**RED: Passion and Patience in the Desert**, by Terry Tempest Williams was the subject of discussion at the Bibliophiles meeting on November 9 (following a highly fraught national election the day before).

It was suggested that this book could be regarded as a field guide to the red rock country of Utah and the National Parks. It expresses the author’s tactile love for the unique environment of rocks, canyons, streams, mountains and valleys in southern Utah. She revels in story telling: landscape descriptions, historical anecdotes and incidents, reports of Indian and animal behavior in the wild. Her avowed goal is to capture the interest and engagement of readers (especially youngsters) who may later become advocates for the protection of these natural lands from exploitation and physical destruction.

To increase her sensory experience of this unique terrain, she describes floating down a streambed in the nude: coursing over rocks and rills and thereby identifying more intimately with the elements and power of the natural world. Williams endeavors to relate her total immersion experience in ways that will instill curiosity, wonder and commitment among those who may be instrumental in protecting wilderness for future generations.

Some in our group pointed out the delicate and complicated balance required in our political policies: between preservation and access, spiritual and economic values, individual and collective involvement. Once taken, wilderness cannot be restored. It offers fragile fruits of geological time and natural beauty that should be guarded as the treasure and heritage of all citizens of our democratic state.

Two books were proposed by Terry Haney for future discussion:

1) **THE KNOWN WORLD** by Edward P. Jones
2) **THE SOURCE** by James Michener

After brief discussion **THE KNOWN WORLD** was selected.

I have requested that the Book Worm order five copies for the Bibliophiles. I was conservative in this request because Amazon’s cheaper rate is often a temptation. However, having recently attended a brilliant new book discussion and signing ceremony at the Book Worm, I am committed to buying my copy there. It is always a good place to meet readers, and to scan and discover books of personal interest.

Our next meeting will be 11:30 on **Wednesday, January 4th** at Spezia. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bob Runyon, reporter
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