

# BROWN BAG BOOK CHAT BOOK LIST

**JUNE 5, 2009**

## **FICTION**

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY by Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Burrows

ARCADIA: A PLAY by Tom Stoppard

BORDEAUX by Paul Torday

SHELTER ME by Juliette Fay

BREAKFAST WITH BUDDHA by Roland Merullo

CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese

THE SPARE ROOM by Helen Garner

THE HELP by Kathryn Stockett

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO by Steig Larsson

CASE HISTORIES---WHEN WILL THERE BE GOOD NEWS (crime/mys) by Kate Atkinson

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM: A NOVEL by Kate Atkinson

## **NONFICTION**

READING THE FORRESTED LANDSCAPE by Tom Wessels

CHAINS by Laurie Halse Anderson

HERE IF YOU NEED ME by Kate Braestup

**JUNE 12, 2009**

**FICTION**

19TH WIFE by David Ebershoff

COMMENCEMENT: A NOVEL by J. Courtney Sullivan

SNOWFLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN by Lisa See

SHANGHAI GIRLS by Lisa See

84 CHARING CROSS ROAD by Helene Hanff (This is a non-fiction title but is reminiscent of Guernsey... because it is also written in epistolary form and set during WWII).

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME by Mark Haddon

LOWBOY by John Wray

WANTING by Richard Flanagan

THE DEXTER SERIES (DEARLY DEVOTED DEXTER, DARKLY DREAMING DEXTER, DEXTER IN THE DARK) by Jeff Lindsay. This series is particularly good in audio. These books all have a serial killer/crime subject matter.

**NON-FICTION**

THE MONSTER OF FLORENCE by Douglas Preston

DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY by Erik Larson

THE DISCOVERERS: A HISTORY OF MAN'S SEARCH TO KNOW HIS WORLD AND UNIVERSE by Daniel J. Boorstein

POETRY OF THE UNIVERSE: A MATHEMATICAL EXPLORATION OF THE COSMOS by Robert Osserman

NICKEL AND DIMED! ON (NOT) GETTING BY IN AMERICA by Barbara Ehrenreich

**JUNE 19, 2009**

**FICTION**

NAME TO A FACE and all Robert Goddard Mysteries

INSPECTOR KURT WALLANDER DETECTIVE MYSTERY SERIES by Hennig Mankell

THE STORY OF EDGAR OF SAWTELLE by David Wroblewski

THE LITTLE STRANGER; THE NIGHT WATCH; FINGERSMITH by Sarah Waters

CITY OF THIEVES-by David Benioff

THE THREE MISS MARGARETS by Louise Shaffer

TWO OF THE DEADLIEST: TALES OF LUST, GREED AND MURDER FROM  
OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF MYSTERY by Elizabeth George

ON CHESIL BEACH by Ian McEwan

**NONFICTION**

LONG WAY ROUND: CHASING SHADOWS ACROSS THE WORLD by Ewan McGregor and  
Charlie Boorman

THE BOOKSELLER OF KABUL by Asne Seierstad

WHEN SKATEBOARDS WILL BE FREE: A MEMOIR OF A POLITICAL CHILDHOOD by Said  
Sayratiezedeh

LOOKING FOR LOVEDU: A WOMAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH AFRICA by Ann Jones

**JUNE 26, 2009**

**FICTION**

THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS by Arundati Roy

FAMILY MATTERS by Rohinton Mistry

THE ANGEL'S GAME by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (2009)

SHADOW OF THE WIND by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (2005)

SMILLAS SENSE OF SNOW by Peter Hoeg

THE BEST OF TIMES by Penny Vincenzi

THE FOUNTAINHEAD by Ayn Rand

MORTAL LOVE by Elizabeth Hand

AMERICAN PASTORAL by Philip Roth

BROOKLYN (2009) by Colm Toibin

THE MASTER (2005) by Colm Toibin

NETHERLAND by Joseph O'Neill

BAD LUCK AND TROUBLE (11<sup>th</sup> in Jack Reacher series)

**MYSTERY WRITERS**

Lee Child and/or Douglas Preston

P.D. James,

Elizabeth George

**NON -FICTION**

MRS. ASTOR REGRETS: THE HIDDEN BETRAYAL OF A FAMILY BEYOND

REPROACH by Meryl Gordon

THE HUDSON by Tom Lewis

CHARLES AND EMMA by Deborah Heiligman

SWIMMING TO ANTARTICA: A TALE OF A LONG DISTANCE SWIMMER by Lynne Cox

GRAYSON by Lynne Cox

**JULY 10, 2009**

**FICTION-**

DEADLY INTENT by Lynda La Plante

LOVING FRANK by Nancy Horan

SOMEONE KNOWS MY NAME by Lawrence Hill

MIDNIGHTS CHILDREN by Salman Rushdie

THE LEOPARD by Giuseppe Di Lampedusa

NETHERLAND BY Joseph O'Neill

FINDING NOUF by Zoe Ferraris

GOODBYE AND AMEN by Beth Gutcheon

THE LAZARUS PROJECT by Aleksander Hemon

A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN by Betty Smith

COMMENCEMENT by J. Courtney Sullivan

**NON-FICTION**

THE SISTERS ANTIPODES by Jane Alison

HARRY TRUMAN'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE: THE TRUE STORY OF A GREAT  
AMERICAN ROADTRIP by Matthew Algeo

ANGELS AND AGES by Adam Gopnik

**JULY 17, 2009**

**FICTION & MYSTERY**

THE HELP by Kathryn Stockett

THE OUTCAST by Sadie Jones

IN THE HEART OF THE CANYON by Elisabeth Hyde

THE THIRTEENTH TALE by Diane Setterfield

SOUTH OF BROAD by Pat Conroy

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE (sequel to GIRL WITH A DRAGON TATOO) by Stieg Larsson

MY LIFE IN FRANCE by Julia Child

JULIE AND JULIA: 365 DAYS, 524 RECIPES, 1 TINY APARTMENT KITCHEN by Julie Powell

SUMMER CROSSING by Truman Capote (written at age 19, pub. 2006)

SLIP OF THE KNIFE by Denise Mina (new mystery STILL MIDNIGHT, pub. date March 2010)

HAMISH MACBETH SERIES by M.C. Beaton—also excellent on audio

INSPECTOR MORSE SERIES by Colin Dexter  
Joanna Trollope novels (latest FRIDAY NIGHTS)

Rosamunde Pilcher novels e.g. COMING HOME, THE SHELL SEEKERS

**JULY 24, 2009**

**FICTION**

THE INSTANCE OF THE FINGERPOST by Iain Pears

THE CRADLE by Patrick Somerville

DAMAGE by Josephine Hart (new novel THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE to be released Aug. 11)

