



Discover. Read. Share.

Book Club Companion: *The Orphan's Tale*

Books are so transporting. From riding the rails – and the trapeze! - with Circus Neuhoff to moving through the terrors of war to safety on the other side with Astrid and Theo, so many themes moved us throughout *The Orphan's Tale*. Why not hold a book club meeting that's equally as engaging, and let hoopla help? Check out the categories below to borrow titles across our many formats – video, comics, music, eBooks, and audiobooks – and enhance your club's understanding around each theme.

A Tapestry of Stories

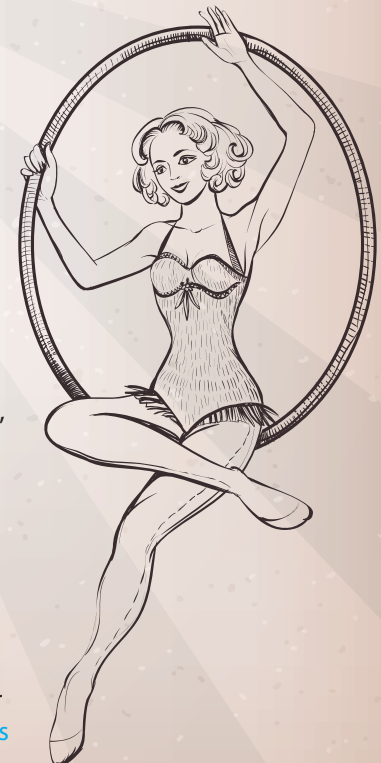
Though *Here in Berlin* is a novel, its structure is more a tapestry of stories; each chapter of Cristina Garcia's stands alone as individual, poignant, and complete. Open – and close – your book club meeting with those that move you most. Available in eBook and audiobook, pass the reading amongst your book club members or let audiobook narrator Joan Walker be your guide.



Extreme Action Heroes

The fate of the Circus Neuhoff was indeed in trouble in our Spotlight novel. For various reasons, the fates of circuses in general have been endangered – Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey ceased operations as recently as 2017.

However, one of those reasons had to do with public opinion moving against keeping wild animals in captivity, so while some circuses have shut down, circuses that focus on acrobatics as an art people practice are hardly diminishing. In fact, it's growing in modern day at a rate historically unparalleled! Cities everywhere are seeing pop-ups of local circuses – via not only formal performance events, but through workshops available to professionals and amateurs alike. Across America, nearly 100 circus schools and training centers are in operation right now and the Federation Mondiale du Cirque estimates that over 90% of the American population lives within an hour's drive of a circus.



Streb Extreme Action may not exactly describe their troupe as a circus, but their high-flying, death-defying, action-packed shows sure bring the thrill of the high wire to today's audiences. Based in Brooklyn and led by "action architect" and choreographer Elizabeth Streb, the group flies high but their differentiator is that they hit hard – embracing gravity and the danger that comes with it.

Streb Extreme Action performs all over the world, but you needn't leave home to experience and further understand this act – hoopla has both [Elizabeth Streb's memoir](#) in eBook and the award-winning, SXSW-screened documentary [Born to Fly!](#)



Getting the Word Out

Before the age of online event listings and ads of interest being nothing short of spoon fed to us via mobile, circuses – usually in a single town for a single day – had to get the word out far and fast. Newspaper ads were certainly helpful, but the most important – and prolific – circus advertisement was the lithograph...or poster!

Hung in store windows by the hundreds and pasted along sheds, barns, and fences, the biggest circus promoters didn't even blink at the thought of paying for and posting thousands of posters. True works of art by master designers and crafters, a [compendium of these posters can be found on hoopla](#) – why not let your book club swipe through them on a tablet before the discussion starts?



Want to take your poster discussion one step further? Borrow titles from [this collection](#) to browse propaganda and protest posters across the decades. Then, make your own poster with tips from hoopla's [printmaking titles](#).

Just Plain Fun

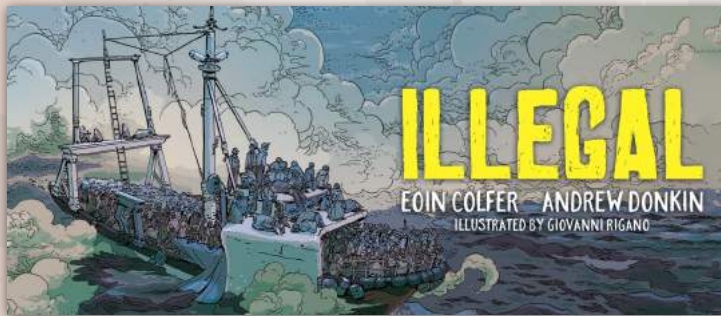
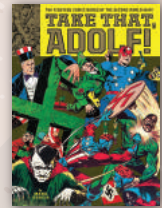
Peter played as integral a role to our story as clowns do to the circus. This fun book catalogs those important characters, but instead of the face paint on people, these artists have put it on eggs! Clowns International – the oldest established clowning organization – has been painting the faces of its members on eggs for more than 70 years. Each one a record of a clown's unique identity, these little portraits profess the unwritten rule that no clown should copy another's look. With more than 150 eggs featured from 1946 to the modern day – flip through [The Clown Egg Register](#) for short personal histories of clowns.



The Role of Comics in History & Education

hoopla features thousands of comics and graphic novels, and not all the superheroes within wear tights! Whether truly non-fiction history accounts or fiction mired in the perils of war, supplement your WWII discussion with illustrated stories of battle, aftermath, and rebuilding. Two titles are highlighted below, but many more comics and graphic novels can be found in [this collection](#).

