

How to set up and run a Bookring - The Idiots Guide.

By Yokospungeon

WHAT IS A BOOKRING?

A bookring is a method by which one person makes a book available for several people to read. It passes (often through the mail) from person to person and each person records their thoughts in a Bookcrossing journal entry, before sending it on to the next. Each individual is responsible for contacting the next person in the list to get their address to send it forward.

HOW DO I SET ONE UP?

Like many things in life, they seem much more complicated written down! This step by step guide is deliberately thorough, to help new Bookcrossers - once you are more familiar with the system, you will realise it's all easier than it seems to be!

STEP 1 - REGISTER BOOK

The first step is to register the book you wish to ring in the normal way.

Go to the HOME page of www.bookcrossing.com to the red text 'the 3 R's' - and follow the registration instructions.

Once you have your book registered (i.e. you have a sticker with the UNIQUE ID number called a BCID in the front of the book) you are ready to begin to organise your ring.

STEP 2 - RECORDING THE RING DETAILS

You will note that the journal entry text for the book you have registered can be edited by means of a small link at the bottom 'edit journal entry'.

Click on this, and copy and paste the following text into your journal entry for the book in question, adapting the text as necessary (the green bits) for your particular book. (The following text was used for a Bookring for The Life of Pi by Yann Martel)

_____Begin cut and paste_____

WELCOME TO THE **LIFE OF PI** INTERNATIONAL BOOK RING

This ring is now underway - as of **(DATE YOU SENT BOOK TO FIRST RECIPIENT)**

Members are as follows - member in bold currently has possession of the book: (If you wish to join, please PM me and I will add you!)

MEMBER / LOCATION:

mamapapa / Redhill, Surrey, UK

babayaga / Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

hananpok / Chicago, Illinois, USA

dibdibs / Chicago, Illinois, USA

frillypants / Colorado, USA

This is how it works:

- If you wish to be added to the list, please PM me with your details.
- Note that you must be prepared to mail internationally.
- We will kick off once we have 5 members.
- You will be sending the book to the person who appears after you in the list, so you need to PM them to get their address!
- It's not a race, but please read and send the book on as speedily as you can, other people are dying to read it too.
- Please journal the book once you have received it (so we all know where it currently is) and again when you have read it (so we know what you thought of it!)
- If you're the last person on the list (i.e. we run out of members) the book comes back to me until there are more interested parties...

BOOK DESCRIPTION: The Life of Pi is the tale of an unusually spiritual 16 year old Indian boy who survives a shipwreck by boarding a rescue craft. Unfortunately, he shares this with a tiger, a hyena and a zebra. This fantastical tale of Pi's struggle to live and his adventures while lost at sea are fascinating, touching and strangely affecting. I won't go into any more detail, as I don't want to spoil the journey for other readers.

_____end cut and paste_____

NOTES:

The yellow highlighted area above is the list of members - you must add these to the journal entry as you receive private messages (PM's) from people wanting to participate.

Place the names in an order (as best you can) whereby the book travels in a round route rather than a zig zag - to minimise postage costs for the participants.

If you get more than 5 people in Europe and 5 in the US you may want to set up two bookrings simultaneously - one for each, so that a) people are not waiting too long to get their hands on the book and b) the postage becomes more doable. If you decide to do this, obviously you must register 2 separate books and keep 2 separate lists on 2 separate journal entries - i.e. proceed as if you were doing 2 rings for 2 different books.

HTML Notes

Once you have clicked the 'edit journal entry' link, you are working within Bookcrossing's own editor. You will note that for the most part it behaves like an ordinary DTP software in that it recognises carriage returns etc. However, it can also read and display HTML (web page code) and it's helpful to know that.

EG. In our journal entry, we want to indicate who has possession of the book and we will do this by making the name of the person who currently has it **BOLD**. If you want to make any areas of the text bold, you just add the tags as follows. Any thing between these two tags `here` would appear bold.

So, in the case of the following member list:

EG

scotty / novascotia, canada

`barbara / london, england`

greendragon / washington, USA

Barbara has the book and her name will appear in bold. Note that the tags themselves will be invisible when the journal entry is saved, and viewed as a web page.

STEP 3 - Recruiting Participants

To get people to sign up and join anything, you need to place a post in the correct forum of Bookcrossing.

