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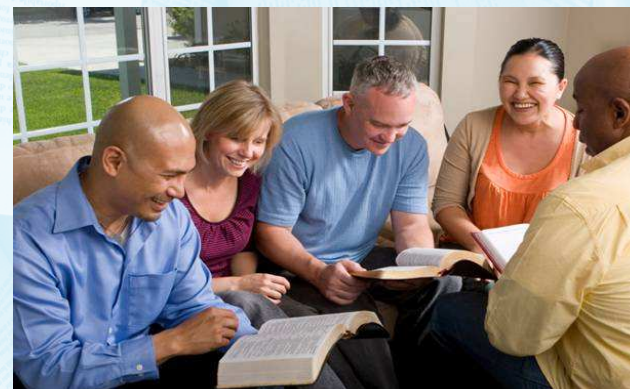


KERRY LIBRARY

BookClub Collection

Leabharlann Chiarraí

Cnósach Club Leabhar



Bain taitneamh as an Follasú



A service of
Kerry County Council

www.kerrylibrary.ie

Introduction

The **Kerry Library BookClub Collection** now extends to 50 titles.

This guide is arranged alphabetically under Author surname, with a synopsis and short review of each title - this is to help Book Clubs to select titles for its members..

While the number of titles on offer has increased, so too has the number of Bookclubs in the county.

In order to facilitate the prompt supply of titles to BookClubs, please plan and make contact with your local librarian, who will assist with selection and supply of the required titles.

In order for this service to work as well as possible for all Book Clubs, there is a need for some terms and conditions to operate - see next section – we would very much appreciate your co-operation.

Thanking you,

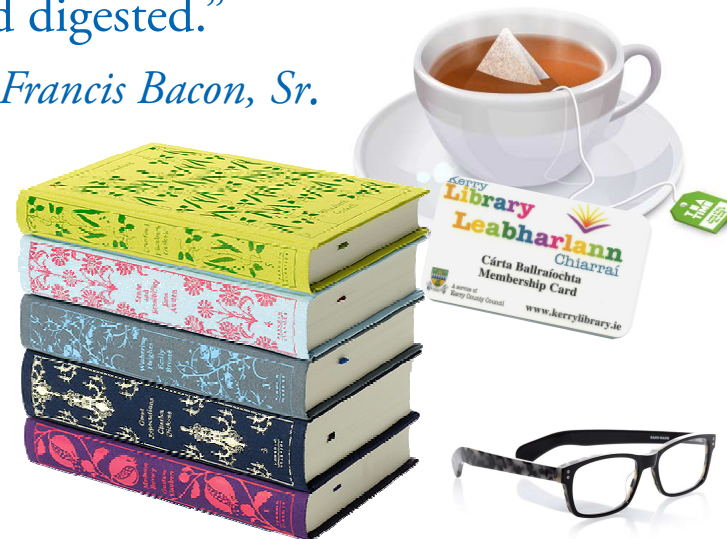
Kerry Library



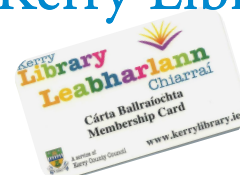
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“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.”

Francis Bacon, Sr.



Kerry Library BookClub service -
Why not join today?



Library Contact Details

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Terms & conditions of use

Each BookClub can setup an account and receive a membership card - this account will be referred to as a Block Loan account.

1. This account allows Book Clubs to borrow 8 copies of a title for a maximum of 30 days - there is no charge to borrow items using a Block Loan account.
2. The Block Loan account is registered in the BookClub name but must have the contact details (name, address and mobile phone number) of one member of the BookClub – it is necessary that one person assumes the responsibility for requesting, collecting, distributing and returning the set of 8 books. Availability is notified by text message.
3. BookClubs are encouraged to meet with their local librarian when planning out their selection of titles. An automated request will be put on each copy and text notification will follow when available. **Timely collection and return of books is expected.**
4. Contact your local library for all information.

Kerry Library thanks the various members and BookClubs for their on-going support.



Réamhrá

Tá méadú go dtí 50 teideal ar fáil i **gCnósach Club Leabhar Leabharlann Chiarraí** anois. Tá an treoir seo socraithe in ord aibítire le sloinne an údair, le achoimre agus léirmheas gairid faoi ghach teideal - cabhróidh sé seo na Clubanna Leabhar teidil a roghnú i gcomhair a mbaill.

A fhad agus méadú tagtha ar an méid teideal atá ar fáil, tá méadú tagtha ar an méid Clubanna Leabhar sa chontae freisin.

Chun éasáíocht ar soláthar tapaidh teideal a dhéanamh chuig Clubanna Leabhar, gabh i dteagmháil le do leabharlannaí áitiúil agus gheobhaidh tú cabhair agus cuidiú leis an roghnú leabhar agus soláthar na teideal atá ag teastáil ó do Chlub féin.

Leis an seirbhis seo a oibriú chomh maith agus is féidir leis na Clubanna Leabhar go léir tá gá do tearmaí agus coinníollacha a bheith ann – féach ar an gcéad roinn eile – bheimis an-bhuíoch as ucht do chomhoibriú.

Go raibh maith agat,

Leabharlann Chiarraí



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For Your Notes

We have read: _____

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The Paying Guests by Waters, Sarah

There came the splash of water and the rub of heels as Mrs Barber stepped into the tub. After that there was a silence, broken only by the occasional echoey plink of drips from the tap. Frances had been picturing her lodgers in purely mercenary terms - as something like two great waddling shillings. But this, she thought, was what it really meant to have paying guests: this odd, unintimate proximity, this rather peeled-back moment, where the only thing between herself and a naked Mrs Barber was a few feet of kitchen and a thin scullery door. An image sprang into her head: that round flesh, crimsoning in the heat.

