



## Book Discussion Collection

Updated 12.30.19

*Your book discussion group may check out multiple copies from our collection of fiction and non-fiction titles.*

*All circulate for six (6) weeks.*

*They are filed alphabetically by title under the alcove windows north of our Mystery Fiction collection.*

### [After Anna](#)

**Scottoline, Lisa**

Noah Alderman has remarried a wonderful woman, Maggie, and for the first time in a long time he and his son are happy. But their lives are turned upside down when Maggie's daughter Anna moves in with them. Events take a deadly turn when Anna is murdered. *Fiction*

### [All the Light We Cannot See](#)

**Doerr, Anthony**

A novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. *Fiction*

### [An American Marriage](#)

**Jones, Tayari**

Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. *Fiction*

### [And Then There Were None](#)

**Christie, Agatha**

Ten people, strangers to each other, are invited to a lavish estate on an island. The tension mounts as, one by one, they are murdered. *Fiction*

## [Back When We were Grownups](#)

**Tyler, Anne**

Rebecca discovers that she has become the family caretaker and cheerleader. Described by critics as “funny and deeply moving”, Rebecca decides to go looking for her girlhood self. *Fiction*

## [Before the Fall](#)

**Hawley, Noah**

On a foggy summer night, eleven privileged people depart Martha's Vineyard on a private jet headed for New York. Sixteen minutes later, the unthinkable happens: the plane plunges into the ocean. With chapters weaving between the aftermath of the crash and the backstories of the passengers, the mystery surrounding the tragedy heightens. *Fiction*

## [Before I Go to Sleep](#)

**Watson, S.J.**

An amnesiac who, following a mysterious accident, cannot remember her past or form new memories, desperately tries to uncover the truth about who she is-and whom she can trust. *Fiction*

## [Britt-Marie was Here](#)

**Backman, Frederik**

Walking away from her loveless marriage and taking a job in a derelict, financially devastated town, sixty-three-year-old Britt Marie uses her fierce organizational skills to become a local soccer coach to a group of lost children. *Fiction*

## [Brooklyn](#)

**Tóibín, Colm**

In Ireland in the early 1950's, Ellis Lacey is one of many who cannot find work at home. Thus when a job is offered in America, it is clear to everyone that she must go. Leaving behind her family and country, Ellis heads for Brooklyn, New York. *Fiction*

## [Cannery Row](#)

**Steinbeck, John**

Vividly depicts the colorful, sometimes disreputable, inhabitants of a run-down area in Monterey, California. *Fiction*

## [Code Girls](#)

**Mundy, Liza**

Recruited by the U. S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges, more than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to Washington and learned the meticulous work of code-breaking. *Nonfiction*

## [Commonwealth](#)

**Patchett, Ann**

Tells the enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives. One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly--thus setting in motion the dissolution of their marriages and the joining of two families. *Fiction*

## [Couple Next Door](#)

**Lapena, Shari**

Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all--a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed. *Fiction*

## [Cuckoo's Calling](#)

**Galbraith, Robert**

Working as a private investigator after losing his leg in Afghanistan, Cormoran Strike takes the case of a legendary supermodel's suspicious suicide and finds himself in a world of multi-millionaire beauties, rock star boyfriends, desperate designers, and hedonist pursuits. *Fiction*

## [The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper](#)

**Patrick, Phaedra**

Arthur Pepper stopped engaging with life a year ago, when his wife of 40 years died. But the discovery among her things of a charm bracelet he'd never seen before prompts a quest to discover the origins of the bracelet and all of its charms. *Fiction*

## [The Death of Mrs. Westaway](#)

**Ware, Ruth**

On a day that begins like any other, Hal receives a mysterious letter bequeathing her a substantial inheritance. She realizes very quickly that the letter was sent to the wrong person--but also that the cold-reading skills she's honed as a tarot card reader might help her claim the money. Soon, Hal finds herself at the funeral of the deceased...where it dawns on her that there is something very, very wrong about this strange situation and the inheritance at the center of it. *Fiction*

## [Delicious!](#)

**Reichl, Ruth**

Working as a public relations hotline consultant for a once-prestigious culinary magazine, Billie Breslin unexpectedly enters a world of New York restaurateurs and artisanal purveyors while reading World War II letters exchanged between a plucky 12-year-old and James Beard. *Fiction*

## [Destiny of the Republic](#)

**Millard, Candice**

Significant scholarly attention has long eluded the story of James A. Garfield; however, with this book, former *National Geographic* writer Millard sheds light on one of history's forgotten presidents. Garfield was assassinated just four months into his presidency. *Nonfiction*

