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**Newsletter No 89
December 2010**

“The answers you get from literature depend on the questions you pose.”
Margaret Atwood

There are plenty of questions asked in our [Book of the Month](#) THE YEAR OF THE FLOOD by the aforementioned and incomparable Margaret Atwood. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read a highly entertaining [interview](#) with the author.

The other [recommended titles](#) this month are: VOYAGE IN THE DARK Jean Rhys's 1934, lesser-known classic; a fascinating look into the hidden life of plants in SEEDS, SEX AND CIVILISATION by Peter Thompson and in celebration of its 25th year, THE HANDMAID'S TALE, by Margaret Atwood.

Hear Margaret Atwood talking about her modern classic THE HANDMAID'S TALE on Radio 4's [Woman's Hour](#).

And to complete our Atwoodfest we have a fantastic [Christmas competition](#) where you could win a set of Virago's newly jacketed Atwood backlist!

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 Yvonne Jarman the winner of November's competition. A £10 National Book Tokens gift card is on its way.

The 10 winners of THE CONFESSION OF Katherine HOWARD by Suzannah Dunn are: Serena Waithe, London; Laura Isaac, London; Suan Watts, Bolton; Trudie Lavender, Hornchurch; Roma

Pearshouse, Reddich; Monika Hokimi, Harrow; Sarah Pond, Wokingham; Neil Vessey, Farnham; Denise Seddon, Rotherham and Graham Ross, Witham. Many thanks to Harper Press, the publishers

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.

This month's [Bookgroup of the Month](#) is the bright and breezy Bluestocking Girls from Bournemouth. 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.

Get your tickets for the [Bristol Old Vic](#)'s special new production of SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS. Running from 1 Dec – 15 Jan this new musical by Helen Edmundson and Neil Hannon is based on the book by Arthur Ransome and is directed by Tom Morris. Tickets are £26 - £5. Tel: Box Office 0117 987 7877 or email: tickets@bristololdvic.org.uk

Channel 4 is currently showing an adaptation of [ANY HUMAN HEART](#) by William Boyd, scripted by the author. If you've missed any of it you can catch up on 4oD. See our [review](#) of this wonderful novel.

See the books that excited the great and the good this year as published in the [Guardian](#). How do they compare with your bookgroup's best read? Let us know the book that your group would vote as its No1 in 2010 and if enough of you email us at

info@bookgroup.info putting 'Book of the Year' in the subject box we'll let you know the results in the January newsletter.

Irish author Rowan Somerville has secured the Literary Review's [Bad Sex in Fiction Award 2010](#).

It was phrases like this from his second novel THE SHAPE OF HER that clinched it for him: "Like a lepidopterist mounting a tough-skinned insect with a too blunt pin he screwed himself into her." Eek!!

December 21st is National Short Story Day, which the organizers call "a UK-wide celebration of prose's short-yet-perfectly-crafted form". See more at the [website](#).

The shortlist for [Picador Poetry Prize 2010](#) is announced. The prize recognises the best new, previously unpublished poetry in the UK. It is awarded for a representative selection of a poet's work, rather than a single poem. The winner will be announced in January.

A mixture of fiction, poetry and memoir has been chosen for the inaugural World Book Night. The event will take place on 5th March 2011 when 20,000 volunteers will give one million free books away. See how you can become involved at the [World Book Night](#) website.

James Naughtie and readers talk to Sarah Hall about her novel THE CARHULLAN ARMY on [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 5th and Thursday 9th December both at 4pm. It's also available online too on the i-player and as a podcast. Read our [review](#) of this terrific dystopian novel and our [interview](#) with the author before tuning in.

Bookclub is looking for Scottish participants with experience or opinion on the west of Scotland Catholic/Protestant divide. The book

under discussion will be BE NEAR ME by Andrew O'Hagan. If you'd like to attend it's on Monday 31 January 2011 at 5.45pm at Bush House. Find out how to get tickets at the [Bookclub](#) website.

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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Happy Christmas to you all and many thanks to our visitors, publishing colleagues and reviewers for all your support.

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