

**Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes
May 30th, 2023**

June Meeting: Wednesday, June 21st, 2023 at
June Book: *A Town Called Solace* by Mary Lawson

To listen to Sara's interview with Mary Lawson on *A Town Called Solace*:
<https://www.audacy.com/podcast/callander-public-library-podcast-d9116/episodes/what-makes-small-towns-and-northern-ontario-so-special-so-cozy-a-setting-mary-lawson-author-of-a-town-called-solace-gives-us-a-peek-behind-the-curtain-of-her-special-writing-process-6be5c>

June Meeting: Wednesday, June 21st, 2023 at Pat's

Upcoming Library Events:

Group Tech Lesson: Passwords, Monday, June 19th at 10:30am
Cookbook Book Club: SPACE AVAILABLE – Tuesday, June 20th at 6pm *Trejo's Tacos* by Danny Trejo (copies available at the library)
Revolutionary Reads: June 13th at 6pm: *One Game at a Time* by Harnaraya Singh (copies available at the library)

Other Events:

Lion's Guide Dog Walk this past weekend as a fundraiser, it is a fundraiser for service dogs
Aging with Confidence Symposium Thursday, June 8th, 9:30 to 1:30pm at the YMCA North Bay

Upcoming Books:

September: *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good
October: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
November: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee or *The Crane Wife* by CJ Hauser *Would be great if someone wanted to read either over the summer!
December: *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune

Callander Scotland Book Club: No update

May Book Reviews:

Book: *The Witch Elm* by Tana French

Discussion:

8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I just finished it for the second time, I recommended it because I found the plot changes intriguing, and the ending was much different from what I expected.• I liked the character development.• I didn't mind reading it the second time and I still enjoyed it.
8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I read chapter one, and I thought I wouldn't be able read the book because it was one really long run on sentence, and I missed the punctuation.• Once, I got into it, I really enjoyed it. It made me think about death, dying, and concussion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story was woven together well, but I found the ending to be a bit contrived and that was difficult. • I would read Tana French again
8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really liked it. • I listened to the audiobook and the the narrator was awesome, usually different characters are indicated by a change in the range of the voice. This narrator had unique characteristic for each character (like accent, speed that the talked, etc.) that made it very clear who was speaking.
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had read three other books by Tana French, this is different from her usual format. • This one was a wonderful surprise because it was character driven and not plot driven. • The way the author added the part about long term effects from concussion in particular the difficulty with language was interesting to me. It made me realize how much a fall one winter has affected my own language. On this topic I wanted to share a fact I learned recently: for every concussion in the NHL, 7,000 women in Canada suffer concussion from spousal abuse. • I loved the nuances of the story, but the ending was a bit drawn out.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No yet done, haven't decided if I will finish it. I find there are a lot of extra descriptive phrases that distract me.
7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I thought the plot was interesting, and there were lovely descriptive phrases, but I did find I was skipping those descriptive phrases by the end. • I like that it was character driven. • I didn't like Toby and I didn't have a lot of sympathy for him. • I will try one of her other detective stories.
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had read <i>Broken Harbour</i> by Tana French, one of her police procedurals. I enjoyed this story because the psychological parts were very interesting and important. • It's all about the characters, you were on the edge of your seat to determine where the story was going. • I lost faith in Toby with the inspector at the end, I thought it didn't need to happen.
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was my second time reading the book, however I couldn't remember plot. I do remember it really creeped me out, but the second time I didn't find it creepy at all. • When I read it the second time, I found it a bit disjointed, it was too pieced out • It was very readable. • The story of the murder it didn't sound believable. • I think the writing was well done even with the run on sentences. • I still enjoyed it and didn't mind reading it a second time.
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I basically enjoyed the book. • Toby really annoyed me. • The descriptions were a bit much, but over all I really enjoyed it. • The ending was a bit contrived and the part about the body was a bit farfetched. • I would read another book by Tana French.

7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found a whole lot of unanswered things that really bothered me, because they didn't seem plausible. • I think the concussion had nothing to do with the attack on the detective, that it was because the detective knew who did it. • I did really enjoy the relationship between the detective and Toby. • There was a lot to it, but you could sure tear it apart.
-----	---

Other Notes and interesting discussion points:

- Book Recommendations: *From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle, *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Vergasse (both are in the library collection).
- For more information on NHL vs domestic violence concussions: <https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.6857232>
- For more background on the title of the book and the inspiration for the murder that took place you can read this article here: <https://www.historicmysteries.com/put-bella-wych-elm/>

Dody's Cake Recipe:

OVERNIGHT COFFEE CAKE

Grease 10" tube or bundt pan.

FILLING/TOPPING:

- 1 c chopped pecans, toasted
- 1/2 c brown sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon

FOR BUNDT CAKE:

- 1 c vegetable shortening
- 1 c brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 c sour cream / plain yogurt / mascarpone (I used half mascarpone.)
- 1 tsp vanilla

- 3 c flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt

- 1/2 c chocolate chips (especially dark chips)

Filling: combine and set aside

Cake: Beat shortening and sugar until light and fluffy.
Add eggs one at a time, and beat well after each.
Beat in sour cream (etc.) and vanilla.

Combine 4 dry ingredients. Beat into shortening combo.

Assembly: Spread half batter in pan. Sprinkle with half filling + half chips.
Spread second half batter in pan, and sprinkle with filling + chips.

Cover well with plastic wrap. Store in fridge for 6 – 24 hours.

Heat oven to 350 F. Bake cake for approx. 60 minutes, until tester comes out clean.

Turn out of pan after 5 minutes or so.