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# BOOK CLUB

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VOLUME 32



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

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Tolani Akinola  
**Leave Your  
Mess at Home:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-83419-0 | \$29.00/\$39.99C | Pamela Dorman Books | HC

📖 978-0-593-83420-6 | 📖 DN: 979-8-217-28306-4

📖 LP: 979-8-217-29463-3

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of *Real Americans*, *Leave Your Mess at Home* is a poignant exploration of forgiveness, unconditional love, and becoming who you want to be, asking the question: what do we owe to our families, and what do we owe to ourselves?



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Sola Longe, eldest daughter, estranged from the family, is secretly back home in Chicago for the first time in a decade. She's a newly single and recently disgraced influencer trying to quietly put her life back together again. The other three Longe siblings aren't doing much better.

Anjola is in love with her best friend, who just got engaged to someone else; Karen, a college junior and the baby of the family, is grappling with her sexuality and self-image; and Ola, the golden child with a baby of his own on the way, is questioning his marriage and how to raise a Black son in America.

Sola's unexpected return sets them on a crash course towards each other, and when the four siblings find themselves together again at their Nigerian immigrant parents' Thanksgiving table, a decade's worth of secrets and a lifetime of resentments explode to the fore.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Anjola recalls a deep closeness between she and Sola as children, but Sola remembers Anjola as wanting "to be good at the expense of everything else. Her goodness a boulder between their mutual understanding." How do each sister's memories shape their actions and expectations of each other in the present?
2. The incident with the crystal vase and the fight between Sola and Latifat is described by Sola, Ola, and Karen. What does each sibling's version tell us about memory and the way they think of one another?
3. As a child, Ola is often called upon to be the man of the house, but as an adult, he fears he will never measure up to the man his father is. What does Ola think it means to be a man? Where do these ideas come from, and how does it affect his romantic and familial relationships?

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



## Judy Batalion

# The Last Woman of Warsaw:

### A Novel

979-8-217-04568-6 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Dutton | HC  
📞 979-8-217-04569-3 | 📄 DN: 979-8-217-28618-8

#### READERS' ADVISORY:

A debut novel by the critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Light of Days*, following two Jewish women in Warsaw in the late 1930s as they unexpectedly come together in their search for love, meaning, and a sense of home. For fans of Kristin Hannah, Ariel Lawhon, and Marie Benedict.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**1** 938: Fanny Zelshinsky is a sophisticated, modern daughter of the city's Jewish elite who wants nothing more than to be recognized as a legitimate artist by her family and the world at large.

Meanwhile, Zosia Dror, part of a budding youth movement, has left behind her small northeastern shtetl and religious family in the wake of violence.

When legendary artist Wanda Petrovsky—both a member of Zosia's movement leadership and Fanny's beloved photography professor—goes missing, the two young women are thrown together in the pursuit of the elusive firebrand. Fanny and Zosia must bridge their differences to help someone they both care for—and dodge the danger mounting around them in the process.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the opening scene of an unnamed character deciding between Warsaw and Milan set the tone of the book?
2. Judy Batalion brings the reader into interwar Poland. What did you know about this time period? Did you learn anything that surprised you?
3. What does being Jewish mean to Zosia and Fanny? How do their feelings change during the book?
4. Taking photos is Fanny's passion. How does being a photographer shape how Fanny sees the world?
5. How does history start to seep into the novel, and what do you make of how it shapes the characters and their choices?
6. How did you feel reading the epilogue? Why do you think the author chose the presentation format for that section? Did you expect the futures that awaited the characters?

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

# Woody Brown

## Upward Bound:

### A Novel

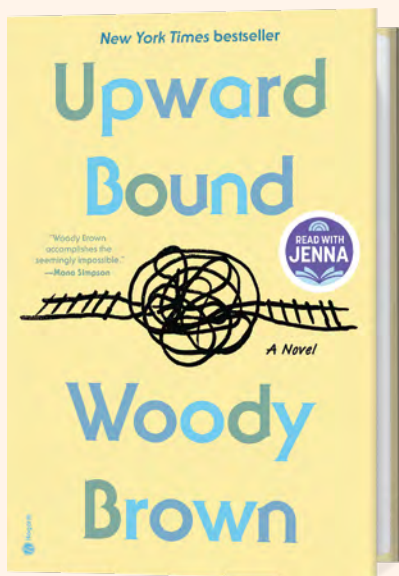
9780-5-939-7997-6 | \$28.00/\$38.99C | Hogarth | HC

📞 978-0-593-97998-3 | 🎧 DN: 979-8-217-27879-4

📻 LP: 979-8-217-34821-3

#### READERS' ADVISORY: A READ WITH JENNA PICK

A wondrous, deeply affecting portrait of the interlocking lives at an adult day care center in Southern California—for readers of *There, There*; *Disappearing Earth*; *True Biz*; *The Reason I Jump*; and *Happiness Falls*.



#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

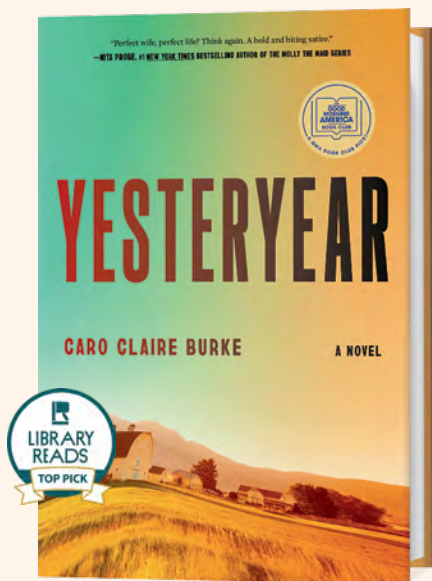
**U**pward Bound is not a place anyone dreams of spending their days. The dreary adult daycare center for Los Angeles's disabled community is, for many, a place of last resort. This includes Carlos, a young aide who lost his mother as a boy; Jorge, the gentle nonspeaking giant whom Carlos seeks to befriend; Tom, a beautiful young man with cerebral palsy who pines for Ann, the summer lifeguard at the center's pool. Then there's Dave, Upward Bound's director, who came to L.A. to pursue an acting career but now channels his passion into staging a holiday show starring the center's irrepensible clients. Framing these intertwined narratives—and connecting them in surprising, shattering ways—is the riveting and sometimes ironic testimony of Walter, a recent community college graduate who, after a family tragedy, must return to the company of his disabled peers.

In *Upward Bound*, Woody Brown has created an indelible, authentic, and profoundly moving group portrait of autism and other disabilities, all illuminated by his empathy, sly sense of humor, and enormous gifts as a novelist.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What assumptions did you hold about autistic people—especially those who are nonspeaking—before reading *Upward Bound*? How has the novel challenged, reshaped, or reinforced those assumptions?
2. Many characters in the novel are constrained by systems meant to help them—schools, jobs, care facilities, social services. Where did the book make you feel the greatest tension between safety and freedom?
3. Walter states, "People can be elitist when it comes to speech." How does the book challenge this assumption through structure, point of view, and interiority? Which characters are most harmed by this belief, and which benefit from it?

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



## Caro Claire Burke

# Yesteryear:

### A Novel

978-0-593-80421-6 | \$30.00 | Knopf | HC  
978-1-0390-5792-0 | \$27.00C | Knopf Canada | TR  
📞 978-0-593-80422-3 | 📍 DN: 979-8-217-17485-0  
📺 LP: 979-8-217-28785-7

#### READERS' ADVISORY:

#### A GMA BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *Room*, and *Gone Girl*.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**N**atalie lives a traditional lifestyle. Her charming farmhouse is rustic, her husband a handsome cowboy, her six children each more delightful than the last. So what if there are nannies and producers behind the scenes, her kitchen hiding industrial-grade fridges and ovens, her husband the heir to a political dynasty? What Natalie's followers—all 8 million of them—don't know won't hurt them. Until one morning she suddenly awakens in the brutal reality of 1855—where she must unravel whether this living nightmare is an elaborate hoax, a twisted reality show, or something far more sinister in this sensational debut novel.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did your opinion of Natalie change over the course of the book, especially as you learned more about her personal background, the origins of Yesteryear Ranch, and her transformation after Shannon's allegations?
2. Do you engage with accounts like Natalie's on social media? What's your relationship with them—are you an "Angry Woman" or a fan/sympathizer? How has reading this novel changed the way you view the real-life influencers on which Natalie is based, especially #tradwives?
3. Throughout the book, Natalie compares herself with her college roommate, Reena, whose views on motherhood/womanhood seem to be polar opposites of Natalie's—at first. Does Natalie sometimes long for, or admire, Reena's choices and views? How do you think Natalie's life would have progressed if she hadn't married so young?
4. How does Natalie and Caleb's marriage complicate the distinction between "man's work" and "women's work" in terms of what tasks and responsibilities are valued, paid, seen, and innate? Reflect on your own relationships' "rules" or examples among friends and family.

