Wagga Wagga City Library

BOOK CLUB









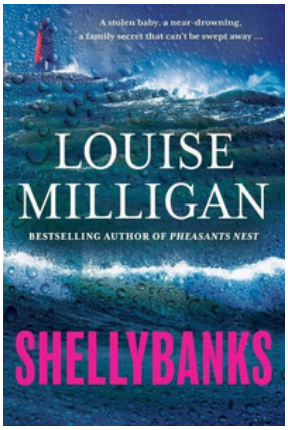
BOOK CLUB KITS

Updated November 2026
New titles are added to the collection every month.
See our website for more details:
www.waggalibrary.com.au/borrow/book-club

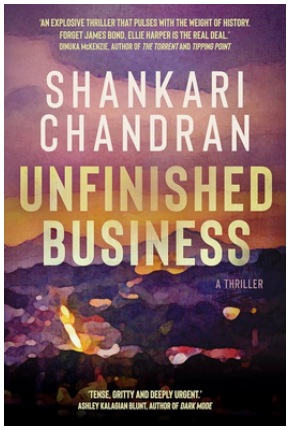
One Book One Wagga

is Wagga's largest book club. Hundreds of locals read the same novel by an Australian author over two months, and spend an evening with the author.

Find out more about One Book One Wagga at:
waggalibrary.com.au/about/one-book-one-wagga



2026



2025



2024



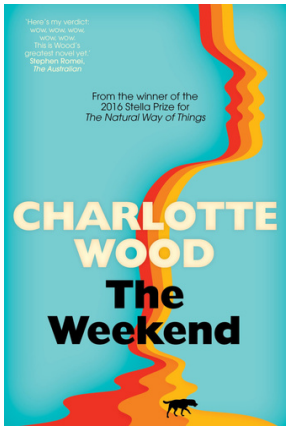
2023



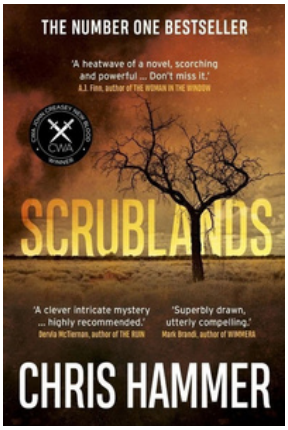
2022



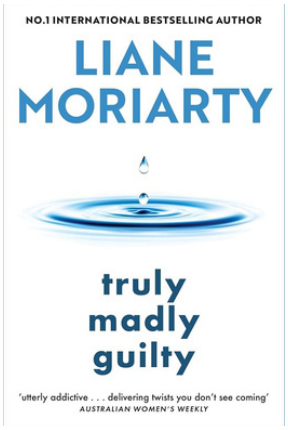
2021



2020



2019



2017

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GENRES

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Classics

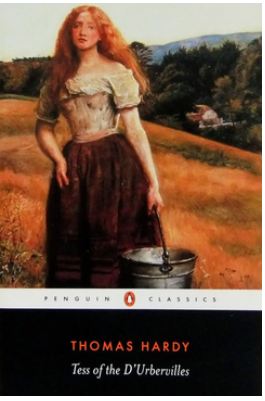


Fahrenheit 451 - **Ray Bradbury**

Themes: Censorship, Conformity, Technology

Want to read ☐

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

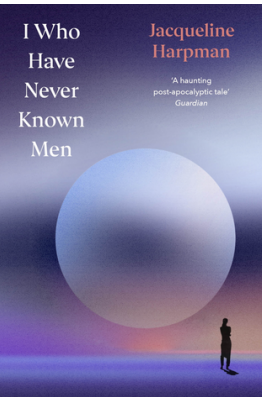


Tess of the D'Urbervilles - **Thomas Hardy**

Themes: Victorian Era, Women, Injustice

Want to read ☐

Thomas Hardy's classic novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles is a masterpiece of late 19th-century literature, presenting the story of Tess, a poor girl from rural England who faces the challenges of modern society while carrying a moral burden that threatens her reputation. As she navigates the difficult path to adulthood, Tess encounters numerous setbacks, each moving her further away from who she was as a young girl. With themes such as humanity's loss of its connection to the natural world and how Victorian morals oppress personal growth, Hardy's novel is an essential read for all lovers of classic literature.

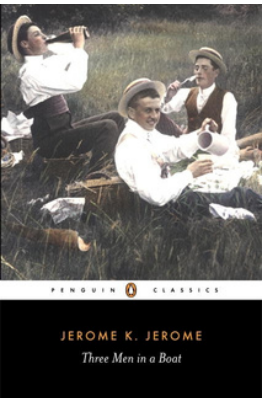


I Who Have Never Known Men - **Jacqueline Harpman**

Themes: Sisterhood, Secrets, Survival

Want to read ☐

Deep underground, thirty-nine women are kept in isolation in a cage. Above ground, a world awaits. Has it been abandoned? Devastated by a virus? Watched over by guards, the women have no memory of how they got there, no notion of time, and only vague recollection of their lives before. But, as the burn of electric light merges day into night and numberless years pass, a young girl - the fortieth prisoner - sits alone an outcast in the corner. Soon she will show herself to be the key to the others' escape and survival in the strange world that awaits them above ground. The woman who will never know men.

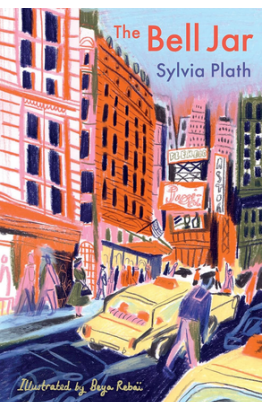


Three Men in a Boat - **Jerome K. Jerome**

Themes: Happiness, Travel, Satire

Want to read ☐

"We agree that we are overworked, and need a rest.—A week on the rolling deep?—George suggests the river.—"
And with the co-operation of several hampers of food and a covered boat, the three men (not forgetting the dog) set out on a hilarious voyage of mishaps up the Thames. When not falling in the river and getting lost in Hampton Court Maze, Jerome K. Jerome finds time to express his ideas on the world around—many of which have acquired a deeper fascination since the day at the end of the 19th century when this excursion was so lightly undertaken.

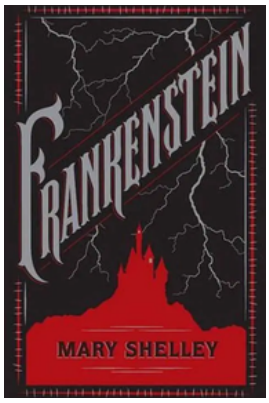


The Bell Jar - **Sylvia Plath**

Themes: Feminism, Depression, Suicide

Want to read ☐

Sylvia Plath's groundbreaking semi-autobiographical novel offers an intimate, honest and often wrenching glimpse into mental illness. The Bell Jar broke the boundaries between fiction and reality and helped cement Sylvia Plath's place as an enduring feminist icon. Celebrated for its darkly humorous, razor sharp portrait of 1950s society, it continues to resonate with readers today as testament to the universal human struggle to claim one's rightful place in the world.



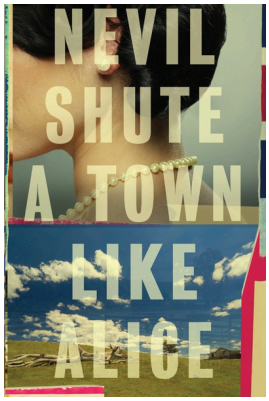
Frankenstein - **Mary Shelley**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Gothic, Isolation, Ambition

Want to read ☐

Obsessed with creating life itself, Victor Frankenstein plunders graveyards for the material to fashion a new being, which he shocks into life with electricity. But his botched creature, rejected by Frankenstein and denied human companionship, sets out to destroy his maker and all that he holds dear. Mary Shelley's chilling Gothic tale was conceived when she was only eighteen, living with her lover Percy Shelley near Byron's villa on Lake Geneva. It would become the world's most famous work of horror fiction, and remains a devastating exploration of the limits of human creativity.



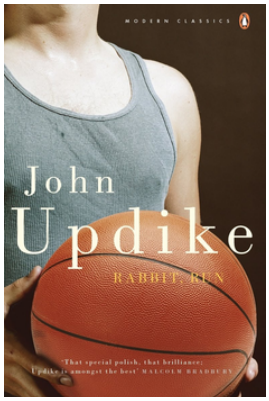
A Town Like Alice - **Nevil Shute**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Resilience, Wartime, Sacrifice

Want to read ☐

Jean Paget, a young Englishwoman living in Malaya, is captured by the invading Japanese and forced on a brutal seven-month death march with dozens of other women and children. A few years after the war, Jean is back in England, the nightmare behind her. However, an unexpected inheritance inspires her to return to Malaya. But it turns out that they have a gift for her as well: the news that the young Australian soldier, Joe Harmon, who had risked his life to help the women, had miraculously survived.



Rabbit, Run - **John Updike**

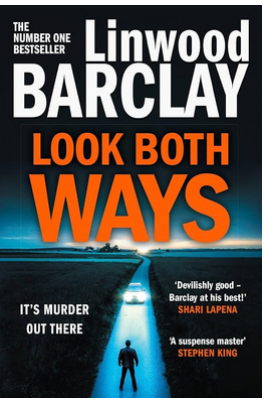
indy reads

Themes: Liteary, American, Sex

Want to read ☐

It's 1959 and Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom, one time high school sports superstar, is going nowhere. At twenty-six he is trapped in a second-rate existence - stuck with a fragile, alcoholic wife, a house full of overflowing ashtrays and discarded glasses, a young son and a futile job. With no way to fix things, he resolves to flee from his family and his home in Pennsylvania, beginning a thousand-mile journey that he hopes will free him from his mediocre life. Because, as he knows only too well, 'after you've been first-rate at something, no matter what, it kind of takes the kick out of being second-rate'.

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror



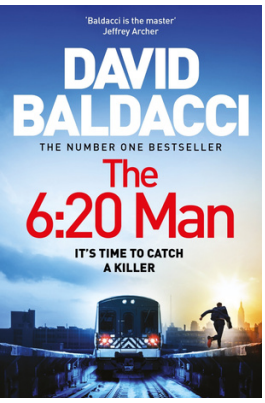
Look Both Ways - **Linwood Barclay**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Technology, Control, Horror

Want to read ☐

The residents of Garrett Island are part of a ground-breaking experiment. For a month, their cars will be replaced by self-driving vehicles – voice-controlled, comfortable and safe. Single mum Sandra is prepping for the huge media event. But as the day gets underway, disaster strikes. A journalist vanishes, possibly murdered. And before long, it's clear something is very wrong. The cars are no longer taking orders from their passengers. They're starting to organise. They're starting to hunt. And they've got the residents of Garrett Island in their sights.



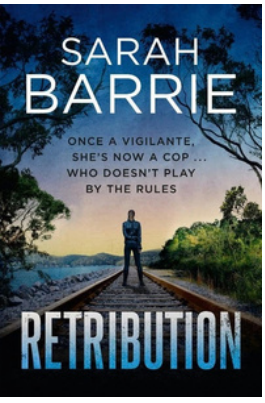
6.20 Man - **David Baldacci**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Mystery, Corruption, Ex-soldier

Want to read ☐

Having survived combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, and been decorated withmedals, Travis Devine mysteriously leaves the Army under a cloud of suspicion. And at thirty-two years old, he's swapping fighting the Taliban and Al-Qaeda for a different kind of danger in the cut-throat world of high finance. His daily commute on the 6:20 a.m. train into New York's financial district - to his new job as an analyst at the minted powerhouse investment bank, into a world where greed, power, jealousy and ambition result in the financial abuse of the masses. But it is on this daily journey that he passes a house where he sees something that rings alarm bells he cannot ignore.



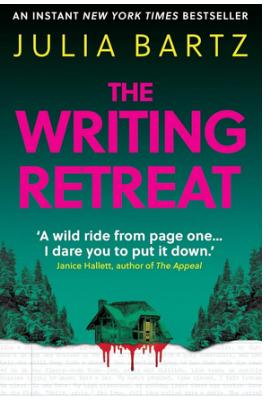
Retribution - **Sarah Barrie**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Dual Identities, Dark Underbelly, Survival

Want to read ☐

Ace hacker, ex-prostitute, Jack Daniels drinker and part-time vigilante Lexi Winter is now working with the police. However it's clear that while Lexi may now be in uniform, she has as much trouble with authority as ever. Just to prove it, Lexi is quietly using her hacking skills to investigate a notorious Sydney crime family with links to her old prey, Damon Vaughn. As her colleague Detective Sergeant Finn Carson investigates a death on a Sydney building, Inspector Rachael Langley oversees an enquiry that is becoming ever more complex. What they don't know is that Lexi is the only one who can unravel them - if only she'll toe the line.



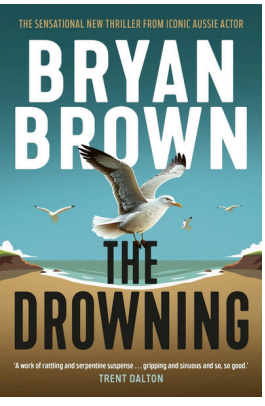
The Writing Retreat - **Julia Bartz**

LP

Themes: Atmospheric, Psychological, Locked-Room

Want to read ☐

Aspiring author Alex has all but given up on her dreams when she receives a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: attend an exclusive, month-long writing retreat at the estate of feminist horror writer Roza Vallo. But when the attendees arrive, Roza drops a bombshell—they must all complete an entire novel during the next month, the best will receive a life-changing publishing deal. Determined to win, Alex buckles down and tries to ignore the strange happenings at the estate. When one of the writers vanishes during a snowstorm, and the clock running out, Alex must discover the truth—or suffer the same fate.



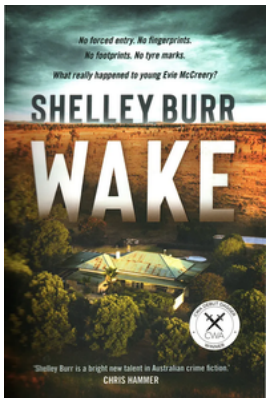
Bryan Brown - **The Drowning**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Secrets, Community, Dark Underbelly

Want to read ☐

The body of a local teenage boy is found on the beach of a sleepy northern New South Wales town. David went for an evening swim and got into trouble... at least, that's what it looks like. Three weeks before, Leila, a young backpacker, didn't turn up for her shift at the local cafe. Benny, the owner, isn't worried. It happens - backpackers are always on the move. There'll be another one. One of the locals, Adrian, has been a help to Benny. He's found him a nice little sideline. Not exactly legal. Is that all Adrian is arranging on the coast? He once was a cop but has he gone bad? And in the back-blocks outside town, a bikie gang is gearing up for a large consignment from South America.

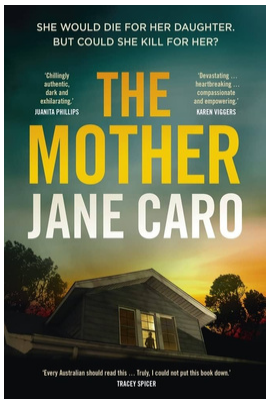


Wake - **Shelley Burr**

Themes: Cold Case, Isolation, Secrets

Want to read ☐

Nannine lies in the harsh red interior of NSW. Once thriving, this ghost town now has one sinister claim to fame: the still-unsolved disappearance of Evelyn McCreery nineteen years ago from the bedroom she shared with her twin sister. Mina McCreery's life has been defined by the intense and ongoing public interest in her sister's case. Now a reclusive adult, Mina lives alone on her family's destocked sheep farm. The million-dollar reward her mother established to solve the disappearance has never been paid out. Private investigator, Lane Holland, has his eye on the unclaimed money, but he also has darker motivations.



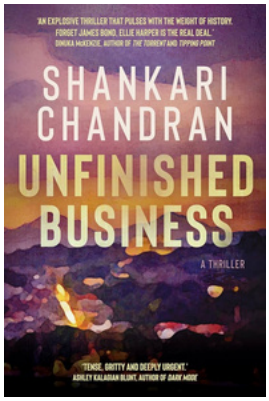
The Mother - **Jane Caro**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Family Dynamics, Vigilantism, Manipulation

Want to read ☐

Recently widowed, Miriam Duffy is initially thrilled when her daughter, Ally, married her true love. But she now wonders whether all is well. When the truth of her daughter's situation is revealed, Miriam watches in disbelief as Ally and her children find themselves increasingly vulnerable and cut off from the world. As the situation escalates and the law proves incapable of protecting them, Miriam is faced with an unthinkable decision. But she will do anything for the people she loves most in the world. Wouldn't you?



Unfinished Business - **Shankari Chandran - OBOW 2025**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Espionage, Political, Sri Lanka

Want to read ☐

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2009. Tenacious journalist Ameena Fernando is murdered, execution-style, on a busy street near her home, with no witnesses. With pressure rising, CIA agent Ellie Harper is sent to seek justice with strict instructions: Find something, but not too much. It's her first time returning to the island after her last mission went tragically awry four years prior, and Ellie has more than one ghost to lay to rest. Amidst the international scheming and jostling for stakes in post-war Sri Lanka, Ellie follows the trail of secrets on a mission to uncover a truth worth killing for.



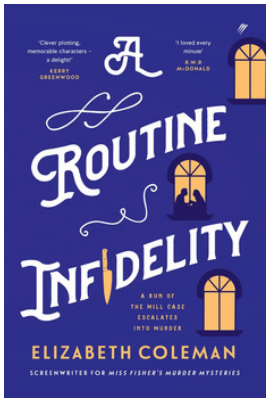
Gone Before Goodbye - **Harlan Coben & Reese Witherspoon**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Corruption, Grief, Extreme Wealth

Want to read ☐

Upside down after a devastating series of tragedies leads to her medical license being revoked, Maggie has lost her purpose, but not her nerve or her passion. Halfway across the globe, sequestered in the lap of luxury and cutting-edge technology, one of the world's most mysterious men requires unconventional medical assistance. Desperate, and one of the few surgeons in the world skilled enough to take this job, Maggie enters his realm of unspeakable opulence and fulfills her end of the agreement. But when the patient suddenly disappears while still under her care, Maggie must become a fugitive herself—or she will be the next one who is ... Gone Before Goodbye.



A Routine Infidelity - **Elizabeth Coleman**

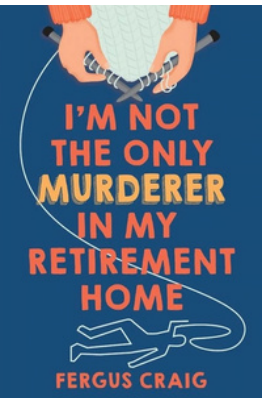
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Sisterly Bond, Betrayal, Deception

Want to read ☐

Private investigator Edwina 'Ted' Bristol deals in the cheating husbands and missing chihuahuas of Melbourne, but yearns for the heart-stopping excitement of real crime. When Ted discovers her sister, Bob, has fallen prey to an internet catfishing scam, she sets out with her beloved miniature schnauzer and shrewd sidekick, Miss Marple, to catch the swindler. As Bob's case takes a series of bizarre twists and turns and an embezzlement investigation escalates into murder, Ted finds her own life in peril. Will she crack her first criminal case before it's too late?

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror



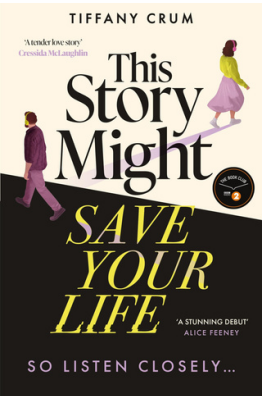
I'm Not the Only Murderer in my Retirement Home - **Fergus Craig**

LP

Themes: Cosy, Aging, Dark Humour

Want to read ☐

Carol is happy to trade her tiny prison cell for a luxury retirement home. She's hoping her past as a serial killer won't come to light. But it's not long before a fellow resident—who happens to be a former police commissioner—drops dead, and Carol's true identity is leaked. Carol soon realizes that the victim wasn't the only former law enforcement officer at Sheldon Oaks—it's filled to the brim with former cops, barristers, and government representatives, her newfound friends included. And everyone thinks Carol's guilt is a no-brainer, but she is ready to prove them dead wrong...without killing anyone, for once.



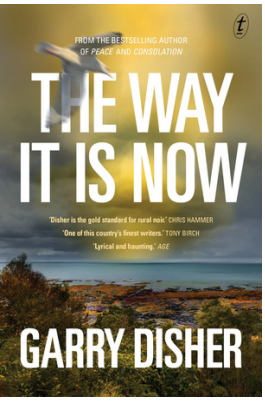
This Story Might Save Your Life - **Tiffany Crum**

LP

Themes: Internet Fame, Relationships, Narcolespy

Want to read ☐

Best friends Benny and Joy host a beloved 'comedy survival' podcast, gleefully finding life-affirming humour in near-death experiences. When Benny arrives at Joy and her husband's home one morning to record, he finds shattered glass and an empty house. With Joy missing and the hours ticking by, not even their most devoted fans could guess the terrible secrets they have hidden from the world - and from each other. If Benny wants to find Joy in time, and clear his own name, he'll have to solve the highest stakes survival story yet.



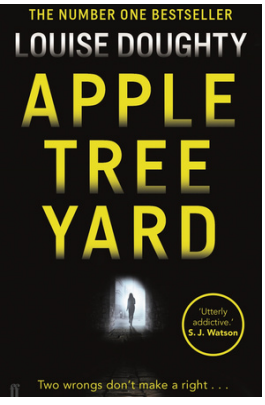
The Way it is Now - **Garry Disher**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Cold Case, Police Procedural, Rural

Want to read ☐

In a beach-shack town an hour from Melbourne, burnt-out cop Charlie Deravin is living in his family's holiday house, on forced leave since he made a mess of things at work. Things have never been easy for Charlie. Twenty years earlier his mother went missing in the area, believed murdered. His father has always been the main suspect, though her body was never found. Until now: the foundations are being dug for a new house on a vacant block. The skeletal remains of a child and an adult are found —and Charlie's past comes crashing in on him.



Apple Tree Yard - **Louise Doughty**

indy reads

Themes: Consequences, Relationships, Legal System

Want to read ☐

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



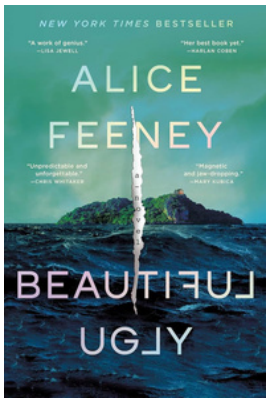
First Lie Wins - **Ashley Elston**

LP

Themes: Identity, Deception, Survival

Want to read ☐

Evie Porter has everything a nice Southern girl could want: a doting boyfriend, a house with a white picket fence, a tight group of friends. The only catch: Evie Porter doesn't exist. The identity comes first: Evie Porter. Once she's given a name and location by her mysterious boss, Mr. Smith, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the mark: Ryan Sumner. The last piece of the puzzle is the job. Evie Porter must stay one step ahead of her past while making sure there's still a future in front of her. The stakes couldn't be higher—but then, Evie has always liked a challenge. . . .



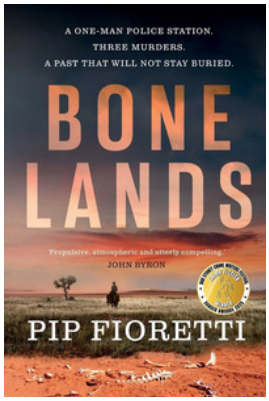
Beautiful Ugly - **Alice Feeney**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Reality vs Fiction, Control, Isolation

Want to read ☐

Author Grady Green is having the worst best day of his life. Grady calls his wife to share some exciting news as she is driving home. He hears Abby slam on the brakes, get out of the car, then nothing. When he eventually finds her car by the cliff edge the headlights are on, the driver door is open, her phone is still there. . . but his wife has disappeared. A year later, Grady is still overcome with grief and desperate to know what happened to Abby. He can't sleep, and he can't write, so he travels to a tiny Scottish island to try to get his life back on track. Then he sees the impossible — a woman who looks exactly like his missing wife.



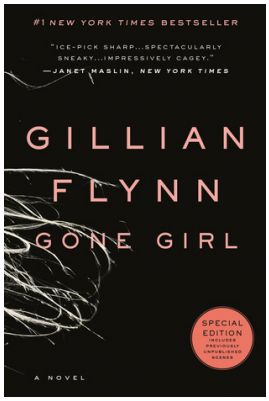
Bonelands - **Pip Fioretti**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Betrayal, Class Divide, Misogyny

Want to read ☐

1911, on a winter's night in arid New South Wales wool country, mounted trooper Augustus Hawkins discovers the bodies of three young people. They are scions of the richest family in the district, savagely murdered on a road that Hawkins should have been patrolling, had he not been busy bedding the local schoolteacher. Detectives arrive from Sydney and the disgraced Hawkins, a traumatised veteran, comes under fierce scrutiny. With his honour and sanity at stake, he becomes hell-bent on finding the murderer. But as ever darker secrets are revealed about, Hawkins is forced to confront an uncomfortable question: who is paying the price for the new nation's prosperity?



Gone Girl - **Gillian Flynn**

Themes: Deception, Marriage, Public Spectacle

Want to read ☐

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



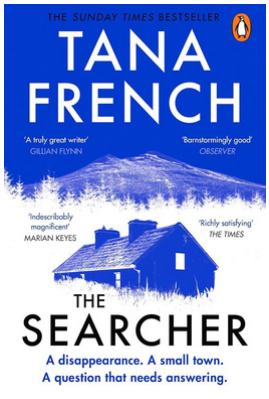
The Guest List - **Lucy Foley**

indy reads

Themes: Isolation, Dark Secrets, Revenge

Want to read ☐

On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors, the boutique whiskey. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned and will be expertly executed. And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?



The Searcher - **Tana French**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Rural Ireland, Isolation, Character-Driven

Want to read ☐

Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a remote Irish village would be the perfect escape. After twenty-five years in the Chicago police force, and a bruising divorce, he just wants to build a new life in a pretty spot with a good pub where nothing much happens. But then a local kid comes looking for his help. His brother has gone missing, and no one, least of all the police, seems to care. Cal wants nothing to do with any kind of investigation, but somehow he can't make himself walk away. Soon Cal will discover that even in the most idyllic small town, secrets lie hidden, people aren't always what they seem, and trouble can come calling at his door.

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror



The Woman in the Library - **Sulari Gentill**

Themes: Friendship, Secrets, Story-within-a-Story

Want to read ☐

In every person's story, there is something to hide...
The ornate reading room at the Boston Public Library is quiet, until the tranquility is shattered by a woman's terrified scream. Security guards take charge immediately, instructing everyone inside to stay put until the threat is identified and contained. While they wait for the all-clear, four strangers, who'd happened to sit at the same table, pass the time in conversation and friendships are struck. Each has his or her own reasons for being in the reading room that morning—it just happens that one is a murderer.



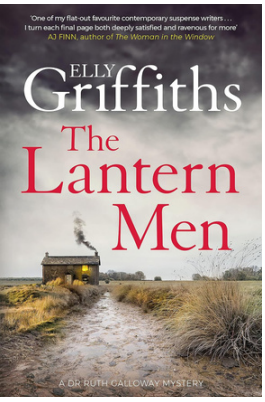
The Night Swim - **Megan Goldin**

LP

Themes: Justice, Cold Case, Reputation

Want to read ☐

Ever since her true-crime podcast set an innocent man free, Rachel Krall has become a household name. She visits a small town being torn apart by a devastating rape trial. A local golden boy, a swimmer destined for Olympic greatness, has been accused of raping the granddaughter of the police chief. Rachel throws herself into her investigation. But someone is leaving her notes, and won't stop until Rachel finds out what happened to her own sister twenty-five years ago. The past and present start to collide as Rachel uncovers startling connections between the two cases—and a revelation that will change the course of the trial and the lives of everyone involved.

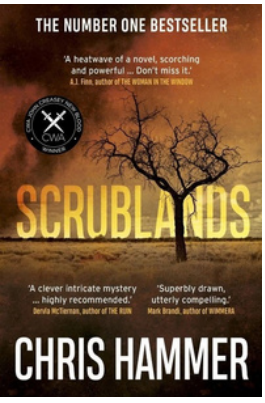


The Lantern Men - **Elly Griffiths**

Themes: Folklore, Archaeology, Atmospheric

Want to read ☐

Dr Ruth Galloway is no longer North Norfolk police's resident forensic archaeologist. DCI Nelson was always sure that convicted murderer Ivor March killed more women than he was charged with. Wanting to make a deal, March offers to show Nelson where the other bodies are buried - but only if Ruth will do the digging. Curious, but wary, Ruth agrees. March tells Ruth that the bodies are buried near a village bordering the fens, said to be haunted by the Lantern Men, mysterious figures holding lights that lure travellers to their deaths. Is Ivor March himself a lantern man, luring Ruth back to Norfolk? What is his plan, and why is she so crucial to it? And are the killings really over?

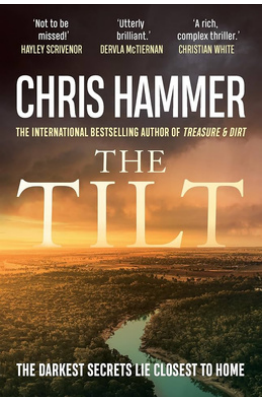


Scrublands - **Chris Hammer - OBOW 2019**

Themes: Rural Isolation, Secrets, Media

Want to read ☐

In an isolated country town brought to its knees by endless drought, a charismatic and dedicated young priest calmly opens fire on his congregation, killing five parishioners before being shot dead himself. A year later, troubled journalist Martin Scarsden arrives in Riversend to write a feature on the anniversary of the tragedy. But the stories he hears from the locals about the priest and incidents leading up to the shooting don't fit with the accepted version of events his own newspaper reported in an award-winning investigation.

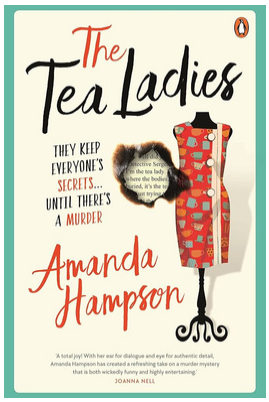


The Tilt - **Chris Hammer**

Themes: Generational, Rural NSW, Cold Case

Want to read ☐

Newly-minted homicide detective Nell Buchanan returns to her home town, annoyed at being assigned a decades-old murder. But this is no ordinary cold case, as the discovery of more bodies triggers a chain of escalating events in the present day. As Nell starts to join the pieces together, she begins to question how well she truly knows those closest to her. The nearer Nell comes to uncovering the secrets of the past, the more dangerous the present becomes for her, as she battles shadowy assailants and sinister forces. Can she survive this harrowing investigation and what price will she have to pay for the truth?



The Tea Ladies - **Amanda Hampson**

Themes: Cosy, Historical, Gossip & Secrets

Want to read ☐

Sydney, 1965: After a chance encounter with a stranger, tea ladies Hazel, Betty and Irene become accidental sleuths. Meanwhile, Hazel's job at Empire Fashionwear is in jeopardy thanks to the new arrival of the mini-skirt. When there is a murder in the building, the tea ladies draw on their wider network and put themselves in danger as they piece together clues that connect the murder to a nearby arson and a kidnapping. But if there's one thing tea ladies can handle, it's hot water.



What I Would Do to You- **Georgia Harper**

Themes: Dystopia, Grief, Confronting

Want to read ☐

A near-future Australia. The death penalty is back. But if the victim's family wants the perpetrator to die, they have to do it themselves. Through counselling sessions with their court-appointed psychologist, we learn the stories of her family Lucy's two mothers – Stella and Matisse – her much older brother and her bookish teenage sister. As the execution date nears, already-struggling Stella remains adamant that she must carry out the punishment. But it becomes clear that if she steps into that room, the family may lose her too. What would you do?

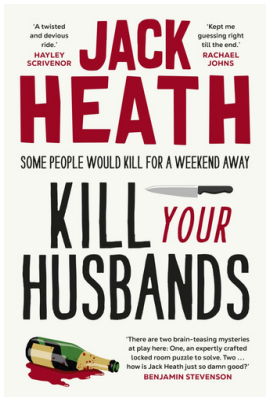


The Lost Man - **Jane Harper**

Themes: Isolation, Family Secrets, Guilt

Want to read ☐

Two brothers meet at the border of their vast cattle properties under the unrelenting sun of outback Queensland. They are at the stockman's grave, a landmark so old, no one can remember who is buried there. But today, the scant shadow it casts was the last chance for their middle brother, Cameron. The Bright family's quiet existence is thrown into grief and anguish. Something had been troubling Cameron. Did he lose hope and walk to his death? Because if he didn't, the isolation of the outback leaves few suspects...



Kill Your Husbands - **Jack Heath**

Themes: Relationships, Isolation, Trust

Want to read ☐

Three couples, mates since high school, rent a luxurious house for an unplugged weekend of drinking and bushwalking. No internet, no phones, no stress. On the first night, the topic of partner-swapping comes up. It's a joke - at first. Not everyone is keen, but an agreement is made and the lights are turned out. When they come back on, one of the men is dead. The phones still don't work; the remaining five friends are stranded. And the killer is just getting started. Senior Constable Kiara Lui is once again on the job, hoping to solve her first murder case as lead investigator. She just needs to work out who is lying and why ...



