

ST. MARY'S BOOK CLUB
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022 at 2 P.M.
ZOOM ONLY

Kayte NUNN, *The Botanist's Daughter: Discovery, Desire, Deception* (2019)

Discussion Questions

1. What was your general appraisal of this novel and its subtitle?
2. Do you think that we will be helped in our analysis by learning about the author and her times?
3. What kind of novel is this?
4. How would you describe its structure, use of language and tone?
5. Do you think there were advantages in the use of dual timeframes?
6. Are there any obvious similarities between the personal librarian and the protagonists in this book?
7. Which of the two women, Anna or Elizabeth, do you find most interesting? Do their personalities develop in the narrative?
8. What roles does Daisy play? How do you evaluate her situation?
9. Which of the helpful men in the novel seemed the most interesting?
10. How convincing is the villain, Mr. Chegwidden? Does his name seem vaguely comical to you? Is comedy the author's intention?
11. Is there an overarching philosophy or moral view represented here?
12. What role does Elizabeth's artistic ability play? And what theories did the author present about heredity? What other abilities may be inherited? What are your own views about inherited traits and abilities in families?
13. How does the author depict England versus Australia?
14. What do you think the author's intention is in writing this book?

15. Would you be interested in reading it more than once or in recommending it to others? Why or why not?
16. Of the three titles that we've read so far this year, which do you prefer and why?