



To all Mocha Girls near and far, we wish you a happy holiday season. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa may your season celebrations be filled with joyous moments and sprinkled with a few great characters.

### ***Mocha Girls Read***

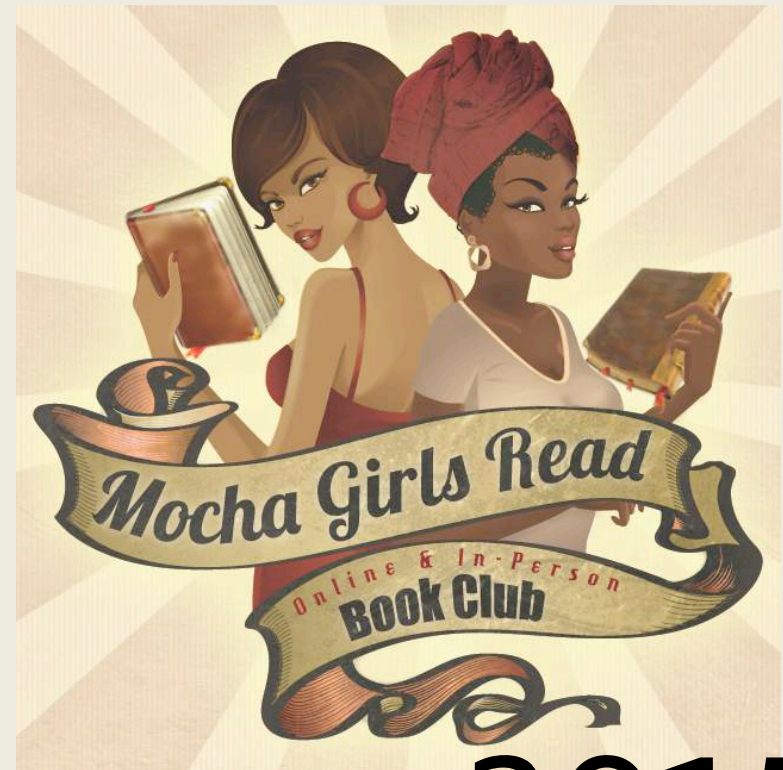
#### **Mission Statement**

***Mocha Girls Read*** mission is to enhance Black women's personal reading experience by reading quality work written by a wide range of authors on various topics and across all genres.

***Mocha Girls Read*** will support literary events in person and online

***Mocha Girls Read*** will provide an open forum for Black women to exchange ideas and opinions by fellowshipping with other Black women who love to read in person and online as well as networking with other book clubs, book bloggers, publishers and literary organizations

***Mocha Girls Read*** will sponsor hosted online and in person events to expose Black women to literature.



# 2015

Mocha Girls Read

"We are a group of Black women who love to read, want to read more and meet like-minded women."

Like Us   Follow Us   Join Us



December 2015

## January Nominations



Each month **Mocha Girls Read** members select one book to nominate for the book of the month. To make the nomination process easier, we will give you a theme for the upcoming month, this way we CAN mix up the genre, authors, and themes. All you have to do is add your monthly book nomination to our book club website from 12/7/2015 to 12/13/2015. Then from 12/14/2015 to 12/20/2015 the polls will be open for voting. The book with most votes wins! The winner will be announced on 12/21/2015.

### **Theme for January: "Fairy Tales Retold"**

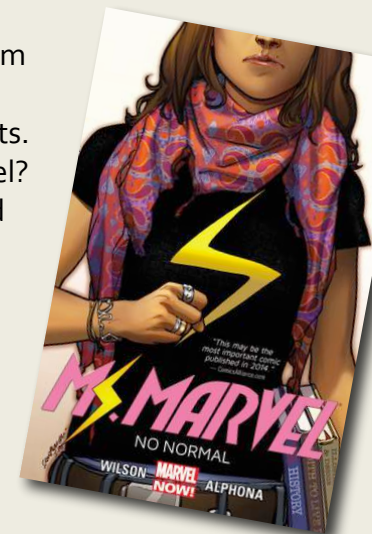
*(Books that are remakes of old fairy tales.)*

\*Remember one nomination and three votes per person.\*

## December's Book of the Month

### **Ms. Marvel, Vol. 1: No Normal (Ms. Marvel (Marvel NOW!) #1) by G. Willow Wilson (Author), Adrian Alphona (Artist)**

Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City — until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! When Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them, as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts? Or will the weight of the legacy before her be too much to bear? Kamala has no idea, either. But she's comin' for you, Jersey!



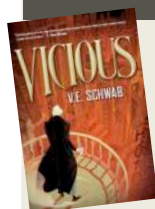
## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

As **Mocha Girls Read** grows so do our needs. If you would like to help out please email me at [alysiallen@yahoo.com](mailto:alysiallen@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

Right now we are looking for the following an Event Planner, Facebook/ Twitter Organizers, Co-Organizer for Los Angeles, CA. and Co-Organizer for Waldrof, MD.

December 2015

# Our 2015 Reading List



## January

Vicious by V.E. Schwab

## February

Your Blues Ain't Like Mine by Bebe Moore Campbell

## March

The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl by Isa Rae

## April

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

## May

The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

## June

Sex Still Spoken Here: An Anthology by Carol Queen and Jen Cross

## July

Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman

## August

The Mango Season by Amulya Malladi

## September

When Dad Killed Mom by Julius Lester

## October

Wildseed by Octavia Butler

## November

Forty Acres by Dwayne Alexander Smith

## December

Ms. Marvel by G. Willow Wilson (Author), Adrian Alphona (Artist)

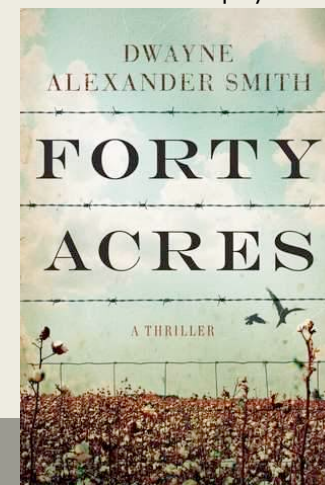


# Mocha Girls Read Reviews

**Mocha Girl Akirah:** This book drove me crazy! There were amazing moments in the book: moments where I was just truly shocked and excited. Times where I would tell my friends and family that Octavia Butler is one of the greatest writers to have ever lived. However, there were times where I struggled to get through. The internal dialogue in this book is oftentimes long and repetitive. I found myself saying "Wrap it up, B" in the Dave Chappelle type of way.

**Mocha Girl Barbara:** This was a great read. This book kept you intrigued wondering what was going to happen next, even when you thought you already knew. The author did a great job of adding enough twist to the story line.

**Mocha Girl Lisa:** Choppy reading at first - I had to find a rhythm. A well developed story. Great first book. Unique and relatable. Found one edit error.



What did you think of the book of the month? We would love to hear your thoughts on the book of the month. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be a full book report. Just a few sentences will do.

Let us know and we will add it to the newsletter. Send your reviews to [mochagirl@email.com](mailto:mochagirl@email.com)

What is a **Mocha Girl** anyways?

Well, she is a woman of color who loves to read. She reads all kinds of books from Fiction, Non-fiction, Dystopian Novels, Chick Lit, you name it she has read it or is going to read it. A **Mocha Girl** does not limit herself to books by women only, or by authors from her race. A **Mocha Girl** just loves a good story with a healthy dose of page turning excitement.



December 2015

## Spreading the Love

From Mocha Girl Alysia  
(Founder/ Los Angeles Organizer)



I am so thrilled, blessed and overtop excited about the wonderful year Mocha Girls Read had this year. A new chapter in Waldrof, MD. Our second book club of the year award. Co-sponsoring Inglewood's first literary event. Bus Trips and painting. So many new Mocha Girl faces and of course some great books added to our bookshelves.

Thank you to each and every Mocha Girl for caring, sharing and joining us in this journey. None of this would be possible without **you**. We all have built the foundation of a great sisterhood together.

