

## Book Club Book Sets

Being part of a book club can greatly extend and enhance the pleasure of reading. (To find out more about library run book clubs, please use the contact below)

The many titles listed here are available in sets (usually of 12 copies) for the use of book clubs in Doncaster

Although the majority of the sets are fiction there are some non-fiction, mostly biographies and travelogues. When not out on loan the books are maintained and stored in our Reading Development department, situated in the Central Library.

### Notes

Notes about many of the titles are available, with others under preparation, to be used as an aid at book club meetings. These notes include a synopsis of the book, a selection of book reviews and some information about the author.

### Proof Copies

From time to time we have the opportunity to take advantage of publishers' offers of free proof copies, sometimes in advance of publication, in return for some feedback from readers - these books are added to the book club stock and clubs can try them and supply comments to the publishers.

### To Borrow Sets of Books

In order to borrow sets of books from the collection you must register your group with the library by completing an application form. One person in the group must be responsible for the books and be willing to collect and return them to the library.

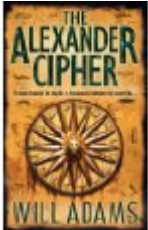
### For more information contact:

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## **The Alexander Cipher by Will Adams**

ISBN 9780007250875



Alexander the Great, history's most enigmatic warrior king. His fabled tomb a wonder of the ancient world, seemingly lost forever. Then a construction crew unknowingly rip open the mouth of an Alexandrian catacomb and trigger a deadly race for the greatest treasure of all time.

## **The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom**

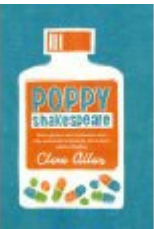
ISBN 9780316726610



'The Five People You Meet in Heaven' is a beautifully written first novel that addresses the meaning of life - and life after death.

## **Poppy Shakespeare by Clare Allan**

ISBN 9780747580461



When Poppy Shakespeare walks into the Dorothy Fish Day Hospital in her six-inch skirt & 12-inch heels, she is certain she isn't mentally ill & is desperate to return to her life outside. Together with another patient, Poppy plots to gain freedom. But in a world where everything's upside-down, is she crazy enough to upset the system?

## **The Sugar Queen by Sarah Addison Allen**

ISBN 9780340935750



Twenty-seven-year-old Josey is sure of three things: winter in her North Carolina hometown is her favourite season; she's a sorry excuse for a Southern belle; and sweets are best eaten in the privacy of her hidden closet. Josey has an uneventful life in her mother's house. . .Until she finds her closet harbouring a tough-talking, tender-hearted woman who is one part nemesis - and two parts fairy godmother . . .

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## **The House of the Spirits by Isabelle Allende**

ISBN 9780552995887



Spanning four generations, Isabel Allende's family saga is populated by a memorable, often eccentric, cast of characters. Together, men and women, spirits, the forces of nature and of history, converge in a brilliantly realised novel.

## **The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**

ISBN 9780099496953



The Republic of Gilead allows Offred only one function - to breed. If she deviates, she will, like all dissenters, be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire - neither Offred's nor that of the two men on whom her future hangs.

## **Jane Austen Selection**

ISBN 9780140373370



A selection of Jane Austen novels that include Pride and Prejudice, Northanger Abbey, Mansfield Park, Persuasion, Sense and Sensibility and Emma.

## **Black Diamonds by Catherine Bailey (non fiction – local connection)**

ISBN 9780141019239

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Situated in Rotherham, Yorkshire, surrounded by 70 collieries employing tens of thousands of men, is Wentworth, the finest and largest Georgian house in Britain. This volume tells the story of its demise. It is the story of how the fabric of English society shifted beyond recognition in 50 turbulent years in the 20th century.

### **The Farm by Richard Benson (non fiction)**

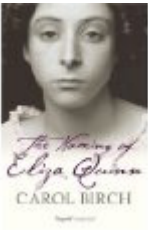
ISBN 9780141012940



The Story of One Family and the English Countryside. Richard Benson was never cut out for life on the family farm, yet when his father chose to sell up he decided to return to Yorkshire. This is his account of being outwitted by even the dimmest of animals whilst trying to make ends meet.

### **The Naming of Eliza Quinn by Carol Birch**

ISBN 9781844081462



From the author of 'Turn Again Home', comes a novel set in rural Ireland which begins with the discovery of the bones of an infant.

### **Guernica by Dave Boling**

ISBN 9780330460668



An extraordinary epic of love, family, and war set in the Basque town of Guernica before, during, and after its destruction by the German Luftwaffe during the Spanish Civil War.

### **The Soldier's Return by Melvyn Bragg**

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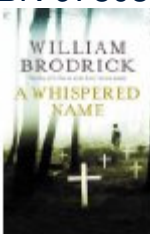
ISBN 9780340751015



When Sam Richardson returns from WW2 to Wigton in Cumbria, he finds little has changed, as far as his own limited prospects go. In his absence, though, his young family has changed immensely, and Sam struggles to adjust to life in peacetime.

### **A Whispered Name by William Broderick**

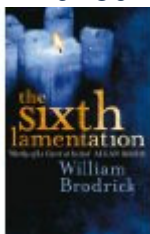
ISBN 9780316731553



'To keep quiet about something so important ...well, it's almost a lie, wouldn't you say?' When Father Anselm meets Kate Seymour in the cemetery at Larkwood, he is dismayed to hear her allegation. Herbert Moore had been one of the founding fathers of the Priory, revered by all who met him, a man who'd shaped Anselm's own vocation...

### **The Sixth Lamentation by William Broderick**

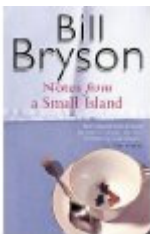
ISBN 9780751535815



A man arrives at Larkwood Monastery claiming sanctuary. Eduard Schwermann is accused of Nazi war crimes: the chances are he is stained with blood, but politics demand that Larkwood shelter him. Father Anselm is given the task of finding out more about Schwermann's crimes.

### **Notes From A Small Island by Bill Bryson (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780552996006



In Notes From a Small Island, Bryson, who moved to England from the USA seventeen years ago and settled in North Yorkshire with his family, turns an affectionate but ironic eye on his adopted country.

### **The Distant Land of my Father by Bo Caldwell**

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ISBN 9780099427964



Anna Schoene's father, Joseph, had been a millionaire in 1930s Shanghai. The Japanese invasion had separated him from his family. Anna grows up in Los Angeles and over the years begins to learn the real story of her father.

