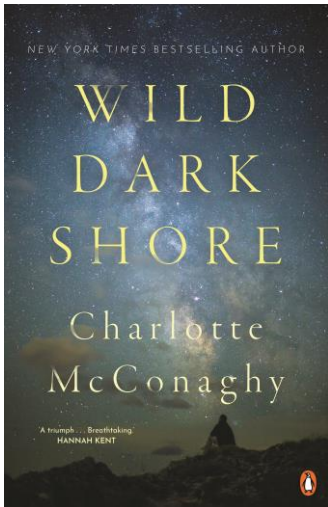


Kiama Library book club kits

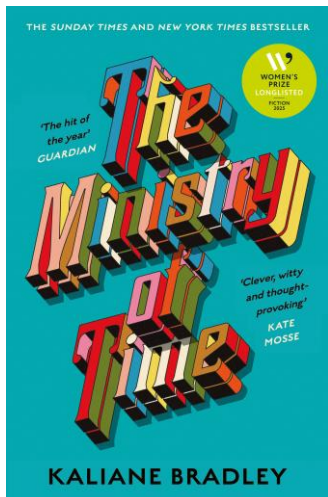


Wild Dark Shore Charlotte McConaghy (2025)

'At once a gripping mystery, an exquisitely written ode to the natural world, and a taut, psychological thriller ...' - HANNAH KENT

A family living alone as caretakers of a seed bank on a remote subantarctic island. A mysterious woman washes up on shore. As the family nurses her back to life, their suspicion gives way to affection. But the woman isn't telling the whole truth. And when she discovers the sabotaged radios and a freshly dug grave, she realises the family is keeping its own dark secrets.

A novel of heartstopping twists, dizzying beauty and ferocious love, *Wild Dark Shore* is a story about the impossible choices we make to protect the people we love, even as the world around us is ending.

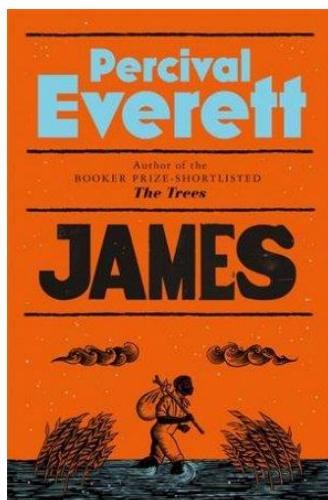


The Ministry of Time Kaliane Bradley (2024)

A genre-bending, thought-provoking spy thriller / sci-fi / romance

A civil servant is offered a lucrative job in a mysterious new government ministry gathering 'expats' from across history to test whether time-travel is feasible. Her role is to work as a 'bridge' for Commander Graham Gore, a former Victorian polar explorer.

But as the true shape of the project that brought them together begins to emerge, Gore and the bridge are forced to confront their past choices and imagined futures. Can love triumph over the histories that have shaped them? And how do you defy that history when it is living in your house?

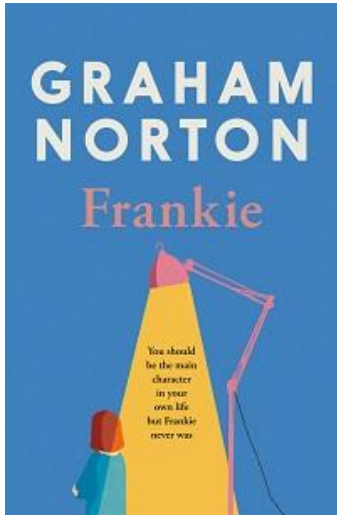


James Percival Everett (2024)

From the shadows of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Jim emerges to reclaim his voice, defying the conventions that have consigned him to the margins.

The Mississippi River, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a new owner and separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson's Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father who recently returned to town.

Thus begins a dangerous and transcendent journey by raft along the Mississippi River. As James and Huck begin to navigate the treacherous waters, each bend in the river holds the promise of both salvation and demise.



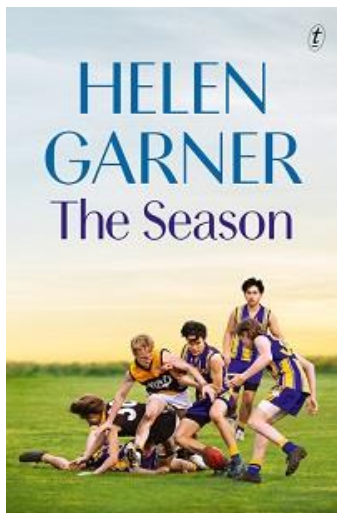
Frankie Graham Norton (2024)

Frankie is a sweeping story about love, bravery and what it means to live a significant life.

Always on the periphery, young Frankie Howe was never quite sure enough of herself to take centre stage. Now old, Frankie finds it easier to forget the life that came before.

Then Damian, a young Irish carer, arrives at her London flat. A memory is sparked, and the past crackles into life as Damian listens to the story Frankie has kept stored away all these years.

Travelling from post-war Ireland to 1960s New York, Frankie shares a world where, for a while, life blazes with an intensity that can't last. But as Frankie's past slowly emerges, her spirit and endurance are revealed as undeniable . . . and unforgettable.

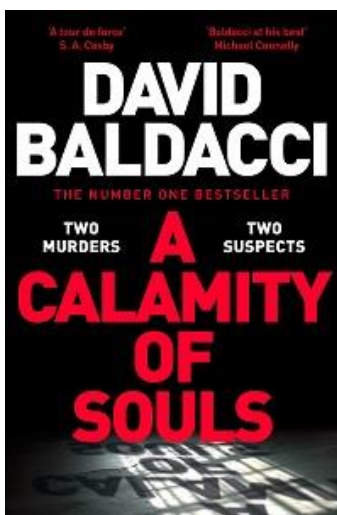


The Season Helen Garner (2024)

It's footy season in Melbourne, and Helen Garner is following her grandson's under-16s team.

She's a passionate Western Bulldogs fan who loves the epic theatre of AFL football. Her devotion to the under-16s is her chance to connect with her youngest grandchild before he rushes headlong into manhood. To witness his triumphs and defeats, to fear for his safety in battle, to gasp and to cheer for his team as it fights for a place in the finals.

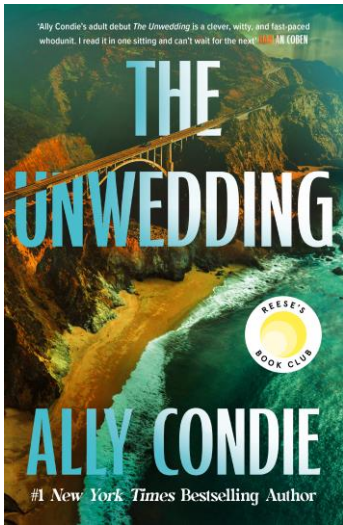
With her sharp eye, generous wit and warm humour, Garner documents this pivotal moment. *The Season* is an unexpected and exuberant book: a celebration of the nobility, grace and grit of team spirit, a reflection on the nature of masculinity, and a tribute to the game's power to thrill us.



Calamity of Souls David Baldacci (2024)

Set in the tumultuous year of 1968 in southern Virginia, a racially charged murder case sets a duo of white and Black lawyers against a deeply unfair system as they work to defend their wrongfully accused defendants in this courtroom drama.

Jack Lee - a white lawyer from Freeman County, Virginia - and Desiree DuBose - a Black lawyer from Chicago who has devoted her life to furthering the causes of justice and equality for everyone - could not be more dissimilar. On their own, neither one can stop the prosecution's deliberate march towards a guilty verdict and the electric chair. But together, the pair fight for what once seemed impossible: a chance for a fair trial and true justice.



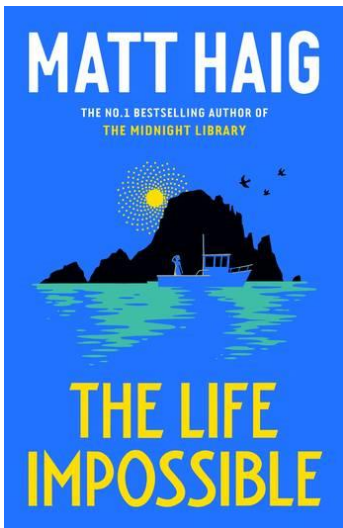
***The Unwedding* Ally Condie (2024)**

A Reece Witherspoon Book Club pick.

'A gorgeous murder mystery that explores what it means to be human' – *Kirkus Review*

Everyone at Broken Point has a secret. And everyone has a shadow. Including Ellery.

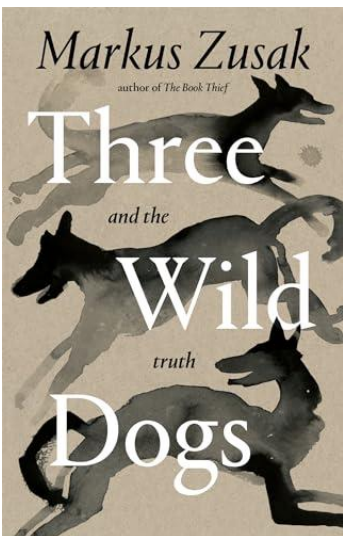
The White Lotus meets Agatha Christie, a recent divorcee's exclusive Big Sur resort vacation unravels when she discovers a dead body on the day of a wedding.



