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You Read
Next?

Volume 11



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

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Thursdays 12pm-1pm EST

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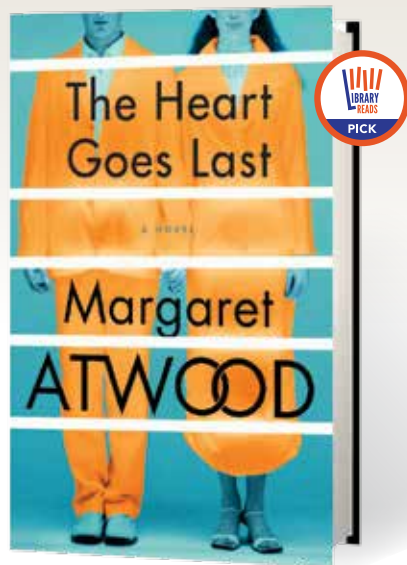
Margaret Atwood

The Heart Goes Last: A Novel

978-0-385-54035-3 | \$26.95 | Nan A. Talese | HC
978-0-7710-0911-2 | \$34.00C | McClelland & Stewart
● 978-0-385-54036-0 | ♻️ AD: 978-1-101-92479-2
♻️ CD: 978-1-101-92478-5 | ♻️ LP: 978-0-8041-9491-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

“This laser-sharp, hilariously campy, and swiftly flowing satire delves deeply into our desires, vices, biases, and contradictions, bringing fresh, incisive comedy to the rising tide of postapocalyptic fiction in which Atwood has long been a clarion voice.”—*Booklist*, starred review



ABOUT THE BOOK:

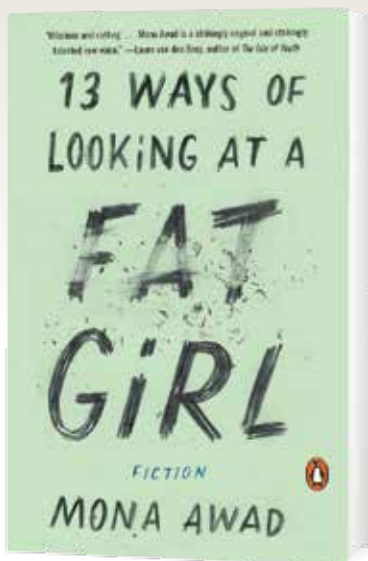
Stan and Charmaine are a married couple trying to stay afloat in the midst of an economic and social collapse. Job loss has forced them to live in their car, leaving them vulnerable to roving gangs. They desperately need to turn their situation around—and fast. The Positron Project in the town of Consilience seems to be the answer to their prayers. No one is unemployed and everyone gets a comfortable, clean house to live in . . . for six months out of the year. On alternating months, residents of Consilience must leave their homes and function as inmates in the Positron prison system. Once their month of service in the prison is completed, they can return to their “civilian” homes.

At first, this doesn't seem like too much of a sacrifice to make in order to have a roof over one's head and food to eat. But when Charmaine becomes romantically involved with the man who lives in their house during the months when she and Stan are in the prison, a series of troubling events unfolds, putting Stan's life in danger. With each passing day, Positron looks less like a prayer answered and more like a chilling prophecy fulfilled.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you were in Stan and Charmaine's situation, would you sign up for the Positron Project?
2. What is the significance of Charmaine's memories of Grandma Win and her cheerful aphorisms?
3. Do you think society could actually break down to the point that it does in the novel? Why or why not?
4. How did your attitudes toward Stan and Charmaine change over the course of the novel?
5. The novel's title has surprising significance. When it was revealed, did you find it a clever twist or macabre and disturbing?

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



Mona Awad

13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl: A Novel

978-0-14-312848-9 | \$16.00 | Penguin Books | TR

978-0-14-319479-8 | \$20.00C | Penguin Canada

● 978-0-698-40893-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A darkly funny, deeply resonant and exquisitely written literary debut, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* is the story of one woman's journey from fat adolescence to an ex-fat adulthood, examining the effect of how people look at you has on how you look at yourself.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

As an overweight teenager growing up in the suburbs, Lizzie has never liked the way she looks, even though her best friend Mel says she's the pretty one. She dates men online, but is too insecure to send them pictures, convinced that no one would want her if they could really see her. After high school, with punishing drive, she begins to shed the weight, counting each almond consumed, each mile logged, each pound dropped, until she can finally fit into the dresses she could never wear growing up. Now thin, she continues to navigate her complicated relationships with her mother, her friends, her husband, and her reflection in the mirror, but their validation isn't enough. When she looks in the mirror, will she ever see anything different? While *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* explores specific issues around women and body issues, it also speaks to the universal coming-of-age experience, from the brutal angst of adolescence to the struggle for self-acceptance and fulfillment. Caustic, hilarious, and heartbreaking, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* introduces Mona Awad as a major literary talent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you relate most to in *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*?
2. When do you think Lizzie was happier, in the earlier chapters or in the later chapters? Why?
3. Lizzie's relationships with other women are often quite barbed, especially when it comes to things like eating, exercise, and shopping—all of which come back, of course, to the body. What does the book have to say about female friendships?
4. One of the most resonant chapters is "My Mother's Idea of Sexy," which delves deep in to Lizzie's relationship with her mother. How did you feel about the portrayal of the mother character in this chapter? Did you feel it tapped into real mother-daughter relationships?

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

Paul M. Barrett

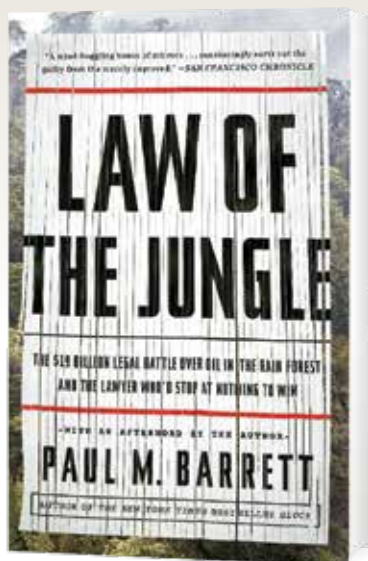
Law of the Jungle:

The \$19 Billion Legal Battle Over Oil
in the Rain Forest and the Lawyer
Who'd Stop at Nothing to Win

978-0-770-43636-0 | \$16.00/\$21.00C | Broadway Books | TR
HC: 978-0-7704-3634-6 | ● 978-0-770-43635-3
□ AD: 978-0-553-39855-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers interested in riveting courtroom drama; John Grisham's legal thrillers; and narrative nonfiction about the law, from *Erin Brockovich* to *A Civil Action*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Steven Donziger, a self-styled social activist and Harvard educated lawyer, signed on to a budding class action lawsuit against multinational Texaco (which later merged with Chevron). The suit sought reparations for the Ecuadorian people whose lives were affected by decades of oil production near their villages. During twenty years of legal hostilities, Donziger and Chevron's lawyers followed fierce no-holds-barred rules. Donziger, a larger-than-life showman, proved himself a master orchestrator of the media and public opinion. In the end, he won an unlikely victory, a \$19 billion judgment against Chevron. But Chevron refused to surrender and targeted Donziger personally, revealing damning evidence of his politicking and manipulation of evidence. Suddenly the verdict, and decades of Donziger's single-minded pursuit of the case, began to unravel.

Law of the Jungle is an unputdownable story in which there are countless victims, a vast region of ruined rivers and polluted rainforest, but very few heroes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you make of the relationship between Cristóbal Bonifaz, the original lead lawyer of the Aguinda suit, and Donziger, the junior attorney who rose to displace Bonifaz?
2. How much culpability do you think Texaco bears for the ecological harm and effect on the health of indigenous tribespeople that accompanied development of oil reserves in the Amazon? What about the Ecuadorian government and their oil company Petroecuador?
3. By his own admission, Donziger adopted a fight-fire-with-fire (or ends-justify-the-means) strategy in battling Chevron in Ecuador. Was he justified in taking this approach? Did his ends, in fact, justify his means? Do you think he could have won the case without crossing ethical lines?
4. After reading *Law of the Jungle*, do you feel more or less admiration for lawyers and our legal system? How about big oil companies? And how about human beings in general?

For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouse.com



Melanie Benjamin

The Swans of Fifth Avenue: A Novel

978-0-345-52869-8 | \$28.00/\$34.00C | Delacorte Press | HC

● 978-0-345-53975-5

📍 AD: 978-1-101-92278-1 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-92277-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *The Aviator's Wife* and Truman Capote and readers of historical fiction.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Of all the glamorous stars of New York high society, none blazes brighter than Babe Paley, a woman celebrated and adored for her ineffable style and exquisite taste, especially among her socialite friends. But beneath this elegantly composed exterior dwells a passionate woman—a woman desperately longing for true love and connection. Enter Truman Capote. This diminutive genius with a larger-than-life personality explodes onto the scene, setting Babe and her circle of Swans aflutter. Through Babe, Truman gains an unlikely entrée into the enviable lives of Manhattan's elite, along with unparalleled access to the scandal and gossip of Babe's powerful circle. Babe never imagines the destruction Truman will leave in his wake, but once a storyteller, always a storyteller—even when the stories aren't his to tell.

From the bestselling author of *The Aviator's Wife*, *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* will seduce and startle readers as it opens the door onto one of America's most sumptuous eras.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Truman is embraced wholeheartedly by the swans when he first appears on the New York social scene. What do you think draws them to him?
2. What do you think of Truman's relationship with fame? At times, he seems willing to sacrifice almost anything (love, his health, and his friendships) in pursuit of the limelight. How does that serve him, ultimately?
3. Why do you think Truman published *La Cote Basque, 1965*? What point was he making about (or to) the story's subjects?
4. Do you think Babe forgave Truman, in the end?

