

The Book Club of Grosse Ile Book List 2025

Non-Fiction

1. **Be Ready When Luck Happens** by Ina Garten, a memoir, 320 pp. This well-loved cooking host looks back on a life filled with hard-won opportunities.
2. **Dogland-Passion, Glory, and Lots of Slobber at the Westminster Dog Show** by Tommy Tomlinson, 256 pp. A tour through the rituals, tricks, and wonders of the dog-show world and what matters most for the happiness of dogs and dog lovers everywhere.
3. **Mother Island-A Daughter Claims Puerto Rico** by Jamie Figueroa, 240 pp. A personal history mirrors Puerto Rico's relationship to the main land U.S.
4. **The Piano Player of Budapest-A True Story of Hope, Survival and Music** by Roxanne De Bastion, 320 pp. Archival work left by a Holocaust survivor describe Budapest just before and during early WWII.
5. **The Small and Mighty** by Sharon McMahon, 320 pp. A portrait of Americans who, though little known, made a difference.
6. **An Unfinished Love Story-A Personal History of the 1960s** by Doris Kearns Goodwin, 496 pp. The renowned presidential historian delves into the Kennedy and Johnson eras, drawing from the archives and personal insights of her husband, a former speechwriter for both leaders.
7. **The Whole Staggering Mystery-A Story of Fathers Lost and Found** by Sylvia Brownrigg, 336 pp. A memoir of a family scattered among colonial Kenya, wartime England, and the California redwoods over the past century.
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Fiction

1. **The Alternatives** by Caoilinn Hughes, 352 pp. When a woman goes off the grid, her younger sisters' search for her reopens old wounds and brings new insights.
2. **First Lie Wins** by Ashley Elston, 352 pp. Adult Debut. A professional con woman's latest job becomes more personal and dangerous than planned.
3. **I Cheerfully Refuse** by Leif Enger, 336 pp. Amid the dystopian collapse of the near future, a musician embarks on a voyage from the shore of Lake Superior.
4. **The Instrumentalist** by Harriet Constable, 336 pp. Set in 1704 Venice, this is a story of one woman's mission to rise to the top, and who we choose to remember and leave behind on the path to success.
5. **James** by Percival Everett, 303 pp. A reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn told from the enslaved Jim's intelligent and compassionate point of view.
6. **Long Island** by Colm Toibin, 304 pp. The author revisits the central characters of his 2009 novel **Brooklyn** in a portrait of middle age and the failure to connect.
7. **Pearly Everlasting** by Tammy Armstrong, 352pp. A campfire story about a girl whose brother is a bear and their life growing up in a Canadian logging camp a century ago.
8. **Playground** by Richard Powers, 400pp. Compelling writing on friendship and its loss, computer and social media revolutions and on the awe and delight the ocean inspires.
9. **The Princess of Las Vegas** by Chris Bohjalian, 400 pp. A Princess Diana impersonator in Las Vegas and her estranged look-alike sister are caught in the middle of a murderous scheme to take over a casino.
10. **The Swan's Nest** by Laura McNeal, 320pp. The clandestine love affair between Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning is set against a background of slavery and injustice in Jamaica.
11. **Table for Two** by Amor Towles, 400pp. The author sequel-izes his debut novel, **Rules of Civility** (which was on the 2012 Book Club of Grosse Ile reading list), with a novella and adds six short fictions involving unlikely encounters and unexpected outcomes.
12. **The Waters** by Bonnie Jo Campbell, 400 pp. Familial and communal conflicts roil a swampy corner of Michigan.