



July 2024 Good Reads Book Club

For this meeting, we read *Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn. The book is about a group of retired female spies who discover that someone has targeted them for death... and then they take action. Reactions of book clubbers were mixed, as is usually the case.

- Pat said she couldn't get into it because it was unrealistic.
- Marianne agreed that it was unrealistic, but enjoyed it anyway. "I would never have picked it up so thank you, Mary."
- Dot commented that these women were able to take advantage of the invisibility of older women in society. Older women just aren't noticed much by society, they usually seem harmless and not dangerous. The women in this book were able to exploit that societal norm to their advantage.
- Joanne liked it and enjoyed reading about all the ways that the women were able to disguise themselves.
- Angie had read the book before. Interestingly, this time she noticed more of the ailments related to aging that the women were suffering (and how they compensated for them), and that struck home because now, being "ladies of a certain age," we're also having those problems.
- Dorothy C, Marilyn and Irene enjoyed it, and thought it was a fun summer read.

Marianne read:

Merle's Door by Ted Kerasote. This nonfiction book was a recent pick of the Montville Library book club. It's an excellent read and Marianne liked it a lot. Spoiler alert, the dog does die in the end.

The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes. A very enjoyable story (this was for the Senior Book Club)

JoAnn read

Funny Story by Emily Henry. This was recommended by her granddaughter. New

Think Twice by Harlan Coben. Featuring Myron Bolitar and Win, his "morally challenged" friend. A nice twisty, thriller, very enjoyable

Dot read

It's a Date Again by Geneva Rose. A young amnesiac woman in New York City slowly discovers that she is actually dating three guys. There are no murders, which is a shame, but there's a twisty end, so Dot found it enjoyable.

Army Wives by Simone Gorrindo. It's set in Afghanistan and focuses on the stresses of the women who were there with their military husbands, but never quite sure where their husbands were or if they were safe, since the men were often sent out on covert missions. Recommended!

Flashpoint by Catherine Coulter, the latest thriller in the Sherlock and Savage FBI series



Dorothy read

Meet me on the Bridge by Sarah Harris, an “ehhh” read.

When We Were Enemies by Emily Bleeker. This is dual timeline historical fiction. An interesting read that features Italians who were held in internment camps in the United States during World War II.

Be a Triangle by Lily Singh. This self-help book is short, under 100 pages, and also an interesting read.

Angie read

Lone Wolf by Gregg Hurwitz, the latest in the Orphan X series. Actually didn't finish, only got about 75% through. It was pretty awful and a disappointing read

Miss Morgan's book brigade by Janet Skeslien Charles. Angie liked it, but she thinks she is getting tired of historical fiction with plotlines featuring librarians or booksellers, there have been so many of them lately.

The Golden Gate by Amy Chua. Mystery set in Berkeley, California in the 40s. Interesting characters, interesting history of California. And enjoyable read, recommended

Angie also read Real Americans by Rachel Khong. It was an interesting read, related to gene therapy, but Angie spent the entire book feeling a bit confused.

Secrets of Rosebriar Hall by Kelsey James. Another of the Kensington Publishing Gothic romances. It was readable, kind of like brain candy.

Marilyn just started One Perfect Couple by Ruth Ware and is enjoying it.

Irene read

The Necklace by Cheryl Jarvis, an enjoyable book that was recommended by members of the senior book club.

The Raging Storm by Anne Cleeves, the latest in the Matthew Venn series.

Dottie H couldn't make this month's meeting, but she emailed Mary and said she really loved *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. She also enjoyed *The House is On Fire* (which someone else in the club had recommended to her previously).

Mary read

The Return of Ellie Black by Emma Jean. This was a really creepy book with a serial killer, which Mary did not know when she picked it up. Yuck. Pat and Becky would love it.

Funny Story and also Happy Place, both by Emily Henry, They were both good.



June 2024 Good Reads Book Club

We read “reading Lolita in Tehran” for this month's meeting. Several people very vehemently did not like it, and most of us couldn't finish it. However, Frank loved it! He shared a quote that he really liked from the book: “what we search for in fiction is not reality, but the epitome of truth.”

Margaret read

That librarian by Amanda Jones. The memoir of a librarian who got caught up in the Book banning it's going around the country. It was an interesting read, and a tough subject, but this is the world we live in.

Remarkably bright creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. After “that librarian” Margaret needed a light read. This book was a delightful book with a good ending. Margaret loved it, she had read it on JoAnn's recommendation.

