

NANOOSE LIBRARY - AUGUST 2023 NEW BOOK SYNOPSIS

FICTION

Stig Abell

Death under a little sky

For years, Jake Jackson has been a high-flying detective in London. But then one day he receives a letter from his reclusive uncle who has left him his property in the countryside. For Jake, it is the perfect opportunity for a fresh start. At first, life is everything Jake could wish for. His new home is beautiful, his surroundings are stunning, and he enjoys getting back to nature. But then, what starts as a fun village treasure hunt turns deadly, when a young woman's bones are discovered.

Sarah Addison Allen

Other birds

On Mallow Island, South Carolina, is the Dellawisp, an old cobblestone building shaped like a horseshoe, and named after the tiny turquoise birds who, alongside its human tenants, inhabit an air of magical secrecy. When Zoey comes to claim her deceased mother's apartment at the Dellawisp she meets her quirky and secretive neighbours, including two estranged middle-aged sisters. The sudden death of one of Zoey's new neighbours sets off a search that leads to the island's famous author and to a long-estranged relative of the sisters.

Jussi Adler-Olsen

The shadow murders

On her 60th birthday, a woman commits suicide. When the case lands on Detective Carl Mørck's desk, he can't imagine what this has to do with Department Q, Copenhagen's cold cases division. It's a tragedy, but the cause of death seems to be clear. However, his superior, Marcus Jacobsen, is convinced that this is not in fact a suicide, but a murder related to an unsolved case that has been plaguing him since 1988. As a result, Carl and the Department Q gang reluctantly begin to investigate.

Anne Berest

The postcard

Together with the usual holiday cards, an anonymous postcard is delivered to the Berest family home. On the front, a photo of the Opéra Garnier in Paris. On the back, the names of Anne Berest's maternal great-grandparents, Ephraïm and Emma, and their children, Noémie and Jacques, all killed at Auschwitz. Fifteen years after the postcard is delivered, Anne, is moved to discover who sent it and why.

Reed Farrell Coleman

Robert B. Parker's the bitterest pill

When a popular high school cheerleader dies of a suspected heroin overdose, it becomes clear that the opioid epidemic has spread even to the idyllic town of Paradise. It will be up to police chief Jesse Stone to unravel the supply chain and unmask the criminals behind it.

J.M. Hall

A pen dipped in poison

Retired schoolteachers Liz, Pat and Thelma never expected they would be caught up in a crime. But when poison pen letters start landing on the doorsteps of friends and neighbours in their Yorkshire village, old secrets come to light with the potential for deadly consequences.

Emilia Hart

Weyward

2019: Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great aunt she barely remembers. With its tumbling ivy and overgrown garden, the cottage is worlds away from the abusive partner who tormented Kate. But she begins to suspect that her great aunt had a secret. One that lurks in the bones of the cottage, hidden ever since the witch-hunts of the 17th century.

Elin Hilderbrand

The five-star weekend

Hollis Shaw's life seems picture-perfect. She's the creator of a popular food blog and is married to Matthew, a dreamy heart surgeon. But after she and Matthew get into a heated argument one snowy morning, he leaves for the airport and is killed in a car accident. The cracks in Hollis's perfect life, her strained marriage and her complicated relationship with her daughter, Caroline, grow deeper. So when Hollis hears about something called a "Five-Star Weekend"—one woman organizes a trip for her best friend from each phase of her life: her teenage years, her twenties, her thirties, and midlife—she decides

to host her own Five-Star Weekend on Nantucket. But the weekend doesn't turn out to be a joyful Hallmark movie.

Joseph Kanon ***The Berlin exchange***

Berlin, 1963, an early morning spy swap. The Communists are trading two American students caught helping people to escape over the wall and an aging MI6 operative. On the other side, Martin Keller, a physicist who once made headlines, but who then disappeared into the English prison system. The exchange is made with the formality characteristic of these swaps. But Martin has other questions. He knows that nothing happens by chance. They want him for something.

