

This month's book was ***Girl, Woman, Other*** by ***Bernadine Evaristo***.

It was a surprise to find the book had virtually no punctuation. An unusual style of writing which I believe is called Stream of consciousness. It took a while to get used to reading this style but once I became used to it, it flowed quite well. Although in retrospect this book would be ideal to listen to on audio.

It told the stories of twelve British black women's lives. Their families, friends and lovers across the country and down through the years. The women's lives were intertwined in numerous ways and the themes included: racism, immigration, gender and sex both heterosexual and homosexual.

Some of the storylines about rape, post partum depression and drug addiction lacked depth and the individuals all seemed to overcome these issues easily, which in the real world is not realistic.

I preferred the stories about the older characters and found one of the younger characters Megan/Morgan particularly annoying.

In the penultimate chapter all the characters meet at the first night of Amma's play *The Last Amazon of Dahomey*.

Without giving too much away I thought the epilogue was quite predictable but nevertheless very moving.

As with many of our books they usually receive mixed reviews and this one was no exception. Some of us enjoyed it and were glad they had taken the time to read it, others didn't. Some found it hard going and didn't finish it. But this is what belonging to a Book Group is all about, it challenges you to read books which you probably wouldn't choose yourself.

SCORE: 7/10