



Great Books for your Book Club

Jennifer Patterson

April 28, 2011

Rules for Book Club

- **Survey** interested persons to determine when and where the group should meet. Keep a list of interested persons with phone numbers and e-mail addresses to notify them of details when dates and time are decided upon. Set all meeting dates for the same day and time (i.e. second Tuesday of each month).
- **Advertise** the formation of the club on community and Library websites, in bookstores and coffee shops and on the Library's Bulletin board. Make small flyers you can hand out easily and put them out at the circulation desk.
- **Send out invitations** to community supporters, volunteers, etc.

More Rules

- **Start all meetings on time.** Use the first meeting as a planning session. Ask participants to come to the meeting with a few titles of books they have read and liked. Books should be thought provoking, inspiring or a bit controversial to be good choices.
- **Assign an experienced leader** to help the group choose a first list of titles and another one to lead the first book discussion. The first two meetings set the tone for the book club, so choose your leaders carefully! After the first two meetings, whoever “championed” the book can lead that discussion (rotate discussion leaders)
- **Determine how many and what format** (i.e. large print, audiocassette, CD or regular print) you might need to locate on an ongoing basis. You will lose participants on a tight budget if you can’t loan a few copies of each book.

More Rules

- Distribute a list of typical discussion questions and suggest that members read the book with these in mind.
- While discussing a book, the discussion leader should be sure to encourage all members to contribute, but discourage anyone from monopolizing the discussion.
- Remind participants of the next meeting – by e-mail, by flyers, etc. *Continue* passing out flyers at the desk; don't stop reminding patrons that you have a book club and everyone is welcome. You will lose members over time, so continue to recruit new ones.
- It's nice to bring cookies, or a food item related to the book, and tea or coffee (decaf if it's late afternoon or evening). People feel welcome and appreciated if there's food.

Final Rule

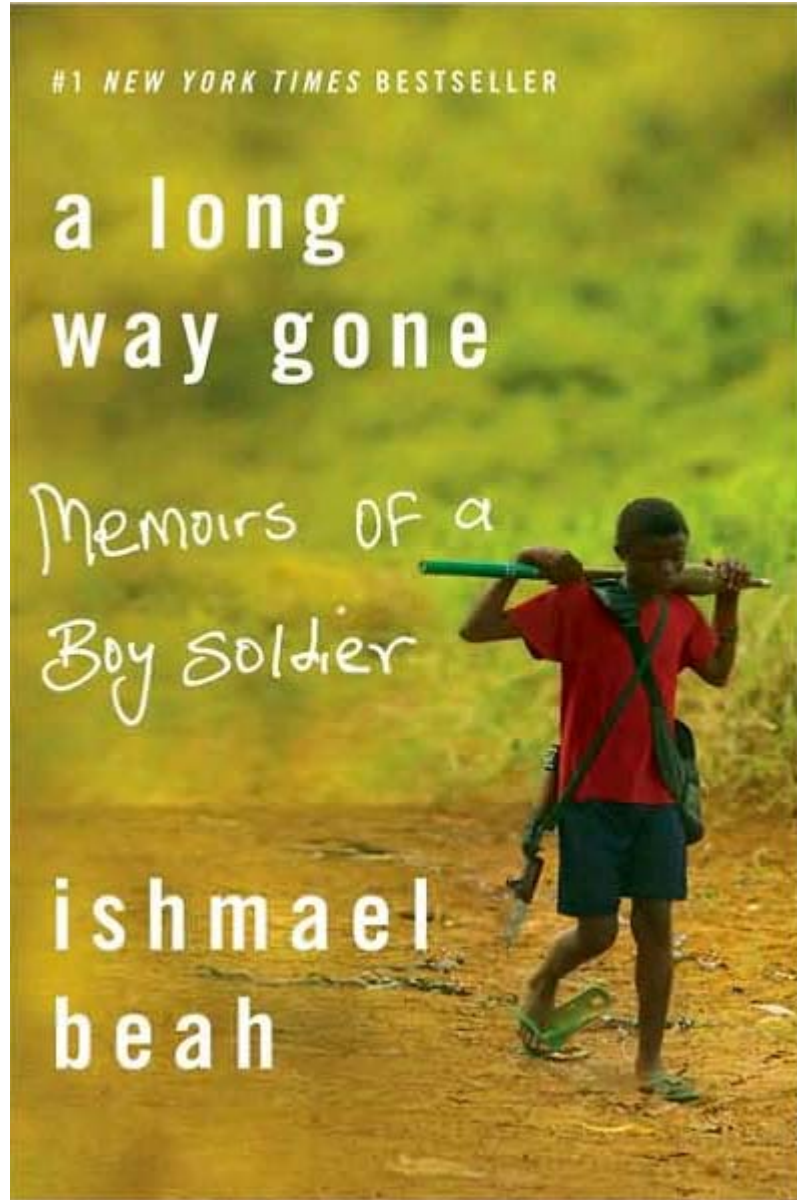
- **You do not talk about Book Club. What's said in Book Club stays in Book Club!**

