

THE BODECIA BOOK CLUB REVIEW

The Blue Handbag by Fiona Robyn

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After forty years of happy marriage, Leonard thought he knew his wife Rose as well as he knew himself. It's only after her sudden death that he finds her old handbag, which contains a mystery he can't ignore. Accompanied by Lily, his wife's childhood friend, Leonard becomes a reluctant detective as his whole life starts to unravel... 'The Blue Handbag' is steeped in a quiet poetry which reminds us to take pleasure from the ordinary details of life - reading stories to our children, sharing silence with our friend over a beer, enjoying the plants Leonard tends for a living - and never to take anything for granted.

When you start to read this book you realise that the author, a female, who at the age of 36 has got a good grasp on the perspective of a 60 something male. So much so that we get to see that Leonard is very set in his ways and obviously very much in love with his wife. There is a lot of descriptions, from how to eat an after eight mint to the trouble with dog poo! Sometimes this is a bit too much and you have to wade through the descriptions to get to the story.

The book gets to deal with the grief one goes through as a husband as well as a daughter and the heartbreak and guilt that a new relationship has on both parties. There are some quite funny episodes in the book mainly when Leonard gets together with his friend Charlie which mainly takes place in the local pub! It is funny to hear about the way they talk to one another to put the world to rights.

Although dealing with death the book does not read sad, although the book does delve into some deep dark secrets that keep you guessing till the end.

Low points for us was that it in parts it is too descriptive and the pace of the book seemed to keep up with the pace of Leonard which was a bit non eventful.

We did enjoy parts of the book, the mystery kept you interested in reading until the end and the funny bits in the book made us chuckle, especially Leonard getting jumped on by a friend's wife! We liked how the book evolved around the new relationship and the bonding between Leonard and his daughter.

We gave The Blue Handbag **5.7 / 10**

The book we are now reading is **The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton**

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Don't forget the first rule of Book Club!