Panic - **Catherine Jinks**

Themes: Isolation, Paranoia, Sovereign Citizens

Want to read ☐

After posting a drunken rant that goes horrifically viral, Bronte needs a place to lie low. She volunteers as a carer on an isolated rural property. She won't be paid for looking after dementia sufferer Nell, but at least she'll have a place to stay. Nell's daughter Veda, runs spiritual rebirthing retreats. She also claims the rights of a sovereign citizen and rejects the authority of the state. She has a small but devoted following. Are they harmless cranks? Or dangerously paranoid domestic terrorists? And what is the dark secret that Nell mentions in her confused state? Bronte, increasingly uneasy, would be getting far away from the whole place—if she had anywhere else to go.

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror



Dead Man's Grave - **Neil Lancaster**

Themes: Generational Feuds, Corruption, Morality

Want to read ☐

The head of Scotland's most powerful crime family is brutally murdered, his body dumped inside an ancient grave in a remote cemetery. This murder can never be forgotten. Detectives Max Craigie and Janie Calder arrive at the scene, a small town where everyone has secrets to hide. They soon realise this murder is part of a blood feud between two Scottish families that stretches back to the 1800s. One thing's for it might be the latest killing, but it won't be the last... As the body count rises, the investigation uncovers large-scale corruption at the heart of the Scottish Police Service. Now Max and Janie must solve a case that could cost them far more than just their lives...

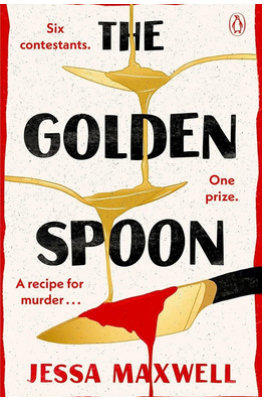


The Trivia Night - **Ali Lowe**

Themes: School Parents, Secrets, Betrayal

Want to read ☐

From the outside the parents of the kindergarten class at Darley Heights primary school seem to have it all. The big date in the calendar is the school's annual fundraising trivia night, but when the evening gets raucously out of hand, talk turns to partner-swapping. Initially scandalised, it's not long before a group of parents make a reckless one-night-only pact. But in the harsh light of day, those involved must face the fallout of their behaviour. As they begin to navigate the shady aftermath of their wild night, the truth threatens to rip their perfect lives apart - and revenge turns fatal.

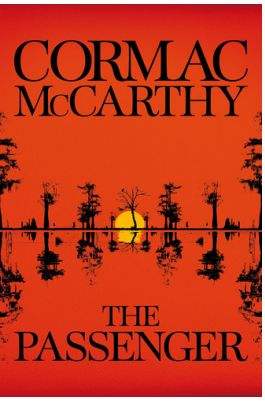


The Golden Spoon - **Jessa Maxwell**

Themes: Locked-Room, Reality TV, Aging

Want to read ☐

Every summer for the past ten years, six awe-struck bakers have descended on the grounds of Grafton, the leafy and imposing Vermont estate that is not only the filming site for "Bake Week" but also the childhood home of the show's famous host, celebrated baker Betsy Martin. The author of numerous best-selling cookbooks and hailed as "America's Grandmother," Betsy Martin isn't as warm off-screen as on, although no one needs to know that but her. She has always demanded perfection, and gotten it with a smile, but this year something is off. Things go awry as the baking competition begins. At first, it's merely sabotage, but when a body is discovered, everyone is a suspect.



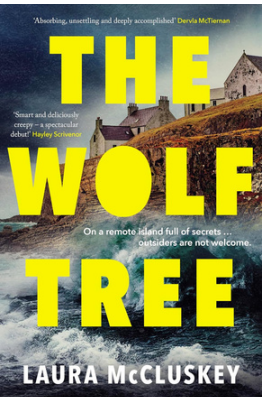
The Passenger - **Cormac McCarthy**

indy reads

Themes: Schizophrenia, Grief, Guilt

Want to read ☐

1980, PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI: It is three in the morning when Bobby Western zips the jacket of his wetsuit and plunges from the boat deck into darkness. His divelight illuminates the sunken jet, nine bodies still buckled in their seats, hair floating, eyes devoid of speculation. Missing from the crash site are the pilot's flightbag, the plane's black box, and the tenth passenger. But how? A collateral witness to machinations that can only bring him harm, Western is shadowed in body and spirit - by men with badges; by the ghost of his father, inventor of the bomb that melted glass and flesh in Hiroshima; and by his sister, the love and ruin of his soul.



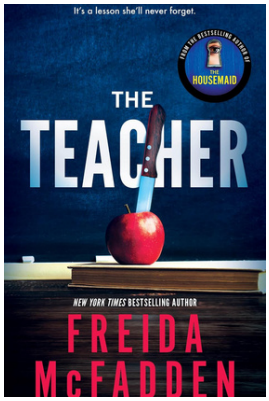
The Wolf Tree - **Laura McCluskey**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Folklore, Isolation, Scotland

Want to read ☐

On a small island off the coast of Scotland, an isolated community is grieving. Eighteen-year-old Alan Ferguson was found at the foot of the lighthouse - an apparent suicide. DIs Georgina Lennox and Richard Stewart are sent to investigate. A raging storm keeps them trapped on the island for five days. And the locals don't take kindly to mainlanders. As George and Richie question the island's inhabitants, they discover a village filled with superstition and shrouded in secrets. But someone wants those secrets to stay buried. At any cost.



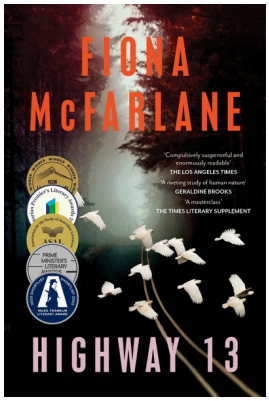
The Teacher - **Freida McFadden**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Psychological, Revenge, Secrets

Want to read ☐

Eve has a good life. She gets up each day, gets a kiss from her husband Nate, and heads off to teach math at the local high school. All is as it should be. Except...Last year, Caseham High was rocked by a scandal involving a student-teacher affair, with one student, Addie, at its center. But Eve knows there is far more to these ugly rumors than meets the eye. Addie can't be trusted. She lies. She hurts people. She destroys lives. At least, that's what everyone says. But nobody knows the real Addie. Nobody knows the secrets that could destroy her. And Addie will do anything to keep it quiet.



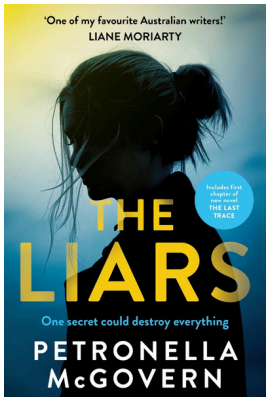
Highway 13 - **Fiona McFarlane**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Australian Noir, Ripple Effect, Short Stories

Want to read ☐

In the small town of Barrow, Australia, people go about their ordinary lives. The violence of one man made Barrow infamous. His twelve victims--women, men, mostly young--are long gone, but their deaths are felt, beyond the forest where they were buried, beyond this country, beyond even this time. In the past, where a young woman on a school trip to Rome sees something she shouldn't have. In the present, where a man confronts an ancient grief on the suburban streets of Texas. In the future, in the hands of journalists and podcast hosts and television actors whose livelihoods hinge on the twin spectacles of loss and violence.



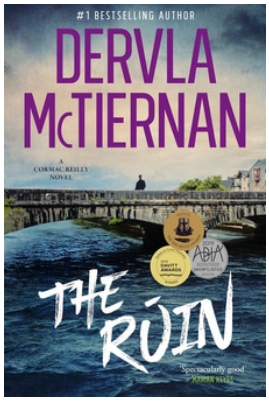
The Liars - **Petronella McGovern**

indy reads

Themes: Secrets, Small Town, Public Scrutiny

Want to read ☐

The close-knit community of Kinton Bay is shocked when fifteen-year-old Siena Britton makes a grisly discovery near a cave in the national park. Siena believes it's a skull from the town's violent colonial past and posts a video which hits the news headlines. But her parents, Meri and Rollo, think the skull is related to their teenage parties in the Killing Cave back in the 1990s. And a school mate who went missing then. None of them foresees the dangers that the discovery will create for their family. The dangers of past deceits, silences and lies that have never been resolved.



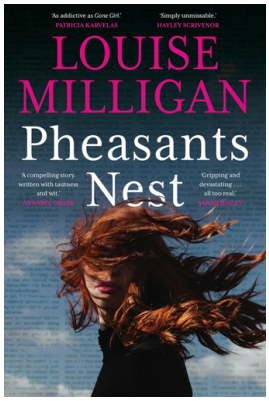
The Ruin - **Dervla McTiernan**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Ireland, Dual-Timeline, Corruption

Want to read ☐

When Aisling Conroy's boyfriend Jack is found in the freezing black waters of the river Corrib, the police tell her it was suicide. A surgical resident, she throws herself into study and work, trying to forget - until Jack's sister Maude shows up. Maude suspects foul play, and she is determined to prove it. DI Cormac Reilly is the detective assigned with the re-investigation of an 'accidental' overdose twenty years ago - of Jack and Maude's drug- and alcohol-addled mother. Cormac is under increasing pressure to charge Maude for murder when his colleague Danny uncovers a piece of evidence that will change everything...



Pheasants Nest - **Louise Milligan**

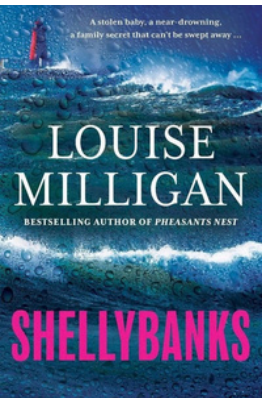
indy reads

Themes: Dual Timelines, Suspense, Media

Want to read ☐

Kate Delaney has made the biggest mistake of her life. One impulsive encounter on a girls' night out leaves her kidnapped, bound and in the back of a stranger's car. As a crime reporter, Kate knows the grim statistics—most abducted women are never found alive. Her terrified boyfriend Liam, and the detectives who rally to find her, lose hope with every hour that passes. Kate must summon all her courage to stay alive.

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror



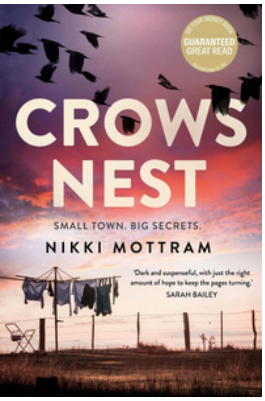
Shellybanks - **Louise Milligan - OBOW 2026**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Generational Trauma, Secrets, Survival

Want to read ☐

On the sands of Shellybanks, journalist Kate Delaney once nearly drowned. Years later, reeling from a violent crime, she returns to Dublin to comfort her beloved Aunt Dolores. As a teenager, Dolores was drawn into a disturbing religious movement that stole her youth, her freedom, and so much more. With Kate's help, she is determined to confront the powerful network that made her suffer years of silence and shame. Shellybanks is a haunting tale of secrecy and survival, charting how two women find strength in each other as they reckon with Ireland's hidden histories and the scars that endure across generations.



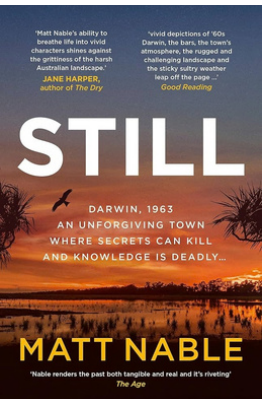
Crows Nest - **Nikki Mottram**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Rural Noir, Secrets, Social Work

Want to read ☐

Fleeing problems in her own marriage, child protection worker Dana Gibson leaves Sydney for a job in the Queensland town of Toowoomba. Her first house call is to nearby Crows Nest to assess the children of Sandra Kirby, which results in her getting both her new boss and a local detective offside. Dana soon learns that, in the country, city rules do not apply. When Sandra and her best friend are found shot dead, Dana is drawn into an investigation that will force her to strip away the friendly veneer of small-town life, while grappling with ghosts of her own. As buried secrets, bitter tensions and corruption come to light, how far will locals go to stop her uncovering the truth?

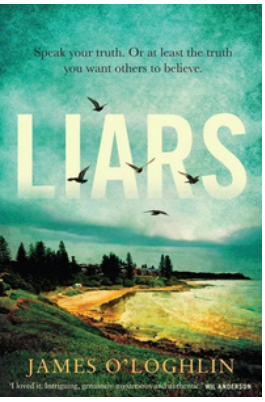


Still - **Matt Nable**

Themes: Mascilinity, Racism, Corruption

Want to read ☐

Senior Constable Ned Potter looked down at a body that had been dragged from the shallow marshland. He didn't know then that this was only the first. Or that he was about to risk everything looking for answers. Charlotte Clark, a 23-year-old housewife feels stuck, married to a cowboy who wasn't who she thought he was. Both Charlotte and Ned are about to learn that the world they live in is full of secrets and that it takes courage to fight for what is right. But there are people who will do anything to protect themselves and sometimes courage is not enough to keep you safe.



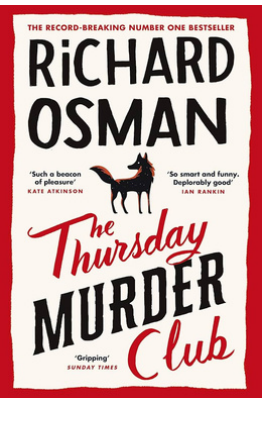
Liars - **James O'Loghlin**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Secrets, True Crime Podcast, Small Town

Want to read ☐

Barb Young has lived in the sleepy coastal town of Bullford Point for over fifty years. When Joe Griffiths returns from Sydney, Barb offers him a job, hoping to help him turn his life around. However, when another new resident is murdered, Joe becomes the prime suspect. Barb thinks the police have got it wrong. Is the murder connected to the developers circling the waterfront home Joe inherited? Or to the true crime podcast he has been making about the death of his ex-girlfriend? And what was the information the murdered woman had been trying to horse-trade with police? As her off-the-books investigation continues, Barb discovers that her town is full of secrets.



The Thursday Murder Club - **Richard Osman**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Cosy, Humour, Friendship

Want to read ☐

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

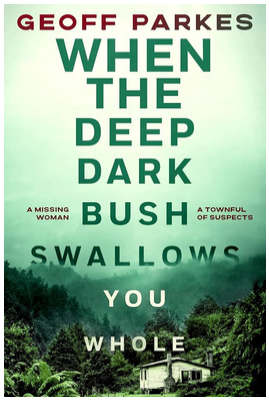


I Came to Say Goodbye - **Caroline Overington**

Themes: Poverty, Parenting, Mental Health

Want to read ☐

At 4am, a young woman pushed through the hospital doors. She walked into the nursery, where a baby girl lay sleeping. The infant didn't wake when the woman placed her gently in the shopping bag she had brought with her. There is CCTV footage of what happened next, and most Australians would have seen it, either on the internet or the news. The woman walked out to the car park, towards an old Corolla. For a moment, she held the child gently against her breast and smelled her. She then clipped the infant into the car, got in and drove off. That is where the footage ends. It isn't where the story ends, however. It's not even where the story starts.



When the Deep Dark Bush Swallows you Whole - **Geoff Parks**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Rural, Secrets, Thrilling

Want to read ☐

It's January 1983. During his university summer break, Ryan Bradley returns to the remote town of Nashville, New Zealand. He's working long, punishing hours as a woolpresser, he needs to sell his late mother's house, and he's increasingly feeling like an outcast in his childhood town. He's also haunted by memories of Sanna Sovernen, a Finnish backpacker and his secret lover, who vanished without trace the previous summer. Now Sanna's sister Emilia has arrived from Finland, determined to get answers and wants Ryan's help. Because Emilia knows her sister was not the first female traveller in the area to disappear . . .



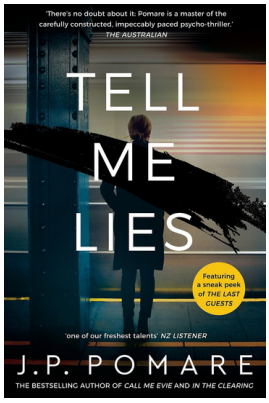
Run Rose Run - **Dolly Parton and James Patterson**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Survival, Ambition, Friendship

Want to read ☐

FIND A FUTURE. LOSE A PAST.
She's a star on the rise, singing about the hard life behind her.
She's also on the run.
Nashville is where she's come to claim her destiny.
It's also where the darkness she's fled might find her. And destroy her . . .
RUN ROSE RUN: a story glittering with danger and desire.



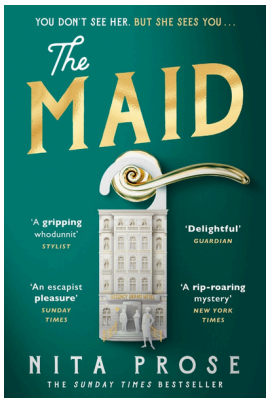
Tell Me Lies - **J.P. Pomare**

LP

Themes: Deception, Psychological, Social Media

Want to read ☐

Psychologist Margot Scott has a picture-perfect life: a nice house in the suburbs, a husband, two children, and a successful career. On a warm spring morning, Margot spots one of her clients on a busy train platform. He is looking down at his phone, with his duffel bag in hand as the train approaches. That's when she slams into his back and he falls in front of the train. Suddenly, one tragedy leads to another leaving her, her family, and her patients in danger. As misfortune unfolds, listeners will soon question Margot's true role in all of these unfortunate events.



The Maid - **Nina Prose**

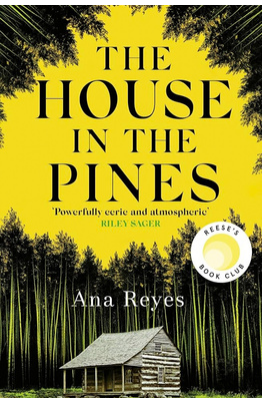
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Neurodiversity, Locked-Room, Grief

Want to read ☐

Since Gran died a few months ago, twenty-five-year-old Molly has been navigating life's complexities all by herself. Her unique character, along with her obsessive love of cleaning and proper etiquette, make her an ideal fit for her job as hotel maid. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black and finds him dead in his bed. She quickly finds herself caught in a web of deception, one she has no idea how to untangle. Fortunately for Molly, friends she never knew she had unite with her in a search for clues to what really happened to Mr. Black—but will they be able to find the real killer before it's too late?

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror



The House in the Pines - **Ana Reyes**

Themes: Memory, Addiction, Family History

Want to read ☐

Maya is still haunted by the cabin - deep in the woods, where the trees are so dense it's easy to miss. She hasn't been there since the summer she was seventeen. Since the day her best friend Aubrey died and Maya's world shattered. Maya's memories of that summer are fragmented, but there is one thing she knows for sure, and that's who murdered Aubrey. Even if no one believes her. Now, seven years later, another woman from their hometown has died in the same strange, unexplained way. Maya knows only she can uncover the truth and save the next innocent girl. But to do that she'll have to go back - back to the forest, back to the house in the pines . . .



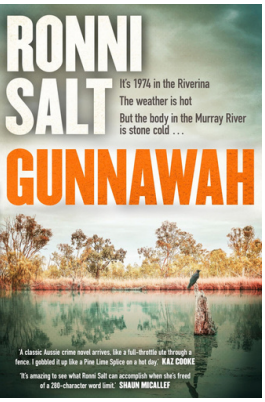
Tell Me Something True - **Michael Robotham**

indy reads LP

Themes: Secrets, Brotherhood, Justice

Want to read ☐

Arlo Hackett doesn't expect mercy when he emerges from a twelve-year prison sentence and makes his way back to Yulara, a waypoint on Australia's Great Southern Road. The last time Arlo was home, his brother was charged with a terrible crime and Arlo found guilty by association. His return brings hatred and violence, along with memories of the people he loved - the ones he couldn't save. Yulara wants Arlo gone, or worse, but every insult and humiliation pushes him to confront what really happened all those years ago. The truth will shock you, surprise you, and break your heart.



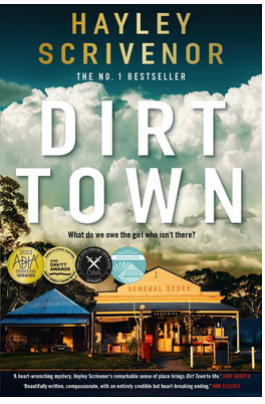
Gunnawah - **Ronni Salt**

LP

Themes: Bush Noir, Conspiracy, Exploitation

Want to read ☐

Riverina 1974: When nineteen-year-old farmgirl Adelaide Hoffman applies for a cadetship at the Gunnawah Gazette, she sees it as a wat ou. Its owner, Valdene Bullark, sees herself in young Adelaide. Val puts Adelaide straight to work. What starts as a routine assignment covering an irrigation project soon puts Adelaide on the trail of a much bigger story. When Adelaide starts asking questions, it's as if she's poked a stick in a bull ant's nest. Someone will do whatever it takes to stop Adelaide and Val finding out how far the river of corruption and crime runs. It seems everyone in Gunnawah has a secret to keep. But how many want to stop Adelaide dead?



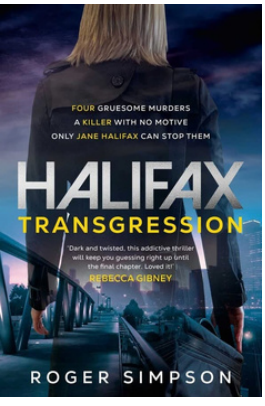
Dirt Town - **Hayley Scrivenor**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Secrets, Isolation, Rural NSW

Want to read ☐

On a sweltering Friday afternoon in Durton, best friends Ronnie and Esther leave school together. Esther never makes it home. Ronnie's going to find her, she has a plan. Lewis will help. Their friend can't be gone, Ronnie won't believe it. Detective Sergeant Sarah Michaels can believe it. She has seen what people are capable of. She knows more than anyone how, in a moment of weakness, a person can be driven to do something they never thought possible. Lewis can believe it too. But he can't reveal what he saw that afternoon at the creek without exposing his own secret. Five days later, Esther's buried body is discovered.



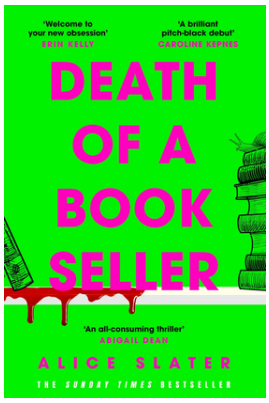
Halifax: Transgression - **Roger Simpson**

indy reads

Themes: Hidden Motives, Forensics, Empathy

Want to read ☐

The first murder is brazen, violent and ritualistic. Committed in the victim's home, the killer leaves few clues as to their motive or their identity. Inspector Eric Ringer is desperate for Dr Jane Halifax to profile the killer, but Jane is cautious. She and Eric have a past ... plus, she hates these kinds of cases; a psychopath is a psychopath, any way you slice it. But there's something about this killer that intrigues Jane. And as the bodies pile up, Jane must use all her knowledge and intuition to enter the mind of the murderer before they strike again.

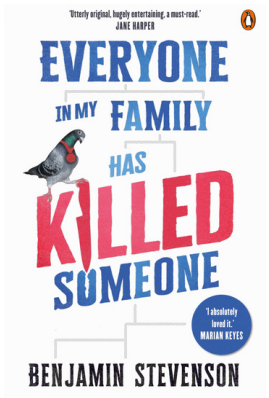


Death of a Bookseller - **Alice Slater**

Themes: Isolation, Obsession, Friendship

Want to read ☐

Roach - bookseller, loner and true crime fanatic- is not interested in making friends. She has all the company she needs in her serial killer books, murder podcasts and her pet snail, Bleep. That is, until Laura joins the bookshop. With her cute literary tote bags and sunny smile, she's everyone's favourite bookseller. But beneath the shiny veneer, Roach senses a darkness within Laura, the same darkness Roach possesses. And as curiosity blooms into morbid obsession, Roach becomes determined to be a part of Laura's story - whether Laura wants her in it or not.



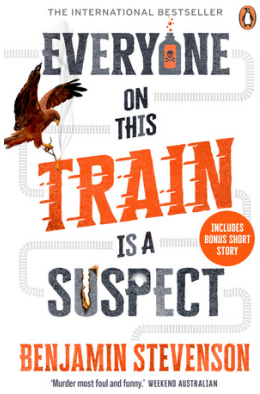
Everyone in my Family Has Killed Someone - **Benjamin Stevenson**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Family, Morality, Justice

Want to read ☐

Everyone in my family has killed someone. Some of us, the high achievers, have killed more than once. I'm not trying to be dramatic, but it is the truth. Some of us are good, others are bad, and some just unfortunate.
I'm Ernest Cunningham. Call me Ern or Ernie. I wish I'd killed whoever decided our family reunion should be at a ski resort, but it's a little more complicated than that.
Have I killed someone? Yes. I have.
Who was it? Let's get started.



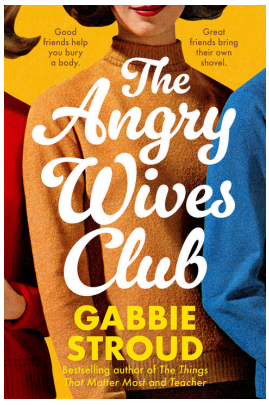
Everyone on This Train is a Suspect - **Benjamin Stevenson**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Metafiction, Hidden Past, Survivor's Guilt

Want to read ☐

When the Australian Mystery Writers' Society invited me to their crime-writing festival aboard the Ghan, the famous train between Darwin and Adelaide, I was hoping for some inspiration for my second book. Obviously, that didn't pan out. The program is a who's who of crime writing royalty: the debut writer (me!), the forensic science writer, the blockbuster writer, the legal thriller writer, the literary writer, the psychological suspense writer. But when one of us is murdered, the remaining authors quickly turn into five detectives. Together, we should know how to solve a crime. Of course, we should also know how to commit one.



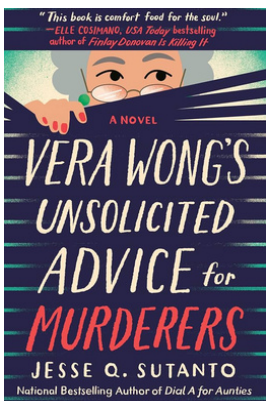
The Angry Wives Club - **Gabbie Stroud**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Domestic Noir, Feminism, Rebellion

Want to read ☐

Welcome to Shellwater Bay, where the sea is calm, the scenery idyllic ... and three women are quietly planning a revolution. Joany appears to have the perfect life, but behind closed doors, she's hiding a dangerous secret. Heather thinks her marriage is rock-solid until her husband demands a divorce. Steph is raising kids with a man who thinks 'helping out' means calling his mother. Bonded at their gym by sweat and fury, the women swap stories about the silent bargains they've made to keep the peace in their relationships. But peace has its price. And when the simmering rage starts to bubble over, these new friends decide a crime or two is in order ...



Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murders - **Jesse Q. Sutanto**

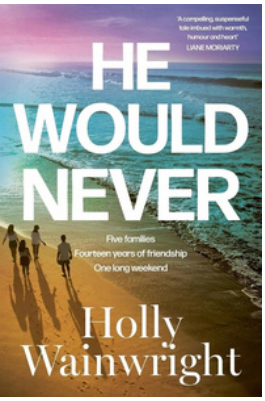
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Cosy, Humorous, Found Family

Want to read ☐

Sixty-year-old self-proclaimed tea expert Vera Wong enjoys nothing more than sipping a good cup of Wulong and doing some healthy 'detective' work on the internet (AKA checking up on her son to see if he's dating anybody yet). But when Vera wakes up one morning to find a dead man in the middle of her tea shop, it's going to take more than a strong Longjing to fix things. Knowing she'll do a better job than the police possibly could – because nobody sniffs out a wrongdoing quite like a suspicious Chinese mother with time on her hands – Vera decides it's down to her to catch the killer.

Crime, Thrillers, Mystery & Horror

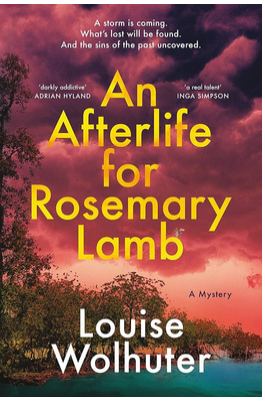


He Would Never - **Holly Wainwright**

Themes: Coercive Control, Friendships, Denial

Want to read ☐

Welcome to Green River. Five families on an annual camping trip, a mothers' group of fourteen years, children starting to look like adults, a father with his own mysterious agenda . . . He Would Never is a searing page-turner about the bonds we forge in the furnace of early motherhood, the trust we place in other adults, and the chaos that erupts when one man refuses to play by the rules.

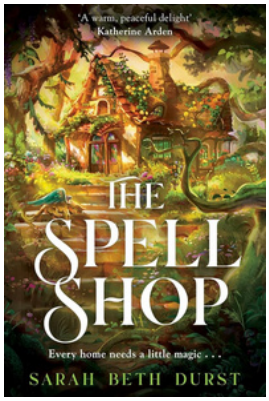


An Afterlife for Rosemary Lamb - **Louise Wolhuter**

Themes: Rumours, Small Town, Outsiders

Want to read ☐

Magpie Beach is a quiet seaside town – full of small-town prejudices and small-town cliques. Meg and Lily because they came to Magpie Beach to escape their former lives, Rosemary because her upbringing was the subject of much local gossip and upturned noses. The three women come together as friends, partly because their homes are so close together on the outskirts of town – and partly because their neighbours treat them with such suspicion. When Jessie Else, all of 9 years old, goes missing – it's easy to see why this small band of outcasts are first on the list of suspects – but what they didn't realise is that Jessie's disappearance is only the beginning of their troubles.



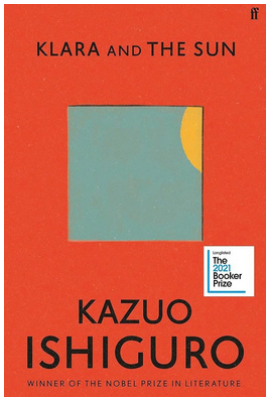
The Spell Shop - **Sarah Beth Durst**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Cosy, Romance, Magic

Want to read ☐

Kiela has always had trouble dealing with people, and as librarian at the Great Library of Alyssium, she hasn't had to. She and her assistant, Caz, a sentient spider plant, have spent most of the last eleven years sequestered among the empire's precious spellbooks. But a revolution is brewing and when the library goes up in flames, they flee to the faraway island where she grew up. But to her dismay, in addition to a nosy and handsome - neighbour, she finds the town in disarray. The empire has slowly been draining power from the island, and now Kiela is determined to make things right.



Klara and the Sun - **Kazuo Ishiguro**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Love, Hope, Technology

Want to read ☐

From her place in the store that sells artificial friends, Klara, an artificial friend with outstanding observational qualities, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass in the street outside. She remains hopeful a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara she is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans. Kazuo Ishiguro looks at our rapidly changing modern world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator and asks: what does it mean to love?

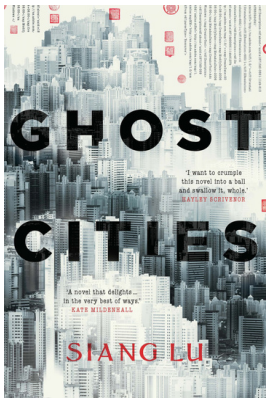


Fairy Tale - **Stephen King**

Themes: Horror, Thriller, Adventure

Want to read ☐

Charlie Reade looks like a regular high school kid. But he carries a heavy load. His mom was killed in a hit-and-run accident when he was ten, and grief drove his dad to drink. Charlie learned how to take care of himself, and his dad. Then, when Charlie is 17, he meets a dog named Radar and his aging master, Howard Bowditch, a recluse in a big house at the top of a big hill, with a locked shed in the backyard. Sometimes strange sounds emerge from it. Then, when Bowditch dies, he leaves Charlie a cassette tape telling a story no one would believe...



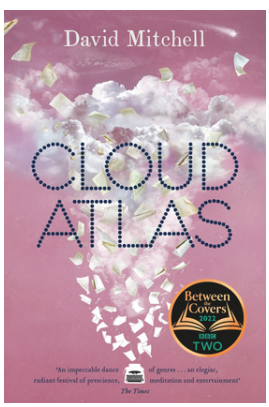
Ghost Cities - **Siang Lu**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Dual-timeline, Egotism, Cultural Identity

Want to read ☐

Inspired by the vacant, uninhabited megacities of China, Ghost Cities follows multiple narratives, including one in which a young man named Xiang is fired from his job as a translator at Sydney's Chinese Consulate after it is discovered he doesn't speak a word of Chinese and has been relying entirely on Google Translate for his work. The incident goes viral under the hashtag #BadChinese and attracts the attention of the eccentric film director Baby Bao, who uses Lu to attract press for his latest film. Bao's movie, based on ancient legends, is to be filmed in one of China's "ghost cities".



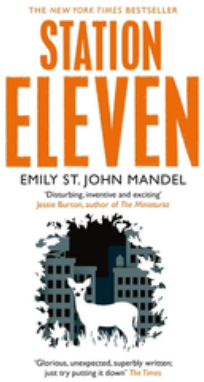
Cloud Atlas - **David Mitchell**

Themes: Greed, Mortality, Cycles of History

Want to read ☐

A reluctant voyager crossing the Pacific in 1850; a disinherited composer blagging a precarious livelihood in between-the-wars Belgium; a high-minded journalist in Governor Reagan's California; a vanity publisher fleeing his gangland creditors; a genetically modified "dinery server" on death-row; and Zachry, a young Pacific Islander witnessing the nightfall of science and civilisation - the narrators of 'Cloud Atlas' hear each other's echoes down the corridor of history, and their destinies are changed in ways both great and small.