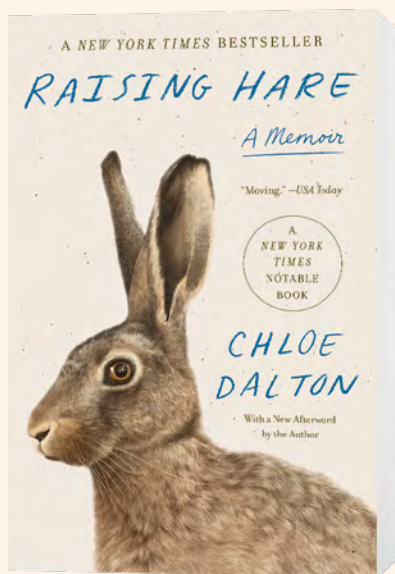
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Chloe Dalton  
**Raising Hare:**  
A Memoir

978-0-593-68900-4 | \$21.00 | Vintage | TR  
978-0-593-70184-3 | \$27.00 | Pantheon | HC  
📖 978-0-593-70185-0 | 📍 DN: 979-8-217-01874-1

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*,  
*His for Hawk*, *The Soul of an Octopus*, and *Fox and I*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

In February 2021, Chloe Dalton stumbles upon a newborn hare—a leveret—that had been chased by a dog. Fearing for its life, she brings it home, only to discover how difficult it is to rear a wild hare, most of whom perish in captivity from either shock or starvation. Through trial and error, she learns to feed and care for the leveret with every intention of returning it to the wilderness. Instead, it becomes her constant companion, wandering the fields and woods at night and returning to Dalton's house by day. Though Dalton feared that the hare would be preyed upon by foxes, weasels, feral cats, raptors, or even people, she never tried to restrict it to the house. Each time the hare leaves, Chloe knows she may never see it again. Yet she also understands that to confine it would be its own kind of death.

A moving and fascinating meditation on freedom, trust, loss, and our relationship with the natural world.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What does the relationship between the narrator and the leveret reveal about the nature of companionship?
2. How does the author's perspective on nature change throughout the memoir?
3. What role does loss play in the narrative, and how does it affect the narrator?
4. Has the book made you think differently about the hare's place in culture and folklore?
5. How does the setting of the English countryside influence the narrative?
6. The memoir repeatedly returns to the idea of freedom, both the hare's and the author's. How does Dalton explore the tension between care and control, and where do you see this tension reflected in human relationships as well?

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



## Monica Datta

# Nebraska

978-1-6626-0306-8 | \$29.00/\$39.99C | Astra House | HC  
📞 978-1-6626-0307-5

### READERS' ADVISORY:

This tragicomic and intellectually ambitious story of the Chatterjee family and the disaster that tore them apart is an urgent new entry in the tradition of the family novel—for fans of Donna Tartt and Jonathan Franzen.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Anna Chatterjee has just been released from prison. Her husband, Prabir, has arrived to take her home and found her already gone; their flighty and artistic grown children, Neal and Nina are left to navigate the fallout both from Anna's disappearance and the trauma that splintered their lives years earlier. But as the story ricochets between past and present, the question looms: Where is Anna now?

As the story moves between decades and continents, Monica Datta considers the twentieth century experiment and its outcomes, often set against the testimony of the spritely Lacanian Jean-Louis Katz, whose life becomes entangled with their own as well as that of the Bengali psychoanalyst B.X. Roy.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Each member of the Chatterjee family, Anna, Prabir, Neal and Nina, are all brilliant and complex, but they can be quite difficult, especially in how they engage with the world. How do they make each other feel? How do they make you feel?
2. Anna Chatterjee may have committed an unspeakable crime. How does she feel about what she did? Can you defend her?
3. The Gubruds seem like really terrible people! Why does Anna live with them for as long as she does?
4. This novel is full of footnotes, but the novel can be read without them. What role do they play? How do they enrich the reading experience?
5. Speaking of footnotes, there's a play between BX Roy and Jean Louis Katz that keeps going until the very last page. What does their back and forth add to the novel?
6. Does Nina's career as an architect define who she is? How do her professional challenges define her life? Or is it the other way around?

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

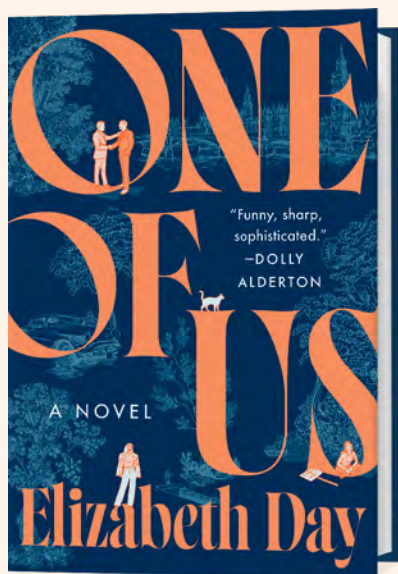
# Elizabeth Day

## One of Us: A Novel

979-8-217-06198-3 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Viking | HC  
📞 979-8-217-06199-0 | 📍 DN: 979-8-217-29390-2

### READERS' ADVISORY:

Delivering incisive commentary on the hypocrisies of the elite, this juicy ensemble drama is a page-turner with teeth, a mash-up of *The Wedding People* and *Succession*—darkly comic and cutting, as well as unexpectedly hopeful.



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

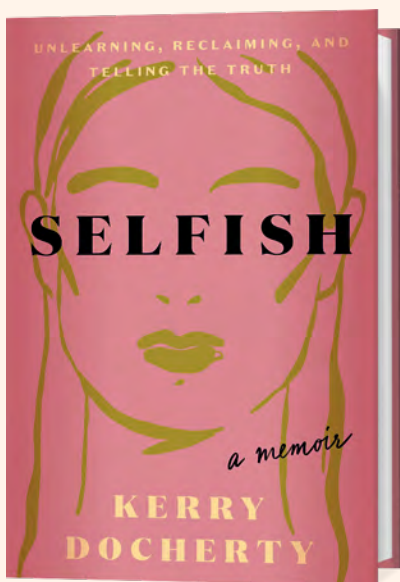
**W**hen Fliss, the eccentric grown daughter of the powerful Fitzmaurice clan, is found dead, what seems like a tragic accident stirs more suspicion than closure for those who've traded favors with—and within—her family for decades.

There is Ben, Fliss's brother, eager to minimize his sister's passing, since it's suddenly clear he's next in line to be Prime Minister. And Martin, who is just happy that Fliss's memorial gives him the chance to re-enter the Fitzmaurice orbit. Ben's wife, Serena, seems to have discovered in middle age that her privileged existence is more like a gilded cage. Ben and Serena's daughter Cosima has become an environmental activist fighting against everything her parents seem to stand for. And Andrew Jarvis and his money: Has he been their loyal hero, or the one who has thrown his weight around just to keep them all in check?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The author suggests that this is a book about why we fall in love with people that we know will damage us—and why we sometimes elect those people, too. What do you make of that kind of relationship both person-to-person and citizen-to-elected official?
2. Reality television plays a significant role in the story. How do the characters use such programs to their advantage in the novel? And do you see that reflected in real life?
3. A number of characters are haunted by failures, sometimes real ones and other times failures only by comparison. Do any characters learn the right lessons? How do you confront failures in your own life?
4. Serena's story explores themes of societal expectations of women, female self-worth, and aging while Cosima's story as a teenage activist fights against these themes. How do you think generational differences affect these characters?

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



## Kerry Docherty

# Selfish:

## Unlearning, Reclaiming, and Telling the Truth

978-0-593-73634-0 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Crown | HC  
📞 978-0-593-73635-7 | 📄 DN: 979-8-217-27952-4

### READERS' ADVISORY:

In this provocative memoir, one woman discovers that after years spent prioritizing other people's needs over her own, she has reached a threshold she is ready to cross: putting herself first. For fans of Glennon Doyle and Tara Schuster.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**W**hat does it mean to be good? What are the consequences of doing what we want? Who determines what is selfish?

These are the questions that haunted Kerry Docherty—the co-founder of Faherty brand, mother of two, and wife—as she realized she was giving away too much of herself: to a marriage with her college sweetheart, to the fast-paced family startup, and to a growing household that demanded attention she didn't always want to give. Determined to feel seen—as an artist, activist, poet, romantic—she began to steal simple moments for herself, replacing her to-do lists with poems, pushing the business towards the things she cared about, and widening her circle of creative friends. However, as she leaned more deeply into her passions and purpose, she found herself veering into an ambiguous relationship with a musician, a potentially destructive direction that would seriously test her marriage.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Kerry describes an internal split that her family warned Alex about—a people pleasing, sunny self and a darker, self-prioritized side. What versions of yourself are in constant conflict?
2. Kerry builds Faherty with her spouse, his twin, and her mother-in-law— blurring lines before they're even drawn. At what point does “family first” become a liability? What boundaries should have been non-negotiable from the start?
3. Living at the office. Sharing a bathroom with employees. Sleeping in the same room. These scenes push intimacy past what most people would tolerate. Did you read these moments as devotion, delusion, or desperation?

