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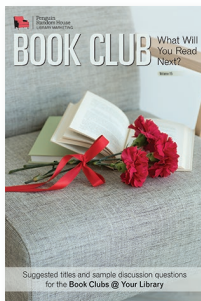
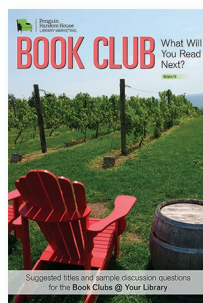
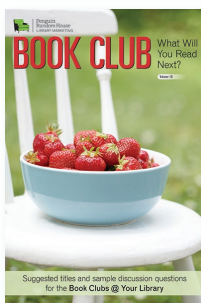
Volume 19



Suggested titles and sample discussion questions
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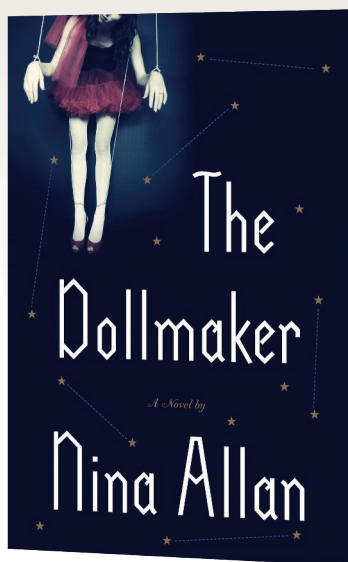
Sign up for our monthly Book Club eNewsletter:
TinyUrl.com/BCeNewsletter

Nina Allan
The Dollmaker:
A Novel

978-1-59051-993-6 | \$16.99/\$22.99C | Other Press | TR
978-1-59051-994-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

Fans of literary gothic fiction like Donna Tartt's *The Little Friend*, Gillian Flynn's *Sharp Objects*, and Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

A love story of two very real, unusual people, and a novel rich with wonders that shines a radically different light on society's marginal figures.

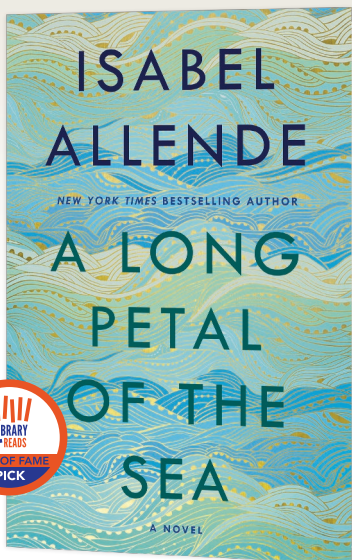
Stitch by perfect stitch, Andrew Garvie makes exquisite dolls in the finest antique style. Like him, they are diminutive, but graceful, unique and with surprising depths. Perhaps that's why he answers the enigmatic personal ad in his collector's magazine.

On his journey through the old towns of England he reads the fairytales of Ewa Chaplin—potent, eldritch stories which, like her lifelike dolls, pluck at the edges of reality and thread their way into his mind. When Andrew and Bramber meet at last, they will have a choice—to remain alone with their painful pasts or break free and, unlike their dolls, come to life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Dollmaker* is, in part, a tale about the craft of dollmaking, but also of storytelling. What kinds of dollmaking and storytelling are on display in the novel? What do these two crafts have in common? In what ways do they differ?
2. Bramber's letters to Andrew are heartfelt, but enigmatic. Are we as readers, from the beginning, meant to question Bramber's narrative? Is Bramber a reliable storyteller?
3. Would you interpret or decipher Bramber's letters in the same way that Andrew does? What do you think about his interpretation of them, and the action he takes in response to them?
4. Andrew's first-person perspective is the driving 'truth' of the narrative. Is he a reliable storyteller?
5. How do the stories by Eva Chaplin enhance, complicate, or undo—or all of these—the story of Andrew and Bramber?

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



Isabel Allende

A Long Petal of the Sea:

A Novel

978-1-9848-2015-0 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Ballantine Books | HC
📖 978-1-9848-2016-7 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-16798-4
📻 CD: 978-0-593-16796-0 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-17205-6
Spanish-Language Edition: 978-1-9848-9916-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the bestselling author of *The House of the Spirits* comes an epic novel that follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. Perfect for fans of Amor Towles, Alice Hoffman, Lisa See, and Ken Follett.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires.

Together with two thousand other refugees, they embark on the *SS Winnipeg*, a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda, to Chile. As unlikely partners, they embrace exile as the rest of Europe erupts in world war. Starting over on a new continent, their trials are just beginning. But they will also find joy as they patiently await the day when they will be exiles no more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

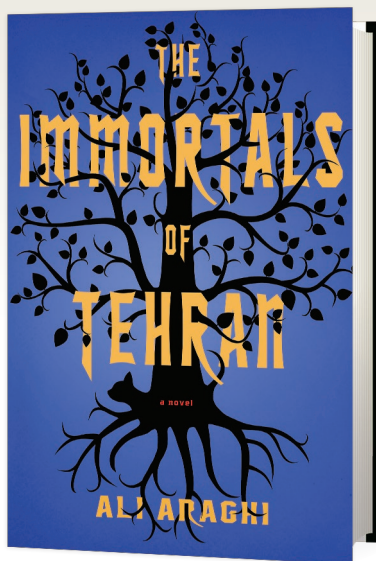
1. Each chapter begins with a quote from Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. How do those quotes frame the chapters? Was there a particular quote you liked best? Did your attention to these quotes change when Neruda became a character in the novel?
2. Discuss the significance of the title, *A Long Petal of the Sea*. What do you think it means?
3. Which character did you feel most drawn to, and why?
4. Allende writes, "Despite this, the American officer still believed in the triumph of socialism. To him, equality was not only possible, but inevitable, and he practiced it like a religion." How are ideals like socialism and equality represented in this novel? What other big concepts are examined?
5. When first asking Roser to marry him in order to secure a spot on the ship ferrying refugees to Chile, Victor asks if affection and respect can be enough for her. Do you think those two feelings are enough for any relationship, whether platonic or romantic? In what circumstances?

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

Ali Araghi
**The Immortals
of Tehran**

978-1-61219-818-7 | \$27.99/\$35.99C | Melville House | HC | April
📞 978-1-61219-819-4

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of major literary generational sagas like Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* and Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

This generations-spanning novel carries one extraordinary family to the brink of the Iranian Revolution—and marks the debut of a literary talent to watch.

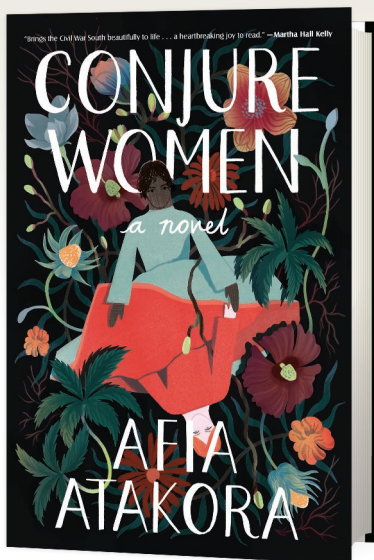
As a child living in his family's apple orchard, Ahmad Torkash-Vand treasures his great-great-great-great grandfather's every mesmerizing world. On the day of his father's death, Ahmad listens closely as the seemingly immortal elder tells him the tale of a centuries-old family curse . . . and the boy's own fated role in the story.

A sweeping, multi-generational epic, this stunning debut heralds the arrival of a unique new literary voice. Exploring the brutality of history while conjuring the astonishment of magical realism, *The Immortals of Tehran* is a story of the incantatory power of words and the revolutionary sparks of love, family, and poetry—set against the indifferent, relentless march of time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Magical events occur throughout the novel, and yet, in Araghi's hands, they feel almost like real life. How does he accomplish the narrative feat of simultaneously thrilling and normalizing the magic? How does magical realism add to the story?
2. Cats occupy a mysterious and imperious position in many cultures. Discuss the family curse and the role of cats in the narrative. How much is real and how much imagined?
3. Ahmad loses his ability to speak early in the novel. Zeeba loses her eyesight. What do these events have to say about limitations and perseverance?
4. Nasser sets this whole novel in motion, and later returns to visit Pooran. Why? Discuss how apparition and perception and clarity are used throughout the novel.

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



Afia Atakora

Conjure Women:

A Novel

978-0-525-51148-9 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Random House | HC | March
📍 978-0-525-51149-6 | 📄 AD: 978-0-593-15442-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A mother and daughter with a shared talent for healing—and for the conjuring of curses—are at the heart of this dazzling first novel for readers of *The Underground Railroad*, *Homegoing*, *Away*, and *The Island of Sea Women*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

C*onjure Women* is a sweeping story that brings the world of the South before and after the Civil War vividly to life. Spanning eras and generations, it tells of the lives of three unforgettable women: Miss May Belle, a wise healing woman; her precocious and observant daughter Rue, who is reluctant to follow in her mother's footsteps as a midwife; and their master's daughter Varina. The secrets and bonds among these women and their community come to a head at the beginning of a war and at the birth of an accursed child, who sets the townspeople alight with fear and a spreading superstition that threatens their newly won, tenuous freedom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss Rue's relationship with Bean in *Conjure Women*. Do you agree with her actions meant to protect Bean from suspicion? Do you see any parallels between Bean and Varina? Why or why not?
2. Rue has reservations about following in her mother's footsteps. Discuss her feelings on being a conjurer. What would you have done in her position?
3. In the final chapter, Rue encounters a familiar face at the doctor's office. Did you see this ending coming, or did you think it might end differently?
4. Discuss the scene with Varina at the ball. How did this change the shape of her life? How did it affect her relationship with Rue?
5. May Belle makes a doll for Varina that Rue initially suspects is hers. What does the doll symbolize?
6. *Conjure Women* is full of beautiful descriptions of the lush landscape that surrounds the plantation. Discuss the landscape's effect on the characters and their actions.

