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Room Book Club
Discussion Guide

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KAEL SKYLAR

A Novel/ Canvas
 Longlisted for the Booker Prize 2021, a thrilling and heartbreaking story of love, family, survival and betrayal. 'A gorgeous, gripping read' Kamila Shamsie 'I'm blown away by it' Tessa Hadley 'The stuff of miracles' Bryan Washington Mehar, a young bride in rural Punjab, is trying to discover the identity of her new husband. It is 1929, and she and her sisters-in-law - married to three brothers in a single ceremony - spend their days hard at work on the family farm, sequestered from contact with the men. When Mehar develops a theory as to which of them is hers, a passion is ignited that will put

more than one life at risk. Spiralling around Mehar's story is that of a young man who in 1999 travels from England to the deserted sun-scorched farm. In flight from the traumas of his adolescence, he spends the summer in painful recovery, gathering strength for the journey home. 'Amazing storytelling...gripping and very moving' BBC Radio 4, Open Book 'A rare novel that makes you pause in its beauty' Sunday Telegraph 'Engrossing, intricate...devastating' Literary Review [Love Anthony](#) Tor Teen
 "Casts an enthralling spell, giving both characters and readers not only what they most want, but what they ultimately need." —Brunonia Barry, bestselling author of *The Lace Reader* When Alba Ashby, the youngest Ph.D. student at Cambridge University, suffers the Worst Event of Her Life, she finds herself at the

door of 11 Hope Street. There, a beautiful older woman named Peggy invites Alba to stay on the house's unusual conditions: she'll have ninety-nine nights, and no more, to turn her life around. Once inside, Alba discovers that 11 Hope Street is no ordinary house. Past residents include Virginia Woolf, Dorothy Parker, and Agatha Christie, who all stayed there at hopeless times in their lives and who still hang around—quite literally—in talking portraits on the walls. With their help Alba begins to piece her life back together and embarks on a journey that may save her life. Filled with a colorful, unforgettable cast of literary figures, *The House at the End of Hope Street* is a wholly imaginative novel of feminine wisdom and second chances, with just the right dash of magic.
A Novel Penguin
 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • From the

acclaimed author of *The Flight Attendant*: “Historical fiction at its best.... The book is a thriller in structure, and a real page-turner, the ending both unexpected and satisfying” (Diana Gabaldon, bestselling author of the *Outlander* series, *The Washington Post*). A young Puritan woman—faithful, resourceful, but afraid of the demons that dog her soul—plots her escape from a violent marriage in this riveting and propulsive novel of historical suspense. Boston, 1662. Mary Deerfield is twenty-four-years-old. Her skin is porcelain, her eyes delft blue, and in England she might have had many suitors. But here in the New World, amid this community of saints, Mary is the second wife of Thomas Deerfield, a man as cruel as he is powerful. When Thomas, prone to drunken rage, drives a three-tined fork into the back of Mary's hand, she resolves that she must divorce him to save her life. But in a world where every neighbor is watching for signs of the devil, a woman like Mary—a woman who harbors secret desires and finds it difficult to tolerate the brazen hypocrisy of so many men in the colony—soon becomes herself the object of suspicion and rumor. When tainted objects are discovered buried in Mary's garden, when a boy she has treated with herbs and simples dies, and when their servant girl runs screaming in fright from her home, Mary must fight to not only escape her marriage, but also the gallows. A twisting, tightly plotted novel of historical suspense from one of our greatest storytellers, *Hour of the Witch* is a timely and terrifying story of socially sanctioned brutality and the original American witch hunt.

Room for a Stranger MIRA

In Dublin, 1918, a maternity ward at the height of the Great Flu is a small world of work, risk, death, and unlooked-for love, in “Donoghue's best novel since *Room*” (Kirkus Reviews). In an Ireland doubly ravaged by war and disease, Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city center, where expectant mothers who have come down with the terrible new Flu are quarantined together. Into Julia's regimented world step two outsiders—Doctor Kathleen Lynn, a rumoured Rebel on the run from the police, and a young volunteer helper, Bridie Sweeney. In the darkness and intensity of this tiny ward, over three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways. They lose patients to this baffling pandemic, but they also shepherd new life into a fearful world. With tireless tenderness and humanity, carers and mothers alike somehow do their impossible work. In *The Pull of the Stars*,

Emma Donoghue once again finds the light in the darkness in this new classic of hope and survival against all odds.

