Ruby's different experiences with racism in East Texas, New York City, and on her trip back to Liberty.

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

Brenda Bowen

Enchanted August:

A Novel

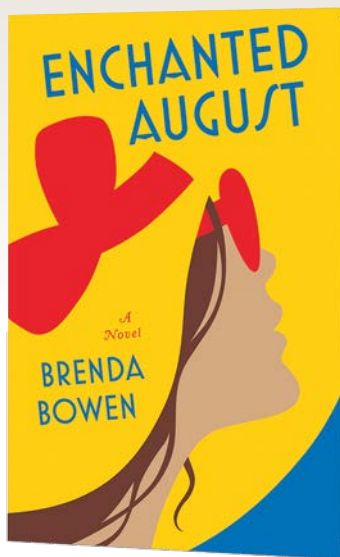
978-0-525-42905-0 | \$27.95/\$32.95C | Pamela Dorman Books | HC

978-0-698-19495-3

AD: 978-1-101-91503-5 | CD: 978-1-101-91502-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

A feel-good summer read that will become a staple of vacations and reading groups, by a beloved children's author (under the name Margaret McNamara). For readers of Emma Straub's *The Vacationers*, *Seating Arrangements* by Maggie Shipstead, and *The Last Summer of You and Me* by Ann Brashares.



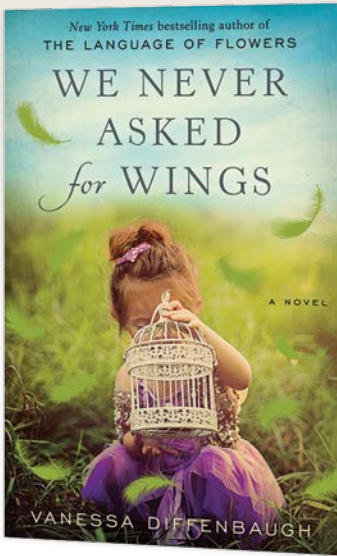
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Set on a picture-perfect island in Maine, a sparkling summer debut that offers readers a universal fantasy: one glorious month away from it all. On a dreary spring day in Brooklyn, Lottie Wilkinson and Rose Arbutnot spot an ad on their children's preschool bulletin board: *Hopewell Cottage, Little Lost Island, Maine. Old, pretty cottage to rent on a small island. August.* Neither can afford it, but they are smitten—Lottie could use a break from her overbearing husband and Rose from her relentless twins. On impulse, they decide to take the place and attract two others to share the steep rent: Caroline Dester, an indie movie star who's getting over a very public humiliation, and elderly Beverly Fisher, who's recovering from heartbreaking loss. With a cast of endearingly imperfect characters and set against the beauty of a gorgeous New England summer, *Enchanted August* brilliantly updates the beloved classic *The Enchanted April* in a novel of love and reawakening that is simply irresistible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Lottie is the first of the summer guests to initiate the trip to Little Lost Island. What is it that strikes her about the advertisement and why does she feel she needs this trip?
2. Each of the characters brings some pain or humiliation with them to the island. What do they each need to do to overcome their respective circumstances?
3. Lottie and Rose are something of an odd couple. What binds these two together and what threatens to get in the way of their potential friendship?
4. Caroline tries to escape the island multiple times. What is it that draws her back and keeps her from leaving?
5. Early on, Robert says that Hopewell Cottage works in "mysterious ways." How does his statement bear out over the course of the story?

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



Vanessa Diffenbaugh

We Never Asked for Wings: A Novel

978-0-553-39231-9 | \$27.00/\$35.00C | Ballantine Books | HC

📖 978-0-553-39232-6

📍 AD: 978-1-101-88864-3 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-88863-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the beloved bestselling author of *The Language of Flowers* comes a new novel filled with compelling themes of motherhood, undocumented immigration, and the American Dream in a powerful and prescient story about family.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

For fourteen years, Letty Espinosa has worked three jobs around San Francisco to make ends meet while her mother raised her children—Alex, now fifteen, and Luna, six—in their tiny apartment on a forgotten spit of wetlands near the bay. But now Letty's parents are returning to Mexico, and Letty must step up and become a mother for the first time in her life.

Navigating this new terrain is challenging for Letty, especially as Luna desperately misses her grandparents and Alex, who is falling in love with a classmate, is unwilling to give his mother a chance. Letty comes up with a plan to help the family escape the dangerous neighborhood and heartbreaking injustice that have marked their lives, but one wrong move could jeopardize everything she's worked for and her family's fragile hopes for the future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

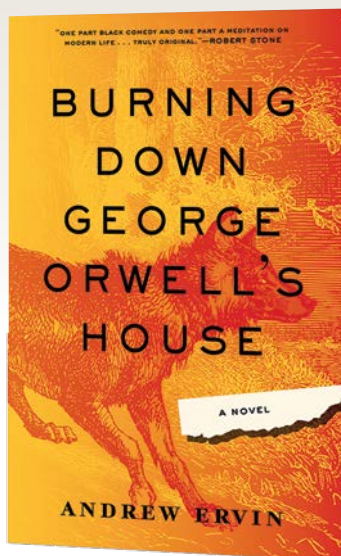
1. Maria Elena raised Alex and Luna almost as if she were their mother, even calling them "my babies," and yet she makes the incredibly difficult decision to return to Mexico and leave them alone with Letty. How do you think she justified that to herself? Do you agree with her decision? Why or why not?
2. The novel alternates between Letty's perspective and Alex's. Which did you find more interesting? Why?
3. From drinking heavily and working multiple jobs to leaving her children alone in the middle of the night, it's no secret that Letty is struggling as a mother. Were you able to sympathize with her in spite of her flaws? How does Letty evolve as a mother as the book goes on?
4. Do you think Letty's decision to hide her pregnancy from Wes was justified? Why or why not? What about the way she conceals Wes's identity from Alex?
5. By dating Letty, Rick takes on a greater responsibility. What does that say about his personality? Do you find him to be a relatable character?

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

Andrew Ervin Burning Down George Orwell's House: A Novel

978-1-61695-494-9 | \$26.00/\$26.00C | Soho Press | HC
978-1-61695-495-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
For whisky enthusiasts, Orwell fans,
and readers longing to go off the grid.
Perfect for male book clubs.



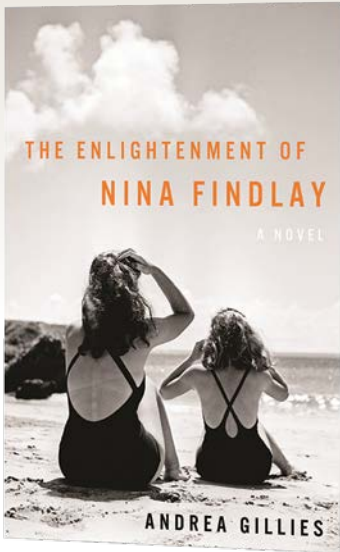
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ray Welter, a highflying advertising executive in Chicago, has left the world of newspeak behind. He decamps to the isolated Scottish Isle of Jura in order to spend a few months in the cottage where George Orwell wrote most of his seminal novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Ray is miserable, and quite prepared to make his troubles go away with the help of copious quantities of excellent scotch. But a few of the local islanders take a decidedly shallow view of a foreigner coming to visit in order to sort himself out, and Ray quickly finds himself having to deal with not only his own issues but also a community whose eccentricities are at times amusing and at others downright dangerous.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The myth of “getting away” is as enticing as it is old. But the desire to “unplug” or cultivate personal time seems to be even more prevalent today than, say, forty years ago. Is our constant connectedness to smart phones, the internet, and other forms of technology increasing our desire for “escape”?
2. Ray Welter is desperate to escape his job, lifestyle, and in many ways, modern society itself. He soon finds that even in a place as remote as Jura there is no avoiding it, as the locals have already “looked him up on the internet.” Is “going off the grid” even possible today?
3. Ray built his career as a Chicago ad-man on his ability to anticipate and exploit the way people try to exert their free will. His “Oil Hogg” campaign was based on making people believe that they were defying an intrusive government by purchasing large, gas-guzzling SUVs despite environmental and fiscal concerns. Can you think of products you’ve purchased because you wanted to do the opposite of what you were being told to do?
4. A part of Ray’s romantic vision of his stay in Jura is his love for Scotch whisky. Ray’s tipples are among the most vividly described internal experiences in the novel. But is Ray’s love for whisky sincere or just another part of his manufactured narrative of his life?

