

## BOOK CLUB 2024 – 2025

We will meet at 6:00PM and if you can stay until 7:30PM, we would like to have some time for socializing instead of pushing through our discussion and ending abruptly.

I suggest we meet in the downstairs room 051 (whatever we met in last year for part of the time; I will confirm) so we have the option of bringing snacks on occasion. We need a leader for our May title, *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. Someone please volunteer and don't feel shy. The Internet is there to recommend questions. That's its job; put it to work. Brief introductions to the books, plagiarized from Goodreads, are found starting on page 2 of this document.

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|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>14 August</b>    | <i>I Will Find You</i> by Harlan Coben                                                        | <b>Caro Duhot</b>         |
| <b>11 September</b> | <i>The Heaven &amp; Earth Grocery Store</i> by James McBride                                  | <b>Jennifer Davis</b>     |
| <b>9 October</b>    | <i>Remarkably Bright Creatures</i> by Shelby Van Pelt                                         | <b>Theresa Sanford</b>    |
| <b>13 November</b>  | <i>Weyward</i> by Emilia Hart                                                                 | <b>Sally Dosier</b>       |
| <b>11 December</b>  | <i>The Women</i> by Kristin Hannah                                                            | <b>Jody Fidler</b>        |
| <b>8 January</b>    | <i>Table for Two</i> by Amor Towles                                                           | <b>Beth Eckford</b>       |
| <b>12 February</b>  | <i>The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War</i> by Ben Macintyre | <b>Nancy Jo Kirk</b>      |
| <b>12 March</b>     | <i>The Word is Murder</i> by Anthony Horowitz                                                 | <b>Joanne MacDonald</b>   |
| <b>9 April</b>      | <i>North Woods</i> by Daniel Mason                                                            | <b>Elizabeth Walker</b>   |
| <b>14 May</b>       | <i>The Measure</i> by Nikki Erlick                                                            | <b>Put Your Name Here</b> |

### **August, I Will Find You by Harlan Coben (Mystery Thriller)**

An innocent father serving life for the murder of his own son receives evidence that his child may still be alive, and must break out of prison to find out the truth in #1 New York Times bestselling author Harlan Coben's latest breathtaking thriller.

David and Cheryl Burroughs were living the dream life when tragedy struck. Now, five years after that terrible night, Cheryl is remarried. And David is serving a life sentence in a maximum-security prison for the brutal murder of their son.

Then Cheryl's sister, Rachel, arrives unexpectedly during visiting hours and drops a bombshell. She's come with a photograph that a friend took on vacation at a theme park with a boy in the background who has a familiar, distinctive birthmark ... and even though David and Rachel realize it can't be, they both just know. It's David's son, Matthew, and he's still alive.

David plans a harrowing escape from prison, determined to do what seems impossible—save his son, clear his own name, and discover the real story of what happened that devastating night.

### **September, The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (Historical Fiction)**

The new novel from the bestselling, National Book Award-winning, Oprah Book Club-picked, Barack Obama favourite James McBride.

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighbourhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

### **October, Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt**

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what

happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

**November, Weyward by Emilia Hart (Historical Fiction)**

I am a Weyward, and wild inside.

2019: Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great aunt she barely remembers. With its tumbling ivy and overgrown garden, the cottage is worlds away from the abusive partner who tormented Kate. But she begins to suspect that her great aunt had a secret. One that lurks in the bones of the cottage, hidden ever since the witch-hunts of the 17th century.

1619: Altha is awaiting trial for the murder of a local farmer who was stampeded to death by his herd. As a girl, Altha's mother taught her their magic, a kind not rooted in spell casting but in a deep knowledge of the natural world. But unusual women have always been deemed dangerous, and as the evidence for witchcraft is set out against Altha, she knows it will take all of her powers to maintain her freedom.

1942: As World War II rages, Violet is trapped in her family's grand, crumbling estate. Straitjacketed by societal convention, she longs for the robust education her brother receives—and for her mother, long deceased, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death. The only traces Violet has of her are a locket bearing the initial W and the word weyward scratched into the baseboard of her bedroom.

