



2011-2012 INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB

Join us for a Literary journey around the world! The International Book Club is open to all members of the International Center of the Upstate. Guests are welcome to attend one meeting before being asked to join the ICU. Membership information is available at www.internationalupstate.org.

August 8, 2011 - *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay. Set in **South Africa** during the 1930s and 1940s, it tells the story of an Anglo-African boy who, through the course of the story, acquires the nickname of Peekay. It is written from the first person perspective, with Peekay narrating (as an adult, looking back) and trusting the reader with his thoughts and feelings, as opposed to a detailed description of places and account of tactions.

September 12, 2011 - *Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese is a novel written by an **Ethiopian** born author. The story is a riveting saga of twin brothers, orphaned by their mother and forsaken by their father. The boys become doctors as well, and Verghese's weaving of the practice of medicine into the narrative is fascinating even as the story bobs and weaves with the power and coincidences of teh best 19th-century novel.

October 24, 2011 - *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. The novel is based on the history of the small Derbyshire village of Eyam (**England**) that, when beset upon by the plague in 1666, quarantines itself in order to prevent the disease from spreading further. The Plague that hit Eyam is historically similar to the Black Plague in Europe.

November 28, 2011 - *Never Let Me Go* by Kazou Ishigiro. Set in a darkling alternate-universe version of **England**, and told with dry-eyed, white-knuckled restraint, the novel is an improbable masterpiece, a science fiction horror story written as high tragedy by a master literacy stylist.

January 9, 2012 - *Married to Bhutan: How One Woman Got Lost, Said 'I Do' and Found Bliss* by Linda Leaming. Tucked away in the eastern end of the Himalayas lies **Bhutan** - a tiny, landlocked country bordering China and India. Impossibly remote and nearly inaccessible, Bhutan is rich in natural beauty, exotic plants and animals, and crazy wisdom. In this funny, magical memoir, we accompany Leaming on her travels through South Asia, sharing her experiences as she learns the language, customs, and religion; her surprising romance with a Buddhist artist; and her realizations about the unexpected path to happiness and accidental enlightenment.

February 13, 2012 - *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Erik Larson. A vivid portrait of Berlin, **Germany** during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of two people: William E. Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Hitler's regime, and his scandalously carefree daughter, Martha. The rise of Nazi Germany is a well-chronicled time in history, which makes the novel all the more remarkable.

March 26, 2012 - *Leaving Mother Lake: A Girlhood at the Edge of the World* by Yang Erche Namu and Christine Mathieu. With the help of anthropologist Mathieu, singer Namu describes growing up on the **Chinese-Tibetan** border in Moso country, "the Country of the Daughters." Detailing her late-1960s, early '70s upbringing (she was known in her village as "the girl who was given abck three times") she sheds light on the unique matrilineal Moso culture, with its "walking marriages," where women take as many lovers as they want and men continue to reside in their mothers' homes.

April 30, 2012 - *The Beauty of Humanity Movement* by Camilla Gibb. Set in contemporary **Vietnam**, this is the story of a country undergoing momentous change and the story of how family is defined - not always by bloodlines but by the heart.

June 4, 2012 - *White Tiger* by Arvind Adiga. In this darkly comic debut novel set in **India**, Balam, a chauffeur, murders his employer, justifying his crime as the act of a "social entrepreneur."

Meetings are held at **COFFEE UNDERGROUND**
1 East Coffee St, Greenville, SC
7-9PM

Book Club Contact:
Caroline Warthen
carolinedw@charter.net
864.235.5140



Please support the ICU by purchasing your new and used books through our website. Click on the betterworld.com banner at www.internationalupstate.org. Betterworld.com supports literacy efforts through its sales, and offers carbon-neutral shipping. A percentage of purchases made through our website will be donated to the ICU.