

## Annual Reading Group Favorites Survey

**Plus Great New  
Discussibles**  
February 2008

**Dear Barbara,**

It's **one-of-a-kind**: a list of favorite DISCUSSIBLE books for book groups! Though there are many lists of books and many book awards, not all of the books on them make for the kind of lively, fun, interesting, thought-provoking, unforgettable discussions that reading groups crave. Well, here's your chance - join with thousands of other book group members to **tell us** which books did all that for your group in 2007. We'll publish the list for you, and let you know how it compares to those chosen in previous surveys.

What about discussible books of **2008**? Here's a good start - see a variety of suggestions just hitting bookstores this month. There's something for every reading group in this month's issue!

### In This Issue

[Great New Discussibles](#)

[Literary Largesse](#)

[Now, It's The Book Club Play](#)

[Discussible Awards](#)

[Your Own Discussible Choices](#)

[Favorite Book Survey](#)

**Great New Discussibles**

### Favorite Discussible Book Survey - 2007

**~ SURVEY ~**  
*Earn a chance to win \$75  
toward your next  
reading group discussion.*  
**Click here to enter.**

What books nurtured the best book group discussions in 2007? Share your favorites with other book groups in the annual **Reading Group Choices** survey now underway! Thousands of reading groups are invited to participate, and the results are always fascinating.

You and your group can use the survey results to select some great discussibles that you may not have otherwise known about. And when you complete the survey, **Reading Group Choices** will enter your name into a random drawing for **\$75** to cater your next get-together!

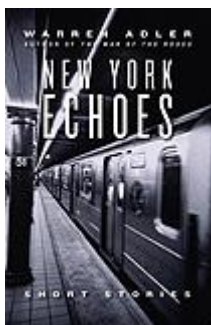
Please **click here** to enter your favorites.

### Chances To Win Discussible Books

[Peony in Love](#)

[Life Class](#)

This month brings some wonderful discussible books to bookstores. Some address issues facing many of us. Jill A. Davis confirms you can recover from your parents, the bad

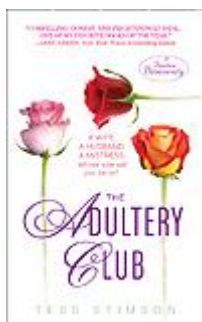


habit of missed opportunities, and men who romance you with meat in her lighthearted novel ***Ask Again Later***. Warren Adler's short stories in ***New York Echoes*** deal with intimate human relationships-the mysterious nature of love and attraction, the fragile bonds between husbands and wives, and parents and children, and the divide between generations. Ann Hood's ***The Knitting Circle***, in the words of *The Washington Post*, brings us "a wonderfully simple book about something complicated: the nearly unendurable process of enduring after a great loss."



**[Enter For A Chance To win A FREE Copy Of The Knitting Circle](#)**

Some fun new stories will energize your discussions. Told in the engrossing voices of the three people at the corners of a love triangle, and imbued with real-life emotion, ***The Adultery Club*** will leave readers pondering the complexity of love and examining their own values.



**[Enter for a chance to win a FREE copy of The Adultery Club](#)**



Some are from favorite reading group authors. Pat Barker (Booker Prize-winning author of ***The Ghost Road***) now brings us ***Life Class***, the story of artists and lovers caught in the maelstrom of the Great War. Lisa See (***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan***) in ***Peony in Love*** brings to life another time and place-even the intricate realm of the afterworld. And Barbara Delinsky's (***Family Tree***) ***The Secret***

**[The Adultery Club](#)**

**[The Knitting Circle](#)**

**Author 1-On-Ones**

**[Tess Stimson](#)**

**[Jill A. Davis](#)**

**[Ann Hood](#)**

**[Warren Adler](#)**

**[Jane Isay](#)**

**[Barbara Delinsky](#)**

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**Your Comprehensive Reading Group Resource With Over 60 Discussible Book Choices Complete With Conversation Starters!**

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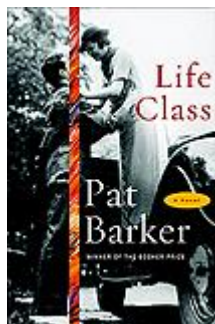
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[Between Us](#) is about a lie gone wrong, about making bad choices for the right reasons.

