

NANOOSE LIBRARY - JUNE 2023 NEW BOOK SYNOPSIS

FICTION

John Banville

April in Spain

On the idyllic coast of San Sebastian, Spain, Dublin pathologist Quirke is struggling to relax, despite the beaches, cafés and the company of his disarmingly lovely wife. When he glimpses a familiar face in the twilight at Las Acadas bar, it's hard at first to tell whether his imagination is just running away with him. Because this young woman can't be April Latimer. She was murdered by her brother, years ago—the conclusion to an unspeakable scandal that shook one of Ireland's foremost political dynasties.

Linwood Barclay

The lie maker

Your dad's not a good person. Your dad killed people, son. These are some of the last words Jack Givins' father spoke to him before he was whisked away by witness protection, leaving Jack and his mother to pick up the shattered pieces of their lives as best they could. Years later, Jack is a grown man with problems of his own. He's a talented but struggling author, barely scraping by on the royalties from his first book. So when the U.S. Marshals approach him with a lucrative opportunity, he's in no position to turn them down. They're recruiting writers like Jack to create false histories for people in witness protection, people like Jack's father.

Patti Callahan Henry

The secret book of Flora Lea

In the war-torn London of 1939, fourteen-year-old Hazel and five-year-old Flora are evacuated to a rural village to escape the Second World War. Living in a cottage along the River Thames, Hazel fills their days with walks and games to distract her young sister, including a fairy tale about a magical land, a secret place they can escape to that is all their own. When Flora suddenly vanishes while playing near the banks of the river, Hazel blames herself. Twenty years later, Hazel is in London, ready to move on from her job at a cozy rare bookstore to a career at Sotheby's. With a boyfriend and a Bloomsbury flat, Hazel's future seems bright. But her life is turned upside down when she unwraps a package containing an illustrated book called *Whisperwood and the River of Stars*. Hazel never told a soul about the imaginary world she created just for Flora. Could this book hold the secrets to Flora's disappearance?

Lecia Cornwall

The woman at the front

When Eleanor Atherton graduates from medical school near the top of her class in 1917, she dreams of going overseas to help the wounded, but her ambition is thwarted at every turn. Eleanor's parents insist she must give up medicine, marry a respectable man, and assume her proper place. While women might serve as ambulance drivers or nurses at the front, they cannot be physicians as that work is too dangerous. Nevertheless, Eleanor is determined to make more of a contribution than sitting at home knitting for the troops. When an unexpected twist of fate sends Eleanor to the battlefields of France as the private doctor of a British peer, she seizes the opportunity.

Clare Douglas

The girls who disappeared

In a rural Wilshire town lies The Devil's Corridor, a road which has witnessed eerie happenings from unexplained deaths to the sounds of a child crying at night. But nothing more puzzling than the Olivia Rutherford case. Four girls drove home but after their car crashed only Olivia was found. Twenty years later, journalist Jenna Halliday is covering the case. But the locals aren't happy with this stranger's arrival. Least of all Olivia.

Sarah Ferguson

A most intriguing lady

A historical saga about a Duke's daughter, the perfect Victorian lady, who secretly moonlights as an amateur sleuth for high society's inner circle. Victorian London was notorious for its pickpockets. But in the country houses of the elite, gentleman burglars, art thieves and con men preyed on the rich and titled. Wealthy victims, with their pride and reputation at stake, would never go to the police. What they needed was a society insider, one of their own. That person was Lady Mary Montagu Douglas Scott, the youngest child of Queen Victoria's close friends the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. Bookish, fiercely intelligent, and a keen observer, Mary has deliberately cultivated a persona that allows her to remain

overlooked and significantly underestimated. It's the perfect cover for a sleuth, a role she stumbles into when trying to assist a friend during a house party hosted by her parents. It is at this party where Lady Mary also meets Colonel Walter Trefusis, a distinguished war veteran. The two form an unlikely alliance to solve a series of audacious crimes and indulge in a highly charged on-off romance.

Joseph FINDER

House on fire

Nick Heller is at the top of his game when he receives some devastating news: his old army buddy Sean has died of an overdose. Sean, who once saved Nick's life, got addicted to opioids after returning home wounded from war. Then at Sean's funeral, a stranger approaches Nick with a job, and maybe also a way for Nick to hold someone accountable. The woman is the daughter of a pharmaceutical kingpin worth billions. Now she wants to become a whistleblower, exposing her father and his company for burying evidence that its biggest money-maker was dangerously addictive.

