

Morsels for The Mind Book Group

Date: June 24, 2019

Book Title: *The Lost Family* by Jenn Blum

Hostess: Julie

Food Served: Using the *Masha's Spring 1966* menu, Waldorf Salad with Bibb lettuce, grapes, green apple, radishes, bleu cheese, roasted walnuts and pickled beets blended with mayo and latkes (potato pancakes with applesauce on the side) were served. Kosher garlic pickles, brie en croute, grapes and mint Milano cookies were included with Inside-Out German Chocolate Cake with Cherries Flambe (which refused to light 😊) and a side of whipped cream for dessert.

Book Synopsis: This novel is divided into three separate sections with the first focusing on Peter Rashkin, a deeply troubled Auschwitz survivor who struggles throughout the text with the guilt of losing his wife and twin daughters in the war. His passion is cooking and he starts a restaurant in Manhattan in 1965. He works tirelessly running this establishment as the head chef, meets and eventually marries June Bouquet, a high fashion model, and their relationship is the focus of the first part of the book. That is followed by the meanderings of the unfaithful June who sees herself as lacking the maternal instinct or desire to raise her daughter Elsbeth. The final third highlights the deceptive Elsbeth clutching on to Julian, a child photographer who chooses her as his muse.

Review: Mixed reactions resulted as some felt the book to be unexpectedly too provocative in part yet there was compassion for the lives of Peter, June and Elsbeth due to their internal struggles and circumstance.

Highlights of Discussion: See **Review**.

Attendance: Julie, Nancy D, Anne, Laura, Ginny, Nancy M and Nancy S