Hour of the Witch Hogarth

Funny, clever, surreal, and thought-provoking, this Kafkaesque masterpiece introduces the unforgettable Bjorn, an exceptionally meticulous office worker striving to live life on his own terms. Bjorn is a compulsive, meticulous bureaucrat who discovers a secret room at the government office where he works—a secret room that no one else in his office will acknowledge. When Bjorn is in his room, what his co-workers see is him standing by the wall and staring off into space looking dazed, relaxed, and decidedly creepy. Bjorn's bizarre behavior eventually leads his co-workers to try and have him fired, but Bjorn will turn the tables on them with help from his secret room. Debut author Jonas Karlsson doesn't leave a word out of place in this brilliant, bizarre, delightful take on how far we will go—in a world ruled by conformity—to live an individual and examined life.

A Novel Simon and Schuster

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • READ WITH JENNA BOOK CLUB PICK AS FEATURED ON TODAY • “Make sure you have tissues handy when you read [this] sure-footed tearjerker” (NPR) about a young boy who must learn to go on after surviving tragedy Soon to be an Apple TV+ series starring Connie Britton, written and executive produced by Jason Katims (*Friday Night Lights* and *Parenthood*) NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *The Washington Post* • *Parade* • *LibraryReads* What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live? One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured veteran returning from Afghanistan, a business tycoon, and a free-spirited woman running away from her controlling husband. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor. Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place in a world without his family. He continues to feel that a part of himself has been left in the sky, forever tied to the plane and all of his fellow passengers. But then he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers of some of life's most profound questions: When you've lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe

again? How do you find meaning in your life? *Dear Edward* is at once a transcendent coming-of-age story, a multidimensional portrait of an unforgettable cast of characters, and a breathtaking illustration of all the ways a broken heart learns to love again. Praise for *Dear Edward* “Dear Edward made me think, nod in recognition, care about its characters, and cry, and you can't ask more of a novel than that.”—Emma Donoghue, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Room* “Weaving past and present into a profoundly beautiful, page-turning story of mystery, loss, and wonder, *Dear Edward* is a meditation on survival, but more important, it is about carving a life worth living. It is about love and hope and caring for others, and all the transitory moments that bind us together.”—Hannah Tinti, author of *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley* and *The Good Thief*

Room Little, Brown

Emily “Fido” Faithfull, a spinster pioneer in the British women's movement, is distracted from her cause by the details of her friend's failing marriage and affair with a young army officer, in this drama of friends, lovers, and divorce, Victorian style. By the author of *Slammerkin*. Reprint.

The Lincoln Highway Arrow

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Flight Attendant* comes the spellbinding tale of a party gone horribly wrong: two men lie dead in a suburban living room, two women are on the run from police, and a marriage is ripping apart at the seams. When Kristin Chapman agrees to let her husband, Richard, host his brother's bachelor party, she expects a certain amount of debauchery. She takes their young daughter to Manhattan for the evening, leaving her Westchester home to the men and their hired entertainment. What she does not expect is that the entertainment—two scared young women brought there by force—will kill their captors and drive off into the night. With their house now a crime scene, Kristin's and Richard's life spirals into nightmare. Kristin is unable to forgive her husband for his lapses in judgement, or for the moment he shared with a dark-haired girl in the guest room. But for the dark-haired girl, Alexandra, the danger is just beginning.

Carnegie's Maid Bloomsbury Publishing Parker Peevyhouse's *The Echo Room* is a smart, claustrophobic, speculative young adult thriller with an immersive psychological mystery. The only thing worse than being locked in is facing what you locked out. Rett Ward knows how to

hide. He's had six years of practice at Walling Home, the state-run boarding school where he learned how to keep his head down to survive. But when Rett wakes up locked in a small depot with no memory of how he got there, he can't hide. Not from the stranger in the next room. Or from the fact that there's someone else's blood on his jumpsuit. Worse, every time he tries to escape, he wakes up right back where he started. Same day, same stranger, same bloodstained jumpsuit. As memories start to surface, Rett realizes that the logo on the walls is familiar, the stranger isn't a stranger, and the blood on his jumpsuit belongs to someone—or something—banging on the door to get in. “The Maze Runner meets Memento in this clever, engrossing sci-fi mystery!” —New York Times bestselling author Jeanne Ryan “The Echo Room is just brilliant.... Full of twists and blinding turns. Peevyhouse is a master storyteller.” —New York Times bestselling author Brittany Cavallaro At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

The Farm Sourcebooks, Inc.

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! “If you liked *Where the Crawdads Sing*, you'll love *This Tender Land*...This story is as big-hearted as they come.” —Parade The unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, Odie O'Banion is an orphan confined to the Lincoln Indian Training School, a pitiless place where his lively nature earns him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee after committing a terrible crime, he and his brother, Albert, their best friend, Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Over the course of one summer, these four orphans journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

Leave the World Behind Penguin Longlisted for the 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award. From the winner of the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, this tender, moving portrait of an improbable friendship and multicultural Australia more broadly, is now available in

a new compact paperback edition.

