

Shropshire Libraries Reading Group List of Titles – January 2020

New additions to the list are marked as ****NEW TITLE****

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Purple Hibiscus (General). 307 pages.

This tense narrative captures both a country and an adolescence at a time of tremendous change. Shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction.

Karin Altenberg

Island of Wings (Historical). 368 pages.

In 1830, a Scottish clergyman arrives with his wife on the remote island of St Kilda, determined to bring the word of God into the lives of the inhabitants. The harshness of island life is sensitively explored in this poignant debut novel.

Michael Arditti

Widows and Orphans (General). 351 pages.

Duncan Neville, editor-proprietor of the Francombe and Salter Mercury, is struggling to keep the newspaper afloat. For over 150 years, it has served the two resort towns in Southern England. Duncan's personal life is in similar disarray, as he juggles the demands of his elderly mother, disaffected son, harassed ex-wife, and dotting secretary. Meanwhile, Geoffrey Weedon, a childhood friend turned bitter rival, unveils a plan to rebuild the dilapidated pier, which might revive the town's fortunes, but threatens its traditional ethos. Lyrical and witty, moving and profound, *Widows and Orphans* paints a compelling portrait of a good man fighting for his principles in a hostile world.

Simon Armitage

Walking Home (Non-fiction). 285 pages.

Tackling the Pennine Way back to front, poet Simon Armitage tries his hand as a penniless travelling player, performing readings in village halls in exchange for a meal and a bed for the night. A quirky and touching travelogue.

Kate Atkinson

Life After Life (General). 608 pages.

An intriguing tale of birth, death and rebirth played out during the first half of the twentieth century, and is sure to appeal to her ever growing army of dedicated fans. Winner of the Costa Novel Award 2013.

David Attenborough

Journeys to the Other Side of the World: further adventures of a young naturalist (Non-Fiction). 432 pages.

Following the success of the original Zoo Quest expeditions, in the late 1950s onwards the young David Attenborough embarked on further travels in a very different part of the world. From Madagascar and New Guinea to the Pacific Islands and the Northern Territory of Australia, he and his cameraman companion were aiming to record not just the wildlife, but the way of life of some of the indigenous people of these regions, whose traditions had never been encountered by most of the British public before.

Fredrik Backman

Man Called Ove (General). 294 pages.

At first sight, Ove is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet but in the end, you will see, there is something about Ove that is quite irresistible... A funny, moving, uplifting tale of love and community that will leave you with a spring in your step.

Sebastian Barry

Days Without End (General). 301 pages.

After signing up for the US army in the 1850's, aged barely seventeen, Thomas McNulty and his brother-in-arms, John Cole, fight the Indian Wars and the Civil War. Having both fled terrible hardships, their days are now vivid and filled with wonder, despite the horrors they see and are complicit in. Then, when a young Indian girl crosses their path, the possibility of lasting happiness seems within reach if only they can survive.

H.E. Bates

Fair Stood the Wind for France (War). 255 pages.

Published at the height of the Second World War, this stirring tale of love and survival in Occupied France is a notable contrast to H E Bates' later, lighter Larkin novels.

Sara Baume

Spill, Simmer, Falter, Wither (General). 288 pages.

A misfit man finds a misfit dog. Both are accustomed to being alone, unloved, outcast - but they quickly find in each other a strange companionship of sorts. As spring turns to summer, their relationship grows and intensifies, until a savage act forces them to abandon the precarious life they'd established, and take to the road. Shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award.

Jonathan Bennett

Around the Coast in Eighty Waves (Non-fiction). 302 pages.

Living in an old, unheated T25 campervan for fourteen months, including the coldest winter for thirty years, Jonathan Bennett travelled clockwise round Britain, surfing every beach he could catch a wave. He shared the waves with seals, sewage and fellow surfers, meeting friendly and not-so-friendly locals, often alone and miles from civilisation. A warm and honest account of the cold, wet challenges of the surfer's path, eloquently capturing the highs and lows, the pain and ultimately the rewards of the journey.

John Berendt

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (Non-fiction). 386 pages.

The old adage 'truth is stranger than fiction' really does apply in the case of this scandalous but extremely entertaining book, whose author describes the seamy side of life in the southern town of Savannah, Georgia.

Paul Binding

After Brock (General). 266 pages.

With a wealth of Shropshire and borderland references, 'After Brock' is a contemporary tale of mystery and strange coincidences with a strong ecological theme. From a notable Bishop's Castle based author.

Bernardine Bishop

The Street (General). 217 pages.

Filled with life and optimism and a wicked sense of comedy there's more going on in the Street than its inhabitants realise. A delightful, quirky and perceptive novel.

Amy Bloom

White Houses (General). 224 pages.

In 1933, President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt took up residence in the White House. With them went the celebrated journalist Lorena Hickok - Hick to friends - a straight-talking reporter from South Dakota, whose passionate relationship with the idealistic, patrician First Lady would shape the rest of their lives. Told by the indomitable Hick, White Houses is the story of Eleanor and Hick's hidden love, and of Hick's unlikely journey from her dirt-poor childhood to the centre of privilege and power. Filled with fascinating back-room politics, the secrets and scandals of the era, and exploring the potency of enduring love, it is an imaginative tour-de-force from a writer of extraordinary and exuberant talent.

Will Boast

Daphne (General). 288 pages.

Daphne suffers from a rare medical condition; her body shuts down when she feels strong emotions. As a result she has built strong walls between herself and the world, avoiding passion, anger, disappointment and surprise. But when she meets Ollie, who seems to see through her armour, who seems to want to know the real Daphne, her carefully built defences begin to crumble.

Jane Borodale

The Knot (Historical). 430 pages.

In 16th century Somerset, botanist Henry Lyte dreams of establishing an exquisite garden complete with a knot of herbs. But his work is hampered by something eerie in the air. An atmospheric period drama.

William Boyd

An Ice Cream War (Historical). 429 pages.

Unaware of the 1918 Armistice, fighting continues in one forgotten East African enclave in this engrossing tale of love and the futility of war.

John Boyne

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (War). 216 pages.

Moved to a strange new home because of his father's work, young Bruno makes friends with a boy dressed in pyjamas who lives beyond a huge wire fence. But this is no fairy story.

John Boyne

This House is Haunted (Horror). 349 pages.

This book has all the hallmarks of a classic Victorian ghost story - a creepy old house, dark nights, unusual happenings and suspicious characters aplenty. Taking up the position of governess at Gaudlin Hall, Eliza Caine narrates the story and of course nothing is as it seems.

Ray Bradbury

Fahrenheit 451 (Classic). 227 pages.

This chilling classic tale of a society where books are forbidden and routinely burned is a worthy companion to dystopian novels such as Orwell's '1984' and Huxley's 'Brave New World'.

Jessica Brockmole

Letters from Skye (Historical romance). 287 pages.

Elsbeth Dunn, a published poet living on the Isle of Skye, answers her first fan letter from Davey Graham, an impetuous young man in Illinois. Without having to worry about appearances or expectations, Elspeth and Davey confess their hopes, dreams and fears, things they've never told another soul. Even without meeting, they know one another. But as World War I engulfs Europe and Davey volunteers as an ambulance driver on the Western front, Elspeth can only wait on Skye, anxious for his return; wondering if they'll ever get a chance to meet.

Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre (Classic). 447 pages.

Charlotte Bronte's classic tale of a humble governess and her forbidden love for a married man is still a powerful and compelling book. Filmed 1944, 1996.

Rhidian Brook

The Aftermath (General). 327 pages.

Charged with overseeing the rebuilding of a devastated Hamburg, Colonel Morgan has requisitioned a fine house where he will be joined by his grieving wife and only remaining son. An emotional thriller set in post-War Germany.

Bill Bryson

Road to Little Dribbling (Non-fiction). 476 pages.

Twenty years ago, Bill Bryson went on a trip around Britain to celebrate the green and kindly island that had become his adopted country. The hilarious book that resulted, *Notes from a Small Island*, was taken to the nation's heart and became the bestselling travel book ever. To mark the twentieth anniversary of that modern classic Bryson sets out to rediscover the wondrously beautiful, magnificently eccentric, endearingly unique country that he thought he knew but doesn't altogether recognize any more.

Anna Burns **NEW TITLE**

Milkman (General). 368 pages.

In an unnamed city, middle sister stands out for the wrong reasons. She reads while walking, for one. And she has been taking French night classes downtown. So when a local paramilitary known as the milkman begins pursuing her, she suddenly becomes "interesting," the last thing she ever wanted to be. Despite middle sister's attempts to avoid him—and to keep her mother from finding out about her maybe-boyfriend—rumours spread and the threat of violence lingers. *Milkman* is a story of the way inaction can have enormous repercussions, in a time when the wrong flag, wrong religion, or even a sunset can be subversive. Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2018.

Jessie Burton

The Miniaturist (Historical). 427 pages.

On an autumn day in 1686 Nella Oortman has come from the country to the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt. Her new husband presents her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways.

Michael Byers

The Unfixed Stars (Historical). 414 pages.

Based on the true story of the discovery of Pluto in 1930, this lively and engrossing period tale with a large cast of well-drawn characters should appeal directly to fans of Steinbeck and Scott Fitzgerald.

Claire Cameron

The Bear (General). 275 pages.

Narrated by 5-year-old Anna, this is the tale of two children marooned in the wilderness when disaster strikes a family camping trip. Based on true events it is a gripping and unsettling story of survival told from a unique perspective.

Tracy Chevalier

The Last Runaway (Historical). 386 pages.

Starting a new life in 1850's Ohio, a Dorset Quaker woman finds herself at odds with her new kinsfolk when the unsavoury subject of slavery rears its head, and prepares to risk everything for her principles. Exciting period drama from this hugely popular author.

Amy Chua

Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother (Biography). 244 pages.

This startling memoir from a Chinese American mother who wants the best for her children at all costs, makes for riveting reading, and is sure to lead to a lively discussion.

Polly Clark

Larchfield (General). 352 pages.

