

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: March 27, 2014

Book Title: The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thurb by Melanie Benjamin.

Hostess: Julie Coup

Food Served: Tea sandwiches (egg salad with fresh dill and cucumber with cream cheese), spinach-feta tartlets, peanuts in the shell, popcorn, mini desserts including flower-decorated lemon cupcakes, lemon-ricotta cookies →

Book Synopsis: The triumphs and personal tragedies of Mercy Lavinia Warren Bump are shared in this novel. It recounts Vinnie's extraordinary life - small in stature and the large life she lived in the public eye as one of P.T. Barnum's "oddities".

Review: This book received 4.5 stars on Amazon. The wholehearted positive response to the book was echoed by the Morsels present. The engaging tale prompted much discussion focusing on Vinnie, the peculiarities of her diminutive size, ambitions, relationships with Charles Stratton (her

Highlights of Discussion: first husband), P.T. Barnum (her employer), Minnie (her sister) and others.

Many comments regarding Julie's "props" were shared ~ antique dolls representing Vinnie and Minnie, serving pieces all doll-sized (dishes, beverages (ie. small bottles of wine), a circus centerpiece et. al....

Attendance: Hostess Julie was accompanied by Nancy's Dausman, McQuate and Schellenberg and Annes Still and Starke.

Suggestions/ Business:

A reminder was voiced to meet in April at Ginny Martin's. The book selected is stef by Liz Moore.