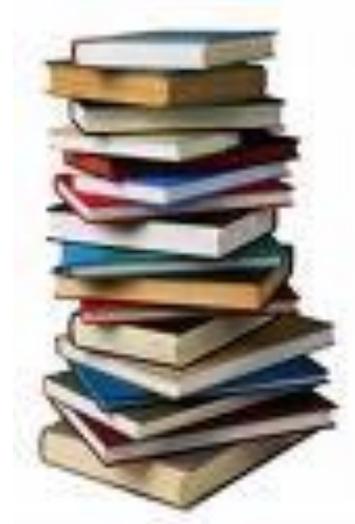


# **Book Group Guide & Booklist**



**Last Updated October 2018**

## **Brighton & Hove Libraries - Reading Group Guidelines**

Brighton & Hove libraries have sets of books especially for loan by reading groups in the City. The collection is made up of recent bestsellers, classics, contemporary novels, popular non-fiction, a range of literary fiction, and some experimental writings, all chosen to provoke discussion.

### **How do we set up our group?**

Email [BookGroupsLibraries@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:BookGroupsLibraries@brighton-hove.gov.uk) with the following information:

- Group name
- Lead contact name for the group card
- Lead contact details including a telephone number and email address
- Pick up location e.g. Jubilee Library

You can ask at any Brighton & Hove Library for an Annual Private Book Group subscription card, which costs £30 per year. You're group will be issued with a card, which you can use to issue your books for a 6 week loan.

### **How do we reserve books?**

There are over 50 book groups across the city which use our service, therefore, some of the more popular sets may become fully booked. To have the best chance of reserving the books your group would like to read, please be as prompt as possible with your requests and ask as far in advance as possible for your years' worth of reading. If you haven't been sent the current book list, you can request a copy by emailing the [bookgroupslibraries@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:bookgroupslibraries@brighton-hove.gov.uk) address.

Whenever you want to reserve books for your group email [BookGroupsLibraries@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:BookGroupsLibraries@brighton-hove.gov.uk) with the following information:

- Your group's name.
- Your book choice (title and author).
- 2 or 3 backup book choices (in case your first choice is already reserved).
- The library you would like to collect your books from.
- The number of copies you need in a set.

### **How many books are in a set?**

Each set contains ten copies.

### **How long can we borrow them for?**

Sets are available for six week loan periods. After this time, fines will be charged against the book group card. Longer loan periods are possible by prior arrangement, but the books cannot be renewed. Please make every effort to return the entire set in time, as there is likely to be another group waiting to use them.

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Wife**  
**Ebershoff, David**

**New 2017**  
Pages: 598

Jordan returns from California to Utah to visit his mother in jail. As a teenager he was expelled from his family and religious community, a secretive Mormon offshoot sect. Now his father has been found shot dead in front of his computer, and one of his many wives - Jordan's mother - is accused of the crime.

**Adrift**  
**Bob Boffard**

**New 2019**

**SCI-FI**

Paperback  
Pages: 371

For one small group, a tour of the nearby Horsehead Nebula is meant to be a short but stunning highlight in the trip of a lifetime. But when a mysterious ship destroys Sigma Station and everyone on it, suddenly their tourist shuttle is stranded. They have no weapons. No food. No water. No one back home knows they're alive. And the mysterious ship is hunting them.

**Alarm Girl**  
**Hannah Vincent**

Pages 177

Paperback

When 11-year-old Indigo and her older brother Robin arrive in South Africa to stay with their father, they find a luxury lifestyle that is a world away from their modest existence back in England. But Indigo is uneasy in the foreign landscape and confused by the family's silence surrounding her mother's recent death.

**All Quiet on the Western Front**  
**Erich Maria Remarque**

Pages: 216

**Modern classic**

Paperback

In 1914 a room full of German schoolboys, fresh-faced and idealistic, are goaded by their schoolmaster to troop off to the 'glorious war'. With the fire and patriotism of youth they sign up. What follows is the moving story of a young 'unknown soldier' experiencing the horror and disillusionment of life in the trenches.

**All The Light We Cannot See**

**Anthony Doerr**

Pages: 530

Paperback

A beautiful, stunningly ambitious novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

**American War**  
**Omar El Akkad**

**New 2018**

**SCI-FI**

Pages: 333

Hardback

Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, that unmanned drones fill the sky. And when her father is killed and her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she quickly begins to be shaped by her particular time and place until finally, through the influence of a mysterious functionary, she is turned into a deadly instrument of war.

**Animal's People**

**Indra Sinha**

Pages: 366

Paperback

Ever since he can remember, Animal has gone on all fours, the catastrophic result of what happened on That Night when, thanks to an American chemical company, the Apocalypse

visited his slum. Now not quite twenty, he leads a hand-to-mouth existence with his dog Jara and a crazy old nun called Ma Franci, and spends his nights fantasising about Nisha, the daughter of a local musician.

**Are You My Mother?**

**New 2019**

**LGBTQ+**

**Graphic Novel**

**Alison Bechdel**

Paperback

Pages: 287

This new memoir is about Bechdel's mother - a voracious reader, a music lover, a passionate amateur actor. Also a woman, unhappily married to a gay man, whose artistic aspirations simmered under the surface of Bechdel's childhood... and who stopped touching or kissing her daughter goodnight, for ever, when she was seven.

**The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas**

**New 2018**

**LGBTQ+**

**Gertrude Stein**

Paperback

Pages: 272

For Gertrude Stein and her companion Alice, life in Paris was based upon the rue de Fleurus and the Saturday evenings. This is Gertrude's own autobiography and a roll-call of all the extraordinary painters and writers she met.

**Autumn**

**New 2018**

**LGBTQ+**

**Ali Smith**

Paperback

Pages: 263

Fusing Keatsian mists and mellow fruitfulness with the vitality, the immediacy and the colour-hit of Pop Art - via a bit of very contemporary skulduggery and skull-diggery - 'Autumn' is a witty excavation of the present by the past. The novel is a stripped-branches take on popular culture, and a meditation, in a world growing ever more bordered and exclusive, on what richness and worth are, what harvest means.

**Beatrice and Virgil**

**New 2017**

**Yann Martel**

Paperback

Pages: 224

This is the story of a donkey named Beatrice and a monkey named Virgil. It is also the story of an extraordinary journey undertaken by a man named Henry. It begins with a mysterious parcel, and it ends in a place that will make you think again about one of the most significant events of the twentieth century.

**Belonging**

**New 2016**

**Umi Sinha**

Paperback

Pages: 321

Lila Langdon is twelve years old when she witnesses a family tragedy after her mother unveils her father's surprise birthday present - a tragedy that ends her childhood in India and precipitates a new life in Sussex with her Great-aunt Wilhelmina.

**Berg**

**Ann Quin**

Paperback

Pages: 168

**local author**

Its opening line, 'A man called Berg, who changed his name to Greb, came to a seaside town intending to kill his father...' set the tone for a dark, psychological farce set in an unnamed seaside town that clearly resembles Brighton, which became the most critically acclaimed of Quin's four novels. Quin is associated with a loosely constituted circle of 'experimental' authors in Sixties Britain.

**Beware of Pity**

**Stephan Zweig**

**New 2017**

Pages: 386

**Modern classic**

In 1913 a young second lieutenant discovers the terrible danger of pity. He had no idea the girl was lame when he asked her to dance – his compensatory afternoon calls relieve his guilt but give her a dangerous glimmer of hope.

**Birdcage Walk** **New 2018**  
**Helen Dunmore** Pages: 406  
Paperback

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

**Black Boy** **New 2019** Modern classic  
**Richard Wright**  
Paperback Pages: 262

Moved from home to home, from brick tenement to orphanage, Richard Wright had had, by the age of 12, only one year's formal education. Gradually he learned how to survive in a world of white hostility, secretly satisfying his craving for books.

**The Bone Clocks**  
**David Mitchell** Pages: 595  
Hardback

Run away, one drowsy summer's afternoon, with Holly Sykes: wayward teenager, broken-hearted rebel and unwitting pawn in a titanic, hidden conflict.

**The Book of Lies**  
**Mary Horlock** Pages: 325  
Hardback

1985- When fifteen-year-old Catherine sees her best friend slip from a wild cliff path she vows never to say a word. 1940- Charlie is also holding back a secret from the adults on the island. As German soldiers arrive on Guernsey, he carries out an act of rebellion with consequences that will reach far into the future - and into Catherine's own life.

**The Bookseller of Kabul**  
**Asne Seierstad** Pages: 276  
Paperback

For more than twenty years Sultan Khan defied the authorities - be they communist or Taliban - to supply books to the people of Kabul.

**The Bricks that Built the Houses** **New 2019** LGBTQ+  
**Kate Tempest**  
Paperback

Becky, Harry, and Leon are leaving London in a fourth-hand Ford with a suitcase full of stolen money, in a mess of tangled loyalties and impulses. But can they truly leave the city that's in their bones?

**A Brief History of Seven Killings** **New 2017**  
**Marlon James** Pages: 704  
Paperback

Seven gunmen storm Bob Marley's house, machine guns blazing. The reggae superstar survives, but the gunmen are never caught.

**Brothers in Blood** **New 2019**

**Amer Anwar**

Paperback

Pages: 448

Southall, West London. After being released from prison, Zaq Khan is lucky to land a dead-end job at a builders' yard. All he wants to do is keep his head down and put the past behind him. But when Zaq is forced to search for his boss's runaway daughter, he quickly finds himself caught up in a deadly web of deception, murder and revenge. With time running out and pressure mounting, can he find the missing girl before it's too late? And if he does, can he keep her - and himself - alive long enough to deal with the people who want them both dead?

