

MORSELS FOR THE MIND BOOK GROUP

Date: November 27, 2017 **Hostess:** Sandy Oato

Book Title: The Enchanted April

Author: Elizabeth von Armen

Book Synopsis: Rose Arbuthnot, Lottie Wilkins decide to take a break from their husbands and invite Caroline Dester, a young socialite, and Mrs Fisher, an older aristocrat, to share the rent and expenses at a quiet chateau in Portofino, Italy. In trying to come to grips with their lives and relationships they explore the differences in their personalities, and reassess their goals. Liberated from their daily routines, the four British women each finds herself transformed by the experience.

Our Review: Most of the women liked the book but a few thought the language archaic. We had a lively discussion of the different characters and their positive changes during their Italian Riviera vacation. Also discussed was the role of women during the early 1900s. A couple of our members had viewed the Academy Award-nominated film based on this book and knew that the film was also a Broadway play and a Tony Award-nominated stage play as well as a musical. It was also a serial on BBC Radio 4.

Food Served: In keeping with the Italian theme we lunched at Mazzo Cucina D'Italia. Everyone ordered their own meal. All enjoyed their dishes and drinks. The establishment at 122 Monroe Center NW in downtown Grand Rapids was very accommodating and gave us a very cozy private room, perfect for our discussion.

Highlights of Discussion: Each of the different personalities and personal stories of each of the four women were discussed and critiqued. We especially admired Lottie Wilkins and enjoyed seeing how she grew in self confidence as the story progressed.

Because we had to skip our usual December Christmas lunch/dinner and book exchange we had it here. It was fun. We also brought children's books to donate as is our tradition every November. The books were donated to the Tutoring Center at Martin Luther King Leadership Academy in inner city Grand Rapids.

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

Business/Suggestions: Our next meeting is a potluck at Julie's in January 2018. We will select our 2018 books and hostesses.