

Resources for Book Clubs: *On-the-Go Book Club Bags*



MARPLE LIBRARY
2599 Sproul Road
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-1510
www.marplelibrary.org



Our On-the-Go Book Club Bags can be checked out
for up to 8 weeks.
Late fees are \$3 per day.

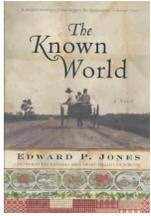
Each bag contains:

- Multiple copies of the book
- Large-print edition (when available)
- Audiobook (when available)
- A folder with discussion questions

See a Librarian at the Reference Desk for more
information or to reserve a bag.

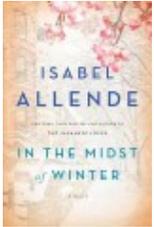


Updated April 2021



Bag 1: *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones

When a plantation proprietor and former slave--now possessing slaves of his own--dies, his household falls apart in the wake of a slave rebellion and corrupt underpaid patrollers who enable free black people to be sold into slavery.



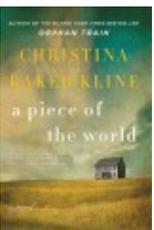
Bag 2: *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende

A minor traffic accident becomes the catalyst for an unexpected and moving love story between two people who thought they were deep into the winter of their lives.



Bag 3: *March* by Geraldine Brooks

In a story inspired by the father character in "Little Women" and drawn from the journals and letters of Louisa May Alcott's father, a man leaves behind his family to serve in the Civil War and finds his beliefs challenged by his experiences.



Bag 4: *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline

Imagines the life story of Christina Olson, the subject of Andrew Wyeth's painting "Christina's World," describing the simple life she led on a remote Maine farm, her complicated relationship with her family, and the illness that incapacitated her.



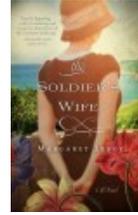
Bag 5: *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid

A love story that unfolds in a world being irrevocably transformed by migration. In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet--sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, thrust into premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city.



*The Marple Public Library
expresses its gratitude to the
Friends of the Library
for the funds donated to
purchase many of these book
club kits.*

Notes



Bag 6: *The Soldier's Wife* by Margaret Leroy

During World War II Vivienne de la Mare knows that sacrifices will be made. Not just for herself, but for her two young daughters and for her mother-in-law, whom she cares for while her husband is away fighting. However, she does not expect to fall in love with a German soldier taking up residence next to her home.



Bag 7: *Intuition* by Allegra Goodman

A trio of researchers becomes caught up in the desperate quest for a financial grant from the Philpott, a prestigious research laboratory in Cambridge, Mass.



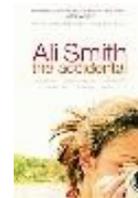
Bag 8: *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai

In a crumbling house in the remote northeastern Himalayas, an embittered, elderly judge finds his peaceful retirement turned upside down by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai.



Bag 9: *The Widow's War* by Sally Gunning

When Lyddie Berry's husband is lost in a whaling disaster, she becomes the dependent of her ruthless son-in-law, who tries to take everything she and her husband had worked for.



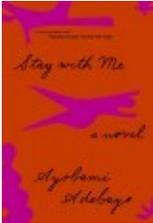
Bag 10: *The Accidental* by Ali Smith

Barefoot, thirty-something Amber shows up at the door of a Norfolk cottage that the Smarts are renting for the summer, insinuating herself into their family. Dazzled by her seeming exoticism, the Smarts begin to examine the accidents of their lives under the searing lens of



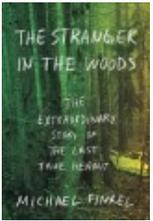
Bag 11: *The Doctor's Daughter* by Hilma Wolitzer

Alice Brill struggles to come to terms with the hidden truths of her life--her unrealized aspirations as a writer, her lackadaisical marriage, her troubled younger son, and her father, who is slipping into senility in a nursing home.



Bag 12: *Stay With Me* by Ayobami Adebayo

A Nigerian couple marry and agree polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage the wife is still not pregnant. When her family arrives with a young woman they introduce as her husband's second wife, she knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant. She does--but at a cost far greater than she could have dared to imagine.



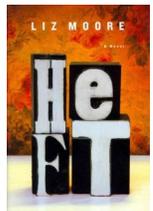
Bag 13: *Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel

For readers of Jon Krakauer and *The Lost City of Z*, a remarkable tale of survival and solitude--the true story of a man who lived alone in a tent in the Maine woods, never talking to another person and surviving by stealing supplies from nearby cabins for twenty-seven years.



Bag 14: *The Kommandant's Girl* by Pam Jenoff

Becoming a spy for the resistance after the Nazi's invade Poland, Emma Bau takes on a new identity as a gentile, becomes a high-ranking Nazi official's assistant all the while compromising her marriage, her safety, and the lives of those she loves for the cause.



