

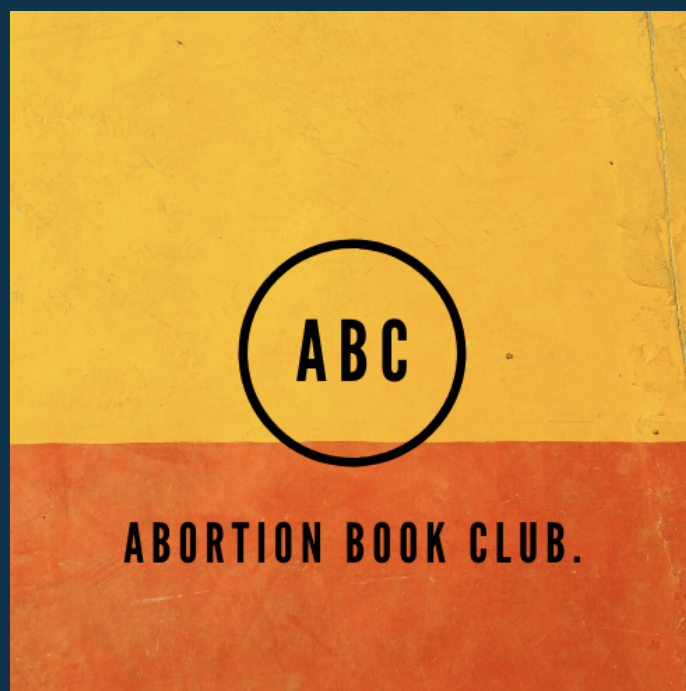


HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

FROM US AT ABORTION BOOK CLUB

WE LOVE YOU!

Thank you for being such an amazing group of abortion nerds and making this the best book club we could have asked for. Conceiving this, we were so concerned that we had just created *another* COVID book club and would be met with eye-rolls and no mates. Six books later, we are ending 2020 feeling a real ABC community, and we can't wait to see you in the New Year for more abortion chats!



**MORE GOOD NEWS
IN THIS NEWSLETTER!**

ABORTION THEMED FOOD AND DRINK
RECIPES!

SOME NEWS FOR 2021 - **INCLUDING A BOOK
CHANGE!**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM **YOU!!**

It started with some tweets...



Rishita Nandagiri @rishie_ · May 11

yo, #abortion, #reprojustice, & #srhr nerds: come join our low (no) pressure book club to read fiction/graphic novels/what have you on abortion-related themes. We're also taking recommendations to add to our lists!

It'll be fun, I promise!



Joe Strong
@JoeStrongDemog

🌟🌟 abortion book club 🌟🌟

anyone interested in an ad-hoc book club with novels that have abortion related storylines? Low pressure reading and then a chance to chat it up after!

Let @rishie_ and I know if ya keen?

NOW LOOK AT US!

Having this community has been one of the best parts of 2020 for me. I love our get-togethers and sharing a space with all of you who inspire me with your activism, advocacy and research. Getting to know you all has been the best. We are a group with a shared passion for abortion rights and a great sense of humour and kindness, which is just what I need to contrast my personal life. In response to being shown a picture of their godchild pulling a silly face, I told a date that was the reason I advocate abortion rights and they told me that was the single rudest thing they had ever heard. I enter 2021 single, but with you all!

Favourite book: Unpregnant / The Mothers

Joe x

Abortion friends, thank you for responding to our random 'anyone for a zero-pressure abortion book club?' tweets & showing up month after month! I've absolutely LOVED having "BOOK CLUB!" on my schedule every month, hearing your insightful & hilarious commentary, & feeling a real sense of camaraderie with incredible abortion folx like yourselves. When Joe & I first started talking about abortion fiction [thanks, Portrait of a Lady on Fire], I wasn't sure there would be many takers for what felt like such a niche thing- I'm so glad to be proved wrong! Thank god for abortion, indeed.

Favourite book: The Mothers/Meridian

Rishita x

Thanks for making book club what it is [i.e., perfect]- and here's to a 2021 with many more abortion chats!