POSSESSION by A.S. Byatt

ONE D.O.A., ONE ON THE WAY: A NOVEL by Mary Robison

THE FAMILY MAN by Elinor Lipman

CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese

THE READING GROUP by Elizabeth Noble

THE SERVANTS QUARTERS by Lynn Free

THE FROZEN THAMES by Helen Humphreys

Carl Hiaasen novels

**JULY 31, 2009**

**FICTION & MYSTERY**

THE THREE JUNES by Julia Glass

Fiction, 2003 -- "*. . . an exploration of modern relationships and the families people both inherit or create for themselves.*"

SOMEONE KNOWS MY NAME: A NOVEL by Lawrence Hill

Historical Fiction, 2008 -- "*a compelling narrative that moves from mid-18th-century West Africa to South Carolina, Manhattan, Nova Scotia, Sierra Leone and London...*"

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE by Stieg Larsson

Fiction (Mystery), 2009 -- "*the second novel in Stieg Larsson's internationally bestselling Millennium series, turns a reader inside out with a joy that can't be squashed . . .*"

SEPTEMBERS OF SHIRAZ by Dalia Sofer

Fiction, 2007 -- "*the richly evocative, powerfully affecting depiction of a prosperous Jewish family in Tehran shortly after the revolution.*"

THE LAZARUS PROJECT by Aleksandar Hemon

Fiction, 2008 -- "*. . . a remarkable, and remarkably entertaining, chronicle of loss and hopelessness and cruelty propelled by an eloquent, irritable existential unease. It is, against all odds, full of humor and full of jokes. It is, at the same time, inexpressibly sad.*"

ADMISSION by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Fiction, 2009 -- "*a gripping portrait of a woman in crisis*"

BLIND DESCENT by Nevada Barr

Fiction (Mystery), 1999 -- "*On a hair-raising mission into a "monster man-eating cave" in Carlsbad Caverns, a National Park Service ranger discovers that a member of the rescue team is a killer.*"

**NON-FICTION**

THE RIVER OF DOUBT: THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S DARKEST JOURNEY by Candice Millard

*"At once an incredible adventure narrative and a penetrating biographical portrait . . . the true story of Theodore Roosevelt's harrowing exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on earth."*

LEGENDS: WOMEN WHO HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF GREAT WOMEN WRITERS by John Miller and Anjelica Huston

2001 -- "*a provocative salute to both the accomplishments and imperfections of 50 courageous pioneers is a beautiful volume that spans the 20th century and all the flavors of American culture.*"

**AUGUST 7, 2009**

**FICTION**

**WHAT HAPPENED TO ANNA K.** by Irina Reyn

Fiction, 2009. *"Russian literature's most tragic heroine converts to Judaism and emigrates to the boroughs of New York City in this modern take on Tolstoy's Anna Karenina."*

**LAURA RIDER'S MASTERPIECE** by Jane Hamilton

Fiction, 2009. *". . . dark and knowing, lovely and funny -- and, in that it gives intellectual prigs an equally hard time, quite dramatic. Love . . . makes monkeys of us all."*

**WOODSBURNER** by John Pipkin

Fiction, 2009. *". . . in effect a wily fictional prequel to Walden . . . suggesting how our vintage Thoreau, a Thoreau of history as well as fantasy, came to be."*

**CUTTING FOR STONE** by Abraham Verghese (we've talked about this one before)

Fiction, 2009. *". . . an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home."*

**WIFE OF THE GODS** by Kwei Quartey

Fiction, 2009. *". . . brings to life the majesty and charm of Ghana—from the capital city of Accra to a small community where long-buried secrets are about to rise to the surface."*

**THE CONSTANT PRINCESS** by Phillipa Gregory

Fiction, 2006. *". . . brings to life one of history's most inspiring women and creates one of the most compelling characters in historical fiction (Katherine of Aragon)."*

**NIGHT NAVIGATION** by Ginnah Howard

Fiction, 2009. *"Told in the alternating voices of an addict and his mother, this riveting novel adds new depths to our understanding and our literature of parents and their troubled children."*

**NONFICTION**

**PRICE OF PRIVILEGE: HOW PARENTAL PRESSURE AND MARITAL ADVANTAGE ARE CREATING A GENERATION OF DISCONNECTED AND UNHAPPY KIDS** by Madeline Levine

Non Fiction, 2008. *". . . a well-known clinical psychologist exposes the epidemic of emotional problems that are disabling America's privileged youth, thanks, in large part, to normalized, intrusive parenting that stunts the crucial development of the self."*

**A BRIGHT AND GUILTY PLACE** by Richard Raynor

Non Fiction, 2009. *". . . a true-crime story that's driven by several fascinating characters and that's also engaging and suspenseful."*

**HOOLED: WRITE FICTION THAT GRABS READERS AT PAGE ONE & NEVER LETS THEM GO** by Les Edgerton

Non Fiction, 2007. *"\*The first and only fiction-writing book that focuses exclusively on beginnings."*

**AUGUST 14, 2009**

**FICTION**

CASE HISTORIES by Kate Atkinson

Fiction, 2008. "*... the lifelike characters in Case Histories are what make it such a compelling hybrid: part complex family drama, part mystery. It winds up having more depth and vividness than ordinary thrillers and more thrills than ordinary fiction . . .*"

THE FETCH by Laura Whitcomb

Fiction (Fantasy), 2009. "*Calder is a Fetch, a death escort, the first of his kind to step from Heaven back to Earth. The first to fall in love with a mortal girl. But when he climbs backwards out of that Death Scene, into the chaos of the Russian Revolution, he tears a wound in the ghost realm, where the spirits begin a revolution of their own.*"

THE LOBSTER MAN AND THE U.F.O. by Captain Neal Parker

Fiction, 2006. "*This funny, odd, quirky little fable reads like a collaboration between Robert McCloskey and Robert Heinlein. Think you know all about crusty Maine lobstermen and 'people from away'? Think again, chummy!*"

SMASH CUT by Sandra Brown

Fiction (Romantic Thriller), 2009. "*Packed with surprises and the kind of propulsive plot for which Brown (SmokeScreen, 2008, etc.) is justly famous, this effort will not disappoint her readers.*"

**MYSTERY**

THE WATER'S EDGE by Karin Fossum

Fiction (Mystery), 2009. "*A riveting portrayal of a community—its insiders, its outsiders, its fissures, and its secrets—from Norway's "Queen of Crime."*

CEMETERY DANCE (part of a detective series [The Pendergast Novels](#)) by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child Fiction (Mystery), 2009.

