



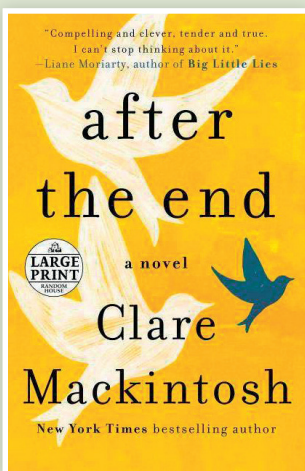
Book Club recommendations for 2020



There is something very satisfying about being part of a Book Club. Whether it is sharing interesting books, spending time with like-minded people, or just being challenged to go outside your comfort zone, a bookclub is always one event we would not miss for anything!

rooms in Moscow, and from the compounds of the Communist elite in Beijing to the corridors of power in democratic Taiwan. In a group biography of three sisters: Ching-ling, Ei-ling and May-ling Soong, that is by turns intimate and epic, Jung Chang reveals the lives of three extraordinary women who helped shape twentieth-century China.

After the End by Clare Mackintosh

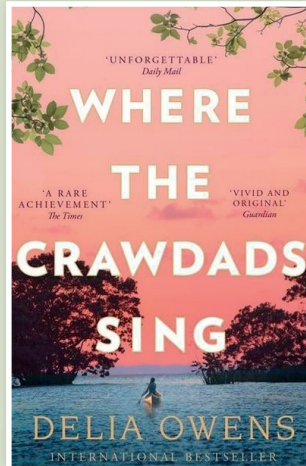


Max and Pip are the strongest couple you know. They're best friends, lovers—unshakable. But then their son gets sick and the doctors put the question of his survival into their hands. For the first time, Max and Pip can't agree. They each want a different future for their son. What if they could have both?

A gripping and propulsive exploration of love, marriage, Max and Pip are the strongest couple you know. They're best friends, lovers—unshakable. But then their son gets sick and the doctors put the question of his survival into their hands. For the first time, Max and Pip can't agree. A gripping and propulsive exploration of love, marriage, parenthood, and the road not taken.

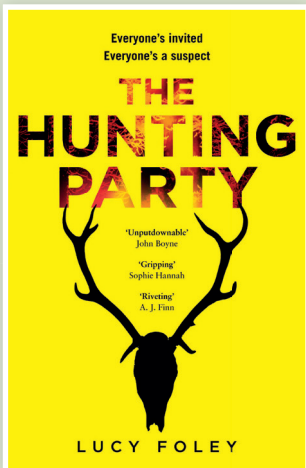
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

For years, rumours of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So, in late



1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home. Two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

The Hunting Party by Lucy Foley



For fans of Ruth Ware and Tana French, a shivery, atmospheric, page-turning novel of psychological suspense in the tradition of Agatha Christie, in which a group of old college friends are snowed in at a hunting lodge . . . and murder and mayhem ensue.

All of them are friends. One of them is a killer. Keep your friends close, the old adage goes. But just how close is too close? Place "The hunting party" here taken.

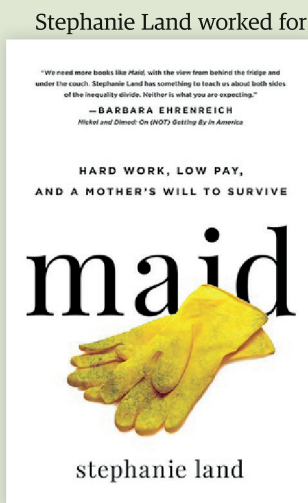
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Abandoned by his parents, but kept on the straight and narrow by his grandmother, Elwood Curtis is about to enroll in



the local black college. But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South in the early 1960s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy the future. Elwood is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called The Nickel Academy. Based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for one hundred and eleven years and warped the lives of thousands of children, The Nickel Boys is a devastating, driven narrative.

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive By Stephanie Land

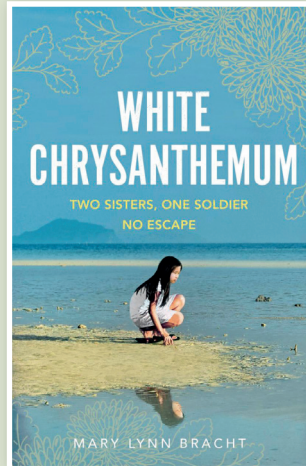


years as a maid, pulling long hours while struggling as a single mom to keep a roof over her daughter's head. In Maid, she reveals the dark truth of what it takes to survive and thrive in today's inequitable society.

Written in honest, heart-rending prose and with great insight, Maid explores the underbelly of upper-middle class America and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. With this book, she gives voice to the "servant" worker, those who fight daily to scramble and scrape by for their own lives and the lives of their children.

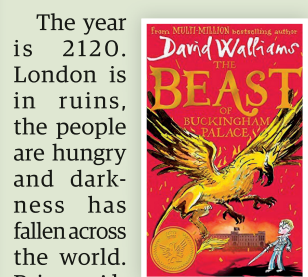
White Chrysanthemum by Mary Lynn Bracht

The heartbreaking history of Korea is brought to life in this deeply moving and redemptive debut that follows two



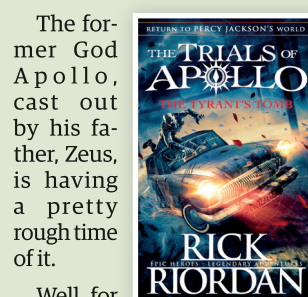
sisters separated by World War II. Korea, 1943. Hana has lived her entire life under Japanese occupation. She enjoys an independence that few other Koreans can still claim. Until the day Hana saves her younger sister and is captured and transported to Manchuria. Emi has spent more than sixty years trying to forget the sacrifice her sister made, but she must confront the past to discover peace. Suspenseful, hopeful, and ultimately redemptive, White Chrysanthemum tells a story of two sisters whose love for each other is strong enough to triumph over adversity.

Children's recommendations: The Beast of Buckingham Palace by David Walliams



The year is 2120. London is in ruins, the people are hungry and darkness has fallen across the world. Prince Alfred, a sickly boy of twelve, has never known life outside Buckingham Palace. But evil forces are at work, and soon Alfred must do battle with the King of the Beasts - the Griffin...

The Tyrant's Tomb by Rick Riordan



The former God Apollo, cast out by his father, Zeus, is having a pretty rough time of it. Well, for one thing, he's called Lester. But being an awkward mortal teenager is the least of his worries!

The Secret commonwealth by Philip Pullman

The Secret Commonwealth is truly a book for our times; a powerful adventure and a thought-provoking look at what it is to understand yourself, to grow up and make sense of the world around you. This is storytelling at its very best from one of our greatest writers.

The Wicked King by Holly Black

Number 1 New York Times best-seller and winner of the Best YA Fantasy Category in the Goodreads Choice Awards. An intoxicating and bloodthirsty sequel to the New York Times bestselling The Cruel Prince., nominated for the CILIP CARNEGIE MEDAL 2019.

Diary of an awesome Friendly kid by Jeff Kinney

Hi my name is Rowley Jefferson and this is my book. Now I have a diary just like my friend Greg... Rowley's best friend Greg Heffley has chronicled his middle-school years in thirteen Diary of a Wimpy Kid journals. Now it's Rowley's turn to give his side of the story!

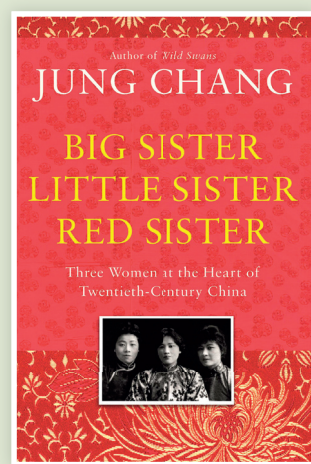
Sign Up Month at Kilkenny Library



February is sign up month in Kilkenny, and we invite everyone to take advantage of our free membership and join (or re-join!) their local library. Membership is free of charge, and gives you access to over 12 million books, ebooks, dvds and much more all over Ireland! Everyone that visits their local library will be entered into a raffle for a meal for two, so check out our opening hours on www.kilkennylibrary.ie and see what we have to offer!



We have 8 adult bookclubs in our libraries, the longest being in existence for 17 years! We would like to share a few books which have been recommended by some of our readers.



Big sister, little sister, red sister by Jung Chang.

This is a gripping story of love, war, intrigue, bravery, glamour and betrayal, which takes us on a sweeping journey from Canton to Hawaii to New York, from exiles' quarters in Japan and Berlin to secret meeting