For more discussion questions visit: [SohoPress.com/?p=10123](https://www.sohopress.com/?p=10123)



Andrea Gillies
**The Enlightenment
of Nina Findlay:**
A Novel

978-1-59051-729-1 | \$17.95/\$21.50C | Other Press | TR
📞 978-1-59051-730-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Gillies offers a lot of food for thought about love, memory, and the lies we tell ourselves.”

—*Booklist*

ABOUT THE BOOK:

What happens when you can't see that the man you married is actually the one you love? For her whole life Nina Findlay has been in a love triangle with two Italian brothers, Paolo, whom she married, and Luca, with whom she was always in love and who remained her best friend throughout her marriage. Now Nina faces the future alone—estranged from Luca and separated from Paolo, she escapes to the tiny Greek island where she honeymooned twenty-five years earlier. After an accident she finds herself in the hospital telling her life story to an eagerly attentive doctor. As their conversations unfold she comes to understand the twists and turns of her romantic life and the unconscious influence of her parents' marriage on her own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Paolo tells Nina, “You’ve got to get past this, Nina. This thing between your parents.” How do Nina’s observations of her parents’ marriage affect the decisions she makes about her own marriage? As her understanding of her parents’ marriage changes, how does her own understanding of her marriage to Paolo and her relationship with Luca change?
2. How many “triangles” are there in *The Enlightenment of Nina Findlay*? What are the similarities and differences between them, and why do you think so many of the relationships fit into this shape or structure?
3. Nina notes that, “It wasn’t just the facts that mattered, but the sequence,” and she thinks of “chains of events and how they could take people in unexpected directions.” How is the importance of sequence shown in the novel’s form? How does sequence, or the form the novel takes, shape Nina’s enlightenment?

For more discussion questions visit: OtherPress.com/Enlightenment-Nina-Findlay

Kent Haruf

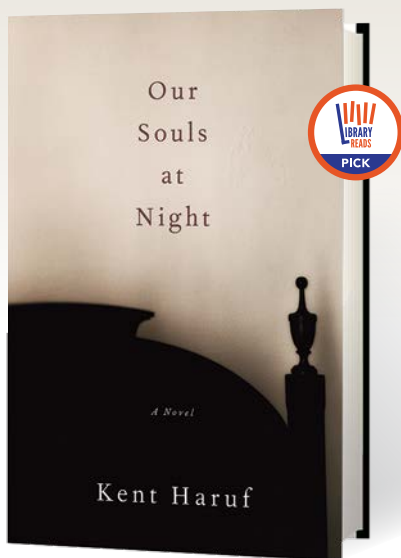
Our Souls at Night:

A Novel

978-1-101-87589-6 | \$24.00/\$28.00C | Knopf | HC
978-1-101-87590-2
AD: 978-1-101-92348-1 | CD: 978-1-101-92347-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Christina Baker Kline's *Orphan Train*, Colum McCann's *TransAtlantic*, and Sue Monk Kidd's *The Invention of Wings*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

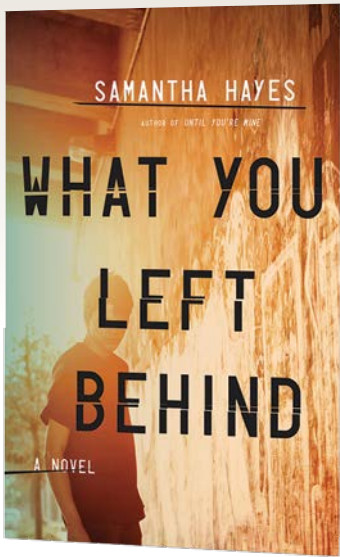
In the familiar setting of Holt, Colorado, home to all of Kent Haruf's inimitable fiction, Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbor, Louis Waters. Her husband died years ago, as did his wife, and in such a small town they naturally have known of each other for decades; in fact, Addie was quite fond of Louis's wife. His daughter lives hours away in Colorado Springs, her son even farther away in Grand Junction, and Addie and Louis have long been living alone in houses now empty of family, the nights so terribly lonely, especially with no one to talk with.

Their brave adventures—their pleasures and their difficulties—are hugely involving and truly resonant, making *Our Souls at Night* the perfect final installment to this beloved writer's enduring contribution to American literature.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does the title mean?
2. The novel begins with the word "and": "And then there was the day when Addie Moore made a call on Louis Waters." What do you imagine came before it?
3. Kent Haruf was known for using simple, spare language to create stories of great depth. How does the modest action in *Our Souls at Night* open onto larger insights about getting older?
4. It takes a considerable amount of courage for a woman of Addie's generation to invite a man she hardly knows to sleep in her bed. What do you think propelled her to do it?
5. Both Louis and Addie have to contend with gossip about their relationship. Who handles it better?
6. What does Addie's friendship with Ruth show us about Addie's character?

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



Samantha Hayes

What You Left Behind: A Novel

978-0-8041-3692-1 | \$25.00 | Crown | HC
📞 978-0-804-13693-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of S.J. Watson, Tana French, Laura Lippman, Alice LaPlante, and Gillian Flynn.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

What *You Left Behind* is a psychological thriller packed with twists and turns that will keep you hooked until the very end. It's taken nearly two years for the residents of Radcote, a sleepy village in rural Warwickshire, to come to terms with a spate of teen suicides in the area. But then a young man is killed in a freak motorcycle accident, and a suicide note is found in his belongings. When a second homeless boy is found dead on the railway tracks, the locals fear the nightmare is starting up again.

DI Lorraine Fisher has just arrived in the village for a relaxing break with her sister. But soon she finds herself caught up in the ongoing police investigation, and when her nephew, Freddie, disappears, she knows she must act quickly. Are the recent deaths suicide or murder? And what is it that her nephew knows that has put him in such danger?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The story is told from different points of view. Which voice did you most relate to and why?
2. Early on in the story, Lorraine discovers Freddie is withdrawn and depressed. Do you think Jo and Malc have been good parents? What could they have done differently? How did this contribute to Freddie going missing?
3. What did you think about Gil? Do you think that he is misunderstood? What effect did his autism have on the story? How did his condition affect Lorraine's investigation?
4. Discuss Sonia's relationship with her husband. Do you think she was abused? If so, how?
5. Some strong themes are presented in the story—mental health, self-harm, online bullying, homelessness, sexuality, and autism. Discuss how these issues affect the main characters.

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

Mira Jacob

The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing:

A Novel

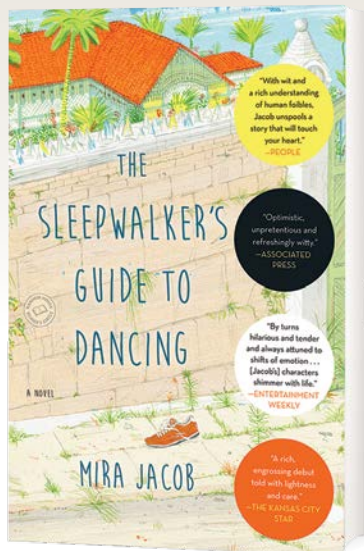
978-0-8129-8506-1 | \$16.00/\$19.00C | Random House | TR

📞 978-0-8129-9479-7

📍 AD: 978-0-804-19326-9 | 📍 CD: 978-0-804-19325-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of J. Courtney Sullivan, Meg Wolitzer, Mona Simpson, and Jhumpa Lahiri comes a winning, irreverent debut novel about a family wrestling with its future and its past.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

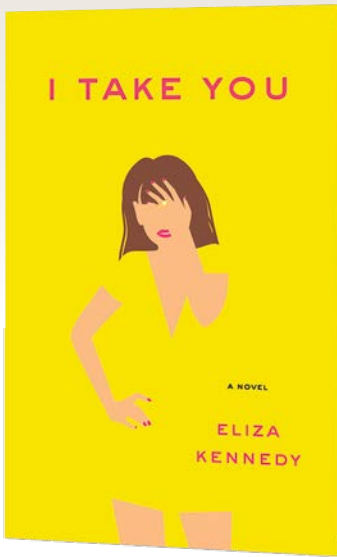
Celebrated brain surgeon Thomas Eapen has been sitting on his porch, talking to dead relatives. At least that is the story his wife, Kamala, prone to exaggeration, tells their daughter, Amina, a photographer living in Seattle.

