

NANOOSE LIBRARY - AUGUST 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

FICTION

Stig Abel

Death in a lonely place

Detective Jake Jackson left London for a quiet life in Caelum Parvum. The village offers the peace he craves, tending to his chickens, swimming in his lake, and spending long, lazy evenings with his new love, Livia. Then a case from the past re-emerges, shattering the calm and plunging Jake into the shadowy world of No Taboo, a clandestine group which serves the extravagant whims of Britain's elite.

Ola Awonubi

A nurse's tale

Inspired by a true story. Born Nigerian royalty, Princess Adenrele Ademola trained as a nurse at Guy's Hospital in London and stepped up to serve the people of Britain when war broke out, facing both the devastation of the Blitz and the prejudice of some of the people she was trying to help. 80 years later, Ade's great niece Yemi arrives in London clutching the Princess's precious diaries and longs to uncover the mysteries they hold.

Renee Carlin

This used to be us

After twenty-two years together, Danielle and Alex are getting a divorce. Once fiercely in love, they can barely stand the sound of each other's voice. Instead of shuffling the kids between two broken homes, Alex and Danielle decide to share a nesting apartment while swapping days with their two teenage boys at the family home.

Caro Carver

Bad tourists

Best friends Darcy, Camilla, and Kate escape for a post-divorce retreat in the Maldives. Darcy is learning how to be a free woman at forty-two. Camilla has found the perfect calling as a fitness and wellness influencer. Kate is finally working on the book she was meant to write after years of telling other people's stories. But this is no ordinary friendship, and they're not the only guests on the island with secrets.

Emily Critchley

One puzzling afternoon

1951. At 6 Sycamore Street fifteen-year-old Edie Green is lonely. Living with her eccentric mother who conducts seances for the local Ludthorpe community, she is desperate for something to shake her from her dull, isolated life. When the popular, pretty Lucy Thedde befriends Edie, she thinks all her troubles are over. But Lucy has a secret, one Edie is not certain she should keep. Then Lucy goes missing.

Lana Ferguson

The game changer

When a very public breakup becomes a PR nightmare for Ian Chase's team, he hopes to focus on his game, but that suddenly seem less likely than a hat trick. With his career and the team's image in jeopardy, Ian is surprised to find a solution through none other than Delilah Baker, his best friend and teammate's little sister, who isn't so little anymore.

Bobbi French

The good women of Safe Harbour

Frances Delaney is staring down the last days of her life. Looking back over her fifty-eight years, she sees not the life she wanted but the one that happened. An idyllic childhood in the small Newfoundland fishing town of Safe Harbour was darkened by the loss of her father at sea, an unwanted pregnancy and a betrayal by her closest friend, Annie Malone. Frances and Annie were inseparable, and this rupture rocked Frances to the core.

Sally Hepworth

Darling girls

Jessica, Norah, and Alicia have always been told how lucky they are. As young girls they were rescued from family tragedies and raised by a loving foster mother, Miss Fairchild, But their childhood wasn't the fairy tale everyone thinks it was. In a moment of desperation, the three fled from Miss Fairchild and thought they were free. Even though they never saw her again, she was always somewhere in the shadows of their minds. When a body is discovered under the home they grew up in, the foster sisters find themselves thrust into the spotlight as either key witnesses or prime suspects.

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Lisa Jackson

Our little secret

Brooke Hastings is ready to end her six-week affair. Gideon Ross is charming and sexy, but he's not worth throwing away her marriage and family. So she breaks it off, hoping Gideon will understand. Gideon insists that he and Brooke are meant to be together. Finally, he backs off, but not before issuing a warning that he'll never let her go.

Jenny Lecoat

Beyond summerland

The German occupation is over. The Channel Islands, the only captured territory within the British Isles, are finally liberated. But the people of Jersey are left as scarred as the landscape. No longer a "summerland" holiday paradise, the island now boils with tension as locals seek revenge on anyone suspected of collaborating with the enemy during the war. Nineteen-year-old Jean Parris is shocked to learn that Hazel, a teacher who lives over her dad's shop, may be responsible for her father's wartime arrest and subsequent death. Hazel denies all accusations but has reasons to conceal what really happened.