**Burial Rites****Hannah Kent**

Pages: 330

Paperback

Northern Iceland, 1829. A woman condemned to death for murdering her lover. A family forced to take her in. A priest tasked with absolving her. But all is not as it seems, and time is running out: winter is coming, and with it the execution date.

**The Buried Giant****Kazuo Ishiguro**

Pages: 345

Hardback

The Romans have long since departed, and Britain is steadily declining into ruin. But at least the wars that once ravaged the country have ceased. Axl and Beatrice set off across a troubled land of mist and rain in the hope of finding a son they have not seen for years.

**The Call****New 2018****local author****Corinna Edwards-Colledge**

Pages: 176

Paperback

The Call is a portmanteau style novella, telling the seemingly disparate stories of fourteen individuals trying to make sense of their lives alongside the caprices of fate and the behaviour of those closest to them.

**Carol****New 2016****LGBTQ+****Patricia Highsmith**

Pages: 307

Paperback

Therese is just an ordinary sales assistant working in a New York department store when a beautiful, alluring woman in her thirties walks up to her counter. Standing there, Therese is wholly unprepared for the first shock of love.

**Carry the One****LGBTQ+****Carol Anshaw**

Pages: 253

Paperback

In the early hours of the morning, following a wedding reception, a car filled with stoned, drunk and sleepy guests accidentally hits and kills a girl on a dark country road. For the next twenty-five years, the lives of those involved are subtly shaped by this tragic moment.

**Cartes Postales from Greece****New 2018****Victoria Hislop**

Pages: 429

Paperback

Week after week, the postcards arrive, addressed to a name Ellie does not know, with no return address, each signed with an initial: A. After six months, to her disappointment, they cease. But she must see this country for herself. On the morning Ellie leaves for Athens, a notebook arrives. Its pages tell the story of a man's odyssey through Greece. A's tale unfolds with the discovery not only of a culture but also of a desire to live life to the full once more.

**A Case of Exploding Mangoes****New 2017****Mohammed Hanif**

Pages: 296

Paperback

There is an ancient saying that when lovers fall out, a plane goes down. This is the story of one such plane. Why did a Hercules C130, the world's sturdiest plane, carrying Pakistan's military dictator, General Zia ul-Haq, go down on 17 August, 1988?

**The Charioteer**

**New 2016**

**LGBTQ+**

**Mary Renault**

Pages: 420

Paperback

Injured at Dunkirk, Laurie Odell, a young corporal, is recovering at a rural veterans' hospital. There he meets Andrew, a conscientious objector serving as an orderly, and the men find solace in their covert friendship.

**The Circle**

**New 2017**

**Dave Eggers**

Pages: 512

Paperback

When Mae is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. Even as a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken. Even as her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public.

**City of Friends**

**New 2018**

**Joanna Trollope**

Pages: 326

Paperback

The day Stacey Grant loses her job feels like the last day of her life. Or at least, the only life she'd ever known. For who was she if not a City high-flyer, Senior Partner at one of the top private equity firms in London? As Stacey starts to reconcile her old life with the new - one without professional achievements or meetings, but instead, long days at home with her dog and ailing mother, waiting for her successful husband to come home - she at least has The Girls to fall back on.

**Clockmaker's Daughter**

**New 2019**

**Kate Morton**

Pages: 585

Hardback

In the summer of 1862, a group of young artists led by the passionate and talented Edward Radcliffe descends upon Birchwood Manor in rural Oxfordshire. By the time their stay is over, one woman has been shot dead while another has disappeared; a priceless heirloom is missing; and Edward Radcliffe's life is in ruins. Over one hundred and fifty years later, Elodie Winslow, a young archivist in London, uncovers a leather satchel containing two seemingly unrelated items.

**A Clockwork Orange**

**Anthony Burgess**

Pages 306

Paperback

Fifteen-year-old Alex likes lashings of ultraviolence. He and his gang of friends rob, kill and rape their way through a nightmarish future, until the State puts a stop to his riotous excesses. But what will his re-education mean?

**Cold Comfort Farm**

**Stella Gibbons**

Pages: 233

Paperback

When Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders. But Flora loves nothing better than to organise other people and she resolves to take each of the family in hand.

**Conversations With Friends**

**New 2019**

**LGBTQ+**

**Sally Rooney**

Pages: 321

Paperback

Frances is twenty-one years old, cool-headed, and darkly observant. A college student in Dublin and aspiring writer, she works at a literary agency by day. At night, she performs spoken word with her best friend Bobbi, who used to be her girlfriend. When they are profiled by Melissa, a well-known journalist, they enter an exotic orbit of beautiful houses, raucous dinner parties and holidays in Provence. Initially unimpressed, Frances finds herself embroiled in a risky ménage à quatre when she begins an affair with Nick, Melissa's actor husband.

**Cooking With Bones** **LGBTQ+**  
**Jess Richards** Pages: 369  
Hardback

Two sisters flee the city of Paradox for a village by the sea, where Old Kelp's cottage - and her recipe book - await them.

**Crime and Punishment** **New 2019** **Classic**  
**Fyodor Dostoevskii** Pages: 432  
Paperback

Consumed by the idea of his own special destiny, immured in poverty and deprivation, Rashkolnikov is drawn to commit a terrible crime. In the aftermath, Rashkolnikov is dogged by madness, guilt and a calculating detective, and a feverish cat-and-mouse game unfolds. The only hope for redemption, if Rashkolnikov can but recognise it, lies in the virtuous and faithful Sonya.

**The Dark Flood Rises** **New 2018**  
**Margaret Drabble** Pages: 326  
Paperback

Fran may be old but she's not going without a fight. So she dyes her hair, enjoys every glass of red wine, drives around the country for her job with a housing charity and lives in an insalubrious tower block that her loved ones disapprove of. And as each of them - her pampered ex Claude, old friend Jo, flamboyant son Christopher and earnest daughter Poppet - seeks happiness in their own way, what will the last reckoning be?

**Dark Matter** **New 2018**  
**Blake Crouch** Pages: 401  
Paperback

Are you happy in your life? Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before the masked abductor knocks him unconscious. In the new world he's woken up to, Jason's life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college physics professor, but a celebrated genius who has achieved something remarkable. Is it this world or the other that's the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how can Jason possibly make it back to the family he loves?

**The Daylight Gate** **LGBTQ+**  
**Jeanette Winterson**  
Hardback Pages: 194

A mysterious gathering of thirteen people is interrupted by a local magistrate. Is it a witches' Sabbat? In Lancaster Castle two notorious witches await trial and certain death, while the beautiful and wealthy Alice Nutter rides to their defence.

**The Days of Abandonment** **New 2018**  
**Elena Ferrante**  
Paperback Pages: 188

When her husband Mario leaves her, Olga, left to care for two young children, enters a long period of self-doubt and pity, until she acknowledges the truth about her marriage.

**Days of Awe** **New 2019** **LGBTQ+**

**A. M. Homes**

Paperback

A.M. Homes returns with signature humour and psychological accuracy to tell thirteen stories exposing the heart of an uneasy 21st-century America. In tales of a family obsessed with the surfaces of their lives, or the story of a shopper who suddenly finds himself nominated to run for President, she explores our attachments to each other through characters who aren't quite who they hoped to become, though there is no one else they can be.

**Dear Mrs Bird**

New 2019

**A. J. Pearce**

Hardback

London, 1940. Emmeline Lake and her best friend Bunty are trying to stay cheerful despite the Luftwaffe making life thoroughly annoying for everyone. Emmy dreams of becoming a Lady War Correspondent and when she spots a job advertisement she seizes her chance - but she finds herself typing letters for the formidable Henrietta Bird, the renowned agony aunt of 'Woman's Friend' magazine. Mrs Bird is very clear: letters containing any form of Unpleasantness must go straight into the bin. But soon the thought of desperate women going unanswered becomes too much to bear and Emmy decides the only thing for it is to secretly write back.

**The Death of Grass**

SCI

**John Christopher**

Pages: 195

Paperback

At first the virus wiping out grass and crops is of little concern to John Custance. Europe is safe and a counter-virus is expected any day. Except, it turns out, the governments have been lying to their people. When the deadly disease hits Britain, society starts to descend into barbarism.

**Did You Ever Have a Family?****Bill Clegg**

Pages: 293

Hardback

On the morning of her daughter's wedding, June Reid's house goes up in flames, destroying her entire family – her present, her past and her future. Fleeing from the carnage, June finds herself in a motel room by the ocean, held captive by memories and the mistakes she has made.

**Different for Girls**

New 2019

LGBTQ+

**Jacqui Lawrence**

Pages: 262

Paperback

Enter a world where love, sex and suspense meet betrayal, cruelty and heartbreak. Fran and Cam, thrown joyously together again after a heartbreaking split, find their future unexpectedly compromised by the consequences of a random act Cam committed during their time apart. Meanwhile Gemma and Jude, newly in love, are torn apart by Gemma's fake fiancé whose horrific secret Jude has just discovered. This is the world where the survival of love is all that matters, and a world where being different is ultimately the new normal.

**Difficult Daughters****Manju Kapur**

Pages: 280

Paperback

Virmati, a young woman born into a high-minded household, falls in love with a neighbour, the Professor - a man who is already married.

**Disobedience**

New 2019

LGBTQ+

**Naomi Alderman**

Paperback Pages: 277

A small, close-knit Orthodox Jewish community in London is the setting for a revealing look at religion and sexuality in Alderman's frank yet heartfelt debut novel. 'Disobedience' follows the story of Ronit, who is returning to the capital on the occasion of the funeral of her estranged father.

