



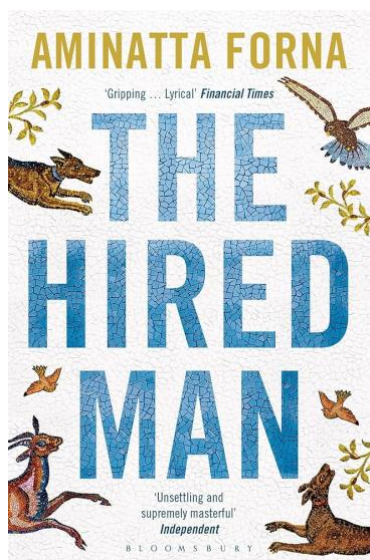
Prison Reading Groups

Book Talk

The Hired Man

by Aminatta Forna

Number of pages: 304



This is the story of an Englishwoman and her two children, who buy a house in Croatia and renovate it with the help of a local handyman: Duro. Revolving around the house, Duro's history is slowly unravelled, and a bilateral narrative of uncovered secrets emerges. Is Duro really the simple handyman he seems to be?

This novel explores themes of guilt, loss and grief through the central image of the house, whilst cleverly touching on the Yugoslavian Wars.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles or *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the author explore themes of guilt and regret?
2. Which character is the easiest to relate to?
3. How does the author link the past to the present in this story?
4. Do you think this book would work well as a film?
5. Would you read more books by Aminatta Forna?