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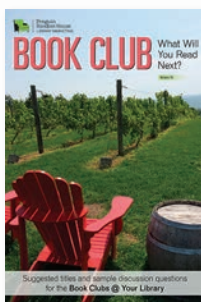
Volume 17



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

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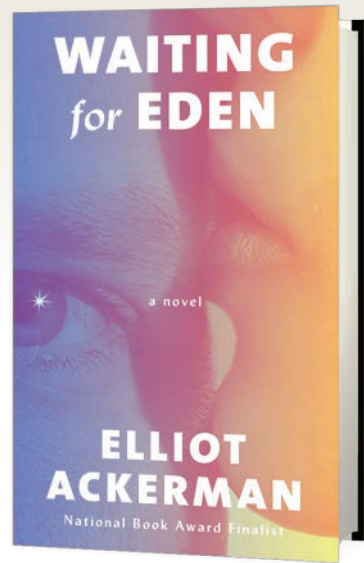
Elliot Ackerman

Waiting for Eden:

A Novel

978-1-101-94739-5 | \$22.95/\$29.95C | Knopf | HC
978-1-101-94740-1 | AD: 978-0-525-64293-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of Graham Swift, Ian McEwan,
and Michael Ondaatje.



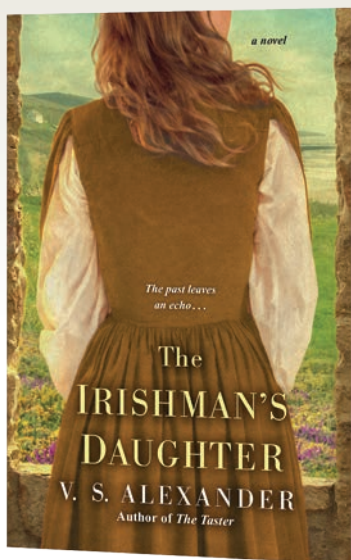
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Eden Malcom lies in a bed, unable to move or to speak, imprisoned in his own mind. His wife Mary spends every day on the sofa in his hospital room. He has never even met their young daughter. And he will never again see the friend and fellow soldier who didn't make it back home—and who narrates the novel. But on Christmas, the one day Mary is not at his bedside, Eden's re-ordered consciousness comes flickering alive. As he begins to find a way to communicate, some troubling truths about his marriage—and about his life before he went to war—come to the surface. Is Eden the same man he once was: a husband, a friend, a father-to-be? What makes a life worth living? A piercingly insightful, deeply felt meditation on loyalty and betrayal, love and fear.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the narrator of the novel? How does he know Mary and Eden's story? How does Ackerman's decision to narrate from this point of view deepen the reader's understanding of Mary and Eden's lives?
2. Examine the symbolism of the cockroaches. How does Eden understand their presence? What do they represent to him?
3. How would you describe Eden's level of consciousness? What does he register about his reality? To what extent is his perception of reality distorted? Is there anything he is sure of? Are the nurses correct in their assessment of Eden's level of consciousness?
4. Consider the theme of pain as it is depicted in the novel. Which characters experience pain, and what type of pain do they experience? Do you understand Eden's pain to be greater than the pain of the other characters? Why or why not?
5. Explore Mary and Eden's relationship. How did they meet? What were the early months of their relationship like? When and why does a rift form in their marriage?

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



V. S. Alexander

The Irishman's Daughter

978-1-4967-1229-5 | \$15.95/\$21.95C | Kensington | TR

📞 978-1-4967-1230-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Magdalen Girls* and *The Alice Network*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ireland, 1845. To Brianna Walsh, no place on earth is more beautiful than Carrowteige, County Mayo, with its sloping fields and rocky cliffs perched above the wild Atlantic. The small farms that surround the centuries-old Lear House are managed by her father, agent to the wealthy, reckless Sir Thomas Blakely. Tenant farmers sell the oats and rye they grow to pay rent to Sir Thomas, surviving on the potatoes that flourish in the remaining scraps of land. But when the potato crop falls prey to a devastating blight, families Briana has known all her life are left with no food, no resources, and no mercy from the English landowner, who seems indifferent to everything except profit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The book starts in County Mayo, Ireland, in September 1845, as the famine reaches northwest Ireland. The Irish farmers had no idea what was going on. What would your reaction have been to the failed crop?
2. The average adult ate ten to fourteen pounds of potatoes a day before the famine. Could you have lived on that diet, and, if so, what meals would you have prepared?
3. Briana and Lucinda have different views of the world. Which one appeals to you most?
4. Rory and Briana were what we might call "childhood sweethearts." Do you believe that such relationships exist and that they can last?
5. Life before the famine would have offered a rural Irish family limited forms of entertainment—fairs, gossip, fights, horse racing, and books, for those who could read. How would you have filled your time in such a setting?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/IrishmansDaughter

Gina Apostol

Insurrecto

978-1-61695-944-9 | \$26.00/\$32.00C | Soho Press | HC
978-1-61695-945-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Shrewd . . . inventive . . . stinging . . . [Apostol] puts the ‘unremembered’ Philippine-American War on display, deftly exposing a complicated colonial legacy through the unlikely relationship between a U.S.-educated Filipino translator and a visiting American filmmaker . . . exceptionally rewarding.” —*Booklist*, starred review



ABOUT THE BOOK:

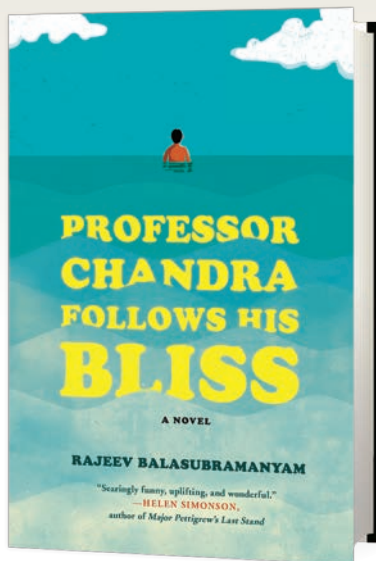
Histories and personalities collide in this literary tour-de-force about the Philippines’ present and America’s past by the PEN Open Book Award–winning author of *Gun Dealers’ Daughter*.

Two women, a Filipino translator and an American filmmaker, go on a road trip in Duterte’s Philippines, collaborating and clashing in the writing of a film script about a massacre during the Philippine-American War. Chiara is working on a film about an incident in Balangiga, Samar, in 1901, when Filipino revolutionaries attacked an American garrison, and in retaliation American soldiers created “a howling wilderness” of the surrounding countryside. Magsalin reads Chiara’s film script and writes her own version. *Insurrecto* contains within its dramatic action two rival scripts from the filmmaker and the translator—one about a white photographer, the other about a Filipino schoolteacher.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel stars female characters who grow in their roles as artists, lovers, and revolutionaries. How do you feel about the moments where a woman’s dilemma is central to the novel?
2. Texts are layered in the novel: two dueling scripts are framed by a mystery novel, which in turn is framed by the story of a forgotten history. It could be said that history is an overriding frame for this novel’s plot. What do you think is the novel’s idea of history? How do the layered texts and multiple plotlines relate to this idea? Why did the author choose a layered structure to explore this concept of history?
3. What do you feel about Casiana Nacionales? How different would the novel and the events of Philippine history be without her?

For more discussion questions visit: SohoPress.com/Questions-For-Insurrecto



Rajeev Balasubramanyam

Professor Chandra Follows His Bliss:

A Novel

978-0-525-51138-0 | \$27.00 | The Dial Press | HC | March

978-1-7847-4253-9 | \$34.00C | Chatto & Windus

📞 978-0-525-51139-7 | 📄 AD: 978-1-9848-4090-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of wry, redemptive, character driven novels like *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, *A Man Called Ove*, and *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Professor Chandra is an internationally renowned economist, divorced father of three (quite frankly baffling) children, recent victim of a bicycle hit-and-run—but so much more than the sum of his parts.

In the moments after the accident, Professor Chandra doesn't see his life flash before his eyes but his life's work. He's just narrowly missed the Nobel Prize (again), and even though he knows he should get straight back to his pie charts, his doctor has other ideas.

All this work. All this success. All this stress. It's killing him. He needs to take a break, start enjoying himself. In short, says his doctor, he should follow his bliss. Professor Chandra doesn't know it yet, but he's about to embark on the journey of a lifetime.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

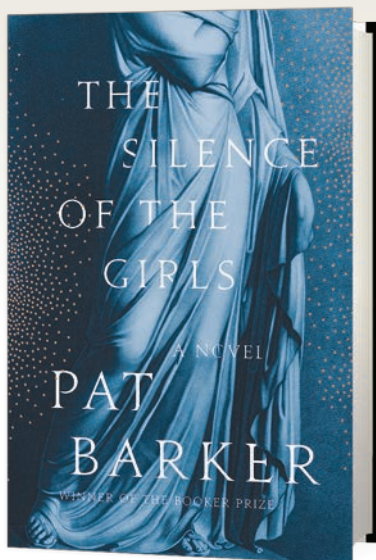
1. The novel opens with Professor Chandra losing the Nobel Prize yet again. How does this (seemingly unattainable) goal affect who he is and how he sees the world? As a result, what was your first impression of him as a character?
2. Professor Chandra feels very strongly about his ideological beliefs, to the point of conflict with those around him. How has the rigidity of his professional belief system shaped his character and his personal life? Why do you think this particular conservative brand of economics is so meaningful to him? What do his beliefs say about him as a person?
3. Why do you think Professor Chandra is still so drawn to Jean even after their divorce? How does their relationship change throughout the novel? What role does Steve play in this transformation?
4. How does Jasmine's own difficult journey, which leads her to the Buddhist monastery reflect Professor Chandra's? What was similar about the things they learned and their approach to mindfulness, and what was different?

