

# Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

September 2007

What we are reading in  
2007/2008:

Apr 5: *Handmaiden's Tale* by  
Margaret Atwood

May 3: *The Glass Castle* by  
Jeanette Walls

June 7: *The Bean Trees* by  
Barbara Kingsolver

July 5: *The Last  
Witchfinder* by James  
Morrow

Aug 2: *Snow Flower and the  
Secret Fan* by Lisa See

Sept 6: *Tortilla Curtain* by  
T.C. Boyle

Oct 4: *The Girls Who Went  
Away* by Ann Fessler

Nov 1: *The Same Sweet  
Girls* by Cassandra King

Dec 6: *The Secret Agent* by  
Joseph Conrad

Jan 3: *I Got Somebody in  
Staunton* by William Henry  
Lewis

Feb. 7: *Love* by Toni  
Morrison

Mar 6: *The Kite Runner* by  
Khaled Hosseini

Apr 3: *The Lovely Bones* by  
Alice Sebold

## A Look Back: 1997

I had a hard time coming up with a subject for this month's newsletter. Then I picked up the November/December issue of *Bookmarks* magazine. If you have never picked one up I highly recommend it. If you are ever in need of book suggestions this is the magazine to turn to. The last page of the magazine had what they call *Year in Books: A look back at books that captured our attention*. They went back 10 years and listed the award winning books for that year. I thought it was so interesting that I decided to list those award winners here. It was interesting to go thru and mark the ones that I have read, the ones that I have been saying I will read and the ones that I have never heard of but have now added to my list. Hope you find it just as interesting!

### National Book Award for Nonfiction

*American Sphinx*  
by Joseph J. Ellis

### National Book Award for Fiction

*Cold Mountain*  
by Charles Frazier

### Pulitzer Prize Award for General Nonfiction

*Ashes to Ashes*  
by Richard Kluger

### Pulitzer Prize Award for Fiction

*Martin Dressler*  
By Steven Millhauser

### Booker Prize

*The God of Small Things*  
By Arundhati Roy

### Other Notables:

*Tuesdays with Morrie*  
By Mitch Albom

*Sex and the City*  
By Candace Bushnell

*Mason & Dixon*  
By Thomas Pynchon

*American Pastoral*  
By Philip Roth

*Naked*  
By David Sedaris

*The Perfect Storm*  
By Sebastian Junger

*The Rape of Nanking*  
By Iris Chang

### Edgar Award

*The Chatham School Affair*  
By Thomas H. Cook

### Nebula Award

*The Moon and The Sun*  
By Vonda N. McIntyre

### Hugo Award

*Blue Mars*  
By Kim Stanley Robinson

### Newbery Medal

*The View from Saturday*  
By E. L. Konigsburg

### Nobel Prize for Literature

*Dario Fo*

*Underworld*  
By Don DeLillo

*The Partner*  
By John Grisham

*The Color of Water*  
By James McBride

*Imagining the Balkans*  
By Maria Todorova

*Guns, Germs, and Steel*  
By Jared Diamond

*The Red Tent*  
By Anita Diamant

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 [tlewis41203@yahoo.com](mailto:tlewis41203@yahoo.com) or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.



## Your Guide to the Classics: *The Arabian Nights*

Once upon a time, the name Baghdad conjured up visions of the most magical, romantic city on earth, where flying carpets carried noble thieves off on wonderful adventures, and vicious viziers and beautiful princesses mingled with wily peasants and powerful genies. This is the world of the *Arabian Nights*, a magnificent collection of ancient tales from Arabia, India, and Persia.

The tales—often stories within stories—are told by the sultana Scheherazade, who relates them as entertainments for her jealous and murderous husband, hoping to keep him amused and herself alive. In addition to the more fantastic tales which have appeared in countless bowdlerized editions for children and have been popularized by an entire genre of Hollywood films, this collection includes far more complex, meaningful, and erotic stories that deal with a wide range of moral, social, and political issues.

Though early Islamic critics condemned the tales' "vulgarity" and worldliness, the West has admired their robust, bawdy humor and endless inventiveness since the first translations appeared in Europe in the eighteenth century. Today these stories stand alongside the fables of Aesop, the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, and the folklore of Hans Christian Andersen as some of the Western literary tradition's most-quoted touchstones.

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