

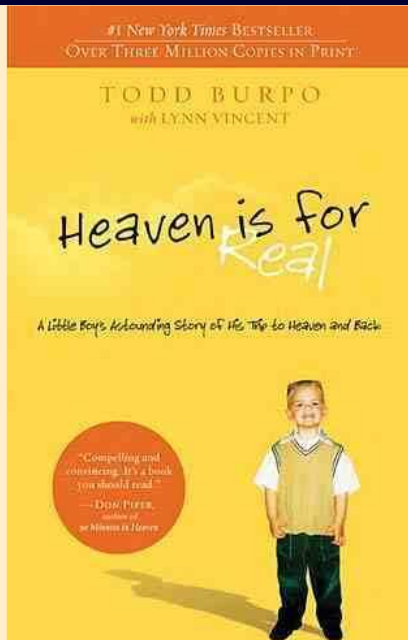
# Adult Book Discussions – Sunday Evenings 7:30 – 9:30

A young boy emerges from life-saving surgery with remarkable stories of his visit to heaven.

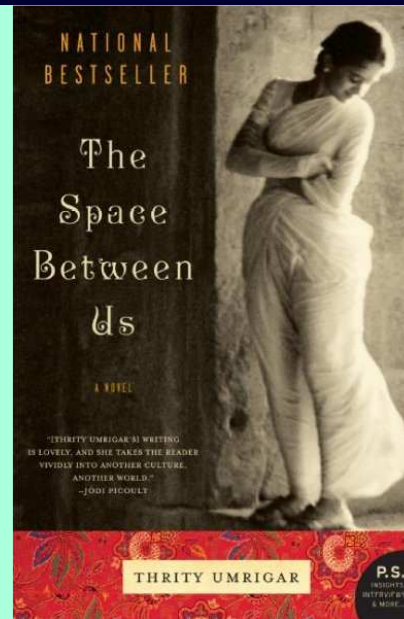
Heaven Is for Real is the true story of the four-year old son of a small town Nebraska pastor who during emergency surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family didn't know what to believe but soon the evidence was clear.

Colton had met his miscarried sister, whom he hadn't known about, and his great grandfather over 30 years deceased, then shared impossible-to-know details about each. He describes the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how "reaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from heaven to help us.

Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is "heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle."



**November 20, 2011**  
**Leaders:**  
**Michele DiGiacomo,**  
**Janet Vollkommer**



**April 22, 2012**  
**Leaders:**  
**Grace Simonette,**  
**Lois Netter**

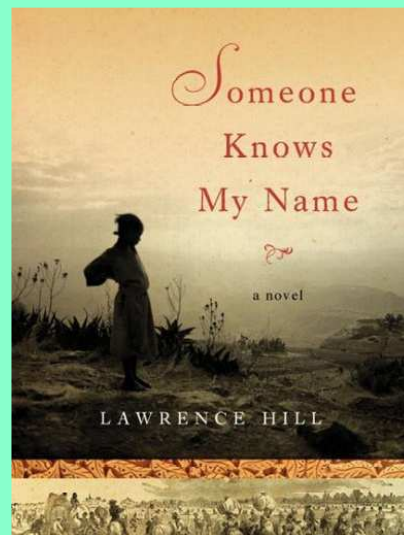
Poignant, evocative, and unforgettable, *The Space Between Us* is an intimate portrait of a distant yet familiar world. Set in modern-day India, it is the story of two compelling and achingly real women: Sera Dubash, an upper-middle-class Parsi housewife whose opulent surroundings hide the shame and disappointment of her abusive marriage, and Bhima, a stoic illiterate hardened by a life of despair and loss, who has worked in the Dubash household for more than twenty years.

A powerful and perceptive literary masterpiece, author Thrity Umrigar's extraordinary novel demonstrates how the lives of the rich and poor are intrinsically connected yet vastly removed from each other, and how the strong bonds of womanhood are eternally opposed by the divisions of class and culture.

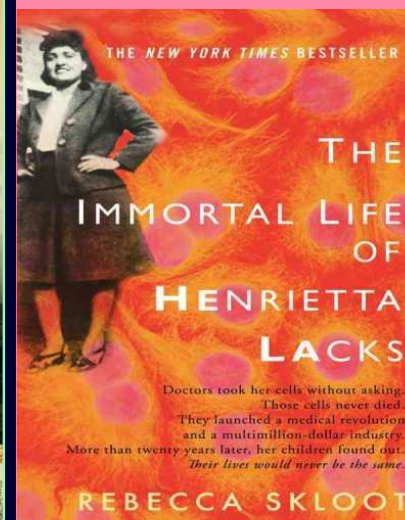
Abducted from Africa as a child and enslaved in South Carolina, Aminata Diallo thinks only of freedom-and of the knowledge she needs to get home. Sold to an indigo trader who recognizes her intelligence, Aminata is torn from her husband and child and thrown into the chaos of the Revolutionary War.

