



-News-

People have started booking their tickets for the Andrea Levy event on Tuesday March 23rd, 7pm at the Paradiso Theatre, Matakana Village. If you would like to secure your seat phone us. Mao's Last Dancer will be coming to the movies soon, and the book has been re-released with a movie cover. A new book has arrived in store "Serena" which has been voted "Book Of The Year" by the New York Times, Publishers Weekly, Washington Post and Amazon.com. Looks fab and can't wait to read it. The Andre Agassi memoir "Open" is back in stock finally and we have more on order – this has been immensely popular and would be a great gift for anyone who is interested in sporting personalities. Patrick Ness (author of Knife of Never Letting Go and The Ask And The Answer) is speaking at St. Cuthberts school on Friday 12th March at 7pm. Tickets are available from Jabberwocky in Mt Eden.

-Dates for your diary-

As above – Andrea Levy: Tuesday 23rd March 2010. Bookings necessary!

-Book Reviews-

***The Long Song* by Andrea Levy** – Her newest novel is the story of a slave girl who lives and works on a sugar plantation in Jamaica in the 1830's. July is only a child when a white woman takes a liking to her and wants her for a personal maid. She is taken from her mother and moves into the big house. July grows into a feisty young woman and she learns how to manipulate her mistress when needs be, but of course there are consequences. An excellent read and a fascinating look at the life of a plantation slave.

***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson** – This is the delightful story of Major Pettigrew who is retired and is living a quiet life in his small English village. Happy to play golf and keep to his routines, his outlook on life changes when his brother dies unexpectedly. He starts to question his life, and finds himself unexpectedly attracted to the sympathetic Mrs Ali, the village shopkeeper, with whom he has much in common. Imagine the horror of the very staid villagers, and Mrs Ali's family! This is a delightful humorous read.

***Mr Rosenblum's List* by Natasha Solomons** – "Jack Rosenblum is five foot three and a half inches of sheer tenacity. He intends to become a Very English Gentleman." Jack and wife Sadie have escaped Germany as Hitler's influence is growing and they have arrived in England to find they are expected to give up their old ways and embrace everything English to fit in. Whilst Sadie misses her family and homeland, Jack is determined to do whatever it takes to become English. Upon arrival in England they were given a list of appropriate behaviour considered important for their rehabilitation. Jack embraces these points, and more. When they move to the countryside, they embark on a seemingly impossible task. Warm and moving story about friendship and belonging.

***Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout** – The lovely Sarah at Time Out put me on to this little gem. Hard for me to describe so will quote from the back jacket of the book – "A penetrating, vibrant exploration of the human soul in need, Olive Kitteridge will make you laugh, nod in recognition, wince in pain and shed a tear or two." Elizabeth Strout is the winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and this is a stunning example of her talent.

***Still Alice* by Lisa Genova** – I know this isn't new but I have only just recently read it, after so many customers told me I really needed to! For those of you who haven't read this beautiful book – Alice is a Harvard professor in her early fifties when she is diagnosed with early on-set Alzheimers. She has

three adult children, and her husband is also an academic at Harvard – this story explores their relationships with Alice and her disease. Touching, informative, sad and ultimately uplifting.

Committed by Elizabeth Gilbert – At the end of her best selling memoir Eat Pray Love, Elizabeth Gilbert fell in love with Felipe (remember the third part of the book?) Her new book Committed continues her story with Felipe. After living together happily for two years, they had to confront their marriage phobia as Felipe would have to leave the US if they didn't marry. Committed is the story of Elizabeth studying and discovering all she could about marriage. If many of us had taken on this task perhaps our own decisions about marriage would have ended differently! What did Elizabeth decide? Be assured you will find yourself smiling as her style of writing, and her witty anecdotes capture you once again. An enjoyable and easy read. (Sharleen)

Knife by R J Anderson – Knife is a fairy who longs to leave the big oak tree, but the queen has forbidden the fairies to go outside because it is dangerous and their numbers are dwindling. When she does break the rules, she comes face to face with a human – which is the start of many changes for both Knife and the other fairies. There is both adventure and romance in this fabulous book – my eleven year old daughter is reading this at the moment and loving it. The sequel called Rebel is due out soon.

February has been another busy month and there are still lots of visitors to Matakana. It's always interesting to talk to the foreign tourists, and there are many people coming out to play now that kids have gone back to school! We're all looking forward to meeting Andrea Levy and know that it will be an interesting evening. I am really looking forward to hearing Patrick Ness speak – Sharleen and Sylvia are coming with me and I can't wait for the last book in the trilogy. The publishers are all bringing out lots of new and exciting books at the moment – so much reading to do and so little time!

Tracey, Sharleen and Sylvia

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