

Books Read: Winter 2020

A summary of what you've all been reading – sorted by marks out of 10 where given! The format numbers indicate totals available within the library system, but will vary according to what is currently on loan.

The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul

Deborah Roderiges

In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together.

10

6 x normal print, 2 x large print

The Dun Cow Rib

John Lister-Kaye

John Lister-Kaye has spent a lifetime exploring, protecting and celebrating the British landscape and its creatures. His memoir is the story of a boy's awakening to the wonders of the natural world. Lister-Kaye's joyous childhood holidays - spent scrambling through hedges and ditches after birds and small beasts, keeping pigeons in the loft and tracking foxes around the edge of the garden - were the perfect apprenticeship for his two lifelong passions: exploring the wonders of nature, and writing about them.

9.5

>10 x normal print, 1 x audio, e-book

No Place for a Woman

Val Wood

In 1897, four-year-old Lucy Thornbury's parents are killed in a train crash. Taken in by her kindly uncle and aunt and their son, Lucy overcomes the trauma of her childhood and grows up inspired to become a doctor, just like her father was. But training as a doctor in London takes Lucy far away from home and the people she loves, and she has to battle to be accepted in a man's world. And with the dark clouds of the First World War gathering on the horizon, will Lucy be able to follow her dreams and find love in a world shattered by war?

9

>10 normal print, 2 large print, 1 x audio

The Secrets of the Lighthouse

Santa Montifiore

Ellen Trawton is running away from it all. She is due to get married to a man she doesn't love, her job is dragging her down and her interfering mother is getting on her nerves. So she escapes to the one place she knows her mother won't follow her, to her aunt's house. Once there, she uncovers a dark secret and a future she never knew she had.

9

>10 x normal print, 1 x audio

The Last Wilderness

Neil Ansell

Neil Ansell first visited the Rough Bounds, in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland, decades ago when he was just twenty; it was the wildest landscape he's ever seen, and was the beginning of years of travel, seeking out the world's dramatic places. In this book, he journeys to the area again, five times over the course of a year, exploring the nature of solitary travel and what effects the seasons can have on a specific place and on a person.

9

10 x normal print

Fascism: A Warning

Madeleine Korbel Albright

This title provides a personal look at the history and current resurgence of fascism and the virulent threat it poses to international freedom, prosperity, and peace.

Fascinating and a warning about today's world. Can dip in and out.

9

3 x normal print, e-book

Persuasion

Jane Austen

Jane Austen's final completed work, 'Persuasion', is the story of Anne Elliot and her love for Frederick Wentworth. After being persuaded to break off the engagement, Anne resigns herself to living off her memories. However, years later she meets Wentworth once more, and she starts to believe in second chances.

Depite having asked for an Austen, they weren't too sure about re-reading it - and then loved it again!

9

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, 2 x audio, e-book,

The Name of the Family

Sarah Dunant

1502 and Renaissance Italy is in turmoil. Backed by the money and wily power of his ageing father Pope Alexander VI, Cesare Borgia is soaring like a military comet, carving out a state for the Borgia dynasty. From Florence, a young diplomat, one Niccolo Machiavelli, is sent to shadow him to keep track of the danger. While many tremble in the presence of this brilliant unscrupulous man, Machiavelli is entranced and the relationship he forges with Cesare allows him - and us - to witness history in the making. Meanwhile, the Pope's beloved daughter Lucrezia is on her way to a third dynastic marriage in the state of Ferrara, where if she is to survive she must fast produce an heir for the rival Este family.

Fascinating story, beautifully written

9

>10 x normal print

Remarkable Creatures

Tracey Chevalier

In the year of the 150th anniversary of 'Origin of the Species', set in a town where Jane Austen was a frequent visitor, Tracy Chevalier once again shows her uncanny sense for the topical.

8.5

>10 x normal print, 1 x audio, 1 x large print, e-book

Comforts of Home

Susan Hill

Recovering on a remote Scottish island, his peace doesn't last long. He is pulled in to a murder inquiry by the overstretched local police. A newcomer, popular with the islanders, has died in perplexing circumstances. The community's reactions are complicated and fragile. It's good to be back on the job. And when Simon returns to Lafferton, an arsonist is on the rampage and a woman whose daughter disappeared some years before is haunting the police station seeking closure. She will not let it rest, and Simon is called in to do a cold-case review. At home, Simon is starting to get used to having a new brother-in-law - in the form of his Chief Constable Kieron Bright. His sister Cat has embarked on a new way of practising medicine, and his nephew Sam is trying to work out what to do with his life. And then their tricky father, Richard, turns up again like a bad penny.

