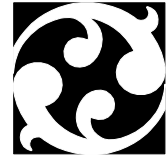




CAMELOT BOOK CLUB



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THE UNTOUCHABLE by John Banville

This 1997 novel is based on the life of Sir Anthony Blount, the Fourth Man in the Cambridge Spy Scandal.

Victor Maskell is the protagonist, and tells his story in the first person. He, "...an essential outsider, has spent a lifetime using his studied charm, suppressed emotions, closeted homosexuality, and distant family connections to winnow a place for himself in the English establishment. It matters not that his marriage is a failure, that he is estranged from his children. Art, he concludes at one point, even the prized painting, attributed to Poussin, which has hung on his wall for 50 years - has no meaning; it simply is. The same, in his view, might be said of existence itself.

"This passive and unexamined life comes apart after Maskell, once an amateur intelligence operative, is publicly disgraced for having passed information of questionable value to the Soviet Union.

"Nothing is as it seems in this ambiguous, allusion-stocked, politically savvy, ... life of Victor Maskell and his times."

(Editor's note: The above synopsis is quoted from an online reader's comments.)

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CAMELOT'S COMMENTS on the book

Well, the name of our club is Camelot **Book** Club, but you wouldn't know it from this December meeting. Nobody read the book! We all tried, but none of us finished it. Each member was driven away by mind-numbing frustration and boredom. We just couldn't understand what the author was trying to say. Sorry, Mr. Banville, but Camelot is just not on the same page with you.



NEXT MEETING

When? Friday, January 15, 2010, 1:30p.m.

Where? At Ann Fitzgerald's house

Why? To have fun, and to discuss our January selection,

Miracle at Philadelphia: the Story of the Constitutional Convention May - September, 1787 by Catherine Drinker Bowen



MEETING NOTES

We met at Robin Westerheim's house. It was all dressed up for Christmas in a delightful way. Everywhere we looked there was a touch of beautiful Christmas decor and holiday folk art. And she served two fabulous desserts – apple pie and pumpkin pie, ala mode and with whipped cream. Delicious!

Since we couldn't discuss the book, we just chatted about this and that - our kids, our neighbors, former neighbors, news of trips recently taken, Christmas plans, all those good and usual topics. Also, Gwen Nelson read a couple of excerpts from "Green Winter", a book of practical observations of people who have lived a good life. — We enjoyed our time together, as always.

Quote of the Day

Don't cry because it's over – Smile because it happened.

CAMELOT BOOK CLUB IS GREAT

