

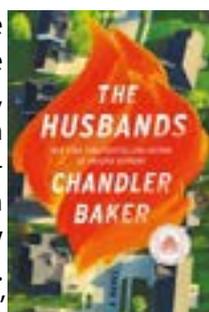
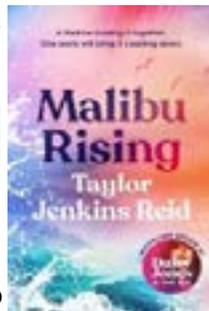
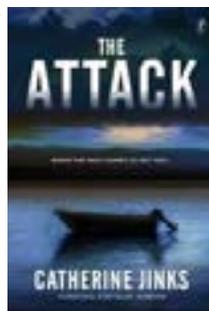
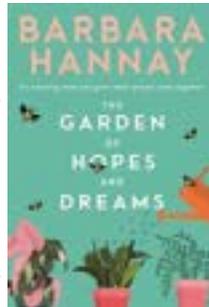
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

## The Garden of Hopes and Dreams

Author: Barbara Hannay

Format: Book

The residents in Brisbane's Riverview apartment block barely know each other. They have no idea of the loneliness, the lost hopes and dreams, being experienced behind their neighbours' closed doors. Vera, now widowed, is trying her hardest to create a new life for herself in an unfamiliar city environment. Unlucky-in-love Maddie has been hurt too many times by untrustworthy men, yet refuses to give up on romance. Ned, a reclusive scientist, has an unusual interest in bees and worm farms. Meanwhile, the building's caretaker, Jock, is quietly nursing a secret dream. When a couple of gardening enthusiasts from one of the apartments suggest they all create a communal garden on their rooftop, no one is interested. Not at first, anyway. But as the residents come together over their budding plants and produce, their lives become interconnected in ways they could never have imagined.



## The Husbands

Author: Chandler Baker

Format: Book

How far will a woman go to get a little more help from her husband? Recently, Nora has started to feel that 'having it all' comes with a price, one her husband doesn't seem to be paying quite so heavily. She loves Hayden, but why is it that, however hard men work, their wives always seem to work that little bit harder? When their house-hunting takes them to an affluent suburban neighbourhood, Nora's eyes are opened to a new world. Here, the wives don't make all the sacrifices. Here, the husbands can remember the kids' schedules, and iron and notice when the house needs dusting. But when she becomes involved in a wrongful death case involving one of the local residents, Nora begins to suspect that there's a dark secret at the heart of this perfect world. One which might just be worth killing for...

## The Attack

Author: Catherine Jinks

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

Robyn Ayres works as the camp caretaker on Finch Island, a former leper colony off the coast of Queensland. Her current clients are a group of ex-military men who run a tough-love program for troubled teens. The latest crop looks like the usual mix of bad boys and sad boys. Then Robyn takes a second look at a kid called Darren. Last time she saw him his name was Aaron, and Robyn was his primary school teacher. And she was somehow at the centre of a vicious small-town custody battle involving his terrifying grandmother. Bruising classroom dynamics, manipulative parents and carers and horrendous small-town politics form the backdrop to a nail-biting thriller in which the tensions of ten years ago start to play themselves out, building to a violent climax in the present day. Robyn escaped the past once. Now it's back and this time there's no way out.

## Malibu Rising

Author: Taylor Jenkins Reid

Format: eBook, Book

A lifetime holding it together. One party will bring it crashing down. Malibu: August, 1983. It's the day of Nina Riva's annual end-of-summer party, and anticipation is at a fever pitch. Everyone wants to be around the famous Rivas: Nina, the talented surfer and supermodel; brothers Jay and Hud, one a championship surfer, the other a renowned photographer; and their adored baby sister, Kit. Together, the siblings are a source of fascination in Malibu and the world over-especially as the offspring of the legendary singer, Mick Riva. By midnight the party will be completely out of control. By morning, the Riva mansion will have gone up in flames. But before that first spark in the early hours before dawn, the alcohol will flow, the music will play, and the loves and secrets that shaped this family's generations will all come bubbling to the surface. Malibu Rising is a story about one unforgettable night in the life of a family: the night they each have to choose what they will keep from the people who made them . . . and what they will leave behind.

## The Ex-Husband

Author: Karen Hamilton

Format: Book

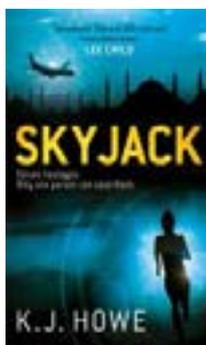
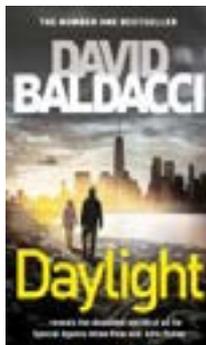
Charlotte and Sam were partners. In life, and in crime. They never stole from anyone who couldn't afford it. Wealthy clients, luxury cruise ships. It was easy money, and harmless. At least, that's what Charlotte told herself, until the world caved in on her. But now, years after she tried to put that past life behind her, it comes rushing back when her estranged ex-husband Sam suddenly goes missing -- and someone threatens to expose what they did. Desperate to escape whoever is tormenting her, Charlotte takes a job as events planner for an engagement party onboard a superyacht in the Caribbean. For a while, her plan seems to have worked, nothing but open ocean and clear skies ahead. Until it becomes clear that she's no longer a thousand miles away from harm. Because whoever is behind it all is onboard too. And now there's nowhere left to run.