### **The Second Husband by Louise Candlish**

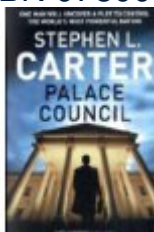
ISBN 9780751539882



When her marriage to Alistair ends with his infidelity, Kate vows she will not make the same mistake twice. Then Alistair announces that his new wife is pregnant and he intends to cut his financial support to Kate. She has to divide her home and make way for a lodger. Enter Davis, a tutor with a failed marriage of his own behind him.

### **Palace Council by Stephen L Carter**

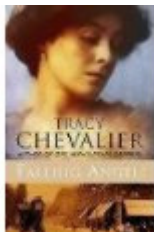
ISBN 9780099527022



Summer, 1952. Twenty powerful men gather in secret and devise a plot to manipulate the President of the United States. Soon after, writer Eddie Wesley leaves a party hosted by affluent and influential members of black society, and discovers a body. The murdered man had an unusual gold cross gripped between his hands and Eddie is determined to find out why he was killed...

### **Falling Angels by Tracy Chevalier**

ISBN 9780007217236

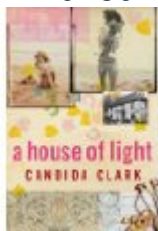


Using a number of shifting perspectives - wives and husbands, friends and lovers, masters and servants, and a gravedigger's son - this novel follows the fortunes of two families in the first years of the 20th century.

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## **A House of Light by Candida Clark**

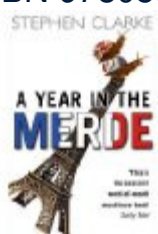
ISBN 9780755323302



A photographer returns to her family house after her flat and its contents have been destroyed in a fire. However, the peace she had hoped for proves hard to find. Her presence is required at her father's second wedding, and the assembling guests have secrets of their own: secrets which cast new light on recent events.

## **A Year in the Merde by Stephen Clarke**

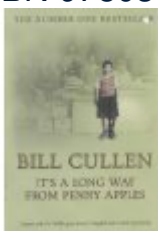
ISBN 9780552772969



Paul West, a young Englishman, arrives in Paris to set up some 'English' tearooms and provides an account of the pleasures and perils of being a Brit in France.

## **It's A Long Way From Penny Apples by Bill Cullen (non fic -biography)**

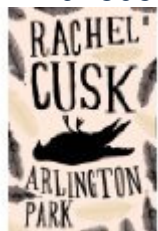
ISBN 9780340826539



Born and bred in the inner city slums of Summerhill in Dublin, Bill Cullen was one of 14 children. A street seller from the age of six, Bill left school at 13 to make a living. Getting a job in a Ford car dealership, he progressed to eventually head a company with a turnover of over 250 million.

## **Arlington Park by Rachel Cusk**

ISBN 9780571228478



Arlington Park, a modern-day English suburb, is a place devoted to the profitable ordinariness of life. Set over the course of a single rainy day, this novel moves from one household to another, and through the passing hours conducts a deep examination of its characters' lives.

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## **The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson**

ISBN 9781847671691



The nameless and beautiful narrator of "The Gargoyle" is driving along a dark road when he is distracted by what seems to be a flight of arrows. He crashes into a ravine and wakes up in a burns ward, undergoing the tortures of the damned. His life is over - he is now a monster. But in fact it is only just beginning

## **Becoming Strangers by Louise Dean**

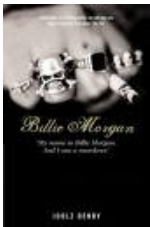
ISBN 9780743240000



Separately, two couples go on their last holidays together. Together, they discover what's been keeping them apart. This is Louise Dean's first novel.

## **Billie Morgan by Joolz Denby**

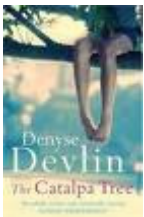
ISBN 9781852428655



Billie is in her forties, running a little jewellery shop in Bradford, watching over her godson Natty, trying to live a quiet life, trying to forget the past. Because Billie has a lot of past to forget. She was a biker chick, lived a life that hurtled out of control - and ended in murder.

## **The Catalpa Tree by Denyse Devlin**

ISBN 9781844880300



33 year old Oliver becomes the guardian of his best friend's 14 year old daughter, Jude, after his friend's sudden death. In the seven years that follow, Jude struggles with being alone in the world and Oliver struggles with caring for a beloved child who is becoming a woman.

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## **A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly**

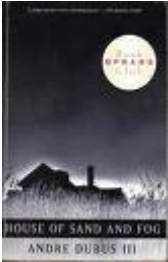
ISBN 9780747570639



When Mattie is given letters by a guest at the hotel where she has a summer job, she thinks the guest is simply upset. But when the woman is found drowned next day, Mattie must decide whether she will read them, or burn them as requested. A touching, funny surprising novel, set in 1906 and based on a true story.

## **House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubois III**

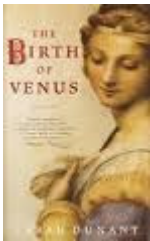
ISBN 9780099453925



When Kath, a young recovering alcoholic recently separated from her husband, fails to open a series of tax letters that have been sent to her in error, the State of California seizes the house she and her brother have inherited from her father.

## **The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant**

ISBN 9781844080359



Set in 15th-century Florence, this is a novel of mystery, history, politics and passion. 14-year-old Alessandra's love of art and her lively independence lure her into a world of all sorts of taboos. She must make crucial decisions about her life, as Florence itself must choose its future path.

## **In The Company of The Courtesan by Sarah Dunant**

ISBN 9781844082292

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1527. While the Papal city of Rome burns – attacked by an invading army including Protestant heretics - two of her citizens slip away, their stomachs churning on the jewels they have swallowed as the enemy breaks down their doors. Fiammetta Bianchini and Bucino Teodoldi - a courtesan and a dwarf – are planning their future.

### **The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards**

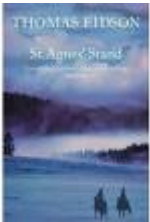
ISBN 9780141030142



It's 1964 and Dr David Henry finds himself delivering his wife's twins. Relieved, he sees that his son is born healthy, but recognises the signs of Down's Syndrome in his daughter's face. In a split-second decision that will haunt their family forever, he asks the nurse to take his daughter away.

