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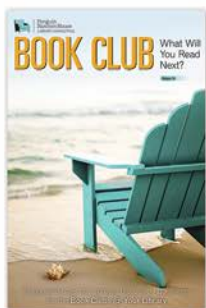
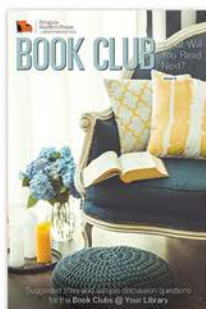
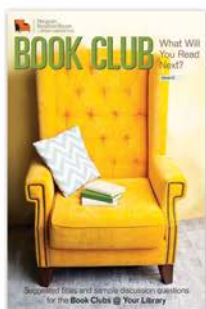
What Will
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Next?

Volume 14

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

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Camille Aubray Cooking for Picasso: A Novel

978-0-399-17766-8 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Ballantine Books | TR

ISBN 978-0-399-17767-5

AD: 978-0-735-28672-6 | CD: 978-0-735-28671-9

LP: 978-1-524-70340-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Paula McLain, Nancy Horan, and Melanie Benjamin, this captivating novel is inspired by a little-known interlude in the artist's life.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

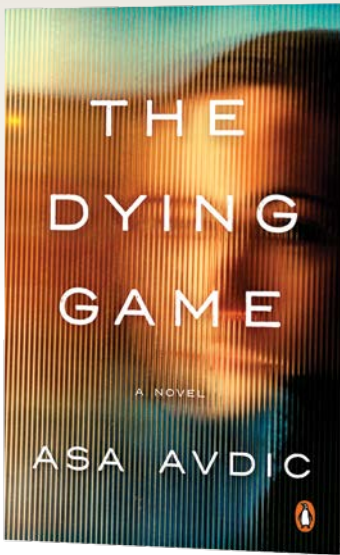
The French Riviera, spring 1936: It's off-season in the lovely seaside village of Juan-les-Pins, where seventeen-year-old Ondine cooks with her mother in the kitchen of their family-owned Café Paradis. A mysterious new patron has made an unusual request—to have his lunch served to him at the nearby villa he's secretly rented, where he wishes to remain incognito.

New York, present day: Céline, a Hollywood makeup artist, learns from her mother, Julie, that Grandmother Ondine once cooked for Picasso. Prompted by her mother's enigmatic stories and the hint of more family secrets yet to be uncovered, Céline embarks on a voyage to the very town where Ondine and Picasso first met. There, Céline discovers truths about art, culture, cuisine, and love that enable her to embrace her own future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the early chapters, long before we actually see Pablo Picasso, we hear a lot about him when the heroine Ondine talks to her parents. What does she observe later from his eating habits, the letter he wrote to his friend in Paris, and the note he left for Ondine on the table? What do you remember most from that moment when Ondine actually meets Picasso for the first time?
2. When you learned of Picasso's childhood through his eyes, did this change your view of him? What made him feel guilty about his ambition and dedication to his art? What is causing him the stress that made him stop painting?
3. How would you describe the different personalities of Ondine, Julie, and Céline? What are the roots of the family's tensions? What legal and financial complications make it impossible for Céline to help her mother?

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



Asa Avdic
The Dying Game:
A Novel

978-0-14-313179-3 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Penguin Books | TR
📞 978-1-5247-0564-0 | 📍 AD: 978-0-525-49316-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Under the Harrow*, *Gone Girl*, and *The Silent Wife*, and for fans of locked-room mysteries like Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The year is 2037, and on the tiny island of Isola, seven people have been selected to participate in a 48-hour competition for a top-secret intelligence position with the totalitarian Union of Friendship. One of them is Anna Francis, a workaholic bureaucrat with a secret that haunts her. Anna is not actually a candidate for the position: in fact, she's the test itself. Her assignment is to stage her own death and then to observe, from her hiding place inside the walls of the house, how the six other candidates react to the news that a murderer is among them: Who will take control? Who will crack under pressure? But then a storm rolls in, the power goes out, and the real game begins.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

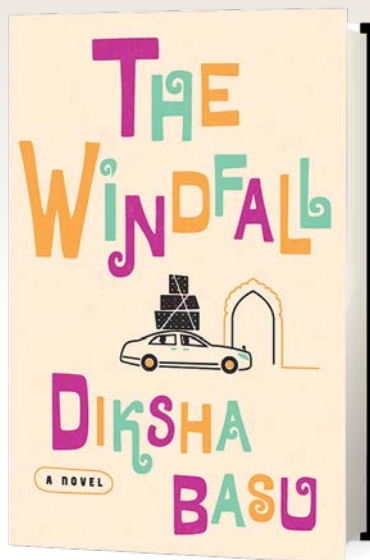
1. The Chairman makes it clear that Anna Francis must either accept the assignment or risk having her actions in Kyzyl Kum investigated. Do you think she would have accepted even without this threat?
2. In Anna's place, would you agree to be "murdered"? What might have happened if she changed her mind before Katja drugged her?
3. After Anna finds Katja's body, whom did you first suspect of foul play?
4. Did the Chairman deliberately set the Secretary up to take the blame? Or was he simply a convenient fall guy?
5. Is Henry really dead? If not, who benefits by pretending he is?
6. The paradoxically named "Union of Friendship" echoes the language of George Orwell's *1984*. What are some other instances in which Avdic echoes the dystopian classic? Are there any other books that *The Dying Game* echoes or evokes?

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

Diksha Basu
The Windfall:
A Novel

978-0-4514-9891-5 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown | HC
📞 978-0-4514-9893-9 | 📖 AD: 978-1-5247-7412-7
📻 CD: 978-1-5247-7411-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of witty social satires like
Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* and
China Rich Girlfriend.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

A heartfelt comedy of manners, Diksha Basu's debut novel unfolds the story of a family discovering what it means to "make it" in modern India.

For the past thirty years, Mr. and Mrs. Jha's lives have been defined by cramped spaces, cut corners, and gossipy neighbors. They thought they'd settled comfortably into their golden years. But then Mr. Jha comes into an enormous and unexpected sum of money, and moves his wife from their housing complex in East Delhi to the super-rich side of town, where he becomes eager to fit in as a man of status.

The move sets off a chain of events that rock their neighbors, their marriage, and their son, who is struggling to keep a lid on his romantic dilemmas and slipping grades, and brings unintended consequences, ultimately forcing the Jha family to reckon with what really matters.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Windfall* deals with the idea of home and what it means to build a home. What does that idea mean to you? How do you define home?
2. While *The Windfall* is set in New Delhi, a lot of the themes it explores are universal. How do you see the main themes translating to your part of the world?
3. Mrs. Ray thinks a lot about the similarities between arranged marriage and online dating—both work with algorithms to test the compatibility of two people. Do you think that's a good way to look for love? What do you think is the most effective way to find a partner?
4. Rupak is navigating life in two countries—the US and India. Patriotism is an emotion that is expected of us but what does patriotism mean to you? How do the defined borders of where you were born vs. where you choose to live define your sense of self?

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



Janet Benton

Lilli de Jong: A Novel

978-0-385-54145-9 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Nan A. Talese | HC

📞 978-0-385-54146-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Geraldine Brooks, Tracy Chevalier, and of historical fiction such as *The Ghost of the Mary Celeste* by Valerie Martin.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A young woman finds the most powerful love of her life when she gives birth at an institution for unwed mothers in 1883 Philadelphia. She is told she must give up her daughter to avoid lifelong poverty and shame. But she chooses to keep her.

Pregnant, left behind by her lover, and banished from her Quaker home and teaching position, Lilli de Jong enters a home for wronged women to deliver her child. She is stunned at how much her infant needs her and at how quickly their bond overtakes her heart. Mothers in her position face disabling prejudice, which is why most give up their newborns. But Lilli can't accept such an outcome. Instead, she braves moral condemnation and financial ruin in a quest to keep herself and her baby alive.

Confiding their story to her diary as it unfolds, Lilli takes readers from an impoverished charity to a wealthy family's home to the streets of a burgeoning American city. Drawing on rich history, *Lilli de Jong* is both an intimate portrait of loves lost and found and a testament to the work of mothers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think the death of Lilli's mother affected the course of Lilli's life?
2. What role do you think Lilli's religious background played in her willingness to suffer for her choices?
3. Does her faith remain the same or change in the course of the story?
4. How did the diary form of the novel affect your experience of the story?
5. Are there challenges Lilli faced that women still struggle with today?
6. How do you think Lilli's story might be different if it was set today? In what ways might it be the same?

