

MORSELS FOR THE MIND BOOK GROUP

Date: 1/20/20

Hostess: Laura

Book Title: Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

Author: Kim Michele Richardson

Book Synopsis: In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.

Our Review: We were all interested in reading about the Pack Horse Library program but none of us expected the story line about the "blue people" of Kentucky. Although this wasn't the main storyline, we felt it helped understand the mindset of the non-colored community. Even though they might be married to an aunt or first cousin, they treated the coloreds with disdain. There was a lot to talk about. The WPA, lack of nutrition, in-breeding, racism...it felt as if this story took place in the 1800s, not the 1930s. We admired Cussy Mary's determination to get reading material (of all types) to her patrons.

Food Served: Cheeseboard (just cheese, fruit and crackers), KFC!, Corn pudding, Spinach salad with wild blueberries and walnuts, Baking powder biscuits with blueberry jam. Kentucky Mules (Ginger Beer, mint, lime and Jim Beam), Scripture Cake (to go).

Highlights of Discussion: Some of us have also read Jojo Moyes' Giver of Stars, which was published after BWOTC. A bit of "who did it first" vs "who did it better" came up.

We decided on our books to read for the upcoming year.

Attendance: All but Sandy.