



Issue 9: 25th September 2020. Welcome back to TeaBooks Chats – designed to keep you up to date with all things book-ish until our TeaBooks groups can meet as usual!

We hope you are staying well and keeping safe. Do keep in touch with TeaBooks via your group leader or contact Amanda the co-ordinator directly at TeaBooks, 19 East Lockinge, Wantage, Oxon OX12 8QG or by email at amanda.ferguson@bookfeast.net. We'd also love to hear what you've been reading and/or what you've enjoyed listening to!



Listen out for....

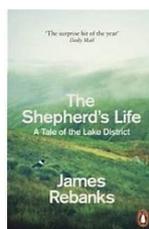
New in the weekday 9.45am slot on Radio 4 next week is **Agent Sonya by Ben MacIntyre**. The incredible true story of the greatest female spy in history from one of Britain's most acclaimed historians. From 5th October, at the same time each morning, Alex Jennings reads Hermione Lee's new biography of one of our favourite playwrights: **Tom Stoppard: A Life** is condensed into five parts each weekday morning.

One to watch...

Us by David Nicholls is a TeaBooks' favourite read and has now been dramatized by the author in four parts. It started on 20th September, so do catch up on iplayer or just drop in to the story of a couple and their son on a tour of Europe as the cracks in all their relationships begin to open. Poignant and perceptive but funny too – with some fantastic acting from Tom Hollander and Saskia Reeves.



One of the happier stories that popped up this week was a report on the camel libraries that have been taking books to more than 22,000 children in 33 Ethiopian villages throughout the pandemic. Organised by Save The Children, the camels carry up to 200 story books in wooden boxes and have ensured that children have continued to read while schools are closed. Do you know of any unusual libraries? Do let us know!



Recommended Reads

Invisible Women by Caroline Criado-Perez

Recommended by one of our volunteers, *Invisible Women* examines the way in which so much of the world is designed for men by men, from crash test dummies to mobile phones. It offers an absorbing cornucopia of thought-provoking facts - fascinating, alarming and astonishing in equal measures.

A Shepherd's Life by James Rebanks

Rebanks has a new book out this Autumn *English Pastoral*, but because it is still in hardback – with a long queue of reservations at the library - I decided to treat myself to his 2015 bestseller about his life as a shepherd in the Lake District fells, which is utterly bewitching. Unsentimental and fierce, it offers us a very different view of Cumbria from that of Wordsworth or the Cumbrian Tourist Board, but is nevertheless oddly comforting in these troubled times.