

CAMELOT BOOK CLUB

February 2010

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Lake Cypress Springs, Texas

## READER'S CHOICE

For this month's meeting Camelot used its alternate format, that of each member reading her own book selection and giving a brief overview of it.

Anne Simms read several books. *Miracle at Philadelphia* by Catherine Drinker Bowen, which was our January selection, was very impressive to her. That our Constitution could be written at all, with many States against it, was truly a miracle. And she noted that we have many of the same political issues going on today, with the resistance to big government.

She also read *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein, a heart-wrenching story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, told from a dog's perspective. –And, since Anne is not working now she took time to read a third book, *Loving Frank*, the story of Frank Lloyd Wright by Nancy Horan.

**Gwen Nelson** enjoyed *Wish You Well* by David Baldacci. Its setting is the mountains of Virginia, with a mother who never recovered from the death of her husband. It reveals basic truths of life, and is inspiring. Gwen loved reading the book.

Ann Fitzgerald, with her love of history, chose *Empire of Liberty* by Gordon S. Wood. It gives a fascinating look at our country's years of 1789 to 1815. It was easy to read, and in many ways our country echoes some of the same conditions today.

**Barbara Walton** chose *Boys Will Be Boys: The Glory Days and Party Nights of the Dallas Cowboys Dynasty* by Jeff Pearlman. It's an inside look at sports heroes' private lives. It shatters some images – some sportsman are so good, and some, nasty.

**Robin Westerheim** read *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. It tells the story of a lady who has been the concierge of a small Parisian apartment building for 27 years. A very young girl with the intellect of someone much older plays an important role.

Robin also read *The Haunted Bookshop* by Christopher Morley. It is part romance, part thriller, part comedy, with ghosts leaving the book-store when a book is discussed.

**Dottie Miller's** choice was *Let the Great World Spin: a Novel* by Colum McCann. A man walks a tightrope between the twin towers of the World Trade Center in 1974. Several people look up to see him and this shared perception is glue for this book.

Your Scribe, **Margaret Oesch**, read and reviewed *Going Rogue* by Sarah Palin. The book gives an inside look into presidential politics, which Sarah Palin describes as a "blood sport". She is an inspiring lady, with conservative views; she espouses pro-free-market fiscal policy and common-sense conservatism. Lots of surprises. An enjoyable and entertaining book.

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#### NEXT MEETING

When? Friday, March 19, 2010, 1:30p.m.

Where? At Barbara Walton's house

Why? To have fun and to discuss our March selection, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows



**Future Meeting Note:** Our April meeting will be at Karen O'Shea's house, and she has made her book selection. It is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

#### **MEETING NOTES**

Four of our group could not be present at the meeting, so only seven were here. We missed Ann Seher, Peaches, Sue Ward, and Karen O'Shea, who all had scheduling conflicts. Our meeting was hosted by Margaret Oesch at the request of Ann Seher, the previously designated hostess.

We had so many topics of interest to talk about; we started our meeting with a good old-fashioned gabfest. We caught up on neighborhood news about who's doing what with their houses; our big winter snowstorm; a sailboat afloat; the Tiger Woods scandal; grandchildren updates with cute stories abounding, including a nickname mysteriously coined by one little guy who chose not to call his grandpa "Poppy"; the Westerheims' trip to Zihuatanejo, Mexico; and the noisy howling of the coyotes in our woods. How's that for diversity? After that we did review the books each of us had read, which was very interesting, and gave us all ideas for our own reading lists.

Your Scribe served a Creamy Cherry Pie Cake and coffee. It was another fun day at Camelot, now in its thirteenth year!

### Quote of the Day

I just have one nerve left, and you're on it.

# CAMELOT BOOK CLUB IS GREAT