### **St. Agnes' Stand by Thomas Eidson**

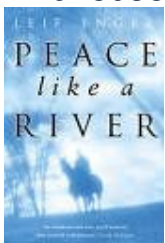
ISBN 9780140238945



Deep in the desert, an injured outlaw stumbles across the trapped survivors of an Apache ambush: three nuns and seven orphan children. Sister St Agnes is convinced that Nan Swanson has been sent by God to rescue them.

### **Peace Like a River by Leif Enger**

ISBN 9780385602426



When Davy Land escapes from jail, his family sets off on a quest to find him. Set in the 1960s on the edge of the Great Plains, this novel resonates with a sense of place and vibrates with the possibility of magic in the everyday world.

### **The Gathering by Anne Enright**

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ISBN 9780224078733



The 'Gathering' is a family epic, condensed and clarified through Anne Enright's unblinking eye. It is also a sexual history: tracing the line of hurt and redemption through three generations - starting with the grandmother, Ada Merriman - showing how memories warp and family secrets fester.

### **Things the Grandchildren Should Know by Mark Everett**

ISBN 9780349120843



How does one young man survive the deaths of his entire family and manage to make something worthwhile of his life? In *Things The Grandchildren Should Know* Mark Oliver Everett tells the story of what it's like to grow up the insecure son of a genius in a wacky Virginia Ice Storm-like family.

### **Eve Green by Susan Fletcher**

ISBN 9780007190409



Following the loss of her mother, eight-year-old Evie is sent to a new life in rural Wales. With a sense of being lied to she sets out to discover her family's dark secret - unaware that there is yet more darkness to come with the sinister disappearance of local girl Rosemary Hughes.

### **Marie Antoinette: The Journey by Antonia Fraser (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780297819080



This biography examines Marie-Antoinette's influence over the king, the accusations and sexual slurs made against her, her patronage of the arts, her imprisonment, the death threats, rumours of lesbian affairs, and her trial.

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## **Spies by Michael Frayn**

ISBN 9780571212965



There is very little evidence of the war where Keith and Stephen live. But the friends suspect the inhabitants of the close aren't what they seem. As Keith informs his trusting friend, the district is riddled with secret passages. They find themselves engulfed in mysteries deeper than they had imagined.

## **Thirteen Moons by Charles Frazier**

ISBN 9780340826638



At the age of 12, under the Wind Moon, Will is given a horse, a key, and a map, and sent alone to the edge of the Cherokee Nation to run a trading post as a bound boy. It is during this time that he grows into a man, learning, as he does, of the raw power it takes to create a life, to find a home.

## **Old Filth by Jane Gardam**

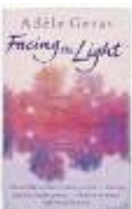
ISBN 9780701177560



Long ago, Old Filth was a Raj orphan - one of the many young children sent 'home' from the East to be fostered and educated in England. This novel tells his story, from his birth in what was then Malaya to the extremities of his old age.

## **Facing the Light by Adele Geras**

ISBN 9780752842844



An extended family gathers to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of its formidable matriach, Leonora, daughter of the famous Edwardian painter, Ethan Walsh. All families have their dark side and Leonora's is no exception. During the course of the evening two shocking past events come to light.

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## **The Tiger Warrior by David Gibbons**

ISBN 9780755354382

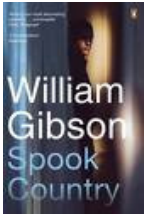


**India. 1879.** Lieutenant John Howard witnesses something so unspeakable it changes him for ever. His subsequent disappearance is never solved.

**Egypt. Present day.** Marine archaeologist Jack Howard makes an astonishing discovery on a deep-sea dive. What's the connection? Jack Howard doesn't know yet. But he's about to find out.

## **Spook Country by William Gibson**

ISBN 9780141016719



What happens when old spies come out to play one last game? In New York a young Cuban called Tito is passing iPods to a mysterious old man. Such activities do not go unnoticed, however, in these early days of the War on Terror and across the city an ex-military man named Brown is tracking Tito's movements.

## **The Last Queen by C.W Gortner**

ISBN 9780340962923



One of history's most enigmatic women tells the haunting, passionate story of her tumultuous life. Juana of Castile is just thirteen when she witnesses the fall of Moorish Granada and uniting of the fractured kingdoms of Spain under her warrior parents, Isabel and Fernando....

## **The future homemakers of America by Laurie Graham**

ISBN 9781841153124

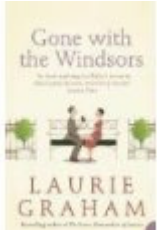


It is 1953. Five American Airforce wives in Norfolk are waiting for their husbands to return. There is very little to do, so they dare to look beyond the safety of the perimeter fence for a little excitement with the natives.

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## **Gone with the Windsors by Laurie Graham**

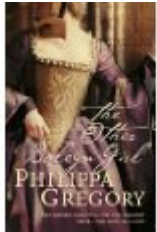
ISBN 9780007146765



This novel from Laurie Graham is the fictional diary of Wallis Simpson's best friend in pre-war London.

## **The Other Boleyn girl by Philippa Gregory**

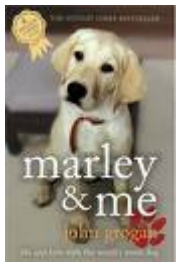
ISBN 9780002259842



This historical novel is set in the court of King Henry VIII. Mary Boleyn attracts the attention of the young king and becomes his mistress. When he tires of her, she sets out to school her sister, Anne, as a replacement.

## **Marley and Me by John Grogan (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780340922101



John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. They were young and in love. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow fur ball of a puppy. This is the heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family in the making and the wondrously neurotic dog who taught them what really matters in life.

## **Life and Fate by Vasily Grossman**

ISBN 0099506165



This sweeping account of the siege of Stalingrad gives a panoramic view of the Soviet Union during World War Two, revealing a totalitarian regime where the spirit of freedom that arose among those under fire was feared by the state at least as much as were the Nazis.

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## **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon**

ISBN 9780099456766



A murder mystery like no other, this novel features Christopher Boone, a 15 year-old who suffers from Asperger's syndrome. When he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out on a journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

## **The Electric Michelangelo by Sarah Hall**

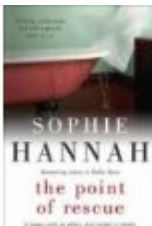
ISBN 9780571219308



Beginning as a humble apprentice in Morecambe Bay, Cy flees to America, where he sets up his own tattoo business on the infamous Coney Island boardwalk. In this carnival environment of roller-coasters and freak shows, Cy becomes enamoured with Grace, a mysterious circus performer.