Thank you Rochelle, Classy and Jawanna, Cynthia and Akirah, and Tynika for taking the lead month in and month out and for having such wonderful chapters. Thank you Mocha Girl Tami for helping to fill our calendar with some of the best events in LA. Page and Benica thank you for your contributions to our book club website. Thank you Jo'ie and the Goodread.com members who are holding it down online. Thank you to the publishers who effortlessly help us out with monthly and yearly free books. **Thank you all** for a great year and I'm excited to see what 2016 has in store for us.

From Mocha Girl Jo'ie  
(Goodreads Organizer)

I am so grateful for another literacy rich filled year with Mocha Girls Read and our virtual community on goodreads! Thank you all for participating in our monthly book selection discussions, reading and recommending, and joining our Spell It Out Reading Challenge. Thank you to our fearless leader, Aysia and I'm looking forward to the all of the goodreads in 2016!



## A BIG THANK YOU!!!

### 4th Anniversary Titles

THE EXPERIMENT

A Moment of Silence by Sister Souljah  
Trust No one by Paul Cleave  
Yes My Accent is Real by Kunal Nayyar  
Lake House by Kate Morton  
Stepping Through Cancer by Deborah Hardy  
My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past by Jennifer Teege and Nikola Sellmair  
Undivided: A Muslim Daughter, Her Christian Mother, Their Path to Peace by Patricia Raybon  
Reset Your Life by Joseph W. Walker  
Somewhere Out There by Amy Hatvany  
Free to Be Fabulous: 100 Ways to Look and Feel Younger at 40, 50, and Beyond by Deborah Hardy  
Just One Lie by Kara Davis  
Who Do You Love by Jennifer Weiner  
I am Charlie Wilson by Charlie Wilson  
I'll Never Write My Memoirs by Grace Jones and Paul Morley  
Eve by W.M. Paul Young  
The Face That Changed it All: A Memoir by Beverly Johnson  
Finding Amos by J.D. Mason and ReShonda Tate Billingsley

Debbie  
Hardy  
The Queen of Resilience

To all the publishing companies we cannot say thank you enough. Thank you for providing us free books for our Anniversary fabulous gift bags. Your response and eagerness to help overwhelmed us and we are deeply appreciative. We love all the titles you have provided for us this year.  
Thank you!



December 2015

# Thank You to All Our Supporters, Vendors & Friends



Thank you Hailey for designing our perfect logo.  
[haleykeim.com](http://haleykeim.com)



Thank you Ro for creating our amazing website.  
[MommyBlogDesigns.com](http://MommyBlogDesigns.com)



Thank you Pat and the staff of The Printing Spot for the great quality prints of our newsletters and yearbooks month after month.



Thank you again for the title of **Book Club of the Year 2015**. What a way to start the year!



Thank you Meetup.com for creating this amazing platform for us like-minded Mocha Girls to come together and meet face to face.

## Los Angeles Chapter

Since: September 25, 2011 Mocha Girls: 859 Past Meetups: 162



Thank you to all the locations for welcoming us into your beautiful spaces for our meetings. We appreciate you and all your wonderful support. Thank you again. **-Mocha Girls Read Los Angeles Chapter**



December 2015

# San Diego Chapter

Since: December 22, 2013 Mocha Girls: 69 Past Meetups: 52



Thank you **Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore** for giving us such a great area for our meetings and for allowing us to utilize your space for a place where we can come together each month to discuss our books. Thank you again and we look forward to a new year with you.

–*Mocha Girls Read San Diego Chapter*



## More F.A.Q.'s for you

**What are your membership rules?** We have just 4 rules. One. **Nominate** a book each month. Two. **Vote** for a book each month. Three. **Read** the book. Four. **Discuss** the book at a book club meeting or here on the site or at a meeting or on Goodreads.com.

**What if I can't make it to a meeting?** No worries. Just go to Goodreads.com and join the online discussion.

**What if I can't afford the book of the month?** There are a few solutions to this one. First, check your local library to see if they have a copy of the book. If they don't, let your chapter organizer know. They will provide a copy of the book for you on a temporary basis. Just like the library you will have to return it when you are finished. Or you might win a copy from one of our monthly giveaways.

**Where are the meetings?** Right now there are four in person meetings. Los Angeles, Ca., New Lenox, IL., Tempe, AZ., and now San Diego, CA. Go to the menu on our website and click on "[Join Us!](#)". As far as online, there is also a [Goodreads](#) group you can join by searching for us in the group section.

**What if I want to start a chapter in my city?** No problem. Just email me or our Chapter Manager **Mocha Girl Rochelle** rockyroach4@hotmail.com

If I didn't answer your question or you have a comment, please free to email **Mocha Girl Alysia** at mochagirl@email.com

### Email Us

**Mocha Girl Alysia** (mochagirl@email.com)  
**Mocha Girl Rochelle** (rockyroach4@hotmail.com)  
**Mocha Girl Classy** (mochagirlNL@email.com)  
**Mocha Girl Cynthia** (mochagirlSD@email.com)

December 2015

## F.A.Q.

Here are a few questions most people have about *Mocha Girls Read* along with our answers.

**What are the fees?** We charge you nothing at all to be a member. The only charge might be an event fee and the event will dictate that cost.

**What is the book club age limit?** We have members of all ages, from 20 something's to great grandmothers in their 90's. We ask that members 18 years old and younger get monthly permission to attend events and meetings by a parent.

**Are you currently taking members?** The answer will always be **YES!** We never, ever close our membership.

**Do I have to be Black to be a member?** Nope. We welcome all women but we want and will keep our focus on the uplifting of Black women.

**How are books selected?** We have a very democratic selection process. Each month there will be a theme posted. On the 2nd week of each month members will then nominate one book in the monthly theme category on the book club website. The nominations will stay open for 7 days. The following week we will all vote for three books on the list. The voting ballot will be open for 7 days as well. If there is a tie we will vote for the books in the tie during a 48 hour period of time. The one that wins will be the book of the month. Easy!

**What kinds of books does the book club read?** Everything! All genres, all races, all ages groups, any and **everything!**

**What if I don't want to read the book of the month?** No problem. Just skip the month and join us the following month. But I would love for you to read every book we select because you might find a new author, genre, or some information you might like. You'll never know if you don't try.

## Spreading the Love

**From Mocha Girl Cynthia**  
(San Diego Organizer)



A great big thank you to Mocha Girls Read San Diego Chapter. We made it to the end of year two. We would not have been able to bring these many ladies together without all of you book lovers. Ladies give yourself a nice round of applause; technically you've read a minimum of 24 books. A super big thanks to our very own founder, Ms. Alysia Allen for having the vision to have this book club and who works extremely hard for us. There are so many things we want to bring to our club. **JUST**, please remain faithful to the cause. A great big shout out to the book publishers for giving us so many advance read copies. Thank you from Mocha Girls Read San Diego.



**From Mocha Girl Rochelle**  
(Tempe Organizer/ Chapter Manager)

Thank you Mocha Girls of the Tempe Chapter for 2015 another great year of coming together to share our thoughts, opinions and perspectives of all the amazing books we have read. I appreciate every time you showed up to bless us with your presence. It has been an awesome year of reading, looking forward to next year with you ladies.

Special shout out and thank you to Changing Hands Book Store, Kyle for diligently making sure our book for the month is on the shelf and Pinna for allowing us to utilize the facility for our book discussions, we appreciate your kindness.

December 2015

# Tempe Chapter

Since: October 14, 2011 Mocha Girls: 341 Past Meetups: 98



**Changing Hands Bookstore** you are the cornerstone of our book club. From day one you have been there for us and we "Thank you" and your staff from the bottom of our hearts. We have enjoyed your bookstore and look forward to your great events coming in the new year.

*– Mocha Girls Read Tempe*



# Goodreads Chapter

Since: October 2011 Mocha Girls: 1,305

Members (1305)

invite

MrsKeesha	Ericka	Miss	Amber	Shayla	Tasha	Shenikka
Brittany	Amber	Mercy	Jill	Gisele	Rosalee	Joelle
Jo'ie	B.	Karen	Sharon	Jean	CasuallyAllur	Trina
Joy	African Americans on the Move Book Club	Sistaharlem	Stacy-Deanne	Constance	Ann	Monique

**Goodreads**, all of these amazing Mocha Girls near and far have a platform to discuss books because of you and your wonderful behind the scenes staff. Thank you so much for the easy to use forum that our group is built on. Thank you!

