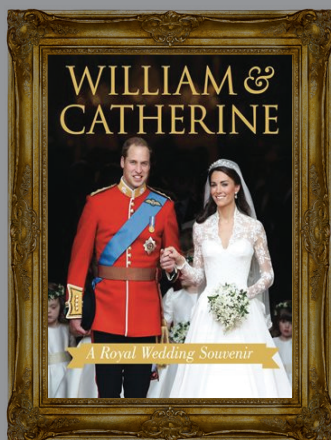
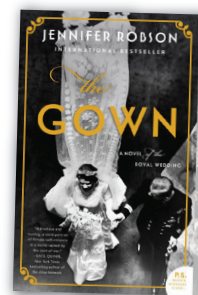


Book Club Companion: Meeting Planning Guide for Readers of *The Gown*

WELCOME TO THE CLUB

The hoopla catalog provides endless options to enhance your in-person book club meeting. From cookbooks to craft tutorials and music to movies, check out our Book Club Companion to this season's Spotlight Selection, *The Gown*. Incorporating any one or more of these creative complements will guarantee a fresh and fun meeting around the book the *Washington Post* called “likely to dazzle and delight.” Pick a few favorites and share your meeting moments on social using #hooplalbookclub!



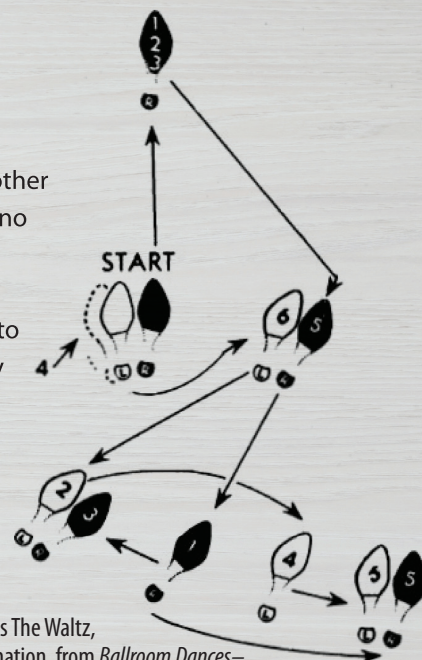
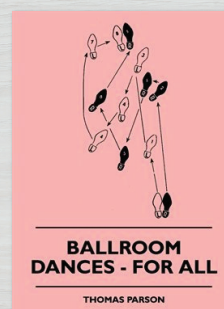
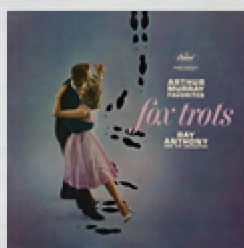
A STORY IN PHOTOS: ROYAL EVENTS

Annie Bullen's souvenir book series offers a glimpse into major events in the lives of the royal family. Fast forward to today and flip through the eBook detailing William and Kate's wedding, or travel back in time with your book club and check out *The Coronation*—the event just years after the wedding portrayed in *The Gown* that saw Queen Elizabeth II crowned in Westminster Abbey. Can't get enough? Borrow the eBook bundle including these two, plus a chronicle of the queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

BOOK CLUB BACKGROUND MUSIC: DANCE HALL SOUNDS FROM THE '40s & '50s

Dating post-WWII meant dancing shoes, stiff drinks, foxtrots, and starry eyes. Sweep yourself into another era with the multitude of dance hall favorites and sounds of the time available today on hoopla with no holds or waits—get started here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7688!>

Here's an idea—warm up your mind before the meeting by memorizing just a few dance steps! Come to appreciate the moves of the past that would have been expected for dance hall goers with the handy diagrams in the *Ballroom Dances* eBook!



(This image is The Waltz, Sixth Combination, from *Ballroom Dances—For All* by Thomas Parson—available here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/11720384>.)

