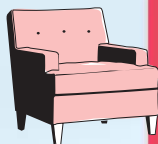


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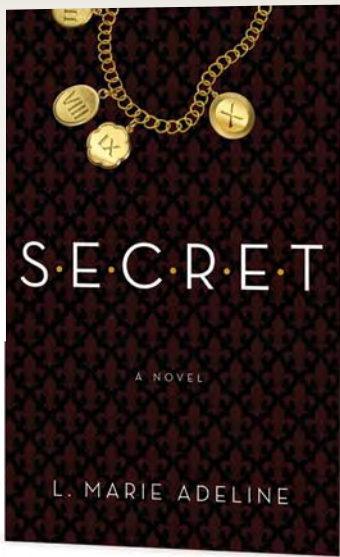


BOOK CLUB

What Will You Read Next?

Volume 5

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



L. Marie Adeline

S·E·C·R·E·T:

A Novel

978-0-385-34643-6 | \$15.00 | Broadway | TR

📞 978-0-385-34644-3

📍 AD: 978-0-8041-2720-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

In the wake of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, female readers crave erotica, and S·E·C·R·E·T is a cut above the rest—quality writing, memorable characters, hot sex scenes, and a brilliant female-empowerment hook.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Cassie Robichaud is thirty-five and widowed. After a life filled with disappointments, her days are dull and gray: she waits tables at a rundown café in New Orleans, and every night she heads home to a one-bedroom apartment alone. But when she discovers a notebook left behind by a mysterious woman, Cassie's world will never be the same. The notebook's shocking and scandalous contents lead her to S·E·C·R·E·T, an underground society dedicated to helping women realize their wildest, darkest, and most intimate sexual fantasies. Cassie soon embarks on a tantalizing and unpredictable erotic journey, completing ten fantasy-steps toward sexual fulfillment—discovering acceptance, courage, surrender, and more—with gorgeous men in rapturous scenarios beyond her imagination. As she is set free from her inhibitions, the satisfaction and bliss she experiences bring her a new confidence that transforms her forever. Equal parts scintillating, liberating, and emotionally powerful, S·E·C·R·E·T is a world where fantasy becomes reality.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you imagine the spark between Will and Cassie first occurred? Why is she so reluctant to date him during the years of their friendship? Do you think they would make a good couple?
2. How have Cassie's experiences with her father and husband shaped her view of men and relationships? Does her opinion of men change during the course of the book?
3. Do you think the "steps" in the S.E.C.R.E.T process are intended to improve a woman's overall life, or is the focus strictly sexual? How does Cassie's experience with sexual liberation change her outlook on her day-to-day life?

For more discussion questions visit <http://CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides>

Melanie Benjamin

The Aviator's Wife:

A Novel

978-0-345-52867-4 | \$26.00/\$31.00C | Delacorte Press | HC

978-0-345-53469-9

CD: 978-0-385-36035-7 | AD: 978-0-385-36036-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

A novel that blends historical record with a stunning, deeply human story—reminiscent of book club favorites like *Loving Frank* and *The Paris Wife*—from the author of *Alice I Have Been* and *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb*.



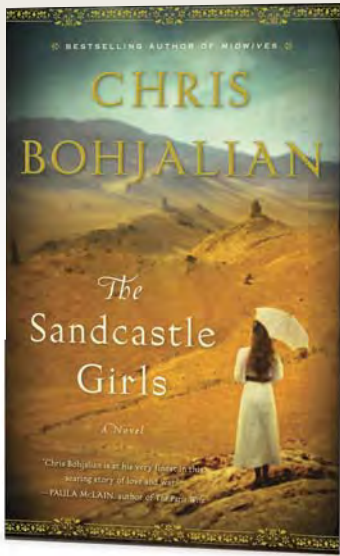
ABOUT THE BOOK:

For much of her life, Anne Morrow, the shy daughter of the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, has stood in the shadows of those around her. Then Anne, a college senior with hidden literary aspirations, travels to Mexico City to spend Christmas with her family. There she meets Colonel Charles Lindbergh, fresh off his celebrated 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic. Enthralled by Charles's assurance and fame, Anne is certain the celebrated aviator has scarcely noticed her. But she is wrong. Charles sees in Anne a kindred spirit, a fellow adventurer, and her world will be changed forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The epigraph for this novel is from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry who, like Anne Morrow Lindbergh, was both a celebrated author and noted aviator. Do you agree with his statement that "One must look with the heart?" What do you think that means? And do you think it means something different to an artist (author) as opposed to a scientist (aviator)?
2. One of the recurring themes is how Anne will choose to remember Charles. How do you think she concludes to remember him by the end? How does it change?
3. Anne's father says, "And there's Anne. Reliable Anne. You never change, my daughter." How does Anne change over the course of this novel? Or does she?
4. Compare the celebrity of the Lindbergh's to the celebrity couples of today. What current celebrities do Charles and Anne remind you of most?

For more discussion questions visit www.MelanieBenjamin.com



Chris Bohjalian

The Sandcastle Girls: A Novel

978-0-385-53479-6 | \$25.95/\$28.95C | Doubleday | HC
978-0-307-74391-6 | \$15.95/\$18.95C | Vintage | TR | April 2013
📞 978-0-385-53480-2
📻 AD: 978-0-307-91740-9 | 📻 CD: 978-0-307-91739-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

A sweeping historical love story inspired by the bestselling author's Armenian heritage, for readers of books like *Sarah's Key*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Aleppo, Syria, she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. It's 1915, and Elizabeth has volunteered to help deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian genocide. She meets Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter. After leaving Aleppo and traveling into Egypt to join the British Army, he begins to write Elizabeth letters, and he realizes that he has fallen in love with the wealthy American woman. But their path to happiness will not be easy. Several generations later, their granddaughter Laura embarks on a journey back through her family's history, uncovering love, loss, and a wrenching secret that Elizabeth kept buried for generations.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

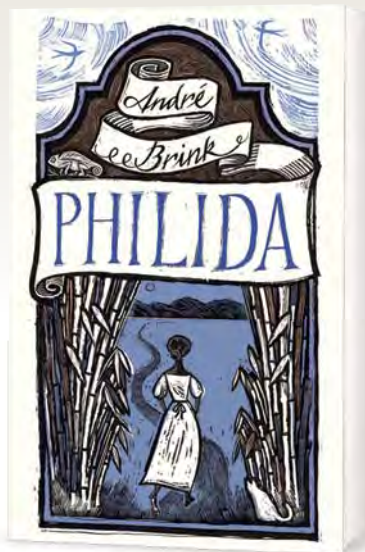
1. Though *The Sandcastle Girls* is a novel, author Chris Bohjalian (and fictional narrator Laura Petrosian) based their storytelling on meticulous research. What can a novel reveal about history that a memoir or history book cannot? Before reading *The Sandcastle Girls*, what did you know about the Armenian genocide? How does this history broaden your understanding of current events in the regions surrounding Armenia?
2. What lies at the heart of Armen and Elizabeth's attraction to each other, despite their seemingly different backgrounds? What gives their love the strength to transcend distance and danger?
3. The novel includes characters such as Dr. Akcam, Helmut, and Orhan, who take great risks opposing the atrocities committed by their superiors; Bohjalian does not cast the "enemy" as uniformly evil. What do these characters tell us about the process of resistance? What separates them from the others, who become capable of horrific, dehumanizing acts?

For more discussion questions visit www.ChrisBohjalian.com

André Brink Philida

978-0-345-80503-4 | \$15.00 | Vintage | TR
978-0-345-80504-1

READERS' ADVISORY:
Longlisted for the 2012 Man Booker Prize, this new novel from award-winning author André Brink is a truly unforgettable story of a South African slave, and her determination to survive and to be free. For readers of Toni Morrison and J. M. Coetzee.