***The Impossible Life* Matt Haig (2024)**

The spectacular new book about hope and new beginnings from the bestselling author of *The Midnight Library*.

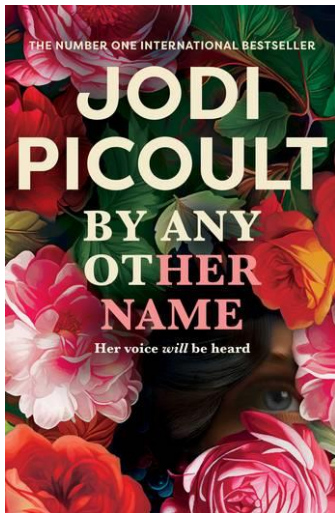
When retired Maths teacher Grace Winters is left a run-down house on a Mediterranean island by a long-lost friend, curiosity gets the better of her. She arrives in Ibiza with a one-way ticket, no guidebook and no plan. Among the rugged hills and golden beaches of the Balearics Grace searches for answers about her friend's life, and how it ended. What she uncovers is stranger than she could have dreamed. But to dive into this impossible truth, Grace must first come to terms with her past.



***Three Wild Dogs and the Truth* Markus Zusak (2024)**

What happens when the Zusaks open their family home to three big, wild, pound-hardened dogs? The answer can only be chaos: there are street fights, park fights, public shamings, property trashing, bodily injuries, stomach pumping, purest comedy, shocking tragedy, and carnage that needs to be seen to be believed ... not to mention the odd police visit at some ungodly hour of the morning.

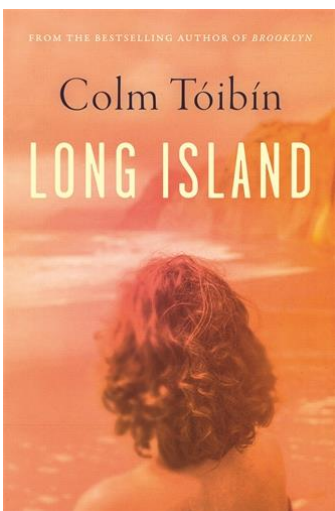
From one of the world's great storytellers comes a tender, motley and exquisitely written memoir about the human need for both connection and disorder; a love letter to the animals who bring hilarity and beauty - but also the visceral truth of the natural world - straight to our doors and into our lives, and change us forever.



***By Any Other Name* Jodi Picoult (2024)**

What if the greatest writer of all time isn't who we think he is?

Bestselling author Jodi Picoult brings to life the woman many believe was the real playwright behind the work of William Shakespeare alongside a contemporary story of a New York author suffering the same fate of being silenced. A sweeping tale of ambition, courage and desire that explores the ways in which two women, centuries apart, are both forced to hide behind another name to make their voices heard.

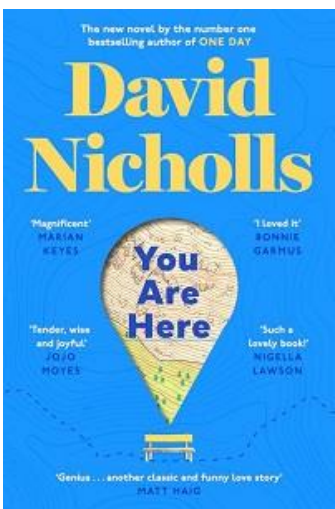


***Long Island* Colm Tóibín (2024)**

The sequel to the bestselling *Brooklyn*, *Long Island* is a novel of enormous wit and profound emotional resonance from one of the world's finest writers.

It is the spring of 1976 and Eilis Lacey, now in her forties with two teenage children, has no-one to rely on in this still-new country.

One day, an Irishman comes to the door asking for Eilis by name. He tells her that his wife is pregnant with Eilis's husband Tony's child, and that when the baby is born, he will not raise it but will leave it with her. Eilis has choices to make, and what she does in the wake of this shattering news is at the heart of one of Tóibín's most riveting and emotional novels to date.

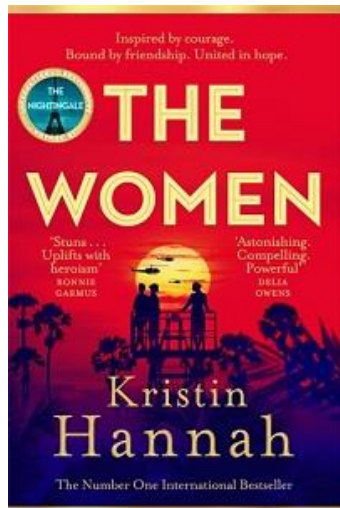


***You Are Here* David Nicholls (2024)**

A new love story by beloved bestseller David Nicholls - a novel of first encounters, second chances and finding the way home.

Sometimes you need to get lost to find your way. Marnie is stuck. Stuck working alone in her London flat, stuck battling the long afternoons and a life that often feels like it's passing her by. Michael is coming undone. Reeling from his wife's departure, increasingly reclusive, taking himself on long, solitary walks across the moors and fells.

When a persistent mutual friend and some very English weather conspire to bring them together, Marnie and Michael suddenly find themselves alone on the most epic of walks and on the precipice of a new friendship. But can they survive the journey?



The Women Kristin Hannah (2024)

A story of devastating loss and epic love, an intimate portrait of a woman coming of age in a dangerous time, and a story of a nation divided by war.

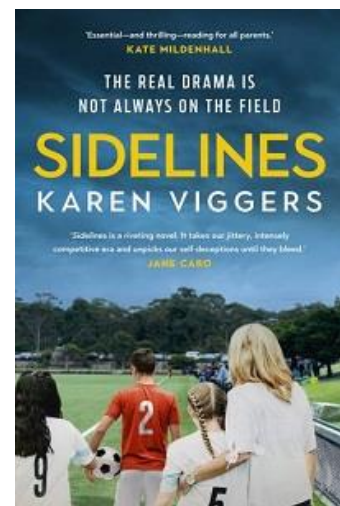
When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam in 1965, nursing student Frankie McGrath impulsively joins the Army Nurses Corps to follow his path. *The Women* is the story of one woman who goes to war, but it shines a light on the story of all women who put themselves in harm's way to help others.



Pheasants Nest Louise Milligan (2024)

A stunning and surprising thriller with a gigantic heart by award-winning writer and journalist Louise Milligan.

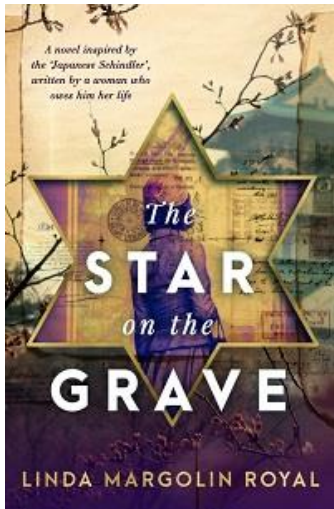
Kate Delaney has made the biggest mistake of her life. She picked the wrong guy to humiliate on a girls' night out and now she finds herself bound and gagged in the back of a car being driven god knows where, and she is petrified about what's in store for her. As a journalist, Kate is terrifyingly familiar with the statistics about women who go missing—and the fear and trauma behind the headlines. She knows only too well how those stories usually end. Kate can only hope the police will find her before it's too late, but she's aware a random crime is hardest to solve.



Sidelines Karen Viggers (2024)

When a violent brawl erupts at a suburban junior soccer game, some onlookers are shocked. But others saw it coming. Rivalry, parental pressure, coaching bias, inequity, and many other factors have played a part in turning Saturday mornings into a pressure cooker.

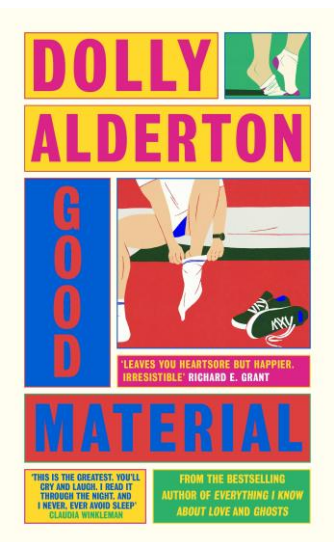
Thirteen-year-old Audrey is a talented football player. But does she want to play for Australia or does she just want to please her father, whose own thwarted sporting career looms large? Audrey's mother doesn't know whether to be more concerned about her anxious daughter, her overbearing husband, or the only other girl on the team, Katerina, who is causing trouble on and off the field. When Griffin, a naturally gifted player, arrives, the tension reaches boiling point. But who is going to crack first - the parents or the players?



***The Star on the Grave* Linda Margolin Royal (2024)**

A powerful and moving novel inspired by the true story of Chiune Sugihara, the 'Japanese Schindler', and the thousands of people – including the author – who owe him their lives.

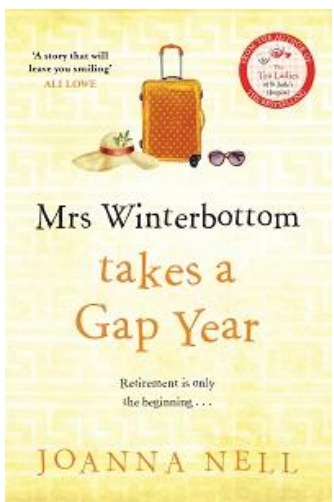
In 1940, as the Nazis sweep toward Lithuania, Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara defies his government and secretly issues visas to fleeing Jewish refugees. Three decades later, in Australia, Rachel Margol is shocked when her engagement reveals a long-held family secret: she is Jewish. As she grapples with this deception and the dysfunction it has caused, unspoken tragedies from the past begin to come to light. Rachel goes to Japan to visit Chiune Sugihara, the man who risked his life to save the Margols. But will the secrets she uncovers heal the family or fracture them for good?



***Good Material* Dolly Alderton (2023)**

A sharply funny, beautifully observed and exquisitely relatable story of heartbreak and friendship, and how to survive both.

Every relationship has one beginning. This one has two endings. Andy loves Jen. Jen loved Andy. And he can't work out why she stopped. Set adrift on the sea of heartbreak, when everything he thought he knew about women, and flat-sharing, and his friendships has transformed beyond recognition, Andy clings to the idea of solving the puzzle of their broken relationship. Because if he can find the answer, then maybe Jen can find her way back to him. Andy still has a lot to learn, not least his ex-girlfriend's side of the story.

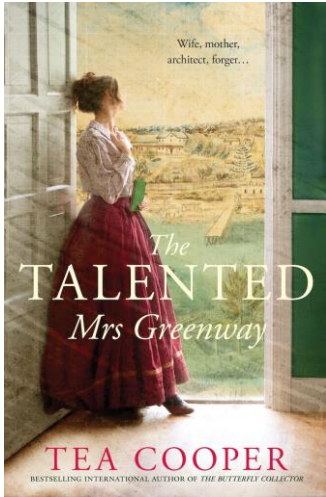


Mrs Winterbottom Takes a Gap Year

Joanna Nell (2023)

After 40 years working side by side in their idyllic rural practice, husband and wife GPs Alan and Heather Winterbottom have decided to retire. Joy! Celebration! Or not . . . Heather dreams of exploring the Greek Islands and escaping the shackles of her routine life. Alan dreams of growing his own vegetables.

When things come to a head at a family lunch, Heather announces that she has decided to take a year off. From her old life, from her marriage - from Alan. Alone in beautiful Greece, Heather embarks on her very own odyssey - complete with unforgettable experiences, pitfalls and temptations. But could what's waiting for her back in Netherwood be Heather's biggest adventure yet?



***The Talented Mrs Greenway* Tea Cooper (2023)**

1814 Sydney. When Mary Greenway steps into the maelstrom of Sydney Town with three children at her skirts, she has high hopes of a new beginning, despite having little money and a husband in irons. After all, the sudden death of her sadistic first husband has meant freedom from her gilded cage and Francis Greenway is an architect of some promise, under the protection of Admiral Phillip himself.

Mary herself is a woman of great resources and an even greater creative passion. When she is befriended by Elizabeth Macquarie it seems that fate is smiling on them. But with past secrets to keep, and current betrayals on the brink of discovery, Mary's grip on this new life is slipping. Will her past lies come back to haunt her?

***After the Forest* Kell Woods (2023)**

'Evocative, vivid and enchanting: Historical fantasy at its best' - Belinda Alexandra.

1650: The Black Forest, Wurttemberg. Fifteen years after the witch in the gingerbread house, Greta and Hans are struggling to get by and the countryside lies in ruin in the aftermath of a brutal war. Greta has a secret, though: the witch's grimoire, and the recipe inside that makes the most sinfully delicious gingerbread. As long as she can bake, Greta can keep her family afloat. But in a village full of superstition, Greta and her intoxicating gingerbread is a source of ever-growing suspicion.

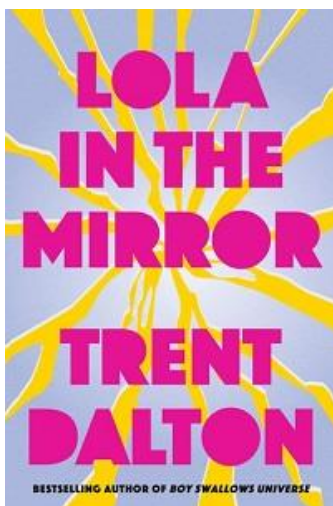
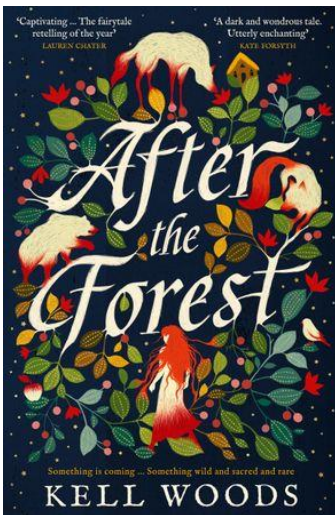
And now, dark magic is returning to the woods and Greta's own power - magic she is still trying to understand - may be the only thing that can save her ... If it doesn't kill her first.

***Lola in the Mirror* Trent Dalton (2023)**

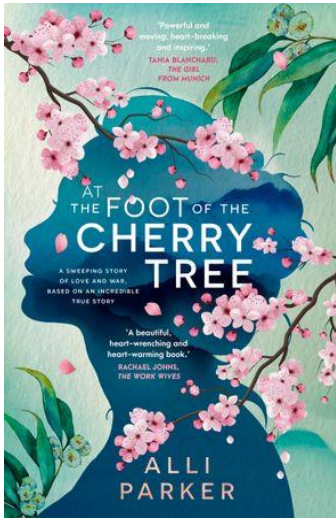
Bighearted, gritty, magical and moving, the irresistible new novel from international bestselling author of *Boy Swallows Universe*.

A girl and her mother have been on the run for 16 years, from police and the monster they left in their kitchen with a knife in his throat.

The girl has no name because names are dangerous when you're on the run. But she has a dream of a life outside the grip of the Brisbane underworld. And there's only one person who can help make it happen. That person is Lola and she carries all the answers. But to find Lola, the girl with no name must first do one of the hardest things we can ever do. She must look in the mirror.



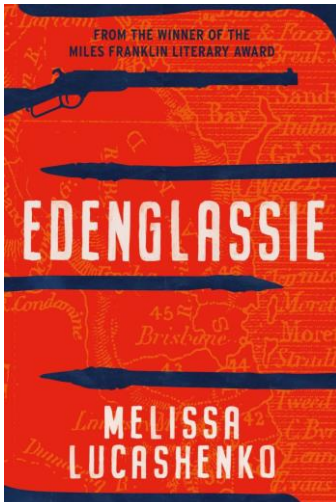
***At the Foot of the Cherry Tree* Alli Parker (2023)**



A story of a love that changed a nation forever, based on the incredible true story of Australia's first Japanese war bride.

When Australian soldier Gordon Parker arrives in Japan in the aftermath of World War II, he meets atomic bomb survivor, Nobuko 'Cherry' Sakuramoto. Against the odds, they fall in love. But when Gordon discovers the White Australia Policy prevents Cherry coming home with him, he vows to fight. Leaving Cherry alone and pregnant in post-war Japan, Gordon has to convince his family to accept his marriage and wage a desperate campaign against a xenophobic and war-scarred government to allow his wife and children to come home.

***Edenglassie* Melissa Lucashenko (2023)**

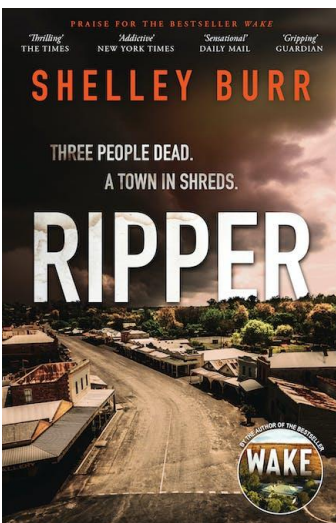


In this epic novel set in Brisbane when First Nations people still outnumber the colonists, award-winning Goorie author Melissa Lucashenko tells two extraordinary stories set 5 generations apart.

Mulanyin meets the beautiful Nita in Edenglassie, and dreams of taking his bride home to Yugambah Country. But as colonial unrest peaks, his plans for independence collide with white justice.

Two centuries later, fiery activist Winona meets Dr Johnny. Sparks fly, but not always in the right direction. What nobody knows is how far the legacies of the past will reach into their modern lives. In this brilliant epic, Melissa Lucashenko torches Queensland's colonial myths, while reimagining an Australian future.

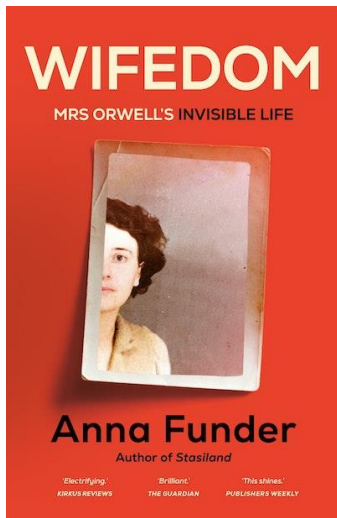
***Ripper* Shelley Burr (2023)**



The second novel of unputdownable crime from Shelley Burr, following the internationally best-selling *Wake*.

Gemma Guillory has lived in Rainier her entire life. She knows her once-charming town is now remembered for one reason. That three innocent people died. She knows that some of her neighbours are desperate enough to welcome a dark tourism company keen to cash in on Rainier's reputation as the murder town.