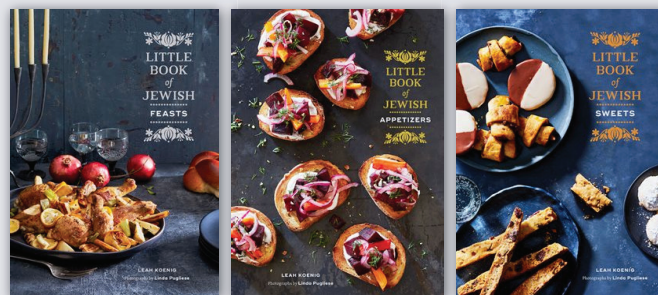


ON THE MEETING MENU: FRIDAY NIGHT CHICKEN

Miriam's grandmother's Friday Night Chicken served as both a warm blanket of memory in Miriam's darker times and a worthy goal as she moved in with Ann (and later settled with Walter) and became more hopeful.

The Jewish day of rest—Shabbat in Hebrew—begins as the sun goes down on Friday and ends Saturday evening. During this time, Jewish families enjoy a hearty meal as they transition into a more sacred time. Usually multi-course, these Shabbat meals often center as Miriam's grandmother's did—around a delicious, simple roasted chicken. For generations, Friday Night Chicken has been the tradition, and if you'd like to present a meal at your book club meeting, might we suggest just this?

In *Little Book of Jewish Feasts*, Leah Koenig presents a handful of recipes that would fit the bill for Friday Night Chicken (Chicken Fricassee, Chicken with Quince and Almonds, Sofrito and Fesenjan), but we think the recipe for Roast Chicken with Leek, Meyer Lemon, and Parsnip (pictured at left) is closest to the meal Miriam dreamed about.

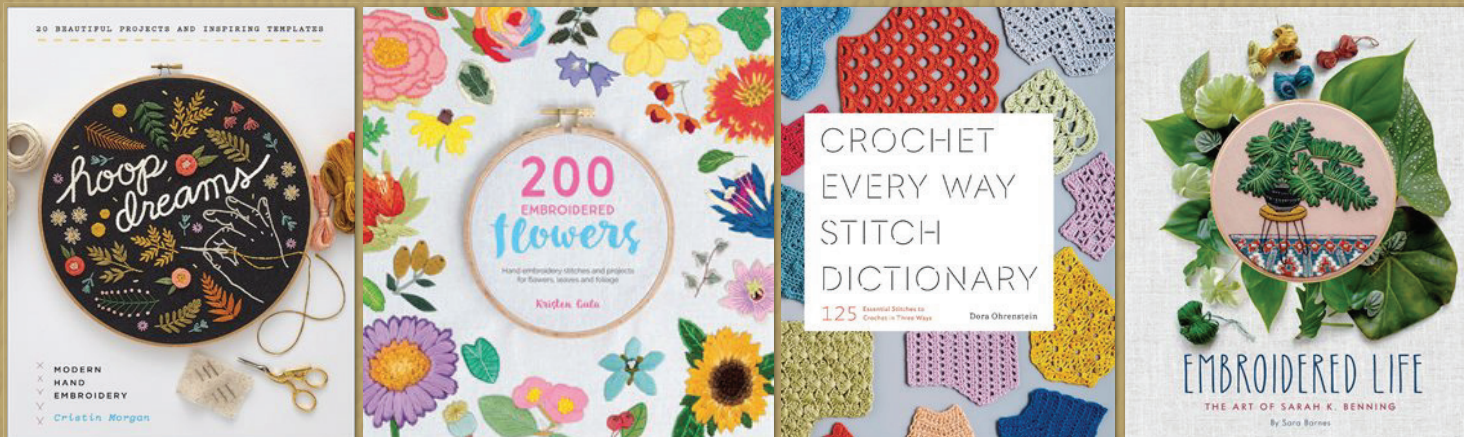


This is quite the hearty dish, so if your book club meets outside of dinner time and you'd like something simpler, consider the other cookbooks in this series—*Little Book of Jewish Appetizers* and *Little Book of Jewish Sweets*.