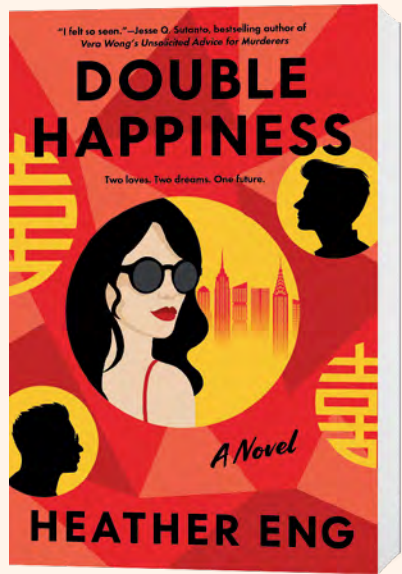
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Heather Eng  
**Double Happiness:**  
A Novel

979-8-217-04698-0 | \$22.00/\$30.99C | Tiny Reparations Books | TR  
📞 979-8-217-04699-7 | 📻 DN: 979-8-217-28610-2

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

Caught between a demanding tech-job, her adoring fiancé, and an unexpected new flame, Mei must learn what it means to choose herself. For readers of *This Could Be Us* and *Evvie Drake Starts Over*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

When Mei Li runs into Alexandre Brodeur at a family function, there's no denying their chemistry. His intelligent eyes and quiet air of mystery have a magnetic effect, drawing her in like never before.

But Mei's carefully constructed life has no room for Alexandre. She's engaged and, after a childhood marked by financial and emotional turmoil, Mei finally has the stability she's always craved.

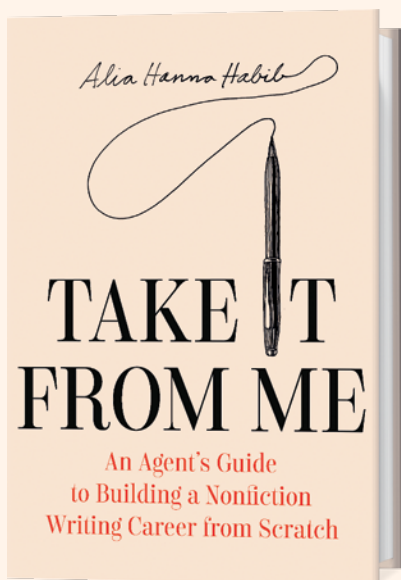
Alexandre is an uncomfortably enticing presence. It doesn't take long for their thoughtful conversations and his electric gaze to get under her skin.

With her wedding date fast approaching, Mei has to make an impossible choice between two very different men. And after she does, she still must figure out what it truly means to have it all.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Mei truly loves Joey, but as their wedding approaches, she becomes uncertain about a future with him. How do you feel about how their relationship played out?
2. Do you think Mei's financial conflict about her relationship with Joey reflects broader societal pressures regarding marriage and personal fulfillment?
3. Mei also stays at Livin because she believes she can change the company for the better. Do you think she was ever in a position to do so? Do you think any of her efforts made Livin more inclusive?
4. In what ways do you think professionals should balance personal life with career ambitions, as portrayed through Mei's struggle in the book?
5. What did you think of the ending? Where do you see Mei and Alexandre five years from now?

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



Alia Hanna Habib

## Take It From Me: An Agent's Guide to Building a Nonfiction Writing Career from Scratch

978-0-593-70087-7 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Pantheon | HC

📖 978-0-593-70088-4 | 📻 DN: 979-8-217-16606-0

### READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of books on writing and publishing by Betsy Lerner, Kory Stamper, Arielle Eckstut, and John McPhee.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**T**ake It from Me is a guidebook for aspiring nonfiction authors. Alia Hanna Habib, with the unique perspective of a literary agent, takes her readers through the nonfiction publication process, from idea generation to querying, from pitching to editing, from marketing to publication and beyond. Drawing on interviews with editors, agents, marketers, and others, Habib's valuable insights into the publishing process offer writers context and clarity as they kick-start and grow their nonfiction writing careers.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the introduction, Alia Hanna Habib outlines her agenting career and personal background. Why do you think she discloses so much about her own experiences in publishing? How does that affect how you see her as an expert?
2. Habib says her first piece of advice for aspiring nonfiction authors is to "aggressively pursue publishing shorter work and to do so with as much upbeat imperviousness to rejection as your heart can muster." Why does she find the pursuit of short-form publication so important?
3. Why does Habib stress the importance of being, or becoming, "the best pitcher of your shorter work"? What do you think makes a good pitch for a short work? For a book? How might you hone your skills in pitching?
4. Take a minute to weigh the pros and cons of the pursuit of an MFA degree laid out in chapter 2. Why might an aspiring author choose to get an MFA or decide not to and to tread a different path?

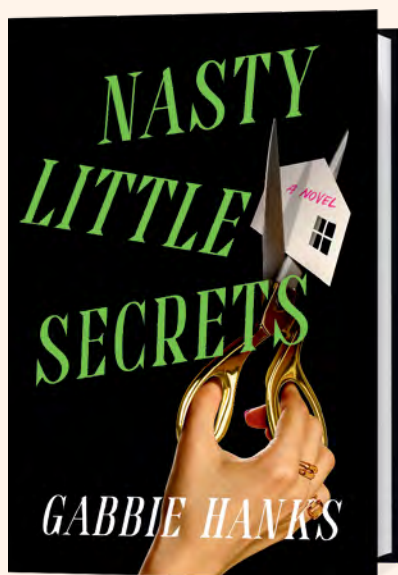
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Gabbie Hanks  
**Nasty Little  
Secrets:**  
A Novel

978-1-63893-320-5 | \$28.00/\$36.99C | Zando | HC  
978-1-63893-321-2 | DN: 979-8-217-34487-1

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For fans of character-driven psychological suspense in the vein of Lisa Jewell and Karin Slaughter.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Rose Darling's life changed forever when her older brother was arrested for the murder of his high school sweetheart, Alexandria Hopely. Now, a decade after the crime that ripped her family and her close-knit Florida hometown apart, Rose is the only one who still believes he didn't do it. So much so that she wrote a bestselling novel about the case, pinning the murder on Alex's father. This may have gained her a reputation for being a lying opportunist, but it has also bought her a new life in Manhattan.

Then Rose gets a call that shatters her world for the second time: her younger sister Hazel has gone missing without a trace. Back home and under the same roof as her family for the first time in years, Rose tries to avoid the dark memories as she searches for her sister. But when connections between Hazel's disappearance and Alex's murder emerge, Rose realizes the past, and her own book, could hold all the answers—including, finally, proof of her brother's innocence.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. *Nasty Little Secrets* explores the idea that families often hide dark secrets despite how perfect things seem on the outside. How did this theme shape the way you saw the characters? Did it change how you interpreted their actions?
2. Rose is driven to prove her brother's innocence. Do you think her personal connection to the case helped or hindered her judgment? Why?
3. How did the dual timeline structure affect your engagement with the storytelling and your understanding of past events?
4. Connections begin to emerge between Hazel's disappearance and Alexandria's murder. When did you start to suspect they were linked, and what clues stood out to you?
5. *Nasty Little Secrets* is set in South Florida in a close-knit community. How does this setting impact the overall story?

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



## April Howells

# The Unforgettable Mailman:

### A Novel

979-8-892-42526-1 | \$19.99/\$25.99C | Alcove Press | TR  
📞 979-8-89242-527-8

#### READERS' ADVISORY:

*The Unforgettable Mailman* is a heartwarming story about intergenerational friendship and the power of human connection, perfect for fans of Fredrik Backman and Virginia Evans' *The Correspondent*.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**1** 966, Chicago. Backlogged with millions of undelivered letters, the post office announces a temporary closure. But eighty-one-year-old Henry Walton can't stand idly by when there's mail waiting to be delivered. He believes letters are what keep people connected, and he's not about to let them get lost in the chaos.

Plus, connection keeps the mind sharp—according to a note someone's pinned up in his kitchen.

While the post office scrambles to get things under control, Henry races against time and forgetfulness. Taking it upon himself to deliver the mail, he discovers hatred and tragedy, triumph and joy in the letters he carries and the people he meets along the way.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the digital age of social media, emails, texts, and video calls, how do you think this constant connectivity impacts authentic human relationships?
2. When did you last write someone a letter? What prompted you to put pen to paper and how did it make you feel?
3. Set in 1966 and focused on physical correspondence, there's a nostalgic quality to the novel. If you could bring anything back from a bygone era, what would you choose?
4. Henry feels a profound sense of duty to help others. Do you agree with his approach to delivering the letters on his own?
5. Faced with a backlog of 10 million letters, post office employees make some questionable decisions to deal with the crisis. What would you have done differently if you were Stokes or Brenda?
6. How has Henry's memory loss inspired you to "live life as if you'll never forget"?

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

Tayari Jones

**Kin:**  
A Novel

978-0-525-65918-1 | \$32.00 | Knopf | HC  
978-0-7352-4044-5 | \$38.00C | Viking Canada | HC  
978-0-525-65919-8 | DN: 978-0-593-91314-7  
LP: 979-8-217-34698-1

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

**OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK**

For readers of Jesmyn Ward and Brit Bennett.



