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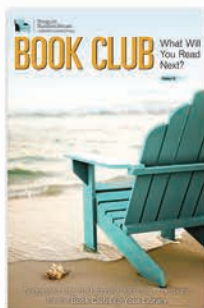
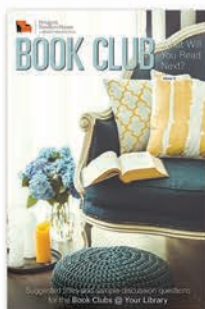
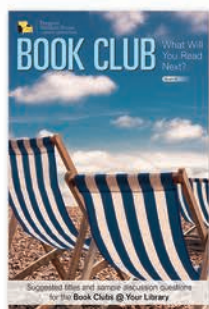
Volume 15



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

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Ayobami Adebayo

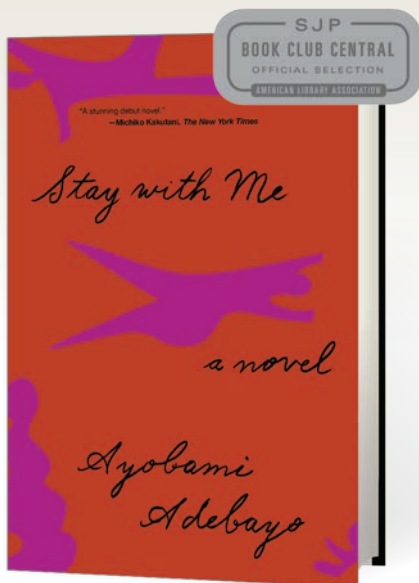
Stay with Me:

A Novel

978-0-451-49460-3 | \$25.95/\$34.95C | Knopf | HC
978-1-101-97441-4 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Vintage | TR | July
📞 978-0-451-49461-0 | 📍 AD: 978-1-5247-8183-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

Perfect for readers of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie,
Yaa Gyasi, and Helen Oyeyemi.



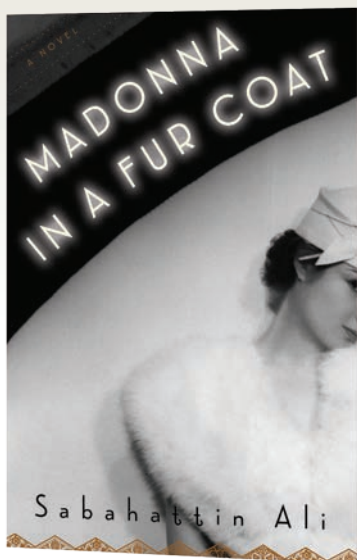
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Yejide and Akin have been married since they met and fell in love at university. Though many expected Akin to take several wives, he and Yejide have always agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage—after consulting fertility doctors and healers, trying strange teas and unlikely cures—Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time—until her family arrives on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin’s second wife. Furious, shocked, and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant. Which, finally, she does—but at a cost far greater than she could have dared to imagine. An electrifying novel of enormous emotional power, *Stay with Me* asks how much we can sacrifice for the sake of family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Discuss the early stages of Yejide and Akin’s courtship, from both of their perspectives. What is Yejide’s initial reaction to Akin’s romantic propositions? Consider Yejide’s childhood and past that is revealed over the course of the novel. What does she seek in a romantic relationship? How does Akin provide security for her? How does Akin convince Yejide that he is trustworthy?
2. Consider the family unit as a social force in *Stay with Me*. How do the opinions of Akin’s family members influence his decisions? Describe the relationship between Akin and his parents. How does Akin both obey and defy the wishes of his family? How does Yejide navigate her role as a daughter-in-law?
3. In the beginning of *Stay with Me*, the reader is introduced to the central conflict of Yejide and Akin’s life: their infertility as a couple. How is Yejide and Akin’s childlessness seen as a reflection on the family unit? What is the burden of expectation placed on Yejide? How is she treated by Akin’s family as a result of her infertility? By the community? How do attitudes toward Yejide change once she is pregnant?

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



Sabahattin Ali;
Translated by Maureen Freely
and Alexander Dawe
Madonna in
a Fur Coat

978-1-59051-880-9 | \$15.95 | Other Press | TR

📞 978-1-59051-881-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Ali’s affecting story of love and loss is both timeless and grounded in its distinctive setting, with sometimes old-fashioned charm that will appeal to many readers.” —*Library Journal*

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A shy young man leaves his home in rural Turkey to learn a trade and discover life in 1920s Berlin. There, amidst the city’s bustling streets, elegant museums, passionate politics, and infamous cabarets, a chance meeting with a beautiful half-Jewish artist transforms him forever. Caught between his desire for freedom from tradition and his yearning to belong, he struggles to hold on to the new life he has found with the woman he loves.

Emotionally powerful, intensely atmospheric, and touchingly profound, *Madonna in a Fur Coat* is an unforgettable novel about new beginnings, the relentless pull of family ties, and the unfathomable nature of the human soul. First published in 1943, this novel, with its quiet yet insistent defiance of social norms, has been topping bestseller lists in Turkey since 2013.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

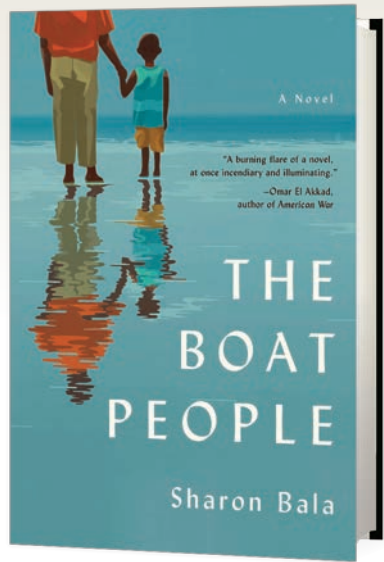
1. Does the story of Raif Efendi’s love affair with Maria Puder move you as much as it moves the narrator?
2. What writers and stories animate Raif Efendi’s imagination before he goes to Germany? Do the daydreams he has while in Istanbul resemble his adventure in Germany?
3. Describe Raif Efendi as you first meet him through the narrator’s description. Does your understanding of him change once the narrator starts reading his notebook? How?
4. What draws Raif to Maria? How are they similar, and how are they different?
5. Raif says, “No matter what I had bottled up inside me, I was absurdly anxious about letting it out.” Why is he so anxious about revealing himself? In what actions does he reveal his true self to Maria? How does this anxiety about revealing himself mutate and intensify after he returns from Germany and believes Maria has spurned him?

For more discussion questions visit: [OtherPress.com/Books/Madonna-Fur-Coat/#Reading_Groups](https://www.otherpress.com/books/madonna-fur-coat/#Reading_Groups)

Sharon Bala
The Boat People:
A Novel

978-0-385-54229-6 | \$26.95 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-7710-2429-0 | \$24.95C | McClelland & Stewart | TR
📞 978-0-385-54230-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Khaled Hosseini,
Cristina Henríquez, and Chris Cleave.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

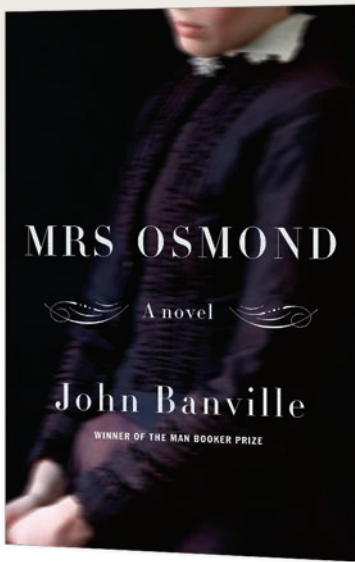
When a rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and five hundred fellow refugees from Sri Lanka's bloody civil war reaches Vancouver's shores, the young father thinks he and his six-year-old son can finally start a new life. Instead, the group is thrown into a detention processing center, with government officials and news headlines speculating that among the "boat people" are members of a separatist militant organization responsible for countless suicide attacks—and that these terrorists now pose a threat to Canada's national security.

Told through the alternating perspectives of Mahindan; his lawyer, Priya, a second-generation Sri Lankan Canadian who reluctantly represents the refugees; and Grace, a third-generation Japanese Canadian adjudicator who must decide Mahindan's fate as evidence mounts against him, *The Boat People* is a spellbinding and timely novel that provokes a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the author chose *The Boat People* as her title? Throughout history, the term "boat people" has been used to refer to different waves of migrants. Who did you think the boat people of the title were going to be?
2. Consider the book's epigraph by Martin Luther King Jr.: "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." How does this epigraph relate to the plot or set the stage for the themes explored in the book?
3. Author Sharon Bala has said that she wrote the novel as a "meditation on empathy." Discuss how the novel explores both the need for empathy as well as how it is tested.
4. The novel is told through the perspectives of three characters: Priya, Grace, and Mahindan, both in the present and in the past. What do each of these perspectives bring to the story? Whose story did you enjoy most?

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



John Banville

Mrs. Osmond:

A Novel

978-0-451-49342-2 | \$27.95/\$36.95C | Knopf | HC
📞 978-0-451-49343-9 | 📄 AD: 978-0-525-58822-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Longbourn*, *Death Comes to Pemberley*, *The Master*, and *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

From the Man Booker Prize-winning author of *The Sea*, a dazzling and audacious new novel that extends the story of Isabel Archer, the heroine of Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*, into unexpected territory.

