

Reading Group Choices (Updated April 2019)

NEW FOR 2019

Achebe, Chinua - Things fall apart

Things Fall Apart tells the story of Okonkwo, an important man in the Igbo tribe in the days when white men were first on the scene. Okonkwo becomes exiled from his tribe, as a result of his pride and his fears, with tragic consequences.

196 pages

NEW FOR 2019

Aciman, Andre- Call me by your name

This is the story of a sudden and powerful romance that blooms between 17-year-old Elio and his father's house guest, Oliver, during a restless summer on the Italian Riviera. What grows from the depths of their souls is a romance of scarcely six weeks' duration, and an experience that marks them for a lifetime.

248 pages

Acosta, Carlos - Pig's Foot

Oscar Mandinga, great-grandchild of the founders of a small hamlet of wooden shacks and red earth deep in the Cuban hinterland, is a sardonic teller of tales - some taller than others - of slavery, revolution, family secrets, love and identity, spanning four generations.

One day Oscar Mandinga wakes to find himself utterly alone in the world. As the sole descendant of his family line he is not sure what to do or where he should go, but in the midst of this uncertainty, he holds fast to what his grandfather always told him: 'No man knows who he is until he knows his past, the history of his country.'

As Oscar sets out to find his ancestral village of Pata de Puerco and the meaning of the magical pig's-foot amulet he has inherited, the search for his country's hidden history becomes entangled with his search for the truth about himself.

Ambitious in scope, yet intimate in tone, rippling with vitality and driven by passion, full of dark comedy, magical history and startling revelations, *Pig's Foot* is a dazzling evocation of Cuba's tumultuous history. It is a spellbinding accomplishment. 333 pages 15 copies.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi - Americanah

From the award-winning author of 'Half of a Yellow Sun,' a powerful story of love, race and identity. As teenagers in Lagos, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Their Nigeria is under military dictatorship, and people are fleeing the country if they can. The self-assured Ifemelu departs for America. There she suffers defeats and triumphs, finds and loses relationships, all the while feeling the weight of something she never thought of back home: race. Obinze had hoped to join her, but post-9/11 America will not let him in, and he plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London.

Thirteen years later, Obinze is a wealthy man in a newly democratic Nigeria, while Ifemelu has achieved success as a blogger. But after so long apart and so many changes, will they find the courage to meet again, face to face?

"A tour de force ... The artistry with which Adichie keeps her story moving, while animating the complex anxieties in which the characters live and work, is hugely impressive" 400 pages, 15 copies.

Atkinson, Kate - Life after life

What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right?

During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances? And third chances? In fact an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to? *Life After Life* follows Ursula Todd as she lives through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. With wit and compassion, Kate Atkinson finds warmth even in life's bleakest moments, and shows an extraordinary ability to evoke the past. Here she is at her most profound and inventive, in a novel that celebrates the best and worst of ourselves. 624 pages. 15 copies

Backman, Fredrik - A man called Ove

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

But isn't it rare, these days, to find such old-fashioned clarity of belief and deed? Such unswerving conviction about what the world should be, and a lifelong dedication to making it just so?

In the end, you will see, there is something about Ove that is quite irresistible...

*A warm and tender story about love, loss and second chances, peppered with memorable characters, wonderful set pieces... **Ove is a joy** from start to finish. (Gavin Extence, author of *The Universe versus Alex Woods*)*

It's warm, funny, and ultimately almost unbearably moving. (Daily Mail)

An uplifting, life-affirming and often comic tale of how kindness, love and happiness can be found in the most unlikely places. (Sunday Express)

Baker, Jo - Longbourn

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* below stairs - the story of romance, intrigue, and drama among the servants of the Bennet household. A Richard & Judy Book Club pick.

"Inspired... Baker has written an intoxicating love story but, also like Austen, the pleasure of her novel lies in its wit and fierce intelligence. Longbourn is a profound exploration of injustice, of poverty and dependence, of loyalty... a novel that contrives both to provoke the intellect and, ultimately, to stop the heart" (Guardian)

"Jo Baker gives us the story from the servants' perspectives and pulls off the seemingly impossible: a completely fresh take on Jane Austen. Utterly engrossing." (Guardian)

"ONES TO WATCH Just enough Darcy to delight, as well as being a fascinating insight into the harsh working conditions of life in a grand house 200 years ago" (Good Housekeeping)

Barnes, Julian - The noise of time

In May 1937 a man in his early thirties waits by the lift of a Leningrad apartment block. He waits all through the night, expecting to be taken away to the Big House. Any celebrity he has known in the previous decade is no use to him now. And few who are taken to the Big House never return. So begins Julian Barnes's first novel since his Booker-winning 'The Sense of an Ending'. A story about the collision of art and power, about human compromise, human cowardice and human courage, it is the work of a true master.

"Barnes's sombre, brilliant new novel opens with a scene like something from a story by Chekhov... Gleaming with intelligence and literary flair, this elegantly composed fictional meditation offers a fresh gloss on a musical genius's collisions and collusions with power."
(Peter Kemp Sunday Times)

Barnett, Laura -Greatest Hits

Cass Wheeler - a British singer-songwriter, hugely successful since the early 70s, whose sudden disappearance from the music world three decades later has been the subject of intense speculation among her fans - is in the studio that adjoins her home, taking a journey back into her past. Her task is to choose 16 from among the hundreds she has written since her early teens, for a uniquely personal Greatest Hits record, describing the arc of her life through song. It has been over a decade since Cass last put out an album; ten years since a tragedy catapulted her into a breakdown. In the course of this one day - both ordinary and extraordinary - each song Cass plays sets off a chain of memories, leading us deep into her past, and into the creative impulse that has underpinned her work.

"A mix of music and novel, the follow-up to the author's hugely successful The Versions of us is a hit" The Times

Barry, Sebastian - Days without end (2016)

Having signed up for the US army in the 1850s, aged barely 17, Thomas McNulty and his brother-in-arms, John Cole, go on to fight in the Indian wars and, ultimately, the Civil War. Orphans of terrible hardships themselves, they find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they both see and are complicit in.

A beautiful, savage, tender, searing work of art. Sentence after perfect sentence it grips and does not let go. (DONAL RYAN)

A true leftfield wonder: Sebastian Barry's Days Without End is a violent, superbly lyrical western offering a sweeping vision of America in the making [and] the most fascinating line-by-line first person narration I've come across in years. (KAZUO ISHIGURO)

I am a huge fan – nobody writes like, nobody takes lyrical risks like, nobody pushes the language, and the heart, and the two together, quite like Sebastian Barry does, so that you come out of whatever he writes like you've been away, in another climate. (ALI SMITH)

Bauer, Belinda - Rubbernecker

Patrick didn't care what made people work. He was only interested in what happened when they stopped.

Life is strange for Patrick Fort - being a medical student with Asperger's Syndrome doesn't come without its challenges. And that's before he is faced with solving a possible murder. Because the body Patrick is examining in anatomy class is trying to tell him all kinds of things. And now he must stay out of danger long enough to unravel the mystery – while he dissects his own evidence . . .

"One of the most startling plots in contemporary crime fiction" (Sunday Times)

"Breathtaking. I read this and wished I'd written it" (Val McDermid)

Baume, Sara - *Spill, simmer, falter, wither*

This is a wholly different kind of love story, a conversation almost entirely told from one side, spanning the four seasons echoed in the novel's title. Written with tremendous empathy and insight, Sara Baume's debut captures the incremental, destructive essence of loneliness. A misfit man finds a misfit dog. Ray, aged fifty-seven, 'too old for starting over, too young for giving up', and One Eye, smaller than expected, a good ratter. Both are accustomed to being alone, unloved, outcast – but they quickly find in each other a strange companionship of sorts. As spring turns to summer, their relationship grows and intensifies, until a savage act forces them to abandon the precarious life they'd established, and take to the road.

"This book is like a flame in daylight: beautiful and unexpected. It packs a big effect for something that seems so slight, and almost hard to see." (Anne Enright)

"A stunning and wonderful achievement by a writer touched by greatness. It is the most powerful debut novel I have read in several years . . ." (Joseph O'Connor)

"At the foundations of the novel is the issue of what happens when a community fails those who need it most ... Baume turns the commonplace minutiae of changing seasons, thoughts and people into the remarkable." (Sunday Times)

Beatty, Paul- *The sellout*

'Outrageous, hilarious and profound.' Simon Schama, Financial Times

'The longer you stare at Beatty's pages, the smarter you'll get.' Guardian

A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court, *The Sellout* showcases a comic genius at the top of his game.

Born in Dickens on the southern outskirts of Los Angeles, the narrator of *The Sellout* spent his childhood as the subject in his father's racially charged psychological studies. He is told that his father's work will lead to a memoir that will solve their financial woes. But when his father is killed in a drive-by shooting, he discovers there never was a memoir. All that's left is a bill for a drive-through funeral.

NEW FOR 2019

Beukes, Lauren - *Zoo city*

Zinzi December has a talent for finding lost people. Even when they don't want to be found. And when she is hired by reclusive music producer Odi Huron to find pop starlet Songweza, she hopes it will be her ticket out of Zoo City, the festering slum where the criminal underclass and their animal companions live in the shadow of hell's undertow. Instead, it catapults Zinzi deeper into the maw of a city twisted by crime and magic, where she'll be forced to confront the dark secrets of former lives - including her own.

354 pages

Bloom, Amy - *Lucky Us*

When Eva's mother abandons her on Iris's front porch, the girls don't seem to have much in common - except, they soon discover, a father. Thrown together with no mothers to care for them and a father who could not be considered a parent, Iris and Eva become one another's family. Iris wants to be a movie star; Eva is her sidekick. Together, they journey across 1940s America from scandal in Hollywood to the jazz clubs and golden mansions of Long

Island, stumbling, cheating and loving their way through a landscape of war, betrayals and big dreams.

"A fireworks display of delightful, if sometimes confounding, surprises . . . wildly twisting . . . spryly spontaneous."The Wall Street Journal

"[Bloom] writes with such spare, efficient grace. . . . Her words are carefully chosen to cut clean and deep. . . . Even [her] casual asides stack up, like pearls strung on a wire. . . . Taken together, they make this odd, precocious girl's story feel as big and small and strangely marvellous as life itself. Entertainment Weekly

Blume, Judy - In the unlikely event

In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life.

Thirty-five years earlier, when Miri was fifteen and in love for the first time, three planes fell from the sky within three months, leaving a community reeling. Against this backdrop of actual events in the early 1950s, when airline travel was new and exciting and everyone dreamed of going somewhere, Judy Blume weaves a haunting story of three generations of families, friends, and strangers, whose lives are for ever changed in the aftermath.

A major event . . . utterly brilliant . . . Never mind what she has done before: it feels as if this is the book she has been waiting her whole life to write. And it is, quite simply, extraordinary . . . There's a wonderful Mad Men feel to the detail of the period . . . The action is always undercut with Blume's trademark humanity and humour . . . Blume's fans - old and new - will approve (Observer)

In The Unlikely Event is Judy Blume's first book for adults in more than 15 years and before the end of the first chapter you'll be breathing a happy sigh that the wait is over . . . Judy Blume is fantastic at assembling a cast of characters so clearly drawn that you'd recognise them in the street and so real that you care deeply about each of them after only a few lines . . . For those of us who grew up alongside Blume's beloved teenage characters, this book is a welcome homecoming (Sunday Express)

Bond, Cynthia - Ruby (2016)

Ephram Jennings has never forgotten the beautiful girl with the long braids running through the piney woods of Liberty, their small East Texas town. Young Ruby Bell, "the kind of pretty it hurt to look at," has suffered beyond imagining, so as soon as she can, she flees suffocating Liberty for the bright pull of 1950s New York. Ruby quickly winds her way into the ripe centre of the city-the darkened piano bars and hidden alleyways of the Village-all the while hoping for a glimpse of the red hair and green eyes of her mother. When a telegram from her cousin forces her to return home, thirty-year-old Ruby finds herself reliving the devastating violence of her girlhood. With the terrifying realization that she might not be strong enough to fight her way back out again, Ruby struggles to survive her memories of the town's dark past. Meanwhile, Ephram must choose between loyalty to the sister who raised him and the chance for a life with the woman he has loved since he was a boy.

Full of life, exquisitely written, and suffused with the pastoral beauty of the rural South, *Ruby* is a transcendent novel of passion and courage. This wondrous page-turner rushes through the red dust and gossip of Main Street, to the pit fire where men swill bootleg outside Bloom's Juke, to Celia Jennings's kitchen, where a cake is being made, yolk by yolk, that

Ephram will use to try to begin again with Ruby. Utterly transfixing, with unforgettable characters, riveting suspense, and breathtaking, luminous prose, *Ruby* offers an unflinching portrait of man's dark acts and the promise of the redemptive power of love.

