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**Newsletter No 32
December 2005**

Dear readers,

We hope your bookgroups are flourishing and you have time for reading between mince pies. Many thanks to all the groups who have registered with us, and we hope you're enjoying the lovely wine kindly donated by [Wine Australia](#).

[Reviews](#) this month are WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN by Lionel Shriver, THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA by Philip Roth, STASILAND by Anna Funder, THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE GRAPE by John Fante and THE TURNING by Tim Winton.

See our [Interview](#) with Lionel Shriver and her very interesting and thought-provoking responses.

If you'd like to put your questions to Lionel Shriver, join in **Radio 4 Bookclub**, recording 31 January, 6pm, Bush House, London WC2. Go to the [Bookclub](#) website for tickets.

Go to our [Competition](#) page for a chance to win a copy of WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN kindly donated by [Serpents Tail](#) publishers and 4 great books by John Fante kindly donated by [Canongate](#) publishers.

[Bookgroup of the Month](#) is the No 1 Ladies Book Group from Stroud. Would your group like to be our next bookgroup of the month? Email us at info@bookgroup.info

We have clearly struck a chord with this month's problem and have had some very helpful replies, so we are leaving it on the [problem page](#) for December. If you have a tricky reading group problem that needs

some advice do get in touch and readers will advise you.

Please [register](#) your group with us to benefit from special offers, such as discounts and tickets.

Have a look at www.readitswapit.co.uk if you have bought a book, finished it and would like to swap it!

Listen to **Harold Pinter's** Nobel Prize speech, *Art, Truth and Politics*, in which he attacks Bush and Blair, at the [BBC website](#).

Stuck for a **present for a teenager?** How about a Lit Kit from the [Literacy Trust](#). And if you're feeling very generous, you could buy a children's library for a women's refuge.

Poet Laureate Andrew Motion unveiled the wonderful **Poetry Archive** this month. Go to www.poetryarchive.org to hear poets reading their own work. The archive will ensure that all significant poets will in future be recorded.

The Guardian First Book Award has been won by Alexander Masters for *STUART: A LIFE BACKWARDS*, the saga of a wild street vagrant. Read more on the [Guardian](#) website.

The increasingly influential Richard and Judy have revealed their [bookclub](#) choices for 2006.

We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and hope you find lots of great reads in your stocking!

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