



I'd like to introduce you to Donna Everhart (Farmgirl Sister #7913). Donna is the *USA Today* bestselling author of Southern fiction with authenticity and grit, including the Southeastern Library Association Award-winning *The Road to Bittersweet* and her most recent novel, *The Moonshiner's Daughter*. Her fifth novel, *The Saints of Swallow Hill*, will be released in February 2022. Along with her husband and a tiny, heart-stealing Yorkshire terrier named Mister, she lives just an hour from where she was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. Please visit her online at [DonnaEverhart.com](http://DonnaEverhart.com).

*Meg*

# Farmgirl BOOK CLUB

Dear Farmgirl Sisters,  
Welcome to the Farmgirl Book Club! If this is your first visit, here's how it works ...

In each issue of *MaryJanesFarm*, we suggest several new books, usually coinciding with a different theme and always the kinds of reads that are fun to share and discuss. You pick whichever one tickles your fancy—whether that's all of them, or just one, or something that's not on the list at all! Then we all get together at [Facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub) to talk about what we're reading.

Happy reading!

*Donna Everhart*  
Farmgirl Sister #7913

## OCT/NOV: *Between Two Worlds*

We are all complex beings with many facets to our feelings, thoughts, and personalities, and it's not unusual to present different sides of ourselves depending on our situation or surroundings. But sometimes, the divide between one aspect of our life and another can be so stark that it feels like we're straddling two different worlds.

Sometimes, it's a matter of a job where we must present ourselves in a way that feels unnatural or opposed to the person we are at home, such as an introvert whose career requires a lot of socializing and public speaking. Maybe we feel like we need to be one person to our family and another person to our friends. Or we belong to a social group around which we have to conceal our religious or political values. We may live in a community that's very different from where we grew up, so we find ourselves changing the way we act or speak in order to fit in. Perhaps we're experiencing a period of transition, and as we move from one life phase to another, we temporarily inhabit both.

I think we all experience this feeling of being caught between separate worlds during various times and situations in our lives. It's something I found myself thinking about quite a bit as I was browsing through the books we'll be discussing for the Farmgirl Book Club this month, and I'm looking forward to hearing your impressions when you stop by [Facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub) to share!



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**The Fragile Edge**  
by Suzanne Chazin

In this timely, gripping mystery, a police detective in upstate New York must investigate a politically-motivated shooting while juggling significant personal and career issues of his own. There are many things that make this a must-read novel, but top of the list is the depth and realistic complexity the author gives to each character. The protagonist, Jimmy Vega, is a man who straddles so many different worlds that he's an outsider in all of them. He grew up bilingual in the Bronx as the son of a Puerto Rican single mother, but his daughter doesn't speak Spanish, has no connection to her Hispanic heritage, and has been raised in the wealthy, white suburban county where he's a police officer on a predominantly Irish and Italian force. He's a moral, well-intentioned man working in a profession where one mistake can mean life or death. As a result, he's on the wrong side of a lawsuit over a fatal shooting of an unarmed man. That's why he's at the courthouse the day a sniper takes fire at a controversial judge in the parking lot. The sole witness is an undocumented Guatemalan girl who's since disappeared and Jimmy, who's certain the attack was orchestrated by a white supremacy group, must race to find her before the killer does ...



**Hidden**  
by Fern Michaels

In this easy-to-read page-turner, Luna Bodman and her brother Cullen are preparing for the grand opening of their new antique restoration shop/café in an up-and-coming arts center. Although they have a strong bond and always support one another, the siblings are complete opposites in many ways. Cullen is serious, business-minded, and practical, while Luna is a free spirit with a powerful intuition and a kind of second sight. When they were kids, her clairvoyant tendencies earned Luna a lot of ridicule, but by studying psychology, psychometry, and kinesics (the interpretation of body language) in college, she learned how to wrap her gifts in a scientific language that gives her some credibility. Now she does freelance work with the local police department on missing-persons cases. She still can come across as overly "woo-woo" for some tastes, but Cullen never doubts her gifts. When a recently acquired antique sets off Luna's sixth sense, the two find themselves investigating a mystery more dangerous and with further-reaching consequences than they ever could have expected.



Join us on the Farmgirl Book Club Facebook Group to learn more, meet the authors, enter giveaways, and talk about books:  
[Facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FarmgirlBookClub).

**Murder at Mallowan Hall**  
by Colleen Cambridge

Fans of classic mysteries will love this novel, which imagines a former army nurse named Phyllida Bright is the Head of Household for none other than the Queen of Mystery, Agatha Christie. An intelligent, highly capable woman with a great deal of common sense and a penchant for murder mysteries, Phyllida doesn't so much straddle two worlds as run up and down the stairs between them as she sees to the needs of her upper-class friend and employer Agatha while managing the downstairs staff of her large household. When a reporter is found dead in the manor's library during a house party, Phyllida's ability to navigate between the upstairs and downstairs worlds of Mallowan Hall becomes even more crucial—especially when she decides to take a page from the book of her favorite detective, Hercule Poirot, to investigate the murder herself!



**When the Missouri Ran Red**  
by Jim R. Woolard

A coming-of-age story in the tradition of *The Red Badge of Courage*, this compelling, visceral novel is set during the final months of the Civil War. It was a time when the entire country was caught between divided worlds, and the state of Missouri was even more violently fractured, as Rebel sympathizers, Union loyalists, guerilla fighters, anti-slavery Jayhawkers, and lawless thugs using the war as an excuse to raid and kill for personal gain all clashed. When 17-year-old Owen Wainwright is captured in an assault and conscripted into the Confederate Army, he soon learns his survival depends on finding a way to walk the fine line between these conflicting worlds. He personally supports the Union cause, but his loyalties are tested first by his Confederate captors and again when he survives a Yankee ambush and is offered a deal to spy for the Union army. On both sides, he witnesses the horrors of war firsthand as he navigates the blurred lines between childhood and maturity, love and abandonment, courage and cowardice, honor and corruption, right and wrong.



**Her New Story**  
by Laura Bradford

Investigative journalists often find themselves caught between worlds—the one they live in and that of the story they're chasing. That's exactly the case for Tess Baker, a journalist whose magazine sends her to Pennsylvania's Amish Country for an article about "living in the past in the modern age." It's supposed to be a light human-interest piece, but Tess is determined to find a scandalous scoop so she can make the article more than just fluff. When she gets to the community, however, her critical outsider's detachment is met only with kindness and welcoming arms. As she's charmed by the simple lifestyle and unwavering faith of the Amish people she meets, it becomes harder to keep the worlds of her career and her heart separate. When she does uncover a story worthy of the front page, will her newfound admiration for the Amish outweigh her professional ambition? It's a type of dilemma many of us face in everyday life. Do we put ourselves first above all else? Or do we value and protect the whole?

