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**Newsletter No 88
November 2010**

“When chill November's surly blast
make fields and forest bare...”
Robert Burns

Stock up with a winter fireside selection of great reads which should include our [Book of the Month](#) THE CONFESSION OF KATHERINE HOWARD a sumptuous re-telling of this classic Tudor drama by Suzannah Dunn.

See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read an interview with the author.

The other [recommended titles](#) this month are, THE BETRAYAL, A gripping portrait of life in post-war Soviet Russia by Helen Dunmore and INTUITION, a rich human drama by Allegra Goodman.

Let us know what you think of our reviews. Leave your comments at the bottom of any review - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to Rhona Allen, the winner of October's competition. A £10 National Book Tokens gift card is on its way.

The 10 winners of ALONE IN BERLIN by Hans Fallada are: Chloe Healy, London; Peter McCormack, Lytham St Annes; Ann Toumlin, Ely; Rita Elliott, Hawarden; Ellie James, Wirral; Mick Whitehead, Fleetwood; Theresa Bransbury, London; Kaleigh Berry, Luton and Philip Rogers, Hounslow. Many thanks to Penguin, the publishers.

Welcome to all the new groups who have recently registered with us. Now is the time to 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. Does your bookgroup info need updating? Email us at info@bookgroup.info and we'll amend your directory entry for you.

The winners of our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) competition are the Cupar Book Club from Fife who win a £25 wine voucher. We loved their enthusiasm and commitment to their reading. Well done!

The runners up will feature in forthcoming editions and receive a £10 National Book Tokens Gift Card. Do you want to be our BGoTM? Just fill in the [questionnaire](#) and win a £10 National Book Tokens Gift Card if you're chosen.

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS, a beautiful but harrowing work of non-fiction by Rebecca Skloot, has won the [2010 Wellcome Trust Book Prize](#). Taking readers on a journey of scientific discovery, the book tells the story of a poor southern tobacco farmer whose cancer cells, taken without her knowledge, became one of the most important tools in medicine. The £25,000 Wellcome Trust Book Prize is open to outstanding works of fiction and non-fiction on the theme of health and medicine.

A new reading group scheme based on the T S Eliot Prize, the UK's top poetry award, launched on 21 October, when the Poetry Book Society made three poems from each of the ten shortlisted poets (who include Seamus Heaney and Simon Armitage) available on its website, together with reading group notes on the poems and group discounts on the books. Pam Johnson's article [Why not try poetry?](#) challenges readers to have a go. There is online voting and discussion and a prize draw for tickets for the T S Eliot Prize Readings in January. Find out how your reading

group can take part at www.poetrybooks.co.uk/projects/13. See the [offers](#) page for details of discounts on poetry books from Picador.

Why not take the family to see SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS at the [Bristol Old Vic](#) this Christmas? Running from from 1 Dec – 15 Jan, this new musical by Helen Edmundson and Neil Hannon is based on the book by Arthur Ransome and is directed by Tom Morris. Written especially for Bristol Old Vic, SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS is a story of an idyllic era, of endless summer evenings and the beauty of youthful imagination. Tickets are £26 - £5. Tel: Box Office 0117 987 7877 or email: tickets@bristololdvic.org.uk

The [2011 Bristol Short Story Prize](#) is now open. Stories can be submitted online or by post. The closing date for entries is 31st March 2011. Stories can be on any theme or subject and the entry fee is £7 per story.

The closing date for the New Writer annual prose and poetry prizes is 30th November. See the [website](#) for rules of entry and online entry.

West Dean and Myriad Editions have announced their second annual competition for writers. The winner will be entitled to a one week writing retreat, with full board, at West Dean College, situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty six miles north of Chichester. See the [website](#) for entry details.

Howard Jacobson is the winner of the £50,000 [Man Booker Prize](#) for THE FINKLER QUESTION, described as 'wonderful' and 'richly satisfying' and as a novel of 'full of wit, warmth, intelligence, human feeling and understanding'. Jacobson was longlisted in 2006 and in 2002.

See who has made the [Guardian First Book](#) shortlist.

The Hookline Novel Competition 2010 winner is THE BABY IN THE PHONE BOX by Rachel Crowther of Oxford Brookes University. This competition is open only to writers from MA writing courses and the winner is chosen by bookgroups. Read the first chapter of this and the other shortlisted books at www.booklinethinker.com/hookline

The organisers at National Short Story Week (22nd-28th November) are asking readers to tell them their favourite short story writer, favourite short story and where they usually read short stories. Complete the survey [here](#).

[Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 7th and Thursday 11th November both at 4pm features the biographer Claire Tomalin talking about her book about Thomas Hardy - THE TIME TORN MAN. It's also available online too on the i-player and as a podcast.

See what's on in your area on our list of [festivals and events](#). If you want us to include something on the list then complete the [registration form](#) or contact us at info@bookgroup.info

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