

FREDRIK BACKMAN

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
ANXIOUS PEOPLE

BRITT-MARIE WAS HERE

"Backman's truest,
most satisfying
book to date."

—*Paste Magazine*



ESL 360

BOOK CLUB

Chapters 24 - 26

8 April 2026

Weekly Book Club Assignments, Group A (10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

Week	Date	Reading	Ira	Flavia	Maria	Lisa	Mariana	Banu	Fatemeh
2	28 Jan	Ch 1-3	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Time Keeper
3	4 Feb	Ch 4-5	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Time Keeper
4	11 Feb	Ch 6-8	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Time Keeper
5	18 Feb	Ch 9-11	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Time Keeper
6	25 Feb	Ch 12-14	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Time Keeper
7	4 Mar	Ch 15-17	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Time Keeper
	11 Mar	NO BOOK CLUB							
	18 Mar	NO BOOK CLUB — SPRING BREAK							
8	25 Mar	Ch 18-20	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Time Keeper
9	1 Apr	Ch 21-23	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Time Keeper
10	8 Apr	Ch 24-26	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Time Keeper
11	15 Apr	Ch 27-29	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Time Keeper
12	22 Apr	Ch 30-32	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Time Keeper
13	29 Apr	Ch 33-34	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Time Keeper
14	6 May	Ch 35-36	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Time Keeper
15	13 May	Ch 37	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Time Keeper
16	20 May	Ch 38	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer & Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Time Keeper

Weekly Book Club Assignments, Group B (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Week	Date	Reading	Monica	Cristy	Esmeralda	Yulianna	Lily S.	Yariela	Lily L.
2	28 Jan	Ch 1-3	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker
3	4 Feb	Ch 4-5	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer
4	11 Feb	Ch 6-8	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker
5	18 Feb	Ch 9-11	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder
6	25 Feb	Ch 12-14	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter
7	4 Mar	Ch 15-17	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer
	11 Mar	NO BOOK CLUB							
	18 Mar	NO BOOK CLUB — SPRING BREAK							
8	25 Mar	Ch 18-20	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist
9	1 Apr	Ch 21-23	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker
10	8 Apr	Ch 24-26	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer
11	15 Apr	Ch 27-29	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker
12	22 Apr	Ch 30-32	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder
13	29 Apr	Ch 33-34	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter
14	6 May	Ch 35-36	Word Artist	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer
15	13 May	Ch 37	Connection Maker	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist
16	20 May	Ch 38	Summarizer	Deep Thinker	Vocab Builder	Sound Spotter	Character Analyzer	Word Artist	Connection Maker

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

MARIANA

Chapter 24

In this chapter, Britt-Marie's husband, Kent, comes to Borg to take her home. Britt-Marie feels confused because she is divided between her old life and her new life.

At the recreation center, Britt-Marie talks to a rat while feeding it Snickers bars. She tries to convince herself that her marriage is practical and that Kent can change. Britt Marie remembers a moment from years ago when she almost got a job but gave the opportunity to another woman who needed more money.

Sven sees Kent and calls his attention because he parked his BMW in a prohibited place. He also warns Kent that it would be illegal for minors to drive his car.

Kent takes Britt-Marie to dinner, but his behavior shows that he has not changed. He talks only about himself, eats her food, and brags about his business plans. Kent tells Britt-Marie she can stay in Borg until the children finish their soccer tournament, but after that she must return home with him to their life and she agrees. During dinner, Britt-Marie thinks she sees a police car outside, but it might be her imagination. She feels ashamed of thinking this.

Later, Kent drives her to soccer practice and Bank is also there, so Britt Marie lets her take care of the training. Kent drives her and Bank and the dog to Bank's house. Britt Marie leaving the car, she asks Kent which soccer team he likes. He says Manchester United. Later, she tells Bank , and Bank quickly understands what kind of person Kent is. Kent promises that when they return home, they will go to the theater together, trying to bring Britt-Marie back to her old life.