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

Janelle Brown Watch Me Disappear: A Novel

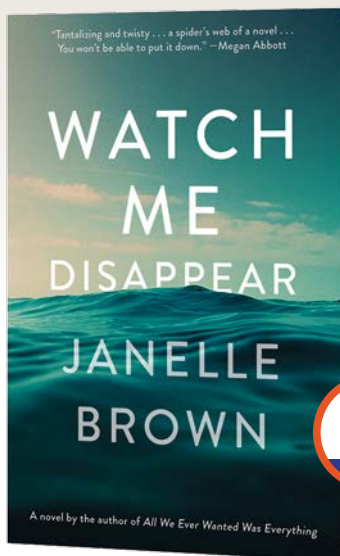
978-0-8129-8946-5 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Spiegel & Grau | HC

978-0-8129-8947-2

AD: 978-1-524-77828-6 | CD: 978-1-524-77827-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

The disappearance of a beautiful, charismatic mother leaves her family to piece together her secrets in this propulsive novel for fans of *Big Little Lies*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

It's been a year since Billie Flanagan—a Berkeley mom with an enviable life—went on a solo hike in Desolation Wilderness and vanished from the trail. Her body was never found, just a shattered cellphone and a solitary hiking boot. Her husband and teenage daughter have been coping with Billie's death the best they can: Jonathan drinks as he works on a loving memoir about his marriage; Olive grows remote, from both her father and her friends at the all-girls school she attends.

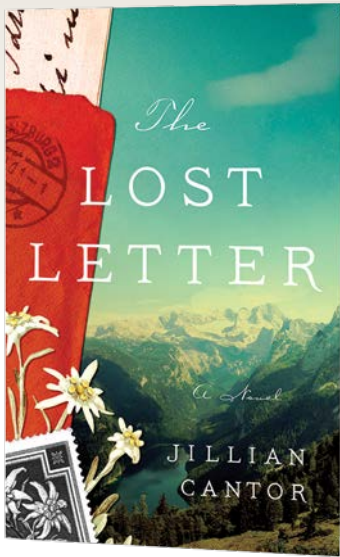
But then Olive starts having strange visions of her mother, still alive. Jonathan worries about Olive's emotional stability, until he starts unearthing secrets from Billie's past that bring into question everything he thought he understood about his wife.

Together, Olive and Jonathan embark on a quest for the truth—about Billie, but also about themselves, and learn about all the ways that love can distort what we choose to see.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. "Love is blind," the saying goes. Discuss the ways that love blinds the characters in the novel: Jonathan, Olive, Harmony, and Billie herself. Have you ever been in a situation where love blinded you to a truth that in retrospect was glaringly obvious?
2. Is it natural for a mother to want to leave her family sometimes, even if most don't act on it? How would the story be different if Jonathan had been the one to disappear?
3. How do you think the author meant to portray Jonathan? Did his relationship with Harmony change the way you saw him?
4. Do you believe there was genuine love in Billie and Jonathan's marriage? To what extent is some degree of secrecy a normal, even necessary, part of a marriage?

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



Jillian Cantor

The Lost Letter:

A Novel

978-0-399-18567-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Riverhead | HC

📍 978-0-399-18569-4 | 📖 AD: 978-1-5247-7695-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of World War II fiction and authors like Kristin Hannah, Tatiana de Rosnay, and David Gillham.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Austria, 1938. Kristoff is a young apprentice to a master Jewish stamp engraver. When his teacher disappears during Kristallnacht, Kristoff finds himself working to engrave stamps for the Germans and with the Austrian resistance to send underground messages and forge papers. As he falls for his coworker, Elena, Kristoff must find a way to save her, and himself.

Los Angeles, 1989. Katie comes across her father's stamp collection. When an appraiser, Benjamin, finds an unusual Austrian WWII stamp placed on an old love letter, Katie and Benjamin are sent on a journey that will uncover a story of passion and tragedy spanning decades and continents, behind the just fallen Berlin Wall.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Compare and contrast Katie and Elena. How are their lives different due to the times and places they were born? How are they the same?
2. What is the meaning of the edelweiss flower in the book? How could it be seen as a "proof of unusual daring" (as in the epigraph) for each of the characters?
3. When Katie learns about Benjamin's personal story, she sees him differently. How are Katie and Benjamin similar?
4. How do father-daughter relationships play a role in the book? Compare Frederick's relationship with Elena to Ted's relationship with Katie.
5. Discuss Gram's role in the book. How does her past and her life in 1989 impact the story?
6. How do acts of resistance—both big and small—play a role in the novel?

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

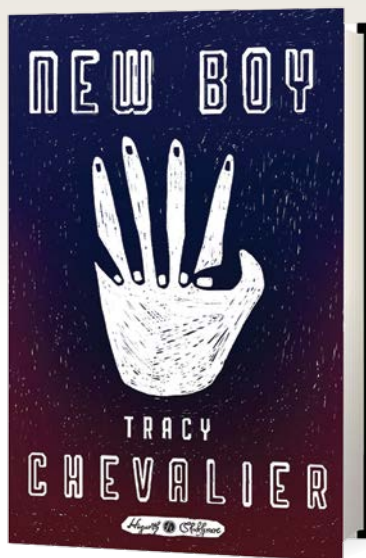
Tracy Chevalier New Boy

978-0-5534-4763-7 | \$25.00 | Hogarth | HC

978-0-5534-4764-4

AD: 978-1-5247-5749-6 | LP: 978-1-5247-7946-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
A retelling of William Shakespeare's
Othello by the bestselling author of
Girl with a Pearl Earring.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

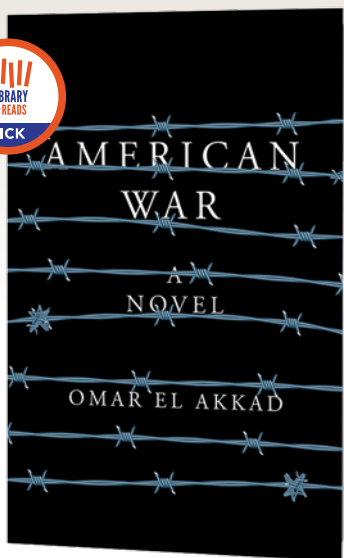
Arriving at his fifth school in as many years, diplomat's son Osei Kokote knows he needs an ally if he is to survive his first day—so he's lucky to hit it off with Dee, the most popular girl in school. But one student can't stand to witness this budding relationship: Ian decides to destroy the friendship between the black boy and the golden girl. By the end of the day, the school and its key players—teachers and pupils alike—will never be the same again.

The tragedy of *Othello* is transposed to a 1970s suburban Washington schoolyard, where kids fall in and out of love with each other before lunchtime, and practice a casual racism picked up from their parents and teachers. Peeking over the shoulders of four eleven year olds—Osei, Dee, Ian, and his reluctant 'girlfriend' Mimi—Tracy Chevalier's powerful drama of friends torn apart by jealousy, bullying, and betrayal will leave you reeling.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How closely does *New Boy* follow the original *Othello* storyline? Which parts are different? How does that affect how you read it?
2. Why do you think Chevalier chose to make the main characters eleven years old? How would the book be different if they were, say, sixteen?
3. How does setting the story in 1974 affect how we perceive it? How would the story change if it were set now? What attitudes have changed and what remained the same?
4. Osei's sister Sisi plays an off-stage role but her presence is strongly felt. Why is she part of the story?
5. Although Chevalier has chosen to make Osei black, is race the primary issue in *New Boy* or a means to an end?

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



Omar El Akkad

American War:

A Novel

978-0-451-49358-3 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-7710-0939-6 | \$32.95C | McClelland & Stewart
● 978-0-451-49359-0
📍 AD: 978-1-5247-7982-5 | 📍 CD: 978-1-5247-7981-8
📍 LP: 978-1-5247-7985-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *The Sympathizer*,
The Underground Railroad, *Station Eleven*,
The Road, and *The Dog Stars*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

An audacious and powerful debut novel: a second American Civil War, a devastating plague, and one family caught deep in the middle—a story that asks what might happen if America were to turn its most devastating policies and deadly weapons upon itself.

Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky. When her father is killed and her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she begins to grow up shaped by her particular time and place. But not everyone at Camp Patience is who they claim to be. Eventually Sarat is befriended by a mysterious functionary, under whose influence she is turned into a deadly instrument of war. The decisions that she makes will have tremendous consequences not just for Sarat but for her family and her country, rippling through generations of strangers and kin alike.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel's epigraphs are taken from two classic texts, an ancient Arabic book of poems and the Bible. What do the quotes and their sources suggest about the conflict that will follow in the novel?
2. Were you surprised by the way the map of the United States has been altered—the states' borders and the landmasses themselves—in the projections for 2075? What do you think caused those changes; was it solely politics or other forces as well?
3. What does the first-person narrator we meet in the prologue explain—and not explain—about how the country has changed, the timeline of the Second American Civil War itself, and the unnamed “she” who has stayed in his memory since his youth?

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

Delia Ephron Siracusa

978-0-7352-1232-9 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Blue Rider Press | TR

978-1-101-62153-0

AD: 978-0-7352-0885-8 | CD: 978-1-5247-5036-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
An electrifying novel about marriage and
deceit for fans of *Big Little Lies*.