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

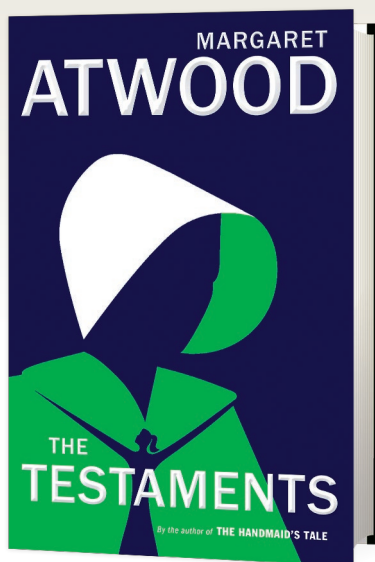
Margaret Atwood

The Testaments:

The Sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*

978-0-385-54378-1 | \$28.95 | Nan A. Talese | HC
978-0-7710-0943-3 | \$34.00C | McClelland & Stewart
📞 978-0-385-54379-8 | 📖 AD: 978-0-525-59048-4
📻 CD: 978-0-525-59045-3 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-14909-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
Winner of the Booker Prize. For readers of
The Handmaid's Tale and fans of the Hulu series.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

More than fifteen years after the events of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results.

Two have grown up as part of the first generation to come of age in the new order. The testimonies of these two young women are joined by a third: Aunt Lydia. Her complex past and uncertain future unfold in surprising and pivotal ways.

With *The Testaments*, Margaret Atwood opens up the innermost workings of Gilead, as each woman is forced to come to terms with who she is, and how far she will go for what she believes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Clothes play a dual role in the novel. They signal life stages as well as status and class: the pink, white, and plum dresses worn by “special girls”; the drab prison-like stripes of the Econofamilies; and the green dresses of the betrothed girls. Did this aspect of the novel strike you as odd? Or is it actually not very different from our own obsession with brands and logos that convey a certain level of wealth and status?
2. When Aunt Lydia relays the *Aesop's Fables* story of Fox and Cat, she reveals much about her survival skills. Which are you—Fox or Cat?
3. Did the book inspire you to take action so that Gilead remains fiction? Did you perhaps become more active in local politics or make a charitable donation to an organization that supports women's rights?
4. The conclusion of *The Handmaid's Tale* left readers with many tantalizing questions. Which of your questions were answered by *The Testaments*? Which were not?

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



Karen Barnett
Ever Faithful:
A Vintage National Parks
Novel

978-0-7352-8958-1 | \$9.99/\$13.50C | WaterBrook | TR
📞 978-0-7352-8959-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

Vibrant historic Yellowstone National Park comes to life in this romantic mystery about a man hiding the truth and the woman who must confront his deception. For historical romance fans, armchair travel enthusiasts, and Christian fiction readers.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A man who can't read will never amount to anything—or so Nate Webber believes. But he takes a chance to help his family by signing up for the new Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), skirting the truth about certain "requirements." Nate exchanges the harsh Brooklyn streets for the wilds of Yellowstone National Park, curious if the Eden-like wonderland can transform him as well.

Elsie Brookes was proud to grow up as a ranger's daughter, but she longs for a future of her own. After four years serving as a maid in the park's hotels, she still hasn't saved enough money for her college tuition. A second job, teaching a crowd of rowdy men in the CCC camp, might be the answer, but when Elsie discovers Nate's secret, it puts his job as camp foreman in jeopardy. Tutoring leads to friendship and romance, until a string of suspicious fires casts a dark shadow over their relationship. Can they find answers before all of their dreams go up in smoke?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Even though Nate is grown, he still hears his father's harsh words telling him that he's dumb and a failure. In the story, what helps him move past them?
2. Were you surprised to discover the arsonist's identity?
3. How has our understanding of depression changed since Rose's time?
4. Do you think Elsie was wrong in forgiving Graham?
5. Elsie has dreamed of being a teacher since she was little—a desire she feels God planted in her heart. Is there a dream you've held close for many years?

For more discussion questions visit: [CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides](https://www.crownpublishing.com/readers-guides)

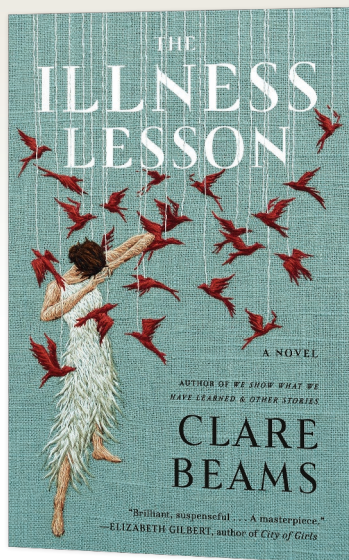
Clare Beams

The Illness Lesson:

A Novel

978-0-385-54466-5 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Doubleday | HC
978-0-385-54467-2 | AD: 978-0-593-16952-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Sarah Waters and
Women Talking by Miriam Toews.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

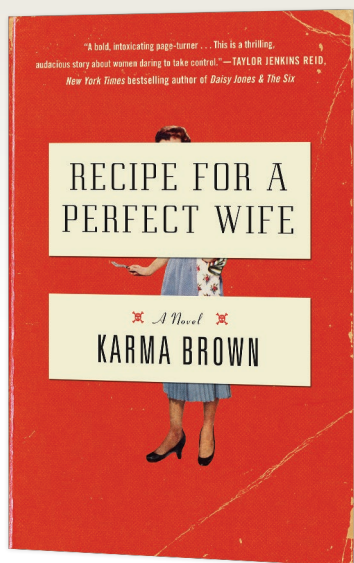
The year is 1871. In Ashwell, Massachusetts, at the farm of Samuel Hood and his daughter, Caroline, a mysterious flock of red birds descends. Samuel, whose fame as a philosopher has waned in recent years, takes the birds' appearance as an omen that the time is ripe for his newest venture. He will start a school for young women, guiding their intellectual development as he has so carefully guided his daughter's. Despite Caroline's misgivings, Samuel's vision—revolutionary, as always; noble, as always; full of holes, as always—takes shape.

It's not long before the students begin to manifest bizarre symptoms. Rashes, fits, headaches, verbal tics, night wanderings. In desperation, the school turns to the ministering of a sinister physician—based on a real historic treatment—just as Caroline's body, too, begins its betrayal. As the girls' conditions worsens, long-buried secrets emerge, and Caroline must confront the all-male, all-knowing authorities around her, the ones who insist the voices of the sufferers are unreliable. In order to save herself, Caroline may have to destroy everything she's ever known.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the author chose to begin the story with the red birds, or "trilling hearts"? How did they set the tone for the rest of the novel?
2. Each chapter begins with a quote from the novel-within-a-novel, *The Darkening Glass*, which represents a cultural touchstone for the characters. Can you think of a literary work that carries similar popularity and relevance in our current time?
3. Eliza is the students' ringleader and she is also the first to fall ill. How did your feelings towards Eliza change over the course of the novel?
4. What did you make of Caroline's decision at the end of the novel? If you were in her position, do you think you would have made a different one?

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



Karma Brown

Recipe for a Perfect Wife:

A Novel

978-1-5247-4493-9 | \$26.00 | Dutton | HC
978-0-7352-3624-0 | \$24.95C | Viking Canada | TR
📞 978-1-5247-4494-6 | 📍 AD: 978-0-593-16453-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *The Dollhouse* and *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* comes a captivating dual narrative novel about a modern-day woman who finds inspiration in hidden notes left by her home's previous owner, a quintessential 1950s housewife.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Alice Hale leaves a career in publicity to become a writer and follows her husband to the New York suburbs, she is unaccustomed to filling her days alone in a big, empty house. But when she finds a vintage cookbook buried in a box in the basement, she becomes captivated by the cookbook's previous owner—1950s housewife Nellie Murdoch. As Alice cooks her way through the past, she realizes that within the cookbook's pages, Nellie left clues about her life—including a mysterious series of unsent letters penned to her mother.

Soon Alice learns that while baked Alaska and meatloaf five ways may seem harmless, Nellie's secrets may have been anything but. When Alice uncovers a more sinister—even dangerous—side to Nellie's marriage, and has become increasingly dissatisfied with the mounting pressures in her own relationship, she begins to take control of her life and protect herself with a few secrets of her own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What similar challenges do Alice and Nellie face in their marriages? What are the differences between these two relationships? Do you think these similarities and differences are products of the different personalities at play, or of the different eras that these relationships occur in?
2. Was it a mistake for Alice to agree to leave Manhattan? Does running away from your problems ever work out? What personal experiences have you had trying to start over in a new place?
3. Were you surprised by the quotes from the old books and women's magazines? What did you make of them?
4. Were you surprised by the plot twist in Nellie's point of view?
5. Do you have a collection of old family recipes like Elsie left Nellie? What is your favorite recipe passed down from family?

