

TAB Club Book Report – July 8, 2026

We had another lively discussion this month. Most of us agreed that while John Irving has written some outstanding novels, this one may not have been among his strongest. It prompted an interesting question: do authors sometimes lose their touch after producing a number of successful books? We wondered if the same thing happens with television series, where an excellent first season is followed by seasons that lose their spark.

A few recent shows mentioned as examples included:

- Your Friends & Neighbours
- The Four Seasons
- Heated Rivalry
- Margot's Got Money Troubles

What We're Reading

- Cyril is about to begin *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley, which was nominated for a Hugo Award in 2025. He also reminds us that it's always worth browsing the used bookstores whenever you're in Sidney.
- Andrea reports that *Fireflies in Winter* by Eleanor Shearer and *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans are currently popular choices with book clubs.
- Sandy is enjoying a Louise Penny mystery as a welcome change of pace after several heavier reads.
- Leah is reading *Tokyo Express* by Seichō Matsumoto, a classic 1950's mystery that offers a distinctly Japanese take on the whodunit genre.

Looking Ahead

Our August selection is *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn, which is already receiving excellent reviews.

In September we'll be reading *Dark Renaissance* by Stephen Greenblatt. The book explores the remarkable life and work of Christopher Marlowe—playwright, poet, spy, and one of the most brilliant and enigmatic figures of Elizabethan England. It promises to be a fascinating look at the literary and political world in which Marlowe lived, and the enduring influence he had on English literature.

Happy reading, and we look forward to seeing everyone next month!