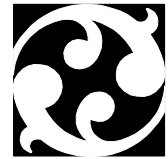


CAMELOT BOOK CLUB



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IT'S READER'S CHOICE TIME AT CAMELOT

Our meetings have a different slant when each of us reviews a book of her own choice instead of discussing one book selection for the month. We use this alternate format in January and July of each year.

Barbara Walton read *The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Zaslow. It is based on a true story of eleven girls who are from well-educated middle-class families, and go to elementary school together in Ames, Iowa. They each went their separate ways after school was over, and then found that, as adults, they needed each other's friendship, and planned a reunion. The author pointed out how we all rely on each other for friendship, and also delved into the differences in the way men's friendships with each other are different from women's. Barbara found the book thoroughly enjoyable and very well-written.

Robin Westerheim read *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. It is the story of a precocious nine-year-old boy whose father died in the 9/11 World Trade Center tragedy. The intrigue revolves around a search for answers regarding a key he found which was left by his father.

Robin also read *Never Let Me Go*, a tale written by a Japanese author about kids growing up in an orphanage in England. The children are schooled with an interest in art, and are being raised for their body parts. Their body parts are taken from the children until they expire.

Ann Seher's choice was *The Little Giant of Aberdeen County*. It was very different and strange. A married couple has a beautiful child, and then the mother gets pregnant again. Her body becomes huge, and when the baby was born it was huge. The mother died with her last word being "Truly..." So, the baby was named Truly. And Truly never stopped growing. Ann liked the book and would recommend it.

Dottie Miller read *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed. It is a true story about a young woman walking the Pacific Crest Trail. She finds herself, by herself

Anne Simms chose *I Feel Bad About My Neck: and Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* by Nora Ephron. Anne loves reading books by Nora Ephron and was sad when Ms. Ephron died a short time ago. *I Remember Nothing* is another one of Anne's favorites. A quote she loves is this one: "When your children are teenagers it's important to have a dog so that someone in the house is happy to see you."

Gwen Nelson's choice was *The Great Bridge* by David McCullough. She loved the book and loves this author. It's the fascinating story of the building of the Brooklyn Bridge, such a wonderful engineering feat. The son, Washington, was a genius just like his father, and took over building the bridge when his father died. A beautiful part of the book is the wonderful, sensitive remembrances by Washington at his father's funeral.

Sue Ward read *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. It's about Victoria, a young girl taken care of by the foster care system. The author is a foster parent herself, and her book shows how foster children may have limited emotional resources, but are wanting to be loved, like people everywhere. Victoria ages out of the system at age 18 and is thrust into society. Flowers are a

kind of mystical way that Victoria can communicate.

Suzanne Tuite's choice was *Northanger Abby* by Jane Austen. It follows the journey of coming-of-age Catherine Moreland and her misadventures in Bath. Suzanne said she tends to like the old novels like this one and loves all of Austen's books..

Margaret Oesch chose *Your Erroneous Zones* by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer. It is a self-help book with a simple and direct message: it shows how to cut through a lifetime of emotional red tape and take effective control of who and what you are. No more self-defeating behaviors.

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NEXT MEETING

When? Friday, August 17, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
Where? At Ann Seher's house
Why? To have fun, and to discuss
The Paris Wife: a Novel
By Paula McLain

MEETING NOTES

Our meeting was at Suzanne's house. We talked for a while before our book discussion, as we usually do, and solved quite a few of the problems of the world. We covered the medical use of marijuana, methamphetamine labs (some of which some of us had heard of personally). Then, sadly, we talked about the shooting tragedy at the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, which had just happened.

We also noted that this would be Robin's last meeting, for she and Eric have sold their wonderful house with all its furniture, and are moving to New York very soon. They can be contacted at P.O. Box 772, Winnsboro, Texas 75494. We will miss them greatly.

Sue presented each of us with a start of the herb rosemary from the happy plant in her garden. Then Suzanne served us coffee and wonderfully rich key lime pie. You should have been there to taste that, and to enjoy the always wonderful Camelot ambience once again.

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