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

Pat Barker
**The Silence
of the Girls:**
A Novel

978-0-385-54421-4 | \$27.95 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-241-33807-0 | \$41.00C | Hamish Hamilton Canada
📞 978-0-385-54422-1 | 🌐 AD: 978-0-525-64327-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of Madeline Miller.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

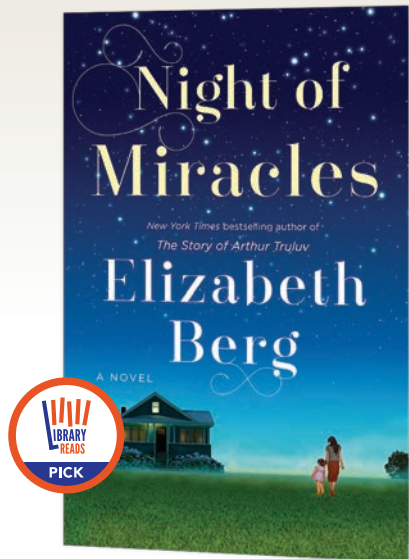
From the Booker Prize-winning author of the Regeneration trilogy comes a monumental new masterpiece, set in the midst of literature's most famous war. Pat Barker turns her attention to the timeless legend of *The Iliad*, as experienced by the captured women living in the Greek camp in the final weeks of the Trojan War.

With breathtaking historical detail and luminous prose, Pat Barker brings the teeming world of the Greek camp to vivid life. She offers nuanced, complex portraits of characters and stories familiar from mythology. Barker's latest builds on her decades-long study of war and its impact on individual lives—and it is nothing short of magnificent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Briseis' attitude toward Achilles changes throughout the course of the novel. Did you always find yourself agreeing with her opinion of him? Why or why not?
2. What is most striking about the difference between how Achilles presents himself privately and publicly? In what ways do the two personas merge toward the end of the novel?
3. How did *The Silence of the Girls* impact your understanding of *The Iliad*? What did this book add to the story of the Trojan War as a whole?
4. There are many visceral and devastating depictions of war and its aftermath in *The Silence of the Girls*. Which moment struck you as the most heartbreaking or poignant?
5. Honor, both familial and for your city, is a strong theme of *The Iliad*. How does this theme apply to *The Silence of the Girls*?
6. If *The Silence of the Girls* were written from the point of view of a male minor character, how would that change the story?

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



Elizabeth Berg

Night of Miracles:

A Novel

978-0-525-50950-9 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Random House | HC

📞 978-0-525-50951-6 | 📺 LP: 978-0-525-63178-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

A delightful novel of friendship, community, and the way small acts of kindness can change your life, by the bestselling author of *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. Perfect for fans of *A Man Called Ove* and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Lucille Howard is getting on in years, but she stays busy. Thanks to the inspiration of her dearly departed friend Arthur Truluv, she has begun to teach baking classes, sharing the secrets to her delicious classic Southern yellow cake, the perfect pinwheel cookies, and other sweet essentials. Her classes have become so popular that she's hired Iris, a new resident of Mason, Missouri, as an assistant. Iris doesn't know how to bake but she needs to keep her mind off a big decision she sorely regrets.

When a new family moves in next door and tragedy strikes, Lucille begins to look out for Lincoln, their son. Lincoln's parents aren't the only ones in town facing hard choices and uncertain futures. In these difficult times, the residents of Mason come together and find the true power of community—just when they need it the most.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your idea of a miracle? How do you think the inhabitants of Mason would each answer that question?
2. The author has said that she had specific individuals in mind when she wrote the visitation scenes. Who do you think was Lucille's angel? Who do you think visited Abby in the hospital?
3. Do you think the small-town charms so prevalent in the Mason, Missouri books exist in the real world? Have you ever seen the evidence? Would you like to live in a small town like Mason? Why or why not?
4. What do you think of Lucille's baking classes? What do people learn at Lucille's classes besides baking tips?
5. *Night of Miracles*, like *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, features friendships between characters of different ages and backgrounds at the heart of the story. What do Lucille and Lincoln teach each other? What do Lucille and Iris teach each other? How do they help each other?

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

Amber Brock

Lady Be Good:

A Novel

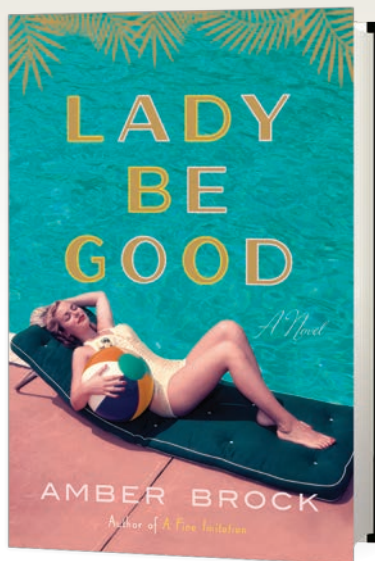
978-1-524-76040-3 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown | HC

📖 978-1-524-76042-7 | 📍 AD: 978-0-525-52656-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

Set in the 1950s, this mesmerizing novel sweeps readers into the world of the mischievous daughter of a hotel magnate and the electric nightlife of New York, Miami, and Havana.

For fans of *A Fine Imitation*, *June*, and *The Secret Life of Violet Grant*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Kitty Tessler is the winsome and clever only child of self-made hotel and nightclub tycoon Nicolas Tessler. Kitty may not have the same pedigree as the tennis club set she admires, but she still sees herself as every inch the socialite—spending her days perfecting her “look” and her nights charming all the blue-blooded boys who frequent her father’s clubs. It seems like the fun will never end until Kitty’s father issues a terrible ultimatum: she may no longer date the idle rich. Instead, Kitty must marry Andre, her father’s second-in-command, and take her place as the First Lady of his hotel empire. Kitty is forced to come up with an elaborate plan to protect her own lofty ideas for the future, and save her best friend, Henrietta Bancroft, from a miserable marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Kitty claims she desires the “warm, cocooning protection of good breeding.” What does she mean by this, and what kind of protection is she seeking? What is she seeking protection from?
2. What do you think prompted Kitty’s father to urge her to get married or start working? Do you think his offer was unfair?
3. Kitty notes that she prefers romance to love. How do you think Kitty defines those terms? How do they differ?
4. Why do you think Max is so interested in Kitty? What about her sends a message that there’s more than meets the eye?
5. Max says he likes Kitty best when she’s not trying to be anyone else. Who else is she trying to be? Is that person fundamentally different from her true self?

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



Chris Cander

The Weight of a Piano:

A Novel

978-0-525-65467-4 | \$26.95/\$35.95C | Knopf | HC
📞 978-0-525-65468-1 | 📄 AD: 978-1-9848-3986-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *Bel Canto*, *Accordion Crimes*,
and *The Stars Are Fire*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In 1962, in the Soviet Union, eight-year-old Katya is bequeathed what will become the love of her life: a Blüthner piano, built at the turn of the century in Germany, on which she discovers everything that she herself can do with music and what music, in turn, does for her. Yet after marrying, she emigrates with her young family from Russia to America, at her husband's frantic insistence, and her piano is lost in the shuffle.

In 2012, in Bakersfield, California, twenty-six-year-old Clara Lundy loses another boyfriend and again has to find a new apartment, which is complicated by the gift her father had given her for her twelfth birthday, shortly before he and her mother died in a fire that burned their house down: a Blüthner upright she has never learned to play. Orphaned, she was raised by her aunt and uncle, who in his car-repair shop trained her to become a first-rate mechanic, much to the surprise of her subsequent customers. But this work, her true mainstay in a scattered life, is put on hold when her hand gets broken while the piano's being moved—and in sudden frustration she chooses to sell it. And what becomes crucial is who the most interested party turns out to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the author decided to open the story with a description of the origins of the Blüthner piano? Did anything surprise you about the piano's history? What major themes of the novel does this first chapter foretell?
2. How are Clara and Greg connected, and how does each respond to this connection? How did Clara come to own the Blüthner piano? What effect does the revelation of the piano's provenance have on Clara, and how does it influence or alter her understanding of her own past?
3. Why do you think the author chose to include a passage told from the point of view of the piano itself? What effect did this anthropomorphism have on you as a reader? What "weight" does the piano carry?

