



Roswell Reads Presents: A Few of our Favorite Book Club Reads

| Title of Book | Author | Sentence or 2 about what makes this book so special |
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| <i>An Inside Job</i> | Daniel Silva | Daniel Silva never disappoints. I love his character Gabriel Allon as he solves the perfect crime in this thriller novel of murder, greed and corruption. |
| <i>Apeiogon</i> | Colum McCann | McCann takes historical events and crafts an emotional story. In this novel, two fathers have lost children. One of the men is a Palestinian, the other Israeli. The conflict has taken their children, yet they become friends, hoping to find a way for peace. As an FYI, an Apeiogon is a polygon with infinite sides. |
| <i>Atmosphere</i> | Taylor Jenkins Reid | Joan Goodwin has been obsessed with the stars for as long as she can remember. Thoughtful and reserved, Joan is content with her life as a professor of physics and astronomy at Rice U. and as aunt to her precocious niece, Frances. That is until she comes across an advertisement seeking the first women scientists to join NASA's space shuttle program. |
| <i>Book Club for Troublesome Women</i> | Marie Bostwick | This book caused our various book clubs to reflect on their own, or their mothers', journeys (depending upon age) in finding equality in a universal culture of male dominance. In the 1950s, four neighbors form a book club that transforms all of their lives! |
| <i>Ethan Frome</i> | Edith Wharton | One of Wharton's most well-known works, this is a tragic story of forbidden love that is just exquisitely written. A short, accessible classic from 1911, Ethan Frome's haunting ending lingers, both for the reader as well as for Wharton's tortured characters. |
| <i>Everything is Tuberculosis</i> | John Green | In 2019, author John Green met Henry Reider, a young tuberculosis patient at Lakka Government Hospital in Sierra Leone. John became fast friends with Henry, a boy with spindly legs and a big, goofy smile. In the years since that first visit to Lakka, Green has become a vocal advocate for increased access to treatment and wider awareness of the healthcare inequities that allow this curable, preventable infectious disease to also be the deadliest, killing over a million people every year. |
| <i>Hidden Pictures</i> | Jason Rekulak | On her first job out of rehab, Mallory Quinn is in what seems to be the perfect situation. Being the babysitter for "Teddy" seems delightful, and she bonds with him immediately. All is well until one day his drawings began to take a sinister turn. |

