

tom lake book club questions and answers

Tom Lake Book Club Questions and Answers: A Deep Dive into Ann Patchett's Novel

Are you part of a book club tackling Ann Patchett's captivating novel, *Tom Lake*? Or perhaps you've just finished reading it and are buzzing with thoughts and questions? This comprehensive guide provides insightful *Tom Lake* book club questions and answers, designed to spark engaging discussions and deepen your understanding of Patchett's intricate storytelling. We'll explore the novel's themes of family, love, loss, and the enduring power of storytelling, providing you with a rich resource to enrich your book club meeting or your personal reflection on the book. Prepare for a rewarding journey into the heart of *Tom Lake*!

Exploring the Core Themes of Tom Lake: Book Club Questions and Answers

1. The Power of Storytelling and Family Legacy:

Question: How does Patchett use the nested narrative structure – Lara's story within the larger context of her family's history – to explore the theme of legacy? How does the act of storytelling itself shape the characters and their understanding of their past?

Answer: Patchett masterfully intertwines Lara's present-day experience with the stories of her family, particularly her mother's. This layered narrative highlights how our family histories, both shared and unspoken, profoundly impact who we are. The act of storytelling itself becomes a powerful tool for healing, reconciliation, and understanding. Lara's rediscovery of her mother's past helps her make peace with her own present and future. The stories passed down become a shared inheritance, connecting generations.

1. Love, Loss, and Second Chances:

Question: Analyze the different relationships in the novel – Lara and her mother, Lara and her sister, Lara and Sam – and how each reflects Patchett's exploration of love, loss, and the possibility of second chances.

Answer: The novel explores a spectrum of love, from the complex mother-daughter dynamic to the evolving romantic relationships. The loss experienced by the characters (both explicitly stated and subtly implied) shapes their decisions and interactions. Sam's presence offers Lara a chance for new love and emotional healing. Patchett shows that

love can endure, transform, and even blossom again, even after significant loss and heartache.

1. The Importance of Place and Time:

Question: Discuss the significance of the Michigan cherry farm setting. How does the location contribute to the overall atmosphere and themes of the novel?

Answer: The cherry farm is more than just a backdrop; it's a character in its own right. It's a place of family history, imbued with memories and emotions. The cyclical nature of the cherry harvest mirrors the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth, highlighting the passage of time and the enduring legacy of family traditions. The farm itself becomes a symbol of resilience, growth, and continuity.

1. Character Development and Internal Conflicts:

Question: How does Lara's character evolve throughout the novel? What are her major internal conflicts, and how does she ultimately resolve them?

Answer: Lara begins as a somewhat guarded individual, burdened by unspoken family tensions and personal insecurities. Through the unfolding narratives and her reconnection with her mother's past, Lara confronts her own anxieties and vulnerabilities. Her journey is one of self-discovery and acceptance. She learns to embrace her past and forge a path toward a more fulfilling future.

1. The Role of Secrets and Revelation:

Question: Explore the significance of the secrets held within the family. How do these secrets affect the relationships between the characters, and what happens when they are eventually revealed?

Answer: The unspoken secrets within the family create a sense of mystery and tension. These secrets shape the characters' behavior and relationships, creating distance and misunderstandings. The process of revealing these secrets, though sometimes painful, ultimately allows for healing and greater understanding. It emphasizes the importance of open communication and forgiveness.

A Sample Book Club Meeting Outline for Tom Lake

Name: Unpacking Tom Lake: A Book Club Discussion Guide

Outline:

Introduction (15 minutes): Briefly introduce the novel, author, and key themes.

Icebreaker: Share initial impressions or favorite moments.

Chapter 1: The Power of Storytelling (30 minutes): Discuss the nested narrative structure and its impact on the themes of legacy and family history. Focus on the use of storytelling as a means of understanding the past. Use questions from section 1 above.

Chapter 2: Exploring Relationships (30 minutes): Analyze the key relationships in the novel (mother-daughter, sister-sister, romantic) and how they reflect the themes of love, loss, and second chances. Use questions from section 2 above.

Chapter 3: Place and Time (20 minutes): Discuss the importance of the Michigan cherry farm setting and its symbolic meaning. Use questions from section 3 above.

Chapter 4: Character Development and Internal Conflicts (25 minutes): Examine Lara's character arc and her internal struggles. Explore how she resolves her conflicts. Use questions from section 4 above.

Chapter 5: Secrets and Revelations (20 minutes): Discuss the role of secrets in shaping the family dynamics and the impact of their eventual revelation. Use questions from section 5 above.

Conclusion (15 minutes): Summarize key discussion points, share personal takeaways, and discuss overall impressions of the novel.

Detailed Explanation of the Outline Chapters

Each chapter of the book club outline above is designed to facilitate in-depth discussion of specific aspects of the novel. The questions provided earlier act as springboards for these discussions, allowing for a diverse range of perspectives and interpretations. By breaking down the novel into manageable thematic units, the outline encourages a structured yet engaging exploration of Patchett's work. The time allocation for each chapter allows for a balanced discussion of each key theme, while also providing flexibility for spontaneous conversation. The final conclusion allows for a synthesis of all the discussed points, ensuring a cohesive and rewarding book club experience.

9 Unique FAQs about Tom Lake

1. Q: Is Tom Lake a standalone novel or part of a series? A: It's a standalone novel.
2. Q: What is the main conflict in Tom Lake? A: The main conflict revolves around Lara confronting her past and unresolved family issues.
3. Q: What is the significance of the title Tom Lake? A: The title refers to both the location and a significant male character in Lara's life.
4. Q: What are the major themes explored in the novel? A: Family, legacy, love, loss, storytelling, and the passage of time are key themes.
5. Q: Is Tom Lake suitable for all age groups? A: While not explicitly adult, some themes may be better suited for mature readers.
6. Q: How long does it take to read Tom Lake? A: The reading time depends on individual pace, but it's a relatively quick read.

7. Q: What is Ann Patchett's writing style like? A: Her style is known for being engaging, character-driven, and emotionally resonant.
8. Q: Are there any similar books to Tom Lake? A: Readers who enjoyed Tom Lake might also like other books exploring family dynamics and storytelling.
9. Q: Where can I buy Tom Lake? A: It's available at most major booksellers, both online and in physical stores.

