

Abbott, Rachel
Only the Innocent

A man is dead. The killer is a woman. But what secrets lie beneath the surface – so dark that a man has to die? When Laura Fletcher approaches her home in Oxfordshire to find hordes of photographers crowding the gates, she knows there is something terribly wrong. She is faced with the shocking news that her husband is dead – brutally murdered – and according to Chief Inspector Tom Douglas, there is little doubt that the murderer is a woman. In a marriage that has taken her from the glamorous five star luxury of London, Venice and Positano to a bleak and draughty manor house in rural Oxfordshire, Laura has learned to guard her secrets well. She is not alone. It would appear that all the women in her husband's life have something to hide. But there is one secret that she has never shared, and when the investigation reaches its dramatic and horrific climax, she realises that she has no choice. She has to give Tom Douglas the final piece of the puzzle. And this changes everything, leaving Douglas with a terrible dilemma: whether to punish the guilty, or protect the innocent. Only the Innocent is a spellbinding psychological thriller that will leave you breathless.

Atkins, Dani
Fractured

The night of the accident changed everything...

Now, five years on, Rachel's life is crumbling. She lives alone in a tiny flat, working in a dead-end job, desperate with guilt over her best friend's death. She would give anything to turn back the clock. But life doesn't work like that... Does it?

The night of the accident was a lucky escape...

Now, five years on, Rachel's life is perfect. She has a wonderful fiancé, loving family and friends around her, and the career she always wanted. But why can't Rachel shake the memory of a very different life?

Baker, Jo
Longbourn

It is a wash-day for the housemaids at Longbourn House, and Sarah's hands are chapped and raw. Domestic life below stairs, ruled with a tender heart and an iron will by Mrs Hill the housekeeper, is about to be disturbed by the arrival of a new footman, bearing secrets and the scent of the sea.

Burton, Jessie
The Miniaturist

There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed.....

On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman arrives at a grand house in Amsterdam to begin her new life as the wife of wealthy merchant Johannes Brandt. Though curiously distant, he presents her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations ring eerily true. As Nella uncovers the secrets of her new household she realises the escalating dangers they face. The miniaturist seems to hold their fate in her hands ... but does she plan to save or destroy them?

Catton, Eleanor
The Luminaries

It is 1866, and Walter Moody has come to make his fortune upon the New Zealand goldfields. On the night of his arrival, he stumbles across a tense gathering of twelve local men, who have met in secret to discuss a series of unsolved crimes. A wealthy man has vanished, a whore has tried to end her life, and an enormous fortune has been discovered in the home of a luckless drunk. Moody is soon drawn into the mystery: a network of fates and fortunes that is as complex and exquisitely patterned as the night sky.

Cleeves, Ann

Raven Black

No one knew he had this beautiful creature to visit him. She was his treasure, the raven in his cage. It is a cold January morning and Shetland lies beneath a deep layer of snow. Trudging home, Fran Hunter's eye is drawn to a splash of colour on the frozen ground, ravens circling above. It is the body of her teenage neighbour Catherine Ross. As Fran opens her mouth to scream, the ravens continue their deadly dance.

The locals on the quiet island stubbornly focus their gaze on one man – loner and simpleton Magnus Tait. But when detective Jimmy Perez and his colleagues from the mainland insist on opening out the investigation, a veil of suspicion and fear is thrown over the entire community.

For the first time in years, Catherine's neighbours nervously lock their doors, whilst a killer lives on in their midst...

Coleman, Rowan

The Memory Book

The name of your first born. The face of your lover. What would happen if your memory of these began to fade? Is it possible to rebuild your life? Raise a family? Fall in love again?

When Claire begins to write her Memory Book she already knows that this scrapbook of mementoes will soon be all her daughters and husband have left of her. But how can she hold on to the past when her future is slipping through her fingers...?

