

NEW FICTION SUMMER 2017/2018

Aaronovitch, Ben

The Furthest Station

Series: P. C. Peter Grant, book 5.5. There's something going bump on the Metropolitan line and Sergeant Jaget Kumar knows exactly who to call; it's PC Peter Grant's speciality, only it's more than going 'bump'. Traumatized travellers have been reporting strange encounters on their morning commute, with strangely dressed people trying to deliver an urgent message. Stranger still, despite calling the police themselves, within a few minutes the commuters have already forgotten the encounter making the follow up interviews rather difficult. With a little help from Abigail and Toby the ghost hunting dog, Peter and Jaget are heading out on a ghost hunting expedition because finding the ghost and deciphering their urgent message might just be a matter of life and death.

Aman, Claire

Bird Country

Short stories about love and loss and yearning, and the things we don't say. The stories include a boat trip in a squall to scatter the ashes of an old man, who was not loved. A young father, driving his daughters home across grass plains, unable to tell them that their mother has died. A speech that doesn't include the aching pain of trying to save a cousin's life. A mother hiding her fugitive son in a cockatoo cage as the river rises. A man pouring his life into finding the perfect stained glass after his wife has left him and a woman longing for the right person to tell about her sister's death, while she works nightshift at a roadhouse.

Arthur, Keri

Ashes Reborn

Series: Souls of Fire, book 4. The clock is ticking as Emberly a phoenix capable of taking human form races to take revenge against the sadistic and mysterious Rinaldo. The elusive rebel leader threatens to keep killing until he is given all of the research about a plague like virus derived from vampire blood. Forced to reach out to the Paranormal Investigations Team for help, Emberly and her partner, Jackson, must decide who to trust as they follow the trail of dead bodies. When classified information is leaked and their safe house is ambushed, Emberly's suspicions are confirmed someone at PIT has betrayed them. A final battle looms and Emberly will need to command all her powers or watch the world turn to ash.

Barba, Andres

Such Small Hands

Life changes at the orphanage the day seven year old Marina shows up. She is different from the other girls: at once an outcast and object of fascination. While Marina struggles to find her place, she invents a game whose rules are dictated by a haunting violence.

Beaton, M.C.

The Witches Tree

Series: Agatha Raisin, book 28. Cotswolds inhabitants are used to inclement weather, but the night sky is especially foggy as Rory and Molly Devere, the new vicar and his wife, drive slowly home from a dinner party in their village of Sumpton Harcourt. They strain to see the road ahead and then suddenly brake, screeching to a halt. Right in front of them, aglow in the headlights, Cont'd...

...a body hangs from a gnarled tree at the edge of town. Margaret Darby, an elderly spinster, has been murdered and the villagers are bewildered as to who would commit such a crime. Agatha Raisin rises to the occasion, a little glad for the excitement, after a long run of lost cats and divorces on the books. However Sumpton Harcourt is a small and private village, she finds a place that poses more questions than answers. Then when two more murders follow the first, Agatha begins to fear for her reputation and even her life. The fact the village has its own coven of witches, certainly doesn't make her feel any better.

Bigelow, Lisa

We That Are Left

1941, in Melbourne, headstrong young Mae meets and falls head over heels in love with Harry Parker, a dashing naval engineer. After a whirlwind courtship they marry and Mae is heavily pregnant when she hears that Harry has just received his dream posting to HMAS Sydney. Just after Mae becomes a mother, she learns Harry's ship is missing. Meanwhile, Grace Fowler is battling prejudice to become a reporter on the afternoon daily newspaper, The Tribune, while waiting for word on whether her journalist boyfriend Phil Taylor, captured during the fall of Singapore, is still alive. Surrounded by their friends and families, Mae and Grace struggle to keep hope alive in the face of hardship and despair. Then Mae's neighbour and Grace's boss Sam Barton tells Mae about a rumour that the Japanese have towed the damaged ship to Singapore and taken the crew prisoner. Mae's life is changed forever as she focuses her efforts on willing her husband home.

Blake, Sam

In Deep Water

Series: Cathy Connolly, book 2. Cat Connolly is back at work after the explosion that left her on life support. Struggling to adjust to the physical and mental scars, her work once again becomes personal when her best friend Sarah Jane Hansen, daughter of a Pulitzer winning American war correspondent, goes missing. Sarah Jane is a journalism student who was allegedly working on a story that even her father thought was too dangerous. With Sarah Jane's father uncontactable, Cat struggles to find a connection between Sarah Jane's work and her disappearance. However Sarah Jane is not the only one in deep water when Cat comes face to face with a professional killer. In the world of missing persons every second counts, but with the clock ticking, can Cathy find Sarah Jane before it's too late?

Bowen, Rhys

On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service

Series: Royal Spyness, book 11. When Darcy runs off on another secret assignment, I am left to figure out how to travel to Italy sans maid and chaperone to help my dear friend Belinda, as she awaits the birth of her baby alone. An opportunity presents itself in a most unexpected way my cousin the queen is in need of a spy to attend a house party in the Italian lake country. The Prince of Wales and the dreadful Mrs. Simpson have been invited, and Her Majesty is anxious to thwart a possible secret wedding. What luck, a chance to see Belinda and please the queen as I seek her permission to relinquish my claim to the throne so I can marry Darcy. Only that's as far as my good fortune takes me. I soon discover that Mummy is attending the villa party and she has her own secret task for me. Then, Darcy shows up and tells me that the fate of a world on the brink of war could very well depend on what I overhear at dinner! I shouldn't be all that surprised when one of my fellow guests is murdered and my Italian holiday becomes a nightmare.

