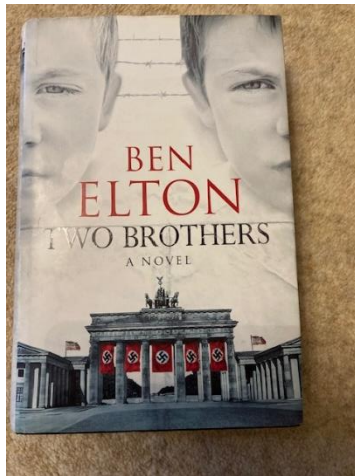


BOOK CLUB February 2024:

The Two Brothers by Ben Elton



This book provoked a very mixed response within the group. Some really enjoyed it, some found the plot contrived and pursued by the author way beyond its' initial appeal, making the book very cumbersome and unrealistic.

The novel, set in Berlin, takes the reader from the birth of two brothers in 1920, through the Weimar period, the rise of Nazism, the war years, the division of the city and ends with the death of one character in 2003. If you enjoy historical fiction, we felt that the historical detail was good; the book provides authentic description and analysis of the horror of this period and how it impacted upon the lives of ordinary people.

We felt that the characterisation of the four young people who are the main protagonists was weak and improbable, which detracted from some excellent descriptions of some of the minor characters and how they lived during these traumatic times.