

## For the Love of Reading

# The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher



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If you loved Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall novels, this collection of stories will convince you that she can capture modern people at least as well as medieval ones showing all their foibles and unachieved dreams.

Mantel's prose is startling clear, her metaphors striking but *en pointe*, and her feel for characters both rich and sure. She has a ready feel for plot and for infusing her stories with a deep feel for the mysterious.

In the opener, "Sorry to Disturb," she portrays a sick British ex-pat living in Saudi Arabia, who is almost a prisoner in her own apartment (because of women's very restricted social and cultural standing there.) An Asian foreign man starts to visit her in the afternoons and though he is married, she immediately suspects his lack of good intentions. When he tells her that she reminds him of his first American girlfriend who was risqué, she knows her perceptions are right.

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Posted by Dory L. on November 17, 2014

[The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher](#)

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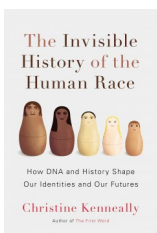
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## Family Secrets



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Remember reading the Old Testament and seeing the list of "begats" that seemed to last forever? This book examines human history as recorded in our DNA. It's full of fascinating lore: recently geneticists and statisticians have proved that African countries where the slave trade was rampant have not only a much higher sense of distrust toward friends and strangers, but

also have much poorer economies today over a hundred fifty years later. And Genghis Khan really did father thousands of children, yet at the same time he lived up to his name as the *Destroyer*. During the two centuries of the Mongol raids that he initiated, 40 million people died. So many that much of the inhabited earth became reforested. This was the only time in recorded history that the CO2 in the atmosphere actually dropped enough to measure. Genghis Khan also lives on for his particular Y chromosome. Not only did he pass this on to countless sons, but he and his armies killed so many men with different Y chromosomes that his became the predominant one in many parts of Asia. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on November 10, 2014

[The Invisible History of the Human Race: How DNA and History Shape Our Identities and Our Futures](#)

[Science](#)

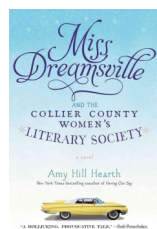
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## **Booksplus Discussion, Sunday Nov. 2 at 2: Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society**



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What happens when an energetic, middle-aged Bostonian moves to a sleepy town in Florida in 1962? First, she starts a radio show under the persona of Miss Dreamsville and secondly forms a book club. Ex-Bostonian Jackie Hart starts a ruckus when she invites people of other races and sexual persuasions to the club in a decidedly racist, homophobic town where a divorcee is considered socially-risky and improper.

Narrated by a lovable octogenarian, Dora, who does not fit into Naples herself, this novel discusses important issues such as racism, feminism, and homophobia while presenting an interesting mix of characters. With a backdrop of serious and important issues, it provides a humorous and entertaining read.

In her debut novel Amy Hearth manages to take on both the Ku Klux Klan, North versus South, the nature of community, and newcomer angst to Naples, Florida. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 29, 2014

[Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society](#)

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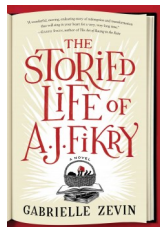
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## The Storied Life of A.K. Fikry



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Like bookstores? Like islands off the coast of New England? Favor novels that feature an orphan and a single dad? Drawn to love stories especially ones where the couple start off at each other's throats? Have a thing for rare manuscripts especially those of Edgar Allen Poe? If so this charming book-celebratory novel is just your thing.

*The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* begins with publisher's rep, Amelia Loman (?a tall dandelion of a woman") disembarking from a ferry to visit a small bookstore on Alice Island to go over the winter accounts for her publisher, Knightley Press. The owner, the very curmudgeonly A.J. Fikry, is decidedly unfriendly and shocked by the fact that the old book rep has not come. Loman tells him that he has died and then proceeds to push her favorite book, a memoir by a widower dealing with his bereavement.

For Fikry this hits too close to home but he does not tell Alice why. He has recently lost Nic, his intelligent and beautiful wife while she was pregnant with their first child. Fikry begins a delightful rant about all the books he does not like: postmodern, post apocalyptic, magical realism, ones with multiple fonts, children's books, poetry, YA, etc. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 22, 2014

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#)

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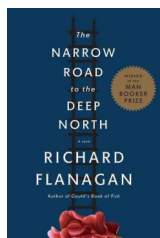
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## Man Booker Prize Awarded to Australian Novelist



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The Man Booker Prize winner for 2014 was announced on Tuesday. Richard Flanagan, a

popular and highly-regarded Australian novelist, won it for his book *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, a historical novel set during WWII.

It's about the construction of the Thai-Burma railroad, known as the Death Railway. For an odd bit of symmetry, Flanagan's father, who worked on this railway during World War II, died on the very day that Flanagan finished his book.

If you follow book news, you already know that this is the first year that American authors have been allowed to compete for the Booker, and two Americans made the short list: Karen Joy Fowler (*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*) and Joshua Ferris (*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*). [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 16, 2014

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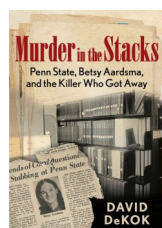
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## Murder in the Stacks



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If one single event stands out in the memory of my first semester in State College, Pa., it's the murder of an English graduate student that happened in the library. Before reading this book, I would have guessed it occurred just a week or two into term, rather than toward its end?so much did it color life for the rest of my college experience in Happy Valley, Pa. Yes, this remote mountain valley in almost the exact center of Pa. is actually named that.

Most of my dorm-mates felt absolute terror after the murder. They literally would not leave the building alone after dark. I remember big gangs of young women walking together in a phalanx toward the library to study. I joined them one night, but that was it. I could not time my departures and arrivals and function in such a timid, emotionally-wrought group.

And though this horrible crime happened decades ago, it still has not been officially ?solved.? But the author, a Harrisburg journalist, has come up with some compelling facts that point to a specific fellow grad student. A student in fact that went on to continue his PhD studies and remained on campus for four or five more years. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 13, 2014

[Murder in the stacks : Penn State, Betsy Aardsma, and the killer who got away](#)

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