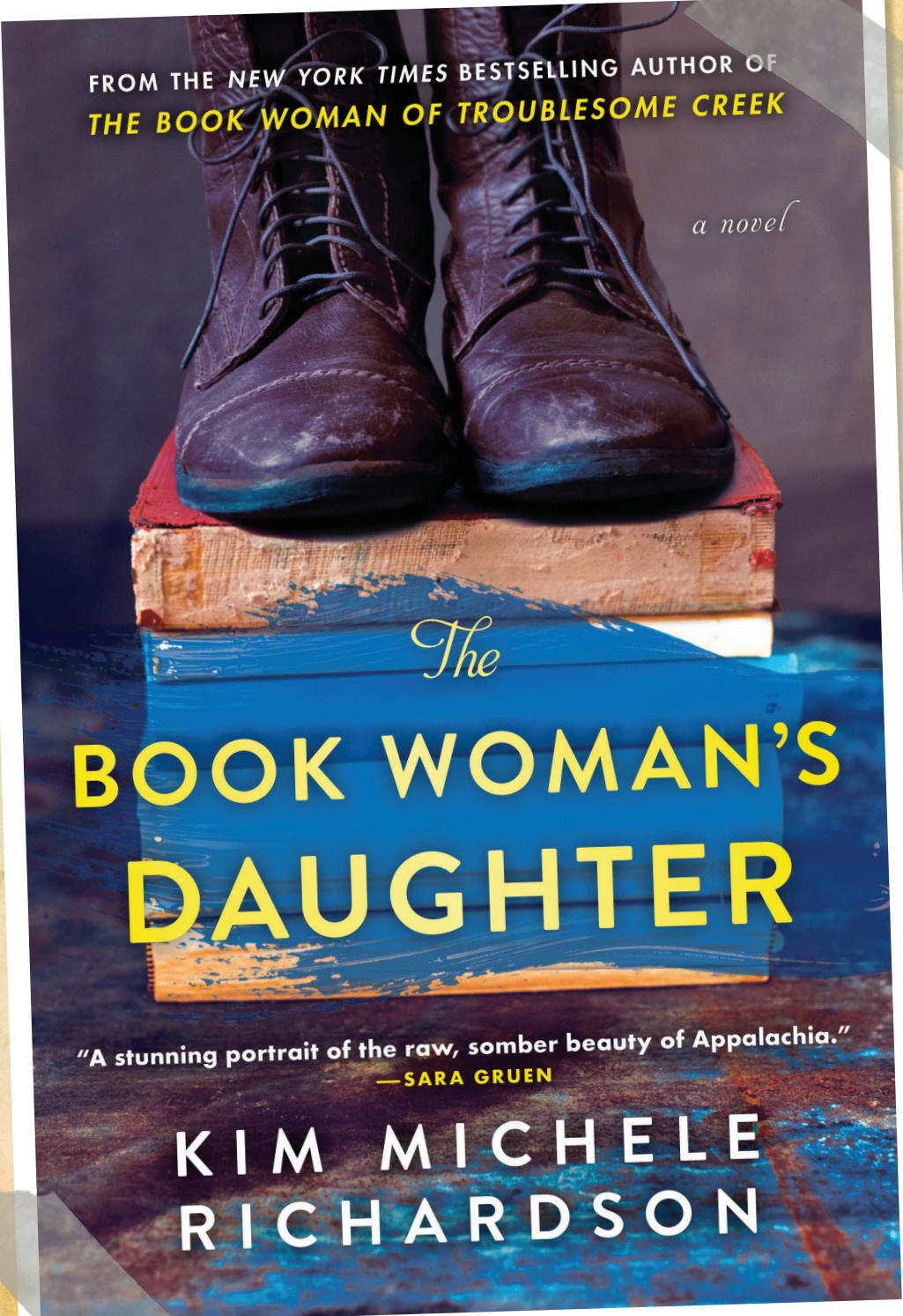


*The Book Woman's Daughter Reading Group Guide*

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
**THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK**

*a novel*



*The*  
**BOOK WOMAN'S  
DAUGHTER**

"A stunning portrait of the raw, somber beauty of Appalachia."

