



#### -News-

Okay – so I missed the November newsletter! Therefore, this is a November/December combined effort and whilst it is a little slim in the review department, it is because we have been really busy! The weather is muggy and the pressure to shop seems to have hit! The books that are the current big movers are as follows: Summer Houses, Stoked – Al Brown, Ripe Recipes, 1Q84 – Murakami, Rangatira – Paula Morris, The Parihaka Woman – Witi Ihimaera.

This Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December we are once again excited to have Julie Biuso at the shop. She will be here from 10.30am to 12noon and she will be showcasing her new cookbook, Sweet Feast. Rumour has it that she may even have samples of some of her recipes. If you would like to meet Julie and check out her recipes, please drop by. She is such a lovely person and it is a treat to have her back again. This book will make a great Christmas prezzie, and how special to get a signed copy!

#### -Book Reviews-

**Fall Girl** by Toni Jordan – Toni Jordan is an Australian author who writes fun and quirky romantic novels. Della is a member of a family who specialise in scams and she has targeted a handsome millionaire who has a soft spot for the Tasmanian Tiger. With a pair of serious glasses and some quick homework, she becomes Dr Ella Canfield, a bright young evolutionary biologist seeking funding for a highly unorthodox research project. Daniel Metcalf's family donate money to offbeat scientific projects. As the scam progresses, Della begins to wonder: who is scamming who? This is fun romance with an Australian slant. (Tracey)

**The Marriage Plot** by Jeffrey Eugenides – Once again, Eugenides gets inside the heads of his main characters and once again I was enthralled. America in the 1980's and while most students are rebelling against the "norm" Madeleine Hanna is writing her thesis on Jane Austen. Madeleine doesn't understand the new literature that the colleges are pushing and she longs for the lost age of romance. As she struggles with her studies, she is attracted to two quite different fellow students. Leonard Bankhead – charismatic loner, and Mitchell Grammaticus – an old friend who's reading Christian mysticism. Over the period of a year, this love triangle must face the real world and each other as they leave the hot-house environment of college. Fabulous reading. (Tracey)

**The Art Of Fielding** by Chad Harbach – Wow – this is good. Don't let the fact that it is based on college baseball put you off. I'm going to copy the blurb from the back of the book because it explains everything! "In 'The Art Of Fielding' we see young men who know that their four years on the baseball diamond at Westish College are all that remain of their sporting careers. Only the preternaturally gifted fielder, Henry Scrimshander, seems to have the chance to keep his dream alive – and theirs, vicariously – until a routine throw goes disastrously off course, and the fates of five people are upended. After that throw threatens to ruin his roommate Owen's future, Henry's fight against self-doubt threatens to ruin his; while Mike Schwartz, the team captain and Henry's best friend, realises he has guided Henry's career at the expense of his own. Keeping a keen eye on them all, college president Guert Affenlight, a longtime bachelor, falls unexpectedly and dangerously in love, much to the surprise of his daughter, Pella, who has returned to Westish after escaping an ill-fated marriage, determined to start a new life." Phew! This is stacking up to be a great summer seller. (Tracey)

***Midwinter Sacrifice*** by Mons Kallentoft, Swedish prize winning crime novelist – This story begins in the early hours of a particularly freezing night in the coldest February in recent memory. The mutilated naked body of a man is found hanging from a tree in the middle of the windswept plains outside Linköping, Sweden. Malin Fors, a talented, ambitious and unpredictable detective on the Linköping police force, is first on the scene. Together with her colleagues on the Violent Crime Squad, she must track down the identity of the man hanging in the tree, and the reason he was put there. A manhunt leads Malin into the darkest, cruellest corners of the human heart. Whilst leading the investigation Malin struggles with her personal relationships, worries about her teenage daughter, and tries to drink away her worries more than she should. This is a good crime read. (Debbie)

***Inheritance*** by Christopher Paolini – This is the fourth and final in the Inheritance series. In the first book, 'Eragon', the young farm boy discovers a dragon egg and what follows is an amazing journey as he takes on the role of Dragon Rider. 'Inheritance' has Eragon, his dragon Saphira, and the Varden getting closer to confronting the evil king, Galbatorix. Are they ready? Eragon thinks not, but there really isn't any choice. All of the characters from the first three books are here and despite this being the last in the series, Paolini leaves enough open to give us hope that he might explore these characters further at a later date. This is an amazing series that will delight and entertain readers of all ages. (Tracey)

We will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Every other day we are open for business. Our hours are Monday – Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Sundays and public holidays 10.00am to 4.00pm.

I'm still in an upbeat Christmas mood so beware – I'm playing Christmas music and loving it!

We do offer free wrapping for your parcels, but if you are in a hurry and we're busy, Red Letter Day have a gift-wrapping service for a gold coin donation as a fundraiser for the New Zealand Centre For Conservation Medicine.

The Village Christmas lights look amazing and if you haven't seen them, check them out after dark. It's always fun to bring the children down for an "aaah" moment.

Josh the cat has been hanging out with us and was even locked in last night. I arrived to find him waiting at the door. Luckily, he's well trained and I didn't have to deal with any nasty surprises! He's currently sitting on my lap as I type this.

Finally, I would wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2012. Thank you for supporting the shop in 2011 and I look forward to seeing you over the Christmas holidays.

**Tracey, Debbie, Sharleen, Sylvia, and Gillian**

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