

BOOK CLUB REPORT – October 17, 2017

Ten members of the book club met to discuss February by Lisa Moore. This is a story based on the actual 1982 sinking of the oil rig Ocean Ranger off the coast of Newfoundland where all 84 men aboard died. The book tells the story of Helen O'Mara, widow of one of the men who died in that tragedy and was left to raise 4 children. While many in the book group thought the excellent writing to be rich in detail and profound in description, many also found it tedious in the volume of under developed characters, the number of random thoughts described in minute detail, and the exhaustion producing descriptions of grief. The author's use of time jumps back and forth from 1982 through 2008, added to the frustration of readers until it was pointed out that perhaps the author was really describing what grief is, the constant going back over the events of the tragedy looking for some kind of closure. While many in the group struggled with the book, the subjects it covered led to some interesting and heart-felt discussions covering such issues as birthing and parenting as a single parent and how death affects everyone in a family differently, living in a town filled with grief, finding inner strength in dealing with tragedy, talking to your children about your own death and what you might want for your funeral, the difference in grief when death comes from a sudden tragedy and when a person has been ill. Several of the members arrived with a negative view of this read but after such profound discussions left with a higher appreciation of the book. It was rated as a 7.5. The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2017 and the book is Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly.