

October 8, 2019 Book Chat

Here's what we talked about:

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. The true story of screen star, Hedy Lamarr. She was married to an Austrian munitions dealer. She was there in meetings with the upper echelon of the Third Reich during the war. Lamarr was a very intelligent woman who invented the foundations for modern communications. Marie Benedict also wrote ***Carnegie's Maid*** which is a fictional account of Andrew Carnegie's life. Her newest book is ***Lady Clementine***; "an incredible novel that focuses on one of the people who had the most influence during World War I and World War II: Clementine Churchill." Karen and I had both read Benedict's ***The Other Einstein*** which is about Albert Einstein's first wife. He cheated her out of recognition for her contributions to his theory of relativity. We both thoroughly disliked Einstein after reading the novel; it is a heart-wrenching story.

The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff is "fraught with danger, filled with mystery, and meticulously researched. ***The Lost Girls of Paris*** is a fascinating tale of the hidden women who helped to win the war. From the author of the runaway bestseller ***The Orphan's Tale*** comes a remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around three women and a ring of female secret agents during World War II." ***Orphan's Tale*** is "a powerful novel of friendship set in a traveling circus during World War II. The novel introduces two extraordinary women and their harrowing stories of sacrifice and survival. Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. She lives above a small rail station, which she cleans in order to earn her keep... When Noa discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, she is reminded of the child that was taken from her. And in a moment that will change the course of her life, she snatches one of the babies and flees into the snowy night."

Ginny's Moon by Benjamin Ludwig is about a girl in a foster home. "She's mostly your average teenager—she plays flute in the high school band, has weekly basketball practice, and reads Robert Frost poems in English class. But Ginny is autistic. And so what's important to her might seem a bit...different: starting every day with exactly nine grapes for breakfast, Michael Jackson, her baby doll, and crafting a secret plan of escape." Told from Ginny's point of view, the novel has an original voice."

The Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell is about the copper miners strike of 1913 in Calumet, Michigan. The central character is based on real union activist, Annie Clements. It is a fascinating look at the hard life of miners and the even harder struggle for workers' rights. Russell is an amazing writer and researcher. She also wrote ***The Sparrow, Children of God, Epitaph, Doc,*** and ***Thread of Grace.***

The President is Missing was written by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. "***The President is Missing*** confronts a threat so huge that it jeopardizes not just Pennsylvania Avenue and Wall Street, but all of America. Uncertainty and fear grip the nation. There are whispers of cyberterror and espionage and a traitor in the Cabinet. Even the President himself becomes a suspect, and then he disappears from public view . . . Set over the course of three days, ***The President is Missing*** sheds a stunning light upon the inner workings and vulnerabilities of our nation. Filled

with information that only a former Commander-in-Chief could know, this is the most authentic, terrifying novel to come along in many years."

Virgil Wander by Leif Enger is a quirky, but, wonderful novel about a dying midwestern town, the local movie theater owner who has miraculously survived an automobile accident, and a old man who builds and flies the most incredible kites. There is also romance and and suspense. Like somebody said, try it, you'll like it. It reminds me of Wisconsin author, Tom McKay's, **West Fork**, only better. Enger is also the author of ***Peace Like a River***.

So, several good titles to explore. All quotations are from Amazon. Until next time . . .

Dawn Hayslett