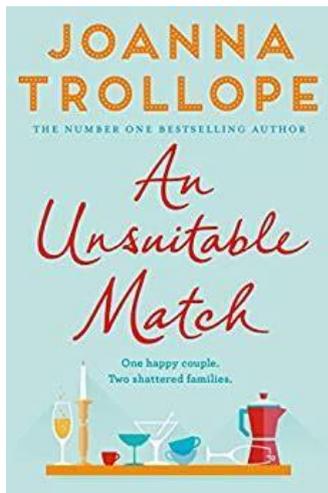


BOOK GROUP 2
January 2021

AN UNSUITABLE MATCH – JOANNA TROLLOPE

This was an interesting meeting with opinions divided. We had all read several of Joanna Trollope's books some years ago and mostly enjoyed them but several members of the group found them somewhat outdated – her books mainly revolve around white middle class women and their relationships and family dynamics. This book was no exception. Some of the comments from the members.

"I found Trollope's "An Unsuitable Match" a mixture of entertaining and irritating. Her main characters were too unbelievably perfect or imperfect. Prue, the sister, seemed to punctuate the exaggerated problems of family life with her delightfully perceptive and common sense remarks. I shall probably read another of JT 'S books as her writing ability is undeniable, and hope the next has more plot to it"



"This book was about love, money and the differing opinions of importance of one and/or the other. I viewed it as an observation of their intertwining lives at one particular slice of their journey from life to death, with all the main characters flawed – as human beings are- and each slightly different at the end than when we met them at the beginning"

"I have followed the easy reading of the Queen of Aga Saga over the last 30 years. In a very articulate and detailed way her characters invariably reflect the emotional complexities of upper middle class folk resulting from the privilege of education ,access to asset wealth and the indulgence of their like minded families and friends. These people may seem exaggerated and implausible to outsiders. In my experience

they are real portraits of a strata of society who operate unaware of their luck and fortune and are able with confidence to try different opportunities and relationships without real hardship.

In our chosen book we have the dilemma of two recently singled characters in their mid sixties faced with choices and and trying to understand the meaning of love and commitment

amidst the mixed reactions of their respective families. The cast is plotted both sides of the Atlantic where different attitudes to wealth are interestingly noted."

" I found the characters and the plot quite unbelievable and contrived. There was a theme of control and need within both families that defied reality . I shall not be reading any more of her books."

As can be seen, this book provoked a good conversation- which is what Book groups are for!