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

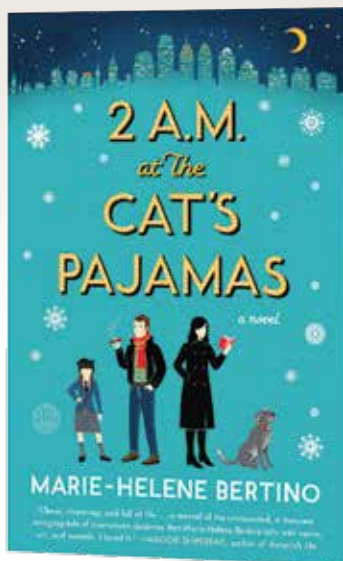
Marie-Helene Bertino

2 A.M. at The Cat's Pajamas: A Novel

978-0-804-14025-6 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Broadway Books | TR
HC: 978-0-8041-4023-2 | ● 978-0-804-14024-9
AD: 978-0-804-19216-3 | CD: 978-0-804-19215-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*,
Beautiful Ruins, and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of
Harold Fry*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

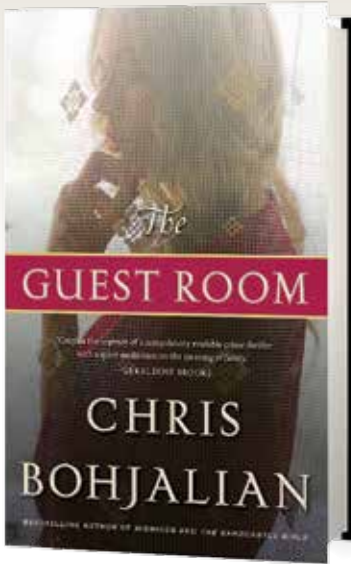
After bravely facing down mean-spirited classmates and rejection at school, rebellious nine-year-old Madeleine Altimari doggedly searches for Philadelphia's legendary jazz club The Cat's Pajamas, where she's determined to make her on-stage debut. On the same day, her fifth grade teacher Sarina Greene, is nervously looking forward to a dinner party that will reunite her with an old high school crush. And across town at The Cat's Pajamas, club owner Lorca discovers that his beloved haunt may have to close forever, unless someone can find a way to quickly raise the \$30,000 that would save it.

As these three lost souls search for love, music and hope on the snow-covered streets of Philadelphia, together they will discover life's endless possibilities over the course of one magical night. A vivacious, charming and moving debut, *2 A.M. at The Cat's Pajamas* will capture your heart and have you laughing out loud.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As you read about Clare and Madeleine's life at Saint Anthony of the Immaculate Heart, did it bring back any memories of you as a fifth grader? What makes Madeleine vulnerable to rejection by the other kids? Why is it hard for everyone to understand what she's going through?
2. "4:00 P.M." ends with the observation on page 83 that "we carry our ancestors in our names and sometimes we carry our ancestors through the sliding doors of emergency rooms and either way they are heavy, either way we can't escape." How do family legacies affect the characters in the novel? How do Lorca and Madeleine cope with tragedy and loss?
3. What does the novel say about the power of music to transform and transport? Which songs comprise the soundtrack to your life?

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



Chris Bohjalian

The Guest Room:

A Novel

978-0-385-53889-3 | \$25.95 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-385-68195-7 | \$24.95C | Doubleday Canada | TR
● 978-0-385-53890-9 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-553-39962-2
📻 CD: 978-0-451-48212-9 | 📖 LP: 978-0-8041-9490-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Jennifer McVeigh, Jodi Picoult, Sue Miller, and Amy Bloom.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Kristin Chapman agrees to let her husband, Richard, host his brother's bachelor party, she expects a certain amount of debauchery. She brings their young daughter to Manhattan for the evening, leaving her Westchester home to the men and their hired entertainment. What she does not expect is this: bacchanalian drunkenness, her husband sharing a dangerously intimate moment in the guest room, and two women stabbing and killing their Russian bodyguards before driving off into the night.

In the aftermath, Kristin and Richard's life rapidly spirals into nightmare. The police throw them out of their home, now a crime scene, Richard's investment banking firm puts him on indefinite leave, and Kristin is unsure if she can forgive her husband for the moment he shared with a dark-haired girl in the guest room. But the dark-haired girl, Alexandra, faces a much graver danger. In one breathless, violent night, she is free, running to escape the police who will arrest her and the gangsters who will kill her in a heartbeat.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the end of chapter 5, Alexandra says she never had faith in hatred, like Sonja did. What accounts for the differences between Sonja and Alexandra?
2. Are most of the men you know similar to Richard, or are they more like his brother, Philip? Are Alexandra's images from *The Bachelor* totally unrealistic?
3. How were you affected by the story Alexandra tells Richard about the crates of Barbie dolls? How do her memories of the dolls compare to Melissa and Kristin's visit to FAO Schwarz?
4. As Alexandra and Richard struggled to be free of their separate turmoil, what outcomes were you envisioning for them? How did the ending compare to your predictions?
5. How did *The Guest Room* enhance your experience of other novels by Chris Bohjalian? What's special about the worlds he brings to life in his storylines?

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

Helen Brown

Tumbledown Manor:

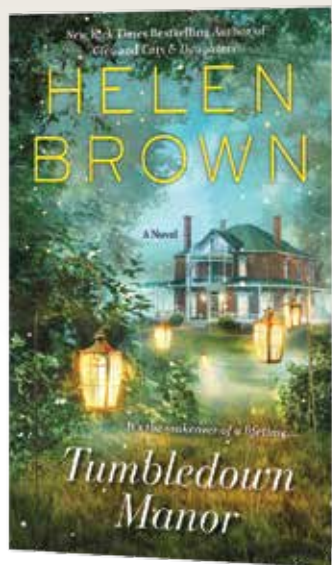
A Novel

978-1-4967-0148-0 | \$15.00/\$16.95C | Kensington | HC

● 978-1-4967-0149-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

From Helen Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cleo* and *Cats & Daughters*, comes a witty, uplifting novel about a woman who discovers that it's never too late to build the home—and the life—you've always longed for.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

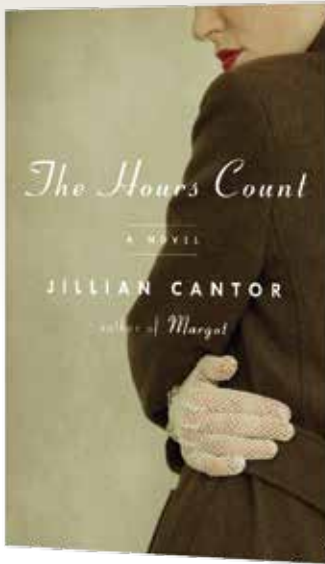
The windows rattle. The roof leaks. Every surface cries out to be stripped, painted, or polished. But for writer Lisa Trumperton, the dilapidated manor house that once belonged to her great-grandfather is far more than the sum of its battered parts. It's the chance for a new start on her own terms. The fact that it's in the Melbourne countryside of her Australian homeland, far from the unfaithful ex-husband she just left behind in New York...well, that's a bonus.

Lisa sets to work refurbishing Trumperton Manor, assisted by her son, his friends, and a "Grey Army" of retired handymen. Piece by piece, the house is pushing Lisa beyond her old limits, daring her to embrace something bigger, braver, and more rewarding than she ever dreamed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. On her birthday ending with a Zero, Lisa's reaction is extreme. What are her options and how could she have reacted differently? Is it better to be a "good wife" and put up with humiliation?
2. Not so long ago, the prospect of moving countries and starting a new life would have been unthinkable for a divorced, midlife woman. What has changed in society for this to be a possibility for Lisa?
3. Lisa's relationship with her sister Maxine changes. Where do their resentments spring from, and how are they healed? How easy is it for adult siblings to make peace with each other?
4. What are the turning points that transform Lisa from victimhood to empowerment?
5. Lisa is a cat lover. Discuss her similarities with Mojo and the parallel paths their stories take. What is the importance of the cockatoo?

For more discussion questions visit: KensingtonBooks.com



Jillian Cantor

The Hours Count:

A Novel

978-1-59463-318-8 | \$26.95/\$34.95C | Riverhead | HC

● 978-0-698-16233-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

A spellbinding historical novel about a woman who befriends Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and is drawn into their world of intrigue, from the author of *Margot*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

On June 19, 1953, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed for conspiring to commit espionage. The day Ethel was arrested in 1950, she left her two young sons with a neighbor, and she never came home to them again. Brilliantly melding fact and fiction, Jillian Cantor reimagines this story through the life of a fictional neighbor, Millie Stein, and the life of Ethel and Julius, an ordinary-seeming Jewish couple who became the only Americans put to death for spying during the Cold War.

Millie is trusting and naive, a young wife and mother struggling with her troubled son and dangerously drawn to his mysterious doctor. As she's thrown into a world of lies, betrayal, spies and counterspies, she realizes she must fight for what she believes, whom she loves, and what is right.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

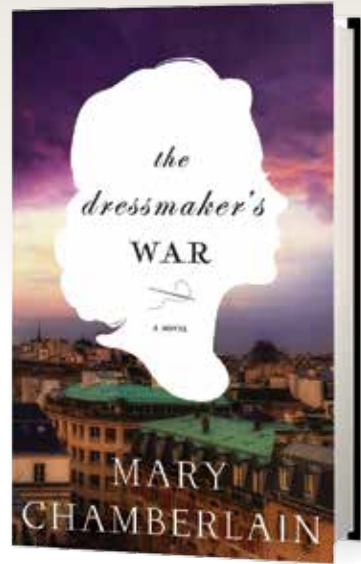
1. How does the time period and the era of McCarthyism play a role in the novel? What about the setting of New York City in the 1950s and the difficulties that the Rosenbergs as well as Millie's family both faced?
2. The title, *The Hours Count*, comes from a Picasso quote about the Rosenbergs. How does it fit the story in this novel as well as the fictional character of Millie?
3. Does Millie's view of Ethel and this story change what you have thought or known about Ethel Rosenberg historically? What were your previous perceptions?
4. Who in the novel could be considered guilty and of what? Who is innocent?