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

Jennifer Clement

Gun Love:

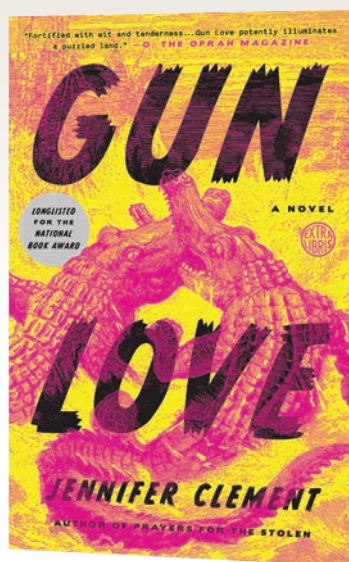
A Novel

978-1-524-76169-1 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Hogarth | TR | March

📞 978-1-524-76170-7 | 📻 AD: 978-0-525-58832-0

Spanish Edition: 978-6-073-17074-1 | Lumen

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of Karen Russell and Ann Packer.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

The searing, unforgettable story of a young girl's resilience, beginning with an unusual childhood and then changed forever by shocking tragedy, by the award-winning author of *Prayers for the Stolen*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Of the few possessions owned by Margot and Pearl, which ones did you find were the most meaningful? How do our material items reflect our identities? If you had to run away, which possessions would you take with you?
2. How is Pearl affected by her "dot-to-dot" existence? How does her story change your definition of home?
3. In chapter 6, Sergeant Bob gives Rose a 9mm pistol and tells her, "When a man gives his woman a gun it's because he really trusts her." We then learn the many names he has for guns, ranging from widow maker to peacemaker and lawmaker. How did your understanding of the novel's title, *Gun Love*, vary as the storylines unfolded?
4. Discuss the nature of power as it plays out in *Gun Love*. What makes Margot so vulnerable to Eli that she can be "borrowed" like a cup of sugar? Why does Pastor Rex's brand of religion give him power in the Indian Waters Trailer Park?
5. Is Margot a good mother? What does she teach Pearl about being a woman? What legacies of womanhood are passed down to Pearl through the carefully preserved wedding dress?

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



Susan Conley

Elsey Come Home:

A Novel

978-0-525-52098-6 | \$25.95/\$34.95C | Knopf | HC
978-0-525-52099-3 | AD: 978-0-525-64260-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Elizabeth Strout and Celeste Ng.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Elsey's husband, Lukas, hands her a brochure for a weeklong mountain retreat, she knows he is really giving her an ultimatum: Go, or we're done. Once a successful painter, Elsey set down roots in China after falling passionately for Lukas, the tall, Danish MC at a warehouse rave in downtown Beijing. Now, with two young daughters and unable to find a balance between her identities as painter, mother, and, especially, wife, Elsey fills her days worrying, drinking, and descending into desperate unhappiness. So, brochure in hand, she agrees to go and confront the ghosts of her past.

But Elsey must risk tearing herself and Lukas further apart when she decides she must return to her childhood home—the center of her deepest pain—before she can find her way back to him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

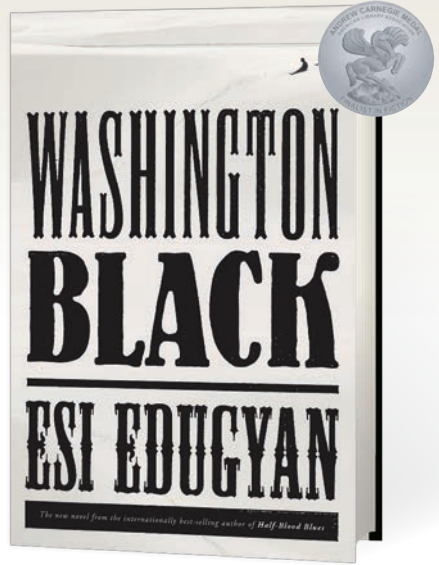
1. On the very first page, when Lukas hands Elsey the brochure, she thinks, "I knew if I went to this village, the week would pass slowly and I'd be changed, and that this was the point of him sending me there, but also that Lukas and I might not ever find each other again." What do you think would have happened to the family if Elsey had not agreed to go to Shashan? What do you think would have happened to Elsey?
2. Elsey and Mei become fast friends at the retreat even though their backgrounds and attitudes towards life seem, at first, so different. What is it about Mei that attracts Elsey to her, and vice versa? What similarities do they share? How do they each teach the other to exist in this very troubled world?
3. Judy Blume says that she loved Elsey's "dilemma." What do you think the central dilemma of the novel is?

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

Esi Edugyan Washington Black: A Novel

978-0-525-52142-6 | \$26.95 | Knopf | HC
978-0-525-52143-3 | AD: 978-0-525-64295-4

READERS' ADVISORY:
Perfect for readers of Yaa Gyasi,
Colson Whitehead, Jesmyn Ward,
and Celeste Ng.



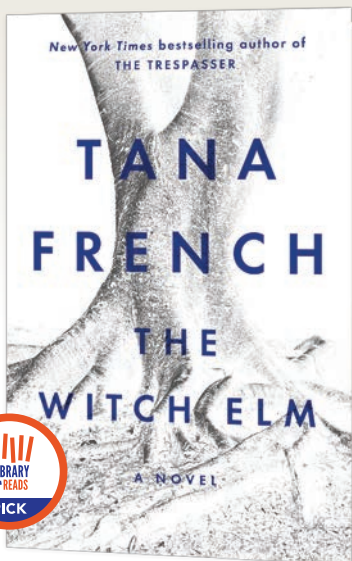
ABOUT THE BOOK:

George Washington Black, or “Wash,” an eleven-year-old field slave on a Barbados sugar plantation, is terrified to be chosen by his master’s brother as his manservant. To his surprise, the eccentric Christopher Wilde turns out to be a naturalist, explorer, inventor, and abolitionist. Soon Wash is initiated into a world where a flying machine can carry a man across the sky, where even a boy born in chains may embrace a life of dignity and meaning—and where two people, separated by an impossible divide, can begin to see each other as human. But when a man is killed and a bounty is placed on Wash’s head, Christopher and Wash must abandon everything. What follows is their flight along the eastern coast of America, and, finally, to a remote outpost in the Arctic. What brings Christopher and Wash together will tear them apart, propelling Wash even further across the globe in search of his true self.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Big Kit tells Washington that “If you dead, you wake up again in your homeland. You wake up free.” How does this line resonate at the end of the book, in the final moments as Wash asks about Dahomey and looks out into the horizon?
2. Why do you think Big Kit didn’t tell Wash that she was his mother? Do you think he would have responded to Titch’s offer differently had he known? How might his life have been different?
3. Wash describes his scar from the explosion with the Cloud Cutter as “the utter destruction [that] his act had now wrought upon my life.” Discuss the kinds of scars the characters sustain in the novel, both visible and invisible.
4. Tanna tells Wash, “You are like an interruption in a novel, Wash. The agent that sets things off course. Like a hailstorm. Or a wedding.” How does this metaphor manifest in literal and symbolic ways throughout Wash’s journeys?

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



Tana French

The Witch Elm:

A Novel

978-0-7352-2462-9 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Viking | HC
📍 978-0-7352-2463-6 | 📻 AD: 978-1-9848-3801-8
📻 CD: 978-1-9848-3800-1 | 📻 LP: 978-1-9848-8268-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the writer who has been called “incandescent” by Stephen King, “absolutely mesmerizing” by Gillian Flynn, and “unputdownable” (*People*).

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Toby is a happy-go-lucky charmer who’s dodged a scrape at work and is celebrating with friends when the night takes a turn that will change his life—he surprises two burglars who beat him and leave him for dead. Struggling to recover from his injuries, beginning to understand that he might never be the same man again, he takes refuge at his family’s ancestral home to care for his dying uncle Hugo. Then a skull is found in the trunk of an elm tree in the garden—and as detectives close in, Toby is forced to face the possibility that his past may not be what he has always believed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. For most of the novel, Toby stands by his belief that he’s a good person. But then Susanna and Leon tell him about their struggles with Dominic in high school, and about how Toby failed to help them. Do you agree with Susanna and Leon that his obliviousness carried a certain amount of culpability?
2. Throughout the novel, Toby’s uncle Hugo is dying of brain cancer. How does Hugo’s deterioration fit thematically with Toby’s own struggles with his mind?
3. Once the string from Toby’s hoodie is found inside of the tree, he becomes afraid that he was involved in Dominic’s death. Why do you think he suspects himself so quickly?
4. After the attack in his apartment, Toby notices that his mental capacities are impaired. He believes himself to be unreliable. How reliable a narrator did you find Toby?
5. Hugo turns himself in for Dominic’s murder. Both Toby and Rafferty think Hugo was protecting Toby. Susanna believes Hugo was oblivious to her actions during the summer Dominic was killed. Do you think Hugo knew more than he let on? Was he protecting Toby, or Susanna and Leon?