Boyd, William - Sweet Caress

Amory's first memory is of her father doing a handstand. She has memories of him returning on leave during the First World War. But his absences, both actual and emotional, are what she chiefly remembers. It is her photographer uncle Greville who supplies the emotional bond she needs, and, when he gives her a camera and some rudimentary lessons in photography, unleashes a passion that will irrevocably shape her future.

A spell at boarding school ends abruptly and Amory begins an apprenticeship with Greville in London, living in his flat in Kensington, earning two pounds a week photographing socialites for fashionable magazines. But Amory is hungry for more and her search for life, love and artistic expression will take her to the demi monde of Berlin of the late 1920s, to New York of the 1930s, to the Blackshirt riots in London and to France in the Second World War where she becomes one of the first women war photographers. Her desire for experience will lead Amory to further wars, to lovers, husbands and children as she continues to pursue her dreams and battle her demons.

An utterly compelling read . The effect of Amory is that of an interesting woman with a life well-lived, who is not content to sit back and be beautiful as an adored wife or mistress. She grasps every opportunity with both hands, wherever it leads her. Not a bad epitaph, and a tribute to Boyd's skill that we miss her like a friend when we, and she, reach the end (Independent)

Sweet Caress is a rattling good "what will happen next?" story and, on another level, a meditation, in fiction, on women and the lens. "Caress" is just the right word for the feel of this novel. Boyd deals with heavy themes with the lightest touch. We're lucky to have him writing for us (John Sutherland The Times)

NEW FOR 2019

Boyne, John - Ladder to the sky

A psychological drama of cat and mouse, 'A Ladder to the Sky' shows how easy it is to achieve the world if you are prepared to sacrifice your soul. If you look hard enough, you can find stories pretty much anywhere. They don't even have to be your own. Or so would-be writer Maurice Swift decides very early on in his career. A chance encounter in a Berlin hotel with celebrated novelist Erich Ackermann gives him an opportunity to ingratiate himself with someone more powerful than him. For Erich is lonely, and he has a story to tell. Whether or not he should do so is another matter entirely. Once Maurice has made his name, he sets off in pursuit of other people's stories. He doesn't care where he finds them - or to whom they belong - as long as they help him rise to the top. 433 pages

Brierley, Saroo - Lion (2015)

Lion is the heartbreaking and inspiring original true story of the lost little boy who found his way home twenty-five years later and is now a major film starring Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman and Rooney Mara. As a five-year old in India, I got lost on a train. Twenty-five years later, I crossed the world to find my way back home.

Five-year-old Saroo lived in a poor village in India, in a one-room hut with his mother and three siblings... until the day he boarded a train alone and got lost. For twenty-five years. This is the story of what happened to Saroo in those twenty-five years. How he ended up on the streets of Calcutta. And survived. How he then ended up in Tasmania, living the life of an upper-middle-class Aussie. And how, at thirty years old, with some dogged determination, a heap of good luck and the power of Google Earth, he found his way back home.

Briggs, Raymond - Ernest and Ethel (non-fiction graphic novel) (1998)

'Ethel & Ernest' is the story of Raymond Briggs' parents' marriage, from their first, chance encounter to their deaths, with nothing invented and nothing embroidered, told in Briggs' unique strip-cartoon format.

NEW FOR 2019

Bronte, Anne - The tenant of Wildfell Hall (1848)

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall is a powerful and sometimes violent novel of expectation, love, oppression, sin, religion and betrayal. It portrays the disintegration of the marriage of Helen Huntingdon, the mysterious 'tenant' of the title, and her dissolute, alcoholic husband. Defying convention, Helen leaves her husband to protect their young son from his father's influence

Brooks, Geraldine- The secret chord (2016)

1000 BC. The Second Iron Age. The time of King David. Anointed as the chosen one when just a young shepherd boy, David will rise to be king, grasping the throne and establishing his empire. But his journey is a tumultuous one and the consequences of his choices will resound for generations. In a life that takes him from obscurity to fame, he is by turns hero and traitor, glamorous young tyrant and beloved king, murderous despot and remorseful, diminished patriarch. His wives love and fear him, his sons will betray him. It falls to Nathan, the courtier and prophet who both counsels and castigates David, to tell the truth about the path he must take.

With stunning originality, Geraldine Brooks offers us a compelling portrait of a morally complex hero from this strange age - part legend, part history. Full of drama and richly drawn detail, *The Secret Chord* is a vivid story of faith, family, desire and power that brings David magnificently alive.

Brown, Kate Lord – The Beauty Chorus

New Year's Eve, 1940: Evie Chase, the beautiful debutante daughter of a rich and adoring RAF commander, listens wistfully to the swing music drifting out from the ballroom, unable to join in the fun. With bombs falling nightly in London, she is determined that the coming year will bring a lot more than dances, picnics and tennis matches. She is determined to make a difference to the war effort. 5th January, 1941: Evie curses her fashionable heels as they skid on the frozen ground of her local airfield. She is here to join the ATA, the civilian pilots who ferry Tiger Moths and Spitfires to bases across war-torn Britain. Two other women wait nervously to join up: Stella Grainger, a forlorn young mother who has returned from Singapore without her baby boy and Megan Jones, an idealistic teenager who has never left her Welsh village. Billeted together in a tiny cottage in a sleepy country village, Evie, Stella and Megan must learn to live and work together. 448 pages 6 copies.

Burman, Paul - The Grease Monkey's Tale

For Nic the mechanic - grease monkey extraordinaire - life is becoming a journey of stories: good, bad, happy and sad. When Siobhan McConnell - beautiful, dynamic but shadowed by secrets - hurtles into his world, Nic's life bounces between tragedy, romance and thriller. First novel by author. 284 pages. 9 copies.

Burton, Jessie- The miniaturist

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

elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways . .

Callaghan, Helen - Dear Amy (2016)

In her guise as 'Dear Amy', agony aunt for a local newspaper, Margot Lewis has dealt with all sorts of letters - but never one like this...

*Dear Amy,
I've been kidnapped by a strange man.
I don't know where I am.
Please help me,
Bethan Avery*

This must be a cruel hoax. Because Bethan Avery has been missing for nearly two decades. But as the present-day search intensifies for another missing schoolgirl, Margot is unnerved enough to take the letter to the police, hoping they will dismiss it as a sick joke. Instead, they let Margot in on a little secret. One that confirms her darkest fears and tangles her up in the search for the sender, which could save one young girl's life and cost Margot her own...

Dear Amy sets up a terrific, tricky premise and then delivers the suspense thriller readers hope for-a tense plot, imaginative twists, and smart writing' Julia Heaberlin, author

Cannon, Joanna - The trouble with goats and sheep (2016)

England,1976.Mrs Creasy is missing and The Avenue is alive with whispers. As the summer shimmers endlessly on, ten-year-olds Grace and Tilly decide to take matters into their own hands.

And as the cul-de-sac starts giving up its secrets, the amateur detectives will find much more than they imagined...

Carr, J.L - A month in the country

A damaged survivor of the First World War, Tom Birkin finds refuge in the quiet village church of Oxgodby where he is to spend the summer uncovering a huge medieval wall-painting. Immersed in the peace and beauty of the countryside and the unchanging rhythms of village life he experiences a sense of renewal and belief in the future. Now an old man, Birkin looks back on the idyllic summer of 1920, remembering a vanished place of blissful calm, untouched by change, a precious moment he has carried with him through the disappointments of the years. Adapted into a 1987 film starring Colin Firth, Natasha Richardson and Kenneth Branagh, *A Month in the Country* traces the slow revival of the primeval rhythms of life so cruelly disorientated by the Great War.

'Unlike anything else in modern English literature' D.J. Taylor, Spectator

New for 2019

Chekhov, Anton- Selected stories

Anton Chekhov is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers of short stories. He constructs stories where action and drama are implied rather than described openly, and which leave much to the reader's imagination.

This collection contains some of the most important of his earliest and shortest comic sketches, as well as examples of his great, mature works. Throughout, the doctor-turned-writer displays compassion for human suffering and misfortune, but is always able to see the comical, even farcical aspects of the human condition.

Chekhov sees and depicts life with unwavering honesty and truthfulness, although a clear moral sense can be detected beneath his apparent objectivity.

Chevalier, Tracy - The Last Runaway

Honor Bright is a sheltered Quaker who has rarely ventured out of 1850s Dorset when she impulsively emigrates to America. Opposed to the slavery that defines and divides the country, she finds her principles tested to the limit when a runaway slave appears at the farm of her new family. In this tough, unsentimental place, where whisky bottles sit alongside quilts, Honor befriends two spirited women who will teach her how to turn ideas into actions. 'Chevalier places her heroine at the heart, constructing a synergy between character and plot that makes this novel exquisitely complete... addictively compelling... Honor Bright deserves a sequel' The Times

'Her best since *Girl With a Pearl Earring*... as a serious novel about a genuine moral dilemma, it is highly recommended' The Independent
400 pages 15 copies

Cleeves, Ann – Silent Voices

When DI Vera Stanhope finds the body of a woman in the sauna room of her local gym, she wonders briefly if, for once, it's a death from natural causes. But closer inspection reveals ligature marks around the victim's throat . . . Doing what she does best, Vera pulls her team together and sets them interviewing staff and those connected to the victim, while she and colleague Sergeant Joe Ashworth work to find a motive. While Joe struggles to reconcile his home life with the demands of the job, Vera revels being back in charge of an investigation. Death has never made her feel so alive. And when they discover that the victim had worked in social services – and was involved in a shocking case involving a young child – it seems the two are somehow connected. But things are rarely as they seem . . . 400 pages. 15 copies

Coe, Jonathan - The Rotters' Club (2014)

Winner of the Everyman Wodehouse prize, *The Rotters' Club* follows Benjamin Trotter - bestselling author Jonathan Coe's most iconic character - through the hilarious and, at times, touching trials and tribulations of growing up in 1970s Britain.

Unforgettably funny and painfully honest, Jonathan Coe's tale of Benjamin Trotter and his friends' coming of age during the 1970s is a heartfelt celebration of the joys and agonies of growing up.

Featuring, among other things, prog rock, punk rock, bad poetry, first love, love on the side. Prefects, detention, lots of brown wallpaper, industrial strife, and divine intervention in the form of a pair of swimming trunks.

Set against the backdrop of the decade's class struggles, tragic and riotous by turns... *The Rotters' Club* will be enjoyed by readers of Nick Hornby and William Boyd and anyone who ever experienced adolescence the hard way.

NEW FOR 2018

Cohen, Julie -Together

Is this a great love story?

Or a story about great love?

You decide.

On a morning that seems just like any other, Robbie wakes in his bed, his wife Emily asleep beside him, as always. He rises and dresses, makes his coffee, feeds his dogs, just as he usually would. But then he leaves Emily a letter and does something that will break her heart. As the years go back all the way to 1962, Robbie's actions become clearer as we

discover the story of a couple with a terrible secret - one they will do absolutely anything to protect.

*'Julie Cohen's writing is **powerful, moving and truly beautiful**' Joanna Cannon, author of *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep**

*'It takes a lot to tempt me from crime, but this is one of **the most beautiful and heartbreaking stories I've read**' Emma Flint, author of *Little Deaths**

*'This big, clever, tender and twisty love story reminded me of **One Day & The Time Traveler's Wife**' Erin Kelly*

Connelly, John - He (2018)

An extraordinary reimagining of the life of one of the greatest screen comedians the world has ever known: a man who knew both adoration and humiliation; who loved, and was loved in turn; who betrayed, and was betrayed; who never sought to cause pain to others, yet left a trail of affairs and broken marriages in his wake . . .

And whose life was ultimately defined by one relationship of such tenderness and devotion that only death could sever it: his partnership with the man he knew as Babe.

he is Stan Laurel.

But *he* did not really exist. Stan Laurel was a fiction.

With *he*, John Connolly recreates the golden age of Hollywood for an intensely compassionate study of the tension between commercial demands and artistic integrity, the human frailties behind even the greatest of artists, and one of the most enduring and beloved partnerships in cinema history: Laurel & Hardy.

Craig, Amanda - Hearts And Minds

Hidden by London's wealth, energy and need for cheap labour, the city's immigrant population is powerless, despised and often illegal. So when a young woman's body is discovered on Hampstead Heath she could be anyone... Full of suspense and drama a thoroughly engaging novel which explores themes of immigration, displacement & human connection in 21st century London. 419 pages . 15 copies

De Bernieres, Louis - Birds without Wings

Set against the backdrop of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, the Gallipoli campaign and the subsequent bitter struggle between the Greeks and Turks, *Birds without Wings* traces the fortunes of one small community in Anatolia. 625 pages. 15 copies.

