

NANOOSE LIBRARY FEBRUARY 2023 NEW BOOK SYNOPSIS

FICTION

Linwood Barclay

Look both ways

The media have descended on Garrett Island, a small, isolated community that is the setting of a visionary experiment. All the residents' cars were sent to the mainland and for the past month the islanders have been "driving" the Arrival, a revolutionary autonomous vehicle. With a simple voice command, an Arrival will take you wherever you want to go and, because the fleet is networked and aware of one another, car travel is now 100% safe. The future, it seems, has arrived.

Ron Base

Death at the Savoy

1968. London is in full swing and the Savoy Hotel is at the height of its legendary glitz and glamour. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton are squabbling in the American Bar while Noël Coward drinks champagne. Royals wait upstairs in luxurious suites for discreet encounters. In short, all is as it should be. If only it weren't for the dead body in River Suite 610. Could it be murder at the Savoy? Suspicion falls upon Priscilla Tempest, the Canadian head of the Savoy press office who has a penchant for champagne, the wrong sort of men and trouble.

Marie Benedict

The Mitford affair

Between the World Wars, the six Mitford sisters dominate the English political, literary, and social scenes. Though they've weathered scandals before, the family falls into disarray when Diana divorces her husband to marry a fascist leader and Unity follows her sister's lead, inciting rumours that she's become Hitler's mistress. Novelist Nancy Mitford is the only member of her family to keep in touch with Diana and Unity after their desertion, so it falls to her to act when her sisters become spies.

David Blake

Long Gore Hall

The ancestral owner of Long Gore Hall arrives from overseas with an ambitious plan to renovate his crumbling family home. But when he shoots an intruder only for the body to vanish into thin air, DI Tanner is left searching for a body that doesn't seem to want to be found.

David Blake

Storm force

As a category four storm looms large over Norfolk's wide open horizon, DI John Tanner is given the task of solving a high-profile murder. But when another body is found together with a mysterious blackmail note, he faces a race against time to uncover the truth before the storm moves in to destroy everything in its path, including the evidence he so desperately needs.

Sarah Bonner

Her perfect twin

When Megan discovers photographs of her estranged identical twin sister on her husband's phone, she wants answers. Leah already has everything Megan ever wanted. Fame, fortune, freedom to do what she wants. And when Megan confronts Leah, an argument turns to murder. The only way Megan can get away with killing her twin is to become her.

C.J. Box

Bitterroots

Former police officer Cassie Dewell is trying to start over with her own private investigation firm. Guilty about not seeing her son and exhausted by the nights on stakeout, Cassie is managing until an old friend calls in a favour. She wants Cassie to help exonerate a man accused of assaulting a young girl from an influential family. Against her own better judgment, Cassie agrees. But out in the Big Sky Country of Montana, twisted family loyalty runs as deep as the ties to the land.

John Boyne

All the broken places

Ninety-one-year-old Gretel Fernsby has lived in the same well-to-do mansion block in London for decades. She lives a quiet life, despite her dark past. She doesn't talk about her escape from Nazi Germany at age 12. She doesn't talk about the grim post-war years in France with her mother. Most of all, she doesn't talk about her father, who was the commandant of one of the Reich's most notorious extermination camps. Then, a new family moves into the apartment below her. In spite of herself, Gretel

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can't help but begin a friendship with the little boy, Henry, though his presence brings back memories she would rather forget.

Maureen Brownlee **Cambium blue**

In 1994, at the outset of the pine beetle epidemic, a fiercely independent lumber town faces a bleak future when its only sawmill is shuttered. Encouraged by a provincial government intent on transitioning the region from timber to tourism, the town council embraces a resort developer as their last, best hope. A failure to anticipate the human cost of that choice ignites a struggle for the very soul of the community.

Vince R. Ditrich **The Vicar's Knickers**

Tony Vicar, now an internationally known celebrity, due to exaggerated news reports of his nearly miraculous powers, has turned his attention to renovating his recently inherited crumbling old hotel in Tyee Lagoon. It's a good thing his level-headed girlfriend, Jacquie O, is on board to temper his more outlandish ideas, because the pair plan to turn the hotel's dumpy old beer parlour into the Vicar's Knickers — a lavish and beautiful pub.

Janet Evanovich **Going rogue**

Monday mornings aren't supposed to be fun, but they should be predictable. However, on this particular Monday, Stephanie Plum knows that something is amiss when she turns up for work at Vinnie's Bail Bonds to find that longtime office manager Connie Rosolli, who is as reliable as the tides in Atlantic City, hasn't shown up. Stephanie's worst fears are confirmed when she gets a call from Connie's abductor. He says he will only release her in exchange for a mysterious coin that a recently murdered man left as collateral for his bail.

Terry Fallis **Albatross**

Adam Coryell is your average high-school student when his life changes forever. Based on a study by a quirky Swedish professor that claims that every human being, regardless of athletic inclination, has a body that is suited to excel in at least one sport, it turns out that Adam is very good at golf. Even though he'd never even picked up a golf club. Almost instantly, Adam and his new-found talent skyrocket to a prodigy-level stardom. But here's the catch: Adam doesn't really like golf. And as the life he once knew slips away, he can't help but wonder if all this success and fame is worth it.

Michelle Gable **The Lipstick Bureau**

1944, Rome. Newlywed Niki Novotná is recruited by a new American spy agency to establish a secret branch in Italy's capital. One of the OSS's few female operatives abroad and multilingual, she's tasked with crafting fake stories and distributing propaganda to lower the morale of enemy soldiers. Despite limited resources, Niki and a scrappy team of artists, forgers and others, nicknamed The Lipstick Bureau, find success. But her work is also a way to escape devastating truths about the family she left behind in Czechoslovakia and a future with her controlling American husband.

Robert Galbraith **The ink black heart**

When frantic Edie Ledwell appears in the office begging to speak to her, private detective Robin Ellacott doesn't know quite what to make of the situation. Edie, the co-creator of a popular cartoon, The Ink Black Heart, is being persecuted by a mysterious online figure who goes by the pseudonym of Anomie. Edie is desperate to uncover Anomie's true identity. Robin decides that the agency can't help and thinks nothing more of it until a few days later, she reads the shocking news that Edie has been murdered in Highgate Cemetery, the location of cartoon. Robin and her business partner, Cormoran Strike, are drawn into the quest to uncover Anomie's true identity.

Ian Hamilton **Finale**

Following a diagnosis of terminal cancer, Uncle begins preparing for his inevitable death. As he sets his affairs in order, he recalls the moments in his life that meant the most to him, including his first encounter with the talented forensic accountant Ava Lee and the origins of their life-changing partnership.

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Taylor Jenkins Reid

Carrie Soto is back

Carrie Soto is fierce and her determination to win at any cost has not made her popular. But by the time she retires from tennis, she is the best player the world has ever seen. She has shattered every record and claimed twenty Grand Slam titles. But six years after her retirement, Carrie finds herself sitting in the stands of the 1994 US Open, watching her record be taken from her by a stunning player named Nicki Chan. At thirty-seven years old, Carrie makes the decision to come out of retirement in an attempt to reclaim her record.

Jane Johnson

The white hare

The White Valley, Cornwall, has a long and bloody history, laced with folklore, and in it sits a house above the beach that has lain neglected since the war. It comes with a reputation, which is why Magdalena and her daughter Mila manage to acquire it so cheaply in 1954. Magda has grand plans to restore the house to its former glory while Mila, just wants to escape the scandal in her past and make a safe home for her daughter, Janey, a precocious child blessed with a vivid imagination, much of which she pours into stories about her magical plush toy, Rabbit. But Janey's rabbit isn't the only magical being around. Legend has it that an enchanted white hare may be seen running through the woods.

Tyrell Johnson

The lost kings

Jeanie's whole world has been turned upside down. Not only has she lost her beloved brother, but with no family left in Washington, she is ripped from everything she knows, including Maddox, the boy she could be learning to love. Twenty years later, Jeanie is in England. She keeps her demons at bay by drinking too much. But her old life catches up to her when Maddox reappears, claiming to have tracked down her dad. Stunned, Jeanie must decide whether to continue running from her past or to confront her father and finally find out what really happened that night.

Shehan Karunatilaka

The seven moons of Maali Almeida

Colombo, 1990. Maali Almeida, war photographer, gambler, and closet queen, has woken up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. His dismembered body is sinking in the serene Beira Lake and he has no idea who killed him. In a country where scores are settled by death squads, suicide bombers, and hired goons, the list of suspects is depressingly long, as the ghouls and ghosts with grudges who cluster round can attest. But even in the afterlife, time is running out for Maali. He has seven moons to contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to the photos that will rock Sri Lanka.

Mary Kubica

Local woman missing

Shelby Tebow is the first to go missing. Not long after, Meredith Dickey and her six-year-old daughter, Delilah, vanish just blocks away from where Shelby was last seen, striking fear into their once-peaceful community. After an elusive search that yields more questions than answers, the case eventually goes cold. Now, 11 years later, Delilah shockingly returns.