## **The Point of Rescue by Sophie Hannah**

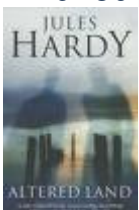
ISBN 9780340933121



Sally is watching the news with her husband when she hears a name she ought not to recognise: Mark Bretherick. Last year, a work trip Sally had planned was cancelled at the last minute. Desperate for a break from her busy life juggling work and a young family, Sally didn't tell her husband that the trip had fallen through. Instead, she booked a week off work and treated herself to a secret holiday...

## **Altered Land by Jules Hardy**

ISBN 9780743429047

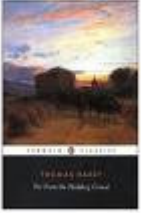


Joan is a single mother who adores her son, John. They live in the West Country and John lives his life outdoors. On his 13th birthday they take a trip to London. Taking a wrong turn, Joan learns the devastating repercussions of a moment's hesitation.

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## **Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy**

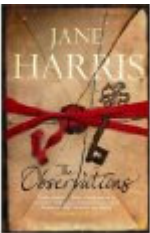
ISBN 9780192801494



In a story which both upholds and questions rural values with a modern sensibility, three suitors vie for the hand of the beautiful and spirited Bathsheba Everdene. While their fates depend upon the choice Bathsheba makes, she discovers the terrible consequences of an inconstant heart.

## **The Observations by Jane Harris**

ISBN 9780571223350



Scotland, 1863. In an attempt to escape her not-so-innocent past in Glasgow, Bessy Buckley takes a job as a maid in a big house outside Edinburgh working for the beautiful Arabella. Bessy is intrigued by her new employer, but puzzled by her increasingly strange requests.

## **A Handful of Honey by Annie Hawes**

ISBN 9780330457224



Aiming to track down a small oasis town deep in the Sahara, some of whose generous inhabitants came to her rescue on a black day in her adolescence, Annie Hawes leaves her home in the olive groves of Italy and sets off along the south coast of the Mediterranean.

## **The Last to Know by Melissa Hill**

ISBN 9780340953310

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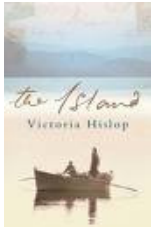
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Eve knows what she wants. After nine good years and two kids together, it's about time Liam made an honest woman of her. Eve's sister Sam knows more than she should. Sam's always thought Eve was too good for Liam. Then she learns the truth about his business trips to Australia, and her suspicions are confirmed.

### **The Island by Victoria Hislop**

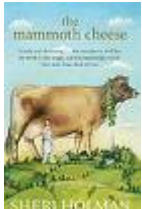
ISBN 9780755309504



On the brink of her own life-changing decision, Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past. But Sofia has never spoken of it. All she admits to is growing up in a small Cretan village before moving to London.

### **The Mammoth Cheese by Sheri Holman**

ISBN 9781844081271



When Manda Frank gives birth to an astonishing 11 babies, the world descends on her home town of Three Chimneys, Virginia. Meanwhile, cheesemaker Margaret Prickett decides to highlight the plight of the rural community by creating a 1235-pound cheese which she plans to parade all the way to Washington.

### **The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini**

ISBN 9780747566533

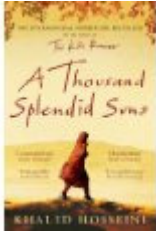


Winter, 1975: Afghanistan, a country on the verge of an internal coup. 12 year old Amir is desperate to win the approval of his father, one of the richest merchants in Kabul. He's failed to do so through academia or brawn but the one area they connect is the annual kite fighting tournament.

### **A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini**

ISBN 9780747585893

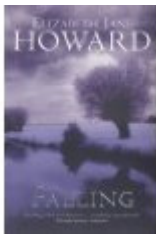
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Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry Rasheed. Nearly two decades later, a friendship grows between Mariam and a local teenager, Laila, as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. When the Taliban take over, life becomes a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear. Yet love can move a person to act in unexpected ways, and lead them to overcome the most daunting obstacles with a startling heroism.

### **Falling by Elizabeth Jane Howard**

ISBN 9780330368896



Henry Kent has been looking for someone. Anyone will do, as long as they are female, preferably with some money. But when writer Daisy Langrish buys a cottage close by, her agent's suspicions are aroused as a chilling secret is discovered.

### **The Boy I Love by Marion Hubbard**

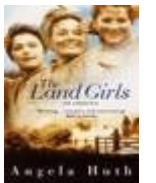
ISBN 9781905170005



Set in the aftermath of World War One, war hero Paul is coming home to his lover, Adam. However, Paul's arrival is complicated when he meets the pregnant fiancée of his dead brother - from now on, Paul's choices will have repercussions on several lives as he unwittingly spins a tangled web of love and betrayal.

### **Land Girls by Angela Huth**

ISBN 9780349109930

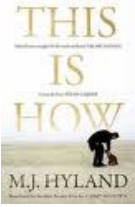


The West Country in wartime, and the land girls are gathering on the farm of John and Faith Lawrence. This is a story of three different women from different backgrounds, who find themselves thrown together, sharing an attic bedroom.

### **This is How by MJ Hyland**

ISBN 9781847673824

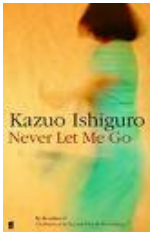
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When his fiancée breaks off their engagement, Patrick Oxtoby leaves home and moves into a boarding house in a remote seaside town. But in spite of his hopes and determination to build a better life, nothing goes to plan and Patrick is soon driven to take a desperate and chilling course of action.

### **Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro**

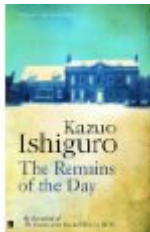
ISBN 9780571224135



Kathy, Ruth and Tommy were pupils at Hailsham - an idyllic establishment situated deep in the English countryside. The children there were tenderly sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe they were special, and that their personal welfare was crucial. But for what reason were they really there?

### **Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro**

ISBN 9780571225385



During the summer of 1956, Stevens, the aging butler of Darlington Hall embarks on a leisurely motoring holiday that will take him deep into the heart of the English countryside and thence into his past.

### **Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K. Jerome**

ISBN 9780140012132



Three Men in a Boat relates the adventures and mishaps of three late-Victorian gentlemen and a dog on holiday on the Thames. In Three Men on the Bummel the men are off on holiday again, this time reflecting the popularity of cycling as a pastime.

### **A Spring Affair by Milly Johnson**

ISBN 9781847392824

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When Lou Winter picks up a dog-eared magazine in the dentist's waiting room & spots an article about clearing clutter, she doesn't realise how it will change her life...

### **The Yorkshire Pudding Club by Milly Johnson**

ISBN 9781416525905



'The Yorkshire Pudding Club' is the story of how three women find themselves empowered by unexpected pregnancy. How it revitalises one woman's tired marriage, strengthens another's belief in herself and brings love and warmth to a cold and empty life.

### **The Earthquake Bird by Susanna Jones**

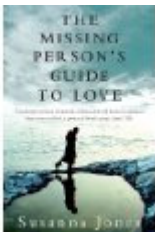
ISBN 0330485024



A haunting novel set in Japan which reveals a murder on its first page and takes its readers into the mind of the chief suspect, Lucy Fly – a young, vulnerable English girl living and working in Tokyo as a translator. As Lucy is interrogated by the police she reveals her past to the reader, and it is a past which is dangerously ambiguous and compromising . . .

### **The Missing Persons Guide to Love by Susanna Jones**

ISBN 9780330450836



Isabel, Owen and Julia were childhood friends. But when they were fifteen, Julia disappeared without a trace – an event that had a devastating impact on the others.

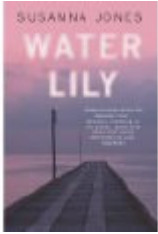
### **Water Lily by Susanna Jones**

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ISBN 9780330485838



Runa is a young Japanese high school teacher leaving the country to avoid the scandal she has created by sleeping with one of her students. She steals her sister's passport and boards the ferry to Shanghai...

Meanwhile, on the last stretch of a fraught and tiring mission to find a wife, an Englishman also boards the ferry...

## **Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones**

ISBN 9780719569944



On a remote South Pacific island, threatened by uprising, Matilda and her classmates find their lives surprisingly intertwined with those of a boy called Pip, and a man named Mr Dickens.

## **The Ornament Book by Dennis Kelly**

ISBN 9781843863892



In the 1920s, a teen-age girl, Francesca, leaves her valley in the Italian Alps with her widowed family for the promise of America.

## **The Pursuit of Happiness by Douglas Kennedy**

ISBN 9780099415374



Set amidst the dynamic optimism of postwar New York and the subsequent nightmare of the McCarthy witchhunts, this novel is a tragic love story; a tale of divided loyalties, decisive moral choices and the random workings of destiny.

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## **The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by Stephen King**

ISBN 9780340952382



A girl gets lost in the woods and begins to lose hope of getting out alive. She listens to the baseball on her Walkman, creating an imaginary friendship with Tom Gordon. As she struggles to survive she realises that something is watching her.

## **The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver**

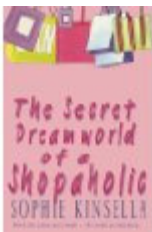
ISBN 9780571252633



Born in the US, reared in a series of provisional households in Mexico, Harrison Shepherd is mostly a liability to his social-climbing mother, Salome. From a coastal island jungle to the unpaved neighbourhoods of 1930s Mexico City, his fortunes never steady as Salome finds her rich men-friends always on the losing side of the Mexican Revolution.

## **The Secret Dreamworld of a Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella**

ISBN 9780552998871



Becky is a shopaholic who has lost the ability to say no. She tries making more money, she even tries cutting back, but neither seems to work. Now with her cards stopped and no credit she has to escape from this dream world, but how!?

## **The History of Love by Nicole Krauss**

ISBN 9780141019970



A young girl, hoping to find a cure for her mother's loneliness, stumbles across a book that changed her mother's life and she goes in search of the author. Soon these and other worlds collide in 'The History of Love', a captivating story of the power of love, of loneliness and of survival.

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## **American Youth by Phil LaMarche**

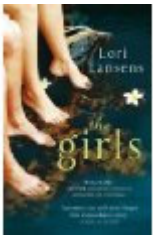
ISBN 9780340938041



Set in a New England town riven by social and ideological tensions - as newcomers encroach on an old rural culture - this is a classic portrait of a boy's rites of passage in an America ill at ease with itself.

## **The Girls by Lori Lansens**

ISBN 9781844083664



The girls, Rose and Ruby Darlen, were born joined at the head in a rural farming community in 1974. Abandoned by their frightened teenage mother, they are adopted by the eccentric nurse who attended their birth, and her husband, a gentle immigrant butcher.

## **The Song of Names by Norman Lebrecht**

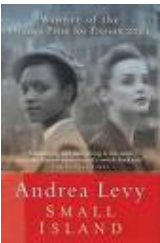
ISBN 9780755300952



Martin is growing up as an only child in wartime London until Dovidl, a refugee violinist from Warsaw, comes to stay. His arrival brings merriment and love, mischief and menace. Blood-brothers, they roam the ruined city, finding tragedy and triumph, sex and crime, until Dovidl disappears.

## **Small Island by Andrea Levy**

ISBN 9780755307500



Returning to England after the war Gilbert Joseph is treated very differently now that he is no longer in an RAF uniform. Joined by his wife Hortense, he rekindles a friendship with Queenie who takes in Jamaican lodgers. Can their dreams of a better life in England overcome the prejudice they face?

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## **A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian by Marina Lewycka**

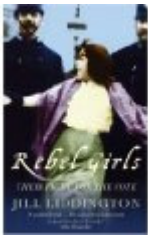
ISBN 9780141020525



For years, Nadezhda and Vera have had as little as possible to do with each other. But now they find they'd better learn how to get along, because since their mother's death their ageing father has been sliding into his second childhood, and an alarming new woman has just entered his life.

## **Rebel Girls by Jill Liddington (non fiction)**

ISBN 9781844081684



'Rebel Girls' starts in 1905, just as sensational suffragette imprisonments began to grab newspaper headlines, and takes the extraordinary history forward to the height of militant campaign at the outbreak of war.

## **Diana's Story by Deric Longden (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780552139441



In 1971 Deric Longden's wife Diana fell ill with the mysterious disorder known as ME. Deric, devoting more and more time to looking after Diana, he became house husband, nurse and caretaker of the woman he loved. This is their story.

## **The Highest Tide by Jim Lynch**

ISBN 9780747579380

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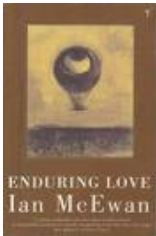
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Having become an instant local celebrity when he discovered a giant squid on the beach, 13 year-old Miles O'Malley now has to deal with some life changing events which will accompany his coming of age.