NEW FOR 2019

Di Lampedusa, Tomasi - The leopard

Lampedusa's masterpiece is set amongst an aristocratic family facing social and political changes in the wake of Garibaldi's invasion of Sicily in 1860. At the head of the family is the prince, Don Fabrizio. Proud and stubborn, he is accustomed to knowing his own place in the world and expects his household to be run accordingly. This ed. of this translation originally published: London Collins Harvill, 1960
230 pages

Dick, Philip, K - A Scanner Darkly

Substance D- otherwise known as Death - is the most dangerous drug ever to find its way onto the black market. It destroys the links between the brain's two hemispheres, leading first to disorientation and then to complete and irreversible brain damage. Bob Arctor, undercover narcotics agent, is trying to find a lead to the source of supply, but to pass as an addict he must become a user, and soon, without knowing what is happening to him, he is as dependent as any of the addicts he is monitoring. 217 pages. 13 copies

Doerr, Anthony - All the light we cannot see

A beautiful, stunningly ambitious novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. For Marie-Laure, blind since the age of six, the world is full of mazes. The miniature of a Paris neighbourhood, made by her father to teach her the way home. The microscopic layers within the invaluable diamond that her father guards in the Museum of Natural History. The walled city by the sea, where father and daughter take refuge when the Nazis invade Paris. And a future which draws her ever closer to Werner, a German orphan, destined to labour in the mines until a broken radio fills his life with possibility and brings him to the notice of the Hitler Youth.

In this magnificent, deeply moving novel, the stories of Marie-Laure and Werner illuminate the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

Donoghue, Emma - Room

"So carefully and originally constructed that it's both hard to put down and profoundly affecting. . . Donoghue has crafted a narrative that moves as breathlessly as a thriller while convincingly portraying how a boy might believe a room is his whole world". Sunday Times Book of the Week. 400 pages. 14 copies.

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan - The Lost World

The Lost World (1912) is an exciting tale of heroism and skulduggery involving bad-tempered scientists, unrequited love, hidden diamonds and dinosaurs. 206 pages. 15 copies

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan - The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Collection of Sherlock Holmes short stories. 389 pages. 15 copies

Dunmore, Helen - Birdcage Walk (2017)

It is 1792 and Europe is seized by political turmoil and violence. Lizzy Fawkes has grown up in Radical circles where each step of the French Revolution is followed with eager idealism. But she has recently married John Diner Tredevant, a property developer who is heavily invested in Bristol's housing boom, and he has everything to lose from social upheaval and the prospect of war. Soon his plans for a magnificent terrace built above the 200ft drop of the Gorge come under threat.

"This is the finest novel Helen Dunmore has written ... From the start, Birdcage Walk has the command of a thriller ... The novel's cast is marvellous and vivid ... A novel that deserves to be cherished and to last." (Kate Kellaway Observer)

"This powerful novel is a fine final flourish from a gifted writer ... The power Dunmore gives to lowly female lives is inescapably moving, their stories taking us on a remarkable journey into the visceral heart of the female experience in Georgian Britain ... [Dunmore is] one of the bravest and most versatile writers of her generation ... This fine, fiery novel will surely be remembered as one of her best." (Melissa Katsoulis The Times)

Extence, Gavin - The universe versus Alex Woods

'This is a story that will have you smiling through your tears, a story that touches on the most potentially devastating of human dilemmas, without an ounce of sentimentality. It is also enormously uplifting. Perfectly crafted and beautifully written, the voice of this novel is true and clear and brings to life the human condition with insight, tenderness and humour. Which is to say the quality of style matches the quality of content. The Universe versus Alex Woods may be a debut novel but it is an outstanding novel by any standards. Unforgettable.' (Red)
432 pages 15 copies

Ferrante, Elena - My brilliant friend

This novel is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship.

"There is a savage honesty to the work of Elena Ferrante that is both unsettling and comforting at once. Here is an author who has poured every ounce of herself onto the page."
- **The Irish Times**

"I can really think of no better praise than to simply say I loved it, though that seems inadequate commendation for such a supremely talented author." - **Book Reporter**

"I wish I'd published Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Novels. I've been recommending these to everyone I know since I read the first book, My Brilliant Friend, at the beginning of 2014. When the third book came out in September I had to put aside all submissions for a few days to continue the saga. These feminist novels are the best modern portrait of a female friendship I've come across in literature. I'm impatient for the fourth and final book which is out in autumn 2015." - Adam Freudenheim from Pushkin Press writing in **The Guardian**

Fitzgerald, F. Scott – The Great Gatsby

In 1922, F Scott Fitzgerald announced his decision to write "something new--something extraordinary and beautiful and simple, intricately patterned". That extraordinary, beautiful, intricately patterned and, above all, simple novel became *The Great Gatsby*, arguably Fitzgerald's finest work and certainly the book for which he is best known. A portrait of the Jazz Age in all of its decadence and excess, *Gatsby* captured the spirit of the author's generation and earned itself a permanent place in American mythology. 172 pages. 15 copies.

Flagg, Fannie - Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café

The day Idgie Threadgoode and Ruth Jamison opened the Whistle Stop Cafe, the town took a turn for the better. It was the Depression and that cafe was a home from home for many of us. You could get eggs, grits, bacon, ham, coffee and a smile for 25 cents. Ruth was just the sweetest girl you ever met. And Idgie? She was a character, all right. You never saw anyone so headstrong. But how anybody could have thought she murdered that man is beyond me.

Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe is a mouth-watering tale of love, laughter and mystery. It will lift your spirits and above all it'll remind you of the secret to life: friends. Best friends. 416 pages. 15 copies.

Flanagan, Richard - The narrow road to the deep north

Forever after, there were for them only two sorts of men: the men who were on the Line, and the rest of humanity, who were not. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Burma Death Railway, surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from

cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever. Hailed as a masterpiece, Richard Flanagan's epic novel tells the unforgettable story of one man's reckoning with the truth.

Some years, very good books win the Man Booker Prize but this year a masterpiece has won it" (A.C. Grayling, Chair of Judges, Man Booker Prize 2014)

Forbes, Michele - Ghost Moth

SHORTLISTED FOR NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR AT THE IRISH BOOK AWARDS. ONE OF THE *OBSERVER'S* SEVEN DEBUTS THAT WILL MAKE A SPLASH IN 2014

GHOST MOTH will transport you to two hot summers, 20 years apart.

Northern Ireland, 1949. Katherine must choose between George Bedford - solid, reliable, devoted George - and Tom McKinley, who makes her feel alive.

The reverberations of that summer - of the passions that were spilled, the lies that were told and the bargains that were made - still clamour to be heard in 1969. Northern Ireland has become a tinderbox but tragedy also lurks closer to home. As Katherine and George struggle to save their marriage and silence the ghosts of the past, their family and city stand on the brink of collapse...

Surprising, mesmerising and astonishingly written, GHOST MOTH will show you the extraordinary in the ordinary. 235 pages. 15 copies.

Forster, Margaret - Keeping the World Away

Lost, found, stolen, strayed, sold, fought over... This engrossing, beautifully crafted novel follows the fictional adventures, over a hundred years, of an early 20th-century painting and the women whose lives it touches. It opens with bold, passionate Gwen, struggling to be an artist, leaving for Paris where she becomes Rodin's lover and paints a small, intimate picture of a quiet corner of her attic room. Then there's Charlotte, a dreamy intellectual Edwardian girl, and Stella, Lucasta, Ailsa and finally young Gillian, who share an unspoken desire to have for themselves a tranquil golden place like that in the painting.

Quintessential Forster, this is a novel about women's lives, about what it means and what it costs to be both a woman and an artist, and an unusual, compelling look at a beautiful painting and its imagined afterlife.

"Few authors share Margaret Forster's extraordinary ability to transform the ordinary day-to-day activities of unremarkable people into compelling fiction"

NOTE: COULD BE A 10 COPY SET if unable to obtain 15. 352 pages.

Fowler, Karen Joy - We are all completely beside ourselves

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

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves is a dark cautionary tale hanging out, incognito-style, in what at first seems a traditional family narrative. It is anything but. This novel is deliciously jaunty in tone and disturbing in material. Karen Joy Fowler tells the story of how

one animal-the animal of man-can simultaneously destroy and expand our notion of what is possible (Alice Sebold)

Fridlund, Emily -History of Wolves

Linda, age 14, lives on a dying commune on the edge of a lake in the Midwest of America. She and her parents are the last remaining inhabitants, the others having long since left amid bitter acrimony. She has grown up isolated both by geography and her understanding of the world, and is an outsider at school, regarded as a freak. One day she notices the arrival of a young family in a cabin on the opposite side of the lake. She starts to befriend them, first their four-year-old son Paul, and then his young mother Patra, who is also lonely and isolated. For the first time she feels a sense of belonging that has been missing from her life.

Leo, the father, is a university professor and an enigmatic figure, perpetually absent. When he returns home, Linda is shunned by the family unit. Desperate to be accepted again, she struggles to resume her place in their home and fails to see the terrible warning signals, which have such devastating consequences.

this is a top-notch thriller: suspicion drips like icicles in the thaw (THE TIMES)

Fridlund is a fine writer and her work is cut through with moments of sparse beauty. (FINANCIAL TIMES)

Haunting and compelling (i NEWSPAPER)

Furst, Alan - Spies of the Balkans

Salonika, 1940. To the bustle of tavernas and the smell of hashish, a secret war is taking shape. In the backrooms of barbers, envelopes change hands, and in the Club de Salonique the air is thick with whispers. Costa Zannis is the city's dashing chief detective - a man with contacts high and low, in the Balkans and beyond. Zannis becomes involved in an audacious plot - smuggling Jews to Istanbul, through the back door of Europe. 304 pages. 15 copies.

Gaiman, Neil -Stardust 15 copies

Life moves at a leisurely pace in the tiny town of Wall - named after the imposing stone barrier which separates the town from a grassy meadow. Here, young Tristran Thorn has lost his heart to the beautiful Victoria Forester and for the coveted prize of her hand, Tristran vows to retrieve a fallen star and deliver it to his beloved. It is an oath that sends him over the ancient wall and into a world that is dangerous and strange beyond imagining . . .

Galbraith, Robert - The silkworm

When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, she just thinks he has gone off by himself for a few days - as he has done before - and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realises. The novelist has just completed a manuscript featuring poisonous pen-portraits of almost everyone he knows. If the novel were published it would ruin lives - so there are a lot of people who might want to silence him. And when Quine is found brutally murdered in bizarre circumstances, it becomes a race against time to understand the motivation of a ruthless killer, a killer unlike any he has encountered before.

An unputdownable tale of malice and murder in a toxic literary world . . . this almost preposterously compulsive page-turner is irresistible summer reading (Sunday Times)

Teems with sly humour, witty asides and intelligence ... A pleasure to read (The Times)

Gale Patrick - Notes from an Exhibition

Gifted artist Rachel Kelly is a whirlwind of creative highs and anguished, crippling lows. She's also something of an enigma to her husband and four children. When she is found dead in her Penzance studio, leaving behind some extraordinary new paintings, there's a fearful need for answers. 374 pages. 15 copies.

George, Nina - The little Paris bookshop

On a beautifully restored barge on the Seine, Jean Perdu runs a bookshop; or rather a 'literary apothecary', for this bookseller possesses a rare gift for sensing which books will soothe the troubled souls of his customers. The only person he is unable to cure, it seems, is himself. He has nursed a broken heart ever since the night, 21 years ago, when the love of his life fled Paris, leaving behind a handwritten letter that he has never dared read. His memories and his love have been gathering dust - until now. The arrival of an enigmatic new neighbour in his eccentric apartment building on Rue Montagnard inspires Jean to unlock his heart, unmoor the floating bookshop and set off for Provence, in search of the past and his beloved.

Glowing . . . a classic voyage and return narrative, layered with wit, enchanting writing and a love of books . . . I prescribed it for a cynical friend who has "seen it all" (and read it all) and she swooned (Daily Mail)

A captivating curiosity, for those who still believe in love and books, friendship and food, happiness and romance (Saga)

A capricious, meandering journey of love, loss and wonderful food, so beautifully described. I enjoyed every moment (Carole Matthews, bestselling author of The Cake Shop in the Garden)

If you're looking to be charmed right out of your own life for a few hours, sit down with this wise and winsome novel...Everything happens just as you want it to... from poignant moments to crystalline insights in exactly the right measure (oprah.com)

Goddard, Robert - In Pale Battalions

Six months after the sudden death of her husband, Leonora Galloway sets out on a trip to France with her daughter Penelope. This is the start of a series of revelations that span 3 generations of an aristocratic family who are not what they seem. Penelope must piece together a tale of war, loss, greed deception & vice – and the perpetrator of a murder left unsolved for more than half a century. 458 pages. 15 copies

Granger, Ann - Mud Muck & Dead Things

The 1st Campbell & Carter mystery from the pen of Anne Granger. Lucas Burton hates the countryside. To him it's nothing but mud, muck & dead things. And he's right. When he turns up at a deserted farm in the middle of nowhere to conduct a business deal, he stumbles across the body of a girl, and that's just the start of his bad luck. 346 pages. 15 copies.