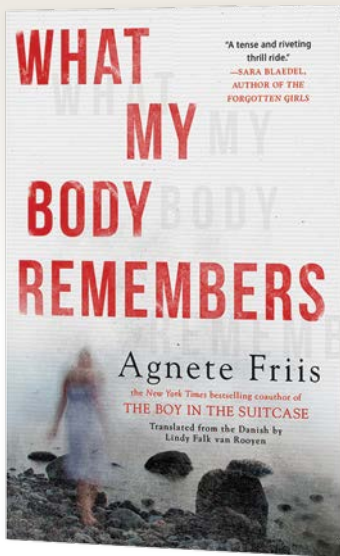
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Michael and Lizzie travel to Italy with their friend Finn; his wife, Taylor; and their daughter, Snow. Told in alternating points of view, the characters expose and stumble upon lies and infidelities past and present. Snow, ten years old and precociously drawn into a far more adult drama, becomes the catalyst for catastrophe as the novel explores collusion and betrayal in marriage. With her inimitable psychological astuteness and uncanny understanding of the human heart, Ephron delivers a powerful meditation on marriage, friendship, and the meaning of travel. *Siracusa* unfolds with the pacing of a psychological thriller and delivers an unexpected final act that none can see coming.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Siracusa* is written from the distinct perspectives of four characters—Lizzie, Michael, Finn, and Taylor—who all have something to hide. Would the book be different if Snow narrated a section?
2. Every character in the book betrays and is betrayed, in ways both big and small. Who do you think is most at fault? Who, in your mind, is the villain of this story?
3. At the end of the book, Lizzie has come into her own as a writer and as a woman. What do you imagine is next for her? For the others?
4. In *Siracusa*, travel becomes the ultimate catalyst for drama, forever altering the lives of six people. Has a trip ever changed your perspective on the world, or your own relationships?

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



Agnete Friis

What My Body Remembers

978-1-61695-602-8 | \$25.95/\$31.95C | Soho Press | HC
📞 978-1-61695-603-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of contemporary thrillers like *The Girl on the Train* and *The Girl in the Red Coat*, and readers of Scandinavian fiction.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ella Nygaard, 27, has been a ward of the state since she was seven years old, the night her father murdered her mother. She doesn't remember anything about that night or her childhood before it—but her body remembers. The PTSD-induced panic attacks she now suffers incapacitate her for hours at a time, sometimes days.

After one particularly bad episode, Ella lands in a psych ward, and her son, Alex, is taken by the state and placed with a foster family. Desperate not to lose her son, Ella kidnaps Alex and flees to the seaside town in northern Denmark where she was born. Her grandmother's abandoned house is in grave disrepair, but she can live there for free until she can figure out how to convince social services that despite everything, she is the best parent for her child. But will the uncovering of childhood memories be her ultimate demise?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In every society there is a dialogue about “the right system” for dealing with people living with disabilities or emotional problems. How does *What My Body Remembers* discuss larger social issues? The “State” is an early antagonist for Ella Nygaard and yet she has relied on it for daily subsistence for most of her life. What does Ella's experience show about the strengths and failures of the system? Would she be better off without it? What would her life have been like without it?
2. Is Ella a good mother to her son, Alex? In Ella's position, would you do as she does and fight for continued custody, even if it means putting your child at risk?
3. Despite their marital and fiscal troubles, characters like Amy Dunne from *Gone Girl* and Rachel Watson from *The Girl on the Train* have lived upper middle-class lives. How does Ella Nygaard differ from these or other suspense heroines? How do her circumstances change the nature of a suspense story?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/WhatMyBodyRemembers

Nina George The Little French Bistro: A Novel

978-0-4514-9558-7 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown | HC
📞 978-0-4514-9560-0 | 📻 AD: 978-1-5247-7422-6
📀 CD: 978-1-5247-7421-9 | LP: 978-1-5247-7948-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of novels like *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

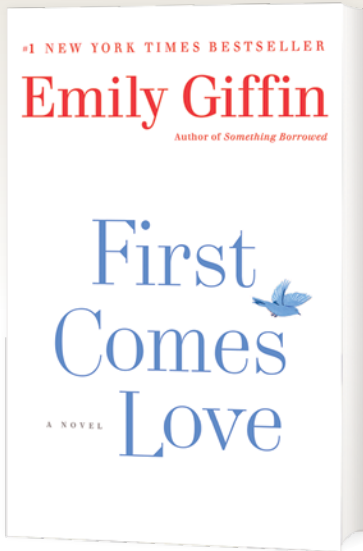
Marianne is a housewife of 41 years, stuck in a loveless, unhappy marriage. Missed opportunities take shape into self-denial and regret, until one day she decides to end it all. In the midst of a trip to Paris, Marianne jumps into the Seine for final relief in its cold, dark depths. But when she is saved and hospitalized, Marianne flees to find her ending elsewhere. In her escape, she sees a portrait of Brittany, France—a picturesque, beautiful destination—and vows to end her life there instead.

In Brittany, Marianne meets a cast of true Bretons who take her under their wing, draw out her talents and personality, and encourage her to take pleasure in life. She becomes something of a local icon, abandoning her original plan and settling into a new, happy life. And when she finds love with a handsome artist, Marianne is forever changed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What elements of the story line affected you most personally? Was it Marianne's loneliness? The way she boldly set out on a journey through a foreign country without knowing a word of the language?
2. The landscape is as much a protagonist in the book as the human characters (and to some extent, the animal ones). Is there a place, a region, a season in which you feel especially at home? Why? What appealed to you most about the Breton landscape is described—the light, the sea, the rocks, the stillness, the wildness?
3. Food, music and friendship: These are the essential ingredients that help Marianne reclaim her life. What things do you need in order to feel entirely, truly and deeply alive?
4. Religion, superstition and a woman's wisdom: Some scenes in the book touch on spiritual planes beyond the realm of established religions. What role do such planes have to play in today's world? How does belief in mythical forces, the invisible world beyond our physical one change the characters in *The Little French Bistro*?

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



Emily Giffin

First Comes Love:

A Novel

978-0-345-54694-4 | \$17.00 | Ballantine Books | TR

978-0-385-68047-9 | \$21.00C | Anchor Canada

📞 978-0-345-54693-7

📍 AD: 978-0-804-12763-9 | 📍 CD: 978-0-804-12762-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Jojo Moyes, Liane Moriarty, and Elin Hilderbrand comes a story about family, friendship, and the courage to follow your own heart.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Growing up, Josie and Meredith Garland shared a loving, if sometimes contentious, relationship. Josie was impulsive, spirited, and outgoing, Meredith hardworking, thoughtful, and reserved. When tragedy strikes, their delicate bond splinters.

Fifteen years later, Josie, a first grade teacher, is single—and wants more than anything to become a mother. Meredith is a successful attorney, married to a wonderful man, and together they're raising a beautiful four-year-old daughter. Yet lately Meredith secretly wonders if she chose the life that she truly desired.

As the anniversary of their tragedy looms, and painful secrets from the past begin to surface, Josie and Meredith must not only confront the issues that divide them but also come to terms with their own choices.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Did you identify more with Josie or Meredith? Why? Did that change over the course of the novel?
2. Josie almost writes off her relationship with Pete because she doesn't feel enough of a spark, but he argues that chemistry can develop over time. Do you agree with him? Do you think the development of the relationship between these two characters felt realistic?
3. Nolan tells Meredith that he initially decided to hide the truth about the night Daniel died because it wouldn't have helped anyone. Would you have done the same in his position? When is keeping such a big secret from a loved one justifiable?
4. Daniel's death is a source of great guilt for many of the characters in this novel. Compare and contrast the different ways that guilt manifests itself in their choices. How do you think Meredith's and Josie's lives might be different if Daniel were still alive?

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

Julia Glass

A House Among the Trees: A Novel

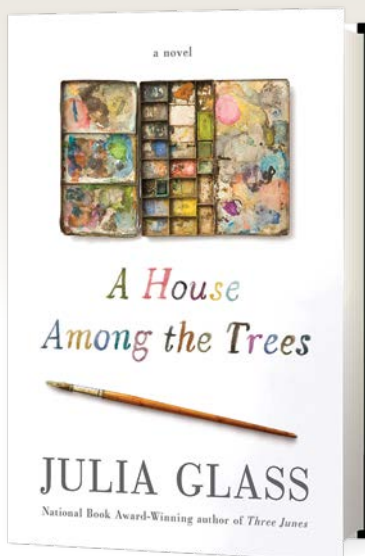
978-1-101-87036-5 | \$27.95/\$36.95C | Pantheon | HC

978-1-101-87037-2

AD: 978-1-5247-8191-0 | CD: 978-1-5247-8190-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Claire Messud, Sue Miller, Elizabeth Strout, and Ann Packer.



