February 2020 Good Reads Book Club

The book we read for this meeting was Other People’s Houses by Abby Waxman. Although no one absolutely hated it, several of us thought it was just “ehhh” or no big deal. She’s a good writer and it was fast-paced, and some of it was funny, but there were a lot of characters and some of us found it hard to follow. For next month we’ll read As Long As We Both Shall Live by Jo Anne Chaney.

JoAnn read:
The River Murders by James Born (a frequent co-writer with James Patterson). Very non-believable, and very badly written.

The Hard Ticket Home by David Housewright. A fun thriller featuring a private investigator who is hired to find the missing sister of a girl who needs a bone marrow transplant (because the sister is a donor match).

The Confession Club by Elizabeth Berg. A group of women confess their sins to each other. It’s a good story, Jo Ann liked it.

You’ve Been Volunteered by Lori Gelman. Not one of Jo Ann’s favorite reads, but the snarky emails written by the protagonist were fun to read.

A Minute to Midnight by David Baldacci. The 2nd in his series featuring female FBI agent Atlee Pine. Very good.

Night Fire by Michael Connelly. It was okay, not his best work.


Hindsight by Iris Johansen. A woman who was once blind but is now able to see, uses her powers of observation to help in an investigation.

The Deserter by Nelson DeMille. A really superior read; highly recommended. A good story and a great ending. Unputdownable!

Marianne read
A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult, set in a women’s reproductive clinic. A good story.

Goodnight from London by Jennifer Robson. Another great piece of historical fiction from the author of The Gown. Marianne liked The Gown better, but this was good too. It’s set in England during World War II and the main character is a young American reporter who is stationed there.

Dear George, Dear Mary by Mary Calvi (who is a news anchor on Channel 2). This is an enjoyable, wonderful piece of historical fiction about the love life of a young George Washington.
The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides. An interesting story, it was an ok read.

The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson. This was recently read by the Montville book club, and the consensus of their group (which Marianne agreed with) was “Don’t bother--” it’s not worth the time.

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. An excellent story.

The Girl They Left Behind by Roxanne Veletzos. A fabulous story, an excellent book about what it was like in Romania after World War 2. Sad and eye-opening.

Cilka’s Journey by Heather Morris. This nonfiction book is by the author of The Tattooist of Auschwitz. It’s quite a story, and it is hard to read about what people went through.

Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris - a very good story

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck. This was an interesting read about the lives of three women whose husbands were executed for trying to assassinate Hitler. It focuses on what their lives were like after the war. Strong female characters.

Dottie read:
The Stationery Shop by Marjan Kamali. Everyone in the book club who’s read it has liked it very much. A good book, but sad.

The Reckless Oath We Made by Bryn Greenwood. The book is about two misfit kids: Zee, a girl, and Gentry, a boy who is on the spectrum (high-functioning) and believes his job is to protect Zee like a knight in shining armor. Dottie is still not quite sure if she liked the book.

Last Hope Island by Lynne Olsen. Nonfiction about what England was like during World War 2 and how expatriates from occupied countries helped so much with the war effort.

Rachel read:
Red War by Kyle Mills - the latest in the Mitch Rapp series. Unfortunately Rachel did not like this one very much.

The Wife Between Us by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen. Very good.

An Anonymous Girl (also by by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen) - a very good psychological thriller.

House of Gold by Natasha Solomons - Enjoyable.

Angie read:
After the Flood by Cassandra Montag. A post-apocalyptic book of survival, set in the near-distant future. Angie thought it was an interesting story and recommended it to Mary.
Queen Bee by Dorothea Benton Frank. “Let’s not even go there.” Angie was not a fan.

Guess Who by Chris McGeorge. An excellent thriller set in London that caught Angie’s attention because of the blurb on the front: “One room. Five suspects. Three hours to find a killer.” It kept her on the edge of her seat. Highly recommended.

Pat read:  
Blue Moon by Lee Child. Didn’t like it - it seems like the books are getting to be all the same and too predictable.

Night Fire by Michael Connelly - the latest Bosch book 

Redemption by David Baldacci, featuring Detective Amos Decker. A very good thriller.

Bloody Genius by John Sandford - another great book featuring Virgil Flowers, loved it.

How the Dead Speak by Val McDermid. Usually Pat likes her books, but not this one - she didn’t like any of the characters.

Irene read 
A Better Man, the new Louise Penny. It was one of the better ones in the series, very good.

The Christmas Boutique by Jennifer Chiaverini - one of the Elm Creek Quilt series 

Blood on Snow by Jo Nesbo. The main character is a hit man. A very weird read, involving a love affair with a deaf mute.

Criss Cross by Patterson. The latest Alex Cross. Terrible.

Pandora’s Room by Christopher Golden. An archaeological dig in Turkey. A typical adventure thriller.

Who Let the Dogs Out by David Rosenfelt- one of the Andy Carpenter mysteries

Mary read 
You Can Only Yell At Me For One Thing At A Time: Rules for Couples by Patricia Marx and Roz Chast

Goodnight from London by Jennifer Robson

The Royal We by Heather Cocks

Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano