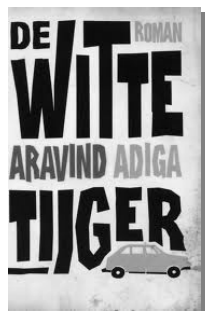


Aravind Adiga – *The White Tiger*

E11-01 Atlantis Books, 2008, 321 pages.



The *White Tiger* is set in contemporary India. It is the story of a man's quest for freedom. The main character Balram Halwai is a servant, philosopher, entrepreneur and murderer. In a series of letters to the Chinese premier he tells the story of how he came to be a success in life. *The White Tiger* was the winner of the Man Booker Prize 2008. The jury stated that "it is a book that shocked and entertained in equal measure".

Sebastian Barry – *The Secret Scripture*

E11-02 Faber and Faber, 2008, 312 pages

Roseanne McNulty is an Irish woman who has been a patient in a mental hospital for most of her adult life. She decides to write her life story. She is nearly a hundred years old. Roseanne's story is interwoven with that of Dr Grene. Dr Grene is the hospital's psychiatrist who has to assess the patients to decide whether they can be put back into the community. Both Roseanne and Dr Grene are trying to make sense of the past. The subjective nature of memory is a major theme of this beautifully written novel.

Jonathan Coe – *The terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim*

E11-13 Viking, an imprint of Penguin, 2010, 399 pages

Maxwell Sim joins a competition for selling toothbrushes. His mission is to bring Guest Toothbrushes to the Shetland Isles. Maxwell is on sick leave from his job at the local supermarket so Maxwell decides to take up the offer of driving through Great Britain. This will be a journey that will

alter his life completely. Instead of going straight on to Aberdeen to catch the ferry he makes a couple of detours to visit old acquaintances and friends. They didn't turn out to be social calls however. During his trip he discovers some very dark secrets about his family. He falls in love with the voice of his SatNav system and is found by the Scottish police naked and almost frozen to death in his Prius near Aviemore. Nevertheless Maxwell survives. Jonathan Coe wrote a hilarious book about serious topics.

J.M. Coetzee - *Life & Times of Michael K*

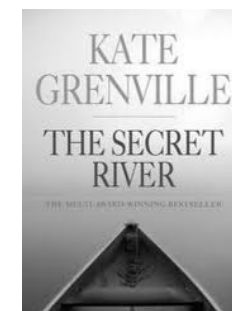
E11-03 London, Secker & Warburg 1983, 184 pages

Michael K is born with a hare lip and because of this disfigurement he has an unhappy childhood. Due to a civil war life has become uncertain and when his mother asks him to take her back to her native grounds they start a long journey full of hazard. On the way his mother dies and Michael finds a quiet place where he spreads out her ashes. Here he wants to live a peaceful life but in times of war that appears not possible. Time and again people try to take advantage of him. In spite of all this he is capable of keeping his dignity and making his own choices. Michael is a character you will not easily forget.

Kate Grenville - *The Secret River*

E11-09 Canongate 2006, 348 pages

The story is set in the early nineteenth century. William Thornhill is transported to the penal colony of New South Wales for stealing a load of timber. His wife Sal decides to accompany him. Within a few years he is pardoned and Thornhill and his growing family settle on the banks of the Hawkesbury River.



Thornhill soon realizes that his piece of land is inhabited by indigenous people. Hostility between settlers and Aborigines gradually escalates. Kate Grenville's novel depicts the settlement of convicts in Australia and the impact of intolerance on human relationships.

Susan Hill - *Strange meeting*

E11-10 Penguin Books Ltd, New edition 1973, 192 pages



John Hilliard, a young subaltern returning to the Western Front after a brief period of sick leave back in England, finds his battalion tragically altered. His commanding officer finds escape in alcohol, there is a new adjutant and even Hilliard's batman has been killed. But there is David Barton. As yet untouched and unsullied by war, radiating charm and common sense, forever writing long letters to his family. There is a strange meeting and a strange relationship: the coming together of opposites in the summer lull before the inevitable storm

Kazuo Ishiguro - *The Remains of the Day*

E11-04 Vintage international edition, 1993, 245 pages

Stevens, the butler of Darlington Hall devoted his whole life to the service of Lord Darlington and he is proud of it. He adored his employer and had a very high opinion of him. During a trip to Cornwall he reflects about his career and his feelings towards Miss Kenton, the former housekeeper of Darlington Hall. He gets one last opportunity to show his true feelings for her. Is he capable of doing that? *The Remains of the Day* is a novel about dignity and perfection and how it affects a human being.