For more discussion questions visit: JillianCantor.com

Mary Chamberlain
**The Dressmaker's
War: A Novel**

978-0-8129-9737-8 | \$27.00/\$35.00C | Random House | HC
● 978-0-8129-9738-5

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Amy Bloom, Sarah Waters, and
Anthony Doerr.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

London, 1939. Ada Vaughan is a young working-class woman with an unusual skill for dressmaking who dreams of opening her own atelier. When she meets Stanislaus von Lieben, a Hungarian aristocrat, a new, better life seems to arrive. But when war breaks out and Stanislaus vanishes, Ada is abandoned and alone, trapped on an increasingly dangerous continent.

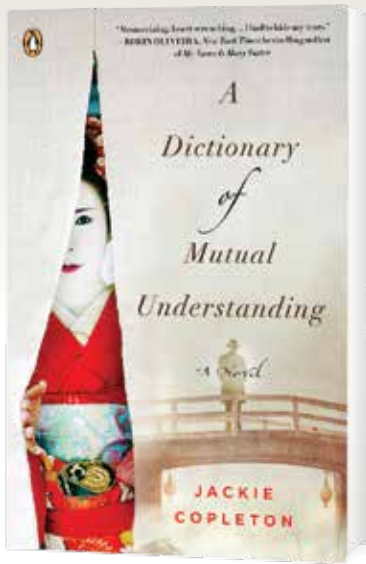
Taken prisoner by the Germans, Ada does everything she can to survive. But after the war, attempting to rebuild her life in London, Ada finds that no one is interested in the messy truths of what happened to women like her. And though Ada thought she had left the war behind, her past eventually comes to light, with devastating consequences.

Gorgeously written and compulsively readable, *The Dressmaker's War* introduces us to an unforgettable heroine.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When Stanislaus appears, near the beginning of the story, Ada falls for him almost instantly. Why do you think she is so susceptible to his charm? What are some of the possibilities that Stanislaus represents, to Ada? Is she changed by him, and if so, how?
2. Throughout the story, there are many instances of people changing their appearances. What are some of these instances, both good and bad? How does dressmaking, and clothing in general, relate to this theme?
3. Why do you think Ada ignores the warnings of war, when Stanislaus invites her to Paris? How might her life have turned out differently, if she hadn't gone?
4. Back in London, Ada finds that most people don't want to talk about the messy or complicated parts of the war. There is a notion of a so-called "good war"—what do you think this means? Why would Ada's war not be considered a "good war"?

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



Jackie Copleton

A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding:

A Novel

978-0-14-312825-0 | \$16.00/\$21.00C | Penguin Books | TR
● 978-0-698-40732-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

In the tradition of *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *The Piano Teacher*, comes a heart-wrenching debut novel set against the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki, rich with intimate betrayals, family secrets, and a shocking love affair.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Amaterasu Takahashi opens the door of her Philadelphia home to a badly scarred man claiming to be her grandson, Hideo, she doesn't believe him. Her grandson and her daughter, Yuko, perished nearly forty years ago during the bombing of Nagasaki. Ama is forced to confront her memories of the years before the war: of the daughter she tried too hard to protect and the love affair that would drive them apart, and even farther back, to the long, sake-pouring nights at a hostess bar where she first learned that a soft heart was a dangerous thing. She must decide whether the man calling himself Hideo is really her long-lost grandson. Once you've become adept at lying to others and yourself, can you still recognize the truth? Will Ama allow herself to believe in a miracle?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Sato says that personal goals must match national ambitions. Do you agree? When it comes to war, do you think personal sacrifice is justified if it is for the greater good of a nation? Do we owe our country a "blood debt?" How big a part does national loyalty play in today's politics?
2. A new generation of people who were not even born when the bombs were dropped are now taking on the responsibility of passing on the stories of the survivors, the hibakusha. How important is it to remember the past?
3. How did the chapter headings help your understanding of the characters and the cultural conditions they were bound by? Did any of the definitions remind you of similar attitudes in the West?
4. What did you think when the character of Hideo was introduced at the beginning of the book? Did you believe he was who he claimed to be? Did your opinion change throughout the course of the book? Is this man Hideo Watanabe?

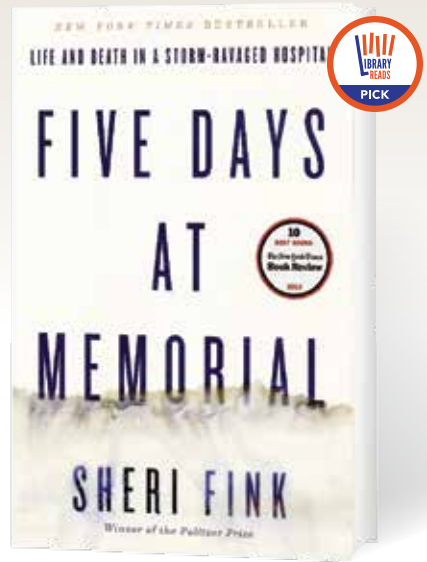
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

Sheri Fink

Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm- Ravaged Hospital

978-0-307-71897-6 | \$17.00/\$22.00C | Broadway Books | TR
HC: 978-0-307-71896-9 | ● 978-0-307-71898-3
📍 AD: 978-0-804-12812-4 | 📍 CD: 978-0-804-12811-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Katherine Boo, Rebecca Skloot,
Jonathan Harr,



ABOUT THE BOOK:

One of the *New York Times*'s Best Ten Books of the Year and Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction

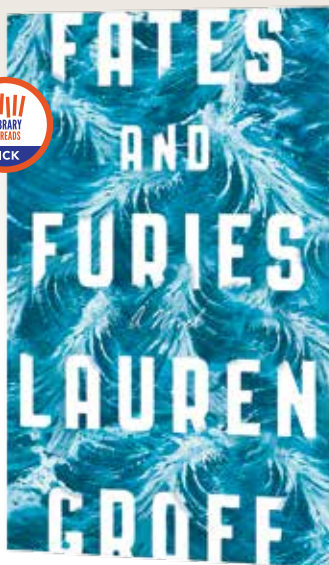
After Katrina struck and the floodwaters rose, the power failed, and the heat climbed, exhausted caregivers chose to designate certain patients last for rescue. Months later, several of those caregivers faced criminal allegations that they deliberately injected numerous patients with drugs to hasten their deaths.

Five Days at Memorial, the culmination of six years of reporting by Pulitzer Prize winner Sheri Fink, unspools the mystery of what happened in those days, bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life and into a conversation about the most terrifying form of health care rationing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you characterize what happened to some of the patients at Memorial Hospital: euthanasia, homicide, or something else?
2. What responsibility did Tenet and Lifecare have to help their staff and patients stranded by Hurricane Katrina? Was either corporation held sufficiently accountable for what transpired?
3. What is your understanding of the "Do Not Resuscitate" order? Have you set up an advanced directive for yourself? Has reading *Five Days at Memorial* affected how you would want your own care handled?
4. Discuss the ways in which race directly or indirectly affected the situation at Memorial Hospital.

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



Lauren Groff

Fates and Furies:

A Novel

978-1-59463-447-5 | \$27.95/\$33.50C | Riverhead | HC

● 978-0-698-40512-7

🔗 AD: 978-1-101-92385-6 | 📖 CD: 978-1-101-92384-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of literary fiction, comes a *New York Times* bestselling novel about marriage, creativity, art, and perception.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Every story has two sides. Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, it turns out, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets. At the core of this rich, expansive, layered novel, Lauren Groff presents the story of one such marriage over the course of twenty-four years.

At age twenty-two, Lotto and Mathilde are tall, glamorous, madly in love, and destined for greatness. A decade later, their marriage is still the envy of their friends, but with an electric thrill we understand that things are even more complicated and remarkable than they have seemed. With stunning revelations and multiple threads, and in prose that is vibrantly alive and original, Groff delivers a deeply satisfying novel about love, art, creativity, and power that is unlike anything that has come before it. Profound, surprising, propulsive, and emotionally riveting, *Fates and Furies* stirs both the mind and the heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Fates and Furies* is told in halves. Why do you think the author chose to narrate this way? How does the split storytelling affect your read of the book, and how might this be symbolic of the characters' inner lives?
2. Consider Mathilde's final decision—to keep her past a secret for so many years. Do you think she should have told Lotto the truth?
3. *Fates and Furies* spans over a long period of time. Chronologically, the plot is very complex. How do Lotto and Mathilde change over the years, together and apart? Do you think they had a happy marriage?

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

Sara Gruen

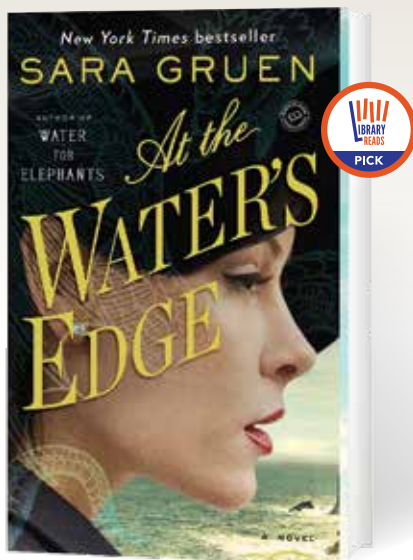
At the Water's Edge:

A Novel

978-0-385-52324-0 | \$16.00 | Spiegel & Grau | TR
978-0-385-66449-3 | \$19.95C | Anchor Canada
HC: 978-0-385-52323-3 | ● 978-0-8129-9789-7
AD: 978-1-101-88939-8 | CD: 978-1-101-88938-1
LP: 978-0-8041-9481-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Water for Elephants*, *The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls*, and *Rules of Civility* and fans of *Downton Abbey*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

After disgracing themselves at a high society party in Philadelphia in 1944, Madeline Hyde and her husband, Ellis, are cut off financially by his father. When Ellis and his best friend, Hank, decide that the only way to regain the Colonel's favor is to succeed where the Colonel very publicly failed—by hunting down the famous Loch Ness monster—Maddie reluctantly follows them across the Atlantic, leaving her sheltered world behind.