Isabel Archer is a young American woman, swept off to Europe in the late nineteenth century by an aunt who hopes to round out the impetuous but naïve girl's experience of the world. When Isabel comes into a large, unexpected inheritance, she is finagled into a marriage with the charming, penniless, and—as Isabel finds out too late—cruel and deceitful Gilbert Osmond, whose connection to a certain Madame Merle is suspiciously intimate. On a trip to England to visit her cousin Ralph Touchett on his deathbed, Isabel is offered a chance to free herself from the marriage, but nonetheless chooses to return to Italy. Banville follows James's story line to this point, but *Mrs. Osmond* is thoroughly Banville's own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you read *The Portrait of a Lady*? How does this sequel compare to your interpretation of James's ambiguous ending?
2. Banville chose as his epigraph an excerpt from James's novel: "Deep in her soul—deeper than any appetite for renunciation—was the sense that life would be her business for a long time to come." What does this sentence mean? Why did Banville choose this particular passage?
3. Our first glimpse of Isabel's character comes through her maid, Staines, who feels vexed by "what she considered her mistress's willful credulousness, deplorable gullibility and incurably soft heart." How does Isabel change over the course of the novel?
4. At several points, Isabel considers her fortune to be a burden. Why?

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

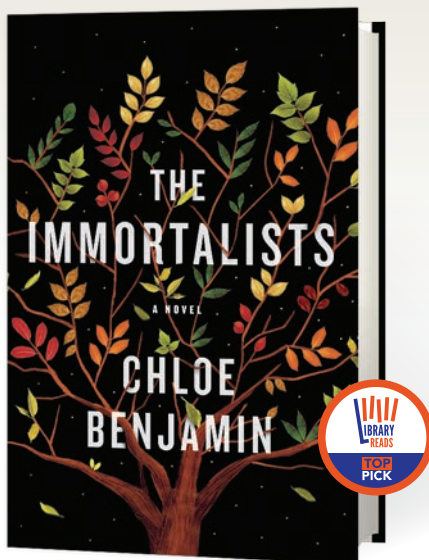
Chloe Benjamin

The Immortalists

978-0-7352-1318-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC
📞 978-0-7352-1319-7 | 📄 AD: 978-0-525-49764-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

A dazzling family love story reminiscent of *Everything I Never Told You* that is perfect for readers of *The Interestings*, *The Nix*, and *The Middlesteins*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

If you knew the date of your death, how would you live your life? It's 1969 in New York City, and word has spread of the arrival of a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. In search of one thing they can know for sure, the Gold children sneak out to hear their fortunes. Though the siblings keep the dates secret from one another, their prophecies inform their next five decades.

A sweeping novel of remarkable ambition and depth, *The Immortalists* probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.

"Search no further for your inaugural 2018 book club pick." —*Elle*

"2018's First Must-Read." —*Entertainment Weekly*

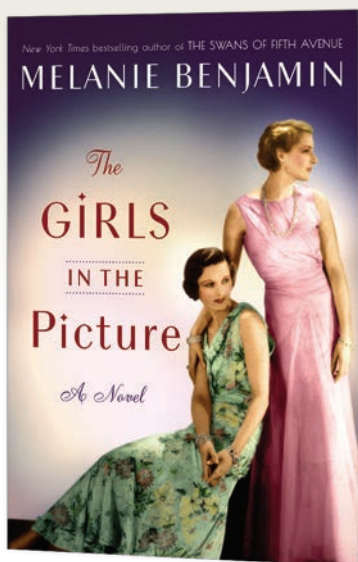
"Thrilling." —*Marie Claire*

"Compelling." —*InStyle*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Immortalists* is narrated by the four siblings in separate sections. Did you identify more closely with certain siblings?
2. The power of belief is an important theme in the novel. How does belief affect each of the siblings?
3. *The Immortalists* is a family love story. In what ways does family history shape us? What kind of legacies do the four siblings leave behind?
4. At the end of the novel, Gertie questions why her children believed the fortune teller. Did you believe the fortune teller? What gives the fortune teller her power?
5. Would you want to find out the date of your death? How would you live your life differently if you had this information?

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



Melanie Benjamin

The Girls in the Picture: A Novel

978-1-101-88680-9 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Delacorte Press | HC

📍 978-1-101-88681-6 | 📖 AD: 978-0-451-48468-0

📻 CD: 978-0-451-48467-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Paula McLain and Sara Gruen comes a fascinating novel of the friendship and creative partnership between two of Hollywood's earliest female legends—from the bestselling author of *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* and *The Aviator's Wife*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is 1914, and twenty-five-year-old Frances Marion has left her (second) husband and her Northern California home for the lure of Los Angeles, where she is determined to live independently as an artist. In the fledgling silent moving picture industry, Frances finds her true calling: writing stories for this wondrous new medium. She also makes the acquaintance of actress Mary Pickford, whose golden curls and lively spirit have earned her the title “America’s Sweetheart.” The two ambitious young women hit it off instantly, their kinship fomented by their mutual fever to create.

But their ambitions are challenged by both the men around them and the limitations imposed on their gender—and their astronomical success could come at a price. As in any good Hollywood story, dramas will play out, personalities will clash, and even the deepest friendships might be shattered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

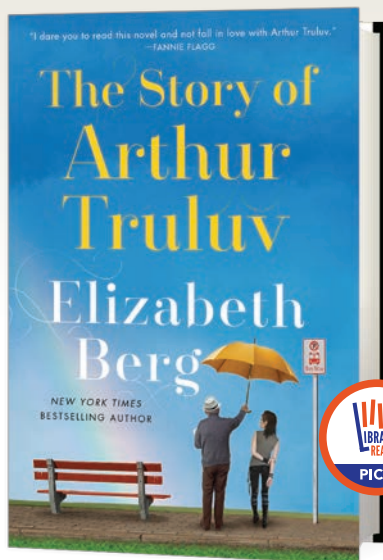
1. Frances and Mary, especially in their younger years, feel they have to choose between pursuing careers and fulfilling traditional expectations of marriage. Did these conversations surprise you? Do you think these pressures still exist for women today?
2. How did you react to the sexism Frances and Mary face in the movie industry? How do the women confront their male superiors, and do they ever prove the men who doubted them wrong?
3. Mary’s role as an actress places her in the spotlight while Frances works behind the scenes as her “scenarist.” Does Mary’s fame work for or against her? What about Frances’s relative anonymity?
4. Are Frances and Mary truly equal creative partners or does one woman hold more power over the other? How do the power dynamics of their partnership change over the course of their lives?

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

Elizabeth Berg The Story of Arthur Truluv: A Novel

978-1-4000-6990-3 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Random House | HC
978-0-679-60513-3 | LP: 978-1-524-78303-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
A life-affirming novel about love, loss, and second chances for readers of *A Man Called Ove* and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

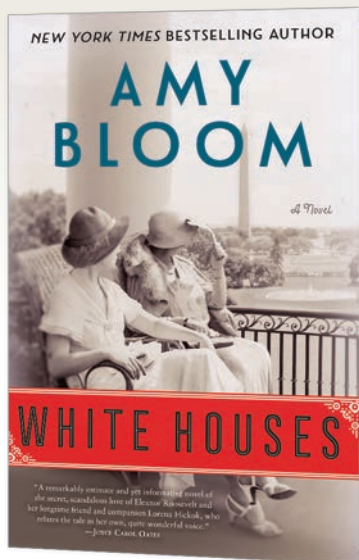
For the past six months, Arthur Moses's days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life.

Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur—a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur's kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname "Truluv." As Arthur's neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Arthur and Maddie's unusual friendship is the heart of *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. What is it that draws these very different people together? Have you ever had a friendship with someone very different from you that greatly affected your life?
2. Lucille finds love and happiness again when she reconnects with Frank. Do you think we ever get over our first loves? Is it ever too late in life to start over again?
3. Arthur has a special connection to the cemetery—he goes there every day to talk to his late wife, and he sees glimpses into the lives of the people who are buried there. Do you think this connection he has with the dead affects the way he interacts with the living?
4. Maddy and her father have a difficult relationship. Why is it so difficult for him to give Maddy the warmth and affection she needs? Do you feel sympathy for him and the situation he is in?

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



Amy Bloom **White Houses:** A Novel

978-0-8129-9566-4 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Random House | HC

📖 978-0-8129-9567-1 | 📻 AD: 978-0-525-63048-7

📻 CD: 978-0-525-63047-0 | 📻 LP: 978-0-525-58992-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain and *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel comes a novel about the unexpected and forbidden affair between Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Lorena Hickok meets Eleanor Roosevelt in 1932 while reporting on Franklin Roosevelt's first presidential campaign. Having grown up poor in South Dakota and reinvented herself as the most prominent woman reporter in America, "Hick" is not quite instantly charmed by the idealistic, patrician Eleanor. But, as her connection with the future first lady deepens into intimacy, what begins as a powerful passion matures into a lasting love, and a life that Hick never expected to have. She moves into the White House, where her status as "first friend" is an open secret, as are FDR's own lovers. After she takes a job in the administration, she comes to know Franklin not only as a great president but as a complicated rival and an irresistible friend. Through it all, even as Hick's bond with Eleanor is tested by forces both extraordinary and common, and as she grows as a woman and a writer, she never loses sight of the love of her life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Lorena had a very difficult childhood, filled with poverty, violence, and uncertainty. Eleanor also struggled with violence and uncertainty, but also had every opportunity and comfort, because she was a Roosevelt. How do you think their backgrounds affected who they became as adults, in both their personal and professional lives?
2. Lorena and Eleanor shared a love that was taboo because of views on sexuality at the time and Eleanor's high-profile marriage. How do you think their love story would play out today? Do you think it would have ended differently, or the same?
3. Lorena and FDR shared a complicated relationship—he was her President and her friend, and also her lover's husband. How did this affect Lorena's relationship with FDR, and her relationship with Eleanor?
4. *White Houses* is told from Lorena's perspective, a woman on the sidelines of history who was literally cropped out of photos. How do you think her view of history differs from other people's perspectives?

