

The Summit Bookends had a lovely meeting at Donna's on 6/13/25. Since Donna is still in a sling following her rotator cuff surgery, she served us a simple (but delicious) indoor picnic of JimmyJohn's sandwiches and chips followed by tasty cookies from Butterhorn Bakery.

We discussed *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker. The story is a long and winding tale of a young boy, Patch, who is abducted by a serial killer and held in complete darkness until his escape during a fire. He meets a young lady, Grace, who is also being held in captivity, and she "paints" beautiful and detailed pictures of places around the country. Following his escape, Patch spends most of his life trying to find Grace while also painting beautiful pictures of the places Grace described. Patch's oldest friend, Saint, joins him on and off in this search. The plot takes many turns as Patch and Saint continue on this journey. The characters are richly developed, and the extremely short chapters aid in navigating through this long story which ultimately ends happily.

The author is British and spent years writing this book. The first year was devoted to dialogue between Patch and Saint. Various scenarios were written the second year but in random order. In the third year all the scenarios and dialogue were compiled into the final novel. The book sold slowly until Jenna Bush recommended it which pushed it to #1 on Amazon in two hours.

Donna reminded us of her favorite line from the book which Charlotte said at Misty's burial: "You don't cry because it's over, you smile because it happened."

We also heard about Susan's new dog, Cooper, and his antics with chocolate covered espresso beans. Carla mentioned how AI is everywhere and warned us of "sniffing". And we all continue to pray for Amy and Mickie and family as they await results from recent tests.

We will meet next on July 11 at Maggie's to discuss *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Our August book will be *Saving Vincent* by Joan Fernandez at Barb's on 8/22.

*The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods was highly recommended.

This was Elaine's last Bookends meeting. We will miss you, Elaine, and we wish you health, happiness and continued reading joy in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas! It was agreed that we will keep Summit Bookends at its current membership.

Hope everyone is enjoying these beautiful summer days in Summit County. See you in July!

*Laura*