The trio find themselves in a remote village in the Scottish Highlands, where the locals have nothing but contempt for the privileged interlopers. Maddie is left on her own at the isolated inn, yet gradually she comes to know the villagers, and the friendships she forms with two young women open her up to a larger world than she knew existed.

As she embraces a fuller sense of who she might be, Maddie becomes aware not only of the dark forces around her, but of life's beauty and surprising possibilities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Monsters come in all different forms in *At the Water's Edge*. What are some of the monsters in the novel? How are they different from what you might expect?
2. Throughout *At the Water's Edge*, Maddie transforms from a woman who is spoiled, naïve, and helpless to one who is brave and capable. What are the biggest lessons Maddie learns throughout the course of the novel?
3. Discuss the novel's ambiguity concerning the supernatural. How does Gruen blend mystical elements into the narrative's realism? Did Ellis and Hank find the Loch Ness Monster after all?
4. Do you think Maddie and Ellis were ever truly in love? What did you think of Ellis? Did you sympathize with him? Did Ellis change as a character in the course of the novel or did the changes all take place within Maddie?

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

Garth Risk Hallberg

City on Fire: A Novel

978-0-385-35377-9 | \$30.00 | Knopf | HC

978-0-385-68274-9 | \$39.95C | Bond Street Books

● 978-0-385-35378-6

📍 AD: 978-1-101-88880-3 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-88879-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Jonathan Franzen, Michael Chabon, Thomas Pynchon, Jennifer Egan, and David Foster Wallace.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

New York City, 1976. Meet Regan and William Hamilton-Sweeney, estranged heirs to one of the city's great fortunes; Keith and Mercer, the men who, for better or worse, love them; Charlie and Samantha, two suburban teenagers seduced by downtown's punk scene; an obsessive magazine reporter and his idealistic neighbor—and the detective trying to figure out what any of them have to do with a shooting in Central Park on New Year's Eve.

The mystery, as it reverberates through families, friendships, and the corridors of power, will open up even the loneliest-seeming corners of the crowded city. And when the blackout of July 13, 1977, plunges this world into darkness, each of these lives will be changed forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Analyze the structure of the novel. What might be the purpose of the inclusion of Interludes? How does the overall structure help to reveal or support the novel's major themes? What does the structure indicate about time and memory, for example, or the interconnectedness of things?
2. Who would you say is the central character of the novel? Did you feel allied with any one individual as you were reading? Did this shift over the course of the book?
3. How well would you say the characters in the novel know one another? What prevents them from knowing one another better or more intimately? The narrative conjectures that "the nearer a thing is to us . . . the easier it is to lose sight of" (page 816). How do you interpret this line? Do any of the characters reach a greater understanding of one another as the book approaches its conclusion? If so, what allows them to do this?

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

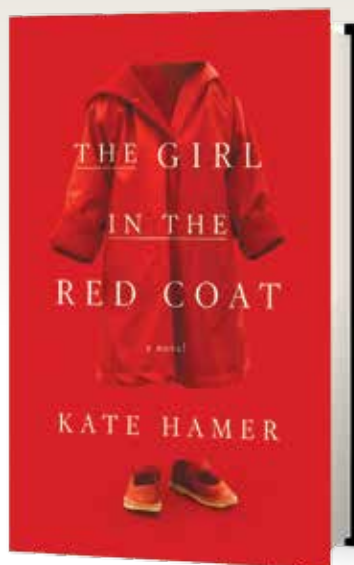
Kate Hamer
The Girl in the Red Coat: A Novel

978-1-61219-500-1 | \$25.95 | Melville House | HC
● 978-1-61219-501-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

"...Although a kidnapped child is the central plot point, this is not a mystery but a novel of deep inquiry and intense emotions. Hamer's dark tale of the lost and found is nearly impossible to put down and will spark much discussion."

—Booklist, starred review



ABOUT THE BOOK:

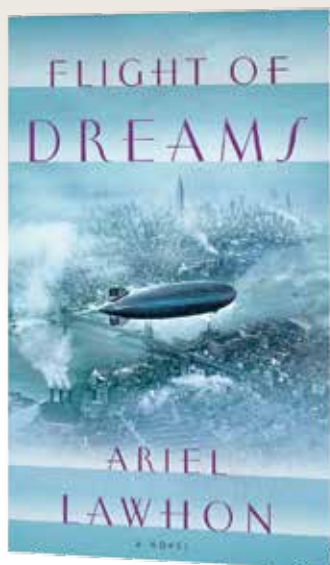
Eight-year-old Carmel has always been different—sensitive, distracted, with an heart-stopping tendency to go missing. Her mother Beth, newly single, worries about her daughter's strangeness, especially as she is trying to build a new life for the two of them.

When she takes Carmel to a local festival, her worst fear is realized: Carmel disappears into the crowd. Unable to accept the possibility that her daughter might be gone forever, Beth embarks on a mission to find her. Meanwhile, Carmel begins an extraordinary and terrifying journey of her own, one that requires her to live by her wits while trying to keep in her head, at all times, a vision of her mother.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the beginning of the novel, Beth briefly loses Carmel in a maze. What is the significance of this moment? How did it influence your reaction to the scenes at the festival?
2. Beth tells Carmel that, regardless of what happens, Carmel must stay uniquely "Carmel" inside. Are names an important aspect of this story? Can you think of any examples where names play a significant role in the text?
3. Families, or, more importantly, family difficulties, are central to *The Girl in the Red Coat*. What are the various family dynamics at work? Where are there parallels and where are there inconsistencies?
4. Discuss Beth and her ex-husband's shifting relationship. Consider how it is strengthened and changed by Carmel's disappearance. As Beth says, "we were brother and sister united in this strange bond."

For more discussion questions visit: MHPBooks.com



Ariel Lawhon

Flight of Dreams:

A Novel

978-0-385-54002-5 | \$25.95/\$33.95C | Doubleday | HC

● 978-0-385-54003-2

📍 AD: 978-0-399-56564-9 | 📍 CD: 978-0-399-56563-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *At the Water's Edge* by Sara Gruen, *The Dressmaker* by Kate Alcott, *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake, and *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

On the evening of May 3, 1937, Emilie Imhof boards the *Hindenburg*. As the only female crewmember, Emilie has access to the entire airship, from the lavish dining rooms and passenger suites to the gritty engine cars and control room. She hears everything, but with rumors circulating about bomb threats, Emilie's focus is on maintaining a professional air...and keeping her own plans under wraps. What Emilie can't see is that everyone—from the dynamic vaudeville acrobat to the high-standing German officer—seems to be hiding something.

Giving free rein to countless theories of sabotage, charade, and mishap, *Flight of Dreams* takes us on the thrilling three-day transatlantic flight, and as the novel moves inexorably toward its tragic climax, the question of which of the passengers will survive the trip infuses every scene with a deliciously unbearable tension.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Even though Max wasn't directly responsible for the Captain finding out about Emilie's plans, he still played a part. How did you feel about her forgiveness and her ultimate choice? What decision would you have made under the same circumstances?
2. Class and status play a big role in the organization of life on the *Hindenburg*. How did you see that reflected in the interactions between the passengers? How would you equate it with your travel experiences today?
3. As is referenced in the book this flight happened amidst the rising power of the Nazis in Germany. Who were the passengers most affected by this and do you think it influenced the way events played out on the ship?
4. Did you find yourself feeling empathy for The American at any point? Do you see his motivations and ultimately his actions as justified in any way?

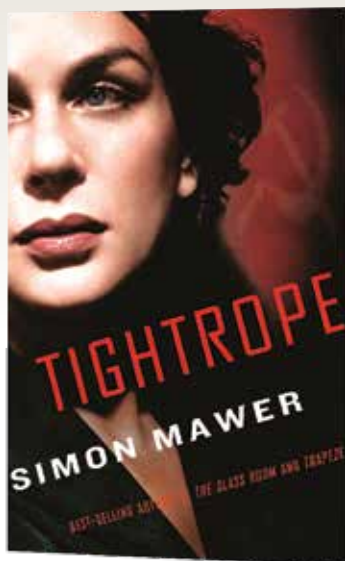
For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)

Simon Mawer Tightrope

978-1-59051-723-9 | \$15.95 | Other Press | TR
● 978-1-59051-724-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

"Heroine/'traitor' Marian, introduced in *Trapeze*, is compelling and complicated. ...Excellent for historical thriller readers and those interested in the dawn of the nuclear era." —*Library Journal*



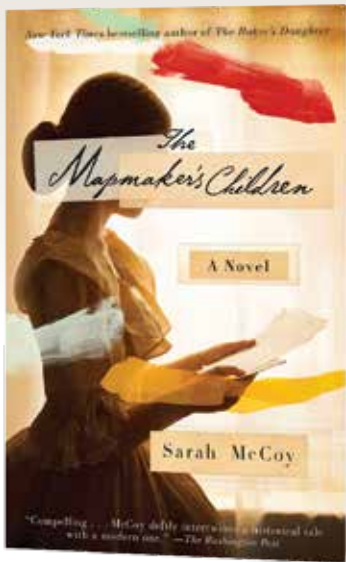
ABOUT THE BOOK:

A novel of divided loyalties and mixed motives, telling the complex and enigmatic story of a woman whose search for personal identity and fulfillment leads to shocking choices. As Allied forces close in on Berlin in spring 1945, a solitary figure emerges from the wreckage that is Germany. It is Marian Sutro, whose existence was last known to her British controllers in autumn 194 in Paris. One of a handful of surviving agents of the Special Operations Executive, she has withstood arrest, interrogation, incarceration, and the horrors of Ravensbrück concentration camp, but at what cost?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In one conversation with Absolon, the narrator explains that Marian “felt like [she was] walking a tightrope, feeling the balance, knowing that a slight shift to either side might be fatal” (328). What does the “tightrope” of the title refer to?
2. Marian and Sam (the narrator) spend a weekend putting together a puzzle of “Millais’s painting of Ophelia drowning” (169). Sam returns to the image of the drowning Ophelia again and again. What does this image symbolize? Are there any similarities between Marian and Ophelia?
3. Describe Marian’s relationship with language. (See “Words don’t do it, do they?” p 223; “...once out in the open [her experiences] would be transformed by words, a string of words, into something that would never match the reality” p 194; “Her mind stumbled over...meanings and implications, all the hidden connotations in the code of ordinary language” p 141.)
4. When she hears about the bombs being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Marian experiences deep feelings of guilt. What is Marian’s relationship with guilt? What else does she feel guilty about? When does she express an absence of guilt?

