



FOXWOOD VILLAGE BOOK CLUB

Dear Neighbors:

Our Group stayed within the United States with our reading material. We acquainted ourselves with interesting characters in very different times, situations and for most of us unknown problems and solutions. "The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" is a historical novel set in Seattle with its jazz background when the attack on Pearl Harbor took place, and revolves around the friendship of a Chinese teenage boy and a Japanese girl that is taken to a camp with her family. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" is a nonfiction story of the famous HELA cells from Henrietta, taken without her knowledge, in John Hopkins in Baltimore and the legal consequences until today. Last but not least, we accompanied in 1851, French missionaries discovering the state of New Mexico the so called new frontier. It is rightly called Willa Cather's masterpiece as one feels to be present.

Betty:

I found Skloot's narrative on cell research informative. As for the Lacks family, there is an adage "Ignorance is bliss", in their case it does not apply.

Diane:

"Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet", was I thought a good read on many levels. Firstly it was well written, about an interesting part of American history that has been downplayed. The story revolves around a young Chinese boy and a young Japanese girl who meet during the tumultuous times after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The interaction between these two set in 1940's Seattle Wash. is touching. The story follows the Chinese boy into late adulthood. I was fascinated by the depiction of the Japanese internment camps. Japanese families were rounded up and sent there for the duration of the war, the reason given was national security. I highly recommend this book to anyone who lived through that era or who wants to know more about it.

Lyn:

Reading the novel, "The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet", was such a wonderful "bittersweet" event! The book took us back to the days of WWII. It is the love story of a Japanese girl, and a Chinese boy. The story takes us to camps where American born Japanese were placed to live out the war. Such lessons we learn, that children are children, and parents are parents, where ever they are, and, whatever their race or land of ancestry. The love story begins when they first meet, at school, each bearing the enormous weight of society, and prejudice. This is a book I absolutely hated to put down, and hated to see end. You must read it. Life takes many twists and turns and so it does in the book. Treat yourself, read it!

I just finished reading "Death Comes for the Archbishop". Having lived in NM 50 years ago, as a very young bride, I could appreciate the picture of the tumbleweed rolling across barren roads. Even then, the tiny plain little Catholic Church could only be reached by walking through a dirt path, covered with wood boards when it rained! But, it was a beautiful, haunting country, even then. I found the book tough reading, maybe because I am in a tough place in life. I think it is not one I would recommend.

Veronica:

In the past few months we have read 3 novels dealing with 3 different eras in American history. American history is one of many subjects I really enjoy. "On The Corner of Bitter and Sweet" dealt with a difficult time in our history. The time of the interment of Japanese -Americans during WW11 as seen through the eyes of a Chinese-American teen. I, of course, had heard of this period in our history but this book brought it to light.

"The Immortal life of Henrietta Leaks" brought many questions to mind about how the scientific community works. I understand better now why the HIPPA laws came into being. It has become necessary to protect people and their identities but also to compensate them at times.

"Death comes to the Archbishop" gives a clear picture of the settling of the south west. I especially enjoyed the descriptions of the Mexican and Indian peoples and their way of life. All three of these books were well written. My favorite of the three was "On the Corner of Bitter and Sweet". This book at times brought me to tears of joy. I highly recommend it.

Please join us. Ilse Kaminski (208-8060)