Grossman, David - A horse walks into a bar

An audience that has come expecting an evening of amusement instead sees a comedian falling apart on stage; an act of disintegration, a man crumbling, as a matter of choice, before their eyes. They could get up and leave, or boo and whistle and drive him from the stage, if they were not so drawn to glimpse his personal hell.

"Brilliant, blistering... With Dovaleh, Grossman has created a character who's captivating and horrific and a stand-up routine that's disgusting and authentically human. I can hardly say how the book achieves its bewitching effects. It all happened so fast." (Ken Kalfus Washington Post)

"Unless pop lyricists have the lock on the Nobel prize in literature from now on, then a leading future candidate must be David Grossman." (Mark Lawson Guardian, Book of the Year)

"Much of it is extremely funny, but it's also tightly controlled and carefully paced... [A Horse Walks into a Bar] is a work of sombre brilliance and disquieting rage, an unsparing exploration of the seductive spell of escapism and "the corruption that is in cynicism."" (Rebecca Abrams Financial Times)

Gruen, Sara - Water for Elephants

When Jacob Jankowski, recently orphaned and suddenly adrift, jumps onto a passing train, he enters a world of freaks, grifters and misfits - the Benzini Brothers most Spectacular Show on Earth - a second rate travelling circus struggling to survive during the Great Depression, making one night stands in town after endless town. 448 pages. 12 copies.

GUO, XIAOLU - Once upon a Time in the East (non-fiction)

Novelist Xiaolu Guo writes the extraordinary story of her childhood in rural China, her young adulthood in the Beijing underground and her move to the West in search of freedom of expression.

"This superbly written memoir of the author's travails as a child bears comparison with Jung Chang's Wild Swans" The Times

Hadley, Tessa - The past (2016)

Four siblings meet up in their grandparents' old house for three long, hot summer weeks. But under the idyllic surface lie shattering tensions.

Roland has come with his new wife, and his sisters don't like her. Fran has brought her children, who soon uncover an ugly secret in a ruined cottage in the woods. Alice has invited Kasim, an outsider, who makes plans to seduce Roland's teenage daughter. And Harriet, the eldest, finds her quiet self-possession ripped apart when passion erupts unexpectedly.

Over the course of the holiday, a familiar way of life falls apart forever.

'Exquisite' The Times

Haig, Matt- The humans

After an 'incident' one wet Friday night where Professor Andrew Martin is found walking naked through the streets of Cambridge, he is not feeling quite himself. Food sickens him. Clothes confound him. Even his loving wife and teenage son are repulsive to him. He feels lost amongst a crazy alien species and hates everyone on the planet. Everyone, that is, except Newton, and he's a dog.

What could possibly make someone change their mind about the human race. . . ?

"Matt Haig's hilarious novel puts our species on the spot" (Guardian)

"A wonderfully funny, gripping and inventive novel. Like Kurt Vonnegut and Audrey Niffenegger, Haig uses the tropes of science fiction to explore and satirise concepts of free will, love, marriage, logic, immortality and mercy with elegance and poignancy" (The Times)

"A brilliant exploration of what it is to love, and to be human, The Humans is both heartwarming and hilarious, weird, and utterly wonderful. One of the best books I've read in a very long time" (S J WATSON)

Hall, Emylia - The Book of Summers.

Beth Lowe has been sent a parcel, inside is a letter telling her that her long-estranged mother, Marika, has died. There is also a scrapbook entitled the Book of Summers compiled by her mother to record the seven childhood summers Beth spent in rural Hungary. This scrapbook brings the past tumbling back into the present, as vivid, painful and vital as ever. 324 pages. 14 copies.

Hancock, Sheila - Just Me

'Well now, prove it, Sheila. As John would say, "Put your money where your mouth is." Be a depressed widow boring the arse off everyone, or get on with life. Your choice.' In *The Two of Us* Sheila relived her life with John Thaw - years packed with love and family, delight and despair. And then she looked ahead. What next? Gardening, grannyng and grumbling, while they all had their pleasures, weren't going to fill the aching void that John had left. Putting her and John's much loved house in France on the market she embarked on a series of journeys. Finally, heading out of her comfort zone, she found her travels, and the things she discovered, led her back to her past; to consider her generation - the last to experience the Second World War - and the kind of person it made her. 288 pages. 15 copies.

Hardy, Thomas - Far From the Madding Crowd

Hardy's classic first published in 1874, telling the story of Bathsheba Everdene who on her arrival in a small Dorset village captures the heart of three very different men. The battle for her affections will have dramatic consequences in this story of love & misunderstanding. 448 pages. 15 copies

Harper, Jane - Force of Nature (2018) FIVE WENT OUT. FOUR CAME BACK...

Is Alice here? Did she make it? Is she safe? In the chaos, in the night, it was impossible to say which of the four had asked after Alice's welfare. Later, when everything got worse, each would insist it had been them.

Five women reluctantly pick up their backpacks and start walking along the muddy track. Only four come out the other side.

The hike through the rugged landscape is meant to take the office colleagues out of their air-conditioned comfort zone and teach resilience and team building. At least that is what the corporate retreat website advertises.

Federal Police Agent Aaron Falk has a particularly keen interest in the whereabouts of the missing bushwalker. Alice Russell is the whistleblower in his latest case - and Alice knew secrets. About the company she worked for and the people she worked with.

Far from the hike encouraging teamwork, the women tell Falk a tale of suspicion, violence and disintegrating trust. And as he delves into the disappearance, it seems some dangers may run far deeper than anyone knew.

HARRIS, Robert -Conclave

The Pope is dead. Behind the locked doors of the Sistine Chapel, 118 Cardinals from all over the globe will cast their votes in the world's most secretive election. They are holy men. But they have ambition. And they have rivals. Over the next 72 hours one of them will become the most powerful spiritual figure on Earth.

"...gripping thriller of ever-tightening suspense" The Times

Harrison, Melissa - Clay

A boy creeps down from a high-rise block in the half-light of dawn to see the neat prints left by a fox on the frosty grass. He is TC, eight years old and skipping school to spend his time exploring the city's waste ground and long-forgotten wild corners. At school and at home he is barely missed. Sophia, seventy-eight and a half and still wearing her dear dead husband's shoes, looks out through her kitchen window at the little city park outside her flat, its grassy acres grimy and litter-blown, but to her eyes beautiful. She is writing her weekly letter to her granddaughter Daisy, whose privileged upbringing means she exists in a different world to that of TC, even though they live less than a mile apart. Jozef spends his days clearing houses and works night shifts at the local takeaway, but he is unable to forget the farm he left behind in Poland, the woods and fields he grew up with still a part of him, although he is a thousand miles away. When he meets TC in the little park one night he finds a kindred spirit, despite the forty years between them: both lonely, both looking for something, both lost. A lyrical debut novel about innocence and experience, class and consumerism, *Clay* captures the delicate balance of life in the city, between young and old, between nature and development, between recklessness and caution. Winner of the Portsmouth First Fiction Award 2013. 259 pages. 8 copies.

Hartley, L.P - The Go-Between

When one long, hot summer, young Leo is staying with a school friend at Brandham Hall, he begins to act as a messenger between Ted, the farmer and Marian, the beautiful young woman up at the hall. He becomes drawn deeper and deeper into their dangerous game of deceit and desire, until his role brings him a shocking and premature revelation. 261 pages. 14 copies.

Healey, Emma - Elizabeth is missing

'Elizabeth is missing', reads the note in Maud's pocket in her own handwriting. Lately, Maud's been getting forgetful. She keeps buying peach slices when she has a cupboard full, forgets to drink the cups of tea she's made and writes notes to remind herself of things. But Maud is determined to discover what has happened to her friend, Elizabeth, and what it has to do with the unsolved disappearance of her sister Sukey, years back, just after the war. A fast-paced mystery with a wonderful leading character: Maud will make you laugh and cry, but she certainly won't be forgotten.

'Elizabeth Is Missing will stir and shake you: an investigation into a seventy-year-old crime, through the eyes of the most likeably unreliable of narrators. But the real mystery at its compassionate core is the fragmentation of the human mind.' - Emma Donoghue

NEW FOR 2019

Heller, Joseph- Catch 22

At the heart of Joseph Heller's bestselling novel is a satirical indictment of military madness and stupidity, and the desire of the ordinary man to survive it. It is the tale of Captain Yossarian who spends his time plotting to survive. Originally published: London: Jonathan Cape, 1962
569 pages

Hemingway, Ernest - A Farewell To Arms

In 1918 Ernest Hemingway went to war, to the 'war to end all wars'. He volunteered for ambulance service in Italy, was wounded and twice decorated. Out of his experiences came his early masterpiece, *A Farewell to Arms*. In an unforgettable depiction of war, Hemingway recreates the fear, the comradeship, the courage of his young American volunteers and the men and women he encounters along the way with conviction and brutal honesty. A love story of immense drama and uncompromising passion, *A Farewell to Arms* offers a unique and unflinching view of the world and people, by the winner of the 1954 Nobel Prize for Literature. 304 pages
15 copies.

Hines, Barry - Kestrel for a Knave

With prose that is every bit as raw, intense and biting honest as the world it depicts, Barry Hines's *A Kestrel for a Knave* contains a new afterword by the author in Penguin Modern Classics.

Life is tough and cheerless for Billy Casper, a troubled teenager growing up in the small Yorkshire mining town of Barnsley. Treated as a failure at school, and unhappy at home, Billy discovers a new passion in life when he finds Kes, a kestrel hawk. Billy identifies with her silent strength and she inspires in him the trust and love that nothing else can, discovering through her the passion missing from his life. Barry Hines's acclaimed novel continues to reach new generations of teenagers and adults with its powerful story of survival in a tough, joyless world.

Hogan, Ruth - The keeper of lost things (2017)

Meet the 'Keeper of Lost Things'...

Once a celebrated author of short stories now in his twilight years, Anthony Peardew has spent half his life collecting lost objects, trying to atone for a promise broken many years before.

Realising he is running out of time, he leaves his house and all its lost treasures to his assistant Laura, the one person he can trust to fulfil his legacy and reunite the thousands of objects with their rightful owners.

But the final wishes of the 'Keeper of Lost Things' have unforeseen repercussions which trigger a most serendipitous series of encounters...

Hollinghurst, Alan - The Sparsholt Affair

In October 1940, the handsome young David Sparsholt arrives in Oxford. A keen athlete and oarsman, he at first seems unaware of the effect he has on others – particularly on the lonely and romantic Evert Dax, son of a celebrated novelist and destined to become a writer himself. While the Blitz rages in London, Oxford exists at a strange remove: an ephemeral, uncertain place, in which nightly blackouts conceal secret liaisons. Over the course of one momentous term, David and Evert forge an unlikely friendship that will colour their lives for decades to come . . .

Man Booker Prize-winning author Alan Hollinghurst's masterly novel evokes the intimate relationships of a group of friends bound together by art, literature and love across three generations. It explores the social revolutions of the most pivotal years of the past century, whose life-changing consequences are still being played out to this day. Richly observed, disarmingly witty and emotionally charged,

Honeyman, Gail - Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine

Eleanor Oliphant has learned how to survive - but not how to live

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.

Eleanor Oliphant is happy. 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?

An astonishing story that powerfully depicts the loneliness of life and the simple power of a little kindness

A truly original literary creation: funny, touching and unpredictable. Her journey out of the shadows is expertly woven and absolutely gripping' Jojo Moyes

'Original [and] unexpectedly funny' SUNDAY TIMES

'As perceptive and wise as it is funny and endearing... Warm, funny and thought-provoking' OBSERVER

'A narrative full of quiet warmth and deep and unspoken sadness... Wonderful and joyful' Jenny Colgan, GUARDIAN

Hosseini, Khaled - And the mountains echoed

Afghanistan, 1952. Abdullah and his sister Pari live with their father and stepmother in the small village of Shadbagh. Their father, Saboor, is constantly in search of work and they struggle together through poverty and brutal winters. To Abdullah, Pari - as beautiful and sweet-natured as the fairy for which she was named - is everything. More like a parent than a brother, Abdullah will do anything for her, even trading his only pair of shoes for a feather for her treasured collection. Each night they sleep together in their cot, their heads touching, their limbs tangled.

One day the siblings journey across the desert to Kabul with their father. Pari and Abdullah have no sense of the fate that awaits them there, for the event which unfolds will tear their lives apart; sometimes a finger must be cut to save the hand. 416 pages. 15 copies.

Hurley, Graham -No Lovelier Death

This is the 9th novel to feature DI Joe Faraday and DC Paul Winter. A teenager throws a party in the affluent suburb of Craneswater, the party turns into a riot and the property is

trashed. Before the night is over two teenagers are dead, & DI Faraday is confronted with a nightmare investigation. 387 pages. 12 copies

Hurley, Graham- Permissible Limits

When Ellie Bruce loses her husband, Adam, in an unexplained flying accident, the aftermath of his death brings shock after shock. Their business suddenly appears to be on the point of collapse. And it seems that Adam had been having an affair.