**NONFICTION**

COOK YOURSELF THIN: THE DELICIOUS WAY TO DROP A DRESS SIZE by Lifetime Television

Non Fiction, 2009. "*The ladies of "Cook Yourself Thin," a new Lifetime reality show, offer 80 easy, accessible recipes in this companion cookbook that teaches readers how to cut calories without compromising taste.*"

KNEAD IT, PUNCH IT, BAKE IT! by Judith Jones

Non Fiction, 1981. "*. . . offers more than forty recipes for grown-ups and kids to work together, from French bread to peanut butter muffins to pizza. The text is fully illustrated with step-by-step line drawings.*"

THE TENTH MUSE: MY LIFE IN FOOD by Judith Jones

Non Fiction, 2008. "*From the legendary editor who helped shape modern cookbook publishing—one of the food world's most admired figures—comes this evocative and inspiring memoir.*"

FRANKLIN AND WINSTON: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF AN EPIC FRIENDSHIP by Jon Meacham  
Non Fiction, 2004. *"Drawing on interviews with surviving staffers and other previously untapped sources, Newsweek managing editor Meacham delves into the deep and complicated relationship between the two men who may very well have been the most powerful men on the planet during the most threatening times of the 20th century."*

## LINKS

Here are several other links I promised to track down and share:

Download Books, Music & Videos via the Westchester Library System.

<http://westchester.lib.overdrive.com/2E23328E-3376-4133-9900-E3BAB9B3B91D/10/411/en/default.htm>

Bruised Apple Books in Peekskill, a bookstore which sells used and rare books.

<http://www.bruisedapplebooks.com/>

AbeBooks, a website for buying new, used and rare books.

<http://www.abebooks.com/>

Alibris, also a website for buying new, used and rare books.

<http://www.alibris.com/>

Finally, here's the link to the website for the James Fenimore Cooper Prize, awarded every other year "for a book of historical fiction on an American subject which makes a significant contribution to historical understanding, portrays authentically the people and events of the historical past, and displays skills in narrative construction and prose style. The prize is named in honor of the most famous American historical novelist of the nineteenth century." Loving Frank by Nancy Horan is the 2009 winner.

<http://sah.columbia.edu/prizes/cooper.html> (James Fenimore Cooper is perhaps most famous for having written The Last of the Mohicans.)

**AUGUST 21, 2009**

**FICTION**

**A PERFECT STRANGER AND OTHER STORIES** by Roxana Robinson  
Short Stories, 2006. *"In lucid and elegant prose, the author's characters' inner worlds open up to us, revealing private emotional cores that are familiar in their needs, their secrets, and their longings."*

**HORSE HEAVEN** by Jane Smiley  
Fiction, 2001. *"... the Gone with the Wind of horse books."*

**THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE** by Josephine Hart  
Fiction, 2009. *"An Irish boy's death continues to haunt his family circle for 40 years in this elliptical, chimerical tale."*

**NONFICTION**

**STEICHEN: A LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHY** by Edward Steichen  
Non Fiction, 1985. *A beautiful large format collection of black and white photographs with personal commentary -- a photographic memoir, in effect.*

**TROWEL AND ERROR: OVER 700 TIPS, REMEDIES AND SHORTCUTS FOR THE GARDENER** by Sharon Lovejoy  
Non Fiction, 2002. *"... an inviting, environmentally friendly, whimsically illustrated yet dead-on helpful collection of homespun garden advice which will benefit every gardener, beginner or experienced."*

**SECRETS OF SELF-HEALING: HARNESS NATURE'S POWER TO HEAL COMMON AILMENTS, BOOST YOUR VITALITY, AND ACHIEVE OPTIMUM WELLNESS** by Dr. Maoshing Ni  
Non Fiction, 2008 (reprint). *"A guide to natural healing that combines the wisdom of Eastern tradition with Western medicine and nutritional science."*

**THE WILDERNESS WARRIOR: THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE CRUSADE FOR AMERICA** by Douglas Brinkley  
Non Fiction, 2009. *"How a city-born child of privilege became one of the greatest forces in American conservation is the subject of this vast, inspiring and enormously entertaining book. It is largehearted, full of the vitality of its subject and a palpable love for the landscapes it describes."*  
(And yes, our Library owns a copy of this book.)

**ARE YOU SOMEBODY? THE ACCIDENTAL MEMOIR OF A DUBLIN WOMAN** by Nuala O'Faolain  
Non Fiction, 1999, *"O'Faolain, a producer and on-air personality for Ireland's Radio Telefis Ireann, has produced a biography that chronicles not only her life, but also the progress of her country women from the 1940s to the present time."*

**THE SOLOIST: A LOST DREAM, AN UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP AND THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF MUSIC** by Steve Lopez

Non Fiction, 2008. " . . . *the true story of journalist Steve Lopez's discovery of Nathaniel Ayers, a former classical bass student at Julliard, playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles' Skid Row. Deeply affected by the beauty of Ayers's music, Lopez took it upon himself to change the prodigy's life—only to find that their relationship has had a profound change on his own life.*"

THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING by Joan Didion

Non Fiction, 2005. ' . . . *both a memoir of Didion's family life and a meditation chronicling the course of her grief.*"

A HUNDRED WHITE DAFFODILS by Jane Kenyon

Non Fiction, 2000. " . . . *a rare opportunity to see just how much more there is to Kenyon, providing personal glimpses into her writer's life and her growth as a poet.*"

HERE IS NEW YORK by E.B. White

Non Fiction, 1948. "*Perceptive, funny, and nostalgic, E.B. White's stroll around Manhattan remains the quintessential love letter to the city, written by one of America's foremost literary figures. The New York Times has named Here is New York one of the ten best books ever written about the metropolis, and The New Yorker calls it 'the wittiest essay, and one of the most perceptive, ever done on the city.*"

**AUGUST 28, 2009**

THE SEPTEMBERS OF SHIRAZ by Dalia Sofer -- *"finely wrought....this novel captures in riveting images the prelude to the exodus of Iranian Jews."*

FINDING NOUF by Zoe Ferraris-- *"a finely detailed literary mystery set in contemporary Saudi Arabia. Reads like a breeze...and offers a fascinating glimpse inside domestic Saudi Arabia. Even better, she has written a fascinating thriller."*

SNOWFLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN by Lisa See-- *"See's engrossing novel set in remote 19<sup>th</sup> century China details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends, their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women and their betrayal by pride and love."*

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (we have discussed it before and everyone loves it) by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows-- *"A small masterpiece about love, war (the German occupation of Guernsey) and the immeasurable sustenance to be found in good books and good friends."*

#### **NON- FICTION**

WHEN THINGS FALL APART by Pema Chodron--- *"The Tibetan Buddhist equivalent of Harold Kushner's WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE....Chodron advises a loving kindness toward oneself and awakening a compassionate attitude toward our pain and the pain of others."*

AFTER THE ECSTASY THE LAUNDRY: HOW THE HEART GROWS WISE ON THE SPIRITUAL PATH by Jack Kornfield--- *"One of America's most beloved teachers of meditation assures us that enlightenment does occur on the spiritual path but warns us that it is not the end of the road."*

PETROSTATE : PUTIN, POWER AND THE NEW RUSSIA by Marshall I. Goldman--- *"A superb, readable description of Vladimir Putin's role in the emergence of Russia as a powerful and potentially threatening Petrostate."*