**The Dispossessed** **New 2017**

**Ursula Le Guin** Pages: 336

Paperback

Set in a human galaxy where the distance of time and space imposed by relativity is mitigated by instantaneous transmission of information through a gadget called the ansible. This is the story of Shevek, the ansible's inventor, and the ironies of his career.

**Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?** **New 2017** **SCI**

**Philip K Dick** Pages: 193

Paperback

World War Terminus had left the Earth devastated. Through its ruins, bounty hunter Rick Deckard stalked, in search of the renegade replicants who were his prey. When he wasn't 'retiring' them, he dreamed of owning a live animal - the ultimate status symbol in a world all but bereft of animal life.

**Dolly: A Ghost Story**

**Susan Hill** Pages: 153

Paperback

At Iyot Lock, two young cousins, Leonora and Edward, are parked for the summer with their ageing spinster aunt and her cruel housekeeper. At first the unpleasantness and petty meannesses appear simply spiteful. But when spoiled Leonora is not given the birthday present of a specific dolly that she wants, affairs inexorably take a much darker turn.

**The Dovekeepers** **New 2018**

**Alice Hoffman** Pages: 512

Paperback

The lives of four sensuous, bold and remarkable women intersect in the year 70AD, in the desperate days of the siege of Masada, when supplies are dwindling and the Romans are drawing near. All are dovekeepers, and all are keepers of secrets - about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love.

**Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim** **New 2019** **LGBTQ+**

**David Sedaris** Pages: 257

Paperback

David Sedaris lifts the corner of ordinary life, revealing the absurdity teeming below its surface. His world is alive with obscure desires and hidden motives - a world where forgiveness is automatic and an argument can be the highest form of love.

**Elizabeth and her German Garden** **New 2019** **modern classic**

**Elizabeth von Arnim** Pages: 224

Paperback

Inside are servants, meals and furniture, and an upright Teutonic husband, but outside in the garden, Elizabeth can escape domestic routine, play with her babies and garden to her heart's content.

**Embers of War** **New 2019** **SCI-FI**

**Gareth Powell** Pages: 411

Paperback

The sentient warship Trouble Dog was built for violence, yet following a brutal war, she is disgusted by her role in a genocide. Stripped of her weaponry and seeking to atone, she

joins the House of Reclamation, an organisation dedicated to rescuing ships in distress. When a civilian ship goes missing in a disputed system, Trouble Dog and her new crew of loners, captained by Sal Konstanz, are sent on a rescue mission.

**English August** **New 2016**  
**Upamanyu Chatterjee** Pages: 336  
Paperback

Agastya Sen, known to friends by the English name August, is a child of the Indian elite. His friends go to Yale and Harvard. August himself has just landed a prize government job. The job takes him to Madna, the hottest town in India, deep in the sticks.

**Essex Serpent, The** **New 2018**  
**Sarah Perry** Pages: 416  
Paperback

London 1893. When Cora Seaborne's controlling husband dies, she steps into her new life as a widow with as much relief as sadness. Retreating to the countryside with her son, she encounters rumours of the 'Essex Serpent', a creature of folklore said to have returned to roam the marshes.

**Everything I Never Told You**  
**Celeste Ng** Pages: 297  
Paperback

The mysterious circumstances of 16-year-old Lydia Lee's tragic death have her loved ones wondering how, exactly, she spent her free time.

**Exit West** **New 2018**  
**Mohsin Hamid** Pages: 228  
Hardback

In a city swollen by refugees but still mostly at peace, or at least not yet openly at war, Saeed and Nadia share a cup of coffee, and their story begins. It will be a love story but also a story about war and a world in crisis, about how we live now and how we might live tomorrow. This young couple will join the great outpouring of those fleeing a collapsing city, hoping against hope, looking for their place in the world.

**Exposure** **New 2017**  
**Helen Dunmore** Pages: 400  
Paperback

London, November, 1960: the Cold War is at its height and the political establishment knows how and where to bury its secrets. When a highly sensitive file goes missing, Simon Callington is accused of passing information to the Soviets, and arrested. His wife, Lily, suspects that his imprisonment is part of a cover-up.

**Fall On Your Knees**  
**Ann-Marie MacDonald** Pages: 576  
Paperback

Following the curves of the twentieth century, *Fall On Your Knees* takes us from haunted Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia through the battlefields of World War I into the emerging jazz scene in New York City, and immerses us in the lives of four unforgettable sisters

**Far To Go**  
**Alison Pick** Pages: 308  
Paperback

A powerful and profoundly moving story about one family's epic journey to flee the Nazi occupation of their homeland in 1939.

**The Female Man** **New 2017** **SCI-FI / FAN**

**Joanne Russ** Pages: 207

Paperback

The story of four women from parallel universes. Joanna's world is like our own, Jeannine's world is a poorer, grungier version and Janet comes from a world where men have died off. Lastly we meet Jael, warrior and assassin.

**Frankenstein**

**New 2019**

**Classic**

**Mary Shelley**

Paperback

Pages: 208

Victor Frankenstein driven by the mad dream of creating his own creature, experiments with alchemy and science to build a monster stitched together from dead remains. Once the creature becomes a living breathing articulate entity, it turns on its maker and the novel darkens into tragedy. The reader is very quickly swept along by the force of the elegant prose, the grotesque, surreal imagery, and the multi-layered themes in the novel.

**Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café**

**Fannie Flagg**

**LGBTQ+**

Paperback

Pages: 395

As 80 year old Mrs Clea Threadgoode tells Evelyn Couch about her life, she escapes her nursing home & returns to Whistle Stop, Alabama in the thirties where the Whistle Stop Cafe provides good barbecue, good coffee, love and even an occasional murder.

**Friendly Young Ladies**

**New 2017**

**LGBTQ+**

**Mary Renault**

Pages: 320

Paperback

Elsie, sheltered and naive, is seventeen and unhappy. Stifled by life with her bickering parents in a bleak Cornish village, she falls in love with the first presentable young man she meets – Peter. On his advice she runs away and goes to live with her sister Leonora. But there are surprises in store for conventional Elsie as her sister has a rather bohemian lifestyle

**Frog Music**

**Emma Donoghue**

**LGBTQ+**

Paperback

Pages: 416

San Francisco, 1876: a stifling heat wave and smallpox epidemic have engulfed the City. Deep in the streets of Chinatown live three former stars of the Parisian circus: Blanche, her lover Arthur and his companion Ernest. When an eccentric outsider joins their little circle, secrets unravel, changing everything - and leaving one of them dead.

**Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic**

**New 2018**

**LGBTQ+**

**Graphic Novel**

**Alison Bechdel**

Pages: 232

Paperback

Meet Alison's father, obsessive restorer of the family's Victorian home, funeral director, high school English teacher, icily distant parent, and a closeted homosexual, who, as it turns out is involved with his male students and the family babysitter.

**Funny Girl**

**Nick Hornby**

Pages: 342

Hardback

It's the swinging sixties, and Sophie Parker escapes the small-town life of her parents in Blackpool and travels to London to follow her dreams and become an actress. But when she lands the TV role of a lifetime, not everything is as it seems.

**Gateway**

**New 2019**

**SCI-FI / FAN**

**Frederick Pohl**

Pages: 279

Paperback

Wealth - or death. Those were the choices Gateway offered. Humans had discovered this artificial spaceport, full of working interstellar ships left behind by the mysterious, vanished Heechee. Their destinations are preprogrammed. They are easy to operate, but impossible to control. Some came back with discoveries which made their intrepid pilots rich; others returned with their remains barely identifiable. It was the ultimate game of Russian roulette, but in this resource-starved future there was no shortage of desperate volunteers.

### **The Girl on the Stairs**

**Louise Welsh**

**LGBTQ+**

Paperback

Pages: 293

Jane and Petra have been together for six years and after deciding to have a child, they move to Petra's hometown, Berlin. But things do not quite go according to plan.

### **The Girl on the Train**

**Paula Hawkins**

Pages: 408

Paperback

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. 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.

### **The Girl Under the Olive Tree**

**Leah Fleming**

Pages: 443

Paperback

May 1941 and the island of Crete is invaded by paratroopers from the air. 60 years later, Lois West and her young son, Alex, invite feisty Great Aunt Pen to a special 85th birthday celebration on Crete, knowing she hasn't been back since the war.

### **Giving Up the Ghost**

**New 2018**

**Hilary Mantel**

Pages: 252

Paperback

'Giving Up the Ghost' is novelist Hilary Mantel's autobiography in fiction and non-fiction. It deals with childhood, ghosts (real and metaphorical), illness and family.

### **Gloria**

**New 2017**

**Kerry Young**

Pages: 381

Paperback

Jamaica, 1938. Gloria is 16-years-old when violence changes her life forever. She and her sister flee to forge a new life in Kingston. As the city convulses with political change, Gloria's desperation leads her to Sybil and Beryl, and a house of ill-repute where she meets Yang Pao, a racketeer whose destiny becomes bound with her own.

### **The Glorious Heresies**

**New 2017**

**Lisa McNery**

Pages: 371

Paperback

One messy murder affects the lives of five misfits who exist on the fringes of Ireland's post-crash society.

### **Gnomon**

**New 2019**

**SCI-FI / FAN**

**Nick Harkaway**

Paperback

In a near-future Britain, a distributed surveillance-democracy called The System knows everything about you: it can even spy on your mind. But when state investigators then look into the head of a refusenik novelist named Diana Hunter, what they find there is not her life story but that of four other people, spread across thousands of years, all vibrantly real and each utterly impossible. But before they can unravel that puzzle, Diana dies as a result of the

investigation - an unheard of occurrence in a perfect system which protects everyone from harm.

