

Book Discussion Kits

Beaumont Public Library System

Addition: a novel by Toni Jordan

"I loved this book so much that I wanted to keep holding it & reliving the pleasure of reading it! Grace has a obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) & needs to count everything, including how many bristles are on her toothbrush (1,768). When she meets a man in a grocery store & steals the banana from his basket, her reclusive life begins to turn upside down as she decides to combat her disorder. Sharp wit is abundant & you will cheer for these wonderful characters. This is as compelling to read as Grace's need to count, & I highly recommend it to all. Reading groups will have a heyday with this one!" – Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM

Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

Harvard Symbologist professor is taken to the Swiss research center – CERN to interpret a symbol burned into a noted researcher's chest. He fears the Illuminati have resurfaced after hundreds of years. He and the daughter of the researcher search Rome for a stolen capsule that can destroy the center of Christendom.

[Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

Beach House by Jane Green

Nan Powell is a free-spirited, 65-year-old widow who's not above skinny-dipping in her neighbors' pools when they are away & who dearly loves her Nantucket home. But when she discovers that the money she thought would last forever is dwindling, she realizes she must make drastic changes to save her beloved house. So Nan takes out an ad: *Rooms for rent for the summer in beautiful old Nantucket home with water views & direct access to the beach*. Slowly people start moving into the house, filling it with noise, laughter, & with tears. As the house becomes alive again, Nan finds her family & friends expanding. Her son comes home for the summer, & then an unexpected visitor turns their lives upside down. [Coming soon to the Beaumont Public Library](#)

The Black Dahlia by James Ellroy

The Black Dahlia by James Ellroy is an exquisitely written book of murder and obsession that takes the true details of the unsolved 1947 Elizabeth Short murder and creates a fictional story of a police detective determined to solve the case. *The Black Dahlia* is a page turning mystery novel, but it is also much more. Ellroy uses the story to delve into the dark recesses of the human psyche and force the reader to deal with obsession, evil, right and wrong. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

Cane River by Lalita Tademy

Based on the author's research into her family history from slavery to freedom she presents four strong women who shaped and protected their families during slavery and afterward. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

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Chocolate Snowman Murders by JoAnna Carl

Lee McKinney Woodyard, the business manager of TenHuis Chocolate, has agreed to serve as the treasurer for the annual Warner Pier, Mich., WinterFest. After a juror for the festival's art show cancels, Lee goes to the airport to pick up the replacement, Fletcher Mendenhall, who arrives obnoxiously drunk. Then Mendenhall is found dead the next morning in his motel. The police believe that Lee and her husband are murderers. It is up to them to prove their innocence. There is chocolate trivia throughout the book. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

A Conspiracy of Paper by David Liss

This is a historical novel taking place in early 1700's London. The main character Benjamin Weaver, is a Jew who has been estranged from his faith and his family for about ten years. He was a professional boxer until injured so he couldn't box professionally and is now an investigator. He investigates his father's death and so becomes involved in investigating the South Sea Bubble, which was the first stock market bubble. The book has mystery and romance as well as lot of historical information. [Available at the Miller Library](#)

Dies the Fire by S. M. Sterling

A novel that takes place in the near future. It starts when suddenly there is a change in the world and all the power disappears. The people slowly discover that the laws of physics don't work the same way anymore and gunpowder doesn't work and neither does electricity or the internal combustion engine. It tells how several groups of people react to this, what they do to survive and make a new culture for themselves. [Available at the Miller Library](#)

Faith Under Fire: an Army Chaplain's Memoir by Roger Benimoff with Eve Conant

A moving Chronicle of an army chaplain's spiritual journey through war, homecoming, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, & the process to believe again. Drawing on heart-wrenching excerpts from his journal, as well as his wife's, *Faith Under Fire* follows Benimoff from Iraq back home, where he slowly faces the reality that's been held in his diary all along, reconciles his doubt with his faith, & finds God in his heart once again. [Coming soon to the Beaumont Public Library](#)

The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson

The Gargoyle is the mesmerizing story of one man's descent into personal hell & his quest for salvation. On a dark road in the middle of the night, a car plunges into a ravine. The driver survives the crash, but his injuries confine him to a hospital burn unit. There the mysterious Marianne Engel, a sculptress of grotesques, enters his life. She insists they were lovers in medieval Germany, when he was a mercenary & she was a scribe in the monastery of Engelthal. As she spins the story of their past lives together, the man's disbelief falters; soon, even the impossible can no longer be dismissed. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

