

# Book Club Favorites



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All titles are shelved in Fiction under the author's last name, unless otherwise noted.

## 2015 Book Club Favorites

(Also see our previous years' lists online!)

***Circling the Sun*** – McLain, Paula  
In 1920s Kenya, the fearless and captivating Beryl Markham (aviator and author of *West with the Night*) is caught up in a love affair.

***Did You Ever Have a Family*** – Clegg, Bill  
A beautiful and surprising web of shared heartbreak follows a shocking disaster that leaves June alone and directionless.

***The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty*** – Vida, Vendela  
A woman whose passport gets robbed in Casablanca feels strangely liberated by her freedom to be anyone she wants to be.

***Fates and Furies*** – Groff, Lauren  
Every story has two sides, as shown in this dazzling examination of Lotto and Mathilde and their 24-year marriage.

***Girl on the Train*** – Mystery Hawkins, Paula  
After witnessing something shocking, Rachel goes to the police, and becomes entwined in the lives of everyone involved.

***A God in Ruins*** – Atkinson, Kate  
Teddy – a would-be poet, RAF bomber pilot, husband, father – navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century.

***A Little Life*** – Yanagihara, Hanya  
Brilliant, enigmatic Jude, the center of a group of former college classmates, is still scarred by a childhood trauma.

***Nightingale*** – Hannah, Kristin  
Two sisters embark on a dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France.

***Our Souls at Night*** – Haruf, Kent  
In Holt, Colorado, Addie Moore and Louis Waters come together at night to wrestle with the past and their hopes for the future.

## Non-fiction

***Between the World and Me*** –  
305.8009 Coates, Ta-Nehisi  
A journey into America's history of race told as a series of awakenings – moments of discovering some new truth about race.

***Dead Wake: the last crossing of the Lusitania*** – 940.4514 Larson, Erik  
An enthralling story of the sinking of the ocean liner, it paints a portrait of America at the height of the Progressive Era.

***Hold Still: a memoir with photographs*** –  
Bio Mann, Sally  
Sorting through boxes of family papers and yellowed photographs, Mann finds more than she bargained for.

***The Light of the World: a memoir*** –  
Bio Alexander, Elizabeth  
Poet Alexander uses rich, lucid prose to convey her existential crossroads after the sudden death of her 49-year old husband.

***M Train*** – 782.4216 Smith, Patti  
Mixing despair with hope and consolation, this is a deeply moving and meditative book by a remarkable multiplatform artist.

## Marilyn's Book Club Favorites

with citations by Marilyn (the Librarian)

***All the Light We Cannot See*** – Doerr, Anthony  
See World War II from the point of view of a young blind woman and an adolescent male. Riveting.

***Americanah*** – Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi  
In reading this book about a young African woman who migrates to the United States, the reader sees differently the unexpected challenges of immigration, race relations, women's issues, and the importance of family. A little long, but worth the effort.

***Brooklyn*** – Toibin, Colm  
A coming of age story of an Irish immigrant's experiences in 1950s Brooklyn and her small town in Ireland. Touching.

***Go Set a Watchman*** – Lee, Harper  
Pair this with "To Kill a Mockingbird" for a discussion of politics, society, race, families, and women's issues. Good companion read.

***H is for Hawk*** – 598.944 MacDonald, Helen  
After her father's unexpected death, the author took on raising a particularly difficult type of bird of prey. It takes the reader completely out of everyday life. Mesmerizing.

***The Little Paris Bookshop*** – George, Nina  
A barge turned into a floating bookshop becomes home to an eclectic group of customers and "family." Shop owner's long ago assumptions changed his life. Gentle.

***A Man Called Ove*** – Backman, Fredrik  
Curmudgeonly older man finds meaning and love from neighbors who refuse to give up on him. Heartwarming.

***A Manual for Cleaning Women*** – Berlin, Lucia  
Gritty short story collection of everyday life, best consumed in short chunks. Set in the Bay Area, Mexico, South America. Thought-provoking.

***Orphan Train*** – Kline, Christina Baker  
Teenager avoids juvenile hall by volunteering to help an older woman who had been on the Orphan Train to the Midwest in her youth. Both find they have much in common. Optimistic.

***Still Alice*** – Genova, Lisa  
How does a university professor (and her husband and family) deal with early onset Alzheimer's? An important and timely read with great opportunities for discussion, though it may be very close to home for some book club members. Eye-opening.

## Book Club Titles: Tried and True

Older titles with lasting appeal

*Bel Canto* - Patchett, Ann

*The Book Thief* - Zusak, Markus

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the*

*Night-time* - Haddon, Mark

*Cutting for Stone* - Verghese, Abraham

*The Devil in the White City* -

364.1523 Larson, Erik

*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie*

*Society* - Shaffer, Mary Ann

*The Help* - Stockett, Kathryn

*Joy Luck Club* - Tan, Amy

*Olive Kitteridge* - Strout, Elizabeth

*The Omnivore's Dilemma* -

394.12 Pollan, Michael

*Out Stealing Horses* - Petterson, Per

*The Poisonwood Bible* -

Kingsolver, Barbara

*The Road* - McCarthy, Cormac

*The Secret Life of Bees* - Kidd, Sue Monk

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* - See, Lisa

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## Try These Too

More popular titles

*City of Thieves* - Benioff, David

*Cloud Atlas* - Mitchell, David

*Disgrace* - Coetzee, J. M.

