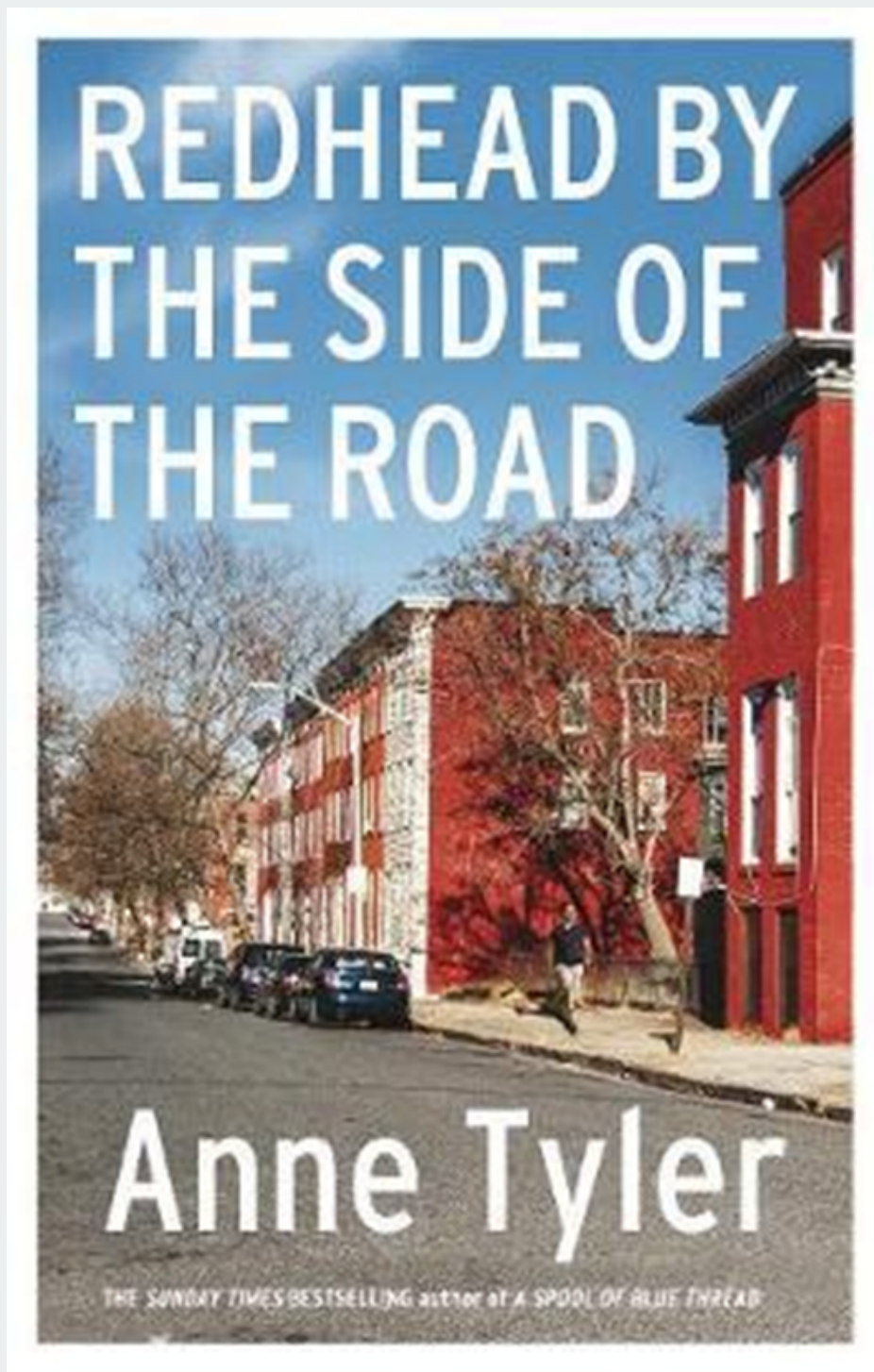




Meath County Council Library Service



Meath County Council Library Service Book Club Kit





Notes To Readers



This kit was created for book clubs to use in their discussions of *Redhead by the Side of the Road* and contains spoilers

Content Warnings

Redhead by the Side of the Road is an intimate look into the heart and mind of a man who sometimes finds those around him just out of reach – and a love story about the differences that make us all unique

