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Suggested Reads

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[Yaa Gyasi](#)

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[Lan Samantha Chang](#)

The River Why

[David Duncan](#)

The Snow Queen

[Michael Cunningham](#)

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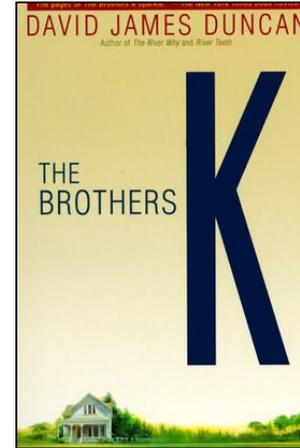
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JANUARY 2023 ADULT SERVICES

Book Club Kit

The Brothers K by David James Duncan



From the Publisher

This touching, uplifting novel spans decades of loyalty, anger, regret, and love in the lives of the Chance family. A father whose dreams of glory on a baseball field are shattered by a mill accident. A mother who clings obsessively to religion as a ward against the darkest hour of her past. Four brothers who come of age during the seismic upheavals of the sixties and who each choose their own way to deal with what the world has become. By turns uproariously funny and deeply moving, and beautifully written throughout, *The Brothers K* is one of the finest chronicles of our lives in many years.



Discussion Topics

1. Discuss Laura Chance in detail. How did her sexual abuse as a child affect her as a wife? As a mother? As a congregation member?
 2. Do you see Hugh as the hero of this novel? Why or why not? Who is the hero if it is not Hugh?
 3. What is Kincaid's role in the family? Is he the only quiet one in the family? Does he take a back seat in the story as a plot device or because it is his nature to sit back and observe rather than be the instigator of action?
 4. Discuss the relationship between Everett and Peter, especially how they communicate. Both men seek a dream that begins with their deep affection for baseball, but go in different directions. How are they similar and how are they different?
 5. Describe in detail what happens to Irwin in Vietnam and why that causes him to depart from reality and turn against his superiors.
 6. What is the role of women in this novel? Discuss Laura, Winifred, Beatrice, Linda, Tasha and Grandawma. Are they strong women? Are their characters detailed and well outlined, or are they used in a stereotypical manner?
 7. Papa Toe is devoted to baseball and Mama Chance is devoted to her church. Discuss the similarities between baseball and religion and consider the impact of Hugh and Laura's level of devotion on their lives.
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Author Biography

David James Duncan is an American novelist and essayist, best known for his bestselling novels *The River Why*, which was the inaugural Novel Idea selection in 2004, and *The Brothers K*. Both novels received the Pacific Northwest Booksellers award. *The Brothers K* was a New York Times Notable Book in 1992 and won a Best Books Award from the American Library Association. He has released several collections of essays including *River Teeth*, *My Story as told by Water*, and *God Laughs & Plays*. Duncan is widely renowned as an activist and expert fly fisher. He currently resides in western Montana. His highly anticipated third novel, *Sun House*, will be released in 2023.
