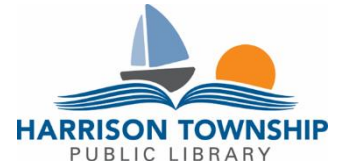
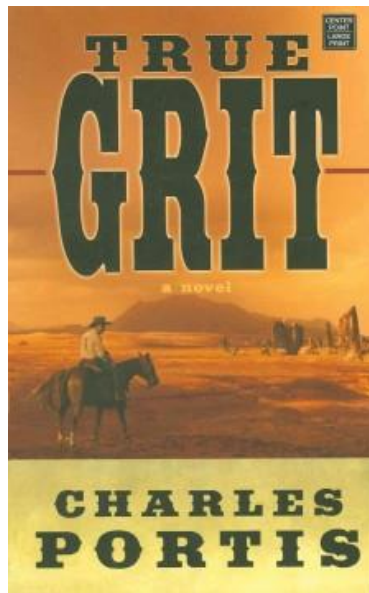


Book Group Selection Ideas Newsletter

November 8, 2022 edition



It is time to pick new book club selections! I am waiting to hear your ideas. Meanwhile here is a list of diverse titles that I grabbed from Novelist' many book group recommendation lists. Login [here](#) to try it yourself. You just need your library card.



True Grit by Charles Portis

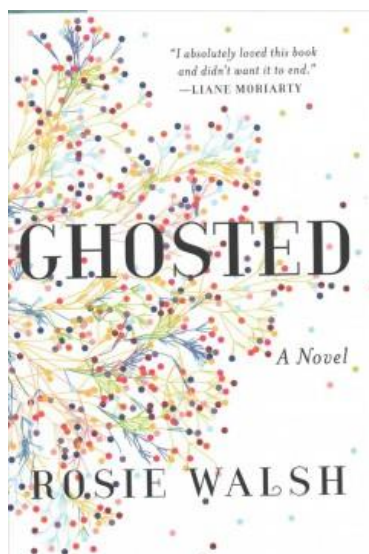
Genre: Classic, Western, Comic

Five stars on Goodreads!

Published in 1969

When Tom Chaney got drunk and shot Frank Ross, fourteen-year-old Mattie Rose Moss was convinced that Chaney represented an eye-for-an-eye, tooth-for-a-tooth case. She lit out from Dardanelle, Arkansas, determined to be Tom's fitting executioner and negotiated for the help of Rooster Cogburn, a U.S. Marshal of wide repute, mean disposition, and deadly fast draw. They cross into the Indian Territory, where (in the 1880's) scalping was more common than barbering, and she brought down her quarry after a series of Pearl White climaxes. Annoyed by the loose allusions to

her great adventure made by an Arkansas housewife-historian, middle-aged Mattie Rose sets all the record straight in a positive Presbyterian no-nonsense first person that is marvelously funny. True Grit is a rarity--a truly comic novel