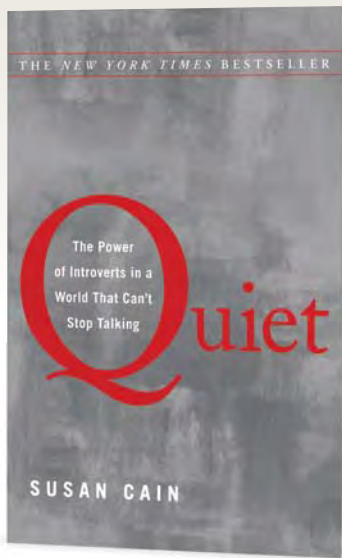
ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is 1832 in South Africa, the year before slavery is abolished. Philida is a slave and the mother of four children by Francois Brink, the son of her master. When Francois reneges on his promise to give Philida her freedom, she decides to risk her whole life by lodging a complaint against Francois and his family. Here is the remarkable story of a fiercely determined, independent woman who will settle for nothing and for no one. Unwilling to accept the future that lies ahead of her, even when she is sold to a new owner, Philida continues to test the limits of her freedom. She sets off on a journey across the great wilderness to the far north of Cape Town, in order to reclaim her soul.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The author André Brink begins each chapter of *Philida* with a synopsis of what's going to happen. How does this affect your reading experience—does it spoil what is coming, or does it pique your interest?
2. What does Philida's experience talking with the government official "Grootbaas Lindenberg" reveal about the way blacks and whites were treated in South Africa in the 1830s?
3. Although Philida is the title character, she is not the only narrator in the novel. Why do you think Brink includes other voices? How does it shape the story?
4. How does this representation of slavery in South Africa compare to what you know about slavery in the United States? And how does the novel compare to books you might have read about the experiences of American slaves?
5. Philida spends much of the novel traveling, usually on foot. How does her physical journey mirror her personal journey toward freedom?

For more discussion questions visit <http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Susan Cain

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking

978-0-307-35215-6 | \$16.00/\$18.00C | Broadway | TR

📍 978-0-307-45220-7

📻 CD: 978-1-4159-5912-1 | 📺 AD: 978-1-4159-5914-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

Like A Whole New Mind or Emotional Intelligence, Quiet changes the way we see ourselves and others.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled “quiet,” it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society—from Van Gogh’s sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer.

Passionately argued, impressively researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* shows how dramatically we undervalue introverts, and how much we lose in doing so. This extraordinary book has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how introverts see themselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Based on the quiz in the book, do you think you’re an introvert, an extrovert, or an ambivert? Are you an introvert in some situations and an extrovert in others?
2. What about the important people in your lives—your partner, your friends, your kids?
3. Which parts of *Quiet* resonated most strongly with you? Were there parts you disagreed with—and if so, why?
4. Can you think of a time in your life when being an introvert proved to be an advantage?
5. Who are your favorite introverted role models?
6. Do you agree with the author that introverts can be good leaders? What role do you think charisma plays in leadership? Can introverts be charismatic?

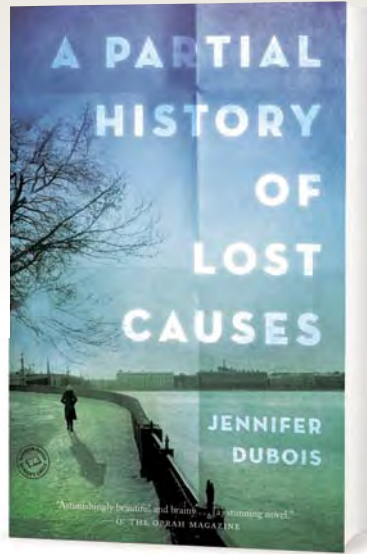
For additional features, visit www.ThePowerOfIntroverts.com

To inquire about having the author visit your reading group via phone or video chat, please email crownreadinggroups@randomhouse.com.

Jennifer DuBois
**A Partial History of
Lost Causes:**
A Novel

978-0-8129-8217-6 | \$16.00/\$19.00C | Dial Press | TR
978-0-679-60474-7
CD: 978-0-307-96930-9 | AD: 978-0-307-96931-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of *The History of Love*, a brainy,
beautiful story about chess, father-daughter
relationships, and ultimately the triumph
of love—set during the Cold War.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

In St. Petersburg, Russia, world chess champion Aleksandr Bezetov launches a dissident presidential campaign against Vladimir Putin, risking his life in the process and knowing he will not win. In Massachusetts, English lecturer Irina Ellison is certain she has inherited Huntington's disease—the same illness that ended her father's life. When Irina finds an old, unanswered letter her father wrote to the young Aleksandr Bezetov, she makes a fateful decision. Irina travels to Russia to find Bezetov and get an answer for her father. How does one proceed in a lost cause?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Are Irina's actions ultimately courageous or cowardly? Do you see her ending as happy?
2. In some ways, Irina's and Aleksandr's situations are similar—and in many ways, they are very different. What do you think brings Aleksandr and Irina together as friends? What do you think they learn from each other?
3. The character of Misha challenges Aleksandr's vision of Russia's democratic future. Is there any merit to his argument about the pragmatism of slower change? How do recent events in the Arab world speak to this argument?
4. Irina treasures her intellect, and fears that she will not be herself anymore once she begins to lose it. What do you think makes you "you"? Do you feel there's some essential quality that makes you who you are—and that, if you lost it, you wouldn't be the same person?
5. Why are Aleksandr's sections written in third person, while Irina's sections are written in first? How does this decision inform your reaction to the book? Did you find you connected more with either Irina or Aleksandr?

For more discussion questions visit www.Jennifer-DuBois.com



Melanie Gideon

Wife 22: A Novel

978-0-345-52796-7 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Ballantine Books | TR

📞 978-0-345-52797-4

🎧 CD: 978-0-307-99057-0 | 🎧 AD: 978-0-307-99059-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary* and Allison Pearson's *I Don't Know How She Does It* comes an irresistible novel of a woman losing herself, and finding herself again, in the middle of her life.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Alice Buckle has been married for nearly twenty years. She loves her husband, but they've grown distant, she is bored with her job, and her adolescent children need her less now. So, when she receives an e-mail survey from the Netherfield Center for the Study of Marital Happiness, she idly begins answering the questions. She soon finds herself baring her soul, realizing that it has been years since anyone asked serious questions of her and really listened to her answers. As it turns out, confession can be a very powerful aphrodisiac.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Consider the epigraph by E. M. Forster: "Only connect." How did this inform your interpretation of the novel before and after reading? What is the significance of this quote in a book that so often satirizes our reliance on technology in achieving immediate and constant connectivity?
2. What do you make of the structure of the novel unraveling in part through Alice's narrative and elsewhere through Google searches, Facebook status updates, and e-mail and text messages? Did you find this made for an organic reading experience, considering how much social media is enmeshed in our daily lives?
3. Of her marriage, Alice says that she and William are "floating around on the surface of our lives like kids in a pool propped up on those Styrofoam noodles." She longs for a deeper connection to her husband, yet struggles to move beyond the monotones apparent in everyday life. Why, then, does she find it so natural to be candid with Researcher 101? Do you think it's that much easier to confess truths about ourselves under a veil of anonymity?

