Planning Ahead...Mother's Day

Who most influenced you to be a reader? For me, it was my mother. She never actually told me to read any book, but she herself read constantly. I suppose as a young child I wanted to know what was so great about all those books and I slipped into the habit myself. I'm sure many of you have a similar story to tell. With this in mind, the following books are suggested for your May book club meeting, all having to do with Mothers and mothering.

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant by Anne Tyler
Eighty-five-year-old Pearl Tull recalls the desertion of her husband and her attempts to raise three children, who must come to terms with themselves and their father after their mother's death.

Anywhere But Here by Mona Simpson
Resourceful twelve-year-old Ann and her mother, Adele, travel across America in search of fulfillment, freedom, and their dreams.

God Help the Child by Toni Morrison
The first novel by Toni Morrison to be set in our current moment weaves a tale about the ways the sufferings of childhood can shape, and misshape, the life of the adult.

Rosie Colored Glasses by Brianna Wolfson
Enraged by her parents' joint-custody arrangement after she expressed a preference to live exclusively with her mother, eleven-year-old Willow struggles to make sense of her changing world and loneliness when her mother's demons begin to surface and overtake her.

Be Frank With Me by Julia Claiborne Johnson
Hired to assist a famed reclusive writer trying to recapture her lost fortunes by completing a new manuscript, Alice Whitley becomes obsessed with identifying the paternity of her employer's precocious young son.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Encompassing two generations and a rich blend of Chinese and American history, the story of four struggling, strong women also reveals their daughter's memories and feelings.

“...the secret lies in the reading and the writing. You are able to read. Every day you must read one page from some good book to your child. Every day this must be until the child learns to read. “

-Betty Smith, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Spring Releases for Upcoming Book Discussions

With March finally behind us, we can begin to revitalize our reading list. This is a great time of year to discover a new book for an upcoming discussion. Here are six new releases, of varying genres, that you may want to consider:

**Bring Me Back** by B.A. Paris  
Due Out: 6/19/18  
A decade after a man’s wife disappears without a trace, his new fiancée makes a discovery that raises questions about what happened and whether his first wife may still be alive.

**The Female Persuasion** by Meg Wolitzer  
Due Out: 4/3/18  
A college student finds her perspectives transformed by a mentor activist at the center of the women’s movement who challenges her to discover herself in ways that take her far from the traditional life she envisioned.

**My Mother’s Son** by David Hirshberg  
Due Out: 5/15/18  
A riveting coming-of-age story that plays out against the backdrop of the Korean War, the aftermath of the Holocaust, the polio epidemic, the relocation of a baseball team, and the shenanigans of politicians and businessmen.

**Unbury Carol** by Josh Malerman  
Due Out: 4/10/18  
A woman prone to secret temporary comas that make her appear to be dead receives protection from a redemption-seeking former lover who would save her from being buried alive by her fortune-hunting husband.

**Varina** by Charles Frazier  
Due Out: 4/3/18  
After marrying a Mississippi landowner in hopes of living a life of security, Varina Howell finds her expectations upended when her husband is appointed as the leader of the Confederacy.

**Woman of the Ashes** by Mia Couto  
Due Out: 4/10/18  
While overseeing the Portuguese conquest of territory claimed by Ngungunyane, who has raised an army to resist colonial rule in Southern Mozambique, Sergeant Germano de Melo finds himself drawn to the 15-year-old girl from the VaChopi tribe hired as an interpreter.

Summaries from the publishers.

New to Book Club In a Bag

**Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe**  
by Mike Massimino  
*2018 Long Islands Reads Selection*

“Very few jerks have ever been to space”, says veteran astronaut Michael Massimino. Why and how this is, it could be argued, is the subject of his remarkable memoir. As a man who clung to a childhood dream, despite countless rejections along the way that threatened to keep him from joining NASA, Massimino made it into one of the most elite clubs in the world--those who have left the planet and lived to tell about it. Massimino's story is a classic, his voice that of a natural raconteur, and his insight into the space program singular. All this from a six-foot-three kid from Long Island who is afraid of heights.

Massimino takes us through his childhood obsession with space... And his multiple attempts to gain admission to NASA. We see him deal with the loss of his fellow astronauts in the Columbia disaster, and also make the tough decision not to return to space so that he can be with his family. Along the way, we learn about the many men and woman who make and get to hear Mike's impassioned argument for why we must never, ever give up the dream of space travel. -from the publisher

Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 to reserve a book for your Book Club.  
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-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian