

## Sue Monk Kidd Exclusive

Reading Group  
Choices 2009  
Released!

October 2008

Dear Barbara,

What a month for reading groups!

We are thrilled to report on our recent conversation with **Sue Monk Kidd** and to offer a chance to win tickets to a free advance screening of the movie! ***The Secret Life of Bees*** film will be released on the 17th.

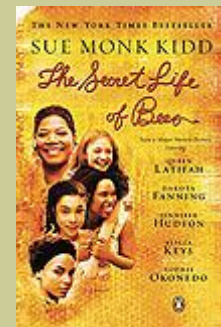
It is with great pride that we announce the release of our 15th annual edition of ***Reading Group Choices 2009: Selections for Lively Book Discussions***. It's filled with over 75 discussible titles for you and your group.

October is **National Reading Group Month**. There are ideas galore about how you and your group can participate and celebrate.

And it's time for the next annual **book group expo** in San Jose. Over 80 authors get together with thousands of reading group members for a weekend of fun and discussion.

All this - and, of course, some new suggestions for your book group - are here for you to enjoy in this month's edition of the ***Reading Group Choices Newsletter***.

## ***The Secret Life of Bees* - Now a Movie!**



Sue Monk Kidd's ***The Secret Life of Bees*** is the touching story about the need for love, sisterhood and redemption that explores the undeniable desire for a sense of belonging and the often daunting journeys that we must navigate to achieve it. The anticipated film adaptation stars Queen Latifah, Dakota Fanning, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys and Sophie Okonedo, a powerhouse ensemble of women from the world of music and film. ***The Secret Life of Bees*** opens in theaters

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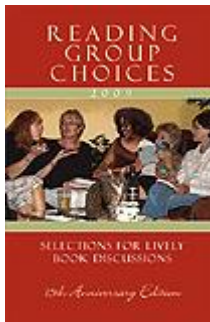
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## **Reading Group Choices 2009 Released!**

**Reading Group Choices** is proud to announce the release of **Reading Group Choices 2009: Selections for Lively Book Discussions**.



The 2009 guide marks the 15th anniversary edition of the print edition, which once again includes reading recommendations of some of the publication industry's best authors.

**Reading Group Choices 2009: Selections for Lively Book Discussions** includes over 75 new titles for recommended reading and book group discussion. Titles by such reading group favorite authors as [Leif Enger](#),

[Barbara Kingsolver](#), [Sue Miller](#), [Richard Russo](#), and [Ann Patchett](#), as well as work from debut authors have been selected for inclusion. The guide also includes valuable resources available to reading groups and book clubs all over the world.

To order copies of **Reading Group Choices 2009** - or any of the other annual editions from 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, and 2004 - [visit the store](#), [email us](#), or call us toll-free at 1-866-643-6883.

### [Purchase Reading Group Choices 2009](#)

## **Stretch Your Group with These Discussibles**

everywhere on October 17, 2008.

In celebration of the movie's imminent release, Sue Monk Kidd spoke with Donna Paz Kaufman, founder and continuing advisor of **Reading Group Choices**. What a way to commemorate **Reading Group Choices'** 15th anniversary - the Queen of "**Bees**" and the Queen of **Reading Group Choices!**

We think you will find the discussion fascinating. In it, the author shares her thoughts on the movie, on the popularity of her work, and on reading groups that find her work so enjoyable.

### [See what Sue Monk Kidd has to say about the movie](#)

**Reading Group Choices** and Fox Searchlight Pictures offer your group [a chance to see \*The Secret Life of Bees\*](#) even before the movie is released. Then, perhaps, your book club will want to compare the movie to the book. (If your area isn't in the system yet, just keep checking - it will be soon.)

Why not choose some historical fiction for your next discussion? Consider **A Silent Ocean Away: Colette's Dominion** by DeVa Gantt. Set in the early 19th century, **A Silent Ocean Away** is a sweeping, remarkable blend of adventure, romance, intrigue, and suspense, and the first book in a trilogy about one of antebellum Virginia's foremost families.



**A Chance to Win Tickets to the Pre-screening!**

Also, enter for a chance to win **The Secret Life of Bees Prize Pack**, including a poster, a bookmark, a copy of the paperback *signed by the cast*, and, of course, a jar of honey!



