Good Reads: Biography Reviews April 2009

Name	Author	Title / Subject	Comments
Sheila	Diana Athill	'Somewhere towards the end' (auto)	Not a straight narrative, more commentary on aging
	Julian Barnes	'Nothing to be frightened of' (auto)	Similarly, thoughts / philiosophy on death
	Roy Jenkins	Churchill	Long but fascinating
	Allan Bullock	Hitler & Stalin	Reflective wisdom rather than detailed academic study
	Jan Morris	Lincoln	Short, well condensed
Chris	Mary Cadogen	Richmal Crompton	Not specially well written, but quite interesting
Jean	Lynne McTaggart	Kathleen Kennedy (sister of JFK & later Duchess of Devonshire)	Focusses on her tragically short adult life + interesting little told background into Kennedy's
Helen	John & Sheila Peel	'Margrave of the Marshes'	Lot of nerdy music detail, finished by S after J's death
	Sara Paretsky	(auto)	More memoir than biog, reflects on women's writing
	Daniel Tammet	'Born on a Blue Day' (auto)	V elequent & insightful on his autism/asperger's and related (?) 'synesthesia'. Well written.
Jan	Eddie Chapman	'Agent Zigzag' (auto)	Double agent, just a crook really
	Philip Eade	'Sylvia, Queen of the Headhunters: the last Ranee of Sarawak'	Eminently forgetable, to the point of resenting the time spend reading it.
	ŝ	Oscar Peterson	Rubbish
	Boswell	Life of Johnson	Written from glorious personal intimacy rather than study.
Ros	Germaine Greer	'Shakespeare's Wife' (Ann Hathaway)	Reads like an academic paper but loads of detail for interested parties.
	Sheila Hancock	'Just me' (auto)	Follow-on book after popular on about John Thaw. Well written but not terribly interesting.
Rinkje	Julian Barnes	'Arthur & George' (Conan Doyle & Edalji)	Story of CD taking up case of accused man. Well written.
Mary E	Paul Rambali	'Barefoot Runner' (Abebe Bakila)	Amazing story of the first Ethiopian olympic marathon winner.
Cynth	Margaret Forster	'Elizabeth Barrett Browning'	Well written narrative, lots of interesting people & places. Flush deserves his own biog.
Fiona	Margaret Drabble	Arnold Bennett	Well written, drawing comparisons between AB's life and the plots and characters in the novels.