

# THE BOOK CLUB PLAY

BY KAREN ZACARÍAS

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

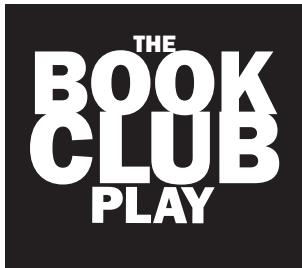
Karen Zacarías' award-winning plays include *Legacy of Light*, *Mariela in the Desert*, *The Sins of Sor Juana*, the adaptation of Julia Alvarez's *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*. Her TYA musicals with composer Debbie Wicks la Puma include *Einstein is a Dummy*, *Looking for Roberto Clemente*, *Jane of the Jungle*, *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans*, *Ferdinand the Bull*, and *Frida Libre*. Ms. Zacarías is currently working on the adaptation of Helen Thorpe's nonfiction book on immigration *Just Like Us* for the Denver Theater Center and an adaptation of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* at Arena Stage. She is currently writing the libretto of *The Sun Also Rises* for the Washington Ballet, writing a play for the American Revolution series for Oregon Shakespeare Theater, writing a new comedy for Cincinnati Playhouse and beginning a Brazilian themed musical for young people for the Kennedy Center. Her plays have been produced at The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, The Goodman, Round House Theater, The Denver Center, Alliance Theater, Imagination Stage, GALA, Berkshire Theater Festival, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Cleveland Play House, San Jose Rep, and more. Her awards include 2010 Steinberg Citation-Best New Play, National Francesca Primus Prize, New Voices Award, National Latino Play Award, Finalist Susan Blackburn, Helen Hayes for Outstanding New Play. She is a playwright-in-residence at Arena Stage in Washington, DC and teaches at Georgetown University. She is the founder of Young Playwrights' Theater, an award-winning theatre company that teaches playwriting in local public schools in Washington, D.C.

# BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION GUIDE

## PLAY SUMMARY

**Hilarity ensues in this fresh comedy about a book club bound for pandemonium.** Ana lives in a letter-perfect world with an adoring husband, the perfect job, and her greatest passion: Book Club. But when the tight-knit group becomes the focus of a documentary film, their intimate discussions about life and literature take a turn for chaos in front of the inescapable camera lens. Add a club-crashing newcomer along with some provocative book titles, and long-standing group dynamics begin to unravel. Will their beloved book club survive?

FLIP OVER FOR QUESTIONS →



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- 1.** The documentary filmmaker Lars Knudsen asks the members of the book club to answer this question: What book had the deepest impact on you when you were young? What is your answer?
- 2.** Which character in *The Book Club Play*, Ana, Rob, Will, Jen, Lily, or Alex, do you relate to most and why?
- 3.** What do you think about the idea of having your life recorded as part of a documentary or reality show? Would you come across as an entirely different person on film?
- 4.** Why did you join this book club? How has this book club grown over time, and have you gained anything unexpected during your time as a member?
- 5.** Rob is inspired by reading *The Age of Innocence* to find his “flower of life.” What do you think he means by this?
- 6.** Lily is almost immediately attracted to Alex when he attends his first book club meeting. What do you think she finds so intriguing about him?
- 7.** The book club members argue about what is good versus popular literature when discussion *Twilight* and *The Da Vinci Code*. Where do you stand in this debate?
- 8.** Will’s life is changed after reading *The Da Vinci Code*. Have you ever encountered the right book at the right time?
- 9.** Ana uses the book club members as inspiration for the characters in her book. Are her embellishments on the characters justified?
- 10.** In the end, Jen decides to establish a new book club. Will this book club be any different than the original? Why or why not?