

www.bookgroup.info

Newsletter No 12

January 2004

Dear readers,

Happy New Year!

Many thanks to the many people who returned the questionnaire. All your comments are useful as we develop the site.

December's competition winner is Val Booter from Worcester, who wins the set of books by Russell Hoban, published by Bloomsbury. Congratulations Val!

January's competition is to win a hardback copy of *One Last Look* Susanna Moore's latest book. Penguin has kindly given us five copies as prizes. So click on the **competition!** button and answer the simple question....

See our review of *One Last Look* on www.bookgroup.info/review plus an **interview with Susanna Moore**, where Moore talks to us about her latest novel.

January's Reviews on the site are; *Altered Land* by Jules Hardy, *The Restraint of Beasts* by Magnus Mills, *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer, *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier and *One Last Look* by Susanna Moore.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is a large group, active since 1981. They form part of the National Women's Register, all love reading and meet 10 times a year. We would love to hear about *your* bookgroup. Would you like to be our next BOTM??

Cold Mountain the film has been very popular with our bookgroup. We thought it a very powerful and moving adaptation of the novel, if a bit Disneyfied in places. The scenes of war are devastating, Inman's journey home to Cold Mountain is extremely poignant and Jude Law is rather wonderful. I cried a great deal...

Look out for the film of **Girl with a Pearl Earring** coming soon – one of our five star reads.

The Whitbread 2003; best novel prize was won by Mark Haddon for *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

Read our review in our archive. This amazing book is popular with adults and older children/teens and we loved it.

Other contenders on the shortlist were:

The Lucky Ones by Rachel Cusk, *Heligoland* by Shena Mackay and *Frankie & Stankie* by Barbara Trapido.

The Whitbread 2003; first novel prize was won by DBC Pierre aka Peter Finlay, winner of the Booker Prize.

Short-listed were; *Buddha Da* by Anne Donovan, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes* by Paul Murray and *An Empty Room* by Talitha Stevenson.

Visit **The Guardian books website**

www.guardian.co.uk/books for

Jacqueline Wilson's top 10 books for children. We've had great successes with children's/crossover books.

Also see the top 10s from Lynne Truss and Gwynneth Jones. Always interesting is the online Reading Group, this month discussing *Birthday Letters* by Ted Hughes.

Very sadly **Joan Aiken** died this month. Joan Aiken achieved huge success for her compelling stories for adults and children, which she began writing from childhood. Writers consistently cite her wonderfully imaginative books for children as a source of inspiration. Joan Delano Aiken b. Sept 4 1924, died Jan 4 2004.

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