

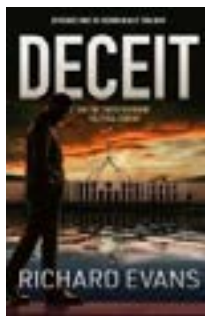
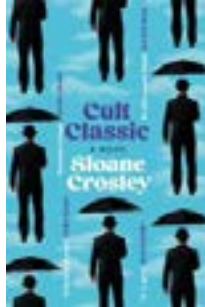
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching.

Cult Classic

Author: Sloane Crosley

Format: Book

Lola -- a die-hard New Yorker with the ex-boyfriends, late nights, cigarette habit and sharp wit to prove it -- is out to dinner with old colleagues in Chinatown; people she's grown apart from, but with whom she shares an unshakeable connection. While reminiscing about the past, Lola runs into an ex-boyfriend. They get a late night drink and she returns home to her fiance, a man she knows should be the perfect choice. But is he? The next day, near the same place, Lola runs into another ex. And another. And another. Something strange is happening. Lola has become the experimental mark of a hipster cult, headed up by her enigmatic former boss and headquartered in an abandoned synagogue. They are using their collective meditative energy (along with social media and the power of intention) to reorder her experience of the world, which just might be the push she needs to understand her past and get on with her future.



Stay Awake

Author: Megan Goldin

Format: eBook, Book

Liv Reese wakes up in the back of a taxi with no idea where she is or how she got there. When she's dropped off at the door of her brownstone, a stranger answers - a stranger who claims to live in her apartment. She reaches for her phone to call for help, only to discover it's missing. In its place is a bloodstained knife. Her hands are covered in scribbled messages, like graffiti on her skin- STAY AWAKE. Two years ago, Liv was thriving as a successful writer for a trendy magazine. Now, she's lost and disoriented in a New York City that looks nothing like what she remembers. Catching a glimpse of the local news, she's horrified to see reports of a crime scene where the victim's blood has been used to scrawl a message across a window, the same message that's inked on her hands. What did she do last night? And why does she remember nothing from the past two years? Liv finds herself on the run for a crime she doesn't remember committing. But there's someone who does know exactly what she did, and they'll do anything to make her forget-permanently.

Crime Writer

Author: Dime Sheppard

Format: eBook, Book

Evie Howland has problems. Guns. Bombs. Murderers. And that's just on the page. In real life she's meant to be planning a wedding to adorable billionaire Daniel Bradley, but Evie is seriously snarled in the sixteenth book of her successful crime series. In fact, her protagonists are becoming almost impossible to wrangle: NYPD detective Carolyn Harding is volatile after a messy divorce, and Detective Jay Ryan has that heated look in his blue eyes again. They're both sick of being written. And frankly they're getting a little physical. Evie is beginning to wonder if she's ever going to finish Book Sixteen and get them back into fiction where they belong.

Deceit

Author: Richard Evans

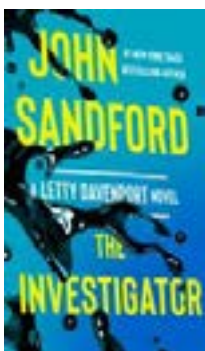
Format: eBook, Book

Corrupt Prime Minister Andrew Gerrard has engaged in a covert agreement with the Indonesian president to begin building himself a retirement nest egg, if the Australian government agrees to fund immigration detention centres. When his plans are disrupted by a tragic plane accident that kills key members of parliament, Gerrard devises a strategy to rush the entire funding scheme through the parliament within a week. Political stalwart and soon-to-be-retired clerk of parliament, Gordon O'Brien, suspects a conspiracy to defraud the government, and reluctantly sets out to foil the prime minister's plan with the help of young-gun investigative journalist, Anita Devlin.

The Investigator

Author: John Sandford
Format: Book

By age twenty-four, Letty Davenport has seen more action and uncovered more secrets than many law enforcement professionals. Now a recent Stanford grad with a master's in economics, she's restless and bored in a desk job for U.S. Senator Colles. Letty's ready to quit, but her skills have impressed Colles, and he offers her a carrot: feet-on-the-ground investigative work, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security. Several oil companies in Texas have reported thefts of crude, Colles tells her. He isn't so much concerned with the oil as he is with the money: who is selling the oil, and what are they doing with the profits? Rumour has it that a fairly ugly militia group, led by a woman known only as Lorelai, might be involved. Colles wants to know if the money is going to them, and if so, what they're planning. Letty is partnered with a DHS investigator, John Kaiser, and they head to Texas. When the case quickly turns deadly, they know they're on the track of something bigger. Lorelai and her group have set in motion an explosive plan, and the clock is ticking down.



Her Fidelity

Author: Katherine Pollock
Format: eBook, Book

Kathy has worked at beloved Brisbane indie record store Dusty's Records for half her life. She arrived as a teenager high on her dad's supply of Led Zeppelin, stayed through her twenties and suddenly thirty is on the horizon and she's still there, measuring her self-worth by her knowledge of the Velvet Underground's back catalogue. Lately, though, cracks have been appearing in Kathy's comfortable indie bubble. Her friends - feisty Mel, the only other woman employed at Dusty's, and straight-laced Alex, whom Kathy has known since preschool - are growing up and moving on, while she's stuck in a cycle of record store, pub, repeat, with the rest of the Dusty's music bros. But how do you move forward when you're stuck in a groove? And what happens when you realise that you've been working so hard to be part of the boys' club that you never stopped to wonder if you should be creating a club of your own?



