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**Newsletter No 34
February 2006**

Dear readers,

Wishing you all well in the cold and dark of February. Spring will come and the sap will rise...time to start thinking about a weekend away with your book group or family or a significant other. We are offering, in partnership with Cottages4you, a discount on holiday cottages booked this month. Go to [offers](#) for this and many other exciting offers. Please [register](#) your group with us to benefit.

We hope you like the new look [homepage](#) – tell us what you think.

New [reviews](#) this month are; THE PEOPLE'S ACT OF LOVE by James meek – a breathtaking novel set in Siberia in 1918 and, by contrast, BAD ATTITUDES by Agnes Owens set in the seamy side of Glasgow.

See our [Interview](#) with the highly acclaimed James Meek, whose carefully considered responses are very illuminating indeed.

The December/January competition winners are: Liz Webb (Wimborne), Julia Latham (Southampton) and Will Smith (Nottingham). Congratulations, we hope you enjoy WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN.

L. Wilson (Ayr) wins a set of books by John Fante. Many thanks to [Serpents Tail](#) and [Canongate](#) publishers. Go to our [Competition](#) page where 10 visitors can win a copy of THE PEOPLE'S ACT OF LOVE.

Our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) is the Stoke Newington Reading Group. If you'd like to be our next BoTM please fill out the questions and email us info@bookgroup.info

Very helpful answers to last month's problem on the [problem page](#) and, if you can offer some wisdom, or a fresh opinion on the matter, email us a reply and we'll put it up. Do get in touch if you have a problem to resolve.

Penguin Readers Book of the Month is launched on Feb 1st. Watch out for leaflets and posters in all libraries promoting the list to readers and groups. February's book is THINGS FALL APART by Chinua Achebe. See our [review](#).

[Penguin Orange Reading Group Prize 2006](#) - Win a day at Penguin's HQ for your group or 6 runner-up prizes of a visit from a Penguin author.

Hilary Spurling has won the [Whitbread Book of The Year](#) for her biography of Matisse. Read the [Guardian](#) interview.

TS Eliot Poetry Prize goes to Carol Ann Duffy. For the story, go to - <http://www.poetrybooks.co.uk/>

Does your group read poetry? Is poetry becoming as quaint as Morris dancing? Read [more](#)..

The books every child 'should' read...here's what some of [our top writers think](#). What's your view?

[Get London Reading](#) includes a 24 hour reading of Peter Ackroyd's LONDON at the Kirkdale Bookshop, Sydenham.

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