



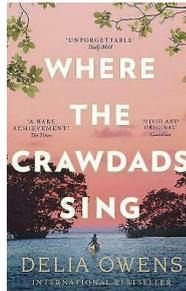
Issue 13:18th January 2021. Welcome back to TeaBooks Chats – designed to keep you up to date with all things book-ish until our TeaBooks groups can meet as usual!

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!

Reading through dark times

A lot of research into reading habits during the pandemic has been undertaken in the last few months. Almost all the studies seem to agree that whilst many people have found it difficult to concentrate, many more have found a great joy in the escape of reading – and that book sales are up around 400%.

One of the very good news stories of last year was the opening of more independent bookshops – many of whom have offered phone and online ordering with free local delivery throughout the lockdowns – a lifeline for many of us.



SCREEN TREATS

There are lots of great literary film and TV adaptations in the pipeline, many of which have been TeaBooks favourites – including a film of Delia Owen's wonderful coming-of-age novel **Where the Crawdads Sing**, a BBC2 adaption of Adam Kay's memoirs of his life as a junior doctor **This is Going to Hurt**, and a 12 part drama based on Sally Rooney's first novel **Conversation with Friends**, following on from the huge success of *Normal People* last Spring. However, due to Coronavirus, filming and release dates have been delayed – so we will have just have to be patient!

A Right Royal Read!

Really interesting to see in the news this week that Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, has launched her own version of a book club – with an online community called The Reading Room. Her first four choices are Hilary Mantel's **The Mirror and the Light**, Delia Owen's **Where the Crawdad's Sing**, William Boyd's **Restless** (set in Oxford and a definite hit with our groups!) and **The Architect's Apprentice** by Elif Shafak.

One treat that is "in the can" is the BBC three-part adaptation of Nancy Mitford's **The Pursuit of Love** starring Dominic West, Lily James and Andrew Scott, some of which was filmed in Rousham House near Bicester! Fingers crossed it will be aired this Spring and will bring a much-needed dose of laughter, romance and glamour!

Fans of the afternoon quiz show *Pointless* will know Richard Osman as a presenter – but he is also now a novelist. His first novel **The Thursday Murder Club** is being serialised on Radio 4 in ten weekday parts from 25th January at 12noon (repeated at 10.45pm.) A typical English whodunnit, with a rich vein of comedy running through, the Guardian described the novel as "A genuine pleasure: charming, amusing and affectionate."

