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**Newsletter No 95
July 2011**

“Judge the goodness of a book by the energy of the punches it has given you. I believe the greatest characteristic of genius, is, above all, force.”

Gustave Flaubert

Our [Book of the Month](#) is CHILD WONDER a magical evocation of childhood by Roy Jacobsen. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

The other [recommended titles](#) this month are: the intriguing, THERE BUT FOR THE by Ali Smith; the 2010 Pulitzer prize-winning TINKERS by Paul Harding and

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

On a cheery note, see our [“five of the best”](#) dystopian novels.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to Joy Winn the (appropriately named) winner of our June competition for spotting Teksons bookshop in Delhi. A £10 National Book Tokens gift card is on its way.

The 10 winners of THE GODLESS BOYS by Naomi Wood are: Stephanie Franklin, Dagenham; Rosemary Easton, Battle; Roger Stanley, Shrewsbury; Kate Lancaster, Plymouth; Kate Allen, Liverpool; Sue Hewitt, Sidmouth; Jane Halsall, Nottingham; David Cherry, Penrith; Pauline Hill, Middlesbrough and Sarah Sutherland, Edinburgh. 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 and we'll amend your directory entry for you.

This month's [Bookgroup of the Month](#) is the very relaxed and open to all Bookgroup @The Point in Doncaster.

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.

Montacute House in Somerset is hosting a series of fascinating talks for August 2011, providing a historical context to an intriguing exhibition of Tudor and Jacobean portraits from the National Portrait Gallery; Imagined Lives: Mystery Portraits 1520 - 1640.

See full details of the lectures at [Montacute House](#) page of the National Trust website. Tickets for all lectures are £10.00 and include entry to the exhibition and Montacute House and Gardens. Please call 01935 823 289 for more details and to book tickets.

Varytale is a new publisher of interactive books by established authors. They're a few months from launch, and they're looking for groups like yours to tell them some candid truths about what they're planning. If you would like to help them shape the future, they'll bring the drinks to your next session. ian@varytale.com, 01291 691477 or @varytale on twitter.

The winner of this year's [Orange prize for fiction](#) is Téa Obreht, a first time novelist and, at 25, the youngest author to take the award. Judges praised her debut novel, THE

TIGER'S WIFE, as evidence of a "truly exciting" literary talent.

Because of funding difficulties Booktrust has taken the difficult decision not to run the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in autumn 2011. This prize is incredibly important, highlighting and celebrating the best new books by writers under 35. Read more [here](#).

There's still time to sign up for 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](#).

Da Vinci Code author Dan Brown's books topped the list of most donated to [Oxfam Bookshops](#), the charity has said. The US writer has now taken the dubious accolade for three years in a row, ahead of Ian Rankin and Top Gear host Jeremy Clarkson in the latest list.

James Naughtie and readers talk to William Fiennes about his memoir THE MUSIC ROOM on [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 3rd and Thursday 7th July 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

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