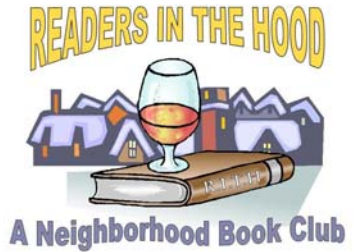


Rumor Rag

Readers in the Hood



March in March

Although there were only seven **Hoodies** in attendance, I hear seven is the perfect number...And our March meeting proved to be one of our richest discussions ever. Thanks to Betsy for opening up her home (and sharing her affectionate cat, Roxie, with us) and Wendy for leading such an in-depth discussion. **Readers** were fascinated by the complex characters of Marmee and Grace—the two strong women in March’s life—and the similarities and differences between them. We discussed the horrors of war, and how difficult it must be to try to write home to loved ones. We also noted the similarity between March’s beautiful—but sanitized—letters to Marmee and the letters that David Dubin wrote to his fiancé in **Ordinary Heroes**.

Themes such as the moral

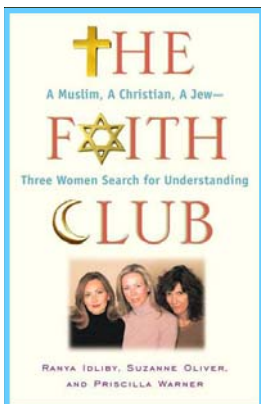
complexities of war, the ends justifying the means, and the juxtaposition of humanity and inhumanity came to mind. **Hoodies** enjoyed reading about familiar historical figures such as Emerson, Thoreau and John Brown, and felt these references were historically accurate adding validity to Brook’s fictional account of March.



Betsy won the Civil War Fiction Match Game and a great massage! Congratulations, Betsy, on your Civil War knowledge!

Readers gave **March** a 3.42 rating or a B+. ®

April’s Around the Corner



Our Newest **Hoodie**, Kathy, is hosting our April meeting at her home. If anyone needs directions, give me a call—but it’s just around

the corner and two houses down from Terry. Kay will facilitate our discussion on **The Faith Club**, which brings up the timely topic of Judeo-Christian-Muslim differences and similarities, as told to us by three compelling women: Ranya, Suzanne, and Priscilla. This meeting is held on **Monday, April 23**—instead of our regular Thursday timeslot so be sure to double check your calendar! ®

Volume 4, Issue 2

April 2007

Mark Your Calendar:

Date: Hostess: Book:
 Apr 23 Kathy Faith Club
 May 17 Eddi Known World
 ** Summer Sabbatical **

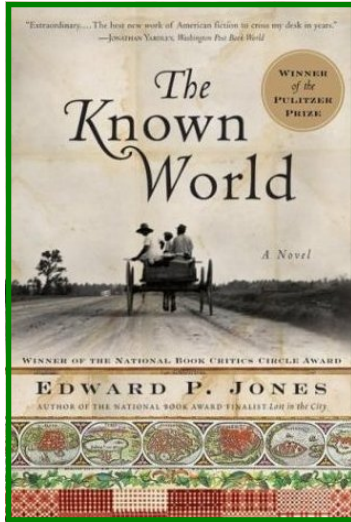
Other Dates to Anticipate:

Apr 27- Rob Blake in
 The Music Man
 May 5 - Kentucky Derby
 Party
 May 18-20 - Hoodie Wildwood
 Weekend
 July 28 - Hoodie Dine
 Around

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May = Eddi + Civil War + Last Meeting = Not to be Missed



Hoodies enjoyed our Civil War discussion so much, that we selected **The Known World**, by Edward P. Jones as the last book of our reading year. This book gives us our civil war background with a twist. Our protagonist is not only one of the few free blacks in the pre-civil war South, but also is a slave owner himself. **The Known World** won the 2005 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, 2004 Pulitzer Prize and the 2003 National Book Critics Award

in fiction. Suzanne will facilitate our discussion.

You will **not** want to miss our May meeting for another reason. Our very own **Empress of Eats**, Chef Eddi, will be delighting our taste buds with one of her wonderful gourmet meals. If you were out of town for our October '04 or February '06 meetings, you don't know what you're missing! What a treat for us all! This meeting will be held on May 17 (so don't show up on the 10th—there'll be no food) and starts at 6:30 instead of 7:00, so you'll want to be prompt! ®



Reader on the Road



Spring Cleaning Question: "When sorting through old paperbacks, what criteria do you use for deciding what stays and what goes?"

