

Barbara Kingsolver

(AUTHOR)

Demon Copperhead

(BOOK TITLE)

DATE

TIME

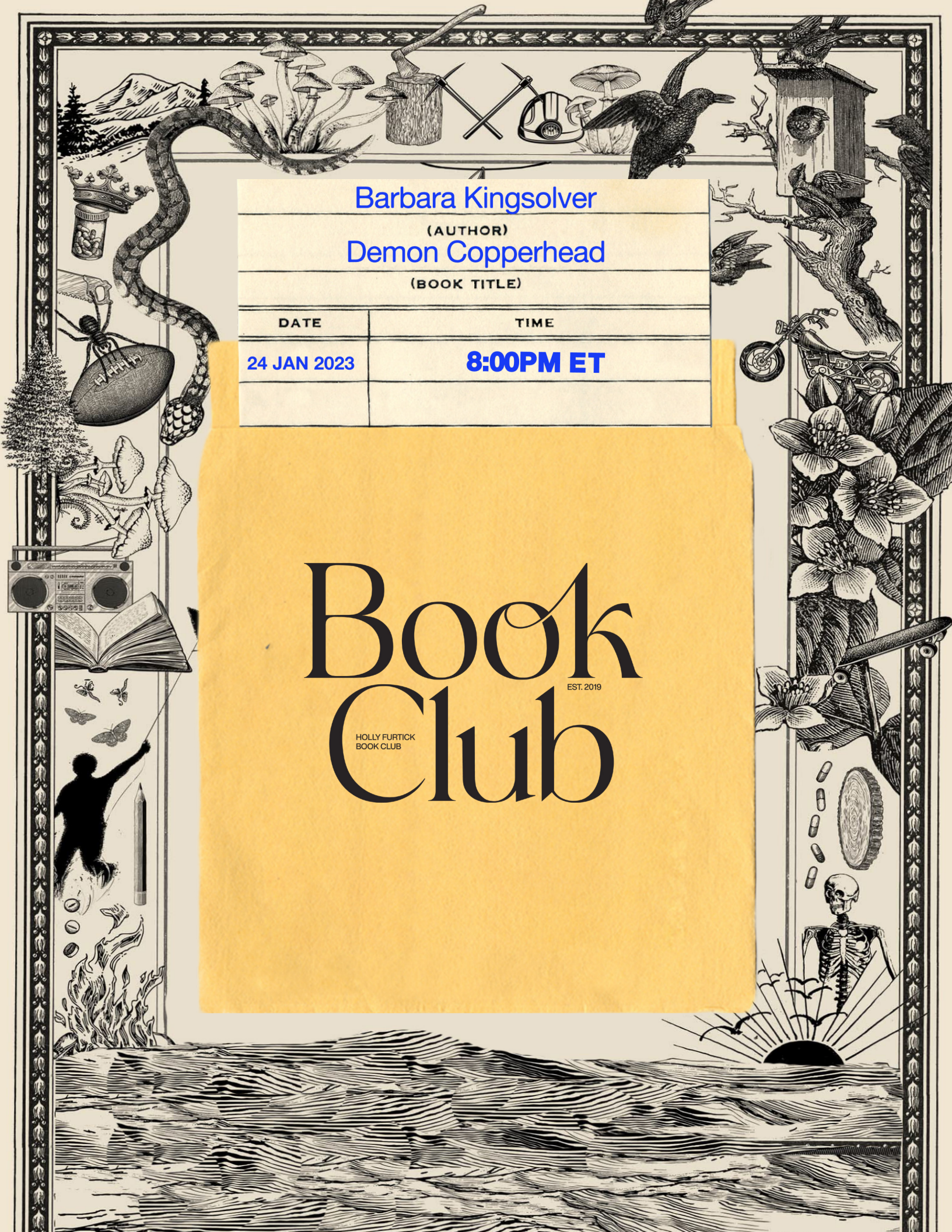
24 JAN 2023

8:00PM ET

Book Club

EST. 2019

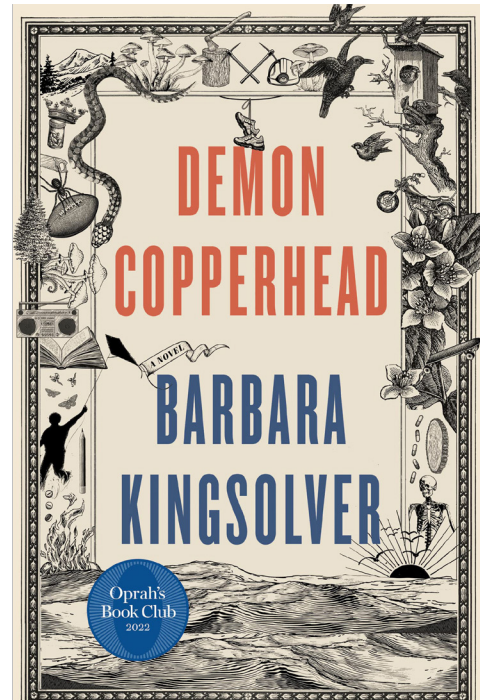
HOLLY FURTICK
BOOK CLUB



Book Club

EST. 2019

HOLLY FURTICK
BOOK CLUB



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Grew up in rural Kentucky
- Lives on a farm in southern Appalachia with her husband and 2 daughters
- Has lived all over the world (England, France, Canary Islands... worked in Europe, Africa, Asia, Mexico & South America)
- Critical acclaim: Writer of over 17 books, most of them hitting the NYT bestseller list, Pulitzer Prize nominee, James Beard award, and the National Humanities medal from President Clinton

ABOUT THE BOOK

- A retelling of *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, this is the story of a boy born to a teenage single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival.

SETTING/LOCATION

- Mountains of Southern Appalachia
- Lee County mostly

CHARACTERS

- Damon Fields (Demon Copperhead)
- Mom (no first name, last name Fields)
- Damon Woodall - Dad
- Betsy Woodall - Damon's grandmother
- Stoner - Murrell Stone - stepdad, married his mom
- Mrs. Peggot - Nance Peggot - next door neighbor, surrogate grandma
- Mr. Peg - Mr. Peggot - next door neighbor