Fantasy and Science Fiction

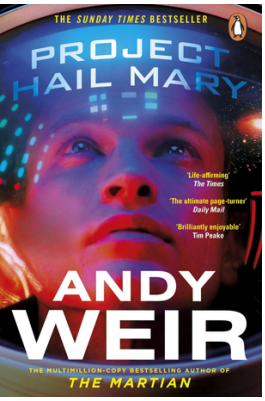


Station Eleven - **Emily St. John Mandel**

Themes: Themes: Art, Memory, Survival

Want to read ☐

Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of King Lear. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence.



Project Hail Mary - **Andy Weir**

Themes: Survival, Isolation, Memory

Want to read ☐

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission,and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish. Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone. Or does he?



Hot Chocolate on Thursday - **Michiko Aoyama**

indy reads LP

Themes: Memory, Healing, Friendship

Want to read ☐

Across a bridge in a quiet neighbourhood in Tokyo, a seasonal cherry blossom sits on the river. Nearby is the Marble Cafe, where a woman writes in a notebook and a young waiter prepares her favourite hot drink. Both wonder about each other and about the other lives of the clientele who frequent this charming little cafe behind the trees. Taking a walk along the river, cooking the best tamagoyaki, ordering hot chocolate, forgetting to remove our nail polish... The small, everyday acts that we do can lead to unexpected encounters and reverberate far beyond our own lives to make a real difference in the world.



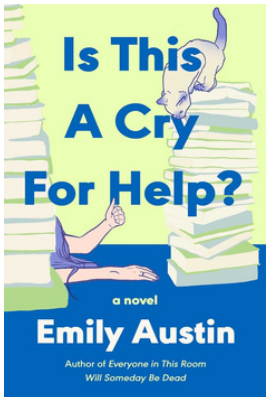
I Want Everything - **Dominic Amerena**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Satire, Deception, Ambition

Want to read ☐

You all know this, of course, but years and years ago, acclaimed Australian novelist Brenda Shales went missing. After two explosive, controversial books that would shape the literary canon of the country for decades to come — and that terrible legal scandal about plagiarism, of course — she was simply gone. That was, right up until a frustrated young writer sees an elderly woman swimming at his local pool in Melbourne. She looks familiar...very familiar in fact. No. It couldn't be. Stunned, he returns home to confirm the impossible truth; it's Brenda Shales, now in her old age and stranded in a retirement home.



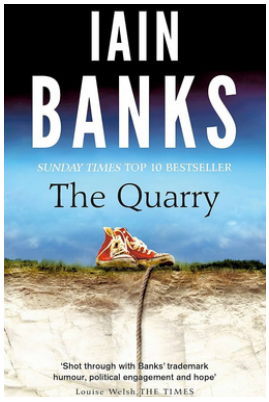
Is This A Cry For Help? - **Emily Austin**

indy reads LP

Themes: Mental Health, Identity, Grief

Want to read ☐

Darcy's life turned out better than she could have ever imagined. She is a librarian at the local branch, while her wife Joy runs a book binding service. Between the two of them, there is no more room on their shelves with their ample book collections, various knickknacks and bobbles, and dried bouquets. Rounding out their ideal life is two cats and a sun-soaked house by the lake. But when Darcy receives the news that her ex-boyfriend, Ben, has passed away, she spirals into a pit of guilt and regret, resulting in a mental breakdown and medical leave from the library. When she returns to work, she is met by unrest in her community and protests surrounding intellectual freedom.

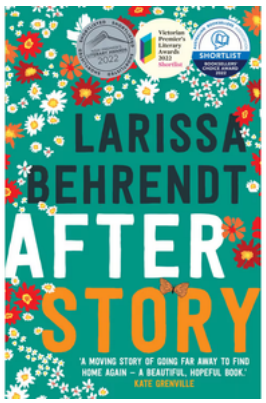


The Quarry - **Iain Banks**

Themes: Mortality, Neurodiversity, Old Friends

Want to read ☐

Kit doesn't know who his mother is. What he does know, however, is that his father, Guy, is dying of cancer. Feeling his death is imminent, Guy gathers around him his oldest friends – or at least the friends with the most to lose by his death. Paul – the rising star in the Labour party who dreads the day a tape they all made at university might come to light; Alison and Robbie, corporate bunnies whose relationship is daily more fractious; Pris and Haze, once an item, now estranged, and finally Hol – friend, mentor, former lover and the only one who seemed to care. But what will happen to Kit when Guy is gone?



After Story - **Larissa Behrendt**

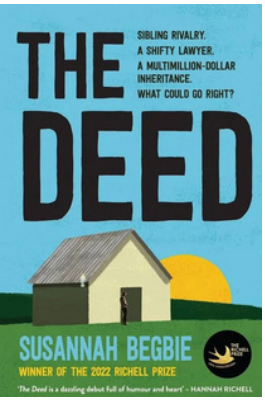
Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Culture, Trauma, Colonialism

Want to read ☐

When Indigenous lawyer Jasmine decides to take her mother, Della,on a tour of England's most revered literary sites, Jasmine hopes it will bring them closer together and help them reconcile the past. Twenty-five years earlier the disappearance of Jasmine's older sister devastated their tight-knit community. This tragedy returns to haunt Jasmine and Della when another child mysteriously goes missing on Hampstead Heath. As Jasmine immerses herself in the world of her literary idols - including Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and Virginia Woolf - Della is inspired to rediscover the wisdom of her own culture and storytelling.

Fiction



The Deed - **Susannah Begbie**

LP

Themes: Greed, Estranged Siblings, Humour

Want to read ☐

Tom Edwards is dying, and cranky. He's made his peace with the dying part. But he'd bet his property - the whole ten thousand acres of it - that there'd be no wailing at his funeral. His kids wouldn't be able to chop down a tree, let alone build a coffin to bury him in.
Then Tom has an idea ...
Christine is furious, David ashen-faced, and Sophie distracted. Only Jenny listens carefully as Vince Barton, of Barton & Sons, reads their father's will. Either they build his coffin - in four days - or they lose their inheritance. All of it.



The Angry Women's Club - **Meg Bignell**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Empowerment, Mid-life, Feminism

Want to read ☐

Once in a while, everyone needs to be heard.
Freycinet Barnes has built herself the perfect existence. With beautiful children, a successful husband and a well-ordered schedule, it's a life so full she simply doesn't fit.
When she steps outside her calendar and is accidentally thrown into the generous bosom of the West Moonah Women's Choir.



The Collected Regrets of Clover - **Mikki Brammer**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Death Doula, Romance, Friendship

Want to read ☐

From the day she watched her kindergarten teacher drop dead during a dramatic telling of Peter Rabbit , Clover Brooks has felt a stronger connection with the dying than she has with the living. After the beloved grandfather who raised her dies alone while she is traveling, Clover becomes a death doula in New York City, dedicating her life to ushering people peacefully through their end-of-life process. Clover spends so much time with the dying that she has no life of her own, until the final wishes of a feisty old woman send Clover on a road trip to uncover a forgotten love story—and perhaps, her own happy ending.



Yesteryear - **Caro Claire Burke**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Trad Wife, Time Travel, Unsettling

Want to read ☐

Natalie lives a traditional lifestyle, and her followers are sick with envy. Her charming farmhouse on her working ranch is artfully cluttered, her husband is a handsome cowboy, her homemade sourdough boules are each more beautiful than the last. So what if there are nannies and producers and industrial-grade ovens behind the scenes? What her followers don't know won't hurt them. Then, one morning, Natalie wakes up in a strange, horrible version of reality. Her home, her husband, her children, they're all familiar, but something's off. Is this a hoax? A reality show? A test from God? Natalie knows just two things for sure: this isn't her perfect life, and she must escape.



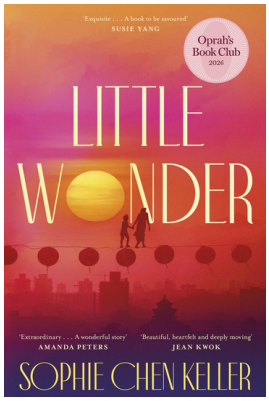
Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens - **Shankari Chandran**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Community, Memory, Racism

Want to read ☐

Cinnamon Gardens Nursing Home is nestled in the quiet suburb of Westgrove, Sydney – populated with residents with colourful histories, each with their own secrets, triumphs and failings. This is their safe place, an oasis of familiar delights. But this ordinary neighbourhood is not without its prejudices. The serenity of Cinnamon Gardens is threatened by malignant forces more interested in what makes this refuge different. As those who challenge the residents' existence make their stand against the nursing home with devastating consequences, our characters are forced to reckon with a country divided.

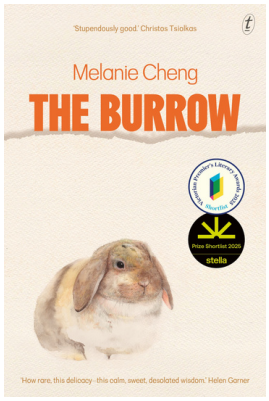


Little Wonder - **Sophie Chen Keller** LP

Themes: Seperation, A Mother's Love, Music

Want to read ☐

Song is a nobody, just a food delivery worker from a village in Northeastern China,but her son, River, is a little wonder. At the age of three, he toddled to a piano and tapped out his favourite song. At five, he mastered Liszt's three Liebesträume; at eight, he blazed through the complete set of Chopin's études. And at every step, through loss, illness and poverty, Song has been there to light his way,until finally, at the age of eleven, River is invited to study with a preeminent teacher in Beijing. But in the chaos of Beijing Railway Station on the busiest day of the year, Song faces every mother's nightmare: she loses her grip on River's little hand.



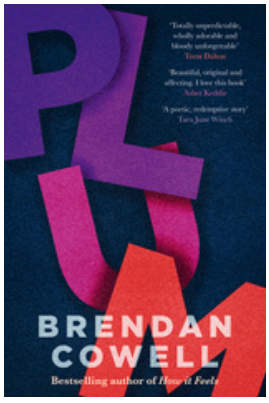
The Burrow - **Melanie Cheng**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Intergenerational Trauma, Secrets, Isolation

Want to read ☐

The Burrow follows members of the Lee family as they navigate grief and hope in their quiet Australian Jin, an emergency physician and father; Amy, a published author and mother; Lucie, their bookish and introverted ten-year-old; and Pauline, Amy's mother who's trying to make amends. Racked with grief for Ruby, Lucie's baby sister who died in a shocking accident, the family adopts a rabbit in the hopes of bringing much-needed cheer. At first, each family member benefits from the distraction of a new and needy creature, but when a violent home invasion breaks their fragile sense of peace, the family is forced to confront the circumstances surrounding Ruby's death.



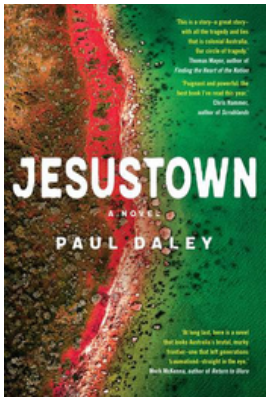
Plum - **Brendan Cowell**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Masculinity, Rugby League, Addiction

Want to read ☐

Peter 'The Plum' Lum is a 48-year-old ex-star NRL player, living with his son and girlfriend in Cronulla. He's living a pretty cruisey life until one day he suffers an epileptic fit and discovers that he has a brain disorder as a result of the thousand-odd head knocks he took on the footy field. According to his neurologist, Plum has to make some changes - right now - or it's dementia, or even death. Reluctantly, Plum embarks on a journey of self-care and self-discovery, which is not so easy when all you've ever known is to go full tilt at everything. On top of this, he's being haunted by dead poets, and, unable to stop crying, discovers he has a special gift for the spoken word.



Jesustown - **Paul Daley**

Themes: Colonialism, History, Guilt

Want to read ☐

Morally bankrupt popular historian Patrick Renmark leaves London in disgrace after the accidental death of his infant son. With one card left to play, he takes a commission to write the biography of his pioneering anthropologist grandfather. With no enthusiasm and even less integrity, Patrick travels to the former mission town in Australia's far north where his grandfather famously brokered 'peace' between the Indigenous people of the area and the white constabulary. Of course nothing is as it seems, or as Patrick wants it to be. Unable to lay his own son to rest, Patrick unwillingly becomes part of Jericho Bakerman's quest to return the settlement's ancestral remains to Country.



The Things We Do to Our Friends - **Heather Darwent**

Themes: Obsession, Ambition, Thriller

Want to read ☐

When Clare meets Tabitha, a charismatic, beautiful, and intimidatingly rich girl from her art history class, she knows she's destined to become friends with her and her exclusive circle: raffish Samuel, shrewd Ava, and pragmatic Imogen. She is immediately drawn into their libertine world of sophisticated dinner parties and summers in France. The new life she always envisioned for herself has seemingly begun. But as Clare starts to realize just what her friends are capable of, it's already too late—because they've taken the plunge. They're so close to attaining everything they want, and there's no going back.

Fiction



No One's Looking - **Brooke Davis**

Themes: Sisterhood, Reinvention, Rage

Want to read ☐

When Susan first meets Vicki, her new baby sister, she puts a hand on her tiny forearm, and Vicki stops screaming. Just like that. If only it were so easy forty-five years later.
Susan has always been the quiet, nice sister, but her husband's sudden demand for an open marriage - and a rather large purple object she'd forgotten about - provokes a slow-dawning epiphany: being the 'good' girl doesn't always mean it's good for you.
Just down the road, Vicki listens at the door of her seventeen-year-old daughter's room - her only child - and is shocked at what she hears. Her old urge to scream builds.



Questions of Travel - **Michelle de Kretser**

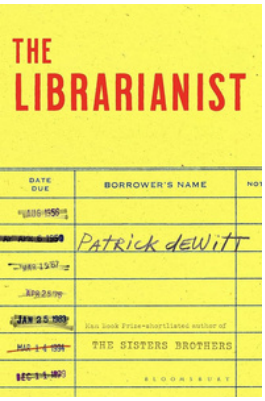
Borrow Box.

Themes: Travel, Displacement, Cultural Alienation

Want to read ☐

Laura travels the world before returning to Sydney, where she works for a publisher of travel guides. Ravi dreams of being a tourist until he is driven from Sri Lanka by devastating events.

Around these two superbly drawn characters, a double narrative assembles an enthralling array of people, places and stories, from Theo, whose life plays out in the long shadow of the past, to Hana, an Ethiopian woman determined to reinvent herself in Australia.



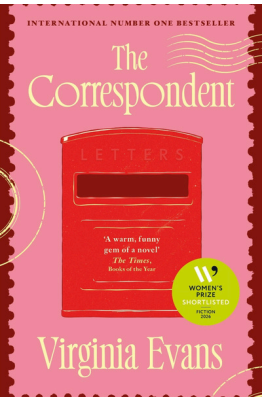
The Librarianist - **Patrick deWitt**

indy reads

Themes: Lonliness, Betrayal, Literary

Want to read ☐

Bob Comet is a retired librarian passing his solitary days surrounded by books and small comforts in a mint-colored house in Portland, Oregon. One morning on his daily walk he encounters a confused elderly woman lost in a market and returns her to the senior center that is her home. Hoping to fill the void he's known since retiring, he begins volunteering at the center. Behind Bob Comet's straight-man facade is the story of an unhappy child's runaway adventure during the last days of the Second World War, of true love won and stolen away, of the purpose and pride found in the librarian's vocation, and of the pleasures of a life lived to the side of the masses.



The Correspondent - **Virginia Evans**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Communication, Aging, Grief

Want to read ☐

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.



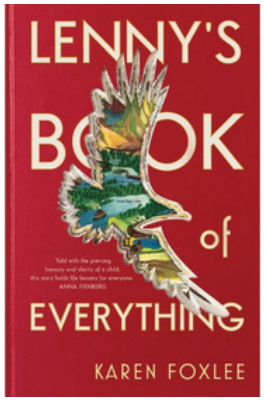
One Punch - **Julie Fison**

indy reads

Themes: Family, Justice, Morality

Want to read ☐

Yasmin Weston is on holiday when she learns that her son Daniel has been assaulted at home in Australia, leaving him with a debilitating brain injury. She vows to hunt down his attacker. Evie MacIntyre knows the Westons from school. She's never had much time for Yasmin and she dislikes Daniel because he bullied her son, Brody. When Evie discovers evidence that Brody was involved in the attack, she is torn but decides there is no way she will let her only son go to jail. As two mothers wrestle with the consequences of their actions, two families suffer the shockwaves of one catastrophic night and a punch that changes everything.



Lenny's Book of Everything - **Karen Foxlee**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Growing Up, Love, Disability

Want to read ☐

Lenny, small and sharp, has a younger brother Davey who won't stop growing - and at seven is as tall as a man. Raised by their single mother, they have food and a roof over their heads, but not much else. The bright spot every week is the arrival of the latest issue of Burrell's Build-It-at-Home Encyclopedia. Through the encyclopedia, Lenny and Davey experience the wonders of the world and dream about a life of freedom and adventure, visiting the gleaming lakes of the Canadian Northwest Territories. But as her brother's health deteriorates, Lenny comes to accept the inevitable truth; Davey will never make it to Great Bear Lake.



Weekends with the Sunshine Gardening Society - **Sophie Green**

Themes: Friendship, Uplifting, Second Chances

Want to read ☐

Noosa Heads, 1987: Newly-divorced Cynthia has returned to her hometown from Los Angeles to reconnect with her pregnant 19-year-old daughter. Cynthia's former best friend Lorraine has been stuck mowing lawns as part of a business she shares with her husband - his dream, not hers. When Cynthia convinces Lorraine to join the local Sunshine Gardening Society, they meet young widow Elizabeth, and rootless, heartbroken Kathy. The four women soon discover the society is much more than an opportunity to chat about flowers. Rather, it offers them the chance to lend a helping hand to people whose lives need a bit of care and attention right along with their gardens.

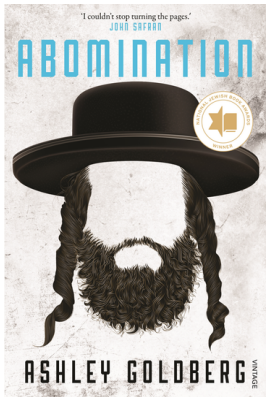


Less - **Andrew Sean Greer**

Themes: Aging, Heartbreak, Self-Acceptance

Want to read ☐

Arthur Less is a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the post: it is from an ex-boyfriend of nine years who is engaged to someone else. Arthur can't say yes - it would be too awkward; he can't say no - it would look like defeat. So, he begins to accept the invitations on his desk to half-baked literary events around the world. From France to India, Germany to Japan, Arthur almost falls in love, almost falls to his death, and puts miles between him and the plight he refuses to face. Less is a novel about mishaps, misunderstandings and the depths of the human heart.



Abomination - **Ashley Goldberg**

indy reads

Themes: Identity, Community, Faith

Want to read ☐

Melbourne 1999: Ezra and Yonatan are best friends whose lives are forever changed when their school, the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Yahel Academy, is rocked by a scandal and they are thrown onto divergent paths. Twenty years later, the lives of the two men are very different: Ezra identifies as secular and atheist, while Yonatan has been ordained as a rabbi and teaches at the academy. By chance they are reunited, and the events of their past and present collide with devastating consequences.



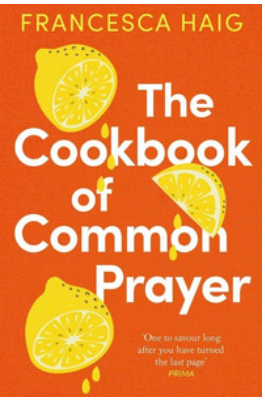
The Lonely Hearts Book Club - **Lucy Gilmore**

Themes: Found Family, Isolation, Grief

Want to read ☐

Librarian Sloane Parker lives a small, contained life. She's not lonely, but still looks forward to that time every day when old curmudgeon Arthur comes to browse and cheerfully insult her. When Arthur doesn't show up one morning, she's instantly concerned. Anxious, Sloane tracks him down to find him all but bedridden...and desperately struggling to hide how happy he is to see her. Wanting to bring more cheer into Arthur's gloomy life, Sloane creates an impromptu book club. Slowly, the lonely misfits of their sleepy town begin to find each other, find the joy of unlikely friendship.

Fiction



The Cookbook of Common Prayer - **Francesca Haig**

Themes: Family, Hope, Grief

Want to read ☐

When Gill and Gabe's elder son drowns overseas, they decide they must hide the truth from their desperately unwell teenaged daughter. But as Gill begins to send letters from her dead son to his sister, the increasingly elaborate lie threatens to prove more dangerous than the truth.
A novel about family, food, grief, and hope, this gripping, lyrical story moves between Tasmania and London, exploring the many ways that a family can break down - and the unexpected ways that it can be put back together.

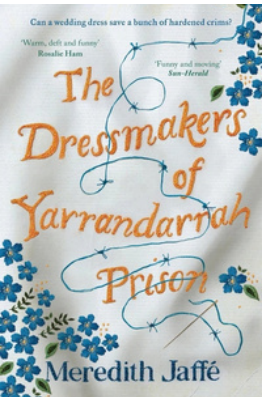


The Midnight Library - **Matt Haig**

Themes: Regregt, Choices, Relationships

Want to read ☐

When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?



The Dressmakers of Yarrandarrah Prison - **Meredith Jaffe**

Themes: Friendship, Redemption, Mascilinity

Want to read ☐

Derek's daughter, Debbie, is getting married. He's desperate to be there, but he's in Yarrandarrah Correctional Centre for embezzling funds from the golf club, and, thanks to his ex-wife, he hasn't spoken to Debbie in years. He wants to make a grand gesture - to show her how much he loves her. Inspiration strikes while he's embroidering a cushion at his weekly prison sewing circle - he'll make her a wedding dress. But as time runs out and tensions rise both inside and outside the prison, the wedding dress project takes on greater significance. With lives at stake, Derek feels his chance to reconcile with Debbie is slipping through his fingers ...

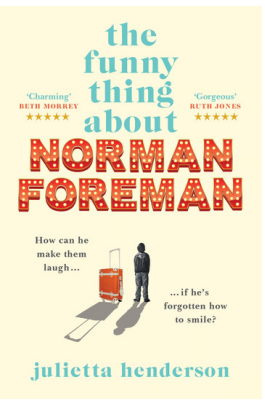


A Recipe for Family - **Tori Haschka**

Themes: Belonging, Motherhood, Friendship

Want to read ☐

With her husband away Stella is juggling a full-time job, a tricky stepdaughter and a relentless four-year-old – all while trying to find her footing in her spouse's shiny world. She reluctantly hires an au pair hoping it will lighten the load. Stella's mother-in-law, Elise, thinks this is a rotten idea. But she's promised her son not to meddle. For Ava, life in Sydney as an au pair could help fill the void left by the loss of her mother. With her family recipes in her hand and hope in her heart, she sets off to reinvent herself in a place far away. Three women, drawn together by impossible circumstances, will discover that the greatest comfort can often be found in the mess.

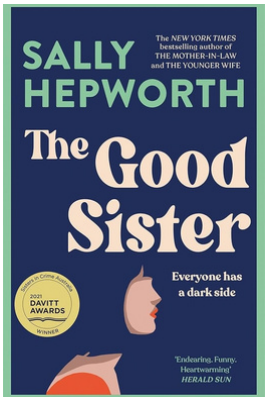


The Funny Thing About Norman Foreman - **Julietta Henderson**

Themes: Road Trip, Ambition, Grief & Healing

Want to read ☐

Twelve-year-old Norman Foreman and his best friend, Jax, are a legendary comedic duo in waiting, with a plan to take their act all the way to the Edinburgh Fringe. But when Jax dies, Norman decides the only fitting tribute is to perform at the festival himself. The problem is, Norman's not the funny one. Jax was. There's also another, far more colossal objective on Norman's new plan that his single mom, Sadie, wasn't ready for: he wants to find the father he's never known. Determined to put a smile back on her boy's face, Sadie resolves to face up to her own messy past, get Norman to the Fringe and help track down a man whose identity is a mystery, even to her.



The Good Sister - **Sally Hepworth**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Twins, Neurodiverse, Secrets

Want to read ☐

Fern Castle works in her local library. She has dinner with her twin sister Rose three nights a week. And she avoids crowds, bright lights and loud noises as much as possible. Fern has a carefully structured life and disrupting her routine can be...dangerous. When Rose discovers that she cannot get pregnant, Fern sees her chance to pay her sister back for everything Rose has done for her. Fern can have a baby for Rose. She just needs to find a father. Simple. Fern's mission will shake the foundations of the life she has carefully built for herself and stir up dark secrets from the past.



Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine - **Gail Honeyman**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Loneliness, Trauma, Friendship

Want to read ☐

Eleanor Oliphant leads a simple life. She wears the same clothes to work every day, eats the same meal deal for lunch every day and buys the same two bottles of vodka to drink every weekend. Nothing is missing from her carefully timetabled life. Except, sometimes, everything. One simple act of kindness is about to shatter the walls Eleanor has built around herself. Now she must learn how to navigate the world that everyone else seems to take for granted – while searching for the courage to face the dark corners she's avoided all her life. Change can be good. Change can be bad. But surely any change is better than... fine?



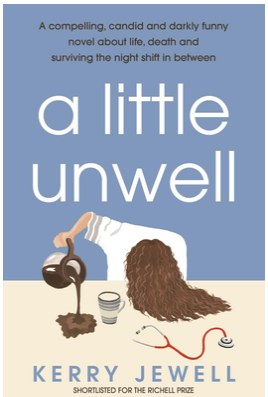
The Registrar - **Neela Janakiramanan**

indy reads

Themes: Medical, Relationships, Workplace Hostility

Want to read ☐

Emma Swann is about to start a gruelling year as a surgical registrar, joining her older brother Andy in pursuing the same career as their father. It's an arduous slog of twenty-hour days, punishing schedules, life and death decisions - and very little of support from her superiors. As Emma battles overwork, exhaustion and increasing disillusion, she has less ability and time to care for her patients' welfare, and that of herself and those she loves. Is it possible for her to be the doctor, wife, sister and friend she aspires to be in such a broken hospital system? And how can she and her colleagues endure such impossible conditions without making fatal mistakes?

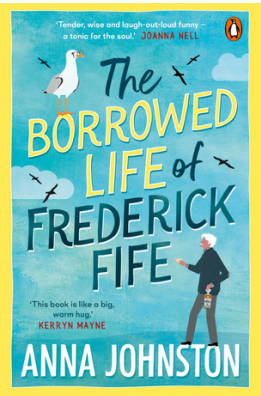


A Little Unwell - **Kerry Jewell**

Themes: Medical, Mental Health, Humour

Want to read ☐

For Amy, being a doctor was supposed to mean winning at life. But now, in her second year in a city hospital, She is finding out that people don't always want to be 'helped', the pay barely covers rent, her hours are ridiculous, her favourite patients are getting sicker, and her surgical trainee boyfriend has recently gone shy on proposing. What Amy does have are the friendships forged by dealing with recalcitrant patients, endless nightshifts, and crying in the emergency department bathrooms. And a belief that maybe, underneath it all, it's a job that's still worth doing. And when things begin to go wrong - horribly wrong - they're all that Amy has. Will it be enough?



The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife - **Anna Johnston**

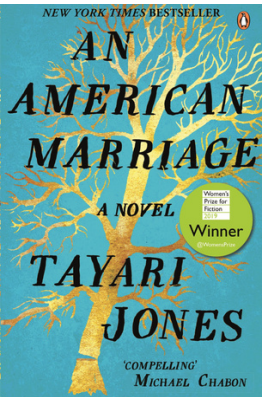
Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Second Chances, Forgiveness, Feel Good

Want to read ☐

Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. Now, at eighty-two, he's desperately lonely, broke, and on the brink of homelessness. Fred's luck changes when, in a bizarre case of mistaken identity, he takes the place of Bernard Greer at the local nursing home. Now he has a roof over his head, three meals a day, and, most importantly, the chance to be part of a family again. As Fred navigates life in Bernard's shoes, he learns about the man's past and what it might take to return a life in better condition than he found it.

Fiction



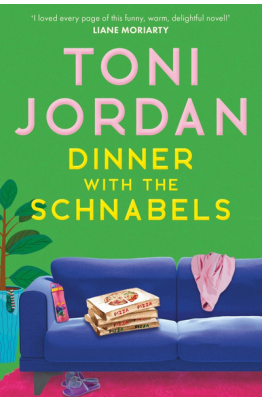
An American Marriage - **Tayari Jones**

indy reads

Themes: Love, Injustice, Loyalty

Want to read ☐

Newlyweds, Celestial and Roy, are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. As they are settling into the routine of their life together, Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy's time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together.

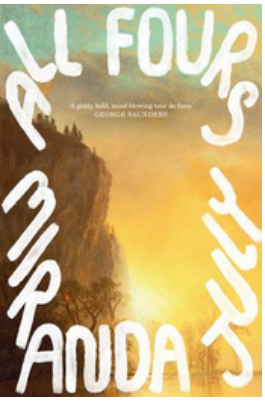


Dinner withThe Schnabels - **Toni Jordan**

Themes: Funny, Family, Resilience

Want to read ☐

Things haven't gone well for Simon Larsen lately. He adores his wife Tansy and his children, but since his business failed and he lost the family home, he can't seem to get off the couch. His larger-than-life in-laws, the Schnabels - Tansy's mother, sister, and brother - won't get off his case. To keep everyone happy, Simon needs to do one little job: he has a week to landscape a friend's backyard for an important Schnabel family event. But as the week progresses, Simon is derailed by the arrival of an unexpected house guest. Then he discovers Tansy is harbouring a secret. As his world spins out of control, who can he really count on when the chips are down?



All Fours - **Miranda July**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Freedom, Identity, Reinvention

Want to read ☐

A semi-famous artist announces her plan to drive cross-country from LA to NY. Thirty minutes after leaving her husband and child at home, she spontaneously exits the freeway, beds down in a nondescript motel and immerses herself in a temporary reinvention that turns out to be the start of an entirely different journey. Part absurd entertainment, part tender reinvention of the sexual, romantic and domestic life of a 45-year-old female artist, All Fours transcends expectations while excavating our beliefs about life lived as a woman.



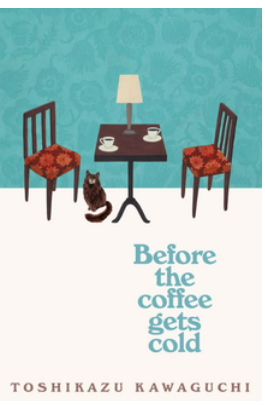
Simply Beside Herself - **Judith Katherine**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Estrangement, Dissociation, Memory

Want to read ☐

When Elizabeth finds a dead body on a park bench – her own - She knows it's a sign that she needs to make some big changes in her life. Staff at her retirement home are too busy to listen so she makes an audacious decision and escapes the home in search of a better future and a connection to her past. Elizabeth's daughter, Lara, drowning in her own roles and schedules, experiences a stunning trifecta of tipping points following her mother's escape. Along with her troubled teenage daughter, Evie, Lara is forced into taking responsibility for herself and facing change. Having discovered how easy it is to get lost, all three soon realise how important it is to be found again.



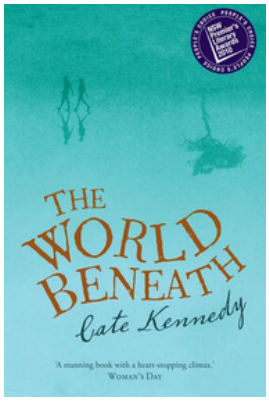
Before The Coffee Gets Cold - **Toshikazu Kawaguchi**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Love, Memory, Forgiveness

Want to read ☐

In a quiet Tokyo café, there's a seat that lets you travel back in time; but only for the length of a single cup of coffee. If you could go back in time, who would you want to meet again?
With each visitor to the café, a new story unfolds bittersweet, heartwarming, and deeply human. Told with gentle humor and emotional clarity, these stories invite readers to reflect on love, regret, and the small, beautiful moments that shape our lives.



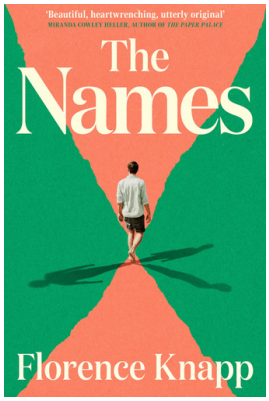
The World Beneath - **Cate Kennedy**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Family Dysfunction, Wilderness, Nostalgia

Want to read ☐

Once, Rich and Sandy were environmental activists. Now, twenty-five years later, the only thing they have in common is their fifteen-year-old daughter, Sophie. Rich decides to take Sophie on a trek into the Tasmanian wilderness, which sets off a chain of events that no one could have predicted. Instead of respect, Rich finds antagonism in his relationship with Sophie; and in the vast landscape he once felt an affinity with, he encounters nothing but disorientation and fear. Rich, Sandy and Sophie will learn that if they are to survive, each must traverse not only the secret territories that lie between them but also those within themselves.



