

Fresh, New, Discussible Books

Win 7 Free Summer
Flights of Fiction
August 2007

Dear Barbara,

Books, books, books! And all of them discussible! Over sixty fresh new titles are available for your group to choose for upcoming gatherings. Plus, there are some creative and helpful tips from other reading groups and some fascinating insight from reading-group-favorite authors. It's all in this month's issue of the **Reading Group Choices** newsletter.

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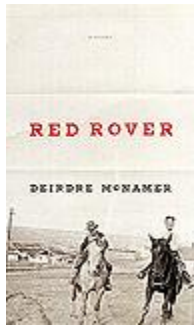
Summer Flights of Fiction - Continued

"Discussibles" for Every Group



It's the beginning of the new 2007/08 "academic year," the time when many reading groups decide what they will read and discuss over the next few months. And WOW, do we have some "discussibles" for you! Mysteries, memoirs, general fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, nonfiction - there's something for everyone and every group.

Among the new titles, there are many written by reading-group-favorite authors - like Sena Jeter Naslund ([*Abundance*](#)), Tracy Chevalier ([*Burning Bright*](#)), Chris

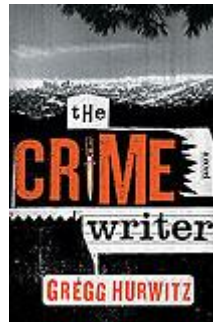


The Summer Flights of Fiction are coming in for a landing! Along with [Red Rover](#) and [The Crime Writer](#), featured today, five other novels were introduced in the previous newsletters this summer: [Five Skies](#), [In the Woods](#), [Lulu Meets God and Doubts Him](#), [God is Dead](#), and [Salt](#). One or more of seven novels could be your next reading group pick.

Read them and recommend them to your group by entering **Reading Group Choices'** Summer Flights drawing. **Twenty lucky winners will receive all seven of the Summer Flights of Fiction books!**

Enter for a Chance to Win All Seven Titles!

Beautifully crafted and heartbreakingly told, [The Crime Writer](#) confronts our inherent fear of what we might truly be capable of-good or evil. Like nothing he's written before, [The Crime Writer](#) takes Hurwitz in an exciting new direction and is sure to reach a whole new audience.



Deirdre McNamer's novel, [Red Rover](#), tells the story of three Montana men who get swept up in the machinations of World War II and its fateful aftermath. McNamer's first novel in seven years, [Red Rover](#) is a stirring book about idealism laid waste and the haunting, redemptive bonds of friendship.

Great Tips from Your Colleagues



Beth from **Reading Between the Whines Reading Group** sends a great tip for all book clubs! She relates, "We contacted the local library and worked with a staff member to find a grant that would allow us to purchase sets of books for book groups. With the librarian's help, we applied for four different grants, and

Bohjalian ([The Double Bind](#)), Richard Ford ([The Lay of the Land](#)), and Elinor Lipman ([My Latest Grievance](#)).

Many tales turn the pages on the traditions and cultures of other countries. [Caspian Rain](#) by Gina B. Nahai, [Born in the Big Rains](#) by Fadumo Korn, [In the Country of Men](#) by Hisham Matar, and [Unbowed](#) by Wangari Maathai are some of the stirring cultural reads.

Nonfiction titles - the new reading group pick - include [Stars of David](#) by Abigail Pogrebin, [Basicilia](#) by R. A. Scotti, [The United States of Arugula](#) by David Kamp, [Heat](#) by Bill Buford, [An Infinity of Little Hours](#) by Nancy Klein Maguire, and [The Female Brain](#) by Louann Brizendine, M.D.

We've selected over 60 new and different titles for your group to choose from as you develop your 2007-2008 reading list. Talk about back to school!

Quick Links

- [Win Flights of Fiction](#)
- [Reading Group Tips](#)
- [What Are You](#)

we got one of them. We were awarded \$500 to use to purchase books sets. There is grant money available, and how nice it is this year to use the book sets. (A committee was formed by the library to select the titles including two of our members.)" Thanks, Beth!

The **Preschool Moms Book Club** also had a great idea. In Julie's words, "We are a bunch of moms with small children, so our book club discussions are usually pretty lively. (We just enjoy getting out for an evening with other grown-ups). We take turns selecting the books, hosting the meeting and leading the discussions. I think this helps make our discussions more interesting, because we have different view points for the questions and answers each month. Since many months we are reading books that we wouldn't have necessarily picked for ourselves, we get many different views (both positive and negative) on the books. We went through a spell where everyone agreed during our discussions, and we all thought it was kind of boring. The next month, the hostess made an effort to select a book with a lot of ethical dilemmas to stimulate our discussion. It worked!"

Please feel free to share your tips, too - [email us](#) anytime. Many more tips from your colleagues will appear in the next print edition of *Reading Group Choices*. Watch for it at your library, in your bookstore, or in an upcoming newsletter!

