
Lessons In Chemistry Book Club Questions And Answers

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The Book of Two Ways
No Ordinary Men
The Escape Room

*Lessons In
Chemistry
Book Club
Questions
And Answers*

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SAWYER CRUZ

Advanced Physical Chemistry Anchor

*Finalist for the
National Book Award*
*Finalist for the Kirkus
Prize* *Instant New
York Times Bestseller*
*Named a Best Book of
the Year by NPR, New
York Post, BuzzFeed,

Shelf Awareness,
Bustle, and Publishers
Weekly* An essential
read for our times: an
eye-opening memoir of
working-class poverty
in America that will
deepen our
understanding of the
ways in which class
shapes our country and
“a deeply humane
memoir that crackles
with clarifying
insight”.* Sarah
Smarsh was born a

fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side, and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working class Americans living in the heartland. During Sarah's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, she enjoyed the freedom of a country childhood, but observed the painful challenges of the poverty around her; untreated medical conditions for lack of insurance or consistent care, unsafe job conditions, abusive relationships, and limited resources and information that would

provide for the upward mobility that is the American Dream. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves with clarity and precision but without judgement, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country. Beautifully written, in a distinctive voice, Heartland combines personal narrative with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, challenging the myths about people thought to be less because they earn less. "Heartland is one of a growing number of important works—including Matthew Desmond's *Evicted* and Amy Goldstein's *Janesville*—that together merit their own section in nonfiction aisles across

the country: America's postindustrial decline...Smarsh shows how the false promise of the 'American dream' was used to subjugate the poor. It's a powerful mantra"

*(The New York Times Book Review).

Lessons in Chemistry

HarperCollins

"The Bestselling Hardcover Novel of the Year."--Publishers Weekly From the number-one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone* comes a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.

"My land tells its story

if you listen. The story of our family." Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman's only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows. By 1934, the world has changed; millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail

and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa's tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family. *The Four Winds* is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the

enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation. *Chemistry Lessons*
Random House Trade Paperbacks
From the author of the #1 New York Times bestselling series *The Clique* comes Lisi Harrison's debut adult novel about four modern-day strangers who inherit a dirty book club that was started in the 1960s. M.J. Stark's life is picture-perfect—she

has a dream job as a magazine editor, a sexy doctor boyfriend, and a glamorous life in Manhattan. But behind her success, she can't shake a deep sense of loneliness, so when her boyfriend offers her a completely new life in California, she decides to give it a try. Once there, M.J. is left to fend for herself in a small California beach town, with only the company of her elderly neighbor, Gloria. One day M.J. receives a mysterious invitation and a copy of *Prim: A Modern Woman's Guide to Manners*. She recognizes the book as an outdated classic, but when she opens it, she discovers that it's actually a copy of *Fear of Flying* by Erica Jong and the invitation is to join Gloria's secret book club—one that

only reads erotic books. Out of curiosity, M.J. goes to the meeting at a local bookstore, and discovers three other women who have also been selected by the club's original members—who have suddenly left the country to honor a fifty-year-old pact. As these unlikely friends bond over naughty bestsellers, each woman shares not only the intimate details of her own sex life, but all areas of her life. Inspired by the characters in the novels they read—and the notes passed down by the club's original members—the new members of The Dirty Book Club help each other find the courage to rewrite their own stories and risk it all for a happy ending.

Swimming to Antarctica Penguin
The glitzy days of 1920s New York meet the devastation of those left behind in World War II in a new, delectable historical novel from USA Today bestselling author Meredith Jaeger. In the final months of World War II, San Francisco newspaper secretary Ellie Morgan should be planning her wedding and subsequent exit from the newsroom into domestic life. Instead, Ellie, who harbors dreams of having her own column, is using all the skills she's learned as a would-be reporter to try to uncover any scrap of evidence that her missing pilot father is still alive. But when she discovers a stack of love letters from a woman who is not her

