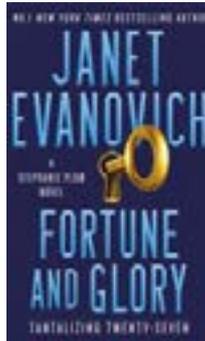
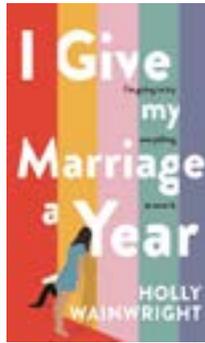


Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

## I Give my Marriage a Year

Author: Holly Wainwright  
Format: eBook, eAudiobook

How far would you go to save your marriage? Lou and Josh have been together for 14 years. They share two kids, a mortgage, careers and plenty of history. Now, after a particularly fraught Christmas, Lou is ready to ask herself: is this marriage worth hanging on to? Every month for a year, Lou sets a different test for their relationship - from daily sex to brutal honesty - to help her decide if she should stay or go. Secrets are exposed, old wounds reopened and a true-to-life suburban love story unfolds. *I Give My Marriage a Year* paints a sharply accurate, often hilarious picture of a modern Australian marriage. Lou and Josh are a couple on the edge, and their efforts to bring their relationship back from the brink will resonate with anyone who has ever asked themselves: is this enough? Whose side will you take? Who deserves a second chance? And will Josh and Lou stay together or split for good?



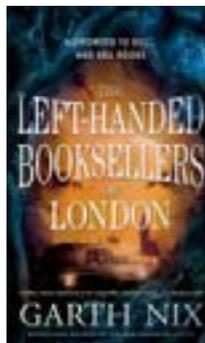
## Fortune and Glory

Author: Janet Evanovich  
Format: Book

When Stephanie's beloved Grandma Mazur's new husband died on their wedding night, the only thing he left her was a beat-up old easy chair and the keys to a life-changing fortune. But as Stephanie and Grandma Mazur search for Jimmy Rosolli's treasure, they discover that they're not the only ones on the hunt. Two dangerous enemies from the past stand in their way-along with a new adversary who's even more formidable: Gabriela Rose, a dark-eyed beauty from Little Havana with a taste for designer clothes. She's also a soldier of fortune, a gourmet cook, an expert in firearms and mixed martial arts-and someone who's about to give Stephanie a real run for her money.

## The Left-Handed Booksellers of London

Author: Garth Nix  
Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Compact Disc



Reminiscent of his 'Keys to the Kingdom' series, but this is aimed at a more adult audience. Set in a slightly alternate London in 1983 (you can tell from the social history remarks) Susan comes to London looking for the father she never met. In the first page she meets the unusual Merlin, a young left-handed bookseller (an extended family armed with magical abilities, charged with policing the tenuous boundary between the mythic & legendary Old World and the modern world as we know it) and along with his sister Vivien they endeavour to find out why mythical creatures and the criminal underworld are attempting to capture Susan, (and why fantasy authors have a lot to answer for). A page-turner setting a hectic pace (with not enough time for a decent meal), and armed with lightning-fast sword fights and swarms of predatory birds. Hope it is the first in a series.

## The Family Inheritance

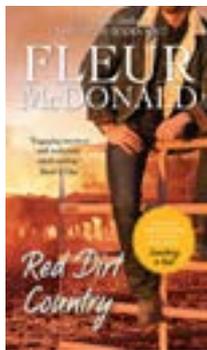
Author: Tricia Stringer  
Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Compact Disc

Sometimes an ending is really a beginning. Felicity Lewis's fiftieth birthday party in her newly renovated home, loving husband and daughter Greta by her side, is going off with a bang when disaster strikes. Her father, Franklyn, with his usual impeccable timing, has keeled over and died. For some members of the family, his wife Hazel for example, Franklyn's death is not the great loss it first appears to be. But when his toxic and inexplicable will is read out, it becomes clear that long-buried secrets are about to surface, starting with the astonishing reappearance of Hazel's long-lost sister. Indeed, Franklyn's death sets in motion a chain of events that will cause three generations of Gifford family women to question everything they hold dear, their relationships, their loyalties, even their identities. Until, that is, they choose to fight back against their dark inheritance.