Her husband's pride and joy, a World War II Mustang fighter plane, is the key to what remains of her life. Ellie must fight to keep the plane. And to keep it, she must learn to fly it.

"Permissible Limits" is about the gathering shadow of a long-ago war, about flying at its most demanding, and about a woman who must suddenly survive in a man's world.

Isherwood, Christopher - A Single Man

In this brilliantly perceptive novel, a middle-aged professor living in California is alienated from his students by differences in age and nationality, and from the rest of society by his homosexuality. Isherwood explores the depths of the human soul and its ability to triumph over loneliness, alienation and loss. 152 pages. 15 copies.

NEW FOR 2019

Ishiguro, Kazuo - The buried giant

'The Buried Giant' begins as a couple set off across a troubled land of mist and rain in the hope of finding a son they have not seen in years. Sometimes savage, often intensely moving, Kazuo Ishiguro's first novel in a decade is about lost memories, love, revenge and war.

362 pages

Jackson, Shirley - We have always lived in the castle (1967)

'Her greatest book ... at once whimsical and harrowing, a miniaturist's charmingly detailed fantasy sketched inside a mausoleum ... Through depths and depths and bloodwarm depths we fall, until the surface is only an eerie gleam high above, nearly forgotten; and the deeper we sink, the deeper we want to go' Donna Tartt, author of *The Goldfinch*

Living in the Blackwood family home with only her sister Constance and her Uncle Julian for company, Merricat just wants to preserve their delicate way of life. But ever since Constance was acquitted of murdering the rest of the family, the world isn't leaving the Blackwoods alone. And when Cousin Charles arrives, armed with overtures of friendship and a desperate need to get into the safe, Merricat must do everything in her power to protect the remaining family.

Jansson, Tove - Summer Book

Set in the Gulf of Finland. An elderly artist and her six year old grand-daughter while away the summer together. The author writes with a quiet, dry sense of humour. 160 pages. 13 copies.

Johnson, Alan - This Boy (memoir)

Alan Johnson's childhood was not so much difficult as unusual, particularly for a man who was destined to become Home Secretary. Not in respect of the poverty, which was shared with many of those living in the slums of post-war Britain, but in its transition from two-parent family to single mother and then to no parents at all...

This is essentially the story of two incredible women: Alan's mother, Lily, who battled against poor health, poverty, domestic violence and loneliness to try to ensure a better life for her children; and his sister, Linda, who had to assume an enormous amount of responsibility at a very young age and who fought to keep the family together and out of care when she herself was still only a child.

Played out against the background of a vanishing community living in condemned housing, the story moves from post-war austerity in pre-gentrified Notting Hill, through the race riots, school on the Kings Road, Chelsea in the Swinging 60s, to the rock-and-roll years, making a record in Denmark Street and becoming a husband and father whilst still in his teens.

"the best memoir by a politician you will ever read" (Philip Collins The Times)

Jonasson, Jonas – The Hundred Year Old Man who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared

It all starts on the one-hundredth birthday of Allan Karlsson. Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, he is waiting for the party he-never-wanted-anyway to begin. The mayor is going to be there. The press is going to be there. But, as it turns out, Allan is not...Slowly but surely Allan climbs out of his bedroom window, into the flowerbed (in his slippers) and makes his getaway. And so begins his picaresque and unlikely journey involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, and incompetent police. As his escapades unfold, we learn something of Allan's earlier life in which - remarkably - he helped to make the atom bomb, became friends with American presidents, Russian tyrants, and Chinese leaders, and was a participant behind the scenes in many key events of the twentieth century. 400 pages. 15 copies.

Jupp, David - A Shelter from the Storm.

A non-fiction book by a local author. Shortly after the outbreak of war with Germany David, then just 4 years old, was taken to live in Portsmouth. This book explores the two worlds of childhood - the real world and the world of imagination, and adventure and play. 177 pages. 15 copies.

Kennedy, Emma - The Tent, The Bucket and Me

The author describes her family's disastrous attempts to go camping in is a reminder the 1970s. For the Kennedy family disaster always came along for the ride no matter where they went but they never give up, this book is a funny reminder of just what it was like to spend your summer holidays cold, damp but with sand between your toes. 346 pages. 15 copies

Kent, Hannah - Burial Rites

Northern Iceland, 1829. A woman condemned to death for murdering her lover.

A family forced to take her in. A priest tasked with absolving her.

But all is not as it seems, and time is running out: winter is coming, and with it the execution date. Only she can know the truth. This is Agnes's story.

'This compelling, ripped-from-real-life tale reminds me of Margaret Atwood's *Alias Grace*' Karin Slaughter, author of *Kisscut*

'A story of swirling sagas, poetry, bitterness, claustrophobia . . . holds an exhilaration that borders on the sublime' *Sunday Telegraph*

384 pages 15 copies

Keyes, Daniel - Flowers for Algernon (2000)

The classic novel about a daring experiment in human intelligence Charlie Gordon, IQ 68, is a floor sweeper and the gentle butt of everyone's jokes - until an experiment in the enhancement of human intelligence turns him into a genius. But then Algernon, the mouse whose triumphal experimental transformation preceded his, fades and dies, and Charlie has to face the possibility that his salvation was only temporary.

NEW FOR 2019

Kingsolver, Barbara - Unsheltered (2018)

2016 Vineland

Meet Willa Knox, a woman who stands braced against an upended world that seems to hold no mercy for her shattered life and family - or the crumbling house that contains her.

1871 Vineland

Thatcher Greenwood, the new science teacher, is a fervent advocate of the work of Charles Darwin, and he is keen to communicate his ideas to his students. But those in power in Thatcher's small town have no desire for a new world order. Thatcher and his teachings are not welcome.

Both Willa and Thatcher resist the prevailing logic. Both are asked to pay a high price for their courage. But both also find inspiration -- and an unlikely kindred spirit -- in Mary Treat, a scientist, adventurer and anachronism.

A testament to both the resilience and persistent myopia of the human condition, *Unsheltered* explores the foundations we build in life, spanning time and place to give us all a clearer look at those around us, and perhaps ourselves. It is a novel that speaks truly to our times.

Kingsolver, Barbara - The Lacuna

Mexico 1935. Harrison Shepherd is working in the household of famed muralist Diego Rivera and his wife Frida Kahlo. Shepherd records his experiences in diaries and notebooks. When Bolshevik leader Trotsky arrives, Shepherd inadvertently casts in his lot with art and revolution - his aim for an invisible life is thwarted forever. 670 pages. 12 copies.

Knight, Renee - Disclaimer (2016)

What if you realised the book you were reading was all about you? When an intriguing novel appears on Catherine's bedside table, she curls up in bed and begins to read. But as she turns the pages she is sickened to discover the story will reveal her darkest secret - a secret she thought no-one else knew.

An addictive novel with shades of Gone Girl" (Sunday Times)

Lanchester, John - Capital

The residents of Pepys Road, London - a banker and his shopaholic wife, an old woman dying of a brain tumour, a family of Pakistani shop owners, the young football star from Senegal and his minder - all receive an anonymous postcard one day with a simple message: we want what you have. Who is behind it? What do they want? As the mystery of the postcards deepens, the world around Pepys Road is turned upside down by the financial

crash and all of its residents' lives change beyond recognition over the course of the next year.

Larsson, Stieg - The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Henrik Vanger, head of the dynastic Vanger Corporation, is tormented by the loss of a child decades earlier and is convinced that a member of his own family has committed murder. 538 pages. 14 copies.

NEW FOR 2019

Lessing, Doris - The Golden Notebook

Anna Wulf is a young novelist with writer's block. Divorced, with a young child, and disillusioned by unsatisfactory relationships, she feels her life is falling apart. In fear of madness, she records her experiences in four coloured notebooks. 576 pages

Levy, Andrea - The Long Song

You do not know me yet. My son Thomas, who is publishing this book, tells me, it is customary at this place in a novel to give the reader a little taste of the story that is held within these pages. As your storyteller, I am to convey that this tale is set in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery and the early years of freedom that followed. 336 pages. 15 copies

Lupton, Rosamund - Sister

Nothing can break the bond between sisters. . . When Beatrice gets a frantic call in the middle of Sunday lunch to say that her younger sister, Tess, is missing, she boards the first flight home to London. But as she learns about the circumstances surrounding her sister's disappearance, she is stunned to discover how little she actually knows of her sister's life - and is unprepared for the terrifying truths she must now face. The police, Beatrice's fiancé and even their mother accept they have lost Tess, but Beatrice refuses to give up on her. She embarks on a dangerous journey to discover the truth, no matter what the cost. 375 pages. 14 copies.

McBride, Eimear - The lesser bohemians (2016)

An eighteen-year-old Irish girl arrives in London to study drama and falls violently in love with an older actor. This older man has a disturbing past that the young girl is unprepared for. The young girl has a troubling past of her own. This is her story and their story.

Confirms McBride's status as one of our major novelists . . . the life here radiates through the pages and illuminates ours. (Guardian)

Magnificently accomplished . . . It is hard to summon up adequate superlatives to describe this fierce, touching, boisterously original and life-enhancing account of what it feels like to be young, to leave home and to fall in love. (Literary Review)

MacDonald, Helen - H is for Hawk

Winner of the Samuel Johnson prize for non-fiction

H is For Hawk tells the story of how the death of Helen's father triggered her to follow a childhood dream and become a falconer, obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. The book is an unflinchingly honest account of her struggle with grief during the difficult process of the hawk's taming and her own untaming. At the same time, it's a kaleidoscopic biography of the brilliant and troubled novelist T. H. White, author of *The Goshawk*, in which he describes his own struggle to train a hawk.

"It just sings. I couldn't stop reading." (Mark Haddon)

"This beautiful book is at once heartfelt and clever in the way it mixes elegy with celebration: elegy for a father lost, celebration of a hawk found - and in the finding also a celebration of countryside, forbears of one kind and another, life-in-death. At a time of very distinguished writing about the relationship between human kind and the environment, it is immediately pre-eminent." (Andrew Motion)

"This is a book made from the heart that goes to the heart... It combines old and new nature and human nature with great originality. No one who has looked up to see a bird of prey cross the sky could read it and not have their life shifted." (Tim Dee)

McCann, Colum - Let the Great World Spin

New York, 1974. A man is walking the sky. The city stands still in awe. Between the newly built Twin Towers the man is striding, twirling and showboating his way through the air. One hundred and ten stories below him, the lives of eight strangers spin towards each other... 349 pages. 15 copies

McEwan, Ian - The Children Act

Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge, presiding over cases in the family court. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now, her marriage of thirty years is in crisis.

At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case: for religious reasons, a seventeen-year-old boy, Adam, is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents share his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely held faith? In the course of reaching a decision Fiona visits Adam in hospital – an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

"Every word counts: one has the sense of a complicated piece of music played by a master soloist." -- Christina Hardyment The Times

McGann, Stephen - Flesh and blood (2018)

His family survived famine-ravaged Ireland in the 1850s.

His ancestors settled in poverty-rife Victorian Liverpool, working to survive and thrive.

Some of them became soldiers serving on the Western Front.

One would be the last man to step off the SS Titanic as it sank beneath the icy waves. He would testify at the inquest.

This is their story.

Stephen McGann is **Doctor Turner** in the BBC hit-drama series **Call the Midwife**.

Flesh and Blood is the story of the **McGann** family as told through **seven sicknesses** – diseases, wounds or ailments that have afflicted Stephen's relatives over the last century and a half, and which have helped mould him into what he now perceives himself to be. It's the story of how health, or the lack of it, fuels our collective will and informs our personal

narrative. Health is the motivational antagonist in the drama of our life story - circumscribing the extent of our actions, the quality of our character and the breadth of our ambition. Our maladies are the scribes that write the restless and mutating genome of our self-identity.

McGregor, Jon -Reservoir 13

Midwinter in the early years of this century. A teenage girl on holiday has gone missing in the hills at the heart of England. The villagers are called up to join the search, fanning out across the moors as the police set up roadblocks and a crowd of news reporters descends on their usually quiet home. Meanwhile, there is work that must still be done: cows milked, fences repaired, stone cut, pints poured, beds made, sermons written, a pantomime rehearsed. The search for the missing girl goes on, but so does everyday life. As it must. As the seasons unfold there are those who leave the village and those who are pulled back; those who come together or break apart. There are births and deaths; secrets kept and exposed; livelihoods made and lost; small kindnesses and unanticipated betrayals. Bats hang in the eaves of the church and herons stand sentry in the river; fieldfares flock in the hawthorn trees and badgers and foxes prowl deep in the woods – mating and fighting, hunting and dying. An extraordinary novel of cumulative power and grace, *Reservoir 13* explores the rhythms of the natural world and the repeated human gift for violence, unfolding over thirteen years as the aftershocks of a stranger's tragedy refuse to subside.

