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Newsletter No. 4
May 2003

Hello dear friends,

We've got lots of new additions to
www.bookgroup.info

This month we are featuring **Margaret Atwood**, who has long been a favourite author of our group. Read our reviews of - *Cat's Eyes*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Alias Grace*, *The Robber Bride* and her brand new novel, *Oryx and Crake*. Also, read Robert Potts' excellent profile of Atwood (The Guardian Saturday April 26 2003, read it on www.guardian.co.uk .) Atwood is currently in Canada, but will be appearing in the **Brighton Festival** 23rd May and the **Guardian Hay Festival** in conversation with David Aaronovitch May 24th. For info see www.hayfestival.com

The Brighton Festival continues throughout the month of May with a full programme of literary and arts events.

See www.brightonfestival.org.uk for all the listings and booking details.

Technical glitches plagued us last month, and our apologies to everyone while the site was down and in particular, our apologies go to April's **bookgroup of the month**, *The Slugs*, whom we failed completely and try as we might, could not get up at all. Slugs – May is your month.

The organisers of the Orange Prize are compiling a **list of the 50 favourite novels by women**. You can register your vote through libraries, Orange shops and online www.orangeprize.co.uk or by text message. They are announcing the top 50 favourites in May.

The Big Read continues. Would your bookgroup like to be considered as a **Bookscape Reading Group**? This is an opportunity for bookgroups to join in with the BBC's The Big Read. Ten groups around the country will have the exciting opportunity to become a Bookscape reading group. Each group will work with a reader in residence and a writer or artist to explore creatively their opinions and ideas on some of the nation's best-loved books. Opinions will be shared on the BBC and Booktrust websites. Forms have to be returned by May 23rd, go to www.booktrust.org.uk for information.

Radio 4 Book Club choice for May is *Original Sin* by PD James. PD James will be doing a live webchat about this book on Thursday 8th May 4.30, send in questions to the R4 arts message board, visit www.bbc.co.uk/radio4

Hurrah! *I Capture the Castle* has been made into a film released this month. From the producer of 'Shakespeare in Love' and 'The Madness of King George'...we loved this wonderful book. See our archive for review.

The Aberdeen Writers' Festival 16th – 18th May will feature 40 international authors and poets and a programme of events combining the spoken word, visual arts and film.

Happy bookgrouping for the month, please keep in touch, let us know your thoughts and views and spread the word - Book groups are here to stay!

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