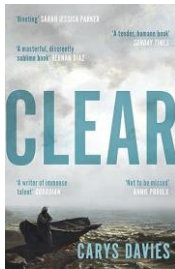


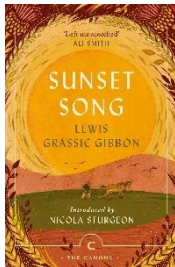
## Adult Fiction



### Clear by Carys Davies - Staff recommendation

1843. On a remote Scottish island, Ivar, the sole occupant, leads a life of quiet isolation until the day he finds a man unconscious on the beach below the cliffs. The newcomer is John Ferguson, an impoverished church minister sent to evict Ivar and turn the island into grazing land for sheep. Unaware of the stranger's intentions, Ivar takes him into his home, and in spite of the two men having no common language, a fragile bond begins to form between them. Meanwhile, on the mainland, John's wife, Mary, anxiously awaits news of his mission.

Against the rugged backdrop of this faraway spot beyond Shetland, Carys Davies's intimate drama unfolds with tension and tenderness: a touching and crystalline study of ordinary people buffeted by history and a powerful exploration of the distances and connections between us. Perfectly structured and surprising at every turn, *Clear* is a marvel of storytelling, an exquisite short novel by a master of the form.



### Sunset song by Lewis Grassic Gibbon – Staff recommendation

Faced with a choice between a harsh farming life and the world of books and learning, Chris Guthrie chooses to remain in her rural community, bound by her intense love of the land. But everything changes with the arrival of the First World War and Chris finds her land altered beyond recognition.

One of the greatest and most heartbreaking love stories ever told,, *Sunset Song* offers a powerful portrait of a land and people in turmoil.



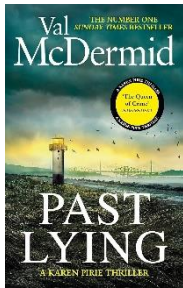
### The Shapeshifter's Daughter by Sally Magnusson – Staff recommendation

***Nothing, on earth or below it, freezes faster than the worthless heart.***

Before she was a hideous monster, the queen of the underworld was simply **Hel**. But cast as a girl out of lofty Asgard, realm of the gods, by Odin the Allfather, Hel's fate as the terrible goddess of death is sealed. Half beauty, half crone, she has reigned for aeons in the starless darkness of Niflheim, grimly welcoming the most pitiful of death's travellers to her ice-locked prison. Until one day a memory shifts, and she is forced to seek out the sun in Midgard, where humans have made their home.

Faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis, **Helen Firth** makes the impulsive decision to return to Orkney after forty years to make peace with her past. Under the wintering solstice sun, she reconnects with the ungainly but affable Thorfinn Coffin, who helps her address the real reason she has returned to the islands: to die.

As Helen draws closer to death and ever closer to Thorfinn, Hel in turn is intrigued by Helen. She, too, has a past to confront and a lesson to learn: that perhaps who she believes herself to be isn't who she really is.

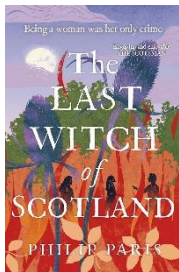


### Past Lying by Val McDermid – Staff recommendation

Edinburgh, haunted by the ghosts of its many writers, is also the cold case beat of DCI Karen Pirie. So she shouldn't be surprised when an author's manuscript appears to be a blueprint for an actual crime.

Karen can't ignore the plot's chilling similarities to the unsolved case of an Edinburgh University student who vanished from her own doorstep. The manuscript seems to be the key to unlocking what happened to Lara Hardie, but there's a problem: the author died before he finished it.

As Karen digs deeper, she uncovers a spiralling game of betrayal and revenge, where lies are indistinguishable from the truth and with more than one unexpected twist . . .



