

## Book Club to Go Titles

### FICTION

***Garden spells* by Sarah Addison Allen**

The Waverly clan have long been known in Bascom, NC, for their special talents, but when Claire and her sister run into men too charming to ignore, love's magical effects, with the help of an interfering apple tree, manifest themselves in surprising and delightful ways. 320 p.

***My grandmother asked me to tell you she's sorry* by Fredrik Backman**

Seven-year-old Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters, sending the girl on a journey that brings to life the world of her grandmother's fairy tales. 372 p.

***The school of essential ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister**

Eight students gather in Lillian's Restaurant every Monday night for cooking class. It soon becomes clear, however, that each one seeks a recipe for something beyond the kitchen. 272 p.

***The Paris architect* by Charles Belfoure**

A Parisian architect is paid handsomely to devise secret hiding spaces for Jews in his Nazi-occupied country but struggles with risking his life for a cause he is ambivalent towards, until a personal failure brings home their suffering. 374 p.

***The aviator's wife* by Melanie Benjamin**

A story inspired by the marriage between Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh traces the romance between a handsome young **aviator** and a shy ambassador's daughter whose relationship is marked by wild international acclaim. 434 p.

***The pull of the moon* by Elizabeth Berg**

Disturbed by the course of her life and marriage, Nan embarks on a backroads odyssey, following the moon and stopping to talk with women, men, her husband through letters, and herself through her diary, and discovering how her life can be reshaped. 208 p.

***The buffalo soldier* by Christopher A. Bohjalian**

The devastating loss of their twin daughters in a flash flood turns the lives of Terry and Laura Sheldon upside down as their marriage is tested by grief, Terry's brief love affair, and their growing relationship with their foster child, a ten-year-old African American boy. 422 p.

***Self storage* by Gayle Brandeis**

A woman who supports her family by selling her yard-sale and self-storage auction acquisitions, Flan Parker embarks on a life-changing odyssey of self-discovery and awareness after bidding on a mysterious box that is empty except for the word "yes." 304 p.

***The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares**

Four best girlfriends spend the biggest summer of their lives enchanted by a magical pair of pants. 336 p.

***People of the book* by Geraldine Brooks**

Offered a coveted job to analyze and conserve a priceless Sarajevo Haggadah, Australian rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins. 372 p.

***Tumbledown Manor* by Helen Brown**

Leaving her life in New York to start over in a dilapidated Australian manor that once belonged to her great-grandfather, writer Lisa sets out with a team of helpers to refurbish the house and finds herself being transformed along with the manor. 287 p.

***Neecey's lullaby: a novel* by Cris Burks**

Growing up in Chicago in the 1950s, Neecey must draw on her own inner strength to persevere and become the rock that holds her five younger siblings together in the face of poverty, abuse, and neglect. 224 p.

***72 hour hold: a novel* by Bebe Moore Campbell**

Fed up with the bureaucracy of the mental health community and desperate to save her daughter Trina, who is suffering from bipolar disorder, from her increasingly violent, paranoid, and unpredictable behavior, Keri enlists the assistance of the Program, an illegal group of radicals who have rejected the established psychiatric system. 319 p.

***The emperor of Ocean Park* by Stephen L. Carter**

In his fiction debut, Carter combines a riveting legal thriller with the saga of a unique family, set in two privileged worlds: the upper-crust African-American society of the Eastern seaboard and the inner circle of an Ivy League law school. 657 p.

***The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier**

Forced to leave England and struggling with illness in the wake of a family tragedy, Quaker Honor Bright is forced to rely on strangers in the harsh landscape of 1850 Ohio and is compelled to join the Underground Railroad network to help runaway slaves escape to freedom. 305 p.

***Little Bee* by Chris Cleave**

A haunting novel about the tenuous friendship that blooms between two strangers--one an illegal Nigerian refugee, the other a recent widow from suburban London. 304 p.

***Balzac and the little Chinese seamstress* by Sijie Dai**

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, two boys are sent to the country for reeducation, where their lives take an unexpected turn when they meet the beautiful daughter of a local tailor and stumble upon a forbidden stash of Western literature. 192 p.

