

Reading Group Sets in Isle of Wight Libraries



March 2026

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Only titles from this list are available. Titles from old lists are no longer available.

84 Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff (10 copies) 200 pages.

In 1949 Helene Hanff, 'a poor writer with an antiquarian taste in books', wrote to Marks & Co. Booksellers of 84 Charing Cross Rd in search of the rare editions she was unable to find in New York. Her books were dispatched with polite but brisk efficiency. But, seeking further treasures, Helene soon found herself in regular correspondence with book seller Frank Doel, laying siege to his English reserve with her warmth and wit. And, as letters, books and quips crossed the ocean, a friendship flourished that would endure for twenty years.

The Abortinist's Daughter by Elizabeth Hyde (12 copies) 285 pages.

Two weeks before Christmas, Diana Duprey, an outspoken abortion doctor, is found dead in her swimming pool. A national figure, Diana inspired passion and ignited tempers, but never more so than the day of her death. Her husband Frank, a long-time attorney in the DA's office; her daughter Megan, a freshman in college; the Reverend Stephen O'Connell, founder of the town's pro-life coalition: all of them quarrelled with Diana that day and each one has something to lose in revealing the truth. Meanwhile the detective on the case struggles for the answers — and finds himself more intimately involved than he ever could have imagined.

About a Boy by Nick Hornby (7 copies at Ryde) 425 pages.

Will does not want children, but he does see the point of single mothers, especially if they look like Julie Christie. When he meets Marcus, whose parents have split up and who is being persecuted by bullies, Will finds that he has a lot to learn.

After the Fall by Charity Norman (15 copies) (Audio Download available) 372 pages.

In the quiet of a New Zealand Winter's night, a rescue helicopter is sent to airlift a five-year-old boy with severe internal injuries. At first his injuries look like a horrible accident. Only his mother knows the truth. And she isn't telling. Not yet. May be not ever.

Agent in Berlin by Alex Gerlis (9 copies) 384 pages.

War is coming to Europe. British spymaster Barnaby Allen begins recruiting a network of agents in Germany. With diplomatic relations quickly unravelling, this pack of spies soon comes into their own: the horse-loving German at home in Berlin's underground; the young American sports journalist; the mysterious Luftwaffe officer; the Japanese diplomat and the most unlikely one of all - the SS officer's wife. Despite constant danger and the ever-present threats of discovery and betrayal, Allen's network unearths top-secret plans for a new German fighter plane - and a truly devastating intelligence prize. An audacious Japanese plan to attack the United States. But can they prove it?

The Age of miracles by Karen Thompson Walker (6 copies) 382 pages.

It is never what you worry over that comes to pass in the end. The real catastrophes are always unimagined, unprepared for, unknown. What if our 24-hour day grew longer, first in minutes, then in hours, until day became night and night became day? What effect would that slowing have on the world?

Agnes Grey by Anne Bronte (10 copies) 145 pages.

When her family becomes impoverished after a disastrous financial speculation, Agnes Grey determines to find work as a governess in order to contribute to their meagre income and assert her independence. But Agnes' enthusiasm is swiftly extinguished as she struggles first with the unmanageable Bloomfield children and then with the painful disdain of the haughty Murray family; the only kindness she receives comes from Mr Weston, the sober young curate. Drawing on her own experience, Anne Bronte's first novel offers a compelling personal perspective on the desperate position of unmarried, educated women for whom becoming a governess was the only respectable career open in Victorian society.

The Alchemist by Paul Coelho (8 copies) 177 pages.

This is the story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who dreams of travelling the world in search of a treasure as extravagant as any ever found. From his home in Spain, he journeys to the exotic markets of Tangiers and then into the Egyptian desert, where a fateful encounter with the alchemist awaits him. This is a story which has been compared to the works of Richard Bach and is aimed at the young and old alike.

All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr (11 copies at Ryde) (eBook available) 531 pages.

Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. But when the Nazis invade, father and daughter flee with a dangerous secret. Werner is a German orphan, destined to labour in the same mine that claimed his father's life, until he discovers a knack for engineering. His talent wins him a place at a brutal military academy, but his way out of obscurity is built on suffering. At the same time, far away in a walled city by the sea, an old man discovers new worlds without ever setting foot outside his home. But all around him, impending danger closes in. Doerr's combination of soaring imagination and meticulous observation is electric.

The Angel's Game by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (8 copies) 504 pages.

In an abandoned mansion at the heart of Barcelona, a young man - David Martin - makes his living by writing sensationalist novels under a pseudonym. The survivor of a troubled childhood, he has taken refuge in the world of books, and spends his nights spinning baroque tales about the city's underworld. But perhaps his dark imaginings are not as strange as they seem, for in a locked room deep within the house letters hinting at the mysterious death of the previous owner. Like a slow poison, the history of the place seeps into his bones as he struggles with an impossible love. Then David receives the offer of a lifetime: he is to write a book with the power to change hearts and minds. In return, he will receive a fortune, perhaps more. But as David begins the work, he realises that there is a connection between this haunting book and the shadows that surround his home...

**Any Human Heart by William Boyd (15 copies at Ryde)
503 pages.**

This is the story of Logan Mountstuart, told through his journals. His travels take the reader from Uruguay to Oxford, Paris, the Bahamas, New York, and Africa. This is the story of a life lived to the full - and a journey deep into a very human heart.

Assegai by Wilbur Smith (9 copies) 501 pages.

1913. Leon Courtney is in British East Africa guiding rich and powerful men from America and Europe on safaris in the Masai tribal territories. One of his clients a Count, has a company which builds aircraft for the Kaiser's army. Leon hadn't bargained on falling in love with Eva, the Count's mistress.

Atonement by Ian McEwan (8 copies) 384 pages.

'Atonement' is the novel for which Ian McEwan will always be remembered. Enthralling in its depiction of childhood, love and war, class, and England, at its centre is a profound and profoundly moving exploration of shame and forgiveness. Originally published: London: Jonathan Cape, 2001.

**At The Edge of the Orchard by Tracy Chevalier (12 copies)
324 pages.**

Ohio, 1838. James and Sadie Goodenough have settled in the Black Swamp, planting apple trees to claim the land as their own. Life is harsh in the swamp, and as fever picks off their children, husband and wife take solace in separate comforts. James patiently grows his sweet tasting 'eaters' while Sadie gets drunk on applejack made fresh from 'spitters'. Their fighting takes its toll on all of the Goodenough's - a battle that will resonate over the years and across America.

**Ballad of the Sad Café by Carson McCullers (12 copies at
Ryde) 157 pages.**

Few writers have expressed loneliness, the need for human understanding and the search for love with such power and poetic sensibility as Carson McCullers. This volume contains seven stories, beginning with 'The Ballad of the Sad Cafe'.

Becoming by Michelle Obama (10 copies) Non-Fiction. 441 pages.

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America - the first African American to serve in that role - she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the US and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare.

Before the coffee gets cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi (10 copies) 192 pages.

In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a cafe which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than 100. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time.

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett (8 copies) 318 pages.

By the author of *The Magician's Assistant*, the Orange Prize runner-up, this novel features the combination of opera and terrorism. Latin terrorists storm an international gathering, only to find that their intended target has failed to show up.

Beloved by Toni Morrison (12 copies) 368 pages.

Afro-Americans -- Social conditions -- 19th century. It is the mid-1800s. At Sweet Home in Kentucky, an era is ending as slavery comes under attack from the abolitionists. The worlds of Halle and Paul D. are to be destroyed in a cataclysm of torment and agony. The world of Sethe however, is to turn from one of love to one of violence and death - the death of Sethe's baby daughter Beloved, whose name is the single word on the tombstone, who died at her mother's hands, and who will return to claim retribution.

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks (9 copies at Ryde) 528 pages.

This is the story of Stephen who arrives in Amiens in 1910. His life goes through a series of traumatic experiences, from the clandestine love affair that tears apart the family with whom he lives, to the unprecedented experience of the war itself.

Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson (10 copies) 425 pages.

Eleanor Bennett won't let her own death get in the way of the truth. So, when her estranged children - Byron and Benny - reunite for her funeral in California, they discover a puzzling inheritance. First, a voice recording in which everything Byron and Benny ever knew about their family is upended. Their mother narrates a tumultuous story about a headstrong young woman who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder, a story which cuts right to the heart of the rift that's separated Byron and Benny. Second, a traditional Caribbean black cake made from a family recipe with a long history that Eleanor hopes will heal the wounds of the past. Can Byron and Benny fulfil their mother's final request to 'share the black cake when the time is right'? Will Eleanor's revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?

Blue Dog by Louis de Bernieres (12 copies) 133 pages.

When a family tragedy means, Mick is sent to the outback to live with his grandpa, it looks as if he has a lonely life ahead of him. The cattle station is a tough place for a child, where nature is brutal, and the men must work hard in the heat and dust. However, after a cyclone hits, things change for Mick. Exploring the floodwaters, he finds a lost puppy covered in mud and half-drowned. Mick and his dog immediately become inseparable as they take on the adventures offered by their unusual home, and the business of growing up, together.

Blue Slipper Bay by Wendy Harris (8 copies) 352 pages.

Sophie, bereft after the loss of her mother and her husband's betrayal, walks out of her demanding profession and her home seeking refuge with her friend, Jill, on the Isle of Wight. She doesn't suspect that she is about to be drawn into another crisis.

The Bookman's Tale by Charlie Lovett (8 copies) 379 pages.

After the death of his wife, Peter Byerly, a young antiquarian bookseller, relocates from the States to the English countryside, where he hopes to rediscover the joys of life through his passion for collecting and restoring rare books. But when he opens an eighteenth-century study on Shakespeare forgeries, he is shocked to find a Victorian portrait strikingly similar to his wife tumble out of its pages and becomes obsessed with tracking down its origins. As he follows the trail back to the nineteenth century and then to Shakespeare's time, Peter learns the truth about his own past and unearths a book that might prove that Shakespeare was indeed the author of all his plays.

The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly (10 copies) 512 pages.

'Once upon a time, there was a boy who lost his mother . . .' As twelve-year-old David takes refuge from his grief in the myths and fairy tales so beloved of his dead mother, he finds the real world and the fantasy world begin to blend. That is when bad things start to happen. That is when the Crooked Man comes. And David is violently propelled into a land populated by heroes, wolves, and monsters in his quest to find the legendary Book of Lost Things.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (9 copies) (eBook available) 553 pages.

Narrated in the all-knowing matter of fact voice of Death, witnessing the story of the citizens of Molching. By 1943, the Allied bombs are falling, and the sirens begin to wail. Liesel shares out her books in the air-raid shelters. But one day, the wail of the sirens comes too late.

Born a crime and other stories by Trevor Noah (10 copies) Non-Fiction 288 pages.

Trevor Noah is the host of The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, where he gleefully provides America with its nightly dose of serrated satire. He is a light-footed but cutting observer of the relentless absurdities of politics, nationalism, and race - and particularly the craziness of his own young life, which he's lived at the intersections of culture and history. In his first book, Noah tells his coming-of-age story with his larger-than-life mother during the last gasps of apartheid-era South Africa and the turbulent years that followed.

Brooklyn by Colm Toibin (10 copies) 249 pages.

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.

The Bullet that Missed by Richard Osman (13 copies) 412 pages. **NEW**

It is an ordinary Thursday, and things should finally be returning to normal. Except trouble is never far away where the Thursday Murder Club are concerned. A local news legend is on the hunt for a sensational headline, and soon the gang are hot on the trail of two murders, ten years apart. To make matters worse, a new nemesis pays Elizabeth a visit, presenting her with a deadly mission: kill or be killed. While Elizabeth grapples with her conscience (and a gun), the gang and their unlikely new friends (including TV stars, money launderers and ex-KGB colonels) unravel a new mystery. But can they catch the culprit and save Elizabeth before the murderer strikes again?

Burning bright by Tracy Chevalier (10 copies) (eBook available) 390 pages.

Against the backdrop of a city anxious over the bloody French Revolution, a surprising bond forms between Jem whose family have moved from Dorset and streetwise Londoner Maggie Butterfield. Their friendship takes a dramatic turn when they become entangled in the life of their neighbour, the poet and printer William Blake.

Butter by Asako Yuzuki (10 copies at Ryde) 452 pages **NEW**

Gourmet cook Manako Kajii sits in Tokyo Detention Centre convicted of the serial murders of lonely businessmen, who she is said to have seduced with her delicious home cooking. The case has captured the nation's imagination, but Kajii refuses to speak with the press, entertaining no visitors. That is, until journalist Rika Machida writes a letter asking for her recipe for beef stew and Kajii can't resist writing back. Rika, the only woman in her news office, works late each night and survives on cheap, convenience store fare, rarely cooking more than ramen. As the visits unfold between her and the steely Kajii, they are closer to a masterclass in food than journalistic research. Rika hopes this gastronomic exchange will help her soften Kajii but it seems that she might be the one changing. With each meal she eats, something is awakening in her body, might she and Kaji have more in common than she once thought?

Can anybody help me by Sinead Crowley (7 copies) 368 pages.

When one of her new online friends goes offline, Yvonne thinks something is wrong, but dismisses her fears. After all, does she really know this woman? But when the body of a young woman with striking similarities to Yvonne's missing friend is found, Yvonne realises that they're all in terrifying danger.

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson (15 copies) 409 pages.

Full of suspense and heartbreak, '**Case Histories**' is a feat of bravura storytelling that conveys the mysteries of life, its inanities and its hilarities. Jackson is 45 but feels much older. Surrounded by death, intrigue and misfortune, his own life is brought sharply into focus.

The Casual Vacancy by J K Rowling (12 copies at Ryde) 568 pages.

When Barry Fairbrother dies unexpectedly in his early 40s, the little town of Pagford is left in shock. The empty seat left by Barry on the parish council soon becomes the catalyst for the biggest war the town has ever seen. Who will triumph in an election fraught with passion, duplicity and unexpected revelations?

