

## NANOOSE LIBRARY - SEPTEMBER 2023 NEW BOOK SYNOPSIS

### FICTION

**Ashley Audrain**

***The whispers***

The Loverlys sit by the hospital bed of their young son who is in a coma after falling from his bedroom window in the middle of the night. Back home, their friends and neighbours are left in shock, each confronting their own role in the events that led up to what happened that night. The story spins out over the course of one week, in the alternating voices of the women in each family as they are forced to face the secrets within the walls of their own homes.

**Steve Berry**

***The 9th man***

Luke Daniel is in London, between assignments, when he receives a frantic call from an old friend, Jillian Stein who is in trouble. She made a mistake, now her life may be in danger and she needs Luke's help. Racing to Belgium Luke quickly finds that a shadow team of highly-trained operatives are there on the hunt. Intervening, he finds himself embroiled in a war between two determined sides — one seeking the truth, the other trying to escape the past.

**Sandra Brown**

***Out of nowhere***

At a Texas county fair, children's book author Elle Portman is enjoying a rare night out with her two-year-old son, Charlie. But just as they're about to head home, a shooter opens fire into the crowd, causing widespread panic. Also caught in the melee was corporate consultant Calder Hudson. Arrogant and high off his latest career win, he's frustrated and confused when he wakes up in the hospital after undergoing emergency surgery on his arm. The doctor tells him that he was lucky, that as far as gunshot wounds go, he pulled through remarkably well. Others weren't so lucky, which instills in Calder a furious determination to get justice, a goal shared by Elle.

**Brenda Chapman**

***Bleeding darkness***

David McKenna lies dying in a Kingston hospital, his children gathered from across the country to say a final goodbye. But the family reunion opens old wounds. David's only daughter, Lauren, never recovered from the unsolved murder of her high school best friend Zoe Delgado fourteen years earlier or the suspicion that her brother, Tristan, was behind it. Before David breathes his last, Tristan's pregnant wife, Vivian, disappears and the Major Crimes Unit is called in to help find her. With a winter storm sweeping the shores of Lake Ontario, the team uncovers clues that give more than one suspect a reason to kill.

**Tom Clancy/Don Bentley**

***Target acquired***

Jack Ryan Jr is on a simple job. An all-expenses paid trip to Israel in exchange for a of couple hours easy work, reporting back to an old friend at the CIA. Jack is here merely as an observer, but as he settles into his work in the market, he sees the glint of a knife, and throws himself in front of a woman and her young son under attack. Cover blown, he finds himself the target of trained killers.

**Patrick DeWitt**

***The librarianist***

Bob Comet is a retired librarian passing his solitary days surrounded by books and small comforts in his home in Portland, Oregon. One morning on his daily walk he encounters a confused elderly woman lost in a market and returns her to the senior centre. Hoping to fill the void he's known since retiring, he begins volunteering there. Here, as a community of strange peers gathers around Bob, and following a happenstance brush with a painful complication from his past, the events of his life and the details of his character are revealed.

**Therese Anne Fowler**

***A well-behaved woman***

In 1883, the New York Times prints a lengthy rave of Alva Vanderbilt's Fifth Ave. costume ball, a coup for the former Alva Smith, who not long before was destitute, her family's good name useless on its own. Marrying into the newly rich but socially scorned Vanderbilt clan, a union contrived by Alva's best friend and now Duchess of Manchester, saved the Smiths and elevated the Vanderbilts. From outside, Alva seems to have it all and want more.

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**Colleen Hoover**

***Too late***

Sloan will go through hell and back for those she loves. And she does so, every single day. Caught up with the alluring Asa Jackson, a notorious drug trafficker, Sloan has finally found a lifeline to cling to, even if it's meant compromising her morals. She was in dire straits trying to pay for her brother's care until she met Asa. But as Sloan became emotionally and economically reliant on him, he in turn developed a disturbing obsession with her, one that becomes increasingly dangerous every day.

**Nancy Horan**

***The house of Lincoln***

Showing intelligence beyond society's expectations, fourteen-year-old Ana Ferreira is offered a job in the Lincoln household assisting Mary Lincoln with their boys and with the hosting duties of the wife of a rising political star. Ana bears witness to the evolution of Lincoln's views on equality and the Union and observes in full complexity the psyche and pain of his bold, polarizing wife, Mary. Yet, alongside her dearest friend in the Black community, Ana confronts the racial prejudice her friend encounters daily as she watches the inner workings of the Underground Railroad and directly experiences how slavery contradicts the promise of freedom in her adopted country.