### The Last Witch of Scotland by Phillip Paris – Borrower recommendation

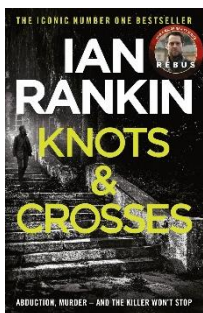
In the aftermath of a tragic fire that kills her father, **Aila and her mother, Janet**, move to the remote parish of Loth, north-west of Inverness. Blending in does not come easily to the women: Aila was badly burned in the fire and left with visible injuries, while her mother struggles to maintain her grip on reality. When a temporary minister is appointed in the area, rather than welcome the two women, he develops a strange curiosity for them that sets them even further

apart from the community.

Then arrives a motley troupe of travelling entertainers from Edinburgh, led by the **charismatic but mysterious Jack**. It is just the distraction Janet, and particularly Aila, needs: for the first time in a long while, their lives are filling with joy and friendship, and a kind of hope Aila hasn't known since her father's death. **But in this small community, faith is more powerful than truth, and whispers more dangerous even than fire.**

Haunting and deeply moving, *The Last Witch of Scotland* is a story of love, loyalty and sacrifice, **inspired by the true story of the last person to be executed for witchcraft in Britain.**

Perfect for fans of ***Outlander*, *The Mercies*** and ***The Witches of Vardo***, or for anyone with an interest in the history of **witchcraft, late renaissance Scotland and Highland history.**



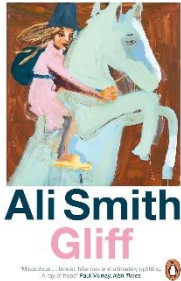
### Knots and Crosses by Ian Rankin – Staff recommendation

And in Edinburgh of all places. I mean, you never think of that sort of thing happening in Edinburgh, do you...?'

'That sort of thing' is the brutal abduction and murder of two young girls. And now a third is missing, presumably gone to the same sad end. Detective Sergeant John Rebus, smoking and drinking too much, his own young daughter spirited away south by his disenchanted wife, is one of many

policemen hunting the killer.

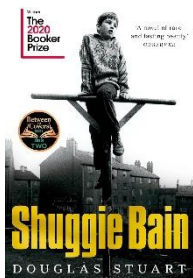
And then the messages begin to arrive: knotted string and matchstick crosses - taunting Rebus with pieces of a puzzle only he can solve. Discover how it all began in the very first Rebus novel.



### **Gliff by Ali Smith – Borrower recommendation**

Once upon a time, not very far from now, two children come home to find a line of wet red paint round the outside of their house . . .

So begins the freewheeling and urgent new novel from Ali Smith – the story of two young people and a horse called Gliff, on the run from history as it takes a turn for the worse.

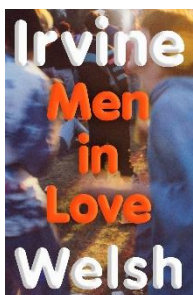


### **Shuggie Bain by Douglas Munro – Staff recommendation**

It is 1981. Glasgow is dying and good families must grift to survive. Agnes Bain has always expected more from life, dreaming of greater things. But Agnes is abandoned by her philandering husband, and as she descends deeper into drink, her children try their best to save her, yet one by one they must abandon her to save themselves.

It is her son Shuggie who holds out hope the longest. Shuggie is different, he is clearly *no' right*. But Shuggie believes that if he tries his hardest, he can be normal like the other boys and help his mother escape this hopeless place.

*Shuggie Bain* lays bare the ruthlessness of poverty, the limits of love, and the hollowness of pride. For readers of *A Little Life* and *Angela's Ashes*, it is a heartbreaking novel by a brilliant writer with a powerful and important story to tell.



### **Men in Love by Irvine Welsh – Staff recommendation**

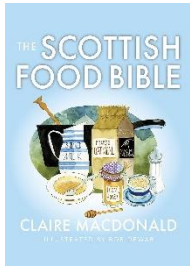
It is the late 1980s, the closing years of Thatcher's Britain. For the *Trainspotting* crew, a new era is about to begin – a time for hope, for love, for raving.

Leaving heroin behind and separated after a drug deal gone wrong, Renton, Sick Boy, Spud and Begbie each want to feel alive. They fill their days with sex and romance and trying to get ahead; they follow the call of the dance floor, with its promise of joy and redemption.

