

Dear Charlie,

Every year, reading groups, libraries, bookstores, and publishers eagerly await to hear what reading groups deemed the most discussible books - those titles that resulted in their liveliest discussions - over the past twelve months. Thanks to your thoughtful and copious responses, **Reading Group Choices** has again compiled that list. Read on to see what titles you and your colleagues really liked in 2007 - and a few that you may put on your list in 2008!

By the way, there's much more information about your reading preferences contained in your responses. As we continue to compile the results of the survey, we'll pass it on in upcoming newsletters.

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### Your Next Discussible Favorites?

While some of your favorites of 2007 seem destined to repeat as favorites in 2008, many new releases will compete for this year's title! Let us introduce you to a few that we believe will produce lively discussions.

### Top Ten!



Many thanks to the hundreds of you who responded to the recent **Reading Group Choices** survey! We were overwhelmed and gratified by your thoughtful replies.

There were some surprises among the titles that you said resulted in your liveliest discussions in 2007. Among them are some new additions from last year's list, including **A Thousand Splendid Suns, Eat, Pray, Love, Nineteen Minutes, The Book Thief,** and **Three Cups of Tea.**

In order of popularity, your **TOP 10 DISCUSSIBLE BOOKS OF 2007** are:

**# 1:** ***Water for Elephants***

by Sara Gruen

**# 2:** ***The Glass Castle*** by

Jeannette Walls

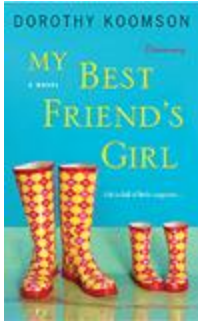
**# 3:** ***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*** by **Lisa**

**See**

**# 4:** ***A Thousand***

***Splendid Suns*** by Khaled

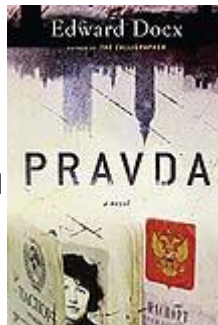
Hosseini



In **My Best Friend's Girl**, we meet best friends Adele and Kamryn, who thought nothing could come between them-until Adele did the unthinkable and slept with Kamryn's fiancé. After years of silence, the two women are reuniting, and Adele has a stunning request for her old friend: she wants Kamryn to adopt her five-year-old daughter, Tegan. **My Best Friend's Girl** is Dorothy Koomson's third novel, and she's already working on the next.

**Enter for a chance to win a free copy of My Best Friend's Girl!**

Long-listed for the Man Booker Prize and winner of the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, **Pravda** is a darkly funny, compulsively readable, and hauntingly beautiful chronicle of discovery and loss, love and loyalty, and the destructive legacy of deceit. Its author, Edward Docx, also wrote **The Calligrapher**, which was named a *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year.



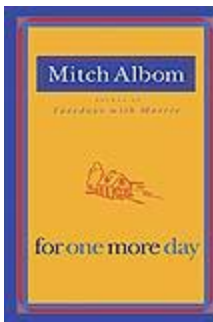
In **The Post-War Dream**, Mitch Cullin captures some of the most difficult themes in literature: fate, love, and death. The *Library Journal* writes, "This touching, quintessentially American story of marriage, aging, and the fading Greatest Generation is enhanced by poetic prose, vivid accounts of war, and sympathetic characters whom many of us will find familiar."

Or lose yourself in **Bulls Island**, a satisfying tale of honor, chance, and star-crossed love, infused with Southern wit, grace, and charm. *New York Times* bestselling author Dorothea Benton Frank also wrote the *The Christmas Pearl* and *The Land of Mango Sunsets*.



- # 5: **The Memory Keeper's Daughter** by Kim Edwards
- # 6: TIE: **Eat, Pray, Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert
- # 6: TIE: **The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini
- # 7: **My Sister's Keeper** by Jodi Picoult
- # 8: **Nineteen Minutes** by Jodi Picoult
- # 9: **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak
- #10: **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

