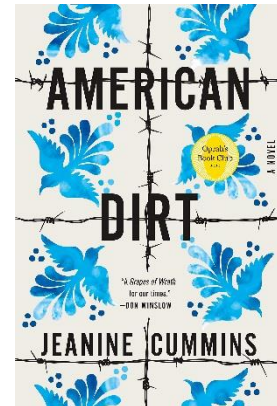


What's On Your Nightstand – October, 2020

We discussed *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins.

I took away the following from this exciting gathering:

A compelling though flawed thriller worth reading, *American Dirt* gives the reader more insight into the horrors refugees face while escaping desperate situations. There were events/situations that perplexed many of the group. To name a few: the almost tender relationship between the main character and the head of a savage cartel, the young boy who has a GPS superpower, the tender hearted “coyote,” and the ending seemed rushed. We agreed that perhaps bringing awareness of the plight of refugees to the public is more important than the accuracy of details. Most of the group believe that a writer should not be confined only to his/her own experiences.



I've since found this quote from Gore Vidal: “write what you know will always be excellent advice for those who ought not to write at all. Write what you think, what you imagine, what you suspect!”

The absolute highlight was that Anne Marinello's daughter, Heather Yountz, a trial and appellate attorney in Mass focusing on immigration, was able to join the zoom, speaking to her own work on the front lines as an advocate for refugees, especially those from Mexico and Central America.

For our November 10 meeting, we will resume our discussion of those books we've read and wish to recommend to others.

Best to all and in gratitude for your continued support,

Kathy

Kathy Beaird
Director of Adult Services