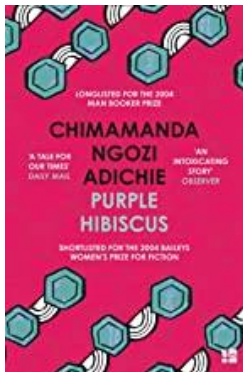


Books for Reading Groups

Last Update May 2022



Adichie, Chimamanda, Ngozi – Purple Hibiscus

Fifteen year old Kambili loves in fear of her father, a charismatic yet violent Catholic patriarch who, although generous and well-respected in the community, is repressive and fanatically religious at home. Escape and the discovery of a new, liberated way of life come when Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, forcing Kambili and her brother to live at their aunt's home, a noisy place full of laughter. The visit will lift the silence from her world and, in time, unlock a terrible, bruising secret at the heart of her family life.

An extraordinary debut, *Purple Hibiscus* is a novel about the blurred lines between the old gods and the new, childhood and adulthood, love and hatred – the grey spaces in which truths are revealed and true living is begun.

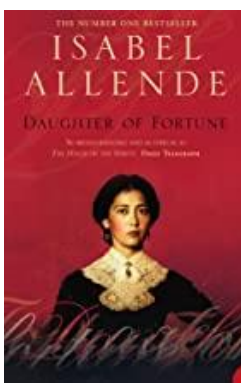


Ahern, Cecelia – Lyrebird

In the south-west of Ireland, rugged mountains meet bright blue lakes and thick forests. Deep in the woods, a young woman lives alone, forever secluded from the world, her life a well-kept secret. She possesses an extraordinary talent, the likes of which no-one has seen before: a gift that will earn her the nickname Lyrebird.

When Solomon stumbles into solitary existence, her life is turned on its head. Pulled from her peaceful landscape to the cacophony of Dublin, she is confronted by a world desperate to understand her.

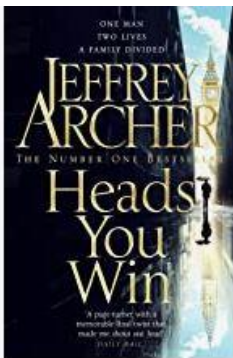
But while Solomon knows the world will embrace Laura, will it free her to spread her wings – or will it trap her in a gilded cage? Like all wild birds, she needs to fly free....



Allende, Isabel – Daughter of Fortune

When the rootless foundling Eliza Sommers, at the age of sixteen, falls for a striking young revolutionary called Joaquin Andieta it sets her life on a course of travels and adventures that will take her far away from her native Chile and the English household where she has been raised. In the frenzy of the American gold rush Andieta disappears. Eliza, desperate with love and determined to find him, stows away on a ship packed with sailors, adventurers, whores, and a gentle Chinese doctor, bound for the harsh frontier town of San Francisco.

Part of the trilogy that includes *The House of the Spirits* and *Portrait in Sepai*, this is a lavish, compelling novel that shows Isabel Allende's intricate, enthralling storytelling at its finest.

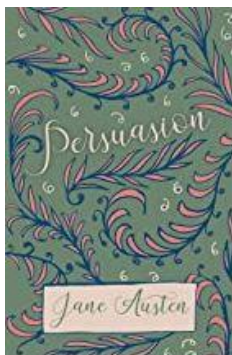


Archer, Jeffrey – Heads you Win

LENINGRAD, RUSSIA. 1968

Alexander Karpenko is no ordinary child, and from an early age it is clear he is destined to lead his countrymen. But when his father is assassinated by the KGB for defying the state, he and his mother will have to escape from Russia if they hope to survive. At the docks, they are confronted with an irreversible choice: should they board a container ship bound for America, or Great Britain? Alexander leaves that choice to the toss of a coin...

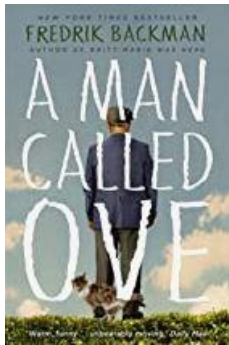
In a single moment, a double twist decides Alexander's future. During an epic tale of fate and fortune, spanning two continents and thirty years, we follow his triumphs and defeats as he struggles as an immigrant to conquer the new world. As this unique story unfolds, Alexander comes to realise where his destiny lies, and accepts that he must face the past he left behind in Russia.



Austen, Jane – Persuasion

Jane Austen's last novel is a moving, masterly and elegiac love story tingled with the heartache of missed opportunities.

It tells the story of Anne Elliot, who, persuaded to break off her engagement to the man she loved because he was not successful enough, has never forgotten him. When he returns, he brings with him a tantalizing second change of happiness



Backman, Fredrik – A Man Called Ove

Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet. He thinks himself surrounded by idiots – joggers, neighbours who can't reverse a trailer properly and shop assistants who talk in code.

But isn't it rare, these days, to find such old-fashioned clarity of belief and deed? Such unswerving conviction about what the world should be, and a lifelong dedication to making it just so? In the end, you will see, there is something about Ove that is quite irresistible ...

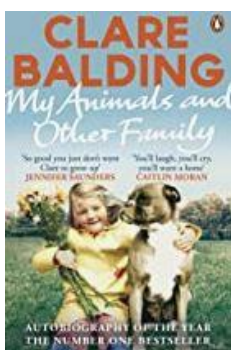


Bailey, Catherine – Black Diamonds: The Rise and Fall of an English Dynasty

Wentworth is today a crumbling and forgotten palace in Yorkshire. Yet just a hundred years ago it was the ancestral pile of the Fitzwilliams' – an aristocratic clan whose home and life were fuelled by coal mining.

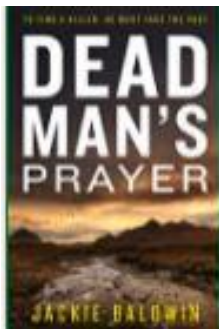
Black Diamonds tells of the Fitzwilliams' spectacular decline: of inheritance fights; rumours of a changeling and of lunacy; philandering earls; illicit love; war heroism; a tragic connection of the Kennedys; violent death; mining poverty and squalor; and a class war that literally ripped apart the local landscape.

The demise of Wentworth and the Fitzwilliams' is a riveting account of aristocratic decline and fall, set in the grandest house in England.



Balding, Clare – My Animals and Other Family

Clare Balding's family was larger than most. Not only was there her brother, mother, and champion-trainer father, but also racehorses, mares, foals, ponies, and ever-present pack of boxers and lurchers. In this unforgettable memoir, she shows how they taught her everything she knows about life, love, joy, and sadness.

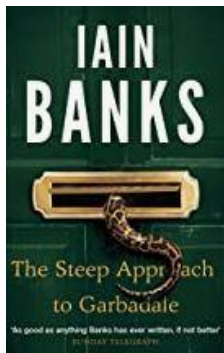


Baldwin, Jackie – Dead Man's Prayer

Ex-priest DI Frank Farrell has returned to his roots in Dumfries, only to be landed with a disturbing murder case. Even worse, Farrell knows the victim: Father Boyd, the man who forced him out of the priesthood eighteen years earlier.

With no leads, Farrell must delve into the old priest's past, one that is inexorably linked with his own. But his attention is diverted when pair of twin boys go missing. The Dumfries police force recovers one in an abandoned church, unharmed. But where is his brother?

As Farrell investigates the two cases, he can't help but feel targeted. Is someone playing a sinister game, or is he seeing patterns that don't exist? Either way, it's a game Farrell need to win before he loses his grip on reality, or someone else turns up dead.

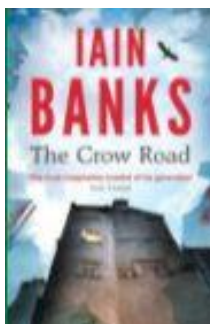


Banks, Iain – The Steep Approach to Garbadale

After years of exile, Alban Wopuld has been summoned back to his family's highland estate, Garbadale. The Wopuld clan are closing ranks. They have built their fortune on the boardgame Empire! – which has become a hugely successful computer game – and now the Americans want to buy them out.

As the family gathers for their Extraordinary General Meeting, old grudges, forbidden passions, and dark secrets emerge.

What drove Alban's mother to take her own life? And is he over Sophie, his bewitching cousin and teenage love!



Banks, Iain – The Crow Road

“It was the day my grandmother exploded. I sat in the crematorium, listening to my Uncle Hamish quietly snoring in harmony to Bach’s mass in B minor, and I reflected that it always seemed to be death that drew me back to Gallanach”.

Prentice McHoan has returned to the bosom of his complex but enduring Scottish family Full of questions about the McHoan past, present and future, he is also deeply preoccupied: mainly with death, sex, drink, God and illegal substances...



Barrows, Annie – The Truth According to Us

Miss Layla Beck despises small-town life.

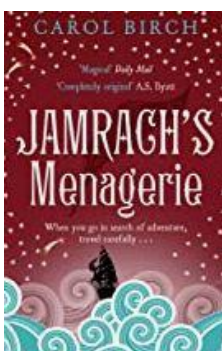
When she refuses to marry the man, her rich father has picked for her, Layla is banished to the remote town of Macedonia, West Virginia. It is a place where nothing happens – or so she thinks.

Tasked to record the history of the town, Layla meets the seductive Romeyn clan. As she peels back the layers of family feuds and deceit, she discovers to her cost an unknown story far darker than she could ever have imagined. The smallest towns have the biggest secrets.

Beatty, Paul – The Sellout

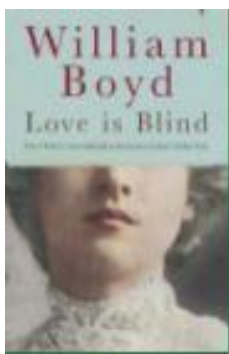
It will make you laugh, but most of all it will make you think.’ (The Sunday Times).

‘There’s satire and then there’s satire, and without question Paul Beatty’s caustic third novel, *The Sellout*, definitely falls into the latter category ... brutally honest and very funny.’ (The Independent).



Birch, Carol – Jamrach’s Menagerie

Young Jaffy Brown never expects to escape the slums of Victorian London. Then, aged eight, a chance encounter with Mr Jamrach changes Jaffy's stars. And before he knows it, he finds himself at the docks waving goodbye to his beloved Ishbel and boarding a ship bound for the Indian Ocean. With his friend Tim at his side, Jaffy's journey will push faith, love, and friendship to their utmost limits.



Boyd, William – Love is Blind

Set at the end of the nineteenth century, William Boyd's heart stopping new novel follows the fortunes of Brodie Moncur, a young Scottish musician, about to embark on the story of his life.

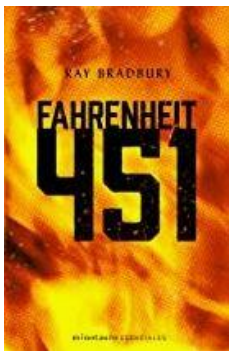
When Brodie is offered a job in Paris, he seizes the chance to flee Edinburgh and his tyrannical clergyman father and begin a wildly different new chapter in his life. In Paris, a fateful encounter with a famous pianist irrevocably changes his future – and sparks an obsessive love affair with a beautiful Russian soprano, Lika Blum. As Brodie moves from Paris to St Petersburg to Edinburgh, and back again, his love for Lika and its dangerous consequences pursue him around Europe and beyond, during an era of overwhelming change as the nineteenth century becomes the twentieth.

Love is Blind is a tale of dizzying passion and brutal revenge; of artistic endeavour and the illusions it creates; of all the possibilities that life can offer, and how cruelly they can be snatched away. At once, an intimate portrait of one man's life and an expansive exploration of the beginning of the twentieth century *Love is Blind* is a masterly new novel from one of Britain's best-loved storytellers



Boyne, John – The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas: A Fable

Bruno is nine years old, and the Nazis' horrific Final Solution to the 'Jewish Problem' means nothing to him. He's completely unaware of the barbarity of Germany under Hitler and is more concerned by his move from his well-appointed house in Berlin to a far less salubrious area where he finds himself with nothing to do. Then he meets a boy called Shmuel who lives a very different life from him - a life on the opposite side of a wire fence. And Shmuel is the eponymous boy in the striped pyjamas, as are all the other people on the other side of the fence. The friendship between the two boys begins to grow, but for Bruno it is a journey from blissful ignorance to a painful knowledge. And he will find that this learning process carries, for him, a daunting price.

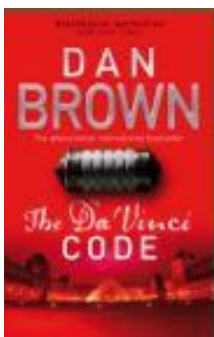


Bradbury, Ray – Fahrenheit 451

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books.

The class novel of a post-literature future, Fahrenheit 451 stands alongside Orwell's 1984 and Huxley's Brave New World as a prophetic account of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity.

Bradbury's powerful and poetic prose combines with uncanny insight into the potential of technology to create a classic of twentieth century literature which over fifty years from first publication, still has the power to dazzle and shock.



Brown, Dan – The Da Vinci Code

The Louvre, Paris: the elderly curator of the museum has been violently murdered in the Grand Gallery. Harvard professor Robert Langdon is summoned to decipher the baffling codes which the police find alongside the body. As he and a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, sort through the bizarre riddles, they are stunned to find a trail that leads to the works of Leonardo Da Vinci – and suggests the answer to an age-old mystery that stretches deep into the vault of history.

Unless Langdon and Neveu can decipher the labyrinthine code and quickly assemble the pieces of the puzzle, a stunning historical truth will be lost forever ...



Burnet, Braeme Macrae – His Bloody Project

The year is 1869. A brutal triple murder in a remote community in the Scottish Highlands leads to the arrest of a young man by the name of Roderick Macrae.

A memoir written by the accused makes it clear that he is guilty, but it falls to the country's finest legal and psychiatric minds to uncover what drove him to commit such merciless acts of violence.

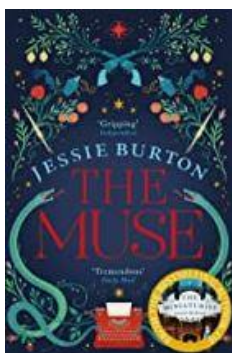
Was he mad? Only the persuasive powers of his advocate stand between Macrae and the gallows.



Burton, Jessie – The Miniaturist

On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman arrives at a grand house in Amsterdam to begin her new life as the wife of wealthy merchant Johannes Brandt. Though curiously distant, he presents her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations ring eerily true.

As Nella uncovers the secrets of her new household, she realizes the escalating dangers they face. The miniaturist seems to hold their fate in her hands – but does she plan to save or destroy them.

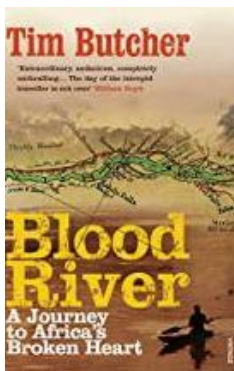


Burton, Jessie – The Muse

A picture hides a thousand words...

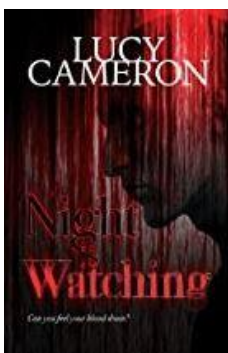
On a hot July day in 1967, Odelle Bastien climbs the stone steps of the Skelton gallery in London, ready for her luck to change. She has been employed as a typist by the glamorous and enigmatic Marjorie Quick, who unlocks a potential Odelle didn't realize she had. When a lost masterpiece arrives at the gallery. Quick seems to know more than she is prepared to reveal, and Odelle is determined to unravel the truth.

The painting's secret history lies in 1936 and a large house in rural Spain, where Olive Schloss, the daughter of a renowned art dealer, is harbouring ambitions of her own. Into this fragile paradise come two strangers, who overturn the Schloss family with explosive and devastating consequences...



Butcher, Tim – Blood River: A Journey to Africa's Broken Heart

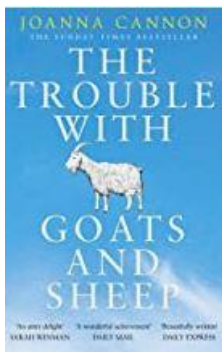
When Daily Telegraph correspondent Tim Butcher was sent to Africa in 2000 he quickly became obsessed with the legendary Congo River, and the idea of recreating H M Stanley's famous expedition. Despite warnings that his plan was "suicidal", Butcher set out for the Congo's eastern border with just a rucksack and a few thousand dollars hidden in his boots. Making his way in an assortment of vehicles including a motorbike and dugout canoe, helped along by a cast of characters from UN aid workers to a campaigning pygmy, he followed in the footsteps of the great Victorian adventurers. Butcher's journey was a remarkable feat, but the story of the Congo, told expertly and vividly in this book, is more remarkable still.



Cameron, Lucy – Night Is Watching

Couples are being slaughtered in their homes; women drained of blood, men violently beaten. There are no clues to track the killer, no explanation as to why an increasing amount of blood is being removed from the crime scenes. Detective Sergeant Rhys Morgan is seconded to the 'Couples Killer' investigation.

Tormented by vivid nightmares, he hasn't slept soundly for weeks becoming convinced a creature from these nightmares poses a threat to him and his family. His behaviour becomes increasingly erratic causing his bosses to wonder if he's the right man for the job. As clues to the killer's identity are uncovered, the line between what is real and what cannot be starts to blur and Rhys discovers the answer to catching the killer and exorcising his own demons, may be as irrational as he fears.



Cannon, Joanna – The Trouble with Goats and Sheep

Summer, 1976. Mrs Creasy is missing, and The Avenue is alive with whispers. As the summer shimmers endlessly on, ten-year-olds Grace and Tilly decide to take matters into their own hands.

But as doors and mouths begin to open and the cul-de-sac starts giving up its secrets, the amateur detectives will find more than they could have imagined...



Castillo, Linda – Gone Missing

Three teenagers have vanished from Ohio's Amish country. The only thing they have in common, other than their religion, is they are keen to leave the Plain Life. Chief of Police Kate Burkholder is called in to consult by Agent John Tomasetti as her Amish roots will be invaluable in an investigation involving this sectarian society.

They travel to the small town of Monogahela Falls to investigate the latest disappearance – that of a seventeen-year-old Annie King. The only evidence left behind is a satchel – and a pool of blood. The case moves closer to home for Kate when a young relative, Sadie Miller, vanishes. With her own past resonating, Kate delves into the lives of the missing teens. Soon, a sinister pattern emerges along with a vital clue that changes everything. While following up on a lead, Kate makes an appalling discover and unearths a secret no one could have imagined – thrusting her into a fight to the death with a merciless killer.



Chandler, Raymond – The Big Sleep

Los Angeles. PI Philip Marlowe is working for the Sternwood family. Old man Sternwood, crippled and wheelchair-bound, is being given the squeeze by a blackmailer and he wants to make the problem go away. But with Sternwood's two wild, devil-may-care daughters prowling LA's seedy backstreets, Marlowe's got his work cut out – and that's before he stumbles over the first corpse...



Charriere, Henri – Papillon

Condemned for a murder he did not commit, Henri Charriere, known as Papillon, was sent to the penal colony of French Guiana. Forty-two days after his arrival he made his first break, travelling a thousand gruelling miles in an open boat. Recaptured, his spirit remained untamed – in thirteen years he made nine amazingly daring escapes, including one from the notorious Devil's Island.

An immediate sensation upon its 1969 publication, Papillon is one of the greatest adventure stories ever told, a true tale of courage, resilience, and an unbreakable will.

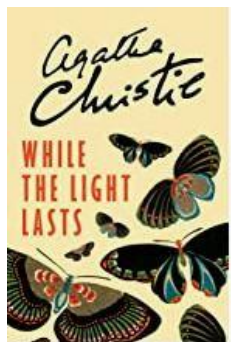


Childs, Lee – The Affair

March 1997. A woman has her throat cut behind a bar in Mississippi. Just down the road is a big army base. Is the murderer a local guy – or is he a soldier?

Jack Reacher, still a major in the military police, is sent in undercover. The county sheriff is a former U.S Marine – and a stunningly beautiful woman. Is the Pentagon stonewalling her? Or doesn't she really want to find the killer?

Set just six months before the opening of Killing Floor, The Affair marks a turning point in Reacher's life. If he does what the army wants, will he be able to live with himself? And if he doesn't will the army be able to live with him



Christie, Agatha – While the Light Lasts

A macabre recurring dream... revenge against a blackmailer...jealously, infidelity and a tortured conscience... a stolen gemstone... the haunting attraction of an ancient relic... a race against time... a tragic love triangle... a body in a box... an unexpected visitor from beyond the grave...

Nine quintessential examples of Agatha Christie's brilliance are contained in this collection of early short stories – including the very first one she ever wrote – and provide a unique glimpse of the Queen of Crime in the making.

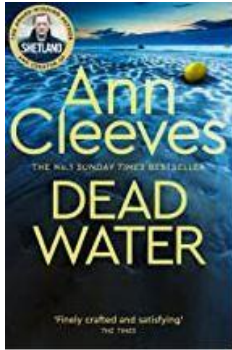


Cleave, Chris – The Other Hand

This is the story of two women. Their lives collide one fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice.

Two years later, they meet again – the story starts there ...

Once you have read it, you will want to tell your friends about it. When you do, please don't tell them what happens either. The magic is in how it unfolds.

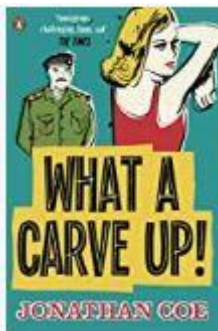


Cleeves, Anne – Dead Water

The body of journalist Jerry Markham is found, hidden in a boat by the marina. Detective Inspector Willow Reeves is drafted in to investigate...

Since the death of his fiancée, Inspector Jimmy Perez has been out of the loop, but his interest in this new case is stirred and he decides to help the inquiry. Markham – originally a Shetlander who then made a name for himself in London – had moved away from the islands years before. In his wake, he left a scandal involving a young girl, Evie Watt, who is now engaged to a seaman. He had few friends in Shetland, so why was he back?

Willow and Jimmy are led to Sullom Voe, the heart of Shetland's North Sea oil and gas industry. It soon emerges from their investigation that Markham was chasing a story in his final days. One that must have been significant enough to warrant his death...



Coe, Jonathan – What A Carve Up!

It is the 1980s and the Winshaw family are getting richer and crueller by the year:

Newspaper-columnist Hilary gets thousands for telling I like it isn't; Henry's turning hospitals into care parks; Roddy's selling art in return for sex; down on the farm Dorothy's squeezing every last pound from her livestock; Thomas is making a killing on the stock exchange; and Mark is selling arms to dictators.

But once their hapless biographer Michael Owen starts investigating the family's trail of greed, corruption and immoral doings, the time grows ripe for the Winshaws to receive their comeuppance....

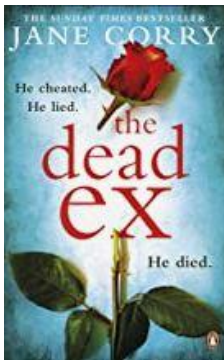


Cole, Martina – Dangerous Lady

No one thinks a seventeen-year-old girl can take on the hard men of London's gangland, but it's a mistake to underestimate Maura Ryan: she's tough, clever, and beautiful - which makes her one very dangerous lady.

Together, she and her brother Michael are unbeatable, but notoriety has its price. The police are determined to put Maura away once and for all - and not everyone in the family think that's such a bad idea. When it comes to the crunch, Maura has to face the pain of lost love in her past - and the dangerous lady discovers her heart is not make entirely of stone.

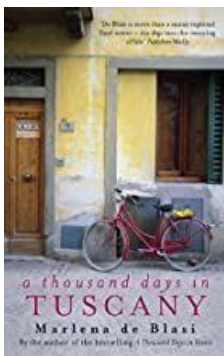
Corry, Jane – The Dead Ex



Vikki's husband David once promised to love her in sickness and in health. But after a brutal attack left her suffering with epilepsy, he ran away with his mistress.

So, when Vicki gets a call one day to say that he's missing, her first thought is "good riddance". But then the police find evidence suggesting that David is dead. And they think Vicki has something to do with it...

De Blasi, Marlena – A Thousand Days in Tuscany



Two hundred villagers, ancient olive groves and hot Etruscan springs. On a forgotten patch of earth where Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio collide, Marlena de Blasi settles with her Venetian husband, Fernando, in search of a new life. The routines they establish are not that different from those of villagers' centuries earlier. They wake at dawn to harvest grapes, gather chestnuts, forage for wild mushrooms. And they climb trees in the cold of December to pick olives, one by one.

Yet it is the friendship of the mesmeric Barlozzo, a self-styled village chieftain of sorts, that leads them deep into the heart of Tuscany. Barlozzo shares his knowledge of Italian farming traditions, ancient health potions and artisanal food makers. But there are some secrets he doesn't reveal, and one of them concerns the beautiful Floriana.