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

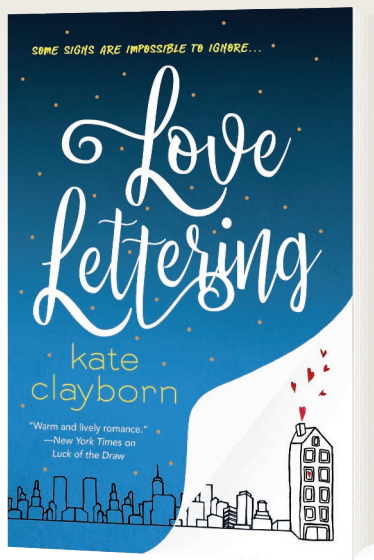
Kate Clayborn Love Lettering

978-1-4967-2517-2 | \$15.95/\$21.95C | Kensington | TR

READERS' ADVISORY:

"This book will wake you up in the middle of the night aching for these perfectly imperfect characters."

—Sonali Dev, author of
Pride, Prejudice, and Other Flavors



ABOUT THE BOOK:

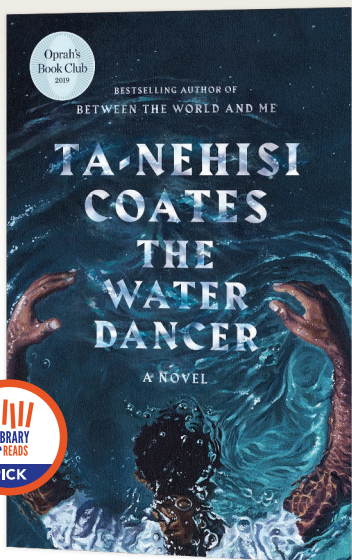
In this warm and witty romance from acclaimed author Kate Clayborn, one little word puts a woman's business—and her heart—in jeopardy.

Meg Mackworth's hand-lettering skill has made her famous as the Planner of Park Slope, designing custom journals for her New York City clientele. She has another skill too: reading signs that other people miss. Knowing the upcoming marriage of Reid Sutherland and his polished fiancée was doomed to fail is one thing, but weaving a secret word of warning into their wedding program is another. Meg may have thought no one would spot it, but she hadn't counted on sharp-eyed, pattern-obsessed Reid.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. One of the many ways Meg and Reid are "opposite" is in their feelings about New York City. Do you think you'd react to New York more like Meg, or more like Reid, and why?
2. Meg tells Reid that knowing the signs in various parts of the city helped to "organize her experience." Have you ever moved to a new place, and how did you orient yourself once you were there?
3. At the beginning of the book, Meg is experiencing a creative block. Did you think the way she described her struggles with her work was relatable? Why or why not?
4. Reid is an extremely reserved character when we first meet him. Did you find yourself being put off by his demeanor, or were you drawn to him initially? How does his character change (or not change) over the course of the novel?
5. What was your favorite walk through the city that Meg and Reid took together? Or perhaps, more specifically, what was your favorite game they played together?
6. Meg and Reid think of themselves and each other in terms of the tools of their respective trades—letters and numbers. Do you think of yourself as more of letters or numbers person, and why?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/LoveLetteringQuestions



Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Water Dancer:

A Novel

978-0-399-59059-7 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | One World | HC

📞 978-0-399-59060-3 | 📻 AD: 978-0-525-49487-4

📀 CD: 978-0-525-49484-3 | 📺 LP: 978-0-593-16819-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the National Book Award–winning author of *Between the World and Me* comes a boldly conjured debut novel about a magical gift, a devastating loss, and an underground war for freedom—for fans of Toni Morrison, Colson Whitehead, Octavia Butler, and James Baldwin.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known.

So begins an unexpected journey that takes Hiram from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North. Even as he's enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram's resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.

Written by one of today's most exciting thinkers and writers, *The Water Dancer* is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Coates uses terms like "Tasked" and "Quality" instead of "slaves" and "masters"? What do you think the novel gains from this altered language?
2. What do you make of Howell Walker's apology? To what extent does Coates humanize Howell? Why do you think he does this?
3. What roles do the concepts of motherhood and fatherhood play in the novel? How does Hiram, and perhaps by extension, Coates, define family?
4. Sophia tells Hiram, "But what you must get, is that for me to be yours, I must never be yours." What is Coates saying about the particular struggles of black women in this novel? How does Hiram's relationship with Sophia change over time to reflect this?
5. What is the significance of water throughout the book? Why do you think Coates chooses it as the medium for Hiram's power?

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

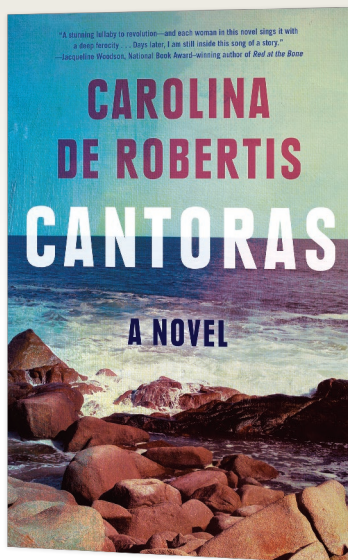
Carolina De Robertis

Cantoras:

A Novel

978-0-525-52169-3 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Knopf | HC
978-0-525-52170-9 | AD: 978-0-593-14900-3

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *The Great Believers*
and *A Little Life*.



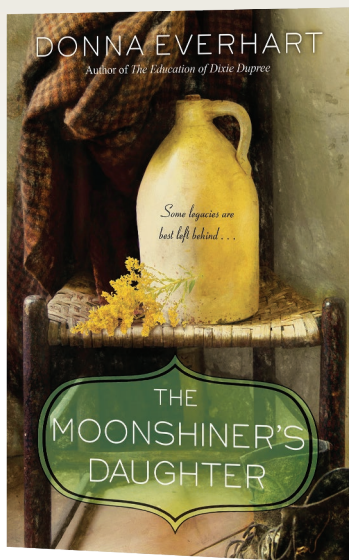
ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1977 Uruguay, a military government crushed political dissent with ruthless force. In this environment, where the everyday rights of people are under attack, homosexuality is a dangerous transgression to be punished. And yet Romina, Flaca, Anita “La Venus,” Paz, and Malena—five cantoras, women who “sing”—somehow, miraculously, find one another. Together, they discover an isolated, nearly uninhabited cape, Cabo Polonio, which they claim as their secret sanctuary. Over the next thirty-five years, their lives move back and forth between Cabo Polonio and Montevideo, the city they call home, as they return, sometimes together, sometimes in pairs, with lovers in tow, or alone. And throughout, again and again, the women will be tested—by their families, lovers, society, and one another—as they fight to live authentic lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Examine the symbolism of the Prow. Why do you think they choose to name it as they do? In what way is life at the Prow the antithesis of life in Montevideo? How does each woman use the house and Cabo Polonio to heal and expand? In what ways do the beach and the shack fulfill a different need for each woman while still proving their common need to be themselves?
2. Explore the linguistic and syntactic decisions De Robertis makes as she narrates instances of actions of the oppressive authority. Why do you think she opts for fragmented, stream-of-consciousness sentences? Consider the similarities and differences in the recounting of Paz, Romina and Malena’s experiences.
3. Discuss the conclusion of the novel, paying close attention to the theme of belonging. What kind of belonging did the characters crave as young women living under the dictatorship? What kind of belonging did they rebel against? Do they feel, at the end of the novel, that they belong? Why or why not?

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



Donna Everhart

The Moonshiner's Daughter

9781496717023 | \$15.95/\$21.95C | Kensington | TR

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Education of Dixie Dupree* and *Sold On a Monday*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Set in North Carolina in 1960 and brimming with authenticity and grit, *The Moonshiner's Daughter* evokes the singular life of sixteen-year-old Jessie Sasser, a young woman determined to escape her family's past . . .

Generations of Sassers have made moonshine in the Brushy Mountains of Wilkes County, North Carolina. Their history is recorded in a leather-bound journal that belongs to Jessie Sasser's daddy, but Jessie wants no part of it. As far as she's concerned, moonshine caused her mother's death a dozen years ago.

Resenting her father's insistence that moonshining runs in her veins, Jessie makes a plan to destroy the stills, using their neighbors as scapegoats. Instead, her scheme escalates an old rivalry and reveals long-held grudges. As she endeavors to right wrongs old and new, Jessie's loyalties will bring her to unexpected revelations about her family, her strengths—and a legacy that may provide her with the answers she has been longing for.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Jessie witnessed her mother's brutal death at the age of four. As time went on, she came to her own conclusions as to what happened. Do you believe Jessie was destined to become self-destructive because of what she saw, or was it because she couldn't get the answers she sought?
2. Jessie grew to hate making moonshine, and this put her at odds with her father. Do you think his reasoning to stay silent was justified?
3. Merritt, Jessie's younger brother, didn't remember their mother's death, and couldn't relate to Jessie's sorrow or her intense dislike for what he viewed with pride, a family legacy. What did you think of Merritt and Jessie's relationship? What did you think of how he treated Jessie?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/MoonshinersDaughter

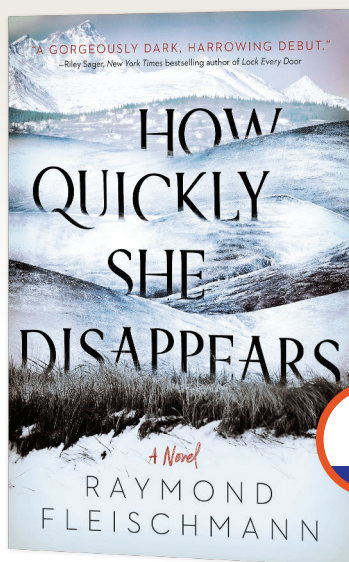
Raymond Fleischmann How Quickly She Disappears

978-1-9848-0517-1 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC

📖 978-1-9848-0519-5 | 📍 AD: 978-0-593-15112-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

The Dry meets *The Silence of the Lambs* in this intoxicating tale of literary suspense, set in the relentless Alaskan landscape, about madness and obsession, loneliness and grief, and the ferocious bonds of family.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

It's been twenty years since Elisabeth's twin sister, Jacqueline, disappeared without a trace. Now thirty-year-old Elisabeth is living far from home in a small Alaskan town. She's in a loveless marriage and has a precocious young daughter she loves more than anything but who reminds her too much of her long-missing sister.