David Lagercrantz

Dark music

Professor Hans Rekke is a world authority on interrogation techniques, capable of dizzying feats of logic and observation. He was born into wealth and power and has a picture-perfect wife and daughter. But he also has a fragile psyche that falls apart under pressure. Micaela Vargas is a street-smart police officer, daughter of Chilean political refugees, who grew up in the projects on the outskirts of Stockholm and has two brothers on the wrong side of the law. She is tenacious and uncompromising, and desperate to prove herself to her fellow cops. Micaela needs Hans's unique mind to help her solve the case of a murdered asylum-seeker from Afghanistan.

Henriette Lazaridis

Terra Nova

1910, two Antarctic explorers, Watts and Heywood, are racing to the South Pole. Back in London, Viola, a photo-journalist, harbours love for them both. Though anxious for both men, Viola has little time to pine, working on her photographic and writing career and she's eager for success. And then the men return, eager to share news of their triumph. But in her darkroom, Viola discovers a lie. Watts and Heywood have doctored their photos of the Pole to fake their success.

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Jeff Lindsay

Three-edged sword

It's not just that the high-up, rogue government agent has abducted the only two people Riley loves: it's the fact that Riley has to do the man's dirty work to set them free. It's something Riley ordinarily would find a modest day's work, infiltrating a madman's Soviet missile silo in one of the world's most remote places, all to find a secret on a tiny flash drive, but he's never had to race the clock like this.

Posy Lovell

The Kew Gardens girls

London, 1916. Desperate to help the War effort in whatever way they can, Ivy and Louisa enlist as gardeners at Kew, the Royal Botanic Gardens, taking on the jobs of the men who have gone to fight. Under their care, the gardens begin to flourish and become a safe haven for those seeking solace, but not everyone wants women working at Kew.

Clare Mackintosh

The last party

On New Year's Eve, Rhys Lloyd has a house full of guests. His vacation homes on Mirror Lake are a success and he's invited the village to drink champagne with their wealthy new neighbours. But by midnight, Rhys will be dead in the freezing waters of the lake. On New Year's Day, Ffion Morgan has a village full of suspects. The tiny community is her home, so the suspects are her neighbours, friends and family.

Edeana Malcolm

House of Crows

Three generations of women struggle against harsh realities and constant challenges to better their lot in life as they build the future of their family and, along with it, that of a burgeoning city. With two dressed in widow's weeds and one in a maid's uniform, their home gains the nickname 'the House of Crows'. Edie journeys across oceans, searching for the place where she can build a home. Lucy readies herself for the challenges of a new world, only to suffer loss after loss. Maggie slaves her days away in service to the rich, never losing hope that more awaits her.

Madeline Martin

The last bookshop in London

London, August 1939. Grace Bennett has always dreamed of moving to the city, but the bunkers and blackout curtains that she finds on her arrival were not what she expected. And she certainly never imagined she'd wind up working at Primrose Hill, a dusty old bookshop nestled in the heart of London. Through blackouts and air raids as the Blitz intensifies, Grace discovers the power of storytelling to unite her community in ways she never dreamed.

Carlene O'Connor

No strangers here

On a rocky beach in the southwest of Ireland, the body of Johnny O'Reilly, sixty-nine years old and dressed in a suit and his dancing shoes, is propped on a boulder, staring sightlessly out to sea. A cryptic message is spelled out next to the body with sixty-nine polished black stones and a discarded vial of deadly veterinarian medication lies nearby. Johnny was a wealthy racehorse owner, known far and wide as The Dancing Man. In a town like Dingle, everyone knows a little something about everyone else. But dig a bit deeper, and there's always much more to find. And when Detective Inspector Cormac O'Brien is dispatched out of Killarney to lead the murder inquiry, he's determined to unearth every secret.

Louise Penny

A world of curiosities

It's spring and Three Pines is reemerging after the harsh winter. As the villagers prepare for a special celebration, Armand Gamache and Jean-Guy Beauvoir find themselves increasingly worried. A young man and woman have reappeared in the Sûreté du Québec investigators' lives after many years. The two were young children when their troubled mother was murdered. Now they've arrived in Three Pines, but to what end? As Chief Inspector Gamache works to uncover answers, his alarm grows when a letter written by a long-dead stonemason is discovered. In it, the man describes his terror when bricking up an attic room somewhere in the village. When the room is found, the villagers decide to open it up. As the bricks are removed, they discover a world of curiosities. But the Gamache soon realizes there's more in that room than meets the eye.