Demick, Barbara

Nothing to Envy – real lives in North Korea

North Korea is one of the most repressive and secretive states on earth. Spying is encouraged, the media is government controlled, *Gone with the Wind* is a dangerous, banned book. In the 1990s, famine descended. Millions of people died, but the regime remained in power. Through extensive interviews, Barbara Demick has created the first portrait of life in this extraordinary country, weaving together the stories of six ordinary citizens in a gripping and vivid account of adversity and survival in the land of 'Our Dear Leader'.

Douglas-Home, Mark

The Sea Detective

'Help me, please help me.' It was a young woman's voice, pleading with him. He opened the door, certain this was the biggest mistake of his life, and there she was, a feral creature in dirty clothes, with hollowed cheeks and scab on her cracked lips. Her closest friend died three years ago, her body fished out of the sea off the Argyll coast, and she believes only Cal can help her find out what happened.

This is not the only unexplained death haunting Cal McGill, a part-time PhD oceanography student with a macabre interest in floating corpses. Severed feet are washing ashore on Scotland's beaches and McGill wants to know if they're wearing trainers. The answer could make all the difference between accident and murder. Then there's the tragedy of his grandfather who was lost at sea, the mystery which sparked his childhood fascination for tracking flotsam across oceans, the mystery he's now determined to solve.

Filer, Nathan

The Shock of the Fall

'I'll tell you what happened because it will be a good way to introduce my brother. His name's Simon. I think you're going to like him. I really do. But in a couple of pages he'll be dead. And he was never the same after that.'

Fowler, Karen Joy

We are all completely beside ourselves

What if you grew up to realise that your father had used your childhood as an experiment?

Rosemary doesn't talk very much, and about certain things she's silent. She had a sister, Fern, her whirlwind other half, who vanished from her life in circumstances she wishes she could forget. And it's been ten years since she last saw her beloved older brother Lowell. Now at college, Rosemary starts to see that she can't go forward without going back, back to the time when, aged five, she was sent away from home to her grandparents and returned to find Fern gone.

Frey, James (NF)

A million little pieces

Aged just twenty-three, James Frey had destroyed his body and his mind almost beyond repair. When he enters a rehabilitation centre to try to reclaim his life, he has to fight to determine what future, if any, he has. His lack of self-pity, cynicism and piety gives him an unflinching honesty – a fearless candour that is at once charming and appalling, searing and darkly funny.

Goddard, Robert

Into the Blue

Harry Barnett is a middle-aged failure. Leading a shabby existence in the shadow of a past disgrace, he is reduced to caretaking a friend's villa on the island of Rhodes and working in a bar to earn his keep. Then a guest at the villa – a young woman he had instantly and innocently warmed to – disappears on a mountain peak.

Under suspicion of her murder, Harry stumbles on a set of photographs taken in the weeks before her disappearance. Obsessed by the mystery that has changed his life and determined to clear his name, he begins to trace back the movements and encounters that led to the moment when she vanished into the blue. The trail leads him back to England, to a world he thought he had left for ever – and a past he has tried desperately to forget.

Goldschmidt, Pippa

The Falling Sky

Jeanette is a young, solitary postdoctoral researcher who has dedicated her life to studying astronomy. Struggling to compete in a prestigious university department dominated by egos and incompetents, and caught in a cycle of brief and unsatisfying affairs, she travels to a mountain-top observatory in Chile to focus on her research.

There Jeanette stumbles upon evidence that will challenge the fundamentals of the universe, drawing her into conflict with her colleagues and the scientific establishment, but also casting her back to the tragic loss that defined her childhood. As the implications of her discovery gather momentum and her relationships spiral out of control, Jeanette's own grip on reality is threatened, finally forcing her to confront the hidden past.

Pippa Goldschmidt's debut novel blends black comedy, heart-breaking tragedy and accessible science, in this intricate and beautiful examination of one woman's disintegration and journey to redemption.

Harden, Blaine (NF)

Escape from Camp 14 – One man's remarkable odyssey from North Korea to freedom in the West.

Twenty-seven years ago, Shin Dong-hyuk was born inside Camp 14, one of five sprawling political prisons in the mountains of North Korea. Located about 55 miles north of Pyongyang, the labour camp is a 'complete control district', a no-exit prison where the only sentence is life. No one born in Camp 14 or in any North Korean political prison camp has escaped. No one except Shin. This is his story.