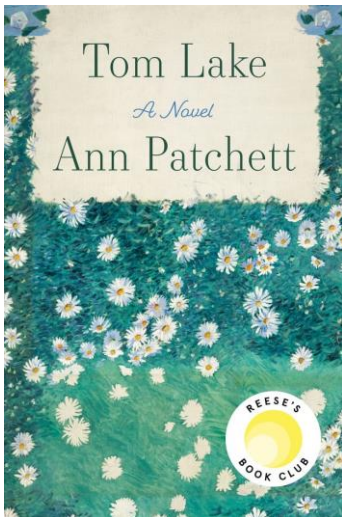
When the tour operator is killed by a Ripper copycat on Gemma's doorstep, the unease that lurked quietly in the original killer's wake turns to foreboding. Gemma knows her town. She knows her people. Doesn't she?



***Wifedom* Anna Funder (2023)**

A blazing, genre-bending masterpiece from one of the most inventive writers of our time.

George Orwell's wife Eileen O'Shaughnessy's literary brilliance shaped Orwell's work and her practical nous saved his life. But why was she written out of the story? Using newly discovered letters, Funder recreates the Orwells' marriage, and questions what it takes to be a writer, and what it is to be a wife. Compelling and utterly original, *Wifedom* speaks to the unsung work of women everywhere, and offers an intimate view of one of the most important literary marriages of the 20th century.



***Tom Lake* Ann Patchett (2023)**

In this beautiful and moving novel about family, love, and growing up, Ann Patchett once again proves herself one of America's finest writers.

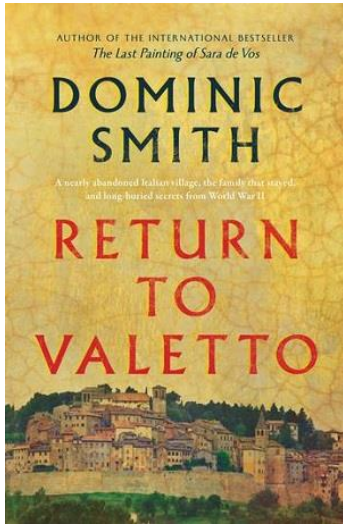
Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.



***Yellowface* Rebecca F. Kuang (2023)**

Bestselling sensation Juniper Song is not who she says she is, she didn't write the book she claims she wrote, and she is most certainly not Asian American.

Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars: same year at Yale, same debut year in publishing. But nobody wants stories about basic white girls, June thinks. So when June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals Athena's just-finished masterpiece and sends it to her agent as her own work, rebranding herself as Juniper Song. When emerging evidence threatens to bring June's (stolen) success down around her, she discovers exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

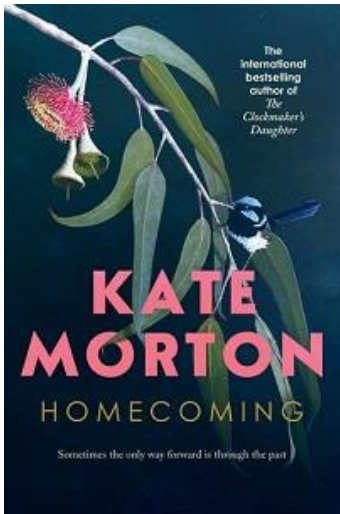


***Return to Valetto* Dominic Smith (2023)**

A captivating and moving new novel from the international bestselling author of *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*.

A nearly abandoned Italian village, the family that stayed, and long-buried secrets from World War II.

On a hilltop in Umbria sits Valetto. Once a thriving village, centuries of earthquakes and landslides have left it neglected. The unwelcome arrival of the captivating and no-nonsense Elisa Tomassi, to claim a cottage she asserts was left to her family in gratitude for an historical debt, stirs up long-held secrets - a betrayal, a disappearance and an unspeakable act of violence - that have impacted Valetto across generations. Who will answer for the crimes of the past?



***Homecoming* Kate Morton (2023)**

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959. At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek in the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most baffling murder investigations in the history of South Australia.

A sweeping novel that begins with a shocking crime that echoes across continents and generations, *Homecoming* asks what we would do for those we love, how we protect the lies we tell, and what it means to come home.

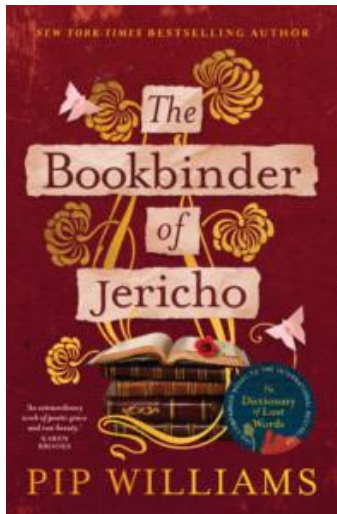


***Birnam Wood* Eleanor Catton (2023)**

A landslide has closed the Korowai Pass in New Zealand's South Island, cutting off the town of Thorndike, leaving a sizable farm abandoned. The disaster presents an opportunity for Birnam Wood, a guerrilla gardening collective that plants crops wherever no one will notice. But they hadn't figured on the enigmatic American billionaire Robert Lemoine, who also has an interest in the place. Can they trust him? And, as their ideals and ideologies are tested, can they trust each other?

A propulsive literary thriller from the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Luminaries*, *Birnam Wood* is Shakespearean in its wit, drama and immersion in character. It is a brilliantly constructed tale of intentions, actions and consequences, and an unflinching examination of the human impulse to ensure our own survival.

***The Bookbinder of Jericho* Pip Williams (2023)**

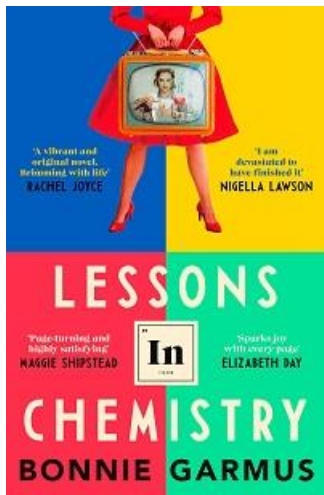


In 1914, when war breaks loose, it is the women who must keep the nation running. Two of those women are Peggy and Maude, twin sisters who work in the bindery at Oxford University Press in Jericho.

When refugees arrive from the devastated cities of Belgium, it sends ripples through the community and through the sisters' lives. Peggy begins to see the possibility of another future where she can use her intellect and not just her hands, but as war and illness reshape her world, it is love that threatens to hold her back.

Evocative, subversive and rich with unforgettable characters, *The Bookbinder of Jericho* is a story about knowledge – who gets to make it, who gets to access it, and what is lost when it is withheld.

***Lessons in Chemistry* Bonnie Garmus (2022)**



Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with - of all things - her mind. True chemistry results.

Like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later, Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking proves revolutionary. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

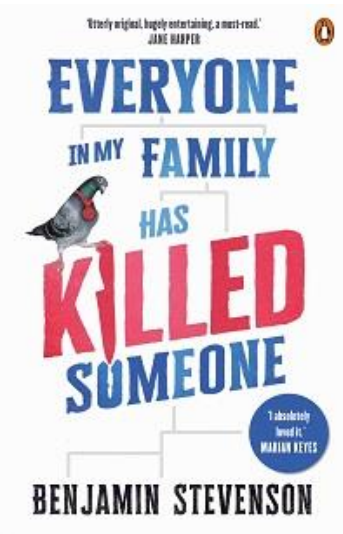
***The Marriage Portrait* Maggie O'Farrell (2022)**



Set at the heart of the treacherous political world of the Italian Renaissance, this is the masterful story of a young woman's battle for her very survival, written with all the drama and verve that made *Hamnet* an international bestseller.

Florence, the 1560s. Lucrezia, third daughter of Cosimo de' Medici, having barely left girlhood, is set to marry Alfonso d'Este, ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio.

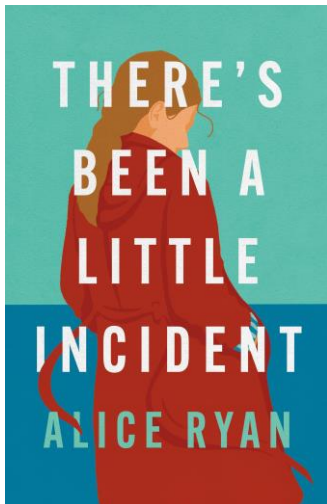
As Lucrezia sits in uncomfortable finery for her marriage portrait, one thing becomes worryingly clear. In the court's eyes, she has one duty: to provide the heir who will shore up the future of the Ferrarese dynasty. Until then, for all of her rank and nobility, her future hangs entirely in the balance.



Everyone in my Family Has Killed Someone Benjamin Stevenson (2022)

Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle meet Knives Out and The Thursday Murder Club in an ingenious blend of classic and modern murder mystery.

I was dreading the Cunningham family reunion even before the first murder. Before the storm stranded us at the mountain resort, snow and bodies piling up. The thing is, us Cunninghams don't really get along. We've only got one thing in common: we've all killed someone. My brother. My step-sister. My wife. My father. My mother. My sister-in-law. My uncle. My stepfather. My aunt. Me.



There's Been a Little Incident Alice Ryan (2022)

A witty and warm debut novel from a young Irish writer. A story of family, grief, and the ways we come together when all seems lost.