For more discussion questions visit www.RandomHouse.com

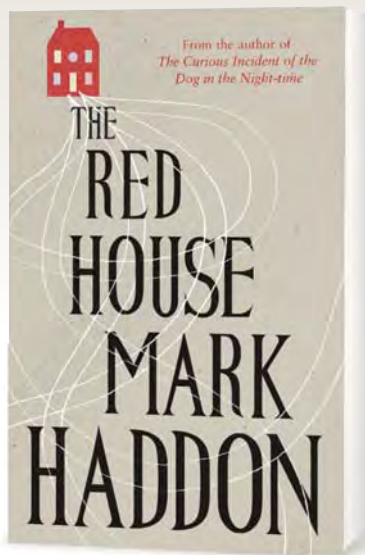
Mark Haddon

The Red House

978-0-307-94925-7 | \$15.00 | Vintage | TR
978-0-385-67694-6 | \$19.95C | Anchor Canada | TR
📞 978-0-385-53585-4
📀 CD: 978-0-307-98840-9 | 📀 AD: 978-0-307-98850-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Surprising and deeply moving.... the setup ensures that there will be revelations, twists and shifts in the family dynamic....sustaining suspense....while enriching the developing relationships among people....A novel to savor.”
—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)



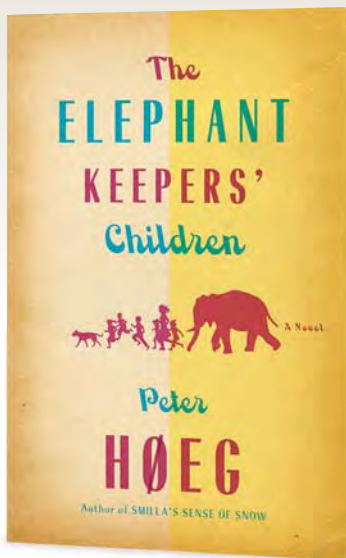
ABOUT THE BOOK:

After his mother's death, Richard, a newly remarried hospital consultant, decides to build bridges with his estranged sister, Angela, inviting her and her family for a week in a rented house in the English countryside. Four adults and four children, a single family and all of them strangers. Seven days of shared meals, log fires, card games and wet walks. But in the quiet and stillness of the valley, ghosts begin to rise up. The parents Richard thought he had; the parents Angela thought she had. Past and present lovers. Friends, enemies, victims, saviors. *The Red House* is about the extraordinariness of the ordinary, weaving the words and thoughts of the eight characters together with those fainter, stranger voices—of books and letters and music, of the dead who once inhabited these rooms, of the aging house itself and the landscape in which it sits.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What role does the Welsh landscape play in *The Red House*? How might this story be different if it portrayed an American family? Where would you set the story and what points of American culture would you add?
2. To what extent, if at all, did you see your family or your own family vacations reflected in *The Red House*?
3. What roles do death and absence play in the narrative? Discuss mortality as it relates to the characters of Angela, Richard, Karen, and Melissa.
4. Which character did you identify with most? Which characters would you want to spend a week with in a secluded vacation setting? Who seemed the most likable? The most perplexing?
5. Discuss the dining room table as a microcosm of the familial vacation experience. How do shifting places at the table reflect changing relationships and characters' internal and external struggles?

For more discussion questions visit <http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Peter Høeg

The Elephant Keepers' Children

978-1-59051-490-0 | \$27.95/\$29.95C | Other Press | HC

📖 978-1-59051-491-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A fantastical departure for Høeg that will delight fans of his work: John Irving meets *Sophie's World* and *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Told from the precocious perspective of fourteen-year-old Peter, *The Elephant Keepers' Children* is about three siblings and how they deal with life alongside their eccentric parents. Peter's father is a vicar, his mother is an artisan, and both are equally and profoundly devout. The family lives on the (fictional) island of Finø, where people of all religious faiths coexist peacefully. Yet, nothing is as it seems. When Peter's parents suddenly go missing, Peter and his siblings fear the worst—has their parents' relentless quest to boost church attendance finally put them in danger?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

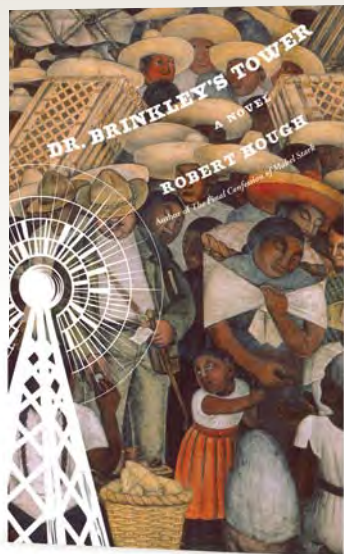
1. Why do you think Høeg chose to have a child narrate this story? In Peter's perceptions and descriptions, how are the adults different from him and the rest of the children?
2. The title of the book is taken from this Indian proverb: "In case you wish to befriend an elephant keeper, make certain to have room for the elephant." Discuss the meaning of the proverb and how it relates to the novel's characters. Do you think the adults in the book are each elephant keepers in his or her own way?
3. In what ways does the novel blur the boundaries between the real and the imagined? What do you think Høeg is trying to say about the nature of reality—and our beliefs about it—through these distortions of reality and seemingly fantastical episodes and characters?
4. Høeg presents a narrative full of anecdotes and diversions. What sort of experience does this create for the reader? Are these really distractions from the plot, or do they build the larger framework of the narrative? If the latter, what does Høeg wish the reader to gain from them?
5. Sex, religion, and freedom are all closely entwined throughout the novel. How are sex and religion blended or distinguished from one another to create freedom, false-freedom, or imprisonment for the characters?

For more discussion questions visit www.OtherPress.com

Robert Hough Dr. Brinkley's Tower: A Novel

978-1-58642-203-5 | \$16.99 | Steerforth Press | TR
e 978-1-58642-204-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
Historical fiction of a different sort,
equal parts Mark Twain and
Gabriel García Márquez.



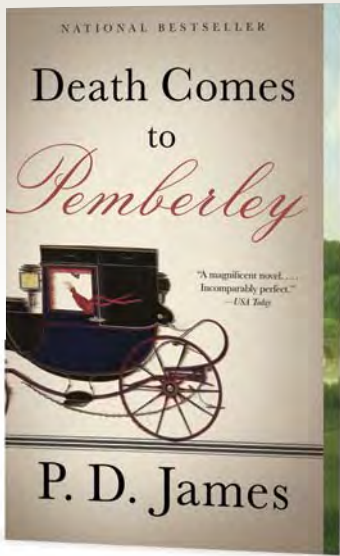
ABOUT THE BOOK:

This wildly imaginative new novel takes the reader to 1931 and Corazón de la Fuente, a tiny Mexican border town. Inspired by the monstrous shenanigans of American con artist Dr. John Romulus Brinkley, the main characters are all Mexicans dealing with the poverty and challenges that marked daily life south of the border not long after their own revolution. Hough uses a few facts from Brinkley's well documented career to set the stage for the townspeople of Corazón, whose lives are thrown into disarray and changed forever under the scheming doctor's influence. Peopled with unforgettable characters and capturing a young Mexico caught between its own ambitions and the imperialist designs of its neighbor to the north.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think Señora Azula Mampajo, the town curandera or healer, is viewed by the citizens of Corazón de la Fuente? Do those attitudes change by the end of the story? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. How is the color green used, with increasing intensity and pervasiveness, in *Dr. Brinkley's Tower*?
3. Who is the most foolish or gullible character in *Dr. Brinkley's Tower*, and who is the most savvy and resourceful? Who is toughest, perhaps the most hard-hearted? Who is most tender and compassionate? Which character surprised you the most, for good or for bad?
4. Where do the satirical barbs of *Dr. Brinkley's Tower* best hit their marks? Is it with individual human pride, hubris, and folly; collective human pride, hubris, folly, and duplicity in conflict or commerce; the differences and conflicts between men and women . . . or something else entirely?

For more discussion questions visit www.Steerforth.com



P. D. James

Death Comes to Pemberley

978-0-307-95065-9 | \$15.00 | Vintage | TR

978-0-307-36204-9 | \$22.00C | Vintage Canada | TR

📞 978-0-307-95986-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

“A pleasing and agreeable sequel...Historical mystery buffs and Jane Austen fans alike will welcome this homage...Attentive readers will eagerly seek out clues to the delightfully complex mystery, which involves many hidden motives and dark secrets.”

