

Book Club to Go Titles

FICTION

***Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected. 588 p.

***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.

***My sister, the serial killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite**

Slasher meets satire in this darkly comic novel set in Nigeria about a woman whose younger sister has a very inconvenient habit of killing her boyfriends. 226 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.

***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.

***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.

***When no one is watching* by Alyssa Cole**

Finding unexpected support from a new friend while collecting stories from her rapidly vanishing Brooklyn community, Sydney uncovers sinister truths about a regional gentrification project and why her neighbors are moving away. 352 p.

***The language of flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh**

When Victoria Jones starts working for a florist, she realizes her talent with flowers helps her change the lives of the people who buy her creations. But when she must confront her own painful past, she has to decide how much she is willing to change. 334 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 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.

***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.

***Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah**

They were known as the Firefly Lane girls--a single, inseparable unit. The best friends promise to be there for each other forever--and for 30 years, that promise holds strong. Then events and choices make that promise impossible. 479 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

***People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry**

With one week to win back the best friend she might just be in love with, a travel writer plans the trip of a lifetime. 364 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 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.

***The orphan master's son* by Adam Johnson**

In North Korea, Pak Jun Do slowly rises from the work camp for orphans run by his father, to soldier, kidnapper, sailor, spy, and more while falling in love with his country's most famous actress. 456 p.

***Orphan train* by Christina Baker Kline**

Close to aging out of the foster care system, Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer takes a community service position helping an elderly woman named Vivian clean out her home and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past. 278 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.

***Garden of stones* by Sophie Littlefield**

After bombs rain down on Pearl Harbor, 14-year-old Lucy Takeda and her mother, Miyako, are rounded up--along with thousands of other innocent Japanese-Americans--and taken to the Manzanar prison camp where they endure abuse and harsh living conditions until Miyako makes the ultimate sacrifice. 301 p.

***Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris**

When struggling reporter Ellis Reed takes a photograph of a sign advertising two children for sale in 1931, it leads to his big break and evokes memories from his past. 343 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.

***Circe* by Madeline Miller**

Follows Circe, the banished witch daughter of Helios, as she hones her powers and interacts with famous mythological beings before a conflict with one of the most vengeful Olympians forces her to choose between the worlds of the gods and mortals. 393 p.

***The tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris**

This beautiful, illuminating tale of hope and courage is based on interviews that were conducted with Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov—an unforgettable love story in the midst of atrocity. 262 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.

***There, there* by Tommy Orange**

Tommy Orange's wondrous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. 292 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 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 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.

***Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid**

A story about race and privilege is centered around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both. 310 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.

***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.

***The Social Graces* by Renee Rosen**

A peek behind the curtain at one of the most remarkable feuds in history: Mrs. Vanderbilt and Mrs. Astor's notorious battle for control of New York society during the Gilded Age. 382 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.

***Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour bookstore* by Robin Sloan**

A tale of global conspiracy, complex code-breaking, high-tech data visualization, young love, rollicking adventure, and the secret to eternal life--mostly set in a hole-in-the-wall San Francisco bookstore. 288 p.

***The last painting of Sara de Vos* by Dominic Smith**

Half a century after reluctantly painting a forgery of the only surviving landscape by a 17th-century female Dutch master, Sara curates an exhibit of women Dutch painters and risks exposure when both the original and her forgery arrive. 295 p.

***The light between oceans* by M. L. Steadman**

Moving his young bride to an isolated lighthouse home on Australia's Janus Rock where the couple suffers miscarriages and a stillbirth, Tom allows his wife to claim an infant that has washed up on the shore, a decision with devastating consequences. 343 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, again* by Elizabeth Strout**

A sequel to *Olive Kitteridge* finds Olive struggling to understand herself while bonding with a teen suffering from loss, a woman who gives birth unexpectedly, a nurse harboring a longtime crush and a lawyer who resists an unwanted inheritance. 301 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.

***The Wife* by Meg Wolitzer**

The story of the long and stormy marriage between a world-famous novelist, Joe Castleman, and his wife Joan, and the secret they've kept for decades. The novel opens just as Joe is about to receive a prestigious international award, The Helsinki Prize, to honor his career as one of America's preeminent novelists. Joan, who has spent forty years subjugating her own literary talents to fan the flames of his career, finally decides to stop. 224 p.

***The Lost and Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs**

Inheriting her mother's San Francisco bookshop in the wake of a tragedy, Natalie bonds with her ailing grandfather and hires a contractor to perform repairs before unexpected discoveries connect her to the community and family secrets. 355 p.

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIRS

***The yellow house* by Sarah M. Broom**

A memoir describing the author's upbringing in a New Orleans East shotgun house as the unruly 13th child of a widowed mother, tracing a century of family history and the impact of class, race and Hurricane Katrina on her sense of identity. 376 p.

***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.

***Philomena: a mother, her son, and a fifty-year search* by Martin Sixsmith**

When she became pregnant as a teenager in Ireland in 1952, Philomena Lee was sent to a convent to be looked after as a "fallen woman." Then the nuns took her baby from her and sold him, like thousands of others, to America for adoption. Fifty years later, Philomena decided to find him. Meanwhile, on the other side of the Atlantic, Philomena's son was trying to find her. 420 p.

***Heartland : a memoir of working hard and being broke in the richest country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh**

A journalist born into a Kansas farming family relates her experience growing up among the working poor, discussing the impact of intergenerational poverty on individuals, families, and communities. 290 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.

***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 Idliby**

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 girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan**

Looks at the valuable contributions made by the thousands of women who worked at a secret uranium-enriching facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee during World War II. 371 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.

***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.

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