

Earlsdon Literary Magazine 209

The newsletter of the AVID Readers Group, based at Earlsdon Library

Next meeting: Thursday 8 November 2018 at 8pm
Venue: Earlsdon Library
Book for discussion: *Fingersmith* – Sarah Waters

A banned prizewinner

Our October Book: *The Color Purple* – Alice Walker

To my unreliable knowledge, this is only the second Pulitzer Prize winning novel we've read at AVID – and it's a thoroughly worthy winner, too. However, *The Colour Purple* was banned in many American schools in 1984 due to its explicit sexual and racial content.

It is set in the deep South between the wars, and is now a classic. It tells the harrowing story of Celie – an uneducated teenage girl born into poverty in a time of segregation. Incredibly, she endures and survives unimaginable physical and sexual abuse from her own father, Alfonso. Amazingly, throughout this, she manages to retain some faith in God. Thankfully, she is ultimately reunited with her beloved sister, Nettie.

The unforgettable opening line is “Dear God.”

The response from those members of the group who read it was mostly positive.

Comments included:

- Struggled with the language – Deep-South black-community vernacular – to start with, but got used to it quickly.
- Characters are amazing, well written and developed.
- Liked the use of letter as a story-telling technique.
- Even loved it the second around.
- Loved the parts of the novel about travel to Africa.
- Struggled to keep reading such an unrelentingly depressing life story.
- Didn't like such short chapter-ettes; prefer a beefier sized chapter.
- The novel was looking towards 'Salvation' but took a long time to get there.
- Felt authentic due to the writing style.
- Surprised by the number of surprises!
- Clever how the story 'tidied up' loose ends:
 - Nettie comes back with her kids;
 - the house belongs to Celie and Nettie.

At least two readers stated they would read it again.

Christine Miller

Our next book is

The One-in-a-Million Boy – Monica Wood

and we will discuss it on Thursday 13 December 2018

What to read next?

Yes, a question rather than a recommendation this month – although it's a question some of you have answered already.

**Would you like to read
Milkman by Anna Burns
– the 2018 Booker Prize winner?**

Please send news, reviews or recommendations, tales of literary events or anything you think AVID readers would find

interesting, to:

Catherine Fitzsimons
cathfitz5317@yahoo.com

We would have to source our own copies, as we did with *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* earlier in the year. Vote in the [Facebook group](#) or let me know and we'll do a count up on Thursday evening. If the outcome is 'yes' we can make it our book for January ... which means you can put it on your Christmas list and still have 15 days to read it before the January meeting (assuming you get what you ask for, of course!)

Catherine