

## Study Guides Book Clubs

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A Novel Soho Press

An essential tool for all reading groups! No reading group should be without this book club companion to Jeanine Cummins's bestselling novel, *American Dirt*. This comprehensive guide includes useful background to the novel, a full plot summary, discussion of themes & symbols, detailed character notes, thought-provoking discussion questions, and even a quick quiz. Study Guides for Book Clubs are designed to help you get the absolute best from your book club meetings. They enable reading group members to appreciate their chosen book in greater depth than ever before. Please be aware that this is a companion guide and does not contain the full text of the novel.

Unlearning Cast, Incorporated

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** The "paradigm-influencing" book (Christianity Today) that is fundamentally transforming our understanding of white evangelicalism in America. Jesus and John Wayne is a sweeping, revisionist history of the last seventy-five years of white evangelicalism, revealing how evangelicals have worked to replace the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism—or in the words of one modern chaplain, with "a spiritual badass." As acclaimed scholar Kristin Du Mez explains, the key to understanding this transformation is to recognize the centrality of popular culture in contemporary American evangelicalism. Many of today's evangelicals might not be theologically astute, but they know their VeggieTales, they've

read John Eldredge's *Wild at Heart*, and they learned about purity before they learned about sex—and they have a silver ring to prove it. Evangelical books, films, music, clothing, and merchandise shape the beliefs of millions. And evangelical culture is teeming with muscular heroes—mythical warriors and rugged soldiers, men like Oliver North, Ronald Reagan, Mel Gibson, and the Duck Dynasty clan, who assert white masculine power in defense of "Christian America." Chief among these evangelical legends is John Wayne, an icon of a lost time when men were uncowed by political correctness, unafraid to tell it like it was, and did what needed to be done. Challenging the commonly held assumption that the "moral majority" backed Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020 for purely pragmatic reasons, Du Mez reveals that Trump in fact represented the fulfillment, rather than the betrayal, of white evangelicals' most deeply held values: patriarchy, authoritarian rule, aggressive foreign policy, fear of Islam, ambivalence toward #MeToo, and opposition to Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ community. A much-needed reexamination of perhaps the most influential subculture in this country, *Jesus and John Wayne* shows that, far from adhering to biblical principles, modern white evangelicals have remade their faith, with enduring consequences for all Americans.

*Changing Your Beliefs and Your Classroom with UDL* Simon & Schuster  
Designed for small groups or individuals who want to study the key doctrines of the Bible in an easy-to-use format; covers 27 topics in two books.

*The Person You Mean to Be* HarperCollins  
In this comprehensive book club companion, Kathryn Cope guides readers through Delia Owens's bestselling novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing*. Designed to make your reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable, this study guide encompasses a wealth of information. Inside this guide you will find thought-provoking discussion questions; a detailed plot summary; useful literary context; an author biography; themes & imagery; character breakdowns; recommended further reading and even a quick quiz.

Study Guides for Book Clubs are designed to help you get the absolute best from your book club meetings. They enable reading group members to appreciate their chosen book in greater depth than ever before. Please be aware that this is a companion guide and does not contain the full text of the novel.

Sand Queen HarperCollins

Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize New York Times Bestseller | A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick | A New York Times Book Review Notable Book | TIME Magazine's 100 Must-Read Books of 2019 Named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR, The Washington Post; O: The Oprah Magazine, Real Simple, Good Housekeeping, Vogue, Refinery29, and BuzzFeed Ann Patchett, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Commonwealth*, delivers her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a tour de force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and of who we really are. At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his older sister, the brilliantly acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakeable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures. Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people

who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. Throughout their lives they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested.

The Personal Librarian Sourcebooks, Inc. An instant New York Times bestseller, this prequel to the acclaimed Cork O'Connor series is "a pitch perfect, richly imagined story that is both an edge-of-your-seat thriller and an evocative, emotionally charged coming-of-age tale" (Kristin Hannah, #1 New York Times bestselling author) about fathers and sons, small-town conflicts, and the events that shape our lives forever. Aurora is a small town nestled in the ancient forest alongside the shores of Minnesota's Iron Lake. In the summer of 1963, it is the whole world to twelve-year-old Cork O'Connor, its rhythms as familiar as his own heartbeat. But when Cork stumbles upon the body of a man he revered hanging from a tree in an abandoned logging camp, it is the first in a series of events that will cause him to question everything he took for granted about his hometown, his family, and himself. Cork's father, Liam O'Connor, is Aurora's sheriff and it is his job to confirm that the man's death was the result of suicide, as all the evidence suggests. In the shadow of his father's official investigation, Cork begins to look for answers on his own. Together, father and son face the ultimate test of choosing between what their heads tell them is true and what their hearts know is right. In this "brilliant achievement, and one every crime reader and writer needs to celebrate" (Louise Penny, #1 New York Times bestselling author), beloved novelist William Kent Krueger shows that some mysteries can be solved even as others surpass our understanding.