mother in his possessions, her already fragile world goes into a tailspin, and she vows to find out the truth about the father she loves—and the woman who loved him back. When Ellie arrives on her aunt Iris's doorstep, clutching a stack of letters and uttering a name Iris hasn't heard in decades, Iris is terrified. She's hidden her past as a Ziegfeld Follies showgirl from her family, and her experiences in New York City in the 1920s could reveal much more than the origin of her brother-in-law's alleged affair. Iris's heady days in the spotlight weren't enough to outshine the darker underbelly of Jazz Age New York, and she's spent the past twenty years believing

that her actions in those days led to murder. Together the two women embark on a cross-country mission to find the truth in the *City That Never Sleeps*, a journey that just might shatter everything they thought they knew—not only about the past but about their own futures.

Inspired by a true Jazz Age murder cold case that captivated the nation, and the fact that more than 72,000 Americans still remain unaccounted for from World War II, *The Pilot's Daughter* is a page-turning exploration of the stories we tell ourselves and of how well we can truly know those we love.

[Before I Go](#)

HarperCollins

“Sinking into a Nan

Rossiter story is like coming home.”—Robyn Carr
 Return to Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia in USA Today bestselling author Nan Rossiter’s third *Savannah Skies* novel, a heartwarming story about love, acceptance, finding your place in the world, and learning to carry on in the face of overwhelming loss. It has been eight months since Libby Tennyson’s husband, Jack, passed away, and now every afternoon when the fiery sun sinks below the horizon, she finds herself wandering through the empty old farmhouse in which they raised their six sons. Melancholy hour, she calls it—the time of day that was once a flurry of dinner, homework, and chores, but with her sons

grown and on their own, she grieves for all she has lost—and worries about what the future holds for her youngest son, twenty-eight-year-old Chase. All the Tennyson boys are handsome—but there’s something about Chase that has always made women swoon. Growing up in the shadow of his older brothers, Chase was different—gentler, kinder, a boy with a big heart who looked after those most vulnerable. Though his family loves him deeply, Chase never felt he could truly be himself until he met Liam Evans, his partner in business and love. After six years, Chase and Liam are ready to make a lifetime commitment...yet both feel apprehensive including their very

traditional families in their wedding planning. But life is full of surprises, and Libby finds unexpected hope in her new stage of life when she connects with The Guild, a group of widows who get together every Thursday evening for wine, laughter, and companionship. Here, Libby not only discovers a safe space, but a place of honesty, and...growth. And while Chase and Libby may not see eye to eye every time, they can both always agree that love truly does win. After all, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, is always poured back...because for all the measure you use, it will be measured to you!

The Ensemble

Scribner
 A People and US
 Weekly Pick “An
 impressive feat...an
 immensely
 entertaining, moving,
 and believable read”
 (Atlanta Journal-
 Constitution), this
 debut novel in the
 bestselling tradition of
 P.S. I Love You
 revolves around a
 young woman with
 breast cancer who
 undertakes a mission
 to find a new wife for
 her husband before
 she passes away.
 Twenty-seven-year-old
 Daisy already beat
 breast cancer four
 years ago. How can
 this be happening to
 her again? On the eve
 of what was supposed
 to be a triumphant
 “Cancerversary” with
 her husband Jack to
 celebrate four years of
 being cancer-free,
 Daisy suffers a

devastating blow: her
 doctor tells her that
 the cancer is back, but
 this time it’s an
 aggressive stage four
 diagnosis. She may
 have as few as four
 months left to live.
 Death is a frightening
 prospect—but not
 because she’s afraid
 for herself. She’s
 terrified of what will
 happen to her brilliant
 but otherwise
 charmingly helpless
 husband when she’s no
 longer there to take
 care of him. It’s this
 fear that keeps her up
 at night, until she
 stumbles on the
 solution: she has to
 find him another wife.
 With a singular
 determination, Daisy
 scouts local parks and
 coffee shops and
 online dating sites
 looking for Jack’s
 perfect match. But the
 further she gets on her

quest, the more she questions the sanity of her plan. As the thought of her husband with another woman becomes all too real, Daisy's forced to decide what's more important in the short amount of time she has left: her husband's happiness—or her own?