'There's been a little incident...' Molly Black has disappeared. And this time, or so says her hastily written note, she's gone for good.

That's why the whole Black clan is huddled together in the Dublin suburbs, arguing over what to do. Former model Lady V reckons this is all too much fuss over a 30 year old. Cousin Anne, tired of living in Molly's shadow, is keeping quiet, and cousin Bobby is distracted by his own issues. But Molly's disappearance is eerily familiar to Uncle John. He is determined never to lose anyone again. Especially not his niece, who is more like her mum than she realises.

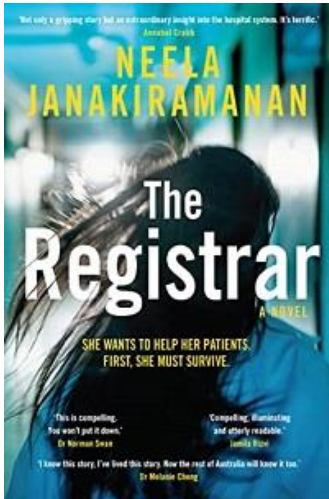


The Girl Who Fell From the Sky Emma Carey (2022)

An extraordinary true story of resilience, courage, hope and finding lightness after the heaviest of landings.

When Emma Carey was twenty, she fell from 14,000 feet and survived. From waking in the hospital a paraplegic to learning how to use her legs again, through the six-year-long court case and now being finally free to make the most of her life, Emma teaches us the importance of courage and resilience.

This heartfelt book is more than a memoir, it's a call to action that reminds us not to take our lives and abilities for granted - to live every day like it could be our last.



***The Registrar* Neela Janakiraman (2022)**

'This is compelling. You won't put it down.' Dr Norman Swann

Sometimes in hospital people die - but not all of them should. With the frenetic pace of a psychological thriller, *The Registrar* offers a rare insight into the world of a surgeon-in-the-making from one who has survived it. Told with compassion, skill and emotional heart, this gripping and moving novel goes behind the headlines to reveal the human experience of being both doctor and patient in a medical system at breaking point.

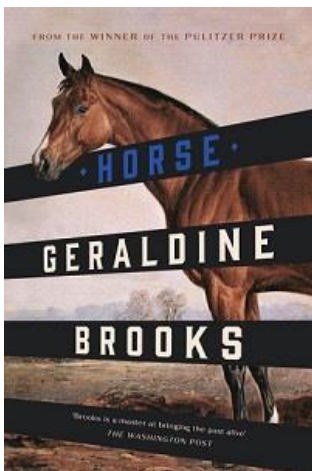


The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding

Holly Ringland (2022)

From the bestselling author of *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* comes a magical novel about joy, grief, courage and transformation.

The last time Esther Wilding's beloved older sister Aura was seen, she was walking along the shore towards the sea. *The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* is a sweeping, deeply beautiful and profoundly moving novel about the far-reaches of sisterly love, the power of wearing your heart on your skin, and the ways life can transform when we find the courage to feel the fullness of both grief and joy.

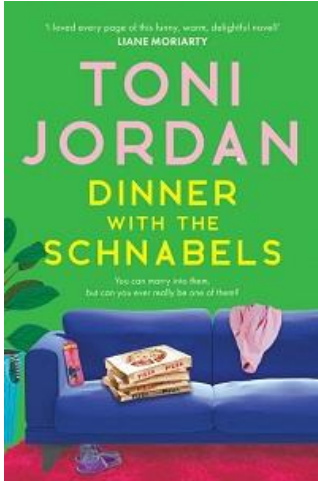


***Horse* Geraldine Brooks (2022)**

From the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *March* and *People of the Book* comes a vivid and unique new novel for lovers of sweeping historical fiction.

A discarded painting in a roadside clean-up, forgotten bones in a research archive, and Lexington, the greatest racehorse in US history. From these strands of fact, Geraldine Brooks weaves a sweeping story of spirit, obsession and injustice across American history.

This enthralling novel is a gripping reckoning with the legacy of enslavement and racism in America. *Horse* is the latest masterpiece from a writer with a prodigious talent for bringing the past to life.



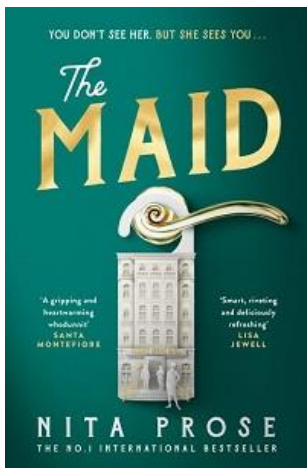
***Dinner with the Schnabels* Toni Jordan (2022)**

You can marry into them, but can you ever really be one of them? A novel about marriage, love and family.

Things haven't gone well for Simon Larsen lately. He adores his wife, Tansy, and his children, but since his business failed and he lost the family home, he can't seem to get off the couch.

His larger-than-life in-laws, the Schnabels, won't get off his case. To keep everyone happy, Simon needs to do one little job: he has a week to landscape a friend's backyard for an important Schnabel family event. But as the week progresses, Simon is derailed by the arrival of an unexpected house guest. Then he discovers Tansy is harbouring a secret. As his world spins out of control, who can Simon really count on when the chips are down?

Life with the Schnabels is messy, chaotic and joyful, and *Dinner with the Schnabels* is as heartwarming as it is outrageously funny.



***The Maid* Nita Prose (2022)**

Escapist and charming, *The Maid* is a story about how the truth isn't black and white – it's found in the dirtier, grey areas in between.

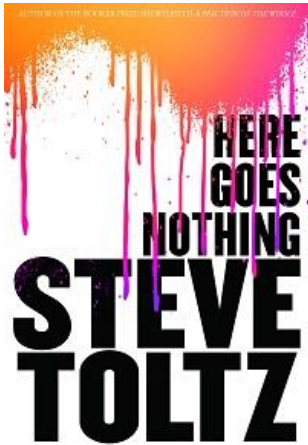
Molly is a maid, all alone and invisible in her job at the Regency Grand Hotel. Until she discovers an infamous guest, Mr Black, very dead in his bed. This isn't a mess that can be easily cleaned up. And as Molly becomes embroiled in the hunt for the truth, following the clues whispering in the hallways, she discovers a power she never knew was there. She's just a maid – but what can she see that others overlook?



***The Winter Dress* Lauren Chater (2022)**

The captivating story of two women separated by centuries but connected by one beautiful silk dress, based on a real-life shipwreck discovered off Texel Island.

Jo Baaker, a textiles historian and Dutch ex-pat is drawn back to the island where she was born to investigate the provenance of a 17th century silk dress. Retrieved by local divers from a sunken shipwreck, the dress offers tantalising clues about the way people lived and died during Holland's famous Golden Age.

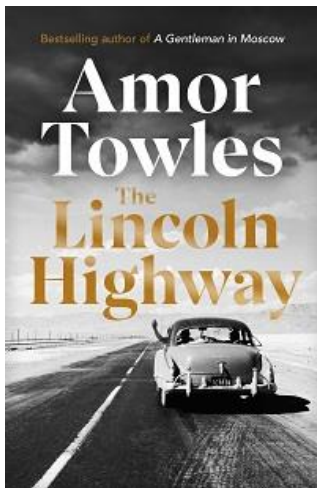


***Here Goes Nothing* Steve Toltz (2022)**

A razor-sharp, hilariously entertaining, insightful and moving meditation on our 21st-century world.

Angus Mooney is in a dark place: the afterlife. His days are spent in aching embarrassment; god, religion, the supernatural – he was wrong about everything. He longs for his audacious, fiery wife, Gracie, but can only watch from the other side as she is seduced by his killer, who has stepped seamlessly into Mooney’s shoes.

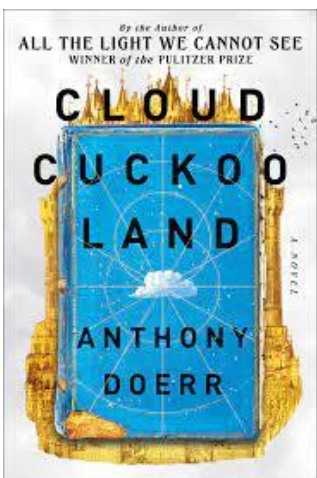
Narrated with the ironic hindsight afforded by life beyond the mortal plane, life after death isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.



***The Lincoln Highway* Amor Towles (2021)**

The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* returns with a beguiling and rollicking historical adventure set in 1950s America, brilliantly imaginative, and with an unforgettable cast of characters.

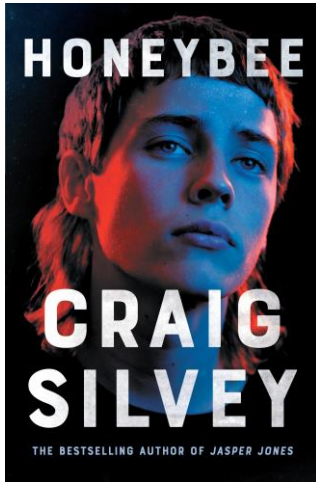
In June 1954, 18-year-old Emmett Watson returns home after serving a year at a work farm for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett’s intention is to pick up his 8-year-old brother and head west where they can start their lives anew. Until two friends from the work farm unexpectedly show up with altogether different plans for Emmett’s future.



