



Hello from the Village Bookshop and welcome to our second newsletter.

**-News-**

Winner of the 2009 Man Booker:

- *Wolf Hall* – Hilary Mantel

**-Dates for your diary-**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December Julie Buiso will be signing copies of her new cookbook and hopefully sharing some samples of her fabulous new recipes.

Summer Wednesday Farmers Market starting again in November.

If you loved 'The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo' – then you'll be keen to see the movie! The movie is being released on 26<sup>th</sup> December, but The Village Bookshop is offering the opportunity to come to a preview – more details as they come to hand...

**-Preview-**

More amazing books are coming this Christmas:-

*Magpie Hall* – Rachael King

*The Lacuna* – Barbara Kingsolver (first novel in ten years)

**-Book Reviews-**

*A Week In December* by Sebastian Faulks – This story all happens in the seven days leading up to Christmas 2007. Featuring seven main characters in London – hedge-fund manager and his teenage addict son/barrister and an underground train driver/Indian chutney tycoon and his militant teenage son/cynical book reviewer.

*Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin – long-listed for the 2009 Man Booker. (I can't believe it didn't make the short list!) Eilis escapes 1950's Ireland with the help of her sister and a priest, and heads to Brooklyn where all seems new and possible. Only when an unexpected funeral draws her home does Eilis find herself seduced back into a way of life she had forgotten. Beautifully written and highly recommended.

*Cut And Run* by Alix Bosco – A fast paced thriller set in Auckland. What happens when a famous rugby star is found shot in the arms of a sexy celebrity? Fun to read with lots of Auckland landmarks featuring. Great summer read.

*Day After Night* by Anita Diamant – Intertwined lives of some young Jewish women refugees at Atlit – a British run internment camp in Palestine at the end of WWII. By the author of 'The Red Tent', this novel beautifully describes the women's feelings of courage, despair, hope and longing.

*Corvus – A Life With Birds* by Esther Woolfson – This is a delightful memoir interspersed with natural history and tells how Ester Woolfson and her family have rescued and taken in a variety of birds and how those birds have changed this family's view of the world. The rescued rook, Chicken, was only four weeks old when she came into their lives, but she was just the first of many. She was followed by some doves from a neighbour, a parrot from a pet store, a starling named Max, and a crow called Ziki. Very gentle but fascinating read.

*Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger – This is a love story set in London and featuring Highgate Cemetery. Young American twins, Julia and Valentina, are left the estate of their estranged aunt – including her London flat with the stipulation they just live alone in the flat for one year. The

girls are intrigued and make the move to London. Once there, they realize something or someone is haunting the flat. I loved the other characters in the book – Martin, a neighbour with chronic ocd and his wife Marijke, and Robert, the dead aunt’s lover.

***Wonders Of A Godless World* by Andrew McGahan** – This is a very unusual story which I loved! The Witch, The Duke, The Virgin, The Archangel and The Orphan ... and The Devil? Set on an unnamed island (which felt slightly Carribean) a mute orphan girl helps look after the insane in an old hospital when a disturbing foreigner arrives. This delves into consciousness, reality, and madness and all with an eco message!

***Small Wars* by Sadie Jones** – From the author of the amazing ‘The Outcast’, this second novel is set in 1950’s Cyprus. A young British officer is stationed there, and is joined by his wife and young children. A fascinating read about relationships/expectations/ideals, all with the ever present “British Empire” in the background.

***The Vampire Diaries – The Awakening* by L J Smith** – The vampire theme is still going strong, and this book will be coming out in movie form soon. Elena Gilbert is the popular girl at highschool and always gets what she wants until she meets the new boy, Stefan, who is hiding a deadly secret ...

***The Magician’s Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo** – This is the newest offering from the author of ‘The Tale Of Despereaux’ and ‘The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane’. Once again, I was moved to tears! This time the themes are about trusting the unexpected and making the extraordinary come true. The illustrations by Yoko Tanaka are magical and I highly recommend this stunning children’s book.

***Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins** - Part two in the Hunger Games Trilogy. Katniss and Peeta are back and The City isn’t finished with either of them. Great teen books for mature readers and number two is just as good as the first. Of course, I am desperate to read the third and final book – can’t wait!

**We hope you have enjoyed our second Newsletter - if you have any comments or suggestions for what you would like to see in these newsletters please let us know...**

**Until next time**

**Tracey & the team**