Reluctantly Amina returns home to New Mexico and finds a situation that is far more complicated than her mother let on, with roots in a trip the family, including Amina's rebellious brother Akhil, took to India twenty years earlier. Confronted by Thomas's unwillingness to explain himself, strange looks from the hospital staff, and a series of puzzling items buried in her mother's garden, Amina soon realizes that the only way she can help her father is by coming to terms with her family's painful past. In doing so, she must reckon with the ghosts that haunt all of the Eapens.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The book starts in India, but doesn't go back. Why do you think the author chose to open the book there?
2. Why do you think Amina was unhinged by taking the picture of Bobby McCloud? Do you believe her own explanation?
3. What do you think compelled Amina to photograph the worst moments at the wedding?
4. Sanji is presented as different than the rest of the adults in the Albuquerque "family." What might make her different and why?
5. Kamala is a very polarizing character in the book. Were you drawn to or repelled by her? How do you think the author feels about her?
6. Kamala and Amina seem at odds most of the time, but what traits do they have in common?

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



Eliza Kennedy

I Take You: A Novel

978-0-553-41782-1 | \$24.00/\$28.00C | Crown | HC

📞 978-0-553-41783-8

📻 AD: 978-0-553-39953-0 | 📻 CD: 978-0-553-54548-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, *The Engagements*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*; viewers of *Sex and the City* and *Girls*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Junior attorney Lily Wilder is smart, sexy, self-assured, and shockingly promiscuous for a woman mere days away from her wedding. *I Take You* is a subversive contemporary take on the marriage plot. Unlike anything you've ever read before, this joyous and ribald debut introduces a fabulously confident protagonist whose choices usher in fresh messages about sexual politics.

"I have not laughed this hard or this much at a book since *Bridget Jones's Diary*. *I Take You* is wickedly smart, hilariously funny, sexy, clever... In short, the most enjoyable read I have had in YEARS." —Jane Green, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tempting Fate*

"While Kennedy's compulsively readable debut is sure to be controversial, it should also ignite productive conversations about traditional gender roles and stereotypes."

— *Booklist* (starred review)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What were your first impressions of Lily as you read about her steamy tryst with Phillip, followed by romantic comforting from Will? When is she powerful? What makes her vulnerable?
2. Does Will possess the qualities of your ideal man? What makes him the kind of guy women should want?
3. Lily's character is a twist on the stereotype of the hot, commitment-phobe bachelor who has serious second thoughts on the way to the altar. Are Lily's fears equally common in men and women?
4. What makes this a refreshing approach to romantic fiction? Do you and Lily share any of the same attitudes about commitment, sex, and relationships? Ultimately, what does *I Take You* say about the ingredients for a good marriage?

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

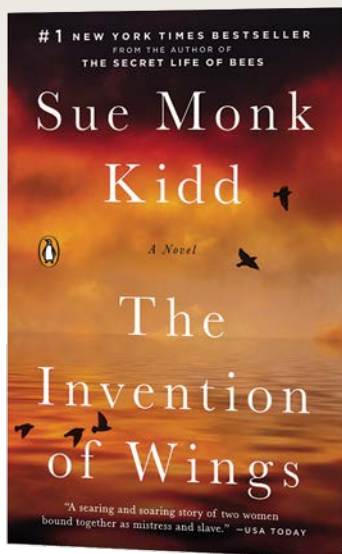
Sue Monk Kidd

The Invention of Wings: A Novel

978-0-14-312170-1 | \$17.00/\$19.00C | Penguin Books | TR
📞 978-0-698-15242-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

This is the strongest, most heartfelt, and most beautifully written and fully realized work of fiction from the author of *The Secret Life of Bees*, also for readers of Geraldine Brooks, Kathryn Stockett, Toni Morrison, Barbara Kingsolver, and Pat Conroy.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Hetty "Handful" Grimké, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimké household. The Grimké's daughter, Sarah, possessed of a ravenous intellect and mutinous ideas, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

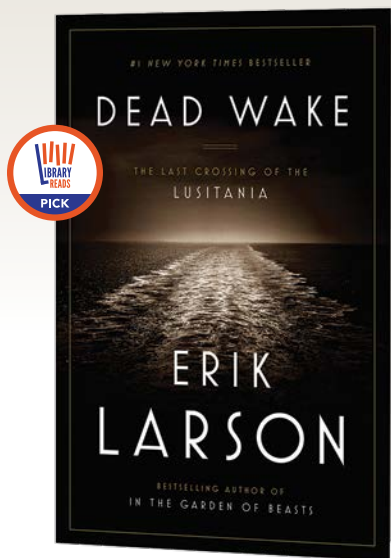
Kidd's sweeping new novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for lives of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimké, one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The title *The Invention of Wings* was one of the first inspirations that came to Sue Monk Kidd as she began the novel. Why is the title an apt one for Kidd's novel? What are some of the ways that the author uses the imagery and symbolism of birds, wings, and flight?
2. In what ways does Sarah struggle against the dictates of her family, society, and religion? Can you relate to her need to break away from the life she had in order to create a new and unknown life? What sort of risk and courage does this call for?
3. Were you aware of the role that Sarah and Angelina Grimké played in abolition and women's rights? Have women's achievements in history been lost or overlooked? What do you think it takes to be a reformer today?

For more discussion questions visit: SueMonkKidd.com



Erik Larson

Dead Wake:

The Last Crossing of the Lusitania

978-0-307-40886-0 | \$28.00/\$32.50C | Crown | HC
● 978-0-553-44675-3
📻 AD: 978-0-553-55165-5 | 📻 CD: 978-0-553-55164-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *The Guns of August* and
A Night to Remember.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and master of narrative nonfiction comes the enthralling story of the sinking of the *Lusitania*, published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the disaster.

It is a story that many of us think we know but don't, and Erik Larson tells it thrillingly, switching between hunter and hunted while painting a larger portrait of America at the height of the Progressive Era. Full of glamour and suspense, *Dead Wake* brings to life a cast of evocative characters, from famed Boston bookseller Charles Lauriat to pioneering female architect Theodora Pope to President Woodrow Wilson, a man lost to grief, dreading the widening war but also captivated by the prospect of new love.

Gripping and important, *Dead Wake* captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

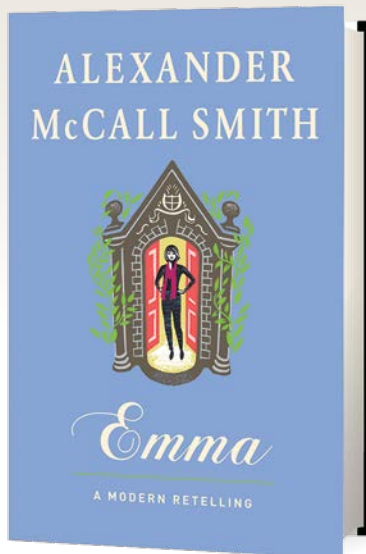
1. In his Note to Readers, Erik Larson writes that before researching it, he thought he knew "everything there was to know" about the sinking of the *Lusitania*, but soon realized "how wrong [he] was." What did you know about the *Lusitania* before reading the book? Did any of Larson's revelations surprise you?
2. After reading *Dead Wake*, what was your impression of Captain Turner? Was he cautious enough? How did you react to the Admiralty's attempts to place the blame for the *Lusitania*'s sinking squarely on his shoulders?
3. Erik Larson deftly weaves accounts of glamorous first-class passengers such as Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt with compelling images of middle-class families and of the ship's crew. Whose personal story resonated the most with you?

