

2025 *LAM Summer Reading Challenge Guidebook*

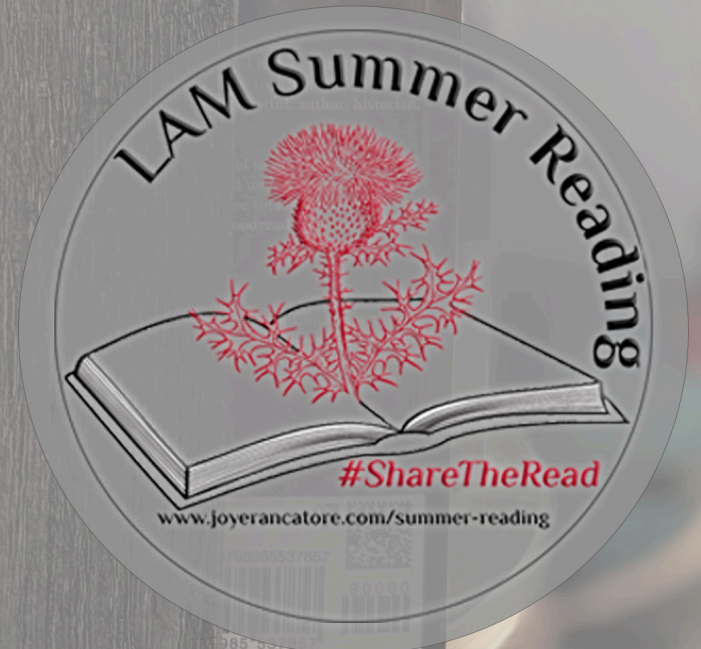




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WELCOME!

Read Books. Interact with Readers & Authors. Win Prizes.

Thank you for joining me for the 2025 LAM Summer Reading Challenge and for downloading your Reading Challenge Guidebook! My name is Joy E. Rancatore. I'm an award-winning, multi-genre Indie Author. Above that, I'm a book lover.

What I strive to do with the LAM Summer Reading Challenge—as well as my weekly LAM Book Club posts and monthly LAM Book Club meetings—is give adults a place for book recommendations, encouragement from other readers and inspiration from authors and book lovers.

This Challenge has something for everyone—voracious readers, timid readers and everyone between. At the end of the summer, I hope you're revved up for reading and pass that excitement to everyone around you.

Reading isn't just an escape. Reading is a deep dive into who we are as human beings and who we can be. Reading is about getting to know ourselves on a deeper level and nurturing the characteristics that can benefit the people around us. Reading is also a way to connect—with other readers, with authors who have stories behind their stories and with every person you meet because you share an experience from a book.

Yes, a Reading Challenge is all about the fun, the competition, the camaraderie and the stories. But, the LAM Summer Reading Challenge is about something more ... something deeper.

LAM Summer Reading is about connecting people through stories and guiding them to embrace the beauty of the written word and carry that inspiration into every day. Are you ready? Let's ... **Share The Read!**

www.joyeranctore.com/summer-reading



How Does the Challenge Work?

Where do we start?

Head to www.joyerancatore.com/summer-reading. This is our Summer Reading Hub! You will find links for the Facebook group, Zoom events, the authors and much more!

What's so great about the chats?

Join us for six virtual Featured Author Chats and Authors of the Round Table events. Login using direct links on our main Summer Reading Hub or Facebook group.

These 40-minute Zoom events allow you to hear about the books from the authors who wrote them.

Show up live to ask questions and get entered to win a Share the Read Swag Pack with goodies from all the authors (three chances to win).

Earn points by attending (20) or commenting on the replay on YouTube or in the Facebook group (10).

How else can you earn points?

Follow along for summer reading fun on [Facebook](#)! Comment (10 points per post) on posts with questions for the author, a favorite line from the book you're reading, a book selfie or anything else that comes to mind ... and watch the points rack up!

What are the prizes?

