

NANOOSE LIBRARY - MAY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

FICTION

Sara Ackerman

The codebreaker's secret

1943. As war in the Pacific rages on, Isabel Cooper and her codebreaker colleagues huddle in Station HYPO in Pearl Harbor, deciphering secrets plucked from the airwaves in a race to bring down the enemy. Isabel has only one wish: to avenge her brother's death. But she soon finds life has other plans when she meets his best friend, a hotshot pilot with secrets of his own.

Ellen Baker

The hidden life of Cecily Larson

In 1924, four-year-old Cecily Larson's mother reluctantly drops her off at an orphanage in Chicago, promising to be back once she's made enough money to support them both. But she never returns, and shortly after Cecily turns seven, she is sold to a traveling circus to perform as the "little sister" to glamorous bareback rider Isabelle DuMonde. With Isabelle and the rest of the circus, Cecily finally feels she's found the family she craves. But as the years go by, the cracks in her world begin to show.

S.J. Bennett

Murder most royal

December 2016 - a severed hand is found washed up on a beach next to the Queen's estate at Sandringham. Elizabeth has become quite accustomed to solving even the most complex of murders. And though she quickly identifies the 70-year-old victim, Edward St Cyr, from his signet ring, the search for his killer is not so straightforward.

Steve Berry

The Atlas maneuver

In the waning months of World War II, Japan hid vast quantities of stolen valuables in boobytrapped underground caches all across the Philippines. By 1947 some of that loot was secretly recovered, not by treasure hunters, but by the United States government. Those assets were stamped classified, shipped to Europe, and secretly assimilated into something called the Black Eagle Trust.

Present day. Retired Justice Department operative, Cotton Malone, is in Switzerland doing a favour for a friend. But what was supposed to be a simple operation turns violent and Cotton is thrust into a war between the world's oldest bank and the CIA, a battle that directly involves the Black Eagle Trust.

Santanu Bhattacharya

One small voice

India, 1992. The country is ablaze with riots. In Lucknow, ten-year-old Shubhankar witnesses a terrible act of mob violence that will alter the course of his life. As he approaches adulthood, Shabby focuses on the only path he believes will buy him an escape - good school, good degree, good job, good car. But when he arrives in Mumbai in his twenties, he begins to question whether there might be other roads he could choose.

C.J. Box

Three-inch teeth

Another in the Joe Pickett series. A rogue grizzly bear has gone on a rampage—killing, among others, the fiancée of Joe's daughter. At the same time, Dallas Cates, who Joe helped lock up years ago, is released from prison with a list of six names tattooed on his skin. He wants revenge on the people who sent him to prison, the people he blames for the deaths of his entire family and the loss of his reputation and property. Using the grizzly attacks as cover, Cates devises a method of violence identical to the bear killings and sets out to methodically check off his list.

Maggie Brookes

The prisoner's wife

In the dead of night, a Czech farm girl and a British soldier travel through the countryside. Izabela and prisoner of war Bill have secretly married and are on the run, with Izzy dressed as a man. The young husband and wife evade capture for as long as possible, until they are cornered by Nazi soldiers with tracking dogs. Izzy's disguise works. The couple are assumed to be escaped British soldiers and transported to a POW camp. However, their ordeal has just begun, as they face appalling living conditions and the constant fear of Izzy's exposure.

NANOOSE LIBRARY - MAY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

Vanessa Chan ***The storm we made***

1935. Cecily had been desperate to be more than a housewife to a low-level bureaucrat in British-colonized Malaya. A chance meeting with the charismatic General Fujjwara lured her into a life of espionage, pursuing dreams of an “Asia for Asians.” Instead, Cecily helped usher in an even more brutal occupation by the Japanese. Ten years later as the war reaches its apex, her actions have caught up with her. Now her family is on the brink of destruction and she will do anything to save them.

Catherine Coulter ***Vortex***

Seven years ago, Mia Briscoe was at a frat party with her best friend Serena when a fire broke out. Everyone was accounted for except Serena. She was never heard from or seen again. Now Mia is an investigative journalist covering the political scene in New York City, but she hasn't given up trying to find out what happened to her friend that night. When an old photo taken at the frat party gives her clues, Mia realizes she knows just where to look. She enlists FBI agent Sherlock's help to uncover a sinister string of events going all the way back to that disastrous party.

