



Annotated list of Book club titles 2011

Author	Title	Notes
ALBOM, Mitch	Five people you meet in heaven FIC	Original story of the afterlife and the meaning of our lives on earth.
ALLENDE, Isabel	Forest of the pygmies FIC	18-year-old Alexander Cold and his grandmother travel to Africa on an elephant-led safari, but discover a corrupt world of poaching and slavery.
AMSTERDAM, Steve	Things we didn't see coming FIC	Nine connected episodes follow the protagonist from childhood to fraught adulthood.
AYANOGLU, Byron	The taste of honey NON-FIC	A Greek island odyssey combining food, travel, crises and humour.
AZIZ, Christine	The olive readers FIC	Disturbing and imaginative vision of the future in which readers smuggle and store books in a secret library.
BARKER, Pat	Border crossing FIC	Psychological thriller that ponders the border between good and evil.
BARNES, Julian	Arthur and George FIC	Fictional and real life dramas involving Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji.
BARRY, Sebastian	The secret scripture FIC	A psychiatrist and his 100 year old patient reminisce about the past, their hopes and losses as their crumbling mental hospital faces closure.
BAUBY, Jean Dominique	The diving bell and the butterfly NON-FIC	Struck down with a stroke that reduced communication to blinking an eye, this is the memoir is a work of images, memories, fantasy and love, and a testament to the beauty of the human spirit.
BAUER, Jon	Rocks in the belly FIC	The story of an eight year old and the adult he becomes; and the destruction we wreak on each other in the pursuit of our own happiness.
BAYLEY, John	Iris: a memoir of Iris Murdoch NON-FIC	Celebration of Iris's life, the love they shared, and her affliction with Alzheimer's disease.
BLAKE, Sarah	The postmistress FIC	Set in World War 2 the actions of a Cape Cod postmistress reverberate throughout her small community.

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BOYNE, John	The boy in the striped pyjamas FIC	Tale about the death camps, with a twist.
BRETT, Lily	You gotta have balls FIC	Anxious Ruth and her exuberant father, a Holocaust survivor, both find passion and meaning in their lives. Meatballs feature.
BROOKES, Geraldine	People of the book FIC	Based on the true story of the survival of a rare illustrated Jewish book, the Sarajevo Haggadah, as it travels from 15 th century Spain to 1992 in Sarajevo.
BUCK, Pearl	The good earth FIC	Classic novel written in 1931, depicting the fluctuating fortunes of a Chinese peasant family and their connection with their culture and the land.
BURKE, James Lee	Jesus out to sea FIC	Short stories set against the backdrop of hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast USA
BURKE, Janine	The heart garden: Sunday Reed & Heide NON-FIC	Explores the work and life of Sunday Reed and the circle of early Australian modernists she drew to her house at Heide.
BURROUGHS, Augusten	Running with scissors NON-FIC	The story of the author's bizarre childhood after his mother sent him to live with her psychiatrist.
CAMERON, Anson	Stealing Picasso FIC	Hilarious satire of the art world.
CAPOTE, Truman	Breakfast at Tiffany's FIC	A young writer is swept up in the glamorous and dangerous milieu of his neighbour Holly Golightly. A modern classic.
CARVER, Raymond	Short cuts FIC	Spare, luminous short stories about life on the margins of society; includes 'So much water so close to home', on which the movie 'Jindabyne' is based.
CHANDLER, Raymond	The big sleep FIC	A classic from the master of hard bitten crime – Phillip Marlowe investigates.
CHEVALIER, Tracy	The Lady and the unicorn FIC	Vibrant story set in 15 th century Paris and Brussels, based around the creation of a series of real medieval tapestries.
CHO, Tom	Look who's morphing FIC	Bizarre and funny world of pop culture.
CLEAVE, Chris	The other hand FIC	Alternating chapters tell the story of a Nigerian refugee and the successful editor of a women's magazine, exploring their relationship and their very different experiences of the world.
COOK, Thomas	Red leaves FIC	Chilling account of a family's spiral into anxiety and accusations. How far does a parent trust a child in the face of incriminating evidence?