For more discussion questions visit: OtherPress.com/Books/Tightrope



Sarah McCoy

The Mapmaker's Children: A Novel

978-0-385-34892-8 | \$15.00/\$20.00 | Broadway Books | TR
HC: 978-0-385-34890-4 | ● 978-0-385-34891-1
□ AD: 978-1-101-88987-9 | □ CD: 978-1-101-88986-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of women's and historical fiction like *Sarah's Key*, *The House Girl*, and *The Last Runaway*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Sarah Brown, daughter of abolitionist John Brown, realizes that her artistic talents may be able to help save the lives of slaves fleeing north, she becomes one of the Underground Railroad's leading mapmakers, hiding her maps within her paintings.

Eden, a woman desperate to conceive a child with her husband, moves to an old house in the suburbs and discovers a porcelain head hidden in the root cellar—the remains of an Underground Railroad doll with an extraordinary past of secret messages, danger and deliverance.

Ingenuously plotted to a riveting end, Sarah and Eden's woven lives connect the past to the present, forcing each of them to define courage, family, love, and legacy in a new way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Women's roles have come a long way over the last 150 years, and yet, we still battle stereotypes of how to live and define our families. What similarities do you see in Sarah and Eden's worlds and what major differences? How do you see yourself as compared to them and to the women of past generations in your family?
2. Sarah Brown's paintings, the process of creating them, the people she aided, and the mode in which she distributed her artwork were all dangerous and unconventional for anyone, but particularly for a woman during the Civil War. In what ways do you see the arts influencing politics and challenging societal parameters today?
3. At the conclusion of the book, how do you see Eden and Sarah creating and defining their own unique families? Do you believe there exists a social stereotype of the "perfect family"? If so, discuss the positive and negative qualities, and why you believe people have adhered to these social constructs now and 150 years ago.

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

Elizabeth McKenzie

The Portable Veblen:

A Novel

978-1-5942-0685-6 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | The Penguin Press | HC
● 978-0-698-41114-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

An exuberant, brilliantly written novel about love and family, war and nature, and new money and old values, perfect for readers of Maria Semple, Karen Joy Fowler, Emma Straub, and Meg Wolitzer.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Set amid a California culture clash of new money and antiestablishment values, *The Portable Veblen* introduces a young couple who find their engagement in danger of collapse. Not quite liberated from the burdens of her narcissistic mother and her institutionalized father, Veblen is an amateur translator and “freelance self”—in other words, she’s adrift. Meanwhile, neurologist Paul has developed a device that minimizes battlefield brain trauma, an invention that plunges him into a high-stakes deal with the Department of Defense. With Paul swept up by the promise of fame and fortune, Veblen tries to keep the peace between all dysfunctional parties as the wedding approaches, until she finds herself falling for someone—or something—else. As bighearted as it is funny, *The Portable Veblen* asks: Where do our families end and we begin? How do we stay true to our ideals? This dazzlingly original novel is a fearless inquiry into what we look for in love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Soon after getting engaged, Veblen wonders, “Was this the stuff married life would be made of, two people making way for the confounding spectacle of the other, bewildered and slightly afraid?” Do you think this idea of marriage comes to fruition over the course of the book? What are some examples of “married life” we encounter?
2. What are Paul’s relationships with his parents and brother like? How does his childhood in Humboldt inform his decisions with Veblen and his career?
3. At a rocky point in her and Paul’s engagement, Veblen asserts that she “thought she knew what she was about...Escapist feelings at this point showed a serious breakdown in self-discipline.” How does Veblen reckon with self-doubt, sadness, and other emotional distress in her life? Do you think this attitude and approach is more for her, or for her loved ones?
4. Discuss the squirrel. Why do Veblen and Paul have such different reactions to his presence?

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



Andromeda Romano-Lax

Behave: A Novel

978-1-61695-653-0 | \$26.95/\$26.95C | Soho Press | HC
● 978-1-61695-654-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Paris Wife*, historical fiction readers, and those with an interest in the "roaring '20s."

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A novel of passion and ambition based on the life of one of the most controversial scientists—and mothers—of the 20th century. In 1920, when she graduated from Vassar College with a degree in psychology, Rosalie Rayner took a coveted position at the Johns Hopkins research lab to assist charismatic John B. Watson, the man who pioneered behaviorist psychology. Together, Watson and Rayner conducted experiments on hundreds of babies to prove behaviorist principles of nurture over nature. One such experiment was the incredibly controversial "Little Albert" study, in which they fear-conditioned an infant. Watson and Rayner also embarked on a scandalous affair that cost them both their jobs. The Watsons' parenting book, *Psychological Care of Infant and Child*, which emphasized emotional detachment, was a bestseller and affected the upbringings of generations of American children—but Rosalie, now a mother herself, had to confront its tenets personally.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. On page 53, Rosalie's father asserts (in reference to eugenics) that "scientists are misusing what they don't understand to divide humanity up all over again." Does John's scientific work go against this trend, or in a way does it also "divide humanity up"?
2. A number of times John claims that you have to avoid being "softhearted" or "sentimental" to be a scientist. What scenarios does *Behave* present to support and challenge this notion? Does it suggest that detachment actually is necessary for effective scientific research? To what extent?
3. Based on Rosalie's descriptions of John and her explanations of his motives and behavior, did the events of his life encourage his behaviorist ideology? Why or why not?
4. On page 133, Annie comments that "Sometimes . . . I think the only way things change is on a whim." Does *Behave* support this notion, or does it favor Rosalie and John's idea of change coming from "logical, measured, reasoned decision"?

For more discussion questions visit: SohoPress.com

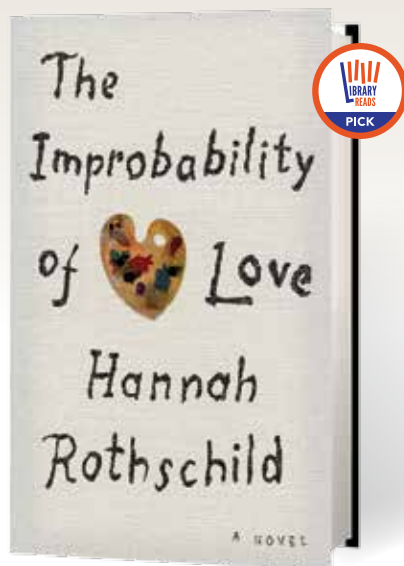
Hannah Rothschild

The Improbability of Love: A Novel

978-1-101-87414-1 | \$27.95/\$35.95C | Knopf | HC
978-1-101-87415-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

The Goldfinch meets *The History of Love* with the wit and pace of *Where'd You Go Bernadette*.



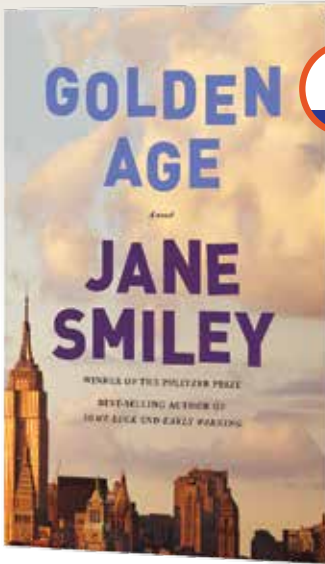
ABOUT THE BOOK:

In *The Improbability of Love* we meet Annie McDee, thirty-one, who is working as a chef for two rather sinister art dealers. Recovering from the end of a long-term relationship, she is searching in a neglected secondhand shop for a birthday present for her unsuitable new lover. Hidden behind a rubber plant on top of a file cabinet, a grimy painting catches her eye. After spending her meager savings on the picture, Annie prepares an elaborate birthday dinner for two, only to be stood up. The painting becomes hers, and as it turns out, Annie has stumbled across a lost masterpiece by one of the most important French painters of the eighteenth century. But who painted this masterpiece is not clear at first. Soon Annie finds herself pursued by interested parties who would do anything to possess her picture. In her search for the painting's identity, Annie will unwittingly uncover some of the darkest secrets of European history—as well as the possibility of falling in love again.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The voice of *The Improbability of Love* shifts between sections. How does the oscillation between the removed third-person narrative and the “voice” of the painting contribute to the narrative progress? What does the painting’s voice reveal to readers? How would you characterize “him”?
2. *The Improbability of Love* provides readers with a glimpse into the high-stakes world of the art-buying market. How would you characterize the business? Discuss the tension between art for collectors (or capital gains) versus art for public consumption as explored within the novel.
3. Deception and secrecy are found throughout the plotlines of *The Improbability of Love*. Which characters use deception to get ahead? Which people demonstrate the most authentic version of themselves to the world? Which secrets are most surprising?