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

Alexander McCall Smith **Emma: A Modern Retelling**

978-0-8041-9795-3 | \$25.95 | Pantheon | HC
978-0-345-80906-3 | \$29.95C | Knopf Canada
📞 978-0-8041-9796-0 | 📧 LP: 978-0-8041-9470-9

READERS' ADVISORY:
For Readers of *Longbourn*, *Death Comes to Pemberley*, and lovers of Jane Austen's works.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

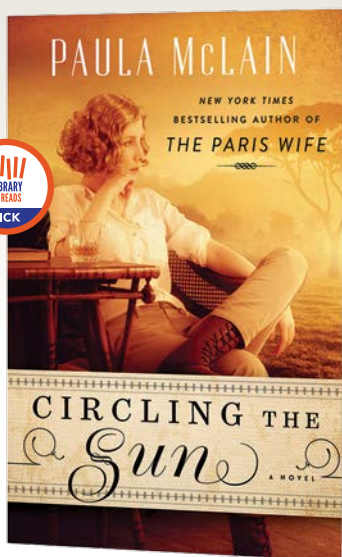
The bestselling author of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series deftly escorts Jane Austen's beloved, meddling heroine into the twenty-first century in this delightfully inventive retelling.

The summer after university, Emma Woodhouse returns home to the village of Highbury to prepare for the launch of her interior design business. As she cultivates grand plans for the future, she re-enters the household of her hypochondriac father, who has been living alone on a steady diet of vegetables and vitamin supplements. Soon Emma befriends Harriet Smith, the naïve but charming young teacher's assistant at an English-language school run by the hippie-ish Mrs. Goddard. Harriet is Emma's inspiration to do the two things she does best: offer guidance to those less wise in the ways of the world and put her matchmaking skills to good use.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Alexander McCall Smith decided to revisit *Emma*, of all of Jane Austen's novels?
2. Describe Emma's character in this version. How does it differ from that of Austen's Emma? In what ways is she "modernized"?
3. What is Emma's position in life? How does this shape her worldview?
4. Describe George Knightley's connection to the Woodhouse family. In what ways does he serve as a foil to Emma? How does that focus the bond between the two of them?
5. What is the relationship between Miss Taylor and Emma? How does this differ from the way it is depicted in Austen's version?
6. A pivotal moment in Austen's *Emma* was the shaming of Miss Bates. How has McCall Smith handled the Victorian idea of rank in this contemporary context?

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



Paula McLain

Circling the Sun:

A Novel

978-0-345-53418-7 | \$28.00 | Ballantine Books | HC
978-0-385-67721-9 | \$32.00C | Bond Street Books
● 978-0-345-53419-4
📍 AD: 978-0-307-98993-2 | 📍 CD: 978-0-307-98992-5
📖 LP: 978-0-804-19492-1

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of *The Paris Wife*, *Out of Africa*,
Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight, and
readers of historical fiction.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In her new novel, the author of the phenomenal bestseller *The Paris Wife* transports readers to colonial Kenya in the 1920s, and brings to life the fearless and captivating Beryl Markham—a record-setting aviator caught up in a passionate love triangle with safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, author of the classic memoir *Out of Africa*.

Brought to Kenya from England as a child and then abandoned by her mother, Beryl is raised by both her father and the native Kipsigis tribe who share his estate. Her unconventional upbringing transforms Beryl into a bold young woman with a fierce love of all things wild and an inherent understanding of nature's delicate balance.

Beryl forges her own path as a horse trainer, and her uncommon style attracts the eye of a decadent, bohemian community of European expats who also live and love by their own set of rules. But it's the ruggedly charismatic Denys Finch Hatton who ultimately helps Beryl navigate the uncharted territory of her own heart. The intensity of their love reveals Beryl's truest self and her fate: to fly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the beginning of the book, Beryl reflects that her father's farm in Njoro was "the one place in the world I'd been made for." Do you feel this is a fitting way to describe Beryl's relationship with Kenya, too? Did she seem more suited—more made for—life there than the others in her circle? Is there a place in your life that you would describe the same way?
2. While it is clear he loved his daughter, do you feel Beryl's father was a good parent? Do you think Beryl would have said he was? Did you sympathize with him at any point?
3. Beryl is forced to be independent from a very young age. How do you think this shaped her personality (for better or for worse)?

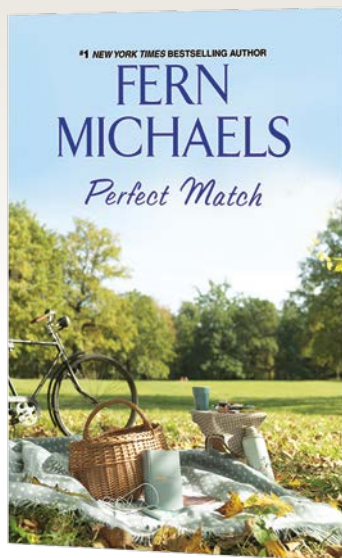
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

Fern Michaels Perfect Match

978-1-61773-458-8 | \$21.95/\$23.95C | Kensington Press | HC
978-1-61773-459-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For *New York Times* bestselling author Fern Michaels's dedicated fans comes a book about starting over, redemption, and love.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

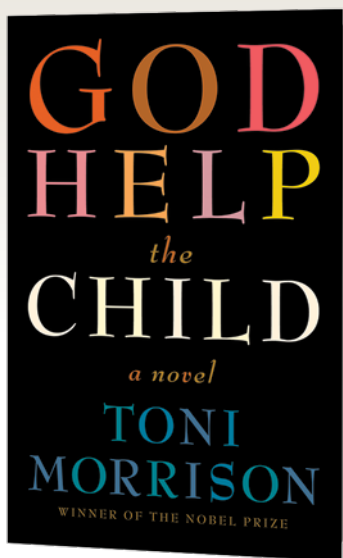
As far as former NFL star Jake Masters is concerned, dreams are risky propositions. Years ago he came achingly close to achieving his ambition of playing in the Super Bowl—before a spinal injury ended his career. Confined to a wheelchair, unwilling to take a chance on another risky surgery that could restore his mobility, Jake now stays cocooned behind the imposing gates of his lavish home.

But his twin sister, Beth, has no intention of letting him languish there forever. After years of flitting from one failed business idea to another, all fueled by Jake's generosity, she now owns a highly lucrative matchmaking service. And she's gifting the business to Jake—whether he likes it or not—while she follows her dreams of making it as a singer in Nashville.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you agree with Gracie, Beth, and even Moose's tough love tactics when it comes to Jake? Were there moments in the story when you felt they were being too rough or insensitive? Or did the ends justify the means?
2. Were you surprised by any of the facts and figures about online dating revealed in the book? Do you think that relationships that first begin online have a greater or lesser chance for success?
3. Is Jake ultimately too dependent on Moose, or is Moose simply being a good father figure to Jake? Is their relationship healthy or co-dependent?
4. Do you think Beth will stick with singing and matchmaking or move on to something else? Can she ever settle down, or will she always be searching for a new challenge? Is that a good or bad thing?

For more discussion questions visit: StrongWomenRead.com



Toni Morrison God Help the Child: A Novel

978-0-307-59417-4 | \$24.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-307-39975-5 | \$27.00C | Knopf Canada
📞 978-0-385-35317-5 | 📻 AD: 978-0-307-74911-6
📻 CD: 978-0-307-74910-9 | 📖 LP: 978-0-8041-9482-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

"A chilling oracle and a lively storyteller, Nobel winner Morrison continues the work she began 45 years ago with *The Bluest Eye*."

