



2026 BINGO GAME

QUESTIONS? Contact Janis: janis@janisrdaly.com

Instructions to Play

1. Choose your prizes. Fun ideas are included in this packet.
 2. Consider requesting a local bookstore donate a gift card to use as a “GRAND” prize.
 3. Make sure to bring enough of your own bookmarks to use as a prize for everyone.
 4. Make enough copies of the [two-sided flyer](#) for all attendees. Bring pens for everyone or ask the library/hosting venue to supply them.
 5. Give instructions that as you go through each book summary folks should mark the title on their sheet as READ or WANT TO READ.
 6. Read the summaries of each book aloud, reminding folks to mark each one as READ or WANT to READ or leave blank if not interested. Summaries attached. Accompanying PowerPoint available upon request.
 7. Ask the Bingo questions – use as many as you like for which you have corresponding prizes.
 8. As most folks will not have read too many of these books, use the WANT TO READ mark as “winners.”
 9. Remind folks to keep their sheet to reference when they fill out the survey at <https://bit.ly/48v1rij> to enter to win copies of the books.
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QUESTIONS: Use as many as you like, in any order.

End with Most Added to TBR and Most Read.

#1

QUESTION: Four books are about women writers

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- The Last Assignment
- The Manhattan Girls
- The Mayfair Bookshop
- Season in Saigon

ANSWER: ADDED **two or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: Notebook & pen

#2

QUESTION: Four books are about British women and/or set in England

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- Woman and Her Stars
- The Mayfair Bookshop
- Daughter of Egypt
- Undefeated

ANSWER: ADDED **two or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: Tea packets (I put 3 together in small drawstring pouch)



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#3

QUESTION: Three books are about singers

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- Under Two Flags
- The Unexpected Diva
- With Love From Harlem

ANSWER: ADDED **two or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: Music keychain charm with card in pouch

#4

QUESTION: Three books are about royalty

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- Butterfly Games
- The Fourth Princess
- Daughter of Egypt

ANSWER: ADDED **two or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: Tiara

#5

QUESTION: Three books are about Italian women / set in Italy

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- Bianca's Cure
- The Secret Courtesan
- World between Worlds

ANSWER: ADDED **two or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: (5) Learn Italian flashcards



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#6

QUESTION: Five books are about friendships

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- The Cassatt Sisters
- I Am You
- The Manhattan Girls
- Someone Always Nearby
- Where the False Gods Dwell

ANSWER: ADDED **three or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: Friendship bracelet

#7

QUESTION: Four books are about artists

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- The Cassatt Sisters
- I Am You
- The Secret Courtesan
- Someone Always Nearby

ANSWER: ADDED **three or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: Watercolor paint set, if included The Secret Courtesan, also gets a Play-Doh tin



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#8

QUESTION: Three books are about French women / set in France

QUALIFYING TITLES:

- The Cassatt Sisters
- From Tickhill, 1348
- Her Own War

ANSWER: ADDED **two or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST

PRIZE: (5) Learn French flashcards

#9

QUESTION: Look at **DAY** of the WEEK

ANSWER: ADDED **three or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST for any one column (day)

PRIZE: Book stickers and book marks

#10

QUESTION: Look at **WEEKS** of the MONTH

ANSWER: ADDED **four or more** to their WANT TO READ LIST for any row (week)

PRIZE: Book stickers and book marks

#11

QUESTION: Who has **READ the MOST**?

ANSWER: Start at 10 or more, raise hands, 15 or more, etc. to get highest number

PRIZE: You must read a lot = Reading Glasses plus bookmarks

#12

QUESTION: Who has ADDED the MOST titles to their To Be Read List?

