

NANOOSE LIBRARY JULY 2023 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

FICTION

Isabel Allende

The wind knows my name

Vienna, 1938. Samuel Adler was six years old when his father disappeared during Kristallnacht. His mother secured a spot for him on the last Kindertransport train out of Nazi-occupied Austria to the United Kingdom, which he boarded alone, carrying nothing but a change of clothes and his violin.

Kelley Armstrong

Murder at Haven's Rock

Deep in the Yukon wilderness, a town is being built. A place for people to disappear, a fresh start from a life on the run. Haven's Rock isn't the first town of this kind, something detective Casey Duncan and her husband, Sheriff Eric Dalton, know first-hand. They met in the original town of Rockton. But greed and deception led the couple to financing a new refuge for those in need. This time around, they get to decide which applicants are approved for residency.

Marc Cameron

Tom Clancy chain of command

A shadowy billionaire uses his fortune to further his corrupt ambitions. Along the way, he's toppled democratically elected governments and exacerbated divisions within stable nations. The competitors he's destroyed, the people he's hurt, they're all just marks on a ledger. Now, he's ready to implement his most ambitious plan of all. There's only one force standing in his way—President Jack Ryan.

Eleanor Catton

Birnam Wood

Five years ago, Mira Bunting founded a guerrilla gardening group: Birnam Wood. An undeclared, unregulated, sometimes-criminal, sometimes-philanthropic gathering of friends, this activist collective plants crops where no one will notice. For years, the group has struggled to break even. Then Mira stumbles on an answer, a way to finally set the group up for the long term: a landslide has closed the Korowai Pass, cutting off the town of Thorndike. Natural disaster has created an opportunity, a sizable farm seemingly abandoned.

Perry Chafe

Closer by sea

In 1991, on a small, island off the coast of Newfoundland, twelve-year-old Pierce Jacobs struggles to come to terms with the death of his father. It's been three years since his dad, a fisherman, disappeared in the cold, unforgiving Atlantic, his body never recovered. Pierce is determined to save enough money to fix his father's old boat and take it out to sea. But life on the island is quiet and hard. The local fishing industry is on the brink of collapse, threatening to take an ages-old way of life with it. The community is hit even harder when a young teen named Anna Tessier goes missing.

Janie Chang

The porcelain moon

Set against the little-known history of the 140,000 Chinese workers brought to Europe as non-combatant labor during WWI. In the final days of the First World War, a young Chinese woman, Pauline Deng, runs away from her uncle's home in Paris to evade a marriage being arranged for her in Shanghai. To prevent the union, she needs the help of her cousin Theo, who is working as a translator for the Chinese Labour Corps in the French countryside.

S.A. Cosby

All sinners bleed

Titus Crowne is the first black sheriff in Charon County. A former FBI agent and security expert, Titus came home to take care of his father and look out for his troubled younger brother. He ran for Sheriff to make a difference, especially in the Black community, which has so often been treated unfairly by the police. But a year to the day after his election, a school shooting rocks the town. A teacher is killed by a former student, and as Titus attempts to deescalate and get the boy to surrender, his deputies fire a fatal shot. In the investigation, it becomes clear that the student they shot had been abused by the dead teacher, as well as by unidentified perpetrators.

Hernan Diaz

Trust

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune?

Lian Dolan

Lost and found in Paris

Joan Blakely had an unconventional childhood: the daughter of a supermodel and a famous artist. Her artist father died on 9/11, and Joan, an art historian, has spent more than a decade maintaining his legacy. Life in the art world is beginning to wear on her and then one fateful afternoon her husband drops a bombshell: he's fathered twins with another woman. Furious but secretly pleased to have a reason to blow up her life, Joan impulsively decides to get out of town, booking a last-minute trip to Paris as an art courier: the person museums hire to fly valuable works of art to potential clients, discreetly stowed in their carry-on luggage.

Janet Evanovich

Game on: tempting twenty-eight

When Stephanie Plum is woken up in the middle of the night by the sound of footsteps in her apartment, she wishes she didn't keep her gun in the cookie jar in her kitchen. And when she finds out the intruder is fellow apprehension agent Diesel, six feet of hard muscle and bad attitude whom she hasn't seen in more than two years, she still thinks the gun might come in handy. Turns out Diesel and Stephanie are on the trail of the same fugitive: Oswald Wednesday, an international computer hacker as brilliant as he is ruthless.

Ann Granger

An unfinished murder

As young children, Josh Browning and his sister, Dilys, stumbled across a dead body while playing on the outskirts of their Cotswold village. Terrified by what they'd seen, neither of them told a soul. Now, twenty years later, Josh finds the dead woman's charm bracelet among his sister's possessions. Who better to tell than his trusted friend, the man he gardens for, retired Superintendent Alan Markby? As Markby listens to Josh's confession, alarm bells start to ring. The dates and details tie in with a missing person case that was never solved.

Claudia Gray

The late Mrs. Willoughby

Catherine and Henry Tilney of Northanger Abbey are not entirely pleased to be sending their eligible young daughter Juliet out into the world again: the last house party she attended, at the home of the Knightleys, involved a murder which Juliet helped solve.

