



Book Club Picks

September - December 2025

CLUB SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

DATE	BOOK ISBN	MONTH/CLUB/TITLE/AUTHOR
9/4/25	9780593874325	September Fab Fantasy: The Bewitching by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
9/9/25	9780593977057	September Thrill in the 'Ville: Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson
9/15/25	9781338797275	September Adventures in Reading: The Storyteller by Brandon Hobson
9/16/25	9781464243950	September Kiss & Tell Romance: Older by Jennifer Hartmann
9/30/25	9780593831960	September Books & Banter: Resistance of Witches by Morgan Ryan
10/2/25	9780593973998	October Fab Fantasy: Silvercloak by L. K. Steven
10/14/25	9781250887979	October Thrill in the 'Ville: Forget Me Not by Stacy Willingham
10/20/25	9781665910200	October Adventures in Reading Kids: Blackberry Fox by Kathrin Tordasi
10/21/25	9781464234460	October Kiss & Tell Romance: The Good Girl Effect by Sara Cate
10/28/25	9780593595039	October Books & Banter: Buckeye by Patrick Ryan
11/6/25	9780593952306	November Fab Fantasy: The Magician of Tiger Castle by Louis Sachar
11/11/25	9781464228148	November Thrill in the 'Ville: Doll Parts by Penny Zang
11/17/25	9780545665742	November Adventures in Reading Kids: The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart
11/18/25	9781464221729	November Kiss & Tell Romance: Burning Daylight by Emily McIntire
11/25/25	9781335016287	November Books & Banter: The Secret Book Society by Madeline Martin
12/4/25	9781250794192	December Fab Fantasy: Fallen City by Adrienne Young
12/9/25	9780063314191	December Thrill in the 'Ville: A Murder in Paris by Matthew Blake
12/15/25	9780525579045	December Adventures in Reading: The Library of Unruly Treasures by Jeanne Birdsall (This is also our Kids Club Holiday Party night)
12/16/25	-- NO BOOK --	December Book Club HOLIDAY PARTY for ALL ADULT CLUBS
12/23/25	NO MEETING	Happy Holidays: December Books & Banter Resumes in January 2026!

Fab Fantasy Picks: September - December

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

The Bewitching by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

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

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593874325>

From the bestselling author of *Mexican Gothic*, this is a chilling, atmospheric tale that weaves witchcraft, obsession, and inherited fear across generations. It follows three women—one in early 1900s Mexico, another during the Great Depression, and the third in 1990s Massachusetts—as they each confront an uncanny darkness that refuses to stay buried.

Meet Minerva, a graduate student researching horror literature, whose work on an elusive author leads her down an academic rabbit hole laced with secrets. The author's most unsettling novel, *The Vanishing*, appears to have roots in her own past—particularly the mysterious disappearance of her college roommate.

As she uncovers more, disturbing echoes begin to emerge. The danger feels familiar, conjuring memories of the tales her great-grandmother once told her about the chilling events of her youth in Mexico. Minerva must decide how far she's willing to go to uncover the truth—and whether she can survive the forces she's awakened.

Dark, lyrical, and richly layered, *The Bewitching* is perfect for book clubs craving a literary gothic horror with feminist themes and supernatural suspense. This story lingers, its mysteries unraveling slowly—and once you open its pages, you won't be able to look away.



OCTOBER 2, 2025

Silvercloak by L. K. Steven

\$32.99 Book club price: \$29.69 Hardcover, 464 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593973998>

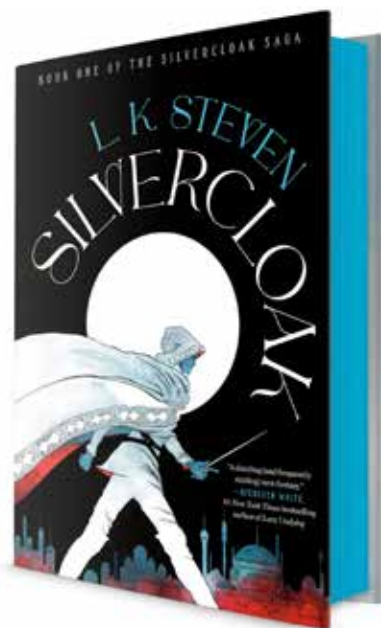
By #1 New York Times bestselling author L. K. Steven, this first installment in a thrilling new series promises dark magic, dangerous deceptions, and a heroine you won't soon forget.

Two decades after the ruthless Bloodmoons murdered her parents, Saffron Killoran has dedicated her life to vengeance. Her lies earn her a coveted place at Silvercloak Academy, where detectives are trained to protect the city. But when her deception is exposed, Saff is offered a singular chance: infiltrate the Bloodmoons themselves and dismantle them from within.

What follows is a gripping descent into a world where pleasure and pain are the strongest forms of power, and survival depends on a delicate balance of loyalty and betrayal. Rival gangs, sinister smuggling rings, and a prophecy of death shadow Saff's every move.

And as her heart entangles with the tortured son of the Bloodmoons' kingpin, she must decide how much she's willing to sacrifice for revenge.

