



WORDS BY THE WATER

The Drury Lane Books Newsletter

Vol. 14, May 2010

TALKING BOOKS:

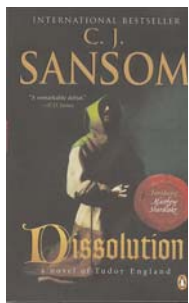


Bewildered by Bruce Stahly

Why do we read? Why do we enjoy stories? Why did the Mayans develop beautiful hieroglyphs that depict detailed narrations? What was (and is) the appeal of **Beowulf**, and the elaborate story-telling traditions of indigenous peoples? Here is Henry James' view, from the preface of one of his minor novels:

It seems probable that if we were never bewildered there would never be a story to tell about us; we should partake of the superior nature of the all-knowing immortals whose annals are dreadfully dull so long as humans are not mixed up with them.

James could be dense and indirect, but he was always perceptive. Every day, I wander in and out of bewilderment—I suspect that I am not unique to this condition. The more I read, the more I realize that James was absolutely correct: we read stories to experience the bewildering variety of the human story.



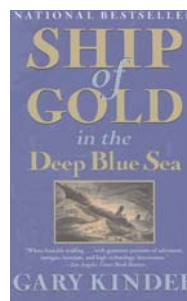
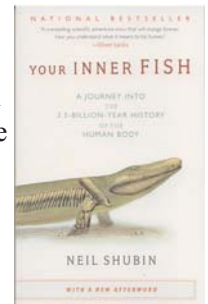
Mysteries perhaps provide the most obvious example: a crime is committed, motives and perpetrators are obscure, and a sense of confusion ensues. The reader is bewildered, along with the characters in the story. In C. J. Sansom's series (**Dissolution**, **Dark Fire**, **Sovereign**, and **Revelation**), Shardlake, the principal character, is often in a confused and bewildered state, puzzling out crimes while trying to keep

his head firmly attached to his body—no easy task in the Tudor times in which the stories are set. Shardlake and the reader are truly bewildered, but it is the working out of this bewilderment that makes the books so



appealing. Kate Atkinson's series of mystery novels (**Case Histories**, **One Good Turn**, and **When Will There Be Good News?**) are also excellent examples. They feature Jackson Brodie as an often-perplexed private detective attempting to solve brutal, senseless crimes, and at the same time retain his basic humanity in this bewildering world.

Yes, I am often bewildered—even if I don't know it. Non-fiction books, with their fact-based perspectives, help ease my bewilderment. The book **In the Wake of the Plague**, by Norman F. Cantor, helped me to understand the historical and social context of the Black Death, and to understand how its consequences are with us even today. **Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body**, by Neil Shubin, is a fresh, readable exploration of how the results of Darwinian evolution are inside all of us.



One of my favorite non-fiction books is **Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea**, by Gary Kinder, which tells the dual stories of a ship lost in an 1857 hurricane, and

the late-20th-Century efforts to salvage the treasure of gold that it carried. The terrors of the passengers on the ship and the technological struggles to salvage it are combined in an elucidating and entertaining way. **The Mind of the Raven**, by Bernd Heinrich, is a thought-provoking book about the bewildering natural world, in this case, the common raven: a book that will change the way you perceive those fascinating birds.

2010 Writing Workshops

Sharon Chmielarz, July 12–16

William Kent Krueger, August 16–20

Details inside.

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What Burns Inside You (Poetry)

with Sharon Chmielarz
July 12–16, 2010

What Burns Inside You?* Whatever it is, it's the stuff of poetry. It's what makes for a knockout poem. This workshop will be a journey of discovery. We'll use the three r's as guideposts: reading, 'riting and revision. During the workshop we'll compare pre-published poems from my work to the published poem and we'll practice the revision process on poems participants bring to workshop. We'll take an idea, line, or stanza you've floundered on and show how to present it in a whole new light: the one that illuminates what lies beneath the words, thus releasing the poem's true emotion. Bring a notepad or laptop and poems you've already written, and prepare to be amazed.



