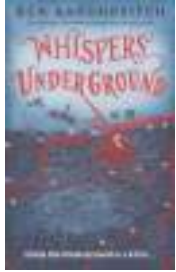


North Tyneside Libraries

Reading Group Titles

Ben Aaronovitch – *Whispers under ground*



It begins with a dead body at the far end of Baker Street tube station; and the victim's wealthy, politically-powerful family is understandably eager to get to the bottom of the gruesome murder. The trouble is, the bottom – if it exists at all – is deeper and more unnatural than anyone suspects . . . except, that is, for London constable and sorcerer's apprentice Peter Grant. With Inspector Nightingale, the last registered wizard in England, tied up in the hunt for the rogue magician known as 'the Faceless Man', it's up to Peter to plumb the haunted depths of the oldest, largest, and – as of now – deadliest subway system in the world.

Susan Abulhawa – *The blue between sky and water*



It is 1947, and Beit Daras, a rural Palestinian village, is home to the Baraka family – oldest daughter Nazmiyah, brother Mamdouh, beautiful, dreamy Mariam and their widowed mother. When Israeli forces descend, sending the village up in flames, the family must take the long road to Gaza, in a walk that will test them to their limits. Sixty years later, in America, Mamdouh's granddaughter Nur falls in love with a doctor. Following him to his work in Gaza, she meets Alwan, who will help Nur discover the ties of kinship that transcend distance – and even death.

Claire Adam – *Golden child* – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



Winner of the Desmond Elliot Prize 2019

A boy has not returned home and a family anxiously awaits. A father steps out into the night to search for his son. As the hours turn into days, this man will learn many things. He will learn about being a father to twin boys who are in no way alike. He will learn how dangerous hopes and dreams can be. He will learn truths about Trinidad, about his family, and himself. He will question received wisdom and question his judgement. He will learn about sacrifice and the nature of love – and he will be forced to act.

Hope Adams – *Dangerous women*



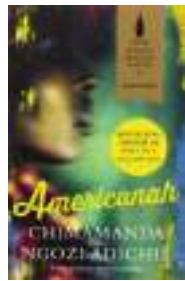
Kezia Hayter knows these women aren't dangerous. One hundred and eighty petty convicts, all sentenced to transportation to Australia. On board the *Rajah*, Kezia makes it her duty to redeem them, enlisting a select few to create an intricate quilt. With each stitch, they are tied closer together. But when one woman is murdered, Kezia's work is threatened. She maintains faith in their innocence, even when the men leading the investigation do not. But if she can't find the killer, how can Kezia save them? Based on a real-life voyage, *Dangerous Women* is a sweeping tale of the terrible things we do to survive.

Sara Nisha Adams – The reading list



Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life after the loss of his wife Naina. Aleisha is working at the local library for the summer when she discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of 'To Kill A Mockingbird' with a list of books that she's never heard of before – let alone read. In turn, each story on the reading list gives up its magic, transporting Aleisha away from the painful realities she's facing at home. And when Mukesh arrives at the library, desperate to forge a connection with his bookworm of a granddaughter, Aleisha discovers that the reading list will be a lifeline for him too.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – Americanah



As teenagers in a Lagos secondary school, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Their Nigeria is under military dictatorship, and people are fleeing the country if they can. Ifemelu – beautiful, self-assured – departs for America to study. Obinze – the quiet, thoughtful son of a professor – had hoped to join her, but post-9/11 America will not let him in, and he plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fearless, gripping, spanning three continents and numerous lives, *Americanah* is a richly told story of love and expectation set in today's globalized world.

Helen Aitchison – The dinner club



Five people. Five secrets. Each needing healing, support and acceptance. Derek's life has changed suddenly. His wife of the past few decades has left him, unable to live with his secret anymore. Inspired by a TV show, he decides to start a dinner club to make new friends, the kind that might accept him if he can be brave enough to tell them the truth. Eddie is grieving, a widower, struggling as a single parent. The void in his life slowly destroying him and his relationship with his young daughter.

Edoardo Albert – Edwin



Edwin, the long-exiled king of Northumbria, thought he had found sanctuary at the court of King Raedwald his friend, and now protector. But Raedwald faces the lure of riches and the threat of bloodshed, and Edwin fears that he will be abandoned to his enemies. As Edwin contemplates his fate, a mysterious messenger prophesies that he will ascend to greater heights than any of his forefathers ...

Louisa May Alcott – Little women



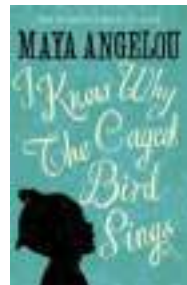
The beloved story of the March girls is a classic American novel, telling the story of four sisters: independent, tomboyish Jo; delicate, loving Beth; pretty, kind Meg; and precocious, beautiful Amy, the baby of the family. The charming story of these four "little women" and their wise and patient mother Marmee enduring hardships and enjoying adventures in Civil War New England was an instant success when first published in 1868 and has been adored for generations, as popular with adults as it is with young readers.

Marie-Claire Amuah – *One for sorrow, two for joy*



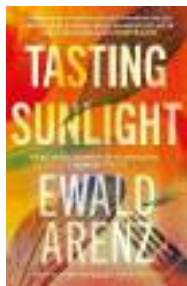
Stella tries very hard to be good. She tries not to be sassy, to answer back, to be noticed. Because when Stella's father is angry, it's like lightning and thunder and hailstones. Years later, Stella has left her troubled childhood behind and appears to have it all: a degree, a demanding job as a barrister and a group of friends who always have her back. But underneath the surface, she is haunted by her past. It will take all her grace, courage and love to heal her wounds and break free. *One for Sorrow, Two for Joy* offers both a sensitive portrayal of the ripple effects of domestic violence, and a defiant story of friendship, resilience and hope.

Maya Angelou – *I know why the caged bird sings*



Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local 'powhitetrash'. At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Ewald Arenz – *Tasting sunlight*



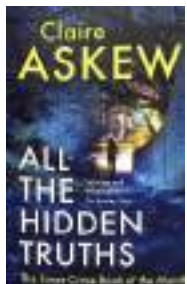
Teenager Sally has just run away from a clinic where she to be treated for anorexia. She wants to be left in peace. Liss lives alone on a farm that she runs single-handedly. She has little contact with the outside world, and no need for other people. From their first meeting, Sally realises that Liss isn't like other adults; she expects nothing of Sally and offers her a bed for the night with no questions asked. That night becomes weeks and then months, as an unlikely friendship develops and these women slowly open up – connecting to each other, reconnecting with themselves, and facing the darkness in their pasts through their shared work on the land.

Hiro Arikawa – *The travelling cat chronicles*



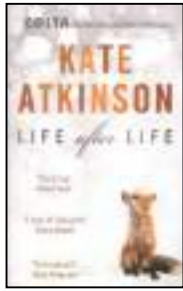
Nana is on a road trip, but he is not sure where he is going. All that matters is that he can sit beside his beloved owner Satoru in the front seat of his silver van. Satoru is keen to visit three old friends from his youth, though Nana doesn't know why and Satoru won't say. Set against the backdrop of Japan's changing seasons and narrated with a rare gentleness and humour, Nana's story explores the wonder and thrill of life's unexpected detours. It is about the value of friendship and solitude, and knowing when to give and when to take.

Claire Askew – *All the hidden truths*



This is a fact: Ryan Summers walked into Three Rivers College and killed twelve women, then himself. But no one can say why. The question is one that cries out to be answered – by Ryan's mother, Moira; by Ishbel, the mother of Abigail, the first victim; and by DI Helen Birch, put in charge of the case on her first day at her new job. But as the tabloids and the media swarm, as the families' secrets come out, as the world searches for someone to blame – the truth seems to vanish.

Kate Atkinson – Life after life



On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born, the third child of a wealthy English banker and his wife. Sadly, she dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in any number of ways. Clearly history (and Kate Atkinson) have plans for her: In Ursula rests nothing less than the fate of civilization.

Jane Austen – Persuasion



Eight years ago Anne Elliot bowed to pressure from her family and made the decision not to marry the man she loved, Captain Wentworth. Now circumstances have conspired to bring him back into her social circle and Anne finds her old feelings for him reignited. However, when they meet again Wentworth behaves as if they are strangers and seems more interested in her friend Louisa. In this, her final novel, Jane Austen tells the story of a love that endures the tests of time and society with humour, insight and tenderness.

Jane Austen – Sense and sensibility



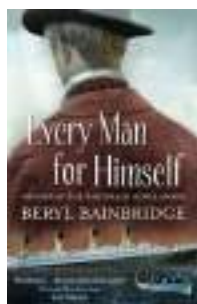
Two sisters of opposing temperaments but who share the pangs of tragic love, provide the subjects for *Sense and Sensibility*. Elinor, practical and conventional, is the epitome of sense; Marianne, emotional and sentimental, the embodiment of sensibility. To each comes the sorrow of unhappy love: Elinor desires a man who is promised to another, while Marianne loses her heart to a scoundrel who jilts her. Their mutual suffering brings a closer understanding between the two sisters – and true love finally triumphs when sense gives way to sensibility and sensibility gives way to sense.

Ginny Baily – Early one morning



A grey dawn in 1943: on a street in Rome, two young women, complete strangers to each other, lock eyes for a single moment. One of the women, Chiara Ravello, is about to flee the occupied city for the safety of her grandparents' house in the hills. The other has been herded on to a truck with her husband and their young children, and will shortly be driven off into the darkness. In that endless-seeming moment, before she has time to think about what she is doing, Chiara makes a decision that changes her life for ever.

Beryl Bainbridge – Every man for himself



After taking on the ill-fated Scott expedition to the South Pole in her previous book, *Birthday Boys*, Bainbridge tackles a much larger 1912 disaster: the sinking of the Titanic. The narrator, a 22-year-old named Morgan, brushes up against real-life victims such as John James Astor early in the voyage, while falling in love with the beautiful and unobtainable Wallis Ellery. The deadly maiden voyage of the world's largest ocean liner becomes a journey of self-discovery in this portentous, postmodern work, shortlisted for the 1996 Booker Prize.

Ayanna Lloyd Banwo – When we were birds



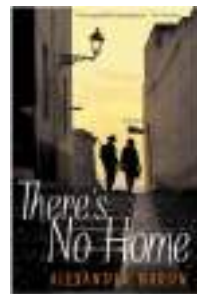
Darwin is a down-on-his-luck gravedigger, newly arrived in the Trinidadian city of Port Angeles to seek his fortune. Estranged from his mother and the Rastafari faith she taught him, he is convinced that the father he never met may be waiting for him somewhere amid these bustling streets. Meanwhile in an old house on a hill, Yejide's mother is dying. And she is leaving behind a legacy that now passes to Yejide: the power to talk to the dead. Darwin and Yejide both have something that the other needs. Their destinies are intertwined, and they will find one another in the sprawling, ancient cemetery at the heart of the island, where trouble is brewing.

Clara Barley – The moss house



200 years ago, neighbouring Yorkshire landowners Miss Lister and Miss Walker find their lives become entwined in a passionate, forbidden relationship and retreat to the Moss House, their private sanctuary away from an unaccepting world. Their tranquillity does not last long as they are drawn into the turmoil of a changing society and a divided family, testing their love for each other, eventually driving them from their home. The world was not yet ready for the likes of Miss Lister. Landowner, scholar, traveller, mountaineer and non-conformist, we discover her lifelong battle to be her true self as she finds Ann Walker and they try to live life on their own terms.

Alexander Baron – There's no home



It's 1943. The Allied invasion of Sicily. In the lull in the fighting, a British battalion march through the summer heat into the bombed out city of Catania, to be greeted by the women, children and old men who remain there. Yearning for some semblance of home life, the men begin to fill the roles left by absent husbands and fathers. Unlikely relationships form: tender, even cruel, and each doomed to end when the battalion moves on.

Shirley Barrett – Rush oh!



When the eldest daughter of a whaling family in New South Wales sets out to write about the season of 1908, the story she tells is far larger than she ever expected. As her family struggles to survive, and as she attempts to navigate sibling rivalries and all-consuming first love, 19-year-old Mary will soon discover a shocking side to these men who hunt the seas and the truth of her own place among them. Swinging from Mary's own hopes and disappointments to the challenges that have beset her family's whaling operation, *Rush Oh!* is also a celebration of an extraordinary episode in history, when man and beast formed a unique, heart-warming allegiance.

Annie Barrows – The truth according to us



Disinherited by her father, the debutante Miss Layla Beck is forced to spend the hot summer of 1938 in Macedonia, West Virginia, and is tasked with recording the small town's history. She arrives with one goal: to get out as quickly as possible. Macedonia's history seems simple enough. Then Layla meets the Romeyns: a family at once entertaining, eccentric, seductive, and inextricably bound up in Macedonia's biggest secret. It's a secret all the townsfolk have a stake in, and as Layla delves into town legend, hidden truths emerge that reveal an altogether different history, one that has left hearts and lives broken. Layla soon realises that some secrets should stay hidden forever.

Belinda Bauer – Rubbernecker



'The dead can't speak to us,' Professor Madoc had said. That was a lie. Because the body Patrick Fort is examining in anatomy class is trying to tell him all kinds of things. Life is already strange enough for the obsessive Patrick without having to solve a possible murder. Especially when no one believes a crime has even taken place. Now he must stay out of danger long enough to unravel the mystery – while he dissects his own evidence. But as Patrick learns one truth from a dead man, he discovers there have been many other lies rather closer to home...

Susan Beale – The good guy



Ted, a car-tyre salesman in 1960s suburban New England, is a dreamer who craves admiration. His wife, Abigail, longs for a life of the mind. Single-girl Penny just wants to be loved. When a chance encounter brings Ted and Penny together, he becomes enamoured and begins inventing a whole new life with her at its centre. But when this fantasy collides with reality, the fallout threatens everything, and everyone, he holds dear. 'The Good Guy' is a deeply compelling debut about love, marriage and what happens when good intentions and self-deception are taken to extremes.

Anya Bergman – The witches of Vardø



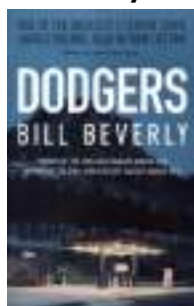
Norway, 1662. A dangerous time to be a woman, when even dancing can lead to accusations of witchcraft. When Zigri, desperate and grieving after the loss of her husband and son, embarks on an affair with the local merchant, it's not long before she is sent to the fortress at Vardo, to be tried and condemned as a witch. Zigri's daughter Ingeborg sets off into the wilderness to try to bring her mother back home. Accompanying her on this quest is Maren – herself the daughter of a witch – whose wild nature and unconquerable spirit gives Ingeborg the courage to venture into the unknown, and to risk all she has to save her family.

Marie-Helene Bertino – Beautyland



Born at the moment when Voyager 1 is launched into space, Adina is a baby of unusual perception. Tiny and jaundiced, she reaches for warmth and light. As a child, she recognises she is different, not least because of her strange knowledge of a faraway planet. Then a fax machine arrives at home. Her mission is clear: she must report on the oddities of humankind. As Adina grows up, she dispatches transmissions on the terrors and delights of human existence. But then she starts to wonder. Is there a chance there are others like her out there?

Bill Beverly – Dodgers



Winner of the CWA Goldsboro Gold Dagger Award 2016

When East, a low-level lookout for a LA drug organisation, loses his watch house in a police raid, his boss recruits him for a very different job: a road trip straight down the middle of white, rural America to assassinate a judge in Wisconsin. Having no choice, East and a crew of untested boys – including his trigger-happy younger brother – leave home with a roll of cash, a map and a gun they shouldn't have. Along the way, the country surprises East. Only he can decide which way to go – and which person to become.

Katarina Bivald – The readers of Broken Wheel recommend



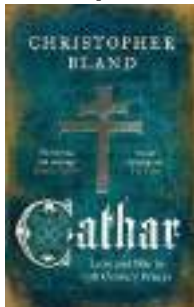
This is a book about books. All sorts of books, from Little Women and Harry Potter to Jodi Picoult and Jane Austen, from Stieg Larsson to Joyce Carol Oates to Proust. It's about the joy and pleasure of books, about learning from and escaping into them, and possibly even hiding behind them. It's about whether or not books are better than real life. It's also a book about a Swedish girl called Sara, her elderly American penfriend Amy and what happens when you land a very different kind of bookshop in the middle of a town so broken it's almost beyond repair. Or is it?

Victoria Blake – The return of the courtesan



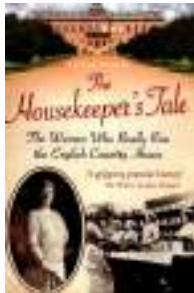
Venice, 1576. A city ravaged by plague. The beautiful and formidable Tullia Buffo, once the most desired courtesan of the age, has returned home. The gondolier Sebastiano, has plied his trade on the canals of Venice his whole life. His lifelong grudge against the famous painter Titian's son is as strong as ever. Now, with Titian dead, his son has returned to Venice to claim his father's paintings and Sebastiano has a plan for revenge. In the present day, events from centuries earlier suddenly engulf the lives of ordinary people as far distant as London and New York as they are touched by the enduring legacy of Tullia, a lost Titian masterpiece and the secrets of old Venice...

Christopher Bland – Cathar



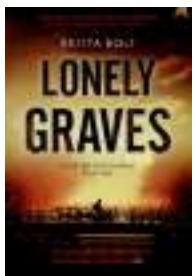
In this compelling historical novel, set in the Languedoc at the end of the 13th century, Francois de Beaufort, a knight and a Cathar, loves three women – Blanche, Sybille and Beatrice. He is Cathar by birth, and ultimately by conviction, despite the unrelenting efforts of the Inquisition to stamp out this heresy through war, torture and the stake. After surviving two sieges Francois is sentenced to a pilgrimage of penance to Compostela, and ends up in the Cathar village of Montailou. And then the Inquisition strikes again.

Tessa Boase – The housekeeper's tale



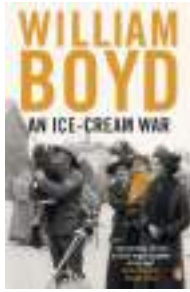
Working as a housekeeper was one of the most prestigious jobs a nineteenth and early twentieth century woman could want – and also one of the toughest. A far cry from the Downton Abbey fiction, the real life Mrs Hughes was up against capricious mistresses, low pay, no job security and gruelling physical labour. The Housekeeper's Tale reveals the personal sacrifices, bitter disputes and driving ambition that shaped these women's careers. Delving into secret diaries, unpublished letters and the neglected service archives of our stately homes, Tessa Boase tells the extraordinary stories of five working women who ran some of Britain's most prominent households.

Britta Bolt – Lonely graves



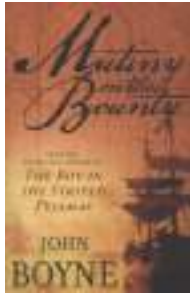
In Amsterdam, there's a council department known affectionately as the Lonely Funerals team. It exists to arrange burials for the abandoned or unknown dead, with the care and dignity that every life deserves. Pieter Posthumus hasn't been doing the job long, but he's determined to do it well. He finds that he cares deeply about the people whose files land on his desk. So when something doesn't seem quite right about a Moroccan immigrant's 'accidental' drowning, Posthumus starts digging. His quest for justice will lead him down some dangerous paths and into conflict with some very dangerous men.

William Boyd – An ice-cream war



On the Western Front millions are being slaughtered. But in East Africa a ridiculous and utterly ignored campaign is being waged – one that continues after the Armistice because no one bothers to tell the participants to stop. As millions are swept up in the conflict, *An Ice-cream War* contrasts the fortunes of those languishing at home with those fighting abroad, swept up in the passion of battlefield and bed chamber, while history makes up its mind whether events shall be played as tragedy or comedy.

John Boyne – Mutiny on the Bounty



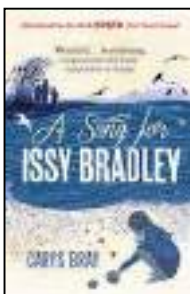
A fourteen-year-old boy, John Jacob Turnstile, has got into trouble with the police on one too many occasions and is on his way to prison when an offer is put to him: a ship has been refitted over the last few months and is about to set sail with an important mission. The boy who was expected to serve as the captain's personal valet has been injured and a replacement must be found immediately. The deal is struck and Turnstile finds himself on board, meeting the captain, just as the ship sets sail. The ship is HMS Bounty, the captain is William Bligh, and their destination is Tahiti.

Melvyn Bragg – Love without end



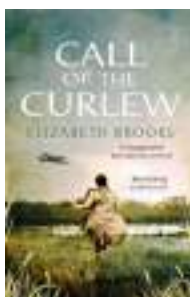
Paris, 1117. Heloise, a brilliant young scholar, is astonished when the famous philosopher, Peter Abelard, consents to be her tutor. But what starts out as a meeting of minds turns into a dangerous love affair, which incurs terrible retribution. 9 centuries later, Arthur is in Paris to recreate the story of Heloise & Abelard in a novel. To his surprise, his daughter visits and agrees to help, challenging his portrait of a couple who seem often inscrutable, sometimes breathtakingly modern. It emerges she is on her own mission to discover more about her parents' fractured relationship and that Arthur's connection to his subject is more emotional than he cares to admit.

Carys Bray – A song for Issy Bradley



Sometimes, however much you love someone, you can't understand them. Ian used to think that his life had been easy, compared to the pioneers. He had a happy marriage, four children, a satisfactory job and, for just over a year, he has served the church in his role as Bishop of the local congregation, an enormous responsibility. And then Issy died. Incredibly moving, unexpectedly funny and so sharply observed it will make you feel as if you could pick the woodchip off the bedroom wall, *A Song for Issy Bradley* is about doubt and faith. But most of all it's about a family trying to work out how to carry on when their world has been blown apart.

Elizabeth Brooks – Call of the curlew



Virginia Wrathmell has always known she will meet her death on the marsh. One snowy New Year's Eve, at the age of 86, she feels the time has finally come. New Year's Eve, 1939. Virginia is ten, an orphan arriving to meet her new parents at their mysterious house, Salt Winds. Her new home sits on the edge of a vast marsh, a beautiful but dangerous place. War feels far away out here amongst the birds and shifting sands – until the day a German fighter plane crashes into the marsh. The people at Salt Winds are the only ones to see it. What happens next is something Virginia will regret for the next 75 years, and which will change the whole course of her life.

Jo Browning-Wroe – A terrible kindness



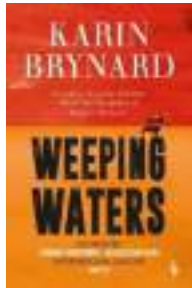
It is October 1966 and William Lavery is having the night of his life at his first black-tie do. But, as the evening unfolds, news hits of a landslide at a coal mine. It has buried a school – Aberfan. William decides he must act, so he stands and volunteers to attend. It will be his first job as an embalmer, and it will be one he never forgets. His work that night will force him to think about the little boy he was, and the losses he has worked so hard to forget. But compassion can have surprising consequences, because – as William discovers – giving so much to others can sometimes help us heal ourselves.

Carol Rifka Brunt – Tell the wolves I'm home



1987. There's only one person who has ever truly understood fourteen-year-old June Elbus, and that's her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can only be herself in Finn's company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies, far too young, of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into June's life – someone who will help her to heal, and to question what she thinks she knows about Finn, her family, and even her own heart.

Karin Brynard – Weeping waters



Inspector Beeslaar's dream of rural peace is soon shattered by the repeated attacks of a brutally efficient crime syndicate, as he struggles to train and connect with rookie local cops, Ghaap and Pyl, who resent his brusqueness and his old-school ways. An artist and her four-year-old adopted daughter are murdered on a local farm, and angry white farmers point to her enigmatic Bushman farm manager as a key suspect. Along with Ghaap and Pyl, Beeslaar is plunged into the intrigue and racial tensions of the community and finds that violence knows no geographical or ethnic boundaries.

Jessie Burton – The miniaturist



On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways ...

Jo Callaghan – In the blink of an eye



In the UK, someone is reported missing every 90 seconds. Vanished. In the blink of an eye. DCS Kat Frank knows all about loss. A widowed single mother, Kat is a cop who trusts her instincts. Picked to lead a pilot programme that has her paired with AIDE (Artificial Intelligence Detective Entity) Lock, Kat's instincts come up against Lock's logic. But when the two missing person's cold cases they are reviewing suddenly become active, Lock is the only one who can help Kat when the case gets personal. AI versus human experience. Logic versus instinct. With lives on the line can the pair work together before someone else becomes another statistic?

Tom Callaghan – A killing winter



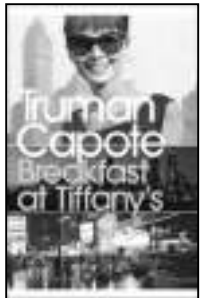
When Inspector Akyl Borubaev of Bishkek Murder Squad arrives at the brutal murder scene of a young woman, all evidence hints at a sadistic serial killer on the hunt for more prey. But when the young woman's father turns out to be a leading government minister, the pressure is on Borubaev to solve the case not only quickly but also quietly, by any means possible. Until more bodies are found ... Still in mourning after his wife's recent death, Borubaev descends into Bishkek's brutal underworld, a place where no one and nothing is as it seems, where everyone is playing for the highest stakes, and where violence is the only solution.

Karen Campbell – Paper cup



Rocked by a terrible accident, homeless Kelly needs to escape the city streets of Glasgow. Maybe she doesn't believe in serendipity, but a rare moment of kindness and a lost engagement ring conspire to call her home. As Kelly vows to reunite the lost ring with its owner, she must return to the small town she fled so many years ago. On her journey from Glasgow to the south-west tip of Scotland, Kelly encounters ancient pilgrim routes, hostile humans, hippies, book lovers and a friendly dog, as memories stir and the people she thought she'd left behind forever move closer with every step.