Anxious People Simon and Schuster  
Based on the true World War II story of the American Library in Paris, an unforgettable novel about the power of books and the bonds of friendship—and the ordinary heroes who can be found in the most perilous times and the quietest places. Paris, 1939. Young, ambitious, and tempestuous, Odile Souchet has it all: Paul, her handsome police officer beau; Margaret, her best friend from England; Remy, her twin brother who she adores; and a dream job at the American Library in Paris, working alongside the library's legendary director, Dorothy Reeder. When World War II breaks out, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear—including her beloved library.

After the Nazi army marches into the City of Light and declares a war on words, Odile and her fellow librarians join the Resistance with the best weapons they have: books. Again and again, they risk their lives to help their fellow Jewish readers, but by war's end, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal. Montana, 1983. Odile's solitary existence in gossipy small-town Montana is unexpectedly interrupted by her neighbor Lily, a lonely teenager craving adventure. As Lily uncovers more about Odile's mysterious past, they find they share not only a love of language but also the same lethal jealousy. Odile helps Lily navigate the troubled waters of adolescence by always recommending the right book at the right time, never suspecting that Lily will be the one to help her reckon with her own terrible secret. Based on the true story of the American Library in Paris, The Paris Library is a mesmerizing and captivating novel about the people and the books that make us who we are, for good and for bad, and the courage it takes to forgive.

The Power of Moments Learning Links  
NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE  
NOMINEE • A NEW YORK TIMES  
NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR • NEW  
YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • From the two-  
time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The  
Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*, a  
gloriously entertaining novel of heists, shakedowns,  
and rip-offs set in Harlem in the 1960s. "Ray  
Carney was only slightly bent when it came to  
being crooked..." To his customers and neighbors  
on 125th street, Carney is an upstanding salesman  
of reasonably priced furniture, making a decent life  
for himself and his family. He and his wife  
Elizabeth are expecting their second child, and if  
her parents on Striver's Row don't approve of him  
or their cramped apartment across from the  
subway tracks, it's still home. Few people know he  
descends from a line of uptown hoods and crooks,  
and that his façade of normalcy has more than a  
few cracks in it. Cracks that are getting bigger all  
the time. Cash is tight, especially with all those  
installment-plan sofas, so if his cousin Freddie  
occasionally drops off the odd ring or necklace,  
Ray doesn't ask where it comes from. He knows a  
discreet jeweler downtown who doesn't ask  
questions, either. Then Freddie falls in with a crew  
who plan to rob the Hotel Theresa—the "Waldorf  
of Harlem"—and volunteers Ray's services as the  
fence. The heist doesn't go as planned; they rarely  
do. Now Ray has a new clientele, one made up of  
shady cops, vicious local gangsters, two-bit  
pornographers, and other assorted Harlem  
lowlifes. Thus begins the internal tussle between  
Ray the striver and Ray the crook. As Ray  
navigates this double life, he begins to see who  
actually pulls the strings in Harlem. Can Ray avoid  
getting killed, save his cousin, and grab his share of  
the big score, all while maintaining his reputation  
as the go-to source for all your quality home  
furniture needs? Harlem Shuffle's ingenious story  
plays out in a beautifully recreated New York City  
of the early 1960s. It's a family saga masquerading  
as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social  
novel about race and power, and ultimately a love  
letter to Harlem. But mostly, it's a joy to read,  
another dazzling novel from the Pulitzer Prize and  
National Book Award-winning Colson Whitehead.  
The Paris Library Kathryn Cope  
An absorbing novel of romance and revolution,

