

Book Club Sets

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The Collection

Atkinson, Kate. [Behind the Scenes at the Museum](#)

Ruby Lennox begins narrating her own life at the moment of her conception, and from there takes the reader on a whirlwind tour of the twentieth century as seen through the eyes of a girl determined to learn more about her family and the secrets it keeps.

Chevalier, Tracy. [Girl with a Pearl Earring](#)

Chevalier transports readers to a bygone time and place in this richly imagined portrait of the young woman who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings. "Girl with a Pearl Earring" is the story of 16-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her brief encounter with genius, even as she herself is immortalized in canvas and oil.

Choy, Wayson. [Jade Peony](#)

Set in Vancouver's Chinatown before World War II, Choy's first novel tells the story of three Chinese Canadian siblings, offering a glimpse into the lives of Chinese immigrants at this time. *Co-Winner: Trillium Prize, 1995.*

Collins, Wilkie. [The Moonstone](#)

Stolen from the forehead of a Hindu idol, the dazzling gem known as "The Moonstone" resurfaces at a birthday party in an English country home with an enigmatic trio of watchful Brahmins hot on its trail. Laced with superstitions, suspicion, humor, and romance, this 1868 mystery draws readers into a compelling tale with numerous twists and turns.

Desai, Kiran. [Inheritance of Loss](#)

Desai takes readers to the northeastern Himalayas where a rising insurgency challenges the old way of life.

Diamant, Anita. [The Red Tent](#)

The red tent is the place where women gather during their cycles of birthing, menses, and even illness. Like the conversations and mysteries held within this feminine tent, this sweeping piece of fiction offers an insiders look at the daily life of a biblical sorority of mothers, wives, and daughters.

Edwards, Kim. [The Memory Keeper's Daughter](#)

This riveting family drama from the author of the short story collection "The Secrets of a Fire King" explores every mother's silent fears, losing a child, and that the child grows up without her.

Frazier, Charles. [Cold Mountain](#)

Sorely wounded and fatally disillusioned in the fighting at Petersburg, Inman, a Confederate soldier, decides to walk back to his home in the Blue Ridge Mountains and to Ada, the woman he loved there years before. At the same time, Ada is trying to revive her father's derelict farm and learn to survive in a world where the old certainties have been swept away.

Galloway, Steven. [Cellist of Sarajevo](#)

The story of three people trying to survive in a city rife with the extreme fear of desperate times, and of the sorrowing cellist who plays undaunted in their midst.

Gruen, Sara. [Water for Elephants](#)

Orphaned and penniless at the height of the Depression, Jacob Jankowski escapes everything he knows by jumping on a passing train and inadvertently runs away with the circus. He finds himself caught up with the people and the animals and at 91, looks back at the love, the strife and the heartbreak.

Guterson, David. [Snow Falling on Cedars](#)

A small fishing community in the islands of Washington's Puget Sound has been consumed by the murder trial of a Japanese-American man accused of killing another over a land dispute.

Haddon, Mark. [Spot of Bother](#)

At 61, George is settling down to a comfortable retirement. Unnoticed in the uproar of recent family events, he discovers a sinister lesion on his hip, and quietly begins to lose his mind. The way this family falls apart and comes together again is the true subject of Haddon's disturbing yet amusing portrait of a dignified man trying to go insane politely.

Hay, Elizabeth. [Late Nights on Air](#)

Harry Boyd, a hard-bitten refugee from failure in Toronto television, has returned to a small radio station in the Canadian North. There, in Yellowknife, in the summer of 1975, he falls in love with a voice on air, though the real woman, Dido Paris, is both a surprise and even more than he imagined. *Winner: Giller Prize, 2007.*

Hill, Lawrence. [The Book of Negroes](#)

Aminata Diallo, who was sold into slavery at age 11 in 1745, struggles to regain her freedom.

Hosseini, Khaled. [The Kite Runner](#)

An epic tale of fathers and sons, of friendship and betrayal, that takes us on a journey in Afghanistan from the time of the monarch's overthrow to the tyranny of the Taliban.

Hosseini, Khaled. [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#)

A distinctly female view of over 30 years of apparent change and suffering in the war-torn country and a small neighborhood in Afghanistan.

Humphreys, Helen. [Lost Garden](#)

London is on fire from the Blitz, and horticulturist Gwen Davis has fled the devastated city for a ruined estate in Devon. With a haunting story of love in a time of war, Humphreys has created a novel that is both heartrending and heart-mending.

Itani, Frances. [Deafening](#)

War and deafness are the twin themes of this psychologically rich, impeccably crafted debut novel set during World War I. Itani's wonderfully felt tale is a timely reminder of war's cost, told from an unexpected perspective.

Kidd, Sue Monk. [Secret Life of Bees](#)

Set in 1964 in South Carolina, Lily Owens searches for the truth about her mother, encounters racial barriers and finds her place in the world. She arrives in a town where she is taken in by a trio of beekeepers.

Kingsolver, Barbara. [Poisonwood Bible](#)

In 1959, Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist, takes his four young daughters, his wife, and his mission to the Belgian Congo. But the seeds they plant bloom in tragic ways within this complex culture.

Krakauer, Jon. [Into the Wild](#)

Top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. [The Namesake](#)

The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans.

Lawson, Mary. [Crow Lake](#)

Orphaned young, Kate Morrison was her older brother Matt's protegee, her fascination for pond life fed by his passionate interest in the natural world. Now a zoologist, she can identify organisms under a microscope but seems blind to the state of her own emotional life.

Levy, Andrea. [Small Island](#)

Told in four distinct voices, this is a courageous novel of tender emotion and sparkling wit, encapsulating the most American of experiences: the immigrant's life. *Winner: Orange Prize for Fiction, 2004*

McEwen, Ian. [Atonement](#)

Teenage Briony mistakenly makes an accusation that she will repent for the rest of her life. Set in 1935, the war in 1940 and later in 1999 when Briony writes a novel called Atonement.

McKay, Ami. [Birth House](#)

Filled with details as compelling as they are surprising, this story of a Nova Scotia midwife is an unforgettable tale of the struggles women have faced to have control of their own bodies and to keep the best parts of tradition alive in the world of modern medicine.

Mortenson, Greg. [Three Cups of Tea](#) (Non-fiction)

The astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his humanitarian campaign to use education to combat terrorism in the Taliban's backyard in Afghanistan.

Munro, Alice. [Runaway](#)

Runaway is a book of extraordinary stories about love and its infinite betrayals and surprises. Munro vividly writes about women of all ages and circumstances, and their friends, lovers, parents, and children.

Niffenegger, Audrey. [Time Traveler's Wife](#)

The love story of Henry and Claire whose lives are punctuated by Henry's disappearance to different points in time. When Henry meets Claire, he is twenty-eight, and she is twenty. Henry has never met Claire before, but Claire has known him since she was six.

Obama, Barack. [Dreams from my Father](#) (non-fiction)

The sudden death of his father inspires Obama on an emotional odyssey to his family's roots and at last to reconcile his divided inheritance.

Powning, Beth. [Hatbox Letters](#)

In her rambling Victorian house, Kate Harding faces her second winter since the untimely death of her husband. In her living room are several hatboxes filled with letters her grandparents' attic. As she begins to read them, she discovers that what seemed a serene and blissful marriage was in fact founded on a tragic event. As Kate come to understand the past, a new tragedy unfolds, and her own house becomes her refuge.

Patchett, Ann. [Bel Canto](#)

Set in South America, two couples, complete opposites, fall in love; sexual identities become confused; and a horrific imprisonment is transformed into an unexpected heaven on earth.

Ricci, Nino. [The Origin of Species](#)

A convergence of brave souls enters Alex's empty life, forcing him to recognize the possibility of meaningful connections. *Winner: Governor Generals Award, 2008.*

Robinson, Eden. [Monkey Beach](#)

A celebration of life in the Native settlement of Kitamaat on the British Columbia coast, this novel tells the story of Lisa who heads to Monkey Beach in search of her 17 year old brother, Jimmy, who vanishes at sea.

Saramago, Jose. [Blindness](#)

Portuguese Nobel Laureate Saramago tells a fantastic tale about a city hit by an epidemic of "white blindness," in this work that is the basis for the upcoming movie with Julianne Moore.

Seierstad, Asne. [Bookseller of Kabul](#) (Non-fiction)

In Afghanistan, just after the fall of the Taliban, a bookseller named Sultan Khan allowed a Western journalist to move into his home and experience firsthand his family's life in the newly liberated capital city of Kabul. Through this close-knit household, we gain an intimate view of life in an Islamic country just beginning to find its way between the forces of modernity and tradition.

Shaffer, Mary Ann. [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#)

A charming book written in letters, set in England and Guernsey just after WWII.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency](#)

The first in this series, this novel introduces Precious Ramotswe who has just opened in Gabarone, Botsawana the first detective agency staffed by women. Her first cases include, tracking down a missing husband, uncovering a con man, following a wayward daughter and searching for a missing eleven-year-old boy.

Stegner, Wallace. [Crossing to Safety](#)

Tracing the interlocking lives, loves, and aspirations of four lifelong friends who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, Stegner's 1987 masterpiece is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight.

Thien, Madeleine. [Certainty](#)

Haunted by her parents' past in wartorn Asia, Gail Lim eventually makes her way to Amsterdam to make sense of it all. While searching for the truth, Gail faces complications in her own life.

Toews, Miriam. [A Complicated Kindness](#)

This moving, darkly funny novel is the world according to Nomi Nickel, a bewildered and wry sixteen-year-old trapped in a town governed by fundamentalist religion. In Nomi's droll, refreshing voice, we're told the story of her eccentric, touching family as it falls apart, each member on a collision course with the only community they have ever known.

Tremain, Rose. [The Road Home](#)

In the story of Lev, newly arrived in London from Eastern Europe, Rose Tremain has written a wise and witty book about the contemporary migrant experience. *Winner: The Orange Prize, 2008.*

Tsukiyama, Gail. [The Samurai's Garden](#)

On the eve of World War II, a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis. He meets four local residents--a beautiful Japanese girl and three older people--who change his life.

Vreeland Susan. [Forest Lover](#)

From illegal potlatches in tribal communities to prewar Paris, Emily Carr's story is as arresting as it is vibrant. Vreeland tells it with gusto and suspense in a glorious novel that will appeal to lovers of art, native cultures, and lush historical fiction.

Walls, Jeanette. [Glass Castle](#) (Non-fiction)

Freelance writer Walls tells of growing up with unconventional parents in all kinds of horrendous circumstances.

**THE ENTIRE SET MUST BE RETURNED TOGETHER TO THE NEW WESTMINSTER
PUBLIC LIBRARY.**