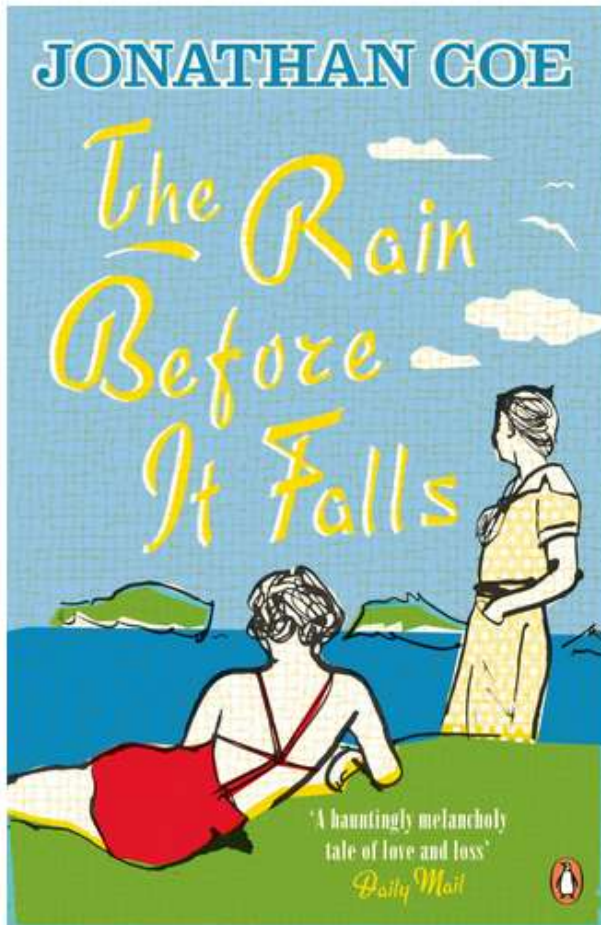


January 2022



The Rain Before It Falls was first published in 2007. It is a story tracing 3 generations of women, Beatrix, Thea and Imogen, all impacted by a lack of maternal love and how this negatively impacts their own lives.

The story is narrated by Rosamund, who is using 20 photos to record her memories on cassette and trace the family tragedy and her own involvement in the drama. In a bequest after her death, Rosamund asks her niece Gill, to share these recollections with Imogen the final woman in the generational tragedy. The story is predominantly set in England. The timeline begins during the Second World War when Rosamund is sent to the country to live with her cousin Beatrix's family. Here she develops a relationship with Beatrix which starts the connection to the family drama.

The novel has several themes running through it which, at times, take the reader off on tangents from the story. The major theme is generational trauma and how this is perpetuated through the female line. Other themes of homosexuality and domestic violence also follow the story line through each generation.

The story of Rosamund's involvement with the three women sits at the core of the story. Her own needs are the driver for her continued involvement with each of the women and how even at the end of her life she is unable to relinquish this need. Despite having moments of

self-reflection about her involvement, she continues to push on believing that Imogen has a right to know her own history. Rosamund hopes these revelations will help to heal Imogen from the trauma she experienced at the hands of her own mother.

The reviews from members were mixed. On the positive side there was appreciation for the generosity in the depth of description. The reflection of a life using photos was agreed as a good idea. On the negative side, some felt the story was a bit dull and self-indulgent and the characters lacked depth. Overall, it was given a thumbs up as a good holiday read.

Ratings /5 : Di, 4; Kim, Margie, Nicola and Pauline 2.5; Janet, Jenny and Viv 3 and Dianne, 3.5

Our Book Club has moved day and location, and our next meeting will be 8/02/2022 at 6:30pm at the QWCA Mermaid Beach Centre located in 43 Ventura Rd, Mermaid Beach.

Come and join us to discuss *Wild Abandon* by Emily Bitto. Hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

The 2022 Reading List can be found [here](#).

Other Books We Read

January 2022

Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams, 3

The Surgeon of Crowthorne by Simon Winchester, 3.5

The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton, 3.5

The Ruin by Dervla McTiernan, 3

Midsummer Murders by Agatha Christie, 3

The Goodwife of Bath by Karen Brooks, 3.53

The Italian Girl by Iris Murdoch, 2.5

Sweet Jimmy by Bryan Brown, 4

The Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meissner, 3

Death of a River Guide by Richard Flanagan, 4.5

The Living Sea of Waking Dreams by Richard Flanagan, 4

The Promise by Damon Galgut, 3.5

Power Play, Elon Musk, Tesla and the Bet of the Century by Tim Higgins, 3.5

Banks by Grantlee Keiza, 4

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman, 3

Life's Edge The Search for What it Means to be Alive by Carl Zimmer, 4
All the Lonely People by Mike Gayle, 3
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah, 3
Voss by Patrick White, 4.5
No, You are not entitled to your opinion The Conversation, 3.5
Sorrow and Bliss by Meg Mason, 3.5
Love and Virtues by Diana Reid, 3
One Day I'll Remember This: Diaries 1987 – 1995 by Helen Garner, 4
Toxic: The Rotten Underbelly of the Tasmania Salmon Industry by Richard Flanagan, 4
Beloved by Toni Morrison, 4
Oh William by Elizabeth Strout, 4
The Dickens Boy by Thoma Keneally, 3
The Silent Listener by Lyn Yeowart, 3
The Living Sea of Waking Dreams by Richard Flanagan, 2.5
Hot Milk by Deborah Levy, 2