

Staff Picks

December 2020

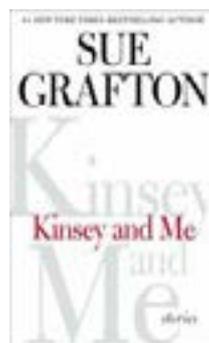
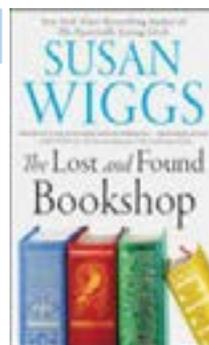
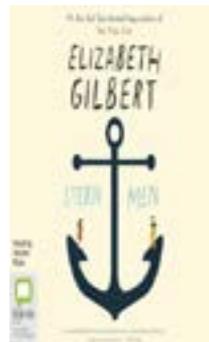
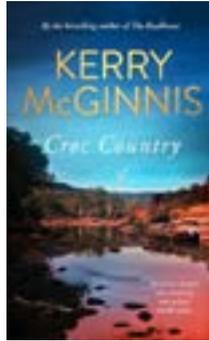
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

Croc Country

Author: Kerry McGinnis

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Audiobook

Crime fiction, outback environmental/rural romance/mystery. Sensitive and informative. Why would the police come back looking for a dead man? Young widow Tilly is making a new life for herself, keeping house for the rangers at the Binboona Wildlife Sanctuary in the isolated wilderness of the north-western Gulf Country. Caring for injured wildlife and helping to run the popular tourist campsite are just the distraction she needs from everything she left behind when her husband, Gerry, and young daughter were lost at sea. But when the police show up asking questions about Gerry, the peaceful routine she's built is disrupted as she begins to question what really happened to her family. The arrival of botanist Connor stirs up even more emotion and has Tilly questioning who she can trust. When she and young ranger Luke stumble across evidence of wildlife smugglers on a visit to the local caves, suddenly her sanctuary is no longer safe and it becomes clear the past has well and truly come back to haunt her. Set against the lush backdrop of the Northern Territory with its vibrant birds and deadly wildlife, this is a chilling and highly evocative family mystery about the wild and dangerous things that can happen in the most remote and untamed corners of our country.



On the Java Ridge

Author: Jock Serong

Format: eAudiobook, Book

"Was reading this prior to the American election, so decided the machinations of this fictional Prime Minister is not so unbelievable after all. The 'Java Ridge' referred to in the title is the name of a surf charter boat. During the story it is skippered by tour leader Isi Natoli and her Indonesian crew. They are taking a group of Australian surf enthusiasts in search of the perfect wave, and are sheltering inside the reef encircling the remote Indonesian island Dana when a storm delivers the 'Takalar' and her load of asylum seekers onto their reef. At the same time in Canberra, it is the eve of a federal election. Cassius Calvert (Minister for Border Integrity) has outsourced border security to a private company - Core Resolve, to employ a new hard-line stance regarding maritime interception and assistance to people-smuggling boats crossing into Australian territorial waters. The story is alternately told from the viewpoint of Isi, Cassius and Roya (a young Afghani refugee aboard the 'Takalar', fleeing the Taliban with her heavily pregnant mother). The minor characters the doctor, the Takalar's captain, even Cassius' P.A. are well rounded and fleshed out. In typical Serong-style the ending leaves you wrung out, the language and the descriptions are vivid, the plot takes you to unexpected places and scenarios."

The Lost and Found Bookshop

Author: Susan Wiggs

Format: Book

Natalie Harper feels she must sell the bookshop she's inherited to pay for her grandfather's care, but he refuses to acquiesce, and renovation of the store and its studio apartment push her life in a whole new direction. Besides, she loves the store and its books provide welcome solace for her overwhelming grief. After she moves into the small studio apartment above the shop, Natalie carries out her grandfather's request and hires contractor Peach Gallagher to do the necessary and ongoing repairs. His young daughter, Dorothy, also becomes a regular at the store, and she and Natalie begin reading together while Peach works.