A Simon Serraller novel. Everybody enjoyed this and Susan Hill's "feminine" touches in a murder mystery written through the eyes of a male detective.

8

The Tattooist of Auschwitz

Heather Morris

This novel is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, who survived Auschwitz and eventually made their home in Australia. In that terrible place, Lale was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - literally scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

Good score from everyone.

8

>10 normal print, 3 large print, ebook

The Sea Change

Joanna Rossiter

Yesterday was Alice's wedding day. She is thousands of miles away from the home she is so desperate to leave, on the southernmost tip of India, when she wakes in the morning to see a wave on the horizon, taller than the height of her guest house on Kanyakumari beach. Her husband is nowhere to be seen. On the other side of the world, unhappily estranged from her daughter, is Alice's mother, Violet. Forced to leave the idyllic Wiltshire village, Imber, in which she grew up after

it was requisitioned by the army during World War Two, Violet is haunted by the shadow of the man she loved and the wilderness of a home that lies in ruins.

A pleasant surprise despite the rather misleading cover picture. Would definitely recommend. Worth a second read

8

9 x normal print, 1 x audio

The Ghost

Robert Harris

Set in America, in Martha's Vineyard, 'The Ghost' tells the story of a writer who accepts the request to ghost the memoirs of Britain's former Prime Minister. He soon realises he has made a terrible mistake. The ex-Prime Minister turns out to be a man with secrets in his past that are returning to haunt him - secrets with the power to kill.

8

9 x normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio

Brooklyn

Colm Toibin

In a small town in the south-east of Ireland in the 1950s, Eilis Lacey is among many of her generation who cannot find work at home. So when she is offered a job in America, she leaves her family to start a new life in Brooklyn, New York.

Enjoyed

8

>10 normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book

The Penguin Lessons

Tom Mitchell

Tom Mitchell is in his roaring 20s: single, free-spirited and seeking adventure. He has a plane ticket to South America, a teaching position in a prestigious Argentinian boarding school and endless summer holidays. He even has a motorbike! What he doesn't need is a pet. What he really doesn't need is a pet penguin. Set against Argentina's turbulent years, following the collapse of the corrupt Peronist regime, this is the heart-warming story of Juan Salvador the penguin, rescued by Tom from an oil slick in Uruguay just days before a new term. When the bird refuses to leave Tom's side, he has no choice but to smuggle it through customs, across the border and back to school, where it soon transforms the lives of all they meet.

8

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, e-book

This Boy

Alan Johnson

This is the story of two incredible women: Alan Johnson's mother, Lily, who battled against poor health, poverty, domestic violence and loneliness to try to ensure a better future for her children; and his sister, Linda, who had to assume an enormous amount of responsibility to protect her family.

8

>10 x normal print, 4 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book,

The Horseman

Tom Pears

In a forgotten valley, on the Devon-Somerset border, the seasons unfold, marked only by the rituals of the farming calendar. Twelve-year-old Leopold Sercombe skips school to help his father, a carter. Skinny and pale, with eyes as dark as sloes, Leo dreams of a job on the Master's stud farm. As ploughs furrow the hard January fields, the Master's daughter, young Miss Charlotte, shocks the estate's tenants by wielding a gun at the annual shoot. Spring comes, Leo watches swallows build their nests, hedgerows thrum with life and days lengthen into summer. Leo is breaking a colt for his

father when a boy dressed in a Homburg, breeches and riding boots appears. Peering under the stranger's hat, he discovers Charlotte. And so a friendship begins, bound by a deep love of horses, but divided by rigid social boundaries - boundaries that become increasingly difficult to navigate as they approach adolescence.

8

>10 normal print, 1 x audio, 3 x large print, ebook

I am, I am, I am

Maggie O'Farrell

'I Am, I Am, I Am' is a memoir with a difference - the unputdownable story of an extraordinary woman's life in near-death experiences. Insightful, inspirational, intelligent, it is a book to be read at a sitting, a story you finish newly conscious of life's fragility, determined to make every heartbeat count.