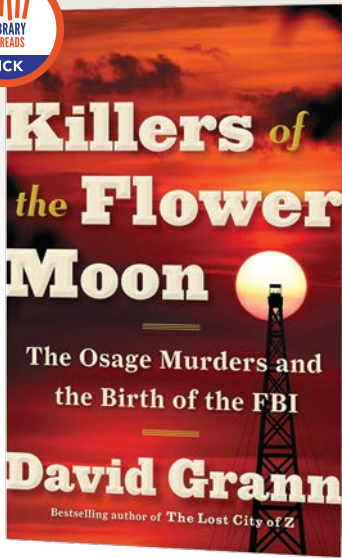
ABOUT THE BOOK:

When the revered children's book author Mort Lear dies accidentally at his Connecticut home, he leaves his property and all its contents to his trusted assistant, Tomasina Daulair, who is moved by his generosity but dismayed by the complicated and defiant directives in his will. Tommy knew Morty for more than four decades, since meeting him in a Manhattan playground when she was twelve and he was working on sketches for the book that would make him a star. By the end of his increasingly reclusive life, she found herself living in his house as confidante and helpmeet, witness not just to his daily routines but to the emotional fallout of his strange boyhood and his volatile relationship with a lover who died of AIDS. Now Tommy must try to honor Morty's last wishes while grappling with their effects on several people, including her estranged brother; the lonely, outraged museum curator to whom Lear once promised his artistic estate; and Nicholas Greene, the beguiling British actor cast to play Mort Lear in a movie.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The house in Orne which Morty and Tommy share plays an enormous part in their lives. Would you consider it to be a character of its own, or simply a setting?
2. Tomasina Daulair has given much of her life to caring for an older gay man who is also a celebrity artist. Do you consider her lonely? Are there any parallels that you can find between Tommy and yourself?
3. Nick Green is a young, accelerating artist. Describe the relationship between Nick and Morty.
4. Mort Lear's character is revealed as the novel goes on. How does your opinion of him change as the story is unraveled?
5. Describe the relationship between Tommy Daulair and Mort Lear. Do you think that Morty is fair to Tommy?
6. How does Soren fit into the complicated bond between Tommy and Morty? How does Morty's treatment of each affect their behavior to each other?

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



David Grann

Killers of the Flower Moon:

The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI

978-0-385-53424-6 | \$28.95/\$38.95C | Doubleday | HC

📞 978-0-385-53425-3

📖 AD: 978-0-307-74747-1 | 📖 CD: 978-0-307-74746-4

📖 LP: 978-1-5247-5593-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Erik Larson, Candice Millard, Ian Frazier, and Dean King.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe.

Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target. Her relatives were shot and poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more and more members of the tribe began to die under mysterious circumstances.

In *Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Based on years of research and startling new evidence, the book is a masterpiece of narrative nonfiction, as each step in the investigation reveals a series of sinister secrets and reversals. But more than that, it is a searing indictment of the callousness and prejudice toward American Indians that allowed the murderers to operate with impunity for so long.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

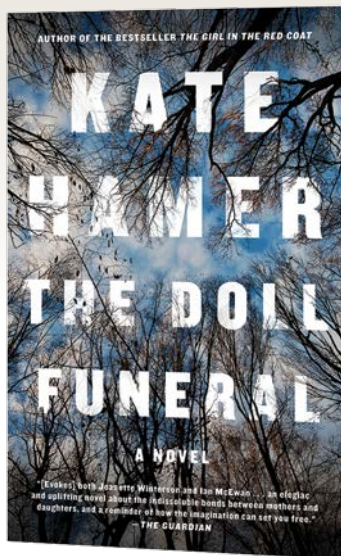
1. The conspiracy that unfolds in *Killers of the Flower Moon* has many twists and turns. What was the one twist that surprised you the most and why?
2. What did you think about the portrayal of law enforcement in the book, especially frontier lawmen and private eyes?
3. Greed and racism play dual roles in the motives behind the murders. Which do you think has the dominant role?
4. Today, the 24-hour news cycle and social media are often faulted for the way news is covered in our country. But if these had been in play during the Reign of Terror, do you think the conspiracy would have been exposed much sooner, with countless lives saved?

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

Kate Hamer
The Doll Funeral

978-1-61219-665-7 | \$25.99 | Melville House | HC
978-1-61219-666-4

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*
and Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*.



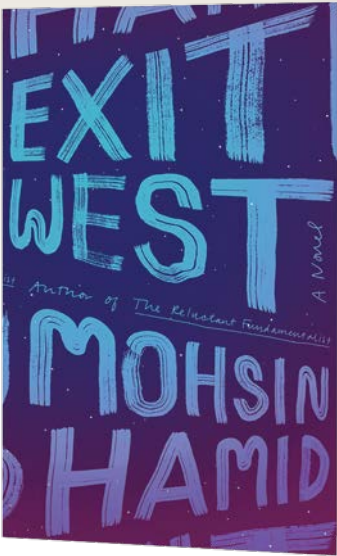
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Told from the alternating perspectives and shifting timelines of teenage Ruby and her mother, Anna, *The Doll Funeral* explores the connections that remain after a family has been broken apart. When Ruby discovers the couple that raised her are not her real parents, she sets out to find her true family—but it's not always clear what's real and what's not, or who's trying to help her and who might be a threat. With hints of the paranormal and a gripping mystery at its heart, *The Doll Funeral* is a dazzling follow-up to Kate Hamer's breakout debut, the Library Reads pick *The Girl in the Red Coat*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Doll Funeral* is told from three different perspectives: that of Ruby, Anna, and Shadow. How does this narration style change the way a story is read and understood? How does the reading experience differ from a more traditional style of storytelling? Which narrator was your favorite and why?
2. *The Doll Funeral* opens with Ruby being told she's been adopted. Ruby's reaction—"I ran into the garden and sang for joy."—is unexpected. What do you make of this reaction? And how does it define her as a character?
3. In retrospect, what do you make of Sylvia Plath's line "Love set you going like a fat gold watch," which serves as one of the novel's epigraphs?
4. Hamer writes: "We are what our families have made us. But sometimes, you can escape that. You can close a door on it and walk into another room. This room is furnished differently. It's all things you chose yourself." What role does family play in *The Doll Funeral*? Is it something you can shut out? Move away from? Is it strictly biological, or can you call anyone family, and mean it?

For more discussion questions visit: MHPBooks.com/books/the-doll-funeral



Mohsin Hamid

Exit West:

A Novel

978-0-7352-1217-6 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Riverhead | HC

📖 978-0-7352-1218-3 | 📄 AD: 978-1-5247-5226-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of contemporary literary fiction, multicultural fiction, and for fans of Jhumpa Lahiri and Dinaw Mengetsu.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet—sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors—doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. “Location, location, location, the realtors say. Geography is destiny, respond the historians.” What do you think the narrator means by this? Does he take a side? What about the novel as a whole?
2. What function do the doors serve, physically and emotionally, in the novel? Why do you think Hamid chose to include this speculative, fantastical element in an otherwise very “realistic” world?
3. The city where Nadia and Saeed live and from which they flee is unnamed, the only unnamed location in the book. Why do you think that is? What effect does this omission have on the reader?
4. Saeed tells Nadia, “‘The end of the world can be cozy at times.’ She laughed. ‘Yes. Like a cave.’” What purpose does humor serve in a book like this?
5. Do you think *Exit West* is a hopeful book? Why or why not?

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

Shari Lapena The Couple Next Door: A Novel

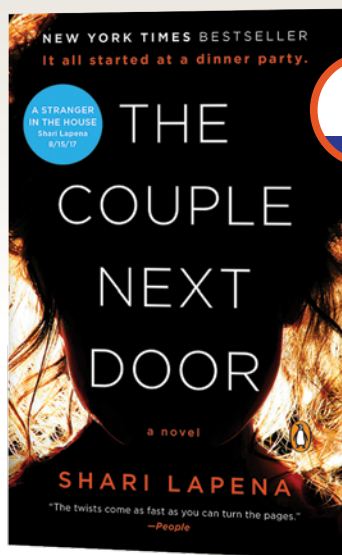
978-0-7352-2110-9 | \$16.00 | Penguin Books | TR

ISBN 978-0-7352-2111-6

AD: 978-0-7352-8881-2 | CD: 978-0-7352-8880-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Harlan Coben and Lisa Gardner, and for those who enjoy thrilling novels of deception and betrayal with shocking twists like *Into the Water* and *Luckiest Girl Alive*.



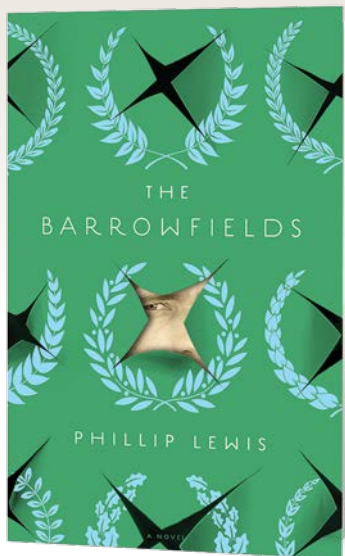
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all—a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed and Cora goes missing. Suspicion immediately focuses on the parents and Detective Rasbach knows that the panicked couple is hiding something. Both Anne and Marco soon discover that the other is keeping secrets, secrets they've kept for years. What follows is the nerve-racking unraveling of a family—a chilling tale of deception, duplicity, and unfaithfulness that will keep you breathless until the very end.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Imagine yourself in Anne's position—would you have left your infant at home while going next door for dinner? Do you believe Anne is a good mother? How do you define that?
2. Why does Anne stay with Marco, even after everything she's learned? Would you? Is it possible to build trust again after that type of betrayal?
3. Marco and Richard hate each other. How would each describe the other? Thinking about the way the story ends, how accurate are their opinions?
4. Rasbach says "It's much easier to make money if you don't care who you hurt. If you have scruples, it's much harder to get rich." Do you agree?
5. The press hound Anne and Marco, camping outside their door and assaulting them with questions. Do you think these kinds of media circuses are justified in the name of "news"?
6. At one point, Anne thinks that she killed her own child. Why? Do you believe she's capable of that?