—Publishers Weekly

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Elizabeth and Darcy have been happily married for six years, and life is delightful: Jane and Bingley live nearby, Mr. Bennet visits frequently, Darcy's sister Georgiana has favorable marriage prospects, and Lydia and George Wickham have been banned from the grounds of Pemberley. On the eve of the annual autumn ball, all happiness is dashed by the dramatic arrival of Lydia, who hysterically declares that her husband has been shot. A search party discovers Wickham in the woods surrounding the estate—standing over a bloodied corpse. Under extreme stress and inextricably entangled in a lurid murder trial, Pemberley may never be the same for its owners and its servants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you notice about the prose style James adopts for this novel? What relationship does it bear to the style of Jane Austen? Compare for instance James's first sentence, "It was generally agreed by the female residents of Meryton that Mr. and Mrs. Bennet of Longbourn had been fortunate in the disposal in marriage of four of their five daughters," to the first sentence of *Pride and Prejudice*: "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife."
2. James has provided many links in the introductory chapters that provide both the backstory of and continuity with *Pride and Prejudice*. How successful is the bridge that she creates?
3. The night before the ball, the howling wind and the turbulence of nature are contrasted with the comforts within the house. Elizabeth is experiencing "an emotion which she had never known before," a worry about "a world in which men are as violent and destructive as is the animal world." What does her fear mean for the growing family at Pemberley, and how does it relate to the violent events of the story?

For more discussion questions visit <http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>

Adam Johnson The Orphan Master's Son: A Novel

978-0-8129-8262-6 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | RH Trade Paperbacks | TR

978-0-679-64399-9

CD: 978-0-307-93971-5 | AD: 978-0-307-93976-0

READERS' ADVISORY:
Part bildungsroman, part political thriller,
part exposé of the most secretive country
in the world—a novel for readers of
The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet and
The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle.



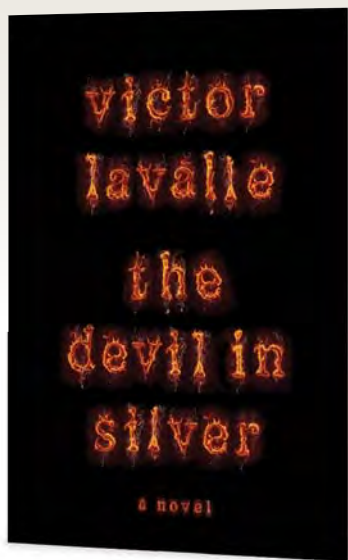
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Pak Jun Do is the haunted son of a lost mother—a singer “stolen” to Pyongyang—and an influential father who runs a work camp for orphans. Superiors in the state recognize the boy’s loyalty and keen instincts. Soon Jun Do rises through the ranks to become a professional kidnapper who must navigate the shifting rules and arbitrary violence of his Korean overlords. Driven to the absolute limit, he boldly takes on the treacherous role of rival to Kim Jong Il in an attempt to save the woman he loves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How much did you know about North Korea before reading *The Orphan Master's Son*? How has it changed your perspective on life there?
2. *The Orphan Master's Son* has been characterized as a thriller, a love story, and a political dystopia. How would you classify the novel in terms of genre? How do you think each of these genres manifests itself in the book?
3. Speaking of genre, Adam Johnson once categorized the novel as a “trauma narrative.” How do you interpret that term? Do you think it suitably describes the novel, and if so, in what ways?
4. How did you feel about the inclusion of Kim Jong Il as a central character in the book? How would you say Johnson depicts him? Were you surprised by his portrayal?
5. Discuss the differences between the first part of the novel, “The Biography of Jun Do,” and the second, “The Confessions of Commander Ga.”
6. How do the propaganda chapters, written as if spoken from a loudspeaker, play into your reading of the novel?

For more discussion questions visit www.RandomHouse.com



Victor LaValle

The Devil in Silver: A Novel

978-1-4000-6986-6 | \$27.00/\$32.00C | Spiegel & Grau | HC

📞 978-0-679-60486-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

A genre-mixing literary novel for readers of Jennifer Egan's postmodern genre-benders, Gary Shteyngart's dystopian comedy, Aimee Bender's surrealist fiction, and Colson Whitehead's literary zombies.

“Literary horror just found a new master. Profound, and profoundly terrifying . . . a page-turning delight.”—*Gary Shteyngart*

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Pepper is a rambunctious big man, minor-league troublemaker, and, suddenly, the surprised inmate of a budget-strapped mental institution. He's not mentally ill, but that doesn't seem to matter. In the darkness of his room on his first night, he's visited by a terrifying creature with the body of an old man and the head of a bison that nearly kills him before being hustled away by the hospital staff. It's no delusion: The other patients confirm that a hungry devil roams the hallways when the sun goes down. Pepper rallies three other inmates in a plot to fight back. But can the Devil die?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Pepper arrives at New Hyde Hospital in handcuffs, led inside by three cops. What are your first impressions of Pepper because of this? What assumptions do you make about him? How long does it take for those initial impressions to change?
2. New Hyde's psychiatric unit, Northwest, is located in a public hospital in Queens. In what ways does the author overturn or undermine your ideas of what a psychiatric unit will look like and how it will be run? In what ways does he confirm your ideas?
3. During his intake meeting Pepper learns that he'll be held for observation for seventy-two hours. He reacts badly to this. How do you imagine you might react upon learning that you were trapped within this system? What might you do differently? Do you think it would help?
4. Dorry explains that she makes a point of greeting all newly admitted patients when they arrive at New Hyde. Why does Dorry do this? How would you imagine you would react to meeting Dorry when you first arrived? Why do you think Pepper and Dorry bond in the way they soon do?

For more discussion questions visit www.RandomHouseReadersCircle.com

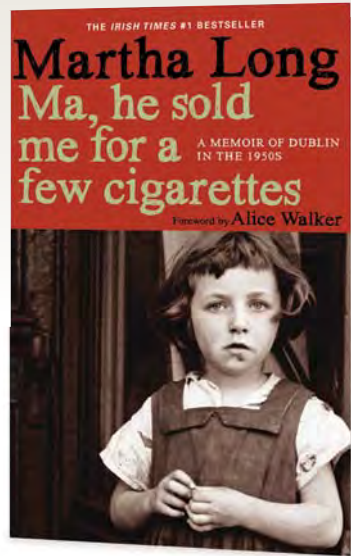
Martha Long Ma, He Sold Me for a Few Cigarettes: A Memoir of Dublin in the 1950s

978-1-60980-414-5 | \$26.95 | Seven Stories Press | HC
978-1-60980-415-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
A heartbreaking coming of age
story set in Dublin.

**"Not for the faint of heart, Long's
story is a gritty, grueling, and heartbreaking
testament to one girl's unbreakable spirit."**

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)



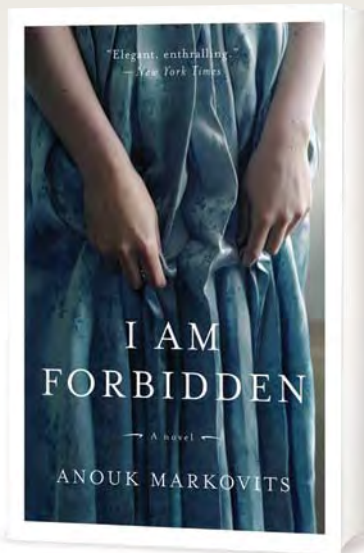
ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Martha Long's feckless mother hooks up with the Jackser ("that bandy aul bastard"), and starts having more babies, the abuse and poverty in the house grow more acute. Martha is regularly sent out to beg and more often steal, and her wiles (as a child of 7 or 8) are often the only thing keeping food on the table. Jackser is a master of paranoid anger and outburst, keeping the children in an unheated tenement, unable to go to school, at the ready for his unpredictable rages. Then Martha is sent by Jackser to a man he knows in exchange for the price of a few cigarettes. She is nine. She is filthy, lice-ridden, and outcast. Martha and Ma escape to England, but for an itinerant Irishwoman, finding work in late 1950s England is a near impossibility.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Martha Long's telling of her earliest years is written in the vernacular of working class 1950s Dublin. How does hearing the voice and language of the day and place affect your reading of the story and your understanding of Martha's life? Are there other books you have read in which the use of native speech dramatically affected the telling of the story?
2. In the Author's Note Martha writes that she "tried to rid myself of the voice of the little girl I had once been...But she was always there in the background, haunting me and waiting for her chance to burst back into life." Why do you think Martha tried to rid herself of her childhood voice? And why do you think Little Martha insisted on being heard?
3. Do you think Martha's experiences growing up in Dublin in the 1950s could happen today? Which elements of her life were typical of the time and which elements might you find today? Could the abuse and privation still happen? The poverty and hunger? Were gender roles more clearly defined? What changes in society have made a story like Martha's impossible now if any?