9 Related Articles (with brief descriptions):

1. Ann Patchett's Best Novels: A ranking and review of Patchett's most acclaimed works.
2. Book Club Discussion Questions for State of Wonder: Similar style discussion guide to help with another Ann Patchett novel
3. Understanding Ann Patchett's Writing Style: An analysis of the author's unique narrative techniques.
4. The Power of Storytelling in Contemporary Literature: An exploration of how storytelling shapes modern narratives.
5. Exploring Mother-Daughter Relationships in Fiction: An examination of the complexities of mother-daughter bonds in literature.
6. The Importance of Place in Ann Patchett's Novels: How setting impacts her narrative.
7. Best Book Club Novels for 2024: A curated list of compelling books for book club discussions.
8. Overcoming Family Secrets in Literature: How literature depicts secrets and the impact of their revelation.
9. Summer Reading List: Must-Read Novels: Summer reading list with a focus on lighthearted or beach reads.

tom lake book club questions and answers: [Perestroika in Paris](#) Jane Smiley, 2020-12-01
NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the Pulitzer Prize-winning and best-selling author: a captivating, brilliantly imaginative story of three extraordinary animals—and a young boy—whose lives intersect in Paris in this feel-good escape” (The New York Times). Paras, short for Perestroika, is a spirited racehorse at a racetrack west of Paris. One afternoon at dusk, she finds the door of her stall open and—she's a curious filly—wanders all the way to the City of Light. She's dazzled and often mystified by the sights, sounds, and smells around her, but she isn't afraid. Soon she meets an elegant dog, a

German shorthaired pointer named Frida, who knows how to get by without attracting the attention of suspicious Parisians. Paras and Frida coexist for a time in the city's lush green spaces, nourished by Frida's strategic trips to the vegetable market. They keep company with two irrepressible ducks and an opinionated raven. But then Paras meets a human boy, Etienne, and discovers a new, otherworldly part of Paris: the ivy-walled house where the boy and his nearly-one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother live in seclusion. As the cold weather nears, the unlikelyst of friendships bloom. But how long can a runaway horse stay undiscovered in Paris? How long can a boy keep her hidden and all to himself? Jane Smiley's beguiling new novel is itself an adventure that celebrates curiosity, ingenuity, and the desire of all creatures for true love and freedom.

tom lake book club questions and answers: The Paris Library Janet Skeslien Charles, 2021-02-02 Based on the true World War II story of the American Library in Paris, an unforgettable novel about the power of books and the bonds of friendship—and the ordinary heroes who can be found in the most perilous times and the quietest places. Paris, 1939. Young, ambitious, and tempestuous, Odile Souchet has it all: Paul, her handsome police officer beau; Margaret, her best friend from England; Remy, her twin brother who she adores; and a dream job at the American Library in Paris, working alongside the library's legendary director, Dorothy Reeder. When World War II breaks out, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear—including her beloved library. After the Nazi army marches into the City of Light and declares a war on words, Odile and her fellow librarians join the Resistance with the best weapons they have: books. Again and again, they risk their lives to help their fellow Jewish readers, but by war's end, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal. Montana, 1983. Odile's solitary existence in gossipy small-town Montana is unexpectedly interrupted by her neighbor Lily, a lonely teenager craving adventure. As Lily uncovers more about Odile's mysterious past, they find they share not only a love of language but also the same lethal jealousy. Odile helps Lily navigate the troubled waters of adolescence by always recommending the right book at the right time, never suspecting that Lily will be the one to help her reckon with her own terrible secret. Based on the true story of the American Library in Paris, *The Paris Library* is a mesmerizing and captivating novel about the people and the books that make us who we are, for good and for bad, and the courage it takes to forgive.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Wish You Were Here* Jodi Picoult, 2021-11-30 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the author of *Small Great Things* and *The Book of Two Ways* comes “a powerfully evocative story of resilience and the triumph of the human spirit” (Taylor Jenkins Reid, author of *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* and *Daisy Jones & The Six*) Rights sold to Netflix for adaptation as a feature film • Named one of the best books of the year by *She Reads* Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's an associate specialist at Sotheby's now, but her boss has hinted at a promotion if she can close a deal with a high-profile client. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galápagos—days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time. But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city, and on the eve of their departure, Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her, since it would be a shame for all of their nonrefundable trip to go to waste. And so, reluctantly, she goes. Almost immediately, Diana's dream vacation goes awry. Her luggage is lost, the Wi-Fi is nearly nonexistent, and the hotel they'd booked is shut down due to the pandemic. In fact, the whole island is now under quarantine, and she is stranded until the borders reopen. Completely isolated, she must venture beyond her comfort zone. Slowly, she carves out a connection with a local family when a teenager with a secret opens up to Diana, despite her father's suspicion of outsiders. In the Galápagos Islands, where Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection was formed, Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself—and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Girl with the Louding Voice* Abi Daré,

2021-02-23 AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A READ WITH JENNA TODAY SHOW BOOK CLUB PICK! "Brave, fresh . . . unforgettable."—The New York Times Book Review "A celebration of girls who dare to dream."—Imbolo Mbue, author of *Behold the Dreamers* (Oprah's Book Club pick) Shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize and recommended by The New York Times, Marie Claire, Vogue, Essence, PopSugar, Daily Mail, Electric Literature, Red, Stylist, Daily Kos, Library Journal, The Everygirl, and Read It Forward! The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself, *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for your dreams. Despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in her path, Adunni never loses sight of her goal of escaping the life of poverty she was born into so that she can build the future she chooses for herself – and help other girls like her do the same. Her spirited determination to find joy and hope in even the most difficult circumstances imaginable will "break your heart and then put it back together again" (Jenna Bush Hager on The Today Show) even as Adunni shows us how one courageous young girl can inspire us all to reach for our dreams...and maybe even change the world.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Book of Lost Names* Kristin Harmel, 2021-05-25 Eva Traube Abrams, a semiretired librarian in Florida, is at the returns desk one morning when her eyes lock on to a photograph in a newspaper nearby. She freezes; it's an image of a book she hasn't seen in sixty-five years--a book she recognizes as the *Book of Lost Names*. The accompanying article describes the looting of libraries across Europe by the Nazis during World War II--an experience Eva remembers all too well. As a graduate student in 1942, Eva was forced to flee Paris after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew. Finding refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone, she begins forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to neutral Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, and along with a mysterious, handsome forger named Rémy, Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. The records they keep in the *Book of Last Names* will become even more vital when the Resistance cell they work with is betrayed and Rémy disappears. As the Germans close in, Eva records a last, vital message in the book. Decades later, does she have the strength to seek out its answer--and help reunite those lost during the war?

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Rose Code* Kate Quinn, 2021-03-09 "The reigning queen of historical fiction" -- Fiona Davis, New York Times bestselling author of *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* The New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *The Huntress* and *The Alice Network* returns with another heart-stopping World War II story of three female code breakers at Bletchley Park and the spy they must root out after the war is over. 1940. As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call to mysterious country estate Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Vivacious debutante Osla is the girl who has everything—beauty, wealth, and the dashing Prince Philip of Greece sending her roses—but she burns to prove herself as more than a society girl, and puts her fluent German to use as a translator of decoded enemy secrets. Imperious self-made Mab, product of east-end London poverty, works the legendary codebreaking machines as she conceals old wounds and looks for a socially advantageous husband. Both Osla and Mab are quick to see the potential in local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles, and soon Beth spreads her wings as one of the Park's few female cryptanalysts. But war, loss, and the impossible pressure of secrecy will tear the three apart. 1947. As the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip whips post-war Britain into a fever, three friends-turned-enemies are reunited by a mysterious encrypted letter--the key to which lies buried in the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum. A mysterious traitor has emerged from the shadows of their Bletchley Park past, and now Osla, Mab, and Beth must resurrect their old alliance and crack one last code together. But each petal they remove from the rose code brings danger--and their true enemy--closer...

