



-News-

Thank you to the people who came to the showing of 'The Help'. We raised \$250 for Rachel Basevi, who will use that money to go towards insurance for her trip to Perth for the Worlds in December. I enjoyed the movie and thought it was very true to the book. My mother and I were lucky to see a preview of the movie 'One Day' which has been a very popular book. The reviews of the movie were not entirely positive, but we both enjoyed the movie. Perhaps it helped that neither of us had read the book!

A lot of new books are arriving in-store this month as the stock builds for Christmas. I am surprised I have had time to read this many books as our family have been glued to the Rugby World Cup and it has been a pleasure to welcome the international visitors checking out Matakana.

-Book Reviews-

***The Kindness Of Your Nature* by Linda Olsson** – This is the new novel by the author of the outstanding 'Let Me Sing You Gentle Songs'. Marion is a Swedish doctor who lives on the west coast of New Zealand (somewhere south of Raglan) and when she finds a small boy on the beach she is surprised at the connection they form. As their friendship deepens, Marion thinks back to her childhood and all that has led to this lonely and isolated life. Once again Olsson successfully intertwines New Zealand and Sweden to create a beautiful and compelling story. Loved it. (Tracey)

***Once Upon A River* by Bonnie Jo Campbell** – Set in rural Michigan, sixteen-year-old Margo doesn't say much and is living with her father. Her mother left a year earlier, looking for a better life. Margo has discovered that she has an uncanny ability with a shotgun, and after she witnesses the violent death of her father, she runs away from her small town, using the river as she searches for her mother. Along the river she has to fend for herself, decide who is friend or foe and decide what path her life is going to take. This river odyssey becomes a defining journey for Margo and I thoroughly enjoyed it. (Tracey)

***The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje** – From the acclaimed author of 'The English Patient' is this new novel about a boy's life-changing journey from Ceylon to England in the 1950s. Ondaatje himself made the same journey but he has stated that this is not autobiographical. The main character, Michael, is only eleven when he boards a ship bound for England. His family have sent him to live with his mother, who he has not seen for a long time. He is travelling unaccompanied, as are two other young boys and they are left to discover all the secrets and stories of both the ship and its passengers. At mealtimes, Michael is placed at the 'Cat's Table' which is the table of least importance. As the journey progresses, he soon realises that the people he shares a table with have many interesting stories to tell. The story is told from Michael's perspective as an adult remembering this time and trying to understand how it affected the rest of his life. (Tracey)

***The Borrower* by Rebecca Makkai** – Lucy Hull, a young children's librarian in Missouri finds herself both kidnapper and kidnapped when her favourite patron, ten-year-old Ian Drake, runs away from home. Ian is running away from his evangelical parents and Pastor Bob, who Lucy suspects are trying to brainwash young Ian. Lucy initially goes along with Ian, thinking she can convince him to go home, but the longer they are gone and the further they go, she starts to realise that she is now complicit in

this escapade. Lucy uses this as an excuse to leave her own unfulfilled life and as they travel, Lucy starts to realise that she needs saving as much as Ian. (Tracey)

Oh Mexico! by Lucy Neville – Graduating from university in Australia, Lucy Neville faces a dilemma: find a job or spend a year in Mexico, the exotic land of her childhood dreams? She arrives in Mexico City with very little money and only basic Spanish. Her to-do list is simple: find a place to live, get a job and learn the language. She gets work teaching English and finds a room in an apartment in a better part of the city. We travel with Lucy as she falls in love with two men, learns the language, struggles with the fatalistic attitude of the locals, discovers street vendors selling cheap but delicious food, and the bizarre politics of Mexico. This is an entertaining look at a foreigner's life in Mexico City. (Tracey)

The Scent Of Apples by Jacquie McRae – This is a young adult novel by an author from Mangawhai and it is a superb read for teenagers and adults alike. Libby is growing up on the family orchard in the Waikato and likes nothing better than hanging out with her grandfather, learning about nature and the art of making cider. Whilst her mother seems to be eternally disappointed in her, and her father buries himself in his work, her grandparents understand and nurture Libby's love of the outdoors. Unfortunately Libby's grandfather has an accident and her life is turned upside down. With no-one to turn to, Libby begins to break down. She does however make a new friend, Charlie, at boarding school and this new friendship helps Libby understand her grief and her complicated relationship with her mother. We congratulate Jacquie on an outstanding debut novel! (Tracey)

I had an unexpected stay in hospital this past week and I would like to thank everyone who has wished me well, and especially Sharleen, Sylvia and Debbie who have run the shop seamlessly while I recovered. Thanks everyone. It does mean that I won't be doing the Auckland Half Marathon at the end of October, so if anyone wants to buy my entry at a discounted price, let me know!

Tracey, Debbie, Sharleen, Sylvia, and Gillian

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please reply with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line