For more discussion questions visit www.SevenStories.com/Book-Club-Picks/



Anouk Markovits

I Am Forbidden:

A Novel

978-0-307-98474-6 | \$14.00 | Hogarth | TR

📞 978-0-307-98475-3

📻 CD: 978-0-449-01053-2 | 📻 AD: 978-0-449-01054-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

A novel with the gorgeous prose and historical context of *Suite Française* and *The Tiger's Wife*, the look inside another culture such as in *The 19th Wife*, and a story of breaking away from family and culture as shown in Jeannette Walls's *The Glass Castle* and Carolyn Jessop's *Escape*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A family is torn apart by fierce belief and private longing in this unprecedented journey deep inside the most insular sect of Hasidic Jews, the Satmar.

Opening in 1939 Transylvania, five-year-old Josef witnesses the murder of his family by the Romanian Iron Guard and is rescued by a Christian maid to be raised as her own son. Five years later, Josef rescues a young girl, Mila, after her parents are killed while running to meet the Rebbe they hoped would save them. Josef helps Mila reach Zalman Stern, a leader in the Satmar community, in whose home Mila is raised as a sister to Zalman's daughter, Atara. With the rise of communism in central Europe, the family moves to Paris, to the Marais, where Zalman tries to raise his children apart from the city in which they live. Mila's faith intensifies, while her beloved sister Atara discovers a world of books and learning that she cannot ignore.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The opening scene powerfully illustrates ultra Orthodox Jewish teachings regarding the struggle between body and soul. What is the nature of Zalman's sin? What does this scene tell us about the yearning for holiness depicted throughout the book?
2. After Florina rescues Josef, what do she and Josef learn from each other? Which aspects of Josef remain within Anghel in Book I, and which aspects of Anghel remain within Josef later in life?
3. Discuss the "I" in the title. Which character or characters do you think it most refers to? Throughout the generations, how do the novel's characters perceive themselves? How are they shaped by the quest for an identity of purity and piety?

For additional features, visit www.AnoukMarkovits.com

Robert K. Massie

Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman

978-0-345-40877-8 | \$20.00/\$24.00C | RH Trade Paperbacks | TR

978-1-58836-044-1

CD: 978-0-307-97021-3 | AD: 978-0-307-97022-0

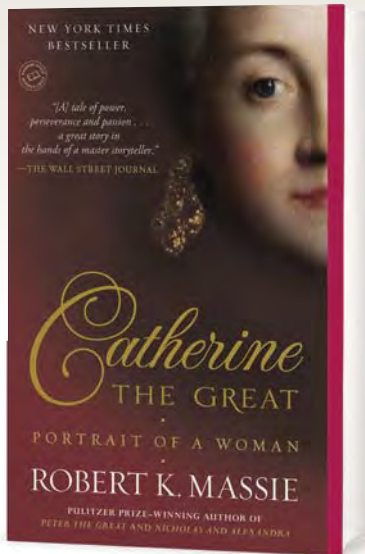
READERS' ADVISORY:

A gripping biography, perfect for history lovers, fans of the great epic Russian novels, and readers of Robert Massie's previous books.

"[A] compelling portrait not just of a Russian titan, but also of a flesh-and-blood woman."

—*Newsweek*

Winner of the 2012 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction



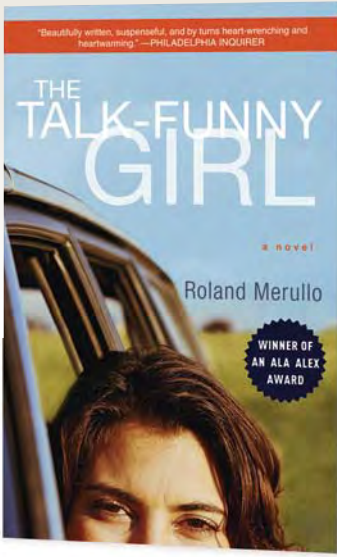
ABOUT THE BOOK:

The Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *Peter the Great*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *The Romanovs* returns with another masterpiece of narrative biography, the extraordinary story of an obscure German princess who became one of the most remarkable and powerful women in history. Born into a minor noble family, Catherine transformed herself into empress of Russia by sheer determination. For thirty-four years, the government, foreign policy, cultural development, and welfare of the Russian people were in her hands. She dealt with domestic rebellion, foreign wars, and the tidal wave of political change and violence churned up by the French Revolution. Catherine's family, friends, ministers, generals, lovers, and enemies—all are here, vividly brought to life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did you know about Catherine the Great before reading this book? Were there things you learned from the book that matched your previous impressions of her? What did you learn about her that surprised you?
2. How important were Catherine's memoirs to the portrait Massie draws of her? What aspects of Catherine and her early life would we have missed had she not written her memoirs? What reasons might she have had for concluding them at the point she did and not writing about the years after 1758?
3. In the first chapter, Massie writes: "Even as Empress Catherine, at the height of her autocratic power, she wished not only to be admired for her extraordinary mind and obeyed as an empress, but also to find the elemental creature warmth that her brother—but not she—had been given by her mother." In what ways did this wish manifest itself in Catherine's life?

For more discussion questions visit www.RandomHouse.com



Roland Merullo

The Talk-Funny Girl: A Novel

978-0-307-45293-1 | \$14.00/\$17.00C | Broadway | TR
📞 978-0-307-45294-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

This ALEX Award winner is for readers of *Bastard Out of Carolina* and the author's previous novels, *Breakfast with Buddha*, *A Little Love Story*, and *American Savior*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

A beautifully written coming-of-age story that is a testament to one young woman's courage and the healing force of love.

Marjorie is raised by parents so intentionally isolated from normal human society that they develop their own dialect, a kind of mountain hybrid of English that displays both their ignorance of and disdain for the wider world. As the nearby factory town sinks deeper into economic ruin, Marjorie is rescued from her own private hell in unique fashion: she is hired by a man, himself a victim of abuse, who is building what he calls "a cathedral," right in the center of town. Day by day, Marjorie's skills as a stoneworker increase, and so does her discomfort with the bitter rules of her family life. Slowly, she discovers what is lovable within herself, and this new confidence enables her to break free, start a family of her own, and try to fully heal her wounds without passing the pain on to her own children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. From Marjorie's father to Aaron Patanauk, many of the characters are caught in the same patterns as their parents. Do you think that it's their hereditary nature, or just the way they were raised? What enabled some characters to break free of the influence of their families, and not others?
2. Did it surprise you to find out that Sands was a Quaker? What did his faith tell you about his character?
3. Why do you think Marjorie was hesitant to speak correctly, even when she wasn't with her family? Why was their shared language so important to her?
4. What is the real significance of the cathedral, for Marjorie and for Sands? What does it mean to each of them?
5. Why do Marjorie's parents hurt all those girls? Who do you think is really responsible for those actions?

Edward Kelsey Moore
**The Supremes
at Earl's
All-You-Can-Eat:**
A Novel

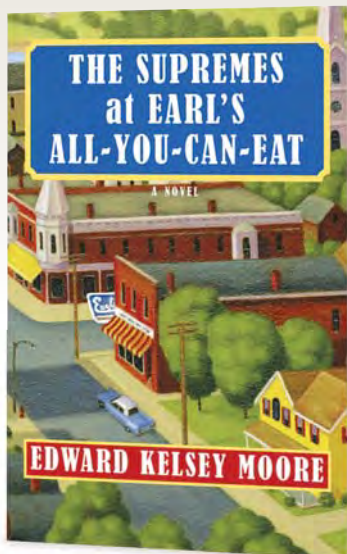
978-0-307-95992-8 | \$24.95/\$28.95C | Knopf | HC

978-0-307-95993-5

AD: 978-0-385-36290-0 | CD: 978-0-385-36289-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

This book could easily be suggested to readers of *Steel Magnolias*, *Waiting to Exhale*, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, or *Fried Green Tomatoes*.



