

NEW FICTION WINTER 2017

Alderson, Maggie

The Scent of You

Perfume blogger Polly is in crisis. Will her husband's absence break her or make her? Are you still married if you haven't seen your husband for months? Polly's life is great. Her children are away at university, her glamorous mother still modelling at eighty five is happily settled in a retirement village, and her perfume blog is taking off. Then her husband announces he needs some space and promptly vanishes. While Polly grapples with her bewildering situation, she clings to a few new friends to keep her going. Shirlee, the loudmouthed yoga student; Guy, the mysterious, infuriating and hugely talented perfumer; and Edward, an old flame from university. While she distracts herself with the heady world of luxury perfume, Polly knows she can't keep reality at bay forever. Eventually she is forced to confront some difficult truths: about her husband, herself and who she really wants to be.

Alexander, Tasha

A Terrible Beauty

Series: Emily Ashton, book 11. On a quest to distract her lifelong friend Jeremy from his recent heartbreak, Lady Emily organizes a holiday in Greece. As a lover of all things Greek, she quickly finds herself occupied with tours of ancient ruins, lively debates with Margaret, a devoted Latinist, and slightly more scandalous endeavours with her dashing husband, Colin Hargreaves. The pleasantries are brought to an abrupt halt when a man long believed dead greets the party at their island villa. Lord Philip Ashton, Colin's childhood best friend and Emily's first husband, has returned. How can Philip really be who he claims, even if he has the scars and stories to prove it? Where has he been for all this time? Will his undying love for Emily drive him to claim what's his? Intrigue mounts as Philip reveals that he has been plagued for the past few years by an illegal antiques trader who believes he is in possession of a piece of Achilles' helmet, a priceless relic that was stolen from him moments after he unearthed it on an archaeological dig. Emily must employ all of her cunning and expertise to thwart thieves who threaten not only her own safety, but that of those precious artefacts she holds so dear. A trail of overheard conversations, murderous assailants, and dead bodies leads her on a chase to uncover more than one buried truth.

Andrews, Virginia

The Mirror Sisters

Alike in every single way with one dark exception. As identical twins, their mother insists that everything about them be identical: their clothes, their toys, their friends the number of letters in their names, Haylee Blossom Fitzgerald and Kaylee Blossom Fitzgerald. If one gets a hug, the other must too. If one gets punished, the other must be too. Home schooled at an early age, when the girls attend a real high school they find little ways to highlight the differences between them. When Haylee runs headfirst into the dating scene, both sisters are thrust into a world their mother never prepared them for causing one twin to pursue the ultimate independence. The one difference between the two girls may spell the difference between life and a fate worse than death.

Baxter, Stephen

The Massacre of Mankind

Series: War of the worlds, book 2. It has been 14 years since the Martians invaded England. The world has moved on, always watching the skies but content that we know how to defeat the Martian menace. Machinery looted from the abandoned capsules and war machines has led to technological leaps forward. The Martians are vulnerable to earth germs. The Army is prepared. So when the signs of launches on Mars are seen, there seems little reason to worry. Unless you listen to one man, Walter Jenkins, the narrator of Wells' book. He is sure that the Martians have learned, adapted, and understood their defeat. He is right, thrust into the chaos of a new invasion, a journalist and sister-in-law to Walter Jenkins must survive, escape and report on the war. The Massacre of Mankind has begun.

Beasley, Richard

Cyanide Games

Series: Peter Tanner, book 1. How far would you go to save a friend? When Melissa Cheung's husband is arrested in China for corruption, her first call is to Peter Tanner. A criminal defence barrister, Tanner often crosses paths with some of the most evil but wealthy members of the nation's underbelly. Melissa's phone call takes Tanner away from drug dealers and crooked property developers into the highest end of corporate corruption mining companies trying to cover up environmental disasters and families at the top of the rich list who think they're above the law. While he pursues those who had Cheung incarcerated, Tanner unearths cover up after cover up, putting his life and those of others in danger as he tries to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Birch, Carol

Orphans of the Carnival

Pronounced by the most eminent physician of the day to be "a true hybrid wherein the nature of woman presides over that of the brute," Julia Pastrana stood apart from the other carnival acts. She was fluent in English, French and Spanish, an accomplished musician with an exquisite singing voice, equally at ease riding horseback and turning pirouettes but all anyone noticed was her utterly unusual face. Alternately vilified and celebrated, Julia toured through New Orleans, New York, London, Berlin, Vienna, and Moscow, often hob knobbing with high society as she made her fame and fortune. Beneath the flashy lights and thunderous applause lies a bright, compassionate young woman who only wants people to see beyond her hairy visage and perhaps, the chance for love. When Julia visits a mysterious shaman in the back alleys of New Orleans, he gives her a potion and says that she'll find a man within the year. Sure enough, Julia soon meets Theodore Lent, a boyishly charming showman who catapults Julia onto the global stage. As they travel the world, the two fall into an easy intimacy, but the question of whether Theo truly cares for Julia or if his management is just a gentler form of exploitation lingers heavily with every kind word and soft embrace.

Briggs, Patricia

Silence Fallen

Series: Mercedes Thompson, book 10. Attacked and abducted in her home territory, Mercy finds herself in the clutches of the most powerful vampire in the world, taken as a weapon to use against alpha werewolf Adam and the ruler of the Tri-Cities vampires. In coyote form, Mercy escapes only to find herself without money, without clothing, and alone in the heart of Europe. Unable to contact Adam and the rest of the pack, Mercy has allies to find and enemies to fight, and she needs to figure out which is which. Ancient powers stir, and Mercy must be her agile best to avoid causing a war between vampires and werewolves, and between werewolves and werewolves and in the heart of the ancient city of Prague, old ghosts rise.

Burt, Alexandra

Little Girl Gone

A baby goes missing but does her mother want her back? When Estelle's baby daughter is taken from her cot, she doesn't report her missing. Days later, Estelle is found in a wrecked car, with a wound to her head and no memory. Estelle knows she holds the key to what happened that night but what she doesn't know is whether she was responsible.

