

# GOOP BOOK CLUB

## A Reading Guide for *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* by Deesha Philyaw

Sure, you might get made fun of if you underline your books. But we like being able to look back at the passages, scenes, words, quotes, and turns in a story that affected us. And we like being able to talk about them with you. Let us know what you think in our book club [Facebook group](#).

1. From “Eula,” page 5: “Sometimes I wonder if Eula finds fault with all these men because secretly she doesn’t want any of them, and is just doing what’s expected of her.”
2. From “Not-Daniel,” page 16: “And then I laughed, even though I felt like I shouldn’t have. Even though nothing was as it should be.”
3. From “Dear Sister,” page 23: “I don’t think she’s ever learned what she deserves, what she’s worth.”
4. From “Peach Cobbler,” page 66: “For a few moments at least, I could forget about our parents, and just be a girl kissing a boy she liked. Simple.”
5. From “Snowfall,” page 76: “I’m Arletha when she’s pissed at me; I’m Leelee the rest of the time, which is most of the time. Most of the time we live in the space between my need to dissect and her need to keep things whole with declarative statements.”
6. From “How to Make Love to a Physicist,” page 111: “You go in for more kisses, and you think, *God, let him be forever.*”
7. From “Jael,” page 139: “Even if we was arguing, fussing, and fighting with each other just the day before, the tradition brought us together. We honored tradition. What else were we going to cling to?”
8. From “Instructions for Married Christian Husbands,” page 149: “You can’t save me, because I’m not in peril.”
9. From “When Eddie Levert Comes,” page 171: “What Mama had was the love of Jesus—whose touch, Daughter imagined, was too ephemeral to quench anything—a quieter, more passive lover than the men she brought into her bed, but who nevertheless demanded everything.”