Claire Lombardo

The most fun we ever had

When Marilyn Connolly and David Sorenson fall in love in the 1970s, they are blithely ignorant of all that's to come. By 2016, their four radically different daughters are each in a state of unrest. Above it all, the daughters share the lingering fear that they will never find a love quite like their parents'.

Hannah McKinnon

Only one survives

All drummer Vienna Taylor ever wanted was to make music. If that came with fame, she'd take it as long as her best friend, guitarist Madison Pierce, was sharing the spotlight and singing lead. On the way to an event, the Bittersweet's van careened off an icy mountain road during a blizzard, leaving one member dead and another severely injured. In order to survive, the rest took shelter in a nearby abandoned cabin. But Vienna's dreams devolved into a terrifying nightmare as, one by one, her fellow band members met a gruesome end and Madison simply vanished in the night.

Catherine Newman

Sandwich

For the past two decades, Rocky has looked forward to her family's yearly escape to Cape Cod. Their humble beach-town rental has been the site of many sweet memories. This year's vacation, with Rocky sandwiched between her half-grown kids and fully aging parents, promises to be just as delightful as summers past. But then a chain of events sends Rocky into the past, reliving both the tenderness and sorrow of a handful of long-ago summers.

Richard Patterson

Trial

A black eighteen-year-old voting rights worker, Malcolm Hill, is stopped by a white sheriff's deputy on a dark country road in Georgia. His single mother, Allie, America's leading voting rights advocate, restlessly awaits his return before police inform her that Malcolm has been arrested for murder. In Washington D.C., the rising, young, white congressman Chase Brevard of Massachusetts is watching the morning news with his girlfriend, only to find his life transformed in a single moment by the appearance of Malcolm's photograph. Suddenly all three are enveloped in a media firestorm that threatens their lives.

Sarah Pearce

The wilds

A perpetual drifter, Kier Templer lives her life on the road. Dubbed "the monster's daughter" after her mother's infamous crime, Kier has left her hometown and twin behind. Kier is haunted by the past, but one thing has always bound her to her brother, the distinctive maps she designs of the places she's explored. When Kier abruptly goes off-grid without sending him her latest, Penn knows something is seriously wrong.

Kate Quinn

The Briar Club

Washington, D.C., 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-heel all-female boardinghouse where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when widow Grace March moves into the attic, she draws her oddball collection of neighbours into an unlikely friendship. Grace's weekly

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attic-room dinner parties and window-brewed sun tea become a healing balm on all their lives, but she hides a terrible secret of her own. When a shocking act of violence tears apart the house, the Briar Club women must decide who is the true enemy in their midst.

Meghan Quinn

So this is war

A year ago, I was a man with one thought on his mind, the redhead I met at a hotel bar. Twelve months later, I found her. Unfortunately for me, she not only happens to be my very off-limits coach's daughter, but also my new assistant and roommate. I don't even need an assistant, but Coach Wood doesn't take no for an answer. Add in him writing up tasks for his daughter, Wylie, to complete for me. We are talking tasks that I would never ask her to do. Tasks that make her despise me.

Meg Shaffer

The lost story

As boys, best friends Jeremy Cox and Rafe Howell went missing in a vast West Virginia state forest, only to mysteriously reappear six months later with no explanation. Fifteen years later, Rafe is a reclusive artist who has no memory of what happened during those months. Meanwhile, Jeremy has become a famed missing persons' investigator. With his uncanny abilities, he is the one person who can help vet tech Emilie Wendell find her sister, who vanished in the same forest as Rafe and Jeremy. They must all return to the enchanted world for only then can they get back everything and everyone they've lost.

Jackie Sharp

Murder at the marina

Sarah Cooper has retired to Sea Breeze Marina in Shell Bay to live her dream. Detective Sergeant Linda Jenkins has been demoted and transferred to Shell Bay and it's a nightmare. Their lives are turned upside down when Sarah finds the body of Commodore Hiscocks lying in a pool of blood in the Marina. Linda is delighted - a murder to solve is just what she needs to get her career on track again.