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

MARIANA

Chapter 25

The chapter begins with Britt-Marie's morning routine at Bank's home. Like always, she spends the morning cleaning the balcony. While Bank makes breakfast, Britt-Marie tries to justify her decision to go back to her husband. She reflects on her years as a housewife and how Kent making her feel dependent on him. Britt-Marie asks Bank what it means to support Manchester United. Bank, eating bacon, says the team always wins, so they think they deserve to.

Kent is at the pizzeria. He tries to impress the kids by giving Omar special business cards. He acts rude and bossy to Sven. After Kent leaves, Sven seems insignificant by the interaction. Britt-Marie feels displaced.

Omar is happy with Kent's gifts, but his sister Vega is very angry. She sees that Britt-Marie plans to leave. Overwhelmed by the day's events, Britt-Marie accepts a beer offered by Somebody.

Britt-Marie, lost in thought, doesn't notice a young man wearing a black hood enter the pizzeria. Somebody quickly pulls her to the floor, and only then does she see the gun.

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

MARIANA

Chapter 26

A robber goes into the pizzeria and asks for money from the cash register.

Britt-Marie says no. She tells him that if he wants the money, he must buy something first.

While this is happening, the robber's gun fires and a light breaks. Britt-Marie falls down.

She is not very scared of the gun. She is more upset because the robber is making her clean floor dirty.

Vega and Omar go back to the pizzeria to get a jacket they forgot. They see the robber and know he is Psycho.

Psycho gets angry because Vega and Omar found him and he cannot handle Britt-Marie telling him off. Finally, he runs away.

The chapter ends when Omar and Vega worry that their brother Sami will retaliate against Psycho for pointing a gun at them.

DEEP THINKER

MARIANA

1. Why does Britt-Marie still feel responsible for returning to Kent?
2. What does Kent's behavior during dinner show?
3. Why is Britt-Marie more worried about the clean floor than the gun?

60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

LILY L.

The most dramatic scene in these chapters is the standoff at the pizzeria. It is the moment where Britt-Marie's world of "cleaning and manners" crashes into a world of "violence and guns."

The story takes a dangerous turn at the local pizzeria in Borg. We see Britt-Marie, the children Vega and Omar, and a local man named Magnus (who people call "Psycho") facing off in a high-stress situation.

First, the main conflict begins when Magnus pulls out a gun to rob the shop. Then, Britt-Marie does something incredible: instead of running, she starts cleaning the counter and criticizing Magnus for his dirty jacket and poor manners. She even offers him a Snickers bar because she thinks he is just "cranky" from hunger. Next, the most emotional moment happens when the rat appears. When Magnus tries to kick it, Britt-Marie screams at him, protecting the rat like it is a guest in her home. After that, her husband Kent and the cop Sven show up. Instead of helping, they start a childish fight about who has more authority, leaving Britt-Marie to handle the gunman alone. Finally, Sami arrives and uses force to get Magnus out, but the event leaves everyone realizing how broken the town is.

By the end, the situation is completely different. Britt-Marie realizes that Kent is only there for himself, while the "messy" people of Borg and even the rat actually need her. She finds her voice and her courage, choosing her new life over her old one.

DEEP THINKER

MONICA

1. Why does Kent believe Britt Marie is the same woman he married, and all the time in Borgh have not change her?
2. How did Psycho's attack convince the people at the recreation center that Britt Marie cares for them, if she has given many demonstrations before?
3. Why is Britt Marie going back to an abusive husband when she has feelings for Sven who treats her well?