ANSWER: Start at 10 or more, raise hands, 15 or more, etc. to get highest number

PRIZE: Gift certificate to local bookstore, Amazon, or Bookshop.org, plus bookmarks



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BOOK SUMMARIES

#1 BIANCA'S CURE by Gigi Berardi. Florence, 1563. Forbidden from practicing her herbal cures in Venice, young noblewoman Bianca Capello flees to Florence, where the ruling Medici family practices alchemy. There, she wins herself an invitation to their palace, and, as it turns out, a path to the duke regent Francesco de Medici's bed. The impassioned bond between Francesco and Bianca is at the core of this fact-driven dive into medicine, politics, love, and ultimately death in Renaissance Florence. Malaria killed many of the Medicis, but traces of the poison arsenic were recently found in Francesco's remains. Even more sinister: Bianca's remains have never been found. To this day, what happened to Bianca and Francesco remains one of the greatest mysteries surrounding Renaissance Italy's legendary Medicis.

#2 BUTTERFLY GAMES by Kelly Scarborough. In the opulent world of the Swedish royal court, Jacquette Gyldenstolpe walks a dangerous tightrope between romance and political intrigue. Neglected by her parents and ostracized by the people around her, the young countess falls in love with Prince Oscar, heir to the Swedish throne—but their passionate affair has far-reaching consequences for the new dynasty, which is already challenged by threats from inside Sweden and beyond. Based on a true story and set in stormy early-1800s Europe, *Butterfly Games* is a sweeping historical tale of forbidden love, fierce duty, and the cost of ambition.

#3 THE WOMAN AND HER STARS by Penny Haw. When Caroline Herschel's brother is newly appointed as the King's Astronomer, William is rushed away from the bustling streets of Bath to the quiet countryside of Windsor. Taking up the position as William's assistant, Caroline resolves to learn everything she can about astronomy. But the more she understands, the more she falls in love with her telescope, and soon, she discovers that she might be good at the science, great, even, and that the stars could offer her the freedom she's always secretly wanted. Based on the true story of Caroline Herschel, *The Woman and Her Stars* shines a light on a woman who was raised to believe she was worth nothing more than to serve others, but whose genius and resolve made her one of the world's leading astronomers.

#4 THE CASSATT SISTERS by Lisa Groen. In 1877, the Paris art scene is very competitive for men but nearly impossible for thirty-three-year-old Mary Cassatt, an American woman who admires the work of avant-garde painters, especially Edgar Degas. So, when Edgar visits Mary's studio to view her paintings, she is exhilarated by his invitation to join him, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and other Impressionists in the collective. Meeting the standards of the Impressionists is nerve-racking. Mary is judged not only as a painter but as a woman. She takes comfort in her close bond with her sister, Lydia, who often poses for her. In *The Cassatt Sisters*, author Lisa Groen paints a dazzling picture of Belle Époque Paris and the extraordinary life of artist Mary Cassatt during her time with the Impressionists.

5 CODE NAME RASCAL by Dorothea Buckingham. Using fictional characters inspired by the real women who served in a secret Army Air Corps unit of female radar plotters known as the WARD during World War II, *Code Name Rascal* tells their story with emotional nuance and historical texture. It explores the resilience of women under pressure, the bonds of unlikely friendship, and the quiet ways in which courage reshapes the course of a life.



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#6 FIRE SWORD & SEA by Vanessa Riley Jacquotte Delahaye is the mixed-race daughter of a wealthy tavern owner on the island of Tortuga in 1675. Instead of marriage, Jacquotte dreams of joining the seafarers and smugglers. She falls in love with a pirate, but when he returns to the sea, Jacquotte decides to make her own way. In Haiti she becomes Jacques, a dockworker, earning the respect of those around her while hiding her gender. She forms a deep bond with Bahati, an African-born woman who has escaped slavery and also disguises herself as a man to navigate the world. They join forces with Dirkje De Wulf, a fearless adventurer who also lives as a man at sea. For the next twenty years, Jacquotte raids the Caribbean, making enemies and amassing a fortune in stolen gold. When her fellow pirates decide to increase their profits by entering the slave trade, Jacquotte turns away from piracy and the pursuit of riches. Risking her life in one deadly skirmish after another, she instead begins to plot a war of liberation.