IMPORTANT NEWS!

We have some important announcements for what's coming up

NEW BOOKS!

Unfortunately, we have realised that Mitsuyo Kakuta's *The Eighth Day* is not available in most countries.

We have decided to rearrange our calendar and have added Marian Keyes's *The Break* to our reading list {february}!

We are also so excited to announce we will also be reading Leni Zumas' *Red Clocks* [March]

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

This book club is intended to be a space for everyone. We would love to hear any feedback from you, whether it be something different you'd like to see, things you've loved, or anything in between.

Email us: abortionbookclub@gmail.com

JANUARY - APRIL 2021

December book: *Living Treasures*
meeting **7 January**

January book: *Girls on the Verge*
meeting **8 February**

February book: *The Break*
meeting **3 March**

March book: *Red Clocks*
meeting **TBC April**



GOT A BOOK YOU LOVE? FANCY HOSTING?

If you've got a book that you would love for us to read, or have found one of the books that we have picked engaging, let us know! Get involved, get hosting one of our monthly meetings, or inspire us with a new book choice. ABC is yours!

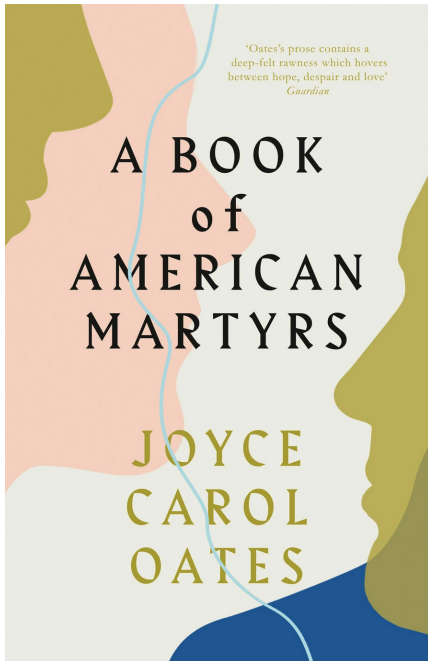
<https://otherabortionstories.space>

@AbortionBooks_ abortionbookclub@gmail.com

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

We've given a little star rating for how we feel the books depicted abortions, but our minds are fallible and we are biased. Let us know what you think!

A BOOK OF AMERICAN MARTYRS



Honestly, we are so sorry for making this the first book*. It was a dense, painful read, the dilation and curettage of the abortion world. Please forgive us. Other suggested uses include: burning it in your winter fire, throwing it at your enemies, using it as a doorstop, using select passages for a truth/fiction round in an abortion pub quiz/trivia.

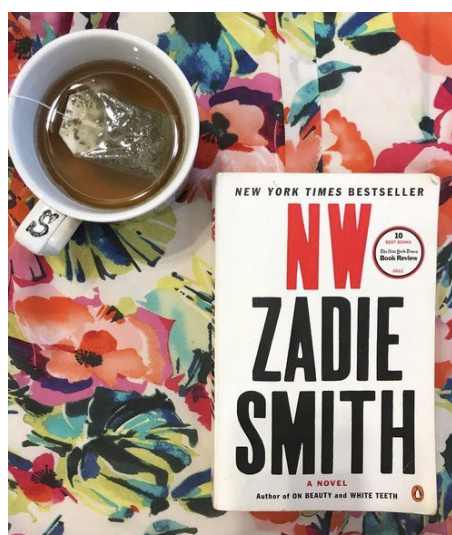
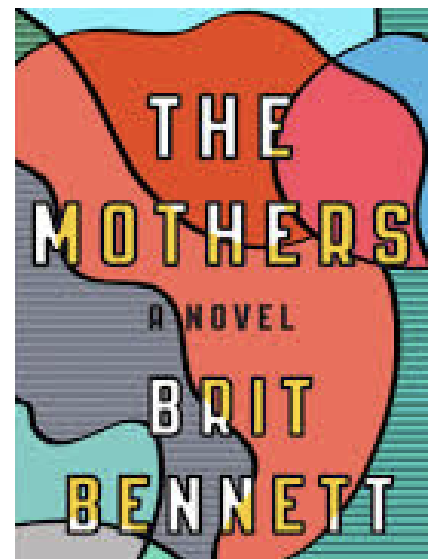
Rating: 1*

