

## Dear Charlie,

NOT recommended this month:

- Stealing rare manuscripts
- Getting lost on the MTA

Recommended this month:

- Completing your favorite discussible book survey
- Making your book discussions sparkle
- Finding your way home
- Getting lost in a new book

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## Discussibles in Paperback



Life changes in an instant. On a foggy beach. In the seconds when photographer Abby Mason - fiancée, and soon-to-be-stepmother - looks into her camera and commits her greatest error. Heartbreaking, uplifting, beautifully told and very discussible, *The Year of Fog* is the riveting tale of a family torn apart, of the search for the truth behind a child's disappearance, and of one woman's

## What Are Your Favorites?

~ **SURVEY** ~

Earn a chance to win \$75  
toward your next  
reading group discussion.

[Click here to enter.](#)

Thanks to the hundreds of you who have already completed the reading group survey. If you haven't had a chance yet to enter your favorite discussible books of 2007, please **do so now**.

Many of you are members of more than one reading group. You can complete a survey for each group, so **click here** if you'd like to tell us about your favorites in your other book group.

We'll tally the results at the end of this month and let you know what reading groups thought were the most discussible titles of 2007. As far as we know, it's the most comprehensive survey of its kind, and the results are always fascinating!

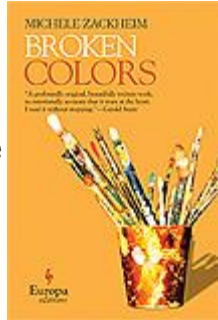
Oh, yes, and remember that each time you complete the survey, **Reading Group Choices** will enter your name into a random drawing for **\$75** to cater your next get-together!

**Complete the Survey**

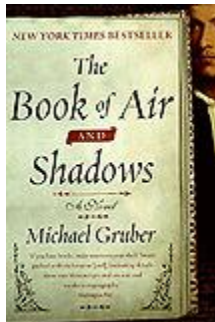
unwavering faith in the redemptive power of love-all made startlingly fresh through Michelle Richmond's incandescent sensitivity and extraordinary insight.

**Enter to Win a FREE copy of The Year of Fog**

Annie O'Hare of McNally Robinson Booksellers in New York City gives her impression of another discussible paperback: "In a climate that is so keen on funny personal memoirs and short stories, it's pretty ballsy to write an honest-to-goodness novel set in wartime Europe with no gimmicks. **Broken Colors** follows a young artist as she moves throughout Europe developing her voice and her views. The first section left me with actual chills."



**Enter to Win a FREE Copy of Broken Colors**



And released this month for the book group that appreciates literature and thrilling action: **The Book of Air and Shadows** by Michael Gruber. *The Washington Post* called Michael Gruber's previous work "a miracle of intelligent fiction and among the essential novels of recent years."

Now comes his most intellectually provocative and compulsively readable novel yet.

**Throwing the Book at Them - Again**

According to the **Library Journal**, four men serving prison time for stealing rare manuscripts and drawings from Transylvania University (Lexington, KY) are facing longer sentences after the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that their seven-year sentences were calculated on an incorrect assessment of the value of the books they stole and were thus too lenient. According to local reports, Judge Alice Batchelder ruled that the thieves, who assaulted and tied up a librarian, should face a

**Chances to Win Discussible Books**

**The Year of Fog**

**Broken Colors**

**Luncheon of the Boating Party**

**Author 1-On-Ones**

**Eva Etzioni-Halevy**

**Michelle Richmond**

**Michele Zackheim**

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**Tell Us Your Tips**

minimum of nine years in jail based on the \$1 million value of the five items stolen.

The four young men were sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty in April 2005. Among the volumes they stole were an 1859 first edition of Charles Darwin's ***The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*** and a number of sketches by John James Audubon dating back to 1855. The books and artwork were recovered.



## More About Reading Group Choices

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## Cat Tale

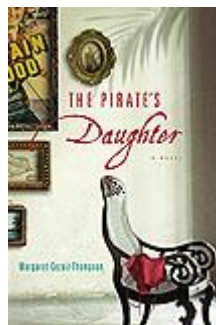


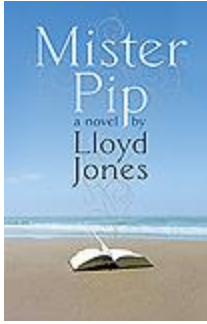
Besides books, **Reading Group Choices** loves cats. This cat tale shows the kindness of strangers. With the help of ***The New York Daily News***, one Con Ed employee, two MTA workers, and many friends *and* strangers, Ashley Phillips, a librarian in the Bronx, and Georgia, her lost kitten, are reunited after 25 days!