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

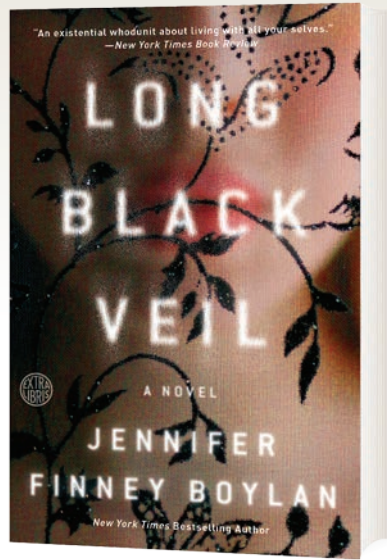
Jennifer Finney Boylan

Long Black Veil:

A Novel

978-0-451-49633-1 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Broadway Books | TR
📞 978-0-451-49634-8 | 📍 AD: 978-1-524-72293-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Donna Tartt,
Megan Abbott, and Jan Ellison.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

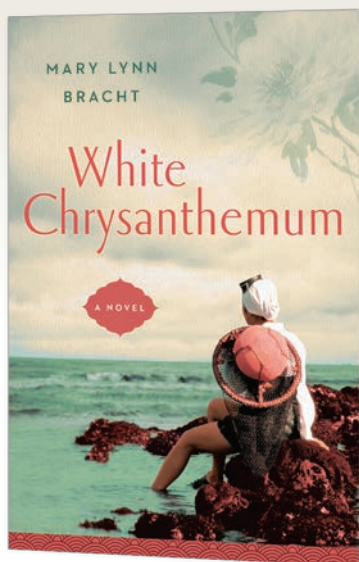
From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *She's Not There*, a new novel about a woman whose family and identity are threatened by the secrets of her past.

Long Black Veil is the story of Judith Carrigan, whose past is dredged up when the body of her college friend Wailer is discovered 20 years after her disappearance in Philadelphia's notorious and abandoned Eastern State Penitentiary. Judith is the only witness who can testify to the innocence of her friend Casey, who had married Wailer only days before her death—the only problem is that on that fateful night at the prison, Judith was a very different person from the woman she is today. In order to defend her old friend and uncover the truth of Wailer's death, Judith must confront long-held and hard-won secrets that could cause her to lose the idyllic life she's built for herself and her family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Long Black Veil* opens with the characters entering the Eastern State Penitentiary, an abandoned, "haunted" prison in the heart of Philadelphia's city center. What parallels does the author make between being haunted and keeping secrets? Do you think that people are "imprisoned" by the secrets of their past?
2. Much of *Long Black Veil* centers on the meaning of identity and how it changes as we get older. Do you think people can fundamentally change? What's the connection between who we've been and who we ultimately become?
3. Judith, the protagonist of *Long Black Veil*, has a choice to make between loyalty to the friends of her youth and keeping the life she has created intact. How much weight do the promises we make in our youth carry? How much should we sacrifice to help those that we love?

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



Mary Lynn Bracht **White Chrysanthemum**

978-0-7352-1443-9 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC
📻 978-0-7352-1445-3 | 📄 AD: 978-0-525-49768-4
📀 CD: 978-0-525-49767-7 | 📖 LP: 978-0-525-52424-3

READERS' ADVISORY:
The Korean Nightingale, a sweeping historical fiction debut for fans of *Lilac Girls*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, and Kristin Hannah.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Korea, 1943. Following her mother's footsteps as a haenyeo, one of the famed female divers of Jeju Island, Hana enjoys an independence that few other Koreans can still claim. Until the day she witnesses a Japanese soldier threatening her sister. Desperate to save her, Hana is captured and transported to Manchuria where she is forced to become a comfort woman in a Japanese brothel.

South Korea, 2011. Emi has spent more than sixty years trying to forget the sacrifice her sister made. Now Emi must finally confront the past to discover the peace she so desperately seeks. Finding hope in the healing of her children and her country, can Emi move beyond the legacy of war and find forgiveness?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The narrative alternates between Hana and Emi. Did you connect to one woman more than the other?
2. What does being a haenyeo mean to Hana? How does this identity inspire her throughout the novel?
3. Were you surprised by the way the Japanese treated Koreans during World War II? Has your understanding of the war changed after reading this novel?
4. When the novel begins, Emi still lives on Jeju Island. What does Jeju Island mean for each sister?
5. How does Emi's relationship with her son and daughter change over the course of the novel? Why do you think she hasn't told them about her family?
6. Is Keiko a friend to Hana? How does Hana's time in the brothel change her? How do the women she meets there support one another?
7. How did you feel about the ending? Were you surprised?

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

Elizabeth J. Church

All the Beautiful Girls: A Novel

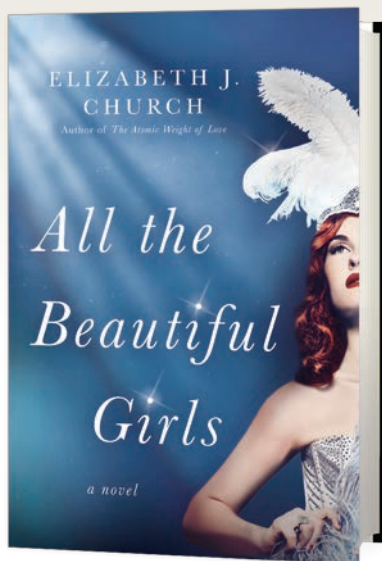
978-0-399-18106-1 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Ballantine Books | HC

📞 978-0-399-18107-8 | 📖 AD: 978-0-525-52718-3

📻 CD: 978-0-525-52717-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* and *The Dollhouse* comes a powerful novel about a gutsy showgirl who tries to conquer her past amongst the glamour of 1960s Las Vegas—and finds unexpected fortune, friendship, and love.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

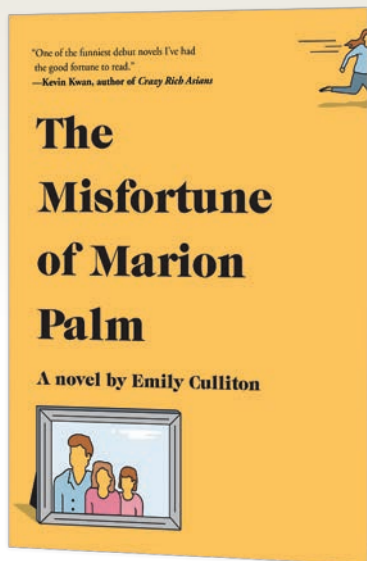
When she was eight years old, Lily Decker somehow survived the auto accident that killed her parents and sister, but neither her emotionally distant aunt nor her all-too-attentive uncle could ease her grief. Dancing proves to be Lily's only solace, and eventually she receives a "scholarship" to a local dance academy.

Grown and ready to leave home for good, Lily changes her name to Ruby Wilde and heads to Las Vegas to be a troupe dancer, but her sensual beauty and voluptuous figure land her work instead as a showgirl performing everywhere from Les Folies Bergere at the Tropicana to the Stardust's Lido de Paris. Wearing costumes dripping with feathers and rhinestones, five-inch heels, and sky-high headdresses, Ruby may have all the looks of a Sin City success story, but she still must learn to navigate the world of men—and figure out what real love looks like.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Lily is resilient, a survivor. What aspects of her personality and life make her that, as opposed to a victim? Do you think some people choose—consciously or not—to become resilient, as opposed to victims?
2. Aunt Tate is a mixed bag—one moment she's a strict, seemingly unfeeling disciplinarian, the next, she's quietly leaving gifts for Lily. Have you ever known someone like Aunt Tate? What makes Aunt Tate tick?
3. Lily has no one she can trust enough to tell about Uncle Miles's abuse. How have things changed for girls who suffer childhood abuse? How do things still need to change?
5. What roles do books play in Lily/Ruby's life? How do books help her find her way and provide her with support? Is there a book that helped you cope with a difficult period in your own life?