Desai, Anita – The ZigZag Way

In her long, distinguished career, Anita Desai has focused her capacious vision on questions of culture and identity. Her mesmerizing new novel, *The Zigzag Way*, brings her fiction to an unexpected region of the world: mythical, lush Mexico. In this seductive landscape, a young American, stumbles upon an unlikely path to self-discovery.

Eric is a newly minted historian just out of graduate school, unsure of his past choices and future options. With no clear direction, he follows his lover, Em, when she travels to the Yucatan for her scientific research, but he ends up alone in this foreign place. And so, he pursues his own private quest, tracing his family's history to a Mexican ghost town, where, a hundred years earlier, young Cornish miners toiled to the death. With vivid sympathy, Desai conjures the struggles of Eric's grandparents and their community.

Now, in place of the Cornish workers, the native Huichol Indians suffer the cruelty of the mines. When he enquires into their lives, Eric provokes the ire of their self-appointed saviour, Doña Vera. Known as the "Queen of the Sierra," Doña Vera is the widow of a mining baron who has dedicated her fortune to preserving the Huichol culture. But her formidable presence belies a dubious past. The zigzag paths of these characters converge on the Day of the Dead, bringing together past and present in a moment of powerful epiphany. Haunting and atmospheric, with splashes of exuberant colour and darker violence, *The Zigzag Way* is a magical novel of elegiac beauty.

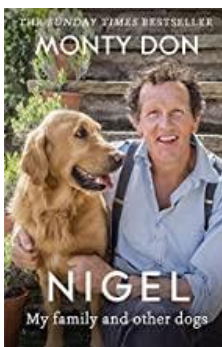


Doerr, Anthony – All The Light We Cannot See

“Open your eyes and see what you can with them before they close forever”.

For Maire-Laure, blind since the age of six, the world is full of mazes. The miniature of a Paris neighbourhood, made by her father to teach her the way home. The microscopic layers within the invaluable diamond that her father guards in the Museum of Natural History. The walled city by the sea, where father and daughter take refuge when the Nazis invade Paris. And a future which draws her ever closer to Werner, a German orphan, destined to labour in the mines until a broken radio fills his life with possibility and brings him to the notice of the Hitler Youth.

In this magnificent, deeply moving novel, the stories of Marie-Laure and Werner illuminate the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

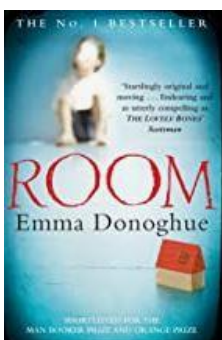


Don, Monty – Nigel, My Family and other Dogs

This is a book about love. Love for a particular dog, Nigel, but also for all the dogs that I’ve shared my life with. So, this is the story of Nigel, but also the story of gardening, life, and love.

Monty Don’s golden retriever, Nigel, has become a star of BBC Gardeners’ World, padding along quietly behind Monty in the gardens at Longmeadow and stealing every scene. Beloved by the public, Nigel gets fan mail, birthday cards and has inspired social media fan sites.

In this heart-warming memoir, Monty Don tells Nigel’s story (and all the dogs that came before him) and explores that special place dogs occupy in our lives and the love we have for them.



Donaghue, Emma - Room

Jack is five. He lives in a single, locked room with his Ma.



Donaghue, Emma – Frog Music

San Francisco, 1876: a stifling heat wave and smallpox epidemic have engulfed the city.

Deep in the streets of Chinatown live three former stars of the Parisian circus: Blanche, now an exotic dancer at the House of Mirrors, her lover Arthur and his companion Ernest.

When an eccentric outsider joins their little circle, secrets unravel, changing everything – and leaving one of them dead.

Inspired by a true unsolved crime, *Frog Music* is a dark and compelling story of intrigue and murder.

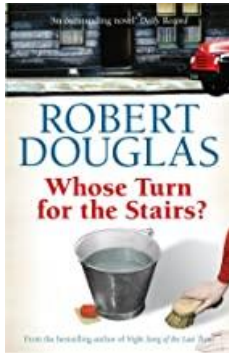


Douglas, Robert – Night Song of the Last Tram

“If my father had been killed in North Africa or Italy during the Second World War, I know that for the rest of my life I would have looked at the few photographs of him and mourned our lost relationship. Unfortunately, he survived and came home.”

Thus begins a wonderfully colourful, and deeply poignant memoir of growing up in a “single end “ – one room in a Glasgow tenement – during and immediately after the Second World War. Although young Robert Douglas’s life was blighted by the cruel if sporadic presence of his father, it was equally blessed by the love of his mother, Janet.

While the story of their life together is in some ways very sad, it is also filled with humorous and happy memories. *Night Song of the Last Tram* is a superb evocation of childhood and of a Glasgow of trams and tenements that has long since disappeared.



Douglas, Robert – Whose Turn for the Stairs

Number 18 Dalbeattie Street, Maryhill, is a typical tenement close. It is four years since the end of the war yet some folk still pull their blackout curtains every night. Foodstuffs, coal and cigarettes continue to be rationed.

The residents of the twelve flats, with one exception, are a tight-knit community. There is young love for Rhea and Robert; a violent husband for Marjorie; a great friendship for Ella and Drena. And a young German bride hoping to be accepted into her new home. Watching over everyone is the matriarch – Granny Thomson.

Their world is not perfect, there is poverty, bigotry, heartbreak and lies, sometimes death. Yet there is always hope, and a great strength of spirit aided and abetted by the sound of laughter coming from the close.

In Robert Douglas's first novel, he recreates a time and place particular to Glasgow but to which everyone will relate.



Dunmore, Helen – The Greatcoat

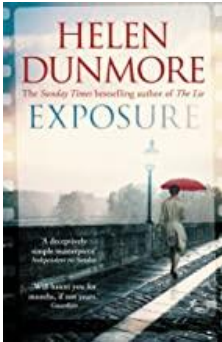
In the winter of 1952, Isabel Carey moves to the East Riding of Yorkshire with her husband Philip, a GP. With Philip spending long hours on call, Isabel finds herself isolated and lonely as she strives to adjust to the realities of married life.

Woken by intense cold one night, she discovers an old RAF greatcoat hidden in the back of a cupboard. Sleeping under it for warmth, she starts to dream. And not long afterwards, while her husband is out, she is startled by a knock at her window.

Outside is a young RAF pilot, waiting to come in.

His name is Alec, and his powerful presence both disturbs and excites her. Her initial alarm soon fades, and they begin an

intense affair. But nothing has prepared her for the truth about Alec's life, nor the impact it will have on hers ...

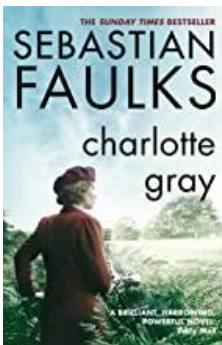


Dunmore, Helen – Exposure

London, November 1960. The Cold War is at its height, and a spy may be a friend or neighbour, colleague or lover.

At the end of a suburban garden, in the pouring rain, a woman buries a briefcase deep in the earth.

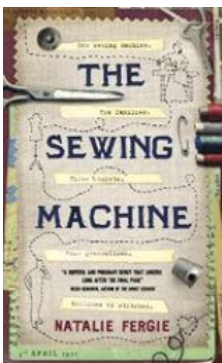
She believes that she is protecting her family. What she will learn is that no-one is immune from betrayal or the devastating consequences of exposure.



Faulks, Sebastian – Charlotte Gray

In 1942, Charlotte Gray, a young Scottish woman, heads for Occupied France on a dual mission – officially, to run an apparently simple errand for a British special operations group and unofficially, to search for her lover, an English airman missing in action.

As the people in the small town of Lavaurette prepare to meet their terrible destiny, the harrowing truth of what took place in “the dark years” is finally revealed.



Fergie, Natalie – The Sewing Machine

“There’s going to be a strike”

It is 1911, and Jean is about to going the mass strike at the Singer factory. For her, nothing will be the same again.

Decades later, in Edinburgh, Connie sews coded moments of her life into a notebook, as her mother did before her.

More than 100 years after his grandmother’s sewing machine was made, Fred discovers a treasure trove of documents. His family history is laid out before him in a patchwork of unfamiliar handwriting and colourful seams.

He starts to unpick the secrets of four generations, one stitch at a time.



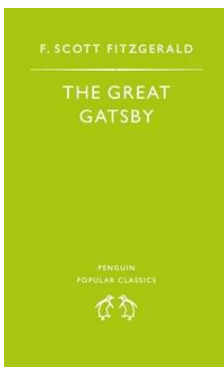
Fiddimore, David – Tuesday's War

It is 1944 and as their battered Lancaster bomber limps home to base in thick fog, an RAF crew are horrified to find a second bomber just moments in front. It is too close for their own pilot to react, but in one skilful move their forerunner swoops out of the way and crew's lives are saved.

Back on the runway the seven thankful young men eagerly await their saviour's return and are stunned, when the pilot climbs down from the cockpit, to find themselves fact to face with female Air Transport Auxiliary pilot Grace Baker.

Grace quickly befriends the crew, introducing them to their new bomber, Tuesday's Child. Then, when rear gunner Pete the Pole absconds, the lads don't think twice about asking Grace secretly to take his place in Tuesday as they return to Germany...

Narrated by Tuesday's radio operator, Charlie Bassett, this enthralling drama of air combat at the height of the Second World War unfolds into a gritty, heartfelt, amusing story of friendships and passions bound by danger and the relief of surviving another day.



Fitzgerald, F. Scott – The Great Gatsby

The parties at Gatsby's Long Island mansion were legendarily glamorous affairs.

Yet amid the throngs of guests, starlets and champagne waiters, their host would appear oddly aloof. For there was only one person Jay Gatsby sought to impress. She was Daisy Buchanan: married, elegant, seducing men with a silken charisma and "a voice... full of money".

As Gatsby pursues shady deals and his doomed obsession with Daisy, F. Scott Fitzgerald distills the essence of the Jazz Age, and probes to the empty heart of the American Dream.

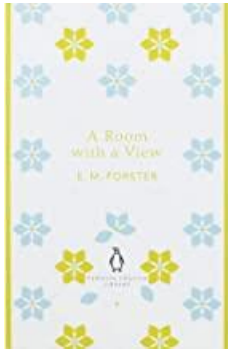


Flynn, Gillian – Gone Girl

There are two sides to every story...

Who are you? What have we done to each other?

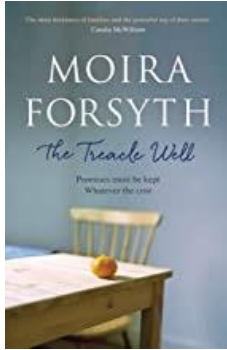
These are the questions Nick Dunne finds himself asking on the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, when his wife Any suddenly disappears. The police suspect Nick. Any's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they weren't made by him. And then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone. So what did happen to Nick's beautiful wife?



Forster, E M – A Room with a View

Lucy has her rigid, middle-class life mapped out for her until she visits Florence with her uptight cousin Charlotte, and finds her neatly ordered existence thrown off balance. Her eyes are opened by the unconventional characters she meets at the Pension Bertolini: flamboyant romantic novelist Eleanor Lavish, the Cockney Signora, curious Mr Emerson and, most of all, his passionate son George.

Lucy finds herself torn between the intensity of life in Italy and the repressed morals of Edwardian England, personified in her terminally dull fiancé Cecil Vyse. *A Room with a View* is a novel by English writer E. M. Forster, about a young woman in the repressed culture of Edwardian England. Set in Italy and England, the story is both a romance and a critique of English society at the beginning of the 20th century.



Forsyth, Moira – The Treacle Well

He closed his eyes, seeing it again, the whirl of snow in the headlamps, the black shape rearing up in front of the car in the dark.

Daniel and Caroline are twins, so close they can't be separated until a dramatic accident divides them from each other and the cousins who adore them. From childhood to uneasy middle age, the loss of the twins stirs currents of insecurity and restlessness in this close family, and conceals a secret only one person can uncover.

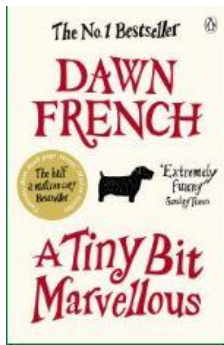
The Treacle Well identifies the deep stickiness of families and the powerful tug of their secrets. The reader grows more helpless and more vigilant, while also becoming involved with and fond of the characters Moira Forsyth has breathed into life.



Frazer, Andrea – High-Wired

High-Wired is the first volume in *The Fine Line* series by acclaimed crime author Andrea Frazer.