**Anthony Horowitz**

***With a mind to kill***

Behind the Iron Curtain, a group of former Smersh agents want to use the British spy in an operation that will change the balance of world power. Bond is smuggled into the lion's den - but whose orders is he following, and will he obey them when the moment of truth arrives?

**Lars Kepler**

***The spider***

Three years ago, Saga Bauer received a postcard with a threatening message. It mentioned a gun and nine white bullets, one of which was intended for Detective Joona Linna. According to the anonymous sender, Saga was the only person who could save him. But as time passed, the threat faded. That is, until now. A sack with a decomposing body has been found tied to a tree in the forest, and a milky white bullet casing turns up at the scene. Soon, the police begin to receive complicated riddles from the killer, taunting them with opportunities to stop further murders.

**Catherine Lloyd**

***Miss Morton and the English house party murder***

Following the suspicious death of her father, the Earl of Morton, and the discovery that she and her much younger sister have been left without income or home, Lady Caroline takes a post as a lady's companion to wealthy widow Mrs. Matilda (Matty) Frogerton. Eager to introduce herself and her rather wild daughter to the ton, Mrs. Frogerton is pleased when they are invited by Caroline's aunt, Lady Eleanor Greenwood, to a house party in the countryside. For her part, Caroline is eager to see her little sister, who now lives with their aunt. But all is not well at the Greenwood estate.

**Kirsty Manning**

***The Paris mystery***

Charlie James is chasing her first big scoop as correspondent for British-based newspaper, The Times, and she needs to prove to her boss that she can do this job as well, if not better, than her male counterparts. The best way to forge the necessary contacts quickly is to make well-connected British expats, Lord and Lady Ashworth, her business. Lady Eleanor knows everyone in Parisian high society, and at her sumptuously extravagant annual party, a Circus Ball, Charlie will meet them all. On the summer solstice eve, the Circus Ball is in full swing, with the Parisian elites entranced by burlesque dancers, tightrope walkers, a jazz band and a horrific murder.

**Meg Mason**

***Sorrow and bliss***

Martha knows there is something wrong with her but she doesn't know what it is. Her husband Patrick thinks she is fine. He says everyone has something, the thing is just to keep going. Martha told Patrick before they got married that she didn't want to have children. He said he didn't mind either way because he has loved her since he was fourteen and making her happy is all that matters, although he does not seem able to do it. By the time Martha finds out what is wrong, it is too late to get the only thing she has ever wanted.

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**Gillian McAllister**                      **Just another missing person**

22-year-old Olivia has been missing for one day and counting. She was last seen on CCTV, entering a dead-end alley. Julia, the detective heading up the search for Olivia, thinks she knows what to expect. A desperate family, a ticking clock, and long hours away from her husband and daughter. But she has no idea just how close to home this case is going to get.

**Karen McManus**                      **One of us is back**

Ever since Simon died in detention, life hasn't been easy for the Bayview Crew. First the Bayview Four had to prove they weren't killers. Then a new generation had to outwit a vengeful copycat. Now, it's beginning again. At first the mysterious billboard seems like a bad joke: Time for a new game, Bayview. But when a member of the crew disappears, it's clear this 'game' just got serious and no one understands the rules.

**Ann Patchett**                      **Tom Lake**

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theatre company at Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

**James Patterson/  
James O. Born**                      **Obsessed**

Aboard a police boat on the Hudson River, Detective Michael Bennett casts a wary eye into the rough water. NYPD is searching for a murder victim, a young college student. They find her tossed in the dark waves, dressed for a night out in a sparkly black gown. The gruesome sight fills Bennett with the dread only a father could fathom. As the obsessive killer extends his spree, a pattern emerges. One that Bennett's eldest daughter fits to a disturbing degree.

**James Patterson/  
Brendan DuBois**                      **Cross down**

Alex Cross is gravely injured. Only his partner and friend John Sampson can keep him safe and get justice. When military-style attacks erupt, brutally sidelining Cross, Sampson is sent reeling. The patterns are too random, Sampson's friend, his partner, his brother, have told him. Don't trust anyone. As a shadow force advances on the nation's capital, Sampson alone must protect the Cross family, his own young daughter, and every American, including the president.

**Kathy Reichs**                      **The bone hacker**

Called in to examine what is left of a body struck by lightning, Tempe traces an unusual tattoo to its source and is soon embroiled in a much larger case. Young men, tourists, have been disappearing on the islands of Turks and Caicos for years. Seven years ago, the first victim was found in a strange location with both hands cut off; the other visitors vanished without a trace. But, recently, tantalizing leads have emerged which only Tempe can unravel.