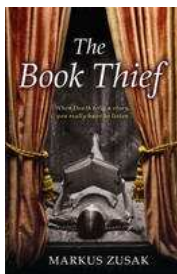
Review: Absolutely brilliant -- *Jacqueline Wilson Sunday Times*. A page-turning melodrama and a fascinating portrait of London on the verge of great change *Guardian*. Waters's page-turning prose conceals great subtlety. Acutely sensitive to social nuance, she keeps us constantly alert ... From a novelist who has been shortlisted for the Booker three times, this is a winner Intelligent Life (*The Economist*)



Stoner: A Novel by Williams, John

William Stoner enters the University of Missouri at nineteen to study agriculture. A seminar on English literature changes his life and he never returns to work on his father's farm. Stoner becomes a teacher. He marries the wrong woman. His life is quiet, and after his death his colleagues remember him rarely. Yet with truthfulness, compassion and intense power, this novel uncovers a story of universal value. Stoner tells of the conflicts, defeats and victories of the human race that pass unrecorded by history and reclaims the significance of an individual life. A reading experience like no other, itself a paean to the power of literature, it is a novel to be savoured.

Review: "I was stunned by it... It's beautifully written in simple but brilliant prose, a novel of an ordinary life, an examination of a quiet tragedy, the work of a great, but little-known writer" -- *Ruth Rendell Guardian*



The Book Thief by Zusak, Markus

It is 1939, Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel Meminger's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is "The Gravedigger's Handbook", left there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her foster father, learns to read. Soon, she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up and closed down.

Prizes: Shortlisted for British Book Awards: Waterstones Newcomer of the Year Award 2008 and Independent Booksellers

Cnósach Club Leabhar Leabharlann Chiarraí

Téarmaí agus Coinníollacha Úsáide

Tugann an liosta thíos achoimre ar an bproiseas agus na rialacha faoin úsáide Cnósach Club Leabhar Leabharlann Chiarraí – sa tslí is féidir linn seirbhís iontaofa agus tapa a sholáthar do ghach Club Leabhar, tá sé tábhachtach na leabhair a fhaigheann na Clubanna ar iasacht a chur ar ais laistigh den tréimhse iasachta 30 lá.

Is féidir le gach Club Leabhar cuntas a chur ar bun agus cárta ballraíochta a fháil – tabharfar Cuntas Bloc Iasachta ar an gcuntas seo.

Is é riachtanach Cuntas Bloc Iasachta Leabharlainne a bheith agat chun aon fhoireann de na 50 teidil sa Chnósach Club Leabhar a fháil ar iasacht.

1. Ceadaíonn an cuntas seo Clubanna Leabhar 8 gcóipeanna de theidil a fháil ar iasacht ar feadh tréimhse 30 lá ar a mhéad. Ní táille le hóc as míreanna a fháil ar iasacht nuair a húsáidtear cuntais Bloc Iasachta.
2. Tá an cuntas Bloc Iasachta cláraithe in ainm an Club Leabhar ach caithfear na sonraí cearta (ainm, seoladh, uimhir fón póca) de baill amháin an Club Leabhar a bheith le fáil air. Ní foláir go bhfuil aon duine amháin freagrach as ordú, tógáil, dáileadh agus tabhairt ar ais foirne 8 leabhair. Seolfar teachtaireacht téacs nuair atá na leabhair ar fáil.
3. Spreagtar Clubanna Leabhar buaileadh lena leabharlannaí áitiúil agus iad ag socrú ar a roghnú leabhar. Cuirfear uatharratas ar gach cóip agus seolfar fógra téacs nuair atá said ar fáil. Táthar ag súil leis an mbailiú agus tabhairt as ais leabhar tráthúil.
4. Gach eolas ó do leabharlann áitiúil.

Gabhann Leabharlann Chiarraí buíochas do na Clubanna Leabhar agus a mbail éagsúla as ucht a dtacaíocht leanúnach.



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Bain taitneamh as an Follasú

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**The Love Affairs of Nathaniel P.** by Waldman, Adelle

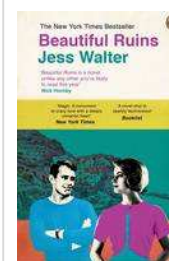
Nathaniel Piven is a rising star in Brooklyn's literary scene. After several lean, striving years and an early life as a class-A nerd, he now has a lucrative book deal, his pick of plum magazine assignments, and the attentions of many desirable women: Juliet, the hotshot business journalist; Elisa, Nate's gorgeous ex-girlfriend, now friend; Hannah, lively and fun and 'almost universally regarded as nice and smart, or smart and nice'. In this 21st century literary enclave, wit and conversation are not at all dead. But is romance? In this book, Waldman plunges into the psyche of a sensitive, flawed, modern man - to reveal the view of the new world from his garret window, and the view of women from his overactive mind.

Review: "Deeply clever...a writer to watch." -- *Jonathan Franzen*

**The Glass Castle** by Walls, Jeannette

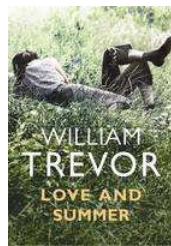
A startling memoir of a successful journalist's journey from the deserted & dusty mining towns of the American Southwest, to an antique filled apartment on Park Avenue. Walls narrates her nomadic & adventurous childhood with her dreaming, 'brilliant' but alcoholic parents. At the age of 17 she escapes to New York with her older sister; other siblings follow later. After pursuing the education her parents sought to escape, Jeanette eventually succeeds in her quest for the 'mundane, middle class existence' she had always craved. In her apartment, overlooked by 'a portrait of someone else's ancestor' she recounts poignant memories of star watching with her father, juxtaposed with irregular meals, accidents & police-car chases & reveals her complex feelings of shame, guilt, pity and pride toward her parents.

Review: 'Just read the first pages, and I defy you not to go on. It's funny and sad, and quirky, and loving. I was incredibly touched by it.' - *Dominick Dunne*

**Beautiful Ruins** by Walter, Jess

1962. Somewhere on a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and views an apparition: a beautiful woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an American starlet, he soon learns, and she is dying. And the story begins again today, half a world away in Hollywood, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot searching for the woman he last saw at his hotel fifty years before. Gloriously inventive, funny, tender and constantly surprising, a novel full of fabulous and yet very flawed people, all of them striving towards another sort of life, a future that is delightful and yet, tantalizingly, seems just out of reach.