It's early summer when a young poet, Dora Fielding, moves to Helensburgh on the west coast of Scotland and her hopes are first challenged. Newly married, pregnant, she's excited by the prospect of a life that combines family and creativity. She thinks she knows what being a person, a wife, a mother, means. She is soon shown that she is wrong. As the battle begins for her very sense of self, Dora comes to find the realities of small town life suffocating, and, eventually, terrifying; until she finds a way to escape reality altogether.

Chris Cleave

Everyone Brave is Forgiven (General). 480 pages.

Set in London during the years of 1939-1942, when citizens had slim hope of survival, much less victory; and on the strategic island of Malta, which was daily devastated by the Axis barrage. This novel features little-known history and a perfect wartime love story inspired by the real-life love letters between the author's grandparents.

Will Cohu

Nothing but Grass (General). 406 pages.

On a cold February morning in 1985, Norman Tanner killed his workmate Brian with a spade and buried him in the rough dirt. He didn't exactly mean to kill him. Brian was getting on his nerves. First they were joking around and then Brian was lying in the dirt with blood spilling round his head. What Norman doesn't know, is that Brian's lover, Amanda, is waiting at the train station for Brian to run away with her. She's left her boyfriend Ted, emptied his house, his bank account and taken off without a backward glance.

Paul Fraser Collard

The Scarlet Thief (Historical). 339 pages.

Meet Jack Lark, a young British soldier working his way up the ranks amidst the blood and bullets of Crimea. First in a tough new military series for fans of Richard Sharpe.

Barbara Comyns

Our Spoons Came from Woolworths (Classic). 196 pages.

A young and naïve woman with a penchant for newts is the heroine of this charmingly eccentric novel set in bohemian circles in the London of the 1930s. A quirky rediscovered classic.

Evan. S. Connell

Mrs Bridge (General). 187 pages.

In pre-war Kansas City, a straight-laced housewife begins to wonder what the world is coming to and where she went wrong. A touchingly humorous American classic recommended in 'The Guardian' by Lionel Shriver.

Karen Connelly

The Lizard Cage (General). 424 pages.

Teza is seven years into a twenty-year sentence in solitary confinement, cut off from his family and contact with other prisoners. Enduring the harsh conditions with resourcefulness, Buddhist patience and humour, he searches for news and human connection in every being and object that is grudgingly allowed into his cell.

Amanda Coplin

The Orchardist (Historical). 426 pages.

A haunting debut with shades of Steinbeck about a makeshift family in the untamed American West. An astonishing and unforgettable epic about a man who disrupts the lonely harmony of his life when he opens his heart and lets the world in.

Elizabeth Crook

The Which Way Tree (General). 288 pages.

In the remote hill country of Texas, Samantha Shreve, the young daughter of a former slave, and her half-brother are terrorised by a ferocious panther. Orphaned, without protection or money, the pair must fight to survive against the odds. But this 12-year-old girl has more than survival in mind: she wants revenge on the beast that killed her mother. Headstrong and relentless, she vows to stalk and kill the panther.

Edmund De Waal

The Hare with Amber Eyes (Non-fiction). 354 pages.

On inheriting a collection of exquisitely carved Japanese netsuke, the author decided to trace their history through several generations of his family, resulting in this beautifully written work of historical detection.

Friedrich Christian Delius

Portrait of the Mother as a Young Woman (General). 125 pages.

In January 1943, a young and unworldly German woman living in Rome and untouched by the war, sets off to listen to a Bach concert, little realising the danger her soldier husband is facing in Africa. An unusual and thought-provoking novella.

Rene Denfeld

The Enchanted (General). 233 pages.

A powerful and hauntingly beautiful novel set on death row. Drawn from the author's personal experience of working as a death-penalty investigator this is a debut that oozes authenticity, a novel of atrocity, redemption, justice and mercy, swinging back and forth between the most unbearably horrific and the heartbreakingly moving.

Patrick Dennis

Auntie Mame: an Irreverent Escapade (Humour). 316 pages.

Orphaned at the age of ten, young Patrick is left in the charge of his Auntie Mame - a notorious New York socialite, whose ideas of education and nurturing differ somewhat from the norm. Classic 1950s comedy, filmed 1958.

Charles Dickens

Great Expectations (Classic). 406 pages.

The stirring tale of Pip and his elevation from blacksmith's boy to gentleman must surely rank as one of Dickens' most enduring classics. Notably filmed by David Lean in 1946.

Anthony Doerr

All the Light We Cannot See (General). 530 pages.

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 brutal military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering.

Louise Doughty **NEW TITLE**

Black Water (General). 360 pages. John Harper lies awake at night in an isolated hut on an Indonesian island, listening to the rain on the roof and believing his life may be in danger. But he is less afraid of what is going to happen than of something he's already done.

In a local town, he meets Rita, a woman with her own troubled history. They begin an affair - but can he allow himself to get involved when he knows this might put her at risk?

Sarah Duguid **NEW TITLE**

Look at Me (General). 259 pages.

Lizzy's mother died two years ago, leaving a family bereft by her absence and a house still filled with her things. Then, one day, Lizzy finds a letter from a stranger to her father, and discovers he has another child. Lizzy invites her into their world in an act of outraged defiance. Almost immediately, she realises her mistake.

Daphne Du Maurier

Jamaica Inn (Classic). 320 pages.

After the death of her mother, Mary Yellan crosses the windswept Cornish moors to Jamaica Inn, the home of her Aunt Patience. There she finds Patience a changed woman, downtrodden by her domineering, vicious husband Joss Merlyn. The inn is a front for a lawless gang of criminals, and Mary is unwillingly dragged into their dangerous world of smuggling and murder. Before long she will be forced to cross her own moral line to save herself.

Gerald Durrell

My Family and Other Animals (Non-fiction). 301 pages.

Young Gerald Durrell always tried to avoid trouble in his attempts to study the wildlife of Corfu. But bringing a motley crew of snakes, scorpions, birds, bats and toads into the family villa, already full of squabbling siblings, was unlikely to ease tension around the dinner table. One of the great works of comic writing this is also a fascinating and evocative natural history of a British family abroad.

David Ebershoff

The Danish Girl (General). 326 pages.

Loosely inspired by a true story, this tender portrait of marriage asks: What do you do when the person you love has to change? It starts with a question, a simple favour asked by a wife of her husband while both are painting in their studio, setting off a transformation neither can anticipate. Uniting fact and fiction into an original romantic vision, *The Danish Girl* eloquently portrays the unique intimacy that defines every marriage and the remarkable story of Lili Elbe, a pioneer in transgender history, and the woman torn between loyalty to her marriage and her own ambitions and desires.

Reni Eddo-Lodge

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race (Non-Fiction). 288 pages.

The book that sparked a national conversation. Exploring everything from eradicated black history to the inextricable link between class and race, *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* is the essential handbook for anyone who wants to understand race relations in Britain today.

Esi Edugyan

Washington Black (General). 432 pages.

When two English brothers take the helm of a Barbados sugar plantation, Washington Black - an eleven year-old field slave - finds himself selected as personal servant to one of these men. The eccentric Christopher 'Titch' Wilde is a naturalist, explorer, scientist, inventor and abolitionist, whose single-minded pursuit of the perfect aerial machine mystifies all around him.

G B Edwards

The Book of Ebenezer Le Page (General). 400 pages.

An elderly Guernseyman reminisces about his long and eventful life in this entertaining and poignant novel. Published posthumously, this is the author's only novel - a gem from a sadly undiscovered talent

Cecilia Ekbäck

Wolf Winter (Thriller). 408 pages.

An absorbing tale of fear, death and a cursed land. An icy Scandi mystery to leave your spine tingling.

Anne Enright

The Green Road (General). 320 pages.

Hanna, Dan, Constance and Emmet return to the West coast of Ireland for a final family Christmas in the home their mother is about to sell. As the feast turns to near painful comedy, a last, desperate act from Rosaleen - a woman who doesn't quite know how to love her children - forces them to confront the weight of family ties and the road that brought them home. Shortlisted for many prizes.

Justin Evans

White Devil (Horror). 375 pages.

Andrew Taylor is sent to spend his final year at Harrow public school where his resemblance to Lord Byron, a former pupil, is commented on. Following the death of a classmate and the illness of another Andrew discovers old letters hidden in a bricked-up basement and he must uncover a secret history – before it is too late

Lissa Evans

Crooked Heart (General). 347 pages.

When Noel Bostock - aged 10, no family - is evacuated from London to escape the Blitz, he winds up in St.Albans with Vera Sedge - thirty-six, drowning in debts. Always desperate for money, she's unscrupulous about how she gets it. On her own she's a disaster, with Noel she's a team. Together they cook up an idea, but there are plenty of other people making money out of the war and some of them are dangerous. Noel may have been moved to safety, but he isn't actually safe at all...

William Faulkner

As I Lay Dying (Classic). 248 pages.

This classic story of a Deep South family honouring a dying woman's wish to be buried with her own people uses vernacular language and a sometimes rambling style, making it a challenging read. But don't we all like a challenge?

Sebastian Faulks

Where My Heart Use to Beat (General). 325 pages.

On a small island off the south coast of France, Robert Hendricks – an English doctor who has seen the best and the worst the twentieth century had to offer – is forced to confront the events that made up his life. There is everything here: love, loss, death, war, history, memory, ideas, travel, friendship, rivalry, chance – and sex.

Elena Ferrante

The Days of Abandonment (General). 192 pages.

A woman, abandoned by her husband with two young children to care for, finds herself literally trapped within the four walls of their high-rise apartment and is forced to confront her ghosts, the potential loss of her own identity and the possibility that life may never return to normal. From the author of the very popular Neapolitan novels.

Jasper Fforde

The Eyre Affair (Humour). 373 pages.

In an alternative world, someone is kidnapping fictional characters, and Jane Eyre has just gone missing. Suspend disbelief and immerse yourself in a tale of light-hearted literary fantasy.

Sebastian Fitzek

Splinter (General). 299 pages.

