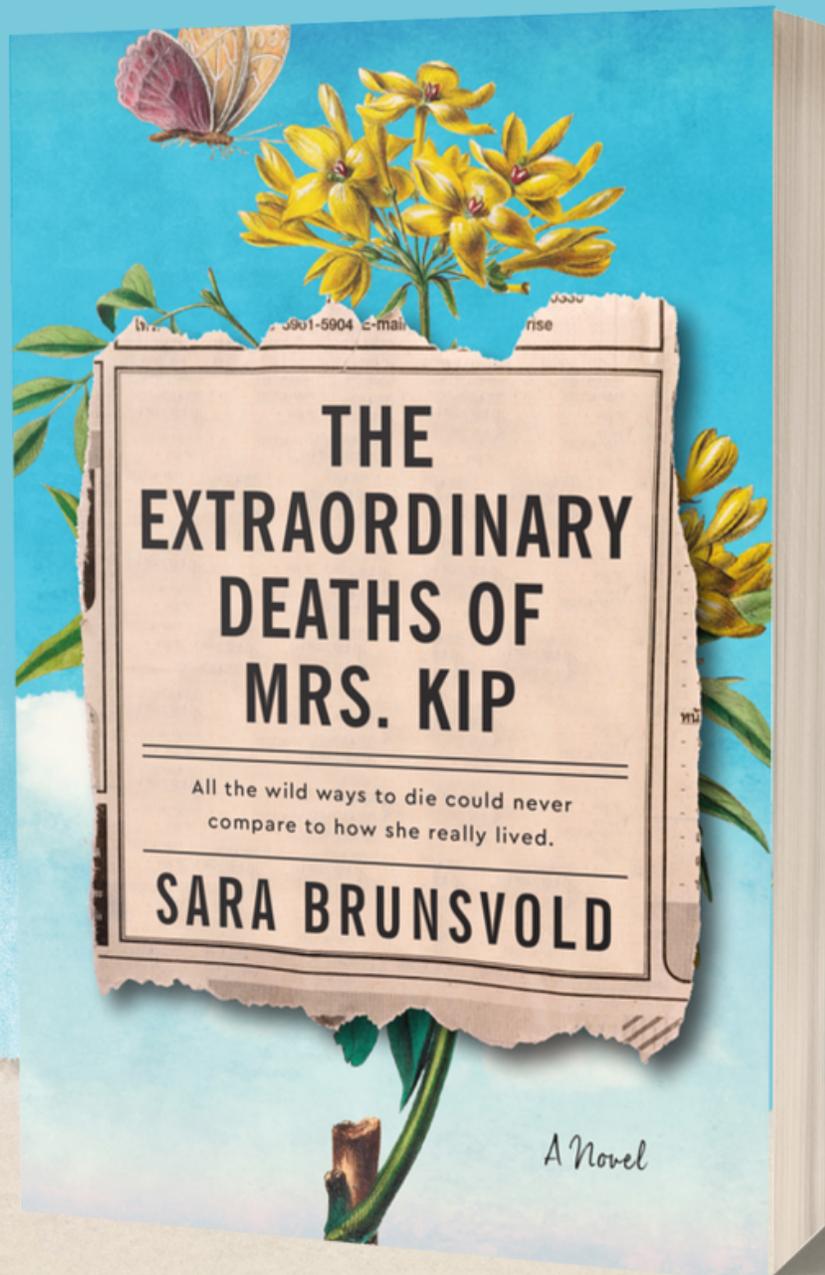


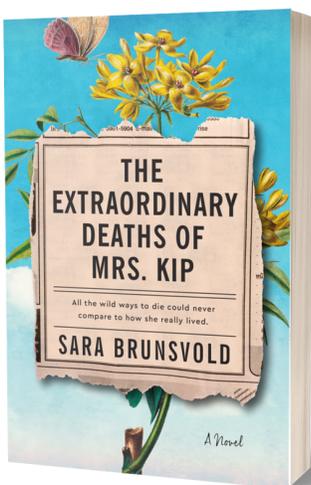
BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Includes a letter from the author,
discussion questions, fun facts & more



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THE EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS OF MRS. KIP by Sara Brunsvold

Frustrated reporter Aidyn Kelley begrudgingly agrees to help a hospice patient prepare her obituary. But old Clara Kip has incredible stories—and surprises up her sleeve—that promise to make this seemingly throwaway assignment a life-changing one.

A LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

“A WRITER ONLY BEGINS A BOOK. A READER FINISHES IT.”—SAMUEL JOHNSON

This quote speaks so much truth. Clara Kip would have nowhere to go if readers like you did not offer up space in their imaginations to receive her.

Thank you for choosing to spend time with Clara, Aidyn, and the rest of the crew. I pray you have been encouraged during your time together and that perhaps you have found pieces of them to take with you.

In this book club kit, you will find several goodies related to the story, including a peek behind the scenes, a fun cookie-making challenge that would have Clara giggling with delight, and a resource you can use to have a meaningful conversation with the Mrs. Kip in your life.

Many blessings to you and yours.

Warmly,
Sara

P.S. I'm always on the hunt for a good cookie recipe, so if you create one during the challenge featured in this kit, please feel free to share by emailing me at sara@sarabrunsvold.com.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Consider these questions as you discuss the book.

1. Compare and contrast Aidyn's view of success with Clara's. How are they similar? How are they different?
2. Aidyn is scared of death, but Clara is not. What do you think is the root of this difference?
3. Clara tells Aidyn that authentic love "requires a thousand little deaths to self." What does she mean by this?
4. Clara is eager to pour time, prayer, and lessons into young Aidyn. Why does she want to invest so much into someone of a younger generation? How do you invest in those coming up behind you?
5. Describe a time when you listened to the life story of someone of a previous generation. What was the story? What did you take away from it?
6. Have you walked with someone through the end-of-life stage? If so, how does your experience compare to what is presented in the book?
7. Clara will be someone Aidyn will never forget. What is it about Clara that will stay with you?
8. Aidyn discovers the perfect last line for Clara's obituary. What would you want the final line of your obituary to be?



FUN FACTS YOU WON'T FIND IN THE BOOK

There's more to the story than what's on the page. Get to know the characters and their world on a new level with these fun facts.

1. If you read closely, Clara's favorite singer is mentioned in chapter 2. True to her generation, she loves Elvis Presley. The song that gets her grooving most is "Burning Love." Meanwhile, Aidyn is a closet One Direction fan (please don't repeat that to Woods). The song she can't help singing every time is "Steal My Girl."

2. Aidyn's favorite caffeine stop is mentioned in the story: Homer's Coffee House. This is a real place in Kansas City, widely known for its support of Christian ministries. The indulgent drink she rewards herself with is the caramello, a decadent iced coffee with milk, caramel, and chocolate.

3. Clara's go-to recipe for chocolate chip cookies is a variation of the classic Nestlé Toll House version. She uses a bit more flour, more brown sugar than white, and extra morsels—because **chocolate**.

4. Ernest Hemingway got his start in writing at the Kansas City Star, a fact Aidyn knew well before she came to the paper. It's a point of pride for her to work at the same paper the literature giant once did. He wrote **A Farewell to Arms** while living in the metro. ([Learn more](#))

5. The story mentions Clara's tradition of introducing refugee children to McDonald's fries. The children would have been among the first kids in the nation to enjoy a Happy Meal. The idea for the iconic boxed meal was born in Kansas City in 1979. Specifically, it was the brainchild of Bob Bernstein of the city's storied Bernstein-Rein advertising agency. ([Learn more](#))

BUILD-A-COOKIE CHALLENGE

Clara certainly could whip up her favorite treat without referring to a recipe. Can you? Use this recipe card to reconstruct a chocolate chip cookie recipe completely from memory. Any recipe is fair game, but you must rely only on memory to reconstruct the recipe.

Extra fun: Make your cookies according to this reconstructed recipe and see how they taste. Share with your fellow book lovers . . . if you dare.

RECIPE

Ingredients (include measurements):

Directions:

GRANDMA'S SUGAR COOKIES RECIPE

Clara's love for cookies was partially inspired by my paternal grandmother, Marie. Growing up, I spent many hours at Grandma's table listening to stories from her childhood. One she loved to tell was of her parents staying up late on Christmas Eve, baking as many cookies as their meager rations would allow. It was the only Christmas gift they could give their large brood of kids. Her passion for gifting Christmas cookies endured well into her retirement years.

