

July - December 2025 book club picks will be available in May/June.

As always, we thank you for being the secret ingredient that brings the JOY to all our book club gatherings!

We'll see you on Main Street!



Fab Fantasy Club Picks: February -June

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Four Ruined Realms by Mai Corland

\$32.99 Book club price: \$29.69 Hardcover, 432 pp

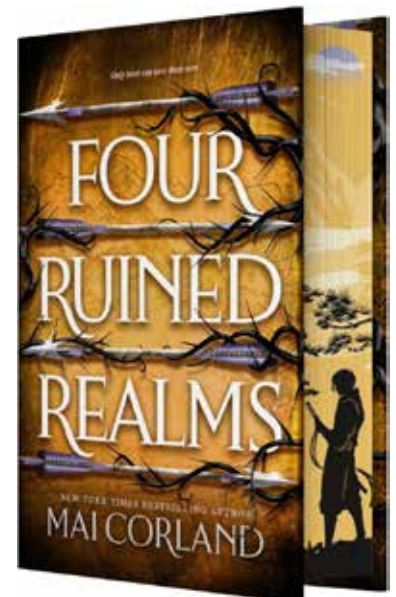
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781649377500>

Enter a world of deceit, danger, and breathtaking adventure with this gripping continuation of the Broken Blades series. This tale of revenge, loyalty, and power is as intricate as the stunning DELUXE LIMITED EDITION it comes in—complete with sprayed edges, exclusive endpapers, and special design features.

In this high-stakes fantasy, the ruthless King of Yusan is determined claim his sister's Golden Ring of the Dragon Lord, using manipulation and cunning to force the five blades into an impossible mission. Bound by a common enemy but fractured by betrayal, the blades must infiltrate the foreign realm of Quilimar to steal the ring from the formidable Queen of Khitan.

As time ticks away, their quest becomes more treacherous—not just because of the obstacles before them, but because of the mistrust between them. Can they overcome the lies that tore them apart, or will their thirst for vengeance be their undoing?

With vivid world-building and complex characters, Corland delivers a tale of shifting alliances and razor-sharp tension. Perfect for fans of morally gray heroes and intricate heist stories, this book will spark lively discussions about trust, betrayal, and the cost of revenge. Join us as we delve into the thrilling twists and turns. Will the blades prevail against King Joon's ruthless game? Or will vengeance consume them all? Prepare for an unforgettable journey—and bring your theories to the table! (Best if you read Five Broken Blades first - a prior Fab Fantasy choice!)



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Fab Fantasy Club Picks: February - June

MARCH 6, 2025

Immortal by Sue Lynn Tan

\$32.00 Book club price: \$28.80 Hardcover, 464 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780063267619>

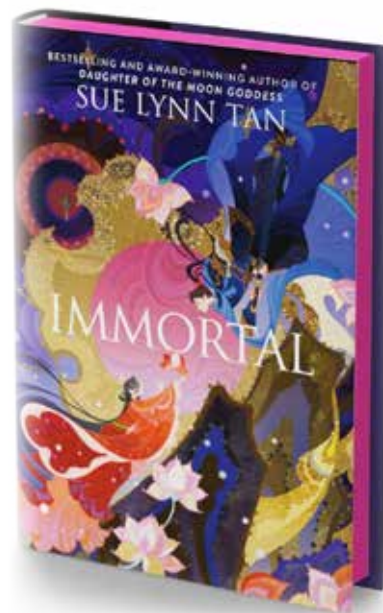
Step into a world of forbidden magic, perilous alliances, and breathtaking romance with *Immortal*, the latest masterpiece from Sue Lynn Tan, bestselling author of *Daughter of the Moon Goddess*.

When young Liyen ascends to her mortal throne after her grandfather's death, she vows to break her kingdom's servitude to the immortals and seek vengeance for the loss she blames on their meddling. But her ambitions take a dangerous turn when she's summoned to the Immortal Realm and forced to strike an alliance with the enigmatic and ruthless God of War.

As secrets unravel and their destinies entwine, a forbidden attraction sparks between Liyen and the God of War—one she must resist to protect her people and her heart. With dark forces closing in and her kingdom at the brink of destruction, Liyen must decide how much she's willing to sacrifice to save her people, even if it means forging an unbreakable bond with the very being she should fear the most.

Sue Lynn Tan's lush, lyrical storytelling and rich world-building immerse readers in a realm of dangerous intrigue and undeniable passion. Perfect for fans of *Once Upon a Broken Heart* and *The Shadows Between Us*, *Immortal* promises to spark lively book club discussions about duty, desire, and the power of trust in the face of betrayal.

Don't miss the chance to discuss this dazzling romantic fantasy—join us as we uncover the secrets of *Immortal* and explore the choices that define its unforgettable heroine.



APRIL 3, 2025

Our Infinite Fates by Laura Steven

\$20.00 Book club price: \$18.00 - 97816493765654 Hardcover, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250333889>

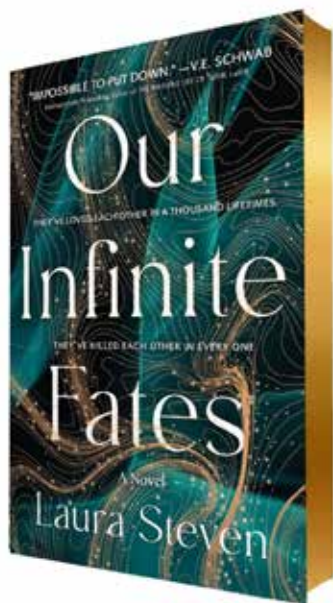
Dive into a spellbinding tale of love, betrayal, and timeless reincarnation. A breathtaking blend of *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* and *This Is How You Lose the Time War*, this fantastical love story will captivate readers with its poignant exploration of fate, memory, and redemption.

Evelyn has lived and died a thousand times, and in every single life, she's been murdered before her eighteenth birthday—by Arden, the mysterious being bound to her soul. But this time, Evelyn remembers. She's determined to break the deadly cycle, not only to save herself but also to protect her younger sister, whose survival depends on Evelyn staying alive.

To end the centuries-old curse, Evelyn must uncover why she's been hunted through time, track down her immortal nemesis, and resist the undeniable pull of their shared connection. But as the clock ticks down and her past lives resurface, Evelyn faces an impossible question: Can she destroy the one person she's loved in every lifetime to save the one person she loves now? Laura Steven's lyrical prose and hauntingly beautiful storytelling deliver a tale that's equal parts thrilling and heartbreaking. Perfect for fans of epic love stories with a dark twist, *Our Infinite Fates* will spark vibrant discussions about destiny, morality, and the power of love to shape our choices—and our fates.