## Please Don't Hug Me

Author: Kay Kerr  
Format: Book

Erin isn't just an average senior high teenager, even though she's doing all the regular things kids her age do: studying for final exams, working in a shop after school, going steady with her boyfriend, and going for her drivers license; Erin is also autistic. As a bit of a lost girl, Erin writes long letters to her older brother, Rudy, who is not living at home any more, and it's through a year of these letters that we get to know her. Life, as seen through Erin's eyes, may look a bit different to how you know it – or perhaps it might look a fair bit the same (as it did to me). This is an #ownvoices story, and Kay Kerr received her autism diagnosis while writing it. Even though this book is written for young adults, I recommend it for anyone who has someone in their life with autism.



## Red Dirt Country

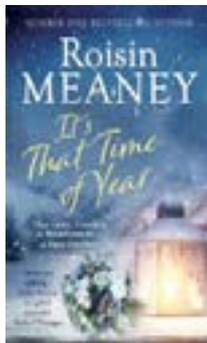
Author: Fleur McDonald  
Format: eBook, Compact Disc

Red Dirt Country features the thrilling return of Detective Dave Burrows, now a member of the stock squad in Western Australia. Recovering from an undercover case in outback Queensland, Dave Burrows finally returns to Perth, to join his pregnant wife, Melinda, and their small daughter, Bec. Things have been off-kilter between Mel and Dave for some time and nothing he says or does seems to make it right. Once Dave starts waking violently in the dark nights, reliving the horrors of the Queensland job, Mel issues an ultimatum. But Dave's work, despite its dangers, means everything to him. He's finally achieved his long-held dream and is now a Detective Senior Constable in the stock squad. And as soon as his shoulder wound is declared fully healed, Dave jumps into an investigation of stock theft in the north of Australia. There's a standoff between two stations and a history of disappearances and grief to uncover. It's also a long way away from his problems with Mel. With the prospect of going back to Queensland to give evidence as a protected witness, a dangerously ruthless enemy on the loose, and a family to protect, Dave's first experience on the stock squad is deep in an underbelly of racial divide with family secrets, long-repeated lies, kidnapping and murder.

## Monogamy

Author: Sue Miller  
Format: Book

"Graham and Annie have been married for nearly thirty years. A golden couple, their seemingly effortless devotion has long been the envy of their circle of friends and acquaintances. Graham is a bookseller, a big, gregarious man with large appetites - curious, eager to please, a lover of life, and the convivial host of frequent, lively parties at his and Annie's comfortable house in Cambridge. Annie, more reserved and introspective, is a photographer. She is about to have her first gallery show after a six-year lull and is worried that the best years of her career may be behind her. They have two adult children; Lucas, Graham's son with his first wife, Frieda, works in New York. Annie and Graham's daughter, Sarah, lives in San Francisco. Though Frieda is an integral part of this far-flung, loving family, Annie feels confident in the knowledge that she is Graham's last and greatest love. When Graham suddenly dies - this man whose enormous presence has seemed to dominate their lives together - Annie is lost. What is the point of going on, she wonders, without him? Then, while she is still mourning him intensely, she discovers that Graham had been unfaithful to her; and she spirals into darkness, wondering if she ever truly knew the man who loved her." - Publisher description.



## Its That Time of Year

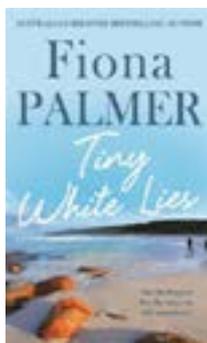
Author: Roisin Meaney  
Format: Book

It's the weekend before Christmas. Julia, Eddie and Steph are making separate journeys to Ireland to attend the wedding of their beloved Annie, the woman who fostered each of them in their childhoods and to spend the weekend in the house that gave them all shelter when they needed it most. All three are now adults - Julia, a world famous singer living in luxury in Paris; Eddie, a chef in London; and Steph who spends her days on a remote Greek island, running a writers' retreat with her older lover - but as the wedding celebrations get underway, certain truths come to light which show that past hurts have yet to heal. As Annie says 'I do', the three make some discoveries about themselves - but will the guests of the wedding party get their happy-ever-after in time for Christmas day?