*although, the collective irritation & disappointment with this book probably made it an excellent first choice. That you all persevered, despite it being our longest [and most hated] read at 752 pages says something

THE MOTHERS

A beautiful novel and unequivocally An Abortion Book. Motherhood, reproduction and race intersect in this evocatively written coming-of-age novel. The Mothers has become a book that we have referred back to time and time again- whether for its poignant imagery or its prescient language (see: "Unpregnant", for example).

Rating: 5*



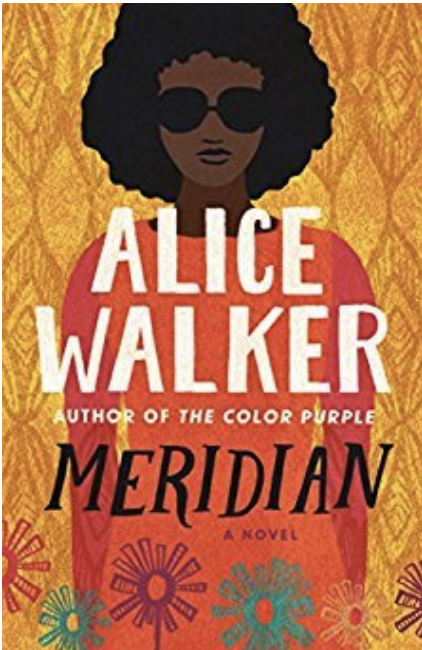
An experimentally styled book, people enjoyed the storyline. The off-script abortion was an interesting contrast to our earlier books, just a facet of the reproductive life course of our protagonist, Leah. But come on, who goes to a dinner party when their dog is sick?

Rating: 4*

NW

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW cont...

MERIDIAN



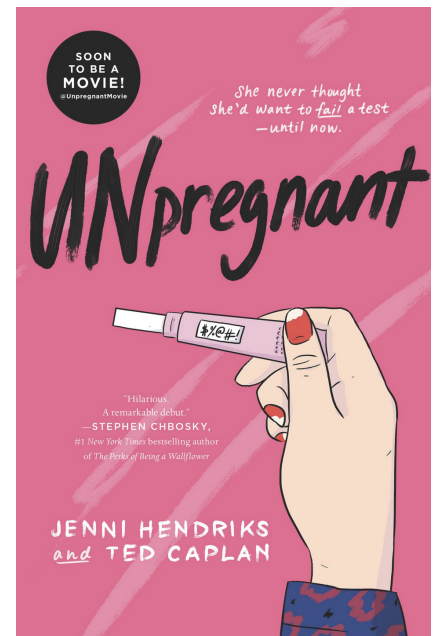
A deep and intense narrative that reminds us of the interlinked struggles for racial, reproductive, and social justice in the USA and across the world. A haunting and difficult read in parts, it featured a strong, uncompromising character whose life & choices offered observations not just on civil rights & a commitment to justice, but on movements themselves. A book that's also stayed with us- linking to Rubyfruit Jungle and to ABoAM.

Rating: 5*

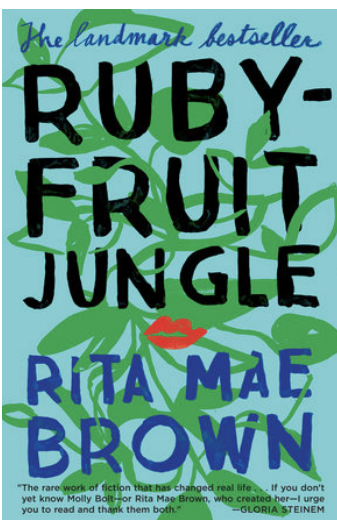
UNPREGNANT

Fresh, modern, fun, easygoing. Misoprostol in book form. It didn't convince us all, but it certainly bonded us in a mutual "what the fuck?" as we read that Veronica's partner put holes in his condom. Apparently, the film is great fun!