A Novel Macmillan

A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick! Finalist for the 2020 National Book Award (Fiction) A Best Book of the Year From: The Washington Post * Time * NPR * Elle * Esquire * Kirkus * Library Journal * The Chicago Public Library * The New York Public Library * BookPage * The Globe and Mail * EW.com * The LA Times * USA Today * InStyle * The New Yorker * AARP * Publisher's Lunch * LitHub * Book Marks * Electric Literature * Brooklyn Based * The Boston Globe A magnetic novel about two families, strangers to each other, who are forced together on a long weekend gone terribly wrong. From the bestselling author of *Rich and Pretty* comes a suspenseful and provocative novel keenly attuned to the complexities of parenthood, race, and class. *Leave the World Behind* explores how our closest bonds are reshaped—and unexpected new ones are forged—in moments of crisis. Amanda and Clay head out to a remote corner of Long Island expecting a vacation: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, quality time with their teenage son and daughter, and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But a late-night knock on the door breaks the spell. Ruth and G. H. are an older couple—it's their house, and they've arrived in a panic. They bring the news that a sudden blackout has swept the city. But in this rural area—with the TV and internet now down, and no cell phone service—it's hard to know what to believe. Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple—and vice versa? What happened back in New York? Is the vacation home, isolated from civilization, a truly safe place for their families? And are they safe from one other?

The House We Grew Up In Pan Macmillan The New York Times and USA Today Bestseller! She possessed a stunning beauty. She also possessed a stunning mind. Could the world handle both? Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich's plans while at her husband's side, understanding more than anyone would guess. She devised a plan to flee in disguise from their castle, and the whirlwind escape landed her in Hollywood. She became Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept a secret more shocking than her heritage or her marriage: she was a scientist. And she knew a few secrets about the enemy. She had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis...if anyone would listen to

her. A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece.

The Outside World Dial Press Trade Paperback

From the bestselling author of *Still Alice* comes a heartfelt novel about friendship and a mother coping with the loss of her autistic son Olivia Donatelli's dream of a 'normal' life was shattered when her son, Anthony, was diagnosed with autism at age three. He didn't speak. He hated to be touched. He almost never made eye contact. And just as Olivia was starting to realize that happiness and autism could coexist, Anthony died. Now she's alone in a cottage on Nantucket, separated from her husband, desperate to understand the meaning of her son's short life, when a chance encounter with another woman facing her own loss brings Anthony alive again for Olivia in a most unexpected way. In a piercing story about motherhood, love and female friendship, Lisa Genova offers us two unforgettable women on the verge of change who discover the small but exuberant voice that helps them both find the answers they need. Fans of *The Reason I Jump* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* will love Lisa Genova's story: always authentic and utterly moving. *Remember how you couldn't put down *Still Alice*? Well, clear your schedule—because you're going to feel the same way! Jodi Picoult*

A Novel Anchor

Following his acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Did You Ever Have a Family*, Bill Clegg returns with a “delicate, deeply observed, and deftly crafted” (Nickolas Butler, author of *Shotgun Lovesongs*) second novel about the complicated bonds and breaking points of friendship, the corrosive forces of secrets, the heartbeat of longing, and the redemption found in forgiveness. A retired widow in rural Connecticut wakes to an unexpected visit from her childhood best friend whom she hasn't seen in forty-nine years. A man arrives at a Pennsylvania hotel to introduce his estranged father to his newborn daughter and finds him collapsed on the floor of the lobby. A sixty-seven-year-old taxi driver in Kauai receives a phone call from the mainland that jars her back to a traumatic past. These seemingly disconnected lives come together as half-century-old secrets begin to surface. It is in this moment that Bill Clegg reminds us how choices—to connect, to betray, to protect—become our legacy. “Written in

lyrical, beautiful prose that makes even waking up seem like a poetic event" (Good Morning America), this novel is a feat of storytelling, capturing sixty years within the framework of one fateful day.