loyalty and family, sacrifice and undying love We  
have three souls, or so I'd been told. But only in  
death could I confirm this.... So begins the  
haunting and captivating tale, set in 1935 China, of  
the ghost of a young woman named Leiyin, who  
watches her own funeral from above and wonders  
why she is being denied entry to the afterlife. Beside  
her are three souls—stern and scholarly yang;  
impulsive, romantic yin; and wise, shining  
hun—who will guide her toward understanding.  
She must, they tell her, make amends. As Leiyin  
delves back in time with the three souls to review  
her life, she sees the spoiled and privileged teenager  
she once was, a girl who is concerned with her own  
desires while China is fractured by civil war and  
social upheaval. At a party, she meets Hanchin, a  
captivating left-wing poet and translator, and  
instantly falls in love with him. When Leiyin defies  
her father to pursue Hanchin, she learns the harsh  
truth—that she is powerless over her fate. Her  
punishment for disobedience leads to exile, an  
unwanted marriage, a pregnancy, and, ultimately,  
her death. And when she discovers what she must  
do to be released from limbo into the afterlife,  
Leiyin realizes that the time for making amends is  
shorter than she thought. Suffused with history and  
literature, *Three Souls* is an epic tale of revenge  
and betrayal, forbidden love, and the price we are  
willing to pay for freedom.

Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness St.  
Martin's Press

#1 bestselling author Lisa Scottoline offers a  
sweeping and shattering epic of historical fiction  
fueled by shocking true events, the tale of a love  
triangle that unfolds in the heart of Rome...in the  
creeping shadow of fascism. What war destroys,  
only love can heal. Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro  
grow up as the best of friends despite their  
differences. Elisabetta is a feisty beauty who  
dreams of becoming a novelist; Marco the brash  
and athletic son in a family of professional cyclists;  
and Sandro a Jewish mathematics prodigy, kind-  
hearted and thoughtful, the son of a lawyer and a  
doctor. Their friendship blossoms to love, with  
both Sandro and Marco hoping to win Elisabetta's  
heart. But in the autumn of 1937, all of that begins  
to change as Mussolini asserts his power, aligning  
Italy's Fascists with Hitler's Nazis and altering the  
very laws that govern Rome. In time, everything  
that the three hold dear—their families, their  
homes, and their connection to one another—is  
tested in ways they never could have imagined. As  
anti-Semitism takes legal root and World War II  
erupts, the threesome realizes that Mussolini was  
only the beginning. The Nazis invade Rome, and  
with their occupation come new atrocities against  
the city's Jews, culminating in a final, horrific  
betrayal. Against this backdrop, the intertwined  
fates of Elisabetta, Marco, Sandro, and their  
families will be decided, in a heartbreaking story of  
both the best and the worst that the world has to  
offer. Unfolding over decades, *Eternal* is a tale of  
loyalty and loss, family and food, love and war—all  
set in one of the world's most beautiful cities at its  
darkest moment. This moving novel will be forever  
etched in the hearts and minds of readers.

A Guide for Book Clubs Quirk Books  
As Newland Archer prepares to marry  
docile May Welland, the return of the  
mysterious Countess Olenska turns his life  
upside down

Study Guide for Book Clubs: Circe John Catt Educational

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A TODAY Show Read with Jenna Book Club Pick A New York Times Notable Book, and Chosen by Oprah Daily, Time, NPR, The Washington Post and Barack Obama as a Best Book of the Year “ Wise and wildly entertaining . . . permeated with light, wit, youth. ” —The New York Times Book Review “ A classic that we will read for years to come. ” —Jenna Bush Hager, Read with Jenna book club “ A real joyride . . . elegantly constructed and compulsively readable. ” — NPR The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* and master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction returns with a stylish and propulsive novel set in 1950s America In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York. Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

**The Dandelion Insurrection** Atria Books Winner of the Gold Dagger for Best Crime Novel from the Crime Writers ' Association (UK) Winner for Best International Crime Fiction from Australian Crime Writers Association An Instant New York Times Bestseller “ A vibrant, engrossing, unputdownable thriller that packs a serious emotional punch. One of those rare books that surprise you along the way and then linger in your mind long after you have finished it. ” —Kristin Hannah, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* Right. Wrong. Life is lived somewhere in between. *Duchess* Day Radley is a thirteen-year-old self-proclaimed outlaw. Rules are for other people. She is the fierce protector of her five-year-old brother, Robin, and the parent to her mother, Star, a single mom incapable of taking care of herself, let alone her two kids. Walk has never left the coastal California town where he and Star grew up. He may have become the chief of police, but he ' s still trying to heal the old wound of having given the testimony that sent his best friend, Vincent King, to prison decades before. And he's in overdrive protecting *Duchess* and her brother. Now,

thirty years later, Vincent is being released. And *Duchess* and Walk must face the trouble that comes with his return. We Begin at the End is an extraordinary novel about two kinds of families—the ones we are born into and the ones we create.