Join us as we unravel the threads of this unforgettable novel and explore the fine line between love and destruction.

Don't miss this extraordinary journey through time and hearts—prepare for an evening of rich conversation.



Fab Fantasy Club Picks: February - June

MAY 1, 2025

Lightfall by Ed Crocker

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 Hardcover, 384 pp

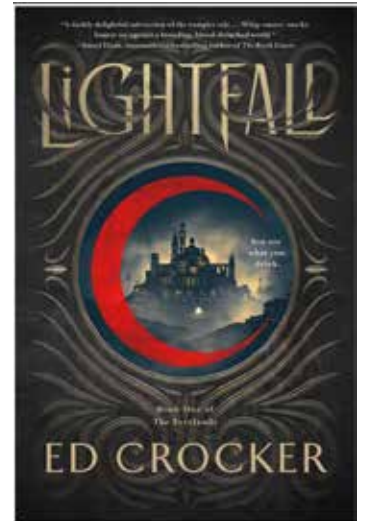
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250287731>

Step into the dark and enthralling debut fantasy, perfect for fans of Jay Kristoff's *Empire of the Vampire* and Richard Swan's *The Justice of Kings*. With its intoxicating mix of vampires, werewolves, sorcerers, and rebellion, this epic tale delivers a story brimming with intrigue, danger, and defiance.

In the last vampire stronghold of First Light, survival is dictated by blood and class. The privileged drink richly while the poor endure meager scraps, and no one escapes the city's suffocating rules. But when palace maid Sam discovers a clue to the murder of the ruler's son, she seizes the chance to upend the hierarchy. Her blackmail attempt thrusts her into the shadowy underworld of the Leeches—a band of rebel maids fighting to balance the scales of power.

As Sam allies with a shrewd sorcerer, a fierce werewolf assassin, and a cunning countess, she uncovers a conspiracy that threatens the fragile survival of First Light. With the city's elite pulling deadly strings and the Grays—monsters that nearly annihilated vampirekind—still looming in memory, Sam must navigate treachery on all sides.

Richly atmospheric and teeming with tension, *Lightfall* is a tale of grit, wit, and the pursuit of freedom against impossible odds. Ed Crocker's complex characters and twisting plot will spark animated discussions about power, rebellion, and what it takes to fight for a better world. Join us as we delve into this unforgettable fantasy and debate whether Sam can uncover the truth—and survive long enough to change her fate.



JUNE 5, 2025

Gifted and Talented by Olivie Blake

\$29.99 Book club price: \$26.99 Hardcover, 512 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250883407>

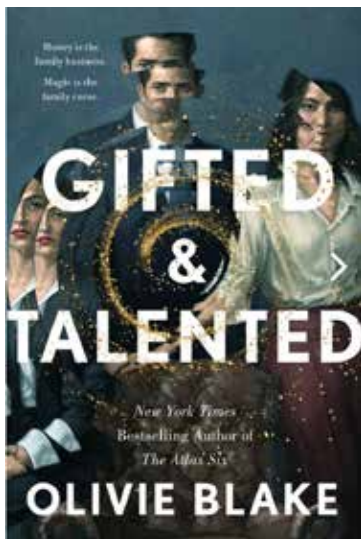
From Olivie Blake, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Atlas Six*, comes *Gifted and Talented*—a darkly witty exploration of sibling rivalries, dangerous abilities, and the burdens of unrealized potential. Perfect for fans of speculative family dramas with sharp twists, this novel dives into the lives of three gifted siblings vying for power in the aftermath of their father's death.

Thayer Wren, the visionary CEO of Wrenfare Magitech and modern tech pioneer, is gone. Left in his wake is a massive fortune—and a bitter competition among his children for control. Meredith, the eldest, is a biotech mogul celebrated for curing mental illness, but her polished façade conceals an ex-boyfriend threatening to expose her fraud.

Arthur, the golden child politician, battles a crumbling career and marriage, hoping the inheritance will save him from failure. Then there's Eilidh, the former ballerina turned marketing exec, desperate for validation after her career-ending injury.

Armed with telepathic and electrokinetic abilities, each sibling believes they're uniquely deserving of the Wrenfare throne. Yet as the will sets the stage for a high-stakes power struggle, long-buried secrets and simmering tensions erupt, forcing them to question not just their inheritance but their identity and worth.

Blake's incisive prose and biting humor weave a tale that's as much about family dysfunction as it is about ambition and power. Join us as we delve into the razor-sharp dynamics of the Wren family, debating morality, motives, and the pressures of living up to impossible expectations. Look forward to a thought-provoking discussion.



Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: January - June

JANUARY 14, 2025

If I Go Missing by Leslie Wolfe

\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.19 Paperback, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781538769539>

Get ready for a gripping, edge-of-your-seat thriller that will keep you guessing until the final page. This is a story of secrets, betrayal, and the thin line between paranoia and preparation.

The novel follows a woman who suspects her darkest secrets have placed her in mortal danger. Determined to leave a trail in case the worst happens, she compiles a binder of clues meant for the one person she trusts most—her childhood best friend and next-door neighbor. But as she disappears, her cryptic message unravels a web of lies that threatens to expose not just her secrets, but those of the very person she entrusted with the truth.

This twisty psychological thriller explores themes of loyalty, deception, and how well we really know the people closest to us. Leslie Wolfe's masterful storytelling will have you questioning every character's motive, while her razor-sharp suspense keeps you glued to the page.

Perfect for fans of *The Girl on the Train* or *The Last House on Needless Street*, this book offers plenty for a lively book club discussion: Would you risk your safety to uncover the truth about a friend? What happens when trust is shattered? And how far would you go to protect your secrets?

Join us for a conversation you won't want to miss as we dive into the chilling world of *If I Go Missing*. Who's guilty, who's innocent, and who's next? Let's figure it out—together.



FEBRUARY 11, 2025

The Business Trip by Jessie Garcia

\$29.00 Book club price: \$26.10 Paperback, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250364418>

Brace yourself for a wild ride with a gripping debut thriller that will leave you questioning every twist and turn.

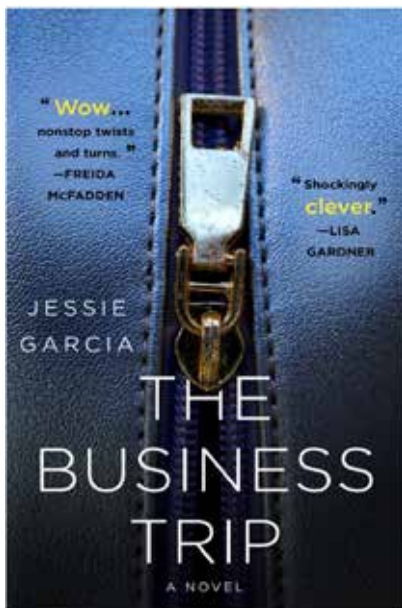
Stephanie and Jasmine couldn't be more different—one is a professional on a business trip, the other a woman desperately fleeing an abusive relationship. They've never met, but their lives intersect in chilling ways. After encountering the enigmatic Trent McCarthy, both women begin sending increasingly strange and erratic messages to their friends. Then, silence.

