

## **BOOK REVIEWS – OCTOBER 2011**

**THE BOOK THIEF** by *Markus Zusak* ( Black Swan 2007).

Having read the Diaries of Anne Frank, when a teenager and more recently, 'The Boy In Striped Pyjamas', A 2006 novel written by Irish novelist John Boyne. Along with many more books not to mention films. I am very much aware of the atrocities that happened to the Jewish people during the Second World War. What I wasn't aware of was how the ordinary German citizens were treated. An ordinary street, ordinary people and children and a community with a lot of fear and sorrow. The uniqueness is more pronounced with the story being narrated by 'death'. I struggled a little to read it at first but soon I was enthralled. It's sad, it has humour, especially with the children, Liesel, whose story it is about and her new friend, Rudy. I was soon captivated by the families and their way of life in Germany during the war. Both countries suffered under this man, Hitler. A very well written story.

**WORTH DYING FOR** by *Lee Child* ( Bantam Books 2011).

The latest in the Jack Reacher thrillers by author Lee Child who was born in Coventry, England and now lives in America. Reacher is in the wilds of Nebraska where he comes up against the Duncan family who have a whole county terrified. Lots of mystery, action and fast page turning as he uncovers the case of a missing eight year old girl that has been unsolved for decades but is impertinent with the local people who are too frightened to investigate. But not Reacher. He takes on the Duncan's and the past unfolds with all fingers pointing at the Duncan clan. Great, fast-paced read.

**D IS FOR DEADBEAT** by *Sue Grafton* (Macmillan 1987).

As stated in last months reviews I have started reading these books that are named after the alphabet. Last Month I reviewed **A is for Alibi**. I have since read B is for Burglar and C is for Corpse. The most recent one I have reached is D is for Deadbeat and the best yet. She just gets better with each book but I felt her writing had opened up more in this one with Kinsey Millhome, the private investigator showing a more gentle side as she investigates the death of a client who within days of giving her a bounced cheque is murdered. Up until now I felt she came over a typical American tough cookie, but she is full of surprises.

**AND FURTHERMORE – Judi Dench Biography.** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson 2010).

I love a film with Judi Dench taking part. Whether it be in a comedy or a drama I think she is a great actress. Unfortunately, I have never had the privilege of seeing her on stage. Considering that is where she started her career more than fifty years ago I think it only fair to warn you that the beginning comes over more like a list of plays that she has been in with very few fellow actors that I had heard of and, of course, I had never heard of the stage producers and directors. There was hardly any references to her private life, maybe a little about her childhood, but, although I wasn't looking for scandal or gossip I would have liked to have read more about her relationship with her famous husband, Michael Williams, and what their family life was like. Sadly it was focused mostly on her achievements, which have been many, and outstanding - but there was just something missing for me.