

Book Club in a Bag

For more details or to help your book club get started, contact Mary, Adult Programming Librarian, at adultprograms@andersonlibrary.org or (864) 260-4500 x121.

What “the Bag” is:

- A canvas tote bag that contain multiple copies of a book that you can check out and then distribute to your book club members. Each bag includes:
 - 6 or 8 copies of the book (it will say how many for each bag)
 - A list of discussion questions, brief author biography, and additional works by the author
 - A quick guide to starting and running your own book club
- The Bags can be placed on hold, just like any other library book.
- The Bags check out for 4 weeks at a time, with one renewal available. This gives you about 2 months total.
- The person checking out the Bag is responsible for collecting all of the books and returning them to any Anderson County Library branch.

Book Club in a Bag titles:

***The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* by Aimee Bender** (Fiction – 8 copies)

On the eve of her ninth birthday, Rose Edelstein bites into her mother's homemade lemon chocolate cake and discovers she has a magical gift: she can taste her mother's emotions in the cake. It is a luminous tale about the enormous difficulty of loving someone fully when you know too much about them. Heartbreaking and funny, wise and sad.

***The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake** (Fiction – 8 copies)

In 1940, Iris James is the postmistress in coastal Franklin, Massachusetts. Iris knows more about the townspeople than she will ever say, and believes her job is to deliver secrets. Yet one day she does the unthinkable: slips a letter into her pocket, reads it, and doesn't deliver it.

***People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks** (Fiction – 8 copies)

Inspired by a true story, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah. Hanna's investigation unexpectedly plunges her into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultra-nationalist fanatics. Her experiences will test her belief in herself and the man she has come to love.

***Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline** (Fiction — 6 copies)

A spectacularly genre-busting, ambitious, and charming debut—part quest novel, part love story, and part virtual space opera set in a universe where spell-slinging mages battle giant Japanese robots, entire planets are inspired by *Blade Runner*, and flying DeLoreans achieve light speed.

***Beach Music* by Pat Conroy** (Fiction – 8 copies)

The story of Jack McCall, an American expatriate in Rome, scarred by tragedy and betrayal. His desperate desire to find peace after his wife's suicide draws him into a painful, intimate search for the one haunting secret in his family's past that can heal his anguished heart.

***The Hours* by Michael Cunningham** (Fiction – 6 copies)

Tells the story of three women: Virginia Woolf, beginning to write Mrs. Dalloway as she recuperates in a London suburb with her husband in 1923; Clarissa Vaughan, beloved friend of an acclaimed poet dying from AIDS, who in modern-day New York is planning a party in his honor; and Laura Brown, in a 1949 Los Angeles suburb, who slowly begins to feel the constraints of a perfect family and home.

***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz** (Fiction – 6 copies)

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd, a New Jersey romantic who dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love.

***The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards** (Fiction – 6 copies)

Award-winning author Kim Edwards's novel is a brilliantly crafted family drama that explores every mother's silent fear: what would happen if you lost your child and she grew up without you?

***Plantation* by Dorothea Benton Frank** (Fiction – 8 copies)

Frank evokes a lush plantation in the heart of modern-day South Carolina—where family ties and hidden truths run as deep and dark as the mighty Edisto River.

***Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly** (Fiction – 6 copies)

Set in the World War II era, the lives of three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and one of them is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland.

***The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd** (Fiction – 6 copies)

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. This novel looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.

***The Beach Street Knitting Society and Yarn Club* by Gil McNeil** (Fiction – 8 copies)

An uplifting, winning tale about the healing power of friendship and new beginnings. It is a charming novel that will delight all passionate knitters, and win over would-be knitters, too.

***The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith** (Fiction – 6 copies)

In this charming series, Mma Ramotswe navigates her cases and her personal life with wisdom, and good humor—not to mention help from her loyal assistant, Grace Makutsi, and the occasional cup of tea.

***Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck** (Nonfiction – 8 copies)

In September 1960, John Steinbeck and his poodle, Charley, embarked on a journey across America. A picaresque tale, this chronicle of their trip meanders through scenic backroads and speeds along anonymous superhighways, moving from small towns to growing cities to glorious wilderness oases.

***Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese** (Fiction – 6 copies)

A sweeping, emotionally riveting first novel—an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home.