

THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB
KIT





THE MOTHERS

Elin Mackenzie *the LAWYER*

A successful but overworked corporate lawyer living in Chicago

Relationship status: married, semi-happily

Favorite authors: Anita Brookner, Toni Morrison, Hilary Mantel, Jhumpa Lahiri, Jane Austen

Mariella Marciano *the DIVA*

A charismatic, flamboyant opera singer with residences in San Francisco and Lake Como, Italy

Relationship status: happily married to money

Favorite authors: Ann Patchett, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Elin Hilderbrand, Elena Ferrante

Grace Townsend *the MINISTER*

A dedicated, empathetic do-gooder who still lives in her hometown of Bridgeport, Connecticut

Relationship status: eternally single

Favorite authors: Virginia Woolf, Graham Greene, Zadie Smith, Kristin Hannah

Jamie Price *the HOMEMAKER*

A former nanny, now fitness instructor, living near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Relationship status: married, but it's complicated

Favorite authors: Diana Gabaldon, Nora Roberts, Elizabeth Strout, Ann Napolitano





THE DAUGHTERS

Brigid Mackenzie *the DOCTOR*

Elin's serious, hardworking daughter; a neurologist at Mass General in Boston

Relationship status: single, because who has time?

Favorite authors: Siddhartha Mukherjee, Oliver Sacks, Flannery O'Connor, Edward P. Jones

Zoey Marciano *the INFLUENCER*

Mariella's daughter; a social media influencer living in Brooklyn

Relationship status: has a girlfriend

Favorite authors: Donna Tartt, Judy Blume, Emily Henry, Rebecca Yarros

Meredith "Merry" Townsend *the SOCIAL WORKER*

Grace's daughter: a dedicated social worker in Bridgeport, where she grew up

Relationship status: recently single

Favorite authors: Rebecca Makkai, Tayari Jones, Barbara Kingsolver, Kate Atkinson, N. K. Jemisin

Kathleen Price *the LAW STUDENT*

One of Jamie's twin daughters (ten minutes older than her sister); a law student in Chicago

Relationship status: dating half-heartedly

Favorite authors: Sue Grafton, Scott Turow, Megan Abbott

Meg Price *the ASPIRING WRITER*

Jamie's slightly younger twin daughter; a wannabe writer and restaurant hostess in Chicago

Relationship status: Tinder girl

Favorite authors: J. D. Salinger, F. Scott Fitzgerald, former *Chicago Tribune* food critic Phil Vettel

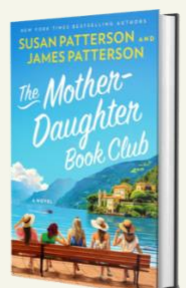




READING GROUP GUIDE



1. Are you a member of a book club? If so, how much time at each meeting do you spend talking about books? How much time do members spend talking about their lives? If you aren't a book club member, why not?
2. Book clubs typically meet on a regular basis. In *The Mother-Daughter Book Club*, the group is meeting for the first time after a three-year hiatus. The time gap is driven by a shocking event that affects all the members. How does the shared experience change the friendship the women have built, collectively and as individuals?
3. Mariella diligently plans activities for the group to reconnect. How do these events, including their unforeseen complications, bring the group closer together? Have you ever had a plan go awry? What did you learn from the experience?
4. Consider the characters in the story, the mothers and the daughters. What are the similarities in these relationships? What are the differences? Which mother-daughter pair is your favorite?





READING GROUP GUIDE



5. Grace, one of the more reserved members of the club, takes a risk in Lake Como that changes her life. Have you ever taken a major life risk? Did it pay off?

6. Almost every meeting of the Mother-Daughter Book Club culminates in the Night of Secrets. In Italy, a secret is revealed that shakes the group. Were the characters right to keep this secret? Have you ever kept a big secret from a loved one? Was it eventually revealed? What was the result?

7. Though the characters introduced in these pages gather to discuss books, like many book clubs they also share deep bonds over food! Which of the MDBC recipes is your favorite? If asked to share a family recipe, do you have one you would choose?

8. *The Mother-Daughter Book Club* mentions over seventy books and authors. Consider your personal reading list, versus that of your book club. Is there much overlap? If you first learned about a book in these pages, how soon can you start reading?



THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB RECIPES

Serve it up like the Mother-Daughter Book Club!
Buon Appetito!

Mariella's Killer Chocolate Cake

2/3 cup butter

2 cups sugar

2 eggs

2 cups flour

1 1/3 cups buttermilk

**1 1/3 tsp. of baking soda
dissolved in 2/5 cup of hot
water**

**3 1/2 squares of bitter
chocolate, melted gently (low
microwave fine)**

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1 tsp. pure almond extract

Preheat oven to 350°. Cream together butter and sugar, then add eggs. Blend in buttermilk and flour, starting and ending with the flour. Add dissolved baking soda to mixture.