Sick Boy starts an intense relationship with Amanda, his 'princess' – rich, connected, everything that he is not. When the pair set a date for their wedding, Sick Boy sees a chance for his generation to take control at last.

But as the 1990s dawn, will finding love be the answer to the group's dreams or just another doomed quest?

## Adult Non-Fiction

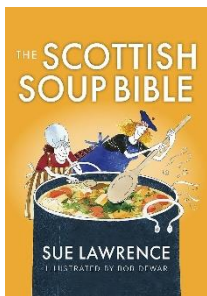


### **The Scottish Food Bible by Claire MacDonald**

Scottish produce is celebrated the world over. The demand for game, for example, far exceeds what can be supplied, and Scottish cheeses surpass many from mainland Europe. In this book Claire Macdonald celebrates the very best of home-grown ingredients - from oatmeal, dairy produce, meat and fish, fruit and vegetables and even whisky - in 60 imaginative recipes for starters, main course and puddings, as well as for sauces, dressings, baking and other

treats.

Recipes include: Grilled goat's cheese on stir-fried beetroot with orange and Balsamic vinegar  
Chocolate oatmeal biscuits Iced honey and whisky creams Herb crepes with smoked salmon, creme fraiche and diced cucumber  
Steam-baked cod with lentils, coriander and lime  
Venison fillet with green peppercorn, ginger and port sauce

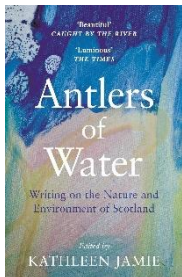


### **The Scottish Soup Bible by Sue Lawrence**

Acclaimed cookery writer Sue Lawrence celebrates the enormous range of Scottish soups in this imaginative and practical collection of recipes, ideal for cooks of all abilities.

Some soups make ideal starters, others are a complete meal in themselves. Featuring the very best of local produce, the 40 recipes range from Cullen Skink, Winkle Soup and Cock-a-Leekie to Reestit Mutton Soup, Nettle and

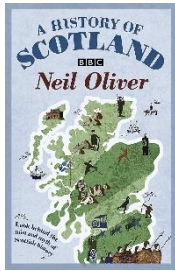
Potato Soup, and Dulse and Oatmeal Soup.



### **Antlers of Water edited by Kathleen Jamie**

Bringing together contemporary Scottish writing on nature and landscape, this inspiring collection takes us from walking to wild swimming, from red deer to pigeons and wasps, from remote islands to back gardens, through prose, poetry and photography.

Edited and introduced by Kathleen Jamie, and with contributions from Amy Liptrot, Jim Crumley, Chitra Ramaswamy, Malachy Tallack, Amanda Thomson and many more, *Antlers of Water* urges us to renegotiate our relationship with the more-than-human world, in writing which is by turns celebratory, radical and political.



### **A History of Scotland by Neil Oliver – Staff recommendation**

Scotland is one of the oldest countries in the world with a vivid and diverse past. Yet the stories and figures that dominate Scottish history - tales of failure, submission, thwarted ambition and tragedy - often badly serve this great nation, overshadowing the rich tapestry of her intricate past.

Historian Neil Oliver presents a compelling new portrait of Scottish history, peppered with action, high drama and centuries of turbulence that have helped to shape modern Scotland. Along the way, he takes in iconic landmarks and historic architecture; debunks myths surrounding Scotland's famous sons; recalls forgotten battles; charts the growth of patriotism; and explores recent political developments, capturing Scotland's sense of identity and celebrating her place in the wider world.

## Children's Collection

### Board and Picture Books

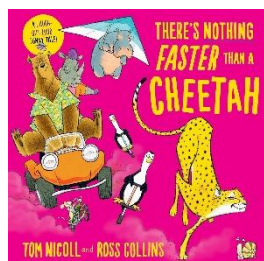


#### **Ye Cannae Shove Your Granny off a Bus by Kathryn Selbert – Bookbug Families Favourite**

Ever thought about shoving your granny off a bus? See what happens when you try in this brilliantly cheeky board book.

