

Astoria Non-Fiction Book Club

Join a new book club in Astoria for readers of non-fiction; this book club will focus primarily on memoir, biographies, topical non-fiction, essay collections, and self-help. Each month, we'll read a non-fiction book and meet over drinks and snacks at Mosaic to discuss.

On page 1 of this doc, you'll find information about the first meeting on Sunday, January 11th.

On page 2 of this doc, you'll find more information on joining the group and the process for how we'll select books for future meetings. Because "non-fiction book club" might sound a little staid, you'll find an overview of the kinds of books we'll likely read.

First meeting: Sunday, January 11th | 5pm

Where: Mosaic (25-19 24th Avenue, Astoria)

RSVP: Email Liz Winston at lizwinston2@gmail.com to RSVP for the first meeting

For our first meeting, we'll read and discuss [Anna: the Biography](#), a 2022 biography of Anna Wintour. Given Wintour's recent stepping-down from her editor-in-chief role at *Vogue* magazine, we have a new lens through which to see the book and its subject.

From the publisher:

This definitive *New York Times* bestselling biography of Anna Wintour, now featuring a new afterword, follows the steep climb of an ambitious young woman who would—with singular and legendary focus—become one of the most powerful people in media.

As a child, Anna Wintour was a tomboy with no apparent interest in clothing but, seduced by the miniskirts and bob haircuts of swinging 1960s London, she grew into a fashion-obsessed teenager. Her father, an influential newspaper editor, loomed large in her life, and once he decided she should become editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, she never looked back.

Impatient to start her career, she left high school and got a job at a trendy boutique in London—an experience that would be the first of many defeats. Undeterred, she found work in the competitive world of magazines, eventually embarking on a journey to New York and a battle to ascend, no matter who or what stood in her way. Once she was crowned editor-in-chief of *Vogue*—in one of the stormiest transitions in fashion magazine history—she continued the fight to retain her enviable position, ultimately rising to dominate all of Condé Nast.

Named one of *Time's* 100 Must-Read Books of 2022, this in-depth and revealing biography is based on extensive interviews with Anna Wintour's closest friends and collaborators. Weaving Anna's personal story into a larger narrative about the hierarchical dynamics of the fashion industry and the complex world of Condé Nast, *Anna* charts the relentless ambition of the woman who would become an icon.

More About The Astoria Non-Fiction Book Club

Membership

Mosaic generously provides us with a space for this group, but we are limited to **10 dedicated spots** for our group. After attending the first meeting, members who would like to join the group can email Liz Winston at lizwinston2@gmail.com to confirm that they would like to join the group.

Members are asked to commit to attending the majority of our meetings (~10/12) throughout the year. This helps ensure that every available seat goes to someone who can be a regular, participating member of our group and that there is space for those who wish to regularly attend.

Book Selection Process

The Astoria Non-Fiction Book Club will read non-fiction books (memoir, biography, topical non-fiction, self-help, essay collections) intended to appeal to politically progressive, culturally-minded New Yorkers.

After each meeting, members will be asked to submit suggestions for the next month's book by 5pm on the day after the meeting (second Monday of the month). Liz will create a Doodle poll of members' suggestions, and members can vote via Doodle by 5pm on Thursday of that week. On Friday (second Friday of the month), Liz will send members an email announcing the following month's book, so members will have 3 weeks+ to read the next month's book.

Potential Future Book Selections:

Topical non-fiction:

[*Girl on Girl: How Pop Culture Turned a Generation of Women Against Themselves*](#)

[*The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women in the CIA*](#)

[*The Radium Girls*](#)

[*How to Kill a City*](#)

[*They All Came to Barney's: a History of the World's Greatest Store*](#)

[*The Barbizon: the Hotel that Set Women Free*](#)

[*Selling the Dream: The Billion Dollar Industry Bankrupting Americans*](#)

Memoir:

[*How to Lose Your Mother*](#)

Essay Collections:

[*I Want to Burn This Place Down*](#)

Biography:

[*We Might Just Make It After All: My Best Friendship with Kate Spade*](#)

[Gwyneth: The Biography](#)

Self-help:

[Let Them](#)

[The Big Leap](#)

[Everyday Intuition: What Psychology, Science, and Psychics Can Teach Us About Trusting Our Inner Voice](#)

[How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy](#)