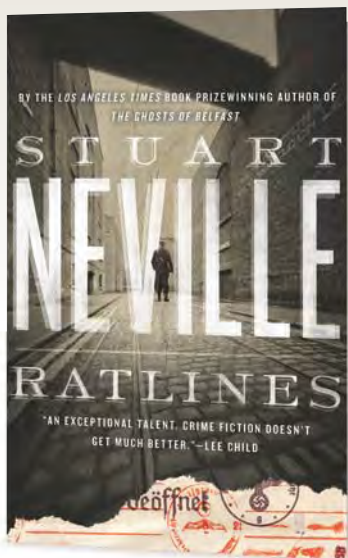
ABOUT THE BOOK:

When Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean meet as teenagers in the mid-sixties, the civil rights movement is moving along and so are their everyday lives. Their regular gathering place is Earl's All-You-Can-Eat diner, the first black-owned business in downtown Plainview, Indiana. Dubbed the Supremes by their friends, the inseparable trio is watched over by big-hearted Earl during their complicated high school days, and then every Sunday after church as they marry, and have children and grandchildren. Sitting at the same table for almost forty years, these best friends grow up, gossip, and face the world together with pointed humor, some sorrow, and much joy. Meet Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean—once you meet them, they will be your friends forever...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Ghosts appear throughout the novel. What does Odette's mother's voice add to the story? What kind of personality comes through? In what ways does she represent a voice of wisdom and can this be helpful or aggravating to Odette?
2. Odette was born in a sycamore tree. Barbara Jean was born on the wrong side of the tracks. Clarice was the first black baby to be born in an all white hospital. How do the circumstances of each woman's birth shape their choices as adults? Their interactions with one another? Their relationships with their husbands?
3. Commenting on "the tender considerations that came with being a member of the Supremes," Odette says: "We overlooked each other's flaws and treated each other well, even when we didn't deserve it." What other qualities make the friendship between the three women so extraordinary? In what ways do they help each other?
4. The chapters alternate between Odette's voice and an omniscient third person narrator. What is the effect of this in storytelling? Why does Moore use Odette's voice as a narrator rather than Clarice or Barbara Jean's?

For more discussion questions visit <http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Stuart Neville

Ratlines

978-1-61695-204-4 | \$26.95/ \$26.95C | Soho Press | HC
📞 978-1-61695-205-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

“Neville, whose debut, *The Ghosts of Belfast*, won the 2010 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Best Mystery/Thriller, concocts a believable plot with an intriguing protagonist torn between duty to country and his distaste for Nazi criminals. Fans of Jack Higgins and Ken Follett will enjoy this novel.”

—*Library Journal*

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ireland 1963. As the Irish people prepare to welcome President John F. Kennedy to the land of his ancestors, a German national is murdered in a seaside guesthouse. Lieutenant Albert Ryan, Directorate of Intelligence, is ordered to investigate. The German is the third foreigner to die within a few days, and Minister for Justice Charles Haughey wants the killing to end lest a shameful secret be exposed: the dead men were all Nazis granted asylum by the Irish government in the years following World War II.

When Ryan closes in on the killers, his loyalty is torn between country and conscience. Why must he protect the very people he fought against twenty years before?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Ratlines* is a work of fiction and yet it reveals the shocking history of Ireland's role in harboring Nazis after World War II. In what ways do you think fiction is equipped to discuss controversial? Have your opinions on the roles of fiction and nonfiction changed after reading *Ratlines*?
2. From spy novels to horror stories, Frederick Forsyth to Stephen King, writers have been compelled to write stories about escaped Nazis after the end of World War II. What about this topic compels us?
3. The original title of *Ratlines* was *The Dweller on the Threshold* and in Chapter 19 we encounter this term via the Breton Nazi sympathizer-turned-author, Catherine Beauchamp. Why do you think the author originally thought about using this as the title? How important is a title to you as a reader?
4. Lieutenant Albert Ryan is a man between worlds. On one hand he wants to be a patriot and defend his country's honor and on the other he resents having to do so to the benefit of the very people he fought against in World War II. What other ways does Ryan find himself caught between his culture, duty and individual beliefs?

For more discussion questions visit www.SohoPress.com

Chris Pavone

The Expats: A Novel

978-0-7704-3572-1 | \$15.00/\$17.00C | Broadway | TR
978-0-307-95637-8
CD: 978-0-307-99031-0 | AD: 978-0-307-99032-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

Hailed by Patricia Cornwell as “bristling with suspense” and praised by John Grisham as reminiscent of early novels by Ken Follett, Frederick Forsyth, and Robert Ludlum, *The Expats* garnered coast-to-coast acclaim, marking the debut of an unforgettable new voice in American fiction.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

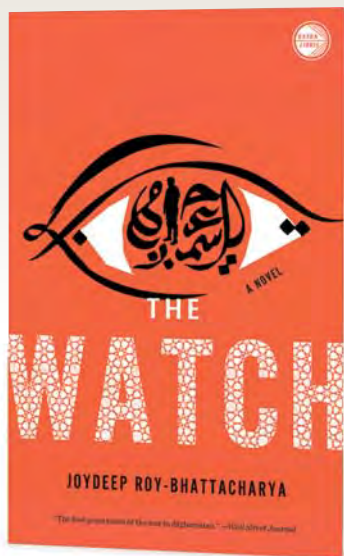
An international thriller, *The Expats* is the story of a seemingly ordinary working mom, Kate Moore, whose husband, Dexter, is offered a lucrative job in Luxembourg—a move that will unravel everything they believed about each other. Kate and Dexter have struggled to make ends meet, so they jump at the chance to start a new life abroad with the promise of rich rewards. But Kate has been leading a double life, and leaving America forces her to abandon her dangerous but heroic job. She soon discovers that it will be harder than she thought to shed her past, especially while coping with the weight of an unbearable secret. Dexter seems to be keeping secrets of his own, working long hours for a banking client whose name he can't reveal. When another American couple befriends them, Kate begins to peel back the layers of deception that surround her, revealing a heart-stopping con that threatens her family, her marriage, and her life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Kate's sense of self shift throughout the novel? In the end, how does she reconcile the roles of wife, mom, and adrenaline-seeking agent?
2. In chapter ten, Kate thinks about crossing an unspoken line that exists in many marriages: “You know the lines are there, you feel them: the things you don't discuss. . . . You go about your business, as far away from these lines as possible, pretending they're not there.” To what degree did Kate and Dexter deceive themselves, as much as they deceived each other? Is complete honesty realistic for most married couples?
3. After working hard to keep her own career a secret from Dexter, why is it hard for Kate to accept his secrecy about his job? Was she setting a double standard or just responding to her well-honed instincts?

For additional features, visit www.ChrisPavone.com

To inquire about having the author visit your reading group via phone or video chat, please email crownreadinggroups@randomhouse.com.



Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya

The Watch: A Novel

978-0-307-95591-3 | \$15.00 | Hogarth | TR

📞 978-0-307-95590-6

📍 AD: 978-0-449-01177-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

Like the works of Tim O'Brien and Robert Stone, Roy-Bhattacharya's novel is one that raises questions and exposes truth about a war experience that is unlike those of the past.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Just as *The Things They Carried* transformed our understanding of America's war in Vietnam, *The Watch* is a gripping, eye-opening novel of Operation Enduring Freedom—the war against Afghanistan's Taliban that has lasted for more than a decade and claimed the lives of over 2,000 U.S. troops. Unfolding in a series of captivating scenes, *The Watch* opens with the voice of an unlikely narrator—a lone Afghan woman who arrives at an isolated army base in Kandahar and demands the return of her brother's body. Is she truly a grieving family member, or is she a suicide bomber? As individual soldiers and their translator tell the rest of the story, the answer becomes a haunting revelation that gives voice to all sides in this heartbreaking, history-steeped conflict. Taking us deep inside the tense, claustrophobic atmosphere of the camp, where military personnel struggle with the constant threat of terror and undefined battle lines, *The Watch* delivers a powerful portrait of modern warfare.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In ancient Greek lore, Antigone (pronounced *anne-TIH-guh-nee*) is a defiant young woman willing to risk her life so that her brother's body can receive proper burial rites. As Nizam confronts the army, what timeless questions of religious faith versus secular power is she raising? What gives women like Antigone and Nizam, living in male-dominated cultures, the strength to wage wars of conscience?
2. What were your initial theories about Nizam? How did your opinion of her, and of the U.S. soldiers, shift throughout the novel?
3. As with Antigone's brother, the guilt or innocence of Nizam's brother makes for a provocative debate. The motivations of Nizam's brother are probed in-depth in "Captain," at 0545, a scene in which Tanner asks, "Will someone please tell me who the good guys are?" What's the best answer to his question?