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



Jane Smiley

Golden Age: A Novel

978-0-307-70034-6 | \$26.95/\$34.95C | Knopf | HC

● 978-0-385-35244-4

📍 AD: 978-1-101-88912-1 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-88911-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For the readers of *Some Luck* and *Early Warning*; for fans of Marilynne Robinson, Anita Diamant, Richard Ford, Louise Erdrich, and Penny Vincenzi.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the winner of the Pulitzer Prize: the much-anticipated final volume, following *Some Luck* and *Early Warning*, of her acclaimed American trilogy—a richly absorbing new novel that brings the remarkable Langdon family into our present times and beyond.

A lot can happen in one hundred years, as Jane Smiley shows to dazzling effect in her Last Hundred Years trilogy. But as *Golden Age*, its final installment, opens in 1987, the next generation of Langdons face economic, social, political—and personal—challenges unlike anything their ancestors have encountered before.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Had you read *Some Luck* or *Early Warning*, the first two books in this trilogy, before you read *Golden Age*? Either way, how does the book's opening introduce you to the family, particularly Charlie Wickett, who is meeting the Langdon family for the first time after living his whole life without knowing them? How does his outsider's perspective shed new light on characteristics of the other Langdons?
2. What is it about Michael and Richie Langdon's shared genes and home environment that allow them to thrive in the risky financial and political worlds they enter as adults, despite their many differences in temperament and values?
3. In what ways does Jesse represent a new generation of farmer, especially compared to how his father, Joe, changed things from the way Joe's own father, Walter, ran the farm in the early twentieth century? Do the new tools and technologies available to Jesse always help the farm and farmers, or not? How do the stakes of agriculture in the United States change during this novel's timeframe (1987-2019)?

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

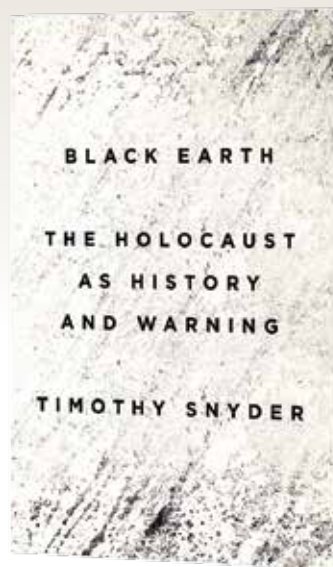
Timothy Snyder

Black Earth:

The Holocaust as History and Warning

978-1-101-90345-2 | \$30.00/\$37.00C | Tim Duggan Books | HC
TR | 978-1-101-90347-6 | September 2016
● 978-1-101-90346-9
📍 AD: 978-1-101-92608-6 | 📍 CD: 978-1-101-92607-9

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of eye-opening global history in the tradition of Jared Diamond, Ari Shavit, and Anne Applebaum.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

The Holocaust began in a dark but accessible place, in Hitler's mind, with the thought that the elimination of Jews would restore balance to the planet and allow Germans to win the resources they desperately needed. Such a worldview could be realized only if Germany destroyed other states, so Hitler's aim was a colonial war in Europe itself. In the zones of statelessness, almost all Jews died. A few people, the righteous few, aided them, without support from institutions. Much of the new research in this book is devoted to understanding these extraordinary individuals. The almost insurmountable difficulties they faced only confirm the dangers of state destruction and ecological panic. These men and women should be emulated, but in similar circumstances few of us would do so.

Based on new sources from eastern Europe and forgotten testimonies from Jewish survivors, *Black Earth* recounts the mass murder of the Jews as an event that is still close to us, more comprehensible than we would like to think, and thus all the more terrifying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your take on Snyder's assertion that Hitler was attempting to "colonize" eastern Europe just as England, France, and Belgium had earlier colonized the African continent?
2. "Every Jew who survived the Holocaust had to fight collective inertia, abandon the familiar and the beloved, and confront the unfathomable" (p. 250). If you were part of a persecuted minority—even with the lessons of history—how prepared would you be to leave behind everything you have and know in order to save yourself and your family?
3. Recently, Oskar Gröning, a ninety-three-year-old former SS soldier, made headlines when he was put on trial for the crimes he committed while working at Auschwitz. He has pled guilty to "moral complicity," but claims he is free from "criminal responsibility" for his acts. After reading *Black Earth*, how do you view his plea for lenience?

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



J. Ryan Stradal

Kitchens of the Great Midwest:

A Novel

978-0-525-42914-2 | \$25.00/\$28.00C | Pamela Dorman Books | HC

📖 eBook: 978-0-698-19651-3

📻 AD: 978-1-101-91500-4 | 📻 CD: 978-1-101-91499-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

An IndieNext and #1 LibraryReads pick, *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* was the most talked-about debut from summer 2015.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Cynthia Thorvald falls in love with a fellow sommelier and out of love with family life, leaving behind newborn daughter Eva and a devastated husband, Lars. But Lars is a determined father, and instills his passion for food in the infant Eva, feeding her the finest produce and a carefully planned menu including pureed pork shoulder and osso buco. As Eva grows, and her family is torn apart, she finds solace in food and the friendship of her two cousins, Braque and Randy, and eventually becomes a globally renowned chef, famous for her legendarily opulent pop-up dinners. Told in chapters, *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* weaves together the perspectives of eight people in Eva Thorvald's orbit with bake-offs, eating contests and potluck dinners that shaped her story of pain, spirit, and resilience. *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* is a favorite among booksellers, librarians, critics, and now readers, who made it a *New York Times* bestseller, and shares an incredible tale of how the food we eat and the people we meet shape the world around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

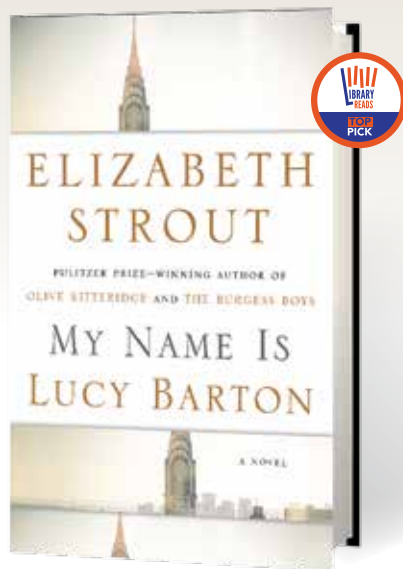
1. Stradal structures the novel as a collection of smaller vignettes from many different points of view. What are the advantages of this narrative style?
2. Throughout the novel, characters and stories intersect in unexpected ways. Which of these connections surprised you most? Which seem most important to Eva's story?
3. Eva Thorvald is the heroine of the novel, but in some ways she is still quite mysterious. What is it about her that draws people to her?
4. The recipes prepared in Eva's feast serve as a walk through her memory. How do foods or recipes play a role in your own memory or life story?

For more discussion questions visit: JRyanStradal.com/book-club

Elizabeth Strout
**My Name is Lucy
Barton:** A Novel

978-1-4000-6769-5 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | Random House | HC
● 978-0-8129-8907-6
📍 AD: 978-0-307-96714-5 | 📍 CD: 978-0-307-96713-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *Olive Kitteridge* and *Our Souls
at Night*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

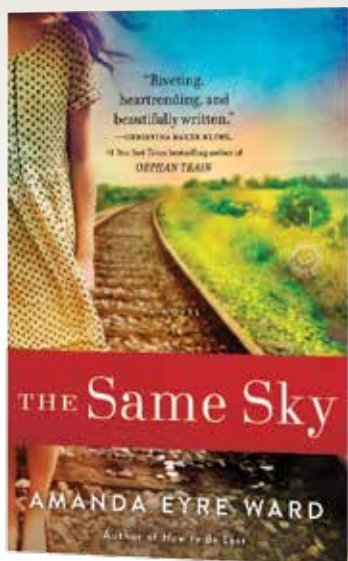
In *My Name Is Lucy Barton*, this extraordinary writer shows how a simple hospital visit becomes a portal to the most tender relationship of all—the one between mother and daughter.

Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life: her escape from her troubled family, her desire to become a writer, her marriage, her love for her two daughters. Knitting this powerful narrative together is the brilliant storytelling voice of Lucy herself: keenly observant, deeply human, and truly unforgettable.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think Lucy blames her mother for the more painful parts of her childhood? Could her mother have done better?
2. Why did Lucy keep returning again and again to see the marble statue at the Metropolitan Museum of Art?
3. How has the poverty of Lucy's childhood shaped her life and her work?
4. What did Sarah Payne mean, when she said to Lucy: "We only have one story"?
5. Lucy's husband asked her mother to visit her in the hospital, and paid for her trip. Do you think that was a gesture of love on his part?
6. What role does the gossip Lucy and her mother share play in the book?
7. Lucy expresses great love for her doctor. How would you describe that love?

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



Amanda Eyre Ward

The Same Sky:

A Novel

978-1-101-88376-1 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Ballantine Books | TR
HC: 978-0-553-39050-6 | ● 978-0-553-39051-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Jodi Picoult, *Orphan Train*, *The Language of Flowers*, and *The Light Between the Oceans*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Alice and her husband, Jake, own a barbecue restaurant in Austin, Texas. Hardworking and popular in their community, they have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing.

Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother Junior. Years ago, her mother left the family behind in Honduras to make the arduous, illegal journey to Texas. But when Carla's grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes fate into her own hands—and with Junior, she joins the thousands of children making their way across Mexico to America, facing great peril for the chance at a better life.

Poignant and arresting, *The Same Sky* is about finding courage through struggle, hope amid heartache, and summoning the strength—no matter what dangers await—to find the place where you belong.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. At the beginning of the novel we learn that Carla's mother left for Texas when Carla was just five years old. How does that experience shape Carla, for better or for worse?
2. Carla and Alice come from very different backgrounds, but their lives are ultimately connected. What qualities or personality traits do they share?
3. Through the different experiences of Alice, Jane, and Carla, the author explores three unique attitudes toward motherhood. What resonated with you about the experiences of all three characters as they reflected on the idea of motherhood and its role in their lives?
4. At various points in the novel, Alice and Jake disagree about whether or not they should continue trying to adopt. What would you do if your spouse told you that he or she couldn't take the heartbreak of any more failed adoptions?

