

**NANOOSE LIBRARY**  
**FEBRUARY 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES**

**FICTION**

***Mitch Albon***

***The little liar***

Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis never told a lie. When the Nazi's invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is convince his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading to "new homes" where they are promised jobs and safety. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the boy goes to the station platform every day and reassures the passengers that the journey is safe. But when the final train is at the station, Nico sees his family being loaded into a large boxcar crowded with other neighbours. Only after it is too late does Nico discover that he helped send the people he loved and all the others to their doom at Auschwitz.

***Ella Berman***

***Before we were innocent***

Ten years ago, after a summer spent in Greece, best friends Bess and Joni were cleared of having any involvement in their friend Evangeline's death. But that didn't stop the media from ripping apart their teenage lives. Joni, ever the opportunist, capitalized on her newfound infamy to become a motivational speaker. Bess, on the other hand, resolved to make her life as small and controlled as possible so she wouldn't risk losing everything all over again. And it almost worked.

***Audrey Blake***

***The surgeon's daughter***

Nora Beady, the only female student at a prestigious medical school in Bologna, is a rarity. In the 19th century women are expected to remain at home and raise children, so her unconventional, indelicate ambitions to become a licensed surgeon offend the men around her. Under constant scrutiny, Nora's successes are taken for granted; her mistakes used as proof that women aren't suited to the field.

***David Blake***

***Bluebell Wood***

Set within the Norfolk Broads, England - a hanging man's body found by an uncontrollable dog, a murdered historian with an unpublished book, and a mysterious cottage, hiding in the shadows of Bluebell Wood.

***Matthew Blake***

***Anna O.***

Anna Ogilvy was a twenty-five-year-old budding writer. Then, one night, she stabbed two people to death with no apparent motive and hasn't woken up since. Dubbed "Sleeping Beauty" by the tabloids, Anna's condition is a rare psychosomatic disorder known to neurologists as "resignation syndrome." Dr. Benedict Prince is a forensic psychologist and an expert in the field of sleep-related homicides. His methods are the last hope of solving the infamous "Anna O" case and waking Anna up so she can stand trial.

***Jack Carr***

***Only the dead***

1978, Rhode Island. A freshman senator is gunned down, sending shockwaves through Washington that are still reverberating over four decades later. Now: In a world on the brink of war, facing rampant inflation, political division and shocking assassinations, a secret cabal of global elites are ready to assume control. And with the world's most dangerous man locked in solitary confinement, the conspirators believe the final obstacle to complete domination has been eliminated. They're wrong.

***Tamara Cherry***

***All the bumpy pebbles***

When it comes to bad days, Roxanne Brown has had more than most. Her mom's a drunk and her dad's not around. Soon, a seemingly serendipitous encounter gives her a reason to celebrate. He's cute and confident and best of all, he likes her. But Roxanne has been duped. And as she plummets down the rabbit hole, crumbs of herself are left in all the dark places we would rather not see.

***Lee Child/Andrew Chid***

***The secret***

Another in the Jack Reacher series. Eight respectable, upstanding people have been found dead across the US. These deaths look like accidents and don't appear to be connected. Until one body, the victim of a fatal fall from a hospital window, generates some unexpected attention. That attention comes from the Secretary of Defence, who promptly calls for an inter-agency task force to investigate.

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**Michael Connelly**                      **Resurrection walk**

Defense attorney Mickey Haller is back, taking the long shot cases. After getting a wrongfully convicted man out of prison, he is inundated with pleas from incarcerated people claiming innocence. He enlists his half brother, retired LAPD Detective Harry Bosch, to weed through the letters, knowing most claims will be false. Bosch pulls a needle from the haystack: a woman in prison for killing her husband, a sheriff's deputy, but who still maintains her innocence. Bosch reviews the case and sees elements that don't add up, and a sheriff's department intent on bringing quick justice in the killing of one of its own.

**Helen Cooper**                              **The couple in the photo**

Lucy and her husband, Adam, have been best friends with Cora and Scott for years. The four vacation together, co-own a beach cottage, and their young children are inseparable. So Lucy is devastated when, while looking at a colleague's photos of a trip to the Maldives, she spots a picture of Scott, apparently on a luxurious holiday with another woman. Lucy is determined to protect her best friend from her husband's seeming infidelity.