A work of intense, forensic noticing; an unobtrusively experimental, thickly atmospheric portrait of the life of a village which, for its mixture of truthfulness and potency, deserves to be set alongside works of such varied brilliance as Ronald Blythe's Akenfield, Jim Crace's Harvest and Dylan Thomas's Under Milk Wood' Sarah Crown, TLS

'McGregor's latest novel is a remarkable achievement... Fluid and fastidious, its sparing loveliness feels deeply true to its subject. There are moments, as in life, of miraculous grace, but no more than that...(a) humane and tender masterpiece' Irish Times.

Maher, Kevin - The Fields

We'd never seen anything like that around our place before. Not right in front of our eyes. You always heard about it, though. Through friends of friends. Or when The Mothers got together for coffee mornings. They'd sit around in a steamy kitchen circle like four mad witches, and dip ginger-snaps into Maxwell House until they went wobbly-warm, and take turns at saying, Jahear about so-and-so, Lord rest his soul, only thirty years old, poor creature?! They were brilliant at it. Scaring the shite out of each other, grinning inside. Jim Finnegan is thirteen years old and life in his world consists of dealing with the helter-skelter intensity of his rumbustious family, taking breakneck bike rides with his best friend, and coveting the local girls from afar - until one day when everything changes. *The Fields* is an unforgettable story of an extraordinary character: Jim's voice leaps off the page and straight into the reader's heart as he grapples with his unfairly interrupted adolescence. Shortlisted for the Portsmouth First Fiction Award 2013. 390 pages. 11 copies.

Mandela, Nelson - Long Walk to Freedom

The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, *Long Walk to Freedom* brilliantly re-creates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny. Emotive, compelling and uplifting, Nelson Mandela became the democratically elected, first black president of the republic of South Africa on 27 April 1994. is the exhilarating story of an epic life; a story of hardship, resilience and ultimate triumph told with the clarity and eloquence of a born leader. 'Burns with the luminosity of faith in the invincible nature of human hope and dignity ...Unforgettable' Andre Brink 'Enthralling ...Mandela emulates the few great political leaders such as Lincoln and Gandhi, who go

beyond mere consensus and move out ahead of their followers to break new ground' Donald Woods, Sunday Times. 784 pages. 15 copies.

Mankell, Henning - The Pyramid

The Pyramid introduces the reader to Wallander when he is a senior police officer with his life in a mess. The Pyramid chronicles the events that led him to such a place. 496 pages. 15 copies

Marsh, Henry - Do no harm; stories of life, death and brain surgery (non-fiction)

Winner of the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Literature. Shortlisted for the Costa Biography Award; Duff Cooper Prize; Wellcome Book Prize; Guardian First Book Award; Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize; and the PEN Ackerley Prize Longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction.

What is it like to be a brain surgeon? How does it feel to hold someone's life in your hands, to cut through the stuff that creates thought, feeling and reason? How do you live with the consequences when it all goes wrong? DO NO HARM offers an unforgettable insight into the highs and lows of a life dedicated to operating on the human brain, in all its exquisite complexity. With astonishing candour and compassion, Henry Marsh reveals the exhilarating drama of surgery, the chaos and confusion of a busy modern hospital, and above all the need for hope when faced with life's most agonising decisions.

This is a beautifully written, humane, moving and darkly funny memoir by a senior consultant neuro-surgeon at St George's Hospital, Tooting... I was fascinated by this frank view of life on the other side of the anaesthetic mist. It takes us deep into both the human brain and the entrails of the NHS, and it is sometimes hard to know which is the more alarming (Patrick Marnham THE SPECTATOR Books of the Year)

Why has no one ever written a book like this before? It simply tells the stories, with great tenderness, insight and self-doubt, of a phenomenal neurosurgeon who has been at the height of his specialism for decades and now has chosen with retirement looming to write an honest book. Why haven't more surgeons written books, especially of this prosaic beauty?... Well, thank God for Henry Marsh... One of the finest admissions to emerge in this phenomenal book is that of every surgeon's dilemma... (Euan Ferguson THE OBSERVER)

Masters, Alexander - Stuart: A Life Backwards

A remarkable biography describing life on the street with candour, and to such an illuminating effect. Unforgettably moving and a gripping read. 296 pages. 10 copies.

Mbue, Imbolo - Behold the dreamers (2017)

New York, 2007: a city of dreamers and strivers, where the newly-arrived and the long-established jostle alike for a place on the ladder of success. And Jende Jonga, who has come from Cameroon, has just set his foot on the first rung.

Clark Edwards is a senior partner at Lehman Brothers bank. In need of a discrete and reliable chauffeur, he is too preoccupied to closely check the paperwork of his latest employee.

Jende's new job draws him, his wife Neni and their young son into the privileged orbit of the city's financial elite. And when Clark's wife Cindy offers Neni work and takes her into her

confidence, the couple begin to believe that the land of opportunity might finally be opening up for them.

But there are troubling cracks in their employers' facades, and when the deep fault lines running beneath the financial world are exposed, the Edwards' secrets threaten to spill out into the Jonga's lives.

Faced with the loss of all they have worked for, each couple must decide how far they will go in pursuit of their dreams – and what they are prepared to sacrifice along the way.

'There are no heroes in this marvellous debut, only nuanced human beings. A classic tale with a surprise ending, as deeply insightful as it is delightfully entertaining' Taiye Selasi

Miller, Madeleine - The Song of Achilles

Greece in the age of heroes: Patroclus, an awkward young prince, has been exiled to the court of King Peleus and his perfect son Achilles. Despite their differences, Achilles befriends the shamed prince, and as they grow into young men skilled in the arts of war and medicine, their bond blossoms into something deeper - despite the displeasure of Achilles' mother Thetis, a cruel sea goddess. But when word comes that Helen of Sparta has been kidnapped, Achilles must go to war in distant Troy and fulfil his destiny. Torn between love and fear for his friend, Patroclus goes with him, little knowing that the years that follow will test everything they hold dear. 368 pages. 14 copies.

Mitchell, David – Cloud Atlas

The novel features six characters in interlocking stories, each interrupting the one before it: 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 diner 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 changes in ways great and small. 529 pages. 15 copies.

Moggach, Deborah - Heartbreak Hotel

At Myrtle House, the twin beds have never been so busy...The irrepressible Russell 'Buffy' Buffery has upped sticks from London and moved to a decrepit B&B in rural Wales. He needs to fill the beds, and what better way than with 'Courses for Divorces', his new money-making wheeze. Those checking in include: Harold, whose wife has run off with a younger woman; Amy, who's been unexpectedly dumped by her (not-so) weedy boyfriend and Andy, the hypochondriac postman whose girlfriend is much too much for him to handle. Under Buffy's tutelage, these casualties of the marriage-go-round find themselves re-learning all those skills they never thought they'd need again, and a whole lot more besides...304 pages. 15 copies

Moggach, Lottie - Kiss Me First

On the internet, we can be anyone we choose. No one knows who we really are. Sheltered and obsessive, Leila spends more time online than out in the real world. So she seems the ideal person to take over the virtual identity of the vivacious and fragile Tess, who wants to disappear. But even with all the facts at her fingertips, there are things that Leila can't possibly know about Tess – or herself – until it is too late . 337 pages, 13 copies.

Morgenstern, Erin - The Night Circus

Long-listed for the Orange Prize for Fiction 2012 and selected for the Richard and Judy Book Club, this novel is a feast for the senses, a fantasia of magic, mischief and love, an extraordinary blend of fantasy and reality that will dazzle readers young and old. 512 pages. 15 copies.

NEW FOR 2019

Morris, Heather- The tattooist of Auschwitz

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

270 pages

NEW FOR 2019

Murata, Sayaka - Convenience store woman (2018)

Keiko is 36 years old. She's never had a boyfriend, and she's been working in the same supermarket for eighteen years.

Keiko's family wishes she'd get a proper job. Her friends wonder why she won't get married.

But Keiko knows what makes her happy, and she's not going to let anyone come between her and her convenience store...

'A haunting, dark, and often hilarious take on society's expectations of the single woman' Elif Batuman, author of The Idiot

'[A] short, deadpan gem... This is a true original' Stephanie Cross, Daily Mail

'From this slight, dark and delightful book springs a feminist rallying cry: trust yourself' Emerald Street

Nabokov, Vladimir – Lolita

Poet and pervert, Humbert Humbert becomes obsessed by twelve-year-old Lolita and seeks to possess her, first carnally and then artistically. Is he in love or insane? A silver-tongued poet or a pervert? A tortured soul or a monster? Or is he all of these? Humbert Humbert's seduction is one of many dimensions in Nabokov's dizzying masterpiece, which is suffused with a savage humour and rich, elaborate verbal textures. *Lolita* has lost none of its power to shock and awe.

336 pages. 15 copies

NEW FOR 2019

Naude, S.J - Third Reel

Ambitious and cosmopolitan, the material of S.J. Naude's 'The Third Reel' is as disparate as the cities in which the book is set. Architecture, cinematography, sex, music, illness, loss and love all collide in this exquisitely wrought, deeply affecting novel.

352 pages

Nicholls, David - Us

Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize

Us by David Nicholls tells the story of Douglas Petersen, whose marriage of twenty-one years to Connie is almost over. When Autumn comes around, their son Albie will leave for university. Connie has decided to leave soon after. But there's still the summer holidays to

get through - a Grand Tour of Europe's major cities - and over the course of the journey, Douglas devises a plan to win back the love of his wife and repair his troubled relationship with his son. Forced to understand why his marriage is in tatters, he looks back to the beginning of their relationship and learns once again whom he fell in love with.

"I loved this book. Funny, sad, tender: for anyone who wants to know what happens after the Happy Ever After. (Jojo Moyes)

Wonderful. A novel that manages to be both truly hilarious and deeply affecting. I loved it. (S J Watson)

A wrenching examination of a journey through Europe that goes terribly wrong and a consideration of what it means to be a parent today. (Philip Hensher Guardian)"

Norris, Barney- Five rivers met on a wooded plain (2016)

One quiet evening in Salisbury, the peace is shattered by a serious car crash. At that moment, five lives collide – a flower seller, a schoolboy, an army wife, a security guard, a widower – all facing their own personal disasters. As one of those lives hangs in the balance, the stories of all five unwind, drawn together by connection and coincidence into a web of love, grief, disenchantment and hope that perfectly represents the joys and tragedies of small town life.

Wonderful...I was hooked from the first page. It's the real stuff.' - Michael Frayn

'Deeply affecting' - Guardian

'Superb' - Mail on Sunday

'Barney Norris is a rare and precious talent' - Evening Standard

NEW FOR 2019

North, Claire - The first fifteen

Harry August is on his deathbed, again. Every time he dies, he is reborn in exactly the same time and place, a child with all the knowledge of a life he has already lived a dozen times before. No matter what he does or the decisions he makes, when death comes, he always returns to where he began, and nothing ever changes. He only knows that there are others like him, living with but apart from the rest of us. This is the story of what he does next - what he did before - and how he tries to save a past he cannot change and a future he cannot allow.

405 pages

O'Farrell, Maggie - Instructions for a heatwave

It's July 1976. In London, it hasn't rained for months, gardens are filled with aphids, water comes from a standpipe, and Robert Riordan tells his wife Gretta that he's going round the corner to buy a newspaper. He doesn't come back. The search for Robert brings Gretta's children - two estranged sisters and a brother on the brink of divorce - back home, each with different ideas as to where their father might have gone. None of them suspects that their mother might have an explanation that even now she cannot share.

NEW FOR 2019

Ondaatje, Michael - Warlight (2018)

In a narrative as mysterious as memory itself – at once both shadowed and luminous – *Warlight* is a vivid, thrilling novel of violence and love, intrigue and desire. It is 1945, and London is still reeling from the Blitz and years of war. 14-year-old Nathaniel and his sister, Rachel, are apparently abandoned by their parents, left in the care of an enigmatic figure named The Moth. They suspect he might be a criminal, and grow both more convinced and less concerned as they get to know his eccentric crew of friends: men and women with a

shared history, all of whom seem determined now to protect, and educate (in rather unusual ways) Rachel and Nathaniel. But are they really what and who they claim to be? A dozen years later, Nathaniel begins to uncover all he didn't know or understand in that time, and it is this journey – through reality, recollection, and imagination – that is told in this magnificent novel.

Orwell, George - The Road to Wigan Pier

A searing account of George Orwell's observations of working-class life in the bleak industrial heartlands of Yorkshire and Lancashire in the 1930s, *The Road to Wigan Pier* is a brilliant and bitter polemic that has lost none of its political impact over time. His graphically unforgettable descriptions of social injustice, cramped slum housing, dangerous mining conditions, squalor, hunger and growing unemployment are written with unblinking honesty, fury and great humanity. It crystallized the ideas that would be found in Orwell's later works and novels, and remains a powerful portrait of poverty, injustice and class divisions in Britain. 240 pages 15 copies.

