

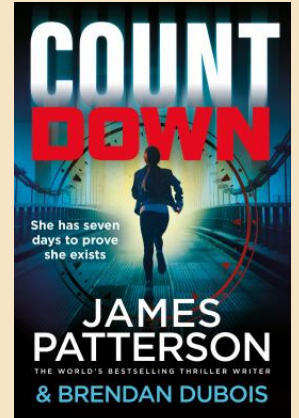
Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you what we are reading, listening to or watching!

Countdown

James Patterson and Brendan DuBois

eAudiobook (BorrowBox)

An undercover CIA officer has seven days to save her country from the world's most dangerous double-agent. The CIA's highly classified Special Activities Division is in the business of tracking people down and keeping secrets hidden. Then a botched field operation reveals some dark dealings between an officer's superiors and an informant, including a plot that could kill thousands of Americans. Knowing that her leadership is corrupt to the core, intelligence officer Amy Cornwall is forced to give up her identity and work from the shadows. But it's not easy staying hidden when your enemies are elite intelligence operatives. Will she get the truth out into the light before losing her identity, her history, her family? The countdown has already begun.

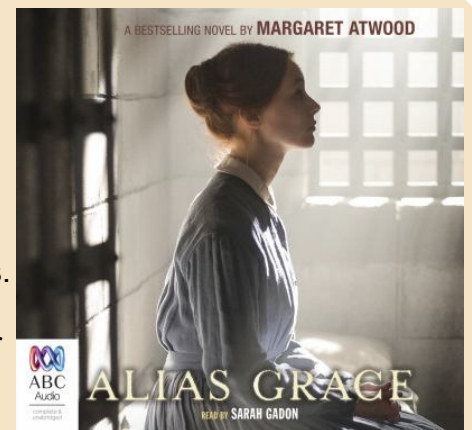


Alias Grace

Margaret Atwood

Book, Audiobook, eAudiobook (BorrowBox)

It's 1843, and Grace Marks has been convicted for her involvement in the vicious murders of her employer and his housekeeper and mistress. Some believe Grace is innocent; others think her evil or insane. Now serving a life sentence, Grace claims to have no memory of the murders. An up-and-coming expert in the burgeoning field of mental illness is engaged by a group of reformers and spiritualists who seek a pardon for Grace. He listens to her story while bringing her closer and closer to the day she cannot remember. What will he find in attempting to unlock her memories?

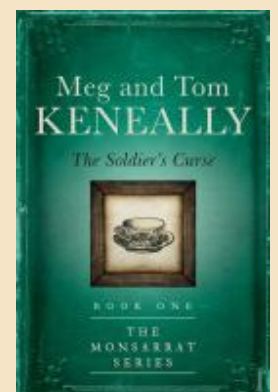


The Soldier's Curse

Meg and Thomas Keneally

Book

This father/daughter collaboration is set in the penal colony of Port Macquarie, we meet 'Gentleman convict' to 'ticket-of-leave gentleman', Hugh Monsarrat, who was convicted and transported from England for practicing law without a qualification. Working in the Governor's household, he makes a friend in the strong-willed housekeeper and fellow-convict, Hannah Mulrooney. Together, they set about answering mysteries and murders in the settlement and further afield as their investigative skills become acknowledged.



A Thousand Heartbeats

Kiera Cass

Book, eBook (BorrowBox), eAudiobook (BorrowBox)

Annika has lived a life of comfort and luxury as the Princess of Kadier—but now, after the death of her mother, she's weighted under the looming threat of a loveless marriage arranged by her cold father. Far outside the palace walls, on the outskirts of the land Annika's family has long ruled over, Lennox is waiting for his moment. His people displaced, his father gone, Lennox knows that it's up to him to lead his people into a battle to overthrow the Kaderian monarchy. After Annika and Lennox's worlds collide, they can't stop thinking of each other. Annika has waited her whole life to find out what love truly feels like—but could it be that she's found love with someone she can never have?

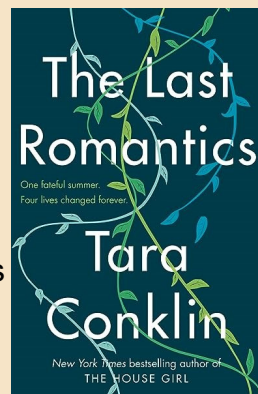


The Last Romantics

Tara Conklin

Book, eBook (BorrowBox)

We thought we'd always be there for each other. We were wrong. For the Skinners, their lives divide into two parts: before that heady summer – of unsupervised youth, family crisis and unavoidable tragedy – and after. But mainly after. The events of that childhood summer bound the Skinner siblings together fiercely, but the consequences would never be erased. After what happened, they thought they could never be pulled apart, but it's the million little betrayals echoing through the years that threaten to fray their last fragile ties . . . Spanning five decades and following four unforgettable siblings, *The Last Romantics* is a sweeping, intimate and compelling portrait of one family – and every family. It is about the responsibilities we bear, how we grow together and apart, but how love will always guide us home.

