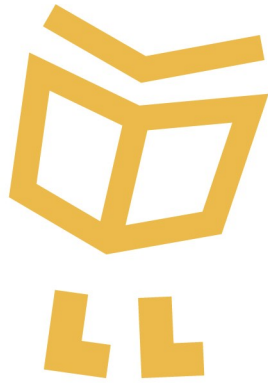


# BOOK CLUB in a bag

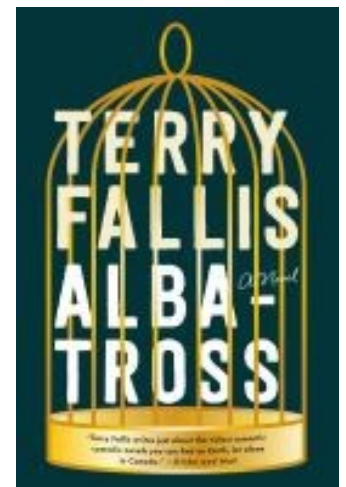


## Albatross

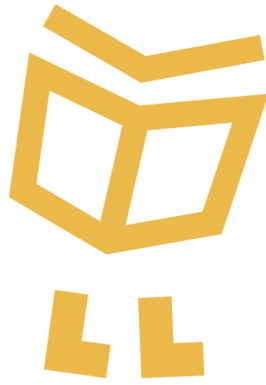
Terry Fallis

### Discussion Questions

1. How did you experience the book? Were you engaged immediately, or did it take you a while to “get into it?” How did you feel reading it—amused, sad, disturbed, confused, bored...?
2. Describe the main characters—personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities
3. Are the main characters dynamic—changing or maturing by the end of the book? Do they learn about themselves, how the world works, and their role in it?
4. Discuss the plot. Is it engaging—do you find the story interesting? Is this a plot driven book—a fast-paced page turner?
5. Talk about the book’s structure. Why might the author have chosen to tell the story the way they did?
6. What main ideas—themes—does the author explore? (Consider the title, often a clue to a theme.) Does the author use symbols to reinforce the main ideas?
7. What passages strike you as insightful, even profound? Perhaps a bit of dialogue that’s funny or poignant or that encapsulates a character? Maybe there’s a particular comment that states the book’s thematic concerns?
8. Is the ending satisfying? If so, why? If not, why not...and how would you change it?
9. Has this novel changed you—broadened your perspective? Have you learned something new or been exposed to different ideas about people or a certain part of the world?



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## About the Author

A two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, Terry Fallis is the award-winning author of seven national bestsellers, including his most recent, *Albatross* (2019), all published by McClelland & Stewart (M&S). His debut novel, *The Best Laid Plans* (2008), won the 2008 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and was crowned the 2011 winner of CBC Canada Reads as the “essential Canadian novel of the decade.” In January 2014, CBC aired a six-part television miniseries based on *The Best Laid Plans* earning very positive reviews. In September 2015, it debuted as a stage musical in Vancouver, produced by Touchstone Theatre and Patrick Street Productions. *The High Road* (2010) was published in September 2010 and was a finalist for the 2011 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. Terry’s third novel, *Up and Down* (2012), was released in September 2012. It debuted on the Globe and Mail bestsellers list, was a finalist for the 2013 Leacock Medal, and won the 2013 Ontario Library Association Evergreen Award. Terry’s fourth novel, *No Relation* (2014), hit bookstores in May 2014, opened on the Globe and Mail bestsellers list, and won the 2015 Leacock Medal. M&S published Terry’s fifth novel, *Poles Apart* (2015), in October 2015, opening on several bestsellers lists including the Globe and Mail’s. It was a finalist for the 2016 Leacock Medal. *One Brother Shy* (2017) was published in May 2017 and was an instant bestseller. Three days after his seventh novel, *Albatross*, was published, it broke onto the Globe and Mail bestsellers list. In June, 2013, the Canadian Booksellers Association presented Terry with the Libris Award for Author of the Year.

Via the author’s website (<https://terryfallis.com/about-the-author/>)

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