



International Book Club

2010-2011

Join us to read an exciting and varied collection of books that will take us around the world!

The International Book Club is open to all members of the International Center of the Upstate (ICU). Guests are welcome to attend one meeting before being asked to join the ICU. Membership information is available at www.internationalupstate.org

TIME: 7:00-9:00 pm

PLACE: The Coffee Underground located at 1 East Coffee St., Greenville (intersection of Coffee Street and Main Street). Food and beverages are available for purchase. <http://www.coffeeunderground.biz/index.htm>

September 20, 2010 – *The Savage Detectives* by Roberto Bolano (Mexico) Hilarious and sexy, meandering and melancholy, full of inside jokes about Latin American literati that you don't have to understand to enjoy, *The Savage Detectives* is a companionable and complicated road trip through Mexico City, Barcelona, Israel, Liberia, and finally the desert of northern Mexico.

November 1, 2010 – *Infidel* by Ayan Hisri (Somalia/Netherlands) Readers with an eye on European politics will recognize Ali as the Somali-born member of the Dutch parliament who faced death threats after collaborating on a film about domestic violence against Muslim women with controversial director Theo van Gogh (who was himself assassinated).

December 6 2010 – *Playing The Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation* by John Carlin (South Africa) This wonderful book describes Mandela's methodical, improbable and brilliant campaign to reconcile resentful blacks and fearful whites around a sporting event, a game of rugby.“

January 3, 2011 – *Hideous Kinky* by Esther Freud (Morocco) Two little girls are taken by their mother to Morocco on a 1960s pilgrimage of self-discovery. For Mum, it is not just an escape from the grinding conventions of English life but a quest for personal fulfilment; her children, however, seek something more solid and stable amidst the shifting desert sands

February 21, 2011 – *Michaelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling* by Ross King (Italy) King re-creates Michelangelo's day-to-day world: the assistants who worked directly on the Sistine Chapel, the continuing rivalry with Raphael and the figures who had much to do with his world if not his art (da Vinci, Savonarola, Ariosto, Machiavelli, Martin Luther, Erasmus), including the steely Julius II.

March 21, 2011 – *The Man in the Shark skin Suit* - by Lucette Lagnado (Egypt) This memoir of an Egyptian Jewish family's gradual ruin is told without melodrama by its youngest survivor, now a reporter at the Wall Street Journal. Lagnado's story hinges on her father, "the Captain," who cut a dashing figure in mid-century Cairo, consorting with British officers and Egyptian royalty at French cafés while his family, neglected, stayed home.

April 24, 2011 – *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan (Israel) – In 1967, Bashir Khairi, a 25 year old Palestinian, journeyed to Israel with the goal of seeing the beloved old stone house with the lemon tree behind it that he and his family had fled 19 years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house he was greeted by Dalia Eshkenazi Landau, a 19 year old Israeli college student, whose family fled Europe for Israel following the Holocaust.

June 6, 2011 – *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai (India) This stunning novel is set in mid-1980s India, on the cusp of the Nepalese movement for an independent state. Desai deftly shuttles between first and third worlds, illuminating the pain of exile, the ambiguities of post-colonialism and the blinding desire for a "better life," when one person's wealth means another's poverty.

Please support the ICU by purchasing your new and used books through our website – Click on the Betterworld.com banner link at www.internationalupstate.org. Betterworld.com funds literacy efforts through its sales, and offers carbon-neutral shipping: free in the USA, \$2.97 shipping worldwide. A percentage of purchases made through our website will be donated to the ICU.

Questions? Contact ICU Book Club coordinator Caroline Warthen at 864-235-5140 or carolinedn@charter.net

