

All are welcome

Waltham Public Library

## 2015 Book Club

Thursday Evenings from 7:30 to 8:45 PM  
In the Trustees Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.



Books are available at the Main Circulation Desk during the month before the meeting.

For more information: Laura Bernheim, 781-314-3435; [lbernheim@minlib.net](mailto:lbernheim@minlib.net)

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[waltham.lib.ma.us/bookclub](http://waltham.lib.ma.us/bookclub)

### January 15

**Carlos Eire, *Waiting for Snow in Havana***

2003, 387 p.

"Carlos Eire's National Book Award-winning memoir of his childhood in 1950s Havana and the overnight upheaval of his world in January 1959, when the Batista government was toppled." -- *Novelist*

### February 19

**Donna Tartt, *The Secret History***

1992, 523 p.

"A transfer student from a small town in California, Richard Papen is determined to affect the ways of his Hampden College peers, and he begins his intense studies under the tutelage of eccentric Julian Morrow." - *Novelist*

### March 19

**Alice Hoffman, *The Dovekeepers***

2011, 504 p.

"A tale inspired by the tragic first-century massacre of hundreds of Jewish people at Masada presents the stories of a hated daughter, a baker's wife, a girl disguised as a warrior, and a medicine woman who keep doves and secrets while Roman soldiers drawnear."

- *Novelist*

### April 16

**W. Somerset Maugham, *The Razor's Edge***

1944, 314 p.

"In 1918, Larry Darrell returns home from World War I disillusioned with his materialistic society. The quest for inner peace leads Larry to reject his rich fiancée, Isabel, and go searching for truth in the Himalayas. But, Larry learns that the path to enlightenment is as painful and narrow as treading the sharp edge of a razor." - *Novelist*

### May 21

**Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland/Through the Looking Glass***

1865, 326 p.

"A little girl falls down a rabbit hole and discovers a world of nonsensical and amusing characters."

"In (the) sequel to "Alice in Wonderland" Alice goes through the mirror to find a strange world where curious adventures await her."

- *Novelist*

### June 18

**J.R. Moehringer, *The Tender Bar***

2005, 370 p.

"In a memoir of growing up with a single mother, the author describes how he received valuable life lessons and friendship from an assortment of characters at the neighborhood bar, who provided him with a kind of fatherhood by committee."

- *Novelist*

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## July 16

**O'Connor, Flannery, *Wise Blood***

1952, 236 p.

"Flannery O'Connor's astonishing and haunting first novel is a classic of twentieth-century literature. It is the story of Hazel Motes, a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his innate, desperate faith."

– *Novelist*

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## August 20

**Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake***

2003, 376 p.

"A novel of the future explores a world that has been devastated by ecological and scientific disasters." – *Novelist*

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## September 17

**Javier Marias, *The Infatuations***

2013, 337 p.

"Breakfasting daily at a Madrid café where she observes fellow patrons, Marâia Dolz offers condolences to a widow whose husband has been shockingly murdered, an act that leads to a new relationship and disturbing insights into the crime." – *Novelist*

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## October 15

**Gail Tsukiyama, *Women of the Silk***

1991, 278 p.

"Spanning the years between the world wars, this tale of a young Chinese girl forced to work in a silk factory describes the sisterhood of workers she discovers there."

– *Novelist*

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## November 19

**Nafisi Hajai, *The Writing on my Forehead***

2009, 308 p.

"Free-spirited and rebellious Muslim-American Saira Qader rejected the constricting notions of family, duty, obligation, and fate, choosing instead to become a journalist, but when tragedy strikes five years later Saira looks to the stories of those who came before—her grandparents, a beloved aunt, her mother and father—and discovers that choice is not always our own, and that faith is not just an intellectual preference."

– *Novelist*

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*The Waltham Public Library Book Club has been meeting for over 25 years. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, which are held one evening a month. People have come and gone over the years, with some being active members for 10 years or more. All are welcome to come for one discussion or many.*

*The lists are based on member suggestions and the library borrows extra copies from other libraries in our network. After reading the book, we meet to have a lively discussion. The discussions are informal and based on personal reactions rather than an academic approach.*

*The Book Club members are all ages and from varied backgrounds. They have in common an enjoyment of reading and the desire to share ideas about what they have read. Generally between 10 and 20 people attend a meeting.*

*We especially like to read books by authors we might miss without the encouragement of the club - American and foreign - historical and contemporary - famous and lesser known. We have discovered many satisfying books and new authors together.*

*For a list of books we have read in the past, see [waltham.lib.ma.us/bookclub](http://waltham.lib.ma.us/bookclub).*