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

a long way gone

Memories of a
Boy Soldier

ishmael
beah



10
BEST BOOKS
The New York Times
Book Review

lit

a memoir by the author of
THE LIARS' CLUB and *CHERRY*

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

mary karr

"Searing. . . Lassos you,
hogties your emotions, and won't let you go."

—Michiko Kakutani,
NEW YORK TIMES

P.S.
INSIGHTS,
INTERVIEWS
& MORE...

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

cherry



A Memoir

MARY KARR

Author of *THE LIARS' CLUB*



Copyrighted Material

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

THE GLASS CASTLE



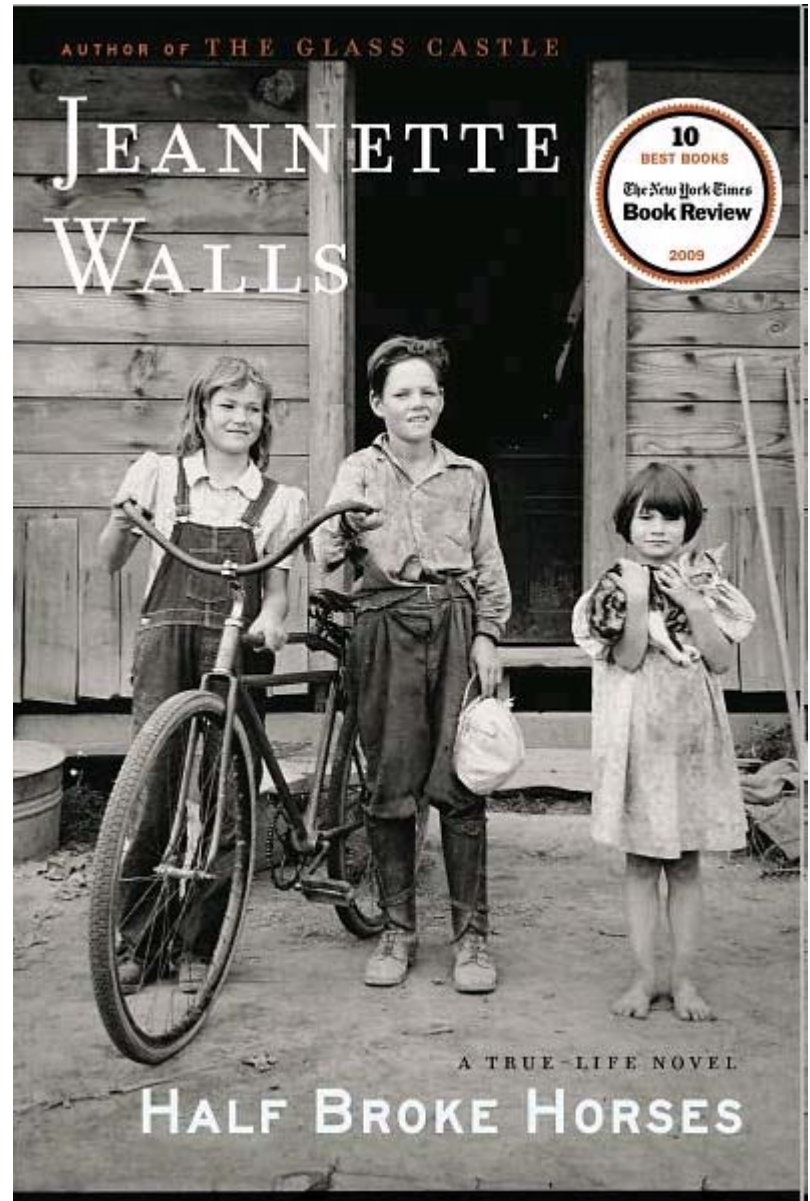
JEANNETTE
WALLS

"Walls has joined the company of writers such as Mary Karr
and Frank McCourt who have been able to
transform their sad memories into fine art." —*People*