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

Lisa Gabriele
The Winters:
A Novel

978-0-525-55970-2 | \$26.00 | Viking | HC
978-0-385-69076-8 | \$24.95C | Doubleday Canada
📞 978-0-525-5597-1 | 📄 AD: 978-0-525-64165-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
For readers of *Luckiest Girl Alive*
and *The Last Mrs. Parrish*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

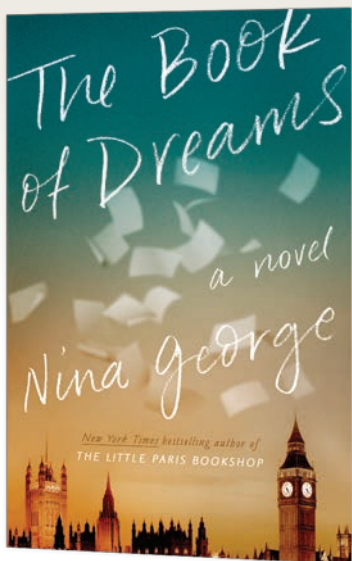
After a whirlwind romance, a young woman returns to Asherley, the opulent, secluded Long Island mansion of her new fiancé, Max Winter, a wealthy senator and recent widower, and a life of luxury she's never known. But all is not as it appears at the Asherley estate. The house is steeped in the memory of Max's beautiful first wife, Rebekah, who haunts the young woman's imagination and feeds her uncertainties, while his very alive teenage daughter, Dani, makes her life a living hell. She soon realizes there is no clear place for her in this twisted little family: Max and Dani circle each other like cats, a dynamic that both repels and fascinates her. And he harbors political ambitions with which he will allow no woman—alive or dead—to interfere.

As the soon-to-be second Mrs. Winter grows more in love with Max, and more afraid of Dani, she is drawn deeper into the family's dark secrets—the kind of secrets that could kill her, too.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Winters* has been described as a modern response to Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Have you read *Rebecca*? If yes, did that enhance your enjoyment of *The Winters*? How does *The Winters* stand on its own as a distinct work?
2. What role do the disparate settings of *Rebecca* and *The Winters*—1930s England and 2010s America—have in shaping the plot? How do the cultural forces at play differ between the books, and how are they the same?
3. Dani and Max tell differing stories about what happened to Rebekah that night in the greenhouse. What makes Max easier to believe than Dani? In the narrator's place, who would you believe and why? And, as a reader, how do you think Rebekah died?
4. Discuss the use of water as a symbol in *The Winters*. Why do you think this symbol recurs and what do you think it represents?
5. Revisit the opening scene of the book. Has your interpretation of this scene changed now that you've finished the novel? Does *The Winters* have a happy ending?

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



Nina George

The Book of Dreams:

A Novel

978-0-525-57253-4 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Crown | HC | April

📞 978-0-525-57255-8

📍 AD: 978-1-984-84520-7 | 📻 CD: 978-1-984-84519-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the bestselling author of *The Little Paris Bookshop* and *The Little French Bistro*, a new novel about the spaces between lives and realities and loves both lost and coming home.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Henri ends up in a coma after rescuing a young girl from the Thames, his ex-girlfriend, Eddie, discovers that she is listed as Henri's next-of-kin in his living will. While Henri lies in a hospital bed, he fitfully revisits the boyhood he spent with his beloved grandfather, who fed him a steady diet of Breton fish and fairy tales.

Meanwhile, Sam, Henri's sensitive teenage son with whom Henri never had a relationship—Henri was in love with his mother, but too afraid of love to make the relationship work—has never seen his father alive, other than in Henri's reportages or the video of him heroically saving a girl from drowning. Yet, Sam has a more profound connection with his father than most children of his age. Sam and Eddie, each previously unaware of the other, slowly begin to carve out an unexpected and powerful friendship. But when Sam is on his way to meet his father for the first time, tragedy strikes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What caused Henri to attempt to save the child he sees drowning?
2. Why do you think Marie-France doesn't want Henri to be a part of Sam's life?
3. How does Henri's relationship with his own father affect his relationship with Sam?
4. When describing his father, Henri says he "understands things, but has never understood people." What does he mean by this, and is it true of Henri himself as well?
5. How does Sam's synesthesia affect his perceptions of the world?

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

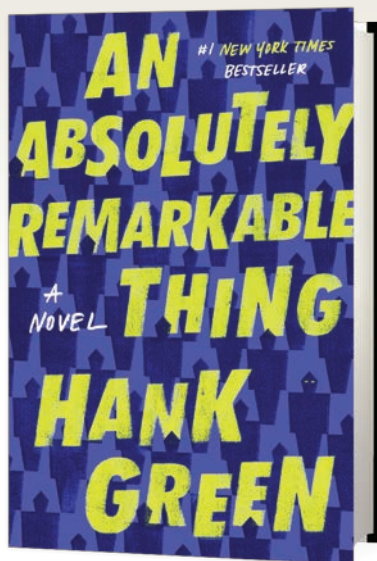
Hank Green

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing:

A Novel

978-1-5247-4344-4 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Dutton | HC
978-1-5247-4345-1
AD: 978-0-525-64181-0 | CD: 978-0-525-64180-3

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of Ernest Cline, Andy Weir,
and John Green.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

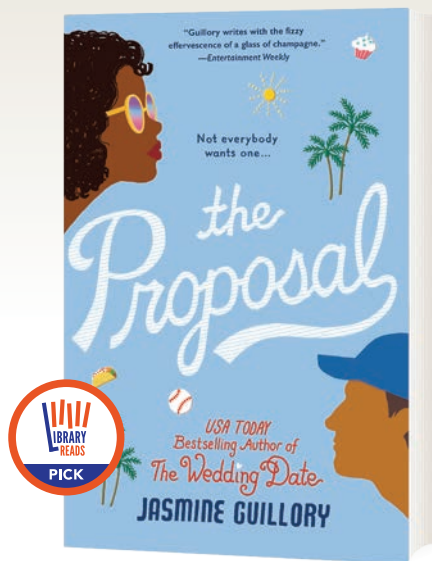
Roaming through New York City at three a.m., twenty-three-year-old April May stumbles across a giant sculpture. Delighted by its appearance and craftsmanship, April and her friend, Andy, make a video with it, which Andy uploads to YouTube. The next day, April wakes up to a viral video and a new life. News quickly spreads that there are Carls in dozens of cities around the world—from Beijing to Buenos Aires—and April, as their first documentarian, finds herself at the center of an intense international media spotlight.

Seizing the opportunity to make her mark on the world, April now has to deal with the consequences her new particular brand of fame has on her relationships, her safety, and her own identity. And all eyes are on April to figure out not just what the Carls are, but what they want from us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Upon seeing Carl for the first time, April says, “And here I am, hardened by big-city life and mentally drained by hours of pixel pushing, not even giving something so magnificent a second glance.” Have you ever found yourself in a situation where being jaded prevented you from noticing or acknowledging something special?
2. What do you think it is about New York City that bars its denizens from noticing something strange, like Carl? And what does it say about April that she was the only one to stop and notice?
3. Though Robin suggests that April stay in a stable relationship as she navigates her burgeoning fame, why do you think April ends her relationship with Maya?
4. What are the different ideologies of the Dreamers and the Defenders? Can you find any real-world implications of each group’s beliefs and actions?
5. Of all the issues Hank Green explores—the price of fame, the struggle to connect with our fellow humans, the hope (and perhaps fear) of life beyond our earth—what do you think *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* is ultimately about?

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



Jasmine Guillory

The Proposal

978-0-399-58768-9 | \$15.00/\$20.00C | Berkley Jove | TR
978-0-399-58769-6 | AD: 978-0-525-63541-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

The author of *The Wedding Date* serves up a novel about what happens when a public proposal doesn't turn into a happy ending. For fans of Sally Thorne and Julie James.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When freelance writer Nikole Paterson goes to a Dodgers game with her actor boyfriend the last thing she expects is a scoreboard proposal. Saying no isn't the hard part—the hard part is having to face a stadium full of disappointed fans.

At the game with his sister, Carlos Ibarra comes to Nik's rescue and rushes her away from a camera crew. He's even there for her when the video goes viral and Nik's social media blows up—in a bad way. Nik knows that in the wilds of LA, a handsome doctor like Carlos can't be looking for anything serious, so she embarks on an epic rebound with him, filled with food, fun, and fantastic sex. But when their glorified hookups start breaking the rules, one of them has to be smart enough to put on the brakes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In this day and age, social media is inescapable. How would you react if you went viral for a mishap?
2. Nik and Carlos both think they can have a physical relationship without getting their feelings involved. Do you think it's possible to have a successful friends-with-benefits relationship? What are the first clues that Nik and Carlos start to feel something more for each other?
3. Carlos woos Nik with his amazing cooking skills. Have you ever had a date cook you a meal that impressed you? What was it?
4. Grief is never easy to get through. Discuss how the death of Carlos's father impacts his life and relationships.
5. Even though he's a doctor, Carlos refuses to get a wellness physical. Discuss why Carlos won't see a doctor. Do you have any similar contradictions in your life?
6. Have you ever had a relationship, romantic or nonromantic, that you thought would be casual but ended up being very meaningful to your life?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/ProposalBookClub

Dinah Jefferies

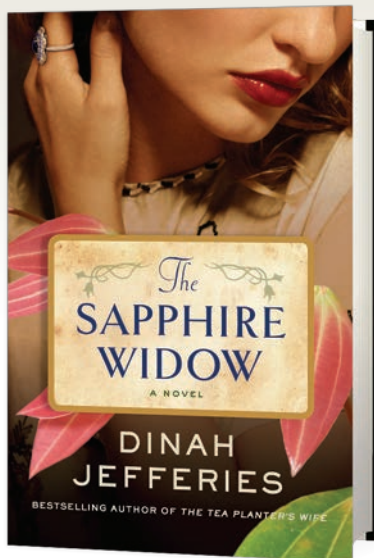
The Sapphire Widow:

A Novel

978-0-525-57632-7 | \$26.00 | Crown | HC
978-0-525-57634-1 | AD: 978-1-984827-03-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the internationally bestselling author of *The Tea Planter's Wife*, a sweeping, breathtaking story of love and betrayal for readers of Beatriz Williams and Daisy Goodwin.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ceylon, 1935. Louisa Reeve, the daughter of a successful British gem trader, and her husband Elliot, a charming, thrill-seeking businessman, seem like the couple who have it all. Except what they long for more than anything: a child.