Truman Capote – Breakfast at Tiffany's



It's New York in the 1940s, where the martinis flow from cocktail hour till breakfast at Tiffany's. And nice girls don't, except, of course, for Holly Golightly: glittering socialite traveller, generally upwards, sometimes sideways and once in a while - down. Pursued by to Salvatore 'Sally' Tomato, the Mafia sugar-daddy doing life in Sing Sing and 'Rusty' Trawler, the blue-chinned, cuff-shooting millionaire man about women about town, Holly is a fragile eyeful of tawny hair and turned-up nose, a heart-breaker, a perplexer, a traveller, a tease. She is irrepressibly 'top banana in the shock department', and one of the shining flowers of American fiction.

Edward Carey – Little



Born in Alsace in 1761, the unsightly, diminutive Marie Grosholtz is quickly nicknamed 'Little'. Orphaned at the age of six, she finds employment in Bern under the charge of reclusive anatomist, Dr Curtius. In time they pursue an unusual passion: the fine art of wax-modelling. Forced to flee their city, the doctor and his protégée head for the seamy streets of Paris where they open an exhibition hall for their uncanny creations. Though revolution approaches, the curious-minded flock to see the wax heads, eager to scrutinise the faces of royalty and reprobates alike. At 'The Cabinet of Doctor Curtius', heads are made, heads are displayed, and a future is built from wax.

Helen Castor – Joan of Arc



We all know the story of Joan of Arc. A peasant girl who hears voices from God. A warrior leading an army to victory, in an age that believes women cannot fight. The Maid of Orleans, the saviour of France. Burned at the stake as a heretic at the age of just nineteen. Her case was heard in court twice over. One trial, in 1431, condemned her; the other, twenty-five years after her death, cleared her name. In the transcripts, we hear first-hand testimony from Joan, her family and her friends. What could be more revealing? But all is not as simple as it seems, because this is a life told backwards, in hindsight - a story already shaped by the knowledge of what Joan would become.

Helen Castor – *She-wolves: the women who ruled England before Elizabeth*



When Edward VI died in 1553, for the first time all the contenders for the crown were female. But female rule in England also had a past. Between the 12th and 15th centuries three exceptional women – Eleanor of Aquitaine, Isabella of France, and Margaret of Anjou – discovered how much was possible if the presumptions of male rule were not confronted so explicitly. The stories of these women illustrate the paradox which the female heirs to the Tudor throne had no choice but to negotiate. Man was the head of woman; and the king was the head of all. How, then, could a woman be king?

Ray Celestin – *The axeman's jazz*



New Orleans, 1919. As a dark serial killer – The Axeman – stalks the city, three individuals set out to unmask him ... Though every citizen of the 'Big Easy' thinks they know who could be behind the terrifying murders, Detective Lieutenant Michael Talbot, heading up the official investigation, is struggling to find leads. But Michael has a grave secret, and if he doesn't get himself on the right track fast, it could be exposed ... Inspired by a true story, *The Axeman's Jazz*, set against the heady backdrop of jazz-filled, mob-ruled New Orleans, is an ambitious, gripping thriller announcing a major new talent in historical crime fiction.

Elizabeth Chadwick – *To defy a King*



A story set against the road to Magna Carta and the fight to bring a tyrant king to heel. The privileged daughter of one of the most powerful men in England, Mahelt Marshal's life changes dramatically when her father is suspected by King John. Her brothers become hostages and Mahelt is married to Hugh Bigod, heir to the earldom of Norfolk. Adapting to her new life is hard, but Mahelt comes to love Hugh deeply; however, defying her father-in-law brings disgrace and heartbreak. When King John sets out to subdue the Bigods, Mahelt faces a heartbreaking battle, fearing neither she, nor her marriage, is likely to survive the outcome.

Eve Chase – *Black Rabbit Hall*



At Black Rabbit Hall nothing much ever happens – time seems to move slower at this idyllic holiday home in Cornwall. Until the worst thing happens and for the Alton children time feels like it's stopped altogether. As they run wild, lost in grief and confusion, an outsider, Caroline Shawcross, and her dark, angry son Lucian enter their lives, changing them forever. In the present day, Lorna Smith is searching for her perfect wedding venue and is inexplicably drawn to the now crumbling Black Rabbit Hall, unaware that her own history is locked up in those derelict walls.

Katherine Chen – *Joan*



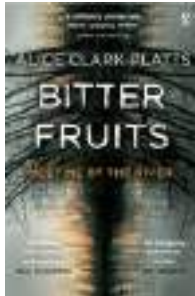
France is mired in a losing war against England. Its people are starving. Its king is in hiding. And out of the chaos, an unlikely heroine is emerging. Reckless, steel-willed and brilliant, Joan has survived a childhood steeped in both joy and violence to claim an extraordinary – and fragile – position at the head of the French army. The battlefield and the royal court are full of dangers alike, and Joan finds herself under suspicion from all sides – as well as under threat from her own ambition.

Alix Christie – Gutenberg's apprentice



In the middle of the 15th century, scribe Peter Schoeffer is dismayed to be instructed by his father to give up his profession of illuminating texts in Paris. Instead, he is to travel to Germany to be apprenticed to Johann Gutenberg, an entrepreneur who has invented a new process for producing books: the printing press. Working in conditions of extreme secrecy, the men employed by Gutenberg face new challenges both artistic and physical as they strive to create the new books to the standard required. In a time of huge turmoil in Europe and around the world, Gutenberg is relentless in pursuing his dream and wooing the powerful religious leaders whose support is critical.

Alice Clark-Platts – Bitter fruits



The murder of a first-year university student shocks the city of Durham. The victim, Emily Brabents, was from the privileged and popular set at Joyce College, a cradle for the country's future elite. As Detective Inspector Erica Martin investigates the college, she finds a close-knit community fuelled by jealousy, obsession and secrets. But the very last thing she expects is an instant confession...The picture of Emily that begins to emerge is that of a girl wanted by everyone, but not truly known by anyone. Anyone, that is, except Daniel Shepherd. Her fellow student, ever-faithful friend and the only one who cares. The only one who would do anything for her...

Ta-Nehisi Coates – The water dancer



Hiram Walker is a man with a secret, and a war to win. A war for the right to life, to family, to freedom.

Born into bondage on a Virginia plantation, he is also born gifted with a mysterious power that he won't discover until he is almost a man, when he risks everything for a chance to escape. One fateful decision will carry him away from his makeshift plantation family and into the heart of the underground war on slavery...

Courtney Collins – The burial



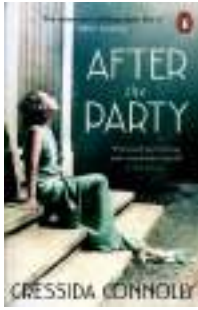
It is the dawn of the twentieth century in Australia and a woman has done an unspeakable thing. 22-year-old Jessie has served a 2-year sentence for horse rustling. As a condition of her release she is apprenticed to Fitzgerald 'Fitz' Henry, who wastes no time in blackmailing Jessie and involving her in his business of horse rustling and cattle duffing. One catastrophic night turns Jessie's life on its head and she must flee for her life. From her lonely outpost, the mountains beckon as a place to escape. First she must bury the evidence. But how do you bury the evidence when the evidence is part of yourself?

Wilkie Collins – The moonstone



The Moonstone, a priceless Indian diamond which had been brought to England as spoils of war, is given to Rachel Verrinder on her eighteenth birthday. That very night, the stone is stolen. Suspicion then falls on a hunchbacked housemaid, on Rachel's cousin Franklin Blake, on a troupe of mysterious Indian jugglers, and on Rachel herself. The phlegmatic Sergeant Cuff is called in, and with the help of Betteredge, the Robinson Crusoe-reading loquacious steward, the mystery of the missing stone is ingeniously solved.

Cressida Connolly – After the party



It is the summer of 1938 and Phyllis Forrester has returned to England after years abroad. Moving into her sister's grand country house, she soon finds herself entangled in a new world of idealistic beliefs and seemingly innocent friendships. Fevered talk of another war infiltrates their small, privileged circle, giving way to a thrilling solution: a great and charismatic leader, who will restore England to its former glory. At a party hosted by her new friends, Phyllis lets down her guard for a single moment, with devastating consequences.

Joseph Conrad – Heart of darkness



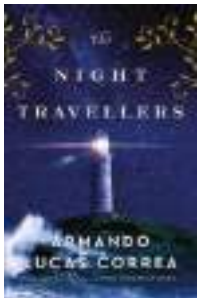
Marlow, a seaman, tells of a journey up the Congo. His goal is the troubled European and ivory trader Kurtz. Worshipped and feared by invaders as well as natives, Kurtz has become a godlike figure, his presence pervading the jungle like a thick, obscuring mist. As his boat labours further upstream, closer and closer to Kurtz's extraordinary and terrible domain, so Marlow finds his faith in himself and civilization crumbling. Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* has been considered the most important indictment of the evils of imperialism written to date.

Jackie Copleton – A dictionary of mutual understanding



Amaterasu Takahashi has spent her life grieving for her daughter and grandson who were victims of the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945. Now a widow living in America, she believes that one man was responsible for her loss; a local doctor who caused an irreparable rift between mother and daughter. When a man claiming to be Ama's grandson arrives on her doorstep, she is forced to revisit the past; the hurt and humiliation of her early life, the intoxication of a first romance and the realisation that if she had loved her daughter in a different way, she might still be alive today.

Armando Lucas Correa – The night travellers



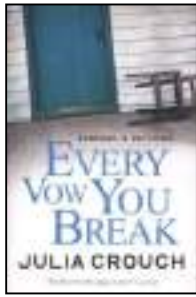
Berlin, 1931: Ally Keller, a talented young poet, is alone and scared when she gives birth to a mixed-race daughter she names Lilith. As the Nazis rise to power, Ally knows she must keep her baby in the shadows to protect her against Hitler's deadly ideology of Aryan purity. Havana, 1958: Lilith has few memories of her mother or her childhood in Germany. But as the flames of revolution ignite, Lilith and her newborn daughter, Nadine, find themselves at a terrifying crossroads. Berlin, 1988: As a scientist in Berlin, Nadine is dedicated to ensuring the dignity of the remains of all those who were murdered by the Nazis.

Polly Crosby – The unravelling



Tartelin Brown is all alone in the world. So when she sees an advert for a job on a remote island, she knows she has nothing to lose. Her employer, Marianne Stourbridge, is a woman as strange and mysterious as the place she inhabits. Tasked with hunting butterflies for Marianne's research, Tartelin quickly uncovers evidence of something even more intriguing – for Marianne has a remarkable past. Determined to piece together the story, Tartelin must first confront her own. But what she discovers on the island is more terrible and heart-breaking than she could ever have imagined.

Julia Crouch – Every vow you break



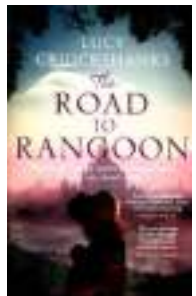
The Wayland family – Lara and Marcus and their three children – leave England to spend a long, hot summer in Trout Island, Upstate New York. Lara, still reeling from an abortion that Marcus insisted on, hopes the summer away from home will give her time to learn to love her husband again. A chance meeting at a party reacquaints the family with Marcus's old actor friend, Stephen, with whom Lara once had an affair. Lara feels herself drawn towards Stephen and they pick up their secret relationship where they left off. Lara knows she's playing a dangerous game; what she doesn't know is that it's also a deadly one.

Matthew Crow – Baxter's requiem



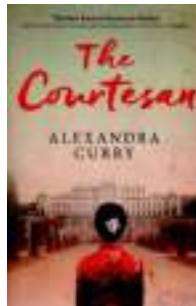
Mr Baxter is ninety-four years old when he falls down his staircase and grudgingly finds himself resident at Melrose Gardens Retirement Home. Baxter is many things – raconteur, retired music teacher, rabble-rouser, bon viveur – but 'good patient' he is not. He had every intention of living his twilight years with wine, music and revelry; not tea, telly and Tramadol. Indeed, Melrose Gardens is his worst nightmare – until he meets Gregory. At only nineteen years of age, Greg has suffered a loss so heavy that he is in danger of giving up on life before he even gets going. Baxter is determined to save the boy ...

Lucy Cruickshanks – The road to Rangoon



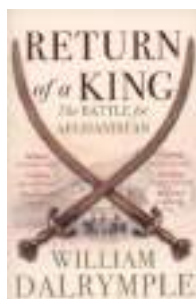
In 1980s Burma, the British ambassador's son goes missing. Discovered in the north of the country, Michael Atwood is in danger, trapped between sides fighting a civil war. His best hope of salvation is to trust Thuza, a ruby smuggler who offers to help him escape. Thuza has spent her life in a frontier town between rebel and government forces, never choosing a side but trying to make a living from both. For Thuza, the ambassador's son is her ticket out of poverty. For Than, an ambitious military officer, exploiting those caught up in the war offers an opportunity for promotion. But as they learn to their cost, in this exotic, enigmatic and savage country, everyone has a price.

Alexandra Curry – The courtesan



The year is 1881. Seven-year-old Sai Jinhua is left alone and unprotected, her life transformed after her mandarin father's summary execution for the crime of speaking the truth. Jinhua is sold to a brothel and put to work as a 'money tree', enduring the very worst of human nature thanks to the friendship and wisdom of the crippled brothel maid. But when an elegant scholar takes Jinhua as his concubine, her world begins to expand. Based on the true story of Sai Jinhua, this debut novel tells the story of one young woman's journey from the depths of poverty to the centre of Chinese history.

William Dalrymple – Return of a King: The battle for Afghanistan



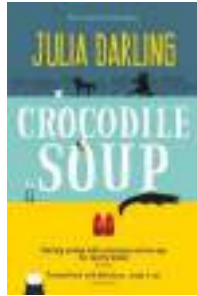
In the spring of 1839, Britain invaded Afghanistan for the first time. Nearly 20,000 troops poured into the country and re-established Shah Shuja ul-Mulk on the throne. But after two years of occupation, the country exploded into violent rebellion as the Afghan people rose in answer to the call for Jihad. The British troops retreated through the mountain snow drifts and were utterly routed by Afghan tribesmen – it was the greatest military humiliation of the nineteenth century. Using a range of forgotten Afghan and Indian sources, Dalrymple retells the story of Britain's greatest imperial disaster.

Abi Daré – The girl with the louding voice



Adunni is a 14-year-old Nigerian girl who knows what she wants: an education. As the only daughter of a broke father, she is a valuable commodity. Removed from school and sold as a 3rd wife to an old man, Adunni's life amounts to this: 4 goats, 2 bags of rice, some chickens and a new TV. When unspeakable tragedy swiftly strikes in her new home, she is secretly sold as a domestic servant to a household in the wealthy enclaves of Lagos, where no one will talk about the strange disappearance of her predecessor, Rebecca. No one but Adunni.

Julia Darling – Crocodile soup



Gert Hardcastle leads a life of isolation cataloguing the Egyptian artefacts at a northern museum until the First Letter drops onto her desk. That's the day she meets Eva and her careful, stilted existence begins to unravel. As Gert begins her strange courtship of Eva, she looks back on her eccentric, surreal upbringing: the rambling house with its resident ghost; her peculiar, telepathic twin; her father George with his crocodile farm, and her beautiful, neglectful mother Jean, whose letters continue to disturb her peace.

Jill Dawson – The language of birds



In the summer of 1974, Mandy River arrives in London to make a fresh start and begins working as nanny to the children of one Lady Morven. She quickly finds herself in the midst of a bitter custody battle and the house under siege: Lord Morven is having his wife watched. According to Lady Morven, her estranged husband also has a violent streak, yet she doesn't seem the most reliable witness. Should Mandy believe her? Drawing on the infamous Lord Lucan affair, this compelling novel explores the roots of a shocking murder from a fresh perspective and brings to vivid life an era when women's voices all too often went unheard.

Rene Denfeld – The enchanted



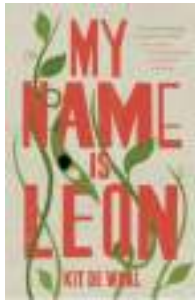
A prisoner sits on death row. His only escape from his harsh existence is through the words he dreams about, the world he conjures around him using the power of language. For the reality of his world is brutal and stark. He is not named, nor do we know his crime. But he listens. He listens to the story of York, the prisoner in the cell next to him whose execution date has been set. He hears the lady, an investigator who is piecing together York's past. He watches as the lady falls in love with the priest and wonders if love is still possible here. He sees the corruption and the danger as tensions build. And he waits. For even monsters have a story...

Vanessa De Haan – The restless sea



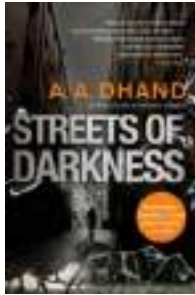
Jack, a child of the Blitz, has become a seaman in the Merchant Navy. While on leave in the Navy's secret Scottish harbour, Jack meets Olivia, the cosseted daughter of an officer family. Free to roam, Olivia relishes the new freedom granted by war. But her family – and especially the well-connected Charlie, now a fast-rising pilot – don't welcome these changes. Least of all the arrival of Jack, the boy who casts doubt on each of their futures. The war inflicts danger and social upheaval like never before. But the most unlikely friendships are forged in times when people live like they don't want tomorrow to come.

Kit De Waal – My name is Leon



Set in the 1970s, *My name is Leon* is about a young black boy's quest to reunite with his beloved white half-brother after they are separated in foster care. Told through the perspective of nine-year-old Leon, too innocent to entirely understand what has happened to him and baby Jake but determined to do what he can to make things right, he stubbornly, endearingly struggles his way through a system much larger than he can tackle on his own. This is a vivid and uplifting story about the power of love, the unbreakable bond between brothers, and the truth about what, in the end, ultimately makes a family.

A.A. Dhand – Streets of darkness



The sky over Bradford is heavy with foreboding. It always is. But this morning it has reason to be – this morning a body has been found. And it's not just any body. Detective Harry Virdee should be at home with his wife. Impending fatherhood should be all he can think about, but he's been suspended from work just as the biggest case of the year lands on what would have been his desk. He can't keep himself away. Determined to restore his reputation, Harry is obliged to take to the shadows in search of notorious ex-convict and prime suspect Lucas Dwight....

Charles Dickens – Bleak House



As the interminable case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce grinds its way through the Court of Chancery, it draws together a disparate group of people: Ada Clare and Richard Carstone, whose inheritance is gradually being devoured by legal costs; Esther Summerson, a ward of court; the menacing lawyer Tulkinghorn; the determined sleuth Inspector Bucket; and even Jo, a destitute crossing-sweeper. A savage indictment of a society that is rotten to the core, *Bleak House* is one of Dickens's most ambitious novels, with a range that extends from the drawing-rooms of the aristocracy to the London slums.

Frank Dikotter – Mao's Great Famine



Between 1958 and 1962, 45 million Chinese people were worked, starved or beaten to death. Mao Zedong threw his country into a frenzy with the Great Leap Forward, an attempt to catch up with and overtake the Western world in less than fifteen years. It led to one of the greatest catastrophes the world has ever known. Dikotter's extraordinary research within Chinese archives brings together for the first time what happened in the corridors of power with the everyday experiences of ordinary people, giving voice to the dead and disenfranchised. This groundbreaking account definitively recasts the history of the People's Republic of China.

Anthony Doerr – All the light we cannot see



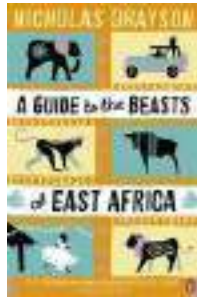
Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorise it by touch and navigate her way home. But when the Nazis invade, they flee with a dangerous secret. Werner is a German orphan, destined to labour in the same mine that claimed his father's life, until he discovers a knack for engineering. His talent wins him a place at a military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering. At the same time, far away in a walled city by the sea, an old man discovers new worlds without ever setting foot outside his home. But all around him, impending danger closes in.

Louise Doughty – Apple Tree Yard



Yvonne Carmichael has worked hard to achieve the life she always wanted: a high-flying career in genetics, a beautiful home, a good relationship with her husband and their two grown-up children. Then one day she meets a stranger at the Houses of Parliament and, on impulse, begins a passionate affair with him – a decision that will put everything she values at risk. At first she believes she can keep the relationship separate from the rest of her life, but she can't control what happens next. All of her careful plans spiral into greater deceit and, eventually, a life-changing act of violence.

Nicolas Drayson – A guide to the beasts of East Africa



This sequel to *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa* sees the return of Mr Malik and the East African Ornithological Society. Mr Malik has been busy planning the Asadi Club's annual safari. But a series of crimes puts the club's very existence at risk. It is up to Mr Malik and Co. to solve a decades-old murder, recover the club mascot and identify, once and for all, the most dangerous beast in Africa. Not to mention his only daughter may, or may not, be getting married in a week. Will Mr Malik again prevail over Kenyan politics, a reluctant bride and unrevealed secrets?

Minnie Driver – Managing expectations



Managing Expectations is a collection of delicately crafted, hilarious and heartfelt essays, described as a 'tell-most', in which Minnie Driver uses her formidable storytelling skills to examine and understand her less-than-ordinary life. Suffused with warmth and humour, Minnie shares poignant, candid and honest stories of her unconventional childhood, the shock of fame, motherhood, love, success, failure, the power of sisterly love, and the loss of her beloved mother. In her own words, it's about how things not working out actually worked out in the end, and how reaching for the dream is easily more interesting, sad and funny than the dream itself coming true.

Daphne Du Maurier – Rebecca – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again ...

Working as a lady's companion, the heroine of *Rebecca* learns her place. Life begins to look very bleak until, on a trip to the South of France, she meets Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower whose sudden proposal of marriage takes her by surprise. She accepts but, whisked from glamorous Monte Carlo to the ominous and brooding Manderley, the new Mrs de Winter finds Max a changed man. And the memory of his dead wife Rebecca is forever kept alive by the forbidding Mrs Danvers ...

Suzannah Dunn – The lady of misrule



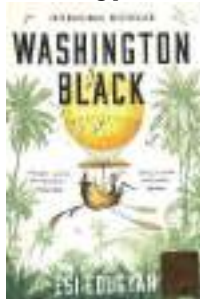
Escorting Lady Jane Grey across the Tower of London from the throne room into imprisonment is Elizabeth Tilney, who surprised even herself by volunteering for the job. Jane is an icily self-composed Protestant whereas Catholic Elizabeth couldn't be more different. United through their disdain for Jane's husband, the two girls learn to live with each other but as the months drag on, Elizabeth finds herself drawn into the difficult relationship between the newly-weds. And when events take an unexpected and dangerous turn, her new-found loyalties are put to the test.

Esi Edugyan – Half blood blues



Chip told us not to go out. Said, don't you boys tempt the devil. But it been one brawl of a night, I tell you. The aftermath of the fall of Paris, 1940. Hieronymous Falk, a rising star on the cabaret scene, was arrested in a cafe and never heard from again. He was twenty years old. He was a German citizen. And he was black. Fifty years later, Sid, Hiero's bandmate and the only witness that day, is going back to Berlin. Persuaded by his old friend Chip, Sid discovers there's more to the journey than he thought when Chip shares a mysterious letter, bringing to the surface secrets buried since Hiero's fate was settled.

Esi Edugyan – Washington Black



When two English brothers take the helm of a Barbados sugar plantation, nervousness and fear run high. Washington Black – an 11-year-old field slave who has known no other life – is aghast to find himself selected as personal servant to one of these men. His new master is the eccentric Christopher Wilde – naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor and abolitionist – whose single-minded pursuit of the perfect aerial machine mystifies all around him. Through Wilde, Washington is initiated into a world of wonder: a world where even a boy born in chains may embrace a life of dignity and meaning.

Emily Edwards – The herd



Elizabeth and Bryony are polar opposites but their unexpected friendship has always worked. They're the best of friends, and godmothers to each other's daughters – because they trust that the safety of their children is both of their top priority. Little do they know that they differ radically over one very important issue. And when Bryony, afraid of being judged, tells what is supposed to be a harmless white lie before a child's birthday party, the consequences are more catastrophic than either of them could ever have imagined.

Rachel Elliott – Whispers through a megaphone



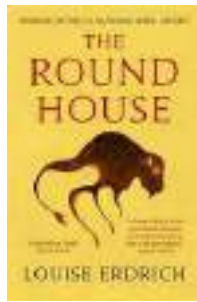
Miriam hasn't left her house in three years and cannot raise her voice above a whisper. She still lives in the shadow of her dead mother. But today she has had enough and is finally ready to rejoin the outside world. Meanwhile, Ralph has discovered that his wife Sadie doesn't love him, so he decides to leave his home. Miriam and Ralph's chance meeting in a wood during a summer storm leads to an unusual friendship, and quirky twists. Rachel Elliott's loveable characters confront the hardest things in life with delicious humour and steady courage. Because sometimes, our over-connected world can seem too much for just one person.

Ben Elton – Two brothers



Two Brothers is the story of two boys growing up under the darkening shadow of the Nazis. Born in Berlin in 1920 and raised by the same parents, one boy is Jewish, his adopted brother is Aryan. At first, their origins are irrelevant. But as the political landscape changes they are forced to make decisions with horrifying consequences.

Louise Erdrich – The round house



A mother is brutally raped by a man on their North Dakota reservation where she lives with her husband and thirteen-year-old son, Joe. Traumatized and afraid, she takes to her bed and refuses to talk to anyone – including the police.

