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**Newsletter No 78
January 2010**

"Many people look forward to the new year for a new start on old habits."

~Author Unknown

We hope your old habits include the reading habit and for your delectation our [Book of the Month](#) is THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF RACHEL DUPREE, Ann Weisgarber's wonderful debut novel. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

An eclectic mix of [recommended titles](#) this month includes: the harrowing A LESSON BEFORE DYING by Ernest J Gaines; the atmospheric 1963 novel THE ICE PALACE by Tarjei Vessas and a must-read for everyone, HEAT, by George Monbiot.

The [guest review](#) is BLUE COLLAR by Danny King.

Read SMOKE by Jacob Polley on our [Poetry Page](#)

The 2 lucky winners of our [Christmas competition](#) are Allison Tolhurst and Sue Milton. Each receives a newly published collection of SHERLOCK HOLMES stories. Many thanks to Penguin publishers.

Do you agree with our reviews?
Would you like to have your say?
Leave your comments - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)?
Congratulations to Karen Kerner the winner of December's competition for spotting Art and Artisan in Bishops Castle, Shropshire.
A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of ANTIGONA AND ME by Kate Clanchy. They are: Ros Marshall,

Perth; Ev Murray, Wishaw; Dave Jones, Liverpool; Pat Luckman, Stourbridge; Sue Greenwood, Oban; Margaret Bowers, East Preston; Ann McDougal, London; Linda Dubro, Colchester; Lisa Anderson, Copthorne and Allan Fullarton, Washington.
Many thanks to Picador publishers.

Request your **FREE BOOKS!** Just go to the [offers](#) page. This is for **ALL** registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only) not just new ones. If your group is not registered then just fill in the [form](#). It's a very simple process.

N.B. You only need to register once.

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) the Wimbledon Book Group – so fascinating we've featured them twice!

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

THE TARTARUS MACHINE by Frank Kennedy is the winner of the 2009 [Hookline Novel Competition](#). This competition is for new writers and is judged by bookgroups from around the UK.

The [Costa Book Award](#) category winners have been announced. One of our past books of the month, Colm Toibin's BROOKLYN, takes the best novel prize – (see our [review](#)). The Costa Book of the Year will be announced on 26th January.

[The Guardian First Book Award](#) has been won by Petina Gappah for her short story collection, AN ELEGY FOR EASTERLY and as Kate Clanchy wins the BBC short story award [the Guardian](#) asks why are women so suited to the short story form?

Has your group ever discussed reading poetry or short stories but doesn't know where to begin? Find some excellent advice at Richard Price's [Hydrohotel](#) website

Cormac McCarthy's amazing post-apocalyptic novel THE ROAD is now out as a feature film. Read the book before you see it! See our [review](#) of THE ROAD and see more about THE ROAD at the excellent [Little White Lies](#) independent film magazine.

Shock horror! Amazon customers bought more [e-books](#) than printed books for the first time this year and the Kindle, Amazon's e-reader is now the most popular gift in the company's history.

[Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 3rd and Thursday 7th January features Alexander McCall Smith who meets readers to discuss the first in his series of humorous novels set in Edinburgh - 44 Scotland Street You can "listen again" if you miss either of these programmes.

Would you like to attend a Bookclub recording? Siri Hustvedt will discuss WHAT I LOVED on 3rd February and Lynne Reid Banks will discuss THE L-SHAPED ROOM at 4.30pm on Wednesday 10th February. Tickets are free and available on the [BBC website](#).

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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