HOUSE OF CARDS: A TALE OF HUBRIS AND WRETCHED EXCESS ON WALL STREET by William D. Cohan-- *" Vividly documents the mix of greed, arrogance and pettiness that took down the 86 year old brokerage firm of Bear Stearns and then the entire economy."*

FOOL'S GOLD: How the Bold Dream of a Small Tribe at JP Morgan was Corrupted by Wall Street Greed and Unleashed a Catastrophe by Gillian Tett--- *"the most lucid origin- story for the current financial meltdown."*

IS PARIS BURNING by Dominique Lapiere and Larry Collin-- *"The dramatic story of the allied liberation of Paris... the drama, fervor and triumph that heralded one of the most dramatic episodes of our time...riveting."*

PARIS CHANGING: REVISITING EUGENE ATGET'S PARIS by Bill Rauschenberg--- *"Retraces the footsteps of French documentarian Eugenes Atget's Paris in 1898. The two men's photos are shown side by side, revealing the city's eternal elegance and its modern developments."*

## SEPTEMBER, 2009

### FICTION

REGENERATION by Pat Barker—The first in Pat Barker’s series of novels confronting the psychological effects of WW1, focuses on shell-shock treatment methods during the war. Based on a true occurrence of decorated British officer and poet Siegfried Sassoon. “*A compelling and brilliant antiwar novel.*” EYE IN THE DOOR and GHOST ROAD are the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd novels in the series.

WW1 NOVELS by Ann Perry-include: NO GRAVES AS YET, AT SOME DISPUTED BARRICADE, WE SHALL NOT SLEEP, ANGELS IN THE GLOOM, SHOULDER THE SKY.—“*Acclaimed WW1 series that depicts the ravages of war through the eyes of a British family.*”

THE HOUSEKEEPER AND THE PROFESSOR: A NOVEL by Yoko Ogama. “The author weaves a poignant tale of beauty, heart and sorrow in her exquisite Japanese novel. “*Based on the story of a young housekeeper and her 10 year old son who take care of a mathematics professor with a serious brain injury.*”

### NON –FICTION

THE JAPANESE MIND: UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE CULTURE by Roger Davies and Osamu Ikeno—“*Offers Westerners an invaluable key to the unique aspects of Japanese culture.*”

MY RIVER CHRONICLES: REDISCOVERING AMERICA ON THE HUDSON by Jessica Dulong—“*In rich and captivating prose the author invites us on the journey of her lifetime: from a dot-com cubicle to the fabled waters of the Hudson River where she became a fireboat engineer.*”

HALF MOON: HENRY HUDSON AND THE VOYAGE THAT REDREW THE MAP OF THE NEW WORLD by Douglas Hunter –“*Book length history of the 1609 voyage that put New York on the map. A rich narrative of adventure and exploration.*”

GREAT WOMEN AUTHORS: THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LITERATURE by Jane Stuart Smith-“*great overview and very enjoyable*”

## OCTOBER, 2009

### FICTION

BENEATH THE BLEEDING by Val McDermid- *“Award winning Scottish crime writer, satisfies one’s thirst for complicated plots, personal struggles and rapidly advancing action.”*

THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE by David Wroblewski- *“Master storyteller, breathtaking scenes, riveting family drama about a boy and his dogs.”*

THE ELEGANCE OF THE HEDGEHOG by Muriel Barbery- the story of a Parisian concierge and a lonely adolescent girl. *“Barbery has served readers well by giving us this gently satirical, exceptionally winning and bittersweet novel.”*

MIDDLEMARCH by George Elliot-*“Considered by many critics as the finest novel in English, it looks at English provincial life at a crucial historical moment, while at the same time dramatizes and exposes some of the most potent myths of Victorian Literature.”*

ALL PASSION SPENT by Vita Sackville -West- moving story of an aging aristocrat who after becoming a widow decides to do those things she could never do before and attend to her own desires. *“magnificent, memorable and moving novel.”*

THAT THING AROUND YOUR NECK by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie -*graceful and evocative stories about Nigerians, mostly women.*

### NON-FICTION

THE ILLUSTRATED VIRAGO BOOK OF WOMEN TRAVELLERS by Mary Morris and Larry O’Connor- 300 years of wanderlust captured in this book of writings and photos of women who travel the world for pleasure and peril. Includes writings of Edith Wharton, Mary Wollstonecraft, Vita Sackville-West, Gertrude Bell, Mary McCarthy.....

THE SELECTED LETTERS OF MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU by Mary Wortley Montagu – *“Lady Mary Montagu (1689-1762) is mostly known for her writings She recorded almost every aspect of her intriguing existence throughout her life.” “Fascinating woman of passion wit and intelligence...riveting.”*

THE ROAD TO VERDUN: WW1’S MOST MOMENTOUS BATTLE AND THE FOLLY OF NATIONALISM by Ian Ousby - More than 300,000 men were killed in Verdun out of more than 700,000 WW1 casualties. This means almost 1 death a minute for ten months of battle. *“The book is a top rate combination of military and intellectual history of WW1.”*

THE OUTLIERS: THE STORY OF SUCCESS by Malcolm Gladwell- *Provocative and original look at why some people succeed.*

THE LORE OF THE UNICORN by Odell Sheppard- *wonderful book on the history, mythology, lore and symbolism of the unicorn.*

## NOVEMBER, 2009

### FICTION

LITTLE BEE by Chris Cleave – a Nigerian girl escapes massacre in her village and goes to live with two English journalists in England. The novel “*charms the reader with ravishing descriptions, sly humor and poignant insights.*”

INCENDIARY by Chris Cleave – the story of a terrorist attack in London. “*A harrowing and sharply written account of urban panic and the hallucinatory effects of shock.*”

BOX 21 by Anders Roslund and Borge Hellstrom - “*a remarkable tale of loss, addiction and revenge set in Stockholm’s seedy underworld. Taut and nuanced thriller should appeal to fans of Denise Mina and Henning Mankell.*”

THE GHOSTS OF BELFAST by Stuart Neville – describes the brutality of Ireland’s troubles in a page turning thriller. “*...harsh and unrelenting crime fiction masterfully done.*”

THERE GOES THE BRIDE by M.C. Beaton –Beaton’s “*splendid*” 20<sup>th</sup> Agatha Raisin mystery.

BIRDSONG by Sebastian Faulks – story of an Englishman serving with the French army in WWI.

### NON-FICTION

GEORGIANA: DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE by Amanda Foreman – most prominent English woman of her time (1757 – 1806) was as influential as she was beautiful. “*Foreman’s combination of exhaustive research and storytelling make Georgiana’s story at once lurid, sensational and touching*”

DANCING TO THE PRECIPICE: THE LIFE OF LUCIE DE LA TOUR DU PIN, EYEWITNESS TO AN ERA by Caroline Moorehead (1770 – 1853) – drawing on Lucie’s memoirs, this biography recounts the turbulent times in which she lived, from th court of Marie Antoinette through two revolutions to her rural New York exile.