VOCABULARY BUILDER

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BANU

Not yet submitted

VOCABULARY BUILDER

CRISTY

Fist (noun)

Book (193 kindle): yells Kent and waves a fistful of business cards

Meaning: a person's hand when the fingers are bent in towards the palm. (Or figurative in this case like a lot)

Me: My son cut a fistful of leaves from the tree

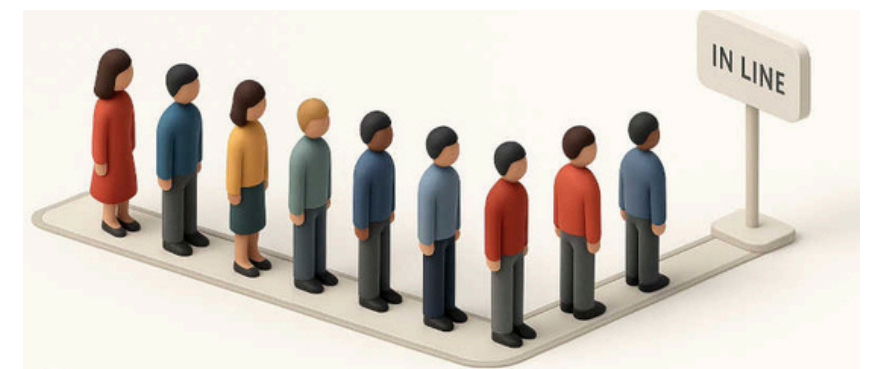


Queue (noun)

Book (194 kindle) Britt-Marie knows that and everyone knows it who's ever run into Kent While queuing up to pay at the petrol station

Meaning: (British) a line or sequence of people or vehicles awaiting their turn to be attended to or to proceed

Me: We queued to cross the border.



Sharpen (verb)

Book (199 kindle) Her common sense is telling her to sharpen up and stay the on the floor

Meaning: make or become sharp or sharper. In this case, sharp meaning: having or showing speed of perception, comprehension, or response. Be alert

Me: I explained to my son to be sharpen when he is alone in the mall.



VOcabuLARY BUIlDER

CRISTY

Balaclava (noun)

Book (kindle 200): turns to Vega and Omar with his sense of shock radiating heatedly through the holes in his balaclava

Meaning: (British) like a mask covering the whole head and neck,

Me: The thieves wear balaclavas so they won't be discovered.



Summons (noun)

Book (kindle 201): She summons the strength to stand on her own two feet.

Meaning: an order to appear before a judge or magistrate

Me:



SOUND SPOTTER

IRA

jauntily ['dʒɔːntɪli]

JAWN-ti-lee

Kent grins jauntily. (p.202)

adverb

1. (emotion) in a lively and confident manner

He walked jauntily down the street.

2. (fashion) in a stylish and fashionable way

She dressed jauntily for the party.

This word is difficult because the sound combination "dʒɔ" does not occur in my language.

SOUND SPOTTER

IRA

circumstance ['sɜ:kəmstəns]

SUR-kuhm-stuhns

When he says "circumstances" he makes a superior sort of gesture at the pizzeria and the recreation center and the road. (p.203)

noun

1. (business) financial or social situation of a person

Her circumstances improved after she got the new job.

2. (context) event or condition that affects what happens in a situation

The circumstance made it hard to finish the project.

This word presents difficulties because the sound combination "SUR" is hard to pronounce, and it is followed by the sound "K." This word is difficult to pronounce because 'THWAWRT' it is an absolutely tongue-twisting combination.

SOUND SPOTTER

IRA

gesture ['dʒɛstʃər]

JES-chur

When he says "circumstances" he makes a superior sort of gesture at the pizzeria and the recreation center and the road. (p.203)

noun

1. (silent signals) movement of hands or body to express emotion

She made a gesture of frustration.

2. (kind deed) action taken to communicate something or show goodwill

Offering help was a kind gesture.

verb

1. (emphasize) make movements to emphasize speech or action

He gestured wildly during his speech.

2. (body movement) move hands or head to communicate or show feelings

She gestured to show she was upset.

This word is difficult because the combination of sounds "dʒɛs" followed by "tʃər" is simply impossible to pronounce in succession, it is an absolutely tongue-twisting combination.