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Guncle* Steven Rowley, 2022-06-01 From

the author of *Lily and the Octopus* comes a moving and deeply funny novel about a once-famous sitcom star who is left to care for his niece and nephew after an unexpected family tragedy. Patrick, or Gay Uncle Patrick (GUP for short), has always loved his niece, Maisie, and nephew, Grant. That is, he loves spending time with them ... in small doses, with their parents there to handle the tears and tricky questions. So when tragedy strikes and Patrick finds himself suddenly taking on the role of primary guardian, he is, honestly, overwhelmed. Patrick has no idea what to expect, having spent years barely holding on after the loss of his great love, a stalled acting career, and a lifestyle not-so-suited to young children. But when he realises that parenting isn't solved with treats and jokes, Patrick's eyes are opened to a new sense of responsibility and the realisation that, sometimes, being vulnerable is the only way to heal from grief. Tender, charming and laugh-out-loud funny, *The Guncle* is a testament to finding happiness and peace in the most trying of times. 'Steven Rowley's *The Guncle* is a gift. At once funny, charming and heartbreaking, it's that rare novel that will have you laughing out loud, even through tears. I have yet to meet a person who did not love this book.' Sally Hepworth, bestselling author of *The Good Sister* and *The Younger Wife* 'A joyous Auntie Mame spritz! A reading pleasure; pour yourself a tall glass and enjoy, preferably poolside. You deserve it!' Andrew Sean Greer, winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for *Less*

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The House in the Cerulean Sea* TJ Klune, 2020-03-17 A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, and WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER! A 2021 Alex Award winner! The 2021 RUSA Reading List: Fantasy Winner! An Indie Next Pick! One of Publishers Weekly's Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2020 One of Book Riot's "20 Must-Read Feel-Good Fantasies" Lambda Literary Award-winning author TJ Klune's bestselling, breakout contemporary fantasy that's 1984 meets *The Umbrella Academy* with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. (Gail Carriger) Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours. 1984 meets *The Umbrella Academy* with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. —Gail Carriger, New York Times bestselling author of *Soulless* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Restless* William Boyd, 2012-12-01 It is 1939. Eva Delectorskaya is a beautiful 28-year-old Russian émigrée living in Paris. As war breaks out she is recruited for the British Secret Service by Lucas Romer, a mysterious Englishman, and under his tutelage she learns to become the perfect spy, to mask her emotions and trust no one, including those she loves most. Since the war, Eva has carefully rebuilt her life as a typically English wife and mother. But once a spy, always a spy. Now she must complete one final assignment, and this time Eva can't do it alone: she needs her daughter's help.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Other Black Girl* Zakiya Dalila Harris, 2021-06-01 A Hulu Original Series Coming Soon "Riveting, fearless, and vividly original" (Emily St. John Mandel, New York Times bestselling author), this instant New York Times bestseller explores the tension that unfurls when two young Black women meet against the starkly white backdrop of New York City book publishing. Twenty-six-year-old editorial assistant Nella Rogers is tired of being the only Black employee at Wagner Books. Fed up with the isolation and microaggressions, she's thrilled when Harlem-born and bred Hazel starts working in the cubicle beside hers. They've only just started comparing natural hair care regimens, though, when a string of uncomfortable events elevates Hazel to Office Darling, and Nella is left in the dust. Then the notes begin to appear on Nella's desk: LEAVE WAGNER. NOW. It's hard to believe Hazel is behind these hostile messages. But as Nella starts to spiral and obsess over the sinister forces at play, she soon realizes that there's a lot more at stake than just her career. Having joined Wagner Books to honor the legacy of *Burning Heart*, a novel written and edited by two Black women, she had thought that this animosity was a

relic of the past. Is Nella ready to take on the fight of a new generation? "Poignant, daring, and darkly funny, *The Other Black Girl* will have you stressed and exhilarated in equal measure through the very last twist" (Vulture). The perfect read for anyone who has ever felt manipulated, threatened, or overlooked in the workplace.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *That Summer* Jennifer Weiner, 2022-04-05
Daisy Shoemaker can't sleep. With a thriving cooking business, full schedule of volunteer work, and a beautiful home in the Philadelphia suburbs, she should be content. But her teenage daughter can be a handful, her husband can be distant, her work can feel trivial, and she has lots of acquaintances, but no real friends. Still, Daisy knows she's got it good. So why is she up all night? While Daisy tries to identify the root of her dissatisfaction, she's also receiving misdirected emails meant for a woman named Diana Starling, whose email address is just one punctuation mark away from her own. While Daisy's driving carpools, Diana is chairing meetings. While Daisy's making dinner, Diana's making plans to reorganize corporations. Diana's glamorous, sophisticated, single-lady life is miles away from Daisy's simpler existence. When an apology leads to an invitation, the two women meet and become friends. But, as they get closer, we learn that their connection was not completely accidental. Who IS this other woman, and what does she want with Daisy?--Publisher.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The House of Broken Angels* Luis Alberto Urrea, 2018-03-06
In this raucous, moving, and necessary story by a Pulitzer Prize finalist (San Francisco Chronicle), the De La Cruzes, a family on the Mexican-American border, celebrate two of their most beloved relatives during a joyous and bittersweet weekend. All we do, *mija*, is love. Love is the answer. Nothing stops it. Not borders. Not death. In his final days, beloved and ailing patriarch Miguel Angel de La Cruz, affectionately called Big Angel, has summoned his entire clan for one last legendary birthday party. But as the party approaches, his mother, nearly one hundred, dies, transforming the weekend into a farewell doubleheader. Among the guests is Big Angel's half brother, known as Little Angel, who must reckon with the truth that although he shares a father with his siblings, he has not, as a half gringo, shared a life. Across two bittersweet days in their San Diego neighborhood, the revelers mingle among the palm trees and cacti, celebrating the lives of Big Angel and his mother, and recounting the many inspiring tales that have passed into family lore, the acts both ordinary and heroic that brought these citizens to a fraught and sublime country and allowed them to flourish in the land they have come to call home. Teeming with brilliance and humor, authentic at every turn, *The House of Broken Angels* is Luis Alberto Urrea at his best, and cements his reputation as a storyteller of the first rank. Epic . . . Rambunctious . . . Highly entertaining. -- New York Times Book Review
Intimate and touching . . . the stuff of legend. -- San Francisco Chronicle
An immensely charming and moving tale. -- Boston Globe
National Bestseller and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist
A New York Times Notable Book
One of the Best Books of the Year from National Public Radio, American Library Association, San Francisco Chronicle, BookPage, Newsday, BuzzFeed, Kirkus, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Literary Hub

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Lost Vintage* Ann Mah, 2018-06-19
"If you enjoyed Sarah's Key and Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*, then this wonderful book by Ann Mah is for you." -- Tatiana de Rosnay
Sweetbitter meets *The Nightingale* in this page-turning novel about a woman who returns to her family's ancestral vineyard in Burgundy and unexpectedly uncovers a lost diary, an unknown relative, and a secret her family has been keeping since World War II. To become one of only a few hundred certified wine experts in the world, Kate must pass the notoriously difficult Master of Wine examination. She's failed twice before; her third attempt will be her last chance. Suddenly finding herself without a job and with the test a few months away, she travels to Burgundy to spend the fall at the vineyard estate that has belonged to her family for generations. There she can bolster her shaky knowledge of Burgundian vintages and reconnect with her cousin Nico and his wife, Heather, who now oversee day-to-day management of the grapes. The one person Kate hopes to avoid is Jean-Luc, a talented young winemaker and her first love. At the vineyard house, Kate is eager to help her cousin clean out the enormous basement that is filled with generations of discarded and forgotten belongings. Deep inside the cellar, behind a large armoire,

she discovers a hidden room containing a cot, some Resistance pamphlets, and an enormous cache of valuable wine. Piqued by the secret space, Kate begins to dig into her family's history—a search that takes her back to the dark days of World War II and introduces her to a relative she never knew existed, a great-half aunt who was a teenager during the Nazi occupation. As she learns more about her family, the line between resistance and collaboration blurs, driving Kate to find the answers to two crucial questions: Who, exactly, did her family aid during the difficult years of the war? And what happened to six valuable bottles of wine that seem to be missing from the cellar's collection?

