

# Book Club Kit

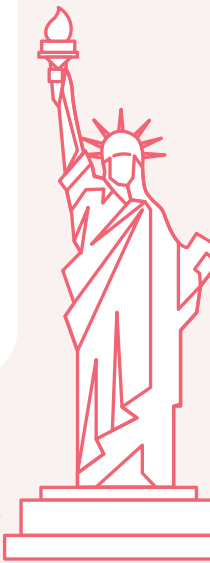


**ANNA ADAMS**

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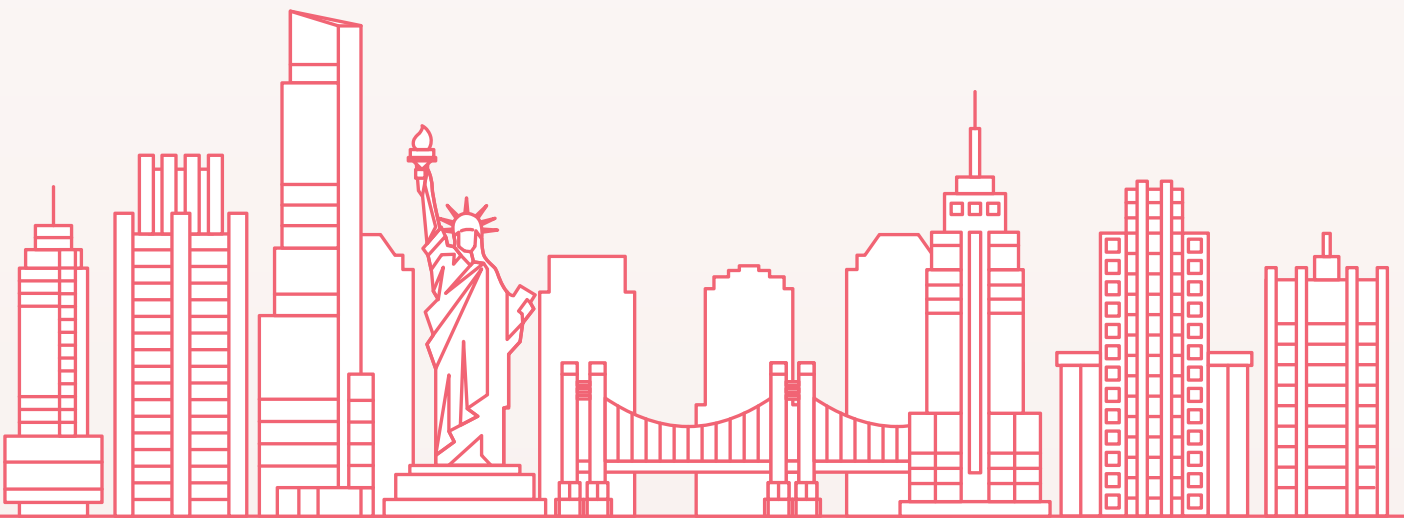
# Book Club Kit

This is a downloadable and printable resource for book clubs reading *A French Girl in New York* by Anna Adams. The kit includes discussion questions, a companion playlist, NYC walking tour, printable bookmarks, recipes, and more!

This book club kit was created by Bookclubs  
in partnership with Wattpad Books.

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# A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR



## Anna Adams

Dear Book Club Readers,

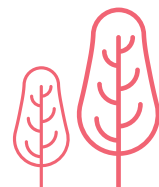
It's me, Anna, writing from Paris! I'd like to tell you about my Emily in Paris-type novel called *A French Girl in New York*. It's a story about music, travel, and romantic love, but also the love that unites families and friends.

Our heroine is orphan Maude Laurent, who has grown up in a small French town that nobody knows—even in France. She loves opera but, during a school trip to Paris, she goes viral on social media singing a pop song in a café. When she's whisked off to New York to become a pop star, she'll not only discover different types of music, she'll learn more about the city, her unknown parents, and falling in love.

This lighthearted story is very personal for me because I grew up between France and America, where I developed a passion for all types of music. It's this passion that I want to share with as many readers as possible! Thank you for reading *A French Girl in New York* with your book club, and be sure to follow me on social media for some very exciting BIG entertainment news!