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COTTERILL, Colin	The coroner's lunch FIC	It is 1976 in Laos, the communist regime has finally gained power and a 72 year old doctor, looking forward to a quiet retirement, is appointed the country's only coroner. Luckily his ability to see beyond the physical world helps to solve mysteries of life, death and propaganda.
CRACE, Jim	The pesthouse FIC	Unique story encompassing love, humanity and the future.
CRACKNELL, Ruth	Journey from Venice NON-FIC	A dream holiday takes a tragic turn and the Australian actress plumbs the depths of her loss.
DAY, Gregory	The Grand Hotel FIC	Artist Noel Lea feels disillusioned with life in his local Victorian beachside community and exiles himself in the hills behind. However, he returns to find that he has a crucial role to play - as the unlikely publican of a very unusual pub.
DEAN, Debra	The madonnas of Leningrad FIC	Marina memorises the precious artworks that once hung on the walls of the Hermitage museum while she endures the horrors of the siege of Leningrad.
DETTMAN, Joy	Pearl in a cage FIC	An orphan baby grows up in the harsh environment of an Australian logging town in the 1920s and '30s – who were her parents and why did she end up in Woody Creek?
DIAMANT, Anita	Red tent FIC	Different perspective of womanhood set in and around Egypt.
DICKINS, Barry	Unparalleled sorrow NON-FIC	Writer Barry Dickens is treated with electroconvulsive shock therapy after suffering a severe nervous breakdown. Charts his journey through pain and loss back to health and 'normality'.
DOSTOYEVSKY, Fyodor	Crime and punishment FIC	A 19 th century Russian classic –delves into the psyche of a tormented murderer.
DREWE, Robert	The bodysurfers FIC	Australian short stories charting 3 generations of one family and the importance of the beach in Australian life.
DUNCAN, Susan	Salvation Creek NON-FIC	Heartbreak and tragedy compel Susan to start a new life, relinquishing her career as editor of top women's magazines and confronting her own mortality with wit and vigour.
EBERSHOFF, David	The 19 th wife FIC	Blend of modern murder mystery and historical fiction set against backdrop of a breakaway sect of the Mormons.
EDWARDS, Kim	The memory keeper's daughter FIC	Lingers in the mind, a story of family secrets, relationships and love.
EVANS, Tess	The book of lost threads FIC	In the small town of Opportunity, four mismatched people discover the unexpected power of kindness.

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ELLROY, James	The black dahlia FIC	Neo-noir set amongst the corruption and glamour of 1940s Hollywood.
FAQIR, Fadia	My name is Salma FIC	Salma is 16 and pregnant. She leaves her Bedouin family and makes her way, eventually, to a new life, as Sally, in Exeter, UK.
FAULKS, Sebastian	Birdsong FIC	Spans 3 generations dwelling on the uncrossable gulf between those who lived through WWI and those who came after.
FLANAGAN, Richard	The unknown terrorist FIC	Thriller set in Sydney – love, life, journalism, motherhood, friendship and pole dancing.
FRENCH, Nicci	Killing me softly FIC	A gripping, totally consuming, psychological thriller. One of the best of this genre.
FUNDER, Anna	Stasiland NON-FIC	Revisits the East German Secret Police and the effect they had on millions of lives.
GAARDER, Jostein	The orange girl FIC	A father sets a puzzle from beyond the grave. Magical and enchanting.
GALGUT, Damon	In a strange room FIC	A young man makes three journeys through different countries. Each time he takes a different role: the follower, the lover and the guardian. Together the three journeys change his life.
GARNER, Helen	The spare room FIC	Garner illuminates the ethics of hoped-for cures and the emotional journey of all, in spare and honest writing, in the space between fiction and nonfiction.
GENOVA, Lisa	Still Alice FIC	Neuroscientist Genova's fictional account of the effect of early onset alzheimers in Harvard professor Alice.
GIBBONS, Stella	Cold Comfort Farm FIC	Comic novel published in 1932, parodies the romanticised, sometimes doom-laden accounts of rural life.
GILBERT, Elizabeth	Eat, pray, love FIC	A search of self-discovery across three continents.
GOLDSWORTHY, Anna	Piano lessons NON-FIC	Author recalls her life in music and the people who helped shape her dream to become a concert pianist.
GREENE, Graham	The quiet American FIC	Classic story of confusion and conflict in Indo-China.
GRUSHIN, Olga	The concert ticket FIC	A year in the lives of a small family and a group of people as they form a queue for elusive concert tickets. Set in an unnamed Russian city, sometime in the 1950s. It looks at the friendships and pressures on them as the line becomes the centre of their lives
GULLIFER, Brendan	Sold FIC	Fly-on-the-wall look at the Melbourne property market and the agents who jostle for power.

