

## Morning Book Club Meeting Minutes January 31st, 2024

**Location:** Callander Bay Heritage Museum and Alex Dufresne Art Gallery

**Community Updates:**

- Museum Strategic Plan – please take the time to complete the short survey

**Upcoming Library Events:**

- PD Day Shadow Puppet Activity
- Book Delivery Service reminder
- Older Adult Advisory Group

**Upcoming Books:**

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Diamond Eye by Kate Quin  
 March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Woman Watching by Marilyn Simonds  
 April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024: The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzette Mayr  
 May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Silence of Bonaventure Arrow by Rita Leganzki  
 June 19<sup>th</sup>, 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

Other Books Mentioned:

A member who couldn't attend highly recommended *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: the lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt* by Charlotte Gray

**January Book Reviews:**

**Book: Any Biography**

Discussion:

Not my Father's Son by Alan Cumming  9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actor</li> <li>• He has always fascinated me because he has a soft Scottish accent and his voice is so recognizable, he recorded the audiobook.</li> <li>• It's not as dark as some of the reviews suggest.</li> <li>• The book is divided into then and now, his father (an alcoholic) a very was violent person. The book moves back and forth between stories from the past and how these experiences impacted his life.</li> <li>• I find the stories fascinating, I like Alan Cumming's acting, and his matter of fact way of telling his story.</li> </ul>
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah  9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trevor Noah is a good writer, and his story is very interesting.</li> <li>• He grew up in South Africa during Apartheid, his mom was African and his father was Swiss, at the time his birth was considered a crime.</li> <li>• I really think this book resonated so much for me was because the author is roughly the same age as I am and I was shocked at his experiences growing up</li> </ul>

	<p>compared to my own. I knew what Apartheid was, but for some reason in my mind it was something that had happened before my lifetime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the book deals with some difficult subjects is humour and positive outlook make it easy to read.</li> </ul>
<p>Another Spring by Louise de Kirline Lawrence</p> <p>9.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amazing read, so well written. It is about her life as a young adult.</li> <li>• She came from an aristocratic Swedish family, trained as a nurse and met her husband (Russian soldier) at a prisoner of war camp and they were married in 1918.</li> <li>• When he was better, he left to fight the war in Russia, she follows him.</li> <li>• The story is so well written, she could be a suspense writer.</li> <li>• I am so intrigued with this woman (we are reading about her life in Canada in March).</li> <li>• It's a page turner, with so much adventure and suspense.</li> </ul>
<p>The Answer is.... By Alex Trebek</p> <p>8.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I always liked the man, and his personality came out in the story.</li> <li>• It's written in anecdotes, in chronological order, he had been bothered by people for years to write a story, but he didn't think it would be interesting enough until he found out he had cancer.</li> <li>• He was a peace maker all his life and he explained how he used this on Jeopardy.</li> <li>• I found it so very interesting, especially when he discussed his diagnosis with stage four cancer.</li> </ul>
<p>Indian in the Cabinet by Jody Wilson-Raybould</p> <p>The writing of the book I give it a 4/5</p> <p>The book itself and how it impacted my views on our current system of government I give it 4/5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She worked as a BC prosecutor for a number of years before she worked as a leader in the Indigenous community.</li> <li>• She was wooed by the Federal Liberals to join the party.</li> <li>• She had a lot of support from the party in running and was promised a cabinet position.</li> <li>• I was first aware of her after the liberals won the election and she took the position as attorney general.</li> <li>• The book focuses on her time as a politician in Ottawa.</li> <li>• My impression is that both the government and Jody underestimated each other, she was eventually moved out of the office of attorney general after the SC Lavalin scandal.</li> <li>• She does a very good job of writing about government and keeping it interesting.</li> <li>• On a personal note, I have had interest in governance, it is interesting that the First Nations are using the court system to push for change for in governance, I think that we are going to find that we will be pushed to think about the governance of our country and where we want to it to go.</li> <li>• This book changed my perspective on my view of our politics.</li> </ul>
<p>Kisses from Katie by Katie Davis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's religious story about a young woman (18 years old) who gives up everything and moves to Uganda.</li> </ul>

<p>8.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She fell in love with the people, she adopted 14 children when she was 21 years old.</li> <li>• She learned a lot about basic nutrition and health care, she taught over 100 children at one time.</li> <li>• I was very moved by her story, it was enlightening, it was sad and happy, the kids were so brave, I thought of myself and my daughter at that age and I was in awe of what she did.</li> <li>• There is a lot of religion in the book, but you can skim it.</li> </ul>
<p>Grounded in Eire by Ralph Keifer</p> <p>8.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's about his father who was a Canadian RAF pilot in WW2 and he crashed in Ireland and became prisoner of war in Ireland. However, as prisoner of war experiences it was pretty easy, but they were obligated to try to escape. It is a fascinating story and was an enjoyable read.</li> <li>• It was a fun book to read.</li> </ul>
<p>Escape from Manus Prison by Javivet Ealom</p> <p>9+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the story of a young guy who was Rohingya in Burma (Muslim in a Buddhist country), and was minimized as a person. This is still ongoing.</li> <li>• He managed to go to university, despite the safety concerns, he realizes that even with an education he still won't be able to get a job.</li> <li>• He wanted more from life, he went to Jakarta, and realizes that he is still a non-citizen, and decides to go to Australia</li> <li>• It is a very difficult trip and ends up in Papua New Guini, in one of the worst prisons in the world and he decides to has to escape</li> <li>• He remembers the show Prison Break and how the characters in the show break out of prison, he manages to escape</li> <li>• He comes to realization about Australia and their immigration policies and connections to individuals like Rupert Murdoch</li> <li>• He eventually arrives in Canada after a lot work and no money, and attends U of T.</li> <li>• This is not a book for those who don't like to read harsh facts, however he is an excellent writer</li> <li>• This book has really hit me hard, maybe because it is a part of the world that I didn't know anything about</li> <li>• The books had created a huge outrage in Australia and they are starting to dismantle these prisons</li> </ul>