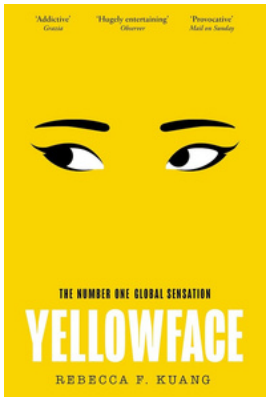
The Names - **Florence Knapp**

LP

Themes: Identity, Consequences, Parallel Timelines

Want to read ☐

It is 1987, Cora sets out with her young daughter to register the birth of her son. Her husband expects her to follow tradition and call the baby after him - but is it right for her child to inherit his name from generations of domineering men? Her choice will shape the course of their lives. Seven years later, her son is Bear, a name chosen by his sister, hoping he will grow up to be brave and big-hearted. Or he is Julian, the name his mother set her heart on, keen for him to become his own person. Or he is Gordon, named after his father and raised in his cruel image - but is there still a chance to break the mould?



Yellowface - **Rebecca F. Kuang**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Satire, Anti-Heroine, Cancel Culture

Want to read ☐

When failed writer June Hayward witnesses her rival Athena Liu die in a freak accident, she sees her opportunity... and takes it. She steals Athena's just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I. So what if June edits Athena's novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song? But June cannot escape Athena's shadow, and emerging evidence threatens her stolen success. As she races to protect her secret she discovers exactly how far she will go to keep what she thinks she deserves.



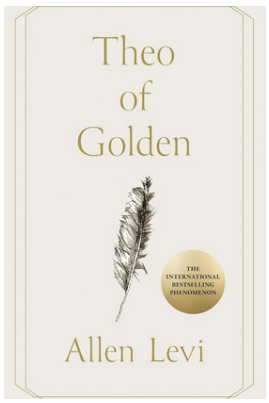
All That's Left Unsaid - **Tracey Lien**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Racism, Justice, Grief

Want to read ☐

1996 - Out celebrating his high school graduation, Denny is brutally murdered inside a busy restaurant in Cabramatta, a Sydney suburb facing violent crime and an indifferent police force. Home for the funeral, his sister Ky learns that the police are stumped: despite a busy restaurant, people claim to have seen nothing. As she tracks down the witnesses herself, she peels away another layer of the place that shaped her and Denny, exposing the trauma and seeds of violence that were planted well before the murder: by colonialism, by the war in Vietnam, and by the choices they've all made to survive.



Theo of Golden - **Allen Levi**

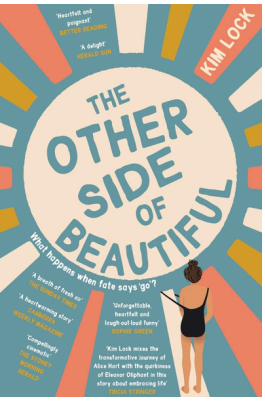
Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Spiritual, Heartwarming, Literary

Want to read ☐

Theo visits the local coffeehouse, where ninety-two pencil portraits hang on the walls, portraits of the people of Golden done by a local artist. He begins purchasing them, one at a time, and putting them back in the hands of their "rightful owners." With each exchange, a story is told, a friendship born, and a life altered. A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, Theo of Golden is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.

Fiction



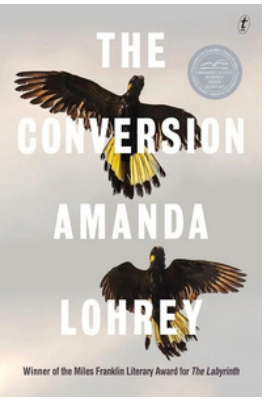
The Other Side of Beautiful - **Kim Lock**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Mental Health, Self-Discovery, Community

Want to read ☐

Mercy Blain, hasn't been outside her house for two years. Unfortunately, that house has just burnt down. Unable to stay with her not-quite-ex-husband Eugene, Mercy starts an unwilling journey. After purchasing a campervan, along with her sausage dog, Wasabi, and a mysterious box of cremated remains, Mercy heads north from Adelaide to Darwin. On the road, Mercy's carefully constructed walls start crumbling. But what was Mercy hiding from in her house? And why is Eugene desperate to have her back in the city? They say you can't run forever...



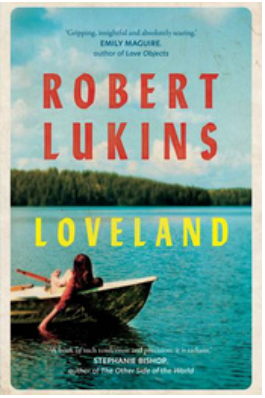
The Conversion - **Amanda Lohrey**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Home Renovation, Grief, Secrets

Want to read ☐

The conversion was Nick's idea, but it's Zoe who's here now, working out how to live in a deconsecrated church. Can a church become a home or, even with all its vestiges removed, will it remain forever what it was intended to be? For Zoe, the little church seems empty of the possibilities Nick enthused about. She is stuck in purgatory-until a determined young teacher pushes her way into Zoe's life, convinced of her own peculiar mission for the building. Melanie has something of Nick's unquenchable zeal about her. And it's clear to Zoe that she won't take no for an answer.



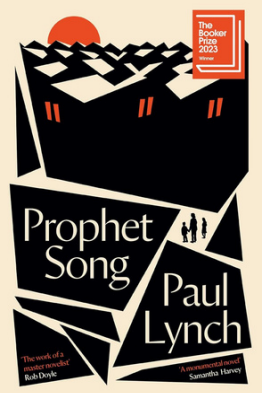
Loveland - **Robert Lukins**

indy reads

Themes: Abuse, Family, Resilience

Want to read ☐

May has come from Australia to Loveland, Nebraska, to claim the house on the poisoned lake as part of her grandmother's will. Escaping the control of her husband, will she find refuge or danger? As she starts repairing the old house, May is drawn to discover more about her silent, emotionally distant grandmother and unravel the secrets that Casey had moved halfway around the world to keep hidden. How she and Casey's lives interconnect, and the price they both must pay for their courage, is gradually revealed as this mesmerising and lyrical novel unfolds.



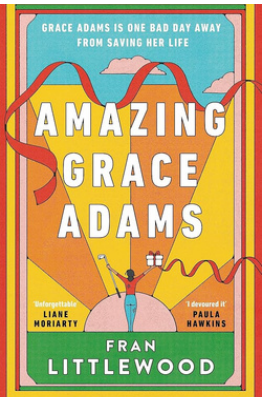
Prophet Song - **Paul Lynch**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Totalitarianism, Political, War

Want to read ☐

On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her doorstep. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police want to speak with her husband, Larry, a trade unionist for the Teachers' Union of Ireland. Things are falling apart. Ireland is in the grip of a government that is taking a turn towards tyranny. And as the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, Eilish finds herself caught within the nightmare logic of a collapsing society assailed by unpredictable forces beyond her control and forced to do whatever it takes to keep her family together.



Amazing Grace Adams - **Fran Littlewood**

LP

Themes: Motherhood, Aging, Resilience

Want to read ☐

Meet Grace Adams: an ordinary wife and mother collecting the cake for her daughter's sixteenth birthday party. But look closer, and Grace's life is falling apart. Husband Ben is divorcing her. Daughter Lotte has banned her from the party. And she's just abandoned her car in traffic. Still, no one thinks twice about a menopausal 40-something with a £200 cake hiking desperately across London. But to ignore Grace today would be a mistake. Because Grace Adams is also carrying a secret. One that she's kept quiet until now. And one that everyone who gets in her way is about to discover.

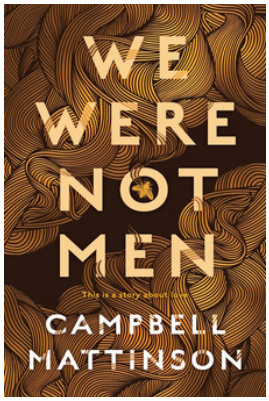


Half Truth - **Nadia Mahjouri**

Themes: Family, Culture, Grief

Want to read ☐

Khadija is packing up her home of fifty years. In her box of special things are the last reminders she has of her son, Ahmed, missing for more than twenty years. Her belongings take her back to her village childhood, her marriage and move to Marrakech. In Tasmania, Zahra is in the throes of new motherhood and desperate for answers about her own identity. She decides to take her baby to Morocco and search for the father she has never known. Zahra and Khadija's stories collide - giving Khadija the power to move on, and Zahra the courage to embrace her identity as a mother and a mixed-race woman, ready to create a fulfilling life for her son and herself.

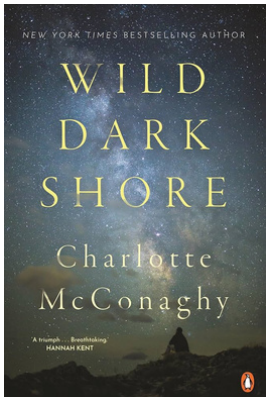


We Were Not Men - **Campbell Mattinson**

Themes: Coming of Age, Grief, Rivalry

Want to read ☐

Love for nine-year-old twins Jon and Eden Hardacre is simple. Their mum, the creek that they swim in, each other – this is the love that they trust, love as clear and pure as sunlight, as honey, as water. But then there's a terrible accident. And in its wake, they develop a desperation – a yearning – to outgrow tragedy. They get older, compete with each other, fall in love with the same girl, and begin to realise that their lives – and who they love – demand something more. Something deeper. Richer.



Wild Dark Shore - **Charlotte McConaghy**

LP

Themes: Family, Thrilling, Isolation

Want to read ☐

Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island off Antarctica, home to the world's largest seed bank. Once full of researchers, but with sea levels rising, the Salts are now its final inhabitants. Until, during the worst storm the island has ever seen, a woman mysteriously washes ashore. As they nurse Rowan back to strength, it begins to feel like she might just be what they need. But Rowan isn't telling the whole truth. And when she discovers sabotaged radios and a freshly dug grave, she realizes Dominic is keeping his own secrets. As the storms gather force, they all must decide if they can trust each other enough before it's too late.



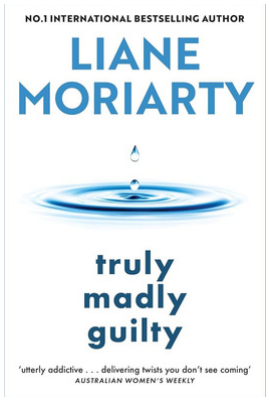
The Hummingbird Effect - **Kate Mildenhall - OBOW 2024**

LP

Themes: Speculative, Climate Change, Technology

Want to read ☐

One of the lucky few with a job during the Depression, Peggy's just starting out in life. How is her life connected to Hilda's, almost a hundred years later, locked inside during a plague, or La's, further on again, a singer working shifts in a warehouse as her eggs are frozen and her voice is used by AI bots? Let alone Maz, far removed in time, diving for remnants of a past that must be destroyed? Is it by the river that runs through their stories, eternal yet constantly changing – or by the mysterious Hummingbird Project, and the great question of whether the march of progress can ever be reversed?



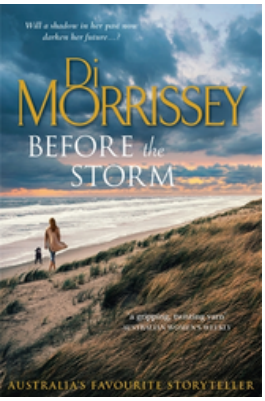
Truly, Madly, Guilty - **Liane Moriarty - OBOW 2017**

Themes: Relationships, Guilt, Drama

Want to read ☐

It was just an ordinary backyard barbeque on a Sunday afternoon. They didn't know their hosts that well. They were friends of friends. They could so easily have said no. But Clementine and her husband Sam said yes, and now it's two months later, it won't stop raining and they can never change what they did and didn't do that beautiful winter's day.
Six responsible adults. Three cute kids. One yapping dog. It's a quiet Sunday afternoon in the suburbs. What could possibly go wrong?

Fiction

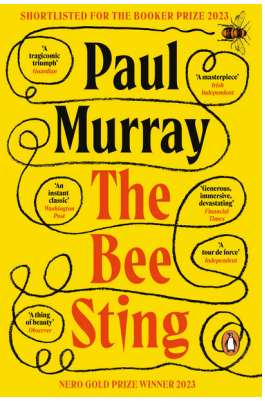


Before The Storm - **Di Morrissey**

Themes: Community, Journalism, Redemption

Want to read ☐

After being double-crossed by a devious colleague, career woman Ellie Conlan quits her job on principle. With no idea what to do next, she retreats to an idyllic Victorian beach town. Ellie's grandfather runs The Storm Harbour Chronicle, the trusted local newspaper. As Ellie is drawn into a story about a development which could split the coastal community, an event she has long suppressed threatens to overwhelm her. Dark clouds gather as rumours fly and tensions mount. And when a violent storm breaks and rages, Ellie will finally have to confront her past.

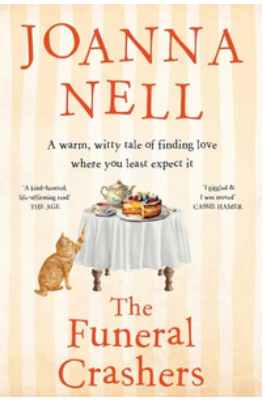


The Bee Sting - **Paul Murray**

Themes: Dysfunctional Families, Small-town, Class

Want to read ☐

The Barnes family is in trouble. Dickie's once-lucrative car business is going under. His wife Imelda is selling off her jewellery on eBay, while their teenage daughter Cass, formerly top of her class, seems determined to binge-drink her way through her final exams. And twelve-year-old PJ is putting the final touches to his grand plan to run away from home. Where did it all go wrong? A patch of ice on the tarmac, a casual favour to a charming stranger, a bee caught beneath a bridal veil-can a single moment of bad luck change the direction of a life? And if the story has already been written-is there still time to find a happy ending?



The Funeral Crasher - **Joanna Nell**

Themes: Aging, Grief, Second Chances

Want to read ☐

Retired academic Martin Pottinger's romantic aspirations seem about to be realised. If only he could devise a plan to manage the demands of his eccentric elderly mother, Edwina. Recently bereaved Grace Cavendish spends her days helping out at All Souls Church, yet the peace she craves remains elusive despite the comforts offered by psychic medium Rhondda and her eight-year-old son, Hudson. When Martin and Grace meet and bond at an All Souls service, they unwittingly set off a chain of events with far-reaching consequences. They become funeral crashers. But who could have predicted that crashing funerals might have such life-changing and life-affirming outcomes?

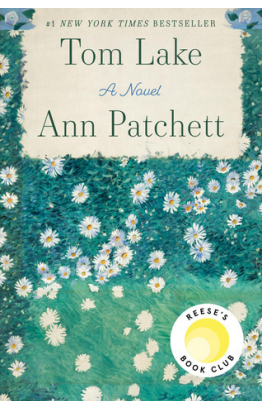


Our Missing Hearts - **Celeste Ng**

Themes: Distopia, Censorship, Resistance

Want to read ☐

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives with his loving but broken father. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove unpatriotic books - including that of Bird's mother, a Chinese American poet who left when he was nine. When he receives a cryptic letter, he is drawn into a quest to find her. His journey will take him through childhood stories, through an underground network of librarians, into the lives of taken children and finally to New York, where a new act of defiance may be the beginning of much-needed change.

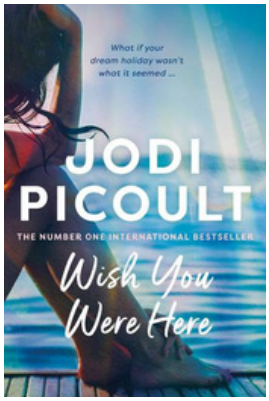


Tom Lake - **Ann Patchett**

Themes: Family, Love, Growing Up

Want to read ☐

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.



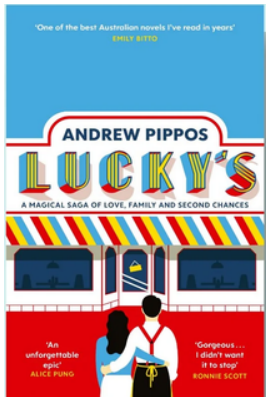
Wish You Were Here - **Jodi Picoult**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Relationship, Pandemic, Self-Discovery

Want to read ☐

Diana O'Toole has her life meticulously mapped out: get married and have children by thirty-five, and climb the art auction ladder at Sotheby's. When her surgeon boyfriend Finn stays to battle the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, Diana travels alone to the Galápagos Islands for what was supposed to be a romantic getaway. There, she gets stranded on the island with lost luggage, no Wi-Fi, and a closed hotel. In the Galápagos Islands, where Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection was formed, Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself—and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different.



Lucky's - **Andrew Pippos**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Fate, Failure, Success

Want to read ☐

Lucky's is a story of family. A story about migration. It is also about a man called Lucky. His restaurant chain. A fire that changed everything. A New Yorker article which might save a career. The mystery of a missing father. An impostor who got the girl. An unthinkable tragedy. A roll of the dice. And a story of love - lost, sought and won again (at last).



One Hundred Days - **Alice Pung - OBOW 2022**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Pregnancy, Culture, Independence

Want to read ☐

In a heady whirlwind of independence, lust and defiance, sixteen-year-old Karuna falls pregnant. Not on purpose, but not entirely by accident, either. Incensed, Karuna's mother, already over-protective, confines her to their fourteenth-storey housing-commission flat, to keep her safe from the outside world - and make sure she can't get into any more trouble. Stuck inside for endless hours, Karuna battles her mother and herself for a sense of power in her own life, as a new life forms and grows within her. As the due date draws ever closer, the question of who will get to raise the baby - who it will call Mum - festers between them.



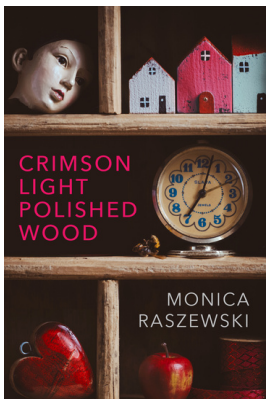
The Lessons - **John Purcell**

indy reads

Themes: Love, Literature, Betrayal

Want to read ☐

1961- When teens Daisy and Harry meet, it feels so right they promise to love each other forever, but everything is stacked against them. After Daisy is sent by her parents to live with her glamorous, bohemian Aunt Jane, she suffers a loss of innocence that flings her far from the one good thing in her life, Harry. 1983- Jane Curtis, now a famous novelist, is being interviewed about the overlap between her life and her work, including one of her novels about the traumatic coming of age of a young woman. But she evades the interviewer's probing questions. What is she trying to hide?



Crimson Light, Polished Wood - **Monica Raszewski**

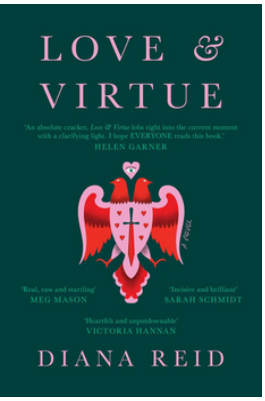
Borrow Box.

Themes: Inheritance, Secrets, Art

Want to read ☐

Leonora has relocated to Melbourne from London and falls in love with Margaret, a fellow teacher who three years later dies of cancer. While still grieving for Margaret, Leonora meets and befriends Anna, the Polish woman who lives next door. Crimson Light, Polished Wood illuminates with subtle ease the influence Leonora has on Anna's daughter, Lydia, introducing her to the world of literature and art. This is a novel about the ways we all long for acceptance and how those we might feel most in touch with can often have different values and views about us.

Fiction

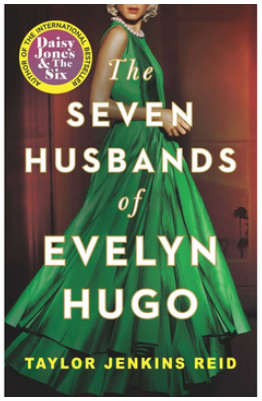


Love and Virtue - **Diana Reid**

Themes: Feminism, Power, Identity

Want to read ☐

Michaela and Eve are two bright, bold women who befriend each other their first year at a residential college at university, where they live in adjacent rooms. They could not be more different; one assured and popular – the other uncertain and eager-to-please. But something happens one night in O-week – a drunken encounter, a foggy memory that will force them to confront the realities of consent and wrestle with the dynamics of power. Initially bonded by their wit and sharp eye for the colleges' mix of material wealth and moral poverty, Michaela and Eve soon discover how fragile friendship is, and how capable of betrayal they both are.



The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo - **Taylor Jenkins Reid**

Themes: LGBT, Secrets, Fictional Memoir

Want to read ☐

Reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Evelyn unspools a tale of ruthless ambition, unexpected friendship and a great forbidden love. Monique begins to feel a very real connection to the legendary star, but as Evelyn's story nears its conclusion, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways.

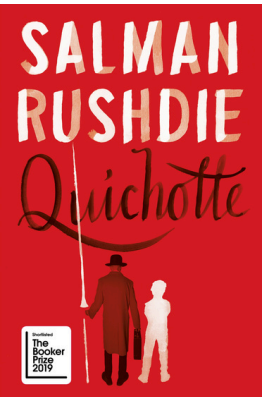


The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding - **Holly Ringland**

Themes: Sisters, Grief, Magical Realism

Want to read ☐

The last time Esther Wilding's beloved older sister Aura was seen, she was walking along the shore towards the sea. In the wake of Aura's disappearance, Esther's family struggles to live with their loss. To seek the truth about her sister's death, Esther reluctantly travels from Lutruwita, Tasmania to Copenhagen, and then to the Faroe Islands, following the trail of the stories Aura left behind: seven fairy tales about selkies, swans and women, alongside cryptic verses Aura wrote and had secretly tattooed on her body.



Quichotte - **Salman Rushdie**

Themes: Satire, Identity, Immigration

Want to read ☐

Quichotte is the story of an aging travelling salesman who falls in love with a TV star and sets off to drive across America on a quest to prove himself worthy of her hand. Throughout the course of this chaotic story, Rushdie tackles challenges old and new: father-son relationships, sibling quarrels, racism, the opioid crisis, cyber-spies - and the small matter of the end of the world.

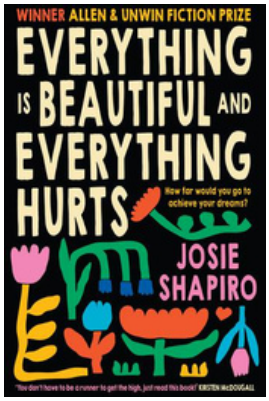


A Room Called Earth - **Madeleine Ryan**

Themes: Neurodiversity, Isolation, Intimacy

Want to read ☐

As a full moon rises over Melbourne, Australia, a young woman gets ready for a party. And what appears to be an ordinary night out is extraordinary. As the evening unfolds, each encounter she has reveals the vast discrepancies between what she is thinking and feeling, and what she is able to say. So when she meets a man and a genuine connection occurs, it's nothing short of a miracle. However, it isn't until she invites him home that we come to appreciate the humanity beneath the labels we cling to, and we can grasp the pleasure of what it means to be alive.



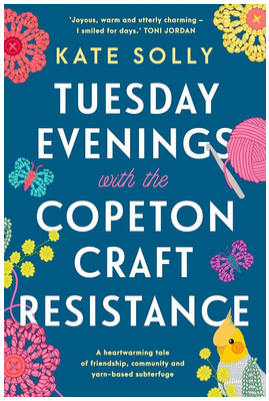
Everything is Beautiful and Everything Hurts - **Josie Shapiro**

indy reads LP

Themes: Competition, Obsession, Love

Want to read ☐

Mickey knows she's nothing special. Until one day, she discovers running. Mickey's new-found talent makes her realise she's everything she thought she wasn't – powerful, strong and special. But her success comes at a cost, and the relentless training and pressure to win leaves Mickey broken. Years later, when Mickey is working in a dead-end job with a drop-kick boyfriend, her mother becomes seriously ill. A chance encounter with a stranger sees Mickey re-ignite her dreams. The two women form an unbreakable bond, as Mickey is shown what it means to run in the right direction.



Tuesday Evenings with the Copeton Craft Resistance - **Kate Solly**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Friendship, Craft, Racism

Want to read ☐

Meredith established the Copeton Crochet Collective (no knitters please) because it would be like having friends, only with her in charge, and because there would be no men. With plans for a new mosque, Copeton is stirred and Islamophobia bubbles to the surface. The Crochet Collective becomes the Craft Resistance, and this motley crew of fibre-arts enthusiasts begins to battle racism and bigotry with colour and creativity. But will the fragile threads of community be enough to bind them when more than one member has something to hide?



The Things We Never Say - **Elizabeth Strout**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Isolation, Relationships, Unspoken Truths

Want to read ☐

Artie Dam is living a double life. He spends his days teaching history to eleventh graders. He goes to holiday parties with his wife and takes his sailboat out on the bay. He is, by all appearances, present and alive. But inside, Artie is plagued by feelings of isolation. He looks out at a world gone mad and questions: How is it that we know so little about one another, even those closest to us? But one day, Artie learns that life has been keeping a secret from him, one that threatens to upend his entire world. He is forced to chart a new course, to reconsider the relationships he holds most dear—and to make peace with the mysteries at the heart of our existence.



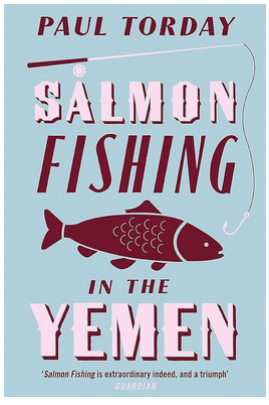
Flesh - **David Szalay**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Masculinity, Alienation, Mortality

Want to read ☐

Fifteen-year-old István lives with his mother in a quiet apartment complex in Hungary. New to the town and shy, he becomes isolated, with his neighbour – a married woman – as his only companion. When a clandestine relationship begins between them, his life spirals out of control.
As the years pass, István moves from the army to the circles of London's elite. His competing impulses for love, intimacy, status and wealth win him unimaginable riches, until they threaten to undo him completely.



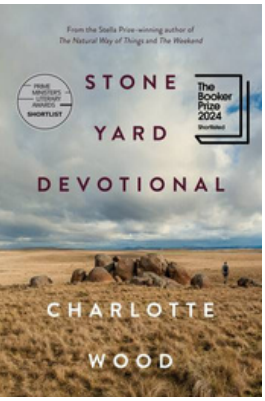
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen - **Paul Torday**

Themes: Satire, Faith, Transformation

Want to read ☐

What does it take to make us believe in the impossible? For Dr. Alfred Jones, life is a quiet mixture of civil service at the National Centre for Fisheries Excellence and marriage to Mary—an ambitious, no-nonsense financier. But a strange turn of fate from an unexpected direction forces Jones to upend his existence and spend all of his time in pursuit of another man's ludicrous dream. Can there be salmon in the Yemen? Science says no. But if resources are limitless and the visionary is inspired, maybe salmon fishing in the Yemen isn't impossible. Then again, maybe nothing is.

Fiction



Stone Yard Devotional - **Charlotte Wood**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Morality, Isolation, Forgiveness

Want to read ☐

Burnt out and in need of retreat, a middle-aged woman leaves Sydney to return to the place she grew up, taking refuge in a small religious community hidden away on the stark plains of rural Australia. She doesn't believe in God and finds herself living this strange, reclusive existence almost by accident. But disquiet interrupts this secluded life with three visitations. First comes a terrible mouse plague. Second is the return of the skeletal remains of a sister who disappeared decades before, presumed murdered. And finally, a troubling visitor plunges the narrator further back into her past.



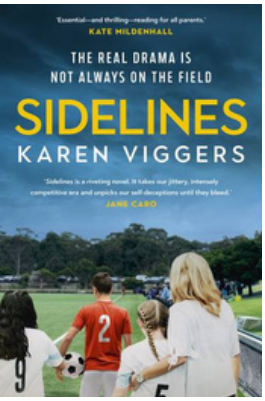
The Weekend - **Charlotte Wood - OBOW 2020**

indy reads

Themes: Friendships, Aging, Grief

Want to read ☐

Four older women have a lifelong friendship of the best kind: loving, practical, frank, and steadfast. But when Sylvie dies, the ground shifts dangerously for the remaining three. Struggling to recall exactly why they've remained close all these years, Jude, Wendy and Adele gather at Sylvie's old beach house to clean it out before it is sold. Without Sylvie to maintain the group's delicate equilibrium, frustrations build and painful memories press in. Fraying tempers, an elderly dog, unwelcome guests and too much wine collide in a storm that brings long-buried hurts to the surface--and threatens to sweep away their friendship for good.



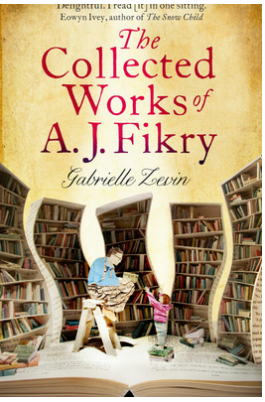
Sidelines - **Karen Viggers**

indy reads LP

Themes: Soccer, Bullying, Pressure

Want to read ☐

When a violent brawl erupts at a suburban junior soccer game, some onlookers are shocked. But others saw it coming. Rivalry, parental pressure, coaching bias, inequity, and many other factors have played a part in turning Saturday mornings into a pressure cooker. When a naturally gifted player with spectacular skills arrives, the tension within the team reaches boiling point. But who is going to crack first - the parents or the players?

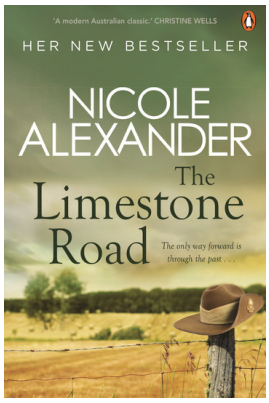


The Collected Works of A.J. Fikry - **Gabrielle Zevin**

Themes: Bookshops, Found Family, Second Chances

Want to read ☐

A.J. Fikry owns a failing bookshop. His wife has just died, in tragic circumstances. His rare and valuable first edition has been stolen. His life is a wreck. Amelia is a book rep, with a big heart, and a lonely life. Maya is the baby left on A.J.'s bookshop floor with a note. What happens in the bookshop that changes the lives of these seemingly normal but extraordinary characters? This is the story of how unexpected love can rescue you and bring you back to real life, in a world that you won't want to leave, with characters that you will come to love.

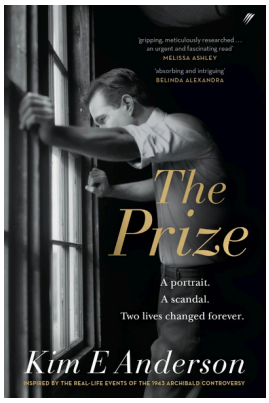


The Limestone Road - **Nicole Alexander**

Themes: Post War Trauma, Healing, Masculinity

Want to read ☐

In the summer of 1944 returning soldiers Canning Christie and his father Michael arrive in South Australia from the desert sands of North Africa. Canning carries the trauma of war and a fractured memory of a terrible event, while charismatic Michael resumes his womanising ways, intent on concealing his own secret wound. Inexplicably drawn to a vineyard on their land, Canning dreams of producing his own wine. And a chance meeting with Grace Huntley, daughter of the local landowner, offers him hope for that future. But dormant memories keep rising up: his childhood with his mother, the years traversing the interior with his father and his time at the front.



The Prize - **Kim E Anderson**

LP

Themes: LGBT, Art, Relationships

Want to read ☐

As World War II draws to a close, Australian society is still deeply conservative. Homosexuality is illegal and the scourge of Modernism is infecting Australian art. When William Dobell paints a portrait of lover and fellow artist Joshua Smith, he is awarded Australia's most prestigious art prize. A protest is lodged by Dobell's competitors who claim the painting is a caricature. Both artist and sitter soon find themselves in the glare of the spotlight when a court case to determine the matter turns into a public spectacle. Bill and Joshua's relationship is put under pressure, at risk of being exposed as they are caught in a world where they must choose between love and art: between acceptance and exile.

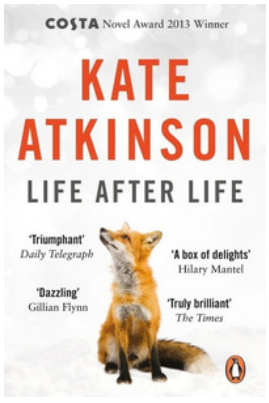


Limberlost - **Robbie Arnott - OBOW 2023**

Themes: Tasmania 1940s, Memory, Mascilinity

Want to read ☐

In the heat of a long summer Ned hunts rabbits in a river valley, hoping the pelts will earn him enough money to buy a small boat. His two brothers are away at war, their whereabouts unknown. His father and older sister struggle to hold things together on the family orchard, Limberlost. Desperate to ignore it all—to avoid the future rushing towards him—Ned dreams of open water. As his story unfolds over the following decades, we see how Ned's choices that summer come to shape the course of his life, the fate of his family and the future of the valley, with its seasons of death and rebirth.



Life After Life - **Kate Atkinson**

Themes: Circular Narrative, Reincarnation, Resilience

Want to read ☐

What if you could live again and again, until you got it right?On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born to an English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in a variety of ways, while the young century marches on towards its second cataclysmic world war. Does Ursula's apparently infinite number of lives give her the power to save the world from its inevitable destiny? And if she can - will she?



