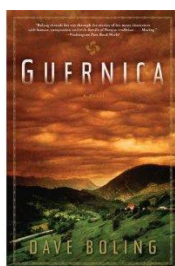


Future reads (April-May)



After much deliberation *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry has been chosen. I have briefly looked over it and the reviewers have set it on quite the pedestal: “One of the first great novels of this century” says the Evening Herald and “In Roseanne McNulty - sly, confused, defiant, passionate - Sebastian Barry has created one of the most memorable narrators in recent fiction.” Sunday Telegraph. The novel is based around the journals of a patient and doctor in a mental health hospital and their strangely interdependent relationship. It is also a subtly ambitious picture of nothing less than the Irish psyche at a particular point in its history. I am very much looking forward to this read.

Currently reading (March – April)



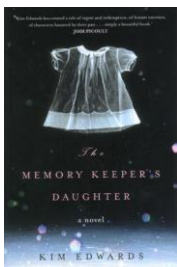
tantalising blurb:

We are currently reading *Guernica* by Dave Boling. We are all interested to read this latest choice. The group member who selected the novel described it as “a family saga set in the time around the second world war” and also said that it might sound like a heavy read but is actually very manageable and enjoyable. Although I have not yet started it I am eager to, I think that the relationship between war, family and history will be very fascinating. To try to arouse your interest a little bit more, here is the books’

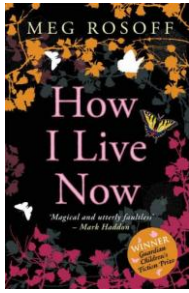
“In 1935, Miguel Navarro finds himself on the wrong side of the Spanish Nationalists, so he flees to Guernica, the most ancient town of the Basque region. In the midst of this idyllic, isolated bastion of democratic values, Miguel finds more than a new life—he finds a love that not even war, tragedy or death can destroy.

The bombing of Guernica was a devastating experiment in total warfare by the German Luftwaffe in the run-up to World War II . For the Basques, it was an attack on the soul of their ancient nation. History and fiction merge seamlessly in this beautiful novel about the resilience of family, love, and tradition in the face of hardship.”

Books we have just completed (February- March)



The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards; we all really enjoyed this book and agreed that it is a heart clenching story that will remain with us for a long time: “I think that it is probably one of the best books that I have read in a long time”. It has amazing imagery that captures the minds’ eye and creates an amazing connection to the characters that are perfectly painted. The book explored the intense psychological connections between mothers and their children and between twins. How judgements made under intense pressure can mould your life for years to come and if you make the wrong choice, it can tear your life apart and that of those around you. If I had to pick one word to sum up this book it would have be *beautiful*. Everyone should read it. Give it a try, I implore you. You will not regret it.



How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff. As I said in the last messenger, this was a very different type of book for us to read; written with teenagers in mind it was quite a light read but it still dealt with adult themes. It was definitely not patronising and childish. It was set in a dystopian, wartime Britain in which a group of teenagers had to navigate the harsh environment. I think that we all enjoyed the book but the impression it created was not quite as strong as *The Memory Keepers Daughter*.

To find out more about the book club please contact Clarrie Beech on 07525749814, clambeech15@hotmail.com or look on the website www.greatbromley-bookclub.co.cc
Clarrie Beech