**Fresh Lit! New and Forthcoming Literary Fiction**

**For Readers and Book Groups**

**Rosalind Reisner**

[**http://areadersplace.net**](http://areadersplace.net)

**LibraryLinkNJ, July 10, 2012**

**Books already published**

**Behrens, Peter. *The O’Briens***. Pantheon. March, 2012.

A sprawling family saga follows the orphaned Joe O’Brien as he takes charge of his siblings and makes a name for himself in railroad construction in Canada in the first half of the twentieth century.

Other historical/family sagas where character is important and historical events play a role:

***The Glass Palace*** by Amitav Ghosh

***Freedom*** by Jonathan Franzen

***West of Here*** by Jonathan Evison

***Daughter of Fortune*** by Isabel Allende

***The Northern Clemency*** by Philip Hensher

***The Time in Between*** by Maria Duenas

**Benaron, Naomi*. Running the Rift*** Algonquin. January, 2012.

In civil war-torn Rwanda, a young man tries to excel as a runner and dreams of running in the Olympics.

Other coming of age novels with fraught political settings:

***Long Way Gone*** by Ishmael Beah (memoir)

***The Kite Runner*** by Khaled Hosseini

***Tiny Sunbirds Far Away*** by Christie Watson

***Little Bee*** by Chris Cleave

**Cash, Wiley.** ***A Land More Kind Than Home***. Wm. Morrow. April, 2012.

A teenage boy overhears an encounter that puts his life at risk from a corrupt fundamentalist preacher.

Other southern gothic novels with strong characters:

***Salvage the Bones*** by Jesmyn Ward

***Under the Mercy Trees*** by Heather Newton

***The Scent of Rain and Lightning*** by Nancy Pickard

***Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*** by Tom Franklin

***The Cove*** by Ron Rash

***What Dies in Summer*** byTom Wright

**Cleave, Chris. *Gold*.** Simon & Schuster.July 3, 2012.

Two women cyclists battle it out for a spot on the British Olympic cycling team.

Other novels with strong female characters or intense plotlines:

***Brick Lane*** by Monica Ali

***A Short History of Women*** by Kate Walbert

***The Poisonwood Bible*** by Barbara Kingsolver

***The Lace Reader*** by Brunonia Barry

***The Bee Season*** by Myla Goldberg

**Ivey, Eowyn. *The Snow Child***. Reagan Arthur/Back Bay Books. Feb. 2012.

In this retelling of a Russian folktale, a couple on a farm in 1920s Alaska finds a little girl in the snow.

Other books with elements of magical realism:

***The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*** by Aimee Bender

***Like Water for Chocolate*** by Laura Esquivel

***Practical Magic*** by Alice Hoffman

***Snow in August*** by Pete Hamill

***The Night Circus*** by Erin Morgenstern

**Livesey, Margot. *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*.** HarperCollins. January, 2012.

If Jane Eyre had lived in the 1960s...

Other novels with strong, thoughtful women characters or are based on other novels (not to mention the host of Jane Austen wannabe novels):

***How it All Began*** by Penelope Lively

***Death Comes to Pemberley*** by P.D. James

***The Three Weissmans of Westport*** by Cathleen Schine

**Miller, Madeline*. The Song of Achilles*.** Ecco Press. March 6, 2012.

A retelling of the story of the ***Iliad*** from the point of view of Patroclus, lover of Achilles.

Other novels set in ancient civilizations:

***The King Must Die*** or ***The Bull From the Sea*** by Mary Renault

***The Red Tent*** by Anita Diamant

***The Dovekeepers*** by Alice Hoffman

**Rich, Roberta, *Midwife of Venice***. S&S/Gallery. February, 2012

Other historical novels with strong women characters:

***The Book of Madness and Cures*** by Regina O’Melveny

***The Queen’s Fool*** by Philippa Gregory (and other Gregory novels)

***Equal of the Sun*** by Anita Amirrezvani

**Walker, Karen Thompson. *The Age of Miracles*.** Random House. June 26, 2012.

In this unusual coming of age novel, 11-year old Julia awakens one morning to find that the rotation of the earth has slowed.

Other titles about changes in the natural order of things:

***Ella Minnow Pea: A Novel in Letters*** by Mark Dunn

***The Time Traveler’s Wife*** by Audrey Niffenegger

***Timequake*** by Kurt Vonnegut

**Walter, Jess. *Beautiful Ruins***. HarperCollins. June 2012.

From the coast of Italy in 1962 to today’s Hollywood film industry, a large and colorful cast of characters—including Richard Burton--populate this funny, inventive and satisfying tale.

