

Rumor Rag

READERS IN THE HOOD



A Neighborhood Book Club

Mark Your Calendars:

Regular Meetings:

Date:	Hostess:
Oct. 11	Lorie
Nov. 15	Sheila
Dec 14 *	Kay
Jan 10	Suzanne

Book:

Memory Keepers
Dreams
Holiday Party
TBD

Other Dates to Note:

Oct. 27	NKF Author's Luncheon
Dec 14	Release of <i>The Kite Runner</i> Film

(All meetings begin at 7 PM unless noted;
* 6:30 PM)

An Extraordinary Evening at Longbourn House

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a book club in possession of a great imagination, must be in want of a fabulous party..."

Well those may not be Jane Austen's exact words—but I'm sure if she were around today, she would certainly agree! And we **Hoodies** definitely had a maaaaarvelous time celebrating Jane Austen and our fourth anniversary last month at Longbourn House.

Hoodies arrived in frilly straw bonnets (which, of course, they 'trimmed' themselves) and floaty empire dresses, while others came costumed *just like Bridget Jones!* We sipped our Chardonnay while noshing on teacakes and scones, catching up on the summer happenings, and breezing through the **Pride and Prejudice** character game. Many **Readers** came bearing gifts—evidence of the fun summer vacations to France, the Artic Circle, and even the Jane Austen house, itself, in England. Bookmarks showered the **Hoodies**—also serving as reminders that you may take the **Reader** on the road, but the **Hood** remains in her heart.

Although many **Readers** struggled with Jane's prose—I believe someone even lamented that Shakespeare provided an easier read—and some weren't able to finish the selection, others appreciated Austen's most popular novel for the ironically humorous

manner in which she wrote her social commentary. Others remarked that Austen showed herself to be somewhat of a feminist for her time, with her protagonist Elizabeth demonstrating an independence that was not 'fashionable' 200 years ago. Many of the **Hoodies** have enjoyed the numerous screen adaptations of this novel—especially the BBC version with Colin Firth! One **Reader** pointed out that **Pride** has inspired dozens of adaptations throughout the ages, and thus, can truly be referred to as the 'original chick lit book.' Overall **Hoodies** gave **P&P** a 3.13, or B+.



Inside this issue:

An Extraordinary Evening at Longbourn House	1
September Hoodie Winners	1
October at Lorie's	2
Russian Summer in November?	2
2007 Man Booker Prize Shortlist Announced	2
Lisa See and Hoodies 'Do Lunch'	3
Daughters, Wives and Other Important Women	3
Special Upcoming Events	4
God Bless Oprah	4

September **Hoodie** Winners



Betsy won the Most Creative Jane Austen Costume Contest by *becoming* Mrs. Bennet. Donned in her flannel nightgown and rag curlers, while carrying her candlestick, she most aptly portrayed one of Austen's silliest characters. (It's O.K. Betz—we know you're a

Berkeley grad...) Wendy won several "Fabulous Prizes" by correctly responding to the Jane Austen Trivia Quiz as well as winning the P&P character game. Congratulations, creative and clever **Hoodies!**



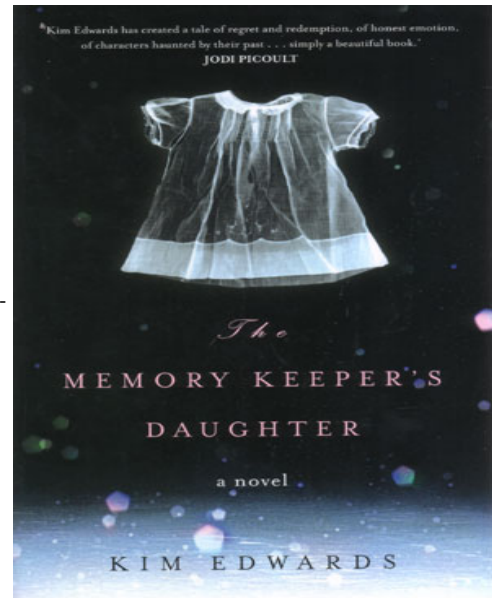
October at Lorie's

Lorie will host our October meeting at 7 PM on the 11th, while Wendy pinch-hits as the facilitator for our discussion of *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards. A #1 best-seller, this novel has received much critical acclaim as well.

According to Bookreporter.com, "*The Memory Keeper's Daughter* is a page-turner, a wonderfully crafted tale of two sets of people tied by the lie of one man. What is most fascinating to this reviewer is the parallel stories of the two children, twins who grow up in separate environments, becoming as different as night and day. The fact that Phoebe thrived despite David's predictions for her is tragic, because he deprived his own wife the love of a daughter who she thought had died. While Phoebe blossoms into a produc-

tive and healthy woman, her twin Paul grows up in her shadow, not knowing she is alive, finding that he is competing with her for his parents' attentions despite the fact that she is 'dead.' This is what drives the story—as one family thrives, the other one deteriorates."

