



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.

WINTER 2010

The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent

A family's dispute becomes a battle for life and death in this gripping novel based on a true story. 10-year-old Sarah Carrier tries to cope with life in Salem, Massachusetts after her mother is accused of being a witch. Sarah's view of the mass hysteria and mayhem that sweeps through her close-knit community provides a fresh, unconventional take on this historic episode. Readers will appreciate the themes of family ties, conscience, and intolerance. (fiction)

Hurry Down Sunshine: A Father's Story of Love and Madness by Michael Greenberg

A powerful family story that takes readers on an emotional roller coaster ride. From the summer when his fifteen-year-old daughter is struck mad, through subsequent visits to anyone who might be able to help, including psychiatrists and movie producers, Greenberg never lets go of his compassion and courage. (nonfiction)

In Other Rooms, Other Wonders by Daniyal Mueenuddin

These enchanting stories by a half American, half Pakistani writer speak of love, struggles for power, and small victories. They let us see into the lives of fascinating characters from all realms of Pakistani society: cosmopolitan, rural, young romantics and those long widowed. Nominated for the National Book Award, Mueenuddin has been compared to Jhumpa Lahiri and John Updike. (fiction)

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann

A deeply moving vision of the sorrow, mystery, loveliness, and promise of several characters living in New York City in the 1970s. Winner of this year's National Book Award for fiction, McCann's story vividly comes to life against the backdrop of the city and the "artistic crime of the century", a mysterious tightrope walker dancing between the Twin Towers. (fiction)

The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon by David Grann

In 1925, renowned British explorer Percy Fawcett disappeared while searching for an ancient Amazonian civilization that may or may not have existed. Author Grann stumbled on a hidden trove of diaries that led him to try to solve "the greatest exploration mystery of the 20th century." A gripping story of jungles, pestilence, and passion. (nonfiction)

The Man Who Made Vermeers: Unvarnishing the Legend of Master Forger Han van Meegeren by Jonathan Lopez

This is the true story of art fraud set against the backdrop of World War II Europe and famous collectors like Andrew Mellon and Hermann Goering. The ingenious Van Meegeren was the key player in a high stakes game of illicit commerce, "a talented Mr. Ripley armed with a paintbrush", and Lopez makes his story as engrossing as any fast-paced thriller. (nonfiction)

Old Filth by Jane Gardam

“Filth”, short for “Failed in London, Try Hong Kong,” is a disgruntled retired lawyer, recently widowed, who is now delving into the past that produced him. His flashbacks contrast British privilege with the chaos that ensued as the empire started to crumble. Gardam has won numerous awards and deserves to be better known in the United States. This witty, complex, and intelligent novel showcases the author’s talent. (fiction)

The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett

In this charming, funny novella, Queen Elizabeth II stumbles across a bookmobile on the palace grounds and discovers what the rest of us know: the pleasures of reading! As she spends more and more time with beloved books, she neglects her staff and her ceremonial duties. While the prime minister schemes to get her back to her duties, the Queen develops self-awareness, contemplation, and hidden talents. (fiction)



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