Bag 15: *Heft* by Liz Moore

Arthur weighs 550 pounds and hasn't left his home in a decade. Kel is a poor kid in a rich school who pins his hopes on a baseball career. An unexpected connection transforms both their lives as they find sustenance and friendship in the most surprising places.

Books Read:

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

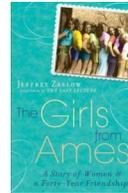
Book Club Members

Name _____ Contact Info _____



Bag 16: *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake

The stories of a small Cape Cod postmistress and an American radio reporter stationed in London collide on the eve of the United States' entrance into World War II, a meeting that is shaped by a broken promise to deliver a letter.



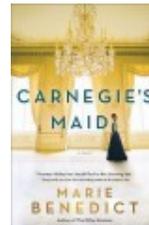
Bag 17: *The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Zaslow

A true account of eleven girls from Ames, Iowa and the friendship they share over a span of forty years.



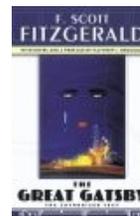
Bag 18: *22 Britannia Road* by Amanda Hodgkinson

Leaving Poland for England at the end of World War II, Silvana is accompanied by eight-year-old, near-feral Aurek, with whom she shares traumatic wartime memories that set them apart from her husband, who has remade himself as an Englishman to forget the past.



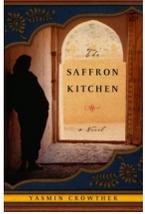
Bag 19: *Carnegie's Maid* by Marie Benedict

In the industrial 1860s at the dawn of the Carnegie empire, Irish immigrant Clara Kelly finds herself in desperate circumstances. Looking for a way out, she seeks employment as a lady's maid in the home of the prominent businessman Andrew Carnegie.



Bag 20: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The classic story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan has been acclaimed by generations of readers.



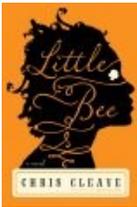
Bag 21: *The Saffron Kitchen* by Yasmin Crowther

When her troubled past resurfaces with tragic consequences, Maryam departs for the remote Iranian village of her youth, followed by her daughter Sara, who finally learns the price her mother paid to secure her own freedom.



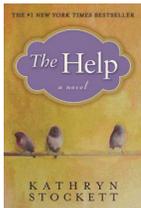
Bag 22: *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson

As Hitler waged a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons, it was up to Churchill to hold his country together and persuade President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally—and willing to fight to the end.



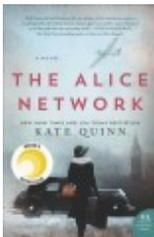
Bag 23: *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave

The fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-to-do British couple seeking to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday are joined when the couple decide to stray beyond the walls of their holiday resort on a Nigerian beach.



Bag 24: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett

Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project.



Bag 25: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn**

Two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

Helpful Websites for Book Clubs:

ALA Book Club Central

<http://www.bookclubcentral.org/>

Book Browse

<https://www.bookbrowse.com/bookclubs/>

Book Reporter

<https://www.bookreporter.com/>

Lit Lovers

<http://www.litlovers.com/>

Reader's Circle

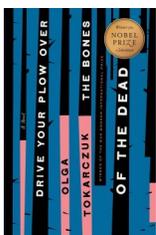
<http://www.readerscircle.org/>

Reading Group Choices

<https://readinggroupchoices.com/>

Reading Group Guides

<https://www.readinggroupguides.com/>



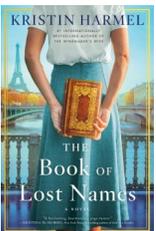
Bag 41: Drive your plow over the bones of the dead by Olga Tokarczuk

When her neighbor turns up dead, and then other bodies turn up under strange circumstances, Janine, a recluse in a remote Polish village who prefers the company of animals over humans, inserts herself into the investigation, certain she knows whodunit.



Bag 42: The Authenticity Project by Clare Pooley

When Julian Jessup, an eccentric, lonely artist who believes that most people aren't really honest with each other, writes the truth about his own life in a green journal and leaves it behind, others start writing in their own truth, which leads to unexpected friendship and love.



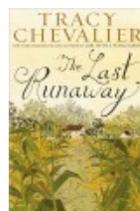
Bag 43: The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel

Escaping from Paris in 1942 after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew, a graduate student finds refuge in a small mountain town, where she forges identity documents to help hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis.



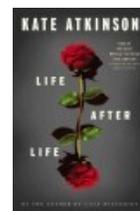
Bag 26: Letters from Home by Kristina McMorris

In 1944, Liz Stephens reluctantly agrees to ghostwrite a letter to soldier Morgan McClain, who is stationed overseas, for her friend Betty and becomes torn by her feelings for a man who doesn't know her true identity.