—SARA GRUEN

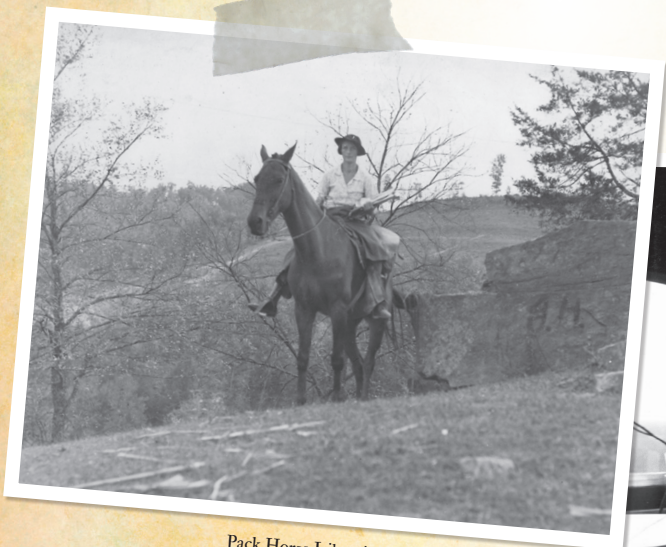
**KIM MICHELE  
RICHARDSON**

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Female coal miner Brenda Vance working underground  
-used with permission from Sara Vance-



Pack Horse Librarian  
-Natural Resources collection, Archives and Records  
Management Division—Kentucky Department for  
Libraries and Archives. Lisa Thompson, Librarian II at  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives-



Female fire tower lookout  
-Forest History Society, Durham, NC-

A Note from  
Kim Michele Richardson



Dear Reader,

Born and raised in Kentucky, I've set all my books in my home state, and it's always a privilege to share the stories of my fellow Kentuckians with you, my readers. In writing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, I hoped to craft a portrait of the indomitable spirit and the remarkable journey of the little-known American literacy pioneers who worked for the Pack Horse Library project and of the historical Blue-skinned people of my home state. It has been a wondrous gift, a privilege, and one of my greatest honors to share the stories of my brave Kentucky sisters.

The Pack Horse Library Project became an important bridge to education for many who had no access to schools. Literacy offered a break from the cycle of debilitating poverty. More importantly, it gave empowerment and freedom to fierce, courageous women who accomplished what many never could in an unforgiving landscape, battling everything from inclement weather, prejudices, mistrust, treacherous terrain, and extreme poverty—and doing it all during Kentucky's most violent era, the bloody coal mine wars.

I am fortunate to have met the relatives of these brave Kentucky

Pack Horse librarians, including their children and grandchildren. The novel also gives the unique Blue-skinned Kentuckians a voice they'd long been denied due to ignorance, stereotyping, and misunderstanding of their medical condition. It's a privilege and joy to know these fellow inhabitants of my home state, and I'm extremely proud of several of the Blues who have continued to carry on an important legacy as librarians.

I'm forever humbled and indebted to you, dear reader, for picking up *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, and I hope you enjoy *The Book Woman's Daughter*. I'm thrilled to revisit the Pack Horse Library Project and share more of its history, and also introduce you to unique initiatives of my home state, as well other remarkable Kentucky women who held uncommon and demanding jobs during a time when men dominated the workforce and women and children were ruled by patriarchal law.

I hope you will enjoy reading these novels as much as I loved writing them for you, and moreso, I pray the books entertain and offer you a small respite from the sadness and uncertainty we've all suffered over the last two years.

*Love,*  
Kim Michele



# Book Club Discussion Questions



1. Discuss the types of circumstances in which a child, or parent, would ask for a Declaration of Emancipation. Thinking about emancipation and the LeAnn Rimes/Britney Spears issues where the child is earning huge dollars that the parent “manager” is squandering or keeping from the child improperly, what should be put in place to prevent this?
2. Children, especially rural children, were a valuable commodity to families who needed farm labor without having to pay wages. Society continues to be mostly patriarchal, and during the time in which this novel was set, it was the father who could “express” emancipation and consent to his child’s emancipation. Discuss patriarchal laws and the role they have played, and continue to play, in shaping women and children’s rights and lives.
3. Does prison labor for children still exist like the historical House of Reform in Kentucky? Do children have to work in juvenile facilities as they once did? Should they have to?
4. Dogs are well-known for their protective instincts, but in this book, Junia the mule and Tommie the rooster protect Honey and Wrenna. What other animals have been known to protect their people?
5. Honey’s interactions with a far more sophisticated Pearl show a glimpse into innocence and youth, the old land waking up to modernism creeping in, and the mountainfolk caught between their old hard ways and the new advanced world. Though Honey has been well educated by Book Woman Cussy in

writing, reading, and more, her isolated life has held her back in other ways. Honey's new friend Pearl is far ahead of her with modern gadgets, young men, parties, and drinking. Discuss their differences, the women's strengths and vulnerabilities, and their adjustments to new environments.

6. Discuss the different jobs Honey, Pearl, Bonnie, and Amara held. What were the dangers they faced? What are unusual jobs women hold today versus years ago?
7. Discuss book banning of long ago and today.
8. Honey's mother, Cussy Mary Lovett, is subjected to forced sterilization while imprisoned for violating Kentucky's anti-miscegenation laws. The American eugenics movement led to this and other atrocities against individuals who were seen as different, including minorities and people with disabilities. Discuss why it is important to remind ourselves of the role eugenics played in America's not-so-distant past.
9. Child marriages are a global problem that can lead to dangerous and devastating consequences. In America, the marriageable age is determined by states. Many still allow child marriages between the ages of fourteen to seventeen with parental or judicial consent. There are some cases where children have married at age twelve and younger. What are the dangers of being a child bride or groom?
10. Choose a character from the novel and imagine what their future would hold.
11. Honey is surprised to find out that Loretta Adams had attended one of Kentucky's Moonlight Schools, which served the uneducated and the elderly. What do you think it would have been like to learn or teach at a Moonlight School?
12. Laws banning interracial marriage in America were first passed in the seventeenth century. They were enacted in many states until they were declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967. Alabama

became the last state to remove laws banning interracial marriage from its statutes in the year 2000. Do you know what anti-miscegenation laws your state passed and when they were abolished?

13. Discuss what the history of these laws can tell us about race and marriage in America, both then and now.
14. How do you think Honey, Cussy, and Jackson's lives would unfold over the next two decades? What relevant laws will change, if any?
15. If you were to craft a scrapbook for isolated people, as the Pack Horse librarians did long ago, what would you include?
16. What are popular and favorite recipes of your family and region, and how do they differ or stand out from other families and places?
17. Do you think Honey purposely selected books from her personal collection to empower her female patrons? What books would you select to empower the underserved or disadvantaged in your area, and why?





# Recipes from Kentucky

These recipes—contributions to church gatherings  
in the 1950s—are used with permission of  
Mrs. Eula Mitcham's family.



## Spice Tea

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1 dozen whole cloves
- 1 orange, squeezed
- 1 lemon, squeezed
- 1 cup of pineapple juice
- 6 black tea bags
- Sugar, to taste

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Bring 6 cups of water, the cinnamon sticks, and the cloves to a boil.
2. Add the orange juice, lemon juice, pineapple juice, and tea bags.
3. Cover and let steep for 10 to 15 minutes.
4. Add sugar to taste.
5. Serve hot or cold.