### **Enduring Love by Ian McEwan**

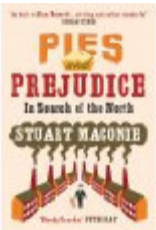
ISBN 9780099276586



Totally compelling and utterly convincing, Enduring Love is the story of how an ordinary man can be driven to the brink of murder and madness by another's delusions.

### **Pies and Prejudice by Stuart Maconie**

ISBN 9780091910235



A Northerner in exile, Stuart Maconie goes on a journey in search of the North, attempting to discover where the cliches end and the truth begins.

### **Spa Wars by Chris Manby**

ISBN 9780340937013



When Emily's life - and business - is turned around by a visit from Carina Lees, Z-list celebrity, she can't believe her luck. With just one other member of staff to help her out at her Essex salon, Emily is pushed for time as well as money, and so Carina's patronage is more welcome than a sunbed session in December.

### **Rumour Has It by Jill Mansell**

ISBN 9780755328192

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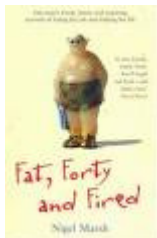
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When newly single Tilly Cole impulsively quits her London job for a fresh start in the small town of Roxborough she finds she's arrived in a hotbed of gossip, intrigue and rampant rivalry for the most desirable men...

### **Fat, 40 and Fired by Nigel Marsh**

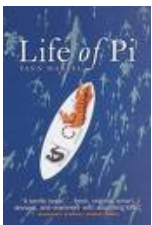
ISBN 0749927011



As he approaches forty, Nigel Marsh is in a seemingly enviable position in life: he has just moved from the UK to Sydney and he runs the Australian office of a leading advertising agency. Unfortunately, he is also stressed, overweight and struggling to balance a career, a marriage and the demands of four small children. However, Nigel's adventure really begins when he loses his job...

### **Life of Pi by Yann Martel**

ISBN 9781841953922



Pi lives in Pondicherry, India, where his father owns the city's zoo. The family decides to immigrate to Canada, but tragedy strikes at sea. In the lifeboat are five survivors: Pi, a hyena, a zebra, a female orangutan and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger.

### **Stuart: A Life Backwards by Alexander Masters (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780007200375



'Stuart' is the story of an extraordinary friendship between a reclusive writer and illustrator and a chaotic, knife-wielding beggar whom he gets to know during a campaign to release two charity workers from prison.

### **Liars and Saints by Maile Meloy**

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ISBN 978071956645



Epic in its sweep, intimate in its insight and understanding, 'Liars and Saints' follows the Santerres through half a century. Each must find their own place not only within the family but also in an ever-changing world.

### **These Foolish Things by Deborah Moggach**

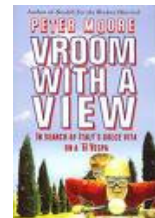
ISBN 9780099461845



'These Foolish Things' is about Dunroamin, a converted guesthouse in Bangalore, where Sonny sets up a home for old people. Travel and set-up are inexpensive, staff willing and plentiful - and the British pensioners can enjoy the hot weather and mango juice with their gin.

### **Vroom With A View by Peter Moore (non fiction)**

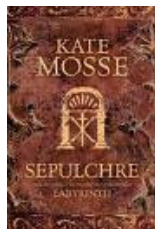
ISBN 9780553816372



From picnicking in the Italian alps to exploring tumbledown seaside villages, gate-crashing Frances Mayes' villa and re-enacting Roman Holiday, this is Peter Moore's travel adventure on the road from Milan to Rome in the company of a 1960s Vespa.

### **Sepulchre by Kate Mosse**

ISBN 9780752882949



Meredith Martin arrives at the Domaine de la Cade as part of her research for a biography she's writing. But Meredith soon becomes immersed in the story of a tragic love, a missing girl, a unique deck of tarot cards, an unquiet soul and the strange events of one cataclysmic night more than a century ago.

### **Something Might Happen by Julie Myerson**

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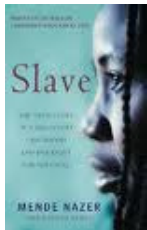
ISBN 9780099453529



Extraordinarily skillfully written and almost unbearably tense, Julie Myerson's tale of murder in a small Suffolk seaside town includes all of the features of a murder mystery. However the book is really about the effect of the murder on a community and how relationships begin to crumble and unravel.

### **Slave by Mende Nazer (non fiction)**

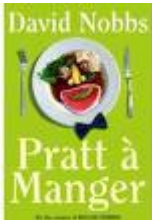
ISBN 9781844081165



Mende Nazer tells the horrifying story of her kidnap, at age 12, from an idyllic life with her family in a small village in Sudan, to be sold into slavery. Trafficked to Europe and the London home of a Sudanese diplomat, Mende escaped - only to find she had to fight for asylum in a supposedly free country.

### **Pratt à Manger by David Nobbs**

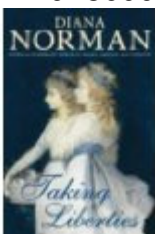
ISBN 9780099469094



When pretty young TV researcher Nicky Proctor visits his cafe, Henry Pratt's life changes forever. He becomes an instant star of a TV food quiz, and his cookery books are best-sellers. But he finds himself sorely tempted by young Nicky - and he has also incurred the wrath of a fellow celebrity chef, Bradley Tompkins.

### **Taking Liberties by Diana Norman**

ISBN 9780007105465



Set in the 18th century, this novel follows the journey of two women who meet in the chaos of wartime Plymouth, both searching for apparently missing people. One is a young aristocrat searching for the son of a colonial friend; the other is a self-made woman looking for her daughter.

### **Star Struck by Anne-Marie O'Connor**

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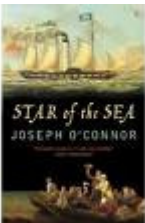
ISBN 9780091932398



All Catherine wants to do is sing, but a TV show is about to make her a star ...Catherine Reilly is 24, single and still lives at home with her family. The only thing Catherine's ever been any good at is singing, so when she sees a TV ad for the latest series of 'Star Maker' she decides to enter.

### **Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor**

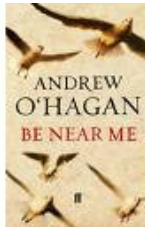
ISBN 9780099469629



During winter 1847, the Star of the Sea sets sail from Ireland for New York. Among the refugees are a maidservant, bankrupt Lord Merridith, an aspiring novelist and a maker of revolutionary ballads. Each is connected more deeply than they know. But a killer is stalking the decks, hungry for vengeance.

