

August 2021



We had to get together over Zoom this month due covid restrictions. Our novel was *A Good Man* by Ani Katz. This is the New York novelist's debut novel. It is the story of Thomas who grew up in an abusive home and fights his way to a better life. He wants to be everything his father was not. He wants to be what he believes a good man should be. He marries has his own family and financially supports his mother and sisters. But something is not right. Everyone he is trying to protect is damaged and his determination to live up to what he believes he should be starts to unravel when he loses his job and Thomas slips into a psychotic break which has devastating circumstances.

Katz wrote the story from his perspective. She wanted to make him unlikeable and hard to relate to believing this is how she would get the reader to stick with him through to the end of the novel. The novel feels unsettling from the first page. The book brought about some interesting discussions regarding the characters and their flaws. All the readers from the group found the toxic masculinity overbearing, the singular point of view restricting and that the story lacked any real substance.

**Ratings :** Pauline 2, Nicola 1.5, Lynda 2, Di 2.5, Viv 2, Margie 2.5, Annie 1.5 and Sandy 3.

Our next meeting will be at Preece House on 13/09/21 at 6:30PM to discuss *Song of the Crocodile* by Nardi Simpson.

Hope to see you all there and happy reading!

# Gold Coast Book Lovers

It's all about good books...

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## Other Books We Read

August 2021

[The Yield](#) by Tara June Winch, 4.5

[Into the Loneliness: the unlikely alliance of Ernestine Hill and Daisy Bates](#) by Eleanor Hogan, 4

[The Scandal \(Beartown\)](#) by Fredrik Backman, 4

[The Bell](#) by Iris Murdoch, 4

[It's Raining in Mango](#) by Thea Astley, 3.5

[Here We Are](#) by Graham Swift, 3.5

[Girt](#) by David Hunt, 3

[Your own kind of girl](#) by Clare Bowditch, 4

[Who gets to be smart](#) by Bri Li, 3.5

[Still Life](#) by Sarah Winman, 4

[I'm a stranger her myself](#) by Bill Bryson, 3.5

[One Life](#) by Kate Grenville, 3.5

[This One Wild and Precious Life](#) by Sarah Wilson, 3

[Go Set a Watchman](#) by Harper Lee, 3

Wiser by Dilip Jeste, 3.5  
A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville, 4.5  
The Year of the Witching by Alexis Henderson, 3  
Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982 by Cho Nam-Joo, 3.5  
The Recovery of Rose Gold by Stephanie Wrobel, 3  
The drowned and the saved by Primo Levi, 4  
My rock n roll friend by Tracey Thorn, 3.5  
The dry by Jane Harper, 2.5  
Kilroy was here by Kris Olsson 3  
One Life: My Mother's Story by Kate Grenville 3.5  
When Horse Became Saw by Anthony Macris 4  
Things I don't Want to Know by Deborah Levy, 4  
The Man who saw Everything by Deborah Levy, 4  
The Committed by Viet Than Nguyen,3.5  
In Order to Live by Yeonmi Park, 3  
Orchid and the Wasp by Caoilinn Hughes, 3.5