## [Educated: A Memoir](#)

**Westover, Tara**

Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag." When another brother got himself into college and came back with news of the world beyond the mountain, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. She taught herself enough mathematics, grammar, and science to take the ACT and was admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. *Nonfiction*

## [Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine](#)

**Honeyman, Gail**

A socially awkward, routine-oriented loner teams up with a bumbling IT guy from her office to assist an elderly accident victim, forging a friendship that saves all three from lives of isolation and secret unhappiness. *Fiction*

## [Every Secret Thing](#)

**Lippman, Laura**

Seven years after inadvertently causing a death while walking home from a party, estranged friends Alice and Ronnie are forced to confront the truth about what happened when another child goes missing under similar circumstances. *Fiction*

## [A Fall of Marigolds](#)

**Meissner, Susan**

Two women living 100 years apart experience similar tragic losses of love, Clara's in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, and Taryn's in the collapse of the Twin Towers, are connected through time by a scarf. *Fiction*

## [Flight Behavior](#)

**Kingsolver, Barbara**

Kingsolver's riveting story concerns a young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee who experiences something she cannot explain, and how her discovery energizes various competing factions--religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians -- trapping her in the center of the conflict. *Fiction*

## [A Gentleman in Moscow](#)

**Towles, Amor**

The story of Count Alexander Rostov. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. *Fiction*

## [A Girl Named Zippy](#)

**Kimmel, Haven**

In this memoir, the author takes readers back to a time when small-town America was caught in the amber of the innocent post-war period--people helped their neighbors, went to church on Sunday, and kept barnyard animals in their backyards. *Nonfiction*

## [The Girls in the Garden](#)

**Jewell, Lisa**

Deep in the heart of London, in a lush communal square, as a festive garden party is taking place, a thirteen year-old girl lies unconscious and bloody in a hidden corner. What really happened to her? And who is responsible? *Fiction*

## [Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis](#)

**Vance, J.D.**

From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. *Nonfiction*

## [Homegoing](#)

Gyasi, Yaa

Two half-sisters, unknown to each other, are born into different villages in 18th-century Ghana and experience profoundly different lives and legacies throughout subsequent generations marked by wealth, slavery, war, coal mining, the Great Migration and the realities of 20th-century Harlem. *Fiction*

## [House Rules](#)

Picoult, Jodi

A teenager with Asperger's syndrome -- smart, quirky, with a passion for crime-scene analysis -- winds up on trial for murder. *Fiction*

## [Interpreter of Maladies](#)

Lahiri, Jhumpa

In nine stories imbued with the sensual details of Indian culture, Lahiri charts the emotional journeys of characters seeking love beyond the barriers of nations and generations. *Fiction*

## [The Keeper of Lost Things](#)

Hoban, Ruth

Hogan's whimsical first novel weaves together the stories of two British assistants, one of whom works for a publisher in the 1970s and the other who, in the present day, works for an unusual elderly gentleman who has dedicated himself to assembling a room full of 40 years' worth of detritus lost or abandoned by its owners. *Fiction*

## [Last Mrs. Parrish](#)

Constantine, Liv

To everyone in the exclusive town of Bishop's Harbor, Connecticut, Daphne—a socialite and philanthropist—and her real estate mogul husband, Jackson, are a couple straight out of a fairy tale. Amber's envy could eat her alive...if she didn't have a plan. Amber uses Daphne's compassion and caring to insinuate herself into the family's life—the first step in a meticulous scheme to undermine her. *Fiction*

## [Little Fires Everywhere](#)

**Ng, Celeste**

Ugliness seethes under a placid suburban surface in this multilayered novel, in which two families grow too close for comfort. Itinerant artist Mia and her teenage daughter Pearl rent a Shaker Heights, Ohio, house from the Richardson's, who have four kids around Pearl's age. Three of the four become Pearl's constant companions; the fourth becomes Mia's. A custody suit elsewhere in the community threatens everything. *Fiction*

## [The Little Paris Bookshop](#)

**George, Nina**

Quirky and delightful, Nina George's book focuses on Jean Perdu, owner of the Literary Apothecary, a floating bookshop. When a new tenant in his apartment building sets in motion events that force Jean to re-evaluate his past, he finds himself floating off down the rivers of France in search of lost love, new love, and friends he didn't know he needed.