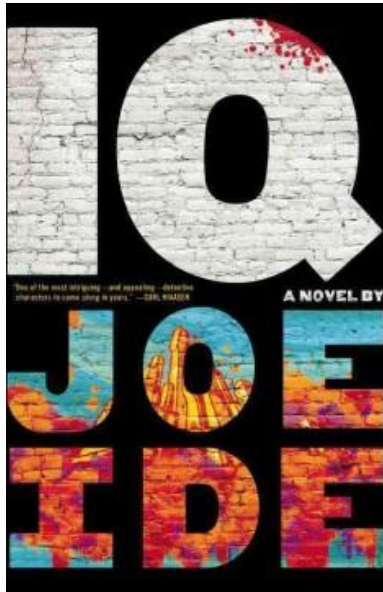
Ghosted by Rosie Walsh

Genre: Relationship Fiction, Romance, Suspense, British

From 2018

Four stars on Goodreads and Novelist

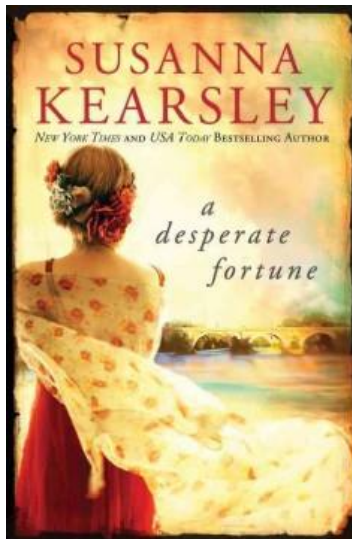
When Sarah meets Eddie in London, she's sure she's met the love of her life. After a whirlwind week of romance, Eddie leaves for a trip and tells Sarah how excited he is to see her when he returns. Then he stops returning her texts and calls. Sarah's friends tell her she's fallen victim to that terribly modern method of break-up, ghosting. But when she discovers Eddie's friends haven't heard from him lately, either, she worries something horrible may have happened.



IQ by Joe Ide

Genre: Mystery, Detective

Isaiah Quintabe, known as IQ on the mean streets of his East Long Beach neighborhood, is a Sherlock-inspired sleuth (brains over brawn) who takes the cases the cops won't touch. Yet Isaiah's off-the-grid status ("unlicensed and underground") and adjustable-rate billing system translate to poor cash flow, which drives him to accept a case he wants no part of: finding out who is trying to kill a superstar rapper—and not just any rapper, but one who seems to be going a little bit crazy.



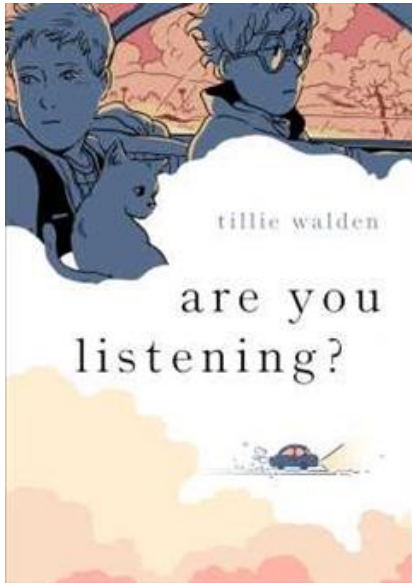
Desperate Fortune by Kearsley Susanna

Genre: Romance, Suspense and Historical Fiction

4 stars on Goodreads

From 2015

Sara Thomas, brilliant and slightly autistic, has just lost another computer-programming job when her cousin suggests that she go to France and use her cryptography skills to work for a historian and decode the Jacobean diary of Mary Dundas. In 1732, Mary, the 21-year-old daughter of a Scottish wigmaker at the court-in-exile of the Stuart king, is finally sent for by her brother after living with an aunt and uncle for most of her life. But he promptly sends her away to help ensure the safe escape of a Jacobite supporter. As Mary's predicament leads her further into danger, she discovers the true nature of the scary Scot who is protecting their party. Kearsley makes sure that as Sara realizes that the diary is not telling the story her employer expects, she finds comfort in an unexpected relationship of her own.

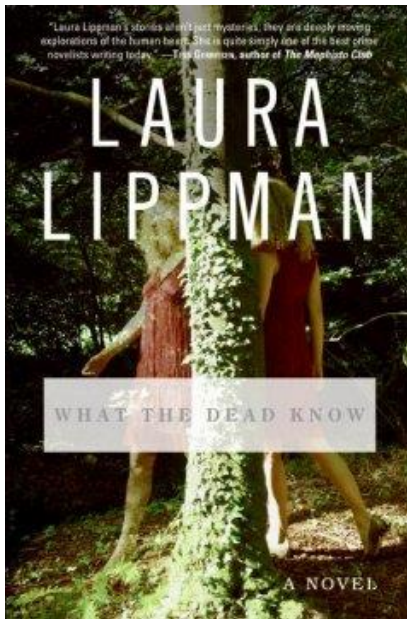


Are you Listening? By Tillie Walden

Genre: Graphic Novel

From 2019
LGBTQ Comic

Two women on the run from their pasts travel across west Texas. Eighteen-year-old Bea runs away from home without a plan except escaping—until she crosses paths with 27-year-old Lou at a gas station on the way out of town. They share the same need to get away from all the people they know. Together, they embark on a road trip to Lou's great-aunt's house in San Angelo and then to return a lost cat to a mysterious town called West.