JoAnn read

Remarkably bright creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

I will ruin you by Harlan Coben. Had a good twist ending, liked it.

The Women by Kristin Hannah. JoAnn graduated from nursing school about the same time as the protagonist in this book, so she really related to it. It was a brutal read, but a marvelous book. It was interesting to see a nurse's perspective on Vietnam and its aftermath.

The elephant company. Fiction. A British guy in Burma. “It was great... If you like jungles, bugs, and elephants.”

The necklace by Cheryl Jarvis. JoAnn read this for the senior book club. Maryanne had recommended it. JoAnn absolutely loved it.

For the love of Jeremy, by Renata Dea Luce. Nonfiction. A heartbreaking book about teenage boy's drug addiction from a mother's point of view.

Angie read three great books, all were upbeat, well written, and had great characters.

The Storied life of A J Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin. A wonderful story with quirky characters. A feel good book.



The Princess of Las Vegas by Chris Bohjalian. This was a quick and lively read, a murder mystery set in Las Vegas. Angie has not liked his last few books, but she enjoyed this one very much.

The Little liar by Mitch Albom. This is a great read, set in a small Greek village during World War II

Dottie read

Sylvia's second act by Yablon. Would not recommend.

The women by Kristin Hannah. Liked it a lot

The necklace by Cheryl Jarvis. An enjoyable read

The frozen river by Ariel Lawhon. This historical mystery is set during the 18th century in Maine. The main character is a midwife and healer. It was recommended to Dottie by a friend, and she absolutely loved it. She gave it five stars on Goodreads.

Marianne read

Mad honey by Jody Paul. There wasn't one current social issue that they didn't cover in this book (Mary calls these books "kitchen sink books". It was a pick of the Montville library book club. Most people in that club really liked it, especially the nurses, because there were a lot of details about transgender surgery.

Miss Morgan's book brigade by Janet Skeslien Charles. At first Marianne didn't think she'd like this, because she didn't care for the cover, but it was a fantastic read (and so much better than the cover!) Miss Morgan is JP Morgan's daughter. This is a fabulous, very enjoyable story.

Irene read

One perfect couple by Ruth Ware. An enjoyable but typical Ruth Ware read.

3 inch teeth by CJ box. This was a good read, the latest in the Joe Pickett series

Murder at LaVillette by Cara Black, one of the Aimee LeDuc mysteries set in France.

The wind knows my name by Isabel Allende. A very good read

Frank read the last trial by Scott Turow. This was an enjoyable book. A doctor who was involved in clinical trials is then put on murder after some of the subjects of the study die unexpectedly



12 months to live by James Patterson and Mike Lupica. Your typical murderous thriller. Enjoyable.

Marilyn read

Marilyn listened to Long Island by, which is a sequel to Brooklyn, but set 20 years later. Marilyn liked it.

Calamity of souls by David Baldacci,

John Grisham's latest.

Maria read

The Paris wife by Paula McLain

Island of the sea women by Lisa See. An enjoyable read

Z: a novel of Zelda Fitzgerald,

The Huntress by Kate Quinn. Enjoyable.

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. Also a great read.



May 2024 Good Reads Book Club

For this month, we read *Maame* by Jessica George. It is the story of a young British-Ghanaian woman coming to terms with her life in a difficult family. The main character was in her mid-20s but she seemed both a lot older and much more immature than other people her age, because she was brought up with strict and isolating social norms. Maame's mother is pursuing a career back in Ghana, leaving Maame in charge of caring for her sick father. While the character was relatable, some of us felt that she was a bit whiny and somewhat of a doormat at the beginning. Throughout the course of the book she worked through the process of grappling with her difficult family situation and learning about the importance of what she wanted out of life. No one was absolutely in love with the book. Some people thought it was entertaining, a few others didn't care for it. About par for the course, for our group.

Marianne read:

The Children's Train by Viola Ardone. Heartbreaking historical fiction based on a true story in post-WWII Italy.

The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle by Jennifer Ryan. Another historical fiction, set in the English countryside during World War II.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett (for the Senior Book Club)

Dottie read

The Warm Hands of Ghosts by Katherine Arden. Historical fiction set during World War I in both Halifax and on the Western Front. There's a slight element of supernatural in it. Dottie loved it, as did Mary. Angie also read it, and said "it wasn't terrible." The gruesome details of what people endured during the war were pretty intense.

