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# BOOK CLUB

What Will  
You Read  
Next?

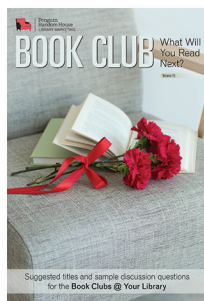
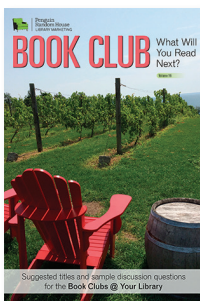
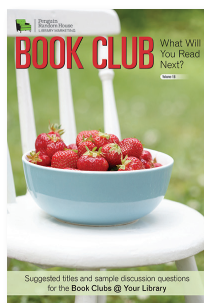
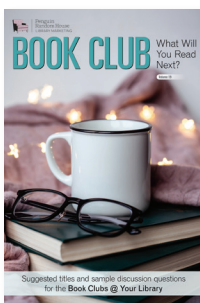
Volume 20



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

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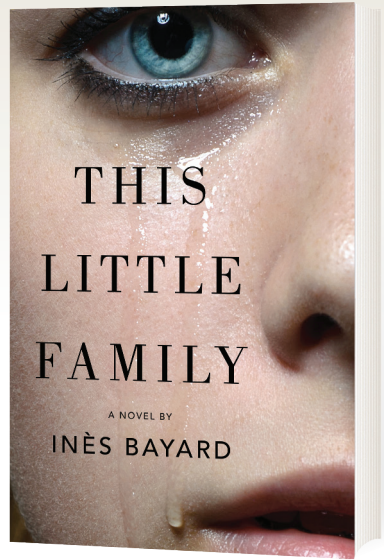
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[TinyUrl.com/BCeNewsletter](https://TinyUrl.com/BCeNewsletter)

Inès Bayard; Translated by  
Adriana Hunter  
**This Little Family:**  
A Novel

978-1-892746-87-0 | \$15.99/\$21.99C | Other Press | TR  
📞 978-1-892746-67-2

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
For readers of dark, psychological fiction  
and fans of Gillian Flynn, Paula Hawkins,  
and Lisa Jewell.



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### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**T**his astonishing debut inhabits the mind of a young married woman driven to extremes by disgust and dread in the aftermath of a rape.

Marie and Laurent, a young, affluent couple, have settled into their large Paris apartment and decide to start trying for a baby. This picture-perfect existence is shattered when Marie is assaulted by her new boss. Deeply shaken by the attack, she discovers she is pregnant, and is convinced her rapist is the father. Marie closes herself off in a destructive silence, ultimately leading her to commit an irreparable act.

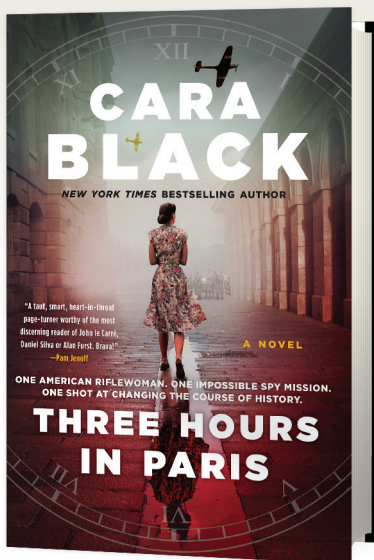
In a first novel of extraordinary power and depth, Inès Bayard exposes disturbing truths about how society sees women and how women see themselves in turn.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you think of the opening of the novel? How did the first chapter shape your expectations for how the story would unfold?
2. The novel includes a graphic and visceral depiction of sexual assault. How did you feel about the author's handling of this subject matter?
3. Discuss class privilege as it is portrayed in the novel. How does Marie's social status inform her response to trauma?
4. How do you interpret Marie's interactions with Mathilde?
5. How does the novel interrogate or challenge our assumptions about motherhood?
6. Discuss and compare the portrayals of marriage in the novel.

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



## Cara Black Three Hours in Paris

978-1-64129-041-8 | \$27.95/\$35.95C | Soho Press | HC  
📞 978-1-64129-042-5

### READERS' ADVISORY:

"Black stretches her wings here, soaring to new heights."—*Booklist*, starred review

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**I**n June of 1940, when Paris fell to the Nazis, Hitler spent a total of three hours in the City of Light—abruptly leaving, never to return. To this day, no one knows why.

Kate Rees, a young American markswoman, has been recruited by British intelligence to drop into Paris with a dangerous assignment: assassinate the Führer. Wrecked by grief after a Luftwaffe bombing killed her husband and infant daughter, she is armed with a rifle, a vendetta, and a fierce resolve. But other than rushed and rudimentary instruction, she has no formal spy training. Thrust into the red-hot center of the war, a country girl from rural Oregon finds herself holding the fate of the world in her hands. When Kate misses her mark and the plan unravels, Kate is on the run for her life—all the time wrestling with the suspicion that the whole operation was a set-up.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Kate's grief shape the story? In what ways does loss influence her journey?
2. What role does setting play in the novel? How was Paris portrayed as compared to other fictional depictions of the City of Light?
3. What strategies, qualities, and characteristics does Kate use to survive while she's on the run?
4. How does *Three Hours in Paris* compare to other espionage thrillers you've read? How does Black embrace the tenets of the spy thriller?
5. Describe Gunter Hoffman's character. What drives him? What is his relationship to the Nazi regime?

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

# Chris Bohjalian

## The Red Lotus:

### A Novel

978-0-385-54480-1 | \$27.95/\$36.95C | Doubleday | HC  
978-0-385-54481-8 | AD: 978-0-593-16941-4  
CD: 978-0-593-16939-1 | LP: 978-0-593-17174-5

#### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Elizabeth Strout, Liane Moriarty,  
Noah Hawley, Paula Hawkins, Jodi Picoult,  
and Kristin Hannah.



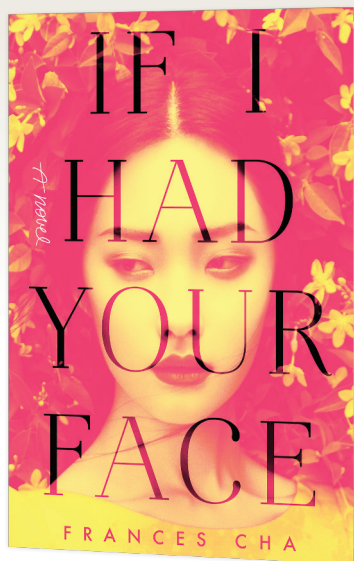
#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

The first time Alexis saw Austin, it was a Saturday night. Not in a bar, but in the emergency room where Alexis sutured a bullet wound in Austin's arm. Six months later, on the brink of falling in love, they travel to Vietnam on a bike tour so that Austin can show her his passion for cycling and he can pay his respects to the place where his father and uncle fought in the war. But as Alexis sips white wine and waits at the hotel for him to return from his solo ride, two men emerge from the tall grass and Austin vanishes into thin air. The only clue he leaves behind is a bright yellow energy gel dropped on the road. As Alexis grapples with this bewildering loss, and deals with the FBI, Austin's prickly family, and her colleagues at the hospital, Alexis uncovers a series of strange lies that force her to wonder: Where did Austin go? Why did he really bring her to Vietnam? And how much danger has he left her in?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Alexis's work as an emergency room doctor has shown her that life is short—and full of unexpected horrors. How do you think the trauma she's seen in her career affects the choices she makes early in her relationship with Austin?
2. What initially attracts Alexis to Austin? How does their "meet-cute" in the ER set the tone for their relationship even before Austin disappears?
3. Why do you think Alexis insists on investigating Austin's death when she returns home from Vietnam? What reasons might she have for trying to solve the mystery beyond the fact that the victim was her boyfriend?
4. Taleen Sarafian observes that the "red lotus" plague is named after a beautiful flower that "sinks at night" and "rises again at dawn." Where else in the novel do you see themes of resurrection?

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



Frances Cha  
**If I Had Your Face:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-12946-3 | \$27.00 | Ballantine Books | HC  
978-0-385-69426-1 | \$32.95C | Bond Street Books | HC  
📞 978-05-9312947-0 | 🌐 AD: 978-0-593-16738-0

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

Perfect for readers of *You Think It, I'll Say It* by Curtis Sittenfeld, *The Girls* by Emma Cline, *Sweetbitter* by Stephanie Danler, *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko, and *Normal People* by Sally Rooney.

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**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**A**riveting debut novel set in contemporary Seoul, Korea, about four young women making their way in a world defined by impossible standards of beauty, after-hours room salons catering to wealthy men, ruthless social hierarchies, and K-pop mania.

Kyuri is an achingly beautiful woman with a hard-won job at a Seoul “room salon,” an exclusive underground bar where she entertains businessmen while they drink. Kyuri’s roommate, Miho, is a talented artist who grew up in an orphanage but won a scholarship to study art in New York. Ara, a hairstylist, has two preoccupations that sustain her: an obsession with a boy-band pop star, and a best friend who is saving up for the extreme plastic surgery that she hopes will change her life. And Wanna is a newlywed trying to have a baby.

Together, their stories tell a gripping tale at once unfamiliar and unmistakably universal, in which their tentative friendships may turn out to be the thing that ultimately saves them.

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What did you learn about Korean culture from this novel? What surprised you? How did the setting impact the story?
2. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from multiple points of view? How did this impact your reading experience and connection to the characters?
3. Kyuri says, “Even as a girl, I knew the only chance I had was to change my face.” What does she mean? What role does beauty play in this story?
4. Discuss how social class exists in the novel. How does it impact the relationships between characters? What do you think the author is trying to say about class mobility in Korea?
5. How does parenthood, particularly motherhood, factor into the story? How does the author push back at traditional notions of family?

