

BDS Footnote

JUNE 2010 - # 5

NEWSLETTER OF THE BOOK DISCUSSION SCHEME



38 YEARS OF GOOD READING

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1 GREETINGS

We do apologise for the lack of emails this year but the development of the new computer system has prevented us from emailing all groups until now. We hope that you're enjoying your books but if you're not, please get in touch as we can review your book list with you.

2 THE SHIFT



Our shift to new premises took place in December and the staff members are now happily settled at 440 Colombo Street in Sydenham. We currently have 889 groups and approximately 9,000 members.

As you can see by the photo on the left, we have a mural on the front wall of our premises to deter graffiti – so far so good!

If you're visiting Christchurch and would like to inspect the premises, why not phone or email and let us know you're coming? We'll make sure we have the time to sit and talk with you.

3 PROMOTION OF THE BDS

Now that we've shifted to larger premises, we're able to accept even more book groups. Our aim is to promote the love of books by lending books and discussion notes to groups and of course we also think book groups are a great way for people to get together with their friends.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in starting a group, please refer them to us – we'd like to introduce as many people as possible to book groups.

If new members join your group through the year, the subscription works out at \$6 per book for the remainder of your group's subscription year.

4 RETURNING BOOKS

Return Address for the Books

Books are still being returned to our previous address, particularly individual books, so can you please advise your members of our new address? We are stamping all books with our new address but there are 32,000 books to stamp, so it won't be finished for a few weeks yet.

The address is:

440 Colombo Street, Sydenham, Christchurch 8023

Please Do Not Use Newspaper to Wrap Books

Some groups are wrapping their books in newspaper when returning them to us. While we appreciate that you're trying to protect the books, we'd be grateful if you don't use newspaper. The print rubs off on the books and they're very grubby by the time we receive them.

5 OFFICIAL OPENING OF OUR NEW BUILDING

The official opening of our new building was held on 5 May and we were delighted to have approximately 100 convenors and friends join us for the occasion. Barbara Hutchinson, President of the FWEA (our parent body), and Murray Jones, the BDS Chairperson, welcomed participants and Joe Bennett, the English-born author and columnist, was kind enough to be the guest speaker – he was a great success.

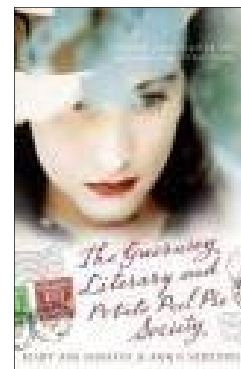
6 WEBSITE

I hope you have logged on to our upgraded website. You have the ability to view your book-list and make changes to it and to see when your books have been despatched. The Catalogue is now on-line and you can view all titles including the titles that will be in the 2011 Catalogue. Work on the website will continue and we hope that groups will be able to re-enrol on-line at the end of the year, should you wish to do so.

7 YOUR BOOK CHOICES

You may be interested to know which titles other groups hope to read. According to your book-lists, the hottest titles in 2010 are:

Title	No. of Groups Requesting the Title
Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society, The	389
Three Cups of Tea	370
Coroner's Lunch, The	340
Lottery	296
Book Thief, The	285
Engleby	271
Other Side of the Bridge, The	249
Dreams From My Father	243
Is She Still Alive?	237
Child of Tibet	233



8 WHAT'S HOT IN 2010

Have you visited the BDS website www.bds.org.nz to check 'What's Hot'? We include feedback from the groups to help you with your book selections. Please keep in mind that your book choices can be changed at any time through the year so if you want to add or remove titles, either visit the website, or get in touch with us as we're happy to help.

9 2011 CATALOGUE

While the Catalogue can be viewed online, the familiar complimentary Catalogue will continue to be sent to groups with the re-enrolments packs. The 2011 Catalogue will have an identifier to advise groups which titles have a slightly larger font size and which have bad language, sexual content or violence.

If you thought one of the titles was objectionable in any way, perhaps you could let us know?

10 NEW BOOKS ON THE SHELF – AVAILABLE NOW

Some of the new titles in the 2011 Catalogue are now available and can be added to your book lists. You can do this either by logging on to the website or getting in touch with us. Titles available include:

The 10 PM Question (Kate De Goldi)

The secrets of young Frankie's family are gradually revealed, focusing on an ill mother for whom he feels over-protective. Frankie's friends and family members are all depicted with sympathy and humour and each has a part to play in Frankie's unfolding crisis and subsequent healing.

Comments from BDS Reviewers:

"Frankie is an endearing hero as are his best friends, Gigs and Sydney. He is guileless and innocent yet also very aware of the unspoken difficulties within his family."

"This delightful book portrays, in mostly humorous ways, the difficulties Frankie has coming to terms with his mother's illness along with his own anxieties establishing himself as his own person."



