

E-Books & Reading Groups

**A FOURmidable List
of Favorites**
December 2007

Dear Charlie,

New discussible books, new movies made from discussible books, and new hand-held devices for discussible books. All that - and some discussible favorites - in this month's **Reading Group Choices** Newsletter!

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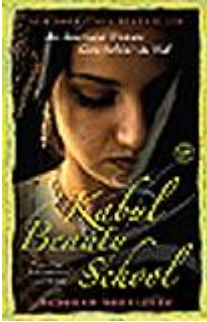
A FOURmidable List of Discussibles

Book Group Favorites of 2007



It is the end of the year and everyone is handing down their "Best Books of 2007." Though we do want to know *your* thoughts of the Book Group Favorites of 2007, **Reading Group Choices** would like you to just enjoy your holidays, read a good book, and ring in the New Year. The Book Group Favorites of 2007 survey will be posted online and in your mailboxes early in the New Year. Maybe set aside a few minutes in your January meeting to discuss your group's favorite titles.

Just to help jump-start your thinking, here are some of the



Random House Trade Paperbacks and Ballantine are announcing this month a "FOURmidable list" of discussible books for reading groups. The four new titles will be released over the next few months, and **Reading Group Choices** will feature each on the website.

Kabul Beauty School by Deborah Rodriguez is the first release in the FOURmidable list, in stores this month. It's a fascinating story about a remarkable woman who goes to Afghanistan as part of a group offering humanitarian aid. With warmth and humor, Rodriguez details the lushness of a seemingly desolate region and reveals the magnificence behind the burqa. *Kabul Beauty School* is a tale of an extraordinary community of women who come together and learn the arts of perms, friendship, and freedom.

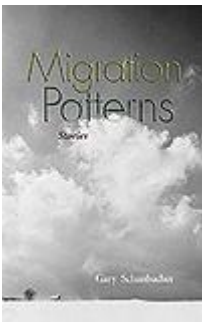
[Enter for a Chance to Win a Free Copy](#)

American West Discussibles

Best-selling Lakota author Joseph Marshall brings a new slant to the traditional Western: historical fiction written from the Native American viewpoint. Beautifully written and fast-paced, ***Hundred in the Hand***, brings a new depth to the story of the battle and the history of the Lakota people. *Library Journal* describes it as, "...a fine historical novel in a class with Larry McMurtry's tales of life on the Western frontier."



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Migration Patterns, an elegantly written debut collection of short stories explores the lives of individuals profoundly inspired and influenced by the American West. In a review of the book, *The Rocky Mountain News* describes author Schanbacher's prose as, "...lyrical. With the accuracy of a laser, it lays bare the deepest emotions of the human heart."

[Enter for a Chance to Win a Free Copy](#)

Reading Group Choices' selections that were placed on various "Best Books of 2007" lists. ***The New York Times Book Review 100 Notable Books*** included ***The Gathering*** and ***In the Country of Men***. ***The Gathering*** was also selected in ***The Boston Globe Best Books of 2007***. ***The House of Mondavi*** earned a spot on the ***BusinessWeek 10 Best Business Books of the Year***. Choosing from "a year of living bookishly," ***The Toronto Globe and Mail Globe 100*** included ***The End of the Alphabet***. ***The Washington Post Book World*** "pick[s] the best books of 2007, the ones that will keep you turning pages all winter long." Among those page-turners were ***In the Country of Men***, ***Once in a Promised Land***, ***Red Rover***, ***Trespass***, and ***The Uncommon Reader***.

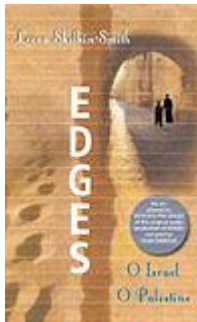
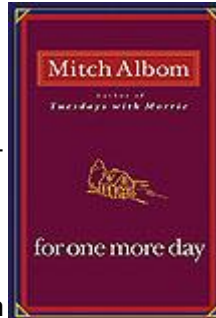
May you and yours have a joyous holiday! Rejoice, relax, rejuvenate, read, and be ready to proclaim YOUR 2007 Book

Read the Book

Watch the Movie

Discuss them Both!

