




## Enhance Your Book Club

1. The *We Rise* program that Ruby attended was based on an actual initiative called *Tell Them We Rise*, which was designed by Ruth Wright Hayre, the first African-American woman to teach full time at a high school in Philadelphia. The program would allow 116 students selected in sixth grade to attend college for free if they stayed in school. You can learn more about this program through the PBS documentary *Tell Them We Are Rising*, directed by Stanley Nelson and Marco Williams.
2. Ruby loved to paint, and would often escape into her “Ruby’s Red World.” Look up a local painting class for your book club to join, or spend an evening at a “Paint and Sip” class. How else can art be used to escape and soothe or change perspective on a situation?
3. Sadeqa Johnson was inspired to write *The House of Eve* because of her personal family history, as described in her author’s note. Are there family stories you have pondered with unanswered questions? What if you could write their stories? Consider having group members write a journal entry from an ancestor’s perspective, and share anonymously for the group to reflect on together.
4. Enjoy a themed cocktail! To make Eve’s Elixir, mix: 2 oz. cognac or whiskey, 1 oz. lemon juice, ½ oz. simple syrup or agave, and a generous pour of sparkling wine. Serve on the rocks and garnish with a lemon wheel and maraschino cherry. Enjoy!



## Bibliography for *The House of Eve*

Below is a list of books that were used as research for and mentioned  
in *The House of Eve*:

*The Girl Who Went Away* by Ann Fesler

*Our Kind of People* by Lawrence Otis Graham

*Strawberry Mansion: The Jewish Community of North Philadelphia* by  
Allen Meyer

*Incident in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs

*Home to Harlem* by Claude McKay

*The Goodness of Violets and Other Tales* by Alice Dunbar Nelson

*Majors and Minors* by Paul Laurence Dunbar

*Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

*Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* by Harriet E. Wilson

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

*Complete Writings* by Phillis Wheatley

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston



## Playlist for *The House of Eve*

Music plays a quiet but significant role for both Ruby and Eleanor. Both William and Shimmy take them to concerts for their first dates.

Below is a list of songs mentioned in *The House of Eve*:

“I Wanna Be Loved” by Dinah Washington

“Lover Man” by Billie Holiday

“Caravan” by Duke Ellington

“It Don’t Mean a Thing”

“A Blossom Fell” by Nat King Cole

“Rock and Roll” by Wild Bill Moore

“Stormy Weather” by Lena Horne

“Misty” by Sarah Vaughan

“This Little Light of Mine”

“Ain’t Misbehavin’” by Fats Waller

Musical compositions by Justin Elie

Musical compositions by Amadeo Roldán

“I’m Glad Salvation is Free” by Mahalia Jackson