While Louisa struggles with miscarriages, Elliot is increasingly absent, spending much of his time at a nearby cinnamon plantation, overlooking the Indian ocean. After his sudden death, Louisa is left alone to solve the mystery he left behind. Revisiting the plantation at Cinnamon Hills, she finds herself unexpectedly drawn towards the owner, Leo, a rugged outdoors man with a checkered past. The plantation casts a spell, but all is not as it seems. And when Elliot's shocking betrayal is revealed, Louisa has only Leo to turn to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did Louisa mean when she said "danger was Elliot's addiction"?
2. Why did Louisa side with Elliot over her father about creating the new emporium? At the beginning of the story, who do you think she trusts more?
3. Why do you think Louisa feels such a strong connection with Gwen?
4. How well did Louisa really know Elliot? Who knew him the best?
5. Would having a child have improved Louisa and Elliot's relationship?

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



Martha Hall Kelly

Lost Roses:

A Novel

978-1-524-79637-2 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Ballantine Books | HC | April

📖 978-1-524-79638-9 | 📖 AD: 978-1-9848-4540-5

📖 CD: 978-1-9848-4539-9 | 📖 LP: 978-1-9848-8621-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

The author of *Lilac Girls* returns with a new novel set a generation earlier and also inspired by true events, that features Caroline Ferriday's mother, Eliza, under the shadow of World War I. Perfect for fans of *The Nightingale*, *All the Light We Cannot See*, and *We Were the Lucky Ones*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is 1914, and the world has been on the brink of war so often, many New Yorkers treat the subject with only passing interest. Eliza Ferriday is thrilled to be traveling to St. Petersburg with Sofya Streshnayva, a cousin of the Romanovs, to see the splendors of Russia.

But when Austria declares war on Serbia and Russia's imperial dynasty begins to fall, Eliza escapes back to America, while Sofya and her family flee to their country estate. In need of domestic help, they hire the local fortune-teller's daughter, Varinka, unknowingly bringing intense danger into their household.

From the turbulent streets of St. Petersburg to the avenues of Paris to the mansions of Long Island, the lives of Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka will intersect in profound ways.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. You meet three very different heroines in *Lost Roses*: Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka. Who did you identify with most and why?
2. Mother-daughter relationships play a vital role in *Lost Roses*. How did these relationships impact Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka's lives? Compare Eliza's mother to Varinka's. Were they both good mothers? In what ways? How did Sofya's stepmother, Agnessa, affect Sofya and Luba emotionally? How did their mother's legacy play a continuing role in their lives?
3. Caroline Ferriday, the protagonist of *Lilac Girls*, is a teenager in *Lost Roses*. Eliza's real-life relationship with her daughter Caroline evolves over the course of the book. What did you like/not like about their portrayal?
4. Luba, whose name symbolizes love, is a key character in *Lost Roses*. Did you feel she was an important character in the story? What do you think of the author's decision to open and close the novel with Luba's voice?

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

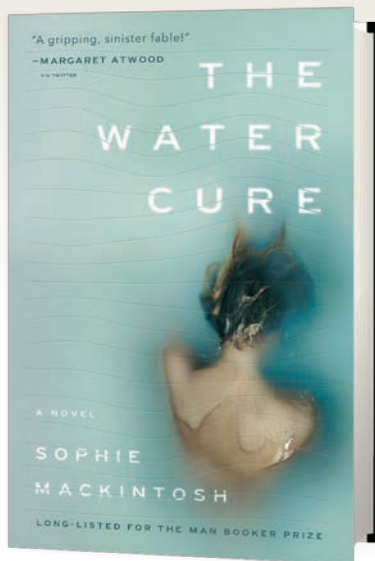
Sophie Mackintosh

The Water Cure:

A Novel

978-0-385-54387-3 | \$25.95 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-7352-3534-2 | \$24.95C | Hamish Hamilton Canada | TR
📞 978-0-385-54388-0 | 📍 AD: 978-0-525-63803-2
📧 LP: 978-0-593-10421-7

READERS' ADVISORY:
Perfect for readers of Margaret Atwood.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

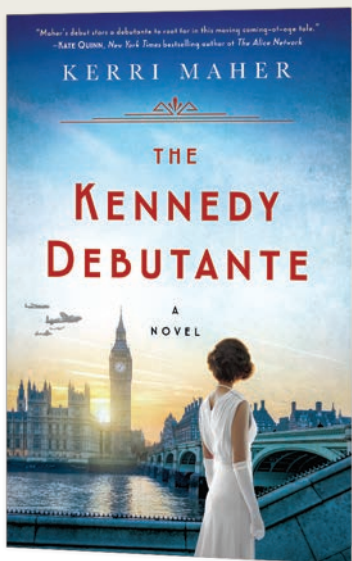
King has tenderly staked out a territory for his wife and three daughters, Grace, Lia, and Sky. He has lain the barbed wire; he has anchored the buoys in the water; he has marked out a clear message: Do not enter. Or viewed from another angle: Not safe to leave. Here women are protected from the chaos and violence of men on the mainland. The cult-like rituals and therapies they endure fortify them from the spreading toxicity of a degrading world.

But when their father, the only man they've ever seen, disappears, they retreat further inward until the day two men and a boy wash ashore. Over the span of one blistering hot week, a psychological cat-and-mouse game plays out. Sexual tensions and sibling rivalries flare as the sisters confront the amorphous threat the strangers represent. Can they survive the men?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. There has been a huge boom of feminist dystopian novels in the last few years. How does *The Water Cure* fit into the conversation surrounding these titles and in the culture at large right now?
2. The narrative perspective shifts throughout the novel. Sometimes we hear Lia's voice, sometimes Grace's, and sometimes the three sisters collectively. How do the multiple points of view affect your reading experience?
3. From the ocean they live on, to the backyard pool, to their bathtub, the girls are constantly surrounded by water. How does water function as a symbol within the novel?
4. "We hold hands very tightly, so we can blur where the I ends and the sister begins." The concept of sisterhood is important in *The Water Cure*, but it's complicated. How does *The Water Cure* define a sister? What obligations come along with that role?
5. The rituals and therapies invented by Mother and King are designed to eradicate emotional responses in their daughters. Why do they want to manage their daughters' emotions? What effect do their therapies end up having on their daughters?

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



Kerri Maher The Kennedy Debutante

978-0-451-49204-3 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Berkley | HC

978-0-451-49206-7 | AD: 978-1-9848-2725-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

A captivating novel following the exploits of Kathleen “Kick” Kennedy, the forgotten and rebellious daughter of one of America’s greatest political dynasties. Perfect for readers of *The Nightingale* and *Lilac Girls*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

London, 1938. The effervescent “It girl” of London society, Kathleen “Kick” Kennedy, is eager to escape the watchful eye of her strict mother and strike out on her own. And soon, she is swept off her feet by Billy Hartington, the future Duke of Devonshire.

But their love is forbidden, as Kick’s devout Catholic family and Billy’s staunchly Protestant one would never approve their match. When war breaks like a tidal wave across her world, Billy is ripped from her arms as the Kennedys are forced to return to the States. Kick gets work as a journalist and joins the Red Cross to get back to England, where she will have to decide where her true loyalties lie—with family or with love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Family, religion, and class are powerful forces in Kick’s life. How does she use them to her advantage? In what cases do they undermine her desire for an independent life?
2. Kick has to make a painful decision between her family and her love. Do you think you would make the same choice?
3. Kick often envies her older brothers for their independence and freedoms. In what ways have young women today transcended those gender roles? In what ways are they still present?
4. Many women have to reconcile personal desires with the constraints of family and society. What do you think of Kick’s strategy? Do you think she would take the same approach today?
5. How does the portrayal of Jack as a young man fit or not fit with your image of him as JFK, the man who—as Debo’s mother correctly predicted—became President of the United States?

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

Nadia Murad

The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State

978-1-524-76044-1 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Tim Duggan Books | TR

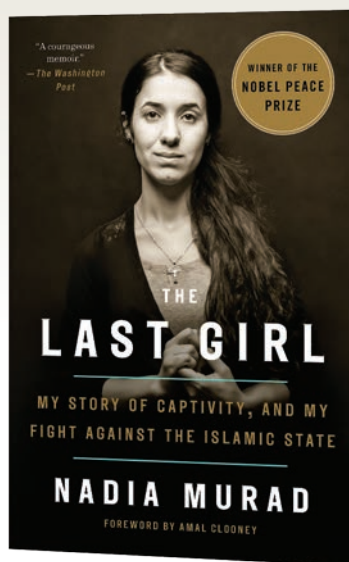
📞 978-1-524-76045-8

📻 AD: 978-0-525-49324-2 | 📻 CD: 978-0-525-49323-5

Spanish Edition: 978-8-401-01990-6 | Plaza & Janés

READERS' ADVISORY:

In this intimate memoir of survival, a former captive of the Islamic State tells her harrowing and ultimately inspiring story. For readers of *I Am Malala*, *I Am Nujood*, and *A Long Way Gone*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

C o-winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize, Nadia Murad was born and raised in Kocho, a small village of farmers and shepherds in northern Iraq. A member of the Yazidi community, she and her brothers and sisters lived a quiet life. On August 15, 2014, when Nadia was just 21 years old, this life ended. Islamic State militants massacred the people of her village, executing men who refused to convert to Islam and women too old to become sex slaves. Six of Nadia's brothers were killed, and her mother soon after, their bodies swept into mass graves. Nadia was taken to Mosul and forced, along with thousands of other Yazidi girls, into the ISIS slave trade.

