

The Friends' Book Club
September 21, 2018

The Job by Sinclair Lewis

Discussion Leader: Richard Bass



Thanks to Richard Bass for leading the group in a discussion of Sinclair Lewis' *The Job*. Richard pointed out Lewis was a prolific writer who refused a Pulitzer, yet accepted a Nobel Prize!

The plot of *The Job* takes place in America during 1905-15. This was before World War I, but in the midst of the Temperance and Suffrage Movements. The protagonist, Una, suffers a series of setbacks -- experiences not unlike those of the author who endured two divorces and died from alcoholism.

In reviewing the characters, the group noted Una had a sex drive -- hardly a Victorian trait! Did her beau Walter Babson suffer from what we know now as ADHD? And what do the other characters suggest about the treatment of Catholics, Jews and African-Americans in turn-of-the-century New York?

Everyone seemed to agree the ending echoed a Hollywood happy ending. But who could deny Una happiness after all she had endured?

- David Kelly