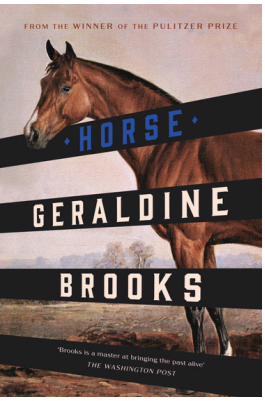
The Paris Prize - **Tania Blanchard**

Themes: Ambition, Family, Craftsmanship

Want to read ☐

Grazier Maddy Rainforth lives and breathes wool - and not just any wool, the finest Merino wool that can be grown. Maddy dreams of a day when her golden fleece is the toast of the country, but it's going to take everything she and her family can offer - and sometimes a bit more, when the country that gives so much bounty can also take it away. Battling the unforgiving elements takes her all - from devastating drought to deadly bushfires and suffocating dust storms and more - as well as the demands and heartbreak of war, and the expectations of an industry run by men. But Maddy's journey is fraught with challenges - prejudice, heartbreak, and the ever-present threat of failure.

Historical Fiction



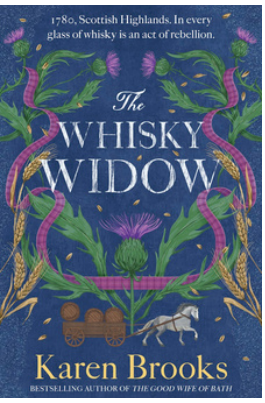
Horse - **Geraldine Brooks**

LP

Themes: Animals, Racism, Stolen Achievments

Want to read ☐

Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a 19th equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse-one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance.



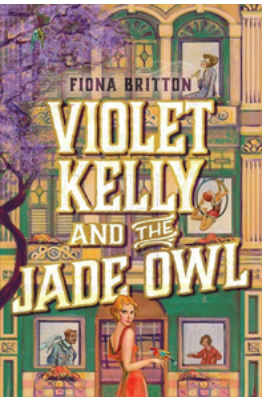
The Whisky Widow - **Karen Brooks**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Rebellion, Starting Over, 1780s Scotland

Want to read ☐

When Greer MacAlister's despised husband dies, she and her young daughter Fen find themselves in a remote whisky smuggling community in the heart of the Highlands. The villagers are suspicious of the widow, but when Greer tricks excise officers away from their illegal stills with a courageous and daring act, they warm to her. But the excise men are out for revenge, smuggling is a dangerous business, and whisky - a drink that has long ignited passions, songs, stories and danger - is at the rebellious heart of it all. Greer and Fen have no choice but to fight for the life they want.



Violet Kelly and the Jade Owl - **Fiona Britton**

indy reads

Themes: Crime, Friendships, Sydney 1930

Want to read ☐

Sydney, 1930: In the well-heeled suburb of Paddington, sits Maison des Fleurs, an upscale brothel run by the indomitable Madame. The star of Maison des Fleurs is Violet Kelly – beautiful, clever and determined. When a former associate of Madame's emerges to claim a long-owed favour involving a kidnapped girl and an ancient curse, Violet is drawn into a dangerous game of cat and mouse that takes her from dangerous underworld dealings to raucous parties to untold stories about her own past, and, eventually, right into the heart of Maison des Fleurs. But how much is she willing to risk to save her friends, her home, and the life she's come to love? And will it be enough?



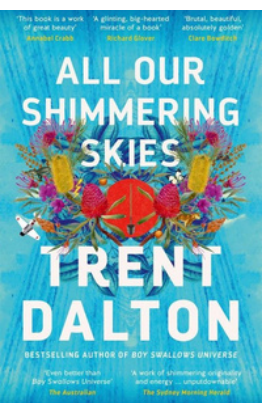
The Butterfly Collector - **Tea Cooper**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Mystery, Womens rights, Baby farming

Want to read ☐

1868 Morpeth. Theodora Breckenridge, still in mourning after the loss of her parents and brother at sea, is more interested in working quietly on her art. Theodora seeks to emulate prestigious nature illustrators, the Scott sisters, who lived nearby, so she cannot believe her luck when she discovers a butterfly never before sighted in Australia. 1922 Sydney. When would-be correspondent Verity Binks is sent an anonymous invitation. At the ball, she lands a juicy commission to write the history of the Treadwell Foundation - an institution that supports disgraced young women and their babies. But as she begins to dig, she uncovers a complex mystery, a mystery fifty years in the making...



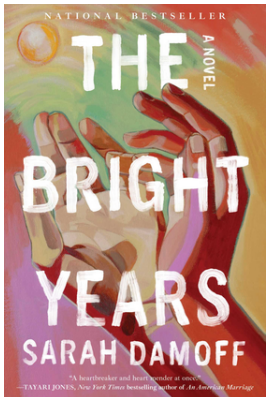
All Our Shimmering Skies - **Trent Dalton**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Toxic Masculinity, Friendship, Resilience

Want to read ☐

Darwin, 1942, and as Japanese bombs rain down, motherless Molly Hook, the gravedigger's daughter, turns once again to the sky for guidance. She carries a stone heart inside a duffel bag next to the map that leads to Longcoat Bob, the deep-country sorcerer who put a curse on her family. By her side are the most unlikely travelling companions: Greta, a razor-tongued actress and Yukio, a fallen Japanese fighter pilot. Run, Molly, run, says the daytime sky. Run to friendship. Run to love. Run. Because the graverobber's coming, Molly, and the night-time sky is coming with him.



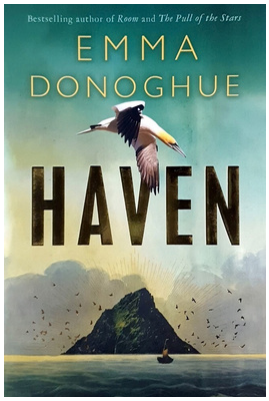
The Bright Years - **Sarah Damoff**

LP

Themes: Legacy, Resilience, Identity

Want to read ☐

Ryan and Lillian Bright are deeply in love, recently married, and now parents to a baby girl, Georgette. But Lillian has a son she hasn't told Ryan about, and Ryan has an alcohol addiction he hasn't told Lillian about, so Georgette comes of age watching their marriage rise and fall. When a shocking blow scatters the fragile trio, Georgette tries to distance herself from reminders of her parents. Years later, Lillian's son comes searching for his birth family, so Georgette must return to her roots, unearth her family's history, and decide whether she can open up to love for them.



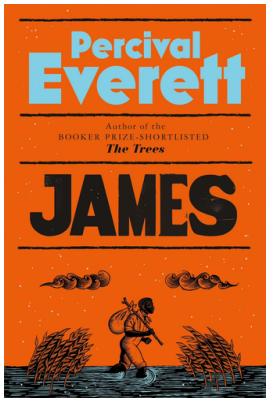
Haven - **Emma Donoghue**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Isololation, Religious Devotion, Patriarchy

Want to read ☐

In seventh-century Ireland, a scholar and priest called Artt has a dream telling him to leave the sinful world behind. Taking two monks—young Trian and old Cormac—he rows down the river Shannon in search of an isolated spot on which to found a monastery. Drifting out into the Atlantic, the three men find an impossibly steep, bare island inhabited by tens of thousands of birds, and claim it for God. In such a place, what will survival mean? Three men vow to leave the world behind them. They set out in a small boat for an island their leader has seen in a dream, with only faith to guide them.



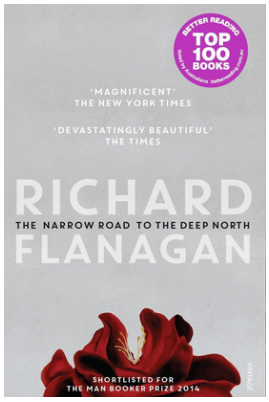
James - **Percival Everett**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Racism, Identity, Language

Want to read ☐

A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.



The Narrow Road to the Deep North - **Richard Flanagan**

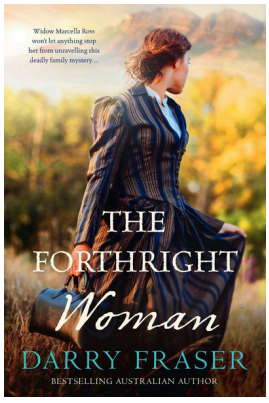
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Survivors Guilt, Love, WWII

Want to read ☐

August, 1943. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Thai-Burma death railway, Australian surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever.

This savagely beautiful novel is a story about the many forms of love and death, of war and truth, as one man comes of age, prospers, only to discover all that he has lost.



The Forthright Woman - **Darry Fraser**

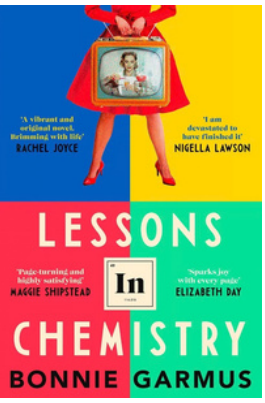
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Dual Timelines, Family Secrets, Romance

Want to read ☐

1898, South Australia - At the gateway to the Flinders Ranges lies Kanyaka Station, once a thriving sheep and cattle property, now abandoned and in ruins. When Marcella is nearly run over by a handsome stranger, she discovers he too is entangled in the secrets of the past. **1955 -** After learning that they are unlikely to have children, Frances and Joe MacDonald have taken the unusual step of buying a caravan and travelling together through the outback. They stop and camp at Kanyaka Station, where Fran becomes mesmerised by the past...

Historical Fiction



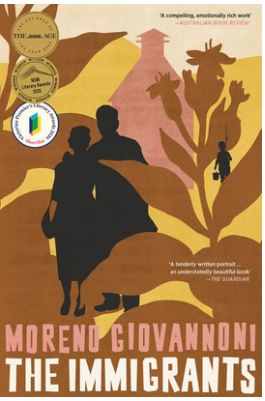
Lessons in Chemistry - **Bonnie Garmus**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Discrimination, Resilience, Found Family

Want to read ☐

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, she would be the first to point out that there is no such thing. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-Prize-nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with - of all things - her mind. Like science, life is unpredictable. Forced to leave her job at the institute, Elizabeth Zott soon finds herself the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, Supper at Six. She's daring them to change the status quo. One molecule at a time.



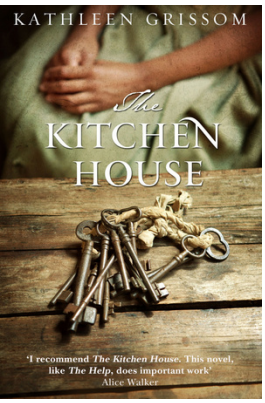
The Immigrants - **Moreno Giovannoni**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: 1950s Australia, Italian Migrants, Legacy

Want to read ☐

In the Victorian town of Mitrefò , tobacco is grown, an Italian cinema and cafe open, and people travel back and forth from Italy. A boy fishes, wanders the countryside and watches a community form, with its joys, scandals and shared understandings. Interspersed are the 'grotesques' - indelible and terrible events that sit alongside the better future they all seek. In The Immigrants, Moreno Giovannoni depicts a family as they build a new life in a strange land. Through love and exile, industry and tragedy, their unspoken dreams and fears unfold in this astonishing and moving book.



The Kitchen House - **Kathleen Grissom**

Themes: American South, Slavery, Social Hierarchy

Want to read ☐

When a white servant girl violates the order of plantation society, she unleashes a tragedy that exposes the worst and best in the people she has come to call her family. Orphaned while onboard ship from Ireland, seven-year-old Lavinia arrives on the steps of a tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart from them by her white skin.



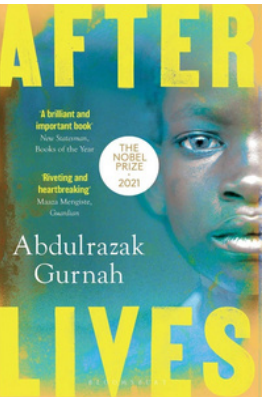
Homegoing - **Yaa Gyasi**

indy reads LP

Themes: Generational, Slavery, Family

Want to read ☐

Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery.



Afterlives - **Abdulrazak Gurnah**

indy reads

Themes: Imperialism, Dislocation, Human Connection

Want to read ☐

While he was still a little boy, Ilyas was stolen from his parents by the German colonial troops. After years away, fighting in a war against his own people, he returns to his village to find his parents gone, and his sister Afiya given away. Another young man returns at the same time. Hamza was not stolen for the war, but sold into it; he has grown up at the right hand of an officer whose protection has marked him life. With nothing but the clothes on his back, he seeks only work and security and the love of the beautiful Afiya.



Broken Country - **Clare Leslie Hall**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Love, Grief, Social Division

Want to read ☐

Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. But when Beth's brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep, Beth doesn't realize that the gunshot will alter the course of their lives. For the dog belonged to none other than Gabriel Wolfe, the man Beth loved as a teenager, the man who broke her heart years ago. Gabriel has returned to the village with his young son Leo, a boy who reminds Beth very much of her own son, who died in a tragic accident. As Beth is pulled back into Gabriel's life, she is forced to make a choice between the woman she once was, and the woman she has become.



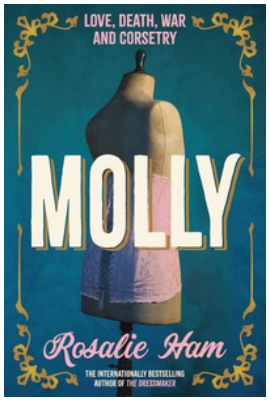
The Dressmakers Secret - **Rosalie Ham - OBOW 2021**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Romance, Humour, Fashion

Want to read ☐

It is 1953 and Melbourne society is looking forward to coronation season, the grand balls and celebrations for the young queen-to-be. Tilly Dunnage is, however, working for a pittance in a second-rate Collins Street salon. Her talents go unappreciated, and the madame is a bully and a cheat, but Tilly has a past she is desperate to escape and good reason to prefer anonymity. Meanwhile, Sergeant Farrat and the McSwiney clan have been searching for their resident dressmaker ever since she left Dungatar in flames. So when Tilly's name starts to feature in the fashion pages, the jig is up. Along with Tilly's hopes of keeping her secrets hidden...



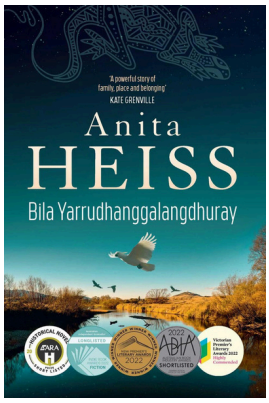
Molly - **Rosalie Ham**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Suffrage, Fashion, War

Want to read ☐

t's 1914 and Molly Dunnage wants to see change: at home, at work and in underwear. Her burgeoning corsetry business is starting to take off, thanks to some high-profile supporters. She's marching with Melbourne's suffragists for better conditions for women everywhere. And her family - her eccentric, confounding, adored father and aunt - are turning their minds to country retirement. But as the clouds of war gather and an ominous figure starts skulking in the shadows of her life, Molly's dreams begin to falter. Then, when true love drops out of the sky and into her arms, her hopes for her life and the world are entirely upended.



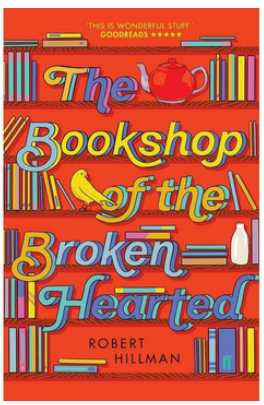
Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray - **Anita Heiss**

indy reads

Themes: Resilience, Identity, Love

Want to read ☐

Gundagai, 1852. The powerful Murrumbidgee River surges through town leaving death and destruction in its wake. It is a stark reminder that while the river can give life, it can just as easily take it away. Wagadhaany is one of the lucky ones. She survives. But is her life now better than the fate she escaped? Forced to move away from her miyagan, she walks through each day with no trace of dance in her step, her broken heart forever calling her back home to Gundagai.



The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted - **Robert Hillman**

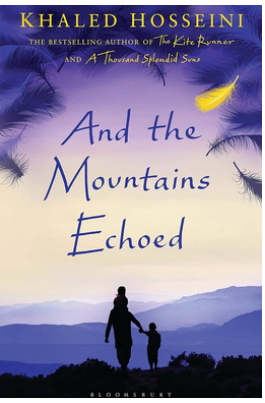
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Forgiveness, Resilience, New Beginnings

Want to read ☐

It is 1968 in rural Australia and lonely Tom Hope can't make heads or tails of Hannah Babel. Newly arrived from Hungary, Hannah is unlike anyone he's ever met–she's passionate, artistic, and fiercely determined to open sleepy Hometown's first bookshop. Despite the fact that Tom has read only one book in his life, the two soon discover an astonishing spark. Recently abandoned by an unfaithful wife, Tom dares to believe that he might make Hannah happy. But Hannah is a haunted woman. Twenty-four years earlier, she had been marched to the gates of Auschwitz.

Historical Fiction



And the Mountains Echoed - **Khaled Hosseini**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Family, Human Connection, Identity

Want to read ☐

Ten-year-old Abdullah would do anything for his younger sister. In a life of poverty and struggle, with no mother to care for them, Pari is the only person who brings Abdullah happiness. For her, he will trade his only pair of shoes to give her a feather for her treasured collection. When their father sets off with Pari across the desert to Kabul in search of work, Abdullah is determined not to be separated from her. Neither brother nor sister know what this fateful journey will bring them.



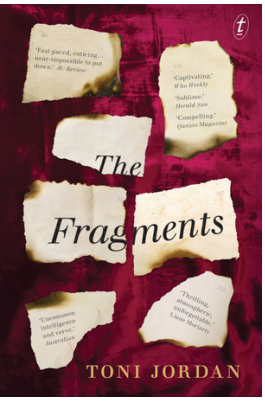
The Royal Correspondent - **Alexandra Joel**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Romance, Espionage, Ambition

Want to read ☐

Breaking into the newspaper business in 1960s Sydney isn't easy for a woman. But Blaise Hill is far from ordinary. The only female in The Clarion's newsroom, her long-held dream of being a reporter has come true. Blaise isn't chasing stories just to make a name for herself; she's helping support her family and her beloved sister Ivy, whose life has been transformed by polio. But her confidence is shaken when she secretly witnesses the murder of a top crime boss. When she gets a plum assignment--moving to England to cover the British royal family--Blaise hopes to put it all behind her.



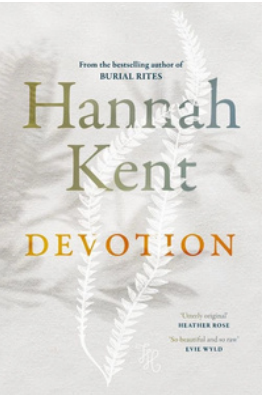
The Fragments - **Toni Jordan**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Dual Timeline, Literature, Love and Loss

Want to read ☐

NGA Karlson died in a fire in New York in the 1930s, leaving behind three things: a phenomenally successful first novel, the scorched fragments of a second book— and a mystery that has captivated generations of readers. Nearly fifty years later, Brisbane bookseller Caddie Walker is waiting in line to see a Karlson exhibition featuring the famous fragments when she meets a charismatic older woman. The woman quotes a phrase from the Karlson fragments that Caddie knows does not exist —and yet to Caddie, who knows Inga Karlson's work like she knows her name, it feels genuine.



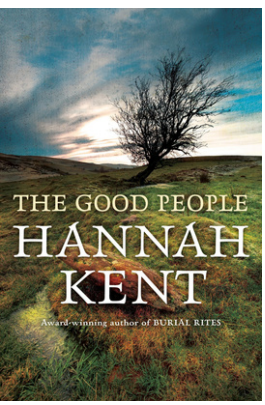
Devotion - **Hannah Kent**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Faith, Romance, Connection

Want to read ☐

Prussia, 1836. Hanne is nearly fifteen and the domestic world of womanhood is quickly closing in on her. Hanne finds little comfort in the local girls and friendship doesn't come easily, until she meets Thea and she finds in her a kindred spirit and finally, acceptance. Hanne's family are Old Lutherans, and in her small village hushed worship is done secretly - this is a community under threat. But when they are granted safe passage to Australia, it's a promise of freedom that will have devastating consequences for Hanne and Thea...



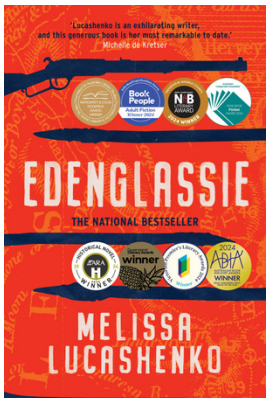
The Good People - **Hannah Kent**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Ireland 1825, Folklore, Disability

Want to read ☐

óra Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband in the same year, and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Micheál. The boy cannot walk, or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference. Unable to care for the child alone, Nóra hires a fourteen-year-old servant girl, Mary, who soon hears the whispers in the valley about the blasted creature causing grief to fall upon the widow's house. Alone, hedged in by rumour, Mary and her mistress seek out the only person in the valley who might be able to help Micheál.



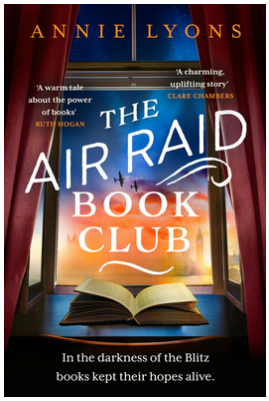
Edenglassie - **Melissa Lucashenko**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Dual-Timeline, Displacement, Colonialism

Want to read ☐

When Mulanyin meets the beautiful Nita in Edenglassie, their saltwater people still outnumber the British. As colonial unrest peaks, Mulanyin dreams of taking his bride home to Yugambeh Country, but his plans for independence collide with white justice. Two centuries later, fiery activist Winona meets Dr Johnny. Together they care for obstinate centenarian Granny Eddie, and sparks fly, but not always in the right direction. What nobody knows is how far the legacies of the past will reach into their modern lives.



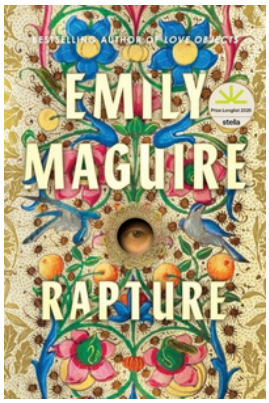
The Air Raid Book Club - **Annie Lyons**

LP

Themes: Community, Friendship, Resilience

Want to read ☐

London, 1938. Bookseller Gertie Bingham is facing difficult times, having just lost her beloved husband, Harry, and with a lingering sadness at never having been able to have a child of her own. Struggling to face running the bookshop she and Harry opened together, Gertie is preparing to sell up and move away when she is asked if she would be willing to take in a young Jewish refugee from Germany. Gertie is unsure and when sullen teenager Hedy Fischer arrives, Gertie fears she has nothing left to give the troubled girl. But when the German bombers come and the lights go out over London, Gertie and Hedy realise that joining forces will make them stronger...



Rapture - **Emily Maguire**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Faith, Gender Restrictions, Ambition

Want to read ☐

The motherless child of an English priest living in ninth-century Mainz, Agnes is a wild and brilliant girl with a deep, visceral love of God. At eighteen, to avoid a future as a wife or nun, Agnes enlists the help of a lovesick Benedictine monk to disguise herself as a man and secure a place at the revered Fulda monastery. So begins the life of John the a matchless scholar and scribe of Fulda, then a charismatic heretic in an Athens commune and, by her middle years, a celebrated teacher in Rome. And when the only person who knows her identity arrives in Rome, she will risk everything to once again feel what it is to be known - and loved.



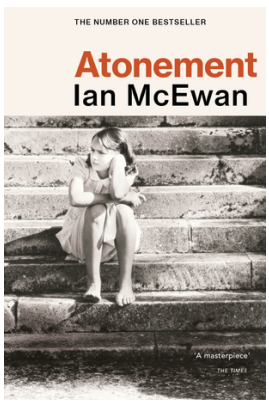
Son of Nobody - **Yann Martel**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Memory, Heroism, Myth

Want to read ☐

In this masterpiece of myth, history, and domesticity, Son of Nobody explores how stories become facts, the price we pay to share them, and how we live—then, now, and always. Harlow Donne has devoted his life to the Classical world. When a chance comes up to study an obscure collection of papyrus fragments at Oxford University, he seizes it. Though it means leaving his daughter and fracturing marriage back home in Canada, this is the kind of career break he desperately needs.



Atonement - **Ian McEwan**

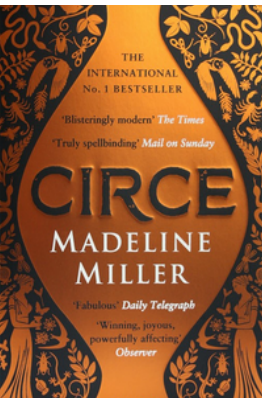
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Social Class, Guilt, Storytelling

Want to read ☐

On a hot summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses the flirtation between her older sister, Cecilia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant. But Briony's incomplete grasp of adult motives—together with her precocious literary gifts—brings about a crime that will change all their lives. As it follows that crime's repercussions through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century, Atonement engages the reader on every conceivable level, with an ease and authority that mark it as a genuine masterpiece.

Historical Fiction



Circe - **Madeline Miller**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Mythology, Isolation, Women

Want to read ☐

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child--neither powerful like her father nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power: the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. For a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians.



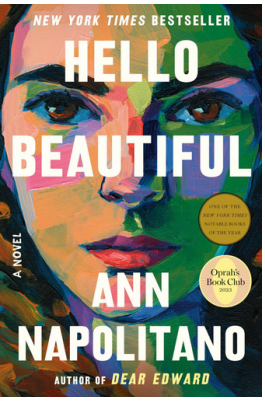
Homecoming - **Kate Morton**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Memory, Family Secrets, Belonging

Want to read ☐

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959. A local deliveryman makes a terrible discovery. A police investigation is called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most shocking and perplexing murder cases in the history of South Australia. Many years later and thousands of miles away, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Until a phone call out of nowhere summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother, Nora, has suffered a fall and been raced to the hospital. At Nora's house, Jess discovers a true crime book that chronicles the police investigation into a long-buried event: the Turner Family Tragedy of Christmas Eve, 1959.



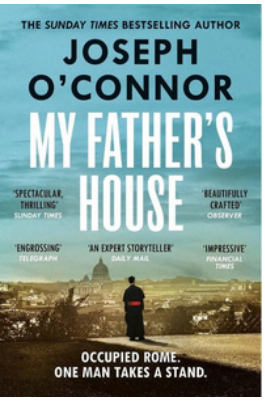
Hello Beautiful - **Ann Napolitano**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Family, Mental Health, Estrangement

Want to read ☐

William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him—so when he meets the spirited and ambitious Julia Padavano in his freshman year of college, it's as if the world has lit up around him. With Julia comes her family, as she and her three sisters are inseparable: Sylvie, the family's dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book; Cecelia is a free-spirited artist; and Emeline patiently takes care of them all. With the Padavanos, William experiences a newfound contentment; every moment in their house is filled with loving chaos.



My Father's House - **Joseph O'Connor**

indy reads

Themes: Resistence, Thriller, Friendship

Want to read ☐

When the Nazis take Rome, thousands go into hiding. One priest will risk everything to save them. September 1943: Nazi forces occupy Rome. SS officer Paul Hauptmann rules with terror. An Irish priest, Hugh O'Flaherty, dedicates himself to helping people escape. In his home in the Vatican - a neutral, independent country inside Rome - he gathers a team to set up an Escape Line. But Hauptmann's net begins closing in and the need for a terrifyingly audacious mission grows critical. By Christmas, it's too late to turn back.



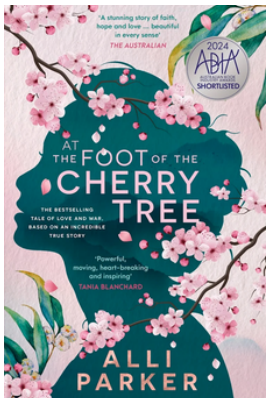
Land - **Maggie O'Farrell**

LP

Themes: Ireland, Cartography, Folklore

Want to read ☐

On a windswept peninsula stretching out into the Atlantic, Tomás and his reluctant son, Liam, are working for the great Ordnance Survey project to map the whole of Ireland. The year is 1865, and in a country not long since ravaged and emptied by the Great Hunger, the task is not an easy one. Tomás, however, is determined that his maps will be a record of the disaster. The British soldiers in charge are due to arrive any day, expecting the work to be completed. Liam is terrified by the sudden change in his taciturn father. What was it that caused such cracks to open in Tomás, and how is Liam, aged only ten, going to finish the mapping and get them both home?



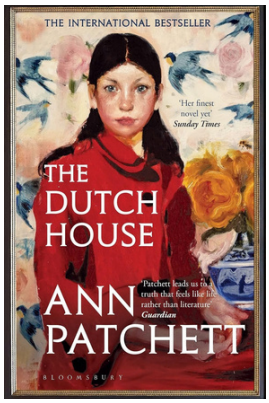
At the Foot of the Cherry Tree - **Alli Parker**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Romance, Japan, WWII

Want to read ☐

When Gordon arrives in Japan, he expects ruthless samurai, angry Japanese men ready to kill Australians at every corner. Instead, he finds Cherry, terrified of ex-enemy soldiers, a 16-year-old survivor of the atomic bomb. Against all the rules and against all odds, they fall in love. But when Gordon discovers the White Australia Policy prevents Cherry coming home with him as his war bride, Gordon does what any 20-year-old soldier would do. He vows to fight.



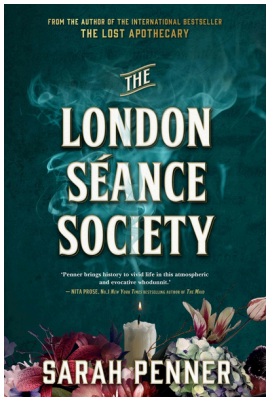
The Dutch House - **Ann Patchett**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Sibling Devotion, Obsession, Forgiveness

Want to read ☐

At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.



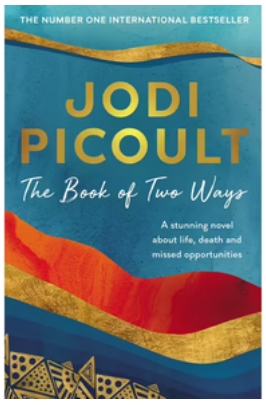
The London Seance Society - **Sarah Penner**

indy reads

Themes: Mystery, Paranormal, Victorian

Want to read ☐

873. At an abandoned château on the outskirts of Paris, a dark séance is about to take place, led by acclaimed spiritualist Vaudeline D'Allaire. Lenna Wickes has come to Paris to find answers about her sister's death, but to do so, she must embrace the unknown and overcome her own logic-driven bias against the occult. When Vaudeline is beckoned to England to solve a high-profile murder, Lenna accompanies her as an understudy. But as the women team up with the powerful men of London's exclusive Séance Society to solve the mystery, they begin to suspect that they are not merely out to solve a crime, but perhaps entangled in one themselves...



The Book of Two Ways - **Jodi Picoult**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Life and Death, Choice, Second Chances

Want to read ☐

Dawn Edelstein knows everything there is to know about dying. She specialises in helping her clients make peace with the end of their lives. But as she's flying home from her latest case, she is forced to confront her own mortality for the first time. Instead of seeing her brilliant quantum physicist husband and their beloved daughter flash before her eyes in what she assumes are her last moments, only one face is shockingly clear: Wyatt Armstrong. Safely on the ground, Dawn now faces a desperate decision.



The Drover's Wife - **Leah Purcell**

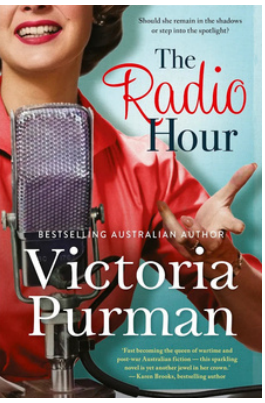
Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Gender, Racism, Isolation

Want to read ☐

Deep in the heart of Australia's high country, along an ancient, hidden track, live Molly Johnson and her children. Husband Joe is away droving, leaving his family in the bush to fend for itself. Molly's children are her world, and life is hard with only their dog, Alligator, and a shotgun for protection – but it can be harder when Joe's around. Molly's eldest son Danny is the true man of the house, determined to see his mother and siblings safe – from raging floodwaters, hunger and intruders. Danny is mature, but there are some things no child should see. He knows more than most just what it takes to be a drover's wife.

Historical Fiction



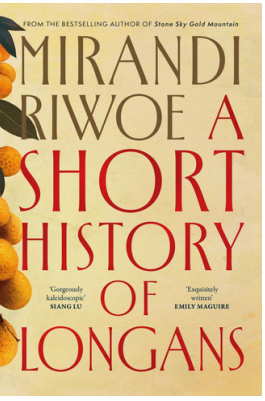
The Radio Hour - **Victoria Purman**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Gender Inequality, Secrets, Aging

Want to read ☐

Martha Berry is fifty years old, a spinster, and one of an army of polite and invisible women in 1956 Sydney who go to work each day and get things done without fuss, fanfare or reward. Working at the country's national broadcaster, she's seen highly praised talent come and go over the years but when she is sent to work as a secretary on a brand-new radio serial, created to follow in the footsteps of Australia's longest running show, Blue Hills, she finds herself at the mercy of an egotistical and erratic young producer without a clue, a conservative broadcaster frightened by the word 'pregnant' and a motley cast of actors with ideas of their own about their roles in the show.