Siobhan Curham ***The Paris network***

Paris, 1940: He pressed the tattered book into her hands. “You must go to the café and ask at the counter for Pierre Duras. Tell him that I sent you. Tell him you're there to save the people of France.” Sliding the coded message in between the pages of a hardback novel, bookstore owner Laurence slips out into the night to meet her resistance contact. The silence of the night is suddenly shattered by an Allied plane, its tail aflame, heading down towards the forest. She must try to rescue the pilot.

America, years later: when Jeanne uncovers a dusty old box in her father's garage, her world is turned upside down. She has inherited a bookstore in a tiny French village just outside of Paris from a mysterious woman named Laurence.

Joel Dicker ***The enigma of room 622***

One night in December, a corpse is found in Room 622 of the Hotel Verbier, a luxury hotel in the Swiss Alps. A police investigation begins and public interest wanes with the passage of time. Years later, the Swiss writer Joel Dicker, arrives at that same hotel to recover from a bad breakup, mourn the death of his longtime publisher, and begin his next novel. Little does Joel know that his expertise in the art of the thriller will come in handy when he finds himself investigating the crime. He'll need a Watson, of course: in this case, that would be Scarlett, the beautiful and aspiring novelist from the next room, who joins in the search while he tries to solve another puzzle: the plot of his next book.

David Ellis ***Look closer***

Simon and Vicky couldn't seem more a wealthy Chicago couple with a stable, if unexciting, marriage. But nothing is what it seems. When a beautiful socialite is found hanging in a mansion in a nearby suburb, Simon and Vicky's complex web of secrets begins to unravel.

Anne Enright ***The wren, the wren***

Nell McDaragh never knew her grandfather, the famed Irish poet Phil McDaragh. But his love poems seem to speak directly to her. Restless, full of verve and wit, twenty-two-year-old Nell leaves her mother Carmel's home to find her voice as a writer and live a life of her choosing. Carmel, too, knows the magic of her Daddo's poetry and the broken promises within its verses. When Phil abandons her, Carmel struggles to reconcile “the poet” with the man whose desertion scars Carmel and her family.

Tarryn Fisher ***Good half gone***

Iris narrowly escaped her twin sister's fate as a teen: abducted in broad daylight and long gone before she could convince the cops there was anything to investigate. With Piper presumed a runaway and no evidence to go on but Iris's scattered memories, the case quickly goes cold. Ever since that terrible day, Iris' search for Piper has bordered on obsession. Chasing leads across years and following clues that all

NANOOSE LIBRARY - MAY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

seem to point to a single name, Iris does everything she can to get close to the only person who might know the answer to the question that still haunts her: where did Piper go?

Lisa Gardner

Still see you everywhere

Frankie Elkin is an expert at finding the missing persons that the rest of the world has forgotten, but even she couldn't have anticipated this latest request—to locate the long-lost sister of a female serial killer facing execution in three weeks' time. Kaylee Pierson had confessed from the very beginning, waived all appeals. Despite the media's chronicling of her tragic circumstances—the childhood spent with a violent father—no one could find sympathy for “the Beautiful Butcher” who had led eighteen men home from bars before slitting their throats. Now, with only twenty-one days left to live, Pierson has finally received a lead on the whereabouts of the sister who was kidnapped over a decade ago, and she needs Frankie's help to find her.

Xochitl Gonzalez

Anita de Monte laughs last

1985. Anita de Monte, a rising star in the art world, is found dead in New York City; her tragic death is the talk of the town. By 1998 Anita's name has been all but forgotten, certainly by the time Raquel, a third-year art history student is preparing her final thesis. On College Hill, surrounded by privileged students whose futures are already paved out for them, Raquel feels like an outsider. Students of colour, like her, are the minority there, and the pressure to work twice as hard for the same opportunities is no secret. But when Raquel becomes romantically involved with a well-connected older art student, she finds herself unexpectedly rising up the social ranks. As she attempts to straddle both worlds, she stumbles upon Anita's story, raising questions about the dynamics of her own relationship, which eerily mirrors that of the forgotten artist.

