

THE BOOK GROUP

Sorry, just quickly, before I forget, has anyone seen a blue jumper? I think I may have left it here last time. Can everyone just have a sort of quick root around for it... sorry...it's sort of light blue and well, turquoise I suppose if you were going to be fussy...and it's got the word 'Stockholm' embroidered across the front. The funny thing is I actually got it in Holland (*Laughs.*) not Stockholm as you'd expect! Long story...

No? Nothing? Not to worry, okay not to worry, I may have left it in Ryman's. I'll check on my, ooh! What's that under your chair? Oh no, my mistake, sorry John, as you were, sorry...

Well, I have to say, I was really disappointed by the book, I know, I know. I'm going to be the unpopular one here because everyone else clearly loved it (*Another nervous laugh and mimes strangling themselves.*) but no, seriously, for me, I'm afraid the character of the fishmonger was just totally unrealistic I'm afraid, um, my father bought and sold fish all his life and I didn't recognize any of the scenarios that were described in the book. So for me, very well written, but – um – the author obviously hasn't researched her subject which, to me, is just lazy...so for that reason, I would say 3 out of a possible 5 – would have been a 4 if... well I would have liked just a bit more care, bit more attention to detail...um...failed to 'reel' me in I'm afraid, pun very much intended, not a strong enough hook! (*Laughs.*)

Mm? Sorry?

Oh, what was he then?

A blacksmith?

Ahh (*Laughter and embarrassment mixed together.*)

Ah, well that explains that! Um... I don't know how I missed that. So he wasn't a fishmonger then.

Right... A blacksmith...

Right, I'm just trying to work out where I would have got fish from...the son isn't?

Yes that's right, the son keeps fish doesn't he, that's right. Sorry, I got confused. I was thinking about the son.

Well in that case: 5! Top marks, because the bits where he was doing all the blacksmith stuff were spot on, was like being in the room. It was brilliant.

Now, because I can't make next week, would anyone object massively if we did *Watership Down* then? I've read it so many times and I think everyone here knows my opinion on it. Would that be okay? Thanks everyone.

Blacksmiths...I don't know how I managed to miss that...I've been under a bit of pressure this week...a friend of my uncle's spontaneously combusted at a barbecue last week...so yeah...