



BOOK CLUB BOOKS

Below are this winter's Book Club selections. 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.

SPRING 2018

Chain of Title: How Three Ordinary Americans Uncovered Wall Street's Great Foreclosure Fraud by David Dayen

The riveting story of how a few Florida homeowners read the fine print in all their documents and thus helped to expose the deceit at the heart of the 2008 mortgage crisis. Their personal stories and their moving crusade to hold the banks accountable takes readers on a surprising and emotional roller coaster ride. (nonfiction)

The Dark Flood Rises by Margaret Drabble

With humor and heartbreak, Drabble's latest novel examines the many ways we grow old and the meaning of a "good death." Fran travels around the English countryside inspecting, appraising, and innovating care homes for the aging. In her seventies, she is the oldest of her colleagues, but has more energy than most of them. Lately she has also been spending time traveling down memory lane and thinking about mortality in relation to her friends, family, the environment, and modern society. (fiction)

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid

A magical love story that follows a young couple who join a wave of migrants fleeing from the collapse of their city. Hamid weaves together the dangers of being trapped in a home at the center of a civil war with the perils of seeking a new life elsewhere. A finalist for the Man Booker Prize. (fiction)

The Gargoyle Hunters by John Freeman Gill

Both his family and his city are crumbling when thirteen-year-old Griffin discovers his estranged father's illicit architectural salvage business. Griffin is soon helping to steal gargoyles and other sculptures off old buildings. But his yearning to connect with his father and help his mother pay bills makes him fail to see that his father's deepening obsession with preserving the treasures of Gilded Age New York endangers them all. Hilarious and poignant, this adventure story and love letter to a vanishing city also solves the mystery of a famous architectural heist—the theft of an entire landmark building—that made the front page of *The New York Times* in 1974. (fiction)

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

A shocking true crime detective story. In the 1920s the Osage Indians of Oklahoma negotiated to maintain the mineral rights for their reservation. It proved to be very lucrative, as oil rigs soon dotted the landscape and the Osage became rich. But then the execution-style murders and mysterious poisonings sowed terror across the land. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI under J. Edgar Hoover took up the case. Filled with almost mythic characters – stoic Texas Rangers, corrupt robber barons, and private detectives – this is an appalling account of injustice, avarice and racist violence. A National Book Award finalist. (nonfiction)

(over)

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore

The young women who flocked to work painting luminous dials and watches for the military during WWI thought they were lucky to have such important, lucrative jobs. Little did they realize that using the glowing substance radium, which they often covered themselves in for fun, to glow in the dark, was slowly eating away their bones. Yet their employers denied it and went to great lengths to avoid any responsibility to their loyal workers. Drawing on previously unpublished sources, including diaries, letters, and interviews with the women's relatives, Moore uncovers an unforgettable story of bravery and determination against corporate greed. They set a precedent for worker's rights and industrial safety that still resonates today. (nonfiction)

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia where life is hell. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go well—Cora kills a white boy who tries to capture her. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern states, but it is still a brutal odyssey. The story of Cora's ferocious will to escape to freedom is a tour de force. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. (fiction)

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck

If you enjoy historical fiction, this emotionally powerful WWII novel with a twist will surely satisfy. The story features three unconventional German women who are thrown together in the aftermath of the war and the unlikely friendships that develop between them. Marianne comes from a patrician background and is duty bound to locate and ensure the safety of other resistance widows after her husband takes part in a plot to assassinate Hitler. A mesmerizing look at the aftermath of war as it affects the women and children left at home. (fiction)



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