



The Stars of Book Club: The Next Chapter Share Books That Made a Difference

Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda, and Mary Steenburgen revisit books that left a lasting impact.

By Bethany Heitman

In 2018, Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, and Mary Steenburgen teamed up to star in *Book Club*, a movie that highlights just how life-changing and inspiring starting a book club with your friends can be. In that movie, the ladies read *50 Shades of Grey*, which inspired them to turn up the heat in their love lives and to make their next chapter of life the best one yet.

Now the ladies are back for a sequel. In *Book Club: The Next Chapter* they're heading to Italy for a girls' trip while reading Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. Here, three of the stars—Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda, and Mary Steenburgen—share the books that made a difference in their real lives.

“After reading the script for *Book Club: The Next Chapter*, I read *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho, the book that inspires the ladies in the film throughout their Italian adventure. My favorite part about *The Alchemist* is the way it slowed my life down and focused me immediately. I love that it took you inside this tiny patch of sand and dissected it and brought you concentration and a focus on the immediate life. I loved the oasis. It was the biggest oasis I ever read about—300 palm trees. It was impressive! It makes you see that you must embrace your life and the challenges that come with it.” —Candice Bergen

“*On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*, by Naomi Klein, is a book I read in a day. It made up my mind to move to D.C. and engage in weekly nonviolent civil disobedience, which came to be called Fire Drill Fridays. It hit me like a bolt of lightning.” —Jane Fonda

“I very much loved the book *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel García Márquez. At the time I first read it, I wasn't sure if I would ever know a lasting love in my life. After 30 years of being with my husband, Ted Danson, the book about a long and treasured love is more meaningful.”
-Mary Steenburgen

