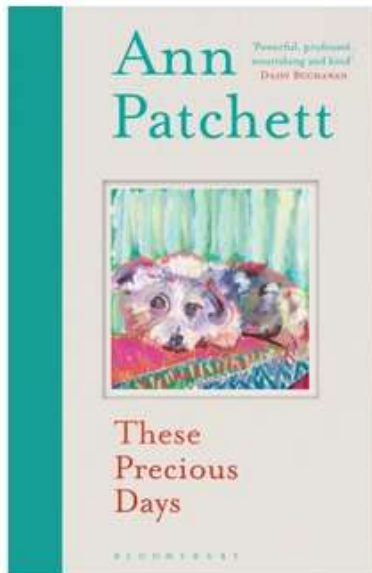


September 2022



September's meeting we welcomed back new members and veterans to discuss *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett.

Hello to Suzy our newest member, thanks for coming along. Sorry to hear of Jennie's broken arm – hope it heals well and quickly!!

A few other apologies (hope the play was great Janet) but otherwise a full table of us happy to talk about this recent collection of essays by an author

many of us have read and appreciated such as *Bel Canto* (2001) *Commonwealth* (2016) and *the Dutch House* (2019).

The range of topics covered by the essays are from the intimate – about her 3 fathers, her good friends, her husband – to the literary – introducing us to Eudora Welty who many of us subsequently read. She apparently learned everything she needed to know about writing from Snoopy!

“There are no children here” was a ‘favourite’ essay of many of us.

In spite of the crazy COVID times, there's an elegance and lightness of touch to most of the essays as, "Again and again, I was asking what mattered most in this precarious and precious life".

It was like an animated conversation for some of us, imitate and candid. A pleasure to engage in. She had the ability to capture simple elements of being human and make it interesting. Some essays really spoke to us.

One of us said, "The author's conversational tone was so inclusive, and I was touched by her stories of what appears mundane, but is so much a rich part of everyday life. Perhaps one day I'll be able to manage a year without shopping!"

However the title essay about Patchett's friend Sooki was much more substantial and our reactions varied. Some felt it was a privilege to share a very detailed account of an illness that is not often written about with some very personal moments, sadness and grief.

Others found it a bit excruciating, too private and even self-serving on Patchett's part. "Too much Ann"!

Many thanks for your contributions to a lively meeting. It's always so interesting to hear your thoughts.

Ratings: Margie, Jo and Hetta 3; Pauline, Viv, Lyn, Sandy and Nicola 3.5; Dianne, Lynda, Di and Suzy 4.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 11/10/2022 at 6:30pm at the QCWA Mermaid Beach Centre located in 43 Ventura Rd, Mermaid Beach.

Come and join us to discuss *The Multiple Effects of Rain Shadow* by Thea Astley. Hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

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

About Us

Other Books We Read

September 2022

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett, 4

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett, 5

Trust by Herman Diaz, 3.5

Confessions with Blue Horses by Sophie Hardach, 4

Freezing Order by Bill Browder, 3.5

The Other Name: Septology I-II by Jon Fosse, 4

Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World by Tyson Yunkaporta, 3.5

Nora Webster by Colm Toibin, 3.5

Love stories by Trent Dalton, 2.5

Mother Wound by Amani Haydar, 3.5

Small things like these by Claire Keegan, 3.5

A mother's disgrace by Robert Dessaix, 4

Making Australian History by Anna Clark, 4

Eyrie by Tim Winton, 4

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman, 3.5

One Day I'll Remember This, Diaries 1987-1995 by Helen Garner, 3.5

The Pursuit of love by Nancy Mitford, 3

The Crow Trap by Ann Cleeves, 3

The Offing by Benjamin Myers, 3

Circle by Madeline Miller, 3

Oranges are not the only fruit by Jeanette Winterson, 2.5

Sand Talk: How Indigenous Thinking Can Save the World by Tyson Yunkaporta, 3.5

Nora Webster by Colm Toibin, 3.5

Beastings by Benjamin Myers, 4

Horse by Geraldine Brooks, 3.5

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte, 4.5