

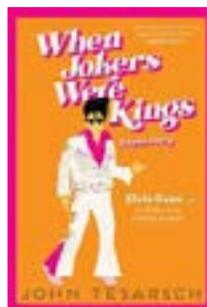
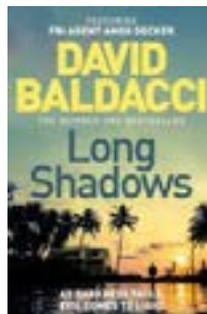
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

One Last Secret

Author: Adele Parks

Format: eBook, Book

A week at a beautiful chateau in the south of France -- it should be a straightforward final job for Dora. She's a smart, stunning and discreet escort and Daniel has paid for her services before. This time, all she has to do is convince the assembled guests that she is his girlfriend. Dora is used to playing roles and being whatever men want her to be. It's all about putting on a front. It will be her last, luxurious look at how the other half lives, before Dora turns her back on the escort world and all its dangers. She has found someone she loves and trusts. With him, she can escape the life she's trapped in. But when Dora arrives at the chateau it quickly becomes obvious that nothing is what it seems... Dora finds herself face to face with a man she has never forgotten, the one man who really knows her. And as old secrets surface, it becomes terrifyingly apparent that one last secret could cost Dora her life...



A Recipe for Family

Author: Tori Haschka

Format: eBook, Book

Things are getting slippery for Stella. With her husband away she's juggling a full-time job, a tricky stepdaughter and a relentless four-year-old - all while trying to find her footing in her spouse's shiny world. Joining the throng of local mothers, she reluctantly hires an au pair in the hope that it will lighten the load. Stella's mother-in-law, Elise, thinks this is a rotten idea. An industrial chemist and staunch feminist, she finds the ethical murkiness surrounding the au pair solution difficult to swallow. But she's promised her son not to meddle, has her own career battles to slay and ghosts of her own past to contend with. For Ava, life in Sydney as an au pair could help fill the void left by the loss of her mother. With her family recipes in her hand and hope in her heart, she sets off to reinvent herself in a place far away. Three women, drawn together by impossible circumstances, will discover that the greatest comfort can often be found in the mess.

When Jokers Were Kings

Author: John Tesarsch

Format: Book

When mild-mannered mail clerk Bertie Jones tries his luck as an Elvis Presley impersonator, his whole world gets shaken up. His doting mother doesn't approve, for a start. But with his best friend as his overzealous manager and a budding romance with Jasmine, a Michael Jackson tribute artist, Bertie just might be about to hip-shake his way to the most unlikely stardom. Take a front-row seat to a tour de force of a musical and personal journey, set against the backdrop of a banking royal commission and a white-knuckle road trip that includes a run-in with a Ned Kelly impersonator - all squeezed into a tight rhinestone jumpsuit. It's a rollicking return for the King and one he definitely would not have seen coming.

Long Shadows

Author: David Baldacci

Format: eAudiobook, Book

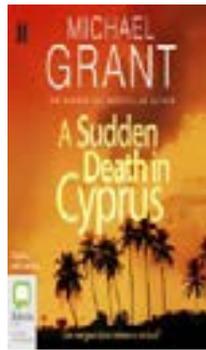
Things are changing for Decker. He's in crisis following the suicide of a close friend and the receipt of a letter concerning a personal issue which could change his life forever. Together with the prospect of working with a new partner, Frederica White, Amos knows that this case will take all of his special skills to solve. Judge Julia Cummins seemingly had no enemies, and there was no forced entry to her property. Close friends and neighbours in the community apparently heard nothing, and Cummins's distraught ex-husband, Barry, and teenage son, Tyler, both have strong alibis. Decker must find the answer to why the judge felt the need for a bodyguard, and the meaning behind the strange calling card left by the killer.

[A Sudden Death in Cypress](#)

Author: Michael Grant

Format: eAudiobook, Audiobook

David Mitre has a very unusual set of skills, skills he has acquired over a long criminal career. Skills that make him an irritant for people like the FBI. Hiding in plain sight among the ex-pat community of the Greek Cyprus island, his cover is blown when he is witness to a stabbing. The FBI want answers and David is given an ultimatum: solve the murder or face imprisonment for his own crimes. Coerced into playing detective, David unwittingly uncovers a criminal enterprise far worse than anything he could have imagined.

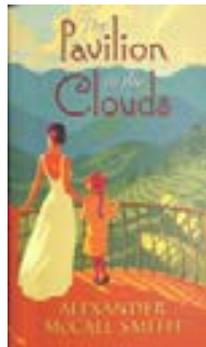


[The Pavilion in the Clouds](#)

Author: Alexander McCall Smith

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

It is 1938 and the final days of the British Empire. In a bungalow high up in the green hills above the plains of Ceylon, under a vast blue sky, live the Ferguson family: Bella, a precocious eight-year-old, her father Henry, owner of Pitlochry, a tea plantation, and her mother Virginia. The story centres around the Pavilion in the Clouds, nestled in idyllic grounds carved out of the wilderness. But all is not as serene as it seems. Bella is suspicious of her governess Miss White's intentions. Her intuition sparks off her mother's imagination, and, after an unfortunate series of events, a confrontation results in a gunshot ringing out through the valley. Years later, Bella, now living back in Scotland at university in St Andrews, is faced, once again, with her past. Will she at last find out what happened between her father and Miss White? And will the guilt she has lived with all these years be reconciled by a long-overdue apology?

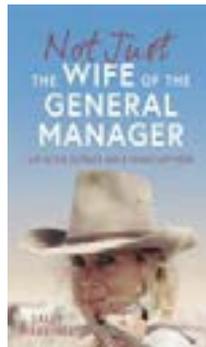


[Not just the wife of the General Manager](#)

Author: Sally Warriner

Format: Book

It was the 1980s and Sally Warriner was in her early 20s when she returned from a backpacking sojourn and hitchhiked to Australia's far north. But instead of moving back to Canberra as planned, she stayed. After marrying a cattle station manager, Sally lived and worked with him on various stations until she was 50, injecting herself into the lives of the characters who inhabited these isolated places. With wit and sass, Sally tells the story of how she was so much more than just a wife of a station manager (despite what the blokes of the top end thought). Among other things, she was a nurse (dealing with local accidents, assisting the Flying Doctor service and making emergency 400 km round trips through the outback with sick children), a mother (bringing up several children, not all her own), a travel agent, a social secretary, a host and an organiser (including of Kerry Packer's New Year's Eve parties). This is a story about adventure, resilience, the unexpected journeys we need to go on to find ourselves, and having the courage to do something for yourself.

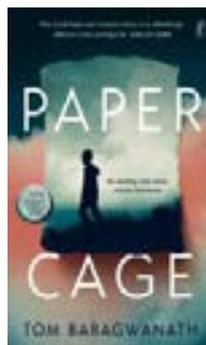


[Paper Cage](#)

Author: Tom Barawanath

Format: eBook, Book

Masterton isn't a big town. The community's tight, if not always harmonious. So when a child goes missing it's a big deal for everyone. And when a second kid disappears, the whole town's holding their own children that little bit tighter. Lorraine doesn't have kids, but she has a nephew. She's holding him a bit tighter, too, because she works for the police, and she knows they don't have any idea. Lo's not a cop, she's a records clerk. She sits out back among the piles of paper, making connections, remembering things. Working things out that the actual cops don't want to hear about. Until the new investigator, Hayes, arrives from Wellington, and realises Lo's the only person there with answers to any of his questions. Which is just as well-because the clock is running down for the children of the town.

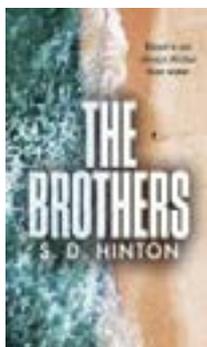


The Brothers

Author: S.D. Hinton

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

Welcome home, Jake. When Special Forces veteran Jake Harlow returns to the hamlet of Lorne on the Victorian south-west coast for his younger brother Tom's funeral, he finds a sinister series of notes that suggest Tom's death was no accident. With Tom's best friend Stocky, and ex-girlfriend Lucy, Jake starts to dig into secrets old and new. Who might be targeting the Harlow family, and why? As they get closer to the truth, the danger becomes very real. But can Jake, burdened by scars both physical and mental, still protect anyone - including himself?