What the Dead Know by Laura Lippman

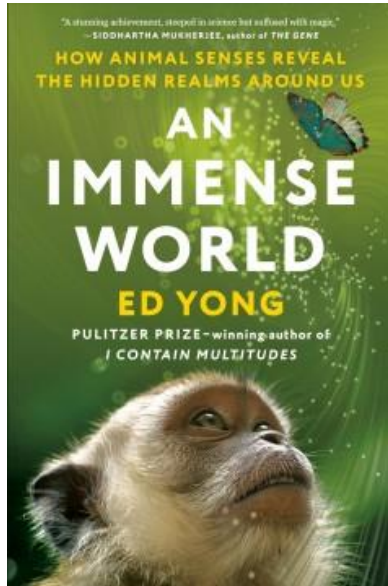
Genre: Mystery, Fast Paced, Suspenseful

2007

Edgar-winner Lippman, author of the Tess Monaghan mystery series (No Good Deeds , etc.), shows she's as good as Peter Abrahams and other A-list thriller writers with this outstanding stand-alone. A driver who flees a car accident on a Maryland highway breathes new life into a 30-year-old mystery—the disappearance of the young Bethany sisters at a shopping mall—after she later tells the police she's one of the missing girls. As soon as the mystery woman drops that bombshell, she clams up, placing the new lead detective, Kevin Infante, in a bind, as he struggles to gain her trust while exploring the odd holes in her story. Deftly moving between

past and present, Lippman presents the last day both sisters, Sunny and Heather, were seen alive from a variety of perspectives.

Here are a few new releases that may interest the group as well.



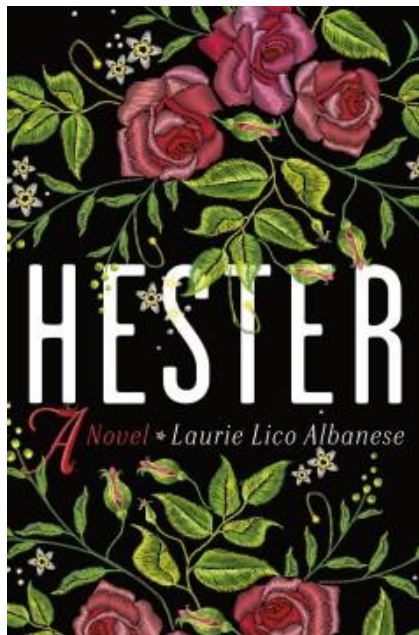
An immense world: how animal senses reveal the hidden realms around us by Ed Yong

Genre: Nonfiction, Science, Nature

2022 Title

Pulitzer-winning journalist Yong (*I Contain Multitudes*) reveals in this eye-opening survey animals' world through their own perceptions. Every animal is "enclosed within its own unique sensory bubble," he writes, or its own "perceptual world." Yong's tour covers vision (mantis shrimp have "12 photoreceptor classes"), sound (birds, researchers suggest, hear in a similar range as humans but they hear faster), and nociception, the tactile sense that sends danger signals (which is so widespread that it exists among "creatures separated by

around 800 million years of evolution"). There are a wealth of other senses outside the standard five: sea turtles have two magnetic senses, electric fish generate currents to "sense their surroundings" as well as to communicate with each other, and the platypus's sensitive bill gives it what scientists think may be "electrotouch."