With a main character who can't be sure that what he is experiencing is real or imaginary and wonders if he is going mad, this dark and atmospheric thriller leads the reader on a psychological rollercoaster ride around modern day Berlin

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Great Gatsby (Classic). 177 pages.

A masterpiece, a dazzling social satire, and a milestone in twentieth century literature, *The Great Gatsby* peels away the layers of the glamorous twenties in the U.S. to display the coldness and cruelty at its heart.

Richard Flanagan

Narrow Road to the Deep North (War). 448 pages.

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. Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2014.

Patrick Flanery

Absolution (General). 388 pages.

When a famous South African author agrees to cooperate in the writing of her biography, some unsavoury truths begin to emerge. The country's recent violent history is cleverly brought into focus in this confidently written debut novel.

Essie Fox

The Somnambulist (General). 405 pages.

With a naïve young heroine and a story ranging from the famous Wilton's Music Hall to a gloomy Herefordshire mansion, this slice of Victorian melodrama is sure to appeal to fans of Sarah Waters.

Ronald Frame

Havisham (Historical). 360 pages.

Doomed forever to relive her disastrous wedding day, Miss Havisham is one of Dickens' most unforgettable characters. If you ever wondered what could have brought things to such a pass, her early life is cleverly imagined in this moving prequel to '*Great Expectations*'.

Tom Franklin

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter (Crime). 316 pages.

Two Mississippi boys, one black and one white, become close friends until a girl's disappearance and the finger of suspicion forces them apart. An atmospheric deep south thriller.

Michael Frayn

Skios (General). 278 pages.

The distinguished scientist who arrives to deliver a keynote lecture at a symposium on a Greek island seems much more vigorous than most academic types. This is because he is someone else, and the real scientist is nowhere to be seen. Comic chaos ensues in this lively farce from one of our best known playwrights and novelists.

Esther Freud

Mr Mac and Me (Historical). 293 pages.

This tender and compelling story of unlikely friendship is a vivid portrait of a home front community during the First World War, and of a man who was one of the most brilliant and misunderstood artists of his generation.

Alan Furst

Mission to Paris (General). 255 pages.

Just as war breaks out, a Viennese-born Hollywood star rashly decides to make a film in Paris. Once there, his neutrality and celebrity status single him out for special attention, but from whom? An espionage thriller from a master at the game.

Patrick Gale **NEW TITLE**

Take Nothing With You (General). 352 pages.

1970s Weston-Super-Mare and ten-year-old oddball Eustace, an only child, has life transformed by his mother's quixotic decision to sign him up for cello lessons. Music-making brings release for a boy who is discovering he is an emotional volcano. He laps up lessons from his young teacher, not noticing how her brand of glamour is casting a damaging spell over his frustrated and controlling mother. When he is enrolled in holiday courses in the Scottish borders, lessons in love, rejection and humility are added to daily practice.

Roger Garfitt

The Horseman's Word (Biography). 378 pages.

Shropshire based poet Roger Garfitt recalls with great candour his country childhood in Norfolk and his subsequent adventures on the seamier side of life which led him to a spell in an institution. A moving read.

Atul Gawande

Being Mortal (Non-fiction). 282 pages.

Atul Gawande examines his experiences as a surgeon, as he confronts the realities of ageing and dying in his patients and in his family, as well as the limits of what he can do. He emerges with a story that crosses the globe and history, exploring questions that range from the curious to the profound.

Lisa Genova

Inside the O'Briens (General). 339 pages.

Joe O'Brien is a Boston cop whose stamina and methodical mind have seen him through decades policing the city streets. When he starts making uncharacteristic errors, he attributes them to stress until, finally, he agrees to see a doctor and is handed a terrifying diagnosis: Huntington's disease. Not only is Joe's life changing beyond recognition, but each of his four grown children has a fifty-fifty chance of inheriting the disease. Observing her potential future play out in his escalating symptoms, his yoga teacher daughter wrestles with how to make the most of the here and now, and connect with her dad who is, inside, always an O'Brien.

Ruth Gilligan **NEW TITLE**

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan (General). 329 pages.

At the start of the twentieth century, a young girl and her family emigrate from the continent in search of a better life in America, only to pitch up in Ireland by mistake. In 1958, a mute boy locked away in a mental institution outside of Dublin forms an unlikely friendship with a man consumed by the story of the love he lost nearly two decades earlier. And in present-day London, an Irish journalist is forced to confront her conflicting notions of identity and family when her Jewish boyfriend asks her to make a true leap of faith. Spanning generations and braiding together three unforgettable voices, *Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan* shows us what it means to belong, and how storytelling can redeem us all.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

The Yellow Wallpaper and Selected Writings (Short stories). 366 pages.

Some people will know the disturbing short story 'The Yellow Wallpaper', but not so many will have discovered the other notable writings of this American pioneer of women's rights

Lesley Glaister

Little Egypt (General). 311 pages.

Nonagenarian twins, Isis and Osiris, still live in the home they were born in, and from which in the 1920s their obsessive Egyptologist parents left them to search for the fabled tomb of Herihor a search from which they never returned. Isis and Osiris have stayed in the house, guarding a terrible secret, for all their long lives until chance meeting between Isis and young American anarchist Spike, sparks an unlikely friendship and proves a catalyst for change.

Great Loves Lucky Dip

(Selection).

If your group is feeling jaded, why not try this elegant selection of slim volumes from Penguin Books on the enduringly popular theme of love? Lively discussion guaranteed !

Jessie Greengrass

Sight (General). 208 pages.

In Jessie Greengrass' superb debut novel, our unnamed narrator recounts her progress to motherhood, while remembering the death of her own mother ten years before, and the childhood summers she spent with her psychoanalyst grandmother.

Tessa Hadley

The Past (General). 368 pages. Four siblings meet up in their grandparents' old house for three long, hot summer weeks. But under the idyllic surface lie shattering tensions. For anyone who cherishes Anne Tyler and Alice Munro.

Mohsin Hamid

The Reluctant Fundamentalist (General). 209 pages.

Living the American Dream after graduating from Princeton, a Pakistani man reassesses his priorities in the light of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. A thought-provoking short novel. Filmed 2013.

Moshin Hamid

Exit West (General). 228 pages.

In a city swollen by refugees but still mostly at peace, or at least not yet openly at war, Saeed and Nadia share a cup of coffee, and their story begins. It will be a love story but also a story about war and a world in crisis, about how we live now and how we might live tomorrow. Before too long, the time will come for Nadia and Saeed to leave their homeland. When the streets are no longer useable and all options are exhausted, this young couple will join the great outpouring of those fleeing a collapsing city.

Thomas Hardy

The Mayor of Casterbridge (Classic). 322 pages.

On a drunken impulse, Michael Henchard, a hay-trusser by trade, sells his wife Susan and their child to a sailor. Years later, Susan returns to Casterbridge a widow, to seek her legal husband who is, surprisingly, now the Mayor.

Shelley Harris

Jubilee (General). 325 pages.

The year of the Jubilee. Amid the street party food, bunting, pop music and platform shoes tensions erupt in Cherry Gardens. Years later Satish must confront the truth about that day and the events that changed the course of his life.

Melissa Harrison

At Hawthorne Time (General). 288 pages.

Howard and Kitty have recently moved to Lodeshill after a life spent in London, custom car enthusiast Jamie has lived in the village for all his nineteen years while Jack, a vagrant farm-worker and mystic in flight from a bail hostel, arrives in the village on foot one spring morning, bringing change. All are struggling to find a life in the modern countryside; all are trying to find ways to belong. *At Hawthorne Time* is both a clear-eyed picture of rural Britain, and a heart-breaking exploration of love, land and loss. Shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award and longlisted for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction.

L. P. Hartley

The Go-Between (Classic). 217 pages.

An invitation to a friend's house changes an adolescent boy's life. Discovering an old diary, Leo, now in his sixties, is drawn back to the hot summer of 1900 and his visit to Brandham Hall. The past comes to life as Leo recalls the events.

Kent Haruf

Our Souls at Night (General). 192 pages.

Addie Moore and Louis Waters have been neighbours for years. Now they both live alone, their houses empty of family, their quiet nights solitary. Then one evening Addie pays Louis a visit. A story about growing old with grace. Kent Haruf's final novel.

Samantha Harvey

Western Wind (General). 304 pages.

15th century Oakham, in Somerset; a tiny village cut off by a big river with no bridge. When a man is swept away by the river in the early hours of Shrove Saturday, an explanation has to be found: accident, suicide or murder? The village priest, John Reve, is privy to many secrets in his role as confessor. But will he be able to unravel what happened to the victim, Thomas Newman, the wealthiest, most capable and industrious man in the village? And what will happen if he can't?

Roy Hattersley

In Search of England (Non-fiction). 346 pages.

This cleverly themed collection of Roy Hattersley's articles on English life revels in everything from our quirky sense of humour to our particular passion for fish and chips and a nice cup of tea.

Emma Healey

Elizabeth is Missing (General). 275 pages.

Maud has dementia but one thing she knows is her friend Elizabeth went missing. Although everyone else has forgotten Maud has not and somewhere in her damaged mind lies the answer to this seventy year old mystery. Winner of the Costa First Novel Award 2014.

Ernest Hemingway

A Moveable Feast (Biography). 144 pages.

Published posthumously, this charming collection of Paris sketches brings to life the hustle and bustle of the city during the 1920s and 1930s and introduces the reader to the literary names of the day.

Philip Hensher

Scenes from Early Life (General). 307 pages.

Seen through the eyes of a Bangladeshi boy living through the brutal civil war of 1971, this compelling collection of stories is a remarkable feat of imagination from this acclaimed British author.

Patricia Highsmith

Carol (General). 307 pages.

Originally published as 'The Price of Salt', this unconventional love story from the author of the Ripley novels, was voted one of the BBC's 'Neglected Classics.'

Susan Hill

The Woman in Black (General). 562 pages.

A young solicitor is sent to sort out the affairs of a reclusive woman who has recently died, but he is unprepared for what happens at the empty house. A real spine chiller, not to be read on a dark night!

