

# MORSELS FOR THE MIND BOOK GROUP

**Date:** February 15, 2021

**Hostess:** Nancy Dausman

**Book Title:** Nine Perfect Strangers

**Author:** Liane Moriarty

**Book Synopsis:** Nine people gather at a remote health resort, each with their own reason for attending. The story is told mostly from the perspective of Frances Welty, formerly a bestselling author of romance novels. All of the guests end up questioning why they are there when the owner/director has them awakened in the middle of the night and taken to the yoga and meditation room. The guests learn they have been drugged and are not happy, and become more distressed when they learn they are locked in the room. They try to find the combination to the door's lock, but end up being unsuccessful in their attempts. More frightening events happen, until they are finally able to leave the room and confront the owner and her associates.

**Our Review:** All members present by Zoom enjoyed this novel. Everyone liked Frances best because she wanted to learn all the other characters' back stories. She often analyzed each person she met, trying to learn about what had brought them to the resort. Everyone in the novel was going through something. Each of the characters were unique and well-developed so we weren't confused about who's who. We discussed whether we would ever attend a health resort after reading this book – the answer of course was "No!" None of us wanted to put ourselves into the unknown activities of a health resort.

**Food Served:** Because we couldn't meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we met by Zoom and brought our own refreshments to the virtual meeting.

**Highlights of Discussion:** We liked the different characters and their reasons for attending the health resort. The first activity that Masha had the guests do committing to silence for several days, and we wondered if this was a form of manipulation so the guests would do whatever she said next. The smoothies that were laced with LSD was also discussed. Did it force everyone to open up in ways they might not have? The ending seemed to be wrapped up a bit too neatly for most of us. Overall it was an enjoyable read.

**Attendance:** Nancy Dausman, Mary Grant, Ginny Martin, Laura Lewakowski, Nancy McQuate, Sandy Oato, Nancy Schellenberg. Sally Shumway, former Morsel who now lives in Florida, joined us for socializing prior to our discussion of the book. It was great to see her on Zoom!

**Business/Suggestions:** The next meeting will again be a virtual meeting on Zoom. Thanks to Laura for organizing meeting and sending out the invitations.