



THE EVOLUTION
OF ANNABEL CRAIG
LISA GRUNWALD

Book Club Kit

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you know anything about the Scopes “Monkey” Trial before reading this book? If so, did your reading experience change your thinking?
2. Do you think Lisa Grunwald shows both sides of the evolution debate with dignity and compassion? Did your perspective on either side change?
3. What parallels can you draw between the divisions in Dayton, Tennessee in 1925 and the divisions in the United States today?
4. The teaching of evolution is no longer banned in public schools, but in many states the Biblical version of man’s origins—sometimes called Intelligent Design; sometimes Bible Science; sometimes Creationism—is taught alongside it in science class. When people say this is unconstitutional, what part of the Constitution do they mean?
5. What do you think was the biggest factor in Annabel’s own “evolution”? What were some of the smaller contributing factors?
6. What does Annabel have in common with Mercy? With Lottie? Do Mercy and Lottie share any traits?
7. “I think I was waiting for something to change around me before anything could change inside,” Annabel says. Have you ever experienced this sensation?
8. What do you think causes the final rift between George and Annabel? Do you think responsibility is shared?
9. When Darrow points out some of the contradictions in the Bible, like in the first two chapters of Genesis, Annabel feels “both amazed and ashamed.” “Even though I had read it a hundred times and knew most of it by heart, I don’t think I had ever noticed the contradiction.” Have you ever had a moment when you feel that the closer you are to something or someone, the harder it is to see clearly?
10. “In a way, I realized, that was the crux of it. It was the fear of another kind of evolution, not species to species but generation to generation,” Annabel says. Why do you think people fear this type of evolution? What do you think they are trying to protect?
11. What do you think happens to Annabel, and any of the other characters, after the novel ends?

THE CHARACTERS

ANNABEL CRAIG

A young woman born, orphaned, and married in sleepy, conservative Dayton, Tennessee—and our heroine, forced to question everything she believes.

“I think I was waiting for something to change around me before anything could change inside me.”

GEORGE CRAIG

Annabel’s husband, a lawyer—gracious, steady, kind, and clever . . . for a while.

“Just a few years later, after George was desolate and broken, it would be difficult for anyone who hadn’t known him before to understand what had been so wonderful about him.”

MERCY

Annabel’s next-door neighbor: Warm, robust, deeply devout, and always full of advice.

“Men don’t like their wives to see them when they’re feeling those weary dismals.”

JOHN SCOPES

A shy but popular teacher in Dayton. In 1925, he volunteered to be charged with violating Tennessee’s Butler Act, which prohibited the teaching of human evolution in schools.

*I said, “Why’d you do it?”
“Seems like a worthy cause,” John said.*

CLARENCE DARROW

In 1925, the country’s most famous lawyer. A defense attorney in the Scopes “Monkey” Trial.

“We have the purpose of preventing bigots and ignoramuses from controlling the education of the United States, and you know it, and that is all.”

LOTTIE NELSON

A fearless reporter from Chattanooga, the first to sign up for a seat at the trial.

*“What scares you?” I asked her.
“Missing the story,” she said.*

H. L. MENCKEN

A famously acerbic writer whose coverage of the trial for the *Baltimore Sun* was vivid and cutting, even in his obituary of Bryan.

The hatred in the old man’s eyes was not for the enemies of God. It was for the enemies of Bryan.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Three-time presidential candidate, and a prosecuting attorney in the Scopes “Monkey” Trial.

“I have been so well satisfied with the Christian religion that I have spent no time trying to find an argument against it.”

FOOD AND DRINKS IDEAS:

BEE'S KNEES (A Prohibition cocktail, in honor of George's nickname for Annabel)

Source: liquor.com/recipes/bees-knees/

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 oz. gin
- $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. honey syrup
- Garnish: lemon twist

DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the gin, lemon juice, and honey syrup into a shaker with ice and shake until well-chilled.
2. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.
3. Garnish with a lemon twist.