**Patricia Cornwell**                      **Unnatural death**

Chief medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta finds herself in a Northern Virginia wilderness examining the remains of two campers wanted by federal law enforcement. The victims have been mauled beyond recognition, and other evidence includes a larger-than-life footprint. After the most frightening body retrievals of her career, Scarpetta must discover who would commit murders this savage, and why.

**Jane Corry**                                  **Coming to find you**

Nancy's mother and stepfather have been brutally killed, and after a trial that gripped the nation, her stepbrother has been convicted of the double murders. But the end of the trial is just the beginning of a new nightmare for Nancy: the press is rabid, certain that Nancy isn't the grieving daughter she's presenting to the world.

**Jeffery Deaver**                              **The final twist**

Colter Shaw is hot on the trail of a missing person whose disappearance he desperately hopes to explain: his own father. Following the enigmatic clues his father left behind, Shaw explores one site after another, seeing clearly for the first time what strange business his father was up to and what dangerous people he was working against. But when Shaw is caught by these same people, he's rescued by an intruder: his own older brother Russell, from whom he's been estranged for more than a decade.

**Jeffery Deaver**                              **The midnight lock**

When a woman arrives home to her Manhattan apartment to find that her personal items have been rearranged while she slept, police initially dismiss her complaint. Nothing was stolen, and there's no sign of breaking and entering. But when the same woman turns up dead, Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs are brought in to investigate the murder.

**Ashley Elston**                              **First lie wins**

Evie Porter has everything a nice, Southern girl could want: a perfect, doting boyfriend, a house with a white picket fence and a garden, a fancy group of friends. The only catch: Evie Porter doesn't exist. The identity comes first: Evie Porter. Once she's given a name and location by her mysterious boss Mr. Smith, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the mark: Ryan Sumner. The last piece of the puzzle is the job. Evie isn't privy to Mr. Smith's real identity, but she knows this job will be different. Ryan has gotten under her skin, and she's starting to envision a different sort of life for herself. But Evie can't make any mistakes, especially after what happened last time.

**Tan Twan Eng**                              **The house of doors**

1921. Lesley Hamlyn and her husband, Robert, a lawyer and war veteran, are living at Cassowary House on the Straits Settlement of Penang. When "Willie" Somerset Maugham, a famed writer and old friend of

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Robert's, arrives for an extended visit with his secretary Gerald, the pair threatens a rift that could alter more lives than one.

***Katherine Faulkner***

***The other mothers***

When a young nanny is found dead in mysterious circumstances, new mom, Tash, is intrigued. She has been searching for a story to launch her career as a freelance journalist. But she has also been searching for new friends to help her navigate motherhood. But when another young woman is found dead, it's clear there's much more to the community than meets the eye. The more Tash investigates, the more she's led uncomfortably close to the other mothers.

***Julia Kelly***

***The lost English girl***

Liverpool, 1935: Raised in a strict Catholic family, Viv Byrne knows what's expected of her: marry a Catholic man from her working-class neighbourhood. However, when she finds herself pregnant after a fling with Joshua Levinson, a Jewish man with dreams of becoming a famous Jazz musician, Viv knows that a swift wedding is the only answer. Her only solace is that marrying Joshua will mean escaping her strict mother's scrutiny. But when Joshua makes a life-changing choice on their wedding day, Viv is forced once again into the arms of her disapproving family. Five years later and on the eve of World War II, Viv is faced with the impossible choice to evacuate her young daughter, Maggie, to the countryside estate of the affluent Thompson family. In New York City, Joshua gives up his failing musical career to serve in the Royal Air Force, fight for his country, and try to piece together his feelings about the family he left behind.

***Philip Kerr***

***Metropolis***

Berlin, 1928, shortly before Hitler and the Nazis came to power was a period of decadence and excess as Berliners after the terrible slaughter of WWI and the hardships that followed are enjoying their own version of Babylon. Bernie is a young detective working in Vice when he gets a summons from Bernard Weiss, Chief of Berlin's Criminal Police. He invites Bernie to join Criminal Inspection A, the supervisory body for all homicide investigation in Kripo. Bernie's first task is to investigate the Silesian Station killings - four prostitutes murdered in as many weeks. All of them have been hit over the head with a hammer and then scalped with a sharp knife.

