



Discover. Read. Share.

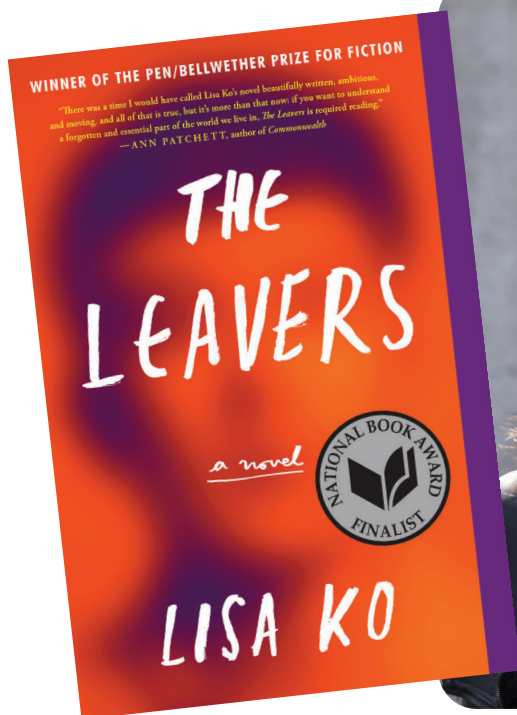
WHY WE LOVE *THE LEAVERS*

When I first read *The Leavers*, I immediately knew it would be the perfect Spotlight Selection. From the early pages, it's clear that it is many things: a coming-of-age story, a "ripped from the headlines" tale with bearing on pressing national concerns, a complicated rendering of motherhood, and more. It has both the meatiness and subtlety to ignite a lively discussion, while also delivering a page-turning, absorbing plot. Yet, for me, the most valuable part of this novel is that it introduces two unforgettable characters who have an experience of the world utterly different than my own, and I could not help but be swept up in the love, pain, triumphs, and impossible choices that await them. The ability to create that point of connection, a sense of empathy, is the real magic of great fiction, and Lisa Ko does not disappoint! I hope you become immersed in *The Leavers* just as we did, and that you enjoy the resources we've prepared to help you have your very best book club. Let us know what you think @hoopladigital. Happy reading!

-Tara Carberry, hoopla digital

About the Author

Lisa Ko's fiction has appeared in *Best American Short Stories 2016*, *Apogee Journal*, *Narrative*, *Copper Nickel*, *The Asian Pacific American Journal*, and elsewhere. She has been awarded fellowships and residencies from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the MacDowell Colony, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Writers Omi at Ledig House, the Jerome Foundation, and Blue Mountain Center, among others. She was born in New York City, where she now lives. Visit her at lisa-ko.com.





Discover. Read. Share.

WHY WE LOVE *THE LEAVERS* *cont.*

Awards

Winner of the 2016 PEN/
Bellwether Prize for Fiction

2017 Barnes & Noble Discover Great
New Writers Award

Finalist for the 2017 National
Book Award For Fiction

Named a Best Book of 2017 by NPR, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Los Angeles Times*, BuzzFeed, Bustle, and Electric Literature

Finalist for the 2018 PEN/Hemingway Award

Selected Praise

"Here is imperative reading: a vivid fictional exploration of what it means to belong and what it feels like when you don't...Ko gives us an unsparing portrait of the resilience and grit it takes to risk everything to break free of tradition and start over in a foreign land."

—*O, The Oprah Magazine* (Favorite Books of 2017)

"[A] dazzling debut...Filled with exquisite, heartrending details, Ko's exploration of the often-brutal immigrant experience in America is a moving tale of family and belonging."

—*People* (Book of the Week)

"Ambitious...Lisa Ko has taken the headlines and has reminded us that beyond them lie messy, brave, extraordinary, ordinary lives."

—*New York Times Book Review*

"There was a time I would have called Lisa Ko's novel beautifully written, ambitious and moving, and all of that is true, but it's more than that now: if you want to understand a forgotten and essential part of the world we live in, *The Leavers* is required reading."

—Ann Patchett

"An exceptionally well written, fully realized work of art portraying the circumstances and inner worlds—the motives and emotional weather—of its two central characters. Ko is so psychologically penetrating, so acute in her passing observations and deft in the quick views she affords of her characters' inner lives and surroundings, that her skill and empathy give real joy."

—Barnes & Noble Review

"Ko's stunning tale of love and loyalty—to family, to country—is a fresh and moving look at the immigrant experience in America, and is as timely as ever."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Touching upon themes such as identity, determination, addiction, and loyalty, the author clearly shows readers that she is an emerging writer to watch. Ko's writing is strong, and her characters, whether major or minor, are skillfully developed."

—*Library Journal*, starred review

"...gorgeously redemptive...Lisa Ko's debut novel is an achingly beautiful read about immigration, adoption, and the drive to belong. Beyond the desensitizing media coverage, Ko gives faces, (multiple) names, and details to create a riveting story of a remarkable family coming, going, leaving...all in hopes of someday returning to one another."

—*Christian Science Monitor*

"In *The Leavers*, Lisa Ko has created one of the most courageous mother characters in recent memory. Polly is brash, brave and heartbreaking and her ferocity is marvelous to behold. *The Leavers* is about the bonds between parents and children and the many pulls of home. It was a book I did not want to end."

—Kaitlyn Greenidge, author of *We Love You, Charlie Freeman*