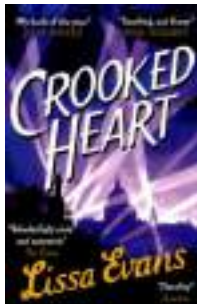
While her husband, a tribal judge, endeavours to wrest justice from a situation that defies his keenest efforts, young Joe's world shifts on its child's axis. Confused, and nursing a complicated fury, Joe sets out to find answers that might put his mother's attacker behind bars – and make everything right again. Or so he hopes.

Alison Espach – The wedding people



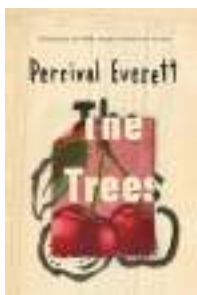
It's a beautiful day in Newport, Rhode Island, when Phoebe Stone arrives at a grand beachside hotel wearing her best dress and least comfortable shoes. Immediately she is mistaken by everyone in the lobby for one of the wedding people – but she's actually the only guest at the Cornwall Inn who isn't here for the big event. Phoebe has dreamed of coming here for years. She hoped to shuck oysters and take sunset sails with her husband but now she is divorced and depressed, and not sure how to go on. When the bride discovers her elaborate destination wedding could be ruined by this sad stranger, she is furious.

Lissa Evans – Crooked heart



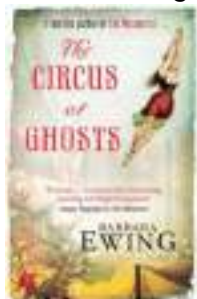
When Noel Bostock is evacuated from London to escape the Blitz, he ends up living in St Albans with Vera Sedge, a 36 year old drowning in debts and dependents. Always desperate for money, she's unscrupulous about how she gets it. The war's thrown up new opportunities but what Vee needs (and has never had) is a cool head and the ability to make a plan. On her own, she's a disaster. With Noel, she's a team. Together they cook up an idea. Criss-crossing the bombed suburbs of London, Vee starts to make a profit and Noel begins to regain his interest in life. But there are plenty of other people making money out of the war and some of them are dangerous ...

Percival Everett – The trees



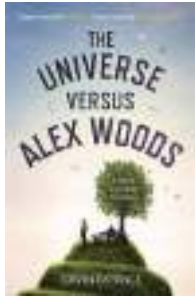
When a pair of detectives arrive in the rural town of Money to investigate a series of brutal murders, they meet resistance from the local sheriff, his deputy, the coroner, and a string of racist White townsfolk. The murders present a puzzle, for at each crime scene there is a second dead body: that of a man who resembles Emmett Till, a young black boy lynched in the same town 65 years before. The detectives suspect that these are killings of retribution, but soon discover that eerily similar murders are taking place all over the country. Something truly strange is afoot.

Barbara Ewing – The circus of ghosts



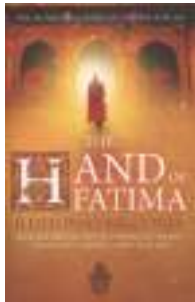
New York late 1840s: an exciting, brazen, young city with new money, people and ideas: the telegraph, the daguerreotype, anaesthesia, spiritualism, table-tapping. And in Silas P. Swift's brash and beautiful circus a mother and daughter hide their damaged hearts and excite huge audiences in the Big Top: one a shadowy mesmerist who can heal other people (but not herself); the other an acrobat and tightrope-walker who soars above New York. But in London memories fester in the mind of an old duke of the realm who plots with an unscrupulous lawyer against the mother and daughter: to kill one and abduct the other across the Atlantic.

Gavin Extence – The universe versus Alex Woods



Alex Woods knows that he hasn't had the most conventional start in life. He knows that growing up with a clairvoyant mother won't endear him to the local bullies. He also knows that even the most improbable events can happen – he's got the scars to prove it. What he doesn't know yet is that when he meets reclusive Mr Peterson, he'll make an unlikely friend. Someone who tells him that you only get one shot at life. That you have to make the best choices. So when, aged 17, Alex is stopped at Dover customs with 113 grams of marijuana, an urn full of ashes on the passenger seat, and an entire nation in uproar, he's fairly sure he's done the right thing...

Ildefonso Falcones – The hand of Fatima



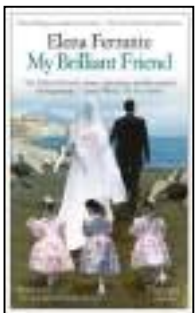
1564, the Kingdom of Granada. After years of Christian oppression, the Moors take arms and daub the white houses as Sierra Nevada with the blood of their victims. Amidst the conflict is young Hernando, the son of an Arab Woman and the Christian priest who raped her. He is despised and regularly beaten by his own step-father for his 'tainted' heritage. Fuelled with the love of the beautiful Fatima, Hernando hatches a plan to unite the two warring faiths – and the two halves of his identity ...

Ben Fergusson – The other Hoffmann sister



For Ingrid Hoffmann the story of her sister's disappearance began in their first weeks in Southwest Africa... Ingrid Hoffmann has always felt responsible for her sister Margarete and when their family moves to German Southwest Africa in 1902, her anxieties only increase. The casual racism that pervades the German community, the strange relationship between her parents and Baron von Ketz, from whom they bought their land, and the tension with the local tribes all culminate in tragedy when Baron von Ketz is savagely murdered...

Elena Ferrante – My brilliant friend



A modern masterpiece from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, *My Brilliant Friend* is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. The story begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. They are likewise the embodiments of a nation undergoing momentous change.

Nathan Filer – The shock of the fall



While on vacation with their parents, Matthew and his older brother sneak out in the middle of the night. Only Matthew comes home safely. Ten years later, Matthew tells us he has found a way to bring his brother back...

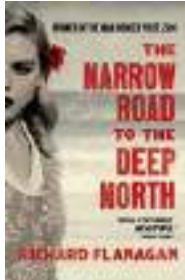
What begins as the story of a lost boy turns into a story of a brave man yearning to understand what happened that night, in the years since, and to his very person. Unafraid to look at the shadows of our hearts, Nathan Filer's rare and brilliant debut *The Shock of the Fall* shows us the strength that is rooted in resilience and love.

F Scott Fitzgerald – The great Gatsby



Nick Carraway rents a property on Long Island, where the new moneyed class are given to ostentatious displays of wealth. None more so than the mysterious Jay Gatsby, a man who throws lavish parties for uninvited guests; an elusive figure who remains in the shadows while others speculate about his past. After befriending his enigmatic neighbour, Nick helps reconnect Gatsby with his lost love Daisy Buchanan, now married and living tantalizingly close by. The rekindling of their passion has explosive ramifications, while the secrets of Gatsby's murky past are finally revealed.

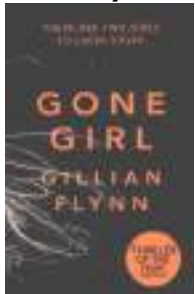
Richard Flanagan – The narrow road to the deep north



Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2014

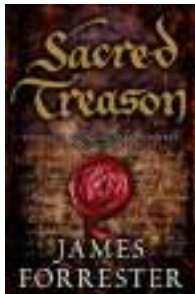
In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Burma Death Railway, surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever. This is a story about the many forms of love and death, of war and truth, as one man comes of age, prospers, only to discover all that he has lost.

Gillian Flynn – Gone girl



Just how well can you ever know the person you love? This is the question that Nick Dunne must ask himself on the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, when his wife Amy suddenly disappears. The police immediately suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they aren't his. And then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone. What did really happen to Nick's beautiful wife? And what was left in that half-wrapped box left so casually on their marital bed? In this novel, marriage truly is the art of war...

James Forrester – Sacred treason



London, 1563. England is a troubled nation. Catholic plots against the young Queen Elizabeth spring up all over the country. The herald William Harley – known to everyone as Clarenceux – receives a book from his friend and fellow Catholic, Henry Machyn. But Machyn is in fear of his life... What secret can the book hold? And then Clarenceux is visited by the State in the form of Francis Walsingham and his ruthless enforcers, who will stop at nothing to gain possession of it. If Clarenceux and his family are to survive the terror of the state, he must solve the clues contained in the book to unlock its dangerous secrets before it's too late.

E.M. Forster – A room with a view



Lucy has her rigid, middle-class life mapped out for her until she visits Florence with her uptight cousin Charlotte and finds her neatly ordered existence thrown off balance. Her eyes are opened by the unconventional characters she meets at the Pension Bertolini: flamboyant romantic novelist Eleanor Lavish, the Cockney Signora, curious Mr Emerson and, most of all, his passionate son George. Lucy finds herself torn between the intensity of life in Italy and the repressed morals of Edwardian England, personified in her terminally dull fiancé Cecil Vyse. Will she ever learn to follow her own heart?

Kate Forsyth – The wild girl



Once there were six sisters. The pretty one, the musical one, the clever one, the helpful one, the young one ... And then there was the Wild One. Dortchen Wild has loved Wilhelm Grimm since she was a young girl. Under the forbidding shadow of her father and the tyranny of Napoleon's army, the pair meet secretly to piece together a magical fairy tale collection. The story behind the stories of the Brothers Grimm.

Kate Foster – The maiden



Edinburgh, October 1679. Lady Christian Nimmo is arrested and charged with the murder of her lover, James Forrester. News of her imprisonment and subsequent trial is splashed across the broadsides, with headlines that leave little room for doubt: Adulteress. Whore. Murderess. Only a year before, Christian was leading a life of privilege and respectability. So, what led her to risk everything for an affair? And does that make her guilty of murder? She wasn't the only woman in Forrester's life, and certainly not the only one who might have had cause to wish him dead.

Karen Joy Fowler – We are all completely beside ourselves



Rosemary is now an only child, but she used to have a sister the same age as her, and an older brother. Both are now gone – vanished from her life. There's something unique about Rosemary's sister, Fern. And it was this decision, made by her parents, to give Rosemary a sister like no other, that began all of Rosemary's trouble. So now she's telling her story: full of hilarious asides and brilliantly spiky lines, it's a looping narrative that begins towards the end, and then goes back to the beginning. Twice. It's funny, clever, intimate, honest, analytical and swirling with ideas that will come back to bite you.

Therese Fowler – A well-behaved woman



Alva Smith, her Southern family destitute after the Civil War, married into one of America's great Gilded Age dynasties: the newly wealthy but socially shunned Vanderbilts. Ignored by New York's old-money circles and determined to win respect, she designed and built nine mansions, hosted grand balls, and arranged for her daughter to marry a duke. But Alva also defied convention for women of her time, asserting power within her marriage and becoming a leader in the women's suffrage movement. With a nod to Jane Austen and Edith Wharton, Therese Anne Fowler paints a glittering world and an unforgettable story of a remarkable woman.

Essie Fox – Elijah's mermaid



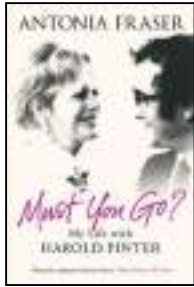
Since she was found as a baby floating in the Thames one foggy night, the web-toed Pearl has been brought up in a brothel known as the House of Mermaids. Cosseted and pampered there, it is only when her fourteenth birthday approaches that Pearl realises she is to be sold to the highest bidder. Meanwhile, orphaned twins, Lily and Elijah, have shared an idyllic childhood, raised in a secluded country house with their grandfather, Augustus Lamb. But when Lily and Elijah go on a visit London, a chance meeting with Pearl will have repercussions for all of them, binding their fates together...

Sarah Franklin – Shelter



Connie Granger has escaped the devastation of her bombed out city home. She has found work in the Women's Timber Corps, and for her, this remote community must now serve a secret purpose. Seppe, an Italian prisoner of war, is haunted by his memories. But in the forest camp, he finds a strange kind of freedom. In each other they find the means to imagine their own lives anew, and to face that which each fears the most. But outside their haven, the world is ravaged by war and old certainties are crumbling. Both Connie and Seppe must make a life-defining choice which threatens their fragile existence.

Antonia Fraser – Must you go? My life with Harold Pinter



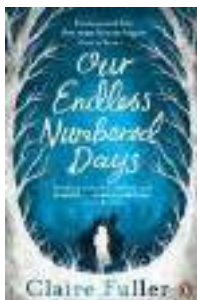
When Antonia Fraser met Harold Pinter she was a celebrated biographer and he was Britain's finest playwright. Both were already married but their union seemed inevitable. Their relationship flourished until Pinter's death on Christmas Eve 2008 and was a source of delight and inspiration to them both until the very end. Fraser uses her Diaries and her own recollections to tell a touching love story. But this is also a memoir of a partnership between two of the greatest literary talents, with fascinating glimpses into their creativity and their illustrious circle of friends from the literary, political and theatrical world.

Tana French – The secret place



The photo shows a boy who was murdered a year ago. The caption says, 'I KNOW WHO KILLED HIM'. Detective Stephen Moran hasn't seen Holly Mackey since she was a 9-year-old witness to the events of Faithful Place. Now she's 16 and she's shown up outside his squad room, with a photograph and a story. Even in her exclusive boarding school, in the graceful golden world that Stephen has always longed for, bad things happen and people have secrets...

Claire Fuller – Our endless numbered days



Winner of the Desmond Elliott Prize 2015

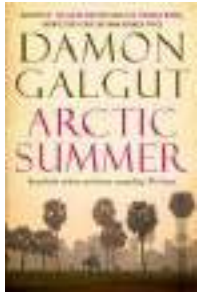
1976: Peggy Hillcoat is eight. She spends her summer camping with her father, playing her beloved record of *The Railway Children* and listening to her mother's grand piano, but her pretty life is about to change. Her survivalist father, who has been stockpiling provisions for the end which is surely coming soon, takes her from London to a cabin in a remote European forest. There he tells Peggy the rest of the world has disappeared. Her life is reduced to a piano which makes music but no sound, a forest where all that grows is a means of survival. And a tiny wooden hut that is everything.

Patrick Gale – A place called Winter



A shy but privileged elder son, Harry Cane has followed convention at every step. Even the beginnings of an illicit, dangerous affair do little to shake the foundations of his muted existence - until the shock of discovery and the threat of arrest force him to abandon his wife and child and sign up for emigration to Canada. Remote and unforgiving, his allotted homestead in a place called Winter is a world away from the golden suburbs of turn-of-the-century Edwardian England. And yet it is here, isolated in a seemingly harsh landscape, that the fight for survival will reveal in Harry an inner strength and capacity for love beyond anything he has ever known before.

Damon Galgut – Arctic summer



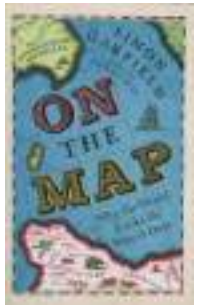
A fictionalised biography of English author E.M. Forster, *Arctic Summer* focuses on Forster's many years in India and the process of writing his masterpiece, *A Passage to India*. This finely-wrought novel also addresses Forster's unforgiving childhood in England and the homosexuality he feared and repressed throughout his life. Galgut is a master at constructing strange, compelling landscapes, and *Arctic Summer* shifts seamlessly between staid, restricting England and Cairo and vibrant, pleasantly absurd India. Moments of gentle humour shine through the sparse prose, lending Forster a humanity that makes his story all the more heartbreaking.

Sally Gardner – The weather woman



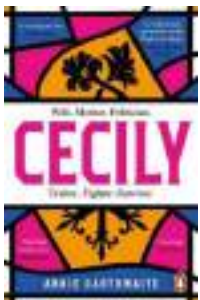
Neva Friezland is born with an extraordinary gift. She can predict the weather. In Regency England, where the proper goal for a gentlewoman is marriage and only God knows the weather, this is dangerous. It is also potentially very lucrative. In order to debate with the men of science and move about freely, Neva adopts a sophisticated male disguise. She foretells the weather from inside an automaton created by her brilliant clockmaker father. But what will happen when the disguised Neva falls in love with a charismatic young man? It can be very dangerous to be ahead of your time. Especially as a woman.

Simon Garfield – On the map: why the world looks the way it does



Maps fascinate us. They chart our understanding of the world and they log our progress, but above all they tell our stories. From the early sketches of philosophers and explorers through to Google Maps and beyond, Simon Garfield examines how maps both relate and realign our history. With a historical sweep ranging from Ptolemy to Twitter, Garfield explores the legendary, impassable (and non-existent) mountains of Kong, the role of cartography in combating cholera, how a Venetian monk mapped the world from his cell and the Muppets' knack of instant map-travel. Along the way are pocket maps of dragons, Mars, murders and more.

Annie Garthwaite – Cecily



'Rebellion?' The word is a spark. They can start a fire with it or smother it in their fingertips. She chooses to start a fire. You are born high but marry a traitor's son. You bear him twelve children, carry his cause and bury his past. You play the game, against enemies who wish you ashes. Slowly, you rise. You are Cecily. But when the King who governs you proves unfit, what then? Loyalty or treason – death may follow both. The board is set. Time to make your first move. Told through the eyes of its greatest unknown protagonist, this astonishing debut plunges you into the blood and exhilaration of the first days of the Wars of the Roses, a war as women fight it.

Eileen Garvin – The music of bees



Three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town, each working through grief and life's curveballs, are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing – and maybe even a second chance – just when they least expect it.

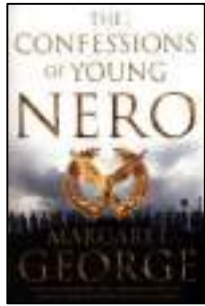
Beautifully moving, warm and uplifting, *The Music of Bees* is about the power of friendship, compassion in the face of loss, and finding the courage to start over (at any age) when things don't turn out the way you expect.

Amanda Geard – The midnight house



1940. In south-west Ireland, the young and beautiful Lady Charlotte Rathmore is pronounced dead after she mysteriously disappears by the lake of Blackwater Hall. In London, Nancy Rathmore is grieving Charlotte's death when a letter arrives containing a secret that she is sworn to keep – one that will change her life for ever. 2019. Decades later, Ellie Fitzgerald is forced to leave Dublin disgraced and heartbroken. Abandoning journalism, she returns to rural Kerry to weather out the storm. But, when she discovers a faded letter, tucked inside the pages of an old book, she finds herself drawn in by a long-buried secret.

Margaret George – The confessions of young Nero



As a boy, Nero's royal heritage becomes a threat to his very life, first when the mad emperor Caligula tries to drown him, then when his great aunt attempts to secure her own son's inheritance. Faced with shocking acts of treachery, young Nero is dealt a harsh lesson: it is better to be cruel than dead. While Nero idealises the artistic and athletic principles of Greece, his very survival rests on his ability to navigate the sea of vipers that is Rome. Most lethal of all is his own mother, Agrippina, whose only goal is to control the empire. Nero's determination to escape her thrall will shape him into the man he was fated to become – a legendary Emperor.

Elisabeth Gifford – A woman made of snow



Scotland, 1949: Caroline Gillan and her new husband Alasdair have moved back to Kelly Castle, his dilapidated family estate. Caroline feels adrift, alone and unwelcome. But when she is tasked with sorting out the family archives, Caroline discovers a century-old mystery that sparks her back to life. There is one Gillan bride who is completely unknown – the only thing that is certain is that she had a legitimate child. Alasdair's grandmother. As Caroline uncovers a strange story, her desire to find the truth turns obsessive. And when a body is found in the grounds of the castle, her hunt becomes more than just a case of curiosity.

Elizabeth Gilbert – The signature of all things



Everything about life intrigues Alma Whittaker. Instilled with an unquenchable sense of wonder by her father, a botanical explorer and the richest man in the New World, Alma is raised in a house of luxury and curiosity. It is not long before she becomes a gifted botanist in her own right. But as she flourishes and her research takes her deeper into the mysteries of evolution, the man she comes to love draws her in the opposite direction – into the realm of the spiritual, the divine and the magical. *The Signature of All Things* soars across the globe of the nineteenth century, from London and Peru, to Philadelphia, Tahiti and beyond.

Jennie Godfrey – The list of suspicious things



Yorkshire, 1979. Miv is convinced that her dad wants to move their family *Down South*. Because of the murders. Leaving Yorkshire and her best friend Sharon simply isn't an option, no matter the dangers lurking round their way; or the strangeness at home that started the day Miv's mum stopped talking. Perhaps if she could solve the case of the disappearing women, they could stay after all? So, Miv and Sharon decide to make a list: a list of all the suspicious people and things down their street. People they know. People they don't. But their search for the truth reveals more secrets than they ever thought possible.

Luan Goldie – Nightingale Point



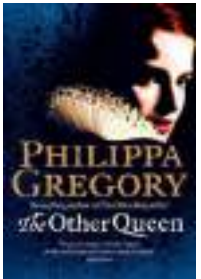
On an ordinary Saturday morning in 1996, the residents of Nightingale Point wake up to their normal lives and worries. Mary has a secret life that no one knows about, not even Malachi and Tristan, the brothers she vowed to look after. It's a day like any other, until something extraordinary happens. When the sun sets, Nightingale Point is irrevocably changed and somehow, through the darkness, the residents must find a way back to lightness, and back to each other.

Linda Green – The last thing she told me



Moments before she dies, Nicola's grandmother Betty whispers to her that there are babies at the bottom of the garden. Nicola's mother claims she was talking nonsense. However, when Nicola's daughter finds a bone while playing in Betty's garden, it's clear that something sinister has taken place. But will unearthing painful family secrets end up tearing Nicola's family apart?

Philippa Gregory – The other queen



Mary, Queen of Scots, trusted Queen Elizabeth's promise of sanctuary when she fled from rebels in Scotland but found herself imprisoned as the "guest" of the Earl of Shrewsbury, and his indomitable wife, Bess of Hardwick. The newly married couple welcome the doomed queen into their home, certain that serving as her hosts and jailers will bring them an advantage in the Elizabethan court. To their horror, they find that the task will bankrupt them, and as their home becomes the epicentre of intrigue and rebellion against Elizabeth, their loyalty to each other and to their sovereign comes into question.

Julia Gregson – Jasmine nights



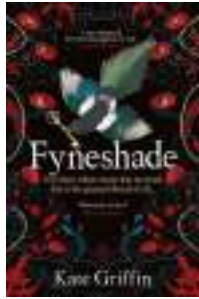
1942 and the world is at war. In a burns hospital in Sussex, a beautiful young singer performs to a ward full of injured soldiers. Saba is captivating and one pilot, Dom, shudders as her gaze turns his way. He can't bear her to see his scars but resolves to write to her once they have healed. The world is on the brink of enormous change. Saba's journey as a singer with ENSA takes her to the fading glamour of Alexandria and the heat and decadence of Turkey. On the glamorous Middle Eastern social circuit, Saba rubs shoulders with double agents and diplomats, movie stars and smugglers. Some want her voice, some her friendship, and some the secrets she is perfectly placed to discover.

Kate Grenville – A room made of leaves



It is 1788. When twenty-one-year-old Elizabeth marries the arrogant and hot-headed soldier John Macarthur, she soon realises she has made a terrible mistake. Forced to travel with him to New South Wales, she arrives to find Sydney Town a brutal, dusty, hungry place of makeshift shelters, failing crops, scheming and rumours. All her life she has learned to fold herself up small. Now, in the vast landscapes of an unknown continent, Elizabeth has to discover a strength she never imagined, and passions she could never express.

Kate Griffin – Fyneshade



On the day of her beloved grandmother's funeral, Marta discovers that she is to become governess to the young daughter of Sir William Pritchard. Marta has no choice but to journey to Pritchard's ancient and crumbling house, Fyneshade, in the wilds of Derbyshire. All is not well at Fyneshade. Sir William is mysteriously absent, and his son and heir Vaughan is forbidden to enter the house. Marta finds herself drawn to Vaughan, despite the warnings of the housekeeper that he is a danger to all around him. But Marta is no innocent to be preyed upon. Guided by the dark gift taught to her by her grandmother, she has made her own plans.

Heather Gudenkauf – One breath away



'He has a gun.'

'Who? Tell me, where are you? Who has a gun?'

'I love you, Mum.'

An ordinary school day in March, snowflakes falling, classroom freezing, kids squealing with delight, locker-doors slamming. Then the shooting started. No-one dared take one breath... He's holding a gun to your child's head. One wrong answer and he says he'll shoot. This morning you waved goodbye to your child. What would you have said if you'd known it might be the last time?

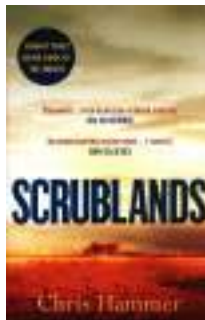
Isabella Hammad – The Parisian



Midhat Kamal – dreamer, romantic, aesthete – leaves Palestine in 1914 to study medicine in France, under the tutelage of Dr Molineu. He falls deeply in love with Jeannette, the doctor's daughter. But Midhat soon discovers that everything is fragile: love turns to loss, friends become enemies and everyone is looking for a place to belong.

Through Midhat's eyes we see the tangled politics and personal tragedies of a turbulent era – the Palestinian struggle for independence, the strife of the early twentieth century, and the looming shadow of the Second World War.

Chris Hammer – Scrublands



Winner of the CWA John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger Award 2019

In a country town ravaged by drought, a charismatic priest opens fire on his congregation, killing five men before being shot himself. Later, journalist Martin Scarsden arrives to write a feature on the anniversary of the tragedy. But the stories he hears from the locals don't fit with the accepted version of events. As Martin believes he is making headway, a shocking discovery rocks the town. The bodies of two backpackers – missing since the time of the massacre – are found. Martin finds himself taking risks to uncover a truth that becomes more complex with every twist.

