

Date: June 19, 2017

Hostess: Nancy McQuate

Book Title: Last Bus to Wisdom

Author: Ivan Doig

Book Synopsis: Donal Cameron is being raised by his grandmother, the cook at the legendary Double W ranch in Ivan Doig's beloved Two Medicine Country of the Montana Rockies, a landscape that gives full rein to an eleven-year-old's imagination. But when Gram has to have surgery for "female trouble" in the summer of 1951, all she can think to do is to ship Donal off to her sister in faraway Manitowoc, Wisconsin. There Donal is in for a rude surprise: Aunt Kate—bossy, opinionated, argumentative, and tyrannical—is nothing like her sister. She henpecks her good-natured husband, Herman the German, and Donal can't seem to get on her good side either. After one contretemps too many, Kate packs him back to the authorities in Montana on the next Greyhound. But as it turns out, Donal isn't traveling solo: Herman the German has decided to fly the coop with him. In the immortal American tradition, the pair light out for the territory together, meeting a classic Doigian ensemble of characters and having rollicking misadventures along the way.

Our Review: Everyone enjoyed the book. We thought it was sweet, charming, creative, and fun to read. Couldn't help but love Dona's naivety and quirky Herman the German. Really enjoyed his play on words and clever dialog. WE got a kick out of the entries in Donal's memory book and all the characters on the Dog us and at the Hobo Camp. There are some not quite believable coincidences, but didn't let it bother us because we were immersed in an entertaining story. Some of us are looking forward to reading some of his other books.

Food Served: Hoboes in Bedrolls (Asparagus rollups), Salmon pizza, Avocado and Egg bruschetta, Aunt Katie's Pimento Cheese on Ritz Crackers and Very Berry Cobbler

Highlights of Discussion: Everyone was given a piece of toast to try their teeth at whittling away a favorite state for the MORSELS to guess. Loved all of the fun quotes and the entries in Donal's memory book. (We also enjoyed browsing through NANCY'S memory book). We all agreed that Aunt Kate was indeed a despicable character. Discusses the author and even though most of his books are set in Montana, he does not consider himself a Western Writer, but rather a writer about life. Sadly, this was his last book written before he passed away in April 2015.

Attendance: Nancy M, Nancy D, Anne, Julie Ginny, Mary, Laura

Business/Suggestions: