



2026 Books for Brook Women Book Club

February 21st – Pleasantville by Attica Locke

In this sophisticated thriller, lawyer Jay Porter, hero of Attica Locke's best seller *Black Water Rising*, returns to fight one last case only to become embroiled once again in a dangerous game of shadowy politics and a witness to how far those in power are willing to go to win.

Fifteen years after the events of *Black Water Rising*, Jay Porter is struggling to cope with catastrophic changes in his personal life and the disintegration of his environmental law practice. His victory against Cole Oil is still the crown jewel of his career, even if he hasn't yet seen a dime thanks to appeals. But time has taken its toll. Tired and restless, he's ready to quit.

When a girl goes missing on election night, 1996, in the neighborhood of Pleasantville - a hamlet for upwardly mobile blacks on the north side of Houston - Jay, a single father, is deeply disturbed. He's been representing Pleasantville in the wake of a chemical fire, and the case is dragging on, raising doubts about his ability.

The missing girl was a volunteer for one of the local mayoral candidates, and her disappearance complicates an already heated campaign. When the nephew of one of the candidates, a Pleasantville local, is arrested, Jay reluctantly finds himself serving as a defense attorney. With a man's life and his own reputation on the line, Jay is about to try his first murder in a case that will also put an electoral process on trial, exposing the dark side of power and those determined to keep it.

April 18th – Yellow Wife by Sadeqa Johnson

Born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia, Pheby Delores Brown has lived a relatively sheltered life. Shielded by her mother's position as the estate's medicine woman and cherished by the Master's sister, she is set apart from the others on the plantation, belonging to neither world.

She'd been promised freedom on her eighteenth birthday, but instead of the idyllic life she imagined with her true love, Essex Henry, Pheby is forced to leave the only home she has ever known. She unexpectedly finds herself thrust into the bowels of slavery at the infamous Devil's Half Acre, a jail in Richmond, Virginia, where the enslaved are broken, tortured, and sold every day. There, Pheby is exposed not just to her Jailer's cruelty but also to his contradictions. To survive, Pheby will have to outwit him, and she soon faces the ultimate sacrifice.

June 20th – Seasons by Bonnie Hopkins (Riverwood Series – Book 1)

After struggling through difficult seasons that seemed to have no end, Jaci Winters reaches a point of desperation and asks, "Lord, is this all You have for me? Her answer came suddenly, bringing far more than she expected. But is she ready for such drastic changes? Will the new seasons be an answer to her prayers and teach her to never give up on God who controls every season?

August 15th – The Light on Halsey Street by Vanessa Miller

Two girls' lives are irrevocably intertwined the summer of 1985 in the streets of Brooklyn, New York, and neither will ever be the same in this coming-of-age story that spans decades.

In the summer of 1985, Lisa Whitaker is a church kid headed to college on a scholarship while her best friend, Dana, is floundering in the wake of her mother's latest eviction. Though Lisa tries to help, their paths diverge. Fifteen years later, Lisa has a beautiful family and is stepping into her dream job as the director for a social services organization. Everything is going right—until her future is snatched away by identity theft. Her life begins to unravel, and Lisa wants nothing more than to see the woman responsible pay for her crimes.

When she was a teenager, Dana Jones always felt alone in this world. Her mother was addicted to drugs, her boyfriend was entering a life of crime, and it seemed Dana, too, was heading down the wrong path. The only bright light was her friendship with Lisa. Now, in the new millennium, Dana finally gives herself permission to dream—to believe she is stepping into better days. But when the betrayal of their friendship comes to light, it will take a lifetime to forgive the destruction that youthful summer in Bed-Stuy set in motion.

October 17th – **Double Lives by Mary Monroe**

Award-winning New York Times bestselling author Mary Monroe **Double Lives** is a dramatic tale set in the Depression-era South, centered on identical twin sisters, Leona and Fiona Dunbar, who have spent their lives secretly switching identities to escape consequences and satisfy hidden desires.

Though they look alike, the sisters are complete opposites—Leona is bold and rebellious, while Fiona appears quiet, dutiful, and deeply rooted in her church and marriage. When heartbreak and dissatisfaction collide, the twins make a dangerous decision to swap lives once again, only to discover that each sister's world holds unexpected temptations and emotional complications.

As their deception deepens, buried secrets begin to surface, threatening not only their reputations but the bond they've always relied on. With scandal looming in their small Southern town, the sisters must face whether their lifelong loyalty can save them—or finally tear them apart.

December 19th – **Coded Justice by Stacy Abrams**

Former Supreme Court clerk Avery Keene is back . . . trying to put the past behind her at a prestigious high-end law firm in Washington, D.C. Head down and focused on a new life, Avery is now working as an internal investigator when a high-profile client seeks her out. Camasca Enterprises has a big problem and a short runway. The tech company has developed a new integrated AI system poised to revolutionize the medical industry. To prove its potential, Camasca's charismatic founder, retired Major Rafe Diaz, has picked a complicated target: delivering cutting-edge health care to his fellow veterans. The potential is staggering, but their prototype has been plagued by a series of disturbing anomalies—culminating in the mysterious death of a beloved Camasca engineer.

Avery and her colleagues, Jared, Ling, and Noah, are brought into the secretive company to investigate from the inside out. At the epicenter of a burgeoning, controversial industry, and with billions of dollars on the line, their task is simple: to determine whether Camasca's technical troubles and rising body count reveal something sinister at work. In *Coded Justice*, Stacy Abrams's storytelling prowess is on full display—a deft combination of riveting twists and vibrant characters set against the fascinating landscape of the capabilities of artificial intelligence . . . and the moral boundaries that govern it. *Coded Justice* is Abrams's most entertaining novel to date.