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



Emily Culliton

The Misfortune of Marion Palm:

A Novel

978-1-5247-3190-8 | \$25.95/\$34.95C | Knopf | HC
978-0-525-43262-3 | \$15.95/\$21.95C | Vintage | TR | June
📞 978-1-5247-3191-5 | 🗣️ AD: 978-0-525-50056-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Maria Semple, Jami Attenberg,
and Emma Straub.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Awildly entertaining debut about a Brooklyn Heights wife and mother who has embezzled a small fortune from her children's private school and makes a run for it, leaving behind her trust fund poet husband, his maybe-secret lover, her two daughters, and a school board who will do anything to find her.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Marion prefer to think of herself as a “woman who embezzles,” rather than as an embezzler? What motivates Marion to embezzle? How does she justify her behavior? Would you characterize Marion's embezzlement as a feminist act? Why or why not? To what extent does Marion relate to the other women embezzlers whom she reads about online? How are their experiences similar to or different from her own?
2. Discuss the theme of marital discord in *The Misfortune of Marion Palm*. How would you characterize Marion and Nathan's courtship? When did the rift between them first begin to form? As you answer this question, consider their different backgrounds, their finances, their distribution of labor, and their approaches to parenthood.
3. Examine Marion's adolescence and early adulthood. How would you describe her relationship with her mother? In what ways might this relationship have influenced her own feelings about motherhood? How would you characterize Marion's experience at the cafe in SoHo where she worked in her early twenties? To what extent was this first job a formative experience?
4. Explore Ginny's response to her mother's departure. What frustrates her the most about how the adults around her respond to her mother's disappearance? What is she hoping to get out of new friendships with older students? Why do you think Ginny “falls in love” with various boys over the course of the novel? In what ways are these responses a reflection of her age?

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

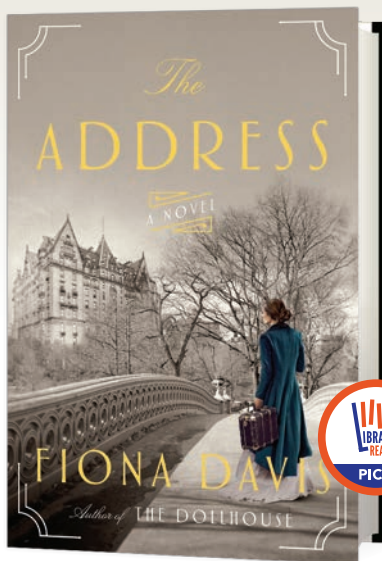
Fiona Davis

The Address

978-1-5247-4199-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Dutton | HC
📞 978-1-5247-4200-3 | 📍 AD: 978-0-525-49960-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

Fiona Davis, author of the LibraryReads pick *The Dollhouse*, returns with a compelling novel that is perfect for readers of *The Best of Everything* and *The Rules of Civility*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Sara Smythe is offered a job by Theodore Camden, one of the architects of the New York apartment house The Dakota, her life is changed.

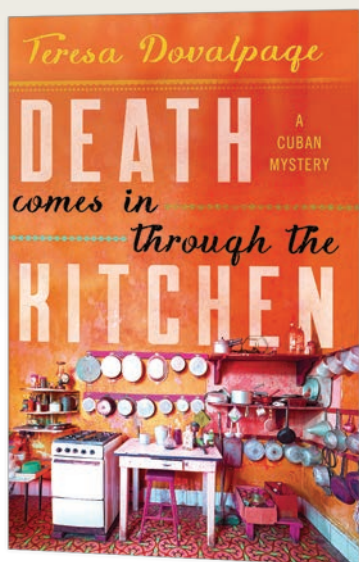
In 1985, Bailey Camden, whose grandfather was the ward of the famed architect, jumps at the opportunity to oversee renovations at The Dakota that threaten to take away the history of the apartment Camden himself lived in . . . and died in, after suffering multiple stab wounds by a madwoman named Sara Smythe.

But a building with a history as rich as The Dakota's can't hold its secrets forever, and what Bailey finds in its basement, one hundred years later, could change everything she thought she knew about Camden and the woman who killed him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Was there anything inappropriate about Theo and Sara's first encounter? How does the uneven power dynamic show itself in their relationship?
2. Nellie Bly is a fictionalized portrayal of the real journalist who went undercover to expose the brutality and neglect at the Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island. What role does her character play in the development of the story?
3. Why do you think Sara decides to keep her pregnancy secret during her time on Blackwell's Island?
4. Why do you think Bailey's father is so hesitant to look more closely into their family's past? Does your opinion of Jack change or stay the same as the story unfolds?
5. Why do you think Mrs. Camden agreed to raise Christopher as her ward? Did your opinion of her change throughout the novel?
6. Why do you think Sara decides to take the blame for what happens to Theo? Did she have another choice?

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



Teresa Dovalpage Death Comes in through the Kitchen

978-1-61695-884-8 | \$25.95/\$31.95C | Soho Crime | HC
📞 978-1-61695-885-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers who will appreciate a delicious culinary mystery that captures the subtleties of daily life in Cuba.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Set in Havana during the Black Spring of 2003, a charming but poison-laced culinary mystery reveals the darker side of the modern Revolution, complete with authentic Cuban recipes.

Matt, a San Diego journalist, arrives in Havana to marry his girlfriend, Yarmila, a 24-year-old Cuban woman whom he first met through her food blog. But Yarmi isn't there to meet him at the airport, and when he hitches a ride to her apartment, he finds her lying dead in the bathtub.

Lovelorn Matt is immediately embroiled in a Cuban adventure he didn't bargain for: the police and secret service have him down as their main suspect, and in an effort to clear his name, he must embark on his own investigation into what happened to Yarmila. The more Matt learns about his erstwhile fiancée, though, the more he realizes he had no idea who she was at all—but did anyone?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Death Comes in through the Kitchen* is set on the eve of the Black Spring crackdown, when 75 dissidents—journalists, librarians, and human rights activists, among others, many of them teenagers—were imprisoned, tried, and sentenced to maximum security prison on charges of collaborating with the US. The crackdown was condemned by the international community as a human rights violation. How is this impending crisis visible in the backdrop of the novel?
2. What do you think of Yarmi's commitment to the Revolution? How would you describe her level of patriotism—admirable, overzealous, required by law? To what degree is her patriotism the reason she died? Are there right or wrong ways to die for one's country? Whose decision is ultimately the correct one?
3. What kind of person is Matt Sullivan? Was he duped by Yarmi, or was there a genuine component to their relationship?

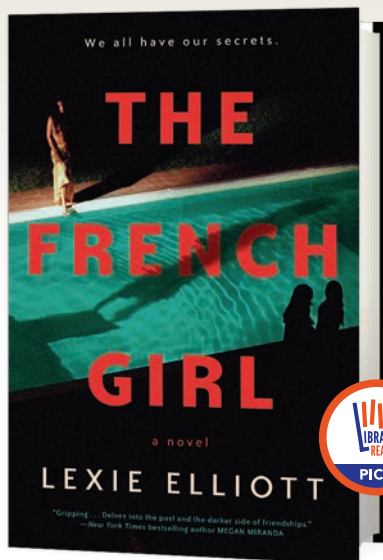
For more discussion questions visit: [SohoPress.com/Books/Death-Comes-In-Through-The-Kitchen](https://www.sohopress.com/Books/Death-Comes-In-Through-The-Kitchen)

Lexie Elliott The French Girl

978-0-399-58693-4 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC
📞 978-0-399-58694-1 | 📖 AD: 978-0-525-53075-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of psychological suspense and readers of *The Girl on the Train*, *The Widow, I See You*, and *The Woman in Cabin 10*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

They were six university students spending a week in a French farmhouse. It was perfect . . . until they met Severine. For Kate Channing, Severine was an unwelcome presence. And after an altercation on the last night, Kate realized that there are things you can't forgive and people you can't forget . . . like Severine, who was never seen again. Now, a decade later, the case is reopened when Severine's body is found in the well behind the farmhouse. Questioned, Kate stands to lose everything as suspicion mounts around her. Desperate to remember and fearful she will be forever haunted by Severine, Kate finds herself buried under layers of deception with no one to set her free.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When we meet Kate, she is a very isolated character. Do you think this was also the case during her university years, or is it a more recent development?
2. Why do you think Caro chose to work for the same firm as her father?
3. What do you think it was about her break-up with Seb that left such a lasting impact on Kate?
4. The characters in the book all appear to have changed from how Kate remembered them during their university years. Do you think they have really changed, or were her memories unreliable? Or did she not know them as well as she thought?
5. How would Kate's close friends and business associates have described her prior to the discovery of Severine's body? In what ways does the murder investigation change her?
6. Who was your favorite character in *The French Girl*?

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



Francesca Hornak Seven Days of Us

978-0-451-48875-6 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC
📞 978-0-451-48877-0 | 📖 AD: 978-0-525-49893-3
📻 CD: 978-0-525-49892-6 | 📻 LP: 978-0-525-52450-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

A warm, wry, sharply observed debut novel that is perfect for readers of *The Nest* and for fans of movies like *Love Actually* and *The Family Stone*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It's Christmas, and for the first time in years the entire Birch family will be under one roof. But Olivia, a doctor, is only coming home because she has to. Having just returned from treating an epidemic abroad, she's been told she must stay in quarantine for a week and so too should her family. For the next seven days, the Birches are locked down, cut off from the rest of humanity, and forced into each other's orbits. But someone is hiding a secret that will turn the whole family upside down. In close proximity, not much can stay hidden for long, and as revelations and long held tensions come to light, none is more shocking than the unexpected guest who's about to arrive.

"Witty and deeply heartfelt." —Emily Giffin, *New York Times* bestselling author of *First Comes Love*

"Sharply funny and beguilingly British." —*People*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is there one character you relate to more than any other in this story? If so, why?
2. Do you think it was better/right for Andrew to conceal his one-off infidelity with Jesse's mother? Or should he have spoken up and told Emma at the time?
3. Why did Olivia stay away from her family for so long? Have you ever experienced the feeling of not being able to be yourself with your family?
4. What do you think kept Phoebe and George together for six years?
5. Did you empathize with the way each character reacted to Jesse's surprise arrival? Did you empathize with Jesse?
6. What do you imagine or hope would happen next for each of the members of the Birch family after the closing pages of the book?

