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Newsletter No 25  
April 2005

Dear readers,  
Winter appears to be behind us now as daffodils and lambs overrun the hedgerows, thrushes nest relentlessly and Spring bursts forth violently. What better time than this to seize the moment and read feverishly? In which case hurry to our three **new reviews**: *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *The Good Mother* by Sue Miller and *The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers. We found all three powerful, moving and sometimes disturbing.

Our [interview](#) page features Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, in conversation with Chris Meade of Booktrust.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is the Belfast Education and Library Board Book Club. Happy first birthday BELB! We hope you continue to enjoy classic reads and noodles. Read all about them on our [news](#) page and if you'd like to be our next BOTM just answer the questions and send them to us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and you will be rewarded with a book voucher for your group.

March's **competition winners** are: Victoria Cherry (Bognor Regis,) Elizabeth Mellor (Dunstable,) Philip Josling (Wirral,) Helen Pyke (Wigton) and Liz Fraser (Tarriff, Scotland.) Well done!  
This month Click on the [competition](#) button this month to enter and win copies of *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

**Win books!** If your book group is in Brighton & Hove, email 'Alice' to us and the first two will each win 5 copies of *Alice in Wonderland* as part of the **City Reads**.

The Reading Agency is launching a '**borrowers recommend**' promotion which includes 21 of the most borrowed library books. Info is at [www.borrowersrecommend.co.uk](http://www.borrowersrecommend.co.uk)

A new idea in **book sharing**, mybookyourbook is an online cooperative library. Submit a list of 10 paperbacks you will share to [www.mybookyourbook.co.uk](http://www.mybookyourbook.co.uk)

and you can choose any book from their database.

Don't miss **Cambridge Word Fest**, 22-24 April. Authors include Graham Swift, Jackie Kay, Michael Morpurgo, Helen Cross, Alan Hollinghurst and others. [www.cambridgewordfest.co.uk](http://www.cambridgewordfest.co.uk)  
And **Cardiff's Bay Lit Festival**, 16-24 April, celebrating Cardiff's hundred years as a city and 50 years as Wales' capital. **Brighton Festival** kicks off in May with MANY literary events to choose from. Go to [www.brighton-festival.org.uk](http://www.brighton-festival.org.uk) and look in books and debate plus fringe section – literature.

Check out listings/book a place in the audience for **Radio 4 Bookclub** at [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub)  
Richard Ford, discussing *Independence Day* was broadcast on 03.04.05 to be repeated on 07.04.05. The next one will be Andrea Levy discussing *Small Island* (01.05.05 & 05.05.05, already recorded.) Next recording will be Joyce Carol Oates discussing *We Were the Mulvaneys* recording 20.5.05 at The British Library.

**Penguin Books celebrates 70 years!**  
**7 Cities, 7 Books** is one highlight in the many birthday celebrations. Go to [www.penguin.co.uk/readers](http://www.penguin.co.uk/readers) for the list and to check out whether your city is participating. Also see **Penguin Readers Day** on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April in Oxford and download a form to enter the **Penguin/Orange Readers Group Prize** for the best book group.

**PRIZES: Commonwealth Writers Prizes** go to Andrea Levy for *Small Island*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie for *Purple Hibiscus*. [www.commonwealthwriters.com](http://www.commonwealthwriters.com)  
**The Romantic Novel Association** also awarded a prize to Andrea Levy.

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