

New National eBook Club



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After the Flood, an inventive and riveting climate fiction saga by Cassandra Montag, will be available October 7th 2021. Use your library card and the [Libby app](#) to download a free copy of the eBook to your personal device. There will be no waitlists or holds for this title. [Read more](#)

Posted by Mandy H. on September 24, 2019

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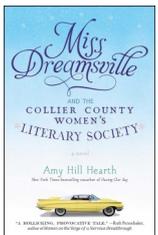
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Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society



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What happens when an energetic, middle-aged Bostonian moves to a sleepy town in Florida in 1962? First, she starts a radio show under the persona of Miss Dreamsville and secondly forms a book club. Ex-Bostonian Jackie Hart starts a ruckus when she invites people of other races and sexual persuasions to the club in a decidedly racist, homophobic town where a divorcee is considered socially-risque and improper. Narrated by a lovable octagenarian, Dora, who does not fit into Naples herself, this novel discusses important issues such as racism, feminism, and homophobia while presenting an interesting mix of characters. With a backdrop of serious and important issues, it provides a humorous and entertaining read. In her debut novel Amy Hearth manages to take on both the Ku Klux Klan, North versus South, the nature of community, and newcomer angst to Naples, Florida. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 29, 2014

[Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society](#)

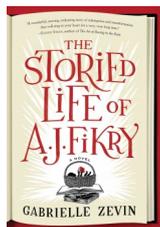
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The Storied Life of A.K. Fikry



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Like bookstores? Like islands off the coast of New England? Favor novels that feature an orphan and a single dad? Drawn to love stories especially ones where the couple start off at each other's throats? Have a thing for rare manuscripts especially those of Edgar Allen Poe? If so this charming book-celebratory novel is just your thing.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry begins with publisher's rep, Amelia Loman (?a tall dandelion of a woman") disembarking from a ferry to visit a small bookstore on Alice Island to go over the winter accounts for her publisher, Knightley Press. The owner, the very curmudgeonly A.J. Fikry, is decidedly unfriendly and shocked by the fact that the old book rep has not come. Loman tells him that he has died and then proceeds to push her favorite book, a memoir by a widower dealing with his bereavement. For Fikry this hits too close to home but he does not tell Alice why. He has recently lost Nic, his intelligent and beautiful wife while she was pregnant with their first child. Fikry begins a delightful rant about all the books he does not like: postmodern, post apocalyptic, magical realism, ones with multiple fonts, children's books, poetry, YA, etc. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 22, 2014

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel](#)

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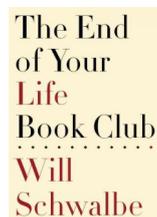
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The End of Your Life Book Club



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You don't have to be in a book club to be touched and inspired by this generous, warm-hearted account of a son helping his mother through her last year of life with the help of books. Former teacher and refugee worker, Mary Anne Schwalbe, had always been close to her son, Will, who was an editor and worked in publishing. Not only did they constantly share books and recommend titles to each other, but they also had many discussions--some heated--about these same books.

After his mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Will spent a lot of time with her in hospital waiting rooms before her doctor visits and chemo treatments. On one of those trips they decided to pass the time by exploring the same books. "But how can we have a book club without food?" Mary Anne asked.

But *The End of Your Life Book Club* is so much more than analyzing contemporary literature *À deux*. Will also chronicles his mother's illness, her acceptance of her forthcoming death, and the effect these changes had on the family.

In one chapter Mary Anne and her husband revisit her favorite foreign city, London, where she lived as a young student. The book that mother and son shared that month was *Felicia's Journey* by Will Trevor. In another section, Mary Anne, Will and his brother discuss Russell Banks' *Continental Drift* while sharing a table with Mary Anne's birthday-bash barbecued pig. Will had stayed awake the night before regretting that he had encouraged his mom to read such a depressing book, but at the party, he heard her recommending it to many people. Read more

Posted by Dory L. on November 17, 2012

The End of Your Life Book Club

Book Clubs

Memoir

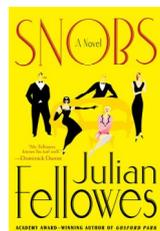
Nonfiction

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Snobs



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Whether you're inside enjoying the cool air or outside braving the weather at pool-side, consider that small country across the pond. Yes, England, and we're not talking about the Olympics but a *Downton-Abbey* type novel set in contemporary times. Are the rich really different from you and me? Screenwriter, novelist, and actor, Julian Fellowes tackles this subject in *Snobs*, a novel about a middle-class woman named Edith who would love the wealth and title of the Earl, Charles Broughton, whom she'd love to marry.

Fellowes knows about castles and big estates. He's the son of a diplomat, and he visited many of the estates he writes about. He's also known struggling actors who aren't sure how they will pay next month's rent. As *New York Times* reviewer, Jonathan Ames said, *Snobs* is a "field guide to the behavior of the English aristocracy." Ames also wrote, "When you read a book, you're lost in time. All the more reason to read *Snobs*. It will distract you pleasantly. It's like a visit to an English country estate: breezy, beautiful and charming."

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Posted by sbowman on July 27, 2012

Snobs: A Novel

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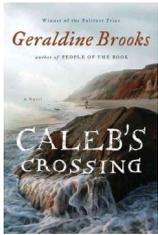
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Books Plus for June



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In *Caleb's Crossing*, Pulitzer-Prize winner Geraldine Brooks returns to the seventeenth century setting she captured so well in *Year of Wonders*, but this time around she's chosen the New World for her location. The novel tells the story of a deep friendship between a young Pilgrim servant girl, Bethia, and a member of the local Native American tribe, Caleb Cheeshahteaumuck, who later became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard.

Before becoming a novelist, Brooks was an investigative reporter who covered the international beat. She brings her investigative and research skills to this novel, and a sense of narrative developed by writing many pieces of journalism and several nonfiction books.

Please join us this Sunday as we discuss this novel with its historical American themes. Here's what the *New York Times* said about it: "*Caleb's Crossing* could not be more enlightening and involving. Beautifully written from beginning to end, it reconfirms Geraldine Brooks' reputation as one of our most supple and insightful Æ-novelists."

Books Plus meets the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome. Join the discussion or simply come to listen.

No registration necessary. **Drop in.**

2 p.m., First Sundays

See the full summer schedule below. [Read more](#)

Posted by sbowman on May 29, 2012

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