Be ready to explore themes of obsession, vengeance, forbidden love, and the price of survival in a world built on shadows. And for collectors—this is the stunning first edition hardcover, complete with teal stained edges, a case-stamped design, and full-color endpaper maps (while supplies last!). Join us for an unforgettable night of fantasy, intrigue, and conversation—perfectly suited to the spookiest month of the year.



Fab Fantasy Picks: September - December

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

The Magician of Tiger Castle by Louis Sachar

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 Paperback, 320 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593952306>

A modern fairy tale full of humor, heart, and impossible choices. Already an instant USA Today bestseller, an Indie Next List Pick, and a Library Reads Pick, this richly layered story has critics raving.

Set in the fading kingdom of Esquaveta, the story follows Princess Tullia, whose father has arranged a politically vital—but deeply unwanted—marriage to a loathsome prince. With the kingdom's future hanging in the balance, Tullia shocks her court by falling in love instead with a humble apprentice scribe. As the “wedding of the century” approaches, the king enlists Anatole, his castle's once-brilliant but now ridiculed magician, to concoct a potion that will bind the princess to her duty.

But Anatole's loyalties are not so easily commanded. The princess has long been his only defender, the one person who still believes in him. With the fate of Esquaveta and his own honor on the line, Anatole faces an impossible choice: obey his king and betray Tullia, or risk ruin by defying royal command.

Equal parts whimsical, romantic, and wise, this is a story of forbidden love, crumbling kingdoms, and the quiet magic of loyalty and hope. Join us as we dive into Sachar's enchanting world, unpack its wit and wonder, and discuss what it truly means to risk everything for love.



DECEMBER 4, 2025

Fallen City by Adrienne Young

\$32.00 Book club price: \$28.80 Hardcover, 416 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250794192>

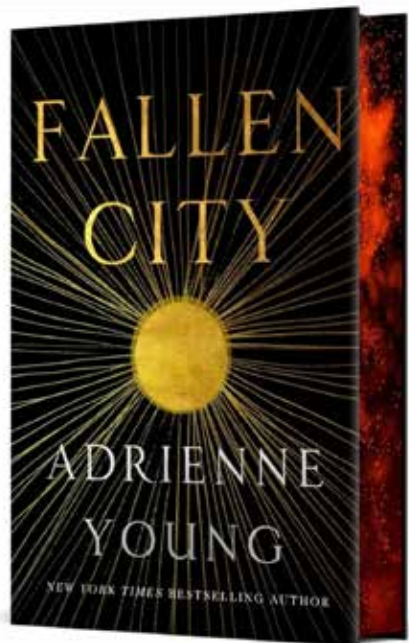
A tale of forbidden love, political intrigue, and the relentless hand of fate. For fans and collectors, the stunning DELUXE LIMITED EDITION will be a treasure in itself, featuring stenciled edges, custom character endpapers in full color, unique foiled case stamps, and shimmering foiled cover elements—available only while supplies last!

Set within the great walled city of Isara, a rebellion one hundred years in the making begins to smolder. Luca Matius, heir to a powerful but cruel dynasty, expects only to inherit his uncle's seat in the Forum. But as a novice to the city's Philosopher, he is drawn into a catastrophe that will change the destiny of his people.

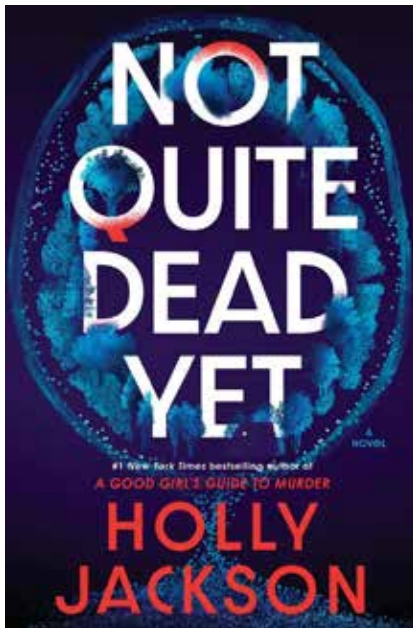
Maris Casperia, daughter of a Magistrate, has been raised to serve Isara's corrupt inner circle. Yet her years spent with the last Priestess—keeper of stolen Old War magic—have awakened in her a vision of a different future. When her path collides with Luca's, the spark of love sets off a chain of divine events neither can control.

As secrets shatter the fragile balance of power, Luca becomes the reluctant symbol of rebellion, while Maris is forced onto the opposing side of a holy war. Torn apart by loyalty and destiny, their fates entwine in a story the gods themselves are writing. Even if they find their way back to one another, will there be anything left to save?

Join us for a rich discussion of Young's epic exploration of sacrifice, power, and love in a city on the brink of collapse.



Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: September - December



SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson

\$28.00 Book club price: \$25.20 Hardcover, 400 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593977057>

From Holly Jackson, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the hit YA thriller, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, comes her first adult thriller.

