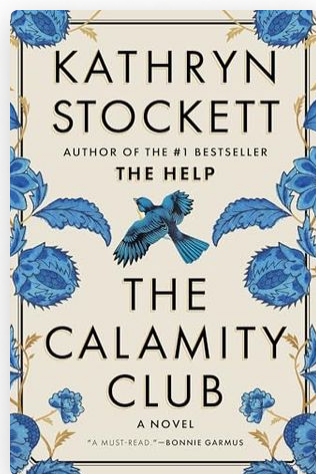


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



The Calamity Club

Kathryn Stockett

☾ COZY NIGHT

A Depression-era story of women quietly reshaping their lives when the world keeps knocking them down. It reads like a hand on your shoulder and a cup of coffee at the kitchen table.

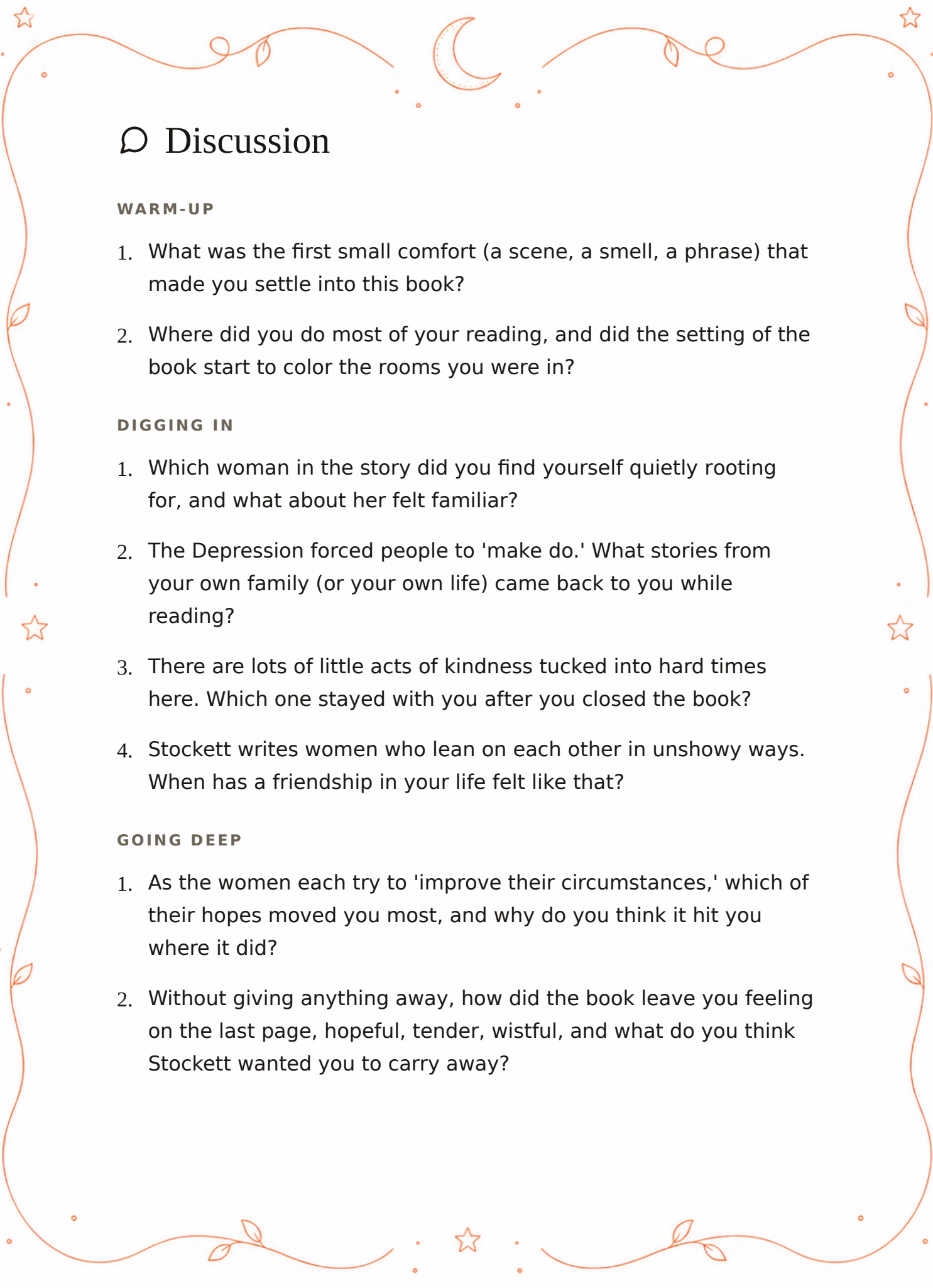
Pull up a chair at the Calamity Club

Come read, eat, and lean in close. We're spending a slow evening with Kathryn Stockett's Depression-era women, with biscuits, warm drinks, and easy talk.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: A close-knit club that loves character-driven historical fiction and long, meandering conversations





🗨 Discussion

WARM-UP

1. What was the first small comfort (a scene, a smell, a phrase) that made you settle into this book?
2. Where did you do most of your reading, and did the setting of the book start to color the rooms you were in?

