

Barnes Literary Society – March event with Harriett Gilbert

Suggestions from members' for 'A Good Read'

Author & Title: Brook, Rhidian – Aftermath

Reason: Post-war story with a different slant based on writer's family history

Author & Title: Bryson, Bill – A Small Island

Reason: Very interesting and entertaining. Very good humour. Good American views of British way of life. Values the things we take for granted.

Author & Title: Davis, Wade – Into the Silence

Reason: The most fascinating story of original Everest expedition ever written – took 10 years

Author & Title: De Ferrante, Elena – My Brilliant Friend

Reason: First in a trio of books about the lifelong friendship of 2 girls from a tough neighbourhood in Naples. (A lot of mystery surrounds the author who refuses publicity. It is not clear, in spite of her name, if she is even a woman.)

Author & Title: Di Rollo, Elaine – A Proper Education for Girls

Reason: (Not provided)

Author & Title: Faulks, Sebastian – The Girl at the Lion D'Or

Reason: Before famous with Birdsong. Wonderful evocation of provincial France between wars – like reading Flaubert in translation and paints a contemporary history – fascinating!

Author & Title: Ghosh, Amitav – Sea of Poppies

Reason: It is a wonderful saga, with a colourful cast of characters who stay with you long afterwards. Ghosh enjoys linguistic gymnastics with his use of local Hindi slang – a great book!

Author & Title: Hastings, Max – Catastrophe

Reason: Good basic explanation of First World War start.

Author & Title: Kazan, Elia – The Arrangement

Reason: Don't be put off by the lurid cover! One of my desert island books read and re-read.

Author & Title: Marquez, Gabriel Garcia – Love in the Time of Cholera

Reason: (Not provided)

Author & Title: McCann, Colm – Let the Great World Spin

Reason: Best writer I've come across for a long time. Truly brilliant and seemingly little known relatively speaking.

Author & Title: Seth, Vikram – A Suitable Boy

Reason: A mother sets out to find her daughter a husband. The book addresses many issues: political, religion, culture, caste system and family. I just loved it especially as it is set in India. VS plans to bring out 'A Suitable Girl' in 2016 – might be interesting for discussion.

Author & Title: Wipple, Dorothy – They were Sisters

Reason: A forgotten author beautifully restored by Persephone Books. Published 1943, set in the 30s and deals with complex themes (domestic violence amongst others) in a restrained but powerful way.

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Harriett herself mentioned that she liked **Molly Keane *Good Behaviour*** (a black comedy in an Anglo Irish family) and ***A High Wind in Jamaica*** by **Richard Hughes** (a dark tale of children's bad behaviour).