This Is How I Lied

Harvard University
Press

#1 NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER • From
the author of *Small
Great Things* and *A
Spark of Light* comes a
“powerful” (The
Washington Post) novel
about the choices that
alter the course of our
lives. NAMED ONE OF
THE BEST BOOKS OF
THE YEAR BY MARIE
CLAIRE Everything
changes in a single
moment for Dawn
Edelstein. She's on a

plane when the flight
attendant makes an
announcement:
Prepare for a crash
landing. She braces
herself as thoughts
flash through her mind.
The shocking thing is,
the thoughts are not of
her husband but of a
man she last saw
fifteen years ago:
Wyatt Armstrong.
Dawn, miraculously,
survives the crash, but
so do all the doubts
that have suddenly
been raised. She has
led a good life. Back in
Boston, there is her
husband, Brian, their
beloved daughter, and
her work as a death
doula, in which she
helps ease the
transition between life
and death for her
clients. But somewhere
in Egypt is Wyatt
Armstrong, who works
as an archaeologist
unearthing ancient

burial sites, a career Dawn once studied for but was forced to abandon when life suddenly intervened. And now, when it seems that fate is offering her second chances, she is not as sure of the choice she once made. After the crash landing, the airline ensures that the survivors are seen by a doctor, then offers transportation to wherever they want to go. The obvious destination is to fly home, but she could take another path: return to the archaeological site she left years before, reconnect with Wyatt and their unresolved history, and maybe even complete her research on *The Book of Two Ways*—the first known map of the afterlife. As the story

unfolds, Dawn's two possible futures unspool side by side, as do the secrets and doubts long buried with them. Dawn must confront the questions she's never truly asked: What does a life well lived look like? When we leave this earth, what do we leave behind? Do we make choices . . . or do our choices make us? And who would you be if you hadn't turned out to be the person you are right now?

Lessons in Chemistry Thomas Nelson

The story of two courageous opponents within Hitler's Germany—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the celebrated theologian, and his brother-in-law Hans von Dohnanyi, a lawyer in the Wehrmacht—who both

bravely resisted the Nazis During the twelve years of Hitler's Third Reich, very few Germans took the risk of actively opposing his tyranny and terror, and fewer still did so to protect the sanctity of law and faith. In *No Ordinary Men*, Elisabeth Sifton and Fritz Stern focus on two remarkable, courageous men who did—the pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his close friend and brother-in-law Hans von Dohnanyi—and offer new insights into the fearsome difficulties that resistance entailed. (Not forgotten is Christine Bonhoeffer Dohnanyi, Hans's wife and Dietrich's sister, who was indispensable to them both.) From the start Bonhoeffer

opposed the Nazi efforts to bend Germany's Protestant churches to Hitler's will, while Dohnanyi, a lawyer in the Justice Ministry and then in the Wehrmacht's counterintelligence section, helped victims, kept records of Nazi crimes to be used as evidence once the regime fell, and was an important figure in the various conspiracies to assassinate Hitler. The strength of their shared commitment to these undertakings—and to the people they were helping—endured even after their arrest in April 1943 and until, after great suffering, they were executed on Hitler's express orders in April 1945, just weeks before the Third Reich collapsed. Bonhoeffer's

posthumously published Letters and Papers from Prison and other writings found a wide international audience, but Dohnanyi's work is scarcely known, though it was crucial to the resistance and he was the one who drew Bonhoeffer into the anti-Hitler plots. Sifton and Stern offer dramatic new details and interpretations in their account of the extraordinary efforts in which the two jointly engaged. No Ordinary Men honors both Bonhoeffer's human decency and his theological legacy, as well as Dohnanyi's preservation of the highest standard of civic virtue in an utterly corrupted state. Lessons Knopf
An exploration of how plant behavior and

adaptation offer valuable insights for human thriving. We know that plants are important. They maintain the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. They nourish other living organisms and supply psychological benefits to humans as well, improving our moods and beautifying the landscape around us. But plants don't just passively provide. They also take action. Beronda L. Montgomery explores the vigorous, creative lives of organisms often treated as static and predictable. In fact, plants are masters of adaptation. They "know" what and who they are, and they use this knowledge to make a way in the