Killers of the flower moon by David Grann. At the beginning of the 19th century, when people realized that there was oil under the rich Oklahoma soil, they started trying to get their hands on the money. The only trouble was, the land was owned by Native Americans. This true tale explains the corruption, lawlessness and murder that took place during that time. It was sad to see how much prejudice the Native Americans endured.

The Killing on the Hill by Robert Dugon. This standalone historical thriller is set during the Depression and Prohibition. A young reporter learns there was a murder at a social club. Who do you trust?

Angie read

The warm hands of ghosts – – see above.

The women by Kristen Hannah. Though Angie did find it interesting to learn more about what it was like to be a woman and a combat nurse during Vietnam, she thought the book seemed more like a romance novel with a bit of history. Many other group members had also read the book but we had different reactions. An interesting discussion ensued!



Trouble in Queenstown by Delilah Pitt. Angie read the advanced reader's copy of this book, which is due to be released in mid-July. It was enjoyable and hopefully will be the first in a continuing series. The main character is a strong woman who is the daughter of a famous cop. The book was set in the fictional town of Queenstown, NJ. Angie thought the book was really well done and recommends.

Dot:

Highly recommends Jeneva Rose, who writes really good thrillers. Dot can't say too much about the books without giving away the surprises in the plot, but said that whatever you think is going on in the book, you probably don't - that's how good the plot twists are.

Dorothy read:

The Christie Affair by Anita Gramont. Really well-written historical fiction, set during the mysterious weeks-long disappearance of Agatha Christie, but written from the perspective of Christie's husband's mistress.

Margaret read:

The hidden life of Celia Larsen, which was recommended by Marianne. As an old woman, Celia reminisces about her life, starting when she was abandoned by her mother in an orphanage and then joined a circus as a young girl.

Between sisters by Kristen Hannah. An enjoyable read about the relationship between two sisters and how they need each other even later in life.

Frank read

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls. Many of us have also read this memoir of a woman's extremely hardscrabble childhood and extremely flaky and neglectful parents.

Identical by Scott Turow. An enjoyable read, and Frank recommends.

Irene read:

The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder by Charles Miller. In this first book in a series, an antiques appraiser is murdered and his former student investigates. An entertaining read, but not as spooky as Irene had hoped.

Wandering through life by Donna Leon. The author writes the Inspective Brunetti series set in Venice. This book is her memoir, a very interesting and enjoyable read.

Small things like these by Claire Keegan. A very short book, set in an Irish village, beautifully written.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Several other people in the book club have read and enjoyed this book. Irene also loved it and thought it was very enjoyable.



Jo Ann read:

The girl who disappeared twice by Andrea Kane. This was a great read. It's one of the Forensic Instincts FBI profiler series by New Jersey author Andrea Kane.

Toxic prey by John Sanford. This was the latest in the series and really kind of scary because the plot seemed like it might be plausible in today's world.

The help by Katherine Stockett. Jo Ann enjoyed this book, which was chosen for the Senior Book Club.



April 2024 Good Reads Book Club

For tonight's meeting, we read *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. This was her memoir (written in a poetic style in honor of National Poetry Month) of growing up as a Black girl in the 1970s, her experiences in Ohio, in the South, and also in New York City. A few people liked it a lot, but a couple people would have liked more substance. Most people agreed that it was relatable, and enjoyed the fact that Woodson's love of words really showed throughout the book.

Margaret read:

Thank you for all things. A story about a girl growing up in poverty in a rural town in the 1970s. A heavy topic, and the ending was difficult to read.

Irene read:

Running grave (the latest Cormoran Strike novel) by Robert Galbraith (aka J. K. Rowling). At over 1000 pages, it was a big commitment, but it was a good read and Irene liked it more than the previous book in the series.

The Heaven & Earth grocery store by James McBride. She felt it was overhyped, and described it as a dark and miserable story.

How to solve your own murder by Kristin Perrin— a cute, fun, pleasant read.

Numbers two and four of the Thursday murder club series, by Richard Osman. Nice escapist reads.

The exchange by John Grisham. This is a follow-up to Grisham's breakout novel *The Firm*, which was first published in 1989 which was -- wait for it -- **35** years ago.

The Paris agent by Kelly Rimmer. Historical fiction about a female spy is during World War II, an interesting read

The secret life of sunflowers by Marta Molnar. Historical fiction featuring Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. The chapters alternate between Van Gogh's sister-in-law in the 1800s, and a woman in our current time. It was a very interesting read.

One last kill by Robert Dugoni -- a Tracy Crosswhite book, enjoyable.

JoAnn read:

The Texas outlaw by James Patterson



Struck dead by Andrea Kane, an enjoyable thriller with good characters and Joanne will read more of the series.

The book of names by Kristin Harmel. Very enjoyable. Others in our group also read and enjoyed this book.

Anxious People by Fredrick Backman. This was the Senior Center book club choice. A quirky and hopeful read. JoAnn's favorite quote was "We are all idiots sometimes," which is very true.

Frank read

Her deadly game by Robert Dugoni. A murder mystery with a twist. Frank was surprised because he couldn't figure out who perpetrated the crime, which he usually is able to deduce.

The counterfeit countess by Elizabeth White and Joanne Sliwa. The nonfiction account of a woman who managed to save some Jews during World War 2. Amazon describes it as "The astonishing story of Dr. Josephine Janina Mehlberg—a Jewish mathematician who saved thousands of lives in Nazi-occupied Poland by masquerading as a Polish aristocrat—drawing on Mehlberg's own unpublished memoir." Frank thought the book was a little dry and tedious at parts, but overall it was interesting..

Dorothy read

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell. Loved it – thought it was a wonderful read.

The extraordinary life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni. Really enjoyed this one.

Remarkably bright creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. This was a book Marianne highly recommended last month, and Dorothy absolutely loved it. Irene said she is about to start it tonight.

he Love Warrior and *Untamed*, two nonfiction memoir/selfhelp books by Glennon Doyle

The Women by Kristen Hannah. This was a great book about female nurses who served during the Vietnam war. Well written, informative, and sad.

Dot read:

The First Lawyer by James Patterson, an enjoyable read.

Cross Hair by James Patterson, one of the Michael Bennett series, another good read

Manner of death by Robin Cook. A good thriller, and Dot enjoyed the medical aspects



Such a Perfect Wife by Kate White. When a woman disappears without a trace, her husband is (of course) the main suspect. But did he do it? A very good thriller.

Rachel read:

Northwoods by Daniel Mason. Rachel listened to the audiobook. The reader was very good and it was an enjoyable listen.

Angie read:

The Ballad of songbirds and snakes by Suzanne Collins, a prequel to the hugely popular *Hunger Games* series. Really good, interesting, and well-developed characters. Anyone who has read The Hunger Games trilogy would enjoy this

Small mercies by Dennis Leane. A very good book, but a little depressing. It's the 1970s in the middle of summer in South Boston. Schools are about to become desegregated and not everyone is happy about it. Everyone is waiting for the violence to start

The girl behind the wall by Mandy Robotham. Joanne and Rachel had also read this one. This was about twins who were separated by the Berlin wall when it went up. An interesting story and well written.

The Displacements by Bruce Holzinger. *Another* climate change disaster book.... An interesting story about a family displaced by climate change, who end up in an overcrowded and under-managed FEMA center in Oklahoma. A "Lord-of-the-Flies" type situation evolves. People on Amazon said it was an unputdownable thriller.



March 2024 Good Reads Book Club

For tonight's meeting, we read *Banyan Moon*, by Thao Thai. Some people liked it a lot, some people thought it was okay, and a few people (including Mary) didn't really like it. Rachael didn't like it. Maryanne didn't like it but she finished it anyway, in direct violation of #3 of the [Library Bill of Rights](#) ("the right to not finish.")

Dottie liked the story a lot, as did Frank and Maria. Frank enjoyed reading about the women's perspectives, the multi-generational and immigrant stories. Maria found the first few chapters slow, but after that she really enjoyed the story and has recommended it. Both Maria and Frank said they really liked the style of the author's writing. JoAnn thought it was OK, but she didn't like any of the characters because she felt they kept

repeating destructive patterns and acting weak, shallow and selfish. Frank agreed, saying that all the men were jerks.

Dottie really enjoys generational stories where you follow a family through a few generations and that's why she liked the book, but she also agreed that none of the characters were very likeable. Mary commented that she has a hard time reading any book where she dislikes the characters, no matter how good the writing is. This is why, Mary admitted, she didn't even finish the book.

Rachel read:

The rule of threes by Jeffrey Deaver. This is part of the Special Agent Constance Marlow series. In this book, she investigates a serial killer in a small town in the Midwest.