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Valerie Perrin

Three

1986: Adrien, Etienne and Nina are 10 years old when they meet at school and quickly become inseparable. They promise each other they will one day leave their provincial backwater, move to Paris, and never part. Thirty-one years later, a car is pulled up from the bottom of the lake with a body inside. Virginie, a local journalist, reports on the case, while also reflecting on the relationship between the three friends.

Deanna Raybourn

Killers of a certain age

Billie, Mary Alice, Helen, and Natalie have worked for the Museum, an elite network of assassins, for forty years. Now their talents are considered old-school and no one appreciates what they have to offer in an age that relies more on technology than people skills. When the foursome is sent on an all-expenses paid vacation to mark their retirement, they are targeted by one of their own. Only the Board, the top-level members of the Museum, can order the termination of field agents, and the women realize they've been marked for death.

Dani Shapiro

Signal fires

1985, three teenagers have been drinking and one of them gets behind the wheel of a car. In an instant, everything on Division Street changes. Each of their lives, and that of Ben Wilf, a young doctor who arrives on the scene, is shattered. On Division Street, time has moved on. However, when the Shenkman's arrive, a young couple expecting a baby boy, it is as if the accident never happened. But when Waldo, the Shenkman's brilliant, lonely son befriends Dr. Wilf, now retired and struggling with his wife's decline, past events come hurtling back in ways no one could ever have foreseen.

Jane Smiley

A dangerous business

Monterey, 1851. Ever since her husband was killed in a bar fight, Eliza Ripple has been working in a brothel. It seems like a better life, at least at first. The madam, Mrs. Parks, is kind, the men are relatively well behaved and Eliza has attained what few women have: financial security. But when the dead bodies of young women start appearing outside of town, a darkness descends that she can't resist confronting. Side by side with her friend Jean, they piece together an array of clues to try to catch the killers.

Stuart Douglas

Young Mungo

Growing up in a housing estate in Glasgow, Mungo and James are born under different stars, Mungo a Protestant and James a Catholic and they should be sworn enemies if they're to be seen as men at all. Yet against all odds, they become best friends as they find a sanctuary in the pigeon dovecote that James has built for his prize racing birds. As they fall in love, they dream of finding somewhere they belong, while Mungo works hard to hide his true self from all those around him, especially from his big brother Hamish, a local gang leader with a brutal reputation to uphold.

Kathleen Winter

Undersong

When young James Dixon, a local jack-of-all-trades recently returned from the Battle of Waterloo, meets Dorothy Wordsworth, he quickly realizes he's never met another woman like her. In her early thirties, Dorothy has already lived a wildly unconventional life and as her famous brother William Wordsworth's confidante and creative collaborator, she has carved a seemingly idyllic existence for herself, alongside William and his wife, in England's Lake District. One day, Dixon is approached by William to do some handiwork around the Wordsworth estate. Soon he takes on more and more chores and quickly understands that his real, unspoken responsibility is to keep an eye on Dorothy, who is growing frail and melancholic. The unlikely pair of misfits form a sympathetic bond despite the troubling chasm in social class between them.

NON-FICTION

Edward Chisholm

A waiter in Paris: adventures in the dark heart of the city

This memoir takes you beneath the surface of one of the most iconic cities in the world and right into its underbelly. He inhabits a world of inhuman hours, snatched sleep and dive bars; scraping by on coffee,

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bread and cigarettes, often under sadistic managers, with a wage so low you're fighting your colleagues for tips. Your colleagues, including thieves, narcissists, ex-soldiers, immigrants, wannabe actors, and drug dealers are the closest thing to family that you've got. It's physically demanding, frequently humiliating and incredibly competitive. But it doesn't matter because you're in Paris, the centre of the universe and there's nowhere else you'd rather be in the world.

Marion McKinnon Crook *Always pack a candle: a nurse in Cariboo-Chilcotin*

In 1962, twenty-two year old, newly minted public health nurse, Marion McKinnon arrived in Williams Lake in BC's Cariboo region. Armed with more confidence than experience, she got into her government-issued Chevy, packed with immunization supplies, baby scales, and emergency drugs and headed out into her 9,300-square-kilometre territory, inhabited by ranchers; mill workers; and many vulnerable men, women, and children who were at risk of falling through the cracks of Canada's social welfare system. A naïve yet enthusiastic Marion relied entirely on her academic knowledge and her common sense. In one year, Marion received a more rigorous education in the field than she had at university.