

**Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes
April 24th, 2024**

Location: Callander Bay Heritage Museum and Alex Dufresne Art Gallery

Community Updates:

- Alex Dufresne Gallery Show: Destination Algonquin Park – Opening May 11th, 2024
- Alex Dufresne Gallery Show: Doing our own Thing – Opening June 15th, 2024
- Saturday April 27th, 2024 Powassan Maple Syrup Festival – be sure to stop in at the bookstore and visit Pat!
- Sunday April 28th, 2024 1:30pm at Trinity – Rapport Concert \$20, Pancake lunch by the Scouts before

Upcoming Library Events:

- May 1st, Coffee Club at the Library – Shipwrecks on Lake Nipissing
- May 4th, Star Wars
- May 15th Coffee Club at the Library – Bessie Bee Honey
- June 5th Coffee Club Foraging with Lucy

Upcoming Books:

May 29th, 2024: *Silence of Bonaventure Arrow* by Rita Leganzki
 June 19th, 2024: *Dreadful Water* by Thomas King – **Note date change! At Pat's 10:30am, Potluck**
 Sept. 25th, 2024: *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

Book Suggestions:

Books we want to remember:

Bittlemores by Jann Arden – Can't pick this book until December 2024

April: *Sleeping Car Porter* by Suzette Mayr

Discussion:

6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I read this quite a while ago, the fact that the main character was gay didn't seem to tie into the story • The story wasn't new • I didn't dislike it
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It surprised me that it was the Giller Prize winner • I really didn't like the way that she delivered the story, the story development wasn't smooth, I got confused when he had hallucinations • You could see the restlessness and hunger • I didn't enjoy the other characters, I found them petulant, they didn't add to the story • I liked the layers to the story • I couldn't understand the part about carrying around the girl, I'm not sure if it was real or imagined • I read it awhile ago and went back to it but haven't finished
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had a hard time wanting to pick this book up to read

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found the other characters difficult, there was a lot of nastiness going on between all the characters • The ending was ok, nothing exciting
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I felt the same, I thought I'd have it back to the library quickly, but it was all down, there was no lightness • I didn't find it easy to read at all and I didn't think it was much of a story
Unrated – not finished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I didn't get past page 50, I felt that I should read it because it was the Giller Prize winner • The prose about the motions of the train was well done, but it was enough to keep me reading
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I returned the book I said "this was torture" • I couldn't stand the writing style, it drove me crazy • The sex in this book bothered me because there was no love – it didn't make for good reading • I wanted development of the characters and bit of a travelog as the train moved across Canada • I did learn that being a porter was very good job at the time
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm giving up on the Giller and the Governor General Awards • I got to the end and was surprised when I turned to the Acknowledgements • There was a lot of research that went into this book • At the end I realized that she was poet and perhaps it came through a little too strongly at times, she clearly liked playing with words • The first time I read, I read for 2 hours straight and afterward I was exhausted, I didn't pick it back up until yesterday • I found frustrating, annoying and dreadfully disappointing • I find I want to read for what I like, not for the literature
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I identified with the trip across Canada, when I finished university I took the train to get a job in Banff • My husband read it, and he usually doesn't – He asked why do I go back to this group • I liked that he was aspiring to be a dentist and this position would have given him the means to get the required education • The writing style was really annoying • I think it is good to have a balance in what we read • I felt that the explanation of the homosexual relationship played on and on and on
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I liked the book, I started out and I wondered why anyone would write about black porters on a CN train, knowing that people of colour have been mistreated for so long • I liked that people were given names based on their characters • I didn't like the way that she wrote, there were no quotations and the third person narrator would shift back to the main character with no indication • I really liked her verbs like 'the train cars snake into the yard' • There was tension in the book that I enjoyed – like I knew that giving away the post card was going be a problem

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="412 201 1416 302">• I liked that the people came together to save him at the end, I thought that it was going to be a happy ending – he was going to dental school and his love was now available
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