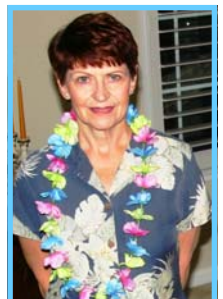
"...hmmm...while doing "spring" cleaning...a foreign concept!...but I suppose I would keep the ones that I liked the most! Also, the ones with the "pretty" covers...that look good in

the bookcase with the other "pretty" books! If the book "clashed" with the bookcase—out it goes! (Betsy)

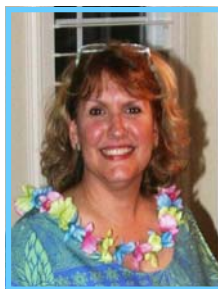
"If it's a classic, I keep it. If it's trash, I throw it out. Everything in between gets kept until I get into one of those moods where I could throw out EVERYTHING in my house and start over." (Kathy)



"I only keep books—hardback or paperback—that I truly love and believe I will probably read again. The others are given to family/friends or donated to the library. In my "keep forever" bookcase are, for example, *Gone With the Wind* (but of course), *The Godfather*, *The Kite Runner* and any and every book written about Jacqueline Kennedy—plus all her "picture" collections!" (Kay)



"I'm such a pack rat—so I **should** do this more often! My books fall into 3 categories: the dogs, the ones I liked and want to share, and the ones I love so much I want to read them over and over. #1 goes to charity, most of #2 is already loaned/given away; and books from #3 are not going anywhere! They're mine!" (MTE) ®



It's a Summer Classic!

I'm really missin' the classics! Last year an extremely fat tome, **Wild Swans**, usurped our traditional summer classic. I thought we might make up for it during the year by selecting a shorter classic one month, but I guess we found too many tempting contemporary titles that just **had** to be read... So we're back to Summer Classics—and it's time to choose one at our April meeting.

So look on your bookshelves and grab a couple you think your fellow **Hoodies** would like to read over the summer as they laze on a lounge chair with a cold drink in their other hand... ®

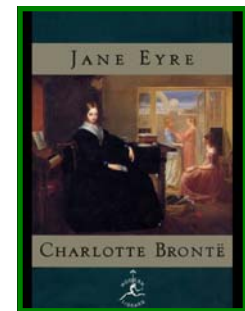


Religion Match Game

This month's selection, *The Faith Club*, gives us some insight into the similarities and differences between the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. With that thought as inspiration, your challenge this month to win April's Fabulous Prize, is to identify each of the following persons, places or things as belonging to one of these three faiths:



1. Ahmed Deedat
2. Al Maghtas
3. Anis Shorrosh
4. Cat Stevens
5. Charles Grodin
6. Connie Chung
7. ISNA
8. Jerry Lewis
9. Jerusalem
10. John Noor
11. Malcolm X
12. Nuhrad Fairouz
13. Paula Abdul ®



Hoodie Pseudonyms

We've been talking about "going online" for a couple of years now. Our site name has been reserved about that long, and I finally found a website class, which I'm scheduled to take at the end of April! So, the issue of anonymity is going to become a reality soon...I've been talking to a few *Readers* about the difficulty of coming up with book names that were appropriate pseudonyms for each *Hoodie*—and I have to admit that *Running with Scissors*, although funny, would be a difficult sign off...

So, be thinking about what pseudonym you would like to take on using a Book Character instead of a Book Title. Questions you might ask yourself include:

- Who is the most memorable character you have met in a

book?

- What book character do you most want to be like?
- Have you read a book and immediately saw similarities between you and one of the main characters?
- Do you admire the tenacity of Scarlett O'Hara?
- Love the common sense of Jane Eyre?
- Perhaps *Secret Life of Bees* is your favorite book, and so you want to be Lily Owen?

(Just make sure this is a fictitious character, so we don't get into any legal issues...)

Take your time and noodle it around—but we plan to **Go Live this summer and you'll need a new moniker by then...** This could be really fun! ®

Book Award News

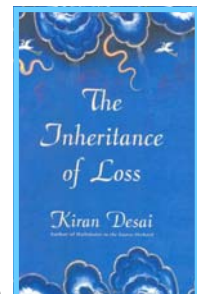
It's that time of year—all of the book critics and foundations are getting around to handing out awards. And all of the long lists and short lists eventually come down to this...