DIGGING IN

1. Which woman in the story did you find yourself quietly rooting for, and what about her felt familiar?
2. The Depression forced people to 'make do.' What stories from your own family (or your own life) came back to you while reading?
3. There are lots of little acts of kindness tucked into hard times here. Which one stayed with you after you closed the book?
4. Stockett writes women who lean on each other in unshowy ways. When has a friendship in your life felt like that?

GOING DEEP

1. As the women each try to 'improve their circumstances,' which of their hopes moved you most, and why do you think it hit you where it did?
2. Without giving anything away, how did the book leave you feeling on the last page, hopeful, tender, wistful, and what do you think Stockett wanted you to carry away?

On the table & to sip

TO EAT



Buttermilk biscuits with sorghum butter

A humble Southern staple that would have stretched a Depression pantry, warm and hand-passed



Chicken and dumplings

Slow, nourishing, one-pot comfort that fits both the era and a cozy night in



Skillet peach cobbler

Sweet, forgiving, and unmistakably Southern, perfect for spooning into bowls on the couch

TO SIP



Sweet iced tea with lemon (no alcohol)

The unofficial drink of any Southern kitchen table, welcoming and non-alcoholic



Chicory coffee with cream (no alcohol)

A Depression-era stretch on real coffee, cozy in a chipped mug



Bourbon hot toddy

A little indulgence for a slow evening, honey, lemon, and a warm spoon



Run of show

6:30

Slow arrivals

Soft music on, biscuits out, hand everyone a warm mug at the door

6:50

Warm-up chatter

Ask the two warm-up questions while folks settle onto couches with blankets

7:15

Supper together

Ladle out chicken and dumplings, let conversation drift naturally into the themes

