

**Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes
April 26th, 2023**

May Meeting: Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 at the Callander Bay Heritage Museum and Alex Dufresne Gallery

May Book: *The Witch Elm* by Tana French

June Meeting: Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

Upcoming Library Events:

Overdrive retirement: Information Sessions: Tuesday May 23rd at 1pm and 6pm

PD Day Craft Club: Friday, April 28th – DIY Earphone Case

Cricut Craft Club: Tuesday, May 2nd 6pm

Cookbook Book Club: Full

Revolutionary Reads: May 15th at 6pm : Move by Parag Khanna

Other Events:

The Rappart Singers “Eclectically Celtic” Sunday, April 30th, 2023. Come out for an afternoon of melodies, lilts and laments that celebrate the Celtic Folk Music tradition. Artist Director Peggy Millar and accompaniment by Sue Nicholson. \$20 per person (\$10 for students)

North Bay Film: <https://northbayfilm.ca>

Maple Syrup Festival in Powassan this Saturday. Be sure to stop in at the United Church Book Sale and visit Pat!

Near North Voices: Saturday May 13th, at Trinity United Church, a celebration of being back together.

Upcoming Books:

May: *The Witch Elm* by Tana French

June: *A Town Called Solace* by Mary Lawson, link to podcast, tentatively June 21st

**Note: Come prepared to suggest books for the fall at May’s book club meeting.

Callander Scotland Book Club: No update

April Book Reviews:

Book: Any book by Ruth Ware

Discussion:

9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The It Girl</i>• I liked the contrast, past and present, two roommates from very different economical backgrounds• She testifies against one character who is accused of murdering one of the main characters• There were always questions about if the right person went to jail• She decides that she needs to determine if she testified to the guilt of the wrong person• I found it riveting, I enjoyed reading it again
-----	---

No rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The It Girl</i> • I'm enjoying it, but am not finished and feel that because it is a thriller I can't rate it without having completed it • I have recommended this author a number of times, but have never read a book by them before and I'm glad to be reading it • I'm looking forward to finishing it
9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Woman in Cabin 10</i> • It was a well done thriller, there were little hints along the way • As I was reading, I thought that if you were claustrophobic, it would be very hard to read • I would definitely read another book by the author • It takes place on a boat in Norway and I enjoying the details about the setting, and was reminded of a trip we took there once • I'm measuring it for its genre
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Turn of the Key</i> • Initially, I did not want to read a thriller, I got two books at once and I picked the short one first, <i>In a dark, dark wood</i>, but I'm not going to talk about that one • <i>The Turn of the Key</i> was very scary, and I'm a bit tired today because I stayed up late last night to finish it. I did enjoy it • Sometimes I found that she with holds information and there were a few things that were a bit of a stretch
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Woman in Cabin 10</i> • It often seems in this genre there are usually a few loose ends and things that are a bit exaggerated • Reading it at night was a bit difficult, these books do what you want it to
7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In a Dark, Dark Wood</i> • It was her first book, it was ok, there's a bit of a formula • It wasn't a book that grabbed me, it is similar in plot to <i>The Guest List</i> by Lucy Foley and I liked that one better
7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In a dark, dark wood</i> • I would be in agreement on the book • I like mysteries and it was OK, I read the first one because I like to read things in order
6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Lying Game</i> • I was thrilled with reading a thriller, but I wasn't terribly thrilled with the book • A group of teens are sent away to boarding school, where they develop a game where they get points for lying to other people • The plot didn't take shape until well into the story • The book had a lot of description that was not necessary • There was some suspense, but not a lot of violence, which I enjoyed
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The It Girl</i> • It was quite good and the final outcome was a bit of a surprise • The description of the "it girl" and her clothes did not appeal to me
7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The It Girl and One by One</i> (I'll review <i>One by One</i>) • It was similar to <i>Beautiful People</i> by Lucy Foley

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was kind of clear that the person who did it was going to be the person who you didn't think it would be
7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One by One</i> • I thought that she had kind of run out of ideas • The characters were not well meshed • When I first started reading I found her style, very readable, she clearly writes to a specific audience • So often books need to have different timelines and different points of view • I found this book difficult with all of the different points of view and the way the different points of view have to leave this story throughout the timeline was complicated, I found it unnecessary and disruptive. • It was contrived, but it was readable, great with dialogue, it flowed nicely • The ending was contrived
6.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Death of Mrs. Westaway</i> • A young girl inherits from Mrs. Westaway who was her supposed to be her grandmother, but it wasn't. • It was a page turner because you had to keep reading it to keep the characters straight • It was a soap opera • When I got to the end, I realized that I had probably read it before, but it wasn't memorable

Other Notes and interesting discussion points:

- There was some discussion about the ending and whether it was surprising or not
- She doesn't seem to have the same main character, which was nice
- Sometimes you do really like to have regular characters
- Mention of Donna Leon, the books all take place in Venice and although there is little story, the books allow you to visit the place (Donna Leon's books are available at the library, however we don't have the complete series, only books #22-current).
- Many books from the same genre are being written (thrillers like Ruth Ware and Historical Fiction), how do you find a good stand-alone book anymore, are they being published?
- Some of the Ruth Ware books felt like they were being written to be made into a movie or series. (Aside here are a few articles related to the discussion:
<https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2021/07/tv-adaptations-fiction/619442/>
<https://thewalrus.ca/books-on-tv/>
<https://writingcooperative.com/how-i-sold-a-tv-movie-option-on-my-book-before-it-was-published-e7146732b037>)