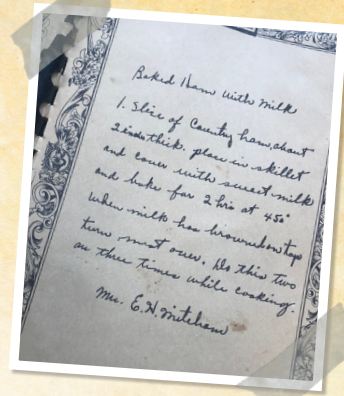
# Baked Ham with Milk

## INGREDIENTS

- Country ham, sliced
- Sweetened condensed milk

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. Place one slice, about two inches thick, of country ham in a cast iron skillet and cover with sweetened condensed milk. Bake for 2 hours.
2. When the milk has browned on top, turn the meat over. Do this two or three times while cooking.



# Kentucky Cathead Biscuits

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 ½ cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1–2 tablespoons of vegetable shorting (lard)
- 1 ½ cups buttermilk
- Melted butter

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 475°F. Line a baking sheet with foil.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Work in the lard. Add the buttermilk and stir to combine.
3. Work the dough with your fingers and knead and then pinch off a piece about the size of an egg. Flatten the dough balls and place on the baking sheet, about 2 inches apart.
4. Bake about 10 minutes or until brown.
5. Brush melted butter on top of biscuits.

# *Banana Pudding*

## INGREDIENTS

- 3 (3.4-ounce) boxes instant vanilla pudding
- 5 cups cold milk
- 12 ounces Cool Whip
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 (11-ounce) box vanilla wafers
- 5–6 large bananas
- 1 (1.55-ounce) Hershey bar

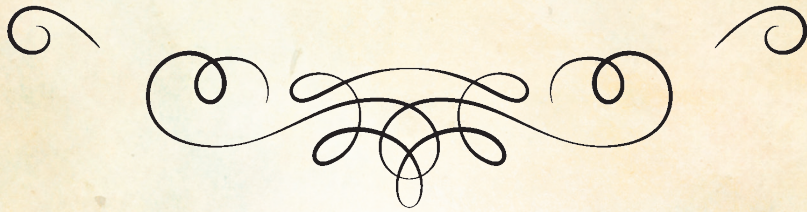
## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Follow the package directions for the pudding mix, using 5 cups of cold milk.
2. Fold in half of the Cool Whip and all of the sour cream.
3. In a large bowl, layer the wafers, bananas, and pudding mixture.
4. Top with the remaining Cool Whip and shavings from the Hershey bar.
5. Chill and serve.



# Kentucky Cocktails & Mocktails

All cocktails and mocktails are excerpted from *Which Fork Do I Use with My Bourbon?* With permission from Susan Reigler and Peggy Noe Stevens.



## Classic Old-Fashioned

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 orange slice
- 1 cherry
- 2 ounces bourbon
- 1 ounce water
- ½ ounce simple syrup (or 1 sugar cube)
- 3 dashes of Angostura bitters

### INSTRUCTIONS

- I. Combine and stir.

## *The Bold Old*

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 ounces Old Forester Whiskey Row, 1920 (115 proof) or any high-proof bourbon (at least 110 proof)
- ½ ounce Demerara syrup (1:1 ration of Demerara sugar to water)
- 3–4 dashes Hella Cocktail Co. Smoked Chili Bitters, depending on desired taste
- Charred cinnamon stick for garnish

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine the cocktail ingredients in a mixing glass and fill with ice.
2. Stir and strain into a rock glass with fresh ice.
3. Garnish with the charred cinnamon stick.

## *Kentucky Gent Mocktail*

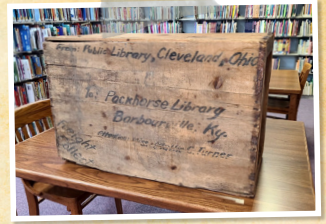
### INGREDIENTS

- 3 ounces fresh grapefruit juice
- 1 ounce Gents Original Spiced Blood Orange Cocktail Mix
- ½ ounce fresh lemon juice
- Ale-8-One (or ginger ale)
- Orange peel for garnish

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Shake all ingredients except the Ale-8-One with ice and strain into a cocktail glass.
2. Top off with Ale-8-One and garnish with the orange peel.

# List of Books & reading materials in Honey Lovett's Pannier



credit to Tom Bickel

- *Hitty, Her First Hundred Years* by Rachel Field
- *Andy and the Lion* by James Daugherty
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *With All My Heart* by Margaret Campbell Barnes
- *The Dolls' House* by Rumer Godden
- *The Little White Horse* by Elizabeth Goudge
- *Lexington Herald*, 1943
- *Louisville Times*, 1953
- *Gunnar's Daughter* by Sigrid Undset
- *The Young and Happy Rooster* by Jane Gleason
- *A Stone for Danny Fisher* by Harold Robbins
- *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss
- *Irvin Cobb at His Best* by Irvin S. Cobb
- *The Killer Inside Me* by Jim Thompson
- *Rosemary and Pansies* by Effie Waller Smith
- *Harmonium* by Wallace Stevens
- *Strangers on a Train* by Patricia Highsmith
- *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers
- *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson
- *The Crisscross Shadow* (The Hardy Boys) by Franklin W. Dixon
- *The Golden Book of Tagore* by Rabindranath Tagore
- *Lady Chatterley's Lover* by D. H. Lawrence

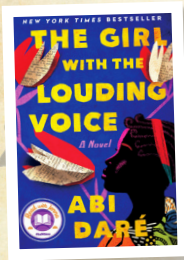
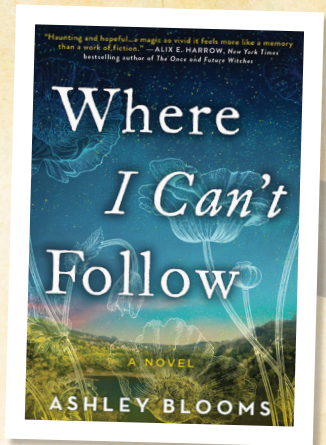
*If You Like The Book Woman's Daughter, Kim Michele Richardson Recommends...*

*Where I Can't Follow*

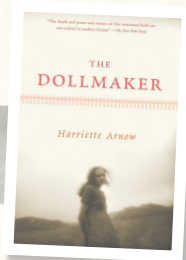
by Ashley Blooms

HOW MUCH DOES KIM MICHELE LOVE IT?:

*"Where I Can't Follow* is a **powerful and unflinching** look into emotion, place and its people, and what binds you even when not fully belonging. Ashley Blooms has written a **haunting testament to the survival of self and family** in a struggling, desperate Appalachian community."



*The Girl with the Louding Voice*  
by Abi Daré



*The Dollmaker*  
by Harriette Arnow



*One Good Mama Bone*  
by Bren McClain



*The Woman with Two Shadows*  
by Sarah James

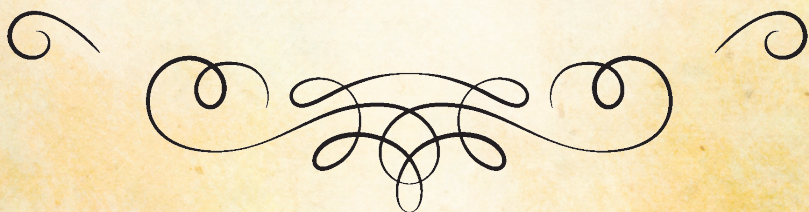


*The Wilderwomen*  
by Ruth Emmie Lang

**My Go-To Kentucky Author Recommendations.** These are the Kentucky authors whom I love and whose books are worth reading again and again: Harriette Simpson Arnow, John Fox Jr., Gwyn Hyman Rubio, Effie Waller Smith, Jesse Stuart, Alex Taylor, and Walter Tevis. Each one brings the pages to life with rich, evocative landscapes, beautifully told stories, and highly skilled prose.

*The Original  
Book  
Woman  
Songs!*

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED  
BY RUBY FRIEDMAN





# *The Book Woman's Daughter*

MUSIC/WORDS BY RUBY FRIEDMAN

I am the Book Woman's daughter.  
You won't send me away.  
I belong to these mountains.  
I'll make my own way.