As Stephanie and Jasmine vanish without a trace, their disappearances set off a race to uncover the truth. Who is Trent McCarthy? Is he a predator, or is he the prey? And what really happened to the women?

Packed with shocking twists and layered with psychological intrigue, *The Business Trip* dives deep into the minds of its characters. With each revelation, you'll question

everything you thought you knew about manipulation, survival, and the lengths people will go to protect themselves—or control others.

Perfect for fans of *Gone Girl* and *The Flight Attendant*, this fast-paced thriller will spark a dynamic book club discussion: How do we spot red flags in relationships? What role does trust play in high-stakes situations? Join us as we unravel the mystery behind *The Business Trip*. With its intense plot and unforgettable characters, this novel will have everyone talking long after the last page is turned.



Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: January - June

MARCH 11, 2025

A Killing Cold by Kate Alice Marshall

\$28.99 Book club price: \$26.09 Hardcover, 304 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250343055>

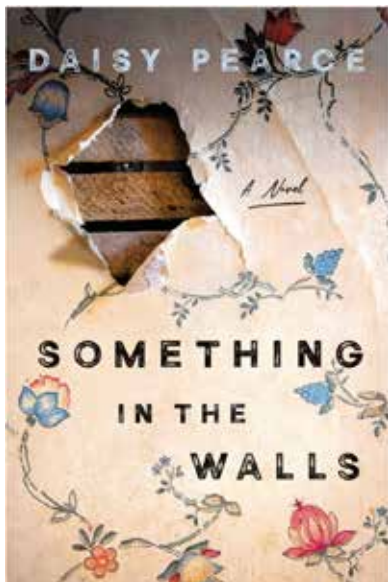
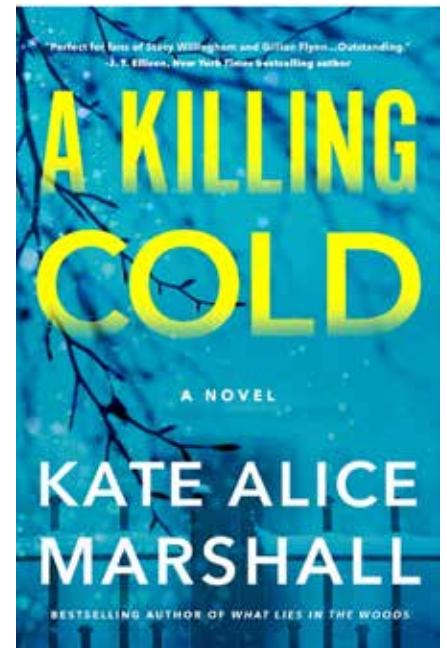
From the bestselling author of *What Lies in the Woods* comes a chilling thriller packed with secrets, danger, and twists that will keep you guessing!

Theodora Scott's whirlwind romance with Connor Dalton seemed perfect. He's charming, wealthy, and a member of the powerful Dalton family. Now, six months later, Theo is at Idlewood, the family's isolated winter retreat, trying to win over his skeptical future in-laws. But beneath the surface of this glittering, picture-perfect family lies something dark and dangerous.

The unsettling messages Theo has been receiving can no longer be brushed off as mere pranks—not when footprints appear in the snow outside her window. Worse, Theo discovers something impossible in an abandoned cabin: a photo of herself as a child. A photo taken at Idlewood, a place she has no memory of ever visiting.

As Theo begins to dig into the fragments of her forgotten childhood, she uncovers a devastating connection to the Daltons and their shocking secret—a secret someone will kill to keep buried. With her life on the line and no one she can trust, Theo must confront her past to survive.

Perfect for fans of slow-burning suspense and psychological intrigue, Dive in and join the discussion: What would you do if your memories held the key to the truth? And what if discovering it could cost you everything? Prepare for an icy, atmospheric thriller that will spark unforgettable conversations!



APRIL 8, 2025

Something in the Walls by Daisy Pearce

\$28.00 Book club price: \$25.20 Hardcover, 304 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250334381>

Dive into a spine-chilling thriller where folklore and fear collide. This psychological masterpiece blends tension, sinister secrets, and haunting suspense. Fans of *Midsummer* and *The Haunting of Hill House* will find themselves utterly captivated by this atmospheric tale.

Mina, a newly-minted child psychologist, is desperate for professional experience. When journalist Sam Hunter approaches her with an intriguing case, Mina can't resist. Thirteen-year-old Alice Webber, living in the remote, superstition-laden village of Banathel, claims she's being haunted by a witch. Sam hopes to uncover a headline-worthy story, and Mina hopes to help Alice heal. But instead of progress, Alice's condition worsens in ways that defy explanation.

Banathel's dark history of witchcraft and superstition begins to seep into Mina's life.

The villagers are unwelcoming, their traditions steeped in fear and sinister undertones. As Mina delves deeper, she uncovers unsettling truths—not just about the town, but about herself. The cracks of her own past threaten to consume her as Alice's haunting escalates.

Pearce masterfully layers psychological complexity with chilling folklore, creating a story that will leave readers questioning the boundary between the real and the supernatural. Themes of grief, belief, and the weight of tradition weave through the narrative. What drives a community to uphold dangerous traditions? How much of what haunts us is shaped by our own minds? And how far would you go to uncover the truth when the cost might be your own sanity?

Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: January - June

MAY 13, 2025

Count My Lies by Sophia Stava

\$28.99 Book club price: \$26.09 Hardcover, 336 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781668079348>

Prepare for a thrilling conversation as we unravel *Count My Lies*, a dazzling suspense novel that explores the dangerous web spun by deceit.

Sloane Caraway's harmless lies, intended to make her mundane life more exciting, lead her into the luxurious world of Jay and Violet Lockhart—a seemingly perfect couple with secrets far darker than her own.

This read-in-one-night page-turner captures the thrill of deception and the consequences when lies stack up, creating a reality more twisted than truth itself.

Fans of Lisa Jewell and Lucy Foley will relish Stava's sharp plotting and compulsive pacing as the story hurtles toward its shocking conclusion.

What drives Sloane to lie? Can we trust anyone in the Lockhart household? And what happens when small lies snowball into life-threatening truths?