SOUND SPOTTER

IRA

fury ['fjʊəri]

FYOOR-ee

Equal amounts of fury and surprise. (p.219)

noun

1. (battle force) strength or violence in action

The storm unleashed its fury on the town.

2. (angry feeling) intense, violent anger

His face turned red with fury.

This word is difficult to pronounce because a non-softened "OOR" sound must be uttered immediately after a softened "FY" sound.

SOUND SPOTTER

IRA

thwart [θwɔrt]

THWAWRT

She's frozen to the spot, held in place by a whole lifetime of thwarted ambitions. (p.220)

verb

1. (prevention) stop someone from succeeding in their plan or effort

They tried to thwart his attempt to win.

This word is difficult to pronounce because 'THWAWRT' it is an absolutely tongue-twisting combination.

SOUND SPOTTER

ESMERALDA

Entrepreneur

is an individual who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a new business or enterprise to create value, often through innovation.

Pronunciation: Entrepreneur is pronounced on-truh-pruh-NUR (US) or on-truh-pruh-Nɜː(r) (UK),

Book : nice kids ! That curly-haired one wants to be an entrepreneur

Life: My husband is an entrepreneur

Mischievously

means acting in a playfully teasing, naughtily troublesome, or slightly malicious manner.

Pronounced MIS-chuh-vus-lee (three syllables, accent on the first), it describes actions like winking or playing tricks.

Book: Kent sighs, then nods mischievously at her, and holds up both hands as if someone is threatening him

Life: my kids smile mischievously after play tricks

strong 'r' sound at the end.

SOUND SPOTTER

ESMERALDA

Queuing

refers to the act of forming a line to wait for service or, in computing, arranging data/tasks in sequence for processing

Pronunciation: /'kju:ɪŋ/. KYOO-ing. Listen to pronunciation.

Book: He shakes his wrist in a dramatic way, so that his watch makes a rattling sound. It's a very expensive one, Britt-Marie knows that, and everyone who's ever run into Kent while queuing up to pay at the petrol station knows it.

Life: I queued for tortillas last week

Martyr

A martyr is an individual who suffers persecution or death, usually by refusing to renounce religious or political beliefs.

Pronunciation: Martyr is pronounced MAR-ter (/ˈmɑːrtər/), with the stress on the first syllable. It rhymes with "starter" in American English, while in British English, it is often pronounced as "MAR-tuh" (/ˈmɑːtə/) without a strong 'r' sound at the end.

Book:

Life: Some relatives feel like martyrs and it's not a good choice

CHARACTER ANALYZER

FLAVIA

Trait: KENT- NARCISSISTIC

What it means? It's a person who has an excessive focus on themselves and their own needs. They believe they are more special, talented, or deserving than others and often seek admiration and attention. They often try to stand out, believing they are superior and putting other people down.

P-199 "because he would only have asked what salary she'd get, and if she had told him he would have laughed and said: "Isn't it bloody better, then, if I pay you to stay at home?" He would have meant that as a joke, but she would not have been able to take it in that spirit.....

P-203 " When he's done he gives his business card to Omar, because Kent likes giving people his business card almost as much as he likes telling people what his belongings cost."

P- 212 "Don't worry about the sheriff's coffee, I'll pay for it"

They also tend to have a strong need for validation. This means they want others to praise them, notice them, and agree with them. If they don't receive this attention, they may feel upset or unappreciated.

P- 201 " Kent manages to tell the boys how much it cost, which seems to impress them terrifically."

P-205 " But she stops herself, because it probably doesn't really matter now, and anyway Kent wants to tell her things about his business affairs with the Germans."

P-214 " He shakes his wrist in a dramatic way, so that his watch makes a rattling sound."

CHARACTER ANALYZER

FLAVIA

A narcissistic person may struggle to understand or care about other people's feelings, focusing mostly on their own desires and problems.

They can also be manipulative and/or controlling, sometimes using others to achieve their own goals without considering the impact on those people.