Burton, Mary

The Doll Maker

Series: Forgotten files, book 2. Dr. Tessa McGowan had never seen anything quite like it. The mutilated bodies on her exam table tell a stunningly macabre tale: someone with a twisted mind is kidnapping women and altering their faces to resemble real, life size dolls. As a forensic pathologist, it's her job to aid the agent leading the case even if that agent is her estranged husband. Twelve years ago an unspeakable tragedy destroyed Dakota Sharp's world. Haunted by the ghosts of his past, he's devoted himself to capturing killers. His only regret is that it cost him Tessa. Now, as the Doll maker case brings them together and raises his suspicions that he's crossed paths with this deranged psychopath before they may just have their second chance. However it seems Dakota's not the only one who wants to make Tessa his own. Cont'd...

...She may be the Dollmaker's next target, but Tessa has no intention of winding up as another toy on his shelf. Can she and Dakota stop this ghastly killer before his next deadly playdate?

Caan, Alex

Cut to the Bone

Series: DCI Kate Riley and Zain Harris, book 1. One Missing Girl. Two Million Suspects.

Ruby is a vlogger, a rising star of YouTube and a heroine to millions of teenage girls and she's missing. She's an adult nothing to worry about, surely? Until the video's uploaded with Ruby, in the dirt, pleading for her life. Enter Detective Inspector Kate Riley; the Met's rising star and the head of a new team of investigators with the best resources money can buy. Among them, Detective Sergeant Zain Harris, the poster boy for multiracial policing but can Kate wholly trust him and more importantly, can she trust herself around him? While hysteria builds amongst the press and Ruby's millions of fans, Kate and her team are under pressure to get results, and fast, but as they soon discover, the world of YouTube vloggers and social media is much darker than anyone could have imagined and the videos keep coming.

Carnevale, Vanessa

The Florentine Bridge

Young Australian artist Mia Moretti has been cancer free for nine months. Her battle with the illness has taken its toll, leaving her depressed and tormented by overwhelming fears. What's more, she can't seem to paint anymore. Mia needs a fresh start so when a surprise opportunity to travel to Tuscany presents itself, she takes it. With any luck, this trip will help her find whatever it is she needs to open her heart and start painting again. What she doesn't count on is meeting Luca, a handsome Italian mechanic. With his smile, his warmth and his inspirational outlook on all the good things life has to offer, he sweeps her off her feet. As Mia slowly lets down her walls and allows Luca in, her passion for life is reignited and her new perspective begins to inspire her art. But just when she's ready to let go of her past, will a tragedy threaten her new life with Luca?

Church, Elizabeth J.

The Atomic Weight of Love

In 1941, at seventeen years old, Meridian begins her ornithology studies at the University of Chicago. She is soon drawn to Alden Whetstone, a brilliant, complicated physics professor who opens her eyes to the fundamentals and poetry of his field, the beauty of motion, space and time, the delicate balance of force and energy that allows a bird to fly. Entranced and in love, Meridian defers her own career path and follows Alden west to Los Alamos, where he is engaged in a secret government project (later known to be the atomic bomb). In married life, though, she feels lost and left behind. She channels her academic ambitions into studying a particular family of crows, whose free life and companionship are the very things that seem beyond her reach. There in her canyons, years later at the dawn of the 1970s, with counterculture youth filling the streets and protests against the war rupturing college campuses across the country, Meridian meets Clay, a young geologist and veteran of the Vietnam War, and together they seek ways to mend what the world has broken.

Clarkson, Rebekah

Barking Dogs

Everybody thinks they know this story but do they really? If you took a bird's eye view of Mount Barker, you'd see ordinary Australians living on their ordinary suburban blocks in an ordinary regional town. Get closer, peer through a window; you might see Nathan Long, obsessively recording the incessant bark of a neighbourhood dog, or the Wheeler family sitting down for a meal and trying to come to terms with a shocking discovery. If you listen, you may hear tales of fathers and their wayward sons, of widows who can't forgive themselves, of children longed for and lost, of thwarted lust and of pure, incorruptible love. Within the shadows is an unspeakable crime. Rebekah Clarkson has created a compelling, slow burning portrait of a town in the midst of major change as it makes the painful transformation from rural idyll to aspirational suburbia. What looked like redemption is now profound loss. What seemed spiteful can now be forgiven.

Cleeves, Ann

Raven Black

Series: Shetland Island mystery, book 1. It is a cold January morning and Shetland lies buried beneath a deep layer of snow. Trudging home, Fran Hunter's eye is drawn to a vivid splash of colour on the white ground, ravens circling above. It is the strangled body of her teenage neighbour Catherine Ross. Fran opens her mouth to scream, the ravens continue their deadly dance. The locals on the quiet island stubbornly focus their gaze on a loner and simpleton Magnus Tait. However when police insist on opening out the investigation a veil of suspicion and fear is thrown over the entire community. For the first time in years, Catherine's neighbours nervously lock their doors, whilst a killer lives on in their midst.

Colgan, Jenny

The Summer Seaside Kitchen

Flora is definitely, absolutely sure that escaping from the quiet Scottish island where she grew up to the noise and hustle of the big city was the right choice. What was there for her on Mure? It's a place where everyone has known her all her life, and no one will let her forget the past. In the city, she can be anonymous, ambitious and indulge herself in her hopeless crush on her gorgeous boss, Joel. When a new client demands Flora's presence back on Mure, she's suddenly swept back into life with her brothers. The brothers are all strapping, loud and seemingly incapable of basic housework and her father. While Flora indulges her new found love of cooking and breathes life into the dusty little pink fronted shop on the harbour, she's also going to have to come to terms with past mistakes and work out exactly where her future lies.

