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**Newsletter No 87
October 2010**

"Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter."

~Carol Bishop Hipps

Our [Book of the Month](#) is ALONE IN BERLIN, by Hans Fallada. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read a [profile](#) of the author.

The other [recommended titles](#) this month are, Hungarian author Ferenc Karinsky's dystopian classic, METROPOLE; the Icelandic classic, INDEPENDENT PEOPLE by Halldor Laxness; the Independent Fiction Prize winner, BRODECK'S REPORT by Philippe Claudel and THE BOOK CLUB by Marjolijn Februari.

The [quest review](#) is THE SPIDER TRUCES a sensitive first novel by Tom Connolly.

Let us know what you think of our reviews. Leave your comments at the bottom of any review - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to Janet Gniady the winner of August's competition for spotting the radical Radish Bookshop in Leeds. A £10 National Book Tokens gift card is on its way.

Welcome to all the new groups who have recently registered with us. Now is the time to request your **FREE BOOKS!** Just go to the [offers](#) page. This is for **ALL** registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only) not just new ones. If your group is not registered then just fill in the [form](#). It's a very simple process. **N.B.** You only need to register once. Does your bookgroup info need updating? Email us at

info@bookgroup.info and we'll amend your directory entry for you.

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) Heswall No.1

Do you want to be our BGoTM? Just fill in the [questionnaire](#) and win a £10 National Book Tokens Gift Card if you're chosen.

The Wellcome Trust Book Prize celebrates the best of medicine in literature by awarding £25,000 each year for the finest fiction or non-fiction book with a medical twist and the shortlist for 2010 has just been announced! Find out who made the list on the prize [website](#) where you can also download guides to the shortlisted books for use in your book group meetings, including information about the author and points for discussion.

You can also cast your vote online for your favourite book from the shortlist and sign up to receive e-alerts about the prize, so you can stay in touch and be notified when the winner is announced in November.

Ron Rash takes the €35,000 [Frank O'Connor Award](#) for an 'incredibly well-wrought' short-story collection, BURNING BRIGHT. (You'll recognise the name as the author one of last month's featured books SERENA).

The authors of [Thresholds: Home of the International Postgraduate Short Story Forum](#) will be pleased that a short story writer has received the above accolade. The blog's authors believe that the short story is a vital literary form in its own right, deserving of serious critical attention and acclaim.

Would your bookgroup book consider choosing a short story collection or anthology, instead of a novel, for November? The UK's first National Short Story Week is taking place from November 22nd to 28th. The aim of the week is to get more people

writing, reading and listening to short stories. See more at their [website](#).

The [2010 PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction](#) has gone to Don DeLillo. The "combination of terror and comedy and sheer song" in his writing means that "everyone wants to give Don DeLillo an award", according to Philip Roth and his fellow judges. The award has previously been won by Philip Roth (2008) and Cormac McCarthy (2009). We're hoping a "giantess" of American literature might win it next.

Hanif Kureishi has won this year's [PEN/Pinter Prize](#), which goes to a writer who – in the words of Harold Pinter's Nobel speech – casts an "unflinching, unswerving" gaze upon the world.

See the website of [The Reader Organisation](#) whose "work is driven by the heartfelt belief that 'literacy' is not just the ability to read, but the state of being a reader" and say that they "exist to make great books accessible to all through shared reading." Hear hear!

A past Book of the Month, WINTER'S BONE by Daniel Woodrell, has now been made into a feature film. Before you queue for your popcorn read our [review](#) of this brilliant book and get an insight into the writing of the story in our [interview](#) with the author.

We've teamed up with [Large Print Bookshop](#), the UK's leading stockist of large print books, an invaluable resource for those looking to buy, or find out more, about books for the visually impaired.

James Naughtie and readers talk to the Irish writer Roddy Doyle about his Booker prize winning novel PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA on [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 3rd and Thursday 7th October both at 4pm - and on podcast and the i-player too.

There's still time to get your tickets for this year's [Guildford Book Festival](#) between 14 – 23 October. See the website for the full programme and booking information.

See what's on in your area on our list of [festivals and events](#). If you want us to include something on the list then complete the [registration form](#) or contact us at info@bookgroup.info

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