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**Newsletter No 82
May 2010**

Fiction is like a spider's web, attached ever so lightly perhaps, but still attached to life at all four corners.
- Virginia Woolf

Our [Book of the Month](#) is the long-awaited new novel from Lorrie Moore, A GATE AT THE STAIRS. See the [competition](#) page to win a copy and read our [interview](#) with the author.

The [recommended titles](#) this month are THE CHILDREN'S BOOK by A.S. Byatt, MORNINGS IN JENIN by Susan Abulhawa and LESS THAN ZERO by Brett Easton Ellis. See our special competition on the [offers](#) page to win copies of the new 25th anniversary edition of LESS THAN ZERO and proofs of the forthcoming sequel. This competition is open to all our visitors.

Read *Testament* by Anne Rouse on the [Poetry Page](#)

[What Are You Reading?](#)

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

Can you [Spot the Bookshop](#)?
Congratulations to Stuart Klee the winner of April's competition. A £10 book token is on its way.

Congratulations to the winners of WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantel. They are: Annette Thomas, Norwich; Pamela Downey, Colchester; Peter Hastings, Yarmouth; Maria Panayioyou, Waltham Cross; Sarah Montague, Wallsend; Janet Devin, Holmfirth; Alexandra Ross, Hatfield; Lyndsey Dennis, Chester; Nancy Townsend, Stevenage and Carole Maciver, Isle of Lewis.

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.

Read about our [Bookgroup of the Month](#) the [questionnaire](#) if you'd like to be a BGoTM.

Get your tickets for the Charleston Festival (21st – 30th May) - they're going fast!. See the Charleston [website](#) for more information.

See the [offers](#) page for discounted Brighton Festival tickets.

[Book Club Tours](#) is a new travel company brimming with ideas for short UK-based tours and trips for members of book clubs, reading groups etc. You can pick and mix from the suggested tours such as Jane Austen in Bath or Inspector Rebus in Edinburgh or use the company's considerable experience and get them to design a bespoke break specifically for your group. You can include as much or as little as you like and the costs are surprisingly reasonable. Travelling together is a superb way to cement your book club friendships and stimulate wonderful discussions. Visit the [website](#) or call 0208 979 2285.

If you want to go further afield try Les Soeurs Anglaises for artistic and literary courses set in the idyllic countryside of South West France. For more information see Les Soeurs Anglaises [website](#).

BRONTË, by Polly Teale, a gripping theatrical interpretation of the Brontë legend, runs until 22nd May at the Watermill Theatre, Newbury,

Berkshire. For information telephone the box office on 01635 46044 or book online at www.watermill.org.uk

The Orange Prize shortlist is announced. Four out of the six titles have previously been recommended by Bookgroup Info. They are: BLACK WATER RISING by Attica Locke (see our [review](#)); WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantel (see our [review](#)); THE WHITE WOMAN ON THE GREEN BICYCLE by Monique Roffey (see our [review](#)) and this month's Book of the Month A GATE AT THE STAIRS by Lorrie Moore. For the full shortlist see the Orange Prize [website](#).

See the [2010 IMPAC shortlist](#). 4 of the 8 (rather eclectic) shortlisted titles are previous Bookgroup Info recommendations. They are: THE BELIEVERS by Zoë Heller (see our [review](#)); NETHERLAND by Joseph O'Neill (see our [review](#)); GOD'S OWN COUNTRY by Ross Raisin (see our [review](#)); and HOME by Marilynne Robinson (see our [review](#)). The shortlist was selected from a total of 156 novels nominated by 163 public library systems in 123 cities worldwide.

British writer Rana Dasgupta has won the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' prize with his novel, SOLO. The Australian writer Glenda Guest has won the Best First Novel award with SIDDON ROCK.

The [2010 Pulitzer Prize](#) (fiction) has been awarded to Paul Harding for his novel TINKERS, described as "a powerful celebration of life in which a New England father and son, through suffering and joy, transcend their imprisoning lives and offer new ways of perceiving the world and mortality."

A new project is hoping to take the "one book, one city" initiative a step further, and get the whole world reading the same novel. [The One Book, One Twitter](#) scheme launches on 5th May. Readers, who voted for

the book which they'll be tackling, opted for Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel AMERICAN GODS.

The guest on [Radio 4 Bookclub](#) this month is Nobel Prize winning Turkish author Orhan Pamuk talking about MY NAME IS RED - a who dunnit with a twist - his most popular title in English speaking countries. Catch it on Sunday 2nd and Thursday 6th May at 4pm on Radio 4 and on the i-player and as a podcast from Sunday too.

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