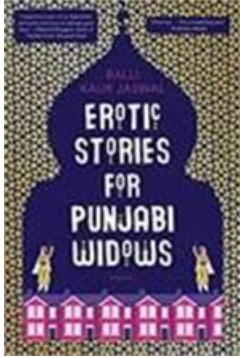


2019 - 2020 Monday Night Book Club List

Erotic Stories for Punjabi Windows by Balli Kaur Jaswal | September | Karen – 304 pages



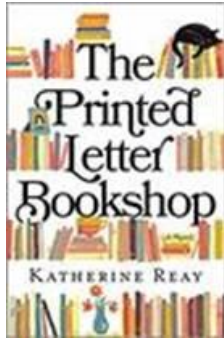
A lively, sexy, and thought-provoking East-meets-West story about community, friendship, and women's lives at all ages. Intricately plotted novel incorporates multiple storylines with elements of rom-com, mystery and family saga. The story is centered on Nikki, a first-generation 22-year-old Punjabi girl navigating 21st century England with a very traditional mom and sister. When Nikki gets a job teaching Punjabi widows to write, the class quickly turns into a time for the widows to share erotic stories born out of their imaginations.

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan | October | Sue – 438 pages



Set mostly in Brooklyn against the backdrop of the Great Depression and WWII, the novel begins the precocious eleven year old Anna and her father Eddie, in a brief encounter in 1934 with an underworld figure, Dexter and his daughter Tabitha, on Manhattan Beach near Coney Island. Intertwined fates and layers of secrets. It has the knack for drawing readers into the character's minute and painful complications, and the habit of treating time as a narrative playground. Her novel is an absorbing story, beautifully written.

The Printed Letter Book Shop by Katherine Reay | November | Mary - 448 pages



Love, friendship, and family find a home in this book. One of Madeline's happiest childhood memories is working with her Aunt Maddie in the quaint and cozy Printed Letter Bookshop. Powerful, enchanting and spirited, the novel will delight. Intertwining story of four women and the mark the first woman leaves on the other three. Enjoy the Chicago backdrop.

Chronicles of a Radical Hag (with recipes) by Lorna Landvik | December | Jean – 336 pages



A bittersweet seriously funny novel of a life, a small town, a and key to our trouble d times traced through a newspaper columnist's half century of taking in and taking on, the world. A comic love letter to journalism and literature. A tribute to hard working journalists, the power of feminism and the importance of friends and family.

The Flight Attendant by Chris Bohjalian | January | Ann – 368pp



Mesmerizing tale of denial and revelation, the story opens in the opulent hotel suite in Dubai where Cassandra awakens to find herself in bed with a dead man. Set in a world of high-stakes intrigue and glamorous jet setters, this read is a literary thriller and a powerful meditation on the devastating consequences of addiction.

"An expertly turned thriller... An assured novel about reckoning not just with some ruthless bad guys, but private sadness as well... [Bohjalian]'s developed a graceful hand at thriller mechanics, smoothly shifting from Cassie's private paranoia to the intricacies of spy craft and mercenaries to the public tabloid sensation she's become. He's back-loaded the story with twists, from ones that were hinted at early to left-field surprises. And the brisk and busy ending is a fireworks show of redemption, revelation and old-fashioned gunplay."

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See | February | Carol – 384pp



Enthralling, compelling portrait of a unique culture and a turbulent time in history, about two girls, from different backgrounds, as they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective. The story takes place on an island off of the coast of South Korea.

"Compelling ... takes readers on a journey spanning generations — in this case 1938 to 2008 — as moments of cherished friendship, unspeakable tragedy and, in the end, a plot twist worthy of Raymond Chandler unfold."

Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton | March | Kay – 400 pages

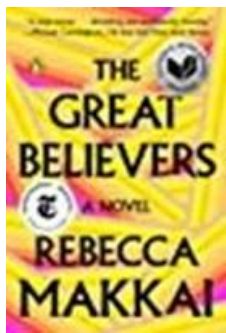


After the death of her beloved grandmother, a Cuban-American woman travels to Havana, where she discovers the roots of her identity—and unearths a family secret hidden since the revolution...

Havana, 1958. The daughter of a sugar baron, nineteen-year-old Elisa Perez is part of Cuba's high society, where she is largely sheltered from the country's growing political unrest—until she embarks on a clandestine affair with a passionate revolutionary...

Miami, 2017. Freelance writer Marisol Ferrera grew up hearing romantic stories of Cuba from her late grandmother Elisa, who was forced to flee with her family during the revolution. Elisa's last wish was for Marisol to scatter her ashes in the country of her birth.

The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai | April | Liz – 448 pages



The Great Believers has become a critically acclaimed, indelible piece of literature; it was selected as one of the New York Times 10 Best Books of the Year. A page turner among the first novels to chronicle the AIDS epidemic from its initial outbreak to the present. A novel of friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy.

Park Avenue Summer by Renee Rosen | May | Tara – 368 pages



Mad Men meets the Devil Wears Prada. The novel is set in 1965 when now-legendary Helen Gurly Brown's early days as editor at Cosmopolitan—and changed the world of publishing forever—but not without some serious drama. Once again Renée Rosen works her magic, transporting us to the offices of Helen Gurley Brown's *Cosmopolitan* in 1960s New York, and the result is a delight...Rosen's command of historical detail is masterful; so, too, is her ability to

create fictional characters, among them her heroine Alice, who are as fully realized and compelling as the beguiling Brown herself.”

After Anna by Lisa Scottoline | June | Deirdre - 400 pages



The story is told both *Before Anna* and ***After Anna***. Anna is Maggie's daughter who she lost custody of after battling postpartum psychosis, a more serious illness than postpartum depression. That was seventeen years ago, when Anna was just six months old.

Dr. Noah Alderman, a widower and single father, has remarried a wonderful woman, Maggie Ippolitti, and for the first time in a long time, he and his young son are happy. Despite her longing for the daughter she hasn't seen since she was a baby, Maggie is happy too, and she's even more overjoyed when she unexpectedly gets another chance to be a mother to the child she thought she'd lost forever, her only daughter Anna. Maggie and Noah know that having Anna around will change their lives, but they would never have guessed that everything would go wrong, and so quickly.

The Library Book by Susan Orlean | July | Laurie – 336 pages



A dazzling love letter to a Beloved Institution and an investigation into one of its greatest mysteries. Orlean chronicles the Los Angeles Public Library fire in 1986 and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries across the country and in the world. The fire was disastrous. It reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. It consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. Thirty years later, the mystery remains. Did someone purposefully sent fire to the library?

Runner up titles:

Ohio by Stephen Markley – One sweltering night in 2013, four high school friends converge on their hometown in northeastern Canaan, Ohio. A region ravaged by the Great Recession, an opioid crisis, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—depicting one feverish, fateful night. All haunted by the ghosts of their shattered pasts.

Tangerine by Christine Mangan – A chilling and unexpected portrait of female friendship set in 1950's Morocco. As if Donna Tart (Goldfinch), Gillian Flynn (Gone Girl) and Patricia Highsmith () had collaborated on a screenplay to be filmed by Hitchcock.

Love and Other Consolation Prizes by Jamie Ford –From the author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet comes a powerful novel, inspired by a true story, about a boy transformed at Seattle's epic 1909 World Fair. A tragic bit of forgotten history.

American Kingpin: The Epic Hunt for the Criminal Mastermind Behind the Silk Road by Nick Bilton – The unbelievable true story of the man who built a billion dollar online drug empire from his bedroom—and almost got away with it. Investigative journalism told in narrative form.