A Short History of Longans **- Mirandi Riwoe**

Themes: Multi-generational, Seasons, Memories

Want to read ☐

It's the winter of 2049 and Daniel is elderly and long isolated. After yet another devastating storm, this time destroying his beloved longan tree, he finds his fragile peace threatened by a growing friendship with a widowed neighbour and the appearance of a young reporter digging into a shameful event buried deep in his past. Across the autumn of 2000, the summer of 1949 and the restless springs of the mid-nineteenth century, the tangled roots of Daniel's family tree unfurl - to the moment an Irish orphan finds her fate entwined with that of a Chinese bushranger.



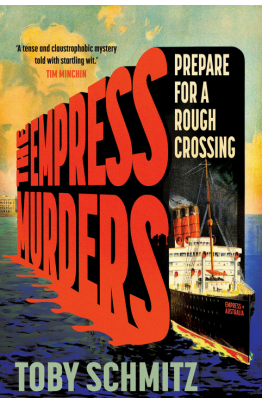
A Great Act of Love - **Heather Rose**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Loss, Hope, Courage

Want to read ☐

Caroline will tell the story of how she came to Tasmania, when it was still called Van Diemen's Land, many times. She will cast her inventions into the future. Those who carry them on will call it history, but she will call it her life.Van Diemen's Land, 1839. A young woman of means arrives in Hobart, with a young boy in her care. Leasing an old cottage next to an abandoned vineyard, Caroline Douglas must navigate an insular colony of exiles and opportunists to create a new life on this island of extreme seasons and wild beauty. But Caroline is carrying a secret...



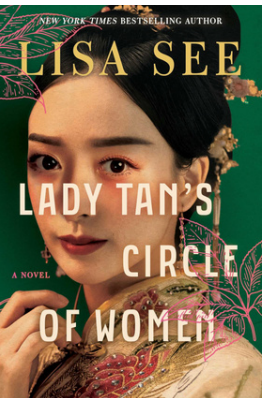
Empress Murders - **Toby Schmitz**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Class Inequality, War Trauma, Locked-Room

Want to read ☐

It's 1925 and the Empress of Australia is making her regular Atlantic crossing, New York–bound, with a full manifest of passengers. When a dead body is uncovered onboard, it is up to Inspector Archie Daniels to find the killer. But solving one murder quickly turns into solving two, then three, and it becomes clear that Daniels must act fast to avoid an all-souls-lost–level calamity. No one, from the horrendously wealthy and entitled first-class passengers to those they consider the dregs of empire below deck, is safe. And no one can get off ...



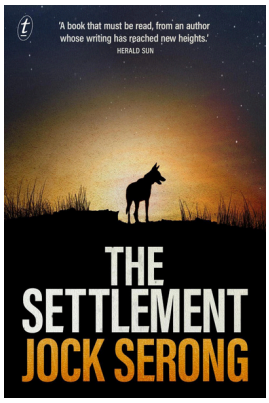
Lady Tan's Circle of Women - **Lisa See**

indy reads LP

Themes: China, Friendship, Patriarchal Oppression

Want to read ☐

According to Confucius, 'an educated woman is a worthless woman', but Tan Yunxian – born into an elite family, yet haunted by death, separation and loneliness – is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. She begins her training in medicine with her grandmother and, as she navigates the male world of medicine, requiring tact and diplomacy, she struggles against the confining world of her class. From a young age, Yunxian learns about women's illnesses, many of which relate to childbearing, alongside a young midwife-in-training, Meiling. The two girls find fast friendship and a mutual purpose. No mud, no lotus, they tell themselves: from adversity beauty can bloom.

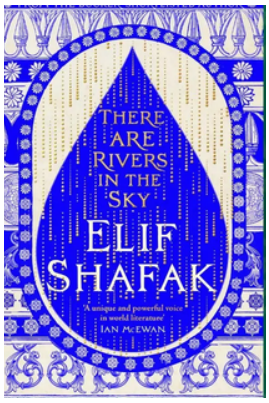


The Settlement - **Jock Serong**

Themes: 1830s Australia, Displacement, Survival

Want to read ☐

The settlement is on a windswept island at the edge of Van Diemen's Land. The people gathered there, taken from their country, are sick and consumed by grief. The Commandant attends their deathbeds, steals what little they have and wrangles forces that resist his will—including the chief, their leader. Things look even worse for the orphans Whelk and Pipi, locked in fear of the old man they know as the Catechist, who has both the power and the burning desire to hurt them. They may have an ally in the Storekeeper who is conscience-stricken and searching for kindness. But will his good intentions be enough to save them?



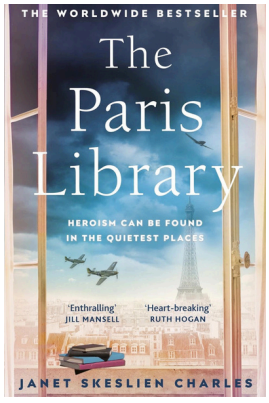
There Are Rivers in the Sky - **Elif Shafak**

LP

Themes: Epic, Connected Timelines, Memory

Want to read ☐

There Are Rivers in the Sky is a rich, sweeping novel set between the 19th century and modern times, about love and loss, memory and erasure, hurt and healing, centred around three enchanting characters living on the banks of the River Thames and the River Tigris – their lives all curiously touched by the epic of Gilgamesh.

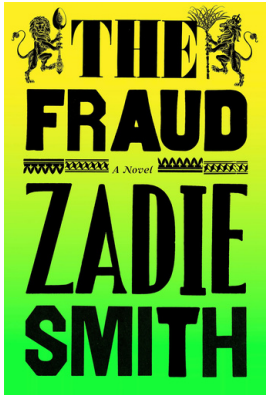


The Paris Library - **Janet Skeslien Charles**

Themes: Resistance, Friendships, Betrayal

Want to read ☐

Paris, 1939: Young and ambitious Odile Souchet has it all: her handsome police officer beau and a dream job at the American Library in Paris. When the Nazis march into Paris, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear. Odile joins the Resistance with the best weapons she has: books. But when the war finally ends, instead of freedom, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal. Montana, 1983: Lily is a lonely teenager looking for adventure. Her interest is piqued by her solitary, elderly neighbor. As Lily uncovers more about her neighbor's mysterious past, she never suspects that a dark secret from the past connects them.



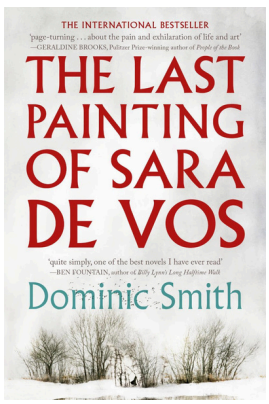
The Fraud - **Zadie Smith**

Themes: Slavery, Deception, Local Connection

Want to read ☐

Truth and fiction. Jamaica and Britain. Who gets to tell their story?

In her first historical novel, Zadie Smith transports the reader to a Victorian England transfixed by the real-life trial of the Tichborne Claimant, in which a cockney butcher, recently returned from Australia, lays claim to the Tichborne baronetcy, with his former slave Andrew Bogle as star witness. Watching the proceedings, and with her own story to tell, is Eliza Touchet – cousin, housekeeper and perhaps more – to failing novelist William Harrison Ainsworth.



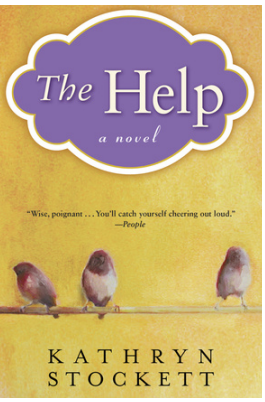
The Last Painting of Sara de Vos - **Dominic Smith**

Themes: Multiple Timelines, Forgery, Art

Want to read ☐

In 1631, Sara de Vos is admitted as a master painter to the Guild of St. Luke's in Holland, the first woman to be so recognized. Three hundred years later, only one work attributed to de Vos is known to remain--a haunting winter scene, At the Edge of a Wood, which hangs over the bed of a wealthy descendant of the original owner. An Australian grad student, Ellie Shipley, struggling to stay afloat in New York, agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape, a decision that will haunt her. Because now, half a century later, she's curating an exhibit of female Dutch painters, and both versions threaten to arrive.

Historical Fiction

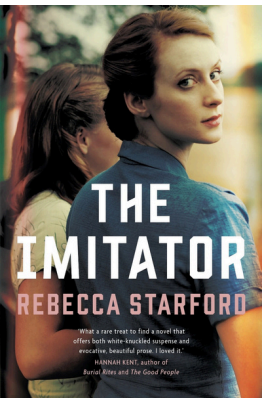


The Help - **Kathryn Stockett**

Themes: Racism, Gender Roles, Storytelling

Want to read ☐

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town...



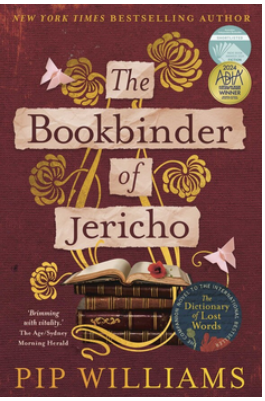
The Imitator - **Rebecca Starford**

LP

Themes: Loyalty, Friendships, WWII

Want to read ☐

Out of place at boarding school, scholarship girl Evelyn Varley realises that the only way for her to fit in is to be like everyone else. She hides her true self and what she really thinks behind the manners and attitudes of those around her. By the time she graduates from Oxford University in 1939, ambitious and brilliant Evelyn has perfected her performance. War is looming. Evelyn soon finds herself recruited to MI5, and the elite counterintelligence department of Bennett White, the enigmatic spy-runner.



Bookbinder of Jericho - **Pip Williams**

Themes: Knowlegde, Gender, Sisterhood

Want to read ☐

In 1914, when the war draws the young men of Britain away to fight, it is the women who must keep the nation running. Two of those women are Peggy and Maude, twin sisters who work in the bindery at Oxford University Press in Jericho. Peggy is intelligent, ambitious and dreams of studying at Oxford University, but for most of her life she has been told her job is to bind the books, not read them. Maude, meanwhile, wants nothing more than what she has. She is extraordinary but vulnerable. Peggy needs to watch over her.

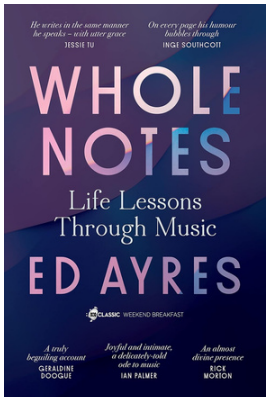


Unknown - **Akuch Kuol Anyieth**

Themes: Refugee, Uplifting, Belonging

Want to read ☐

In 1996, when Akuch Kuol Anyieth is five, her mother flees from war-torn South Sudan to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya with her children, while her husband stays to fight in the civil war. The family spends nine long years in the camp, amid famine, disease, extreme heat and chronic violence. Finally, in 2005, they are granted a humanitarian visa to Australia, but the reality of their new life in Melbourne is complex. Akuch is determined, excelling in school and doing her best to be a regular teen, while she and her family slowly draw away from the cycle of violence. Unknown is a story of sadness and anger, but also of grace and humour, love and triumphant survival.

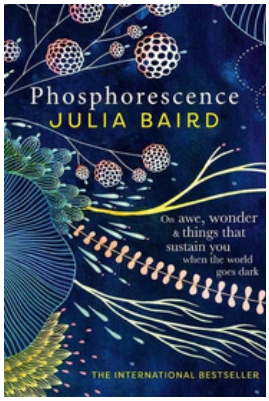


Whole Notes - **Ed Ayres**

Themes: Healing, Identity, Uplifting

Want to read ☐

Through music, whether we are listening or playing, we know ourselves more intimately, more honestly, and more clearly with every note. This book is an ode to music, and a celebration of humanity's greatest creation. It is not a call to arms, but a call to instruments. In music, Ed Ayres finds answers to the big questions life throws at us. Using personal anecdotes - including those relating to his transition from Emma to Ed - and observations from teaching and learning music, Ed finds hope in our desire to become whole, with some simple music lessons along the way.

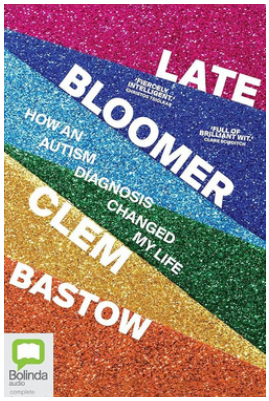


Phosphorescence - **Julia Baird**

Themes: Nature, Illness, Memoir

Want to read ☐

Over the last decade, we have become better at knowing what brings us contentment, well-being and joy. We know, for example, that there are a few core truths to the science of happiness. We know that being kind and altruistic makes us happy, that turning off devices, talking to people, forging relationships, living with meaning and delving into the concerns of others offer our best chance of achieving happiness. But how do we retain happiness? It often slips out of our hands as quickly as we find it. So, when we are exposed to, or learn, good things, how do we continue to burn with them?

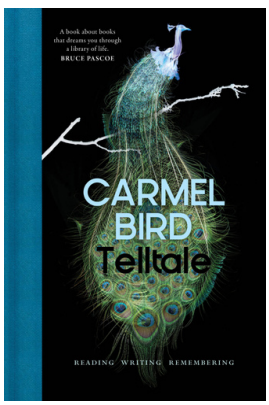


Late Bloomer - **Clem Bastow**

Themes: Neurodivergence, Gender, Identity

Want to read ☐

Clem Bastow grew up feeling like she'd missed a key memo on human behaviour. She found the unspoken rules of social engagement confusing, arbitrary and often stressful. Friendships were hard, relationships harder, and the office was a fluorescent-lit nightmare of anxiety. It wasn't until Clem was diagnosed as autistic, at age 36, that things clicked into focus. With wit and warmth, Clem reflects as an autistic adult on her formative experiences as an undiagnosed young person. Along the way she challenges the broader cultural implications and ideas around autism, especially for women and gender-diverse people.



Telltale - **Carmel Bird**

Themes: Reading, Writing, Connections

Want to read ☐

n Telltale, Carmel Bird seizes on an enforced isolation to re-read a rich dispensary of books from her past. A rule she sets herself is that she can consult only the books in her house, even if some, such as the much-loved Thornton Wilder's The Bridge of San Luis Rey, appear to be stubbornly elusive. Her library is comprehensive, and each book chosen - or that cannot be refused - enables an opening, a connection to people, time, place, myth, image, and the experience of a writing life.

Non-Fiction



Australian Gospel - **Lech Blaine**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Foster Care, Mental Illness, Resilience

Want to read ☐

From one of Australia's most brilliant writers, a dark comedy about the tangled fates of two couples and the children trapped between them. Michael and Mary Shelley are Christian fanatics who loathe their fellow Australians – especially their 'foul language, reckless indulgence of alcohol and obsession with idiotic ball sports'. Lenore and Tom Blaine are working-class Queensland publicans raising a large family in a raucous, loving, rugby-league-obsessed home. There's just one problem. The Blaines are foster parents to three of the Shelleys' children, who were removed from Michael and Mary as infants. And the Shelleys are prepared to do anything to get them back. Anything.



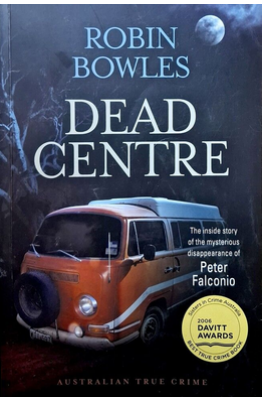
No Friend but the Mountains - **Behrouz Boochani**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Prision Literature, Politics, Confinement

Want to read ☐

Where have I come from? From the land of rivers, the land of waterfalls, the land of ancient chants, the land of mountains... In 2013, Kurdish journalist Behrouz Boochani was illegally detained on Manus Island. People would run to the mountains to escape the warplanes and found asylum within their chestnut forests... This book is the result. Laboriously tapped out on a mobile phone and translated from the Farsi. It is a voice of witness, an act of survival. A lyric first-hand account. A cry of resistance. A vivid portrait through six years of incarceration and exile. Do Kurds have any friends other than the mountains?

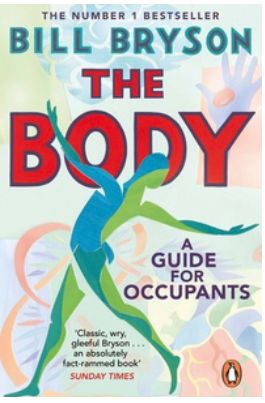


Dead Centre - **Robin Bowles**

Themes: Justice, Media, Isolation

Want to read ☐

The Peter Falconio case is one of the most interesting criminal cases in Australian history. A British tourist, Peter Falconio disappeared at night in the outback in 2001. His companion, Joanne Lees was reported attacked that night. It was a front-page news sensation around the world. A massive police manhunt and investigation across several states ensued. Some thirteen months later Bradley Murdoch was charged with his murder and the attack on Joanne Lees. The book covers a complex and controversial police investigation, court proceedings and an examination of the many remaining questions that are still unanswered to this day.



The Body - **Bill Bryson**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Medical History, Evolution, Humorous

Want to read ☐

In the bestselling, prize-winning A Short History of Nearly Everything, Bill Bryson achieved the seemingly impossible by making the science of our world both understandable and entertaining to millions of people around the globe. Now he turns his attention inwards to explore the human body, how it functions and its remarkable ability to heal itself. Full of extraordinary facts and astonishing stories, The Body: A Guide for Occupants is a brilliant, often very funny attempt to understand the miracle of our physical and neurological make up.



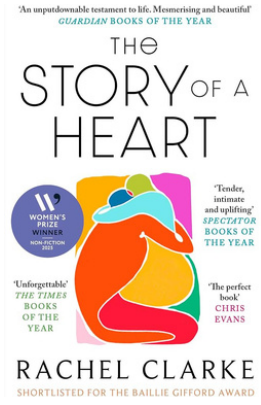
Strangers - **Belle Burden**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Divorce, Starting Again, Social Privilege

Want to read ☐

In March 2020, Belle Burden was safe and secure with her family at their house on Martha's Vineyard, navigating the early days of the pandemic together—building fires in the late afternoons, drinking whisky sours, making roast chicken. Then, with no warning or explanation, her husband of twenty years announced that he was leaving her. Overnight, her caring, steady partner became a man she hardly recognized. He exited his life with her like an actor shrugging off a costume. In Strangers, Burden revisits her marriage, searching for clues that her husband was not who she always thought he was.



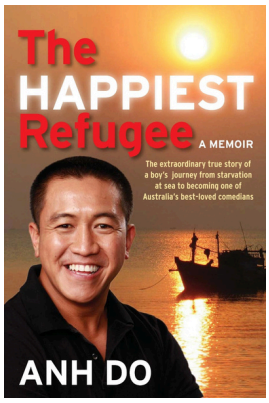
The Story of a Heart - **Rachel Clarke**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Medical, Grief, Interconnected Lives

Want to read ☐

One summer day, nine-year-old Keira suffered catastrophic injuries in a car accident. Though her brain and the rest of her body began to shut down, her heart continued to beat. In an act of extraordinary generosity, Keira's parents and siblings agreed that she would have wanted to be an organ donor. Meanwhile nine-year-old Max had been hospitalised for nearly a year with a virus that was causing his young heart to fail. When Max's parents received the call they had been hoping for, they knew it came at a terrible cost to another family. The Story of a Heart is a testament to compassion for the dying, the many ways we honour our loved ones, and the tenacity of love.



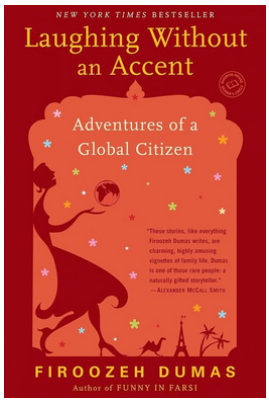
The Happiest Refugee - **Anh Do**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Resilience, Family Sacrifice, Optimism

Want to read ☐

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam. But nothing - not murderous pirates, nor the imminent threat of death by hunger, disease or dehydration as they drifted for days - could quench their desire to make a better life. Life in Australia was hard, an endless succession of back-breaking work, crowded rooms, ruthless landlords and make-do everything. But there was a loving extended family, and always friends and something to laugh about. Things got harder when their father left home when Anh was thirteen - and their mother struggled to support the family on her own.



Laughing Without an Accent - **Firoozeh Dumas**

Themes: Cultural Identity, Family, Humour

Want to read ☐

With dry wit and a bold spirit, Dumas puts her own unique mark on the themes of family, community, and tradition. She braves the uncommon palate of her French-born husband and learns the nuances of having her book translated for Persian audiences (the censors edit out all references to ham). And along the way, she reconciles her beloved Iranian customs with her Western ideals. Dumas also documents her first year as a new mother, the familial chaos that ensues after she removes the television set from the house, the experience of taking fifty-one family members on a birthday cruise to Alaska, and a road trip to Iowa with an American once held hostage in Iran.



What is Visible - **Kimberly Elkins**

Themes: Trailblazer, Disability, Victorian Era

Want to read ☐

What Is Visible is inspired by the extraordinary true story of Laura Bridgman, who lost four of her five senses to scarlet fever at age two yet became the first deaf and blind person to learn language. Told primarily through Laura's mischievous, witty, and temperamental perspective, the novel explores her education at Perkins Institute, her complex relationships with influential figures, and her encounters with Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller. Rich in lyricism and historical detail, the novel examines Laura's remarkable journey alongside the social, philosophical, religious, and educational transformations of Victorian America, restoring the story of a once-celebrated woman largely forgotten by history.



Bee Miles - **Rose Ellis**

LP

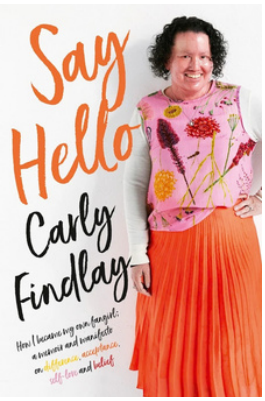
Themes: Rebellion, Patriarchy, Class Expectations

Want to read ☐

Bee Miles was a truly larger-than-life character. Famous for being outrageous in public, or, as she said, living' recklessly', she shocked and intrigued cities and towns across Australia. But she was no ordinary wanderer.

Bee constantly defied conventional expectations of female behaviour. Until now, no-one has uncovered the real story behind the colourful legend. This first full biography offers a fascinating glimpse into a dark side of Australia's history.

Non-Fiction

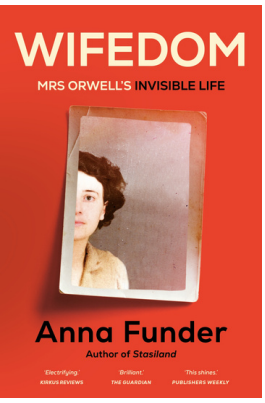


Say Hello - **Carly Findlay**

Themes: Social Criticism, Body Positivity, Disability

Want to read ☐

This honest, outspoken and thought-provoking memoir by award-winning writer and appearance activist Carly Findlay will challenge all your assumptions and beliefs about what it is like to have a visibly different appearance. Carly lives with a rare skin condition, Ichthyosis, and what she faces every day, and what she has to live with, will have you cheering for her and her courage and irrepressible spirit. This is both a moving memoir and a proud manifesto on disability and appearance diversity issues.



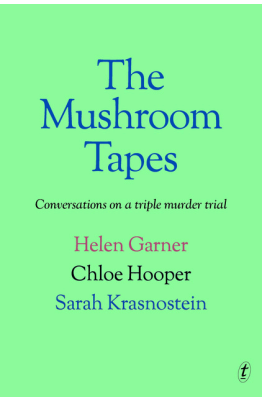
Wifedom - **Anna Funder**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Espionage, Secrets, Feminism

Want to read ☐

Anna Funder slips into the pages of her hero George Orwell. As she watches him create his writing self, she tries to remember her own, and when she uncovers his forgotten wife, it's a revelation. Eileen O'Shaughnessy's literary brilliance shaped Orwell's work and her practical nous saved his life. But why - and how - was she written out of the story? Using newly discovered letters from Eileen to her best friend, Funder recreates the Orwells' marriage, through the Spanish Civil War and WW II in London. As she rolls up the screen concealing Orwell's private life she is led to question what it takes to be a writer - and what it is to be a wife.



The Mushroom Tapes - **Helen Garner**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: True Crime, Media Circus, Human Behaviour

Want to read ☐

In July 2023, in the quiet Gippsland town of Leongatha, Erin Patterson—stay-at-home mother and true-crime devotee—invited her husband's devoutly Christian family to lunch. Within days, three of her guests were dead and the fourth was in a coma. They had all been poisoned by death cap mushrooms. Two years later, Patterson stood trial, accused of three counts of murder and one count of attempted murder. The court case gripped the nation and fascinated people all over the world. Among those drawn into the drama were three renowned writers: Helen Garner, Chloe Hooper and Sarah Krasnostein.



The Season - **Helen Garner**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Intergenerational, Mascilinity, Aging

Want to read ☐

It's footy season in Melbourne, and Helen Garner is following her grandson's under-16s team. She not only goes to every game, but to every training session too, shivering on the sidelines at dusk, fascinated by the spectacle. She's a passionate Western Bulldogs fan who loves the epic theatre of AFL football. But her devotion to the under-16s offers her something else. This is her chance to connect with her youngest grandchild, to be close to him before he rushes headlong into manhood. To witness his triumphs and defeats, to fear for his safety in battle, to gasp and to cheer for his team as it fights for a place in the finals.



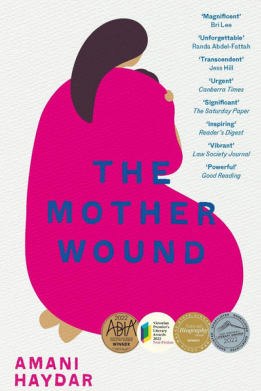
Flesh Wounds - **Richard Glover**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Parental Neglect, Humour, Self-Discovery

Want to read ☐

Richard Glover's favourite dinner party game is called 'Who's Got the Weirdest Parents?'. It's a game he always thinks he'll win. There was his mother, a deluded snob, who made up large swathes of her past and who ran away with Richard's English teacher, a Tolkien devotee, nudist and stuffed-toy collector. There was his father, a distant alcoholic, who ran through a gamut of wives, yachts and failed dreams. And there was Richard himself, a confused teenager, vulnerable to strange men, trying to find a family he could belong to. The only way to make sense of the present was to go back to the past. Truth can leave wounds - even if they are only flesh wounds.

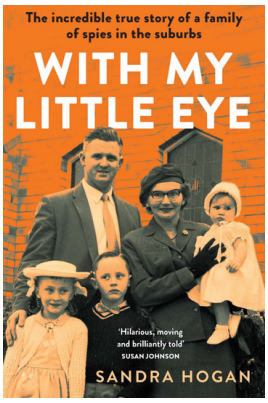


The Mother Wound - **Amani Haydar**

Themes: Feminism, Motherhood, Grief

Want to read ☐

Amani Haydar suffered the unimaginable when she lost her mother in a brutal act of domestic violence perpetrated by her father. Five months pregnant at the time, her own perception of how she wanted to mother (and how she had been mothered) was shaped by this devastating murder. After her mother's death, Amani began reassessing everything she knew of her parents' relationship. They had been unhappy for so long - should she have known that it would end like this? A lawyer by profession, she also saw the holes in the justice system for addressing and combating emotional abuse and coercive control.



With My Little Eye - **Sandra Hogan**

Themes: Australian History, Cold War, Family

Want to read ☐

Growing up in the 1950s, the three Doherty children were trained by their parents to memorise car number plates, to spot unusual behaviour on the street and, most important of all, to avoid drawing attention to themselves. The children became unwitting foot soldiers in Australia's battle against Soviet infiltration in the Cold War. In 1956 the Doherty family went on a beach holiday with Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov, the famous Soviet defectors, who were hiding from Soviet assassins. Dudley and Joan Doherty swore their children to secrecy, and for decades, they didn't even discuss among themselves the work they did for ASIO.

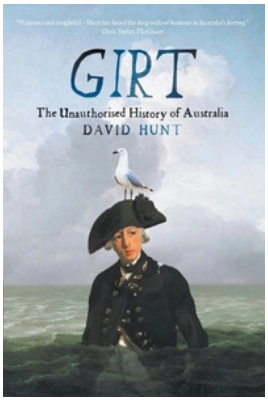


One Last Dance - **Emma Jane Holmes**

Themes: Double Life, Living Life, Female Autonomy

Want to read ☐

Emma Jane Holmes had her dream job, working in the funeral industry, caring for those who could no longer care for themselves. But when the bills mounted after her marriage breakdown, she turned to her other dream - dancing on stage as a showgirl - and her glittering alter ego Madison was born. Emma Jane kept Madison a secret. Madison kept Emma Jane an even bigger one. But what happens when death touches the neon world of the strip club? And sex - in the form of a cute co-worker - encroaches on the funeral home? Could the answer be life, lived in the day, because that's the only day you have?

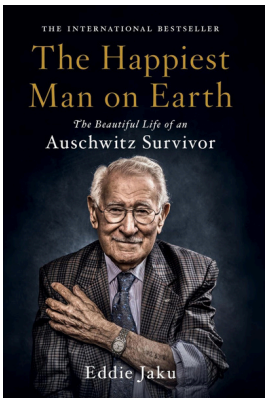


Girt: The Unauthorised History of Australia - **David Hunt**

Themes: Satirical, Re-examining History, Aussie Myth

Want to read ☐

Girt. No word could better capture the essence of Australia... In this hilarious history, David Hunt reveals the truth of Australia's past, from megafauna to Macquarie – the cock-ups and curiosities, the forgotten eccentrics and Eureka moments that have made us who we are. Girt introduces forgotten heroes like Mary McLoghlin, transported for the crime of "felony of sock", and Trim the cat, who beat a French monkey to become the first animal to circumnavigate Australia. It recounts the misfortunes of the escaped Irish convicts who set out to walk from Sydney to China, guided only by a hand-drawn paper compass, and explains the role of the coconut in Australia's only military coup.



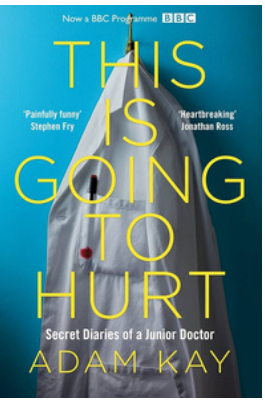
The Happiest Man on Earth - **Eddie Jaku**

Themes: Overcoming Trauma, Survival, Forgiveness

Want to read ☐

Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed in November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested and taken to a concentration camp. Over the next seven years, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors every day, first in Buchenwald, then in Auschwitz, then on a Nazi death march. He lost family, friends, his country. Because he survived, Eddie made the vow to smile every day. He pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom and living his best possible life. He now believes he is the 'happiest man on earth'.

Non-Fiction

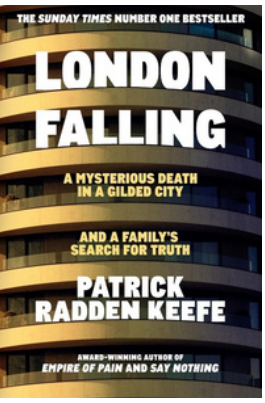


This is Going to Hurt - **Adam Kay**

Themes: Humorous, Overworked, Medical

Want to read ☐

Welcome to the life of a junior doctor: 97-hour weeks, life and death decisions, a constant tsunami of bodily fluids, and the hospital parking meter earns more than you. Scribbled in secret after endless days, sleepless nights and missed weekends, Adam Kay's This is Going to Hurt provides a no-holds-barred account of his time on the NHS front line. Hilarious, horrifying and heartbreaking, this diary is everything you wanted to know - and more than a few things you didn't - about life on and off the hospital ward.



London Falling - **Patrick Radden Keefe**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: True Crime, Mystery, British

Want to read ☐

In 2019, a London teenager, Zac Brettler, mysteriously fell to his death from a luxury apartment building on the banks of the Thames. When his grieving parents began their desperate quest to understand how their son had died, they made a terrible discovery: Zac had been leading a fantasy life, posing as the son of a wealthy Russian oligarch. In his inimitably gripping and forensic prose, Baillie Gifford Prize winner and New Yorker writer Patrick Radden Keefe follows Zac's parents on a dark journey to find out what brought Zac to the balcony that night - and how a teenager's world of make-believe drew him into the city's terrifying underworld.



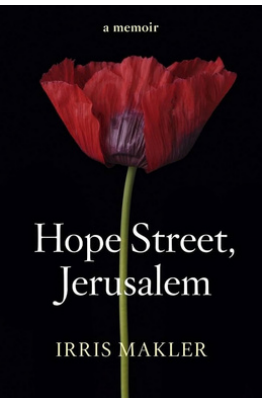
Turns Out I'm Fine - **Judith Lucy**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Memoir, Humorous, Healing

Want to read ☐

In the space of twenty-four hours, Judith Lucy's relationship came apart and so did she. A broken heart became the catalyst for a complete existential melt down. She was nearly fifty, suddenly alone and unsure about every aspect of her life. In her most candid and insightful book yet, Judith figures out what went wrong and then turns her attention to finding out what her life might look like if it went right. Judith slowly starts to realise that her life is still full of possibilities and despite death, heartache and a dry vagina it turns out ... she's fine.



Hope Street, Jerusalem - **Irris Makler**

Themes: War Journalism, Love, Resilience

Want to read ☐

Moving to a strange city always takes courage, but never more so than in a place where the daily expression of love and hate can turn a simple choice of a romantic table by the window into a life or death decision. Both a love story and bittersweet tribute to her beloved adopted city of Jerusalem, Irris Makler shines a hopeful light on a part of the world where the news reports often makes it seem impossibly dark. From juggling the danger and unpredictability of her work as a roving foreign correspondent, she allows us an intimate glimpse into a passionate, vibrant and fascinating world.



