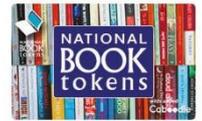
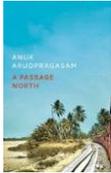


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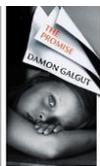


The Booker Shortlist is here. The descriptions have been provided by the 'Booker Team'. Which one do you think will win from reading the descriptions alone? Mrs Bookworm thinks it will be *The Promise*. The winner will be announced on Nov 3rd.



'*A Passage North* is quiet by serendipity, possessing its power not on its face, but in hidden, subterranean places. It has a simple conceit which revolves around the philosophy of the present as a disease of the past. It is in subverting our sense of time and even of how a story should be told that this novel achieves its strongest effect and strikes an indelible mark on the reader's soul.' £14.99

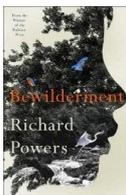
The Promise is a testament to the flourishing of the novel in the 21st century. Here, nothing is as it seems. The standard narrative logic of an omniscient narrator is here expanded and reinvented to create an eye so intrusive its gaze is totally untrammelled. It is through these eyes that the fate of a white South African family burdened with old lives, old wounds, crimes against humanity, dark history, and misreckonings, becomes, cumulatively, the fate of South Africa itself.' £16



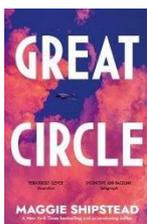
'How does the relentlessly self-ironising and unserious language of the social media adept deal with the actualities of ordinary, terrible human suffering? Can influencers find any words for loss? *No One is Talking About This* is a brilliantly funny book about tragedy and survival. It never takes itself seriously; it never takes seriously its own lack of seriousness either. A very uncomfortable book, which makes its fundamental and simple compassion all the more powerful.' £14.99



'Racial diversity is seldom if ever a plain binary opposition. *The Fortune Men* is a wonderful evocation of a particularly rich diversity, the many-faceted life of dockland Cardiff in the 1950s. Each cultural voice is drawn out richly and sympathetically. But the story is rightly dominated by a single, shocking instance of legal violence against an individual. A reminder that the scars of the murderous effects of routine and unquestioned racism are not quickly healed, and shouldn't be.' £14.99



'We were very moved by *Bewilderment*, which follows a widowed astrobiologist and his young son as they find their way in a world that has cast the boy as aberrant. ("I wanted to tell the man that everyone alive [...] was on the spectrum. That's what a spectrum is.") Powers thrills us with intricate scientific ideas even as he inhabits the consciousness of the grieving, non-neurotypical child — and shows us the loneliness and complexity involved in



'We were blown away by the ambition and epic sweep of this beautifully written novel about the doomed fictional aviatrix Marian Graves and a Hollywood actress cast in her biopic decades later. We felt that we knew these people and found ourselves comparing the experience of reading it to that of reading some of the great novels of the 19th century. Yet, *Great Circle* is fresh and utterly unusual.' £16

Mrs Bookworm chose to read *Second Place* from the original long-list, but you can see that it has not made it onto the shortlist.

In the beginning there was **The Book Corner**.



A few weeks ago, we started telling the story of how Bookworm began back in 1990. Apologies to those who are still waiting for the next instalment! Mrs Bookworm put the photos somewhere safe and forgot where. Then, a baby bookworm arrived to distract us in a nice way – what are baby bookworms called, we are not sure. A beautiful baby boy has joined the other two little boys in the growing Meads family. So, just to refresh...

Bookworm wasn't our first outlet. **The Book Corner**, opened in 1990 and was situated in an antique centre in Newark, selling collectable books and comics. The black shelves in the photo are still in use today, having moved location at least four times. We enjoyed having this simple but fun retail outlet so much that we decided to look into opening a proper book shop. We looked at empty shops in Newark, Mansfield and Retford. The row of shops on Spa Lane had only just been built and there was one of the smaller units still empty, just the right size. The photo below shows Dunmore's shoe shop on the left and a photography shop on the right (where the Mind charity shop is now). The late Sandra Dunmore grew up on the same street as Angela, thirty years later they were neighbours again!



Spa Road, but better known locally as Spa Lane.



No lights yet, 5 weeks to opening



Laying a smooth, concrete floor was the first stage.

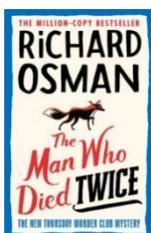
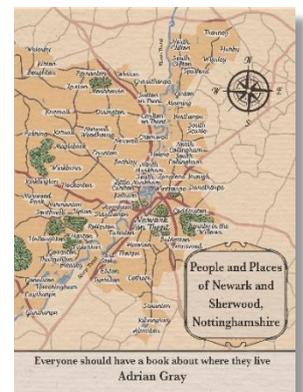


Carpet! A great space for a toddler. Paul is outside painting the frames. **Only 4 weeks to opening!**

New publication due out soon.

People and Places of Newark and Sherwood £18

We are delighted to announce the second book in Adrian Gray's *People and Places* series. His first book covered the people and places of Bassetlaw. This volume is full of history and intrigue, bringing the reader's attention to important people (but not always famous) who have helped define the area in which we live. The 'What to See' sections encourage us to get out and about to observe history on our doorstep. A Large format, A4 book with approximately 150 illustrations in colour and black and white. Softcover £18



And finally...

**New from Richard Osman. Limited signed edition.
Phone 01777 869224 to order. HB £18
(Available while stock lasts)**

**Happy Reading!
Angela & Paul Meads**