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Newsletter No 16

May 2004

Dear readers,

May's Reviews feature *Troubles* by JG Farrell, *The Joys of Motherhood* by Buchi Emecheta, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* by Lynne Truss, *Precious Bane* by Mary Webb and *Atonement* by Ian McEwan.

A very varied selection, all five star reads and practically guaranteed to spark interesting bookgroup discussions.

Our Nigerian **Bookgroup of the Month** stays on. We have had much interest in international bookgroups and would like to hear from others - please do get in touch.

By request, we are leaving on April's information on **Buchi Emecheta**, as with **April's competition**. 3 winners can win sets of books by Buchi Emecheta, kindly donated by Heinemann. Read our review of *The Joys of Motherhood* to get our views on her wonderful writing.

Radio 4 is, as ever, producing many excellent programmes featuring literature and reading. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/radio4 for full details, current info and individual websites via *Programme finder A-Z*. Also see *Arts and Drama on 4*. Here are some extracts:

R4 Book club. May's guest is David Lodge talking about *Nice Work*. June will have Minette Walters talking about *The Scold's Bridle*. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/bookclub to get all the upcoming information, and as it's invitation only, apply via their website.

Word of Mouth. Currently has an interesting competition; write a 100-word story using the idiom and metaphor of the body. Go to the R4 website as before.

A Good Read. Tues 16.30-17.00, Sun 23.00-23.30. Sue MacGregor returns with a new series of the paperback review programme. It's always guaranteed to include good debate and catholic tastes.

Book of The Week. 9.45-10.00, 12.30-12.45. Non-fiction, biography, autobiography, travel...this programme features a wide range of reading.

Book at Bedtime. 22.45-23.00. Literature from around the world.

The Classic Serial. Sun 15.00-16.00, Sat 21.00-22.00. Currently reading *The Master of Ballantrae* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The Afternoon Reading. Weekdays 15.30-15.45. A short story or very abridged book, often features writers new to radio.

Open Book. Sun 16.00-16.30, Sat 21.00-22.00. Mariella Frostrup spotlights new fiction, non-fiction, picks the best of the paperbacks,

talks to writers and publishers and unearths lost masterpieces. Don't miss the quirky *Reading Clinic*.

Tell us about yourselves!

You can register your group at www.bookgroup.info where you can also exchange ideas and information on the forum. Let's keep the contact going and keep on talking about our bookgroup experiences and great reads recommendations. Bookgroups thrive on word-of-mouth, often avoiding all the hype. **So please use us to pass on those ideas!**

You may be interested to see the lively debate currently going on in the Forum. *The Number 1 ladies Detective Agency* books are causing some controversy...log on and join in.

The Orange shortlist is out and it includes a 25-year-old Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. This is the first time a writer from any African country has been short-listed for a British literary prize (info. Guardian). To read the shortlist and the long list, plus all info on spin-offs go to www.guardian.co.uk

The National Literacy Trust and the Arts Council sponsor **Premier League Reading Stars**. It uses footballers from the 20 clubs in the Premiership to each nominate a favourite book. It aims to get families reading, via the popularity of these superstars.

The Caine Prize a large book prize dubbed the 'African Booker' (Guardian) features writers from Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Nigeria. The 2004 shortlist is out.

Top 10s continue to appeal. The Guardian website always features a range of top 10 choices in reading, chosen by well-known personalities. At www.bookgroup.info we have been compiling a top 10 of favourite reads sent in by our teenage readers and visitors. We would like to do the same of all our reading groups. We invite you to participate in this - please send in a list of your **Top 10 bookgroup reads**. These are books that you rate highly and have sparked the best discussion in your group. We will feature them, later, on the site.

Our email is, as ever, info@bookgroup.info please keep in touch and share your ideas with us. If you don't want to receive newsletters please let us know, by email.

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