

# No Pressure Book Group Book List

## September 2024

**The Waterbury Public Library's No Pressure Book Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 on Zoom. See the library website for more information!**

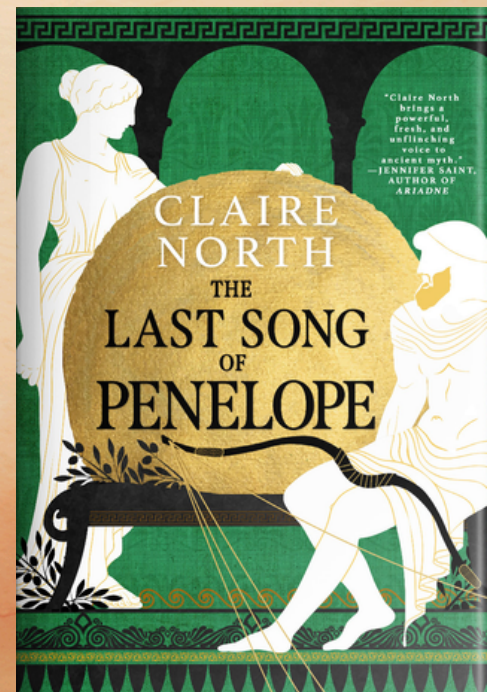


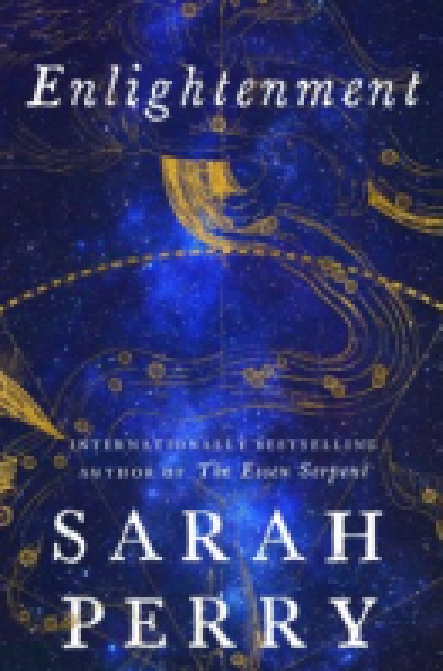
### Becoming Madam Secretary by **Stephanie Dray**

Frances Perkins may not be a household name, but she is a United States labor hero. Rubbing elbows with high society in 1910s NYC, determined Frances has a chance meeting with FDR that sets her on a path that will take her to the White House, eventually becoming the first female Secretary of Labor.

### The Last Song of Penelope by **Claire North**

The final book in the fantastic *The Songs of Penelope* trilogy, North tackles the epic myth of Odysseus from the perspective of the story's women. After 20 years Odysseus has finally returned to Ithaca, where his wife has ruled over a time of peace while guarding against would-be suitors and rivals.



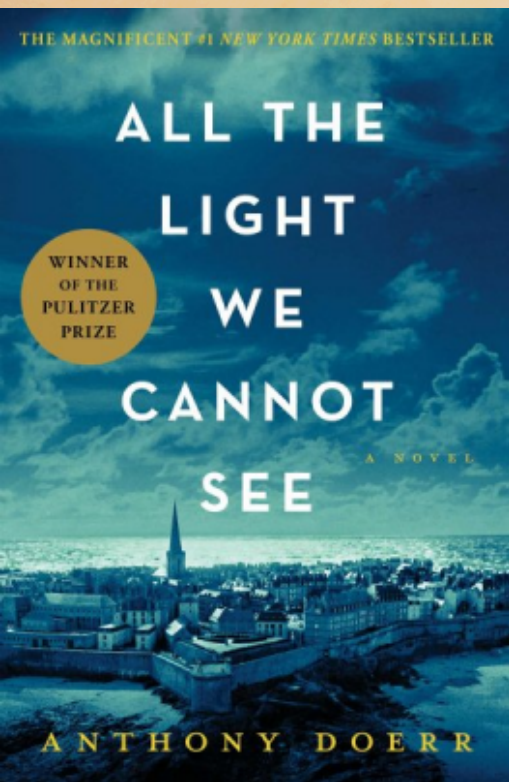


## Enlightenment by Sarah Perry

Deservedly long-listed for the Booker Prize, this is an exploration of love, faith and longing through the eyes of a mismatched pair of friends navigating a life and world in which they don't quite fit, while slowly uncovering the story of a 19th century woman astronomer.

## Miss Morgan's Book Brigade by Janet Skeslien Charles

American librarian Jessie Carson travels to war-torn France in 1918 and begins to establish the country's first children's libraries - until she disappears. Decades later an NYPL librarian stumbles across her name and becomes consumed with her story.



## All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

This Pulitzer Prize winner is a perennial NPBG favorite, and now a Netflix series. The touching, beautiful story of what happens when a blind French girl and a German boy cross paths in France under WWII occupation. A dazzling epic.

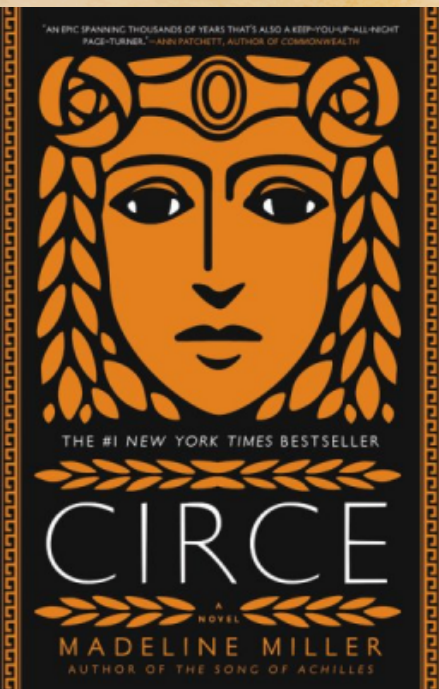
## The Briar Club by Kate Quinn

Washington, D.C. in the 1950s was not an easy place to be a woman on her own. While unraveling a mystery you'll get to know all the women who have ended up in a rundown boarding house who gather for a weekly hot-plate dinner party.



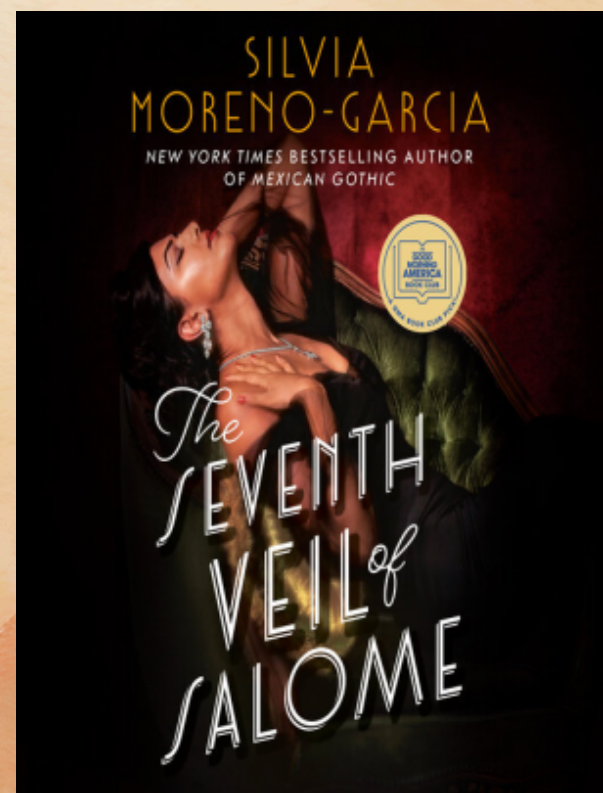
## Circe by Madeline Miller

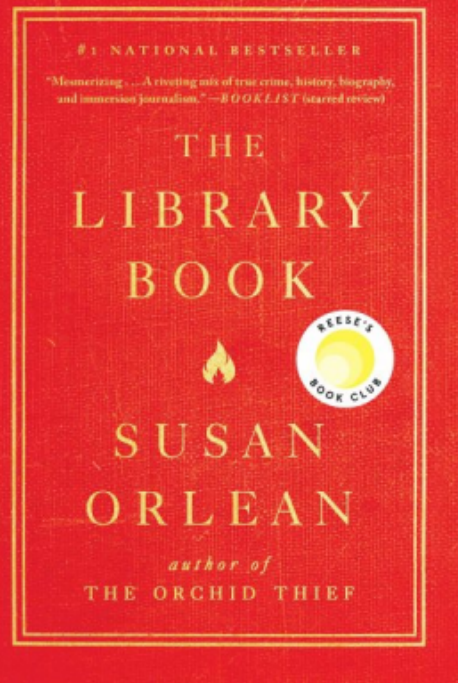
Another reimagining of Greek myth from the women's perspective! Circe is born of the gods but not quite one of them. Banished to a deserted island, Circe hones her powers of witchcraft and eventually crosses paths with many of the best known figures of Greek mythology.



## The Seventh Veil of Salome by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Dual storylines take the reader to the glamor (and misogyny and racism) of 1950s Hollywood where a Mexican ingenue takes on the role of a lifetime, as well as to the biblical world of Salome, a princess with a hunger for power and revenge.



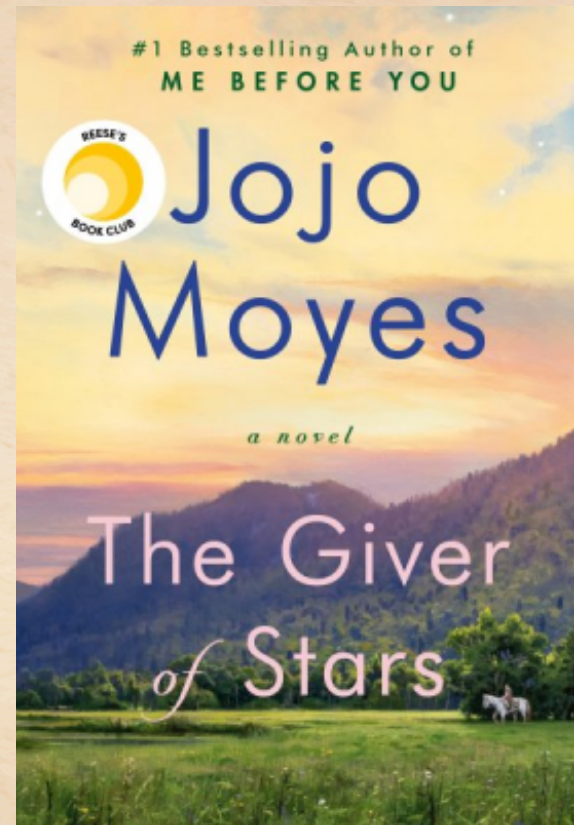


## The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Orlean examines the devastation and mystery surrounding the 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Public Library. But through that investigation, she composes a love letter to libraries, books and reading.

## The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

Englishwoman Alice arrives in America to marry, expecting a cosmopolitan lifestyle. Instead, she finds herself in small-town Kentucky, a stifling environment for a free-spirited woman. She finds relief and meaning in friendships with other women, and distributing books to people in great need.



## The Warm Hands of Ghosts by Katherine Arden

Vermont author Arden explores the misery, mystery and miracles of World War I in this work of historical (and slightly speculative) fiction.