***The vineyard: a novel* by Barbara Delinsky**

A woman and her daughter accept an invitation to spend the summer on a vineyard to help the owner, a widow, write her memoir. They soon learn that all is not as it seems at the vineyard. 488 p.

***Room* by Emma Donoghue**

A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who kidnapped her when she was a teenager and has held her prisoner for seven years. 321 p.

***The black rose: the magnificent story of Madam C. J. Walker, America's first black female millionaire* by Tananarive Due**

A fictional biography chronicles the story of Madame C.J. Walker, who rose from the poverty of her former slave parents to found a marketing empire that made her America's first Black female millionaire. 384 p.

***The saints and sinners of Okay County* by Dayna Dunbar**

Eight months pregnant with her fourth child and coping with an unfaithful husband, Aletta Honor is desperate to support her children and sets up a new career as a psychic, using talents that she had locked away after the tragedies of her past. 352 p.

***The memory keeper's daughter* by Kim Edwards**

In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child. 401 p.

***The beet queen: a novel* by Louise Erdrich**

Orphaned fourteen-year-old Carl and his eleven-year-old sister, Mary, travel to Argus, North Dakota, to live with their mother's sister, in this tale of abandonment, sexual obsession, jealousy, and unstinting love. 338 p.

***Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris**

A novel of taut psychological suspense, offering an unprecedented window into Saudi Arabia and the lives of the men and women who live there. 320 p.

***One second after* by William R. Forstchen**

One man struggles to save his family and his small North Carolina town after America loses a war, in one second, a war based upon an Electro Magnetic Pulse weapon that will send America back to the Dark Ages. 350 p.

***The Jane Austen book club* by Karen Joy Fowler**

As six Californians get together to form a book club to discuss the novels of Jane Austen, their lives are turned upside down by troubled marriages, illicit affairs, changing relationships, and love. 304 p.

***Still Alice* by Lisa Genova**

A compelling debut novel about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease. 320 p.

***The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman**

When she becomes pregnant at age 15, Maggie's parents force her to give up her baby daughter Elodie. Elodie is raised in an orphanage turned psychiatric hospital until her release at age 17. Maggie, now married, reconnects with her first love and begins actively searching for her daughter, whom she has never forgotten. 384 p.

***Snow falling on cedars* by David Guterson**

After returning from internment and trying to get his land back, Kabuo Miyomoto is arrested and tried for the murder of Carl Heine. 460 p.

***Chocolat: a novel* by Joanne Harris**

When the beautiful and mysterious Vianne moves to Lansquenet and opens a chocolate shop across from the church, the inhabitants of the tiny village find themselves torn between the solemn law of religion and the joyful rewards of Vianne's confections. 320 p.

***Five quarters of the orange* by Joanne Harris**

A sensual novel follows a woman as she returns to the French village where she lived as a girl during the German occupation. 336 p.

***The silent wife* by A. S. A. Harrison**

Todd and Jodi are in a bad place in their relationship. They've been together for 28 years, and with no children to worry about, there has been little to disrupt their affluent lifestyle. But there has also been little to hold it together, and beneath the surface lie ever-widening cracks. When it becomes clear that their precarious world could disintegrate at any moment, Jodi knows she stands to lose everything. It's only now she will discover just how much she's truly capable of. 326 p

***Plainsong* by Kent Haruf**

An unlikely extended family is formed when a high school teacher helps a pregnant student make a home with two elderly bachelor ranchers. 301 p.

***Blackbird House* by Alice Hoffman**

Presents a series of interlinking stories that capture the lives and fortunes of the occupants of an old Massachusetts house over the course of two centuries. 238 p.

***The Museum of Extraordinary Things* by Alice Hoffman**

The daughter of a curiosities museum's front man pursues an impassioned love affair with a Russian immigrant photographer who, after fleeing his Lower East Side Orthodox community, has captured poignant images of the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. 384 p.

***Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine* by Gail Honeyman**

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. 352 p.

***The Other Alcott* by Elise Hooper**

Seeking to make her own mark on the world, May Alcott escapes her Concord home to study art and embark on a quest to discover who she is as an artist and woman. 408 p.

***Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan**

Historical novel telling the story of the relationship between legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, the wife of a couple whose home Wright built in 1904. 377 p.