[Enter for a chance to win a FREE copy of \*Life Class\*](#)

[Enter for a chance to win a FREE copy of \*Peony in Love\*](#)



Many of the authors of these discussibles have shared their thoughts with **Reading Group Choices** in a **1-On-One**. You can access them in the right-hand column "**1-On-One**" article.

Quite a few other discussible books are released this month. Please visit our website for [even more suggestions](#).

## Literary Largesse

In a January 18<sup>th</sup> **Wall Street Journal** [article](#), Nathaniel Popper reported that "a number of independent bookstores have been drawing more than pity from devotees. From Chicago to Brooklyn, N.Y., and from Houston to Eugene, Ore., loyal customers have been stepping up and putting down serious cash to save their neighborhood bookstores. These individuals see themselves more as donors than investors, committed to saving the ambiance and personal service of their local store."



On the flip-side, a Seattle bookseller has willed \$700,000 to the University of Washington Libraries for the preservation efforts in the UW Libraries' special collections. According to the [Seattle Post Intelligencer](#), the endowment was a pleasant surprise and one of the largest in the Libraries' history.

That's keeping the joy of reading alive!

**Now, It's *The Book Club Play!***

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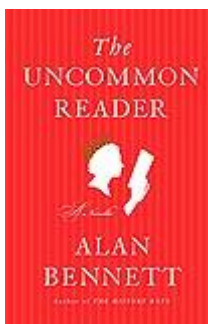
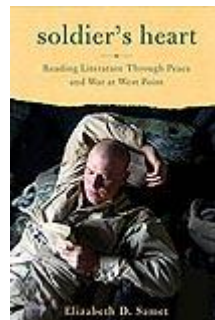
Imitation is the best form of flattery! Reading groups and book clubs have had books, television shows, and movies based on their lives and the phenomenon of shared reading. Now, book club members and theater patrons can see the world premiere of ***The Book Club Play*** at the **Round House Theatre** in Bethesda, Maryland. ***The Book Club***

***Play*** is a new comedy about people who read books, people who say they read books, and people who prefer books to other people. Written by DC playwright Karen Zacarías, it follows a group of thirty-somethings who invite a new member into their beloved book club. Will their friendships - not to mention the book club - survive the introduction of this new personality into their cherished circle?

**Save On Tickets!**

## Discussible Awards

Elizabeth D. Samet's ***Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature Through Peace and War at West Point*** was selected as one of the nonfiction finalists for the 2007 Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Awards. Winners in the fiction and nonfiction categories will be announced on February 27, 2008.



The National Book Critics Circle (NBCC) has announced its finalists and winners for their **NBCC Good Reads - Winter List**.

The list seeks to find what are "smart readers not just buying, but reading and recommending to their friends, roommates, coworkers and anyone they can collar." Among the finalists are **Reading Group**

**Choices'** selections - Alan Bennett's ***The Uncommon Reader***, Pat Barker's ***Life Class***, and Anne Enright's ***The Gathering***.

## Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Lynn and **The Lunch Bunch Book Club** in Houston, Minnesota, for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!



**"Loving Frank** by Nancy Horan was a book that our **Lunch Bunch Book Club** discussed that led from the topic of this book, his doomed relationship with Mamah Borthwick Cheney, to his life story and the many examples of the homes he built that survive today. A complicated man who lived every day to its fullest, Frank introduced the prairie style of architecture. Several members of our group have seen or read about the nearby Taliesin, where the murders of Mamah and seven others took place. Though it was burned to the ground, Wright rebuilt it in her memory, and he lies there today in the cemetery next to Mamah. A fascinating read that shows the little-known human side of this man who made such a mark on his times."

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!

### **More Of Your Discussible Choices**

**Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,**



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