



Discover. Read. Share.

WHY WE LOVE *The Fixed Stars*

Dear Reader,

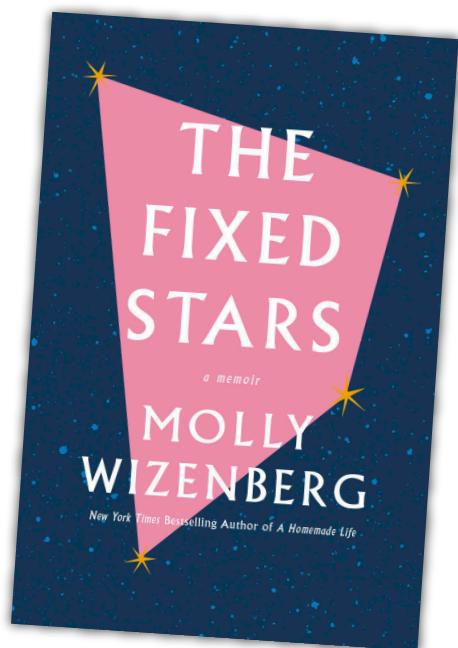
I am excited to share Molly Wizenberg's new memoir, *The Fixed Stars*, as hoopla Book Club's new Spotlight title. In it, she delves deep into the modern experience of relationships, sexuality, and parenthood with often stunning nuance and insight. As she interrogates her own experience in all its specific complexity, she addresses big questions in a way that will feel powerful for many readers: How to balance the sometimes competing demands of parenthood and self-fulfillment? How to define a successful relationship—can a relationship be a success even if it ends? How to understand queerness and all it encompasses? For me, though, the essential question it raises is: "What if the one constant thing about you is that you're changeable?"

Wizenberg is forced to confront this question in perhaps a more acute way than most: at age 36, as a straight woman with a husband and child, she faces the new, unavoidable reality that she is "not straight." This rattles her very understanding of the self and makes her question her past, the very foundations of who she is and ultimately wants to be. The word brave is one of those that feels overused to the point of meaninglessness in describing books, but this memoir is one that I feel truly earns this description. Wizenberg captures the messiness and confusion that accompanies times of intense change, sharing all of the painful parts as she evolves from one reality into another—with both the panic attacks and hives and the giddy excitement of new possibilities. The effect for me was a startling exploration of what it is to be a person, both seeking to understand this mystery of the self while acknowledging the slipperiness and mutability of it, peppered with fascinating ideas from psychologists, philosophers, and other writers along the way.

Overall, I think this will be a memoir of deep resonance for many types of readers who may gravitate to different things in it, and it certainly offers lots for book clubs to ponder. There is also something so warm, open, and somehow hopeful about Wizenberg's writing style that I found comforting, especially as we all have been facing a strange new reality. I hope everyone is staying safe and strong and that you will explore *The Fixed Stars* with us. Let us know what you think on social @hoopladigital and #hooplabookclub.

Best wishes,

Tara Carberry, hoopla digital





Discover. Read. Share.

WHY WE LOVE *The Fixed Stars*

About the Author

Molly Wizenberg is the author of two bestselling books, *A Homemade Life* and *Delancey*, and the James Beard Award-winning blog *Orangette*. She has written for the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, *Saveur*, and *Bon Appétit*, and she also cohosts the podcast *Spilled Milk*. With chef Brandon Pettit, Wizenberg cofounded the award-winning Seattle restaurants *Delancey* and *Essex*.



Selected Praise

"This is a spirited, terrifyingly courageous, and searingly honest memoir of discovering sexual identity and strength." — *Booklist*

"This honest and moving memoir will enlighten and educate those seeking to understand their true selves." — *Publishers Weekly*

"*The Fixed Stars* is that rare thing, a groundbreaking, essential book about sexuality. Wizenberg's incisive, generous laying-bare of her own experience will make many readers feel seen, understood, and not alone. This book is a triumph." — *Kate Christensen, author of Blue Plate Special and The Last Cruise*

"A work of blindsiding beauty."
— *Nell Beram, Shelf Awareness*

"Interwoven throughout with research insights into the complexity of female sexual identity, Wizenberg's book not only offers a glimpse into the shifting nature of selfhood; it also celebrates one woman's hard-won acceptance of her own sexual difference. A courageous and thought-provoking memoir." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"*The Fixed Stars*, like its protagonist, is both brave and sexy, both heady and bodily, and I ripped through this memoir like it was the most erudite romance novel in the world. This is a truly compelling look at sexuality, marriage, and parenthood in this century."

— *Emma Straub, author of All Adults Here and The Vacationers*

"In *The Fixed Stars*, Molly Wizenberg tackles the ever-shifting issues of marriage, motherhood, and sexual orientation with the same compassion and unflinching honesty that have become the hallmarks of her writing. She makes the everyday extraordinary and brings depth and complexity to the bigger questions in life. A beautiful read."

— *Erica Bauermeister, author of The Scent Keeper*

"Wizenberg is an excellent writer; her meditations on what it means to know yourself—or think you know yourself—and how unpredictable and exciting life really is are a joy to read." — *Electric Literature*

"*The Fixed Stars* is a beautiful memoir about desire, divorce, coming out to family and friends and co-parenting through separation." — *Parade*

"Through personal recollections, told in quietly beautiful prose you feel the urge to read out loud, she examines what happens before, during and after a seismic shift. A welcome reminder that sometimes feeling lost and found go hand-in-hand."

— *A Cup of Jo lifestyle blog*

"An essential addition that will resonate with fans of Wizenberg's earlier memoirs and anyone probing the complicated ways that sexuality and traditional family life overlap or diverge." — *Library Journal*