**A God in Every Stone**

**Kamila Shamsie**

Pages: 387

Paperback

July 1914. Young Englishwoman Vivian Rose Spencer is running up a mountainside in an ancient land, surrounded by figs and cypresses. Soon she will discover the Temple of Zeus, the call of adventure, and the ecstasy of love.

**A God in Ruins**

**New 2017**

**Kate Atkinson**

Pages: 560

*A God in Ruins* relates the life of Teddy Todd – would-be poet, heroic World War II bomber pilot, husband, father, and grandfather – as he navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century.

**Golden Hill**

**New 2019**

**Francis Spufford**

Pages: 344

Paperback

One rainy evening in November, a handsome young stranger fresh off the boat pitches up at a counting-house door in Golden Hill Street: this is Mr Smith, amiable, charming, yet strangely determined to keep suspicion simmering. For in his pocket, he has what seems to be an order for a thousand pounds, a huge amount, and he won't explain why, or where he comes from, or what he can be planning to do in the colonies that requires so much money. Should the New York merchants trust him? Should they risk their credit and refuse to pay? Should they befriend him, seduce him, arrest him- maybe even kill him?

**Gone Girl**

**Gillian Flynn**

Pages: 463

Paperback

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 Gospel of Loki**

**New 2016**

**Joanne M. Harris**

Pages: 302

Paperback

A first-person narrative of the rise and fall of the Norse gods - retold from the point of view of the world's ultimate trickster, Loki.

**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** **New 2018**

**Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows** Pages: 248

Paperback

It's January, 1946, and writer Juliet Ashton sits at her desk, vainly seeking a subject for her next book. Out of the blue, she receives a letter from one Dawsey Adams of Guernsey - by chance, he's acquired a secondhand book that once belonged to Juliet - and, spurred on by their mutual love of Charles Lamb, they begin a correspondence.

**The Gustav Sonata**

**New 2018**

**Rose Tremain**

Pages: 308

Paperback

On holiday one summer in Davos, two boys stumble across a remote building. Long ago, it was a TB sanatorium; now it is wrecked and derelict. Here, they play a game of life and death, deciding which of their imaginary patients must burn. It becomes their secret. 'The Gustav Sonata' begins in the 1930s, under the shadow of the Second World War, and follows

the boys into maturity, and middle age, where their friendship is tested as never before.

### **Half A Life**

**V.S. Naipaul**

Pages: 227

Paperback

Springing from the unhappy union of a low-caste mother and a father constantly at odds with life, Willie is naively eager to find something that will place him both in and apart from the world. Drawn to England, and to the immigrant and bohemian communities of post-war London, it is only in his first experience of love that he finally senses the possibility of fulfilment.

### **Half Blood Blues**

**Esi Edugyan**

Pages: 343

Paperback

1940. In the aftermath of the fall of Paris, Hieronymus Falk, a rising star on the cabaret scene, is arrested in a café and never heard from again. He is 20 years old. A German citizen. And he is black. 50 years later, Sid - Hiero's bandmate and the only witness that day - is going back to Berlin, where they first met.

### **Handsworth Times**

**New 2017**

Pages: 260

**Sharon Duggal**

Paperback

Mukesh Agarwal sits alone in the Black Eagle pub unaware that a riot is brewing or that Billy, his youngest son, is still out on his bike. It is 1981, factories are closing, unemployment is high, the NF are marching and the neglected inner cities are ablaze as riots breakout across Thatcher's fractured Britain. The Agarwals are facing their own personal nightmare but their pain is eased by family, friendships, and a community that refuses to disappear.

### **Hard Times**

**New 2019**

Pages: 272

**Classic**

**Charles Dickens**

Paperback

In 'Hard Times,' Dickens illustrates the condition of England through the fictional city of Coketown. Among its inhabitants are Thomas Gradgrind, the utilitarian headmaster who attempts to impose his rigid worldview on his family circle, and the uncaring businessman Mr Bounderby. Their materialist philosophies are tested throughout the novel, which also explores workers' conditions, trade unions and the spurious use of statistics.

### **Harvest**

**Jim Crace**

Pages: 286

Paperback

A trio of outsiders arrives on the woodland borders and puts up a make-shift camp. That same night, the local manor house is set on fire. Over 7 days, Walter Thirsk sees the harvest blackened by smoke and fear, the new arrivals cruelly punished, and his neighbours held on suspicion of witchcraft.

### **Heartbreak Hotel**

**New 2017**

**Jonathan Kellerman**

Pages: 351

Hardback

At nearly one hundred years old, Thalia Mars is a far cry from the patients Dr Alex Delaware normally treats. What Thalia wants from Alex are answers to unsettling questions. When Alex asks the reason for her morbid fascination, Thalia promises to tell all during their next session. But the following morning, his question goes unanswered, and new ones arise.

### **Hidden Nature**

**New 2019**

**Alys Fowler**

Pages: 227

Paperback

**Non-Fiction  
LGBTQ+**

Leaving her garden to the mercy of the slugs, award-winning writer Alys Fowler set out in an inflatable kayak to explore Birmingham's canal network, full of little-used waterways where huge pike skulk and kingfishers dart. Her book is about noticing the wild everywhere and what it means to see beauty where you least expect it. What happens when someone who has learned to observe her external world in such detail decides to examine her internal world with the same care?

**High Rise** **New 2016**  
**J.G. Ballard** Pages: 248  
Paperback

A dystopian novel that depicts a future in which the occupants of a luxury 40-storey tower block revert to primitive behaviour and embark on an orgy of destruction, obeying the laws of the jungle, rather than civilised society.

**His Bloody Project** **New 2019**  
**Graeme MacRae Burnet** Pages: 280  
Paperback

In 1869, a brutal triple murder in the remote Wester Ross village of Culduie leads to the arrest of a seventeen-year-old crofter, Roderick Macrae. There is no question of Macrae's guilt, but it falls to the country's most eminent legal and psychiatric minds to uncover what drove him to his bloody deeds. Ultimately, the young man's fate hinges on one key question: is he insane?

**The Hope Factory**  
**Lavanya Sankaran** Pages: 350  
Paperback

Anand is a Bangalore success story: successful, well-married, rich. At least, that's how he appears. But if his little factory is to grow, he needs land and money and, in the New India, neither of these is easy to find.

**House of Hidden Mothers** **New Aug 2017**  
**Syal, Meera** Pages: 418  
Paperback

Little India, East London: Shyama, aged 44, has fallen for a younger man. They want a child together. Meanwhile, in a rural village in India, young Mala, trapped in an oppressive marriage, dreams of escape. When Shyama and Mala meet, they help each other realise their dreams. But will fate guarantee them both happiness?

**How to be Both** **LGBTQ+**  
**Smith, Ali** Pages: 384  
Paperback

The narrative is in two parts, the first being the story of recently bereaved adolescent George living in Cambridge, the second featuring the voice of a fifteenth century Italian artist, the connecting thread being George's mother's passion for Italian frescoes in Ferrara. Allegories of time, layers of meaning and playful use of language, gender and appearance, loss and bereavement, make this a complex novel

**The Humans**  
**Matt Haig** Pages: 291  
Paperback

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

**I Let You Go** **New 2017**

**Clare Mackintosh** Pages: 384

Paperback

At the scene of a tragic accident, life changes immediately for everyone involved.

**In the kingdom of ice : the grand and terrible polar voyage of the USS Jeannette** **New 2018**  
**Hampton Sides** Pages: 454

Paperback

In 1879 the USS Jeannette set sail from San Francisco to cheering crowds and a frenzy of publicity. The ship and its crew, captained by the heroic George De Long, were heading for glory and one of the last unmapped areas of the globe: the North Pole. But it was not long before the Jeannette was trapped in crushing pack ice. Here is a spellbinding tale of heroism and determination in the most unforgiving territory on Earth.

**I Saw A Man** **New 2017**

**Owen Sheers** Pages: 336

Paperback

After the sudden loss of his wife, Michael Turner moves to London and quickly develops a close friendship with the Nelson family next door. The new friendship at first seems to offer the prospect of healing, but then a catastrophic event changes everything.

**The Island** **New 2017**

**Victoria Hislop** Pages: 473

Paperback

On the brink of her own life-changing decision, Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past. But Sofia has never spoken of it. All she admits to is growing up in a small Cretan village before moving to London.

**John le Carre: The Biography** **New 2018**

**Adam Sisman** Pages: 652

Paperback

Written with exclusive access to David Cornwell himself (the man behind the pseudonym) to his private archive and to the most important people in his life - family, friends, enemies, intelligence ex-colleagues and ex-lovers - and featuring a wealth of previously unseen photographic material.

**Kindred** **New 2018** **SCI-FI**

**Octavia Butler** Pages: 295

Paperback

On her 26th birthday, Dana and her husband are moving into their apartment when she starts to feel dizzy. She falls to her knees, nauseous. Then the world falls away. She finds herself at the edge of a green wood by a vast river. A child is screaming. Wading into the water, she pulls him to safety, only to find herself face to face with a very old looking rifle, in the hands of the boy's father. She's terrified. The next thing she knows she's back in her apartment, soaking wet. It's the most terrifying experience of her life - until it happens again. The longer Dana spends in 19th century Maryland - a very dangerous place for a black woman - the more aware she is that her life might be over before it's even begun.

