

Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

May 2008

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

Four Years of Books!

April marked the fourth anniversary of this book club. It is so hard to believe it has been four years. That's 48 books we have read and discussed. Some were good. Some were awful. Some provoked really good discussions. So here is a look back at all of the books we have read over the past four years.

2004

Pears on a Willow Tree by Leslie Pietrzyk

The Last Days by Charles Marsh

Paris Match by Kathleen Reid

Southern Ladies and Gentlemen by Florence King

Wish You Well by David Baldacci

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Scapegoat by Daphne du Maurier

Plays Well With Others by Allan Gurganus

Skipping Christmas by John Grisham

2005

One For The Money by Janet Evanovich

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

Fasting, Feasting by Anita Desai

Pompeii by Robert Harris

Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of A Long Distance Swimmer by Lynne Cox

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

The Baron in the Trees by Italo Calvino

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Gimpel the Fool and Other Stories by Isaac Bashevis Singer

The Pursuit of Alice Thrift by Elinor Lipman

The Christmas Train by David Baldacci

2006

No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

Hard Times by Charles Dickens

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons by Lorna Landvik

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards

We are on the MBC website!!
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 or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.

2007

The Body in the Library by Agatha Christie
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
The Empress Orchid by Anchee Min
Handmaiden's Tale by Margaret Atwood
The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls
The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver
The Last Witchfinder by James Morrow
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See
Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle
The Girls Who Went Away by Ann Fessler
The Same Sweet Girls by Cassandra King
The Secret Agent by Joseph Conrad

2008

I Got Somebody in Staunton by William Henry Lewis
Love by Toni Morrison
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold



Your Guide to the Classics: *The Call of the Wild*

Biography

Jack London (1876-1916) is one of the foremost authors of adventure stories for the twentieth century. A native of San Francisco, California, London spent a restless youth trying his hand as oyster pirate, sailor, mill worker, vagabond, and student before heading to the Klondike during the gold rush of 1897. His experiences in Alaska gave him the material for his best known stories, including *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, which are characterized by vivid accounts of the savage brutality of man and nature. Despite his success, London led a tumultuous life, plagued by financial difficulties, and died at a young age. His rich legacy sets the standard for naturalistic adventure writing.

The Call of the Wild was published as a serialized story on the Saturday Evening Post from June 20 to July 18, 1903.

Synopsis

Kidnapped from his safe California home. Thrown into a life-and-death struggle on the frozen Arctic wilderness. Half St. Bernard, half shepard, Buck learns many hard lessons as a sled dog: the lesson of the leash, of the cold, of near-starvation and cruelty. And the greatest lesson he learns from his last owner, John Thornton: the power of love and loyalty.

Yet always, even at the side of the human he loves, Buck feels the pull in his bones, an urge to answer his wolf ancestors as they howl to him.

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