FOOD AND DRINKS IDEAS:

TENNESSEE TEA

Source: allrecipes.com/recipe/214801/tennessee-tea/

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 oz. whiskey (such as Jack Daniel's®), or to taste
- 1 oz. triple sec
- 1 oz. sweet and sour mix
- 1 oz. cola, or to taste

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pour the whiskey, triple sec, sweet and sour mix, and cola into a cocktail shaker over ice.
2. Cover, and shake until the outside of the shaker has frosted.
3. Strain into a chilled glass over ice to serve.



FOOD AND DRINKS IDEAS: CHICKEN POT PIE

Source: allrecipes.com/recipe/24093/old-fashioned-chicken-pot-pie/

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lb. cooked chicken, chopped
- 1 (15 oz.) can mixed vegetables
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can condensed cream of potato soup
- ¼ cup milk
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- ¼ tsp. dried thyme
- ¼ tsp. dried parsley
- Salt to taste
- 1 recipe pastry for a 9-inch double-crust pie

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Roll one ball out to fit a 9-inch pie plate. Place bottom crust in pie plate. Roll out top crust and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine chicken, vegetables, potato soup, and milk. Season with pepper, thyme, parsley, and salt to taste. Pour filling into pie shell. Cover with top crust. Seal edges and cut several slits in the top to allow steam to escape.
3. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden brown.



FOOD AND DRINKS IDEAS: STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Source: cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/11823-strawberry-shortcake

INGREDIENTS:

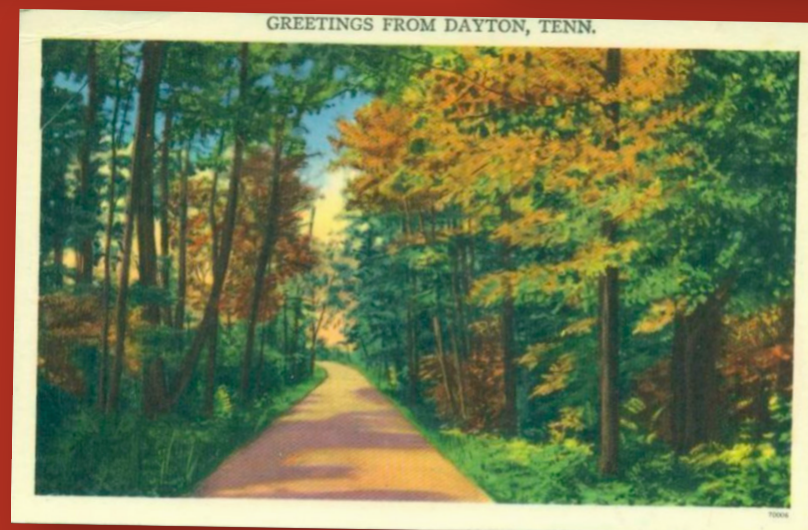
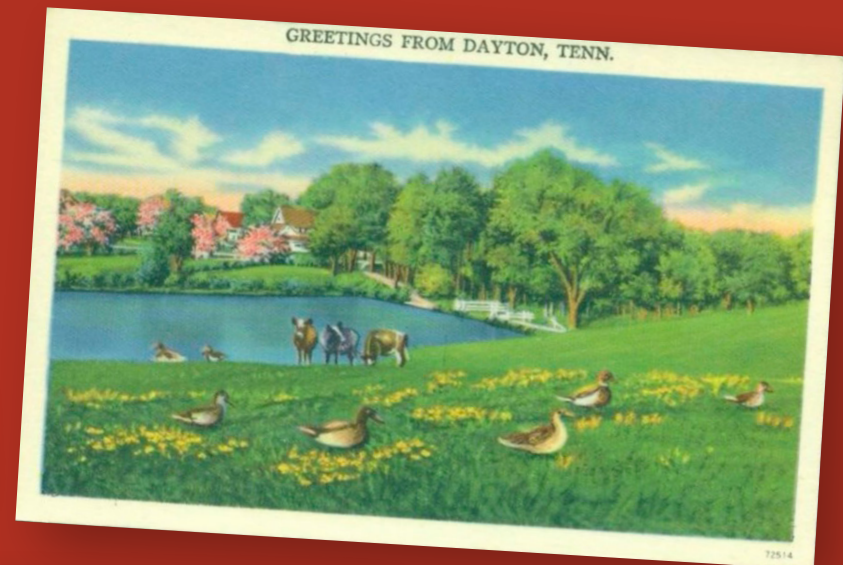
- 2 pints ripe, well-rinsed strawberries
- ½ cup sugar, or more to taste
- 4 cups flour
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 5 tsp. baking powder
- 1¼ cups butter
- 3 cups whipping cream
- ¼ tsp. vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

