

Book Clubs To Go Kits

Grab a kit, some friends, and go!



Book Clubs to Go is a great way for your Book Club to enjoy great discussions. All kits can be checked out for 6 weeks and each one may contain: Multiple copies of one title, discussion questions, author biographical information, reviews of the book & summary of the story

Currently we have book kits for:

Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver
Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant
Charming Billy by Alice McDermott
Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time by Chris Haddon
Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller
Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery
Glass Castle by Jeanette Wells
Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard
Guardians of the Gate by Vincent N. Parrillo
Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent
Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford
House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus III
Left neglected by Lisa Genova**
Little Bee by Chris Cleave
Loving Frank by Nancy Horan**
Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett
Map of the World by Jane Hamilton
Mary by Janic Cooke Newman**
Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd
Midwives by Christopher A. Bohjalian
My Name is Mary Sutter by Robin Oliveira**
Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
One Second After by William R. Forstchen
Paris Wife by Paula McLain
Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett**

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** Kit Added in 2013

Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick
Snow Flower & the Secret Fan by Lisa See
Summer at Tiffany by Marjorie Hart
Telex from Cuba by Rachel Kushner
Vinegar Hill by A. Manette Ansay
Widow For One Year by John Irving
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

****Kit Added in 2013**

Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver

Cynical and self-absorbed, Codi Noline has been drifting in an aimless relationship and through a series of jobs when she packs up and returns home to the town of Grace, Arizona to care for her physician father, who has Alzheimers, and to teach high school science.

Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant

Turning 15 in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family's Florentine palazzo.

Charming Billy by Alice McDermott

Billy Lynch's family and friends have gathered at a small Bronx bar. They have come to comfort his widow and to eulogize one of the last great romantics, trading tales of his famous humor, immense charm, and unfathomable sorrow. As they linger on into this extraordinary night, their voices form Billy's tragic story and their mourning becomes a gentle homage to all the lives in their small community fractured by grief, shattered by secrets, and sustained by the simple dream of love.

Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time by Chris Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic 15 year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

This spellbinding book intertwines the true tale of two men—the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair, and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight : An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller**

Fuller remembers her African childhood with candor and sensitivity. Though it is a diary of an unruly life in an often inhospitable place, it is suffused with Fuller's endearing ability to find laughter, even when there is little to celebrate.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Wells

A remarkable memoir of resilience & redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional & uniquely vibrant.

Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard

The fire of the title refers primarily to the atomic bombing of Japan. In 1947, a thirty-two-year-old English war hero visiting Hiroshima during the occupation finds himself billeted in a compound overseen by a boorish Australian brigadier and his scheming wife. He is immediately enchanted, however, by the couple's children—a brilliant, sickly young man and his adoring sister—who prove to be prisoners in a different sort of conflict.

Guardians of the Gate by Vincent N. Parrillo

Step back in time to New York City at the turn of the 20th century when masses of immigrants were funneled through Ellis Island under the watchful eye of administrators and medical staff. This book brings it all to life - the excitement of a new life in the new world, the overwhelming task of managing and tending to hordes of diverse peoples, the exploitation of innocent newcomers and the political machinations behind the scenes. It presents a masterful blend of historical fact and fiction, romance and intrigue, joy and despair that will keep you turning the pages.

Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer

January 1946: writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Tells the story of a young white woman in Jackson, Mississippi in the 1960's & a group of black maids who work for the families of her friends.

The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent

Set at the time of the Salem witch trials, amid the painful details of persecution, suspicion and betrayal, this is the wrenching account of a child and her family sustained by love through the hysteria of the time.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

Novel explores the age old conflicts between father and son and the depths of longing of deep-heart love. Story is set in Seattle's Japantown during World War II.

House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus III

Three fragile yet determined people are drawn by their competing desires to the same small house in the California hills and become dangerously entangled in a relentlessly escalating crisis.

Left neglected by Lisa Genova**

The concept of this book is something the average person does not think about. It's hard to fathom a world where the brain simply erases the left side of everything. As a result of a brain injury, this is the tragedy that befalls Sarah, in this story. It's also a book about relationships, demonstrating the healing power of friendship and forgiveness. A heartwarming story about hope and persevering through darkness to see light again for those who enjoy good women's fiction or those who know someone dealing with a brain injury.

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

This is the story of two women. Their lives collide on fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice. Two years later they meet again—the story starts there....

Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

Story of a teenage girl who, after being murdered, watches from heaven as her family and friends go on with their lives, while she herself comes to terms with her own death.

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan **

"I have been standing on the side of life, watching it float by. I want to swim in the river. I want to feel the current."

So writes Mamah Borthwick Cheney in her diary as she struggles to justify her clandestine love affair with Frank Lloyd Wright.

Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett

Private eye Sam Spade and his partner Miles Archer are hired into service to a woman who calls herself Miss Wonderly to follow a man, Floyd Thursby, who has allegedly run off with her underage baby sister.

Map of the World by Jane Hamilton

Is a riveting story of how a single mistake can forever change the lives of everyone involved--in ways that are beyond imagining.

Mary by Janis Cooke Newman

A historical novel about Mary Todd Lincoln. Mary was chosen by USA Today as the best historical fiction of 2006.

The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd

Jessie Sullivan is summoned home to tiny Egret Island, where she meets Brother Thomas, a monk who is about to take his final vows, and encounters the legend of a mysterious chair dedicated to a saint who had originally been a mermaid.

Midwives by Chris Bohjalian

A seasoned midwife in rural Vermont faces the antagonism of the law, the hostility of traditional doctors, and the accusations of her own conscience.

My Name is Mary Sutter by Robin Oliveira**

Mary Sutter is a brilliant young midwife who dreams of becoming a surgeon. Determined to overcome the prejudices against women in medicine she volunteers to help tend the legions of Civil War wounded.

Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

This story takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of an arranged marriage, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home.

One Second After by William R. Forstchen

The novel deals with an unexpected electromagnetic pulse attack on the United States as it affects the people living in and around the town of Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Paris Wife by Paula McLain

A deeply evocative (fiction) story of ambition and betrayal, it captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people, Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley.

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett**

A spellbinding epic set in 12th-century England, *The Pillars of the Earth* tells the story of the struggle to build the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has known—a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, and brother against brother.

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick

Rural Wisconsin, 1909. In the bitter cold, Ralph Truitt, a successful businessman, stands alone on a train platform waiting for the woman who answered his newspaper advertisement for "a reliable wife."

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

A story of friendship set in 19th-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

Summer at Tiffany by Marjorie Hart

In the summer of 1945 Marjorie Hart and a sorority sister at the University of Iowa set out for New York City, determined to find work as salesgirls. Hart describes that experience in *Summer at Tiffany*, an affectionate memoir of Manhattan just before and after V-J Day.

Telex from Cuba by Rachel Kushner

Riveting novel set in the American community in Cuba during the years leading up to Castro's revolution -- a place that was a paradise for a time and for a few.

Vinegar Hill by A. Manette Ansay

In 1972, Ellen Grier, her husband and their two children return to Holly's Field, Wisconsin. There they must live with her in-laws, in a loveless house where everyday cruelty threatens to destroy her spirit.

A Widow For One Year by John Irving

Chronicles the life of a complex, abrasive woman born in the shadow of her siblings' deaths and her parents' adultery, who only finds love after motherhood and widowhood.

Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition.

**** Kit added to collection in 2013**