At this book club, we'll dissect the morally gray characters, unpredictable twists, and themes of privilege, manipulation, and survival.

Join us to share your thoughts on Sloane's choices, the Lockharts' secrets, and the novel's haunting message: be careful what you lie for—it might just trap you.



JUNE 10, 2025

The Strange Noble Death of Babs Dionne by Ron Currie

\$29.00 Book club price: \$26.10 - Hardcover, 368 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593851661>

Here's your chance to explore the dark, mythic underpinnings of *The Strange Noble Death of Babs Dionne*.

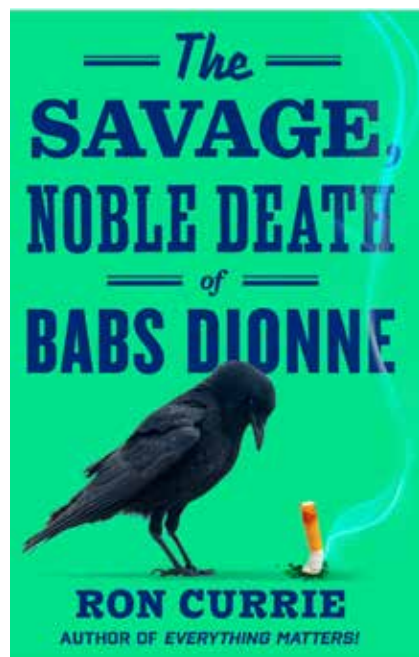
This will offer up a gripping literary thriller centered on Babs, a formidable crime matriarch in small-town Maine.

As Babs juggles a missing daughter, a malevolent enforcer, and a spiraling drug empire, the novel delves into themes of family loyalty, ancestral legacy, and the price of vengeance.

With a cast of unforgettable characters you'll want to live with long past the book's ending, including Babs's tough-as-nails lieutenants and her Marine vet daughter Lori, Currie paints a vivid portrait of love, loss, and power dynamics.

The death of Sis sets off a cascade of events that will leave no one in Little Canada untouched, culminating in an explosive reckoning.

We'll discuss the novel's sharp wit, emotional depth, and its exploration of how ancestral ties can nurture or imprison us.



Is Babs a hero, a villain, or something in between?

How does the story balance crime, mythology, and profound empathy?

Come ready to debate, theorize, and marvel at this unforgettable tale of a woman's wrath and the family legacy she both protects and redefines.

Kiss & Tell Romance Picks: January - June

JANUARY 21, 2025

The Playboy by Marni Mann

\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.99 Paperback, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781649377906>

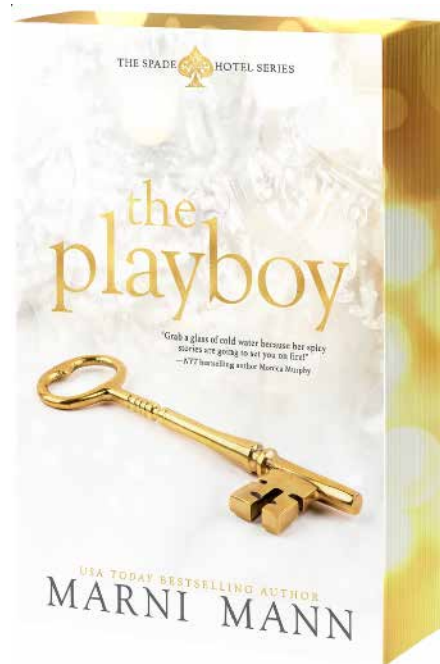
Prepare for a sizzling, high-stakes romance with this grumpy-sunshine love story. It all starts with an anonymous, electrifying one-night stand that turns the world of Spade, a billionaire heir, upside down. Known for his playboy reputation and commitment to bachelorhood, Spade is the last man anyone would peg as “boyfriend material.” He’s built his life around luxury, success, and avoiding any strings that might tie him down.

But when he spots her—a stunning woman with flowing dark hair, a smile that leaves him breathless, and a magnetic presence that draws him in—he’s consumed by desire. Their fiery chemistry leads to a night of passion with no names exchanged. It’s supposed to be over, but Spade can’t stop thinking about her. For the first time, he finds himself yearning for something more...

When fate intervenes and their paths cross again, Spade seizes the chance to make her his. Yet, she’s not so easily won. Her reluctance challenges everything Spade thought he knew about women and himself, pushing him to confront his deepest fears and desires.

This romance offers scorching heat, witty banter, and heartfelt vulnerability as Spade fights to prove that he’s more than a playboy. With its bonus content and unforgettable characters,

The Playboy will leave readers swooning and clamoring for just one more chapter.



FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Ruthless Creatures by JT Geissinger!

\$19.99 Book club price: \$17.99 Paperback, 400 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250346704>

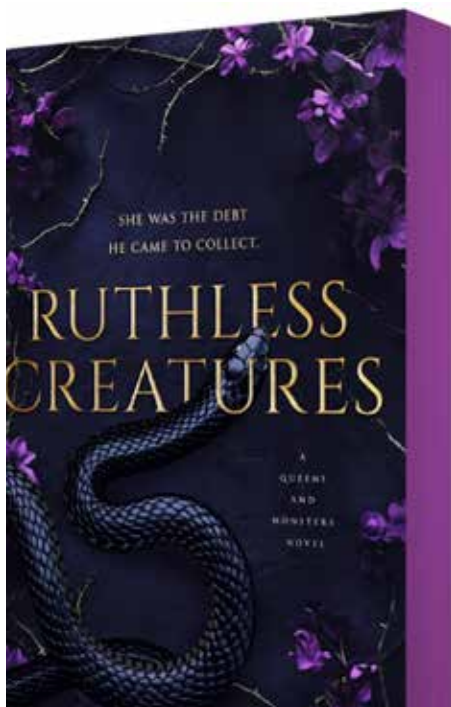
Dark, dangerous, and utterly irresistible, *Ruthless Creatures* by J.T. Geissinger is a mafia romance that will leave your heart pounding.

Five years after her fiancé’s sudden disappearance, Natalie is still haunted by unanswered questions and shattered dreams. Her once-bright future has been reduced to a quiet life shadowed by pain and loss—until a mysterious stranger named Kage arrives in her small town.

Tall, brooding, and wrapped in secrets, Kage is impossible to ignore. His presence exudes danger, yet Natalie is drawn to him like a moth to a flame. Sparks fly, and their chemistry is undeniable, igniting a passion that leaves Natalie questioning her cautious existence. But Kage isn’t just a stranger—he’s a man with a mission, and Natalie is the key to his deadly plans.

When she discovers that Kage has been sent to collect on an unpaid debt tied to her missing fiancé, the stakes become life or death. Natalie must decide if she can trust the man who has brought both passion and peril into her life. Is he her salvation or her undoing?