The novel introduces us to DI Olivia Hardy, a firm but fair cop, and her new partner, DS Lauren Groves. Their wildly different backgrounds and styles of policing cause problems at first, but the two women bond over a shared love of music, and over the pressures of juggling complicated family lives with the horrors of the job. Both women try to reconcile their problematic family lives – Olivia's issues with her teenage children, Lauren's collapsing marriage – with the demands of a job that requires heart and soul. Their beat is a decaying coastal town in the south of England – a shadow of its Victorian glory – and criminals are lurking even where you'd least expect them. As Olivia and Lauren investigate a harrowing murder, the events of the case spiral – and so do the issues in their personal lives...



French, Dawn – A Tiny Bit Marvellous

Meet Mo Battle, about to turn 50 and mum to two hormonal teenagers. There's 17 year old daughter Dora who blames Mo for, like, EVERYTHING and Peter who believes he's quite simply as marvellous as his hero Oscar Wilde. Somewhere, keeping quiet, is Dad, who's just, well... Dad.

However, Mo is having a crisis. She's about to do something unusually wild and selfish, which will leave the entire family teetering on the edge of a precipice. Will the family fall? Or will they, when it really matters, be there for each other?



Gabaldon, Diana – Outlander

What if your future was the past?

1945: Claire Randall goes to the Scottish Highlands with her husband Frank. It's a second honeymoon, a chance to learn how war has changed them and to re-establish their loving marriage. But one afternoon, Claire walks through a circle of standing stones and vanishes into 1743, where the first person she meets is a British army officer – her husband's six-times great-grandfather.

Unfortunately, Black Jack Randall is not the man his descendant is, and while trying to escape him, Claire falls into the hands of a gang of Scottish outlaws, and finds herself a Sassenach – an outlander – in danger from both Jacobites and Redcoats.

Marooned amid danger, passion and violence, her only chance of safety lies in Jamie Fraser, a gallant young Scots warrior. What begins in compulsion becomes urgent need, and Claire finds herself torn between two very different men, in two irreconcilable lives.

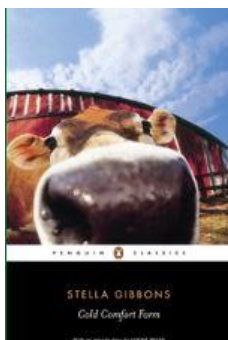


Gaiman, Neil – American Gods

Days before his release from prison, Shadow's wife, Laura, dies in a mysterious car crash. Numbly, he makes his way back home. On the plane, he encounters the enigmatic Mr Wednesday, who claims to be a refugee from a distant war, a former god and the king of America.

Together they embark on a profoundly strange journey across the heart of the USA, whilst all around them a storm of preternatural and epic proportions threatens to break.

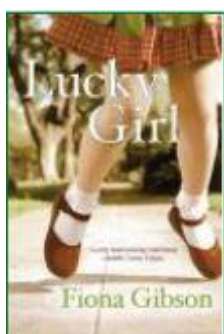
Scary, gripping and deeply unsettling, *American Gods* takes a long, hard look into the soul of America. You'll be surprised by what – and who – it finds there...



Gibbons, Stella – Cold Comfort Farm

When sensible, sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly names Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders: cousin Judith, heaving with remorse for unspoken wickedness; Amos, preaching fire and damnation; their sons, lustful Seth and despairing Reuben; child of nature Elfine; and crazed old Aunt Ada Doom, who has kept to her bedroom for the last twenty years. But Flora loves nothing better than to organize other people. Armed with common sense and a strong will, she resolves to take each of the family in hand.

A hilarious and merciless parody of rural melodramas, *Cold Comfort Farm* (1932) is one of the best-loved comic novels of all time.



Gibson, Fiona – Lucky Girl

A captivating, feel-good story about family ties, and the wonderful things that can happen when you allow new people, and unexpected events, to change your life. *Lucky Girl* is an uplifting story about a 30 year old woman whose life is changed for the better when two little girls move in next door. Having had a

troubled childhood herself, (losing her mum at a very young age, being neglected by her father) Stella has closeted herself away as an adult. But her two young neighbours, with their curious questions and constant visiting, force her to look back on her childhood, discover some home truths and make her realise that she must look forward and live life to the full.

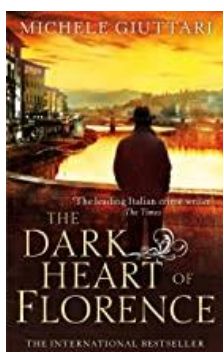


Gill, Elizabeth – Orphan Boy

Will he ever find the life he longs for? Born to a mother who died in childbirth and an uninterested father, Niall McAndrew grows up a solitary child, without a home to call his own. His only friend is Bridget, a young girl forced prematurely into womanhood.

Niall has brains, spirit and ambition, as well as being blessed with handsome good looks. But his loveless childhood has left its mark. Can he ever find the happiness he years for?

A moving and uplifting tale of a young boy with big dreams.....



Giuttari, Michele – The Dark Heart of Florence

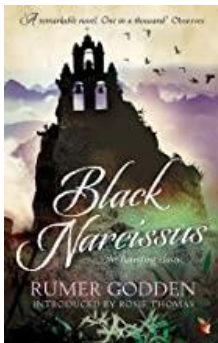
“It was a night that would be long remembered. The Florence police would come to call it a night of horror, the start of a new nightmare..”

After enduring years at the mercy of an infamous serial killer, the people of Florence rejoice at news of his death - until a senator is found brutally murdered.

To Chief Superintendent Michele Ferrara the case is very much

alive. But, with a powerful adversary conspiring against him, he is trapped in a spiral of corruption and deadly speculation. As the truth comes to light, Ferrara is left standing face-to-face with something truly rotten at the heart of the city . . .

The Dark Heart of Florence is an evocative, gripping work of detective fiction, and a major bestseller across Europe.



Godden, Rumer – Black Narcissus

High in the Himalayas, the old mountaintop palace shines like a jewel. Built for the General’s harem, laughter and music once floated out over the gorge. But now it sits abandoned; windswept and haunting.

The General’s son bestows the palace to the Sisters of Mary, and “the House of Women”, as it was once known, becomes the Convent of St Faith. Close to the heavens, the nuns feel inspired, working fervently to establish their school and hospital. But the isolation and emptiness of the mountain become increasingly unsettling, and passions long repressed emerge with tragic consequences....



Graham, Laurie – The Future Homemakers of America

The Norfolk fens have never seen anything quite like the girls from United States Airforce Drampton: overpaid, overfed and over here. While their men patrol the skies keeping the Soviets at bay, some are content to live the lives of the future homemakers of America – clipping coupons, cooking chicken pie – but others start to stray, looking for a little native excitement beyond the perimeter fence. There they meet Kath Pharoah, a tough but warm Englishwoman. Bonds are forged, uniting the women in friendships that will survive distant postings and the passage of

forty years. Filled with warmth, wit and wisdom, *The Future Homemakers of America* takes us to the very heart of female friendships.

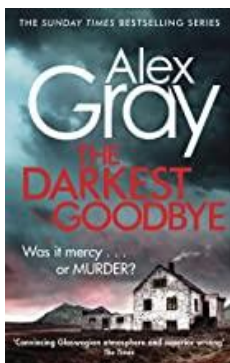


Graham, Laurie – The Night in Question

When music hall star Dot Allbones bumps into Kate Eddowes outside the Griffin theatre in Shoreditch, it's a blast from the past. The two grew up together in the Midlands, but life has treated them quite differently since then.

Told through the eyes of the irreverent Dot, this is the story of a London populated by chancers, some rich, some destitute. During one hot summer in the 1880s Whitechapel famously became the scene of unspeakable horror, and Kate Eddowes found a grisly fame that would far outshine Dot's.

Because out there, in the stews of East London, Saucy Jack is sharpening his knife....

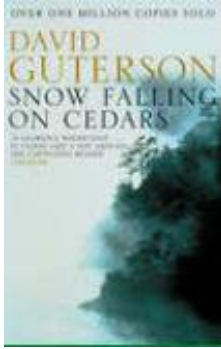


Gray, Alex – The Darkest Goodbye

When newly fledged DC Kirsty Wilson is called to the house of an elderly woman, what appears to be a death by natural causes soon takes a sinister turn when it is revealed that the woman had a mysterious visitor in the early hours of that morning – someone dresses as a community nurse, but with much darker intentions.

As Kirsty is called to another murder – this one the brutal execution of a well-known Glasgow drug dealer – she finds herself pulled into a complex case involving vulnerable people and a sinister service that offers them and their loved ones a “release”.

Detective Superintendent William Lorimer is called in to help DC Wilson investigate and, as the body count rises, the pair soon realise that this case is about to get more personal than either of them could have imagined...



Guterson, David – Snow Falling on Cedars

A young fisherman is found dead in the nets of his boat off an island in the Pacific Northwest. The novel tells of love and war and the ways men and women struggle for survival and redemption.



Haddon, Mark – A Spot of Bother

At fifty-seven, George is settling down to a comfortable retirement, building a shed in his garden, reading historical novels, listening to a bit of light jazz. Then Katie, his tempestuous daughter, announces that she is getting remarried, to Ray. Her family is not pleased - as her brother Jamie observes, Ray has 'strangler's hands'. Katie can't decide if she loves Ray or loves the way he cares for her son Jacob, and her mother Jean is a bit put out by the way the wedding planning gets in the way of her affair with one of her husband's former colleagues. And the tidy and pleasant life Jamie has created crumbles when he fails to invite his lover, Tony, to the dreaded nuptials.

Unnoticed in the uproar, George discovers a sinister lesion on his hip, and quietly begins to lose his mind.



Hammett, Dashiell – the Maltese Falcon

Sam Spade is hired by the beautiful Miss Wonderley to track down her sister. When his partner, Miles Archer, is shot while on the trail, Spade finds himself both hunter and hunted as he tracks down a jewel-encrusted treasure people are willing to kill for.



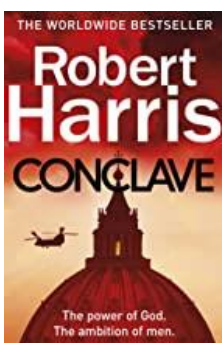
Harbach, Chad – The Art of Fielding

A wonderful, warm novel from a major new American voice.

Henry Skrimshander, newly arrived at college, shy and out of his depth, has a talent for baseball that borders on genius. But sometimes it seems that his only friend is big Mike Schwartz – who champions the talents of others, at the expense of his own. And Owen, Henry’s clever, charismatic, gay roommate, who has a secret that could put his brilliant college career in jeopardy.

Pella, the 23-year-old daughter of the college president, has returned home after a failed marriage, determined to get her life in order. Only to find her father, a confirmed bachelor, has fallen desperately in love himself.

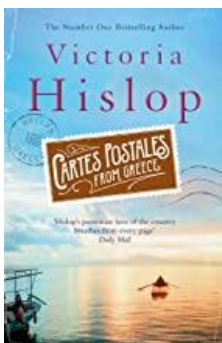
Then, one fateful day, Henry makes a mistake – misthrows a ball. And everything changes...



Harris, Robert – Conclave

Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, one hundred and eighteen cardinals from all over the world will cast their votes in the world’s most secretive election.

Over the next seventy-two hours one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on earth.

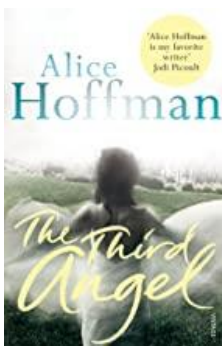


Hislop, Victoria – Cartes Postales from Greece

Week after week the postcards arrive, addressed to a name Ellie doesn’t know, with no return address, each signed with an initial: A. With their bright skies, blue seas and alluring images of Greece, these cartes postales brighten her life. After six months, to her disappointment, they cease. But the montage she has created on her wall of her flat has cast a spell. She must see this country for herself.

On the morning Ellie leaves for Athens, a notebook arrives. Its pages tell the story of a man’s odyssey through Greece. Moving, surprising and sometimes dark, A’s tale unfolds with the discovery

not only of a culture but also of a desire to live life to the full once more.



Hoffman, Alice – The Third Angel

This haunting and poignant story travels effortlessly across time telling the story of three generations of women who make the wrong choices and have to live with the consequences. It opens in London in the present day, when an envious sibling comes to her sister's wedding. Back in the Swinging Sixties, the bridegroom's conventional English mother, Frieda, behaves in a wholly unconventional way while working in a Knightsbridge hotel. Even before that, the seed of tragedy are sown in the Fifties, when twelve year old Lucy first visits London and the same hotel. Precocious, impatient, wise beyond her years, Lucy becomes a go between for two star crossed lovers and then holds herself agonisingly responsible for what happens...



Hogan, Ruth – The Keeper of Lost Things

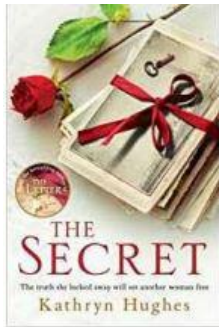
Anthony Peardew has spent half his life collecting lost objects, trying to atone for a promise broken many years before.

Realising he is running out of time, he leaves his house and all its lost treasures to his assistant Laura, the one person he can trust to reunite the thousands of objects with their rightful owners. But the final wishes of the "Keeper of Lost Things" have unforeseen repercussions which trigger a most serendipitous series of encounters...



Hope, Anna – Wake

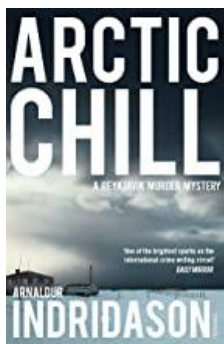
Remembrance Day 1920: A wartime secret connects three women's lives: Hettie whose wounded brother won't speak; Evelyn who still grieves for her lost lover; and Ada, who has never received an official letter about her son's death, and is still waiting for him to come home. As the mystery that binds them begins to unravel, far away, in the fields of France, the Unknown Soldier embarks on his journey home. The mood of the nation is turning towards the future - but can these three women ever let go of the past?



Hughes, Kathryn – The Secret

Mary has been nursing a secret. Forty years ago, she made a choice that would change her world for ever, and alter the path of someone she holds dear.

Beth is searching for answers. She has never known the truth about her parentage but finding out could be the lifeline her sick child so desperately needs. When Beth finds a faded newspaper cutting amongst her mother's things, she realizes the key to her son's future lies in her own past. She must go back to where it all began to unlock... The Secret.



Indridason, Arnaldur – Arctic Chill

A dark skinned young boy is found dead, frozen to the ground in a pool of his own blood. The boy's Thai half-brother is missing: is he implicated, or simply afraid for his own life? While fears increase that the murder could have been racially motivated, the police receive reports that a suspected paedophile has been spotted in the area.

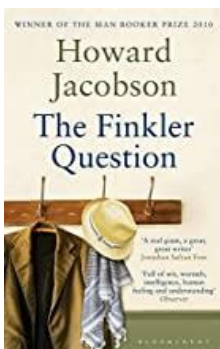
Detective Erlendur's investigation soon unearths the tensions simmering beneath the surface of Iceland's outwardly liberal, multicultural society while the murder forces Erlendur to confront the tragedy in his own past.



Ivey, Eowyn – The Snow Child

Alaska, the 1920s. Jack and Mabel have staked everything on a fresh start in a remote homestead, but the wilderness is a stark place, and Mabel is haunted by the baby she lost many years before.

When a little girl appears mysteriously on their land, each is filled with wonder, but also foreboding: is she what she seems, and can they find room in their hearts for her?

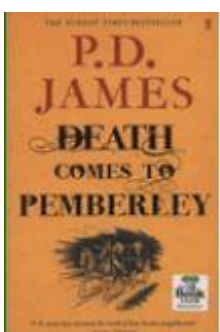


Jacobson, Howard – The Finkler Question

Julian Treslove, a professionally unspectacular former BBC radio producer, and Sam Finkler, a popular Jewish philosopher, writer and television personality, are old school friends. Despite a prickly relationship and very different lives, they've never quite lost touch with each other – or with their former teacher, Libor Sevcik, a Czech always concerned with the wider world than with exam results.

Now, both Libor and Sam are recently widowed, and with Treslove, his chequered and unsuccessful record with women rendering him an honorary third widower, they dine at Libor's grand, central London apartment.

It's a sweetly painful evening of reminiscence in which all three remove themselves to a time before they had loved and lost; a time before they had fathered children, before the devastation of separations, before they had prized anything greatly enough to fear the loss of it. Better, perhaps, to go through life without knowing happiness at all because that way you have less to mourn? Treslove finds he has tears enough for the unbearable sadness of both his friends' losses. And it's that very evening, at exactly 11.30, as Treslove, walking home, hesitates a moment outside the window of the oldest violin dealer in the country, that he is attacked. And after this, his whole sense of who and what he is will slowly and ineluctably change.



James, P.D – Death Comes to Pemberley

The year is 1803, and Darcy and Elizabeth have been married for six years. There are now two handsome and healthy sons in the Pemberley nursery, Elizabeth's beloved sister Jane and her

husband, Bingley, live within seventeen miles, the ordered and secure life of Pemberley seems unassailable, and Elizabeth's happiness in her marriage is complete. But their peace is threatened and old sins and misunderstandings are rekindled on the eve of the annual autumn ball. The Darcys and their guests are preparing to retire for the night when a chaise appears, rocking down the path from Pemberley's wild woodland, and as it pulls up, Lydia Wickham, an uninvited guest, tumbles out, screaming that her husband has been murdered.



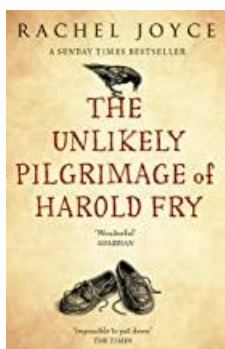
Jardine, Quintin – Cold Case

Former Chief Constable Bob Skinner may have left the police service, but he's never far from a case.

When his old mentor on the force, Jimmy Proud, finds himself in a desperate situation, Skinner gets pulled into a murder investigation that's been closed for thirty years. T

he Body in the Quarry case was well known around Edinburgh at the time: a popular priest found dead in a frozen quarry; a suspect with a clear motive charged; a guilty verdict. But with a journalist uncovering new evidence, the cold case has come back to haunt Proud – and only Skinner can help him.

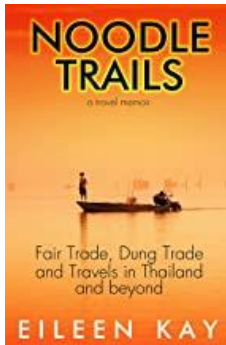
With the clock ticking and his friend's reputation at stake, Skinner must uncover the truth to find out if an innocent man was convicted for murder. And if a killer is still on the loose...



Joyce, Rachel – The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

When Harold Fry leaves home one morning to post a letter, with his wife hovering upstairs, he has no idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other.

He has no hiking boots or map, let alone a compass, waterproof or mobile phone. All he knows is that he must keep walking. To save someone else's life.



Kay, Eileen - Noodle Trails

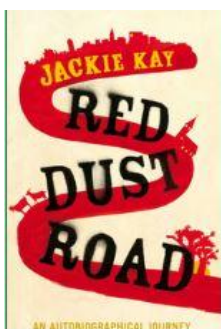
Ex-comic and struggling Fair Trade importer loses nearly everything and goes wandering in search of solace, mangoes, and food for the soul.

Eileen is off to Thailand, like many winters before. Then it was sun, sand and samples of souvenirs, but not now. She's broke, alone and discouraged. This trip could be her last.

She bids farewell to her trading partners, producers of elephant dung paper, geckos woven from recycled newspapers, patchwork fashions from surplus tsunami aid, brass jewellery from old bombshells, and a thousand things from coconuts.

This first-hand account shows what one woman can do in a world of economic elephants. Travel journals and a sense of humour are the basis of this memoir and personal love letter to the Thais and ex-pats who befriended her. Best of all, this journey turns out nothing like it started. Tsunamis, heartbreaks, and commercial losses can be survived: hers, theirs, anyone's.

Noodle Trails contains edible insects, tough questions, comedy, ambushes of poignancy, and an awful lot of elephant dung.



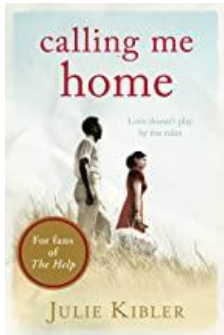
Kay, Jackie – Red Dust Road

From the moment when, as a little girl, she realises that her skin is a different colour from that of her beloved mum and dad, to the tracing and finding of her birth parents, her Highland mother and Nigerian father, the journey that Jackie Kay undertakes in *Red Dust Road* is full of unexpected twists, turns and deep emotions.

In a book shining with warmth, humour, and compassion, she discovers that inheritance is about much more than genes: that we are shaped by songs as much as by cells, and that our internal landscapes are as important as those through which we move.

Taking the reader from Glasgow to Lagos and beyond, *Red Dust Road* is revelatory, redemptive, and courageous, unique in its voice and universal in its reach. It is a heart-stopping story of

parents and siblings, friends, and strangers, belonging and beliefs, biology and destiny, and love.

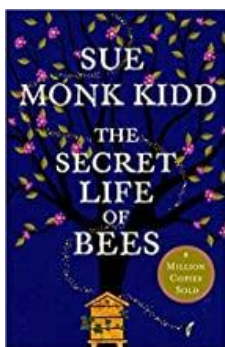


Kibler, Julie – Calling Me Home

Shalerville, Kentucky, 1939. A World where black maids and handymen are trusted to raise white children and tend to white houses, but from which they are banished after dark.

Sixteen-year-old Isabelle McAllister, born into wealth and privilege, finds her ordered life turned upside down when she becomes attracted to Robert, the ambitious black son of her family's housekeeper. Before long Isabelle and Robert are crossing extraordinary, dangerous boundaries and falling deeply in love.

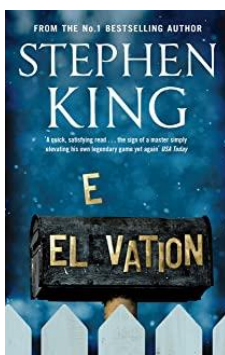
Many years later, eighty-nine-year-old Isabelle will travel from her home in Arlington, Texas, to Ohio for a funeral. With Isabelle is her hairstylist and friend, Dorrie Curtis – a black single mother with her own problems. Along the way, Isabelle will finally reveal to Dorrie the ruth of her painful past: a tale of forbidden love, the consequences of which will resound for decades.



Kidd, Sue Monk – The Secret life of Bees

Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was just four years old. Now, at fourteen, she yearns for forgiveness and a mother's love. Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her harsh and unyielding father, she has only one friend, Rosaleen, a black servant.

When racial tension explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily is compelled to act. Fugitives from justice, the pair follow a trail left by the woman who died ten years before. Finding sanctuary in the home of three beekeeping sisters, Lily starts a journey as much about her understanding of the world as about the mystery surrounding her mother.



King, Stephen – Elevation

Castle Rock is a small town, where word gets around quickly. That's why Scott Carey wants to confide only in his friend Doctor Bob Ellis about his strange condition: he's losing weight, without getting thinner, and the scales register the same when he is in his clothes or out of them, however heavy they are.

Scott also has new neighbours, who have opened a "fine dining experience" in town, although it's an experience being shunned by the locals; Deirdre McComb and her wife Missy Donaldson don't exactly fit in with the community's expectations. And now Scott seems trapped in a feud with the couple over their dogs dropping their business on his lawn. Missy may be friendly, but Deirdre is cold as ice.

As the town prepares for its annual Thanksgiving 12K run, Scott starts to understand the prejudices his neighbours face and he tries to help. Unlikely alliances form and the mystery of Scott's affliction brings out the best in people who have indulged the worst in themselves and others.



Kurtz, Irma – About Time: Growing Old Disgracefully

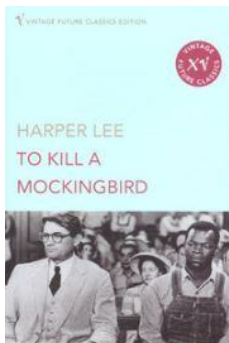
In this frank, often funny and always compelling disquisition of ageing, Irma Kurtz sets out to chart the territory through her own and others' experiences. Along the way she meets a diverse group of people whose insights into their own lives have much to offer a younger generation – from a ninety-year-old weekly columnist and a vicar still working in his mid-seventies to The Good Granny Guide's Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall and "London's Rudest Landlord", Normal Balon of the celebrated Coach and Horses. Kurtz is a fearless investigator of the art of growing old – its pleasures and its grief's, carrying with her the only tool that sharpens with age: lifelong curiosity.



Le Carre, John – The Constant Gardener

Frightening, heart breaking, and exquisitely calibrated, John le Carré's new novel opens with the gruesome murder of the young and beautiful Tessa Quayle near northern Kenya's Lake Turkana, the birthplace of mankind. Her putative African lover and traveling companion, a doctor with one of the aid agencies, has vanished from the scene of the crime. Tessa's much older husband, Justin, a career diplomat at the British High Commission in Nairobi, sets out on a personal odyssey in pursuit of the killers and their motive.

