

Stimulus Package for Reading Groups

Love and Money
February 2009

Dear Charlie,

Inexpensive entertainment for these tough times
Love stories - romantic and otherwise
More Music by the Book
LIVE author webcasts
Great new discussible choices
New reading technologies
Free books and catering

All this - in this month's **Reading Group Choices** newsletter!

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February - the Month of Love

Stimulus Recommendations



In these the hard times, community and friendship are what keep us together. Is it such a stretch to think that people could form strong bonds, have meaningful conversations, and form friendships that last for years? Hardly!

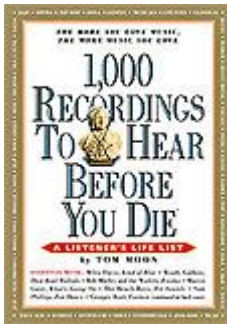
From what we been hearing, reading groups, more than ever, are attracting both men and women, mothers and daughters, teenagers and seniors to broaden their horizons, enrich their lives, and save a buck in the process. It certainly is a lot less expensive than a night out on the town! So sit on down, gather your friends, open a good discussible book, grab a glass of wine, tune in some themed-music, and enjoy some interesting conversation!



This month's suggestions offer a plethora of discussable choices about love-love of books and mystery, love for life, art of love, love of art, love of family, and, of course, good ole fashioned romantic love! Lovely ideas for any group!

The Music of *Hotel*

[Hotel on the Corner and Bitter and Sweet](#) by Jamie Ford tells the story of Henry and Keiko caught in the whirlwind of World War II and the American evacuations to the Japanese internment camps. The novel is an extraordinary tale of commitment and enduring hope.



A key figure in *Hotel* is Oscar Holden, the pianist who's known as the "patriarch of Seattle jazz." Tom Moon, author of **[1,000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die](#)**, offers his rich commentary and suggestions on the music of Oscar and other masters of that time and place for you to savor while reading (or talking about) *Hotel* in your next discussion.

[Tom - on the Music of Hotel](#)

Mother/Daughter Harmony?

Recently, Judith R. Hendricks spoke with **Reading Group Choices** about her new novel, **[The Laws of Harmony](#)**. "The themes I wanted to explore are some of the same themes that have always interested me-the way the past shapes the present and drives the future-the ways in which children grow up differently in the same family-the family dynamics of loss and grief-and most particularly, how



Chances to Win Discussible Books

[Unpolished Gem](#)

[A Version of the Truth](#)

[The Commoner](#)

[15th Anniversary Book Pack](#)

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Choices

[Featured Books](#)

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[May We Recommend](#)

New 1-On-One

[Samantha Harvey](#)

New Profiles of Discussible Books

[Things I Want My Daughters to Know](#)

[Eve: A Novel of the First Woman](#)

[Winter in Madrid](#)

[The Slide](#)

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the ties that bind mother and daughter-however we might struggle against them-are not easily undone."

Judith will soon be a LIVE guest on the BookClubGirl online radio show. [Click here](#) on March 10th to call in and ask questions.

[See Judith's Video on Harmony](#)

Mother/Daughter Book Clubs - Ain't That Love?

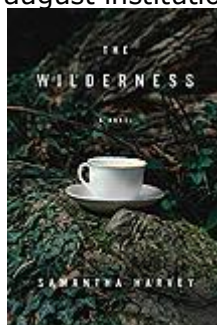
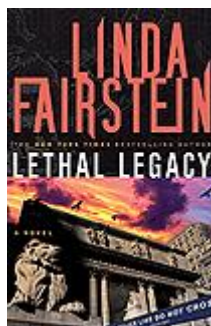


Extra! Extra! Tune in to Scholastic's LIVE web cast on March 12th to see Caroline Rhea chat with Meg Cabot, author of the *New York Times* bestselling series **Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls**. Look for more information in the March issue of your **Reading Group Choices** newsletter.

And if you live or are in the New York metropolitan area on March 12th, you may [click here](#) to sign up to attend the webcast in person at the Scholastic Auditorium.

Thought-provoking & Discussion-stimulating

In Linda Fairstein's new novel, **Lethal Legacy**, the New York Public Library houses dazzling treasures-and deadly secrets.You simply will not believe the evil things that can happen within the walls, secret rooms and tunnels of such an august institution. After reading and discussing this work, you will never think of a library the same way!



Jake has lost his wife, his son is in prison, and he is about to lose his past. Jake has Alzheimer's. He is the flawed witness to his own past, the ultimate unreliable narrator in **The Wilderness**. Samantha Harvey has written a novel with a clear and moving portrait not only of a sympathetic man but

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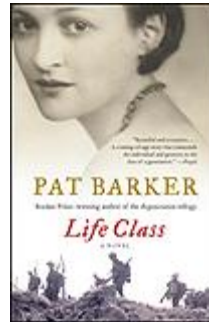
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also of a heartrending disease as seen from the inside out.

1-On-One with Samantha

Pat Barker returns to her most renowned subject: the human devastation and psychic damage wrought by World War One on all levels of British society. Her skill in relaying the harrowing experience of modern warfare is matched by the depth of insight she brings to the experience of love and the morality of art in a time of war. ***Life Class***, one of her genuine masterpieces, is now available in paperback.



Book Group Reminders

~ SURVEY ~
Earn a chance to win \$75
toward your next
reading group discussion.
[Click here to enter.](#)

Book Group Favorites: Join with thousands of reading groups to tell us your favorite discussible books of 2008. If you haven't already, please take our short survey for a chance to **win \$75** to cater your next book club meeting! Then increase your chances of winning - ask your book club members to weigh in with their thoughts, too.

15th Anniversary Book Pack

Drawing: Join the **Reading Group Choices 15th Anniversary Party!** **Enter again** this month-**15** more reading groups this month will win a pack of **15 Reading Group Choices** book selections in it's **15th** year! Invite your friends to join the fun, too.



Kindle 2



If you travel, need large type, have difficulty getting out to the bookstore, or research your books before your discussions, this may be just the thing for you! Amazon just announced the next generation of its wireless reading device, Kindle. It features a streamlined design, so that it's as thin as a typical magazine and lighter than a paperback. Its images are crisper and its text is clearer than in the previous version, so it offers an improved book-like experience. It has a new Text-to-Speech feature, which means it can read books out loud to you, and it can store over 1,500 titles.

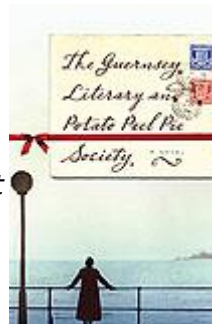
More about E-Books

Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Fran and **The Paige Turners** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!

*"We just discussed **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**, and we all loved it. During our discussion we even had a Latin lesson on the poetry of Seneca. It was also interesting that we had differing opinions about the Holocaust portion of the book - some finding it too strong some not so strong."*

Fran, The Paige Turners, Brick, NJ



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

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,



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