TEMPERAMENT: HOW MUSIC BECAME A BATTLEGROUND FOR THE GREAT MINDS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION Stuart Isaacoff – an accessible guide to a fascinating topic – that of tuning keyboards so that every key is equally in tune and out of tune. A fierce debate that lit musicians and music theorists – “*accessible and fascinating.*”

## DECEMBER, 2009

ECHOES FROM THE DEAD by Johan Theorin--Winner of Sweden's best first crime award.

MOUNTAINS ARE MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS ARE RIVERS: *Applying Eastern Teaching to Everyday Life-* by Ilana Rabinowitz

EVOLUTION OF GOD by Robert Wright--Straddles popular science, ancient history, and philosophy. *Discusses the clash between the West and the Muslim world, and science versus religion.*

THE PRIVATE WORLD OF TASHA TUDOR by Tasha Tudor and Richard Brown- *a view into the world of the famed children's author and illustrator as she lives her life on her Vermont farm with no electricity, plumbing, or modern amenities.*

THE TASHA TUDOR BOOK OF FAIRY TALES

## **JANUARY, 2010**

### **FICTION**

**TWO OLD WOMEN** by Velma Wallis--*The story of two Native American Women abandoned by their tribe in the Alaskan Yukon.*

**LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN** by Colum McCann-2009 National Book Award winner is set in the NYC of 1974. *McCaan uses the real event of the walk between the World Trade Towers by Philip Petit as the thread that brings all his characters together.*

### **NON FICTION**

**HEIDEGGER AND A HIPPO WALK THROUGH THOSE PEARLY GATES: USING PHILOSOPHY (AND JOKES!) TO EXPLORE LIFE, DEATH, THE AFTERLIFE, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN** by Thomas Cathcart- *The title says it all!*

**COLUMBINE** by Dave Cullen- *This remarkable account of the shooting not only dispels many prevailing myths but tackles the question of why it happened.*

**A TRUTH UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED: 33 GREAT WRITERS ON WHY WE READ JANE AUSTEN** edited by Susannah Carson-Literary criticism by writers like Eudora Welty and Lionel Trilling and newly composed essays by contemporary writers such as Martin Amis, Anna Quindlan and Fay Weldon.

## **FEBRUARY, 2010**

### **FICTION**

(Topic which we discussed was "Favorite Love Stories")

ATONEMENT by Ian McEwan

POSSESSION by A.S. Byatt

CORELLI'S MANDOLIN by Louis de Bernieres

OUT OF AFRICA by Isak Dinesen

WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS by Wilson Rawls (This novel is about love between a boy and his dogs)

LE GRAND MEAULNES by Henri Alain- Fournier- this French novel about adolescent love was written in 1913 and is also called THE WANDERER and THE LOST ESTATE in the English translation.

### **NON- FICTION**

THE PERFECT SUMMER: ENGLAND AND 1911, JUST BEFORE THE STORM by Juliet Nicolson (not a love story!)- *"gossipy yet substantial slice of social history. "Upstairs" "downstairs" details about well known personalities in the time before the beginning of WWI."*

## **MARCH, 2010**

### **FICTION**

CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese

THE LOST DOMAIN (or Le Grand Meaulnes) by Alain- Fournier

THE POSTMISTRESS by Sarah Blake

THE MAN FROM BEIJING by Henning Mankell (to be published)

THE PIANO TEACHER by Janice Y. K. Lee

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GREY by Oscar Wilde

THE SECRET RIVER by Kate Grenville

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO by Stieg Larsson

THE GREAT DELIVERANCE by Elizabeth George (1st Novel featuring Inspector Lynley)

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT by Mark Haddon

A GATE AT THE STAIRS by Lorrie Moore

WHO WILL RUN THE FROG HOSPITAL by Lorrie Moore

### **NONFICTION**

THE ROBERT AND JANE MEYERHOFF COLLECTION published with the national Gallery of Art, Washington D.C

EISENHOWER WAS MY BOSS by Kay Summersby-- (I'm actually unsure if this was the novel we referred to?? There are so many on the subject.

**APRIL, 2010**

**FICTION**

THE SECRET RIVER by Kate Grenville

UNION ATLANTIC by Adam Haslitt

THE MAN FROM BEIJING by Henning Menkell

SMILLA'S SENSE OF SNOW by Peter Hoeg

IN THE WOODS by Tana French

THE LIKENESS by Tana French

THE LOST DOMAIN (Le Grande Meaulnes) by Henri Alain- Fournier

Maj Sjowall and Per Wahloo - Scandinavian Mystery authors

**NON- FICTION**

HALF BROKE HORSES: A TRUE LIFE NOVEL –Jeannette Walls

THE GLASS CASTLE: A MEMOIR by Jeanette Walls

WE TWO- VICTORIA AND ALBERT: RULERS PARTNERS, RIVALS by Gillian Gill

SUPER FREAKONOMICS: GLOBAL COOLING, PATRIOTIC PROSTITUTES AND WHY  
SUICIDE BOMBERS SHOULD BUY LIFE INSURANCE by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT: A MEMOIR by Diana, Liz, Amanda and Dan Welch

MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING by Viktor E. Frankl

## MAY, 2010

### FICTION

MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND by Helen Simonson (*quaint, eccentric, English love story*)

THE INHERITANCE by Simon Tolkein (*thriller*)

THIS BODY OF DEATH by Elizabeth George (*her latest mystery in the Inspector Lynley series*)

FAR NORTH by Marcel Theroux (*post-apocalypse survival tale*)

FEVER DREAM by Douglas Preston & Lincoln Child (*thriller featuring Pendergast*)

SARAH'S KEY by Tatiana de Rosnay (*set in Paris and deals with uncovering the deportations to Auschwitz during WWII*)

### NON- FICTION

WE DIE ALONE: A WWII EPIC OF ESCAPE AND ENDURANCE by David Howarth and Stephen Ambrose

ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE: MY FAMILY'S JOURNEY TO AMERICA by Kati Marton (*family memoir set in Hungary during the Stalinist period*)

DEGAS, DANCE, DRAWING by Paul Valery

JENNIEMAE AND JAMES: A MEMOIR IN BLACK AND WHITE by Brooke Newman (*memoir about a brilliant mathematician and his friendship with his illiterate black maid*)

TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION by P.D James

HALF BROKE HORSES by Jeannette Walls (*memoir about author's grandmother's experience as a settler in the west*)

**JUNE, 2010**

**FICTION**

**THE INVISIBLE BRIDGE** by Julie Orringer (*a grand love story set against the backdrop of Budapest and Paris, an epic tale of three brothers whose lives are ravaged by war, and the chronicle of one family's struggle against the forces that threaten to annihilate it.*)

