

# Book Tasting Profile



MADISON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



WISCONSIN  
**BOOK**  
FESTIVAL



"Charming and warm and smart... I want to give this book  
to all my friends going through life reckonings."

CURTIS SITTENFELD,  
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *PREP*

# GIRLFRIENDING

A NOVEL



SUSANNA DANIEL

Author of *Stiltsville* and *Sea Creatures*

# Girlfriending

*by Susanna Daniel*

After a brief, head-spinning affair leaves her heartbroken, a divorced, perimenopausal mother sets out to date ten women in exploration of what she calls her lesbian adolescence, a quest she takes on with the ride-or-die support of her best friend and the small but mighty community she gathers along the way.

From the award-winning author of *Stiltsville* and *Sea Creatures*, two beloved novels about the slippery terrain of love and marriage, and inspired by her award-winning short story, “The Goddess of Illicit Choices,” comes a lively and taut exploration of friendship, courtship, community, and all the shades in between. At its heart, *Girlfriending* asks: How do we remake our lives midstream, and how do we know when we’ve arrived?

# Conversation Starters

What book do you recommend to all your friends?

---

---

---

What's a book you can't stop thinking about?

---

---

---

What author is an auto-read for you?

---

---

---

Last book that you stayed up way too late reading?

---

---

---

Book that was recommended to you that surprised you?

---

---

---

What is your favorite type of story?

---

---

---

What's the last book you didn't finish?

---

---

---

What plot device/story element ruins a story?

---

---

---

## Words for Talking About Books

### Pacing

breakneck, compelling, deliberate, densely written, easy, engrossing, fast paces, leisurely paced, measured, relaxed, stately, unhurried

### Characterization

detailed, distant, dramatic, eccentric, evocative, faithful, familiar, intriguing secondary characters, introspective, lifelike, multiple points of view, quirky, realistic, recognizable, series characters, vivid, well developed, well drawn

### Style

austere, candid, complex, concise, conversational, direct, dramatic, elaborate, elegant, extravagant, flamboyant, frank, graceful, homespun, jargon, metaphorical, natural, ornate, poetic, polished, prosaic, restrained, seemly, showy, simple, sophisticated, stark, thoughtful, unaffected, unembellished, unpretentious, unusual

### Frame and Tone

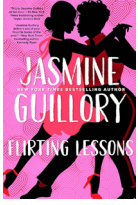
bittersweet, bleak, contemporary, darker, detailed, edgy, evocative, exotic, foreboding, gritty, hard edged, heartwarming, historical details, humorous, lush, magical, melodramatic, menacing, mystical, nightmarish, nostalgic, philosophical, political, psychological, romantic, rural, sensual, small town, stark, suspenseful, timeless, upbeat, urban

### Story Line

action oriented, character centered, complex, domestic, episodic, explicit violence, family centered, folksy, gentle, inspirational, issue oriented, layered, literary references, multiple plotlines, mystical, mythic, open-ended, plot centered, plot twists, racy, resolved ending, rich and famous, romp, sexually explicit, steamy, strong language, thought provoking, tragic

# Friends who

*Fall in Love together, stick together*



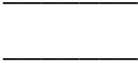
## Flirting Lessons by Jasmine Guillory

Mood: friends to lovers, steamy

Pacing: character-driven

Style: multiple perspectives,

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## My Best Friend's Honeymoon by Meryl Wilsner

Mood: steamy, atmospheric

Pacing: leisurely

Style: authentic, feel-good

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## Don't Want You Like a Best Friend by Emma R Alban

Mood: sweet, feel-good

Pacing: leisurely

Style: witty, richly detailed

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## **We Could Be So Good by Cat Sebastian**

Mood: sardonic, romantic

Pacing: intricately plotted

Style: witty

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## **A Lady for a Duke by Alexis J Hall**