Review: Think *Il Postino* with a walk-on part for a comically drunk Richard Burton -- *Peter Brookes*



Love and Summer by Trevor, William

It's summer and nothing much is happening in Rathmoye. So it doesn't go unnoticed when a dark-haired stranger appears on his bicycle and begins photographing the mourners at Mrs Connulty's funeral. Florian Kilderry couldn't know that the Connultys were said to own half the town; and in any case, he had come to Rathmoye only to see the scorched remains of the cinema. But Mrs Connulty's daughter, liberated at last by the death of her imperious mother, resolves to keep an eye on Florian Kilderry, and it's she who comes to witness the events that follow. A few miles out in the country, a farmer, Dillahan lives with the knowledge that he was accidentally responsible for the deaths of his wife and baby. He has married again: Ellie is the young convent girl who came to work for him when he was widowed. But she falls in love with Florian and though he plans to leave Ireland, a dangerously reckless attachment develops between them.

Review: I was totally entranced ... a rare book, *Ruth Scurr, The Times* - A fabulously benign book, a work of sympathetic magic, *Sebastian Barry, Guardian*



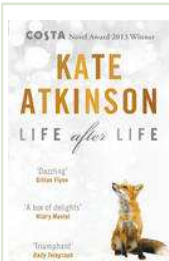
The Cleaner of Chartres by Vickers, Salley

There is something special about the ancient cathedral in Chartres, with its mismatched spires, astonishing stained glass and strange labyrinth. And there is something special too about Agnes Morel, the mysterious woman who is to be found cleaning it each morning. No one quite knows where she came from - not the diffident Abbe Paul, who discovered her one morning twenty years ago, sleeping in the north porch; nor lonely Professor Jones, whose chaotic existence she helps to organise; nor Philippe Nevers, whose neurotic sister and newborn child she cares for; nor even the irreverent young restorer, Alain Fleury, who works alongside her each day and whose attention she catches with her tawny eyes, her colourful clothes and elusive manner. And yet everyone she encounters would surely agree that she has touched their lives in subtly transformative ways, even though they couldn't quite say how. But with a chance meeting in the cathedral one day, the spectre of Agnes' past returns, provoking malicious speculation from the prejudiced Madame Beck and her gossiping companion Madame Picot. As the rumours grow more ugly, Agnes is forced to confront her history, and the mystery of her origins finally unfolds. The Cleaner of Chartres is a compelling story of darkness and light; of traumatic loss and second chances. Told with a sparkling wit and beguiling charm, but infused throughout with deeper truths, it speaks of the power of love and mercy to transform the tragedies of the past.

Review: Subtle and utterly joyous...a contemporary moral and psychological drama every bit as absorbing as Miss Garnet's Angel *Sunday Times*

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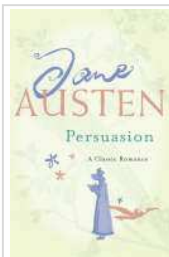
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**Life After Life** by Atkinson, Kate

What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right? During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. The same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances? And third chances? In fact an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to?

Life After Life follows Ursula Todd as she lives through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. With wit and compassion, Kate Atkinson finds warmth even in life's bleakest moments, and shows an extraordinary ability to evoke the past.

Prizes: Winner of the Costa novel award 2013

**Persuasion** by Austen, Jane

Eight years ago, Anne Elliot and Frederick Wentworth fell head over heels in love. But Anne's snobbish family put a stop to their engagement, believing the young naval captain wasn't good enough for her. Pretty, intelligent Anne soon realises it was a terrible mistake, and spends her twenties in the shadow of her father and her selfish sisters. But she never forgets. Then Captain Wentworth - by now a successful, wealthy man, looking for a wife - walks back into her life. Can he forgive her? Does he still love her? And could they

ever be happy, after all this time?

Review: Simply, a classic - a 'must read' for any Bookclub.

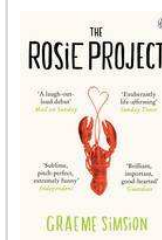
**A Secret Scripture: A Novel** by Barry, Sebastian

Nearing her one-hundredth birthday, Roseanne McNulty faces an uncertain future, as the Roscommon Regional Mental hospital where she's spent the best part of her adult life prepares for closure. Over the weeks leading up to this upheaval, she talks often with her psychiatrist Dr Grene, and their relationship intensifies and complicates. Told through their respective journals, the story that emerges is at once shocking and deeply beautiful. Refracted through the haze of memory and retelling, Roseanne's story becomes an

alternative, secret history of Ireland's changing character and the story of a life blighted by terrible mistreatment and ignorance, and yet marked still by love and passion and hope.

Review: When I reached the last page, I did feel that I had shared a profound experience, *Margot Livesey*, "The Boston Globe"

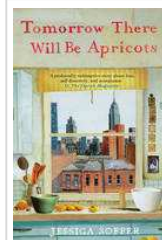
Prizes: Winner of Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year Award 2009 - Tubridy Show Listeners' Choice Award 2009 - Costa Novel Award 2008 and Costa Book of the Year 2008 and Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2008.

**The Rosie Project** By Simsion, Graeme C.

Meet Don Tillman. Don is getting married. He just doesn't know who to yet. But he has designed a very detailed questionnaire to help him find the perfect woman. Rosie, meanwhile, isn't looking for love; she's looking for her biological father. Sometimes, though, you don't find love: love finds you...Funny, endearing and pure wonderful escapism, *Independent*. A sweet, funny rom-com ...

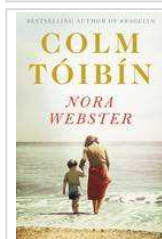
Review: You'll be willing Don and Rosie on every step of the way - *Marie Claire Original*.

Prizes: Winner of Victorian Premier's Literary Award - Unpublished Manuscript 2012.