Sing and act out the much-loved Scottish song as you really do push Granny off the bus! Inventive moving parts help one granny swing while flaps reveal another granny bouncing off the bus.

This hilarious twist on the classic Scottish rhyme is perfect for sharing with toddlers. The bright, colorful illustrations are full of fun details to spot and the moving parts and durable flaps are friendly for wee fingers.

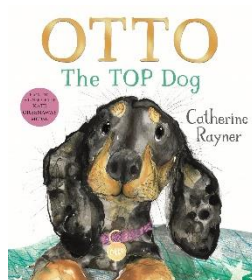


#### **There's Nothing Faster than a Cheetah by Tom Nicoll and Ross Collins – Summer Reading Challenge favourite**

Three, two, one . . . the race has begun and the animals are off! Rhinos on roller-skates, foxes in fire engines, lions in lorries, penguins on pogo sticks . . .

There's *nothing* faster than a cheetah.  
Or is there . . . ?

Perfect for sharing together, this wonderfully wacky picture book is sure to get young readers giggling. With a bouncy, read-aloud story from Tom Nicoll, and hilarious illustrations from the award-winning Ross Collins.



#### **Otto the Top Dog by Catherine Rayner – Staff recommendation**

This is Otto. Otto loves a lot of things, but nothing more than his beloved basket – and he's more than happy to share! A sweet, humorous and beautifully illustrated tale of a sausage dog who just can't say no.

After Otto invites one of his friends to share his comfy basket, word quickly spreads around the neighbourhood. Soon he's sharing his cosy bed with *all* the dogs in the area, even taking in the local strays! Before he knows it, everyone is having the best sleep in his beloved basket: everyone, but Otto! Will Otto ever get his basket back to himself? And will he still like it if he does . . .

*Otto* is a delightfully funny tale that will entertain young readers, while showing them that while it's fun to share, sometimes too much of a good thing isn't so great either!



## Children's Fiction



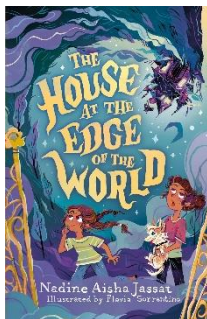
### **Saving Neverland by Abi Elphinstone – School Librarian recommendation**

Number 14 Darlington Road, looks like a perfectly ordinary townhouse - at first glance, anyway, but magic is good at hiding . . . when it's waiting for the right person to discover it . . .

Martha Pennydrop is ten, and desperate to grow up. But growing up is a tricky business. It means turning your back on imagination, fun and magic, because those were the things that led to the Terrible Day when something awful nearly happened to Martha's younger brother, Scruff, which would have been All Her Fault.

But when Martha and Scruff discover a drawer full of mysterious gold dust in the bedroom of their new house - along with a window that's seemingly impossible to close - it's the start of an incredible adventure to a magical world: Neverland! The Pennydrop's new house used to belong to another family - the Darlings - who once visited this world themselves. Now Peter Pan is back, and in need of their help. Neverland is in the icy grip of a terrible curse - cast long ago by Captain Hook. And only Martha and Scruff can save it . . .

A reluctant Martha and excited Scruff are swept off to Neverland and into the company of the Lost Kids. But when Scruff is kidnapped, Martha must rediscover all the imagination, magic and belief she has buried deep inside herself for so long, to save him - and Neverland itself.



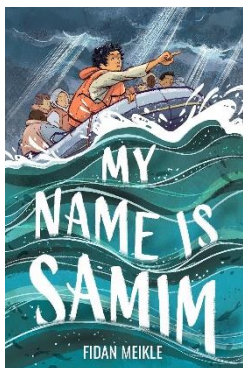
### **The House at the edge of the world by Nadine Aisha Jassat – Staff recommendation**

*Hope House is more than just a building - it's a place of magic and mystery. . .*

When Amal and her family unexpectedly inherit the enchanted clifftop home, they can't believe their luck. But their joy is short-lived when a mysterious couple arrives, claiming the house is theirs and giving Amal's family just thirty days to pack up their stuff and leave before they demolish it completely.