Hester by Laurie Lico Albanese

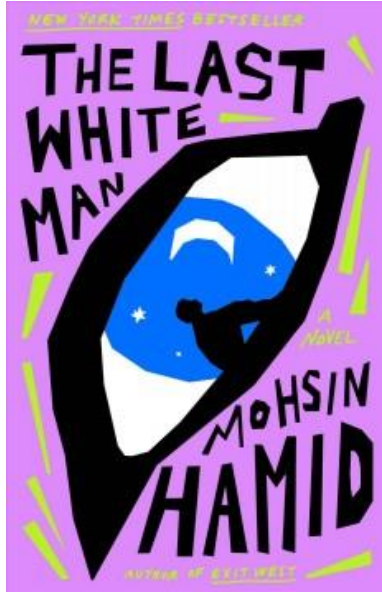
Genre: Historical Fiction, Literary Fiction based on *The Scarlet Letter*

New Oct 2022 Release

Albanese (*Stolen Beauty*, 2017) imagines an inspiration for the character of Hester Prynne. Thanks to her apothecary husband's opium addiction, Scotswoman Isobel Gamble must flee the old world for the new in the 1820s, landing in Salem, Massachusetts. Isobel's husband leaves to seek his fortune, leaving her to support herself with her beautiful needlework. Isobel harbors secrets, her ancestress was tried as a witch, and she is a synesthete, who perceives colors in what she hears. When she befriends Nat Hathorne, a struggling author haunted by his ancestor's role as judge in the witch trials, descendants of the accused and accuser come together, and

Hathorne's creativity is sparked. Descriptions of how synesthetes perceive and the creativity of Isobel's needlework are engaging and aid in character development. With a subplot about

Isobel's Black neighbors, who have secrets of their own, Albanese's novel will engage readers seeking racial themes, a resilient heroine, and a feminist origin story for one of America's always relevant nineteenth-century classics



The Last White Man by Mohsin Hamad

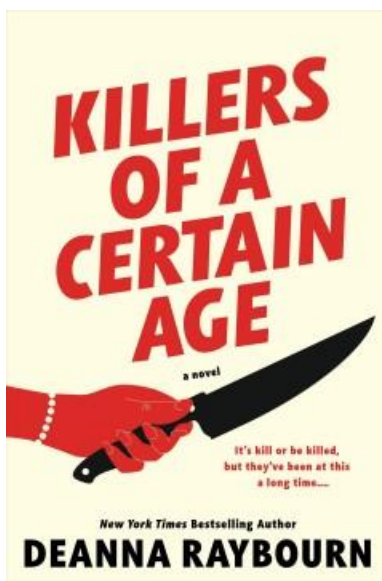
Genre: Allegory

Newer Release August 2022

Renee recommends

One morning, a man wakes up to find himself transformed. Overnight, Anders's skin has turned dark, and the reflection in the mirror seems a stranger to him. At first he shares his secret only with Oona, an old friend turned new lover. Soon, reports of similar events begin to surface. Across the land, people are awakening in new incarnations, uncertain how their neighbors, friends, and family will greet them. Some see the transformations as the long-dreaded overturning of the established order that must be resisted to a bitter end. In many,

like Anders's father and Oona's mother, a sense of profound loss and unease wars with profound love. As the bond between Anders and Oona deepens, change takes on a different shading: a chance at a kind of rebirth -- an opportunity to see ourselves, face to face, anew.



Killer of a Certain Age by Deanna Raybourn

Genre: Thriller, Shadow Organization/Spy, Funny and Upbeat.

clear Family by Joseph Han Genre: Immigrant Experience, Literary Fiction, Fast Paced. Korean, Hawaiian Author

new release, trending with book groups

In 1979, rebellious Billie, proper Helen, practical Mary Alice, and flirtatious Natalie are the first women recruited to join a top-secret, nongovernmental organization known as the Museum, which specializes in hunting down Nazis, sex traffickers, arms dealers, and other bad guys. Now in their sixties, the women are enjoying a retirement cruise. When Billie ducks into a fridge to cool off during a hot flash, she spots a young colleague in disguise, and the women soon uncover a bomb in his room, realizing that their retirement gift is actually a death sentence. But why, after 40 years of loyally serving the Museum, are they now targets? This is a fun, exciting romp that celebrates the everlasting bonds of sisterhood.