## Met Her Match

Author: Jude Deveraux  
Format: Book

Terri Rayburn is a girl with a reputation. She doesn't deserve it, but having grown up on the outskirts of Summer Hill, Virginia, she knows how small towns work. The only way to deal with vicious gossip is to ignore it. So she keeps to herself as she runs the summer resort on Lake Kissel. When she returns home from a short trip to find a handsome stranger living in her house, she smells a rat. Someone is trying to fix her up, and she has to admit that Nate Taggart is just her type. However, Nate is engaged to the daughter of the mayor and strictly off-limits. Nate and Terri form an unlikely friendship while he throws himself into life at the lake. As Nate starts to hear rumors about Terri he's confused. Knowing how smart, beautiful and strong she is, he's determined to discover the source of the gossip. Terri doesn't want to revisit the past, but Nate won't stop until he discovers the truth—even if the truth might be more than either of them can handle.



## Tiny White Lies

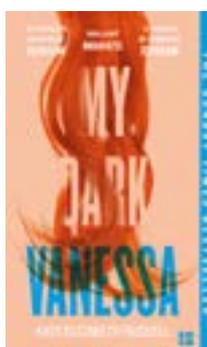
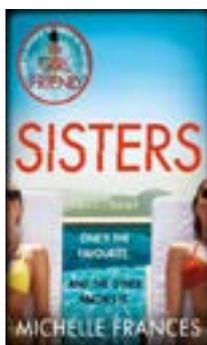
Author: Fiona Palmer  
Format: Book

Two families escape the rat race to holiday at a remote coastal retreat, but what lies are they telling themselves and each other? The new family drama by beloved Australian storyteller Fiona Palmer - Ashley has recently lost her husband. Daughter Emily is being bullied online. Best friend Nikki is holding a huge secret. And why is husband, Chris, receiving so many text messages lately? Their teenage children are glued to technology, be it PlayStation, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat . . . The two women hatch a plan: for three weeks, both families will stay in a rustic, remote coastal camp with no phone reception. While the teenagers struggle to embrace this new world of self-entertaining in the rugged bushland, the adults are trying to maintain a certain facade. Soon, around the flames of the camp fire, their tiny white lies might just begin to be exposed.

## Sisters

Author: Michelle Frances  
Format: eBook

Sisters is an unsettling story of sibling rivalry by the number one bestselling author of *The Girlfriend*, Michelle Frances. Is blood really thicker than water? Abby and Ellie were never close as children. Now in their thirties, they each harbour deep-rooted resentment for the other - Abby for her sister's looks and her status as their mother's favourite. Ellie meanwhile is envious of Abby's perfect husband and picturesque home, a villa on the sun-soaked Italian island of Elba. When Abby invites Ellie to stay, both sisters see the break as a chance to relax and put aside their differences. But with their mother Susanna there too, all the simmering tensions of the past quickly rise to the surface. And Ellie suspects that Abby and their mother are keeping a dangerous secret . . . But after a shocking act, the sisters have only each other to rely on. Vulnerable and scared, trusting each other will be the biggest risk of all . . .



## My Dark Vanessa

Author: Kate Elizabeth Russell  
Format: eBook

An era-defining novel about the relationship between a fifteen-year-old girl and her teacher. Vanessa Wye was fifteen-years-old when she first had sex with her English teacher. She is now thirty-two and in the storm of allegations against powerful men in 2017, the teacher, Jacob Strane, has just been accused of sexual abuse by another former student. Vanessa is horrified by this news, because she is quite certain that the relationship she had with Strane wasn't abuse. It was love. She's sure of that. Forced to rethink her past, to revisit everything that happened, Vanessa has to redefine the great love story of her life - her great sexual awakening - as rape. Now she must deal with the possibility that she might be a victim, and just one of many. Nuanced, uncomfortable, bold and powerful, *My Dark Vanessa* goes straight to the heart of some of the most complex issues our age.