Bramley, Cathy

The Lemon Tree Café

When Rosie Featherstone finds herself unexpectedly jobless, the offer to help her beloved Italian grandmother out at the Lemon Tree Cafe a little slice of Italy nestled in the rolling hills of Derbyshire feels like the perfect way to keep busy. Surrounded by the rich scent of espresso, delicious biscotti and juicy village gossip, Rosie soon finds herself falling for her new way of life. Alas she is haunted by a terrible secret, one that even the appearance of a handsome new face can't quite help her move on from. Then disaster looms and the cafe's fortunes are threatened and Rosie discovers that her Nonna has been hiding a dark past of her own. With surprises, betrayal and more than one secret brewing, can she find a way to save the Lemon Tree Cafe and help both herself and Nonna achieve the happy endings they deserve?

Brissenden, Michael

The List

Sidney Allen is a Fed, part of the Australian Federal Police's K block, a unit doing whatever it takes in order to stop terrorist attacks on home soil. However when young Muslim men on the Terror Watch list start turning up dead, Sid and his partner, Haifa, have to work out what's going on. Sectarian war? Drugs? Retribution? For Sid, there's nothing unclear about a bullet to the head and a severed hand. Someone is sending a message. Deciphering that message reveals a much wider threat and Sid and the agency have to decide just how far they'll go to prevent a deadly attack. Time is running out for them and Australia.

Brown, Dan

Origin

Series: Robert Langdon, book 5. Robert Langdon, Harvard professor of symbology and religious iconology, arrives at the ultramodern Guggenheim Museum Bilbao to attend a major announcement the unveiling of a discovery that "will change the face of science forever." The evening's host is Edmond Kirsch, a forty year old billionaire and futurist whose dazzling high tech inventions and audacious predictions have made him a renowned global figure. Kirsch, who was one of Langdon's first students at Harvard two decades earlier, is about to reveal an astonishing breakthrough one that will answer two of the fundamental questions of human existence. As the event begins, Langdon and several hundred guests find themselves captivated by an utterly original presentation, which Langdon realizes will be far more controversial than he ever imagined. The meticulously orchestrated evening suddenly erupts into chaos, and Kirsch's precious discovery teeters on the brink of being lost forever. Reeling and facing an imminent threat, Langdon is forced into a desperate bid to escape Bilbao. With him is Ambra Vidal, the elegant museum director who worked with Kirsch to stage the provocative event. Together they flee to Barcelona on a perilous quest to locate a cryptic password that will unlock Kirsch's secret. Navigating the dark corridors of hidden history and extreme religion, Langdon and Vidal must evade a tormented enemy whose all knowing power seems to emanate from Spain's Royal Palace itself and who will stop at nothing to silence Edmond Kirsch. On a trail marked by modern art and enigmatic symbols, Langdon and Vidal uncover clues that ultimately bring them face to face with Kirsch's shocking discovery and the breathtaking truth that has long eluded us.

Carey, Peter

Oscar and Lucinda

A Booker Prize winning novel. This sweeping, irrepressibly inventive novel, is a romance, but a romance of the sort that could only take place in nineteenth century Australia. For only on that sprawling continent a haven for misfits of both the animal and human kingdoms could a nervous Anglican minister who gambles on the instructions of the Divine become allied with a teenaged heiress who buys a glassworks to help liberate her sex. Oscar and Lucinda is a narrative of love and commerce, religion and colonialism that culminates in a half mad expedition to transport a glass church across the Outback.

Carroll, Steven

A New England Affair

Series: Eliot Quartet, book 3. 1965, the great poet, TS Eliot, is dead. Hearing the news, the seventy two year old Emily Hale points her Ford Roadster towards the port of Gloucester, where a fishing boat will take her out to sea, near the low, treacherous rocks called the Dry Salvages, just off Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Over the course of that day, clutching a satchel of letters, Emily Hale slips between past and present, reliving her life with Eliot starting with that night in 1913, the moment when her life turned, when the young Tom Eliot and Emily Hale fell deeply in love with each other. However Tom moved to London to fulfil his destiny as the famous poet 'TS Eliot', and Emily went on to become his muse the silent figure behind some of the greatest poetry of the 20th century his friend and his confidante, never did she become his lover or his wife.

Carter, Jane

Prodigal Daughter

Twenty years ago, in a hot headed rage, Diana Crawford left the family farm to build a new life in London. Now, following her husband's fatal accident and unable to find respite from the barrage of guilt inducing and heartrending memories at every turn, she runs to the one place she feels Charlie's ghost can't follow her: Mog's Hill, the Crawford farm in New South Wales. There, among the smell of lanolin, the dust of the sheep yards and the beauty of the land, Diana hopes she can regain her strength and put her life, as well as those of her three shell shocked kids, back on track. However home isn't as she remembers, and her return cracks open old family wounds. Stella has longed for her prodigal daughter's return for years. Now if she can convince Diana to open up and let them back into her heart, she might just be able to keep her grandchildren close by and find the family peace she craves. However Stella already has her hands full trying to hold everything together, and now the Crawford family is a hair's breadth from shattering forever. Can Stella keep the peace? Can she make Diana see the strength in relying on family, or will Diana leave them behind once again?