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



Phillip Lewis

The Barrowfields:

A Novel

978-0-4514-9564-8 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Hogarth | HC

📞 978-0-4514-9566-2 | 📄 AD: 978-1-5247-5238-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers who love dramatic, contemporary fiction with a gothic aura and strong characters.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Just before Henry Aster's birth, his father—outsized literary ambition and pregnant wife in tow—reluctantly returns to the remote North Carolina town in which he was improbably raised and installs his young family in an immense house of iron and glass perched on the shoulder of a mountain. There, Henry grows up under the desk of this fierce and brilliant man. But when a death in the family tips his father toward a fearsome unraveling, what was once a young son's reverence is poisoned, and Henry flees, not to return until years later when he, too, must go home again.

Mythic in its sweep and mesmeric in its prose, *The Barrowfields* is a breathtaking debut about the darker side of devotion, the limits of forgiveness, and the reparative power of shared pasts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Did Henry's view of his father change over time? If so, what was most responsible for bringing about the change?
2. Why did Henry's father feel so compelled to complete his novel before the death of his mother, Maddy? What prevented him from doing so?
3. How would you characterize Henry's relationship with his sister, Threnody? How were they so close at an early age, and why did Henry allow them to grow apart?
4. What role do the Barrowfields play in the story?
5. Whose fate in the story was ultimately more tragic: Henry's father or mother?

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

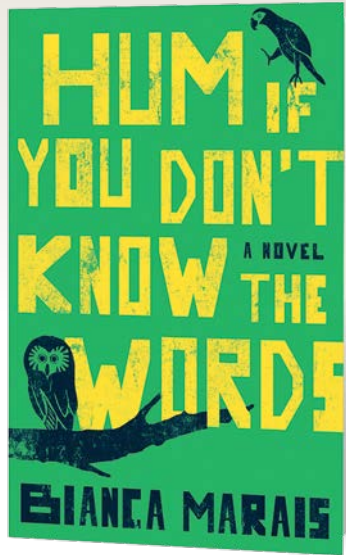
Bianca Marais
**Hum If You Don't
Know the Words**

978-0-399-57506-8 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC

978-0-399-57507-5 | AD: 978-1-5247-7564-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Secret Life of Bees*,
The Poisonwood Bible, *The Help*,
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie,
Alexander McCall Smith, and Chris Cleave.



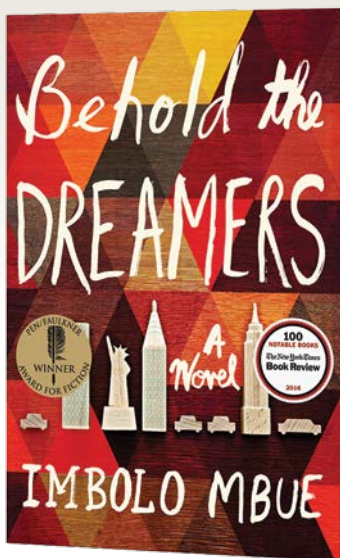
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Life under Apartheid has created a secure future for Robin Conrad, a ten-year-old white girl living with her parents in 1970s Johannesburg. In the same nation, but worlds apart, Beauty Mbali, a Xhosa woman in a rural village in the Bantu homeland of the Transkei, struggles to raise her children alone after her husband's death. Both lives have been built upon the division of race, and their meeting should never have occurred. Until The Soweto Uprising, in which a protest by black students ignites racial conflict, alters the fault lines on which their society is built, and shatters their worlds when Robin's parents are left dead and Beauty's daughter goes missing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do the prejudices and preconceived notions about black people inform the way Robin acts? And how does Robin's behavior and thinking change throughout the book, particularly toward Beauty?
2. Robin and Beauty come together, against all odds, to create a family of their own. How does this book challenge norms of the conventional nuclear family?
3. What purpose does Cat serve in Robin's life, and what necessitated her appearance?
4. How does your perception of Nomsa change throughout the book, and why?
5. What is the significance of the book's title, and why do you think it was chosen?
6. What do you make of the ending, and why do you think the author chose to end the novel at this moment? If there were an epilogue, where do you think we'd find the characters?

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



Imbolo Mbue

Behold the Dreamers: A Novel

978-0-8129-9848-1 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Random House | HC

● 978-0-8129-9849-8

📍 AD: 978-0-14-752312-9 | 📍 CD: 978-0-14-752311-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

*“Imagine Lorraine Hansberry’s . . . *A Raisin in the Sun* with a Cameroonian cast of characters in early twenty-first century New York City, and you may come up with something close to *Behold the Dreamers*, a poignant and bittersweet debut.”*

—San Francisco Chronicle

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A compulsively readable debut novel about marriage, immigration, class, race, and the trapdoors in the American Dream.

Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant, has come to the United States to provide a better life for his family. In the fall of 2007, Jende lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. And Jende’s wife Neni gets work at the Edwardses’ summer home in the Hamptons. With these opportunities, Jende and Neni can at last gain a foothold in America and imagine a brighter future.

However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets. And, when the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, all four lives are dramatically upended, and Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Immigration plays a huge role in this novel. For the Jongas, America is a place of hope and promise, a “place where you can become somebody,” but the machine and policies are anything but welcoming and clear and the road to citizenship is jagged. Discuss the portrayal of the American immigration in this novel. How does this shift the traditional representation of America?
2. In Jende’s job as a driver for the Edwards family, he often transcends the boundaries between their public personas and their private lives. Behind the safety of a closed car door, the Edwards show their truest selves and Jende is often a silent witness to much of what they would not show to the world: marital issues, the crumbling of Lehman Brothers, infidelity, family arguments. How does this impact Jende’s understanding of this family? How does it inform our interpretations?

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

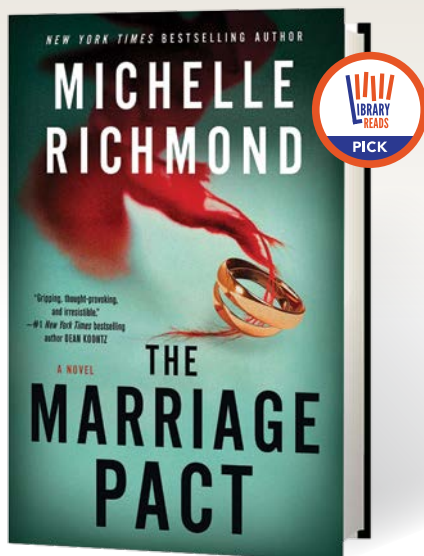
Michelle Richmond

The Marriage Pact:

A Novel

978-0-385-34329-9 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Bantam | HC
978-0-804-17986-7 | eBook LP: 978-0-525-50121-3

READERS' ADVISORY:
"A truly chilling thriller . . . It ranks with *The Stepford Wives* and *Gone Girl* as a terrifying look at what it really means to say 'I do.'"
—Joseph Finder,
bestselling author of *Guilty Minds*



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Newlyweds Alice and Jake are a picture-perfect couple. Alice, once a singer in a well-known rock band, is now a successful lawyer. Jake is a partner in an up-and-coming psychology practice. Their life together holds endless possibilities. After receiving an enticing wedding gift from one of Alice's prominent clients, they decide to join an exclusive and mysterious group known only as The Pact.

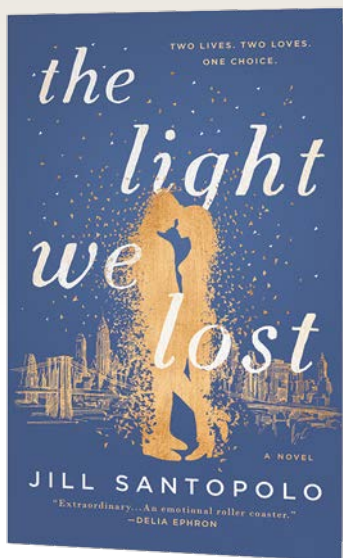
The goal of The Pact seems simple: to keep marriages happy and intact. And most of its rules make sense. Always answer the phone when your spouse calls. Plan a trip together once per quarter.

But then one of them breaks the rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In general, what do you think motivates people to join cults such as The Pact? What motivates Jake and Alice in particular?
2. Are there any Pact rules that you find appealing, or that you think could strengthen a marriage?
3. Though Alice and Jake both enjoy their work, Alice has the more demanding job, and Jake takes on more of the household responsibilities. Jake comments at one point that marriages are always slightly out of balance and that The Pact's goal of restoring balance to relationships is noble. Do you agree that most marriages go through periods of imbalance? What makes relationships imbalanced? And is it even possible for two people in a relationship to find a perfect balance?

