

Fathers - In Discussible Books

Absorbing Summer
Reads
June 2008

Dear Barbara,

This month celebrates Father's Day; some of this month's selections explore fathers who suffer with, rejoice in, and learn from their offspring --

June ushers in summer - a time to bask in the warmth and enjoy a great story --

Reading groups include the author and energize their discussions --

All in the June issue of the **Reading Group Choices** newsletter!

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Who Grows More - Parent or Child?

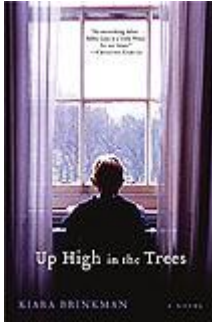
The joy, heartache and experience of mothering were themes of many of the discussible books profiled in last month's newsletter. Of course, parenting, either by a mother or a father, brings challenges, a range of emotions and sometimes unexpected opportunities for growth, and some of these are the material for a great discussion.

June



June -- the month that ushers in summer and celebrates fathers. And so it seems only fitting that we should highlight some light summer reads to delight your summertime book discussions.

And let's not forget some of the delightful discussible works that introduce us to remarkable fathers (or a father-figures, such as step-fathers, uncles, grandfathers, and "big brothers") and explore fatherhood, like ***Up High in the Trees*** by Kiara Brinkman (new in stores this month), ***Keeper and Kid*** by Edward Hardy, ***The***



Take, for example, ***Up High in the Trees***. When Sebby's father decides to take him to live in the family's summerhouse, he hopes it will give them both the time and space they need to recover from the death of their best friend: Sebby's mother. But Sebby's father deteriorates in this new isolation, leaving Sebby to come to terms with his mother's death alone as he wonders if he, too, is meant to share her fate.

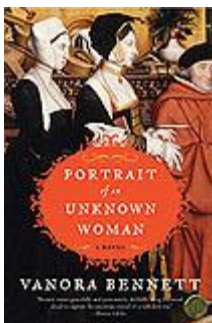
Enter For A Chance To Win A Copy!

Or you may want to choose ***Keeper and Kid*** for your next discussion. In this humorous and poignant novel, Edward Hardy explores the depths of modern love, parenthood, and compromise. It is the story of how a normal guy receives an unexpected gift and in turn must learn to ask more of others and himself. A coming-of-age story for the guy who thought he had already grown up, it is a sharp and witty account of what we do for love.



New Discussibles

Good discussibles from King Henry VIII's England, wartime Italy, and America's IPO/high-society/suburban culture are reaching bookstores this month. Go ahead - lose yourself in one of these!



Portrait of an Unknown Woman by Vanora Bennett: It is 1527. The English Renaissance is in full swing under the young King Henry VIII. The young German painter Hans Holbein, who has come to London to seek his fortune, is delighted when he gets a commission to paint the family of Thomas More, one of England's leading statesmen and men of learning, at his country home in Chelsea. The story is seen through the eyes of More's young ward Meg, and shows her growing feelings for her

Tender Bar by J.R. Moehringer, ***Responsible Men*** by Edward Schwarzschild, ***Peace Like a River*** by Leif Enger, ***The Sleeping Father*** by Matthew Sharpe, and ***The Singing and Dancing Daughters of God*** by Timothy Schaffert.

Perhaps these choices will lead you to a new appreciation of the fathers in your life!

Chances To Win Discussible Books

Away

Up High in the Trees

All We Ever Wanted Was Everything

The Wedding Officer

Belong to Me

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New 1-On-Ones

tutor, a man of mysterious background called John Clement, whom she will marry, and for Holbein himself, whom she will love.

The Wedding Officer by Anthony Capella: Captain James Gould arrives in wartime Naples assigned to discourage marriages between British soldiers and their gorgeous Italian girlfriends. But the innocent young officer is soon distracted by an intoxicating young widow who knows her way around a kitchen...Livia Pertini is creating feasts that stun the senses with their succulence-ruby-colored San Marzana tomatoes, glistening anchovies, and delectable new potatoes encrusted with the black volcanic earth of Campania-and James is about to learn that his heart may rank higher than his orders.



Enter For A Chance To Win A Copy!



The Safety of Secrets by DeLaune Michel: Fiona and Patricia's friendship during first grade was forged ever closer by Fiona's abusive mother and Patricia's neglectful one. Their relationship is a source of continuity and strength through their move to L.A. to become actresses; through Fiona's marriage and Patricia's sudden fame. When husband and career pressures exact a toll, the women wonder if their friendship can survive. Then a dark secret from their past emerges, threatening to destroy not only their bond, but all they've worked for as well.

