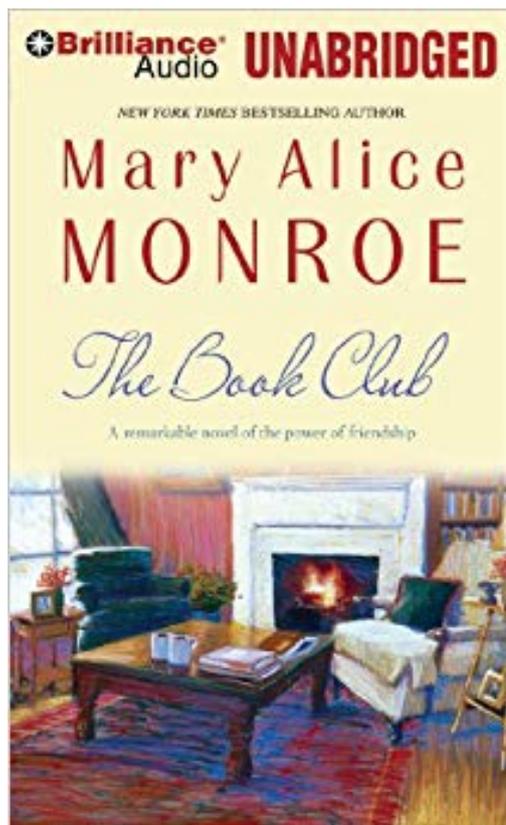


The Book Club by Deanna Hurst, Mary Alice Monroe



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Author: Deanna Hurst, Mary Alice Monroe

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New York Times bestselling author Mary Alice Monroe invites you to meet five remarkable characters as she explores the power of friendship with tenderness, honesty and understanding.

“Outwardly linked by their monthly book club meetings, five diverse women in suburban Chicago come to realize that they share more than just the books they read as they struggle with a number of life-changing issues and discover the true meaning and power of friendship.” - *Library Journal*

“Monroe offers up believable characters in a well-crafted story.” - *Publishers Weekly*

“An inspirational tale of redemption.” - *Publishers Weekly on Swimming Lessons*

“Monroe makes her characters so believable, the reader can almost hear them breathing.” - *Booklist*

“With its evocative, often beautiful prose and keen insights into family relationships, Monroe’s latest is an exceptional and heartwarming work of fiction that is bound to please fans of women’s fiction and romances alike.” - *Publishers Weekly on The Beach House*

Monroe’s “talent for infusing her characters with warmth and vitality and her ability to spin a tale with emotional depth will earn her a broad spectrum of readers, particularly fans of Barbara Delinsky and Nora Roberts.” - *Publishers Weekly*



Reviews of the **The Book Club** by Deanna Hurst, Mary Alice Monroe

DarK-LiGht

I love books about groups of women being part of a [fill in the blank] club, but this one fell way short. There was no real connection given how these women knew each other or decided to form a book club, numerous stories were started and then dropped (the redhead and Midge's new friend, to name just two), characters changed everything they were at the drop of a hat (look, I've known people who've been cheated on and I've known people who've had health crises, and yes...things change, but not like these women changed). It was completely unrealistic and not really that entertaining. I would have read 100 pages more to have some real character development.

Jox

I've read most of Monroe's books, and looked forward to this one. Unfortunately, I found the characters shallow and trite. I especially found Eve, the physician's wife totally unbelievable. What woman, worrying that she and her husband were having marital difficulties, smelling another woman's perfume on her husband's shirts, seeing him suddenly wearing silk underwear, wouldn't wake up and smell the coffee. His sudden death, her extreme grief, and then immediately falling for a new man in less than a year was beyond belief. The author missed the boat in not developing the "other woman's" story line. The idea of using a book club to have multiple themes is a good one, but they just didn't make the grade. The outcomes were predictable, and I wouldn't have finished the book had I not paid good money for it. Wish I had given it a pass.

Zbr

I had a hard time getting into this book since chapters aligned with different characters. They wove together but were slightly petty and annoying. It did get better as each woman dealt with her own problems and solved them her own way.

It was hard watching friends anger towards each other due to not enough communication or too much under the influence thus not productive. In the end there is a wonderful coming of age, older age, and acceptance of each other and themselves. Changes were accepted not caught against. We are reading this for our book club but this group has just gotten started. I wonder how this will influence our own friendships and bind us together. Any woman would enjoy this book as it touches on all aspects of life.

Anen

Friends and friendships - marriage and partners, nothing is as it seems from the outside. This is a true test for friendship, loyalty and love.

Sometimes those in the middle of everything are blind to the unwanted truth.

This book club and members grow to become true to themselves and develop in much stronger individuals with the help of the book club members and on their own.

A nice relaxing read with opportunity for a sequel.

Coidor

This is a lovely story about the relationships between a group of women who formed a bookclub as young housewives, and how those relationships evolve and change as they age, encounter hardships, endure sorrow, face unspoken fears, and find the courage to break free from past restraints (personal, social, professional), go in new directions, and take control of their own futures. It drew me in from the first page, and kept me riveted as each character's, strengths, secrets, failures, and redeeming qualities were carefully and subtly revealed. I found something in each woman I could identify with, which appealed to me, and helped me empathize. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and hated for it to end. This is a great read for book clubs, that should prompt many thoughtful, lively discussions. Plus, there are many suggestions for discussion included at the end. I highly recommend this one!

Xlisiahal

This book about women feeling, loving, thinking, and changing is representative of all women. The characters and plots are still intriguing and remind women of times and events in their own lives. I loved that the book and the friends' lives centered around a book club. I love to read and adore sharing the stories with book club buddies. This book is about today's women of a certain age (over 50?) as Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" was to the women of the 1960s. Both books are valuable mirrors of our inner lives and of society and help us to feel we are not so crazy after all. --

Nancy Anne

Agalas

I really like Monroe's writing style as I find it easy to breeze along and her character's relatable. I did not think this was one of her best, but still a feel good read. Five women have been in a social book club for many years. I would not say they all are good friends, but over the years the friendships seem to slip back and forth. This is what I enjoyed. These women reminded me of friendships I have had with different women....sometimes they are the best of friends, sometimes you can't relate and other times you tolerate them more or less because of your history. You fit together, even though you go home to very different lives. I think Monroe did a wonderful job of showing how a shared history kept these women together.

I also appreciated that each women was facing a change in her life, and once again I could relate. Each had a pretty major issue arise that I have either dealt with or have gone through with a good friend. The stories of each of these women were honest....and I could see how they had reached this time in their lives....and I could think of someone I know who was much like each character. (myself included)

This felt a little drawn out in some places which is why it did not get a full 4 stars from me. But her stories are comfortable....relaxing....just what I need at times....just like an old friend.

The Book Club was such an easy read. I enjoy family fiction, and this story of 5 women whose life's are all different but support each other through thick and thin. Although most are in the same age group, they all are in a different place. One loses her husband in death, one desperately trying to get pregnant in her forties, another dealing with the infidelities of her husband, another realizing she likes women, and the last struggling with body issues and having to be the total support of her family they all find the commonality of searching for a place of love and peace.

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