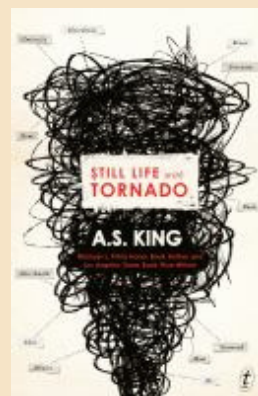


Still Life With Tornado

A. S. King

Book

Sixteen-year-old Sarah can't draw. This is a problem, because as long as she can remember, she has 'done the art.' She thinks she's having an existential crisis. And she might be right; she does keep running into past and future versions of herself as she wanders the urban ruins of Philadelphia. Or maybe she's finally waking up to the tornado that is her family, the tornado that six years ago sent her once-beloved older brother flying across the country for a reason she can't quite recall. After decades of staying together 'for the kids' and building a family on a foundation of lies and domestic violence, Sarah's parents have reached the end. Now Sarah must come to grips with years spent sleepwalking in the ruins of their toxic marriage. As Sarah herself often observes, nothing about her pain is remotely original—and yet it still hurts. Insightful, heartbreaking, and ultimately hopeful, this is a vivid portrait of abuse, survival, resurgence that will linger with readers long after the last page.

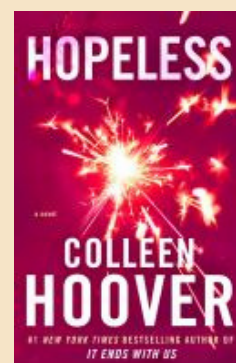


Hopeless

Colleen Hoover

Book

Sometimes discovering the truth can leave you more hopeless than believing the lies. That's what seventeen year old Sky discovers after she meets Dean Holder, a guy with a reputation that rivals her own and an uncanny ability to invoke feelings in her she's never had before. He terrifies her and captivates her all in the span of just one encounter, and something about the way he makes her feel sparks buried memories from a past she wishes could just stay buried.

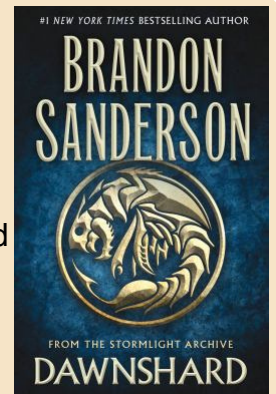


Dawnshard

Brandon Sanderson

Book, eAudiobook (Hoopla)

Taking place between Oathbringer and Rhythm of War, this newest story (like Edgedancer before it) takes a deeper look at several characters in the saga, and brings them to the forefront. When a ghost ship is discovered, its crew presumed dead after trying to reach the storm-shrouded island Akinah, Navani Kholin must send an expedition to make sure the island hasn't fallen into enemy hands. Knights Radiant who fly too near find their Stormlight suddenly drained, so the voyage must be by sea. Shipowner Rysn Ftori lost the use of her legs but gained the companionship of Chiri-Chiri, a Stormlight-ingesting winged larkin, a species once thought extinct. Now Rysn's pet is ill, and any hope for Chiri-Chiri's recovery can be found only at the ancestral home of the larkin: Akinah. With the help of Lopen, the formerly one-armed Windrunner, Rysn must accept Navani's quest and sail into the perilous storm from which no one has returned alive. If the crew cannot uncover the secrets of the hidden island city before the wrath of its ancient guardians falls upon them, the fate of Roshar and the entire Cosmere hangs in the balance.

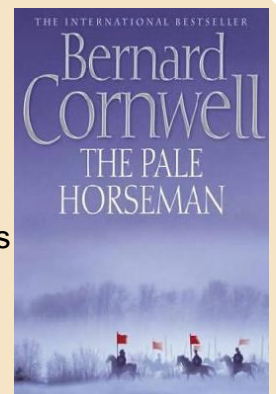


The Pale Horseman

Bernard Cornwell

Book, eBook (BorrowBox)

Uhtred is a Saxon, cheated of his inheritance, and adrift in a world of fire, sword, and treachery. He has to make a choice: to fight for the Vikings, who raised him, or for King Alfred the Great of Wessex, who dislikes him. In the late ninth century, Wessex is the last English kingdom. All the rest have fallen to the Danish Vikings, and the Vikings want to finish England. They assemble the Great Army, whose sole ambition is to conquer Wessex. Yet fate, as Uhtred learns, has its own imperatives. When the Vikings attack out of a wintry darkness to shatter the last English kingdom, Uhtred finds himself on Alfred's side. The Pale Horseman is an enthralling story, a novel of divided loyalties and desperate heroism, featuring a range of fully realized characters, from a king in despair to a beguiling British sorceress. And always, beyond the spearmen and the swordsmen are the folk who suffer as the tides of war sweep over their farmlands. The Pale Horseman is yet another masterpiece of historical and battle fiction that gives life to one of the most important and exciting epochs in the history of England's people and culture.