Kristin Hannah – The nightingale



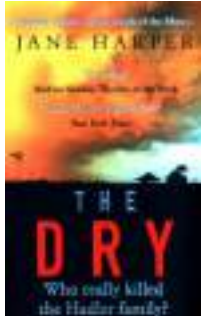
Despite their differences, sisters Viann and Isabelle have always been close. Younger, bolder Isabelle lives in Paris while Viann is content with life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. But when the Second World War strikes, Antoine is sent off to fight and Viann finds herself isolated, so Isabelle is sent by their father to help her. As the war progresses, the sisters' relationship is tested. With life changing in horrific ways, the sisters will find themselves facing frightening situations and responding in ways they never thought possible as bravery and resistance take different forms in each of their actions.

Louise Hare – This lovely city



With London reeling from war, jazz musician Lawrie Matthews has answered England's call for help. Fresh off the Empire Windrush, he's taken a tiny room in south London, and has fallen in love with the girl next door. Lawrie has poured his heart into his new home and it's alive with possibility. Until, one morning, he makes a terrible discovery. As the local community rallies, fingers of blame are pointed at those who had recently been welcomed with open arms. And, before long, the newest arrivals become the prime suspects in a tragedy which threatens to tear the city apart.

Jane Harper – The dry



Winner of the CWA Gold Dagger Award 2017

Amid the worst drought to ravage Australia in a century, it hasn't rained in small country town Kiewarra for two years. Tensions in the community become unbearable when three members of the Hadler family are brutally murdered. Everyone thinks Luke Hadler, who committed suicide after slaughtering his wife and six-year-old son, is guilty. Policeman Aaron Falk returns to the town of his youth for the funeral of his childhood best friend, and is unwillingly drawn into the investigation.

Oliver Harris – The hollow man



Detective Nick Belsey is broke. Now it looks like he's out of a job – something happened last night, something with the boss's wife...At dawn, on what should be the last day of Belsey's career, Hampstead CID is ghostly quiet. Belsey checks the overnight files. There's a missing-person report. But this one's different. It's on the Bishops Avenue, London's richest street. Belsey sees a scam, an escape route. But he hasn't got there first.

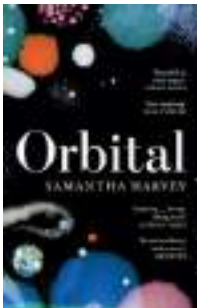
Melissa Harrison – At hawthorn time



It is dawn on a May morning. On a long, straight Roman road between two sleeping fields, a car slows as it arrives at the scene of an accident. As the lives of four people coalesce, we realise that mysterious layers of history are not only buried within them but also locked into the landscape.

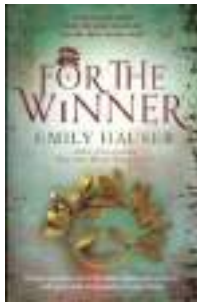
A captivating novel of immense clarity, *At Hawthorn Time* is about identity, consumerism, changing boundaries and our own long, straight path into the unknown.

Samantha Harvey – Orbital



Six astronauts rotate in their spacecraft above the Earth. They are there to collect meteorological data, conduct scientific experiments and test the limits of the human body. But mostly they observe. Endless shows of spectacular beauty witnessed in a single day. Yet although separated from the world they cannot escape its pull. News reaches them of the death of a mother, and with it comes thoughts of returning home. They look on as a typhoon gathers over an island and people they love, in awe and fear. The fragility of human life fills their conversations, their fears, their dreams. So far from Earth, they have never felt more part – or protective – of it.

Emily Hauser – For the winner



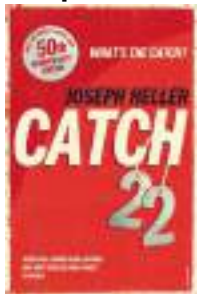
Some 3,000 years ago, the warriors of Greece journeyed to the ends of the earth in the quest for the Golden Fleece. When the king of Pagasae left his infant daughter on the slopes of a mountain to die, he believed he would never see her again. But Atalanta, against the will of the gods and the dictates of the Fates, survived and went on to bring to life one of the greatest legends of all of ancient Greece. Here then is the legend of Jason and the Argonauts as never told before: the story of the princess who sailed and fought alongside Jason and Theseus and Peleus, and who ultimately ran a race that would decide her destiny.

Emma Healey – Elizabeth is missing



Meet Maud. Maud is forgetful. She makes a cup of tea and doesn't remember to drink it. She goes to the shops and forgets why she went. Sometimes her home is unrecognizable – or her daughter Helen seems a total stranger. But there's one thing Maud is sure of: her friend Elizabeth is missing. The note in her pocket tells her so. And no matter who tells her to stop going on about it, to leave it alone, to shut up, Maud will get to the bottom of it. Because somewhere in Maud's damaged mind lies the answer to an unsolved seventy-year-old mystery. One everyone has forgotten about. Everyone, except Maud...

Joseph Heller – Catch-22



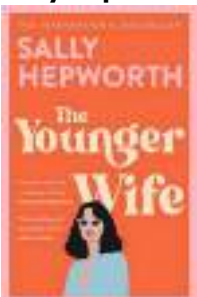
Set in the closing months of World War II, this is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. His real problem is not the enemy – it is his own army which keeps increasing the number of missions the men must fly to complete their service. If Yossarian makes any attempts to excuse himself from the perilous missions then he is caught in Catch-22: if he flies, he is crazy and doesn't have to; but if he doesn't want to, he must be sane and has to. That's some catch ...

Ernest Hemingway – For whom the bell tolls – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



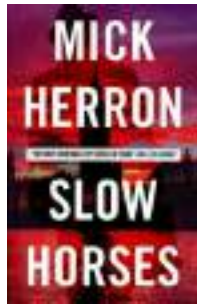
High in the pine forests of the Spanish Sierra, a guerrilla band prepares to blow up a vital bridge. Robert Jordan, a young American volunteer, has been sent to handle the dynamiting. There, in the mountains, he finds the dangers and the intense comradeship of war. And there he discovers Maria, a young woman who has escaped from Franco's rebels. Like many of his novels adapted into a major Hollywood film, *For whom the bell tolls* is one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century by one of the greatest American writers.

Sally Hepworth – The younger wife



Tully and Rachel are murderous when they discover their father has a new girlfriend. The fact that Heather is half his age isn't even the most shocking part. Stephen is still married to their mother, who is in a care facility with end-stage Alzheimer's disease. Announcing his plan to divorce and then remarry, the news of Stephen and Heather's engagement sets a chain a family implosion. Tully and Rachel are determined to get to the truth about their family's secrets and what this new woman really wants. Heather knows she has an uphill battle to win over Tully and Rachel, all the while carrying the burden of the secrets of her past. But they are all hiding something ...

Mick Herron – Slow horses



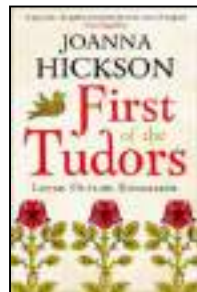
Slough House is a dumping ground for members of the intelligence service who've screwed up: left a service file on a train, say, blown a surveillance, or become drunkenly unreliable. They're the service's poor relations – the slow horses – and most bitter among them is River Cartwright, whose days are spent transcribing mobile phone conversations. But when a young man is abducted, and his kidnappers threaten to behead him live on the internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem himself. But is the victim who he first appears to be? And what's the kidnappers' connection with a disgraced journalist?

Deborah Hewitt – The nightjar



Alice Wyndham has been plagued by visions of birds her whole life, and only her best friend Jen understands her terror. So, when an accident leaves Jen in a coma, Alice is devastated. Then the mysterious Crowley reveals that Alice is an aviarist: capable of seeing nightjars, magical birds that guard human souls. And Jen's nightjar has already flown to Death's aviary, the Black Menagerie. Unless Jen and her soul bird can be reunited, she won't recover – and only Alice can save her.

Joanna Hickson – First of the Tudors



Jasper Tudor has grown up far from the intrigue of the royal court. But after he and his brother Edmund are summoned to London, their half-brother, King Henry VI, takes a keen interest in their future. Bestowing Earldoms on them both, Henry also gives them the wardship of the young heiress Margaret Beaufort. Although she is still a child, Jasper becomes devoted to her and is devastated when Henry arranges her betrothal to Edmund. He seeks solace in the arms of Jane Hywel, who offers him something more meaningful than a dynastic marriage. But passion turns to jeopardy for them both as the Wars of the Roses wreak havoc on the realm.

Susan Hill – The woman in black



The classic English ghost story

Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House. The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black – and her terrible purpose.

S.E. Hinton – The outsiders – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



According to Ponyboy you're either a Greaser or a Soc. Coming from the wrong side of town, he's a Greaser and his high school rivals are the Socs – the kids who have the money, the attitude and can get away with anything. The Socs love to spend their time beating up the Greasers, but Ponyboy and his friends know what to expect and stick together. But one night someone goes too far, and Ponyboy's world begins to crumble.

Antonia Hodgson – The devil in the Marshalsea



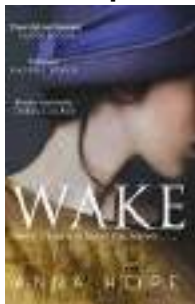
London, 1727. Tom Hawkins is about to fall from his heaven of card games, brothels and coffee-houses to the hell of a debtors' prison. The Marshalsea is a savage world with simple rules. The trouble is, Tom Hawkins has never been good at following rules. And the recent grisly murder of a debtor, Captain Roberts, has brought further terror to the gaol. While the Captain's beautiful widow cries for justice the finger of suspicion points only one way: to the sly enigmatic figure of Samuel Fleet. Some call Fleet a devil, a man to avoid at all costs. But Tom Hawkins is sharing his cell. Soon Tom's choice is clear: get to the truth of the murder – or be the next to die.

Alice Hoffman – The marriage of opposites



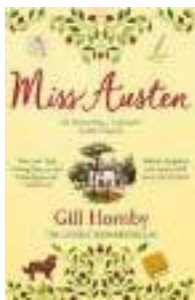
The daughter of a merchant, Rachel is married off to a local widower, whose business will help her father's. When her husband dies unexpectedly, his 22-year-old nephew, Frederick, arrives from France to settle the estate, only to fall passionately in love with both Rachel and the glorious island of her birth. Their love sparks a scandal in the little town – one that has reverberations halfway across the globe. One of the children of this union is Jacobo Camille Pissarro who, inspired by his mother's iron will and faith in her own heart, will grow up to become one of the founders of Impressionism.

Anna Hope – Wake



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

Gill Hornby – Miss Austen



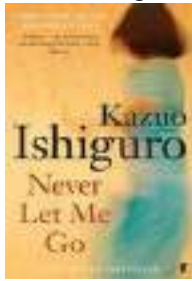
1840: twenty-three years after the death of her famous sister Jane, Cassandra Austen returns to the village of Kintbury, and the home of her family's friends, the Fowles. She knows that, in some dusty corner of the sprawling vicarage, there is a cache of family letters which hold secrets she can never allow to be revealed. As Cassandra recalls her youth and her relationship with her brilliant yet complex sister, she pieces together buried truths about Jane's history, and her own. And she faces a stark choice: should she act to protect Jane's reputation, or leave the contents of the letters to go unguarded into posterity?

Khaled Hosseini – The kite runner



Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

Kazuo Ishiguro – Never let me go



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? It is only years later that Kathy, now aged 31, finally allows herself to yield to the pull of memory. What unfolds is the haunting story of how Kathy, Ruth and Tommy, slowly come to face the truth about their seemingly happy childhoods – and about their futures.

Emily Itami – Fault lines



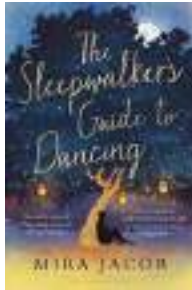
Mizuki has a hardworking husband, a beautiful apartment, two adorable children, and a crushing sense of loneliness. She loves her family but feels invisible in her marriage and trapped by the confines of domestic life. Then, one rainy night, she meets Kiyoshi, a successful restaurateur, and quickly finds herself falling for him. In their affair she finds passion, excitement and freedom – but how long can it last, and at what cost?

Shirley Jackson – Just an ordinary day



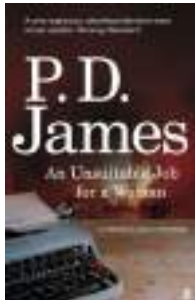
A remarkable collection of dark, funny and haunting short stories from the inimitable author of *The Lottery*. An anxious devil, an elderly writer of poison pen letters and a mid-century Jack the Ripper; a pursuit through a nightmarish city, a small boy's thrilling train ride with a female thief, and a town where the possibility of evil lurks behind perfect rose bushes. This is the world of Shirley Jackson, by turns frightening, funny, strange and unforgettably revealed in this brilliant collection of short stories.

Mira Jacob – The sleepwalker's guide to dancing



Celebrated brain surgeon Thomas Eapen has been sitting on his porch, talking to dead relatives. At least that is the story his wife, Kamala, prone to exaggeration, tells their daughter, Amina, a photographer living in Seattle. Reluctantly Amina returns home and finds a situation that is far more complicated than her mother let on, with roots in a trip the family took to India twenty years earlier. Confronted by Thomas's unwillingness to explain himself, strange looks from the hospital staff, and a series of puzzling items buried in her mother's garden, Amina soon realizes that the only way she can help her father is by coming to terms with her family's painful past.

P.D. James – An unsuitable job for a woman



Meet Cordelia Gray: twenty-two, tough, intelligent and now sole inheritor of the Pryde Detective Agency. Her first assignment finds her hired by Sir Ronald Callender to investigate the death of his son Mark, a young Cambridge student found hanged in mysterious circumstances. Cordelia is required to delve into the hidden secrets of the Callender family and soon realizes it is not a case of suicide, and that the truth is entirely more sinister.

P.D. James – The children of men – A BBC ‘Novel that shaped our world’



The year is 2021. No child has been born for twenty-five years. The human race faces extinction.

Under the despotic rule of Xan Lyppiat, the Warden of England, the old are despairing and the young cruel. Theo Faren, a cousin of the Warden, lives a solitary life in this ominous atmosphere. That is, until a chance encounter with a young woman leads him into contact with a group of dissenters. Suddenly his life is changed irrevocably as he faces agonising choices which could affect the future of mankind.

Anna Jaquiere – The lying-down room



Paris; in the stifling August heat, Commandant Serge Morel is called to a disturbing crime scene. An elderly woman has been murdered to the soundtrack of Fauré's *Requiem*, her body then grotesquely displayed. At first this strange case seems to offer few clues. As the investigation progresses, the key suspects to emerge are a middle-aged man and a mute teenage boy who have been delivering religious pamphlets in the city's suburbs. But as more elderly ladies are targeted, Morel will find his enquiries leading him back into the past, from the French countryside to Soviet Russia – and to two young boys with the most terrible of stories to tell ...

Amanda Jennings – In her wake



A tragic family event reveals devastating news that rips apart Bella's comfortable existence. Embarking on a personal journey to uncover the truth, she faces a series of traumatic discoveries that take her to the ruggedly beautiful Cornish coast, where hidden truths, past betrayals and a 25-year-old mystery threaten not just her identity, but her life. Chilling, complex and profoundly moving, *In Her Wake* is a gripping psychological thriller that questions the nature of family – and reminds us that sometimes the most shocking crimes are committed closest to home.

Deborah Johnson – The secret of magic



Regina Robichard works for Thurgood Marshall, who receives an unusual letter asking the NAACP to investigate the murder of a black war hero. It is from M.P. Calhoun, a reclusive author. As a child, Regina was captivated by Calhoun's novel *The Secret of Magic*, in which white and black children played together in a magical forest. The book was a sensation and banned more than any other book in the South. And then M.P. Calhoun disappeared. With Thurgood's permission, Regina heads down to Mississippi to find Calhoun and investigate the case. But she finds that nothing in the South is as it seems.

Katherine Johnson – Paris savages



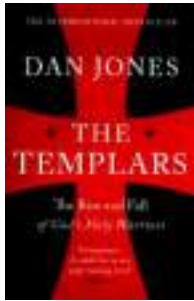
Fraser Island, 1882. The population of the Badtjala people is in sharp decline following a run of brutal massacres. When German scientist Louis Muller offers to sail three Badtjala people – Bonny, Jurano and Dorondera – to Europe to perform to huge crowds, the proud and headstrong Bonny agrees, hoping to bring his people's plight to the Queen of England. Accompanied by Muller's daughter, the group begins their journey to belle-epoque Europe to perform. While crowds in Europe are enthusiastic to see the unique dances and singing from the oldest culture in the world, the attention is relentless. When disaster strikes, Bonny must find a way to return home.

Jonas Jonasson – The hundred-year-old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared



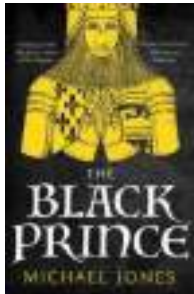
Allan is 100 years old today, but he doesn't want to stay around for his party in his care home, so he escapes out of the window. He becomes involved with a variety of characters along the way. All Allan really wants is somewhere to live, vodka and a bit of company, but he gets a great deal more than he has bargained for. The present-day narrative is interspersed with Allan's eventful back story. His expertise in the field of explosives has led him round the world, and he has come into contact with, among others, Mao Tse Tung, and Stalin...

Dan Jones – The Templars: the rise and fall of God's holy warriors



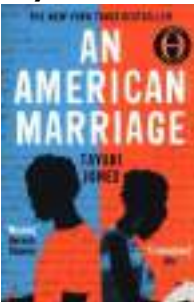
The Knights Templar were the wealthiest, most powerful – and most secretive – of the military orders that flourished in the crusading era. Their story – encompassing as it does the greatest international conflict of the Middle Ages, a network of international finance, a swift rise in wealth and influence followed by a bloody and humiliating fall – has left a comet's tail of mystery that continues to fascinate and inspire historians, novelists, and conspiracy theorists.

Michael Jones – The Black Prince



In 1346, at the age of 16, he helped defeat the French at Crécy; and in 1356 he captured the King of France at Poitiers. For the chronicler Jean Froissart, he was 'the flower of all chivalry'; for the Chandos Herald, who fought with him, he was 'the embodiment of all valour'. Edward of Woodstock, eldest son and heir of Edward III of England, better known as 'the Black Prince', was England's pre-eminent military leader during the first phase of the Hundred Years War. Michael Jones tells the tale of an authentic English hero, painting a memorable portrait of warfare and society in the tumultuous 14th century.

Tayari Jones – An American marriage



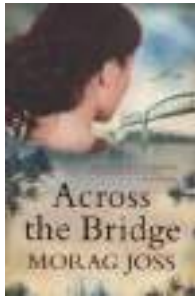
Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to 12 years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her centre.

Paterson Joseph – The secret diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho



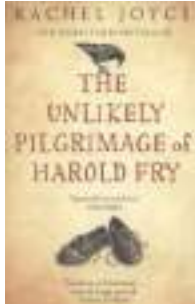
It's 1746 and Georgian London is not a safe place for a young Black man, especially one who has escaped slavery. The man he hoped would help – a kindly duke who taught him to write – is dying. Sancho is desperate and utterly alone. So how does Charles Ignatius Sancho meet the King, write and play highly acclaimed music, become the first Black person to vote in Britain and lead the fight to end slavery? It's time for him to tell his story, one that begins on a tempestuous Atlantic Ocean, and ends at the very centre of London life. And through it all, he must ask: born amongst death, how much can you achieve in one short life?

Morag Joss – Across the bridge



When a bridge collapses in the Highlands of Scotland, dozens of people vanish into the river below. A woman tourist's car was filmed pulling onto the bridge moments before it fell. Now numbered among the missing, the woman seizes her chance to start her life over. But her new path takes her no farther than a cabin on the riverbank, where she seeks rebirth and freedom. There she lives with Silva, an illegal immigrant whose husband and daughter have not been seen since the day of the bridge's collapse. The women are befriended by the boatman Ron, and together they create a fragile sanctuary. Lost souls all, they keep secrets from each other, yet connect in ways none of them expects.

Rachel Joyce – The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry



When Harold Fry nips out one morning to post a letter, leaving his wife hovering upstairs, he has no idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other. He has no hiking boots or map, let alone a compass, waterproof or mobile phone. All he knows is that he must keep walking to save someone else's life.

Sheena Kalayil – The bureau of second chances



After more than thirty years in London, recently-widowed Thomas Imbalil returns to India. He spends his first months in uncluttered isolation in his house overlooking the Arabian Sea, in a small fishing village in Kerala. But when he agrees to look after his friend's business, Chacko's Optical Store, he meets and befriends Rani, the young assistant. Before long he discovers that Rani is using the store to run an intriguing side-business. He agrees to turn a blind eye to her operations until his friend returns, but this discovery makes him restless, and reminds him of the loneliness he is feeling and which lies ahead of him.

Toshikazu Kawaguchi – Before the coffee gets cold



In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a cafe which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time. In this novel, we meet four visitors, each of whom is hoping to make use of the cafe's time-travelling offer. But the journey into the past does not come without risks: customers must sit in a particular seat, they cannot leave the cafe, and finally, they must return to the present before the coffee gets cold.

Erin Kelly – The burning air



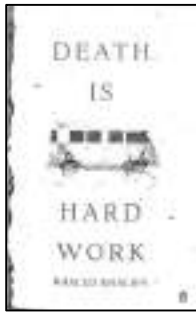
The MacBrides lead a life of privilege: good looks, a beautiful home, tuition-free education at the prestigious private school where Rowan is headmaster, an altruistic righteousness inherited from magistrate Lydia. But when Rowan and his 3 grown children gather for the first time since Lydia's passing at the family's weekend home – years of secrets surface, and they discover a stranger in their midst, who is convinced that Lydia was a murderer. A stranger who has been exacting vengeance upon the family for years without them ever knowing. And one who will threaten the youngest, baby Edie, and the clan's memory of Lydia, shattering their world forever.

Hannah Kent – Burial rites



In northern Iceland, 1829, Agnes Magnúsdóttir is condemned to death for her part in the brutal murder of her lover. Agnes is sent to wait out her final months on the farm of district office Jon Jonsson, his wife and their two daughters. Horrified to have a convicted murderer in their midst, the family avoid contact with Agnes. Only Toti, the young assistant priest appointed Agnes's spiritual guardian, is compelled to try to understand her.

Khaled Khalifah – Death is hard work



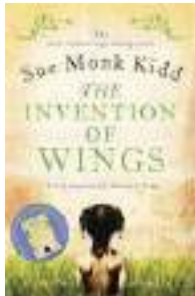
Before he dies, Abdel Latif he tells his youngest son Bolbol that his final wish is to be buried in the family plot in their ancestral village in the Aleppo region. Though Abdel Latif was not the ideal father, and though Bolbol is estranged from his siblings, he decides to persuade his older brother Hussein and his sister Fatima to accompany him and their father's body to Anabiya. But the country is a warzone. With the landscape of their childhood now a labyrinth of competing armies, the siblings' decision to set aside their differences and honour their father's request quickly escalates from a dutiful commitment into an epic and life-threatening quest.

Ausma Zehanat Khan – The unquiet dead



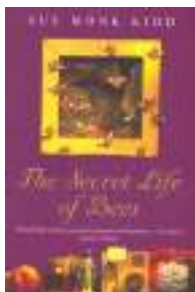
Scarborough Bluffs, Toronto: the body of Christopher Drayton is found at the foot of the cliffs. Muslim Detective Esa Khattak, head of the Community Policing Unit, and his partner Rachel Getty are called in to investigate. As the secrets of Drayton's role in the 1995 Srebrenica genocide of Bosnian Muslims surface, the harrowing significance of his death makes it difficult to remain objective. In a community haunted by the atrocities of war, anyone could be a suspect. And when the victim is a man with so many deaths to his name, could it be that justice has at long last been served?

Sue Monk Kidd – The invention of wings



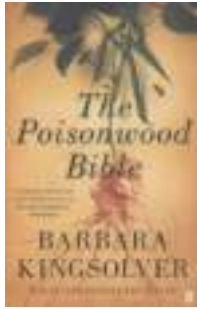
Sarah Grimke is the middle daughter. The one her mother calls difficult and her father calls remarkable. On Sarah's eleventh birthday, Hetty 'Handful' Grimke is taken from the slave quarters she shares with her mother, wrapped in lavender ribbons, and presented to Sarah as a gift. Sarah knows what she does next will unleash a world of trouble. She also knows that she cannot accept. And so, indeed, the trouble begins ... Inspired by real events, and set in the American Deep South in the nineteenth century, *The Invention of Wings* evokes a world of shocking contrasts, of righteous people living daily with cruelty; and celebrates the power of friendship.

Sue Monk Kidd – The secret life of bees



Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was just 4 years old. Now, at 14, she yearns for forgiveness and a mother's love. Living in a peach farm in South Carolina with her harsh father, she has only 1 friend, Rosaleen, a black servant. When racial tension explodes one summer, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily has to act. Fugitives from justice, the pair follow a trail left by the woman who died ten years before. Finding sanctuary in the home of 3 beekeeping sisters, Lily starts a journey as much about her understanding of the world as the mystery surrounding her mother.

Barbara Kingsolver – The Poisonwood Bible



Barbara Kingsolver's international bestseller tells the story of a missionary family in the Congo during a poignant chapter in African history. It spins the tale of the fierce evangelical Baptist, Nathan Price, who takes his wife and four daughters on a missionary journey into the heart of darkness of the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them to Africa all they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it – from garden seeds to the King James Bible – is calamitously transformed on African soil. Told from the perspective of the five women, this is a compelling exploration of African history, religion, family, and the many paths to redemption.

Carolyn Kirby – The conviction of Cora Burns



Born in a gaol and raised in a workhouse, Cora Burns has always struggled to control the violence inside her. Haunted by memories of a terrible crime, she seeks a new life working as a servant in the house of scientist Thomas Jerwood. Here, Cora befriends a young girl, Violet, who seems to be the subject of a living experiment. But is Jerwood also secretly studying Cora?

