

Movies, Music, Books & Conversation

Poetry Month &
Mother's Day Reads
April 2009

Dear Barbara,

April is brimming with opportunity for reading groups! Discuss a favorite, watch it on the big screen, enjoy it on TV, and listen to it on your ipod! Stretch by reading poetry aloud. Prepare to celebrate Mother's Day with a book about the unshakable bond between mother and daughter.

It's all here, right now, in the **Reading Group Choices** Newsletter!

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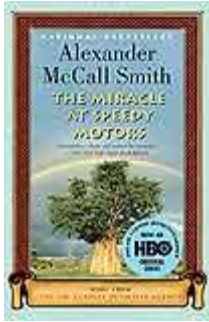
[No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency - on HBO](#)

The Soloist: Book, Movie & Music-by-the-Book!



Poignant and ultimately hopeful, *The Soloist* is a beautifully told story of friendship and the redeeming power of music.

When Steve Lopez sees Nathaniel Ayers—homeless, paranoid, and deeply troubled—playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles' skid row, he finds it impossible to walk away. More than thirty years earlier, Ayers had been a promising classical bass student at Juilliard—ambitious, charming, and also one of the few African-Americans-until

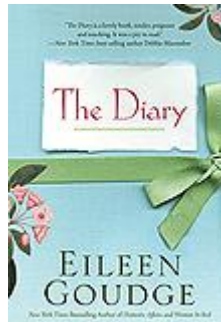


Alexander McCall Smith's ***The Miracle at Speedy Motors*** is the ninth installment in the acclaimed **No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** series. It begins as Mma Ramotswe's invaluable, but sometimes prickly, assistant, Grace Makutsi, opens an unsigned letter with a threatening message. More troubling issues follow, but as always, Mma Ramotswe finds the cleverest, kindest ways to resolve the problems. In the end, she discovers that the biggest miracles in life are often the small ones.

The **No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** series is currently showing on HBO, starring Jill Scott (Precious Ramotswe), Anika Noni Rose (Grace Makutsi), Lucian Msamati (J. L. B. Matekoni) and Desmond Dube (B K). Please check local listings.

Mother's Day Choice

An original and emotional novel, perfect for Mother's Day, from *New York Times* bestselling author Eileen Goudge - ***The Diary***. When the two grown daughters of Elizabeth Marshall discover an old diary of their mother's in her attic, it comes as a shock to learn that the true love of Elizabeth's life was not their father. This is the mystery the two daughters must unravel as they stay up late reading the words penned by Elizabeth so long ago. ***The Diary*** is a love story. It's also the story of the unshakable bond between a mother and her daughters.



Super Sleepover Replay

Mother-Daughter book clubs, if you missed the Allie Finkle Super Sleepover event last month and would like to see a replay, [click here](#).

An Expansive Saga of Redemption

he gradually lost his ability to function, overcome by schizophrenia.

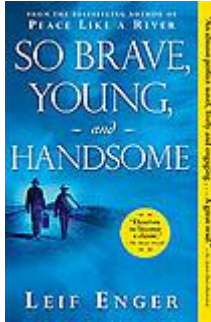
The Soloist, the movie, will be released April 24th, starring Robert Downey, Jr. and Jamie Foxx. Don't let your group miss it - or this month's Music-by-the-Book, in which Tom Moon, **Reading Group Choices'** Music-by-the-Book Consultant and author of ***1000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die***, chats about ***The Soloist's*** music!

The Soloist is the perfect book, movie, and music reading group pick!

Music-by-the-Book!

[Watch the Trailer](#)

A Lion Called Christian



Now in paperback, Leif Enger's **So Brave, Young, and Handsome** tells a tale of an old cowboy who seeks forgiveness from his estranged wife as he tries to shake a pursuing Pinkerton detective. It is about an ordinary man's determination as he risks everything in order to understand what it's all worth, and follows an unlikely dream in the hope it will lead him back home.

Publishers Weekly says, "[It is an] expansive saga of redemption in the early twentieth century West and gives a teeming vitality to [the] period."

Enter for a Chance to Win a Copy

April Is Poetry Month

"Poetry's not boring; old-fashioned; contemptible; Just try it this month-you'll find it's discussible!"

-Anonymous

Though they may criticize the pentameter of Anonymous' quote, they won't argue with the sentiment. **The Hingham Poetry Study Group** has been enhancing the reading of poetry, both privately and in a poetry reading group since 1949. That may make it one of the oldest poetry book clubs in America. Listen to one of its members comment on the experience.

"One of the things I enjoy most about this group is the chance to go deeper into a poet's work than I can by reading alone, and I have learned about so many poets. Our members range in age from the 50s through the 90s, and one member of the original group is still active in the group. Our conversations-and sometimes differing viewpoints-are so engaging and stimulating; this group really offers a model for me of life-long learning."

Does that sound like your reading group? If so, you may be interested in **The Poetry Book Club**, a resource inspired by the proliferation of book groups. Poetry.org has created a website with where-to-begin suggestions, ideas for formats, and reading lists by contemporary poets.



THE STORY BEHIND THE YOUTUBE SENSATION



Read about the true story of the remarkable bond between two friends and a lion.

Chances to Win Discussible Books

Turning Tables

So Brave, Young, and Handsome

15th Anniversary Book Pack

Choices

Spring Break

"A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King."
-Emily Dickinson

Spring fever, spring break, -- just a little madness! And reading groups are mad about books! [Check your literary memory](#) in this "Spring in Literature" quiz from *The Guardian*.

Great Books Weekend in Chicago



To what extent does who we are determine what we see? Get to the bottom of this and other questions at [Great Books Chicago](#), May 1-3, 2009 at the DoubleTree Hotel (300 East Ohio Street, Chicago, IL). Join book group members from all over the country to spend a cultural weekend immersed in literature, art, theater, classical music, and discussions based on this year's theme, "*Eye of the Beholder*."

[Register Soon](#)

Space is limited! Visit greatbooks.org for more information or [email](#) or call Lindsay Tigue at 312-332-5870, ext. 259.

Your Own Discussible Choices

[Featured Books](#)

[What's New?](#)

[May We Recommend](#)

New Profiles of Discussible Books

[Sugar Queen](#)

[Somebody Else's Daughter](#)

New 1-On-One

[Jill Biolosky](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Congratulations to Debbie and **The Eclectic Readers' Book Club** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!

"Our book club recently read ***The Gargoyle*** by Andrew Davidson. We found this book to be a riveting read. Best of all, the book engendered very lively discussion. Our members argued about many aspects of this book - was it too graphic in its descriptions of grievous bodily injury; was it too literary; did it make sense from different character's perspectives and much more? While not all of us liked the book, we all agreed it was one of our best book club choices. We highly recommend this book to other reading groups."



Debbie, The Eclectic Readers' Book Club, Kamloops, British Columbia

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

e-Mail Best Practices Award



We are proud to announce that Constant Contact has named **Reading Group Choices** a 2008 Constant Contact All Star. The award is in recognition that **Reading Group Choices** maintained sound, permission-based e-mail list management throughout the year. Thanks to them and to you for making the award

possible.

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,



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