Costello, Jane

Summer Nights at the Moonlight Hotel

Learn to dance at The Moonlight Hotel, in the most romantic place in Britain, beginners and singles welcome. The Moonlight Hotel sits on the shore of England's best loved lake, Windermere, exuding vintage glamour. Lauren loves the hotel, for hidden inside its faded walls is the key to her most precious memories. So, along with her best friends, Cate and Emily, she signs up to a new dance class in its gorgeous ballroom. They aren't going for the men, they're going for a laugh although a little romance wouldn't hurt. Then a chain of events off the dance floor puts their friendship to the ultimate test, and makes Lauren question everything she holds dear.

Costeloe, Diney

The Sisters of St Croix

When Adelaide Anson-Gravetty finds out her father is not the man who raised her, she is both shocked and intrigued. Determined to find out more about her new family, she travels to the convent of Our Lady of Mercy in France to meet her aunt, the Reverend Mother. When France falls to the German army, Adelaide and the nuns are soon in the thick of a war that threatens both their beliefs and their lives. Collaborating with the Resistance, sheltering Jewish orphans, defying the rulings of Vichy France: these are dangerous activities in dangerous times. These courageous women must give all they've got in order to protect the innocent from the evil menace of the Nazi war machine.

Cox, Josephine

A Family Secret

Sometimes you just need the courage to tell the truth. Although she's surrounded by a loving family, Marie feels lost: living with a lie can be very lonely. Marie has been carrying a secret for years, one that could ruin the lives of those she loves most, and the guilt she feels weighs heavily. Her granddaughter, Cathy, is a most cheerful young woman, and in the first flush of love. The secret Marie is about to tell her will not only change her future but rewrite her past. Cathy now has a dangerous choice to make that could change her life forever. For as far as everyone can see Cathy's future sister-in-law, Beth, has a happy life and a good marriage, but she's heartbreakingly sad. One day, perhaps she'll be brave enough to speak out and run away. Secrets at the heart of a family can last a lifetime but it's the love of a family that can set you free.

Cussler, Clive & Scott, Justin The Cutthroat

Series: Isaac Bell, book 10. The year is 1911. Chief Investigator Isaac Bell of the Van Dorn Detective Agency has had many extraordinary cases before but none quite like this. Hired to find a young woman named Anna Pape who ran away from home to become an actress, Bell gets a shock when her murdered body turns up instead. Vowing to bring the killer to justice, he begins a manhunt which leads him into increasingly more alarming territory. Anna Pape was not alone in her fate petite young blond women like Anna are being murdered in cities across America. The pattern goes beyond the physical resemblance of the victims there are disturbing familiarities about the killings themselves that send a chill through even a man as experienced with evil as Bell. If he is right about his fears, then he is on the trail of one of the greatest monsters of his time.

Davidson, Mary Janice Deja Who

Series: Insighter, book 1. You couldn't arrest for murder someone who had killed in his last life. You couldn't bring a civil suit against such people, either. They could only be legally penalized for what they did this time around and what a dark circus the legal system had been before that legislation passed! It was still a dark circus, but perhaps not as dark but you could spot them, and watch them. You could set traps for them. Leah Nazir is an Insighter. Reincarnation is her business. While her clients' pasts are a mess, Leah's is nothing short of tragedy. She's been murdered a lot. If left to that bitch, destiny, it'll happen again. Leah wants to know who's been following her through time, and who's been stalking her in the present. P.I. Archer Drake has been hired by Leah's mother to keep an eye on her. However the more time he spends watching, the more he finds himself infatuated. Before long, he even finds himself agreeing to help find the person who wants her dead over and over again. Now going full on "rewind," Leah hopes it can stave off the inevitable. After all, she's grown fond of this life and even fonder of nerdy Archer. However changing her pattern means finding out who her killer is today and as Leah fears, that could be anyone she has come to know and trust; anyone.

Donlea, Charlie The Girl Who Was Taken

Megan McDonald is a high school senior when she disappears from the small town of Emerson Bay. Miraculously, after two weeks held captive, she escapes from a bunker hidden deep in the woods. Now, one year on, Megan is a national celebrity thanks to her bestselling book, Missing. It's an inspiring story except for one inconvenient detail. There was a second girl who was taken, her classmate Nicole Cutty. Livia Cutty is a forensic pathologist. Every time a Jane Doe arrives at the morgue she wonders if it's her missing sister. However it's the body of a young man, an apparent suicide, who finally offers the first clue to Nicole's fate. So Livia reaches out to Megan for help however Megan knows more than she's revealed. Flashes of memory are coming together and they are pointing to something darker and more monstrous than anything her chilling memoir describes.

Downer, Lesley The Shogun's Queen

Only one woman can save her world from barbarian invasion but to do so will mean sacrificing everything she holds dear love, loyalty and maybe life itself. Japan, 1853, growing up among the samurai of the Satsuma Clan, in Japan's deep south, the fiery, beautiful and headstrong Okatsu has like all the clan's women been encouraged to be bold, taught to wield the halberd, and to ride a horse. When she is just seventeen, four black ships appear. Bristling with cannon and manned by strangers who to the Japanese eyes are barbarians, their appearance threatens Japan's very existence and turns Okatsu's world upside down. Chosen by her feudal lord, she has been given a very special role to play. Given a new name Princess Atsu and a new destiny, she is the only one who can save the realm. Her journey takes her to Edo Castle, a place so secret that it cannot be marked on any map. There, sequestered in the Women's Palace home to three thousand women, and where only one man may enter: the shogun, she seems doomed to live out her days. However beneath the palace's immaculate facade, there are whispers of murders and ghosts. It is here that Atsu must complete her mission and discover one last secret the secret of the man whose fate is irrevocably linked to hers: the shogun himself.

Duffy, Maria

Falling Softly

Holly Russo couldn't be happier, Christmas, her favourite time of year, is only seven weeks away and her boyfriend has just popped the question. David is steady and reliable, and Holly knows he'll give her a wonderful life. The kind of life she's always wanted; right? Then her new neighbour moves in. Josh O'Toole is also approaching the festive season with joy. He loves his teaching job. He's about to have a baby with his adored girlfriend Stephanie, and they've just moved into a new home to begin their life as a family. But as Josh and Stephanie settle into their new house across the road from Holly and David's, things begin to get complicated.