1. Pick over and hull strawberries. Cut in half or slice, depending on size. Gently crush about a quarter of the berries with a fork to release their juices. Mix with remaining berries and the ½ cup of sugar, adding more sugar if necessary. Set aside, covered, for about half an hour to develop flavor.
2. Preheat oven to 450°F.
3. Into a large mixing bowl, sift together flour, 3 tablespoons sugar, salt, and baking powder. Add ¾ cup of softened butter and rub into dry ingredients as for pastry. Add 1¼ cups cream and mix to a soft dough. Knead the dough for one minute on a lightly floured pastry board, then roll it out to about ½-inch thickness. Using a 3-inch biscuit cutter, cut an even number of rounds—2 rounds per serving.
4. Use a little of the butter to grease a baking sheet. Place half the rounds on it. Melt remaining butter and brush a little on the rounds; place remaining rounds on top. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown.
5. Remove from the oven and pull shortcakes apart. Brush the insides with some of the remaining melted butter.
6. Place a bottom half of a shortcake on each plate. Top with a generous spoonful of cream and berries. Cover with a top half, add a few more berries, and top with whipped cream. Serve immediately.



BITS OF HISTORY VINTAGE POSTCARDS ...



BITS OF HISTORY

THE TOMATO CLUBS

“It’s hard to imagine now how a simple thing like canning tomatoes could ever have been so exciting. But my mother understood. If you were a girl in the rural South in the early twentieth century, joining a canning club meant getting a taste of freedom from your school, your church, and all the little and lofty things that people were always expecting of you. Canning also meant you could do things people didn’t expect you to do: Learn crop cultivation; work steam pressure cookers; use math to figure out acreage and profits; use science to enter the modern world. The motto of the canning clubs was, ‘Grow more perfect tomatoes, and you will grow more perfect women.’” —*The Evolution of Annabel Craig*



TOMATO CLUB SONG.

Tune "Dixie."

Tomato seed and loamy bottom—
 Make you wealthy, if you've got 'em—
 Plant away, plant away, plant away, tomato girl!
 Catch the worms and watch the weather,
 Working one and all together—
 Plant away, plant away, plant away, tomato girls.

CHORUS.

For the Canning Clubs of Dixie
 Hooray, Hooray!
 In Dixie land we'll take our stand
 To live and can in Dixie.
 Away, away, away down South in Dixie.

Now pick your fruit and quit your plannin'
 Aprons don and start to cannin'
 Can away, can away, can away, tomato girls!
 Then stack them on the shelf, O, honey,
 Each can means some ready money!
 Can away, can away, can away, tomato girls!

Come customer step up and try 'em,
 Taste 'em once, you've got to buy 'em—
 Sell away, sell away, sell away, tomato girls!
 The canning girl, you'll not forget her,
 Makes the best a little better—
 Sell away, sell away, sell away, tomato girls!

What we sing you'll still remember
 In your soup this cold December—
 Sing away, sing away, sing away, tomato girls!
 Makes you feel so gay and wavy
 Canned tomatoes in your gravy—
 Sing away, sing away, sing away, tomato girls!

Ask your ma, she'll wink and tell you,
 Society girls will buy and sell you—
 Dream away, dream away, dream away, tomato girls!
 But ev'ry wise man his good fate knows,
 Some little girl that cans tomatoes,
 Dream away, dream away, dream away, tomato girls!