***Andrea Mara***

***No one saw a thing***

You stand on a crowded tube platform in London. Your two little girls jump on the train ahead of you. As you try to join them, the doors slide shut and the train moves away, leaving you behind. By the time you get to the next stop, you've convinced yourself that everything will be fine. But you soon start to panic, because there aren't two children waiting for you on the platform. There's only one.

***Alex Michaelides***

***The fury***

Lana Farrar is a reclusive ex-movie star and one of the most famous women in the world. Every year, she invites her closest friends to spend Easter on her idyllic private Greek island. The friends are trapped there overnight. Old friendships concealed hatred and a desire for revenge. What followed was a game of cat and mouse, full of twists and turns, building to an unforgettable climax.

***Clemence Michallon***

***The quiet tenant***

Aidan Thomas is a hard-working family man in the small upstate New York town where he lives. He's the kind of man who always lends a hand and has a good word for everyone. But Aidan has a dark secret he's been keeping from everyone in town. He's a kidnapper and serial killer. Aidan has murdered eight women and there's a ninth he has earmarked for death: Rachel, imprisoned in a backyard shed, fearing for her life. When Aidan's wife dies, he and his thirteen-year-old daughter Cecilia are forced to move. Aidan has no choice but to bring Rachel along, introducing her to Cecilia as a "family friend" who needs a place to stay. Aidan is betting on Rachel, after five years of captivity, being too brainwashed and fearful to attempt to escape.

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**Anne Michaels**

***Held***

1917. On a battlefield near the River Aisne, John lies in the aftermath of a blast, unable to move or feel his legs. Struggling to focus his thoughts, he is lost to memory. Three years later, John has returned from war to North Yorkshire, near another river—alive, but not whole. Reunited with Helena, an artist, he reopens his photography business and endeavours to keep on living. But the past erupts insistently into the present, as ghosts begin to surface whose messages he cannot understand.

**Ellie Midwood**

***The girl on the platform***

Berlin, 1939: Libby is determined to start a new life as far away as possible from her family and their alliance with the Nazis. But in the city, there's no escape from Hitler's brutal regime. And when Libby's friend vanishes into thin air, she cannot stand back and do nothing. And then Libby meets Harro and her world tips upside down as they fall in love. But she knows there's a story behind his cornflower-blue eyes. The whip marks on his back, scars from the SS, tell his secret: he is a resistance fighter. Harro draws Libby into the world of the resistance, and their life grows increasingly dangerous as they do everything they can to bring about Hitler's downfall.

**Rick Mofina**

***Missing daughter***

Life can change in an instant. For Ryan and Karen Lane, it happens on the morning they discover their twelve-year-old daughter's window open, their beloved Maddie missing from her bed. Police investigate. Suspicions swirl. A teenage boy admits he was outside her bedroom window the night she disappeared. A halfway house for convicts recently opened in the neighbourhood. The Lane family is thrown into turmoil, then detectives turn their sights on them.

**James Patterson**

**Brendan DuBois**

***Blowback***

US President Keegan Barrett has swept into office on his success as Director of the CIA. Six months into his first term, he devises a clandestine power grab with deadly consequences. Barrett personally orders CIA agents Liam Grey and Noa Himel to execute his plan, but their loyalties are divided. The CIA serves at the pleasure of the president, yet they've sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

**James Patterson**

**Brendan DuBois**

***Countdown***

Agent Amy Cornwall excels at working from the shadows until a botched field operation reveals dark dealings between her bosses and an informant. And a hidden plot by a terrorist genius that could kill thousands of Americans. Among them: her husband and daughter. She has to go dark. The Division wants to erase her. And they know every detail about her identity, her history, and her family.

**Shelley Read**

***Go as a river***

On a cool autumn day in 1948, Victoria Nash delivers late-season peaches from her family's farm in Colorado. As she heads into her village, a disheveled stranger stops to ask her the way. How she chooses to answer will unknowingly alter the course of both their young lives.

