



FRIENDS OF THE PALM SPRINGS LIBRARY BOOK CLUB



Ann Kepke led the discussion of Backman's *Beartown*

Ann began by recommending to other works by Fredrik Backman: 1) ***A Man Called Ove*** with which she laughed out loud, and 2) ***And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer*** that she found touching, evoking tears. Regarding ***Beartown***, she confirmed the dynamics of a small town, having grown up in one who's passion was basketball rather than hockey.

What is this book about? asked Ann. Attendees posited: friendship and loyalty; moral failure; hockey; failure of community; secrets and lies; class differences; sports culture; men vs women. Which characters were a moral compass? Why do some characters have no name? How is the forest a character – to a man, to a woman? The town? How does different parenting affect the story? What is the responsibility of young people? Why didn't Maya report?

During the go-around, readers overwhelmingly loved this book with a few exceptions: loved it, respect the writer; impressive book written by a man; genius character development and description of the human condition; the author did a great job portraying group think; excellent translation because I never felt uncomfortable; captivating, relevant.

Thank you, Ann, for an inspiring discussion, and for the delicious fruitcake to celebrate the season.

Join us 2 PM January 18, 2019, when Tory Hurst will lead the discussion ***Last Bus to Wisdom***, by Ivan Doig.