

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

Bloodtree River

Author: Sarah Barrie

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book, Audio Book



Indiana O'Meara is no stranger to the forces of evil. Her own past is full of violence. Now a policewoman, Indy is always fighting to redeem herself and defeat the dark. So when girls begin to go missing at a remote cattle station in Tasmania, she is quick to agree to go undercover to investigate chief suspect Logan Atherton, the owner of Calico Mountain Lodge, even though last time she went undercover it came to a bloody end. As Indy begins to dig deeper into the secrets at the lodge, she finds herself embroiled in a murderous web more complex and terrifying than she could ever have imagined... one that is linked to her own past.

The Homewreckers

Author: Mary Kay Andrews

Format: Book



Hattie Kavanaugh went to work restoring homes for Kavanaugh & Son Restorations at eighteen, married the boss's son at twenty, and became a widow at twenty-five. Now, she's passionate about her work, but that's the only passion in her life. "Never love something that can't love you back," is advice her father-in-law gives her, but Hattie doesn't follow it and falls head-over-heels for a money pit of a house. She's determined to make it work, but disaster after disaster occurs, and Hattie's dream might cost Kavanaugh & Son their livelihood. Hattie needs money, and fast. When a slick Hollywood producer shows up in her hometown of Savannah, Georgia, she gets a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: star in a beach house renovation reality show called "The Homewreckers," cast against a male lead who may be a love interest, or may be the ultimate antagonist.

The Mitford Vanishing

Author: Jessica Fellowes

Format: Book

Book 5 of the Mitford Murders, set between World Wars.

The Lioness

Author: Chris Bohjalian

Format: Book

"A luxurious African safari turns deadly for a Hollywood starlet and her entourage in this riveting historical thriller from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Flight Attendant*"--Tanzania, 1964. When Katie Barstow, A-list actress, and her new husband, David Hill, decide to bring their Hollywood friends to the Serengeti for their honeymoon, they envision giraffes gently eating leaves from the tall acacia trees, great swarms of wildebeests crossing the Mara River, and herds of zebra storming the sandy plains. Their glamorous guests—including Katie's best friend, Carmen Tedesco, and Terrance Dutton, the celebrated Black actor who stars alongside Katie in the highly controversial film "Tender Madness"—will spend their days taking photos, and their evenings drinking chilled gin and tonics back at camp, as the local Tanzanian guides warm water for their baths. The wealthy Americans expect civilized adventure: Fresh ice from the kerosene-powered ice maker, dinners of cooked gazelle meat, and plenty of stories to tell over lunch back on Rodeo Drive. What Katie and her glittering entourage do not expect is this: A kidnapping gone wrong, their guides bleeding out in the dirt, and a team of Russian mercenaries herding them into Land Rovers, guns to their heads. As the powerful sun gives way to night, the gunmen shove them into abandoned huts and Katie Barstow, Hollywood royalty, prays for a simple thing: To see the sun rise one more time.

Close Enough to Touch

Author: Colleen Oakley

Format: Book

Jubilee Jenkins has a rare allergy to other people, which has caused endless heartache in her life: from her single mother being unable to touch her, to a kiss-for-a-dare in senior highschool which put her in the emergency department. Now, after nine years living with agoraphobia, her funds have been cut off and she must go into the world to survive...if she can survive the world. A sweet, thoughtful, quirky romance, perfect for summer reading. Oh, and there's a library in it!

Finale

Author: Karl Hill

Format: eBook, eAudiobook

When Adam Black attends the funeral of an old friend, Desmond Gallagher – a human rights lawyer shot dead while jogging – the widow asks for his help, and he can't say no. She confides that her husband had been threatened by a group calling itself the Remus Syndicate, and Black is soon plunged into a complex and shadowy mystery involving money laundering, organised crime and human trafficking. But every new discovery seems to lead to a dead end. Along the way, Black finds mortal threats, carnage and plenty of secrets – but will the truth about Desmond Gallagher's demise remain forever unknown?

