

Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes March 27th, 2024

Location: Callander Bay Heritage Museum and Alex Dufresne Art Gallery

Community Updates:

Near North Voices: May 11th, 2024 at St. Andrew’s United Church

Upcoming Library Events:

- April 3rd, 2024 Coffee Club at the Library – Incandescent Glass
- April 17th, 2024 Coffee Club at the Library – Crystal Cave
- April 6th – Eclipse Information Session at the library with the North Bay Astronomy Club

Upcoming Books:

April 24th, 2024: The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr
 May 29th, 2024: Silence of Bonaventure Arrow by Rita Leganski
 June 19th, 2024: Dreadful Water by Thomas King – **Note updated date!**

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

March: *Woman Watching* by Marilyn Simonds

Discussion:

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| 7.5 - 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was already curious about Louise de Kirline Lawrence • Her story was fascinating |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I thought the best part was the cover • The framework was interesting but, I found the writing a bit slow • I read ‘Another Winter, Another Spring’ which I really enjoyed and recommend |
| 7.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really enjoyed the book, I did find some of it tedious and I skipped over parts of it • I appreciated her tenaciousness and found her story interesting |
| 7.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am really enjoying the story • I’m also interested in birds and have been interested all my life • I found the part in Russia, interesting – she was so brave • I like her crankiness, she behaves more like a man of that time, she is clearly the head of the house hold • Her relationship with Len is very interesting • She was outspoken |
| 9.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I’m really glad that I read it, but I found it to be work • There are a lot of local connections, Marilyn Simonds clearly did a lot of research • That she gave so many hours of the day to her bird watching was something that stayed with me as well as the amount of time that she spent writing letters • I was often left wondering where she got money |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the details were fascinating • I think the author has given Louise's story justice |
| <p>Louise's part – 9.0</p> <p>Merilyn Simonds – 5.5 – 6.0</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The audiobook was 16 hours long and the reader was very slow, I finished listening to it at 2x and it still didn't sound like a chipmunk talking • There was a fact in this book that I knew was incorrect, which made me question other facts in this story • I divided the story into two parts the character of Louise, and the writing, liked Louise and that she didn't brook fools, I really liked learning about her • The writing was difficult, and it would have benefited from a strong edit • Merilyn Simonds wove her story into Louise's story too much. (There was group discussion here about Merilyn injecting her story, and affecting the story) |
| 7.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I loved the first half of the book – I would have given that part a 9 • The quintuplet part of the story definitely had a significant impact • The question of where she got the money, was interesting • The second part of the book, I skipped more parts towards the end • The birds were interesting and how she talks about the number of species of birds was incredible, it tied into the current discussion about all the bird species that have disappeared and the population decline, I couldn't believe the number of birds that she would have seen • That the author injected herself so much which a negative |
| <p>9.0 for the story of an amazing women</p> <p>6.5 for the story of the whole</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like other's have mentioned I found the first parts interesting • I've spent a lot of time in the area around Pimisi Bay as well as Leisure World and the NB Psych Hospital, it was interesting being able to picture these places and I can't understand why Louise would have chosen to live in the Psych Hospital • I found the bird stuff to be repetitious • To think that this amazing woman lived here in our community was interesting • I don't usually read a lot of nature books • It made me think about the birds that we have • It does need some editing |