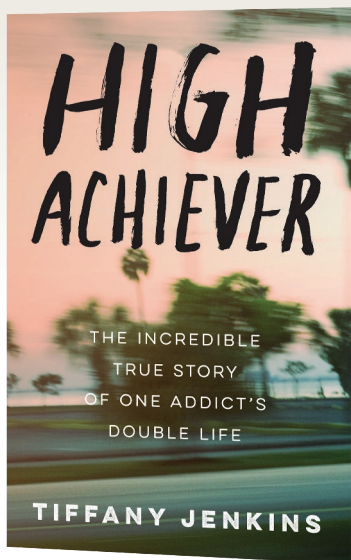
But then Alfred, a dangerous stranger with a plan of his own, arrives in town and commits an inexplicable act of violence. And he offers a startling revelation: He knows exactly what happened to Elisabeth's sister, but he'll reveal this truth only if she fulfills his three requests.

Increasingly isolated from her neighbors and imprisoned by the bitter cold and her own obsession, Elisabeth can almost hear her sister's voice saying, Come and find me. And so she will, even if it means putting herself—and her family—in danger.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What Role does the novel's setting in Alaska play in the story?
2. What similarities are there between Elisabeth's personality as a child in 1921 and as an adult in 1941?
3. Do you think it was right—or at least justifiable—for Elisabeth to bring Margaret to visit Alfred in the penitentiary?
4. Before the truth of his "involvement" was revealed, what part did you think Alfred played in Jacqueline's disappearance?
5. How do the story's flashback chapters complement the chapters set in 1941?
6. Can you comment on the way the story explored the relationship between parents and children?
7. What's the source of the animosity between John and Elisabeth?
8. What do you take away from the ending of the story? Is it a happy ending?

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



Tiffany Jenkins
High Achiever:
The Incredible True Story of
One Addict's Double Life

978-0-593-13593-8 | \$15.99/\$21.99C | Harmony | TR
● 978-0-593-13596-9 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-593-15460-1

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of books like *Orange Is the New Black*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A few years ago, Tiffany Jenkins was detoxing behind bars at a Florida prison, incarcerated on 20 felony charges. Now, she's clean and sober, a married mother of three. As she found her way in her new life, she started sharing on social media as an outlet for her depression and anxiety. She struck a chord, several of her videos went viral (one with 46 million views), and in the past year her following exploded from a few hundred thousand to more than 3 million.

Raw and juicy, compulsively readable, and ultimately inspirational, the memoir opens in the Florida women's prison where Tiffany was incarcerated for 180 days. The memoir flashes back in time to the events that led to Tiffany's imprisonment (during the time of her active addiction, Tiffany was dating and living with a cop), and moves forward to her eventual sobriety.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Tiffany weaves humor into the memoir's narrative. Which of her actions and thoughts were most surprising to you?
2. Tiffany structures her story so that many of the chapters end in a shocking reveal. Did you find this to be an effective strategy for drawing readers in?
3. Discuss how Tiffany's addiction—and recovery—impacts her closest relationships. How are different family members and loved ones affected?
4. Why do you think she chose to focus specifically on her time in prison and the months leading up to her arrest?
5. In Chapter 38, Dr. Peters questions the reality of Tiffany's story. Did you ever feel that she wasn't being completely honest? Or did you find her to be a reliable narrator? Discuss how your reactions to her story shifted over the course of the book.

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/HighAchieverQuestions

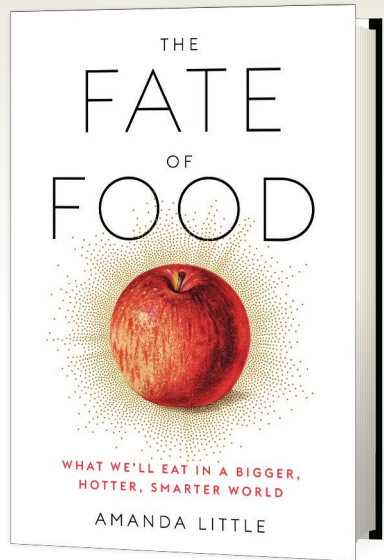
Amanda Little
The Fate of Food:
What We'll Eat in a Bigger,
Hotter, Smarter World

978-0-8041-8903-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Harmony | HC
978-0-8041-8905-7 | AD: 978-1-9848-4638-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

In the fascinating story of the sustainable food revolution, an environmental journalist and professor asks the question: Is the future of food looking bleak—or better than ever?

Recommended for fans of Marion Nestle, Michael Pollan, and Thomas Friedman.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Climate models show that global crop production will decline every decade for the rest of this century due to drought, heat, and flooding. Water supplies are in jeopardy. Meanwhile, the world's population is expected to grow another 30 percent by midcentury. So how, really, will we feed nine billion people sustainably in the coming decades?

Amanda Little, a professor at Vanderbilt University and an award-winning journalist, spent three years traveling through a dozen countries and as many U.S. states in search of answers to this question. Throughout her journey, Little finds and shares a deeper understanding of the threats of climate change and encounters a sense of awe and optimism about the lessons of our past and the scope of human ingenuity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you already know about this book's subject before you read it? How did it change your understanding of, or expectations for, sustainable and equitable food production going forward? What new things did you learn?
2. Do you think that GMO crops designed for drought resilience and heat tolerance are a reasonable way to counteract the increasing pressures of climate change on global food production? What are some alternatives?
3. How can we change public opinion on GMOs, especially since a lot of the opposition seems driven by a vision of nature as being pure and vulnerable?
4. In Chapter 4, the robotics expert Jorge Heraud is quoted as saying that "robots don't have to remove us from nature—they can help us restore it." Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Do you believe the actions Little discusses will be enough to forestall the direct impacts of climate change? Or do you think it's too little too late?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/FateofFoodQuestions



Liz Moore

Long Bright River:

A Novel

978-0-525-54067-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Riverhead | HC

📍 978-0-525-54069-4 | 📻 AD: 978-0-593-14691-0

📀 CD: 978-0-593-14688-0 | 📺 LP: 978-0-593-15224-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For psychological suspense readers of Paula Hawkins; crime readers of Tana French, Richard Price, and Dennis Lehane; and family-story readers of Celeste Ng.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Two sisters travel the same streets, though their lives couldn't be more different. Then one of them goes missing.

In a Philadelphia neighborhood rocked by the opioid crisis, two once-inseparable sisters find themselves at odds. One, Kacey, lives on the streets in the vise of addiction. The other, Mickey, walks those same blocks on her police beat. They don't speak anymore, but Mickey never stops worrying about her sibling.

Then Kacey disappears, suddenly, at the same time that a mysterious string of murders begins in Mickey's district, and Mickey becomes dangerously obsessed with finding the culprit—and her sister—before it's too late.

Alternating its present-day mystery with the story of the sisters' childhood and adolescence, *Long Bright River* is at once heart-pounding and heart-wrenching: a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of sisters, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist between place, family, and fate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The author sets *Long Bright River* against one city's experience of the opioid epidemic, informed by her own research. To what degree do you think the drug crisis in Kensington represents the situation in other regions of the United States? Did reading the plight of Kacey, and its impact on her sister and larger family, make you think about the epidemic any differently? How did the portrayal in the book compare with your understanding of the problem from news, or from your personal life?
2. In this novel, the author combines a crime story with a family drama, as she moves back and forth between present and past, and sets it all against a real and researched city and culture. Which elements moved or compelled you most? Did knowing it was influenced by real life make it more or less powerful for you?

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

Erin Morgenstern

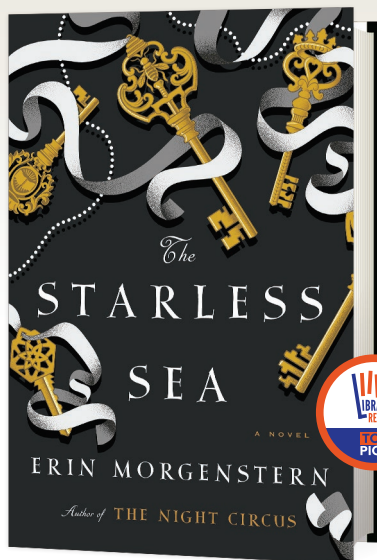
The Starless Sea:

A Novel

978-0-385-54121-3 | \$28.95 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-385-68622-8 | \$32.95C | Doubleday Canada
978-0-385-54122-0 | AD: 978-0-7352-0790-5
CD: 978-0-7352-0787-5 | LP: 978-0-593-10648-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Lev Grossman, Deborah Harkness,
Neil Gaiman, and Alice Hoffman.