*– Mocha Girls Read Goodreads*





December 2015

# Giveaways

At every book club meeting *Mocha Girls Read* will give away a new book or ARC (Advance Reader Copy) to one (or two) lucky winners.

**What's an ARC?** Basically, it's a book that has not been released to the public just yet. Yep! You get an early edition. **How do you win?**

Come to a book club meeting. That's it!

## What Did You Think About...

*Let's chat about this year's book selection.*

Out of all the books we read this year, which one was your **Favorite Book, Least Favorite Book, Book you didn't think you would like but liked after reading it, Book you had the hardest time reading or couldn't finish, Best ending, Book that made you cry?**

1. Vicious by VE Schwab
2. Your Blues Ain't Like Mine by BeBe Moore Campbell
3. Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl by Issa Rae
4. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
5. The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith
6. Sex Still Spoken Here by Carol Queen and Jen Cross
7. Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman
8. The Mango Season by Amulya Malladi
9. When Dad Killed Mom by Julius Lester
10. Wildseed by Octavia Butler
11. Forty Acres by Dwayne Alexander Smith
12. Ms. Marvel by G. Willow Wilson (Author), Adrian Alphona (Artist)

(Created by Mocha Girl Classy)

## Spreading the Love

### From Mocha Girl Classy

(New Lenox Organizer)



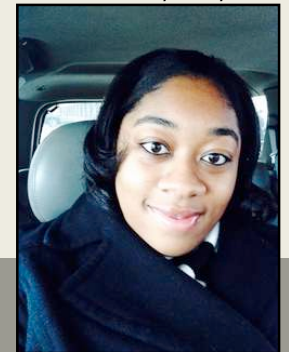
I cannot believe the 2015 year is coming to an end. First and foremost, I would like to thank each and every Mocha Girl from the New Lenox Chapter for helping me with my first year as the Organizer. I appreciate your patience and faithfulness to reading the books and attending the meetings. I also would like to thank you for sharing your ideas, participation in lively discussions, and honest opinions. The MGR New Lenox ladies will attend the meetings even if they didn't finish the book

because they "don't mind hearing about the end" of the story. Now that's dedication! I would like to extend a special thanks to our Co-Organizer, Jawanna Cook, who has organized several events this year especially the popular Meetup titled "The Mind of a Woman" which introduced several new members to the chapter. And Alysia, thank you for answering all my questions, considering my suggestions and giving me the opportunity to organize this wonderful chapter of MGR. You are a wonderful and kind-hearted founder.

We would like to say thank you to Starbucks - Target New Lenox T-2028 for allowing us to host our monthly meetings in the corner "cubby" of your café every 1st Saturday. Conversations are always better with coffee, cake and other treats.

### From Mocha Girl Tynika

(Waldorf Chapter Organizer)



"Thank you" to all the new Mocha Girls I have met and come to enjoy chatting about books with. Thank you to Panera Bread staff for giving us a wonderful meeting area. Thank you Mocha Girl Alysia for giving me the opportunity to start a chapter here on the east coast. I am looking forward to seeing what the New Year brings for the Waldorf Chapter.

December 2015

# New Lenox Chapter

Since: December 29, 2012 Mocha Girls: 71 Past Meetups: 89



Thank you so much **Starbucks** for giving our Mocha Girls Read chapter such a cozy space for our meetings. We love the environment you have created and share with us as well as the treats! Thank you so much.

– Mocha Girls Read New Lenox



# Waldorf Chapter

Since: January 28, 2015 Mocha Girls: 161 Past Meetups: 13



**Charles County Library - Waldorf West** and **Panera Bread** thank you both for giving the new Waldorf Chapter a warm

and inviting place to meet each month. Thank you to both of our staff members as well for being so helpful and understanding. We look forward to having more great book club meetings with you next year.

– Mocha Girls Read Waldorf