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Never Have I Ever* Joshilyn Jackson, 2019-07-30 "Wonderful—suspense and surprises, real characters, and a scary, ominous backbeat. This feels like the book Jackson was born to write." —Lee Child, New York Times bestselling author Named a Best Book by USA Today • People • The Wall Street Journal • Time • Entertainment Weekly • Bustle • and many more! From New York Times bestselling author Joshilyn Jackson, a twisting novel of domestic suspense in which a group of women play a harmless drinking game that escalates into a war of dark pasts In this game, even winning can be deadly... Amy Whey is proud of her ordinary life and the simple pleasures that come with it—teaching diving lessons, baking cookies for new neighbors, helping her best friend, Charlotte, run their local book club. Her greatest joy is her family: her devoted professor husband, her spirited fifteen-year-old stepdaughter, her adorable infant son. And, of course, the steadfast and supportive Charlotte. But Amy's sweet, uncomplicated life begins to unravel when the mysterious and alluring Angelica Roux arrives on her doorstep one book club night. Sultry and magnetic, Roux beguiles the group with her feral charm. She keeps the wine flowing and lures them into a game of spilling secrets. Everyone thinks it's naughty, harmless fun. Only Amy knows better. Something wicked has come her way—a she-devil in a pricey red sports car who seems to know the terrible truth about who she is and what she once did. When they're alone, Roux tells her that if she doesn't give her what she asks for, what she deserves, she's going to make Amy pay for her sins. One way or another. To protect herself and her family and save the life she's built, Amy must beat the devil at her own clever game, matching wits with Roux in an escalating war of hidden pasts and unearthed secrets. Amy knows the consequences if she can't beat Roux. What terrifies her is everything she could lose if she wins. A diabolically entertaining tale of betrayal, deception, temptation, and love filled with dark twists leavened by Joshilyn Jackson's trademark humor, *Never Have I Ever* explores what happens when the transgressions of our past come back with a vengeance.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Florence Gordon* Brian Morton, 2014 Meet Florence Gordon: blunt, brilliant, cantankerous and passionate, feminist icon to young women, invisible and underappreciated by most everyone else. At seventy-five, Florence has earned her right to set down the burdens of family and work and shape her legacy at long last. But just as she is beginning to write her long-deferred memoir, her son Daniel returns to New York from Seattle with his wife and daughter, and they embroil Florence in their dramas, clouding the clarity of her days with the frustrations of middle-age and the confusions of youth-- Provided by publisher.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Night Swim* Megan Goldin, 2020-08-04 "A blistering plot and crisp writing make *The Night Swim* an unputdownable read." –Sarah Pekkanen, bestselling author of *The Wife Between Us* In *The Night Swim*, a new thriller from Megan Goldin, author of the "gripping and unforgettable" (Harlan Coben) *The Escape Room*, a true crime podcast host covering a controversial trial finds herself drawn deep into a small town's dark past and a brutal crime that took place there years before. Ever since her true-crime podcast became an overnight sensation and set an innocent man free, Rachel Krall has become a household name—and the last hope for people seeking justice. But she's used to being recognized for her voice, not her face. Which makes it all the more unsettling when she finds a note on her car windshield, addressed to her, begging for help. The new season of Rachel's podcast has brought her to a small town being torn apart by a devastating rape trial. A local golden boy, a swimmer destined for Olympic greatness, has been accused of raping the beloved granddaughter of the police chief. Under pressure to make Season 3 a success, Rachel throws herself into her investigation—but the mysterious letters keep

coming. Someone is following her, and she won't stop until Rachel finds out what happened to her sister twenty-five years ago. Officially, Jenny Stills tragically drowned, but the letters insist she was murdered—and when Rachel starts asking questions, nobody in town wants to answer. The past and present start to collide as Rachel uncovers startling connections between the two cases—and a revelation that will change the course of the trial and the lives of everyone involved. Electrifying and propulsive, *The Night Swim* asks: What is the price of a reputation? Can a small town ever right the wrongs of its past? And what really happened to Jenny?

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Lost Hours* Karen White, 2009-04-07 The New York Times bestselling author of the Tradd Street novels delivers a gripping tale of family, fate, and forgiveness. When Piper Mills was twelve, she helped her grandfather bury a box that belonged to her grandmother in the backyard. For twelve years, it remained untouched. Now a near fatal riding accident has shattered Piper's dreams of Olympic glory. After her grandfather's death, she inherits the house and all its secrets, including a key to a room that doesn't exist—or does it? And after her grandmother is sent away to a nursing home, she remembers the box buried in the backyard. In it are torn pages from a scrapbook, a charm necklace—and a newspaper article from 1939 about the body of an infant found floating in the Savannah River. The necklace's charms tell the story of three friends during the 1930s— each charm added during the three months each friend had the necklace and recorded her life in the scrapbook. Piper always dismissed her grandmother as not having had a story to tell. And now, too late, Piper finds she might have been wrong.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Ministry for the Future* Kim Stanley Robinson, 2020-10-06 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR "The best science-fiction nonfiction novel I've ever read." —Jonathan Lethem If I could get policymakers, and citizens, everywhere to read just one book this year, it would be Kim Stanley Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future*. —Ezra Klein (Vox) *The Ministry for the Future* is a masterpiece of the imagination, using fictional eyewitness accounts to tell the story of how climate change will affect us all. Its setting is not a desolate, postapocalyptic world, but a future that is almost upon us. Chosen by Barack Obama as one of his favorite books of the year, this extraordinary novel from visionary science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson will change the way you think about the climate crisis. One hopes that this book is read widely—that Robinson's audience, already large, grows by an order of magnitude. Because the point of his books is to fire the imagination.—New York Review of Books If there's any book that hit me hard this year, it was Kim Stanley Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future*, a sweeping epic about climate change and humanity's efforts to try and turn the tide before it's too late. —Polygon (Best of the Year) Masterly. —New Yorker [*The Ministry for the Future*] struck like a mallet hitting a gong, reverberating through the year ... it's terrifying, unrelenting, but ultimately hopeful. Robinson is the SF writer of my lifetime, and this stands as some of his best work. It's my book of the year. —Locus Science-fiction visionary Kim Stanley Robinson makes the case for quantitative easing our way out of planetary doom. —Bloomberg Green

