

MORSELS FOR THE MIND BOOK GROUP

Date: September 21, 2015 **Hostess:** Julie Coup

Book Title: *The Good Luck of Right Now*

Author: Matthew Quick

Book Synopsis: Bartholomew Neil is a 39 year old, living alone after the death of his mother who was his sole close companion. He now has no idea of how to exist on his own, and his grief counselor Wendy insists he needs to leave the nest and be on his own.

Bartholomew believes he has found a clue when he discovers a Free Tibet letter from Richard Gere that his mother saved in her underwear drawer. Bartholomew then writes intimate letters to Mr. Gere which give us a window into his mind meanderings, including synchronicity and Jung, the Dalai Lama, faith, a struggling priest, and his longing for family and a positive sense of self.

Our Review: Although the comment was repeated several times that this wasn't a book we would have chosen to read on our own, we found it entertaining, insightful, and were glad to have perused it. Reviews on Amazon and other related sources concurred with an overall score of 4 stars on most sites. The quirkiness of the book drew us in and held our attention, especially related to Bartholomew's inner voice and the events which formed his day-to-day living.

Food Served: veggies (including carrots & radishes mentioned in the book) with curry dip, nods to character Father McNamee were mini ham & swiss cheese sandwiches on rye bread (yellow mustard optional), popcorn and mushroom pizza. A seasonal side referring in part to Father Hachette was a mix of peanuts and candy corn. Dessert was a decadent chocolate mousse cake with fresh whipped cream and raspberries and cappuccinos. Wine: Twisted (pinot grigio) and Immortal Zin.

Highlights of Discussion: Poignant points on the role(s) of Catholicism as it related to Bartholomew were mentioned throughout. The significance of his letters to Richard Gere, the quirks of Wendy, his grief counselor, Max the cat lover and his sister Elizabeth (the Girl Librarian), as well as the influences of Father McNamee covered the conversational points.

Attendance: Julie Coup, Nancy Dausman, Laura Lewakowski, Ginny Martin, Nancy McQuate,

Sandy Oato, Nancy Schellenberg, Anne Starke

Business/Suggestions: Our next meeting will be at Nancy Dausman's on October 26, 2015. The discussion will focus on *The Life List* by Lori Nelson Spielman.