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The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, & writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey? As Juliet & her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man & his friends. The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society – a book club is born as a spur-of-the-moment alibi when its members were discovered breaking curfew by the Germans occupying their island – boasts an outstanding cast of characters, from pig farmers to phrenologists, literature lovers all. Juliet knows she has found the subject of her book, & possibly much more, & sets sail for Guernsey, changing the course of her life forever. [Coming to the Beaumont Public Library](#)

Handle with Care by Jodi Picoult

Handle with Care by Jodi Picoult is the story of a family with two daughters. The second, Willow, was born with brittle bone disease, a condition that makes her bones break easily and that limits her height and movement. When Willow is four, her parents decide to sue their OB for "wrongful birth," claiming that Willow's condition should have been diagnosed earlier in the pregnancy so that they could have had an abortion. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

Having Our Say: the Delaney Sister First 100 Years by Sarah & Elizabeth Delaney

Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delany, better known as Sadie and Bessie, were the second and third of ten children born to a former slave father and a mixed-race mother. Sadie and Bessie first became teachers in order to raise money to further their education. They gravitated to Harlem to join older siblings, the Jazz Age elite, and a developing black intelligensia. Always working, always struggling the sisters chose careers over marriage. Following the footsteps of their father, who became the first African American to be elected bishop in the Episcopal Church, Sadie received a master's degree from Columbia University and became the first black woman to teach domestic science in the New York School system while Bessie became only the second black woman to become a licensed dentist in New York state. At the age of more than one hundred years each, Sadie and Bessie retell their life story with humor and conviction. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

Here Burns My Candle: a novel by Liz Curtis

Lady Elizabeth Kerr is a keeper of secrets & desperate to conceal a generations-old scandal that taints her family's name. One-by-one, the Kerr family secrets begin to surface, even as bonny Prince Charlie & his rebel army ride into Edinburgh, intent on capturing the crown. A timeless story of love & betrayal, loss & redemption, it illuminates the dark side of human nature, even as hope, the brightest of tapers, lights the way home.

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Home Repair by Liz Rosenberg

Can lightning really strike twice? Just ask Eve, whose husband walks out on her in the middle of a garage sale. Now Eve is left to contend with 2 growing children, & an elderly, well-meaning & stubborn mother who rushes to “help.” Filled with equal measure of hilarity & heartbreak (including some “heartbreak diet” tips along the way). A poignant, lovely, funny, & ultimately uplifting story of love, family, & survival, Liz Rosenberg’s *Home Repair* is an unforgettable introduction to a lyrical, wise, & wonderfully vibrant new literary voice. **Coming Soon to the Beaumont Public Library**

The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry

Can you read your future in a piece of lace? All of the Whitney women can. But the last time Towner read, it killed her sister and nearly robbed Towner of her own sanity. Vowing never to read lace again, her resolve is tested when faced with the mysterious, unsolvable disappearance of her beloved Great Aunt Eva, Salem's original Lace Reader. Told from opposing and often unreliable perspectives, the story engages the reader's own beliefs. Should we listen to Towner, who may be losing her mind for the second time? Or should we believe John Rafferty, a no nonsense New York detective, who ran away from the city to a simpler place only to find himself inextricably involved in a psychic tug of war with all three generations of Whitney women? Does either have the whole story? Or does the truth lie somewhere in the swirling pattern of the lace? **Available at the Beaumont Public Library**

Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life by Queen Noor of Jordan.

Queen Noor was born and raised as an American, but she met King Hussein of Jordan. He made her his queen. This is the story of her life. **Available at the Miller Library**

Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold

The narrator of *The Lovely Bones*, Susie Salmon, is a normal fourteen year-old girl. She has just received her first kiss and is looking forward to going to high school next year. She is on her way home from school when she is stopped by a man who wants to show her something in the cornfield. Susie thinks she can trust this man because he is a neighbor who knows her parents. Unfortunately, this man, George Harvey, is a serial killer who rapes and murders Susie. Susie keeps an eye on her family and killer from heaven. In heaven, Susie meets and learns the stories of all of his victims. She sees Harvey hide her body, lie to her father and the police, and run from the crimes he has committed. Susie wants to help the living apprehend her killer, but can only watch as the police and her family try to gather evidence and find her murderer. Through the experiences of the Salmon family in *The Lovely Bones*, readers can examine their own feelings and reactions to loss and mourning. Can something good come from a horrible tragedy? Can healing come from a place of tremendous violence and despair?

