

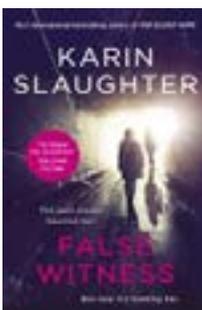
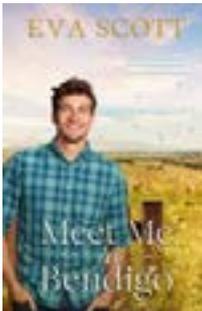
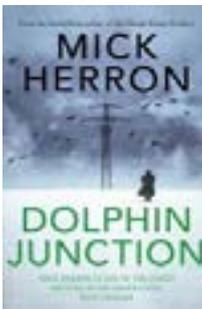
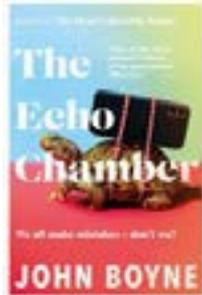
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

The Echo Chamber

Author: John Boyne

Format: Book

What a thing of wonder a mobile phone is. Six ounces of metal, glass and plastic, fashioned into a sleek, shiny, precious object. At once, a gateway to other worlds - and a treacherous weapon in the hands of the unwary, the unwitting, the inept. The Cleverley family live a gilded life, little realising how precarious their privilege is, just one tweet away from disaster. George, the patriarch, is a stalwart of television interviewing, a 'national treasure' (his words), his wife Beverley, a celebrated novelist (although not as celebrated as she would like), and their children, Nelson, Elizabeth, Achilles, various degrees of catastrophe waiting to happen. Together they will go on a journey of discovery through the Hogarthian jungle of the modern living where past presumptions count for nothing and carefully curated reputations can be destroyed in an instant. Along the way they will learn how volatile, how outraged, how unforgiving the world can be when you step from the prescribed path.



Dolphin Junction

Author: Mick Herron

Format: Book, Compact Disc

When a man's wife leaves him under suspicious circumstances, he sets off in search for her, unprepared for the guilty secrets he's about to drag back into the light. A man is tempted by a luxury apartment with a top-of-the-range kitchen. But there is a heavy price to pay for this glamorous new life. And a couple with their marriage on the rocks go on a hike through the Derbyshire countryside as another way to avoid their real problems. Hailed as the master of the modern spy thriller, Mick Herron's skill for tension, humour, and memorable twists are captured in his short stories, collected here for the first time.

Meet Me in Bendigo

Author: Eva Scott

Format: eBook, Book

Small-town sweetheart Annalisa Cappelli has returned to Wongilly to take over her family's hardware store while she heals from a tragic loss. The business was hit hard by the pandemic, and now a Carpenter's Warehouse hardware superstore is opening in the district. There's no way Annalisa is going to let two hundred years of history go down the drain, but she's going to need to fight to keep her family's legacy alive. The one simple thing in her life is her no names, no complications, easy-breezy online relationship with GardenerGuy94. For now, their online flirtation is the only kind of romance Annalisa needs. Until she meets Ed Carpenter. Sexy as hell, he'd be the perfect man... if he wasn't trying to destroy her business. Ed Carpenter is in Wongilly to offer the owner of a small hardware store a payout to pave the way for his family's next superstore. What he doesn't expect is for the owner to be the woman he's been talking to online. Annalisa is beautiful and passionate, and he's sure she's the one for him. But how can he reveal the truth without losing her?

False Witness

Author: Karin Slaughter

Format: eBook, Book

Leigh and her sister Callie are not bad people - but one night, more than two decades ago, they did something terrible. And the result was a childhood tarnished by secrets, broken by betrayal, devastated by violence. Years later, Leigh has pushed that night from her mind and become a successful lawyer - but when she is forced to take on a new client against her will, her world begins to spiral out of control. Because the client knows the truth about what happened twenty-three years ago. He knows what Leigh and Callie did. And unless they stop him, he's going to tear their lives apart... Just because your didn't see the witness doesn't mean he wasn't there.

Before She Disappeared

Author: Lisa Gardner

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Compact Disc, Large Print

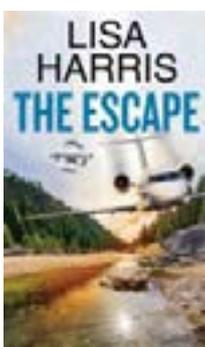
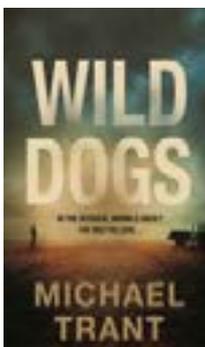
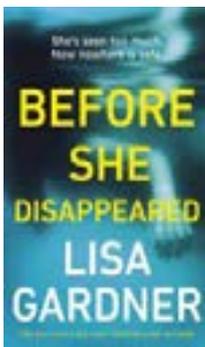
Frankie Elkin is an average middle-aged woman with more regrets than belongings who spends her life doing what no one else will - searching for missing people the world has stopped looking for. When the police have given up, when the public no longer remembers, when the media has never paid attention, Frankie starts looking. A new case brings Frankie to Mattapan, a Boston neighbourhood with a rough reputation. She is searching for Angelique Badeau, a Haitian teenager who vanished from her high school months earlier. Resistance from the Boston PD and the victim's wary family tells Frankie she's on her own. And she soon learns she's asking questions someone doesn't want answered. But Frankie will stop at nothing to discover the truth, even if it means the next person to go missing will be her...

The Escape

Author: Lisa Harris

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Large Print

US Marshals Madison James and Jonas Quinn are thrust into a high-profile case when they are called on to transport two prisoners across the country on a private plane. But when the plane experiences engine trouble en route from the Pacific Northwest to Colorado, the pilots crash-land the aircraft deep in the heart of the sprawling Salmon-Challis National Forest. When Madison and Jonas regain consciousness, they find both pilots and one prisoner dead and one fugitive on the run. They'll have to negotiate the rugged and remote backcountry through Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado while tracking a murderer who is desperate to disappear and will do anything to stop them.



Wild Dogs

Author: Michael Trant

Format: Book

In the drought-ridden rangelands of Western Australia, Gabe Ahern makes his living trapping wild dogs for local station owners. Still coming to terms with his wife's death -- and the part he played in it -- the old bushman leads a solitary life. Until one morning, when he rescues a young Afghan man, Altair, from certain execution. Now, with a gang of people smugglers on his tail and the lives of Altair's family on the line, Gabe is drawn into a ruthless game of cat and mouse. His main opponent is Chase Hunter, a kangaroo hunter with bush skills as wily and sharp as his own. As the old dogger and roo-shooter go head to head, Gabe will need all his cunning to come out of this alive...

Agatha and the Truth of Murder

Format: DVD

Not only was Agatha Christie beloved for her mystery novels, but she was also notorious for having disappeared for 10 days in 1926, following her husband's request for a divorce, and had medically-confirmed memory loss when she was found. This movie imagines what took place during her disappearance: a private investigation into the suspicious death six years earlier of the goddaughter and namesake of Florence Nightingale. After brutally bashing the victim on a train, the murderer was never caught, but when Florence's companion beseeches Agatha to help with the cold case, she assumes a disguise as the trail leads to a vast country house, and a drawing-room full of potential suspects. This was a very clever take on the classic, Christie-esque "drawing room mystery), and easy to watch if you loved the Poirot and Miss Marple TV series.

Medusa

Author: Jessie Burton

Format: Book

A feminist retelling of the classic mythological tale, written for young adults.

Exiled to a far-flung island by the whims of the gods, Medusa has little company except the snakes that adorn her head instead of hair. But when a charmed, beautiful boy called Perseus arrives on the island, her lonely existence is disrupted with the force of a supernova, unleashing desire, love and betrayal.