8

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, 1 x audio

Death at La Fenice

Donna Leon

The celebrated opera house, La Fenice, has seen its share of death. But nothing so horrific and violent as that of conductor, Maestro Helmut Wellauer, poisoned during a performance of La Traviata. Can Commissario Guido Brunetti solve the crime?

7

>10 normal print

A Keeper

Graham Norton

Elizabeth Keane returns to Ireland after her mother's death, intent only on wrapping up that dismal part of her life. There is nothing here for her; she wonders if there ever was. The house of her childhood is stuffed full of useless things, her mother's presence already fading. And perhaps, had she not found the small stash of letters, the truth would never have come to light. 40 years earlier, a

young woman stumbles from a remote stone house, the night quiet but for the tireless wind that circles her as she hurries further into the darkness away from the cliffs and the sea. She has no sense of where she is going, only that she must keep on.

Quite popular

7

>10 x normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio

Keeper of Lost Things

Ruth Hogan

Once a celebrated author of short stories now in his twilight years, Anthony Peardew has spent half his life lovingly collecting lost objects, trying to atone for a promise broken many years before. Realising he is running out of time, he leaves his house and all its lost treasures to his assistant Laura, the one person he can trust to fulfil his legacy and reunite the thousands of objects with their rightful owners. But the final wishes of the Keeper of Lost Things have unforeseen repercussions which trigger a most serendipitous series of encounters. With an unforgettable cast of characters that includes young girls with special powers, handsome gardeners, irritable ghosts and an array of irresistible four-legged friends, 'The Keeper of Lost Things' is a debut novel of endless possibilities and joyful discoveries that will leave you bereft once you've finished reading.

Some lovely characters. Difficult subjects covered, too close for comfort for some in this age range.

7

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, 1 x audio

Skylark's War

Hilary McKay

Clarry and her older brother Peter live for their summers in Cornwall, staying with their grandparents and running free with their charismatic cousin, Rupert. But normal life resumes each September - boarding school for Peter and Rupert, and a boring life for Clarry at home with her absent father, as the shadow of a terrible war looms ever closer. When Rupert goes off to fight at the front, Clarry feels their skylark summers are finally slipping away from them. Can their family survive this fearful war?

Technically a book for older children, but well written and engaging story.

7

>10 x normal print, 1 x audio, e-book

Seven Days of Us

Francesca Hornak

It's Christmas, and the Birch family are coming together at their second home in Norfolk. Emma and Andrew's daughter, Olivia, is back for the first time in years, and while Emma is elated at them all being under one roof, her younger, more frivolous daughter Phoebe is braced for inevitable clashes. But aid worker Olivia is only home because she has nowhere else to go. Having recently returned from Africa, where she's been treating a life-threatening virus, she has been told that she must stay in quarantine for a week, and so, too should her family. For the next seven days, no one can leave the house, and no one can enter. It doesn't sound too hard. But a week with your nearest and dearest can feel like an eternity, especially when they're all harbouring secrets.

One lady loved it, the others said it was OK. Quite topical.

7

7 x normal print, 2 x large print

The Woman in the Window

A.J.Finn

It's been ten long months since Anna Fox last left her home. Ten months during which she has haunted the rooms of her old New York house like a ghost, lost in her memories, too terrified to step outside. Anna's lifeline to the real world is her window, where she sits day after day, watching her neighbours. When the Russells move in, Anna is instantly drawn to them. A picture-perfect family of three, they are an echo of the life that was once hers. But one evening, a frenzied scream rips across the silence, and Anna witnesses something no one was supposed to see. Now she must do everything she can to uncover the truth about what really happened. But even if she does, will anyone believe her? And can she even trust herself?

6.5

>10 x normal print, e-book

The Tattooist of Auschwitz

Heather Morris

This novel is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, who survived Auschwitz and eventually made their home in Australia. In that terrible place, Lale was given the job of tattooing the prisoners marked for survival - literally scratching numbers into his fellow victims' arms in indelible ink to create what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust.

