Dear Deborah,

Sara Mercurio sent me your request. I’m delighted to hear that your book group has chosen *Mad Enchantment* for its book in June. I hope it proves a pleasant read and leads to interesting discussions. I’d love to be a fly on the wall on July 13th!

I’m happy to take any questions your members might have as they read. A point I might pose to them: do they find Monet admirable in his tenacity as he keeps painting through the war years? Or is it selfish of him to use up resources - paint, canvas, gasoline, cigarettes - that were earmarked for the war effort? What part (or how important a part) does culture play in politics and events such as war?

Another point: most people find the Water Lily paintings very serene and restful, but do they give any hints of the torment that Monet experienced during the last 12 years of his life? Can we see expressions of anger, frustration and sorrow in them?

Happy reading!

Kind regards,

Ross