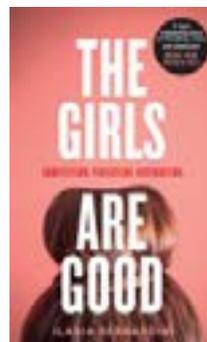


The Girls are Good

Author: Ilaria Bernardini

Format: Book

Martina wants to be the best gymnast in the world. But so does everyone around her. During one week of intense competition, Martina and her teammates are tested to the limit. Any sign of weakness can quickly spell the end. And within seven days, an intense obsession will lead to murder. Every girl will do anything to win... but at what cost?

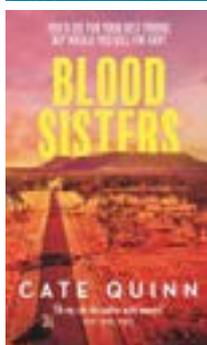
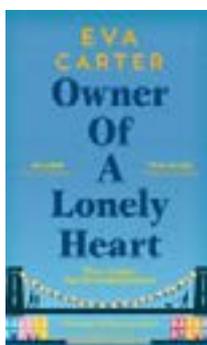


Owner of a Lonely Heart

Author: Eva Carter

Format: Book

How does the saying go? If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always got. Gemma is variously trying to keep busy, rebuild her life after a personal tragedy, and start a family. She's also, though she'd hate to admit it, lonely. Dan is attractive, laid back, and terrified of anyone getting to know the real him. He's lonely as well - not that you'd know it if you saw him out with his mates. Casey is Dan's daughter. She's undergoing treatment for a tumour and is lonely too, and scared, but desperately trying to pretend otherwise. When Gemma, Dan and Casey's paths cross one scorching July, they all have their reasons for keeping their distance; none of them would choose to be alone, but somehow the myriad little choices they made along the way have brought them to that point just the same. Now fate has brought them together, though, perhaps they'll be able to find the courage to make a different choice. A story of bravery in all its guises, Eva Carter's Owner of A Lonely Heart is about taking the plunge even when it terrifies you - because it's never too late to try doing something different.



Blood Sisters

Author: Cate Quinn

Format: Book

When a man is found gruesomely murdered in the local pub, all fingers point to the backpackers working behind the bar that night - two American girls who skipped town before the body was discovered. Despite all the evidence against them, rookie cop Tara Harrison knows there must be more to this case than a pair of sorority sisters who couldn't take a joke. She's determined to uncover the truth and is soon on the trail of a devastating secret that could tear her hometown apart. But sorority sisters Lauren and Beth have their own dark secrets and they've made an oath to take them to the grave - which they will, all too soon, unless Tara can stop it.

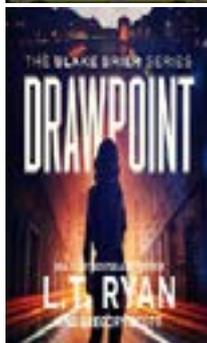


The Signal Line

Author: Brendan Colley

Format: Book

Brothers Geo and Wes are testing their relationship now that their parents have passed away. Geo and Wes rarely agree on anything, especially not the sale of the Hobart family home. Geo needs the money to finance his musical career in Italy. For Wes the house represents the memory of their father, and what it means to live an honest, working life. But then a ghost train appears in Hobart, often on the tram tracks that once existed, along with the Swedish man who has been pursuing it for 40 years. Everyone it seems is chasing their dreams. Or are they running from the truth? The Signal Line is a warm-hearted, novel about what we are all searching for, even when our personal dreams and aspirations have collapsed: love and acceptance.



Drawpoint

Author: L. T. Ryan

Format: eAudiobook

If you're going to take aim at Blake Brier, you better not miss. Returning to Rhode Island, Blake finds a Dear John letter and his house empty. Haeli is gone. Is it history repeating itself? Or is this something different? A search for answers about a past operation has come back to haunt her. Haeli finds she's in for more than she bargained for. Her past is on a collision course with her future. Will Blake be collateral damage? Caught in the crosshairs, Blake is forced into action.