

Nov 07 SUMMARY – A 1000 Days in Tuscany by de Blasi

Another book discussed and we are approaching the close of our first 6 months of meetings. Thank You!

1000 Days in Tuscany by de Blasi was lead by Barb and the group attending included Judi, Ruth and myself. We welcomed our newest member Sammy Jenkins, representing himself and his wife Jill. Phylliss and Keith were also present via email comments delivered by Barb.

1000 Days in Tuscany reminded several of the group of Under the Tuscan Sun with the primary focus on food and recipes. While heavy on the food, most people seemed to like the book and several are planning to explore some of the recipes. One discussion was how much time was spent planting, cultivating, harvesting, preparing and the length of time it took to eat the food. Several of us commented the seasonality of the food eaten and the amount of gleaning and harvesting of wild foods involved. We discussed how thrifty the village was during WWII, sometimes depending entirely on what they could gather in order to eat. The Sunday dinner at the local gathering place seemed to be a hold over when the village would gather and share what they had to help everyone get through the war. Food seems to be the main topic of conversation in the village that seems a little foreign in our culture. This could be a function of living in a small town, or the MO of living in Italy.

There was discussion about the balance of the book and while her relationship with her husband was included, it did not over power. There was plenty of discussion about the culture of Tuscany in general and this community in particular so most people felt that they had a feeling of this community and the primary players in the village.

Ruth was so inspired by this book, she read the prequel, 1000 Days in Venice, where the author meets her husband. Based on her short review of the book and reading some of the more illuminating paragraphs, I think most of us will add it to our stacks.

Judi remarked how the author commented on working to find and achieve contentment in the life that she was living now. So much time can be spent remembering what happened before and what is expected next, but to be fully in the moment and living it as completely and joyfully as it evolves, that is a worthy goal.

Thank you Barb for suggesting this book.

We began gathering book titles that will be suggested for 2008. Here are the current books on the short list of next year with the person leading in (). Don Quixote in China (Judi), In a Sunburned Country (Barb), Eat, Pray, Love (Ruth), Kabul Beauty School (Phylliss) and two for Keith to choose between Dark Star Safari or Shanghai Diary by local author Bacon. I am still researching my submission and will most likely lead for Curt, the Welsh Childhood book in January.

For those that will not be at the December meeting, please send me the title, author and a choice of two months so we can include your book on the list. I already know that Judi and Ruth will not be at the December meeting. If you have no preference in dates, we will slot your book where it is needed.

For those of you still deciding what book to suggest, please research its availability in paperback or number of copies in the local libraries.

As I sat at the Tattered Cover waiting for the group to gather, I realized I had not sent out a reminder email. Sorry. I will make sure I send a reminder the weekend before our meetings in future.

Thanks again for your interest and support. I have placed ads in 4 small local newspapers and will update them monthly. I plan to advertise the book club on Craig's list after the first of the year. If anyone comes across other resources for advertising, please contact me.

The Tattered Cover at Colfax has two additional copies of The Art of Pilgrimage by Cousineau on hold for anyone who would like to purchase a copy. Go to the hold desk and they will give you 10% off the cost of the book. I am enjoying it very much and am looking forward to Willie leading our discussion on Monday, December 10.

See you then!

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For those who have not had the opportunity to attend recently, please let me know if you wish to continue receiving the announcements about the Travel Lovers Book Club. thx. Jane