**THE IMPERFECTIONISTS** by Tom Rachman (*Set against the gorgeous backdrop of Rome, Tom Rachman's wry, vibrant debut follows the topsy-turvy private lives of the reporters, editors, and executives of an international English language newspaper as they struggle to keep it—and themselves—afloat.*)

**SEPHARAD** by Antonio Munoz Molina (*in 17 chapters linked by theme and subject, readers meet men and women—both real and imagined—in the shadow of the Holocaust and the regimes of Stalin and Franco.*)

**NON-FICTION**

**DANCING TO THE PRECIPICE: THE LIFE OF LUCIE DE LA TOUR DU PIN, EYEWITNESS TO AN ERA** by Caroline Moorehead (*Mixing politics and court intrigue, social observations and everyday details about food, work, illness, children, manners and clothes, she paints a vivid and memorable portrait of an era that saw the fortunes of France, as well as those of Lucie herself, rise and fall and rise again.*)

**LOSING MUM AND PUP** by Christopher Buckley (*The most personal and transcendent work of [Christopher Buckley's] life, the tragicomic true story of the year in which both of his parents died.*)

**THE SHALLOWS: WHAT THE INTERNET IS DOING TO OUR BRAINS** by Nicholas Carr (*The best-selling author of *The Big Switch* returns with an explosive look at technology's effect on the mind.*)

**"THIS IS BERLIN" RADIO BROADCASTS FROM NAZI GERMANY** by William Shirer (*Describes, as they were occurring, the great events on which Shirer would reflect in his later book, among them the Nazi annexation of Austria and northwestern Czechoslovakia, the Munich Pact, the German invasion of Poland, and subsequent conquest of much of the rest of Europe.*)

**JULY 2, 2010**

**FICTION**

THE BOOK THIEF by Markus Suzak (*death narrates the WW2 era story of a nine year old girl living with a working class family.*)

OLD FILTH by Jane Gardam (*outlines 20th century British history through the life of a barrister whose acronymic nickname provides the title, (Failed in London Try Hong Kong).*)

A KIND OF INTIMACY by Jenn Ashworth (*insane yet sympathetic protagonist who becomes obsessed with her neighbor Neil.*)

**NON-FICTION**

MY STROKE OF INSIGHT by Jill Bolte Taylor Ph.D. (*the author shares her unique perspective on the brain and its capacity for recovery.*)

THE ART OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN by Etne Clarke

1001 GARDENING SECRETS by Gayle C. Wood

FATHERS AND SONS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A FAMILY by Alexander Waugh (*scintillating family memoir of eccentric and illustrious English literary dynasty.*)

THE POINCARÉ CONJECTURE: IN SEARCH OF THE SHAPE OF THE UNIVERSE by Donal O'Shea (*account of the long and contentious search for a solution to the shape of the Universe.*)

**JULY 9, 2010**

**FICTION**

**THE ICE PRINCESS** by Camilla Lackberg (*The winner of several Swedish writing awards, Lackberg has become the best-selling Swedish novelist on record. More Murder She Wrote than noir, her U.S. debut (and the first entry in a seven-book series) will likely appeal to any lover of more lighthearted mysteries.*)

**THE INVISIBLE BRIDGE** by Julie Orringer (*Though the events of the time, especially in Hungary, are now the stuff of history books and increasingly fewer firsthand memories, Orringer writes without anachronism, and convincingly. Written with the big-picture view of Doctor Zhivago or Winds of War—and likely to be one of the big books of the season.*)

**THE WHITE TIGER** by Aravind Adiga (*"... a penetrating piece of social commentary, attuned to the inequalities that persist despite India's new prosperity. It correctly identifies—and deflates—middle-class India's collective euphoria.*)

**BIRDSONG** by Sebastian Faulks (*Sebastian Faulks brings the anguish of love and war to vivid life, and leaves the reader's mind pulsating with images that are graphic and unforgettable.*)

**NON FICTION**

**ALAN TURING: THE ENIGMA** by Andrew Hodges (*The strange, tragic life of Alan Turing who broke Germany's secret WW II Code, pioneered the computer age, and fell victim to sexual scandal.*)

Plus one I brought but ran out of time to share:

**SILK PARACHUTE** by John McPhee (*Reading these vignettes is like finding the bean in the Twelfth Night cake—each is a surprising, rewarding delight.* )

**JULY 16, 2010**

**FICTION**

THE BLUE NOTEBOOK by James A. Levine (*A haunting yet astonishingly hopeful story of a young Indian prostitute who uses writing and imagination to transcend her reality.*)

A FINE BALANCE and FAMILY MATTERS by Rohinton Mistry (*Two wonderful novels set in contemporary India that depict squalor and injustice but also humanity, tenderness and love.*)

BLEACHERS by John Grisham-High School football in small town Texas... (*wonderful storytelling with undeniable mastery of plotting, pacing and tone.*)

THE POSTMISTRESS by Sarah Blake (*weaves together stories of three different women including the postmistress of a small Cape Cod town during the terrible years of WWII England.*)

MAJOR PETTIRGREW'S LAST STAND by Helen Simonson (*Charming novel wraps Old World sensibility around a story of multicultural conflict involving two widowed people who assume they are done with love.*)

THE THOUSAND AUTUMNS OF JACOB ZOET by David Mitchell (*rich historical romance set in Feudal Japan...a classic old fashioned tale.*)

THE IMPERFECTIONISTS by Tom Rachman (*novel set in Rome that follows the topsy-turvy private lives of the reporters, editors and executives of an English language international newspaper.*)

**NONFICTION**

THE AGE OF WONDER: THE ROMANTIC GENERATION AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE BEAUTY AND TERROR OF SCIENCE by Richard Holmes

**JULY 30, 2010**

**FICTION**

WHAT IS LEFT THE DAUGHTER by Howard Norman (*about the dubious choices otherwise sensible people make in the crucible of a terrible war. Some of the choices are minor...but others could not be more important.*)

THE ICE PRINCESS by Camilla Lackberg (*Läckberg clearly has a gift for laying out an intricate plot and building suspense. Her list of characters is long and complex but not overwhelming, and she manages successfully to weave in a variety of subplots.*)

BETWEEN SUMMER'S LONGING AND WINTER'S END by Leiff G.W. Persson (*a riveting insider's combination of black satire, thriller, psychological drama, and police procedural about the biggest police investigation in recorded history.*) (First book of a trilogy.)

