

Bookaholics Book Club 2016

January: Goodnight June by Sarah Jio

June Andersen is unexpectedly called to settle her great-aunt Ruby's estate and determine the fate of Bluebird Books, the children's bookstore Ruby founded in the 1940s. Amidst the store's papers, June stumbles upon letters between her great-aunt and the late Margaret Wise Brown, author of the beloved picture book "Goodnight Moon" — and steps into the pages of American literature.

February: The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

Don Tillman is a brilliant yet socially challenged professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. And so, in the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers. Rosie Jarman is all these things. She also is strangely beguiling, fiery, and intelligent. And while Don quickly disqualifies her as a candidate for the Wife Project, as a DNA expert Don is particularly suited to help Rosie on her own quest: identifying her biological father.

March: *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has never been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex–Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is.

April: Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Set in the time after a devastating flu pandemic ends civilization as we know it, this is a spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic troupe of actors and musicians roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

May: Burnt Toast Makes You Sing Good by Kathleen Flinn

A 2015 Michigan Notable Book, Flinn's multi-generational memoir begins with her great-grandmother arriving at Ellis Island from Sweden in 1890. The 17-year-old travels alone, carrying a single suitcase, an English phrase book, and the equivalent of \$36 in today's currency. She makes her way to family friends in Michigan where, with few other options, she becomes a cook. Thus begins three generations who cook for love or for passion (and sometimes both). This book looks at how cooking shaped three generations in the Midwest, with a bit of bigamy and bootlegging thrown in to keep things interesting.

June: The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

The story of the 1936 U.S. men's Olympic eight-oar rowing team—nine working class boys who stormed the rowing world, transformed the sport, and galvanized the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers from the American West, the boys took on and defeated elite eastern universities; they defeated the sons of British aristocrats rowing for Oxford and Cambridge; and finally, in an extraordinary race in Berlin they stunned the Aryan sons of the Nazi state as they rowed for gold in front of Adolf Hitler.

July: Best and Worst of 2015

August: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Despite being condemned as a traitor to his people and enduring great tragedies, Junior attacks life with wit and humor and discovers strength inside of himself that he never knew existed.

September: *The Charm Bracelet* by Viola Shipman

For every birthday Lolly's mother gave her a charm with the advice that there is nothing more important than keeping family memories alive and Lolly's charm bracelet would be a constant reminder of that love. Now seventy and starting to forget things, Lolly knows time is running out to reconnect with a daughter and granddaughter whose lives have become too busy for Lolly or her family stories. Through an heirloom charm bracelet three women will rediscover the importance of family and a passion for living as each charm changes their lives.

October: The Secret History by Donna Tartt

Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality they slip gradually from obsession to corruption and betrayal, and at last - inexorably - into evil.

November: Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

David Sedaris' move to Paris from New York inspired these hilarious pieces, including the title essay, about his attempts to learn French from a sadistic teacher who declares that "every day spent with you is like having a caesarean section." His family is another inspiration. "You Can't Kill the Rooster" is a portrait of his brother, who talks incessant hip-hop slang to his bewildered father. And no one hones a finer fury in response to such modern annoyances as restaurant meals presented in ludicrous towers of food and cashiers with six-inch fingernails.