## The Lone Child

Author: Anna George

Format: Book

Neve Ayres has always been so careful. Since her mother's death when Neve was seven, she's learned to look after herself and to keep her cards close. But now her deliberately constructed world has collapsed: her partner left her when she was eight months pregnant. And, so alone with her newborn son, she's retreated to her cliff-top holiday house in coastal Flinders. There, another child comes into her life. The first time Neve sees Jessie, the small girl is playing on an empty stretch of beach. On the cold autumn day, she is bare-legged and alone, while her mother is distracted by her own troubles. At once, almost despite herself, Neve is intrigued and concerned, and Jessie is drawn to Neve's kindness - and to her home. To Neve's surprise, Jessie becomes an unlikely source of much needed care for her and her baby. Having been lost in the sleepless haze of new motherhood, Neve is touched, and finds herself grappling with how to best help the forgotten girl. She has the spacious house, the full pantry, the resources...But how much can you - should you - do for a stranger's child?



## Daylight

Author: David Baldacci

Format: eBook, Book

For many long years, Atlee Pine was tormented by uncertainty after her twin sister, Mercy, was abducted at the age of six and never seen again. Now, just as Atlee is pressured to end her investigation into Mercy's disappearance, she finally gets her most promising breakthrough yet: the identity of her sister's kidnapper, Ito Vincenzo. With time running out, Atlee and her assistant Carol Blum race to Vincenzo's last known location in Trenton, New Jersey - and unknowingly stumble straight into John Puller's case, blowing his arrest during a drug ring investigation involving a military installation. Stunningly, Pine and Puller's joint investigation uncovers a connection between Vincenzo's family and a breathtaking scheme that strikes at the very heart of global democracy. Peeling back the layers of deceit, lies and cover-ups, Atlee finally discovers the truth about what happened to Mercy. And that truth will shock Pine to her very core.

## Skyjack

Author: K.J. Howe

Format: eAudiobook

When Thea Paris's flight is hijacked over the Libyan Desert, her first priority is the two former child soldiers she is escorting to a new life in London. As an international kidnap specialist, Thea Paris negotiates for hostage release as part of her job. She knows one wrong move could lead to deadly consequences. After she is forcibly separated from the boys and the other passengers, Thea and her tactical team quickly regroup. And in their desperate search for the hostages that follows, unearth a conspiracy involving the CIA, the Vatican and the Sicilian Mafia, and a plot far more sinister than Thea could ever have imagined.

## Granny Undercover

Author: Harper Lin  
Format: eAudioBook

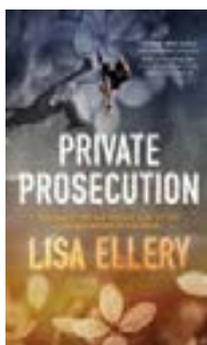
Retired CIA agent Barbara Gold decides to take up gardening to pass the time in Cheerville, a quaint New England town. Before she can pay for her peat moss and a copy of Gardening for Numbskulls at the garden shop, she overhears two ladies gossiping about the death of Cheerville's best gardener. Based on her extensive secret agent training, Barbara quickly concludes Archibald didn't die in a freak accident via hedge clippers, but was murdered. The local police are no help, ruling the death a suicide. To solve this case, Barbara must go undercover on her own - with a 9mm pistol, of course. From taking Seniors Yoga to infiltrating an underground gambling club, Barbara must use her best asset - her guise as a sweet seventy-year-old granny - to find the murderer, while not letting her babysitting duties to her thirteen-year-old grandson, Martin, and attention from a new love interest distract her.



## Private Prosecution

Author: Lisa Ellery  
Format: eBook, Book

Andrew Deacon is young, fit and single, a junior prosecutor at the West Australian DPP with a bright future. But that future starts to look grim after he spends the night with an attractive stranger, Lily Constantine, and she is found murdered in her apartment the following day. Andrew is the prime suspect. The fact that he is convinced the killer is respected barrister Sam Godfrey SC impresses no-one. Not the police (who can find no evidence of it), not Lil's parents (Sam is their son-in-law) and particularly not Godfrey himself. After an unequivocal warning in a deserted carpark, Andrew finds himself on the run and in a bad way. Can he trap the killer before the killer destroys him?



## The Killing Kind

Author: Jane Casey  
Format: Book, Large Print

As a barrister, Ingrid Lewis is used to dealing with tricky clients, but no one has ever come close to John Webster. After Ingrid defended Webster against a stalking charge, he then turned on her - following her, ruining her relationship, even destroying her home. He tells you he wants to protect you... Now, Ingrid believes she has finally escaped his clutches. But when one of her colleagues is run down on a busy London road, Ingrid is sure she was the intended victim. And then Webster shows up at her door... But can you believe him? Webster claims Ingrid is in danger, and that only he can protect her. Stalker or saviour? Murderer or protector? The clock is ticking for Ingrid to decide. Because the killer is ready to strike again.

## The Happiest Man on Earth

Author: Eddie Jaku  
Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Compact Disc

Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed on 9 November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested and taken to a concentration camp. Over the next seven years, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors every day, first in Buchenwald, then in Auschwitz, then on a Nazi death march. He lost family, friends, his country. Because he survived, Eddie made the vow to smile every day. He pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom and living his best possible life. He now believes he is the 'happiest man on earth'.

## The Curlew's Eye

Author: Karen Manton  
Format: eBook

As soon as Greta, together with her husband Joel and their three sons, arrives at the rural Top End property where Joel grew up, she is filled with a sense of unease. There's the dam filled with poisoned water, the burned-out family home on the hill, the crude white stones marking the burial sites of his sister and mother, the irresistible pull and authority of the land itself... and who is the mysterious girl living in a forlorn hut near the creek?