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Newsletter No 28
July/August 2005

Dear readers,
For many of us, July and August mean taking time out for a holiday, a break from routine and a chance to catch up on reading the pile of books which has been piling up, looking patient but reproachful...What books are you taking to the beach? Have a look at our recommendations this month - all are strong and entertaining.

We're on holiday too, so we won't be updating the site for August. But look out for the revamped site in September with lots of new features and offers.

New reviews this month are: *Happy Accidents* by Tiffany Murray, *About Grace* by Anthony Doerr and *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell.

New writers - go to our [interview](#) page to read our interview with new writer Tiffany Murray, who was very forthcoming about the writing of her first published novel (see [review](#)). Good news for any other hopeful writers – **Susan Hill's publishing company**, Long Barn Books, are starting to publish fiction and looking for first novels. Find out more at www.susan-hill.com and click on NEW FICTION.

Macmillan Books is also looking for new writers to publish. Go to www.panmacmillan.com/aboutpan/macmillannewwriting.html

Our **Bookgroup of the Month** is a feisty, university-based group which has been going strong for a year. 'Read and Digest' go to eateries where they...read and digest. Read about them on our [news](#) page and if you'd like to be one of our BOTMs answer the questions and email us at info@bookgroup.info

Competition - this month click on the [competition](#) button, answer the question correctly and six visitors will win copies of *Happy Accidents*.

July's competition winners are: Sally Allpress (Hailsham), Cathy Moore (Cambridge), Helena Robinson (Saddleworth), Elizabeth Mellor (Dunstable), Pat Jones (Godmanchester) and Susan Rossiter (Bristol). Well done all of you!

Orange First Book prizewinners are Ceri Thomas (Cardiff), Mimi Ballon (Dillbeek, Belgium), Louise Clark (Wolverhampton), Sarah Alder (Bishop's Stortford) and Heather Williams (Devizes). Congratulations!

Summer Reading Challenge this year will be launched in libraries at the start of the summer holidays. Children will be given a ship's reading log with puzzles, stickers etc. Visit the great website at www.readingvoyage.org.uk

Riveting reads is a new booklist for 15 – 19 year olds, produced by the School Library Association. They are non-fiction, but are exciting reads and are recommended for reluctant boys. Go to www.sla.org.uk

Radio 4's classic serial in August is *Le Grand Meaulnes* (see our [review](#)). On [Bookclub](#) (Sept 4 and 8) enthusiasts, including Michele Roberts, will discuss the novel.

The BBC is making a programme about the 2005 Booker Prize and is looking for a group to feature who will act as independent judges. If your group is interested, email caroline.hughes@bbc.co.uk



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