

## NANOOSE LIBRARY - JULY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

### FICTION

**Kimberly Belle**

***The Paris widow***

When Stella met Adam, she thought she had finally found a nice, normal guy—a welcome change from her previous boyfriend and her precarious jetsetter lifestyle with him. But her secure world comes crashing down when Adam goes missing after an explosion in the city square. As the French police investigate, it's revealed that Adam was on their radar as a dealer of rare and stolen antiquities with a long roster of criminal clients. Reeling from this news, Stella is determined not to leave Paris until she has the full story.

**David Blake**

***Swanton Morley***

Another in the DCI Tanner Norfolk Broads mysteries. Returning from his honeymoon with a baby in tow, Tanner arrives at work to find a man being interviewed for a murder he says he didn't commit. When a body is eventually discovered, Tanner assumes he has his man. But then a far more likely suspect appears, one with blood on his boots and a scratch on his car, who also just happens to be running in the upcoming by-election.

**Amy Chua**

***The golden gate***

Berkeley, California, 1944, Homicide Detective Al Sullivan has just left the Claremont Hotel after a drink in the bar when a presidential candidate is assassinated in one of the rooms upstairs. A rich industrialist with enemies among the anarchist factions on the far left, Walter Wilkinson could have been targeted by any number of groups. But strangely, Sullivan's investigation brings up the spectre of another tragedy at the Claremont, ten years the death of seven-year-old Iris Stafford, a member of the Bainbridge family, one of the wealthiest in all of San Francisco.

**S. A. Cosby**

***Blacktop wasteland***

Beauregard "Bug" Montage is a husband, father and honest car mechanic. But he was once known - from North Carolina to the beaches of Florida - as the best getaway driver on the East Coast. Just like his father, who disappeared many years ago. After a series of financial calamities (worsened by the racial prejudices of the small town he lives in) Bug reluctantly takes part in a daring diamond heist to solve his money troubles and to go straight once and for all.

**Vince R. Ditrich**

***The vicar vortex***

After the devastating fire that nearly destroyed his hotel and pub, Tony Vicar has rebuilt both Hotel Valentine and The Vicar's Knickers. But the glamour of being a barman has lost some of its lustre and the responsibility is incessant. But life in Tyee Lagoon has a way of veering away from normal, as proven when femme fatale Serena, unexpectedly freed of criminal charges, returns to town to steal back baby Frankie. who she abandoned on Vicar's doorstep two years before, and hopefully ensnare Tony in the process.

**Paul Doiron**

***Dead man's wake***

On the evening of their engagement party, Maine Game Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch and Stacey Stevens witness what seems to be a hit-and-run speedboat crash on a darkened lake. When they arrive at the scene, their spotlight reveals a gruesome sight: a severed arm beneath the surface. As day breaks, the dive team recovers not one but two naked corpses: the dismembered man and the married woman with whom he was having an affair. Mike begins to suspect the swimmers' deaths were not a senseless accident but a coldly calculated murder.

**Hazel Gaynor**

***The last lifeboat***

Inspired by a true story. 1940, Kent : Alice King is not brave or daring—she's happiest finding adventure through the safe pages of books. But times of war demand courage, and as the threat of German invasion looms, a plane crash near her home awakens a strength in Alice she'd long forgotten. Determined to do her part, she finds a role perfectly suited to her experience as a schoolteacher—to help evacuate Britain's children overseas.

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**John Grisham**

***Camino ghosts***

Popular bookseller Bruce Cable tells Mercer Mann an irresistible tale that might be her next novel. A giant resort developer is using its political muscle and deep pockets to claim ownership of a deserted island between Florida and Georgia. Only the last living inhabitant of the island, Lovely Jackson, stands in its way.

**Martha Hall Kelly**

***The golden doves***

American Josie Anderson and Parisian Arlette LaRue are thrilled to be working in the French resistance, stealing so many Nazi secrets that they become known as the Golden Doves, renowned across France and hunted by the Gestapo. They are finally arrested and taken to the Ravensbrück concentration camp, along with their loved ones. In the camp a Nazi doctor experiments on Josie's mother and Arlette's son is stolen from her.

A decade later the Doves fall headlong into a dangerous dual mission: Josie is working for U.S. Army intelligence and accepts an assignment to hunt down the infamous doctor, while a mysterious man tells Arlette he may have found her son.