**Tomorrow There Will be Apricots** by Soffer, Jessica

This is a heartbreaking debut about family, love, grief and food. It is perfect for fans of Joanne Harris' *Chocolat* and Julia Powell's *Julie & Julia*. Victoria, eighty and recently bereaved, is lonely and needs to find a way to reconnect with the world. When she starts teaching cooking classes she doesn't expect Lorca, a troubled teenager, to be her first pupil. Lorca is desperate to find a way into her mother's affections and as a last attempt decides to track down the recipe for her ideal meal, an obscure Middle Eastern dish called masgouf. As Lorca and Victoria form an unexpected bond over almond and pistachio cookies and baklava, they begin to suspect they are connected in more ways than just their love of food.

Review: 'A profound & necessary new voice. The prose is as controlled as it is fresh, as incisive as it is musical. Soffer has arrived early, with an orchestra of talent at her disposal' -- *Colum McCann*

**Nora Webster** by Tóibín, Colm

It is the late 1960s in Ireland. Nora Webster is living in a small town, looking after her four children, trying to rebuild her life after the death of her husband. She is fiercely intelligent, at times difficult and impatient, at times kind, but she is trapped by her circumstances and waiting for any chance which will lift her beyond them. Slowly, through the gift of music and the power of friendship, she finds a glimmer of hope and a way of starting again. As the dynamic of the family changes, she seems both fiercely self-possessed but also a figure of great moral ambiguity, making her one of the most memorable heroines in contemporary fiction. The portrait that is painted in the years that follow is harrowing, piercingly insightful, always tender and deeply true.

Review: Mixing irony & nostalgia in its portrayal of a provincial Irish town. Subtle and enthralling *Sunday Times*. This is his best yet. The ache of a widow's grief is rendered with such an unadorned intensity that you might not think the book could be entertaining too, but it is a clear-sighted yet sympathetic portrait of a woman destabilised by grief - *Financial Times*.

Prizes: Shortlisted for Folio Prize 2015.



A Change in Altitude by Shreve, Anita

Margaret & Patrick, married just a few months, set off on a great adventure - a year living in Kenya. While Patrick practices medicine, Margaret works as a photojournalist, capturing a dizzying and dangerous city on film. When a British couple invite the newlyweds on a climbing expedition to the summit of Mount Kenya, they eagerly agree. But during their arduous ascent a horrific accident occurs. In its aftermath, Margaret struggles to understand what happened on the mountain and how it has transformed her and her marriage, perhaps for ever. With stunning language and striking emotional intensity, *A Change in Altitude* illuminates the irrevocable impact of tragedy and the elusive nature of forgiveness.

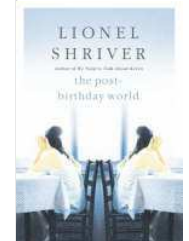
Review: 'Evoking the landscape of Africa with an passion that could have you booking yourself on the next flight to Nairobi, this novel maps the unknown corners of the human heart' *John Harding, Daily*



The Lives of Stella Bain by Shreve, Anita

Hauled in a cart to a field hospital in northern France in March 1916, an American woman wakes from unconsciousness to the smell of gas gangrene, the sounds of men in pain and an almost complete loss of memory: she knows only that she can drive an ambulance, she can draw, and her name is Stella Bain. A stateless woman in a lawless country, Stella embarks on a journey to reconstruct her life. Suffering an agonising and inexplicable array of symptoms, she finds her way to London. There, Dr August Bridge, a cranial surgeon turned psychologist, is drawn to tracking her amnesia to its source. What brutality was she fleeing when she left the tranquil seclusion of a New England college campus to serve on the Front; for what crime did she need to atone - and whom did she leave behind?

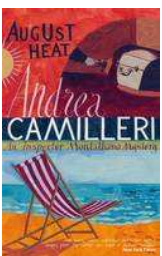
Review: A powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit. This is a First World War story with a difference ... a fantastic read Red Gripping and moving - *Sunday Times*



The Post-birthday World by Shriver, Lionel

Children's book illustrator Irina McGovern enjoys a quiet and settled life in London with her partner, fellow American expatriate Lawrence Trainer, a smart, loyal, disciplined intellectual. To their small circle of friends, their relationship is rock solid. Until the night Irina unaccountably finds herself dying to kiss another man: their old friend from South London, the stylish, extravagant, passionate top-ranking snooker player Ramsey Acton. The decision to give in to temptation will have consequences for her career, her relationships with family and friends, and perhaps most importantly the texture of her daily life.

Review: The new book from the Orange Prize winning author of *We Need to Talk About Kevin*. The *Post-birthday World* is a passionate novel, 'It is a compelling survey of the competing merits of security verses. desire.' *Saturday Guardian*



August Heat by Camilleri, Andrea

Montalbano quickly slammed the trunk shut and sat down on top of it. When the beam from Livia's torch shone on his face, he automatically smiled. 'What's in the trunk?' Livia asked. 'Nothing. It's empty.' How could he possibly have told her there was a body inside? The lazy, slow month of August at the height of the Sicilian summer is, Inspector Montalbano assures his girlfriend Livia as they prepare for a relaxing holiday in a villa he has found for them, far too hot for any murders to be committed. But when Livia's friends' young son goes missing, a chain of events is sparked which will certainly ruin the Chief Inspector's pleasant interlude. A secret apartment and a grisly find in an old trunk are just the beginning, as Montalbano navigates his way through the case, as well as coping with the sweltering heat, the suspicious death of an Arab labourer and the tempting lure of a beautiful girl.

Review: 'A magnificent series of novels' *Sunday Times* 'Wonderful Italian detective stories'



The Memory Book by Coleman, Rowan

The name of your first-born. The face of your lover. Your age. Your address. what would happen if your memory of these began to fade? Is it possible to rebuild your life? Raise a family? Fall in love again? When Claire starts to write her Memory Book, she already knows that this scrapbook of mementoes will soon be all her daughters and husband have of her. But how can she hold onto the past when her future is slipping through her fingers?

Review: "Painfully real and utterly heartbreaking, every page will leave you an emotional wreck but, ultimately, this is a wonderfully uplifting novel about mothers and daughters" *Lisa Jewell*



The Little Beach Street Bakery by Colgan, Jenny

Polly Waterford is recovering from a toxic relationship. Unable to afford their flat, she has to move miles away from everyone, to a sleepy little seaside resort in Cornwall, where she lives alone above an abandoned shop. Polly takes out her frustrations on her favourite hobby: making bread. But what was previously a weekend diversion suddenly becomes far more important as she pours her emotions into kneading and pounding the dough, and each loaf becomes better and better. With nuts and seeds, olives and chorizo, local honey & with reserves of determination and creativity she never knew she had, she bakes and bakes, and people start to hear about it.