Ellis, Kate

The Mermaid's Scream

Series: Wesley Peterson, book 21. Why did Wynn Staniland, a legend in the literary world, suddenly become a recluse in the 1980s? Most assumed he stopped writing because of his wife's bizarre suicide; a death that mirrored a murder case from the nineteenth century. Now a promising young author called Zac Wilkinson is working on Staniland's biography and hopes to reveal the true story to a waiting world while at the same time keeping his own troubled past hidden from public view. When Wilkinson is found brutally murdered, DI Wesley Peterson finds links to the unexplained poisoning of a middle aged couple at a local caravan park and Wynn Staniland appears to be the connection. While Wesley delves further into the case he suspects a sinister puppet show might provide the solution: a grim re-enactment of the murder of Mary Field, a cause celebre from the reign of Queen Victoria that inspired Staniland's best known novel. The case becomes personal for Wesley when he discovers his son is involved, and as he begins to unravel decades of secrets and deception, the shocking truth proves almost too much to bear

Fenwick, Liz

The Returning Tide

In wartime Cornwall, 1943, a story between two sisters begins the story of Adele and Amelia, and the heart breaking betrayal that will divide them forever. Decades later, the effects of one reckless act still echo but how long will it be until their past returns?

Fforde, Katie

A Secret Garden

Lorna is a talented gardener and Philly is a plants woman. Together they work in the grounds of a beautiful manor house in the Cotswolds. They enjoy their jobs and are surrounded by family and friends but for them both the door to true love remains resolutely closed. So when Lorna is introduced to Jack at a dinner party and Lucien catches Philly's eye at the local farmers market, it seems that dreams really can come true and happy endings lie just around the corner but do they? Troublesome parents, the unexpected arrival of someone from Lorna's past, and the discovery of an old and secret garden mean their lives are about to become a lot more complicated.

Fortin, Sue

The Girl Who Lied

Sometimes the perfect friend tells the perfect lies. Erin and Roisin were once friends until a fatal accident ruined both their lives. Now, Roisin has discovered a secret one Erin has kept for over a decade and she's determined to make Erin pay for her lies. When Roisin suddenly disappears, suspicion soon lands on Erin. She would do anything to protect her family, but just how far is she willing to go when time is running out?

Francis, David

Wedding Bush Road

When Daniel, a young Australian lawyer based in Los Angeles, is called back to his family's farm, he has to contend not only with a philandering father and a sick mother, but also the burden of memory. He arrives in the heat of his parents' conflict with Sharen sometime tenant and his father's ex-lover who is now squatting on family land. While Daniel is increasingly drawn to Sharen, tensions spark events that will change them all.

Freeman, Kimberley

Stars Across the Ocean

1874, only days before she is to leave the foundling home where she grew up, Agnes Resolute discovers that, as a baby, she had been abandoned with a small token of her mother: a unicorn button. Agnes always believed her mother had been too poor to keep her, but after working as a laundress in the home she recognises the button as belonging to Genevieve Breckby, the beautiful and headstrong daughter of a local noble family. Agnes had seen Genevieve once, in the local village, and had never forgotten her. Despite having no money, Agnes will risk everything in a quest that will take her from the bleak moors of northern England to the harsh streets of London, then on to Paris and Ceylon. While Agnes follows her mother's trail, she makes choices that could cost her dearly. Finally, in Australia, she tracks Genevieve down but is Genevieve capable of being the mother Agnes hopes she will be?

Gaiman, Neil

American Gods

If you are to survive, you must believe. Shadow Moon has served his time but hours before his release from prison, his beloved wife is killed in a freak accident. Dazed, he boards a plane home where he meets the enigmatic Mr Wednesday, who professes both to know Shadow and to be King of America. Together they embark on a profoundly strange road trip across the USA, encountering a kaleidoscopic cast of characters along the way. Yet all around them a storm threatens to break. The war has already begun, an epic struggle for the very soul of America, and Shadow is standing squarely in its path.

Griffiths, Elly

The Chalk Pit

Series: Dr Ruth Galloway, book 9. Boiled human bones have been found in Norwich's web of underground tunnels. When Dr Ruth Galloway discovers they were recently buried, DCI Nelson has a murder enquiry on his hands. The boiling might have been just a medieval curiosity now it suggests a much more sinister purpose. Meanwhile, DS Judy Johnson is investigating the disappearance of a local rough sleeper. The only trace of her is the rumour that she's gone 'underground'. This might be a figure of speech, but with the discovery of the bones and the rumours both Ruth and the police have heard that the network of old chalk mining tunnels under Norwich is home to a vast community of rough sleepers, the clues point in only one direction. Local academic Martin Kellerman knows all about the tunnels and their history but can his assertions of cannibalism and ritual killing possibly be true? While the weather gets hotter, tensions rise. A local woman goes missing and the police are under attack. Ruth and Nelson must unravel the dark troubles of the underground and discover just what gruesome secrets lurk at its heart before it claims another victim.

Harding, Traci

The Immortal Bind

The adventure of a lifetime or two, or three: when Sara is gifted a beautiful antique chair as a wedding present, she is completely unaware that it is one of a unique pair. On the other side of the world, the chair's twin is presented to a reclusive artist, Jon, as a birthday gift. The two new owners are thrust into a mind expanding adventure through the ages medieval East Anglia, Scotland, France and India. In each instance they experience significant junctions in their lives past; to remember and redress ripples of karma they set in motion, and thwart an evil entity that still threatens their present day lives. Their journey exposes a cursed love affair spanning one thousand years and ten thousand miles. Only the full realisation of their own short comings will prevent the tragic reoccurring outcome of their immortal bind.