Harding, Georgina
Painter of Silence

Iasi, Romania, the early 1950s. A nameless man is found on the steps of a hospital. Deaf and mute, he is unable to communicate until a young nurse called Safta brings paper and pencils with which he can draw. Slowly, painstakingly, memories appear on the page. The memories are Safta's also. For the man is Augustin, son of the cook at the manor house which was Safta's family home. Born six months apart, they grew up with a connection that bypassed words. But while Augustin's world remained the same size, Safta's expanded to embrace languages, society – and a fleeting love, one long, hot summer. But then came war, and in its wake a brutal Stalinist regime, and nothing would remain the same.

Hawking, Jane (NF)
Travelling to Infinity – the true story behind The Theory of Everything

In this compelling memoir Stephen Hawking's first wife, Jane, relates the inside story of their extraordinary marriage. As Stephen's academic renown soared, his body was collapsing under the assaults of motor neurone disease, and Jane's candid account of trying to balance his 24-hour care with the needs of their growing family will be inspirational to anyone dealing with family illness. The inner-strength of the author, and the self-evident character and achievements of her husband, make for an incredible tale that is always presented with unflinching honesty; the author's candour is no less evident when the marriage finally ends in a high-profile meltdown, with Stephen leaving Jane for one of his nurses, while Jane goes on to marry an old family friend. In this exceptionally open, moving and often funny memoir, Jane Hawking confronts not only the acutely complicated and painful dilemmas of her first marriage, but also the fault lines exposed in a relationship by the pervasive effects of fame and wealth. The result is a book about optimism, love and change that will resonate with readers everywhere.

Hayes, Terry
I am Pilgrim

A young woman murdered in a run-down Manhattan hotel. A father publicly beheaded in the blistering sun of Saudi Arabia. A man's eyes stolen from his living body as he leaves a secret Syrian research laboratory. Smouldering human remains on a mountainside in the Hindu Kush. A plot to commit an appalling crime against humanity. One thread that binds them all. One man to take the journey. Pilgrim.

Healey, Emma
Elizabeth is missing

Maud is forgetful. She makes a cup of tea and doesn't remember to drink it. She goes to the shops and forgets why she went. Sometimes her home is unrecognizable – or her daughter Helen seems a total stranger.

But there's one thing Maud is sure of: her friend Elizabeth is missing. The note in her pocket tells her so. And no matter who tells her to stop going on about it, to leave it alone, to shut up, Maud will get to the bottom of it.

Because somewhere in Maud's damaged mind lies the answer to an unsolved seventy-year-old mystery. One everyone has forgotten about.

Everyone, except Maud ...

Hodges, Andrew (NF)

Alan Turing: The Enigma

Alan Turing was the mathematician whose cipher-cracking transformed the Second World War. Taken on by British Intelligence in 1938, as a shy young Cambridge don, he combined brilliant logic with a flair for engineering. In 1940 his machines were breaking the Enigma-enciphered messages of Nazi Germany's air force. He then headed the penetration of the super-secure U-boat communications.

But his vision went far beyond this achievement. Before the war he had invented the concept of the universal machine, and in 1945 he turned this into the first design for a digital computer. Turing's far-sighted plans for the digital era forged ahead into a vision for Artificial Intelligence. However, in 1952 his homosexuality rendered him a criminal and he was subjected to humiliating treatment. In 1954 aged 41, Alan Turing took his own life.

Johnson, Alan (NF)

This Boy – a memoir of childhood

London's Notting Hill in the 1950s was an unimaginably different place to the white stucco splendour it's known for today. Alan Johnson's family lived in condemned housing, declared unfit for human habitation, in a cramped flat with no central heating, no electricity and no running water. His mother, Lily, battled against poor health, poverty, domestic violence and chronic loneliness to try and ensure a better life for her children. His sister, Linda, took on an adult's burden of responsibility and fought to keep the family together when she was still only a child. No matter how harsh the detail, Alan writes with a spirit of generous acceptance, humour and openness which makes his book anything but a grim catalogue of misery. In the end, This Boy is about success against all the odds, and paints a vivid portrait of bygone era.