#7 THE FIRST EMMA by Camille DiMaio. Reveals the true story of Emma Koehler, whose tycoon husband Otto was killed in 1914 in a crime-of-the-century murder by one of his two mistresses—both also named Emma. The First Emma follows Koehler's unlikely rise as CEO of a brewing empire during Prohibition after Otto's death. She reinvented the brewery to keep the business running and keep her workers employed to create one of the most successful breweries in Texas.

#8 THE FIRST WITCH OF BOSTON by Andrea Cantalano Thomas and Margaret Jones arrive from England to build a life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1646. Though of differing temperaments, cautious Thomas and fiery Margaret, a healer, are bound by a love that has lasted decades. With a child on the way, their new beginning promises only blessings. But in this austere Puritan community, wrong moves or words are met with suspicion, and Margaret's bold and unguarded nature draws scorn. Soon, Margaret is mistrusted as more cunning woman than kind caregiver. Inspired by actual diary entries and court records, The First Witch of Boston is the riveting story of a woman unjustly accused.

#9 THE FOURTH PRINCESS by Janie Chang. A fictionalized story set in Shanghai 1911. Using intrigue, extortion and buried truths of the past, Chang draws upon real-life princess Kawashima Yoshiko and her work as a Chinese-born Japanese spy to create her character, Masako Kyo. A haunting Gothic tale, strange incidents accelerate to create a captivating and rich in history read.

#10 FROM TICKHILL, 1348 by Pamela Taylor. The old Duke of Brittany had vacillated for years over who would succeed him and finally settles in his will on his half-brother, John de Montfort. But the years of vacillation had left others believing the ducal crown would pass to them, and no one understands this better than Montfort's wife, Jeanne de Flandre. It falls to Jeanne to defend her husband's rights to the duchy and protect their son's patrimony. With limited forces and facing the might of the French army, she summons hidden strengths of courage and audacity to prevail during the maelstrom of the dynastic conflict between England and France that became the Hundred Years War.



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#11 HER OWN WAR by Debra Borchert. Imprisoned for the crime of impersonating a man, Geneviève LaGarde fears giving birth in an asylum could be certain death for her and her unborn child. Desperate for her release, her husband, Louis, trades his freedom for hers and joins Bonaparte's army. As Geneviève wages her own war by spying against the tyrannical general, she not only risks her own life but also those of her children and the four hundred families who depend on the Château de Verzat estate. In a world of shifting allegiances, Geneviève must choose between love and duty, hope and despair, as she fights for her family's survival.

#12 I AM YOU by Victoria Redel. At eight years old, Gerta Pieters is forced to disguise herself as a boy and sent to work for a genteel Dutch family. When their brilliant and beautiful daughter Maria sees through Gerta's ruse, she insists that Gerta accompany her to Amsterdam and help her enter the elite, male-dominated art world. There, Maria van Oosterwijck rises in the ranks of society as a renowned still life painter, while Gerta makes herself invaluable in every way: confidante, muse, lover. But as Gerta steps into her own talents, their relationship fractures into a complex web of obsession and rivalry—and the secrets they keep threaten to unravel everything.

#13 THE LAST ASSIGNMENT by Ericka Robuck. Since her arrest for disobeying orders and going ashore at Iwo Jima almost a decade earlier, combat correspondent Georgette "Dickey" Chapelle has been unmoored. Her military accreditation revoked, her marriage failing, and her savings dwindling, Dickey jumps at the next opportunity. Never content to report on battles unless her own boots are on the ground, Dickey and her camera journey with American and international soldiers from frozen wastelands to raging seas to luscious jungles, revealing one woman's extraordinary courage and tenacity in the face of discrimination and danger.