A MEMOIR

AUTHOR OF THE GLASS CASTLE

JEANNETTE WALLS



A TRUE-LIFE NOVEL

HALF BROKE HORSES



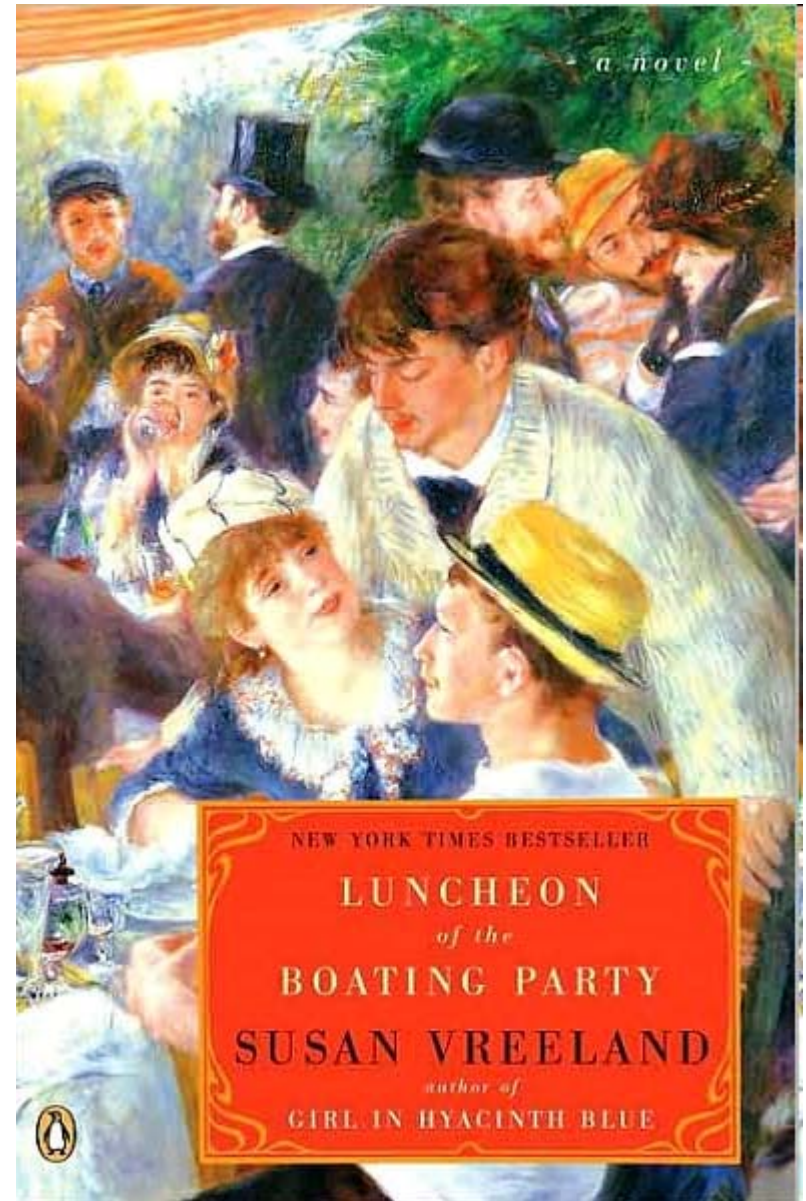
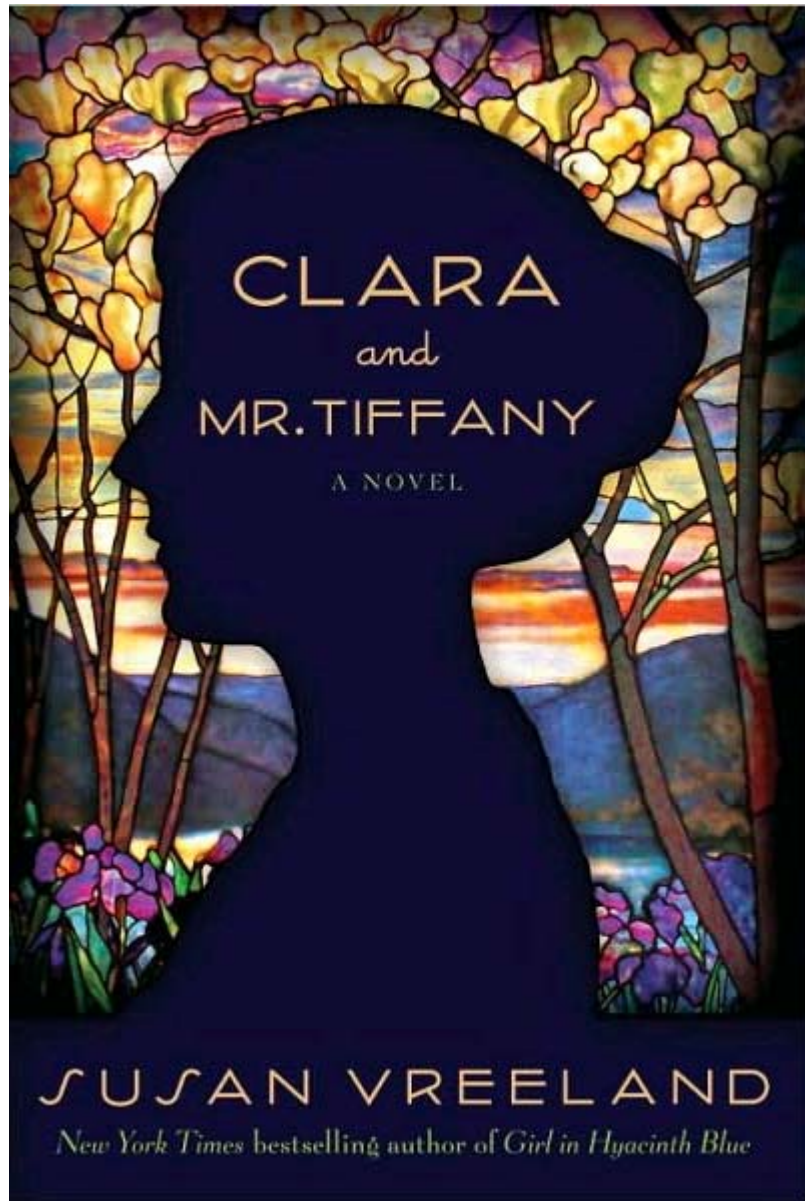
JODI
PICOULT

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

HOUSE RULES

"Picoult writes with
unassuming brilliance."
—STEPHEN KING

A NOVEL



"This is can't-put-it-down history." — Walter Cronkite

"A classic disaster tale." — NEW YORK TIMES

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED
THE GREAT AMERICAN DUST BOWL



