



Saturday 1 October 18.30: Jenny Diski

St Andrews Church 18.30 with following meal at Språkkaféet Esperantoplatsen.

After a brief introduction by Nancy Fjällbrant, Jenny Diski will discuss her works and read from one or two of her books. We will then continue to Språkkaféet for a vegetarian buffet and continued discussions with this interesting author. We expect her books to be available. We have reserved the café for our group until 22.00

Cost: 100:- per person including meal

Jenny Diski was born in London in 1947. She was educated at University College, London, and worked as a teacher during the 1970s and early 1980s. She is a regular contributor to *The Observer* and the *London Review of Books*.

Her first novel, *Nothing Natural*, the story of a single parent locked in an abusive relationship, was published in 1986 (reissued 2003). Subsequent novels include *Rainforest* (1987), in which a female anthropologist is shocked by her discoveries about human nature; *Then Again* (1990), a complex narrative exploring the life of a persecuted Jewish girl living in fourteenth-century Poland; *Happily Ever After* (1991), the story of the relationship between an eccentric old woman and her landlord, a middle-aged alcoholic; and *The Dream Mistress* (1996), set in contemporary London, about three women whose stories are loosely connected: Mimi, Leah - the mother who abandoned her - and Bella, a tramp who Mimi saves at the beginning of the novel. *The Vanishing Princess* (1995) is a collection of short stories.

She published a volume of autobiography, *Skating to Antarctica*, in 1997, which was shortlisted for the *Jewish Quarterly* Literary Prize for Non-Fiction, and a book of essays, *Don't*, in 1998. Jenny Diski is also the author of two television plays, *A Fair and Easy Passage*, written for Channel 4 television, and *The Ultimate Object of Desire*.

Stranger on a Train: Daydreaming and Smoking around America with Interruptions (2002), a travelogue narrating a railway journey around the United States, is the winner of the 2003 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award. *A View from the Bed* (2003) is a compendium of essays and literary reviews. Her novel, *Only Human: A Comedy* (2000), reworks the biblical story of Abraham and Sarah told in Genesis, chapters 11 to 22, and *After These Things* (2004) continues the story, centring on the relationship between Abraham's son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob.

Jenny Diski lives in Cambridge.



Photo: © Jerry Bauer

Bibliography

Nothing Natural Methuen, 1986

Rainforest Methuen, 1987

Like Mother Bloomsbury, 1989

Then Again Bloomsbury, 1990

Happily Ever After Hamish Hamilton, 1991

Monkey's Uncle Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1994

The Vanishing Princess Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1995

The Dream Mistress Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1996

Skating to Antarctica Granta, 1997

Don't Granta, 1998

→ **Only Human: A Comedy** Virago, 2000

→ **Stranger on a Train: Daydreaming and Smoking around America with Interruptions** Virago, 2002

A View from the Bed Virago, 2003

After These Things Little, Brown, 2004