**Hannah Richell**

***The search party***

Max and Annie Kingsley have left the London rat race with their twelve-year-old son to set up a glamping site in Cornwall. Eager for a dry run ahead of their opening, they invite three old university friends and their families for a long-needed reunion. But the festivities soon go awry as tensions arise between the children (and subsequently their parents), explosive secrets come to light, and a sudden storm moves in, cutting them off from help as one in the group disappears.

**James Rollins**

***Tides of fire***

The Titan Project, an international research station off the coast of Australia, discovers a thriving zone of life in an otherwise dead sea. The area teems with a strange bioluminescent coral that defies science, yet holds great promise for the future. But the loss of a military submarine in the area triggers a brutal

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attack and sets in motion a geological disaster that destabilizes an entire region. As seas turn toxic and coastlines burn, can Sigma Force stop what has been let loose.?

**Aimie K. Runyan**

**A bakery in Paris**

1870: The Prussians are at the city gates, intent to starve Paris into submission. Lisette Vigneau, headstrong, willful, and often ignored by her wealthy parents, awaits the outcome of the war from her parents' grand home in the Place Royale in the very heart of the city. When an excursion throws her into the path of a revolutionary National Guardsman, Theodore Fournier, her destiny is forever changed. She gives up her life of luxury to join in the fight for a Paris of the People. She opens a small bakery with the hopes of being a vital boon to the impoverished neighbourhood in its hour of need. When the city falls into famine, and then rebellion, her resolve to give up the comforts of her past life is sorely tested.

**Lisa See**

**Lady Tan's circle of women**

Tan Yunxian, born into an elite family, is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine. From a young age, Yunxian learns about women's illnesses, many of which relate to childbearing, alongside a young midwife-in-training, Meiling. The two girls find fast friendship and a mutual purpose. But when Yunxian is sent into an arranged marriage, her mother-in-law forbids her from seeing Meiling and from helping the females in the household.

**NON-FICTION**

**Jason Bell**

***Cracking the Nazi code: the untold story of Canada's greatest spy***

In public life, Dr. Winthrop Bell of Halifax was a Harvard philosophy professor and wealthy businessman. As MI6 secret agent A12, he evaded gunfire and shook off pursuers to break open the emerging Nazi conspiracy in 1919 Berlin. His reports, the first warning of the Nazi plot for WWII, went directly to the man known as C, the mysterious founder of MI6, and to prime ministers. His intelligence sabotaged the Nazis in ways only now revealed. Bell became a spy once again in the face of WWII. In 1939, he was the first to crack Hitler's deadliest secret code: the Holocaust. At that time, the führer was a popular politician who said he wanted peace. Could anyone believe Bell's shocking warning? Fighting an epic intelligence war from Ukraine, Russia and Poland to France, Germany, Canada and Washington, DC, A12 was the real-life 007, waging a single-handed fight against madmen bent on destroying the world.

**Tamara Cherry**

***The trauma beat: a case for re-thinking the business of bad news***

Former big-city crime reporter Tamara Cherry examines the impact of the media on trauma survivors, and the impact of trauma on members of the media. As she documents the experiences of those who were forced to suffer on the public stage, she is confronted by everything she got wrong on the crime beat.

**Matt Haig**

***Notes on a nervous planet***

The societies we live in are increasingly making our minds ill, making it feel as though the way we live is engineered to make us unhappy. When Matt Haig developed panic disorder, anxiety, and depression as an adult, it took him a long time to work out the ways the external world could impact his mental health in both positive and negative ways. Notes on a Nervous Planet collects his observations, taking a look at how the various social, commercial and technological "advancements" that have created the world we now live in can actually hinder our happiness.

**Katherine Rundell**

***Super-infinite: the transformations of John Donne***

A modern biography of John Donne: the poet of love, sex, and death. Sometime religious outsider and social disaster, sometime celebrity preacher and establishment darling, John Donne was incapable of being just one thing. In his myriad lives he was a scholar of law, a sea adventurer, a priest, an MP and perhaps the greatest love poet in the history of the English language. He was a man who suffered from black surges of misery, yet expressed in his verse many breathtaking impressions of electric joy and love.