**Lloyd /Richards**                      **Maidens of the cave**

FBI Forensic anthropologist Christine Prusik has a knack for solving the most unusual cases and for bending the rules in the process. When the bodies of young women start appearing in the caves of Indiana and Illinois, Christine immediately jumps into action. But her Chicago field office is undergoing a reorganization, and seems more interested in getting all the paperwork in order than solving the murders. Christine isn't going to let a little red tape stop her, and when she discovers that all the bodies have the same mysterious pin-sized bruise on the back of their necks, she realizes she'll have to confront her own inner demons to find the killer.

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**Rachel Ryan**

***Someone you trust***

Amy jumps at the opportunity when she's offered a nannying job in picturesque West Cork. The assignment is for the friendly and welcoming Carroll family, whose stunning house is situated on a stretch of remote and rugged coastline overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. It's the perfect chance for Amy to escape the suffocating city and the man who made her life hell. However, soon it becomes clear that all is not well in the Carroll marriage, nor in their idyllic rural community.

**Riley Sager**

***The only one left***

The Hope family murders shocked the Maine coast in 1929. While most people assume seventeen-year-old Lenora was responsible, the police were never able to prove it. Other than her denial after the killings, she has never spoken publicly about that night, nor has she set foot outside Hope's End, the cliffside mansion where the massacre occurred. It's now 1983, and home-health aide Kit McDeere arrives at a decaying Hope's End to care for Lenora. In her seventies and confined to a wheelchair, Lenora was rendered mute by a series of strokes and can only communicate by tapping out sentences on an old typewriter. One night, Lenora uses it to make a tantalizing offer—I want to tell you everything.

**Daniel Silva**

***The collector***

On the morning after the Venice Preservation Society's annual black-tie gala, art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon enters his favourite coffee bar on the island of Murano to find General Cesare Ferrari, the commander of the Art Squad, awaiting his arrival. In the Amalfi villa of a murdered South African shipping tycoon, the Carabinieri have discovered a secret vault containing an empty frame and stretcher matching the dimensions of the world's most valuable missing painting, *The Concert* by Johannes Vermeer, one of thirteen works of art stolen from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990. General Ferrari asks Gabriel to quietly track down the artwork before the trail goes cold.

**Wilbur Smith**

***Nemesis***

Paris, 1794. Revolutionary fervour has erupted into the Reign of Terror. A young man, Paul Courtney, hides in a crowd watching as the condemned are brought to the guillotine. Among them is Constance Courtney, Paul's mother. As he watches her brutal execution, he knows he must avoid the same fate and fulfil his promise to her - to survive, no matter what.

Cape Town, 1806. Adam Courtney has spent his life in service to the navy and in the shadow of his father, the illustrious Admiral Robert Courtney. But when he returns home to Nativity Bay to find the homestead destroyed and the Courtney family murdered, Adam must accept his destiny and seek vengeance.

**Katie Tallo**

***Poison lilies***

After moving back to her hometown and solving her mother's murder, August (Gus) Monet thought she was done. Settled, content for the first time in her life. Now she's made a mistake she can't undo, so she packed all her things in the dead of night and took off to *The Ambassador*, an apartment building with cheap rent in one of Ottawa's oldest neighbourhoods. Gus also finds friendship in Poppy Honeywell, her reclusive neighbour perpetually wrapped in a pink kimono like an aging Old Hollywood starlet. She's also a descendant of the Mutchmores, one of the town's founding families. When a body is found in the pond of a nearby park, her connection to this powerful and wealthy family turns dangerous, possibly deadly.

*The Concert* by Johannes Vermeer, one of thirteen works of art stolen from Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990.

**Brad Thor**

***Dead fall***

In the war-ravaged borderlands of Ukraine, a Russian military unit has gone rogue. Its members, conscripted from the worst prisons and mental asylums across Russia, are the most criminally violent, psychologically dangerous combatants to ever set foot upon the modern battlefield. Simultaneously, a team of Russian mercenaries has been dispatched by the Kremlin to loot truckloads of art and priceless cultural treasures hidden away in a host of churches, museums, and private homes. When multiple American aid workers are killed, America's top spy is sent in to settle the score. But in a country almost

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the size of Texas, will Scot Harvath be able to find the men in question and, more importantly, will he be able to stop them before they can kill again?

**Emma Törzs**

***Ink blood sister scribe***

For generations, the Kalotay family has guarded a collection of ancient and rare books. Books that let a person walk through walls or manipulate the elements, books of magic that half-sisters Joanna and Esther have been raised to revere and protect. All magic comes with a price, though, and for years the sisters have been separated. Esther has fled to a remote base in Antarctica to escape the fate that killed her own mother, and Joanna's isolated herself in their family home in Vermont, devoting her life to the study of these cherished volumes. But after their father dies suddenly while reading a book Joanna has never seen before, the sisters must reunite to preserve their family legacy.

