Nettle & Bone by T. Kingfisher

Book club Monday 7/31/23 at 6 PM at Comstock Township Library

Discussion questions

1) Did you finish the book? What was your overall opinion?

2) The story begins during Marra's three impossible tasks. Did you enjoy being thrown into the action right away?

3) Who was your favorite character and why?

4) How does the author break from the usual tropes (commonly used ideas) of the fairy tale genre? Think about the tropes involving princes, princesses, heroes, fairy godmothers, etc.

5) Marra is a very average person. She isn't stunningly beautiful, politically savvy, exceptionally eloquent, or in possession of magic powers. What did you think of our heroine being so normal? Does this differ from other fantasy books you have read?

6) Upon first meeting her, Marra greatly underestimates Agnes. Why was Marra's first impression of Agnes that she would not be helpful to bring on the quest?

7) Marra and Agnes are both very unassuming, as a nun and as a kindly old lady respectively. How are they able to take advantage of other people's perceptions of

them, that allow them to go about their business unnoticed or not be viewed as threatening?

8) At first, Marra believes she was sent to the convent to ensure her safety. Later, she realizes that her mother was keeping her “in reserve” so that she could marry Prince Vorling in case both her sisters died, and by doing so keep the Harbor Kingdom safe. She and Kania discuss this towards the end of book (page 236) and Kania defends their mother’s actions. Was their mother right to act the way she did?

9) Does Marra get a “happily ever after” ending? Is such a thing possible in the world she lives in?

10) Publishers Weekly describes *Nettle & Bone* as a “feminist fairy tale”. Do you agree with this description?

11) Fairy tales usually have a moral or other main takeaway message. What do you think the core message of this story is?

Reviews of *Nettle & Bone*

Cahill, Martin. (2022). An enthralling modern fairy tale: Nettle & Bone by T. Kingfisher. https://www.tor.com/2022/06/02/book-review-nettle-bone-by-t-kingfisher/

Dead Good Book Reviews. (2022). Best book of 2022? Maybe! Nettle and Bone review (Spoiler-Free). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKFLoqCDayw

Publishers Weekly. Nettle & Bone. https://www.publishersweekly.com/9781250244048