tom lake book club questions and answers: *I Know This Much Is True* Wally Lamb, 1998-06-03 With his stunning debut novel, *She's Come Undone*, Wally Lamb won the adulation of critics and readers with his mesmerizing tale of one woman's painful yet triumphant journey of self-discovery. Now, this brilliantly talented writer returns with *I Know This Much Is True*, a heartbreaking and poignant multigenerational saga of the reproductive bonds of destruction and the powerful force of forgiveness. A masterpiece that breathtakingly tells a story of alienation and connection, power and abuse, devastation and renewal--this novel is a contemporary retelling of an ancient Hindu myth. A proud king must confront his demons to achieve salvation. Change yourself, the myth instructs, and you will inhabit a renovated world. When you're the same brother of a schizophrenic identical twin, the tricky thing about saving yourself is the blood it leaves on your hands--the little inconvenience of the look-alike corpse at your feet. And if you're into both survival of the fittest and being your brother's keeper--if you've promised your dying mother--then say so long to sleep and hello to the middle of the night. Grab a book or a beer. Get used to Letterman's gap-toothed smile of the absurd, or the view of the bedroom ceiling, or the influence of random

selection. Take it from a godless insomniac. Take it from the uncrazy twin--the guy who beat the biochemical rap. Dominick Birdsey's entire life has been compromised and constricted by anger and fear, by the paranoid schizophrenic twin brother he both deeply loves and resents, and by the past they shared with their adoptive father, Ray, a spit-and-polish ex-Navy man (the five-foot-six-inch sleeping giant who snoozed upstairs weekdays in the spare room and built submarines at night), and their long-suffering mother, Concettina, a timid woman with a harelip that made her shy and self-conscious: She holds a loose fist to her face to cover her defective mouth--her perpetual apology to the world for a birth defect over which she'd had no control. Born in the waning moments of 1949 and the opening minutes of 1950, the twins are physical mirror images who grow into separate yet connected entities: the seemingly strong and protective yet fearful Dominick, his mother's watchful monkey; and the seemingly weak and sweet yet noble Thomas, his mother's gentle bunny. From childhood, Dominick fights for both separation and wholeness--and ultimately self-protection--in a house of fear dominated by Ray, a bully who abuses his power over these stepsons whose biological father is a mystery. I was still afraid of his anger but saw how he punished weakness--pounced on it. Out of self-preservation I hid my fear, Dominick confesses. As for Thomas, he just never knew how to play defense. He just didn't get it. But Dominick's talent for survival comes at an enormous cost, including the breakup of his marriage to the warm, beautiful Dessa, whom he still loves. And it will be put to the ultimate test when Thomas, a Bible-spouting zealot, commits an unthinkable act that threatens the tenuous balance of both his and Dominick's lives. To save himself, Dominick must confront not only the pain of his past but the dark secrets he has locked deep within himself, and the sins of his ancestors--a quest that will lead him beyond the confines of his blue-collar New England town to the volcanic foothills of Sicily's Mount Etna, where his ambitious and vengefully proud grandfather and a namesake Domenico Tempesta, the *sostegno del famiglia*, was born. Each of the stories Ma told us about Papa reinforced the message that he was the boss, that he ruled the roost, that what he said went. Searching for answers, Dominick turns to the whispers of the dead, to the pages of his grandfather's handwritten memoir, *The History of Domenico Onofrio Tempesta, a Great Man from Humble Beginnings*. Rendered with touches of magic realism, Domenico's fablelike tale--in which monkeys enchant and religious statues weep--becomes the old man's confession--an unwitting legacy of contrition that reveals the truth's of Domenico's life, Dominick learns that power, wrongly used, defeats the oppressor as well as the oppressed, and now, picking through the humble shards of his deconstructed life, he will search for the courage and love to forgive, to expiate his and his ancestors' transgressions, and finally to rebuild himself beyond the haunted shadow of his twin. Set against the vivid panoply of twentieth-century America and filled with richly drawn, memorable characters, this deeply moving and thoroughly satisfying novel brings to light humanity's deepest needs and fears, our aloneness, our desire for love and acceptance, our struggle to survive at all costs. Joyous, mystical, and exquisitely written, *I Know This Much Is True* is an extraordinary reading experience that will leave no reader untouched.

tom lake book club questions and answers: A Place for Us Fatima Farheen Mirza, 2018-06-12 AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD "5 UNDER 35" NOMINEE • NEW YORK'S "ONE BOOK, ONE NEW YORK" PICK Named One of the Best Books of the Year: Washington Post • NPR • People • Refinery29 • Parade • BuzzFeed "Mirza writes with a mercy that encompasses all things."—Ron Charles, Washington Post Hailed as "a book for our times" (Christiane Amanpour), *A Place for Us* is a deeply moving and resonant story of love, identity, and belonging. As an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, parents Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made. There is Hadia: their headstrong, eldest daughter, whose marriage is a match of love and not tradition. Huda, the middle child, determined to follow in her sister's footsteps. And lastly, their estranged son, Amar, who returns to the family fold for the first time in three years to take his place as brother of the bride. What secrets and betrayals have caused this close-knit family to fracture? Can Amar find his way back to the people who know and love him best? *A Place for Us* takes us back to the beginning of this family's life: from the bonds that bring them together, to the differences that pull them apart. All the joy and struggle of family life is

here, from Rafiq and Layla's own arrival in America from India, to the years in which their children—each in their own way—tread between two cultures, seeking to find their place in the world, as well as a path home. *A Place for Us* is a book for our times: an astonishingly tender-hearted novel of identity and belonging, and a resonant portrait of what it means to be an American family today. It announces Fatima Farheen Mirza as a major new literary talent.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Lady Clementine* Marie Benedict, 2020-01-07 From Marie Benedict, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Only Woman in the Room!* An incredible novel that focuses on one of the people with the most influence during World War I and World War II: Clementine Churchill. In 1909, Clementine steps off a train with her new husband, Winston. An angry woman emerges from the crowd to attack, shoving him in the direction of an oncoming train. Just before he stumbles, Clementine grabs him by his suit jacket. This will not be the last time Clementine Churchill will save her husband. *Lady Clementine* is the ferocious story of the ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, the story of a partner who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war, and who would not surrender to expectations or to enemies. The perfect book for fans of: World War I historical fiction Novels about Women Heroes of WWI Novels about women hidden by history Biographical novels about the Churchills Recommended by People, USA Today, Glamour, POPSUGAR, Library Journal, and more! Other Bestselling Historical Fiction from Marie Benedict: *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* *The Only Woman in the Room* *Carnegie's Maid* *The Other Einstein*