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HALLORAN, Jacinta	Dissection FIC	A local GP loses her confidence when she is sued for negligence.
HAMID, Moshin	The reluctant fundamentalist FIC	A young Pakistani man meets an American in a Lahore café. 9/11 is a pivot that has far reaching consequences.
HARDY, Frank	Power without glory FIC	Thinly veiled description of the life and times of Melbourne businessman and ALP power broker, John Wren.
HIGHSMITH, Patricia	Talented Mr Ripley FIC	Ripley insinuates himself into the life of the wealthy Dickie Greenleaf, with frightening and devastating consequences.
HIRSI ALI, Ayaan	Infidel NON -FIC	Memoir of a traditional Somali girl who became a Dutch member of Parliament and now works for a right wing think tank in US.
HOFFMAN, Alice	Blackbird house FIC	Traces the lives of various occupants of an old Massachusetts house over 200 years.
HOFFMANN, Brett	The contract FIC	Fast paced adventure as a Wall Street consultant stumbles on serious corporate crime.
HOOPER, Chloe	The tall man NON-FIC	An Aboriginal man is found hanged within an hour of being arrested for swearing in public. The coroner reports he has died from a fall and the community outrage results - a true account of the Australia's uneasy race relations.
HYLAND, M.J.	This is how FIC	An outsider longing to fit in and a course of action that alters his life.
ISAACSON, Rupert	The horse boy NON-FIC	A father's quest to connect with his autistic son through their shared love of horses.
JEFFS, Sandy	Flying with paper wings NON-FIC	Insight into a troubled life told with black humour and no self-pity.
JEROME, Jerome K.	Three men in a boat FIC	What could be more relaxing than a trip down the Thames with two friends and a faithful dog? Nothing goes seriously wrong, but nothing goes very right either!
JOHNSTON, George	My brother Jack FIC	Australian classic set in Melbourne.
JONES, Lloyd	Mister Pip FIC	Set in Bougainville during the civil war in the early 1990's, this novel shows what magic a child's imagination makes possible, even in the face of terrible violence, and how books can change lives in utterly surprising ways.
KELLY, Vivienne	Coeee FIC	Literary mystery and comic wit.

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KNOX, Malcolm	A private man FIC	Confronting study of the male psyche: a dying doctor's strange behavior affects his three adult sons.
KRAKAUER, Jon	Into the wild NON-FIC	True story of Chris McCandless, 24 year old graduate student who died alone in the Alaskan wilderness.
KRIEN, Anna	Into the woods: the battle for Tasmania's forests NON-FIC	Behind the scenes look at the people who risk everything for a cause.
LANCHESTER, John	Family romance: a memoir NON-FIC	The writer revisits his parents' lives after discovering his mother had changed her name and age 38 years before.
LE Nam	The boat FIC	Seven stories from cultures around the world – vividly written and easy to read.
LE CARRE, John	A most wanted man FIC	Le Carre returns to the espionage novel, with al-Qaeda terrorists using Hamburg as their base and the secret services of three countries on their trail.
LE CARRE, John	The constant gardener FIC	Pharmaceutical crime set in Africa.
LESSING, Doris	Alfred and Emily FIC	Lessing's attempt to reinvent her mother and father as they might have been had the first world war never happened.
LEVETT, Robin	The girls NF	Personal account of the tragedy of Kashmir.
LEWYCKA, Marina	A short history of tractors in Ukranian FIC	Set in today's England – funny, witty & sad story of Ukrainian migrants. Not really about tractors.
MACDONALD, Sarah	Holy cow: an Indian adventure NON-FIC	Frank and witty account of a personal journey to discover spirituality in India.
McEWAN, Ian	Atonement FIC	Multi-layered study of guilt and its consequences.
McEWAN, Ian	On Chesil Beach FIC	In 1962 the first night of their honeymoon is not what either Edward or Florence dreamed. The couple embodies a society teetering on the brink of change.
McGEACHIN, Geoffrey	The Digger's Rest Hotel FIC	Set in 1947, Charlie Berlin re-enters the police force to investigate a spate of robberies in rural Victoria.
McLAREN, Colin	Infiltration NON-FIC	True crime. The author poses as an art dealer to ensnare Australian mafia. Gripping.
MCLARTY, Larry	The memory of running: a novel FIC	Epic, hilarious, poignant story: an unlikely hero cycles across USA to find redemption