***Cloud Cuckoo Land* Anthony Doerr (2021)**

“A humane and uplifting book for adults that’s infused with the magic of childhood reading experiences.”

Dedicated to ‘the librarians then, now, and in the years to come,’ *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a paean to the extraordinary human capacity to transmit stories from generation to generation, and a novel about stewardship—of books, of our shared planet, and of the human heart. Anthony Doerr weaves a tapestry of times and places that reflects our vast interconnectedness—with other species, with each other, with those who lived before us, and those who will be here after we’re gone.



***Honeybee* Craig Silvey (2021)**

The highly anticipated new novel by the bestselling author of *Jasper Jones*.

'Find out who you are, and live that life.'

Honeybee is a tender, profoundly moving novel, brimming with vivid characters and luminous words, set in a world of petty thefts, extortion plots, botched bank robberies, daring dog rescues and one spectacular drag show. It's about two lives forever changed by a chance encounter -- one offering hope, the other redemption.



***This Has Been Absolutely Lovely* Jessica Dettmann (2021)**

The charming, hilarious and all-too-relatable new novel from the popular Australian author of *How to be Second Best*.

Family is forever, and there's nothing you can do about it. This is a story about growing up and giving in, of parents and children, of hope and failure, of bravery and defied expectation, and whether it is ever too late to try again.

'Dettmann nails the funny, sad and bizarre nuances of family life in this gripping novel that will appeal to fans of Liane Moriarty, Jojo Moyes and Marian Keyes.' **Sally Hepworth**

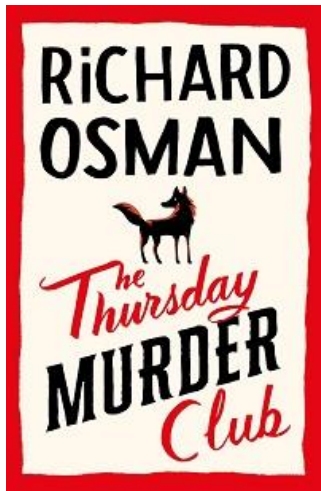


***The Four Winds* Kristin Hannah (2021)**

'Powerful and compelling, I loved it' - Delia Owens, bestselling author of *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Set in 1930s rural America, *The Four Winds* is a deeply moving, powerful story about communities threatened by drought, the strength and resilience of women and the bond between mother and daughter, by the multi-million copy number one bestselling author Kristin Hannah.

Elsa's incredible journey is a story of survival, hope and what we do for the ones we love.



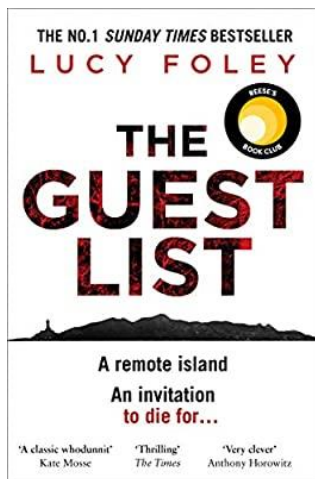
***The Thursday Murder Club* Richard Osman (2020)**

Four unlikely friends. A shocking murder. Welcome to THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB.

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders.

But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?



***The Guest List* Lucy Foley (2020)**

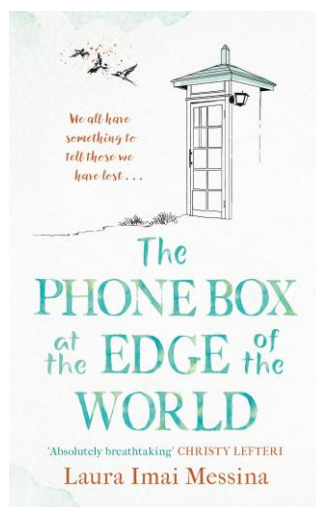
The June 2020 Reese's Book Club pick and *The Times* Best Crime Fiction of the Year pick - a gripping, twisty murder mystery thriller.

On an island off the windswept Irish coast, guests gather for the wedding of the year – the marriage of Jules Keegan and Will Slater. Old friends. Past grudges. Happy families. Hidden jealousies. Thirteen guests. One body. The wedding cake has barely been cut when one of the guests is found dead. And as a storm unleashes its fury on the island, everyone is trapped. All have a secret. All have a motive. One guest won't leave this wedding alive . . .

The Phone Box at the Edge of the World

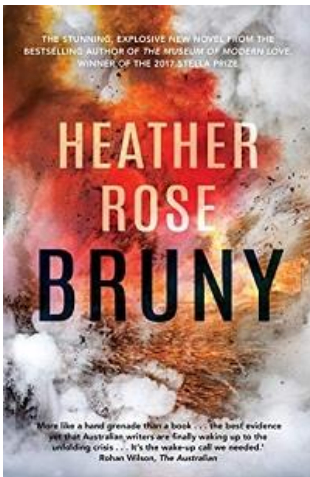
Laura Imai Messina (2020)

A sweeping, moving novel that is becoming an international sensation - based on an incredible true story.



We all have something to tell those we have lost ... When Yui loses her mother and daughter in the tsunami, she wonders how she will ever carry on. Then one day she hears about a man who has an old disused telephone box in his garden. There, those who have lost loved ones find the strength to speak to them and begin to come to terms with their grief. Yui makes her own pilgrimage to the phone box. What happens next will warm your heart, even when it feels as though it is breaking.

***Bruny* Heather Rose (2019)**



The brilliant and explosive novel from the author of the award-winning *The Museum of Modern Love*.

Why is a massive bridge being built to connect the sleepy island of Bruny with the mainland of Tasmania? And why have terrorists blown it up? When the Bruny bridge is bombed, UN troubleshooter Astrid Coleman agrees to return home to help her brother before an upcoming election. But this is no simple task.

Bruny is a searing, subversive novel about family, love, loyalty and the new world order. It is a gripping thriller with a jaw-dropping twist, a love story, a cry from the heart and a fiercely entertaining and crucial work of imagination that asks the burning question: what would you do to protect the place you love?

***The Yield* Tara June Winch (2019)**

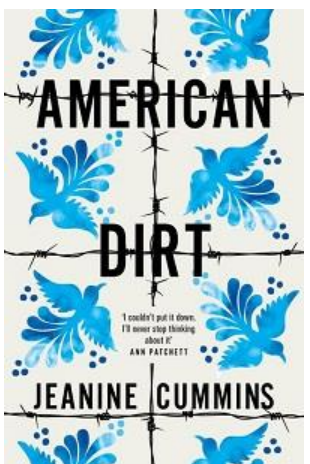


Winner of the 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

When she hears of her grandfather's death, August Gondiwindi returns from the other side of the world for his burial, only to learn that her family home is to be repossessed by a mining company. Determined to make amends she endeavours to save their land – a quest that leads her to the voice of her grandfather and into the past, the stories of her people, the secrets of the river.

Profoundly moving and exquisitely written, Tara June Winch's *The Yield* is the story of a people and a culture dispossessed. But it is as much a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity.

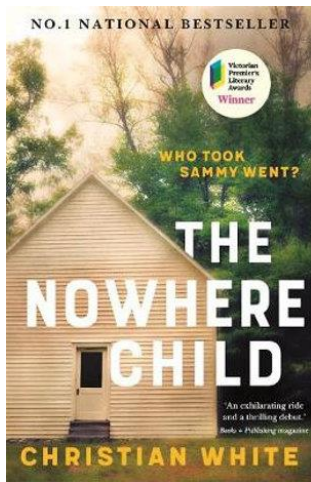
***American Dirt* Jeanine Cummins (2019)**



The unforgettable story of a mother and son fleeing a drug-cartel to cross the US-Mexico border.

'I couldn't put it down. I'll never stop thinking about it' - Ann Patchett
'One hell of a novel about a good woman on the run with her beautiful boy' - Stephen King

Fear keeps them running. Hope keeps them alive. Vivid, visceral, utterly compelling, *American Dirt* explores the experience of attempting to illegally cross the US-Mexico border. Described as '*A Grapes of Wrath* for our times' (Don Winslow) it is a story that will leave you utterly changed.



***The Nowhere Child* Christian White (2019)**

'A nervy, soulful, genuinely surprising it-could-happen-to-you thriller — a book to make you peer over your shoulder for days afterwards.'
A.J. Finn, bestselling author of *The Woman in the Window*

'Her name is Sammy Went. This photo was taken on her second birthday. Three days later she was gone.'

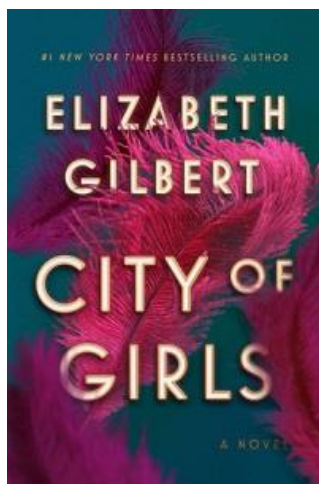
Inspired by Gillian Flynn's frenetic suspense and Stephen King's masterful world-building, *The Nowhere Child* is a combustible tale of trauma, cult, conspiracy and memory. It is the remarkable debut of Christian White, an exhilarating new Australian talent.



***Good Girl, Bad Girl* Michael Robotham (2019)**

One needs saving. The other needs justice ... An unnerving psychological thriller from one of the greatest crime writers of today, Michael Robotham, bestselling author of *The Other Wife* and *The Secrets She Keeps*.