Elizabeth and Fitzwilliam Darcy of Pemberley are thrilled that their eldest son, Jonathan has been invited to stay with his former schoolmate, John Willoughby. Jonathan himself is decidedly less taken with the notion of having to spend extended time under the roof of his old bully, but that all changes when he finds himself reunited with his fellow amateur sleuth, the radiant Miss Tilney. Shortly thereafter, Willoughby's new wife—whom he married for her fortune—dies horribly at the party meant to welcome her to town.

Ulla Hakanson

Flight across waters

While honeymooning in a seaside cottage, Amy Robinson Malik and her police detective husband, Ben, witness a small plane crash just off the coast. They hurry out to mount a rescue but find the pilot and his wife dead. When autopsies reveal traces of poison in the pilot, Ben is called back to Vancouver to assist with the investigation. Soon after, his car is found in a river, and Ben is missing. Has he become the third victim, killed because he was getting too close? When the police refuse to share information on their search for Ben, Amy starts her own investigation to find her husband.

Robyn Harding

The drowning woman

Lee Gulliver never thought she'd find herself living on the streets, but when her restaurant fails, and she falls deeper into debt, she leaves her old life behind with nothing but her clothes and her car. In Seattle,

she parks in a secluded spot by the beach to lay low and plan her next move until early one morning, she sees a sobbing woman throw herself into the ocean. Lee hauls the woman back to the surface, but instead of appreciation, she is met with fury. The drowning woman, Hazel, tells her that she wanted to die, that she's trapped in a toxic, abusive marriage, that she's a prisoner in her own home. Lee has thwarted her one chance to escape her life.

Rachel Joyce

Maureen

Ten years after her husband, Harold Fry, made his extraordinary walk across England to try and save a dying friend, Maureen Fry makes her own pilgrimage, and although she packs a proper bag and takes the car, her trip will be equally transformative. Unlike her husband, Maureen does not make friends easily, and she is not entirely sure what she hopes to find at the end of the road, but this is a journey she knows she must make, whatever obstacles present themselves on the way.

Louise Kennedy

Trespases

Amid daily reports of violence, Cushla lives a quiet life with her mother in a small town near Belfast. By day she teaches at a parochial school; at night she fills in at her family's pub. There she meets Michael Agnew, a barrister who's made a name for himself defending IRA members. Against her better judgment, Cushla lets herself get drawn in by him and his sophisticated world. Then the father of a student is savagely beaten, setting in motion a chain reaction that will threaten everything, and everyone, Cushla most wants to protect.

Mike Lupica

Robert B. Parker's blood feud

Sunny Randall is "on" again with Richie, the ex-husband she never stopped loving and never seemed to be able to let go, despite her discomfort with his Mafia connections. When Richie is shot and nearly killed, Sunny is dragged into the thick of his family's business as she searches for answers and tries to stave off a mob war.

Phillip Margolin

The darkest place

Robin Lockwood is an increasingly prominent defence attorney in the Portland community. A Yale graduate and former MMA fighter, she's becoming known for her string of successful defence strategies. As a favour to a judge, Robin takes on the pro bono defence of a reprehensible defendant charged with even more reprehensible crimes. But what she doesn't know is how this one decision, this one case, will wreak complete devastation on her life and plans.

Charlotte McConaghy

Once there were wolves

Inti Flynn arrives in Scotland with her twin sister, Aggie, to lead a team of biologists tasked with reintroducing fourteen grey wolves into the remote Highlands. She hopes to heal not only the dying landscape, but Aggie, too, unmade by the terrible secrets that drove the sisters out of Alaska.

William McIlvanney

Ian Rankin

The dark remains

Lawyer Bobby Carter did a lot of work for the wrong type of people. Now he's dead and it was no accident. Besides a distraught family and a heap of powerful friends, Carter's left behind his share of enemies. So, who dealt the fatal blow? DC Jack Laidlaw's reputation precedes him. He's not a team player, but he's got a sixth sense for what's happening on the streets.

Andy McNab

Down to the wire

Tasked with rescuing the daughter of one of America's richest families from the grips of a sinister cult, Nick Stone expects his latest mission to be quick and straightforward. Travelling to the frozen depths of the Norway/Russia border, the dividing line between NATO and the Kremlin's armed forces, it seems all he and his team need do is abduct the woman and deliver her home alive.

Casey McQuiston **One last stop**

For cynical twenty-three-year-old August, moving to New York City is supposed to prove her right: that things like magic and cinematic love stories don't exist, and the only smart way to go through life is alone. She can't imagine how waiting tables at a 24-hour pancake diner and moving in with too many weird roommates could possibly change that. And there's certainly no chance of her subway commute being anything more than a daily trudge through boredom and electrical failures.

Fern Michaels **Fear thy neighbor**

At twenty-nine, Alison Marshall is ready to find a place to call home. With no family and no ties, she's drifted from one small Florida town to another since high school, working odd jobs, saving hard, and building a nest egg. Once she finds the right place to settle down, she'll know. And when she reaches beautiful Palmetto Island, she thinks she may have found it. The small, close-knit island community seems to have everything Alison needs. On a hunch, she contacts the island's only realtor, and learns that an old beach house is on the market. Miraculously, it's in her budget, and Alison takes it as another sign that she's in the right place.

