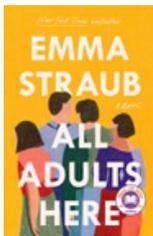


# Book Club Picks & Resources

## All Adults Here

Emma Straub

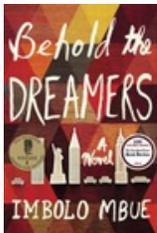


When Astrid Strick witnesses a school bus accident in the center of town, it jostles loose a repressed memory from her young parenting days decades earlier. Suddenly, Astrid realizes she was not quite the parent she thought she'd been to her three, now-grown children. Wisdom, humor, and insight come together in a deeply satisfying story about adult siblings, aging parents, high school boyfriends, middle school mean girls, the lifelong effects of birth order, and all the other things that follow us into adulthood, whether we like them to or not.

### Book Discussion Guide

## Behold the Dreamers

Imbolo Mbue

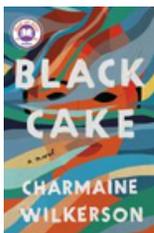


Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende's job. As all four lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.

### Book Discussion Guide

## Black Cake

Charmaine Wilkerson

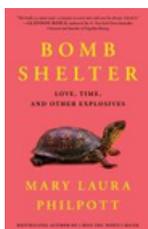


In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"?

### Book Discussion Guide

## Bomb Shelter

Mary Laura Philpott



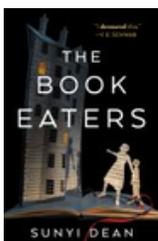
As a daughter, mother, and friend, Mary Laura Philpott considered herself an "anxious optimist"—she believed in her heart that as long as she loved her people enough, she could keep them safe. Then, in the early hours of one dark morning at home, her belief was upended. In the months that followed, she turned to poignant memories, priceless stories, and a medley of coping mechanisms (with comically mixed success) to regain her equilibrium and find meaning in everyday wonders.

### Book Discussion Guide

# Book Club Picks & Resources

## The Book Eaters

Sunyi Dean



Devon is part of The Family, an old and reclusive clan of book eaters, a secret line of people for whom books are food, and who retain all of a book's content after eating it. Her brothers grow up feasting on stories of valor and adventure, and Devon—like all other book eater women—is raised on a carefully curated diet of fairytales and cautionary stories. But real life doesn't always come with happy endings, as Devon learns when her son is born with a rare and darker kind of hunger—not for books, but for human minds.

### Book Discussion Guide

## Daisy Jones & The Six

Taylor Jenkins Reid

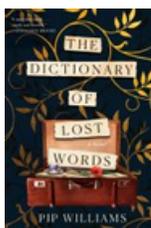


Everyone knows Daisy Jones & The Six, but nobody knows the real reason why they split at the absolute height of their popularity...until now. Daisy is a girl coming of age in L.A. in the late sixties. Her voice is getting noticed and she has the kind of heedless beauty that makes people do crazy things. Another band getting noticed is The Six, led by the brooding Billy Dunne. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend.

### Book Discussion Guide

## The Dictionary of Lost Words

Pip Williams



Esme is born into a world of words. Motherless and irrepressibly curious, she spends her childhood in the 'Scriptorium', a garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Over time, Esme realizes that some words are considered more important than others, and that words and meanings relating to women's experiences often go unrecorded. While she dedicates her life to the Oxford English Dictionary, secretly, she begins to collect words for another dictionary: The Dictionary of Lost Words.

### Book Discussion Guide

## Finding Me

Viola Davis



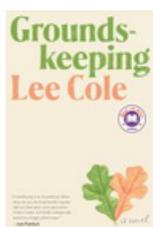
This is my story, from a crumbling apartment in Central Falls, Rhode Island, to the stage in New York City, and beyond. This is the path I took to finding my purpose but also my voice in a world that didn't always see me. I wrote this for anyone running through life untethered, desperate and clawing their way through murky memories, trying to get to some form of self-love. My hope is that my story will inspire you to light up your own life with creative expression and rediscover who you were before the world put a label on you.

### Book Discussion Guide

# Book Club Picks & Resources

## Groundskeeping

Lee Cole



In the run-up to the 2016 election, Owen Callahan, an aspiring writer, moves back to Kentucky to live with his Trump-supporting uncle and grandfather. Eager to clean up his act, he takes a job as a groundskeeper at a small local college, in exchange for which he is permitted to take a writing course. Here he meets Alma Hazdic, a writer in residence who seems to have everything Owen lacks. They begin a secret relationship, and as they grow closer, Alma--who comes from a liberal family of Bosnian immigrants--struggles to understand Owen's fraught relationship with family and home.

### Book Discussion Guide

## L.A. Weather

María Amparo Escandón



L.A. is parched, dry as a bone, and all Oscar, the weather-obsessed patriarch of the Alvarado family, desperately wants is a little rain. He's harboring a costly secret that distracts him from everything else. His wife, Keila, desperate for a life with a little more intimacy and a little less Weather Channel, feels she has no choice but to end their marriage. Their three daughters are blindsided and left questioning everything they know. Each will have to take a critical look at her own relationships and make some tough decisions along the way.