LEARN FROM YOUR LIBRARY: EMBROIDERY & FIBER ARTS

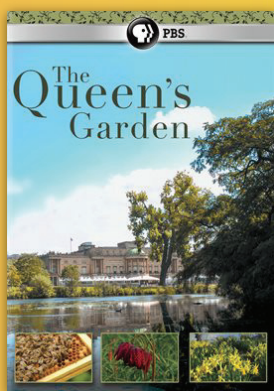
Enthralled with the lush details of Ann and Miriam's embroidery artwork and all the goings-on of the Hartnell house of fashion? Why not try your hand at embroidery or another fiber craft? Thanks to your library, you can access hundreds of arts and crafts how-tos on hoopla, with a wide variety of topics across all skill levels! Below are a few of our favorites, or check out a much bigger collection here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7605>

Looking for more ways to connect with friends in the new year? Why not hold a separate craft night as an excuse to get back together with your book club more often?



LEARN FROM YOUR LIBRARY: SEEK FLORAL INSPIRATION & EARN A GREEN THUMB!

Crafts not so much your speed, but digging in the dirt totally is? We loved the descriptions of the flowers in Ann's garden that so inspired both her own work and memories of Ann in her granddaughter Heather. With fancy florals woven throughout the book, and Victory Gardens being such a staple of the time period, hoopla and your library are just the place if you're feeling inspired to do a little gardening and floral design research of your own ahead of spring!



Gardening on your own seem intimidating? Feed your fascination with florals in a different, grander way, and maybe even make a book club game of watching for whether the fictional queen's white heather mentioned in *The Gown* truly is growing in the real-life "The Queen's Garden."

This PBS documentary by the same name reveals a year in Buckingham Palace Gardens, exploring the five-century history of this hidden royal treasure in the center of London: a 'living museum' where almost every plant (and many of the animals!) has a royal story to tell. With unprecedented access, PBS follows the garden across all four seasons, uncovering rare flowers specially bred for the queen, extraordinary wildlife captured using hidden cameras, a vast lake with an island in the middle where the royal bees make honey, and a 15ft marble urn that once belonged to Napoleon, to name but a few of the treats in store!

Find the whole garden of hand-picked titles above here:
<https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7687>

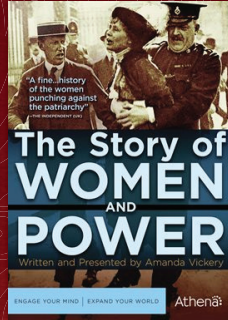
Can't get enough blooms? Stay tuned for these fantastic floral books coming to hoopla in February and March—including a new edition from hoopla patron favorite Floret Farm!



BOOK CLUB MOVIE NIGHT

You may have already checked out our Recommended Next Reads based on *The Gown*, but what about a Recommended Next Watch? We love the idea of gathering the book club gang for an evening of films related to your read. Here we've curated a small collection of television series and films that fit the themes explored in *The Gown*...

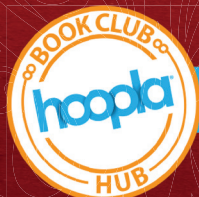
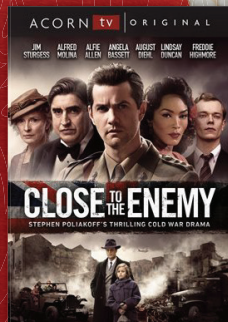
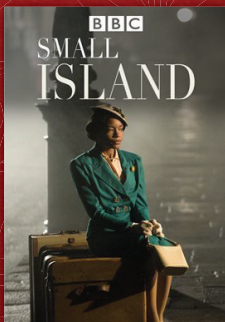
Women at Work After WWII – <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7682>



The Royal Family – <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7680>



Post-WWII Life – <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/7681>



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