7:45

Guided talk

Move through the theme questions, one at a time, no rush, no raising hands

8:30

Cobbler and deeper talk

Bring out the cobbler and toddies, ease into the two deep questions

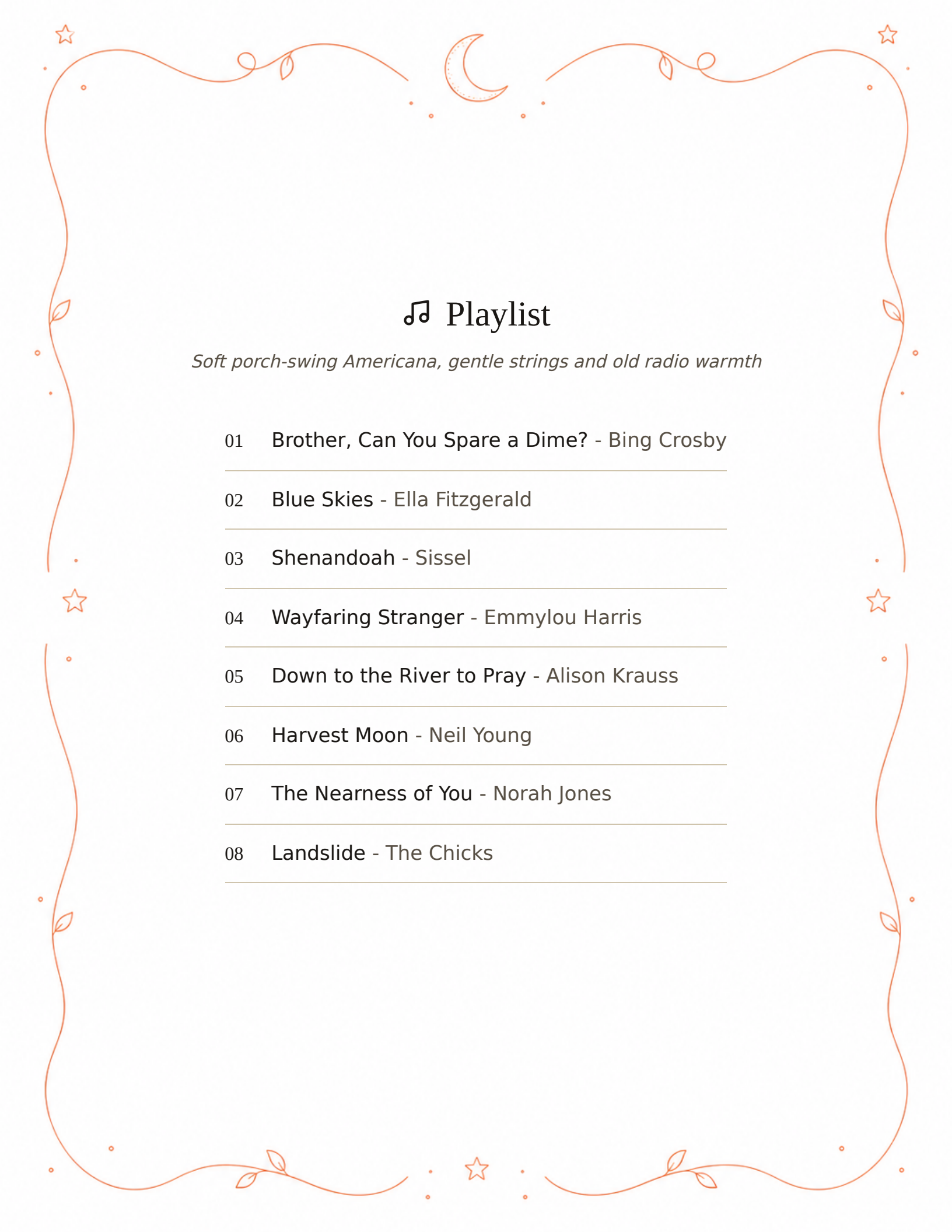
9:15

Bookmarks and goodbyes

Pass out printed bookmarks and scorecards, send everyone home with a biscuit wrapped in a napkin

HOST TIPS

- Keep the lighting low: lamps and candles over overheads make cozy conversations happen on their own.
- Let quiet moments breathe. This vibe rewards pauses, not a tight Q and A pace.
- Have a stack of soft throws by the door so guests can grab one when they sit down.



🎵 Playlist

Soft porch-swing Americana, gentle strings and old radio warmth

01 Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? - Bing Crosby

02 Blue Skies - Ella Fitzgerald

03 Shenandoah - Sissel

04 Wayfaring Stranger - Emmylou Harris

05 Down to the River to Pray - Alison Krauss

06 Harvest Moon - Neil Young

07 The Nearness of You - Norah Jones

08 Landslide - The Chicks

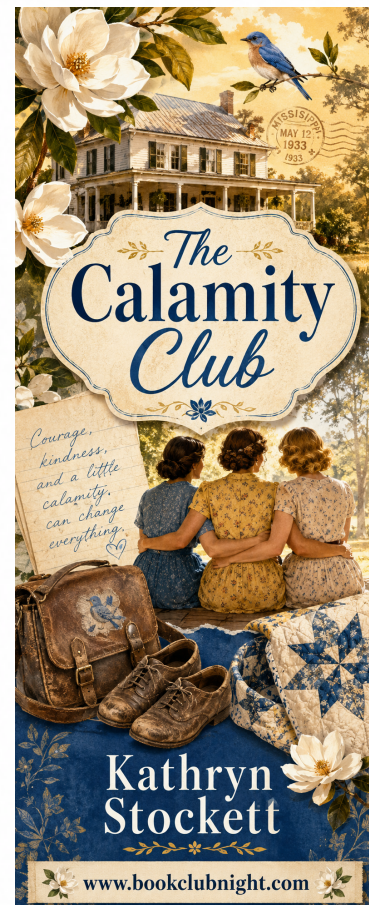
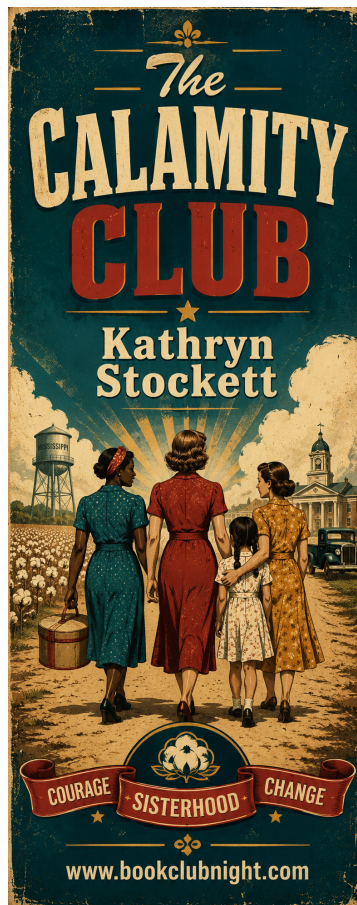


✧ Trivia

1. Who wrote *The Calamity Club*? (Kathryn Stockett)
2. For which earlier bestseller is Kathryn Stockett best known? (*The Help*)
3. In what U.S. state was Kathryn Stockett born and raised? (Mississippi)
4. The Great Depression, the setting of the book, began after the stock market crash of what year? (1929)
5. What large-scale federal program of the 1930s put Americans back to work under President Franklin D. Roosevelt? (The New Deal)
6. What severe environmental disaster of the 1930s deepened the Depression across the American plains? (The Dust Bowl)
7. *The Help* was adapted into a major motion picture in what year? (2011)
8. What broadcast medium was the main source of news and entertainment for families during the 1930s? (Radio)

📖 Bookmarks

Print, cut, and tuck one at every seat, a small keepsake from the night.



☆ Rate the book

Coziness

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Characters you'd invite to dinner

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Emotional warmth

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Sense of place

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Lingering feeling

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

The scene I'd curl up and reread: _____

A person this book made me think of: _____

THAT'S A WRAP

Thank you for coming

We hope the company was good and the conversation
even better. Until the next chapter.



Plan your own book club night

Scan the code or visit **bookclubnight.com**

Book Club Night