Rowenna Miller **The fairy bargains of Prospect Hill**

On the other side of Prospect Hill is the world of the Fae. Generations ago, the first farmers there learned to bargain small trades to make their lives a little easier—a bit of glass to find something lost, a cup of milk for better layers in the chicken coop. Much of that old wisdom was lost, however Alaine Fairborn's family was always superstitious, and she still hums the rhymes to find a lost shoe and to ensure dry weather on her sister's wedding day. When Delphine confides her new husband is not the man she thought he was, Alaine will stop at nothing to help her sister escape him.

Priscilla Morris **Black butterflies**

Sarajevo, spring 1992. Each night, nationalist gangs erect barricades, splitting the diverse city into ethnic enclaves; each morning, the residents push the makeshift barriers aside. When violence finally spills over, Zora, an artist and teacher, sends her husband and elderly mother to safety with her daughter in England. Reluctant to believe that hostilities will last more than a handful of weeks, she stays behind while the city falls under siege.

Kate Morton **Homecoming**

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek, a local delivery man makes a terrible discovery. A police investigation is called and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most shocking and perplexing murder cases in South Australia.

Sixty years later, Jess has been a journalist in London for almost twenty years. She is laid off from her full-time job and struggling to make ends meet. A phone call summons her back to Sydney, where her grandmother, Nora, who raised her, has suffered a fall and is in hospital. At loose ends in Nora's house, Jess discovers a true crime book, chronicling the police investigation into a long-buried tragedy: the Turner Family Tragedy of Christmas Eve, 1959. It is only when Jess skims through the book that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this once-infamous crime.

Jo Nesbo **Killing moon**

Harry Hole has gone to Los Angeles to drink himself to death, in the wake of his life back in Oslo falling to pieces. He's nearly managed to, but Harry has been helping an older film actress, Lucille, to get away from the grips of a drug cartel to which she owes one million dollars, and in return she's given him shelter, company and a tailored suit.

James Patterson
James O. Born **The Russian**

Weeks before NYPD Detective Michael Bennett is to marry his longtime love, Mary Catherine, an assassin announces his presence in the city with a string of grisly murders. Each victim is a young woman. And each has been killed in a manner as precise as it was gruesome. Tasked with working

Brad Taylor

Daughter of war

Hot on the trail of a North Korean looking to sell sensitive US intelligence to the Syrian regime, Pike Logan and the Taskforce stumble upon something much graver: the sale of a lethal substance called Red Mercury. Unbeknownst to the Taskforce, the Syrians plan to use the weapon of mass destruction against American and Kurdish forces, and blame the attack on terrorists, causing western nations to reassess their participation in the murky cauldron of the Syrian civil war. As the Taskforce begins to unravel the plot, a young refugee unwittingly holds the key to the conspiracy. Hunted across Europe for reasons she cannot fathom, she is the one person who can stop the attack, if she can live long enough for Pike to find her.

Yasuko Thanh

To the bridge

When Rose's seventeen-year-old daughter, Juliet, attempts suicide, she does everything she can to hold her family together despite the inevitable unraveling that follows. Her husband Syd thinks their daughter is fine, that she's going through a phase, and tells Rose she's overreacting, as do the doctors, the school principal, and even Juliet herself. But Rose knows her daughter better than anyone. Doesn't she?

Bryn Turnbull

The Paris deception

Sophie Dix fled Stuttgart with her brother as the Nazi regime gained power in Germany. Now, with her brother gone and her adopted home city of Paris conquered by the Reich, Sophie reluctantly accepts a position restoring damaged art at the Jeu de Paume museum under the supervision of the ERR—a German art commission using the museum as a repository for art they've looted from Jewish families.

Luis Alberto Urrea

Good night, Irene

In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford. Together they are part of an elite group of women, nicknamed Donut Dollies, who command military buses called Clubmobiles at the front line. After D-Day, these two friends join the Allied soldiers streaming into France. Their time in Europe will see them embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of Buchenwald.

Abraham Verghese

The covenant of water

1900-1970. Set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and following three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning. The family is part of a Christian community that traces itself to the time of the apostles, but times are shifting, and the matriarch of this family, known as Big Ammachi—literally “Big Mother”—will witness unthinkable changes at home and at large over the span of her extraordinary life.

Chris Whitaker

Tall oaks

Nothing is as it seems in Tall Oaks, a small California town where everyone knows each other and violent crime is unheard of. The community's idyllic façade is shattered when a kidnapper in a clown costume snatches three-year-old Harry Monroe from his own home. Despite sensational media coverage and dogged police investigations, the abduction remains a mystery.

Don Winslow

City on fire

The story of a mob war that erupts in 1980s New England between Irish and Italian Americans, sparked by irrational jealousy over a woman. Before it's over, the war will leave a trail of bodies from both factions across Providence, Rhode Island, along with lives irrevocably upended and the threat of more bloodshed to come.

NON-FICTION

David Grann

The Wager: the tale of shipwreck, mutiny and murder

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. They

