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**Newsletter No 94  
June 2011**

“O Day of days when we can read!  
The reader and the book, either  
without the other is naught.”  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our [Book of the Month](#) is a clever and thought-provoking debut, THE GODLESS BOYS, by Naomi Wood. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

The other [recommended titles](#) this month are: THE HARE WITH AMBER EYES, a captivating memoir, by Edmund de Waal; UNACUSTOMED EARTH a moving short story collection by Jhumpa Lahiri.

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

See our [“five of the best”](#) short story collections.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to Ken Brown the winner of our May competition. A £10 National Book Tokens gift card is on its way.

The 10 winners of RED DUST ROAD by Jackie Kay are: Maureen Julian, London; Jane Blackford, Camberley; Julie Clark, Sheffield; Andrew Craig, Putney; Karen Dixon, Bishop Auckland; Andrea Billot, Newport; Deborah Page, Brighton; Kerry Griffiths, Stirling; Gabrielle Svensson, Bradford and Louise Chishimba, Bristol. Many thanks to Picador, 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 N. 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](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and we'll amend your directory entry for you.

This month's [Bookgroup of the Month](#) is a hugely experienced, 20 year old group, The Lady Bookworms from Thurcaston near Leicester.

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.

Historian and writer, Stella Tillyard, described by Simon Schama as 'dazzling...a phenomenally gifted writer', makes her fiction debut with TIDES OF WAR, a dramatic and compelling novel set in Regency London and in Spain during the Peninsular War. TIDES OF WAR displays all the narrative talent of Stella's best-selling ARISTOCRATS, as well as her genius for period, atmosphere, character and description. She carries us deep into the anguish of men at war, the taste of freedom offered to the women left behind, and the burning drive of émigrés in a society on the cusp of change. See Stella At the Watermill Theatre Bookclub, Berkshire on Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Tickets are £5. For more information about this and forthcoming Watermill events see their [website](#).

Philip Roth has won the [Man Booker International Prize 2011](#). Roth was chosen from a list of 13 eminent contenders though not everyone is happy with the decision. Author and publisher Carmen Callil withdrew from the judging panel over its decision to honour Roth with the £60,000 award. Dismissing the Pulitzer prize-winning

author, Callil said that "he goes on and on and on about the same subject in almost every single book. It's as though he's sitting on your face and you can't breathe". Does she have a point? Read more [here](#).

This year's literary-themed ride from London to East Sussex to raise funds for [Book Aid International](#) is on Sunday 4th September. The 55 mile cycle ride will start at the Book Aid International head office in Camberwell, south east London, take in the beautiful Sussex countryside and the delights of Bateman's (the 17th century home of Rudyard Kipling) and end with a party for all participants in the charming village of Burwash. To join Bike for Books register [here](#).

[Read](#) what Lionel Shriver has to say about the film version her 2005 Orange prize-winning novel WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN. Read our [review](#) of Kevin and our 2005 [interview](#) with Lionel Shriver.

Amazon and Waterstone's report downloads are eclipsing printed book sales. Amazon released figures for the UK – where the Kindle only launched in August 2010 – which showed ebooks are now more popular than their hardback relatives. Waterstone's also revealed that ebooks were outselling hardbacks by four to one. Read [more](#).

Bestselling authors have signed up to a new initiative that bypasses traditional publishers to put writers directly in touch with their readers. The [Unbound.co.uk](#) publishing platform, allows writers to pitch ideas online directly to readers who, if they are interested, pledge financial support.

Nicole Krauss talks to James Naughtie and readers about her novel THE HISTORY OF LOVE (see our [review](#)) on [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on

Sunday 5th and Thursday 9th June both at 4pm. It's available online 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 **free** on the listings page then complete the [registration form](#) or contact us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info)

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