Daddy, can you hear me.  
Mama, see me strong.  
Don't you worry.  
I'm carrying the mantle,  
True blue in my blood.

Angels leave footprints  
In hoarfrost on the leaves.  
Many Mothers of the wind  
Sing out to me.

Light a candle in the window.  
Light a candle for me.  
I'm rollin' through  
With my mule and my .22.  
I ride for Liberty.

Troublesome women;  
Sisterhood arm in arm.  
We have our own dreams.  
Why does that cause you harm?

Time's up for the Devil.  
Time is up for the law.  
Sometimes Mother Nature  
Rules by a rooster claw.

I was born in hiding,  
But I have seen the world.  
Through eyes that came before me,  
I have read their words.

Light a candle in the window.  
Light a candle for me.  
I'll be rollin' through  
With my mule and my .22.  
I ride for Liberty.



# *Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*

MUSIC/WORDS BY RUBY FRIEDMAN

Saddle up.  
Ride at dawn.  
Put my pannier on.  
Headin' out.  
Gonna open  
The windows to your world.

Outside Lost Creek, Hell-fer-Certain,  
Hard Shell, and Harlan too  
It's a hard life, but it's worth it  
To see you awaitin',  
Smile upon yer face.

Book Woman—whoa.  
Book Woman—whoa.  
I go through a trial by fire to bring you  
food for your soul.  
There is no easy road.  
There is no easy road.  
I go through a trial by fire to bring  
food for your soul.

Got the blue moon  
In my skin.  
Look now;  
We're comin' in  
Over muddy creeks and snowy hillsides,  
Hundred miles a week.

Well, my family is old as these  
mountains,  
And you've cursed us all before.  
But we work hard.  
We're good people,  
And my daddy, your canary, in a coal  
mine...

Oh, a few days more  
To tote this weary load.  
The sun has hid her face,  
And then we'll sing once more  
For our ol' Kentucky home,  
Our ol' Kentucky home by light o' day.

Book Woman—whoa.  
I go through a trial by fire to bring you  
food for your soul.  
There is no easy road.  
There is no easy road.  
I go through a trial by fire,  
Aimin' for your heart's desire.  
I go through a trial by fire  
To bring you food for your soul.



# The Book Woman's Daughter Playlist



“Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” by  
Ruby Friedman Orchestra