Kazuo Ishiguro - *Never Let Me Go*

E11-11 Faber and Faber, New edition, 2006, 276 pages

In one of the most acclaimed and strange novels of recent years, Kazuo Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly

skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now 31, *Never Let Me Go* hauntingly dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School, and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship and memory, *Never Let Me Go* is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.

Sadie Jones – *The Outcast*

E11-14 Vintage Books, London, 2008, 441 pages

1946 Gilbert Aldridge was demobbed and Lewis and his mother went up to London to meet his father. It wasn't quite what Lewis expected. He didn't know his father because Gilbert was drafted when Lewis was only a little boy, but Lewis had some sort of an idea what a perfect father would be like. This is the first of many disappointments eventually leading to Lewis' imprisonment for arson. This historical novel about a post war England in which people were unable to deal with their feelings takes us further than that. It is also a novel about the development of character not only of adults but above all of adolescents in an era in which post traumatic stress and borderline syndrome still had to be invented.

Joseph O'Neill - *Netherland*

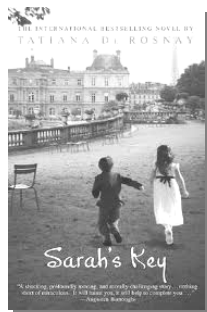
E11-05 London, Fourth Estate 2008, 340 pages

Hans van den Broek, his wife Rachel and their son Jake lead a happy life in New York. The terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre changes all. His wife and son leave for London. The marriage suffers from this separation. Hans has to find out how to live a life on his own. He is very lonely and longs for friendship, which he finds in Chuck Ramkisson and in cricket. Find out how sports, in this case the game of cricket, can change a person's life.



Tatiana de Rosnay - *Sarah's Key*

E11-12 Saint Martin's Press Inc., 2007, 294 pages



Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten year-old Jewish girl, is arrested by the French police in the middle of the night, along with her mother and father. Desperate to protect her younger brother, she locks him in a cupboard and promises to come back for him as soon as she can. Paris, May 2002: Julia Jarmond, an American journalist, is asked to write about the 60th anniversary of the Vel' d'Hiv'--the infamous day in 1942 when French

police rounded up thousands of Jewish men, women and children, in order to send them to concentration camps. Sarah's Key is the poignant story of two families, forever linked and haunted by one of the darkest days in France's past.

Vikram Seth - *An Equal Music*

E11-06 London, Orion Books Ltd 1999, 484 pages

Michael Holme is a violinist in the Maggiore Quartet. He discovers a long lost piece of music, composed by Beethoven. He played this piece in his studies together with his friend Julia McNicholl. After a long time during which they didn't meet Michael and Julia come together. They go to Vienna and Venice and re-live their lives. They have a turbulent love affair. Julia, however, decides to end all this and return to her husband and son. Michael is left alone with all his troubles: no love, no violin, no quartet. This novel is about music and love and the quest for happiness.

Colm Tóibín - *Brooklyn*

E11-07 London, Penguin Books 2010, 252 pages

Eilis leads a simple life in an Irish town. She is a shop girl and follows bookkeeping lessons in the evening. She has a sister, Rose, who is Eilis'

role model. One day Father Flood, a Roman Catholic priest, comes over from America. He talks about the prospect for young people in the New World and Eilis is urged to emigrate. We find her back in Brooklyn where she works in a department store. She meets a handsome Italian boy, Tony, whom she marries. Then all of a sudden she is summoned back to Ireland.

Alan Warner - *Morvern Callar*

E11-08 London, Vintage 1996, 229 pages

Morvern discovers the body of her boyfriend. He has committed suicide. She doesn't report this, however, because nobody will miss Him. He is all alone, has no parents and no other relatives. When it becomes summer in the small Scottish village Morvern has to get rid of the body. Together with her friend, Lanna, they go on holiday to Spain. It is here that Morvern escapes the everyday routine by going to another village and leaving everything, including Lanna, behind her. Later in the book she returns to this village and continues to visit the disco with the strobe. In the dark she has the most wonderful time of her life and gets pregnant.

