



## Book choices for April/May 2021

We are delighted to introduce you to our next round of recommendations for our Book Club - thanks to everyone who has contributed your thoughts and ideas.

Don't forget, you can access these books in paper or hardback copy, on Kindle or other electronic device or via Audible if you prefer. We've tried to go for ones that are easily accessible but please remember you don't have to read or review all three.

Our first suggestion which has had excellent reviews is:

### **"The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri**

Nuri is a beekeeper, his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo - until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss, but dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls. Above all - and perhaps this is the hardest thing they face - they must journey to find each other again.

Moving, powerful, compassionate and beautifully written, The Beekeeper of Aleppo is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit.

Told with deceptive simplicity, it is the kind of book that reminds us of the power of storytelling.

Our second novel is a thriller also with great reviews:

### **"Haven't They Grown" by Sophie Hannah**

All Beth has to do is drive her son to his Under-16s away match, watch him play, and bring him home. Just because she knows that her former best friend lives near the football ground, that doesn't mean she has to drive past her house and try to catch a glimpse of her. Why would Beth do that, and risk dredging up painful memories? She hasn't seen Flora Braid for twelve years.

But she can't resist. She parks outside Flora's house and watches from across the road as Flora and her children, Thomas and Emily, step out of the car. Except...

There's something terribly wrong.

Flora looks the same, only older – just as Beth would have expected. It's the children that are the problem. Twelve years ago, Thomas and Emily Braid were five and three years old. Today, they look precisely as they did then. They are still five and three. They are Thomas and Emily without a doubt – Beth hears Flora call them by their names – but they haven't changed at all. They are no taller, no older.

Why haven't they grown?

Our non-fiction suggestion is:

**“Becoming” by Michelle Obama**

Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations - and whose story inspires us to do the same. An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

If you are not already a member of the book club, you can join by registering your interest with Sherry [sherry.smith2@nhs.net](mailto:sherry.smith2@nhs.net) or Debbie [debbie.arnold4@nhs.net](mailto:debbie.arnold4@nhs.net) in Central Office or by calling them on 01305 361317.

We look forward to receiving your comments back by 3<sup>rd</sup> June and we will publish them here soon afterwards.

Happy reading!!

Sherry, Debbie and Lucia