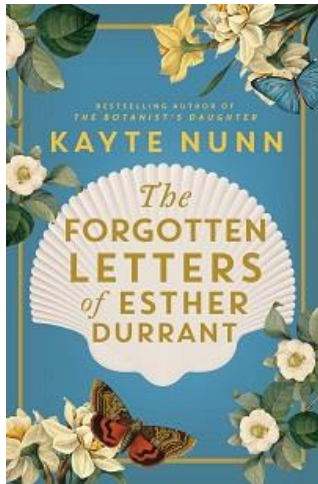
Evie Cormac is the girl with no past. Discovered as a child hiding in a secret room in the aftermath of a shocking crime, six years on, Evie is damaged, self-destructive and has never revealed her true identity. When forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven is called upon to assess Evie, she threatens to destroy not only the case he is working on but his ordered life. Because Evie has a unique and dangerous gift - she knows when someone is lying. And nobody is telling the truth.



***City of Girls* Elizabeth Gilbert (2019)**

'At some point in a woman's life, she just gets tired of being ashamed all the time. After that, she is free to become whoever she truly is.'

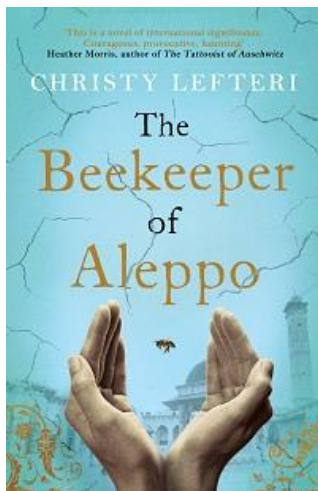
New York, 1940. In this strange wartime city of girls, Vivian Morris and her girlfriends mean to drink the heady highball of life itself to the last drop. But there are hard lessons to be learned, and bitterly regrettable mistakes to be made. This is a rollicking story of glamour, sex and adventure, and of a group of women who have lived as they truly are, out of step with a century that could never quite keep up with them.



The Forgotten Letters of Esther Durrant
Kayte Nunn (2019)

A deeply atmospheric, resonant novel that charts the heart's wild places, choices and consequences. If you love Kate Morton you will devour this book.

Free-spirited marine scientist Rachel Parker embarks on a research posting in the Isles of Scilly, off the Cornish coast. When a violent storm forces her to take shelter on a far-flung island, she discovers a collection of hidden love letters from the 1950s. Captivated by their passion and tenderness, Rachel determines to track down the intended recipient ...

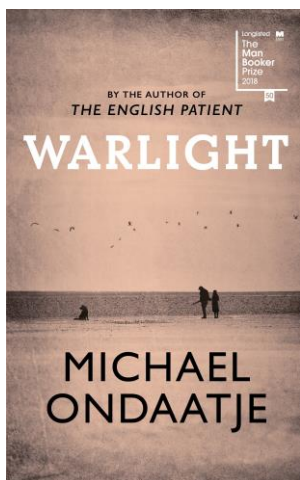


The Beekeeper of Aleppo Christy Lefteri (2019)

For readers of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *The Kite Runner* - a testament to the human powers of survival.

Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo - until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape.

Moving, powerful, compassionate and beautifully written, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is the kind of book that reminds us of the power of storytelling.



Warlight Michael Ondaatje (2018)

An elegiac, dreamlike novel set in post-WW2 London about memory, family secrets and lies, from the internationally acclaimed author of *The English Patient*.

Following the war, 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister Rachel are left in the dubious care of a mysterious figure named The Moth. They are introduced to The Moth's band of criminal misfits and become embroiled in a series of teenage misadventures. But is this eccentric crew really what and who they claim to be? And what happened to Nathaniel's mother? Was her purported reason for leaving true? Years later, Nathaniel begins to slowly piece together – using the files of intelligence agencies, and through reality, recollection and imagination – the startling truths of puzzles formed decades earlier.

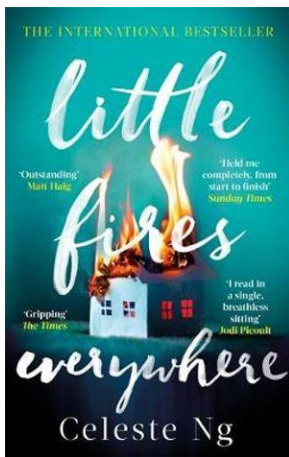


Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

Gail Honeyman (2017)

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office ...

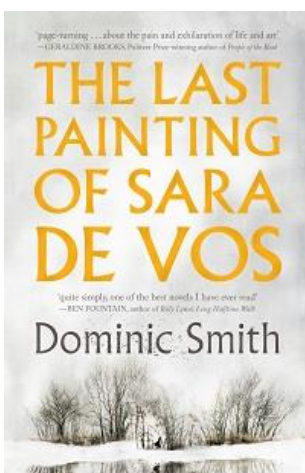
Soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is the smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes the only way to survive is to open your heart.



Little Fires Everywhere Celeste Ng (2017)

'To say I love this book is an understatement . . . It moved me to tears' – Reese Witherspoon

Now a major TV series, *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster. A riveting story that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives and the carefully ordered community in which they live.

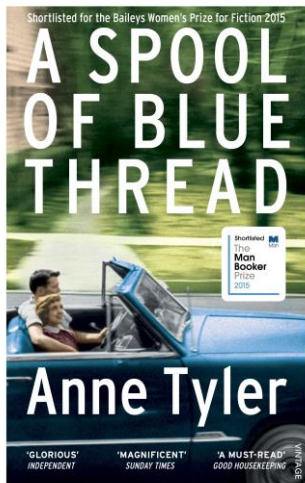


The Last Painting of Sara de Vos

Dominic Smith (2016)

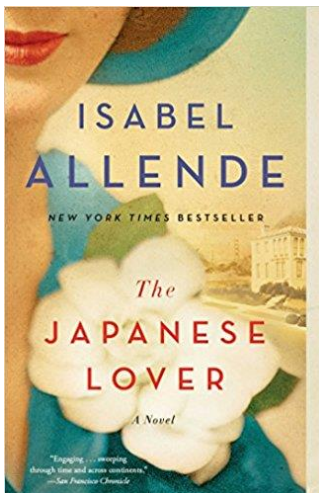
'... this stunning novel explores a triumvirate of fate, choice and consequence, and is worthy of comparison to Tracy Chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch* . . . A masterly, multilayered story that will dazzle readers.' *Library Journal*

A mesmerising story that charts the collision course between a rare landscape by a female Dutch painter of the golden age, an inheritor of the work in 1950s Manhattan, and a celebrated art historian who painted a forgery of it in her youth. A literary novel of breathtaking scope, ambition and achievement.



***A Spool of Blue Thread* Anne Tyler (2015)**

'It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon . . .' This is how Abby Whitshank always describes the day she fell in love with Red in July 1959. The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate an indefinable kind of specialness, but like all families, their stories reveal only part of the picture: Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments and carefully guarded secrets. From Red's parents, newly arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to the grandchildren carrying the Whitshank legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century, here are four generations of lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn house that has always been their anchor.



***Japanese Lover* Isabel Allende (2015)**

In 1939, as Poland falls under the shadow of the Nazis, young Alma Belasco is sent away to live with a wealthy aunt and uncle in California. When she meets Ichimei Fukuda, the son of her aunt's gardener, young love blossoms until they are cruelly separated when Ichimei and his family are relocated to a Japanese-American internment camp.

Throughout their lifetimes, they manage to reunite again and again, but theirs is a love they are forever forced to hide from the prejudiced eyes of the world.

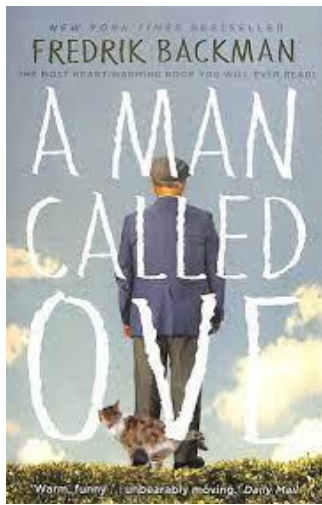


***Burial Rites* Hannah Kent (2013)**

In northern Iceland, 1829, Agnes Magnúsdóttir is condemned to death for her part in the brutal murder of two men.

Agnes is sent to wait on the farm of District Officer Jon Jonsson and his family, who are horrified and avoid Agnes. Only Toti, the young assistant reverend appointed as Agnes's spiritual guardian, is compelled to try to understand her. As the summer months fall away to winter, Agnes's story begins to emerge. And as the days to her execution draw closer, the question burns: did she or didn't she?

Based on a true story, *Burial Rites* is a deeply moving novel about freedom and the ways we will risk everything for love. In beautiful, cut-glass prose, Hannah Kent portrays Iceland's formidable landscape, and asks: how can one woman endure when her life depends upon the stories told by others?