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Oil and Marble* Stephanie Storey, 2016-03-01 From 1501 to 1505, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti both lived and worked in Florence. Leonardo was a charming, handsome fifty year-old at the peak of his career. Michelangelo was a temperamental sculptor in his mid-twenties, desperate to make a name for himself. The two despise each other.--Front jacket flap.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe* Heather Webber, 2019-07-16 THE USA TODAY BESTSELLER Heather Webber's *Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe* is a captivating blend of magical realism, heartwarming romance, and small-town Southern charm. Nestled in the mountain shadows of Alabama lies the little town of Wicklow. It is here that Anna Kate has returned to bury her beloved Granny Zee, owner of the Blackbird Café. It was supposed to be a quick trip to close the café and settle her grandmother's estate, but despite her best intentions to avoid forming ties or even getting to know her father's side of the family, Anna Kate finds herself inexplicably drawn to the quirky Southern town her mother ran away from so many years ago, and the mysterious blackbird pie everybody can't stop talking about. As the truth about her past slowly becomes clear, Anna Kate will need to decide if this lone blackbird will finally be able to take her broken wings and fly. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *A Gentleman in Moscow* Amor Towles, 2017-01-09 The mega-bestseller with more than 2 million readers Soon to be a Showtime/Paramount+ series starring Ewan McGregor as Count Alexander Rostov From the number one New York Times-bestselling author of *The Lincoln Highway* and *Rules of Civility*, a beautifully transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel 'A wonderful book' - Tana French 'This novel is astonishing, uplifting and wise. Don't miss it' - Chris Cleave 'No historical novel this year was more witty, insightful or original' - Sunday Times, Books of the Year '[A] supremely uplifting novel ... It's elegant, witty and delightful - much like the Count himself.' - Mail on Sunday, Books of the Year 'Charming ... shows that not all books about Russian aristocrats have to be full of doom and nihilism' - The Times, Books of the Year On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov - recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt - is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol. Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval. Can a life without luxury be the

richest of all? A BOOK OF THE DECADE, 2010-2020 (INDEPENDENT) THE TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A MAIL ON SUNDAY BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 A DAILY EXPRESS BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 AN IRISH TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2017 ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S BEST BOOKS OF 2017 ONE OF BILL GATES'S SUMMER READS OF 2019 NOMINATED FOR THE 2018 INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS WEEK AWARD

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Infinite Country* Patricia Engel, 2021-03-02 A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK and INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER WINNER OF THE 2021 NEW AMERICAN VOICES AWARD, LONGLISTED FOR THE 2022 ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDAL, A 2022 DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE FINALIST, AND A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS "BIG READS" SELECTION "A profound, beautiful novel." —People * "Poignant." —BuzzFeed * "A breathtaking story of the unimaginable prices paid for a better life." —Esquire This "heartbreaking portrait of a family dealing with the realities of migration and separation" (Time) is "a sweeping love story and tragic drama [and] an authentic vision of what the American Dream looks like in a nationalistic country" (Elle). I often wonder if we are living the wrong life in the wrong country. Talia is being held at a correctional facility for adolescent girls in the forested mountains of Colombia after committing an impulsive act of violence that may or may not have been warranted. She urgently needs to get out and get back home to Bogotá, where her father and a plane ticket to the United States are waiting for her. If she misses her flight, she might also miss her chance to finally be reunited with her family. How this family came to occupy two different countries, two different worlds, comes into focus like twists of a kaleidoscope. We see Talia's parents, Mauro and Elena, fall in love in a market stall as teenagers against a backdrop of civil war and social unrest. We see them leave Bogotá with their firstborn, Karina, in pursuit of safety and opportunity in the United States on a temporary visa, and we see the births of two more children, Nando and Talia, on American soil. We witness the decisions and indecisions that lead to Mauro's deportation and the family's splintering—the costs they've all been living with ever since. Award-winning, internationally acclaimed author Patricia Engel, herself a dual citizen and the daughter of Colombian immigrants, gives voice to all five family members as they navigate the particulars of their respective circumstances. Rich with Bogotá urban life, steeped in Andean myth, and tense with the daily reality of the undocumented in America, *Infinite Country* "is as much an all-American story as it is a global one" (Booklist, starred review).

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Golden Hour* Beatriz Williams, 2019-07-09 "The Golden Hour is pure golden delight Beatriz Williams is at the top of her game." —Kate Quinn, New York Times Bestselling Author of *The Alice Network* Beatriz Williams, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Summer Wives*, is back with another hot summer read; a dazzling epic of World War II in which a beautiful young "society reporter" is sent to the Bahamas, a haven of spies, traitors, and the infamous Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The Bahamas, 1941. Newly-widowed Leonora "Lulu" Randolph arrives in the Bahamas to investigate the Governor and his wife for a New York society magazine. After all, American readers have an insatiable appetite for news of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, that glamorous couple whose love affair nearly brought the British monarchy to its knees five years earlier. What more intriguing backdrop for their romance than a wartime Caribbean paradise, a colonial playground for kingpins of ill-gotten empires? Or so Lulu imagines. But as she infiltrates the Duke and Duchess's social circle, and the powerful cabal that controls the islands' political and financial affairs, she uncovers evidence that beneath the glister of Wallis and Edward's marriage lies an ugly—and even treasonous—reality. In fact, Windsor-era Nassau seethes with spies, financial swindles, and racial tension, and in the middle of it all stands Benedict Thorpe: a scientist of tremendous charm and murky national loyalties. Inevitably, the willful and wounded Lulu falls in love. Then Nassau's wealthiest man is murdered in one of the most notorious cases of the century, and the resulting coverup reeks of royal privilege. Benedict Thorpe disappears without a trace, and Lulu embarks on a journey to London and beyond to unpick Thorpe's complicated family history: a fateful love affair, a wartime tragedy, and a mother from whom all joy is stolen. The stories of two unforgettable women thread together in this extraordinary epic of

espionage, sacrifice, human love, and human courage, set against a shocking true crime . . . and the rise and fall of a legendary royal couple.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Other Mrs.* Mary Kubica, 2020-02-18 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY · PEOPLE MAGAZINE · MARIE CLAIRE · POPSUGAR · BUSTLE · SHEREADS · HELLOGIGGLES · and more! A woman is drawn into a mysterious web of secrets in this twisty whodunnit from New York Times bestselling author Mary Kubica. Sadie and Will Foust have only just moved their family from bustling Chicago to a coastal island in Maine when their neighbor Morgan Baines is found dead in her home. The murder rocks their tiny coastal island, but no one is more shaken than Sadie. But it's not just Morgan's death that has Sadie on edge. And as the eyes of suspicion turn toward the new family in town, Sadie is drawn deeper into the mystery of what really happened that dark and deadly night. But Sadie must be careful, for the more she discovers about Mrs. Baines, the more she begins to realize just how much she has to lose if the truth ever comes to light. "Altogether unpredictable." —Karin Slaughter, New York Times bestselling author Don't miss Mary Kubica's chilling upcoming novel, *She's Not Sorry*, where an ICU nurse accidentally uncovers a patient's frightening past... And look for the new editions of *The Good Girl*, *Pretty Baby*, *Don't You Cry* and *Every Last Lie* featuring brand new covers! More edge-of-your-seat thrillers by New York Times bestselling author Mary Kubica: *The Good Girl* *Pretty Baby* *Don't You Cry* *Every Last Lie* *When the Lights Go Out* *Local Woman Missing* *Just The Nicest Couple* *She's not Sorry*

