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## Newsletter No 23 February 2005

Dear readers,

Hello to all of you, and welcome to all our new readers. Thank you to everyone who emailed us following the Radio 4 Open Book little feature on us on 16 January. We really enjoyed reading your messages and were overwhelmed by your great support! Please let us know what you are reading, and what books work for you. Email us: [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info). Please also use our interactive Forum on the website – click on chat to have an online chat with other readers.

**New reviews** this month are *Little Black Book of Stories* by A S Byatt and *The Promise of Happiness* by Justin Cartwright. *Vernon God Little* by DBC Pierre and *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth stay on the review page. They are joined by *One Last Look* by Susanna Moore which comes out in paperback this month. All are thoroughly recommended.

Read Susanna Moore's fascinating answers to our questions in the [interview](#)

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is The Crosby Book Club. It was set up in the 1970s. In the 3 decades they have shared much and cemented their friendship and love of reading. Read all about them on our [news](#) page. If you'd like to be our next BOTM just answer the questions and send them to us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and you will be rewarded with a book voucher for your group.

January's **competition winners**, receiving copies of *Small Island* by Andrea Levy, are: Mishka Simpson (Bristol), Becky Crawford (Falmouth), Kevin Ryan (Barking), Jane Meredith (Dublin), Tracey Edwards (London) and Karen Strutt (Glasgow). Well done everyone!

This month six copies of *The promise of Happiness* (see our review) will be sent to readers who answer the question correctly. Click on the [competition](#) button to enter.

**Interesting new project** – Unwritten Books. Go to [www.unwritten.org.uk](http://www.unwritten.org.uk) to check it out. Note they are planning a tour of Scotland this summer.

**Penguin** has ambitious plans to celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. 7 UK cities have chosen a Penguin title that will be promoted via libraries and retailers – all to get people reading. With a diverse mix of titles, and promising exciting events, all info can be found at [www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk) and click on 70 Penguin Years.

**Even Coronation Street** has a book group now. Book shops have been swamped with people keen to buy the book they're reading – *Hard Grinding*. Sadly, it doesn't exist.

**Happy Eightieth Birthday, Russell Hoban**. His new novel *Come Dance with Me* is published this month and if you would like to go to a convention about him in London, look on our [events](#) page. Read our reviews of *Riddley Walker* and *Turtle Diary* in the [archive](#).

**Radio 4 Open Book** did a special feature on Ian McEwan last/this month. They discuss his career and new novel *Saturday*, published this month. It was broadcast on 30<sup>th</sup> Jan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, so visit [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/openbook/openbook.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/openbook/openbook.shtml) and click *listen again*.

**Radio 4's Bookclub** in February will feature Bill Bryson on *A Short History of Nearly Everything* to be broadcast 6.2.05 and 10.02.05.

March's Bookclub will feature Stephen Fry on *The Hippopotamus*. It's recording on 01.02.05. If you would like further details about these programmes and if you would like to attend, and be part of the small and interesting audience, go to [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub)

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