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

Andria Williams

The Longest Night:

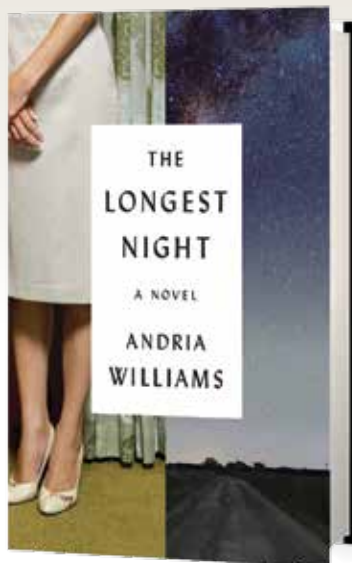
A Novel

978-0-8129-9774-3 | \$27.00/\$35.00C | Random House | HC

● 978-0-8129-9775-0 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-14-752318-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Sue Miller, Chris Bohjalian, *Revolutionary Road*, *The Orchadist*, and *Orphan Train*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1959, Nat Collier moves with her husband, Paul, and their two young daughters to Idaho Falls, a remote military town. An Army Specialist, Paul is stationed there to help oversee one of the country's first nuclear reactors. Then, on his rounds, Paul discovers that the reactor is compromised, placing his family and the entire community in danger. Worse, his superiors set out to cover up the problem rather than fix it. Paul can't bring himself to tell Nat the truth, but his lies only widen a growing gulf between them.

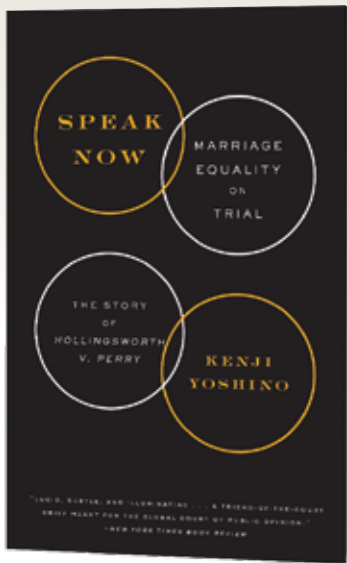
Lonely and restless, Nat is having trouble adjusting to their new life. When she meets a rancher, Esrom, she finds herself drawn to him. But as rumors spread, the secrets between Nat and Paul build and threaten to reach a breaking point.

Based on a true story of the only fatal nuclear accident to occur in America, *The Longest Night* is a deeply moving novel that explores the intricate makeup of a marriage, the shifting nature of trust, and the ways we try to protect the ones we love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When Nat first meets Jeannie at the dinner party, she's alternately impressed and frightened by her. In what ways does Nat attempt to be the proper 1950s military wife, like Jeannie, and where does she reject this? Do you think she wishes she could be a "better" wife?
2. Paul, Jeannie, Nat, and Esrom all struggle with loneliness in various ways. Which character do you think does the best job overcoming their loneliness?
3. Nat's friend, Patrice, is angry with Nat when she learns of her friendship with Esrom. Do you think Patrice overreacted, or was her frustration with Nat justified? Does her role as a fellow military wife give her particular insight into Nat's behavior, and if so, why don't you think she was more sympathetic?

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



Kenji Yoshino

Speak Now:

Marriage Equality on Trial

978-0-385-34882-9 | \$16.00/\$21.00C | Broadway Books | TR
HC: 978-0-385-34880-5 | ● 978-0-385-34881-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of classic courtroom dramas, historical, and political books like *Simple Justice*, *Gideon's Trumpet*, and *The Oath*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Speak Now tells the story of a watershed trial that unfolded over twelve tense days in California in 2010. A trial that legalized same-sex marriage in our most populous state. A trial that interrogated the nature of marriage, the political status of gays and lesbians, the ideal circumstances for raising children, and the ability of direct democracy to protect fundamental rights. A trial that stands as the most potent argument for marriage equality this nation has ever seen.

In telling the story of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the groundbreaking federal lawsuit against Proposition 8, Kenji Yoshino has also written a paean to the vanishing civil trial, an oasis of rationality in what is often a decidedly uncivil debate. Above all, this book is a work of deep humanity, in which Yoshino brings abstract legal arguments to life by sharing his own story of finding love, marrying, and having children as a gay man.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Before reading *Speak Now*, what did you know about the history of marriage equality litigation in this country? What did you learn that surprised you?
2. One of the most famous moments in the trial came during the summary judgment hearing, when Judge Walker asked what harms would arise as a result of same-sex marriage and Cooper responded: "I don't know." How did Cooper's answer come back to haunt him? Should it have? How persuasive was Cooper's argument that those words were taken out of context?
3. Yoshino traces the "Protect Our Children" theme of the Prop 8 campaign back to Anita Bryant's anti-gay "Save Our Children" campaign from the 1970s. Why did the supporters of Prop 8 use language that was similar to—yet distinct from—a phrase used in earlier anti-gay campaigns? And how did "Protect Our Children" ultimately flip to become a rallying cry for supporters of same-sex marriage?

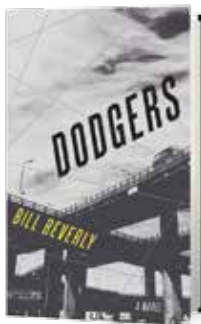
For more discussion questions visit: PenguinRandomHouse.com



Rebecca Alexander
The Secrets of Blood and Bone: A Novel

978-0-804-14070-6 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Broadway Books | TR
 ● 978-0-804-14071-3

In the stunning follow-up to *The Secrets of Life and Death*, Rebecca Alexander has created a gripping supernatural thriller that bridges time, legend, and the power of blood. For fans of *A Discovery of Witches*, *City of Dark Magic*, and *The Witch's Daughter*.



Bill Beverly
Dodgers: A Novel

978-1-101-90373-5 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | Crown Trade | HC | April 2016
 ● 978-1-101-90374-2 | ♻ AD: 978-1-101-92360-3 | ♻ CD: 978-1-101-92359-7

For fans of Richard Price, George Pelecanos, Colson Whitehead, and Teju Cole, *Dodgers* is the story of a young member of an LA drug gang, sent with some other teenage boys to kill a witness who is hiding out in Wisconsin. The journey takes East out of a city he's never left and into an America that is entirely alien to him. Written in stark and unforgettable prose and featuring an array of surprising and memorable characters rendered with empathy and wit.



Val Breilinski
The Girl Who Slept With God: A Novel

978-0-525-42742-1 | \$27.95/\$32.95C | Viking | HC
 ● 978-0-698-17100-8 | ♻ AD: 978-1-101-91470-0

Val Breilinski's powerfully affecting first novel tells the story of three sisters: Frances, Jory, and Grace. Their father, Oren, is a respected member of the community and science professor at the local college. Yet their mother's depression and Grace's religious fervor threaten the seemingly perfect family, whose world is upended when Grace returns from a missionary trip to Mexico and discovers she's pregnant with—she believes—the child of God.

The Girl Who Slept with God is a literary achievement about a family's desperate need for truth, love, purity, and redemption.



Pierce Brown
Morning Star: Book III of The Red Rising Trilogy

978-0-345-53984-7 | \$27.00/\$33.00C | Del Rey | HC
 ● 978-0-345-53985-4

Red Rising thrilled readers and announced the presence of a talented new author. *Golden Son* changed the game and took the story of Darrow to the next level. Now comes the exhilarating conclusion to the Red Rising Trilogy: *Morning Star*.

Visit RedRisingBook.com for excerpts and more.

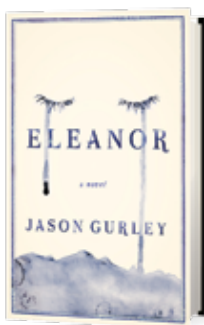


Mary Gaitskill
The Mare: A Novel

978-0-307-37974-0 | \$26.95/\$34.95C | Pantheon | HC
 ● 978-1-101-87062-4

From the author of the National Book Award-nominated *Veronica*: her most poignant and powerful work yet—the story of a Dominican girl, the white woman who introduces her to riding, and the horse who changes everything for her. In Gaitskill’s hands, the timeless story of a girl and a horse is joined with a timely story of people from different races and classes trying to meet one another honestly. *The Mare* is raw, heart-stirring, and original.

To read an excerpt, visit: PenguinRandomHouse.com



Jason Gurley
Eleanor: A Novel

978-1-101-90351-3 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | Crown | HC
 ● 978-1-101-90352-0 | ♻ AD: 978-1-101-92395-5 | ♻ CD: 978-1-101-92394-8

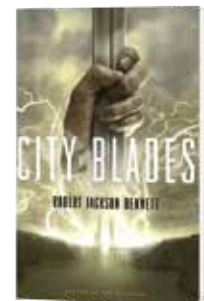
For readers of *The Lovely Bones*, *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*, *The Age of Miracles*, and *Coraline*. A haunting and powerful novel that blends literary depth with fantastical elements to tell a story of loss, dreams, and fate. Eleanor and Esmerelda are identical twins with a secret language all their own, inseparable until a terrible accident claims Esme’s life. Years pass, and Eleanor’s painful reality begins to unravel in strange ways.



Ethan Hawke
Rules for a Knight

978-0-307-96233-1 | \$18.00/\$24.00C | Knopf | HC
 ● 978-0-307-96234-8

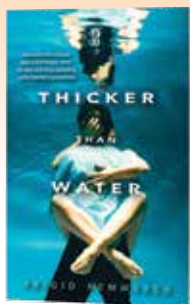
It is 1483, and Sir Thomas Lemuel Hawke, a Cornish knight, is about to ride into battle. On the eve of his departure, he composes a letter to his four young children, consisting of twenty virtues that provide instruction on how to live a noble life, and on all the lessons, large and small, that he might have imparted to them himself were he not expecting to die on the battlefield.