Elle Kennedy ***The summer girl***

College student Cassie Soul hasn't spent an entire summer in Avalon Bay in years, not since her parents divorced and her mother spitefully whisked her away to Boston. Now that her grandmother is selling the boardwalk hotel that's been in their family for five decades, Cassie returns to the quaint beach town to spend time with family, ring in her twenty-first birthday and maybe find herself a summer fling. On her first night in town, she finds the perfect candidate: Tate Bartlett, Avalon Bay's fun-loving golden boy. As Cassie and Tate walk the line between friends and lovers, they're about to discover that their situation is the least complicated part of this equation.

R.F. Kuang ***Yellowface***

Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars: same year at Yale, same debut year in publishing. But Athena's a cross-genre literary darling, and June didn't even get a paperback release. Nobody wants stories about basic white girls, June thinks. So when June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals Athena's just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese labourers to the British and French war efforts during World War I.

Camilla Lackberg ***Sweet revenge (2 novellas)***

Women without mercy

Ingrid gave up her career to support her husband. Now he's having an affair. Birgitta is avoiding the doctor. No one can see the bruises her husband leaves. Victoria left Russia to marry a man she met online. But he is nothing like she imagined. Maybe the only way out is to commit three perfect murders.

Truth or Dare

Best friends Liv, Martina, Max and Anton are spending New Year's Eve together. But each of them is keeping a terrible secret. When a game of truth or dare takes a dark turn, the shocking truth emerges. Not everyone will live to see the chime of midnight.

Donna Leon ***So shall you reap***

Another in the Brunetti series. On a cold November evening, Guido and Paola Brunetti are up late when a call from his colleague Ispettore Vianello arrives, alerting the Commissario that a hand has been seen in one of Venice's canals. The body is soon found, and Brunetti is assigned to investigate the murder of an undocumented Sri Lankan immigrant. Because no official record of the man's presence in Venice exists, Brunetti is forced to use the city's far richer sources of information: gossip and the memories of people who knew the victim.

Sue Moorcroft ***Summer on a sunny island***

When Rosa Hammond splits up from her partner Marcus, her mum Dora suggests a summer in Malta. Not one to sit back and watch her daughter be unhappy, Dora introduces Rosa to Zach, in the hope that romance will bloom under the summer sun.

Riku Onda ***Honeybees and distant thunder***

In a small coastal town near Tokyo, a prestigious piano competition is underway. Over the course of two feverish weeks, three students, Aya, Masaru, Akashi and Jin will experience some of the most joyous

Beth by chance, Shea asks her for an interview. To Shea's surprise, Beth says yes. They meet regularly at Beth's mansion, though Shea is never comfortable there. Items move when she's not looking, and she could swear she's seen a girl outside the window. However the allure of learning the truth about the case from Beth is too much to resist.

Simone St. James ***The broken girls***

Vermont, 2014. As much as she's tried, journalist Fiona Sheridan cannot stop revisiting the events surrounding her older sister's death. Twenty years ago, her body was found lying in the overgrown fields near the ruins of Idlewild Hall, once a place for the girls nobody wanted. Though her sister's boyfriend was tried and convicted of murder, Fiona can't shake the suspicion that something was never right about the case. When Fiona discovers that Idlewild Hall is being restored by an anonymous benefactor, she decides to write a story about it. But a shocking discovery during the renovations will link the loss of her sister to secrets that were meant to stay hidden in the past.

Simone St. James ***Silence for the dead***

In 1919, Kitty Weekes, pretty, resourceful, and on the run, falsifies her background to obtain a nursing position at Portis House, a remote hospital for soldiers left shell-shocked by the Great War. Hiding the shame of their mental instability in what was once a magnificent private estate, the patients suffer from nervous attacks and tormenting dreams. But something more is going on at Portis House—its plaster is crumbling, its plumbing makes eerie noises, and strange breaths of cold waft through the empty rooms. It's known that the former occupants left abruptly, but where did they go? And why do the patients all seem to share the same nightmare, one so horrific that they dare not speak of it?

