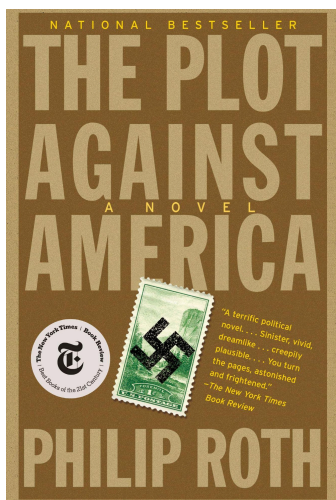


Book of the Month



 **Book Title:**

The Plot Against America

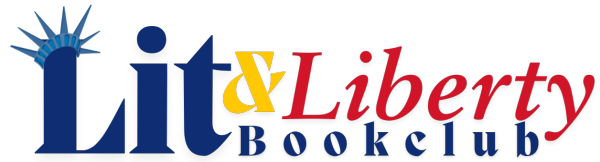
 **Author:**

Philip Roth

Book Summary

In *The Plot Against America*, literary icon Philip Roth imagines an alternate history in which aviator and isolationist Charles Lindbergh defeats Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election and ushers in a wave of fascism in the United States. Told through the eyes of a young Jewish boy—Roth’s fictionalized self—the novel explores how authoritarianism, antisemitism, and fear seep into everyday American life under the guise of patriotism and “real American values.”

As Lindbergh cozies up to Nazi Germany and Jewish families across the U.S. face increasing hostility, the Roth family—and the nation—must navigate the slow unraveling of democratic norms and civil liberties. Equal parts family drama and political thriller, this book is a chilling, timely reminder of how fragile democracy can be when hate and fear take root.



Why This Book Was Chosen for Lit & Liberty

The Plot Against America was chosen for Lit & Liberty because it asks us to confront the “what ifs” that feel eerily possible in today’s political landscape. Roth’s alternate history, though fictional, mirrors many real fears: rising authoritarianism, normalization of hate, and the consequences of silence.

This novel is not just about the past that could have been—it’s about the present we are trying to protect. It invites us to talk honestly about the resilience of democracy, the importance of dissent, and the responsibility we all share in guarding against tyranny. For a book club rooted in civic awareness and collective action, *The Plot Against America* offers rich ground for discussion, reflection, and renewed purpose.

Discussion Questions

1. What stood out to you most in this book—a quote, a scene, or a character moment? Why did it resonate?
2. How does Roth’s fictional America reflect real-world threats to democracy, past or present?
3. In what ways did fear, propaganda, or complacency shape the characters’ decisions? How does that compare to our current moment?
4. What lessons does this book offer about the importance of civic engagement, voting, and speaking out?