Liveright Publishing This novel of female friendship in the midst of war is “ The Things They Carried for women in Iraq ” (The Boston Globe). Nineteen-year-old Kate Brady joined the army to bring honor to her family and to the Middle East. Instead, she finds herself in a forgotten corner of the Iraq desert in 2003, guarding a makeshift American prison. There, Kate meets Naema Jassim, an Iraqi medical student whose father and little brother have been detained in the camp. Kate and Naema promise to help each other, but the war soon strains their intentions. Like any soldier, Kate must face the daily threats of combat duty, but as a woman, she is in equal danger from the predatory men in her unit. Naema suffers bombs, starvation, and the loss of her home and family. As the two women struggle to survive and hold on to the people they love, each comes to have a drastic and unforeseeable effect on the other ' s life. From the author of *Wolf Season* and *The Lonely Soldier*, and informed by numerous interviews with those who were there, *Sand Queen* is a “ heartbreaking, vivid story of the particular difficulties of being not just a soldier, but a female soldier ” (Bustle).

**Overcome the Pressure to Prove and Show Up for What You Were Made to Do** Penguin

An essential tool for all reading groups! In this comprehensive book club companion, Kathryn Cope guides readers through Margaret Atwood's Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Testaments*. Designed to make your reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable, this study guide encompasses a wealth of information. Inside this guide you will find thought-provoking discussion questions; plot summaries; literary context; character breakdowns; themes & imagery; a discussion of the HULU TV adaptation, and even a quick quiz. Study Guides for Book Clubs are designed to help you get the absolute best from your book club meetings. They enable reading group members to appreciate their chosen book in greater depth than ever before. Please be aware that this is a companion guide and does not contain the full text of the novel.

Study Guide for Book Clubs: *Where the Crawdads Sing* Kathryn Cope

An essential tool for all reading groups - a detailed guide to the bestselling novel, 'Circe'! A comprehensive guide to Madeline Miller's remarkable novel 'Circe', this discussion aid includes a wealth of information and resources: twenty-eight thought-provoking discussion

questions; useful literary and historical context; an author biography; a plot summary; analyses of themes & imagery; character analysis; recommended further reading and even a quick quiz. This companion guide takes the hard work out of preparing for meetings and guarantees productive discussion. For solo readers, it encourages a deeper examination of a rich and rewarding text.

**The Origins of Our Discontents** Rising Sun Press Works

"The Bestselling Hardcover Novel of the Year."--Publishers Weekly From the number-one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* comes a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.

“ My land tells its story if you listen. The story of our family. ” Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman ' s only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows. By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa ' s tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family. *The Four Winds* is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

A Novel St. Martin's Press

Use Novel-Ties ® study guides as your total guided reading program. Reproducible pages in chapter-by-chapter format provide you with the right questions to ask, the important issues to discuss, and the organizational aids that help students get the most out of each book they read.

A Novel *The Age of Innocence*

No reading group should be without this

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companion guide to Markus Zusak's critically acclaimed bestselling novel, *The Book Thief*. A comprehensive guide to this contemporary classic, this discussion aid includes all the information you need to get your book club discussion going: useful literary & historical context; an author biography; plot synopsis; themes & symbols; character analysis; discussion questions; recommended further reading and a quick quiz.

The Dutch House Penguin

Susan Orlean's bestseller and New York Times Notable Book is "a sheer delight...as rich in insight and as varied as the treasures contained on the shelves in any local library" (USA TODAY)—a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution and an investigation into one of its greatest mysteries. "Everybody who loves books should check out *The Library Book*" (The Washington Post). On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. The fire was disastrous: it reached two thousand degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more.

Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who? Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning New Yorker reporter and New York Times bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a "delightful...reflection on the past, present, and future of libraries in America" (New York magazine) that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before. In the "exquisitely written, consistently entertaining" (The New York Times) *The Library Book*, Orlean chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries; brings each department of the library to vivid life; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago. "A book lover's dream...an ambitiously researched, elegantly written book that serves as a portal into a place of history, drama, culture, and stories" (Star Tribune, Minneapolis), Susan Orlean's thrilling journey through the stacks reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country.