Robert Jackson Bennett
City of Blades

978-0-553-41971-9 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Broadway Books | TR
 ● 978-0-553-41972-6

A Ian Furst meets Gene Wolfe in this densely atmospheric and intrigue-filled fantasy novel, set in the same world as the author’s *City of Stairs*. For fans of China Mieville, Stephen King, and Ray Bradbury.

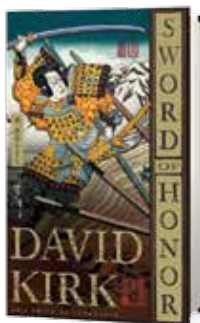


Brigid Kemmerer Thicker Than Water

978-0-7582-9441-8 | \$9.95/\$10.95C | Kensington | TR
 ● 978-0-7582-9442-5

From the author of the YALSA-nominated Elemental series comes the first in a potential new series about teens with unusual powers an intensely emotional; action packed read in the bestselling YA vein of Jennifer Armentrout and Jus Accardo.

Thomas Bellweather hasn't been in town long. Just long enough for his newlywed mother to be murdered, and for his new stepdad's cop colleagues to decide Thomas is the primary suspect. Not that there's any evidence. But before Thomas got to Garretts Mill there had just been one other murder in twenty years.

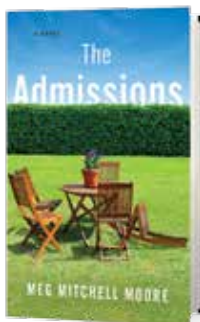


David Kirk Sword of Honor

978-0-385-53665-3 | \$26.95 | Doubleday | HC
 978-0-385-67818-6 | \$32.95C | Doubleday Canada
 ● 978-1-61695-661-5 | ♻ AD: 978-0-385-36221-4 | ♻ CD: 978-0-385-36220-7

In the epic historical novel *Sword of Honor*, David Kirk continues the saga he began in *Child of Vengeance* of Musashi Miyamoto, the greatest samurai in Japanese history, as he journeys to the ancient city of Kyoto to fight for his life and his ideals.

For more information visit: DavidKirkFiction.com.

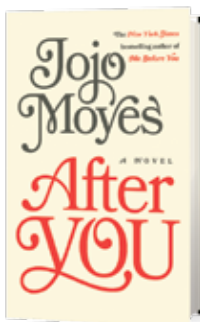


Meg Mitchell Moore The Admissions: A Novel

978-0-385-54004-9 | \$25.95/\$33.95C | Doubleday | HC
 ● 978-0-385-54005-6 | ♻ AD: 978-0-14-752060-9 | ♻ CD: 978-0-14-752059-3

The Admissions brilliantly captures the frazzled pressure cooker of modern life as a seemingly perfect family comes undone by a few desperate measures, long-buried secrets—and college applications!

To read an excerpt, visit: PenguinRandomHouse.com



Jojo Moyes After You: A Novel

978-0-525-42659-2 | \$26.95/\$32.50C | Pamela Dorman Books | HC
 ● 978-0-698-15204-5 | ♻ AD: 978-1-101-92519-5 | ♻ CD: 978-1-101-92518-8

Louisa Clark is no longer just an ordinary girl living an ordinary life. After the transformative six months spent with Will Traynor, she is struggling without him. When an extraordinary accident forces Lou to return home to her family, she can't help but feel she's right back where she started.

For Lou, life after Will Traynor means learning to fall in love again, with all the risks that brings. But here Jojo Moyes gives us two families, as real as our own, whose joys and sorrows will touch you deeply, and where both changes and surprises await.



Suzanne Myers **I'm From Nowhere**

978-1-61695-660-8 | \$18.99/\$18.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 ● 978-1-61695-661-5

Fans of Ally Carter and Kate Brian; those who enjoy boarding school novels; fans of chosen-family novels; equestrians; musicians.

In a companion to *Stone Cove Island*, a girl struggles to piece together her fractured family. When Wren Verlaine's reporter mother ships off for six months in Greenland, Wren ends up at Hardwick Hall, a prestigious boarding school; ignored by the wealthy ice queens, like her suitemate Honor, Wren finds her niche with the other misfits: Nick, a rower, and Chazzy, a fellow musician. But just as she finally starts to settle in, clues begin popping up about the only secret her mother has ever kept from her—the identity of her father.



Sylvain Neuvel **Sleeping Giants**

978-1-101-88669-4 | \$26.00/\$34.00C | Del Rey | HC
 ● 978-1-101-88670-0 | AD: 978-0-14-752263-4

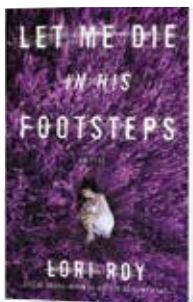
An inventive debut in the tradition of *World War Z* and *The Martian*, told in interviews, journal entries, transcripts, and news articles, *Sleeping Giants* is a literary thriller fueled by a quest for truth—and a fight for control of earthshaking power.



Naomi Novik **League of Dragons: A Novel of Temeraire**

978-0-345-52292-4 | \$28.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC
 ● 978-0-345-52294-8

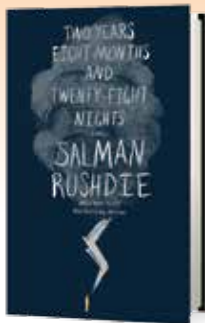
Naomi Novik delivers the final adventure in a *New York Times* bestselling series that has won fans of Napoleonic-era military history, Anne McCaffrey's Pern novels, and Patrick O'Brian's seafaring adventures. Since *His Majesty's Dragon*, Capt. William Laurence and his fearless dragon, Temeraire, have been battling Napoleon and his armies . . . and now the time has come to stop him for good.



Lori Roy **Let Me Die in His Footsteps: A Novel**

978-0-525-95507-8 | \$26.95/\$32.00C | Dutton | HC
 ● 978-0-698-19443-4

On a dark Kentucky night in 1952, Annie Holleran crosses into forbidden territory. Everyone knows Hollerans don't go near Baines, not since Joseph Carl was buried two decades before, but Annie runs through her family's lavender fields toward the well on the Baines' place anyway. At the stroke of midnight, she gazes into the water in search of her future as Kentucky lore bade her to do. Seeing nothing, she turns from the well and stumbles over the body that sends her small town into a spiral. Come morning, Annie will have much to explain and a past to account for.



Salman Rushdie

Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights: A Novel

978-0-8129-9891-7 | \$28.00 | Random House | HC

978-0-345-81022-9 | \$34.00C | Knopf Canada

● 978-0-8129-9892-4 | ♻️ AD: 978-1-101-92671-0 | ♻️ CD: 978-1-101-92670-3

From one of the great writers of our time comes a lush modern fairytale about the monsters that are unleashed when reason recedes and religion reigns, a battle waged throughout our world for 1,001 nights, and an enduring testament to the power of storytelling.



Scott Sigler

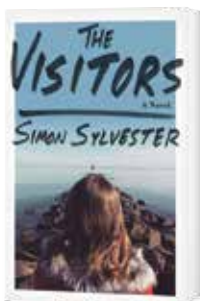
Alight: Book Two of the Generations Trilogy

978-0-553-39315-6 | \$18.00/\$24.00C | Del Rey | HC

● 978-0-553-39316-3

Alight is the second installment in the YA sci-fi dystopian adventure trilogy by *New York Times* bestselling author Scott Sigler, hot on the heels of *Alive*.

Visit ScottSigler.com for excerpts, videos, and more.



Simon Sylvester

The Visitors: A Novel

978-1-61219-463-9 | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Melville House | TR

● 978-1-61219-464-6

In the tradition of Neil Gaiman and Iain Banks, Simon Sylvester brings an ancient myth to life with this lush, atmospheric coming-of-age tale.

Nobody comes to the remote Scottish island of Bancree, and seventeen-year-old Flora can't wait to move to the mainland when she finishes school. So when a mysterious man and his daughter move into isolated Dog Cottage, Flora is curious. What could have brought these strangers to the island?

Meanwhile, several of the men on Bancree have disappeared, unnerving the community. When a body washes ashore, suspicion turns to the newcomers. But Flo suspects something else, even though it seems impossible: She asks local residents for anything they know about "selkies," the mythical women who can turn from seal to human and back again.



Shawn Vestal

Daredevils: A Novel

978-1-101-97989-1 | \$27.00/\$35.00C | Penguin Press | HC

● 978-1-101-97991-4

At the heart of this exciting novel, is fifteen-year-old Loretta, who slips out of her bedroom every evening to meet a so-called gentile. Her strict Mormon parents catch her returning one night, and promptly marry her off to Dean Harder, a devout yet materialistic fundamentalist who already has a wife and a brood of kids. Then Dean's teenage nephew, Jason, falls for Loretta. A Zeppelin and Tolkien fan, Jason worships Evel Knievel and longs to leave his close-minded community. He and Loretta make a break for it. They drive all night, stay in hotels, and relish their dizzying burst of teenage freedom as they seek to recover Dean's cache of "Mormon gold." But someone Loretta left behind is on their trail...

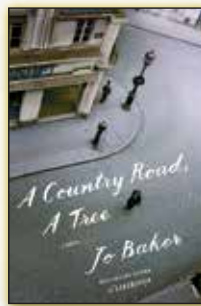
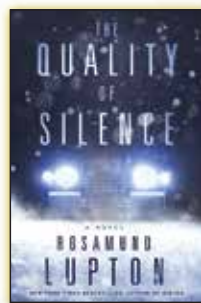
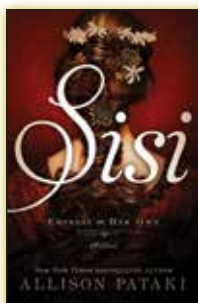
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The next author that everyone will be talking about?

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