

MORSELS FOR THE MIND BOOK GROUP

Date: 3-18-2019

Hostess: Laura Lewakowski

Book Title: Before We Were Yours

Author: Lisa Wingate

Book Synopsis: Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shanty boat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Our Review: We were all thoroughly horrified that the child theft and adoptions actually took place. Many had to skip parts. Also interesting discussion about elder care. It's hard to say that we "enjoyed" reading this, but we are all glad that we read it. Liked the way the author intertwined the two eras.

Food Served: Cajun catfish, corn pudding, asparagus, baking powder biscuits with blackberry jam, tea cakes, sweet tea, and Georgia peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream

Highlights of Discussion: That Georgia Tann actually stole children and sold them was horrific, but that politicians, hospital staff and others covered it up was just as bad. Also interesting discussion about elder care and the cost involved.

Attendance: All but Julie

Business/Suggestions: Next month's discussion will be at Ginny's on April 15, 2019 to discuss A House in the Sky by Amanda Lindhout