Suggested Soundtracks

Liebestraum #3, by Franz Listz, the familiar and fateful nocturne that young Joanie Promise plays in the opening scene of The Promise Girls. (Or, really, anything by Liszt because as Maestro Boehm, Joanie’s piano teacher, quite rightly points out – who doesn’t like Liszt?) Follow it up with the “Scarbo” movement of Maurice Ravel’s Gaspard de la Nuit, considered one of the world’s most challenging piano solos, a piece that altered the course of Joanie’s life.

If you’re looking something with a bit more of a beat, put on The Ramones and listen to Rockaway Beach, the song that was playing when Joanie first met Asher. Or maybe some Nirvana, Seattle’s most iconic band, fronted by the talented but tormented Kurt Cobain.

Suggested Activities

Since fostering personal creativity is one of the primary themes of The Promise Girls, consider holding your meeting at a local Paint ‘n Sip studio. Or host your own paint party at home. Put out some acrylic paint, colored pencils, or other art supplies and give each member his or her own piece of cardstock or canvas to create a personal masterpiece while discussing the book. (P.S. We don’t recommend letting your Paint Party turn into a Promise sisters-style paint war, but it wouldn’t be a bad idea to put down some drop cloths. You know. Just in case.)

Suggested Menus

Book Club Coffee Klatch

Joanie’s Banana Bread
Fresh cherries and apple slices

Since Seattle is the home of Starbucks as well as Joanie, Meg, and Avery Promise, we suggest serving Starbucks Pike Place Roast coffee, or a pot of delicious, fragrant Cinnamon-Orange tea from Seattle’s MarketSpice Tea Company.

For those with an adventurous spirit and access to an espresso machine, get an assortment of flavored syrups, cover up the labels, and treat your guests to Mystery Mochas, like Avery did in The Promise Girls. (Fair Warning: As Avery discovered, Key Lime and Cinnamon syrups really don’t go together as well as you might think.)

Drinks and Small Bites

Seattle Sidecar
Tipsy Mermaid Mocktail
Smoked Salmon Spread
Seattle Style Mini Hot Dogs
Artisanal Cheese Tray

Dinner Menu

Joanie’s Famous Lasagna
Salad
Garlic Bread
Chocolate Mint Mini Cupcakes (à la Cupcake Royale)
Serve with Washington state wines like Blackwood Canyon Vintners or Chateau St. Michelle Vineyard

“THE PROMISE GIRLS is a beautiful story about the ties that bind—love, laughter, memories, even secrets kept so long they become a part of the fabric of a family.”
—Melanie Benjamin, New York Times Best Selling author of The Swans of Fifth Avenue

“Reading Marie Bostwick is like wrapping yourself up in a warm, hand-crafted quilt. Her books, rich in character and plot, are stitched together by a skilled wordsmith.”
—Debbie Macomber, #1 New York Times bestselling author