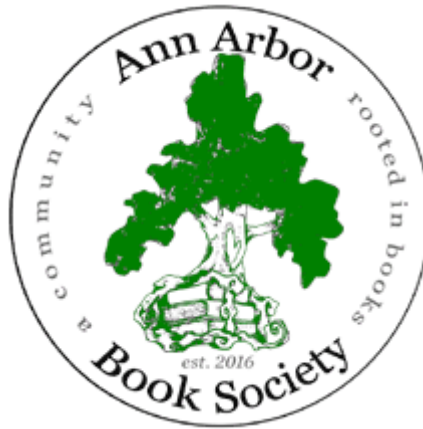


[View this email in your browser](#)



## Ann Arbor Book Society December Newsletter

[a2book.org](http://a2book.org)

### December Book Events

Click the calendar below for great book events taking place in December!

December 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	
Kerrytown Market & Shops Kerry Talks with Mother Goose		AADL: Storytime with Evelyn on AADLTV  Literati: At Home with Literati: The Best of Brevity  AADL: So You Wrote a Novel...Now What? On AADLTV	AADL: Storytime with Christopher on AADLTV  JCC: 33rd Annual Jewish Book Festival: Dan Poma  JCC: 33rd Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jason Rosenthal  UMB: LSA: Zell Visiting Writers Series: Reading and Q & A with Lauren Greff	AADL: Storytime with Alex on AADLTV  JCC: 33rd Annual Jewish Book Festival: Dan Poma  JCC: 33rd Annual Jewish Book Festival: Jason Rosenthal  UMB: LSA: Zell Visiting Writers Series: Writing on a Tightrope at Night in a High Wind: Inspiration Versus Craft	UMB: LSA: Zell Visiting Writers Series: Writing on a Tightrope at Night in a High Wind: Inspiration Versus Craft  Literati: At Home with Literati: Khaleel Mutanna & Rachel Richardson	Nicola's Books: Santa's Virtual Storytime  JCC: 33rd Annual Jewish Book Festival: Tovah Feldshuh

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### Ann Arbor Book Trivia

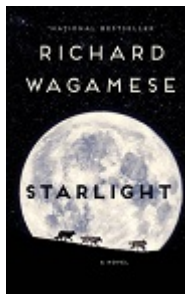
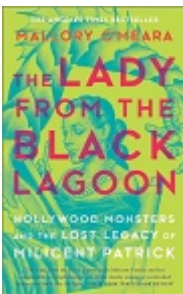
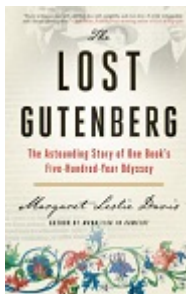
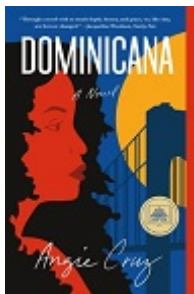
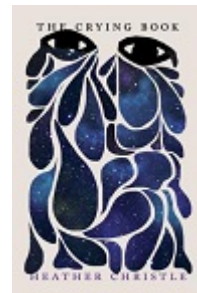
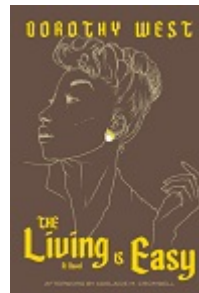
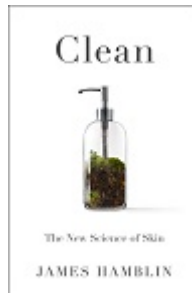
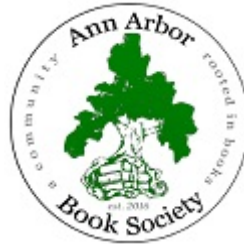
This 1950s *New York Times* bestseller about a woman's journey from rural Kentucky to Detroit, was written from the author's Ann Arbor farmhouse

1. *Leaving Home* by Elizabeth Janeway
2. *America, With Love* by Kathleen Winsor
3. *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow
4. *The Living is Easy* by Dorothy West

Scroll to the bottom of the newsletter for the answer!

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## Our Holiday Gift Picks



Click [here](#) for more great book recommendations from the Ann Arbor Book Society, and keep reading for book picks from Ann Arbor's indies and more!

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## Downtown Home & Garden Book Nook



Downtown Home & Garden (DHG) is a gem within the retail landscape of Ann Arbor. The go-to place for items from outdoor furniture, gardening tools, outdoor gear and bird seed, to cooking utensils, locally-sourced coffee and pastries, and an unparalleled selection of Polish pottery, DHG is a one-stop-shop for houseware gifts for yourself and others. But it's less known as a destination for book lovers, which is sure to change!