Packed with explosive twists, scorching romance, and a bonus chapter that delves even deeper into Kage’s secrets, *Ruthless Creatures* is a gripping tale of love and betrayal. Perfect for readers who crave dark, suspenseful romances with unforgettable characters.



Kiss & Tell Romance Picks: January - June

MARCH 18, 2025

Deep End by Ali Hazelwood

\$20.00 Book club price: \$18.00 Paperback, 464 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593550441>

Dive into the turbulent waters of forbidden romance. Scarlett Vandermeer is a platform diver at Stanford, determined to recover from an injury that almost ended her career and focused on her ultimate goal: med school. With no room for distractions, Scarlett keeps relationships at bay, convincing herself she doesn't need anything more.

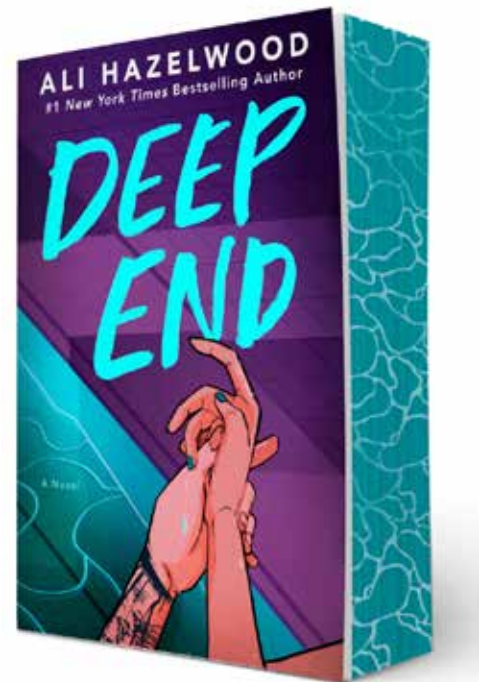
Enter Lukas Blomqvist, the swim team's golden boy and world champion, whose life revolves around discipline and focus. To outsiders, the two couldn't be more different, but a shared secret brings them together in an unexpected way. What begins as a temporary, no-strings-attached arrangement quickly spirals into something neither of them anticipated.

As Olympic dreams loom and pressures mount, Scarlett and Lukas find themselves in uncharted territory. Their connection deepens, but their competitive worlds and personal insecurities threaten to pull them apart.

Scarlett must confront not only her growing feelings for Lukas but also the fears holding her back from fully diving in.

Filled with emotional depth, sizzling chemistry, and the perfect blend of tension and tenderness, *Deep End* captures the beauty of taking risks in love and life.

Fans of sports romance and forbidden relationships will find themselves immersed in Scarlett and Lukas's journey.



APRIL 22, 2025

Ever Mine by Laura Pavlov

\$17.99 Book club price: \$15.99 Paperback, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781649378668>

Love, loss, and second chances collide in this heart-tugging romance that will resonate with readers who believe in soulmates.

Hawk Madden, hockey's golden boy, was Everly's first love and the man she thought she'd spend forever with. But grief and heartbreak tore them apart, leaving Everly running from the pain and the memories.

Now, nearly a decade later, Hawk is back in her life, and their worlds collide once again when Everly is hired to fix his PR image.

One look at Hawk reignites feelings she thought were long buried, and one touch is all it takes to remind her of the love they once shared. But Everly isn't the only one carrying scars, and Hawk has his own demons to battle.

As old wounds resurface and chemistry sparks anew, Everly and Hawk must decide if they're willing to fight for the future they once dreamed of. Can they overcome the grief and mistakes of the past to find their way back to each other?

With heartfelt emotion, sizzling romance, and a story that feels achingly real,

Ever Mine is a tale of rediscovering love and healing from heartbreak. Readers will root for Hawk and Everly to find their happy ending, proving that sometimes, first love can truly be forever.



Kiss & Tell Romance Picks: January - June

MAY 20, 2025

The Never List by Jade Presley

\$32.99 Book club price: \$29.69 Hardcover

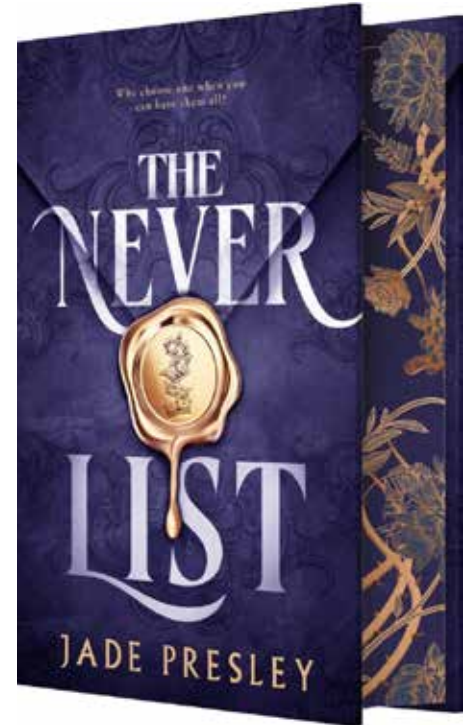
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781649377524>

Fantasy and desire entwine in *The Never List* by Jade Presley, a captivating romantasy that blends high-stakes adventure with sizzling romance. When her sister's life hangs in the balance, the heroine is thrust into a world ruled by four princes of chaos, each more powerful and dangerous than the last. With no choice but to confront these alluring yet treacherous men, she must navigate a realm of deceit, power struggles, and temptation.

Dubbed a blend of *Fifty Shades of Grey* and *Serpent and the Wings of Night*, this why-choose romance delivers a thrilling mix of fantasy and steamy relationships.

As the heroine's quest unfolds, she's faced with impossible choices and the growing realization that surrendering her heart might be the key to saving her sister—and herself.

With its lush world-building, intense chemistry, and jaw-dropping twists, *The Never List* is a must-read for fans of romantasy. Its limited-edition deluxe print with stunning sprayed edges makes it even more irresistible to collectors and book lovers.



JUNE 17, 2025

Say You'll Remember Me by Abby Jimenez

\$28.00 Book club price: \$25.20 Hardcover, 368 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781538759196>

Say You'll Remember Me by Abby Jimenez is a beautifully written story of love, timing, and the power of second chances:

Samantha doesn't believe in perfect men—until she meets Xavier Rush, a gorgeous veterinarian with a soft spot for kittens and a knack for putting his foot in his mouth. Their chemistry is undeniable, leading to an unforgettable date that feels like the start of something extraordinary.