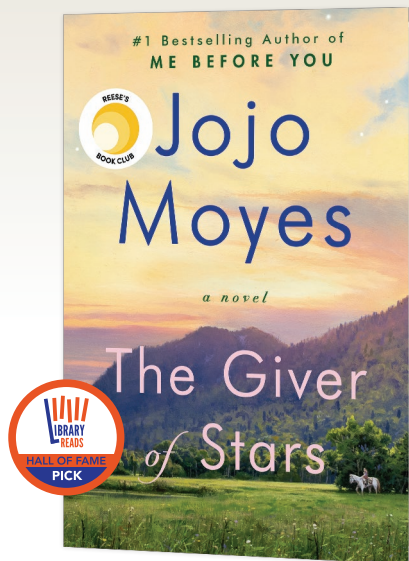
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages, entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors, and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood. Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues—a bee, a key, and a sword—that lead him to a masquerade party in New York, to a secret club, and through a doorway to an ancient library hidden far below the surface of the earth. Here Zachary travels the twisting tunnels, darkened stairwells, crowded ballrooms, and sweetly soaked shores of this magical world, discovering his purpose—in both the mysterious book and in his own life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. A single book takes Zachary on an adventure. What book that you've read would you want to take you on an adventure?
2. *The Starless Sea* is made up of six books. Is there a main character or narrator for each? Or do they each have the same one?
3. The books in *The Starless Sea* are "Sweet Sorrows," "Fortunes and Fables," "The Ballad of Simon and Eleanor," "Written in the Stars," "The Owl King," and "The Secret Diary of Katrina Hawkins." How do they differ from one another, in particular book six from the first five?
4. Why didn't Zachary open the door when he was younger? Why do you think he found "Sweet Sorrows" in the library years later?
5. What do you think Katrina finds at the end of the book when she opens the door with a crown, a feather, and a heart?

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



Jojo Moyes

The Giver of Stars:

A Novel

978-0-399-56248-8 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Pamela Dorman Books | HC

📖 978-0-399-56250-1 | 📻 AD: 978-0-525-53022-0

📻 CD: 978-0-525-53019-0 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-15226-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

Set in Depression-era America, a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their unforgettable journey as they become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky, from the bestselling author of *Me Before You* and *The Peacock Emporium*. Perfect for readers of Liane Moriarty, Kristin Hannah, and Lisa Wingate.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. What happens to them—and to the men they love—becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. Though they face all kinds of dangers, they're committed to their job—bringing books to people who have never had any, sharing the gift of learning that will change their lives.

Based on a true story rooted in America's past, *The Giver of Stars* is unparalleled in its scope. At times funny, at others heartbreaking, this is a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. While writing and researching *The Giver of Stars*, author Jojo Moyes visited Kentucky several times, stayed in a tiny cabin on the side of a mountain, rode horses along the trails, and met the people of Kentucky. Did the characters and sense of place feel authentic to you?
2. Literacy and censorship are significant issues in *The Giver of Stars*, issues that affect the women of the novel very differently from the men. Why do you think Moyes chose to focus on these topics?
3. There are numerous ways in the book in which the acquisition of knowledge changes characters' lives: protecting their homes, educating their families, liberating themselves from marriages. Have you ever experienced such a shift—after gaining new knowledge—in your own life? How did it happen? If not, what held you back from making a change?

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

Ann Napolitano

Dear Edward:

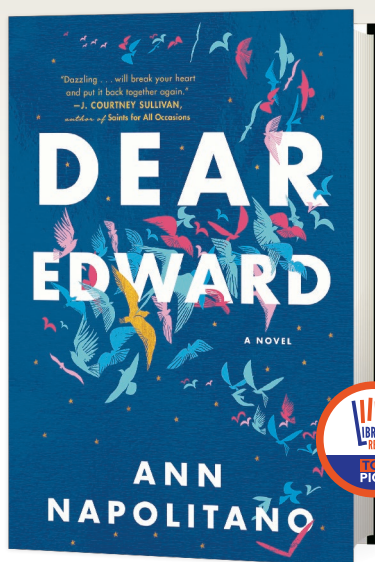
A Novel

978-1-9848-5478-0 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | The Dial Press | HC

📞 978-1-9848-5479-7 | 📍 AD: 978-0-593-15098-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

A twelve-year-old boy struggles with the worst kind of fame—as the sole survivor of a notorious plane crash—in a heart-wrenching and life-affirming novel for readers of *Small Great Things*, *Little Fires Everywhere*, and *The Immortalists*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

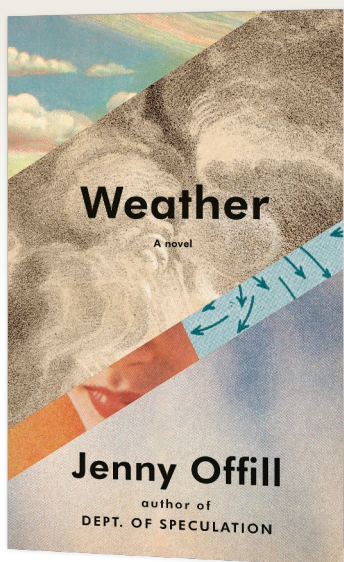
One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured vet returning from Afghanistan, and a free-spirited woman running away from her controlling husband. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor.

Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place for himself in a world without his family. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions: When you've lost everything, how do you find yourself? How do you discover your purpose?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways can reading a tragic book actually help us find joy in our daily lives?
2. Have you experienced other books, movies, or TV shows that have broken your heart, but left you with a feeling of hope? What characteristics do these stories have in common?
3. Did *Dear Edward* influence the way you respond to emotional stories in the news? Do you think we have a responsibility to remember the people affected by these stories and continue to help them long after they've disappeared from the headlines?
4. Do you normally interact with people around you on a flight? After reading this book, do you think your perception of your fellow passengers will change?
5. Before the hearing in Washington, Shay tells Edward no one there can hurt him, and in fact, no one can hurt him ever again, because he has already lost everything. Did this ring true to you? Does this notion comfort Edward in any way? Would it comfort you?

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



Jenny Offill **Weather:** A Novel

978-0-385-35110-2 | \$23.95/\$31.95C | Knopf | HC
📞 978-0-385-35111-9 | 📄 AD: 978-0-525-64264-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of **Lorrie Moore, Mary Gaitskill,**
and **Jennifer Egan.**

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Lizzie Benson slid into her job as a librarian without a traditional degree. But this gives her a vantage point from which to practice her other calling: she is a fake shrink. For years she has tended to her God-haunted mother and her recovering addict brother. They have both stabilized for the moment, but Lizzie has little chance to spend her new free time with husband and son before her old mentor, Sylvia Liller, makes a proposal. She's become famous for her prescient podcast, *Hell and High Water*, and wants to hire Lizzie to answer the mail she receives: from left-wingers worried about climate change and right-wingers worried about the decline of western civilization. As Lizzie dives into this polarized world, she begins to wonder what it means to keep tending your own garden once you've seen the flames beyond its walls.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Weather* consists of many relationships: the relationship between Lizzie and her son, Lizzie and her husband, her brother, and the people she encounters working at the library, among others. What responsibility do we have to care for those who aren't our children? How do we decide how much of ourselves to give to our siblings, our neighbors?
2. In what ways do you help or participate in your community? After reading *Weather*, did you think any differently about whether we have a collective responsibility to act for justice (social justice, climate justice, etc.)?
3. Why do you think the author decided to write the story in such a disjointed way? How do you think this did or did not help advance the character development or plot?
4. As Lizzie continues to answer mail for the podcast, she becomes increasingly pre-occupied with disaster psychology and survivalist strategy, and her responses become more and more unhinged. But by the end of the book, what was the overwhelming feeling you had? Did you find any sense of hope?

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

Allison Pataki
The Queen's Fortune:
A Novel of Desiree,
Napoleon, and the Dynasty
That Outlasted the Empire

978-0-593-12818-3 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Ballantine Books | HC
978-0-593-12819-0 | AD: 978-0-593-16720-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

A sweeping novel about the extraordinary woman who captured Napoleon's heart, created a dynasty, and changed the course of history—from the bestselling author of *The Traitor's Wife* and *Sisi*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

As the French revolution ravages the country, it's fallen on Desiree Clary to save her family from the guillotine.

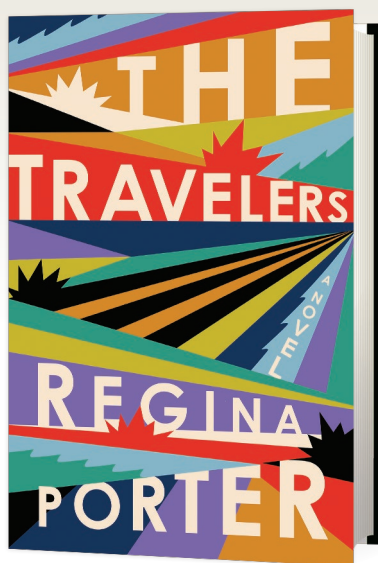
A chance encounter with Napoleon Bonaparte, the ambitious and charismatic young military prodigy, provides her answer. Quickly entering into a dizzying courtship that leads to a secret engagement, they vow to meet in the capital once his career has been secured. But her newly laid plans with Napoleon turn to sudden heartbreak, thanks to the rising star of Parisian society, Josephine de Beauharnais.