<https://theresasmithwrites.com/2020/04/27/book-review-redhead-by-the-side-of-the-road-by-anne-tyler/#:~:text=Redhead%20by%20the%20Side%20of%20the%20Road%20is%20an%20intimate,that%20make%20us%20all%20unique.>

Resources

This kit is available to download on our website



Reading Group Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the title. What does this “delusion” of a redhead represent in Micah’s life?
2. Examine the opening scene of the novel. What do we learn about Micah from this description of his daily routine? How did you interpret this behavior?
3. Micah’s family is described as a “circus.” What is Micah’s role within his family? How does he differ from his siblings?
4. What do we learn about Micah based on his interactions with his neighbors and his customers? How would you describe his communication style?
5. A running commentary from “Traffic God” is peppered throughout Redhead by the Side of the Road. Discuss the impact of this. What does Traffic God’s commentary reveal about Micah?
6. What are Micah’s initial impressions of Brink? Why do you think he allows Brink to stay with him? How does his impression of Brink change over time, if at all?
7. On page 38, Micah reflects: The thing about old girlfriends is that each one subtracts something from you. Discuss Micah’s romantic history. Is there any common ground among these relationships? What do you think his overall view is toward love and romance?
8. Micah’s business is in the tech field. Do you think he enjoys his work. How would you describe his approach to his career?

9. Consider how Micah describes his relationship with Cass. What does he find most attractive about her? Given his initial ambivalence toward their break-up, why do you think he decides to seek her out at the end of the novel?

10. Throughout the novel, we see Micah as a very routine-oriented person. What is the most surprising aspect of his personality? How does the arrival of Brink destabilize his day-to-day?

11. How are gender roles treated within *Redhead by the Side of the Road*? Would you say that Micah is a traditionalist? Consider this line on page 97: Not even a teenager yet, not even fully aware of sex, he had already longed to have a girl of his very own. How did you interpret this statement?

12. Discuss Micah's encounter with Rosalie. How does her character impact the novel?

13. Consider Micah's emotional evolution over the course of the novel. How do the circumstances of the narrative contribute to a reckoning of his life? Would you say that he is happy?

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/623546/redhead-by-the-side-of-the-road-by-anne-tyler/9780593080948/readers-guide/>

Who Else Writes Like...?

A readers' guide to fiction authors



Anne Tyler ★ 🔊 📱 📖

HOME COUNTRY USA

BORN IN 1941

GENRES General

WRITES LIKE

Steven Amsterdam Manette Ansay Joan Barfoot Candida Crewe

Jill Dawson Suzannah Dunn Catherine Dunne Marina Endicott

Karen Joy Fowler Gail Godwin Jennifer Haigh Bernardine Kennedy

Haven Kimmel William Kowalski Claire Messud Lorrie Moore

Louise O'Neill Delia Owens Ann Packer Anna Quindlen Richard Russo

Muriel Spark


DID YOU KNOW?

You can use the library's Reading Recommendation Website "Who Else Writes Like?" to find new books to read!

Who Else Writes Like...? will help you to find something to read by uncovering new authors based on ones you already like.

And there are lots of other ways to search Who Else...?, such as genre, character and series. There are also featured links to book award winners, useful websites and editor's choice of top titles.

Some titles included in the site may be suitable for young adult readers, who are in the process of 'crossing-over' to adult novels.

How to Log In

To use this great resource just visit the Who Else Writes Like Website and Log in with your Library Card. Then select Meath County Libraries from the drop down menu of accounts and click on continue. And you're on your way to finding your next read.

And remember, you can also search our [online catalogue](#) and reserve the titles recommended.

www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/what-to-read-next

About Anne Tyler



ANNE TYLER was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1941 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is the author of more than twenty novels. Her twentieth novel, *A Spool of Blue Thread*, was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2015. Her eleventh novel, *Breathing Lessons*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1989. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Interview with Anne Tyler

How does it feel to be longlisted for the second time?

It feels wonderful, of course, but also it's kind of a shock. That book covers such a narrow sliver of a life, I didn't expect it to be given much attention.

What's the inspiration behind *Redhead by the Side of The Road*?

It's the only novel I've written whose beginning seemed to be dictated to me. The first sentence, and then the second, came out of the blue. After that I was on my own, but at least I'd been given a nudge to start me on my way.