For more discussion questions visit <http://CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides>

Will Schwalbe The End of Your Life Book Club

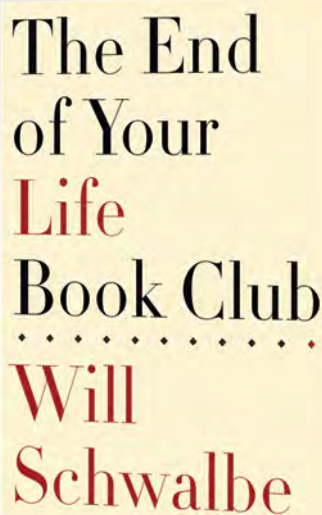
978-0-307-59403-7 | \$25.00 | Knopf | HC
978-0-307-39966-3 | \$29.95C | Knopf Canada

978-0-307-96111-2

AD: 978-0-449-80666-1 | CD: 978-0-449-80663-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

The inspiring story of a young man and his dying mother forming a “book club” that brings them closer as her life comes to a close. Perfect for readers of *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Year of Magical Thinking*.



The End
of Your
Life
Book Club
.....
Will
Schwalbe

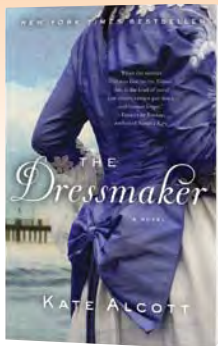
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Mary Anne Schwalbe was an educator and spent ten years building libraries in Afghanistan. But her story here begins at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where, accompanied by her son, she is waiting for chemotherapy treatments to begin. Will casually asks her what she’s been reading, and the conversation they have grows into tradition: soon they are reading the same books in order to talk about them as Mary Anne is given her treatments. The books they read range from classic to popular, from fantastic to spiritual, and we hear their passion for reading and their love for each other in their dynamic and searching discussions around each one.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Does this book have a central theme? What is it?
2. Why does Mary Anne always read a book’s ending first? How does this reflect her character?
3. Early in the book, Will writes, “I wanted to learn more about my mother’s life and the choices she’d made, so I often steered the conversation there. She had an agenda of her own, as she almost always did. It took me some time, and some help, to figure it out.” What was Mary Anne’s agenda?
4. Mary Anne underlined a passage in *Seventy Verses on Emptiness*, which resonated with Will: “Permanent is not; impermanent is not; a self is not; not a self [is not]; clean is not; not clean is not; happy is not; suffering is not.” Why did this strike both of them as significant? What do you think it means?
5. Throughout the book, Will talks about books as symbols and sources of hope. How has reading books served a similar function for you?

For more discussion questions visit <http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Kate Alcott

The Dressmaker: A Novel

978-0-307-94819-9 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Anchor | TR
 978-0-385-53562-5 | AD: 978-0-307-97015-2 | CD: 978-0-307-97014-5

Aspiring seamstress Tess thinks she's had an incredibly lucky break when she is hired by famous designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon to be a personal maid on the Titanic's doomed voyage. But disaster strikes, and amidst the chaos Tess is one of the last people allowed on a lifeboat. When dangerous rumors about the survivors begin to circulate, Lady Duff Gordon quickly becomes the subject of media scorn and official inquest.

"*The Dressmaker* will appeal to readers of other historical book group favorites, *The Paris Wife* and *Loving Frank*." —*Book Group Buzz, A Booklist Blog*

For Discussion Questions Visit:

<http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Margot Berwin

Scent of Darkness: A Novel

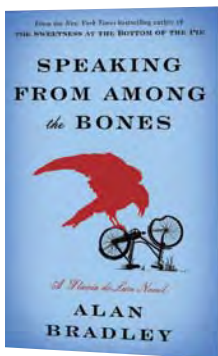
978-0-307-90752-3 | \$25.00/\$29.95C | Pantheon | HC
 978-0-307-90753-0 | AD: 978-0-385-36344-0 | CD: 978-0-385-36343-3

Evangeline is eighteen years old when her grandmother gives her the ultimate gift—a scent she has created just for her. From the moment Eva places a drop on her neck, her entire life changes. Previously unnoticed, she becomes the object of intense desire for everyone around her. But soon the gift begins to control Eva's life.

For readers of Aimee Bender's *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*, Vanessa Diffenbaugh's *The Language of Flowers*, and the works of Alice Hoffman.

For Discussion Questions Visit:

<http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



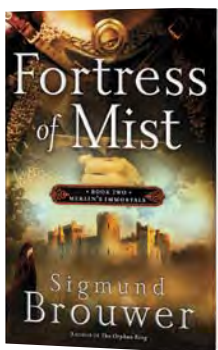
Alan Bradley

Speaking from Among the Bones:

A Flavia de Luce Novel

978-0-385-34403-6 | \$24.00 | Delacorte Press | HC
 978-0-385-66812-5 | \$29.95C | Doubleday Canada | HC
 978-0-345-53868-0 | CD: 978-0-307-87983-7 | AD: 978-0-307-87984-4

Eleven-year-old amateur detective and ardent chemist Flavia de Luce is used to digging up clues, whether they're among the potions in her laboratory or between the pages of her sisters' diaries. What she is not accustomed to is digging up bodies. And, when the tomb of St. Tancred is opened at a village church, its shocking contents lead to another case for the young sleuth.



Sigmund Brouwer

Fortress of Mist:

Book 2 in the Merlin's Immortals series

978-1-4000-7155-5 | \$7.99/\$9.99C | WaterBrook Press | TR
 978-0-307-73122-7

For readers of medieval fantasy like Lisa T. Bergren's *River of Time* series or the novels of Bryan Davis, *Fortress of Mist* is a thrill-ride of adventure, romance, and drama.

Also available:

The Orphan King: Book 1 in the Merlin's Immortals series

978-1-4000-7154-8 | \$7.99/\$9.99C | WaterBrook Press | TR | 978-0-307-73065-7



Ernest Cline **Ready Player One: A Novel**

978-0-307-88744-3 | \$14.00/\$17.00C | Broadway | TR
 978-0-307-88745-0 | AD: 978-0-307-91316-6 | CD: 978-0-307-97006-0

“Willy Wonka meets the Matrix” (*USA Today*) in this jaw-droppingly cinematic debut that’s part virtual space opera, part classic coming-of-age story—and part brilliant pop-culture mashup.

2012 ALEX Award Winner

For fans of dystopian novels like *The Hunger Games*, *World War Z* and *Un Lun Dun*.

For Discussion Questions Visit:
<http://CrownPublishing.com/Readers-Guides>



Carolina De Robertis **Perla**

978-0-307-74417-3 | \$15.00/\$18.00C | Vintage | TR
 978-0-307-95738-2 | AD: 978-0-307-96961-3

Perla Correa grew up a privileged only child in Buenos Aires, with a cold, polished mother and a straitlaced naval officer father, whose profession she learned early on not to disclose in a country still reeling from the abuses perpetrated by the deposed military dictatorship. But when Perla is startled by an uninvited visitor, she begins a journey that will force her to confront the unease she has suppressed all her life.

