

Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

October 2009

What we are reading in
2009:

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

Apr 2: *The Color of Water: A
Black Man's Tribute to His
White Mother* by James
McBride

May 7: *A Woman in Berlin:
Eight Weeks in the Conquered
City* by Anonymous

June 4: *Polite Sex* by James
Wilcox

July 2: *Founding Mothers* by
Cokie Roberts

Aug 6: *Follow the River* by
James Alexander Thorn

Sept 3: *A Long Way Gone:
Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by
Ishmael Beah

Nov 5: *The Art of Racing in the
Rain* by Garth Stein

Dec 3: *Olive Kitteridge* by
Elizabeth Strout

Jan 7: *To be determined*

Feb 4: *Disgrace* by JM Coetzee

Upcoming Reads!

Nov 5- The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver.

Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. Using the techniques needed on the race track, one can successfully navigate all of life's ordeals.

On the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through: the sacrifices Denny has made to succeed professionally; the unexpected loss of Eve, Denny's wife; the three-year battle over their daughter, Zoë, whose maternal grandparents pulled every string to gain custody. In the end, despite what he sees as his own limitations, Enzo comes through heroically to preserve the Swift family, holding in his heart the dream that Denny will become a racing champion with Zoë at his side. Having learned what it takes to be a compassionate and successful person, the wise canine can barely wait until his next lifetime, when he is sure he will return as a man.

A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it.

Taking Book Suggestions!

Have a book that you would like to suggest to us?
Email me at pinkferrets@gmail.com with the title,
author and short blurb about the book. We are
always open to new books across all genres.

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.

Dec 3 - Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplors the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large, but she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her: a lounge musician haunted by a past romance; a former student who has lost the will to live; Olive's own adult child, who feels tyrannized by her irrational sensitivities; and her husband, Henry, who finds his loyalty to his marriage both a blessing and a curse.

As the townspeople grapple with their problems, mild and dire, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life-sometimes painfully, but always with ruthless honesty. Olive Kitteridge offers profound insights into the human condition-its conflicts, its tragedies and joys, and the endurance it requires.

Jan - To Be Decided

The group has decided to be a little daring. Just a little. A list of the top 50 current best sellers from bn.com has been gathered. The group will randomly pull one of these books out of a hat and that will be the book for January.

Feb - Disgrace by JM Coetzee

Disgrace--set in post-apartheid Cape Town and on a remote farm in the Eastern Cape--is deft, lean, quiet, and brutal. A heartbreaking novel about a man and his daughter, *Disgrace* is a portrait of the new South Africa that is ultimately about grace and love.

At fifty-two Professor David Lurie is divorced, filled with desire but lacking in passion. An affair with one of his students leaves him jobless and friendless. Except for his daughter, Lucy, who works her smallholding with her neighbor, Petrus, an African farmer now on the way to a modest prosperity. David's attempts to relate to Lucy, and to a society with new racial complexities, are disrupted by an afternoon of violence that changes him and his daughter in ways he could never have foreseen.