

# Bookaholics Book Club

#### January: A Walk Across the Sun by Corban Addison

After a tsunami rages through their coastal town and leaves sisters Ahalya and Sita orphaned and homeless, they are abducted by human traffickers. Halfway across the world, Thomas Clarke is facing his own personal and professional crises when he decides to pursue a pro bono sabbatical in India that leads him on an unforgettable journey through the underworld of modern slavery and into the darkest – and most resilient – corners of the human heart.

### February: The Magic Room by Jeffrey Zaslow

Illuminating the poignant aspects of a woman's journey to the altar, *The Magic Room* tells the stories of memorable women on the brink of commitment. Run by the same family for four generations, Becker's Bridal has witnessed transformations in how America views the institution of marriage: some of the shop's clientele are becoming stepmothers, some are older brides, some are pregnant. Shop owner Shelley has a special affection for all the brides, hoping their journeys will be easier than hers. Jeffrey Zaslow weaves their true stories using a reporter's research and a father's heart.

## March: The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom

The inventor of the world's first clock is punished for trying to measure God's greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of all who come after him seeking more days, more years. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, along with a magical hourglass and a mission: a chance to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people the true meaning of time.

# April: The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker

Julia, an average middle-schooler wakes one morning to discover the Earth's rotation has slowed overnight, making each new day several minutes longer than the last. Julia and the rest of the world gradually discover the effects of The Slowing – on gravity, on the environment, and on their lives – in this fascinating tale that is equal parts coming-of-age story, science fiction, and family drama.

#### May: The Bone Garden by Tess Gerritsen

In the present, in the backyard of Julia Hamill's old Boston house, a long-buried body is unearthed. In 1830, long before the invention of the term serial killer, medical student Norris Marshall is accused of being a mass murderer. To dig himself out from under suspicion, Norris seeks help from a fellow student, one Oliver Wendell Holmes. Together they pursue the cold-hearted killer, while, in the present day, Julia Hamill tries to find out the identity of the body buried in her backyard.

#### June: We Bought a Zoo by Benjamin Mee

When Benjamin Mee decided to uproot his family and move them to an unlikely new home—a dilapidated zoo where more than 200 exotic animals would be their new neighbors—his friends and colleagues thought he was crazy. But, Mee had a dream to refurbish the zoo and run it as a family business. Before the dream could be realized, however, the Mees would face tragedy and have to learn of the healing power of family and of the animals they had grown to love.

#### July: **No Meeting**

#### August: This Beautiful Life by Helen Schulman

This topical story about a family torn apart when their 15-year old son receives a private video from a younger admirer, and then sends it to a trusted friend raises tough questions about child rearing, morality, privacy, and the sacrifices and choices we make in the name of love.

# September: The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

The Other Wes Moore traces the lives of two boys with the same name, born a year apart in the same community, describing how the author grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, White House Fellow, and business leader, while his counterpart led a life of violence and imprisonment.

## October: Blue Asylum by Kathy Hepinstall

Amid the mayhem of the Civil War, Iris Dunleavy is put on trial by her husband, convicted of madness, and sent to Sanibel Asylum to be restored to a compliant Virginia plantation wife. In the asylum Iris meets a wonderful collection of inmates in various states of sanity, including Ambrose Weller, a Confederate soldier haunted by war. The struggles of these characters are set against the rigidity of a traditional Southern society and the brutality of war in an absorbing story that explores both the rewards and perils of love, pride, and sanity itself.

#### November: Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Alice Howland is a celebrated Harvard professor at the height of her career when she notices a forgetfulness creeping into her life. As confusion starts to cloud her thinking and her memory begins to fail her, she receives a devastating diagnosis: early onset Alzheimer's disease. Fiercely independent, Alice struggles to maintain her lifestyle and live in the moment, ever as her sense of self is being stripped away.