Susan Hill

Howard's End is on the Landing (Non-fiction). 160 pages.

Susan Hill spent an enjoyable year revisiting favourite books from her own shelves and reading other previously overlooked titles for the first time. This charming and informative book charts her literary voyage of discovery.

Jim Hinks

The Book of Istanbul (Short stories). 114 pages.

Inspired by their experience of this cosmopolitan city that straddles both eastern and western cultures, ten contemporary Turkish writers shed their own light on life amidst the hustle and bustle of Istanbul. A lively and fascinating collection.

Alice Hoffman

The Dovekeepers (Historical). 501 pages.

Trapped by the Romans in a desert fortress, four Jewish women fight against the odds for the survival of their kinfolk. A stirring and memorable tale based on the siege of Masada in 70 AD.

Emma Hooper

Etta and Otto and Russell and James (General). 278 pages.

Etta's greatest unfulfilled wish is to see the sea and so, at the age of eighty-two, she gets up very early one morning, takes a rifle, some chocolate, and her best boots, and begins walking the 2,000 miles to water. The author is an Amazon Rising Star 2015.

Anna Hope

Wake (Historical). 416 pages.

Remembrance Day 1920: A wartime secret connects three women's lives. The mood of the nation is turning towards the future but can these three women ever let go of the past?

Nancy Horan

Loving Frank (Historical). 417 pages.

In the early 1900s the affair between architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney caused widespread scandal. Although she was vilified at the time, this debut novel portrays Mamah as a brave heroine, flouting convention for the sake of love.

Gill Hornby

The Hive (General). 374 pages.

The politics of the school gate provide the drama in this light-hearted comedy. There are disputes and feuds aplenty as the mums jostle for position within the hierarchy of who's who.

Richard Hughes

The Fox in the Attic (General). 412 pages.

From its haunting opening scene on the Welsh coast, this book opens out to portray a family and two countries, England and Germany, between two wars. Augustine struggles to understand his Anglo-German heritage while the world around him is reshaped by forces beyond his control or understanding.

Victor Hugo

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Classic). 429 pages.

This classic of French literature is familiar to most people thanks to Charles Laughton's classic portrayal of Quasimodo in the 1939 Hollywood production, but how many can say they have actually read the book?

Zora Neale Hurston

Their Eyes Were Watching God (General). 272 pages.

A young girl dreams of avoiding the well-trodden path to prejudice and drudgery for negro women in the southern states, and, whatever life throws at her, her irrepressible spirit shines through. A classic of black American literature. Filmed 2005.

Adrian Hyland

Diamond Dove (Crime). 356 pages.

No sooner has she returned to her childhood home in an outback Aboriginal community, than Emily Tempest is confronted by the brutal murder of a close family friend. An intriguing Australian whodunnit.

Christopher Isherwood

A Single Man (General). 152 pages.

This poignant short novel explores the loneliness and alienation of middle-aged Englishman living in California in the early 1960s, and was filmed in 2009 with Colin Firth in the starring role.

Kazuo Ishiguro

The Remains of the Day (General). 272 pages.

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

Eowyn Ivey

The Snow Child (General). 432 pages.

A childless couple on a remote Alaskan homestead are enchanted to discover a small girl who mysteriously comes into their lives. But is she real or just too good to be true?

Jo Jackson

Too Loud a Silence (General). 205 pages.

It is 2011. Egypt is in the grip of the Arab Spring as journalist Maha Rhodes flies to Cairo. Born in Egypt but raised in England, Maha no longer knows who she is. Finding out becomes important. Events draw her into the political mayhem. She experiences the passion and violence of the revolution and is confronted by her own naivety.

Roy Jacobsen

Child Wonder (General). 264 pages.

Living with his mother in Oslo in the 1960s, young Finn's life suddenly changes with the arrival of a mystery half-sister, closely followed by a gentleman lodger. Is there something his mother isn't telling him? A touching coming-of-age tale

P D James

Death Comes to Pemberley (General). 324 pages.

The genteel world immortalised by Jane Austen takes a darker turn in this cleverly imagined sequel to 'Pride and Prejudice' from top crime author P D James.

Tove Jansson

Summer Book (Short stories). 172 pages.

From the author of the Moomin stories, this uplifting tale of an elderly artist and her young grand-daughter spending their summer together is a modern Scandinavian classic.

Tove Jansson

A Winter Book (Short stories). 208 pages.

A second collection of charming and evocative short stories from this widely acclaimed Finnish author.

Suzanne Joinson

A Lady Cyclist's Guide to Kashgar (General). 370 pages.

Set in 1920s China and modern-day London, this parallel tale of friendship and adventure is an appealing debut novel with a distinct touch of the exotic.

Jonas Jonasson

The Hundred-Year-Old-Man Who Climbed Out of the Window (General). 394 pages.

Not wishing to attend his hundredth birthday party, Alan Karlsson absconds from the old people's home and makes good his escape, leading to a highly eccentric and extremely entertaining comic adventure. A word-of-mouth bestseller.

Wendy Jones

The Thoughts and Happenings of Wilfred Price (General). 263 pages.

After proposing on impulse, Wilfred Price soon realises his mistake, but finds himself unable to extricate himself from the nuptial rollercoaster he has set in motion. An endearing and nostalgic debut novel set in 1920s Wales.

James Joyce

Dubliners (Short stories). 368 pages.

Written before 1905 and nearly ten years in publication, this vibrant and graphic collection of stories depicting everyday life in Dublin represents James Joyce's first major work, and is considered by many to be his most accessible writing.

Rachel Joyce

The Music Shop (General). 368 pages.

This title tells the story about the triumph of a quiet hero and how music can bring us back to life. It is the exquisite and perfectly-pitched novel from the author of 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry', 'Perfect' and 'The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy'

Rachel Joyce

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (General). 225 pages.

When Harold sets off for the post box from his home in Devon, little does he know his journey won't end until he reaches Berwick-upon-Tweed and delivers the letter in person. A charming and poignant first novel.

Adam Kay

This is Going to Hurt (Non-fiction). 289 pages.

Adam Kay was a junior doctor from 2004 until 2010, before a devastating experience on a ward caused him to reconsider his future. He kept a diary throughout his training, and 'This Is Going to Hurt' intersperses tales from the front line of the NHS with reflections on the current crisis. The result is a first-hand account of life as a junior doctor in all its joy, pain, sacrifice and maddening bureaucracy, and a love letter to those who might at any moment be holding our lives in their hands.

Jackie Kay

Red Dust Road (Biography). 289 pages.

A black child brought up in a white Scottish family, the poet Jackie Kay decided as an adult to trace her birth parents. This touching and evocative memoir is the record of her quest.

N M Kelby

White Truffles in Winter (Historical). 313 pages.

This cleverly imagined novel explores the extraordinary talent and tangled love life of legendary French chef Auguste Escoffier, a man whose culinary creations were enjoyed by the great and the good.

Jess Kidd

Himself (General). 368 pages.

When Mahony returns to Mulderrig, a speck of a place on Ireland's west coast, he brings only his handsome face, a photograph of his too-young, long-lost mother, and a determination to do battle with the village's lies. Mahony also somehow wakes the dead from their graves, those folk who once lived here, with their foggy memories and hidden stories, floating greyly amongst the unseeing living. No one though - living or dead - will tell what happened to the teenage mother who abandoned him as a baby.

Sue Monk Kidd

Invention of Wings (General). 437 pages.

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.

Stephen King

Joyland (Crime). 283 pages.

A summer job at a North Carolina amusement park in the 1970s leads to more than Devin Jones bargained for in this creepy coming-of-age tale from master storyteller Stephen King.

Rudyard Kipling

Kim (Classic). 289 pages.

Life under the Raj is vividly depicted in this classic tale of derring-do featuring the orphaned son of an Irish soldier. Filmed in 1950 with Errol Flynn in the title role.

Milan Kundera

The Joke (General). 317 pages.

A silly prank in postwar Czechoslovakia lands popular student Ludvik in a work camp. Once released, he vows to get even with those who shopped him to the Communists. The darkly humorous first novel from this renowned author.

Rachel Kushner **NEW TITLE**

Mars Room (General). 352 pages.

Romy Hall is starting two consecutive life sentences at Stanville Women's Correctional Facility. Her crime? The killing of her stalker. Inside awaits a world where women must hustle and fight for the bare essentials.

Outside: the San Francisco of her youth. The Mars Room strip club where she was once a dancer. Her seven-year-old son, Jackson. As Romy forms friendships over liquor brewed in socks and stories shared through sewage pipes her future seems to unfurl in one long, unwavering line – until news from beyond the prison bars forces Romy to try and outrun her destiny.

Vanessa Lafaye

Summertime (General). 349 pages.

In the small town of Heron Key, where the relationships are as tangled as the mangrove roots in the swamp, everyone is preparing for the 4th of July barbecue, unaware that their world is about to change for ever. Captures the racial and social tensions in southern America after the First World War.

Jhumpa Lahiri

The Lowland (Contemporary). 406 pages.

Two brothers from Calcutta are at the heart of this epic story that stretches across the second half the 20th century. One brother remains in India and becomes involved in political change, while the other goes to America in search of a different life, but despite this the ties of family are never broken.

Olivia Laing

The Lonely City (Non-fiction). 315 pages.

What does it mean to be lonely? How do we live, if we're not intimately engaged with another human being? How do we connect with other people? When Olivia Laing moved to New York City in her mid-thirties, she found herself inhabiting loneliness on a daily basis. Fascinated by the experience, she began to explore the lonely city by way of art. Moving fluidly between works and lives, Laing conducts an electric, dazzling investigation into what it means to be alone, illuminating not only the causes of loneliness but also how it might be redeemed and embraced.

Harriet Lane

Her (Thriller). 235 pages.

Lego under the fridge, damp laundry, crumbs in the box: these details of middle-class parenthood are picked out in Hitchcockian detail, gathering weight, promising imminent horror. An exquisitely sinister psychological thriller.

D H Lawrence

Sons and Lovers (Classic). 464 pages.