The
**WORST
HARD
TIME**

TIMOTHY EGAN



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Stormy Weather

Paulette Jiles

AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *ENEMY WOMEN*

"A bighearted, life-affirming novel."
—*Washington Post Book World*

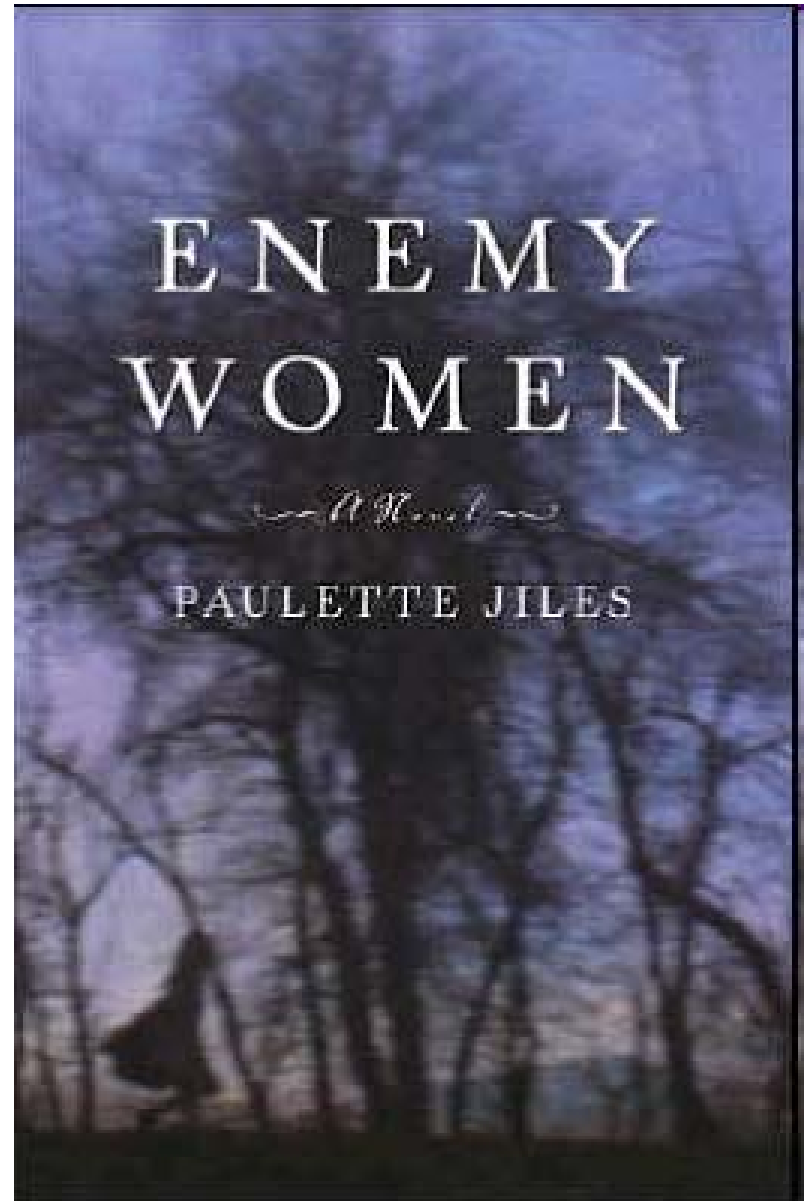


P.S.
INSIGHTS
INTERVIEWS
& MORE...