But Desiree's fortunes shift once again when she meets Napoleon's confidant and star general, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte. As the two men in Desiree's life become political rivals and military foes, the question that arises is: must she choose between the love of her new husband and the love of her nation and its Emperor?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was your first impression of Desiree Clary? How did that impression change throughout the course of the novel? How did Desiree change? When courting her, Napoleon tells Desiree that he needs her because she's earnest and pure. In what ways does she remain so, and in what ways does she not?
2. Despite being replaced by her as Napoleon's wife, Desiree ultimately befriends Josephine and feels genuine affection for her. Discuss the complicated nature of their relationship.
3. Early in the novel, Napoleon asks Desiree's mother if she agrees with the scholar Machiavelli's opinion that the ends justify the means. Why do you think Napoleon asks that question? How do you think he would answer the question, and how is that answer reflected in his behavior as the first emperor of France?
4. Discuss the various roles women occupy in this book. How are they used to serve men's purposes? How do they assert independence and influence for themselves?

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



Regina Porter

The Travelers:

A Novel

978-0-525-57619-8 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Hogarth | HC

📞 978-0-525-57621-1 | 📄 AD: 978-1-9848-8426-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

A sweeping, devastating debut novel following two American families, one white and one black, from the 1950s through Barack Obama's first year as president, and grappling with America's painful history of racism and sexism. For readers of multigenerational sagas from writers such as Gabriel García Márquez and Zadie Smith.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

James Vincent is born in 1942 to a working-class white couple whose marriage was already on the rocks. James struggles to move beyond a difficult childhood and escapes the violence at home to attend law school in Michigan, where he begins, ultimately, to envision his future as prosperous and bright.

Meanwhile, on a rural road in Georgia, Agnes Green, a black woman on her first date with a handsome suitor, is pulled over by the police, and the terrible moments that follow make her question whether she will have a future at all. As the years unspool ahead of them, unexpected turns of fate will connect these two lives and their families: two Americans who each come up against the forces of race, class, and gender that change—and end—ordinary lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Travelers* does not follow a linear narrative, but jumps back and forth in time and between the perspectives of different characters. How did this affect your reading experience?
2. *The Travelers* is interspersed with many moments of comic relief. How do you see Porter's characters retain a sense of humor even during times of intense sadness? What for you were the funniest moments in the book?
3. Agnes and Eddie each carry unspeakable traumas with them through most of their lives. How do memories of traumatic events manifest in their behavior over the years?
4. Given the contempt Charles seems to have for the Applewoods, why do you think he extends such kindness to Jerome?
5. Did *The Travelers* prompt you to question your understandings and definitions of love and marriage? How does this novel convey that love, or the love one might have for a partner or family member, is not static, but fluid or malleable, taking different forms at different moments in time?

For more discussion questions visit: [CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides](https://www.crownpublishing.com/readers-guides)

Lara Prescott
**The Secrets
We Kept:**
A Novel

978-0-525-65615-9 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-385-69326-4 | \$29.95C | Bond Street Books
978-0-525-65616-6 | AD: 978-1-9848-8593-7
LP: 978-0-593-16814-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *All the Light We Cannot See*,
Lilac Girls, and *A Gentleman in Moscow*.
For fans of *Hidden Figures* and *Mad Men*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

A thrilling tale of secretaries turned spies, of love and duty, and of sacrifice—inspired by the true story of the CIA plot to infiltrate the hearts and minds of Soviet Russia, not with propaganda, but with the greatest love story of the twentieth century: *Doctor Zhivago*.

The Secrets We Kept combines a legendary literary love story—the decades-long affair between Pasternak and his mistress and muse, Olga Ivinskaya, who was sent to the Gulag and inspired Zhivago’s heroine, Lara—with a narrative about two women empowered to lead lives of extraordinary intrigue and risk. From Pasternak’s country estate outside Moscow to the brutalities of the Gulag, from Washington, D.C. to Paris and Milan, *The Secrets We Kept* captures a watershed moment in the history of literature—told with soaring emotional intensity and captivating historical detail. And at the center of this unforgettable debut is the powerful belief that a piece of art can change the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Compare the way the men and women in the book go about their work of secret-keeping. How do societal gender roles determine who does what and who is acknowledged for their work in public? In your opinion, do the men or women wield more power?
2. For the main women in the book—Olga, Irina, and Sally—secret-keeping incurs different punishments and rewards. Who do you think suffers and sacrifices the most? Who winds up most “successful”?
3. Have you read *Doctor Zhivago*? If so, what elements of that love story do you see recurring in *The Secrets We Kept*? And even if you haven’t read it, were you able to glean how the balance of political commentary and romance contributed to the stir it caused in the world at the time of its publication?
4. Did you agree with Boris’s decisions first to share the novel with the Italian publisher, and then decline the Nobel Prize? Why or why not?

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



Kiley Reid Such a Fun Age

978-0-525-54190-5 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Putnam | HC
📞 978-0-525-54192-9 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-10707-2
📄 LP: 978-0-593-15237-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

A page-turning and big-hearted debut about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both. For readers of *The Mothers* and *The Female Persuasion*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Alix Chamberlain is a woman who gets what she wants and has made a living showing other women how to do the same. So she is shocked when her babysitter, Emira Tucker, is confronted while watching the Chamberlains' toddler one night, walking the aisles of their local supermarket. The store's security guard, seeing a young black woman out late with a white child, accuses Emira of kidnapping two-year-old Briar. A small crowd gathers, a bystander films everything, and Emira is furious and humiliated. Alix resolves to make things right.

But Emira herself is wary of Alix's desire to help. At twenty-five, she is about to lose her health insurance and has no idea what to do with her life. When the video of Emira unearths someone from Alix's past, both women find themselves on a crash course that will upend everything they think they know about themselves, and each other.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

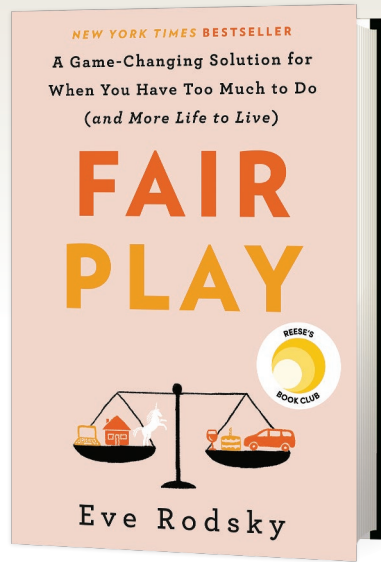
1. *Such a Fun Age* is told from the perspectives of two highly different women: Emira and Alix. How did the narration impact your reading experience? Did you relate to one woman more than the other?
2. The question of prenatal vs. parental-figure relationships is pivotal in this story. How does Briar's relationship with Emira differ from that with her mother? How do Emira and Alix each relate to Briar in return?
3. An unexpected person links Emira and Alix. What was your reaction when you realized the connection? How did it make you view Alix differently? Emira?
4. The last chapter follows Emira in the years after the incident at the Chamberlains'. In what way did things change, if at all? Did anything you learned about Kelley, Alix, or Briar surprise you?

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

Eve Rodsky
Fair Play:
A Game Changing Solution
for When You Have Too Much
to Do (and More Life to Live)

978-0-525-54193-6 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC
978-0-525-54195-0 | AD: 978-0-593-10711-9
CD: 978-0-593-10708-9 | LP: 978-0-593-15233-1

READERS' ADVISORY:
A revolutionary, real-world solution to the
problem of unpaid, invisible work that
women have shouldered for too long.
Perfect for readers of *Girl, Wash Your Face*
and *Get Your Sh*t Together*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

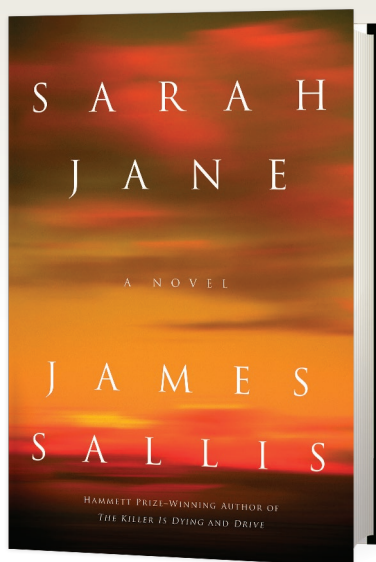
It started with the Sh*t I Do List. Tired of being the “shefault” parent responsible for all aspects of her busy household, Eve Rodsky counted up all the unpaid, invisible work she was doing for her family—and then sent that list to her husband, asking for things to change. His response was underwhelming. Rodsky realized that simply identifying the issue of unequal labor on the home front wasn’t enough: She needed a solution to this universal problem. Her sanity, identity, career, and marriage depended on it.

The result is *Fair Play*: a time- and anxiety-saving system that offers couples a completely new way to divvy up domestic responsibilities. Rodsky interviewed more than five hundred men and women from all walks of life to figure out what the invisible work in a family actually entails and how to get it all done efficiently.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In *Fair Play*, Rodsky argues that visibility equals value. Do you think it’s necessary for work to be recognized in order to hold weight in a family?
2. Too often it feels as if we have a never-ending to-do-list. What are some of the things on your own “Sh*t I Do” list? What would you most like to off-load?
3. Who does the majority of the household work and childcare in your family? How does that make you feel?
4. Are you comfortable with the concept of establishing a “minimal standard of care” on certain tasks? In what areas do you struggle with this and where can you more easily let go?
5. Rodsky outlines the most common mistakes couple make during *Fair Play*—which of them might you be most susceptible to?
6. How are you reclaiming your right to be interesting? What will you do with your Unicorn Space?

