

New Author Conversations Start Soon

**Prestigious Book
Awards**
November 2007

Dear Charlie,

Invite an author to join you at your next book group gathering, discuss the books winning international acclaim from the world's most prestigious literary judges, suggest the next discussible read for your group - and do it all in this month's **Reading Group Choices** Newsletter!

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Prestigious Prizes | Discussible Books

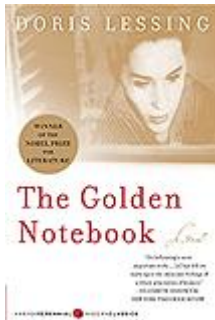
Author Conversations Are Easy & Fun!



Did you ever want to ask an author how a character was created? Discuss the author's intent by having the story told in the third person? Find out what the author's next project is?

Well now, maybe you can! All your group needs is to read the book, have a speaker phone, and let the chat begin!

Esther from **The Open Door Bookstore Reading Group** writes to **Reading Group Choices**, "I've been meaning to write to you to tell you what a wonderful time we had talking to Hugh Nissenson about his book, ***The Days of Awe***. That was the best



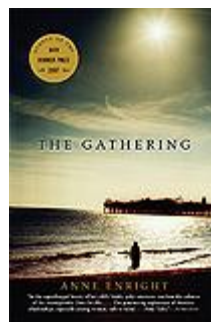
On October 11th, The Swedish Academy announced Doris Lessing as the recipient of the 2007 Nobel Prize of Literature. Following the prize's announcement, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy Horace Engdahl said "She is one of the few writers who have had the courage to uphold the principle of equality between the male and female experience, and she has given the impulse to numbers of other women writers. And she is really the mother of a school that is one of the most important in our contemporary literature." At 87, Doris Lessing is the oldest Nobel Literature laureate since the first prizes were awarded in 1901.

Perhaps Lessing's most famous novel is **The Golden Notebook**, which was first published in 1962 and has since become a feminist classic. "The burgeoning feminist movement saw it as a pioneering work, and it belongs to the handful of books that inform the 20th century view of the male-female relationship," the academy said in its citation announcing the prize. **The Golden Notebook** presents the crisis of a woman novelist, Anna Wulf, suffering from writer's block. Immensely self-analytical, she seeks to probe her disorderly life by keeping four different colored notebooks recalling the various years and emotions of her life. As the separate lines of plot development progress toward resolution, Anna integrates her fragmented experiences and unifies the separate threads of her writing into a single golden notebook.

Read this classic and share your thoughts of feminism now and then with your reading group!

Enter To Win A FREE copy!

On October 16th, Anne Enright was named the winner of the 2007 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for **The Gathering**. The chair of the judges, Howard Davies, said: "**The Gathering** is an unflinching look at a grieving family. It's the bleakness of one



author chat we've ever had and we were 'high' on the experience for a long time afterwards. Thank you so much for arranging it."

Having the author discuss her/his ideas about their book makes the work come alive. Your group might go away from the conversation having a different perspective and opinion of the book. To schedule one for your group, please **review the authors that are available** to chat and then **fill out the Author Conversation Form**.

Scheduling for Author Conversations for 2008 begins in December.

Tips For A Successful Author Conversation

woman's vision, a bleakness rooted in her family, her marriage and the death of her brother." A dazzling writer of international stature, Anne Enright is one of Ireland's most singular voices. Now she delivers ***The Gathering***, a return to an intimate canvas and a moving, evocative portrait of a large Irish family haunted by the past. As Enright traces the line of betrayal and redemption through three generations, she tells a story about love and disappointment, about how fate is written in the body, not in the stars. Colm Toibin, author of *The Master* and *Mothers and Sons* says "Anne Enright's style is as sharp and brilliant as Joan Didion's; the scope of her understanding is as wide as Alice Munro's; her sympathy for her characters is as tender and subtle as Alice McDermott's; her vision of Ireland is as brave and original as Edna O'Brien's. ***The Gathering* is her best book."**

See if you feel the same way as you discuss this award-winning novel.

Enter To Win A FREE Copy!

The **International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award** is the largest and most international prize of its kind. It involves libraries from all corners of the globe and is open to books written in any language. Among the 2008 longlist nominations, eleven are **Reading Group Choices'** selections: ***The Echo Maker, Unconfessed, The Madonnas of Leningrad, In the Country of Men, The Rug Merchant, Water for Elephants, Special Topics in Calamity Physics, The Inheritance of Loss, Mr. Pip, The Lay of the Land,*** and ***The Wedding Officer***. Bravo to all the authors!