Yours truly,  
Anna Adams

Instagram @awriterinparis  
TikTok @authorannaadams  
#frenchgirlny



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The protagonist, Maude, moves from Carvin, a small French town, to New York City for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. How does the author depict the cultural differences between France and the United States through Maude's experiences and perspectives? What change is most challenging for Maude to navigate?
2. The discovery of Maude's singing online is her "Cinderella moment." How does Maude react to it? How do fame and opportunity open doors for her?
3. Maude is offered a record deal for pop music, but her passion is for opera and classical singing. Explore the creative tensions she faces in potentially compromising her artistic vision for commercial success.
4. Maude was initially drawn to opera because she loved the dramatic stories and found it "comforting when things weren't going right in the real world." Yet when Maude is exposed to different musical styles, she learns to appreciate them. What's your favorite musical style and why?
5. At first, Maude dismisses Matt. Do you think she was justified in her initial negative impression of him? Why was she so quick to rush to judgment?
6. *A French Girl in New York* is full of glimpses into secondary characters, including people from the town Maude grew up in, the Baldwin family, other singers in Madame Cordelia's class, and record company executives. Which secondary characters did you particularly enjoy or find interesting?
7. Anna Adams intersperses the lyrics to Maude's and others' songs throughout the novel. Which was your favorite song? Did you imagine any particular artist singing while you read the lyrics?

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

8. The author uses the plots of operas to reflect what's happening in Maude's life. How are her experiences mirrored in, or different from, the events of both *La Cenerentola* and *La Sonnambula*?
9. Maude experiences debilitating stage fright when she is supposed to perform in *La Cenerentola*. How does Maude learn and grow from this experience?
10. Has anyone ever betrayed you the way Thomas betrayed Maude? How did you react? Would you have been able to forgive Thomas the way Maude eventually does?
11. How does the setting of New York City function in the novel? In what ways does the city almost become a character itself?
12. One of Maude's goals in New York is to uncover more about her parents. Why is understanding her family history so important to Maude? How does this personal quest intertwine with her musical ambitions throughout the story?
13. Discuss the ending of the novel. Were you satisfied with how things resolved for Maude? What do you think the future holds for her?
14. Were you surprised by the revelation of who Maude's birth parents were?
15. What themes about identity, belonging, and finding one's path resonated with you the most from this book?

# FRENCH SNACKS & SIPS

## Recipes to Pair with Your Book Club Discussion

All it takes is a little imagination and some preparation to craft a French-inspired book club gathering that will transport you to the City of Lights. Pair your discussion with cocktails and appetizers inspired by *A French Girl in New York*. Bonne soirée!



## Bêtises de Cambrai

Bêtises de Cambrai are a French boiled sweet made in the town of Cambrai. "Bêtise" is French for "nonsense" or "mistake" and the sweets are said to have been invented by accident. The candies are usually decorated with a caramel stripe for extra sweetness. Maude gifts a tin of these candies to the Baldwins after arriving in New York.

# FRENCH SNACKS & SIPS

## Raspberry-Lemon Bêtises de Cambrai Panna Cotta

### Ingredients:

2 leaves of gelatin

20 cl of milk

20 cl of liquid cream

One handful of Afchain's raspberry-flavored Bêtises de Cambrai

One handful of Afchain's lemon-flavored Bêtises de Cambrai

### Preparation of Lemon Panna Cotta:

Dip a sheet of gelatin in a bowl of water. Heat the Lemon Bêtises over low heat with 10 cl of liquid cream and 10 cl of milk.

Remove the mixture from the heat and add the drained gelatin sheet. Pour the mixture into small glasses, and leave to rest in the refrigerator for about an hour.

### Preparation of Raspberry Panna Cotta:

Meanwhile, dip the other gelatin sheet into a bowl of cold water. Heat the raspberry Bêtises over low heat with 10 cl of cream and 10 cl of milk. Remove from the heat, and add the drained gelatin sheet.

### Assembly:

Pour the raspberry panna cotta over the lemon panna cotta, and leave to rest in the refrigerator for four hours.





# FRENCH SNACKS & SIPS

## French 75(ish)

A non-alcoholic twist on this iconic French cocktail.