P-207 " When we're home we'll go to the theater, just the two of us. Okay, darling? I promise!"

P-205 "Hey, darling,let's put it like this: you stay here until the kids have played in this cup that the curly-haired one was going on about today. And then we go home. To our life. Okay?"

Kent does not support Brit-Marie's individuality, and their relationship shows more around his routine and preferences than her.

He takes her for granted and assumes she will always be there for him.

He doesn't notice Britt Marie emotional needs or appreciate her efforts.

CHARACTER ANALYZER

JULIANNA

Two Opposite Characters: Kent and Sven

In the chapters we read this week, two important characters are introduced. They are opposed to each other. In this situation, there are two men, Kent and Sven, who both like the same woman. Their behavior shows two completely different approaches to relationships.

Sven represents a respectful and equal partnership. He treats Britt-Marie as an equal, shares his talents, and shows her beautiful places. He is positive, gentle, and emotionally supportive. His behavior creates a feeling of calmness and emotional safety.

Kent, on the other hand, behaves very differently. He often tells others what to do and thinks mostly about himself. He tries to look smart, but he seems arrogant. He likes to show off and cares more about how things look than what is real. He also puts others down to feel better about himself. Kent represents ego, self-importance, and disrespect.

Next to each of them, we can see how Britt-Marie changes. With Sven, she begins to discover herself, feel more confident, and open up to the world. With Kent, she becomes invisible and loses her individuality. She tries to adapt and forgets about her own needs.

WORD ARTIST

MARIA

I stand in the doorway watching Kent score a goal. He props himself up against the stick and leaps into the air, making a pirouette, like a ballerina.

I move to the window and gaze out, waiting for the sun to rise because the team is ready to train. The morning is fresh, and I can see the clouds obscuring the sun and the sky darkening. There is a chance of rain, so the morning air doesn't feel particularly warm. In fact, it is turning cool.

Now I watch Kent kicking the ball back and forth with Omar and Vega. Kent is full of excitement, like a young boy. Because he recently suffered a heart attack, I'm worried that he is making too much effort.

As I watch Kent, I feel conflicted about my relationship with Sven.

When I am with Sven, I feel butterflies in my stomach. I feel like a young woman because Sven wants to stay with me. My body feels like it is floating in the air. When I am with him, I feel comfortable, I feel peace, and I feel protected.

When I am with Kent, I feel like a python is squeezing my heart. I feel tired with life because he does not value me. I live life in his shadow, and I feel like the earth is going to swallow me up. I pretend to be comfortable even though I know he is manipulative and arrogant. He needs me and says he wants another chance, but he is always making excuses. Nonetheless, he is my husband, and I must stay with him. Do I feel this way because I love with him or because I am a coward?

WORD ARTIST

LILY S.

Not yet submitted

CONNECTION MAKER

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LISA

Scene: “I could have found myself employment. It was my choice to stay at home. I’m not a victim. Britt Marie points out.” Page 199

Like Britt-Marie, I felt that I could find myself employment when I arrived here in the U.S. I believed I just needed some time to study and prepare me for that, but the path was not easy. Like her, I thought I needed to do some stuffs before I start to work. First, I had to take care of my new home. Everything felt new and unfamiliar. At the same time, I decided to stay close to my son, he was just a child, and didn’t know any English, so I thought he needed me even more. Then the pandemic began. It was a scary time, and all I wanted was to protect my family, so I stayed home.

When the airports opened, I went to Brazil to visit my parents. That time meant a lot to me. When I came back, I felt confident to try. I made my resume and applied for a job. I was so nervous on my first interview, but also excited. The interviewer called me later and talked about the next step. I felt so happy and proud of myself in that moment. But then, everything changed again. My husband told me, “We are moving to Texas.” Once again, I chose my family first. Like Britt-Marie, It was my choice to stay at home and I’m not a victim.

CONNECTION MAKER

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YARIELA