Your writing demonstrates such affection for your characters. How do you let go of them at the end of the process?

It does make me sad, but once a book is in print I feel I can say goodbye – as if my characters were children I just needed to see settled in their careers.

In this novel we witness your protagonist's careful routine disrupted by a few unexpected events. Why do you feel that chance encounters hold so much fictional potential?

I like the idea of confronting a cautious person with the chaos of normal life and then watching what he or she does about it.

What is your favourite Booker-winning novel?

The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro; no contest. I loved the quiet thud of realisation that fell over the main character at the end of his story. To me it felt as cataclysmic as a bomb.

<https://thebookerprizes.com/anne-tyler-interview/redhead-by-the-side-of-the-road>







Borrow Box.

eBooks

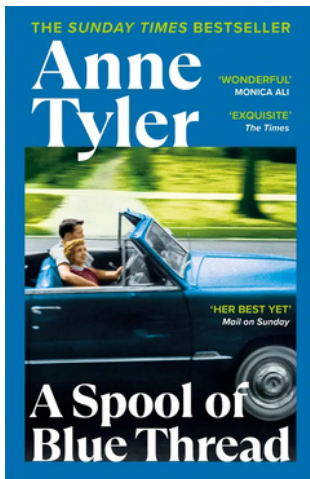
 <p>French Braid Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 17/02/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Redhead by the Side of the Road Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 20/02/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Clock Dance Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 19/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Half-truths and Semi-miracles Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 28/05/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Saint Maybe Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 22/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Vinegar Girl Hogarth Shakespeare Anne Tyler</p> <p>+ My List Borrow</p>	 <p>A Spool of Blue Thread Anne Tyler</p> <p>+ My List Borrow</p>
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eAudiobooks

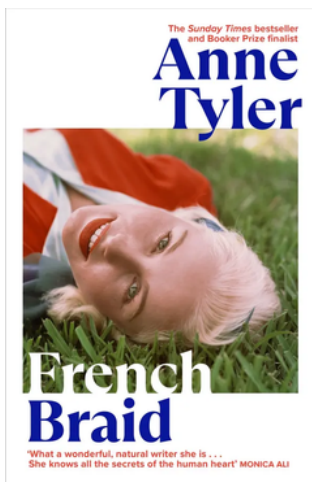
 <p>French Braid Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 06/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Celestial Navigation Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 31/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>If Morning Ever Comes Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 11/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>The Clock Winder Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 04/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Morgan's Passing Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 06/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>The Tin Can Tree Anne Tyler On Loan, Available on 03/03/23</p> <p>+ My List Reserve</p>	 <p>Searching For Caleb Anne Tyler</p> <p>+ My List Borrow</p>
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More from Anne Tyler



The whole family on the porch, half-listening as their mother tells the same tale they have heard so many times before. From that porch we spool back through the generations, witnessing the events, secrets and unguarded moments that have come to define the family. From Red's father and mother, newly arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to Abby and Red's grandchildren carrying the family legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century – four generations of Whitshanks, their lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn Baltimore house that has always been their home...



A brilliantly perceptive, painfully true and funny journey deep into one family's foibles, from the 1950s right up to the changed world of today. When the kids are grown and Mercy Garrett gradually moves herself out of the family home, everyone is determined not to notice. Over at her studio, she wants space and silence. She won't allow any family clutter. Not even their cat, Desmond. Yet it is a clutter of untidy moments that forms the Garretts' family life over the decades, whether that's a painstaking Easter lunch or giving a child a ride, a fateful train journey or an unexpected homecoming. And it all begins in 1959, with a family holiday to a cabin by a lake. It's the only one the Garretts will ever take, but its effects will ripple through the generations.



Kate Battista is feeling stuck. How did she end up running house and home for her eccentric scientist father and uppity, pretty younger sister Bunny? Plus, she's always in trouble at work – her pre-school charges adore her, but the adults don't always appreciate her unusual opinions and forthright manner. Dr Battista has other problems. After years out in the academic wilderness, he is on the verge of a breakthrough. His research could help millions. There's only one problem: his brilliant young lab assistant, Pyotr, is about to be deported. And without Pyotr... When Dr Battista cooks up an outrageous plan that will enable Pyotr to stay in the country, he's relying – as usual – on Kate to help him. Kate is furious: this time he's really asking too much. But will she be able to resist the two men's touchingly ludicrous campaign to win her round?