NRGM Launch Event



The National Reading Group Month (NRGM) Launch Event in New York City on October 29 was like a big reading group bash - a wonderful party with good people discussing good books. Pictured at the event are authors Matthew Sharpe, Wally Lamb, Adriana Trigiani, and Laura David gathered with members of the **Women's National Book Association**.

JOURNEY BACK TO BETHLEHEM

Discover this untold
story of Christmas



"An imaginative
Christmas novel"

-Chuck Colson, BreakPoint Commentary

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Prayer by Richard M.
Barry**

**Chances To Win
Discussible Books**

**The Golden Notebook by
Doris Lessing**

**The Gathering by Anne
Enright**

New 1-On-Ones

Susan Fletcher

Timothy Schaffert

1-On-One With Discussible Authors

[Susan Fletcher](#) (*Oystercatchers*) explains that "we could all do with being gentle with ourselves";

[Timothy Schaffert](#) (*The Phantom Limbs of the Rollow Sisters*, *Devils in the Sugar Shop*, and *The Singing and Dancing Daughters of God*) tells about having to learn to read all over again;

[Suzanne Berne](#) (*The Ghost at the Table*) discusses the advantage of ambiguity for book groups; and

[Lisa McKay](#) (*My Hands Came Away Red*) explains why she's not very good at having "favorites" -

-all in this month's [1-On-Ones](#)

Book Group Tips

Deborah from the **As the Page Turns Reading Group** shares a tip from her group: "I enjoyed finding [this site](#). Our club meets every four to six weeks at a local Starbucks. It is centrally located and doesn't put any demands on our members. We currently have between six and nine members. At the meeting we bring a copy of discussion questions. At the start of the meeting we go around the table and each person talks about their personal feelings about the book. Next, we go through the questions. We always have excellent conversation which usually lasts from 60 to 90 minutes. We take turns selecting the next book by bringing summaries of three books and then voting. We have all gotten to be friends, so we go out to dinner afterward and leave the personal stuff for then. I recommend the last book our group read, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls.

[More Reading Group Tips](#)

Your Own Discussible Choices

Many of your colleagues are already stimulating lively discussions by including authors in their gatherings. For example, Donna from **The Vero Beach Bookies** writes, "Your e-mails are so informative, thank you. My book club is a group of anywhere between 15 to 34 women, depending on the season. We have been meeting for six years now and

[Suzanne Berne](#)

[Lisa McKay](#)

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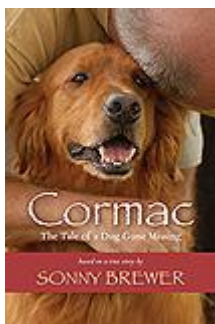
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have grown tremendously. I am an original and have watched it grow from four women to what we have today. We just finished *The Distant Land of my Father* and *Missing Mom* by Joyce Carol Oates. This month we will be discussing *Eat Pray Love*. We will be reading *Another Time* by Roger Neetz after the Holidays. **As a matter of fact Roger Neetz will be coming to our book club and leading the discussion for us, which will be awesome!"**

We enjoy hearing from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. **Please let us know about your group's discussible choices** - you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group!

Other Discussible Choices

Sure To Spark Lively Discussion



If you like dogs, don't miss **Cormac**, Sonny Brewer's fictional account of his search for his beloved Golden Retriever. **Cormac** has been selected as a Book Sense Notable for November 2008.

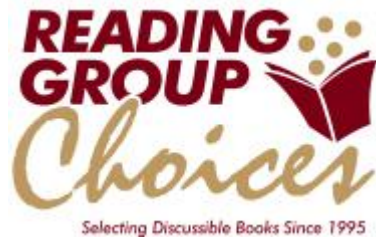
The Eighth Promise: *An American Son's Tribute to His Toisanese Mother* by William Poi Lee presents a rare view of the Asian-American experience from a mother-son perspective.

Past Newsletters Printable & Online

Are you new to the *Reading Group Choices Newsletter*? Were you tied up when an earlier one graced your mailbox? Would you rather have a paper copy?

If so, you can now catch up on past issues and/or print them out. Just **click here** for an index of the issues available.

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive!



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58%**

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