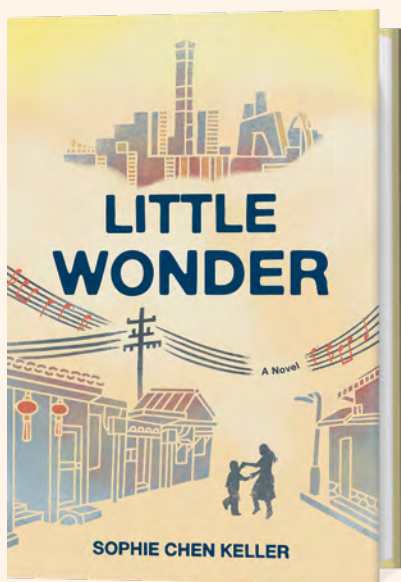
**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Vernice and Annie, two motherless daughters raised in Honeysuckle, Louisiana, have been best friends and neighbors since earliest childhood but are fated to live starkly different lives. Raised by a fierce aunt determined to give her a stable home in the wake of her mother's death, Vernice leaves Honeysuckle at eighteen for Spelman College, where she joins a sisterhood of powerfully connected Black women and discovers a world of affluence, manners, aspiration, and inequality. Annie, abandoned by her mother as a child and fixated on the idea of finding her and filling the bottomless hole left by her absence, sets off on a journey that will take her into a world of peril and adversity, as well as love and adventure, culminating in a battle for her life.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. We are all born into stories that are already underway. Do you think Annie's and Vernice's trajectories were ordained by the mothers they never knew? How much are their paths paved by their own decisions? What role does chance play in their journeys?
2. Annie and Vernice are both motherless, but their circumstances are different. Vernice knows that she will never see her mother again, but Annie harbors hope for a reunion. Which of them is in a better position?
3. Dignity is a recurring theme in *Kin*. In what ways do the characters seek to have dignity even though they live in a world that is determined to degrade them?
4. There are light sprinkles of magical realism in this book how did mentions of ghosts and superstition enhance your reading experience? What is the difference between superstition, spirituality and religion?
5. Use your imagination to project five years past the last page. What do you think the characters are up to?

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



Sophie Chen Keller  
**Little Wonder:**  
A Novel

979-8-217-09460-8 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Ballantine Books | HC  
📞 979-8-217-09461-5 | 📻 DN: 979-8-217-40530-5  
📻 LP: 979-8-217-41175-7

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

**FROM JENNA BUSH HAGER'S  
THOUSAND VOICES BOOKS**

A musical prodigy and his mother spend years searching for each other in this beautiful novel of hope, perseverance, and love. Perfect for readers of Saroo Brierley's *Lion*, Celeste Ng's *Our Missing Hearts*, Ann Napolitano's *Dear Edward*, and Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Song is a nobody—just a food delivery worker from a village in Northeastern China—but her son, River, is a little wonder.

At the age of four, he toddled to a piano and tapped out his favorite song. At eight, he mastered Liszt's three Liebestraume; at ten, he blazed through the complete set of Chopin's études. And at every step, Song is there to light his way—until finally, River is invited to study with a preeminent teacher in Beijing.

But in the chaos of Beijing Railway Station, Song faces every mother's nightmare: She loses her grip on River's little hand and is unable to find him after a desperate, harrowing search.

Over the next days, weeks, and eventually, years, Song and River fight to forge a path back to each other as they carve out new lives that carry them farther apart. *Little Wonder* is an evocative exploration of a mother's love and a son's yearning.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. The novel follows Song and River and the lives they lead before and after their separation in Beijing. How does the structure—moving across time and distance—shape your emotional experience of their story?
2. How does the idea of “wandering to other keys” (a musical metaphor in the novel) reflect the narrative journey of the characters?
3. Song sees herself as “a nobody,” while River is considered extraordinary. How does this contrast shape their identities and choices, as well as where their lives ultimately take them?
4. How does motherhood define Song's actions—and where does it limit or empower her?
5. How does the story explore the idea of “home”? Is home a place, a person, or something else? How do the characters find “home” as the novel progresses?

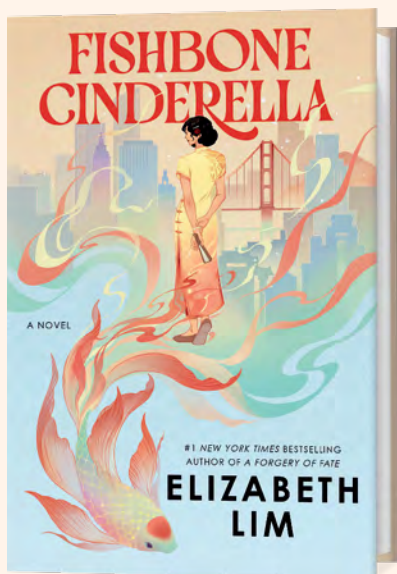
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Elizabeth Lim  
**Fishbone  
Cinderella:**  
A Novel

979-8-217-09298-7 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Del Rey | HC  
979-8-217-09299-4 | DN: 979-8-217-34446-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A riveting multi-generational saga with a shimmer of magic, from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Forgery of Fate*—perfect for fans of Rachel Khong's *Real Americans*, Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*, Sarah Penner's *The Lost Apothecary*, and Yangsze Choo's *The Night Tiger*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

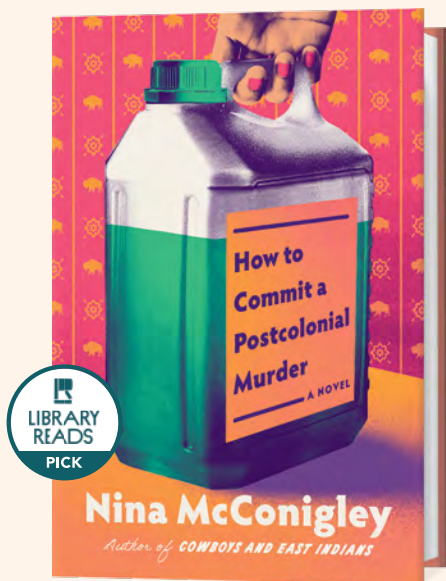
**1940s Hong Kong:** When Japanese soldiers invade her hometown, Ha Yut Ying makes an unlikely escape—by turning invisible. After the war is over, she's sent to Hong Kong to live with her distant father and glamorous stepmother, who end her dreams of becoming a singer and turn her into the family's servant. As the years pass, Yut Ying learns the hard truths of betrayal and ambition, of forbidden love and devastating loss, and discovers that sometimes the only way to endure is to disappear.

**1960s San Francisco:** Marigold has always had a knack for uncovering secrets, but nothing prepares her for the day she accidentally witnesses her mother vanish before her eyes. The moment fractures their bond. But when her mother's condition suddenly deteriorates, Marigold is convinced she's the only person who can save her. To do so, she must journey into the secrets her mother never shared and uncover the tragic, fairytale-tinged history their family has fought to forget.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. The book is told from two different points of view: a mother and a daughter. What similarities did you notice between the two women's experiences? What made their experiences different?
2. Both Marigold and Helen have a secret supernatural power. How do you think these powers related to their emotional situations? How did these powers bring them together or pull them apart?
3. Both Helen and Marigold are deeply affected by their experience with first love. Do you think each character made the right choice?
4. The book's title refers to both the Western "Cinderella" story and Chinese folk tales with similar themes. What are some similarities and differences you notice between the versions of the story? What role does folklore and storytelling play in the book?

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



Nina McConigley  
**How to Commit  
a Postcolonial  
Murder:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-70224-6 | \$26.00/\$36.00C | Pantheon | HC  
📞 978-0-593-70225-3 | 📖 DN: 979-8-217-16607-7

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For readers of *My Sister*, *the Serial Killer* and *Gold Diggers*.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Summer, 1986. The Creel sisters, Georgie Ayyar and Agatha Krishna, welcome their aunt, uncle and young cousin—newly arrived from India—into their house in rural Wyoming where they'll all live together. Because this is what families do. That is, until the sisters decide that it's time for their uncle to die.

According to Georgie, the British are to blame. And to understand why, you need to hear her story. She details the violence hiding in their house and history, her once-unshakeable bond with Agatha Krishna, and her understanding of herself as an Indian-American in the heart of the West.

An unexpected and unwaveringly powerful meditation on history and language, trauma and healing, and the meaning of independence.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What makes the murder of Vinny Uncle “postcolonial”? Discuss how Georgie orients the reader to her world of being an Indian American in Wyoming in the late 1980s, and the unique struggles of being the first generation in her interracial family born in America.
2. How does Georgie, and the book overall, suggest overlaps in the two meanings of “Indian” that are relevant to her hometown in the American West? In America, did the family leave the world of colonizers and colonialism?
3. How does Amma’s marrying a white man change her relationship to India, and to her family? Does their settling down in America offer her any more freedom than what she would have had back home?

