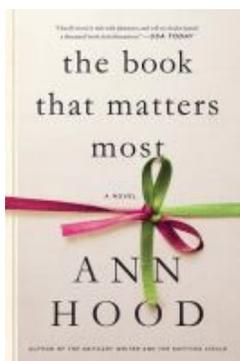


Lillie M. Evans Library District Book Club

September 25, 2017

Biography:



Ann Hood is an American novelist and short story writer; she has also written nonfiction. She was born in West Warwick, Rhode Island. After Ann earned her BA in English, she worked as a flight attendant, living in Boston and Saint Louis and later moving to New York City. She attended graduate school at New York University, studying American Literature. Her first novel was published in 1987. When her five-year-old daughter, Grace, died in 2002, she took solace in learning to knit and in knitting groups. To make sense of her own grief, Hood began to write her novel The Knitting Circle. Her best-selling memoir Comfort: A Journey Through Grief chronicles her own struggle after her daughter's sudden death. She is a faculty member in the MFA in Creative Writing program at The New School in New York City. She now lives in Providence with her husband and their children. (Adapted from the en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_Hood)

Similar Resources:



Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Ann Hood centered her novel on a book group? What is it about the group that is so therapeutic for Ava?
2. What book matters the most to you, and why?
3. The characters in the novel keep secrets. What are their secrets? Are they damaging?
4. Do you think the death of Ava's mother influenced who Ava is as a person and how she acts as a parent? How so?
5. How is reading as a group different than reading alone? How does this impact Ava?
6. Maggie mentions that she is a fundamentally bad and destructive person. Do you agree? How does she change by the end?
7. The novel alternates between Maggie and Ava's narratives. How are the two protagonists similar? In what ways do their journeys resemble each other?
8. Only as an adult does Ava realize the true meaning behind FROM CLARE TO HERE. What is the meaning? Why do you think it takes her so long?
9. What lessons do Ava and the other members learn from the literature they read?
10. At the beginning, Ava admits she's not much of a reader. How does this change over the course of the book? (Questions issued by publisher.)