Rating: 4*



RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE



Queerness, class, and youth collide as we follow Molly in her journeys that culminate in New York. Set against the backdrop of social justice movements in the USA, we are given snapshots into the reproductive world of womxn and the oppression of LGBTQIA+ communities that rings all too true today. Problematic representations of Jewish communities, race, and sex workers remained uninterrogated and made some of the book tense reading. And don't get us started on the Ruby x Rubyfruit Jungle analogy...

Rating: 3.5*



GET YOUR ABORTION FRIEND ON THE PHONE!

"...when it comes time to purge the placenta...Bam! Call the abortion friend!"

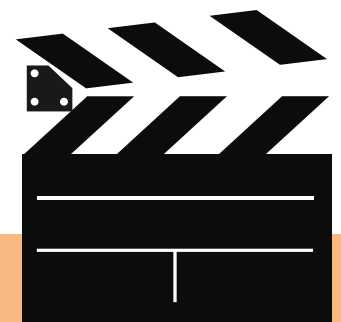
Bailey, *Unpregnant*

Abortion friends [or lack thereof] have popped up across the books we've read. Who would be yours? It could be anyone, a proper friend, a celebrity, someone from the past.

Rishita: I think I'd like to hang out with the Abortion Without Borders crew- not just because they're all incredible activists, wonderfully hilarious, & all-round good people, but because I'm so awed & moved by their commitment, even in these most arduous of times!

Joe: [Okay, so I wouldn't be seeking an abortion, but...] Probably right now, Catherine O'Hara? I bet she's got stories for days; it'd make a 1000-mile car journey fly by.

WHO WOULD YOURS BE?



MOVIES FOR YOU AND YOUR ABORTION FRIEND

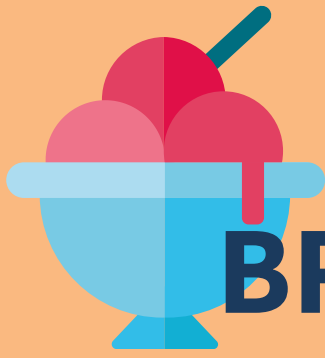
We know it might just be sync watching, but we can't recommend enough:

Never Rarely Sometimes Always

Portrait of a Lady on Fire

Unpregnant [duh!]

Dirty Dancing [of course!]



BRING THE SNACKS!

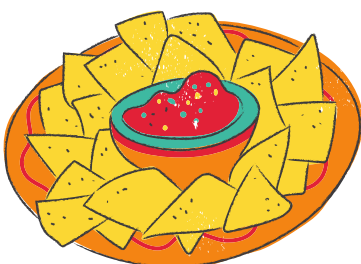
Treat you and your abortion friend to some ABC themed snacks for your movie night!



An *Unpregnant* slushie!

- 1 1/2 to 2 cups chopped fresh fruit
- 1 cup ice (plus extra, depending on the type of fruit used)
- 1/4 cup sparkling water
- Extra herbs, spices, or other ingredients for flavouring

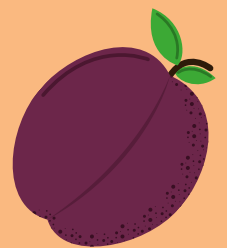
Add some booze for your pleasure and pair it with a bowl of nachos!