***The almost sisters* by Joshilyn Jackson**

Leia finds her life is spiraling out of control. First she discovers she is pregnant from a one night stand, then she receives a phone call that her beloved grandmother is acting erratically. Meanwhile, she finds her stepsister in the middle of a marital crisis. Returning to her grandmother's small hometown in Alabama to figure out the future, Leia is confronted by the past including a dark family secret. 384 p.

***Angry housewives eating bon bons* by Lorna Landvik**

From the initial formation of The Freesia Court Book Club and over the course of the next thirty years, five women in small-town Minnesota share the events, triumphs, tragedies, hardships, joys, and sorrows of their lives. 417 p.

***Life of Pi: a novel* by Yann Martel**

A tale about survival, belief in God and coming of age, that unfolds while the protagonist is floating in a lifeboat on the Pacific Ocean. 326 p.

***The last Chinese chef* by Nicole Mones**

On a visit to China, a recently widowed American food writer finds solace and love and the most inspiring food she's ever encountered. 304 p.

***Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes**

Taking a job as an assistant to extreme sports enthusiast Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer's acerbic moods and learns of his shocking plans before demonstrating to him that life is still worth living. 369 p.

***Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng**

A story of the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family explores the fallout of the drowning death of Lydia Lee, the favorite daughter of a Chinese-American family in 1970s Ohio. 320 p.

***The time traveler's wife* by Audrey Niffenegger**

Passionately in love, Clare and Henry vow to hold onto each other and their marriage as they struggle with the effects of Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition that casts Henry involuntarily into the world of time travel. 546 p.

***Missing mom: a novel* by Joyce Carol Oates**

In the aftermath of her mother's death, thirty-one-year-old Nikki Eaton comes into a startling realization of her identity as a daughter and experiences a tumultuous year of mourning that gives way to greater wisdom and love. 464 p.

***Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett**

Follows the repercussions from a chance encounter between Beverly Keating and Albert "Bert" Cousins that sees the end of both of their marriages and influences the lives of their families for years to come. 322 p.

***The Leftovers* by Tom Perrotta**

When a bizarre phenomenon causes the cataclysmic disappearances of numerous people all over the world, Kevin Garvey, the new mayor of a once-comfortable suburban community, struggles to help his neighbors heal while enduring the fanatical religious conversions of his wife and son. 355 p.

***The pact: a love story* by Jodi Picoult**

The budding romance between two teenage children of two families who have been lifelong friends and neighbors culminates tragically in an abortive suicide pact, leading to a gripping courtroom drama. 416 p.

***The Hindi-Bindi Club* by Monica Pradhan**

For decades they have remained close, sharing treasured recipes, honored customs, and the challenges of women shaped by ancient ways yet living modern lives. They are the Hindi-Bindi Club, a nickname given by their American daughters to the mothers who left India to start anew—daughters now grown and facing struggles of their own. 429 p.

***The Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick**

A heartwarming debut novel, also a major movie, about a man who believes his life is a movie produced by God. And his God-given mission is to become physically fit and emotionally literate, whereupon God will ensure him a happy ending. 289 p.

***The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn**

When pregnant American student Charlie St. Clair is banished to Europe by her family to have her baby, she takes the opportunity to head for London to find her missing French cousin and teams up with Eve, a former spy from the Alice Network, to solve the mystery. 503 p.

***The Sunday list of dreams* by Kris Radish**

Retiring nurse Connie Nixon has a long to-do list that she's been revising for decades. But some things--like reconnecting with your daughter, or recapturing your lost spark--can't be checked off so easily. 400 p.

***No one you know* by Michelle Richmond**

Twenty years after the unsolved murder of her sister Lila, Ellie's chance meeting with the man accused of the crime leads to the discovery of Lila's secret notebook, filled with mathematical equations that lead to other enigmas in her sister's life. 352 p.

***Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson**

Ruth, a young girl struggling to overcome haunting family memories in a town which will not let her forget, gradually grows close to Sylvie, the sister of her dead mother. 219 p.

***Every crooked pot* by Renee Rosen**

Local author Rosen sets her story in Akron, where Nina Goldman grows up tied to two pillars: a port-wine stain around her eye and her inimitable father, Artie. The birthmark, she hates; her father, she loves. 227 p.

