

## August 2022



During the August meeting there was a very lively discussion about the *Natural Way of Things* by Charlotte Wood. With 3 new members, we had a table-full and everyone had read the book and had something to say about it. The book describes a dystopian present where 10 young women are incarcerated on a disused sheep station – imprisoned and brutalised it is gradually revealed because they officially complained about their sexual assault experiences. Rather than the high profile perpetrators, it is the women themselves who are hated and punished and this is “the natural way of things”! It’s

unsubtle, visceral, graphic and powerful. The characters are almost stereotypical yet we related to them and given its confronting nature, we found the story strangely compelling, and wanted to find out how the women would manage and whether they and their jailers would survive.

We appreciated the writing, the descriptions of nature and the force of the symbolism but ‘this book was too horrific at times to read, the happenings too awful to contemplate’, and ‘the lack of sisterhood was daunting’. A number of us recalled the *Handmaid’s Tale* and the *Lord of the Flies* and we thought it a worthy winner of the Stella Prize for 2016.

Read a complete review in [Book of the Month Reviews](#).

**Ratings:** Sandy DNF, Viv & Jo 2.5; Deb, Pauline, Dianne and Jen 3; Cheryl, Di, Janet, Kim and Lyn 3.5; Hetta, Margie & Nicola 4.

***Our next meeting will be Tuesday 12/09/2022 at 6:30pm at the QCWA Mermaid Beach Centre located in 43 Ventura Rd, Mermaid Beach.***

Come and join us to discuss *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett. Hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

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

# Other Books We Read

## August 2022

Loveland by Richard Lukins, 4

Fathoms The World in the Whale by Rebecca Giggs, 5

Everyone In My Family has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson, 3

The Very Last List of Vivian Walker by Megan Albany, 3.5

Night Road by Kristin Hannah, 3.5

Home Front by Kristin Hannah, 3.5

The Light Through the Leaves by Glendy Vanderah, 3

Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton, 5

The Giant, O'Brien by Hilary Mantel, 3

The Arsonist: A Mind on Fire by Chloe Hooper, 3

The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart by Holly Ringland, 1.5

The dictionary of lost words by Pip Williams, 3.5

Abracadabra by Robert Dessaix, 3.5

The German House by Annette Hess, 3.5

A Woman is No Man by Etaf Rum, 4