Aleksandar HEMON

The world and all that it holds

As the Archduke Franz Ferdinand arrives in Sarajevo one June day in 1914, Rafael Pinto is busy crushing herbs and grinding tablets behind the counter at the pharmacy he inherited from his father. It's not quite the life he had expected during his poetry-filled student days in libertine Vienna. And then the world explodes. War devours all that they have known, and the only thing Pinto has to live for are the attentions of Osman, a fellow soldier, a man of action to complement Pinto's introspective, poetic soul; a charismatic storyteller; Pinto's protector and lover.

Emily Henry

Happy place

Harriet and Wyn have been the perfect couple since they met in college. They broke up six months ago and still haven't told their best friends. Which is how they find themselves sharing the largest bedroom at the Maine cottage that has been their friend group's yearly getaway for the last decade. Harriet and Wyn are trying not to notice how desperately they still want each other. Because the cottage is for sale and this is the last week they'll all have together in this place. They can't stand to break their friends' hearts, and so they'll play their parts. After years of being in love, how hard can it be to fake it for one week in front of those who know you best?

Lisa JACKSON

You betrayed me

The Cahills of San Francisco are famous for two things: their vast wealth, and the scandals that surround them. Not that James Cahill wants any of it. He's tried to make his own way, less interested in a future inheritance than in his construction company and in enjoying the many women taken in by the easy charms of a handsome, soon-to-be-rich bad boy. Waking up in a small hospital in Washington State, bandaged and bruised, James barely recognizes the gorgeous blonde who comes to visit. Through the haze of pain and medication, he recalls that she is Sophia, the woman he's been cheating with. Gradually memories return—his girlfriend, Megan, had found out about Sophia. Now Megan is missing, her sister, Rebecca, is hounding him and police and reporters are asking questions too. James insists he has no idea what happened.

Daniel KALLA

Fit to die

When Owen Galloway, the track star son of a prominent US senator, is found dead of an overdose in his bedroom, LAPD Detective Cari Garcia suspects that he's just another teenager who hid a drug addiction. In Vancouver, Dr. Julie Rees, an experienced toxicologist, notices a growing number of overdoses among the eating disordered and body builders, and mentions it to her boyfriend, Detective Anson Chen. Then Rain Flynn, a famous pop star, dies in her Vancouver hotel room showing the same symptoms as Julie's other ER patients. After an autopsy confirms that Rain overdosed on illicit diet pills containing a deadly toxin known as DNP—an explosive agent originally used in the trenches of World War I—the media gets hold of the story and runs wild with it. But who's behind the online marketing and distribution of DNP?

Deepti Kapoor

Age of vice

New Delhi, 3 a.m. A speeding Mercedes jumps the curb and in the blink of an eye, five people are dead. It's a rich man's car, but when the dust settles there is no rich man at all, just a shell-shocked servant

who cannot explain the strange series of events that led to this crime. Nor can he foresee the dark drama that is about to unfold.

Mary Kubica ***Just the nicest couple***

Jake Hayes is missing. This much is certain. At first, his wife, Nina, thinks he is blowing off steam at a friend's house after their heated fight the night before. But then a day goes by, two days, then five and Jake is still nowhere to be found. Lily Scott, Nina's friend and coworker, thinks she may have been the last to see Jake before he went missing. After Lily confesses everything to her husband, Christian, the two decide that nobody can find out what happened leading up to Jake's disappearance, especially not Nina. But Nina is out there looking for her husband, and she won't stop until the truth is discovered.

Nicole Lundrigan ***Hideaway***

Gloria Janes appears to be a doting suburban mother and loving wife. But beyond her canary-yellow door, Gloria controls her husband, Telly, as well as seven-year-old Maisy and her older brother Rowan, through a disorienting cycle of adoration and banishment. When Telly leaves, Gloria turns on Rowan. He runs away, finding unlikely refuge with a homeless man named Carl, with whom he forms the kind of bond he has never found with his parents. After they are menaced by strangers, Rowan follows Carl to an isolated cottage, where he accidentally sets off a burst of heightened paranoia in Carl, and their adventure takes a dark turn.

Clare Marchant ***The mapmaker's daughter***

After a tragic event froze her life seven years ago, Robyn is now focused on helping her father's map shop as she struggles to heal. But when she discovers an exquisite map from the Tudor period, mysteriously ringed with a splatter of blood and whose creator is unknown, Robyn finds herself caught in a centuries-old mystery. One that will send her halfway across the world to London and then Amsterdam in search of the truth. A truth that could hold the key to changing her life forever.