Child, Lee

The Midnight Line

Series: Jack Reacher, book 22. Jack Reacher takes an aimless stroll past a pawn shop in a small Midwestern town. In the window he sees a West Point class ring from 2005. It's tiny and it's a woman cadet's graduation present to herself. Why would she give it up? Reacher's a West Pointer too, and he knows what she went through to get it. Reacher tracks the ring back to its owner, step by step, down a criminal trail leading west. Like Big Foot come out of the forest, he arrives in the deserted wilds of Wyoming. All he wants is to find the woman. If she's OK, he'll walk away. If she's not he'll stop at nothing.

Coben, Harlan

Don't Let Go

Suburban New Jersey Detective Napoleon "Nap" Dumas hasn't been the same since senior year of high school, when his twin brother Leo and Leo's girlfriend Diana were found dead on the railroad tracks and Maura, the girl Nap considered the love of his life, broke up with him and disappeared without explanation. For fifteen years, Nap has been searching, both for Maura and for the real reason behind his brother's death. Now, it looks as though he may finally find what he's been looking for. When Maura's fingerprints turn up in the rental car of a suspected murderer, Nap embarks on a quest for answers that only leads to more questions about the woman he loved, about the childhood friends he thought he knew, about the abandoned military base near where he grew up, and mostly about Leo and Diana whose deaths are darker and far more sinister than Nap ever dared imagine.

Flint, Eric & Barber, Griffin

1636: Mission to the Mughals

Series: Ring of Fire, book 22. After carving a free state for itself in war torn 17th century Europe, citizens of the modern town of Grantville, West Virginia go on a quest for the makings of medicines that have yet to be invented in 17th century Europe. The United States of Europe, the new nation formed by an alliance between the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus and the West Virginians hurled back in time by a cosmic accident the Ring of Fire is beset by enemies on all sides. The U.S.E. needs a reliable source of opiates for those wounded in action, as well as other goods not available in Europe. The Prime Minister of the U.S.E., Mike Stearns, sends a mission to the Mughal Empire of India with the aim of securing a trade deal with the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan. The mission consists of a mixed group of up timers and down timers, including paramedics, a squad of soldiers with railroad building experience, a spy and a pair of swindlers. On reaching India the mission finds a grieving emperor obsessed with building the Taj Mahal, harem bound princesses, warrior princes, and an Afghan adventurer embroiled in the many plots of the Mughal court. The emperor's sons are plotting against each other and war is brewing with the newly risen Sikh faith. In the midst of these intrigues, the U.S.E. mission finds a ally: the brilliant and beautiful Jahanara Begum, the eldest daughter of Shah Jahan. She is the mistress of her father's harem and a power in her own right, who wishes to learn more of these women who are free in a way she can scarcely comprehend. When the Emperor learns of what befalls his empire and children in the time that was, he makes every effort to change their fate. However emperors, princesses, and princes are no more immune to the inexorable waves of change created by the Ring of Fire than are the Americans themselves.

Follett, Ken

A Column of Fire

Series: Pillars of the Earth, book 3. In 1558, the ancient stones of Kingsbridge Cathedral look down on a city torn apart by religious conflict. While power in England shifts precariously between Catholics and Protestants, royalty and commoners clash, testing friendship, loyalty, and love. Ned Willard wants nothing more than to marry Margery Fitzgerald but when the lovers find themselves on opposing sides of the religious conflict dividing the country, Ned goes to work for Princess Elizabeth. When she becomes queen, all Europe turns against England. The shrewd, determined young monarch sets up the country's first secret service to give her early warning of assassination plots, rebellions, and invasion plans. Over a turbulent half century, the love between Ned and Margery seems doomed as extremism sparks violence from Edinburgh to Geneva. Cont'd...

...Elizabeth clings to her throne and her principles, protected by a small, dedicated group of resourceful spies and courageous secret agents. The real enemies, then as now, are not the rival religions. The true battle pitches those who believe in tolerance and compromise against the tyrants who would impose their ideas on everyone else no matter what the cost.

Forsyth, Kate

Beauty in Thorns

Ned Burne-Jones had never had a painting lesson and his family wanted him to be a parson. Only young Georgie Macdonald the daughter of a Methodist minister understood. She put aside her own dreams to support him, only to be confronted by many years of gossip and scandal. Dante Gabriel Rossetti was smitten with his favourite model, Lizzie Siddal. She wanted to be an artist herself, but was seduced by the irresistible lure of laudanum. William Morris fell head over heels for a 'stunner' from the slums, Janey Burden. Discovered by Ned, married to William, she embarked on a passionate affair with Gabriel that led inexorably to tragedy. Margot Burne-Jones had become her father's muse. He painted her as Briar Rose, the focus of his most renowned series of paintings, based on the fairy tale that haunted him all his life. Yet Margot longed to be awakened to love.

Gaylin, A.L.

If I Die Tonight

There was a time when Jackie Reed knew her sons better than anyone. She used to be able to tell what they were thinking, feeling, if they were lying but it's as though every day, every minute even, she knows them a little less. Her boys aren't boys anymore, they're becoming men, men she's not sure she recognises and men she's not sure she can trust. So when one of her son's classmates is killed in suspicious circumstances, people start asking questions. Was it really a hit and run? A carjacking gone wrong? Or something much more sinister? Now Jackie must separate the truth from the lies. How did that boy end up on the road? And where was her son that night?

Gracie, Anne

Marry in Haste

Series: Marriage of Convenience, book 1. Major Calbourne Rutherford returns to England on the trail of an assassin, only to find he's become Lord Ashendon, with the responsibility for vast estates and dependent relatives. Cal can command the toughest of men, but his wild half sisters are quite another matter. They might just be his undoing. When he discovers that Miss Emmaline Westwood, the girls' former teacher, guides them with ease, Cal offers her a marriage of convenience. Strong minded and independent Emm is neither as compliant nor as proper as he expected, and Cal finds himself most inconveniently seduced by his convenient wife. Emm knows they didn't marry for love, yet beneath her husband's austere facade, she catches glimpses of a man who takes her breath away. As pride, duty and passion clash, will these two stubborn hearts find more than they ever dreamed of?

Greig, Andrew

In Another Light

A young man leans over the railings of the ocean liner bound for the exotic shores of Penang. It is early in the 1930s and Dr Alexander Mackay is on his way to take up his post running a maternity hospital in the colony. During the voyage he meets two beautiful sisters and the seeds of a scandal are sown. Seventy years later Edward Mackay wakes after a major brain trauma. In the hazy shadow lands of illness, he conjures the figure of his dead father, a man he knew so little about. This near death experience provokes a move to the wilds of Orkney, where Edward joins a project Cont'd...

...to harness the tides around the island as a renewable source of energy. However in the tight knit island community passions also run high.

Grisham, John

The Rooster Bar

Law students Mark, Todd and Zola wanted to change the world to make it a better place but these days these three disillusioned friends spend a lot of time hanging out in The Rooster Bar, the place where Todd serves drinks. As third year students, they realise they have been duped. They all borrowed heavily to attend a law school so mediocre that its graduates rarely pass the bar exam, let alone get good jobs. When they learn that their school is one of a chain owned by a shady New York hedge fund operator who also happens to own a bank specialising in student loans, the three realise they have been caught up in The Great Law School Scam. They begin plotting a way out. Maybe there's a way to escape their crushing debt, expose the bank and the scam, and make a few bucks in the process. However to do so, they have to leave law school, pretend they are qualified and go into battle with a billionaire and the FBI.

Hardie, Mark

Truly Evil

Series: Pearson and Russell, book 2. A body has been found dumped on the shores of Southend. Already under scrutiny following the murder of a corrupt cop, DS Frank Pearson and DC Cat Russell of the Essex Major Investigation Team are tasked with solving the case quickly, and quietly. When the victim's identity is revealed, the list of suspects begins to grow: a young woman knows more than she's letting on, but is she really involved? Or there's the estranged father, who's been trying to find the victim for months. One thing is clear: no one is telling the whole truth. Then a shocking tragedy leads Pearson to a similar murder case from decades before. Is it a coincidence, or is history repeating itself? While Pearson and Russell search for the answer, they find themselves drawn into a terrifying cover up going back fifty years.

Harffy, Matthew

The Serpent Sword

Series: Bernicia Chronicles, book 1. Beobrand is compelled by his brother's almost certain murder to embark on a quest for revenge in the war ravaged kingdoms of Northumbria. The land is rife with danger, as warlords vie for supremacy and dominion. In the battles for control of the region, new oaths are made and broken, and loyalties are tested to the limits. Closing in on his kin's slayer, can Beobrand mete out the vengeance he craves without sacrificing his honour or even his soul?

Harper, Jane

Force of Nature

Series: Aaron Falk, book 2. Five women reluctantly pick up their backpacks and start walking along the muddy track; only four return. The hike through the rugged Giralang Ranges 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 in just a matter of days she was to provide the documents that will bring down the company she works for. Falk discovers that far from the hike encouraging teamwork, the women tell a tale of suspicion, violence and disintegrating trust but does it include murder?

Harrington, Carmel

The Woman at 72 Derry Lane

On a leafy suburban street in Dublin, beautiful, poised Stella Greene lives with her successful husband, Matt. The perfect couple in every way, Stella appears to have it all. Next door, at number 72 however, lives Rea Brady. Gruff, bad tempered and rarely seen besides the twitching of her net curtains, rumour has it she's lost it all including her marbles if you believe the neighbourhood gossip. However appearances can be deceiving and when Stella and Rea's worlds collide they realise they have much in common. Both are trapped in a prison of their own making. Has help been next door without them realising it?

Harris, Charlaine

Sleep Like a Baby

Series: Aurora Teagarden Mystery, book 10. Robin and Aurora have finally begun their adventure in parenting. With newborn Sophie proving to be quite a handful, Roe's mother pays for a partially trained nurse, Virginia Mitchell, to come help the new parents for a few weeks. Virginia proves to be especially helpful when Robin has to leave town for work and Roe is struck with a bad case of the flu. One particularly stormy night, Roe wakes to hear her daughter crying and Virginia nowhere to be found. Roe's brother Philip helps her search the house and they happen upon a body outside but it isn't Virginia's. Now, not only does she have a newborn to care for and a vulnerable new marriage to nurture, Roe also has to contend with a new puzzle who is this mystery woman dead in their backyard, and what happened to Virginia?

Hobson, Ben

To Become a Whale

13 year old Sam Keogh, whose mother has died, has to learn how to live with his silent, hitherto absent father, who decides to make a man out of his son by taking him to work at Tangalooma, then the largest whaling station in the southern hemisphere. What follows is the devastatingly beautiful story of a gentle boy trying to make sense of the terrible reality of whaling and the cruelty and alienation of his new world, the world of men.

Iggulden, C.F.