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



Jill Santopolo

The Light We Lost:

A Novel

978-0-7352-1275-6 | \$25.00/\$34.00C | Putnam | HC
● 978-0-7352-1277-0
📍 AD: 978-1-5247-7584-1 | 📍 CD: 978-1-5247-7583-4
📍 LP: 978-1-5247-7833-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

Me Before You meets *One Day* in this devastatingly romantic debut novel about the enduring power of first love with an unforgettable ending. For readers of Jojo Moyes, Jennifer Close, and Jane Green.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Lucy and Gabe meet as seniors at Columbia University on a day that changes both of their lives forever. Together, they decide they want their lives to mean something, to matter. When they meet again a year later, it seems fated—perhaps they'll find life's meaning in each other. But then Gabe becomes a photojournalist assigned to the Middle East and Lucy pursues a career in New York. What follows is a thirteen-year journey of dreams, desires, jealousies, betrayals, and, ultimately, of love. Their journey takes Lucy and Gabe continents apart, but never out of each other's hearts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel begins on September 11, 2001, a day in which history and Lucy's life both change. Is there a day in your own life that you'll never forget?
2. Lucy calls her love for Gabe "all-consuming and powerful." Do you remember your own first love? How do you feel about that person now?
3. The novel explores how the choices we make can lead us to very different lifestyles. Do you think Lucy regrets any of her choices? Have you made a decision that has changed the course of your life drastically? If so, what was it? How do you feel about it now?
4. Did you have a favorite man in the novel—Gabe or Darren? Who would you pick in the end?
5. How is marriage portrayed in the novel? How did you feel when Gabe and Lucy reconnected? Were you surprised by Lucy's reaction to Gabe?
6. What do you think about the way the novel ends?

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

Anita Shreve

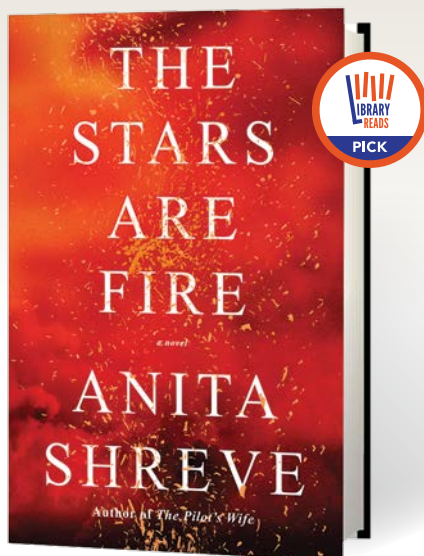
The Stars Are Fire:

A Novel

978-0-385-35090-7 | \$25.95/\$34.95C | Knopf | HC
978-0-385-35091-4
AD: 978-0-8041-4769-9 | CD: 978-0-8041-4768-2
LP: 978-1-5247-8025-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Ann Patchett, Anne Tyler, Sue Miller, Chris Bohjalian, Anna Quindlen, J. Courtney Sullivan, and Elin Hilderbrand.



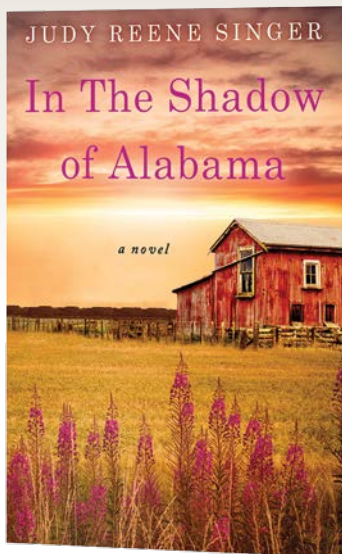
ABOUT THE BOOK:

In October 1947, after a summer long drought, fires break out all along the Maine coast from Bar Harbor to Kittery and are soon racing out of control from town to village. Five months pregnant, Grace Holland is left alone to protect her two toddlers when her husband, Gene, joins the volunteer firefighters. Along with her best friend, Rosie, and Rosie's two young children, Grace watches helplessly as their houses burn to the ground, the flames finally forcing them all into the ocean as a last resort. The women spend the night frantically protecting their children, and in the morning find their lives forever changed: homeless, penniless, awaiting news of their husbands' fates, and left to face an uncertain future in a town that no longer exists. In the midst of this devastating loss, Grace discovers glorious new freedoms—joys and triumphs she could never have expected her narrow life with Gene could contain—and her spirit soars. And then the unthinkable happens—and Grace's bravery is tested as never before.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The epigraph is a quote from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*: "Doubt thou the stars are fire; / Doubt thou the sun doth move; / Doubt truth to be a liar; / But never doubt I love." What does it mean? What does it have to do with the novel it introduces?
2. Discuss Grace's relationship with Rosie. Why is this friendship so important to Grace? What function does Rosie serve in her life?
3. Before reading *The Stars Are Fire*, what did you know about the fires that tore through Maine in 1947?
4. Can you think of anything Grace could have done differently to prepare?

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



Judy Reene Singer

In the Shadow of Alabama

978-1-4967-0945-5 | \$15.00/\$16.95C | Kensington | TR
📞 978-1-4967-0946-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of Beatriz Williams's
Along the Infinite Sea and
Tessa Hadley's *The Past*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Rachel has good reasons not to be at her father Marty's deathbed. Foaling season is at hand, she is needed at home, and Marty, a World War II vet and the angriest man alive, hates her. But Malachi, her horse manager and more father to her than Marty ever was, convinces Rachel that she will regret it if she doesn't go. When a stranger shows up at her father's funeral, delivering an odd gift and an apology, Rachel is drawn into the epic story of her father's experience during the war—the friendships, trauma, scandal and betrayal that would scar the rest of his life—and sees how his hopes and disappointments mirror her own, possibly giving her the means to free herself of the past. But will reconciling her past be enough to save her future?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is Martin Fleischer a good man misunderstood? Or a rebel for the sake of being a rebel?
2. Do you believe Malachi's philosophy about "nature" and its rules? Are the horses and plants obeying them?
3. What do you think of Willie Jackson's motives? Do you think he is using Rachel to relieve his own guilt?
4. Rachel considers her sister Sandra the "good daughter." Does this make Rachel a "bad" daughter? What is the difference?
5. Do you think the bond that forms between Willie and Sgt. Fleischer would have happened anywhere outside of the incubator of Alabama in 1941?

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

Elizabeth Strout Anything Is Possible: A Novel

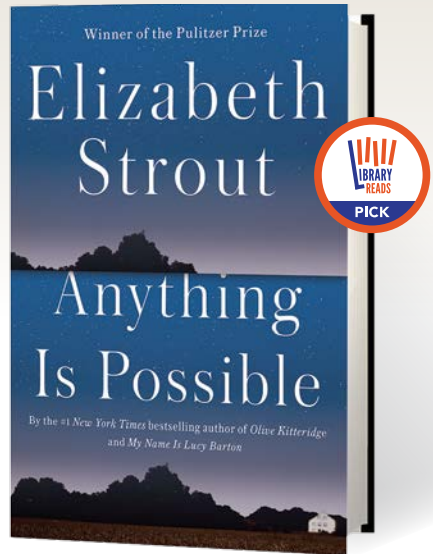
978-0-8129-8940-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Random House | HC

📞 978-0-8129-8942-7

📻 AD: 978-1-524-77493-6 | 📻 CD: 978-1-524-77492-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

Recalling *Olive Kitteridge* in its richness, structure, and complexity, *Anything Is Possible* explores the whole range of human emotion through the intimate dramas of people struggling to understand themselves and others.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

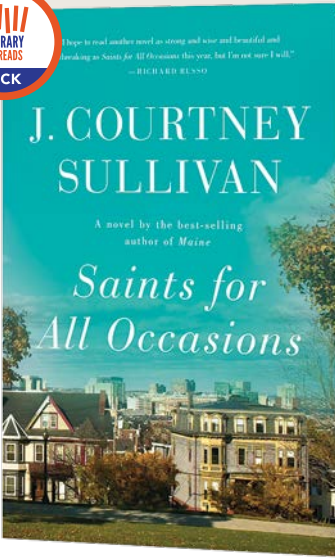
Here are two sisters: One trades self-respect for a wealthy husband while the other finds in the pages of a book a kindred spirit who changes her life. The janitor at the local school has his faith tested in an encounter with an isolated man he has come to help; a grown daughter longs for mother love even as she comes to accept her mother's happiness in a foreign country; and the adult Lucy Barton (the heroine of *My Name Is Lucy Barton*) returns to visit her siblings after seventeen years of absence.

Anything Is Possible reverberates with the deep bonds of family, and the hope that comes with reconciliation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Strout chose to structure *Anything Is Possible* in linked stories? How would your understanding of the book change if it had been written as a novel with one narrative instead?
2. How does the town of Amgash itself feature in the text? How does it shape the lives of its residents? If Amgash had its own personality, how would you characterize it?
3. The past often plays a role in these stories, and many of the characters find themselves struggling to reconcile with it. What are the various ways in which the past shapes them? How do they attempt to deal with their own pasts, and those of the characters around them?
4. Strout deals with many different types of family relationships in the book—between parents and children, spouses, and siblings. How were these different types of relationships treated? What were the differences and similarities in the ways the characters navigated these relationships? Which ones resonated most with you, and why?

