

Sorry should have been in last months messenger

Future reads (June - July)

Our next read is *Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger. A brief look at the review gets me very interested; Mslexia says "Delicious prose...She lays out her story in delectable, textual pictures...a powerful, beautifully written ghost story". The story follows two, more than identical twins that have no interest outside their suburban home, until they get left a London flat from a mysterious and estranged aunt. With that the twins became entangled in a complex web of the lives of the other flat owners, Highgate Cemetery and the history between their mother and aunt. The *New Yorker* says "... (Niffenegger) constructs a taut mystery ...It's no small achievement that the revelations are both organic and completely unexpected".

Currently reading (May – June)

Our current read is *Small Wars* by Sadie Jones. I think this may have been chosen because we have been regaled with praise for the writer's previous work, *The Outcast*. This is the blurb of the book to maybe arouse your interest:

"Hal Treherne is a young and dedicated soldier on the brink of a brilliant career. Impatient to see action, his other deep commitment is to Clara, his beautiful 'red, white and blue girl', who sustains him as he rises through the ranks. When Hal is transferred to the Mediterranean, Clara, now his wife, and their baby daughters join him. But Cyprus is no 'sunshine posting', and the island is in the heat of the Emergency: the British are defending the colony against Cypriots - schoolboys and armed guerrillas alike - battling for enosis, union with Greece. The skirmishes are far from glorious and operations often rough and bloody. Still, in serving his country and leading his men, Hal has a taste of triumph. Clara shares his sense of duty. She must settle down, make no fuss, smile. But action changes Hal, and Clara becomes fearful - of the lethal tit-for-tat beyond the army base, and her increasingly distant husband. The atrocities Hal is drawn into take him further from Clara; a betrayal that is only part of the shocking personal crisis to come. The prizewinning and bestselling author of "The Outcast" returns with an emotionally powerful portrait of a marriage in extremis and a world-view in question. Sadie Jones has produced a passionate, gut-wrenching and brilliantly researched depiction of a 'small war' with devastating consequences; and in doing so, raises important questions that resonate profoundly today."

Books we have just completed (April – May)

We have just completed *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry. It may seem like each month we read a book that we all liked, and what can I say? I think we are just positive people who can pick some good books! This was another book that we all enjoyed. The interlocking characters and complex relationships mean that we think rereading this book would be beneficial, to further weave the strands of story together. That is not to say that it was an indigestible read but rather that by the last page you want to further know the characters, and what befalls them, by reading it all over again. The heartbreak and confusion of the main character made it a "very interesting and moving read" with the gradual unveiling of the 100 year olds complex life.

The story is crafted to unfurl gradually and develops character and especially atmosphere very well. We also found it revealing of Ireland throughout the 1930s. Another read that I think we would all recommend.