Cambria Gordon

Trajectory

Seventeen-year-old Eleanor is nothing like her hero Eleanor Roosevelt. She is timid and all together uncertain that she has much to offer the world. And as World War II rages overseas, Eleanor is consumed with worry for her Jewish relatives in Europe. When a chance encounter proves her to be a one-in-a-generation math whiz, a fact she has worked hard all her life to hide, Eleanor is recruited by the US Army and entrusted to fine-tune a top-secret weapon that will help America defeat its enemies in World War II and secure the world's freedom. This could be her chance to help save her family in Poland.

Shilipi Somaya Gowda

A great country

Pacific Hills, California: Gated communities, ocean views, well-tended lawns, serene pools, and now the new home of the Shah family. For the Shah parents, who came to America twenty years earlier with little more than an education and their new marriage, this move represents the culmination of years of hard work and dreaming. For their children, born and raised in America, success is not so simple. One Saturday night, their twelve-year-old son is arrested. The fallout from that event will shake each family member's perception of themselves.

Heather Gudenkauf

Every one is watching

Five contestants have been chosen to compete for ten million dollars on a game show. None of them knows what (or who) to expect, and it will be live streamed all over the world. Completely secluded in an estate in Northern California, with strict instructions not to leave the property and zero contact with the outside world, the competitors start to feel a little too isolated. When long-kept secrets begin to rise to the surface, the contestants realize this is no longer just a reality show, someone is out for blood. And the game can't end until the world knows who the contestants really are.

Sally Hepworth

The mother-in-law

From the moment Lucy met her husband's mother, Diana, she was kept at arm's length. Diana was exquisitely polite, and properly friendly, but Lucy knew that she was not what Diana envisioned. But who could fault Diana? She was a pillar of the community, an advocate for social justice who helped female refugees assimilate to their new country. Diana was happily married to Tom, and lived in wedded bliss for decades. Lucy wanted so much to please her new mother-in-law. That was five years ago. Now, Diana

NANOOSE LIBRARY - MAY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

has been found dead, a suicide note near her body. Diana claims that she no longer wanted to live because of a battle with cancer. But the autopsy finds no cancer, instead traces of poison and suffocation. And why was her will changed at the eleventh hour to disinherit both of her adult children and their spouses?

Vera Kurian ***A step past darkness***

There's something sinister under the surface of the idyllic, suburban town of Wesley Falls, and it's not just the abandoned coal mine that lies beneath it. The summer of 1995 kicks off with a party in the mine where six high school students witness a horrifying crime that changes the course of their lives. When they realize that they can't trust anyone but each other, they begin to investigate what happened on their own. As tensions escalate in town to a breaking point, the six make a vow of silence, bury all their evidence, and promise to never contact each other again. Their plan works – almost.

Brianna Labuskes ***The lost book of Bonn***

Germany, 1946: Librarian Emmy Clarke is sent by the Library of Congress to Germany to help the Monuments Men retrieve and catalogue precious literature that was plundered by the Nazis. The Offenbach Archival Depot and its work may get less attention than returning art to its rightful owners, but for Emmy, who sees the personalized messages on the inside of the books and the notes in margins of pages, it feels just as important. On Emmy's first day at work, she finds a poetry collection by Rainer Maria Rilke, and on the title page is a handwritten "To Annelise, my brave Edelweiss Pirate." Emmy is instantly intrigued by the story behind the dedication and becomes determined to figure out what happened.

Sujata Massey ***The mistress of Bhatia House***

India, 1922: Perveen Mistry is the only female lawyer in Bombay. Perveen is attending a lavish fundraiser for a new women's hospital specializing in maternal health issues when she witnesses an accident. The grandson of an influential Gujarati businessman catches fire—but a servant, his young ayah, Sunanda, rushes to save him, selflessly putting herself in harm's way. Later, Perveen learns that Sunanda, who's still ailing from her burns, has been arrested on trumped-up charges made by a man who doesn't seem to exist. Perveen cannot stand by while Sunanda languishes in jail with no hope of justice. She takes Sunanda as a client, even inviting her to live at the Mistry home. When the hospital's chief donor dies suddenly, Miriam Penkar, a Jewish-Indian obstetrician, and Sunanda become suspects and Perveen's original case spirals into a complex investigation.