**Left Hand of Darkness, The** **New 2018** **SCI-FI** **LGBTQ+**

**Ursula le Guin** Pages:

Paperback

A groundbreaking work of science fiction, *The Left Hand of Darkness* tells the story of a lone human emissary to Winter, an alien world whose inhabitants can choose -and change - their gender. His goal is to facilitate Winter's inclusion in a growing intergalactic civilization. But to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own views and those of the completely dissimilar culture that he encounters.

**A Legacy of Spies****New 2018****John le Carré**

Pages: 264

Hardback

Peter Guillam's 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 scrutinised under disturbing criteria by a generation with no memory of the Cold War and no patience with its justifications.

**The Liar's Chair****New 2016****Rebecca Whitney**

Pages: 305

Paperback

Rachel Teller and her husband David appear happy, prosperous and fulfilled. However, control, not love, fuels their relationship and David has no idea his wife indulges in drunken indiscretions. When Rachel kills a man in a hit and run, the meticulously maintained veneer over their life begins to crack.

**The Lido****New 2019****Libby Page**

Pages: 372

Hardback

Rosemary has lived in Brixton all her life. But now everything she knows is changing - the library where she used to work has closed, the family fruit and veg shop has become a trendy bar, and her beloved husband George is gone. Kate has just moved and feels alone in a city that is too big for her. She's at the bottom rung of her career as a journalist on a local paper, and is determined to make something of it. So when the local lido is threatened with closure, Kate knows this story could be her chance to shine.

**The Lie Tree****New 2017****Hardinge, Frances**

Pages: 409

Paperback

Faith's father has been found dead under mysterious circumstances, and as she is searching through his belongings for clues she discovers a strange tree. The tree only grows healthy and bears fruit if you whisper a lie to it.

**Life After Life****Kate Atkinson**

Pages: 477

Hardback

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

**The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul****New 2017****Deborah Rodriguez**

Pages: 380

Paperback

In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together.

**Little Face****New 2017****Sophie Hannah**

Pages: 368

Paperback

Alice's baby is two weeks old when she leaves the house without her for the first time, but on her return she finds the front door open and the baby in the crib isn't hers. Before a DNA test can be taken, both Alice and the baby disappear and dark incidents begin to appear in her husband's past.

**Little Fires Everywhere****New 2018****Celeste Ng**

Pages: 338

Hardback

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is meticulously planned. No one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principal is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

### **The Lives of Others**

**Neel Mukherjee** Pages: 505

Paperback

Calcutta, 1967. Unnoticed by his family, Supratik has become dangerously involved in extremist political activism. Compelled by an idealistic desire to change his life and the world around him, all he leaves behind before disappearing is a note.

### **Lone Wolf**

**Jodi Piccoul** Pages: 496

Paperback

Edward Warren is a prodigal son who left home after a fight with his father, Luke. Now Luke lies comatose in hospital. With Luke's chances for recovery dwindling, Edward's sister wants to wait for a miracle. But Edward wants to terminate life support and donate his father's organs. Is he motivated by altruism, or revenge?

### **Lost & Found**

**Brooke Davis** Pages: 306

Hardback

A series of events binds three people together on a road trip that takes them from the south coast of WA to Kalgoorlie and along the Nullarbor to the edge of the continent.

**Love is Blind** **New 2019**

**William Boyd** Pages: 370

Hardback

Set at the end of the 19th century, we follow the fortunes of Brodie Moncur, a young Scottish musician. When Brodie is offered a job in Paris, he seizes the chance to flee Edinburgh and his tyrannical clergyman father and begin a wildly different new chapter in his life. In Paris, a fateful encounter with a famous pianist irrevocably changes his future - and sparks an obsessive love affair with a beautiful Russian soprano.

**Love Letters of the Great War** **New 2016** **Non-Fiction**

**Ed. Mandy Kirkby** Pages: 212

Hardback

A powerful collection of love letters shared between soldiers and their sweethearts during World War I.

**Lullaby** **New 2019**

**Leila Slimani** Pages: 207

Paperback

When Myriam, a French-Moroccan lawyer, decides to return to work after having children, she and her husband look for the perfect caretaker for their two young children. They never dreamed they would find Louise: a quiet, polite and devoted woman. The couple and nanny become more dependent on each other. But as jealousy, resentment and suspicions increase, Myriam and Paul's idyllic tableau is shattered.

**Madonna in a Fur Coat** **New 2016**

**Ali Sabahattin** Pages: 106

Hardback

A shy young man leaves his home in rural Turkey to learn a trade in 1920s Berlin. The city's crowded streets, thriving arts scene, passionate politics and seedy cabarets provide the backdrop for a chance meeting with a woman, which will haunt him for the rest of his life.

**Maggie and Me**

**New 2018**

**LGBTQ+**

**local author**

**Damian Barr**

Pages: 245

**Non-Fiction**

Paperback

It is 12 October 1984. An IRA bomb blows apart the Grand Hotel in Brighton. Miraculously, Maggie Thatcher survives. In small-town Scotland, eight-year-old Damian Barr watches in horror as his mum rips her wedding ring off and packs their bags. Damian, his sister and his Catholic mum move in with her sinister new boyfriend while his Protestant dad shacks up with the glamorous Mary the Canary. Divided by sectarian suspicion, the community is held together by the sprawling Ravenscraig.

**The Mayor of Casterbridge**

**New 2018**

**Thomas Hardy**

Pages: 375

Paperback

On a drunken impulse, Michael Henchard, a hay-trusser by trade, sells his wife Susan and their child to a sailor. Years later, Susan returns to Casterbridge a widow, to seek her legal husband who is, surprisingly, now the Mayor.

**Me Before You**

**New 2017**

**JoJo Moyes**

Pages: 512

Paperback

Lou Clark knows lots of things but she doesn't know if she's about to lose her job. Will Traynor knows his motorcycle accident took away his desire to live. What Will doesn't know is that Lou is about to burst into his world in a riot of colour.

**The Midwich Cuckoos**

**Sci-Fi**

**John Wyndham**

Pages: 220

Paperback

In the village of Midwich all the women of child-bearing age become pregnant overnight. When a violent incident occurs, the moral fabric of the village disintegrates and a battle for survival begins.

**The Miniaturist**

**New 2017**

**Jessie Burton**

Pages: 400

Paperback

Nella Oortman has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt. Johannes presents her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways.

**Ministry of Utmost Happiness, The**  
**Arundhati Roy**

**New 2018**

Pages: 445

Hardback

'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' transports us across a subcontinent on a journey of many years. It takes us deep into the lives of its gloriously rendered characters, each of them in search of a place of safety - in search of meaning, and of love.

**The Miseducation of Cameron Post**

**New 2019**

**Emily Danforth**

Pages: 470

Paperback

When Cameron Post's parents die suddenly in a car crash, her shocking first thought is relief. Relief they'll never know that, hours earlier, she had been kissing a girl. But that relief

doesn't last, and Cam is forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother.

**Moth Smoke**

**Mohsin Hamid**

Pages: 320

Paperback

Daru, a young Pakistani banker, loses his job and begins a downward spiral into drug dealing and an affair with Mumtaz, the wife of his childhood friend and rival. Broken and desperate, he becomes involved in a heist that leaves him on trial for murder.

**Mother Island**

**New 2016**

**Bethan Roberts**

Pages: 311

Paperback/Hardback

Maggie Wichelo, a lonely young woman, works as a nanny to Samuel. Dedicated, efficient, and fiercely protective, Maggie considers herself an excellent nanny. But this is the morning on which Maggie will abduct Samuel.

**Mothers, The**

**New 2018**

**Brit Bennett**

Paperback

Pages: 228

It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, 17-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance - and the subsequent cover-up - will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth.

**Mr Rosenblum's List or, Friendly guidance for the aspiring Englishman**

**New 2018**

**Natasha Solomons**

Pages: 323

Paperback

Through study and application Jack Rosenblum intends to become a very English gentleman. He is compiling a list, a comprehensive guide to the manners, customs and habits of this country. In a final attempt to finish his list he moves, with his reluctant wife, to the English countryside where they embark on an impossible task.

**Mrs Hemingway**

**Naomi Wood**

Pages: 317

Paperback

In 1926, Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley travel from their home in Paris to a villa in the south of France. Wherever they go they are accompanied by Fife. Fife is Hadley's best friend. She is also Ernest's lover. Hadley is the first Mrs Hemingway, but neither she nor Fife will be the last.

**My Policeman**

**LGBTQ+**

**Bethan Roberts**

Pages: 341

Hardback

This novel is inspired by the life of E.M. Forster and his relationship with his long-term companion Bob Buckingham and his wife - but transposed to late 1950s Brighton. The book tells a tragic tale of thwarted love.

**The Narrow Road to the Deep North**

**New 2017**

**Richard Flanagan**

Pages: 464

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

**Noontide Toll**

**New 2017**

**Romesh Gunsekera**

Pages: 256

Paperback

Vasantha is a van driver in Sri Lanka. After nearly three decades of conflict, the civil war is over and the country is moving tentatively into the future - though at times the recent past seems too close for comfort. In this collection of linked stories, Vasantha drives across the beautiful but scarred landscape of his home island, lingering on the periphery of his passengers' varied stories.

**The Norse Myths****New 2019****FAN****Neil Gaiman**

Pages: 282

The great Norse myths are woven into the fabric of our storytelling - from Tolkien, Alan Garner and Rosemary Sutcliff to Game of Thrones and Marvel Comics. They are also an inspiration for Neil Gaiman's own award-bedecked, bestselling fiction. Now he reaches back through time to the original source stories in a thrilling and vivid rendition of the great Norse tales. Gaiman's gods are thoroughly alive on the page - irascible, visceral, playful, passionate - and the tales carry us from the beginning of everything to Ragnarok and the twilight of the gods.