We will have two grand prize winners. Whoever has the highest points at the end of the summer wins a \$30 bookshop.org gift card. The second grand prize—a \$30 bookshop.org gift card—goes to the reader who checks off the most book categories during the Summer Reading Challenge.

But wait, there's more!

The highest points leader on weeks with a Featured Author will win an autographed copy of that author's book—that's three more chances to win!

In the event of a tie for any of the prizes, a name will be drawn. For more details and legalese, if you're into that sort of thing, head to <https://joyerancatore.com/summer-reading-challenge/>.



What's New in 2025?

Reader Chats

We have Featured Author Chats. We have Authors of the Round Table Chats. We have LAM Book Club.

How about a good old Reader Chat?

Let's share reading wins and woes, chat about all things literary and maybe play a bookish game or two. Readers will vote on the day and time for both Reader Chats!

Share the Wins

Once a reader wins a Featured Author book, they will be ineligible to win another one; however, points continue to add up. All participants are in the running for the Grand Prizes for points and for books read.

The same goes for our three Share the Read Swag Packs. Remember: every live participation in an event equals 20 points!

More Author Time

The number of authors in each group event will be smaller this year, and that's by design. A more intimate gathering will allow authors more time to share about their books and readers more time to ask questions.

Early Full Categories Release

Every year, we have some voracious readers who blow past the eight reading categories. Instead of delaying the release of bonus categories, I'll be releasing all of them earlier this year.

I may have mentioned doing so at the end of the Intro Week, but they are already here in this Guidebook.

The one caveat to using the bonus categories is: they will not count toward total number of books read until all eight of the primary reading categories are completed.

Let's Share The Read!

June 2025

June 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Kickoff 7:00 PM (CDT)	2	3	4	5 LAM Book Club 8:00 PM (CDT)	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Author Chat Joy E. Rancatore 7:00 PM (CDT)	27	28
29	30	Reader's Chat: Week of June 8–14	Vote Your Date Choice in the Facebook Group			

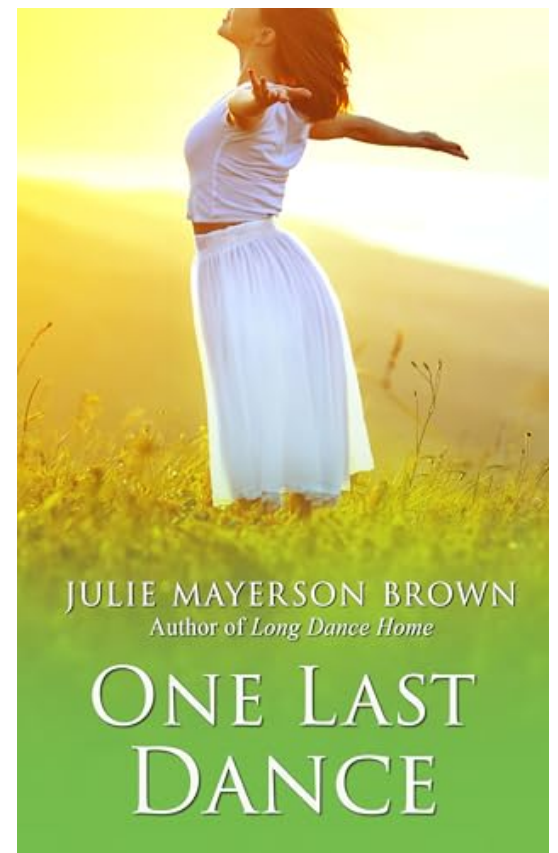
July

2025

LAM Summer Reading Challenge



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 LAM Book Club 8:00 PM (CDT)	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Mid-Challenge Boost 7:00 PM (CDT)	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Author Chat Julie Mayerson Brown 7:00 PM (CDT)	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Author Chat Carole Lehr Johnson 7:00 PM (CDT)	25	26
27 Wine-down & Winners Toast 7:00 PM (CDT)	28	29	30	31	Reader's Chat: Week of July 6–12	Vote Your Date Choice in the Facebook Group



Julie Mayerson Brown

Stories about resilient women and how they get where they're meant to be.

Julie Brown is a California girl, originally from the San Fernando Valley. Picking up odd jobs at an early age, she started babysitting at twelve, worked many summers as a camp counselor in the hills of Malibu, and did a short stint in a chocolate shop (where she was scolded for eating too much chocolate - imagine that).

She lives in Palos Verdes (a suburb of Los Angeles) where she and her husband raised two sons, rescued many dogs, hosted countless backyard BBQs, and chased away hundreds of wild peacocks.

When not writing, Julie is scrambling around the house—picking up after her dogs, gardening with little success, and giving her now adult sons as much advice as they'll tolerate. She's also an excellent cook (at least she thinks so), a consumer of too much coffee, and a tireless bargain shopper. Her favorite store is TJMaxx.

<https://www.juliemayersonbrown.com/>



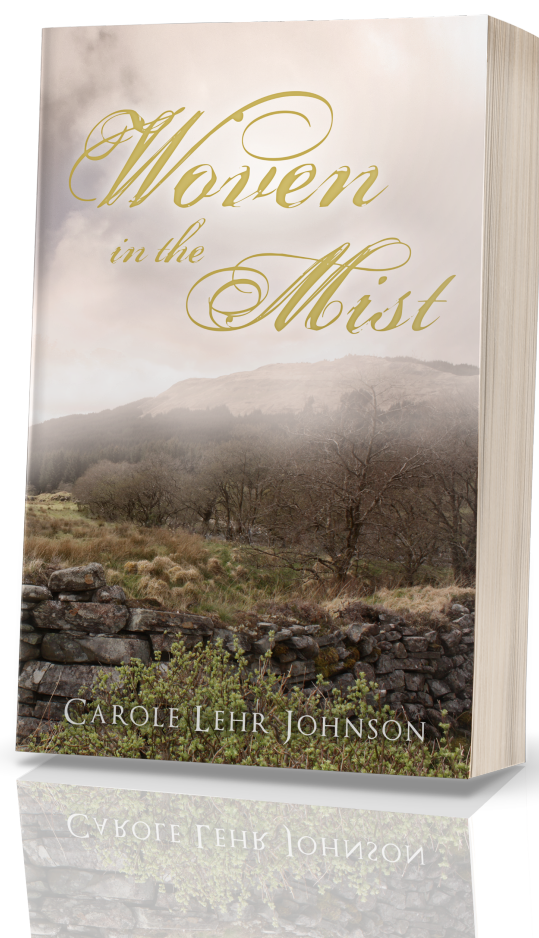
Joy E. Rancatore

Writing the Soul with Heart

Legacy and identity, founded on hope-filled faith, infuse the tales of the soul written from the heart of Joy E. Rancatore. An award-winning, multi-genre Indie Author, Joy believes extraordinary things await her characters and their tales. She has published six fiction and nonfiction books, and her seventh book—*Animal Vignettes: True Stories of Friendship*—releases in November 2025.

Despite a fondness for her roles as author, editor, podcaster and speaker, Joy remains a hobbit at heart with Bilbo's zeal for mountains. She enjoys a life of quiet stillness with her husband, two children, dog and cat and more books than she's willing to count. When daily homeschool lessons are complete, she eagerly prepares for teatime before writing your next favorite story.

<https://joyerancatore.com/>



Carole Lehr Johnson

Tea Time for the Heart: U.K.-based inspirational fiction for lovers of tea and scones, castles and cottages, and all things British

Author Carole Lehr Johnson is a veteran travel consultant of more than 30 years and served as head of genealogy at her local library. She is a member of the American Christian Fiction Writers and is active in her local chapter.

