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[American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins

On occasion our unconventional book club will select a common story to discuss. This month we discussed the story of the painful voyage of migrants to the United States. There is controversy around this book on a few levels and as the facilitator of our book club and a person who has experienced an amazing book club dismantle due to political differences, I was nervous. Taking a convenient out, I announced that the discussion questions around immigration policy would be left to the end so that we could “sign off” of zoom at our discretion. I remain conflicted about this approach. On one hand, story discussions can get lost when the personal or political becomes the focus. On the other hand, civil discourse should be a comfortable part of any forum. We should be able to walk away with a deep appreciation for what anyone can bring to the table understanding that we don’t have to convince each other of anything. And especially when we are with people we respect and love. Kathy G reminded me of this not so long ago. In retrospect, I did not have to be nervous. Opportunity lost. Lesson learned.

~Deb

“Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say ‘Look!’ and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads.”

Mysteries, Yes ~Mary Oliver

“War is not the answer, only love can conquer hate.”

What’s Going On ~Marvin Gaye