A Novel Vintage

"From the author of *The Light Over London* and the "gripping, moving" (Kelly Rimmer) *The Whispers of War* comes a poignant and heartwrenching tale of five women in three eras, whose lives are tied together by one very special garden"--

It's Always the Husband HarperCollins

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A

TODAY Show Read with Jenna Book Club Pick A New York Times Notable Book, and Chosen by Oprah Daily, Time, NPR, The Washington Post and Barack Obama as a Best Book of the Year "Wise and wildly entertaining . . . permeated with light, wit, youth." —The New York Times Book Review "A classic that we will read for years to come." —Jenna Bush Hager, Read with Jenna book club "A real joyride . . . elegantly constructed and compulsively readable." —NPR The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* and master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction returns with a stylish and propulsive novel set in 1950s America In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York. Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

Hamnet St. Martin's Press

"An extraordinary novel . . . a triumph of insight and storytelling." —Associated Press "A true masterpiece." —Glennon Doyle, author of *Untamed* An extraordinary story set in the first century about a woman who finds her voice and

her destiny, from the celebrated number one New York Times bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Invention of Wings* In her mesmerizing fourth work of fiction, Sue Monk Kidd takes an audacious approach to history and brings her acclaimed narrative gifts to imagine the story of a young woman named Ana. Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, she is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything. Their marriage evolves with love and conflict, humor and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas. She is sustained by her fearless aunt Yaltha, who harbors a compelling secret. When Ana commits a brazen act that puts her in peril, she flees to Alexandria, where startling revelations and greater dangers unfold, and she finds refuge in unexpected surroundings. Ana determines her fate during a stunning convergence of events considered among the most impactful in human history. Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers.

A Spell of Winter Harper Collins

Life is a lucrative business, as long as you play by the rules... Ambitious businesswoman Mae Yu runs Golden Oaks - a luxury retreat transforming the fertility industry. There, women get the very best of everything: organic meals, fitness trainers, daily massages and big money. Provided they dedicate themselves to producing the perfect baby. For someone else. Jane is a young immigrant in search of a better future. Stuck living in a cramped dorm with her baby daughter and her shrewd aunt Ate, she sees an unmissable chance to change her life. But at what cost? Welcome to The Farm. 'The Handmaid's Tale of 2019' - Marie Claire

'Set to be one of the biggest books for 2019' - Stylist 'The debut to order now' - Sunday Times 'A firecracker of a novel' - Madeline Miller Chosen as a book of the summer by the Guardian, Telegraph, Evening Standard and Cosmopolitan

A Novel HarperCollins

"If you loved Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies*, put this thriller on the top of your list...you won't be sure "whodunit" until the very (shocking) end." —Today *Named one of "50 Best Books for the Beach" by Coastal Living *Named one of "7 Books You Won't Be Able to Put Down This Month" by InStyle *Named one of "6 Books to Cure Your Little Big Lies Withdrawal" by Elle.com *Named one of "20 Must-Read Books for Spring 2017" by Redbook *Named one of "8 Thrillers You Will Devour This Summer" by BuzzFeed Kate, Aubrey, and Jenny first met as college roommates and soon became inseparable, despite being as different as three women can be. Kate was beautiful, wild, wealthy, and damaged. Aubrey, on financial aid, came from a broken home, and wanted more than anything to distance herself from her past. And Jenny was a striver—brilliant, ambitious, and determined to succeed. As an unlikely friendship formed, the three of them swore they would always be there for each other. But twenty years later, one of them is standing at the edge of a bridge, and someone is urging her to jump. How did it come to this? Kate married the gorgeous party boy, Aubrey married up, and Jenny married the boy next door. But how can these three women love and hate each other? Can feelings this strong lead to murder? When one of them dies under mysterious circumstances, will everyone assume, as is often the case, that it's always the husband? A suspenseful, absorbing novel that examines the complexities of friendship, *It's Always the Husband* will keep readers guessing right up to its shocking conclusion. Praise for *It's Always the Husband*: "A page-turning whodunnit that will speak to anyone who's ever had a frenemy." —Ruth Ware, bestselling author of *The Woman in Cabin Ten* "This book is perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies*." —Redbook Magazine "Fans of Ruth Ware and Gillian Flynn meet your next obsession." —BuzzFeed "In the tradition of *Big Little Lies* comes the excellently titled *It's Always the Husband*, a thriller about three friends-frenemies, really—who met as college roommates." —New York Post

Best Sellers - Books :

• [The Inmate: A Gripping Psychological Thriller By Freida Mcfadden](#)

- [Tomorrow, And Tomorrow, And Tomorrow: A Novel](#)
- [The Summer I Turned Pretty \(summer I Turned Pretty, The\)](#)
- [If Animals Kissed Good Night By Ann Whitford Paul](#)
- [Jackie: Public, Private, Secret](#)
- [Never Lie: An Addictive Psychological Thriller](#)
- [8 Rules Of Love: How To Find It, Keep It, And Let It Go](#)
- [Ugly Love: A Novel](#)
- [Tucker](#)
- [House Of Flame And Shadow \(crescent City, 3\) By Sarah J. Maas](#)