

Cupar & District u3a Book Group 1

Month (2024)	Book	Consensus
January	Music in the Dark By Sally Magnusson	The third book we have read by Sally Magnusson. We did enjoy it, and it is a good portrayal of the injustices of the Highland clearances – but we did wonder why a fit young(ish) man would choose to partner with an elderly woman with dementia...
February	The Grass is Singing By Doris Lessing	More injustices – this time in Rhodesia of the 1950s, race relations and the oppressed – both the blacks and women.
March	Solar Bones By Mike McCormack	Well – this book is almost a stream of consciousness by the author, with little in the way of punctuation. Trying to hard to be another James Joyce?
April	Sunset Song By Lewis Grassic Gibbon	A book which is evocative of a land, its people and its culture set before the first world war, which changes during the war.
May	Memoirs of a Geisha By Arthur Golden	Insight into an aspect of Japanese life which is now mostly gone. Timed with our group visit to Dundee's very interesting V&A Geisha exhibition.
June	Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier	We all loved Ruby! Otherwise, a good depiction of a slice of American history.
July	Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen	Not too much to discuss - we all thought it was wonderful. Great characterisation.
August	Old Filth by Jane Gardam	Again - a difficult book for discussion but very enjoyable. Several of us are now reading the next two books in the trilogy. It made us think hard of the treatment of children of "ex-pats", sent "home" to England for schooling, living with people they did not know, who could potentially abuse them.
September	No meeting - too many people on holiday...	
October	The Loop by Nicholas Evans	A bit formulaic but ok (sorry to damn with faint praise)
November	The Country Girls by Edna O'Brian	A very interesting discussion - some of us had read this as young women and enjoyed it then. Now, re-reading it, we thought that Mr Gentleman was grooming Cait from the start. We were now also interested in the death of the mother - what happened to the boat, not to mention the bodies?
December	The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell	A good read. We were appalled by the treatment of Esme – locked up for 60 years for being a little weird. Losing her name for that length of time too. I have already spoiled the story enough - or perhaps encouraged you to read it? We did all appreciate the writing and the story.