### Book Discussion Guide

## The Night Circus

Erin Morgenstern

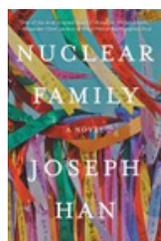


The Le Cirque des Rêves arrives without warning, and it is only open at night. Behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway—a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Despite themselves, however, Celia and Marco tumble headfirst into love. True love or not, the game must play out, and the fates of everyone involved, from the cast of extraordinary circus performers to the patrons, hang in the balance, suspended as precariously as the daring acrobats overhead.

### Book Discussion Guide

## Nuclear Family

Joseph Han



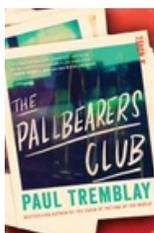
Mr. and Mrs. Cho's dream of franchising their Korean plate lunch restaurants across Hawaii seems within reach after a visit from Guy Fieri boosts the profile of Cho's Delicatessen. But when a viral video shows their son, Jacob trying to cross the Korean demilitarized zone, nothing can protect the family from suspicion and the restaurant from waning sales. No one knows that Jacob has been possessed by the ghost of his lost grandfather, who feverishly wishes to cross the divide and find the family he left behind in the north.

### Book Discussion Guide

# Book Club Picks & Resources

## The Pallbearers Club

Paul Tremblay

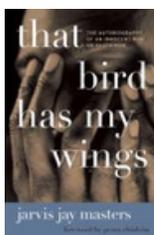


Art Barbara was a seventeen-year-old high school loner in the late 1980s who listened to hair metal, had to wear a back-brace at night for his scoliosis, and started an extracurricular club for volunteer pallbearers at poorly attended funerals. But his new friend thought the Pallbearers Club was cool. And she brought along her Polaroid camera to take pictures of the corpses. Decades later, Art tries to make sense of it all by writing *The Pallbearers Club: A Memoir*. But somehow this friend got her hands on the manuscript and, well, she has some issues with it. And now she's making cuts.

### Book Discussion Guide

## That Bird Has My Wings

Jarvis Jay Masters

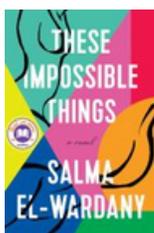


An astounding memoir of death row inmate Jarvis Masters and a testament to the tenacity of the human spirit and the talent of a fine writer. Offering scenes from his life that are at times poignant, revelatory, frightening, soul-stirring, painful, funny, and uplifting, *That Bird Has My Wings* tells the story of the author's childhood with parents addicted to heroin, an abusive foster family, a life of crime and imprisonment, and the eventual embracing of Buddhism.

### Book Discussion Guide

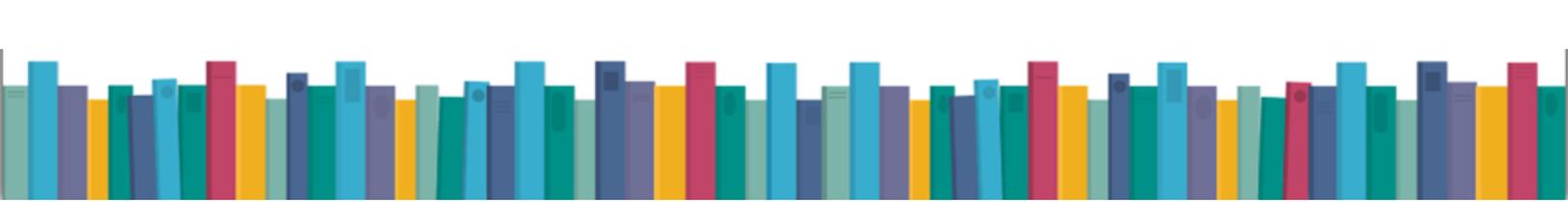
## These Impossible Things

Salma El-Wardany



Since childhood, under the watchful eyes of their families, Malak, Kees and Jenna learned to live their own lives alongside the expectations of being good Muslim women. Malak wants the dream, Kees is in love with Harry and Jenna is the life of the party. But as their college years end, one-night changes everything when harsh truths are revealed. As their lives begin to take different paths, Malak, Kees, and Jenna must find a way back to each other as they reconcile faith, family, and tradition with their own needs and desires.

### Book Discussion Guide



# Book Club Picks & Resources

## **Lit Lovers**

An online community that is all things reading! Find information on how to start a book club, suggestions for your book club or reading on your own, and access reading guides for discussion groups.

## **Goodreads**

A book-focused website that helps you keep track of what you're reading and lets you write book reviews. This site also provides recommendations and allows you to connect with other readers.

## **Booklist Blog**

Formerly known as The Booklist Reader, this blog offers freely accessible book and awards list, author/illustrator interviews, resources, and news from Booklist and the American Library Association.

## **Oprah's Book Club**

Book club suggestions chosen and highlighted by Oprah Winfrey.

## **Reese's Book Club**

Book club suggestions chosen and highlighted by Reese Witherspoon.

## **Reading Group Guides**

This site offers discussion guides, which can be searched by title, author or genre, includes more than 200 nonfiction titles as well.