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| Book Club rating: | 3.5 |
| Reviewed by: | Laura Betz |

***Plot Summary:*** (approximately 350-500 words)

An interview style of book from the perspective of Jeffrey Rosen about Ruth Bader Ginsburg mixed with a biography of her life. It covers many different court cases that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was involved or held opinions about. She expresses her love of opera, family, and equal opportunity. The flow of the book switched from a bit of a biography, to question format, and then also cases that Ruth was invalid in.

There was information on her and her husband, how they met, and how they functioned as her life got busier. Martin D. Ginsburg, her husband, is a very good cook, and capable of taking care of their children, which in the one instance was pointed out by Ruth when schools kept calling her instead of her husband. Despite her being busy, she valued family, and in the author’s view could see how that affected his life, as well, including a picture she had noted in his office about a girl in a picture. It is also likely that in the ending when he talks about his mother, that RBG had influenced his thoughts on that, as well.

Much like anything else, on regards to the opera, Ruth had opinions on them which she shared with the author. They would trade thoughts and suggestions of which to go to, and in fact, there was one opera based on Ruth’s life. That was basically how their relationship started on this basis. They may have not seen or spoken to each other a lot (although he did interview her two times), but it was evident that they still had a close relationship.

The largest part of the book was Ruth’s involvement with court cases, when on the supreme court, and how she handled those. Especially on the equal rights of people. She also dealt with other legal proceedings, such as marriages. On the point of equal rights, she started with men’s equal rights before she handled working on women’s rights. Then worked on many cases after that.

***Book Club Meeting Discussion:*** Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in our opinions, was a very intelligent women who had a lifetime of experience and work, which only recently had gotten more attention. With a worldwide view, not just limited to the United States but other places, such as South America and how their constitution works. Her ability to think things through and respond calmly amazed us. We enjoyed her love opera as some of us are also fans of this form of entertainment. There was also the genuine agreement of finding a good lifetime partner and how important that is. She performed many marriages for people, but one of them that was mentioned int he book was about how the wording for the vows was changed so that each partner, whether male or female, was an equal part in the new marriage. One of the difficulties we found with this book is the amount of “legal-lize” we would potentially need to know. There are many mentions of cases that expected the reader to know more background about it, and only a couple of times were those explained in more detail. However, on a more personal note with less legal knowledge needed, the last chapter was related to the author’s mother which brought a nice casual ending to the book. We won’t be seeing another person like Ruth Bader Ginsburg in a long time.

***Personal Comments:*** I would have really liked to have continued reading this book, and once I have more time I probably have the time. I am impressed by her intelligence and her methods of doing things. One of those being that to try and get more women’s rights she first worked on men’s equal rights. Also her calm approach in answering as well as dealing with people. She did not appear to be afraid, and especially not with people who disagreed with her. She was a constant worker who still loved life. One of the things I found out int he meeting was a movie about Ruth, which I am now interested in watching.

It is obvious of how influential Ruth has been to many people, especially women, and can be a very good role model for those wanting to achieve things and how to go about it. Her patience, hard work, and effort went so well together that it is hard to imagine other people accomplishing as much as her. Therefore, when face with difficulties, I may think how she could handle it, and with changes that I want to do, I now have more thoughts on how to go about things to achieve results.