*Muriel Rukeyser

Sharon Chmielarz has been a finalist in the National Poetry Series and had poems nominated for a Pushcart in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2007. Her collections include **The Rhubarb King, The Other Mozart, But I Won't Go Out in a Boat, Different Arrangements,** and **Stranger in Her House.**

Two new books are forthcoming in 2010. Her poems have been published in *The Iowa Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *Salmagundi*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Margie*, *Commonweal*, and several other literary magazines. They've been translated into French and Polish, and appear in anthologies including *To Sing Along the Way* and *When One Voice Ends, Another Begins*. She's taught at the Loft, the Grand Marais Arts Colony, Banfill Locke Center for the Arts, and other venues.

The staff at Drury Lane Books are happy to take orders for books through the mail, internet or over the telephone. Arrange to pick them up at the store or have them shipped direct to your home.

Unraveling the Mystery of Fiction

with William Kent Krueger
August 16–20, 2010

This course is designed to appeal to writers in the early-to-mid stages of their development. It will cover writing fiction from idea to publication. We'll examine the elements of a good story, such as beginnings, endings, plot, narrative, character, and suspense. There will be lots of in-class exercises and discussion. The aim will be to explore fiction writing in a way that's both entertaining and enlightening.

William Kent Krueger is author of the Cork O'Connor mystery series, set in the great Northwoods of Minnesota. His work has been optioned for film, translated into more than a dozen languages, and won multiple awards, including the Minnesota Book Award, the Northeast Minnesota Book Award, the Anthony Award for Best Novel, the Friends of American Writers Prize, and the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award. He lives in St. Paul and writes all his novels in a local coffee shop.



WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Schedule: Courses run 9–1 Monday–Friday, concluding with participant readings Friday at 7 p.m. One-to-ones are scheduled individually with course instructor.

Location: Workshops are held in the conference room of the East Bay Suites, across the street from the bookstore on the scenic East Bay of Lake Superior in Grand Marais.

Cost for each workshop is \$350. Please arrange your own accommodation.

Advance registration is required.

Contact the store for a brochure.

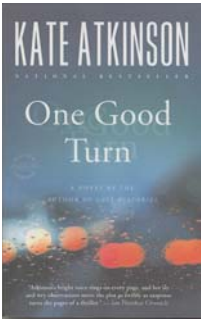
For more information call Drury Lane Books at 218-387-3370 or 888-887-3370, or email us at drurylanebooks@boreal.org, or go to <http://www.drurylanebooks.com>

STAFF RECOMMENDS

Joan Drury

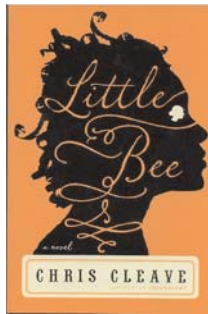
Oh no! It's that time of year again. How do I pick three books to recommend when there are so many good ones? Well, a nice problem, I guess.

The Bell, by Iris Murdoch, is beautifully written and accessible, its characters realistically drawn. Its focus is life and religion, and how the two intersect. A stunning book about the frailties of the human condition. A real pleasure to read.

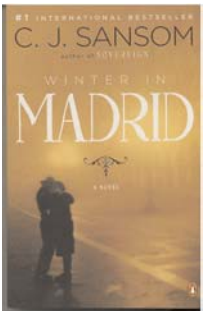


In **One Good Turn**, author Kate Atkinson uses her superb writing skills—specifically her unique style of delving into deep back-story—to unfold a literary mystery. More of a novel than a formulaic mystery, this book heralds the return of Jackson Brodie—a very authentic, extremely likeable, good man. Truly worth reading.

I can tell you little about **Little Bee**, because author Chris Cleave begs readers not to tell the details. I can tell you it's a wonderful, heartbreaking story. It's about people—and how that's all that matters. I loved this book.



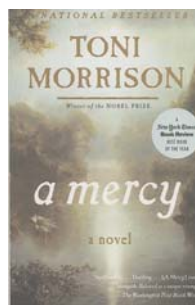
Lee Stewart



In **Winter in Madrid**, by C.J. Sansom, Harry Brett becomes a spy for the British in 1940 and is sent to Madrid to discover secrets about his boyhood friend Sandy Forsythe. There are wonderful sub-plots and characters: Barbara, a Red Cross nurse; Bernie, a public school friend of Harry; and Sandy, a classmate of Harry and Bernie. The author captures the atmosphere of post-Civil War Spain during

World War II and the city of Madrid.