But Samantha's life is far from perfect. With her family in crisis, she decides she can't pursue a relationship, no matter how strong her connection with Xavier is. She begs him to remember their magical night together as a fleeting, perfect memory and nothing more.

Xavier, however, isn't one to give up easily. As time passes, their paths cross again, and the pull between them becomes impossible to ignore. Samantha must decide if she's willing to let go of her fears and embrace the love she never thought she'd find.

Packed with humor, heartache, and Abby Jimenez's signature charm, *Say You'll Remember Me* is a story about finding hope in the midst of chaos

and building a love worth remembering. Perfect for fans of emotional, character-driven romances that leave a lasting impression.

Books & Banter Picks: January - June

JANUARY 28, 2025

Like Mother Like Mother by Susan Rieger

\$29.00 Book club price: \$26.10 Hardcover, 336 pp

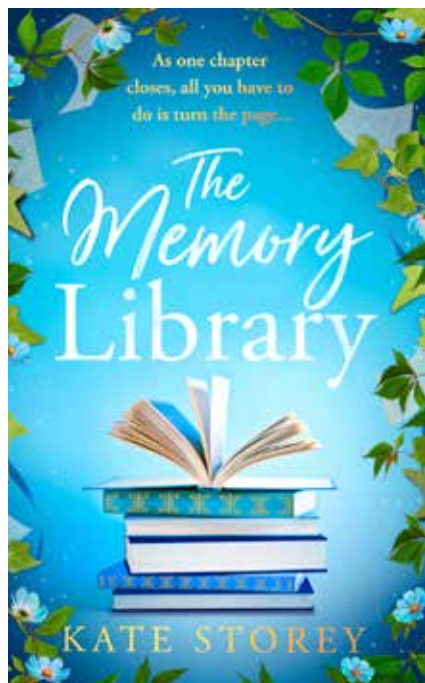
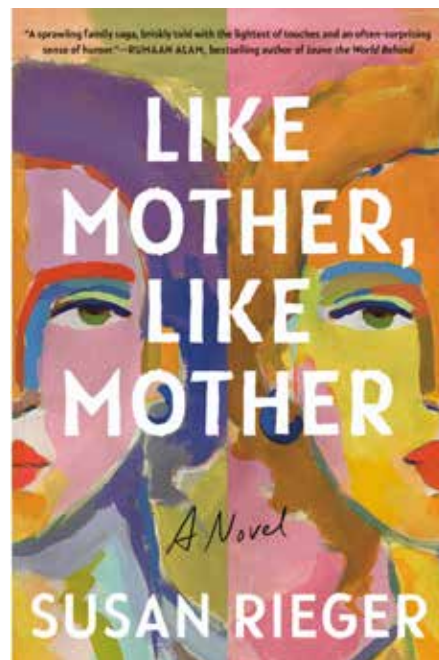
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780525512493>

A spellbinding family saga that spans three generations of strong-willed women, all grappling with the secrets and choices that shaped their lives. Beginning in Detroit, 1960, the novel introduces Lila Pereira, a two-year-old whose mother is unjustly committed to an asylum by her abusive father.

Decades later, Lila becomes the brilliant executive editor of The Washington Globe, unapologetically prioritizing her career while her husband shoulders the responsibilities of raising their daughters.

But ambition comes at a price. Grace, Lila's youngest, grows up resenting her mother's absences, longing for her presence at PTA meetings rather than high-profile events. As Grace carves out her own career as a journalist, she writes a bestseller about her mother's life, only to realize how little she truly knows about their family history. Did Lila's mother really die in the asylum? Is ambition always a betrayal of family?

With sharp wit, emotional depth, and unforgettable characters, this novel explores the complex intersections of motherhood, ambition, marriage, and identity. Perfect for book club discussions, this novel raises thought-provoking questions about how the past shapes us and whether we can ever fully escape it.



FEBRUARY 25, 2025

The Memory Library by Kate Storey

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 Paperback, 336 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780008658540>

Step into the heartwarming world of The Memory Library, a novel that celebrates the enduring power of love, forgiveness, and the stories that bind us together.

For forty-two years, Sally Harrison has quietly built a sanctuary of memories—a library dedicated to her only child, Ella. Every year on Ella's birthday, Sally adds a book to the collection, each one inscribed with a heartfelt note, a tribute to her daughter and the life they once shared. But the library remains unopened. Two decades ago, after a heated argument, Ella fled to Australia and never looked back.

Now, life takes an unexpected turn. A crisis forces Ella to return to the home she left behind, confronting the ghosts of the past and the mother she's long avoided. Within the walls of her childhood home, Ella stumbles upon the shelves filled with years of silent devotion. What she finds there is a testament to her mother's love and an invitation to rediscover their bond.

Kate Storey's novel is a beautifully woven tale of second chances, resilience, and the healing power of stories. Perfect for fans of Sally Page's The Keeper of Stories, this novel reminds us that when one chapter ends, another is waiting to begin—all you have to do is turn the page.

Join us for this month's book club discussion to explore Sally and Ella's journey, the complexities of family relationships, and the redemptive magic of storytelling. Come ready to share your thoughts on the power of books to bridge even the widest divides. We'll provide wine, appetizers, and a cozy atmosphere to dive into this unforgettable story!.

Books & Banter Picks: January - June

MARCH 25, 2025

Three Days in June by Anne Tyler

\$27.00 Book club price: \$24.30 Hardcover, 176 pp

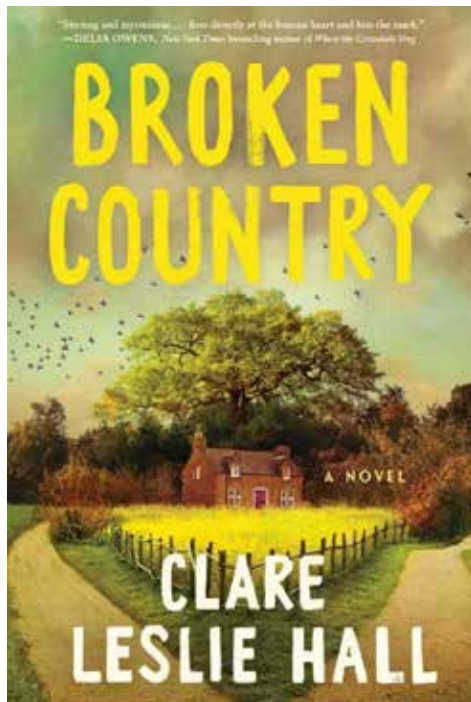
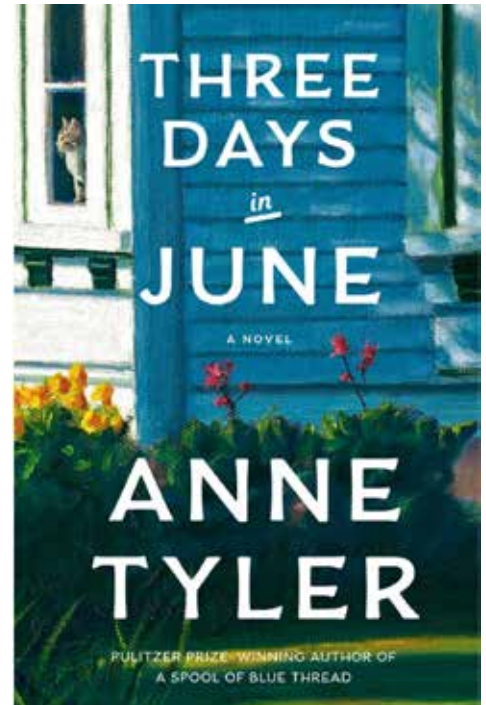
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593803486>

