



# The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society

by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

Published 2008  
288 pages

## Plot Summary

First Line: “Dear Sidney, Susan Scott is a wonder. We sold over forty copies of the book, which was very pleasant, but much more thrilling from my standpoint was the food.”

Writer Juliet Ashton becomes acquainted with a literary society born of secret pig dinner during the German occupation of Guernsey when a pig farmer named Dawsey Adams writes her a letter. After numerous letters are exchanged with the eclectic bunch, she decides to go to Guernsey to research a book on the occupation.

## Characters

Juliet Ashton (Izzy Bickerstaff)  
Sidney Stark, Sophie Stark  
Markham V. Reynolds  
Dawsey Adams  
Eben Ramsey, Eli Ramsey  
Isola Pribby, Amelia Maugery  
John Booker, Clovis Fossy  
Elizabeth McKenna, Kit McKenna  
Remy Giraud

## Setting

London, England  
Guernsey, Channel Islands

## Point of View

Epistolary – most characters

## Author Info

Mary Ann Shaffer was born in West Virginia in 1934. Her career included libraries, bookstores, and publishing. In 1976, she flew to Guernsey on a whim. While stranded at the airport she read a book about the German occupation of the Channel Islands. When her book club suggested she write a book, she remembered Guernsey. Shaffer died in 2008, just months before the book was published. Annie Barrows, Shaffer’s niece and author of several children’s books, stepped in to edit the book and see it through to publication.

## Related Websites

[Book Website](http://www.guernseyliterary.com) <http://www.guernseyliterary.com>

[Guernsey](http://www.visitguernsey.com) <http://www.visitguernsey.com>

[B&N Reading Group Guide](http://tinyurl.com/5j8b7r) <http://tinyurl.com/5j8b7r>

## Discussion Questions

- What was your experience reading a novel composed entirely of letters? Are there types of information or emotion that letters convey more successfully than other forms of expression?
- Discuss the writers who capture the hearts of the members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Does a reader's taste in books reveal anything significant about his or her personality?
- What historical facts about life in England during World War II were you especially surprised to discover? Are there ways in which fiction can provide the means for more fully understanding a historical reality?
- Which member of the Society was your favorite? Do you agree with Isola that “reading good books ruins you for enjoying bad ones”?



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