Hay, Ashley

A Hundred Small Lessons

When Elsie Gormley falls and is forced to leave her Brisbane home of sixty two years, Lucy Kiss and her family move in, with their new life, new house, new city, new baby. Lucy and her husband Ben are struggling to transform from adventurous lovers to new parents and seek to smooth the rough edges of their present with memories of their past as they try to discover their future selves. In her nearby nursing home, Elsie revisits the span of her life the moments she can't bear Cont'd...

...to let go; the haunts to which she might yet return. Her memories of marriage, motherhood, love and death are intertwined with her old house, whose rooms seem to breathe Elsie's secrets into Lucy. Through one hot, wet Brisbane summer, seven lives and two different slices of time wind along with the flow of the river, as two families chart the ways in which we come, sudden and oblivious, into each other's stories, and the unexpected ripples that flow out from those chance encounters.

Heathcote, Elizabeth

Undertow

Carmen is happily married to Tom, a successful London lawyer and divorcé with three children. She is content to absorb the stresses of being a stepmother to teenagers and the stain of 'second wife'. She knows she'll always live in the shadow of another woman not Tom's first wife Laura, who is resolutely polite and determinedly respectable, but the lover that ended his first marriage: Zena. Zena was shockingly beautiful and drowned swimming late one night. Carmen can overlook her husband's dead mistress until she starts to suspect that he might have been the person who killed her.

Higgins, Kristan

On Second Thought

Ainsley O'Leary is so ready to get married she's even found the engagement ring her boyfriend has stashed away. What she doesn't anticipate is being blindsided by a breakup he chronicles in a blog which of course goes viral. Devastated and humiliated, Ainsley turns to her older half sister, Kate, who's struggling with a sudden loss of her own. Kate's always been the poised, self assured sister, but becoming a newlywed and a widow in the space of four months overwhelms her. Though the sisters were never close, she starts to confide in Ainsley, especially when she learns her late husband was keeping a secret from her. Despite the murky blended family dynamic that's always separated them, Ainsley's and Kate's heartaches bind their summer together when they come to terms with the inevitable imperfection of relationships and family and the possibility of one day finding love again.

Hills, Lia

The Crying Place

After years of travelling, Saul is trying to settle down. But one night he receives the devastating news of the death of his oldest friend, Jed, recently returned from working in a remote Aboriginal community. Saul's discovery in Jed's belongings of a photo of a woman convinces him that she may hold the answers to Jed's fate. So he heads out on a journey into the heart of the Australian desert to find the truth, setting in motion a powerful story about the landscapes that shape us and the ghosts that lay their claim.

Hill, Melissa

The Love of a Lifetime

Hollywood movies are Beth's passion. She hopes her life will always be filled with 'movie moments', where things like serendipity and fate happen every day. Her boyfriend Danny has always been the embodiment of her perfect Hollywood hero though after seven years together the initial silver screen romance has settled into something more predictable. Then, one morning at work, Beth receives an anonymous delivery of a takeout coffee cup with a cryptic message suggesting a meeting at Tiffany's. From there, she is given a series of clues directing her to some of NYC's most popular landmarks a treasure hunt using unique rom-com related prompts perfect for a movie lover like Beth to decipher. Beth is forced to wonder: has Danny realised their relationship needs a boost or could it be that charming new work colleague Ryan, with his intense gaze, flirtatious smile and almost encyclopaedic movie knowledge. Does he want to sweep her off her feet? And how would she feel about taking a chance on a new leading man in her life?

Janu, Penelope

In at the Deep End

What woman doesn't love a real life hero? Harriet Scott, for one. The fiercely independent daughter of famous adventurers, she grew up travelling the world on the environmental flagship: The Watch. So when Harriet's ship sinks in Antarctica and she has to be rescued by Cont'd...

...Commander Per Amundsen, an infuriatingly capable Norwegian naval officer and living breathing action hero, her world is turned upside down. Like their namesakes, the original Scott and Amundsen who competed to reach the South Pole first, Per and Harriet have different ways of doing things. Per thinks Harriet is an accident waiting to happen; Harriet thinks Per is a control freak. When Harriet realises that Per is the only one who can help her fund the new ship she desperately wants, she is forced to cooperate with him. Per refuses to assist unless Harriet allows him to teach her to swim but there is more to Harriet's terrible fear of water than meets the eye. Can Harriet face her fears and come to terms with the trauma and loss of her past? Will she begin to appreciate that some risks are well worth taking and that polar opposites can, in fact, attract?

Jardine, Quintin

Game Over

Series: Bob Skinner Mystery, book 27. When supermodel Annette Bordeaux is found battered and strangled in her Edinburgh flat, former Chief Constable Bob Skinner's old team instantly have a global case on their hands. The victim's husband, world renowned footballer and recent Merrytown FC signing, is quickly discounted as a suspect. However there are others in the club with less watertight alibis. Two years out of the game, Skinner can't help getting his hands dirty. His old team work to convict the prime suspect, his own daughter, Alex, is the lawyer tasked with leading the defence. The opposing sides must work to find the culprit while the press watch on. In this game, no one can be trusted, and there are murkier deeds still to uncover before the final whistle blows.

Karoline, Anna

Savage Congress

Series: Amanda Paller, book 1. Adnan is fresh out of jail and deep in debt, and needs someone to trust. Magnus is an unorthodox DSI with ambitions to clean up the streets and maintain his position of power. Amanda is a rookie cop willing to sacrifice everything in order to find out the truth. In this thriller, three characters straddle the line between right and wrong as their fates are intricately and skilfully interwoven.

Keneally, Meg & Keneally Tom The Unmourned

Series: Monsarrat, book 2. For Robert Church, superintendent of the Parramatta Female Factory, the most enjoyable part of his job is access to young convict women. Inmate Grace O'Leary has made it her mission to protect the women from his nocturnal visits and when Church is murdered with an awl thrust through his right eye, she becomes the chief suspect. Recently arrived from Port Macquarie, ticket of leave gentleman convict Hugh Monsarrat now lives in Parramatta with his ever loyal housekeeper Mrs Mulrooney. Monsarrat, as an unofficial advisor on criminal and legal matters to the governor's secretary, is charged with uncovering the truth of Church's murder. Mrs Mulrooney accompanies him to the Female Factory, where he is taking depositions from prisoners, including Grace, and there the housekeeper strikes up friendships with certain women, which prove most intriguing. Monsarrat and Mrs Mulrooney both believe that Grace is innocent, but in this they are alone, so to exonerate her they must find the murderer. Many hated Church and are relieved by his death, but who would go as far as killing him?

