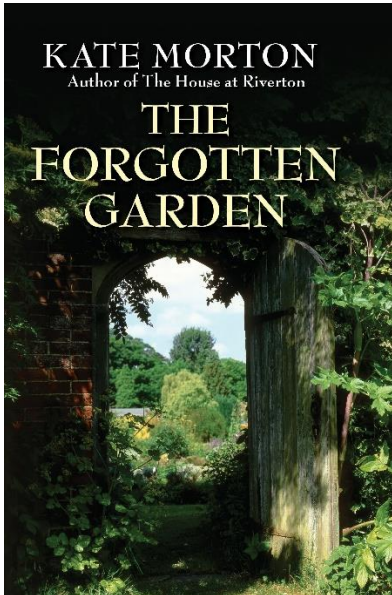


BOOK GROUP 2

NOVEMBER 2023

THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN BY KATE MORTON



This book was a hefty read but everyone agreed it was well worth the effort! It is a family saga spanning 3 generations over 100 years. It is not told in linear fashion but chapters are headed by year and location, including Australia, London, Cornwall and tangentially, New York. Each chapter is itself a “mini story” and the relevance, placing and relationship of the characters and action become clearer as it progresses.

Each of the characters is developed and woven cleverly into the time frame. Fortunately, despite its length, the book was so interesting that most people read it quickly. This also made it easier to keep track of the characters and their relationship to one another.

They were all well portrayed - the prickly Nell, the wild Eliza, the creepy Linus, the loveable Davies and the money-grabbing Swindells, the granddaughter Cassandra - all very believable.

“It is like the closer we get, the more tangled the web becomes” says Cassandra. It is through her investigations when she is left a cottage in Cornwall in her grandmother’s will that we eventually understand the whole story and the unexpected ending is a fitting finale.

Some comments from members of the group:

“The mystery of Nell’s parentage is skilfully unravelled, spanning a period of over a hundred years”

“Sarah Morton’s long novel was a challenge to read and to contain a grip on with a very diverse plot with lots of characters in different time zones and places.”

“The author is skilled great well written and researched prose a lot of Dickensian drama and perhaps some cliché description in part.”

“I loved this story. My interest never flagged right up to the last page.”

“ I thought all the characters were so well portrayed.”

“ I thought the fairy tales were very cleverly interwoven into the plot. This was a book I found hard to put down - highly recommended. “

Christine Wright