

Everything you need
to run your own
book discussion group.
JUST ADD PEOPLE!



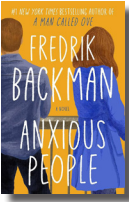
DISCOVER • LEARN • GROW



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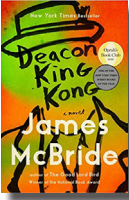
Where the Community Connects

Fiction Books in a Bag



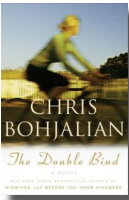
Anxious People by Fredrik Backman

Anxious People is a poignant, charming novel about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined.



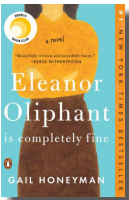
Deacon King Kong by James McBride

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of a housing project and shoots the project's drug dealer. McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting. As the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters overlap in unexpected ways. When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion.



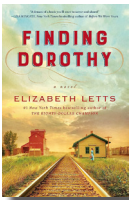
The Double Bind by Chris Bohjalian

Working at a homeless shelter, Laurel Estabrook encounters Bobbie Crocker, a man with a history of mental illness and a box of secret photos. When Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel embarks on an obsessive search for the truth behind the photos.



Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She 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, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office.



Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts

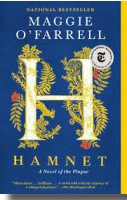
When she learns that a movie studio is adapting her late husband's masterpiece for the screen, 77-year-old Maud Gage Baum sets about finagling herself onto the set to help the producers stay true to the spirit of the book. Judy Garland, playing Dorothy, reminds Maud of a young girl she cared for and tried to help, a dreamer who never got her happy ending. Now, with the young actress under pressure from the studio as well as her mother, Maud resolves to protect her—the way she tried so hard to protect the real Dorothy.

Fiction Books in a Bag



The Guest List by Lucy Foley

Appearances can be deceiving as pretty boy Will Slater and the elegant Jules Keegan appear to be the perfect couple, but there is a dark side of Will lurking below the surface. The past and the present collide as old high school and college friends reminisce about their wilder days, uncovering secrets Will has tried to keep hidden.



Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Drawing on Maggie O'Farrell's long-term fascination with the little-known story behind Shakespeare's most enigmatic play, *Hamnet* is a luminous portrait of a marriage, at its heart the loss of a beloved child. In 1580s Warwickshire, Agnes is a woman as feared as she is sought after for her unusual gifts. She settles with her husband in Stratford and has three children: a daughter, Susanna, and then twins, Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet dies in 1596, aged eleven. Four years or so later, the husband writes a play called Hamlet.



The Kitchen Front by Jennifer Ryan

Two years into World War II, Britain is feeling the damage: lost battles, destroyed cities, and food supplies cut off. To help housewives with food rationing, a BBC radio program called "The Kitchen Front" is holding a cooking contest, and the grand prize is a job as the program's first ever female co-host.



Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

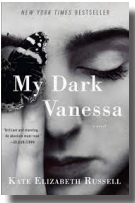
Based on a true story of a New York socialite who championed a group of concentration camp survivors known as the Rabbits, *Lilac Girls* reveals a story of love, redemption, and terrible secrets that were hidden for decades.



Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid

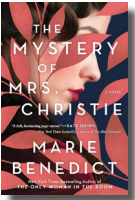
Malibu Rising is the story of the Riva family—surfer siblings Nina, Jay, Hud, and Kit, as well as their mother June and their father, the famous singer Mick Riva. It takes place over the twenty-four hours leading up to Nina Riva's infamous Riva Party, but it is also a culmination of generations of secrets and traumas.

Fiction Books in a Bag



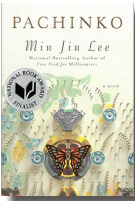
My Dark Vanessa by Kate Elizabeth Russell

Exploring the psychological dynamics of the relationship between a precocious yet naïve teenage girl and her magnetic and manipulative teacher, *My Dark Vanessa* is a brilliant, all-consuming read that marks the explosive debut of an extraordinary new writer.



The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict

The Mystery of Mrs. Christie tells two stories simultaneously. The first shows how Archie and Agatha Christie met and how they gradually fell out of love with one another. The second plot line sheds light on Archie's day-to-day life during the eleven days of Agatha's disappearance.



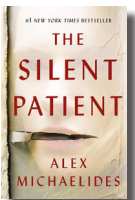
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja falls for a wealthy stranger. When she discovers she is pregnant and that her lover is married, she refuses to be bought and instead accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister on his way to Japan. Her decision to leave home and reject her son's powerful father sets off a dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations.



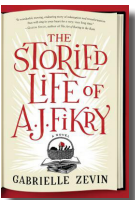
A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline

To Christina Olson, the entire world was her family's remote farm in Maine. Born in the home her family had lived in for generations, and increasingly incapacitated by illness, Christina seemed destined for a small life. Instead, for more than twenty years, she was host and inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best known American paintings of the twentieth century.