Simon Mawer ***Ancestry***

A fictional account of the author's family tree, beginning with his great-great-grandfather Abraham Block, whose parents were illiterate and lacking opportunity in the Suffolk village where they worked as agricultural labourers. Abraham left home at fifteen, in 1847, signing away the next five years in an indenture aboard a ship. In London he crosses paths with Naomi Lulham, a young seamstress likewise seeking a better life in the city, with all its prospects and temptations. Another branch of the family tree comes together in 1847, in Manchester, as soldier George Mawer weds his Irish bride Annie Scanlon before embarking with his regiment. Annie must fend for herself and her children on a meagre income, navigating an often hostile world as a woman alone.

Rick Mofina ***Search for her***

At a truck stop near Las Vegas, fourteen-year-old Riley Jarrett vanishes from her family's RV, turning their cross-country dream of starting over into a nightmare. The massive, bustling truck plaza in the desert is the perfect place for someone to disappear or be taken. Detectives pursue every lead as all eyes fall to the newly blended family with a tragic past. With the clock ticking down on the likelihood that Riley is still alive, suspicions run deep. Everyone has something to hide.

Noor Naga ***If an Egyptian cannot speak English***

In the aftermath of the Arab Spring, an Egyptian American woman and a man from the village of Shobrakheit meet at a café in Cairo. He was a photographer of the revolution, but now finds himself unemployed and addicted to cocaine. She is a daughter of immigrants "returning" to a country she's never been to before, teaching English. They fall in love and he moves in. But soon their desire for one another, for the selves they want to become through the other, takes a violent turn that neither of them expected.

Kurt Palka

The orphan girl

London, 1944. Kate Henderson is an energetic and spirited young woman. As a trained paramedic and ambulance driver she does her work courageously and with determination, even though underneath she is still wrestling with grief after witnessing the shooting death of her diplomat father seven years earlier. Her father's murder was never properly investigated and it remains unsolved. Kate's life is drastically interrupted once more when she wakes up one night to the sound of the air raid alarm. In the subsequent explosion, her mother and her aunt die; Kate survives, but is injured. After her time in the hospital, Claire Giroux, a doctor and family friend, invites Kate to live with her as she recuperates. This arrangement works well for them until a few months later when Claire's husband comes home from the war. Within days the lives of both women are drastically changed.

James Patterson/David Ellis ***Escape***

As Chicago's special-ops leader Detective Billy Harney knows well, money is not the only valuable currency. The billionaire he's investigating is down to his last twenty million. But he's also being held in jail. Billy's unit is called to the jail when six inmates escape, and two others are missing. Two correctional officers are dead. Approaching the scene, Billy spots something in an empty lot - two Kevlar vests, helmets and assault rifles, swell as a handwritten note: "Hi, Billy, are you having fun yet?"

J.D. Robb

Encore in death

It was a glittering event, hosted by Eliza Lane and Brant Fitzhugh, a celebrity couple who'd conquered both Hollywood and Broadway. After raising a toast, Fitzhugh fell to the floor and died, with physical symptoms pointing to cyanide, and the police have crashed the party. From all accounts, he wasn't the kind of star who made enemies. Everyone loved him, even his ex-wife. And since the cocktail that killed him was originally intended for Eliza, it's possible she was the real target. Eve Dallas has her work cut out determining who committed murder in the middle of the crowd and what was their motivation.

Mandy Robotham

The war pianist

July, 1940, London. Marnie Fern's life is torn apart when her grandfather is killed in an air raid. But once she discovers that he'd been working undercover as a radio operative or Pianist for the Dutch resistance, Marnie knows she must complete his mission.

Nazi-occupied Amsterdam: At the other end of the wireless, fellow pianist Corrie Bakker is caught in a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse as she desperately tries to keep her loved ones out of the line of fire, even if it means sacrificing herself.

John Sandford

Dark angel

Letty Davenport, the adopted daughter of Lucas Davenport, takes on an undercover assignment that brings her across the country and into the crosshairs of a dangerous group of hackers. Her previous actions at a gunfight in Texas and her skills with firearms, draw the attention of several branches of the US government, and make her a perfect fit for even more dangerous work. The Department of Homeland Security and the NSA have tasked her with infiltrating a hacker group, known only as Ordinary People, that is intent on wreaking havoc. Letty and her reluctant partner from the NSA pose as free-spirited programmers for hire and embark on a cross country road trip to the group's California headquarters.

