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**Newsletter No 84  
July 2010**

"We buy so many books because we think we're buying the time to read them."

Schopenhauer

Take the time to read our recommendations for this month. We've been asked for some books that would appeal to our male visitors, so this month we're recommending three titles by men about men, set at work and in the pub, about murder, violence and drinking. What more can they want? But don't be put off if that all sounds too macho - they're all great reads and we hope they will appeal equally to our female readers. OUT OF OFFICE, our [Book of the Month](#) is a fast-moving, urban novel by Mark Liam Piggott.

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

The other [recommended titles](#) this month are the thought-provoking RUPTURE by Simon Lelic; and THE OLD SPRING by Richard Francis.

Do you agree with our reviews? Would you like to have your say? Leave your comments at the bottom of any review - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)?

Congratulations to Linda Hepburn the winner of June's competition for spotting the Harbour Bookshop, Kingsbridge, Devon. A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of LIVING IN PERHAPS by Julia Widdows. They are: Nicola Underwood, Belper; Vivian Walton, Glasgow; Jackie Edwards, Keith; Sarah Benson, Bolton and Veronica O'Brien, London.

Many thanks to Doubleday, 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](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) and we'll amend your directory entry for you.

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) the West Kent Book Club. Fill in the [questionnaire](#) if you'd like to be a BGoTM and win a £10 book token if you're chosen.

We have 5 copies of a stylish new book on cult literature, 500 ESSENTIAL CULT BOOKS: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE, to give away. Go to the [offers](#) page to enter this competition (open to all).

The Booksellers Association is offering a selection of adult and a selection of children's books from the Independent Booksellers Book of the Year Award 2010 shortlist. The prize is the central focus for Independent Booksellers Week, which this year ran from 14 – 21 June. Booklovers will be able to vote for their favourite title from each category until 30th August by visiting their local participating bookshop and the two winning authors will be announced in September. See the [offers](#) page to enter the competition (open to all) and for more information see <http://independentbooksellersweek.org.uk/>

Do you own or manage an independent bookshop? We can now list your shop **free** on the site. Your entry will appear on the town page of the regional directory and on the list of

independent bookshops. Just complete the [registration form](#) or email us at [info@bookgroup.info](mailto:info@bookgroup.info) for more information.

Following the great success of the first Hampstead and Highgate Literary Festival, the organisers are delighted to announce that the 2010 festival will take place between 19th and 21st of September. This year's festival will feature world renowned authors including Martin Amis, Joanna Trollope, Gavin Esler, Tracy Chevalier, Maggie O'Farrell, Howard Jacobson, Lionel Shriver, Lord Archer, Giles Coren, Lynda Bellingham, Kate Figs, Mark Billingham and many, many more. Booking is open now! For more information go to [www.hamhighlitfest.com](http://www.hamhighlitfest.com)

The next exciting Literati Book Club event at the Grosvenor Hotel, London takes place on Thursday, 15th July at 6.30pm. Natasha Solomons will present her first novel, MR ROSENBLUM'S LIST. Literati will mark one of the first events in Natasha's quest to break the world record for most book events attended by an author in a year. The £20 ticket includes afternoon tea and a copy of the book. If you would like to attend email Karen Sivamberam at [mhrs.longh.mrkt.prexec@marriott.com](mailto:mhrs.longh.mrkt.prexec@marriott.com)

Congratulations to Barbara Kingsolver, winner of this year's [Orange Prize](#) for her novel THE LACUNA. If you would like to put a question to Barbara Kingsolver about her international bestseller (and bookgroup favourite) THE POISONWOOD BIBLE (see our [review](#)) then BBC World Bookclub would like to hear from you. Email your question (or if you're in the UK and want to be in the audience on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 4.15 at Bush House, London) email: [worldbookclub@bbc.co.uk](mailto:worldbookclub@bbc.co.uk)

Gerbrand Bakker's THE TWIN, has won this year's [IMPAC award](#). Set on a bleak Dutch farm, this debut novel has beaten established authors to clinch the world's biggest book prize, of €100,000.

Journalist Barbara Demick's NOTHING TO ENVY, an investigation into life in North Korea, wins the [Samuel Johnson Prize](#) – the top award for non-fiction.

The guest on [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) in July is Swedish author Henning Mankell talking about his detective Wallander, and the chosen book is SIDETRACKED. That's on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July also at 4pm and on podcast and the i-player too.

This year's [Bulwer Lytton Prize](#) for Bad Writing goes to American writer Molly Ringle for this piece of sparkling prose:  
“For the first month of Ricardo and Felicity's affair, they greeted one another at every stolen rendezvous with a kiss--a lengthy, ravenous kiss, Ricardo lapping and sucking at Felicity's mouth as if she were a giant cage-mounted water bottle and he were the world's thirstiest gerbil.”

We're sure the last paragraph would have delighted the wonderful Beryl Bainbridge who, sadly, has died aged 75. Read the Guardian [obituary](#) here.

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