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Newsletter No 71
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Research carried out by consultancy Mindlab International, at the University of Sussex, has shown that reading is the best way to relax. So pull up an armchair and relax with one of this month's recommended reads.

Our Book of the Month is the much deserved, Orange Prize shortlisted, HOME by Marilynne Robinson. See the competition to win a copy and read our interview with the author.

Our other recommended titles are: FORESKIN'S LAMENT by Shalom Auslander BLACKMOOR by Edward Hogan and THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST by Mohsin Hamid.

The guest review is BUTTERFLY by Sonia Hartnett http://www.bookgroup.info/041205/review_guest.php

Recommend a book to Bookgroup Info by sending a review (no more than 500 words) to info@bookgroup.info and we will put the best on the site as a guest review. We'll also send you a £10 book token.

Do you agree with our reviews? Do you wish you could have your say? Well you can now leave your comments. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

Can you Spot the Bookshop? Congratulations to Wayne Smart the winner of last month's competition. A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of THE BOOK THIEF: Timothy Mackay, Twickenham; Sylvia Witham, Leigh on Sea; Sarah Keery, Cannock; Martyn Watkins, Bridgend; Clare Gleave, London; John Tranter, Wolverhampton; Yvonne Rea, Merstham; Rick Dawson, Ilkeston; Neil Graham, Newcastle upon Tyne and Richard Quine, Isle of Man. Many thanks to Black Swan publishers.

After an overwhelming response, the two lucky winners of the set of five Raymond Chandler books are Viv Poornomansy, Doncaster and Sandra Kay, Milton Keynes. The runners up are Catherine Miller, Southampton and Robin Brooksbank, Derby. Many thanks to Penguin publishers.

See our **FREE BOOKS** and special offers this month for registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only). If your group is not registered then just fill in the form. It's a very simple process!

Read about our Bookgroup of the Month the lively East Barnet Library Book Group.

Fill in the questionnaire if you'd like to be a BGoTM.

Tickets are still available for:
Kingston Readers' Festival
23 Apr - 22 May 2009 which boasts a wide variety of events which will be held throughout the month in a number of venues around Kingston upon Thames.
Charleston Festival 15 - 24 May celebrating 20 years of setting the agenda.
See the offers page for details of a special ticket event for Bookgroup Info visitors.
CrimeFest, 14 -17 May at the Marriott Royal Hotel, Bristol.
For free tickets to five visitors and a special 25% discount see our offers page.

We have another great theatre ticket offer this month. The Duchess Theatre, London, is staging COLLABORATION and TAKING SIDES, two critically acclaimed plays written by award winning playwright Ronald Harwood, which explore the fine line between collaboration and

betrayal during the Second World War.
Ronald Harwood CBE, wrote the screenplays for The Dresser for which he was nominated for an Oscar and The Pianist, for which he won the 2003 Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. He was nominated for the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar for The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007). See our offers page for special ticket prices for Bookgroup Info visitors.

If you haven't already read it then get reading THE BOOK THIEF Markus Zusak's international bestseller chosen as Brighton & Hove City Reads 2009. There are a huge range of special events, workshops, reading groups and film showings including an exclusive City Reads visit to the Brighton Festival by the author. There is also a special opportunity for bookgroups to enter a competition to win afternoon tea at Terre à Terre in Brighton with Markus Zusak.
N.B. The closing date is Friday 8th May.

Radio 4 Bookclub on Sunday 3rd and Thursday 7th May features THE CONCISE CHINESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY FOR LOVERS by Xiaolu Guo.
Remember you can "listen again" if you miss either programme.

Bookclub is recording at the Hay Festival at 2pm on Friday 29 May.
If you'd like to hear Swedish writer Henning Mankell on SIDETRACKED, a novel featuring his detective Wallander, tickets are free and available from the Bookclub website.

The Orange Prize shortlist is announced. The list includes three of our recommended titles; this month's Book of the Month, HOME by Marylinne Robinson, SCOTTSBORO (see our review) by Ellen Feldman (read our interview with her) and MOLLY FOX'S BIRTHDAY by Deidre Madden (see our review).

See the shortlist for the 2009 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

The 2009 Galaxy British Book Awards winners are announced.

Two incomplete texts have been discovered on recently deceased writer Michael Crichton's computer. His publisher plans to print them as soon as possible. Should authors' unfinished works be left alone?

The American Library Association's 'most challenged' books of 2008 include Khaled Hosseini's bestseller, and UK bookgroup favourite, THE KITE RUNNER which was one of the books that inspired most complaints in America last year.

Throughout April and May Film 4 is showing Great Adaptations a selection of award-winning films that have been adapted from books. To celebrate the season they are running a competition to win all 67 books. Give it a go!
http://www.channel4.com/film/reviews/feature.jsp?V=3&SV=2&id=172375

A survey conducted by OnePoll.com has seen Harper Lee's 1960 classic novel TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD voted the most inspirational book of all time, beating the Bible into second place.

Richard & Judy are still looking for enthusiastic bookgroups to take part in their summer programmes. They are looking for families, groups of friends, reading groups or groups of colleagues with at least six to eight people who would be happy to review one of their Summer Read books on camera. The group should be based in a seaside town or UK beauty spot.

The books are all selected with a view to being the ideal holiday reads and will be sent in advance.
If you are interested and you fit the criteria, please contact zoe.smith@cactustv.co.uk for more information, or telephone 020 7091 4900

Congratulations to Carol Ann Duffy who has made history by becoming the country's first female poet laureate.

And finally, a giant of English literature, J G Ballard has sadly died aged 78.

If you have anything to say about these or any other book-related topics leave a message on our notice-board.

Many thanks to all of you have emailed us to thank us for helping with setting up your group and making your reading choices. Please do remember to forward the newsletter to other members of your group so that they can take advantage of the offers and competitions.

Please email us at info@bookgroup.info if you wish to unsubscribe to the newsletter.

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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