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

Erin L. McCoy  
**Underlake:**  
A Novel

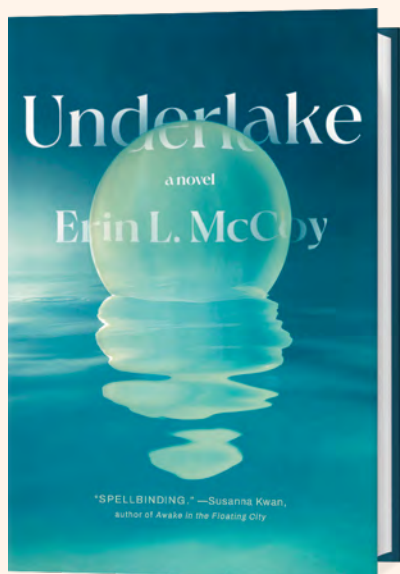
978-0-385-55207-3 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Doubleday | HC

📖 978-0-385-55208-0 | 📻 DN: 979-8-217-17450-8

📱 LP: 979-8-217-29024-6

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

For fans of Emily St. John Mandel, Lauren Groff,  
Kazuo Ishiguro, Ursula K. Leguin, and  
Margaret Atwood.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

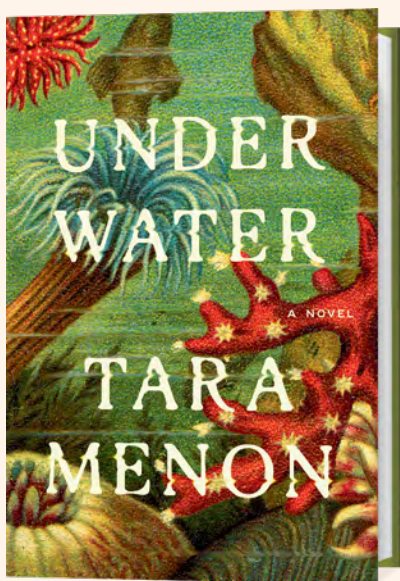
**T**welve years ago, Otta escaped her small town, determined to become a marine biologist. Now she's returned, carrying the guilt of a friend's disappearance during a deep-sea dive and unsure she'll ever be able to dive again. Then a stranger, May, appears at her door, insisting that her daughter who ran away is under the nearby lake—alive.

It turns out the small-town legend is true: Three decades ago, the entire valley was flooded to build a dam, but the people who lived there refused to leave. These “refugees of a world obsessed with change” now inhabit an underwater realm. To find the missing girl, Otta and May come face-to-face with communities that have lived in isolation for decades, breeding extremes of delusion and nostalgia.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Discuss the relationship between mothers and daughters throughout *Underlake*. In what ways is Eugenia and Otta's relationship similar to May and Daphne's? In what ways are they different? And what about Eugenia and Allie's relationship?
2. Daphne wants to share the clean water with the rest of the inhabitants of the Chimneys, though May knows there is not enough. What do we owe to people in our community? In the face of growing resource scarcity, how are our ethics challenged?
3. Daphne develops a fascination with Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. Why do you think this story spoke to her? Is there a book from your childhood that made a similar impression on you?
4. Daphne and May have distinct religious views and experienced the religion of the Chimneys in a vastly different way when they were growing up. Why do you think that they had such different experiences?

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



Tara Menon  
**Under Water:**  
A Novel

979-8-217-04831-1 | \$29.00/\$39.99C | Riverhead | HC  
📞 979-8-217-04833-5 | 📄 DN: 979-8-217-28284-5

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

An intense, atmospheric novel about the devastating power of friendship, set against the backdrop of two cataclysmic events. For readers of *The Furrows* and *All This Could Be Different*.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

After Marissa loses her mother at six, the most intimate relationship of her life begins. Her marine biologist father, determined to channel his grief into completing his wife's research, whisks her across the globe to Thailand. There she meets Arielle, and a fairytale friendship takes hold. During the week, the girls live at the resort owned by Arielle's parents; on the weekends they join the tight-knit community of researchers on a nearby island. Together, the girls discover the fragile wonders of its reefs, forests, and beaches. Together they learn to dive into the deep, holding their breath for minutes at a time, as effortlessly synchronized as the manta rays they come to know by name. Together they learn to swim their way out of danger. But then comes a wave Arielle can't outpace, leaving Marissa gutted with loss.

Years later, Marissa is back in New York, adrift and haunted by the memory of her friend. Over the course of two fateful days, as another cataclysm approaches the city and the past comes flooding back, she discovers how to sustain herself in a precarious world.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. *Under Water* is written in two alternating timelines. What effect did that have on you as a reader? Did you identify with one timeline more than the other or both?
2. Though there is a lot of beauty in it, there are hard truths to Menon's writing about nature and animals, too. Specifically, the fate of the manta rays and Marissa's relationship with them. How did this aspect of the story make you feel? Were you surprised?
3. The 2004 tsunami and Hurricane Sandy are almost secondary characters in *Under Water*. What tone did those impending disasters set as you read the novel?
4. *Under Water* speaks to the trauma of large-scale loss—both human and in nature. How have you been affected by catastrophic events directly and/or indirectly? Did reading about Marissa's grief cause you to think differently about the aftermath of these kinds of events?

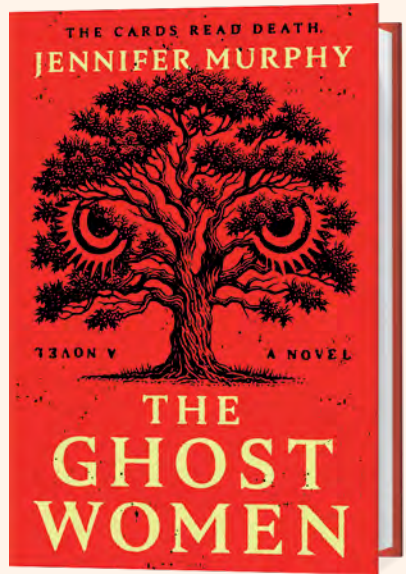
For more discussion questions visit: [TinyUrl.com/UnderWaterBookInfo](http://TinyUrl.com/UnderWaterBookInfo)

Jennifer Murphy  
**The Ghost Women:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-47436-5 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Dutton | HC  
📞 978-0-593-47437-2 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-95203-0

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A mysterious art academy in the woods, a deck of tarot cards, a hundreds year old secret. For readers of *The Maidens* and *If We Were Villains*.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

On a hot August morning in 1972, the body of Abel Montague, a student in Waverly School, is found hanging from a tree in the forest. A Hanged Man tarot card is found in the back pocket of his pants and his body has been positioned into the exact pose illustrated on the card.

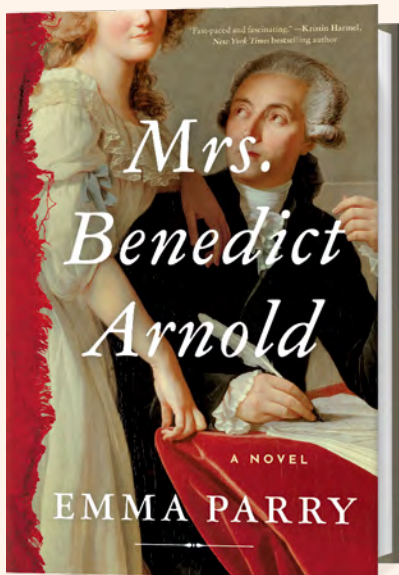
When detective Lola Germany arrives at the academy—a former monastery that once housed a secret order of monks who carried out witch trials and executions—she believes they are dealing with a ritualistic murder.

When more students are found dead, each body arranged like a Tarot card, Lola realizes she is trapped in a web of power and ambition that spans centuries.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. This story is told through a multi-person point of view, mostly through the lens of Lola and Pearl, with occasional chapters from other characters. Why do you think the novel was mostly told through their points of view, rather than just one character? How did it build or add suspense to the mystery?
2. Why do you think this book was set in the 70s? Do you think it would be different if it were set in modern times? How does the time period contribute to how women were treated?
3. *The Ghost Women* is ripe with imagery. Why do you think the author chooses an owl to represent Abel's spirit? What do you think the red robes represent?
4. Many stories of American witchcraft are associated with Salem or the Northeast. How did the Southern setting change your perception of witchcraft?
5. Who did you think was behind the killings as you read? Did the prime suspect in your mind change at all?
6. At the end of the novel, we learn a key revelation about Pearl's past. Did this surprise you? What did you think of this twist?

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



Emma Parry  
**Mrs. Benedict  
Arnold:**  
A Novel

978-1-63893-379-3 | \$28.00/\$36.99C | Zando | HC  
📞 978-1-63893-380-9 | 📖 DN: 979-8-217-34481-9

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A fresh, provocative portrait of the young woman behind the most notorious treason in American History for readers of Geraldine Brooks, Maggie O'Farrell, and Tracy Chevalier.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

Coming of age as the Revolutionary War rages, Peggy Shippen is a woman torn between two sides. While her prominent Loyalist family seems to remain stubbornly neutral, she yearns to enter the political fray. That's when she meets the dashing British Captain John André, who becomes the first to truly recognize her intelligence. He welcomes her into an irreverent circle of friends and soon has her heart.