Between 1941 and 1945, everyone from Captain America to Wonder Woman pummeled Hitler on comic book covers. *Take That, Adolf!* is an oversized compilation of more than 500 stunningly restored comics covers published during World War II. From Superman and Daredevil to taking on propaganda and racism, *Take That, Adolf!* is a fascinating look at how legendary creators such as Joe Simon, Jack Kirby, Alex Schomburg, Will Eisner, and Lou Fine entertained millions of kids on the home front and buoyed the spirits of GIs fighting overseas by using Adolf Hitler as a punching bag.



Though *Illegal* by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin is set in present day rather than during WWII, its title is borrowed from a quote by author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, which begins, "You who are so-called illegal aliens must know that no human being is 'illegal.' That is a contradiction in terms." Like Noa rescuing Theo from the rail car, Colfer and Donkin were inspired to pen this graphic novel by the plight of displaced, endangered children. As Colfer told *Publishers Weekly*, "I hope that U.S. readers will focus in on the children who are stranded at sea through no fault of their own and forget the politics surrounding the issue." He continued, "The question is: should we help children in trouble? The answer to that question should always be yes."

the children who are stranded at sea through no fault of their own and forget the politics surrounding the issue." He continued, "The question is: should we help children in trouble? The answer to that question should always be yes."

Meatless & Wheatless – Food Will Win the War

Prior to radio and TV reminders, posters like this one were placed in libraries, schools, stores, and other public places to promote simple solutions for reducing food waste, therefore availing more resources to the war effort.

War gardens – or victory gardens – were strongly encouraged, and canning the results of these was applauded. Nothing was to be wasted; even the pits from fruits and nuts could be ground to fill Allied soldiers' respirators and absorb harmful German gas attacks. Much can be learned from the wide research chronicled in this book – even from a quick glance at the newspaper accounts, government pamphlets, and public service fliers pictured within.

Use [recipes from food historian Rae Katherine Eighmey](#) to whip up an economical spread for your book club, or refer to her book for further discussion as to what those in your club do to reduce waste and conserve food in modern day.

food

- 1- buy it with thought
- 2- cook it with care
- 3- use less wheat & meat
- 4- buy local foods
- 5- serve just enough
- 6- use what is left

don't waste it!

U.S. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

STOP

SAVE

Prune pits
Plum pits
Cherry pits
Date seeds
Olive pits

Peach Stones
Apricot pits
the shells of
Hickory nuts
Butternuts and
Walnuts

The carbon produced from these materials when placed in respirators will

SAVE SOLDIERS' LIVES
by absorbing
GERMAN POISON GAS

DRY MATERIALS THOROUGHLY AND DELIVER TO POINTS DESIGNATED BY
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
DO YOUR BIT – SAVE THE PIT

Food Schedule

	BREAKFAST	NOON DAY MEAL	EVENING MEAL
Monday	MEATLESS WHEATLESS	Wheatless	Wheatless
Tuesday	MEATLESS	MEATLESS	WHEATLESS MEATLESS
Wed'day	MEATLESS WHEATLESS	Wheatless	Wheatless
Thursday	MEATLESS		Wheatless
Friday	MEATLESS		Wheatless
Saturday	MEATLESS	PORKLESS	WHEATLESS PORKLESS
Sunday	MEATLESS		Wheatless

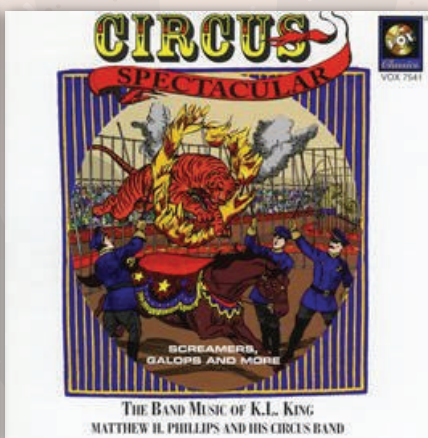
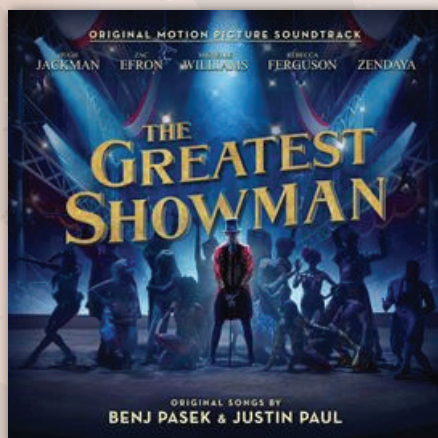
BREAKFAST, . . . 4:00 a. m. to 10:30 a. m.
NOON DAY MEAL, 10:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.
EVENING MEAL, 4:30 p. m. to 11:30 p. m.
OPEN HOURS, . . . 11:30 p. m. to 4:00 a. m.

"Help Win the War"

This card is furnished to the trade to assist them in observing the food regulations. Additional copies may be had by applying to . . .
THE LICENSED RETAIL LIQUOR DEALERS ASSN.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

A Playlist Straight from the Big Top

hoopla's extensive music selection of over 250,000 albums makes it easy to find music selections for any gathering – especially book club meetings! What to play prior to discussing *The Orphan's Tale*? Circus music, of course! Here are a few fabulous selections – including *The Greatest Showman* soundtrack, hoopla's top borrowed album of 2018!



Cinematic Companions

Book club buddies are often some of our best friends! If you can't get enough time together, why not schedule a follow-up movie or TV night and take in a thoughtful WWII flick available on hoopla? Our curated collection of human-focused films that cover WWII, as well as the struggle and hope before and after the war, can be found here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/5437>