### **Be Near Me by Andrew O'Hagan**

ISBN 9780571216024



In a small Scottish parish, an English priest is stalked by the fear of scandal, class hatred and lost ideals. As he looks back on his childhood, Father David begins to reconsider the central events of his life, and to see what may have happened to the political hopes of his generation.

### **The Wake by Jeremy Page**

ISBN 9780141027722



Every night, before he cuts the engine and lets the boat drift, Guy writes the diary of the man he should have been – of a husband with his wife and their young daughter; of a new family that may not have been perfect but who were, at least, together.

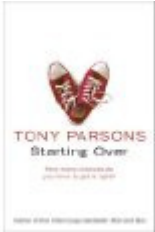
### **Starting Over by Tony Parsons**

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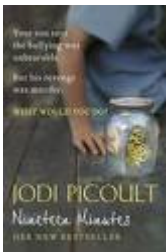
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ISBN 9780007226511



## **Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult**

ISBN 9780340935798



Sterling is a small, ordinary New Hampshire town where nothing ever happens - until a student enters the local high school with an arsenal of guns and starts shooting, changing the lives of everyone inside and out.

## **Vanishing Acts by Jodi Picoult**

ISBN 9780340835494



Delia Hopkins has led a charmed life. Raised in rural New Hampshire by her widowed father Andrew, she now has a young daughter, a handsome fiancé, and her own search and rescue bloodhound. But as she plans her wedding, she is plagued by flashbacks of a life she can't recall.

## **Rabbit-Proof Fence by Doris Pilkington**

ISBN 0786887842



The story traces the traumatic uprooting of three sisters from their community in Northwestern Australia. Following a government edict in 1931, black children and children of mixed marriages were gathered up and brought to settlements where they were to be disciplined to abandon their aboriginal heritage, and taught to be culturally white. The sisters quickly planned an escape from the Moore River Native Settlement. This is the story of their journey.

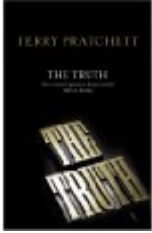
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## **The Truth by Terry Pratchett**

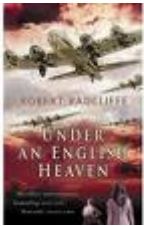
ISBN 9780552154246



The truth will out, or at least it's going to try to, any minute. New printing technology means that words just won't obediently stay nailed down like usual. They can now be taken apart and used to make other words. Which is downright dangerous. There's a very real threat of news getting out there. Of people finding out what's really going on...

## **Under an English Heaven by Robert Radcliffe**

ISBN 9780349115030



In 1943, the sleepy Suffolk town of Bedenham is jerked into the twentieth century and the harsh realities of war by the arrival on its doorstep of an American bomber base and its 3000 inhabitants.

## **God's Own Country by Ross Raisin**

ISBN 9780141033525



Ross Raisin tells the story of solitary young farmer, Sam Marsdyke, and his extraordinary battle with the world. Expelled from school and cut off from the town, mistrusted by his parents and avoided by city incomers, Marsdyke is a loner until he meets rebellious new neighbour Josephine.

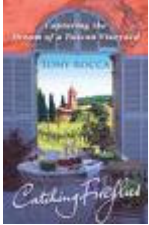
## **Catching Fireflies by Tony Rocca (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780099469339

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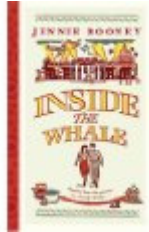
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Following an extended bout of hard city life, Tony Rocca and his wife, Mira, decided to invest in an Italian hotel. When it became clear that alternative avenues would have to be explored to increase their income, Tony was persuaded to use the vines that had been part of the purchase. This is their story.

### **Inside the Whale by Jennie Rooney**

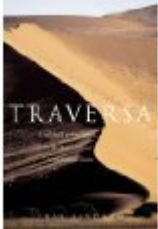
ISBN 9780701183288



Stephanie Sandford, recently widowed, must tell her family the truth. But the past is indistinct and it's complicated. First, there was her mum, who developed an anxious streak after marrying the wrong Reg. And then there was the young man from the dairy who gave Stevie swimming lessons before he broke her heart.

### **Traversa by Fran Sandham (non fiction)**

ISBN 9780715637678



Inspired by the great explorers, Fran Sandham left the daily grind of London to undertake an extraordinary adventure. 'Traversa' is the funny and engaging story of his epic 3,000-mile walk across an entire continent.

### **The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold**

ISBN 9780330485388



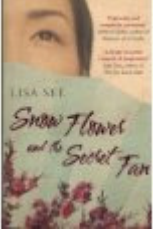
A huge bestseller in America and now a major film, this is a novel about life and death, forgiveness and vengeance, memory and forgetting.

*My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973. My murderer was a man from our neighbourhood. My mother liked his border flowers, and my father talked to him once about fertilizer.*

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## **Snow Flower and The Secret Fan by Lisa See**

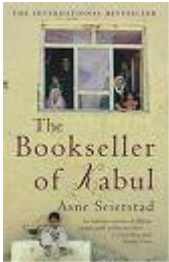
ISBN 9780747583004



'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' is a story of two extraordinary women surviving in a time of strict rules and ancient customs. With the eye of a historian and the vibrancy of a true storyteller, Lisa See has written a mesmerising novel filled with colour, fascinating detail and heartfelt drama.

## **The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad (non fiction)**

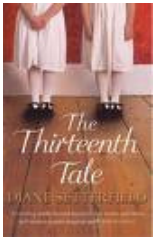
ISBN 9780316726054



In the spring of 2002, journalist Asne Seierstad went to Afghanistan to live with a family for several months. Here she reveals her experiences, telling the story of Sultan Khan - who defied the authorities for 20 years to supply books to the people of Kabul - and his family.

## **The Thirteenth Tale by Dianne Setterfield**

ISBN 9780752881676



'The Thirteenth Tale' is an emotional mystery in the vein of Daphne du Maurier's 'Rebecca', about family secrets and the magic of books and storytelling. Margaret Lea is investigating Angelfield House. As she digs deeper, Margaret discovers tragedy and secrets about her own past.

## **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer**

ISBN 9780747596684



It's 1946 and author Juliet Ashton can't think what to write next. Out of the blue, she receives a letter from Dawsey Adams of Guernsey - by chance, he's acquired a book that once belonged to her - and, spurred on by their mutual love of reading, they begin a correspondence.

