

RPCB Book Club 2024-2025 Book List

All titles are available on Amazon in print format. All titles except Barbara's are available on Amazon in Kindle and audiobook formats (sometimes free with an Audible membership) and through the library systems.

I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves. —Anna Quindlen

The Wonderful Land of Affliction by THE BARBARA COLEMAN: While reading this book, your eyes may be opened to an invisible land that exists all around you. Have you ever met a suffering person who was still smiling? Do you understand why distress and anguish crush some folks and not others? Come and meet the pilgrims in this Land of Affliction who have learned the eternal key to being joyful, hopeful, and patient through peril. Meet Miss Wisdom, Lady Peace, and Young Courage (among others) and learn who gives them peace and calms their fears of decline and death. Read and be comforted.

Christian Living/83 p./Discuss in October.



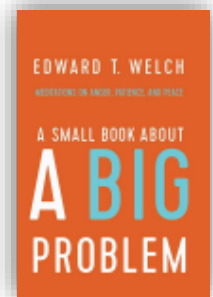
Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson: Young Jim Hawkins lives an ordinary life, helping his parents run the Admiral Benbow Inn in England, until an old seafarer, Billy Bones arrives carrying the black spot, an old symbol of pirate justice. When Billy meets his tragic death, Jim unlocks the pirate's chest only to discover a mysterious map that leads to an old treasure hidden away by the notorious Captain Flint. Soon, Jim's life takes a most unexpected turn...

Classic/156 p./Discuss in November.



A Small Book about a Big Problem by Ed Welch: Look closely at any day and we can usually find anger in both our actions and attitudes. Things spill or go missing, we get stuck in traffic, and the people we live and work with often make life even harder. If you have just gotten irritated for the umpteenth time today, you might wonder if change is possible. Biblical counselor and psychologist Ed Welch invites readers to take a 50-day journey that unpacks anger and encourages readers to become more skillful at responding with patience to life's difficulties. Along the way, readers will be introduced to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the only one who can empower his people to grow in patience, peace, and wholeness.

Christian Living/185 p./Discuss in December.



The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle by Joanne Huist Smith: After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne Huist Smith had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children—especially with the holiday season approaching. But 12 days before Christmas, presents begin appearing on her doorstep with notes from their "True Friends." As the Smiths came together to solve the mystery of who the gifts were from, they began to thaw out from their grief and come together again as a family. This true story about the power of random acts of kindness will warm the heart, a beautiful reminder of the miracles of Christmas and the gift of family during the holiday season.

Memoir, Christmas/224 p./ Discuss in January.



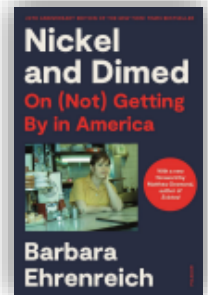
The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel by Douglas Brundt: Diesel, a word very common in a trucker's world, is more than the name of a type of fuel. Diesel, the inventor of the Diesel engine, was a caring, compassionate, and creative man of discernment, humility, and intelligence--in a world between two world wars where his genius navigated between world powers and where his heart just wanted to be with his beloved wife and family. To this day, his end is still a mystery.

Creative non-fiction/344 p./Discuss in February.



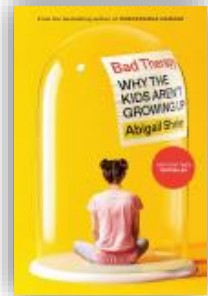
Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich: Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, inspired by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, Ehrenreich wondered if anyone could survive, let alone prosper, on minimum wage. To find out, she left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. *Nickel and Dimed* reveals low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity—a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate stratagems for survival. Read it for the smoldering clarity of Ehrenreich's perspective and for a rare view of how "prosperity" looks from the bottom. In a new foreword, Matthew Desmond, author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, explains why, twenty years on in America, *Nickel and Dimed* is more relevant than ever.

Memoir, Social Justice/240 p./Discuss in March.



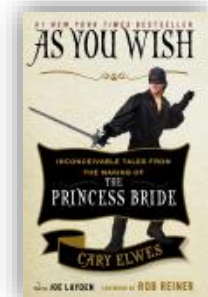
Bad Therapy by Abigail Shrier: In virtually every way that can be measured, Gen Z's mental health is worse than that of previous generations. Youth suicide rates are climbing, antidepressant prescriptions for children are common, and the proliferation of mental health diagnoses has not helped the staggering number of kids who are lonely, lost, sad and fearful of growing up. What's gone wrong with America's youth? Abigail Shrier argues that the problem isn't the kids—it's the mental health experts. *Bad Therapy* is a "must read" for anyone questioning why our efforts to bolster America's kids have backfired—and what it will take for parents to lead a turnaround.

Politics, Exposé/320 p./Discuss in April.



As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales from the Making of The Princess Bride by Cary Elwes: From actor Cary Elwes, who played the iconic role of Westley in *The Princess Bride*, comes a first-person account and behind-the-scenes look at the making of the cult classic film filled with never-before-told stories and interviews with costars. *The Princess Bride* has been a family favorite for close to three decades. Cary Elwes was inspired to share his memories and give fans an unprecedented look into the creation of the film while participating in the twenty-fifth anniversary cast reunion. In *As You Wish* he has created an enchanting experience; in addition to interviews with his fellow cast mates, there are plenty of set secrets and backstage stories.

Memoir/259 p./Discuss in May.



Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo: In 1848, a young, enslaved couple, Ellen and William Craft, posed as master and slave and made their escape together across more than 1,000 miles, riding out in the open on steamboats, carriages, and trains that took them from bondage in Georgia to the free states of the North. Along the way, they dodged slave traders, military officers, and even friends of their enslavers, who might have revealed their true identities. The tale of their adventure soon made them celebrities, and generated headlines around the country. *Master Slave Husband Wife* is an American love story—one that would challenge the nation's core precepts of life, liberty, and justice for all—one that challenges us even now.

Creative non-fiction/322 p./Discuss in September 2025.