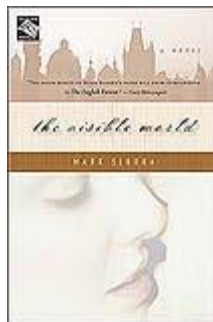
While these titles were the ten most popular among reading groups, many other choices produced lively discussions for lots of you, among them **Loving Frank** by Nancy Horan, **Pope Joan** by Donna Woolfolk Cross, **Diana Lively Is Falling Down** by Sheila Curran, **Year of Wonders** by Geraldine Brooks, **The Double Bind** by Chris Bohjalian, **The Shadow of the Wind** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, **The Madonnas of Leningrad** by Debra Dean, **March** by Geraldine Brooks, **Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons** by Lorna Landvik, **One Thousand White Women** by **Jim Fergus**, **The Sparrow** by Mary Doria Russell, **The Year of Magical Thinking** by Joan Didion, **Atonement** by Ian McEwan, **The Red Tent** by



Now out in paperback for anybody who's ever wanted one more day with a departed loved one, anyone who's had regrets over how they treated - or were treated by - their parents, anyone who's ever wondered if their life could be different if things were only fixed, Mitch Albom's **For One More Day** will bring satisfaction, joy and undeniable

insight.

In an immensely moving, powerfully romantic novel about the vagaries of love and the legacy of war, Mark Slouka brings us **The Visible World**. The story is told by the American-born son of Czech immigrants. Mark, himself the child of Czech immigrants, draws on personal experience and the inevitable intrusions of the past on the present.



## Celebrate Libraries & Poets!



Celebrate National Library Week April 13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>! First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

Julie Andrews is the Honorary Chair for National Library Week's 50th anniversary. Give a high-five to all librarians! Support your local library and **join the circle of knowledge!**

You can also celebrate the first **National Poem in Your Pocket Day!** The idea is simple: select a poem you love during National Poetry Month (April), then carry it with you to share with co-workers, family, and friends on April 17. Poems from pockets will be unfolded throughout the day



Anita Diamant, and **The Space Between Us** by Thrity Umrigar.

**Enter for a chance to win a copy of Loving Frank!**

### Chances to Win Discussible Books

**Loving Frank**

**My Best Friend's Girl**

### New 1-On-Ones

**Dorothea Benton Frank**

**Dorothy Koomson**

**Tess Stimson**

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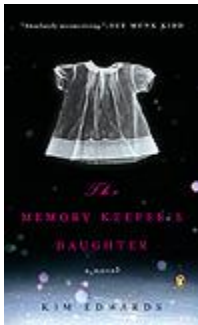
with events in parks, libraries, schools, workplaces, and bookstores. Reading Group Suggestion - have your members stash a poem in their pocket to read during your April meeting!

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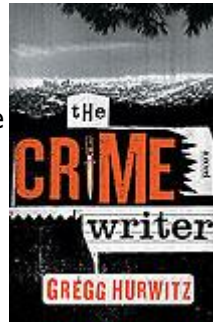
## #5 Is Now a Movie!



Your #5 discussible favorite of 2007, ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter*** by Kim Edwards, is now a Lifetime Original Movie. Starring Gretchen Mol, Dermot Mulroney, and Emily Watson, the film shows on April 12 at 9 pm. Encore dates include April 13 at 8 pm and April 14 at 9 pm. Please check local listings.

## Discussible Awards

***The Crime Writer*** by Gregg Hurwitz has been nominated for Best Novel for the 2008 Thriller Award. Sponsored by the ***International Thriller Writers***, the winners will be announced at the ThrillerFest Gala Banquet on July 12 in New York City.



***ForeWord Magazine*** selected the finalists for the 10th annual ***Book of the Year Awards***, representing some of the best work by independent presses. ***Caspian Rain*** by Gina B. Nahai is a finalist for General Fiction. ***The Buddha Next Door*** by Zan Gaudio and Greg Martin is one of the picks for Religion, and ***This Is Not the Life I Ordered*** by Deborah Collins Stephens, Michealene Cristini Risley, Jackie Speier and Jan Yanehiro is a choice for Women's Lives. The winners will be announced in May at BookExpo America.

## Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Cynthia and the **Pierce County Book**

**Club** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!

Says Cynthia, "We Just finished up a VERY discussible book - Dr. Nick Trout's ***Tell Me Where it Hurts***. It is a "day in the life" of an animal surgeon. There are very sensitive subjects here that make for a lively discussion - such as: Placing a price on your pet or (and I loved this one) the availability of plastic surgery options for your cat or dog. Imagine how your reading group would respond to that one!"



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!

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



Selecting Discussible Books Since 1994

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