A charming, heartfelt novel about family, second chances, and the complications of love. Gail Baines, the mother of the bride, is having a whirlwind of a week.

She's just lost her job, her ex-husband has arrived unannounced with no place to stay, and her daughter Debbie's wedding seems on the brink of collapse after a startling revelation about the groom-to-be.

As the story unfolds over three pivotal days, Tyler captures the quirks, tensions, and joys of familial relationships with her signature humor and keen observational eye. Gail must navigate her own regrets and rediscover herself amid the chaos of wedding preparations, all while facing unresolved feelings about her past with her ex-husband Max.

Packed with Tyler's trademark wit and wisdom, this novel explores the fragile bonds between parents and children, the resilience of love, and the surprising ways we confront change. Book clubs will find plenty to discuss, from Gail's journey of self-discovery to the complexities of modern family dynamics. Fans of *Breathing Lessons* and *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant* will find this novel a delightful return to everything they love about Anne Tyler's work.



APRIL 29, 2025

Broken Country by Claire Leslie Hall

\$28.99 Book club price: \$26.09 Hardcover 320 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781668078181>

Broken Country offers up a riveting tale of love, betrayal, and buried secrets that come to light in a small, insular village.

Beth and her husband Frank have built a quiet life together, but everything changes when her brother-in-law shoots a stray dog—one that belonged to Gabriel Wolfe, Beth's first love.

As Gabriel reenters her life, Beth is drawn to the ghosts of her past, including the tragic loss of her son. Tensions simmer in the village as old jealousies and secrets resurface, creating a powder keg of emotions and conflicts.

The novel shifts seamlessly between past and present, revealing the choices that shaped Beth's life and the devastating consequences of those choices.

With the sweeping romance of *The Paper Palace* and the atmospheric tension of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *Broken Country* will captivate readers.

It's a tale of simmering passion, impossible choices, and the weight of long-buried truths. Book clubs will enjoy dissecting the novel's rich themes, from the impact of grief to the enduring pull of first love.

Books & Banter Picks: January - June

MAY 27, 2025

The Antidote by Karen Russell

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 Hardcover, 432 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593802250>

Karen Russell's *The Antidote* is a stunning exploration of a town haunted by its past and battered by a catastrophic dust storm, a story Swamplandia author laughingly calls, "Dry-Landia."

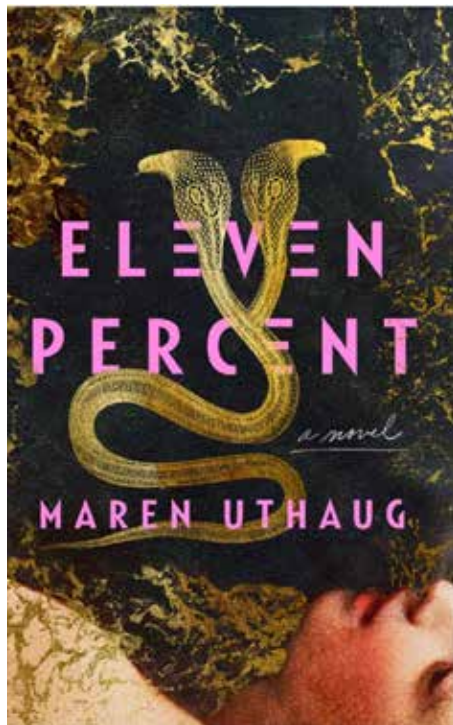
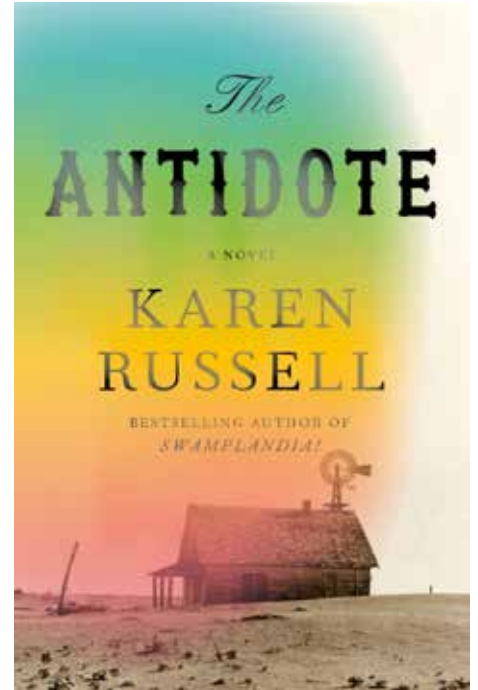
Set in the fictional town of Uz, Nebraska, during the Great Depression, this Dust Bowl epic weaves together the lives of five unforgettable characters: a Prairie Witch who safeguards memories, a Polish farmer grappling with loss, his grieving niece, a sentient scarecrow, and a photographer with a mysterious, time-bending camera.

Through their interconnected stories, Russell examines the ways in which history, secrets, and the environment shape lives.

Rich with symbolism and lyrical prose, the novel echoes the urgency of our current climate crisis while delving into universal themes of memory, identity, and resilience.

Perfect for fans of *Swamplandia!* and *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Antidote* offers a deeply atmospheric and thought-provoking read.

Book clubs will revel in the layered storytelling, the blend of magical realism and historical fiction, and the pressing questions it raises about the choices we make for ourselves and our world.



JUNE 24, 2025

Eleven Percent by Maren Uthaug

\$29.00 Book club price: \$26.10 Hardcover, 304 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250329646>

Maren Uthaug's provocative novel flips the dystopian narrative on its head, imagining a matriarchal society where men have been reduced to only 11% of the population and are confined to pleasure and procreation centers.