Liza Klausmann – Tigers in red weather



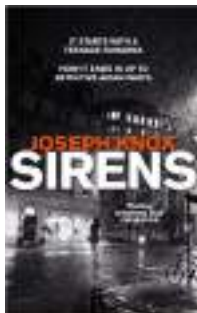
This is the story of Nick and her cousin Helena who have grown up together, sharing long hot summers at Tiger House. With husbands and children of their own, they keep returning. But against a background of parties, cocktails, moonlight and jazz, how long can perfection last? There is always the summer that changes everything. *Tigers in Red Weather* is a delicious novel, a book that simmers with tension, threat and an intoxicating cocktail of money, sex, heat, boredom and beauty. Gracefully drawn and utterly intriguing, it's the perfect summer blockbuster.

Christina Kline – Orphan train



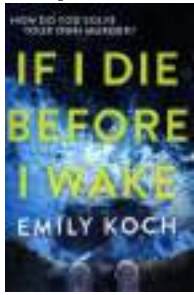
Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse... As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. As a young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both.

Joseph Knox – Sirens



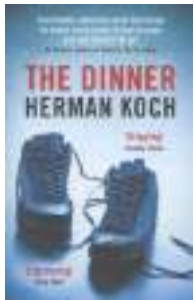
The mission is suicide. Infiltrating the inner circle of enigmatic criminal Zain Carver is dangerous enough. Pulling it off while also rescuing Isabelle Rossiter, a runaway politician's daughter, from Zain's influence? Impossible. That's why Aidan Waits is the perfect man for the job. Disgraced, emotionally damaged, and despised by his superiors. In other words, completely expendable. But Aidan is a born survivor. And as he works his way deep into Zain's shadowy world, he finds that nothing is as it seems.

Emily Koch – *If I die before I wake*



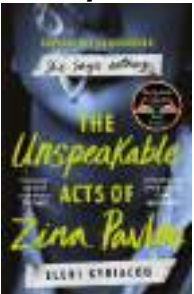
Everyone believes Alex is in a coma, unlikely to ever wake up. As his family debate withdrawing life support, and his friends talk about how his girlfriend Bea needs to move on, he can only listen. But Alex soon begins to suspect that the accident that put him here wasn't really an accident. Even worse, the perpetrator is still out there and Alex is not the only one in danger. As he goes over a series of clues from his past, Alex must use his remaining senses to solve the mystery of who tried to kill him, and try to protect those he loves, before they decide to let him go.

Herman Koch – *The dinner*



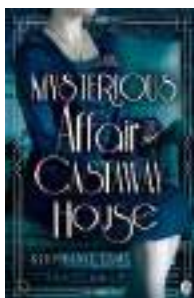
It's a summer's evening in Amsterdam, and two couples meet for dinner. The conversation seems banal, but behind the empty words, terrible things need to be said, and with every forced smile and every course, the knives are being sharpened. Each couple has a son. The two boys are united by their accountability for a single horrific act that has triggered a police investigation and shattered the comfortable, insulated worlds of their families. As the dinner reaches its culinary climax, the conversation finally touches on their children. As civility and friendship disintegrate, each couple show just how far they are prepared to go to protect those they love.

Eleni Kyriacou – *The unspeakable acts of Zina Pavlou*



London, 1954. Eva Georgiou, Greek interpreter for the Metropolitan Police, is tasked with representing Zina Pavlou, a Cypriot woman who has been accused of the brutal murder of her daughter-in-law who has been bludgeoned, strangled and then set alight. Eva gets to work as Zina's translator, but her concern grows that the case may be more complicated than it seems. Then Zina changes everything when she reveals she's been accused of murder once before, years ago in Cyprus. While Eva's obsession with the case deepens, so does her bond with Zina. She will discover that when you lend your voice to an accused murderer, it comes at a devastating cost.

Stephanie Lam – *The mysterious affair at Castaway House*



It's 1965 and 18-year-old Rosie Churchill has run away to the run-down Castaway House in the town of Helmstone. She uncovers a scandal locked away in the walls of the old house and soon comes to realise that neither her own troubled past nor that of the house will stay buried for long. In 1924, Robert Carver comes to Castaway House to spend a summer in the company of his wealthy cousin, Alec Bray. The Brays are a damaged family, with damaging secrets. And little does Robert know that his world is about to change for ever. As Rosie begins to learn more about Robert, the further she is drawn into the history of the house, and their stories entwine.

Harriet Lane – *Alys, always*



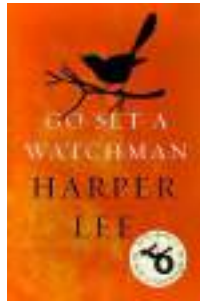
Frances is a thirty-something sub-editor, an invisible production drone on the books pages of the Questioner. Her routine is disrupted one winter evening when she witnesses a car crash and hears the last words of the driver, Alys Kyte. When Alys's family makes contact in an attempt to find closure, Frances is given a tantalising glimpse of a very different world: one of privilege and possibility. The relationships she builds with the Kytes will have an impact on her own life, both professionally and personally, as Frances dares to wonder whether she might now become a player in her own right...

Caroline Lea – The metal heart



Orkney, 1940. Five hundred Italian prisoners-of-war arrive to fortify these remote and windswept islands. Resentful islanders are fearful of the enemy in their midst, but not twin sisters Dorothy and Constance. Already outcasts, they volunteer to nurse all prisoners who are injured or fall sick. Soon Dorothy befriends Cesare, an artist swept up by the machine of war and almost broken by the horrors he has witnessed. She is entranced by his plan to build an Italian chapel from war scrap and sea debris, and something beautiful begins to blossom. But Con, scarred from a betrayal in her past, is afraid for her sister; she knows that people are not always what they seem.

Harper Lee – Go set a watchman



Maycomb, Alabama. 26-year-old Jean Louise Finch – "Scout" – returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt.

Harper Lee – To kill a mockingbird – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



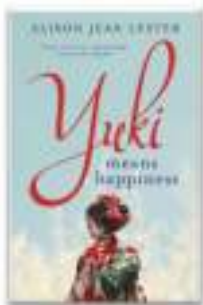
'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird'. A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel – a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the thirties. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

Simon Lelic – The child who



A quiet English town is left reeling when 12-year-old Daniel Blake is discovered to have brutally murdered his schoolmate Felicity Forbes. For provincial solicitor Leo Curtice, the case promises to be the most high profile – and morally challenging – of his career. But as he begins his defence Leo is unprepared for the impact the public fury surrounding Felicity's death will have on his family – and his teenage daughter Ellie, above all. While Leo struggles to get Daniel to open up, hoping to unearth the reasons for the boy's terrible crime, the build-up of pressure on Leo's family intensifies. As the case nears its climax, events will take their darkest turn.

Alison Lester – Yuki means happiness



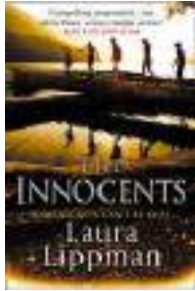
Diana is young and uneasy in a new relationship when she leaves America and moves halfway around the world to Tokyo seeking adventure. In Japan she takes a job as a nanny to 2-year-old Yuki Yoshimura and sets about adapting to a routine of English practice, ballet and swimming lessons and Japanese cooking. But as Diana becomes increasingly attached to Yuki she also becomes aware that everything in the Yoshimura household isn't as it first seemed. Before long, she must ask herself if she is brave enough to put everything on the line for the child under her care, confronting her own demons at every step of the way.

Nell Leyshon – The colour of milk



The year is eighteen hundred and thirty one when fifteen-year-old Mary begins the difficult task of telling her story. A scrap of a thing with a sharp tongue and hair the colour of milk, Mary leads a harsh life working on her father's farm alongside her three sisters. In the summer she is sent to work for the local vicar's invalid wife, where the reasons why she must record the truth of what happens to her – and the need to record it so urgently – are gradually revealed.

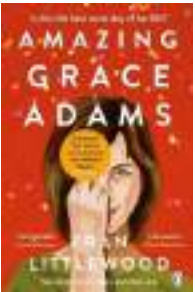
Laura Lippman – The innocents



'As five we were mighty, the points on a star...Once we five joined, it was never boys against girls...Two of our triangles cut themselves off and we were never whole again. Never.'

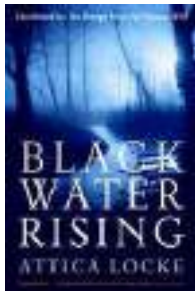
They were childhood sweethearts and best friends. When the youngest and wildest of them dies, they are thrown together once again. Could their terrible secret be responsible for their troubles today? Or is it more dangerous to admit the truth.

Fran Littlewood – Amazing Grace Adams



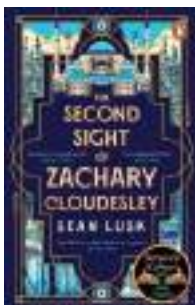
One hot summer day, stuck in traffic on her way to pick up the cake for her daughter's sixteenth birthday party, Grace Adams snaps. She doesn't scream or break something or cry or curl into a ball. She simply abandons her car in traffic and walks away. But not from her life – towards it. To the daughter who won't live with her anymore and has banned her from the party. To the husband divorcing her. Towards the terrible thing that has blown their family apart. Today she'll show her daughter that no matter how far we fall we can always get back up again. Because Grace Adams was amazing.

Attica Locke – Black water rising



On a dark night, out on the Houston bayou to celebrate his wife's birthday, Jay Porter hears a scream. Saving a distressed woman from drowning, he opens a Pandora's Box. Not the lawyer he set out to be, Jay long ago made peace with his radical youth, tucked away his darkest sins and resolved to make a fresh start. His impulsive act out on the bayou is heroic, but it puts Jay in danger, ensnaring him in a murder investigation that could cost him his practice, his family and even his life. Before he can untangle the mystery that stretches to the highest reaches of corporate power, he must confront the demons of his past.

Sean Lusk – The second sight of Zachary Cloudesley



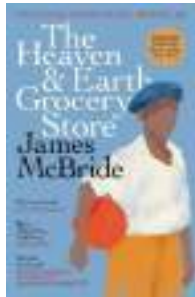
Leadenhall Street, London, 1754. Raised in his father's workshop, Zachary Cloudesley has grown up surrounded by strange and enchanting clockwork automata. He is a happy child, beloved by his father Abel and the workmen who help bring his father's creations to life. He is also the bearer of an extraordinary gift; at the touch of a hand, Zachary can see into the hearts and minds of the people he meets. But then a near-fatal accident will take Zachary away from the workshop and his family. His father will have to make a journey to Constantinople that he will never return from. And, years later, only Zachary can find out what happened.

Colette McBeth – Precious thing



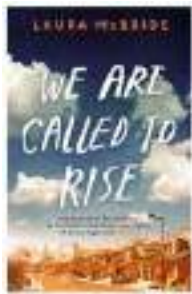
Some friendships fizzle out. Rachel and Clara promised theirs would last for ever. They met when Rachel was the new girl in class and Clara was the friend everyone wanted and they fell under one another's spell. Now in their late twenties Rachel has the TV career, the flat and the boyfriend, while Clara's life is spiralling further out of control. Yet despite everything, they remain inextricably bound. Clara vanishes. Is it abduction, suicide or something else altogether? Imagine discovering something about your oldest friend that forces you to question everything you've shared together. The truth is always there. But only if you choose to see it.

James McBride – The Heaven & Earth grocery store



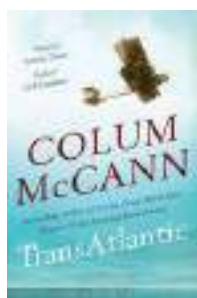
In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighbourhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins struggle and what they must do to survive.

Laura McBride – We are called to rise



Beyond the casinos lie the real Las Vegas, a forces' town. In the predawn hours, a woman's marriage crumbles with a single confession. Across the city, Bashkim, the son of an immigrant family, observes how they are struggling to get by in the land of opportunity. 3,000 miles away on the other side of the US, a soldier, recently returned from active service in Iraq, wakes up in hospital with the feeling he's done something awful. This is a story about families, the ones we are born to and the ones we choose to make. Faced with seemingly insurmountable loss, each person must decide whether to give in to despair, or to find the courage and resilience to rise.

Colum McCann – TransAtlantic



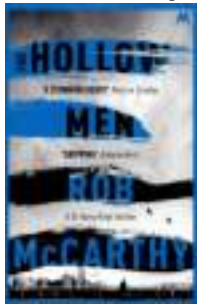
In 1919 Emily Ehrlich watches as two young airmen, Alcock and Brown, emerge from the carnage of WWI to pilot the very first non-stop transatlantic flight from Newfoundland to the west of Ireland. In 1845 Frederick Douglass, a black American slave, lands in Ireland to champion ideas of democracy and freedom, only to find a famine unfurling at his feet. And in 1998 Senator George Mitchell criss-crosses the ocean in search of an elusive Irish peace. Stitching these stories intricately together, Colum McCann sets out to explore the fine line between what is real and what is imagined, and the tangled skein of connections that make up our lives.

Cormac McCarthy – The road – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



In this post-apocalyptic novel, a father and his son walk alone through burned America. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is grey. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing but a pistol to defend themselves, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food, and each other. This is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son are sustained by love, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive.

Rob McCarthy – The hollow men



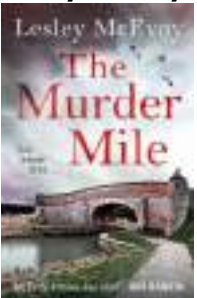
Solomon Idris has taken eight people hostage in a chicken takeaway, and is demanding to see a lawyer and a BBC reporter. Police medic Dr Harry Kent is sent in to treat the clearly ill teenager – before the siege goes horribly wrong. When Solomon's life is put in danger again from the safety of a critical care ward, it becomes clear he knows something people will kill to protect. Determined to uncover the secret that drove the boy to such desperate action, Harry soon realises that someone in the medical world, someone he may even know, has broken the doctors' commandment 'do no harm' many times over.

Helen MacDonald – H is for hawk



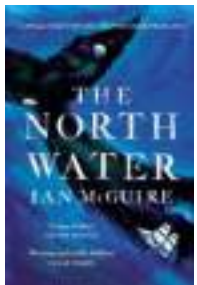
As a child, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer, learning the arcane terminology and reading all the classic books. Years later, when her father died, she became obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. She bought Mabel for £800 on a Scottish quayside and took her home to Cambridge, ready to embark on the long, strange business of trying to train this wildest of animals. *H is for Hawk* is an unflinchingly honest account of Macdonald's struggle with grief during the difficult process of the hawk's taming. This is a book about memory, nature and nation, and how it might be possible to reconcile death with life and love.

Lesley McEvoy – The murder mile



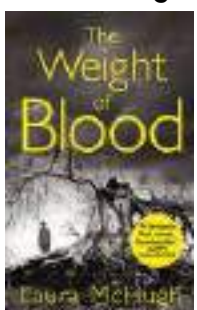
Forensic psychologist Jo McCready is assisting DCI Callum Ferguson on a murder inquiry, when one of her patients is found brutally murdered. Jo was the last person to see Martha Scott alive. She was helping Martha unlock a repressed memory – but during the session, Jo unlocked more than she bargained for. An alternate personality introduced himself as the reincarnation of Jack the Ripper – and thanked Jo for setting him free to kill again. As Ferguson's team race to find Martha's killer, a series of copycat killings begin, replicating 'The Autumn of Terror' in 1888. But if Jack is just a figment of Martha's damaged mind, who killed her?

Ian McGuire – The north water



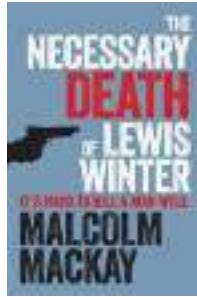
Henry Drax is a harpooner on the Volunteer, a Yorkshire whaling ship bound for the hunting waters of the Arctic Circle. Also aboard is Patrick Sumner, an ex-army surgeon with a shattered reputation, no money and no better option than to embark as ship's medic on this ill-fated voyage. In India during the Siege of Delhi, Sumner thought he had experienced the depths to which a man can stoop and imagined he'd find respite on the Volunteer, but now, trapped in the wooden belly of the ship with Drax, he encounters pure evil and is forced to act.

Laura McHugh – The weight of blood



The Dane family's roots tangle deep in the mountain town of Henbane, but that doesn't keep 16-year-old Lucy Dane from being treated like an outsider. Folks whisper about her mother, who vanished when Lucy was a baby. Then Lucy's friend, Cheri, is found murdered, and Lucy feels haunted by both women: by the mother she never knew and the friend she couldn't protect. When she stumbles across Cheri's necklace in an abandoned trailer, she begins to suspect that Cheri's death could be linked to her mother's disappearance. Lucy finds herself drawn in an increasingly terrifying search for answers. She must decide for herself whether her true allegiances lie – before she too loses everything...

Malcolm MacKay – The necessary death of Lewis Winter



A twenty-nine-year-old man lives alone in his Glasgow flat. The telephone rings; a casual conversation, but behind this a job offer. The clues are there if you know to look for them. He is an expert, a loner, freelance. Another job is another job, but what if this organisation wants more? A meeting at a club. An offer. A brief. A target: Lewis Winter. It's hard to kill a man well. People who do it well know this. People who do it badly find out the hard way. The hard way has consequences. An arresting, gripping novel of dark relationships and even darker moralities.

Rebecca MacKenzie – In a land of paper gods



Jiangxi Province, China, 1941. Atop the fabled mountain of Lushan perches a boarding school for the children of missionaries. As her parents pursue their calling, ten-year-old Henrietta discovers that she has been singled out for a divine calling of her own. Etta is quick to share the news with her dorm mates, and soon even Big Bum Eileen is enlisted in the Prophetess Club, which busies itself looking for signs of the Lord's intent. As rumours of war grow more insistent, so the girls' quest takes on a new urgency – and in such a mystical landscape, the prophetesses find that lines between make believe and reality, good and bad, become dangerously blurred.

Victoria MacKenzie – For they great pain have mercy on my little pain



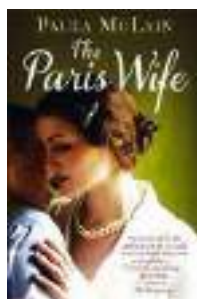
In the year of 1413, two women meet for the first time in the city of Norwich. Margery has left her fourteen children and husband behind to make her journey. Her visions of Christ – which have long alienated her from her family and neighbours, and incurred her husband's abuse – have placed her in danger with the men of the Church, who have begun to hound her as a heretic. Julian, an anchoress, has not left Norwich, nor the cell to which she has been confined, for twenty – three years. She has told no one of her own visions – and knows that time is running out for her to do so. The two women have stories to tell one another.

Deborah McKinlay – That part was true



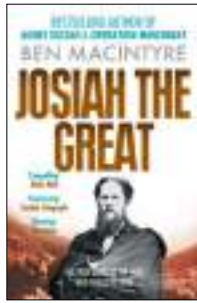
When Eve Petworth writes to Jackson Cooper to praise a scene in one of his books, they discover a mutual love of cookery and food. As their letters criss-cross the ocean that lies between them, friendship and then romance blossom despite Jackson's colourful love life and Eve's tense relationship with her soon-to-be-married daughter. Little by little, Eve and Jack begin to believe that they may have a chance to change their lives and possibly get a second chance at happiness. They just need to actually meet...

Paula McLain – The Paris wife



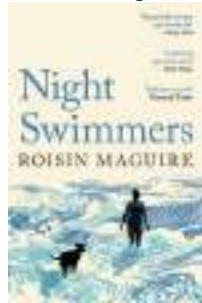
This novel tells Ernest Hemmingway's story from a unique point of view – that of his first wife, Hadley. Through her eyes and voice, we experience Paris of the Lost Generation and meet fascinating characters such as Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and Gerald and Sara Murphy. The city and its inhabitants provide a vivid backdrop to this engrossing and wrenching story of love and betrayal that is made all the more poignant knowing that, in the end, Hemingway would write of his first wife, "I wish I had died before I loved anyone but her."

Ben Macintyre – Josiah the Great



The amazing tale of a resourceful and unscrupulous early-19th century American adventurer who forges his own kingdom in the wilds of Afghanistan. In the year 1838, a young adventurer, surrounded by his native troops and mounted on an elephant, raised the American flag on the summit of the Hindu Kush and declared himself Prince of Ghor, the heir to Alexander the Great. Josiah Harlan, the first American to set foot in Afghanistan, would become the model for Kipling's 'The Man who would be King', but the true story of his life is stranger than fiction.

Roisin Maguire – Night swimmers



Grace lives alone in a coastal village in Northern Ireland, filling her days with wild swimming, fishing, quilting and baiting the tourists who blow in from the city. One of the visitors is Evan, on an enforced holiday from his family in Belfast as he grieves the death of his infant daughter. But before a week is out, he is trapped there by lockdown. When Grace grudgingly saves Evan from drowning, and his reserved young son arrives unexpectedly, all three are startled into a reckoning with their past and a reconnection with the outside world.

Ayisha Malik – This green and pleasant land



In the sleepy village of Babel's End, trouble is brewing. Bilal Hasham is having a mid-life crisis. His mother has just died, and he finds peace lying in a grave he's dug in the garden. His elderly Auntie Rukhsana has come to live with him, and forged an unlikely friendship with village busybody, Shelley Hawking. His wife Mariam is distant and distracted, and his stepson Haaris is spending more time with his real father. Bilal's mother's dying wish was to build a mosque in Babel's End, but when Shelley gets wind of this scheme, she unleashes the forces of hell. Will Bilal's mosque project bring his family and his beloved village together again, or drive them apart?

Michael J Malone – In the absence of miracles



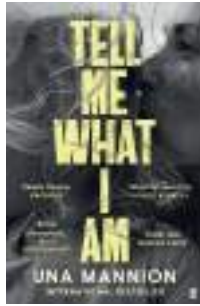
John Docherty's mother has just been taken into a nursing home following a massive stroke and she's unlikely to be able to live independently again. With no other option than to sell the family home, John sets about packing up everything in the house. In sifting through the detritus of his family's past he's forced to revisit and revise his childhood. For in a box in the attic, he finds undeniable truth that he had a brother who disappeared when he himself was only a toddler. A brother no one ever mentioned. A brother he knew absolutely nothing about. A discovery that sets John on a journey from which he may never recover.

Ruth Mancini – In the blood



In southeast London, a young mother has been accused of an unthinkable crime: poisoning her own child – and then leaving him to die. The mother, Ellie, is secretive and challenging – she's had a troubled upbringing – but does that mean she's capable of murder? Balancing the case with raising her disabled five-year-old son, criminal defence lawyer Sarah Kellerman sets out in desperate pursuit of the truth. But when her own child becomes unwell, Sarah realises she's been drawn into a dangerous game.

Una Mannion – Tell me what I am



Deena Garvey disappeared in 2004. She left behind a daughter and a sister. Deena's daughter grows up in the country. She learns how to hunt, when to seed the garden, how to avoid making her father angry. Never to ask about her absent mother. Deena's sister stays stuck in the city, getting desperate. She knows the man responsible for her sister's disappearance, but she can't prove it. Not yet. Over fourteen years, four hundred miles apart, these two women slowly begin to unearth the secrets and lies at the heart of their family, and the history of power and control that has shaped them both.

Hilary Mantel – Wolf Hall



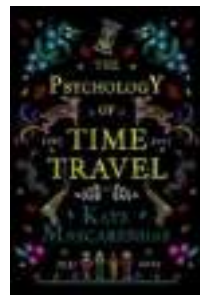
In the ruthless arena of King Henry VIII's court, only one man dares to gamble his life to win the king's favour and ascend to the heights of political power. If the king dies without a male heir, England could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage and marry Anne Boleyn. The quest for the king's freedom destroys his adviser, Cardinal Wolsey, and leaves a power vacuum. In steps Thomas Cromwell, a wholly original man, a charmer and a bully, astute in reading people and a demon of energy: he is also a consummate politician, hardened by his personal losses. Cromwell helps Henry break the opposition, but what will be the price of his triumph?

Augustín Martínez – Village of the lost girls



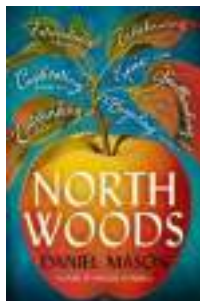
Five years after their disappearance, the village of Monteperdido still mourns the loss of Ana and Lucia, two eleven-year-old friends who left school one afternoon and were never seen again. Now, Ana reappears unexpectedly inside a crashed car, wounded but alive. The case reopens and a race against time begins to discover who was behind the girls' kidnapping. Most importantly, where is Lucia and is she still alive? Inspector Sara Campos and her boss Santiago Bain, from Madrid's head office, take up the slack.

Kate Mascarenhas – The psychology of time travel



1967. Four female scientists invent a time travel machine. They are on the cusp of fame but then one of them suffers a breakdown and puts the whole project in peril. 2017. Ruby knows her beloved Granny Bee was a pioneer, but they never talk about the past. Though time travel is now big business, Bee has never been part of it. Then they receive a message from the future – a newspaper clipping reporting the mysterious death of an elderly lady. 2018. When Odette discovered the body she went into shock. Who is this dead woman that haunts her dreams? And why is everyone determined to cover up her murder?

Daniel Mason – North woods



When a pair of young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and inhuman characters alike. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to apples. A pair of spinster twins navigate war and famine, envy and desire. A reporter unearths a mass grave – only to discover that the ancient trees refuse to give up their secrets. As each inhabitant confronts the wonder and mystery around them, they begin to realise that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive.

