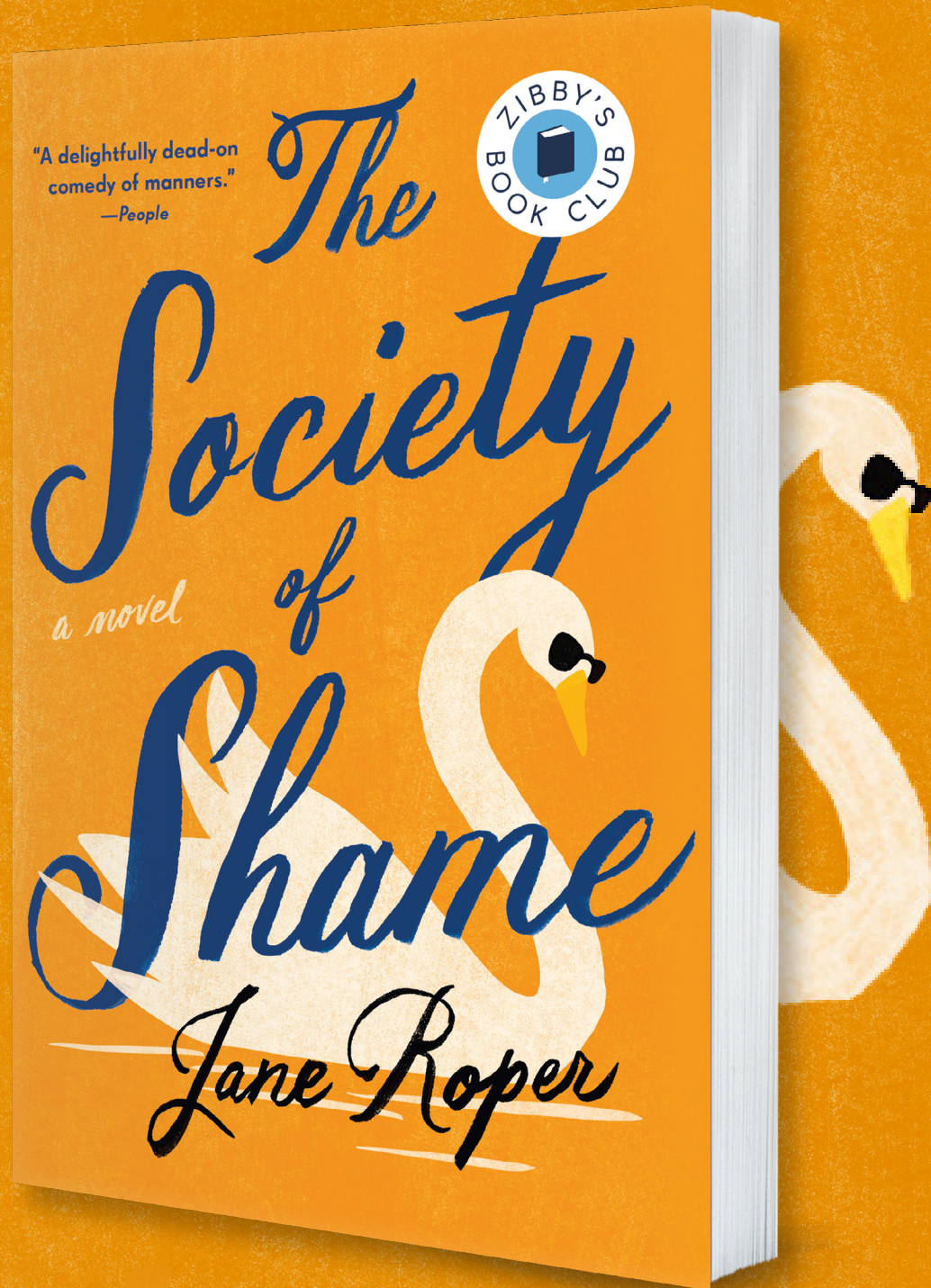


# BOOK CLUB KIT





**Dear readers,**

Thank you so much for choosing *The Society of Shame* for your book club!