NEW FOR 2019

Page, Libby - The Lido

Meet Rosemary, 86, and Kate, 26: dreamers, campaigners, outdoor swimmers.

Rosemary has lived in Brixton all her life, but everything she knows is changing. Only the local lido, where she swims every day, remains a constant reminder of the past and her beloved husband George.

Kate has just moved and feels adrift in a city that is too big for her. She's on the bottom rung of her career as a local journalist, and is determined to make something of it.

So when the lido is threatened with closure, Kate knows this story could be her chance to shine. But for Rosemary, it could be the end of everything. Together they are determined to make a stand, and to prove that the pool is more than just a place to swim - it is the heart of the community.

The Lido is an uplifting novel about the importance of friendship, the value of community, and how ordinary people can protect the things they love.

Parris, S.J. - Treachery

Summer, 1585. As English ships are held captive in Spain, fear mounts of an Invincible Armada, built by King Philip II, and intended to invade English shores. Sir Francis Drake prepares to embark on an expedition by royal commission to cross the Atlantic and seize major Spanish ports, diverting Philip's American treasure supplies to Queen Elizabeth. Giordano Bruno, radical philosopher and spy, accompanies his friend Sir Philip Sidney to Plymouth to oversee Drake's departure. Unbeknownst to Bruno, Sidney intends to join the mission - and he wants Bruno to go too. But when a ship captain is brutally murdered, and Drake's life threatened, it becomes clear that someone plans to destroy the expedition before it begins. 576 pages. 16 copies.

Pullman, Philip - The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ

This is a story. In this ingenious and spell-binding retelling of the life of Jesus, Pullman revisits the most influential story ever told. Charged with mystery, compassion and enormous power. This novel throws fresh light on who Jesus was and asks the reader

questions that will continue to resonate long after the final page is turned. 272 pages. 14 copies.

Reilly, Michael - Miracle Boy

Inscribed within the pages of his beloved copy of Great Expectations, Raymond Rawnsley is informed he is the Miracle Boy. With no past or family to call his own, this is his only clue to his true identity. Miracles, however are as scarce in the strict care system of the 1960's as safety, freedom and hope. 384 pages. 10 copies.

Rhys, Jean - Wide Sargasso Sea

Her grand attempt to tell what she felt was the story of *Jane Eyre's* 'madwoman in the attic', Bertha Rochester.

Born into the oppressive, colonialist society of 1930s Jamaica, white Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent beauty and sensuality. After their marriage, however, disturbing rumours begin to circulate which poison her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is inexorably driven towards madness, and her husband into the arms of another novel's heroine. This classic study of betrayal, a seminal work of postcolonial literature, is Jean Rhys's brief, beautiful masterpiece.

160 pages 15 copies

Rhys, Rachel- A dangerous crossing (2017)

It was a first class deception that would change her life forever

1939, Europe on the brink of war. Lily Shepherd leaves England on an ocean liner for Australia, escaping her life of drudgery for new horizons. She is instantly seduced by the world onboard: cocktails, black-tie balls and beautiful sunsets. Suddenly, Lily finds herself mingling with people who would otherwise never give her the time of day.

But soon she realizes her glamorous new friends are not what they seem. The rich and hedonistic Max and Eliza Campbell, mysterious and flirtatious Edward, and fascist George are all running away from tragedy and scandal even greater than her own.

By the time the ship docks, two passengers are dead, war has been declared, and life will never be the same again.

'An exquisite story of love, murder, adventure and dark secrets, Rachel Rhys brings this dangerous crossing brilliantly and beautifully alive' LISA JEWELL

'Quite extraordinary . . . Beautiful, captivating and I desperately did not want the journey to end.' EMMA KAVANAGH

Riordan, Jim - Comrade Jim

Humorous memoir of ambitious young footballer from Portsmouth who ended up playing for Spartak Moscow. This is a remarkable true story of the only Englishman to have played in the Russian league. Encompasses elements of espionage, treachery, politics and nostalgia. 223 pages. 15 copies

Robinson, Marilynne - Lila

Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, steps inside a small-town Iowa church-the only available shelter from the rain-and ignites a romance and a debate that

will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister and widower, John Ames, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the days of suffering that preceded her newfound security.

Neglected as a toddler, Lila was rescued by Doll, a canny young drifter, and brought up by her in a hardscrabble childhood of itinerant work. Together they crafted a life on the run, living hand-to-mouth with nothing but their sisterly bond and a lucky knife to protect them. But despite bouts of petty violence and moments of desperation, their shared life is laced with moments of joy and love. When Lila arrives in Gilead, she struggles to harmonize the life of her makeshift family and their days of hardship with the gentle worldview of her husband which paradoxically judges those she loves.

Revisiting the beloved characters and setting of Marilynne Robinson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead* and Orange Prize-winning *Home*, *Lila* is a moving expression of the mysteries of existence.

NEW FOR 2019

Rooney, Sally - Normal People (2018)

Connell and Marianne grow up in the same small town in rural Ireland. The similarities end there; they are from very different worlds. When they both earn places at Trinity College in Dublin, a connection that has grown between them lasts long into the following years.

This is an exquisite love story about how a person can change another person's life - a simple yet profound realisation that unfolds beautifully over the course of the novel. It tells us how difficult it is to talk about how we feel and it tells us - blazingly - about cycles of domination, legitimacy and privilege. Alternating menace with overwhelming tenderness, Sally Rooney's second novel breathes fiction with new life.

Ross, Jacob (ed) - Closure Anthology

As *the* narrative mode across cultures and time, the short story form wings from oral "folktales" to myths of origin, from parables of caution to contemporary narratives of disclosure, disquiet and discovery. Humans have always valued the short story as a way to make sense of the world, and their place in it. Closure is essentially about human striving.

Closure has a variety of forms, styles and a rich diversity of theme. As a title "Closure" invited a subversive response from contributors, and this anthology is filled with stories which, like life, rarely end in the way we might expect...

Rushdie, Salman – Midnight's Children

Born at the stroke of midnight at the exact moment of India's independence, Saleem Sinai is a special child. However, this coincidence of birth has consequences he is not prepared for: telepathic powers connect him with 1,000 other 'midnight's children' all of whom are endowed with unusual gifts. Inextricably linked to his nation, Saleem's story is a whirlwind of disasters and triumphs that mirrors the course of modern India at its most impossible and glorious. 672 pages. 15 copies

Satrapi, Marjane - Persepolis

The Story of a Childhood and The Story of a Return. The intelligent and outspoken child of radical Marxists, and the great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor, Satrapi bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. *Persepolis* paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life. This is a beautiful and intimate story full of tragedy and humour - raw, honest and incredibly illuminating. 352 pages. 15 copies.

Saunders, George -Lincoln in the Bardo

The extraordinary first novel by the bestselling, Folio Prize-winning, National Book Award-shortlisted George Saunders, about Abraham Lincoln and the death of his eleven year old son, Willie, at the dawn of the Civil War

The American Civil War rages while President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns to the crypt several times alone to hold his boy's body.

From this seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of realism, entering a thrilling, supernatural domain both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself trapped in a transitional realm - called, in Tibetan tradition, the bardo - and as ghosts mingle, squabble, gripe and commiserate, and stony tendrils creep towards the boy, a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul.

Unfolding over a single night, Lincoln in the Bardo is written with George Saunders' inimitable humour, pathos and grace. Here he invents an exhilarating new form, and is confirmed as one of the most important and influential writers of his generation. Deploying a theatrical, kaleidoscopic panoply of voices - living and dead, historical and fictional - Lincoln in the Bardo poses a timeless question: how do we live and love when we know that everything we hold dear must end?

Self, Will - The Book of Dave

What if a demented London cabbie called Dave Rudman wrote a book to his estranged son to give him some fatherly advice? What if the book was buried in Hampstead and hundreds of years later, when rising sea levels have put London underwater, spawned a religion? What if one man decided to question life according to Dave? And what if Dave had indeed made a mistake? Shuttling between the recent past and a far-off future where England is terribly altered, this novel is a strange and troubling mirror held up to our times: disturbing, satirizing and vilifying who and what we think we are. 512 pages. 13 copies.

Selvon, Samuel – The Lonely Londoners

From the brilliant, sharp, witty pen of Sam Selvon, this is a classic award-winning novel of immigrant life in London in the 1950s. 160 pages. 15 copies

Shamsie, Kamila- HomeFire

'Elegant and evocative ... A powerful exploration of the clash between society, family and faith in the modern world' Guardian

Isma is free. After years spent raising her twin siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she is finally studying in America, resuming a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London – or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream.

Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Handsome and privileged, he inhabits a London worlds away from theirs. As the son of a powerful British Muslim politician, Eamonn has his own birthright to live up to – or defy. Is he to be a chance at love? The means of Parvaiz's salvation? Two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined in this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love?

A contemporary reimagining of Sophocles' Antigone, Home Fire is an urgent, fiercely

compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide – confirming Kamila Shamsie as a master storyteller of our times.

Shannon, Samantha - The Bone Season
EVEN A DREAMER CAN START A REVOLUTION

Nineteen-year-old Paige Mahoney works in the criminal underworld of Scion London. Her job: to scout for information by breaking into people's minds. For Paige is a dreamwalker, a clairvoyant and, in the world of Scion, she commits treason simply by breathing. 452 pages
15 copies

Shriver, Lionel - We Need to Talk about Kevin

Winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2005. It is a tense and psychological novel about parenting. Eva narrates bravely through letters to her estranged husband. Challenging and thought provoking. 468 pages. 15 copies.

Simsion, Graeme - The Rosie Project

Love isn't an exact science - but no one told Don Tillman. A thirty-nine-year-old geneticist, Don's never had a second date. So he devises the Wife Project, a scientific test to find the perfect partner. Enter Rosie - 'the world's most incompatible woman' - throwing Don's safe, ordered life into chaos. But what is this unsettling, alien emotion he's feeling?

"Don Tillman is one of the most endearing, charming and fascinating literary characters I have met in a long time" *The Times*
368 pages 15 copies

Skirth, Ronald- The Reluctant Tommy

In the First World War, Ronald Skirth was an ordinary tommy. His experiences were like those of many others, save in one thing. When Skirth went out into No Man's Land after Passchendaele and saw the dead body of a teenaged German soldier, he resolved that he would never again help to take a human life. Making use of Ronald Skirth's letters and postcards to his sweetheart, Ella, his contemporary journals and the memoir he wrote in his retirement fifty years later, *The Reluctant Tommy* is the fascinating story of a man who stuck by his principles in impossible circumstances. 324 pages. 13 copies.

Skloot, Rebecca - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

She died in 1951, but what happened next changed the world - discover how this ordinary woman's life touches yours every day. 384 pages. 14 copies.

Smith, Ali - How to be both

How to be both is a novel all about art's versatility. Borrowing from painting's fresco technique to make an original literary double-take, it's a fast-moving genre-bending conversation between forms, times, truths and fictions. There's a renaissance artist of the 1460s. There's the child of a child of the 1960s. Two tales of love and injustice twist into a singular yarn where time gets timeless, structural gets playful, knowing gets mysterious, fictional gets real - and all life's givens get given a second chance. 384 pages 15 copies

'Brims with palpable joy' *Daily Telegraph*

'She's a genius, genuinely modern in the heroic, glorious sense' Alain de Botton

'I take my hat off to Ali Smith. Her writing lifts the soul' *Evening Standard*

Smith, Ali - Public Library

Why are books so very powerful?

What do the books we've read over our lives - our own personal libraries - make of us?

What does the unravelling of our tradition of public libraries, so hard-won but now in jeopardy, say about us?

The stories in Ali Smith's new collection are about what we do with books and what they do with us: how they travel with us; how they shock us, change us, challenge us, banish time while making us older, wiser and ageless all at once; how they remind us to pay attention to the world we make.

Smith, Tom Rob - Child 44

Long listed for the man Booker Prize 2008. This gripping thriller is set in Stalin's Soviet Union where mere suspicion of disloyalty to the State, the wrong word at the wrong time, can send an innocent person to his execution. "A perfectly plotted, utterly terrifying adventure" Daily Mail. 473 pages. 15 copies.

Smith, Wilbur - Elephant Song

TV naturalist Dr Daniel Armstrong films the slaughter of an elephant herd in Zimbabwe National Park. In London, anthropologist Kelly Kinnear is forced into a violent confrontation with the shareholders of the most powerful conglomerate in the City of London, warning them of the destruction of an African country. 598 pages. 10 copies.

Solomons, Natasha - Mr Rosenblum's List

A debut novel about Jack Rosenblum and his wife Sadie who are refugees from Nazi Germany. Jack's main aim in life is to become a Very English Gentleman. Join him and his reluctant wife on their journey into the heart of the Dorset countryside as he is determined to fulfil his dream! 325 pages. 14 copies.