Gertrude Morel is determined her sons won't become miners like their father, but her cosseting leads to conflict when the boys grow up. A powerful and largely autobiographical tale of family strife. Filmed 1960.

Harper Lee

To Kill a Mockingbird (Classic). 231 pages.

Classic 1930's Deep South drama seen through the eyes of a child. A powerful and memorable novel. Filmed 1962.

Dennis Lehane

Live by Night (General). 499 pages.

1920s Boston. A petty crook with ambition claws his way up the criminal ladder to become a top gangland boss, but his tough exterior hides a human heart. A hard-hitting yet moving tale from the author of 'Shutter Island'.

Rosamond Lehmann

The Echoing Grove (General). 300 pages.

After years married to one sister whilst carrying on a secret affair with another, Rickie Masters dies, leaving both sisters to reassess their relationships with him and with each other. A classic tale of families and their foibles.

Elmore Leonard

Get Shorty (Crime). 275 pages.

Life plying your trade as a loan shark has its share of ups and downs, but nowhere more than in Hollywood, as Chili Palmer finds out in this lively crime caper from a master of the genre. Filmed 1995 with John Travolta.

Jem Lester

Shtum (General). 368 pages.

Ben Jewell has hit breaking point. His ten-year-old son, Jonah, has never spoken. So when Ben and Jonah are forced to move in with Ben's elderly father, three generations of men - one who can't talk; two who won't - are thrown together. As Ben battles single fatherhood, a string of well-meaning social workers and his own demons, he learns some difficult home truths. Jonah, blissful in his ignorance, becomes the prism through which all the complicated strands of personal identity, family history and misunderstanding are finally untangled.

Attica Locke

The Cutting Season (Thriller). 404 pages.

When a murdered woman is found in the grounds of a Louisiana plantation house-cum museum, the police investigation soon reveals some unsavoury truths about the house's history. An atmospheric and thought-provoking whodunit.

Rosamund Lupton

Sister (General). 358 pages.

When her sister goes missing and fails to reappear despite a thorough investigation, Beatrice remains determined to find her, come what may. An unusual and intriguing psychological thriller.

Helen MacDonald

H is for Hawk (Biography). 283 pages.

As a child, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer, years later, when her father died and she was struck deeply by grief, she became obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. Winner of the Costa Book of the Year and the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction.

Bernard Maclaverty

Midwinter Break (General). 208 pages.

A retired couple, Gerry and Stella Gilmore, fly to Amsterdam for a midwinter break. A holiday to refresh the senses, to see the sights and to generally take stock of what remains of their lives. But amongst the wintry streets and icy canals we see their relationship fracturing beneath the surface. And when memories re-emerge of a troubled time in their native Ireland things begin to fall apart. As their midwinter break comes to an end, we understand how far apart they are - and can only watch as they struggle to save themselves.

Richard Madeley

Some Day I'll Find You (General). 405 pages.

When her handsome fighter pilot husband is shot down over wartime France only hours after their wedding, Diana moves on and remarries. Ten years later, the man she thought was dead makes his presence known in a most unwelcome way. An intriguing period debut.

Andrei Makine

The Life of an Unknown Man (General). 250 pages.

After years spent abroad, a disillusioned Russian writer returns home only to have his own woes brought sharply into perspective by the extraordinary testimony of an ailing Red Army soldier. A novel of great poignancy

Rebecca Makkai

The Borrower (General). 324 pages.

When a misunderstood young boy decides to run away from home, his local lady librarian foolishly agrees to go with him, but their plan, fuelled by a mutual love of books, is sure to end in failure. Or is it? A charming fable for our times.

William March

Company K (General). 228 pages.

One of the most significant WWI novels to come out of America, 'Company K' is the unforgettable account of one US Marine company, written by a decorated army hero. From initial training, through to the trenches in France and post-war rehabilitation, William March layers the individual voices of each soldier in his company to create an unflinching, visceral depiction of the brutal reality of war.

Valerie Martin

The Ghost of the Mary Celeste (Historical). 306 pages.

In December 1872, the brig of the Mary Celeste was discovered in the middle of the Atlantic, headed for Gibraltar and with no one aboard. The famous mystery lies at the heart of this haunting novel, fluently written, vividly imagined, moving and genuinely, chillingly spooky.

Simon Mawer

The Glass Room (General). 404 pages.

The various incarnations of a landmark Modernist house on a Czech hillside, and the changes in fortune of its owners over forty turbulent years form the themes of this engrossing Booker shortlisted novel. Contains description of a sexual nature.

Colette McBeth

The Life I Left Behind (Thriller). 376 pages.

Six years ago Melody was left for dead. When the body of another woman, Eve, is discovered, Melody knows her attacker is still out there. The only way she can survive is to follow the clues of the life that Eve left behind.

Grace McCleen

The Land of Decoration (General). 291 pages.

In the sanctuary of her bedroom, young Judith builds a model world where she can leave the bullies outside and take control of events. But where does her new-found feeling of power lead? A moving story of life outside the mainstream.

Gavin McCrea

Mrs Engels (General). 344 pages.

In September 1870 a train leaves Manchester bound for London. On board is Lizzie Burns, a poor worker from the Irish slums, embarking on the journey that will change her forever. Sitting in the first-class carriage beside her lover, the wealthy mill-owner Frederick Engels, the vision of a life of peace and comfort takes shape before her eyes. But as Lizzie soon learns 'the world doesn't happen how you think it will. The secret is to soften to it, and to take its blows.'

Ian McEwan

Children Act (General). 213 pages.

For religious reasons, a seventeen-year-old boy is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life. Fiona Maye, a leading High Court judge, must ultimately decide whether he lives or dies and her judgement will have momentous consequences for them both.

Darragh McKeon

All That is Solid Melts in the Air (General). 388 pages.

For a child piano prodigy, a dissident factory worker, a broken-hearted surgeon and unknowing others, the disaster that is Chernobyl will change their lives forever . . .

Gillian Mears

Foal's Bread (General). 352 pages.

Two families competing in the world of horse high-jumping are the focus for this stirring tale of romance and rivalry set in rural Australia between the wars. NB: No equestrian knowledge is needed to read this book.

Jed Mercurio

American Adulterer (General). 351 pages.

The main character of this uncompromisingly titled novel is John F Kennedy, as famous for his tragic death as for his achievements as President of the United States. Fewer people know about his cleverly concealed private affairs.

Tom Michell

Penguin Lessons (Non-fiction). 227 pages.

Juan Salvador the penguin is rescued by Tom Michell from an oil slick in Uruguay. A pet is the last thing he needs but it's the start of a beautiful friendship as the little penguin transforms the lives of all he meets.

Derek Miller

Norwegian By Night (Thriller). 292 pages.

82-years-old, and recently widowed, Sheldon Horowitz has grudgingly moved to Oslo, with his grand-daughter and her Norwegian husband. 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 six-year-old son and decides to run.

Mark Mills

Waiting for Doggo (General). 213 pages.

No-one ever called Dan a pushover. But then no-one ever called him fast-track either. He likes driving slowly, playing Sudoku on his iPhone, swapping one scruffy jumper for another. He's been with Clara for four years and he's been perfectly happy; but now she's left him, leaving nothing but a long letter filled with incriminations and a small, white, almost hairless dog, named Doggo. So now Dan is single, a man without any kind of partner whether working or in love. He's just one reluctant dog owner. Find a new home for him, that's the plan. Come on...everyone knows the old adage about the best laid plans and besides, Doggo is one special kind of a four legged friend...and an inspiration.

G. J. Minett **NEW TITLE**

The Hidden Legacy (Crime). 438 pages.

John Michael Adams is just a small schoolboy, when a sudden shocking event tears his life and his family apart. Years later, Ellen Sutherland is stunned when she inherits a beautiful cottage in the Cotswolds from a woman she's never heard of. As she begins to investigate, the mysteries around her new home only deepen. And it's not long before she realises she's not the only one asking questions about the cottage . . .

Heather Morris

The Tattooist of Auschwitz (Historical). 320 pages.

This novel is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, who survived Auschwitz and eventually made their home in Australia. In that terrible place, Lale was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - literally scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

Boyd Morrison

The Loch Ness Legacy (General). 438 pages.

What did Charles Darwin discover at Loch Ness in 1827 that could cause worldwide repercussions nearly two centuries on? Find out in this action adventure from the author of 'The Noah's Ark Quest'.

Sayaka Murata

Convenience Store Woman (Humour). 176 pages.

This Akutagawa-prize winning novel follows the everyday activities of an unconventional woman who finds happiness in convenience store work, despite mounting familial pressure to marry or move along to a different kind of life.

Irene Nemirovsky

Suite Francaise (War). 344 pages.

Set during the year France fell to the Nazis. Irène Némirovsky began writing Suite Française in 1940, but her death in Auschwitz prevented her from seeing the day, sixty-five years later, that the novel would be discovered by her daughter and hailed worldwide as a masterpiece.

TaraShea Nesbit

Wives of Los Alamos (General). 232 pages.

Contentious, gripping and intimate, The Wives of Los Alamos is a personal tale of one of the most momentous events in our history. A fascinating and disturbing insight into the secret life of the Los Alamos families living under the shadow of the creation of the atomic bomb.

Neuvel, Sylvain

Sleeping Giants (Science Fiction). 377 pages.

A girl named Rose is riding her new bike near her home in South Dakota, when she falls through the earth. She wakes up at the bottom of a square-shaped hole, its walls glowing with intricate carvings. But the firemen who come to save her peer down upon something even stranger: a little girl in the palm of a giant metal hand. 17 years later, the mystery of the bizarre artifact remains unsolved - the object's origins, architects, and purpose unknown. But some can never stop searching for answers.

David Nicholls

One Day (General). 435 pages.

'One Day' revisits two characters of brief acquaintance on the same day each year for twenty years from the late 1980s onwards, cleverly drawing the reader into their lives, and leaving one wondering what might have been. Filmed 2011.

Non-Fiction Lucky Dip

(Selection). With fifteen exciting examples of writing from the infinitely varied world of human experience, here's a chance for everyone to learn some new and interesting facts, then share them with the group.

