

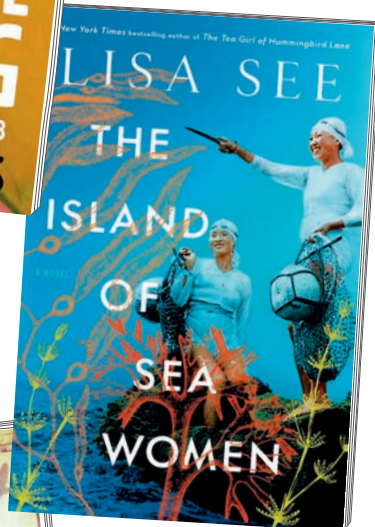
# Book CLUB

When Mother Nature brings you even more snow and frosty temps, make yourself comfy and pick up a book. These hot new releases are sure to stave off any last chill in the winter air.

IF YOU'RE INTO ►  
HIDDEN TRUTHS



◀ IF YOU'RE INTO  
SMALL-TOWN CANADA



IF YOU'RE INTO ►  
BEST-FRIEND SAGAS



◀ IF YOU'RE INTO  
CAT-AND-MOUSE CHASES

## Sara's pick

### The Quintland Sisters

FICTION  
(WILLIAM MORROW)  
BY SHELLEY WOOD, \$20.

A roman à clef about Canada's Dionne quintuplets, this is based on the tragic true story of five identical sisters taken from their parents, put under government care and treated like zoo animals on display. At the height of the Great Depression, the quints drew 6,000 visitors per day, including the likes of Shirley Temple and Amelia Earhart, and represented a financial investment to those who exploited them. Told by a fictional narrator but laden with disturbing truths, this recounting of a blight on our history is as fascinating as it is informative; my only wish is that it followed their story into present day.

## Alex's pick

### Small Game Hunting at the Local Coward Gun Club

FICTION  
(HOUSE OF ANANSI PRESS)  
BY MEGAN GAIL COLES, \$23.

I won't lie—it took me a little bit to get into the rhythm of this multi-perspective story about a winter's day in St. John's, N.L. I'm so glad I stuck with it, though, because it's such a profound read, offering up perfectly crafted sentences in the thoughts of the motley cast of characters. The book takes an unflinching view of how intergenerational trauma plays out in a single day within the confines of a local restaurant and the connections between the women and men who work and play there. Expect scenes that haunt and distress—but also count on truly important insights about race, class and misogyny.

## Amanda's pick

### The Island of Sea Women

FICTION  
(SCRIBNER)  
BY LISA SEE, \$25.

If you love sweeping historical fiction, you'll want to dig into this new novel by Lisa See. Set on the Korean island

of Jeju, *The Island of Sea Women* centres around a matriarchal society of female divers, whose members engage in the arduous physical work of gathering shellfish while the men of the community take care of the children. Spanning many decades—from Japanese colonialism in the 1930s through the Second World War, the Korean War and up to modern day—the story illuminates a rich culture and an intense girlhood friendship tested by external forces.

## Suzanne's pick

### The Huntress

FICTION  
(WILLIAM MORROW)  
BY KATE QUINN, \$23.

Second World War espionage tales are a dime a dozen right now—with many of them not worth the time, IMHO. But fans of 2017's blockbuster *The Alice Network* are in for a deliciously deep read with the author's latest in the genre. In this new novel, a British reporter-turned-Nazi hunter teams up with a Soviet pilot to run to ground a ruthless female assassin, turning the predator into prey. It twists, turns and thrills in equal measure.

## OUR STAFF REVIEWERS

**Sara Cation** has wept her way through a litany of literary heartbreaks, from *The Little Prince* to *A Little Life*, but she's buoyed by the likes of Shteyngart and Safran Foer. She reads anything set in North Korea or India but never touches self-help or romances.

**Alexandra Donaldson** loves reading literary fiction, essay collections, dark humour, Canadian authors and magical realism. This, and the fact that she's one of our resident fashion editors, makes her the closest thing we have to Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*.

**Amanda Etty** has an affinity for nail-biting thrillers and smart, funny books written by smart, funny women. She's always on the hunt for her next favourite novel, although she's currently working her way through a stack of parenting books (toddlers, right?).

**Suzanne Moutis** almost always has her nose in a book, be it Golden Age mystery, Second World War history or Hollywood tell-all. She unapologetically loves Regency romances and young adult fiction but flatly refuses to read anything that will make her cry.



## On the Other Side

Recent years have seen a rise in women's literary voices—both in the number of books by female authors and in the kinds of books that are published. One trend we're loving is revisionist mythology, in which writers are telling some familiar old stories with new feminist viewpoints.

## CRITICAL THINKING FEMINIST RETELLINGS

- 1 **The Bear and the Nightingale** (Del Ray) by Katherine Arden, \$36.
- 2 **The Silence of the Girls** (Hamish Hamilton UK) by Pat Barker, \$41.
- 3 **Circe** (Little, Brown and Co.) by Madeline Miller, \$32.
- 4 **A Study in Honor** (Harper Voyager) by Claire O'Dell, \$20.
- 5 **Boy, Snow, Bird** (Penguin Canada) by Helen Oyeyemi, \$20.
- 6 **Across a Star-Swept Sea** (Balzer + Bray) by Diana Peterfreund, \$22.
- 7 **Eligible** (Random House) by Curtis Sittenfeld, \$23.
- 8 **The Cold Is in Her Bones** (Margaret K. McElderry Books) by Peternelle van Arsdale, \$25.

We'd love to hear from you! Check out #clbookclub on Wednesdays on our Facebook page, where, each week, we ask our followers a reading-related question.

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