

Waterstone's Press Release

Strictly embargoed until 08:00 Saturday 16th May 2009

Kate Mosse Recommends...

London, 16 May 2008... Kate Mosse, the acclaimed author of *Labyrinth* and *Sepulchre* and co-founder of the Orange Prize, today revealed the books and authors that have most influenced and inspired her writing, as well as those she most loves, as she announced her selection for the Waterstone's Writer's Table, a major promotion from the UK's leading bookseller.

Following in the steps of Sebastian Faulks, Philip Pullman and Nick Hornby, Kate Mosse had complete freedom to select each title that appears on her Table. She has used this freedom to build a diverse list that spans a myriad of genres, times and cultures.

With books ranging from classics (Emily Brontë, Guy de Maupassant, Joseph Conrad), biography (Claire Tomalin, Arthur Koestler, Jung Chang), crime (Ian Rankin, Agatha Christie) and history (Karen Armstrong, Zoé Oldenbourg) to adventure (Jules Verne, H. Rider Haggard), modern fiction (Margaret Atwood, Louis de Bernières, Marilyn French, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie) and poetry (T.S. Eliot, Emily Dickinson), Kate Mosse's list is enjoyable, stimulating and readable - an inspiring choice from one of the UK's most beloved authors.

"This is a wonderfully thought-provoking and far-reaching list," said Toby Bourne, head of fiction at Waterstone's. "With titles from all over the world, there is something here for everyone. Kate's choice touches on over two thousand years of human history. It is full of surprises, but remains throughout a selection of moving and entertaining stories of the human condition."

Kate Mosse said, "It was a great pleasure - and a privilege - to be asked to take part. It was much harder than I expected, getting my list down to only forty titles, but at the same time, a great way to shout about my genuinely favourite books and to reflect on what had influenced me over the years, both as a reader and as a writer."

The table will feature in selected Waterstone's stores throughout May and June as well as at Waterstones.com/writerstable, complete with Kate's handwritten thoughts regarding each title.

The full list of titles in Kate Mosse's Writer's Table is:

1. *Half of a Yellow Sun* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2. *Girls of Riyadh* – Rajaa Alsanea
3. *The Blood of Flowers* – Anita Amirrezvani
4. *The Bible* – Karen Armstrong
5. *Bodily Harm* – Margaret Atwood
6. *Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett
7. *Wuthering Heights* – Emily Brontë
8. *The Master and Margarita* – Mikhail Bulgakov
9. *My Antonia* – Willa Cather
10. *Wild Swans* – Jung Chang
11. *Sleeping Murder* – Agatha Christie
12. *Heart of Darkness* – Joseph Conrad
13. *Birds Without Wings* – Louis de Bernières
14. *Selected Poems* – Emily Dickinson
15. *The Three Musketeers* – Alexandre Dumas
16. *Four Quartets* – T.S. Eliot
17. *The Women's Room* – Marilyn French
18. *The Yellow Wallpaper* – Charlotte Gilman
19. *The Wise Woman* – Philippa Gregory
20. *King Solomon's Mines* – H. Rider Haggard
21. *The Turn of the Screw* – Henry James
22. *Scum of the Earth* – Arthur Koestler
23. *Montaillou* – Emmanuel le Roy Ladurie
24. *Bel-Ami* – Guy de Maupassant
25. *The Chateau* – William Maxwell
26. *Fugitive Pieces* – Anne Michaels
27. *The Bluest Eye* – Toni Morrison
28. *The Book and the Brotherhood* – Iris Murdoch
29. *Massacre at Montségur* – Zoé Oldenbourg
30. *Black and Blue* – Ian Rankin
31. *All Quiet on the Western Front* – Erich Maria Remarque
32. *Gilead* – Marilynne Robinson
33. *Sarum* – Edward Rutherfurd
34. *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley
35. *The Map of Love* – Ahdaf Soueif
36. *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck
37. *The Time-Torn Man* – Claire Tomalin
38. *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* – Jules Verne
39. *Have Mercy on Us All* – Fred Vargas
40. *Affinity* – Sarah Waters

–ENDS–

Notes to Editors

- Kate Mosse is best known for her two most recent novels, *Labyrinth* (2005), voted Richard and Judy Best Read at the British Book Awards in 2006, and *Sepulchre* (2007), which have become international bestsellers. She is also Co-Founder & Honorary

Director of the Orange Prize for Fiction, set up in 1996 to celebrate outstanding fiction by women from throughout the world. Mosse is also a broadcaster for television and radio, having hosted BBC Four's flagship weekly book program, 'The Readers & Writers Roadshow.' She is the Book Review/Commentator for BBC One Breakfast News and a guest presenter of BBC Radio 4's 'Open Book,' and 'A Good Read.' A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Board Member of the Prince of Wales' organization Arts & Business, Mosse was named European Woman of Achievement for Contribution to the Arts in 2000. Her latest book, *The Cave*, was published in 2009 as part of World Book Day.

- The Writer's Table began as part of Waterstone's Writer's Year in 2008, a year of promotions and activities designed to highlight the role of the author. The Writer's Table will continue throughout 2009, helping readers discover something new about some of their favourite writers, and some incredible books as well. Previous curators are Sebastian Faulks, Philip Pullman and Nick Hornby.
- Waterstone's is the UK's leading specialist bookseller with over 300 branches in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as branches in Eire, in Amsterdam and Brussels, on the Isle of Man and Jersey. Its transactional website Waterstones.com was launched in 2006, and there are currently over 2.5 million holders of the Waterstone's Card. Waterstone's was named Bookselling Company of the Year at the Bookseller Retail Awards 2008.

**For further information about The Writer's Table or to request an interview with Kate Mosse please contact Jennifer Berlin in the Waterstone's Press Office.
020 8996 4391 / Jennifer.berlin@waterstones.com**

Images available upon request.