Review: Cheery and heart-warming escapism - *Sunday Mirror*



The Sisters Brothers by *deWitt, Patrick*

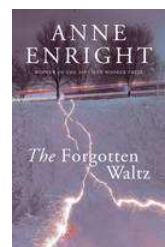
Oregon, 1851. Eli and Charlie Sisters, notorious professional killers, are on their way to California to kill a man named Hermann Kermit Warm. On the way, the brothers have a series of unsettling and violent experiences in the Darwinian landscape of Gold Rush America. Charlie makes money and kills anyone who stands in his way; Eli doubts his vocation and falls in love. And they bicker a lot. Then they get to California, and discover that Warm is an inventor who has come up with a magical formula, which could make all of them very rich. What happens next is utterly gripping, strange and sad.

Review: 'one of the most gripping and heart-wrenching stories I've heard in years *The Observer*. 'The Sisters Brothers confirms DeWitt as one of the most talented young writers around' Sunday Times **Prizes:** Shortlisted for Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2011.



All the Light We Cannot See by *Doerr, Anthony*

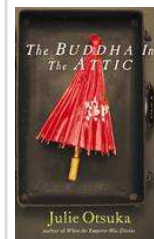
Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. But when the Nazis invade, father and daughter flee with a dangerous secret. Werner is a German orphan, destined to labour in the same mine that claimed his father's life, until he discovers a knack for engineering. His talent wins him a place at a brutal military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering. At the same time, far away in a walled city by the sea, an old man discovers new worlds without ever setting foot outside his home. But all around him, impending danger closes in. **Review:** 'This novel will be a piece of luck for anyone with a long plane journey or beach holiday ahead. It is such a page-turner, entirely absorbing. Doerr's attention to detail is magnificent' *Carmen Callil, Guardian*



The Forgotten Waltz by *Enright, Anne*

"The Forgotten Waltz" is a memory of desire: a recollection of the bewildering speed of attraction, the irreparable slip into longing. In Terenure, a pleasant suburb of Dublin, in the winter of 2009, it has snowed. Gina Moynihan, girl about town, recalls the trail of lust and happenstance that brought her to fall for 'the love of her life', Sean Vallyely. As the city outside comes to a halt, Gina remembers the days of their affair in one hotel room or another: long afternoons made blank by bliss and denial. Now, as the silent streets and the stillness and vertigo of the falling snow make the day luminous and full of possibility, Gina waits the arrival on her doorstep of Sean's fragile, twelve-year-old daughter, Evie - the complication, and gravity, of this second life. In this extraordinary novel, this opening book of secrets, Anne Enright speaks directly to the readers she won with the success of "The Gathering".

Prizes: Shortlisted for Orange Prize for Fiction 2012



The Buddha in the Attic by *Otsuka, Julie*

In eight incantatory sections, "The Buddha in the Attic" traces the women's extraordinary lives, from their arduous journey by boat, where they exchange photographs of their husbands, imagining uncertain futures in an unknown land; to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; to their backbreaking work picking fruit in the fields and scrubbing the floors of white women in their homes; to their struggles to master a new language and a new culture; to their experiences in childbirth, and then as mothers, raising children who will ultimately reject their heritage and their history; and to the deracinating arrival of war. In language that has the force and the fury of poetry, Julie Otsuka has written a singularly spellbinding novel about the American dream.

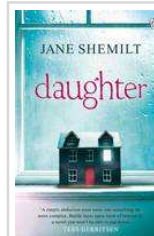
Prize: This title is winner of the Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction 2012 Finalist for the 2011 National Book Award, and the 2011 Los Angeles Times Book Prize.



The Other Typist by *Rindell, Suzanne*

1924: the height of Prohibition. In a police precinct on the lower East Side young typist Rose Baker records the confessions of killers and gangsters. But when a new typist arrives - the captivating Odalie - Rose finds a true partner in crime. Flitting between sparkling speakeasies by night and their work at the precinct by day, the girls are drawn further into a dark, glamorous world. Soon Rose's fascination with Odalie & her glittering life turns to obsession. But does she know the real Odalie and what will happen if she dares to find out? Suzanne Rindell is a doctoral student in American modernist literature at Rice University. *The Other Typist* is her first novel.

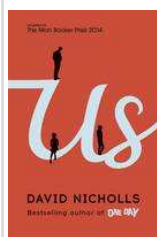
Review: "An enchanting jazz-age thriller...clever and addictive". (*Guardian*). "Darkly, addictively entertaining, with a plot twist Hitchcock would have been proud of". (*Sunday Times*). New York City,



Daughter by *Shemilt, Jane*

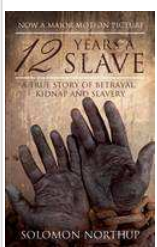
Naomi has vanished, leaving her family broken and her mother Jenny desperately searching for answers. But the traces fifteen-year-old Naomi's left behind reveal a very different girl to the one Jenny thought she'd raised, and the more she looks the more she learns that everyone she trusted has been keeping secrets. But will discovering the real Naomi help to find her?

Review: We absolutely loved this book. It's about a GP and her family and the sudden horror that devastates their lives when their daughter disappears one night. It's difficult to believe that this accomplished book is a debut, *Judy Finnigan, Richard & Judy book club*

**Us** by Nicholls, David

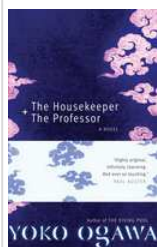
Douglas Petersen understands his wife's need to 'rediscover herself' now that their son is leaving home. He just thought they'd be doing their rediscovering together. So when Connie announces that she will be leaving, too, he resolves to make their last family holiday into the trip of a lifetime: one that will draw the three of them closer, and win the respect of his son. One that will make Connie fall in love with him all over again. The hotels are booked, the tickets bought, the itinerary planned and printed. What could possibly go wrong?

