

Book Club List 2019-2020

Title	Author	Suggested by	Category, No of pages
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AUGUST 2019

Where the Crawdads Sing	Delia Owens	Lynn DePietro	Fiction 382 pages
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For years, rumors of the “Marsh Girl” have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

Perfect for fans of Barbara Kingsolver and Karen Russell, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

Book Club West	Monday August 5, 7PM	Clara Celebuski 5080 Fox Lane Gurnee, IL 60031 chuskico@aol.com
Book Club East	Monday August 19, 6PM	Potesta's Green Bay Road Gurnee

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SEPTEMBER 2019**The Radium Girls****Kate Moore****Erika Nicketatis****Non Fiction 496 pages**

The incredible true story of the women who fought America's Undark danger

The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War.

Meanwhile, hundreds of girls toil amidst the glowing dust of the radium-dial factories. The glittering chemical covers their bodies from head to toe; they light up the night like industrious fireflies. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" are the luckiest alive — until they begin to fall mysteriously ill.

But the factories that once offered golden opportunities are now ignoring all claims of the gruesome side effects, and the women's cries of corruption. And as the fatal poison of the radium takes hold, the brave shining girls find themselves embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th century, and in a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights that will echo for centuries to come.

Written with a sparkling voice and breakneck pace, *The Radium Girls* fully illuminates the inspiring young women exposed to the "wonder" substance of radium, and their awe-inspiring strength in the face of almost impossible circumstances. Their courage and tenacity led to life-changing regulations, research into nuclear bombing, and ultimately saved hundreds of thousands of lives...

Book Club West**Monday September 9, 2019
7PM****Terry Stowell
1212 Lisa Crescent
Libertyville, IL 60048
stowellbt@comcast.net****Book Club East****Monday September 16, 6PM****Potesta's
Green Bay Road
Gurnee**

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OCTOBER 2019**The Music Shop****Rachel Joyce****Terry Stowell****Fiction 320 pages**

From the author of the world-wide bestseller, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, a new novel about learning how to listen and how to feel; and about second chances and choosing to be brave despite the odds. Because in the end, music can save us all ...

1988. Frank owns a music shop. It is jam-packed with records of every speed, size and genre. Classical, jazz, punk – as long as it's vinyl he sells it. Day after day Frank finds his customers the music they need.

Then into his life walks Ilse Brauchmann.

Ilse asks Frank to teach her about music. His instinct is to turn and run. And yet he is drawn to this strangely still, mysterious woman with her pea-green coat and her eyes as black as vinyl. But Ilse is not what she seems. And Frank has old wounds that threaten to re-open and a past he will never leave behind ...

Book Club West**Monday October 7, 2019 7PM**

**Barb Mc Neill
17334 Windslow Dr.
Grayslake, IL 60030
momranch@aol.com**

Book Club East**Monday October 21, 2019 6PM**

**Potesta's
Green Bay Road
Gurnee**

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NOVEMBER 2019

The Only Woman in the Room Maria Benedict

Lynn DePietro

Fiction 272 pages

She was beautiful. She was a genius. Could the world handle both? A powerful, illuminating novel about Hedy Lamarr.

Hedy Kiesler is lucky. Her beauty leads to a starring role in a controversial film and marriage to a powerful Austrian arms dealer, allowing her to evade Nazi persecution despite her Jewish heritage. But Hedy is also intelligent. At lavish Vienna dinner parties, she overhears the Third Reich's plans. One night in 1937, desperate to escape her controlling husband and the rise of the Nazis, she disguises herself and flees her husband's castle.

She lands in Hollywood, where she becomes Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But Hedy is keeping a secret even more shocking than her Jewish heritage: she is a scientist. She has an idea that might help the country and that might ease her guilt for escaping alone -- if anyone will listen to her. A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece.

Book Club West

**Monday November 4, 2019
7PM**

**Cheri Johnson
17482 Windslow Dr.
Grayslake, IL 60030
cheri.johnson10@gmail.com**

Book Club East

**Monday November 18, 2019
6PM**

**Potesta's
Green Bay Road
Gurnee**

Book Club List 2019-2020

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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2019
6:30PM

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

hosted by Lynn DePietro
 17613 W Meadowbrook Dr.
 Grakslake, IL 60030
 ldepietro@nplchicago.com

JANUARY 2020

The Ghost Writer

Alessandra Torre

Cheri Johnson

Fiction 316 pages

Four years ago, I lied. I stood in front of the police, my friends and family, and made up a story, my best one yet. And all of them believed me.

I wasn't surprised. Telling stories is what made me famous. Fifteen bestsellers. Millions of fans. Fame and fortune.

Now, I have one last story to write. It'll be my best one yet, with a jaw-dropping twist that will leave them stunned and gasping for breath.

They say that sticks and stones will break your bones, but this story? It will be the one that kills me.

This book is not a romance. It is contemporary fiction, but very suspenseful in nature. It is about a famous romance author and a dark secret she keeps.

