

## **Aug 07 SUMMARY – Tales of A Female Nomad by Gelman**

Another great conversation about a fantastic book was enjoyed last night at the Tattered Cover at Colfax for the second book discussion of the Travel Lovers Book Club. Attended by six regulars (Phylliss, Keith, Rose, Judie, Barb and myself), we were joined by two new people, Sharon and Kathy! Hopefully they liked what they saw and heard and we will see them again.

Lead by Phylliss, the group explored *Tales of A Female Nomad* by Rita Gelman and we agreed that Ms. Gelman was and is a brave woman! Several of us had read the book before, but it was no problem to revisit the Nomad's stories in 9 destinations and over 10 years of travel. Phylliss and Rose brought our two new people up to date on the book and then the discussion really began.

Phylliss started out with one of the earliest passages of the book from Rita where she was answering her friend's questions about her trip. Rita indicated that she was not running away from anything, she was running to adventure, exploration and her life. By leaving the US, she was no longer bound to the rules of her country, as a stranger, she was not bound to the rules of her current country and for once, she was able to make her own rules. After numerous instances brought up by several people, it was the feeling of the group that she was successful in her adventure for the following reasons - she trusted people, as a published author, she and her books were a great ice breaker, she made the effort to learn the local languages and integrate into the society, she had deep understanding and admiration of other cultures from her advanced degree work and she was tenacious and diplomatic in her efforts to be included.

There were some readers who felt that her shortened sentence structure became a little demeaning by the end of the book and that she focused too much on discussions about food preparation. Other than that, the group loved her bright outlook and ability to tell a good story.

The group discussed if they felt that she would be able to travel in the same way in today's world, post 9-11. We decided she had achieved a level of success in other traditionally fearsome countries during her jaunt and today with the improved technologies available; she probably would have been able to do the trip. Whether she could do it on only \$20,000/year, might not be the case.

Most of us admired her adventurous spirit and willingness to sacrifice at times, personal comforts. However, we all agreed that her traveling style

would not be our preferred way to travel, but YOU GO RITA!

Phylliss delighted the group at the end of the meeting by reading one of Rita's children's books, More Spaghetti Please! It was charming, both the book and Phylliss reading it.

NEXT MONTH -Mon, Sep 10 will be Honeymoon with my Brother by Wisner led by Judie. If you will not be able to attend but would like to comment, please send your input to Judie before the next meeting. ([JUDIEDIVITA@COMCAST.NET](mailto:JUDIEDIVITA@COMCAST.NET)) There are three copies of the book in paperback held at the Tattered Cover Colfax at the reserve desk. Mention that you are with the book club and they will give you 10% off the book.

The October book, Mon, Oct 8 will be Breaking the Limit by Larson lead by Keith. I found that the book is not available in paperback, so I did not have the Tattered Cover order it. Please try and find copies in your libraries. I will not be at the October meeting. If you will not be able to attend, please forward your comments directly to Keith. ([KEITHPHYLLISS@MSN.COM](mailto:KEITHPHYLLISS@MSN.COM))

I have attached the list of proposed books that the group will review at the November meeting for ongoing books to read. Continuing members may submit additional book titles and remember, if the group picks your book, you get to lead it!

Please continue to pass the word around about the book club. I will continue to investigate neighborhood publications to see if they will advertise our club. Keith, I could not find the Senior Review you mentioned and Judie also had no luck on the Arvada Travel Club. If you have any contact information on a periodical, please FORWARD IT TO ME WITH NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION.

Thank you again for your interest. I adore sharing time with this group and look forward to many months of happy reading and discussion.

Until I see you next, please travel safely!

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