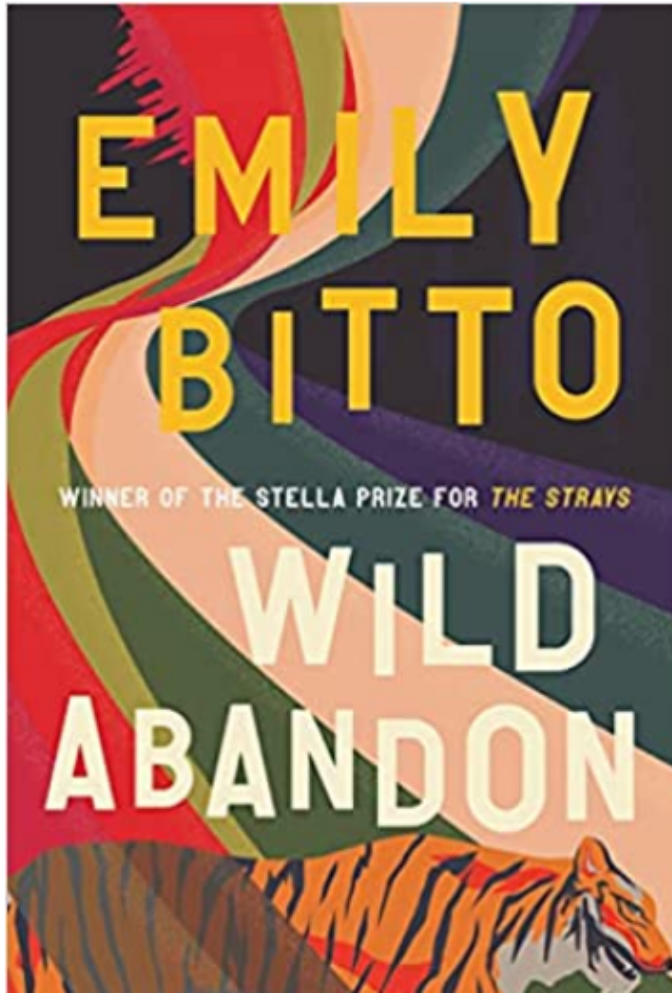


Gold Coast Book Lovers

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February 2022



Wild Abandon is told in the third person following the 'adventures' of Will, the protagonist, who flees a small regional town, then from Melbourne after his girlfriend Laura break off their relationship. These underlying discomforts remain as an undercurrent with Will throughout the story.

Will takes the view to say yes to everything, and he travels to New York, to him, a rite of passage city, where he stays with Paul, an informal family member, who introduces him to the world of excesses in food, art, drugs, and living. He soon runs out of money, and flees after what seems to be a casual encounter with Paul's girlfriend, Justine.

He travels to Littleproud, Ohio, where he has an old school acquaintance. Here the reader is introduced to Wayne, owner of Wayne's Wildlife Kingdom. Wayne, a damaged Vietnam Vet suffering PTSD, pilot, ex gun trader, pending divorcee, whose children are the animals. As the story takes Will to the Wildlife Kingdom, and his interaction with the animals, the bond of trust between Wayne and Will grows. The book focuses on the human, animal bond that exists within the zoo and managing the responsibilities for their well-being. Wayne's pending divorce, court appearance, Will's desire to move on and travel Route 66 trigger events that move to the conclusion of the book.

Emily explores many themes in this book.....excesses in drugs, alcohol, human animal relationships, food production and quality, i.e. plastic food, the inability for people to recognise their weaknesses, low self esteem, hedonism, small town attitudes, large city attitudes. She expresses her displeasure with many elements of our 21st century western society through events and description.

Most group members had great difficulty reading the New York section.....some of the language was very high faluten, while the Ohio section was much easier, and the story flowed at a more readable level and flow. Opinions on the book were divided.....some loved it, while others did not finish the book. It did however promote a good discussion.

Ratings /5 : Nicola and Lynda 3.5, Janet and Viv DNF and Jenny, 4.

Our Book Club has moved day and location, and our next meeting will be Tuesday 8/03/2022 at 6:30pm at the QWCA Mermaid Beach Centre located in 43 Ventura Rd, Mermaid Beach.

Come and join us to discuss *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray* by Anita Heiss. Hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

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Other Books We Read

February 2022

All My Mothers by Joanna Glen, 4.5

Towards Another Summer by Janet Frame, 3.5

Eucalyptus by Murray Bail, 4

Death of a River Guide by Richard Flanagan, 4

The Strays by Emily Bitto, 3.5

Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison, 3

Merciless God's by Christos Tsiolkas, 3

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro, 4

Three summers by Margarita Liberaki translated from Greek by Karen Van Dyck, 3

Mr Wilder & Me by Jonathan Coe, 3.5

Middle England by Jonathan Coe, 4