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Where the Crawdads Sing* Delia Owens, 2021-03-30 NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE—The #1 New York Times bestselling worldwide sensation with more than 18 million copies sold, hailed by The New York Times Book Review as "a painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature." For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens. *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder. Owens reminds us that we are forever shaped by the children we once were, and that we are all subject to the beautiful and violent secrets that nature keeps.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Mr Peacock's Possessions* Lydia Syson, 2018-05-17 An intimate, intense and beautifully realised novel of possession, power and the liberating loss of innocence, this will delight fans of *MISTER PIP* and *THE POISONWOOD BIBLE*. Oceania, 1879. For two years the Peacocks, a determined family of settlers, have struggled to make a remote volcanic island their home. At last, a ship appears. The six Pacific Islanders on board have travelled over eight hundred miles in search of new horizons. Hopes are high, until a vulnerable boy vanishes. In their search for the lost child, settlers and newcomers together uncover far more than they were looking for. The island's secrets force young Lizzie Peacock to question her deepest convictions, and slowly this tiny, fragile community begins to fracture . . . 'Intelligent, beautifully written' The Times 'Historical fiction fans, meet your new favourite author' Stella Magazine 'Beautifully written, immaculately researched and powerfully imagined' Lancashire Evening Post

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Dearly Beloved* Cara Wall, 2019-08-13 "This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever." —Jenna Bush Hager (A Today show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection!) This "moving portrait of love and friendship set against a backdrop of social change" (The New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice) traces two married couples whose lives become entangled when the husbands become copastors at a famed New York city congregation in the 1960s. Charles and Lily, James and Nan. They meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to steward the historic Third Presbyterian

Church through turbulent times. Their personal differences however, threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to succeed his father as an esteemed professor of history at Harvard, until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. How then, can he fall in love with Lily—fiercely intellectual, elegantly stern—after she tells him with certainty that she will never believe in God? And yet, how can he not? James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his anxious mother. Nan grew up in Mississippi, the devout and beloved daughter of a minister and a debutante. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan and, despite his skepticism of hope in all its forms, her gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. In *The Dearly Beloved*, Cara Wall reminds us of "the power of the novel in its simplest, richest form: bearing intimate witness to human beings grappling with their faith and falling in love," (Entertainment Weekly, A-) as we follow these two couples through decades of love and friendship, jealousy and understanding, forgiveness and commitment. Against the backdrop of turbulent changes facing the city and the church's congregation, Wall offers a poignant meditation on faith and reason, marriage and children, and the ways we find meaning in our lives. *The Dearly Beloved* is a gorgeous, wise, and provocative novel that is destined to become a classic.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Crossing to Safety* Wallace Stegner, 2007-12-18 Introduction by Terry Tempest Williams Afterword by T. H. Watkins Called a "magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom" by Howard Frank Mosher in *The Washington Post Book World*, *Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* Colleen Oakley, 2021-05-25 "This is the hopeful book we all need right now. I loved it!"—Emily Giffin, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Lies That Bind* As Seen on the TODAY SHOW A Southern Living Best Beach Read * A PopSugar Best Book of May * An Us Weekly Summer Beach Staple * A Frolic Under-the-Radar Book of May * An OK Magazine Best Summer Beach Read * An EW.com Best Book of Spring * A Country Living Can't Miss Beach Read * A LibraryReads Pick for May * An Emily Giffin Book Club pick Sometimes all you need is one person to really see you. Piper Parrish's life on Frick Island—a tiny, remote town smack in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay—is nearly perfect. Well, aside from one pesky detail: Her darling husband, Tom, is dead. When Tom's crab boat capsized and his body wasn't recovered, Piper, rocked to the core, did a most peculiar thing: carried on as if her husband was not only still alive, but right there beside her, cooking him breakfast, walking him to the docks each morning, meeting him for their standard Friday night dinner date at the One-Eyed Crab. And what were the townspeople to do but go along with their beloved widowed Piper? Anders Caldwell's career is not going well. A young ambitious journalist, he'd rather hoped he'd be a national award-winning podcaster by now, rather than writing fluff pieces for a small town newspaper. But when he gets an assignment to travel to the remote Frick Island and cover their boring annual Cake Walk fundraiser, he stumbles upon a much more fascinating tale: an entire town pretending to see and interact with a man who does not actually exist. Determined it's the career-making story he's been needing for his podcast, Anders returns to the island to begin covert research and spend more time with the enigmatic Piper—but he has no idea out of all the lives he's about to upend, it's his that will change the most. USA Today bestselling author Colleen Oakley delivers an unforgettable love story about an eccentric community, a grieving widow, and an outsider who slowly learns that sometimes faith is more important than the facts.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Book of Eels* Patrik Svensson, 2020-05-26 A Finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize National Bestseller Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award Longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction A New York Times Notable Book One of TIME's 100 Must Read Books of the Year One of The Washington Post's 50 Notable Nonfiction Books of the Year One of Smithsonian Magazine's 10 Best Science Books of

the Year One of Publishers Weekly's Best Nonfiction Books of the Year A New York Times Editor's Choice Part H Is for Hawk, part The Soul of an Octopus, The Book of Eels is both a meditation on the world's most elusive fish—the eel—and a reflection on the human condition Remarkably little is known about the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*. So little, in fact, that scientists and philosophers have, for centuries, been obsessed with what has become known as the “eel question”: Where do eels come from? What are they? Are they fish or some other kind of creature altogether? Even today, in an age of advanced science, no one has ever seen eels mating or giving birth, and we still don't understand what drives them, after living for decades in freshwater, to swim great distances back to the ocean at the end of their lives. They remain a mystery. Drawing on a breadth of research about eels in literature, history, and modern marine biology, as well as his own experience fishing for eels with his father, Patrik Svensson crafts a mesmerizing portrait of an unusual, utterly misunderstood, and completely captivating animal. In *The Book of Eels*, we meet renowned historical thinkers, from Aristotle to Sigmund Freud to Rachel Carson, for whom the eel was a singular obsession. And we meet the scientists who spearheaded the search for the eel's point of origin, including Danish marine biologist Johannes Schmidt, who led research efforts in the early twentieth century, catching thousands upon thousands of eels, in the hopes of proving their birthing grounds in the Sargasso Sea. Blending memoir and nature writing at its best, Svensson's journey to understand the eel becomes an exploration of the human condition that delves into overarching issues about our roots and destiny, both as humans and as animals, and, ultimately, how to handle the biggest question of all: death. The result is a gripping and slippery narrative that will surprise and enchant.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Talented Miss Farwell* Emily Gray Tedrowe, 2020-09-29 Catch Me If You Can meets Patricia Highsmith in this “stylish” (New York Times Book Review) page-turner of greed and obsession, survival and self-invention that is a piercing character study of one unforgettable female con artist. At the end of the 1990s, with the art market finally recovered from its disastrous collapse, Miss Rebecca Farwell has made a killing at Christie's in New York City, selling a portion of her extraordinary art collection for a rumored 900 percent profit. Dressed in couture YSL, drinking the finest champagne at trendy Balthazar, Reba, as she's known, is the picture of a wealthy art collector. To some, the elusive Miss Farwell is a shark with outstanding business acumen. To others, she's a heartless capitalist whose only interest in art is how much she can make. But a thousand miles from the Big Apple, in the small town of Pierson, Illinois, Miss Farwell is someone else entirely—a quiet single woman known as Becky who still lives in her family's farmhouse, wears sensible shoes, and works tirelessly as the town's treasurer and controller. No one understands the ins and outs of Pierson's accounts better than Becky; she's the last one in the office every night, crunching the numbers. Somehow, her neighbors marvel, she always finds a way to get the struggling town just a little more money. What Pierson doesn't see—and can never discover—is that much of that money is shifted into a separate account that she controls, “borrowed” funds used to finance her art habit. Though she quietly repays Pierson when she can, the business of art is cutthroat and unpredictable. But as Reba Farwell's deals get bigger and bigger, Becky Farwell's debt to Pierson spirals out of control. How long can the talented Miss Farwell continue to pull off her double life?