Hisham Matar – **Anatomy of a disappearance**



In Egypt, Nuri a teenage boy falls in love with Mona – the woman his father will marry. Consumed with longing, Nuri wants to get his father out of the way – to take his place in Mona's heart. But when his father disappears, Nuri regrets what he wished for. Alone he and Mona search desperately for the man they both love, only for Nuri to discover a silence he cannot break and unimaginable secrets his father never wanted him to know.

Joyce Maynard – **Labor Day**



As the end of summer approaches and a long, hot Labor Day weekend looms, the life of lonely thirteen-year-old Henry Wheeler is irrevocably changed when he and his emotionally fragile mother show kindness to a stranger with a terrible secret.

Anna Mazzola – **The clockwork girl**



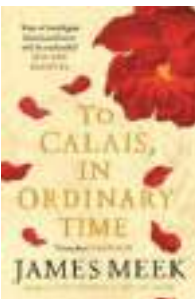
Paris, 1750. A new maid arrives at the home of a celebrated clockmaker and his clever, unworldly daughter. But rumours are stirring that Reinhart's uncanny mechanical creations – bejewelled birds, silver spiders – are more than mere automata. That they might defy the laws of nature, perhaps even at the expense of the living. But Madeleine is hiding a dark past, and a dangerous purpose – to discover the truth of the clockmaker's experiments in exchange for her own chance of freedom. Meanwhile, in the streets, children are quietly disappearing and Madeleine comes to fear that she has stumbled upon a greater conspiracy.

James Meek – **The heart broke in**



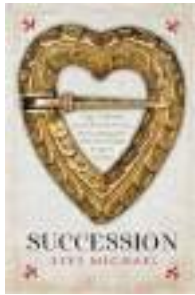
Ritchie Shepherd, former pop star and successful producer of a reality talent show, is starting to trip over his own lies. His sister, Bec, a scientist, is as addicted to truth-telling as Ritchie is to falsehood. A devastating chain of events is set into motion when Bec tells her fiancé, Val, a powerful tabloid editor, that she can't marry him. Val has set himself up as the moral arbiter of the nation, which will turn out to be impeccable camouflage for a revenge plot intended to destroy Bec by exposing the people who are close to her, which now include Alex, a researcher in gene therapies desperate to have a family of his own.

James Meek – **To Calais, in ordinary time**



England, 1348. A gentlewoman is fleeing an odious arranged marriage, a Scottish proctor is returning home to Avignon and a handsome young ploughman in search of adventure is on his way to volunteer with a company of archers. All come together on the road to Calais. Coming in their direction from across the Channel is the Black Death, the plague that will wipe out half of the population of Northern Europe. As the journey unfolds, overshadowed by the archers' past misdeeds and clerical warnings of the imminent end of the world, the wayfarers must confront the nature of their loves and desires.

Livi Michael – Succession



1445. King Henry VI is married by proxy to Margaret of Anjou, causing a national uproar. At the same time, the infant Margaret Beaufort is made a great heiress and suddenly becomes the most important commodity in the nation. Her childhood is lived in remote castles, while everyone at King Henry's court competes to be her guardian and engineer an alliance with her uncle, the Duke of Somerset. With the collapse of Henry VI's hold on France, discord among the English nobles breaks out into civil war. Henry becomes the mad king, and Margaret of Anjou declares herself Queen Regent, left alone to fight for her son's position as rightful heir.

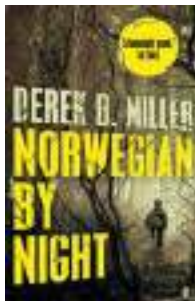
Andrew Miller – Pure



A year of bones, of grave-dirt, relentless work. Of mummified corpses and chanting priests. A year of rape, suicide, sudden death. Of friendship too. Of desire. Of love... A year unlike any other he has lived.

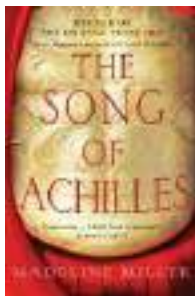
Deep in the heart of Paris, its oldest cemetery is, by 1785, overflowing. Into their midst comes Jean-Baptiste Baratte, a young, provincial engineer charged by the king with demolishing it. At first Baratte sees this as a chance to clear the burden of history, a fitting task for a modern man of reason. But before long, he begins to suspect that the destruction of the cemetery might be a prelude to his own.

Derek B Miller – Norwegian by night



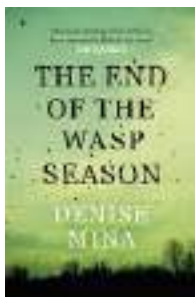
82-year-old widower Sheldon Horowitz has grudgingly moved to Oslo. An ex-Marine, he talks often to the ghosts of his past – the friends he lost in the Pacific and the son who followed him into the US Army, and to his death in Vietnam. When Sheldon witnesses the murder of a woman in his apartment complex, he rescues her 6-year-old son and decides to run. Pursued by both the Balkan gang responsible for the murder, and the Norwegian police, he has to rely on training from over half a century before to try and keep the boy safe. Against a strange and foreign landscape, this unlikely couple start to form a bond that may just save them both.

Madeline Miller – The song of Achilles



Patroclus, an awkward young prince, has been exiled to the court of King Peleus and his perfect son Achilles. Despite their differences, Achilles befriends the prince, and as they grow into young men skilled in the arts of war and medicine, their bond blossoms into something deeper – despite the displeasure of Achilles' mother Thetis. But when word comes that Helen of Sparta has been kidnapped, Achilles must go to war in distant Troy, and fulfil his destiny. Torn between love and fear for his friend, Patroclus goes with him, little knowing that the years that follow will test everything they hold dear.

Denise Mina – The end of the wasp season



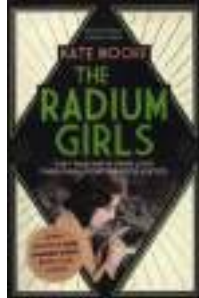
The hanging of banker Lars Anderson attracts no sympathy. But the legacy of a lifetime of self-serving is widespread, the carnage most acute among those he ought to be protecting: his family. He leaves behind two deeply damaged children and a broken wife. Meanwhile, in a wealthy suburb of Glasgow, a young woman is found murdered in her home. The community is stunned by what appears to be a random attack. When DS Alex Morrow, is called in to investigate, she soon discovers that behind the murder lurks a tangled web of lies.

Nadifa Mohamed – The fortune men



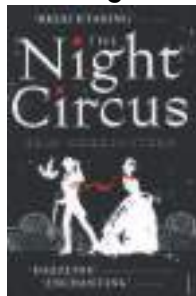
Mahmood Mattan is a fixture in Cardiff's Tiger Bay, 1952, which bustles with Somali and West Indian sailors, Maltese businessmen and Jewish families. He is a father, chancer, petty criminal. He is a smooth-talker with rakish charm and an eye for a good game. He is many things, but he is not a murderer. So when a shopkeeper is brutally killed and all eyes fall on him, Mahmood isn't too worried. Since his Welsh wife Laura kicked him out for racking up debts he has wandered the streets more often, and there are witnesses who allegedly saw him enter the shop that night. But Mahmood has escaped worse scrapes, and he is innocent in this country where justice is served.

Kate Moore – The radium girls



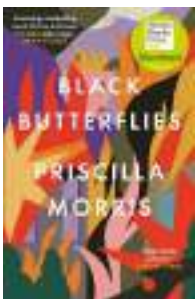
As the First World War spread across the world, young American women flocked to work in factories, painting clocks, watches and military dials with a special luminous substance made from radium. It was a fun job, lucrative and glamorous – the girls shone brightly in the dark, covered head to toe in dust from the paint. However, as the years passed, the women began to suffer from mysterious and crippling illnesses. It turned out that the very thing that had made them feel alive – their work – was slowly killing them: the radium paint was poisonous.

Erin Morgenstern – The night circus



Full of breath-taking amusements and open only at night, *Le Cirque des Rêves* seems to cast a spell over all who wander its circular paths. But behind the glittering acrobats, fortune-tellers and contortionists a fierce competition is underway. Celia and Marco are two young magicians who have been trained since childhood for a deadly duel. With the lives of everyone at the Circus of Dreams at stake, they must test the very limits of the imagination, and of their love.

Priscilla Morris – Black butterflies



Sarajevo, spring 1992. Each night, nationalist gangs erect barricades, splitting the diverse city into ethnic enclaves; each morning, the residents – whether Muslim, Croat or Serb – push the makeshift barriers aside. When violence finally spills over, Zora, an artist and teacher, sends her husband and elderly mother to safety with her daughter in England. Reluctant to believe that hostilities will last more than a handful of weeks, she stays behind while the city falls under siege. As the assault deepens and everything they love is laid to waste, black ashes floating over the rooftops, Zora and her friends are forced to rebuild themselves, over and over.

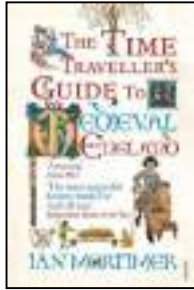
Toni Morrison – Beloved – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 1988

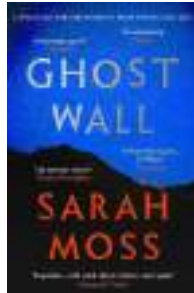
It is the mid-1800s and as slavery looks to be coming to an end, Sethe is haunted by the violent trauma it wrought on her former enslaved life at Sweet Home, Kentucky. Her dead baby daughter, whose tombstone bears the single word, Beloved, returns as a spectre to punish her mother, but also to elicit her love. Told with heart-stopping clarity, melding horror and beauty, *Beloved* is Toni Morrison's enduring masterpiece.

Ian Mortimer – The time traveller's guide to medieval England



The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there... Imagine you could travel back to the fourteenth century. What would you see, and hear, and smell? Where would you stay? What are you going to eat? And how are you going to test to see if you are going down with the plague? Ian Mortimer's radical new approach turns our entire understanding of history upside down. History is not just something to be studied; it is also something to be lived, whether that's the life of a peasant or a lord. The result is perhaps the most astonishing history book you are ever likely to read; as revolutionary as it is informative, as entertaining as it is startling.

Sarah Moss – Ghost wall



Teenage Silvie and her parents are living in a hut in Northumberland as an exercise in experimental archaeology. Her father is a difficult man, obsessed with imagining and enacting the harshness of Iron Age life. Haunting Silvie's narrative is the story of a bog girl, a young woman sacrificed by those closest to her, and the landscape both keeps and reveals the secrets of past violence and ritual as the summer builds to its harrowing climax.

Thomas Mullen – Darktown



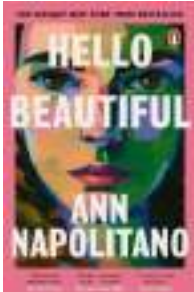
Atlanta, 1948. On one side of the tracks are the rich, white neighbourhoods; on the other, Darktown, the African-American area guarded by the city's first black police force of only eight men. These cops are kept near powerless by the authorities: they can't arrest white suspects; they can't drive a squad car; they must operate out of a dingy basement. When a poor black woman is killed in Darktown having been last seen with a rich white man, no one seems to care except for Boggs and Smith, two black cops from vastly different backgrounds. They will risk their jobs, the trust of their community and even their own lives to investigate her death.

William Napier – Clash of empires: the great siege



1565: an island in the Mediterranean stands gatekeeper between East and West. It is about to become the scene of the siege of Malta. Formed in the Holy Land in the 11th century, a small band of knights had long sought a home. Driven from their lands by the Ottomans, they came to Malta from where they watched the Turks and corsairs raid the Spanish empire. As word came from Constantinople that Malta was in the sights of the Ottoman Empire, all of Europe watched as a force of over 30,000 men besieged the island – itself only peopled by only 500 knights and a few thousand local soldiers. On that small rock an epic struggle will be played out.

Ann Napolitano – Hello beautiful



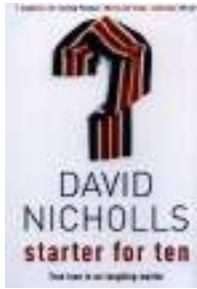
Best friends and sisters, the four Padavano girls are seen as inseparable by everyone in their close-knit Italian-American neighbourhood. From childhood, the four sisters complete each other. When Julia falls in love with William Waters, a history student and college sports star, she's delighted by the way her plans for adulthood are coming to fruition: a husband, a house, a family of her own. But when darkness from William's past begins to block the light of his future, it is Sylvie, not Julia, who becomes his closest confidante – and the ensuing betrayal tears the sisters apart.

Celeste Ng – *Little fires everywhere*



In Shaker Heights, everything is meticulously planned and no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than just tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the alluring mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

David Nicholls – *Starter for ten*



It's 1985 and Brian Jackson has arrived at university with a burning ambition – to make it onto University Challenge. No sooner has he embarked on 'The Challenge' than he finds himself falling in love with his teammate, the charismatic Alice Harbinson. When Alice fails to fall for his over-eager charms, Brian comes up with a foolproof plan to capture her heart once and for all. He's going to win the game, at any cost, because – after all – everyone knows that what a woman really wants from a man is a grasp of general knowledge. *Starter for Ten* is a comedy about love, class, growing-up and the all-important difference between knowledge and wisdom.

Claire North – *The first fifteen lives of Harry August*



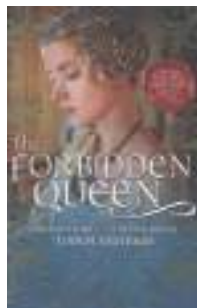
Harry August is on his deathbed, again. Every time Harry dies, he is reborn in exactly the same time and place, a child with all the knowledge of a life he has already lived. No matter what he does or the decisions he makes, when death comes, Harry always returns to where he began, and nothing ever changes. Until now. As Harry nears the end of his eleventh life, a little girl appears by his bedside. "I nearly missed you, Doctor August," she says. "I need to send a message back with you, which is that the world is ending. So it's now up to you." This is the story of what Harry does next – and how he tries to save a past he cannot change and a future he cannot allow.

Liz Nugent – *Unravelling Oliver*



Oliver Ryan is a handsome and charismatic success story. His life with his wife Alice is one of enviable privilege and ease – enviable until, one evening after supper, Oliver attacks Alice and beats her into a coma. In the aftermath, as everyone tries to make sense of his astonishing act of savagery, Oliver tells his story. So do those whose paths he has crossed over five decades. What unfolds is a story of shame, envy, breath-taking deception and masterful manipulation. Only Oliver knows the lengths to which he has had to go to get the life to which he felt entitled. But even he is in for a shock when the past catches up with him.

Anne O'Brien – *The forbidden queen*



1415. The jewel in the French crown, Katherine de Valois, is a prisoner waiting for King Henry V. The brutal King wants her crown, not her love. For Katherine, England is a lion's den of greed and mistrust. And when Katherine is widowed at 21 she is a prize ripe for the taking. This is a deadly political game; one the Dowager Queen must learn fast. The players – Duke of Gloucester, Edmund Beaufort and Owen Tudor – are circling. Who will have her? Who will ruin her? This is the story of Katherine de Valois. The forbidden queen who launched the most famous dynasty of all time

Nuala O'Connor – **Becoming Belle**



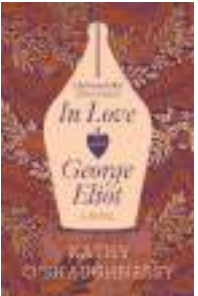
Bored of the countryside, 19-year-old Isabel Bilton escapes for the stages of Victorian London. Armed only with her talent, charm and determination, she takes the city by storm. Soon Isabel has become 'Belle', the star of a dancing double act, reigning over the Empire Theatre and the Corinthian Club, where only the most select society entertain. Here she falls passionately in love with a young aristocrat. In only 4 years Belle has achieved the impossible, rising from nothing to join the exclusive ranks of Irish nobility. Yet a steep ascent is a dangerous thing, for there are always those who wish to drag you back down.

Maggie O'Farrell – **Instructions for a heatwave**



It's the long hot summer of 1976 in London when Gretta Riordan discovers that her husband, Robert, has vanished. Gretta's 3 children arrive home for the first time in years: Michael, whose marriage is failing; Monica, with 2 stepdaughters who despise her and a secret that has driven a wedge between herself and her youngest sister; and Aoife, living in Manhattan, a resourceful woman who has managed to conceal her illiteracy. As the siblings tease out clues about their father's whereabouts, they navigate long-held secrets, until at last their search brings them to their ancestral village in Ireland, where the truth of their parents' lives is suddenly revealed.

Kathy O'Shaughnessy – **In love with George Eliot**



Marian Evans is a scandalous figure, living in sin with a married man, George Henry Lewes. She has shocked polite society, and women rarely deign to visit her. In secret, though, she has begun writing fiction under the pseudonym George Eliot. As Adam Bede's fame grows, curiosity rises as to the identity of its mysterious writer. Gradually it becomes apparent that the moral genius Eliot is none other than the disgraced woman living with Lewes. Now Evans' tremendous celebrity begins. Her scandalous cohabitation seems forgiven. But this idyll is not secure and cannot last. When Lewes dies, Evans finds herself in danger of shocking the world all over again.

Audur Ava Olafsdottir – **Butterflies in November**



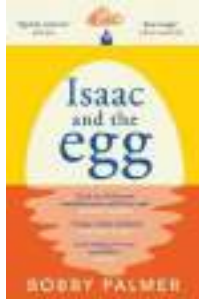
A young woman is left by her husband without warning, then she is asked by her sick best friend to look after her four-year-old son. In the twilight of an Icelandic November, the pair set off on a tour of the island, and an unlikely friendship develops. A story shot-through with laughter and a distinctive, life-affirming charm, *Butterflies in November* is a novel that will stay with the reader long after the smiles it provokes have faded from their lips.

Frances Osborne – **The bolter**



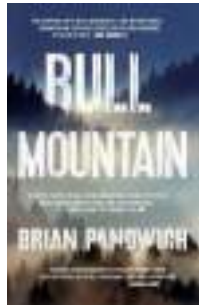
Some say she was 'the bolter' of Nancy Mitford's novel *The Pursuit of Love*. She 'played' Iris Storm in Michael Arlen's celebrated novel about fashionable London's lost generation, *The Green Hat*, and Greta Garbo played her in *A Woman of Affairs*, the movie made from Arlen's book. She was painted by Orpen; photographed by Beaton; she was the model for Molyneux's slinky wraparound dresses that became the look of the Jazz Age. Though not conventionally beautiful, Idina Sackville dazzled men and women alike, and made a habit of marrying whenever she fell in love – hers was the age of bolters, and Idina was the most celebrated of them all.

Bobby Palmer – Isaac and the egg



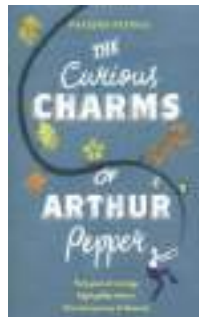
When Isaac Addy walks into the woods on the worst day of his life and finds something extraordinary there, he already knows he's going to take it home. A grieving Isaac and his curious new friend are unlikely companions. They don't even speak the same language. But their chance encounter will transform Isaac's life in ways he cannot yet imagine. And maybe he will finally be able to tell the truth. Sometimes, to get out of the woods, you have to go into them.

Brian Panowich – Bull Mountain



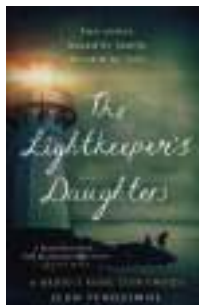
Clayton Burroughs comes from a long line of outlaws. For generations, the Burroughs clan has made its home on Bull Mountain in North Georgia, running shine, pot, and meth over six state lines, virtually untouched by the rule of law. To distance himself from his family's criminal empire, Clayton took the job of sheriff in a neighbouring community to keep what peace he can. But when a federal agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms shows up at Clayton's office with a plan to shut down the mountain, his hidden agenda will pit brother against brother, test loyalties, and could lead Clayton down a path to self-destruction.

Phaedra Patrick – The curious charms of Arthur Pepper



69-year-old Arthur Pepper lives a simple life. He gets out of bed at 7:30 a.m., just as he did when his wife, Miriam, was alive. He dresses in the same slacks and sweater-vest; waters his fern, Frederica; and heads out to his garden. But on the first anniversary of Miriam's death, something changes. Sorting through Miriam's possessions, Arthur finds an exquisite gold charm bracelet he's never seen before. What follows is a surprising and unforgettable odyssey that takes Arthur from London to Paris and as far as India in an epic quest to find out the truth about his wife's secret life before they met – a journey that leads him to find hope, healing, and self-discovery in the most unexpected places.

Jean Pendziwol – The lightkeeper's daughters



Elizabeth's eyes have failed. She can no longer read the books she loves or see the paintings that move her, but her mind remains sharp, and music fills the vacancy left by her blindness. When her father's journals are discovered on a shipwrecked boat, she enlists the help of a delinquent teen, Morgan, to read to her. As an unlikely friendship grows between them, Elizabeth is carried back to her childhood home – the lighthouse on Porphyry Island, Lake Superior – and to the memory of her enigmatic twin sister, Emily. But for Elizabeth, the faded pages of her father's journals reveal more secrets than she anticipates.

Dolen Perkins-Valdez – Take my hand



Alabama. 1973. Fresh out of nursing school, Civil Townsend has big plans to make a difference in her community. At the Montgomery Family Planning Clinic, she intends to help women make their own choices for their lives and bodies. But when her first week on the job takes her down a dusty country road to a tumbledown cabin, she's surprised to find that her new patients are just eleven and thirteen years old. As Civil grapples with her new responsibilities, she takes the girls into her heart and comes to care for their family as though they were her own. But one day she arrives at their door to discover the unthinkable has happened, and nothing will ever be the same.

Nathaniel Philbrick – The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull and the Battle of Little Big Horn



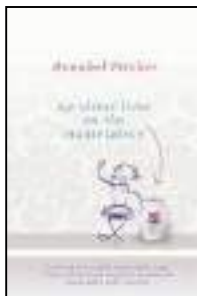
This is the archetypal story of the American West. Whether it is cast as a tale of mismatched bravery in the face of impossible odds or of insane arrogance receiving its rightful comeuppance, Custer's Last Stand continues to captivate the imagination. Philbrick reconstructs the build-up to the Battle of Little Big Horn through to the final eruption of violence. Two legendary figures dominate the events: George Armstrong Custer and Sitting Bull.

Rosanna Pike – A little trickerie



Born a vagabond, Tibb Ingleby has never had a roof of her own. But her mother has taught her that if you're not too bound by the Big Man's rules, there are many ways a woman can find shelter in this world. Now her ma is dead in a trick gone wrong and young Tibb is orphaned and alone. As she wends her way across the fields and forests of medieval England, Tibb will discover there are people who will care for her, as well as those who mean her harm. And there are a great many others who are prepared to believe just about anything.

Annabel Pitcher – My Sister lives on the mantelpiece



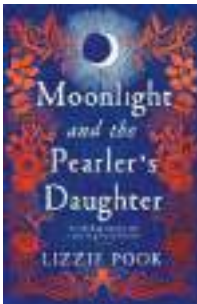
Ten-year-old Jamie hasn't cried since it happened. He knows he should have – Jasmine cried, Mum cried, Dad still cries. Roger didn't, but then he is just a cat and didn't know Rosie that well, really. Everyone kept saying that it would get better with time, but that's just one of those lies that grown-ups tell in awkward situations. Five years on, it's worse than ever: Dad drinks, Mum's gone and Jamie's left with questions that he must answer for himself. This is his story, an unflinchingly real yet heart-warming account of a young boy's struggle to make sense of the loss that tore his family apart.

Sylvia Plath – The bell jar – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



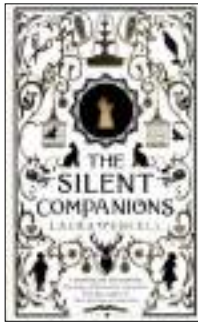
When Esther Greenwood wins an internship on a New York fashion magazine in 1953 she is elated, believing she will finally realise her dream to become a writer. But in between the cocktail parties and piles of manuscripts, Esther's life begins to slide out of control. She finds herself spiralling into serious depression as she grapples with difficult relationships and a society which refuses to take her aspirations seriously. *The Bell Jar*, Sylvia Plath's only novel, was originally published in 1963 under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas. The novel is partially based on Plath's own life and descent into mental illness and has become a modern classic.

Lizzie Pook – Moonlight and the pearler's daughter



1886, Bannin Bay, Australia. The Brightwell family has sailed from England to make their new home in Western Australia. Ten-year-old Eliza knows little of what awaits them on these shores beyond shining pearls and shells like soup plates – the things her father has promised will make their fortune. Ten years later and Charles Brightwell, now the bay's most prolific pearler, goes missing from his ship while out at sea. Whispers from the townsfolk suggest mutiny and murder, but headstrong Eliza, convinced there is more to the story, refuses to believe her father is dead. It falls to her to ask the questions no one else dares consider.

Laura Purcell – The silent companions



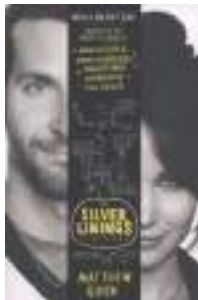
Some doors are locked for a reason... Newly married, newly widowed Elsie is sent to see out her pregnancy at her late husband's crumbling country estate, The Bridge. With her new servants resentful and the local villagers actively hostile, Elsie only has her husband's awkward cousin for company. Or so she thinks. For inside her new home lies a locked room, and beyond that door lies a two-hundred-year-old diary and a deeply unsettling painted wooden figure – a Silent Companion – that bears a striking resemblance to Elsie herself...

