

January Book Group

Mount Vernon at Home's Book Group, hosted via Zoom by member Laurie Tracy, is unique. Instead of everyone reading the same book, each participant selects a different one. When the group meets monthly, they introduce their book, provide a quick overview, and give it a "recommend" or "don't recommend." Participants enjoy lively discussions. It's easy to join the group and participate. Just check the monthly calendar for the date and click the Zoom link when in the weekly Bulletin on the Friday before the meeting. Or, email the office at info@mountvernonathome.org or call (703)303-4060 for the link.

Norma Brodsky is reading *Lovely One* by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. This is a memoir in which Justice Brown Jackson reflects on her life so far and its challenges and triumphs. Norma is enjoying *Lovely One* a lot, especially its elegant writing.

Carol Mattaino read *The Ginger Tree* by Oswald Wynd. In this novel set in China and Japan from approximately 1900-1943, a young Scottish woman in a loveless marriage has an affair with a Japanese nobleman that results in the birth of a baby boy. After her husband throws her out, she goes to Tokyo where she builds a successful business selling Western clothing to Japanese women. Her Japanese lover takes their son away from her. Early in WWII, she leaves Japan for Edinburgh. There is a happy ending. Carol thoroughly enjoyed this book, particularly Wynd's writing style.

Cher Terry read Andrew McCabe's *The Threat: How the FBI Protects Americans in the Age of Terrorism and Trump*. McCabe was James Comey's Deputy until then-President Trump fired Comey, leaving McCabe as acting FBI Director. Trump then fired McCabe less than two days before his long-scheduled retirement, leaving McCabe without a pension. In light of the 2024 election results, this led to a good discussion about what might happen next.

Alice Outerbridge read *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker (fiction). This book embodies many genres: a coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a love story. Alice referred to it as a beautifully written "charming thriller." It is set in the Ozarks and in other places in the U.S. over several decades beginning in the mid-1970s. The main protagonist is Patch, a 13-year-old boy at the beginning of the book. Patch is a talented artist and ends up in jail during his search for his missing love, Grace, and a serial killer. Alice liked it a lot.

Louise McLean read *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. This novel follows several generations of a family living in southwestern India. The family is afflicted by an illness involving accidental drowning and intense fear of water. Over time, family members become more integrated with the rest of the world. Louise enjoyed this book.

Laurie Tracy read *The Likeness* by Tana French. The main character in this mystery is a young Irish detective, Cassie Maddox, who had been undercover in the Dublin Murder Squad

for several years. She is now a regular detective with a domestic violence unit. When a young woman is found murdered in a village outside of Dublin, Cassie goes back to undercover work, as the victim, Lexie, resembles her so much. This mystery explores the characters of Lexie's four roommates, all grad students. Eventually one of the roommates realizes that Cassie is a police officer (not Lexie), she and attempts to kill Cassie in a frightening climax. Laurie liked this book a lot.