Daniel Silva

A death in Cornwall

Art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon has slipped quietly into London to attend a reception at the Courtauld Gallery celebrating the return of a stolen self-portrait by Vincent van Gogh. But when an old friend from the Devon and Cornwall Police seeks his help with a baffling murder investigation, he finds himself pursuing a powerful and dangerous new adversary.

J. Courtenay Sullivan

The Cliffs

On a secluded bluff overlooking the ocean sits a Victorian house, a home that contains a century's worth of secrets. When Jane Flanagan discovers the house as a teenager, it has long been abandoned. It is an irresistible mystery to Jane and becomes both a hideaway and a place to escape her volatile mother.

Twenty years later, now a Harvard archivist, Jane returns home following a terrible mistake that threatens both her career and her marriage. She is horrified to find the Victorian is now barely recognizable. The new owner, Genevieve, has gutted it, transforming the house into a glossy white monstrosity. Strangely, Genevieve is convinced that the house is haunted. She hires Jane to research the history of the place and the women who lived there.

Karen Swan

The lost lover

Young Flora MacQueen has always dreamed of more than a hard life on the small Scottish island of St Kilda. And when she catches the eye of visiting adventurer and wealthy businessman, James Callaghan, her future seems brighter. Only, as the islanders prepare to leave their homes for the final time, Flora finds her dreams shattered. With her beauty her only currency she must step forward in ways that would have been unthinkable back home in order to support her family. Soon Flora is the toast of glamorous Paris. Fame and fortune are hers for the taking but she knows only too well by now that rich men make empty promises. But then a secret comes to light that will change everything.

Satoshi Yagisawa

More days at the Morisaki Bookshop

Set again in the Japanese bookshop and nearby coffee shop in the Jimbocho neighbourhood of Tokyo, More Days at the Morisaki Bookshop deepens the relationship between Takako, her uncle Satoru,

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and the people in their lives. As time passes, Satoru, with Takako's help, must choose whether to keep the bookshop open or shutter its doors forever. Making the decision will take uncle and niece on an emotional journey back to their family's roots and remind them again what a bookstore can mean to an individual, a neighbourhood, and a whole culture.

NON-FICTION

Kate Beaton

Ducks: two years in the Oil Sands

Ducks is a memoir of Beaton's experiences working in the oil fields in Alberta starting in 2005. Raised in Mabou, Nova Scotia, and fresh out of Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, she needs to work in order to pay off her student debt. Like many in Atlantic Canada, she is forced to seek work elsewhere; She initially works in a tool crib at Mildred Lake for Syncrude but also works at Long Lake and in various other camps in different roles. Though Beaton empathizes with many of the workers and their economic plight, the labour force is overwhelmingly male, and she is subjected to sexual harassment. The book is named after a disaster in which hundreds of ducks died after landing in a toxic tailings pond.

Rashid Khalid

The hundred years war on Palestine

A history of one hundred years of war waged against the Palestinians from the foremost US historian of the Middle East, is told through pivotal events and family history. The book is not a chronicle of victimization, nor does it whitewash the mistakes of Palestinian leaders or deny the emergence of national movements on both sides. In reevaluating the forces arrayed against the Palestinians, it offers an illuminating new view of a conflict that continues to this day.

Terry O'Reilly

My biggest mistake: epic fails and silver linings

The host of CBC Radio's Under the Influence, Terry O'Reilly, uncovers the surprising power of screwing up. The Incredible Hulk was originally supposed to be grey, but a printing glitch led to the superhero's iconic green colour. NHL hall-of-famer Serge Savard's hockey career nearly ended prematurely, not because of an injury, but because of an oversight. And the invention of the Popsicle, began with a simple mistake. Some people's "mistakes" led to dramatic life changes—losing their jobs, their companies and often their credibility—only for them to discover new opportunities on the other shore. Other people's mistakes seemed minor, almost insignificant—and yet they unexpectedly resulted in a famous brand, a legendary band or a groundbreaking work of art. And in a few instances, a mistake actually saved lives. The fear of failing often holds us back. This book will change the way you think about screwing up.