6.5

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book, e-audio

The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle

Stuart Turton

As fireworks explode overhead, Evelyn Hardcastle, the young and beautiful daughter of the house, is killed. But Evelyn will not die just once. Until Aiden - one of the guests summoned to Blackheath for the party - can solve her murder, the day will repeat itself, over and over again. Every time ending with the fateful pistol shot. The only way to break this cycle is to identify the killer. But each time the day begins again, Aiden wakes in the body of a different guest. And someone is determined to prevent him ever escaping Blackheath.

this is a bit of a marmite book and it's not to be recommended for readers who need a clear and logical story! Nevertheless, one of my ladies awarded it 11 out of 10 and read it twice - another gave it just 1 out of 10 - as I said, marmite - overall it sc

6.2

>10 x normal print, 1 audio, e-book

The Mitford Murders

Jessica Fellowes

It's 1919, and Louisa Cannon dreams of escaping her life of poverty in London, and most of all her oppressive and dangerous uncle. Louisa's salvation is a position within the Mitford household at Asthall Manor, in the Oxfordshire countryside. There she will become nurserymaid, chaperone and confidante to the Mitford sisters, especially 16-year-old Nancy - an acerbic, bright young woman in love with stories. But then a nurse - Florence Nightingale Shore, goddaughter of her famous

namesake - is killed on a train in broad daylight, and Louisa and Nancy find themselves entangled in the crimes of a murderer who will do anything to hide their secret.

Quite lightweight, mixed response.

6

> 10 normal print, 3 large print, 2 audio

These Foolish Things

Deborah Moggach

Published 2012 as: The best exotic Marigold Hotel. 'These Foolish Things' is about Dunroamin, a converted guesthouse in Bangladore, where Sonny sets up a home for old people. Travel and set-up are inexpensive, staff willing and plentiful - and the British pensioners can enjoy the hot weather and mango juice with their gin.

6

3 normal print, 2 audio book, 1 e-book

The Librarian

Sally Vickers

Sylvia Blackwell, a young woman in her twenties, moves to East Mole, a quaint market town in middle England, to start a new job as a children's librarian. But the apparently pleasant town is not all it seems. Sylvia falls in love with an older man - but it's her connection to his precocious young daughter and her neighbours' son which will change her life and put them, the library and her job under threat. How does the library alter the young children's lives and how do the children fare as a result of the books Sylvia introduces them to?

Gentle and fairly enjoyable. First section bit lengthy, picks up in part 2.

6

>10 normal print, 1 x audio

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society

Mary Schaffer and Annie Barrows

t's January, 1946, and writer Juliet Ashton sits at her desk, vainly seeking a subject for her next book. Out of the blue, she receives a letter from one Dawsey Adams of Guernsey - by chance, he's acquired a secondhand book that once belonged to Juliet - and, spurred on by their mutual love of Charles Lamb, they begin a correspondence.

Not keen

6

>10 normal print, 1 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book and e-audio

Elizabeth is Missing

Emma Healey

'Elizabeth is missing', reads the note in Maud's pocket in her own handwriting. Lately, Maud's been getting forgetful. She keeps buying peach slices when she has a cupboard full, forgets to drink the cups of tea she's made and writes notes to remind herself of things. But Maud is determined to discover what has happened to her friend, Elizabeth, and what it has to do with the unsolved disappearance of her sister Sukey, years back, just after the war.

6

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book

Animal Farm

George Orwell

Having got rid of their human masters, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. Orwell's allegoric story of the betrayal of idealism through tyranny and corruption is as fresh today as when it was first published in 1945.

6

9 x normal print

The Uninvited Guests

Sadie Jones

One evening in 1912, in the kitchens at Sterne, preparations begin for a supper party in honour of Emerald Torrington's 20th birthday. But only a few miles away, an accident propels a crowd of mysterious and not altogether savoury survivors to seek shelter at the ramshackle manor - and the household is thrown into confusion and mischief.

Very strange plot, but possibly hidden depths. A psychological ghost story with some unusual twists. I was impressed by her use of language. Again, a mixed response.

5

4 normal print, 1 large print, 1 e-audio

My Brilliant Friend

Elena Ferranti

This novel is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship.

5

2 x normal print, 1 audio, 1 e-audio

One Pair of Feet

Monica Dickens

As the effects of the war raging in Europe begin to be felt at home in London, Monica Dickens decides to do her bit and to pursue a new career, and so enrolls as a student nurse at a hospital in rural Hertfordshire. By nature clever and spirited, she struggles to submit to the iron rule of the Matron and Sisters, and is alternately infuriated and charmed by her patients. That's not to mention the mountains of menial work that are a trainee's lot. But there are friends among the staff and patients, night-time escapades to dances with dashing army men, and her secret writing project to keep her going.

