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**Newsletter No 72
June 2009**

"I think it is good that books still exist, but they make me sleepy."

FRANK ZAPPA

Hopefully you'll stay awake with this month's recommendations!

Our [Book of the Month](#) is WILDERNESS, the Orange short-listed, debut novel of Samantha Harvey.

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

Our other [recommended titles](#) are: KIERON SMITH, BOY by James Kelman, WHITE IS FOR WITCHING by Helen Oyeyemi and THE STORY TELLER by Rabih Alameddine.

The [guest review](#) is a memoir, SECTIONED: A LIFE INTERRUPTED by John O'Donoghue.

Recommend a book to Bookgroup Info by sending a review (no more than 500 words) to info@bookgroup.info and we will put the best on the site as a guest review. We'll also send you a £10 book token.

Do you agree with our reviews? Would you like to have your say? Well you can now leave your comments - we'd love to hear them.

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)? Congratulations to Sonya Wilson-Hebben the winner of last month's competition for spotting Blackwell's in Oxford. A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of HOME by Marylinne Robinson. They are: Bella Rocca, London; Debra Shambrook, Portsmouth; Tracey Knighton, Peterborough; Pat Luckman, Stourbridge; Carol Stirmeay, Kettering; Yvonne Marsh, Plymouth;

Stephen Haigh, Leeds; Chris Coles, Cardiff; Evelyn Murray, Wishaw and Judith Saner, Uppingham. Many thanks to Virago publishers.

See our [FREE BOOKS](#) and special offers this month for registered groups (sorry, UK and Ireland groups only). If your group is not registered then just fill in the [form](#). It's a very simple process.

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#), Binders Keepers, a bunch of like-minded, reading-mad females from Belfast!

Fill in the [questionnaire](#) if you'd like to be a BGoTM.

Have you read LIFE OF PI yet? If you haven't or if you'd like to re-read this best-selling novel, then this August is the time to do so, when Canongate Books are running a worldwide "readalong". This global reading experience will allow people to share their views on the book that many readers say has changed their lives. There are no rules to the readalong - members just need to commit to reading the book in August, either as individuals or in their reading groups and they'll be emailed with extra tips and hints about the book during that time. They can also share their thoughts with other readers on the LIFE OF PI website.

Find out more and sign up at www.lifeofpi.co.uk

Canongate has 50 copies of the LIFE OF PI for 10 bookgroups who will receive 5 copies each. See our [offers](#) page for details of this and another great Canongate giveaway for reading groups.

Are you thinking of visiting the "Way with Words" book festival in Totnes, Devon?

Why not rent a house just right for a small reading group who want self-catering accommodation at a modest price for the festival week of Saturday 11th to Saturday 18th July.

The house has 4 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a fantastic garden with views, and is just 5 minutes walk to Totnes and easy driving distance (or boat down the creek) to the sea, beaches, or moor. Please e-mail suzanne.dennis@virgin.net for more information and costs.

[Radio 4 Bookclub](#) on Sunday 7th and Thursday 11th June 2009 features Kate Grenville talking about her novel THE SECRET RIVER. Read our [review](#) of this wonderful book before you listen in. Remember you can "listen again" if you miss either programme.

Congratulations to Edinburgh student, Jen Campbell, who has won the 2009 [Penguin Orange Readers' Group Prize](#).

Alice Munro has won the [Man Booker International](#) prize 2009. We believe well-deserved recognition for this most distinguished writer.

Stories of schizophrenia, concentration camps and guns feature on the longlist for this year's [Guardian children's fiction prize](#). Whatever happened to Swallows and Amazons?

Cormac McCarthy, author of THE ROAD (see our [review](#)) and NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (see our [review](#)) has won the [PEN/Saul Bellow Award](#) for lifetime achievement in American literature.

Adam Nicolson's study of his family castle Sissinghurst has won the Royal Society of Literature's [Ondaatje prize](#), which goes to the work of literature deemed to have most successfully evoked "the spirit of a place".

If you have anything to say about these or any other book-related topics leave a message on our [notice-board](#).

Many thanks to all of you have emailed us to thank us for helping with setting up your group and making your reading choices. Please do remember to forward the newsletter to other members of your group so that they can take advantage of the offers and competitions.

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