To do this, click on the left hand menu COMMUNITY, and then THE FORUM in the centre of the page.

Click on the link for [Bookrings, Bookrays, and Bookboxes](#)

You will see other bookrings advertised here.

To post about your booking, click on START NEW THREAD.

Make the Subject of your post : **NAME OF YOUR BOOK NEW AUTHOR BOOKRING!**

Then copy and paste the text below, adapting it to your book / circumstances. (The text below is what Author Carolyn Lampman used for her first booking - something along these lines is ideal)

Start copy & Paste

Hello fellow readers. I discovered Book Crossing this week and was instantly smitten! I love the concept of "releasing books into the wild".

As an author who is always looking for new readers, it occurred to me that this might also be a great way to get my books into the hands of folks who might not otherwise see them AND get some honest feedback. That's why I am starting my very first book ring.

I also hope to convince other authors of the merits of Bookcrossing, and think that a successful international ring with some honest journal entries will be a good way to open their eyes.

So, here's your chance to read a book and tell the author exactly what you think of it.

My book is a time travel romance set in the American West just before the Civil War. The heroine gets sucked into a time warp and switches places with her Great Grandmother who is on her way to the Split Rock Pony Express Station as a mail-order bride to the station master, Lucas Daniels. Unfortunately, her prospective bridegroom didn't order a bride, the two Pony Express riders assigned to the station did it for him because he's such a lousy cook! He's gone west to get as far away from women as possible. Suddenly he's not only stuck with a woman, it's a woman with 21st century attitudes!

If this sounds like a book ring you'd like to be part of, please PM me to join!

end copy & paste

NOTES to Authors who are booking-ing their own books:

If you want feedback, it's preferable to explain you're the author, as that way people may be a little more specific in their reviews. If, however, you'd rather remain anonymous and hear what people have to say straight off the cuff - just say you are booking-ing the book and do not identify yourself as the author. It's up to you!

STEP 4 - Participants will start to contact you, and you must add them

Having read your post, people will start to contact you by PM (private message) and ask to join. These will arrive via your email.

So great, all you need to do now is look at the messages they sent you and (checking their location) add it to your list in your journal entry. This is important - you need to list out the members on the journal entry page for each ring - as the members will need to be able to see who they contact to get that person's address.

Then, re-shuffle to put each person as geographically close to the next as possible! Once you've got them in the final order, send everyone a private message to let know that the ring is underway - then send the book to the first on the list.

NOTES:

It is worthwhile checking back to your original forum thread to make sure no-one has responded there instead of sending you a PM. You won't be the only one for whom this is a new experience! The easiest way to do this is to go to THE FORUM and click on FORUM SEARCH feature - you can then put in your own username, and this will list out all the threads you have posted, making it simple to find the one you need.

STEP 5 - Contact participants to let them know the ring is underway

It's good to send a private message to each of the participants to let them know the ring is underway and give any additional instructions. You do this by clicking on the person's username (to reach their bookshelf) and there you will see a link 'send [username] a private message'.

You can copy and paste and adapt the following text for this:

_____ Start copy & Paste _____

Dear **USERNAME**

Thanks for joining the **INTERNATIONAL TITLE OF BOOK** Bookring!

You can read the full instructions on the journal entry for the book at :
<http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/1401134>

Please remember to journal the book BOTH when you have received it (so we all know where it is) and once you have read it (so we all know what you thought of it).

I am really looking forward to hearing your feedback, thanks for the participating. Yours sincerely **YOUR USERNAME**

_____ end copy & paste _____

NOTES:

It is helpful to include the web address of your journal entry for this particular ring in this message, so that the participant can easily find the book ring in the future to check for any changes to the list order etc. (yellow highlighted text)

To get the URL of **your own bookring**, go to your journal entry for the book from your bookshelf, then copy and paste the address from the white address bar at the top of the web browser window.

STEP 6 - Send the book out!

All you have to do now is send the book to the first person on the list, and when they have received it, put their name in BOLD as shown above.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Problems can arise in rings, the most irritating being that a book gets 'stuck' with a particular participant. You have to allow people different periods of time, given their different circumstances and reading ability, but as a rule of thumb, if someone has had the book for more than 2 months, I think it's OK to start a polite correspondence with them about it by sending a private message.

If you have any further problems, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help! HAPPY BOOKRING-ing!

YokoSpungeon