Today, Nadia's story is a call to action, a testament to the human will to survive, and a love letter to a lost country, a fragile community, and a family torn apart by war.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe Nadia's life in Kocho before ISIS invades?
2. How would you characterize relations between Yazidis and their Sunni neighbors before ISIS invades?
3. What do the Yazidi people believe? What is the importance of religion to the community? How is it demonstrated throughout the book?
4. What was the nature of Saddam Hussein's Arabization policy and how did it effect Iraq's Yazidi population?
5. What changes and challenges did modernization present to Nadia's community? In your opinion, is it important for ethnic minorities and religious groups to maintain their unique identity or should they assimilate into more globalized notions of culture?

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



Michelle Obama **Becoming**

978-1-524-76313-8 | \$32.50/\$40.00C | Crown | HC
978-1-524-76315-2 | AD: 978-0-525-63370-9
CD: 978-0-525-63369-3 | LP: 978-0-525-63375-4
Spanish Edition: 978-1-947-78377-5 | Plaza & Janés

READERS' ADVISORY:

Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same. For fans of the former First Lady of the United States and the Obama White House era.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Mrs. Obama begins her book with a story about making cheese toast on a quiet night at home, a few months after leaving the White House. Why do you think she chose this story to begin her memoir?
2. Mrs. Robinson gave her children agency at a very young age. How did that shape Mrs. Obama? What is the balance between discipline and trust?
3. Mrs. Obama describes a number of women who have served as mentors for her at different times in her life? What lessons did Mrs. Obama learn from them about finding a fulfilling career as a parent? Who are your mentors and how do you cultivate those relationships?
4. Mrs. Obama writes, "Failure is a feeling long before it becomes an actual result. It's vulnerability that breeds with self-doubt and then is escalated, often deliberately, by fear." How did this insight shape Mrs. Obama's work and mission as First Lady? What can we all do—as individuals, parents, and community members—to help break this cycle?

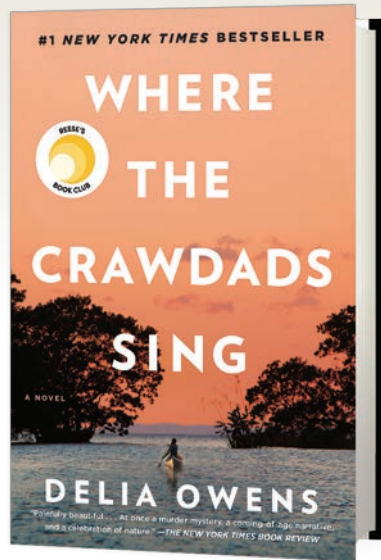
For more discussion questions visit: [CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides](https://www.crownpublishing.com/readers-guides)

Delia Owens Where the Crawdads Sing

978-0-7352-1909-0 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Putnam | HC
978-0-7352-1911-3 | AD: 978-0-525-64039-4
CD: 978-0-593-10303-6 | LP: 978-1-9848-2761-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

Now a Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine Book Club pick, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. For fans of Celeste Ng and Barbara Kingsolver.



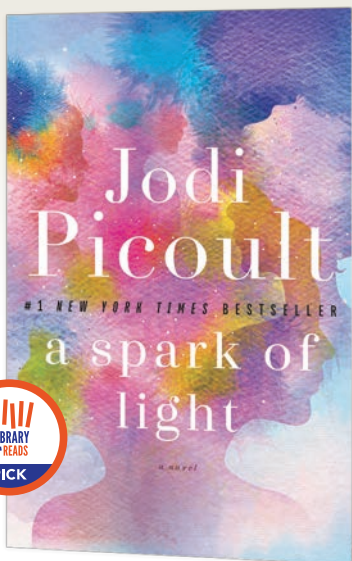
ABOUT THE BOOK:

For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The North Carolina marsh where Kya has long been a sanctuary for outsiders. How does this setting shape the novel? How does growing up in the isolation affect Kya? In what ways does her status as an “outsider” change how others see her?
2. Why do you think Kya’s mother leaves in the beginning? Do you agree with her decision?
3. Discuss Kya’s relationship with Tate. How does Tate’s understanding of Kya change over time? Is Tate a good partner for Kya?
4. Discuss how Kya’s observations of nature shape her vision of the world. Do you think these lessons adequately prepare her for life in Barkley Cove? Do you think human society follows the same rules as the natural world?
5. Were you surprised by the verdict in Chase’s murder trial? What about the ending of the novel? Do you agree with Tate’s final decision? Why or why not?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/WhereTheCrawdadsSing



Jodi Picoult

A Spark of Light:

A Novel

978-0-345-54498-8 | \$28.99 | Ballantine Books | HC
978-0-345-81341-1 | \$32.00C | Random House Canada
📞 978-0-345-54499-5
📻 CD: 978-1-9848-2811-8 | 📻 AD: 978-1-9848-2812-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Thoroughly realistic storytelling . . . Picoult has achieved what politicians across the spectrum have not been able to: humanized a hot-button issue. Excellent for book clubs.”

—*Library Journal* (starred review)

ABOUT THE BOOK:

The warm fall day starts like any other at a women’s reproductive health services clinic—its staff offering care to anyone who passes through its doors. Then, in late morning, a desperate and distraught gunman bursts in and opens fire, taking all inside hostage.

After rushing to the scene, Hugh McElroy, a police hostage negotiator, sets up a perimeter and begins making a plan to communicate with the gunman. As his phone vibrates with incoming text messages he glances at it and, to his horror, finds out that his fifteen-year-old daughter, Wren, is inside the clinic.

But Wren is not alone. She will share the next and tensest few hours of her young life with a cast of unforgettable characters: A nurse who calms her own panic in order to save the life of a wounded woman. A doctor who does his work not in spite of his faith but because of it. A pro-life protester, disguised as a patient. A young woman who has come to terminate her pregnancy. And the disturbed individual himself, vowing to be heard.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The story is narrated from the points of view of ten different characters. Why do you think the author chose to include so many different perspectives? Was there a voice that you connected to most strongly? Did you have difficulty connecting with any characters?
2. Regardless of their feelings on the issue of abortion, many characters are preoccupied with being a good parent. Why do you think it means to be a good parent?
3. Initially, Joy and Janine seem to stand on opposite sides of the pro-life/pro-choice debate. By the end, do you think they have found common ground? Do you understand where each one is coming from? Is it possible to form a connection with someone with opposing viewpoints and still maintain a commitment to one’s own beliefs?

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

Taylor Jenkins Reid Daisy Jones & The Six: A Novel

978-1-524-79862-8 | \$27.00 | Ballantine Books | HC | March
978-0-385-69217-5 | \$24.95C | Doubleday Canada | TR
📞 978-1-524-79863-5 | 📍 AD: 978-1-9848-4532-0
📀 CD: 978-1-9848-4531-3 | 📻 LP: 978-1-9848-9225-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *First Comes Love* and *Modern Lovers*, and fans of the movie *Almost Famous*.

“Transported me into the magic of the ‘70s music scene in a way I’ll never forget.”

—Reese Witherspoon



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Everyone knows Daisy Jones & The Six, but nobody knows the reason behind their split at the height of their popularity . . . until now.

Daisy is a girl coming of age in L.A. in the late sixties, sneaking into clubs on the Sunset Strip, sleeping with rock stars, and dreaming of singing at the Whisky a Go Go. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it’s the rock and roll she loves most. By the time she’s twenty, her voice is getting noticed.

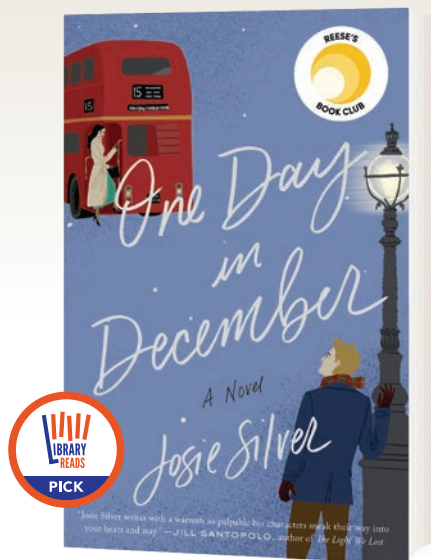
Also getting noticed is The Six, a band led by the brooding Billy Dunne. On the eve of their first tour, his girlfriend Camila finds out she’s pregnant, and with the pressure of impending fatherhood and fame, Billy goes a little wild on the road.

Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes that the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. This book is written in an oral history format. Why do you think the author chose to structure the book this way? How does this approach affect your reading experience?
2. At one point Daisy says, “I was just supposed to be the inspiration for some man’s great idea. . . . I had absolutely no interest in being somebody else’s muse.” How does her experience of being used by others contribute to the decisions she makes when she joins The Six?
3. Why do you think Billy has such a strong need to control the group, both early on when they are simply the Dunne Brothers and later when they become Daisy Jones & The Six?
4. Daisy, Camila, Simone, and Karen are each very different embodiments of female strength and creativity. Who are you most drawn to and why?

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



Josie Silver

One Day in December:

A Novel

978-0-525-57468-2 | \$16.00/\$22.00C | Broadway Books | TR

📞 978-0-525-57470-5

📍 AD: 978-1-984-82715-9 | 📻 CD: 978-1-984-82714-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

A life-affirming, charming, and unforgettable love story for fans of Jojo Moyes, Helen Fielding, and Nicholas Sparks.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Jack and Laurie lock eyes at a bus stop one snowy day in December, they feel an overwhelming pull toward each other and scramble to connect before the bus, of course, drives away. They seem fated to find each other again—except they don't, not at first. Instead, after a year of searching, they reunite at Laurie's best friend's party, where Sarah giddily "introduces" Jack to Laurie as her new boyfriend.

As it moves between the twin perspectives of Jack and Laurie, and across continents and years, *One Day in December* is universal in its humanity and also poignant in its intimacy, adding a great deal of both scope and nuance to its romantic core. Framed by ten consecutive Christmases, *One Day in December* follows Jack and Laurie through missed opportunities, roads not taken, heartbreak, friendship, and destinies reconsidered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe the connection Laurie felt upon first seeing Jack? How do you think he perceived her when he saw her from the bus stop? Have you ever felt a similar connection with someone?
2. Why didn't Laurie tell Sarah that Jack was the person she'd been looking for?
3. How similar are Laurie and Sarah? In what ways do their personalities differ? Which character do you identify with?
4. Why do you think Jack doesn't admit to Laurie that he remembers her from the bus stop?
5. Should Sarah have noticed the tension between Laurie and Jack?

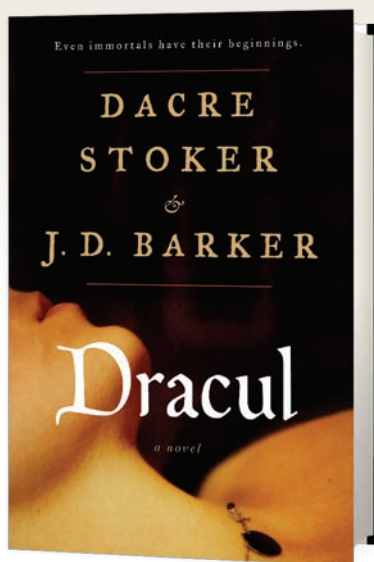
For more discussion questions visit: [CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides](https://www.crownpublishing.com/readers-guides)

Dacre Stoker and J. D. Barker *Dracul*

978-0-7352-1934-2 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Putnam | HC
978-0-7352-1936-6 | AD: 978-0-525-64048-6
LP: 978-1-9848-2762-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

Inspired by notes and texts left behind by the author of *Dracula*, *Dracul* is a supernatural thriller that reveals not only Dracula's true origins but Bram Stoker's—and the tale of the enigmatic woman who connects them.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

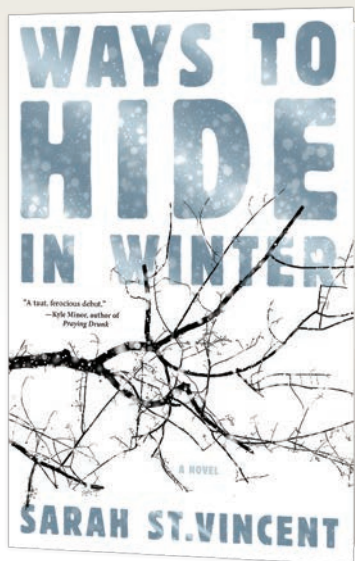
It is 1868, and a twenty-one-year-old Bram Stoker waits in a desolate tower to face an indescribable evil. Armed only with crucifixes, holy water, and a rifle, he prays to survive a single night. Desperate to record what he has witnessed, Bram scribbles down the events that led him here.

A sickly child, Bram spent his early days bedridden and tended to by his caretaker, a young woman named Ellen Crone. When a string of strange deaths occur in a nearby town, Bram and his sister Matilda detect a pattern of bizarre behavior by Ellen—a mystery that deepens chillingly until Ellen vanishes suddenly from their lives. Years later, Matilda returns from studying in Paris to tell Bram the news that she has seen Ellen—and that the nightmare they've thought long ended is only beginning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you read Bram Stoker's *Dracula* before reading *Dracul*, how did it shape your expectations? Has reading *Dracul* changed how you see the original story?
2. The novel is inspired by real notes and texts that Bram Stoker left behind. Discuss the interplay of fiction and history in *Dracul*. How did your sense of the story change after reading the Authors' Note?
3. In this novel, Ellen Crone is both a monster and a prisoner. How did learning about her past change the way you perceive her? How did it change the way you look at Dracula?
4. Upon reading the Authors' Note, do you believe there is any truth behind the events that Bram Stoker detailed in *Dracula* and the first 101 unpublished pages that *Dracul* is based on?
5. What did you find to be the most terrifying moment of the novel? What is it about the Dracula legend that has made it so enduringly frightening?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/DraculBookClub



Sarah St. Vincent **Ways to Hide in Winter**

978-1-61219-720-3 | \$25.99/\$33.99C | Melville House | HC

📖 978-1-61219-721-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

“A nuanced look at tragedy and reconciliation . . . an atmospheric exploration of abuse, endurance, and life-altering choices.” —*Booklist*

ABOUT THE BOOK:

After surviving a life-altering accident at twenty-two, Kathleen recuperates by retreating to a remote campground lodge in a state park, where she works flipping burgers for deer hunters and hikers—happy, she insists, to be left alone.

But when a hesitant, heavily accented stranger appears in the dead of winter—seemingly out of nowhere, kicking snow from his flimsy dress shoes—the wary Kathleen is intrigued, despite herself. He says he’s a student from Uzbekistan. To her he seems shell-shocked, clearly hiding from something that terrifies him. And as she becomes absorbed in his secrets, she’s forced to confront her own—even as her awareness of being in danger grows . . .

A powerful story about violence and redemption, betrayal and empathy, and how we reconcile the unforgivable in those we love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In many ways, this novel is about trauma, grief, and loss. How do the characters, particularly Kathleen and the mysterious stranger, cope with trauma? Is there a character you relate to more?
2. How did you feel reading about Kathleen and the stranger’s friendship? What do you think of this friendship under the lens that Kathleen is trying to put her life together after losing her husband?
3. The Kubler-Ross stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Can you match these stages with any characters in this story?
4. Has your life been affected by grief, trauma, or forgiveness, either as the giver or the recipient?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/WaysToHideInWinter

Karen Thompson Walker

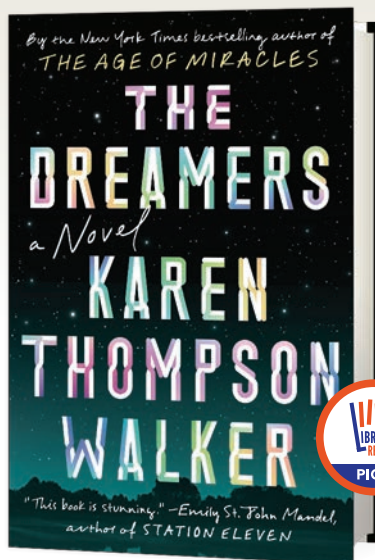
The Dreamers:

A Novel

978-0-8129-9416-2 | \$27.00 | Random House | HC
978-0-385-69244-1 | \$32.95C | Bond Street Books
📞 978-0-8129-9417-9 | 📻 AD: 978-0-525-63757-8
📻 CD: 978-0-525-63756-1 | 📻 LP: 978-1-9848-3367-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

A mesmerizing new novel from the author of *The Age of Miracles*—perfect for fans of speculative fiction, such as *Station Eleven*, *Never Let Me Go*, and *The Leftovers*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

One night in an isolated college town in the hills of Southern California, a first-year student stumbles into her dorm room, falls asleep—and doesn't wake up. Her roommate, Mei, cannot rouse her. Neither can the paramedics, nor the perplexed doctors at the hospital. When a second girl falls asleep, and then a third, Mei finds herself thrust together with an eccentric classmate as panic takes hold of the college and spreads to the town. A young couple tries to protect their newborn baby as the once-quiet streets descend into chaos. Two sisters turn to each other for comfort as their survivalist father prepares for disaster. Those affected by the illness, doctors discover, are displaying unusual levels of brain activity, higher than has ever been recorded before. They are dreaming heightened dreams—but of what?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. A contagious disease, a quarantined town—the characters in *The Dreamers* are facing an extreme situation. Our culture is dominated by two opposing narratives about how people respond to disasters: Some believe they bring out the worst in people, others that they bring out the best. How do these possibilities play out in *The Dreamers*?
2. What do you think of Matthew's character? Are his actions heroic or heartless? Selfless or self-aggrandizing? Or some combination? Is it ethical to privilege the lives of one's loved ones over the lives of strangers?
3. How does *The Dreamers* differ from other books about disaster and dystopia? What does it have in common with those stories?
4. *The Dreamers* includes many parent/child relationships. What do you think of the book's portrayal of these bonds? How does the crisis affect these relationships?

