

## **Book Group 2 September Report**

Every now and again, we meet and share books we have enjoyed and which may be unknown to others in our Group. Such was our meeting on the second Monday of September and a good time was had by all.

First up was “Broken Country” by Clare Leslie Hall, a love story based on a farming family. The children of the parents fall in love prior to going up to Oxford but neither set of parents approve and are determined to keep them apart. The story, using a dual timeline, unfolds around the themes of love and loss, grief, betrayal and class conflict. This is a book of complex family relationships, described as “the most addictive love story of the summer” and set in rural England. Whilst our reader found the story compelling, she was not sure she would recommend it – the men were too “wishy-washy” and the story hopped backwards and forward too much.

The second book was Gervase Phinn’s “The Other side of the Dale” which our member found “a sheer delight” and we all shared in much laughter at the now well-known school inspector’s tales of children and schools in the dales. If you want cheering up this is the book for you – a thoroughly delightful book – and never doubt that children have wise insights and can tell it as it is

The third book was “Balcony over Jerusalem” by an Australian journalist, John Lyons. The book described his 6 years in Israel and Palestine with all its attendant dangers. The author admitted Israel was winning the military battle and in the settlements but Israel was not winning the Public Relations battle. The book was written well, so if you want a thought-provoking read, this is the one for you.

The last book was “Death at the Sign of the Rook” by Kate Atkinson, a book in the detective, Jackson Brodie, series. This book was found to be overcomplicated and even hard to follow, with too many differing strands. The reader did not recommend it, despite its being written by a well-known author whose other books the reader had enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30p.m. when we are all reading “Precipice” by Robert Harris. New members will be very welcome so please contact the Convenor if you would like to join us.

Ruth Stables