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

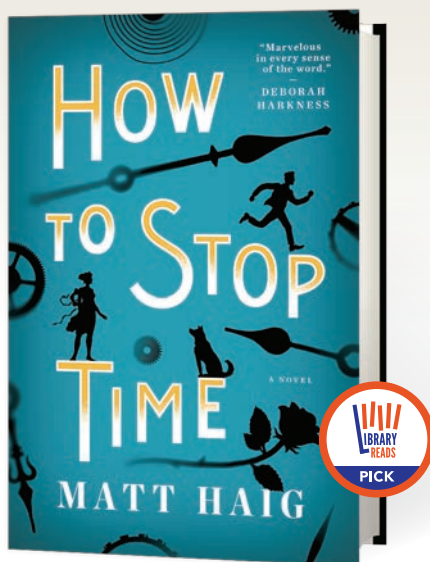
Matt Haig How to Stop Time

978-0-525-52287-4 | \$26.00 | Viking | HC
978-0-525-52288-1 | AD: 978-0-525-58748-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

A love story across the ages about a man lost in time, the woman who could save him, and the lifetimes it can take to learn how to live.

For readers of Deborah Harkness, Nick Hornby, and Maria Semple.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Tom Hazard has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries. Now, he just wants an ordinary life. So Tom moves back to London, to become a high school history teacher—the perfect job for someone who has witnessed the city's history first hand. Better yet, a captivating French teacher at his school seems taken by him. But the Albatross Society, the secretive group which protects people like Tom, has one rule: Never fall in love. As painful memories of his past and the erratic behavior of the Society's watchful leader threaten to derail his new life and romance, the one thing he can't have just happens to be the one thing that might save him.

"Matt Haig has an empathy for the human condition, the light and the dark of it, and he uses the full palette to build his excellent stories." —Neil Gaiman, author of *American Gods*

"Compelling and full of life's big questions, *How To Stop Time* is a book you will not be able to put down." —Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Project*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Tom travelled the world and met some of the most important people in history, but he also faced persecution and hardship because of his condition. Would you want to live for hundreds of years? If you could pick anything to do anywhere in the world, what would you do?
2. Do you think Tom should have left Rose? Should he have come back?
3. Omai starts to gain public exposure for his condition when videos of him surfing appear on YouTube. In a post-internet world, would it even be possible to keep a condition like anageria a secret?
4. Camille confronts Tom about who he is when she finds a picture of him from the 1920s, but he tries to cover his tracks. Do you think he should have been able to tell her the truth?
5. If you were going to pick the times and places to base a story with a 500-year old protagonist, where and when would you pick?

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



Lawrence H. Levy **Last Stop in Brooklyn:** A Mary Handley Mystery

978-0-4514-9844-1 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Broadway Books | TR
📞 978-0-451-49845-8 | 🗣️ AD: 978-0-525-50036-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Jacqueline Winspear,
Rhys Bowen, and Anne Perry.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It's the summer of 1894, and an infidelity case has brought PI Mary Handley to a far corner of Brooklyn: Coney Island. In the midst of her investigation, Mary is contacted by a convicted man's brother to reopen a murder case. A prostitute was killed by a Jack the Ripper copycat years ago in her New York hotel room, but her true killer was never found. Once again it's up to Mary to make right the city's wrongs.

New York City's untouchable head of detectives, Thomas Byrnes, swears he put the right man behind bars, but as Mary digs deeper, she finds corruption at the heart of New York's justice system, involving not only the police, but the most powerful of stock titans. Disturbing evidence of other murders begins to surface, each one mimicking Jack the Ripper's style, each one covered up by Thomas Byrnes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Austin Corbin was a real person who owned the Long Island Railroad, the two luxury hotels in Coney Island, and other holdings. His prejudice against Jews, Blacks, and foreigners is well documented. Is his bias any different from the biases of people today? If so, how is it different? What groups might he belong to if he lived today and why?
2. Chief Detective Byrnes stonewalls Mary as she continues to bring him more and more evidence of Ameer Ben Ali's possible innocence. Was this attitude due to Byrnes's ego, his belief in Ali's guilt, his prejudice, or a combination of all three? Explain.
3. By the end of the book, Elizabeth Handley's life has changed dramatically. How do you feel about her new outlook and her chances for success?
4. Carrie Brown and Ameer Ben Ali were real people. How much do you think public opinion and prejudices played in his conviction and why?

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

Tom Malmquist
**In Every Moment
We Are Still Alive**

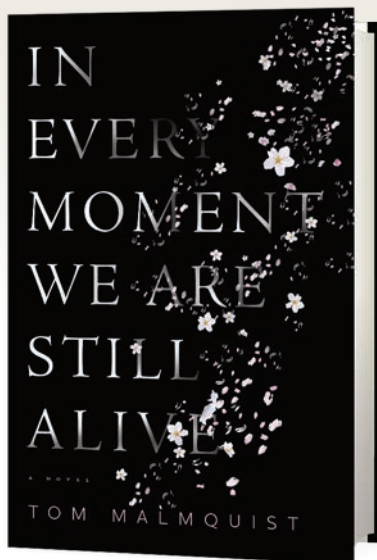
978-1-61219-711-1 | \$25.99/\$31.95C | Melville House | HC

📞 978-1-61219-712-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Year of Magical Thinking*.

“By turns raw, unsettled, and touching, Malmquist’s book is an extended meditation on what it means to love and to mourn. A deeply emotional and affecting novel.” —*Kirkus Reviews*



ABOUT THE BOOK:

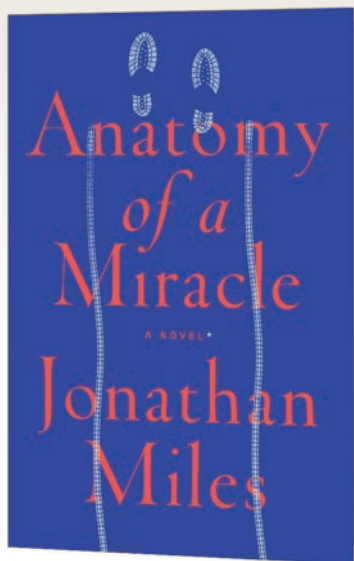
A prize-winning, bestselling debut of love, loss, and family—based on a true story—that’s winning readers around the world.

When Tom’s pregnant girlfriend Karin is rushed to the hospital, doctors are able to save the baby. But they are helpless to save Karin from what turns out to be acute Leukemia. In a cruel, fleeting moment Tom gains a daughter but loses his soul-mate. *In Every Moment We Are Still Alive* is the story of the year that changes everything, as Tom must reconcile the fury and pain of loss with the overwhelming responsibility of raising his daughter, Livia, alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *In Every Moment We Are Still Alive* uses grief as its baseline. From the opening scene, grief already feels present. It seems as Tom goes through the trauma of the novel, the grief intermingles with all of the other parts of himself: doubt, anger, love, compassion, hopefulness, hopelessness. What do we learn about Tom through the grief that you think his character might otherwise have kept hidden?
2. Medical terminology plays an important role in the story, both in terms of language and plot. How does the jargon of the hospital contribute to Tom’s experience? Is this universal?
3. The novel jumps around in time. In one moment we’re with Tom trying to get flowers before Karin goes into surgery; in the next we see Tom throwing away Karin’s toiletries. What do these time shifts—and the decisions to put certain personal revelations beside scenes of trauma—mean for the reader? What are we to think of the importance of those juxtapositions?
4. Tom’s daughter is named Livia, which comes from the Latin for olive. The olive is a symbol of peace famously, but is also used symbolically to represent life generally. As Livia was born to a dying mother, what does the novel ask the reader to question about the symbolic connections between Livia’s birth and Karin’s death?

For more discussion questions visit: MHPBooks.com/Books/In-Every-Moment-We-Are-Still-Alive



Jonathan Miles

Anatomy of a Miracle: A Novel

978-0-5534-4758-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Hogarth | HC

📞 978-0-553-44759-0 | 📖 AD: 978-0-525-49683-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, *The Yellow Birds*, and *Redeployment*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Rendered paraplegic after a traumatic event four years ago, Cameron Harris has been living his new existence alongside his sister, Tanya, in their battered Biloxi, Mississippi neighborhood. One August afternoon, as Cameron sits waiting for Tanya during their daily run to the Biz-E-Bee convenience store, he suddenly and inexplicably rises up and out of his wheelchair.

In the aftermath of this “miracle,” Cameron finds himself a celebrity at the center of a contentious debate about what’s taken place. And when scientists, journalists, and a Vatican investigator start digging, Cameron’s deepest secrets—the key to his injury, to his identity, and, to the nature of his recovery—become increasingly endangered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the routine of Tanya and Cameron’s daily errands speak to the circumstances of their life? Is it indicative of small-town life in the Deep South?
2. Jonathan Miles’s novel is set years after Hurricane Katrina, though Biloxi, Mississippi, is still defined by the storm. Where do you see Katrina’s lasting effects on the town?
3. What were your first impressions of Cameron and Tanya and of their brother/sister relationship? Early on, their home in Biloxi is described as “starkly devoid of family history,” swept away with their possessions by the hurricane. Did your opinion of the characters develop as you gained insight to their backstories?
4. How do Cameron and Darmarkus react to postwar life and adapt to their injured bodies? Cameron agonizes over life’s what-ifs while Damarkus settles with what is. Does Damarkus exhibit acceptance for what happened? Does Cameron?

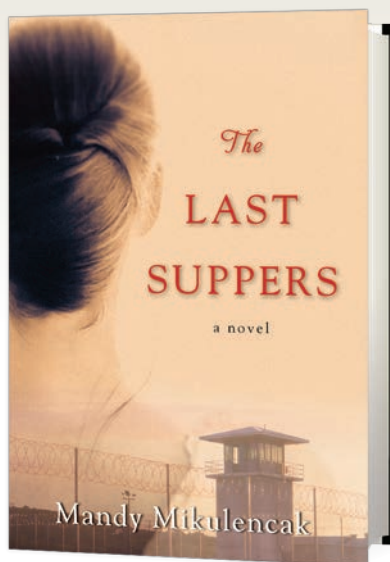
For more discussion questions visit: [CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides](https://www.crownpublishing.com/readers-guides)

Mandy Mikulencak

The Last Suppers

978-1-4967-1003-1 | \$25.00/\$27.95C | A John Scognamiglio Book | HC
978-1-4967-1005-5

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *The Help* and *Dead Man Walking*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

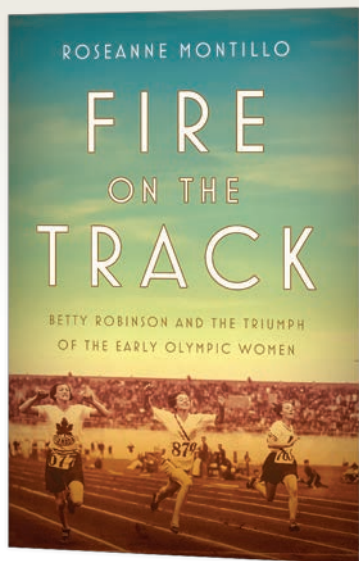
Set in 1950s Louisiana, Mandy Mikulencak's beautifully written and emotionally moving novel tells the story of an unforgettable woman whose quest to provide meals for death row prisoners leads her into the secrets of her own past.

Many children have grown up in the shadow of Louisiana's Greenmount State Penitentiary. Most of them—sons and daughters of corrections officers and staff—left the place as soon as they could. Yet Ginny Polk chose to come back to work as a prison cook. She knows the harsh reality of life within those walls—the cries of men being beaten, the lines of shuffling inmates chained together. Yet she has never seen them as monsters, not even the ones sentenced to execution. That's why, among her duties, Ginny has taken on a special responsibility: preparing their last meals.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As a daughter of a prison guard, Ginny had been a part of the Greenmount Penitentiary since she was a little girl. How does her childhood and father's murder impact her decision to return to the prison as a cook?
2. Ginny becomes obsessed with the preparation of the last meals for death row inmates. In what ways does Ginny come to understand the reasons for the obsession?
3. What do you think motivates inmates to request the last meals they do? Do you believe Ginny cares about their motivation?
4. Discuss the central role that food plays in the novel. Why is it important for Ginny to involve the inmates' families?
5. What role does Dot play in Ginny's life? Do they allow society to dictate these roles?

For more discussion questions visit: [Sites.KensingtonBooks.com/Libraries/Book-Club-Extras.html](https://www.kensingtonbooks.com/libraries/book-club-extras.html)



Roseanne Montillo

Fire on the Track:

Betty Robinson and the Triumph of the Early Olympic Women

978-1-1019-0615-6 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Crown | HC

📞 978-1-101-90617-0 | 📻 AD: 978-0-451-48255-6

📀 CD: 978-0-451-48254-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Boys in the Boat* and *The Girls of Atomic City*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Betty Robinson assumed the starting position at the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, she was participating in what was only her fourth-ever organized track meet. An ordinary high school student, she crossed the finish line as a gold medalist and the fastest woman in the world. But at the top of her game, her career almost came to a tragic end when a plane she and her cousin were piloting crashed. Betty soon found herself fighting to walk.

While Betty was recovering, Babe Didrikson, Stella Walsh, and the other women of Track and Field were given the chance to shine in the Los Angeles Games, building on Betty's pioneering role in the sport. And—miraculously—through countless hours of training, Betty earned her way onto the 1936 Olympic team, locking her sights on gold and competing against the German favorites in Hitler's Berlin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Women athletes had to fight hard for legitimacy—and even participation—during the 1928, 1932, and 1936 Olympics. Did the views of female athletes evolve over that time? And how have our attitudes about female athletes changed since then? How have they remained the same?
2. Were the women on the track and field teams unable or unwilling to form close relationships until the relay team in 1936? Why do you think that was? What was the significance of that run, especially for Betty? Was winning gold as part of a team in Berlin more important for Betty than winning gold in Amsterdam?
3. Each of the women described in *Fire on the Track* was different. Yet, they were each devoted to their sport. What was it about the track that they were drawn to?
4. How do you think Stella's background and gender identity influenced her? Do you think she should have been eligible to compete with female athletes?

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

Celeste Ng Little Fires Everywhere

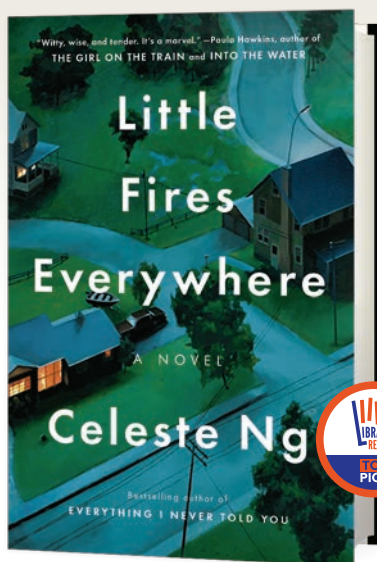
978-0-7352-2429-2 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Penguin Press | HC

📖 978-0-7352-2430-8 | 📖 AD: 978-0-525-49809-4

📻 CD: 978-0-525-49808-7 | 📻 LP: 978-0-525-48977-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Everything I Never Told You*, a beautiful novel that is perfect for readers of Ann Patchett and Liane Moriarty.



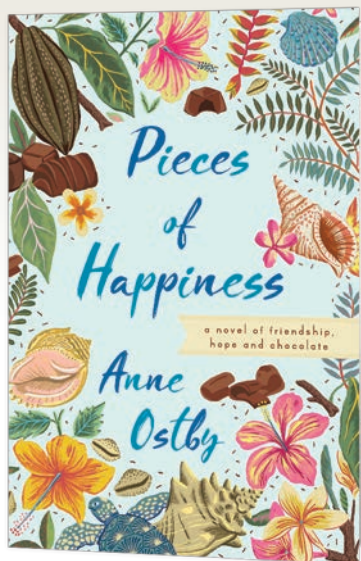
ABOUT THE BOOK:

In Shaker Heights everything is meticulously planned—from the layout of the winding roads to the successful lives of its residents. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson. Enter Mia Warren—an artist and single mother—who arrives in Shaker Heights with her daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants, but Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When the Richardsons' friends attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that divides the town and puts Mia and Mrs. Richardson on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Mrs. Richardson becomes determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs to her own family—and Mia's.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Shaker Heights is almost another character in the novel. Do you believe that “the best communities are planned”?
2. There are many different kinds of mother-daughter relationships in the novel. Which ones did you find most compelling?
3. Which of the Richardson children is most changed by the events of the novel?
4. The debate over the fate of May Ling/Mirabelle is multilayered and heartbreaking. Who do you think should raise her?
5. What ultimately bothers Elena most about Mia?
6. We see how race and class underline the experiences of all the characters and how they interact with each other. In what ways are attitudes toward race and class different and the same today as in the late 1990s, when the book is set?
7. What does the title mean to you? What about the book's dedication?

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



Anne Ostby **Pieces of Happiness**

978-0-385-54280-7 | \$25.95/\$34.95C | Doubleday | HC
978-0-525-43468-9 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Anchor | TR | July
📞 978-0-385-54281-4 | 📺 AD: 978-0-525-49980-0
📻 CD: 978-0-525-49979-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

**For readers of Maeve Binchy and
Rosamund Pilcher, and fans of the movie
The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.**

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Sina, Maya, Ingrid, and Lisbeth each receive a letter in the mail posing the same question, the answer is obvious. Their old high school friend Kat—Kat the adventurer, Kat who spread her wings and took off as soon as they graduated—has extended the invitation of a lifetime: Come live with me on my cocoa farm in Fiji. Come spend the days eating chocolate and gabbing like teenagers once again, free from men, worries, and cold. Come grow old in paradise, together, as sisters. Who could say no?

A story of love, hope, and chocolate, *Pieces of Happiness* will reaffirm your faith in friendship, second chances, and the importance of indulging one's sweet tooth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. "A letter can take days and weeks on its journey from one world to another, and the words find the right depth and gravity along the way." Kat's letter changed the lives of her friends. Would an e-mail have had the same impact?
2. The author writes early on in the novel that age "claws around your eyes after thirty, grabs the corners of your mouth and yanks them down around forty." What did you think about the book's honesty about aging and how it affects women? How large is the role that culture plays in attitudes toward women and aging?
3. Kat, Sina, Ingrid, Lisbeth, and Maya each have very distinct personalities: Of the five friends, which one did you relate to the most and why?
4. If you got a letter from an old friend asking you to live with her on a cocoa farm in Fiji, would you go?
5. The friendship between the characters is complicated and inspiring. Could you live with four of your closest friends? What about entering into a business partnership with friends?

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

Susan Rieger

The Heirs:

A Novel

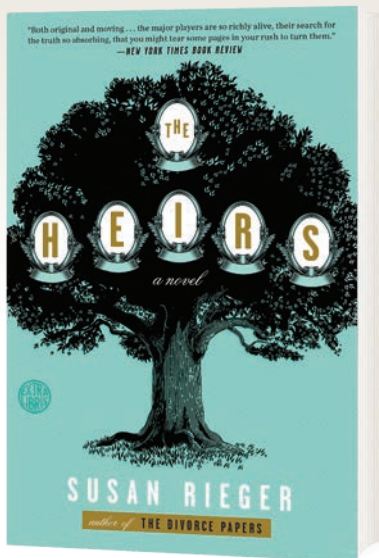
978-1-101-90473-2 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Broadway Books | TR

📞 978-1-101-90472-5 | 📖 AD: 978-1-524-77383-0

📍 CD: 978-1-524-77382-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the author of *The Divorce Papers* comes a novel for readers of *The Nest* and *The Emperor's Children*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

The *Heirs*, the follow-up to Susan Rieger's critically-acclaimed debut, wrestles with the nature of inheritance and legacy as it affects an unforgettable, upper-crust Manhattan clan. With great command, wit and charm, we are introduced to the inimitable Falkeses: five clever, charismatic brothers, their partners, and their parents, Rupert and Eleanor. The brothers find themselves floundering after Rupert dies of cancer, suddenly shaken without their beloved father's immense influence on their lives. When, in the wake of Rupert's death, a long-held secret comes to light, the brothers are forced to reexamine their place in the wider world and in the smaller one they've always called home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think of the way Sam broke off with Andrew? Can you defend him?
2. Why do you think Susanna decide to have a baby with Sam? Would it have been better if she'd gone with another friend as the donor? Or with an anonymous donor?
3. Do you think that Rupert is the father of Vera's sons? Do you think that Eleanor believes that they are?
4. Jim and Eleanor moved on from their relationship very differently. Why did Eleanor move on more easily than Jim? Why do you think Jim invited Eleanor to his wedding?
5. Was Jim's a failed life? Would he have been more successful if he had not been in love Eleanor? Why was he stuck on his past? Was Rupert also stuck? Was Anne?
6. Do you have a favorite among the five Falkes boys? Which one and why?

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



Krysten Ritter **Bonfire:** A Novel

978-1-5247-5984-1 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown Archetype | HC
📞 978-1-524-75986-5 | 📖 AD: 978-1-524-77899-6
📻 CD: 978-1-524-77898-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of novels like *The Widow*,
Luckiest Girl Alive, *The Girl on the Train*,
and *Gone Girl*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It has been ten years since Abby Williams left home and scrubbed away all visible evidence of her small-town roots. Now working as an environmental lawyer in Chicago, she has a thriving career, a modern apartment, and her pick of meaningless one-night stands.

But when a new case takes her back home to Barrens, Indiana, the life Abby painstakingly created begins to crack. Tasked with investigating Optimal Plastics, the town's most high-profile company and economic heart, Abby begins to find strange connections to Barrens's biggest scandal from more than a decade ago, involving the popular Kaycee Mitchell and her closest friends—just before Kaycee disappeared for good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. After working so hard to leave Barrens and her small-town roots behind, why did Abby return home? Did she find what she was looking for?
2. What do you think of Misha? Does the author intend for her to be a sympathetic character? Why or why not?
3. What pressures led Brent to get involved with Optimal's exploitation of local high school girls? Is Brent to blame?
4. Describe the scenes in which the town comes together to celebrate—their bonfires and football games. In what ways are the characters trying to relive their high school days? Do they succeed?
5. What do you think of Misha? Does the author intend for her to be a sympathetic character? Why or why not?

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

George Saunders Lincoln in the Bardo: A Novel

978-0-8129-8540-5 | \$17.00/\$23.00C

Random House Trade Paperbacks | TR

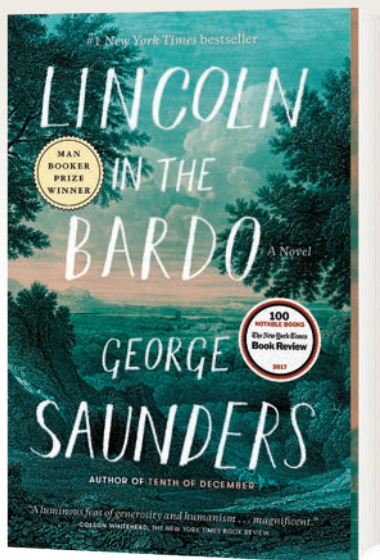
📞 978-0-8129-9535-0 | 📖 AD: 978-0-553-39760-4

📻 CD: 978-0-553-39759-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Beats with a present-day urgency—a nation at war with itself, the unbearable grief of a father who has lost a child, and a howling congregation of ghosts, as divided in death as in life.”

—*Vanity Fair*



ABOUT THE BOOK:

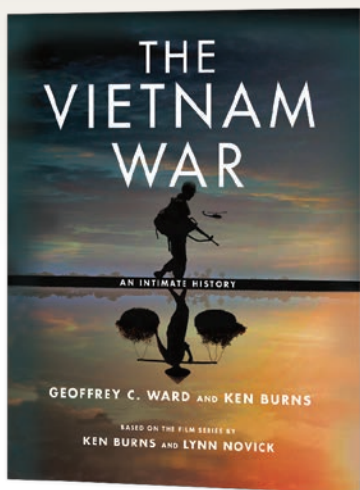
February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body.

From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state—called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo—a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the state of bardo work in this book? How do the ghosts' preoccupations in life continue to manifest in the afterlife?
2. The presence of a child in bardo is rare, but what other things about Willie make him different from the other ghosts?
3. How did the style and form of the book enhance or detract from your experience of the story?
4. In what ways does Saunders challenge and expand the genre of historical fiction?
5. About his inspiration for the book, Saunders has said that the combined image of the Pietà and the Lincoln Memorial struck his imagination. Why do you think Lincoln and his legacy remain such a popular subject in literature today?

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



Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns **The Vietnam War:** An Intimate History

978-0-307-70025-4 | \$60.00/\$79.00C | Knopf | HC
📞 978-1-5247-3310-0 | 📻 AD: 978-0-307-97085-5
📻 CD: 978-0-307-97084-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Tim O' Brien, Karl Marlantes, Michael Herr, and Philip Caputo, and fans of Ken Burns's documentaries and books.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

More than forty years after it ended, the Vietnam War continues to haunt our country. We still argue over why we were there, whether we could have won, and who was right and wrong in their response to the conflict. When the war divided the country, it created deep political fault lines that continue to divide us today. Now, continuing in the tradition of their critically acclaimed collaborations, the authors draw on dozens and dozens of interviews in America and Vietnam to give us the perspectives of people involved at all levels of the war: U.S. and Vietnamese soldiers and their families, high-level officials in America and Vietnam, antiwar protestors, POWs, and many more.

The book plunges us into the chaos and intensity of combat, even as it explains the rationale that got us into Vietnam and kept us there for so many years. Rather than taking sides, the book seeks to understand why the war happened the way it did, and to clarify its complicated legacy. Beautifully written and richly illustrated, this is a tour de force that is certain to launch a new national conversation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the introduction to *The Vietnam War: An Intimate History*, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick write, "This was a war of many perspectives, a Rashomon of equally plausible 'stories,' of secrets, lies, and distortions at every turn. We wished to try to contain and faithfully reflect those seemingly irreconcilable outlooks." What techniques were used to present those multiple points of view? Were they successful?
2. The Vietnam War was the first U.S. conflict that received extensive television coverage. The very visual on-the-scene TV reporting brought the conflict into our living rooms. How do you think this kind of journalism—which continues in our overseas conflicts today—affected policy makers and the people on the home front?
3. Did reading the book change any ideas you had about the war? Did it make you want to learn more about the war or the history of Vietnam?

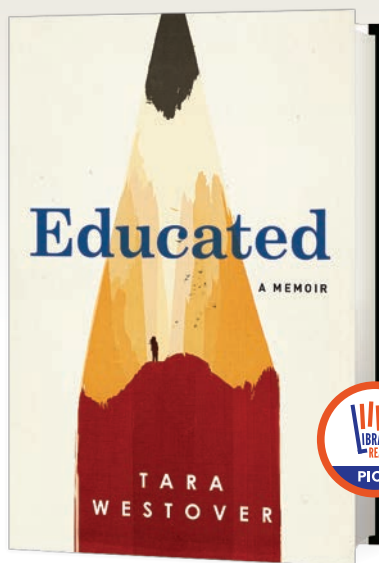
For more discussion questions visit: [KnopfDoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center](https://www.knopfdoubleday.com/Reading-Group-Center)

Tara Westover Educated: A Memoir

978-0-399-59050-4 | \$28.00 | Random House | HC
978-0-399-59051-1 | AD: 978-0-525-52808-1
CD: 978-0-525-52807-4 | LP: 978-0-525-58998-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Glass Castle* and *The Liars Club* comes an unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

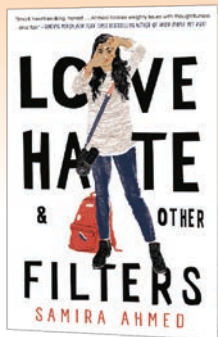
Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her “head-for-the-hills” bag. Her father distrusted the medical establishment, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. She was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. And, there was no one to intervene when an older brother became violent.