***A Man Called Ove* Fredrik Backman (2012)**

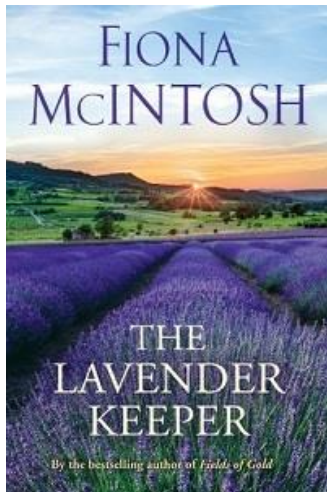
At first sight, Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet. He thinks himself surrounded by idiots - neighbours who can't reverse a trailer properly, joggers, shop assistants who talk in code, and the perpetrators of the vicious coup d'etat that ousted him as Chairman of the Residents' Association. He will persist in making his daily inspection rounds of the local streets. 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...

***The Lavender Keeper* Fiona McIntosh (2012)**

'McIntosh writes a cracking tale that plunges you right into the heart of occupied Paris, the London Blitz and the rugged beauty of the South of France . . . it's hard not to keep turning the pages.' *Indaily*

Lavender farmer Luc Bonet is raised by a wealthy Jewish family in the foothills of the French Alps. When the Second World War breaks out he joins the French Resistance, leaving behind his family's fortune, their home overrun by soldiers, their lavender fields in disarray.

Lisette Forestier is on a mission of her own: to work her way into the heart of a senior German officer – and to bring down the Reich in any way she can. What Luc and Lisette hadn't counted on was meeting each other.

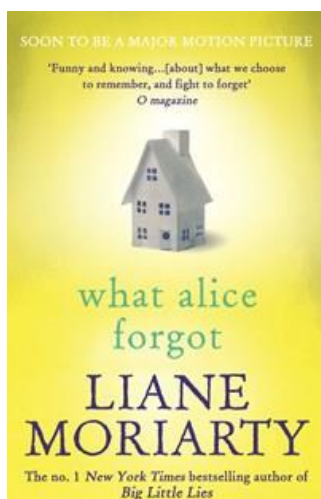


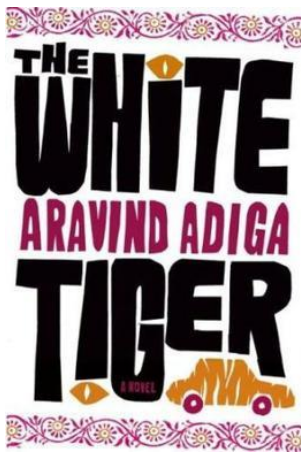
***What Alice Forgot* Liane Moriarty (2009)**

'An intriguing exploration of how people change ... Alice's amnesia is skilfully used and like a detective, she must piece together the details of a life she cannot remember.' *Sun Herald*

When Alice Love surfaces from a strange dream to find she's been injured in a gym, her first concern is for her unborn baby. She's desperate to see her husband, Nick, who she knows will be worried about her. But Alice isn't pregnant. And Nick isn't rushing to her bedside. She is a mother of three going through a bitter divorce.

Alice has lost ten years of her life - and she wants them back.

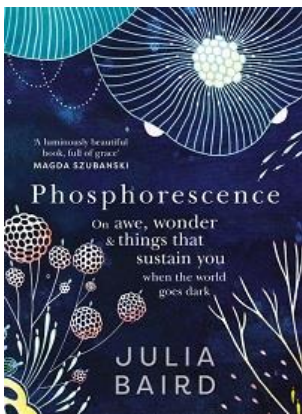




***The White Tiger* Aravind Adiga (2008)**

Winner of the Man Booker prize 2008

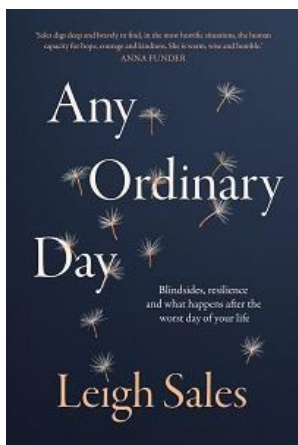
Balram Halwai is the White Tiger - the smartest boy in his village. His family is too poor for him to afford for him to finish school and he has to work in a teashop, breaking coals and wiping tables. But Balram gets his break when a rich man hires him as a chauffeur, and takes him to live in Delhi. The city is a revelation. As he drives his master to shopping malls and call centres, Balram becomes increasingly aware of immense wealth and opportunity all around him, while knowing that he will never be able to gain access to that world. As Balram broods over his situation, he realizes that there is only one way he can become part of this glamorous new India - by murdering his master.



***Phosphorescence* Julia Baird (2020)**

An intimate, achingly beautiful and inspiring exploration of the ways we can pursue awe, wonder and purpose, from one of our best, most perceptive writers.

The national bestseller, *Phosphorescence* is a beautiful, intimate and inspiring investigation into how we can find and nurture within ourselves that essential quality of internal happiness - the 'light within' - which will sustain us even through the darkest times.



***Any Ordinary Day* Leigh Sales (2018)**

Blindsides, resilience and what happens after the worst day of your life

In this wise and layered book, Leigh talks intimately with people who've faced the unimaginable. Expecting broken lives, she instead finds strength, hope, even humour. Warm, candid and empathetic, this book is about what happens when ordinary people, on ordinary days, are forced to suddenly find the resilience most of us don't know we have.



***Becoming* Michelle Obama (2018)**

An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

In her memoir, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her - from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations-and whose story inspires us to do the same.

***Daring to Drive* Manal Al-Sharif (2017)**

The international bestselling memoir from the young Saudi woman who dared to stand up to a kingdom of men.

A ferociously intimate memoir by a devout woman from a modest family in Saudi Arabia who became the unexpected leader of a courageous movement to support women's right to drive.

Writing on the cusp of history, Manal offers a rare glimpse into the lives of women in Saudi Arabia today. Her memoir is a remarkable celebration of resilience in the face of tyranny, the extraordinary power of education and female solidarity, and the difficulties, absurdities and joys of making your voice heard.

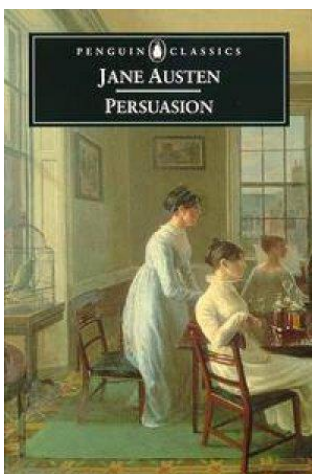


***Persuasion* Jane Austen (1818)**

Of all Jane Austen's great and delightful novels, *Persuasion* is widely regarded as the most moving. It is the story of a second chance.

Twenty-seven-year-old Anne Elliot is Austen's most adult heroine. Eight years before the story proper begins, she is happily betrothed to a naval officer, Frederick Wentworth, but she precipitously breaks off the engagement when persuaded by her friend Lady Russell that such a match is unworthy. The breakup produces in Anne a deep and long-lasting regret.

When later Wentworth returns from sea a rich and successful captain, he finds Anne's family on the brink of financial ruin and his own sister a tenant in Kellynch Hall, the Elliot estate. All the tension of the novel revolves around one question: Will Anne and Wentworth be reunited in their love?

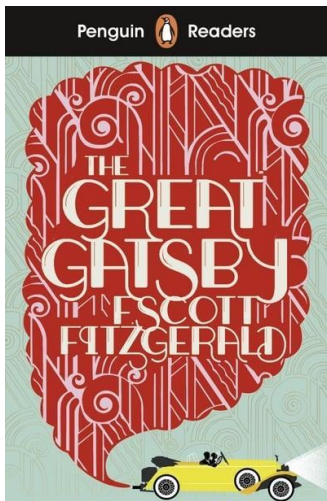




Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte (1847)

Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard.

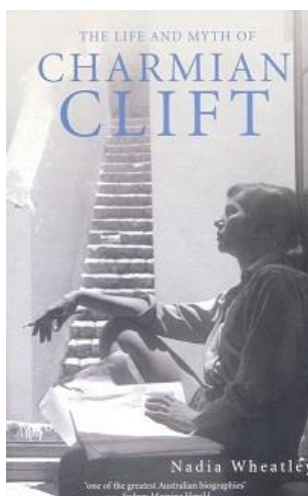
But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. Is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again?



The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)

Nick Carraway, a Midwesterner now living on Long Island, finds himself fascinated by the mysterious past and extravagant lifestyle of his neighbour, Jay Gatsby. Jay Gatsby is a self-made man famed for his decadent, champagne-drenched parties. Despite being surrounded by Long Island's bright and beautiful, he longs only for Daisy Buchanan. Gatsby pursues his dream and Nick Carraway is drawn into Gatsby's circle, becoming a witness to obsession and tragedy.

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 -1940) is widely considered the poet laureate of the Jazz Age, which he himself defined as 'a generation grown up to find all Gods dead, all wars fought, all faiths in man shaken'.



Remembering Charmian Clift

Kiama Library has put together a special book club kit that includes a mix of titles relating to Charmian Clift – one of Kiama's, and indeed Australia's, most famous authors.

The kit, designed to generate discussion about her life and works, includes several of Charmian's novels (*Images in Aspic*, *Mermaid Singing* and *Walk to Paradise Gardens*), the novel she co-wrote with George Johnston (*High Valley*), and two copies each of her collected essays (*The World of Charmian Clift*), Nadia Wheatley's biography (*The Life and Myth of Charmian Clift*) and Paul Genini and Tanya Dalziel's recent account of her time on Hydra, *Half the Perfect World*.