- Maggot - Matty Peggot - Demon's best friend
- Humvee - the Peggot's son, dead from a hunting accident
- Mariah - Maggot's mom, in jail
- Aunt June - the Peggot's daughter and Emmy's adoptive mom
- Emmy - Maggot's cousin, Humvee's daughter, June's adopted daughter
- Baggy - caseworker with bags under her eyes
- Miss Barks - caseworker who wants to be a teacher
- Mr. Crickson - 1st foster parent
- Fast Forward - Sterling Ford - foster kid at Creaky farm
- Waddell - Tommy Waddles - foster kid at Creaky farm
- Swap Out - foster kid at Creaky farm and at Ghost's trash heap
- Mr. and Mrs. McCobb - 2nd foster parents with no money
 - Hailie (informant)
 - Bayley
 - Twins
- Ghost - ran the trash heap and meth lab where Demon worked
- Mr. Golly - ran the shop where Ghost worked out of
- Uncle Dick - grandmother's handicapped brother
- Jane Ellen - high schooler his grandmother took in
- Coach Winfield - grandmother's foster choice, becomes Demon's legal guardian
- Uhaul - Ryan Pyles - pseudo-assistant coach to Coach Winfield
- Angus - Agnes - Coach Winfield's daughter
- Hammer - Hammerhead Kelly - Emmy's boyfriend, cousin by marriage to Maggot
- Rose Dartell - Fast Forward's hanger-on that was from his ex-adopted family
- Mr. Armstrong - guidance counselor, teacher at MS
- Ms. Annie - Mr Armstrong's wife and HS art teacher
- Dori - demon's girlfriend