Spufford, Frances - Golden Hill (2016)

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

Stedman, M.L. - The Light Between Oceans

Richard and Judy summer bookclub read 2013, Goodreads category winner, and longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2013, stunning story of a lighthouse keeper and his wife who face a life-changing moral dilemma. A boat washes up on the shore of a remote lighthouse keeper's island. It holds a dead man - and a crying baby. The only two islanders, Tom and his wife Izzy, are about to make a devastating decision. They break the rules and follow their hearts. What happens next will break yours. 464 pages
15 copies

Steiner, Susie - Missing, presumed (2016)

A young woman vanishes. A smear of blood in the kitchen of the house she shares with her boyfriend suggests a struggle. As soon as DS Manon Bradshaw sees the photograph of missing Edith Hind - a beautiful Cambridge post-grad from a well-connected family - she knows the case will be big. And she's right: pressure soon mounts from the media and from

on high. Can Manon see clearly enough to solve the mystery of Edith's disappearance? Can she withstand intimidation from Sir Ian Hind, Edith's father, who has friends in high places? And when a body is found, will it mean the end or just the beginning?

'Missing, Presumed is the best [crime novel] I've read in a very long time. It has everything one could ask, and more: it's stylish, witty and compelling; has an infuriating yet likable lead detective; and is also terribly good at skewering contemporary class anxieties and manners'
SARAH PERRY, *Guardian*

'Where Steiner excels is in the depth and clarity with which she depicts her characters. Manon is sad and lonely, estranged from her sister and something of a misanthrope. But she's also funny and clever, and interesting. I defy you not to fall for her' *Thriller of the Month*, *Observer*

Stockett, Kathryn - The Help

Enter a vanished world: Jackson, Mississippi, 1962. Where black maids raise white children but aren't trusted not to steal the silver. "The other side of *Gone with the Wind* - and just as unputdownable" *Sunday Times*. 444 pages. 15 copies.

Swift, Graham - Mothering Sunday (2016)

It is March 30th 1924. It is Mothering Sunday. How will Jane Fairchild, orphan and housemaid, occupy her time when she has no mother to visit? How, shaped by the events of this never to be forgotten day, will her future unfold?

Tan, Twan Eng- The garden of evening mists

In the highlands of Malaya, a woman sets out to build a memorial to her sister, killed at the hands of the Japanese during the brutal Occupation of their country. Yun Ling's quest leads her to The Garden of Evening Mists, and to Aritomo, a man of extraordinary skill and reputation, once the gardener of the Emperor of Japan. When she accepts his offer to become his apprentice, she begins a journey into her past, inextricably linked with the secrets of her troubled country's history. 352 pages. 15 copies

Thorpe, Adam -Missing Fay

A spirited, restless fourteen-year-old, Fay, goes missing from a Lincoln council estate. Is she a runaway, or a victim - another face on a poster gradually fading with time? The story of her last two days before she vanishes is interwoven with the varied lives of six locals - whether aware or unaware of her presence or absence, all touched in life-changing ways.

"This significant return to form by the author of Ulverton is a tour-de-force of depth and nuance, set in and around Lincoln in 2011 and 2012 as a 14 year old girl goes missing from a council estate. The Times

An intricately crafted novel, sharp-eared, current and full of heart." (Guardian, Books of the Year)

Toibin, Colm - The Empty Family

In the captivating stories that make up *The Empty Family* Colm Tóibín delineates with a tender and unique sensibility lives of unspoken or unconscious longing, of individuals, often willingly, cast adrift from their history.

From the young Pakistani immigrant who seeks some kind of permanence in a strange town to the Irish woman reluctantly returning to Dublin and discovering a city that refuses to

acknowledge her long absence each of Tóibín's stories manage to contain whole worlds: stories of fleeing the past and returning home, of family threads lost and ultimately regained.

'Exquisite . . . The chief reason to read these stories is the peculiar power of Colm Tóibín's prose' *Telegraph*

'Astonishingly precise, depicting complex and conflicted states of mind with rare clarity'
Observer

Towles, Amor - A gentleman in Moscow

In 1922 Count Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal. He is sentenced to house arrest in The Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Originally published: United States: Viking, 2016

Tremain, Rose- The Gustav Sonata (2016)

It is the tutor who tells the young Gustav that he must try to be more like a coconut - that he needs a hard shell to protect the softness inside. This is what his native Switzerland has perfected - a shell to protect its neutrality, to keep its people safe. But his beloved friend, Anton, doesn't want to be safe - a gifted pianist, he longs to make his mark on the world outside. On holiday one summer in Davos, the boys stumble across a remote building. Long ago, it was a TB sanatorium; now it is wrecked and derelict. Here, they play a game of life and death, deciding which of their imaginary patients must burn. It becomes their secret. 'The Gustav Sonata' begins in the 1930s, under the shadow of the Second World War, and follows the boys into maturity, and middle age, where their friendship is tested as never before.

This is a perfect novel about life's imperfection... Tremain is writing at the height of her inimitable powers... Remarkable and moving novel." (Kate Kellaway Observer)

"The Gustav Sonata is a magnificent novel, heartbreaking, unsentimental and beautifully written, and it reinforces my opinion that there are few writers out there with the dexterity or emotional intelligence to rival that of the great Rose Tremain." (John Boyne The Irish Times)

*"Beautifully tender and brilliantly written novel... A tale of the most powerful part of any friendship: love. *****" (Stylist)*

Truss, Lynne - Tennyson's gift (2010)

In July 1864, a corner of the Isle of Wight is buzzing with literary and artistic creativity. A morose Tennyson is reciting 'Maud' to empty sofas; the photographer Julia Margaret Cameron is white-washing the roses for visual effect and the mismatched couple, actress Ellen Terry and painter G. F. Watts, are thrown into the company of the remarkable Lorenzo Fowler, the American phrenologist, and his daughter Jessie. Enter mathematician Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), known to Jessie as the 'fiendish pedagogue', and Lynne Truss's wonderfully imaginative cocktail of Victorian seriousness and riotous farce begins to take flight

Tyler, Anne- A spool of blue thread

'It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon...'

This is the way Abby Whitshank always begins the story of how she and Red fell in love that day in July 1959. The whole family on the porch, relaxed, half-listening as their mother tells the same tale they have heard so many times before.

And yet this gathering is different. Abby and Red are getting older, and decisions must be made about how best to look after them and their beloved family home. They've all come, even Denny, who can usually be relied on only to please himself.

From that porch we spool back through three generations of the Whitshanks, witnessing the events, secrets and unguarded moments that have come to define who and what they are. And while all families like to believe they are special, round that kitchen table over all those years we also see played out our own hopes and fears, rivalries and tensions – the essential nature of family life.

"May be her best yet, though, to be honest, this is what I always tend to say after reading the latest Anne Tyler. I've now read it twice, and I may well read it again" (Mail on Sunday Craig Brown)

Vickers, Salley - Dancing Backwards

Violet Hetherington is on a voyage across the Atlantic to meet Edwin, her estranged friend from the distant past. As she journeys across the sea she is carried back to the time when she and Edwin lived together as aspiring poets, until Edwin's closest friend arrived on the scene, bringing discord and havoc, and for Violet a betrayal of her ideals and a flight to safety. 264 pages. 13 copies.

NEW FOR 2019

Volker, Kutscher - Babylon Berlin

Berlin, 1929

When a car is hauled out of the Landwehr Canal with a mutilated corpse inside, Detective Inspector Gereon Rath claims the case. Soon his inquiries drag him ever deeper into the morass of Weimar Berlin's 'Roaring Twenties' underworld of cocaine, prostitution, gunrunning, and shady politics.

544 pages

Von Arnim, Elizabeth - The enchanted April

A notice in The Times addressed to 'Those who Appreciate Wisteria and Sunshine' advertises a 'small mediaeval Italian Castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be let furnished for the month of April'. Four very different women take up the offer, escaping dreary London for the sunshine of Italy. Among the party are Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Arthuthnot, both fleeing unappreciative husbands; beautiful Lady Caroline, sick of being 'grabbed' by lovestruck men; and the imperious Mrs Fisher, who spends her time remembering the bearded 'great men' she knew in her Victorian childhood. By the end of their holiday, all the women will fall completely under the spell of Italy in this funny, insightful and very charming novel. 240 pages

15 copies.

Walters, Louise- Mrs Sinclair's suitcase

Forgive me, Dorothea, for I cannot forgive you. What you do, to this child, to this child's mother, it is wrong...

Roberta likes to collect the letters and postcards she finds in second-hand books. When her father gives her some of her grandmother's belongings, she finds a baffling letter from the grandfather she never knew - dated after he supposedly died in the war.

Dorothy is unhappily married to Albert, who is away at war. When an aeroplane crashes in the field behind her house she meets Squadron Leader Jan Pietrykowski, and as their bond deepens she dares to hope she might find happiness. But fate has other plans for them both, and soon she is hiding a secret so momentous that its shockwaves will touch her granddaughter many years later...

A first novel of great charm and assurance, beautifully told and utterly gripping (The Times)

Waugh, Evelyn - Brideshead Revisited

Brideshead Revisited is Evelyn Waugh's stunning novel of duty and desire set amongst the decadent, faded glory of the English aristocracy in the run-up to the Second World War.

The most nostalgic and reflective of Evelyn Waugh's novels, *Brideshead Revisited* looks back to the golden age before the Second World War. It tells the story of Charles Ryder's infatuation with the Marchmains and the rapidly disappearing world of privilege they inhabit. Enchanted first by Sebastian Flyte at Oxford, then by his doomed Catholic family, in particular his remote sister, Julia, Charles comes finally to recognise his spiritual and social distance from them.

NEW FOR 2019

Westover, Tara - Educated: A memoir (2018)

'A memoir to stand alongside classics by the likes of Jeanette Winterson and Lorna Sage ... a compelling and ultimately joyous account of self-determination' *Sunday Times*

Tara Westover grew up preparing for the End of Days, watching for the sun to darken, for the moon to drip as if with blood. She spent her summers bottling peaches and her winters rotating emergency supplies, hoping that when the World of Men failed, her family would continue on, unaffected.

She hadn't been registered for a birth certificate. She had no school records because she'd never set foot in a classroom, and no medical records because her father didn't believe in doctors or hospitals. According to the state and federal government, she didn't exist.

As she grew older, her father became more radical, and her brother, more violent. At sixteen Tara decided to educate herself. Her struggle for knowledge would take her far from her Idaho mountains, over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd travelled too far. If there was still a way home.

EDUCATED is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes with the severing of the closest of ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, from her singular experience Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.

Wilde, Oscar - De Profundis (including The Ballad of Reading Gaol)

De Profundis is Wilde's eloquent and bitter reproach from prison to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas. He contrasts his behaviour with that of his close friend Robert Ross who became Wilde's literary executor.

The Ballad of Reading Gaol is a deeply moving and characteristically generous poem on the horrors of prison life, which was published anonymously in 1898.

This collection also includes the essay *The Soul of Man under Socialism* and two of his Platonic dialogues, *The Decay of Lying* and *The Critic as Artist*.

296 pages

Wingett, Matt - The Snow Witch

A Portsmouth Novel

A woman on the run arrives in a British seaside town, a refugee from a horrifying past. Trapped by a freak blizzard, she finds unexpected kindness from the locals - except for one man who seems hellbent on possessing or destroying her. Unable to leave the icebound city, she is drawn into the lives of its people, whose stories force her to face her own cruel past.

What is she running from? What dark secret does she carry with her? - And how can she escape it if she won't acknowledge it exists?

The *Snow Witch* is a tale of loss, love, murder, obsession and witchcraft, rich in magical scenes that delight, horrify and intrigue.

'A haunted and haunting book, infused with humanity at its rawest.' - Andy Paciorek, Folk Horror Revival

'...weaves folklore and magic in such a natural way, as to make you believe and want magic like this in your everyday life...' - Grainne Rhuad, Subversify.com

Winman, Sarah – When God Was A Rabbit

Winman's fictional debut, spanning the late 1960s and early 2000s, boasts one of the more endearingly unconventional families in a while. A book about childhood and growing up, and love in all its forms. 339 pages. 15 copies.

Winspear, Jacqueline - Maisie Dobbs

Introducing the extraordinary Maisie Dobbs, private investigator in 1920s London. Her first case combines a gripping investigation with a moving portrait of love and war. It marks the beginning of a wonderful new detective series. 311 pages. 15 copies

Winterson, Jeanette - Oranges are Not the Only Fruit

Innovative in style, its humour by turns punchy and tender, this novel looks at religious excess and human obsession, but it is also a love story. 171 pages. 13 copies.

Worsley, Kate - She Rises

1740 Essex: a girl venturing into uncharted territory; a young man whose world is turned upside down; a secret hidden in the shadows. . . Shortlisted for the Portsmouth First Fiction Award 2013. 421 pages. 15 copies.

Zusak, Marcus - The Book Thief

1939 Nazi Germany. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall. "Brilliant and hugely ambitious" -The New York Times. 554 pages. 15 copies.