I can't wait for this conversation!
®



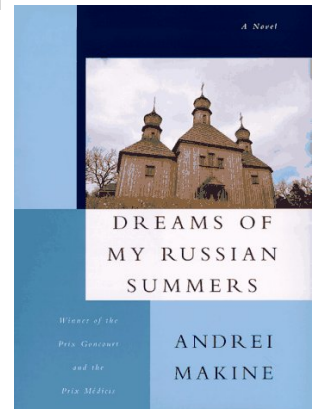
"This epic tale is full of tenderness and passion, pain and heartbreak; mesmerizing, in every way."

Russian Summer in November?

I've heard of 'Christmas in July'—but '*Russian Summer* in November'? Oh—Suzanne tells me it's OK—It's just a *Dream*... Well, actually, according to Barnes and Noble, it really *is* a dream. Here's what they have to say about Andrei Makine's *Dreams of My Russian Summers*: "Hailed as extraordinary from coast to coast and winner of both the Prix Goncourt and the Prix Medicis, France's top literary prizes, the national bestseller *Dreams of My Russian Summers* traces a sentimental journey that embraces many of the dramatic events in Russia during the twentieth century. Here is a poignant story of a Soviet boy's ascent into manhood in the 1960s and 1970s, and his extraordinary affection for his mysterious grandmother who seems to have

been there for all the pivotal historical events. This epic tale is full of tenderness and passion, pain and heartbreak; mesmerizing, in every way."

Suzanne and Sheila have some surprises in store for you for this exotic Russian meeting. You may even think you're at the Peterhoff Palace... ®



2007 Man Booker Prize Shortlist Announced

The judges of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2007 have announced this year's six shortlisted novels.

They whittled the longlist down to:

- Darkmans* by Nicola Barker
- The Gathering* by Anne Enright
- The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid
- Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones
- On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan
- Animal's People* by Indra Sinha

Pakistani Mohsin Hamid is the youngest author on the shortlist at only 35. But the favorites with bookmaker William Hill to win the £50,000 prize are Ian McEwan or Lloyd Jones. The winner will be announced on October 16. ®



Lisa See and Hoodies 'Do Lunch'



Lisa See charmed the *Hoodies*—as well as about 200 local readers—when she came to help raise money for Omega Nu last month. Proceeds from the sold-out event will be used to fund Omega Nu’s annual scholarships, as well as meeting other needs of women and children in our community.

Between marathon book signings, Lisa discussed her family. She began with her strong great grandmother—who was so poor that, lacking a wagon, she earned money to support her large family by giving piggyback rides to fellow villagers. She spoke of her grandfather who began his mercantile empire in Sacramento, and later Los Angeles, by selling crotchless underwear to brothels, and more recently her grandmother who taught her all about her Chinese heritage, and encouraged Lisa’s writing.

With six books to her credit, including the *New York Times* best-sellers, *Snow Flower*

and the *Secret Fan*, and more recently, *Peony in Love*, Lisa loves to tell the ‘secret stories’ and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Her still, quiet spirit is belied by her gregarious and personable stage presence. When Lisa is ‘On’ behind the podium, she speaks with such eloquence, power and passion—yet you feel as though she is speaking directly to you. One-on-one, she proves an excellent listener, showing her thoughtful, compassionate side. We thoroughly enjoyed her visit and were honored she agreed to accept our invitation.

As my sister, Sheri, and I drove her back to the airport, Lisa mentioned that she turns down ten speaking invitations for each one she accepts. But it was Kay’s intriguing invitation that convinced her this would be an exciting day she wouldn’t want to miss. She confirmed that her first inclination was correct—she had a fabulous time with *Readers in the Hood*, Omega Nu, and the wonderful women of NorCal! ®

Daughters, Wives and Other Important Women: A Rant—And a Match Game all in One!

“The Memory Keeper’s Daughter”, indeed. Why didn’t Kim Edwards simply title her book “Phoebe”? It’s a venerable, respectable name—inspired by a Greek mythological Titan.

Remember the great classic books like *Emma*, *Rebecca*, and *Anna Karenina*? They were all named directly for their female protagonist. But today, there’s an alarming trend among authors to simply refer to the heroine as someone’s daughter, wife, or mother—and title their books, accordingly.

Why aren’t Oprah, Cokie Roberts and Gloria Steinem speaking out about this dangerous literary tendency? Women have fought too long and hard for our own identity—to be ourselves—and not just an appendage of another person who just happens to have a penis. We are Consultants—and Veterinarians—and Teachers! We are not just someone else’s relative.