5

7 x large print, 1 x large print, 1 x audio.

Cousins

Sally Vickers

Will Tye suffers a life changing accident. The terrible event ripples through three generations of the complex and eccentric Tye family, bringing to light old tragedies and dangerous secrets. Each member of the family holds some clue to the chain of events which may have led to the accident and each holds themselves to blame. Most closely affected is Will's cousin Cecelia, whose affinity with Will leaves her most vulnerable to his suffering and whose own life is for ever changed by how she will respond to it.

4

>10 normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book

A Life of My Own

Claire Tomalin

As one of the best biographers of her generation, Claire Tomalin has written about great novelists and poets to huge success: now, she turns to look at her own life. This enthralling memoir follows her through triumph and tragedy in about equal measure, from the disastrous marriage of her parents and the often difficult wartime childhood that followed, to her own marriage to the brilliant young journalist Nicholas Tomalin.

4

10 x normal print

Sydney Chambers and the Perils of the Night

James Runcie

Accompanied by his Labrador, Dickens, and the exasperated Inspector Geordie Keating, Sidney Chambers is called to investigate the fall of a Cambridge don from the roof of King's College Chapel; a case of arson at a glamour photographer's studio and the poisoning of Zafar Ali, Grantchester's finest spin bowler.

Chosen as a quick read but only one reader enjoyed it. Most gave up.

3

>10 x normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio

The Dreams of Bethany Melmoth

William Boyd

A philandering art dealer tries to give up casual love affairs - seeking only stolen kisses as a substitute. A man recounts his personal history through the things he has stolen from others throughout his life. A couple chart the journey of their five year relationship backwards, from awkward reunion to lovelorn first encounter. And, at the heart of the book, a 24-year old young woman, Bethany Mellmoth, embarks on a year-long journey of wishful and tentative self-discovery.

2

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, e-book

Conversations with Friends

Sally Rooney

Frances is twenty-one years old, cool-headed, and darkly observant. A college student in Dublin and aspiring writer, she works at a literary agency by day. At night, she performs spoken word with her best friend Bobbi, who used to be her girlfriend. When they are profiled by Melissa, a well-known journalist, they enter an exotic orbit of beautiful houses, raucous dinner parties and holidays in Provence. Initially unimpressed, Frances finds herself embroiled in a risky ménage à quatre when she begins an affair with Nick, Melissa's actor husband. Desperate to reconcile herself to the desires and vulnerabilities of her body, Frances's intellectual certainties begin to yield to something new - a painful and disorienting way of living from moment to moment.

Group hated this! Heartless characters, odd punctuation, waste of time!

2

>10 x normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio, ebook

David Copperfield

Charles Dickens

When David Copperfield escapes from the cruelty of his childhood home, he embarks on a journey to adulthood which leads him through comedy and tragedy, love and heartbreak, and friendship and betrayal. Over the course of his adventures, David meets an array of eccentric characters and learns hard lessons about the world.

The group said they would like to revisit the classics - all loved the story but felt the book was a bit too long (explained to the group though that this was probably because he was paid by the word & the story was serialised in the paper!) My children's abridged version has since proved very popular so Puffin classic series may be the future!

>10 normal print, 2 large print, 1 audio, 1 e-book

The Girl who Saved the King of Sweden

Jonas Jonassen

On June 14th, 2007, the King and Prime Minister of Sweden went missing from a gala banquet at the Royal Castle. Later it was said that both had fallen ill: the truth is different. The real story starts much earlier, in 1961, with the birth of Nombeko Mayeki in a shack in Soweto. Nombeko was fated to grow up fast and die early in her poverty-stricken township, be it from drugs, from alcohol, or just from plain despair. But Nombeko takes a different path. She finds work as a housecleaner and eventually makes her way up to the position of chief advisor, at the helm of one of the world's most secret projects. Here is where the story merges with, then diverges from reality. South Africa developed six nuclear missiles in the 1980s, then voluntarily dismantled them in 1994. This is a story about the seventh missile - the one that was never supposed to have existed.

