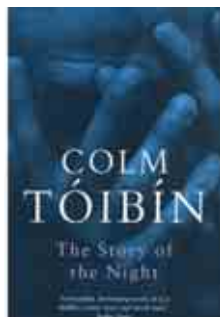




LGBT Reading Group



April/May 2008



The Read... **The Story of the Night**

Richard Garay quietly lives with his mother, hiding his sexuality from her and from those around him. Stifled by a job he despises, he finds himself willing to take considerable risks. Set in Argentina in a time of great change, this book is a powerful and moving novel about a man who, as the Falklands War is fought and lost, finds his own way to emerge into the world.

The Story of the Night is, in the end, a love story of the most serious and difficult kind, which Tóibín tells with profound artistry and truth. It won the Ferro-Grumley Prize for the Best Gay Novel of 1997.

ISBN: 978-0330340182

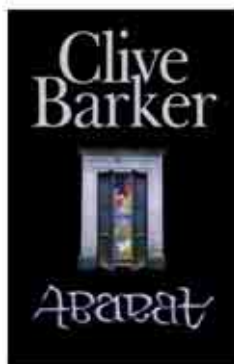


The Author... **Colm Tóibín**

Colm Tóibín was born in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford in the southeast of Ireland in 1955. His grandfather Patrick Tobin was a member of the Irish Republican Army, taking part in the 1916 Rebellion in Enniscorthy and subsequently interned in Frongach in Wales. His father was a teacher who was involved in the Fianna Fáil party in Enniscorthy.

Tóibín's first novel, 1990's *The South*, was partly inspired by his time in the Spanish city of Barcelona.

Our Opinion... Richard/Ricardo discovers his identity at a time of great unrest in Argentina during the reign of the Generals and the Falklands war and before the AIDS crisis. Following the death of his staunchly patriotic English mother, Richard finds himself alone and finding solace with men he encounters on streets and in saunas. After quitting his job as an English teacher, his Anglo-Argentinean language skills come in useful as he is introduced into the world of Americans, politics, business men and corruption. This leads him to meet the elusive but alluring Pablo, brother of Jorge - Richard's friend and English student. Erotic but never vulgar, the story that ensues is predictable but written in a succinct and realistic style, efficiently portraying the fear and desolation that many gay men must have felt during the 80's. It is important to bear in mind that this title was first published in 1997 so is a relatively old book and, for some, may not have the same impact that it did at the time. The group was divided with its appraisal but, worryingly, everyone agreed the middle third of the book could have been omitted with little detriment to the overall story! This read may be best suited to someone new to gay fiction who can keep up with the history lesson too.



What Next? **Abarat** by **Clive Barker**

Young Cindy Quackenbush finds herself transported from the boredom of a Mid-Western chicken-packing town to the 25 islands of the Abarat Islands torn between the evil magician Christopher Carrion and the equally power-hungry rational capitalist Pixler. Each of the islands has a nature determined by an hour of the day - part of the pleasure of the book is seeing how Barker works this conceit out as Cindy travels from peril to peril. The book is literally a book of hours in the Medieval sense; it's lavishly illustrated with over a hundred of Barker's striking paintings - much of its imagery was conceived of pictorially and then reinvented as story.

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