Mood: romantic, sweeping

Pacing: measured

Style: banter-filled, evocative

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



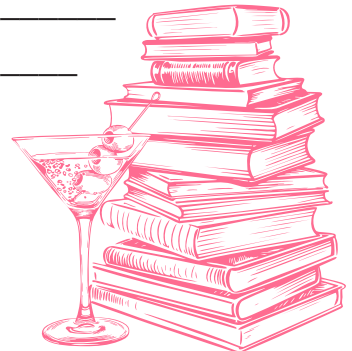
## **You, Again by Kate Goldbeck**

Mood: feel-good

Pacing: measured

Style: well-developed characters, banter-filled

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



# Friends who

*Commit Crimes together, stick together*



## The Excitements

By CJ Wray

Mood: upbeat, suspenseful

Pacing: fast-paced

Style: richly detailed

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## Counterfeit

By Kirstin Chen

Mood: suspenseful

Pacing: intricately plotted

Style: witty, incisive

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



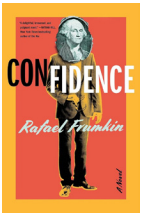
## The Retirement Plan

By Sue Hincenbergs

Mood: darkly humorous, upbeat

Style: clever

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



# Confidence

## By Rafael Frumkin

Mood: moving

Style: sardonic, witty

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



# You Can Trust Me

## By Wendy Heard

Mood: suspenseful

Pacing: fast-paced

Style: gritty

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



# Friends who

*Grow together, stick together*



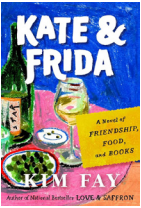
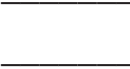
## My Brilliant Friend By Elena Ferrante

Mood: gritty, moving

Pacing: leisurely paced

Style: lyrical, reflective

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

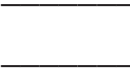


## Kate & Frida By Kim Fay

Mood: feelgood

Style: epistolary, richly detailed

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



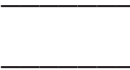
## Lady Tan's Circle of Women By Lisa See

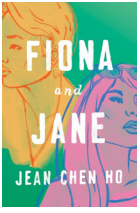
Mood: atmospheric

Pacing:

Style: cinematic, richly detailed

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_





## **Fiona and Jane** **By Jean Chen Ho**

Mood: bittersweet

Storyline: character-centered

Style: witty, richly detailed

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## **The One Hundred Years** **of Lenni and Margot** **By Marianne Cronin**

Mood: moving, heartwarming

Pacing: intricately plotted

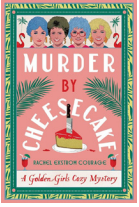
Style: whimsical

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



# Friends Who

*Solve Mysteries together, stick together*



## **Murder by Cheesecake** by Rachel Ekstrom-Courage

Mood: Amusing, Upbeat

Pacing: fast-paced

Style: Well-crafted dialogue, evocative

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **Good Bad Girl** By Alice Feeney

Mood: thought provoking, atmospheric

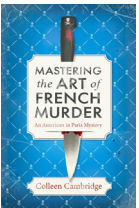
Pacing: suspenseful

Style: intricately plotted

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **Mastering the Art of French Murder** By Colleen Cambridge

Mood: gentle reads

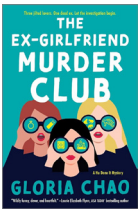
Pacing: Upbeat

Style: richly detailed, likeable characters

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## The Ex-Girlfriend Murder Club: a Hu Done It Mystery By Gloria Chao

Mood: Offbeat, funny

Pacing: fast-paced

Style: gentle-read, likeable characters

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Secret, Book & Scone Society By Ellery Adams

Mood: cozy, upbeat

Pacing: plot-driven

Style: well-developed characters, gentle

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



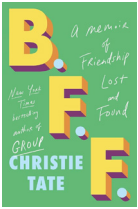
# The Real Deal:

## Nonfiction books about Friendship



### Bad Friend: How Women Revolutionized Modern Friendship by Tiffany Watt Smith

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



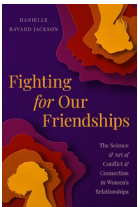
### B.F.F.: A Memoir of Friendship Lost and Found by Christie Tate

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



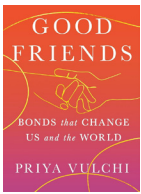
### Everything I Know About Love by Dolly Alderton

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Fighting for Our Friendships: The Science and Art of Conflict and Connection in Women's Relationships by Danielle Bayard Jackson

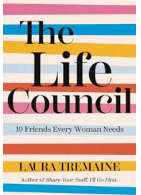
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Good Friends: Bonds That Change Us and the World by Priya Vulchi

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

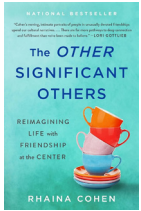
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Life Council: 10 Friends Every Woman Needs by Laura Tremaine

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

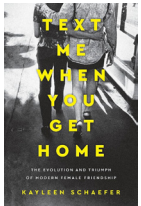
\_\_\_\_\_



## The Other Significant Others: Reimagining Life with Friendship at the Center by Rhaina Cohen

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

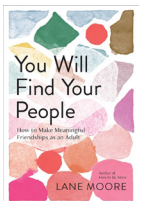
\_\_\_\_\_



## Text Me When You Get Home by Kayleen Schaefer

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## You Will Find Your People: How to Make Meaningful Friendships as an Adult by Lane Moore

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



MADISON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



WISCONSIN  
**BOOK**  
FESTIVAL