

SWC Book Club Reading List 2025 - 2026

Book	Author	Description	Genre	Recommender
<i>Isola</i>	Allegra Goodman	A young woman and her lover are marooned on an island in this epic saga of love, faith, and defiance from the bestselling author of Sam.	Historical Fiction	Nan Healy
<i>My Friends</i>	Fredrik Backman	An unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later.	Fiction	Nan Healy Carolyn Derby
<i>Wild Dark Shore</i>	Charlotte McConaghy	A family on a remote island. A mysterious woman washed ashore. A rising storm on the horizon.	Fiction	Nan Healy Carolyn Derby
<i>Famous Last Words</i>	Gillian McAllister	An addictive thriller about a new mother's world that is upended when her husband commits a terrifying crime. How well does she truly know the man she loves? And what danger does she face if her entire life has been built on a lie?	Fiction	Nan Healy
<i>Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed and Lost Idealism</i>	Sarah Wynn-Williams	An explosive memoir charting one woman's career at the heart of one of the most influential companies on the planet, Careless People gives you a front-row seat to Facebook, the decisions that have shaped world events in last decades, and the people who made them.	Memoir	Nan Healy
<i>Broken Country</i>	Clare Leslie Hall	Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. A sweeping love story with the pace and twists of a thriller, Broken Country is a novel of simmering passion, impossible choices and explosive consequences.	Fiction	Carolyn Derby

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<i>The Phoenix Crown</i>	Kate Quinn, Janie Chang	San Francisco, 1906. In a city bustling with newly minted millionaires and scheming upstarts, two very different women hope to change their fortunes: Gemma, a golden-haired, silver-voiced soprano whose career desperately needs rekindling, and Suling, a petite and resolute Chinatown embroideress who is determined to escape an arranged marriage.	Historical Fiction	Carolyn Derby
<i>Yellow Wife</i>	Sadeqa Johnson	In the tradition of <i>Wench</i> and <i>Twelve Years a Slave</i> , this harrowing story follows an enslaved woman forced to barter love and freedom while living in the most infamous slave jail in Virginia.	Historical Fiction	Leigh Warren
<i>Happy Wife</i>	Meridith Lavender	A young woman must find her missing husband and prove her innocence in this twisty, unputdownable novel set in ultra wealthy Florida community where looks can kill.	Mystery	Leigh Warren
<i>The Secret Book Society</i>	Madeline Martin	London, 1895: Trapped by oppressive marriages and societal expectations, three women receive a mysterious invitation to an afternoon tea at the home of the reclusive Lady Duxbury. Beneath the genteel facade of the gathering lies a secret book club—a sanctuary where they can discover freedom, sisterhood, and the courage to rewrite their stories.	Fiction	Leigh Warren
<i>Theo of Golden</i>	Allen Levi	Theo, a mysterious stranger, arrives in a fictional Southern town of Golden. He embarks on a mission to buy pencil portraits from a local coffee shop and gift them to the people depicted, leading to the discovery of their stories, the formaion of new friendships, and the transformation of lives through his acts of creative generosity and anonymous kindness.	Fiction	Mary Lou Bannon

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<i>Project Hail Mary</i>	Andy Weir	Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and Earth itself will perish. All he knows is that he’s been asleep for a very, very long time. And he’s just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company.	Science Fiction	Lynn Ocken
<i>The Oligarch's Daughter</i>	Joseph Finder	Joseph Finder, a master of the modern thriller, returns with <i>The Oligarch’s Daughter</i> , a pulse-pounding, espionage-driven narrative that blends financial intrigue, Cold War echoes, and heart-stopping action.	Thriller	Lynn Ocken
<i>The Glassmaker</i>	Tracy Chevalier	Women are not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family from ruin. She works in secret, knowing her creations must be perfect to be accepted by men. But perfection may take a lifetime.	Historical Fiction	Lynn Ocken
<i>The Last Equation of Isaac Severy</i>	Nova Jacobs	The family patriarch, Isaac Severy, dies of an apparent suicide and leaves his adopted granddaughter the task of finding his final mathematical equation - the culmination of his life's work.	Mystery	Mary Carol Stearns
<i>The Magpie Murders</i>	Anthony Horowitz	Masterful, clever, and ruthlessly suspenseful, <i>Magpie Murders</i> is a deviously dark take of vintage crime fiction.	Mystery	Mary Carol Stearns
<i>Let's Call her Barbie</i>	Renee Rosen	The founder of Mattel, Ruth Handler is a complex inspiration for business, but not for parenting. Her two children, Barbara and Ken were strongly affected by her choices. This book tells the history of Mattel and Barbie.	Historical Fiction	Mary Carol Stearns

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<i>All the Colors of the Dark</i>	Chris Whitaker	When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted by a serial killer, the most unlikely hero emerges - Patch, a one-eyed boy who gets kidnapped when he is thirteen, and Saint, the steadfast best friend who saves his life.	Mystery	Melissa Jurgens
<i>The Monsters of Templeton</i>	Lauren Groff	In the wake of a wildly disastrous affair with her married archeology professor, Willie Upton arrives on the doorstep of her ancestral home in Templeton, New York, where her hippie-turned-born-again-Baptist mom, Vi, still lives. Willie expects to be able to hide in the place that has been home to her family for generations, but a monster's death changes the fabric of the quiet, picture-perfect town her ancestors founded.	Fiction	Melissa Jurgens
<i>Stoneyard Devotional</i>	Charlotte Wood	Burnt out and in need of retreat, a middle-aged woman leaves Sydney to return to the place she grew up, taking refuge in a small religious community hidden away on the stark plains of rural Australia. Meditative, moving, and finely observed, Stone Yard Devotional is a seminal novel from a writer of rare power, exploring what it means to retreat from the world, the true nature of forgiveness, and the sustained effect of grief on the human soul.	Fiction	Anne Morgan
<i>The Pole</i>	JM Coetzee	The Pole tells the story of Wittold Walccyzkiecz, a vigorous, extravagantly white-haired pianist and interpreter of Chopin who becomes infatuated with Beatriz, a stylish patron of the arts, after she helps organize his concert in Barcelona. Although Beatriz, a married woman, is initially unimpressed by Wittold and his "gleaming dentures," she soon finds herself pursued and ineluctably swept into his world.	Romance	Anne Morgan

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<i>City of Girls</i>	Elizabeth Gilbert	Beloved author Elizabeth Gilbert returns to fiction with a unique love story set in the New York City theater world during the 1940s. Told from the perspective of an older woman as she looks back on her youth with both pleasure and regret (but mostly pleasure), <i>City of Girls</i> explores themes of female sexuality and promiscuity, as well as the idiosyncrasies of true love.	Fiction	Anne Morgan
<i>Becoming Madam Secretary</i>	Stephanie Dray	Raised on tales of her revolutionary ancestors, Frances Perkins arrives in New York City at the turn of the century, armed with her trusty parasol and an unyielding determination to make a difference. Frances is destined to rise in a political world dominated by men, facing down the Great Depression as FDR's most trusted lieutenant.	Historical Fiction	Carol Hager
<i>The Girls in the Stilt House</i>	Kelly Mustian	Set in 1920s Mississippi, this debut Southern novel weaves a beautiful and harrowing story of two teenage girls cast in an unlikely partnership through murder—perfect for readers of <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> and <i>If the Creek Don't Rise</i> .	Fiction	Louisa Steinhoff
<i>So Big</i>	Edna Ferber	Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and widely considered to be Edna Ferber's greatest achievement, <i>So Big</i> is a classic novel of turn-of-the-century Chicago. It is the unforgettable story of Selina Peake DeJong, a gambler's daughter, and her struggles to stay afloat and maintain her dignity and her sanity in the face of marriage, widowhood, and single parenthood.	Fiction	Jill Mountan
<i>The Stone Diaries</i>	Carol Shields	The <i>Stone Diaries</i> is one ordinary woman's story of her journey through life. Born in 1905, Daisy Stone Goodwill drifts through the roles of child, wife, widow, and mother, and finally into her old age.	Fiction	Jill Mountan

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<i>Unless</i>	Carol Shields	Reta Winters, 44-year-old successful author of light summertime fiction, has always considered herself happy, even blessed. That is, until her oldest daughter Norah mysteriously drops out of college to become a panhandler on a Toronto street corner - silent, with a sign around her neck bearing the word "Goodness".	Fiction	Jill Mountan
<i>Keeper of Lost Things</i>	Ruth Hogan	A charming, clever, and quietly moving debut novel of of endless possibilities and joyful discoveries that explores the promises we make and break, losing and finding ourselves, the objects that hold magic and meaning for our lives, and the surprising connections that bind us.	Fiction	Anne Horton
<i>And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer</i>	Fredrik Backman	From the New York Times bestselling author of A Man Called Ove, My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry, and Britt-Marie Was Here comes an exquisitely moving portrait of an elderly man's struggle to hold on to his most precious memories, and his family's efforts to care for him even as they must find a way to let go.	Fiction	Anne Horton
<i>The 100-Year-Old Ma Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared</i>	Jonas Jonasson	After a long and eventful life, Allan Karlsson ends up in a nursing home, believing it to be his last stop. The only problem is that he's still in good health. A big celebration is in the works for his 100th birthday, but Allan really isn't interested (and he'd like a bit more control over his alcohol consumption), so he decides to escape.	Fiction	Anne Horton
<i>The Chelsea Girls</i>	Fiona Davis	The bright lights of the theater district, the glamour and danger of 1950s New York, and the wild scene at the iconic Chelsea Hotel come together in a dazzling new novel about the twenty-year friendship that will irrevocably change two women's lives.	Fiction	Frances Trotta