On Sunday, December 9, ABC will feature the movie ***For One More Day*** based on the book by the same name by Mitch Albom. If you've ever wanted one more day with a departed loved one, had regrets over how you treated - or were treated by - your parents, wondered if your life could be different if things were only fixed, ***For One More Day*** is for you.



Triboro Pictures has optioned a **Reading Group Choices** selection, ***Edges: O Israel, O Palestine***, for a feature film to be shot on location in Jerusalem. Leora Skolkin-Smith's novel tells the story of a young girl's personal and political discovery in 1960's Israel and Palestine. The third edition will include the author's afterword and dedication to her late mentor, Grace Paley, former Publisher and Editor of Glad Day Books.

The book is also available as an audiobook narrated by stage and screen actress Tovah Feldshuh.

Movies based on two other book group favorites will debut also in early December - ***Atonement*** based on Ian McEwan's best-selling novel and ***The Kite Runner*** based on Khaled Hosseini's novel.

Can E-Books Ignite Your Discussions?

Last month's introduction of the much-hyped Kindle, Amazon.com's new e-book, has us asking, "Will book discussions be livelier if one or more of the group's members have an e-book?"

Those that facilitate or lead book discussions on a regular basis might think so, because they may find that the e-book simplifies their preparation. Once they have downloaded the book into the device, they can type in a word or phrase, and the device will find every instance that it



**Group Favorites
early next year!**

**Chances to Win
Discussible
Books!**

**Hundred in the
Hand**

Kabul Beauty School

Migration Patterns

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More**

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Conversation**

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occurs within the book.

Those that wish all books came in large-text editions may have found that the e-book genie has granted their wish. The e-book allows its user to change any book to large type.

If you frequently buy the books you read for your discussions, you may appreciate that e-books are frequently lower-priced than their traditional counterparts. Many titles on the Kindle, for example, are available for \$9.99. But that's offset by the initial price tag for the device itself - \$399 in the case of Kindle and \$299 for the Sony Reader.

While the e-book can make some things easier for reading groups, they also have their disadvantages. Perhaps most significant, reading group members cannot share the books they have purchased with other members or their friends, as they can with a traditional book. They can't download e-books from their local library for free either, as you might expect. And although the selection of e-books is extensive, many of the publishers' backlists are still not available in e-book form.

[Learn More about E-Books](#)

2006 Survey Winners



The **Open Books Reading Group** of Alamogordo, New Mexico celebrate themselves, books, and their **Reading Group Choices'** survey winnings at a recent meeting. Some of their 2007 picks were ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter*** by Kim Edwards, ***The Painted Veil*** by W. Somerset Maugham, ***Singing Bird*** by Roisin McAuley, and ***The Night Journal*** by Elizabeth Crook.

The **Vital Spirits Reading Group** enjoy their **Reading Group Choices'** winnings at a Friday night discussion of ***The Boleyn Inheritance***. The chosen book for January is ***Eat, Pray, Love***. Earlier this year, they enjoyed ***Abundance*** and ***Water for Elephants***.



The **South Bay Readers** from Torrance, California display their winnings and some delicious snacks at a recent meeting. It is rumored that they also discussed a book at the gathering!

Congratulations to the winners! Next year, please be on the look-out for the 2007 Book Group Favorites survey, and your group may be the winner!

We enjoy hearing from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please **let us know** about your group's discussible choices - you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group!

This month's prize goes to Lois and the Tuesday Book Club. Their most recent discussible choices were ***The Space Between Us*** and ***The World to Come***.

Schedule Your Author Conversation

Remember that many authors are willing to join your discussion group via telephone! Why not **schedule one** as a great holiday surprise for your group?

Tips for a Successful Author Conversation

Correction

In the November newsletter, we had the wrong name for Laura Dave, author of ***London is the Best City in America*** (mistakenly, Laura David) in the photo caption for the NRGM launch. Sorry, Laura.

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,



**Save
58%**

Just in time for the holidays - save 58% with your order of 12 or more copies of print editions of *Reading Group Choices*! (Mix & match 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 & 2004 editions.) Regularly \$6.95 each, you can order them for your whole book group for only \$2.95 each. **Offer expires December 14, 2007.**



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