

There were six of us who made it to Nina's today for the February/Valentines luncheon. Nina poured champagne for us as we marveled at all the heart shaped decorations she had: mugs, glasses, bowls, plates, candle holders, even her apron! We caught up with each other while Nina finished preparing the deliciously lite hollandaise sauce which complemented the eggs benedict with Canadian bacon and spinach. Truly perfect! Maggie shared news about Cocoa - he's growing and learning while playing in the snow and remembering to come when there's a treat involved! Susan mentioned that her brother is currently in hospice care. It's a sad situation, but all seem to have found peace with it. God bless them all! And Mickie shared that Amy is doing remarkably well. Yay!! And that Abby has been accepted at DU law school! Congrats, Abby!

After enjoying the delicious eggs benedict, we began discussing our poems. Many of us had not been exposed to poetry for quite some time. But even though it was not what we were used to, we all enjoyed the experience. We each found a love-themed poem, did a bit of research on the author, and then read it to the group. The chosen poems were very diverse and from authors from various countries and centuries. But one poem that really knocked our socks off was shared by Mickie and was written by Abby when she was 13 years old. The title was "Will We Ever Learn" and was still incredibly timely in today's topsy-turvy world.

The poetry was quite different from our usual novel discussion. But all seemed to really enjoy it and the Valentine's Day theme. This may become our new normal for February! All the poems were well-received, but Maggie (believe it or not) typed some key words into ChatGPT and "wrote" this poem for us:

A Valentine for Our Book Club

Roses are fine but paperbacks too,

Dog-eared and loved the way friendships are true.

We meet where the mountains lean into the sky,

With snow on our boots and a spark in our eyes.

We argue for characters, sigh at each turn,

For plots that delight us, or endings that burn.

Hot takes like hot cocoa, passed hand to hand,

Between chapters of life we all somehow understand.

In Colorado winters, long, thoughtful and bright,

We gather with stories to soften the night.

No grand love confessions, no candlelit scene-

Just laughter and trust tucked in margins unseen.

So here's to our book club, our chosen heart space,
Where friendship's the genre we always embrace.
This Valentine's Day, may we keep turning pages-
Together, through chapters, through years, through ages.

Wow!! The Bookends are surrounded by talent! Have a great weekend, and keep your fingers crossed for more snow.
We will meet next month on March 12 at Carla's house to discuss Chasing Courage. Happy Valentine's Day!

Laura