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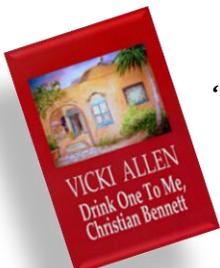
"Books for those Southern or Southern at Heart"

HOW TO GET STARTED WITH BOOK CLUBS

- Decide what kind of club you want to belong to, and build your membership around others who want the same types of club. Will you read serious books or light fiction? Will you discuss the book in depth or allow time for socializing?
- Build membership gradually. Recruit a few friends and ask them to recruit a few friends who share a love of reading. Be specific about what type of club you expect to be during the recruiting phase.
- Consider networking through the libraries, bookstores and other places where book lovers gather. If you'll be meeting in a public place, it's fun to have members you don't already know well.
- Spend the first meeting getting to know each other, discussing possible selections and figuring out how the club should operate. Where will you meet? When will you meet? How often? How will you select books?
- Come up with a name for your club. It doesn't have to be clever, but it will give you a sense of identity and purpose.
- Dive into your first book, knowing your club will evolve. During the first year, talk about what can be improved. Should an appointed person lead the discussion? Do you need a set time for stopping the chatting and starting the discussion?
- If you started the club, be prepared to provide leadership, especially for the first year. Most clubs need someone to keep everyone on track.
- Keep your club fun by inviting authors to chat with your group by phone, meeting at restaurants that match the setting of your book or planning a junket tied to the book's theme. Have a book swap night or spend a day volunteering for a literacy cause.

Source: The Atlanta Journal Constitution and Metro Atlanta book clubs and Book Group Expo

<http://www.ajc.com/services/content/printedition/2009/03/02/bookclub0302.html>



"Drink One To Me, Christian Bennett," the fourth novel from author Vicki Allen is now available from Magnolia Publishing.