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Watching You* Lisa Jewell, 2018-12-26 “Quickly and assuredly, Jewell builds an ecosystem of countervailing suspicions...Tricky, clever, unexpected.” —New York Times Book Review “Brace yourself as Jewell stacks up the secrets, then lights a long, slow fuse.” —People “A seize-you-by-the-throat thriller and a genuinely moving family drama.” —A.J. Finn, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Woman in the Window* The instant New York Times and #1 Sunday Times bestselling author of *None of This Is True* delivers another suspenseful page-turner about a shocking murder in a picturesque and well-to-do English town, perfect “for fans of *Gone Girl*, *The Girl on the Train*, and *Luckiest Girl Alive*” (Library Journal). You're back home after four years working abroad, new husband in tow. You're keen to find a place of your own. But for now, you're crashing in your big brother's spare room. That's when you meet the man next door. He's the head teacher at the local school. Twice your age. Extraordinarily

attractive. You find yourself watching him. All the time. But you never dreamed that your innocent crush might become a deadly obsession. Or that someone is watching you. In Lisa Jewell's latest "bone-chilling suspense" (People), no one is who they seem—and everyone has something to hide. Perfect for fans of Gillian Flynn and Ruth Ware, *Watching You* will keep you guessing as "Jewell teases out her twisty plot at just the right pace" (Booklist, starred review) until the startling revelations on the very last page.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Secret to Hummingbird Cake* Celeste Fletcher McHale, 2016-02-09 Friends since kindergarten, Carrigan, Ella Rae, and Laine thought they'd been through everything together. But when cancer threatens to rip the trio apart, their world spins in a way they've never known before. Through it all, will they discover the secret to the divine taste of hummingbird cake—and to friendships that never end? In the South you always say "yes, ma'am" and "no, ma'am." You know everybody's business. Football is a lifestyle not a pastime. Food—especially dessert—is almost a religious experience. And you protect your friends as fiercely as you protect your family—even if the threat is something you cannot see. In this Southern novel brimming with wit and authenticity, Laine, Carrigan, Ella Rae first met on the playground when they were five years old. Now, as adults, they're still almost inseparable as they handle the outrageous curveballs that life sometimes throws—from devastating pain to absolute joy. As the three friends navigate everything from a devastating medical diagnosis to the rocky path of marriage, their bond is tested. Through it all, you'll experience the essence and the joy of true friendship. And if you're lucky, you just may discover the secret to hummingbird cake along the way. Women's fiction, focused on friendship, and set in the South Full length, stand-alone novel Includes discussion questions for book clubs

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Idaho* Emily Ruskovich, 2017 A tale told from multiple perspectives traces the complicated relationship between Ann and Wade on a rugged landscape and how they came together in the aftermath of his first wife's imprisonment for a violent murder.

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Ruins* Scott Smith, 2006-07-18 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Trapped in the Mexican jungle, a group of friends stumble upon a creeping horror unlike anything they could ever imagine in the best horror novel of the new century (Stephen King). Also a major motion picture! Two young couples are on a lazy Mexican vacation—sun-drenched days, drunken nights, making friends with fellow tourists. When the brother of one of those friends disappears, they decide to venture into the jungle to look for him. What started out as a fun day-trip slowly spirals into a nightmare when they find an ancient ruins site ... and the terrifying presence that lurks there. *The Ruins* does for Mexican vacations what *Jaws* did for New England beaches." —Entertainment Weekly "Smith's nail-biting tension is a pleasure all its own.... This stuff isn't for the faint of heart." —New York Post "A story so scary you may never want to go on vacation, or dig around in your garden, again." —USA Today

tom lake book club questions and answers: *Broken for You* Stephanie Kallos, 2007-12-01 "A dazzling mosaic of intersecting lives and fates . . . Comparisons to John Irving and Tennessee Williams would not be amiss in this show-stopping debut" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). The national bestseller and Today Show Book Club selection, *Broken for You* is the story of two women in self-imposed exile whose lives are transformed when their paths intersect . . . When we meet septuagenarian Margaret Hughes, she is living alone in a mansion in Seattle with only a massive collection of valuable antiques for company. Enter Wanda Schultz, a young woman with a broken heart who has come west to search for her wayward boyfriend. Both women are guarding dark secrets and have spent many years building up protective armor against the outside world. As their tentative friendship evolves, the armor begins to fall away and Margaret opens her house to the younger woman. This launches a series of unanticipated events, leading Margaret to discover a way to redeem her cursed past, and Wanda to learn the true purpose of her cross-country journey. "I absolutely fell in love with this book. . . . There is a message here about creating family in the most unusual places. . . . A wonderful, engaging story." —Sue Monk Kidd, New York Times–bestselling

author of *The Secret Life of Bees* “Well-crafted plotting and crackling wit make this debut novel by Seattle author Kallos a delight to read and a memory to savor . . . Book groups will enjoy discussing the layers of meaning, the stylistic nuances, and the powerful message of hope secreted in these pages.” —Booklist (starred review)

tom lake book club questions and answers: *The Glass Woman* Caroline Lea, 2019-02-07 A mysterious and captivating tale of love, fear and superstition set in the Icelandic wilderness . . . 'An Icelandic Jane Eyre' SUNDAY TIMES 'Gripped me in a cold fist. Beautiful' SARA COLLINS 'Enthralling' STACEY HALLS 'Moving and atmospheric' LAURA PURCELL _____ 1686, Iceland. When Rósa is betrothed to Jón Eiríksson, she is sent to a remote village. There she finds a man who refuses to speak of his recently deceased first wife, and villagers who view her with suspicion. Isolated and disturbed by her husband's strange behaviour, her fears deepen. What is making the strange sounds in the attic? Who does the mysterious glass figure she is given represent? And why do the villagers fear the fast-approaching winter? . . . _____ 'A perfect, gripping winter read. I loved it' SOPHIE MACKINTOSH 'Crackles with tension. Moving and atmospheric, I couldn't put it down' LAURA PURCELL 'Memorable and compelling. A novel about what haunts us - and what should' SARAH MOSS, author of *GHOST WALL* 'Evocative, compelling, with a brilliant twist' DAILY EXPRESS 'Intensely written and atmospheric, with an unusual setting' DAILY MAIL 'A chilling tale' GOOD HOUSEKEEPING 'Like a ghost story told around a winter fire' TIM LEACH, author of *SMILE OF THE WOLF* SHORTLISTED FOR THE HISTORICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION DEBUT AWARD

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