Bag 27: The Last Runaway by Tracy Chevalier

Forced to leave England and struggling with illness in the wake of a family tragedy, Quaker Honor Bright must rely on strangers in the harsh landscape of 1850 Ohio and joins the Underground Railroad to help runaway slaves escape to freedom.



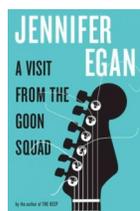
Bag 28: Life After Life by Kate Atkinson

Ursula Todd is born on a cold snowy night in 1910 -- twice. As she grows up in Britain, Ursula dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives, Ursula may be able to alter the history of the world if she so chooses.



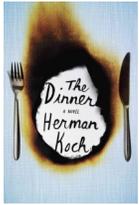
Bag 29: The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

A story inspired by the marriage between Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh traces the romance between a handsome young aviator and a shy ambassador's daughter whose relationship is marked by wild international acclaim.



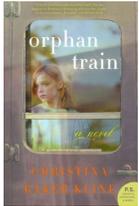
Bag 30: A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan

Working side by side at a record label, former punk rocker Bennie Salazar and the passionate Sasha hide illicit secrets from one another while interacting with a motley assortment of equally troubled people from 1970s San Francisco to the post-war future.



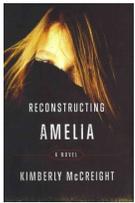
Bag 31: *The Dinner* by Herman Koch

Meeting at an Amsterdam restaurant for dinner, two couples move from small talk to the wrenching shared challenge of their teenage sons' act of violence that has triggered a police investigation and revealed the extent to which each family will go to protect those they love.



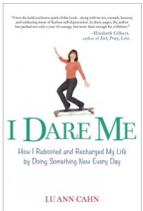
Bag 32: *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

Close to aging out of the foster care system, Molly Ayer takes a position helping an elderly woman named Vivian and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past.



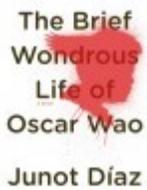
Bag 33: *Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberly McCreight

When her high-achieving 15-year-old daughter Amelia supposedly commits suicide after she is caught cheating, litigation lawyer and single mother Kate Baron, leveled by grief, must reconstruct the pieces of Amelia's life to find the truth and vindicate the memory of the daughter whose life she could not save.



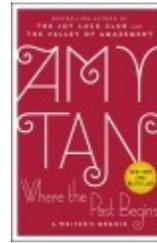
Bag 34: *I Dare Me: How I Rebooted and Recharged My Life By Doing Something New Every Day* by LuAnn Cahn

In this inspiring book, Lu Ann recounts how a new "first" every day brought excitement and wonder back into her world. And more than that, she helps readers see how they can do it too.



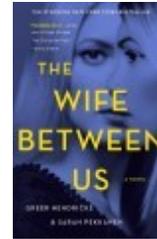
Bag 35: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick Dominican ghetto nerd. From his home in New Jersey, where he lives with his old-world mother and rebellious sister, Oscar dreams of becoming the Dominican J. R. R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love. But he may never get what he wants, thanks to the curse that has haunted the Oscar's family for generations.



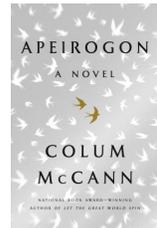
Bag 36: *Where the Past Begins* by Amy Tan

Bestselling author of *The Joy Luck Club* is at her most intimate, revealing the truths and inspirations that underlie her extraordinary fiction. Suffused with candor and characteristic humor, this memoir takes readers into the workings of her writer's mind, a journey that explores memory, imagination, and truth, with fiction serving as both her divining rod and link to meaning.



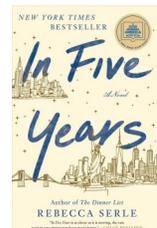
Bag 37: *The Wife Between Us* by Greer Hendricks

When you read this book, you will make many assumptions. You will assume you are reading about a jealous ex-wife. You will assume she is obsessed with her replacement – a beautiful, younger woman who is about to marry the man they both love. You will assume you know the anatomy of this tangled love triangle. Assume nothing.



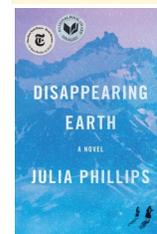
Bag 38: *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann

Two fathers, a Palestinian and an Israeli, navigate the physical and emotional checkpoints of their conflicted world before devastating losses compel them to work together to use their grief as a weapon for peace.



Bag 39: *In Five Years* by Rebecca Searle

An ambitious young lawyer on the brink of having it all disregards a vivid dream about how different her life will be in **five years**, before meeting the man in her vision nearly **five years** later.



Bag 40: *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Phillips

The shattering disappearance of two young girls from Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula compounds the isolation and fears of a tight-woven community, connecting the lives of neighbors, witnesses, family members and a detective throughout an ensuing year of tension.