Hiding behind racks of Carhartt and Stormy Kromer clothing and Muck boots is DHG's Book Nook, a thoughtfully handpicked selection of books on a variety of topics of interest to lovers of the outdoors, selected by resident book buyer Kay Marsh. From fishing and hunting guides and books on Michigan waterfalls to books on wild foraging and collections of essays about animals and nature, the Book Nook resembles the well-stocked gift shop of a state park visitor center.

Click [here](#) for more information and photos about DHG's Book Nook!

## Kay's Picks



## On the Shelf



*The Christmas Cookie Club*  
by Ann Pearlman

“Family, kinship, is what you build from the accidents of life; from different decades, different biologies, different countries, different races.” -*The Christmas Cookie Club* by Ann Pearlman

Once upon a time, in the before times, when I was working the counter of a local bookstore, a mother and daughter came into the store on an unusual city tour. They were from out of town, this was their first trip to Ann Arbor, and they were utterly delighted—and delightful.

I asked what brought them to town. A book, they answered, one that they both adored and read multiple times together. It took place in Ann Arbor. Intrigued, I asked which book, wondering if I had heard of it. I had not. It was *The Christmas Cookie Club* by Ann Pearlman.

Sometime in spring, I picked up a hardcover copy of the book from a used bookstore, but I didn't want to read a holiday book out of season, so I held onto it, saving it for the right time. And here they are, all too quickly upon us, the winter holidays. Once Halloween had finished, I cracked open the pages and settled in.

This is not an action book. It is more like visiting with friends. This group of women are very much like people I know. Married, divorced, mothers, grandmothers, experiencing new love, mature love, new babies, lost babies, secret affairs, unfaithful lovers...all friends, even through their differences.

Each chapter focuses on a different woman attending this latest meeting of the annual Christmas Cookie Club. They begin with the recipe for the cookie she is presenting (and read like my mother's handwritten recipe cards rather than a professional cookbook), and are capped by a brief look at a specific ingredient used in the recipe. Being a foodie, I quite enjoyed learning the history of flour, cinnamon, dates, sugar, and more. This being a food-centric book, I did not find it distracting.

Pearlman often mentions specific places around Ann Arbor, which I found equal parts charming and bittersweet. Familiar names like Gallup Park, Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, Plum, Trader Joe's, Top of the Park, and the Roadhouse brought a smile to my face. But, aside from the park and grocery stores, these are places that I can't visit right now either because they are closed or because indoor dining is temporarily off limits. (Even a trip to the grocery store involves more stress than I like to put myself under, so I go as infrequently as possible.)

The grief that the women of the Christmas Cookie Club experience have nothing to do with a pandemic. They meet for coffee or wine; take walks together; go shopping and dancing. And most importantly, they comfort one another. They hug and hold hands and squeeze shoulders. Basically, they live normal lives! Like we used to live.

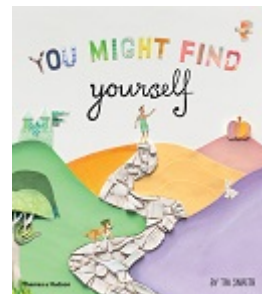
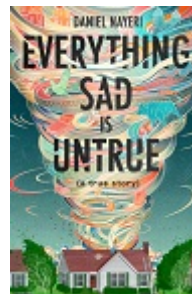
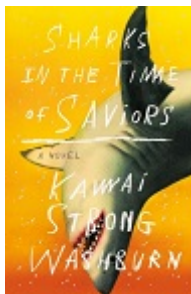
There are so many Ann Arbor landmarks mentioned that one could easily use it as a guidebook to exploring our community. I find that idea so lovely. The reader is seeing Ann Arbor through a townie's eyes, not some travel writer's. I also find that comforting. I can picture these places so clearly. And I hope I can still visit all of my favorite places in the coming year in person. Meanwhile, I have a dozen new cookie recipes to try.