Jet Mason has always believed she had time. Time to travel, time to grow up, time to start living her life. But after a violent attack on Halloween night, everything changes. Jet is left with a traumatic brain injury and the terrifying news that she has only seven days to live before a deadly aneurysm takes her life.

Now, with her memory fading and her trust in everyone around her slipping, Jet is determined to use what little time she has left to figure out who wanted her dead—and why.

Her family, her ex, even her former best friend are all potential suspects. The only person she can rely on is Billy, her loyal childhood friend. But can he really help her outsmart a killer before time runs out?

Taut, clever, and emotionally gripping, *Not Quite Dead Yet* is perfect for book clubs

who love racing against the clock, complex family dynamics, and unexpected twists. And for collectors: the hardcover edition features a custom-stamped case, beautiful endpapers, and a premium dust jacket that's as stunning as the story inside. Here's one countdown you won't be able to look away from.

OCTOBER 14, 2025

Forget Me Not by Stacy Willingham

\$29.00 Book club price: \$26.08 Hardcover, 336 pp

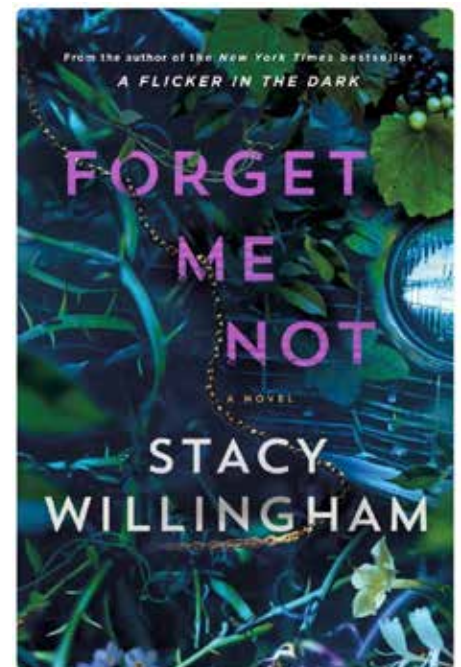
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781250887979>

The latest pulse-pounding Southern suspense from *New York Times* bestselling author Stacy Willingham, known for her runaway debut *A Flicker in the Dark*.

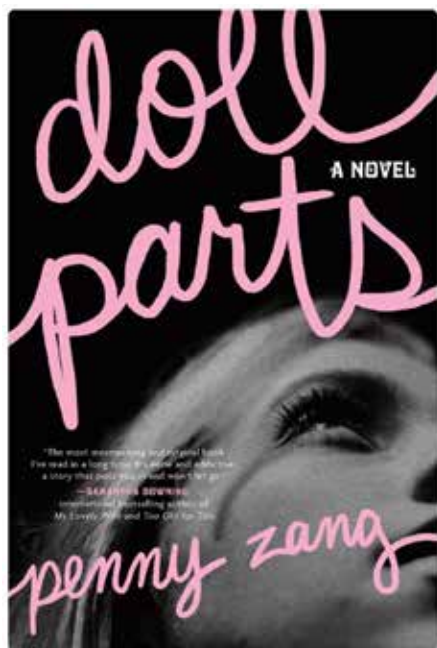
Twenty-two years ago, Claire Campbell's older sister Natalie vanished on the cusp of adulthood. Her blood was later discovered in a car, a suspect arrested, and the case officially closed. But for Claire, the wound never truly healed. She escaped to the city, carving out a career as an investigative journalist—until a call from her father pulls her back to the place where everything unraveled.

With a long summer ahead in her childhood hometown, and forced into close quarters with her estranged mother, Claire impulsively accepts a seasonal job at Galloway Farm, a picturesque muscadine vineyard along the South Carolina coast. The farm seems idyllic, even healing—a place where Natalie herself had once found joy. But soon, Claire discovers an old diary tucked away, its pages filled with confessions that begin as tales of young rebellion and love, then twist into accounts of chilling crimes.

The more Claire reads, the more she suspects the diary may hold answers to her sister's disappearance. As her obsession deepens, isolation closes in, and Galloway becomes less a refuge than a haunting reminder of secrets buried in plain sight. Join us as we unravel this gripping tale of family, memory, and obsession—and discover whether the past can ever truly stay forgotten...



Thrill in the 'Ville Picks: September - December



NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Doll Parts by Penny Zang

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 - Hardcover, 368 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781464228148>

Some stories refuse to stay buried. In this haunting and evocative debut, Penny Zang delivers a dual-timeline suspense that blends the atmospheric dread of *The Virgin Suicides* with the sharp investigation of *I Have Some Questions for You*. At its heart is a decades-old mystery and the unraveling of a friendship bound by secrets, obsession, and tragedy.

In college, best friends Nikki and Sadie were inseparable—two outsiders clinging to each other while navigating professors, heartbreak, and the chilling lore of the Sylvia Club, a campus legend tied to a string of Sylvia Plath–adoring girls whose supposed suicides left shadows across the school. Aspiring writer Nikki became obsessed with their stories, until a tragedy tore her and Sadie apart forever. Now, nearly twenty years later, Nikki is dead. Sadie, reeling from the loss, is drawn back into Nikki's world in ways she never expected—especially when her grief entangles her with Nikki's husband and lands her inside her ex-best friend's

suburban life. Ghostly reminders of Nikki emerge, and Sadie soon suspects her friend's search for answers about the Sylvia Club may have made her its final victim. A chilling exploration of girlhood mythology, and the secrets that echo long after they should be silenced.

