

# **Bookaholics Book Club**

# 2015

#### January: Wonder by R.J. Palacio

In this powerful debut, we meet Auggie Pullman, a child born with a jarring facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. The events that follow provide a subtle lesson on the meanings and possibilities of kindness.

#### February: Anne Perry & the Murder of the Century by Peter Graham

On June 22, 1954, teenage friends Juliet Hulme—better known as bestselling mystery writer Anne Perry—and Pauline Parker went for a walk in a New Zealand park with Pauline's mother. Half an hour later, the girls returned alone, claiming that Pauline's mother had had an accident. But when Honora Parker was found in a pool of blood with the brick used to bludgeon her to death close at hand, Juliet and Pauline were quickly arrested, and later confessed to the killing. This engaging true story details the young girls' interwoven lives, the crime, and the trial that followed.

March: **The Leftovers by Tom Perrotta** On October 14th, the little town of Mapleton suffered the Sudden Departure, the still unexplained disappearance of many of its citizens. Through the prism of a single family, Perrotta illuminates a familiar America made strange by grief and apocalyptic anxiety. *The Leftovers* is a powerful and deeply moving book about regular people struggling to hold onto a belief in their futures.

April: In the Sanctuary of Outcasts by Neil White After being convicted of bank fraud, Neil White found himself in a federal prison. But it was no ordinary prison. The beautiful, isolated colony was also home to the last people in the continental United States disfigured by leprosy. Amid an unlikely mix of leprosy patients, nuns, and criminals, White's strange and compelling new life journey began.

# May: Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan

After losing his job, Clay Jannon lands in the strange, shelf-lined world of Mr. Penumbra's San Francisco 24-hour bookstore. It doesn't take the new night clerk long to realize that its few customers are even weirder than the concept of a bookshop that never closes: They never buy anything, but they keep busy during their frequent visits perusing its obscure volumes, but to what purpose?

# June: Missing You by Harlan Coben

For NYPD detective Kat Donovan, it was déjà vu and one big punch. The face staring back at her on the dating website was her ex-fiancé Jeff, the man who left her emotionally sprawling eighteen years before. What begins, however, as an attempt at reconciliation or healing becomes something far more challenging as Kat gains her first glimpses into a deadly realm where the ruthless feed upon the weak.

### July: Best and Worst of 2015

### August: Turnabout by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Melly and Anny Beth have lived long and full lives. But when offered the chance to be young again by participating in the top-secret Project Turnabout, they agree. They receive injections that make them grow younger, but something goes wrong, and the reversal can't be halted. As the years roll on, the women have "unaged" back into teenagers, and they realize they will soon be too young to take care of themselves.

### September: Five Days Left by Julie Lawson Timmer

Mara is a successful lawyer, wife, and mother who has received a life-shattering diagnosis. Scott has been fostering an eight-year-old boy while the boy's mother serves a jail sentence. Scott and Mara both have five days left to say good-bye to the ones they love the most. Their stories explore the limits of endurance and the power of relationships, and show that sometimes loving someone means holding on, and sometimes it means letting go.

#### October: Room by Emma Donoghue

The story of a young boy called Jack, who lives in a single room with his Ma and has never been outside. When he turns five, he starts to ask questions, and his mother reveals to him that there is a world beyond the walls.

### November: The Underground Girls of Kabul by Jenny Nordberg

In Afghanistan, a culture ruled almost entirely by men, the birth of a son is cause for celebration and the arrival of a daughter is often mourned as misfortune. A *bacha posh* is a third kind of child – a girl temporarily raised as a boy and presented as such to the outside world. Nordberg constructs a powerful account of those secretly living on the other side of a deeply segregated society.