--Crysta Coburn

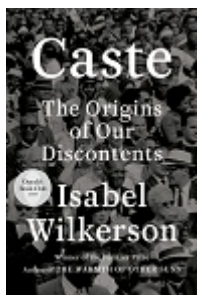
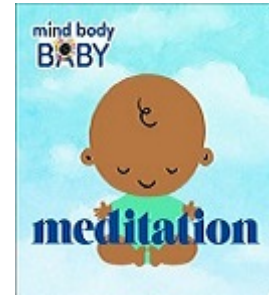
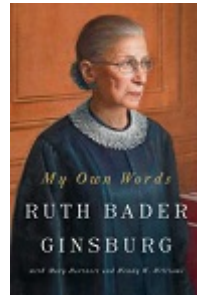
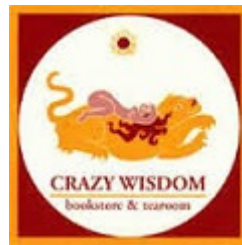
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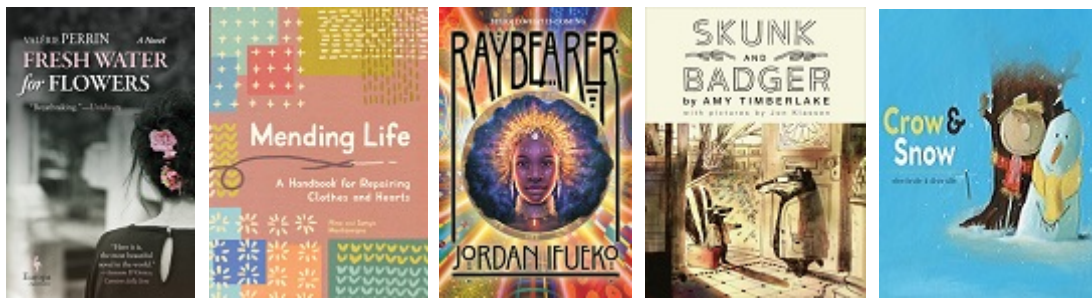
## Holiday Gift Picks

Once again we've asked our local independents to pick some books they think would make great gifts. Click on the titles below for more information. Each of these bookstores also offer gift certificates, as do our used bookstores, [Dawn Treader Book Shop](#), [Motte & Bailey Booksellers](#), and [West Side Book Shop](#). Show your loved ones how much they mean to you this holiday season by giving them the gift of reading!

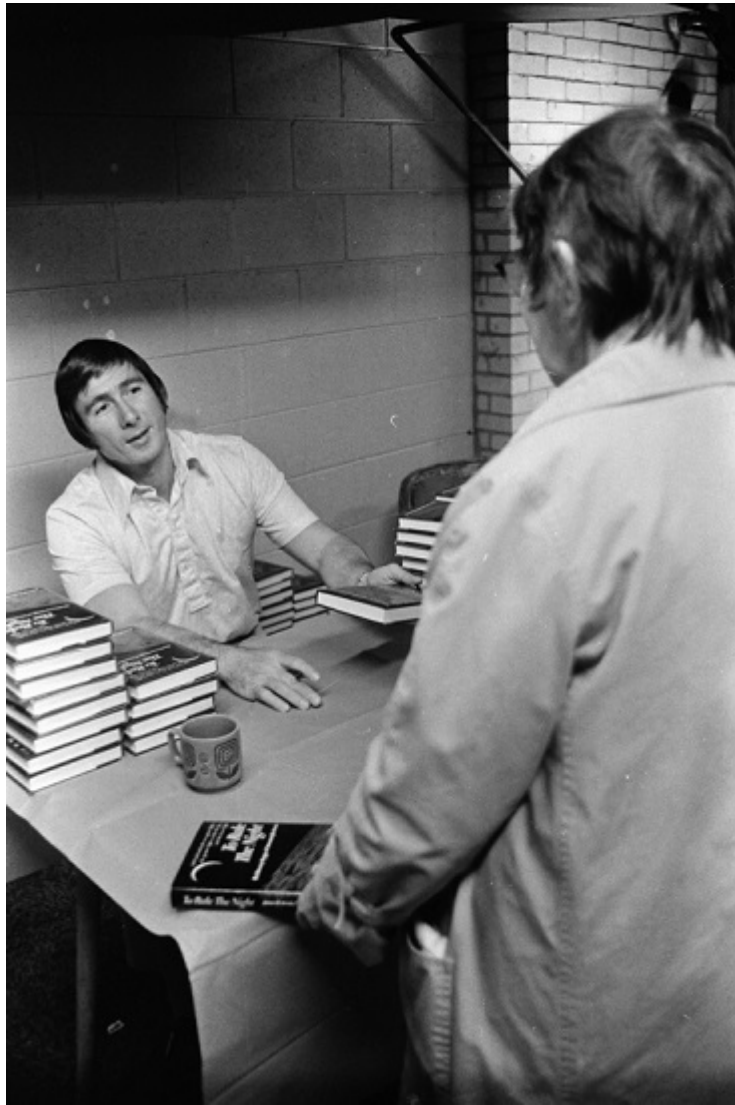








## Snapshot of the Past



**Caption: Astronaut James B. Irwin autographs "To Rule the Night" December 1973. At Logos Bookstore. Courtesy of the AADL.**

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### **Ann Arbor Book Trivia Answer**

Answer: *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow

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Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season filled with family, friends, and a few good books!

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Ann Arbor Book Society



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