DECEMBER 9, 2025

A Murder in Paris by Matthew Blake

\$28.00 Book club price: \$25.20 Hardcover, 400 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780063314191>

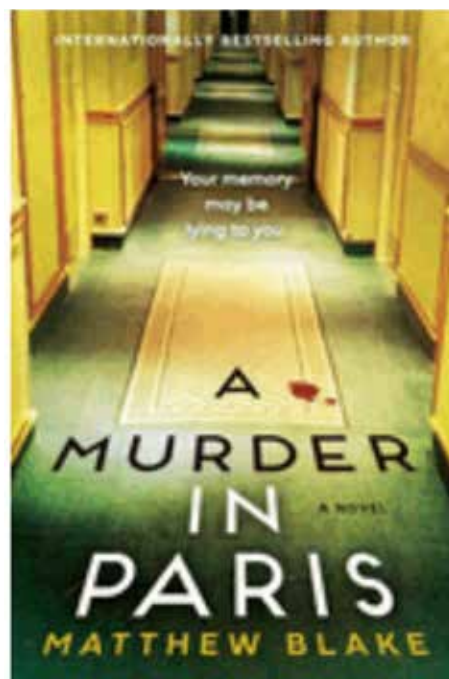
From the #1 internationally bestselling author of *Anna O* comes a dazzling new psychological thriller that intertwines family secrets, wartime mysteries, and the slippery nature of memory.

Olivia Finn has built her life on the science of remembering. As a memory expert at Charing Cross Hospital in London, she's trained to untangle the truth from illusion. But when the police summon her to the famed Hotel Lutetia in Paris, Olivia is thrust into a mystery unlike any she's faced before.

Her grandmother, Josephine Benoit, has appeared at the hotel in a distressed state, claiming she committed a murder there at the end of World War II. At first, Olivia dismisses the confession as the delusion of age and confusion—until hotel records confirm that a woman did indeed die in that very room in 1945.

Determined to protect her grandmother while uncovering the truth, Olivia digs into Josephine's past. But as her investigation deepens, the shadows of wartime Paris begin to stir once more. People connected to the hotel—and to Josephine's story—start dying in the present day, forcing Olivia into a dangerous race against time.

Set against the glamorous, haunted streets of Paris, this novel asks chilling questions: Can memory be trusted? What secrets lie hidden in the past? And how far will someone go to silence the truth? Prepare for an addictive, atmospheric thriller that will ignite discussion long after the final page.



Kids Reading Adventures: September - December

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

The Storyteller by Brandon Hobson

\$17.99 Book club price: \$16.19 Hardcover, 324 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781338797275>

National Book Award finalist Brandon Hobson delivers a powerful and imaginative middle grade adventure that blends Cherokee history, folklore, and the emotional realities of growing up.

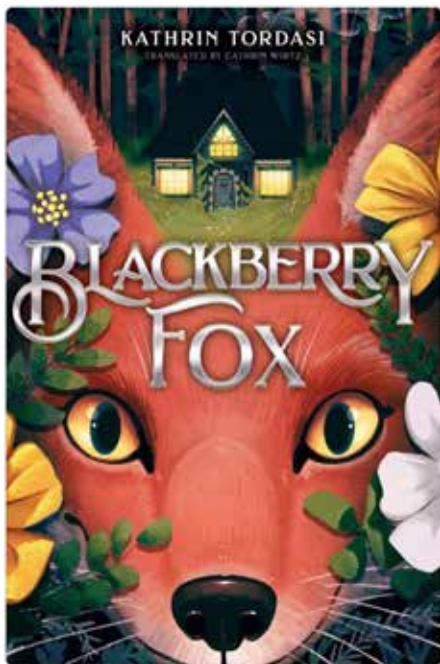
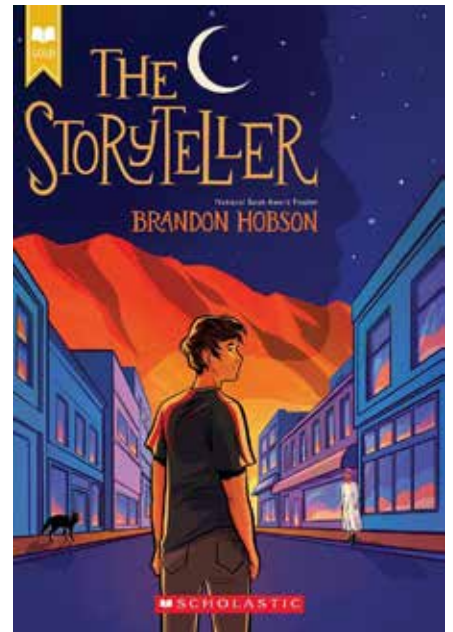
At the heart of this story is Ziggy—a boy with anxiety, big questions about his past, and a mind that sees the world a little differently.