Simone St. James ***The Sun Down motel***

Upstate NY, 1982. Every small town like Fell, New York, has a place like the Sun Down Motel. Some customers are from out of town, passing through on their way to someplace better. Some are locals, trying to hide their secrets. Viv Delaney works as the night clerk to pay for her move to New York City. But something isn't right at the Sun Down, and before long she's determined to uncover all of the secrets hidden.

Danielle Steel ***The challenge***

Fishtail, Montana, is home to Anne and Pitt Pollock, local royalty, high school sweethearts, and owners of the successful Pollock ranch. The sprawling foothills of the Beartooth Mountains surround the town, overlooking the Pollocks' property and the nearby ranch belonging to Bill and Pattie Brown. The two couples have known each other since childhood. Their sons Peter Pollock and Matt Brown are also the best of friends. When they and two other local kids meet Juliet Marshall, new to town after her parents' bitter divorce, the five of them are soon inseparable, spending their summer days swimming, horseback riding, hiking, and fishing. But one August afternoon, their latest adventure takes a dangerous turn and quickly escalates into a battle for survival when they find themselves trapped on Granite Peak.

Ruth Ware ***Zero days***

Hired by companies to break into buildings and hack security systems, Jack and her husband, Gabe, are the best penetration specialists in the business. But after a routine assignment goes horribly wrong, Jack arrives home to find her husband dead. To add to her horror, the police are closing in on their suspect—her. Suddenly on the run and quickly running out of options, Jack must decide who she can trust as she circles closer to the real killer.

NON-FICTION

Tom Burgis ***Kleptopia: How dirty money is conquering the World***

In this real-life thriller packed with revelations, award-winning investigative journalist Tom Burgis weaves together four stories that reveal a global web of corruption: the troublemaker from Basingstoke who stumbles on the secrets of a Swiss bank, the ex-Soviet billionaire constructing a private empire, the righteous Canadian lawyer with a mysterious client, and the Brooklyn crook protected by the CIA. Glimpses of this shadowy world have emerged over the years and Burgis connects the dots. He follows

the dirty money that is flooding the global economy, emboldening dictators, and poisoning democracies. From the Kremlin to Beijing, Harare to Riyadh, Paris to the White House, the trail shows something even more sinister: the thieves are uniting. And the human cost will be great.

Michelle Good

Truth telling: seven conversations about Indigenous life in Canada

From racism, broken treaties, and cultural pillaging, to the value of Indigenous lives and the importance of Indigenous literature, this collection reveals facts about Indigenous life in Canada that are both devastating and enlightening. It also demonstrates the myths underlying Canadian history and the human cost of colonialism, showing how it continues to underpin modern social institutions in Canada.

Rodney Habib

The forever dog: surprising new science to help your canine

Karen Shaw Becker

companion live younger, healthier, and longer

Like their human counterparts, dogs have been getting sicker and dying prematurely over the past few decades. Why? Scientists are beginning to understand that the chronic diseases afflicting humans, cancer, obesity, diabetes, organ degeneration and autoimmune disorders, also beset canines. As a result, our companions struggle with preventable health problems throughout much of their lives. Because dogs can't make health and lifestyle decisions for themselves, it's up to pet parents to make smart, science-backed choices on their behalf. This definitive dog-care guide empowers us with the knowledge we need to make wise choices and keep our dogs healthy and happy for years to come.

Chris & Joe Martino ***Down by six: no excuses, championship football***

Father and son, American transplants to Vancouver Island, set out to coach football together. With hand-me-down gear, no facilities, no money, no training equipment, and no youth steeped in football traditions, they unleashed their hard-nosed, no-excuses brand of football. Their small, unsuspecting, working-class town was on the map in two short years as its Parksville Posse community league team captured the British Columbia provincial championship crown.