NZ Fiction



The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Stieg Larsson)

A member of the powerful Vanger family went missing 40 years ago as a 14 year-old. Her uncle has always believed that another family member murdered her even though a body was never found. A troubled financial journalist (Mikael) and a tattooed computer hacker (Lisbeth) investigate the mystery. This book has a bit of everything – murder mystery, family saga, love story, financial intrigue and also a bit of violence.

Comments from BDS Reviewers:

"A rattling good yarn. Pacy, intricate and definitely a page-turner. A fun read."

"Fantastic way in which the writer introduces characters and themes. His characters are all imperfect, complex and intriguing with their stories told in an engaging way."

"This is a book that I've been thinking about a lot – long after I read it. I do wonder what made Lisbeth the way she is."



Fiction



The Help (Kathryn Stockett)

Fiction

This book is set in Mississippi in the 1960s and is an intriguing exposé of the lives of black maids and the white women they wait on.

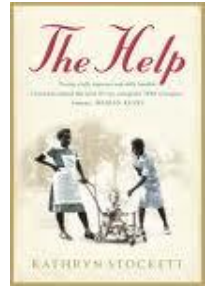
A must-read for those who are looking for a lighter style of reading on a serious subject.

Comments from BDS Reviewers:

“It is a great read (ie, easy and compelling) but it is also well written and thoroughly researched. There is enough mystery to keep you reading plus plenty of well-rounded characters, black and white. It is also a painless history lesson.”

“Excellent and likeable characters. Good story line, suspense and humour. Very easy to read and kept this reader interested.”

“Great! A real page-turner. Loved it.”



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Shadow of the Wind (Carlos Ruiz Zafon)

Fiction

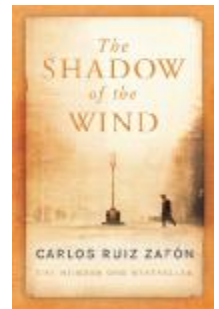
It's 1945 in Barcelona and young Daniel is mourning his mother. To comfort him, Daniel's father suggests that he adopt a book forgotten by the world. Daniel makes a marvellous choice and then searches for other books written by the same author. Eventually he comes to realise that he has the only book ever written by the author – someone has been destroying every book that the author has written and they're after the book that Daniel is protecting – and they're deadly serious!

Comments from BDS Reviewers:

“This is the most amazing book I have read in many years. The book is magic personified.”

“Absolutely gripping read. The range of human experience and emotion courses through this novel. Well written. A can't-put-it-down read.”

“This is a splendid read. The plot line bursts with ideas and is full of richly developed and fascinating characters.”



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Someone Knows My Name (Lawrence Hill)

Fiction

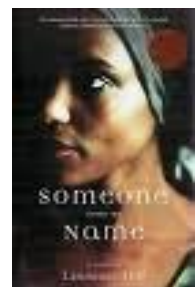
Aminata is snatched from her African village as an 11 year old and sold as a slave. The book spans three continents and more than 60 years – we learn what it was like to live as a slave with one's heart fixed firmly on freedom.

Comments from BDS Reviewers:

“Outstandingly well-researched so that the events described ring true, whether in London, Guinea, US or Canada.”

“This is a captivating, engaging and memorable story that was delicious to savour.”

“Good portrayal of the African people and what they went through – slave owners having such power and using terrible punishment.”



11 IS YOUR GROUP LOOKING FOR MEMBERS?

If your group is looking for new members let us know – either by way of the website, a phone call or an email. Your group will then appear on our website showing that you're looking for members – but don't worry, there won't be any spam. People interested in joining your group will contact us first and we in turn advise them of the convenor's name and phone number.

12 PHOTOS OF YOUR GROUPS

We love to hear from you – it's great to receive feedback on books, news of what is happening in your groups, or what books you think would be good for the Scheme. We like to post group photos on the website, so why not take a photo of your group and send it to us electronically? Drop us a line to go with the photo and you'll find yourself on the website.

As encouragement we are offering a lovely book to the first group to send us an electronic photo of their group. The book is too large for the scheme, but it's a great book – *New York* by Edward Rutherford. We look forward to hearing from you!

13 NEW AWARD FOR UNPUBLISHED WRITERS OF TEEN FICTION

Harper Collins and the Storylines Trust have announced a new annual award on the children's literary scene – the Storylines Tessa Duder Award for unpublished writers of fiction for young adults. Entries for the inaugural award close on 31 October and the winner will receive \$1500 and the possibility of a publishing contract with HarperCollins Publishers. Full details are www.storylines.org.nz/Awards.html

BDS Footnote

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BDS Sub Committee: Murray Jones (chair), Barbara Hutchinson (FWEA Chair), Beth Davies, Bill Hardie, Karen Wilyams, Barbara Brown (Manager)

www.bds.org.nz

The Book Discussion Scheme is a member of the Federation of Workers Education Association in Aotearoa New Zealand/Te Whetereihana o nga Kaimahi Akoranga o Aotearoa