## [Love, Anthony](#)

**Genova, Lisa**

Two women meet by accident on a Nantucket beach and are drawn into a friendship. Olivia is a young mother whose 8-year-old severely autistic son has recently died. She comes to the island in a trial separation to try and make sense of the tragedy of her Anthony's short life. Beth, a stay-at-home mother of three, is also recently separated after discovering her husband's long-term infidelity. *Fiction*

## [Manhattan Beach](#)

**Egan, Jennifer**

Anna Kerrigan, nearly 12 years old, accompanies her father to the house of Dexter Styles, a man who, she gleans, is crucial to the survival of her father and her family with the Great Depression underway. Years later, her father has disappeared and the country is at war. Anna works at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, where women are allowed to hold jobs that had always belonged to men. She becomes the first female diver, the most dangerous and exclusive of occupations, repairing the ships that will help America win the war. She is the sole provider for her mother and her lovely, severely disabled sister. At a nightclub, she chances to meet Dexter Styles again, and she begins to understand the complexity of her father's life, the reasons he might have vanished. *Fiction*

## [Morningstar: Growing Up with Books](#)

**Hood, Ann**

Morningstar is Hood's account of growing up in a family and a town that did not value books, and learning to love them anyway, finding them a gateway into a big, beautiful world. *Nonfiction*

## [Mudbound](#)

**Jordan, Hilary**

On a Mississippi Delta farm, city girl Laura McAllen attempts to raise her family despite questionable decisions made by her husband. Tensions continue to rise when her brother-in-law and the son of a family of sharecroppers both return from WWII as changed men bearing the scars of combat. *Fiction*

## [My Name is Lucy Barton](#)

**Strout, Elizabeth**

Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her. Gentle gossip about people from Lucy's childhood in Amgash, Illinois, seems to reconnect them, but just below the surface lie the tension and longing that have informed every aspect of Lucy's life: her escape from her troubled family, her desire to become a writer, her marriage, her love for her two daughters. *Fiction*

## [Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge](#)

**Dunbar, Erica Armstrong**

A revelatory account of the actions taken by the first president to retain his slaves in spite of Northern laws profiles one of the slaves, Ona Judge, describing the intense manhunt that ensued when she ran away. *Nonfiction*

## [News of the World](#)

**Jiles, Paulette**

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, an elderly widower and itinerant news reader, is offered fifty dollars to bring an orphan girl, who was kidnapped and raised by Kiowa raiders, from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio. National Book Award finalist. *Fiction*

## [Nine Perfect Strangers](#)

**Moriarty, Liane**

Gathering at a remote health resort for a 10-day fitness program, nine strangers and their enigmatic host become subjects of interest to a brokenhearted novelist who develops uncomfortable doubts about the resort's real agenda. *Fiction*

## [The One-in-a-Million Boy](#)

**Wood, Monica**

After his 11-year-old son dies, guitarist Quinn Porter does yard work for an aged Lithuanian immigrant, Ona Vitkus, whom his son had often visited, and comes to a resolution about his son's death as Ona discusses his son's capacity to listen and learn. *Fiction*

## [Ordinary Grace](#)

**Krueger, William Kent**

Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his thirteenth year, Frank Drum explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery, and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota family. *Fiction*

## [Piece of the World](#)

**Kline, Christina Baker**

*Christina seemed destined for a small life. Instead, for more than twenty years, she was host and inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the twentieth century. Fiction*

## [The Reckoning](#)

**Grisham, John**

Shortly after WWII, a decorated veteran, calmly and with malice aforethought, murders a Methodist preacher. He makes no effort to conceal the crime, and, even after he's arrested and charged with homicide, he refuses to give anyone, even his lawyer, an explanation. *Fiction*

## [The Reivers](#)

**Faulkner, William**

Boon Hogganbeck persuades Lucius Priest, 11, to borrow his grandfather's car in 1905, and after they arrive at a bordello, the black Ned McCaslin trades the car for a horse.

## [Salt Path](#)

**Winn, Raynor**

Just days after Raynor learns that Moth, her husband of 32 years, is terminally ill, their home is taken away and they lose their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall. *Nonfiction*

## [The Seagull: A Vera Stanhope Novel](#)

**Cleeves, Ann**

An encounter with an old enemy draws Vera into a cold case investigation with ties to her father. *Fiction*

## [Searching for Sylvie Lee](#)

**Kwok, Jean**

A poignant and suspenseful drama that untangles the complicated ties binding three women—two sisters and their mother-in-law in one Chinese immigrant family and explores what happens when the eldest daughter disappears, and a series of family secrets emerges.

## [Shoemaker's Wife](#)

**Trigiani, Adriana**

Two star-crossed lovers—Enza and Ciro—meet and separate, until, finally, the power of their love changes both of their lives forever. Set during the years preceding and during World War I. *Fiction*

## [Silent Patient](#)

**Michaelides, Alex**

A therapist becomes dangerously obsessed with uncovering the truth about what prompted his client, an artist who refuses to speak, to violently murder her husband in a way that triggers mass public speculation. *Fiction*

## [Sing, Unburied, Sing](#)

**Ward, Jesmyn**

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. -*Fiction*

## [A Spool of Blue Thread](#)

**Tyler, Anne**

The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate an indefinable kind of specialness, but like all families, their stories reveal only part of the picture: Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. *Fiction*.

## [The Stars Are Fire](#)

**Shreve, Anita**

In a book based on the true story of the largest fire in Maine's history, a young woman is tested by a catastrophic event and its devastating aftermath. *Fiction*

## [Station Eleven](#)

**Mandel, Emily St. John**

One snowy night, a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. *Fiction*

## [The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#)

**Zevin, Gabrielle**

When his most prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, is stolen, bookstore owner A. J. Fikry begins isolating himself from his friends, family and associates before receiving a mysterious package that compels him to remake his life. *Fiction*

## [Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#)

See, Lisa

Set in a remote village in China that has preserved its rituals and traditions, a young girl, the daughter of tea farmers, ventures outside the village to get an education. An enlightening novel about family ties and Chinese cultural history. *Fiction*

## [Tell Tale: Short Stories](#)

**Archer, Jeffrey**

A collection of short tales features a series of protagonists reflecting the author's experiences with the people he has met and the cultures he has visited throughout the past decade. *Fiction*

## [Then She Was Gone](#)

**Jewell, Lisa**

Ten years after her teenage daughter disappears, a woman crosses paths with a charming single father whose young child feels eerily familiar. *Fiction*

## [There, There](#)

**Orange, Tommy**

As we learn the reasons that each person is attending the Big Oakland Powwow—some generous, some fearful, some joyful, some violent—momentum builds toward a shocking yet inevitable conclusion that changes everything. *Fiction*

## [To Kill a Mockingbird](#)

**Lee, Harper**

When a southern white woman accuses a black man of rape, the outcome of the trial is a foregone conclusion and no lawyer except Atticus Finch will defend him. Finch's defense costs him friendships, but earns him the respect of his two children. Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 1961. *Fiction*

## [The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry](#)

**Joyce, Rachel**

Harold Fry is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her, meeting various characters along the way and reminiscing about the events of his past and people he has known, as he tries to find peace and acceptance. *Fiction*

## [What She Knew](#)

**Macmillan, Gilly**

Rachel Jenner is walking in a Bristol park with her eight-year-old son Ben, when he asks if he can run ahead. It's an ordinary request on an ordinary Sunday afternoon, and Rachel has no reason to worry—until Ben vanishes. *Fiction*

## [Widows](#)

**La Plante, Lynda**

Facing life alone, they turned to crime together. Dolly Rawlins, Linda Pirelli and Shirley Miller are left devastated when their husbands are killed in a security van heist that goes disastrously wrong. Dolly had three options. She could give up, and hand over Harry's ledgers to the police. She could hand them over to a bunch of thugs. Or she and the other widows could take the business over and survive. *Fiction*

## [Widows of Malabar Hill](#)

**Massey, Sujata**

Perveen Mistry, Bombay's only female lawyer, is investigating a suspicious will on behalf of three Muslim widows living in full purdah when the case takes a turn toward the murderous. *Fiction*

## [Wife Between Us](#)

**Hendricks, Greer**

A psychologically charged tale of suspense follows **the** unexpected twists that shape a divorce and second marriage that are anything but what they seem.

*Fiction*

## [The Woman in Cabin 10](#)

**Ware, Ruth**

Lo Black lock, a journalist who writes for a travel magazine, has just been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise with only a handful of cabins. But as the week wears on, frigid winds whip the deck, gray skies fall, and Lo witnesses what she can only describe as a dark and terrifying nightmare: a woman being thrown overboard. The problem? All passengers remain accounted for.

*Fiction*

## [The Woman in the Window](#)

**Finn, A.J.**

Anna Fox lives alone -- a recluse in her New York City home, unable to venture outside. She spends her days drinking wine and watching old movies, recalling happier times, and spying on her neighbors. Then the Russells move into the house across the street. The perfect family. But when Anna, gazing out her window one night, sees something she shouldn't, her world begins to crumble and its shocking secrets laid bare. *Fiction*

## [Yes, Chef](#)

**Samuelsson, Marcus**

The James Beard Award-winning proprietor of Harlem's *Red Rooster* traces his Ethiopian birth, upbringing by an adoptive family in Sweden, and rise to a famous New York chef, sharing personal insights into his challenges as a black man in a deeply prejudiced industry. *Nonfiction*

## [The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls](#)

**DiSclafani, Anton**

Exiled to an equestrian boarding school in the South at the height of the Great Depression for her role in a family tragedy, strong-willed teen Thea Atwell grapples with painful memories while acclimating to the school's strict environment.

*Fiction*

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