**NON FICTION**

PICKING COTTON: OUR MEMOIR OF INJUSTICE AND REDEMPTION by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino, Erin Torneo, Ronald Cotton (*a generously balanced memoir-at once a devastating and uplifting crash course in the criminal justice system.*)

THE GUNS OF AUGUST by Barbara W. Tuchman (*Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Barbara Tuchman has brought to life again the people and events that led up to World War I. With attention to fascinating detail, and an intense knowledge of her subject and its characters, Ms. Tuchman reveals, for the first time, just how the war started, why, and why it could have been stopped but wasn't. A classic historical survey of a time and a people we all need to know more about.*)

IN COLD BLOOD by Truman Capote (*a work that transcends its moment, yielding poignant insights into the nature of American violence.*)

**AUGUST 6, 2010**

**FICTION**

**EVERYMAN** by Philip Roth (*a slim but dense volume about a sickly boy who grows up obsessed with his and everybody else's health, and eventually dies in his 70s, just as he always said he would.*)

**ALOFT** by Chang-rae Lee (*a witty social critique of contemporary suburban America and a deft portrait of a man struggling to balance his responsibilities with his freedoms.*)

**NON FICTION**

**STEAM, STEEL AND STARS** by O. Winston Link (*90 riveting photographs by O. Winston Link presented here cover every activity of the Norfolk & Western Railway (now Norfolk Southern) as well as capturing an unequalled picture of rural American life in the 1950s.*)

**PROVENANCE: HOW A CON MAN AND A FORGER REWROTE THE HISTORY OF MODERN ART** by Laney Salisbury (*the story of one of the more audacious and unusual art frauds of recent decades. Tautly written and -assiduously researched, it has the pace and suspense of a good thriller, and a colorful -international cast.*)

**AUGUST 13, 2010**

**FICTION**

**FREEDOM** by Jonathan Franzen - *his first novel in nine years since "The Corrections," "Freedom" is a wrenching, funny, forgiving story of a contemporary mid-western family- "an indelible and deeply moving portrait of our time.*

**THE PASSAGE** by Justin Cronin - *a contemporary story about a band of human pioneers trying to ride out a plague of vampires that has turned America into a virus ridden wasteland. "Vivid, imaginative, and epic.*

**BROKEN** by Karin Fossum - *a subtle mystery by Norwegian crime novelist Fossum in a departure from her inspector Sejer series. A psychologically detailed portrait of an 18 year- old drug addict. "Unconventional, subtle, and disturbing.*

**OLD FILTH** by Jane Gardam - *story of a retired international barrister who is recently widowed. An extraordinary portrait of a Raj orphan. "Intelligent, sophisticated and witty.*

**NONFICTION**

**THE MAYFLOWER** by Nathaniel Philbrick - *the story of the Plymouth Colony told with compelling detail. "Vivid and remarkably fresh, Philbrick has recast the Pilgrims for our age." (Philbrick's new nonfiction book is "The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull and the Battle of Little Big Horn"*

**PROVENANCE: HOW A CON MAN AND A FORGER REWROTE THE HISTORY OF MODERN ART** by Laney Salisbury and Aly Sujo - *the true story of one of the 20th centuries' most audacious art frauds. "Extraordinary characters- reads like a well plotted thriller.*

**THE DEAD HAND: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE COLD WAR ARMS RACE AND ITS DANGEROUS LEGACY** by David Hoffman -*a riveting narrative history about the end of arms race sheds new light on the frightening last chapters of the Cold War and the legacy of the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons that remain a threat today.*

**AUGUST 20, 2010**

**FICTION**

THE SURRENDERED by Chang Rae Lee

LEARNING TO LOSE by David Trueba

THE COBRA by Frederick Forsyth

**NONFICTION**

THE PROUD TOWER and GUNS OF AUGUST by Barbara Tuchman

FATHERS AND SONS by Alexander Waugh

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2010**

Hello All,

I did a little bit of research on the **Booker Prize** and this is the scoop. The Man Booker prize (or the Booker Prize as it is commonly known) was established in 1968. It awards the best original full length novel written in English by a citizen of The Commonwealth of Nations or the Republic of Ireland. All but two of the Commonwealth countries were formerly part of the British Empire. The winner of the prize receives 50,000 pounds and is guaranteed a huge increase in sales and readership. It is considered the most coveted literary prize in the English language.

The **Man Booker International** prize is new and was established in 2006. It is awarded every two years to a living author for a body of work written either in English or available in English translation. The 2009 winner was Alice Munro. The prize is worth 60,000 pounds, but there does not seem to be as much glory surrounding it. The Booker will be announced Tuesday, October 12th. Did you see the review of "The Room" by Emma Donogue in the NYT Book Review last Sunday? Sounds great...

## **FICTION**

MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND by Helene Simonson

CUTTING FOR STONE by Abraham Verghese

INTUITION by Allegra Goodman- (her new novel is called "The Cookbook Collector")

## **NONFICTION**

CYBER WAR THE NEXT THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT by Richard Clark

**OCTOBER 8, 2010**

**FICTION**

MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND by Helene Simonson-(a very charming read)

THE TOWER, THE ZOO, AND THE TORTOISE by Julia Stuart (*also supposed to be very charming story about a Beefeater who lives in the Tower of London*)

BETWEEN SUMMER'S LONGING by Leif Persson -Swedish crime fiction

YEAR OF WONDERS by Geraldine Brooks- *17th century plague in small English village*

MATTERHORN by Carl Marlantes- *epic, grand, vivid debut novel about combat life in Vietnam*

FEVER OF THE BONE by Val McDermid-*Scottish crime writers latest in Tony Hill series*

**NON FICTION**

NINE PARTS OF DESIRE: THE HIDDEN WORLD OF ISLAMIC WOMEN by Geraldine Brooks

WHEN I WAS WHITE: THE TRUE STORY OF A FAMILY DIVIDED BY RACE by Judith Stone

DREAMS OF TRESPASS: TALES OF A HAREM GIRLHOOD by Fatima Mernissi - Harem life in 1940 Morocco

THE GRAND DESIGN by Stephen Hawking

**JANUARY 2011**

**FICTION**

A PRAYER FOR OWEN MEANY by John Irving

ERNEST HEMINGWAY THE SHORT STORIES

**NON FICTION**

THE TENTH PARALLEL: DISPATCHES FROM THE FAULT LINE  
BETWEEN CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM by Eliza Griswold

UNBROKEN: A WORLD WAR II STORY OF SURVIVAL by Laura Hillenbrand

A TIME OF GIFTS: ON FOOT TO CONSTANTINOPLE: FROM THE HOOK OF HOLLAND TO  
THE MIDDLE DANUBE by Patrick Leigh Fermor

## **FEBRUARY, 2011**

### **FICTION**

**TORTILLA CURTAIN** by T.C Boyle- story of two couples in southern L.A.-one a pair of wealthy suburbanites, the other illegal immigrants from Mexico.

**THE HOUSE ON SALT HAY ROAD** by Carin Clevidence -rural Long Island family drama set in the 1930's

**THREE SECONDS** by A. Roslund and B.Hellstrom- " Swedish crime fiction; "gripping, intelligent and worthy successor to Stieg Larsson"

**BROOKLYN** by Colm Toibin- A story of a young Irish girl who emigrates to Brooklyn in the 1950's.

## MARCH, 2011

### FICTION

SMALL ISLAND by Andrea Levy-Set mainly in the British Empire of 1948, the novel follows the lives and loves of four characters- two Jamaicans who fought for their "mother country" in WW2 and two Britons. An award winning novel and a lovely PBS adaptation.