Honour *The Mothers* with a plum sorbet (apparently)

Ice cream is a great movie pairing, but we just caught wind of a special sour plum jam sorbet that has been made in honour of *The Mothers*' author, Brit Bennett. Here's a recipe to make it from home:

- 2 1/2 cups of sliced plums, pits removed
- 1/4 cup + 2 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of lemon juice
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon of Grand Marnier (optional)

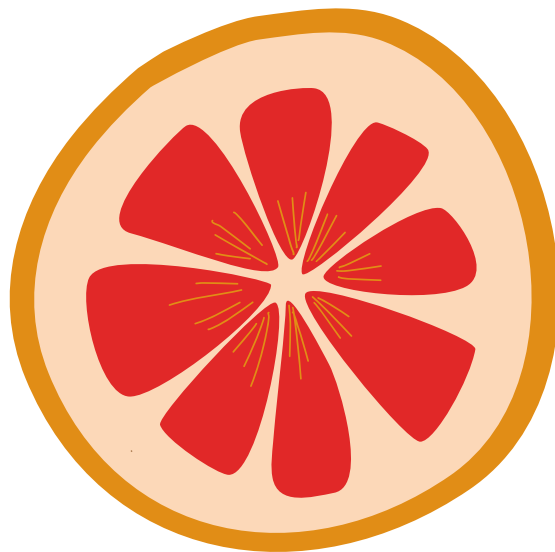


Instructions here:

https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/plum_sorbet/

Got a spare grapefruit?

After you've finished masturbating while getting grapefruit thrown at you, how's about a drizzle cake?!



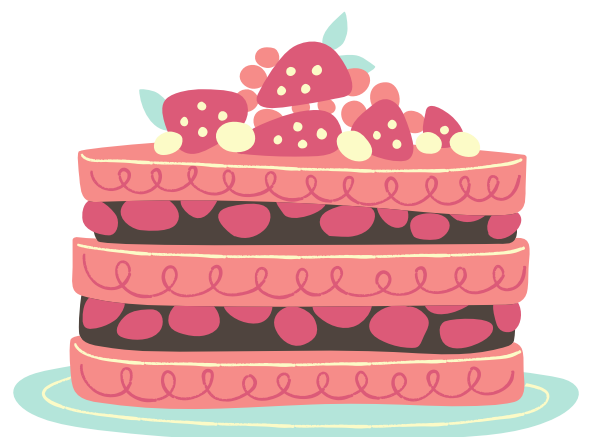
Rubyfruit Jungle Grapefruit Drizzle Cake

You will need:

- 200 g caster sugar
- Finely grated zest of 2 pink grapefruits
- 200 g soft butter [replace with vegan butter of choice]
- 4 medium eggs, beaten [replace with ground flax seeds x water]
- 150 g self raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 50 g fine semolina
- 80g granulated sugar
- Juice of one pink grapefruit

**FOR INSTRUCTIONS,
GO TO:**

<https://somethingsweetssomethingsavoury.com/pink-grapefruit-drizzle-cake/>



ABC COCKTAILS

Womxn have known for centuries how herbs and plants they grow in their back gardens can facilitate their reproductive autonomy. But its 2020, so how about some abortifacient themed cocktails instead?

Parsley Gin Julep

Credit: <https://www.foodandwine.com/recipes/parsley-gin-julep>

8 parsley leaves
3/4 ounce fresh lime juice
3/4 ounce Simple Syrup**
Ice cubes, plus crushed ice
1 1/2 ounces gin
1 ounce chilled club soda
1 lime wheel



HOW TO MAKE

In a cocktail shaker, muddle the parsley with the lime juice and Simple Syrup. Add ice cubes and the gin and shake well. Strain into a crushed ice-filled collins glass. Stir in the club soda and garnish with the lime wheel.

** one cup hot tap water, one cup sugar dissolved in – a classic sugar syrup!

HOW TO MAKE

In a cocktail shaker or jar shake the aloe vera, tequila, lime, and honey together. Strain into into a salt rimmed, ice filled glass.

**Honey syrup is simply equal parts honey and warm water. For one margarita you'll want to do 1/2 tablespoon honey with 1/2 tablespoon of warm water. Use agave syrup to make it vegan!

Aloe Vera Margarita

Credit: <https://www.wickedspatula.com/aloe-vera-margaritas/>



2.5 ounces Aloe Vera Juice
2 ounces 100% Tequila
1.5 ounces Lime juice
1 tablespoon honey syrup**
sea salt for rimming