

Morsels For the Mind Book Group

Date: April 23, 2018

Book Title: Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Hostess: Nancy Schellenberg

Food Served: Ghiradelli chocolates (supposedly Kosher, which infuriates Skinheads), Twizzlers for Corinne, tuna spread with crudites, Minestrone, Italian bread, wine, soda, iced tea, coffee, and Blueberry Sour Cream Cake.

Book Synopsis: Ruth, an African-American baby nurse, finds herself in a heart-wrenching dilemma after a request from a Skinhead father that she not touch his baby. She finds herself the only staff person available to monitor him during his circumcision recovery. Tragically, the baby dies and Ruth is blamed for his death. We follow the main characters through her journey from hospital meetings, arrest, trial, verdict, and beyond.

Review: The book received excellent editorial and reader reviews. The fact that it was based upon the true story of a Flint labor and delivery nurse made it more powerful.

Highlights of Discussion: We discussed our experiences, or lack of experiences with other races. Some of us worked in multicultural settings, and now find ourselves in very "white" retirements. Others never had experiences with other races and cultures.

We appreciated the author's fleshing out of the characters, which made them more understandable and sympathetic. This was especially true for Turk the Skinhead father. We also discussed the role of white people as allies for non-whites

Attendance: Anne, Ginny, Julie, Laura, Nancy, Nancy, and Nancy,

Suggestions/Business: Mary Grant will host Red Notice by Bill Browder on Monday, May 21.