Darien: Empire of Salt

Series: Empire of Salt, book 1. The city of Darien stands at the weary end of a golden age. Twelve families keep order with soldiers and artefacts, spies and memories, clinging to a peace that shifts and crumbles. The people of the city endure what they cannot change. Here, amongst old feuds, a plot is hatched to kill a king. It will summon strangers to the city Elias Post, a hunter, Tellius, an old swordsman banished from his home, Arthur, a boy who cannot speak, Daw Threefold, a chancer and gambler, Vic Deeds, who feels no guilt and Nancy, a girl whose talent might be the undoing of them all. As the sun sets, their arrival inside the walls will spark a series of explosive events. Before the sun returns, six destinies will have been made and lost in Darien

Johns, Rachael

The Greatest Gift

Radio host Harper Drummond lives for her career. Every day she meets fascinating people doing extraordinary things, but has begun to wonder whether there could be something more for her out there. She's financially secured, happily married to Samuel and has a great group of friends, what more could she want? It's only when she interviews one special couple that she starts to think about whether she could make a different kind of contribution. Claire and Jasper Lombard are passionate about their thriving hot air balloon business and know they're lucky to find such joy in their work and in each other. While Jasper has accepted that he will never be a father, Claire has found it hard to come to terms with her infertility. She doesn't want Jasper to regret choosing her over a child in the years to come. Is there a way to give themselves a real chance at being a happy family? Can they find someone who will give them the greatest gift? Or will it come at a greater cost?

King, Stephen & King Owen

Sleeping Beauties

In a future so real and near it might be now, something happens when women go to sleep: they become shrouded in a cocoon like gauze. If they are awakened, if the gauze wrapping their bodies is disturbed or violated, the women become feral and spectacularly violent. While they sleep they go to another place, a better place, where harmony prevails and conflict is rare. One woman, the mysterious "Eve Black," is immune to the blessing or curse of the sleeping disease. Is Eve a medical anomaly to be studied? Or is she a demon who must be slain? Abandoned, left to their increasingly primal urges, the men divide into warring factions, some wanting to kill Eve, some to save her. Others exploit the chaos to wreak their own vengeance on new enemies. All turn to violence in a suddenly all male world.

Kwan, Kevin

Rich People Problems

When Nicholas Young hears that his grandmother, Su Yi, is on her deathbed, he rushes to be by her bedside but he's not alone. The entire Shang-Young clan has convened from all corners of the globe to stake claim on their matriarch's massive fortune. With each family member vying to inherit Tyersall Park a trophy estate on 64 prime acres in the heart of Singapore Nicholas's childhood home turns into a hotbed of speculation and sabotage. While her relatives fight over heirlooms, Astrid Leong is at the centre of her own storm, desperately in love with her old sweetheart Charlie Wu, but tormented by her ex-husband a man hell bent on destroying Astrid's reputation and relationship. While Kitty Pong, married to China's second richest man, billionaire Jack Bing, still feels second best next to her new step daughter, famous fashionista Colette Bing.

Laguna Sofie,

The Choke

Abandoned by her mother and only occasionally visited by her secretive father, Justine is raised by her pop, a man tormented by visions of the Burma Railway. Justine finds sanctuary in Pop's chooks and The Choke, where the banks of the Murray River are so narrow it seems they might touch a place of staggering natural beauty. However the river can't protect Justine from danger. Her father is a criminal, and the world he exposes her to can be lethal. Justine is overlooked and underestimated, a shy and often silent observer of her chaotic world. She learns that she has to make sense of it on her own. She has to find ways to survive so much neglect. She must hang on to friendship when it comes, she must hide when she has to, and ultimately she must fight back.

LeCarre', John

A Legacy of Spies

Series: George Smiley, book 9. Peter Guillam, staunch colleague and disciple of George Smiley of the British Secret Service, otherwise known as the Circus, is living out his old age on the family farmstead on the south coast of Brittany when a letter from his old Service summons him to London. The reason? His Cold War past has come back to claim him. Intelligence operations that were once the toast of secret London, and involved such characters as Alec Leamas, Jim Prideaux, George Smiley and Peter Guillam himself, are to be scrutinized by a generation with no memory of the Cold War and no patience with its justifications.

Maynard, Frances

The Seven Imperfect Rules of Elvira Carr

Elvira Carr believes in rules. She also strongly believes in crisp schedules, clear guidelines, and taking people at face value. Not that the twenty seven year old sees many people. After several unfortunate incidents, her overbearing mother keeps her at home. When her mother has a stroke, Elvira is suddenly on her own. To help her navigate a world that is often puzzling, she draws up seven ironclad rules. Armed with these, a notebook full of questions, and guidance from a helpful neighbour, she takes charge of herself and realizes that something isn't quite right about the life she thought she knew. She'll need all the courage, perseverance and curious charm she can muster to unravel the mystery of what happened to her family and to manage her own life, her way.

Mercier, Pascal

Lea

It all starts with the death of Martijn van Vliet's wife. His grief stricken young daughter, Lea, cuts herself off from the world, lost in the darkness of grief. Then she hears the unfamiliar sound of a violin playing in the hall of a train station, and she is brought back to life. Transfixed by a busker playing Bach, Lea emerges from her mourning, vowing to learn the instrument. Her father, witnessing this delicate spark, promises to do everything and anything in his power to keep her happy. Lea grows into an extraordinary musical talent her all consuming passion leads her to become one of the finest players in the country but as her fame blossoms, her relationship with her father withers. Unable to keep her close, he inadvertently pushes Lea deeper and deeper into this newfound independence and, desperate to hold on to his daughter, Martin is driven to commit an act that threatens to destroy them both.

Muir, T.F.

Life for a Life

Series: D I Gilchrist, book 4. Will DCI Andy Gilchrist end up like the others, dead, beheaded on a beach? The middle of winter in St Andrews. When a young woman's half naked body is found on Fife's Coastal Path, frozen and with remnants of a rope manacle around her wrist, DCI Andy Gilchrist is given the case. Gilchrist's investigation uncovers a bloody trail of shootings and executions that lead him to the heart of a trafficking war. Links to Scotland's foremost criminal family, the Home Office and a killer intent on expanding his territory, pull Gilchrist deeper into this murderous web until he comes face to face with the most dangerous man he has ever met.

Mukherjee, Abir

A Necessary Evil

Series: Sam Wyndham, book 2. The fabulously wealthy kingdom of Sambalpur is home to tigers, elephants, diamond mines, and the beautiful Palace of the Sun. However when the heir to the throne is assassinated in the presence of Captain Sam Wyndham and Sergeant 'Surrender Not' Banerjee, they discover a kingdom riven with suppressed conflict. Prince Adhir was a modernizer whose attitudes and romantic relationships may have upset the more religious elements of his country, while his brother now in line to the throne appears to be a feckless playboy. Wyndham and Banerjee desperately try to unravel the mystery behind the assassination, they become entangled in a dangerous world where those in power live by their own rules and those who cross their paths pay with their lives. They must find a murderer, before the murderer finds them.

Neill, Fiona

The Betrayals

When Rosie's best friend has an affair with her husband, the consequences reverberate through the lives of two families. Relationships are torn apart, friendships shattered and childish innocence destroyed. Her daughter Daisy's fragile hold on reality begins to unravel when a letter arrives that opens old wounds. Rosie's son Max blames himself for everything that happened and her ex-husband Nick has his own version of events. While long-repressed memories bubble to the surface, the past has never seemed more present and the truth more uncertain.

Nunn, Judy

Sanctuary

On a barren island off the coast of Western Australia, a rickety wooden dinghy runs aground. Aboard are nine people who have no idea where they are. Strangers before the violent storm that tore their vessel apart, the instinct to survive has seen them bond during their days adrift on a vast and merciless ocean. Fate has cast them ashore with only one thing in common fear. Rassen the doctor, Massoud the student, the child Hamid and the others all fear for their lives but in their midst is Jalila, who appears to fear nothing. The beautiful young Yazidi woman is a mystery to them all. While they remain undiscovered on the deserted island, they dare to dream of a new life. While forty kilometres away on the mainland lies the tiny fishing port of Shoalhaven. Here everyone knows everyone, and everyone has their place. In Shoalhaven things never change, until now.

O'Connor, Mary-Anne

War Flower

The 1960s are beating a fresh pulse of political and cultural upheaval through Sydney. For sheltered convent schoolgirl Poppy Flannery such changes seem irrelevant. However it doesn't stop her from longing to join in, especially if it means spending time with the popular boy she secretly loves, Ben Williamson. So when the opportunity for a dream escape to Surfers Paradise arrives, Poppy and her twin sister Rosemary seize it and find themselves in the midst of the swinging sixties at last. Rosemary embraces their secret new life with a vengeance, discovering drugs, boys and radical politics in a haze of parties, music festivals and protest marches. However such freedom is stolen when Rosemary's great love, Angus, is sent to Vietnam, along with Ben. Soon a war fought thousands of kilometres away will arrive on the twins' door in the form of orphaned refugee Thuy. While many more victims begin to appear, including shattered versions of Australian soldiers, they must decide how far they will go for the men they adore, and ask themselves whether love really is all you need.

Palmer, Fiona

Secrets Between Friends

Three friends embark on a luxury cruise to celebrate their ten year reunion. Best friends Abbie, Jess and Ricki are set to recreate a school trip they took ten years earlier to the historic port town of Albany, the oldest city on the stunning turquoise coastline of Western Australia. Ricki, a dedicated nurse, harbours a dream she hasn't chased. Is she actually happy or stuck in a rut? Jess, a school teacher and single mother to little Ollie, had a tough upbringing but found her way through with the help of her closest male friend, Peter. However Peter has bought an engagement ring and is ready to propose to Ricki. Abbie had it all: a career, a loving boyfriend and a future, but a visit to the doctor bears scary news. Her world is tumbling down and she feels adrift at sea.

Patterson, James

The People VS. Alex Cross

Series: Alex Cross, book 25. Alex Cross has never been on the wrong side of the law until now. Charged with gunning down followers of his nemesis Gary Soneji in cold blood, Cross is being turned into the poster child for trigger happy cops who think they're above the law. Cross knows it was self defence but will a jury see it that way? While Cross fights for his professional life and his freedom, his former partner John Sampson brings him a gruesome, titillating video tied to the mysterious disappearances of several young girls. Despite his suspension from the department, Cross can't say no to Sampson. The illicit investigation leads them to the darkest corners of the Internet, where murder is just another form of entertainment. As the prosecution presents its case, and the nation watches, even those closest to Cross begin to doubt his innocence. If he can't convince his own family that he didn't pull the trigger with intent to kill, how can he hope to persuade a jury? Even with everything on the line, Cross will do whatever it takes to stop a dangerous criminal, even if he can't save himself.