**Danielle Valentine**

***Delicate condition***

Anna Alcott is desperate to be pregnant. But as she tries to balance her increasingly public life with a gruelling IVF journey, she starts to suspect that someone is going to great lengths to make sure her pregnancy never happens. Crucial medicines are lost. Appointments get swapped without her knowledge. And even when she finally manages to get pregnant, not even her husband is willing to believe that someone's playing a twisted game with her. Then her doctor tells her she's had a miscarriage, except Anna's convinced she's still pregnant. Could it be that her mind is playing tricks on her? Or is something more sinister at play?

**Jess Walter**

***The cold millions***

The Dolans live by their wits, jumping freight trains and lining up for day work at crooked job agencies. While sixteen-year-old Rye yearns for a steady job and a home, his older brother, Gig, dreams of a better world, fighting alongside other union men for fair pay and decent treatment. Enter Ursula the Great, a vaudeville singer who performs with a live cougar and introduces the brothers to a far more dangerous creature: a mining magnate determined to keep his wealth and his hold on Ursula. Dubious of Gig's idealism, Rye finds himself drawn to a fearless nineteen-year-old activist and feminist named Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. But a storm is coming, threatening to overwhelm them all, and Rye will be forced to decide where he stands.

**Joshua Whitehead**

***Jonny Appleseed***

"You're gonna need a rock and a whole lotta medicine" is a mantra that Jonny Appleseed, a young Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer, repeats to himself while trying to find ways to live and love in the big city. Jonny becomes a cybersex worker who fetishizes himself in order to make a living. Self-ordained as an NDN glitter princess, Jonny has one week before he must return to the "rez," and his former life, to attend the funeral of his stepfather. The next seven days are like a fevered dream: stories of love, trauma, sex, kinship, ambition, and the heartbreaking recollection of his beloved kokum (grandmother). Jonny's world is a series of breakages, appendages, and linkages and as he goes through the motions of preparing to return home, he learns how to put together the pieces of his life.

**Ellen Marie Wiseman**

***The orphan collector***

In the fall of 1918, thirteen-year-old German immigrant Pia Lange longs to be far from Philadelphia's overcrowded slums and the anti-immigrant sentiment that compelled her father to enlist in the U.S. Army. But as her city celebrates the end of war, an even more urgent threat arrives: the Spanish flu. When food runs out, Pia must venture alone into the quarantined city in search of supplies, leaving her baby brothers behind.

Bernice Groves has become lost in grief and bitterness since her baby died from the Spanish flu. Watching Pia leave her brothers alone, Bernice makes a shocking, life-altering decision. It becomes her sinister mission to tear families apart when they're at their most vulnerable, planning to transform the city's orphans and immigrant children into what she feels are "true Americans."

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### NON-FICTION

**Sharon Easton**

***Beach moose & amber: finding my Jewish history***

When Sharon found typewritten pages tucked in the back of her deceased father's accordion folder, she had no idea she was holding an invitation to the greatest writing adventure of her life. The pages were her mother's final attempt to record her Jewish family's history — a history that she had kept secret for decades. Sharon's mother was clear in her writing, "All I ask is that you not forget me." With her mother's written permission to explore the past, Sharon embarked on a journey that would take her from the Russian Revolution to Nazi-occupied Lithuania, onto rural Nova Scotia, Canada. The journey was often painful, as Sharon learned more about her Jewish identity and uncovered the trauma her family had experienced before and during the Holocaust.

**Larry Loftis**

***The watchmaker's daughter: the true story of World War II heroine  
Corrie ten Boom***

This is the remarkable and inspiring life story of Corrie ten Boom, a female Dutch watchmaker, whose family unselfishly transformed their house into a hiding place to shelter Jews and refugees from the Nazis during Gestapo raids. Even though the Nazis knew what the ten Booms were up to, they were never able to find those sheltered within the house when they raided it. Corrie stopped at nothing to face down the evils of her time and overcame unbelievable obstacles and odds. She persevered despite the loss of most of her family and relied on her faith to survive the horrors of a notorious concentration camp. But even more remarkable than her heroism and survival was Corrie's attitude when she was released. Miraculously, she was able to eschew bitterness and embrace forgiveness as she ministered to people in need around the globe. Corrie's ability to forgive is just one of the myriad lessons that her life story holds for readers today.