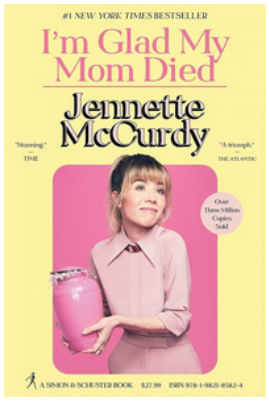
Oh Miriam! - **Miriam Margolyes**

Borrow Box.

Themes: LGBT, Aging, Humorous

Want to read ☐

From declaring my love to Vanessa Redgrave to being fed cockroaches by Steve Buscemi, from turnip-based comedy with Blackadder to being farted on by Arnold Schwarzenegger, from Graham Norton's sofa to Alan Cumming's camper van, my life has been (and continues to be) an uproarious adventure. Oh Miriam! has been such a constant refrain in my life, said in all kinds of tones - laughs, surprised gasps and orgasmic sighs (I'm hoping for all of those from you as you read on!) - that it had to be the title of this book. And with a cast list that stretches from Churchill to DiCaprio, Dahl to Dietrich, Princess Margaret to Maggie Smith, I've so much more to tell you and so much more to say.

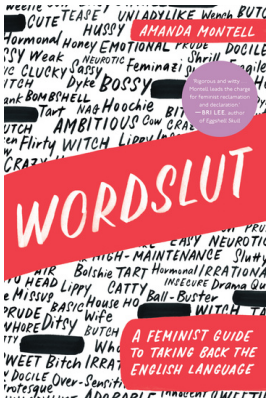


I'm Glad My Mom Died - **Jennette McCurdy**

Themes: Parental Abuse, Self-Image, Healing

Want to read ☐

Jennette McCurdy was six years old when she had her first acting audition. Her mother's dream was for her only daughter to become a star, and Jennette would do anything to make her mother happy. Cast in a new Nickelodeon series called iCarly, she is thrust into fame. Jennette is riddled with anxiety, shame, and self-loathing, which manifest into eating disorders, addiction, and a series of unhealthy relationships. These issues only get worse when, soon after taking the lead in the iCarly spinoff Sam & Cat alongside Ariana Grande, her mother dies of cancer. Finally, after discovering therapy and quitting acting, Jennette embarks on recovery.



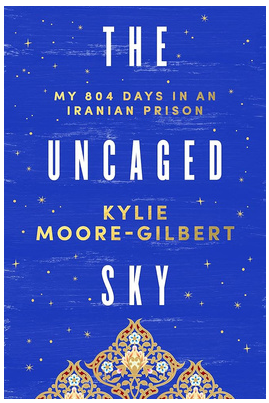
Wordslut - **Amanda Montell**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Feminism, Language, Witty

Want to read ☐

A brash, enlightening and wildly entertaining feminist look at gendered language and the way it shapes us. Feminist linguist Amanda Montell explains why words matter and why it's imperative that women embrace their unique relationship with language. Drawing on fascinating research, and moving between history and pop culture, Montell deconstructs language – from insults and cursing to grammar and pronunciation – to expose the ways it has been used for centuries to gaslight women. Wordslut gets to the heart of our language, sheds light on the biases that shadow women in our culture and shows how to embrace language to verbally smash the patriarchy.



The Uncaged Sky - **Kylie Moore-Gilbert**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Iranian Prison, Resilience, Memoir

Want to read ☐

Falsely accused of espionage in 2018, Kylie Moore-Gilbert was sentenced to ten years and thrown into the country's most notorious isolation cells. This powerful memoir documents her relentless fight for survival against psychological torture, solitary confinement, and political chess, detailing her hunger strikes, smuggled letters, and her unwavering defiance to maintain her sanity until her dramatic release in a 2020 prisoner swap. It is an extraordinary testament to human resilience, courage, and the triumph of the spirit under the most extreme conditions.



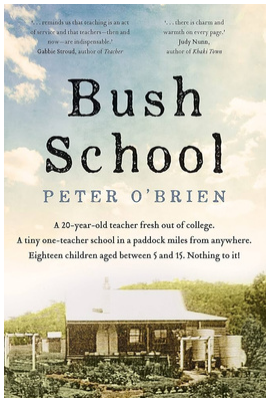
Did I Ever Tell You This? - **Sam Neill**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Mortality, Humour, Reflective

Want to read ☐

For over forty years, Sam Neill's name has been a hallmark of quality. From enduring blockbusters to arthouse classics, his work has taken him all over the world, starring with some of cinema's greats. In Did I Ever Tell You This? he shares stories from an extraordinary life with charm, honesty and an appreciation for the absurd. Moving and often laugh-out-loud funny, this is the inspirational story of a man who, when life knocks him down, stands up again.



Bush School - **Peter O'Brien**

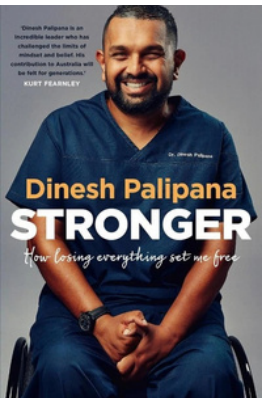
LP

Themes: Education, Isolation, Community

Want to read ☐

In the 1960s, newly minted teacher Peter O'Brien began working at a one-teacher school in a small village called Weabonga, nearest town Tamworth. When Peter got to the school, he was only 20 years of age, and found he had 18 students, ranging in age from 5 years old to 16. The challenges were immense, not to mention his own terrible living quarters and inadequate diet, or the terrible isolation he felt so far from family, friends and his 'special lady friend'. What follows is a delightful and fascinating account of the two years Peter spent there, the friends he made there and the children whose lives were forever changed for the good by having an industrious and caring teacher.

Non-Fiction



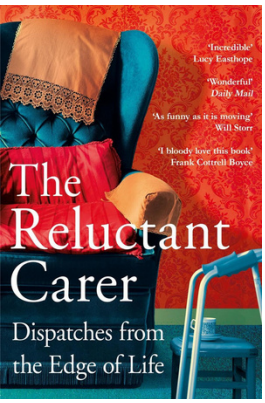
Stronger - **Dinesh Palipana**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Advocacy, Adversity, Memoir

Want to read ☐

A puddle of water on a highway changed Dinesh Palipana's life forever. Halfway through medical school, Dinesh was involved in a catastrophic car accident that caused a cervical spinal cord injury. After his accident, his strength and determination saw him return to complete medical school - now with quadriplegia. Dinesh was the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland, and the second person with quadriplegia to graduate medical school in Australia. Despite all of the pain and hardship he's faced, Dinesh now sees his accident as a turning point for the better in his life.

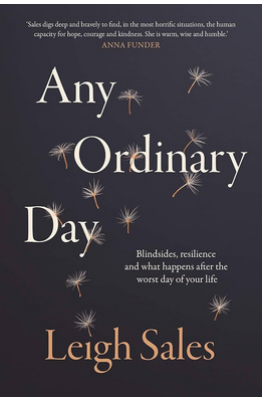


The Reluctant Carer - **The Reluctant Carer**

Themes: Dark Humour, Honest, Role Reversal

Want to read ☐

It was the kind of phone call we all dread. Your elderly father has been admitted to hospital. Your even older mum is now at home alone. The answer? Simple. Drop everything, go back and help. The reality? Not so straightforward. Suddenly, you're a kid again, stranded in the overheated house you grew up in. Soon they need you 24/7. And you want to help, of course you do. But now your own life starts to unravel almost as quickly as their health. And then there is nowhere else to go. Irresistibly funny, unflinching and deeply moving, this is a love letter to family and friends, to carers and to anyone who has ever packed a small bag intent on staying for just a few days.



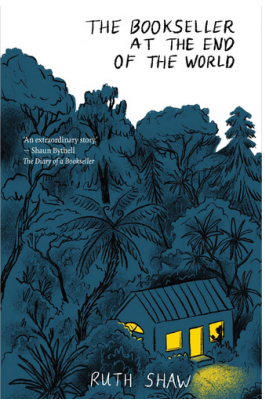
Any Ordinary Day - **Leigh Sales**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Vulnerability, Unexpected Trauma, Resilience

Want to read ☐

As a journalist, Leigh Sales often encounters people experiencing the worst moments of their lives in the full glare of the media. But one particular string of bad news stories – and a terrifying brush with her own mortality – sent her looking for answers about how vulnerable each of us is to a life-changing event. What are our chances of actually experiencing one? What do we fear most and why? And when the worst does happen, what comes next? In this book, Leigh talks intimately with people who've faced the unimaginable. From terrorism to natural disaster to simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Expecting broken lives, she instead finds strength, hope, even humour.



The Bookseller at the End of the World - **Ruth Shaw**

Themes: Resilience, Books, Human Connection

Want to read ☐

A rich, immersive, funny and heartbreaking memoir of the charming bookseller who runs two tiny bookshops in the remote village of Manapouri in Fiordland, in the deep south of New Zealand. Ruth Shaw weaves together stories of the characters who visit her bookshops, musings about favourite books, and bittersweet stories from her full and varied life.
Underlining all her wanderings and adventures are some very deep losses and long-held pain. Balancing that out is her beautiful love story with Lance, and her delightful sense of humour.



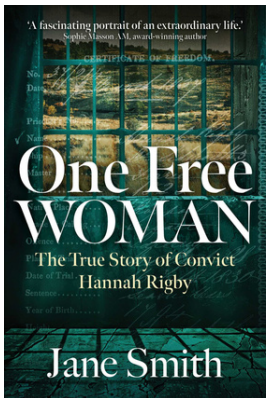
Found, Wanting - **Natsha Sholl**

indy reads

Themes: Grief, Social Isolation, Moving On

Want to read ☐

On Valentine's Day, after a night of red wine and pasta and planning for their future, Natasha Sholl and her partner Rob went to bed. A few hours later, at the age of 27, his heart stopped. Found, Wanting tells the story of Natasha's attempt to rebuild her life in the wake of Rob's sudden death, stumbling through the grief landscape and colliding with the cultural assumptions about the 'right way' to grieve. It is a memoir about falling in love in the aftermath of loss, and what it means to build a life in the space that death leaves.



One Free Woman - **Jane Smith**

Borrow Box. LP

Themes: Poverty, Gender Inequality, Resilience

Want to read ☐

Hannah Rigby was a poor Liverpool seamstress, a prisoner and a serial thief. Exiled from her homeland, oppressed by poverty and rigid social mores, used and discarded by a series of men. An "exemplary" servant who was fond of a lark – and a single mother determined to keep her family together. One Free Woman tells the true, compelling story of the only female convict to stay in Moreton Bay when the penal settlement closed – a woman who notoriously served three separate sentences of transportation, including two to one of the harshest establishments in the country.



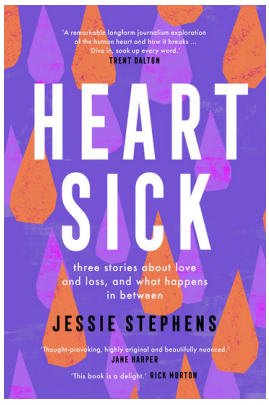
Tiny - **Louise Southerden**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Memoir, Minimalism, Relationships

Want to read ☐

While staying in a tiny house in Norway, Louise had an epiphany about what she truly wanted for her life. With no prior building experience, Louise undertook the tiny build with her partner, Max. Over the year and a half of planning and construction of her tiny house, Louise witnessed her new home coming together as her relationship was falling apart. Along the way Louise learned about love, home, forgiveness and what we really need to be happy. This is an intensely personal story about searching for home and true love, risking everything, failing and finding ways to cope, and discovering that what we need isn't always what we thought we wanted.



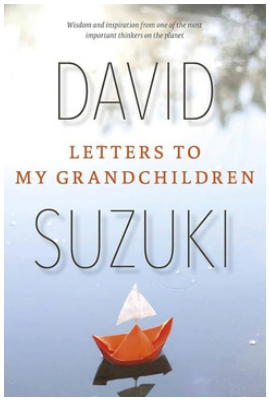
Heartsick - **Jessie Stephens**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Love & Loss, Rejection, Infatuation

Want to read ☐

Claire has returned from London to the dust and familiarity of her childhood home, only to realise something is wrong with her partner Maggie. Patrick is a lonely uni student, until he meets Caitlin - but does she feel as connected as he does? Ana is happily married with three children. Then, one night, she falls in love with someone else. Based on three true stories, Heartsick is a compelling narrative nonfiction account of the many lows and occasional surprising highs of heartbreak. Bruising, beautiful, achingly specific but wholeheartedly universal, it reminds us that emotional pain can make us as it breaks us, and that storytelling has the ultimate healing power.

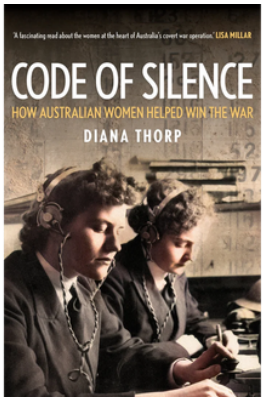


Letters to my Grandchildren - **David Suzuki**

Themes: Life Lessons, Advocacy, Letters

Want to read ☐

In these inspiring letters to his grandchildren, David Suzuki speaks eloquently about their future and challenges them to be agents of change and to do everything with commitment and passion. He also explains why sports, fishing, feminism, and failure are important; why it is dangerous to deny our biological nature; and why First Nations must lead a revolution. Drawing on his own experiences and the wisdom he has gained over his long life, he decries the lack of elders and grandparents in the lives of many people, especially immigrants, and champions the importance of heroes. He even has something to say about fashion.



Code of Silence - **Diana Thorp**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Women, Hidden Stories, Homefront

Want to read ☐

As World War II climbed to its crescendo in the Pacific, the Australian government called in a new weapon: women. Stepping up in a time of crisis, the recruits embraced a variety of roles. These women, some just teens, were soon dotted across Australia, working in discreet locations – from an outback bunker disguised as a farmhouse to a Melbourne apartment block, from the garage of a Brisbane manor to a Perth girls' school. As war moved closer to home, some intercepted enemy messages and relayed intelligence worldwide, from Bletchley Park to Washington and across the Asia-Pacific. Some members of this female arsenal were sworn to secrecy.

Non-Fiction



My Father and Other Animals - **Sam Vincent**

Themes: Memoir, Family, Farming

Want to read ☐

Sam Vincent is a twenty-something writer living in the inner suburbs, scrabbling to make ends meet, when he gets a call from his mother: his father has stuck his hand in a woodchipper, but 'not to worry – it wasn't like that scene in Fargo or anything'. When Sam returns to the family farm to help out, his life takes a new and unexpected direction. By turns affecting, hilarious and utterly surprising, this memoir melds humour and fierce honesty in an unsentimental love letter. It's about belonging, humility and regeneration – of land, family and culture. What passes from father to son on this unruly patch of earth is more than a livelihood; it is a legacy.

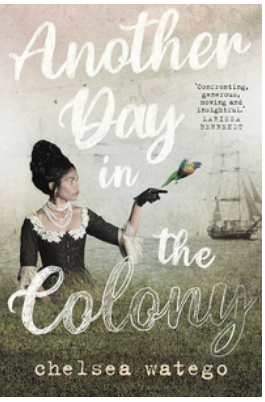


Time of my Life - **Myf Warhurst**

Themes: Memoir, Resilience, Musical Memories

Want to read ☐

Songs and lyrics helped Myf make sense of the world and deal with heartbreak and uncertainty. Music steered her hopes and fashion choices, cemented friendships and bonded family. In Time of My Life, she shares funny, fabulous and occasionally fraught tales about growing up in a small country town with an unhealthy obsession with Countdown, then working in Australian radio and her experiences on the music quiz show Spicks & Specks. She spills the backstage beans on work, fame, feminism, failure, love and success. Like a sommelier matches food with wine, Myf matches hits with memory, and in the process reminds us all that, as Louis Armstrong said, 'Music is life itself.'

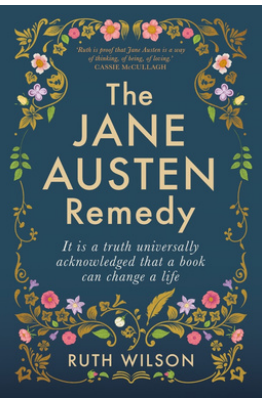


Another Day in the Colony - **Chelsea Watego**

Themes: Racism, Observational, Essays

Want to read ☐

In this collection of deeply insightful and powerful essays, Chelsea Watego examines the ongoing and daily racism faced by First Nations peoples in so-called Australia. Rather than offer yet another account of 'the Aboriginal problem', she theorises a strategy for living in a society that has only ever imagined Indigenous peoples as destined to die out. Drawing on her own experiences and observations of the operations of the colony, she exposes the lies that settlers tell about Indigenous people. In refusing such stories, Chelsea narrates her own: fierce, personal, sometimes funny, sometimes anguished.

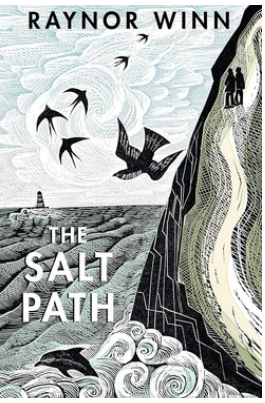


The Jane Austen Remedy - **Ruth Wilson**

Themes: Literature, Aging, Relationships

Want to read ☐

As she approached the age of seventy, Ruth Wilson began to have recurring dreams about losing her voice. Unable to dismiss her feelings of unexplainable sadness, she made the radical decision to retreat from her conventional life with her husband to a sunshine-yellow cottage in the Southern Highlands where she lived alone for the next decade. Ruth had fostered a lifelong love of reading, and from the moment she first encountered Pride and Prejudice in the 1940s she had looked to Jane Austen's heroines as her models for the sort of woman she wanted to become.



The Salt Path - **Raynor Winn**

Themes: Nature, Resilience, Mortality

Want to read ☐

Just days after Raynor learns that Moth, her husband of 32 years is terminally ill, the couple lose their home and their livelihood. With nothing left and little time, they make the brave and impulsive decision to walk the 630 miles of the sea-swept South West Coast Path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall. They have almost no money for food or shelter and must carry only the essentials for survival on their backs as they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter, and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable journey.

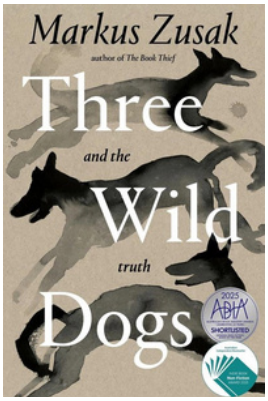


Fake - **Stephanie Wood**

Themes: Romantic Deception, Manipulation, Resilience

Want to read ☐

Women the world over are brought up to hope, even expect, to find the man of their dreams and live happily ever after. When Stephanie Wood meets a former architect turned farmer she embarks on an exhilarating romance with him. She starts to wonder, who is this man? When she ends the relationship Stephanie reboots her journalism skills and embarks on a romantic investigation. She discovers a story of mind-boggling duplicity and manipulation. She learns that the man she thought she was in love with doesn't exist. She also finds she is not alone; that the world is full of smart people who have suffered at the hands of liars, cheats, narcissists, fantasists and phonies.



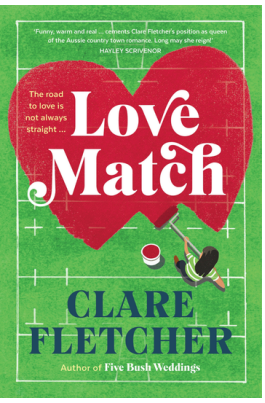
Three Wild Dogs and the Truth - **Marcus Zusak**

Themes: Rescue Dogs, Chaos, Heartwarming

Want to read ☐

What happens when the Zusaks open their family home to three big, wild, pound-hardened dogs? The answer can only be chaos. There is a reckoning of shortcomings and failure, a strengthening of will, but most important of all, an explosion of love - and the joy and recognition of family.
From one of the world's great storytellers comes a tender, motley and exquisitely written memoir about the human need for both connection and disorder; a love letter to the animals who bring hilarity and beauty - but also the visceral truth of the natural world - straight to our doors and into our lives, and change us forever.

Romance



Love Match - **Clare Fletcher**

indy reads

Themes: LGBT, Community, Identity

Want to read ☐

In a town like South Star, everyone knows Sarah Childs' name, face, entire history... Sarah would happily keep to herself on their property, Dunromin, for the rest of her days. But now her parents are refusing to put her in charge until she spends a year getting more involved in the local community and, yes, dating. Well. She'll be Miss bloody South Star if that's what it takes. How hard can it be? Sarah rekindles neglected friendships and throws herself in the dating deep end. She joins a new women's rugby team, the Pink Cockatoos, and even the bristly new cop in town, Sergeant Smith, can't slow Sarah's race to keep up appearances as the perfect daughter, citizen and girlfriend.



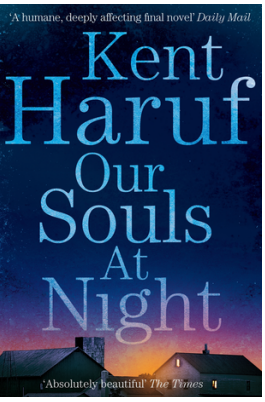
The Little French Village of Book Lovers - **Nina George**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Books, Destiny, Soulmates

Want to read ☐

In a small town in balmy Provence, Marie-Jeanne has a gift. She can see the marks Love has left on the people around her. Glowing faces, hands that shimmer brighter when enclosed in another. Before long, she is playing matchmaker. When Marie-Jeanne's foster father, Francis, sets up a mobile library travelling the many mountain towns of the Nyons region, she takes her quest further. Their library offers entertainment, guidance, reassurance and comfort - but for Marie-Jeanne, the books also allow her to bring soulmates together. The only person she can't seem to find a partner for is herself. Will Marie-Jeanne be able to recognise hers when Love finally comes her way?



Our Souls at Night - **Kent Haruf**

Borrow Box.

Themes: Literary, Loneliness, Late-life love

Want to read ☐

In the familiar setting of Holt, Colorado, home to all of Kent Haruf's inimitable fiction, Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbor, Louis Waters. Her husband died years ago, as did his wife, and in such a small town they naturally have known of each other for decades; in fact, Addie was quite fond of Louis's wife. His daughter lives hours away in Colorado Springs, her son even farther away in Grand Junction, and Addie and Louis have long been living alone in houses now empty of family, the nights so terribly lonely, especially with no one to talk with.



Book Lovers - **Emily Henry**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Rom-com, Enemies to Lovers, Books

Want to read ☐

Nora is a cut-throat literary agent at the top of her game. Her whole life is books. Charlie is an editor with a gift for creating bestsellers. And he's Nora's work nemesis. Nora has been through enough break-ups to know she's the woman men date before they find their happy-ever-after. That's why Nora's sister has persuaded her to swap her desk in the city for a month's holiday in Sunshine Falls, North Carolina. It's a small town straight out of a romance novel, but instead of meeting sexy lumberjacks, handsome doctors or cute bartenders, Nora keeps bumping into...Charlie. She's no heroine. He's no hero. So can they take a page out of an entirely different book?



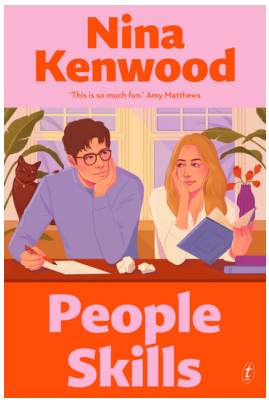
It Ends with Us - **Colleen Hoover**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Contemporary, New Adult, Abuse

Want to read ☐

Lily hasn't always had it easy, but that's never stopped her. She's come a long way from the small town where she grew up – she graduated from college, moved to Boston, and started her own business. So when she feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid, everything in Lily's life suddenly seems almost too good to be true. Ryle is assertive, stubborn, maybe even a little arrogant. He's also sensitive, brilliant, and has a total soft spot for Lily, but Ryle's complete aversion to relationships is disturbing. Even as Lily finds herself becoming the exception to his "no dating" rule, she can't help but wonder what made him that way in the first place.



People Skills - **Nina Kenwood**

Themes: Rom-Com, Forced Proximity, Slow-burn

Want to read ☐

Thirty-year-old Charlotte is working hard to reinvent herself. She's moved to a coastal town and landed a new job as a personal assistant to well-known media personality Hillary Hobbs. Hillary is launching a writers festival, and Charlotte is determined to prove herself capable of meeting her boss's every need. When Hillary's son Xavier arrives in town, Charlotte has a new problem to solve. A one-time-bestselling author, Xavier hasn't written a word for years and now he's broken up with his girlfriend and has nowhere to live. Charlotte finds herself not only offering Xavier her spare room, but also promising Hillary she'll get his life back on track.



My Favourite Mistake - **Marian Keyes**

Themes: Contemporary, Ireland, Self-discovery

Want to read ☐

Anna Walsh had a dream life - according to everybody else. She lived in New York, had a long-term boyfriend, and had The Best Job In The World working as a highly successful beauty PR. So why did she decide to take a flamethrower to the lot? Because now she's back Dublin, living with her parents. She's undeniably forty-eight, with no partner, no job, and no direction. Anna's lost her purpose. She needs a new challenge to help her fall back in love with life again. When an opportunity arises to solve a PR crisis in the tiny town of Maumtully, Anna leaps at the chance. But will the appearance of an old love interest derail her plans?



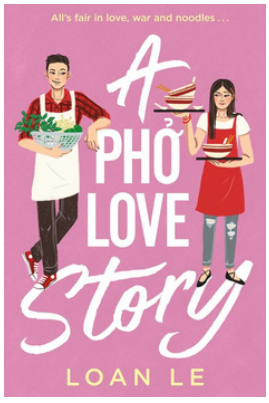
Lies and Weddings - **Kevin Kwan**

LP

Themes: Contemporary, Humour, Asia

Want to read ☐

Eden Tong is used to feeling out of place. Growing up next door to Greshamsbury Manor, she spent her days in the shadow of the chilly matriarch Arabella and her children: free-spirited Augie, golden child Bea, and Rufus, Eden's childhood best friend. When she receives an invite to a luxurious wedding in Hawaii, she finds herself thrown back into the family's orbit: and face-to-face with Rufus. The future Earl is gorgeous, artistic, and – unbeknownst to Eden – desperately in love with her. But his mother has other plans. Arabella is prepared to destroy anyone who gets in her way...



A Pho Love Story - **Loan Le**

Themes: Love, Family, Identity

Want to read ☐

All's fair in love, war and noodles! This delicious debut is perfect for fans of teen romcoms such as When Dimple Met Rishi and Jenny Han's To All the Boys I've Loved Before. What if Romeo and Juliet was set in a Vietnamese restaurant? Linh and Bao like each other. A lot. The only problem? Their families own rival pho restaurants and hate each other's guts, so they have to keep their relationship a secret. But they can only steal kisses in dark alleys and the art room at school for so long. Can their love transcend an age-old feud and heal the rift between these two families? Or have these high school sweethearts bitten off more than they can chew?



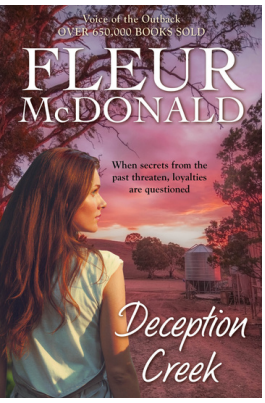
The Treasure House - **Amy Matthews**

Themes: Family, Lost Letters, Fresh Start

Want to read ☐

Zoe Copeland and her daughter Florence need a new start. The only problem is, she can't really afford one... Opportunity calls in the form of a listing for a charming cottage that may just be in their price range. The catch? It's a treasure house – filled to the brim with junk. Eleven-year-old Florence loves the old house full of knick-knacks and other people's memories, but Zoe is daunted. It doesn't help that her grouchy new neighbour, Jake, thinks she's crazy for taking this on – though that doesn't stop him from lending a hand, and it's not long before Zoe can't get the handsome man off her mind.

Romance

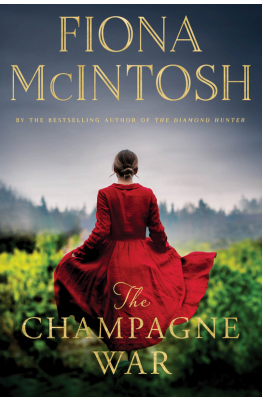


Deception Creek - **Fleur McDonald**

Themes: Cybercrime, Suspense, Mystery

Want to read ☐

Emma Cameron, a recently divorced farmer and a local in Barker, runs Deception Creek, the farm that three generations of her family have owned before her. Every day Emma pushes herself hard on the land, hoping to make ten-year-old memories of a terrible car accident disappear. And now there are more recent nightmares of an ex-husband who refuses to understand how much the farm means to Emma. When criminal Joel Hammond is released from jail and heads home to Barker, Detective Dave Burrows and his officer Senior Sergeant Jack Higgins are on high alert. Joel has a long and sorry history with many of the townsfolk and they are not keen to see him home to stay.

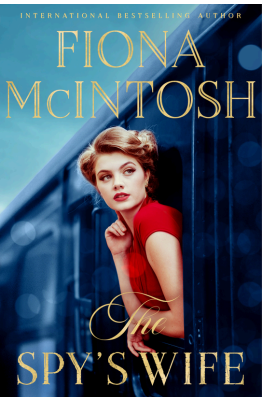


The Champagne War - **Fiona McIntosh**

Themes: Resilience, Conflict, Sacrifice

Want to read ☐

n the summer of 1914, vigneron Jerome Méa heads off to war, certain he'll be home by Christmas. His new bride Sophie, a fifth generation champenoise, is determined to ensure the forthcoming vintages will be testament to their love and the power of the people of Épernay. But as the years drag on, authorities advise that Jerome is missing, considered dead. When poison gas is first used in Belgium by the Germans, British chemist Charles Nash jumps to enlist. After he is injured, he is brought to Reims, where Sophie has helped to set up an underground hospital to care for the wounded. In the dark, ancient champagne cellars, their stirring emotions take them both by surprise.

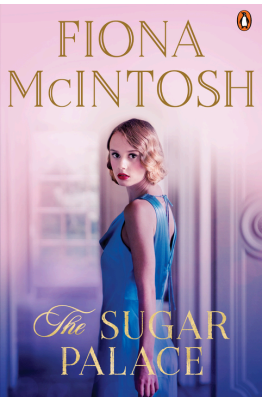


The Spy's Wife - **Fiona McIntosh**

Themes: Espionage, Sacrifice, Bravery

Want to read ☐

With rumours coming out of Germany that Hitler may be stirring up war, local English authorities have warned against spies. Even Evie becomes suspicious of her new suitor, Roger. But all is not what it seems. When Roger is arrested, Evie comes up with an audacious plan to prove his innocence that means moving to Germany and working as a British counter-spy. Wearing the disguise of dutiful, naïve wife, Evie must charm the Nazi Party's dangerous officials to bring home hard evidence of war mongering on the Führer's part. But in this game of cat and mouse, it seems everyone has an ulterior motive. With lives on the line, ultimate sacrifices will be made...

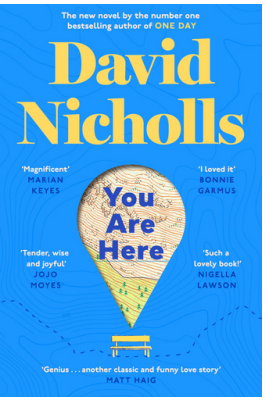


The Sugar Palace - **Fiona McIntosh**

Themes: Ambition, Deception, Independence

Want to read ☐

Grace Fairweather is working in her father's grocery shop in The Rocks when she begins making her own confectionery. Her colourful creations of toffees, lollies and chocolates soon become crowd favourites, and Grace begins to dream of one day opening her own sweetshop. When the roguish but irresistible Londoner Alfie Sweeting comes to work for the Fairweathers, his ambition for her success thrills her – so much so that she begins to question her engagement to Norman. Perhaps the 'safe' option in life isn't the right thing for her after all.



You Are Here - **David Nicholls**

Themes: Hiking, Healing, Second Chances

Want to read ☐

Sometimes you need to get lost to find your way... Michael is coming undone. Adrift after his wife's departure, he has begun taking himself on long, solitary walks across the English countryside. Becoming ever more reclusive, he'll do anything to avoid his empty house. Marnie, on the other hand, is stuck. Hiding alone in her London flat, she avoids old friends and any reminders of her rotten, selfish ex-husband. When a persistent mutual friend and some very unpredictable weather conspire to toss Michael and Marnie together on the most epic of ten-day hikes, neither of them can think of anything worse. Until, of course, they discover exactly what they've been looking for.

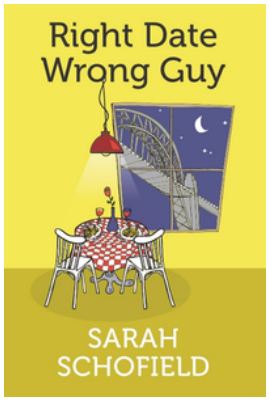


Special Delivery - **Leesa Ronald**

Themes: Humour, Enemies to Lovers, Small town

Want to read ☐

Moving back to her hometown in country NSW single, jobless and pregnant was never Poppy's plan. With her best friend living hundreds of kilometres away and an ex who refuses to pick up the phone, she doesn't know who to turn to for help. There's definitely no point asking her midwife, James, because he's the worst. Sure, he held her hand through the birth, but that's only because it was his job. However, Poppy and James keep crossing paths in the small community, and she begins to realise she may have misjudged her midwife. Which complicates things.