Then, for your next discussion, how about a mystery? Our suggestion is **The Careful Use of Compliments: An Isabel Dalhousie Novel** by Alexander McCall Smith. In the fourth installment of this enchanting, beloved series, Isabel Dalhousie, who is now a mother, returns to investigate an irresistible puzzle in the art world.

**A Chance to Win a Prize-Pack**

Next, choose a thought-provoking and sensitive novel - **Thank You for All Things** by Sandra Kring. In the words of ***Booklist***, in this "touching novel, Kring explores the far-ranging effects of family trauma with a deft hand as her child narrator uncovers the past, bringing light and hope."



## Avon A List

**AVON  
A LIST  
MUST-READS**



**Enter for a Chance to Win a Copy**

## bge's Power-Packed Author Line-up

There is a terrific lineup of authors for the third annual **book group expo** (bge) - the weekend-long event being held October 25th and 26th in San Jose, CA. Over 80 writers, with 16 of them being

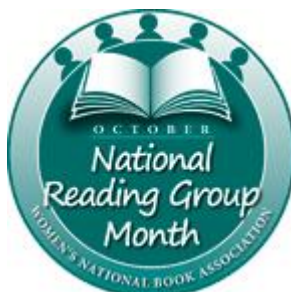
**Reading Group Choices'** (RGC) featured authors, will be in attendance, including Annie Barrows, Brunonia Barry, Margaret Cezair-Thompson, Marisa de los Santos, Andre Dubus III, and Ann Packer. Come join the fun! But if you can't make San Jose, select one of the **Reading Group**



**Choices'** authors and create your own salon!

**Discussible Books from All 16 RGC-bge Authors**

## October Is National Reading Group Month!



Reading groups are proving that good books bring people together. **National Reading Group Month** salutes reading groups. It fosters their growth and promotes the love of literature. It's an opportunity for reading groups to reflect on their accomplishments and plan for the future. Create your celebration in your book group or

participate in the **National Reading Group Month** events in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Seattle. These events incorporate discussion with reading group favorite authors including **Diane Hammond**, **Nancy Horan**, **Lisa See**, **Amy Bloom** and **Debbie Macomber**.

**Get a full listing of cities and events**

**Create Your Celebration**

## Your Own Discussible Choices

**Get the Avon A List!**

### Chances to Win

**The Secret Life of Bees Prize Pack**

**Thank You for All Things**

**Musicophilia**

**The Secret Life of Bees Advance Screening**

### New 1-On-Ones

**Sue Monk Kidd**

**Jennifer Lee Carrell**

**DeVa Gantt**

**Eve Brown-Waite**

### New Profiles of Discussible Books

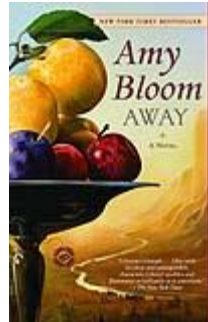
***Musicophilia***

***Hot, Flat, and Crowded***

***Thank You for All***

Congratulations to Jana and **The Melons Sisters** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!

*"Our group just finished reading **Away** by Amy Bloom. It was interesting reading - many of our members felt it was one of our top books. Others weren't as sold until our discussion. One member brought a very different side to the story. After sharing her thoughts, the book changed in many of our minds. She felt the ending was written from the point of view as a dream as the main character Lillian lay dying. No one else picked up on this twist to the story. It helped us all see it from a very different perspective. We had a very lively discussion and all agree Amy Bloom's writing was an outstandingly beautiful voice in the reading."*



**Jana, The Melons Sisters, Mesa, AZ**

We enjoy hearing from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please **let us know** about your group's discussible choices - you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group!

**[More Discussible Choices](#)**

## Hemingway Cats Stay Put



According to the **Pittsburgh-Post Gazette**, the famed six-toed (polydactyl) cats at Ernest Hemingway's island home aren't going anywhere. The **Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum** announced Thursday that it reached an agreement with the federal government that lets the 50 or so cats (including Hairy Truman, pictured above) continue to roam the grounds, ending a five-year battle that could have resulted in their being removed or caged. The cats descend from a cat named Snowball given to the novelist in 1935 and freely wander the grounds of the

**[Things](#)**

**[A Silent Ocean Away](#)**

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Spanish colonial house. All the cats carry the gene for six toes, but not all show the trait. The **South Florida Sun-Sentinel** reports that this story has a purrrfect ending!

**Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,**



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