The clock is ticking, and Amal is determined to save Hope House from destruction. How will she unravel the secrets of the house and its mysterious benefactor in time to save it?

A page-turning, lyrical mystery with a magical twist, perfect for fans of Matt Goodfellow, Onjali Q. Raúf and Disney's *Encanto*. Featuring accessible text in verse and beautiful illustrations throughout.



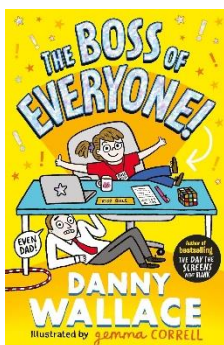
### **My name is Samim by Fidan Meikle – School Librarian recommendation**

A courageous young refugee survives a desperate journey in this moving but wry middle-grade novel about struggles, hope and friendship.

Thirteen-year-old Samim is a refugee, forced to make a long, dangerous journey from his home in Afghanistan to the UK. But even then his safety isn't guaranteed: Samim must tell his story to convince the authorities to let him stay for good.

Samim relives the perils he faced and remembers the many friends he made and lost – the intrepid girl who dressed as a boy for safety, the courageous grandmother seeking a new home for her nine grandchildren, and especially his funny, spirited, best friend Zayn. Samim is one of the lucky ones, but has he really found a safe new home?

My Name is Samim is a heartbreaking yet hopeful story of courage, resilience and friendship. Highlighting the experiences of young refugees and asylum-seekers, readers will empathise with Samim as he strives for a safe home and a better future. Fidan Meikle is a stunning new voice in middle-grade fiction. Her wry, heartfelt and immersive writing will draw readers into Samim's world.

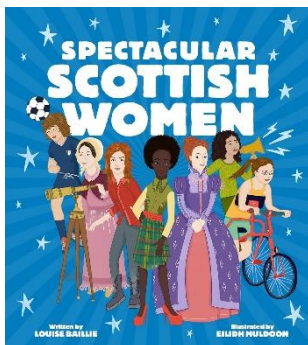


### **The boss of everyone! by Danny Wallace**

Ten-year-old Joss's greatest ambition is to be Class Monitor at school. But she's about to go one step further. It's Take Your Kid to Work Day, and Joss's dad takes her to the games company he works for. When the boss calls a meeting and tells them he's giving his job away to the person with the best idea for a company game-changer . . . Joss sticks her hand up. And the next thing she knows, Joss is the boss. Joss is thrilled. Dad is horrified: he's going to have to be on his best behaviour all the time! As Joss whips everyone into shape, maybe they can all learn a lesson or two . . . even Joss herself.

Warm-hearted and beautifully observed, with hilarious artwork from Gemma Correll, this family-centric comedy has massive wish-fulfilment appeal for kids and adults alike.

## **Children's Non-Fiction**

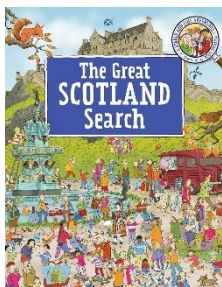


### **Spectacular Scottish Women by Louise Baillie – School Librarian Recommendation**

Meet some of Scotland's most spectacular women in this inspiring collection of biographies written for young people. From authors to athletes, scientists to singers, queens to campaigners, this diverse collection of women have influenced the world in incredible ways.

Read the eye-opening life stories of many amazing Scottish women you know, and many you won't believe you hadn't heard of.





