

# Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

January 2009

What we are reading in  
2008:

May 1: *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

June 5: *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

July 3: *Daughter of Destiny: An Autobiography* by Benazir Bhutto

Aug 7: *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follet

Sept 4: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

Oct 2: *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt

Nov 6: *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Dec 4: *The Next Thing on My List* by Jill Smolinski

Jan 1: *How My Magic Refrigerator Sent Me To Paris Free. 7 Rules To Make Dreams Come True* by Lolly Anderson

Feb 5: *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen

Mar 5: *The Thirteenth Tale* By Diane Setterfield

## *Women's National Book Association, Inc.*

The Women's National Book Association was established in 1917, before women in America even had the right to vote. WNBA is a vibrant national organization. There are chapters with individual Active Members in nine cities, individual Network Members across the country, numerous corporate Sustaining Members, and chapter Honorary Members in the world of books and beyond. WNBA is a broad-based non-profit organization with some 800 members across the country, three distinguished national awards, and a history of lively events in chapter cities and elsewhere.

### **Mission**

The Women's National Book Association is a national organization of women and men who work with and value books. WNBA exists to promote reading and to support the role of women in the community of the book.

### **Purpose**

The purposes of WNBA are educational and charitable. WNBA came into being to inform book women about matters relevant to themselves and the book world so that these women could inform and help one another.

That's what we still do, through actions such as these:

- bring together women and men who are active in the world of books
- educate and inform the public about the need to create, produce, distribute, and use books
- respond to requests for information about books and the allied arts and generate and support projects that help to disseminate such information
- serve as a catalyst for all in the book community who wish to work together, and
- promote recognition of women's achievements in the book industry.

Currently, there are chapters in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, San Francisco and Washington D.C.

If you are interested in establishing a chapter in your area or becoming a member (either of a local chapter or a network member) visit their website for easy instructions on how to get started.

Highlights of their newsletter, *The Bookworm*, are also located on their website.

<http://www.wnba-books.org/>

We are on the MBC website!!  
[www.mbc.edu/alumnae](http://www.mbc.edu/alumnae)

Join us online!!  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MBCAlumBookClub>

If you are in the Richmond, VA area we would love for you to join us! All meeting times are 7pm and last approximately 1 hour.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Theresa Cash Lewis '99 at [pinkferrets@gmail.com](mailto:pinkferrets@gmail.com) or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.

## Book Suggestions!!!

### **Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn**

by Alice Mattison

Alice Mattison's *The Book Borrower* has been a book group favorite for many years and her new novel, *Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn* is sure to become one as well. Mattison tells the story of Constance Pepper, who, while spending a week watching over at her mother's apartment in Brooklyn, experiences a series of troubling discoveries about her marriage, her job, and her family's history, and much of her life will be changed forever. Now 14 years later, living in Brooklyn and working as a lawyer, Con has almost forgotten that strange and shattering week. But a series of unsettling reminders and surprising discoveries—including traces of a lost elevated train line through Brooklyn—will lead to grief, love, and will finally unravel some of the mysteries of the past.

### **Who by Fire**

by Diana Spechler

Bits and Ash were children when the kidnapping of their younger sister, Alena—an incident for which Ash blames himself—caused an irreparable family rift. Thirteen years later, Ash is living as an Orthodox Jew in Israel, cutting himself off from his mother, Ellie, and his wild-child sister, Bits. But soon he may have to face them again, as Alena's remains have finally been uncovered. Now Bits is traveling across the world in a bold and desperate attempt to bring her brother home and salvage what's left of their family. Sharp and captivating, *Who by Fire* deftly explores what happens when people, especially families, try to rescue one another.

### **Soul Catcher**

by Michael White

In *Soul Catcher*, Michael White tells the story of Augustus Cain, a damaged man haunted by a terrible skill: the ability to track people who don't want to be found. Cain is in pursuit of Rosetta, a runaway slave who bears the scars, inside and out, of a life of servitude to a cruel and unforgiving master. Her flight is fueled by a passion and determination only a mother could feel, and she would rather die than let anyone drag her back to hell. In a dark, volatile time prior to the Civil War, fate has bound the hunted and hunter on a remarkable odyssey from Virginia to Boston and back again—an extraordinary test of character and will, mercy and compassion, that will change them both forever.

### **Come Back**

by Claire Fontaine and Mia Fontaine

How does an honor student—a bright, beautiful girl from a loving home—end up shooting up in the back of a van in rural Indiana? How does her devoted mother overcome the shock of finding out that her daughter has not only disappeared but had been living a secret life for more than a year? Told in powerful parallel stories, *Come Back* presents two mesmerizing first-hand accounts of the nightmare that shattered a family, and the journey that brought a mother and daughter back together. Claire and Mia Fontaine document their remarkable process of self-examination and healing with humor and unsparing honesty and the result is an unforgettable true story of love and transformation that makes for perfect reading for mother-daughter book clubs.

The above is from the HarperCollins Book Chatter newsletter.