My favorite Toni Morrison novel, **A Mercy**, is set in the late 1600s. This beautiful and tragic story, a prelude to **Beloved**, focuses on the women associated with the planter Jacob Vaark: his wife, Rebekka; Lina and Sorrow; and Florens, a slave girl whom Vaark accepts as partial payment for a debt. Florens' separation from her mother is the key event in this many-layered story.

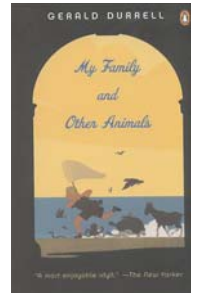


In **The Dirt on Clean: An Unsanitized History**, author Katherine Ashenburg takes us on a tour of attitudes about hygiene throughout the centuries. She answers many fascinating questions about cleanliness and bathing. This book is intriguing and humorous, revealing a lot about our intimate selves, what we desire, ignore and fear.

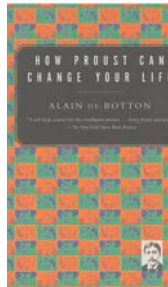
Bruce Stahly

The Egyptologist, by Arthur Phillips, is a hilarious novel about mankind's quixotic quest for immortality. An English digger goes to Egypt in 1922 to search for the treasure tomb of an elusive lost king, who had a penchant for erotic hieroglyphs. A pair of murders, madness, and an unconventional narrative style contribute to the fun of this lively book.

Another funny book about innocents abroad is **My Family and Other Animals**, by Gerald Durrell, a memoir of the time his family spent on Corfu in the 1930s. Almost on a whim, Durrell's family escaped the bleak English climate and settled in sunny Corfu. Durrell's account of his eccentric mother and siblings is combined with interesting asides on the natural wonders of the island.



How Proust Can Change Your Life, by Alain de Botton, is a light-hearted self-help book describing how Marcel Proust, consummate tea-drinker and time-traveler, can help improve various aspects of our lives. With chapter titles such as "How to Take Your Time" and "How to Suffer Successfully," the author has created a witty self-improvement book like no other—one that is almost tongue-in-cheek yet provides plenty of useful insights.



*"When I get a little money
I buy books;
and if any is left
I buy food and clothes."*

Erasmus

EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2010

MAY

Store Hours, May 1– 27:
**Monday, Tuesday &
Thursday 11–4;**
Closed Wednesday;
Friday and Saturday 10–5;
Sunday 11–4

Wednesday, May 26,
6:30 p.m. - **Women's Book
Group** discusses **Quicksand**,
by Nella Larsen.

Thursday, May 27, 5 p.m. - **Full Moon
Reading** - featuring **Bob Carter**.

Store Hours
Friday, May 28 – Friday, June 12:
Monday–Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4

**8th Annual Memorial Weekend
SALE May 28–31,
50% OFF A LARGE
SELECTION OF BOOKS**

Sat., May 29, 11 a.m. - **Muffin Man**
5 p.m. - **Salon**, featuring **Margot
Fortunato Galt & Suzanne Swanson**
of the Laurel Poetry Collective.

**Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day
Hours 10–4**

JUNE

Saturdays in June, 11 am - **Muffin Man**

Summer Hours begin Sat., June 12:
Monday–Saturday 10–8,
Sunday 10–4

Saturday, June 12, 5 p.m. - **Salon** -
Patricia Hampl reads from **The
Florist's Daughter**.

Wednesday, June 23, 6:30 p.m. -
Women's Book Group

Saturday, June 26, 5 p.m. - **Salon/Full
Moon** - author **Steve Dahl** reads from
his book **Knife Island**.

Salons feature an author reading their work and discussing
reading and writing with the audience.
Full Moon Readings are held on the North Shore of Lake
Superior around the fire (if weather permits).
The Muffin Man reads stories to children.
Women's Book Group: Call 387-3370 for title,
read the book, and join the discussion.

JULY

Saturdays in July, 11 a.m. - **Muffin Man**

Sunday, July 4 - Store Hours 10–4

Saturday, July 10, 5 p.m. - **Salon-**
Erin Hart reads from her novel,
False Mermaid.