—Kirkus (starred review)

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Spare and unsparring, *God Help the Child*—the first novel by Toni Morrison to be set in our current moment—weaves a tale about the way the sufferings of childhood can shape, and misshape, the life of the adult.

At the center: a young woman who calls herself Bride, whose stunning blue-black skin is only one element of her beauty, her boldness and confidence, her success in life, but which caused her light-skinned mother to deny her even the simplest forms of love. There is Booker, the man Bride loves, and loses to anger. Rain, the mysterious white child with whom she crosses paths. And finally, Bride's mother herself, Sweetness, who takes a lifetime to come to understand that "What you do to children matters. And they might never forget."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Morrison opens *God Help the Child* with a character insisting, "It's not my fault. So you can't blame me." How does this set up what follows?
2. Multiple themes weave through the novel: childhood trauma, racism, skin color, social class, freedom. What would you say is the primary theme, and why?
3. *Kirkus Reviews* said of the book, "As in the darkest fairy tales, there will be fire and death." In what other ways is *God Help the Child* like a fairy tale?
4. Several of the primary characters have different names from the ones they received at birth: Bride, Sweetness, Rain. What do these new names tell us about the characters?
5. At different points in the novel, Morrison switches from individual characters' voices to third-person narration. How does this affect the reader's understanding of what's happening?

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

Lori Rader-Day Little Pretty Things

978-1-63388-004-7 | \$15.95/\$17.00C | Seventh Street Books | TR
📞 978-1-63388-005-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Highly recommended for psychological-thriller groupies, especially those who walk on the literary side of the genre and favor books like Tana French’s *Faithful Place* and Cornelia Read’s Madeline Dare series.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)



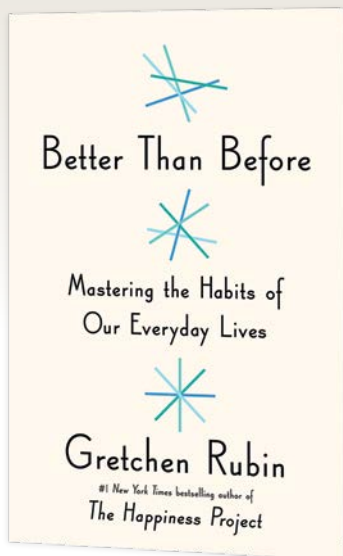
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Juliet Townsend is used to losing. Back in high school, she lost every track team race to her best friend, Maddy Bell. Ten years later, she’s still running behind, stuck in a dead-end job cleaning rooms at the Mid-Night Inn, a one-star motel that attracts only the cheap or the desperate. Then one night, Maddy checks in. Well-dressed, flashing a huge diamond ring, and as beautiful as ever, Maddy has it all. By the next morning, though, Juliet is no longer jealous of Maddy—she’s the chief suspect in her murder. To protect herself, Juliet investigates the circumstances of her friend’s death. But what she learns about Maddy’s life might cost Juliet everything she didn’t realize she had.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Juliet is twenty-eight and stuck in a dead-end job. She’s also suspended in a mindset leftover from when she was a teenager. In what ways is everything still a blur to her?
2. Juliet’s pivotal moment is the race she failed to run. Can one decision determine the rest of a life?
3. What do you think Juliet’s stealing says about her? What can you tell about Juliet’s life from the things she chooses to steal?
4. Early in *Little Pretty Things*, Juliet says she’s never stolen from a friend—and then she does. What do you think of these rules and how she begins to break them?
5. After discovering what Maddy went through and what Billy’s been up to, Juliet briefly grapples with how these things are “related...only a single thread in the fabric of this world...” How do you think these things are or aren’t related? What other concerns for women and girls might be part of the same fabric?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/LittlePrettyThingsRG



Gretchen Rubin

Better Than Before: Mastering the Habits of Our Everyday Lives

978-0-385-34861-4 | \$26.00 | Crown | HC

📞 978-0-385-34862-1

📻 AD: 978-0-553-55173-0 | 📻 CD: 978-0-553-55172-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Susan Cain, Charles Duhigg, Dan Heath, and Malcolm Gladwell.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the author of the blockbuster *New York Times* bestsellers *The Happiness Project* and *Happier at Home* comes a book that tackles the question: How do we make good habits that are easy, effortless, and automatic?

“Filled with insights about our patterns of behavior, *Better Than Before* addresses one of life’s big and timeless questions: how can we transform ourselves? In a way that’s thought-provoking, surprising, and often funny, Gretchen Rubin provides us with the tools to build a life that truly reflects our goals and values.” —Arianna Huffington, founder of the *Huffington Post* and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Thrive*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you could magically, effortlessly change a few habits, which habits would you pick? Why?
2. Unlike most habit-formation experts, Gretchen Rubin emphasizes that the most important step in changing a habit is to know yourself. Do you agree? Did reading *Better Than Before* allow you to see yourself more clearly?
3. Have you ever found it easier to form a habit (for good or bad) when you were starting something new—when you were taking the first steps, when you had a clean slate?
4. People exert enormous influence over each other’s habits. Have you ever picked up a habit from someone else?
5. If you could change a habit of someone close to you, what habit would you choose? Can you think of ways to help that person change a habit?
6. Of your current habits, which ones work best for you? Any lessons there to apply to habits that are more challenging?

For more discussion questions, quizzes, posters, and more visit: GretchenRubin.com

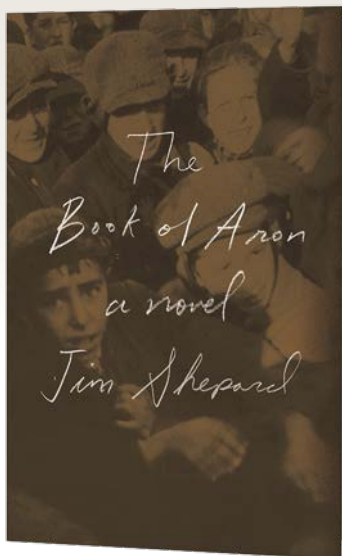
Jim Shepard

The Book of Aron:

A Novel

978-1-101-87431-8 | \$23.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-7710-7998-6 | \$27.95C | McClelland & Stewart
📞 978-1-101-87432-5 | 📍 AD: 978-1-101-91296-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
From the hugely acclaimed National Book Award finalist, a novel that will join the shortlist of classics about the Holocaust and the children caught up in it.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

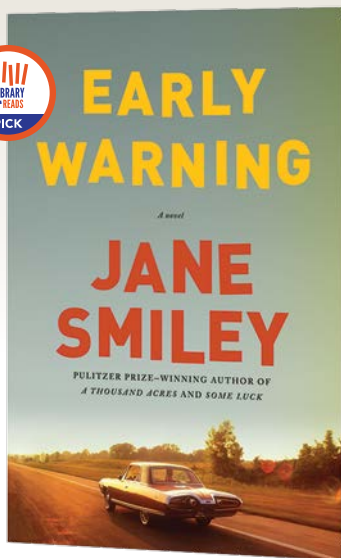
Aron, the narrator, is an engaging if peculiar and unhappy young boy whose family is driven by the German onslaught from the Polish countryside into Warsaw and slowly battered by deprivation, disease, and persecution. He and a handful of boys and girls risk their lives by scuttling around the ghetto to smuggle and trade contraband through the quarantine walls in hopes of keeping their fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters alive, hunted all the while by blackmailers and by Jewish, Polish, and German police, not to mention the Gestapo.

When his family is finally stripped away from him, Aron is rescued by Janusz Korczak, a doctor renowned throughout prewar Europe as an advocate of children's rights who, once the Nazis swept in, was put in charge of the Warsaw orphanage. Treblinka awaits them all, but does Aron manage to escape—as his mentor suspected he could—to spread word about the atrocities?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel opens with Aron discussing his name, and how he became known as "Sh'maya," which means "God has heard." Why is this important?
2. What are the consequences of the death of Aron's younger brother? How does it foreshadow what's to come? Why doesn't the author tell us his name?
3. Discuss Aron's relationships with the other children in the gang—Lutek, Boris, Zofia, Adina. Which does he care about the most? Who is his truest friend?
4. Bit by bit, the situation in Warsaw worsens. Which of the characters seem to understand what's going on? How do their actions reflect that understanding?
5. With his child's-eye view Aron doesn't spend much time on introspection, which forces us to read between the lines. How does this increase the impact of what's happening?