#14 LET'S CALL HER BARBIE by Renee Rosen. When Ruth Handler walks into the boardroom of the Mattel toy company she co-founded and pitches her idea for a doll unlike any other, she knows what she's setting in motion. It might just take the world a moment to catch up. In 1956, the only dolls on the market for little girls let them pretend to be mothers. Ruth's vision for a doll shaped like a grown woman and outfitted in an enviable wardrobe will let them dream they can be anything. In the decades to come—through soaring heights and devastating personal lows, public scandals and private tensions—Ruth will have to decide how tightly to hold on to her creation. Because Barbie has never been just a doll—she's a legacy.

#15 LET US MARCH ON by Shara Moon. When Lizzie McDuffie, maid to Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, boldly proclaimed herself FDR's "Secretary-On-Colored-People's-Affairs," she became more than just a maid—she became the President's eyes and ears into the Black community. After joining the White House to work alongside her husband, FDR's personal valet, Lizzie managed to become completely indispensable to the Roosevelt family. Never shy about pointing out injustices, she advocated for the needs and rights of her fellow African Americans when those in the White House blocked access to the President.

#16 THE MANHATTAN GIRLS by Gill Paul. In 1921 New York, the war is over, fashions are daring, and bootleg liquor is abundant. Here four extraordinary women form a bridge group that grows into a firm friendship. Dorothy Parker: renowned wit and a founder of the Algonquin Round Table. Jane Grant: first female reporter for the New York Times. Winifred Lenihan: beautiful and talented Broadway actress, a casting-couch target. And Peggy Leech: magazine assistant by day, brilliant novelist by night. Readers will fall into Jazz Age New York and the inner lives of these groundbreaking, influential women.



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#17 THE MAYFAIR BOOKSHOP by Eliza Knight. 1938 and with war imminent, socialite Nancy Mitford finds respite by taking a job at the Heywood Hill Bookshop in Mayfair, hoping to make ends meet, and discovers a new life in writing, going on to publish her best-selling novel, “The Pursuit of Love,” in 1945. The author includes letters that Nancy wrote from the early 1930s to the mid-1940s which give it a personal touch.

#18 MIXED BLOOD by Jeannean Doherty. History breathes through the voice of Hester, a Cherokee woman whose life straddles the collision of cultures on the American frontier in the 1700s. As the Cherokee Nation is forced to adapt to a patriarchal, market-driven society, Hester witnesses a world forever changed, yet fights to preserve the stories that shaped her people. Now an elderly woman living with her son’s family, who have assimilated into white society, Hester shares her memories with her grandchildren, determined that they understand the truth of their heritage. Her story unfolds across two timelines: her quiet present and her harrowing past, where war, betrayal, and survival have etched themselves into her bones. Hester endures stolen homelands to fragile alliances, from matriarchal traditions to the encroaching grip of colonization as a mother, a survivor, and a silent witness to the birth of a new America.

#19 REMNANT by Katie Sweeting. Kidnapped along with her brother Ledu at the tender age of eleven, Olu is dragged across Nigeria, deposited on a slave ship for the Middle Passage, and lands on a rice plantation in Charles Town, South Carolina in 1753. During the Revolutionary War she attempts to escape. Joanna Vassa (Olu's niece) is half-English and half-African, an orphan in England in 1797. Raised by her guardian, she has no African family members, and the white girls in her boarding school treat her as an outcast. As her self-worth plummets, Joanna embraces the women's abolition movement and seeks to find her Aunt Olu. Remnant brings forward the stories of young women of color striving to carve out meaningful lives despite monumental obstacles.

#20 A SEASON IN SAIGON by Dorothy Love. Fictionalized magazine journalist, Tallis Reed leaves New York for Saigon, determined to salvage her career and to make a difference by reporting the war's hidden stories. But in a wary city teeming with refugees and orphans, soldiers and spies, truth is elusive and danger is an ever-present shadow. Inspired by true events, A Season in Saigon is about one young woman gone to war but it illuminates the all-but-forgotten experiences of the women who fought to report their stories and to reaffirm the importance of a free and independent press.