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



James Sallis **Sarah Jane**

978-1-64129-080-7 | \$23.95 /\$27.95C | Soho Press | HC
📞 978-1-64129-081-4

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of James Sallis's *Drive*,
William Kent Krueger, and Dan Chaon.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A spare, sparkling tour de force about one woman's journey to becoming a cop.

Sarah Jane Pullman is a good cop with a complicated past. From her small-town chicken-farming roots through her runaway adolescence, court-ordered Army stint, ill-advised marriage and years slinging scrambled eggs over greasy spoon griddles, Sarah Jane unfolds her life story, a parable about memory, atonement, and finding shape in chaos. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she is named the de facto sheriff of a rural town, investigating the mysterious disappearance of the sheriff whose shoes she's filling—and the even more mysterious realities of the life he was hiding from his own colleagues and closest friends. This kaleidoscopic character study sparkles in every dark and bright detail—a virtuoso work by a master of both the noir and the tender aspects of human nature.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Sarah Jane Pullman's job is to bring justice to her town as its sheriff, but her idea of justice is not always strictly in accordance with the rule of law. How would you characterize her moral scheme? Does she make any choices in the book that disturbed you, or did you feel what she did was always justified?
2. What does the novel tell us about PTSD? How does it shape not only the characters and their choices for their own lives but also the town around them? How does the trauma some characters carry end up causing trauma in others? Do you think it is possible as humans to stop ripples of trauma, or is this just part of the human condition? Does Sarah Jane stop more ripples than she causes?
3. Sarah Jane never tells us where she lives. Does her anonymous town remind you of any you've been to?
4. Why do you think Sarah Jane doesn't write back to her father?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/SarahJaneQuestions

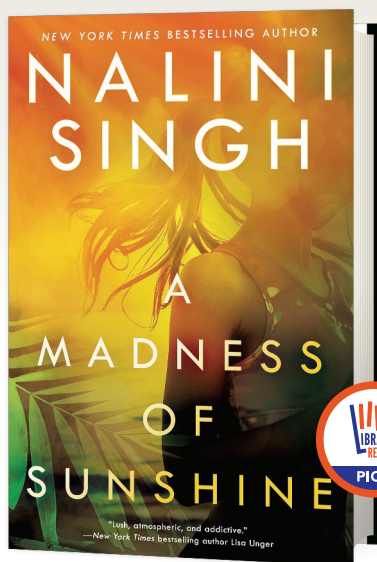
Nalini Singh A Madness of Sunshine

978-0-593-09913-1 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Berkley | HC

978-0-593-09908-7 | AD: 978-0-593-15351-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

New York Times bestselling author Nalini Singh pivots in a new direction with her first mainstream thriller that will be sure to keep readers on their toes. For readers of *Promise Not to Tell* and *Wait for Dark*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Anahera Rawiri left New Zealand at twenty-one, fleeing small-town poverty and the ghosts of her childhood with no plans to look back. But eight years later, she returns, seeking familiarity as respite from the shattered remains of her new life. And despite the changes brought on by a bump in tourism, Golden Cove appears much as it ever was.

Detective Will Gallagher is the sole cop in a quaint town where his most pressing concerns are petty theft and the occasional drunk. When Golden Cove resident Miri Hinewai goes out for a run and fails to return, Will finds himself heading up a missing person's search that rapidly escalates into an official investigation. As an outsider, Will begins to rely on Anahera's knowledge of the area and its residents to help him delve into Golden Cove's secrets, and to determine whether it shelters something far more dangerous than just an unforgiving landscape.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Imagine you lived in a small town like Golden Cove. How would you react to the idea that your neighbor or friend could be a cold-blooded killer?
2. In Golden Cove, people like Will and Jemima are considered outsiders. What do you think about the relationship between "insiders" and "outsiders" in the town?
3. Many characters in the book grow up to have experiences similar to those of their parents. Do you think it's inevitable that children repeat their parent's behavior?
4. Why do you think Jemima decided to accept Anahera's offer of friendship? What do you make of the relationship between the two women?
5. What role do you think the landscape played in the story?
6. Will suspects Kyle of being a psychopath from the start. Knowing what you know about Vincent and his past, do you think the brothers are a product of nature or nurture? Why? What do you think or hope the future holds for Will and Anahera?

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



Elizabeth Strout **Olive, Again:** A Novel

978-0-8129-9654-8 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Random House | HC
📞 978-0-8129-9655-5 | 🗣️ AD: 978-0-593-14737-5
📻 CD: 978-0-593-14734-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout continues the life of her beloved Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the imaginations of millions and inspired an Emmy-winning HBO mini-series.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Prickly, wry, resistant to change yet ruthlessly honest and deeply empathetic, Olive Kitteridge is “a compelling life force” (*San Francisco Chronicle*). *The New Yorker* has said that Elizabeth Strout “animates the ordinary with an astonishing force,” and she has never done so more clearly than in these pages, where the iconic Olive struggles to understand not only herself and her own life but the lives of those around her in the town of Crosby, Maine. Whether with a teenager coming to terms with the loss of her father, a young woman about to give birth during a hilariously inopportune moment, a nurse who confesses a secret high school crush, or a lawyer who struggles with an inheritance she does not want to accept, the unforgettable Olive will continue to startle us, to move us, and to inspire us—in Strout’s words—“to bear the burden of the mystery with as much grace as we can.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Olive Kitteridge is a fascinating character. Some readers might see her as abrasive and unlikeable; others might see her as honest and sympathetic. How do you characterize Olive? What do you appreciate about her? What irks you about her? Is she someone you’d like to meet in real life?
2. If you read *Olive Kitteridge*, do you feel Olive has changed in *Olive, Again*? If so, in what ways? If not, what about her has stayed the same?
3. During a fight with her son, Christopher, Olive realizes “that she had been frightened of her son for years.” How does she come to this realization? How does it influence how Olive thinks of herself as a mother?
4. Watching Ann yell at Christopher, Olive realizes she had yelled at her late husband, Henry, in much the same way. What does she come to accept about herself as a person? How does she ask for forgiveness?

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

Jacqueline Woodson

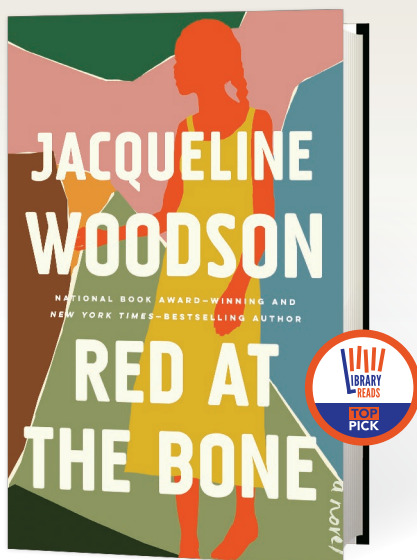
Red at the Bone:

A Novel

978-0-525-53527-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Riverhead | HC
978-0-525-53529-4 | AD: 978-0-593-14707-8
CD: 978-0-593-14704-7 | LP: 978-0-593-15225-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of powerful fiction about contemporary life set against the backdrop of history, class, and culture. Perfect for fans of Jesmyn Ward, Tayari Jones, Meg Wolitzer, and Ann Patchett.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Two families from different social classes are joined together by an unexpected pregnancy and the child that it produces. Moving forward and backward in time, with the power of poetry and the emotional richness of a narrative ten times its length, Jacqueline Woodson's extraordinary new novel uncovers the role that history and community have played in the experiences, decisions, and relationships of these families, and in the life of this child.

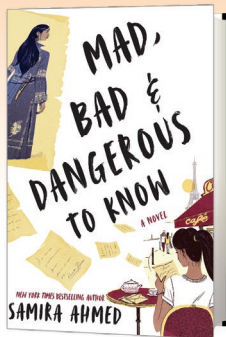
As the book opens in 2001, it is the evening of sixteen-year-old Melody's coming of age ceremony in her grandparents' Brooklyn brownstone. The event is not without poignancy. Sixteen years earlier, that very dress was measured and sewn for a different wearer: Melody's mother, for her own ceremony—a celebration that ultimately never took place.

As it explores sexual desire and identity, ambition, gentrification, education, class and status, and the life-altering facts of parenthood, *Red at the Bone* most strikingly looks at the ways in which young people must so often make long-lasting decisions about their lives—even before they have begun to figure out who they are and what they want to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The author dedicates the book to “the ancestors, a long long line of you bending and twisting.” How does the story explore the idea of legacy? How does it look at the passing down of regret and loss and trauma and history, and also of love and guidance and wisdom and experience? Discuss your own legacies: What have you inherited in this way from your ancestors, and what will be passed on to future generations? How do these legacies compare to the legacies in *Red at the Bone*?
2. The theme of mothers and daughters is one that plays throughout the book, and we begin and end the novel with Iris and Melody. How would you describe their relationship? Do you think their relationship has progressed, regressed, or otherwise changed by the conclusion of the novel? In what ways are Iris and Melody similar and in what ways are they different?

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



Samira Ahmed

Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know

978-1-61695-989-0 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC | April

📞 978-1-61695-990-6

Told in alternating narratives that bridge centuries, the latest novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Samira Ahmed traces the lives of two young women fighting to write their own stories and escape the pressure of familial burdens and cultural expectations in worlds too long defined by men.



