

**Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes
November 29th, 2023**

November Meeting: Wednesday, November 29th, 2023 at the Callander Bay Heritage Museum and Alex Dufresne Art Gallery

November Book: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

December Meeting: Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at the Museum

December Book: *House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune

Community Updates:

- **Callander Lights Up Christmas**, Saturday, December 2nd @ 5:00pm at park, movie at community centre @ 7:00pm.
- **J.O.Y. Band** Yuletide Festival, Sunday December 3rd, 2023 @1:30pm, Trinity United Church
- **Christmas Celebration Instrumental & Vocal as part of the Trinity**
- **December 8th, 6:30pm sing along, 7:00pm, the story of Christmas, with the Near North Voices, Directed by Rod Carley @ Trinity United Church**
- **Symphony**
- **Choral Society**
- **Craft Show at Community Centre**

Upcoming Library Events:

- Cookbook Club Cookie Exchange, Tuesday December 19th @ 6:00pm
- Holiday Hours Dec 27th-29th 12:00pm – 5:00pm, Saturday, December 30th 12:00pm – 4:00pm
- Book Delivery Service reminder
- Older Adult Advisory Group

Upcoming Books:

January 31st, 2024: Any biography of your choosing – there will be a collection at the library starting January 2nd, stop by to pick something up.

February 28th, 2024: Diamond Eye by Kate Quin

March 27th, 2024: Woman Watching by Marilyn Simonds

April 24th, 2024: The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr

May 29th, 2024: Silence of Bonaventure Arrow by Rita Leganzki

June 29th, 2024: Dreadful Water by Thomas King

Books we want to remember:

Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese – Can't pick this book until May 2024
Bittlemores by Jann Arden – Can't pick this book until December 2024

Other Books Mentioned:

An Immense World by Ed Young (I contain multitudes) – how animals sense the world.

October Book Reviews:

Book: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Discussion:

8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really enjoyed this novel, because of the strong character development and the story of the impact of the war and the racism that the characters felt as Koreans living in Japan. • The portrayal of strong women. • I liked that the characters didn't move to the US as a way to get away from the racism. • Every action has a consequence in this novel and they are often negative. • I liked the graveyard scene at the end of the novel and felt that it wrapped it up the story well. • The portrayal of the culture reminded me of my daughter's experience living in Japan she had no interest to go back, she found it to be a difficult place to live because it was very rigid and regimented, there was little freedom in the classroom (she was a teacher). • Pachinko as a metaphor for the story, you can't learn to win, because the outcome always changes.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two parts that come to my mind – Noa committing suicide because his mother went to see him and the burying of the picture in the cemetery at the end. • I learnt a lot about the war. • I found it long.
8 (and up if I was further away from the ending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I read it years ago and went back to reread it. • I liked that the story was told from the outside, it didn't jump around in time or points of view, wonderful old fashioned storytelling. • You got to really know the story tellers. • I was struck by how much we have. • Repetition of the idea of being a good, moral person, no matter what your position. • The idea of duty. • I liked the history of it, the idea that you could live in a country for generations and still not be a citizen. • I found on the second read; the last part of the story dragged a bit. • The Hansu character was interesting, maintained this obsession with Sunja.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I enjoy reading historical books, especially on a subject that is new to me. • Koreans are the second largest ethnic group (Chinese is higher) – living in Japan. • I listened to this book as an audiobook and am watching the series on Apple TV. Because they didn't get a contract for more than one season at a time and it does bounce back in time a lot. • There wasn't one single happy person, each character had to settle, which was related to the culture that they had to live in.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was shocked by the bitterness by the grandmother towards her daughter at the end of the story. • There were lots of family connections between the generations. • They all had strong morals, which I appreciated.

8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really enjoyed it, I don't think there is much to add. • The character development was excellent, and I found it easy to keep track despite the number of characters, until the last quarter of the book. • I was so shocked when Noa killed himself. • I was impressed with the Korean's throughout the story, and the dedication between Sunja and her sister-in-law. • The work ethic of the Korean characters really struck me. • Since 1953, there is an armistice and a demilitarized zone in Korea, Canada was one of the nations that defended the Southern Korean against the North Koreans.
7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I found it too long and it needed more editorializing. • I kept wondering if the game was an allegory for the story, and why wasn't the title used more in the story.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I enjoyed the book. • I didn't know anything about the history, and I found it very interesting. • I was shocked by Noa's suicide was, and how pervasive the feelings of inferiority by the Koreans in Japan. • I thought that the re-setting of the pachinko machines was so that when people won once it wouldn't give them an advantage the next time.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really enjoyed the beginning of this story, I could understand the characters and wanted to see them succeed. • I liked that I learned a history that I didn't know before. • I found the ending dragged on a bit, I was happy with the story of the women, but didn't find the story of the sons and grandsons as interesting. • I don't think I would recommend this book to everyone, but if you like a generational saga, this would be a good book.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I remember reading it in parts and taking breaks. • I enjoyed it much more the second time. • I liked Koreans and their work ethic and the intergenerational connections. • I was shocked by Noa's suicide, it felt like it was too far. • On the whole I enjoyed the book and I would recommend it.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I inhaled this book, the combination of the historical part and that I could relate the characters to the people that I knew. • The actions were determined by the characters, but it happened often that the characters looked back on their actions with regret. You knew the characters and what was important to them. • I really appreciated the strength of the women and the choices that they made.