Monday, July 12 – Friday, July 16 -
Summer Poetry Writing Workshop
- What Burns Inside You, with
Sharon Chmielarz.

Friday, July 16, 7 p.m. - **Poetry
Reading**, featuring writing workshop
participants.

Saturday, July 24, 5 p.m. - **Salon** -
Poets **Ellie Schoenfeld** and **Debra
Gordon Cooper** read their work.

Sunday, July 25, 7:30–9 p.m. -
Full Moon Music Event featuring
Critter du Jour.

Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 p.m. -
Women's Book Group

AUGUST

Saturday, August 14, 21, and 28 -
Muffin Man at 11 a.m.

Saturday, August 14, 5 p.m. - **Salon** -
Poet **Jill Breckenridge** reads from her
collection **The Gravity of Flesh**.

Monday- Friday, August 16 - 20 -
Summer Fiction Writing Workshop
- Unraveling the Mystery of Fiction,
with **William Kent Krueger**.

Friday, August 20, 7 p.m. - **Fiction
Reading**, featuring writing workshop
participants.

Tuesday, August 24, 5 p.m. -
Full Moon Reading featuring
Julie Goldstein.

Wednesday, August 25, 6:30
p.m. - **Women's Book Group**

Saturday, August 28, 5 p.m. -
Salon - Poet **Joanne Hart** reads
from **Witch Tree**.

SEPTEMBER

Saturdays in Sept., 11 a.m. - **Muffin Man**

Autumn hours begin Tuesday, Sept. 7:
**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
& Saturday 10–5;**
Sunday 10–4; Closed Wednesday

Saturday, September 11, 5 p.m. - **Salon** -
Poet **Kay Grindland** reads new work.

Wednesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m. -
Women's Book Group.

Thursday, September 23, 5 p.m. - **Full
Moon Reading** featuring **Tim Young**.

Saturday, September 25, 5 p.m. - **Salon** -
Julie Landsman reads from her memoir
**Growing Up White: A Veteran Teacher
Reflects on Racism**.

OCTOBER

October hours begin Monday, Oct. 4:
Monday & Thursday 11–4,
Friday & Saturday 10–5, Sunday 11–4,
Closed Tuesday and Wednesday

Saturdays in Oct., 11 a.m. - **Muffin Man**

Saturday, October 16, 5 p.m. - **Salon** -
Poet **Louis Jenkins** reads from his new
collection **Before You Know It: Prose
Poems 1970–2005**.

October 22–24 - **Moose Madness**
Friday, October 22, 5 p.m. - **Full Moon
Reading** - featuring **Tom McCann**.

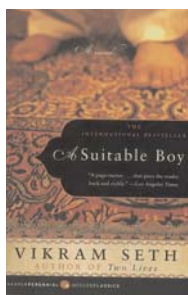
Sat., October 23, 1–2 pm - **Moose-a-Rama**
with the **Muffin Man** - stories and games.

Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 p.m. -
Women's Book Group.

Store hours beginning November 1:
Thursday–Monday 11–4,
Closed Tuesday and Wednesday

All events take place at Drury Lane Books unless otherwise noted. Call 387-3370 or 888-887-3370 or check our website (www.drurylanebooks.com) for later additions.

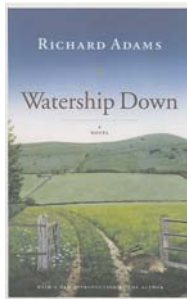
Talking Books: Bewildered *continued from page 1*



Works of fiction provide a bewildering range of characters and situations, and the following are some of my favorites that seem to me to illustrate Henry James' point. **A Suitable Boy**, by Vikram Seth, the longest novel (over 1,400 pages) ever published in one volume in English, traces the emotional journey of an Indian girl from late adolescence to womanhood, as she attempts to navigate the traditional expectations of her family and her culture. E.M. Forster's classic **A Passage to India** documents the

inevitable cultural clash that ensues when a buttoned-down English woman encounters the bewildering sounds, sights, aromas and passions of India.