Frieda McFadden ***The inmate***

There are three rules Brooke Sullivan must follow as a new nurse practitioner at a men's maximum-security 1) Treat all prisoners with respect. 2) Never reveal any personal information. 3) Never become too friendly with the inmates. But none of the staff at the prison knows Brooke has already broken the rules. Nobody knows about her intimate connection to Shane Nelson, one of the penitentiary's most notorious and dangerous inmates. And they certainly don't know that Shane was Brooke's high school sweetheart, the star quarterback who is now spending the rest of his life in prison for a series of grisly murders. Or that Brooke's testimony was what put him there. But Shane knows.

C.L. Miller ***Strange Sally Diamond***

Sally Diamond cannot understand why what she did was so strange. She was only doing what her father told her to do, to put him out with the rubbish when he died. Now Sally is the centre of attention, not only from the hungry media and worried police, but also a sinister voice from a past she has no memory of. As she begins to discover the horrors of her childhood, recluse Sally steps into the world for the first time, making new friends, finding independence, and learning that people don't always mean what they say.

Lesley Pearce ***Deception***

After the funeral of her mother, Sally, Alice Kent is approached by a man named Angus Tweedy. He claims to be her father and tells her that he served time in prison for marrying Sally bigamously. What

NANOOSE LIBRARY - MAY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

does he hope to gain telling her this now, thirty years on? How can her adored dad Ralph not be her true father? And why did her mother betray her so badly?

Steven Rowley

The celebrants

It's been a minute—or five years—since Jordan Vargas last saw his college friends, and twenty-eight years since their graduation when their adult lives officially began. Now Jordan, Jordy, Naomi, Craig, and Marielle find themselves at the brink of a new decade, with all the responsibilities of adulthood, yet no closer to having their lives figured out. Over the years they've reunited in Big Sur to honour a decades-old pact to throw each other living “funerals,” celebrations to remind themselves that life is worth living. But this reunion is different. They're not gathered as they were to bolster Marielle as her marriage crumbled, to lift Naomi after her parents died, or to intervene when Craig pleaded guilty to art fraud. This time, Jordan is sitting on a secret that will upend their pact.

Brandy Schillace

The framed women of Ardmore House

Jo Jones has always had trouble fitting in. As a neurodivergent, hyperlexic book editor and divorced New Yorker transplanted into the English countryside, Jo doesn't know what stands out more: her Americanisms or her autism. After losing her job, her mother, and her marriage all in one year, she couldn't be happier to take possession of a possibly haunted and clearly unwanted family estate in North Yorkshire. But when the body of the moody town groundskeeper turns up on her rug with three bullets in his back, Jo finds herself in potential danger and she's also a potential suspect.

Lisa Scottoline

The truth about Devlins

TJ Devlin is the charming disappointment in the prominent Devlin family, all of whom are lawyers at their successful firm. After a stint in prison and rehab for alcoholism, TJ can't find a job anywhere except at the firm, in a make-work job with the title of investigator. Then, TJ's world turns upside down after his older brother John confesses that he just murdered one of the clients, an accountant he'd confronted with proof of embezzlement. It seems impossible coming from John, the firstborn son and most valuable Devlin. TJ plunges into the investigation, seizing the chance to prove his worth and save his brother.

Rebecca Serle

Expiration dates

Daphne Bell believes the universe has a plan for her. Every time she meets a new man, she receives a slip of paper with his name and a number on it, the exact amount of time they will be together. The papers told her she'd spend three days with Martin in Paris; five weeks with Noah in San Francisco; and three months with Hugo, her ex-boyfriend turned best friend. Daphne has been receiving the numbered papers for over twenty years and always wondering when there might be one without an expiration. Finally, the night of a blind date at her favourite Los Angeles restaurant, there's only a name: Jake. But as Jake and Daphne's story unfolds, Daphne finds herself doubting the paper's prediction, and wrestling with what it means to be both committed and truthful. Because Daphne knows things Jake doesn't, information that if he found out would break his heart.