Patterson, James & Born, James O. Haunted

Series: Michael Bennett, book 10. Detective Michael Bennett and his family are about to be haunted by a father's worst nightmare; the signs he should have seen and a son's desperate cry for help. Reeling from a crisis that would destroy lesser families, the Bennetts escape New York for a much needed vacation. An idyllic country town in the Maine woods is haunted by an epidemic emptying its streets and preying on its youth. Turns out the vacation brochures don't tell the full story the seemingly perfect community has a deadly vice. When local cops uncover a grisly crime scene buried deep in the woods, they consult the vacationing Bennett, who jumps at the chance to atone for his own sins. You can take Michael Bennett out of New York City, but you can't take the cop out of Michael Bennett. However far from the city streets he knows so well, no one will talk to the big city detective and the bodies keep piling up. A young, hardscrabble, and forgotten girl is haunted by a traumatic history. Homeless and destitute, she represents the closest thing Bennett has to a partner in his frantic hunt for the ghostlike perpetrator behind the violence. Will Bennett and his unlikely ally unmask the culprit before anyone else winds up haunted?

Pendziwol, Jean E.

The Lightkeeper's Daughter

Though her mind is still sharp, Elizabeth's eyes have failed. No longer able to linger over her beloved books or gaze at the paintings that move her spirit, she fills the void with music and memories of her family a past that suddenly becomes all too present when her late father's journals are found amid the ruins of an old shipwreck. With the help of Morgan, a delinquent teenager performing community service, Elizabeth goes through the diaries, a journey through time that brings the two women closer together. Entry by entry, these unlikely friends are drawn deep into a world far removed from their own to Porphyry Island on Lake Superior, where Elizabeth's father manned the lighthouse seventy years before. As the words on these musty pages come alive, Elizabeth and Morgan begin to realize that their fates are connected to the isolated island in ways they never dreamed.

While the discovery of Morgan's connection sheds light onto her own family mysteries, the faded pages of the journals hold more questions than answers for Elizabeth, and threaten the very core of who she is.

Pulley, Natasha

The Bedlam Stacks

In 1859, ex-East India Company smuggler Merrick Tremayne is trapped at home in Cornwall after sustaining an injury that almost cost him his leg. On the sprawling, crumbling grounds of the old house, something is wrong; a statue moves, his grandfather's pines explode, and his brother accuses him of madness. When the India Office recruits Merrick for an expedition to fetch quinine essential for the treatment of malaria from deep within Peru, he knows it's a terrible idea. Nearly every able bodied expeditionary who's made the attempt has died, and he can barely walk. However Merrick is desperate to escape everything at home, so he sets off, against his better judgment, for a tiny mission colony on the edge of the Amazon where a salt line on the ground separates town from forest. Anyone who crosses is killed by something that watches from the trees, but somewhere beyond the salt are the quinine woods, and the way around is blocked. Surrounded by local stories of lost time, cursed woods, and living rock, Merrick must separate truth from fairytale and find out what befell the last expeditions; why the villagers are forbidden to go into the forest; and what is happening to Raphael, the young priest who seems to have known Merrick's grandfather, who visited Peru many decades before.

Rose, Karen

Edge of Darkness

Series: Cincinnati, book 4. Homicide detective Adam Kimble is no stranger to battling demons. However Meredith Fallon is a different kind of weakness: one that could actually be good for him, if only he would let himself depend on her. Meredith has loved Adam for a year, and seeing how hard he's worked to deal with his PTSD makes her feelings only stronger, but she respects his needs. Her work keeps her busy anyway: she counsels sexually abused women like Mallory Martin to help them reintegrate into the world. However someone doesn't want Meredith helping women like Mallory, and Meredith finds herself the target of a very determined killer. Adam would risk anything for Meredith, but they'll soon find out the killer is just a little too close to home.

Singh, Nalini

Archangel's Viper

Series: Guild Hunter, book 10. Once a broken girl known as Sorrow, Holly Chang now prowls the shadowy gray underground of the city for the angels. However it's not her winged allies who make her a wanted woman it's the unknown power coursing through her veins. Brutalized by an insane archangel, she was left with the bloodlust of a vampire, the ability to mesmerize her prey, and a poisonous bite. Now, someone has put a bounty on her head. Venom is one of the Seven, Archangel Raphael's private guard, and he's as infuriating as he is seductive. A centuries old vampire, his fangs dispense a poison deadlier than Holly's but even if Venom can protect Holly from those hunting her, he might not be able to save himself because the strange, violent power inside Holly is awakening.

Skuse, C.J.

Sweet Pea

Rhiannon is your average girl next door, settled with her boyfriend and little dog but she's got a killer secret. Although her childhood was haunted by a famous crime, Rhinannon's life is normal now that her celebrity has dwindled. By day her job as an editorial assistant is demeaning and unsatisfying. By evening she dutifully listens to her friend's plans for marriage and babies whilst secretly making a list. A kill list, from the man on the Lidl checkout who always mishandles her apples, to the driver who cuts her off on her way to work, to the people who have got it coming, Rhiannon's ready to get her revenge because the girl everyone overlooks might be able to get away with murder.

Stringer, Tricia

Come Rain or Shine

Paula knew when she moved to the country that the life would be tough. Nearly a year into her marriage with farmer Dan, and now pregnant, she is proud of her ability to feed shearers, bake a pastie and fix a fence while still running her accountancy business from home. With a wedding to plan, the farm to run and neighbours to help out, life is busy but good. However there are clouds on the horizon. Dan is increasingly tired and distant. He promised he would always tell her the truth, so why is he being so mysterious about his late father's will? Why is his abrasive Aunt Rowena suddenly so interested in the sex and due date of Paula's baby? While bushfires rage, Paula makes a discovery that shocks her and threatens all she holds dear.