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



Jane Smiley

Early Warning:

A Novel

978-0-307-70032-2 | \$26.95/\$32.00C | Knopf | HC
📞 978-0-385-35243-7
📍 AD: 978-1-101-88908-4 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-88907-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the Pulitzer Prize-winner: the second installment, following *Some Luck*, of her widely acclaimed, bestselling American trilogy, which brings the journey of a remarkable family with roots in the Iowa heartland into mid-century America.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Early Warning opens in 1953 with the Langdon family at a crossroads. Their stalwart patriarch, Walter, who with his wife, Rosanna, sustained their farm for three decades, has suddenly died, leaving their five children, now adults, looking to the future. Only one will remain in Iowa to work the land, while the others scatter to Washington, D.C., California, and everywhere in between.

As the country moves out of post–World War II optimism through the darker landscape of the Cold War and the social and sexual revolutions of the 1960s and '70s, and then into the unprecedented wealth—for some—of the early 1980s, the Langdon children each follow a different path in a rapidly changing world. And they now have children of their own: twin boys who are best friends and vicious rivals; a girl whose rebellious spirit takes her to the notorious Peoples Temple in San Francisco; and a golden boy who drops out of college to fight in Vietnam—leaving behind a secret legacy that will send shock waves through the Langdon family into the next generation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Early Warning* is the second volume of The Last Hundred Years trilogy and builds upon the characters first introduced in volume one, *Some Luck*. Had you read *Some Luck* before starting this novel? If you did, how did you reorient yourself in the world of the Langdons? And if not, what was it like to meet the family for the first time here in 1953?
2. In *Early Warning*'s first scene, the family is gathered for the funeral of Walter, who died at the end of *Some Luck*. How does this reunion establish the dynamics among the present family members as well as bridge the gap between the two books? How is Walter's presence felt throughout the scene and by each of his five children and his wife, Rosanna?
3. How does Smiley capture the tensions of the postwar era during the first half of the novel, politically and socially, in the United States and internationally?

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

Lori Nelson Spielman

Sweet Forgiveness:

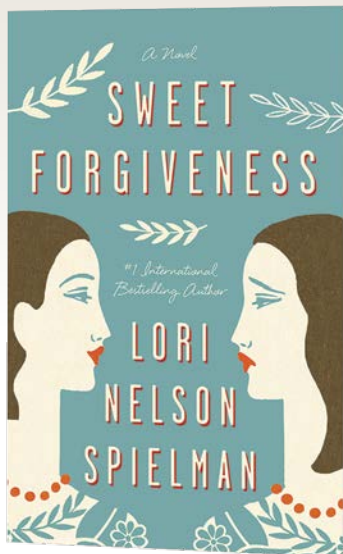
A Novel

978-0-14-751676-3 | \$16.00/\$18.00C | Plume | TR

978-0-698-19693-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

#1 international bestselling author
Lori Nelson Spielman follows *The Life List*
with *Sweet Forgiveness*, an affecting novel
of a fiercely private woman's public journey
toward atonement.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

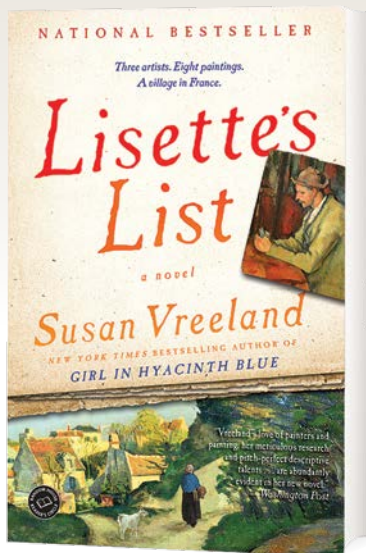
The Forgiveness Stones craze is sweeping the nation—instantly recognizable pouches of stones that come with a chain letter and two simple requests: to forgive, and then to seek forgiveness. But New Orleans' favorite talk show host, Hannah Farr, isn't biting. Intensely private and dating the city's mayor, Hannah has kept her very own pouch of Forgiveness Stones hidden for two years—and her dark past concealed for nearly two decades. But when Fiona Knowles, creator of the Forgiveness Stones, appears on Hannah's show, Hannah unwittingly reveals on air details of a decades-old falling out with her mother.

Spurned by her fans, doubted by her friends, and accused by her boyfriend of marring his political career, Hannah reluctantly embarks on a public journey of forgiveness. As events from her past become clearer, the truth she's clung to since her teenage years has never felt murkier. Hannah must find the courage to right old wrongs, or risk losing her mother, and any glimmer of an authentic life, forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss Hannah's identity as a career woman, as a girlfriend, as a friend, and as a daughter. What role is she most comfortable inhabiting? When is Hannah's most authentic self revealed to the reader?
2. Discuss Hannah's reunion with her mother. What were her expectations for their meeting? Describe her emotions leading up to, during, and after their reunion. How does she work to rebuild their relationship even after she returns to New Orleans?
3. Hannah's doubts about her childhood memories play out in visceral, tangible ways throughout the novel. Describe her emotional journey. How did the idea of Forgiveness Stones help her to achieve peace? Were you surprised by her choice to move on in life without having a resolute answer to her lifelong question about Bob's actions?

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



Susan Vreeland

Lisette's List: A Novel

978-0-8129-8019-6 | \$16.00/\$19.00C | Random House | TR
📞 978-0-8129-9685-2 | 📄 AD: 978-0-553-39959-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the bestselling author of *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, *Luncheon of the Boating Party*, and *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* comes the story of a woman's awakening in the south of Vichy France—to the power of art, to the beauty of provincial life, and to love in the midst of war.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1937, young Lisette Roux and her husband, André, move from Paris to a village in Provence to care for André's grandfather Pascal. Lisette regrets having to give up her dream of becoming a gallery apprentice and longs for the comforts and sophistication of Paris. But as she soon discovers, the hilltop town is rich with unexpected pleasures.

Pascal once worked in the nearby ochre mines and later became a pigment salesman and frame maker; while selling his pigments in Paris, he befriended Pissarro and Cézanne, some of whose paintings he received in trade for his frames. Pascal begins to tutor Lisette in both art and life, allowing her to see his small collection of paintings and the Provençal landscape itself in a new light. When war breaks out, André goes off to the front, but not before hiding Pascal's paintings to keep them from the Nazis' reach.

Through joy and tragedy, occupation and liberation, small acts of kindness and great acts of courage, Lisette learns to forgive the past, to live robustly, and to love again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why did the novel need to begin with Pascal? How was he an important presence throughout the novel and an influence in Lisette's deepening character?
2. What were the qualities that Lisette appreciated about André? About Maxime? Did this difference affect her love for both of them? How?
3. As Lisette was becoming more comfortable in Roussillon, what did she find in it that she liked, or even loved? As a reader, did you want her to make this adjustment, or were you holding out for a complete and speedy return to Paris? If she had moved back to Paris right after the end of the war, what would she have lost in addition to the paintings?
4. What made Lisette so conflicted about Bernard? What allowed her even to speak to him?