“You’ll Never Leave Harlan Alive” by Ruby  
Friedman Orchestra

“Blue Moon of Kentucky” by Patsy Cline

“Parking Lot Pirouette” by Amanda Shires

“The Mountain” by Ludovico Einaudi

“The Man Comes Around” by Johnny Cash

“If We Were Vampires” by Jason Isbell and  
the 400 Unit

“It’s Not Impossible (Boys Don’t Cry)” by  
Ben Sollee

“Cumberland Gap” by Jason Isbell and the  
400 Unit

“My Father’s Daughter” by Jewel ft. Dolly  
Parton

“Down to the River to Pray” by Alison  
Krauss

“Jolene” by Pentatonix & Dolly Parton

“River Flows in You” by Yiruma

“Girl Put Your Records On” by Corinne  
Bailey Rae

“Blue Kentucky Girl” by Loretta Lynn

“Kentucky Rain” by Elvis Presley

“Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman

“Experience” by Ludovico Einaudi

“Somewhere South of Here” by Gareth  
Asher

“Tennessee” by the Wreckers

“Letting Go” by Ben Sollee

“Prettiest Tree on the Mountain” by Ben  
Sollee

“Mary’s in India” by Dido

“Broken Halos” by Chris Stapleton

“Teardrop Trailer” by Ruby Friedman  
Orchestra

“Wayfaring Soldier” by Hayde Bluegrass  
Orchestra

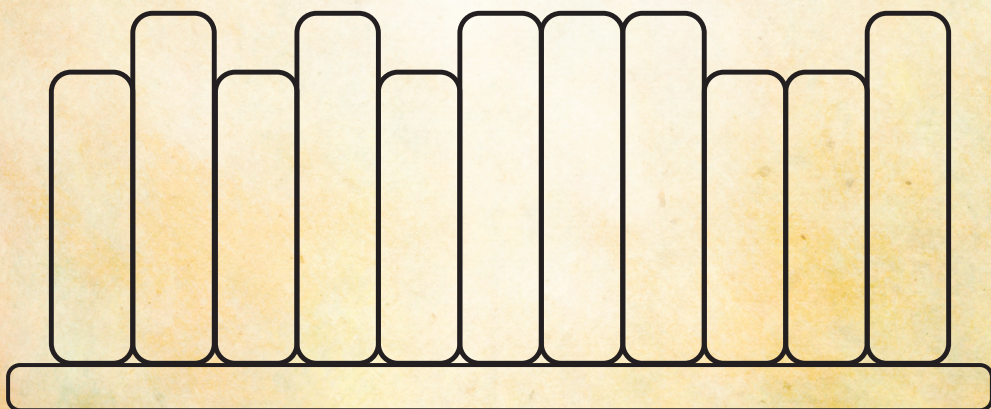
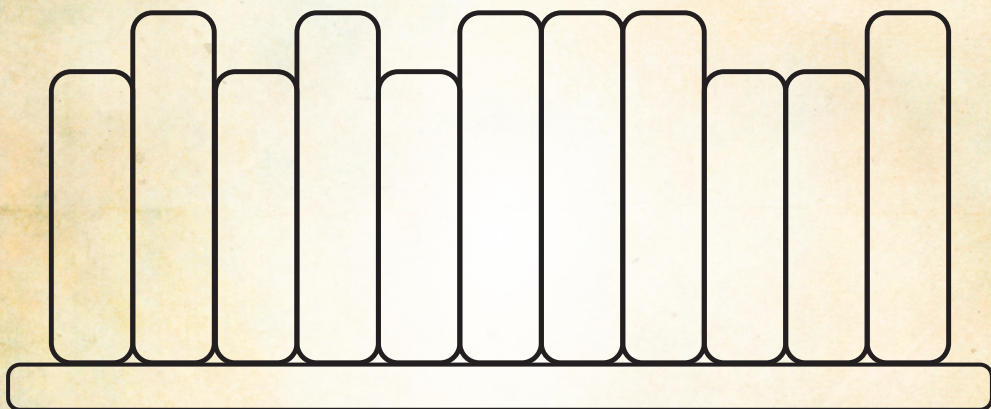
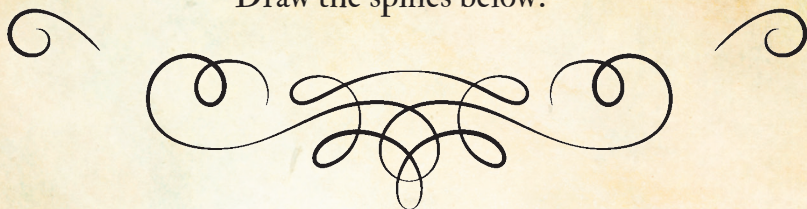
“What’s Up” by 4 Non Blondes