#21 THE SECRET COURTESAN by Kerry Chaput. Art historian Mia is running out of time to prove her theory that the sculptor of an unearthed erotic statue was a courtesan erased from history—a scandal no one will believe. Chasing through Venice, she tracks down hidden details of Sofia, a powerful courtesan who seems to have left a trail of sex-fueled art buried across the city. Fictionalized character, Sofia, was inspired by the real-life sculptor and courtesan, Veronica Franco, known for her notable clientele, feminist advocacy, literary contributions, and philanthropy. Her humanist education and cultural contributions influenced the roles of courtesans in the late Venetian Renaissance.



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#22 SOMEONE ALWAYS NEARBY by Susan Wittig Albert. In 1940, art-world icon Georgia O'Keeffe bought a house in a mountain-rimmed New Mexico desert. To manage her household while she paints, O'Keeffe invited Maria Chabot—a young and naïve would-be writer—to join her. Their tempestuous relationship endured throughout the chaotic years of WW2; the death of Georgia's domineering, philandering husband; and Maria's design and building of a remarkable adobe house and studio for the artist—a generous gift from an exceptional friend. Readers will be fascinated by this intimate, revealing portrait of the mysterious O'Keeffe that only one woman, Maria Chabot, ever fully knew.

#23 SONORA by Jenni Walsh. Inspired by a true story of one of the first female horse divers, Sonora explores a world of daring feats and extraordinary adventures set in the heyday of the American carnival scene. Sonora Webster is penniless but plucky, and despite the looming Great Depression, she follows her wanderlust, answering an ad to dive with horses. As Sonora delves into the cutthroat world of show business, complete with trapeze aerial acts and juggling bears, her undeniable talent and unwavering dedication propel her into the limelight, making her a sensation. In Sonora, Jenni L. Walsh vividly captures the spirit of a brave woman who defied societal norms to follow her dreams, diving into the unknown with courage and resilience.

#24 DAUGHTER OF EGYPT by Marie Benedict. **RELEASE DAY!** In the 1920s, archeologist Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon of Highclere Castle made headlines around the world with the discovery of the treasure-filled tomb of the boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun. But behind it all stood Lady Evelyn Herbert—daughter of Lord Carnarvon—whose daring spirit and relentless curiosity made the momentous find possible. Nearly 3,000 years earlier, another woman defied the expectations of her time: Hatshepsut, Egypt's lost pharaoh. Her reign was bold, visionary—and nearly erased from history. When Evelyn becomes obsessed with finding Hatshepsut's secret tomb, she risks everything to uncover the truth about her reign and keep valued artifacts in Egypt, their rightful home. Propelled by high adventure and deadly intrigue, Daughter of Egypt is the story of two ambitious women who lived centuries apart.

#25 UNDEFEATED by Gillie Basson In the gritty world of 18th-century London, Elizabeth Wilkinson-Stokes rises from the depths of poverty to become a legend in her own time. When her abusive husband's execution leaves her alone in the merciless streets of St Giles, Elizabeth is thrust into a London she never knew existed. From bear-baiting pits to brothels, from underground fight clubs to grand amphitheatres, she battles her way through a world where every punch could be her last. Elizabeth fights with fists, cudgels and daggers, earning the title of Championess of England. Undeclared reimagines the riveting tale of the world's first female bare-knuckle prize fighter, a woman who fought not just in the ring, but for her very survival.

#26 UNDER TWO FLAGS by Janis Robinson Daly. **RELEASE DAY!** In October 1916, eighteen-year-old Josephine Therese Marzynski leaves Boston for Berlin to pursue her dream of studying opera at Germany's most prestigious music conservatory. Living with family friends and immersing herself in German culture, she finds unexpected beauty and friendship in the heart of enemy territory. But when America enters the Great War in April 1917, Josephine's world transforms overnight—from welcomed student to enemy of the state. Based on the true story from Josephine's memoir and set against the backdrop of a city slowly starving under the weight of war, *Under Two Flags* is a gripping tale of resilience, moral complexity, and the transformative power of music in humanity's darkest hours.