A Cat, A Hat and a Piece of String by Joanne Harris (12 copies at Ryde) 285 pages.

Stories are like Russian dolls; open them up, and in each one you'll find another story. Conjured from a wickedly imaginative pen, here is a collection of short stories that showcases Joanne Harris's exceptional storytelling art.

The Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger (5 copies at Ryde) 192 pages.

A 16-year-old American boy relates in his own words the experiences he goes through at school and after and reveals with unusual candour the workings of his own mind. What does a boy in his teens think and feel about his teachers, parents, friends and acquaintances?

Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell (19 copies) 529 pages.

A reluctant voyager crossing the Pacific in 1850, and a young Pacific Islander witnessing the nightfall of science and civilization - these and the other narrators of 'Cloud Atlas' hear each other's echoes down the corridor of history, and their destinies are changed in ways great and small.

A Circle of Sisters by Judith Flanders (12 copies) 392 pages.

The Macdonald sisters, Alice, Georgiana, Agnes and Louisa, started life among the ranks of the lower-middle classes, with little prospect of social advancement. But as wives and mothers they made a single family of the poet Rudyard Kipling, the Pre-Raphaelite painter Edward Burne-Jones, Edward Poynter, President of the Royal Academy, and the Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin.

City of Thieves by David Benioff (12 copies at Ryde) 389 pages **NEW**

Four months into the siege of Leningrad, the city is starving. 17-year-old Lev has been arrested for looting. Along with his charismatic cellmate, Kolya, Lev is given a choice - find a dozen eggs for an NKVD colonel, or face execution.

Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons (10 copies) 232 pages.

When sensible, sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders: cousin Judith, heaving with remorse for unspoken wickedness; Amos, preaching fire and damnation; their sons, lustful Seth and despairing Reuben; child of nature Elfine and crazed old Aunt Ada Doom, who has kept to her bedroom for the last twenty years. But Flora loves nothing better than to organise other people. Armed with common sense and a strong will, she resolves to take each of the family in hand. A hilarious and ruthless parody of rural melodramas and purple prose, "Cold Comfort Farm" is one of the best-loved comic novels of all time.

The Color Purple by Alice White (9 copies at Ryde) 262 pages.

This compelling and cherished classic tells the story of Celie. Raped by the man she calls father, her two children taken from her and forced into an ugly marriage, she has no one to talk to but God, until she meets a woman who offers love and support.

The Cuckoo's Calling by Robert Galbraith (10 copies) 550 pages. **NEW**

Written under a pseudonym by J.K. Rowling, this gripping, elegant mystery is steeped in the atmosphere of London. A war veteran wounded both physically and psychologically, Cormoran Strike's life is in disarray but the case he is working on gives him a lifeline, despite coming at a personal cost.

Daisy Jones & the six by Taylor Jenkins Reid (10 copies) 401 pages.

Daisy Jones & the Six rose from the 1970s LA music scene to become one of the biggest bands in the world. They sold out arenas from coast to coast. Their music defined an era and every girl in America idolised Daisy. But, in 1979, on the night of the final concert of their tour, they split. Nobody ever knew why. Until now. This is the whole story, right from the beginning: the sun-bleached streets, the grimy bars on the Sunset Strip, knowing Daisy's moment was coming. Relive the euphoria of success and experience the terror that nothing will ever be as good again.

Dark Dawn by Matt McGuire (9 copies) 224 pages.

Belfast. January 2005. Acting Detective Sergeant John O'Neill stands over the body of a dead teenager. The corpse was discovered on the building site of a luxury development overlooking the River Lagan. Kneecapped then killed, the body bears the hallmarks of a punishment beating. But this is the new Northern Ireland - the Celtic Tiger purrs, the Troubles are over, the paramilitaries are gone. So, who is the boy and who wanted him dead?

Day of The Triffids by John Wyndham (11 copies at Ryde) 232 pages.

The narrator of this novel wakes up in hospital to find that, by missing a freak cosmic event which has blinded most of the population, he has survived to witness a new world. The new world that awaits him however is fantastic, horrific and inhabited by carnivorous walking plants!

Days Without End by Sebastian Barry (12 copies at Ryde) 301 pages.

Having signed up for the US army in the 1850s, aged barely 17, Thomas McNulty and his brother-in-arms, John Cole, go on to fight in the Indian wars and, ultimately, the Civil War. Orphans of terrible hardships themselves, they find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they both see and are complicit in.

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver (10 copies) 548 pages.

This is the tale of Demon Copperhead: our hero. A boy with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-coloured hair, bucket-loads of charm and a talent or two the world is yet to discover. Born to a teenaged single mother in a single wide trailer, life is not set fair for Demon as he escorts us on this, his journey through the modern perils of foster care, athletic success and addiction, the dizzying highs of true love, and the crushing losses that can accompany it. But Demon is a fighter, a survivor.

The Diary of a Provincial Lady by E.M. Delafield (12 copies at Ryde) 544 pages. **NEW**

The goal of the provincial lady is to maintain 'niceness', whether it be in the home, relationships or personal behaviour. 'The Diary of a Provincial Lady' first published in the 1930s is a witty celebration of the suburban British housewife. in wartime.

The Dig by John Preston (6 copies) 256 pages.

In the long hot summer of 1939, Britain is preparing for war. But on a riverside farm in Suffolk there is excitement of another kind: Mrs Petty, the widowed farmer, has had her hunch proved correct that the strange mounds on her land hold buried treasure. As the dig proceeds against background of mounting national anxiety, it becomes clear though that this is no ordinary find.

Dissolution by C J Sansom (12 copies at Ryde) 442 pages.

Henry VIII has ordered the dissolution of the monasteries and England is full of informers. At the monastery of Scarnsea events have spiralled out of control with the murder of Commissioner Robin Singleton. Matthew Shardlake, a lawyer, and his assistant are sent to investigate.

Do No Harm by Henry Marsh (10 copies) 277 pages. NON-FICTION. NEW

What is it really like to be a brain surgeon, to hold someone's life in your hands, to drill down into the stuff that creates thought, feeling and reason? How do you live with the consequences of performing a potentially life-saving operation when it all goes wrong? In this powerful, gripping and brutally honest account, one of the country's top neurosurgeons reveals what it is to play God in the face of the life-and-death situations he encounters daily. Henry Marsh gives a rare insight into the intense drama of the operating theatre, the chaos and confusion of a modern hospital, the exquisite complexity of the human brain, and the blunt instrument that is surgeon's knife by comparison.

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead by Olga Tokarczyk (16 copies at Ryde) 269 pages.

This novel takes place in a remote village in south-west Poland where Janina, an eccentric woman in her 60s, describes the events surrounding the disappearance of her two dogs. When members of a local hunting club are subsequently found murdered, she becomes involved in the investigation. By no means a conventional crime story, this novel offers some thought-provoking ideas on our perceptions of madness, social injustice against people who are marginalised, animal rights, the hypocrisy of traditional religion, and belief in predestination.

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett (11 copies) 337 pages.

Danny Conroy grows up in the Dutch House, a lavish folly in small-town Pennsylvania taken on by his property developer father. Though his father is distant, and his mother is absent, Danny has his beloved sister Maeve: Maeve, with her wall of black hair, her delicacy, her brilliance. Life is comfortable and coherent, played out under the watchful eyes of the house's former owners in the frames of their oil paintings, or under the cover of the draperies around the window seat in Maeve's room. Then one day their father brings Andrea home: Andrea, small and neat, a dark hat no bigger than a saucer pinned over a twist of her fair hair. Though they cannot know it, Andrea's advent to the Dutch House sows the seed of the defining loss of Danny and Maeve's lives.

Educated by Tara Westover (11 copies at Ryde) 392 pages.

Tara Westover grew up preparing for the End of Days, watching for the sun to darken, for the moon to drip as if with blood. She spent her summers bottling peaches and her winters rotating emergency supplies, hoping that when the World of Men failed, her family would continue on, unaffected. She hadn't been registered for a birth certificate. She had no school records because she'd never set foot in a classroom, and no medical records because her father didn't believe in doctors or hospitals. According to the state and federal government, she didn't exist. As she grew older, her father became more radical, and her brother, more violent. across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd travelled too far.

The Elegance of the hedgehog by Muriel Barbery (10 copies) 320 pages.

Renee is the concierge of a grand Parisian apartment building, home to members of the great and the good. But beneath this facade lies the real Renee: passionate about culture and the arts, and more knowledgeable in many ways than her employers with their outwardly successful but emotionally void lives.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman (At Ryde) 432 pages.

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 -

Emma by Jane Austen (10 copies at Ryde) 464 pages.

Emma Woodhouse is one of Austen's most captivating and vivid characters. Beautiful, spoiled, vain and irrepressibly witty, Emma organises the lives of the inhabitants of her sleepy little village and plays matchmaker with devastating effect.

The End of Mr Y by Scarlett Thomas (10 copies) 506 pages.

Ariel Manto has a fascination with a 19th century scientist by the name of Thomas Lumas. His rarest work, 'The End of Mr. Y', was written before his disappearance, and the same fate seems to have befallen all the book's few readers ever since. When Ariel uncovers a copy in a second-hand bookshop, she is launched into an adventure.

The End of the world is a cul de sac by Louise Kennedy (12 copies at Ryde) 286 pages.

The secrets people kept, the lies they told. In these visceral stories, people are effortlessly cruel to one another, and the natural world is a primitive salve. Here, women are domestically trapped by predatorial men, Ireland's folklore and politics loom large, and poverty - material, emotional, sexual - seeps through every crack. A wife is abandoned by her new husband in a ghost estate, with blood on her hands; a young woman is tormented by visions of the man murdered by her brother during the Troubles; a pregnant mother fears the worst as her husband grows illegal cannabis with the help of a vulnerable teenage girl; a woman struggles to forgive herself after an abortion threatens to destroy her marriage.

Every Man for Himself by Beryl Bainbridge (11 copies at Ryde) 214 pages.

This book recaptures the four lost days of the Titanic's maiden voyage to New York. The story is told by Morgan, the nephew of the owner of the shipping line. Bainbridge's spare, laconic style of writing has never been used to better advantage.

Exciting times by Naoise Dolan (10 copies) 277 pages.

Ava, newly arrived in Hong Kong from Dublin, spends her days teaching English to rich children. Julian is a banker. A banker who likes to spend money on Ava, to have sex and discuss fluctuating currencies with her. But when she asks whether he loves her, he cannot say more than 'I like you a great deal'. Enter Edith, a lawyer. Refreshingly enthusiastic and unapologetically earnest, Edith takes Ava to the theatre when Julian leaves Hong Kong for work. Quickly, she becomes something Ava looks forward to. And then Julian writes to tell Ava he is coming back to Hong Kong. Should Ava return to the easy compatibility of her life with Julian or take a leap into the unknown with Edith?

Exit West by Mohsin Hamid (10 copies) 228 pages.

In a city swollen by refugees but still mostly at peace, or at least not yet openly at war, Saeed and Nadia share a cup of coffee, and their story begins. It will be a love story but also a story about war and a world in crisis, about how we live now and how we might live tomorrow. Before too long, the time will come for Nadia and Saeed to leave their homeland. When the streets are no longer useable and all options are exhausted, this young couple will join the great outpouring of those fleeing a collapsing city, hoping against hope, looking for their place in the world.

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (15 copies at Ryde) 400 pages.

Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television "family." But then he meets an eccentric young neighbour, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn't live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television. When Mildred attempts suicide and Clarisse suddenly disappears, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy (12 copies at Ryde) 454 pages.

When Bathsheba Everdene inherits her own farm, she attracts three very different suitors: the seemingly commonplace, Gabriel Oak, the young soldier, Francis Troy, and the respectable, middle-aged farmer Boldwood. Her choice, and the tragedy it provokes, lies at the centre of Hardy's story.

The Farm by Richard Benson (11 copies) Non-Fiction. 229 pages.

Richard Benson was never cut out for life on the family farm, yet when his father chose to sell up, he decided to return to Yorkshire. This is his account of being outwitted by even the dimmest of animals whilst trying to make ends meet.

Father's Day by Simon Van Booy (10 copies) 284 pages.

At the age of 6, a little girl names Harvey learns that her parents have died in a car accident. As she struggles to understand, a kindly social worker named Wanda introduces her to her only living relative: her Uncle Jason, a disabled felon with a violent past and a criminal record. Despite his limitations and his resistance Wanda follows a hunch and cajoles Jason into becoming her legal guardian, convinced that each may be the others last chance.

The Fault in our Stars by John Green (10 copies) 316 pages.

Despite the tumour shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

The Followers by Rebecca Wait (11 copies) 256 pages.

On the windswept moors of northern England, a small religious cult has cut itself off from society, believing they have found meaning in a purposeless world. Led by their prophet, Nathaniel, they eagerly await the end times. But when the prophet brings in Stephanie and her rebellious daughter Judith, the group's delicate dynamic is disturbed. Judith is determined to escape, but her feelings are complicated by a growing friendship with another of the children, the naive and trusting Moses, who has never experienced the outside world. Meanwhile, someone else is having doubts, unleashing a horrifying chain of events that will destroy the followers' lives.

The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton (7 copies) 645 pages.

On the eve of the First World War, a little girl is found alone after a gruelling ocean voyage from England to Australia. All she can remember is that a woman she calls the Authoress had promised to look after her. But the Authoress has vanished. So starts the haunting second novel from the author of 'The House at Riverton'.

Frankie & Stankie by Barbara Trapido (6 copies) 326 pages.

Dinah and Lisa are growing up in 1950s South Africa where racial laws are tightening. They are two little girls from a liberal family. Big sister Lisa is strong and sensible, while Dinah is weedy and arty. As the shadows of apartheid lengthen, Dinah journeys through childhood and adolescence and the minefields of boys and university.

Frog Music by Emma Donoghue (13 copies at Ryde) 256 pages.