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MALONEY, Shane	Sucked in FIC	Murray Whelan political thriller set in Melbourne.
MARQUEZ, Gabriel Garcia	100 years of solitude FIC	The book that started 'magic realism' - a blend of romance, history and fantasy telling the story of one family and the history of their village.
MAUGHAM, W. Somerset	The painted veil FIC	Set in British Hong Kong, Kitty's affair is discovered. Her bacteriologist husband, in a bitter revenge, takes her to a new posting in China during cholera epidemic.
MAYES, Andrea	Shearwater FIC	A dutiful corporate wife is forced to re-evaluate her life and sense of self after losing her husband to a younger woman.
MEEHAN, Michael	Below the Styx FIC	Challenging, amusing novel about reading, writing, thinking, murder and intrigue.
MILLER, Alex	Lovesong FIC	When a lost Australian tourist meets, then marries, Tunisian Sahiba in a Paris café their life together is a blend of three cultures.
MONK, Sue Kidd	The secret life of bees FIC	Young girl's search for truth about her mother leads her to three beekeeping sisters who take her into the mesmerizing world of bees, honey and a mysterious Black Madonna.
MORTIMER, John	Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow murders FIC	Rumpole's first case – written with the wit and insight of a sharp legal mind.
MURDOCH, Iris	The sea, the sea FIC	Charts a person's journey toward becoming a virtuous and spiritual human being, set in a coastal English town.
NABOKOV, Vladimir	Lolita FIC	A classic and still controversial – an erotic exploration of the tension between youth and age, intellect and sensuality, the old world and the new.
NEMIROVSKY, Irene	Suite Francaise FIC	A book in two parts telling firstly of the exodus from Paris on the eve of the Nazi invasion, and later, in Dolce, the intertwining stories of some of the exiles and the Nazi soldiers billeted there.
NIFFENEGGER, Audrey	The time traveller's wife FIC	Unconventional love story that centers on a man with a strange genetic disorder that causes him to unpredictably time travel.
NUNN, Malla	A beautiful place to die FIC	The new apartheid laws provide the backdrop for a murder investigation in a small town on the border of South Africa and Mozambique.
OLSSON, Linda	Let me sing you gentle songs FIC	Set in Sweden and New Zealand – follows an unusual friendship between a young writer and an elderly reclusive neighbour, both suffering from loss.

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OZ, Amos	Rhyming life and death FIC	Eight hours in the life of an unnamed author who is in Tel Aviv for a reading from his new book. His attention wanders and he begins to invent lives for the strangers he sees around him. A book about writing, reading, growing old and the transience of happiness, life, love and fame.
PARK, Ruth	The harp in the south FIC	The drama of working class family life set in a run-down Sydney boarding house.
PATON, Alan	Cry, the beloved country FIC	First published in 1948, the 'beloved country' is South Africa where the natural physical beauty is in contrast to the gloom and violence of the social and political landscape. Powerful.
PEJU, Pierre	The girl from Chartreuse FIC	A bookseller accidentally runs over a small girl – a French novel of childhood, loneliness, loss, guilt, literature and understanding our differences.
PHILLIPS, Caryl	A distant shore FIC	The changing face of England seen through the eyes of two dissimilar neighbours.
RADISH, Kris	Annie Freeman's fabulous travelling funeral FIC	Annie's last request is that her five closest friends give her a travelling funeral – a road trip with a difference.
RENDELL, Ruth	The keys to the street FIC	Nothing is ever quite what it seems in this suspense novel set in London's Regents Park.
ROFFEY, Monique	The white woman on the green bicycle FIC	A love story set in Trinidad – covers 50 years of passion and politics.
ROTH, Philip	Dying animal FIC	The final instalment on David Kepesh's life – a grand old man of passion remembers his final fling and wonders what his life was worth.
ROY, Arundhati	The god of small things FIC	Imbued with the tastes, smells, sounds and textures of an Indian childhood, the plot moves inexorably toward tragedy and the end of childhood innocence.
RUSHDIE, Salman	The enchantress of Florence FIC	Sumptuous retelling of fable and fact, evocative imagery and rich imaginative prose, set in high Renaissance Florence and Fatehpur Sikri, India.
SAMARTIN, Cecilia	Ghost heart FIC	Set in Castro's Cuba, this is a novel of homeland and exile, love, loyalty, politics, migrants and refugees.
SAUL, Jamie M	Light of day FIC	Love, loss, and the unforeseeable darkness that lurks around the corners of everyday life.



Author	Title	Notes
SEWELL, Stephen	Animal kingdom: a crime story FIC	Revenge killings and payback explode on the streets of Melbourne.
SHIELDS, Charles	Mockingbird: a portrait of Harper Lee NON-FIC	The colourful life of the remarkable woman who created <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
SIMON, R.	Riding the bus with my sister: a true life journey NON-FIC	Accompanying her intellectually disabled younger sister on her daily bus rides the author starts to see life from a different perspective.
SIMONS, Paulina	The girl in Times Square FIC	Stunning and contemporary love story and mystery set in bustling New York City.
SIMONSON, Helen	Major Pettigrew's last stand FIC	A modern novel of manners. When the retired major courts the proprietress of the village mini-mart the gossip mongers get to work.
SMITH, Zadie	White teeth FIC	Wise and funny book about unassimilated immigrants in London, genetic engineering and human destiny.
STOCKETT, Kathryn	The help FIC	In 1960s Mississippi the black maids see and hear everything in their white employer's world, but say nothing. Until a young, aspiring writer decides to record their stories.
SUMMERS, Anne	The lost mother NON-FIC	A portrait of the author's mother prompts an examination of their relationship and that of mother and daughters generally. The fate of the (female) artist is also explored.
SWARUP, Vikas	Q and A FIC	Teenage winner of an Indian TV game show describes how his life's experiences enabled him to know the answers, win the show and land up in jail as a fraud.
SWIM, Louise (ed.)	The sleeper's almanac FIC	Short stories by new and emerging writers alongside established authors.
TEMBY, Susan	Bread with seven crusts FIC	In 1943 Giuseppe, an Italian prisoner-of-war, is posted to a small rural Western Australian wheat belt community.
TEMPLE, Peter	Broken shore FIC	Set in a Victorian coastal town, written in spare and evocative prose, this crime novel covers over development on the coast, and police corruption, with a great sense of humour.
TOIBIN, Colm	Brooklyn FIC	In 1950s Ireland a young girl moves to Brooklyn looking for work, love, life.
TROLLOPE, Joanna	The rector's wife FIC	Village life and the expectations of a needy and judgemental parish.



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VICKERS, Salley	Where three roads meet FIC	Haunting, shocking and insightful re-telling of the Oedipus myth.
VINE, Barbara	The chimney-sweeper's boy FIC	As a grieving daughter starts a biography of her father, a famous novelist, dark secrets emerge.
WALLS, Jeanette	The glass castle: a memoir NON-FIC	US journalist reveals an unconventional and eccentric upbringing.
WIELSE, Elie	Night NON-FIC	Written in 1959, the author describes his imprisonment in Auschwitz, the unravelling of his father's mind and their relationship and his loss of belief in anything except utter selfishness. Short, spare, intense.
WINCHESTER, Simon	The man who loved China (Bomb, book and compass) NON-FIC	Joseph Needham and the inventiveness and creativity of Chinese civilisation. Also titled 'The man who loved China'.
WINCHESTER, Simon	Krakatoa: the day the world exploded NON-FIC	One of the best books ever written about the history and significance of a natural disaster
WOOLF, Virginia	A room of one's own NON-FIC	What does a writer need to create? What does a woman need to work? Virginia Woolf's views from 1929 are still pertinent.
WRIGHT, Alexis	Carpentaria NON-FIC	Epic set in the Gulf country of north-western Queensland. Teems with extraordinary characters.
ZABLE, Arnold	Café Scheherazade NON-FIC	True tales from an Acland street cafe of Jewish refugees from Europe in Melbourne

