



Books and the literary arts offer endless ways to find joy, escape, and learn something new! Ready for your next adventure? Check out the ideas below to discover something fresh.

Where do you go when you're craving a great read? Whether it's your favorite book club, a local bookstore, or an online resource, we want to hear from you! Send your top bookish sources to info@literaryindulgence.com, and we'll share them with our awesome community.

Online Book Clubs

Guess what? There are *tons* of online book clubs out there—some awesome, some... meh. But don't worry, we've done the hard work and picked out some of the *top-rated* ones that always hit it out of the park with their monthly selections! While you won't get to choose the book, the awesome benefits more than make up for it! Dive into the links below to check out their sites, sign up for newsletters, and stay in the loop. There are many more out there for the choosing so get out there and keep reading!



Troy Johnson <https://aalbc.com/>

Troy D. Johnson is the founder of the **African American Literature Book Club (AALBC)** and President of AALBC.com, LLC. His dedication, passion, and advocacy within the literary world, particularly through the African American Literature Book Club, make him a significant figure in advancing the representation, recognition, and celebration of Black literature and culture. His contributions have a lasting impact on readers, authors, and the literary landscape as a whole.

[Belletrist](#) – This online book club is run by Karah Preiss and Emma Roberts. A book is chosen each month to read, and they also feature an independent bookstore each month. They are active on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) where readers can connect about their book choices.

[Oprah's Book Club](#) – This might be the book club that started it all—and chances are, you've heard of it! You can connect with fellow readers on the official [Instagram](#) account, or join the [Goodreads](#) group (though be aware, the discussions can get a bit spammy with self-promotion). Despite that, Oprah consistently picks character-driven reads that are well worth your time!

[Silent Book Club](#) – The Silent Book Club was founded in 2012 with a mission to bring together introverts who love discussing books but prefer to skip the small talk and socializing typical of book clubs. Since then, it's exploded in popularity! If this sounds like your kind of vibe, check them out on their website or follow along on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Local Jacksonville, FL Indie Bookstores

Here in Jacksonville, indie bookstores are more than shops—they're gathering places that keep the literary pulse of our community alive. Below you'll find a collection of impressions and insights about some of our local favorites, the very spaces where readers, writers, and dreamers stay connected to the creative spirit. I'd love to hear your thoughts as well. And if your favorite spot isn't on this list, let me know—discovering a new bookstore is always one of life's great joys.



[Femme Fire Books](#)

Located off Park Street in Riverside, **Femme Fire Books** is a hidden gem—a cozy book home brimming with feminine literary energy. This Asian American–owned feminist bookstore champions diversity, offering a wide selection of new and used titles written by women of color. With a strong focus on uplifting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) authors, Femme Fire ensures that rich stories, perspectives, and cultural traditions are celebrated and accessible. During my visit, I discovered one of my now-favorite authors, Kennedy Ryan, and picked up my very first book by her, *Before I Let Go*. Femme Fire Books is more than a bookstore—it's a vibrant space where readers can connect with powerful voices that might otherwise be overlooked.

[Cafe Resistance Bookstore](#)

Since its opening in June 2024 on Soutel Drive, **Café Resistance Bookstore** has become a powerful force for literacy, culture, and community. Founded at the height of the state's offensive against books addressing the history of race and racism, this Black-owned bookstore, coffee shop, and community hub provides a safe, welcoming space for children and teens to fall in love with reading while uplifting literacy rates in the area. Beyond books, Café Resistance pulses with energy—hosting spoken word performances, live music, nationally recognized author signings, and meaningful community events. In a short time, it has blossomed into a vibrant cultural anchor that not only entertains but also educates and empowers, showcasing the voices and initiatives that matter most to the community.

[Happy Medium Books Cafe](#)

Tucked along Park Street in Riverside, **The Happy Medium Books Café** is a welcoming haven for readers and writers alike. On my visit, I joined a Saturday afternoon writing circle, surrounded by the aroma of fresh coffee and pastries that paired perfectly with the shelves of books. With 80% of its inventory dedicated to gently loved used books and 20% showcasing new works—particularly from underrepresented authors—the café offers both discovery and diversity. Guests can settle in at cozy indoor spots or enjoy the charm of outdoor seating with tables and chairs. Adding to its community spirit, The Happy Medium hosts three engaging book clubs: a youth club for young readers, a general club, and a wine book club, making it a vibrant gathering place for book lovers of all kinds.

[The Literary Lounge - Bookshop](#)

Mariah Jones, owner of **The Literary Lounge Jax**, has created a charming community hub where books and culture come alive. With its flirty, artsy décor, the bookstore is a perfect fit for Murray Hill, offering a cozy meeting room ideal for book clubs or team gatherings. Visitors can enjoy more than just books—bingo nights, engaging classes, and lively author events make it a true destination. It's also a go-to spot for unique gifts, tasty snacks, and discovering your next favorite read. On my last visit, I picked up a copy of *This Could Be Us* by Kennedy Ryan—perfect timing for my flight the next day!

[Nefertiti Books & Gifts \(website coming soon!\)](#) 6035 Ft. Caroline Rd., Ste 21 Jacksonville, FL / 904-586-2080

Founded in 1990 by Naseem and Naseema Maat, **Nefertiti Books & Gifts** is more than a store—it's a tribute to African heritage, culture, and values. As they reopen, they remain dedicated to honoring their ancestors while evolving this legacy. I enjoyed the visual burst of color, energy, and warm greeting from Naseema and her son when I entered the store, setting the tone for an inviting and memorable experience. They feature a rich selection of African American books that celebrate history, storytelling, and empowerment, and their calendar highlights community events that uplift and inspire. From engaging cultural programs to **book signings with well-known authors**, they offer experiences that bring readers and leaders together. Charming and inviting with a personal touch, Nefertiti Books & Gifts strives to continue the legacy of spreading Africa and African American culture and tradition, creating a space where knowledge, culture, and community thrive together.

[Marie Times Three Online Bookstore](#)

I discovered **Marie Times Three** online bookstore, a charming and inviting space created with book lovers in mind. This thoughtfully curated online shop offers a delightful mix of stories that inspire, entertain, and spark imagination. With a personal touch woven into every recommendation, readers can explore selections that feel handpicked just for them. Whether you're searching for your next great read or a meaningful gift, the website is designed to feel warm and welcoming. More than just a bookstore, it's a place where community and creativity meet. Step inside and rediscover the joy of reading in a setting that feels both personal and special.