

The Wonder ~ Emma Donoghue

Page Turners Meeting - March 14, 2017 @ 6:30

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you describe Lib Wright (consider the name, perhaps)—especially when we first meet her? How does she approach her move to Ireland, the people, their superstitions, even their food? When does it become evident that there is part of Lib's past she is not revealing to us? Is Lib a reliable narrator?
2. Describe the Ireland that confronts Lib, the way in which Emma Donoghue presents the country in the 19th Century after the devastation of the infamous potato famine.
3. How does Anna O'Donnell differ from expectations, both the reader's and Lib's? What is Anna's general state of health when Lib first meets her?
4. Why is Anna fasting? Is she too young to understand her decision? What responsibility do the family and the church have for Anna? What about the doctor's role?
5. As the days pass and Anna's condition deteriorates, Liz begins to feel she may be complicit in girl's demise. Is she?
6. How does Lib change from who she was when she first ventured into Ireland?
7. The novel brings up basic philosophical and religious questions, one of which is what it means to give up the most vital necessity of life in the name of something greater than oneself. Is it admirable, mad, selfish, or narcissistic?
8. What is the role of an outsider like Lib? Does she have the right to intervene or even an obligation to do so?
9. The novel has a gothic feel to it: spooky, menacing, even harrowing. What makes for the sinister atmosphere that pervades the novel?
10. Discuss the book's title. What are the multiple meanings of "The Wonder"?
11. Do you see any parallels between this story and Donoghue's earlier book, *Room*? Think of small confined spaces, children, fragmented time, inner strength, and the power of love.

JOTTINGS...