San Francisco, 1876: a stifling heat wave and smallpox epidemic have engulfed the city. Deep in the streets of Chinatown live three former stars of the Parisian circus: Blanche, now an exotic dancer at the House of Mirrors, her lover Arthur and his companion Ernest. When an eccentric outsider joins their little circle, secrets unravel, changing everything and leaving one of them dead.

Funny Girl by Nick Hornby (11 copies at Ryde) 272 pages.

It's the swinging sixties, and Sophie Parker escapes the small-town life of her parents in Blackpool and travels to London to follow her dreams and become an actress. But when she lands the TV role of a lifetime, not everything is as it seems.

The Gardener by Prue Leith (6 copies) 416 pages.

Lotte is in unfamiliar territory. After a painful divorce and a great deal of soul-searching she has uprooted her three children to take a job as head gardener to millionaire Brody Keegan. Brody is as ignorant about gardens as Lotte is knowledgeable so it's only a matter of time before the two lock horns.

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towels (12 copies) 462 pages.

In 1922 Count Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal. He is sentenced to house arrest in The Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Get Mad by Victoria Dunford (10 copies) **NON-FICTION. 187 pages.**

On the face of it, this book is the story of one woman's struggle and ultimately, success in transforming the lives of the most vulnerable members of Moldovan society. But in so doing it shines a critical light on social inequality, staggeringly outdated views on disability, mind numbing bureaucracy and widespread avarice and corruption. A more sanguine assessment is that Victoria has turned on its head the notion that individuals cannot deliver positive change against the weight of the authorities and social stigmas. The Phoenix Centre has provided children who have been hidden away for years with learning and physical disabilities – Moldova's forgotten children – with a purpose to their lives for the first time.

The Phoenix Centre is now a beacon of excellence and hope in the north of Moldova and is a testament to Victoria's tenacity, humanity and compassion.

Girl Missing by Sophie McKenzie (8 copies) 360 pages. (Young Adult) NEW

Lauren has always known she was adopted but when a little research turns up the possibility that she was snatched from an American family as a baby, suddenly Lauren's life seems like a sham. How can she find her biological parents? And are her adoptive parents really responsible for kidnapping her?

God on the rocks by Jane Gardam (10 copies) 215 pages.

During one glorious summer between the wars the realities of life and the sexual ritual dance of the adult world creep into the life of young Margaret Marsh. This novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

Gold by Chris Cleave (12 copies) 410 pages.

Kate and Zoe are friends but also ardent rivals – athletes at the top of their game, fighting to compete in the world's greatest sporting contest. Each scarred by tragedy and each with a great deal to lose. They must choose between family and glory and ask themselves: what will I sacrifice?

A Golden Age by Tahmima Anam (10 copies) 290 pages.

As Rehana awakes one morning, she might be forgiven for feeling happy. Today she will throw a party for her son and daughter. But none of the guests at Rehana's party can foresee what will happen in the days and months that follow. For this is East Pakistan in 1971, a country on the brink of war. And this family is about to change forever.

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (10 copies) 864 pages.

Aged 13, Theo Decker, son of a devoted mother and a reckless, largely absent father, survives an accident that otherwise tears his life apart. Alone and rudderless in New York, he is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. He is tormented by an unbearable longing for his mother, and down the years clings to one thing that reminds him of her: a small, strangely captivating painting that ultimately draws him into the criminal underworld. As he grows up, Theo learns to glide between the drawing rooms of the rich and the dusty antiques store where he works. He is alienated and in love and his talisman, the painting, places him at the centre of a narrowing, ever more dangerous circle.

The Good Father by Diane Chamberlain (9 copies) 380 pages.

A little girl all alone, with a note that reads 'please look after me'. What would you do? Four years ago, nineteen-year-old Travis Brown made a choice: to raise his newborn daughter on his own. While most of his friends were out partying and meeting girls, Travis was at home, worrying about keeping food on the table. But so far, he's kept her safe and never regretted his decision for a second. But now he's lost his job, his home and the money in his wallet is all he has. As things spiral out of control Travis is offered a lifeline. A one-time offer to commit a crime for his daughter's sake. Even if it means leaving her behind. Even if it means losing her. What would a good father do.

A Good Girls's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (8 copies) 432 pages. (Young Adult) **NEW**

Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth?

Gorky Park by Martin Cruz Smith (10 copies) 559 pages.

Three corpses have been found in Moscow. But why have they been brutally mutilated? And why have they been buried in the snows of Gorky Park? Chief Inspector Arkady Renko is in charge of the case, but he must also challenge a cruel and corrupt society before he can conclude his investigations.

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck (10 copies) 476 pages.

Shocking and controversial when it was first published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer prize-winning epic remains his undisputed masterpiece. It tells of the Joad family who travel West in search of the Promised land and find only broken dreams.

The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald (5 copies) 240 pages.

A social satire and a milestone in 20th century literature, 'The Great Gatsby' peels away the layers of the glamorous twenties in the U.S. to display the coldness and cruelty at its heart.

Greetings from Bury Park by Sarfraz Manzoor (20 copies at Ryde) 288 pages.

A charming and poignant memoir of growing up during the eighties as both a Pakistani Muslim and Bruce Springsteen fan, this book is Sarfraz Manzoor's journey from the frustrations of his childhood to his reactions concerning the tragedies of 9/11 and 7/7. It is an inspiring tribute to the power of music to transcend race and religion.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Maryann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (14 copies) 248 pages.

It'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 second hand book that once belonged to Juliet - and, spurred on by their mutual love of Charles Lamb, they begin a correspondence.

The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain (7 copies at Ryde) 208 pages.

It is the tutor who tells the young Gustav that he must try to be more like a coconut - that he needs a hard shell to protect the softness inside. This is what his native Switzerland has perfected - a shell to protect its neutrality, to keep its people safe. But his beloved friend, Anton, doesn't want to be safe - a gifted pianist, he longs to make his mark on the world outside. On holiday one summer in Davos, the boys stumble across a remote building. Long ago, it was a TB sanatorium; now it is wrecked and derelict. Here, they play a game of life and death, deciding which of their imaginary patients must burn. It becomes their secret. 'The Gustav Sonata' begins in the 1930s, under the shadow of the Second World War, and follows the boys into maturity, and middle age, where their friendship is tested as never before.

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell (10 copies) 372 pages.

On a summer's day in 1596, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon takes to her bed with a fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet, searches everywhere for help. Why is nobody at home? Their mother, Agnes, is over a mile away, in the garden where she grows medicinal herbs. Their father is working in London. Neither parent knows that one of the children will not survive the week.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (10 copies) 324 pages.

The Republic of Gilead allows Offred only one function - to breed. If she deviates, she will, like all dissenters, be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire - neither Offred's nor that of the two men on whom her future hangs.

The Heat of the day by Elizabeth Bowes (12 copies at Ryde) 329 pages. **NEW**

Bowen's imaginative interpretation of the effect of war on the manners, morals and emotions of those not directly engaged in the fighting is drawn from an uncannily poignant recall of the wartime London scene.

His Bloody Project by Graeme Macrae Burnet (12 copies at Ryde) 280 pages.

A story ingeniously recounted through Roderick Macrae's memoir, trial transcripts, and newspaper reports, this book is a riveting literary thriller that will appeal to fans of Hannah Kent's 'Burial Rites'.

The History Boys by Alan Bennett (12 copies at Ryde) 109 pages.

In Alan Bennett's new play, staff room rivalry and the anarchy of adolescence provoke insistent questions about history and how you teach it, about education and its purpose.

Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie (15 copies at Ryde) 264 pages.

Isma is free. After years spent raising her twin siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she is finally studying in America, resuming a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London - or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream: to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew. Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Handsome and privileged, he inhabits a London, worlds away from theirs. As the son of a powerful British Muslim politician, Eamonn has his own birth right to live up to - or defy. Is he to have a chance at love?

Honour by Elif Shafak (11 copies at Ryde) 352 pages.

Esma is a young Kurdish woman in London trying to come to terms with the terrible murder her brother has committed. She tells the story of her family stretching back three generations. Everything will end in tragedy on a street in East London in 1978.

A Horse walks into a Bar (7 copies) 197 pages.

An audience that has come expecting an evening of amusement instead sees a comedian falling apart on stage, an act of disintegration, a man crumbling, as a matter of choice, before their eyes. They could get up and leave or boo and whistle and drive him from the stage if they were not so drawn to glimpse his personal hell.

The House at Riverton by Kate Morton (12 copies) 352 pages.

Summer 1924: On the eve of a glittering Society party, by the lake of a grand English country house, a young poet takes his life. The only witnesses, sisters Hannah and Emmeline Hartford, will never speak to each other again. Winter 1999: Grace Bradley, 98, one-time housemaid of Riverton Manor, is visited by a young director making a film about the poet's suicide. Ghosts awaken and memories, long consigned to the dark reaches of Grace's mind, begin to sneak back through the cracks. A shocking secret threatens to emerge; something history has forgotten but Grace never could.

The Housekeepers by Alex Hay (7 copies) 431 pages.

NEW

Mayfair, 1905. The grandest house on Park Lane has just dismissed its housekeeper. All manner of treasure lie behind the pillared doors - and scandalous secrets too. With the event of the season looming, nothing must go wrong. But what no one knows is that Mrs King will be back at Park Lane on the night of the ball. She has an audacious plan in mind - and knows just who to recruit to help her clean up.

The house of spirits by Isabel Allende (12 copies at Ryde) 490 pages.

Spanning four generations, Isabel Allende's family saga is populated by a memorable, often eccentric, cast of characters. Together, men and women, spirits, the forces of nature and of history, converge in a brilliantly realised novel.

How I live Now by Meg Rosoff (9 copies) 210 pages.

Daisy is sent from New York to England to spend a summer with cousins she has never met. It seems like the perfect summer. Falling in love is just the start of it but their lives are about to explode. War breaks out and lands on their doorstep. Daisy's life is changed forever - and the world is too.

Human Traces by Sebastian Faulks (8 copies) 609 pages.

Jacques Rebiere and Thomas Midwinter, both sixteen when the story starts in 1876, come from different countries and contrasting families. They are united by an ambition to understand how the mind works and whether madness is the price we pay for being human. As psychiatrists, they travel on a quest from the squalor of the Victorian lunatic asylum to the crowded lecture halls of the renowned Professor Charcot in Paris, from the heights of the Sierra Madre in California to the plains of unexplored Africa.

**The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (8 copies) 374 pages.
(Young Adult) **NEW****

16-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. But Katniss has been close to death before and survival, for her, is second nature.

**The Husbands by Holly Gramazio (9 copies) 368 pages.
NEW**

One night Lauren finds a strange man in her flat who claims to be her husband. All the evidence - from photos to electricity bills - suggests he's right. Lauren's attic, she slowly realises, is creating an endless supply of husbands for her. There's the one who pretends to play music on her toes. The one who's too hot (there must be a catch). The one who makes a great breakfast sandwich. The one who turns everything into double entendres ('I'll weed your garden'). And the one who can calm her unruly thoughts with a single touch. But when you can change husbands as easily as changing a lightbulb, how do you know whether the one you have now is the good-enough one, or the wrong one, or the best one? And how long should you keep trying to find out?

I am, I am, I am: Seventeen brushes with death by Maggie O'Farrell (12 copies at Ryde) NF 292 pages.

'I Am, I Am, I Am' is Sunday Times bestseller and Costa Novel-Award winner Maggie O'Farrell's electric and shocking memoir of the near-death experiences that have punctuated her life. A childhood illness she was not expected to survive. A teenage yearning to escape that nearly ended in disaster. A terrifying encounter on a remote path. A mismanaged labour in an understaffed hospital. This is a memoir with a difference: seventeen encounters with Maggie at different ages, in different locations, reveal to us a whole life in a series of tense, visceral snapshots. It is a book to make you question yourself: what would you do if your life was in danger? How would you react? And what would you stand to lose.

I am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes (8 copies) 891 pages.

Pilgrim was the codename for a world class and legendary secret agent. When NYPD Ben Bradley tracks down Pilgrim, neither man can imagine the terrifying journey they are about to begin, as what begins as an unusual and challenging murder investigation leads them into a direct collision course with the dark forces of jihadist terrorism.

I Can't begin to Tell You by Elizabeth Buchan (7 copies) 512 pages.

Denmark, 1940. War has come and everyone must choose a side. For British - born Kay Eberstern, living on her husband Bror's country estate, the Nazi invasion and occupation of her adopted country is a time of terrible uncertainty and inner conflict. With Bror desperate to preserve the legacy of his family home, even if it means co- existing with the enemy, Kay knows she cannot do the same. Lured by British Intelligence into a covert world of resistance and sabotage, her betrayal of Bror is complete as she puts her family in danger.

The Ice Cream Girls by Dorothy Koomson (8 copies) 465 pages.

As teenagers, Poppy Carlisle and Serena Gorrington were the only witnesses to a tragic event. Amid heated public debate, the two seemingly glamorous teens were dubbed 'The Ice Cream Girls' by the press and were dealt with by the courts. Years later, having led very different lives, Poppy is keen to set the record straight about what really happened, while Serena wants no one in her present to find out about her past. But some secrets will not stay buried - and if theirs is revealed, everything will become a living hell all over again.

I know why the caged bird sings by Maya Angelou (10 copies) 320p. **NEW**

In this, the first volume of her autobiography, writer and poet Maya Angelou reflects on her childhood spent growing up in the American South of the 1930s. There she learned the power of the white townsfolk and suffered the trauma of rape.

The Improbability of Love by Hannah Rothschild (12 copies at Ryde) 416 pages.

Annie McDee, alone after the disintegration of her long-term relationship and trapped in a dead-end job, is searching for a present for her unsuitable lover in a neglected second-hand shop. Within the jumble of junk and tack, a grimy painting catches her eye. Leaving the store with the picture after spending her meagre savings, she prepares an elaborate dinner for two, only to be stood up, the gift gathering dust on her mantelpiece. But every painting has a story - and if it could speak, what would it tell us? For Annie has stumbled across 'The Improbability of Love', a lost masterpiece by Antoine Watteau, one of the most influential French painters of the 18th century.