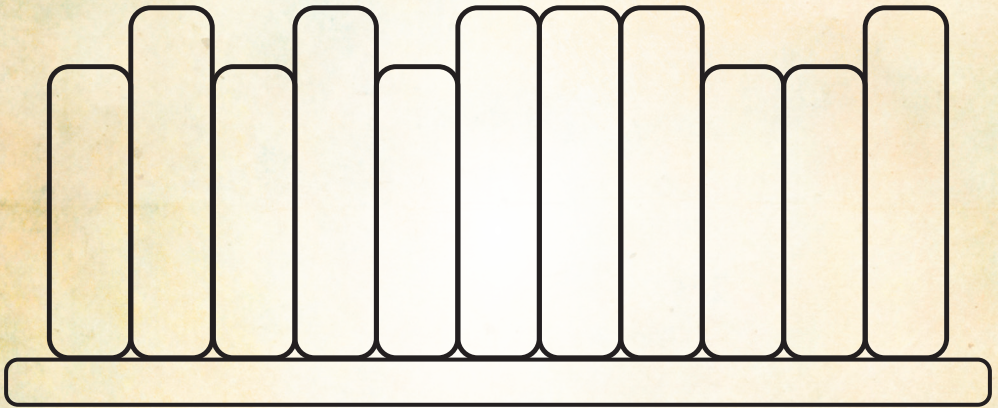
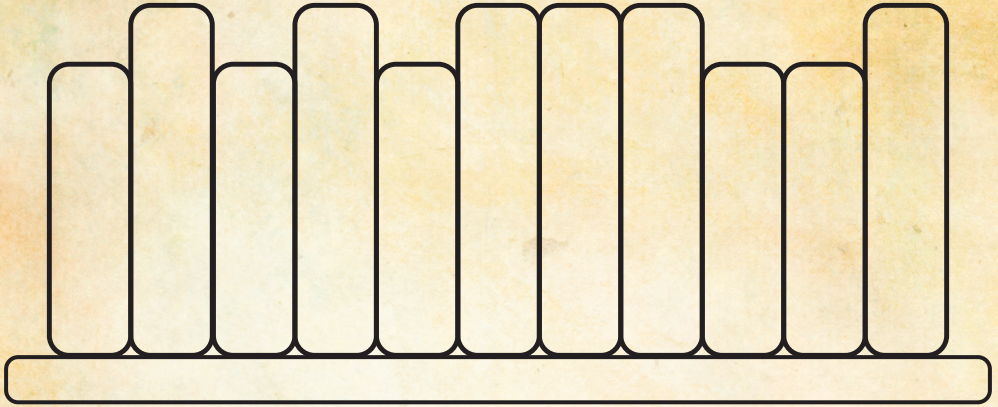
“Old Kentucky Moonlight” by Egbert Van  
Alstyne



# The Book Woman's Daughter Journal

What books would you carry in your bag to give away?  
Draw the spines below!





“A stunning portrait of the raw, somber beauty of Appalachia, the strong resolve of remarkable women living in a world dominated by men, and the power of books and sisterhood to prevail in the harshest circumstances. **A CRITICAL AND PROFOUNDLY IMPORTANT READ FOR OUR TIME.** Badassery womanhood at its best!”

—*Sara Gruen*

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Water for Elephants*

“Steeped in an intimate knowledge of the traditions and lore of the region and written with a loving eye to the natural beauty of the landscape, *The Book Woman’s Daughter* is a brilliant and compelling narrative—A **POWERFUL PORTRAIT OF THE COURAGEOUS WOMEN WHO FOUGHT AGAINST IGNORANCE, MISOGYNY, AND RACIAL PREJUDICE.**”

—*William Kent Krueger*

*New York Times* bestselling author of *This Tender Land* and *Lightning Strike*

“A MESMERIZING AND BEAUTIFULLY RENDERED APPALACHIAN TALE of strong women, bravery, and resilience, told through the eyes of a new heroine reminiscent of Harper Lee’s own Scout Finch.”

—*Ron Rash*

*New York Times* bestselling author of *One Foot in Eden* and *Serena*

“Fierce, beautiful, and inspirational, Kim Michele Richardson has created a **POWERFUL TALE ABOUT BRAVE EXTRAORDINARY HEROINES** who are downright haunting and unforgettable.”

—*Abbott Kahler*

*New York Times* bestselling author (as Karen Abbott) of *The Ghosts of Eden Park*

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*Bestselling historical fiction author*  
*Kim Michele Richardson* is back with the perfect book club read following Honey Lovett, the daughter of the beloved Troublesome book woman, who must fight for her own independence with the help of the women who guide her and the books that set her free.