After a spotting of the lost kitten in the subway, an MTA flagman and MTA inspector combed the tracks and rescued the black feline. Apparently, cats do have nine lives!

## Worldwide Awards for Discussibles

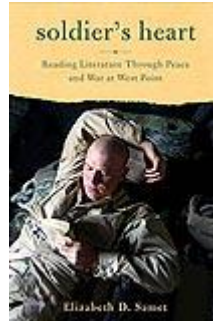
Last month, ***The Pirate's Daughter*** by Margaret Cezair-Thompson won the Fiction Award at the first-annual ***ESSENCE Literary Awards***, honoring the best in African-American literature.





Lloyd Jones' **Mister Pip** is a finalist in the 12th annual **Kiriyama Prize**. The sponsor, Pacific Rim Voices, is "dedicated to celebrating literature that contributes to greater understanding of and among the peoples and nations of the Pacific Rim and South Asia." Winners will be announced April 1.

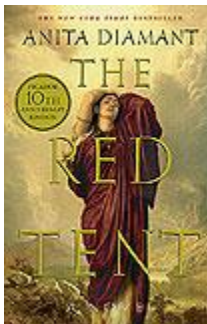
**The Los Angeles Times** announced the finalists in the 28th Annual Literary Awards. **Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature Through Peace and War at West Point** by Elizabeth D. Samet is one of five finalists in the Current Interest category. The winners will be announced on April 25.



"Australian readers prefer timelessness and romance to reality," according to a report in **news.com.au**. Dymocks, a book chain in Australia, conducted a survey to determine the **101 favorite books** of all times. **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen topped the list!

## Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Laura and **The Morsels of the Mind Reading Group** and to Janet and **The Bayberry Bocce Girls** for winning the random drawings for this month's Discussible Book Choices!



"We have been discussing books for 17 years now - and have read (and discussed) over 170 titles! We have had many favorites, but one of the most recent titles was **The Devil in the White City** by Erik Larson. The drama of a serial killer, at the turn of the century amidst the Great World Fair in Chicago really intrigued all of us! We also loved

**The Red Tent**, by Anita Diamant, and discussed this book in - yes a real red tent, complete with

straw. ***The Power of One***, by Bryce Courtenay was another group favorite, and we all enjoyed ***Middlesex*** by Jeffrey Eugenides more than we thought we would. We don't always agree on what we like and aren't afraid to give our opinions. Anyway - thanks for the suggestions!"

### **Laura, Morsels of the Mind, Belmont, MI**

"I registered today after a friend told me about your website. Our Book Club mainly reads books that help us better understand issues regarding, race, women's issues, world affairs and how they affect women.



"During the past year we read ***Journey Across the Four Seas*** by Veronica Li, our first book related to the experience of a Chinese woman born in Hong Kong in the 30's, who survived wars and revolutions to successfully raise five children. Our members enjoyed her story of the power of women and culture in traditional Chinese society. I recommend it as a good read and a window into a world that in many ways is still representative of Chinese society."

### **Janet, Bayberry Bocce Girls, Arnold, MD**

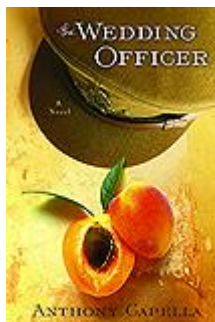
We enjoy hearing from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please **let us know** about your group's discussible choices - you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group!

### **More Discussible Choices**

## **Another Tip from Your Colleagues**

Thanks to Cynthia and **The Pierce County Book Club** for this reading group tip.

"We just finished reading Anthony Capella's ***The Wedding Officer***, and our discussion was this last Saturday. We all agreed that though it was beautifully written and a



pleasure to read, it wasn't a very discussible book. We used the reading guide for the first part of the discussion - but there was a lot of "dead air" - so we switched tactics and asked, "*What would members do differently if they wrote the book?*" and "*If there were a sequel - what would you like to see?*" **These old stand-by questions never fail** - we ended up having a three-hour discussion after all!

## Your Turn to Pick?

Your turn to pick the book for your group's next discussion? [Click here](#) for some new releases that may ignite your next gathering.

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



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