Maximum Ride

James Patterson

Book

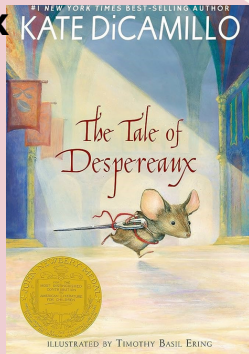
James Patterson's bestselling series now in MANGA. Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the 'Flock' – Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel – are just like ordinary kids – only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time – like when Angel, the youngest member of the 'Flock', is kidnapped and taken back to the 'School' where she and the others were genetically engineered by sinister scientists.

Her friends brave a journey to blazing hot Death Valley, California, to save Angel, but soon enough, they find themselves in yet another nightmare – this one involving fighting off the half-human, half-wolf 'Erasers' in New York City. Whether in the treetops of Central Park or in the bowels of the Manhattan subway system, Max and her adopted family take the ride of their lives. Along the way Max discovers from her old friend and father-figure Jeb – now her betrayed and greatest enemy – that her purpose is save the world – but can she?



Welcome to our Staff Picks newsletter where we will share with you recommendations for our favourite childrens' content.

The Tale of Despereaux

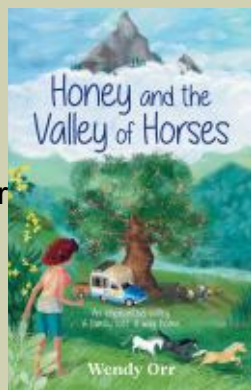


Kate DiCamillo

Junior Book

From the award-winning author Kate DiCamillo comes the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbours a simple, impossible wish. These three characters embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.

Honey and the Valley of Horses



Wendy Orr

Junior Book

When Honey was four and her brother Rumi was a tiny baby, her family loaded up their converted ice-cream-van-camper and drove away from all they knew, as an illness swept the sad wide world.

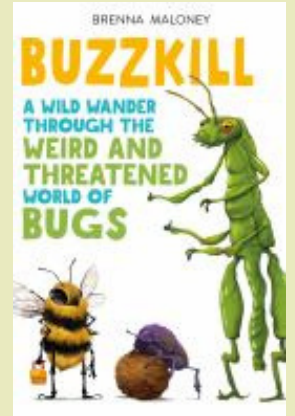
High in the mountains, they crossed a bridge to follow a mysterious herd of enchanted horses into a sheltered valley. The bridge and the track disappeared behind them - and now they are trapped in paradise. In the valley of horses, Honey's family becomes self-sufficient, fishing, growing vegetables and using solar power. But no messages from the outside world are ever received. When her father falls desperately ill, Honey is sure there must still be people in the big wide world who can help. She is determined to draw on her resourcefulness, self-belief and courage, but will this be enough to find a way out of the valley?

Buzzkill

Brenda Maloney

Junior Book

The big picture on insects. Funny and informative in equal measure, Brenda Maloney lays out the critical role insects play on our planet, from sustenance to pollination to medicines and more. This compelling narrative tackles both the wacky and weird, as well as threats to insects and their habitats, their possible extinction, and ways that everyday people can prevent their decline.



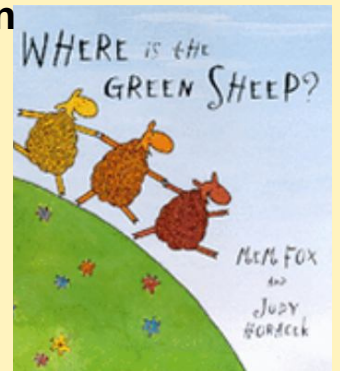
Where is the Green Sheep?

Mem Fox

Board Book

Here is the blue sheep, and here is the red sheep. Here is the bath sheep, and here is the bed sheep. But where is the green sheep? Join Mem Fox and Judy Horack

Horacek on a search for the green sheep, in this stylish, funny, illustrated picture book.



Peter Pan

J. M. Barrie

Junior Book

Peter Pan, the boy who refused to grow up, is one of the immortals of children's literature. Peter Pan lives in Neverland, where he is aided in his epic battles with Red Indians and pirates by the motherly and resourceful Wendy Darling.