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| <i>How to Read a Book</i> | Monica Wood | <i>How to Read a Book</i> follows Violet Powell, a woman newly released from prison after causing a fatal accident, and Harriet Larsen, a retired teacher grieving the loss of her husband in that same tragedy. Their lives quietly intersect through a bookstore and a shared love of reading, as both women confront guilt, grief and forgiveness. The novel is a tender exploration of redemption, empathy and how books can help heal even the deepest wounds. |
| <i>Klara and the Sun</i> | Kazuo Ishiguro | Klara, Artificial Friend to Josie, observes her wants and needs and connects to the preteen in a way Josie needs, because Klara truly loves her human friend. |
| <i>Lady Tan's Society of Women</i> | Lisa See | 15th century China was not an easy place to be a female, but Lady Tan brings all her brains and bravado to help elevate the bodies, spirits and minds of those around her thanks to the medical training she gained in her childhood home. The story is based on one of See's ancestors who was a midwife. |
| <i>Memorial Days</i> | Geraldine Brooks | This is the one book everyone who has ever lost anyone should read. Every book by Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize winner for <i>March</i> , is excellent. But <i>Memorial Days</i> , a memoir detailing her grief after her husband, famed author Tony Horwitz, died suddenly on Memorial Day 2019, is achingly authentic. |
| <i>My Friends</i> | Fredrik Backman | A coming-of-age story, <i>My Friends</i> explores the bond of friendship over a lifetime. Written with humor and empathy, the book explores themes of belonging, art, family and friend relationships. |
| <i>Night Watch</i> | Jayne Anne Phillips | <i>Night Watch</i> , the 2024 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Jayne Anne Phillips, is a riveting post-Civil War mother-daughter story that follows the tormented duo to the (real-life) West Virginia Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum and some shocking full-circle surprises awaiting them there. |
| <i>Project Hail Mary</i> | Andy Weir | A middle school science teacher awakens on a spaceship and has to figure out who he is, how he got there and why. This is a fast-moving story about science, humanity, sacrifice and the desire to help others. |
| <i>The Borrowed Life of Fredrick Fife</i> | Anna Johnston | An incredible, heartwarming story of redemption, forgiveness, second chances and found family. Absolutely loved this story. |
| <i>The Caretaker</i> | Ron Rash | A poignant Appalachian novel set in 1951, amidst the Korean War, <i>The Caretaker</i> explores themes of love, duty, isolation, despair and the human condition. The consequences of keeping secrets in a close-knit community tug at your heart. |
| <i>The Correspondent</i> | Virginia Evans | Charming, heartfelt book told entirely through letters. Both moving and amusing, the main character comes to accept both her accomplishments and her failures. |
| <i>The Dream of the Jaguar</i> | Miguel Bennefoy | A mute beggar in Venezuela takes in an abandoned newborn. She has no idea of the extraordinary destiny that awaits the orphan. From a life of poverty and a variety of menial jobs, "Antonio" becomes one of his country's most illustrious surgeons. |
| <i>The Earth Is All That Lasts</i> | Mark L. Gardner | If you like history about the westward expansion and its effect on Native Americans, this book has it all. While focusing on Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, it is a comprehensive tale of their influence on their tribes and their unusual and final days. |
| <i>The Flashlight</i> | Susan Choi | The book begins with a young girl found after her father has apparently been washed out to sea. It is a very engaging novel that covers decades and explores cultural identity and displacement, memory and family trauma. |

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| <i>The Frozen River</i> | Ariel Lawhon | A historical fiction novel based on the true story of an 18th century midwife in Hallowell, Maine, <i>The Frozen River</i> is a mystery and thriller that explores the themes of justice and women's roles. |
| <i>The Measure</i> | Nikki Erlich | A thought-provoking story about what happens when people all over the world receive a box on their 22nd birthday with a string that depicts the length of their lives. People have to figure out whether to open their boxes to see the length of their strings and whether to tell others what they have. |
| <i>The Spoon Stealer and all Lesley Crewes books</i> | Lesley Crewes | Each book is just a good read. These are family stories with characters we can root for and become attached to. If you want a book to fall into quickly, these are great choices. |
| <i>Theo of Golden</i> | Allen Levi | Thrills the heart and inspires the soul. |
| <i>Thunderstruck</i> | Erik Larson | This nonfiction tale from Edwardian England has it all: a murder mystery, two scientists competing to be "first" with an important invention (before intellectual properties!) and a lovely sea cruise. Will not disappoint. |
| <i>Time of the Child</i> | Niall Williams | Christmas in a small town in Ireland where people's lives are transformed after finding an abandoned baby left in their care. |
| <i>Twice</i> | Mitch Albom | The Road Not Taken. Everything done can be undone. Alfie Logan gets a second chance in life with his special do-over power. Romance and more. |
| <i>Under the Tulip Tree</i> | Michelle Shocklee | Lorena Leland, an unemployed newspaper reporter during the Great Depression, accepts a position interviewing former slaves for the Federal Writers' Project. There, she meets Frankie Washington, a 101-year-old woman who recounts her life as a slave. Their lives are now connected and they are both changed forever. |
| <i>When the World Fell Silent</i> | Donna Jones Alward | After reading <i>The Spoon Stealer</i> , I was interested in the tragedy in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1917. Two ships, one of which is loaded with explosives, collide in the harbor and cause an explosion that destroys the town and kills many people. Nora and Charlotte live and face all the devastation with courage and resilience. |
| <i>When Women Ran Fifth Avenue</i> | Julie Satow | A fascinating nonfiction book about the golden age of department stores in the U.S. and the three women who ran them during a time when women were rarely in CEO roles. |