Kostova, Elizabeth

The Shadow Land

Alexandra Boyd has travelled to Bulgaria hoping to salve the wounds left by the loss of her beloved brother. However a luggage mix up soon after she arrives finds her holding an urn filled with human ashes. While Alexandra sets out to return the precious item to its owners she finds ever more obstacles in her path, even as her determination grows greater and the mystery behind the significance of the urn deepens. Soon she will realise that this object is tied to the very darkest moments in the nation's history, and that the stakes behind seeing it safely returned are higher than she could ever have imagined.

Leather, Stephen

Takedown

When a British Special Forces soldier goes rogue, carrying out an attack at a US army base in Syria leading to the death of two men, ex-MI5 controller Charlotte Button is hired to take him down. Charlotte puts her best man on the case, hitman Lex Harper. It's up to Lex to assemble a crack team and get to the soldier before he carries out what could be a massive terrorist attack. However Charlotte might require Lex's help with a more personal problem too. Ex-MI5, Charlotte holds information on thousands of the agency's dirty operations, and keeps a store of those secrets in three flash drives hidden in separate safety deposit vaults. Now someone is taking extraordinary measures to recover the secrets through Hatton Garden style robberies. So far two vaults have been raided, and two flash drives have gone. If the third is stolen, Charlotte's life will be in jeopardy. While it's down to Lex to prevent a potential terrorist attack on British soil, Charlotte must work out who is after her and what they want.

Linfoot, Jane

The Little Wedding Shop by the Sea

Series: The little wedding shop by the sea, book 1. The snow is falling around Brides by the Sea, Cornwall's cutest little wedding shop, and wedding dress designer Seraphina East is in her cosy studio designing exquisite dresses to make even the most demanding bride's dreams come true. Unless the bride is her big sister Alice of course. Saying that the two sisters don't always see eye to eye is an understatement. Alice hasn't even asked Sera to design her wedding dress. However when an absent groom and ill fitting dress threaten to ruin Alice's happiness let alone her big day, Sera's determined to give her sister the winter wedding of her dreams even if that means keeping not one but two irresistibly gorgeous best men under control. Is Sera going to end up being the maid of dishonor. Or will repairing her frozen relationship with Alice be the icing on the wedding cake?

McCarthy, Morgan

The House of Birds

Oliver has spent years trying to convince himself that he's suited to a life of money making in the city, and that he doesn't miss a childhood spent in pursuit of mystery, when he cycled around the cobbled lanes of Oxford, exploring its most intriguing corners. When his girlfriend Kate inherits a derelict house and a fierce family feud she's determined to strip it, sell it and move on. For Oliver though, the house has an allure, and amongst the shelves of discarded, leather bound and gilded volumes, he discovers one that conceals a hidden diary from the 1920s. So begins a quest: to discover the identity of the author, Sophia Louis. It is a portrait of war and marriage, isolation and longing and a story that will shape the future of the abandoned house and of Oliver forever.

Mackenzie, A.J.

The Body on the Doorstep

Series: Romney Marsh mysteries, book 1. Kent, 1796, shocked to discover a dying man on his doorstep and lucky to avoid a bullet himself Reverend Hardcastle finds himself entrusted with the victim's cryptic last words. With smuggling rife on England's south east coast, the obvious conclusion is that this was a falling out among thieves but why is the leader of the local Customs service so reluctant to investigate? Aply assisted by the ingenious Mrs Chaytor, Hardcastle sets out to solve the mystery for himself. However smugglers are not the only ones to lurk off the Kent coast, and the more he discovers, the more he realises he might have bitten off more than he can chew.

Marsons, Angela

Evil Games

Series: Evil Games, book 2. When a rapist is found mutilated in a brutal attack, Detective Kim Stone and her team are called in to bring a swift resolution. However more vengeful killings come to light and it soon becomes clear that there is someone far more sinister at work. With the investigation quickly gathering momentum, Kim finds herself exposed to great danger and in the sights of a lethal individual undertaking their own twisted experiment. Up against a sociopath who seems to know her every weakness, for Detective Stone, each move she makes Cont'd...

...could be deadly. As the body count starts to mount, Kim will have to dig deeper than ever before to stop the killing and this time it's personal.

Masterton, Graham

Dead Girls Dancing

Series: Katie Maguire, book 8. In the middle of Cork, in the middle of the day, a fire blazes in a local dance studio. Thirteen women, all promising stars, die in the flames. Their young lives cut short by a tragic accident. However where others see tragedy, DCI Katie Maguire sees murder. This is not the first fire to sweep through Cork and in one previous case, the victims were dead before the fire was started. While Katie Maguire investigates the strange, obsessive world of competitive Irish folk dancing, she must face her most chilling killer yet.

Meier, Leslie

British Manor Murder

Series: Lucy Stone, book 23. Although Perry, the earl of the house, and his sister, Poppy, are surprisingly accommodating to their jetlagged guests, Lucy feels uneasy after a fallen portrait sparks talk of a deadly family omen. The bad vibes come in quickly snobby Aunt Millicent and her handmaiden Harrison, unexpectedly drop by for the exhibition, and meals with the family are consistently tense. The real trouble begins when a body, bludgeoned by the chapel's gold plated reliquary, is found in a hidden, sealed off room. Stranger still, the corpse is identified as Harrison's son, Cyril. Considering the weapon and the clandestine location, Lucy wouldn't be shocked if the murder was an inside job. Cyril wasn't exactly a gentleman, and it's unclear what business he had on the property. Was the victim trying to make off with the family riches before meeting his end? Or was a scorned country squire looking to settle an ancient indiscretion for good? One thing's for sure the criminal is privy to Moreton Manor secrets. To end the reign of terror, Lucy must keep her ear to the ground and mind time honoured traditions no matter how unusual because Lucy has a hunch that the killer has been in her company all along, just waiting for a chance to make blueblood run red.

