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Newsletter No 21
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Dear readers,

Do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your chair – choose from the great titles reviewed on the site this month and click through to Amazon to buy your copies.

New reviews this month are *Any Human Heart* by William Boyd, *Small Island* by Andrea Levy and *Restoration* by Rose Tremain. All great reads.

Read the **author's perspective** in the [interview](#) with William Boyd.

There is a list of our **competition winners** on the [events](#) page. Congratulations to all the visitors who have won either *How I Live Now* by Meg Rosoff or *The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler.

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is a group of Dads and Lads. Read about them on the [news](#) page. We always like to hear of new ways to get boys interested in books. The **Premier League Reading Stars**, involving players like Rio Ferdinand, David James and Sol Campbell, is doing a great job of getting boys to read more. Find out more at www.readon.org.uk/champions.html

If you'd like to be our next BOTM just answer the questions and send them to us at info@bookgroup.info and you will be rewarded with a book voucher for your group.

Congratulations to Meg Rosoff! Not only has she scooped up the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize for *How I Live Now* but she has been short-listed for the Whitbread. See the shortlist at www.whitbread-bookawards.co.uk. Don't forget – you saw it here first!

Ebony Reads is a Big Read-style vote to find the nations favourite title from a black or Asian author. To vote go to www.ebonyreads.com

Radio 4's season of **Women's Watershed Fiction** is drawing to a close. On December 8 the top 10 titles chosen by thousands of readers around the country will be announced in a live programme from the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. See the top 30 on the BBC website at http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/wf_longlist.shtml

Richard Ford was one of the main attractions at this year's Brighton Festival of Books and Poetry (runs until 9 December. Call 01273 242850 for more info). If you would like to hear Ford read from his latest novel, *The Lay of the Land*, and ask him questions, you can find details of his tour on www.pirandello.org.uk

If you'd like to receive the latest news about Radio 4's **Bookclub**, then sign up for James Naughtie's newsletter at www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/bookclub

Eagle-eyed visitors to the site will have noticed that we are taking our first bit of advertising this month. The revenue will help fund the site but it in no way compromises our independence. On our [home page](#) is a banner promoting Michael Chrichton's new book, *State of Fear*. Click on it to play the game and win prizes.

On 1 December the government announced that **750,000 adult learners** over the past three years have taken a course in basic literacy or maths and gained a qualification. A small dent in the millions of people in this country who can't read and write, but it's a good start.

Have a very jolly Christmas with all the trimmings and may your stockings be full of lovely books.

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