Kinsey and Me

Author: Sue Grafton

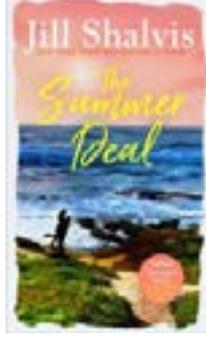
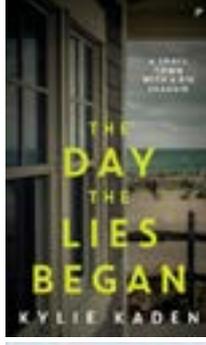
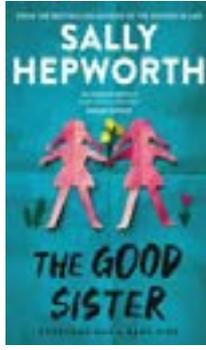
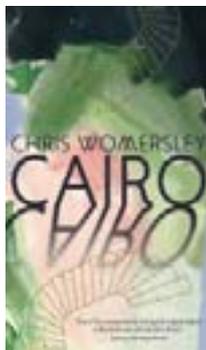
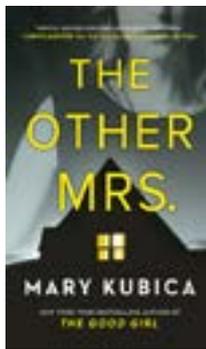
Format: Book, Large Print

Includes stories that detail Alphabet series heroine Kinsey Millhone's origins, as well as true tales of the author's past.

The Other Mrs

Author: Mary Kubica
Format: eBook

Sadie and Will Foust have only just moved their family from bustling Chicago to small-town Maine when their neighbour, Morgan Baines, is found dead in her home. The murder rocks their tiny coastal island, but no one is more shaken than Sadie, who is terrified by the thought of a killer in her very own backyard. But it's not just Morgan's death that has Sadie on edge. It's their eerie old home, with its decrepit decor and creepy attic, which they inherited from Will's sister after she died unexpectedly. It's Will's disturbed teenage niece Imogen, with her dark and threatening presence. And it's the troubling past that continues to wear at the seams of their family. As the eyes of suspicion turn toward the new family in town, Sadie is drawn deeper into the mystery of Morgan's death. But Sadie must be careful, for the more she discovers about Mrs Baines, the more she begins to realize just how much she has to lose if the truth ever comes to light.



Greenwood

Author: Michael Christie
Format: Book

The story starts in 2038, when The Withering has created a dustbowl throughout most of the world, and the wealthy flock to the great Greenwood forest (named for its owners) in Canada; like tree rings, the book is set in different periods of the Greenwood family, moving backwards from 2038 to the early-1900s, then forwards to 2038 again.

Cairo

Author: Chris Womersley
Format: eBook, Book

Set in Melbourne in the '80s, the story follows a naïve young man's first months living in the big smoke, as he encounters layabouts, artists, thugs, drugs, and a shocking art forgery heist. I loved this better than anything I've read for a long time! Intriguingly, the Cairo of the title refers to the name of the Art Deco flats in Fitzroy where he lives, and you can actually stay there now in an Airbnb apartment!

The Day the Lies Began

Author: Kylie Kaden
Format: eBook, eAudiobook

'It seemed simple at first - folding one lie over the next. She had become expert at feathering over the cracks to ensure her life appeared the same. But inside, it didn't feel fixed.' It happened the day of the Moon Festival. It could have been left behind, they all could have moved on with their lives. But secrets have a habit of rising to the surface, especially in small towns. Two couples, four ironclad friendships, the perfect coastal holiday town. With salt-stung houses perched like lifeguards overlooking the shore, Lago Point is the scene of postcards, not crime scenes. Wife and mother Abbi, town cop Blake, schoolteacher Hannah and local doctor Will are caught in their own tangled webs of deceit.

The Good Sister

Author: Sally Hepworth
Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

Dark, gripping, quirky. Un-put-downable! Fern Castle works at her local library. She has dinner with her twin sister, Rose, three nights a week. And she avoids crowds, bright lights and loud noises as much as possible. Fern has a carefully structured life and disrupting her routine can be ... dangerous. When Rose discovers that she cannot fall pregnant, Fern sees her chance to pay her sister back for everything Rose has done for her. Fern can have a baby for Rose. She just needs to find a father. Simple. Fern's mission will shake the foundations of the life she has carefully built for herself and stir up dark secrets from the past, in this quirky, rich and shocking story of unexpected love.

The Summer Deal

Author: Jill Shalvis
Format: Book

Brynn heads back home for a fresh start and to lick her wounds. Kinsey, her long-time frenemy, has her own battles and secrets she's keeping from Brynn. Eli, Kinsey's best friend and Brynn's childhood crush, is funny and sexy and has a proposition for Brynn. As the long days of summer wind down, the three of them must discover if forgiveness is enough to grasp the unconditional love that's right in front of them.

Stern Men

Author: Elizabeth Gilbert
Format: eAudiobook

Ruth Thomas is born into a multi-generational war between local lobstermen off the coast of Maine, USA. Despite having the smarts to continue with her education, she returns to her home to join the 'stern men' and take up lobster fishing. This novel is one for readers who love knowing about people's family history and motivations.