Moning, Karen Marie

Feversong

While Mac, Barrons, Ryodan, and Jada struggle to restore control, enemies become allies, right and wrong cease to exist, and the lines between life and death, lust and love, disappear completely. Black holes loom menacingly over Dublin, threatening to destroy the earth, yet the greatest danger is the one MacKayla Lane has unleashed from within: The Sinsar Dubh a sentient book of unthinkable evil has possessed her body and will stop at nothing in its insatiable quest for power. The fate of Man and Fae rests on destroying the book and recovering the long lost Song of Making, the sole magic that can repair the fragile fabric of the earth. However to achieve these aims, sidhe-seers, the Nine, Seelie, and Unseelie must form unlikely alliances and make heart wrenching choices. For Barrons and Jada, this means finding the Seelie queen, who alone can wield the mysterious song, negotiating with a lethal Unseelie prince hell bent on ruling the Fae courts, and figuring out how to destroy the Sinsar Dubh while keeping Mac alive. This time, there's no gain without sacrifice, no pursuit without risk, no victory without irrevocable loss. In the battle for Mac's soul, every decision exacts a tremendous price.

Mooney, Chris

Every Three Hours

Forensic investigator Darby McCormick queues to enter Boston Police Headquarters on a freezing winter morning. Lured back to her hometown to help solve a cold case, Darby won't get far inside the station and this will be no ordinary homecoming because someone suddenly takes a woman hostage and a standoff ensues. The man has explosives strapped to him and other bombs hidden around the city, rigged to explode every three hours until he gets what he wants. Working desperately against the clock, Darby realizes she is trapped between a kidnapper who would kill to expose the truth and people who would let others die to hide their lies.

Nair, Anita

A Cut-Like Wound

Series: Inspector Gowda, book 1. It's the first day of Ramadan in heat soaked Bangalore. A young man begins to dress: makeup, a sari, and expensive pearl earrings. Before the mirror he is transformed into Bhuvana. She is a hijra, a transgender seeking love in the bazaars of the city. What Bhuvana wants, she nearly gets: a passing man is attracted to this elusive young woman but someone points out that Bhuvana is no woman. For that, the interloper's throat is cut. A case for Inspector Borei Gowda, going to seed, and at odds with those around him including his wife, his colleagues, even the informers he must deal with. More corpses and Urmila, Gowda's ex-flame, are added to this spicy concoction of a mystery novel. Most intriguing is the grim world of Bhuvana. Her hijra fantasies, emotions, and hopes are etched in a way that is chilling yet oddly touching. Some mysteries remain till almost the end, for instance Bhuvana's connection with the wealthy, corrupt Corporator Ravikumar, who lives in a mansion as grand as the Mysore Palace and controls whole districts of Bangalore.

Paris, B.A.

The Breakdown

It all started that night in the woods. Cass Anderson didn't stop to help the woman in the car, and now she's dead. Ever since, silent calls have been plaguing Cass and she's sure someone is watching her. Consumed by guilt, she's also starting to forget things. Whether she took her pills, what her house alarm code is and if the knife in the kitchen really had blood on it.

Pears, Tim

The Horseman

Somerset, 1911, the forces of war are building across Europe, but this pocket of England, where the rhythms of lives are dictated by the seasons and the land, remains untouched. Albert Sercombe is a farmer on Lord Prideaux's estate and his eldest son, Sid, is underkeeper to the head gamekeeper. His son, Leo, a talented rider, grows up alongside the master's spirited daughter, Charlotte a girl who shoots and rides, much to the surprise of the locals. The Horseman tells the story of a family, a community, and the landscape they come from.

Perlman, Elliot

Seven Types of Ambiguity

This story is told in seven parts, by six different narrators, whose lives are entangled in unexpected ways. Following years of unrequited love, an out of work schoolteacher decides to take matters into his own hands, triggering a chain of events that neither he nor his psychiatrist could have anticipated. Brimming with emotional, intellectual, and moral dilemmas, this novel has a labyrinthine of complexity unfolding at a rapid fire pace to reveal the full extent to which these people have been affected by one another and by the insecure and uncertain times in which they live: our times, now.

Raabe, Marc

Cut

At eleven years old, Gabriel Naumann is witness to a horrific crime. 29 years later his girlfriend is taken. Then the messages begin. Somebody knows about his past. Somebody knows what he did and now his girlfriend will pay for it, unless he can find her in time. When you've spent decades running from your past, what do you do when it finally catches up?

Rabinyan, Dorit

All the Rivers

When Liat meets Hilmi on a blustery autumn afternoon in Greenwich Village, she finds herself unwillingly drawn to him. Charismatic and handsome, Hilmi is a talented young artist from Palestine. Liat, an aspiring translation student, plans to return to Israel the following summer. Despite knowing that their love can be only temporary, that it can exist only away from their conflicted homeland, Liat lets herself be enraptured by Hilmi: by his lively imagination, by his beautiful hands and wise eyes, by his sweetness and devotion. Together they explore the city, sharing laughs and fantasies and pangs of homesickness. However the unfettered joy they awaken in each other cannot overcome the guilt Liat feels for hiding him from her family Cont't...

... in Israel and her Jewish friends in New York. As her departure date looms and her love for Hilmi deepens, Liat must decide whether she is willing to risk alienating her family, her community, and her sense of self for the love of one man.