Other stories with a satirical tone about relationships between men and women:

***Paradise News*** by David Lodge (also ***Thinks*** and ***Nice Work***)

***Le Divorce*** by Diane Johnson (also ***L’Affaire*** and ***Le Mariage***)

***Calling Invisible Women*** by Jeanne Ray

**FORTHCOMING BOOKS**

**Attenberg, Jami. *The Middlesteins*.** Grand Central. Oct., 2012

The Middlesteins have been happily married for 30 years, but now Edie’s obsession with food threatens to break them apart.

Readers might also enjoy:

***The Next Best Thing*** by Jennifer Weiner

***I See You Everywhere*** by Julia Glass

***Carry the One*** by Carol Anshaw

**Chabon, Michael. *Telegraph Avenue.*** HarperCollins. Sept. 11, 2012.

Set in Berkeley, this story follows two families, one African-American family and one white, whose lives are inextricably intertwined.

Readers might also enjoy:

***The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*** by Michael Chabon

***The Yiddish Policeman’s Union*** by Michael Chabon

***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese

**Diaz, Junot** ***This Is How You Lose Her***. Riverhead. September 11, 2012.

A collection of linked stories by the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of ***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***, about the love lives of Dominican men.

Readers might also enjoy:

***When Tito Loved Clara*** by Jon Michaud

***We the Animals*** by Justin Torres

***The Namesake*** by Jhumpa Lahiri

**Joyce, Rachel *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.** Random House. July 24, 2012.

Harold is unhappily retired until he receives a letter from a friend, setting him off on a life-changing journey.

Readers might also enjoy:

***Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand*** by Helen Simonson

***The World We Found*** by Thrity Umrigar

**Kingsolver, Barbara. *Flight Behavior***.HarperCollins. Nov., 2012.

When Dellarobbia Turnbow sees a strange fiery glow in the hills above her home, she unwittingly ignites changes in the lives of everyone around her in this environmental cautionary tale.

Readers might also enjoy:

***State of Wonder*** by Ann Patchett

***When the Killing’s Done*** by T.C. Boyle

***The Orchard*** by Theresa Weir (memoir)

**Powers, Kevin.** ***The Yellow Birds***. Little, Brown. Sept. 11, 2012.

Two soldiers in the Iraqi War struggle with the nature of the things they are asked to do. The decisions they make change their lives and their families’ lives forever.

Readers might also enjoy:

***The Absolutist*** by John Boyne

***The Things They Carried*** by Tim O’Brien

***A Rumor of War*** by Philip Caputo (memoir)

**Ratner, Vaddey.** ***In the Shadow of the Banyan***. Simon & Schuster. August, 2012.

The Khmer Rouge uprising in Cambodia uproots a family and sends them off on a nightmarish journey of loss and redemption.

Readers might also enjoy:

***A Different Sky*** by Meira Chand

***The Latehomecomer : A Hmong Family Memoir*** by Kao Kalia Yang

***When the Emperor Was Divine*** by Julie Otsuka

**ShapiroB.A. *The Art Forger*.** Algonquin Books. Oct. 23, 2012.

A starving artist is offered a Faustian bargain: copy of a famous stolen painting and achieve success.

Readers might also enjoy:

***An Object of Beauty*** by Steve Martin

***The Archivist*** by Martha Cooley

***People of the Book*** by Geraldine Brooks

**Smith, Zadie *NW*.** Penguin Press. September 4, 2012

This book is under wraps until publication date; it follows 4 young people as they make their way from a council housing estate in north London into the wider world.

Readers might also enjoy:

***White Teeth*** by Zadie Smith

***Brick Lane*** by Monica Ali

***The Northern Clemency*** by Philip Hensher

**A SELECTION OF RESOURCES FOR KEEPING UP**

For e-galleys:

<http://www.netgalley.com/>

<http://www.abovethetreeline.com/edelweiss/>

For publishing industry news; reviews and information about forthcoming books:

[www.publishersweekly.com](http://www.publishersweekly.com)

<http://www.shelf-awareness.com/>

<http://www.earlyword.com/>

<http://booksonthenightstand.com/>

<http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/category/prepub/?ref=ljnav>

For book group resources:

<http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/ggr_selections.html>

<http://www.bookreporter.com/>

<http://www.goodreads.com/>

<http://www.readinggroupchoices.com/>

Resources for displays, booklists, etc.:

<http://flavorwire.com/category/books>