Book Club West

Monday January 6, 2020 7PM

Judi Standford
 513 Willow Way
 Lindenhurst, IL 60046
 judistandford@yahoo.com

Book Club East

Monday January 20, 2020 6PM

Potesta's
 Green Bay Road
 Gurnee

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FEBRUARY 2020

Educated	Tara Westover	Elizabeth Danos	Non Fiction 352 pages
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Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard.

Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent.

Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

Educated is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty and of the grief that comes with severing the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes and the will to change it. (less)

Book Club West	Monday February 3, 2020 7PM	Cindy Hibbard 610 Deerpath Dr. Lindenhurst, IL 60046 cindyjhibbard@hotmail.com
Book Club East	Monday February 17, 2020 6PM	Potesta's Green Bay Road Gurnee

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Title	Author	Suggested by	Category, No of pages
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MARCH 2020**Bad Blood****John Carreyrou****Judi Stanford****Non Fiction 352 pages**

The full inside story of the breathtaking rise and shocking collapse of a multibillion-dollar startup, by the prize-winning journalist who first broke the story and pursued it to the end in the face of pressure and threats from the CEO and her lawyers.

In 2014, Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes was widely seen as the female Steve Jobs: a brilliant Stanford dropout whose startup "unicorn" promised to revolutionize the medical industry with a machine that would make blood tests significantly faster and easier. Backed by investors such as Larry Ellison and Tim Draper, Theranos sold shares in a fundraising round that valued the company at \$9 billion, putting Holmes's worth at an estimated \$4.7 billion. There was just one problem: The technology didn't work.

For years, Holmes had been misleading investors, FDA officials, and her own employees. When Carreyrou, working at The Wall Street Journal, got a tip from a former Theranos employee and started asking questions, both Carreyrou and the Journal were threatened with lawsuits. Undaunted, the newspaper ran the first of dozens of Theranos articles in late 2015. By early 2017, the company's value was zero and Holmes faced potential legal action from the government and her investors. Here is the riveting story of the biggest corporate fraud since Enron, a disturbing cautionary tale set amid the bold promises and gold-rush frenzy of Silicon Valley.

Book Club West**Monday March 2, 2020 7PM****Annunciation****Book Club East****Monday March 16, 2020 6PM**

**Potesta's
Green Bay Road
Gurnee**

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Title	Author	Suggested by	Category, No of pages
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APRIL 2020**Bear Town****Fredrik Backman****Deb Gallinger****Fiction 432 pages**

The #1 New York Times bestselling author of A Man Called Ove returns with a dazzling, profound novel about a small town with a big dream - and the price required to make it come true.

People say Beartown is finished. A tiny community nestled deep in the forest, it is slowly losing ground to the ever encroaching trees. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. And in that ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better than today. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. All the hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys.

Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected.

Beartown explores the hopes that bring a small community together, the secrets that tear it apart, and the courage it takes for an individual to go against the grain. In this story of a small forest town, Fredrik Backman has found the entire world.

Book Club West**Monday April 6, 2020 7PM**

Elizabeth Danos
36675 Fox Hill Dr.
Wadsworth, IL 60083
efdanos@yahoo.com

Book Club East**Monday April 20, 2020 6PM**

Potesta's
Green Bay Road
Gurnee

Book Club List 2019-2020

Title	Author	Suggested by	Category, No of pages
MONDAY MAY 4, 2020 6:30PM		BOOK PRESENTATION POTLUCK - Church	

JUNE 2020

The Tea Girls of Hummingbird Lane Lisa See

Barb McNeill

Fiction 635 pages

From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Lisa See, “one of those special writers capable of delivering both poetry and plot” (*The New York Times Book Review*), a moving novel about tradition, tea farming, and the bonds between mothers and daughters.

In their remote mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. For the Akha people, ensconced in ritual and routine, life goes on as it has for generations—until a stranger appears at the village gate in a jeep, the first automobile any of the villagers has ever seen.

The stranger’s arrival marks the first entrance of the modern world in the lives of the Akha people. Slowly, Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, begins to reject the customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock—conceived with a man her parents consider a poor choice—she rejects the tradition that would compel her to give the child over to be killed, and instead leaves her, wrapped in a blanket with a tea cake tucked in its folds, near an orphanage in a nearby city.

As Li-yan comes into herself, leaving her insular village for an education, a business, and city life, her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. Despite her privileged childhood, Haley wonders about her origins. Across the ocean Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. Over the course of years, each searches for meaning in the study of Pu’er, the tea that has shaped their family’s destiny for centuries.

A powerful story about circumstances, culture, and distance, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond of family.

Book Club West

Monday June 1, 2020 7PM

**Linda Piepenbrink
35190 Lake Shore Road
Ingleside, IL 60041
peipenl@comcast.net**

Book Club East

Monday June 15, 2020 6PM

**Potesta's
Green Bay Road
Gurnee**