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



Hiro Arikawa; Translated by Philip Gabriel
The Travelling Cat Chronicles

978-0-451-49133-6 | \$20.00 | Berkley | HC
 978-0-7352-3523-6 | \$25.00C | Viking Canada
 ⓘ 978-0-451-49134-3 | ♻️ AD: 978-1-9848-2731-9

For animal lovers of all ages, *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* shows how the smallest things can provide the greatest joy.



Margaret Atwood
The Handmaid's Tale (Graphic Novel):
 A Novel

978-0-385-53924-1 | \$22.95 | Nan A Talese | HC | March
 978-0-7710-0684-5 | \$29.95C | McClelland & Stewart
 ⓘ 978-0-385-54485-6

An instant classic when it was published in 1985, Atwood's genre-bending, dystopian story comes to life in this new, beautifully illustrated graphic novel.



Katherine Arden
The Winter of the Witch: A Novel

978-1-101-88599-4 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Del Rey | HC
 ⓘ 978-1-101-88600-7 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-525-63952-7

Following their adventures in *The Bear and the Nightingale* and *The Girl in the Tower*, Vasya and Morozko return in this stunning conclusion to the bestselling Winternight Trilogy, battling enemies mortal and magical to save both Russias, the seen and the unseen.

“Katherine Arden’s Winternight Trilogy isn’t just good—it’s hug-to-your-chest, straight-to-the-favorites-shelf, reread-immediately good, and each book just gets better . . . Prepare to have your heart ripped out, loaned back to you full of snow and magic, and ripped out some more.” —Laini Taylor



Edward Carey
Little: A Novel

978-0-525-54342-7 | \$27.00/\$36.00C | Riverhead | HC
 ⓘ 978-0-525-53434-1 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-525-64064-6

The wry, macabre, unforgettable tale of an ambitious orphan in Revolutionary Paris, befriended by royalty and radicals, who transforms herself into the legendary Madame Tussaud.



Donna Everhart
The Forging Kind

978-1-4967-1700-9 | \$15.95/\$21.95C | Kensington | TR
 978-1-4967-1701-6

In this masterful new novel, set in 1950s North Carolina, the acclaimed author of *The Road to Bittersweet* and *The Education of Dixie Dupree* brings to life an unforgettable young heroine and a moving story of family love tested to its limits.



Juliet Escoria
Juliet the Maniac: A Novel

978-1-61219-759-3 | \$16.99/\$21.99C | Melville House | TR | May
 978-1-61219-760-9

A debut coming-of-age novel from the “indelible, shrewd, and frank and real” (Emily Gould) writer DAZED describes as “a combination of Denis Johnson and Joan Didion.”

It’s 1997, and 14-year-old Juliet has it pretty good. But over the course of the next two years, she rapidly begins to unravel, finding herself in a downward trajectory of mental illness and self-destruction. An explosive portrayal of teenage life from the perspective of the bad friend.

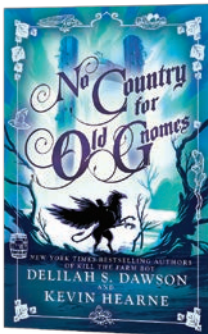


Anne Frank;
 Illustrated by David Polonsky; Adapted by Ari Folman
Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation

978-1-101-87179-9 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Pantheon | HC
 978-1-101-87180-5
 Spanish Edition: 978-0-525-56450-8 | Vintage Español

The only graphic adaptation of Anne Frank’s diary that has been authorized by the Anne Frank Foundation and that uses text from the diary—it will introduce a new generation of young readers to this classic of Holocaust literature.

For readers of *Maus* and *Persepolis*.



Kevin Hearne and Delilah S. Dawson
No Country for Old Gnomes: The Tales of Pell

978-1-524-79777-5 | \$28.00/\$37.00C | Del Rey | HC | April
 978-1-524-79778-2 | AD: 978-0-525-59369-0

The *New York Times* bestselling authors of *Kill the Farm Boy* return to the world of Pell, the irreverent fantasy universe that recalls Monty Python and Terry Pratchett.

In *No Country for Old Gnomes*, Delilah S. Dawson and Kevin Hearne lovingly tweak the tropes of fantasy and fairy tales. Here you’ll find goofy jokes and whimsical puns, but you’ll also find a diverse, feminist, and lighthearted approach to fantasy that will bring a smile to your face.



Marlon James

Black Leopard, Red Wolf

978-0-7352-2017-1 | \$30.00 | Riverhead | HC
 978-0-385-69032-4 | \$36.00C | Bond Street Books
 eBook: 978-0-7352-2019-5 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-525-52685-8
 ♻️ CD: 978-0-525-52684-1 | ♻️ LP: 978-1-9848-8290-5

The stunning first novel in Man Booker Prize-winning author Marlon James's Dark Star trilogy. An *African Game of Thrones*—myth, fantasy, and history come together to explore what happens when a mercenary is hired to find a missing child.



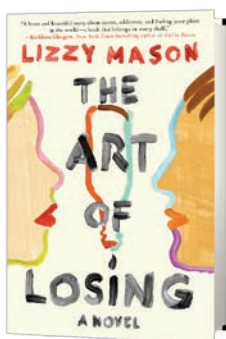
Vic James

Bright Ruin

978-0-425-28418-6 | \$26.00/\$35.00C | Del Rey | HC
 ♻️ 978-0-425-28419-3 | ♻️ AD: 978-1-524-78063-0

In the “thrilling conclusion” (*Library Journal*) to the dystopian trilogy that began with *Gilded Cage* and *Tarnished City*, the people of Britain rise up against their magically gifted masters. They must break the system—or be broken.

“Fast-paced, entertaining, and a satisfying end to an epic story [with] dramatic class division based not on mere financial wealth but on a family’s magic.”
 —*Booklist*

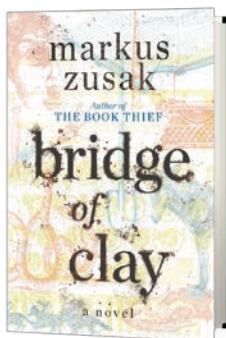


Lizzy Mason

The Art of Losing

978-1-61695-987-6 | \$18.99/\$21.99C | Soho Teen | HC
 ♻️ 978-1-61695-988-3

The Art of Losing is a compelling debut that explores issues of addiction, sisterhood, and loss. On one terrible night, 17-year-old Harley Langston’s life changes forever. At a party she discovers her boyfriend, Mike, hooking up with her younger sister, Audrey, and furious, abandons them both. When Mike drunkenly attempts to drive Audrey home, he crashes and Audrey ends up in a coma. Now Harley is left with guilt, grief, pain, and the undeniable truth that her now ex-boyfriend has a drinking problem.



Markus Zusak

Bridge of Clay

978-1-9848-3015-9 | \$26.00/\$32.50C | Alfred A. Knopf BFYR | HC
 ♻️ 978-0-375-89699-6 | ♻️ CD: 978-0-307-71109-0 | ♻️ AD: 978-0-307-71110-6

An unforgettable family saga from Markus Zusak, the storyteller who gave us the extraordinary bestseller *The Book Thief*, lauded by the *New York Times* as “the kind of book that can be life-changing.”

“Mystical and loaded with heart, it’s another gorgeous tearjerker from a rising master of them.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

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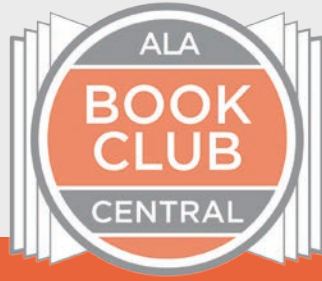
Sign up for our monthly insider newsletter,
and be the first to learn about future bestsellers.
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Want instant reading recommendations
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Thursdays, 12pm – 1pm ET



Looking for More Book Club Resources?

Check Out

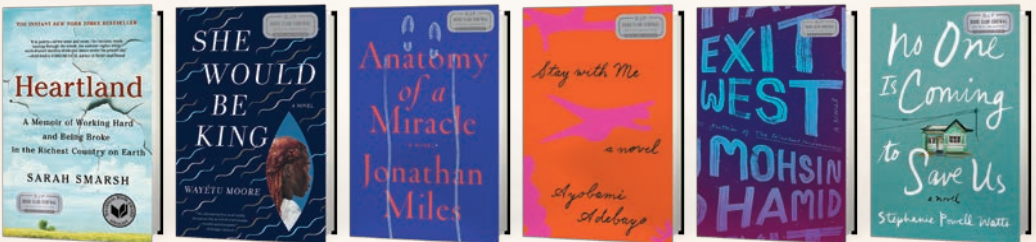
BOOK CLUB CENTRAL

An initiative of the American Library Association

Book Club Central is a new online resource for book clubs and readers featuring book reviews, author interviews, discussion questions, and more.

Award-winning actor, producer, and avid reader Sarah Jessica Parker is the Honorary Chair of Book Club Central and a passionate advocate for libraries and literacy.

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