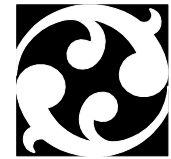




CAMELOT BOOK CLUB



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ON FRIENDSHIP: No-one described it better than George Eliot:

“Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort, of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but to pour them all out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.”

LET’S TAKE the LONG WAY HOME: A MEMOIR of FRIENDSHIP

by Gail Caldwell

Our February book selection is a touching tale of life, friendship, love, loss, and dogs. “It’s an old story,” Caldwell begins. “I had a friend and we shared everything, and then she died and so we shared that.” It is the true story of Gail’s friendship with Caroline – two kindred spirits that had so much in common. They were both single, professional writers who were athletic, who had survived alcoholism, and who loved their dogs. They shared long walks in the woods, teaching each other their athletic expertise, and took long summer vacations together. Then, Caroline found out she had incurable lung cancer, and the author takes on the journey through losing her dearest friend. “Now she couldn’t talk anymore and so I didn’t either; our narrative became a choreography of silence. I would spend hours at the end of her bed, not knowing much of the time if she even knew I was there...” “Caroline’s death had left me with a great and terrible gift: how to live in a world where loss, some of it unbearable, is as common as dust or moonlight.”

This beautiful memoir of friendship could come only from someone who has experienced an intimate emotional connection with another person. This is an eloquent book; poignant, authentic, unflinching and genuine. Author Caldwell gets an A+.

(Your Scribe’s note: Some of the above is adapted from readers’ online reviews.)

NEXT MEETING

When? Friday, March 18, 2011, 1:30p.m.

Where? At Ann Seher’s house

Why? To have fun, and to discuss

Saving Cee Cee Honeycutt: A Novel by Beth Hoffman

CAMELOT COMMENTS

- Loved the book. A little hard to get into at first. With my own daughter’s death, I surely could identify with loss and grief.
- Well-written. Glad she shared her memoir with us. It was enjoyable to experience the lives of these two women - so different from mine.
- I liked it. It had some parts that made me sad. Extremely well-written. (cont’d.)
- I liked the book. Two-thirds of the way through I wanted her to wrap it up. A different

world. Glad we read it.

- ❑ Waited til late in the month to read it so I wouldn't forget. It's about living your life - they analyzed if they were doing what they really wanted to do.
- ❑ Sounds like a great book. I'm going to read it.
- ❑ Sad, and a beautiful story of friendship. Loved the author's words.
- ❑ Great book – defined the essence of friendship. Loved the author's ways of expressing her thoughts.

MEETING NOTES

Our meeting was at Dottie's house, with Peaches as our hostess. We met on the screened-in porch on a lovely, mild day with a gentle breeze blowing. And, we ate chocolate cheese-cake - yum. Dottie would give you the recipe if you asked.

We had a lot of conversation and stories. Ann Seher's bathtub adventure was a highlight. And, Gwen Nelson offered her version of septic troubles. Don and Sue Ward just got back from snowy Chicago where they took care of their beloved grand-children in weather that reached 13° below zero.

It was a delightful afternoon, as always. Peaches said it best. "I love our book-club. I am so glad I can be a member!" We all feel that way.

Hostess sign-up List for 2011

January	Dottie Miller	July	Margaret Oesch
February	Peaches Oakes	August	_____
March	Ann Seher	September	_____
April	Robin Westerheim	October	Barbara Walton
May	Anne Simms	November	Sue Ward
June	Gwen Nelson	December	_____

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