Available from the Beaumont Public Library - Downtown

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Lust for Life by Irving Stone

A biographical novel of Vincent Van Gogh. [Available at the Miller Library](#)

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden is a novel that reads like a memoir. Although *Memoirs of a Geisha* is not based on one person's story, it provides insight into Japanese culture and the lives of geisha at the beginning of the twentieth century. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

My Grandfather's Son by Clarence Thomas

In *My Grandfather's Son*, Thomas chronicles his life up to the point where he is sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Abandoned by his father, Thomas writes about the life lessons learned from his grandfather, who raised him. He also openly discusses the highs and lows of his path to the Supreme Court, even admitting he pondered suicide during his troubled first marriage after his grandparents passed. Thomas then lashes out at the liberals who criticized many of his conservative policies over the years. Most notably, he addresses the Anita Hill sexual harassment charges which damaged his career.

The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court by Jeffrey Toobin

This is a nonfiction book about the Supreme Court when Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was on it. It discusses the justices, their interaction and how cases were decided. [Available at the Miller Library](#)

No Way to Treat a First Lady by Christopher Buckley

The setting of the novel is Washington, D.C. The President of the United States cheats on his wife. One night he comes in late and they have a major fight, yelling so the Secret Service can hear them down the hall. The first lady throws something at the President; he falls against something and dies. The first lady is arrested for murder. She calls the best defense attorney in the country, who happens to be an old boy friend that she jilted for the president. [Available at the Miller Library](#)

Red River by Lalita Tademy

Tademy again fictionalized her family history with the struggle of three extraordinary generations of African-American men who fight brutal injustice and shattered promises into a limitless future for their children. For the newly-freed black residents of Colfax, Louisiana, the beginning of Reconstruction promised them the right to vote, own property-and at last control their own lives but this was destroyed in one day. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

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Say Your One of Them by Uwen Akpan

The inside scoop from The Washington Post is that Oprah's most recent pick is Nigerian author Uwen Akpan's *Say You're One Of Them*, a collection of short stories that takes the reader on a journey to Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Benin and Nigeria. Through Akpan's powerful stories, readers will be able to better conceptualize the multitude of important issues facing Africans. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

The Shack by William P. Young

The Shack is a story about Mack, a man whose daughter is kidnapped and brutally murdered. A few years after her murder, Mack receives an invitation from God to meet Him at the shack where they found his daughter's bloody clothes. Mack goes and works through the meaning of suffering as he spends the weekend with the Trinity, uniquely portrayed (God the Father is a large black woman, for instance). [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

Stones into Schools by Greg Mortenson

Stones into Schools describes Mortenson's continuing efforts to bring schools to remote arewas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. When a group of Kirghiz horsemen make the treacherous journey to Pakistan in 1999 to track down "Dr. Greg" and ask him to build a school in the far-flung and nearly inaccessible Wakhan Corridor of eastern Afghanistan, Mortenson agrees without realizing the ramifications. Over the next 10 years, he and the CAI's "Dirty Dozen"--twelve determined, dedicated men of different cultures, religions, and languages—got to know tribal leaders, negotiated with corrupt government officials, and swayed narrow-minded people to promote literacy and learning, especially among girls. Mortenson's CAI fervently believed that universal education was the Western world's best chance for quelling political instability and religious intolerance in the East. Before the decade ended, their efforts resulted in several schools--and even basic infrastructure.

The Story Sisters: a novel by Alice Hoffman

From the critically acclaimed author of the bestselling *The Third Angel* comes a storytelling masterpiece, the devastating & remarkable tale of 3 sisters who are lost & found, betrayed & rescued. At once a coming-of-age tale, a family saga, & a love story, this novel sifts through the miraculous & the mundane as the girls become women & their choices haunt them, change them, & finally redeem them. [Coming soon to the Beaumont Public Library](#)

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

is a rich story about secrets, ghosts, winter, books and family. *The Thirteenth Tale* is a book lover's book, with much of the action taking place in libraries and book stores, and the line between fact and fiction constantly blurred. It is hard to believe this is Setterfield's debut novel, for she makes the words come to life with such skill that some passages even gave me chills. [Available at the Beaumont Public Library](#)

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29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life by Cami Walker

One month after her wedding day, 33-year-old Cami Walker was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, & the life she knew changed forever. Cami was soon in & out of LA's emergency rooms with alarming frequency as she battled the neurological condition that left her barely able to walk & put enormous stress on her marriage. Each day brought new negative thoughts: *I'm going to end up in a wheelchair. Mark's probably going to leave me. My life is over. Why did this happen to me?* Then as a remedy to her condition, Cami received an uncommon prescription from a friend, an African medicine woman named Mbali Creazzo; Give 29 gifts in 29 days. The gifts could be anything, but their giving had to both authentic & mindful. At least one gift needed to be something she felt was scarce in her life. *29 Gifts* is Cami's poignant & unforgettable story of embracing the natural process of giving & receiving. [Coming to the Beaumont Public Library](#)