Ziggy's mother disappeared when he was young, one of many missing Indigenous women whose stories have gone unanswered. Now living with his father and sister Moon, Ziggy can't stop wondering what happened. When he becomes convinced that a nearby cave holds the key to her disappearance, he sets off on a surreal quest—with Moon, his best friend Corso, and the classmate who both fascinates and flusters him, Alice.

What begins as a search for answers becomes something much deeper: an unforgettable journey into Cherokee myth, memory, and the magic of storytelling.

As Ziggy learns the stories of his ancestors, he begins to understand how his own story fits into a much larger one—and that he might have more power to shape his future than he thought.

Perfect for book clubs, *The Storyteller* is filled with wonder, heart, and rich cultural threads. Readers will connect with Ziggy's voice, admire his courage, and come away with new perspectives on family, friendship, identity, and the stories that shape us all.



OCTOBER 20, 2025

Blackberry Fox by Kathrin Tordasi

\$8.99 Book club price: \$8.09 Paperback, 352 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781665910200>

Young readers will journey into the magical heart of Wales with *Blackberry Fox*, an enchanting new middle grade fantasy perfect for fans of *Wilderlore* and *Skandar*.

During a summer holiday in the Welsh countryside, best friends Portia and Ben stumble upon something extraordinary: a door hidden in a bramble hedge deep within the forest. At first, it seems like an innocent discovery—but what lies beyond is no ordinary place. Unbeknownst to them, the bramble door is a portal to the Otherworld, a realm steeped in both wonder and danger, where ancient myths come to life.

When a mysterious figure known as Robin Goodfellow—the man with the fox shadow—tricks Portia into opening the door, the balance between worlds is shattered. Trapped on the wrong side of the portal, Portia and Ben must summon all their courage to survive. Along the way, they'll encounter Welsh legends, test the limits of their friendship, and face choices that could change their lives forever.

Blending folklore, high-stakes adventure, and richly imagined magic, this is an irresistible tale of bravery and discovery that will sweep readers off their feet—and spark plenty of spirited book club discussion.

Kids Reading Adventures: September - December

NOVEMBER 17, 2025

The Honest Truth by Dan Gemeinhart

\$8.99 Book club price: \$8.09 Paperback, 256 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780545665742>

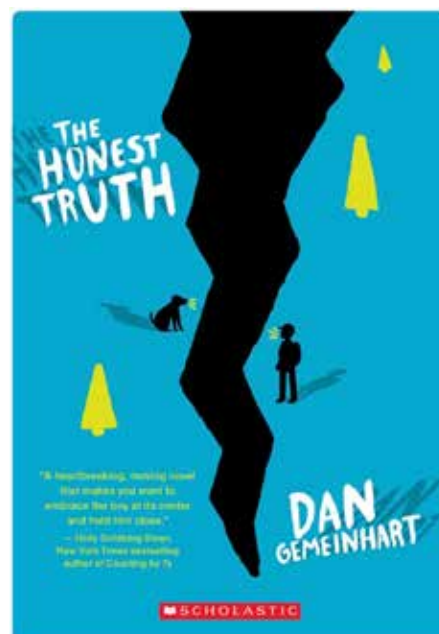
An unforgettable journey of courage, friendship, and determination in this moving debut that has already earned a place in the Scholastic Gold line of classics.

Mark is, in many ways, just like any other kid. He has a loyal dog named Beau, a best friend named Jessie, a love of taking photos, and a notebook filled with haiku poems. But Mark is also very different: he's sick—the kind of sick that means hospital visits, endless treatments, and a future filled with uncertainty.

Tired of feeling powerless, Mark makes a bold decision. With Beau by his side, he runs away from home, determined to fulfill his dream of climbing Mount Rainier. Armed only with his dog's devotion, his camera, and his notebook, Mark sets out on an adventure that is both dangerous and breathtaking. It's a journey filled with challenges and risks, but also moments of wonder, beauty, and the kind of truth that only comes from following your heart.

Beyond the adventure, this is a heartfelt exploration of bravery, friendship, and the choices we make when time feels short. It asks readers to think about what really matters, what it means to live fully, and how love and loyalty can carry us through even the hardest times.

Join us as we discuss this extraordinary book that will inspire laughter, tears, and plenty of thoughtful conversation..



DECEMBER 15, 2025 (This is also Kids Club Holiday Party!)

The Library of Unruly Treasures by Jeanne Birdsall

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

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780525579045>

From Jeanne Birdsall, the *NYT* bestselling and National Book Award–winning author of *The Penderwicks*, comes a warm, funny, and magical new adventure that proves even the most unlikely heroes can make a difference.

Gwen MacKinnon knows her parents are dreadful—so dreadful that being sent away to stay with an uncle she's never met feels more like a vacation than a punishment. Her new guardian, Uncle Matthew, comes with quirks of his own, including an outspoken dog named Pumpkin who quickly becomes Gwen's closest ally.

