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Newsletter No 20  
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Dear readers,

**October's Reviews** feature *How I Live Now* by Meg Rossoff, *The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler, *Fingersmith* by Sarah Waters, *Le Grand Meaulnes* by Alain-Fournier and *Riddley Walker* by Russell Hoban. Got to [www.bookgroup.info/pages/review.htm](http://www.bookgroup.info/pages/review.htm)

**Free books!** Penguin is giving away hardback copies of *The Jane Austen Book Club* to 10 of our visitors to the site. Just email your name and address to us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) Names will be picked out of a hat (or possibly a shoe) on Halloween.

**Bookgroup of the Month** has been going strong for 15 years. The group is cake – loving and meets in South Coast seaside towns. [www.bookgroup.info/pages/news.htm](http://www.bookgroup.info/pages/news.htm) Would you like to be our next Bookgroup of the Month? Simply send an email to [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) with your responses to the questions, and if you are featured we will reward you with a £10 voucher to buy books. We are always interested to hear from established or new groups, in the UK or overseas.

**The competition.** Click the competition button on our home page and have a go. 5 winners will be sent a copy of *How I Live Now* by Meg Rossoff.

**R4 Bookclub** is recording with Carol Ann Duffy, at the BBC studios in Manchester on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 4pm. Tickets and details of the full Bookclub programme are available via the BBC website, the web page address is; [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub)

The BBC Big Read was just the beginning – the craze for readers' polls and the search for the nation's favourite reads, as grouped in categories continues. The Orange Prize and R4's Woman's Hour are currently searching for women's **Watershed Fiction**. Woman's Hour invites you to nominate the novel, which has spoken to you on a personal level. It can be written by a man or a woman, in this country or abroad. All nominations

close on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, with a long list of 30 to be announced 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, on Woman's Hour. The nomination form is at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour) The programme is also inviting some listeners to talk on air about their choice, and the results so far have been interesting and at times, very moving.

**Ebony Reads** will also search for the nation's favourite 100 books, this time by black and Asian authors – nominated by publishers, booksellers, libraries, arts organisations and reading groups. Go to [www.ebonyreads.com](http://www.ebonyreads.com) until mid October to make your nomination. The list will be reduced to 50 in December, and the top 25 will be announced in February 2005.

**The Man Booker shortlist** is now fixed at; *The Line of Beauty* by Alan Hollinghurst, *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell, *The Master* by Colm Toibin, *The Electric Michelangelo* by Sarah Hall, *Bitter Fruit* by Achmat Dangor and *I'll Go To Bed At Noon* by Gerard Woodward. Read all about it on [www.bookerprize.co.uk](http://www.bookerprize.co.uk) or [www.guardian.co.uk/books/bookerprize2004](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/bookerprize2004)

**The big online book-buying companies** were predicted as signing the death warrant for smaller web-based booksellers. Critics foresaw that the convenient delivery and competitive pricing would simply knock out the smaller competitors, but according to The Guardian (*Buy The Book*, Online section, 09.09.04.) the marketplace looks good and there is enough room for everyone. The article also demonstrates how remote areas such as the Orkney Islands, Scotland are now, via the web just as accessible as anywhere else in the world – for both buying and selling.

Only 5% of books get converted into Braille, audio or large print formats. Publisher, Felix Dennis, is hosting **poetry readings** around the country that include free wine. For each person who attends, Felix will donate £50 to the National Library for the Blind. Go to <http://www.nlb-online.org/poetrytour> and find out where there is a reading near you. Have fun and help get more books formatted for visually impaired people.

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