

Martin County Library System Book Discussion Kit:

Pineapple Street by Jenny Jackson

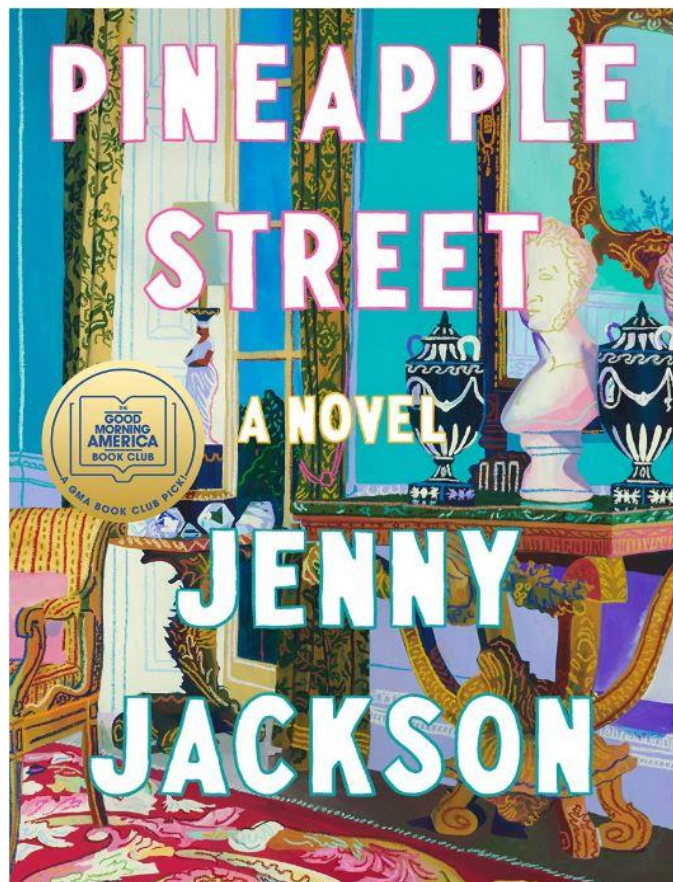
Included in the Kit:

- [Book summary](#)
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- [Discussion questions](#)
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Book Summary:

A deliciously funny, sharply observed debut of family, love, and class.

Pineapple Street tells the story of three women in one wealthy Brooklyn clan. Darley, the eldest daughter in the well-connected, carefully-guarded, old money Stockton family, followed her heart, trading her job and her inheritance for motherhood, sacrificing more of herself than she ever intended; Sasha, a middle-class New England girl, has married into the Brooklyn Heights family, and finds herself cast as the arriviste outsider, wondering how she might ever understand their WASP-y rites and rituals; and Georgiana, the baby of the family, has fallen in love with someone she can't (and really shouldn't) have, and must



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confront the kind of person she wants to be. Rife with the indulgent pleasures of life among New York's one percenters, *Pineapple Street* is a smart, escapist novel that sparkles with wit. Full of recognizable, loveable if fallible characters (and a few appalling ones!), it's about the peculiar unknowability of someone else's family, the miles between the haves and have-nots and everything in between, and the insanity of first love—all wrapped in a story that is a sheer delight of a read.

Source: Book website (<https://www.pineapplestreetbook.com/>)

Meet the Author:

Jenny Jackson is a Vice President and Executive Editor at Alfred A. Knopf. A graduate of Williams College and the Columbia Publishing Course, Jenny lives in Brooklyn Heights with her family. *Pineapple Street* is her first novel.

Source: Book website
(<https://www.pineapplestreetbook.com/>)





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Discussion Questions:

1. The Stockton family is both a typical and extremely unusual American family. Are there ways in which you relate to them, and others in which you find them entirely unrelatable?
2. The novel is set in the small neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights, offering historical, architectural and cultural details about the community. How does the setting shape the characters in this novel?
3. How would you characterize each sibling's relationship with the generational wealth they were born into? Georgiana is the baby of the family, 10 years younger than her siblings. Does Georgiana's age alter her attitudes about wealth?
4. Brady claims to be in love with Georgiana. Do you believe him? Do you think his treatment of Georgiana was despicable, or were his intentions good?
5. Georgiana has two very different love interests, Brady and Curtis. Compare and contrast the two men. What does she get from each of them?
6. Darley left the workforce to raise her two children but feels deeply conflicted about her identity as a stay-at-home mom. Why does Darley's background make this especially fraught for her? How does she have it easier than other parents?
7. Darley keeps Malcolm's firing a secret from the Stocktons. Is this an act of love, or a betrayal of Malcolm --- or both? Is Darley a good ally?
8. In the opening chapter, Sasha is mistaken for a server at the housewarming party, which makes her feel further out of place among her in-laws and their guests. At what other points in the novel is it made clear that Sasha is an outsider? Do you think Sasha will eventually gain an intuitive understanding of how the Stocktons dress and act? Could you change your instincts in a circumstance like that?



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9. Sasha finally asks Cord to put her first, to put her needs before those of his family. Is she holding him accountable enough? Do you think Cord has been fair to Sasha?
10. What does Mullin represent for Sasha? What did she learn from that relationship? How did Mullin set her up to look for the wrong things in a marriage?
11. What does the house on Pineapple Street represent for the characters in this book? Does it have a different meaning to each of them?
12. Darley says she is an orange, Cord is a pineapple, and Georgiana is a cranberry. Which fruit would you characterize Sasha as? Which fruit would you be?

Source: Reading Group Guides

(<https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/pineapple-street/guide>)

Recipes:

Crushed Pineapple Cake

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 20 oz can crushed pineapple
- ¾ cup chopped pecans
- 8 oz package cream cheese
- 8 Tablespoons butter
- 1 ¾ cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 Tablespoons pecans



First, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and spray a 9×13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Next, using a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, and sugar. Then, add in the eggs, vanilla, and crushed pineapple and stir together with a rubber scraper. Fold in the chopped pecans. Pour the mixture evenly into a baking dish. Bake for 30-40 minutes. Set the cake on a wire rack to cool completely for about 45 minutes. Next, place the cream cheese and butter in a medium bowl and beat on medium-high speed with a handheld mixer, for 1-2 minutes.

Once it is fluffy, add the powdered sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth. Finally, ice the cake with a rubber scraper. Garnish with optional toppings before slicing and serving.

Source: Food, Folks, and Fun
(<https://foodfolksandfun.net/crushed-pineapple-cake/>)

Tropical Pineapple Punch

- 1 can frozen limeade concentrate do not add the water
- 6 cups pineapple juice
- 2 liters Ginger Ale OR Lemon Lime Soda
- Fruit- we like pineapple pieces orange slices, and lime slices

Chill the fruit juice and soda until cold, about 4 hours. We like to put ours into the refrigerator after we buy it to make sure it's nice and cold when we're ready to make the punch.

In a large pitcher or punch bowl, stir together the limeade and pineapple juice until combined. Add fresh fruit pieces, like pineapple oranges or limes. Top off with cold soda just before serving.



Source: One Sweet Appetite
(<https://onesweetappetite.com/pineapple-punch/>)

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