Tea Obrecht

The Tiger's Wife (General). 352 pages.

Written as a mixture of folklore and recent Balkan history, this memorable first novel from a young Yugoslavan now living in America won the 2011 Orange Prize for Fiction.

Edna O'Brien

Little Red Chairs (General). 299 pages.

When a man who calls himself a faith healer arrives in a small, west-coast Irish village, the community is soon under the spell of this charismatic stranger from the Balkans. One woman in particular, Fidelma McBride, becomes enthralled in a fatal attraction that leads to unimaginable consequences.

Maggie O'Farrell **NEW TITLE**

This Must be the Place (General). 502 pages.

A reclusive ex-film star living in the wilds of Ireland, Claudette Wells is a woman whose first instinct, when a stranger approaches her home, is to reach for her shotgun. Why is she so fiercely protective of her family, and what made her walk out of her cinematic career when she had the whole world at her feet?

Her husband Daniel, reeling from a discovery about a woman he last saw twenty years ago, is about to make an exit of his own. It is a journey that will send him off-course, far away from the life he and Claudette have made together. Will their love for one another be enough to bring Daniel back home?

Rigina O'Melveny

Book of Madness and Cures (Historical). 366 pages.

This tale of a Renaissance woman's quest across Europe in search of her missing father, an itinerant man of medicine, is a colourful and atmospheric historical debut novel.

George Orwell

Nineteen Eighty-Four (Classic). 326 pages.

George Orwell's final masterpiece is one of the twentieth century's most remarkable and influential novels - if you haven't read this yet, be sure to put it on your list.

Mirabel Osler

A Gentle Plea for Chaos (Non-fiction). 181 pages.

Laced with horticultural musings and titbits of garden wisdom, this delightful little book describes the trials and tribulations of designing and creating one of Shropshire's most notable gardens.

Gaile Parkin

When Hoopoes go to Heaven (General). 325 pages.

Young Benedict is fascinated by the world about him and in his innocent way makes the best of every situation, even when it may seem less promising to more mature eyes. A heartwarming tale of everyday life in modern day Swaziland.

Priya Parmar **NEW TITLE**

Vanessa and her Sister (General). 356 pages.

It can break your heart to have a sister like Virginia Woolf. In the vein of *The Paris Wife* and the BBC's *Life in Squares*: a compelling and dazzling story of sisters and art, love and betrayal - of Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf.

Patrick Phaedra

The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper (General). 352 pages.

Arthur Pepper decides to clear out his wife's things for charity on the anniversary of her death. Finding a gold charm bracelet in an old boot he begins a journey taking him to London, Paris and India on a life changing adventure.

Laline Paul

Bees (General). 344 pages.

Born into the lowest class of her society, Flora 717 is a sanitation bee, only fit to clean her orchard hive. But Flora is not like other bees. This is the story of a heroine who changes her destiny and her world. This thrilling and imaginative novel was shortlisted for the 2015 Baileys Prize.

Arturo Perez-Reverte

The Painter of Battles (General). 278 pages.

In a coastal watchtower, a man paints a vast mural depicting the nature of war. Then a visitor arrives, a shadow from the past, intent on killing the artist. As the two men talk a tragic story unfolds, of love, war and art.

Matthew Plamplin

Will & Tom (Historical). 321 pages.

Alive with intrigue and artistic rivalry, *Will & Tom* offers a glimpse into the early life of Britain's greatest painter, J M W Turner, through the story of a complicated, vibrant friendship and how it is tested by the dark dynamic of art and power.

Sylvia Plath

The Bell Jar (General). 234 pages.

With hopes of a glamorous job in New York, life seems full of promise to Esther Greenwood, but soon leads her to the brink of suicide. The sharply observed and darkly humorous only novel from the poet renowned for her tragic early death

Poetry Contemporary

(Poetry)

A collection of contemporary poetry. Take your pick from established UK poets including Jackie Kay, Simon Armitage and Tony Walsh or sample new collections by Raymond Antrobus, Lavinia Greenlaw and more. Terrific anthologies by the Emergency Poet and Poetry Pharmacy are also included for instant poetic prescriptions

Poetry Lucky Dip 1

(Poetry).

Take your pick from a selection of poetry books to suit all tastes.

Poetry Lucky Dip 2

(Poetry).

Take your pick from a second selection of poetry books to suit all tastes.

Poetry Lucky Dip 3

(Poetry)

Take your pick from a third selection of poetry books to suit all tastes.

Anthony Quinn

The Streets (Historical). 260 pages.

London, 1882. An idealistic young journalist documents the squalor of the city's slums, hoping that it will help to alleviate the poverty. But he reckons without powerful vested interests whose aim is to keep things just as they are.

Tom Rachman

The Imperfectionists (General). 351 pages.

In this sharply observed and bittersweet debut novel, a once-popular international newspaper with a dwindling readership slides into obscurity while its staff for the most part remain blissfully oblivious.

Ian Rankin

The Complaints (Crime). 452 pages.

Whereas DCI Rebus hunts villains on the streets of Edinburgh, Inspector Fox from the Professional Standards Unit hunts them from within the ranks of the force, so has few policeman friends. Quality crime from this bestselling author.

Helen Rappaport **NEW TITLE**

Race to Save the Romanovs: The Truth Behind the Secret Plans to rescue Russia's Imperial Family (Non-fiction). 400 pages.

On 17 July 1918, the whole of the Russian Imperial Family was murdered. There were no miraculous escapes. The former Tsar Nicholas, his wife Alexandra, and their children – Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Anastasia and Alexey – were all tragically gunned down in a blaze of bullets.

On the 100-year-anniversary of these brutal murders, historian Helen Rappaport set out to uncover why the Romanovs' European royal relatives and the Allied governments failed to save them.

Gwen Raverat

Period Piece: a Cambridge Childhood (Biography). 282 pages.

This charming memoir of a leisured Victorian childhood is written and illustrated by one of Charles Darwin's granddaughters who later became a noted wood engraver.

Piers Paul Read

The Misogynist (General). 257 pages.

A man whose retirement promises only loneliness after the breakup of his marriage, finds things improve when he meets a new partner, yet he struggles to get over his grievances and start to look forward. A thought-provoking study of a grumpy old man.

John Renehan **NEW TITLE**

The Valley (General). 453 pages.

There were many valleys in the mountains of Afghanistan, and most were hard places where people died hard deaths. But there was only one Valley.

Lieutenant Black doesn't even know its proper name, but he knows it is the farthest, and the hardest, and the worst. That he has been sent there to investigate a warning shot fired by a near-forgotten platoon, he can only see as the final bureaucratic insult in a short and unhappy Army career.

But as he starts to unearth the dark secrets of the strung-out platoon besieged within Combat Outpost Vega, Black is drawn into an obsessive odyssey of discovery that will threaten the lives of everyone in the Valley.

Nick Rennison

Carver's Quest (Historical). 436 pages.

A London gentleman and his trusty manservant tumble headlong into a tale of adventure, murder and blackmail in this first title in a lively new series. Ideal for fans of Victorian high-jinks.

Cathy Rentzenbrink

The Last Act of Love (Non-fiction). 248 pages.

In the summer of 1990, Cathy's brother Matty was knocked down by a car on the way home from a night out. Sitting by his unconscious body in hospital Cathy and her parents willed him to survive. This is the story of what happened to Cathy and her brother, and the unimaginable decision that she and her parents had to make eight years after the night that changed everything.

Hannah Rothschild

The Improbability of Love (General). 496 pages.

Annie McDee stumbles across a dirty painting in a junk shop. Soon she finds herself drawn unwillingly into the tumultuous London art world, populated by exiled Russian oligarchs, avaricious Sheikhs, desperate auctioneers and unscrupulous dealers, all scheming to get their hands on her painting - a lost eighteenth-century masterpiece called 'The Improbability of Love'. Shortlisted for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction.

Arundhati Roy

God of Small Things (General). 366 pages.

Set against a background of political turbulence in Kerala, this is the story of twins Esthappen and Rahel who try to craft a childhood for themselves amongst the vats of banana jam and heaps of peppercorns in their grandmother's factory. Arundhati Roy's Booker Prize-winning novel was the literary sensation of the 1990s: a story anchored to anguish but fuelled by wit and magic.

Richard Russo

On Helwig Street (Biography). 243 pages.

When Richard Russo set off from his mid-century hometown for university, he didn't realise his ambitious mother would be beginning life's great adventure with him. A funny and poignant memoir from a Pulitzer prize-winning author.

Robert Ryan

Dead Man's Land (Crime). 467 pages.

Someone is killing British soldiers in the trenches of Flanders and it's not the enemy. Serving his country as a medical officer, Doctor Watson of Sherlock Holmes fame, brings his powers of deduction into play in this original tribute to Conan Doyle.

Sunjeev Sahota

The Year of the Runaways (General). 480 pages.

The Year of the Runaways tells of the bold dreams and daily struggles of an unlikely family thrown together by circumstance. Thirteen young men live in a house in Sheffield, each in flight from India and in desperate search of a new life. Sweeping between India and England, and between childhood and the present day this is a story of dignity in the face of adversity and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Sathnam Sanghera

Marriage Material (General). 302 pages.

A story about three generations of a family set against the backdrop of a corner shop in the West Midlands. Arjan Banga has carved out a different life for himself in London, but on returning home to the Black Country he begins to uncover a whole host of secrets and conflicts that have had an impact on his family through the years.

Sankar

Chowringhee (General). 396 pages.

First published in Bengali in 1962, this epic tale of the comings-and-goings in a distinguished Calcutta hotel is a lively and uplifting read with timeless characters and a surprisingly contemporary feel.

Saskia Sarginson

Without You (General). 369 pages.

In this tense and dark story a girl is missing presumed drowned. However her sister refuses to believe that's what has happened, and as the story unfolds there are all sorts of family secrets uncovered.

Saskia Sarginson

Twins (General). 354 pages.

