

Bedrock Faith, by Eric Charles May
Review for MFC Book Club written by Kimberly Mach

Bedrock Faith. The MFC book club is not entirely sure what the phrase and title mean. We read the story, by Eric Charles May, and discussed it, but much like the ending of the book we are left wondering what comes next.

Reading about this Chicago community, we came back to the question of unshakable faith.

The community in the story is not what we expected, and perhaps faith is more than we expect also. Read below for our summary of the story and its gift.

Shaking the Foundation, Act I

Stew Pot returns
from time imprisoned
not broken, not defeated
but he swears enlightened.

But what to expect from a former hoodoo?
Fires again?
Terrorizing neighbors?
The pitbull,
not Hitler now, but John the Baptist.
Controlled at times,
trained of a different sort.

Motley, Davenport, Hicks, and McTeer
Erma – all side-by-side secrets
from each other.
Better when they are revealed?
Stew Pot points
says truth will set them free.
But what is his truth?

Shaking the Faith, Act II

Who has faith?
Is it the loud one enlightened, prophesizing?
The one that holds her family close?
The one who knows the most rules?
Faith is shaken
from time to time
like water,
particles in light,

we see what settles.
See what we really have.
Family.
Friends.

Faith bends
light in water.
In unyielding we fracture -
unyielding we break.

Faith of Bedrock, Act III

Motley questions and changes,
reacts and responds.
Only a foundation,
she rebuilds.
Her faith.
Her friends.
Her family.
Herself.

Stew Pot
fractures.
No bedrock.
No faith.
No home.
No freedom.
No Stew Pot
only Gerald,
broken,
defeated,
without faith.

Join us for our next Book Club discussion Monday, November 24, at 7pm when we meet to discuss *True American: Mercy in Texas*, by Anand Giridharadas. This one is sure to challenge us both in the action of forgiveness and understanding of our post 9/11 world.