Set during the boom-and-bust years of the 1980s, ***An Absolute Scandal*** follows the lives of a group of people drawn together by their mutual monetary woes when the great financial institution Lloyd's undergoes a devastating downturn -- the well-to-do and the not well-to-do. As their lives begin a downward spiral, these characters intersect in ways they never saw coming. Written in what has become her signature style of both wit and candor, author Penny Vincenzi draws back the curtain and offers an inside view of the greed and social power plays that occur behind the closed doors of upper-crust society . . . where money isn't everything. Sometimes, it's the only thing.



Anthony Capella

New Profiles Of Discussible Books

Away

The Rest of Her Life

Church of the Dog

One in a Million

The Godmother

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Invite an Author to Speak with Your Book Group

Share Your Reading Group Tips

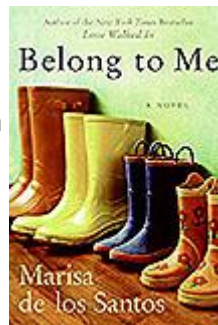
More About Reading Group Choices



All We Ever Wanted Was Everything by Janelle Brown is a smart, comic page-turner about a Silicon Valley family in free fall over the course of one eventful summer. When Paul Miller's pharmaceutical company goes public, making his family IPO millionaires, his wife, Janice, is sure this is the windfall she's been waiting years for - until she learns that her husband is divorcing her (for her tennis partner!) and cutting her out of the new fortune. Meanwhile, the Millers' daughters are going through other disastrous situations, as well. By coming together to tackle their difficulties, the Miller women become achingly sympathetic characters we can't help but root for, even as the world they live in epitomizes everything wrong with the American Dream. Meghan Daum, author of *The Quality of Life Report*, writes, "This is a wise, intimate chronicle of one family's struggle to take off their masks and live in the place they most feared: the real, imperfect world."

Enter For A Chance To Win A Copy!

Belong to Me is the new novel by Marisa de los Santos, author of the bestselling ***Love Walked In***. Bringing back some characters from ***Love Walked In***, de los Santos writes a magical story that explores the accidents that can make a life and a family. Though Cornelia Brown knows she and her beloved husband, Teo, have made the right decision to move to the suburbs; she approaches her new life with trepidation and struggles to forge friendships in her new home. Cornelia's spirit is quickly tested by judgmental and all around too-perfect neighbor Piper Truitt. A saving grace soon appears in the form of Lake. Over a shared love of literature and old movies, Cornelia develops an instant bond with this warm yet elusive woman who has also recently arrived in town, ostensibly to send her perceptive and brilliant son, Dev, to a school for the gifted. With a secret involving Teo and Dev, an illness, a pregnancy, and life in general; these characters become entangled in a web of trust, betrayal, love, and loss that challenges them in ways they never imagined and that ultimately teaches them what it means for one human being to belong to another.



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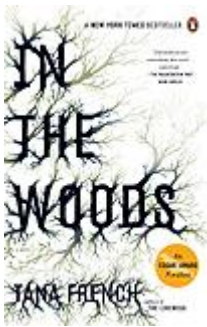
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Awards For Discussibles



The Edgar for Best First Novel By An American Author went to Tana French for *In the Woods*, whose debut featured a detective in Dublin's Murder Squad struggling with a childhood trauma.

Gary Schanbacher's *Migration Patterns* won the 2008 General Fiction Eric Hoffer Award for Short Prose & Independent Books.

Spring Into Summer Reading!

Book Sense released its Spring-Summer 2008 Book Sense Reading Group Picks. Many are **Reading Group Choices'** selections including *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, *The Gathering* by Anne Enright, *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland, *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett, *Pocketful of Names* by Joe Coomer, *The Pirate's Daughter* by Margaret Cezair-Thompson, and *Five Skies* by Ron Carlson. Along with many other **Reading Group Choices'** picks, [the list](#) features a wide range of popular fiction and nonfiction, with a special eye toward titles independent booksellers believe will stimulate lively discussion for reading groups.

Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Rebecca and **The Literary Salon of Note** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice! **The Literary Salon of Note** is one of many groups whose discussions came alive when the authors joined their gathering. Says Rebecca:

"Our group thoroughly enjoyed reading *History Lesson for*

Girls by Aurelie Sheehan. A compellingly told coming-of-age story set in Connecticut in the 1970s, this novel is powerfully evocative of both time and place and contains characters you won't soon forget. Everyone in our group was caught up in the tale which covers the collision of multiple lines of history. Our discussion was one of our most lively yet ranging from the remembered poignancy and pains of adolescence to the free love and drug scene of the 70s to parenting and how our perspective on this role changes over time both historically and personally. If you're looking for a book that gives everyone in your group something to talk about this is definitely one worth checking out! Oh, and it didn't hurt that the author teaches at the University of Arizona in Tucson and accepted an invitation to join us for our discussion. Way cool!"

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!

[See What Other Groups Say About Author Participation](#)

[Invite An Author To Your Next Discussion!](#)

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,