But when Gwen wanders into the local library, she makes a discovery that changes everything. Hidden among the stacks are tiny winged creatures called Lahdukan—seen only by Gwen and the youngest children gathered at storytime. These mischievous, magical beings are in trouble, and they believe Gwen is the one destined to help them.



The problem? Gwen doesn't feel like a hero. She's ordinary, unwanted, and far from courageous. But the Lahdukan don't give up easily, and with Pumpkin nudging her forward, Gwen is drawn into a quest to save them—and, perhaps, discover her own strength along the way.

Bursting with humor, heart, and just the right touch of whimsy, *The Library of Unruly Treasures* is a tender story about friendship, bravery, and the unexpected ways we find our place in the world. A perfect pick for readers who love libraries, magical creatures, and adventures with plenty of laughter along the way.

Kiss & Tell Romance: December - September

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

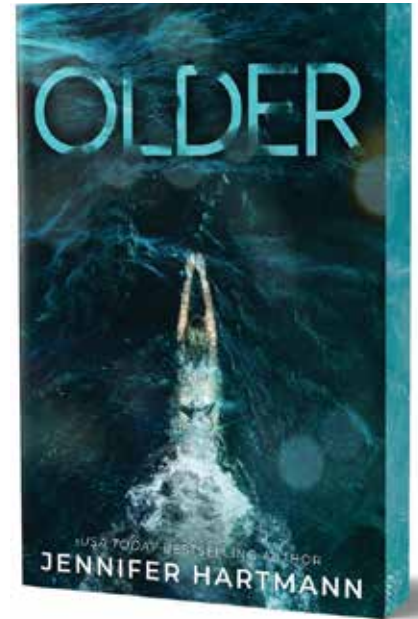
Older by Jennifer Hartmann

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 Paperback, 416 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781464243950>

For anyone who loves emotionally charged, forbidden love stories with complex characters and slow-burn tension, *Older* by Jennifer Hartmann is sure to spark plenty of conversation—and maybe a few tears. This powerful standalone explores age, timing, heartbreak, and healing in a way that's as delicate as it is daring. When Halley meets Reed by chance on a quiet night under the stars, it feels like fate. She's hurting, lost in a loveless home, and searching for something—anything—that feels safe. Reed sees her pain, and for a brief, beautiful moment, they connect. What he doesn't know yet is her age... or that she's his daughter's best friend.

What follows is an emotional journey of restraint and longing that neither can forget. As the years pass and life continues to complicate their paths, Halley and Reed must confront not only their feelings for each other, but the consequences of crossing lines society deems unthinkable. This novel doesn't shy away from the messiness of real emotions. It's about love that waits, grows, and ultimately refuses to be denied. And for those who appreciate beautiful editions, the deluxe limited edition with printed edges makes this an especially stunning addition to your romance shelf. A must-read for fans of forbidden love, slow burns, and redemptive endings—*Older* proves that sometimes the heart doesn't care about rules. It just wants what it wants.



OCTOBER 21, 2025

The Good Girl Effect by Sara Cate

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 Paperback, 384 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781464234460>

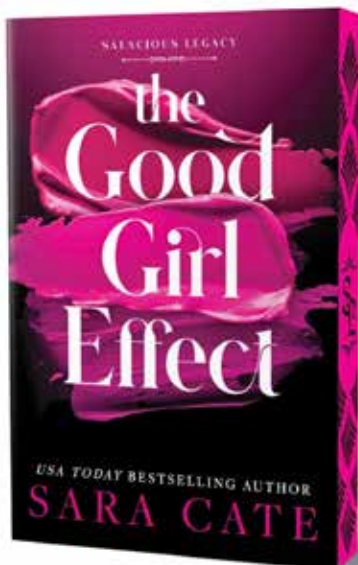
His praise is forbidden—his touch irresistible... From bestselling author Sara Cate comes this dark, emotional, and irresistibly passionate story about grief, healing, and the unexpected places where love can take root.

Jack St. Claire is a man locked inside his pain. A widowed single father, he pours everything into his work—running an exclusive new kink club in Paris—while keeping his heart barricaded behind walls of grief. What he needs most is help caring for his young daughter, though admitting that feels like failure.

Camille Aubert never planned on becoming a nanny. She only wanted to return a lost love letter she stumbled across in a book. But when a misunderstanding lands her in Jack's apartment as his new live-in caregiver, she begins to sense that fate has placed her exactly where she belongs.

As Camille settles in, she stumbles upon a locked room that reveals Jack's hidden, darker side. Fascinated and drawn to him in ways she can't resist, she finds herself pulled into his world of forbidden intimacy. What begins as curiosity soon deepens into something more powerful—a love that could either free Jack from his past or consume them both in the fire of passion.

Provocative, heart-wrenching romance that explores the healing power of love, the courage to confront grief, and the irresistible pull of desire. Perfect for readers who crave their happily-ever-afters with equal parts tenderness and heat..



Kiss & Tell Romance: December - September

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Burning Daylight by Emily McIntire

\$18.99 Book club price: \$17.09 Paperback, 544 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781464221729>

The queen of dark romance returns with the first book in a sizzling new series, where love is powerful enough to challenge destiny—and dangerous enough to burn everything down.

