



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

-News-

2009 Man Booker Shortlist:

- *The Children's Book* – A S Byatt
- *Wolf Hall* – Hilary Mantel
- *The Little Stranger* – Sarah Waters
- *Summertime* – J M Coetzee
- *The Glass Room* – Simon Mawer
- *The Quickening Maze* – Adam Foulds

-Dates for your diary-

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

The Girl Who Kicked The Hornets Nest due out on 1st October – people are ordering their copy in advance!

-Preview-

The most amazing books are coming this Christmas:-

The Wonders Of A Godless World - Andrew McGahan

Her Fearful Symmetry – Audrey Niffenegger (Time Travellers Wife)

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

Day After Night – Anita Diamant (The Red Tent)

A Week In December – Sebastian Faulks (Engleby, Birdsong etc)

Along with new books by Margaret Atwood, William Boyd and William Trevor to name a few! So much to read, so little time ...

-Book Reviews-

Dog Boy by Eva Hornung - This is a powerful story set in Moscow, of a four year old boy who has been abandoned. Starving, he follows a feral bitch back to her lair where she suckles him and accepts him as the newest member of her litter. Confronting and astonishing, this book haunted me for a very long time.

Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey - Coming of age of a boy in small town Australia, set during the Vietnam War years. Charlie is asked to help keep a secret, whilst trying to discover the truth about a shocking event, his family, his potential love interest, and small town prejudices. Charlie and his best friend Geoffrey had me laughing out loud. Absolute winner!

The Little Giant of Aberdeen County by Tiffany Baker - Narrated by a woman of giant proportions, this tale of prejudice, love, hate and redemption is a fabulous read.

Home by Marilynne Robinson - From the Pulitzer prize-winning author of Gilead. Home won the Orange Prize for 2009 and is a beautifully written novel about families, love, forgiveness and hope. Highly recommended.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett - Set in USA during racial segregation in the South, this tells the story of a small group of black women in Jackson, Mississippi, and the lives they lead whilst working for their

white families. Humorous but touching, these women showed a lot of bravery to be true to themselves.

***We Are All Made of Glue* by Marina Lewycka** - From the author of *Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, and *Two Caravans*. Georgie's life is beginning to come unstuck – her marriage has failed, her son believes Armageddon is nigh, and her job writing bulletins about glues and bonding agents is boring. She meets an elderly Jewish woman, Mrs Shapiro, who rummages through dumpsters, buys food that's past its used by date, and has many cats. Georgie starts to find life isn't as boring as it used to be. A light and enjoyable read that had me sniggering to myself the whole way through.

***Let The Great World Spin* by Colum McCann** - Fantastic book set in NYC when the Phillipe Petit walked a tightrope between the Twin Towers. All about a group of disparate people whose lives intersect, or nudge against each other and the stories come full circle. Like a book of short stories but with a common thread that pulls everything together.

***The Little Stranger* by Sarah Waters** - Shortlisted for the Booker, this is set just after WWII in England. Local boy has improved his lot by becoming a doctor but never really feels good enough. His boyhood fixation on the local "big house" is revisited when he is called upon to treat someone there. Does he fall in love with the daughter of the house, or is it the house he's after? Who or what is making ghostly appearances? A brilliant ghost story that evokes the era superbly.

***Cleo* by Helen Brown** - I used to read Helen's column in a local magazine years ago, and loved her humour and story-telling skills. In this true story, Helen tells the heart-breaking story of what happened after her son chose a kitten from a newborn litter, and one week later her son was killed in an accident. In the midst of their grief, the kitten is dropped off and Helen's younger son wants Sam's kitten to stay. Helen tells her story with great honesty and I found it to be un-put-downable. (is that a word?)

***Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel** - This is another shortlisted for the Booker. Set during the reign of Henry VIII, this is told from Thomas Cromwell's point of view. Thomas has been a loyal servant of Cardinal Wolsey, but must ultimately serve the King, who is desperate for a male heir, and wanting to cast aside Katherine to marry Anne Boleyn. A fascinating portrayal of the court machinations behind the throne.

***The Knife Of Never Letting Go* and *The Ask And The Answer* by Patrick Ness** - Numbers one and two in a fabulous trilogy set on a planet that has been colonized by humans. A teenage read that kept me reading very late as each chapter ends on a cliffhanger, as do the ends of each story. Fantastic reads for a mature teen and the author is coming to NZ early 2010. I will do whatever it takes to hear him speak!

***The Book Of A Thousand Days* by Shannon Hale** - The newest book by Shannon Hale which my ten year old daughter devoured. I enjoyed it too. "When a beautiful Lady refuses to marry the Lord her father has chosen, her father is furious. So furious he locks her in a tower with her maid." This is the story as told by the maid, and she is definitely the heroine of the hour.

***The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins** - Stunning part one in a trilogy for mature teens. A story about morality, friendship, betrayal and love. One that many of my adult customers have loved.

We hope you have enjoyed this first 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

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