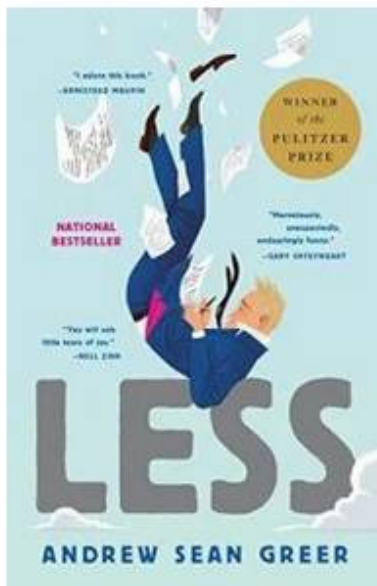


June 2019



This month we discussed 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction winner [Less](#) by [Andrew Sean Greer](#).

We weren't completely sure how this book came to win the Pulitzer Prize for Literature as we didn't think it was particularly deserving. The author himself admitted that neither he nor his publisher liked the book and so it was partially rewritten in an attempt to lighten the mood and make it more accessible. This has resulted in a patchy story that fails to be either bleak and dark or amusing.

We thought the actual writing was very good but the story was self-indulgent and quite shallow. It was difficult to relate to the characters and with no highs or lows of emotion or plot, it was hard to feel anything about either the main character or the storyline.

There was some discussion about whether the storyline being about the gay culture meant that it was hard for many readers to relate to the character or plot as the story lacked any universal themes. The story also glossed over the whole AIDS epidemic in a few lines, which we thought was a missed opportunity to create empathy and put some meat on the bones of the story, as it were.

However, one member had the novel as an audiobook and found the experience much more enjoyable. There was discussion about whether audiobooks vs reading made us less critical and less inclined to analyse the plot or the characters.

However, one member had the novel as an audiobook and found the experience much more enjoyable. There was discussion about whether audiobooks vs reading made us less critical and less inclined to analyse the plot or the characters.

Thanks to Di for summary.

You can find a good review of the book [here](#).

Ratings: Janet 3; Margie 2.5; Meg 3.5; Gail 3; Dianne DNF; Judith 1; Meg 2; Sally 2; Jillian 2; Cindy 2.5

Our next meeting will be 8/07/19 at 6:30PM at [Preece House, 50 Nerang St Bischof Pioneer Park, Nerang \(next to 54 Nerang St. shops\)](#) to discuss [The Year Of The Farmer](#) by Rosalie Ham author of [The Dressmaker](#).

Hope to see you all there and happy reading!

May 2019

- A Tale for the Time Being by Judith Ozecki, 4
- A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles, 4.5
- The Tobacconist by Robert Seethaler, 4
- The Salt Path by Raynor Winn, 3.5
- A Ladder to the Sky by John Boyne, 4
- 100 Years of Dirt Rick Morton, 3
- Out Stealing Horses Per Pettersen 4.5
- A House in Norwa by Vigdis Hjorth, 4
- Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton, 3
- Bridge of Clay by Markus Zusak, 2.5
- Peace Like a River by Leif Enger, 3
- Joseph Anton by Salman Rushdie, 4
- The Binding by Bridget Collins, 4
- The Lost Man by Jane Harper, 4

June 2019

- We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver, 4.5
- Electric Dreams by Philip K Dick, 3.5
- The Colour of Water by James McBride, 4.5
- Overstory by Richard Power, 3
- A Tale for the Time Being by Judith Ozecki, 4
- The Salt Path by Raynor Winn, 4.5
- The Atomic Weight of Love by Elizabeth J Church, 3.5
- American Spy by Lauren Wilkinson, 2.5
- Peace Like a River by Leif Enger, 3.5
- The Last Days of the Romanov Dancers by Kerri Turner, 4
- Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman, 4
- Perfect Skin by Nick Earls, 4