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#27 THE UNEXPECTED DIVA by Tiffany Warren. Born into slavery on a Mississippi plantation, Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield has been raised in the safety of Philadelphia's Quaker community by a wealthy adoptive mother. Sheltered and educated, Eliza's happy childhood always included music lessons to nurture her unique gift: a glorious three octave singing voice that leaves listeners in awe. Her mother's dying wish was for Eliza to pursue her talent and become a professional singer. Within a year she is touring America, singing to packed houses, and igniting controversy wherever she goes. In a country captivated by "the Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind, Eliza is billed by tour promoters as "the Black Swan." Menaced by racist crowds, threatened by slave-catchers who kidnap free Black people, Eliza lives a public life full of risk, but one which also holds the promise of great riches, and the freedoms those buy.

#28 WHERE THE FALSE GODS DWELL by Denny Bryce. Inspired by real-life legendary choreographer Katherine Dunham's groundbreaking expedition into the heart of Caribbean dance culture, this uniquely captivating novel imagines the experiences of three very different women who accompany her, hoping to find their destinies—yet find themselves forced to survive a historic event. Dunham was one of the most renowned modern dance artists of the 20th century, she has been called the "matriarch and queen mother of black dance."

#29 WITH LOVE FROM HARLEM by ReShonda Tate. At just twenty-three, Hazel Scott is a woman on fire. A jazz prodigy, a glamorous film star, and a fierce advocate for civil rights, she's breaking barriers and refusing to play by the rules. Then Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Harlem's most electrifying preacher-turned-politician, walks into her life. This kicks off a decades-long relationship that propels them into the center of a political and cultural revolution. As Hazel's star rises, Adam takes the national stage in Congress and the couple becomes the toast of the country. Forced to choose between her music and her family, Hazel must decide what she's willing to lose—and what she refuses to give up. Set against the pulsing backdrop of twentieth-century Harlem and featuring icons like Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, and James Baldwin, *With Love from Harlem* is a sweeping, emotionally charged romantic drama, rich with historical detail

#30 THE WOMEN OF ARLINGTON HALL by Jane Healey. By using fictional characters, author Jane Healey shares the work of women in the late 1940s on a confidential military project as cryptologists or "government girls" of DC's Arlington Hall. Together, they dive deep into the shadows of espionage.

#31 WORLD BETWEEN WORLDS by Jenny duBay tells the unforgettable story of one of the most dynamic personalities of the Middle Ages, Catherine of Siena. Set in the tumultuous fourteenth century, *World Between Worlds* takes readers on a journey across the landscape of medieval Tuscany, through the eyes of a mystic who is entangled in political chaos, social upheaval, and spiritual awakening. Women in fourteenth-century Tuscany have only two choices in life—marriage or the convent. Caterina defiantly refuses both to follow her own path, an independent lifestyle no woman before her dared attempt.



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PRIZE SUGGESTIONS

[Mini Inspirational Notebooks & Pens](#) (72) for \$35.67

[Tiaras](#), (10) for \$11.99

[Music Keychain Gifts Bulk Acrylic Music Keychain with Cards](#), (50) for \$19.94 – extra drawstring bags come with these

[Watercolor Paint Set](#), (18) for \$17.84

[Play-Doh Canisters](#) (10) for \$7.99

[Twinings Variety Pack Black Tea Bags, 20 Count \(Pack of 4\)](#), (80) for \$12.60, choose the (3) English ones – save the Irish for yourself – and place in drawstring bags

[Friendship Bracelets](#) (36) for \$11.99

[Italian Conversational Phrases Flashcards](#) (75) for \$10.49, choose 5 and clip together as a prize

[French Conversational Phrases Flash Cards](#) (75) for \$10.49, choose 5 and clip together as a prize

[Binder Clips for Cards](#) (120) for \$66.99

[Reading Glasses](#) (18) for \$25.47

[Book Stickers for Kindle, Bookish & Booktok](#) (100) for \$3.82

[Women's History Bookmarks](#) (120) for \$5.99