For readers of Isabel Allende and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

For Discussion Questions Visit:
<http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Kate Ellison **The Butterfly Clues**

978-1-60684-263-8 | \$17.99/\$19.99C | Egmont, USA | HC | 978-1-60684-268-3
 978-1-60684-417-5 | TR

Penelope (Lo) Marin has always loved to collect beautiful things. But in the year since her brother Oren’s death, Lo’s hoarding has blossomed into a full-blown, potentially dangerous obsession. She discovers a beautiful, antique butterfly pendant during a routine scour at a weekend flea market, and recognizes it as having been stolen from the home of a recently murdered girl known only as “Sapphire.” She attempts to piece together the mysterious “butterfly clues.” Lo quickly finds herself caught up in a seedy, violent underworld much closer to home than she ever imagined—a world, she’ll ultimately discover, that could hold the key to her brother’s tragic death.

For Discussion Questions Visit:
<http://KateEllison.com/miscellany.php>



Rebecca Harrington **Penelope: A Novel**

978-0-307-95031-4 | \$14.95/\$17.95C | Vintage | TR | 978-0-307-95033-8

When Penelope O’Shaunessy steps into Harvard Yard for the first time she has lots of advice from her mother: “Don’t be too enthusiastic, don’t talk to people who seem to be getting annoyed, and for heaven’s sake, stop playing Tetris on your phone at parties.” Penelope needs this advice. She is the kind of girl who can’t quite tell when people are joking and who, inevitably, always says the wrong thing. But no amount of coaching will prepare Penelope for the people she meets at school.

For readers of *Prep* and *Commencement* to *I Am Charlotte Simmons*.

For Discussion Questions Visit:
<http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Dan Josefsen

That's Not a Feeling: A Novel

978-1-61695-188-7 | \$15.95/\$18.95C | Soho Press | TR | 978-1-61695-189-4

Benjamin arrives with his parents for a tour of Roaring Orchards, a therapeutic boarding school tucked away in upstate New York. Suddenly, his parents are gone and Benjamin learns that he is there to stay. Sixteen years old, a two-time failed suicide, he must navigate his way through a new world of morning meds, popped privileges, candor meetings and cartoon brunches—all run by adults who themselves have yet to really come of age. The only person who comprehends the school's many rules and rituals is Aubrey, the founder and headmaster. Fragile, brilliant, and prone to rages, he is as likely to use his authority to reward students as to punish them.

For readers of *Skippy Dies*—praised by David Foster Wallace.



Laura Lam

Pantomime

978-1-908844-37-8 | \$9.99/\$10.99C | Strange Chemistry | TR | 978-1-908844-38-5

Ragona's Circus of Magic is the greatest circus on Ellada. Nestled among the glowing blue Pengliss — remnants of a mysterious civilization long gone — are wonders beyond the wildest imagination. It's a place where if you close your eyes you can believe that the magic and knowledge of the vanished Chimeras is still there. Iphigenia Laurus, or Gene, is uncomfortable in corsets and crinolines, and prefers climbing trees to debutante balls. Micah Grey, a runaway living on the streets, joins the circus as an aerialist's apprentice and soon becomes the circus's rising star. But Gene and Micah have balancing acts of their own to perform, and a secret in their blood that could unlock the mysteries of Ellada.

Perfect for fans of Robin Hobb's *Farseer Trilogy* and Tamora Pierce's "*Torall*" novels—with the circus setting of *Water for Elephants*.



Jerry McGill

Dear Marcus: A Letter to the Man Who Shot Me

978-0-8129-8316-6 | \$14.00/\$17.00C | Spiegel & Grau | TR
978-0-679-64460-6

For Jerry McGill everything changed one night when he was thirteen. Walking home from a New Year's party with a friend, he was shot in the back by an unknown assailant, who was never caught. McGill learned that he would be wheelchair-bound for life. Written as a letter to the man who shot him, whom he decides to call Marcus, *Dear Marcus* is a reflection on McGill's childhood, the event that changed his life, the challenges of living with a disability, and the importance of optimism, forgiveness, and making the most of our gifts.

"Violence, hope, despair, forgiveness, anger, and living with a disability are explored both lightly and deeply, humorously and profoundly, and always honestly." —*Library Journal* (starred review)



China Miéville

Railsea

978-0-345-52452-2 | \$18.00/\$21.00C | Del Rey | HC
978-0-345-52453-9 | \$10.99/\$12.99C | Del Rey | TR | April 2013
978-0-345-52454-6 | AD: 978-0-307-96737-4

On board the moletrain Medes, Sham watches in awe as he witnesses his first moldywarpe hunt: the giant mole bursting from the earth, the harpoonists targeting their prey, the battle resulting in one's death and the other's glory. But Sham can't shake the sense that there is more to life than traveling the endless rails of the railsea—even if his captain can think only of the hunt for the ivory-coloured mole that took her arm all those years ago. A gripping and brilliantly imagined take on Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*.



Jacquelyn Mitchard **What We Saw At Night**

978-1-61695-141-2 | \$17.99/\$17.99C | Soho Press | HC | 📞 9781616951412

Like the yearning, doomed young clones in Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, three teenagers with XP (a life-threatening allergy to sunlight) are a species unto themselves. As seen through eyes of 16-year-old Allie Kim, they roam the silent streets, looking for adventure, while others sleep. When Allie's best friend introduces the trio to Parkour, the stunt-sport of running and climbing off forest cliffs and tall buildings (risky in daylight and potentially deadly by darkness), they feel truly alive, equal to the "daytimers." On a random summer night, while scaling a building like any other, the three happen to peer into an empty apartment and glimpse an older man with what looks like a dead girl. A game of cat-and-mouse ensues that escalates through the underground world of hospital confinement, off-the-grid sports, and forbidden love.



Andrew Porter **In Between Days: A Novel**

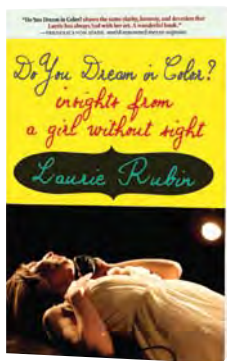
978-0-307-27351-2 | \$24.95/\$28.95C | Knopf | HC | 📞 978-0-307-96107-5

The Harding family of Houston is in the midst of an upheaval. Recently divorced, Elson and Cadence find themselves thrown together when their daughter, Chloe, returns home after being forced to leave her East Coast college under troubling circumstances. When Chloe's boyfriend, Raja, also flees to Houston, bonds of friendship and family are tested to their breaking points.

For readers of *The Virgin Suicides*, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Alice Munro.

For Discussion Questions Visit:

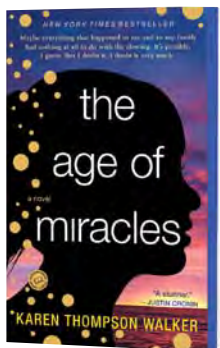
<http://Reading-Group-Center.KnopfDoubleday.com/>



Laurie Rubin **Do You Dream in Color?: Insights from a Girl Without Sight**

978-1-60980-424-4 | \$18.95 | Seven Stories | TR | 📞 9781609804244

In this memoir, Laurie Rubin looks back on her life as an international opera singer who happens to be blind. From her loneliness and isolation as a middle school student to her experiences skiing, Rubin offers her young readers a life-story rich in detail and inspiration drawn from everyday challenges. Beginning with her childhood in California, Rubin tells the story of her life and the amazing experiences that led her to a career as an internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano.



Karen Thompson Walker **The Age of Miracles: A Novel**

978-0-8129-8294-7 | \$15.00 | Random House Trade Paperbacks | TR

978-0-385-67665-6 | \$19.95C | Anchor Canada | TR

📞 978-0-679-64438-5 | 📻 CD: 978-0-307-97071-8 | 📻 AD: 978-0-307-97072-5

On a seemingly ordinary Saturday in a California suburb, Julia and her family awake to discover that the rotation of the earth has suddenly begun to slow. The days and nights grow longer and longer, gravity is affected, the environment is thrown into disarray. Yet as she struggles to navigate an ever-shifting landscape, Julia is also coping with the normal disasters of everyday life—the fissures in her parents' marriage, the loss of old friends, and the hopeful anguish of first love.

For Discussion Questions Visit:

www.TheAgeOfMiraclesBook.com



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