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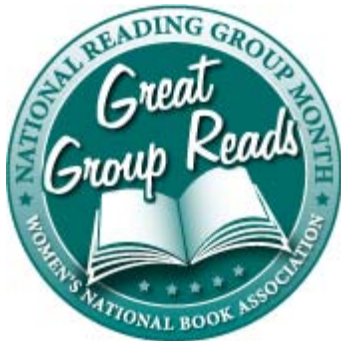
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NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION



National Reading Group Month Announces the 2010 Great Group Reads

NEW YORK — September 13, 2010 — The National Reading Group Month Selection Committee has chosen 13 books, 12 novels and one memoir, as this year's Great Group Reads. The books are:

Blame by Michelle Huneven (Picador)

The Blessings of the Animals by Katrina Kittle (Harper Perennial)

Cheap Cabernet: A Friendship by Cathie Beck (Voice)

Eternal on the Water by Joseph Monninger (Gallery Books)

The Girl Who Fell from the Sky by Heidi W. Durrow (Algonquin Books)

Little Bee by Chris Cleave (Simon & Schuster Paperbacks)

The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli (St. Martin's Press)

Molly Fox's Birthday by Deirdre Madden (Picador)

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender (Doubleday)

The Queen of Palmyra by Minrose Gwin (Harper Perennial)

Room by Emma Donoghue (Little, Brown)

Safe from the Sea by Peter Geye (Unbridled Books)

Up from the Blue by Susan Henderson (Harper Paperbacks)

These titles were selected on the basis of their appeal to reading groups for whom they are bound to open up lively conversations about a host of timely and provocative topics, from the intimate dynamics of family and personal relationships to major cultural and world issues. The Committee also made a conscious decision to focus its attention on under-represented gems from small presses and lesser-known mid-list releases from larger houses. All are books

with strong narratives peopled by fully realized characters; books which perhaps have flown under the radar of reviewers and reading groups overwhelmed by the sheer number of new releases each year.

Selection Committee coordinator Rosalind Reisner puts it this way: *“Building on the success of the first year of Great Group Reads, our 2010 list is filled with titles that are lively, thought-provoking, and diverse—a great resource for book discussion groups. GGR will help passionate readers find those great gems of mid-list fiction and nonfiction that may be overlooked in the clamor over the bestsellers. Our committee of readers has been a vital part of this process, sharing their thoughts and insights and helping to make our final selections. They come from around the country; their love of reading and their experiences in the book world as writers, reviewers, librarians, booksellers, publicists, and committed readers has made our conversations about these books thoughtful, intelligent and wide-ranging.”* Ms. Reisner also was one of 14 selectors, all of whom praise the process and the choices made. According to her colleague, Fran Cohen, *“As a professional book discussion facilitator, I’m always looking for new suggestions and I was delighted to explore this broad range of writers to find new gems. The community, camaraderie and thoughtful, varied opinions offered in our interactive blog added to the joy of the experience.”* Another Committee member, Sally Brewster of Park Road Books adds, *“The ‘Great Group Reads’ is a wonderful resource for any bookseller, librarian, book club member or anyone who loves to read. Wonderful books that make great discussion are brought to light by this valuable program.”* (A full list of Selection Committee members can be found at the National Reading Group Month Web site. (www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/ggr_committee.html))

The National Reading Group Month chair Jill A. Tardiff thanks the Committee for its hard work and all the publishers who submitted titles and made reading copies available. Ms. Tardiff says, *“We hope that these wonderful titles become reading group staples and that booksellers and libraries across America feature them during month of October, which is, of course, National Reading Group Month.”* She continues, *“To that end, we are providing an array of professionally designed display materials such as shelf-talkers and table-top posters on the National Reading Group Month Web site for anyone to download and use in promoting these titles. We encourage visiting the site for these and other features, as well as links to further resources.”*

See National Reading Group Month Marketing Toolkit at Get Involved www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/involved.html.

National Reading Group Month is an initiative of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA). Founded in 1917, WNBA promotes literacy, a love of reading, and women's roles in the community of the book.

National Reading Group Month 2010 Official Sponsors:

Official 2010 National Reading Group Month Sponsors include HarperCollins Publishers and its imprints Avon A, Harper Paperbacks, and Harper Perennial, Hyperion/Voice, Simon & Schuster, and Unbridled Books.

NRGM has special partnerships with Book Group Buzz—A Booklist Blog, Reading Group Choices, and Reading Group Guides, as well as with the American Booksellers Association IndieBound program (“White Box” mailing).

National Reading Group Month Great Group Reads logo designed by Susan Vianna, Fishergate Inc., Chester, MD.

Further information is available at:

www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org, www.wnba-books.org

Women's National Book Association, P.O. Box 237, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-0231; (212) 208-4629

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