*Forgotten Garden* - Morton, Kate

*Housekeeping* - Robinson, Marilynne

*Lonesome Dove* - McMurtry, Larry

*The Night Circus* - Morgenstern, Erin

*Peace Like a River* - Enger, Leif

*The Red Tent* - Diamant, Anita

*The Samurai's Garden* - Tsukiyama, Gail

*A Visit from the Goon Squad* -

Egan, Jennifer

*Wolf Hall* - Mantel, Hilary

*Year of Wonders* - Brooks, Geraldine

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## Biography and Memoir

*Cleopatra* - Biography Cleopatra -

by Stacy Schiff

*The Color of Water* -

Biography McBride, James

*Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* -

Biography Alexandra Fuller

*Glass Castle* - Biography, Walls, Jeannette

*Infidel* - Biography Hirsi Ali, Ayaan

*Into the Wild* - Biography McCandless -

by Jon Krakauer

*Mountains Beyond Mountains* -

Biography Farmer - by Tracy Kidder

*Tender Bar* - Biography Moehringer, J.R.

*Truth & Beauty* - Biography Patchett, Ann

*Unbroken* - Biography Zamperini -

by Laura Hillenbrand

*The Year of Magical Thinking* -

Biography Didion, Joan

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## Classic Books

*Beloved* - Morrison, Toni

*The Catcher in the Rye* - Salinger, J. D.

*The Color Purple* - Walker, Alice

*Fahrenheit 451* - Science Fic. Bradbury, Ray

*The Grapes of Wrath* - Steinbeck, John

*The Great Gatsby* - Fitzgerald, F. Scott

*Jane Eyre* - Brontë, Charlotte

*Lolita* - Nabokov, Vladimir

*Midnight's Children* - Rushdie, Salman

*Mrs. Dalloway* - Woolf, Virginia

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* -

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel

*Rebecca* - du Maurier, Daphne

*A Room with a View* - Forster, E. M.

*The Sun Also Rises* - Hemingway, Ernest

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* -

Hurston, Zora Neale

*To Kill a Mockingbird* - Lee, Harper

*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* - Smith, Betty

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## Dark but Compelling Books

*A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* -

Marra, Anthony

*Defending Jacob* - Mystery Landay, William

*Euphoria* - King, Lily

*Everything I Never Told You* - Ng, Celeste

*Gone Girl* - Flynn, Gillian

*The Handmaid's Tale* - Atwood, Margaret

*The Kite Runner* - Hosseini, Khaled

*Little Bee* - Cleave, Chris

*Never Let Me Go* - Ishiguro, Kazuo

*Room* - Donoghue, Emma

*The Secret History* - Tartt, Donna

*The Secret Scripture* - Barry, Sebastian

*Sophie's Choice* - Styron, William

*The Sparrow* - Science Fiction Russell,

Mary Doria

*A Tale for the Time Being* - Ozeki, Ruth

*The Thirteenth Tale* - Setterfield, Diane

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## General Non-fiction

*Being Mortal* - 362.175 Gawande, Atul

*Big Short* - 330.973 Lewis, Michael

*Destiny of the Republic* -

973.8409 Millard, Candice

*End of Your Life Book Club* -

Bio Schwalbe, Will

*Farm City* - 630.917 Carpenter, Novella

*Freakonomics* - 330 Levitt, Steven D. and

Stephen J. Dubner

*Great Railway Bazaar* -

915.044 Theroux, Paul

*The Hare with Amber Eyes* -

909.049 de Waal, Edmund

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* -

Biography Lacks - by Rebecca Skloot

*The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* -

616.8 Sacks, Oliver W.

*Outliers* - 302 Gladwell, Malcolm

*Quiet* - 155.232 Cain, Susan

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*Season of the Witch* - 979.461 Talbot, David

*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* -

306.461 Fadiman, Anne

*Thinking, Fast and Slow* -

153.42 Kahneman, Daniel

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## Uplifting Books

*The Art of Racing in the Rain* - Stein, Garth

*Boys in the Boat* - 797.123 Brown, Daniel J.

*A Girl Named Zippy* -

Biography Kimmel, Haven

*How to Be an American Housewife* -

Dilloway, Margaret

*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* -

Simonson, Helen

*Me Before You* - Moyes, Jojo

*Plainsong* - Haruf, Kent

*Prayer for Owen Meany* - Irving, John

*Rosie Effect* - Simison, Graeme

*Still Life with Bread Crumbs* -

Quindlen, Anna

*Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* - Zevin, Gabrielle

*The Uncommon Reader* - Bennett, Alan

*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* -

Joyce, Rachel

*Where the Heart Is* - Letts, Billie

*Wild* - Biography Strayed, Cheryl

*Wonder Boys* - Chabon, Michael

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