

redwood city public library

BOOK GROUP - LET'S TALK BOOKS



Join us **every third Thursday of the month at noon** in the Fireplace Room at the Downtown Library - 1044 Middlefield Rd - to discuss a good book or two! You can come to all or any meeting you wish. See you there!

Free and open to the public

Thursday, November 17 - Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*

December - No Meeting

Thursday, January 19 - James Joyce's *Dubliners*

Thursday, February 16 - Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun*

Thursday, March 15 - Richard Dawkins' *The Greatest Show on Earth*

Thursday, April 19 - E. M. Forster's *Passage to India*

Thursday, May 17 - Erik Larsen's *In the Garden of Beasts*

For more information, contact the
Information Desk at 780-7018
or e-mail Gene Suarez at
gsuarez@redwoodcity.org



Sponsored by Friends of the Redwood City Public Library

1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City | www.redwoodcity.org/library | 650 780 7018

Nov 17 - Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*

Cleave follows up his outstanding debut (*Incendiary*, 2005) with a psychologically charged story of grief, globalization and an unlikely friendship...Cleave's narrative pulses with portentous, nearly spectral energy, and the author maintains a well-modulated balance between...two narrators. - *Kirkus*

Jan 19 - James Joyce's *Dubliners*

"Rarely in fiction do characters suffer as exquisitely for the benefit of a reader as they do in *Dubliners*," - Garry Leonard (quoted in *Reading Dubliners Again* - K. Dettmar.)

Feb 16 - Lorraine Hansberry's *B Raisin in the Sun*

"Lorraine Hansberry, the first black woman to have a play produced on Broadway...was concerned with the fight for civil, human, and women's rights. Her works reflect the race and women's movements of the late 1950s and early 1960s but are not militant. Ultimately life- and love-affirming, they focus on the bonds and conflicts of family and romantic relationships, the pursuit of individual fulfillment, and the clashes between traditions and modern life." - P. Kester-Shelton, *Feminist Writers*

March 15 - Richard Dawkins' *The Greatest Show on Earth*

"Look out, creationists. There's a new sheriff in town, and he talks like an Oxford don. In fact, Dawkins...gave up the Oxford chair in the Public Understanding of Science in order to write full-time, and to spend more time agitating against antiscience and pseudoscience...Whether anyone will stand up to refute his notions remains to be seen, but for now Dawkins wins on points. A pleasure in the face of so much scientific ignorance—biology rendered accessible and relevant to the utmost degree." - *Kirkus*

April 19 - E. M. Forster's *Passage to India*

Britain's three-hundred-year relationship with the Indian subcontinent produced much fiction of interest but only one indisputable masterpiece: E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, published in 1924, at the height of the Indian independence movement. Centering on an ambiguous incident between a young Englishwoman of uncertain stability and an Indian doctor eager to know his conquerors better, Forster's book explores, with unexampled profundity, both the historical chasm between races and the eternal one between individuals struggling to ease their isolation and make sense of their humanity.

May 17 - Erik Larsen's *In the Garden of Beasts*

"In this mesmerizing portrait of the Nazi capital, Larson plumbs a far more diabolical urban cauldron than in his bestselling *The Devil in the White City*. He surveys Berlin, circa 1933–1934, from the perspective of two American naïfs: Roosevelt's ambassador to Germany, William Dodd, an academic historian and Jeffersonian liberal who hoped Nazism would de-fang itself (he urged Hitler to adopt America's milder conventions of anti-Jewish discrimination), and Dodd's daughter Martha, a sexual free spirit who loved Nazism's vigor and ebullience. At first dazzled by the glamorous world of the Nazi ruling elite, they soon started noticing signs of its true nature: the beatings meted out to Americans who failed to salute passing storm troopers; the oppressive surveillance; the incessant propaganda; the intimidation and persecution of friends; the fanaticism lurking beneath the surface charm of its officialdom. Although the narrative sometimes bogs down in Dodd's wranglings with the State Department and Martha's soap opera, Larson offers a vivid, atmospheric panorama of the Third Reich and its leaders, including murderous Nazi factional infighting, through the accretion of small crimes and petty thuggery." - *Publishers Weekly*