Prizes: Winner of Specsavers National Book Awards: UK Author of the Year 2014

**12 Years a Slave: A True Story of Betrayal, Kidnap and Slavery** by Northup, Solomon

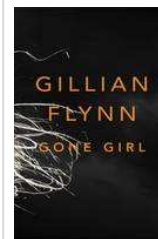
This unforgettable memoir was the basis for the Academy Award-winning film 12 Years a Slave. This is the true story of Solomon Northup, who was born and raised as a freeman in New York. He lived the American dream, with a house and a loving family - a wife and two kids. Then one day he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in the deep south. These are the true accounts of his twelve hard years as a slave - many believe this memoir is even more graphic and disturbing than the film. His extraordinary journey proves the resiliency of hope and the human spirit despite the most grueling and formidable of circumstances.

Review: "...heartbreaking, shocking and emotional." --Film vs. Book

**The Housekeeper and the Professor** by Ogawa, Yōko

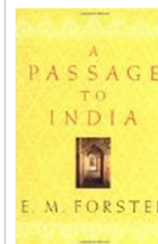
He is a brilliant maths professor, with a peculiar problem - ever since a traumatic head injury some seventeen years ago, he has lived with only eighty minutes of short term memory. She is a sensitive but astute young housekeeper with a ten-year-old son, who is entrusted to take care of him. Each morning, as the Professor and the Housekeeper are reintroduced to one another, a strange, beautiful relationship blossoms between them. The Professor may not remember what he had for breakfast, but his mind is still alive with elegant equations from the past. He devises clever maths riddles - based on her shoe size or her birthday - and the numbers, in all of their articulate order, reveal a sheltering and poetic world to both the Housekeeper and her little boy. With each new equation, the three lost souls forge an affection more mysterious than imaginary numbers, and a bond that runs deeper than memory.

Review: "Alive with mysteries both mathematical and personal, this novel has the pared-down elegance of an equation" *Oprah magazine*

**Gone Girl** by Flynn, Gillian

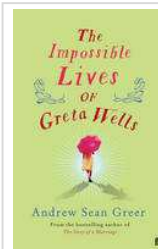
The Addictive No.1 Bestseller That Everyone Is Talking About .Who are you? What have we done to each other? These are the questions Nick Dunne finds himself asking on the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, when his wife Amy suddenly disappears. The police suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they weren't made by him. And then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone. So what really did happen to Nick's beautiful wife?

Review: an extraordinarily good writer, plays her readers with the finesse and delicacy of an expert angler. She wields her unreliable narrators to stunning effect, baffling, disturbing and delighting in turn, practically guaranteeing an immediate reread once her terrifying, wonderful conclusion is reached... an early contender for thriller of the year, and an absolute must-read. -- *Alison Flood THE OBSERVER*.

**A Passage to India** by FE.M. Forster

A Passage to India is a novel by English author E. M. Forster set against the backdrop of the British Raj and the Indian independence movement in the 1920s. The novel is based on Forster's experiences in India. Forster borrowed the book's title from Walt Whitman's poem of the same name in Leaves of Grass. The story revolves around four characters: Dr. Aziz, his British friend Mr. Cyril Fielding, Mrs. Moore, and Miss Adela Quested. During a trip to the Marabar Caves, Adela accuses Aziz of attempting to assault her. Aziz's trial, and its run-up and aftermath, bring out all the racial tensions & prejudices between indigenous Indians and the British colonists who rule India.

Prizes: It was selected as one of the 100 great works of English literature by the Modern Library and won the 1924 James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction.

**The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells** by Greer, Andrew Sean

It is 1985, and Greta Wells wishes she lived in any time but this one: she has lost her brother to AIDS, her lover Nathan to another woman, and can not seem to go on alone. To ease her sadness, her doctor suggest an unusual procedure, one that opens doors of insight into the relationships in her life, her conflicting affections, and the limitations put on a woman's life. Throughout, Greta glimpses versions of war, history, herself, and the people she loves, and as the procedures come to an end, she realizes she must make a choice: one which will close every door but one, forever.

Review: "...emotionally rich...Greer is an artful, elegant writer...The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells is a deeply romantic book." --*Miami Herald*

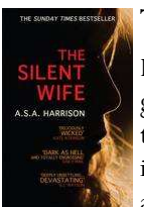


The Examined Life: How We Lose and Find Ourselves

by Grosz, Stephen

A Sunday Times bestseller - Longlisted for the Guardian first book award - A Radio 4 Book of the Week. This book is about learning to live, in simple stories of encounters between a psychoanalyst and his patients. The Examined Life reveals how the art of insight can illuminate the most complicated, confounding and human of experiences. These are stories about our everyday lives: they are about the people we love and the lies that we tell; the changes we bear, and the grief. Ultimately, they show us not only how we lose ourselves but how we might find ourselves too.

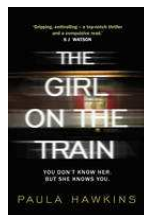
Review: "I was enthralled. Profound and moving, packed large ideas into a slim volume" -- *Lucy Lethbridge Observer, Books of the Year*



The Silent Wife by Harrison, A. S. A.

Having nothing left to lose changes everything. Todd and Jodie have been together for more than twenty years. They are both aware their world is in crisis, though neither is willing to admit it. Todd is living a dual existence, while Jodie is living in denial. But she also likes to settle scores. When it becomes clear their affluent Chicago lifestyle could disintegrate at any moment, Jodie knows everything is at stake. It's only now she will discover just how much she's truly capable of...Shocking and compelling in equal measure, THE SILENT WIFE is a chilling portrayal of two people in turmoil and the lengths they will go to in order to protect themselves.

Review: This perfectly pitched debut offers sharp insights into the grievances that accumulate over a long relationship and the lengths to which a woman will go when her world collapses - *SUNDAY TIMES* - perfect for readers of Sophie Hannah, Nicci French & Barbara Vine.



