

## Monologues for *The Book Club Play Auditions* (Choose one, does not need to be memorized):

ANA: And my idea for Book Club was, simply, why don't I start a club where we all read books together! I came up with it a good sixteen months before Oprah. Connection. Bridges. Revelation... all of those were part of my impetus to start the Book Club. Book Club is a safe haven... a place to read, talk and to be our authentic selves (Beat.)

Was that OK? I'm happy to do it over again if you want it better.

Forgive me, Alex, for being a culture snob, but a few of us have to make sure there are standards. I for one don't want future generations to walk through the Museum of American Antiquities and think that the full essence of who we were as a people is McDonald's happy meals, *American Idol* and *Twilight*.

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JEN: Books are like best friends to me. Truth be told, I like books more than I like most people. I'm a paralegal at a law firm where I deal with the "fine print," and angry clients, and stressed-out attorneys. Book Club is a place that reminds me of the better parts of being human. It is the only place in my life where the idea of community really thrives. I truly believe a good book and a good friend can bring out the best in a person. Even me.

I fell in love when I was fourteen. Hard. The kind of love that makes you jittery, that fills you with hope and despair all at once. I look for him in every guy I kiss: Heathcliff. What an asshole! And I'll be damned if *Wuthering Heights* hasn't ruined me in some way.

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LILY: Why Book Club? Well, I like to read. I'm a writer. although, right now I'm more of an editor and fact-finder at the Herald. Ana, who's a columnist at the paper, invited me to Book Club. To come every month and hang with her and her old-not "old" old, but you know... longtime mature-age type friends. I just moved here to start the job and I don't know anyone, so I didn't really have a good excuse for not coming. So, why not Book Club?

*Sunder* changed my childhood. Read it in fourth grade and I cried until snot plopped on the pages. Life for a poor share-cropper was hard enough, but did they have to kill his dog?

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WILL: I simply adore books. I seriously considered getting a master's in library science, but the whole idea of letting other people take home books I had so carefully tended and organized, distressed me. Book Club is the best of two worlds. I share what I have read with people that I like, but then I take my own beautiful book home with me. (My favorite book was) *The Little House*. I remember the pictures very vividly. It was the true story of this cute little pink house that was in the middle of a field... and how the world encroached on it, and it became a little pink house shadowed by enormous skyscrapers and cowering beneath supersonic jets until someone had the decency to scoop it up and put it in a field where it could just be. It's a true story of historical preservation society's heroic efforts to find a home for that house. And a clear indication of my early love for history.

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ROB: My wife, Ana, and my best friend, Will, started Book Club way back. I don't think they even asked me to join; it was kind of assumed I would be there. I'm not a particular big reader. But I like being around great people. I like being around good food. And it usually happens at my house. So I'm already there. I guess Book Club just sort of happened to me.

When I was fifteen, I liked reading those books about the NFL. you know, they were this thin and they had a blurry picture of the player on it. My father was not happy. Junior, can't you read something serious? Something classic? Something British? Oh yeah, Dad?! How about *Tarzan of the Apes*? After reading that book, something in me clicked. I volunteered at the local zoo and helped sweep the gorilla pavilion. You know what's amazing? Putting your hand up to the window and having gorilla do the same thing. So human-like. I promised myself that when I grew up, I would move to Africa and work with baby gorillas.

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ALEX: I know oodles about books. I am a professor of comparative literature. Up for tenure this year. And guess what? The woman of my dreams dumped me at the altar. It was very dramatic. You want to know why she dumped me? "Alex," she said, "You are NOTHING LIKE EDWARD CULLEN." And I said "Edward... who?" And she said, "That's exactly your problem. You have lost your passion. You have no clue." And she was right. I have lost my passion. I have no clue! I am completely out of touch. *Twilight* is a phenomenon. It has sold over 10 million copies and been translated into thirty-seven languages and yet, what did I know about Bella Swan and Edward Cullen? Nothing!!! Have you heard of *Fifty Shades of Grey*-??? Well, that bestseller was inspired from *Twilight* fan fiction. And yet what do I know about inner goddesses and sadomasochist sex contracts? Apparently, not enough! And what's District 12 and who's Katniss and why play a Hunger Game? More than 350 million Harry Potter books have been sold worldwide, and what can I tell you about Hogwarts? Squat!

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ELSA (Literary Agent): Humans need five things. four of which we share with other animals: water, food, shelter and sex. The unique fifth thing humans need is story. The sixth thing is stories about sex-hell, I'm kidding! But, seriously, there are like seven billion people that inhabit our planet, and every one of us has a story. Some, like my father, keep their story inside; most, like my mother, tell theirs to the neighbors, and a few like, two billion people, take the time to jot something down for posterity.

Writing a book is hard work. It takes heart. It takes discipline; it even sometimes takes, God help me, talent. I can't even tell you how many millions of manuscripts are submitted each year, but it's a friggin' heartbreaking colossal number. And these are the facts. Of the millions and millions of manuscripts that are submitted each year only 250,000 are published. And out of the 250,000 books that are published, most Americans read an average of less than three. You do the math. Writing a book takes courage. Getting it published takes luck. But getting someone to read your book takes a friggin' miracle.

**VIDEOS ARE DUE BY Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00p.m. Earlier submissions welcome.**  
**Submit all videos, along with your audition information and conflicts,  
via the Google form linked here: [FORM](#)**

Callbacks, if needed, will be held on Lafayette's Arts Campus on the evening of Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and a single rehearsal will be held this semester on Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals will resume in the Spring semester.

**With questions or for more information, contact Prof. Mary Jo Lodge  
via e-mail at [lodgem@lafayette.edu](mailto:lodgem@lafayette.edu).**