But when the war separates them, Peggy attracts the notice of an older military General, whose heroics for the Patriots has captured the world's imagination—Benedict Arnold. As she trades loyalist balls for patriot salons, she must carefully tread the line between the most prominent figures of early America and her own struggles against powerlessness.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Like many women of the eighteenth century, Peggy is introduced to the marriage mart in her teens, later marrying Benedict at only eighteen. How does her age influence her preoccupations and desires?
2. Anxiety is a significant part of Peggy's identity. For much of her adolescence and early adulthood, she faces many challenges brought on by her nature. How does the theme of obsession manifest throughout the novel?
3. Peggy had many motivations behind her actions throughout the novel—her family's safety, her friendship with André, and the future of her child. Which of these factors would sway you the most?
4. Whilst Peggy is eager to enter the political fray, her immediate family remains resolutely neutral. How does her family's stance hinder or propel Peggy's ambitions?
5. Benedict and Peggy experience challenges in their marriage: alcoholism, financial strife, fears of infidelity, and, of course, a war raging outside their door. How does their marital woe drive them in their decisions?

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

## Joanne Rock

# The Last Book Club

979-8-89242-480-6 | \$29.99/\$39.99C | Crooked Lane Books | HC  
TR: 979-8-89242-481-3 | 979-8-89242-480-6

### READERS' ADVISORY:

A book club's murder mystery game goes fatally wrong in this page-turning mystery for fans of Jamie Day, Disha Bose, and Liane Moriarty.



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**M**aking friends in a new town can be murder, so when Jordyn is invited to attend a book club meeting in her new Saratoga Springs neighborhood, it's safe to say she's excited. But she has no intention of making friends with the tight-knit group—she has plans for revenge.

Jordyn's foster sister was a member of the book club until she was killed in a hit-and-run after a meeting one year prior. Members of the book club had serious motives, and Jordyn is determined to read between the lines and find their secrets...and her sister's killer.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Psychological thrillers can be a way to explore righteous anger and revenge in a safe way. Many characters in *The Last Book Club* experienced a "righteous anger." Which characters felt slighted and why? Which harm resonated most with you or made you angry on the character's behalf?
2. Jordyn identifies herself as a loner, telling her friend, "You aren't really a part of my friend network so much as the network itself. As in, you're it." Do you know people who tend to choose a best friend to the exclusion of others? Do you prefer having one close friend or a wider circle of acquaintances? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each choice?
3. This story included the points of view of Tara, Jordyn, and Gina. Which point of view did you identify with the most? Which point of view did you enjoy reading the most? Were they the same points of view, or different?
4. Both Gina and Jordyn infiltrated the book club without revealing their true intentions or backgrounds. How did their motives differ? How were they the same?
5. Sophie is the Queen Bee of her friend group. Why do you think people gravitated to her? Does your friend group include someone with this personality type?

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



## Steven Rowley **Take Me with You**

978-0-593-85149-4 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Putnam | HC  
📞 978-0-593-85151-7 | 📖 DN: 979-8-217-28584-6

### READERS' ADVISORY:

In *Take Me With You*, Steven Rowley brings his resonant wit and emotional insight to an epic love story—an exploration of the forces that draw two people into the same orbit and the gravity that threatens to pull them apart. For fans of Frederik Backman and Andrew Sean Greer.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**T**hirty years into their relationship, Jesse witnesses his husband, Norman, get out of bed late one night, walk into their Joshua Tree backyard, step into a strange beam of light and . . . disappear.

As Jesse struggles to understand Norman's disappearance, he tries to piece together his new reality.

Add to Jesse's grief and confusion a conspiracy-theorist neighbor, a strange man following him, and suspicions that he may have had a hand in Norman's disappearance, and Jesse starts to crack under the pressure. With his husband missing and the world closing in, all eyes are on Jesse. Before he can understand how Norman could leave it all behind, Jesse must confront what it means to stay.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. For Jesse and Norman, the move to Joshua Tree was, in part, meant to invigorate their marriage. Can a change of scenery bring more excitement into a relationship? Would you say the move worked for them as intended?
2. Lally, Norman's sister, hires a private investigator to uncover Norman's whereabouts. Discuss how this decision and the way it unfolds speaks to her increasing desire for companionship.
3. Norman and Jesse have both experienced the loss of a family member. For Norman, it's his younger brother, and for Jesse, it's his father. In what ways, if at all, did their early experiences with loss inform their relationship?
4. Rowley posits that we are all of us alien, even to the people we think know us best. Do you agree with this sentiment? Having finished the book, does this sentiment alter your interpretation of the title *Take Me with You*?

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

Patmeena Sabit  
**Good People:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-80106-2 | \$29.00/\$39.99C | Crown | HC

📍 978-0-593-80107-9 | 📻 DN: 979-8-217-17531-4

📖 LP: 979-8-217-28775-8

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

*Zorah Sharaf could do no wrong. Zorah Sharaf brought shame upon her family. What's the truth? Depends on who you ask.* For fans of Imbolo Mbue, Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, and Laila Lalami.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

The Sharaf family is the picture of success. Prosperous, rich, happy. They came to this country as refugees with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. And now, after years of hard work, they live in the most exclusive neighborhood, their growing family attending the most prestigious schools. Zorah, the eldest daughter, is the apple of her father's eye.

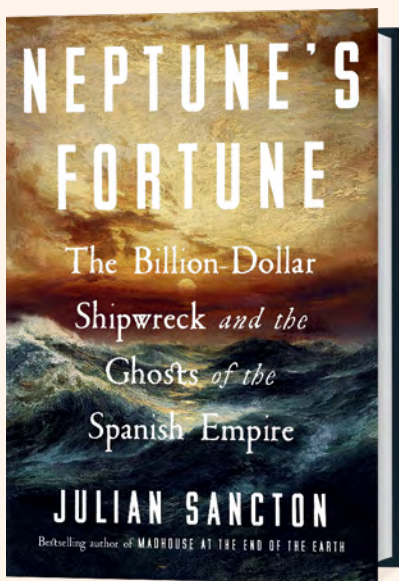
When an unthinkable tragedy strikes, everyone is left reeling and the family is thrust into the court of public opinion. There is talk that behind closed doors the Sharafs' happy household was anything but. Did the Sharaf family achieve the American dream? Or was the image of the model immigrant family just a façade?

Like a literary game of ping-pong, *Good People* compels the reader to reconsider what might have happened even on the previous page. Told through a kaleidoscope of perspectives, it is a riveting, provocative, and haunting story of family—sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, and the communities that claim us as family in difficult times.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you think the title, *Good People*, means? How do the characters in the novel try to influence the way that they are perceived by others?
2. The title of each part of the novel features a phrase from a section of the Quran. Why do you think the author chose to incorporate this religious text into the novel's structure?
3. Did the author's decision to write the novel through multiple points of view have an impact on your reading experience and understanding of the novel's central mystery?
4. By the time the Sharaf family arrives in Virginia, there is already an established Afghan community in the area. In what ways do the characters' lives change after moving to America? How do they stay connected to home?

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



Julian Sancton

## Neptune's Fortune: The Billion-Dollar Shipwreck and the Ghosts of the Spanish Empire

978-0-593-59417-9 | \$33.00/\$44.00C | Crown | HC

📖 978-0-593-59418-6 | 📖 DN: 979-8-217-16646-6

📖 LP: 979-8-217-16903-0

### READERS' ADVISORY:

The riveting true story of a legendary Spanish galleon that sunk off the coast of Colombia with over \$1 billion in gold and silver—and one man's obsessive quest to find it. For readers of *The Wide Wide Sea* and *The Wager*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

Roger Dooley wasn't looking for the *San José*. But an accidental discovery in the dusty stacks of a Spanish archive led him to the story of a lifetime, the tale of a great eighteenth-century treasure ship loaded with riches from the New World and destined for Spain. But that ship, the galleon *San José*, met a darker fate. It was drawn into a pitched battle with British ships of war off the coast of Cartagena, and when the smoke cleared, the *San José* and its bounty had disappeared into the ocean, its coordinates lost to time.

Though a diver at heart, Dooley was an unlikely candidate to find the *San José*. He had little in the way of serious credentials, yet his tenacity and single-minded devotion to finding and excavating the ship powered him across four decades, even as he became a man in exile from the country of his birth. As Dooley jostled with famous treasure hunters and well-funded competitors, he slowly homed in on a patch of sea that might contain a three-hundred-year-old shipwreck—or nothing at all.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share your impressions of Roger Dooley? Do you see him as an archaeologist? A treasure hunter? Something else altogether? How do you feel the other players in the book, including the author, treat him?
2. Dooley's life has had its boons and pitfalls. How did the politics of the day—in the United States and in Cuba—shape the trajectory of his life and career? How influential was his brother, Michael?
3. Why do you think shipwrecks like the *San José* continue to captivate people centuries after they've sunk? Do you see treasure hunting as a product of romance, greed, or something else entirely?
4. Talk about the battle that ultimately doomed the *San José*. What missteps and calculations ultimately led to her fate?