Rhoades, Joy

The Woolgrower's Companion

Australia 1945, until now Kate Dowd has led a sheltered life on Amiens, her family's sprawling sheep station in northern New South Wales. The horrors of war have for the most part left her untouched. However with her father succumbing to wounds he's borne since the Great War, the management of the farm is increasingly falling on Kate's shoulders. With only the sheep rearing book *The Woolgrower's Companion* to guide her, Kate rises to the challenge. However, the arrival of two Italian POW labourers unsettles not only the other workers, but Kate too especially when she finds herself drawn to the enigmatic Luca Canali. Then she receives devastating news. The farm is near bankrupt and the bank is set to repossess. Given just eight weeks to pay the debt, Kate is now in a race to save everything she holds dear.

Rickman, Phil

All of a Winter's Night

When Aidan Lloyd's bleak funeral is followed by a nocturnal ritual in the fog, it becomes all too clear that Aidan, son of a wealthy farmer, will not be resting in peace. Aidan's hidden history has reignited an old feud, and a rural tradition begins to display its sinister side. It's already a fraught time for Merrily Watkins, her future threatened by a bishop committed to restricting her role as diocesan exorcist for Hereford. Suddenly there are events she can't talk about as she and her daughter Jane find themselves potentially on the wrong side of the law. In the city of Hereford, DI Frannie Bliss, investigating a shooting, must confront the apparent growth of organised crime, also contaminating the countryside. On the Welsh border, the old ways are at war with the modern world. The days shorten and the fog gives way to ice and snow, a savage killing draws Merrily Watkins into a conflict centred on one of Britain's most famous medieval churches, its walls laden with ancient symbolism.

Salem, Suzanne

Fava Beans for Breakfast

What if moving to a crumbling Australian coastal town meant giving up your only dream? In 1974, Nayeema reluctantly leaves Sydney's inner city to move to Burraboo, a tired coastal town, with her husband Fawzy. In doing so, Nayeema surrenders her only dream, but once there she falls under the sway of new infatuations. On a houseboat in the pristine bay nearby, she sells the comforting food of her Egyptian childhood, but keeps her income a secret from her husband. Through this act of defiance and independence, Nayeema unwittingly unlocks a mysterious connection with her new land. Then everything changes when a local teenage girl goes missing and racial tensions ignite in the town. While Nayeema's houseboat arrangements become more entangled, her yearnings must fight her own history, the impetuous jinn and each other, to finally reveal the mystery of the strange birthmark that prickles on her chest.

Serong, Jock

The Rules of Backyard Cricket

It starts in a suburban backyard with Darren Keefe and his older brother, sons of a fierce and gutsy single mother. All the love and hatred in two small bodies poured into the rules of a made-up game. Darren has two big talents: cricket and trouble. No surprise that he becomes an Australian sporting star of the bad boy variety one of those men who's always got away with things and just keeps getting. Until the day we meet him, middle aged, in the boot of a car, gagged, cable tied, a bullet in his knee: everything pointing towards a shallow grave.

Steel, Danielle

Against all odds

Taking chances is part of life, but when you bet your future against the odds, it's a high risk game. Kate Madison's stylish resale shop has been a big SoHo success, supporting her and her four kids since her husband's untimely death. Now they are grown and ready to forge lives of their own. They all choose to play against the odds, to their mother's dismay. Kate loving, Cont'd...

...supportive, and outspoken can't keep her children from playing against the odds. Can the odds be beaten? Not often as her children have to learn for themselves. For Kate, the hardest lesson will be that she can't protect the children she loves from the choices they make but can only love them as they make them.

Thomas, Mike

Ash and Bones

Series: D C Will MacReady, book 1. At a squalid flat near the Cardiff docks, an early morning police raid goes catastrophically wrong when the police aren't the only unexpected guests. A plain clothes officer is shot dead at point blank range; the original suspect is left in a coma. The killer, identity unknown, slips away. Young and inexperienced, Will MacReady starts his first day on the CID. With the city in shock and the entire force reeling, he is desperate to help but unearths truths that lead the team down an increasingly dark path.

Townsend, Ian

Line of Fire

The Australian Government, unable to reinforce its small garrison, abandoned more than 1500 Australian soldiers and civilians as 'hostages to fortune' in the face of the Japanese advance. In May 1942, in the town of Rabaul in the Australian territory of New Guinea, five Australian civilians were taken by Japanese soldiers to a pit at the base of a volcano and executed as spies: a mother, her brother, her husband and her friend and her 11 year old son. Who were these people and what had led them to this terrible end, under the shadow of a volcano?

Truffle, Lesley

The Scandalous Life of Sasha Torte

In the winter of 1912 on the wild West Coast of Tasmania, Wolfftown's most notorious heiress and murderess, Sasha Torte, tells the tale of her own spectacular downfall. Forsaken by her parents and raised by criminals and reprobates, Sasha becomes a world famous pastry chef at the tender age of seventeen. Entanglement with the disreputable Dasher brothers leads to love, but also to a dangerous addiction. Behind bars in Wolfftown's gaol, Sasha sips premium champagne as she recalls a life of seduction, betrayal, ghosts, opium and an indiscreet quantity of confectionary and plots her escape.

Winspear, Jacqueline

In this Grave Hour

Series: Maisie Dobbs, book 13. Sunday September 3rd 1939, the moment Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain broadcasts to the nation Britain's declaration of war with Germany, a senior Secret Service agent breaks into Maisie Dobbs' flat to await her return. Dr. Francesca Thomas has an urgent assignment for Maisie: to find the killer of a man who escaped occupied Belgium as a boy, some twenty three years earlier during the Great War. In a London shadowed by barrage balloons, bomb shelters and the threat of invasion, within days another former Belgian refugee is found murdered. While Maisie delves deeper into the killings of the dispossessed from the "last war," a new kind of refugee an evacuee from London appears in Maisie's life. The little girl billeted at Maisie's home in Kent does not, or cannot, speak, and the authorities do not know who the child belongs to or who might have put her on the "Operation Pied Piper" evacuee train. They know only that her name is Anna. While Maisie's search for the killer escalates, the country braces for what is to come. Britain is approaching its gravest hour and Maisie could be nearing a crossroads of her own.

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