### Ingredients:

Ice  
1 oz Peppercorn shrub  
1/2 oz fresh lemon juice  
2 oz soda water  
1 oz tonic water  
Lemon twist

### Preparation:

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine the Sweet Bay-Peppercorn Shrub and lemon juice. Shake then strain into a coupe glass, and top with soda water and tonic. Finish with the lemon twist. Et voilà!



## Cherchez La Femme

In French: “Look for the woman” is a versatile non-alcoholic mocktail with a burst of brightness and herbaceousness. Best enjoyed with a beret and dark glasses!

### Ingredients:

3/4 oz cranberry-juniper syrup or shrub  
1/2 oz lemon juice  
1 oz club soda  
Orange peel garnish

### Preparation:

Add all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice and shake. Strain into a coupe glass and garnish with orange peel or slice.



## A French Girl's Guide to NYC

Follow in Maude's footsteps with an epic sightseeing itinerary in NYC!

**Central Park** is one of the most well-known sites in all of New York and the site of Maude's ice-skating date with Thomas at the **Wollman Rink**. The park's 6.1-mile loop route is perfect for running, cycling, or strolling. As you head west through the park, you'll arrive at the **Metropolitan Opera House**, where Maude and Mme. Tragent's students attended a moving performance of *La Sonnambula*.

At the southern tip of Manhattan, facing **New York Harbor**, you'll find **Battery Park** (The Battery), a 25-acre public park. The surrounding area, known as South Ferry, contains multiple ferry terminals where you can take a boat out to the **Statue of Liberty** National Monument—just like Maude and Thomas's first date!





**TriBeCa**, an abbreviation of "Triangle Below Canal Street" is a neighborhood in Lower Manhattan and home to the renowned Tribeca Film Festival. It's here that Maude's American host family, the Baldwins, live in a famed New York brownstone building. Tribeca is a hip area known for its old industrial buildings, many of which have been turned into residential loft space. It features cobblestone streets lined with trendy boutiques and restaurants while still offering green spaces like **Washington Market Park** and **Hudson River Park**.

**Times Square** is located at the junction of Broadway, Seventh Avenue, and 42nd Street. Times Square is a major tourist destination, entertainment hub, and neighborhood in Midtown Manhattan. It's also the locale of the fictional "Soulville Tower" on Broadway, official HQ of Terrence Baldwin's place of work, Soulville Records.

Make your way to Upper Manhattan to visit **Harlem**, known for its historic jazz clubs and African-American and West African heritage. You'll find trendy eateries and stylish bars that make for an energetic nightlife scene. This is where Maude visits "The Landmark," a Nigerian restaurant and bar. The main artery of Harlem—125th Street, is home to the iconic **Apollo Theater**.

Go for a night out in the edgy **Bushwick** neighborhood of Brooklyn. Bushwick is an evolving, industrial area marked by imaginative street art and converted warehouses that are home to hip artist studios and coffee shops. Dining options span the globe, and avant-garde nightlife thrives in clubs and performance spaces—much like "The Wild Garden" nightclub where Maude and friends danced the night away to EDM music.



# COMPANION PLAYLIST

Music as a lifeline is a theme throughout *A French Girl in New York*. Revisit Maude's musical education with this collection of pop, classical, and soul. Be sure to have this mix playing to add a certain *je ne sais quoi* to your book club.

1. La Vie En Rose, Edith Piaf
2. Tempest Sonata, Ludwig van Beethoven
3. La Cenerentola: Act 1: Una volta c'era un re, by Gioachino Rossini
4. Ride of the Valkyries, Richard Wagner
5. Violin Concertos 1 & 2, Johann Sebastian Bach
6. Love me or Leave Me, Nina Simone
7. The Boss, Diana Ross
8. Who's Loving You, The Jackson 5
9. New York State of Mind, Alicia Keys
10. Zou Bisou Bisou, Gillian Hills
11. Piano and Strings, Henry Mancini
12. Pays Imaginaire, Polo and Pan
13. Ça plane pour moi, Plastic Bertrand
14. New York avec toi, Téléphone
15. Marcia Baïla, Les Rita Mitsouko
16. Toute première fois, Jeanne Mas
17. Voyage, Voyage, Desireless
18. Just Can't Get Enough, Nouvelle Vague
19. The Songs That We Sing, Charlotte Gainsbourg
20. Sympathique, Pink Martini
21. At the River, Shirley Verrett
22. New York Groove, Hello
23. Across 110th Street, Bobby Womack
24. Manhattan, Ella Fitzgerald
25. Bleeker Street, Simon & Garfunkel
26. Theme from New York, New York, Liza Minnelli