Set in a "New Time" where gender roles and power dynamics have been radically reversed, the story follows four women whose lives intersect in unexpected ways: Medea, a snake whisperer; Wicca, a grieving priestess; Eva, a spa doctor; and Silence, a recluse in a decaying convent.

While the utopian façade of this world promises equality and safety, cracks begin to show as the characters question the cost of such a society. Uthaug skillfully explores themes of power, freedom, and humanity's capacity for cruelty, regardless of gender.

Sharp, irreverent, and deeply thought-provoking, *Eleven Percent* is perfect for fans of *The Handmaid's Tale* and speculative fiction that challenges societal norms. Book clubs will find endless fodder for discussion, from the moral dilemmas posed by the story to the nuanced exploration of gender and power.

Adventures in Reading Kids: January - June

JANUARY 20, 2025

The Witching Wind by Natalie Lloyd

\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.99 Hardcover, 368 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781338858600>

Join us for an unforgettable discussion about a magical adventure brimming with heart and bravery! When eleven-year-old Roxie flees middle school bullying to join her country music star Granny on tour, she's devastated when Granny suddenly vanishes without a trace. Meanwhile, Grayson, a foster child, is waiting for her sister Beanie to become her guardian—but Beanie never shows up.

United by loss, Roxie and Grayson form an unlikely friendship and uncover the legend of the Witching Wind, a sinister force said to steal what people cherish most. Determined to bring back their loved ones, the duo embarks on a thrilling journey filled with courage, loyalty, and the power of hope.

This captivating story is perfect for fans of heartfelt tales about the magic of family and friendship. Bring your thoughts and theories as we explore this heartfelt adventure together!



FEBRUARY 17, 2025

Conjure Island by Eden Royce

\$19.99 Book club price: \$9.99 Hardcover, 320 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780062899613>

Get ready for a spellbinding Young Readers Club meeting as we discuss Conjure Island!

When Delphinia Baker is sent to live with her mysterious great-grandmother, Nana Rose, on a hot South Carolina island, her summer takes an unexpected turn. Nana Rose runs a school for conjure magic, revealing a world of witches, talking ghosts, and strange abilities Del never knew she had. As Del learns more about her family's hidden past and uncovers the truth about her magical heritage, she also faces a shadowy presence threatening the island. Why did her Gramma keep this magical world a secret?

Can Del find her place in a community she's just discovered while solving the mystery surrounding her family? Join us to explore the enchanting world of conjure magic and Del's courageous journey into her family's legacy!

MARCH 17, 2025

Will's Race for Home by Jewell Parker Rhodes

\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.99 Paperback, 208 pp

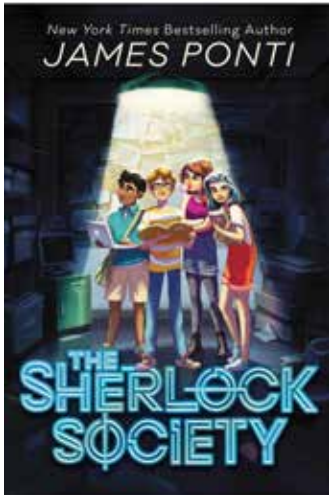
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780316299336>

Step back in time with Will's Race for Home, a gripping tale set during the 1889 Oklahoma Land Rush. Young Will and his father, tired of working land they can never own, embark on a perilous journey to claim a piece of freedom for their family.

Along the way, they face treacherous terrain, dangerous bandits, and a mysterious soldier named Caesar whose presence adds both intrigue and peril to their journey. This story highlights the determination, courage, and hope of a young Black family striving for a better future. We'll discuss the historical context, the bond between Will and his father, and the moral dilemmas they face. Join us to explore this thrilling story of resilience, justice, and the pursuit of the American dream!



Adventures in Reading Kids: January - June



APRIL 21, 2025

The Sherlock Society by James Ponti

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 Hardcover, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781665932530>

Calling all junior detectives! *The Sherlock Society* is the perfect book for our young sleuths. Siblings Alex and Zoe Sherlock, along with their friends Lina and Yadi, kick off their summer with an exciting idea: opening their own detective agency! Armed with their grandfather's investigative wisdom and a treasure trove of cold cases, the group stumbles onto a mystery involving Al Capone, hidden treasure, and corporate corruption.

Set in vibrant Miami, this action-packed tale combines humor, clever problem-solving, and teamwork. How will the Sherlock Society unravel a decades-old mystery while navigating thrilling twists and danger in the Everglades?

Our book club discussion will focus on the dynamic friendships, the ingenuity of the young detectives, and the timeless fun of solving mysteries. Bring your best detective skills and join the conversation about this first installment of an exciting new series!

MAY 19, 2025

The Lost Library by Rebecca Stead

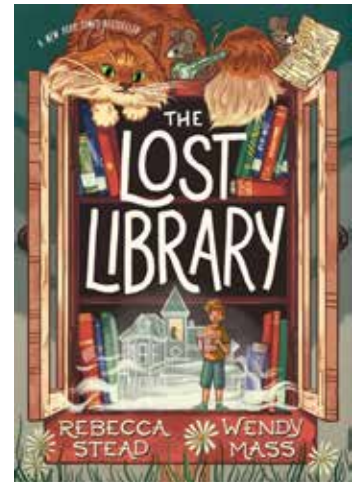
\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.99 Hardcover, 224 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250838810>

Discover the magic of books with a charming mystery centered on a little free library guarded by a wise orange cat named Mortimer. When eleven-year-old Evan finds two weathered books, he and his best friend Rafe uncover clues linked to a long-buried town secret.

Narrated by a ghost librarian, Evan, and Mortimer, this heartwarming tale explores the power of truth, community, and the transformative magic of reading. What mystery lies behind the library's sudden appearance? And how will Evan's journey reshape his understanding of his family and town?

Join our club to discuss the enchanting story, the unforgettable characters, and the impact of uncovering hidden truths. Don't forget to bring your favorite book-related memories!



JUNE 16, 2025

Underwild: River of Spirits by Shana Targosz

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 Hardcover, 432 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781665957632>

Dive into a breathtaking underworld adventure with *Underwild: River of Spirits*! Senka, ward to Charon, the Ferryman of the Underworld, knows the Rules of ferrying souls between the living and the dead. But when a grieving girl, Poppy, enters the realm seeking her brother's ghost, Senka breaks those rules—and the two are swept into the perilous Underwild.

With vengeful spirits, eccentric ghosts, and angry demigods lurking at every turn, Senka faces impossible challenges while uncovering secrets about her own mysterious past. Can she save Poppy before she's trapped in the Underworld forever? This fantasy tale brims with heart, danger, and beautifully woven mythology. Join us at to discuss the gripping journey, the vivid worldbuilding, and Senka's quest for identity and redemption.