Barbara Pym – Excellent women



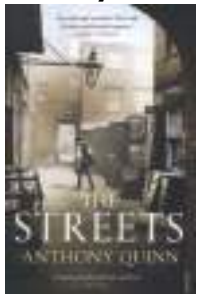
Mildred Lathbury is one of those 'excellent women' who is often taken for granted. She is a godsend, 'capable of dealing with most of the stock situations of life – birth, marriage, death, the successful jumble sales, the garden fete spoilt by bad weather'. As such, she often gets herself embroiled in other people's lives – especially those of her glamorous new neighbours, the Napiers, whose marriage seems to be on the rocks. One cannot take sides in these matters, though it is tricky, especially as Mildred, teetering on the edge of spinsterhood, has a soft spot for dashing young Rockingham Napier. This is Barbara Pym's world at its funniest and most touching.

Matthew Quick – The silver linings playbook



During the years he spends in a neural health facility, Pat Peoples formulates a theory about silver linings: he believes his life is a movie produced by God, and his happy ending will be the return of his wife. When Pat goes to live with his parents, everything seems to have changed and no one will talk to him about Nikki. When Pat meets the clinically depressed Tiffany, she offers to act as a liaison between him and his wife, if only he will give up watching football, agree to perform in this year's Dance Away Depression competition, and promise not to tell anyone about their 'contract.'

Anthony Quinn – The streets



London, 1882. David Wildeblood, an idealistic young journalist, pounds the streets of Camden reporting on the notorious slums. The misery and squalor surprise him, but more shocking still is the realisation that someone is profiting from this destitution. Wildeblood's urge to uncover the truth draws him into mortal danger as his investigations reveal a trail of corruption that leads to the very highest levels of society...

Shelley Read – Go as a river



1940s Colorado: Teenage Victoria Nash is the sole surviving woman in a family of troubled men. She spends her days running the household on her family's peach farm. Wilson Moon is a young drifter with a mysterious past. Displaced from his tribal land, he wants to believe one place is just like another. When Victoria and Wil meet, their unexpected connection ignites both passion and danger, revelations and secrets. But when tragedy strikes, Victoria is propelled away from home and towards a reckoning with loss, hope, and her own untapped strength. Gathering all the pieces of her existence, she will arrive at a single decision that will change her life for ever.

Alex Reeve – The house on Half Moon Street



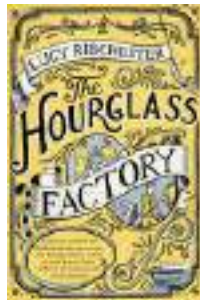
Leo Stanhope. Avid chess player; assistant to a London coroner; in love with Maria; and hiding a very big secret. For Leo was born Charlotte, the daughter of a respectable reverend. But knowing he was meant to be a man – despite the evidence of his body – and unable to cope with living a lie any longer, he fled his family home at just 15 and has been living as Leo: his secret known to only a few trusted people. But then Maria is found dead and Leo is accused of her murder. Desperate to find her killer and under suspicion from all those around him, he stands to lose not just the woman he loves, but his freedom and, ultimately, his life.

Jean Rhys – Wide Sargasso Sea – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



Antoinette Cosway is a Creole heiress – product of an inbred, decadent, expatriate community – a sensitive girl at once beguiled and repelled by the lush Jamaican landscape. Soon after her marriage to Rochester rumours of madness in the Cosway family poison Rochester's mind against her.

Lucy Ribchester – The hourglass factory



1912 and London is in turmoil. The suffragette movement is reaching fever pitch but for broke Fleet Street tomboy Frankie George, just getting by in the cut-throat world of newspapers is hard enough. Sent to interview trapeze artist Ebony Diamond, Frankie finds herself fascinated by the tightly laced acrobat and follows her across London to a Mayfair corset shop that hides more than one dark secret. Then Ebony Diamond mysteriously disappears in the middle of a performance, and Frankie is drawn into a world of tricks, society columnists, corset fetishists, suffragettes and circus freaks.

Marilynne Robinson – Gilead – A BBC 'Novel that shaped our world'



Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2005

In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son, a kind of last testament to his remarkable forebears.

This is also the tale of another remarkable vision--not a corporeal vision of God but the vision of life as a wondrously strange creation. It tells how wisdom was forged in Ames's soul during his solitary life, and how history lives through generations, pervasively present even when betrayed and forgotten.

Joseph Roth – The Radetzky March



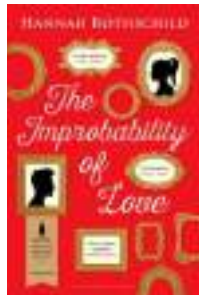
Set in the declining years of the Hapsburg Empire, *The Radetzky March* follows the story of the Trotta family through three generations. Following the drama of parents and children, it encompasses both personal relationships and political structures: fathers and sons, the state and its citizens, an emperor and his subjects, men and their deeds. It therefore becomes a study of how individuals relate– or fail to relate– to the grand implacable processes of history.

Ralf Rothmann – To die in spring



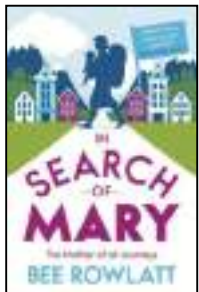
Walter Urban is a difficult man to have as a father. But his son is curious about Walter's experiences during World War II, and so makes him a present of a blank notebook in which to write down his memories. Walter dies, however, leaving nothing but the barest skeleton of a story on those pages, leading his son to fill in the gaps himself, with what he can piece together of his father's early life. This, then, is the story of Walter and his friend Friedrich Caroli, 17-year-old trainee milkers on a dairy farm in northern Germany who are tricked into volunteering for the army during the spring of 1945: the last, and in many ways the worst, months of the war.

Hannah Rothschild – The improbability of love



Annie McDee is searching for a present for her unsuitable lover in a neglected second-hand shop. Within the jumble of junk and tack, a grimy painting catches her eye. Leaving the store with the picture after spending her meagre savings, she prepares an elaborate dinner for two, only to be stood up, the gift gathering dust on her mantelpiece. But every painting has a story – and if it could speak, what would it tell us? For Annie has stumbled across 'The Improbability of Love', a lost masterpiece by Antoine Watteau, one of the most influential French painters of the 18th century.

Bee Rowlatt – In search of Mary



Bee Rowlatt embarks on an extraordinary journey in search of the life and legacy of the first celebrity feminist: Mary Wollstonecraft. From the wild coasts of Norway to a naked re-birthing in California, Bee learns what drove her hero on and what's been won and lost over the centuries in the battle for equality. On this biographical treasure hunt she finds herself consulting a witch, a porn star, a quiet Norwegian archivist and the tenants of a blighted council estate in Leeds – getting much more than she bargained for. In her quest to find a new balance between careers and babies, Bee also discovers the importance of celebrating the radiant power of love.

Anuradha Roy – All the lives we never lived



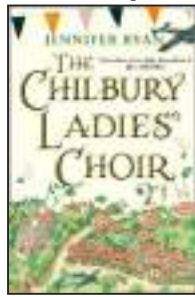
'In my childhood, I was known as the boy whose mother had run off with an Englishman' – so begins the story of Myshkin and his mother, Gayatri, who is driven to rebel against tradition and follow her artist's instinct for freedom. Freedom of a different kind is in the air across India. The fight against British rule is reaching a critical turn. The Nazis have come to power in Germany. At this point of crisis, two strangers arrive in Gayatri's town, opening up for her the vision of other possible lives. What took Myshkin's mother from India to Dutch-held Bali in the 1930s, ripping a knife through his comfortingly familiar environment?

Gareth Rubin – The turnglass



1880s England. On the bleak island of Ray, off the Essex coast, an idealistic young doctor, Simeon Lee, is called from London to treat his cousin, Parson Oliver Hawes, who is dying. Parson Hawes, who lives in the only house on the island – Turnglass House – believes he is being poisoned. And he points the finger at his sister-in-law, Florence. Florence was declared insane after killing Oliver's brother in a jealous rage and is now kept in a glass-walled apartment in Oliver's library. And the secret to how she came to be there is found in Oliver's tête-bêche journal, where one side tells a very different story from the other.

Jennifer Ryan – The Chilbury Ladies' Choir



Kent, 1940. The women of Chilbury village have taken umbrage at the Vicar's closure of the choir now that its male singers are at war. But when spirited music professor Primrose Trent arrives, it prompts the creation of an all-female singing group. Dependable Mrs Tilling sees the choir as a chance to finally put herself first, and a welcome distraction from thoughts of her son fighting on the front line. Meanwhile, when midwife Edwina Paltry is presented with a dastardly job which she's convinced will make her rich, she will have to misuse more than the trust of the choir's women to carry out her scheme.

William Ryan – The holy thief



Moscow, 1936 and Stalin's Great Terror is beginning. In a deconsecrated church, a young woman is found dead, her mutilated body displayed on the altar for all to see. Captain Alexei Dimitrevich Korolev of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Moscow Militia is asked to investigate. But when he discovers that the victim is an American citizen, the NKVD, the most feared organisation in Russia becomes involved. As more bodies are discovered and the pressure from above builds, Korolev begins to question who he can trust; and who, in this Russia where fear, uncertainty and hunger prevails, are the real criminals...

Polly Samson – Perfect lives



In an English seaside town, lovers and children, young men and middle-aged women weave in and out of each others lives and stories. A mother is tormented by her daughter's tattoo; another pretends to love her baby; a wife stalks her husband and his new lover; a broken egg through a letterbox tells a story that will not go away; the cat thinks he knows best. Threaded throughout are longings for love and poignant disappointments, surprising pleasures and temptations. Some will fall, but some like the small boy at the circus who sees his babysitter fly past on a trapeze, will retain their sense of awe.

Sigal Samuel – The mystics of Mile End



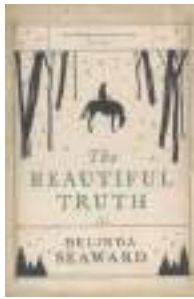
In the half-Hasidic, half-hipster Montreal neighbourhood of Mile End, 11-year-old Lev Meyer is discovering that there may be a place for Judaism in his life. As he learns about science in his day school, Lev begins his own extracurricular study of the Bible's Tree of Knowledge with neighbour Mr. Katz, who is building his own Tree out of trash. Meanwhile his sister Samara is secretly studying for her Bat Mitzvah with next-door neighbour and Holocaust survivor, Mr. Glassman. All the while his father, David, a professor of Jewish mysticism, is a non-believer. When, years later, David has a heart attack, he begins to believe God is speaking to him.

Nicholas Searle – The good liar



This is a life told back to front. This is a man who has lied all his life. Roy is a conman living in a small English town, about to pull off his final con. He is going to meet and woo a beautiful woman. He will swiftly move in with her and together they will live the seemingly calm life of a retired couple – evenings in front of the television, a little holiday in Berlin. Then he will slip away with her life savings. But who is the man behind the con and what has he had to do to survive this life of lies? And why is this beautiful woman so willing to be his next victim?

Belinda Seaward – The beautiful truth



Catherine never knew her father. A Polish exile, he disappeared when she was a small child, leaving her only a pair of binoculars and a lifelong love of the stars. Now in her forties, she leads a settled academic life in Cambridge – until one day she receives a letter from an American film-maker who is in Krakow to research the wartime experiences of his aunt. What Konrad has uncovered will send Catherine on a voyage of discovery not only into Poland's past, but into her own history. And what she uncovers there will change her life in ways she could not possibly have imagined.

Victoria Selman – Truly, darkly, deeply



Twelve-year-old Sophie and her mother, Amelia-Rose, move to London from Massachusetts where they meet the charismatic Matty Melgren, who quickly becomes an intrinsic part of their lives. But as the relationship between the two adults fractures, a serial killer begins targeting young women with a striking resemblance to Amelia-Rose. When Matty is eventually sent down for multiple murders, questions remain as to his guilt – questions which ultimately destroy both women. Nearly twenty years later, Sophie receives a letter from Battlemouth Prison informing her Matty is dying and wants to meet. It looks like Sophie might finally get the answers she craves. But will the truth set her free?

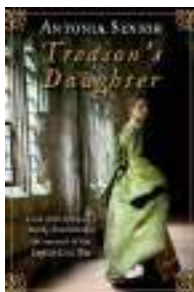
Maria Semple – Where'd you go, Bernadette



Bernadette Fox is notorious. To Elgie Branch, a Microsoft wunderkind, she's his hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled wife. To fellow mothers at the school gate, she's a menace. To design experts, she's a revolutionary architect. And to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, quite simply, mum. Then Bernadette disappears. And Bee must take a trip to the end of the earth to find her.

Where'd you go, Bernadette is a compulsively readable, irresistibly written, deeply touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's place in the world.

Antonia Senior – Treason's daughter



London, 1640. Fifteen-year-old Henrietta Challoner dreams of adventure, of a life lived at the gallop, of the opportunities afforded to her brothers, Ned and Sam. She cannot know how devastatingly real these dreams will become, as the country slides towards vicious civil war...The crisis threatens to tear Henrietta's family apart. As religious and political tensions spill into the streets, they all must decide what comes first – their family, their country or their desires. But while she strives to maintain the peace at home, Henrietta becomes embroiled in a deeper plot: to hand London over to the King.

Elif Shafak – The architect's apprentice



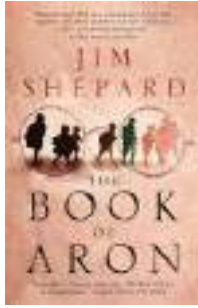
16th century Istanbul: a stowaway arrives bearing an extraordinary gift for the Sultan. The boy is utterly alone in a foreign land, with no worldly possessions to his name except Chota, a rare and valuable white elephant destined for the palace menagerie. So begins an adventure that will see young Jahan rise from lowly origins to the highest ranks of the Sultan's court. Along the way he will meet the beautiful Princess Mihrimah. He will journey on Chota's back to the furthest corners of the Sultan's kingdom and back again. And one day he will catch the eye of the royal architect, Sinan, a chance encounter destined to change Jahan's fortunes forever.

Mary Ann Shaffer – The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society



1946: London is emerging from the shadow of the Second World War, and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she would find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book by Charles Lamb. As Juliet and her new correspondent exchange letters, Juliet is drawn into the world of this man and his friends – and what a wonderfully eccentric world it is. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society boasts a charming, funny, human cast of characters.

Jim Shepard – The book of Aron



Aron is a nine-year-old Polish Jew, and a troublemaker. As the walls go up around the ghetto in Warsaw, as the lice and typhus rage, food is stolen and even Jewish police betray their people, Aron smuggles from the other side to survive. In a place where no one thinks of anyone but himself, the only exception is Doctor Korczak; children's rights activist and embattled orphanage director. They call the Doctor a hero. Aron is not a hero. He is not special or selfless or spirited. He is ordinary. He is willing to do what the Doctor will not.

Margot Lee Shetterly – Hidden figures



Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, they used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets into space. Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Cold War, and the women's rights movement, *Hidden Figures* interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five women whose work changed the world.

Lionel Shriver – We need to talk about Kevin



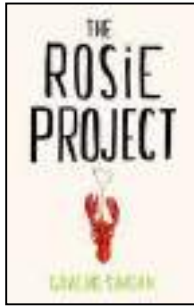
Eva never really wanted to be a mother; certainly not the mother of a boy named Kevin who murdered seven of his fellow high school students, a cafeteria worker and a teacher who had tried to befriend him. Now, two years after her son's horrific rampage, Eva comes to terms with her role as Kevin's mother in a series of startlingly direct correspondences with her absent husband Franklyn about their son's upbringing. Fearing that her own shortcomings may have shaped what her son has become, she confesses to a deep, long-standing ambivalence about motherhood. How much is her fault?

Helen Simonson – The summer before the war



Late summer, 1914. Amidst the season's splendour, fiercely independent Beatrice Nash arrives in the coastal town of Rye to fill a teaching position. There she is taken under the wing of formidable matriarch Agatha Kent, who, along with her charming nephews, tries her best to welcome Beatrice to a place that remains stubbornly resistant to the idea of female teachers. But just as Beatrice comes alive to the beauty of the Sussex landscape, and the colourful characters that populate Rye, the perfect summer is about to end. For the unimaginable is coming – and soon the limits of progress, and the old ways, will be tested as this small town goes to war.

Graeme Simsion – The Rosie project



Don Tillman is a socially-challenged professor who's decided the time has come to find a wife. His questionnaire is intended to weed out anyone unsuitable. The trouble is, Don has high standards and doesn't really do flexible so, despite looking like Gregory Peck, he's not having much success. When Rosie Jarman comes to his office, Don assumes it's to apply for the Wife Project, and duly discounts her on various grounds. However, Rosie has no interest in becoming Mrs Tillman and is there to enlist Don's assistance in a professional capacity: to help her find her biological father.

Umi Sinha – Belonging



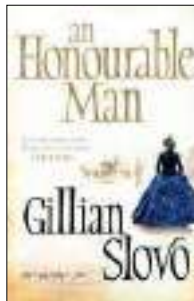
Lila Langdon is 12-years-old when she witnesses a family tragedy after her mother unveils her father's surprise birthday present – a tragedy that ends her childhood in India and precipitates a new life in Sussex with her Great-aunt Wilhelmina. From the darkest days of the British Raj through to the aftermath of the First World War, *Belonging* tells the interwoven story of three generations and their struggles to understand and free themselves from a troubled history steeped in colonial violence.

Janet Skeslien Charles – The Paris library



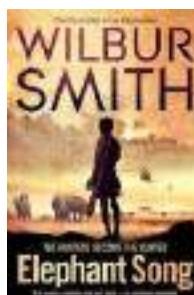
Paris, 1939. Odile Souchet is obsessed with books, and her new job at the American Library in Paris is a dream come true. When war is declared, the Library is determined to remain open. But then the Nazis invade Paris, and everything changes. In Occupied Paris, choices as black and white as the words on a page become a murky shade of grey – choices that will put many on the wrong side of history, and the consequences of which will echo for decades to come. Montana, 1983. Lily is a lonely teenage desperate to escape her small town. She grows close to her neighbour Odile and as she uncovers more about Odile's past, she discovers a dark secret, closely guarded and long hidden.

Gillian Slovo – An honourable man



In Khartoum the trumpeters, layers of red sand glittering on their faces, are posted at each corner of the palace roof. Trapped between the desert and the Jihad, oblivious to the heat and the impending dust storm, General Gordon is waiting, hopelessly, for Wolseley's camel corps to cross the shimmering land and rescue him. He begins to hallucinate betrayals and beheadings; unwittingly he is about to touch and change lives far beyond his own including those of a London doctor, John Clark and his wife Mary, and especially the young boy from the English dockyard slums who now stands beside him, his reluctant last ally.

Wilbur Smith – Elephant song



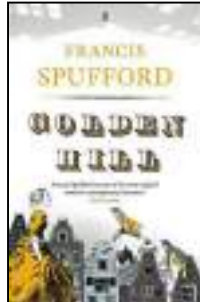
In the blinding light of Zimbabwe's Chiwewe National Park, Dr Daniel Armstrong, world-famous TV naturalist, films the slaughter of a herd of elephant. In London, anthropologist Kelly Kinnear is forced into violent confrontation with the shareholders of the most powerful conglomerate in the City of London, warning them of the destruction of an African country. Now the time has come to act. Together, Armstrong and Kinnear forge a passionate alliance – and begin the fight against the forces of greed, evil and corruption attacking a land they would both give their lives to save...

Muriel Spark – The prime of Miss Jean Brodie – A BBC ‘Novel that shaped our world’



She was a schoolmistress with a difference. Proud, cultured, romantic, her ideas were progressive, even shocking. And when she decided to transform a group of young girls under her tutelage into the "creme de la creme" of Marcia Blaine school, no one could have predicted the outcome.

Francis Spufford – Golden Hill



Costa First Novel Award Winner 2016

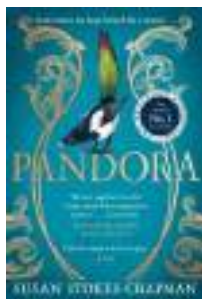
New York, a small town on the tip of Manhattan Island, 1746. One rainy evening, a charming and handsome young stranger fresh off the boat from England pitches up to a counting house on Golden Hill Street, with a suspicious yet compelling proposition -- he has an order for a thousand pounds in his pocket that he wishes to cash. But can he be trusted? This is New York in its infancy, a place where a young man with a fast tongue can invent himself afresh, fall in love, and find a world of trouble . . .

Susie Steiner – Missing, presumed



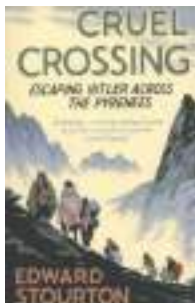
A young woman vanishes. A smear of blood in the kitchen of the house she shares with her boyfriend suggests a struggle. As soon as DS Manon Bradshaw sees the photograph of missing Edith Hind – a beautiful Cambridge post-grad from a well-connected family – she knows the case will be big. And she's right: pressure soon mounts from the media and from on high. Can Manon see clearly enough to solve the mystery of Edith's disappearance? Can she withstand intimidation from Sir Ian Hind, Edith's father, who has friends in high places? And when a body is found, will it mean the end or just the beginning?

Susan Stokes-Chapman – Pandora



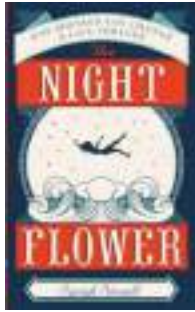
London, 1799. Dora Blake is an aspiring jewellery artist who lives with her uncle in what used to be her parents' famed shop of antiquities. When a mysterious Greek vase is delivered, Dora is intrigued by her uncle's suspicious behaviour and enlists the help of Edward Lawrence, a young antiquarian scholar. Edward sees the ancient vase as key to unlocking his academic future. Dora sees it as a chance to restore the shop to its former glory, and to escape her nefarious uncle. But what Edward discovers about the vase has Dora questioning everything she has believed about her life, her family, and the world as she knows it.

Edward Stourton – Cruel crossing: escaping Hitler across the Pyrenees



Thousands of people risked their lives crossing the Pyrenees during the Second World War. Many never made it through. Today, the bravery and endurance of those who tried to escape Hitler in this way is commemorated each July by a trek along Chemin de la Liberte, the toughest and most dangerous of the wartime routes. Making the climb in the company of relatives and drawing on interviews with the few remaining survivors, Edward Stourton discovers truly extraordinary stories from this little-known aspect of the war. The result is a book of heroism and remembrance, but above all humanity- of how one person will risk their life for a complete stranger.

Sarah Stovell – The night flower



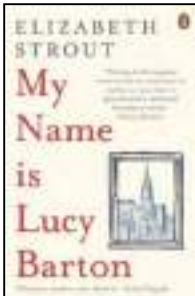
Two girls are brought together under the worst of circumstances: a prison ship taking them from London to 'parts beyond the sea'. Surviving – just – an appalling voyage, Miriam and Rose arrive just after Christmas into the blinding sun of the strange new island: Van Dieman's Land. Here they are sent to work in a nursery, where women of ill-repute give birth before being sent for correction. The nursery is run by a corrupt, debauched Reverend and his idealistic son, who soon takes a fancy to Miriam. But Rose, her best friend and close confidant, watches jealously and makes plans to reverse their fortunes.

Paul Strohm – The poet's tale



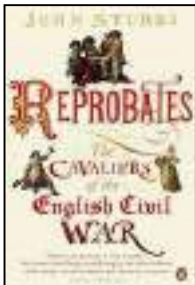
As the year 1386 began, Geoffrey Chaucer was a middle-aged bureaucrat and sometime poet, living in London and enjoying the perks that came with his close connections to its booming wool trade. When it ended, he was jobless, homeless, out of favour with his friends and living in exile. Such a reversal might have spelled the end of his career; but instead, at the loneliest time of his life, Chaucer made the revolutionary decision to 'maken vertu of necessitee' and keep writing. The result – The Canterbury Tales – was a radically new form of poetry that would make his reputation, bring him to a national audience, and preserve his work for posterity.

Elizabeth Strout – My name is Lucy Barton



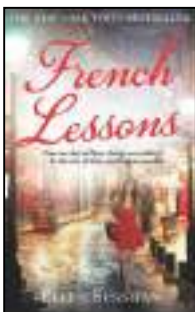
A mother comes to visit her daughter in hospital after having not seen her in many years. Her unexpected visit forces Lucy to confront her past, uncovering long-buried memories of a profoundly impoverished childhood; and her present, as the facade of her new life in New York begins to crumble, awakening her to the reality of her faltering marriage and her unsteady journey towards becoming a writer. From Lucy's hospital bed, we are drawn ever more deeply into the emotional complexity of family life, the inescapable power of the past, and the memories – however painful – that bind a family together.

John Stubbs – Reprobates: the Cavaliers of the English Civil War



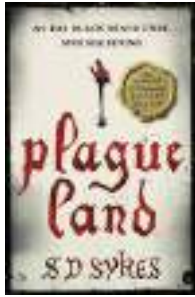
John Stubbs' "Reprobates" charts the rise and fall of the Cavaliers before, during and after the English Civil War. From disastrous foreign forays to syphilitic poets, from political intriguing to ambitious young playwrights keen to curry favour with the king, John Stubbs brings alive the vibrant cast of characters that were at the centre of the English Civil War. Stubbs shows the reader just how the country was brought to one of the most destructive moments in its history.