In Manhattan, Aminata helps pen the Book of Negroes, a list of blacks rewarded for service to the king with safe passage to Nova Scotia. There Aminata finds a life of hardship and stinging prejudice. When the British abolitionists come looking for "adventurers" to create a new colony in Sierra Leone, Aminata assists in moving 1,200 Nova Scotians to Africa and aiding the abolitionist cause by revealing the realities of slavery to the British public.

This captivating story of one woman's remarkable experience spans six decades and three continents and brings to life a crucial chapter in world history.



**January 22, 2012**  
**Leader: Janice**  
**Moore-Caputo**



**May 20, 2012**  
**Leader: Barbara**  
**Ruoff**

## Reader Review

Fascinating. Remarkable. These descriptors and many more came to mind as I read Rebecca Skloot's book that was fourteen years in the making. Let's start with a simple question: where does ownership of your body and all its parts begin and end? When an organ is removed, a biopsy taken, blood drawn, an appendage amputated, what do you assume happens to the tissues and cells? The answer might surprise you, as it did me.

Henrietta Lacks was a black woman who grew up poor working her family's sharecropping tobacco fields in the rural south during the depression. In 1950, as a young, married mother who had fled north to prosperity in Baltimore, she contracted an aggressive form of cervical cancer and was treated by the doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Both before and after her death, cancerous cells were removed from her cervix without her knowledge or permission. These became the first human cells to be kept alive in culture which never died, but reproduced an entire generation every 24 hours.

These cells were used in the research and development of treatments for polio, cancer, AIDS and other diseases, an invaluable contribution to mankind. But Skloot did not stop there. She dove into the personal lives of Henrietta and her family, the multibillion dollar world of cell retailing, the racism, ethics and questionable medical practices surrounding medical research, thus making the book compulsively readable. It's this human interest story that draws you in and makes the book so memorable. Henrietta's cells were very valuable, yet after her death, her family couldn't afford the health care so enhanced by their wife and mother's contribution to science.

Skloot is masterful at painting a portrait of science, medicine, and life that is endearing and frightening at the same time!

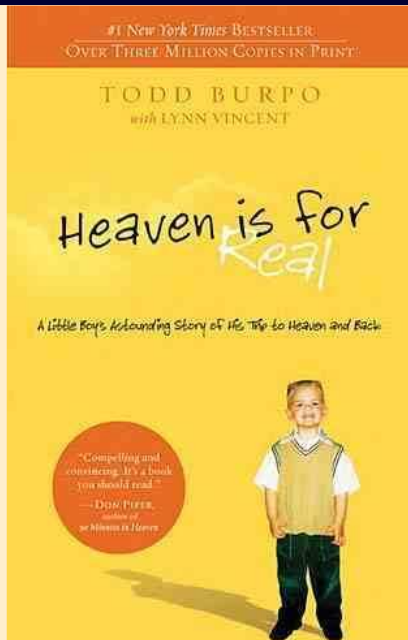
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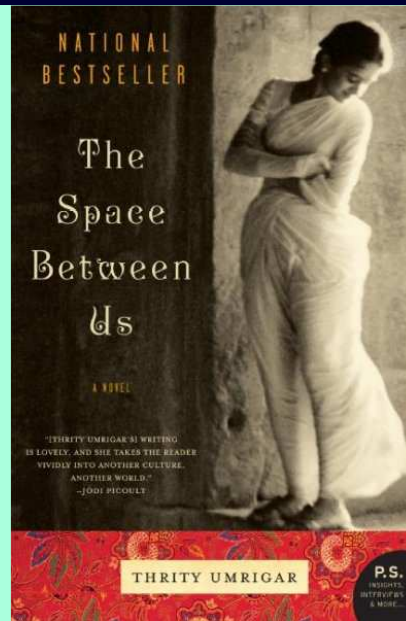
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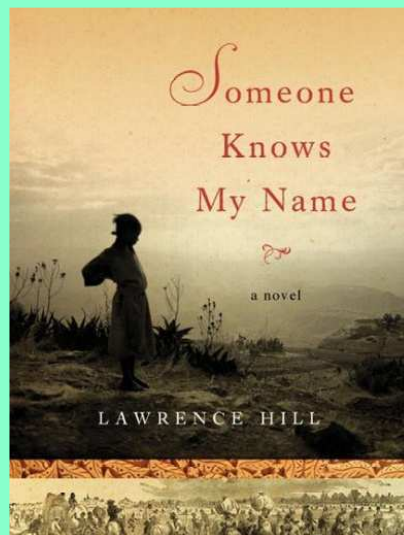
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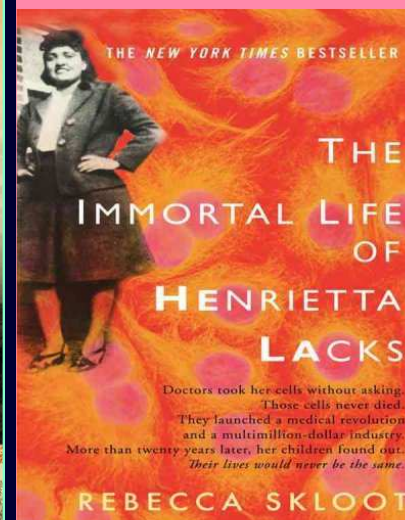
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