ANY HUMAN HEART by Willian Boyd- tells the story of Logan Mountstuart, writer, lover, art dealer, spy as he makes his way through the 20th century. Also recently adapted on Masterpiece Theatre.

THE ELEPHANT'S JOURNEY by Jose Saramago. In 1551 King Joao of Portugal gave Archduke Maximilian of Austria the wedding present of an elephant named Solomon. The author uses this true occurrence to tell the story of Solomon and his keeper as they traverse Europe. "Delightful, witty tale of friendship and adventure."

TWO OLD WOMEN by Velma Wallace. An Alaskan Tale of Betrayal, Courage and Survival".

**JUNE, 2011**

**FICTION**

THE LAST CHINESE CHEF by Nicole Mones

WOMAN WITH BIRTHMARK by Hakan Nesser (one of the Inspector Van Veeteren series set in Sweden)

THE SNOWMAN by Jo Nesbo

THE GODFATHER OF KATMANDU by John Burdett (mystery set in 21st century Thailand)

THE MAN FROM BEIJING by Henning Mankell (excellent performance in audiobook)

THE COOKBOOK COLLECTOR by Allegra Goodman

**NON FICTION**

THE CHURCHILLS IN LOVE AND WAR by Mary S. Lovell

TO A MOUNTAIN IN TIBET by Colin Thubron (also author of SHADOW OF THE SILK ROAD and IN SIBERIA)

THE GREATEST BATTLE: STALIN, HITLER AND THE DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR MOSCOW THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF WWII by Andrew Ngorski

LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME: EVERYTHING YOUR AMERICAN HISTORY TEXTBOOK GOT WRONG by James W. Loewen

**JULY, 2011**

**FICTION**

STATE OF WONDER by Ann Patchett- a pharmaceutical researcher finds herself in the Amazon jungle uncovering a fascinating mystery.

SISTER by Rosamund Lupton - "both a beautiful and suspenseful debut novel about a missing sister."

OLD FILTH by Jane Gardam-the moving story of an English barrister at the end of his life with flashbacks to his childhood as a Raj orphan of the Empire, his experiences with love and WWII, and his life as a barrister in Hong Kong.

WRECKAGE by Michael Robotham-an international thriller based on one of the biggest bank heists in history.

THE SNOWMAN by Jo Nesbo-"complex and brilliantly executed crime thriller set in Oslo."

THE HYPNOTIST by Lars Kepler- "outstanding thriller debut introducing Stockholm detective Joona Linna."

BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP by S.J. Watson -a woman recovering from a traumatic brain injury wakes up every morning next to her husband and cannot remember what happened the day before. By keeping a journal she starts to determine that she is in danger.

**SEPTEMBER, 2011**

**BOOKER PRIZE SHORT LIST NOMINEES**

(October, 18th winner announcement)

THE SENSE OF AN ENDING by Julian Barnes\*\*

THE SISTERS BROTHERS by Patrick DeWitt

PIGEON ENGLISH by Stephen Kelman

HALF BLOOD BLUES by Esi Edeygyan

SNOWDROPS by A.D Miller

JAMRACH'S MENAGERIE by Carol Birch

For a brief synopsis of each go to [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)

\*\*Favored to win

**OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS DISCUSSED WERE:**

HEADHUNTER by Jo Nesbo

A LONG, LONG WAY by Sebastian Barry

SISTER by Rosamund Lupton

GREEN CITY IN THE SUN by Barbara Wood

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller

THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES by Jussi Adler-Olsen

Mystery novels by Simon Kernick

**OCTOBER, 2011**

**FICTION**

CHILD 44 by Tom Robb Smith

ALL CRY CHAOS :an Henri Poincare Mystery by Leonard Rosen

**NON-FICTION**

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller

IN THE GARDEN OF THE BEAST: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson

LA SEDUCTION: How the French Play the Game of Life by Elaine Sciolino

## NOVEMBER, 2011

**Booker Prize Short List Nominees** (October, 18th winner announcement)

THE SENSE OF AN ENDING by Julian Barnes\*\*

THE SISTERS BROTHERS by Patrick DeWitt

PIGEON ENGLISH by Stephen Kelman

HALF BLOOD BLUES by Esi Eduygyan

SNOWDROPS by A.D Miller

JAMRACH'S MENAGERIE by Carol Birch

For a brief synopsis of each go to [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)

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**Other recommended books discussed were:**

HEADHUNTER by Jo Nesbo

A LONG, LONG WAY by Sebastian Barry

SISTER by Rosamund Lupton

GREEN CITY IN THE SUN by Barbara Wood

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT: An African Childhood by Alexandra Fuller

THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES by Jussi Adler-Olsen

Mystery novels by Simon Kernick

## **JANUARY, 2012**

### **FICTION**

THE ART OF FIELDING by Chad Harbach

THE RULES OF CIVILITY by Amor Towles (working girl climbs the ladder in 1938 NYC)

THE LIFEBOAT by Charlotte Rogan (Penny Brouder's niece)

THE CALL by Yannick Murphy ( A veterinarian's daily life set in Vermont)

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT by Erich Maria Remarque

### **NONFICTION**

ETHAN ALLEN: HIS LIFE AND TIMES by Willard Stern Randall

WAIT FOR ME! MEMOIRS by Deborah Mitford

## MARCH, 2012

### FICTION

"THE LIFEBOAT" by Charlotte Rogan--Written by our own Book Chat attendee Penny Brouder's niece, this brand new novel deals with the difficult life choices made on a lifeboat full of survivors from a Titanic like shipwreck on the cusp of WWII. **YEAH!**

BIRDSONG by Sebastian Faulks--an intensely romantic, multi -generational story set in France and England. The novel is profoundly affecting due to the highly realistic depiction of WWI trench warfare. A big **YEAH!** with a cautionary note due to some gruesome depictions of the trench fighting.

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST by Anne Korkeakivi- this just released novel is a lyrical depiction of an English ambassador's wife as she prepares for a highly important dinner at the Embassy, while dealing with issues over her troubled son, memories of an old lover, and an encounter with a possible terrorist. **YEAH!**

### NON FICTION

THE ENDURANCE - SHACKLETON'S LEGENDARY ANTARTIC EXHIBITION by C. Alexander - gripping account of Shackleton's journey. Great photos. **YEAH!!!**

IN THE GARDEN OF THE BEASTS by Erik Larson- a detailed account of the life of the American Ambassador to Germany and his family, set in 1933 Berlin. It was agreed by the group that given the fanfare surrounding this book, it was overall a disappointing read. Erik Larson's two previous two books, *Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time and the Deadliest Tornado in History* and *Devil In the White City* were superior. **OK!**