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Newsletter No 69 March 2009

"I took a speed reading course and read 'War and Peace' in twenty minutes. It involves Russia."

Woody Allen

We hope you'll take a bit more time to read THE EARTH HUMS IN B FLAT our wonderful new [Book of the Month](#) by debut novelist Mari Strachan. See the [competition](#) to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

Our other [recommended titles](#) are the award-winning THE SECRET SCRIPTURE by Sebastian Barry, GILEAD by Marilynne Robinson and the debut novel BLACK ROCK by Amanda Smythe.

The [guest review](#) is LITTLE GODS by Karen Catto of the Shore Connection bookgroup in Banff.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)?

Congratulations to Phillip Davies, our February winner who wins a £10 book token.

Congratulations to the winners of JULIUS WINSOME: Julia Linsley, Stour Provost; Jade Rossiter, Redruth and Sharisse de Silva, Wolverhampton. Many thanks to Faber publishers.

Claim your **[FREE BOOKS!](#)** If your group is already registered with us you are eligible to claim free books every month (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only). If your group is not registered then just fill in the [form](#). It's a very simple process!

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) the Brighton and Hove Men.

Fill in the [questionnaire](#) if you'd like to be a BGoTM.

Leave your comments on book (or bookgroup) related topics on our [notice-board](#).

On Sunday 1st and Thursday 5th March AL Kennedy joins [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) to discuss DAY, winner of the 2007 Costa Novel Award.

Remember you can "listen again" if you miss either programme.

Read AL Kennedy's new [blog](#) on "an author's life".

Radio 4's Bookclub still have places for their recording with the Chinese author Xiaolu Guo about her novel A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers. It takes place on 25th March at 6pm at the BBC studios at Bush House. Tickets are free but you have to apply [online](#)

[World Book Day](#) 2009 is on March 5th.

Brighton & Hove City Reads 2009 is Markus Zusak's international bestseller THE BOOK THIEF. From the launch on 12th March to the final event on 23rd May, there's a huge range of special events, workshops, reading groups and film showings. This includes an exclusive City Reads visit to the Brighton Festival by the author. To join in, simply pick up a copy and start reading.

There is a special opportunity for bookgroups to enter a [competition](#) to win afternoon tea at Terre à Terre in Brighton with Markus Zusak!

Get your tickets for the [Convention for Readers and Reading Groups](#) at Jesus College, Oxford on Saturday 4 April 2009. The full programme of talks, workshops, debates and other events is led by 15 expert speakers (including Clare Chandler and Irene Haynes from Bookgroup Info), who not only share a passion for reading, but the desire to bring its benefits to the community.

In the [most borrowed books list](#) of 2008, James Patterson has taken the crown for the second year running.

See the [1000 novels you must read](#) according to the Guardian....
And the ones that [readers say](#) got away

A portrayal of the rise of disaster capitalism, THE SHOCK DOCTRINE, has won its author, Naomi Klein, the inaugural £50,000 [Warwick Prize for Writing](#).

Linda Grant has won the Literature award at the annual [South Bank Show Awards](#) for THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS.

If you fancy dipping into the newest writing from Palestinian authors, then see the [Pen Atlas of World Literature](#) website.

Carol Ann Duffy is favourite to be the next [poet laureate](#). Bookmaker William Hill has given Duffy even odds to take the post this summer.

See this year's shortlist for the [Oddest Book Title](#) award. There are some humdingers!

Many thanks to all of you have emailed us to thank us for helping with setting up your group and making your reading choices. Please do remember to forward the newsletter to other members of your group so that they can take advantage of the offers and competitions.

Please email us at info@bookgroup.info if you wish to unsubscribe to the newsletter.



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