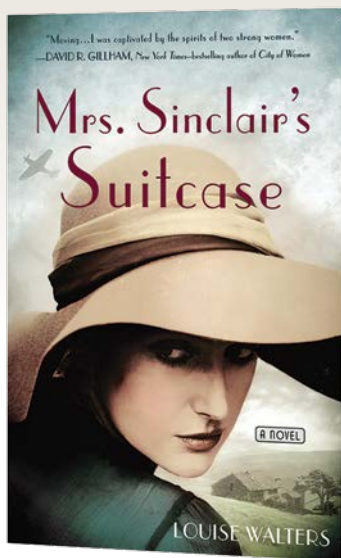
For more discussion questions visit: [RandomHouseReadersCircle.com](https://www.randomhouse.com/readerscircle)

Louise Walters

Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase: A Novel

978-0-399-16950-2 | \$26.95/\$34.95C | Putnam | HC
978-0-698-15597-8
AD: 978-1-101-91466-3 | CD: 978-1-101-91465-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, and *Me Before You*



ABOUT THE BOOK:

A deeply compelling debut, *Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase* is a compulsive page-turner about thwarted love, dashed hopes, and family secrets—book-club fiction at its best.

Roberta, a lonely thirty-four-year-old bibliophile, works at The Old and New Bookshop in England. When she finds a letter inside a battered old suitcase that hints at a dark secret, her understanding of her family's history is completely upturned. Running alongside Roberta's narrative is that of her grandmother, Dorothy, as a woman desperate for motherhood during the early years of World War II. After a chance encounter with a Polish war pilot, Dorothy believes she's finally found happiness, but must instead make a decision whose consequences forever change her family.

The parallel stories of Roberta and Dorothy unravel over the course of eighty years as they both make their own ways through secrets, lies, sacrifices, and love. Utterly absorbing, *Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase* is a spellbinding tale of two worlds, one shattered by secrets and the other by the truth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Motherhood is an important theme in the book. Do you identify with any of the attitudes toward mothering? Which counter your beliefs?
2. Roberta is described as spiky, cold, distant, and lonely. Do you agree with this characterization? Do you find her likable? Why does she choose to live such a solitary life? Will she find long-term happiness with Philip?
3. Consider Dorothy's relationship with Nina and Aggie. How important are they to her? In what ways does Dorothy "mother them," as Jan claims?
4. How do the setting and time period play important roles in Dorothy's story? Could this have been the same narrative if set in a different era?

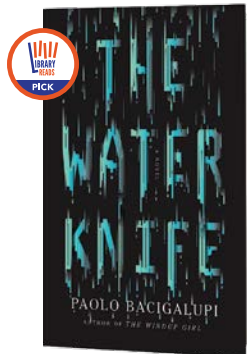
For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MrsSinclairsSuitcaseRG



Joe Abercrombie **Half a War**

978-0-804-17845-7 | \$26.00/\$31.00C | Del Rey | HC
 978-0-804-17847-1

The stunning conclusion to the epic fantasy trilogy that began with *Half a King* and *Half the World*. Yarvi is the unlikely heir to the throne—a clever, thoughtful boy with a crippled hand who feels out of place in a violent, Viking-like society. Thorn is a young girl, determined to follow in the footsteps of her dead father and become a famous warrior, whatever it takes. Now Yarvi has avenged the murder of his father, and sets out on an epic journey with Thorn that will embroil his kingdom in all-out war.

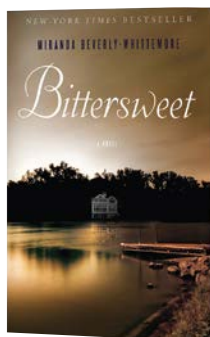


Paolo Bacigalupi **The Water Knife: A Novel**

978-0-385-35287-1 | \$25.95/\$30.00C | Knopf | HC
 978-0-385-35289-5

Paolo Bacigalupi—*New York Times*-bestselling author, winner of the Michael L. Printz Award, and National Book Award Finalist—dives once again onto our uncertain future with *The Water Knife*.

“A fresh cautionary tale classic, depicting an America newly shaped by scarcity of our most vital resource. The pages practically turn themselves in a tense, taut plot of crosses and double-crosses, given added depth by riveting characters. This brutal near-future thriller seems so plausible in the world it depicts that you will want to stock up on bottled water.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)



Miranda Beverly-Whittemore **Bittersweet: A Novel**

978-0-804-13858-1 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Broadway Books | TR
 978-0-804-13857-4 | ♻ AD: 978-0-804-19200-2

A novel for fans of E. Lockhart, Donna Tartt, J. Courtney Sullivan, and Kate Morton. Ordinary Mabel Dagmar is invited to spend a summer at her blue-blooded but wild college roommate’s edenic estate on Lake Champlain. To be welcomed into the Winslows’ inner circle is a dream come true for Mabel—the money and privilege is as seductive as the beautiful place and people. But what appears to be paradise soon reveals itself to be riddled with dark and vicious secrets.

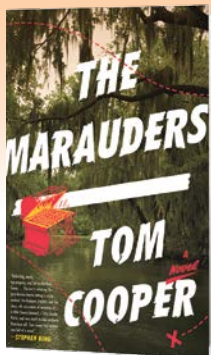
For discussion questions visit PenguinRandomHouse.com.



Ernest Cline **Armada: A Novel**

978-0-804-13725-6 | \$26.00/\$31.00C | Crown | HC
 978-0-804-13726-3 | ♻ AD: 978-0-804-14914-3 | ♻ CD: 978-0-804-14913-6

While eagerly awaiting Steven Spielberg’s movie adaptation of *Ready Player One*, fans this summer can snap up Cline’s new pulse-pounding, space opera adventure where the battles are real and gamers must save the world from an alien invasion. Zack Lightman’s teenage gamer world will be forever altered after spotting a flying saucer. Will his videogame skills be enough to save the earth from what’s about to befall it? While gleefully embracing, and brilliantly subverting, science-fiction conventions, *Armada* exists somewhere between Orson Scott Card’s *Ender’s Game* come to life and the joyously self-unaware cult favorite film, *Clerks*.



Tom Cooper
The Marauders: A Novel

978-0-804-14056-0 | \$26.00/\$31.00C | Crown | HC
 ● 978-0-804-14057-7 | ♻ AD: 978-0-553-54634-7

This debut novel about what happens to a marshy town near New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill will resonate with environment-conscious teens. Featuring 17-year-old Wes Trench, among a vast cast of unique characters, *The Marauders* has been hailed by *Library Journal* as “self-assured and highly entertaining...Cooper’s writing is taut, his story is gripping, and the characters and their problems will stay with you long after you finish this book.”



Lauren Frankel
Hyacinth Girls: A Novel

978-0-553-41805-7 | \$25.00/\$29.95C | Crown | HC
 ● 978-0-553-41806-4

A suspenseful story about female friendship perfect for book clubs and for readers of *Reconstructing Amelia* and *Nineteen Minutes*; fans of Laura Lippman and Megan Abbott. Thirteen year old Callie is accused of bullying at school, but Rebecca knows the kind and gentle girl she’s raised is innocent. Threatening notes from the alleged victim begin to surface, and as the notes become suicidal, Rebecca is determined to save both girls.



Shannon Grogan
From Where I Watch You

978-1-61695-554-0 | \$18.99/\$18.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 ● 978-1-61695-555-7

Sixteen-year-old Kara McKinley is about to realize her dream of becoming a professional baker, her cookies are masterpieces, and also her ticket out of rainy Seattle—if she wins the upcoming national baking competition and its scholarship prize to culinary school. Kara can no longer stand the home where her family lived, laughed, and ultimately imploded after her mean-spirited big sister Kellen died in a drowning accident. Her past holds many secrets, and they come to light as Kara faces a secret terror. Someone is leaving her handwritten notes. If Kara doesn’t figure out who her stalker is, and soon, she could lose everything.

For more information visit ShannonGrogan.com.

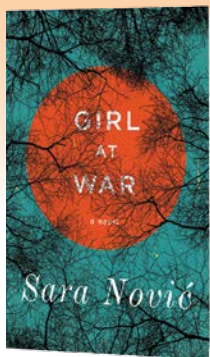


Déborah Lévy-Bertherat
The Travels of Daniel Ascher

978-1-59051-707-9 | \$22.95/ \$26.95C | Other Press | HC
 ● 978-1-59051-708-6

Who is the real author of *The Black Insignia*? Is it H. R. Sanders, whose name is printed on the cover of every installment of the wildly successful young adult adventure series? Or is it Daniel Roche, the enigmatic world traveler who disappears for months at a time? When Daniel’s great-niece, Héléne, moves to Paris to study archeology, she does not expect to be searching for answers to these questions.