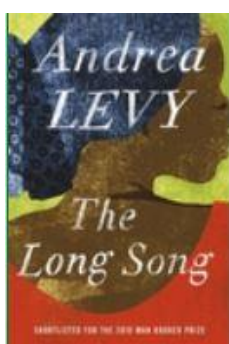
A master chronicler of the deceptions and betrayals of ordinary people caught in political conflict, le Carré portrays, in *The Constant Gardener*, the dark side of unbridled capitalism. His eighteenth novel is also the profoundly moving story of a man whom tragedy elevates. Justin Quayle, amateur gardener, and ineffectual bureaucrat, seemingly oblivious to his wife's cause, discovers his own resources and the extraordinary courage of the woman he barely had time to love. *The Constant Gardener* is a magnificent exploration of the new world order by one of the most compelling and elegant storytellers of our time.



Lee, Harper – To Kill a Mockingbird

“Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit them, but remember it’s a sin to kill a Mockingbird.”

A lawyer’s advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee’s classic novel – a black man charged with the rape of a white girl in the Deep South of the 1930s. Compassionate, dramatic and deeply moving, *To Kill a Mockingbird* takes the reader to the roots of human behaviour – to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humour and pathos.



Levy, Andrea – The Long Song

You do not know me yet, but I am the narrator of this work. My son Thomas, who is printing this book, tells me it is customary at this place in a novel to give the reader a little taste of the story

that is held within these pages. As your storyteller, I am to convey that this tale is set in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery and the early years of freedom that followed.

Perhaps, my son suggests, I might write that it is a thrilling journey through that time in the company of people who lived it. All this he wishes me to pen so the reader can decide if this is a novel they might care to consider. Cha, I tell my son, what fuss-fuss. Come, let them just read it for themselves.



Mackenzie, Compton – Whisky Galore

It's 1943 and the war has brought rationing to the Hebridean islands of Great and Little Today. When food is in short supply, it is bad enough, but when the whisky runs out, it looks like the end of the world.

Morale is at rock bottom. George Campbell needs a wee dram to give him the courage to stand up to his mother and marry Catriona. The priest, the doctor and, of course, the landlord at the inn are all having a very thin time of it.

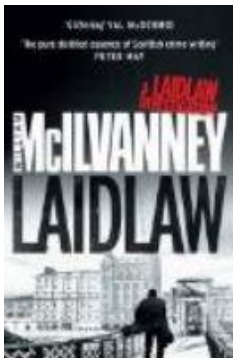
There's no conversation, no jollity, no fun – until a ship-wreck off the coast brings a piece of extraordinary good fortune.



McCarthy, Cormac – The Road

A father and his young son walk alone through burned America, heading slowly for the coast. Nothing moves in the ravaged

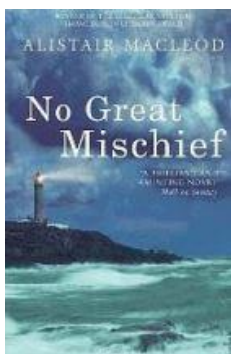
landscape save the ash on the wind. They have nothing but a pistol to defend themselves against the men who stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food – and each other.



McIlvanney, William – Laidlaw

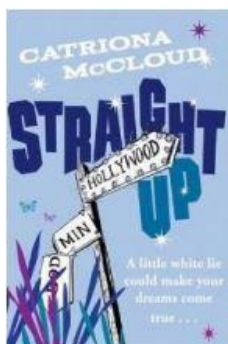
Meet Jack Laidlaw, the original damaged detective. When a young woman is found brutally murdered in Kelvingrove Park, only Laidlaw stands a chance of finding her murderer from among the hard men, gangland villains and self-made moneymen who lurk in the city's shadows.

WINNER OF THE CWA SILVER DAGGER



MacLeod, Alistair – No Great Mischief

Alexander MacDonald guides us through his family's mythic past as he recollects the heroic stories of his people: loggers, miners, drinkers, adventurers; men forever in exile, forever linked to their clan. There is the legendary patriarch who left the Scottish Highlands in 1779 and resettled in "the land of trees," where his descendants became a separate Nova Scotia clan. There is the team of brothers and cousins, expert miners in demand around the world for their dangerous skills. And there is Alexander and his twin sister, who have left Cape Breton and prospered, yet are haunted by the past. Elegiac, hypnotic, by turns joyful and sad, *No Great Mischief* is a spellbinding story of family, loyalty, exile, and of the blood ties that bind us, generations later, to the land from which our ancestors came.

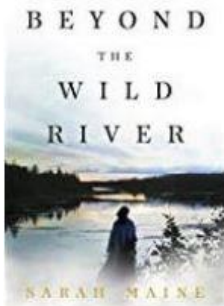


McCloud, Catriona – Straight Up

Verity Drummond – florist by trade and fantasist by nature – deals with the end of her marriage by writing *Straight Up*, a novel in

which a man on a mountaineering expedition (bearing a striking resemblance to her ex) dies all alone in a hole in the ice, starving, wretched, and with his broken bones poking through his skin.

Meanwhile in Hollywood, Jasmine and Patrice want to adapt *Straight Up* for the screen. When Verity goes to meet them, somehow, between the dead man up the mountain and her inability to admit that she's just another divorcee like the rest of California, she becomes *The Widow*. The buzz around the script, now "based on a true story", begins to grow and with it, the biggest rolling snowball and the tightest tangled web of Verity's Life.



Maine, Sarah – Beyond the Wild River

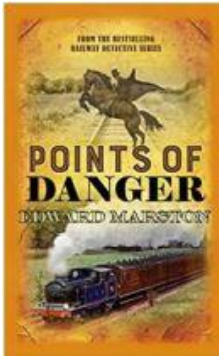
Scotland, 1893. Nineteen-year-old Evelyn Ballantyre, the daughter of a wealthy landowner, has rarely strayed from her family's estate in the Scottish Borders. She was once close to her philanthropist father, but his silence over what really happened on the day a poacher was shot on the family estate has come between them.

An invitation to accompany her father to Canada is a chance for Evelyn to escape her limited existence. But once there, on the wild and turbulent Nipigon River, she is shocked to discover that their guide is James Douglas, Ballantyre's former stable hand, and once her friend. He disappeared the night of the murder, charged with the shooting.

Evelyn never believed that James was guilty – and her father's role in the killing has always been mysterious. What does he have to hide: In the wild landscape of a new world, far from the constraints of polite society, the secrets and lies surrounding that night are finally stripped away, with dramatic consequences.

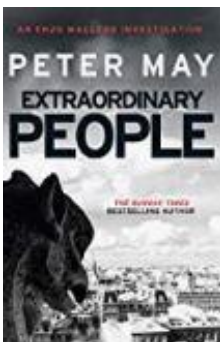
Mankell, Henning – Collection

A selection of the author's titles.



Marston, Edward – Points of Danger

1861, East Anglia. Alone in a first-class carriage, the Swarbricks are robbed at gunpoint, but when the universally-admired Swarbrick fights back, the train robber takes more than money and jewellery, killing the man working to unify East Anglia's tangle of railway networks. Inspector Colbeck is brought in from London, as the only detective in Britain with enough expertise for the job. But as Swarbrick's glowing reputation begins to crumble, the line of investigation isn't clear: Is this the act of a bungling burglar, a business rival, a disgruntled son, or a jealous lover? Whoever it is, they are determined to involve Colbeck in their fight. Is the Railway Detective following the right track or will he need to switch points to bring the murderer to justice?



May, Peter – Extraordinary People

PARIS.

An old mystery. As midnight strikes, a man desperately seeking sanctuary flees into a church. The next day, his sudden disappearance will make him famous throughout France.

A new science. Forensic expert Enzo Macleod takes a wager to solve the seven most notorious French murders using modern technology - and a total disregard for the justice system.

A fresh trail. Deep in the catacombs below the city, he unearths dark clues deliberately set - and as he draws closer to the killer, discovers that he is to be the next victim.



Mitchell, David – Cloud Atlas

Six interlocking lives – one amazing adventure. In a narrative that circles the globe and reaches from the 19th century to a postapocalyptic future, David Mitchell erases the boundaries of time, genre and language to offer an enthralling vision of humanity's will to power, and where it will lead us.

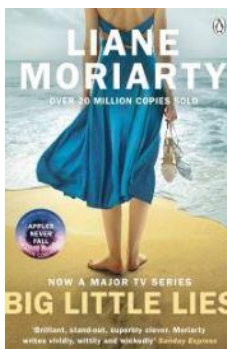


Moriarty, Laura – The Chaperone

On a summer's day in 1922, Cora Carlisle boards a train from Witchita, Kansas, to New York City, charged with the care of a stunningly beautiful young girl with a jet-black bob and wisdom way beyond her fifteen years.

The girl is Louise Brooks and for her, New York offers a chance of stardom beneath the bright lights of Broadway. For Cora, whose formative years were spent at The New York Home for Friendless Girls, the trip offers the opportunity to discover the truth about her past. It will also, although she doesn't realise it yet, offer her the chance for a very different future.

Set in a time of illicit thrills and daring glamour, a time when prohibition reigns and speakeasies thrive behind closed doors, *The Chaperone* tells Cora's story as she finally discovers who she is and – more importantly – who she wants to be.



Moriarty, Liane – Big Little Lies

It was always going to end in tears, but how did it end in murder?

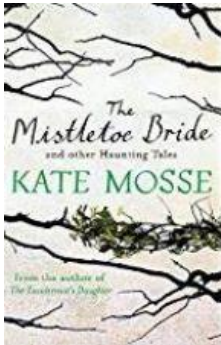
Single mum Jane has just moved to town. She's got her little boy in tow – plus the secret she's been carrying for five years.

On the first day of the school run she meets Madeline – a force to be reckoned with, who remembers everything and forgives no one – and Celeste, the kind of beautiful woman who makes the world stop and stare, but is inexplicably ill at ease. They both take Jane

under their wing – while careful to keep their own secrets under wraps.

But a minor incident involving the children of all three women rapidly escalates: playground whispers become spiteful rumours until no one can tell the truth from the lies.

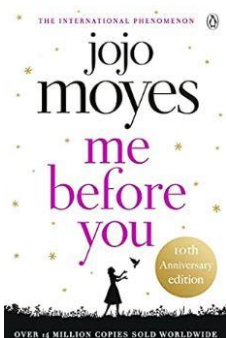
Which is when the secrets come out – and now someone is going to pay with their life...



Mosse, Kate – The Mistletoe Bride and other Haunting Tales

I hear someone coming. It has happened before. I pause and listen but no longer hear anything. I sigh. As always, hope is snatched away before it can take root. And so then, as always, I am carried back to that first December so very long ago...

Rooted in the elemental landscapes of Sussex, Brittany and the Languedoc, here are tales of ghosts and spirits seeking revenge, grief-stricken women and haunted men coming to terms with their destiny.



Moyes, Jojo – Me Before You.

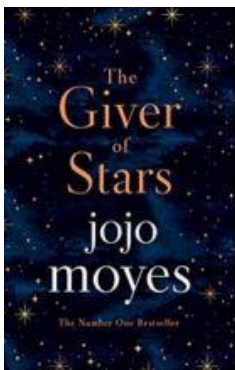
Lou Clark knows lots of things. She knows how many footsteps there are between the bus stop and home. She knows she likes working in The Buttered Bun tea shop and she knows she might not love her boyfriend Patrick.

What Lou doesn't know is she's about to lose her job or that knowing what's coming is what keeps her sane.

Will Traynor knows his motorcycle accident took away his desire to live. He knows everything feels very small and rather joyless now and he knows exactly how he's going to put a stop to that.

What Will doesn't know is that Lou is about to burst into his world

in a riot of colour. And neither of them knows they're going to change the other for all time.



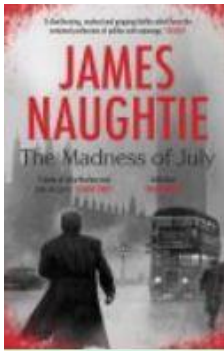
Moyes, JoJo – The Giver of Stars

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So, when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically.

The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky.

What happens to them - and to the men they love - becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity, and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives. Based on a

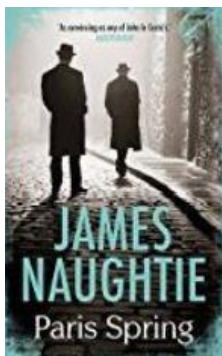
true story rooted in America's past, *The Giver of Stars* is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling. Funny, heart breaking, enthralling, it is destined to become a modern classic - a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.



