



# BOOK CLUB BOOKS

*Chosen to represent a range of interests, it is hoped these books will stimulate thought and discussion among our diverse group of readers.  
As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.*

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## SPRING, 2016

### **Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania** by Erik Larson

Larson uses his masterly narrative skills to tell the enthralling story of the sinking of the *Lusitania* on May 1, 1915 by a German U-boat. The luxury ocean liner was considered safe passage, even though the North Atlantic seas during WWI were terrorized by Germany's naval prowess. But an array of challenges, including hubris, fog, British intelligence, and a German captain determined to change history, all converged to create a terrible, historic disaster just as amazing as the story of the *Titanic*.  
(nonfiction)

### **H is for Hawk** by Helen Macdonald

The author, a trained falconer, rediscovers a favorite book of her childhood, T.H. White's *The Goshawk*, in which he attempts to train one of the most magnificent and deadly raptors. Macdonald secures her own goshawk, which she names Mabel, and the fierce wildness of the young bird helps her deal with her father's untimely death, ultimately leading her to new and startling ways of coping with grief.  
(nonfiction)

### **The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace** by Jeff Hobbs

When the author of this poignant biography arrived at Yale, he became fast friends with the man who became his college roommate for four years, Robert Peace. Robert's life started out rough, in the crime-ridden streets of Newark in the 1980s, with his father in jail and his mother earning less than \$15,000 a year. But he was a brilliant student, and it was supposed to get easier when he was accepted to Yale, studying molecular biochemistry and biophysics. But it didn't get easier, as he tried to balance the difficult dual nature of his existence at Yale and the dangers at home. *Entertainment Weekly* called this book "a haunting American tragedy for our times". (nonfiction)

### **The Sympathizer** by Viet Thanh Nguyen

In April 1975 Saigon is in chaos. At his villa, a general of the South Vietnamese Army draws up a list of those who will be given passage aboard the last flights out of the country. The general and his compatriots, including his trusted captain, start a new life in Los Angeles, unaware that the captain is secretly reporting on the group to the Viet Cong. *The Sympathizer* is the story of this captain: a man caught between two worlds, brought up by a poor Vietnamese mother, attending university in America, but returning to fight for the Communist cause. This is a gripping spy novel and a moving love story that examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in so many spheres. (fiction)

### **The Turner House** by Angela Flournoy

For over fifty years the Turners have lived in Detroit in a house that has seen thirteen children grow up and move on, some returning and some bringing grandchildren back. But when their powerful mother falls ill, the siblings must face the ghosts of their pasts, including the specter of addiction, and the necessary abandonment of their family home in a struggling city neighborhood. A poignant and timely page-turner, short-listed for the National Book Award. (fiction)