Bake My Day

Author: Katherine Sabbath
Format: Book

Friends bearing cake are the best kind of friends! From simple to more complex, Australia's most exuberant cake queen brings us 50 wild recipes for knockout bakes. Cake and style queen Katherine Sabbath has long known the heartwarming effect of bringing a knockout cake or a plate of brownies to a party or gathering. As a self-confessed introvert, she learnt early in life that baking sweet treats to share is a powerful tool to connect with people and show them she cared. In *Bake My Day*, Kat shares over 50 of her most beloved bakes so that you too can sprinkle sweet joy everywhere you go. Start off simple with Crack for Chocolate Lovers or Instant-Hit Caramel Slice, flex your spatula with Rose and Fig Love Cakes or a Rippin' Raspberry Slice, then go next-level with the Choc-Studded Party Starter or Vintage Dreams Showstopper. With clear instructions, step-by-step photography and the most wonderfully outrageous designs, Kat provides all you need to bake your way to people's hearts at your next staff morning tea, local fundraiser or birthday party. Ready to bake someone's day?

The Family Gift

Author: Cathy Kelly
Format: Book, Large Print, Audio Book

Freya Abalone has a big, messy, wonderful family, a fantastic career, and a new house - on the outside. On the inside, she's got Mildred - the name she's given to that nagging inner critic who tells us all we're not good enough. And now Freya's beloved blended family is under threat. Dan's glamorous and manipulative first wife, Elisa, who abandoned her daughter to Freya and Dan and left the country, has elbowed her way back into their lives. But Freya knows that when life gives you lemons, you throw them right back. Can Freya put her family - and herself - back together?

Reacher season one

Format: DVD

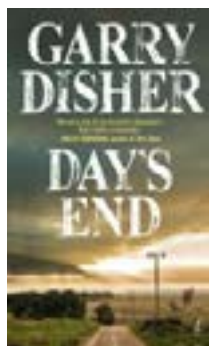
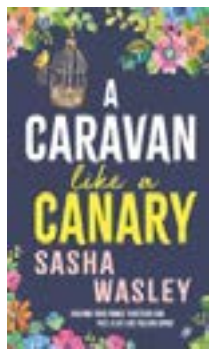
Jack Reacher, a former U.S. Army military policeman, visits the fictional rural town of Margrave, Georgia, and gets arrested for murder. After he is freed, he teams up with Oscar Finlay and Roscoe Conklin to investigate a huge conspiracy with corrupt police officers, politicians and businessmen.

[A Caravan Like a Canary](#)

Author: Sasha Wasley

Format: eBook, eAudiobook, Book

Two road trips. Twenty years apart. Can the memories of a troubled family past finally be put to rest? When Tara Button's mother asks her to drive the bright yellow family caravan from one end of the state to the other, it's her charming but unreliable brother, Zac, who convinces her it's a good idea. Besides, the road trip might keep Zac out of trouble - and that's always been a second job for Tara. Tara doesn't expect Zac's enigmatic friend Danh to come along for the ride. Or the bikies that seem to be following them up the coast... As they travel along the open road, memories of the Buttons' last trip in the caravan engulf Tara, while a rediscovered love for the wild, glorious ocean chips away at her reserve. When forced to face her past, will Tara find the courage to let go and discover her dreams?



[Belfast](#)

Format: DVD

I did not know much about The Troubles in Northern Ireland before watching this film, and cannot claim to know a lot more about it afterwards! But I can say that this is a beautifully shot film, with black and white taking you into the streets, houses, and hearts of Belfast in the late 1960s, where riots and mayhem rock the world of 9-year-old Buddy and his working-class family. Everything they know and love is in the fractious city, including their devoted grandparents, but when opportunity knocks "across the water" they are forced to decide if they will stay or leave.

[Days End](#)

Author: Garry Disher

Format: eBook, Book

Hirsch's rural beat is wide. Daybreak to day's end, dirt roads and dust. Every problem that besets small towns and isolated properties, from unlicensed driving to arson. In the time of the virus, Hirsch is seeing stresses heightened and social divisions cracking wide open. His own tolerance under strain; people getting close to the edge. Today he's driving an international visitor around -- Janne Van Sant, whose backpacker son went missing while the borders were closed. They're checking out his last photo site, his last employer. A feeling that the stories don't quite add up. Then a call comes in -- a roadside fire. Nothing much-a suitcase soaked in diesel and set alight-but two noteworthy facts emerge. Janne knows more than Hirsch about forensic evidence. And the body in the suitcase is not her son's.

[Cut](#)

Author: Susan White

Format: Book

Carla is a young doctor striving to become the first female surgeon at a prestigious Melbourne hospital. When a consultant post opens up, she competes with her lover for the job and thinks she can be judged on merit. But an assault after a boozy workplace dinner leaves her traumatised and struggling to cope with the misogyny coming from every corner of her workplace. Recovering her fragmented memories from that night, Carla begins a fight for justice which will shake the foundations of the hospital she loves.

[The Angry Women's Choir](#)

Author: Meg Bignell

Format: eBook

Once in a while, everyone needs to be heard. Freycinet Barnes has built herself the perfect existence. With beautiful children, a successful husband and a well-ordered schedule, it's a life so full she simply doesn't fit. When she steps outside her calendar and is accidentally thrown into the generous bosom of the West Moonah Women's Choir, she finds music, laughter, friendship and a humming wellspring of rage. With the ready acceptance of the colourful choristers, Frey learns that voices can move mountains, fury can be kind and life can do with a bit of ruining. Together, Frey and the choir sing their anger, they breathe it in and stitch it up, belt it out and spin it into a fierce, driving beat that will kick the system square in the balls, and possibly demolish them all.

[Dear Fahrenheit 451](#)

Author: Annie Spence

Format: eAudiobook

A librarian writes love letters to the books she's loved, the ones she didn't love, and the ones she felt obligated to read. It's a very fun, engaging read, and the extensive recommended reading list at the end is good.