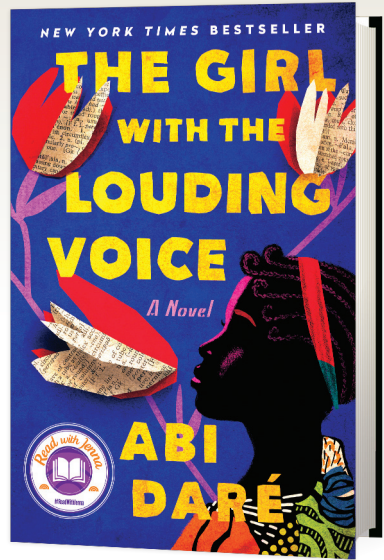
For more discussion questions visit: [RandomHouseBooks.com/articles/book-club-resources](https://www.randomhousebooks.com/articles/book-club-resources)

Abi Daré  
**The Girl with the  
Louding Voice:**  
A Novel

978-1-5247-4602-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Dutton | HC  
978-1-5247-4608-7 | AD: 978-0-593-16873-8  
LP: 978-0-593-33986-2

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A powerful, emotional novel told in the unforgettable voice of a young Nigerian woman who is trapped in a life of servitude but determined to fight for her dreams. Perfect for fans of Ayobami Adebayo and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.



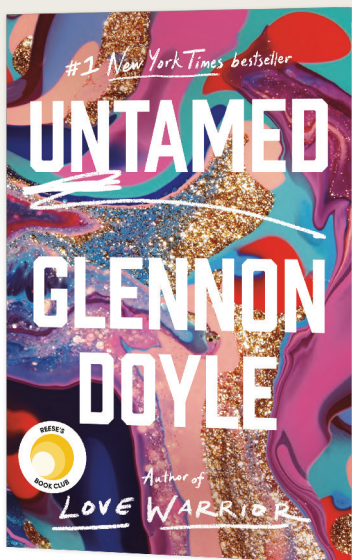
**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Adunni is a fourteen-year-old Nigerian girl who wants an education. This, her mother has told her, is the only way to get a “louding voice”—the ability to speak for herself and decide her own future. But instead, Adunni’s father sells her to be the third wife of a local man who is eager for her to bear him a son and heir. When Adunni runs away to the city, hoping to make a better life, she finds that the only other option before her is servitude to a wealthy family. As a yielding daughter, a subservient wife, and a powerless slave, Adunni is told, by words and deeds, that she is nothing. But while misfortunes might muffle her voice for a time, they cannot mute it. And when she realizes that she must stand up not only for herself, but for other girls who will inevitably follow; she finds the resolve to speak, however she can until she is heard.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you think Adunni’s comparison of her mother to a rose flower symbolizes? Why do you think she compares her mother to this particular type of flower?
2. Compare and contrast Khadija with the glimpses we get of Adunni’s mother. How were their lives similar or different from one another?
3. Why do you think Bamidele doesn’t return for Khadija? What do you think he whispers in her ear before leaving her for the last time?
4. Why do you think Adunni is closer with Kayus than Born-boy? What is it that makes their sibling bond so deep?

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



## Glennon Doyle Untamed

978-1-9848-0125-8 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | The Dial Press | HC  
📞 978-1-9848-0126-5 | 📍 AD: 978-0-593-15608-7  
📻 CD: 978-0-593-20973-8

### READERS' ADVISORY:

A Reese's Book Club X Hello Sunshine Book Pick

This newest memoir from the author of *Love Warrior* and *Carry On, Warrior* is perfect for Anne Lamott's *Traveling Mercies*, Elizabeth Gilbert's *Big Magic*, and Cheryl Strayed's *Tiny Beautiful Things*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

There is a voice of longing inside each woman. We strive so mightily to be good: good partners, daughters, mothers, employees, and friends. We hope all this striving will make us feel alive. Instead, it leaves us feeling weary, stuck, overwhelmed, and underwhelmed.

For many years, Glennon Doyle denied her own discontent. Then, while speaking at a conference, she looked at a woman across the room and fell instantly in love. Three words flooded her mind: *There She Is*. At first, Glennon assumed these words came to her from on high. But she soon realized they had come to her from within. This was her own voice—the one she had buried beneath decades of numbing addictions, cultural conditioning, and institutional allegiances. This was the voice of the girl she had been before the world told her who to be. Glennon decided to quit abandoning herself and to instead abandon the world's expectations of her.

Soulful and uproarious, forceful and tender, *Untamed* is both an intimate memoir and a galvanizing wake-up call. And it is the story of how each of us can begin to trust ourselves enough to set boundaries, make peace with our bodies, honor our anger and heartbreak, and unleash our truest, wildest instincts so that we become women who can finally look at ourselves and say: *There She Is*.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Glennon writes, "We forgot how to know when we learned how to please." Does this feel true to you? Do you ever find yourself ignoring your own instincts in favor of pleasing others? When? Why?
2. Glennon compares hard feelings—anger, heartbreak, and grief—to the delivery of a package containing new information about herself. She writes that the "reward for enduring hard feelings [is] finding [her] potential, [her] purpose, and [her] people." What have you learned about yourself through hardship?

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

# Amanda Eyre Ward

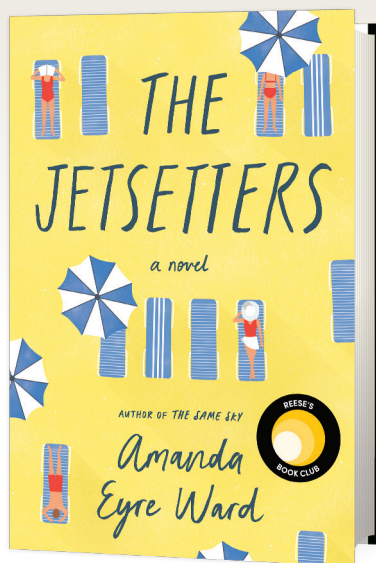
## The Jetsetters:

### A Novel

978-0-399-18189-4 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Ballantine Books | HC  
978-0-399-18190-0

#### READERS' ADVISORY:

A Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick, perfect for fans of family dramas like *The Nest* and *The Vacationers*.



#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

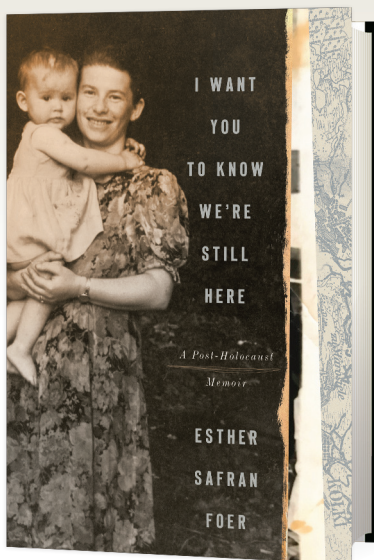
When seventy-year-old Charlotte Perkins submits a sexy essay to the Become a Jetsetter contest, she dreams of reuniting her estranged children: Lee, an almost-famous actress; Cord, a handsome Manhattan venture capitalist who can't seem to find a partner; and Regan, a harried mother. Charlotte yearns for the years when her children were young, when she was a single mother who meant everything to them.

When she wins the contest, the family packs their baggage—both literal and figurative—and spends ten days traveling from sun-drenched Athens through glorious Rome to tapas-laden Barcelona on an over-the-top cruise ship, the *Splendido Marveloso*. As lovers new and old join the adventure, long-buried secrets are revealed and old wounds are reopened, forcing the Perkins family to confront the forces that drove them apart and the defining choices of their lives.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the many mother-daughter relationships at the core of the novel. How does Charlotte's relationship with her mother impact her relationship with her own daughters?
2. What do you think of Lee's decision to rig the "Become a Jetsetter" contest? What kinds of boundaries is she crossing, and do you think her actions are justified? How does Ward explore ideas of privacy and boundaries between loved ones in the novel?
3. How would this story be different if it didn't take place on a cruise? How was the plot shaped by the confined cruise ship setting?
4. Discuss how the book handles the matter of age. Do you think there are different societal expectations for people of certain ages? How do you see those expectations represented or subverted in this book? How does that apply to the portrayal of female desire in the novel, particularly for Charlotte?

For more discussion questions visit: [RandomHouseBooks.com/articles/book-club-resources](https://www.RandomHouseBooks.com/articles/book-club-resources)



## Esther Safran Foer

# I Want You to Know We're Still Here:

### A Post-Holocaust Memoir

978-0-525-57598-6 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Tim Duggan Books | HC  
📍 978-0-525-57600-6 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-16707-6

#### **READERS' ADVISORY:**

**A woman unearths family secrets and gives voice to things unspoken in this poignant memoir that traces her parents' escape from the Holocaust. For readers of Jonathan Safran Foer and Elie Wiesel.**

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#### **ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**T**he child of parents who were each the sole survivors of their respective families, for Esther Safran Foer the Holocaust loomed in the backdrop of daily life, felt but never discussed. The result was a childhood marked by painful silences and continued tragedy.

So when Esther's mother casually mentions an astonishing revelation—that her father had a previous wife and daughter, both killed in the Holocaust—Esther resolves to find out who they were, and how her father survived. What she finds reshapes her identity and gives her the opportunity to finally mourn.

*I Want You to Know We're Still Here* is the poignant and deeply moving story not only of Esther's journey but of four generations living in the shadow of the Holocaust. They are four generations of survivors, storytellers, and memory keepers, determined not just to keep the past alive but to imbue the present with life.