The Herd

Author: Emily Edwards
Format: Book

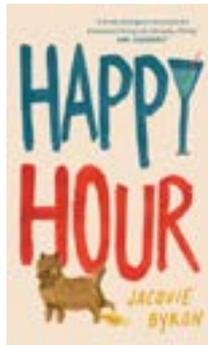
You should never judge how someone chooses to raise their child. Elizabeth and Bryony are polar opposites but their unexpected friendship has always worked. They're the best of friends, and godmothers to each other's daughters - because they trust that the safety of their children is both of their top priority. But what if their choice could harm your own child? Little do they know that they differ over one very important issue. And when Bryony, afraid of being judged, tells what is supposed to be a harmless white lie before a child's birthday party, the consequences are more catastrophic than either of them could ever have imagined.



Happy Hour

Author: Jacquie Byron
Format: eBook

Growing older doesn't necessarily mean growing wiser. Gin in one hand, paintbrush in the other, Franny Calderwood has turned her back on the world, or at least the world she used to love. Having lost her husband, Frank, in tragic circumstances three years earlier, 65-year-old Franny copes the only way she knows how: by removing herself completely from the life she had before. Franny lives a life of decadent seclusion, with only her two dogs, Whisky and Soda, a stuffed cat, cocktails and the memory of Frank for company. Then the Salernos move in next door. The troubled but charming trio - beleaguered mother Sallyanne, angry teenager Dee and eccentric eight-year-old Josh - cannot help but pull Franny into the drama of their lives. But despite her air of independence, Franny's wisecracks and foodie obsessions hide considerable trauma and pain, and when her eccentric behaviour has life-threatening consequences she faces a reckoning of sorts. Yes, Frank is dead, but did the woman he loved have to perish with him? A love story about one woman, two dogs, and the family next door, Happy Hour is a hilarious and uplifting insight into grief, loss and friendship.



The Perfect Family

Author: Robyn Harding
Format: Book

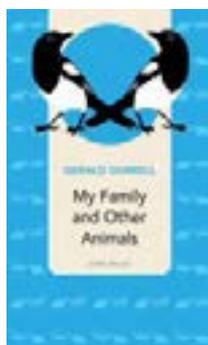
Thomas and Viv Adler have a picture-perfect family. Affluent and attractive, with two well-mannered kids almost out of the nest, they live in a beautiful house in a well-to-do neighbourhood. Their jobs are fulfilling; their children are thriving; the world is their oyster. Until one morning, when they wake up to find that their house and car have been pelted with eggs. Thomas dismisses it as the work of a few out-of-control kids, but when a smoke bomb is tossed on their front lawn, and the tires on their BMW are punctured, he begins to worry. Unable to identify the perpetrators, they are helpless as the assaults escalate. The police assure them that this is just the work of bored teenagers, but no one in the Adler family believes it. After all, each of them has a secret - kept not only from the outside world but from each other. As the Adlers grapple with their guilt, fear and shame, the assaults grow deadly. Their 'perfect' façade is crumbling, and it may be too late for any of them to do anything about it.



My Family and Other Animals

Author: Gerald Durrell
Format: Large Print, DVD

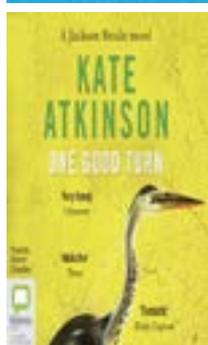
Durrell's uproarious tales of life on Corfu, where his mother and three siblings lived between the World Wars. It's a nicely-balanced blend of family/social observation and natural history.



One Good Turn

Author: Kate Atkinson
Format: eAudiobook

It is summer, it is the Edinburgh Festival. People queuing for a lunchtime show witness a road-rage incident - a near-homicidal attack which changes the lives of everyone involved. Jackson Brodie, ex-army, ex-police, ex-private detective, is also an innocent bystander - until he becomes a murder suspect. As the body count mounts, each member of the teeming Dickensian cast's story contains a kernel of the next, like a set of nesting Russian dolls. They are all looking for love or money or redemption or escape: but what each actually discovers is their own true self.



More Rules for Life

Author: Kitty Flanagan
Format: eBook, eAudiobook

Recently updated for the pandemic, Flanagan is as witty as always, with that trademark sting of truth wrapped up in humour.