Kent, Hannah

Burial Rites

Northern Iceland, 1829. A woman condemned to death for murdering her lover. A family forced to take her in. A priest tasked with absolving her. But all is not as it seems, and time is running out: winter is coming, and with it the execution date. Only she can know the truth. This is Agnes's story.

Macdonald, Helen (NF)

H is for Hawk

As a child, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer, learning the arcane terminology and reading all the classic books. Years later, when her father died and she was struck deeply by grief, she became obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. She bought Mabel for £800 on a Scottish quayside and took her home to Cambridge, ready to embark on the long, strange business of trying to train this wildest of animals.

H is for Hawk is an unflinchingly honest account of Macdonald's struggle with grief during the difficult process of the hawk's taming and her own untaming. This is a book about memory, nature and nation, and how it might be possible to reconcile death with life and love.

Mahood, George (NF)

Free Country – a penniless adventure the length of Britain

The plan is simple. George and Ben have three weeks to cycle 1000 miles from the bottom of England to the top of Scotland. There's just one small problem... they have no bikes, no clothes, no food and no money. Setting off in just a pair of Union Jack boxer shorts, they attempt to rely on the generosity of the British public for everything from food to accommodation, clothes to shoes, and bikes to beer. During the most extraordinary of challenges, George and Ben scavenge through

rubbish bins, search for the Loch Ness monster, wash dishes, clean hotels, sing Christmas carols for food, swim in lakes, descend Cornish hills on children's bikes and cook a barbecue for 30 old people in a field. They spend the night in a greenhouse, a canal boat, a posh hotel, an empty house, a pub, a tent in a car park and a barn with a bull. Through the course of their hysterical journey they are clothed, fed and sheltered by the generous people of Britain; from llama farmers to onion farmers, students to lifeguards, a former rock-star to a former hit-man... and Michael Eavis in a pair of hot-pants. They blaze a trail of open doors and warm hospitality the length of this green and pleasant land, proving that - both monetarily and opportunistically - Great Britain is undoubtedly a Free Country.

Marsh, Henry (NF)

Do No Harm – stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery

What is it like to be a brain surgeon?

How does it feel to hold someone's life in your hands, to cut through the stuff that creates thought, feeling and reason? How do you live with the consequences when it all goes wrong? Do No Harm offers an unforgettable insight into the highs and lows of a life dedicated to operating on the human brain, in all its exquisite complexity. With astonishing candour and compassion, Henry Marsh reveals the exhilarating drama of surgery, the chaos and confusion of a busy modern hospital, and above all the need for hope when faced with life's most agonising decisions.

Mortimer, Roger & Mortimer, Charlie (NF)

Dear Lupin, Letters To A Wayward Son

Witty, acerbic and wise – a father's guiding words to his errant, completely unrepentant son.

Roger Mortimer's often hilarious, sometimes touching, always generous letters to his son, Charlie, are packed with crisp anecdotes and sharp observations. The trials and tribulations of Charlie's youth and adulthood are received by his father with both humour and resignation – the perfect reminder of a time when letters were more common, yet always special, and the generation gap yawned as wide as ever.

Spanning nearly twenty-five years, *Dear Lupin* forms a memoir of their relationship, an affectionate portrait of a time gone by.

Norman, charity

After the Fall

"I tell them how Finn wandered out of his room and climbed onto the rail, and then he fell. And I saw him falling, and I ran, but I couldn't save him."

In the quiet of a winter's night, a rescue helicopter is sent to airlift a five-year-old boy with severe internal injuries. He's fallen from the upstairs veranda of an isolated farmhouse, and his condition is critical. At first, Finn's fall looks like a horrible accident; after all, he's prone to sleepwalking. Only his frantic mother, Martha McNamara, knows how it happened. And she isn't telling. Not yet. Maybe not ever.