**Joanne Harris**

***Broken light***

Bernie Moon is feeling invisible. She's given her life to other people - her husband, her son, her mother, her friends (not that she has any of them left). At 16, she was full of promise and power. Now, facing 50, she's a fading light. But when a young woman is killed in her local area, it sparks childhood memories of a talent she used to have, one long since hidden.

**Cristina Henríquez**

***The great divide***

It is said that the Panama Canal will be the greatest feat of engineering in history. But first, it must be built. For Francisco, a local fisherman who resents the foreign powers clamouring for a slice of his country, nothing is more upsetting than the decision of his son, Omar, to work as a digger in the excavation zone.

Ada Bunting is a sixteen-year-old from Barbados who arrives in Panama as a stowaway alongside thousands of other West Indians seeking work. Alone and with no resources, she is determined to find a job that will earn enough money for her ailing sister's surgery. When she sees Omar who has collapsed after a gruelling shift, she is the only one who rushes to his aid.

John Oswald has dedicated his life to scientific research and has journeyed to Panama in single-minded pursuit of one goal: eliminating malaria. But now, his wife, Marian, has fallen ill herself, and when he witnesses Ada's bravery and compassion, he hires her on the spot as a caregiver.

**Faith Hogan**

***The ladies' midnight swimming club***

When Elizabeth's husband dies, leaving her with crippling debt, the only person she can turn to is her friend, Jo. Soon Jo has called in her daughter, Lucy, to help save Elizabeth from bankruptcy. Leaving her old life behind, Lucy is determined to make the most of her fresh start. As life slowly begins to return to normal, these three women, thrown together by circumstance, become fast friends. But then Jo's world is turned upside down when she receives some shocking news.

**Greg Iles**

***Southern man***

Fifteen years after the events of the Natchez Burning trilogy, Penn Cage is alone. Nearly all his loved ones are dead, his old allies gone, and he carries a mortal secret that separates him from the world. But Penn's exile comes to an end when a brawl at a Mississippi rap festival triggers a bloody mass shooting. As the stunned cities of Natchez and Bienville reel, antebellum plantation homes continue to burn and the deadly attacks are claimed by a Black radical group as historic acts of justice. Panic sweeps through the tourist communities, driving them inexorably toward a race war.

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**Meredith Jaeger**

***The incorrigibles***

1890, San Francisco. Seduced by her employer's nephew, Annie Gilmurray, an Irish maid, is accused of stealing the ring he promised her. Sentenced to one year in San Quentin, Annie is heartbroken and frightened among the women prostitutes, murderers, and pickpockets. But Annie finds beauty and friendship in a brutal place, where the women look out for one another, dreaming of a better life after release. But their world inside San Quentin's walls is a dangerous one, and when the unthinkable happens, Annie makes a choice that will alter the course of her future forever.

**J.A. Jance**

***Blessing of the lost girls***

When human remains are found in Joanna Brady's Cochise County, the victim turns out to be a missing young woman of Apache descent. As part of a newly formed Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Task Force, Dan Pardee, a former Border Patrol Shadow Wolf and Brandon Walker's son-in-law, catches the case and ends up in Sheriff Joanna Brady's jurisdiction. There's a long case ahead, and the task force will do anything to bring down a serial killer before he can strike again.

**Daniel Kalla**

***High society***

At sixteen, Holly Danvers barely survived the car accident that killed her father. While she has no memory of the crash, it took an ayahuasca treatment, a native plant-based psychedelic therapy, in the jungles of Peru for her to emotionally recover. Twenty years later, Holly is a sought-after psychiatrist determined to use her expertise with psychedelics to treat patients suffering from addictions. Ignoring the risks, she embarks upon an unproven new protocol with miraculous results. But her success in probing the traumas of her patients and the secrets they keep is short-lived.

**Stephen King**

***You like it darker***

"You like it darker? Fine, so do I," writes Stephen King in the afterword to this new collection of twelve stories that delve into the darker part of life—both metaphorical and literal.