Elif Shafak

10 minutes 38 seconds in this strange world

For Leila, each minute after her death brings a sensuous memory: the taste of spiced goat stew, sacrificed by her father to celebrate the long-awaited birth of a son; the sight of bubbling vats of lemon and sugar which the women use to wax their legs while the men attend mosque; the scent of cardamom coffee that Leila shares with a handsome student in the brothel where she works. Each memory, too, recalls the friends she made at each key moment in her life, friends who are now desperately trying to find her.

Meg Shaffer

The wishing game

Lucy Hart knows better than anyone what it's like to grow up without parents who loved her. In a childhood marked by neglect and loneliness, Lucy found her solace in books, namely the Clock Island series by Jack Masterson. Now a twenty-six-year-old teacher's aide, she is able to share her love of reading with bright, young students, especially seven-year-old Christopher Lamb, who was left orphaned

NANOOSE LIBRARY - MAY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

after the tragic death of his parents. Lucy would give anything to adopt Christopher, but even the idea of becoming a family seems like an impossible dream without proper funds and stability.

Lisa Unger

The new couple in 5B

Rosie and Chad Lowan are barely making ends meet in New York City when they receive life-changing news: Chad's late uncle has left them his luxury apartment at the historic Windermere in glamorous Murray Hill. With its prewar elegance and impeccably uniformed doorman, the building is the epitome of old New York charm. One would almost never suspect the dark history lurking behind its perfectly maintained facade. At first, the building and its eclectic tenants couldn't feel more welcoming. But as the Lowans settle into their new home, Rosie starts to suspect that there's more to the Windermere than meets the eye.

Sophie Wan

Women of good fortune

Lulu has always been taught that money is the ticket to a good life. So, when Shanghai's most eligible bachelor surprises her with a proposal, the only acceptable answer is yes, even if the voice inside her head is saying no. His family's fortune would solve all her parents' financial woes, but Lulu isn't in love or ready for marriage. The only people she can confide in are her two best friends: career-minded Rina, who is tired of being passed over for promotion as her biological clock ticks away; and Jane, a sharp-tongued, luxury-chasing housewife desperate to divorce her husband and trade up. Each of them desires something different: freedom, time, beauty. None of them can get it without money. Lulu's wedding is their golden opportunity. The social event of the season, it means more than enough cash gifts to transform the women's lives. To steal the money on the big day, all they'll need is a trustworthy crew and a brilliant plan.

Don Winslow

City in ruins

Danny Ryan is rich, beyond his wildest dreams rich. The former dock worker, Irish mob soldier and fugitive from the law is now a respected businessman, a Las Vegas casino mogul and billionaire silent partner in a group that owns two lavish hotels. Finally, Danny has it all: a beautiful house, a child he adores, a woman he might even fall in love with. Life is good. But then Danny reaches too far.

Jacqueline Winspear

What would Maisie do?

An illustrated companion to the Maisie Dobbs series, which invites readers into the heroine's world to share her wisdom and inspiration.

NON-FICTION

Keisha N. Blaine

Four hundred should: a community history of African America, 1619-2019

A chronological account of four hundred years of Black America as told by ninety of America's leading Black writers.

Caroline Van Herbert

The sun is a compass: a 4,000-mile journey into the Alaskan wilds

During graduate school, as she conducted experiments on the misshapen beaks of chickadees, ornithologist Caroline Van Hemert began to feel stifled in the isolated, sterile environment of the lab. Worried that she was losing her passion for the scientific research she once loved, she was compelled to experience wildness again, to be guided by the sounds of birds and to follow the trails of animals. In March of 2012, she and her husband set off on a 4,000-mile wilderness journey from the Pacific rainforest to the Alaskan Arctic, traveling by rowboat, ski, foot, raft, and canoe. Together, they survived harrowing dangers while also experiencing incredible moments of joy and grace.

Mike Yip

A year of eagles

Mike Yip's new book focuses on the majestic bald eagle, one of the Parksville Qualicum Beach area's most iconic and beautiful birds. The book is full of large, high-resolution colour action photos and the stories behind the snapshots. The book follows a year of eagle activity in the PQB area and covers the birds' life cycle including hunting, nesting, procreation and raising young.