

Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

## Paris Detective

Author: James Patterson

Format: eAudiobook

The most revered detective in Paris puts his skills to the test in three thrilling cases from the creator of Alex Cross and Detective Michael Bennett. French Kiss: French detective Luc Moncrief joined the NYPD for a fresh start – but someone wants to make his first big case his last. The Christmas Mystery: Two priceless paintings disappear from a Park Avenue murder scene – French detective Luc Moncrief is in for a not-so-merry Christmas. French Twist: Gorgeous women are dropping dead at upscale department stores in New York City. Detective Luc Moncrief and Detective Katherine Burke are close to solving the mystery, but looks can be deceiving ...



## The Farmer's Friend

Author: Fiona McArthur

Format: eBook, Book

Jed and Gracie's move to Featherwood brings big dreams and open hearts, despite the drought around them. The ready-made rural store even comes with an ancient homestead overlooking the river, albeit one requiring some TLC. Gracie is expecting, and they're eager to put down family roots in the tiny community. Midwife Nell has fled her life in Sydney, hoping to start afresh on a small farm away from prying eyes and gossip. She strives to go unnoticed, but that proves nearly impossible when she meets charismatic Gracie and Jed and the unpredictable, attractive Liam, who has as much emotional baggage as Nell does herself. Jed's store becomes the meeting place for the town's colourful characters, people who'd do anything for their neighbours and friends. As Gracie's due date draws close, tensions rise between her and Jed when his impulsiveness strains their precarious financial situation. As a bushfire ravages the region, the whole town comes under threat, putting relationships and lives on the line. Can quiet achievers, unexpected heroes, and a valley of part-time fire-fighters and farmers help Featherwood rise again?



## The Dressmaker's Secret

Author: Rosalie Ham

Format: eAudiobook, Book, Audio Disc

In this book, we rejoin Tilly Dunnage, two years after she left her home town in flames. Now it is 1953 and the fashion pages are awash with royal fever. The young queen's coronation means a season of society balls and a rush to reproduce the latest styles of the Houses of Dior, Valentino and Balenciaga. Why, then, is the best dressmaker in Melbourne squandering her talents in a second-rate Collins Street salon? From whom, or what, is she hiding?

## Trick of the Light

Author: Fiona McCallum

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Audio Disc

Erica, newly widowed, is devastated to discover her venture capitalist husband left their finances in ruins. Determined to save her home while protecting her teenage daughters, she vows to get back on her feet without letting them, or anyone else, know the truth. When her girls head off on a long-planned overseas adventure, Erica focuses on her much-loved job behind a makeup counter to keep her emotionally and financially afloat - although she is troubled by a peculiar encounter at work. Then she loses her job, the darkness beckons and Erica's life spirals downwards, further disturbed by strange occurrences in her house. Missing objects. Stopped clocks. Noises in the night. Should she doubt her very sanity? Can she swallow her pride and make herself reach out to her friends in time? Does she have a choice?

## The Mozart Conspiracy

Author: Scott Mariani

Format: eBook

A centuries-old mystery. An accidental death. A conspiracy that may end in murder. Former British Special Air Service officer Ben Hope is running for his life. Enlisted by Leigh Llewellyn - the beautiful, world-famous opera star and Ben's first love - to investigate her brother, Oliver's mysterious death, Ben finds himself caught up in a puzzle dating back to the 1700s.

## The Godmothers

Author: Monica McInerney  
Format: eAudiobook, Book, Audio Book

Eliza Miller grew up in Australia as the only daughter of a troubled young mother, but with the constant support of two watchful godmothers, Olivia and Maxie. Despite her tricky childhood, she always felt loved and secure. Until, just before her eighteenth birthday, a tragic event changed her life. Thirteen years on, Eliza is deliberately living as safely as possible, avoiding close relationships and devoting herself to her job. Out of the blue, an enticing invitation from one of her godmothers prompts a leap into the unknown. Within a fortnight, Eliza finds herself in the middle of a complicated family in Edinburgh. There's no such thing as an ordinary day any more. Yet, amidst the chaos, Eliza begins to blossom. She finds herself not only hopeful about the future, but ready to explore her past, including the biggest mystery of all -- who is her father?

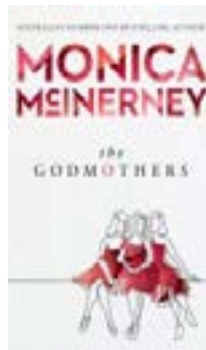
## Pimp Your Air Fryer

Author: Jake Grigg  
Format: Book

If you are hoping for a standard air fryer cookbook, this book is not for you! Pimp Your Air Fryer goes against what you think a cookbook is. Written by Jake Grigg, aka the Air Fryer Guy, it is a recipe book that is not only fun and light-hearted, but one that promotes creativity and challenges the fundamentals of cooking. The Air Fryer Guy is a TikTok and Instagram sensation. His videos went viral after he started making wacky recipes in his air fryer. He's tried putting everything and anything into an air fryer, from fairy floss to watermelon, you name it, he has air fried it! So, if you have just bought an air fryer and you are still learning the tricks of the trade, or if you are an air fryer OG and looking for some next-level hacks and creativity, this is the book for you!

## Just One Look

Author: Harlan Coben  
Format: eAudiobook



Grace Lawson is living a happy, straightforward life in the suburbs with her husband, Jack, and two young children. But that security is about to come to a brutal end. For when Grace picks up a set of holiday snaps, amongst them is one shot that doesn't fit: a faded image of a life that Grace doesn't recognise and of her husband as she never knew him. Within 12 hours, Jack has disappeared, a brutal hitman is stalking her family and the safe world she knows has been turned upside down. And all Grace can see is that the past is coming back to haunt the present and people are getting hurt ...

## The Jam Queens

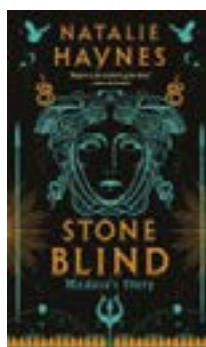
Author: Josephine Moon  
Format: eBook



Award-winning jam maker Aggie is determined to take her Barossa Valley cafe to new heights. She has put the pain of unsuccessful IVF treatments and a broken relationship behind her, and is focused on the many wonderful possibilities life still holds in store. When an invitation to travel across Australia on the Ghan for her mother's seventieth birthday comes her way, she is at first apprehensive. But the trip offers a precious opportunity to spend some quality time with both her disgruntled mother, Valeria, and her distant daughter, Holly, as well as her meddling great-aunt, Myrtle. The four generations of the family, all single women, will be reunited at last.

## Stone Blind: Medusa's story

Author: Natalie Haynes  
Format: eBook, Book

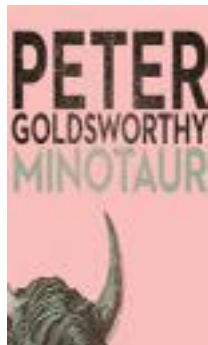


Another of a rising tide of novels based on classical mythology, Haynes brings Medusa to life from infancy on a distant shore, through a childhood "mothered" by her gorgon sisters, to being cursed by the goddess Athena to assume the form she is best known for. Many other mythological characters join the cast to illustrate the passage of Medusa from mortal child to immortal gorgoneion, used and abused by all who revered only her deadly power to turn any living thing to stone in a glance. This was a bit choppy, with each chapter told by different characters, but I liked how the story was resolved.

## Rising Dust

Author: Fleur McDonald  
Format: eBook, Book

After the family's devastating tragedy, Detective Dave Burrows is crystal clear that his wife, Mel, is no longer interested in their marriage. Before Dave can talk to Mel, he and his partner, Bob Holden, are sent to investigate a suspected sheep stealing at a station north of Carnarvon, where they very quickly realise that this crime is a lot more than just stock theft. As a ferocious tropical storm floods the airstrip and uncovers more than anyone expected, Dave and Bob find themselves isolated, outnumbered and in extraordinary danger. Dave has to confront the guilt and trauma of his past before he can move forward. And perhaps there's no way out this time.



Detective Sergeant Rick Zadow is angry, unmotivated, unwashed, unkempt, and almost entirely reliant on his guide dog, Scout, and voice-controlled personal assistant Siri to make it through each day: one a voice without a body, the other a body without a voice. Left blind after a bullet wound to the head two years before, he is caught up in a workers' compensation battle between two psychiatrists - one acting for him, and one appointed by WorkCover - over how much compo he should be awarded. Reminders of his former life keep on tripping Rick up. His wife has moved out, and another former passion of his life - a legendary Ducati motorbike he was halfway through restoring - sits abandoned in the back shed. All of which is the background to the central story: the breakout from jail of the man who shot him, and who is seeking to finish the job . . . Part laugh-out-loud comedy, part deadly serious study of revenge, part love story, this unique novel from one of our finest writers is also a slow, crabwise journey of self-discovery. As Rick navigates his sense-world (smell, sound, touch, taste . . . and finally, sight), there is a sixth sense he must also learn to trust - his gut instinct - which might just turn out to be his best.

## The Good Mother

Author: Rae Cairns  
Format: eBook, Book

Sarah Calhoun is a regular Sydney soccer mum, but she's keeping terrifying secrets from everyone she loves . . . and her past is about to catch up with her. When two men from Northern Ireland hunt her down, she's forced to return to Belfast to testify at a murder trial. Caught in the crossfire of an obsessive policeman driven by a disturbing past, and a brutal IRA executioner, Sarah faces an impossible choice: lie and allow a killer to walk free, or tell the truth and place her children in the line of fire. With her family and innocent people at risk, Sarah must find the courage to fight for the truth. But righting the wrongs of the past just might cost her everything . . . This fast-paced, explosive thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat to its gripping finale.

## The Wedding Party

Author: Cathy Kelly  
Format: Book

For the first time in years, the beautiful Robicheaux sisters are returning to their childhood home. Decades after they first met, their parents are getting married again - to each other, in a week's time! Indy is used to high-stress situations in her job as a midwife - but she knows that keeping the peace in her family of big personalities is a different matter entirely. Eden is on the brink of political success and a surprise family wedding is the last thing she needs. Especially when a long-buried secret is threatening to destroy everything. Savannah might look like she has it all, but she's spent her whole married life hiding the truth. It's a fragile façade that's unlikely to withstand a week spent with her sisters. Rory lives with her gorgeous girlfriend and tends to avoid family gatherings. Particularly now, as her new book might just reveal more than her sisters or parents would like. A big wedding party is sure to throw up a few surprises - but one thing's for sure, it's going to be a week that the Robicheaux family will never forget.