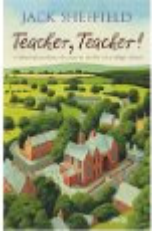
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## **Teacher, Teacher by Jack Sheffield**

ISBN 9780552155281



It's 1977 and Jack Sheffield is appointed headmaster of a small village primary school in North Yorkshire. So begins Jack's eventful journey through the school year and his attempts to overcome the many problems that face him as a young and inexperienced headmaster. Warm, funny and nostalgic, "Teacher, Teacher" is a delightful read that is guaranteed to make you feel better.

## **Light on Snow by Anita Shreve**

ISBN 9780349118567



The events of a December afternoon on which a father and his daughter find an abandoned infant in the snow will forever alter 11-year-old Nicky Dillon's understanding of the world which she is about to enter and the adults who inhabit it.

## **We Need To Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver**

ISBN 9781852428891



Who is to blame for teenage atrocity? Narrator Eva Khatchadourian's son, Kevin, murdered seven of his fellow high school students, a cafeteria worker, and the much-loved teacher who tried to befriend him. This novel is an examination of the effect tragedy has on a town, a marriage and a family.

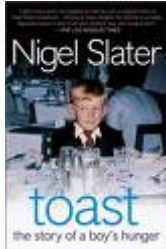
## **Toast: The Story of a Boy's Hunger by Nigel Slater (non fiction)**

ISBN 9781841154718

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This is Nigel Slater's truly extraordinary story of his childhood remembered through food. Nigel's likes and dislikes, aversions and sweet-toothed weaknesses form a fascinating and often amusing backdrop to this incredibly moving and evocative memoir of childhood, adolescence and sexual awakening.

### **I Capture The Castle by Dodie Smith**

ISBN 9780099439745



This is the journal of Cassandra Mortmain. First, there is her eccentric father. Then there is her sister, Rose - and her stepmother, Topaz. Finally, there is Stephen, who is in love with Cassandra. Cassandra records her feelings on all of them.

### **The No 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith**

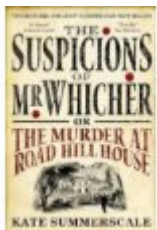
ISBN 034911675X



The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is one woman, Precious Ramotswe, working out of a breezblock office in Botswana. A cross between Kinsey Millhone and Miss Marple, Precious makes an unlikely heroine as she embarks on a very African mystery.

### **The Suspicions of Mr Whicher by Kate Summerscale (based on true events)**

ISBN 9780747596486



In the village of Road in Wiltshire during the summer of 1860, a family awakes to discover that a gruesome murder has taken place in their home. The guilty party is surely still among them. Jack Whicher of Scotland Yard, the most celebrated detective of his day, has the unenviable task of conducting the investigation

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## **Diana Rigg : The Biography by Kathleen Tracy (non fiction)**

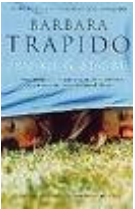
ISBN 9781932100273



The fascinating professional and personal life of one of today's most talented actresses is revealed in this biography of Diana Rigg, one of the sexiest women ever to grace the television screen. This book tells the story of a rebellious and outspoken woman who has always lived life on her own terms, defying both convention and authority.

## **Frankie and Stankie by Barbara Trapido**

ISBN 9780747560340



Dinah and her sister Lisa are growing up in South Africa in the fifties. It is at school that Dinah first learns about racism. As we follow Dinah from childhood, through adolescence and marriage, to voluntary exile in London, we get a vivid glimpse of one of the darker passages of 20th century history.

## **River Run Deep by Rachael Treasure**

ISBN 9781848090859



After an argument with her father over their family property, Rebecca climbs into her ute and heads north with her sheepdogs. It's only when tragedy shatters her world that Rebecca finds strength and courage she never knew she had, in this action-packed novel of adventure, dreams, heartbreak and love.

## **The Colour by Rose Tremain**

ISBN 9780099425151

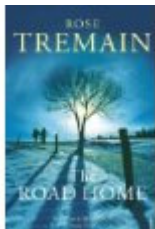


The Colour' is a sweeping saga of sacrifice and greed set during the mid-nineteenth century gold rush in New Zealand.

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## **The Road Home by Rose Tremain**

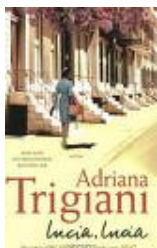
ISBN 9780099478461



Lev is on his way to Britain to seek work, so that he can send money back to eastern Europe to support his mother and little daughter. He struggles with the mysterious rituals of 'Englishness', and the fashions and fads of the London scene. We see the road Lev travels through his eyes, and we share his dilemmas.

## **Lucia, Lucia by Adriana Trigiani**

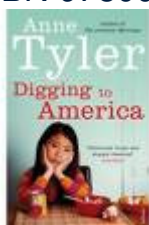
ISBN 9780743462266



From the bestselling author of the 'Big Stone Gap' series, comes the explosive story of a passionate young woman whose fateful choice changes her life forever.

## **Digging to America by Anne Tyler**

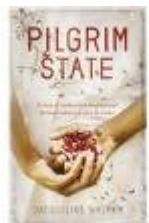
ISBN 9780099499398



Dealing with themes such as belonging, pride, prejudice and love, this is the story of two extended families who are brought together thanks to the arrival of two tiny adopted Korean babies on the same night.

## **Pilgrim State by Jacqueline Walker**

ISBN 9780340960783



'Pilgrim State' is the story of generations of strong women, a fictionalised autobiography, spanning a period from the 1940s to the present day. It follows a family's migration from Jamaica, via the USA and Canada, to Britain. At the heart is the story of Dorothy, a mother of four who would do anything to keep her family together.

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## **Darker Than You Think by Jack Williamson**

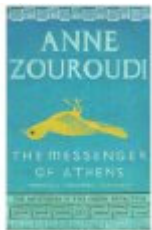
ISBN 0575075465



The unsettling dreams begin for small-town reporter Will Barbee not long after he first meets the mysterious and beautiful April Bell. They are vivid, powerful and deeply disturbing nightmares in which he commits atrocious acts. And, one by one, his friends are meeting violent deaths.

## **The Messenger of Athens by Anne Zouroudi**

ISBN 9780747592754



When the battered body of a young woman is discovered on a remote Greek island, the local police are quick to dismiss her death as an accident. Then a stranger arrives, uninvited, from Athens, announcing his intention to investigate further.

## **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

ISBN 9780552773898



HERE IS A SMALL FACT - YOU ARE GOING TO DIE. 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

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