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#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

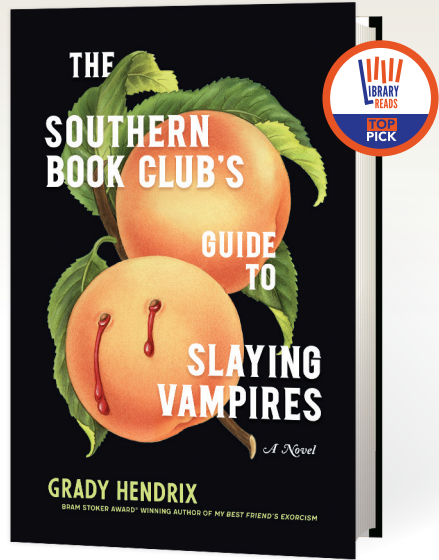
1. Think about the title: what does it mean? How does it inform Esther's journey? Who is the "I," the "you," and the "we"?
2. Esther writes about how Amos Oz's book, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, enabled her to begin to confront her own trauma around her father. Have there been works of literature which have informed your own understanding of your family history or identity?
3. Why do you think Esther's mother kept her father's letters from her, even as an adult? Was this an act of protection?
4. Esther writes that she is a "hinge" between her mother and her own children, that she had a "role in this story as the biological link" between the two generations. How does she work to fulfill what she sees as her role in the story?

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

# Grady Hendrix The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires: A Novel

978-1-68369-143-3 | \$22.99/\$29.99C | Quirk Books | HC  
📞 978-1-68369-144-0

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
For fans of popular horror and  
Southern-set fiction.



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

Patricia Campbell's life has never felt smaller. Her ambitious husband is too busy, her kids have their own lives, and her senile mother-in-law needs constant care. The one thing she has to look forward to is her book club, a close-knit group of Charleston women united by their love of true crime. At these meetings, they're as likely to talk about the Manson family as they are neighborhood gossip.

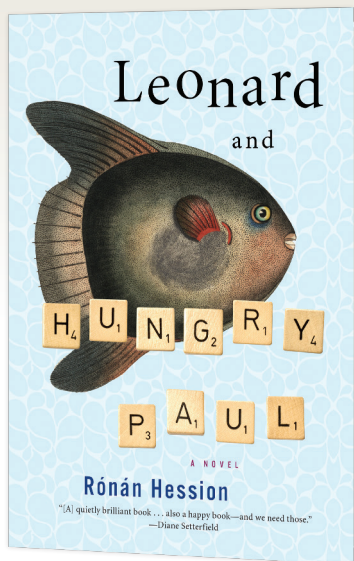
This predictable pattern is upended when Patricia meets James Harris, a handsome stranger who moves into the neighborhood and ends up joining the book club. Sensitive and well-read, James makes Patricia feel things she hasn't felt in twenty years. But there's something off about him.

When local children go missing, Patricia and the book club members start to suspect James is more of a Bundy than a Beatnik. Have they read too many true crime books, or have they invited a real monster into their homes?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the pros and cons of living in a suburban community like Mt. Pleasant in the 1990s? Do these vary depending on gender, race, or social status?
2. How do the women in the book club respond to reports of strange or downright scary events, and how does their environment influence the different strengths and weaknesses they display?
3. Why do you think Patricia, out of all James Harris's new friends in their quiet neighborhood, is more prone to considering the possibility of a menace in their midst?
4. How is Patricia's trust betrayed, both inside her social circle and beyond her community?
5. What elements of vampire lore has Grady Hendrix expanded upon, discarded, and added to the genre?

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



## Rónán Hession Leonard and Hungry Paul

978-1-61219-848-4 | \$25.99/\$34.99C | Melville House | HC

978-1-61219-849-1

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Nick Hornby and Maeve Binchy.

“...A tender and hilarious debut. The title characters are unforgettable...Essential reading, especially in these times.” —*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

In this charming and truly unique debut, popular Irish musician Rónán Hession tells the story of two single, thirty-something men who still live with their parents and who are . . . nice. They take care of their parents and play board games together. They like to read. They take satisfaction from their work. They are resolutely kind. And they realize that none of this is considered . . . normal.

*Leonard and Hungry Paul* is the story of two friends struggling to protect their understanding of what's meaningful in life. It is about the uncelebrated people of this world—the gentle, the meek, the humble. And as they struggle to persevere, the book asks a surprisingly enthralling question: Is it really them against the world, or are they on to something?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The author writes in what could be called a hyper-realistic style, with extremely detailed descriptions of the ordinary elements of everyday life. How does this style contribute to the emotional impact of the narrative?
2. The inner characters of both Leonard and Hungry Paul each grow slowly but quite a lot through the course of the book. Discuss how they change from start to finish and what drives them.
3. Leonard and Hungry Paul feels like it could be set anywhere. Did you know that the book is actually set in Dublin? How did knowing/not knowing that affect your reading?
4. Of the many relationships in the book—romantic, friendly, familial—which stood out to you as the most interesting and rewarding to read about?
5. Near the end of the book, Helen and Peter find themselves “still fitting like two jigsaw pieces after all these years.” How does the idea of fitting in, or fitting together, play out in the novel?
6. Are there any gentle souls in your own life? Did this book make you rethink the way you see them?

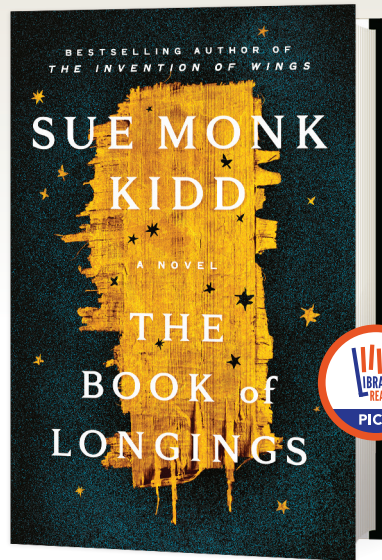
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/LeonardandHungryPaul](http://TinyUrl.com/LeonardandHungryPaul)

# Sue Monk Kidd The Book of Longings: A Novel

978-0-525-42976-0 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Viking | HC  
978-0-698-40819-7 | AD: 978-0-593-21284-4  
CD: 978-0-593-21282-0 | LP: 978-0-593-28596-1

## READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of engaging stories of the lives of women lost to history that explore faith, independence, and love. For fans of Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent* and Madeline Miller's *Circe*.



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

In her mesmerizing fourth work of fiction, Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything.

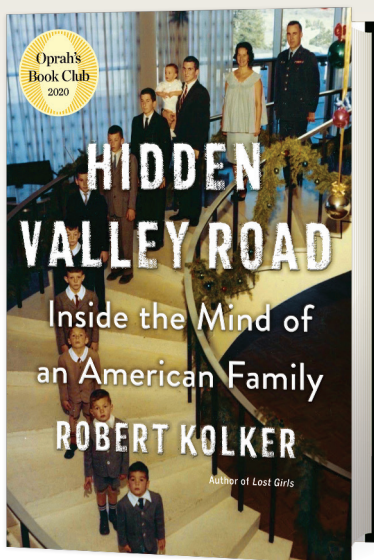
Their marriage evolves with love and conflict, humor and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas.

Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the title of the novel. Ana is a character defined by her longings and aspirations. She is passionate about the power of writing, of narratives, of having a voice, as well as lifting up the voices of other women. How does the novel's theme of finding and expressing one's authentic voice unfold in the story? What forces work to silence contemporary women and what emboldens them?
2. Ana's aunt Yaltha is described as being as tough, clever, defiant, and daring as she is nurturing: "Her mind was an immense feral country that spilled its borders. She trespassed everywhere." What do you think is Yaltha's most profound influence on Ana? Has there been anyone in your life like Yaltha? How do you think you have been shaped by the older women in your life?

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



## Robert Kolker **Hidden Valley Road:**

Inside the Mind of an American Family

978-0-385-54376-7 | \$29.95 | Doubleday | HC  
978-0-7352-7445-7 | \$32.95C | Random House Canada  
📞 978-0-385-54377-4 | 🌐 AD: 978-0-593-20833-5

### **READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *The Gene: An Intimate History*, and *Far From the Tree*.

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### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**D**on and Mimi Galvin seemed to be living the American dream. After World War II, Don's work with the Air Force brought them to Colorado, where their twelve children perfectly spanned the baby boom: the oldest born in 1945, the youngest in 1965. In those years, there was an established script for a family like the Galvins—ambition, hard work, upward mobility, domestic harmony—and they worked hard to play their parts. But behind the scenes was a different story: psychological breakdown, sudden shocking violence, hidden abuse. By the mid-1970s, six of the ten Galvin boys, one after another, were diagnosed as schizophrenic. How could all this happen to one family?

What took place inside the house on Hidden Valley Road was so extraordinary that the Galvins became one of the first families to be studied by the National Institute of Mental Health. And unbeknownst to the Galvins, samples of their DNA informed decades of genetic research that continues today, offering paths to treatment, prediction, and even eradication of the disease for future generations.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

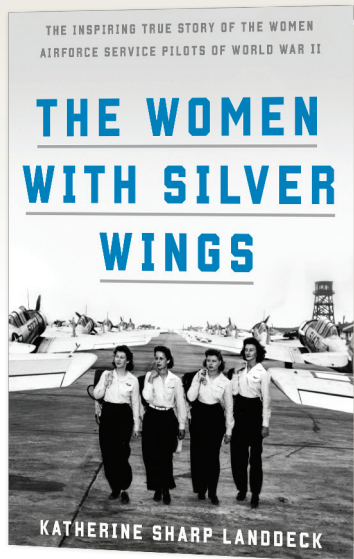
1. Each of the Galvin boys who are diagnosed with schizophrenia show different symptoms. How does schizophrenia present differently in each of the Galvin boys?
2. How does the Galvin family adapt when the boys develop schizophrenia? Do any of the family members handle it better or worse than others?
3. At the time when the Galvin boys are being diagnosed with schizophrenia, studies in mental illness claim the parents are responsible. How do you think this affected how Don and Mimi handled the changes happening in their family?
4. How did growing up on an air force base positively or negatively affect the Galvin family?
5. How did this book change your perception of mental illness?

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

Katherine Sharp Landeck  
**The Women with  
Silver Wings:**  
The Inspiring True Story of  
the Women Airforce Service  
Pilots of World War II

978-1-5247-6281-0 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Crown | HC  
978-1-5247-6283-4 | AD: 978-1-9848-4507-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
For readers of *Hidden Figures*, *Code Girls*,  
*Headstrong*, and fans of Erik Larson and  
Laura Hillenbrand.



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

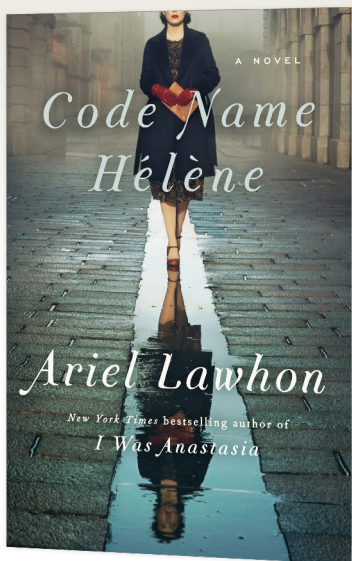
At twenty-two, Cornelia Fort had escaped Nashville's debutante scene for a fresh start as a flight instructor in Hawaii. So when the U.S. Army Air Forces put out a call for women pilots to aid the war effort, Fort was one of the first to respond. She became one of just over 1,100 women from across the nation to make it through the Army's rigorous selection process and earn her silver wings.

The brainchild of trailblazing pilots Nancy Love and Jacqueline Cochran, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) gave women like Fort a chance to serve their country—and to prove that women aviators were just as skilled as men. Though the program was eventually disbanded, the bonds these women forged never failed, and over the next few decades they came together to fight for recognition as the military veterans they were—and for their place in history.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Before reading *The Women with Silver Wings*, what did you know about women's contributions to World War II? Were you familiar with the WASP?
2. The WASP was the brainchild of two trailblazing pilots, Jacqueline Cochran and Nancy Harkness Love. What did they have in common? What set them apart?
3. Nancy and Jackie had strict standards for WASP applicants, including significant flight time, a high level of educational attainment, and even—at least for Jackie's program—a conventionally attractive appearance. Why were they so insistent on maintaining these standards, which were higher than those for men?
4. The women of the WASP grew up in a culture obsessed with flight, in which the fastest, most daring pilots—including women like Amelia Earhart—were as famous as film stars. What did flying represent for girls and young women in the 1920s and 1930s? How did it influence them to join the WASP?

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



## Ariel Lawhon

# Code Name Hélène:

### A Novel

978-0-385-54468-9 | \$27.95/\$36.95C | Doubleday | HC

📞 978-0-385-54469-6 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-16924-7

📱 LP: 978-0-593-17175-2

#### **READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of *The Alice Network*, *The Huntress*, and *We Were the Lucky Ones*.

#### **ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**T**old in interweaving timelines organized around the four code names Nancy used during the war, *Code Name Hélène* is a spellbinding and moving story of enduring love, remarkable sacrifice and unfaltering resolve that chronicles the true exploits of a woman who deserves to be a household name.

It is 1936 and Nancy Wake is an intrepid Australian expat living in Paris who has bluffed her way into a reporting job for Hearst newspaper when she meets the wealthy French industrialist Henri Fiocca. No sooner does Henri sweep Nancy off her feet and convince her to become Mrs. Fiocca than the Germans invade France and she takes yet another name: a code name. But no one can protect Nancy if the enemy finds out, and the closer to liberation France gets, the more exposed she—and the people she loves—become.

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

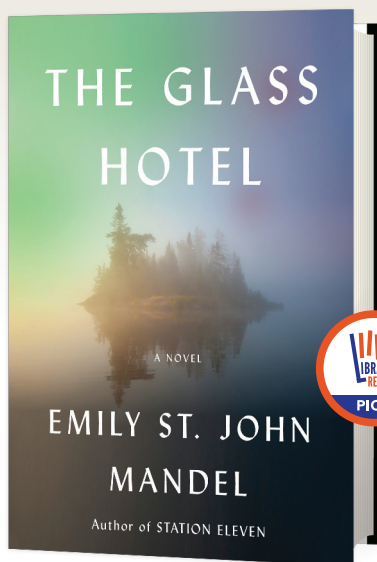
1. Nancy's argument with her Hearst editor takes place in 1936, but is probably not all that different from challenges that face women in the workforce today. We later learn that Nancy agreed was told that her work for Hearst would be published without not carry a byline. . . unless she took a male pen name, which she refused to do. What would you have done?
2. Discuss the shift back and forth in time between Nancy's life before and during the war. Did it give you a different view at the ways in which war alters lives, both great and small?
3. "The thing about lipstick, the reason it's so powerful, is that it is distracting." Nancy's beloved red lipstick also gives her confidence. Is there a product or accessory that does something similar for you?
4. Had you heard of Nancy Wake prior to reading *Code Name Hélène*? Did the novel inspire you to learn more about her?

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

Emily St. John Mandel  
**The Glass Hotel:**  
A Novel

978-0-525-52114-3 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC  
978-0-525-52115-0 | AD: 978-0-525-59670-7  
CD: 978-0-525-59667-7 | LP: 978-0-593-17173-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
For readers of Lauren Groff, Celeste Ng,  
Ian McEwan, and Colson Whitehead.



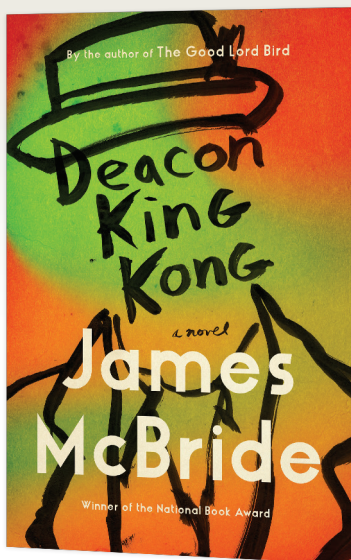
### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Vincent is a bartender at the Hotel Caiette, a five-star lodging on the northernmost tip of Vancouver Island. On the night she meets Jonathan Alkaitis, a hooded figure scrawls a message on the lobby's glass wall: "Why don't you swallow broken glass." High above Manhattan, a greater crime is committed: Alkaitis is running an international Ponzi scheme, moving imaginary sums of money through clients' accounts. When the financial empire collapses, it obliterates countless fortunes and devastates lives. Vincent, who had been posing as Jonathan's wife, walks away into the night. Years later, a victim of the fraud is hired to investigate a strange occurrence: a woman has seemingly vanished from the deck of a container ship between ports of call.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Raphael tells Walter, "Our guests in Caiette want to come to the wilderness, but they don't want to be in the wilderness. They just want to look at it, ideally through the window of a luxury hotel." Examine the meaning of Raphael's words, paying close attention to the ways in which this notion of curated reality permeates the novel. In what other instances is the truth framed in such a way so as to distort it?
2. Explore the theme of opportunity as it is depicted in the novel. What opportunities are available to Vincent? To Paul? To other young people in the early aughts? How does each character's access to opportunity—or lack thereof—affect their fate? Is there such thing as a "good opportunity"? Why or why not?
3. Consider the role the financial crisis of 2008 plays in the novel. Which characters are affected, and how? What ways do they find to cope, and what do their lives look like in the aftermath? Are they able to move forward—and to find happiness? What do these outcomes suggest about the possibility of starting over?

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



## James McBride

# Deacon King Kong

978-0-735-21672-3 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Riverhead | HC

📖 978-0-735-21674-7 | 📻 AD: 978-0-593-16699-4

📻 CD: 978-0-593-16697-0 | 📺 LP: 978-0-593-17183-7

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of contemporary fiction, African-American fiction, and the novels of Colson Whitehead, Edward P. Jones, and Tayari Jones.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

From James McBride, author of the National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird* and the bestselling modern classic *The Color of Water*, comes a wise and witty tale about what happens to the witnesses of a shooting.

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and in front of everybody shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range.

The reasons for this desperate burst of violence and the consequences that spring from it lie at the heart of this novel. In *Deacon King Kong*, McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself.

When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you define the Causeway Housing Projects Community? Community dynamics play a powerful role in the novel. There are differences within generations and also arguments between those of the same generation. And despite those differences, there's a strong community spirit that propels the characters and their stories. What role does community play in this book and its central characters?
2. Fate or perhaps serendipity bind many characters together in surprising and increasingly complicated ways. How did you view the connection between seemingly unrelated characters?
3. The novel begins with a dedication to God and ends with a second one. What role does the church and religion play in both the setting and plot?

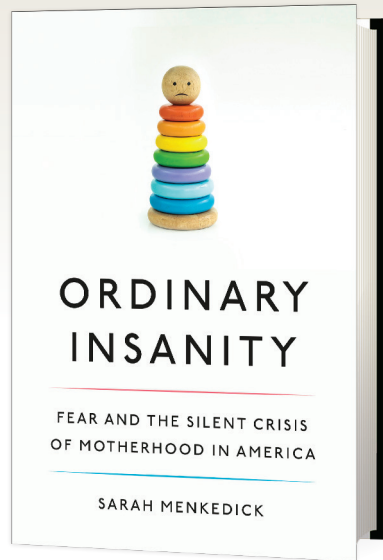
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

Sarah Menkedick  
**Ordinary Insanity:**  
Fear and the Silent Crisis of  
Motherhood in America

978-1-5247-4777-0 | \$28.95/\$38.95C | Pantheon | HC  
📞 978-1-5247-4778-7 | 📄 AD: 978-0-593-17016-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of broadly critical works by  
writers like Rebecca Traister, Leslie Jamison,  
and Sheila Heti.



