

TAB Club Book Report – August 12, 2026

Six members came together this morning to discuss [The Briar Club](#) by Kate Quinn. Opinions on the novel varied widely. Everyone agreed it was an engaging story, and some members found both the story and its characters particularly appealing. Critics felt that the novel was somewhat formulaic, historically inaccurate and overly jingoistic.

The discussion was lively and often went well beyond the book itself. We explored a wide range of topics, wandering as far afield as the use and effects of artificial intelligence in our everyday lives and in academia. The variety of viewpoints made for an interesting and energetic conversation.

Books we mentioned along the way:

[The Free World](#) by David Bezmozgis. A novel recommended for its more accurate depiction of the Soviet era.

Shadow and Light: An Autobiography with Reminiscences of the Last and Present Century, a 1902 memoir by Mifflin Wistar Gibbs. Have a look at the [monument to Gibbs](#) in Irving Park.

[The Rose Code](#) by Kate Quinn. A novel about women of Bletchly Park.

[The Swerve: How the World Became Modern](#) by Stephen Greenblatt, author of next month's selection and highly recommended.

[Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead](#) by Olga Tokarchuk. We discussed this book in 2022 and remembered it fondly.

Up next for the TAB Club:

[Dark Renaissance: The Dangerous Times and Fatal Genius of Shakespeare's Greatest Rival](#) by Stephen Greenblatt

See you next time....