In Memoriam by Alice Winn (12 copies at Ryde) 385 pages.

It's 1914 and talk of war feels far away to Henry Gaunt, Sidney Ellwood and the rest of their classmates, safely ensconced in their idyllic boarding school in the English countryside. At seventeen, they're too young to enlist, and anyway, Gaunt is fighting his own private battle - an all-consuming infatuation with his best friend, the dreamy, poetic Ellwood - not having a clue that Ellwood is in love with him, always has been. When Gaunt's German mother asks him to enlist as an officer in the British army to protect the family from anti-German attacks, Gaunt signs up immediately, relieved to escape his overwhelming feelings for Ellwood. The front is horrific, of course, and though Gaunt tries to dissuade Ellwood from joining him on the battlefield, Ellwood soon rushes to join him, spurred on by his love of Greek heroes and romantic poetry. Before long, their classmates have followed suit.

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (8 copies) 379 pages. (Young Adult) **NEW**

She came from nothing. They had everything. How far will they go to keep their fortune? Avery only has one plan: keep her head down, win a scholarship and work for a better future. Until an eccentric billionaire dies and leaves her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why. Suddenly she must move into the secret passage filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the billionaire's love of puzzles, riddles and codes. On top of that, Avery must share the mansion with all his surviving relatives - a family hellbent on discovering how she got 'their' money.

James by Percival Everett (12 copies at Ryde) 302 pages

NEW

The Mississippi River, 1861. When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a new owner in New Orleans and separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson's Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father who recently returned to town. Thus begins a dangerous and transcendent journey by raft along the Mississippi River, toward the elusive promise of free states and beyond. As James and Huck begin to navigate the treacherous waters, each bend in the river holds the promise of both salvation and demise. With rumours of a brewing war, James must face the burden he carries: the family he is desperate to protect, and the constant lie he must live. And together, the unlikely pair must face the most dangerous odyssey of them all.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (11 copies at Ryde) 578 pages.

A troubled childhood strengthens Jane Eyre's natural independence and spirit - which prove necessary when she finds a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice.

Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy (7 copies) 528 pages.

This is the story of a struggle between the flesh and spirit. It concerns Jude Fawley, a young Wessex villager of exceptional promise, who goes to Oxford, contracts a loveless marriage and becomes embroiled in a doomed love affair with his cousin.

A Keeper by Graham Norton (10 copies) 326 pages.

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.

Killers of the flower moon by David Grann (12 copies at Ryde) NON-FICTION - 339 pages.

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, they rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. As the death toll climbed, the FBI took up the case. But the bureau badly bungled the investigation. In desperation, its young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to unravel the mystery. Together with the Osage he and his undercover team began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

The Kiss and other Stories by Anton Chekhov (14 copies at Ryde) 256 pages.

While at a party organized by the lieutenant of his regiment, the shy and awkward Ryabovitch is suddenly kissed by an unknown woman in a dark room. This unexpected and electrifying encounter marks a turning point in his life and a shift in his personality, arousing his passions and setting him on a desperate quest to discover the identity of the mysterious lady. One of Chekhov's most admired stories, 'The Kiss' is joined in this volume by five equally celebrated tales in a brand-new translation by Hugh Aplin.

Klara and the sun by Kazuo Ishiguro (10 copies) 340 pages.

This novel tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, carefully watches the behaviour of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her.

The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness (10 copies) Young Adult 478 pages.

Imagine you can hear everything the town of men say about you. And they can hear everything you think. Imagine you don't fit into their plans. Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run.

Lacey's House by Joanne Graham (10 Copies) 256 pages.

Lacey Carmichael leads a solitary life. To her neighbours she is the mad old woman who lives at the end of the lane, crazy but harmless. Until she is arrested on suspicion of murder. When Rachel Moore arrives in the village, escaping her own demons, the two women form an unlikely bond. Unravelling in each other tales of loss and heartache.

Lady Susan, The Watsons, Sanditon by Jane Austen (12 copies at Ryde) 222 pages.

Together, these three works - one novel unpublished in her lifetime and two unfinished fragments - reveal Jane Austen's development as a great artist.

The Lady and The Unicorn by Tracy Chevalier (16 copies at Ryde)

From the bestselling author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* comes a historical tale of love, sex and revenge. Keen to demonstrate his new-found favour with the King, rising nobleman Jean Le Viste commissions six tapestries to adorn the walls of his chateau. He expects soldiers and bloody battlefields. But artist Nicolas des Innocents instead designs a seductive world of women, unicorns, and flowers, using as his muses Le Viste's wife Genevive and ripe young daughter Claude.

Last Bus to Coffeerville by J. Paul Henderson (9 copies) 447 pages.

On a tour bus once stolen from Paul McCartney, a bank of misfits' career towards Mississippi through a landscape of war, euthanasia, communism, religion and race, discovering the true meaning of love, family and – most important of all – friendship. *Last Bus to Coffeerville* is a funny story about sad things, a tale of endings and new beginnings.

The Last Devil to Die by Richard Osman (9 copies) 421 pages **NEW**

You'd think you would be allowed to relax over Christmas, but not in the world of the Thursday Murder Club. On Boxing Day, a dangerous package is smuggled across the English coast. When it goes missing, chaos is unleashed. The body count starts to rise - including someone close to the Thursday Murder Club - as our gang face an impossible search and their most deadly opponents yet. With the clock ticking down and a killer heading to Cooper's Chase, has their luck finally run out? And who will be 'the last devil to die'?

The Last Girl by Jane Casey (10 copies) 465 pages.

15-year-old Lydia Kennford returns home to discover the bodies of her mother and twin sister in the family living room, while her father, Philip, lies unconscious and bleeding in an upstairs bedroom. DC Maeve Kerrigan and DI Josh Derwent begin to investigate, discounting a burglary quickly and focusing on Philip Kennford QC himself.

The Last Truths we told by Holly Watt (10 copies) 368 pages. **NEW**

It's not the lies that kill you. It's the truth. They predicted Ivo would become a tycoon. They predicted Ayda would go on to become a hotshot lawyer. They didn't predict that Lily would be dead. Twenty years ago, nine university friends made a series of predictions about what would happen to each of them after college. Now they've all gathered for the weekend. Not for a reunion but for a reveal. Some of them have gone on to staggering success, others to more mundane lives. And one of them is missing.

Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult (10 copies) 483 pages.

For more than a decade, Jenna Metcalf has never stopped thinking about her mother, Alice, who mysteriously disappeared in the wake of a tragic accident. Refusing to believe she was abandoned, Jenna searches for her mother regularly online and pores over the pages of Alice's old journals. A scientist who studied grief among elephants, Alice wrote mostly of her research among the animals she loved, yet Jenna hopes the entries will provide a clue to her mother's whereabouts.

The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula Le Guin (11 copies at Ryde) 304 pages.

Two people, until recently strangers, find themselves on a long, tortuous and dangerous journey across the ice. One is an outcast, forced to leave his beloved homeland; the other is fleeing from a different kind of persecution. What they have in common is curiosity, about others and themselves, and an almost unshakeable belief that the world can be a better place. As they journey for over 800 miles, across the harshest, most inhospitable landscape, they discover the true meaning of friendship, and of love. Winner of both the Hugo and Nebula Awards on its first publication in 1969.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus (11 copies) 390 pages.

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with - of all things - her mind. True chemistry results. Like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later, Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ('combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride') proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook.

Library of the Dead by Glen Cooper (6 copies) 393 pages.

A murderer is on the loose: nicknamed the Doomsday Killer, he's claimed six victims in just two weeks, and the city is terrified. Even worse, the police are mystified: the victims have nothing in common, defying all profiling, and all that connects them is that each received a sick postcard in the mail before they died.

The Lido by Libby Page (10 copies) 394 pages.

Rosemary has lived in Brixton all her life. But now everything she knows is changing - the library where she used to work has closed, the family fruit and veg shop has become a trendy bar, and her beloved husband George is gone. Kate has just moved and feels alone in a city that is too big for her. She's at the bottom rung of her career as a journalist on a local paper and is determined to make something of it. So, when the local lido is threatened with closure, Kate knows this story could be her chance to shine. And Rosemary knows it is the end of everything for her. Together they are determined to make a stand, to show that the pool is more than just a place to swim - it is the heart of the community. Together they will show the importance of friendship, the value of community, and how ordinary people can protect the things they love.

Life after Life by Kate Atkinson (9 copies at Ryde) 621 pages.

During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances? And third chances? In fact, an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to? Life after Life follows Ursula Todd as she lives through the turbulent events of the last century again and again.

The Lighthouse Witches by C.J. Cooke (9 copies) 422 pages. **NEW**

High upon the cliffs of a remote Scottish island, there is a lighthouse that has weathered storms for centuries. Liv Stay has fled to the island, Lon Haven, with her three daughters - Saffy, Luna, and Clover - to escape truths she'd rather not face. Lon Haven was meant to be safe. But soon strange things start to happen. Haunting noises in the dead of night, animal skeletons left on Liv's doorstep and strangest of all, unknown children at the lighthouse, who disappear without a trace. The villagers say it's the work of witches. They say that the children are dark omens, sent to destroy them. Liv doesn't know what to believe. But within months, nine-year-old Luna is the only one of the family left. Twenty years after that dark year on Lon Haven, Luna is still haunted by questions - what happened to her sisters, to her mother?

The Lincoln highway by Amor Towles (10 copies at Ryde) 576 pages.

In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. With his mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett plans to pick up his eight-year-old brother Billy and head to California to start a new life. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have stowed away in the trunk of the warden's car. They have a very different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take the four of them on a fateful journey in the opposite direction - to New York City.

The little Paris bookshop by Nina George (10 copies) 359 pages.

On a beautifully restored barge on the Seine, Jean Perdu runs a bookshop; or rather a 'literary apothecary', for this bookseller possesses a rare gift for sensing which books will soothe the troubled souls of his customers. The only person he is unable to cure, it seems, is himself. He has nursed a broken heart ever since the night, 21 years ago, when the love of his life fled Paris, leaving behind a handwritten letter that he has never dared read. His memories and his love have been gathering dust - until now. The arrival of an enigmatic new neighbour in his eccentric apartment building on Rue Montagnard inspires Jean to unlock his heart, unmoor the floating bookshop and set off for Provence, in search of the past and his beloved.

The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters (11 copies) 501 pages.

In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to a patient at Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once grand and handsome, is now in decline. But are the Ayreses haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life?

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (15 copies at Ryde) 489 Pages.

In 1868 Louisa May Alcott began to write a novel based on her own childhood, in the hope of settling some of her father's mounting debts. 'Little Women' is a sensitive portrayal of the lives of four young sisters growing up during the American Civil War.

Lolly Willowes by Sylvia Townsend Warner (12 copies at Ryde) 224 pages.

Lolly is a 28-year-old spinster when her adored father dies, leaving her dependent upon her brothers and their wives. After 20 years of self-effacement as a maiden aunt, she decides to break free.

Longbourn: a novel of pride and prejudice below stairs by Jo Baker and Jane Austen (10 copies at Ryde) 447 pages.

It is washday for the housemaids at Longbourn House, and Sarah's hands are chapped and bleeding. Domestic life below stairs, ruled tenderly and forcefully by Mrs Hill the housekeeper, is about to be disturbed by the arrival of a new footman smelling of the sea, and bearing secrets. For in Georgian England, there is a world the young ladies in the drawing room will never know, a world of poverty, love, and brutal war.

The Long Walk: the true story of a trek to freedom by Slavomir Rawicz (7 copies) **Non-Fiction 278 pages.**

In 1939 the author was arrested by the Russians and sentenced to 25 years forced labour. This is his account of the 3-month march from Moscow to the Siberian prison camp, life in the camp, and his escape in 1941 along with 7 other prisoners. Their escape route was through Siberia, Mongolia, China, Tibet, and India.

The Long Weekend by Veronica Henry (7 copies) 376 pages.

Claire runs a boutique hotel in Cornwall with her tempestuous lover, chef and bon viveur Luca. What happens when her childhood sweetheart, the love of her life, books into the hotel for his stag night? The story also follows the other guests who check in that weekend - for illicit liaisons, anniversaries and romantic rendezvous.

The louder I will sing by Lee Lawrence (10 copies) Non-Fiction. 268 pages.

The Louder I Will Sing' is a powerful, compelling and uplifting memoir about growing up in modern Britain as a young black man. It's a story both of people and politics, of the underlying racism beneath many of our most important institutions, but also the positive power that hope, faith and love can bring in response.

Love after love by Ingrid Persaud (10 copies) 410 pages.

Meet the Ramdin-Chetan family: forged through loneliness, broken by secrets, saved by love. Irrepressible Betty Ramdin, her shy son Solo and their marvellous lodger, Mr Chetan, form an unconventional household, happy in their differences. Happy, that is, until the night when a glass of rum, a heart-to-heart and a terrible truth explodes the family unit, driving them apart. Brave and brilliant, steeped in affection, 'Love After Love' asks us to consider what happens at the very brink of human forgiveness, and offers hope to anyone who has loved and lost and has yet to find their way back.

Love in the Present Tense by Catherine Ryan Hyde (12 copies) 301 pages.

"So much of how it was started when that cop got out and came up to me. But I didn't know all this when it first happened. I didn't know there would ever be a Leonard, or that this man would be his father, or that anybody would have to die." Mitch is a 25-year-old with commitment issues. Leonard is a five-year-old kid with asthma and vision problems, who captivates everyone he meets. Pearl is Leonard's teenage mother, who's trying to hide a violent secret from her past.

Love in the time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (14 copies at Ryde) 423 pages.

An old man and his childhood sweetheart are united for the first time resulting in the consummation of an amor interruptus that spans half a century. This uplifting love story is set on the Colombian coast in the early 20th century.

Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold (11 copies) 323 pages.

A huge bestseller in America, this is a novel about life and death, forgiveness and vengeance, memory and forgetting. 14-year-old murder victim Susie Salmon looks down on her family and friends from heaven.

Love you more by Lisa Gardner (8 copies) 320 pages.

A split-second decision and Brian Darby lies dead. His wife, state police trooper Tessa Leoni, claims to have shot him in self-defence and for Boston detective D.D. Warren it should be an open-and-shut case. But where is their six-year-old daughter? As D.D.'s homicide investigation ratchets into a frantic state-wide search for a missing child, she must move quickly to learn all of Tessa's secrets and understand what has happened to the little girl. But for Tessa, the worst has not yet happened. She is walking a tightrope, with no one to trust and nowhere to turn, as the clock ticks down to a terrifying deadline. She has one goal in sight, and she will use every ounce of her training to do what must be done. All that matters is her child and no one to save your child.

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz (15 copies at Ryde) 560 pages.

When editor Susan Ryeland is given the tattered manuscript of Alan Conway's latest novel, she has little idea it will change her life. She's worked with the revered crime writer for years and his detective, Atticus Pund, is renowned for solving crimes in the sleepy English villages of the 1950s. As Susan knows only too well, vintage crime sells handsomely. It's just a shame that it means dealing with an author like Alan Conway. But Conway's latest tale of murder at Pye Hall is not quite what it seems. Yes, there are dead bodies and a host of intriguing suspects but hidden in the pages of the manuscript there lies another story: a tale written between the very words on the page, telling of real-life jealousy, greed, ruthless ambition, and murder.

A Man called Ove by Fredrick Backman (10 copies) 304 pages.

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?

The Man who died twice by Richard Osman (10 copies) 423 pages.

It's the following Thursday. Elizabeth has received a letter from an old colleague, a man with whom she has a long history. He is being hunted and he needs her help. His story involves stolen diamonds, a violent mobster, and a very big mistake. As bodies start piling up, Elizabeth enlists Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron in the hunt for a killer. And if they find the diamonds too? Well, wouldn't that be a bonus? But this time they are up against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Can the Thursday Murder Club find the killer (and the diamonds) before the killer finds them?

Mansfield Park by Jane Austen (10 copies at Ryde) 507 pages.

At the age of ten, shy, vulnerable Fanny Price leaves behind her impoverished family in Portsmouth to go and live with her rich relatives at Mansfield Park.

**Meet me at Rainbow Corner by Celia Imrie (10 copies)
357 pages. **NEW****

London, 1944. The air raid sirens are blaring, the bombers are hovering. England has been at war with Germany for four years, and there's no sign of peace coming. Dot Gallagher, newly arrived from Liverpool to offer her services as a nurse, hurries from her Red Cross hostel to the tube station to join the crowds of people taking shelter. A group of GIs have started dancing around a wind-up gramophone, and it doesn't take long for Dot to join them. As she jives along with one of the American soldiers, he tells her about Rainbow Corner, a social club in Piccadilly for US troops. There is always a demand for dance hostesses there, women who know how to jitterbug and rock'n'roll, to dance with the soldiers. Would Dot like to apply? As Dot discovers, Rainbow Corner is like no other place, an oasis in London where, once inside, the constraints of wartime Britain disappear.

Memorial by Alice Oswald (Non-Fiction**) (10 copies) 84 pages.**

To retrieve the 'Iliad's' energy, Alice Oswald has stripped away its story and her account focuses by turns on Homer's extended similes and on the brief biographies of the minor war-dead, most of whom are little more than names, but each of whom lives and dies unforgettably - and unforgotten - in the copiousness of Homer's glance.

The Memory of Love by Aminatta Forna (10 copies) (Audio Download available**) 445 pages.**

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 1969. On a hot January evening that he will remember for decades, Elias Cole first catches sight of Saffia Kamara, the wife of a charismatic colleague. He is transfixed. Thirty years later, lying in the capital's hospital, he recalls the desire that drove him to acts of betrayal he has tried to justify ever since.

Merivel: a man of his time by Rose Tremain (10 copies) 341 pages.

The gaudy years of the Restoration are long gone and Robert Merivel, physician, and courtier to Charles II, sets off for the French court in search of a fresh start. But Versailles – all glitter in front and squalor behind – leaves him in despair, until a chance encounter with the seductive Madame de Flamanville, allows him to dream of a different future. But will that future ever be his? Summoned home urgently and skill tested to their limits.

The mermaid of black conch (10 copies) 176 pages.

March 1976: St Constance, a tiny Caribbean village on the island of Black Conch. A fisherman sings to himself, waiting for a catch - but attracts a sea-dweller he doesn't expect. A beautiful young woman cursed by jealous wives to live as a mermaid has been swimming the Caribbean Sea for centuries. And she is entranced by the fisherman and his song. But her fascination is her undoing. She hears his boat's engine again, follows it, and finds herself at the mercy of American tourists. After a fearsome battle, she is pulled out of the sea and strung up on the dock as a trophy. The fisherman rescues her and gently wins her trust - as she starts to transform into a woman. The novel's characters are an unlikely mix: a mermaid, a fisherman, a deaf boy, a Caribbean artist and Sweetman and a benevolent white landowner.

The midnight library by Matt Haig (10 copies) 288 pages.

When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things are about to change. The books in the Midnight Library enable Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren't always what she imagined they'd be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger. Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

The Miniaturist by Jessie Burton (18 copies at Ryde) 432 pages.

On an autumn day in 1686, 18-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways. Nella is at first mystified by the closed world of the Brandt household, but as she uncovers its secrets, she realizes the escalating dangers that await them all.

Miss Pettigrew Lives for the Day by Winifred Watson (9 copies) 233 pages.

Guinevere Pettigrew, the 40-year-old daughter of a north-country curate, is down on her luck and desperate for a job. Now living in London, all she can offer is domestic and child-care experience, but she's not particularly good at either. Sent by an agency for interview by Miss Dylesia La Fosse, a night-club singer, she finds herself instantly still un-interviewed, embroiled in Dylesia's shockingly Bohemian lifestyle. Even more disorientating, she takes to it like an ugly duckling to water. Underneath her austere exterior Miss Pettigrew is a secret, subconscious swan - a raver, and bossy with it. In no time at all she's wearing make-up, drinking alcohol, running Dylesia's love-life - and other people's too. And they're grateful. All this can only lead to happy endings.

Mister Pip by Lloyd Jones (8 copies) 223 pages.

On a remote South Pacific Island, threatened by uprising, Matilda and her classmates find their lives surprisingly intertwined with those of a boy called Pip, and a man named Mr Dickens.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (8 copies) 232 pages. (Young Adult) **NEW**

The monster showed up just after midnight. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting. He's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments. The monster in his back garden, though, this monster, is something different. Something ancient, something wild.

A Month in the Country by J L Carr (15 copies at Ryde) 144 pages.

In the summer of 1920, a young man escapes London to embark on the unveiling of a medieval church wall painting in a small North Country village. As he becomes absorbed by his work so too does he get drawn into the lives of those around him.

A Mother's Story by Amanda Prowse (8 copies) 358 pages.

Jessica is expecting her first child. But why isn't she transformed by maternal feelings? Where is the all-consuming love she's supposed to feel for her child? No-one told her you don't always love your baby. Perhaps its best if Jessica keeps that dark secret to herself for now.

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie (10 copies) 305 pages.

Roger Ackroyd knew too much. He knew that the woman he loved had poisoned her brutal first husband. He suspected that she was being blackmailed. Then came the news that she had taken her own life. But, before he found all the clues, he was murdered.

Murder on the Thirty-First Floor by Per Wahloo (11 copies) 215 pages.

In an unnamed country, in an unnamed year sometime in the future, Chief Inspector Jensen of the 16th Division is called in after the publishers controlling the entire country's newspapers and magazines receive a threat to blow up their building, in retaliation for a murder they are accused of committing.

Murder by the Book: mysteries for bibliophiles / Edited by Martin Edwards (11 copies at Ryde) 320 pages.

In this collection of stories about the world of books and writing, authors kill and are killed, while books are stolen, hunted after, and found to provide intriguing clues to crime. Legendary detectives ranging from Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown to DCI Roderick Alleyn, Nigel Strangeways, and Superintendent Wilson pit their wits against ingenious criminals who don't always play it by the book.

My Antonia by Willa Cather (7 copies at Ryde) 272 pages.

In this symphonically powerful and magnificently observed novel, Cather created one of the most winning heroines in American fiction, a woman whose calm, undemonstrative strength and robust high spirits make her emblematic of the virtues Cather most admired in her country. Antonia Shimerda is the daughter of Bohemian immigrant parents struggling with the oceanic loneliness of life on the Nebraska prairie. Through the eyes of Jim Burden, her tutor and disappointed admirer, we follow Antonia from farm to town as she survives hardships both natural and human, from poverty to a failed romance - and not only survives, but triumphs.

The Narrow Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan (12 copies at Ryde) 448 pages.

Forever after, there were for them only two sorts of men: the men who were on the Line, and the rest of humanity, who were not. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Burma Death Railway, surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever. Hailed as a masterpiece, Richard Flanagan's epic novel tells the unforgettable story of one man's reckoning with the truth.

Nectar in a sieve by Kamala Markandaya (10 copies) 208 pages.

Married as a child bride to Nathan, a tenant farmer she had never met, Rukmani works side by side in the fields with her husband to wrest a living from a land ravaged by droughts, monsoons, and insects. With fortitude and courage, she fights poverty and disaster. Written over 70 years ago, 'Nectar in a sieve' is as relevant now as when it was first published. The story of Rukmani and Nathan is the story of many Indian farmers yesterday and today. This edition introduces a new generation of readers to a tragic tale made even more relevant as temperatures soar in India and working the land becomes more and more challenging.

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro (9 copies) 282 pages.

Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were pupils at Hailsham - an idyllic establishment situated deep in the English countryside. The children there were tenderly sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe they were special, and that their personal welfare was crucial. But for what reason were they there.

Nora Webster by Colm Toibin (12 copies at Ryde) 310 pages.

It is the 1960s and Nora Webster is living with her two young sons in a small town on the east coast of Ireland. The love of her life, Maurice, has just died so she must work out how to forge a new life for herself. As Nora returns to memories of the happiness of her early marriage, something more painful begins to intrude memories of her own mother and what brought about the terrifying distance between them.

Normal People by Sally Rooney (11 copies at Ryde) 266 pages.

Connell and Marianne grow up in the same small town in rural Ireland. The similarities end there; they are from very different worlds. When they both earn places at Trinity College in Dublin, a connection that has grown between them lasts long into the following years. This is an exquisite love story about how a person can change another person's life - a simple yet profound realisation that unfolds beautifully over the course of the novel. It tells us how difficult it is to talk about how we feel, and it tells us - blazingly - about cycles of domination, legitimacy and privilege.

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell (8 copies) 450 pages.

Margaret's safe existence is turned upside down when she must move to the grim northern town of Milton. Not only does she have her eyes opened by the poverty and hardship she encounters there, but she is thrown into confusion by stern factory owner John Thornton - whose treatment of his workers brings them into fierce opposition.

Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen (11 copies at Ryde) 254 pages.

Catherine Morland is a young girl with a very active imagination. Her naivety and love of sensational novels lead her to approach the fashionable social scene in Bath and her stay at nearby Northanger Abbey with preconceptions that have embarrassing and entertaining consequences.

No Surrender by Constance Maud (12 copies at Ryde) 352 pages.

'No Surrender' describes minor aristocrats and mill girls as they struggle together as part of the suffrage movement.

A Notable Woman by Jean Lucey Pratt (non-fiction) (11 copies) 736 pages.

In April 1925, Jean Lucey Pratt began writing a journal. She continued to write until just a few days before her death in 1986, producing well over a million words in 45 exercise books over the course of her lifetime. For sixty years, no one had an inkling of her diaries' existence, and they have remained unpublished until now. Jean wrote about anything that amused, inspired, or troubled her, laying bare every aspect of her life with aching honesty, infectious humour, indelicate gossip, and heartrending hopefulness. She documented the loss of a tennis match, her unpredictable driving, catty friends, devoted cats, and difficult guests. As Jean's words propel us back in time, 'A Notable Woman' becomes a unique slice of living, breathing British history and a revealing private chronicle of life in the 20th century.

Now we shall be entirely free by Andrew Miller (12 copies at Ryde) 422 pages.

One rain-swept February night in 1809, an unconscious man is carried into a house in Somerset. He is Captain John Lacroix, home from Britain's disastrous campaign against Napoleon's forces in Spain. Gradually Lacroix recovers his health, but not his peace of mind - he cannot talk about the war or face the memory of what happened in a village on the gruelling retreat to Corunna. After the command comes to return to his regiment, he sets out instead for the Hebrides, with the vague intent of reviving his musical interests and collecting local folksongs. Lacroix sails north incognito, unaware that he has far worse to fear than being dragged back to the army.

Oh William! by Elizabeth Strout (10 copies) 240 pages.

Lucy Barton is a successful writer living in New York, navigating the second half of her life as a recent widow and parent to two adult daughters. A surprise encounter leads her to reconnect with William, her first husband - and longtime, on-again-off-again friend and confidante. Recalling their college years, the birth of their daughters, the painful dissolution of their marriage, and the lives they built with other people, Strout weaves a portrait, stunning in its subtlety, of a tender, complex, decades-long partnership.

Old Filth by Jane Gardam (12 copies at Ryde) 272 pages.

Long ago, Old Filth was a Raj orphan - one of the many young children sent 'home' from the East to be fostered and educated in England. This novel tells his story, from his birth in what was then Malaya to the extremities of his old age.

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout (12 copies at Ryde) 270 pages.

Elizabeth Strout gives us 13 narratives centred on a singular and formidable heroine, Olive Kitteridge.