THINGS I LOVED ABOUT THIS BOOK

- This book made me feel. I have never had a book give me so much anxiety I had to turn it off.
- This book made me empathize. I will never look at a person who struggles with drug addiction the same.
- This book made me cheer for a character like never before. I loved this boy. I wanted to take him into my home and take care of him, and he could've been a very easily hateable character.
- I loved how the book started in one place and moved forward in time with only one narrator.
- I loved how you could know absolutely nothing about David Copperfield and still love this book but then (watch or read) David Copperfield and have an even greater appreciation for the story.

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Which character did you hate the most?
 - Demons mom
 - Peggots
 - McCobbs
 - Fast Forward
 - Uhaul
 - Dori

MEMORABLE SCENES

- Pg 1- Demon's Birthday (Nov 19) Born in the caul in a trailer
- Pg 14- Met Stoner
- Pg 18- First trip to Knoxville
- Pg 28- Helped Emmy thru the shark tunnel
- Pg 30- Mom married Stoner
- Pg 50- Mom OD'd
- Pg 59- Demon went to Crickson's farm
- Pg 105- Mom died on his birthday
- Pg 120- 2nd trip to Knoxville (gets to know Emmy better)
- Pg 139- Demon goes to McCobbs
- Pg 150- Starts working for Ghost
- Pg 164- Miss Barks (DSS caseworker) quit
- Pg 173- McCobbs move back to Ohio
- Pg 174- Demon leaves and hitchhikes to Murder Valley
- Pg 182- Money stolen at gas station
- Pg 192- Demon meets his grandmother (Betsy)
- Pg 214- Demon goes to live with Coach (Thinks Angus is a boy at first)
- Pg 232- Mr. Armstrong discovers Demon should be in the G&T program
- Pg 252- Coach decides Demon should play football
- Pg 279- Mr. Armstrong talks about the loss of the Coal Industry and what it did to the workers (gives context to the drug epidemic)
- Pg 320- Demon meets Dori
- Pg 333- Demon hurts his knee (start addiction)
- Pg 356- Mr. Prg dies
- Pg 374- References to Charles Dickens' books
- Pg 401- Moved in with Dori
- Pg 412- Demon starts drawing for the paper
- Pg 433- Gets a contract for his comic strip
- Pg 444- Finds out Dori is pregnant
- Pg 452- Demon goes with June to rescue Emmy
- Pg 464- Uhaul corners Angus and we discover the forgery and stealing

- Pg 469- Dori Dies
- Pg 486- Fast Forward and Hammer Die at Devils Bathtub
- Pg 508- Demon goes to rehab

MEMORABLE QUOTES

- Pg 109- If the grown-up version of me could have one chance at walking backwards into this story, part of me wishes I could sit down on the back pew with that pissed-off kid in his overly tight church clothes and Darkhawk attitude, and tell him: You think you're giant but you are such a small speck in the screwed-up world. This is not about you.
- Pg 112- It hit me pretty hard, how there's no kind of sad in this world that will stop it turning. People will keep on wanting what they want, and you're on your own.
- Pg 189- The moral of his story was how you never know the size of hurt that's in people's hearts, or what they're liable to do about it, given the chance.
- Pg 200- It's safer knowing more about people than they know about you.
- Pg 211- I wanted to go home. Which was nowhere, but it's a feeling you keep having, even after that's no place anymore.
- Pg 334- Pain is water, of a drowning kind. You waterboard awhile, come up for air, go back down. You're afraid you'll die, and then you're afraid you won't.
- Pg 426- Addiction is not for the lazy. The life has no ends of hazards, deadly ambushes lying in wait, and that's just the drugs, not even discussing the people.
- Pg 426- I'd only ever lived one way, by devoting myself completely.
- Pg 520- A good story doesn't just copy life, it pushes back on it.