Mixed reviews - not a page turner but bits were amusing. Most at least finished it!

3 normal print, 5 large print, 1 audio, 1 e-book

You, Me, Everything

Catherine Isaac

This is a heartfelt and unforgettable story about the lengths we are prepared to go to for those we love. Guaranteed to make you laugh and cry, this is novel you will never forget.

3 normal print, 1 e book

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine

Gail Honeyman

Eleanor Oliphant leads a simple life. She wears the same clothes to work every day, eats the same meal deal for lunch every day and buys the same two bottles of vodka to drink every weekend. Eleanor Oliphant is happy. Nothing is missing from her carefully timetabled life. Except, sometimes, everything. One simple act of kindness is about to shatter the walls Eleanor has built around herself. Now she must learn how to navigate the world that everyone else seems to take for granted - while searching for the courage to face the dark corners she's avoided all her life.

Most enjoyed and we discussed it a lot. Plenty of copies available.

> 10 normal print, 4 large print, 2 audio, 1 e-book

The Heart's Invisible Furies

John Boyne

Cyril Avery is not a real Avery - or at least that's what his adoptive parents tell him. And he never will be. But if he isn't a real Avery, then who is he? Born out of wedlock to a teenage girl cast out from her rural Irish community and adopted by a well-to-do if eccentric Dublin couple via the intervention of a hunchbacked Redemptorist nun, Cyril is adrift in the world, anchored only tenuously by his heartfelt friendship with the infinitely more glamorous and dangerous Julian Woodbead. At the mercy of fortune and coincidence, he will spend a lifetime coming to know himself and where he came from - and over his three score years and ten, will struggle to discover an identity, a home, a country and much more.

Loved by all. We spoke for a long time about this book. Some had initial reservations but all pleased that they read on! Another GL warned this is quite a risqué book.

>10 normal print, 1 audio, 1 e-book

Return to the Little Coffee Shop of Kabul

Deborah Roderiguez

In a little coffee shop in war-torn Kabul, five very different women unite for one important cause: to protect the women in Afghanistan. Together, these five women set out to change their lives, and the lives of women in Afghanistan, for ever.

Reasonable ... better for those who had read the first book!

>10 normal print

A God in Every Stone

Kamila Shamsie

Young Englishwoman Vivian Rose Spencer is running up a mountainside in an ancient land, surrounded by figs and cypresses. Soon she will discover the Temple of Zeus, the call of adventure, and the ecstasy of love. Thousands of miles away a 20-year old Pathan, Qayyum Gul, is learning about brotherhood and loyalty in the British Indian army. July 1915. Qayyum Gul is returning home after losing an eye at Ypres, his allegiances in tatters. Viv is following the mysterious trail of her beloved. They meet on a train to Peshawar, unaware that a connection is about to be forged between their lives - one that will reveal itself 15 years later, on the Street of Storytellers, when a brutal fight for freedom, an ancient artefact and a mysterious green-eyed woman will bring them together again.

Very mixed reviews

>10 normal print, 1 audio, 1 e-book

PS I Love You

Cecelia Aherne

Holly & Gerry have a running joke, that she'd never cope without him. When Gerry dies of a brain tumour, Holly's life falls apart. But then she receives a package from Gerry - a letter, with a pile of envelopes. Each envelope contains 'to do' lists.

More popular than you might imagine!

5 x normal print, 1 x audio

This is Going to Hurt

Adam Kay

Adam Kay was a junior doctor from 2004 until 2010, before a devastating experience on a ward caused him to reconsider his future. He kept a diary throughout his training, and 'This Is Going to Hurt' intersperses tales from the front line of the NHS with reflections on the current crisis. The result is a first-hand account of life as a junior doctor in all its joy, pain, sacrifice and maddening bureaucracy, and a love letter to those who might at any moment be holding our lives in their hands.

Provoked plenty of discussion

> 10 x normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book ,e-audio

Hag-Seed

Margaret Atwood

Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a *Tempest* like no other: not only will it boost his reputation, it will heal emotional wounds. Or that was the plan. Instead, after an act of unforeseen treachery, Felix is living in exile in a backwoods hovel, haunted by memories of his beloved lost daughter, Miranda. And also brewing revenge. After 12 years, revenge finally arrives in the shape of a theatre course at a nearby prison. Here, Felix and his inmate actors will put on his *Tempest* and snare the traitors who destroyed him. It's magic! But will it remake Felix as his enemies fall?

