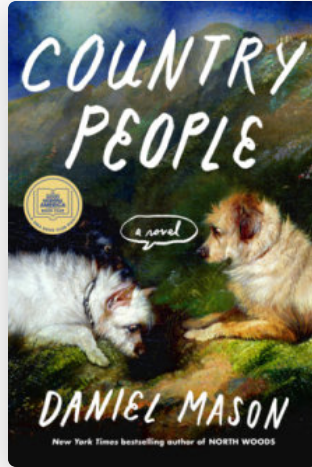


BOOK CLUB NIGHT KIT



Country People

Daniel Mason

☾ COZY NIGHT

A warm, funny novel about a floundering academic, his family, and the eccentric Vermont town that scoops them up. Perfect for a slow, snug evening of conversation.

Stew, Stories, and a Little Vermont Magic

Come curl up for a cozy evening with Daniel Mason's *Country People*. Wear something soft, bring your appetite, and be ready to swap stories by the fire.

Reading level: Moderate **Pages:** 320

Best for: Clubs who love character-driven fiction, gentle humor, and a novel with a big heart





Discussion

WARM-UP

1. What was the first scene or moment that made you settle in and feel at home in this book?
2. If you moved to a tiny rural town tomorrow, what one comfort from your current life would you absolutely bring along?

DIGGING IN

1. Miles is caught up in Russian folktales while living inside a very human, messy family life. Which folktales or bedtime stories from your own childhood still comfort you?
2. The novel is full of eccentric locals. Which small-town character warmed your heart most, and who did they remind you of from your own life?
3. Marriage and parenthood are handled with such tenderness here. What moment between the family members felt most true or moving to you?
4. Vermont almost becomes a character. What place in your own life has felt that alive to you, and how did it seep into your everyday?

GOING DEEP

1. The book leans into absurdity as a kind of grace. Where in your own life has something ridiculous ended up being exactly what you needed?
2. Without giving anything away, how did the book leave you feeling as you closed it, and what stayed with you the next morning?

☺ On the table & to sip

TO EAT

- 🍲 **Slow-simmered beef and root vegetable stew**
A hearty Vermont winter supper, the kind a neighbor drops off in a Pyrex
- ☺ **Warm buttered rye bread with sharp cheddar**
A nod to both Russian folktale kitchens and Vermont dairy country
- 🏠 **Maple apple crisp with vanilla ice cream**
Pure New England comfort, best eaten from a mismatched bowl in your lap

TO SIP

- ☺ **Hot spiced apple cider (non-alcoholic) (no alcohol)**
Cinnamon, clove, and a slice of orange, the smell of a Vermont porch in October
- ☺ **Russian caravan tea with honey (no alcohol)**
A gentle wink at Miles and his folktales, smoky and warming
- 🍷 **Hot toddy with local whiskey and maple**
Nurturing, a little indulgent, perfect in a heavy mug



Run of show

7:00

Warm welcome

Greet folks with a mug of cider already poured. Slippers encouraged.

7:15

Supper together

Serve stew and bread family-style while people chat freely, no book talk required yet.

7:45

Warm-up questions

Ease in with the two warm-ups while people settle in with second helpings.

8:00

Heart of the discussion

Move through the theme questions, letting tangents about small towns and family run long.

8:45

Dessert and deep questions

Bring out the crisp and toddies, slow the pace, invite the two deep questions.

9:15

Trivia, scorecards, and goodbyes

Light and playful close, hand out bookmarks on the way out.

HOST TIPS

- Keep lighting low: lamps and candles rather than overheads, and drape a couple of throw blankets on the couch.
- Print questions on cards so a shy guest can pull one instead of being called on.
- Have a leftovers plan (extra containers by the door) so people leave feeling looked after.