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



J. Courtney Sullivan **Saints for All Occasions: A Novel**

978-0-307-95957-7 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Knopf | HC

📞 978-0-307-95958-4

📍 AD: 978-1-5247-8149-1 | 📍 CD: 978-1-5247-8148-4

📞 LP: 978-1-5247-8022-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Emma Straub, Maggie Shipstead, Maria Semple, Judy Blume, and Curtis Sittenfeld.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Nora and Theresa Flynn are twenty-one and seventeen when they leave their small village in Ireland and journey to America. Nora is the responsible sister; she's shy and serious and engaged to a man she isn't sure that she loves. Theresa is gregarious; she is thrilled by their new life in Boston and besotted with the fashionable dresses and dance halls on Dudley Street. But when Theresa ends up pregnant, Nora is forced to come up with a plan—a decision with repercussions they are both far too young to understand. Fifty years later, Nora is the matriarch of a big Catholic family with four grown children: John, a successful, if opportunistic, political consultant; Bridget, quietly preparing to have a baby with her girlfriend; Brian, at loose ends after a failed baseball career; and Patrick, Nora's favorite, the beautiful boy who gives her no end of heartache. Estranged from her sister, Theresa is a cloistered nun, living in an abbey in rural Vermont. Until, after decades of silence, a sudden death forces Nora and Theresa to confront the choices they made so long ago.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the differences between Nora and Theresa when they were girls. Did you find it surprising how their paths diverged as they grew older?
2. Discuss Nora's sense of responsibility and obligation to her family, including as the oldest sibling and following her mother's death. How does this role, which she adopts from a young age, influence her understanding of motherhood throughout her life?
3. Although Patrick is not alive in the present-day sections of the novel (2009), how does the author give us a full portrait of his character? What do others' opinions and memories of him help us glean about his personality and behaviors that a more direct interaction with him in the narrative wouldn't provide?

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

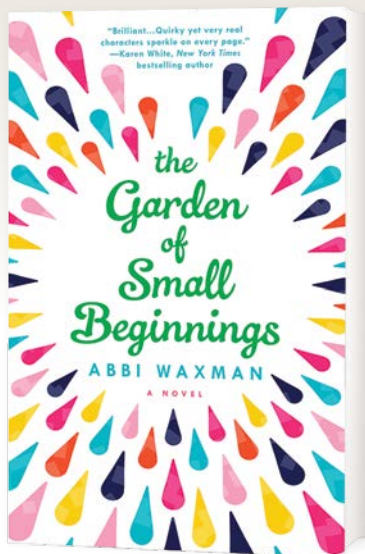
Abbi Waxman The Garden of Small Beginnings

978-0-399-58358-2 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Berkley | TR

978-0-399-58359-9 | AD: 978-1-5247-7935-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

A poignant, funny, and compelling debut novel about life and loss for readers of Emily Giffin, Jennifer Weiner, and *Good Grief* by Lolly Winston.



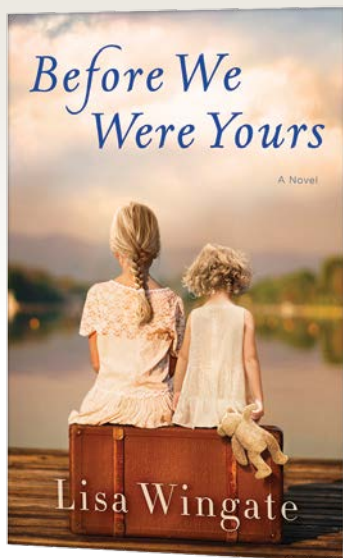
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Lilian Girvan has been a single mother for three years—ever since her husband died in a car accident. One mental breakdown and some random suicidal thoughts later, she's just starting to get the hang of this widow thing. At least her textbook illustrating job has some perks—like the gardening class her boss signed her up for. Apparently being the chosen illustrator for a series of boutique vegetable guides means getting your hands dirty, literally. And what she'll soon discover—with the help of a patient instructor and a quirky group of gardeners—is that into every life a little sun must shine, whether you want it to or not.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As the story begins, Lilian is deeply sad, but comfortable in her sadness. She resists people's encouragements to move on, and is quite verbal about it. What impact does her position have on the other people in her life?
2. Does Lilian find her work as a textbook illustrator fulfilling? Is she as stuck in that job as she is in her personal life?
3. What are the similarities and differences between the way Lilian and her sister, Rachel, process emotions? How did their childhood impact their approach?
4. Gardening turns out to be relaxing for Lilian, despite the hard physical work involved. What do you enjoy about gardening, and why do you think it's so helpful for Lilian?
5. Do you think Edward and Lilian will end up together? Is Lilian ready for a new relationship?

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



Lisa Wingate **Before We Were Yours:** A Novel

978-0-425-28468-1 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Ballantine Books | HC
📞 978-0-425-28469-8 | 📄 AD: 978-1-524-78069-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Orphan Train* and *The Nightingale* comes a riveting novel—inspired by the true story of a notoriously corrupt adoption agency—about two families, generations apart, who are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are at the mercy of the facility's cruel director.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé. But a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Before We Were Yours* alternates between the historical story of the Foss Children and the modern-day story of Avery Stafford. Did you have a favorite of these two-story lines?
2. Many families have been touched in some way by adoption and foster care. Is adoption or foster care in your family history? If so, how did that affect your thoughts about the journey of the Foss children and about Avery's excavation of her family history?
3. When the sisters were originally reunited, they decided to keep their history to themselves rather than telling their families. Do you agree or disagree with this decision? What do you think the implications would have been if they had gone public? Do you think family secrets should remain secret, particularly after the people who kept those secrets have passed away? Or do family secrets belong to the next generation, as well?
4. "There was a little girl who had a little curl . . ." is a touchstone between Avery and her Grandma Judy. Is there a song or saying that reminds you of someone special in your childhood? Where does your mind travel when you hear it or repeat it?

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

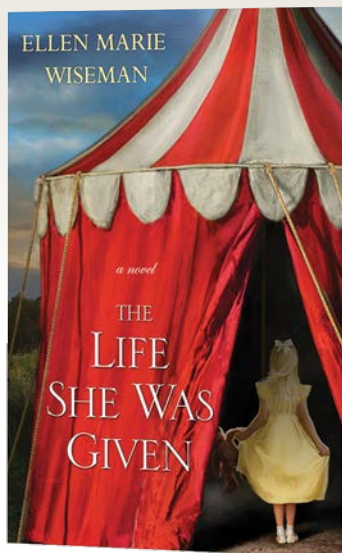
Ellen Marie Wiseman

The Life She Was Given

978-1-61773-449-6 | \$15.00/\$16.95C | Kensington | TR

978-1-61773-450-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants*
and *Orphans of the Carnival*.



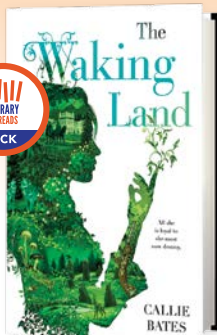
ABOUT THE BOOK:

On a summer evening in 1931, Lilly Blackwood is taken outside for the first time—and sold to the circus sideshow by her own mother. More than two decades later, nineteen-year-old Julia Blackwood has inherited her parents' estate and horse farm, and becomes immersed in a mystery involving a hidden attic room and photos of circus scenes featuring a striking young girl. It will fall to Julia to learn the truth about Lilly's fate, and find a way to make her childhood home a place of healing. *The Life She Was Given* portrays two extraordinary, very different women in a novel that, while tender and heartbreaking, offers moments of joy and indomitable hope.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the beginning of the book, Lilly has never stepped foot outside the attic of Blackwood Manor. Do you think it's possible for a child in that situation to develop normally? When she is finally let out, Lilly is frightened and wants to return to the attic. Why do you think she feels that way?
2. What do you think Lilly's life would have been like if she had never been sold to the circus? Do you think she would have eventually escaped? How?
3. Julia was brought up believing bad things would happen if she didn't behave. What effect do you think that belief had on her relationships with other people? How do you think she changed over the course of the novel?
4. Before she knows the truth, Julia briefly wonders if Lilly would have been better off if she had "gotten help". What do you think would have happened to Lilly if she had been sent away instead of locked in the attic?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/RGGTheLifeSheWasGiven



Callie Bates The Waking Land

978-0-425-28402-5 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC
 978-0-399-17739-2 | AD: 978-1-524-78019-7

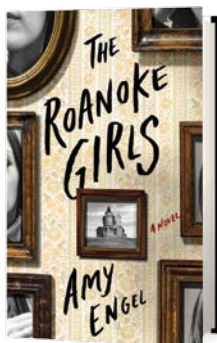
For fans of Sarah J. Maas and Sabaa Tahir comes a riveting debut in the lush and magical tradition of Naomi Novik's *Uprooted*. Lady Elanna is fiercely devoted to the king who raised her like a daughter. But when he dies under mysterious circumstances, Elanna is accused of his murder. Fleeing to the homeland of magical legends she has forsaken, Elanna is forced to reckon with her estranged father . . . and the powers that stir within her. Trapped between divided loyalties, she must summon the courage to confront a destiny that could tear her apart.



Rachel Caine Ash & Quill

978-0-451-47241-0 | \$17.99/\$23.99C | Berkley | HC | 978-0-698-18083-3

Caine's unforgettable characters from the *New York Times* bestselling Great Library Series are back and must unite to save the Great Library of Alexandria from itself in this electrifying adventure. A group of rebels poses a dangerous threat to the tyranny of the Great Library and Jess Brightwell and his band of exiles find themselves imprisoned in a city led by those who would rather burn books than submit. But Jess and his friends have a bargaining chip: the knowledge to build a machine that will break the Library's rule. Their time is running out. To survive, they'll have to choose to live or die as one, to take the fight to their enemies and to save the very soul of the Great Library.