world. Plants experience a kind of sensation that does not require eyes or ears. They distinguish kin, friend, and foe, and they are able to respond to ecological competition despite lacking the capacity of fight-or-flight. Plants are even capable of transformative behaviors that allow them to maximize their chances of survival in a dynamic and sometimes unfriendly environment. *Lessons from Plants* enters into the depth of botanic experience and shows how we might improve human society by better appreciating not just what plants give us but also how they achieve their own purposes. What would it mean to learn from these organisms, to become more aware of

our environments and to adapt to our own worlds by calling on perception and awareness?

Montgomery's meditative study puts before us a question with the power to reframe the way we live: What would a plant do?

The Do-Over Anchor
NATIONAL BESTSELLER

• In this extraordinary book, the world's most extraordinary distance swimmer writes about her emotional and spiritual need to swim and about the almost mystical act of swimming itself. Lynne Cox trained hard from age nine, working with an Olympic coach, swimming five to twelve miles each day in the Pacific. At age eleven, she swam even when hail made the water "like cold tapioca

pudding” and was told she would one day swim the English Channel. Four years later—not yet out of high school—she broke the men’s and women’s world records for the Channel swim. In 1987, she swam the Bering Strait from America to the Soviet Union—a feat that, according to Gorbachev, helped diminish tensions between Russia and the United States. Lynne Cox’s relationship with the water is almost mystical: she describes swimming as flying, and remembers swimming at night through flocks of flying fish the size of mockingbirds, remembers being escorted by a pod of dolphins that came to her off New Zealand.

She has a photographic memory of her swims. She tells us how she conceived of, planned, and trained for each, and re-creates for us the experience of swimming (almost) unswimmable bodies of water, including her most recent astonishing one-mile swim to Antarctica in thirty-two-degree water without a wet suit. She tells us how, through training and by taking advantage of her naturally plump physique, she is able to create more heat in the water than she loses. Lynne Cox has swum the Mediterranean, the three-mile Strait of Messina, under the ancient bridges of Kunning Lake, below the old summer palace of the emperor of China in Beijing.

Breaking records no longer interests her. She writes about the ways in which these swims instead became vehicles for personal goals, how she sees herself as the lone swimmer among the waves, pitting her courage against the odds, drawn to dangerous places and treacherous waters that, since ancient times, have challenged sailors in ships.

We Are Not Like

Them St. Martin's Press

A beautiful friends-to-lovers lesbian romance about taking risks and figuring out that sometimes the perfect person has been right in front of you all along. Kylie and Regan have been best friends since kindergarten, supporting each other through thick and thin.

While everyone thinks they would be perfect for each other, they insist there's no chemistry between them-and Regan should know since she's a chemistry teacher. To prove it, they agree to a little chemistry experiment: they'll go on three dates with each other. So what if their gazes start to linger and accidental touches no longer feel platonic? They chalk it up to the romantic atmosphere-until a friendly good night kiss turns passionate. Can their friendship go back to the way it was before? Do they even want it to? Or will they risk losing what they have for a chance at love?

No! I Don't Want to Join a Bookclub
Lessons in Chemistry
Spanning nearly a

century, from 1930s Siberia to contemporary Brighton Beach, a page turning, epic family saga centering on three generations of women in one Russian Jewish family—each striving to break free of fate and history, each yearning for love and personal fulfillment—and how the consequences of their choices ripple through time. *Odessa, 1931. Marrying the handsome, wealthy Edward Gordon, Daria—born Dvora Kaganovitch—has fulfilled her mother’s dreams. But a woman’s plans are no match for the crushing power of Stalin’s repressive Soviet state. To survive, Daria is forced to rely on the kindness of a man who takes pride in his own coarseness. Odessa,*

1970. Brilliant young Natasha Crystal is determined to study mathematics. But the Soviets do not allow Jewish students—even those as brilliant as Natasha—to attend an institute as prestigious as Odessa University. With her hopes for the future dashed, Natasha must find a new purpose—one that leads her into the path of a dangerous young man. Brighton Beach, 2019. Zoe Venakovsky, known to her family as Zoya, has worked hard to leave the suffocating streets and small minds of Brighton Beach behind her—only to find that what she’s tried to outrun might just hold her true happiness. Moving from a Siberian gulag to the underground world of Soviet refuseniks to

oceanside Brooklyn, The Nesting Dolls is a heartbreaking yet ultimately redemptive story of circumstance, choice, and consequence—and three dynamic unforgettable women, all who will face hardships that force them to compromise their dreams as they fight to fulfill their destinies.

The Nesting Dolls St. Martin's Press

In this blazingly smart and voracious debut novel, an artist turned stay-at-home mom becomes convinced she's turning into a dog. • "A must-read for anyone who can't get enough of the ever-blurring line between the psychological and supernatural that Yellowjackets exemplifies." —Vulture
One day, the mother

was a mother, but then one night, she was quite suddenly something else... An ambitious mother puts her art career on hold to stay at home with her newborn son, but the experience does not match her imagination. Two years later, she steps into the bathroom for a break from her toddler's demands, only to discover a dense patch of hair on the back of her neck. In the mirror, her canines suddenly look sharper than she remembers. Her husband, who travels for work five days a week, casually dismisses her fears from faraway hotel rooms. As the mother's symptoms intensify, and her temptation to give in to her new dog impulses peak, she struggles to keep her

alter-canine-identity secret. Seeking a cure at the library, she discovers the mysterious academic tome which becomes her bible, *A Field Guide to Magical Women: A Mythical Ethnography*, and meets a group of mummies involved in a multilevel-marketing scheme who may also be more than what they seem. An outrageously original novel of ideas about art, power, and womanhood wrapped in a satirical fairy tale, *Nightbitch* will make you want to howl in laughter and recognition. And you should. You should howl as much as you want.

The Most Fun We Ever Had Penguin
 Lessons in
 ChemistryDoubleday
 UKLessons in

ChemistryDoubleday
The Queen of Hearts
 Simon and Schuster
 In California in the 1960s, chemist Elizabeth Zott constantly has her career derailed by peers who are very unscientific when it comes to equality. When she finds herself an unwed, single mother and the star of America's most beloved cooking show, her independent example proves to be revolutionary.

Chemistry Lessons

Knopf
 "One of my favorite books of the year."
 —Lee Child "Cancel all your plans and call in sick; once you start reading, you'll be caught in your own escape room—the only key to freedom is turning the last page!"
 —Kirkus Reviews

(starred) "A sleek, well-crafted ride." —The New York Times In Megan Goldin's unforgettable debut, *The Escape Room*, four young Wall Street rising stars discover the price of ambition when an escape room challenge turns into a lethal game of revenge. Welcome to the escape room. Your goal is simple. Get out alive. In the lucrative world of finance, Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam are at the top of their game. They've mastered the art of the deal and celebrate their success in style—but a life of extreme luxury always comes at a cost. Invited to participate in an escape room challenge as a team-building exercise, the ferociously competitive co-workers crowd into

the elevator of a high-rise building, eager to prove themselves. But when the lights go off and the doors stay shut, it quickly becomes clear that this is no ordinary competition: they're caught in a dangerous game of survival. Trapped in the dark, the colleagues must put aside their bitter rivalries and work together to solve cryptic clues to break free. But as the game begins to reveal the team's darkest secrets, they realize there's a price to be paid for the terrible deeds they committed in their ruthless climb up the corporate ladder. As tempers fray, and the clues turn deadly, they must solve one final chilling puzzle: which one of them will kill in order to survive?

