



-News-

January is over and the kids are heading back to school. It has been a very busy start to 2012 as the holiday weather was less than ideal for camping and hanging out at the beach, but great for reading. Julie Buiso was with us for a Saturday prior to Christmas, showcasing her new cookbook and she made the most amazing fruity Christmas mince pies. We sold out of quite a few titles over the holidays. Tintin was given a huge push by the release of the movie (which I loved, by the way). Two other movies adapted from books are *The War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo, and *Hugo (The Invention Of Hugo Cabret)* by Brian Selznick. The TV series on SoHo of *The Game Of Thrones* also created a demand for the books of the same name. Of course, I always think the book is far superior!

Through the shop, I have been fortunate to meet a delightful couple who spend half the year in New Zealand, and the rest of the time in their home country of England. Sarah Charles was co-creator of a gorgeous book *Tangerine Dream Cafe: A Year In Chelsea Physic Garden*. It comprises a visual record of the garden with historical references, a cookbook featuring 65 delicious recipes from London's oldest botanic garden's renowned cafe *Tangerine Dream*, and an endless calendar and memorable dates diary. It has 150 pages of beautiful garden and food photography through the seasons, with photographs by Sarah Charles. It is complimented by a timeless perpetual calendar for recording special occasions. We have this book currently in stock. Sarah and her husband Michael B White have been visiting New Zealand yearly for over 25 years travelling widely through the country. Michael is an artist who is inspired by New Zealand's light and colour. He is having a show at *A Fine Line Gallery*, Sharps Road, Matakana from Thursday 10th March – 1st April. This show will display Michael B's joyful swirling colours and dashing brushstrokes. The work on show will include oils, watercolours, pastels, monoprint, screenprint and a suite of etchings. If you get a chance, do drop in to the gallery and check out it out.

-Book Reviews-

The Churchills by **Mary S Lovell** – This fascinating account of the Churchill family has been written by the best-selling author of *The Mitford Girls*. Lovell takes us from the 1st Duke of Marlborough (1822-1883) to Winston Churchill (1874-1965). Churchill has inspired almost hero-worship and Lovell fills all the gaps in our knowledge about this great man. The Churchills have been politicians, gamblers and profligates, heroes and womanisers. They achieved power, influence and notoriety in both Britain and America. This is a gripping story of triumphant political and military campaigns, the construction of grand houses, quiet domestic tragedies, papal annulments and marriages – both disastrous and profoundly happy. This is a truly absorbing read. (Tracey)

When We Have Wings by **Claire Corbett** - This is one of those wonderfully imagined books that will persuade you to suspend disbelief and engage fully in the story. Claire Corbett skilfully creates a world where fliers are the elite: genetically modified to grow wings which ensures their ability to access parts of the soaring city heights that those without wings would not or could not access. Piri is a young woman who has sacrificed everything for her wings and discovers her true identity as she pushes her flying skills to the limit. As she flees for safety with baby Hugo, Piri encounters a world of outcast fliers who teach her to become a master flier. Struggling to find her place in the world, Piri returns home to face her fate. This is a story of amazing thought-provoking flight; of mothering,

sacrifice, betrayal and love. It is highly visual, philosophical and beautifully written. I found this story compelling. (Debbie)

***The Bomber* by Liza Marklund** - Swedish Crime Reporter Annika Bengtzon is woken in the early hours of a wintry December morning by a phone call with news of an explosion that has ripped apart the Olympic Stadium and a victim has been blown to pieces. As Annika investigates details of the bombing and victim there is a second bombing. When her confidential police source reveals that they are hot on the heels of the bomber Annika is guaranteed an exclusive with her name on it. But it soon becomes clear that she has uncovered too much as she finds herself the target of a deranged serial killer. Now all she wants for Christmas is to survive! This is a gripping and intelligent crime story, which I recommend. (Debbie)

***The Deadly Touch of the Tigress* by Ian Hamilton** - Ava Lee is a petite young Chinese-Canadian forensic accountant who works for an elderly Hong Kong based 'Uncle'. In tracking millions of dollars across continents the stakes are often high, sometimes violent and always shady, but Ava Lee's razor sharp intelligence and unorthodox rules of engagement allow her to succeed where traditional methods have failed. She must follow the money wherever it takes her. Her latest assignment in Guyana is full of twists and turns and Ava must pull out all her resources to come out on top. An easy read novel with a tenacious heroine. (Debbie)

***Lionheart* by Sharon Penman** - This is a fictionalised account of the Third Crusade led by Richard 1 against the Saracens who had captured the holy city of Jerusalem. Not only did Richard have to contend with the Saracens, the heat and strange diseases, but also a French King who did not have any sympathy for the cause and was doing his utmost to undermine Richard. On his journey Richard gathers his sister, the Queen of Sicily, his mother Eleanor of Aquitaine, and his new wife who is the daughter of the King of Navarre. He uses his mother as a stand-in while he takes his sister and wife to the holy land. In this gripping narrative, Penman reveals a complex Richard – a man remarkable for his power and intelligence, his keen grasp of warfare and his concern for the safety of his men, who followed him against all odds. (Tracey)

***Poo Bum* by Stephanie Blake** - Once there was a little rabbit who could only say one thing... This little rabbit is loved by his family, even though when they ask him a question, he answers very rudely. One day, he meets a hungry wolf. Will the little rabbit learn his lesson once and for all? This is a new children's book from Gecko Press and it will appeal to young and old alike. (Tracey)

***Pure* by Julianna Baggott** – This new teenage novel is a post-apocalyptic sensation about a society of haves – the Pure, who escaped the apocalypse and live in an uncontaminated dome-covered city – and the have-nots – the wretched survivors who live in the nearly destroyed outside world. "We know you are here, our brothers and sisters. We will, one day, emerge from the Dome to join you in peace. For now, we watch from afar." Pressia has lived outside the Dome ever since the detonations and struggles to remember her parents or even life before the blast. As Pressia struggles to survive, she dreams of an easy life inside the safety of the Dome with the Pure. Partridge is a Pure and knows that life on the inside isn't as easy as others believe. He is driven to find his mother and his journey collides with Pressia's in a way that neither could foresee. This story is bursting with imagination and has an eerily prescient feel to it. (Tracey)

Once again, we have some great books to look forward to – a new William Boyd coming, a novel based on the life of Minnie Dean, a fascinating read about an assassination attempt on a member of the Nazis. Sigh ... so many good books, such little time!

Tracey, Debbie, Sharleen, Sylvia, and Gillian

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