***Sarah's key* by Tatiana de Rosnay**

On the anniversary of the roundup of Jews by the French police in Paris, Julia is asked to write an article on this dark episode and embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and to the ordeal of Sarah. 293 p.

***Swamplandia!* by Karen Russell**

The Bigtree children struggle to protect their Florida Everglades alligator-wrestling theme park from a sophisticated competitor after losing their parents. 397 p.

***Snow Flower and the secret fan* by Lisa See**

A story of friendship set in 19<sup>th</sup> century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language. 269 p.

***Seating Arrangements* by Maggie Shipstead**

Winn Van Meter has a Harvard education, membership in all the right clubs, a pedigreed wife, and a tastefully understated summer home on a pristine New England island where the wedding of his eldest daughter, Daphne, is about to take place. The weather is idyllic and so, it would seem, is the gathering. But the three-day wedding weekend soon turns into a complete social disaster in every way imaginable. 302 p.

***Major Pettigrew's last stand* by Helen Simonson**

Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) leads a quiet life in the village of St. Mary, England, until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. 368 p.

***The Rosie project* by Graeme C. Simsion**

A socially awkward genetics professor who has never been on a second date sets out to find the perfect wife, but instead finds Rosie Jarman, a fiercely independent barmaid who is on a quest to find her biological father. 295 p.

***The art of racing in the rain* by Garth Stein**

Enzo, a philosophical dog eager to be reincarnated as a human, serves as a faithful companion to race-car driver Denny Swift, as he navigates both his racing career, and the many road-bumps in his family life. 336 p.

***Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout**

The world of Olive Kitteridge, a retired school teacher in a small coastal town in Maine, is revealed in stories that explore her diverse roles in many lives, including a lounge singer haunted by a past love, her stoic husband, and her own resentful son. 304 p.

***Saints for all occasions* by J. Courtney Sullivan**

A sweeping novel about two sisters--one the matriarch of a boisterous Irish Catholic family, the other a cloistered nun, hidden from the world--and the secret that drove them apart. 432 p.

***Saving fish from drowning* by Amy Tan**

On an ill-fated art expedition, eleven Americans find themselves deep in the Burmese jungle, where they encounter a tribe awaiting a leader and the mystical book of wisdom that will protect them from the Myanmar military regime. 528 p.

***Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* by Anne Tyler**

Eighty-five-year-old Pearl Tull recalls the desertion of her husband and her attempts to raise three children, who must come to terms with themselves and their father after their mother's death. 336 p.

***The space between us* by Thrity Umrigar**

Captures the delicate balance of class and gender in contemporary India as witnessed through the lives of two women—Sera Dubash, an upper middle-class housewife, and Bhima, an illiterate domestic hardened by a life of loss and despair. 321 p.

***Sing, unburied, sing* by Jesmyn Ward**

A story of how the past affects the present, and of deeply entrenched racism, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* describes the life of a biracial boy, his addicted, grieving black mother, and his incarcerated white father. A road trip to Dad's prison kick-starts the novel, which offers deeply affecting characters, a strong sense of place (rural Mississippi), and a touch of magical realism in appearances by the dead. 320 p.

***In a dark, dark wood* by Ruth Ware**

Reluctantly accepting an old friend's invitation to spend a weekend in the English countryside, reclusive writer Leonora awakens in a hospital badly injured, unable to recall what happened and confronting a growing certainty that someone involved has died. 308 p.

***Innocent traitor* by Alison Weir**

A fictional portrait of Lady Jane Grey, the great-niece of Henry VIII, follows her turbulent life against the backdrop of Tudor power politics and religious upheaval, from her youth, to her nine-day reign as Queen of England, to its tragic aftermath. 409 p.

**BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIRS**

***Rocket boys* by Homer Hickam**

Following the launching of the Soviet Sputnik, a young boy and his friends in rural West Virginia build a rocket and win the 1960 National Science Fair. 368 p.

***Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman**

Follows the author's incarceration for drug trafficking, during which she gained a unique perspective on the criminal justice system and met a varied community of women living under exceptional circumstances. 327 p.