The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

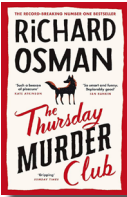
Alicia Berenson is a well-known painter who murdered her husband six years ago and hasn't spoken a word since. He was found bound to a chair with gunshot wounds to his face, and she was convicted soon thereafter. Her psychotherapist, Theo Faber, hopes to treat Alicia and uncover the mystery behind her motives for killing her husband.



The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

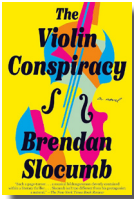
A middle-aged bookseller mourning his lost wife, a feisty publisher's rep, and a charmingly precocious abandoned child come together on a small island off the New England coast in this utterly delightful novel of love and second chances.

Fiction Books in a Bag



The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends called The Thursday Murder Club meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, The Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first case.



The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

Ray McMillian loves playing the violin more than anything, and nothing will stop him from pursuing his dream of becoming a professional musician. When he makes the startling discovery that his great-grandfather's fiddle is actually a priceless Stradivarius, his star begins to rise. Then, with the international Tchaikovsky Competition fast approaching, his prized family heirloom is stolen. Ray is determined to get it back. But now his family and the descendants of the man who once enslaved Ray's great-grandfather are each claiming that the violin belongs to them. With the odds stacked against him and the pressure mounting, will Ray ever see his beloved violin again?

Books & Movie in a Bag



Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver

Samantha Kingston (Zoey Deutch) seems to have it all: popularity, a loving boyfriend (Kian Lawley) and a seemingly perfect future. Everything changes in the blink of an eye when she dies in a car crash but then magically wakes up to find herself reliving the same day over and over again. *Starring: Zoey Deutch, Halston Sage, Cynthia Wu. Rated PG-13; 98 min.*



Beloved by Toni Morrison

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but 18 years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. *Starring: Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover, Yada Beener. Rated R; 172 min.*

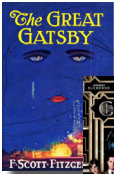
Books & Movie in a Bag



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Death tells the story of a young German girl, Liesel, whose book-stealing and story-telling talents during World War II help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

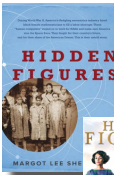
Starring: Sophie Nélisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson. Rated PG-13; 135 min.



The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

When writer Nick Carraway leaves the Midwest for New York City in the spring of 1922, he lands next door to the mysterious, party-giving millionaire Jay Gatsby, drawing him into the world of the ultra-rich and their illusions, loves, and deceits.

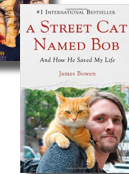
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Mulligan, Joel Edgerton. Rated PG-13; 143 min.



Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

As the United States raced against Russia to put a man in space, NASA found untapped talent in a group of African-American female mathematicians who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in U.S. history.

Starring: Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe. Rated PG; 127 min.

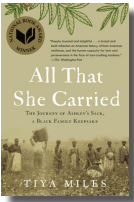


A Street Cat Named Bob: And How He Saved My Life by James Bowen

James is a street musician struggling to make ends meet. Bob is a stray cat looking for somewhere warm to sleep. When James and Bob meet, they forge a never-to-be-forgotten friendship that has been charming readers from Thailand to Turkey.

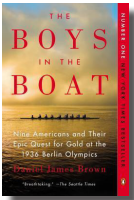
Starring: Luke Treadaway, Bob the Cat, Ruta Gedmintas. Not Rated; 103 min.

Non-Fiction Books in a Bag



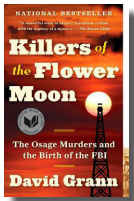
All That She Carried by Tiya Miles

In 1850s South Carolina, just before enslaved nine-year-old Ashley was sold, her mother Rose gave her a sack filled with just a few things as a token of her love. Decades later, Ashley's granddaughter Ruth embroidered this history on the bag - including Rose's message that "It be filled with my Love always." Historian Tiya Miles follows the path their lives, and the lives of so many like them, took to write a unique, innovative history.



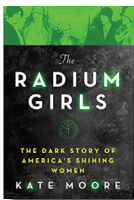
The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

A group of working class youths from the University of Washington rowing team emerged from obscurity to defeat a field of elite international rivals at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Sports fans who love a good "Cinderella story" will cheer this fast-paced, emotionally charged account of the players' and coaches' struggles set against stark Depression-era realities.



Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.



The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

This is the story of hundreds of young, vibrant women who were sentenced to death by their employers. The so-called "Radium Girls" painted luminescent faces on clock and watch dials using a paint mixture that contained radium. Instructed to "lip-point" their brushes as they painted, they absorbed high doses of radium into their bodies. When the effects of the radium led to horrific disfigurement and pain, the company refused to take responsibility.

EACH BOOK BAG CONTAINS :

- 12 copies of the book
(Books & Movie bags also include a DVD of the book)
- Discussion questions
- Author information

**Book bags can be checked
out for up to 6 weeks.**

***Please note: some book bags come in two
parts due to the size of the material***



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