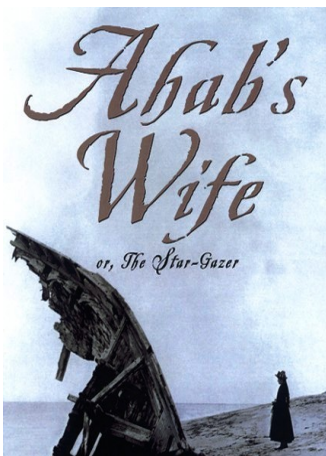
(I have to remind myself of this whenever I answer to “Mrs. Cory’s Mom”...)

Well, I am here to carry the banner—and expose this reactionary conspiracy to relegate women to a secondary position—again...

Match the recent offending title to its author—and write the latter a scathing letter while you’re at it!

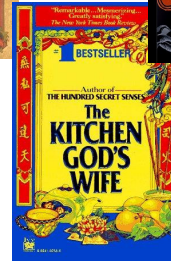
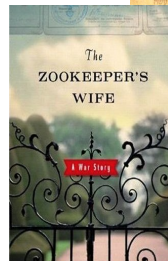
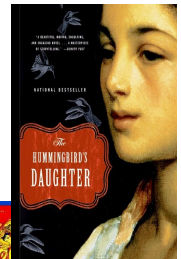
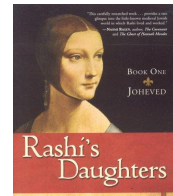
- 1) *Ahab’s Wife*
- 2) *Galleo’s Daughter*
- 3) *Rashi’s Daughters*
- 4) *The Grave Digger’s Daughter*
- 5) *The Hummingbird’s Daughter*
- 6) *The Kitchen God’s Wife*
- 7) *The Mistress’s Daughter*
- 8) *The Pilot’s Wife*
- 9) *The Time Traveler’s Wife*
- 10) *The Zookeeper’s Wife*

“Women have fought too long and hard for our own identity—to be ourselves—and not just an appendage of another person who just happens to have a penis.”

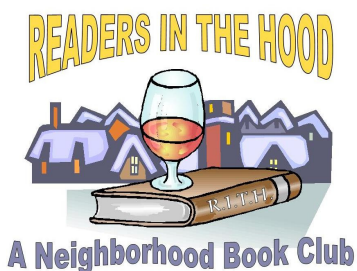


- a) Diane Ackerman
- b) Maggie Anton
- c) A.M. Homes
- d) Joyce Carol Oats
- e) Sena Jeter Naslund
- f) Audrey Niffenegger
- g) Anita Shreve
- h) Dava Sobel
- i) Amy Tan
- j) Luis Alberto Urica

As always, email me with your response by midnight on Wednesday, October 10, to enter your name into the October *Fabulous Prize* drawing. ®



Readers in the Hood



We'll soon be on the Web!
www.readersinthehood.com



Special Upcoming Events:

Oct. 27: The Sacramento Author's Luncheon: Hoodies have once again sponsored a Reader's Table at this year's Sacramento National Kidney Foundation Authors Luncheon, which will take place on Saturday, October 27, beginning at 10 am at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. Seven nationally recognized authors will share their insights and personal stories, including Lee Child, Mariel Hemingway, Tess Holthe, Matthew Polly, Cathryn Jakobson Ramin, Martin Cruz Smith—and one of my favorite humorous essay writers, Anne Lamott. As you may recall, it is at this event that we met Lisa See, The Wisner Brothers, Scott Turow and Jodi Picoult in the past. And what wonderful book selections came from those meetings! I'm sure this year will be inspirational as well.

Dec 14: The Kite Runner Premiere: The long awaited silver screen debut of one of our all-time favorite reads, *The Kite Runner*, will finally arrive on Friday, December 14. Of course, we'll be in the midst of our Charitable Gift Exchange—and several glasses of Chardonnay—at that time. However, let's explore getting together on Saturday or Sunday to attend a matinee or evening showing of this wonderful story. Go Khaled! ®



God Bless Oprah: or What Others are Reading

Avid Reader, Davis: *Black Swan Green*, by David Mitchell
Barnes and Noble: *The Rest of Her Life* by Laura Moriarty
Book Passage: *After This* by Alice McDermott
Book Sense: *An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England*, by Brock Clarke
Borders: *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, by Michael Chabon.
Go On Girl! *The Importance of Being Dangerous*, by David Dante Troutt
Next Chapter, Woodland: *Stardust*, by Neil Gaiman
Oprah: *Love in the Time of Cholera*, by Gabriel García Márquez,
Pulpwood Queens: *The Camel Bookmobile*, by Masha Hamilton
Richard and Judy: *The Interpretation of Murder*, by Jed Rubenfeld
Today Show: *Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope*, by Jenna Bush ®

