

THE BOOKCLUB

Jane Miller

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Characters:

Barbara: mid 40's to early 60's

Carly: early 20's to 30

Shirley: mid 40's to early 60's

Fiona: mid 20's to 30's

Sharon: mid 20's to 30's

Ray: mid 40's to early 60's

**A KITCHEN
FIVE WOMEN SIT AROUND A TABLE.**

SHARON: Ladies, welcome to our third book club meeting. Thanks again to Barbara for having us here. Should we make a start?

BARBARA: Yes, yes let's start.

FIONA: I think we should definitely start with a bit of a summary of the book. The plot et cetera.

SHARON: Haven't you read it? I'd be disappointed if that was the case Fiona. You did choose the book this month.

FIONA: I've read it. I was thinking of others.

SHARON: Have others not read it?

CARLY: I read it.

BARBARA: I read it. Didn't think much of it but I read it.

SHIRLEY: I read it.

FIONA: I still think it would be helpful. An overview. A synopsis

SHARON: Well over to you then, Fiona. The book was your choice this month.

FIONA: No....I'd like to get your view on it.

SHARON: Fiona....It's your turn to lead the discussion.

FIONA: Really Sharon....You're so much better at this than I.

SHARON: Alright then. This month's book was "A Cry in the Wake" by Mary J Martinez. The story of Yvette, a brave woman who struggles to overcome self esteem issues due to a horrible disfigurement. How did we find it?

BARBARA: Ordinary. Decidedly ordinary. A bit of a dud.

(RAY ENTERS. HE IS WEARING BINOCULARS AROUND HIS NECK AND CARRYING A LARGE TORCH.)

RAY: Good evening ladies.

SHIRLEY: Hello Ray...Did you want to join us?

RAY: No bloody fear Shirley.
Barb, I'll be out the back. If you hear anything....Dial triple 0

BARBARA: What?

(RAY EXITS)

Why am I dialing triple 0?...Ray.....What are you doing? Ray....

CARLY: Mum, what are the binoculars for?

BARBARA: No idea. It'll be something to do with next door. Convinced they're crime kingpins. All the talk for the last month has been bloody hydroponics.

SHIRLEY: It's more common than you think...

BARBARA: What?

SHIRLEY: Hydroponics.

FIONA: Hydroponics? Are they growing tomatoes?

SHIRLEY: Not tomatoes Fiona....Marijuana. Cannabis.

FIONA: They're not growing it next door? Are they? Marijuana? Next door to this house?

SHIRLEY: It's common. On the current affairs show the other night they-

SHARON: Perhaps we should get back to the book...

BARBARA: Good idea.

SHARON: Now....What about exploring the themes? Yvette's self esteem was a key issue-

CARLY: She had a huge scar across the middle of her face. Hadn't she heard of plastic surgery?

FIONA: Absolutely. Good point.

CARLY: She could afford it. She won all that money in the lottery.

FIONA: Definitely. Well said.

BARBARA: The whole story was far fetched.

SHARON: It had a lot to say about women. About the struggle to be accepted on your own terms.

FIONA: Absolutely. It said a lot ...About struggling and.... Being accepted.....The struggle to be accepted.

SHARON: Which character did people like?

CARLY: I liked Benedict.

BARBARA: They were all completely unbelievable....Except for Francine.

SHARON: Fiona?

FIONA: I liked....I admired.....The mother.

SHARON: Millie?

FIONA: Yes, Millie.

CARLY: Or Bernadette, Francine's mother?

FIONA: Yes.

SHARON: Who? Millie or Bernadette?

FIONA: Well....Millie. Yes. Millie.

BARBARA: I thought she was a pain in the proverbial. She never stopped being pious and self sacrificing.

SHARON: She had much to be self sacrificing about. What about Mickey and the stolen money?

BARBARA: I could see that coming. Mickey was no good from the beginning.

SHARON: Yes but Millie stood by Mickey. As she had to.

CARLY: I found Millie's death moving. I cried when she waited for Mickey to bring back the necklace.

FIONA: I cried too. It was very sad.

SHARON: But what made it sad? It resonated with me but I can't put my finger on why. Why did it move me? It was almost tragic.