“An engaging yet ultimately melancholy and moving novel about a search for meaning with its roots buried in WWII France. A slender story but a satisfying one.” —*Booklist*



Sara Nović
Girl at War: A Novel

978-0-8129-9634-0 | \$26.00/\$31.00C | Random House | HC
 ● 978-0-8129-9635-7 | ♻ AD: 978-1-101-91413-7

Zagreb, 1991. Ana Jurić is a carefree ten-year-old, living with her family in a small apartment in Croatia’s capital. But that year, civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, splintering Ana’s idyllic childhood. Daily life is altered by food rations and air raid drills, and soccer matches are replaced by sniper fire. Neighbors grow suspicious of one another, and Ana’s sense of safety starts to fray. When the war arrives at her doorstep, Ana must find her way in a dangerous world. A powerful debut novel about a girl’s coming of age—and how her sense of family, friendship, love, and belonging is profoundly shaped by war.

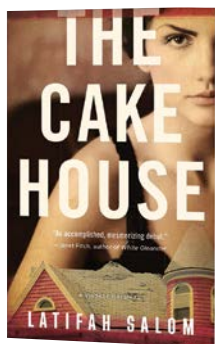


Jodi Picoult
Leaving Time: A Novel

978-0-345-54494-0 | \$16.00 | Ballantine Books | TR
 978-0-345-81336-7 | \$21.00C | Vintage Canada
 ● 978-0-345-54493-3 | ♻ AD: 978-0-804-14765-1 | ♻ CD: 978-0-804-12903-9

For more than a decade, Jenna Metcalf has never stopped thinking about her mother, Alice, who mysteriously disappeared in the wake of a tragic accident. Refusing to believe she was abandoned, Jenna enlists two unlikely allies in her quest: Serenity Jones, a psychic who rose to fame finding missing persons, and Virgil Stanhope, the jaded private detective who’d originally investigated Alice’s case. As the three work together to uncover what happened to Alice, they realize that in asking hard questions, they’ll have to face even harder answers.

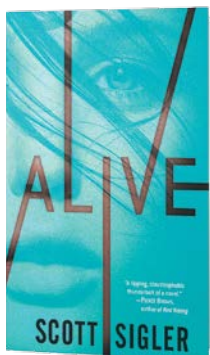
For discussion questions visit PenguinRandomHouse.com.



Latifah Salom
The Cake House

978-0-345-80651-2 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Vintage | TR
 ● 978-0-345-80652-9

Rosaura Douglas’s father shot himself after her mother left him . . . or at least that’s the story everyone is telling. Now her mother has remarried and Rosie is trapped in “The Cake House,” a garish pink edifice in the hills of Los Angeles that’s a far cry from the cramped apartment where she grew up. It’s also the house where her father died. Soon, however, her father’s ghost appears, sometimes in a dark window, sometimes in the house’s lush garden, but always with warnings that Claude is not to be trusted. An ingenious retelling, using *Hamlet* as a jumping off point.

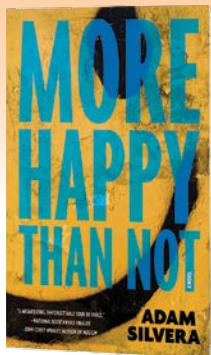


Scott Sigler
Alive: Book One of the Generations Trilogy

978-0-553-39310-1 | \$18.00/\$24.00C | Del Rey | HC
 ● 978-0-553-39311-8

For fans of *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, and *Red Rising* comes a gripping sci-fi adventure in which a group of teenagers wake up in a mysterious corridor with no knowledge of who they are or how they got trapped. Their only hope lies with an indomitable young woman who must lead them not only to answers but to survival.

“A ripping, claustrophobic thunderbolt of a novel.”
 —Pierce Brown, bestselling author of *Red Rising*



Adam Silvera More Happy Than Not

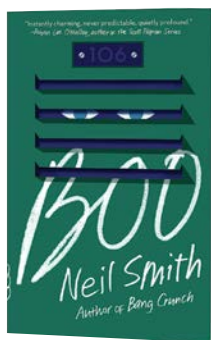
978-1-61695-560-1 | \$18.99/ \$18.99C | Soho Teen | HC

📞 978-1-61695-561-8

Part *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, part *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, Adam Silvera's extraordinary debut confronts race, class, and sexuality during one charged near-future summer in the Bronx.

"A fresh spin... on a teen experiencing firsts... Prejudice is illustrated with gut-wrenching brutality and its effects are scarring, but Silvera tempers it with the genuine love and acceptance Aaron receives from a few important friends and family members... ingenious." —*Booklist* (starred review)

For more information visit AdamSilvera.com.



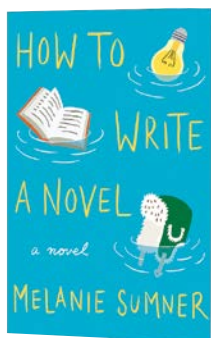
Neil Smith Boo

978-0-8041-7136-6 | \$14.95 | Vintage | TR

978-0-345-80814-1 | \$21.00C | Knopf Canada

📞 978-0-8041-7137-3

One minute, Oliver "Boo" Dalrymple is next to his locker at school; the next he finds himself in "Town," an afterlife exclusively for thirteen year-olds. As Boo works to acclimate himself to his new home, another boy from his hometown—Johnny—appears, seemingly a victim of the same school shooter. As he and Johnny search for the identity of their mysterious murderer, possibly now a fellow resident of Town, they uncover a truth that will have profound repercussions for them both.



Melanie Summer How to Write a Novel

978-1-101-87347-2 | \$14.95/\$17.95C | Vintage | TR

📞 978-1-101-87348-9

Aristotle "Aris" Thibodeau is 12.5 years old and destined for glory. Unfortunately, after her father's death, she finds herself plopped down in Kanuga, Georgia, where she has to manage her mother Diane's floundering love life and dubious commitment to her job as an English professor. Not to mention, co-parenting a little brother who hogs all the therapy money. Luckily, Aris has a plan. Following the advice laid out in *Write a Novel in Thirty Days!* she sets out to pen a bestseller using her charmingly dysfunctional family as material. "Sweet, clever, and fun." —*Kirkus Reviews*



Lynne Truss Cat Out of Hell

978-1-61219-442-4 | \$24.95 | Melville House | HC

📞 978-1-61219-443-1

Acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author Lynne Truss (*Eats, Shoots & Leaves*) is back with a mesmerizing and hilarious tale of cats and murder. For people who both love and hate cats comes the tale of Alec Charlesworth, a librarian who finds himself suddenly alone: he's lost his job, his beloved wife has just died. Overcome by grief, he searches for clues about her disappearance in a file of interviews between a man called "Wiggy" and a cat, Roger. Who speaks to him.

For more information visit MHPBooks.com.

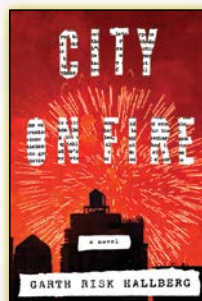
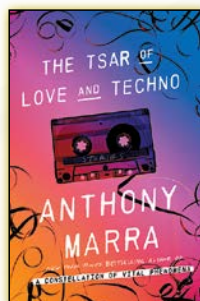
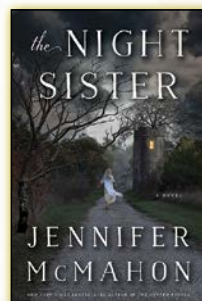
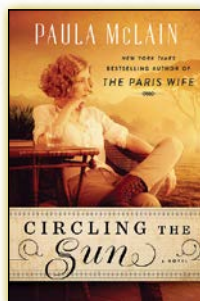
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