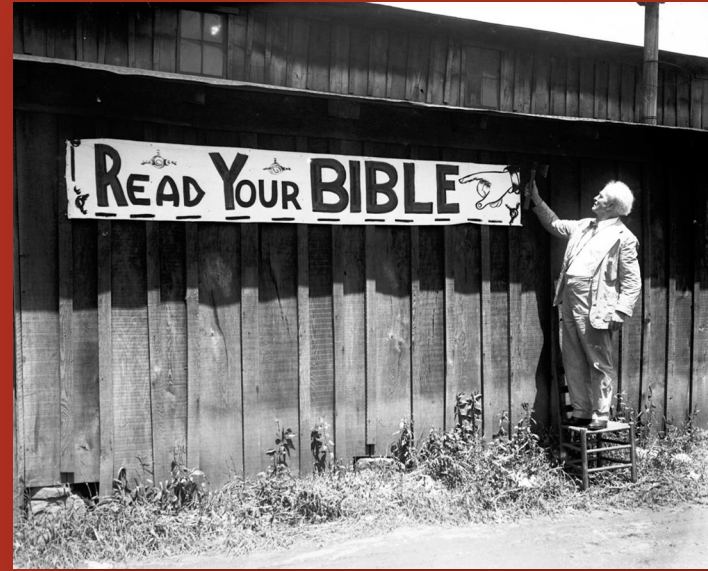
By EDMUND G. SHANNON,
 Author of "Hookworm Steve,"
 Wilkinson County.

BITS OF HISTORY

IMAGES FROM THE TRIAL



Rhea County courthouse



One of the many signs put up around Dayton during the trial.



The drugstore table at which Dayton's town leaders asked John Scopes to be the defendant in a trial that would test the law against teaching that humans had descended from other primates.

Source: yesterdayindayton.net/robinson-family-donates-famous-scopes-trial-table/



Clarence Darrow (left) and William Jennings Bryan during the trial.

BITS OF HISTORY

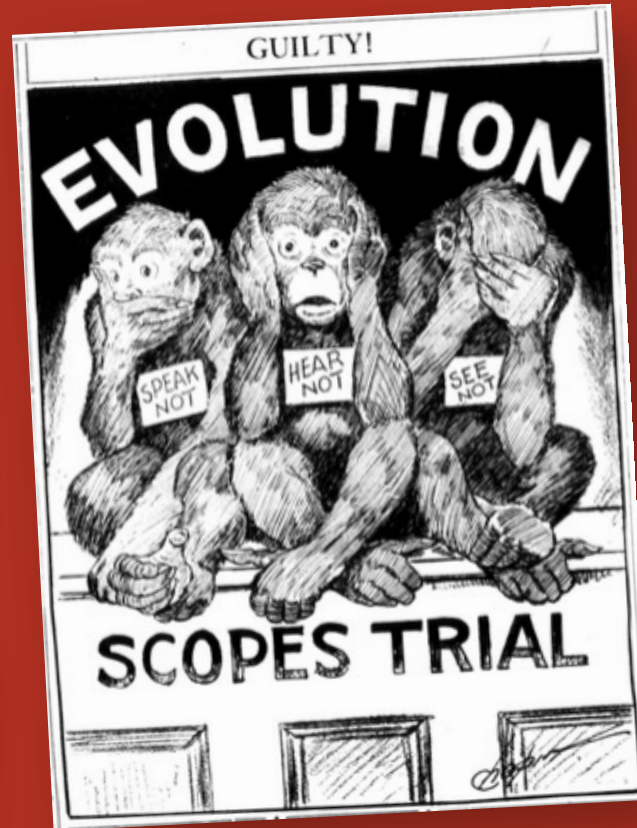
IMAGES FROM THE TRAIL



Annabel's Kodak



Commemorative watch fob



Contemporary cartoon



"The Kodak Girl"
(inspiration for the cover)



John T. Scopes

PLAYLIST

ROCKY TOP

The Osborne Brothers

ORPHAN GIRL

Gillian Welch

DOWN IN THE RIVER TO PRAY

Alison Krauss

KEEP ON THE SUNNY SIDE

The Carter Family

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

The Stanley Brothers

ELECTRICITY

Jimmy Murphy

OLD TIME RELIGION

Gillian Welch

OLD HOME PLACE

J. D. Crowe & The New South

I SAW THE LIGHT

Hank Williams

NO FOOLIN'

The Revelers

THE WATER IS WIDE

James Taylor

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER

Willy Nelson

I'LL FLY AWAY

Gillian Welch, Alison Krauss