

# Living Lord Book Club

## Book Review

*by Brad Baker, Living Lord Book Club*

The Living Lord Book Club reviewed *A Reliable Wife*, by Robert Goolrick, on Tuesday, May 4. This novel is set in upper Wisconsin shortly after the year 1900. A wealthy industrialist and widower, Ralph Truitt, advertises in a Chicago newspaper for a reliable wife. Catherine Land, a woman with a checkered background, answers the ad and is selected by Ralph, via letters, to be his wife. She travels to Wisconsin on a train in Ralph's private car to meet and marry him. That is how the story starts. Catherine has a second agenda. She wants Ralph's money and really has no plans for him. Ralph's son Antonio, a prodigal son from his first wife and a honky tonk musician, becomes a major player in the story. Ralph wants his son back and the son wants no part of it, except for the money. There is a lot of scheming and conniving by all the players in the book except poor Ralph Truitt, a truly honest and sincere man. The story progresses, with Catherine and Antonio working toward their goals of getting rich.

The book was written with good language and wording. We were all happy that there was no profanity in the book. However, some of the descriptions went on for page after page, with almost no end in sight. It was a little boring in that respect. There was not much action in the book, just descriptions of feelings and situations. People's inner thoughts went on forever, it seemed. All the characters had somewhat dismal lives. There was little happiness in the book, just one tragedy after another. We could not believe that this was an accurate depiction of typical people in America in 1907. It seems the sub-theme of the book was unabashed sexual encounters. It went on and on throughout the book and was described in great detail. We all like a little excitement now and then, but this was a little overboard. All this seemed a little outlandish for Americans in 1907. Almost unbelievable. I will not spoil the story and relate the ending. Feel free to read the book if you want and see how it turns out. The Living Lord Book Club gave *A Reliable Wife* an Enjoyment Index of 5.5 out of a possible 10. We really do not recommend this book. There are much better ones out there with which to allocate your time.

Our next book is entitled *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*, by John Grisham. Written in 2006, it is the only nonfiction book Grisham has written. It deals with the murder of a cocktail waitress in Oklahoma in 1982. Five years later, a former professional baseball player and his friend were charged with murder. Grisham deals with the entire process and especially DNA analysis. We will review *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town* on Tuesday, June 1, at 6:30 PM, in the church library, of course.

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