# OPERA 101

## La Cenerentola

*La Cenerentola*, ossia *La bontà in trionfo* ("Cinderella, or Goodness Triumphant") is an operatic dramma giocoso in two acts by Gioachino Rossini.

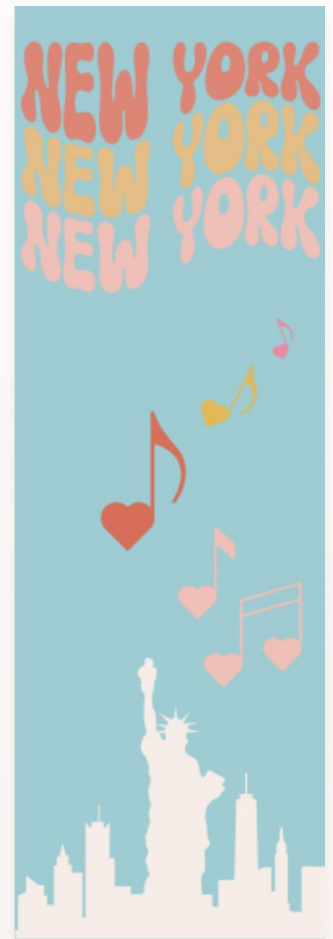


## La Sonnambula

*La Sonnambula* is an opera semiseria in two acts, with music in the bel canto tradition by Vincenzo Bellini set to an Italian libretto by Felice Romani. It's based on a scenario for a ballet-pantomime written by Eugène Scribe and choreographed by Jean-Pierre Aumer called *La somnambule, ou L'arrivée d'un nouveau seigneur*.

# BOOKMARKS

Cut around the border for the bookmark of your choice!



# WHAT TO READ NEXT

Recommended Reads from Wattpad Books



## How to Be the Best Third Wheel

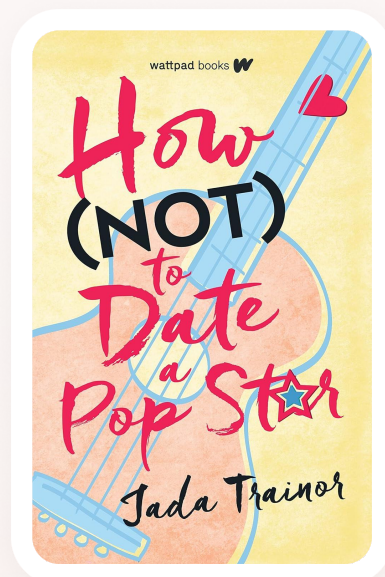
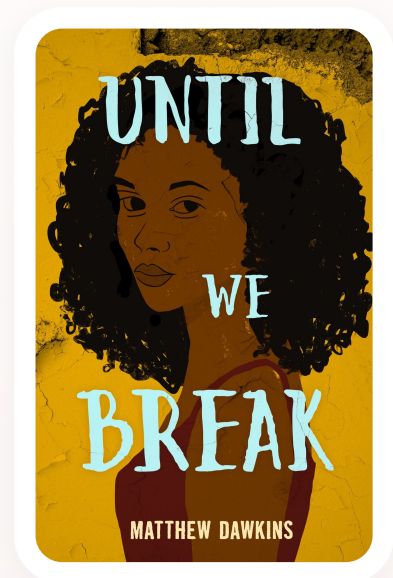
By Loridee DeVilla

Lara navigates friendship, family and (not) dating in this comic-of-age rom-com.

## Until We Break

By Matthew Dawson

After an injury, Naomi fights to find her voice and purpose beyond dance.



## How (Not) to Date a Pop Star

By Jada Trainor

Like music and lyrics, Tyler and Aaliyah try to come together in perfect harmony.