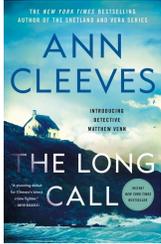


Strictly Fiction 2026

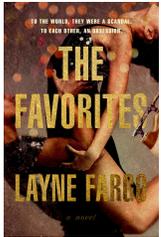
Lester Public Library • Mondays, 6:30 PM • Ages 18+

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.



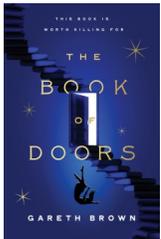
January 5: *The Long Call* by Ann Cleeves (*mystery*)

Detective Matthew Venn stands outside the church as his estranged father's funeral takes place. On the day Matthew left the strict evangelical community he grew up in, he lost his family too. Now, as he turns and walks away again, he receives a call from one of his team. A body has been found on the beach nearby: a man with a tattoo of an albatross on his neck, stabbed to death. The case calls Matthew back to the people and places of his past, as deadly secrets are revealed.



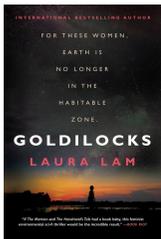
February 2: *The Favorites* by Layne Fargo (*romance*)

Katarina Shaw always knew she was destined to become an ice skater. When she meets Heath Rocha, their instant connection makes them a formidable duo on the ice and they go from childhood sweethearts to champion ice dancers. Until a shocking incident at the Olympics brings their partnership to an end. As the anniversary of their final skate approaches, an unauthorized documentary reignites public obsession. After a decade of silence, she's telling her story.



March 2: *The Book of Doors* by Gareth Brown (*fiction*)

When her favorite customer, a lonely yet charming old man, dies right in front of her, Cassie holds on to the last book he was reading, which turns out to be a rare volume that has great power and she is tasked with protecting it from those who will do evil. As Cassie learns more about the book's history, she's drawn into a dangerous mystery that tests her courage, loyalty, and the boundaries of reality itself.



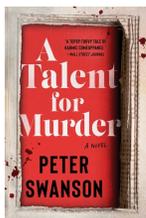
April 6: *Goldilocks* by L. R. Lam (*science fiction*)

Despite increasing restrictions on the freedoms of women on Earth, Valerie Black is spearheading the first all-female mission to a planet in the Goldilocks Zone. It's humanity's last hope for survival, and Naomi, Valerie's surrogate daughter and the ship's botanist, has been waiting her whole life for an opportunity like this. But when things start going wrong on the ship, Naomi begins to suspect that the time for life on Earth may be running out faster than they feared.



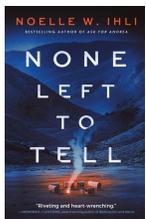
May 4: *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez (*historical fiction*)

Fresh out of nursing school in 1970s Alabama, Civil Townsend is determined to make a difference in her African American community through her work at the Family Planning Clinic. But when she's sent to care for two young girls in a one-room cabin, she's horrified to learn they've been targeted for birth control because they are poor and Black. Years later, as Dr. Townsend prepares to retire, she's haunted by the choices she made and the injustice she witnessed—reminders of a past that refuses to stay buried.



June 1: *A Talent for Murder* by Peter Swanson (*mystery*)

Martha Ratliff, a content librarian in Maine, never expected to marry—until she met Alan, a charming traveling salesman who seemed to brighten her quiet life. A year into their marriage, everything appears perfect—until she finds a streak of blood on one of his shirts from a recent trip. As doubts creep in and secrets begin to surface, Martha must confront the terrifying possibility that the man she loves may not be who she thought he was.



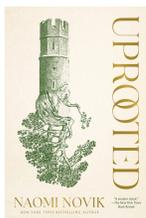
July 6: *None Left to Tell* by Noelle W. Ihli (*western*)

In a remote frontier town divided by fear and faith, three women find their lives intertwined by survival and sacrifice. Lucy has already watched her family and friends driven out for their beliefs, but when her son becomes the next target, she refuses to back down. Katrina hopes a cross-country move will bring her family peace, but a fresh start proves more dangerous than she imagined. And young Sally, forced into marriage and drawn into a world of fanaticism, must decide where her true loyalties lie—even if it costs her everything.



August 3: *The Judgment of Yoyo Gold* by Isaac Blum (*young adult*)

Yoyo Gold has always played the role of the perfect Jewish daughter. But when she sees her best friend cast out of the community over a seemingly innocent transgression, Yoyo's eyes are opened to the truth of her neighbors' hypocrisies. As her frustration builds, so does the need to speak out, even if only anonymously on TikTok. But when one of her videos goes viral, she is forced to choose which path to take—for her community, her family, and herself.



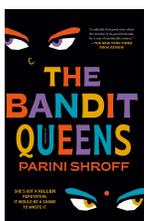
September 14: *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik (*fantasy*)

Agnieszka loves her quiet valley village where she's grown up. But just beyond the fields lies the corrupted Wood—a dark, twisted forest that poisons all it touches. To protect the valley, the villagers depend on the Dragon, a reclusive wizard who demands a terrible price: every ten years, one young woman must serve him in his tower. Everyone is sure he'll choose Agnieszka's beautiful best friend, Kasia, until his decision upends everything and thrusts Agnieszka into a world of dangerous magic, ancient secrets, and unimaginable power that could change the fate of them all.



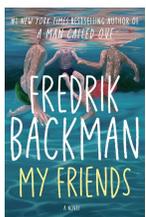
October 5: *Nightwatching* by Tracy Sierra (*horror*)

Home alone with her young children during a raging blizzard, a mother tucks her son back into bed—then hears slow, heavy footsteps on the stairs. Terrified, she hides her family in a secret room concealed behind a wall as an intruder searches the house. Through the long, freezing night, she must rely on her instincts, her courage, and the secrets of the old home to keep her children safe. But as dawn approaches, she realizes the real danger may be far closer than imagined.



November 2: *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff (*thriller*)

For years, Geeta's neighbors in her small Indian village have whispered that she killed her husband, who disappeared five years ago. It isn't true, but the rumor has its perks—giving her a freedom few women enjoy. Then other women start coming to her for advice on how to get rid of their own no-good husbands, and Geeta's quiet life spins out of control. As plans go awry and friendships deepen, Geeta discovers the most dangerous thing a woman can do is reclaim her power.



December 7: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman (*fiction*)

Most people overlook them, three tiny figures perched at the edge of a long pier in one of the world's most famous paintings. To everyone else, it's just a tranquil seascape. But Louisa, an artist herself, senses there's more to the scene than meets the eye. As she sets off on a journey to uncover the truth about the painting's origins, the more she begins to question not just the artwork—but herself.