Mix chocolate, vanilla extract, and almond extract. Blend into batter.

Butter pans with butter wrappers. Pour batter into two 9-inch cake pans or a 9 x 12 pan. Bake for 30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted comes out clean.



Killer Chocolate Frosting

1/2 cup butter

3 squares of bitter chocolate

2 cups sugar

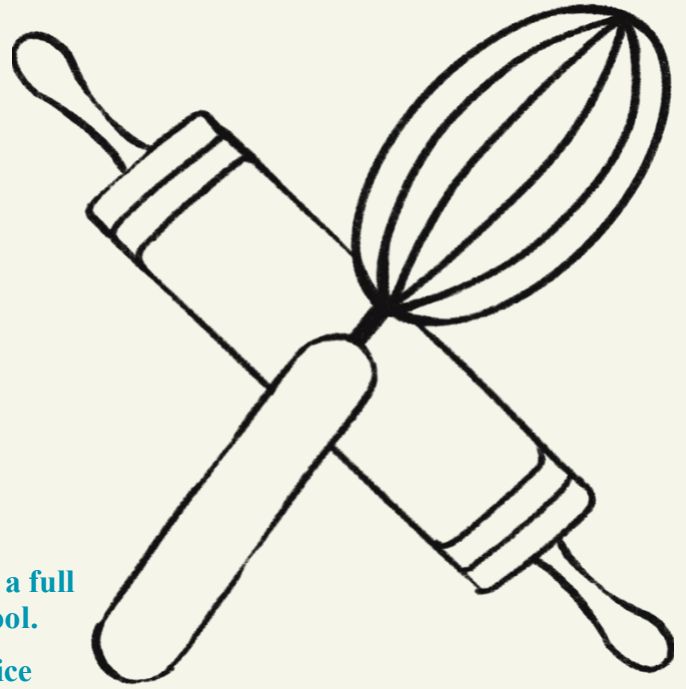
2/3 cup milk

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1 tsp. pure almond extract

Put all ingredients into a saucepan and bring to a full boil, for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.

Beat vigorously with wooden spoon and put on ice to hasten the thickening.



A Pitcher of Zoey's Como-politans

2 cups good vodka

1 cup Cointreau

1/2 cup lemonade 1/2 cup limoncello

1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (preferably lemons from the Amalfi Coast)

Pour the vodka, Cointreau, and the various lemon liquids into a pitcher.

Fill a cocktail shaker 1/2 full of ice, then add the cocktail mixture until it's 3/4 full and shake vigorously for 30 seconds.

Pour the mixture into martini glasses and serve immediately





THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB READING CHALLENGE

- ❑ *28 Summers* by Elin Hilderbrand
- ❑ *50 Shades of Grey* by E. L. James
- ❑ *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
- ❑ *Anna K.* by Jenny Lee
- ❑ *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy
- ❑ *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett
- ❑ *Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner
- ❑ *Brat Farrar* by Josephine Tey
- ❑ *Christmas on Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand
- ❑ *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese



- ❑ *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown
- ❑ *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng
- ❑ *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by Jill Clayburgh
- ❑ *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
- ❑ *The Good Girl's Guide to Great Sex* by Sheila Wray Gregoire
- ❑ *The Guest* by Emma Cline
- ❑ *Happy All The Time* by Laurie Colwin
- ❑ *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano
- ❑ *The Hotel Cat* by Esther Averill
- ❑ *Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner



- ❑ *The Hunter* by Tana French
- ❑ *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- ❑ *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
- ❑ *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara
- ❑ *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- ❑ *Middlemarch* by George Eliot
- ❑ *Normal People* by Sally Rooney
- ❑ *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- ❑ *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt
- ❑ *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen





A Start in Life by Anita Brookner



Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel



Tom Lake by Ann Patchett



Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin



The Unbearable Lightness of Being by Milan Kundera



Whereabouts by Jhumpa Lahiri



Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple



The Whispers by Ashley Audrain



Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel



Women Talking by Miriam Toews





ADDITIONAL AUTHORS MENTIONED

Megan Abbott

Kate Atkinson

Judy Blume

The Brontë sisters

Barbara Taylor Bradford

Bill Bryson

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Elena Ferrante

Diana Gabaldon

Sue Grafton

Graham Greene

Kristin Hannah

Emily Henry

N. K. Jemisin

Taylor Jenkins Reid

Edward P. Jones

Tayari Jones

Claire Keegan

Barbara Kingsolver

Rebecca Makkai

Toni Morrison

Siddhartha Mukherjee

Flannery O'Connor

Nora Roberts

Oliver Sacks

J. D. Salinger

Zadie Smith

Elizabeth Strout

Scott Turow

Phil Vettel

P. G. Wodehouse

Virginia Woolf

Rebecca Yarros