Tragedy isn't what the McNamara family expected when they moved to new Zealand. For Martha, it was an escape. For her artist husband Kit, it was a dream. For their small twin boys, it was an adventure. For sixteen-year-old Sacha, it was the start of a nightmare...

Slevin, Martin

The Little Girl in the Radiator, Mum, Alzheimer's & Me (NF)

A hilarious, heart-breaking and ultimately uplifting story of love, loss and family.

Martin Slevin's mum is an active and fiercely independent woman who runs her own business and brooks no nonsense from Martin and his father.

But when her husband dies everything crumbles, and she becomes listless and forgetful. Eventually, she is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and Martin puts his own life on hold to care for her.

Together, they embark on a long journey through dementia. The destination is never in doubt – but it's a comical and unpredictable ride, as she watches TV with a frozen goose, holds sing-songs with an imaginary Irish band and insists on pinning all of Martin's socks to the wall.

And all the time, a questions nags away at him: just who is the little girl in the radiator, with whom his mum has urgent, whispered conversations each day?

Tartt, Donna

The Goldfinch

Aged thirteen, Theo Decker, son of a devoted mother and an absent father, miraculously survives a catastrophe that otherwise tears his life apart. Alone and rudderless in New York, he is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Theo is tormented by longing for his mother and down the years he clings to the thing that most reminds him of her: a small, captivating painting that ultimately draws him into the criminal underworld.

Trollope, Anthony

The Way We Live Now

Considered by contemporary critics to be Trollope's greatest novel, *The Way We Live Now* is a satire of the literary world of nineteenth-century London and a bold indictment of the new power of speculative finance on English life. The story concerns Augustus Melmotte, a French swindler and scoundrel, and his daughter, to whom Felix Carbury, adored son of the authoress Lady Carbury, is induced to propose marriage for the sake of securing a fortune. Trollope's portrait of Lady Carbury, impetuous, unprincipled, and unswervingly devoted to her own self-promotion, is one of his finest satirical achievements. In his kaleidoscopic depiction of a society on the verge of moral bankruptcy, Trollope gives us life as it was lived more than a hundred years ago, while speaking eloquently to some of the governing obsessions of our own age.

Trollope, Anthony

The Way We Live Now (DVD)

This BAFTA award-winning epic tells the tale of a society in turmoil, where money, power and corruption are the order of the day. Set in the railway boom of the 1870s, it contains all the elements that made Trollope the most popular novelist of his day, the trials and tribulations of young love, the enduring values of honourable men.

Augustus Melmotte (David Suchet) arrives in London with his wife and daughter. He appears charming and as noble as ever, but a deceitful financier lies beneath the surface. Wasting no time in frivolous activities, he charms an unwitting Paul Montague into investing in one of his schemes. But as Melmotte climbs the society ladder, his web of deceit captures his own daughter Marie and suitor Felix Carbury, son of feckless novelist Lady Carbury.

Walsh, Helen

Go to Sleep

Hours from now, Rachel Massey will become a mother. Terrified and excited, there is nothing she wants more. But motherhood is not as she had imagined. The sleepless nights turn to weeks, the weeks, turn to months, and while Rachel loves her son as much as any mother, she can't escape the feeling that something has gone terribly wrong. Honest, uplifting and often shocking, *Go To Sleep* is a powerful and heart-wrenching story.

Weir, Andy

The Martian

I'm stranded on Mars. I have no way to communicate with Earth.

If the Oxygenator breaks down, I'll suffocate. If the Water Reclaimer breaks down, I'll die of thirst. If the Habitat breaches, I'll just kind of explode. If none of those things happen, I'll eventually run out of food and starve to death. I'm screwed.

Yousafzai, Malala (NF)

I Am Malala – the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban

'Who is Malala?' the gunman demanded.

I am Malala. This is my story.

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, one girl fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday 9 October 2012, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head at point-blank range.

Malala Yousafzai's extraordinary journey has taken her from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations. At seventeen she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and is the youngest ever winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

I am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