Naughtie, James – The Madness of July

Will Flemyng was a spy who turned to politics and is rising to the top in the 1970s. But when a bizarre death, on one hot summer day in London, starts to unravel some of the most sensitive secrets of his government, he's drawn back into the shadows of the Cold War and begins to dance with danger once more.

Buffeted by political forces and the powerful women around him and caught in interlocking mysteries he must disentangle - including a potentially lethal family secret - Fleming faces his vulnerability and learns, through betrayal and tragedy, more truth about his world than he has ever know.



Naughtie, James – Paris Spring

The cafes are alive with talk of revolution, but for Will Flemyng – a secret servant of the British embassy – the crisis is personal. A few words from a stranger on the metro change his life. His family is threatened, and he faces the spy's oldest fear: exposure.

A bizarre murder draws him into a web of secrets and lifelong loyalties are tested as never before. The streets of Paris become a smoke-filled battleground, and Flemyng learns that when secrets are at stake, no one is safe.



Nesbo, Jo – The Son

SONNY'S ON THE RUN

Sonny is a model prisoner. He listens to the confessions of other inmates and absolves them of their sins.

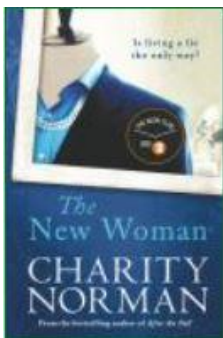
HE'S BEEN LIED TO HIS WHOLE LIFE

But then one prisoner's confession changes everything. He knows something about Sonny's disgraced father.

SONNY WANTS REVENGE

He needs to break out of prison and make those responsible pay for their crimes.

WHATEVER THE COST

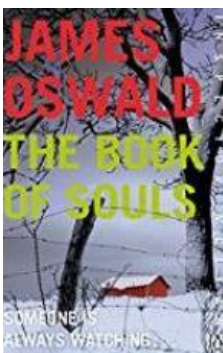


Norman, Charity – The New Woman

What would you do if you found out that your husband, your father, your son – was not who you thought? Could you ever love him again?

Luke Livingstone is a lucky man. He's a respected solicitor, a father and grandfather, a pillar of the community. He has a loving wife and an idyllic home in the Oxfordshire countryside. Yet Luke is struggling with an unbearable secret, and it's threatening to destroy him.

All his life, Luke has hidden the truth about himself and his identity. It's a truth so fundamental that it will devastate his wife, shatter his children, rock his community, and leave him outcast. But Luke has nowhere left to run, and to continue living, he must become the person – the woman – he knows himself to be, whatever the cost.



Oswald, James – The Book of Souls

Twelve years ago, Edinburgh's Detective Inspector Tony McLean finally put the "Christmas Killer" behind bars – but at a terrible price: the last victim of this decade-long killing spree was McLean's own fiancée.

Now this notorious serial killer has met his end at the hands of a fellow prisoner – just as a new body matching the previous murders is found.

A horrified McLean is full of questions: is this a copycat killer? Did he put the wrong man behind bars? Is this somehow his fault?

McLean must revisit the most traumatic case of his career. But what did he miss? And will the killer strike so close once again...?

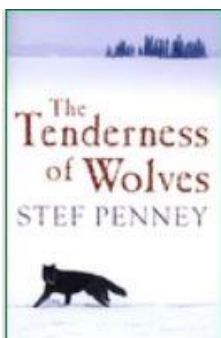


Paul, Gill – The Secret Wife

A Russian grand duchess and an English journalist. Linked by one of the world's greatest mysteries.

1914. Russia is on the brink of collapse, and the Romanov family faces a terrifyingly uncertain future. Grand Duchess Tatiana has fallen in love with cavalry officer Dmitri, but events take a catastrophic turn, placing their romance – and their lives – in danger.

2016. Kitty Fisher escapes to her great grandfather's remote cabin in America, after a devastating revelation makes her flee London. There, on the shores of Lake Akanabee, she discovers the spectacular jewelled pendant that will lead her to a long buried family secret...

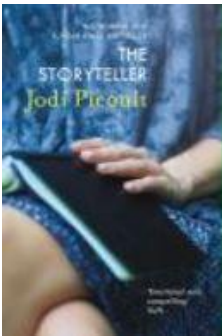


Penney, Stef – The Tenderness of Wolves

As winter tightens its grip on the isolated settlement of Dove River, a man is brutally murdered and a seventeen-year old boy disappears. Tracks leaving the dead man's cabin head north towards the forest and the tundra beyond. In the wake of such violence, people are drawn to the township – journalists, Hudson's

Bay company men, trappers, traders – but do they want to solve the crime, or exploit it?

One by one, the assembled searchers set out from Dove River, pursuing the tracks across a desolate landscape home only to wild animals, madmen, and fugitives, variously seeking a murderer, a son, two sisters missing for seventeen years and a forgotten Native American culture, before the snows settle and cover the tracks of the past for good...



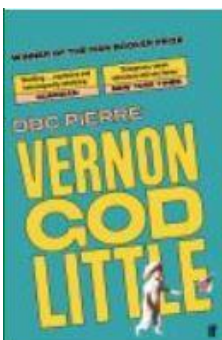
Picoult, Jodi – The Storyteller

For seventy years, Josef Weber has been hiding in plain sight.

He is a pillar of his local community. He is also a murderer.

When Josef decides to confess, it is to Sage Singer, a young woman who trusts him as her friend. What she hears shatters everything she thought she knew and believed.

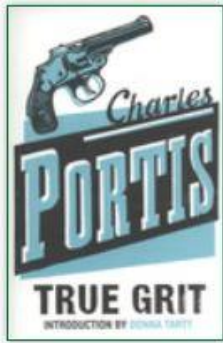
As Sage uncovers the truth from the darkest horrors of war, she must follow a twisting trail between terror and mercy, betrayal and forgiveness, love – and revenge.



Pierre, D B C – Vernon God Little

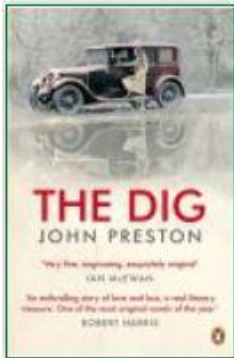
Named as one of the 100 Best Things in the World by GQ magazine in 2003, the riotous adventures of *Vernon Gregory Little* in small town Texas and beachfront Mexico mark one of the most spectacular, irreverent, and bizarre debuts of the 21st century so far.

Its depiction of innocence and simple humanity (all seasoned with a dash of dysfunctional profanity) in an evil world is never less than astonishing. The only novel to be set in the barbecue sauce capital of Central Texas, *Vernon God Little* suggests that desperate times throw up the most unlikely of heroes.



Portis, Charles – True Grit

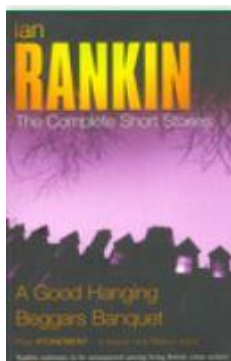
On a trip to buy ponies, Frank Ross is shot dead by Tom Chaney, one of his own workers, for a horse, \$150 cash, and two Californian gold pieces. When Ross's unusually single-minded fourteen-year-old daughter Mattie arrives to claim his body, she discovers that the authorities are doing nothing to find Chaney. Then she hears of Rooster – a man, she's told, who has grit – and convinces him to join her in a quest into dark dangerous Indian territory to hunt Chaney down and avenge her father's murder...



Preston, John – The Dig

Summer, 1939. While Britain is busy preparing for war, on farmland around Sutton Hoo House in sleepy Suffolk, Mrs Pretty has asked local archaeologist Basil Brown to excavate the enormous earth mounds on her land. And what Basil finds proves earth-shattering. His discovery brings an invasion of academics and busybodies from London. Each wants to run the dig and no one wants Basil or Mrs Pretty around. Peggy, newly married to her university teacher, surprises everyone by making the first discovery of fabulous treasure, but away from the dig her world is falling to pieces. Why is her husband behaving so coldly towards her?

While the clouds of war thicken above and jealousy vies with the ambition to muddy everything below, a battle for the right to unearth an invader from another age begins in earnest...



Rankin, Ian – The Complete Short Stories

Over the course of his career, Ian Rankin has amassed an incredible portfolio of short stories. Published in crime magazines, composed for events, broadcast on radio, they all share the best qualities of his phenomenally popular novels. Now Ian Rankin's two critically acclaimed short story collections – *A Good Hanging* and *Beggars Banquet* - come together in one volume, along with *Atonement*, a new Rebus story written especially for this collection.



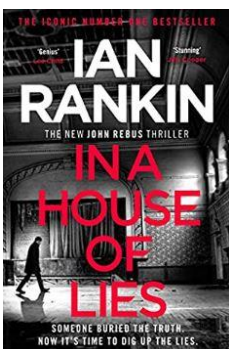
Rankin, Ian – Even Dogs in the Wild

Retirement doesn't suit John Rebus. He wasn't made for hobbies, holidays, or home improvements. Being a cop is in his blood.

So when DI Siobhan Clarke asks for his help on a case, Rebus doesn't need long to consider his options.

Clarke's been investigating the death of a senior lawyer whose body was found along with a threatening note. On the other side of Edinburgh, Big Ger Cafferty – Rebus's longtime nemesis – has received an identical note and a bullet through his window. Now it's up to Clarke and Rebus to connect the dots and stop a killer.

It's a game of dog eat dog – in the city, as in the wild.



Rankin, Ian – In a House of Lies

Everyone has something to hide - A missing private investigator is found, locked in a car hidden deep in the woods. Worse still – both for his family and the police – is that his body was in an area that had already been searched.

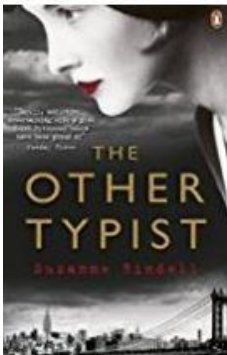
Everyone has secrets – Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke is part of a new inquiry, combing through the mistakes of the original case. There were always suspicions over how the investigation was handled and now – after a decade without answers – it's time for the truth.

Nobody is Innocent – Every officer involved must be questioned, and it seems everyone on the case has something to hide and everything to lose. But there is one man who knows where the trail may lead – and that it could be the end of him: John Rebus.



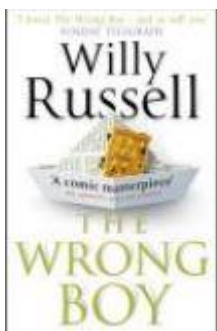
Rhys, Rachel – A Dangerous Crossing

England, September 1939. Lily Shepherd boards a cruise liner for a new life in Australia and is plunged into a world of cocktails, jazz and glamorous friends. But as the sun beats down, long-hidden secrets begin to surface. Her heart beats faster for the attention of handsome Edward, but is his heart already taken? Australia, six-weeks later. The world is at war, the cruise liner docks, and Lily's desire for Edward is untameable. But something else is awry on this ship and Lily is determined to find out



Rindell, Suzanne – The other Typist

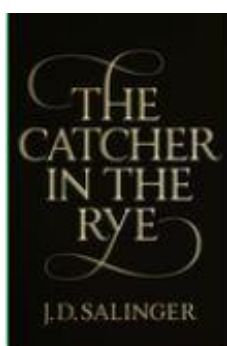
New York City, 1924: the height of Prohibition. In a police precinct on the Lower East Side young typist Rose Baker coolly records the confessions of killers and gangsters. But when a new typist arrives – the captivating Odalie – Rose finds a true partner in crime. Flitting between sparkling speakeasies by night and their work at the precinct by day, the girls are drawn further into a dark, glamorous world. Soon Rose's fascination with Odalie and her glittering life turns to obsession. But does she know the real Odalie, and what will happen if she dares to find out?



Russell, Willy – The Wrong Boy

Welcome to the heart-wrenching, ever-erring world of Raymond Marks, a normal boy from a normal town. Until, that is, in the wake of the Transvestite nativity Play Scandal, the ill-fated flytrapping craze begins – a craze that involves 15 boys, a number of flies and an intimate part of the male anatomy... after which, Raymond's world is never quite the same again.

Full of memorable characters and with an utterly engrossing plot, *The Wrong Boy* is one of the funniest and most moving novels you will ever read.