Crystal Smith Paul

Did you hear about Kitty Karr?

When Kitty Karr Tate, a White icon of the silver screen, dies and bequeaths her multimillion-dollar estate to the St. John sisters, three young, wealthy Black women, it prompts lots of questions. A celebrity in her own right, Elise St. John would rather focus on sorting out Kitty's affairs than deal with the press. But what she discovers in one of Kitty's journals rocks her world.

Danielle Steel

Invisible

Antonia Adams is the product of a loveless marriage between a young model and an aristocrat. As a child, she is abandoned in the abyss that yawns between them. Unprotected and unloved, she learns that the only way to feel safe is to hide from the dangers around her, drawing as little attention as

possible to herself. In her isolation, books are her refuge and movies her escape. Her love of the movies turns into a dream to become a screenwriter, and a summer job at a Hollywood studio. There, a famous British filmmaker notices her, and suddenly she can remain invisible no longer. He wants to put her in a movie and make her a star. It is a dazzling opportunity but a terrifying one, as it strips her of the camouflage that made her feel safe.

Sarah Stewart Taylor ***A distant grave***

Long Island homicide detective Maggie D'arcy and her teenage daughter, Lilly, are still recovering from the events of last fall when a strange new case demands Maggie's attention. The body of an unidentified Irish national turns up in a wealthy Long Island beach community and with little to go on but the scars on his back, Maggie once again teams up with Garda detectives in Ireland to find out who the man was and what he was doing on Long Island. The strands of the mystery lead Maggie to a quiet village in rural County Clare and back to her home.

Kate Thompson ***The little wartime library***

London, 1944: Clara Button is no ordinary librarian. While war ravages the city above her, Clara has risked everything she holds dear to turn the Bethnal Green tube station into the country's only underground library. Down here, a secret community thrives with thousands of bunk beds, a nursery, a café, and a theatre, offering shelter, solace, and escape. Along with her glamorous best friend and assistant Ruby Munroe, Clara ensures the library is the beating heart of life underground. But as the war drags on, the women's determination to remain strong in the face of adversity is tested to the limits.

Shelby Van Pelt ***Remarkably bright creatures***

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

Charmaine Wilkerson ***Black cake***

Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a story about a young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves.

Iona Wishaw ***To track a traitor***

It's an early morning in May when Lane is awoken by a phone call from Scotland—her grandfather has had a heart attack. Lane hastily makes plans to fly overseas, and a dejected Inspector Darling prepares himself for a stint of bachelorhood. But before he can begin to dwell on it, the Nelson Police learn that Ben Arden, a local cad, has gone out for a late-night boat ride and not returned. A strange assemblage of clues begins to amass around the Arden case, stretching from the local printshop all the way back to the Great War. But progress is interrupted when the mayor himself demands that Darling travel to England to tie up a decades-old mystery with local connections.

In Scotland Lane finds her grandfather on the mend but her estranged sister Diana caught up in stressful and mysterious circumstances of her own. As Lane follows the thread leading from South Africa to Aberdeen to the War Office in London it becomes apparent that her sister is on the run, and that keeping secrets seems to be a Winslow family trait.

Iris Yamashita

City under one roof

When a local teenager discovers a severed hand and foot washed up on the shore of the small town of Point Mettler, Alaska, Cara Kennedy is on the case. A detective from Anchorage, she has her own motives for investigating the possible murder in this isolated place, which can be accessed only by a tunnel. After a blizzard causes the tunnel to close indefinitely, Cara is stuck among the odd and suspicious residents of the town. She teams up with Point Mettler police officer Joe Barkowski, but before long the investigation is upended by fearsome gang members from a nearby native village.

NON FICTION

Kamala Harris

The truths we hold: an American journey

A book about the core truths that unite us, and the long struggle to discern what those truths are and how best to act upon them, in her own life and across the life of the USA. Being smart means learning the truths that can make us better as a community, and supporting those truths with all our might. That has been the pole star that guided Harris to a career as the top law enforcement official in California, and it is guiding her now as a United States Senator, grappling with an array of complex issues that affect her state, the country, and the world, from health care and the new economy to immigration, national security, the opioid crisis, and accelerating inequality.