She is the author of inspirational novels and novellas set in the U.K. Her novel, *A Place in Time*, was a Notable Book Award finalist at the Southern Christian Writers Conference (SCWC), and her short story, *The Light in the Mist*, won first place in the short story category of the SCWC's Writing Awards. Carole lives in Louisiana with her husband and two goofy cats, Lizzy (named after Elizabeth Bennett) and Sam.

<https://carolelehrjohnson.com/>

2025 LAM Summer Reading Challenge Reading Categories

The first eight categories must be completed before additional categories will count toward the Reading Grand Prize. Use the lines to record Book Title & Author.

1. Book by a Featured Author: _____
2. Book by an Author of the Round Table: _____
3. Book Club Recommendation: _____
4. Book with a Kaleidoscope or Rainbow Cover: _____
5. Book that Features a Creative Pursuit: _____
6. Book where the Title is in Two or More Colors: _____
7. Book Cover that is Your Favorite Color: _____
8. Book by an Author in Your State: _____
9. Red Book Cover: _____
10. Orange Book Cover: _____
11. Yellow Book Cover: _____
12. Green Book Cover: _____
13. Blue Book Cover: _____
14. Indigo Book Cover: _____
15. Violet Book Cover: _____
16. Book About Art: _____
17. Book About an Artist: _____
18. Book Set in Another Country: _____
19. Book by an Author in Another Country: _____
20. Librarian Recommendation: _____

21. Buddy Read Choice: _____
22. Book About Travel: _____
23. Book Set in a Library or Bookstore: _____
24. Book Whose Main Character's Name is the Same as Yours: _____
25. Book Title that Begins with a J: _____
26. Book Whose Author's Last Name Starts with a R: _____
27. Book in a Genre You Don't Usually Read: _____
28. Unread Book from Your Shelf: _____
29. Book with Famous Art on the Cover: _____
30. A Book to Teach You a New Skill or Hobby: _____
31. Book with an Animal on the Cover: _____
32. Book where an Animal Plays a Big Role: _____
33. A Friend's Favorite Book that You've Never Read: _____
34. ABC Challenge—Book Title Starts with A: _____
35. ABC Challenge—Book Title Starts with B: _____
36. ABC Challenge—Book Title Starts with C: _____
37. Book Club Recommendation #2: _____
38. Book with a Waterfall on the Cover: _____
39. Book with a Book on the Cover: _____
40. 2025 Book Release: _____
41. Book by an Indie Author: _____
42. Unpublished Book: _____
43. Book with a Tree on the Cover: _____

44. Book with a Mushroom on the Cover: _____
45. Book About Food: _____
46. Book with a Brunette Main Character: _____
47. Book Where Someone Dies in Chapter One: _____
48. Book by a Living Author: _____
49. Book by a Deceased Author: _____
50. Book Published in 2020: _____
51. Book About an Epidemic: _____
52. Book About an Award or Prize: _____
53. Book Set in Another World: _____
54. Book Without Technology: _____
55. Book About Time: _____
56. Book with a Sacrifice: _____
57. Book with a Watercolor Cover: _____
58. An Autographed Book: _____
59. Book from a Little Free Library: _____
60. Book with a Graduation: _____
61. Book About an Empty Nest (Bird or Human): _____
62. Book About Planets: _____
63. Book Set on a Farm or Ranch: _____
64. An Unusual Book: _____
65. A Beautiful Book: _____
66. A Broken Book: _____



Keep the Reading Joy Going: #ShareTheRead

Joy has been adding ways to Share the Read throughout the year! Watch for:

- ✱ LAM Book Club: Every First Thursday
- ✱ A Fall Book Tour
- ✱ More Authors of the Round Table events
- ✱ 12 Days of Reading between Christmas and the New Year
- ✱ 12 Months of Reading to give you a monthly reading challenge

The best way to keep up with events is to subscribe to Joy's weekly newsletter, which you can do at the link below if you haven't already.

Subscribe for weekly updates!