Writing this novel was a true joy for me, and I'm grateful beyond belief that it has found an audience. Through Kathleen's story, I was able to delve into so many aspects of modern life I find fascinating: the impact of social media on our lives and emotions, the complexities of online shaming and cancel culture, and the question of what is and isn't forgivable. Readers have told me that these topics make for juicy discussion, and I hope your group will feel the same way.

Menstruation is, of course, another big theme of the book. Pretty much every woman out there has at least one story of a humiliating leak, stain, or "feminine hygiene malfunction," as one character in *The Society of Shame* puts it. I'm inspired to see young people today, including my own kids, pushing back against the shame and stigma that have always surrounded periods. It was fun imagining what a large-scale menstrual justice movement might look like, while having a little fun with it along the way. (OK, a lot of fun.)

Speaking of which: while much of *The Society of Shame* is humorous and satirical, I will share that writing about the relationship between Kathleen and her preteen daughter Aggie came straight from the heart. My teenage twins were Aggie's age when I started writing this book, and they were both an inspiration to me as I wrote. Now, if they would only read the book!

Again, thank you for choosing *The Society of Shame*. I hope it makes you laugh, think, and maybe cringe a little (sorry!) and that it leads to a great conversation.

Fondly,  
Jane



## Questions for Discussion

1 When the picture taken in the opening scene of *The Society of Shame* goes viral, the public is more fixated on the menstrual stain on Kathleen's pants than on her husband's infidelity. Do you think this would be the case in real life, too? Why do you think the author chose to use a period stain as the source of "shame" that sets Kathleen's story in motion?

2 The #YesWeBleed movement is fictional, but there are, in fact, many real-life activists working to destigmatize menstruation and make period products more available and affordable. Do you think attitudes around menstruation are changing? Have your own attitudes changed at all over time?

3 Like most satire, *The Society of Shame* exaggerates and/or pokes fun at real-life issues, trends, and behaviors as a way of critiquing or commenting on them. What are some of the ways the author did this that you found particularly interesting, effective, or entertaining?

4 The members of Danica's Society of Shame (and Danica herself) all did things that resulted in their being shamed by the public. Do you think the real-life consequences each of them faced were appropriate for what they did? Which members of the society (if any) did you feel sympathy toward? Which ones were harder to forgive?

5 What questions or ideas did the book raise for you about cancel culture and online shaming? Did it change your views at all?

6 What do you think of how Kathleen's daughter, Aggie, responds to the #YesWeBleed movement versus how Kathleen does? How are the two of them alike, and how are they different?

7 What do you think of the ending of the book? Was it unexpected, or did you see it coming?

8 Do you think Kathleen grew or changed as a person as a result of her experiences? What about any other characters? What do you think their lives will look like going forward?

9 If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?



## The Society of Shame Playlist

Available on Spotify: [Visit Here](#)

### Only Women Bleed

Ike & Tina Turner

### Hold Up

Beyoncé

### Your Cheatin' Heart

Patsy Cline, The Jordanaires

### You're No Good

Linda Ronstadt

### You're So Vain

Carly Simon

### PMS Blues – Live

Dolly Parton

### Period Song

Peach

### I Will Survive – Single Version

Gloria Gaynor

### I Am Woman

Helen Reddy

### Brave

Sara Bareilles

### Closer to Five

Indigo Girls

### Polythene Queen

Miss Li

### Fame – 2016 Remaster

David Bowie

### The Lucky One (Taylor's Version)

Taylor Swift

### IF YOU GO DOWN (I'M GOIN' DOWN TOO)

Kelsea Ballerini

### Shame, Shame, Shame – Vocal Version

Shirley & Company

### Shake It Off

Taylor Swift

### Roar

Katy Perry

### Swan Song

Dua Lipa

### I Got You Babe

Sonny & Cher





## Suggested Cocktail Pairing

### The Yes We Bleed

- 1-1/2 ounces dark rum
- 3/4 ounces Campari
- 1-1/2 ounces pineapple juice
- 1/2 ounce lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/2 ounce simple syrup (demera syrup is best!)
- A pinch of shame

Combine everything into a cocktail shaker and shake vigorously, then strain into a glass over ice. Garnish with a pineapple wedge and a tampon.

Enjoy!



Created by mixologist and tiki hut proprietor Whitney Scharer, author of *The Age of Light*





Vintage