Juliette Calloway has lived her entire life on display. As the daughter of Rosebrook Falls' most powerful family, her world is one of elegance and expectation, where every smile is practiced and every move is scripted. But beneath the polished perfection, Juliette longs for freedom, for passion, for something real.

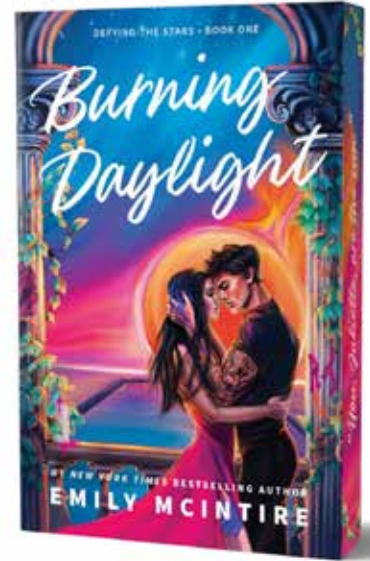
Roman Montgomery shouldn't exist—not on paper, anyway. A ghost in the shadows, he's the secret heir to a criminal empire, forged in blood and rivalry. His life is built on silence and survival, his legacy one of danger and vengeance.

When Juliette and Roman collide, their chemistry is instant and undeniable. No names. No histories. Just stolen moments, reckless smiles, and a heat neither can resist. Roman is magnetic, mysterious, and utterly infuriating. Juliette is bold, beautiful, and quickly becomes the one thing he can't stay away from.

But when Roman is forced to step into the Montgomery empire, the truth shatters their fragile world. Their families are sworn enemies, and their love is not just forbidden—it's impossible.

Every kiss is treason. Every touch, a risk. And in a town where secrets kill and loyalty is everything, Juliette and Roman will have to decide: will their love rewrite history, or destroy them both?

A dangerous, intoxicating romance that will spark fierce discussion about passion, loyalty, and fate.



DECEMBER 16, 2025 - 6:30 pm

NO BOOK - ANNUAL BOOK CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY!

It's that festive time of year, and we can't wait to celebrate with all you wonderful book clubbers!

Join us for our annual Holiday Party & Cookie Swap—a night filled with books, sweets, and plenty of cheer.

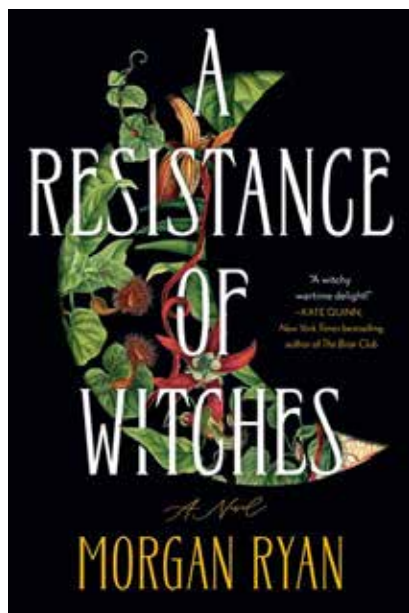
Here's what's in store:

- **Cookie Swap!** Bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share. We'll provide take-home boxes so you can go home with a delicious variety.
- **Drinks & Treats!** Enjoy festive sips, snacks, and a few special surprises.
- **2026 Book Club Reveal!** Be the first to see the line-up for the first six months of next year, and leave with your very own book club packet.
- **Exclusive Discounts!** Enjoy 10% off ANY in-store selection during the party—one more gift to you for being part of the book club family.

We look forward to saying *THANK YOU* for another incredible year of reading, discussion, and community. Come ready to mingle, laugh, nibble, and stock up on books and last-minute gifts for the season.

We can't wait to celebrate with you—holiday style!

Books & Banter Picks: September - December



SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

A Resistance of Witches by Morgan Ryan

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 Hardcover, 416 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593831960>

Morgan Ryan's *A Resistance of Witches* casts a bold new spell on historical fiction, blending the urgency of World War II with the raw power of witchcraft in a gripping, genre-bending tale. Perfect for fans of *The Discovery of Witches* and *The Night Circus*, this atmospheric novel explores the courage of one witch who dares to stand alone against the darkest forces of her time.

Lydia Polk never expected to become a key figure in Britain's magical war effort. Raised outside the inner circles of magical society, she's plainspoken, headstrong, and underestimated—until Hitler's army begins its march across Europe, and the witches of Britain are called to join the fight. When a Nazi witch infiltrates the Royal Academy, Lydia is thrust into a race against time to track down the Grimorium Bel-lum—an ancient and deadly magical book.

With the elder witches reluctant to sacrifice more of their own for a government that's long denied their existence, Lydia is left to pursue the grimoire on her own. Her journey leads her deep into occupied France, where she forms unlikely alliances.

Rich with action, shadowy secrets, and a strong thread of resistance, there's plenty to unpack—from the moral complexity of war to the costs of power, loyalty, and love in perilous times. and what it takes to stand your ground.

