



# FRIENDS OF THE PALM SPRINGS LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB

FOPSL Book Club: May 15, 2020

Book: ***Educated: A Memoir***

Author: Tara Westover

Discussion leader: Ruth Lindemann

We started our discussion of Tara Westover's memoir *Educated* (2018) with a couple of video interviews. The first video to get some general background of the youthful author who seemed physically and emotionally well considering the hardships and violence she witnessed as a child. The second video revealed that Westover kept many diaries during her childhood and wrote details of conversations in them. These diaries proved invaluable to her recollection of events and probably aided in the authentic voice of the narrator in the memoir. (Video interviews of Tara Westover can be found by searching the author's name on YouTube.)

Several in the book club found the book to be a quick read—a testament to the education and writing abilities of Westover who acknowledged she had to re-learn the art of writing after years

of academic writing (She earned a doctorate in intellectual history in 2014 from Trinity College, Cambridge).

Some of the questions the book club confronted included: How she could have earned all those degrees? Why it is so difficult to leave toxic relationships? Can people we would judge to be “ignorant” succeed despite themselves? What is the real value of homeschooling? When is it appropriate for society to insert itself into a family structure that does not fit societal expectations?

Thanks to Ruth Lindemann for leading our Zoom discussion. This epidemic is challenging, but we keep marching on.

David Kelly

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Friends of the Palm Springs Library Book Club meets online

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