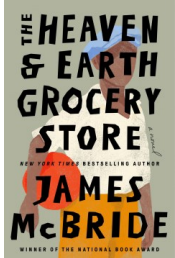


Strictly Fiction 2025

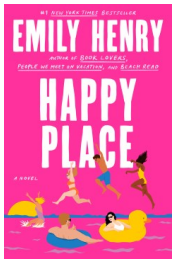
Lester Public Library • Mondays, 6:30 PM • Ages 18+

This book club for adults focuses on genre fiction such as mystery, science fiction, fantasy and romance. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month. Stop at the front desk to pick up current selection.



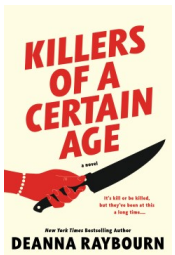
January 6: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (*fiction*)

In 1972, when a skeleton is discovered in the small, tight-knit community of Chicken Hill, Pennsylvania, a memorable cast of characters desperately protects a secret. Tensions rise as the truth about the town's past is uncovered, revealing the complicity of its white, Christian establishment in the events that transpired.



February 3: Happy Place by Emily Henry (*romance*)

Despite being a picture-perfect couple, Harriet and Wyn decide to break up. Not wanting to disappoint their friends, they keep their separation a secret and pretend to be together for the annual group vacation at their "happy place" in Maine. The act, however, becomes increasingly difficult to pull off.



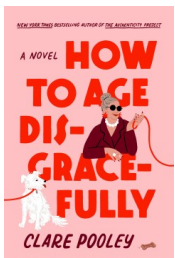
March 3: Killers of a Certain Age by Deanna Raybourn (*mystery*)

Sent on an all-expenses-paid vacation to celebrate their retirement, four assassins discover they've become targets themselves. The women must turn against their own organization to survive, relying on their experience and each other, and showing what it truly means to be a woman—and a killer—of a certain age.



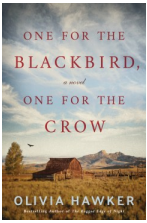
April 7: Starling House by Alix E. Harrow (*fantasy*)

Determined to secure a better life for her younger brother, Opal sees an opportunity to step inside Starling House—the estate of the 19th-century author of her favorite book—and make some extra cash. But what begins as a simple chance to earn money quickly takes a sinister turn.

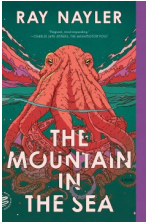


May 5: How to Age Disgracefully by Clare Pooley (*fiction*)

When the city council threatens to sell the community center, the quirky members of the Senior Citizens' Social Club join forces with their tiny friends in the daycare—as well as the teenaged father of one of the toddlers and a geriatric dog—to save their building.



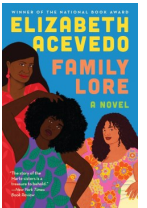
June 2: One For the Blackbird, One for the Crow by Olivia Hawker (*western*)
The Bemis and Webber families have relied on each other for survival since they first settled on the Wyoming frontier. But after finding his wife Cora in a compromising situation with Substance Webber, Ernest Bemis kills the man and is sent to prison. As brutal winter approaches, Nettie Mae Webber and Cora must work together to raise their children and work the land.



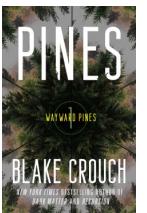
July 7: The Mountain in the Sea by Ray Nayler (*science fiction*)
Along with a battle-scarred security agent and the world's first android, marine biologist Ha Nguyen is tasked with studying a newly discovered species of highly intelligent octopuses that may have developed their own language and culture. As Nguyen struggles to communicate with the creatures, governments and corporations scheme to seize the octopuses for themselves.



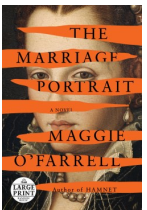
August 4: Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton (*historical fiction*)
In 1958, Elisa is a 19-year-old member of Cuba's high society who has a secret affair with a revolutionary. In 2017, Marisol is a freelance writer who travels to Havana to scatter her grandmother Elisa's ashes. Marisol must confront the contrast between Cuba's beauty and its political climate as she uncovers her family's history.



September 8: Family Lore by Elizabeth Acevedo (*fiction*)
Flor has a gift: she can predict, to the day, when someone will die. So when she decides she wants a “living wake,” her sisters are surprised and wonder if she has foreseen her own death. The story spans the three days leading up to the wake, and moves between the present and the past as the family migrates from the Dominican Republic to New York City.



October 6: Pines by Blake Crouch (*horror*)
Secret Service agent Ethan Burke arrives in Wayward Pines, Idaho, to locate two federal agents who went missing in the town a month earlier. But within minutes of his arrival, Ethan is involved in a violent accident and wakes up in the hospital with no ID, phone or briefcase—and the behavior of the townspeople is strangely off.



November 3: The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell (*historical fiction*)
In 16th century Florence, 15-year-old Lucrezia di Cosimo de'Medici is forced by her parents to marry the older Duke of Ferrara, thus merging two dynasties. Lucrezia is frightened by her husband's moods and his sisters' secrets, and realizes that the longer it takes her to produce an heir, the more danger she is in.



December 1: The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (*YA mystery*)
A Connecticut teenager unexpectedly inherits a vast fortune from the wealthiest man in Texas. To claim the inheritance, she must move into his sprawling estate and navigate a series of puzzles and clues—and the resentments of the man's surviving family—to figure out why she was chosen in the first place.