What could lead twin sisters, the best of friends as children, to live such strikingly separate lives as adults? Find out in this gripping psychological debut from a promising British author.

Dorothy L Sayers

The Documents in the Case (Crime). 260 pages.

From the creator of Lord Peter Wimsey, this ingenious murder mystery is presented entirely in the form of letters, newspaper clippings and court reports.

Frank Schatzing

Death and the Devil (Historical). 550 pages.

In medieval Cologne, when the new cathedral's architect is ruthlessly murdered, it becomes clear that someone will stop at nothing to sabotage the project. A gripping gothic thriller.

Marcus Sedgwick

A Love Like Blood (General). 310 pages.

In 1944, just days after the liberation of Paris, Charles Jackson sees something horrific: a man, apparently drinking the blood of a murdered woman. A gripping tale of love, revenge and obsession.

Lisa See

China Dolls (General). 376 pages.

In 1938 three showgirls become friends while working in the exclusive Oriental nightclub in San Francisco's Forbidden City. In a heartbeat, everything changes. The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor and paranoia, suspicion, and a shocking act of betrayal, threaten to destroy their lives.

Robert Seethaler **NEW TITLE**

The Tobacconist (General). 234 pages.

When seventeen-year-old Franz exchanges his home in the idyllic beauty of the Austrian lake district for the bustle of Vienna, his homesickness quickly dissolves amidst the thrum of the city. In his role as apprentice to the elderly tobacconist Otto Trsnyek, he will soon be supplying the great and good of Vienna with their newspapers and cigarettes. Among the regulars is a Professor Freud, whose predilection for cigars and occasional willingness to dispense romantic advice will forge a bond between him and young Franz.

It is 1937. In a matter of months Germany will annex Austria and the storm that has been threatening to engulf the little tobacconist will descend, leaving the lives of Franz, Otto and Professor Freud irredeemably changed.

Rachel Seiffert

A Boy in Winter (General). 240 pages.

An early November morning in 1941, only weeks after the German invasion, a small Ukrainian town is overrun by the SS. Deft, spare and devastating, Rachel Seiffert's new novel tells of the three days that follow and the lives that are overturned in the process.

Samuel Selvon

Lonely Londoners (General). 160 pages.

At Waterloo Station, hopeful new arrivals from the West Indies step off the boat train, ready to start afresh in 1950s London. There, homesick Moses Aloetta, who has already lived in the city for years, meets Henry 'Sir Galahad' Oliver and shows him the ropes. In this strange, cold and foggy city where the natives can be less than friendly at the sight of a black face, has Galahad met his Waterloo? Both devastating and funny, 'Lonely Londoners' is an unforgettable account of immigrant experience.

Diane Setterfield

Bellman and Black (General). 388 pages.

As a boy, William Bellman commits one small cruel act that appears to have unforeseen and terrible consequences. Tragedy strikes and a bargain has to be struck. Bellman and Black is born.

Gerald Seymour

The Corporal's Wife (General). 420 pages.

An Iranian corporal sits in an MI6 safe house. As chauffeur to a top ranking general he knows his country's secrets, including the locations of nuclear sites. But the corporal won't talk unless they bring his wife out of Iran too. A tense thriller set on the murky edges of modern war.

Mark Shand

River Dog: a Journey Down the Brahmaputra (Travel). 332 pages.

This lively true story of an epic river journey is written with great humour, and bears out the old adage that 'a man's best friend is his dog.'

Owen Sheers

Reistance (General). 354 pages.

Set in the aftermath of a German invasion in 1944, 'Resistance' cleverly portrays the imagined effects of occupation on the inhabitants of a remote valley in the Welsh borders.

Lionel Shriver

Big Brother (General). 404 pages.

When her beloved older brother comes to visit after an absence of several years, Pandora is shocked to see that his weight has ballooned, making him barely recognizable. What has caused this drastic change? A thought-provoking family drama.

Lionel Shriver

Property: A Collection (Short Stories). 336 pages.

This landmark publication, the first collection of stories from a master of the form, explores the idea of "property" in both senses of the word: real estate, and stuff. These sharp, brilliantly imaginative pieces illustrate how our possessions act as proxies for ourselves, and how tussles over ownership articulate the power dynamics of our relationships. In Shriver's world, we may possess people and objects and places, but in turn they possess us.

Adam Silvera

History is All You Left Me (General – Young Adult). 294 pages.

OCD-afflicted seventeen-year-old, Griffin, has just lost his first love - his best friend, ex-boyfriend and the boy he believed to be his ultimate life partner - in a drowning accident. In a desperate attempt to hold onto every last piece of the past, a broken Griffin forges a friendship with Theo's new college boyfriend, Jackson. And Griffin will stop at nothing to learn every detail of Theo's new college life, and ultimate death. But as the grieving pair grows closer, readers will question Griffin's own version of the truth.

Craig Silvie

Jasper Jones (General). 299 pages.

Set in an Australian mining town in the 1960s, this engrossing coming-of-age tale of race and identity is a worthy stablemate to classics such as 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and 'Huckleberry Finn', although it does contain some hard-hitting description.

Graeme Simsion

The Rosie Project (General). 327 pages.

When love fails to come his way, a lonely geneticist develops a scientific test to find a prospective partner with satisfaction guaranteed. A heartwarming contemporary love story.

Rebecca Skloot

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Non-fiction). 431 pages.

Although she died in 1951, Henrietta Lacks lives on in laboratories worldwide in the form of cultured cells which were taken from her during her final illness, and which continue to save lives today. This is her fascinating true story.

Mark Slouka

The Visible World (General). 242 pages.

In this powerful and atmospheric novel, a young man attempts to unravel the truth about his parents' past. He travels from New York to their Czech homeland and uncovers a tragic love affair, as well as a daring story of wartime heroism.

Jane Smiley

Private Life (General). 480 pages.

When Margaret Mayfield marries the eminently eligible Captain Andrew Early in late 19th century Missouri, people think that she has made a lucky catch. Events soon prove otherwise in this thought-provoking historical novel.

Ali Smith

How to be Both (General). 371 pages.

A novel about the versatility of art where two tales of love and injustice twist into a singular yarn. Which story is read first depends on which copy is being read. Winner of several prizes including the 2014 Costa and 2015 Baileys Prize.

Betty Smith

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (General). 409 pages.

A child growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early 1900s learns valuable lessons for life in this classic coming-of-age novel first published in 1943.

M M Smith

The Servants (General). 233 pages.

As his mother's health fades away, 11-year-old Mark is drawn to the old lady who lives downstairs. But it is a locked door that really grabs his curiosity, and the secret which lies beyond it. An imaginative story with a ghostly atmosphere.

Tim Rob Smith

Child 44 (Adventure). 496 pages.

Moscow under Stalin 1953. Inspired by a real-life investigation Child 44 is a relentless story of love, hope and bravery in a totalitarian world.

Zadie Smith

NW (General). 470 pages.

Four people originally from the same London council estate meet by chance in their thirties, bringing their respective life choices under the spotlight. A sharply observed portrait of modern city life from the acclaimed author of 'White Teeth'.

Carrie Snyder

Girl Runner (General). 363 pages.

Part historical page-turner, part contemporary mystery, an engaging and endearing story about family, ambition, athletics and the dedicated pursuit of one's passions.

Natasha Solomons

Mr Rosenblum's List (General). 328 pages.

Trying to make a new life in 1950s Dorset, a Jewish refugee couple find they each have different priorities: Mr Rosenblum is keen to fit in, but his wife Sadie is reluctant to give up the past. A gently nostalgic yet thought-provoking read.

Elizabeth Speller

The Return of Captain John Emmett (Historical). 436 pages.

London, 1921. A First World War veteran is asked by the sister of an old friend to investigate the cause of her brother's sudden suicide. A compelling mystery and a poignant exploration of the long-term effects of war.

Francis Spufford

The Child that Books Built (Biography). 211 pages.

Revisiting his favourite children's books, the author recalls the impression they made upon him at the time, and how misfortune led him to be a schoolboy bookworm. A fascinating and poignant memoir.

Francis Spufford

Golden Hill (Historical). 344 pages.

One rainy evening in November, a handsome young stranger fresh off the boat pitches up at a counting-house door in Golden Hill Street: this is Mr Smith, amiable, charming, yet strangely determined to keep suspicion simmering. For in his pocket, he has what seems to be an order for a thousand pounds, a huge amount, and he won't explain why, or where he comes from, or what he can be planning to do in the colonies that requires so much money. Should the New York merchants trust him? Should they risk their credit and refuse to pay?

Kathryn Stockett

The Help (General). 451 pages.

This fascinating novel is a moving tribute to the thousands of black women employed as maids in prosperous southern US households where they were trusted to raise white children, but not permitted basic civil rights. Filmed 2011.

Kevin Sullivan **NEW TITLE**

The Longest Winter (General). 326 pages.

The Longest Winter is Kevin Sullivan's inspiring and authentic debut novel about life in Sarajevo during the Bosnian War. Terry is a British doctor on a mission to rescue a sick child in urgent need of life-saving surgery. Brad is an American journalist desperately trying to save his reputation following the disasters of his last posting. Milena is a young woman from Eastern Bosnia who has fled from her home and her husband, seeking refuge from betrayal amid the devastation of besieged Sarajevo. In the aftermath of the assassination of a government minister, three life stories are intertwined in a dramatic quest for redemption.

Katherine Swift

The Morville Hours (Non-fiction). 368 pages.

The author spent 20 years creating a country house garden at the Dower House in Morville. This extraordinary book not only describes the genesis of the garden, but also draws from local history, archaeology, folklore and a moving family story.

Laura Tait

The Best Thing that Never Happened to Me (General). 368 pages.

Holly certainly remembers Alex but she decided ten years ago that love wasn't about mix tapes and seizing the moment - though she's not exactly sure it's about secret dates with your boss either. Alex wants to make every moment count. It's a fresh start in a big city, and he's almost certain that his move to London has nothing to do with Holly, almost.

Kate Tempest

The Bricks that Built the Houses (General). 399 pages.