Weaving together the stories of three extraordinary women across five centuries, Emilia Hart's *Weyward* is an enthralling novel of female resilience and the transformative power of the natural world.

**December, The Women by Kristin Hannah (Historical Fiction)**

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

**January, Table for Two by Amor Towles (Historical Fiction/Short Stories)**

From the bestselling author of *The Lincoln Highway*, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, and *Rules of Civility*, a richly detailed and sharply drawn collection of stories set in New York and Los Angeles.

The millions of readers of Amor Towles are in for a treat as he shares some of his shorter six stories set in New York City and a novella in Los Angeles. The New York stories, most of which are set around the turn of the millennium, take up everything from the death-defying acrobatics of the male ego, to the fateful consequences of brief encounters, and the delicate mechanics of compromise which operate at the heart of modern marriages.

In Towles's novel, *Rules of Civility*, the indomitable Evelyn Ross leaves New York City in September, 1938, with the intention of returning home to Indiana. But as her train pulls into Chicago, where her parents are waiting, she instead extends her ticket to Los Angeles. Told from seven points of view, "Eve in Hollywood" describes how Eve crafts a new future for herself—and others—in the midst of Hollywood's golden age.

Throughout the stories, two characters often find themselves sitting across a table for two where the direction of their futures may hinge upon what they say to each other next.

Written with his signature wit, humor, and sophistication, *Table for Two* is another glittering addition to Towles's canon of stylish and transporting historical fiction.

### **February, *The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War* by Ben Macintyre (Nonfiction)**

On a warm July evening in 1985, a middle-aged man stood on the pavement of a busy avenue in the heart of Moscow, holding a plastic carrier bag. In his grey suit and tie, he looked like any other Soviet citizen. The bag alone was mildly conspicuous, printed with the red logo of Safeway, the British supermarket. The man was a spy for MI6. A senior KGB officer, for more than a decade he had supplied his British spymasters with a stream of priceless secrets from deep within the Soviet intelligence machine. No spy had done more to damage the KGB. The Safeway bag was a signal: to activate his escape plan to be smuggled out of Soviet Russia. So began one of the boldest and most extraordinary episodes in the history of spying. Ben Macintyre reveals a tale of espionage, betrayal and raw courage that changed the course of the Cold War forever...

### **March, *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz (Mystery Thriller with Humor)**

Horowitz has yet again brilliantly reinvented the classic crime novel, this time writing a fictional version of himself as the Watson to a modern-day Holmes.

One bright spring morning in London, Diana Cowper – the wealthy mother of a famous actor - enters a funeral parlor. She is there to plan her own service. Six hours later she is found dead, strangled with a curtain cord in her own home. Enter disgraced police detective Daniel

Hawthorne, a brilliant, eccentric investigator who's as quick with an insult as he is to crack a case. Hawthorne needs a ghost writer to document his life; a Watson to his Holmes. He chooses Anthony Horowitz. Drawn in against his will, Horowitz soon finds himself at the center of a story he cannot control. Hawthorne is brusque, temperamental and annoying but even so his latest case with its many twists and turns proves irresistible. The writer and the detective form an unusual partnership. At the same time, it soon becomes clear that Hawthorne is hiding some dark secrets of his own.

### **April, North Woods by Daniel Mason (Historical Fiction)**

When a pair of young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become home to an extraordinary succession of inhabitants. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to apples. A pair of spinster twins survive war and famine, only to succumb to envy and desire. A crime reporter unearths a mass grave, but finds the ancient trees refuse to give up their secrets. A lovelorn painter, a conman, a stalking panther, a lusty beetle; as each one confronts the mysteries of the north woods, they come to realize that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive.

### **May, The Measure by Nikki Erlick (Speculative Fiction)**

"Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice. It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live.

From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise? As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge?

The Measure charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that ultimately changes everything."