1-On-One's with Authors

Ann Hood ([The Knitting Circle](#)) tells what community, comfort, and complicated characters contribute to reading groups, and **Shelley Fraser Mickle** ([The Assigned Visit](#)) reveals why she wouldn't ask Hemmingway to do the dishes in this month's **1-On-One's**.



Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Karen and **The Mirasol Book Group** from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, for winning the random drawing for this month's **Discussible Book Choice!**

"The last book we read and discussed was [Water for Elephants](#) by Sara Gruen. It was a book that everyone in the group enjoyed reading which is not always the case with our selections. The discussion leader gave us biographical

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information about the author as well as historical information about the Depression era which served as the setting of the book. We were all able to relate stories about going to the circus as kids since most of the story revolves around circus life. After a very interesting discussion, we were able to access an on-line video interview with the author. **Water for Elephants** was a great book which resulted in a great meeting.



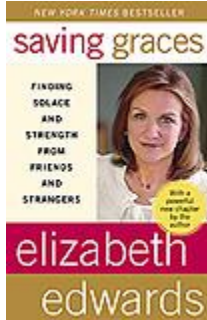
The **Chesapeake Bay Book Club** recently gathered to discuss **Sweetness in the Belly**, and to celebrate another great season of reading by taking up their other favorite pastime, wine! The CBBC gathered at Lola's on Maryland's Eastern Shore to watch the sun set over

the Chesapeake Bay. The women in this group come from unique backgrounds and all have diverse interests and hobbies. From left to right are Daring Debbie, Vocal Victoria (and our photographer), our fearless leader Boom-Boom Barbara, Resilient Rozan, Sassy Susan, Especial Evelyn, Moonlight Melanie, Jazzy Jodi and Darling Darlene. The CBBC meets monthly to discuss books of interests and participates in author chats and social events throughout the year.

We enjoy getting emails from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please **email us** with your group's discussible choices, and you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group. Please remember to include your group name, number of people in your group, and mailing address to send the prizes.

Other Discussible Choices

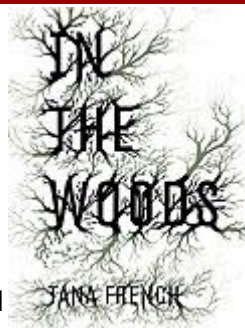
Elizabeth Edwards on Face the Nation



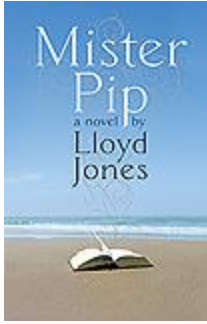
Elizabeth Edwards, author of ***Saving Graces: Finding Solace and Strength from Friends and Strangers*** and wife of presidential candidate John Edwards, will appear this Saturday (August 25th) on Face the Nation. Check your local TV listings for more.

Nancy Pearl Reviews In The Woods

Nancy Pearl reviews ***In the Woods***, a **Reading Group Choices** selection and a Summer Flights of Fiction title featured in June. In *Further Under the Radar: More Books Not to Miss*, Pearl proclaims that "Tana French's intense debut novel, *In the Woods*, is part whodunit, part psychological thriller (à la Barbara Vine and Patricia Highsmith), and wholly successful."



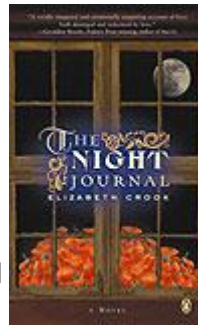
Recognition for Discussible Books



Mister Pip was selected for the 2007 Man Booker Prize Longlist on August 7th. The Booker Prize promotes the finest in fiction by rewarding the very best book of the year written by a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland. Lloyd Jones' ***Mister Pip*** weaves a tale of a war-torn island, a young girl, and the power of fiction, especially Dicken's *Great Expectations*. The Shortlist will

be announced on September 6th, and the winner, on October 16th.

Elizabeth Crook was named as the winner for this year's WILLA Literary Award in the historical fiction category for her novel, ***The Night Journal***. The WILLA Literary Awards, celebrating the finest books published about the Women's West during 2006, are sponsored by Women Writing the West. Awards and trophies will be presented to winners and finalists at the annual conference held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 19th - 21st, 2007.



Book Sense Picks Discussibles



Great minds think alike! The August Book Sense picks include many **Reading Group Choices** selections, including ***Mister Pip***, ***Red Rover***, and ***The Island***. The Crime Writer is an August Book Sense Notable.

And great reading for all seasons! Seven of the ten 2007 Spring-Summer Book Sense Reading Group Picks are also **Reading Group Choices'** selections. They include ***Water for Elephants*** by Sara Gruen, ***The Memory Keeper's Daughter*** by Kim Edwards, ***The Year of Magical Thinking*** by Joan Didion, ***The Madonnas of Leningrad*** by Debra Dean, ***The Inheritance of Loss*** by Kiran Desai, ***The Tender Bar*** by J.R. Moehringer, and ***Jesus Land*** by Julia Scheeres. The specialty categories include ten more Reading Group Choices' picks.

See All the Book Sense Reading Group Picks

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