Quan Barry

We Ride Upon Sticks: A Novel

978-1-5247-4809-8 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Pantheon | HC

📞 978-1-5247-4810-4 | 🎧 AD: 978-0-593-17032-8

From the author of the widely acclaimed *She Weeps Each Time You're Born* comes a new novel, at once comic and moving. Set in the coastal town of Danvers, Massachusetts (which in 1692 was Salem Village, site of the origins of the Salem Witch Trials), it follows the Danvers High field hockey team as they discover that the dark impulses of their Salem forebears may be the key to a winning season.



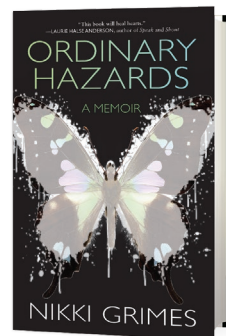
Tami Charles

Becoming Beatriz

978-1-58089-778-5 | \$17.99/\$21.99C | Charlesbridge Teen | HC

📞 978-1-63289-611-7

Beatriz dreams of a life spent dancing—until tragedy on the day of her quinceañera changes everything. Set in New Jersey in 1984, Beatriz's story is a timeless one of a teenager's navigation of romance, her brother's choices, and her own family's difficult past.



Nikki Grimes

Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir

978-1-62979-881-3 | \$19.99 | Wordsong | HC

In her own voice, acclaimed author and poet Nikki Grimes explores the truth of a harrowing childhood in a compelling and moving memoir in verse.

"This powerful story, told with the music of poetry and the blade of truth, will help your heart grow." —Laurie Halse Anderson, author of *Speak* and *Shout*

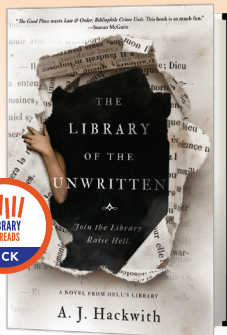
A. J. Hackwith

The Library of the Unwritten

978-1-9848-0637-6 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Ace | HC

📞 978-1-984-80638-3 | 📍 AD: 978-0-593-15154-9

In the first book in a brilliant new fantasy series, books that aren't finished by their authors reside in the Library of the Unwritten in Hell, and it is up to the Librarian to track down any restless characters who emerge from those unfinished stories. Perfect for fans of Rachel Caine and Genevieve Cogman.



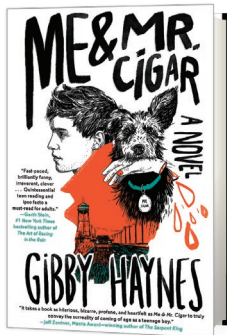
Gibby Haynes

Me and Mr. Cigar

978-1-61695-812-1 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC

📞 978-1-61695-813-8

From the wild and wonderful mind of Gibby Haynes—world famous Butthole Surfers front man/lyricist and self-proclaimed eternal Texan adolescent—comes the surreal tale of seventeen-year-old Oscar Lester and his trusted dog, Mr. Cigar. For readers interested in the weird and outrageous that also pulls at your heartstrings.



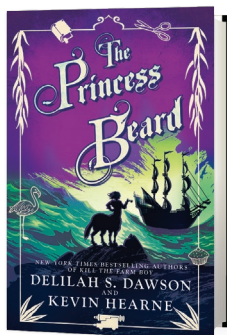
Kevin Hearne and Delilah S. Dawson

The Princess Beard: The Tales of Pell

978-1-524-79780-5 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC

📞 978-1-524-79781-2 | 📍 AD: 978-0-525-59371-3

This princess can shave herself! The hilarious bestselling authors of *Kill the Farm Boy* and *No Country for Old Gnomes* are back with a new adventure in the irreverent world of Pell.



Ibram X. Kendi

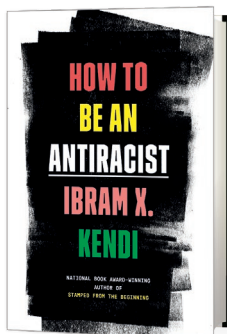
How to Be an Antiracist

978-0-525-50928-8 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | One World | HC

📞 978-0-525-50929-5 | 📍 AD: 978-1-9848-3222-1

From the National Book Award-winning author of *Stamped from the Beginning* comes a “groundbreaking” (*Time*) approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society—and in ourselves.

“The most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind.” —*The New York Times*





Paul Krueger **Steel Crow Saga**

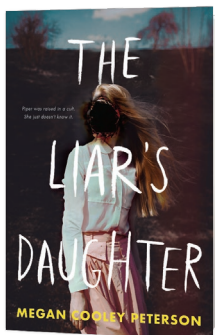
978-0-593-12822-0 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC

📖 978-0-593-12823-7 | 📻 AD: 978-0-593-14876-1

A soldier with a curse. A prince with a debt. A detective with a grudge. A thief with a broken heart.

Four destinies collide in a unique fantasy world of war and wonders, where empire is won with enchanted steel and magical animal companions fight alongside their masters in battle.

“With fierce women, ferocious creatures, and a sophisticated twist on *Pokémon* meets *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, [this] is the fantasy epic you didn’t know you needed.” —Delilah S. Dawson, bestselling author of *Star Wars: Phasma*



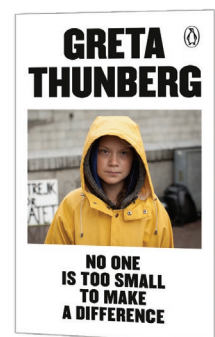
Megan Cooley Peterson **The Liar's Daughter**

978-0-8234-4418-2 | \$17.99/\$23.99C | Holiday House | HC

📖 978-0-8234-4626-1

Piper was raised in a cult. She just doesn’t know it.

Perfect for teens who can’t get enough of true crime shows like *Wild Wild Country*, *Mindhunter*, and *Making a Murderer*, and readers interested in unreliable narrators, cults, and stories that explore the patriarchy.

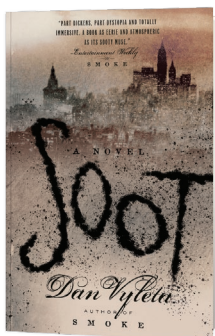


Greta Thunberg **No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference**

978-0-143-13356-8 | \$10.00/\$10.00C | Penguin Books | TR

📖 978-0-525-50537-2

In August 2018, Greta Thunberg decided not to go to school one day in order to protest the climate crisis. Her actions sparked a global movement, inspiring millions of students to go on strike for our planet, forcing governments to listen, and earning her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. Collecting her speeches that have made history across the globe, from the United Nations to mass street protests, her book is a rallying cry for why we must all fight to protect the living planet.



Dan Vyleta **Soot: A Novel**

978-0-385-54022-3 | \$28.95 | Doubleday | HC

📖 978-0-385-54023-0 | 📻 AD: 978-0-7352-0681-6 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-17176-9

The electrifying sequel to the LibraryReads pick *Smoke*—bringing back readers to a world that *Entertainment Weekly* called “Part Dickens, part dystopia, and totally immersive.”



Oscar Cásares **De donde venimos**

978-0-525-56493-5 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Vintage Español | TR
 ⓘ 978-0-525-56494-2

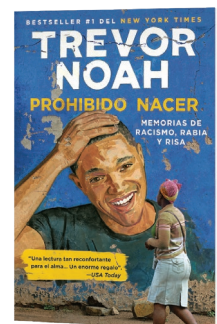
From the acclaimed author of *Brownsville* and *Amigoland* comes a stunning and timely novel about a Mexican-American family in a Texas border town who reluctantly become involved in smuggling immigrants into the United States. For fans of Cristina Henríquez, Sandra Cisneros, and Rudolfo Anaya.



Javier Marías **Berta Isla**

978-1-9848-9825-8 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

From the award-winning, internationally bestselling Spanish author of *The Infatuations*, comes a gripping new novel of intrigue and missed chances—at once a spy story and a profound examination of a marriage founded on secrets and lies. For fans of Paul Auster, Arturo Perez-Reverte, and Julian Barnes.



Trevor Noah **Prohibido nacer:** Memorias de racismo, rabia y risa

978-1-9848-9753-4 | \$17.95/\$23.95C | Vintage Español | TR
 ⓘ 978-0-525-56494-2

The beloved #1 *New York Times* bestseller, now in Spanish, is Trevor Noah's compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime coming-of-age story, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed.



Delia Owens **La chica salvaje**

978-0-593-08161-7 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Vintage Español | TR
 ⓘ 978-0-593-08162-4 | ↻ AD: 978-0-593-20960-8

A Spanish-language edition of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. Recommended for fans of Barbara Kingsolver, Alexandra Fuller, Pat Conroy, and Celeste Ng.

For more information about books in Spanish, visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Imprint/Vintage-Espanol](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Imprint/Vintage-Espanol)

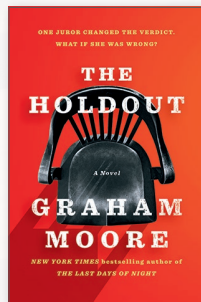
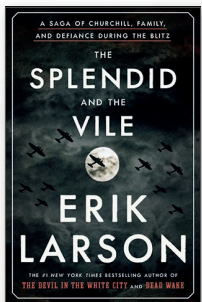
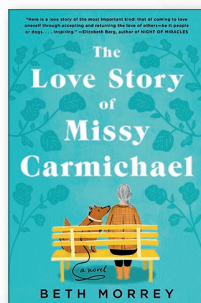
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- To share with your patrons.
- As a great way to dip in to some of the best new books.
- For the chance to win free books.



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