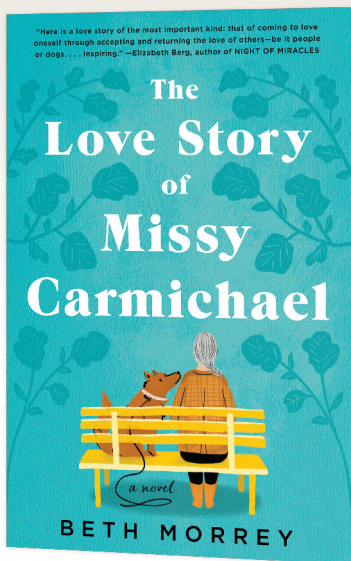
**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

A groundbreaking exposé and diagnosis of the silent epidemic of fear afflicting new mothers, and a candid, feminist deep dive into the culture, science, history, and psychology of contemporary motherhood. Drawing on extensive research, numerous interviews, and the raw particulars of her own experience with anxiety, writer and mother Sarah Menkedick gives us a comprehensive examination of the biology, psychology, history, and societal conditions surrounding the crushing and life-limiting fear that has become the norm for so many. Woven into the stories of women's lives is an examination of the factors—such as the changing structure of the maternal brain, the ethically problematic ways risk is construed during pregnancy, and the marginalization of motherhood as an identity—that explore how motherhood came to be an experience so dominated by anxiety, and how mothers might reclaim it.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you think knowing how the brain is rewired in pregnancy and postpartum might have changed April's experience of early motherhood? What systems could have been put in place—personal, medical, social, cultural—to prevent her from having such a traumatic first year with her baby?
2. Samantha and Jacyn had very different experiences of being institutionalized shortly after becoming mothers. Why do you think their experiences, and the outcomes of their experiences, were so different?
3. Mothers have had a long and complicated relationship with experts. Chapters eight and nine detail some of the complexities of this relationship. Are parenting experts necessary? When and why?
4. Menkedick writes, "Throughout history, white women have chosen racial solidarity with white men over gender solidarity with women of color." How has this played out in the context of motherhood? How can white women be better allies to women of color?

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



## Beth Morrey

# The Love Story of Missy Carmichael

978-0-525-54244-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC

📍 978-0-525-54246-9 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-16347-4

📖 LP: 978-0-593-17179-0

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* and *A Man Called Ove*, a life-affirming celebration of how ordinary days are made extraordinary through friendship, family, and the power of forgiving yourself—at any age.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

The world has changed around seventy-nine-year-old librarian Millicent Carmichael, aka Missy, who once led a bustling life. Now her husband is gone, her daughter is estranged, and her son has moved to his wife's native Australia, taking her only grandchild. She spends her days avoiding people, and rattling around in her oversized house waiting for . . . what exactly?

The last thing Missy expects is for two perfect strangers and one spirited dog named Bob to break through her prickly exterior and show Missy just how much love she still has to give. Missy finds herself in the jarring embrace of an eclectic community that simply won't take no for an answer—including a rambunctious mutt-on-loan whose unconditional love gives Missy a reason to re-enter the world one muddy paw print at a time.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Did you like Missy Carmichael when you first met her? Why or why not? How about at the end?
2. Missy's life is entirely transformed by her chance meeting with Sylvie and Angela. Why doesn't Missy like Angela at first? Does Missy's opinion change as she gets to know her? How do these two women reshape the way Missy understands her community?
3. Why doesn't Missy want to take Bobby? What changes? How does the dog help Missy to see her life differently?
4. Why does Missy dread her seventy-ninth birthday? Do you agree with the saying that "age is just a number"? Why or why not? What do you think is different about looking for a fresh start in "old age"? How does Missy's story change the way you think about finding love?

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

# Clare Pooley The Authenticity Project

978-1-984-87861-8 | \$26.00 | Pamela Dorman Books | HC  
978-0-735-23843-5 | \$24.95C | Viking Canada | TR  
📞 978-1-984-87862-5 | 📍 AD: 978-0-593-16603-1  
📖 LP: 978-0-593-17182-0

## READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and *The Rosie Project*.



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

The story of a solitary green notebook that brings together six strangers and leads to unexpected friendship, and even love.

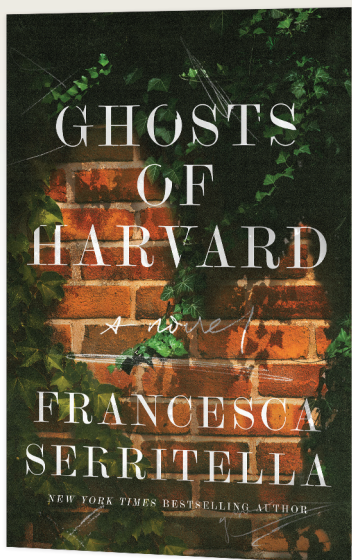
Julian Jessop, an eccentric, lonely artist and septuagenarian believes that most people aren't really honest with each other. But what if they were? And so he writes—in a plain, green journal—the truth about his own life and leaves it in his local café. It's run by the incredibly tidy and efficient Monica, who furtively adds her own entry and leaves the book in the wine bar across the street. Before long, the others who find the green notebook add the truths about their own deepest selves—and soon find each other In Real Life at Monica's Café.

*The Authenticity Project's* cast of characters is by turns quirky and funny, heartbreakingly sad and painfully true-to-life. It's a story about being brave and putting your real self forward—and finding out that it's not as scary as it seems.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Julian writes, "Everyone lies about their lives." Is this true? Do you?
2. Julian calls his notebook *The Authenticity Project*. Do you think people are increasingly searching for authenticity in today's world? If so, why? How do they go about it? How do you?
3. We are all connected via huge social media communities, but increased online interaction often comes at the expense of the type of local, real-life community provided by Monica's Café and Julian's Supper Club. What do these communities give us that virtual ones do not?
4. Most of the characters in the book are lonely, but in very different ways. What are the various forms of loneliness explored in *The Authenticity Project*?

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



## Francesca Serritella

# Ghosts of Harvard:

### A Novel

978-0-525-51036-9 | \$27.00/\$36.00 | Random House | HC  
📞 978-0-525-51037-6 | 📄 AD: 978-0-593-15464-9  
📻 LP: 978-0-593-21402-2

#### **READERS' ADVISORY:**

**A taut psychological thriller about a Harvard freshman who becomes obsessed with her schizophrenic brother's suicide. Perfect for readers of *The Immortalists*, *Ghosted*, *The Secret History*, and *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*.**

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#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**C**adence Archer arrives on Harvard's campus desperate to understand why her brother, Eric, a genius who developed paranoid schizophrenia took his own life there the year before. Losing Eric has left a black hole in Cady's life, and while her decision to follow in her brother's footsteps threatens to break her family apart, she is haunted by questions of what she might have missed.

As Cady struggles under the enormous pressure at Harvard, voices fill her head, seemingly belonging to three ghosts who passed through the university in life, or death, and whose voices, dreams, and terrors still echo the halls. Among them is a person whose name has been buried for centuries, and another whose name mankind will never forget.

Does she share Eric's illness, or is she tapping into something else?

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#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. College is often called "the happiest time" in a person's life, but it can also be a stressful period of transition and pressure. In what ways are the anxieties Cady has going into college unique, and in what ways are they typical? What kinds of pressures are on young people today? Which were unique to you or your generation?
2. In the book, Cady is haunted by Harvard's past inhabitants, literally and figuratively, and burdened by the expectations of the future. Is there any time or place in your life where you felt the weight of history? What about a time in your life where you felt the pressure of high expectations?
3. At the outset of the novel, Cady's identity has been shaken by the illness and loss of her brother, her hero. Her role in her family has also changed. Do you think people get assigned roles in their family? Did that happen to you or your children? How do the stories families tell, and the stories we tell ourselves, shape our identity and expectations?

For more discussion questions visit: [RandomHouseBooks.com/articles/book-club-resources](https://www.randomhousebooks.com/articles/book-club-resources)

Josie Silver  
**The Two Lives of  
Lydia Bird:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-13523-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Ballantine Books | HC

978-0-593-13524-2 | AD: 978-0-593-15164-8

LP: 978-0-593-21240-0

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

From the bestselling author of *One Day in December* comes a new novel, perfect for readers of *One Day*, *The Kiss Quotient*, and *The Proposal*, and fans of *Sliding Doors*, *P.S. I Love You*, and *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**L** Lydia and Freddie. Freddie and Lydia. They'd been together for more than a decade and Lydia thought their love was indestructible. But she was wrong. On Lydia's twenty-eighth birthday, Freddie died in a car accident.

So now it's just Lydia, and all she wants is to hide indoors and sob until her eyes fall out. But Lydia knows that Freddie would want her to try to live fully, happily, even without him. So, enlisting the help of his best friend, Jonah, and her sister, Elle, she takes her first tentative steps into the world, open to life—and perhaps even love—again.

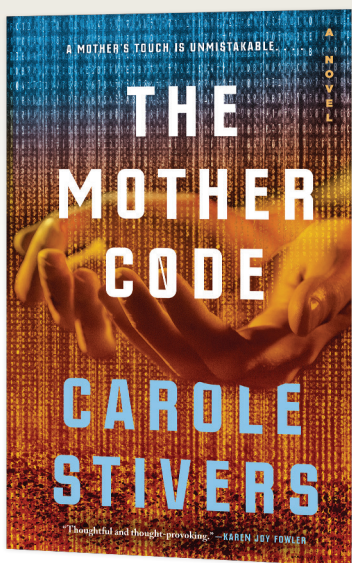
But then something inexplicable happens that gives her another chance at her old life with Freddie. A life where none of the tragic events of the past few months have happened.