**Northanger Abbey****Jane Austen**

Pages: 286

Paperback

Catherine Morland is a young girl with a very active imagination. Her naivety and love of sensational novels lead her to approach the fashionable social scene in Bath and her stay at nearby Northanger Abbey with preconceptions that have embarrassing and entertaining consequences.

**Northanger Abbey****Val McDermid**

Pages: 352

Hardback

Seventeen-year-old Catherine 'Cat' Morland has led a sheltered existence in rural Dorset, a life entirely bereft of the romance and excitement for which she yearns. So when Cat's wealthy neighbours, the Allens, invite her to the Edinburgh Festival, she is sure adventure beckons.

**Notes from an Exhibition****New 2017****Patrick Gale**

Pages: 375

Troubled artist Rachel Kelly dies painting obsessively in her attic studio in Penzance. She leaves behind an extraordinary and acclaimed body of work - but she also leaves a legacy of secrets and emotional damage that will take months to unravel.

**Not That Kind of Love****New 2019****Non-Fiction****Clare and Greg Wise**

Pages: 313

Paperback

A moving, thought-provoking and surprisingly humorous book which is both a description of a journey to death and a celebration of the act of living. 'Not That Kind of Love' charts the highs and lows of the last three years of Clare's life. The end result is not a book that fills you with despair and anguish. Clare is an astonishingly dynamic, witty and fun personality and, as she becomes too weak to type, her brother - the actor Greg Wise - takes over, and the book morphs into a beautiful meditation on life, and the necessity of talking about death.

**No Time for Goodbye****New 2017****Linwood Barclay**

Pages: 464

Paperback

What could be worse than losing your entire family in a single night? 25 years later, Cynthia Archer is about to find out, in this psychological thriller of secrets, lies and obsessive love.

- Nutshell** **New 2017**  
**Ian McEwan** Pages: 208  
 Hardback  
 Trudy has betrayed her husband, John. She's still in the marital home - but not with John. Instead, she's with his brother, the profoundly banal Claude, and the two of them have a plan. But there is a witness to their plot: the inquisitive, nine-month-old resident of Trudy's womb.
- Olive Kitteridge** **New 2018**  
**Elizabeth Strout** Pages: 270  
 Paperback  
 Elizabeth Strout gives us 13 narratives centred on a singular and formidable heroine, Olive.
- On Beauty** **New 2017**  
**Zadie Smith** Pages: 464  
 Paperback  
 When Howard Belsey's oldest son Jerome falls for Victoria, the stunning daughter of the right-wing Monty Kipps, both families find themselves thrown together, enacting a cultural and personal war against each other.
- The One** **New 2018** **SCI-FI**  
**John Marrs** Pages: 408  
 Paperback  
 How far would you go to find 'the one'? One simple mouth swab is all it takes. One tiny DNA test to find your perfect partner - the one you're genetically made for. A decade after scientists discover everyone has a gene they share with just one person, millions have taken the test, desperate to find true love. Now, five more people take the test. But even soul mates have secrets. And some are more shocking - and deadlier - than others.
- Ordinary People** **New 2019**  
**Diana Evans** Pages: 329  
 Hardback  
 South London, 2008. Two couples find themselves at a moment of reckoning, on the brink of acceptance or revolution. Melissa has a new baby and doesn't want to let it change her but, in the crooked walls of a narrow Victorian terrace, she begins to disappear. Michael, growing daily more accustomed to his commute, still loves Melissa but can't get close enough to her to stay faithful. Meanwhile out in the suburbs, Stephanie is happy with Damian and their three children, but the death of Damian's father has thrown him into crisis.
- Our Endless Numbered Days** **New 2017**  
**Claire Fuller** Pages: 304  
 Paperback  
 1976: Peggy Hillcoat is eight. Her survivalist father takes her from London to a cabin in a remote European forest. There he tells Peggy the rest of the world has disappeared. She is not seen again for another nine years.
- The Painted Veil** **New 2017**  
**Somerset W. Maugham** Pages: 213  
 Paperback  
 This is the story of Kitty Fane, the adulterous wife of a bacteriologist stationed in Hong Kong. When her husband discovers her deception, he exacts a terrible vengeance: Kitty must accompany him to the heart of a cholera epidemic in China.
- Parting Shot** **New 2019**  
**Linwood Barclay** Pages: 440  
 Hardback

When a young girl from Promise Falls is killed by a drunk driver, the community wants answers. It doesn't matter that the accused is a kid himself: all they see is that he took a life and got an easy sentence. As pack mentality kicks in and social media outrage builds, vicious threats are made against the boy and his family.

### **The Paying Guests**

**Sarah Waters**

Pages: 566

Hardback

It is 1922, and London is tense. In South London, a large silent house now bereft of brothers, husband and even servants is about to be transformed, as impoverished widow Mrs Wray and her spinster daughter, Frances, are obliged to take in lodgers.

### **The Peculiar Life of a Lonely Postman**

**Denis Theriault**

Pages: 108

Paperback

The tragic and often comic routine of one man's life and fate.

### **Perfidious Albion**

**New 2019**

**Sam Byers**

Pages: 384

Hardback

In Edmondsbury, a small town in east England, fear and loathing are on the rise. It is the near future; Brexit has happened and the ramifications are real. Grass-roots right-wing political party 'England Always' are fomenting hatred. The residents of a failing housing estate are being manipulatively cleared from their homes. A multinational tech company is making inroads into the infrastructure. Just as social tensions appear to reach crisis point, masked men begin a series of 'disruptions', threatening to make internet histories public, asking the townspeople: 'What don't you want to share?'

### **The Pigeon Tunnel**

**New 2018**

**John le Carre**

Pages: 343

Paperback

'The Pigeon Tunnel', John le Carré's memoir and his first work of non-fiction, is a thrilling journey into the worlds of his 'secret sharers' - the men and women, who inspired some of his most enthralling novels - and a testament to the author's extraordinary engagement with the last half-century.

### **A Place Called Winter**

**Patrick Gale**

Pages: 338

Hardback

A privileged elder son, and stammeringly shy, Harry Cane has followed convention at every step. Even the beginnings of an illicit, dangerous affair do little to shake the foundations of his muted existence - until the shock of discovery and the threat of arrest cost him everything.

### **A Place For Us**

**New 2019**

**Fatima Mirza**

Pages: 385

Hardback

'A Place for Us' catches an Indian Muslim family as they prepare for their eldest daughter's wedding. But as Hadia's marriage - one chosen of love, not tradition - gathers the family back together, there is only one thing on their minds: can Amar, the estranged younger brother of the bride, be trusted to behave himself after three years away?

### **Power, The**

**Naomi Alderman**

**New 2018**

Pages: 340

**SCI-FI**

Paperback

What if the power to hurt were in women's hands? Suddenly - tomorrow or the day after - teenage girls find that with a flick of their fingers, they can inflict agonising pain and even death. With this single twist, the four lives at the heart of Naomi Alderman's extraordinary, visceral novel are utterly transformed.

**Property** New 2019  
**Lionel Shriver** Pages: 317

Hardback

These sharp, brilliantly imaginative pieces illustrate how our possessions act as proxies for ourselves, and how tussles over ownership articulate the power dynamics of our relationships. In Shriver's world, we may possess people and objects and places, but in turn they possess us.

**Provenance** New 2019 SCI-FI  
**Ann Leckie** Pages: 439

Paperback

A power-driven young woman has just one chance to secure the status she craves and regain priceless lost artefacts prized by her people. She must free their thief from a prison planet from which no one has ever returned. Ingray and her charge will return to their home world to find their planet in political turmoil, at the heart of an escalating interstellar conflict. Together, they must make a new plan to salvage Ingray's future, her family, and her world, before they are lost to her for good.

#### **Public Library and Other Stories**

**Ali Smith** LGBTQ+  
Pages: 288

Paperback

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

**The Purple Cloud** New 2019 SCI-FI Classic  
**M. P. Shiel** Pages: 295

Paperback

A sweet-smelling, deadly cloud of poisonous gas has devastated the world. As Adam Jefferson travels the stricken globe in search of human life, he slowly succumbs to madness and unleashes fire and destruction on his planet.

**Raft** New 2019 SCI-FI  
**Stephen Baxter** Pages: 400

Paperback

A spaceship from Earth accidentally crossed through a hole in space-time to a universe where the force of gravity is one billion times as strong as the gravity we know. Somehow the crew survived, aided by the fact that they emerged into a cloud of gas surrounding a black hole, which provided a breathable atmosphere. 500 years later, their descendants still struggle for existence, divided into two main groups.

**Rapture**  
**Carol Ann Duffy** LGBTQ+  
Pages: 62

Paperback

A book-length love poem and a moving act of personal testimony.

**Ready Player One** New 2017  
**Ernest Cline** Pages: 372

Paperback

It's the year 2044. We're out of oil. We've wrecked the climate. Famine, poverty, and disease are widespread. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes this depressing reality by spending his waking hours jacked into the OASIS, a sprawling virtual utopia where you can be anything you want to be.

**The Reason I Jump**

**New 2017**

**Non-Fiction**

**Naoki Higashida**

Pages: 192

Paperback

Written by Naoki Higashida when he was only 13, this remarkable book explains the often baffling behaviour of autistic children and shows the way they think and feel.