Strout, Elizabeth

Abide With Me

In the late 1950s, in the small town of West Annett, Maine, a minister struggles to regain his calling, his family, and his happiness in the wake of profound loss. At the same time, the community he has served so charismatically must come to terms with its own strengths and failings faith and hypocrisy, loyalty and abandonment when a dark secret is revealed. Tyler Caskey has come to love West Annett, just up the road from where he was born. The short, brilliant summers and the sharp, piercing winters fill him with awe as does his congregation, full of good people who seek his guidance and listen earnestly as he preaches. However after suffering a terrible loss, Tyler finds it hard to return to himself as he once was. He hasn't had 'The Feeling' that God is all around him, in the beauty of the world for quite some time. He struggles to find the right words in his sermons and in his conversations with those facing crises of their own, and to bring his five year old daughter, Katherine, out of the silence she has observed in the wake of the family's tragedy. A congregation Cont'd...

...that had once been patient and kind during Tyler's grief now questions his leadership and propriety. In the kitchens, classrooms, offices, and stores of the village, anger and gossip have started to swirl and in Tyler's darkest hour, a startling discovery will test his congregation's humanity and his own will to endure the kinds of trials that sooner or later test us all.

Tallent, Gabriel

My Absolute Darling

Turtle Alveston is a survivor. At fourteen, she roams the woods along the northern California coast. The creeks, tide pools, and rocky islands are her haunts and her hiding grounds, and she is known to wander for miles. While her physical world is expansive, her personal one is small and treacherous: Turtle has grown up isolated since the death of her mother, in the thrall of her tortured and charismatic father, Martin. Her social existence is confined to the middle school (where she fends off the interest of anyone, student or teacher, who might penetrate her shell) and to her life with her father. Then Turtle meets Jacob, a high school boy who tells jokes, lives in a big clean house, and looks at Turtle as if she is the sunrise. For the first time, the larger world begins to come into focus: her life with Martin is neither safe nor sustainable. Motivated by her first experience with real friendship and a teenage crush, Turtle starts to imagine escape, using the very survival skills her father devoted himself to teaching her. What follows is a harrowing story of bravery and redemption. With Turtle's escalating acts of physical and emotional courage, the reader watches, heart in throat, as this teenage girl struggles to become her own hero and in the process, becomes ours as well.

Walters, Minette

The Last Hours

June, 1348; the Black Death enters England through the port of Melcombe in the county of Dorsetshire. Unprepared for the virulence of the disease, and the speed with which it spreads, the people of the county start to die in their thousands. In the estate of Develish, Lady Anne takes control of her people's future including the lives of two hundred bonded serfs. Strong, compassionate and resourceful, Lady Anne chooses a bastard slave, Thaddeus Thurkell, to act as her steward. Together, they decide to quarantine Develish by bringing the serfs inside the walls. With this sudden overturning of the accepted social order, where serfs exist only to serve their lords, conflicts soon arise. Ignorant of what is happening in the world outside, they wrestle with themselves, with God and with the terrible uncertainty of their futures. Lady Anne's people fear starvation but they fear the pestilence more. Who amongst them has the courage to leave the security of the walls? How safe is anyone in Develish when a dreadful event threatens the uneasy status quo?

White, Neil

From the Shadows

Mary Kendricks, a smart, pretty, twenty four year old teacher, has been brutally murdered and Robert Carter is accused of killing her. When defence lawyer, Dan Grant inherits Carter's case only weeks before the trial starts, everyone expects him just to babysit it, but Dan's not that kind of lawyer. He'll follow the evidence wherever it takes him. Dan and his investigator Jayne Brett look into the case, they discover that there is more to it than meets the eye. In order to do their jobs they need to push the limits of the system, even if it means putting themselves in danger.

Wilson, Josephine

Extinctions

Miles Franklin Literary Award Winner for 2017. He hated the word 'retirement', but not as much as he hated the word 'village', as if ageing made you a peasant or a fool." Herein lives the village idiot. Professor Frederick Lothian, retired engineer, world expert on concrete, and connoisseur of modernist design, has quarantined himself from life by moving to a retirement village. His wife, Martha, is dead and his two adult children are lost to him in their own ways. Surrounded and obstructed by the debris of his life, objects he has collected over many years and tells himself, he is keeping for his daughter, he is determined to be miserable. When a series of unfortunate incidents forces him and his neighbour, Jan, together, he begins to realise the damage done by the accumulation of a lifetime's secrets and lies, and to comprehend his own shortcomings. Finally, Frederick Lothian has the opportunity to build something meaningful for the ones he loves.

Womersley, Chris

City of Crows

France, 1673. Desperate to save herself and her only surviving child from an outbreak of plague, the widow Charlotte Picot flees her village to seek sanctuary in Lyon. However waylaid on the road by slavers, young Nicolas is stolen and his mother left for dead. Charlotte fears the boy has been taken to Paris for sale, for it is well known there is no corruption in a man's heart that cannot be found in that terrible City of Crows. Yet this is not only a story of Paris and its streets thronged with preachers, troubadours and rogues. It is also the tale of a woman who calls herself a sorceress and a demon who thinks he is a man.

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