The big dark night, by Dean Koontz. It was a weird book, she used to enjoy him more than she does now. But overall it was a good read, if creepy

When we were enemies by Emily Bleeker. An enjoyable read featuring family secrets that are unexpectedly unearthed during a young woman's wedding.

JoAnn read

The Good Lord Bird by James McBride. This was her February blind date book. Historical fiction set during the Civil War featuring John Brown, who believed he was on a mission from God to rescue enslaved people. A very interesting book that looks at both white and black perspectives.

Tick Tock, by James Patterson. This is one of the Michael Bennett books, which is one of JoAnn's favorite series of Patterson's. It was a quick, escapist read.

Frank read

Balzac and the little Chinese seamstress by Dai Sijie. This enjoyable and short book is set during the cultural revolution in China and the two wealthy young men at the heart of the story have been banished to a small country village in order to be “re-educated.” During their stay in the village they give the local seamstress a copy of Balzac’s book (even though there was a prohibition against reading western literature). Both young men are in love with her but reading Balzac changes her perspective on things, she ends up becoming westernized and moving to a large city.

Remains of the day by Kazuo Ishiguro. This book, which was made into an Oscar-winning movie in 1993 (starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson), is set in the mid 1930s. The main character is a middle-aged butler, looking back on his years of service to his employer and providing perspective on upper class British society. Very good writing, Frank enjoyed it.

Dorothy C. read

Don’t forget me: A Thriller by Rea Frey. Very interesting, hard to put down, and a very quick read! However, there were a few inconsistencies in the book that threw the story off.

The marriage by KL Slater. This was a really good psychological thriller by a British author. Great story. Easy to follow.

My brilliant friend by Elena Ferrante. Dorothy thought Marianne had recommended this book last month, but Marianne had recommended the TV series. Dorothy had trouble keeping track of all the characters and was thankful that the author had provided a cheat sheet. We discussed Angie’s noble struggle to get through the four-book series several years ago, and tried to dissuade Dorothy from reading further books in the series. :P

Survivors of the Clotilde, by Hannah Durkin. This was a gripping true story of the history of the Clotilde, which was the final slave ship to enter the United States. It’s a heartbreaking read and follows the stories of the captives on the ship, how they survived, and what happened to them when they arrived in the States. A difficult story to read, but it helped Dorothy understand what these people went through. Some of the details were pretty gruesome.

Dottie read

No second chance by Harlan Coben. This was one of his older standalone thrillers. Enjoyable.



I have some questions for you by Rebecca Makkai. A woman goes back to her alma mater to do a true crime podcast about the murder of her former roommate at the school. It's written as a letter to the professor, whom she thinks actually did it. A good read.

Mercury by Amy Jo Burns. Dottie really liked this, it was sent in the 90s in a small town in Pennsylvania. The character development and relationships in this book were very good. Highly recommended.

Marianne read

The hidden life of Cecily Larson by Ellen Baker. At the beginning of the book, 94-year-old Cecily is looking back on her life. At four, she was abandoned by her mother at an orphanage. At seven, she is "adopted" by a circus whose members choose her to join their traveling act. A good story, and enjoyable, though a bit convoluted.

All the lies they did not tell by Pablo Trenia. A true story about the residents of a very poor Italian community.

Maria did not bring a list this time, but she may next time.

Mary read

An American dreamer by David Finkel, a fascinating and even-handed account of the political polarization in our society today.

Absolution by Alice McDermott, a slow and thoughtful novel set in Vietnam right before the Vietnam war. Beautiful writing.

The warm hands of ghosts by Catherine Arden. A slightly supernatural story set during World War I. Written by the same author who wrote *The Bear and the Nightingale*, so everyone except Dottie and Angie would probably dislike it.

The right sort of man by Allison Montclair. This was the first in a really fun mystery series set in England in the late 1940s, just after World War 2.

The 2023 Book Oscars

We talked about all the books that our group read in 2023. It was interesting, some of the books we actually didn't remember having read – they were that unmemorable.

Several people chose *The extraordinary life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni as their favorite read. A couple of people loved *Molokai* by Alan Brennert the best. One person



loved *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech. And a couple of people really enjoyed the nonfiction Malcolm Gladwell book, *Talking to strangers*.

The group was divided on which book we'd be most likely to recommend. The top 2 candidates were *The Most Dangerous* by Steve Sheinkin or *The Residence: inside the private world of the White House* by Kate Anderson Bauer.

The books most likely to be thrown at Mary were *Lost city of the monkey God* by Douglas Preston or *The bear and the Nightingale* by Catherine Arden.