One Day by David Nicholls (10 copies) 437 pages. (Audio Download available) (eBook available)

15th July 1988. Emma and Dexter meet for the first time on the night of their graduation. Tomorrow they must go their separate ways. So where will they be on this one day next year? And the year after that? And every year that follows?

The One Plus One by Jojo Moyes (9 copies) 592 pages. (Audio Download available)

Suppose your life sucks. Your husband has done a vanishing act, your stepson is being bullied, and your daughter has a once in a lifetime opportunity - that you can't afford to pay for. So, imagine you found and kept some money that didn't belong to you, knowing it would pay for your daughter's happiness. But how do you cope with the shame? Especially when the man you've lied to decides to help you out in your hour of need. Jo is in hell - Ed has saved her family - but is their happiness worth a lifetime's soul-searching?

Only Time Will Tell by Jeffrey Archer (14 copies) 449 pages.

The epic tale of Harry Clifton's life begins in 1920, with the chilling words, 'I was told that my father was killed in the war'. But it will be another 20 years before Harry discovers how his father really died, which will only lead him to question: who was his father?

The Orchid Hunter by Leif Bersweden (10 copies) 337 pages. NON-FICTION

In the summer after leaving school, a young botanist sets out to fulfil a childhood dream – to find every species of orchid native to the British Isles. He has just a few months to complete his quest – no one has ever done it before within one growing season, and it will require ingenuity, stamina, and a large dose of luck. This study of the 52 native species is a fantastic gateway into the compendious world of orchids – one that will open your eyes to the rare hidden delights to be found on our doorstep.

Our Endless Numbered Days by Claire Fuller (12 copies) 291 pages.

Peggy is 8 years old when her father takes her to live in a cabin in a remote European forest. There, he tells her that her mother and the rest of the world are gone. Now, the two of them must scratch a living from the earth: trapping squirrels, foraging for berries, surviving winter as best they can.

The Outcast by Sadie Jones (8 copies) 443 pages.

1957, and Lewis Aldridge is travelling back to his home in the South of England. He is straight out of jail and 19 years old. His return will trigger the implosion not just of his family, but of a whole community.

The Outsider by Albert Camus (9 copies) 128 pages.

Set in Camus' native Algeria, this story centres around Meursault. The young French Algerian leads an apparently unremarkable bachelor life until his involvement in a violent incident call into question the fundamental values of society.

Perfect by Cecelia Ahern (8 copies) 426 pages. (Young Adult) NEW

Celestine North lives in a society that demands perfection. After she was branded Flawed by a morality court, Celestine's life has completely fractured - all her freedoms gone. Since Judge Crevan has declared her the number one threat to the public, she has been a ghost, on the run with the complicated, powerfully attractive Carrick, the only person she can trust. But Celestine has a secret - one that could bring the entire Flawed system crumbling to the ground. Judge Crevan is gaining the upper hand, and time is running out for Celestine. With tensions building, Celestine must make a choice: save only herself or risk her life to save all the Flawed.

A Perfect Spy by John Le Carre (12 copies at Ryde) 688 pages.

Magnus Pym, ranking diplomat, has vanished, believed defected. The chase is on for a missing husband, a devoted father, and a secret agent. Pym's life, it is revealed, is entirely made up of secrets. Dominated by a father who is also a confidence trickster on an epic scale, Pym has from the age of 17 been controlled by two mentors. It is these men, racing each other, who are orchestrating the search to find the perfect spy.

Persuasion by Jane Austen (12 copies at Ryde) 254 pages.

Anne Elliot is persuaded by her friends and family to reject a marriage proposal from Captain Wentworth because he lacks in fortune and rank. More than seven years later, when he returns home from the Navy, Anne realises she still has strong feelings for him, but Wentworth only appears to have eyes for a friend of Anne's. Moving, tender, but intrinsically Austen in style, with its satirical portrayal of the vanity of society in eighteenth-century England, *Persuasion* celebrates enduring love and hope.

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (7 copies at Ryde) 251 pages.

Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence.

This is a story of moral corruption. A gothic melodrama, it is full of subtle impression and epigram. It touches on many of Wilde's recurring themes, such as the nature and spirit of art, aestheticism, and the dangers inherent in it.

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke (10 copies at Ryde) 245 pages.

Piranesi lives in the House. Perhaps he always has. In his notebooks, day after day, he makes a clear and careful record of its wonders: the labyrinth of halls, the thousands upon thousands of statues, the tides that thunder up staircases, the clouds that move in slow procession through the upper halls. On Tuesdays and Fridays Piranesi sees his friend, the Other. At other times he brings tributes of food and waterlilies to the Dead. But mostly, he is alone. Messages begin to appear, scratched out in chalk on the pavements. There is someone new in the House. But who are they and what do they want? Are they a friend or do they bring destruction and madness as the other claims? Lost texts must be found; secrets must be uncovered. The world that Piranesi thought he knew is becoming strange and dangerous.

The Pirate's Daughter by Margaret Cezair-Thompson (13 copies) 503 pages.

Spanning 30 years of Jamaican history, 'The Pirate's Daughter' is a tale of passion and recklessness, of two generations of women and their battles for love and survival, and of a nation struggling to rise to the challenge of hard-won independence.

A Place Called Winter by Patrick Gale (12 copies at Ryde) 400 pages.

A privileged elder son, and stammering, shy, Harry Cane has followed convention at every step. Even the beginnings of an illicit, dangerous affair do little to shake the foundations of his muted existence - until the shock of discovery and the threat of arrest cost him everything. Forced to abandon his wife and child, Harry signs up for emigration to the newly colonised Canadian prairies. Remote and unforgiving, his allotted homestead in a place called Winter is a world away from the golden suburbs of turn-of-the-century Edwardian England.

A Pleasure and a Calling by Phil Hogan (10 copies) 288 pages.

You won't remember Mr Heming. He showed you round your new home, suggested a sustainable financial package, negotiated a price and called you with the good news. The less good news is that, all these years later, he still has the key. That's absurd, you laugh. Of all the many hundreds of houses he has sold, why would he still have the key to mine?

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (11 copies) 616 pages.

This tells the story of an American family in the Congo during a time of tremendous political and social upheaval. The story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them all they believe they will need from home but soon find that all of it - from garden seeds to Scripture - is calamitously transformed on African soil. This tale of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction, over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa, is set against one of history's most dramatic political parables. "The Poisonwood Bible" dances between the darkly comic human failings and inspiring poetic justices of our times. In a compelling exploration of religion, conscience, imperialist arrogance, and the many paths to redemption, Barbara Kingsolver has written a novel of overwhelming power and passion.

Pompeii by Robert Harris (9 copies at Ryde) 397 pages.

Harris recreates in spellbinding detail one of the most famous natural disasters of all time. And by focusing on the characters of an engineer and a scientist, he offers an entirely original perspective on the Roman world.

Prime Suspect by Lynda La Plante (10 copies) 230 pages.

A woman is murdered, and the police have a prime suspect, but cannot prove it. Detective Jane Tennison fights to solve the crime and win the respect of her fellow, male, officers.

The Princess Bride by S. Morgenstern (12 copies at Ryde) 399 pages.

Classic tale of true love and high adventure / the "good parts" version abridged by William Goldman. Twenty-five years after it was first published, this popular fairy tale still sells 40,000 copies a year. Now a cult classic, this is a story of pirates, evil princes, sorcerers, and true love.

The Private Patient by P D James (11 copies at Ryde) 497 pages.

When the notorious investigative journalist Rhoda Gradwyn booked into Mr Chandler-Powell's private clinic for the removal of a long-standing facial scar, she had every prospect of a successful operation and the beginning of a new life. Unfortunately, she was never to leave Cheverell Manor alive.

Public Library by Ali Smith (12 copies) 219 pages.

Why are books so very powerful? What do the books we've read over our lives - our own personal libraries - make of us? What does the unravelling of our tradition of public libraries, so hard-won but now in jeopardy, say about us? The stories in Ali Smith's new collection are about what we do with books and what they do with us: how they travel with us; how they shock us, change us, challenge us, banish time while making us older, wiser, and ageless all at once; how they remind us to pay attention to the world we make.

Pure by Andrew Miller (13 copies at Ryde) 342 pages.

In the heart of Paris, its oldest cemetery is, by 1785, overflowing. Jean-Baptiste Baratte is a young engineer charged by the king with demolishing it. But he begins to suspect that the destruction of the cemetery might be a prelude to his own.

The Queen's Gambit by Elizabeth Freemantle (10 copies) 480 pages.

My name is Katherine Parr. I'm 31 years old and already twice widowed. I'm in love with a man I can't have and am about to wed a man no-one would want - for my husband-to-be is none other than Henry VIII, who has already beheaded two wives, cast aside two more, and watched one die in childbirth. What will become of me once I'm wearing his ring.

The Rabbit Back Literature Society by Pasi Ilmari Jaaskelainen (8 copies) 352 pages.

There is a secret at the heart of a small Finnish town, involving its most famous occupant, the world-renowned children's author Laura White, and a strange literary game. Ella is an unsettled young teacher and aspiring author, who returns to her hometown of Rabbit Back. On the evening that she is initiated as the tenth member of the local Literary Society, White, who was its founder, disappears before everyone's eyes. As Ella makes unsettling discoveries about White's and the Society's past, the novel explores the nature of literature, storytelling, and truth itself.

The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams (10 copies) 422 pages **NEW**

Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life after the loss of his wife Naina. He shops every Wednesday, goes to Temple, and worries about his disinterested granddaughter, Priya, who tucks herself away reading whilst he watches David Attenborough. Aleisha is working at the local library on Harrow Road for the summer when she discovers a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of 'To Kill A Mockingbird' with a list of books that she's never heard of before - let alone read. In turn, each story on the reading list gives up its magic, transporting Aleisha away from the painful realities she's facing at home. And when Mukesh arrives at the library, desperate to forge a connection with his bookworm of a granddaughter, Aleisha discovers that the reading list will be a lifeline for him too. And so begins a new chapter between two lonely souls, who'll learn that fiction can teach them a whole lot about real life.

Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier (10 copies) 428 pages.

Du Maurier's famous tale of suspense, mystery and love concerns Maxim de Winter's shy new bride and the house she is to inhabit, but that still reverberates to the haunting presence of his previous wife's influence.

A Redbird Christmas by Fannie Flagg (9 copies) 207 pages.

A short and poignant Christmas story for all the family. Oswald T. Campbell, aged 52, down-and-out in a Chicago winter, is only given months to live unless he moves south. He finds himself in the small town of Lost River, Alabama, amongst all its eccentric but friendly residents.

Red Dust Road by Jackie Kay (10 copies) NF 304 pages. **([Audio Download available](#))**

In this revelatory and redemptive book Jackie Kay tells the story of her own life. It is a book about belonging and beliefs, strangers and family, biology, and destiny and what makes us who we are.

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier (10 copies) 352 pages. ([eBook available](#))

In the early nineteenth century, a windswept beach along the English coast brims with fossils for those with the eye...From the moment she's struck by lightning as a baby, it is clear Mary Anning is different. Her discovery of strange, fossilized creatures in the cliffs of Lyme Regis sets the world alight. But Mary must face powerful prejudice from a male scientific establishment, not to mention vicious gossip and the heartbreak of forbidden love.

Restless by William Boyd (13 copies) 325 pages.

It is 1939. Eva Delectorskaya is a beautiful 28-year-old Russian émigré living in Paris. As war breaks out, she is recruited for the British Secret Service by Lucas Romer, a mysterious Englishman, and under his tutelage she learns to become the perfect spy, to mask her emotions and trust no one, including those she loves most. Since the war, Eva has carefully rebuilt her life as a typically English wife and mother. But once a spy, always a spy. Now she must complete one final assignment, and this time Eva can't do it alone: she needs her daughter's help.

The Return by Victoria Hislop (11 copies) 581 pages.

Mercedes is a spirited young Spanish girl whose passion is dancing. Her life is turned upside down by the Spanish Civil War & the oppression of Franco's dictatorship. When her brothers and her lover disappear in the night, taken for interrogation by the army, she must find a way to flee, even if that means leaving her home & family forever.

Revolutionary Road by Richard Yates (12 copies at Ryde) 336 pages.

Frank and April Wheeler, a bright, beautiful, and talented couple, are desperate to maintain their dreams of greatness and distinction against the inexorable pressure of their suburban life.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy (13 copies) 307 pages. [\(Audio Download available\)](#)

A father and his son walk alone through burned America, heading through the ravaged landscape to the coast. This is the profoundly moving story of their journey. "The Road" boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which two people, 'each the other's world entire', are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

Rocken Edge by Wendy K Harris (8 copies) 293 pages.

Clare, a traumatised teenager clutching a baby, arrives on the Isle of Wight on a bitter winter's day searching for a friend she met on her journey from Ireland. Rachel, oblivious to the plight of the girl outside, sits in her seafront cafe lamenting her Italian lover for whom she has risked her livelihood and her heart.

A Room Full of Bones by Eil Griffiths (10 copies) 344 pages.

It is Halloween, and a museum is preparing for an unusual event: the opening of a coffin containing the bones of a medieval bishop. But when Ruth Galloway arrives to supervise, she finds the museum's curator lying dead beside the coffin. It is only a matter of time before she and DI Nelson cross paths once more.

The Secret life of Albert Entwistle by Matt Cain (12 copies at Ryde) 458 pages.

Albert Entwistle was a postman. It was one of the few things everyone knew about him. And it was one of the few things he was comfortable with people knowing. 64-year-old Albert Entwistle has been a postie in a quiet town in Northern England for all his life, living alone since the death of his mam 18 years ago. He keeps himself to himself. He always has. But he's just learned he'll be forced to retire at his next birthday. With no friends and nothing to look forward to, the lonely future he faces terrifies him. He realises it's finally time to be honest about who he is. He must learn to ask for what he wants. And he must find the courage to look for George, the man that, many years ago, he lost - but has never forgotten. Join Albert as he sets out to find the long-lost love of his life and has an unforgettable and completely life-affirming adventure on the way.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (10 copies) 375 pages.

Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four. She not only has her own memory of holding the gun, but her father's account of the event. Now fourteen, she yearns for her mother, and for forgiveness. Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her father, she has only one friend: Rosaleen, a black servant whose sharp exterior hides a tender heart. South Carolina in the sixties is a place where segregation is still considered a cause worth fighting for. When racial tension explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten, Lily is compelled to act.

The Secret Scripture by Sebastian Barry (11 copies) 312 pages.

Nearing her 100th birthday, Roseanne faces an uncertain future, as the mental hospital where she's spent the best part of her adult life prepares for closure. Over the weeks leading up to this upheaval, she talks often with her psychiatrist Dr Grene. This relationship intensifies as he mourns the death of his wife.

Sepulchre by Kate Mosse (13 copies) 739 pages.

Researching a biography of the composer Claude Debussy, Meredith Martin also seeks the key to her own complex legacy. Armed with a piece of piano music and a photograph, she soon becomes immersed in the story of a tragic love, a missing girl, an unquiet soul, and the events of one cataclysmic night more than a century ago.

Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo (10 copies) 307 pages.

The Shadow Fold, a swathe of impenetrable darkness, crawling with monsters that feast on human flesh, is slowly destroying the once-great nation of Ravka. Alina, a pale, lonely orphan, discovers a unique power that thrusts her into the lavish world of the kingdom's magical elite - the Grisha. Could she be the key to unravelling the dark fabric of the Shadow Fold and setting Ravka free?

Shadow of a Shadow by Crispin Keith (12 copies) 200 pages.

When Lydia Twomey, a bright, young MI5 officer is sent down to H11, a secretive MI5 archive, to investigate the suspicious death of one of the staff, she finds a claustrophobic world ruled over by the charismatic but controlling Gerard Bell.

The Shipping News by E Annie Proulx (12 copies at Ryde) 448 pages. (eBook available)

Annie Proulx's highly acclaimed, international bestseller and Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Quoye is a hapless, hopeless hack journalist living and working in New York. When his no-good wife is killed in a spectacular road accident, Quoye heads for the land of his forefathers -- the remotest corner of far-flung Newfoundland. With 'the aunt' and his delinquent daughters -- Bunny and Sunshine -- in tow, Quoye finds himself part of an unfolding, exhilarating Atlantic drama. 'The Shipping News' is an irresistible comedy of human life and possibility.

Shot in the dark by Anna Britton (10 copies) 432 pages

Moonlight slants through the trees on the ancestral Dunlow estate, where a young woman runs for her life. Gunshots break the silence. The next morning, the body of seventeen-year-old student Melanie Pirt is found. DS Gabe Martin is more than ready to take the lead on her first murder case. Determined to prove herself to the cold and mysterious DI Juliet Stern, Gabe can't afford any distractions - especially not ones that wake her in the night, reminding her of a past she'd rather forget. Because while Gabe and Juliet have few leads, there are plenty of suspects. And every one of them is lying.

Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart (10 copies) 430 pages.

It is 1981. Glasgow is dying and good families must grift to survive. Agnes Bain has always expected more from life. She dreams of greater things: a house with its own front door and a life bought and paid for outright (like her perfect, but false, teeth). But Agnes is abandoned by her philandering husband, and soon she and her three children find themselves trapped in a decimated mining town. As she descends deeper into drink, the children try their best to save her, yet one by one they must abandon her to save themselves. It is her son Shuggie who holds out hope the longest. Shuggie is different. Fastidious and fussy, he shares his mother's sense of snobbish propriety. The miners' children pick on him and adults condemn him as no' right. But Shuggie believes that if he tries his hardest, he can be normal like the other boys and help his mother escape this hopeless place.

Sister by Rosamund Lupton (13 copies) 359 pages. (Audio Download available)

When Beatrice receives a call to say that her sister, Tess, is missing, she boards the first flight home. But as she learns about Tess's disappearance, she is stunned to discover how little she knows of her sister's life. Everyone around her accepts they have lost Tess, but Beatrice refuses to give up, embarking on a dangerous journey to discover the shocking truth, whatever the cost...

Slow horses by Mick Herron (10 copies at Ryde) 336 pages. NEW

Slough House is a dumping ground for members of the intelligence service who've screwed up. Bitterest amongst them is River Cartwright, whose days are now spent transcribing phone conversations. But when a young man is abducted, and threatened to be beheaded live on the Internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem himself.

Small things like these by Claire Keegan (10 copies at Ryde) 116 pages. NEW

It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal, and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising to meet him - and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church.

Snapper by Brian Kimberling (10 copies) 226 pages.

Set in rural Indiana, 'Snapper' is a book about birdwatching, a woman who won't stay true, and a pick-up truck that won't start. Here turtles eat alligators for breakfast, Klansmen skulk in the undergrowth, and truckers drop into the diner of a town named Santa Claus to ensure that no child's Christmas letter goes unanswered, while Nathan grapples with the eternal question: should I stay, or should I go?

The Snowman by Jo Nesbo (576 pages. NEW)

A young boy wakes to find his mother missing. Their house is empty but outside in the garden he sees his mother's favourite scarf - wrapped around the neck of a snowman. As Harry Hole and his team begin their investigation, they discover that an alarming number of wives and mothers have gone missing over the years.

Someone Like You: tales of the unexpected by Roald Dahl (11 copies) 354 pages.

As a ship crosses the ocean, one passenger hits on a seemingly foolproof way to win the gambling pool on its daily progress. Attendants at a gallery are presented with an incredible piece of art tattooed on the back of an old man. Three men are pitted against a venomous krait in an agonisingly tense battle of wits. Machines are invented that can write entire novels with the barest human input - or pick up the shrieks of roses when they are cut. And a small boy's game of spotting snakes in a carpet pattern transforms into something grotesquely, horrifyingly real.

Songs of the Humpback Whale by Jodi Picoult (11 copies) 427 pages. ([Audio Download available](#))

Jane had always lived in somebody's shadow. Escaping a childhood of abuse by marrying oceanographer Oliver Jones, she finds herself taking second place to his increasingly successful career. However, when her daughter Rebecca is similarly treated, Jane's dramatic stand takes them all by surprise. Jane and Rebecca set out to drive across America to the sanctuary of the New England apple orchard where Jane's brother Joley works. Oliver, used to tracking male humpback whales across vast oceans, now has the task of tracking his wife across a continent. To do so he must learn to see the world - and even himself - through her eyes...

Sorrow and Bliss by Meg Mason (10 copies) 347 pages.

Everyone tells Martha Friel she is clever and beautiful, a brilliant writer who has been loved every day of her adult life by one man, her husband Patrick. A gift - her mother once said - not everybody gets. So why is everything broken? Why is Martha - on the edge of 40 - friendless, practically jobless, and so often sad? And why did Patrick decide to leave? Maybe she is just too sensitive, someone who finds it harder to be alive than most people. Or maybe there is something wrong with her. Something that broke when a little bomb went off in her brain, at 17, and left her changed in a way that no doctor or therapist has ever been able to explain. Forced to return to her childhood home to live with her dysfunctional, bohemian parents, Martha has one last chance to find out whether a life is ever too broken to fix - or whether, maybe, by starting over, she will get to write a better ending for herself.

A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler (12 copies at Ryde) 480 pages.

'It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon...' This is the way Abby Whitshank always begins the story of how she and Red fell in love that day in July 1959. The whole family sits on the porch, relaxed, half-listening as their mother tells the same tale they have heard so many times before. And yet this gathering is different. Abby and Red are getting older, and decisions must be made about how best to look after them and their beloved family home.

Starting Over by Tony Parsons (12 copies) 290 pages.

After suffering a heart attack at the age of 42, George is given the heart of a 19 - year-old. Soon he is acting like a teenager, is a friend - instead of a jailer - to his children and wants to change the world - just as soon as he shakes off his hangover. But he slowly realises that being young again is not all it is cracked up to be.

Still Alice by Alice Genova (12 copies at Ryde) 351 pages.

Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. A Harvard professor, she has a successful husband and three grown children. She soon finds herself in the rapidly downward spiral of Alzheimer's Disease. Her short-term memory may be hanging on by a couple of frayed threads, but she is still Alice.

Still life by Sarah Winman (9 copies) 438 pages.

1944, in the ruined wine cellar of a Tuscan villa, as bombs fall around them, two strangers meet and share an extraordinary evening. Ulysses Temper is a young British soldier, Evelyn Skinner is a sexagenarian art historian and possible spy. She has come to Italy to salvage paintings from the wreckage and relive memories of the time she encountered EM Forster and had her heart stolen by an Italian maid in a particular Florentine room with a view. Evelyn's talk of truth and beauty plants a seed in Ulysses' mind that will shape the trajectory of his life - and of those who love him - for the next four decades.

Stoner by John Williams (10 copies) 278 pages.

The son of a Midwestern farmer, William Stoner comes to the University of Missouri in 1910 to study agriculture. Stoner tells of love and conflict, passion, and responsibility against the backdrop of academic life in the early 20th century.

Stories to make you smile: Edited by Fanny Blake (8 copies) 127 pages.

Ten uplifting tales from bestselling authors.

From a hilarious race against time to a moment of unexpected eavesdropping, from righting wrongs in rural India to finding joy in unlikely places, these stories are all rich in wit and humour, guaranteed to lift your spirits and warm your heart. Contains stories by Jenny Eclair, Mark Watson, Veronica Henry, Eva Verde, Richard Madeley, Katie Fforde, Dorothy Koomson, Veseem Khan, Helen Lederer and Rachel Hore.

A Study in Scarlet & The Sign of the Four by Arthur Conan Doyle (12 copies at Ryde)

When Dr John Watson takes room in Baker Street with amateur detective Sherlock Holmes, he has no idea that he is about to enter a shadowy world of criminality and violence.

Such Charming Liars by Kare m. McManus (8 copies) 388 pages. (Young Adult) **NEW**

When mother-daughter grifters set out on their final heist, the job gets dangerously personal - and deadly. For all of Kat's life, it's just been her and her mother, Jamie - except for forty-eight hours twelve years ago when Jamie was married and Kat had a stepbrother, Liam. That all ended in a swift divorce, and Kat and Liam haven't spoken since. Now Jamie is a jewel thief trying to go straight, but she has one last job - at billionaire Ross Sutherland's 80th birthday party. Kat has figured out a way to tag along to the dazzling Sutherland compound, but neither she nor her mother know about the other surprise guests that weekend: Liam and his father, a serial scammer who has his own sights set on Ross Sutherland's youngest daughter. Kat and Liam are on a collision course to disaster, and when a Sutherland dies, they realize they might be in the killer's crosshairs themselves.

Summertime Death by Mons Kallentoft (10 Copies) 486 pages.

As the temperature in Sweden reaches a record-breaking 45, forest fires break out. All those who have failed to escape Linköping take shelter indoors, shocked and paralysed by the heat. However, when a teenage girl is discovered naked and bleeding in the local park, the raging heat is not the only plague in town.

Summer of '76 by Isabel Ashdown (15 copies at Ryde)384 pages. **NEW**

Luke Wolff is about to turn 18 and is all set to enjoy his last few months at home on the Isle of Wight before leaving for college. Life is good; his job at the holiday camp promises new friendships and even the possibility of romance. But Luke's perfect world is abruptly shattered when everything he once believed about his family is turned upside down.

The Suspicions of Mr Whicher or The Murder at Road Hill House by Kate Summerscale (10 copies) 360 pages.

In the village of Road in Wiltshire during the summer of 1860, a family awakes to discover that a gruesome murder has taken place in their home. The guilty party is surely still among them. Jack Whicher of Scotland Yard, the most celebrated detective of his day, has the unenviable task of conducting the investigation.

The Sweetness of water by Nathan Harris (10 copies) 410 pages. **NEW**

In the dying days of the American Civil War, newly freed brothers Landry and Prentiss find themselves cast into the world without a penny to their names. Forced to hide out in the woods near their former Georgia plantation, they're soon discovered by the land's owner, George Walker, a man still reeling from the loss of his son in the war. When the brothers begin to live and work on George's farm, the tentative bonds of trust and union begin to blossom between the strangers. But this sanctuary survives on a knife's edge, and it isn't long before the inhabitants of the nearby town of Old Ox react with fury at the alliances being formed only a few miles away.

The Teacher by Tim Sullivan (10 copies) 377 pages. NEW

In a village in Southwest England, an elderly man is found dead in his home. The angle of his neck says he fell down the stairs. The stab wound on his body tells a different story. In the weeks before his murder, Alistair Moreton changed. He usually kept himself to himself, but people swear there was someone in the house when they checked on him, that there was a reason he wouldn't let them inside. Moreton made people's lives a misery, from his neighbours to his ex-pupils. While DS George Cross's list of suspects is long, every victim deserves justice. But in all of Alistair's years, there was something important he never learned: If you go through life making enemies, don't be surprised when they teach you a lesson.

The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney (13 copies) 450 pages. (eBook available)

As winter tightens its grip on the isolated settlement of Dove River, a woman steers herself for the journey of a lifetime. A man has been brutally murdered and her 17-year-old son has disappeared. To clear her son's name, she has no choice but to follow the tracks leaving the dead man's cabin.

A Terrible Kindness by Jo Browning Wroe (10 copies) 381 pages.

It is October 1966 and William Lavery is having the night of his life at his first black-tie do. But, as the evening unfolds, news hits of a landslide at a coal mine. It has buried a school - Aberfan. William decides he must act, so he stands and volunteers to attend. It will be his first job as an embalmer, and it will be one he never forgets. His work that night will force him to think about the little boy he was, and the losses he has worked so hard to forget. But compassion can have surprising consequences, because - as William discovers - giving so much to others can sometimes help us heal ourselves.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (15 copies) 412 pages.

'A Thousand Splendid Suns' is a chronicle of Afghan history, and a deeply moving story of family, friendship, and the salvation to be found in love.