Ellen Sussman – French lessons



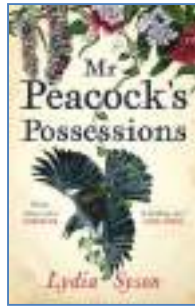
Josie arrives in Paris desperate, alone, and hopeful that this trip might mend her broken heart. Ex-pat Riley is a long way from home and drifting further and further away from her husband. Could Philippe provide the distraction she craves – and can she gain the courage to break free? Jeremy is the dutiful husband of his famous actress wife. While she is busy filming on the banks of the Seine, he is content playing second fiddle. Until he meets Chantal...In the haze of a Paris summer, long-buried secrets rise to the surface and relationships are challenged. Can the lessons learned in one day change all of their tomorrows?

S.D. Sykes – Plague land



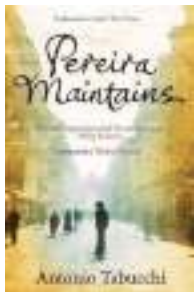
Oswald de Lacy was never meant to be the Lord of Somerhill Manor. Despatched to a monastery at the age of seven, sent back at seventeen when his father and two brothers are killed by the Plague, Oswald has no experience of running an estate. Before he can do anything, Oswald is confronted by the shocking death of a young woman. The village priest claims that she was killed by a band of demonic dog-headed men. Oswald is certain this is nonsense, but proving it is quite a different matter. Every step he takes seems to lead him deeper into a dark maze of political intrigue, family secrets and violent strife. And then the body of another girl is found.

Lydia Syson – Mr Peacock's possessions



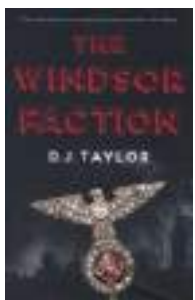
Oceania 1879. A family of settlers from New Zealand are the sole inhabitants of a remote volcanic island. For two years they have struggled with the harsh reality of trying to make this unforgiving place a paradise they can call their own. At last, a ship appears. The six Pacific Islanders on board have travelled eight hundred miles across the ocean in search of work and new horizons. Hopes are high for all, until a vulnerable boy vanishes. In their search for the lost child, settlers and newcomers together uncover far more than they were looking for. The island's secrets force them all to question their deepest convictions.

Antonio Tabucchi – Pereira maintains



Dr. Pereira, an editor at a second-rate Lisbon newspaper, wants nothing to do with European politics. He's happy to translate 19th-century French stories. His closest confidante is a photograph of his late wife. All this changes when he meets Francesco Monteiro Rossi, an oddly charismatic young man. Pereira gives Rossi work, and continues to pay him, even after discovering that he is using the money to recruit for the anti-Franco International Brigade.

D.J. Taylor – The Windsor faction



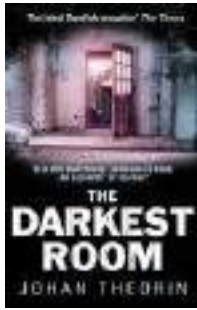
Autumn 1939. In an alternative world, where Edward VIII still sits on the throne, storm clouds gather over Europe, German troops amass and a 'King's Party' of fascist peace campaigners is stealthily undermining the war effort. For Cynthia Kirkpatrick, the war brings a new-found freedom – lunchtime drinks at the Ritz, rented attic rooms, late-night parties and new acquaintances. But two new friends loom larger than others, her glamorous colleague Anthea and Tyler, an enigmatic American working at the Embassy. Initially Cynthia is dazzled by them but soon discovers they have secrets which could prove dangerous to her and the country at large.

Jean Teulé – Monsieur Montespan



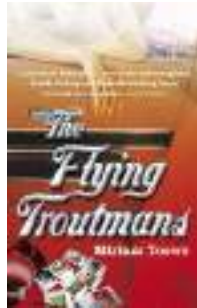
The Marquis de Montespan and his new wife, Athénaïs, are a true love-match – a rarity amongst the nobility of seventeenth-century France. But love is not enough to maintain their hedonistic lifestyle, and the couple soon face huge debts. When Madame de Montespan is offered the chance to become lady-in-waiting to the Queen at Versailles, she seizes this opportunity to turn their fortunes round. Too late, Montespan discovers that his ravishing wife has caught the eye of King Louis XIV. As everyone congratulates him on his new status of cuckold by royal appointment, he vows to wreak revenge on the monarch and win back his adored Marquise.

Johan Theorin – The darkest room



Katrine and Joakim Westin have moved to the boarded-up manor house at Eel Point on the Swedish island of Oland. But their remote idyll is soon shattered when Katrine is found drowned off the rocks nearby. As Joakim struggles to keep his sanity in the wake of the tragedy, the old house begins to exert a strange hold over him. Joakim has never been superstitious, but from where are those whispering noises coming? To whom does his daughter call out in the night? As the end of the year approaches and the winter storm moves, Joakim begins to fear that the spine-chilling story he's heard about Eel Point might indeed be true: that every Christmas the dead return...

Miriam Toews – The flying Troutmans



The Flying Troutmans is about a family on the verge of spinning off its axles and a road trip that just may keep it together. When Hattie receives an SOS call in Paris from her eleven-year-old niece, the decision to return to Canada is easy, because she's just been dumped by her boyfriend. But when she arrives back, her sister, Min, is on her way to the psychiatric ward, and Hattie is left to take care of Min's children, Thebes and Logan. When she realizes that this may become a permanent arrangement, Hattie hatches a plan. Without much more than an old address to go on, the three of them set off on a wild road trip to find the kids' long-lost father.

Colm Toibin – Brooklyn



1950s Ireland. Eilis Lacey is one among many of her generation who cannot find work. When a job is offered in America, Eilis heads for unfamiliar Brooklyn, and to a crowded boarding house where the landlady's intense scrutiny and the small jealousies of her fellow residents only deepen her isolation. Slowly, however, the pain of parting is buried beneath the rhythms of her new life, until she begins to realise that she has found a sort of happiness. As she falls in love, news comes from home that forces her back to Ireland, not to the constrictions of her old life, but to new possibilities which conflict deeply with the life she has left behind in Brooklyn.

Leo Tolstoy – Anna Karenina



Anna Karenina is a portrait of a beautiful and intelligent woman whose passionate love for a handsome officer sweeps aside all other ties. The love affair of Anna and Vronsky is played out alongside the developing romance of Kitty and Levin, and in the character of Levin, the search for happiness takes on a deeper philosophical significance. The novel takes us from high society St Petersburg to the threshing fields on Levin's estate, with unforgettable scenes at a Moscow ballroom, the skating rink, a racecourse, a railway station. It creates an intricate labyrinth of connections that is profoundly satisfying, and deeply moving.

Paul Torday – Light shining in the forest



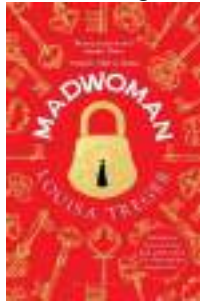
Norman Stokoe has just been appointed Children's Czar. He settles down behind his new desk to wait for the green light to begin his mission. It never comes. What does happen is that 2 children go missing. This case should fall within his remit, but he has built a career on doing nothing. Now, faced with a campaigning journalist & a distraught mother, he is forced to become involved. The search will take him to dark places & will make him ask questions about the system he is supposed to uphold.

Amor Towles – **A gentleman in Moscow**



On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov – recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt – is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol. Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval. Can a life without luxury be the richest of all?

Louisa Treger – **Madwoman**



In 1887 young Nellie Bly sets out for New York and a career in journalism, determined to make her way as a serious reporter, whatever that may take. But life in the city is tougher than she imagined. Down to her last dime and desperate to prove her worth, she comes up with a dangerous plan: to fake insanity and have herself committed to the asylum that looms on Blackwell's Island. There, she will work undercover to document – and expose – the wretched conditions faced by the patients. But when the asylum door swings shut behind her, she finds herself in a place of horrors, governed by a harshness and cruelty she could never have imagined.

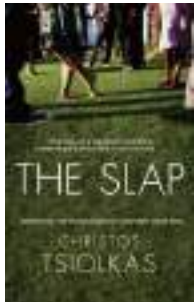
Rose Tremain – **The American lover and other stories**



A seductive collection of stories from the Orange Prize-winning author of The Road Home and Restoration.

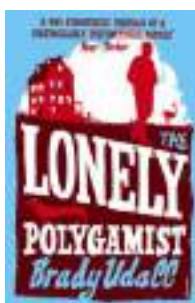
Trapped in a London flat, Beth remembers a transgressive love affair in 1960s' Paris. The most famous writer in Russia takes his last breath in a stationmaster's cottage, miles from Moscow. A father, finally free of his daughter's demands, embarks on a long swim from his Canadian lakeside retreat. And in the grandest house of all, Danni the Polish housekeeper catches the eye of an enigmatic visitor.

Christos Tsiolkas – **The slap**



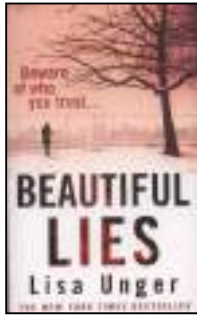
At a suburban barbecue one afternoon, a man slaps an unruly three-year-old boy. The boy is not his son. It is a single act of violence, but the slap reverberates through the lives of everyone present. Christos Tsiolkas examines the impact of this apparently minor domestic incident through the eyes of those who witness it. The result is an unflinching interrogation of the modern family, a novel of boundaries and their limits.

Brady Udall – **The lonely polygamist**



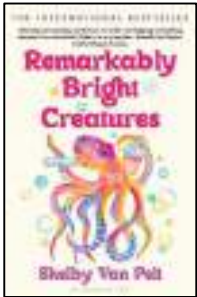
Golden Richards, husband to four wives, father to twenty-eight children, is having the mother of all midlife crises. His construction business is failing, his family has grown into an overpopulated mini-dukedom beset with insurrection and rivalry, and he is done in with grief: due to the accidental death of a daughter and the stillbirth of a son, he has come to doubt the capacity of his own heart. Udall tells a tragicomic story of a deeply faithful man who, crippled by grief and the demands of work and family, becomes entangled in an affair that threatens to destroy his family's future.

Lisa Unger – Beautiful lies



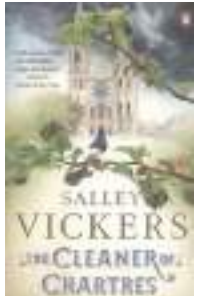
Beware of who you trust... When Ridley Jones steps off a New York street corner to save the life of a young child, she is thrown into a whirlwind of violence, deception and fear, and her world is turned upside down. But just as she has a chance to pick up the pieces of her shattered life, another seemingly ordinary act leads her into dark territory she never knew existed, and where she must question everything she knows about those close to her. Forced to hunt down a ghost from the past, Ridley risks everything and learns to trust no one in a race to find the truth before it finds her...

Shelby Van Pelt – Remarkably bright creatures



After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night cleaner shift at the aquarium. Ever since her 18-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago keeping busy has helped her cope. One night she meets Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium who sees everything but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors – until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late...

Sally Vickers – The cleaner of Chartres



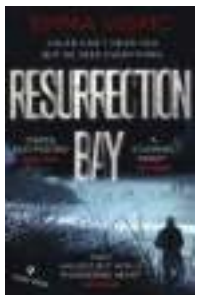
There is something special about the ancient cathedral of Chartres, with its mismatched spires and strange labyrinth. And there is something special too about Agnes Morel, who is to be found cleaning it each morning. No one quite knows where she came from, and yet everyone would surely agree that she is subtly transforming their lives, even if they couldn't quite say how. But with a chance meeting one day, the spectre of Agnes' past returns, provoking malicious rumours from the prejudiced Madame Beck and her companion Madame Picot. As the hearsay grows uglier, Agnes is forced to confront her history, and the mystery of her origins finally unfolds.

P.D. Viner – The last winter of Dani Lancing



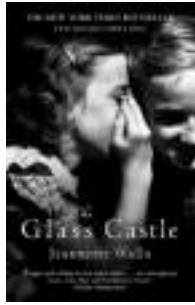
Something very bad happened to Dani Lancing. Twenty years later, her father is still trying to get her to talk. Her best-friend has become a detective, the last hope of all the lost girls. And her mother is about to become a killer. A hauntingly original debut that will stay with you long after the last page.

Emma Viskic – Resurrection Bay



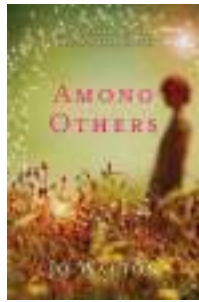
Caleb Zelic, profoundly deaf since early childhood, has always lived on the outside – watching, picking up telltale signs people hide in a smile, a cough, a kiss. When a childhood friend is murdered, a sense of guilt and a determination to prove his own innocence sends Caleb on a hunt for the killer. But he can't do it alone. Caleb and his troubled friend Frankie, an ex-cop, start with one clue: Scott, the last word the murder victim texted to Caleb. But Scott is always one step ahead.

Jeannette Walls – **The glass castle**



This is the memoir of a successful journalist's journey from the deserted mining towns of the American Southwest to an antique-filled apartment on Park Avenue. Jeannette Walls narrates her childhood with her 'brilliant' but alcoholic parents. After pursuing the education her parents sought to escape, Jeannette eventually succeeds in her quest for the 'mundane, middle-class existence' she had always craved. She recounts poignant remembered images of star watching with her father, juxtaposed with recollections of irregular meals, accidents and police-car chases and reveals her complex feelings of shame, guilt, pity and pride toward her parents.

Jo Walton – **Among others**



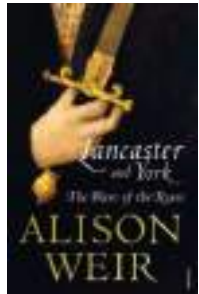
Raised by a half-mad mother who dabbled in magic, Morwenna found freedom and promise in the science fiction novels that were her closest companions. Then her mother tried to bend the spirits to dark ends, and Mori was forced to confront her in a magical battle that left her crippled. Fleeing to her father whom she barely knew, Mori was sent to boarding school in England, a place all but devoid of true magic. There she tempted fate by doing magic herself, in an attempt to find a circle of like-minded friends. But her magic also drew the attention of her mother, bringing about a reckoning that could no longer be put off...

Holly Watt – **To the lions**



Casey Benedict, star reporter at the Post, has infiltrated the lives and exposed the lies of countless politicians and power players. Using her network of contacts, Casey is always on the search for the next big story, no matter how much danger this might place her in. Tipped off by an overheard conversation at an exclusive London nightclub, she begins to investigate the apparent suicide of a wealthy young British man, whose death has left his fiancée and family devastated. Casey's determined hunt for the truth will take her from the glitz of St-Tropez to the deserts of Libya and on to the very darkest corners of the human mind.

Alison Weir – **Lancaster and York: the War of the Roses**



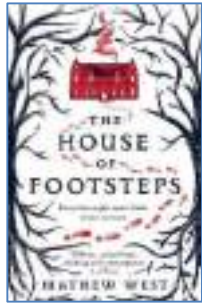
The war between the houses of Lancaster and York for the throne of England was characterised by treachery and deceit. Between 1455 and 1487 the royal coffers were bankrupted and the conflict resulted in the downfall of the houses of Lancaster and York and the emergence of the illustrious Tudor dynasty. At the centre of the book stands Henry VI, the pious king whose mental instability led to political chaos; Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York and Henry's rival; and most important of all, Margaret of Anjou, Henry's wife who took up her arms in her husband's cause and battled for many years in a violent man's world.

Ann Weisgarber – **The glovemaker**



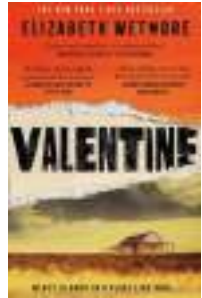
Winter, 1888. In the inhospitable lands of Utah Territory, glovemaker Deborah Tyler awaits her husband's return home after months working across the state. But as his due date comes and goes without a word, Deborah starts to fear the worst. Facing a future alone, matters are only compounded when a desperate stranger arrives. And with him, trouble. For although the man claims to just need a place to rest, he wouldn't be here in the bitter month of January if he wasn't on the run. And where he goes, lawmen are sure to follow. Lawmen who wouldn't think twice about burning Deborah's home to the ground if they thought she'd helped their fugitive.

Mathew West – The house of footsteps



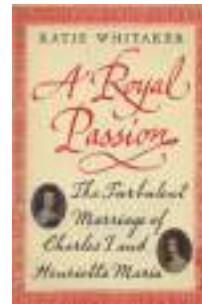
It's 1923 and at Thistlecrook House, a forbidding home on the Scottish border, the roaring twenties seem not to have arrived. But Simon Christie has – a young man who can't believe his luck when he gets a job cataloguing the infamous art collection of the Mordrake family. Yet from the moment he arrives he can't shift a headache and a sense that there's more to the House and its gruesome selection of pictures. Simon's host is glad of his company, but he gets the feeling the house is not so welcoming. As his questions about the Mordrakes grow, he finds answers in surprising places. But someone is not pleased that old secrets are stirring.

Elizabeth Wetmore – Valentine



In a place like Odessa, Texas, choosing who to trust can be a dangerous game. Mary Whitehead isn't looking for trouble but when it shows up at her front door, she finds she can't turn away. Corinne Shepherd, newly widowed, wants nothing more than to mind her own business, and for everyone else to mind theirs. But when the town she has spent years rebelling against closes ranks she realises she is going to have to take a side. Gloria Ramírez, 14 years old, survives the brutality of one man only to face the prejudices of many. When justice is as slippery as oil, and kindness becomes a hazardous act, sometimes courage is all we have to keep us alive.

Katie Whitaker – A royal passion: the turbulent marriage of Charles I & Henrietta Maria



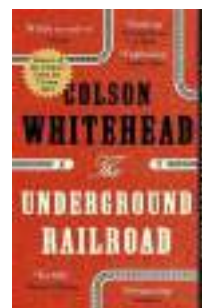
King Charles I was a Protestant. Henrietta Maria, a 15-year-old French princess, was a Catholic. Arranged for political gain, their marriage was a dangerous experiment, yet against the odds they fell in love. However, Henrietta's Catholicism fuelled rumours of improper influence over a supposedly helpless king. Unable to trust his Parliament, Charles's fear for the queen's safety plummeted the country into civil war and forced her to flee abroad, never to see her husband again.

Michael White – Soul catcher



Augustus Cain is a wanderer, facing a past he wants to forget, a present without prospect or fortune, and an uncertain future marred by the loss of his most prized possession – his horse – which he has carelessly gambled away. But he is not without skill – he has an uncanny, if unwelcome, ability to track the most elusive runaway slaves. And to repay a debt and keep his horse, he must retrieve a runaway named Rosetta. When he eventually runs Rosetta to ground in Boston, Cain discovers she carries a secret – and the size of the bounty on her head begins to make more sense...

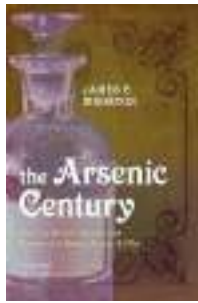
Colson Whitehead – The underground railroad



Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2017

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. All the slaves lead a hellish existence, but Cora has it worse than most; she is an outcast even among her fellow Africans and she is approaching womanhood, where it is clear even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a slave recently arrived from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they take the perilous decision to escape to the North.

James Whorton – The arsenic century: how Victorian Britain was poisoned at home, work and play



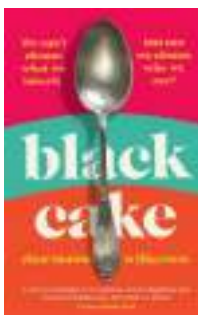
Arsenic is rightly infamous as the poison of choice for Victorian murderers. Yet the great majority of fatalities from arsenic in the nineteenth century came not from intentional poisoning, but from accident. Whether at home amidst arsenical curtains and wallpapers, at work manufacturing these products, or at play swirling about the papered, curtained ballroom in arsenical gowns and gloves, no one was beyond the poison's reach.

Ellen Wiles – The invisible crowd



1975. In Asmara, Eritrea, Yonas Kelati is born into a world of turmoil. At the same time, on the same day, Jude Munroe takes her first breath in London, England. Fast-forward 30 years later. Blacklisted in his war-ravaged country, Yonas has no option but to flee his home. After a terrible journey, he arrives on a bleak English coast. By a twist of fate, Yonas' asylum case lands on Jude's desk. Opening the file, she finds a patchwork of witness statements from those who met Yonas along his journey: a lifetime the same length of hers, reduced to a few scraps of paper. Soon, Jude will stand up in court and tell Yonas' story. How she tells it will change his life forever.

Charmaine Wilkerson – Black cake



Eleanor Bennett won't let her own death get in the way of the truth. So when her estranged children – Byron and Benny – reunite for her funeral in California, they discover a puzzling inheritance. First, a voice recording in which everything Byron and Benny ever knew about their family is upended. Their mother narrates a story about a headstrong young woman who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder, a story which cuts right to the heart of the rift that's separated Byron and Benny. Second, a traditional Caribbean black cake made from a family recipe with a long history that Eleanor hopes will heal the wounds of the past.

John Williams – Stoner



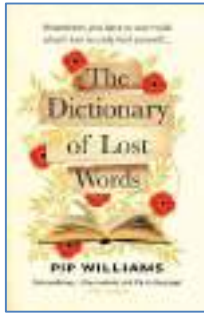
William Stoner is born into a dirt-poor Missouri farming family. Sent to the state university to study agronomy, he instead falls in love with English literature and embraces a scholar's life, so different from the existence he has known. And yet as the years pass, Stoner encounters a succession of disappointments: marriage into a 'proper' family estranges him from his parents; his career is stymied; his wife and daughter turn coldly away from him; a transforming experience of new love ends under threat of scandal. Driven ever deeper within himself, Stoner rediscovers the stoic silence of his forebears and confronts an essential solitude.

Naomi Williams – Landfalls



In her wildly inventive debut, Naomi Williams re-imagines the historical La Perouse expedition which left Brest in 1785 with two frigates, two hundred men, and overblown Enlightenment ideals, in a brave attempt to circumnavigate the globe for science and the glory of France. Grounded in historical fact but refracted through a powerful imagination, *Landfalls* follows the exploits and heartbreaks not only of the men on the ships but also of the people affected by the voyage – natives and other Europeans the explorers encountered, loved ones left waiting at home, and those who survived and remembered the expedition later.

Pip Williams – The dictionary of lost words



Motherless and irrepressibly curious, Esme spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, a garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of lexicographers are gathering words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day, she sees a slip containing the word 'bondmaid' flutter to the floor unclaimed. Over time, Esme realises that some words are considered more important than others, and that words and meanings relating to women's experiences often go unrecorded. She begins to collect words for another dictionary: The Dictionary of Lost Words.

Natalie Winter – The moments



What if you got on the wrong bus, or didn't speak to the right person at a party, or stayed in the wrong place on holiday? Would you miss your chance at happiness? Or would happiness find you eventually, when the moment was right? Meet Matthew and Myrtle. They were born a month apart and are meant to be together, but they do not know each other yet. We will travel with them on the moments of their lives – from their births to their deaths. We will see their triumphs and their tragedies, their paths taken or not, opportunities missed or leapt upon, hearts broken and mended. Because true love is worth waiting for, but what if it takes a lifetime to appear?

Naomi Wood – Mrs Hemingway



In the summer of 1926, Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley travel to a villa in the south of France. They swim, play bridge and drink gin. But wherever they go they are accompanied by the glamorous and irrepressible Fife. Fife is Hadley's best friend. She is also Ernest's lover. Hadley is the first Mrs. Hemingway, but neither she nor Fife will be the last. Over the ensuing decades, Ernest's career will blaze a trail, but his marriages will be ignited by passion and deceit. Four extraordinary women will learn what it means to love the most famous writer of his generation, and each will be forced to ask herself how far she will go to remain his wife.

Virginia Woolf – Mrs Dalloway



On a beautiful June morning, Clarissa Dalloway, a fashionable London hostess, prepares for a party she is to give that coming evening. Although she is now in her early 50s and happily married, her thoughts throughout the day constantly return to a summer in her youth, when she had refused to marry the bright and brilliant Peter Walsh. It was an anguished decision, one she had 'borne about her for years like an arrow sticking in her heart'. She reflects upon it now not only because her old suitor is due to return to London but also because her daughter, Elizabeth, is swiftly approaching 18, on the verge of womanhood.

Evie Wyld – All the birds, singing



Jake Whyte is the sole resident of an old farmhouse on an unnamed British island, a place of ceaseless rains and battering winds. It's just her, her untamed companion, Dog, and a flock of sheep. Which is how she wanted it to be. But something is coming for the sheep – every few nights it picks one off. It could be anything. There are foxes in the woods, a strange boy and a strange man, rumours of an obscure, formidable beast. And there is Jake's unknown past, perhaps breaking into the present, a story hidden thousands of miles away and years ago, in a landscape of different colour and sound, a story held in the scars that stripe her back.

Satoshi Yagisawa – Days at the Morisaki bookshop



Twenty-five-year-old Takano has never liked reading, although the Morisaki bookshop has been in her family for three generations. It is the pride and joy of her uncle Ojisan, who has devoted his life to the bookshop. When Takano's boyfriend reveals he's marrying someone else, she reluctantly accepts her eccentric uncle's offer to live rent-free in the tiny room above the shop. Takano is surprised to encounter new worlds within the stacks of books lining the Morisaki bookshop. As summer fades to autumn, Ojisan and Takano discover they have more in common than they first thought.

Louisa Young – My dear, I wanted to tell you



A letter, two lovers, a terrible lie. In war, truth is only the first casualty...

While Riley and Peter fight for their survival and sanity in the trenches, Nadine, Julia and Rose do what they can at home. Julia goes through rituals to prepare for her beloved husband's return. Nadine and Riley want above all to make promises – but how can they when the future is not in their hands? And Rose, what happens to women who lost all hope of marriage, because all the men were dead?