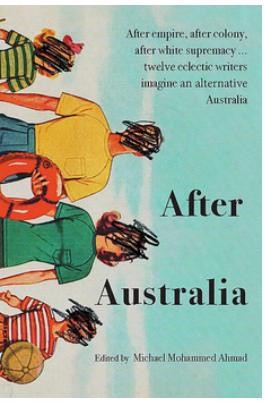
Right Date, Wrong Guy - **Sarah Schofield**

Themes: Rom-com, Humour, Dating-apps

Want to read ☐

Sophie Westacott had it all, a celebrity boyfriend, an inner-city Sydney terrace, a great job at a top-tier law firm, and invitations to A-list events within the tight clique of Sydney's Beautiful People. But it all slips away when her boyfriend, Connor Bayles, Channel 8's newsreader, breaks up with her, leaving Sophie to wonder how she ever thought they were the perfect couple. After eight years of being out of Sydney's dating scene and faced with a barrage of websites, events, and apps, she wonders how she'll ever find someone. A visit to her grandmother on the family farm in southern Tasmania, reveals a long-held family secret, one that will help focus her search.

Short Stories and Quick Reads



After Australia - **Michael Mohammed Ahmad**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Climate Change, Genocide, Hope

Want to read ☐

Climate catastrophe, police brutality, white genocide, totalitarian rule and the erasure of black history provide the backdrop for stories of love, courage and hope. In this unflinching new anthology, eleven of Australia's most daring Indigenous writers and writers of colour provide a glimpse of Australia as we head toward the year 2050.



Fourteen Days - **Margaret Atwood**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Community, Memory, Resilience

Want to read ☐

One week into lockdown, the tenants of a Manhattan apartment building have begun to gather on the rooftop each evening and tell stories in this exciting new twist on the novel.

With each passing night, more and more neighbours gather, bringing chairs and milk crates and overturned buckets. Gradually the tenants – some of whom have barely spoken to each other before now – become real neighbours.



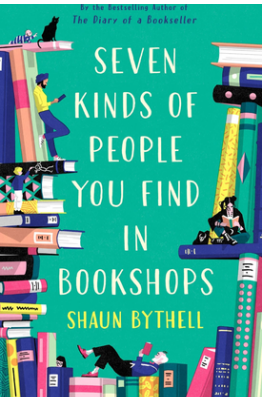
Dark As Last Night - **Tony Birch**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Connection, Humanity, Humour

Want to read ☐

Dark as Last Night confirms, once again, that Tony Birch is a master of the short story. These exceptional stories capture the importance of human connection at pivotal moments in our lives, whether those occur because of the loss of a loved one or the uncertainties of childhood. In this collection we witness a young girl struggling to protect her mother from her father's violence, two teenagers clumsily getting to know one another by way of a shared love of music, and a man mourning the death of his younger brother, while beset by memories and regrets from their shared past.



Seven Kinds of People You Find in Bookshops - **Shaun Bythell**

indy reads

Themes: Books, Connection, Humour

Want to read ☐

Everyone knows who you find in bookshops: people who want to buy books. But, as Shaun Bythell, author of the bestselling Diary of a Bookseller and Confessions of a Bookseller, reveals, that's really only half the story. Join Shaun as he introduces us to seven bookshop characters, from the Person Who Doesn't Know What They Want (But Thinks It Might Have a Blue Cover) to the harried Parents Secretly After Free Childcare and all the way over to the erotica section, where we'll meet The Person Who Is Up to No Good.



The Spare Room - **Helen Garner**

Borrow Box. indy reads

Themes: Friendship, Dying, Autobiographical

Want to read ☐

How much of ourselves must we give up to help a friend in need? Helen has little idea what lies ahead—and what strength she must muster—when she offers her spare room to an old friend, Nicola, who has arrived in the city for cancer treatment. Skeptical of the medical establishment, and placing all her faith in an alternative health center, Nicola is determined to find her own way to deal with her illness, regardless of the advice Helen offers.



Live Fast - **Brigitte Giraud**

Themes: Grief, Memory, Small Decisions

Want to read ☐

A powerful autobiographical novel of loss, the incandescent love that remains, and the small decisions that define the course of fate

Paced and structured with the inevitable suspense of a countdown, Brigitte Giraud's tense and haunting novel follows one woman's quest to comprehend the motorcycle accident that took the life of her partner Claude at age 41.



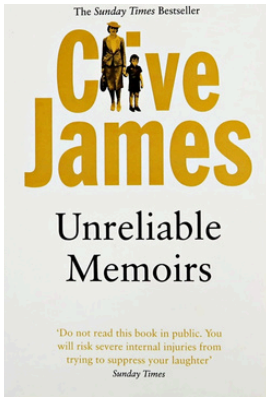
The Sunbird - **Sara Haddad**

Themes: Identity, Displacement, Dual Timeframe

Want to read ☐

Nabila Yasmeen is in her eighties. She lives alone with over a hundred plants that she keeps in pots because she can't bear to put them in the ground. In June of 1948, as a six-year-old girl, she was expelled with her family from their village in Palestine. Now she carries the weight of that expulsion with her, and her past and present are one.

Told in two timeframes, The Sunbird is a modern parable that tells the story of millions who just want to go home.

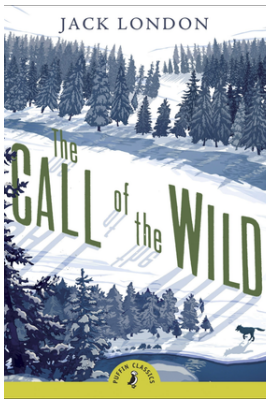


Unreliable Memoirs - **Clive James**

Themes: Memoir, Humour, Growing Up

Want to read ☐

In the first instalment of Clive James's memoirs we follow the young Clive on his journey from boyhood to the cusp of manhood, when his days of wearing short trousers are finally behind him. Battling with school, girls, various relatives and an overwhelming desire to be a superhero, Clive's adventures growing up in the suburbs of post-war Sydney are hair-raising, uproarious and almost too good to be true...

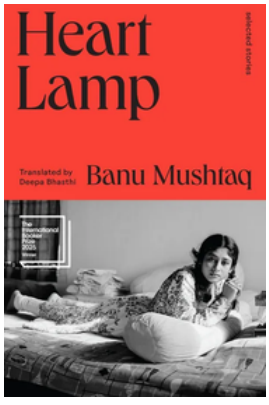


Call of the Wild - **Jack London**

Themes: Survival, Instinct, Freedom

Want to read ☐

Venture into the heart of the untamed wilderness with The Call of the Wild, Jack London's timeless masterpiece of adventure, loyalty, and raw primal power. Follow the gripping journey of Buck, a domesticated dog, ripped from his comfortable California home and thrust into the harsh, unforgiving Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. As Buck battles the brutal forces of nature and encounters savage men, he embarks on a journey that awakens long-buried instincts, driving him towards his ultimate destiny: answering the call of the wild.



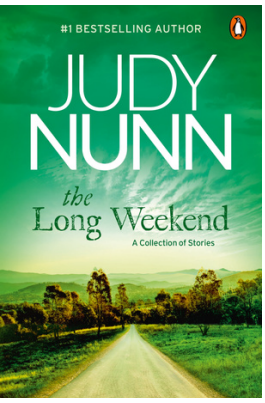
Heart Lamp - **Banu Mushtaq**

Themes: Muslim women, Patriarchy, Religion

Want to read ☐

In the twelve stories of Heart Lamp, Banu Mushtaq exquisitely captures the everyday lives of women and girls in Muslim communities in southern India. Published originally in the Kannada language between 1990 and 2023, praised for their dry and gentle humour, these portraits of family and community tensions testify to Mushtaq's years as a journalist and lawyer, in which she tirelessly championed women's rights and protested all forms of caste and religious oppression.

Short Stories and Quick Reads



The Long Weekend - **Judy Nunn**

indy reads LP

Themes: Aging, New Beginnings, Secrets

Want to read ☐

Six short stories from Australia's master storyteller Judy Nunn.
Together in print for the first time - including two brand new stories – this collection is an intoxicating mix of suspense, history, romance, supernatural and mystery!

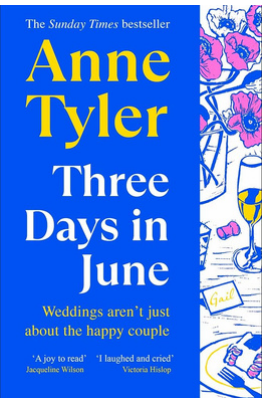


Wide Sargasso Sea - **Jean Rhys**

Themes: Classic, 1830s Jamaica, Feminism

Want to read ☐

If Antoinette Cosway, a spirited Creole heiress, could have foreseen the terrible future that awaited her, she would not have married the young Englishman. Initially drawn to her beauty and sensuality, he becomes increasingly frustrated by his inability to reach into her soul. He forces Antoinette to conform to his rigid Victorian ideals, unaware that in taking away her identity he is destroying a part of himself as well as pushing her towards madness. Set against the lush backdrop of 1830s Jamaica, Jean Rhys's powerful, haunting masterpiece was inspired by her fascination with the first Mrs Rochester, the mad wife in Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre.



Three Days in June - **Anne Tyler**

Borrow Box. indy reads LP

Themes: Weddings, Relationships, Witty

Want to read ☐

ail Baines is having a bad day. To start, she loses her job—or quits, depending on whom you ask. Tomorrow her daughter, Debbie, is getting married, and she hasn't even been invited to the spa day organized by the mother of the groom. Then, Gail's ex-husband, Max, arrives unannounced on her doorstep, carrying a cat, without a place to stay, and without even a suit. But the true crisis lands when Debbie shares with her parents a secret she has just learned about her husband to be. It will not only throw the wedding into question but also stir up Gail and Max's past.



A Room of One's Own - **Virginia Woolf**

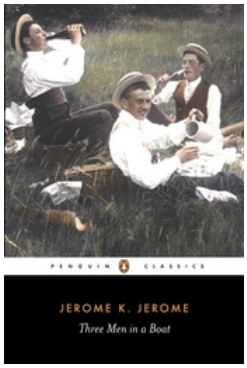
indy reads

Themes: Essay, Women, Independence

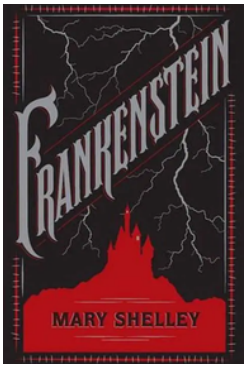
Want to read ☐

In this influential extended essay, Virginia Woolf outlined what women need in order to fully make use of their abilities. Using powerful images and memorable thought experiments--such as a fictional sister of William Shakespeare, who is as talented as her brother but limited in ways he was not--Woolf analyzes the many ways in which women have been held back throughout history and still are in her own time. First published in 1929, A Room of One's Own has been a towering and inspirational statement of feminist principles for nearly a century--and remains relevant now, at a time of growing awareness of the kind of social injustices that she decried.

Classics



Three Men in a Boat



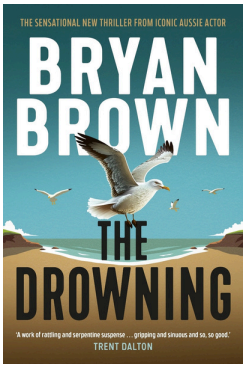
Frankenstein

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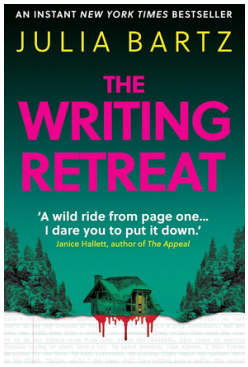
Where possible we have included a Large Print copy in the kit. Look for the LP icon in this booklet or visit:

waggawagga.libero.com.au/me/#/custom-pages/bookclublargeprint

Crime, Thrillers and Mystery



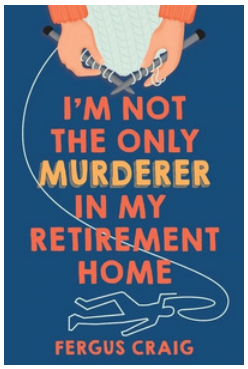
The Drowning



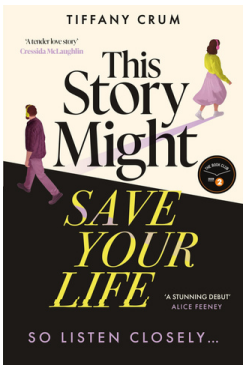
The Writing Retreat



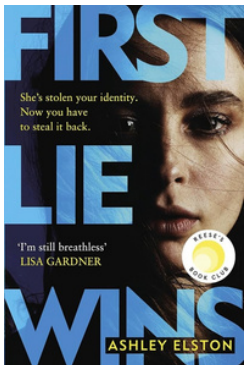
Gone Before Goodbye



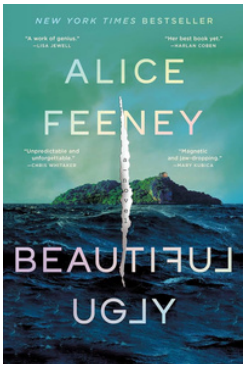
*I'm Not the Only Murderer in My Retirement Home**



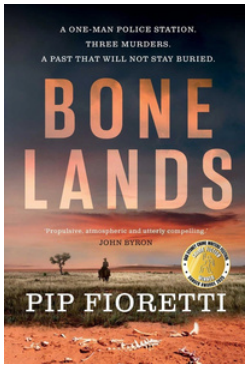
This Story Might Save Your Life



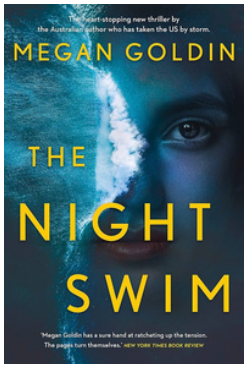
First Lie Wins



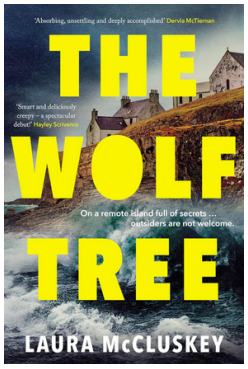
Beautiful Ugly



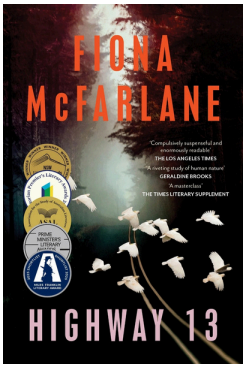
Bone Lands



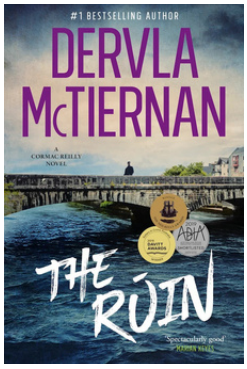
The Night Swim



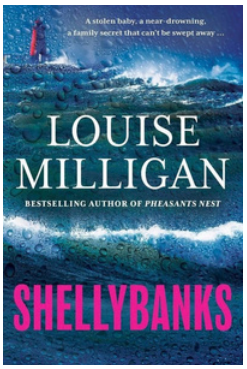
The Wolf Tree



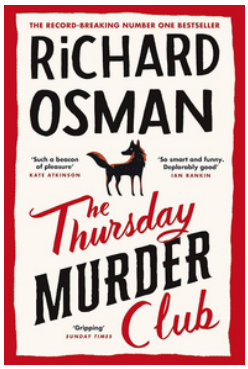
Highway 13



The Ruin



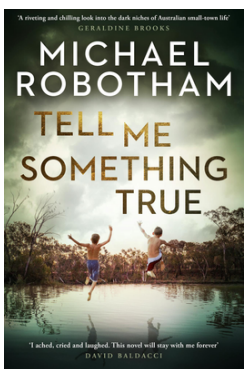
Shellybanks



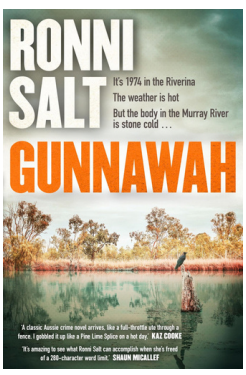
The Thursday Murder Club



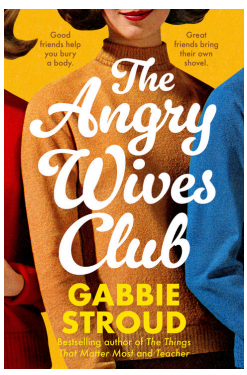
Tell Me Lies



*Tell Me Something True**

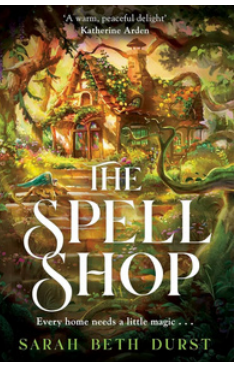


Gunnawah

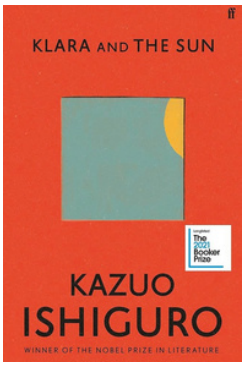


The Angry Wives Club

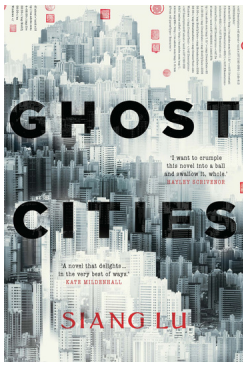
Fantasy and Science Fiction



The Spell Shop



Klara and the Sun

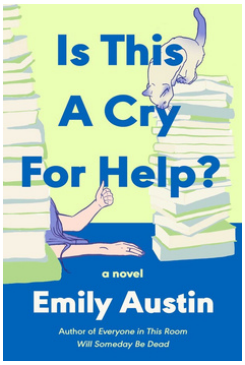


Ghost Cities

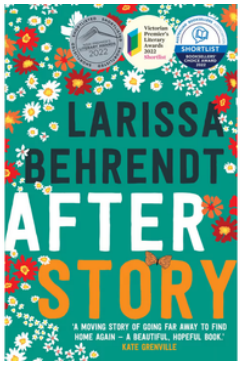
Fiction



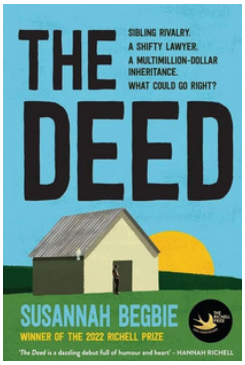
Hot Chocolate on Thursday



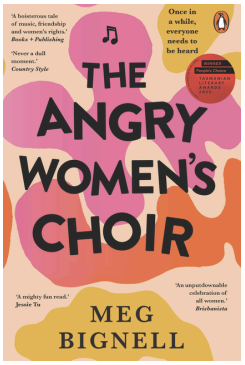
Is This a Cry for Help?



After Story



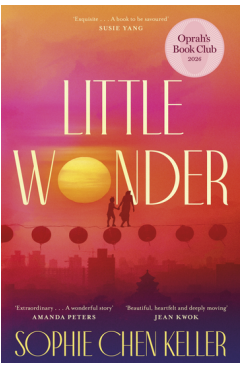
The Deed



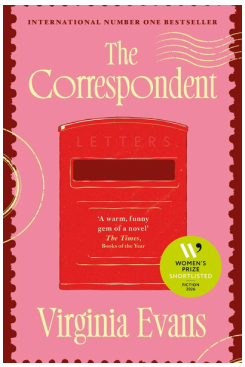
The Angry Women's Choir



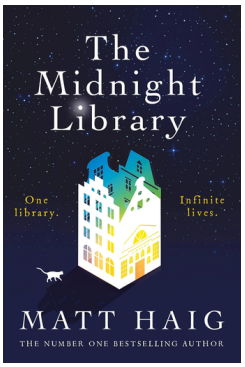
Yesteryear



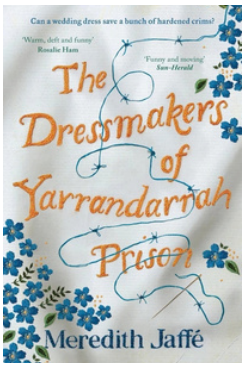
*Little Wonder**



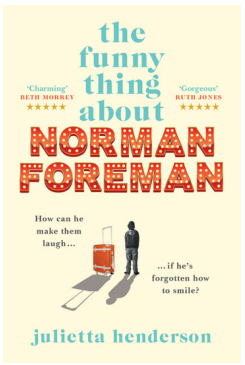
The Correspondent



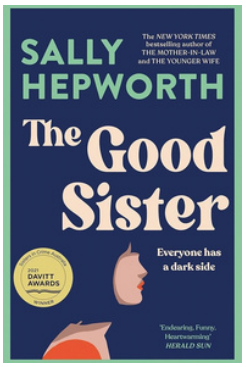
The Midnight Library



The Dressmakers of Yarrandarrah Prison



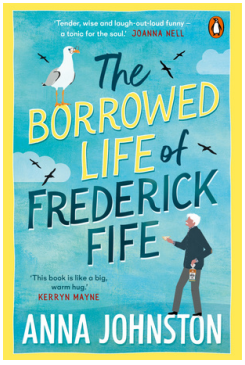
The Funny Thing About Norman Foreman



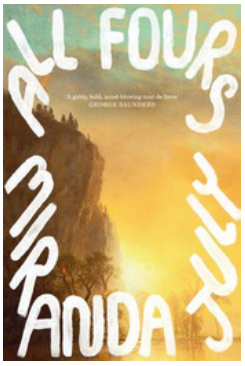
The Good Sister



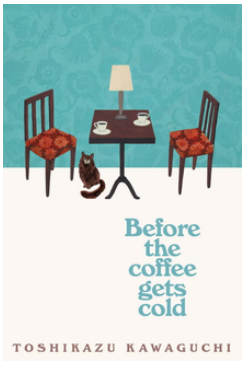
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine



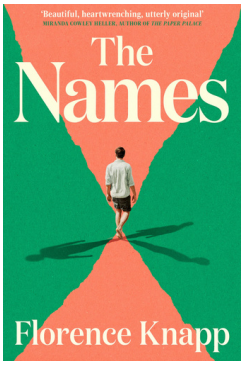
The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife



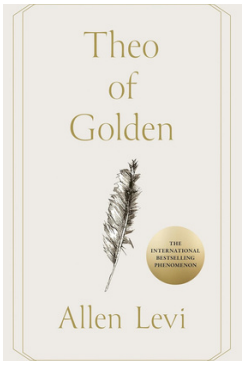
All Fours



Before the Coffee Gets Cold

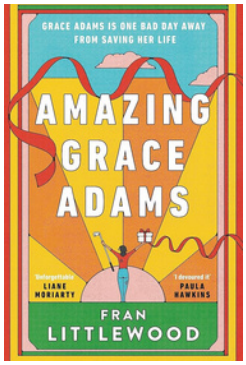


The Names

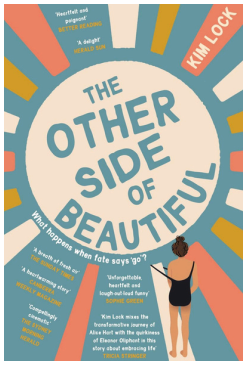


*Theo of Golden**

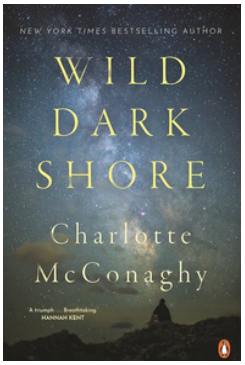
Fiction (Continued.)



Amazing Grace Adams



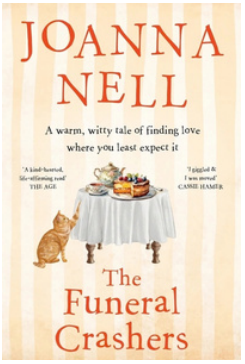
The Other Side of Beautiful



Wild Dark Shore



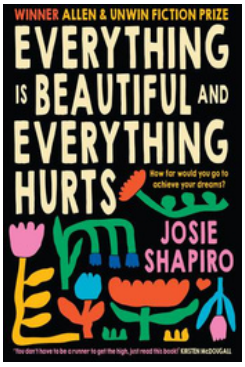
The Hummingbird Effect



The Funeral Crashers



One Hundred Days



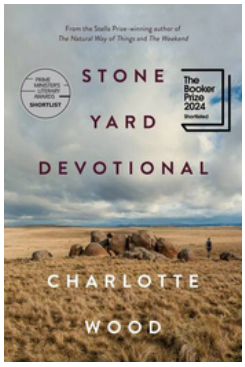
*Everything is Beautiful and Everything Hurts**



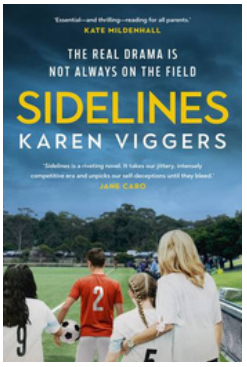
*The Things We Never Say**



Flesh

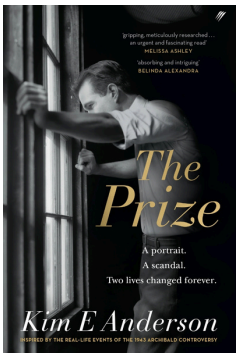


Stone Yard Devotional

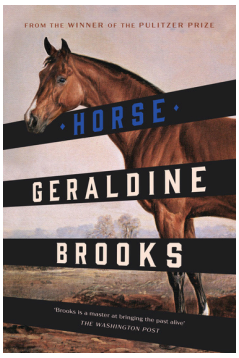


Sidelines

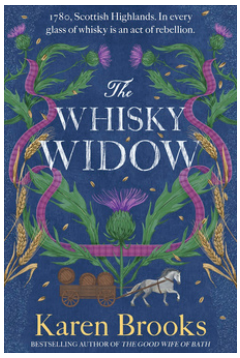
Historical Fiction



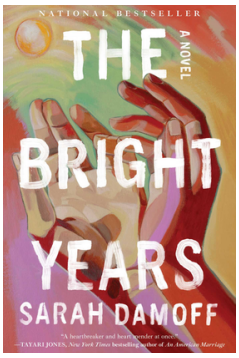
The Prize



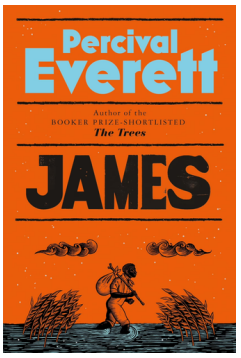
Horse



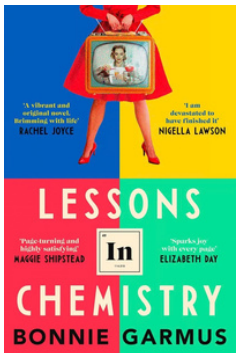
The Whisky Widow



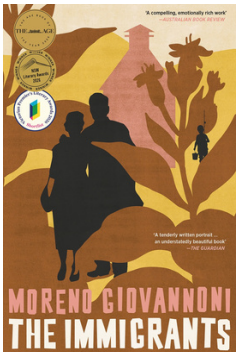
*The Bright Years**



James



Lessons in Chemistry



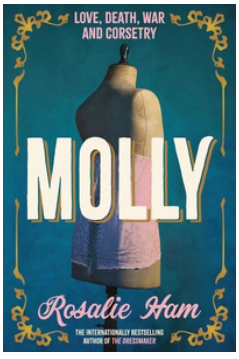
The Immigrants



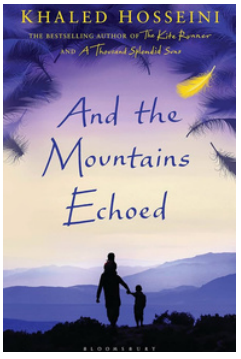
Home Going



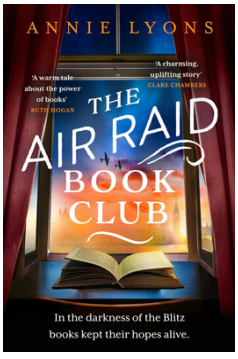
Broken Country



Molly

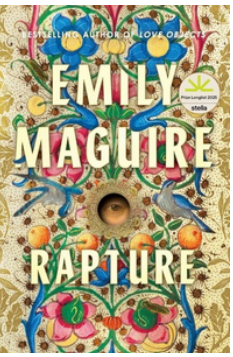


And the Mountains Echoed



The Air Raid Book Club

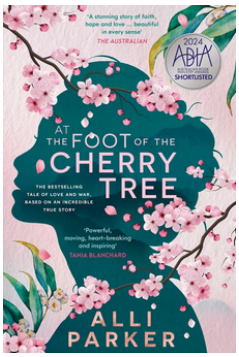
Historical Fiction (Continued.)



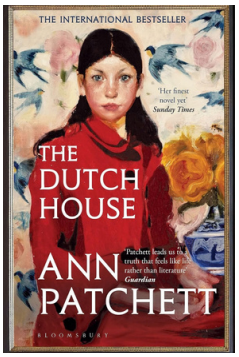
Rapture



Land



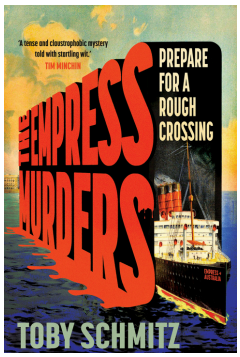
*At the Foot of the Cherry Tree**



The Dutch House



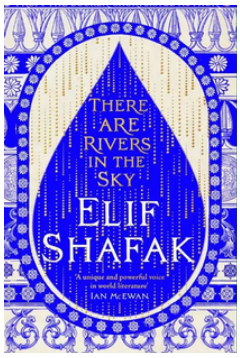
A Great Act of Love



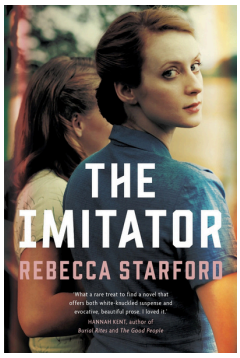
The Empress Murders



Lady Tan's Circle of Women



There Are Rivers in the Sky



The Imitator

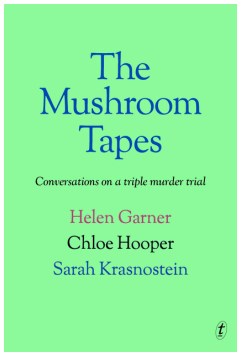
Non-Fiction



*Strangers**



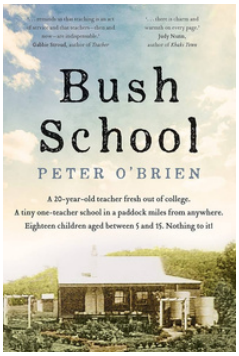
Bee Miles



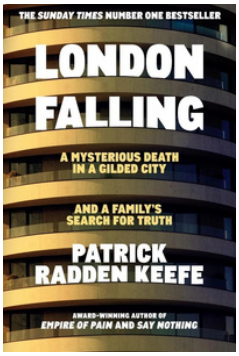
The Mushroom Tapes



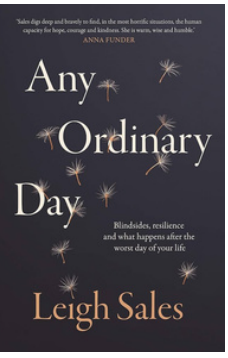
Flesh Wounds



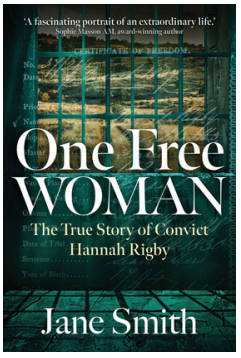
Bush School



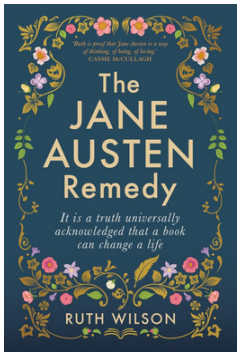
London Falling



Any Ordinary Day



One Free Woman



The Jane Austen Remedy

Romance



Book Lovers

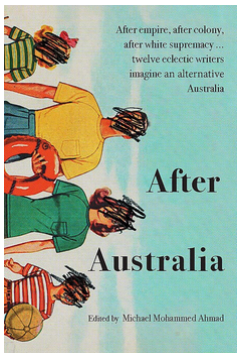


Lies and Weddings

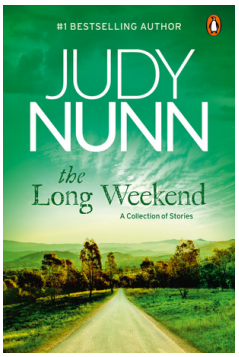
Short Stories and Quick Reads



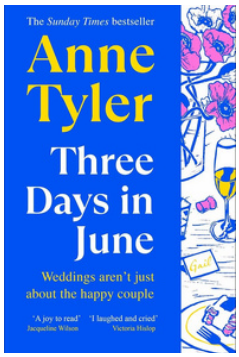
Fourteen Days



After Australia



The Long Weekend



Three Days in June

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