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NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

National Reading Group Month Announces Great Group Reads 2012 Selection

NEW YORK – September 17, 2012 – The National Reading Group Month / Great Group Reads Selection has chosen 20 books: 19 novels and 1 memoir, as this year's list:

The Absolutist by John Boyne (Other Press)
An Age of Madness by David Maine (Red Hen Press)
The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach (Back Bay Books)
The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker (Other Press)
Blue Asylum by Kathy Hepinstall (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Boleto by Alyson Hagy (Graywolf Press)
The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman (Scribner)
Equal of the Sun by Anita Amirrezvani (Scribner)
Faith by Jennifer Haigh (Harper Perennial)
I Married You for Happiness by Lily Tuck (Atlantic Monthly Press)
In the Shadow of the Banyan by Vaddey Ratner (Simon & Schuster)
A Land More Kind Than Home by Wiley Cash (William Morrow)
The O'Briens by Peter Behrens (Pantheon Books)
The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin (Harper)
The Right-Hand Shore by Christopher Tilghman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
Running the Rift by Naomi Benaron (Algonquin Books)
Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward (Bloomsbury USA)
The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey (Reagan Arthur Books)
What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty (Berkley Books)
Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? by Jeanette Winterson (Grove Press)

These titles were selected on the basis of their appeal to reading groups for whom they are bound to open up lively conversations about a host of timely and provocative topics, from the intimate dynamics of family and personal relationships to major cultural and world issues. The Committee also made a conscious decision to focus its attention on under-represented gems from small presses and lesser-known mid-list releases from larger houses. All are books with strong narratives peopled by fully realized characters; books which perhaps have flown under the radar of reviewers and reading groups overwhelmed by the sheer number of new releases each year.

Great Group Reads Selection Committee Chair Rosalind Reisner says: "Our selection committee once again chose a terrific list of books that will jumpstart great discussions for book groups and offer satisfying reading experiences. This year's list is diverse in every way – wonderful books for all readers." She continues, " Likewise, our committee of readers has been a vital part of this process, sharing their thoughts and insights and helping to make our final selections. They come from around the country; their love of reading and their experiences in the book world as writers, reviewers, librarians, booksellers, publicists, and committed readers has made our conversations about these books thoughtful, intelligent and wide-ranging." (A full list of Selection Committee members can be found at the National Reading Group Month Web site,

www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/ggr_committee.html.)

The National Reading Group Month Chair Jill A. Tardiff thanks the Committee for its hard work and all the publishers who submitted titles and made reading copies available. Ms. Tardiff says, "We hope that these wonderful titles become reading group staples and that booksellers and libraries across America feature them during month of October, which is, of course, National Reading Group Month." She continues, "To that end, we are providing an array of professionally designed display materials such as shelf-talkers and table-top posters on the National Reading Group Month Web site for anyone to download and use in promoting these titles. We encourage visiting the site for these and other features, as well as links to further resources." (See National Reading Group Month Marketing Toolkit at Get Involved www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/involved.html.)

Official 2012 National Reading Group Month sponsors include the Gold Level/Premier Sponsor HarperCollins Publishing and its imprints Harper, Harper Paperbacks, Harper Perennial, Amistad, Ecco, William Morrow, and William Morrow Paperbacks; Silver, Ingram Content Group and Other Press; Friends of National Reading Group Month, Bloomsbury USA, Red Hen Press, and SONY Reader™Store/SONY Style.

National Reading Group Month / Great Group Reads is an initiative of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA). Founded in 1917, the WNBA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. WNBA is national in its scope and is comprised of women and men who work with and value books. WNBA promotes reading and supports the role of women in the community of the book. For more information about the Women's National Book Association go to: [HYPERLINK "http://www.wnba-books.org"](http://www.wnba-books.org)
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