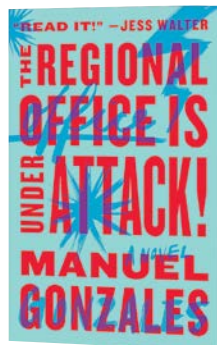


Amy Engel The Roanoke Girls: A Novel

978-1-1019-0666-8 | \$25.00/\$34.00C | Crown | HC | 978-1-1019-0667-5
 AD: 978-1-5247-2301-9 | CD: 978-1-5247-5492-1

Vowing to discover the fate of her missing cousin, Lane Roanoke returns to her family's Kansas estate where she spent one haunting summer as a teen, and where she discovered the dark heart of the Roanoke clan that left her no choice but to run.

As it weaves between Lane's first Roanoke summer and her return, *The Roanoke Girls* shocks and tantalizes, twisting its way through revelation after mesmerizing revelation, exploring the secrets families keep and the fierce and terrible love that both binds them together and rips them apart.



Manuel Gonzales The Regional Office is Under Attack!: A Novel

978-0-399-57321-7 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Riverhead | TR
 978-0-698-13936-7 | AD: 978-0-399-56745-2

For readers of Colson Whitehead and Charles Yu and for fans of literary genre fiction like Justin Cronin's *Passage* Trilogy comes a high-concept sci-fi tragi-comedy about a plot to overthrow a powerful underground organization as foretold by a mystical prophecy, in a world beset by dark, unseen forces. Weaving in a brilliantly conceived mythology, fantastical magical powers, teenage crushes and kinetic fight scenes, *The Regional Office is Under Attack!* is a seismically entertaining debut novel about revenge and allegiance and love.



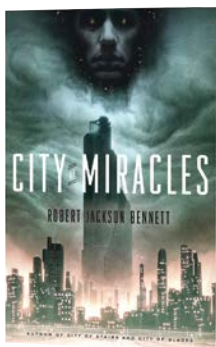
Gabe Hudson

Gork, the Teenage Dragon: A Novel

978-0-375-41396-4 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Knopf | HC | 978-1-5247-3247-9

A love story, a fantasy, and a coming-of-age story, *Gork the Teenage Dragon* is a wildly comic, beautifully imagined, and deeply heartfelt debut novel that shows us just how human a dragon can be.

"It's hard not to love a story about a dragon with a spaceship that cribs its plot from a John Hughes movie. The hyperkinetic teen-dragon comedy-romance you never knew you wanted." —*Kirkus Reviews*

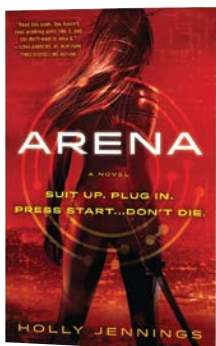


Robert Jackson Bennett

City of Miracles

978-0-5534-1973-3 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Broadway | TR | 978-0-5534-1974-0

The third entry in Bennett's acclaimed *Divine Cities* fantasy series. Sigrud je Harkvaldsson has nothing left to live for. He is a fugitive and an exile, wanted for murder throughout the empire of Sappur. His entire existence has seemed only to visit suffering and death upon those he wants most to protect—while he himself has emerged from each battle cruelly unscathed, inexplicably immune to forces both natural and divine. When his closest ally, former Prime Minister Shara Komayd, is assassinated, Sigrud's life suddenly has a purpose: to find the killers and make them suffer for what they've done.



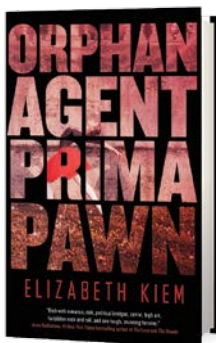
Holly Jennings

Arena

978-0-425-28287-8 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Ace | TR | 978-0-698-40693-3

AD: 978-0-8041-9507-2

For fans of Ernest Cline and Charles Stross and for readers of *The Hunger Games* and *Red Rising*, comes a gripping near-future science fiction debut about the world of competitive gaming. In the RAGE tournaments, every bloody kill is broadcast to millions and every athlete is a modern gladiator living a life of fame while battling for the entertainment of the masses. And though the weapons and armor are digital, the pain is real. Kali Ling, the first woman to captain a RAGE team, is beginning to realize that even in the real world, not everything is as it seems. And the only way to change the rules of the game is by fighting from the inside.

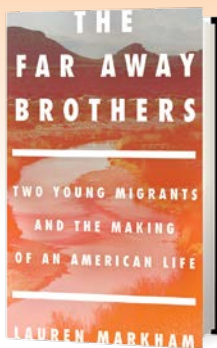


Elizabeth Kiem

Orphan, Agent, Prima, Pawn

978-1-61695-655-4 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC | 978-1-61695-656-1

The final installment in Elizabeth Kiem's three-generation saga of the Bolshoi Ballet's Dukovskaya family delves far into the past to the origins of a lasting blood feud. For fans of historical/Cold War fiction, fans of Elizabeth Wein, Libba Bray, or those who love the mysterious, competitive world of the American School of Ballet or the Bolshoi.



Lauren Markham

The Far Away Brothers:

Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life

978-1-1019-0618-7 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Crown | HC | September

● 978-1-1019-0619-4 | ♻ AD: 978-0-5254-9576-5

Journalist Lauren Markham chronicles the story of identical twin brothers who escape El Salvador's violence to build new lives in California—fighting to survive, to stay, and to belong. Markham offers a coming-of-age tale that is a nuanced portrait of Central America's child exodus, an investigation of U.S. immigration policy, and an unforgettable testament to the migrant experience.

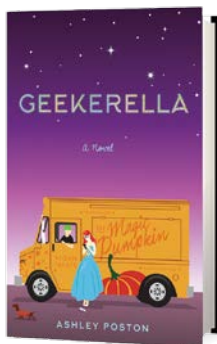


Ryan North

Romeo and/or Juliet: A Chooseable-Path Adventure

978-1-101-98330-0 | \$20.00/\$27.00C | Riverhead | TR | ● 978-1-101-98331-7

Romeo loves Juliet. Or Rosaline. And Juliet loves Romeo. Or Viola. Or Orlando. It's Shakespeare as you've never played him before. In this choose-your-own-path version of *Romeo and Juliet*, you choose where the story goes every time you read! What if Romeo never met Juliet? What if they teamed up to take over Verona with robot suits? Whatever your adventure, you're guaranteed to find lots of romance, lots of epic fight scenes, and plenty of questionable decision-making by very emotional teens.



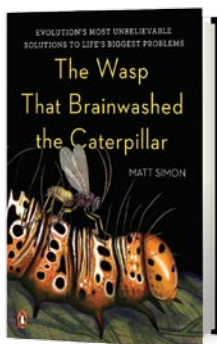
Ashley Poston

Geekerella: A Fangirl Fairy Tale

978-1-59474-947-6 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Quirk Books | HC | ● 978-1-59474-950-6

Cinderella goes to the con in this fandom-fueled twist on the classic fairy tale. Part romance, part love letter to nerd culture, and all totally adorbs, *Geekerella* is a fairy tale for anyone who believes in the magic of fandom.

"With geekily adorable characters, a show that's part *Star Trek* and part *Firefly*, a cosplay contest, and a food truck fairy godmother, this is a love letter to fandom. Required reading for geeks everywhere." —*Booklist*



Matt Simon

The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar: Evolution's Most Unbelievable Solutions to Life's Biggest Problems

978-0-14-312868-7 | \$20.00/\$27.00C | Penguin Books | HC | ● 978-0-698-41125-8

For readers of *What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions* comes a fun, fascinating, illustrated collection of unique animals and the unbelievable evolutionary traits they use to survive the most extreme scenarios from the man behind the popular *Wired* series "Absurd Creature of the Week," Matt Simon. *The Wasp that Brainwashed the Caterpillar* is an absurdist, comical romp through evolution's weirdest solutions to the hazards that evolution itself produces. Each original entry talks about a creature and its amazing adaptation, using Simon's signature blend of scientific accuracy and humor.

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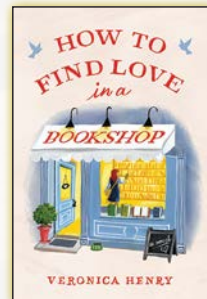
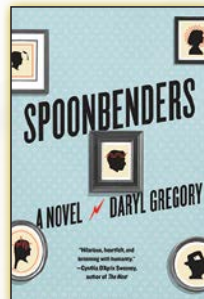
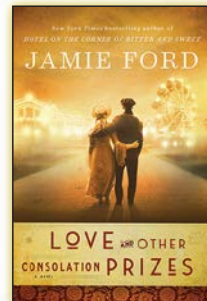
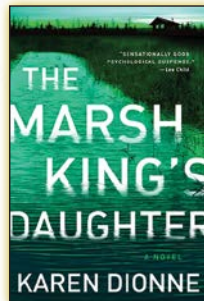
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