**Red Dust Road**

**LGBTQ+**

**Jackie Kay**

Pages: 288

Paperback

In this book Jackie Kay tells the story of her own life. It is a book about belonging and beliefs, strangers and family, biology and destiny and what makes us who we are.

**The Red Haired Woman**

**New 2018**

**Orhan Pamuk**

Pages: 253

Hardback

On the outskirts of a town 30 miles from Istanbul, a master well digger and his young apprentice are hired to find water on a barren plain. The pair will come to depend on each other and exchange stories reflecting disparate views of the world. But in the nearby town, the boy will find an irresistible diversion. The Red-Haired Woman, an alluring member of a travelling theatre company, catches his eye and seems as fascinated by him as he is by her.

**Rogue Lawyer**

**New 2017**

**John Grisham**

Pages: 384

Paperback

Sebastian Rudd takes the cases no one else wants to take. Rudd believes that every person accused of a crime is entitled to a fair trial - even if he has to cheat to get one.

**Sacred Country**

**New 2019**

**LGBTQ+**

**Rose Tremain**

Pages: 391

Paperback

1952. Standing in a cold Suffolk field with her family, 6-year-old Mary Ward has a revelation: I am not Mary. That is a mistake. I am not a girl. I'm a boy. So begins Mary's heroic struggle to change gender. Moving from the claustrophobic rural community of the 1950s to London in the swinging 60s and beyond to the glitter of Nashville, Tennessee, capital of country music, this book is the story of a journey to find a place of safety and fulfilment in a savage and confusing world.

**The Secret Life of Bees**

**Sue Monk Kidd**

Pages: 374

Paperback

Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was 4. She not only has her own memory of holding the gun, but her father's account of the event. Now fourteen, she yearns for her mother, and for forgiveness.

**See You in September**

**New 2018**

**Charity Norman**

Pages: 416

Paperback

When Cassy waved goodbye to her parents, they never dreamed that it would be years before they'd see her again. Cassy accepts an invitation to stay in an idyllic New Zealand farming collective. Overcome by the peace and beauty of the valley and swept up in the charisma of Justin, the community's leader, Cassy becomes convinced that she has to stay.

As Cassy becomes more and more entrenched in the group's rituals and beliefs, her frantic parents fight to bring her home - before Justin's prophesied Last Day can come to pass.

**The Sellout** **New 2018**  
**Paul Beatty** Pages: 288  
Paperback

Born in the 'agrarian ghetto' of Dickens - on the outskirts of Los Angeles - the narrator is raised by a single father, a controversial sociologist, and spends his childhood as the subject in racially charged psychological studies. He is shocked to discover, when his father is killed in a police shoot-out, that there never was a memoir. Fuelled by this deceit and the general disrepair of his hometown, the narrator sets out to right another wrong: Dickens has literally been removed from the map to save California from embarrassment.

**Sense of an Ending**  
**Julian Barnes** Pages: 160  
Hardback

Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. Sex-hungry and book-hungry, they would navigate the girl-less sixth form together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumour and wit. They all swore to stay friends for life. Now Tony is in middle age and he is finding that memory is imperfect.

**Shadow of the Crescent Moon**  
**Fatima Bhutto**  
Paperback Pages: 231

*The Shadow of the Crescent Moon* chronicles the lives of five young people trying to live and love in a world on fire. Individuals are pushed to make terrible choices. And, as the events of a single morning unfold, one woman is at the centre of it all.

**Ship of Brides** **New 2017**  
**Jojo Moyes** Pages: 512  
Paperback

The year is 1946, and all over the world young women are crossing the seas in their thousands en route to the men they married in wartime, and an unknown future. In Sydney, Australia, four women join 650 other brides on an extraordinary voyage to England - aboard HMS Victoria.

**The Shock of the Fall**  
**Nathan Filer** Pages: 310  
Paperback

An extraordinary portrait of one man's descent into mental illness

**The Siege**  
**Helen Dunmore** Pages: 304  
Paperback

Whilst German tanks surround Leningrad during September 1941, two families struggle to stay alive. As winter grips the city first the furniture is burnt, then the books, but some may not live to see another day.

**Silas Marner** **New 2019** Classic  
**George Eliot** Pages: 218  
Paperback

This novel was George Eliot's favourite. It concerns a bitter weaver who takes on a young orphan girl and gradually transforms his own life and that of the girl. The novel combines humour, rich symbolism and pointed social criticism to create an unsentimental portrait of rural English life.

- A Single Man** **New 2017** **LGBTQ+**  
**Christopher Isherwood** Pages: 152  
 Paperback  
 The story of a middle-aged Englishman living in California: a professor alienated from his students by differences in age and nationality and from the rest of society by his homosexuality.
- The Slaves of Solitude** **New 2018** **local author**  
**Patrick Hamilton** Pages: 353  
 Paperback  
 The Rosamund Tea Rooms boarding house is an oppressive place, as grey and lonely as its residents. For Miss Roach, 'slave of her task-master, solitude', a window of opportunity is suddenly presented by the appearance of a charismatic American lieutenant. His arrival brings change to the precarious society of the house.
- Small Great Things** **New 2018**  
**Jodi Picoult** Pages: 506  
 Paperback  
 When a newborn baby dies after a routine hospital procedure, there is no doubt about who will be held responsible: the nurse who had been banned from looking after him by his father. What the nurse, her lawyer and the father of the child cannot know is how this death will irrevocably change all of their lives, in ways both expected and not.
- Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** **New 2018**  
**Lisa See** Pages: 340  
 Paperback  
 A story of two extraordinary women surviving in a time of strict rules and ancient customs. With the eye of a historian and the vibrancy of a true storyteller, Lisa See has written a mesmerising novel filled with colour, fascinating detail and heartfelt drama.
- Songs of Willow Frost** **New 2017**  
**Jamie Ford** Pages: 416  
 Paperback  
 William Eng has lived at Seattle's Sacred Heart Orphanage ever since his mother's listless body was carried from their Chinatown apartment. When, during a trip to the movie theatre, William glimpses an actress on the silver screen, he is immediately struck by her features. Because William is convinced she is his mother.
- Spectacles** **New 2016** **LGBTQ+** **Non-Fiction**  
**Sue Perkins** Pages: 374  
 Hardback  
 This, my first ever book, will answer questions such as 'Is Mary Berry real?', 'Is it true you wear a surgical truss?' Most of this book is true. I have, of course, amplified my more positive characteristics in an effort to make you like me.
- Splinter the Silence** **New 2017**  
**Val McDermid** Pages: 469  
 Paperback  
 Psychological profiler Tony Hill is trained to see patterns, to decode the mysteries of human behaviour, and when he comes across a series of suicides among women tormented by vicious online predators, he begins to wonder if there is more to these tragedies than meets the eye.
- The Spy Game**  
**Georgina Harding** Pages: 310  
 Paperback

On a cold January morning in 1961, eight-year-old Anna's mother disappears into the fog. Years later, her brother Peter begins to construct a theory that their mother, a refugee from eastern Germany, was a spy working undercover and might still be alive.

**Stars My Destination**

**New 2019**

**SCI-FI**

**Alfred Bester**

Pages: 256

Paperback

Gully Foyle is the only survivor on his drifting, wrecked spaceship, and when another space vessel - the Vorga - ignores his distress flares and sails by, Gully becomes obsessed with revenge. He endures 170 days alone in deep space before finding refuge on the Sargasso Asteroid and returning to Earth to track down the crew and owners of the Vorga. But, as he works out his murderous grudge, Gully Foyle also uncovers a secret of momentous proportions

**Stay With Me**

**New 2019**

**Ayobami Adebayo**

Pages: 298

Paperback

Yejide is hoping for a miracle, for a child. It is all her husband wants, all her mother-in-law wants, and she has tried everything - arduous pilgrimages, medical consultations, dances with prophets, appeals to God. But when her in-laws insist upon a new wife, it is too much for Yejide to bear. It will lead to jealousy, betrayal, and despair. Unravelling against the social and political turbulence of 80s Nigeria, this book sings with the voices, colours, joys, and fears of its surroundings.

**Stone Gods**

**New 2017**

**LGBTQ+**

**Jeanette Winterson**

Pages: 256

Paperback

On the airwaves, all the talk is of the new blue planet - pristine and habitable, like our own 65 million years ago, before we took it to the edge of destruction. And off the air, Billie and Spike are falling in love. What will happen when their story combines with the world's story.

**The Stranger's Child**

**New 2017**

**LGBTQ+**

**Alan Hollinghurst**

Pages: 576

Paperback

In the late summer of 1913 the aristocratic young poet Cecil Valance comes to stay at 'Two Acres', the home of his close Cambridge friend George Sawle. The weekend will be one of excitements and confusions for all the Sawles.

**The Summer Book**

**New 2017**

**LGBTQ+**

**Tove Jansson**

Pages: 160

Paperback

An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter while away the summer together, on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland, their solitude disturbed only by migrating birds and sudden storms.

**Sunny Side Up**

**New 2019**

**Non-Fiction**

**Susan Calman**

Pages: 289

**LGBTQ+**

Hardback

Susan Calman's enthusiasm at being on Strictly Come Dancing was an inspiration to all of us. People like Susan, people who don't hate other people, are apologising for the way they think. Susan wants to make sure they don't. That it's ok to love people, that kindness is something wonderful and brilliant and to bring on the joy. So the mission is simple: to get the nation to join her in not being negative. To bring back joy, kindness and community, to find that joy in the little things in life and defeat the hate and fear.