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

# Maria Semple Go Gentle

979-8-217-17663-2 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Putnam | HC  
📞 979-8-217-17665-6 | 📻 DN: 979-8-217-16662-6  
📻 CD: 979-8-217-41316-4 | 📻 LP: 979-8-217-29462-6

**READERS' ADVISORY:**  
**AN OPRAH BOOK CLUB PICK**

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* returns to form in her most exuberant and life-affirming novel yet with the story of one woman's cheerful determination to live a life of the mind only to have the heart force its way in. For fans of Miranda July and Bonnie Garmus.



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

Adora Hazzard has it all figured out. A Stoic philosopher and divorcée, she lives a contented life on New York City's Upper West Side. Having discovered that the secret to happiness is to desire only what you have, she's applied this insight to blissful effect. She's even assembled a "coven" of like-minded women and is making active efforts to grow its membership. Adora's carefully curated life is humming along brilliantly until a chance meeting with a handsome stranger.

Soon, her ordered world is upended by black-market art deals, secret rendezvous, and international intrigue . . . and her past lands like a bomb in her present. Inflamed by unquenchable desire, Adora finds herself a woman wanting more: and she'll risk everything to get it.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When Adora hits her lowest point, Stoicism feels "obvious and reasonable." How much did you read her philosophical turn as a genuine intellectual awakening or as a trauma response? What "hole" in her life does Stoicism seem to fill?
2. Maria Semple loves a woman on the verge. Why do we, as readers, find female chaos compelling? Where did you feel the book was inviting you to laugh with Adora, and where did it tempt you to laugh at her?
3. Some of this novel's bleakest material, be it personal, professional or marital collapse, is filtered through a whimsical, comic tone. How did that humor shape your experience of Adora's worst moments? Did the jokes cushion the blow?
4. Over time, Adora becomes admirably clear-eyed about what actually brings her joy. What moments of genuine joy stood out most to you while reading? Did *Go Gentle* make it easier for you to pinpoint what joy looks like in your own life?

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



## Ruta Sepetys

# A Fortune of Sand:

## A Novel

979-8-217-09324-3 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Ballantine Books | HC

📖 979-8-217-09325-0 | 📖 DN: 979-8-217-34357-7

📖 LP: 979-8-217-34766-7

### READERS' ADVISORY:

A gripping Prohibition-era novel from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Salt to the Sea*—perfect for fans of Fiona Davis's *The Stolen Queen*, Hernan Diaz's *Trust*, and Beatriz Williams's *The Wicked City*.

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**M**arjorie Lennox is the youngest daughter of a powerful Detroit dynasty—a family rich in money and poor in charm. Creative, reckless, and never quite what they wanted, Marjorie has spent her life overlooked by her controlling father and self-absorbed siblings. But when she secretly applies to an elite arts program backed by a mysterious patron, she grabs the chance to finally step out of her family's shadow.

But, the program is strict in ways that feel sinister. Doors lock at strange hours. Rumors spread about women going missing. And the handsome benefactor behind it all is as magnetic as he is unsettling. As Marjorie gets pulled deeper into his world, she must fight to discover the truth before she loses herself completely.

Set in the fading splendor of 1920s Detroit and inspired by real, long-buried events, *A Fortune of Sand* is a glittering, gothic page-turner about power, control, and the price women pay when they demand to be seen.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel blends historical fiction with elements of suspense, romance, and gothic mystery. How did this combination affect your reading experience?
2. How does the setting of 1927 Detroit shape the tone and tension of the story?
3. What role do secrets play in driving the plot? When do revelations shift your understanding of events?
4. Marjorie Lennox feels overlooked within her powerful family. How does this shape her choices, her reactions, and her desire to join the arts program?
5. How does Marjorie's identity evolve over the course of the novel? Does she gain agency, or lose it? Is she naïve, courageous, or something in between?

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

Meg Shaffer  
**The Book Witch:**  
A Novel

978-0-593-98358-4 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Ballantine Books | HC  
E 978-0-593-98359-1 | DN: 979-8-217-27822-0

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

A magical and inspiring love letter to reading from the bestselling author of *The Wishing Game*—perfect for readers of *Lessons in Chemistry*, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, and *The Midnight Library*, as well as Jasper Fforde's Thursday Next series.



**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**R**ainy March is a proud, third-generation Book Witch, sworn to defend works of fiction from all foes real and imaginary. With her magical umbrella and feline familiar, she jumps in and out of novels to fix malicious alterations and rogue heroes like a modern-day magical Nancy Drew.

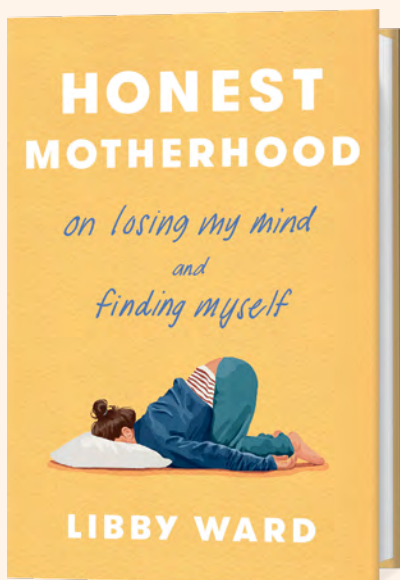
Book Witches live by a strict code: Real people belong in the real world; fictional characters belong in works of fiction. Falling in love with a fictional character? Don't even think about it.

Which is why Rainy has been forbidden from seeing the Duke of Chicago, the dashing British detective who stars in her favorite mystery series. But when her beloved grandfather disappears and a priceless book is stolen, there's only one person she trusts to help her solve the case: the Duke. Their quest takes them through the worlds of *Alice in Wonderland*, *King Arthur*, and other classics that will reveal hidden enemies and long-buried family secrets.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. "All stories are love stories if you love stories." How does this idea play out across different genres in the novel? Did your understanding of "love story" shift by the end?
2. Rainy March lives by strict rules about how stories and reality must remain separate. Which rules felt necessary—and which felt unfair or impossible to uphold?
3. The novel is a love letter to reading itself. Were there moments that reminded you of a book (or character) that once changed you? How did that affect your reading experience?
4. What responsibility do you think comes with the power to change a story? Should some stories remain untouched, even if they cause harm?
5. If you could enter any book the way Rainy does, which would you choose—and would you follow the rules or break them?

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



Libby Ward  
**Honest  
Motherhood:**  
On Losing My Mind  
and Finding Myself

978-0-593-73521-3 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Crown | HC  
📞 978-0-593-73522-0 | 📄 DN: 979-8-217-17538-3

**READERS' ADVISORY:**

An honest and disarmingly funny memoir from an exhausted mom who broke under the pressure to do it all, faced her past, and found herself. For readers of Glennon Doyle's *Untamed* and Jessi Klein's *I'll Show Myself Out*.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

When Libby Ward became a mother at twenty-six, she thought she was prepared. Determined to give her kids a childhood different from her own, she clung to the world's "shoulds" like her children's future depended on it. That was her first mistake.

A couple years later, with a toddler around her ankle, a needy baby in her arms, and silent rage coursing through her veins, Libby began to unravel. Struggling to manage the unrelenting and often unspoken expectations of mothering, she did what any overfunctioning people-pleaser would do—she wallowed in shame. Then, she tried harder. But as Libby's body and mind began to push back, Libby wondered: Why, with so much information and advice at our fingertips, is motherhood still so impossibly hard?

In *Honest Motherhood*, Libby candidly shares her journey of unlearning the myth of the ideal mother.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Libby uses humor and honest, no-nonsense language to tell her story. How did her style resonate with you as a reader? Which moments in the book made you feel seen, understood, or less alone as a mom?
2. Why do you think Libby worked so hard to please others and put their happiness first at the expense of her own? Is this an "expected" part of being a mother? In your own experience, where does this stem from—social norms, gender roles, childhood?
3. Discuss how Libby becomes aware of her feelings of guilt, loneliness, failure, and the loss of self. How does she learn to reconcile taking care of herself while also caring for her children, family, and home?
4. Libby shares how her early perceptions of motherhood were shaped by the subculture of her church. What expectations about motherhood did you absorb from your circles of influence? Did they change the way you parent or perceive yourself?

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

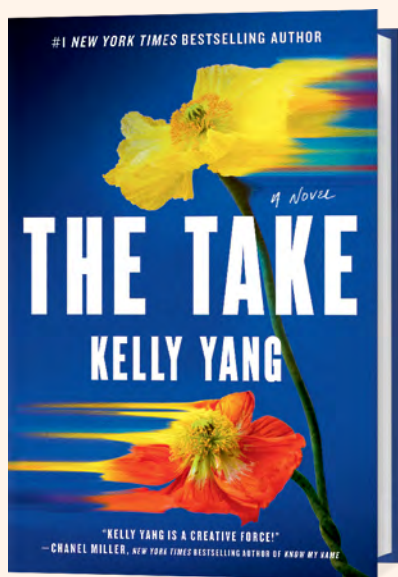
## Kelly Yang

# The Take

978-0-593-95337-2 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Berkley | HC  
978-0-593-95335-8 | DN: 979-8-217-28354-5

### READERS' ADVISORY:

A provocative, fast-paced novel about two creative women—a young writer fighting to be heard and an older producer clinging to relevancy—and the age reversal treatment that intertwines both of their lives. From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the beloved Front Desk series. For readers of *Yellowface*, *Counterfeit*, and *Such a Fun Age*.



### ABOUT THE BOOK:

**M**aggie Wang, a broke young Asian American writer, needs a lifeline. Ingrid Parker, a veteran white Hollywood producer with her career on the edge, offers an irresistible deal: \$3 million for ten experimental medical sessions to reverse her aging, using Maggie as a transfusion partner, and mentorship.

What starts as a professional transaction exchanging blood quickly becomes a complex psychological dance. As Maggie gains unprecedented access to Ingrid's hard-earned wisdom, Ingrid sees in Maggie a weapon against an industry that's been trying to sideline her.

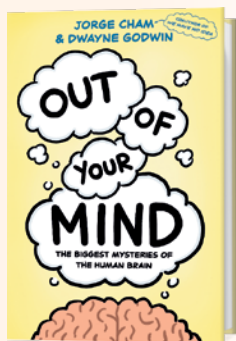
As their relationship intensifies, the rules around aging begin to shift. So does the balance of power between the two women, leaving both questioning who holds the upper hand and what they're willing to sacrifice to succeed.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think this story pairs up Maggie Wang and Ingrid Parker? What similarities and differences do you see between the women and their relentlessness? Of the two, who was ultimately more feared, and who was more fearless?
2. How would you feel if it were Maggie who first found out about the experiment and sought out Ingrid? Do you think the story would still work? Why or why not?
3. Antiaging experiments are a real thing happening today. If these experiments prove to be effective and safe, and someone wanted to sell their youth for a sum of money, should they be allowed to?
4. Ingrid encourages Maggie to dig deeper and write her own story. Do you think that Maggie was ever in control of that story?
5. If Ingrid's health weren't in question and Maggie accepted a deal that was just about aging, do you think these experiments would have been a good deal for her? What would have made it one?

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

# TITLES FOR TEEN BOOK GROUPS



Jorge Cham and Dwayne Godwin

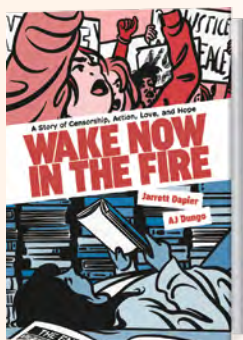
## Out of Your Mind:

The Biggest Mysteries of the Human Brain

978-0-593-31735-8 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Pantheon | HC

📞 978-0-593-31736-5 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-94714-2

Join bestselling author and online cartoonist Jorge Cham and neuroscientist Dwayne Godwin on a deep dive into the fascinating world of the human brain, in which they will explore questions such as: What is consciousness? Do we have free will? And what happens when we die? All while illuminating everything we know (and don't know) about one of the most complex objects in the known universe.



Jarrett Dapier; Illustrated by AJ Dungo

## Wake Now in the Fire:

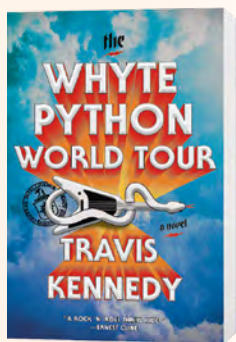
A Graphic Novel

978-0-593-83804-4 | \$38.00/\$51.00C | Ten Speed Graphic | HC

978-0-593-83803-7 | \$24.99/\$33.99C | Ten Speed Graphic | TR

📞 978-0-593-83805-1

In this “thoughtful, personal, and deeply relevant” (*Booklist*, starred review) graphic novel based on a true story, a group of high schoolers in Chicago work to overturn the system-wide ban of Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*.



Travis Kennedy

## The Whyte Python World Tour:

A Novel

978-0-593-68974-5 | \$19.00 \$27.00C | Vintage | TR

📞 978-0-385-55134-2 | 📄 DN: 979-8-217-07580-5

📻 LP: 979-8-217-15769-3

**AN ALA ALEX AWARD WINNER**

Rikki Thunder, twenty-two-year-old drummer for the scorching new '80s metal band Whyte Python, is about to have it all: absurd wealth, global fame, and a dream girlfriend. But an unwitting role as an international spy? That was definitely not part of the plan.



Tao Wong

## The First Step

979-8-217-18842-0 | \$30.00/\$41.99C | Ace | HC

In a spectacular world of immortals, spirit beasts, and mystical martial arts, the young farmer Wu Ying’s life will be changed forever when he is unexpectedly invited to join an elite school of cultivation. Author and martial artist Tao Wong introduces a thrilling blend of progression fantasy, Xianxia, and Chinese mythology in this irresistible tale of an underdog hero who dreams of something more.

# TITLES FOR SPANISH-LANGUAGE BOOK GROUPS

Judy Blume

## Amigas de verano

979-8-89098-404-3 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Vintage Español | TR

An extraordinary novel of reminiscence and awakening—an unforgettable story of two women, two families, and the friendships that shape a lifetime.

Dazzling, reckless Caitlin welcomes Victoria into the heart of her sprawling, eccentric family, opening doors to a world of unimaginable privilege, sweeping her away to vacations on Martha's Vineyard, an enchanting place where the two friends become “summer sisters.”



Annette Chavez Macias

## Las chicas grandes no lloran

979-8-89098-382-4 | \$16.95/\$22.95C | Vintage Español | TR

Fifteen years ago, they drifted apart. Can one remarkable year bring them back together?

Cousins Mari, Erica, Selena, and Gracie are inseparable. They aren't just family but best friends—sharing secrets, traditions, and a fierce love for their abuelita. But their idyllic childhood ends when Mari's parents divorce, forcing her to move away. With Mari gone, the girls' tight-knit bond unravels.

When tragedy reunites them, will they remember their abuelita's lessons about family and forgiveness—or are fifteen years of separation too much to overcome?



Freida McFadden

## Querida Debbie

979-8-890-98836-2 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Vintage Español | TR

From #1 *New York Times* and international bestselling author Freida McFadden comes a biting subversive thriller about what happens when women finally choose to take justice into their own hands—with killer results

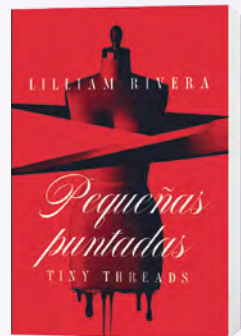


Lilliam Rivera

## Pequeñas puntadas

979-8-89098-391-6 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Vintage Español | TR

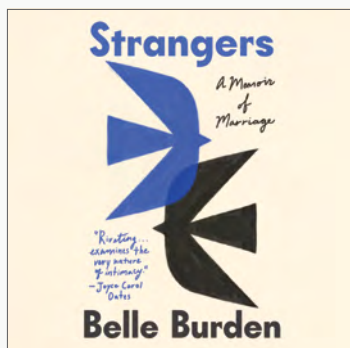
In this sinister, slow-burn novel of supernatural suspense, a young woman gets her dream job working for a famous designer—and discovers the dark side of high-stakes fashion.



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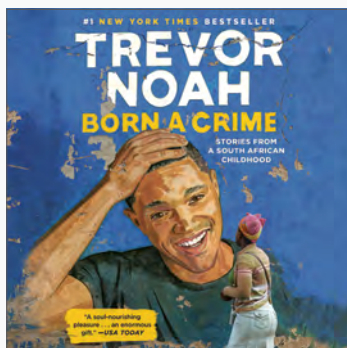
Here are just a few great listening recommendations:



Written and Read by Belle Burden  
**Strangers**

"With unsparing emotional clarity, Burden examines the often baffling ways relationships can fall apart, and charts a path for people looking to reassemble their own lives. It's a gut punch."

—*Publishers Weekly*



Written and Read by Trevor Noah  
**Born a Crime**

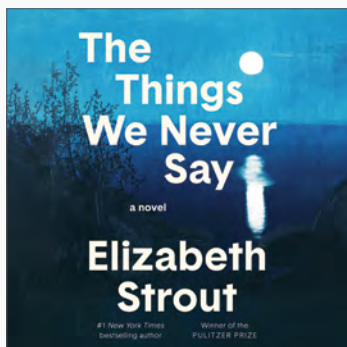
"Noah is a talented performer, and language is such an important part of his story that it should be listened to in his own voice in order to be truly appreciated. Audio at its best."

—*Library Journal*, starred review



Mark Oppenheimer; Read by Molly Ringwald  
**Judy Blume**

"Molly Ringwald credibly captures Judy Blume from childhood to her incredible success as an author who revolutionized children's literature... compelling and entertaining." —*Kirkus Earphones Award*



Elizabeth Strout; Read by Robert Petkoff  
**The Things We Never Say**

"The combination of Strout's storytelling and Petkoff's intelligent performance makes this a must-listen."

—*Kirkus Earphones Award*

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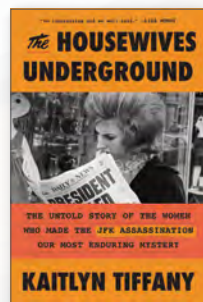
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