Though my grandma passed away many years ago, her sugar cookie recipe lives on in our family. I'm confident she would be honored for you to bake up some love for your family too.

GRANDMA'S SUGAR COOKIES

1 cup butter	1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups sugar	6 cups flour (approximately)
4 eggs	1 teaspoon baking soda

1. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
2. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add vanilla.
3. Sift flour and baking soda together. Add enough flour to the creamed mixture so the dough holds together.
4. Chill the dough until firm.
5. Roll dough on lightly floured surface. Cut with cookie cutters.
6. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 8–10 minutes.
7. Decorate as desired, or dig in straight-away.

Makes several dozen cookies, minus the ones that are accidentally broken on purpose.

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK SOMEONE OF A PREVIOUS GENERATION

Aidyn had an opportunity to interview Clara about her life by asking meaningful questions. Do you know someone of an older generation whose life stories you want to capture? Start a potentially life-changing conversation by asking them questions like these.

1. What was your ideal way to spend the weekend when you were younger?
2. What was considered a luxury when you were younger that is commonplace today?
3. What games did you enjoy most when you were younger?
4. How did you relax after a hard day?
5. What's the farthest from home you've ever been?
6. Where is the most interesting place you've been?
7. What is special about the place where you grew up?
8. What were you absolutely determined to do as a young adult?
9. When was the last time you changed your opinion or belief about something major?
10. How do you want people to remember you?

Get even more conversation-starting questions! Download the free guide “45 Questions to Ask Those Who Came Before You” from my website:

www.sarabrunsvold.com/goodies.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sara Brunsvold creates stories that speak hope, truth, and life. Influenced by humble women of God who find his fingerprints in the everyday, she does the same in her life and her storytelling. Sara's recognitions include the 2020 ACFW Genesis Award for Contemporary Fiction. She lives with her family in Kansas City, Missouri, where she can often be spotted writing at a park or library. Learn more and sign up for her newsletter at www.sarabrunsvold.com.



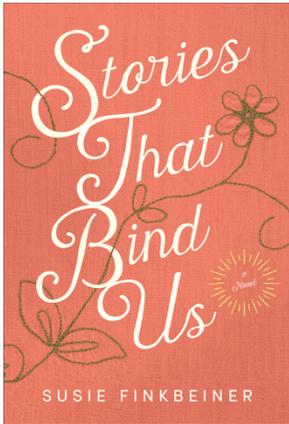
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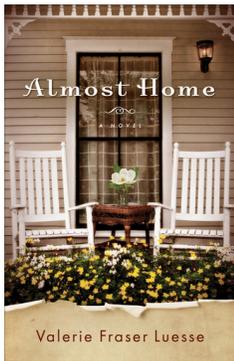
WHAT TO READ NEXT



STORIES THAT BIND US

by Susie Finkbeiner

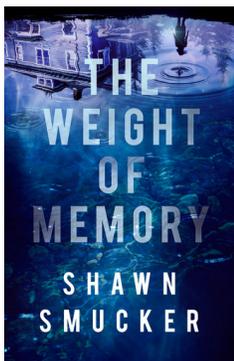
Betty Sweet is still recovering from the loss of her husband when she becomes the temporary guardian of a five-year-old nephew she never knew she had. As they struggle to move forward, they build a relationship upon the foundation of storytelling and its special kind of magic.



ALMOST HOME

by Valerie Fraser Luesse

As America enters the Second World War, a melting pot of displaced and disenfranchised boarders enter the boarding house of Dolly Chandler in Blackberry Springs, Alabama. When tragedy strikes, the only hope of salvation lies with the circle of women under Dolly's roof and their ability to discover what happened to a young bride here 100 years ago.



THE WEIGHT OF MEMORY

by Shawn Smucker

When Paul Elias receives a terminal diagnosis, he returns to his hometown to seek a guardian for his granddaughter. But her imagination leads him on a journey into forgotten things and old secrets that leave him wondering about the nature of his illness, his granddaughter's future, and reality itself.

ABOUT REVELL

Providing books that inspire and equip readers to find hope and help for everyday life.

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