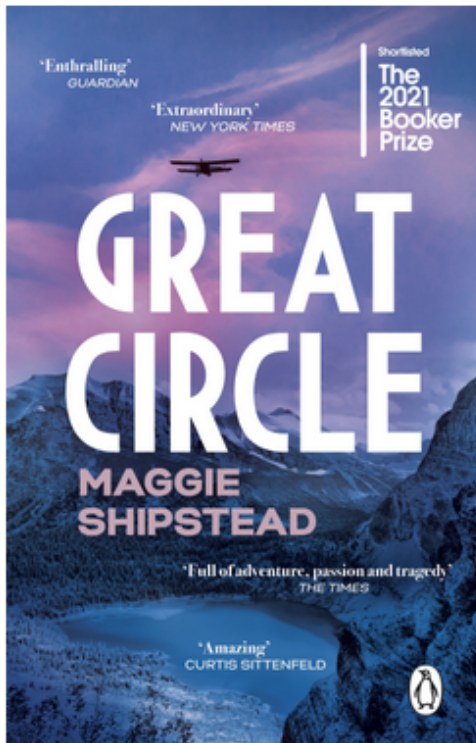


November 2022



This month's book was *Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead, an American novelist. *Great Circle*, shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize, is her third novel.

Spanning prohibition-era Montana, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, New Zealand, wartime London and modern-day Los Angeles, *Great Circle* tells the story of Marian Graves, a daredevil female aviator determined to chart her own course in life, culminating in her attempt to circumnavigate the globe by flying over the North and South Poles.

Great Circle is a story about a woman maneuvering her way between tradition and prejudice to succeed in the male-dominated industry of aviation. The novel explores the changing landscape of the 20th century and frequently alludes to various real-life women who broke flight records, including Amelia Earhart, whose adventures sometimes echo Marian's.

The novel addresses the way attitudes about gender shape women's expectations, desires and careers. The author weaves these themes into the present day by alternating the historical story of Marian with a modern-day story set in Hollywood, which focuses on Hadley, a young actress who agrees to play the role of Marian Graves in a film based on the lost aviator's life.

Her immersion into the character of Marian unfolds alongside Marian's own story, as the two women's fates – and their hunger for self-determination in vastly different geographies and times – collide.

Comments from the group were that they enjoyed the historical aspects of the book and appreciated the detailed research that the author undertook into the early stages of the aviation industry. Some commented that, while the author built the central characters well, there were too many characters in general distracting from the central story. Most also felt that the character of Hadley and the interwoven story set in Hollywood did not add value to the story.

Ratings: Di, Lynda 2.5; Nicola 3; Sandy, Janet, Jenny, Jo, Pauline, Lyn, Dianne 3.5

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

Come and join us to discuss *The Magician* by Colm Toibin. Hope to see you there and Happy Reading!

Other Books We Read

November 2022

The Long Song by Andrea Levy, 4.5

It's Raining in Mango by Thea Astley 4.5

Return to Uluru by Mark McKenna, 3.5

Foals bread by Gillian Mears, 3

Chemistry Lessons by Bonnie Grams, 3

To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf, 4.5

Coda by Thea Astley, 4

The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida by Shehan Karunatilaka, 3.5

The Feather Thief by Kirk Wallace

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan, 4

Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson, 3.5

Lessons by Ian McEwan, 3

A Question of Age: Women, ageing and the forever self by Jacinta Parsons, 1

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke, 3.5

Before the coffee gets cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi, 2

A history of loneliness by John Boyne, 4.5

October 2022

How to End a Story: Dairies: 1995-1998 by Helen Garner, 3.5

The Captain and the Enemy by Graeme Green, 3.5

The Innocent by Ian McEwan, 3.5

The Master by Colm Toibin, 3.5

The Wild Silene by Raynor Winn, 3

The Heart of the Matter by Graeme Greene, 3

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson, 3

Loveland by Robert Lukins, 2

The closed circle by Jonathan Coe, 3.5

The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell, 3

The Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys, 3

The other side of beautiful by Kim Lock, 2.5

Bodies of Light by Jennifer Down, 3.5