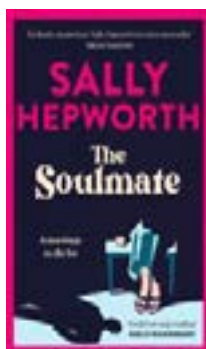


The Soulmate

Author: Sally Hepworth

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

Gabe has become somewhat of a local hero since his family moved to the cliff house, talking seven people down from stepping off the edge. But when Gabe fails to save the eighth, Amanda, a sordid web of secrets begins to unravel, pushing bonds of loyalty and love to the brink. What wouldn't you do for your soulmate?

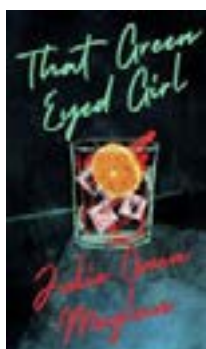


That Green Eyed Girl

Author: Julie Owen Moylan

Format: Book

1955. In an apartment on the Lower East Side, school teachers Dovie and Gillian live as lodgers. Dancing behind closed curtains, mixing cocktails for two, they guard their private lives fiercely. Until someone guesses the truth. 1975. Twenty years later in the same apartment, Ava Winters is keeping her own secret. Her mother has become erratic, haunted by something Ava doesn't understand - until one sweltering July morning, she disappears. Soon after her mother's departure, Ava receives a parcel. Addressed simply to 'Apartment 3B', it contains a photo of a woman with the word 'LIAR' scrawled across it. Ava does not know what it means or who sent it. But if she can find out then perhaps she'll discover the answers she is seeking - and meet the woman at the heart of it all.



The Cutting

Author: Richard McHugh

Format: eAudiobook, Book

It's 2016. Lance Alcocke, sole heir to an iron ore fortune, forty-ish bachelor, has just lost control of his life's work. His newly opened mine, Madeleine's Monster, named after his pioneering, iron-fisted grandmother, was supposed to be a workers' paradise in the Pilbara. But the Monster can't cover its costs and Lance's Korean financiers are trying to steal his company out from under him. They've appointed administrators to APC Minerals, and Lance's 1200 workers have lost their jobs. Among those newly unemployed when the Monster goes under is young engineer Will Fulbright. Will's downhill slide has been gathering pace for some time. His formerly loved-up girlfriend, Justine Jamison, director of the refugee advocacy group Free All Refugee Children! (FARC!) and lefty girl about town, doesn't seem to like him much anymore. Will has no income, not many prospects, a slightly out of control drug problem, and finds himself back on his mother's couch in Fairfield. Meanwhile, Will's old employer, Lance Alcocke, and Will's girlfriend Justine are on a personal collision course of their own.



The Party

Author: Lisa Hall

Format: eBook, Audio Book

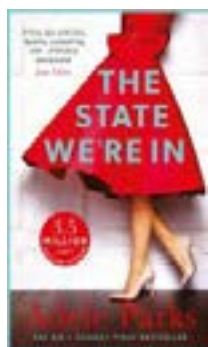
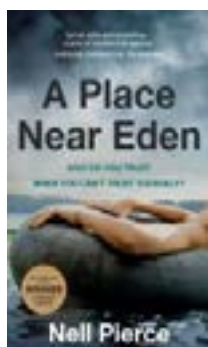
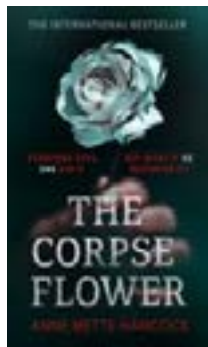
When Rachel wakes up in a strange room, the morning after a neighbour's party, she has no memory of what happened the night before. Why did her husband leave her alone at the party? Did they row? Why are Rachel's arms so bruised? And why are her neighbours and friends so vague about what really happened? Little by little, Rachel pieces together the devastating events that took place in a friend's house, at a party where she should have been safe. Everyone remembers what happened that night differently, and everyone has something to hide. But someone knows the truth about what happened to Rachel. And she's determined to find them.



The Corpse Flower

Author: Anne Mette Hancock
Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

Danish journalist Heloise Kaldan is in the middle of a nightmare. One of her sources has been caught lying, and she could lose her job over it. Then she receives the first in a series of cryptic and unsettling letters from a woman named Anna Kiel. Wanted in connection with the fatal stabbing of a young lawyer three years earlier, Anna hasn't been seen by anyone since she left the crime scene covered in blood. The police think she's fled the country until homicide detective Erik Schafer comes up with a lead after the reporter who originally wrote about the case is found murdered in his apartment. Has Anna Kiel struck again, or is there more than one killer at large? And why does every clue point directly to Heloise Kaldan? Meanwhile, the letters keep coming, and they hint at a connection between Anna and Heloise. As Heloise starts digging deeper, she realizes that to tell Anna's story she will have to revisit the darkest parts of her own past--confronting someone she swore she'd never see again.



A Place Near Eden

Author: Nell Pierce
Format: Book

How can we know the truth of our own lives? This question troubles Matilda, as she looks back on her time with her foster brother, Sem. Matilda remembers long hours at the swimming pool. Celeste, a girl who lived downstairs with her artist mother. Sem disappearing for hours, then days. Her father yelling in the driveway. A car coming to take Sem away. Five years later, Matilda lives in Melbourne with her mother. Sem is now a memory she has locked away. Until, at a party, Matilda reconnects with Celeste and then Sem. Celeste and Matilda move out to the coast near Eden to house-sit. Sem follows, but as the long summer drags on, the atmosphere in the house becomes claustrophobic. When Sem starts disappearing again, Matilda finds herself on unsteady ground, haunted by their past. One morning, after a night at the pub, Matilda wakes up scratched and hungover, with no memory of the previous night. Sem is once again gone. This time, for good. Matilda becomes consumed by an obsession to know if she is responsible for Sem's disappearance. But the truth struggles to fit into a neat story.

Dinner with the Schnabels

Author: Toni Jordan
Format: Book

Things haven't gone well for Simon Larsen lately. He adores his wife, Tansy, and his children, but since his business failed and he lost the family home, he can't seem to get off the couch. His larger-than-life in-laws, the Schnabels, Tansy's mother, sister and brother, won't get off his case. To keep everyone happy, Simon needs to do one little job: he has a week to landscape a friend's backyard for an important Schnabel family event. But as the week progresses, Simon is derailed by the arrival of an unexpected house guest. Then he discovers Tansy is harbouring a secret. As his world spins out of control, who can Simon really count on when the chips are down? Life with the Schnabels is messy, chaotic and joyful, and Dinner with the Schnabels is as heartwarming as it is outrageously funny.

Finlay Donovan Knocks em Dead

Author: Elle Cosimano
Format: Book

Finlay Donovan - single mum, floundering crime writer and accidental hit-woman - is, once again, struggling to finish her crime novel. Ever since someone misinterpreted her talking about her new book, she has been busier than ever working as a hit-woman and taking on the life she usually reserves for her characters. On the bright side, the only dead body she's dealt with lately is that of her daughter's pet goldfish. On the not-so-bright side, someone wants her ex-husband dead. And saving him is going to send her down a rabbit hole of soccer mums disguised as hit-women, with a little more involvement with the Russian mob than she'd like. With her book deadline looming, and an ex-husband to keep alive, Finlay is quickly coming to the end of her rope. She can only hope there isn't a noose at the end of it.

The State We're In

Author: Adele Parks
Format: Book

Meet Jo. She's an incurable romantic, ever hopeful that life will bring her the things she wants most: a husband, children a family. She wants what her parents have had the happiest marriage ever. Meet Dean. He's a self-made, self sufficient man, who doesn't believe in happy-ever-afters. Why would he when his father walked out on his mother and sister and left them to fend for themselves?