Young Londoners Becky, Harry and Leon are leaving the city in a fourth-hand Ford Cortina with a suitcase full of money. They are also leaving behind Pete, Becky's boyfriend, at his surprise birthday party. Moving back in time - and into the heart of London - The Bricks that Built the Houses explores a cross-section of contemporary urban life with a powerful moral microscope, giving us intimate stories of hidden lives, and showing us that good intentions don't always lead to the right decisions.

Josephine Tey

The Daughter of Time (General). 222 pages.

With the discovery of his grave, Richard III's role in history has come under intense scrutiny from experts armed with an array of technical gadgetry. This classic tale of scholarly sleuthing is a welcome antidote to the 21st century hyperbole.

Johan Theorin

Echoes of the Dead (Crime). 468 pages.

Years after his disappearance from the Baltic island of Oland, someone knows what became of a missing child and is determined to torment his family. The gripping first novel from a noted Scandinavian author

Paul Theroux

The Lower River (General). 323 pages.

A middle-aged American with fond memories of Africa from time spent there in his youth, returns to find things have gone downhill. Undaunted, he resolves to stay, but falls prey to local exploiters keen to deprive him of his dollars. An eye-opening exploration of modern Africa.

Aeronwy Thomas

My Father's Place (Biography). 216 pages.

Written by Dylan and Caitlin Thomas's only daughter shortly before her death, this touching and lyrical memoir sheds new light on the poet's last years at Laugharne.

Brian Thompson

Keeping Mum (Biography). 258 pages.

Neglected by his eccentric parents and cared for by a parade of colourful relatives, the author spent a very unusual childhood. Told with humour and affection, this is his highly entertaining wartime memoir.

Alan Titchmarsh

The Haunting (General). 338 pages.

Harry Flint's research into his family tree leads him to uncanny parallels with an ancestor from two centuries ago in this cleverly plotted interlocking tale

Colm Toibin

Brooklyn (General). 252 pages.

In the 1950s a young Irishwoman emigrates to New York. Just when she starts to settle in, an incident calls her back home where her loyalties are torn between family duty and her exciting new life. A sensitively written period title.

Colm Toibin

Nora Webster (General). 311 pages.

Nora Webster is living in a small town in late 1960's Ireland, looking after her four children and trying to rebuild her life after the death of her husband. Shortlisted for the 2014 Costa Novel Awards and the 2015 Folio Prize.

Paul Torday

Light Shining in the Forest (General). 344 pages.

Newly appointed one of the government's Children's Czars, Norman Stokoe settles into a well-paid position with mostly light ceremonial duties. But with the disappearance of two children, he finds himself very much in the spotlight in this darker than usual tale from the 'Salmon Fishing.' author.

Yusuf Toropov **NEW TITLE**

Jihadi: A Love Story (Non-fiction). 395 pages.

A former intelligence agent stands accused of terrorism, held without charge in a secret overseas prison.

His memoir is in the hands of a brilliant but erratic psychologist whose annotations paint a much darker picture. As the story unravels, we are forced to assess the truth for ourselves, and decide not only what really happened on one fateful overseas assignment but who is the real terrorist.

Sue Townsend

The Woman Who Went to Bed for a Year (Humour). 436 pages.

The title says it all with this comic tale of Eva who takes to her bed when she's had enough of being a wife and mother, but unwittingly becomes the figurehead for a Twitter-based protest movement.

Travelling in Time Lucky Dip

(Travel).

Take your pick from a fine selection of historical novels from contemporary authors - there's something here for every taste.

Travelogue Lucky Dip 1

(Travel).

Why not take your pick from an eye-catching selection of contemporary and classic travel writings, then meet up at base camp to plan your next expedition?

Travelogue Lucky Dip 2

(Travel).

Why not take your pick from a second eye-catching selection of contemporary and classic travel writings, then meet up at base camp to plan your next expedition?

Joanna Trollope

Sense & Sensibility (General). 410 pages.

Sisters Elinor and Marianne lose their father and their home, Norland Park, in a matter of weeks and the shock affects them in different ways. Elinor holds the family together, while Marianne resists the changes they must endure.

Thrust into a tiny cottage in Devon the two sisters are soon united by one thing, dilemmas of the heart. A modern re-working of the Jane Austen classic by one of today's most popular authors.

Lynne Truss

Tennyson's Gift (Humour). 262 pages.

Loosely based on real events, this light-hearted and entertaining novel explores the comic foibles of a cast of famous Victorians, including Alfred Lord Tennyson, Ellen Terry and Lewis Carroll.

Salley Vickers

The Cleaner of Chartres (General). 297 pages.

Set in and around the magnificent gothic cathedral of Chartres in rural France, this tender tale of mystery and redemption is sure to delight Salley Vickers' many fans.

Carolyn Wall

Sweeping Up Glass (General). 320 pages.

As a child in 1930s Kentucky, Olivia Harker's choice of friends from the black community is frowned upon by her white neighbours. Forty years on, secrets from those unenlightened times come to the surface, forcing Olivia to reassess her life.

Barry Walsh

Pimlico Kid (General). 376 pages.

It's 1963. Billy Driscoll and his best mate, Peter 'Rooksy' Rooker, have the run of their street. Billy is growing up and after years of being the puny one with asthma and a dangerous reading habit, he's finally filling out. He is also taking more than a passing interest in Sarah Richards, his pretty neighbour. But he isn't her only admirer - local heartthrob and rotten cheat, Kenneth 'Kirk' Douglas, likes her too - something drastic must be done if Billy is to get his girl.

Kirsty Wark

The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle (General). 434 pages.

Elizabeth Pringle lived all her long life on the Scottish island of Arran. But did anyone really know her? In her will she leaves her beloved house, Holmlea, to a stranger - a young mother she'd seen pushing a pram down the road over thirty years ago. It now falls to Martha, once the baby in that pram, to answer the question: why? Martha is coping with her mother's dementia and the possibility of a new life on Arran could be a new start.

Robin Waterfield

The Greek Myths (Mythology). 294 pages.

The extraordinary feats of the Ancient Greek gods are rendered into glorious technicolour in this modern collection of stories from a prominent British scholar.

Winifred Watson

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day (Humour). 234 pages.

When her employment agency mixes up her assignment, dowdy governess Guinevere Pettigrew finds her life changed in the blink of an eye. A delightful pre-war comic version of the Cinderella story. Filmed 2008.

Evelyn Waugh

Scoop (Classic). 222 pages.

In these times of phone hacking, cosyng up with politicians and other such underhand practices, this pre-war satire on the newspaper industry is sure to raise a knowing smile. Some things never change!

Andy Weir

The Martian (Science Fiction). 384 pages

Robinson Crusoe on Mars - a survival story for the 21st Century. A tautly written white-knuckle ride with gallows humour and many twists and turns. The Sunday Times bestseller behind a major film from Ridley Scott.

Fay Weldon

Habits of the House (Historical). 314 pages.

When their investments fail, an aristocratic family is forced to look for American money to keep the wolf from the door. But will a Chicago heiress fit in with the late Victorian country house set? First in a new trilogy from this well-loved author

John Williams

Stoner (General). 288 pages.

This beautifully written novel from a recently rediscovered American author explores in intimate detail the humble life of an unassuming university lecturer. A truly memorable read.

Kate Williams

The Pleasures of Men (General). 391 pages.

With a serial killer stalking young women in London's East End, Catherine, herself a potential victim, becomes unhealthy obsessed with the dead girls and their fate. An atmospheric Victorian thriller.

Robert Winder

The Final Act of Mr Shakespeare (Historical). 436 pages.

This audacious historical novel imagines that an ageing Shakespeare came out of retirement to write one last play, a scurrilous attack on Henry Tudor, a subject forbidden to him during Elizabeth's reign.

Sarah Winman

Tin Man (General). 197 pages.

This novel begins with a painting won in a raffle: 15 sunflowers, hung on the wall by a woman who believes that men and boys are capable of beautiful things. And then there are two boys, Ellis and Michael, who are inseparable. And the boys become men, and then Annie walks into their lives, and it changes nothing and everything.

Jeanette Winterson

Why be Happy When You Could be Normal (Biography). 230 pages.

The author of 'Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit' recalls growing up with Mrs Winterson, the inspiration for the terrifying mother in her bestselling fictional tale of an unconventional childhood. A frank and bittersweet memoir.

Elizabeth H Winthrop

Mercy Seat (General). 272 pages.

As the sun begins to set over Louisiana one October day in 1943, a young black man faces the final hours of his life: at midnight, eighteen-year-old Willie Jones will be executed by electric chair for raping a white girl - a crime some believe he did not commit. In a tale taut with tension, events unfold hour by hour from the perspectives of nine people involved.

Naomi Wood

Mrs Hemingway (General). 317 pages.

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

Orlando (Classic). 215 pages.

During the course of this extraordinary novel, an Elizabethan nobleman not only transforms into a woman, but is also no older than thirty-six over three centuries later. Intrigued? You will be !

Evie Wyld

After the Fire, a Still Small Voice (General). 296 pages.

Two Australian men, separated by several decades, both learn life's lessons the hard way in this cleverly wrought and engrossing debut novel from an ex-pat now living in London

John Wyndham

The Chrysalids (Science fiction). 204 pages.

Written at a time when nuclear fears were becoming widespread, John Wyndham's classic post-apocalypse novel explores the darker realms of human nature when faced with anything or anyone considered outside of the norm.

John Wyndham

The Midwich Cuckoos (Science fiction). 220 pages.

In the sleepy English village of Midwich a mysterious silver object appears and the the inhabitants fall unconscious. A day later the object is gone and everyone wakens unharmed - except that all the women in the village are discovered to be pregnant. The Midwich Cuckoos is the classic tale of aliens in our midst, exploring how we respond when confronted by those who are innately superior to us in very conceivable way.

Carlos Ruiz Zafon

The Shadow of the Wind (Adventure). 506 pages.

Anyone looking for a literary thriller where books play a major role need look no further than this stirring Spanish tale set in the aftermath of the Civil War, featuring a resourceful boy hero.