Retelling of The Tempest - part of the Hogarth Shakespeare series.

> 10 x normal print, 2 x large print, 1 x audio, e-book

The Chilbury Ladies Choir

Jennifer Ryan

Kent, 1940. The women of Chilbury village have taken umbrage at the Vicar's closure of the choir now that its male singers are at war. But when spirited music professor Primrose Trent arrives, it prompts the creation of an all-female singing group. Dependable Mrs Tilling sees the choir as a chance to finally put herself first, and a welcome distraction from thoughts of her son fighting on the front line. For Kitty Winthrop, the precocious youngest daughter of Chilbury Manor, singing is the only way to outshine her glamorous sister Venetia, who isn't letting the war ruin her plan to make every bachelor in the county fall in love with her. Meanwhile, when midwife Edwina Paltry is presented with a dastardly job which she's convinced will make her rich, she will have to misuse more than the trust of the choir's women to carry out her scheme.

Most of my ladies mostly liked it - it reminded them of their childhood - but my other reading group in Islip hated it - it's a very light read

> 10 normal print, 1 x large print

Dreams from my Father

Barack Obama

In this memoir written at the age of 33, Barack Obama, son of a black African father and a white American mother, describes the search for meaning in his life as a black American.

5 x normal print, 1 x large print, 2 x audio, e-book

A Man Called Ove

Fredrick Elman

There is something about Ove. At first sight, he is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet. He thinks himself surrounded by idiots - neighbours who can't reverse a trailer properly, joggers, shop assistants who talk in code, and the perpetrators of the vicious coup d'etat that ousted him as Chairman of the Residents' Association. He will persist in making his daily inspection rounds of the local streets. But isn't it rare, these days, to find such old-fashioned clarity of belief and deed? Such unswerving conviction about what the world should be, and a lifelong dedication to making it just so?

>10 x normal print

Small Island

Andrea Levy

Returning to England after the war Gilbert Joseph is treated very differently now that he is no longer in an RAF uniform. Joined by his wife Hortense, he rekindles a friendship with Queenie who takes in Jamaican lodgers. Can their dreams of a better life in England overcome the prejudice they face?

>10 x normal print

A Daughter of Time

Josephine Tey

Inspector Alan Grant of Scotland Yard, recuperating from a broken leg, becomes fascinated with a contemporary portrait of Richard III that bears no resemblance to the Wicked Uncle of history. Could such a sensitive, noble face actually belong to one of the world's most heinous villains - a venomous hunchback who may have killed his brother's children to make his crown secure? Or could Richard have been the victim, turned into a monster by the the Tudors? Grant determines to find out once and for all, with the help of the British Museum and an American scholar, what kind of man Richard III really was and who killed the Princes in the Tower.

10 x normal print

The Luminairies

Eleanor Catton

It is 1866, and Walter Moody has come to make his fortune upon the New Zealand goldfields. On arrival, he stumbles across a tense gathering of twelve local men, who have met in secret to discuss a series of unsolved crimes. A wealthy man has vanished, a whore has tried to end her life, and an enormous fortune has been discovered in the home of a luckless drunk. Moody is soon drawn into the mystery: a network of fates and fortunes that is as complex and exquisitely patterned as the night sky.

9 x normal print, 1 x audio

The Light Between Oceans

M.L.Stedman

Would you accept a chance for happiness even if it wasn't yours to have? This is a story about a lighthouse keeper and his wife, who live on a lonely island with just seagulls, stars, and buffeting winds for company. It's a story about right and wrong, and how sometimes they look the same.

>10 x normal print, 1 x large print

Sleep

C.L.Taylor

All Anna wants is to be able to sleep. But crushing insomnia, terrifying night terrors and memories of that terrible night are making it impossible. If only she didn't feel so guilty. To escape her past, Anna takes a job at a hotel on the remote Scottish island of Rum, but when seven guests join her, what started as a retreat from the world turns into a deadly nightmare. Each of the guests have a secret, but one of them is lying - about who they are and why they're on the island. There's a murderer staying in the Bay View hotel. And they've set their sights on Anna.

>10 x normal print, 3 x large print, e-book