The Girl on the Train by Hawkins, Paula

Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning. She knows it will wait at the same signal each time, overlooking a row of back gardens. She's even started to feel like she knows the people who live in one of the houses. 'Jess and Jason', she calls them. Their life - as she sees it - is perfect. If only Rachel could be that happy. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Now Rachel has a chance to become a part of the lives she's only watched from afar. Now they'll see: she's much more than just the girl on the train.

Review: "Gripping, enthralling - a top-notch thriller and a compulsive read" *S J Watson* - This book was so thrilling and tense and wildly unpredictable, I simply could not put it down. Not to be missed!" - *Tess Gerritsen*.

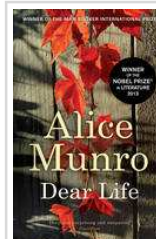
Prizes: Shortlisted for Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2011.



The Secret Keeper by Morton, Kate

During a picnic at her family's farm in the English countryside, 16-year-old Laurel Nicolson witnesses a shocking crime, a crime that challenges everything she knows about her adored mother, Dorothy. Now, 50 years later, Laurel and her sisters are meeting at the farm to celebrate Dorothy's 90th birthday. Realizing that this is her last chance to discover the truth about that long-ago day, Laurel searches for answers that can only be found in Dorothy's past. Clue by clue, she traces a secret history of three strangers from vastly different worlds thrown together in war-torn London - Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy - whose lives are forever after entwined. A gripping story, *The Secret Keeper* will keep you enthralled to the last page.

Review: 'Tense and atmospheric' the story unfurls with a beguiling sweetness, but there's a real sting to this tale, too' *Marie Claire Good Book Club choice*.



Dear Life by Munro, Alice

This is the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Alice Munro captures the essence of life in her brilliant new collection of stories. Moments of change, chance encounters, the twist of fate that leads a person to a new way of thinking or being: the stories in *Dear Life* build to form a radiant, indelible portrait of just how dangerous and strange ordinary life can be.

Review: "A collection of truly beautiful short stories, perfectly crafted in a way that leaves no wanting feeling. Profound, poignant and undeniably powerful, this truly is the short story at its finest" *The Bookbag*.



Everything I Never Told You by Ng, Celeste

Lydia is the favourite child of Marilyn and James Lee; a girl who inherited her mother's bright blue eyes and her father's jet-black hair. Her parents are determined that Lydia will fulfil the dreams they were unable to pursue - in Marilyn's case that her daughter become a doctor rather than a homemaker, in James's case that Lydia be popular at school, a girl with a busy social life and the centre of every party. But Lydia is under pressures that have nothing to do with growing up in 1970s small town Ohio. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. When Lydia's body is found in the local lake, James is consumed by guilt and sets out on a reckless path that may destroy his marriage. Marilyn, devastated and vengeful, is determined to make someone accountable, no matter what the cost. Lydia's older brother, Nathan, is convinced that local bad boy Jack is somehow involved. But it's the youngest in the family - Hannah - who observes far more than anyone realises and who may be the only one who knows what really happened.

Review: Amazon's #1 Book of the Year 2014



Jacob's Folly by Miller, Rebecca

In 18th-century Paris, Jacob is a peddler of knives, salt cellars and snuffboxes. Despite a disastrous teenage marriage, Jacob is determined to raise himself up in life, by whatever means he can. In twenty-first-century America, Jacob's life has twisted in ways he could never have imagined. But even the tiniest of flies can influence the turning of the world. Reliable, true, Leslie Senzatimore, a volunteer fireman, and Masha, a gravely ill young woman, are about to have their lives transformed.

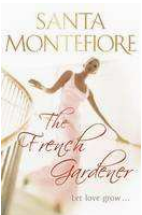
Review: Miller's writing is vigorous, powerful & riveting. I was constantly surprised by the flights & dips of narrative, and its complexity, while from start to finish her wit & the clear, true characters kept the book grounded. A magnificent achievement - *Sadie Jones*, author of *The Outcast*



The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel by Moggach, Deborah

When Ravi Kapoor, an over-worked London doctor, is driven beyond endurance by his obnoxious father-in-law, he asks his wife: 'Can't we just send him away somewhere? Somewhere far, far away.' His prayer seems to have been answered when his entrepreneurial cousin, Sonny, sets up a retirement home. Enticed by advertisements for a newly restored palatial hotel and filled with visions of a life of leisure, good weather and mango juice in their gin, a group of very different people leave England to begin a new life in India. On arrival they are dismayed to find the palace is a shell of its former self, the staff more than a little eccentric, and the days of the Raj long gone. But, as they soon discover, life and love can begin again, even in the most unexpected circumstances.

Review: "Delightful and entertaining" - *Mail on Sunday*, "Warm, wise, funny" - *Guardian*
"Superb Moggach has served us a treat. Moving, sincere, funny" - *Independent on Sunday*



The French Gardener by Montefiore, Santa

Miranda and David move out of London into a beautiful country house with a magical garden. But Miranda insists on tottering across the wet lawn in kitten heels, David is never there, and the children won't tear themselves away from the telly. Then an enigmatic Frenchman arrives. With the wisdom of nature he slowly begins to heal the past and the present. But who is he? His secret lies in the deepest recesses of the garden, for a garden, like love itself, can restore the human spirit not just season after season, but generation after generation.

Review: 'Intricate and well written perfect for a rainy bank holiday.' - *Company*, 'A great tale, beautifully told' - *New Woman* - 'It twangs on every heartstring, presses every button and is utterly irresistible... It's lovely stuff - glossy lifestyle glamour with a soul. You are spellbound by the sheer charm of the enterprise.' -- *Daily Express*



Elizabeth is Missing by Healey, Emma

'Elizabeth is missing', reads the note in Maud's pocket in her own handwriting. Lately, Maud's been getting forgetful. She keeps buying peach slices when she has a cupboard full, forgets to drink the cups of tea she's made and writes notes to remind herself of things. But Maud is determined to discover what has happened to her friend, Elizabeth, and what it has to do with the unsolved disappearance of her sister Sukey, years back, just after the war.

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



The Thread by Hislop, Victoria

Thessaloniki, 1917. As Dimitri Komninos is born, a devastating fire sweeps through the thriving Greek city where Christians, Jews and Muslims live side by side. Five years later, Katerina Sarafoglou's home in Asia Minor is destroyed by the Turkish army. Losing her mother in the chaos, she flees across the sea to an unknown destination in Greece. Soon her life will become entwined with Dimitri's, and with the story of the city itself, as war, fear and persecution begin to divide its people. Thessaloniki, 2007. A young Anglo-Greek hears his grandparents' life story for the first time and realises he has a decision to make. For many decades, they have looked after the memories and treasures of the people who were forced to leave. Should he become their next custodian and make this city his home?

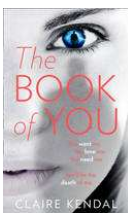
Review: 'Sweeping, magnificently detailed and ambitious' - *The Sunday Times* 'Fast-paced narrative and utterly convincing sense of place' - *Guardian*



The Uninvited Guests by Jones, Sadie

This is a sinister tale of haunting beauty, from "The Outcast" author Sadie Jones. It is the eve of Emerald Torrington's twentieth birthday and the family has assembled at Sterne, the once grand, now crumbling, family seat. The cake is iced, the wine decanted, the house gleams invitingly. But before the first dish can be served, a mysterious group of strangers arrive at the door. Victims of a local train accident, they are seeking shelter at the house. The Torringtons welcome them in but there is something unsettling about the group and as night falls and a storm rages outside, the family begins to wonder if something more malevolent than stranded travellers is in their home.

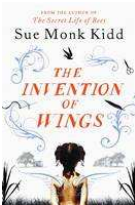
Review: "Dazzlingly well-written. The style is exuberant and extremely funny. This is a midsummer's night dream of a book, mythic and unforgettable" - *Financial Times*



The Book of You by Kendal, Claire

Clarissa is becoming more and more frightened of her colleague, Rafe. He won't leave her alone, and he refuses to take no for an answer. He is always there. Being selected for jury service is a relief. The courtroom is a safe haven, a place where Rafe can't be. But as a violent tale of kidnap and abuse unfolds, Clarissa begins to see parallels between her own situation and that of the young woman on the witness stand. Realizing that she bears the burden of proof, Clarissa unravels the twisted, macabre fairytale that Rafe has spun around them - and discovers that the ending he envisions is more terrifying than she could have imagined. But how do you protect yourself from an enemy no one else can see?

Review: 'Any thriller that has you checking over your shoulder and peeking from behind your curtains must be gripping so hats off to Claire Kendal's for doing just this - ' *Stylist* '



The Invention of Wings by Kidd, Sue Monk

From the author of the international bestseller, *The Secret Life of Bees*, comes an extraordinary novel about two exceptional women. Sarah Grimke is the middle daughter, the one her mother calls difficult and her father calls remarkable. On Sarah's eleventh birthday, Hetty 'Handful' Grimke is taken from the slave quarters she shares with her mother, wrapped in lavender ribbons, and presented to Sarah as a gift. Sarah knows what she does next will unleash a world of trouble. She also knows that she cannot accept. And so, indeed, the trouble begins. This book evokes a world of shocking contrasts, of beauty and ugliness, of righteous people living daily with cruelty they fail to recognise; and celebrates the power of friendship and sisterhood against all the odds.

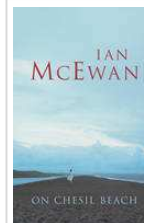
Review: The No. 1 New York Times bestseller and selected as an Oprah Book Club 2013.



A Good Year by Mayle, Peter

Max Skinner is a man at the heart of London's financial universe, until his employers embark on a little asset-stripping of their own. Himself. Amid the grey London drizzle, there is one potential ray of sunshine: Max's Uncle Harry has left him his estate in his will - an 18th century chateau and vineyard an hour's drive from Avignon. Out of a job, and encouraged by his friend Charlie about the money in modern wine, he heads for France. What Max discovers is a beautiful house, wonderful weather and a bustling village. The downside is the quality of the wine in his vineyard, but when Max suggests calling in an expert, Roussel, a former employee of his uncle, is resistant. Help is at hand, however, when a beautiful blonde Californian arrives unexpectedly at the chateau.

Review: Through delicious descriptions of the landscape and great characterisation, you'll find yourself foregoing meals in order to find out what happens next. *FRENCH MAGAZINE*



On Chesil Beach by McEwan, Ian

It is June 1962. In a hotel on the Dorset coast, overlooking Chesil Beach, Edward and Florence, who got married that morning, are sitting down to dinner in their room. Neither is entirely able to suppress their anxieties about the wedding night to come... "On Chesil Beach" is another masterwork from Ian McEwan - a story about how the entire course of a life can be changed by a gesture not made or a word not spoken.

Prizes: winner of British Book Awards: Galaxy Book of the Year Award 2008 - British Book Awards: Reader's Digest Author of the Year Award 2008. Shortlisted for RTE Radio 1's The Tubridy, Show Listeners' Choice Award 2008 - Independent Booksellers' Book of the Year Award: Adults' Book of the Year 2007 and Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2007.



The Children Act by McEwan, Ian

Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge, presiding over cases in the family court. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now, her marriage of thirty years is in crisis. At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case. For religious reasons, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, Adam, is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents share his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely held faith? In the course of reaching a decision Fiona visits Adam in hospital - an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for both.

Review: "Compulsively readable... McEwan's prose keeps its cutting edge and his books are the ones the reading public still crave... A masterly balance between research and imagination... One feels an immediate pleasure in returning to prose of uncommon clarity, unshowiness and control" *The Times*



The Paris Wife by McLain, Paula

Chicago, 1920: Hadley Richardson is a quiet 28-year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness, until she meets Ernest Hemingway. After a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they soon fall in with a circle of lively and volatile expatriates, including F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and Ezra Pound.

Review: McLain smartly explores Hadley's ambivalence about her role as supportive wife to a budding genius. Women and book groups are going to eat up this novel." - *USA Today*. **Prizes:** Shortlisted for Irish Book Awards: RTE Radio 1's The John Murray Show Listeners' Choice Award 2012.