ENEMY WOMEN

A Novel

PAULETTE JILES

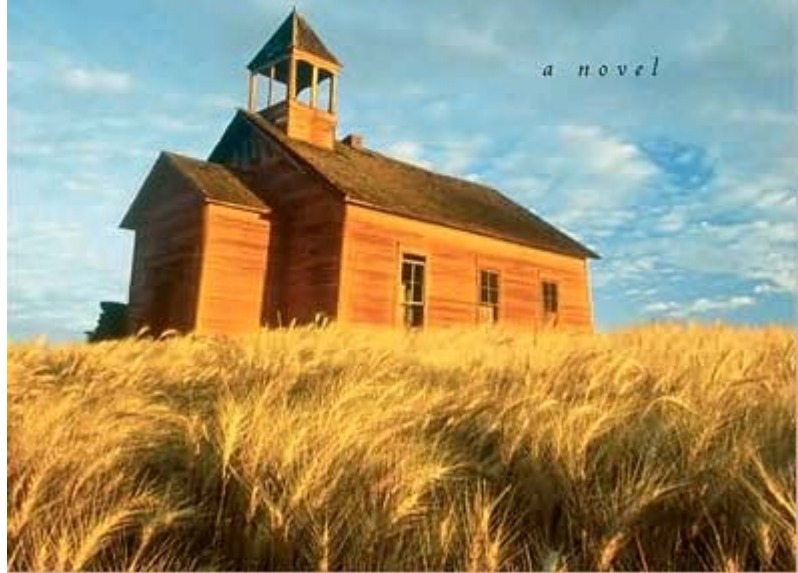


"Flawless . . . *The Whistling Season* is a book that strives for more than beauty, which it achieves: It reaches for joy."—O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE

IVAN DOIG

The
Whistling
Season

a novel

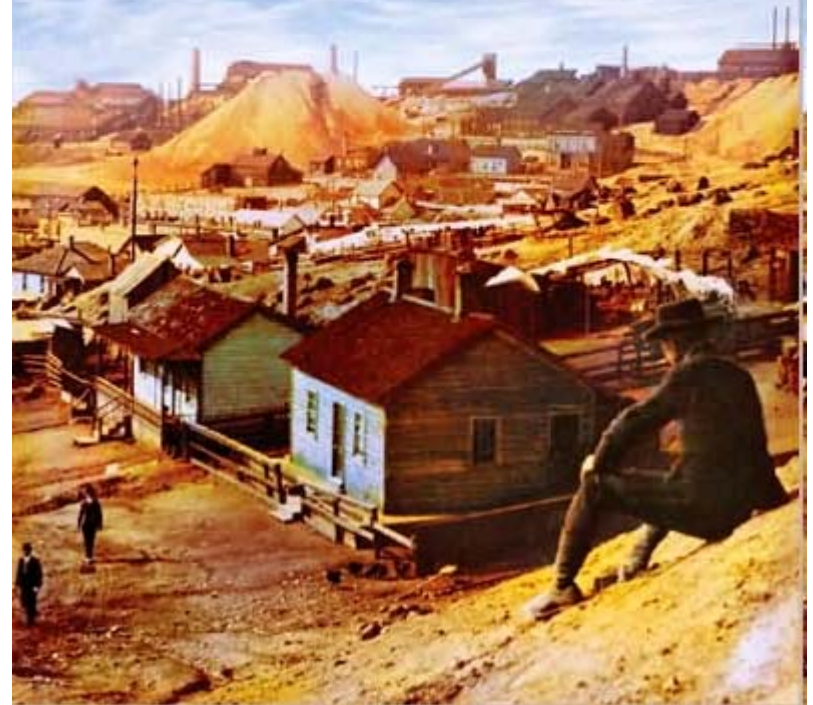


IVAN DOIG

AUTHOR OF *The Whistling Season*

WORK SONG

a novel



NATIONAL BESTSELLER

The Particular
Sadness
of Lemon
Cake
a novel



Aimee
Bender

"Moving, fanciful, and gorgeously strange." —People

More Books and Resources

- San Marcos Public Library: [Book Club Classics](#)
- Jennifer's *Best Books for Book Clubs* article: [CTLS November 2010 Newsletter](#)

Thanks!

Jennifer.Patterson@ctls.net