When another brother got himself into college and came back with news of the world beyond the mountain, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. She taught herself enough mathematics, grammar, and science to take the ACT and was admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you imagine Tara’s life would have been different if she’d gone to live with her grandparents? How would it have changed her childhood? Her education?
2. Tara’s father may have had a more obvious impact on Tara’s life, but how did her mother’s choices influence Tara?
3. What does “survival” mean to Tara’s parents? What does it mean to Tara? How do they see the concept of survival, a theme of the memoir, differently?
4. What keeps Tara coming back to her family as an adult? How does Tara struggle to open up to others about her upbringing? Why do you think that is?
5. Ultimately, what type of freedom did education give Tara?

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



Samira Ahmed **Love, Hate and Other Filters**

978-1-616-95847-3 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 978-1-616-95848-0

In this unforgettable debut novel, an Indian-American Muslim teen copes with Islamophobia, cultural divides among peers and parents, and a reality she can neither explain nor escape.

"Maya's voice is pitch-perfect; funny, warm, and perfectly teenaged . . . this novel is a great examination of how hatred and fear affects both communities, and individual lives." —*School Library Journal* (starred review)

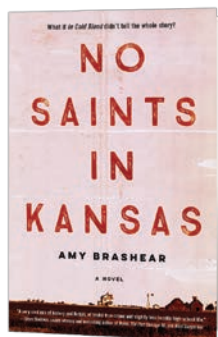


Katherine Arden **The Girl in the Tower: A Novel**

978-1-101-88596-3 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Del Rey | HC
 978-1-101-88597-0 | AD: 978-0-525-49655-7

A remarkable young woman blazes her own trail, from the backwoods of Russia to the court of Moscow, in the exhilarating sequel to Katherine Arden's bestselling debut novel, *The Bear and the Nightingale*.

"A masterfully told story of folklore, history, and magic with a spellbinding heroine at the heart of it all." —*Booklist* (starred review)

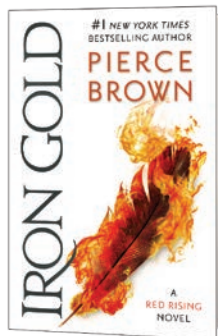


Amy Brashear **No Saints in Kansas**

978-1-616-95683-7 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 978-1-61695-684-4

A young adult, fictional reimagining of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* and the brutal murders that inspired it. Gripping and fast-paced, this meticulously researched historical fiction will reinvigorate a new generation to Capote.

For readers of *In Cold Blood*, Emma Cline's *The Girls*, and Alison Ummer's *American Girls*.



Pierce Brown **Iron Gold: Book 4 of the Red Rising Saga**

978-0-425-28591-6 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Del Rey | HC
 978-0-425-28592-3

In the epic next chapter of the Red Rising Saga, bestselling author Pierce Brown pushes the boundaries of one of the boldest series in fiction.

A decade ago Darrow was the hero of the revolution he believed would break the chains of the Society. But the Rising has shattered everything: Instead of peace and freedom, it has brought endless war. Now he must risk all he has fought for on one last desperate mission. Darrow still believes he can save everyone, but can he save himself?

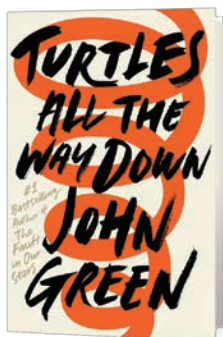


Stephen R. Donaldson
Seventh Decimate

978-0-399-58613-2 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Berkley | HC
 978-0-399-58614-9 | AD: 978-0-525-49907-7

Fantasy legend Stephen R. Donaldson launches a powerful new trilogy about a prince who embarks on a desperate quest to find a sorcerous library in order to save his people.

For readers of epic fantasy like *The Lord of the Rings* and for fans of George R. R. Martin and Patrick Rothfuss.

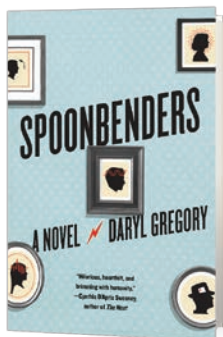


John Green
Turtles All the Way Down

978-0-525-55536-0 | \$19.99/ \$25.99C | Dutton Books for Young Readers | HC
 978-0-525-55535-3 | AD: 978-0-525-59105-4 | CD: 978-0-525-59104-7

The wait is over! John Green, the #1 bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, is back.

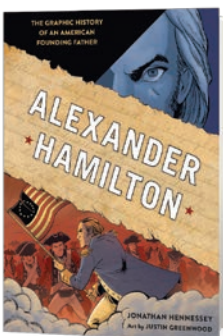
Turtles All the Way Down is about lifelong friendship, the intimacy of an unexpected reunion, *Star Wars* fan fiction, and tuatara. But at its heart is Aza Holmes, a young woman navigating daily existence within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.



Daryl Gregory
Spoonbenders: A Novel

978-1-5247-3182-3 | \$27.95 | Knopf | HC
 978-0-385-68951-9 | \$34.95C | Bond Street Books | HC
 978-1-5247-3183-0 | AD: 978-1-5247-3483-1 | CD: 978-1-5247-3482-4
 LP: 978-1-5247-8023-4

For fans of *This Is Where I Leave You* and *The Night Circus*, a generations-spanning family of psychics—both blessed and burdened by their abilities—must use their powers to save themselves from the CIA, the local mafia, and a skeptic hell-bent on discrediting them in this hilarious, tender, magical novel about the invisible forces that bind us.

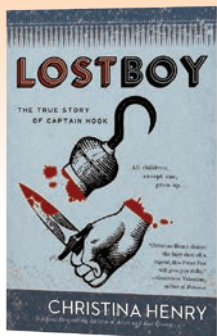


Jonathan Hennessey and Justin Greenwood
Alexander Hamilton:
 The Graphic History of an American Founding Father

978-0-399-57999-8 | \$27.50/\$36.50C | Ten Speed Press | HC
 TR: 978-0-399-58000-0 | 978-0-399-58001-7

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of historical graphic novels like *The United States Constitution* and *The Gettysburg Address*, this graphic novel biography of Alexander Hamilton, American founding father and current Broadway icon, illustrates his life, death, and historical legacy in a visually stunning package.

TITLES FOR TEEN BOOK GROUPS



Christina Henry

Lost Boy: The True Story of Captain Hook

978-0-399-58402-2 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Berkley | TR

📖 978-0-399-58403-9

Peter Pan meets *Lord of the Flies* in this dark tale of Peter Pan, who turns his best friend into his nemesis, Captain Hook.

For readers of *Peter Pan* and for fans of Anne Bishop and Kelly Link.



Vic James

Tarnished City

978-0-425-28412-4 | \$25.00/\$34.00C | Del Rey | HC

📖 978-0-425-28416-2 | ♻️ AD: 978-1-524-78061-6

The captivating dystopian trilogy that began with *Gilded Cage* continues.

In a modern Britain where magic users control wealth, politics—and you—an uprising has been crushed. In its aftermath, two families will determine the country's fate. The ruthless Jardines make a play for ultimate power. And the Hadleys, once an ordinary family, must find the extraordinary strength to fight back.



Holly Goddard Jones

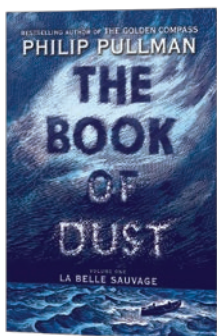
The Salt Line

978-0-7352-1431-6 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC

📖 978-0-7352-1432-3 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-525-49779-0

Award-winning novelist Holly Goddard Jones offers a literary spin on the dystopian genre with this gripping story of survival and humanity about a group of adrenaline junkies who jump “the Salt Line.”

For fans of Margaret Atwood and for readers of *Station Eleven*, *California*, and *The Dog Stars*.



Philip Pullman

The Book of Dust:

La Belle Sauvage (Book of Dust, Volume 1)

978-0-375-81530-0 | \$22.99/ \$29.99C | Alfred A. Knopf BFYR | HC

📖 978-0-553-51073-7 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-525-52300-0 | ♻️ CD: 978-0-525-52299-7

Renowned storyteller Philip Pullman returns to the parallel world of Lyra Belacqua and His Dark Materials for a thrilling and epic adventure in which daemons, alethiometers, and the Magisterium all play a part.

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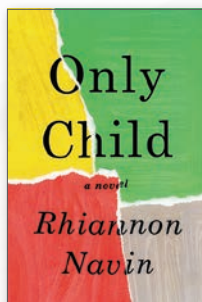
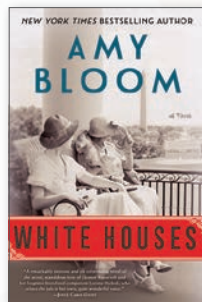
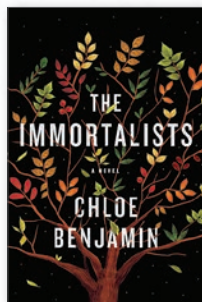
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