

www.bookgroup.info

Newsletter No. 6

July 2003

Dear readers,

Go to www.bookgroup.info/review for three excellent reads by Ethan Canin, Anne Michaels and our **Author of the Month**, Tracy Chevalier.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** all live in St. Lucia. We are very pleased that the site is receiving so many visits from around the world.

NewBOOKSmag is a dynamic magazine for readers and reading groups. As well as being serious and meaty, it has freebies - copies of paperbacks to be claimed for just the price of postage. New subscribers receive free copies of *The Saving Graces* by Patricia Gaffney and *Good Harbor* Anita Diamant. For a **free** introductory copy of the magazine simply email your name and address to

jo@newbooksmag.com mentioning www.bookgroup.info

They also produce **MyBOOKSmag** - a rather nice new literary magazine for children.

With good timing, as the summer holidays are approaching – www.readingmaze.org.uk also has plenty of reading ideas for children.

Masses of prizes and prizewinners to announce– The Orange Prize was won by Valerie Martin (*Property*.) The Betty Trask Prize for a first novel by an author under 35 went to Jon McGregor (*If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things*.) The McKitterick Prize for a first novel by an author over 40 went to Mary Lawson (*Crow Lake*.) The Sagittarius Prize for a first novel by an author over 60 went to Margaret Kaine (*Ring of Clay*.)

“Granny lit” would appear to be a very sexy and positively pounced upon phenomenon. The Saga Group and the Royal Society of Literature have set up new awards to recognise this newly trendy group.

The Royal Society of Literature has launched the Ondaatje Prize. This will go to the best new book at conjuring up the magic of places and replaces the Winifred Holtby award. Beryl Bainbridge, Michael Holroyd and Christopher Ondaatje have launched the prize with their own favourites both old and modern.

A very happy birthday to Virago who celebrates its 30th birthday this month. Congratulations on consistently showcasing interesting and overlooked authors.

The **Save Our Short Story Campaign** aims to encourage and promote the writing of exciting short fiction. Find out more on www.saveourshortstory.org.uk

Maia is a new, small and independent publishing company, who will be publishing short stories amongst other things. Good luck! Great to see diversity.

It's hot at last! Temperatures are rising in the UK and we wondered if your reading choices change seasonally?
Time to get some summer sandals...

Please keep in touch and let us know which books have proved stimulating to you and your groups. We'd also really welcome your comments on any books we review.

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