The most interesting plot twist went to *The lost man* by James Jane Harper.



January 2024 Good Reads Book Club

For tonight we read *84 Charing Cross Rd.*, by Helene Hanff, a New York-based writer. In the late 40s and early 50s, after WW2. The book is a collection of correspondence to and from a book shop located at 84 Charing Cross Rd. in England, and the relationships she develops with the people who work there through letters. Almost everybody enjoyed it, gave it a thumbs up. JoAnn said it showcased the lost art of letter writing. It was interesting because it was such a popular book, resulting in a 1987 movie starring Anthony Hopkins, but nobody in the group had ever heard of it. Frank said that he wouldn't have wanted to read any of the books she requested, they were pretty esoteric, and the rest of us agreed. But the correspondence was really fun to read, and it was a short book, which was perfect for the holidays.

JoAnn read

Quentin's, by Maeve Binchy, about a pub in Ireland. Binchy is always a nice peaceful read that shows how people in a community support each other.

The physicist's daughter. Maryanne had given the book to JoAnn. This was set in the South during World War II. A really smart American girl works in a factory making important items for the war effort, and discovers (and investigates) possible sabotage. Joanne didn't really care for it.

Wish you well by David Baldacci. This novel was not a thriller, like most of Baldacci's books. It's set in rural Virginia, where Baldacci grew up. A very good read. JoAnn pass it along to Marianne, who asked "is there a map?"

Yours Truly by Abby GJmenez. JoAnn's third 16 year old granddaughter recommended this romance to her. But, the book had some pretty explicit scenes in it, and a lot of "happy ever after" at the end. JoAnn wasn't entirely sure how she felt about the fact that someone so young was reading this. It's a tough issue. Frank brought us back to laughing when he asked "did it have a map?"

Frank read:

Where the dead sleep, an advanced readers copy that is the second in a series by Josh a Markley – – **need to check the spelling**. Follow a 40 year old gay detective who grew up in a small Minnesota town and comes back later in his life to solve a murder. It was a fun, quick, well written book.

Devotion by Adam Makos. This nonfiction book featured the fierce friendship between he first African-American Navy, fighter pilot, and his best friend, a rich white guy, during the Korean War (also known as "the forgotten war"). Frank learned a lot about the Korean War and the history of north and South Korea. (This book was later made into a movie)

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. The story of Louis Zamperini, Olympic track champion, and his



struggle to survive during World War 2 after his shop goes down and he is detained by the Japanese. A great read.

Marianne read

The nurses secret by Amanda Scandore. Historical fiction set in the 1880s in the first school of nursing in the United States – – Bellevue, in New York. The main character was a pickpocket, who was in a bad situation, and applied to the school to escape the situation, but knew nothing about Being a nurse. You learned a lot about what the training was for nurses of that time.

Portrait of ?) shadow by Nicole Jeris. Almost 500 pages long. It was not exactly historical fiction, it had more of a historical fantasy field, so Marianne felt like it wasn't real after a while, and she would not recommend it.

Dorothy C. read

While time remains: a North Korean defector's search... By Yeonme Park. **(Check spelling)**

This book was not what Dorothy was expecting. It jumped around a lot and left a lot of open questions. After doing a little research, Dorothy learned that the author, when she was in North Korea, was kind of known as "the Paris Hilton of North Korea." Some people accused the author of having made up some of the stuff in the book. And, if the author lied about some things, what else did she lie about?

Phyllis read:

Let it snow by Nancy Thayer (her December giveaway book), a light read about a woman who runs a toy store on Nantucket. A light read and perfect for this time of year.

Irene read:

Shadows Reel by CJ Box, and was disappointed. The book seemed silly and badly put together, not the caliber of writing we expect from this author.

Irene also read The Last Remains, a mystery by Elly Griffiths. It features Ruth Galloway, a forensic archaeologist based in England. Irene enjoyed it and will probably read more in the series.

Dottie read:

Fish in a Tree by Linda Mullally Hunt. This was a cute middle-grade kid's book. Allie is a second grader who has fooled her teachers into thinking she can read. Then she encounters a teacher who sees the problem. Allie learns she has dyslexia, and that diagnosis helps her realize she's not stupid. Had a happy ending.

Mary read

Lee Child and Andrew Child's latest novel, featuring Jack Reacher, The Secret. Entertaining, but not his best.



Mary also read a bunch of kid's fantasy and science fiction books this month.