Dear Members and Friends of the National Danish Book Club,

If I were younger, I would say that I am stoked to be back discussing Danish literature with you all, but given my age, let it suffice for me to say that I am very excited to be back for this second season of great literature, great discussions, and great people!

Our first season was pure joy for me.  Your enthusiasm, comments, insights, thoughts, and the feeling of community we created, was a source of energy and anticipation every month. Optimistically, I am expecting this second season to be as good or even better, so I want to welcome you back, very warmly, and look forward to seeing you for our first meeting on **Tuesday September 13.**

After spending a long summer in Denmark, I feel deeply immersed in Danish culture and the trends that are visible at the moment, and I hope that we may continue to focus on the aspects of the literature that make it specifically Danish as well as a part of the greater universe of literature worth discussing. Literature opens our eyes to the world we live in, and it is my hope that we may continue to discover new ways of interacting with, influencing, and impacting our world and its issues through the words on the pages we peruse.

We are going to continue with the second Tuesday of the month, and our first book is *Justine* by Iben Mondrup.

I am enclosing my very open questions and hope we will have a good discussion of this rather short, experimental, and fascinating look at the plight of a young, Greenlandic artist, from 2012.

As always, please add your own comments and questions to mine so we can cover as many interesting aspects of the book as possible.

1. What is the book "really" about?
2. Who is Vita, what is her role, and what does she do to the protagonist?
3. Who is the mother? What is her story and how/why is it important?
4. Who is the father and what role does he play? Is there a social message (or other message) in the roles of the parents?
5. What are the roles of Ane and Torben? They are important in each their way, and how do they support / oppress the protagonist?
6. What role does Ane's baby play for the protagonist and her view of life?
7. When you think about the many different kinds of art in the book, can you find a common denominator?  What is art? What is the function of art? What is good art? Is the personal = art? What is art today compared to more traditional art? What is the role of Greenlandic art? etc.
8. How is the Greenlandic background visible - and is it important? Do we feel that Justine is a product of one or many cultures?
9. How does Copenhagen function as the background - is it vivid, stale, recognizable, trite?
10. what role does alcohol play in the book?
11. What role does sex play in the book? Discuss the protagonist's experiments with her body? Is this relatable to, for example, the MeToo movement or the discussions about sexuality taking place today in the Us and Denmark?

I look forward to seeing you soon.

all the best

Nete