Lydia is pulled again and again through the doorway to her past, living two lives, impossibly, at once. But which happy ending does she really want?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. After the unexpected death of Lydia's fiancé, she discovers that—with the aid of sleeping pills—she can visit a world in which he didn't die. Soon, she is spending her days waiting to go to sleep to see him. Do you think that this was a healthy way for her to cope with what happened?
2. Lydia wrestles with placing the blame for Freddie's death on Jonah's shoulders for quite some time; do you think this is an understandable reaction? Why or why not?
3. Lydia is not the only person struggling with Freddie's death—Jonah is also mourning his best friend. In what ways are Lydia's and Jonah's journeys through grief similar? In what ways are they different?
4. Elle is perhaps the person Lydia leans on the most as she copes with the changes in her life; in what ways is Elle there for Lydia, not just as her sister, but as her best friend?

For more discussion questions visit: [RandomHouseBooks.com/articles/book-club-resources](https://www.randomhousebooks.com/articles/book-club-resources)



## Carole Stivers

# The Mother Code

978-1-9848-0692-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC  
978-1-9848-0694-9 | AD: 978-0-593-16563-8

### READERS' ADVISORY:

A mind-bending debut novel that explores what it means to be a mother in a world that is more chilling and precarious than ever. For fans of James Rollins, Margaret Atwood, and Andy Weir.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is 2049. When a U.S. attempt at stealth biowarfare goes awry, a team of scientists is engaged to ensure human survival on earth. Their best efforts fail, and they must turn to their last resort: a plan to place genetically engineered children inside the cocoons of large-scale robots—to be incubated, birthed, and raised by these machines, which have been programmed with the latest advances in artificial intelligence: the Mother Code.

Kai is born in America's desert Southwest, his only companion his robotic Mother, Rho-Z. As children like him come of age, their Mothers transform too—in ways that were never predicted. When government survivors decide that the machines who raised the children must be destroyed, Kai must fight to save the only parent he has ever known.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In *The Mother Code*, the author eschews the portrayal of “superheroes,” “evil scientists,” and “cruel dictators.” Do you think that there are clear protagonists or antagonists in this story? If so, who and why?
2. In chapter 35, Kendra and James are surprised by the nonverbal communication between the children and their bot Mothers. How important was this novel mode of communication to the relationships between the children and their Mothers?
3. In the end, did you feel that James's concern for the safety of the children and his actions as a result were justified? Would you have done the same thing he did?
4. Rick Blevins never fully trusts James Said, a problem that results in Rick's own flawed decisions. Did you ever suspect James's intentions? Do you understand why Rick might have?
5. Think about your own childhood. At each step in his journey, would you have made the same choices that Kai did? How might your choices have differed from his?

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

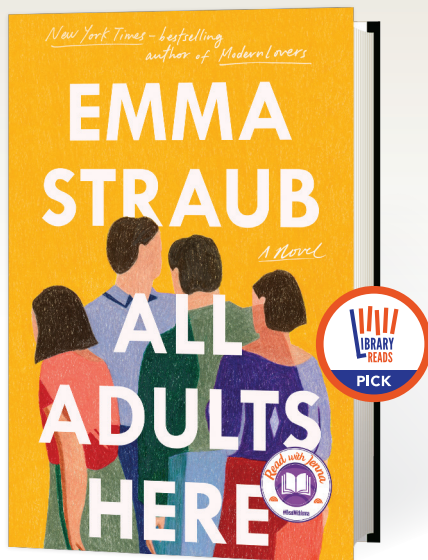
# Emma Straub All Adults Here

978-1-594-63469-7 | \$26.00 | Pamela Dorman Books | HC  
📞 978-0-698-40798-5 | 📻 AD: 978-0-593-16673-4  
📻 LP: 978-0-593-17180-6

## READERS' ADVISORY:

A Today Show Read with Jenna Pick!

For readers of warm, entertaining fiction about families, such as *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett, *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, and *Conversation with Friends* by Sally Rooney.



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

A warm, funny, and keenly perceptive novel about the life cycle of one family—as the kids become parents, grandchildren become teenagers, and a matriarch confronts the legacy of her mistakes. From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Modern Lovers* and *The Vacationers*.

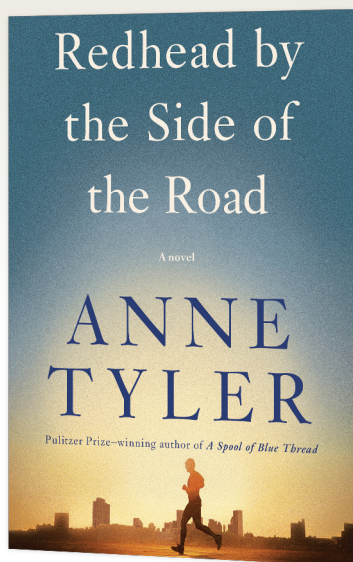
When Astrid Strick witnesses a school bus accident in the center of town, it jostles loose a repressed memory from her young parenting days decades earlier. Suddenly, Astrid realizes she was not quite the parent she thought she'd been to her three, now-grown children. But to what consequence?

In *All Adults Here*, Emma Straub's unique alchemy of wisdom, humor, and insight come together in a deeply satisfying story about adult siblings, aging parents, high school boyfriends, middle school mean girls, the lifelong effects of birth order, and all the other things that follow us into adulthood, whether we like them to or not.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the examples you see in this particular multi-generational family, or in your own life, of the ways that children can repeat or mutate the strengths and the mistakes that their parents handed down to them.
2. Astrid thinks about the role that birth order has played in the personalities of her three children, and how their own individual childhood experiences have helped to shape the adults they have become. To what degree do you think she is correct in her conclusions about the forces that shaped her children?
3. What do Cecelia and August understand about forgiveness that the older characters do not? How do they provide the adults with a model for how to be true to yourself and what you believe?

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



## Anne Tyler **Redhead by the Side of the Road:** A Novel

978-0-525-65841-2 | \$25.95 | Knopf | HC  
978-0-385-69485-8 | \$29.95C | Bond Street Books  
📞 978-0-525-65842-9 | ♿ AD: 978-0-593-17075-5  
♿ CD: 978-0-593-17073-1 | ♿ LP: 978-0-593-17159-2

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
For readers of Anna Quindlen,  
Elizabeth Berg, and Elizabeth Strout.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**M**icah Mortimer is a creature of habit. A self-employed tech expert, superintendent of his Baltimore apartment building, cautious to a fault behind the steering wheel, he seems content leading a steady, circumscribed life. But one day his routines are blown apart when his woman friend (he refuses to call anyone in her late thirties a “girlfriend”) tells him she’s facing eviction, and a teenager shows up at Micah’s door claiming to be his son. These surprises, and the ways they throw Micah’s meticulously organized life off-kilter, risk changing him forever. An intimate look into the heart and mind of a man who finds those around him just out of reach, and a funny, joyful, deeply compassionate story about seeing the world through new eyes.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the significance of the title. What does this “delusion” of a redhead represent in Micah’s life?
2. Examine the opening scene of the novel. What do we learn about Micah from this description of his daily routine? How did you interpret this behavior?
3. Micah’s family is described as a “circus.” What is Micah’s role within his family? How does he differ from his siblings?
4. What do we learn about Micah based on his interactions with his neighbors and his customers? How would you describe his communication style?
5. A running commentary from “Traffic God” is peppered throughout *Redhead by the Side of the Road*. Discuss the impact of this. What does Traffic God’s commentary reveal about Micah?
6. What are Micah’s initial impressions of Brink? Why do you think he allows Brink to stay with him? How does his impression of Brink change over time, if at all?

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

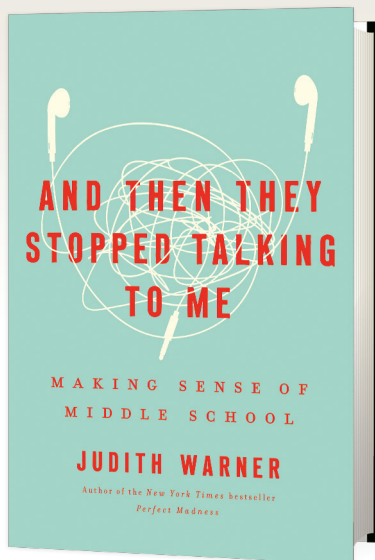
# Judith Warner And Then They Stopped Talking to Me:

## Making Sense of Middle School

978-1-101-90588-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Crown | HC  
978-1-101-90590-6 | AD: 978-1-9848-4502-3

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Girls & Sex*, *All Joy and No Fun*,  
*Bringing Up B  b  *, *The Smartest Kids in the World*,  
and *How to Be a Happier Parent*.



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Through the stories of kids and parents in the middle school trenches, a *New York Times* bestselling author reveals why these years are so painful, how parents unwittingly make them worse, and what we all need to do to grow up.

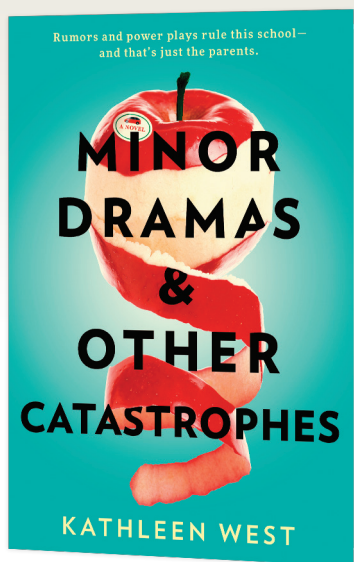
Characterized by a perfect storm of developmental changes—physical, psychological, and social—the middle school years are a time of great distress for children and parents alike, marked by hurt, isolation, exclusion, competition, anxiety, and often outright cruelty. Some of this is inevitable; there are intrinsic challenges to early adolescence. But these years are harder than they need to be, and Judith Warner believes that adults are complicit.