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Buckeye by Patrick Ryan

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 Hardcover, 464 pp

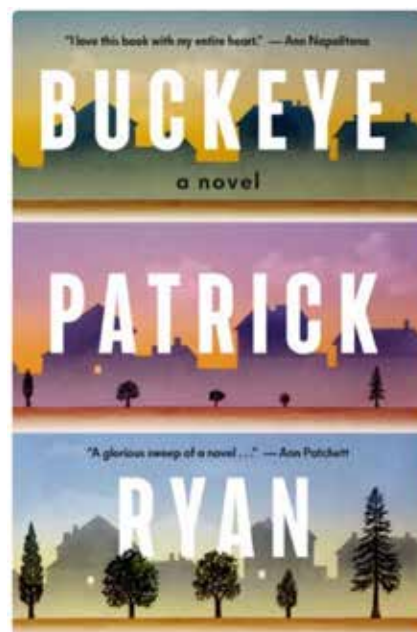
<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9780593595039>

One town. Two families. A secret that changes everything. In his sweeping new novel, Ryan transports readers to Bonhomie, Ohio, where the reverberations of a single choice ripple across generations. Described by Tom Perrotta as “a small-town novel of epic proportions,” *Buckeye* spans from the jubilant end of World War II to the close of the twentieth century, weaving together themes of love, betrayal, and the weight of secrets too long kept.

It begins in 1945, when Cal Jenkins—wounded not by combat, but by his inability to serve—shares a fleeting, forbidden moment with Margaret Salt, a woman desperate to bury her past. Cal's wife, Becky, is a seer with the uncanny ability to commune with the dead, while Margaret's husband, Felix, is stationed safely on a Navy cargo ship—until a telegram suggests otherwise. What unfolds that summer sets in motion a story that will shape both the Jenkins and Salt families for decades to come.

As America rebuilds and reshapes itself in the postwar years, the hidden truth between these families festers beneath the surface of small-town life. But in a place where nothing remains secret forever, the past inevitably collides with the present, forcing the next generation to confront who they are, where they come from, and what their futures might hold.

Tender, evocative, and beautifully observed, *Buckeye* captures not only the spirit of a Midwestern town but also the universal longing for love, forgiveness, and belonging—making it a perfect choice for a rich book club discussion..



Books & Banter Picks: September - December

NOVEMBER 25, 2025

The Secret Book Society by Madeline Martin

\$30.00 Book club price: \$27.00 Hardcover, 336 pp

<https://bookshop.org/a/89/9781335016287>

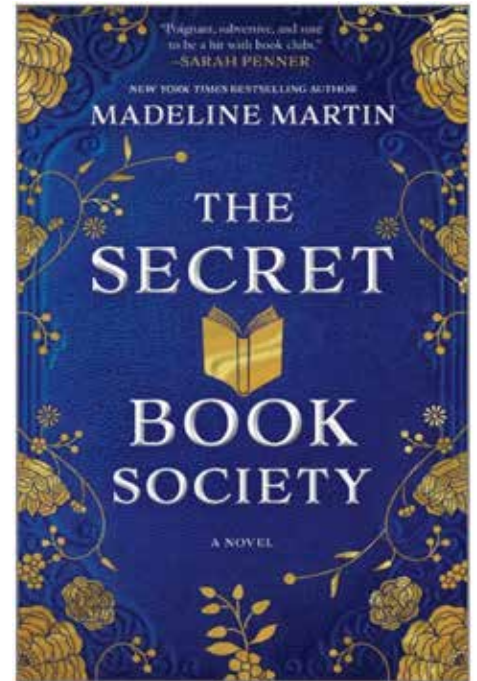
You are cordially invited...to a book club like no other.

Set in Victorian London, this is a captivating new historical novel from Madeline Martin, bestselling author of *The Last Bookshop in London*. It's a tale of forbidden reading, dangerous secrets, and the power of women who dare to break free from the roles society has forced upon them.

London, 1895. In an age when women's lives are defined by their husbands, three very different women receive a mysterious invitation to afternoon tea at the secluded home of Lady Duxbury, a thrice-widowed countess whose past is cloaked in scandal and whispers of murder. But beneath the polite veneer of teacups and conversation lies something far more daring: a secret book club, a sanctuary where women can claim their voices, share their truths, and discover the courage to rewrite their destinies.

Among the attendees are Eleanor Clarke, a devoted mother trapped in a cruel marriage; Rose Wharton, an American "dollar princess" uncomfortably cast into the mold of English aristocracy; and Lavinia Cavendish, a gifted young artist harboring a dangerous family secret. As their lives intertwine, these women form bonds of sisterhood and resilience, discovering strength they never knew they possessed.

But secrets can be perilous, and in a world quick to silence rebellious women, one misstep could cost them everything. Rich with atmosphere and heart, *The Secret Book Society* celebrates friendship, bravery, and the timeless power of books to change lives, ripe with discussion possibilities!



DECEMBER 23, 2025

NO MEETING - HAPPY HOLIDAYS... 'TIL WE MEET AGAIN IN 2026!