On a lighter note, **Watership Down**, Richard Adams' fantasy about rabbit life in the English countryside, is proof that bewilderment is not a state exclusive to homo sapiens, as the rabbits struggle with inexplicable changes to their way of life. Although this fable has been around for many years, it remains charming and delightful. Equally enjoyable are Barbara Pym's slender and ironic novels. **An Unsuitable Attachment** and **A Few Green Leaves**, among others, are subtle, gently comic portraits of everyday men and women whose humanity shines through despite their often bewildered state. They are perfect examples of why we read: to see ourselves, to understand ourselves and our role in this perplexing, confusing, bewildering world.



Author Cathy Wurzer visits with local poet Joanne Hart at a Salon last summer. Join us for an inspiring and entertaining Salon with a featured author. We've got a full schedule planned, including one with Joanne Hart on August 28th!

WHAT BOOK GROUPS IN COOK COUNTY ARE READING

Women's Book Group

Allegra Maud Goldman by Edith Konecky
Tales of a Female Nomad by Rita Golden Gelman
Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

No Guilt Book Group

Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson
Five Quarters of the Orange by Joanne Harris

The Bookies

Lessons before Dying by Ernest J Gaines
Saturday by Ian McEwan
Booksellers of Kabul by Asne Seierstad

Care Center Book Group

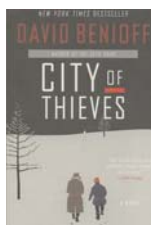
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Woman of the Boundary Waters by Justine Kerfoot
Country Doctor's Casebook by Roger MacDonald

Avid Readers Book Group

Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway
Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros
Passing by Nella Larsen

We Like to Read Book Group

The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova
City of Thieves by David Benioff
Team of Rivals by Doris Kern Goodwin



Whole Lot of Women Wine and Words

The Help by Kathryn Stockett
The Crowning Glory of Calla Lily Ponder
by Rebecca Wells
Champ by Marsha Thornton Jones

Boundary Readers Book Group

Bleak House, Little Dorrit, Hard Times
by Charles Dickens
Sarah's Key by Tatiana De Rosnay
True History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey

No Name Book Group

Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond
Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
Dracula by Bram Stoker

All Things Tudor Readers

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel
Dissolution, Dark Fire by C.J. Sansom
Thomas Cranmer: A Life by Diarmaid MacCulloch

Pincushion Book Group

Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh
West with the Night by Beryl Markham
A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry



DRURY LANE BOOKS

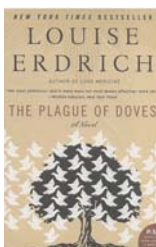
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Best Sellers at Drury Lane Books 2009-2010

Fiction

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played with Fire by Stieg Larsson
Silent Words, Closed in Silence,
Those Jordan Girls by Joan Drury
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Schaffer and Annie Barrows
The Elegance of the Hedgehog
by Muriel Barbery
New Moon, Twilight by Stephenie Meyer
Heaven's Keep, Red Knife, Boundary Waters by William Kent Krueger
Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
The Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich
The Book Thief by Marcus Zuzak
Antler Bear Canoe by Betsy Bowen
The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown
A Thousand Splendid Suns
by Khaled Hosseini
Letters From Yellowstone
by Diane Smith



Non-fiction

Tales of the Road: Highway 61 by Cathy Wurzer
Rock Pickers Guide to Lake Superior and the North Shore
by Mark Stensaas
Wildflowers of the Boundary Waters by Betty Vos Hemstad
Lake Superior Rocks and Minerals Guide by Bob Lynch
Superior Artisans by Cameron Norman
Tree Spirited Woman by Colleen Baldrice
The Best Casserole Book Ever by Beatrice Ojakangas
Becoming a Boundary Waters Family by Kelly Dupre
Fascinating Fungi of the North Woods
by Cora Mollen and Larry Weber
Story of Coast Guard Point by Harry Drabik
Minong: The Good Place—Ojibwe and Isle Royal
by Tim Cochrane
A Taste of the Gunflint Trail by Women of the Gunflint Trail
Birds of Minnesota Field Guide, Mammals of Minnesota Field Guide by Stan Tekiela
Dogspell by Mary Ellen Ashcroft
Hanging On by Harry Drabik
Critters by Ann E. McCarthy
Treasures: Minnesota's North Shore and the Gunflint Trail by Jim Cordes