**Mary Kubica**

***She's not sorry***

Meghan Michaels is trying to find balance between being a single mom to a teenage daughter and working as a full time nurse. While on duty at the hospital one day, a patient named Caitlin arrives in a coma with a traumatic brain injury, having jumped from a bridge and plunging over twenty feet to the train tracks below. But when a witness comes forward with shocking details about the fall, it calls everything they know into question.

**Christina Lauren**

***The paradise problem***

Anna Green thought she was marrying Liam "West" Weston for access to subsidized family housing while at UCLA. She also thought she'd signed divorce papers when the graduation caps were tossed, and they both went on their merry ways. Three years later, Anna is a starving artist living paycheck to paycheck while West is a Stanford professor. He may be one of four heirs to the Weston Foods conglomerate, but he has little interest in working for the corporation his family built. He is interested, however, in his one-hundred-million-dollar inheritance. There's just one catch.

**Damhnait Monaghan**

***New girl in Little Cove***

After the local French teacher scandalizes the fishing village of Little Cove, Newfoundland, by running off with a priest, the school looks to the mainland to fill the job quickly. They want someone who can uphold their Catholic values and keep a motley group of largely unwilling students in line.

**Beth Morrey**

***Saving Missy***

Missy Carmichael's life has become small. Grieving for a family she has lost or lost touch with, she's haunted by the echoes of her footsteps in her empty home; the sound of the radio in the dark; the tick-tick-tick of the watching clock. Spiky and defensive, Missy knows that her loneliness is all her own fault. She deserves no more than this; not after what she's done. But a chance encounter in the park with two very different women opens the door to something new.

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**James Patterson**

***The First Lady***

President Tucker is caught up in a media firestorm. The scandal of his affair has sent shockwaves through his re-election campaign, and threatens to derail everything he has worked for. To win the vote, he needs the First Lady to stand by his side. But Grace Tucker has a mind of her own.

**Laura Pearson**

***The last list of Mabel Beaumont***

Mabel Beaumont's husband Arthur loved lists. He'd leave them for her everywhere. 'Remember: eggs, butter, sugar'. 'I love you: today, tomorrow, always'. But now Arthur is gone. He died: softly, gently, not making a fuss. But he's still left her a list. This one has just one item on it though: 'Find D'. Mabel feels sure she knows what it means. She must track down her best friend Dot, who she hasn't seen since the fateful day she left more than sixty years ago.

**Katherine Reay**

***The Berlin letters***

Near the end of the Cold War, a CIA code breaker discovers a symbol she recognizes from her childhood, which takes her to the heart of Berlin just before the wall comes tumbling down. November 1989. After finding a secret cache of letters with intelligence buried in the text, CIA cryptographer Luisa Voekler learns that not only is her father alive but he is languishing in an East German Stasi jail. She is determined to rescue him.

**L. C. Reid**

***Stork Lake***

Ontario, 1979. Lori's fairytale adventures started when she was just three. Living in a picturesque fly-in fishing resort, fascinating guests entertained her with their antics every summer. But at age eighteen, this fantastic life comes to an abrupt end when her precious playground is sold to a paper mill. And now the clues to moving on from her childhood lie in the whisper of a tea leaf psychic and an eclectic collection of hats. Will Lori discover what she needs to leave her dreamworld behind and start anew?

**Diane Saxon**

***Some one's there***

When a beautiful, red haired nurse's body is found mutilated in her house in Lawley the morning after a date with Detective Constable Ryan Downey, all eyes turn to him. With a very specific modus operandi, Detective Sergeant Jenna Morgan and her team know exactly who the offender is, the trouble is he's currently serving a life stretch in HMP Long Lartin.

**Wilbur Smith**

***Call of the raven***

The son of a wealthy plantation owner and a doting mother, Mungo St John is accustomed to wealth and luxury until he returns from university to discover his family ruined, his inheritance stolen and his childhood sweetheart, Camilla, taken by the conniving Chester Marion. Mungo swears vengeance and devotes his life to saving Camilla and destroying Chester.

**Ruth Ware**

***One perfect couple***

Lyla is in a bit of a rut. Her post-doctoral research has fizzled out, she's pretty sure they won't extend her contract, and things with her boyfriend, Nico, an aspiring actor, aren't going well. When the opportunity arises for Nico to join the cast of a new reality TV show, The Perfect Couple, she decides to try out with him. A whirlwind audition process later, Lyla find herself whisked off to a tropical paradise with Nico, where the two of them will compete against four other couples in order to win a cash prize.

**Sam Wiebe**

***Cut you down***

Tabitha Sorenson is missing. The bright but unstable student disappeared in the aftermath of a scandal involving millions of dollars in college funds. Professor Dana Essex doesn't think the missing money and the missing student are connected, but she hires Vancouver PI David Wakeland to find Tabitha, with whom she is in obsessed. When Wakeland discovers Tabitha has in fact stolen the money and is hiding out with her lover and reports back to his client, Essex is crushed to learn that Tabitha is in love with someone else. The next morning, Tabitha has been murdered and Essex has disappeared.

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### NON-FICTION

**Nahlah Ayed**

***The war we won apart: the untold story of two elite agents who became one of the most decorated couples of WW11***

On opposite sides of the pond, Sonia Butt, an adventurous young British woman, and Guy d'Artois, a French-Canadian soldier and thunderstorm of a man, are preparing for war. From different worlds, their lives first intersect during clandestine training to become agents with Winston Churchill's secret army, the Special Operations Executive. As the world's deadliest conflict to date unfolds, Sonia and Guy learn how to parachute into enemy territory, how to kill, blow up rail lines, and eventually how to love each other. But not long after their hasty marriage, their love is tested by separation, by a titanic invasion and by indiscretion.

**John Dowd**

***Escape to Clayoquot Sound: finding home in a wild place***

Twenty years ago, two empty-nesters with a love of the outdoors stumbled upon a vacant beach house on a small island in Clayoquot Sound, part of an off-grid, ten-acre stretch nestled within a provincial park reserve. The book is an extended love letter to this place, chronicling the decade John and Bea Dowd spent as year-round caretakers of the property. Told with humour and heart in alternating voices, and illustrated throughout with stunning natural photography, this book a story of joyful solitude, of living in harmony with wildlife and respecting the forces of nature.

**David Graeber/  
David Wengrow**

***The dawn of everything: a new history of humanity***

For generations, our remote ancestors have been cast as primitive and childlike—either free and equal innocents, or thuggish and warlike. Civilization, we are told, could be achieved only by sacrificing those original freedoms or, alternatively, by taming our baser instincts. The authors show how such theories first emerged in the eighteenth century as a conservative reaction to powerful critiques of European society posed by Indigenous observers and intellectuals. Revisiting this encounter has startling implications for how we make sense of human history today, including the origins of farming, property, cities, democracy, slavery, and civilization itself.

**Jonathan Haidt**

***The anxious generation: how the great rewiring of childhood caused an epidemic of mental illness***

After more than a decade of stability or improvement, the mental health of adolescents plunged in the early 2010s. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide rose sharply. Why? Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults. "Play-based childhood" began to decline in the 1980s, and was finally wiped out by the arrival of the "phone-based childhood" in the early 2010s. He issues a clear call to action. He diagnoses the "collective action problems" that trap us, and then proposes four simple rules that might set us free.

**Salman Rushdie**

***Knife: meditations after an attempted murder***

On the morning of August 12, 2022, Salman Rushdie was standing onstage at the Chautauqua Institution, preparing to give a lecture on the importance of keeping writers safe from harm, when a man in black rushed down the aisle toward him, wielding a knife. What followed was a horrific act of violence that shook the literary world and beyond. Now, Rushdie relives the traumatic events of that day and its aftermath, as well as his journey toward physical recovery and the healing that was made possible by the love and support of his wife, Eliza, his family, his army of doctors and physical therapists, and his community of readers worldwide.

**Sima Samar**

***Outspoken: my fight for freedom and human rights in Afghanistan***

Dr. Sima Samar has been fighting for equality and justice for most of her life. Born into a polygamous family, she learned early that girls had inferior status, and she had to agree to an arranged marriage if she wanted to go to university. By the time she was in medical school, she had a son, Ali, and had become a revolutionary. After her husband was disappeared by the pro-Russian regime, she escaped.

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With her son and medical degree, she took off into the rural areas—by horseback, by donkey, even on foot—to treat people who had never had medical help before.

Despite being in grave personal danger for many years, she has worked tirelessly for the dream she is convinced is an achievable justice and full human rights for all the citizens of her country.