The Last Thing He Told Me Penguin UK

This richly imagined novel tells the story behind *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife, Maud. "A breathtaking read that will transport you over the rainbow and into the heart of one of America's most enduring fairy tales."—Lisa Wingate, author of *Before We Were Yours* Hollywood, 1938: As soon as she learns that M-G-M is adapting her late husband's masterpiece for the screen, seventy-seven-year-old Maud Gage Baum sets about trying to finagle her way onto the set. Nineteen years after Frank's passing, Maud is the only person who can help the producers

stay true to the spirit of the book—because she's the only one left who knows its secrets. But the moment she hears Judy Garland rehearsing the first notes of "Over the Rainbow," Maud recognizes the yearning that defined her own life story, from her youth as a suffragette's daughter to her coming of age as one of the first women in the Ivy League, from her blossoming romance with Frank to the hardscrabble prairie years that inspired *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Judy reminds Maud of a young girl she cared for and tried to help in South Dakota, a dreamer who never got her happy ending. Now, with the young actress under pressure from the studio as well

as her ambitious stage mother, Maud resolves to protect her—the way she tried so hard to protect the real Dorothy. The author of two New York Times bestselling nonfiction books, *The Eighty-Dollar Champion* and *The Perfect Horse*, Elizabeth Letts is a master at discovering and researching a rich historical story and transforming it into a page-turner. *Finding Dorothy* is the result of Letts’s journey into the amazing lives of Frank and Maud Baum. Written as fiction but based closely on the truth, Elizabeth Letts’s new book tells a story of love, loss, inspiration, and perseverance, set in America’s heartland. Praise for *Finding Dorothy* “In some ways reminiscent of Jerry

Stahl’s excellent *I, Fatty*, Letts’ *Finding Dorothy* combines exhaustive research with expansive imagination, blending history and speculation into a seamless tapestry. . . . It’s a testament to Letts’ skill that she can capture on the page, without benefit of audio, that same emotion we have all felt sometime over the last 80 years while listening to ‘*Over the Rainbow*.’” —BookPage (starred review)
The Which Way Tree
Doubleday UK
NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • “A gripping and poignant ode to a messy, loving family in all its glory.”
—Madeline Miller, bestselling author of *Circe* In this “rich, complex family saga” (USA Today) full of long-buried family

secrets, Marilyn Connolly and David Sorenson fall in love in the 1970s, blithely ignorant of all that awaits them. By 2016, they have four radically different daughters, each in a state of unrest. Wendy, widowed young, soothes herself with booze and younger men; Violet, a litigator turned stay-at-home-mom, battles anxiety and self-doubt; Liza, a neurotic and newly tenured professor, finds herself pregnant with a baby she's not sure she wants by a man she's not sure she loves; and Grace, the dawdling youngest daughter, begins living a lie that no one in her family even suspects. With the unexpected arrival of young Jonah Bendt—a child placed for adoption by one of

the daughters fifteen years before—the Sorensens will be forced to reckon with the rich and varied tapestry of their past. As they grapple with years marred by adolescent angst, infidelity, and resentment, they also find the transcendent moments of joy that make everything else worthwhile.

A Good Measure Little, Brown

A profoundly moving memoir of caregiving, mourning, and love between a mother and her son—and about the joy of reading, and the ways that joy is multiplied when we share it with others. “A graceful, affecting testament to a mother and a life well lived.”

—Entertainment Weekly, Grade A

During her treatment

for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same time—and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne—and we, their fellow readers—are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us.

**Lessons in
Chemistry**

HarperCollins
From "the reliably hilarious"
(Entertainment Weekly) author of
Love, Nina: a brilliantly

funny and heartbreaking story of growing up and finding the independence you might not actually want . . . Teenager Lizzie Vogel has a new job as a dental assistant. This is not as glamorous as it sounds. At least it means mostly getting away from her alcoholic, nymphomaniacal, novel-writing mother. But, if Lizzie thinks being independent means sex with her boyfriend (he prefers bird-watching), strict boundaries (her boss keeps using her loo) or self-respect (surely only actual athletes get fungal foot infections?) she's still got a lot more growing up to do. The winner of the 2019 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction, Reasons

to Be Cheerful is a novel that lives up to its title, confirming

Nina Stibbe's status as one of the most original and delightful writers at work today.

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