***The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe**

Recounts how the author and his mother read and discussed books during her chemotherapy treatments, describing how the activity involved a wide range of literary genres, furthered their appreciation for literature, and strengthened their bond. 336 p.

***Twenty chickens for a saddle: the story of an African childhood* by Robyn Scott**

Robyn Scott's adventures growing up in Botswana in the 1980s and 1990s in a loving but eccentric family. 464 p.

***Half a Life* by Darin Strauss**

Although the accident was what insurers call a "no fault fatality," the moment Strauss' car struck and killed his classmate Celine, a girl he hardly knew, half a lifetime ago, his life was changed forever. 211 p.

**NONFICTION**

***The zookeeper's wife* by Diane Ackerman**

The remarkable WWII story of Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his wife, Antonina, who, with courage and coolheaded ingenuity, sheltered 300 Jews as well as Polish resisters in their villa and in animal cages and sheds. 368 p.

***Kitchen confidential* by Anthony Bourdain**

New York chef Tony Bourdain gives away secrets of the trade in his wickedly funny, inspiring memoir and exposé. 302 p.

***The boys in the boat: nine Americans and their epic quest for gold at the 1936 Olympics* by Daniel James Brown**

The dramatic story of the American rowing team that stunned the world at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics, drawn from the team's own journals, photos, and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream. 404 p.

***Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers**

Describes how Abdulrahman Zeitoun remained in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, his subsequent efforts to help other victims, his disappearance a week later, and the effect of these events on his wife Kathy and their children. 325 p.

***Blink: the power of thinking without thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell**

A book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant—in the blink of an eye—that actually aren't as simple as they seem. 320 p.

***The faith club* by Ranya Iliby**

Subtitled *A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding*, this book weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their quest to understand one another. 416 p.

***Left to tell: discovering God amidst the Rwandan holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza**

Presents the true story of a woman who endures the murder of her family as a result of genocide in Rwanda and turns to prayer for strength, love, and forgiveness. 215 p.

***The necklace: thirteen women and the experiment that transformed their lives* by Cheryl Jarvis**

The true story of thirteen women from Ventura, CA, from diverse social, educational, and political backgrounds who together purchased an expensive diamond necklace that was beyond their means individually. In the process, they changed not only themselves but a community. 256 p.

***The Fortune Cookie Chronicles* by Jennifer Lee**

A woman's search for the world's greatest Chinese restaurant proves that egg rolls are as American as apple pie in this compelling blend of sociology and history. 309 p.

***Hidden figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly**

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. 349 p.

***The other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore**

Traces the parallel lives of two youths with the same name born a year apart in the same community, describing how the author grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, White House Fellow and promising business leader while his counterpart suffered a life of violence and imprisonment. 272 p.

***In the heart of the sea: the tragedy of the whaleship Essex* by Nathaniel Philbrick**

Recounts the story of the 1820 wreck of the whaleship Essex, which inspired Melville's classic *Moby Dick*, and describes its doomed crew's ninety-day attempt to survive whale attacks and the elements on three tiny lifeboats. 320 p.

***Dreamland* by Sam Quinones**

In fascinating detail, Sam Quinones chronicles how, over the past 15 years, enterprising sugar cane farmers in a small county on the west coast of Mexico created a unique distribution system that brought black tar heroin--the cheapest, most addictive form of the opiate, 2 to 3 times purer than its white powder cousin--to the veins of people across the United States. 374 p.

***Riding the bus with my sister* by Rachel Simon**

Beth is a spirited woman with mental retardation, who spends nearly every day riding the buses in Philadelphia. The drivers are her mentors; her fellow passengers are her community. When Beth asks her sister Rachel to accompany her on the buses for one year, they take a transcendent journey together that changes Rachel's life in incredible ways and leads her to accept her sister at long last. 296 p.

***The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

Weaves together the story of Henrietta Lacks--a woman whose cells have been unwittingly used for scientific research since the 1950s--with the birth of bioethics, and the dark history of experimentation on African Americans. 381 p.

***Nothing daunted* by Dorothy Wickenden**

The acclaimed and captivating true story of two restless society girls who left their affluent lives to "rough it" as teachers in the wilds of Colorado in 1916. 286 p.

*Last updated 6/27/18*