

Parkdale Book Club

12 September – Endless Knot

Schedule

Date (10 am on 2nd Saturday)

Oct. 14	<i>Into the Magic Shop: A Neurosurgeon's Quest to Discover the Mysteries of the Brain and the Secrets of the Heart</i> , by James R. Doty MD – Barb (all of us)
Nov. 4 *	<i>The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper</i> by Phaedra Patrick - Beth
Dec. 9	<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i> by Kurt Vonnegut -- Lindsay
Jan. 13 2018	<i>Being Mortal</i> , by Atul Gawande -- Doreen
Feb. 10	<i>Fifteen Dogs</i> by Andre Alexis – all of us
Mar. 10	<i>My Grandmother Sends Her Regards and Apologises</i> by Fredrik Backman -- Beth
Apr. 14	<i>The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness</i> by Karen Armstrong -- Lee
May 12	<i>The Humans</i> , by Matt Haig -- Lynn
June 9	<i>One Brother Shy</i> , by Terry Fallis -- Joan

October's meeting

We'll meet on the 14th to discuss ***Into the Magic Shop***. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on perspective, I just got a call for a dentist appt. made available by a cancellation, so I will not be able to attend. So I will miss Ruth's first time joining us, and Lindsay's return, as well as everyone else who was unavailable for the September meeting, as well as an exciting

discussion. Sadly, Barbara is unable to attend the October meeting as well. I hope someone will take some notes about the discussion and send them along to me for the next newsletter. Cheers in advance.

November's meeting

Please note that November's is moved from 2nd Saturday to 1st Saturday, as above, because of the overlap with Remembrance Day.

The Endless Knot

Several of our 'usual suspects' were unavailable for last Saturday's discussion, but we were delighted to welcome a new book club member, Sue B, to the circle.

Gail Bowen's protagonist, Joanne Kilbourn, is a detective by circumstance. In the first novel in the series, *Deadly Appearances*, she is a political strategist and advisor to Andy Boychuk, a politician who is murdered just hours after being elected Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Kilbourn solves his murder while contending with the murderer's attempts to kill her too. In later novels, Kilbourn changes careers, becoming a political science professor in Regina, and later a political commentator with a local television station. Kilbourn is a widow, whose husband was himself murdered several years before the events of *Deadly Appearances*. In *A Colder Kind of Death*, she investigates the killing of her late husband's murderer. A couple of the books were adapted for television. In the *Love and Murder*, and *Deadly Appearances*, Kilbourn is played by Wendy Crewson.

Here are some of our reactions (caution - some spoilers, if you're planning to read the book):

& After the first chapter, I thought I'll never get through this - there are so many characters.

- & This may be the disadvantage of reading # 10 of a 17 book series. People who read each book are already acquainted with half of the characters.
- & "I love orchids, but I love marigolds too. They endure."
- & I love Bowen's vocabulary and her descriptions of characters and places. I like that the places are Canadian.
- & She's good at foreshadowing but still leaves room for surprise.
- & Bowen did a good job of misdirecting our suspicion as to who did the shooting
- & I appreciated Sam Parker's parenting, especially in contrast to his daughter's mother.
- & Ethan had no one.
- & "One of the gifts of late middle age is the ability to forget what you don't choose to remember."
- & Did she explain why Taylor is Joanne's daughter? Yes...
- & Contrast between Zack the lawyer and Zack the family man, a teddy bear.
- & Everyone warned Joanne about Zack. When is he going to screw up? Next book?
- & How would the story be different if he, Zack, were not in a wheel chair?
- & I like how much the book emphasizes diversity. The message is that a good life can happen even if adversity.
- & What is it like to be a defense lawyer? To choose that direction?
- & Strange that it is set in Regina - good to have the familiarity of location.
- & Could recognize that the funeral was at Centre Street Church.
- & if Ethan killed Kathryn, why all the Charlie subterfuge? How believable is Mieka's disaffection, zooming to Regina from her family and business in Saskatoon, at

- Halloween, when Charlie was not even guilty?...
- & I liked the others in the series more than this one.
 - & Interesting that Joanne put the box Ethan brought in her closet instead of delivering to Taylor
 - & It's good that there is a women detective
 - & Idealism and romanticism seem to appeal to me
 - & It's convenient for the story that Zack has so much money
 - & The book opens up a LOT of issues
 - & What turned Howard around on drinking?
 - & Jo makes herself available to anyone with a problem - sometimes too much - but it's good for the story
 - & The poor Crown Prosecutor getting sick - and it was neat that Zack would have preferred to defend against her instead of the easily bamboozled replacement
 - & The woman with an eating disorder who fainted
 - & What **is** the responsibility of the writer/biographer towards the people who will be affected by the book?
 - & What were Kathryn's motives? She deceived her interviewees about the purpose
 - & The title is perfect.
 - & Then we got into a discussion of reading series of books, like V.C. Andrews

Here is the whole series to date:

Deadly Appearances, 1990
 Murder at the Mendel, 1991
 The Wandering Soul Murders, 1992
 A Colder Kind of Death, 1994
 A Killing Spring, 1996
 Verdict in Blood, 1998
 Burying Ariel, 2000
 The Glass Coffin, 2002

The Last Good Day, 2004
 The Endless Knot, 2006
 The Brutal Heart, 2008
 The Nesting Dolls, 2010
 Kaleidoscope, 2012
 The Gifted, 2013
 12 Rose Street, 2015
 What's left behind, 2016
 The Winner's Circle, 2017

There are some Charlie D stories, too (from CPL catalogue):

One Fine Day You're Gonna Die 2010
 The Shadow Killer
 Love You to Death
 The Thirteenth Rose 2013

Summer reading

On Hitler's Mountain: Overcoming The Legacy of a Nazi Childhood by Irmagard A. Hunt - might become a nomination for next year. Ida mentioned *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, by Madeleine Thien, a book she read over the summer. Ida's 2nd mention was *The Evening Chorus*, by Helen Humphreys. As she described it, I realized I had read and enjoyed it as well. Humphreys also wrote *Coventry* (2008), described by *The Gazette* (Montreal) "a small gem. . . A beautifully sculpted, meticulously researched work." Sue mentioned *The Nest*, described on Amazon as "A warm, funny and acutely perceptive debut novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives." I enjoyed *A great reckoning* by Louise Penny, the 2nd most recent of Gail Bowen's, the beginning of *Being Mortal* (before it was due back at the library), Caitlin Moran's *How to build a girl*, and mostly, a poem a day from *Poem a Day Volume 2*, edited by Laurie Sheck.