**Sweet Caress**

**New 2017**

**William Boyd** Pages: 464  
Paperback

Amory's first memory is of her father standing on his head. But his absences, both actual and emotional, are what she chiefly remembers. It is her photographer uncle Greville who supplies the emotional bond she needs, and, when he gives her a camera and some rudimentary lessons in photography, unleashes a passion that will irrevocably shape her future.

**Take Nothing With You** **New 2019** **LGBTQ+**  
**Patrick Gale** Pages: 346  
Hardback

Ten-year-old oddball Eustace, an only child, has life transformed by his mother's quixotic decision to sign him up for cello lessons. Music-making brings release for a boy who is discovering he is an emotional volcano. He laps up lessons from his young teacher, not noticing how her brand of glamour is casting a damaging spell over his frustrated and controlling mother. When he is enrolled on a holiday course in Scotland, lessons in love, rejection and humility are added to daily practice.

**Tales of the City** **New 2019** **LGBTQ+**  
**Armistead Maupin** Pages: 268  
Paperback

A young secretary forsakes Cleveland for San Francisco, tumbling headlong into a brave new world of laundromat Lotharios, cut throat debutantes, and Jockey Shorts dance contests. The saga that ensues is manic, romantic, and outrageous.

**The Taliban Cricket Club**  
**Timeri N. Murari** Pages: 325  
Paperback

A determined young woman's plan to escape from Taliban-ruled Afghanistan (and a cruel Taliban commander who is determined to marry her) depends on the outcome of an unusual cricket match.

**Tattooist of Auschwitz** **New 2019**  
**Heather Morris** Pages: 270  
Paperback

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

**The Testament of Mary** **LGBTQ+**  
**Colm Toibin** Pages: 104  
Paperback

Her son has been lost to the world, and now, living in exile and in fear, Mary tries to piece together the memories of the events that led to his brutal death.

**This is How it Always Is** **New 2018** **LGBTQ+**  
**Laurie Frankel** Pages: 327  
Hardback

Rosie and Penn always wanted a daughter. Four sons later, they decide to try one last time - and their beautiful little boy Claude is born. Life continues happily for this big, loving family until the day when Claude says that, when he grows up, he wants to be a girl. As far as Rosie and Penn are concerned, bright, funny and wonderful Claude can be whoever he or she wants. But as problems begin at school and in the community, the family faces a seemingly

impossible dilemma: should Claude change, or should they and Claude try to change the world?

**Tightrope** New 2017  
**Simon Mawer** Pages: 416  
Paperback

Marian Sutro has survived Ravensbruck and is back in dreary 1950s London trying to pick up the pieces of her pre-war life. But she is haunted by her experiences and by the guilt of knowing that her contribution to the war effort helped lead to the development of the atomic bomb.

**To Kill the President** New 2018  
**Sam Bourne** Pages: 410  
Paperback

The United States has elected a volatile demagogue as president. When a war of words with the North Korean regime spirals out of control and the President comes perilously close to launching a nuclear attack, it's clear someone has to act. Soon Maggie Costello, a seasoned Washington operator and stubbornly principled, discovers an inside plot to kill the President - and faces the ultimate moral dilemma.

**To Rise Again at a Decent Hour**  
**Joshua Ferris** Pages: 337  
Paperback

Paul O'Rourke, 40-year-old slightly curmudgeonly dentist, runs a thriving practice in New York. Yet he is discovering he needs more in his life than a steady income and the perfect mochaccino. But what? As Paul tries to work out the meaning of life, a Facebook page and Twitter account appear in his name.

**Train to Pakistan** New 2017  
**Khushwant Singh** Pages: 190  
Paperback

Truth meets fiction as Khushwant Singh recounts the trauma and tragedy of partition through the stories of his characters - the stories that he, his family and friends themselves experienced or saw enacted before their eyes.

**Transcription** New 2019  
**Kate Atkinson** Pages: 336  
Hardback

In 1940, 18-year old Juliet Armstrong is reluctantly recruited into the world of espionage. Sent to an obscure department of MI5 tasked with monitoring the comings and goings of British Fascist sympathisers, she discovers the work to be by turns both tedious and terrifying. But after the war has ended, she presumes the events of those years have been relegated to the past for ever. Ten years later, now a producer at the BBC, Juliet is unexpectedly confronted by figures from her past

**Travelling to Infinity: The True Story Behind the Theory of Everything** Non-Fiction  
**Jane Hawking** Pages: 487  
Paperback

A moving and engaging memoir written by Stephen Hawking's first wife about the turbulent years of her marriage with the astro-physics genius, her traumatic divorce and their recent reconciliation.

**Trumpet** New 2018 LGBTQ+  
**Jakie Kay** Pages: 288  
Paperback

Joss Moody has died and the jazz world is in mourning. But in death, Joss can no longer guard the secret he kept all his life, and Colman, his son, must confront the truth: the man he believed to be his father was, in fact, a woman.

**The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra** **New 2019**

**Vaseem Khan** Pages: 296

Paperback

On the day he retires, Inspector Ashwin Chopra inherits two unexpected mysteries. The first is the case of a drowned boy, whose suspicious death no one seems to want solved. And the second is a baby elephant. Chopra begins to suspect that there may be a great deal more to both his last case and his new ward than he thought. And he soon learns that when the going gets tough, a determined elephant may be exactly what an honest man needs.

**Under the Udala Trees** **New 2016** **LGBTQ+**

**Chinelo Okparanta** Pages: 323

Paperback

One day in 1968, at the height of the Biafran civil war, Ijeoma's father is killed and her world is transformed forever. Separated from her mother, she meets another young lost girl, Amina, and the two become inseparable. Theirs is a relationship that will shake the foundations of Ijeoma's faith, test her resolve and flood her heart.

**Us**

**David Nicholls** Pages: 396

Hardback

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. He resolves to make their last family holiday into the trip of a lifetime: one that will draw the three of them closer. What could possibly go wrong?

**Victoria & Abdul : the extraordinary true story of the Queen's closest confidant** **New 2018**

**Shrabani Basu** Pages: 333 **Non-Fiction**

Paperback

'Victoria & Abdul' examines how a young Indian Muslim came to play a central role at the heart of the empire and his influence over Queen Victoria at a time when independence movements in the sub-continent were growing in force. Yet, at its heart, it is a tender love story between an ordinary Indian and his elderly queen.

**The Wallcreeper** **New 2017**

**Nell Zink** Pages: 168

Paperback

Interlaken, Berne, 21st century. Several things happen after the car hits the rock. Tiff ceases to be pregnant. Stephen captures the most wonderful bird. And the wallcreeper, the wallcreeper says "twee".

**We Chose to Speak of War and Strife** **New 2018** **Non-Fiction**

**John Simpson** Pages: 384

Paperback

In corners of the globe where fault-lines seethe into bloodshed and civil war, foreign correspondents have, since the early nineteenth century, been engaged in uncovering the latest news and - despite obstacles bureaucratic, political, violent - reporting it by whatever means available. It's a working life that is difficult, exciting and glamorous. These stories from the last 200 years celebrate this now endangered tradition.

**When Breath Becomes Air** **New 2017** **Non-Fiction**

**Paul Kalanithi** Pages: 256

Paperback

You are a young neurosurgeon. You have completed 11 years of training. You are devoted to your work and on the brink of a wonderful career. Then you are diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer.

**Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal**

Non-Fiction

**Jeanette Winterson**

LGBTQ+

Paperback

Pages: 394

In 1985 *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* was published. It was Jeanette's version of the story of a terraced house in Accrington, an adopted child, and the thwarted giantess Mrs Winterson. It was a cover story, a painful past written over and repainted. This book is that story's the silent twin.

**Wide Sargasso Sea**

New 2018

**Jean Rhys**

Pages: 151

Paperback

Rhys tells what she felt was the real story of *Jane Eyre's* 'madwoman in the attic', Bertha Rochester. If Antoinette Cosway, a spirited Creole heiress, could have foreseen the terrible future that awaited her, she would not have married the young Englishman. Initially drawn to her beauty and sensuality, he becomes increasingly frustrated by his inability to reach into her soul.

**Winter**

New 2019

**Ali Smith**

Pages: 321

Paperback

Bleak. Frosty wind, earth as iron, water as stone, so the old song goes. The shortest days, the longest nights. The trees are bare and shivering. The summer's leaves? Dead litter. The world shrinks; the sap sinks. But winter makes things visible. And if there's ice, there'll be fire. In Ali Smith's 'Winter', life-force matches up to the toughest of the seasons.

**The Wonder**

New 2018

**Emma Donoghue**

Pages: 349

Paperback

An eleven-year-old girl stops eating, but remains miraculously alive and well. A nurse, sent to investigate whether she is a fraud, meets a journalist hungry for a story. Set in the Irish Midlands in the 1850s, 'The Wonder' - inspired by numerous European and North American cases of 'fasting girls' between the 16th and the 20th centuries - is a psychological thriller about a child's murder threatening to happen in slow motion before our eyes. Pitting all the seductions of fundamentalism against sense and love, it is a searing examination of what nourishes us, body and soul.

**The Year of the Runaways**

**Sunjeev Sahota**

Pages: 480

Paperback

Three young men live in a house in Sheffield, each in flight from India and in desperate search of a new life.

**Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist**

New 2018

**Sunil Yapa**

Pages: 310

Paperback

1999. Victor, homeless after a family tragedy, finds himself pounding the streets of Seattle with little meaning or purpose. He is the estranged son of the police chief of the city, and today his father is in charge of one of the largest protests in the history of Western democracy. But in a matter of hours reality will become a nightmare. Victor and his father are heading for a collision too.