



HARRIET WOLF'S SEVENTH BOOK OF WONDERS

By: Julianna Baggott

the daughter as an adult and her two granddaughters. The search for the missing seventh book becomes a family quest. This final work can make the difference in all of their lives; but where is it?

In the end, we all discover that this is really a love story. It is also a story of resilience, survival and acceptance. Her life was blessed and doomed, which combines to be “bloomed” as coined by her closest friend, Eppitt.

Recommendations: Baggott also wrote children’s books and poetry under the pen names N.E. Bode and Bridget Asher so do a little on-line research to see her other works plus some peripheral scavenger hunts for the characters in this novel. Some of our favs are *Oto Benga* (1916), *Giuseppe Zangara* (1933), and the December 8, 1963 crash of Pan Am flight 214 in Elkton, which was one of the key inspirations for this novel that was 18 years in the making.

At our now annual book club retreat to the wintery beaches of Maryland, we decided to give Harriet Wolf’s *Seventh Book of Wonders* 4 stars.

So, until next time



© Juliet Seger

Read Between the Wines Book Club

(l-r standing) *Cassandra Tomarchio, Carolyn Evans, Judy Stewart, Diane Senstacke, Susan Theuns, Debi Williams, Kim Wagner, Kirstie Durr, Beth Hendrix*
(l-r sitting) *Susan Luckan, Marge Pearce*

Harriet Wolf is a fictional novelist who had written six best-selling books with a seventh and final thought to have been written prior to her death. The story begins with Wolf telling her tale of how she came to be her famous self – a fantastic feat considering she was “born dead”. After three stillbirths, her mother, an emotionally frail person, gave birth to Harriett. When she did not do well coming into the world, her father had her whisked away to the Maryland School for Feeble Minded Children so that the mother would not become attached to the new baby, only to have her die. She survived and grew up in what most of us remember as Rosewood in Owings Mills.

Amongst the unwanted, she thrived and was one of the few who learned to read and write. After years of being told that she was an imbecile and a moron, the institution had her tested, only to discover that she actually had a genius IQ. This revelation brought forth the local newspaper to do a story, which was read by her estranged parents. She was an orphan with living parents.

The novel twists and turns as the tale continues. The reader learns early on that Harriet had a daughter at some point in her adult life and the story evolves from the perspective of not only her, but

THE CLUB WOULD GIVE GO SET A WATCHMAN



READ BETWEEN THE WINES BOOK CLUB IS AN INFORMAL GROUP OF WOMEN WHO GATHER ONCE A MONTH TO DISCUSS A BOOK THEY HAVE READ WHILE SHARING A MEAL, WINE AND FRIENDSHIP.