Part cultural critique and part call to action, this essential book unpacks one of life’s most formative periods and shows how we can help our children not only survive it but thrive.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. “Middle school is brutal.”; just about anyone will likely tell you “it was the worst time of their life.” How much does this tally with your own middle school or junior high experience or with that of any current or recent middle-schoolers in your life? Do you look back at yourself and see a “mean girl” (or boy), a “bully” or victim— or some combination of all the above?
2. “People’s middle school stories . . . very often have a disproportionate impact on the narratives of self that they carry through adulthood.” Do you feel like you started to become who you now are during your middle school period? Why—and in what ways?
3. Judith Warner mentions fictional depictions of difficult or sensitive young adolescents past and present. What famous cultural portraits can you think of? Which ones, if any, have had an impact on you? Do those you encountered at a younger age have the same resonance for you today? And, in retrospect, are they more about kids, or about the adults who created them?

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



## Kathleen West

# Minor Dramas & Other Catastrophes

978-0-593-09840-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC  
📍 978-0-593-09842-4 | 📖 AD: 978-0-593-16555-3

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *Big Little Lies*, a wryly observed debut about the privileged bubble that is Liston Heights High—the micro-managing parents, the overworked teachers, and the students caught in the middle—and the fallout for each of them.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Isobel Johnson can't stand helicopter parents like Julia Abbott. Julia resents teachers like Isobel, who effortlessly bond with students, including Julia's own teenagers.

Isobel has spent her career in Liston Heights side-stepping the community's high-powered families. But when she receives a threatening voicemail accusing her of Anti-Americanism and a "blatant liberal agenda," she doubles down on her social-justice ideals. Meanwhile, Julia inadvertently shoves the female lead of the winter musical and the damning video goes viral and has far-reaching consequences.

With nothing to unite them beyond the sting of humiliation from public meltdowns, Isobel and Julia will find common ground where they least expect it.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is Isobel a good teacher? How far should teachers go in the name of "making kids think"?
2. Julia desperately wants to be a good mother. Is she? What are her strengths and weaknesses as a parent?
3. Both Julia and Isobel want to be admired. Did you admire them? One more than the other?
4. Which character did you most relate to, and why?
5. Who benefits from competition among students in high schools? Are the teenagers in this story healthy and thriving?
6. What would you have done in Andrew's place? What roles do Henry and Mark play in their wives' transformations in this story? Does each couple have a strong marriage?

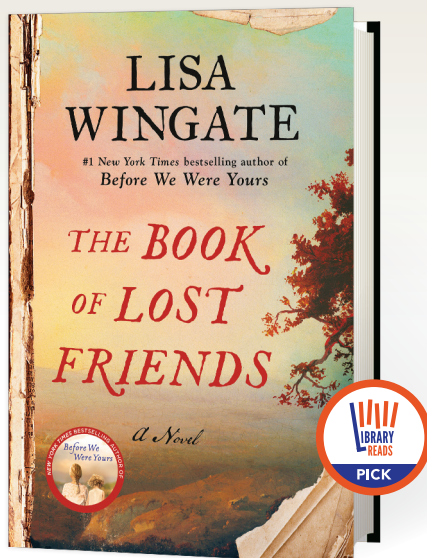
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouse.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

Lisa Wingate  
**The Book of  
Lost Friends:**  
A Novel

978-1-9848-1988-8 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Ballantine Books | HC  
● 978-1-9848-1989-5 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-593-21327-8  
🎧 CD: 978-0-593-21325-4 | 📻 LP: 978-0-593-28641-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

From the bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours* comes the dramatic story of three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post–Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns of their story and its vital connection to her students' lives. Perfect for fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing* and *The Nightingale*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**B**estselling author Lisa Wingate brings to life startling stories from actual “Lost Friends” advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately searched for loved ones who had been sold away.

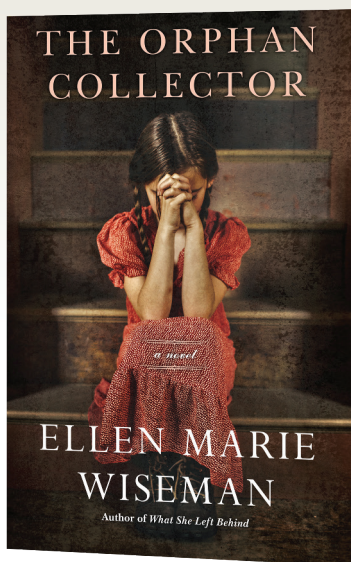
Louisiana, 1875: In the tumultuous era of Reconstruction, three young women set off as unwilling companions on a perilous quest: Hannie, a freed slave; Lavinia, the pampered heir to a now destitute plantation; and Juneau Jane, Lavinia’s Creole half sister. Each carries private wounds and powerful secrets.

Louisiana, 1987: For first-year teacher Benedetta Silva, a subsidized job at a poor rural school seems like the ticket to canceling her student debt—until she lands in a tiny, out-of-step Mississippi River town. But amid the gnarled live oaks and run-down plantation homes lie the century-old history of three young women and a hidden book that could change everything.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Had you heard of the real “Lost Friends” ads before? What did you think of the words written so long ago? What did you learn about the Reconstruction era through this novel?
2. *The Book of Lost Friends* is a story of remarkable women who built legacies we benefit from today. There are many women from the past, like Hannie, who do not often make it into our history books. Who is one woman from history that you greatly admire and think that the world should know more about?
3. What lessons does Benny learn from her students? Do you think her students change her?
4. Hannie, Juneau Jane, and Lavinia are an unlikely trio when they start on their quest. How does their journey shape them as they come of age? How do Hannie and Juneau grow during their quest? What does each learn from the other?

For more discussion questions visit: [RandomHouseBooks.com/articles/book-club-resources](https://www.randomhousebooks.com/articles/book-club-resources)



Ellen Marie Wiseman  
**The Orphan  
Collector:**  
A Novel

978-1-4967-1586-9 | \$16.99/\$22.99C | Kensington | TR

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
For readers of Sara Gruen's  
*Like Water for Elephants* and  
Donna Everhart's *The Forgiving Kind*.

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### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**I**n the fall of 1918, thirteen-year-old German immigrant Pia Lange longs to be far from Philadelphia's overcrowded slums and the anti-immigrant sentiment that compelled her father to enlist in the U.S. Army. But as her city celebrates the end of war, an even more urgent threat arrives: the Spanish flu. When food runs out in the cramped tenement she calls home, Pia must venture alone into the quarantined city in search of supplies, leaving her baby brothers behind.

Bernice Groves has become lost in grief and bitterness since her baby died from the Spanish flu. Watching Pia leave her brothers alone, Bernice makes a shocking, life-altering decision.

As Bernice plots to keep the truth hidden at any cost in the months and years that follow, Pia must confront her own shame and fear, ultimately risking everything to see justice—and love—triumph at last.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did people in the past cure or protect themselves from illness? Are there any folk or natural remedies that you think work?
2. Have you ever heard of or met anyone with Pia's ability to sense illness in others? Would you want to be able to tell when other people are sick before they know it themselves? Why or why not?
3. Though the disease knew no gender, racial, or ethnic boundaries, Philadelphia's immigrant poor suffered the worst, with the largest loss of life happening in the slums and tenement districts. Why do you think that was? What issues do you think contributed to it? Do you think any of those issues continue to impact people living today?
4. How did you feel about Bernice when you first met her? When did your perception of her change? How and why did it change?

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

# Stephanie Wrobel Darling Rose Gold

978-0-593-10006-6 | \$26.00 | Berkley | HC  
978-0-593-10009-7 | AD: 978-0-593-16543-0

## READERS' ADVISORY:

A compulsive, sharply-drawn debut that peels back the layers of the most complicated of mother-daughter relationships. Perfect for fans of Gillian Flynn and Jessica Knoll.



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

For the first eighteen years of her life, Rose Gold Watts believed she was seriously ill. She was allergic to everything, used a wheelchair and practically lived at the hospital. But no matter how many doctors, tests, or surgeries, no one could figure out what was wrong with Rose Gold. Turns out her mom, Patty Watts, was just a really good liar.

After serving five years in prison, Patty gets out and begs her daughter to take her in. The entire community is shocked when Rose Gold says yes. Patty insists all she wants is to reconcile their differences. She says she's forgiven Rose Gold for turning her in and testifying against her. But Rose Gold knows her mother. Patty Watts always settles a score.

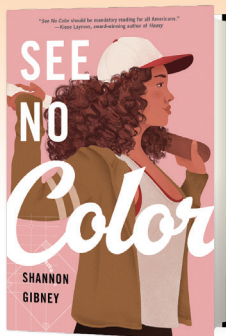
Unfortunately for Patty, Rose Gold is no longer her weak little darling . . . and she's waited such a long time for her mother to come home.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the victim? Who is the perpetrator? What does it mean to be a victim in the context of this story?
2. Who did you most empathize with throughout the book? Did your sympathies change chapter to chapter? If so, how?
3. Patty's actions are attributed to Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a mental health disorder. Should she have gone to prison if her behavior was caused by an illness beyond her control?
4. How much of our personalities are shaped by nature vs. nurture? Do you think Rose Gold and Patty would have committed their crimes had their childhoods been different?
5. "Some of us cannot forget and will never forgive." Do you think Rose Gold will ever be free of her mother's influence? Were Rose Gold's actions justifiable? What do you imagine her future will hold? Does Patty know she's lying or has she convinced herself she's telling the truth? What makes you think so?

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

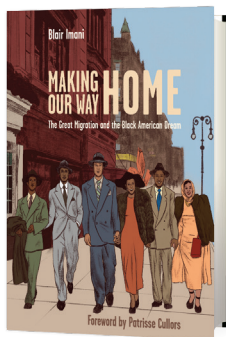
# TITLES FOR TEEN BOOK GROUPS



## Shannon Gibney **See No Color**

978-0-823-44568-4 | \$8.99/\$11.99C | Holiday House

**B**lack daughter, white father, white mother. Race, adoption, and identity collide in this award-winning #OwnVoices debut about a teen challenging the life she's always known. Author Shannon Gibney draws from her own experiences as a transracial adoptee to deliver this honest coming-of-age novel about a girl who doesn't know where she wants to fit in.



## Blair Imani; Foreword by Patrisse Cullors **Making Our Way Home:** The Great Migration and the Black American Dream

978-1-9848-5692-0 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Ten Speed Press | HC

📖 978-1-9848-5693-7 | 🗣️ AD: 978-0-593-28666-1

**A** powerful illustrated history of the Great Migration and its sweeping impact on Black and American culture, from Reconstruction to the rise of hip hop.



## Emily Neuberger **A Tender Thing**

978-0-593-08487-8 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC

📖 978-0-593-08488-5 | 🗣️ AD: 978-0-593-16353-5

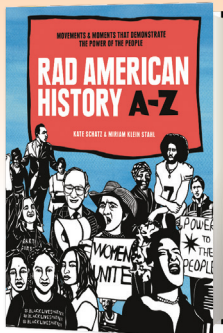
**A**n exhilarating debut novel set under the dazzling lights of late 1950s Broadway, where a controversial new musical pushes the boundaries of love, legacy, and art. For fans of Fiona Davis, Melanie Benjamin, and Anton DiScafani.



## Ashley Poston **Bookish and the Beast**

978-1-683-69193-8 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Quirk Books | HC | August

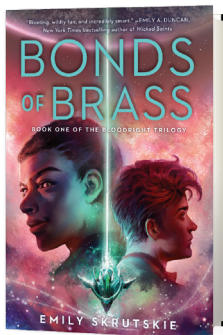
**I**n the third book in Ashley Poston's *Once Upon a Con* series, *Beauty and the Beast* is retold in the beloved Starfield universe as bad boy Vance Reigns meets his match in fanfiction writer Rosie Thorne.



Kate Schatz; Illustrated by Miriam Klein Stahl  
**Rad American History A-Z: Movements and Moments That Demonstrate the Power of the People**

978-1-9848-5683-8 | \$19.99/\$25.99C | Ten Speed Press | HC  
 978-1-9848-5684-5

From the *New York Times* bestselling team behind *Rad American Women A-Z* comes an illustrated collection of radical and transformative political, social, and cultural movements in American history.

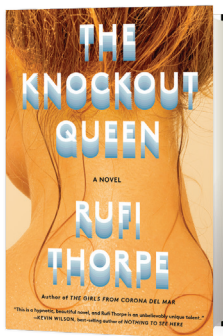


Emily Skrutskie  
**Bonds of Brass: Book One of The Bloodright Trilogy**

978-0-593-12889-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00 | Del Rey | HC  
 978-0-593-12890-9 | AD: 978-0-593-16789-2

A young pilot risks everything to save his best friend—the man he trusts most and might even love—only to learn that his friend is secretly the heir to a brutal galactic empire.

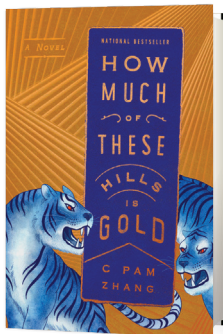
“Riveting, wildly fun, and incredibly smart.”—Emily A. Duncan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wicked Saints*



Rufi Thorpe  
**The Knockout Queen: A Novel**

978-0-525-65678-4 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Knopf | HC  
 978-0-525-65679-1 | AD: 978-0-593-16998-8

Thorpe takes a familiar plotline—a pair of teen misfits form an unlikely but life-altering friendship—and turns it into an arrestingly original, darkly comic meditation on moral ambiguity. . . There are no victims here and no heroes, either. In Thorpe’s Technicolor world, everyone is an innocent and everyone is culpable and no one is absolved, and the result is a novel both nauseatingly brutal and radically kind. Brilliantly off-kilter and vibrating with life.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review



C Pam Zhang  
**How Much of These Hills Is Gold: A Novel**

978-0-525-53720-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Riverhead | HC  
 978-0-525-53722-9 | AD: 978-0-593-16695-6 | LP: 978-0-593-17184-4

Both epic and intimate, blending Chinese symbolism and re-imagined history with fiercely original language and storytelling, *How Much of These Hills Is Gold* is a haunting adventure story and an unforgettable sibling story. Recommended for readers of Tommy Orange and Yaa Gyasi.

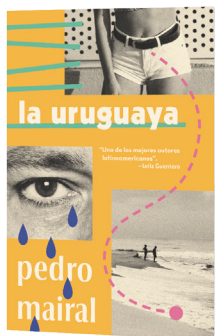
# TITLES FOR SPANISH-LANGUAGE BOOK GROUPS



## Valeria Luiselli **Desierto sonoro**

978-0-525-56694-6 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR  
📞 978-0-525-56695-3 | 📻 AD: 978-0-593-29367-6

**F**rom the two-time NBCC Finalist, an emotionally resonant, fiercely imaginative new novel about a family whose road trip across America collides with an immigration crisis at the southwestern border. For fans of Jenny Offill, Jennifer Egan, and Roberto Bolaño.



## Pedro Mairal **La uruguaya**

978-1-9848-9907-1 | \$15.00/\$21.00C | Vintage Español | TR  
📞 978-1-9848-9908-8

**P**ublished with great success in Argentina in 2016, this fun novel about a conjugal crisis confirmed Mairal as one of the most outstanding narrators of contemporary Argentine literature. For readers of Javier Marías and Mariana Enriquez.



## Melissa Rivero **Los Falcón**

978-0-593-08159-4 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Vintage Español | TR  
📞 978-0-593-08160-0

**A** stunning debut novel about a young undocumented Peruvian woman fighting to keep her family afloat in New York City. For fans of Erika L. Sánchez, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Oscar Cásares, and Cristina Henríquez.



## Ruta Sepetys **Las fuentes del silencio**

978-0-593-08130-3 | \$15.95/\$21.95C | Vintage Español | ITR  
📞 978-0-593-08131-0 | 📻 AD: 978-0-593-28650-0

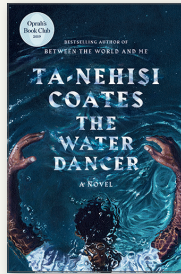
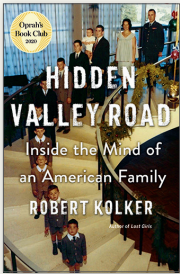
**F**rom the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Salt to the Sea* and *Between Shades of Gray* comes a gripping, extraordinary portrait of love, silence, and secrets under a Spanish dictatorship. For readers of Anthony Doerr, Markus Zusak, and Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

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

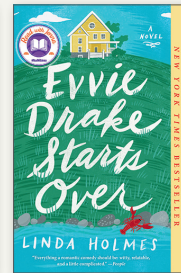
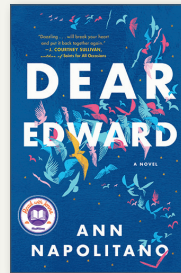
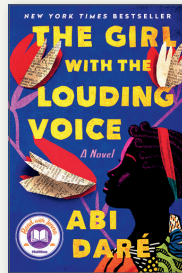
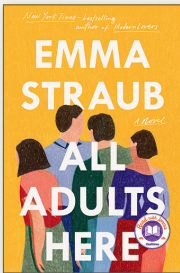
# Our Favorite Picks

## from Celebrity Book Clubs

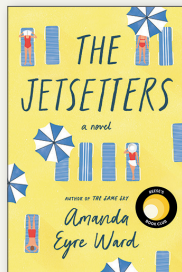
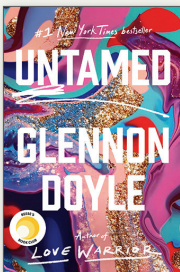
Here are some of our favorite picks from book club gurus like Oprah, Reese Witherspoon, and Jenna Bush Hager. Read along with a new book each month, or discover gems you may have missed.



For more of our favorite picks from Oprah's Book Club, visit:  
[TinyUrl.com/PRHOprahsBookClubPicks](https://TinyUrl.com/PRHOprahsBookClubPicks)



For more of our favorite #ReadWithJenna picks, visit:  
[TinyUrl.com/PRHJennasBookClubPicks](https://TinyUrl.com/PRHJennasBookClubPicks)



For more of our favorite Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine picks, visit:  
[TinyUrl.com/PRHReesesBookClubPicks](https://TinyUrl.com/PRHReesesBookClubPicks)

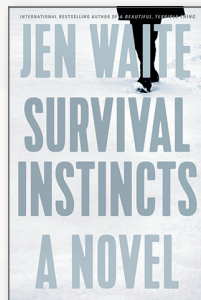
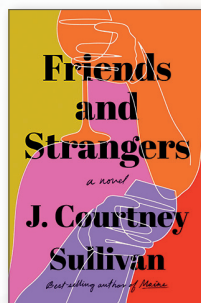
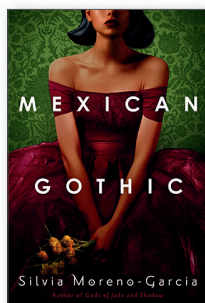
Wondering what the next great read will be?  
The next author that everyone will be talking about?

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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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first look  
 book club