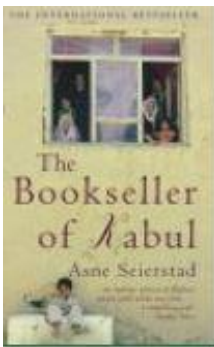


Salinger, J D – The Catcher in the Rye

Since his debut in 1951 as *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden Caulfield has been synonymous with "cynical adolescent". Holden narrates

the story of a couple of days in his 16-year- old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school, in a slang that sounds edgy even today and keeps this novel on banned book lists.

His constant wry observations about what he encounters, from teachers to phonies (the two of course are not mutually exclusive), capture the essence of the eternal teenage experience of alienation.



Seierstad, Asne – The Bookseller of Kabul

For more than twenty years Sultan Khan defied the authorities to supply books to the people of Kabul. He was arrested, interrogated and imprisoned, and watched illiterate soldiers burn piles of books in the street.

In spring 2002 award-winning journalist Asne Seierstad spent four months living with the bookseller and his family. As Seierstad steps back from the page and lets the Khans tell their stories, we learn of proposals and marriages, hope and fear, crime and punishment. The result is a unique portrait of a family and a country.



Sheridan, Sara – The Secret Mandarin

A disgraced woman. A faraway land. A forbidden love... An unforgettable tale set in Victorian London and 1840s China from a shining, young historical talent.

Desperate to shield her from scandal, Mary's brother-in-law, the ambitious botanist Robert Fortune, forces her to accompany him

on a mission to China to steal tea plants for the East India Company. But Robert conceals his secret motives - to spy for the British forces, newly victorious in the recent Opium War.

His task is both difficult and dangerous - the British are still regarded as enemies by the Chinese and exporting tea bushes carries the death sentence. In these harsh conditions Mary grieves for her London life and the baby she has been forced to leave behind, while her fury at Robert intensifies.

As their quest becomes increasingly treacherous, Robert and Mary disguise themselves as a mandarin and man-servant. Thousands of miles from everything familiar, Mary revels in her new freedom and the Chinese way of life - and when danger strikes, finds unexpected reserves of courage.

The Secret Mandarin is an unforgettable story of love, fortitude, and recklessness - of a strong woman determined to make it in a man's world and a man who will stop at nothing to fulfil his desires.



Shriver, Lionel – We Need to Talk About Kevin

Two years ago, Eva Khatchadourian's son, Kevin, murdered seven of his fellow high-school students, a cafeteria worker, and a popular algebra teacher. Because he was only fifteen at the time of the killings, he received a lenient sentence and is now in a prison for young offenders in upstate New York.

Telling the story of Kevin's upbringing, Eva addresses herself to her estranged husband through a series of letters. Fearing that her own shortcomings may have shaped what her son has become,

she confesses to a deep, long-standing ambivalence about both motherhood in general, and Kevin in particular. How much is her fault?

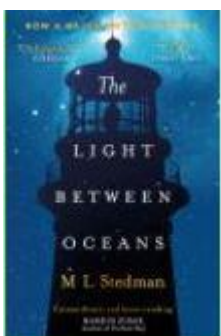
Lionel Shriver tells a compelling, absorbing, and resonant story while framing these horrifying tableaux of teenage carnage as metaphors for the larger tragedy - the tragedy of a country where everything works, nobody starves, and anything can be bought but a sense of purpose.



Shute, Neville – A Town Like Alice

Jean Paget is just twenty years old and working in Malaya when the Japanese invasion begins.

When she is captured she joins a group of other women and children whom the Japanese force to walk for miles through the jungle, leading to the deaths of many. Due to her courageous spirit, Jean takes on the role of leader of the sorry gaggle of prisoners. While on the march, the group run into an Australian prisoner, Joe Harman, who helps them steal some food, and is horrifically punished as a result. Jean's adventures, and her bond with Joe, form the heart of this gripping and moving story.



Stedman, M. L. – The Light Between Oceans

A boat washes up on the shore of a remote lighthouse keeper's island. It holds a dead man and a crying baby. The only two islanders, Tom and his wife Izzy are about to make a devastating decision.

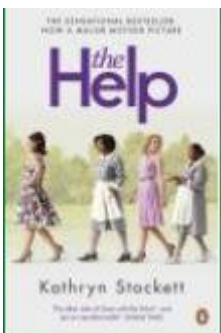
They break the rules and follow their hearts. What happens next will break yours.



Steinbeck, John – East of Eden

“I believe that there is one story in the world, and only one... Humans are caught – in their lives, in their thoughts, in their hungers and ambitions, in their avarice and cruelty, and in their kindness and generosity too – in a net of good and evil...

There is no other story. A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard, clean questions: Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well – or ill?”



Stockett, Kathryn – The Help

Be prepared to meet three unforgettable women.

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared, and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son, who died while his bosses looked the other way. She is devoted to the little girl she looks after, though she knows both their hearts may be broken.

Minnie, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job. Minnie finally finds a position working for someone too new to town to know her reputation. But her new boss has secrets of her own.

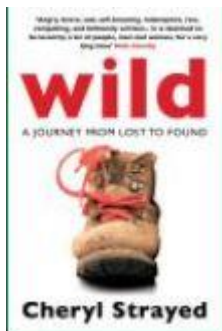
Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.

In pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women - mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends - view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humour, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.



Stoker, Bram – Dracula

The iconic and terrifying character of Stoker's imagination has permeated our consciousness in such a way that Dracula is the seminal vampire of popular culture. Set across London and into the darkest corners of Eastern Europe, Dracula is told through the journal entries and letters of its protagonists as they strive to survive the presence of Count Dracula in their lives. Young lawyer Jonathan Harker travels to Transylvania to assist in a land transaction, but finds himself trapped in the Count's castle, tormented by strange and unearthly occurrences. After a miraculous escape, he returns to England, only to find that the Count has followed him to London and has begun tracking his fiancé, Mina...



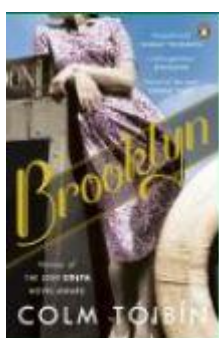
Strayed, Cheryl – Wild: A Journey from Lost to Found

At twenty-six, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother’s rapid death from cancer, her family grew apart and her marriage soon crumbled. With seemingly nothing to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life: to walk eleven hundred miles of the wet coast of America and to do it alone. She had no experience of long-distance hiking, and the journey was nothing more than a line on a map. But it held a promise, a promise of piecing together a life that lay shattered at her feet...



Szpilman, Wladyslaw - The Pianist

The powerful, bestselling memoir of a young Jewish pianist who survived the war in Warsaw against all odds, alongside moving extracts from the diary of the German officer who saved his life.



Toibin, Colm – Brooklyn

It is Ireland in the 1950s and for Eilis Lacey, as for so many young Irish girls, opportunities are scarce. So, when her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go, leaving behind her family and home for the first time.

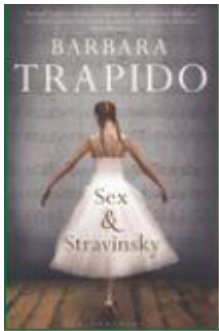
Arriving in a crowded lodging house in Brooklyn, Eilis can only be reminded of what she has sacrificed. She is far from home – and homesick. Then, just as she takes tentative steps towards friendship, and perhaps something more, Eilis receives news which sends her back to Ireland. There she will be confronted by a terrible dilemma – a devastating choice between duty and one great love.



Torday, Paul – Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

This is the story of Dr Alfred Jones, a fisheries scientist - for whom diary-notable events include the acquisition of a new electric toothbrush and getting his article on caddis fly larvae published in 'Trout and Salmon' - who finds himself reluctantly involved in a project to bring salmon fishing to the Highlands of the Yemen - a project that will change his life, and the course of British political history for ever.

With a wickedly wonderful cast of characters - including a visionary Sheikh, a weaselly spin doctor, Fred's devilish wife and a few thousand transplanted salmon - SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN is a novel about hypocrisy and bureaucracy, dreams and deniability, and the transforming power of faith and love.

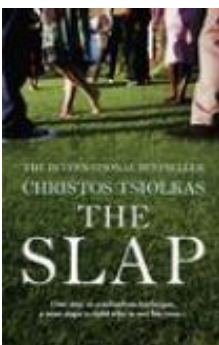


Trapido, Barbara – Sex and Stravinsky

The time is 1995, but everyone has a past. Brilliant Australian Caroline can command everyone except her own ghoulish mother, which means that things aren't easy for Josh and Zoe, her husband and twelve year old daughter. Josh has bizarre origins in a South African mining town, but now teaches mime in Bristol. Zoe reads girls' ballet books and longs for ballet lessons; a thing denied her until a chance encounter on a school French exchange.

Meanwhile, on the east coast of Africa, Hattie Thomas, Josh's first love, has taken to writing girls' ballet books from the turret of her fabulous house – that's when she can carve out a space between her alpha-male husband Herman and her crosspatch daughter Cat.

From far and wide, they are all drawn together; drawn to beautiful, mysterious Jack. Or is he Jacques: Or Giacomo?



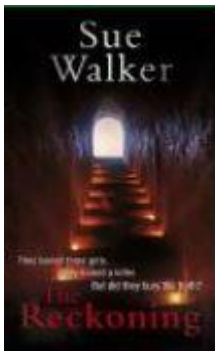
Tsiolkas, Christos – The Slap

At a suburban barbecue one afternoon, a man slaps an unruly three-year-old boy.

The boy is not his son.

It is a single act of violence, but the slap reverberates through the lives of everyone present.

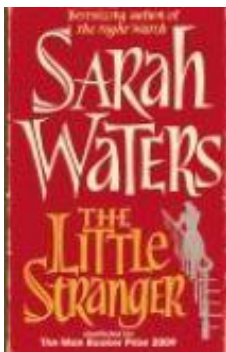
Christos Tsiolkas examines the impact of this apparently minor domestic incident through the eyes of eight of those who witness it. The result is an unflinching interrogation of the modern family. A deeply thought-provoking novel of boundaries and their limits.



Walker, Sue – The Reckoning

They buried three girls. They buried the killer. But did they bury the truth?

In June 1973 the bodies of three missing teenagers were found on the tiny Scottish island of Fidra. And when his father was arrested for the murders, 11-year-old Miller McAllister's life fell apart. Thirty-two years later, Douglas McAllister has died in prison and Miller returns home after decades of self-imposed exile. Because, though the rest of his family protested Douglas's innocence, Miller always maintained his guilt. But when Miller is given the legal archive and a letter his father wrote to him just days before his death, suddenly everything looks less clear. Could Douglas have been innocent after all? And if he didn't kill the girls - who did?



Waters, Sarah – The Little Stranger

In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to a patient at Lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once grand and handsome, is now in decline, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds, its owners - mother, son and daughter - struggling to keep pace. But are the Ayres haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life? Little does Dr Faraday know how closely, and how terrifyingly, their story is about to become entwined with his.



Watson, Winifred – Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day

Miss Pettigrew is a down on her luck, middle-aged governess sent by her employment agency to work for a nightclub singer rather

than a household of unruly children. Over a period of 24 hours her life is changed – forever.

This charming, funny, light-hearted 1938 novel was a bestseller on its first appearance and has been reprinted many times since. Over a course of the day, in a series of deft interventions, witty misunderstandings and brilliant repartee, Miss Pettigrew is revealed as a lifesaver. A delightful, intelligent and naughty novel which reminds us that it is never too late to live.



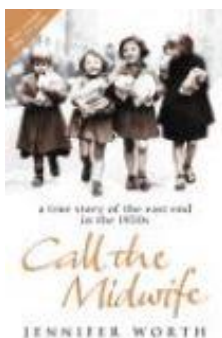
Wood, Tom – Better off Dead

A hitman must be anonymous, amoral... and alone.

Victor is the face in the crowd you don't see, a perfect assassin with nothing to live for.

But when an old friend turns to him for help, he finds he can't refuse. For once his objective isn't to kill, but to protect.

Hunted through the streets of London by ruthless enemies, Victor needs to be more than just a bodyguard... but his every move leads danger closer to the very person he's vowed to defend.



Worth, Jennifer – Call the Midwife

Life in London's docklands in the 1950s was tough. The brothels of Cable Street, the Kray brothers and gang warfare, the meths drinkers in the bomb sites – this was the world that Jennifer Worth entered when she became a midwife at the age of twenty-two. Babies were born in slum conditions, often with no running water.

Jennifer Worth describes the romance and beauty of the great port of London, the bug infested tenements, the spectre of disease, the sense of community and the incredible resilience of women who bore more than ten children. Funny, disturbing, and moving, *Call the Midwife* brings to life a world that has now changed beyond measure.

Yousafzai, Malala – I am Malala

“Who is Malala? The gunman demanded.

I am Malala. This is my story.