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman (13 copies) 375 pages.

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. But when a brutal killing takes place on their very doorstep, the Thursday Murder Club find themselves in the middle of their first live case. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing 80 but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. Can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer before it's too late?

The Time Machine by HG Wells (10 copies) 99 pages.

In 'The Time Machine', Wells' time traveller journeys to 802701 AD, where humanity has evolved and divided into the effete Eloi and the brutal Morlocks. This science fiction classic raises profound questions about progress and social order.

The Tin Nose Shop by Don J Snyder (10 copies) 288 pages.

Young artist Sam Burke is spared death by firing squad on the battlefields of France and brought to a remote castle by the Irish Sea. At the 'Tin Nose Shop' he is tasked with creating intricate masks to hide the mutilated faces of his fellow soldiers from the Front. While he tries to come to terms with the death of his best friend and the promise he failed to keep, Sam and the disfigured soldiers struggle to return to their former lives and their loved ones.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (11 copies) 288 pages.

'Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin To Kill a Mockingbird.' Lawyer Atticus Finch gives this advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice.

Touching the Void by Joe Simpson (10 copies) 208 pages. Non-Fiction

“Touching the Void” is the heart-stopping account of Joe Simpson's terrifying adventure in the Peruvian Andes. He and his climbing partner, Simon, reached the summit of the remote Siula Grande in June 1995. A few days later, Simon staggered into Base Camp, exhausted and frost-bitten, with news that that Joe was dead. What happened to Joe, and how the pair dealt with the psychological traumas that resulted when Simon was forced into the appalling decision to cut the rope, makes not only an epic of survival but a compelling testament of friendship.

Transcription by Kate Atkinson (8 copies) 401 pages.

In 1940, 18-year-old Juliet Armstrong is reluctantly recruited into the world of espionage. Sent to an obscure department of MI5 tasked with monitoring the comings and goings of British Fascist sympathisers, she discovers the work to be by turns both tedious and terrifying. But after the war has ended, she presumes the events of those years have been relegated to the past for ever. Ten years later, now a producer at the BBC, Juliet is unexpectedly confronted by figures from her past.

Treachery by S.J Parris (7 copies) 576 pages.

August 1583. Giordano Bruno, a heretic fleeing the Inquisition, finds a new life working as a spy for Sir Francis Walsingham. Along with his friend, Sir Philip Sidney, Bruno travels to Plymouth on the Queen's behalf. There, they meet Sir Francis Drake, who is preparing to launch a daring expedition against the Spanish, which could turn the tide of war. Unbeknownst to Bruno, however, Sidney plans to stowaway with Drake's fleet and return a hero - dragging Bruno with him to the New World. But when a murder occurs aboard Drake's own ship, fear and suspicion grip the fleet and threaten to abort the expedition before it begins.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (11 copies) 210 pages.

When Jim Hawkins discovers a dead man's map it's not long before he's off to sea in search of distant treasure. But it seems trouble boarded the ship with him, in the shape of the ship's cook, Long John Silver, who is leading a mutinous band of pirates who want the treasure for themselves and will do anything to get it.

Trespasses by Louise Kennedy (10 copies) 311 pages

Cushla Lavery lives with her mother in a small town near Belfast. At 24, she splits her time between her day job as a teacher to a class of 7-year-olds, and regular bartending shifts in the pub owned by her family. It's here, on a day like any other - as the daily news rolls in of another car bomb exploding, another man shot, killed, beaten, or left for dead - that she meets Michael Agnew, an older (and married) barrister who draws her into his sophisticated group of friends. When the father of a young boy in her class, becomes the victim of a savage attack, Cushla is compelled to help his family. But as her affair with Michael intensifies, political tensions in the town escalate, threatening to destroy all she is working to hold together.

True Grit by Charles Portis (13 copies at Ryde) 215 pages.

When Frank Ross is killed by one of his own workers, his daughter Mattie travels to claim his body, and finds that the authorities are doing nothing to find his killer. Then she hears of Rooster and convinces him to join her in a quest into dark, dangerous Indian territory to avenge her father's murder.

The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair (11 copies) 615 pages.

August 30, 1975. The day of the disappearance. The day a small New Hampshire town lost its innocence. That summer Harry Quebert fell in love with 15-year-old Nola Kellergan. 33 years later, her body is dug up from his yard along with a manuscript copy of his career-defining novel. Quebert is the only suspect. Marcus Goldman - Quebert's most gifted protege - throws off his writer's block to save his mentor from the electric chair. Solving the case and penning a new bestseller soon blur together. As his book begins to take on a life of its own, the nation is gripped by the mystery of 'The Girl Who Touched the Heart of America'. But with Nola, in death as in life, nothing is ever as it seems.

Two Caravans by Marina Lewycka (12 copies) 320 pages.

In a Kent field, and around their caravans, a group of strawberry pickers celebrate a birthday. But what lies behind the buy-one-get-one-free offers at the supermarket and who picks the strawberries? The Ukrainians, the Poles, the Chinese? And although he can't pick strawberries, there's also the dog!

Two women in Rome by Elizabeth Buchan (10 copies) 356 pages.

Lottie Archer arrives in Rome excited to begin her new job as an archivist. When she discovers a valuable fifteenth-century painting, she is drawn to find out more about the woman who left it behind, Nina Lawrence. Nina seems to have led a rewarding and useful life, restoring Italian gardens to their full glory following the destruction of World War Two. So why did no one attend her funeral in 1978? In exploring Nina's past, Lottie unravels a tragic love story beset by the political turmoil of post-war Italy. And as she edges closer to understanding Nina, she begins to confront the losses in her own life.

Under a Pole Star by Stef Penney (8 copies) 598 pages.

Flora Mackie was twelve when she first crossed the Arctic Circle on her father's whaling ship. Now she is returning to the frozen seas as the head of her own exploration expedition. Jakob de Beyn was raised in Manhattan, but his yearning for new horizons leads him to the Arctic as part of a rival expedition. When he and Flora meet, all thoughts of science and exploration give way before a sudden, all-consuming love. The affair survives the growing tensions between the two groups, but then, after one more glorious summer on the Greenland coast, Jakob joins his leader on an extended trip into the interior, with devastating results.

The Uninvited Guests by Sadie Jones (8 copies) 356 pages.

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.

The Unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce (12 Copies) 364 pages.

When Harold Fry nips out one morning to post a letter, leaving his wife hoovering upstairs, he has no idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other. He has no hiking boots or map, let alone a compass, waterproof or mobile phone. All he knows is that he must keep walking. To save someone else's life.

The vanishing half by Brit Bennett (10 copies) 366 pages.

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation when their own daughters' story lines intersect?

Villager by Tom Cox (10 copies) 352 pages.

Villages are full of tales: some are forgotten while others become a part of local folklore. But the fortunes of one West Country village are watched over and irreversibly etched into its history as an omniscient, somewhat crabby, presence keeps track of village life. In the late sixties a Californian musician blows through Underhill where he writes a set of haunting folk songs that will earn him a group of obsessive fans and a cult following. Two decades later, a couple of teenagers disturb a body on the local golf course. In 2019, a pair of lodgers discover a one-eyed rag doll hidden in the walls of their crumbling and neglected home. Connections are forged and broken across generations, but only the landscape itself can link them together. A landscape threatened by property development and superfast train corridors and speckled by the pylons whose feet have been buried across the moor.

The Villa Rouge by Maggie Ross (10 copies) 384 pages.

Morgan Perincall's marriage is already disintegrating when her husband volunteers for service in France. Dazed by his desertion, she sends their children west to safety, and leaves London for the Villa Rouge, by the Thames estuary, to take shelter under her father's roof. Caught between the open hostility of her father's housekeeper and the suffocating affection of her crippled younger brother, Morgan is relieved to find her days brightened by the arrival of an R.A.F. squadron - a chance to relive the romances of her wilder youth. But the fall of Dunkirk puts a dampener on the pilots' social calendar, and before long they are fighting for their lives in earnest. With war drawing ever closer and the secrets of her past looming large, Morgan discovers that sometimes the whitest lies can leave the darkest legacies.

The Visible World by Mark Slouka (13 copies) 256 pages.

'My mother knew a man during the war. Theirs was a love story, and like any good love story, it left blood on the floor and wreckage in its wake'. As a boy growing up in New York, his parents' memories of their Czech homeland seem to belong to another world, as distant and unreal as the fairy tales his father tells him. It is only as an adult, when he makes his own journey to Prague, that he is finally able to piece together the truth of his parents' past: what they did, who his mother loved, and why they were never able to forget.

The Visitors by Sally Beauman (8 copies) 529 pages.

Sent abroad to Egypt in 1922 to recover from the typhoid that killed her mother, 11-year-old Lucy is caught up in the intrigue and excitement that surrounds the obsessive hunt for Tutankhamun's tomb. As she struggles to comprehend an adult world in which those closest to her are often cold and unpredictable, Lucy longs for a friend she can love.

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells (10 copies) 240 pages.

'The War of the Worlds' is Wells' classic science fiction tale of a Martian invasion of Earth. Having already destroyed London, it seems that no-one can stop the intellectually superior Martians from taking over the whole planet.

A Week in December by Sebastian Faulks (12 copies) 392 pages.

London, the week before Christmas, 2007. Over seven days we follow the lives of seven major characters. With daring skill, the novel pieces together the complex patterns and crossings of modern urban life.

We are all Made of Glue by Marina Lewycka (8 copies) 419 pages.

Georgie Sinclair's life is coming unstuck. Her husband's left her. Her son's obsessed with the End of the World. And now her elderly neighbour Mrs Shapiro has decided they are related. Or so the hospital informs her when Mrs Shapiro has an accident and names Georgie next of kin. This, however, is not a case of a quick ward visit: Mrs Shapiro has a large rickety house full of stinky cats that needs looking after and that a pair of estate agents seem intent on swindling from her.

The Whalebone Theatre by Joanna Quinn (10 copies) 547 pages.

Cristabel Seagrave has always wanted her life to be a story, but there are no girls in the books in her dusty family library. For an unwanted orphan who grows into an unmarriageable young woman, there is no place at all for her in a traditional English manor. But from the day that a whale washes up on the beach at the Chilcombe estate in Dorset, and twelve-year-old Cristabel plants her flag and claims it as her own, she is determined to do things differently.

Whatever it takes by Adele Parks (11 copies) 442 pages. [\(Audio Download available\)](#)

Adele Parks' emotionally powerful new novel asks the question: are there limits as to what you'd do for love? Eloise Hamilton is a Londoner born and bred, so it is a momentous day when she agrees to uproot to Dartmouth, leaving behind her perfect world so her husband can finally live in his. Then, when the family is thrust into unexpected turmoil, Eloise finds she is the one holding everything together - and by an ever-weakening thread. As her world implodes with the strain of being responsible for all around her, someone is bound to be overlooked. And the damage might be irreparable...

Where the Crawdads sing by Delia Owens (10 copies) 370 pages.

How long can you protect your heart? For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So, in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life - until the unthinkable happens.

The White Queen by Philippa Gregory (8 copies) 438 pages.

A woman who won the love of a king and ascended to royalty by virtue of her beauty, Elizabeth Woodville fought tenaciously for the success of her family -- her daughter who would one day unite the warring dynasties, and her two sons whose eventual fate has confounded historians for centuries: the Princes in the Tower. An active player in the power struggles that surrounded her, she made hard and courageous choices, always trying to protect those whom she loved.

White Teeth by Zadie Smith (9 copies at Ryde) 560 pages.

White Teeth is a comic epic of multicultural Britain by one of the most exciting young writers of 2000. It tells the story of immigrants in England over a period of 40 years.

The Whole Day Through by Patrick Gale (8 copies) 241 pages.

It's a day in the life of a 40-something woman. She has recently been obliged to move in with her elderly mother because the latter is a committed, lifelong, naturist who no conventional care home would admit.

Wild by Cheryl Strayed (15 copies at Ryde) 336 pages. Non-Fiction

At 26, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family disbanded, and her marriage crumbled. With nothing to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life: to walk 1,100 miles of the west coast of America - from the Mojave Desert, through California and Oregon, and into Washington State - and to do it alone. She had no experience of long-distance hiking, and the journey was nothing more than a line on a map. But it held a promise - a promise of piecing together a life that lay in ruins at her feet.

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel (9 copies) 653 pages. [\(Audio Download available\)](#)

England, the 1520s. Henry VIII is on the throne, but has no heir. Cardinal Wolsey is his chief advisor, charged with securing the divorce the pope refuses to grant. Into this atmosphere of distrust and need comes Thomas Cromwell, first as Wolsey's clerk, and later his successor.

The Woman in the Fifth by Douglas Kennedy (10 copies) 422 pages.

When Harry Ricks arrives in Paris on a bleak January morning, he is a broken man. He is running away from a failed marriage and a dark scandal that ruined his career as a film lecturer in a small American university. With no money and nowhere to live, Harry swiftly falls in with the city's underclass, barely scraping a living.

The Women of Troy by Pat Barker (10 copies) 306 pages.

Troy has fallen. The Greeks have won their bitter war. They can return home victors, loaded with their spoils: their stolen gold, stolen weapons, stolen women. All they need is a good wind to lift their sails. But the wind does not come. The gods have been offended - the body of Priam lies desecrated, unburied - and so the victors remain in limbo, camped in the shadow of the city they destroyed, pacing at the edge of an unobliging sea. And, in these empty, restless days, the hierarchies that held them together begin to fray, old feuds resurface and new suspicions fester. Largely unnoticed by her squabbling captors, Briseis remains in the Greek encampment. She forges alliances where she can - with young, dangerously naive Amina, with defiant, aged Hecuba, with Calchus, the disgraced priest - and begins to see the path to a kind of revenge.

Woman on the Edge of Time by Marge Piercy (10 copies) 417 pages.

Connie Ramos, 37, Mexican American, unfairly incarcerated in a mental hospital, is the enduring central character in a novel about differing visions of the future.