### **The Great Scotland Search by Mike Phillips – young reader recommendation**

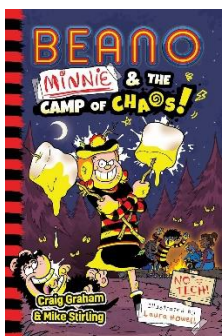
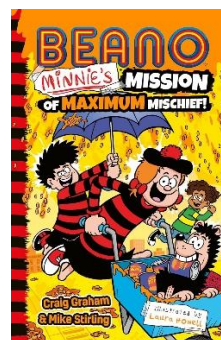
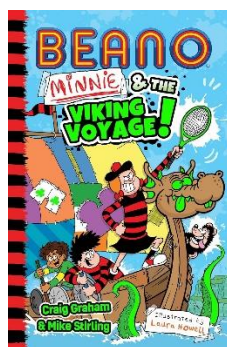
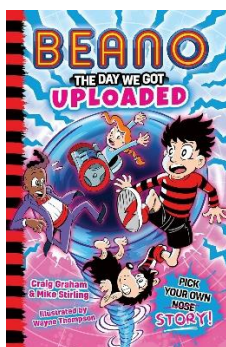
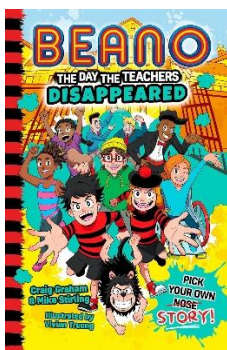
Search your way around Scotland in this dazzlingly detailed search-and-find book!

Join Ali, Maisie, Great granny Isla and Brodie the dog on their grand Scottish adventure from Glenfinnan to Glasgow, the Kelpies to the Cairngorms and from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to Up Helly Aa on Shetland.

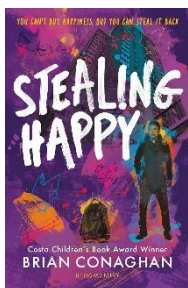
Spot the intrepid travellers hidden on twelve action-packed spreads, including eating ice cream in Tobermory, chasing Nessie in Inverness, exploring Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow, competing at the Braemar Gathering and much more.

The Great Scotland Search is bursting with bustling, zany Scottish scenes to pore over. This fantastic activity book will make a perfect gift, giving children hours of search-and-find fun.

**Each of our libraries will also have a Beano book as part of the collection.**



## Teen Fiction



### **Stealing Happy by Brian Conaghan – School Librarian recommendation**

Loan shark Chick Lennon is notorious around Sonny Gilmour's way, and not for anything good.

So when Sonny discovers his mum has borrowed money from Chick to pay the rent, he finds himself in need of the quickest of get-rich-quick schemes.

With the help of best mate Jonah and quiet genius Carolina Swift, he hatches a plot - to pay back what Mum owes using Chick's own ill-gotten gains. It's not a fool-proof plan, and it's not helped by Sonny's Tourette's making him blurt out 'ROB CHICK LENNON!' at the top of his lungs every time things get dicey.

But with his dad suffering from long Covid and his mum already struggling to cope, Sonny knows it's down to him to keep his family out of Chick's clutches ...



### **Some Like it Cold by Elle McNicoll – School Librarian recommendation**

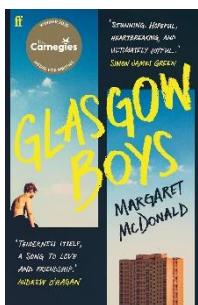
After a long absence, 18-year-old Jasper is finally heading home for the holidays – and she's keeping secrets.

Arthur, a budding filmmaker, is turning the town of Lake Pristine into a small town story worthy of the big screen. His plans are disrupted by the arrival of the town's golden girl – the antagonist of his school days; a girl he's never forgotten.

Jasper Montgomery is back in Lake Pristine for one reason: to say goodbye. But before long small-town tensions start to rise, and a certain brooding film buff starts to look like a very big reason to stay . . .

The perfect story to get lost in, *Some Like it Cold* centres Jasper as an autistic heroine in a cosy YA romance that will melt your heart, from the bestselling author of *A Kind of Spark*.

## Young Adult Fiction



### **The Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald – School Librarian recommendation**

*Two boys can't remember the last time they had a hug.*

Meet Finlay. He's studying for his nursing degree at Glasgow University, against all the odds. But coming straight from care means he has no support network. How can he write essays, find paid work and NOT fall for the beautiful boy at uni, when he's struggling to even feed himself?

Meet Banjo. He's trying to settle in with his new foster family and finish high school. But he can't forget all that has happened, and his anger and fear keep boiling over. How can he hold on to the one good person in his life, when his outbursts keep threatening his already uncertain future?

*Can Finlay and Banjo let go of the past before it drags them under?*