♪ Playlist

Soft folk, hearth-crackle acoustic, and a whisper of old-world lullaby

01 Re: Stacks - Bon Iver

02 Michicant - Bon Iver

03 Ferry Lady - Sam Amidon

04 Peace - Norah Jones

05 Winter Winds - Mumford and Sons

06 The Lakes of Canada - The Innocence Mission

07 Kolyada - Vladimir Martynov

08 Home - Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros

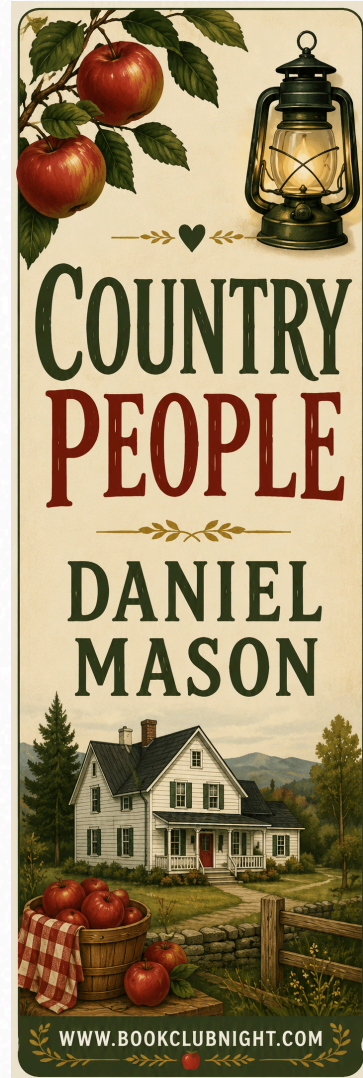
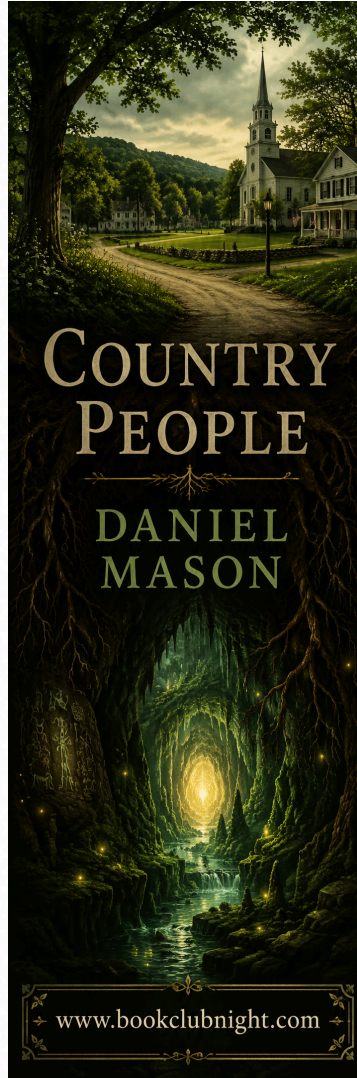
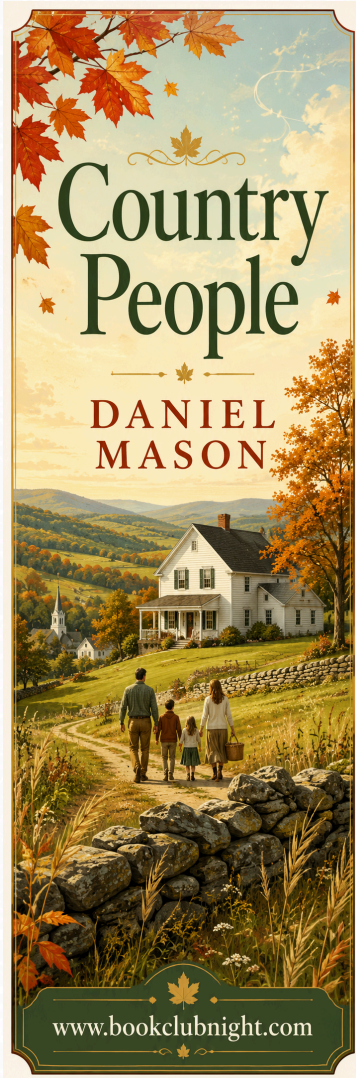


✧ Trivia

1. Country People is by which Pulitzer Prize finalist, also known for the novel North Woods? (Daniel Mason)
2. In what U.S. state does the novel take place? (Vermont)
3. What kind of stories is the main character, Miles, writing his PhD on? (Russian folktales)
4. What academic role brings Miles's wife to rural Vermont? (A visiting professorship)
5. In what year was Country People published? (2026)
6. Besides being a novelist, Daniel Mason is known for what other profession? (He is a psychiatrist)
7. Country People falls into which broad genre? (Literary fiction)
8. Roughly how many pages is Country People? (About 320)

📖 Bookmarks

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



☆ Rate the book

Coziness ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Characters you'd invite for dinner ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Humor and heart ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Sense of place ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Lingering warmth ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

One word for this book: _____

The character I'd bring soup to: _____

A moment that made me smile: _____

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