

Book Clubs To Go Kits

Grab a kit, some friends, and go!



Book Clubs to Go is a great way for your Book Club to enjoy great discussions. All kits can be checked out for 6 weeks and each one may contain: Multiple copies of one title, discussion questions, author biographical information, reviews of the book & summary of the story

Currently we have book kits for:

- Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver
- Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant
- Charming Billy by Alice McDermott
- Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time by Chris Haddon
- Devil in the White City by Erik Larson
- Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller**
- Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery
- Gilead by Marilynne Robinson
- Girl with the Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier
- Glass Castle by Jeanette Wells
- Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard
- Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer
- Hard to Place by Marion Goldstein
- The Help by Kathryn Stockett
- Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford
- House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus III
- Little Bee by Chris Cleave
- Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
- Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett
- Map of the World by Jane Hamilton
- Memoirs of a Gisha by Arthur Golden
- Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent
- Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd
- Midwives by Christopher A. Bohjalian
- Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri
- Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
- One Second After by William R. Forstchen**
- Pomegranate Soup by Marsha Mehran
- Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross
- Reader by Bernhard Schlink
- Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick
- Ring of Deceit by Carole W. Holden

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** Kit Added in 2012

Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell
Snow Flower & the Secret Fan by Lisa See
Someone Knows My Name by Lawrence Hill**
Summer at Tiffany by Marjorie Hart
Telex from Cuba by Rachel Kushner
Thursdays at Eight by Debbie Macomber
Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffengger
Vinegar Hill by A. Manette Ansay
Widow For One Year by John Irving
Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

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Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver

Cynical and self-absorbed, Codi Noline has been drifting in an aimless relationship and through a series of jobs when she packs up and returns home to the town of Grace, Arizona to care for her physician father, who has Alzheimers, and to teach high school science.

Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant

Turning 15 in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family's Florentine palazzo.

Charming Billy by Alice McDermott

Billy Lynch's family and friends have gathered at a small Bronx bar. They have come to comfort his widow and to eulogize one of the last great romantics, trading tales of his famous humor, immense charm, and unfathomable sorrow. As they linger on into this extraordinary night, their voices form Billy's tragic story and their mourning becomes a gentle homage to all the lives in their small community fractured by grief, shattered by secrets, and sustained by the simple dream of love.

Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time by Chris Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic 15 year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

This spellbinding book intertwines the true tale of two men—the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair, and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight : An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller**

Fuller remembers her African childhood with candor and sensitivity. Though it is a diary of an unruly life in an often inhospitable place, it is suffused with Fuller's endearing ability to find laughter, even when there is little to celebrate.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears. Ames is the son of an Iowan preacher and the grandson of a minister who, as a young man in Maine, saw a vision of Christ bound in chains and came west to Kansas to fight for abolition.

Girl with the Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

With the precision and focus of an Old Master's painting, "Girl with a Pearl Earring" paints a vivid portrait of colorful 17th-century Delft, as well as the hauntingly poignant story of one young girl's rite of passage.

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Wells

A remarkable memoir of resilience & redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional & uniquely vibrant.

Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard

The fire of the title refers primarily to the atomic bombing of Japan. In 1947, a thirty-two-year-old English war hero visiting Hiroshima during the occupation finds himself billeted in a compound overseen by a boorish Australian brigadier and his scheming wife. He is immediately enchanted, however, by the couple's children—a brilliant, sickly young man and his adoring sister—who prove to be prisoners in a different sort of conflict.

Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer

January 1946: writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

Hard to Place by Marion Goldstein

A memoir that weaves between two powerful stories, that of a birth family and an adoptive family and the creation of a new extended family.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Tells the story of a young white woman in Jackson, Mississippi in the 1960's & a group of black maids who work for the families of her friends.

The Heretic's Daughter by Kathleen Kent

Set at the time of the Salem witch trials, amid the painful details of persecution, suspicion and betrayal, this is the wrenching account of a child and her family sustained by love through the hysteria of the time.

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

Novel explores the age old conflicts between father and son and the depths of longing of deep-heart love. Story is set in Seattle's Japantown during World War II.

House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus III

Three fragile yet determined people are drawn by their competing desires to the same small house in the California hills and become dangerously entangled in a relentlessly escalating crisis.

Little Bee by Chris Cleave

This is the story of two women. Their lives collide on fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice. Two years later they meet again—the story starts there....

Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

Story of a teenage girl who, after being murdered, watches from heaven as her family and friends go on with their lives, while she herself comes to terms with her own death.

Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett

Private eye Sam Spade and his partner Miles Archer are hired into service to a woman who calls herself Miss Wonderly to follow a man, Floyd Thursby, who has allegedly run off with her underage baby sister.

Map of the World by Jane Hamilton

Is a riveting story of how a single mistake can forever change the lives of everyone involved—in ways that are beyond imagining.

The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd

Jessie Sullivan is summoned home to tiny Egret Island, where she meets Brother Thomas, a monk who is about to take his final vows, and encounters the legend of a mysterious chair dedicated to a saint who had originally been a mermaid.

Midwives by Chris Bohjalian

A seasoned midwife in rural Vermont faces the antagonism of the law, the hostility of traditional doctors, and the accusations of her own conscience.

Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

This story takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of an arranged marriage, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home.

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

A collection of 13 linked short stories about a retired junior-high math teacher and other residents of the fictional Crosby, Maine, where whitecaps dot the bay and a dirt road winds down to the water. It won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award.

One Second After by William R. Forstchen**

The novel deals with an unexpected electromagnetic pulse attack on the United States as it affects the people living in and around the town of Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Pomegranate Soup by Marsha Mehran

To the Aminpour sisters, Ireland looks like a much-needed safe haven. It's been seven years since Marjan Aminpour fled Iran with her younger sisters and she hopes that in a land of "crazed sheep and dizzying roads" they might finally find a home.

Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross

She is the legend that will not die; Pope Joan, the ninth century woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to become the only female ever to sit on the throne of St Peter.

The Reader by Bernhard Schlink

Not until he becomes a law student after World War II does Michael Berg realize that the woman who found him ill and nursed him through hepatitis was illiterate and possibly a Nazi war criminal. settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home.

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick

Rural Wisconsin, 1909. In the bitter cold, Ralph Truitt, a successful businessman, stands alone on a train platform waiting for the woman who answered his newspaper advertisement for "a reliable wife."

Ring of Deceit by Carole W. Holden

Frank Hughes is crazy with grief over the death of his AIDS-stricken lover. When he is found dead in the grass at the base of his apartment building, his best friend, Cece Gardner, can't believe that he has committed suicide. As she crosses the police barrier to enter Frank's apartment, she finds a puzzling telephone message from the Drug Enforcement Agency that leads her to the eventual realization that Frank has been murdered.

The Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell

Trying to decipher an ancient text that weaves a mathematical labyrinth within a love story, two researchers obtain a diary that may contain the key to the code, but when a fellow researcher is killed, they realize that the book contains a dangerous secret.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

A story of friendship set in 19th-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

Someone Knows My Name by Lawrence Hill**

Abducted from Africa as a child, Aminata Diallo, is enslaved in South Carolina but escapes during the chaos of the Revolutionary War. In Manhattan she becomes a scribe for the British, recording the names of the blacks who have served the King and earned their freedom in Nova Scotia.

Summer at Tiffany by Marjorie Hart

In the summer of 1945 Marjorie Hart and a sorority sister at the University of Iowa set out for New York City, determined to find work as salesgirls. Hart describes that experience in *Summer at Tiffany*, an affectionate memoir of Manhattan just before and after V-J Day.

Telex from Cuba by Rachel Kushner

Riveting novel set in the American community in Cuba during the years leading up to Castro's revolution -- a place that was a paradise for a time and for a few.

Thursdays at Eight by Debbie Macomber

This novel explores one year in the lives of four different women - Clare, Liz, Karen and Julia. These are women with guts and fortitude, courage and determination, and readers will recognize the same strength of character found in the novels of venerable authors Rosamunde Pilcher and Maeve Binchy.

Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

Passionately in love, Clare and Henry vow to hold onto each other and their marriage as they struggle with the effects of Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition that casts Henry involuntarily into the world of time travel .

Vinegar Hill by A. Manette Ansay

In 1972, Ellen Grier, her husband and their two children return to Holly's Field, Wisconsin. There they must live with her in-laws, in a loveless house where everyday cruelty threatens to destroy her spirit.

A Widow For One Year by John Irving

Chronicles the life of a complex, abrasive woman born in the shadow of her siblings' deaths and her parents' adultery, who only finds love after motherhood and widowhood.

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Hilary Mantel, with consummate skill and wit,, brings to life the court of King Henry VIII and the person of Thomas Cromwell, adviser to the king and architect of the Protestant Reformation.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

The passionate and turbulent love-story of two people who cannot be together, a love which is all-encompassing yet thwarted, an unresolved passion which eventually threatens to destroy them and many around them.

Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna's eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition.

**** Kit added to collection in 2012**