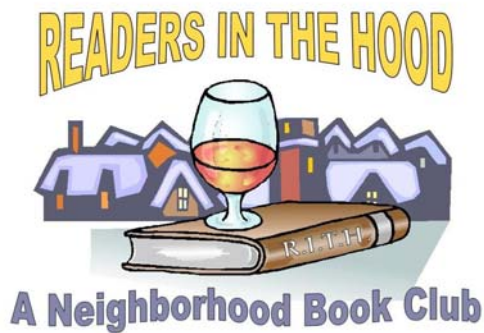
The Inheritance of Loss, by **Kiran Desai** won the National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award on March 8. Desai already won the Man Booker Prize last October for this highly acclaimed novel, and was the youngest woman in history to garner this top British award.

First-time writer, **Stef Penney**, won the first-ever **Costa Book of the Year Award** (formerly the Whitbread Award) for her debut novel *The Tenderness of Wolves* - a murder mystery set in the snowy landscapes of Canada. **Philip Roth's** novel, *Everyman*, won the **Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction**. This is the third time he's received this

prestigious award. Roth is also a two-time recipient of both The National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He has also won the Pulitzer Prize for Literature, the National Medal of Arts, and The Gold Medal in Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. We really should get around to reading a Philip Roth book one of these days. It shouldn't be hard—*Everyman* is his 27th novel.

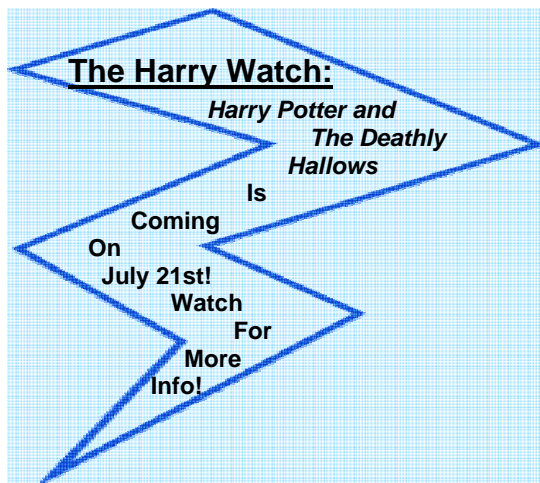
Also, catching up on some awards from last winter, **Richard Powers** won the National Book Award for *The Echo Maker*, and **Orhan Pamuk** from Turkey, won the Nobel Prize for Literature. Pamuk's two most recent works include *Snow*, and *Istanbul*. ®





Readers in the Hood is a neighborhood reading group consisting of a dozen wonderful women who get together monthly to discuss a good book and catch up on each other's lives—usually over a glass of Chardonnay.

Rumor Rag is the newsletter of *Reader's in the Hood*. Its goal is to keep *Readers* informed of group happenings, as well as keep us connected between meetings.



The Dirty Dozen Does Christmas

God Bless Oprah (or What Others are Reading)

National:

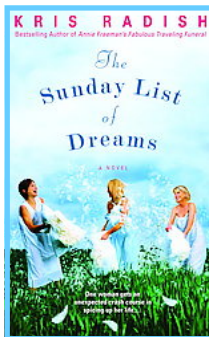
Oprah: *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography*, by Sidney Poitier

Barnes & Noble: *The Sunday List of Dreams*, by Kris Radish

BookSense.com: *Heart Shaped Box*, by Joe Hill

Borders Book Club: *The History of Love*, by Nicole Krauss

Go On Girl: *Jump at the Sun*, by Kim McLarin



Northern California:

Avid Reader, Davis: *Maybe a Miracle*, by Brian Strause

Book Passage: *The Madonnas of Leningrad*, by Debra Dean

Readers in the Hood: *After This*, by Alice McDermott

The Inheritance of Loss, by Kiran Desai (Hmmm...This looks familiar...)

The March, by E.L. Doctorow

The Namesake, by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Painted Veil, by W. Somerset Maugham ®



New York

Times: *Lolita*, by Vladimir Nabokov.

Pulpwood Queens: *Rain Village*, by Carolyn Turgeon

Richard & Judy: *Love In the Present Tense*, by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

Today Show: *Be The Change! Change the World, Change Yourself*, edited by Michelle Nunn

