

Favorite Novels, Inspiring Memoirs,
Discussible Nonfiction

Mother/Daughter
Book Club Event
March 2009

Dear Barbara,

What's in a book group? In some cases, it's mothers and daughters and grandmothers. In others, it's men. In still others, it's lawbreakers! Read about the emerging trends and more in this issue of the **Reading Group Choices** newsletter!

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Mother/Daughter Book Club Event



Mother/daughter book clubs - get ready for a BIG EVENT!
At 7:30 p.m. EST on Thursday, March 12th - [right here](#) - Meg Cabot is hosting a Super Sleepover to celebrate her third book, [Best Friends and Drama Queens](#), in the *New York Times* bestselling series [Allie Finkle Rules for Girls](#), and **you are invited!** Meg chats with Caroline Rhea about Allie Finkle's books, rules, and everything in between in a LIVE webcast.

[Join the Super Sleepover!](#)

After you've read any of the Allie books, start a conversation in your mother/daughter (or

Josh K. Stevens of the trendy, up-and-coming bookstore **Read Between the Lynes** in Woodstock, IL, is thrilled with the success of their Men's Book Group. According to Josh,



*"We started a Men's Book Club here at **Read Between the Lynes** a little over a year ago, and it's been a huge success! We meet at the local pub on the fourth Monday of every month to discuss whatever book we have chosen for that month, and we read a wide variety of books, including **Fight Club, Factotum, Something Wicked This Way Comes, Stiff, World War Z and Lolita**. We have between seven and ten members who show up on a regular basis, and several people who drop in for an occasional meeting. We've been featured in the local paper, and we had Chicago author Laura Caldwell sit on one of our meetings, because we were discussing her book **The Good Liar**. On a side note, for those guys out there who are "anti" book clubs, the ladies swoon every time I mention that I've got a Men's Book Club meeting to attend."*

Thanks to **Shelf Awareness** for bringing this to our attention.

Arresting Book Clubs

Do books change lives? Probably, according to the **New York Times Sunday Book Review**, which reported on **Changing Lives Through Literature**, an alternative sentencing program that allows felons and other offenders to choose between going to jail or joining a book club! The reading initiative started in 1991 in Massachusetts and has expanded to eight other states.



Favorite Novels, Inspiring Memoirs, Lively Nonfiction

grandmother/granddaughter) book club with **Allie's discussion questions**. While you're waiting for the Super Sleepover (or even afterwards), have fun with some of the **neat activities** Allie's dreamed up. And - if you're in the NY/NJ/CT tri-state area on the big day - attend the event in person. **Sign up here** to receive tickets to the webcast to be held in the Scholastic Auditorium in SoHo, Manhattan!

Get Your Invitation & Neat Activities Here!

Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls

Moving Day

The New Girl

Best Friends and Drama Queens

Win \$75: Vote for Your Favorites

For a Chance to Win \$75, vote for your favorite discussible books of 2008!

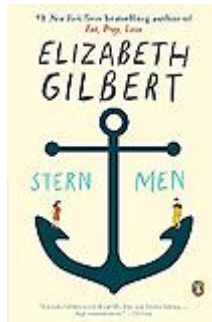
Chances to Win Discussible Books

Almost Single



Andrew Bridge has defied staggering odds set against him. Trapped in desperate poverty and confronted with unthinkable tragedies, all Andrew ever wanted was to be with his mom. But as her mental health steadily declined, and with no one else left to care for him, authorities arrived and tore the seven-year-old from his screaming mother's arms. Hope was institutionalized, and Andrew was placed in a devastating reality - foster care. Ultimately though, Andrew earned a scholarship to Wesleyan, went on to Harvard Law School, and became a Fulbright Scholar. He has dedicated his life's work to helping children living in poverty and in the foster care system, and has now written a heartwrenching, brutally honest, and inspirational memoir, [*Hope's Boy*](#).

The many book groups who devoured Elizabeth Gilbert's [*Eat, Pray, Love*](#) and remain hungry for more may want to consider discussing this new edition of her book group favorite novel, [*Stern Men*](#). At age eighteen, Ruth Thomas has returned from boarding school-smart as a whip, feisty, and irredeemably unromantic - determined to throw over her education and join the "stern men" working the lobster boats. Gilbert utterly captures the American spirit through an unforgettable heroine who is destined for greatness-and love-despite herself.



Last Chance to Vote for Your Favorites!

This is your last chance to [vote](#) for the books that resulted in your best discussions in 2008! We'll announce the results next month. Don't miss a chance to **win \$75** to cater your next book group gathering.

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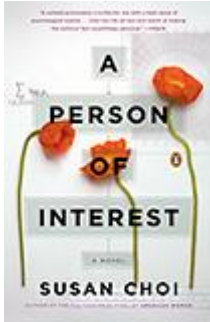
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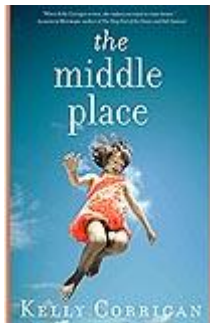
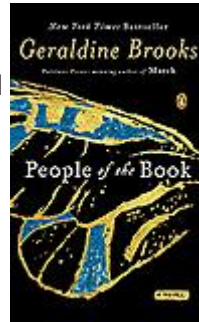


[A Person of Interest](#) by Susan Choi was one of the four finalists for the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

[Netherland](#) by Joseph O'Neill won the \$15,000 prize. The other finalists are **[Ms. Hempel Chronicles](#)** by Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, **[Lush Life](#)** by Richard Price and **[Serena](#)** by Ron Rash.

Two **Reading Group Choices'** selections are finalists in the American Booksellers Association's (ABA) inaugural **[Indies Choice Book Awards](#)** -- **[The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#)** and **[People of the Book](#)**.

Independent booksellers will choose the winners in seven categories -- Best Indie Buzz book (fiction), Best Conversation Starter (nonfiction), Best Author Discovery (debut), Best New Picture Book, Best YA Buzz Book, Most Engaging Author, and the Picture Book Hall of Fame. The winners will be announced in late April and will be honored at an awards ceremony at ABA's Celebration of Bookselling Luncheon at BookExpo America 2009 in New York City. **Reading Group Choices** supports **[independent booksellers](#)** and the **[IndieBound Initiative](#)**.



The audiobook of **[Hot, Flat, and Crowded](#)** by Thomas L. Friedman was among the winners of the 13th annual Books for a Better Life Awards. The recognition honors the best self-improvement books of 2008. **[The Middle Place](#)** by Kelly Corrigan won the award for the best first book. **Click here** for the whole list.

Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Ellen and **The Lone Tree Readers** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!

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"We have enjoyed discussing ***The Year of Living Biblically*** by A.J. Jacobs, ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*** by Barbara Kingsolver, ***Luncheon of the Boating Party*** By Susan Vreeland, ***The Faith Club: a Muslim, a Christian, a Jew*** by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner, ***A Thousand Splendid Suns*** by Khaled Hosseini and many others."



Ellen, The Lone Tree Readers, Central City, NE

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,



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