



BOOK TALKS!

MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS JULY 2018

The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott A portrait of the Irish-American experience is presented through the story of an Irish immigrant's suicide and how it reverberates through innumerable lives in early twentieth-century Catholic Brooklyn.

A History of Loneliness by John Boyne The riveting narrative of an honorable Irish priest who finds the church collapsing around him at a pivotal moment in its history. Propelled into the priesthood by a family tragedy, Odran Yates is full of hope and ambition.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman Eleanor struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office.

The Wife : A Novel of Psychological suspense by Alafair Burke Marrying an economics professor she met while catering an East Hampton dinner party, Angela finds her tragic past coming under scrutiny at the same time she is asked to defend her husband against wrongful accusations.

Seven Days of Us by Francesca Hornak A warm, wry, sharply observed debut novel about what happens when a family is forced to spend a week together in quarantine over the holidays... It's Christmas, and for the first time in years the entire Birch family will be under one roof.

Less by Andrew Sean Greer Receiving an invitation to his ex-boyfriend's wedding, Arthur, a failed novelist on the eve of his fiftieth birthday, embarks on an international journey that finds him falling in love, risking his life, reinventing himself, and making connections with the past. (Pulitzer prize winner)

Educated by Tara Westover (memoir) Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. Tara Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.

What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty Suffering an accident that causes her to forget the last ten years of her life, Alice is astonished to discover that she is thirty-nine years old, a mother of three children, and in the midst of an acrimonious divorce from a man she dearly loves.

The Maze at Windermere by Gregory Blake Smith A richly layered novel of love, ambition, and duplicity, set against the storied seascape of Newport, Rhode Island. A reckless wager between a tennis pro with a fading career and a drunken party guest launches a narrative odyssey that braids together three centuries of aspiration and adversity.

Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie From an internationally acclaimed novelist, the suspenseful and heartbreaking story of a family ripped apart by secrets and driven to pit love against loyalty, with devastating consequences. Isma is free. After years of watching out for her younger siblings in the wake of their mother's death, an invitation from a mentor in America has allowed her to resume a dream long deferred.

Witches : 1692 by Stacy Schiff (nonfiction) It began in 1692, over an exceptionally raw Massachusetts winter, when a minister's daughter began to scream and convulse. It ended less than a year later, but not before 19 men and women had been hanged and an elderly man crushed to death. The panic spread quickly, involving the most educated men and prominent politicians in the colony.

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz When editor Susan Ryeland is given the manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has no reason to think it will be much different from any of his others. After working with the best selling crime writer for years, she's intimately familiar with his detective, Atticus Pund, who solves mysteries disturbing sleepy English villages. The more Susan reads, the more she's convinced that there is another story hidden in the pages of the manuscript: one of real-life jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition, and murder.

About a Boy by Nick Hornby This story takes place in 1993 London and is a sweet story about the coming of age of a 36 year old bachelor and a young schoolboy. If you liked the movie, starring Hugh Grant, of the same name, you'll love this novel even more.

The Last Ballad by Wiley Cash A young mother desperately tries to hold her family together in the years before the Great Depression... a haunting and moving story of cowardice, courage and sacrifice. (Historical fiction about folk singer and labor rights activist, Ella Mae Wiggins. Hear Pete Seeger sing one of her most well-known songs <https://youtu.be/jla00AsteD4>)