

Book Club Summaries (Updated February 2019)

Title	Author	Summary
<i>The Alchemist</i>	Coelho, Paulo	Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, to follow our dreams.
<i>All That I Am</i>	Funder, Anna	When Ruth Becker visits her cousin Dora in Munich in 1923, she meets the love of her life, , and eagerly joins in the heady activities of the militant political left in Germany. Inspired by the fearless Dora they dedicate themselves to a dangerous mission: to inform the British government of the very real Nazi threat to which it remains wilfully blind.
<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i>	Doerr, Anthony	From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant <i>New York Times</i> bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.
<i>An American In Oz</i>	James, Sara	No one thought Sara James, a 30 Rock habitu� and Manhattanite through and through, would move to Australia after a long and successful fast-track career reporting from around the globe. But move she did, in a journey that sees her morph from a big-city anchor and correspondent to a small-town mum living an Australian country life.
<i>An Unnecessary Woman</i>	Alameddine, Rabih	In this breathtaking portrait of a reclusive woman's late-life crisis, readers follow Aaliya's digressive mind as it ricochets across visions of past and present Beirut, invaded by memories of the Lebanese Civil War and Aaliya's volatile past.
<i>And the Mountain Echoed</i>	Hosseini, K	A new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. The book revolves around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers. Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most.

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<i>Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons</i>	Landvik, Lorna	The wise and funny national bestseller about four decades of laughter, heartache, and friendship in the lives of five small-town women--members of AHEB (Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons), an unofficial club that becomes much more.
<i>Any Ordinary Day</i>	Sales, Leigh	In this wise and layered book, Leigh talks intimately with people who've faced the unimaginable, from terrorism to natural disaster to simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Expecting broken lives, she instead finds strength, hope, even humour. Leigh brilliantly condenses the cutting-edge research on the way the human brain processes fear and grief, and poses the questions we too often ignore out of awkwardness. Along the way, she offers an unguarded account of her own challenges and what she's learned about coping with life's unexpected blows.
<i>Bad Behaviour</i>	Starford, Rebecca	It should have been a time of acquiring confidence, building self respect and independence, of fostering a connection with the natural world through long hikes. A gripping, compulsively readable memoir of bullying at an elite country boarding school.
<i>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress</i>	Sijie, Dai	In this enchanting tale about the magic of reading and the wonder of romantic awakening, two hapless city boys are exiled to a remote mountain village. There they meet the daughter of the local tailor and discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation, and transit from their grim surroundings to worlds they never imagined.
<i>Before the Frost</i>	Mankel, Henning	Kurt Wallander and his daughter Linda join forces to search for a religious fanatic on a murder spree. As the case her father is working on dovetails with her own, something far more dangerous than either could have imagined begins to emerge. They soon find themselves forced to confront a group of extremists bent on punishing the world's sinners.
<i>Bel Canto</i>	Patchett, Ann	In an unnamed South American country, a world-renowned soprano sings at a birthday party in honour of a Japanese industrial titan as a ragtag band of 18 terrorists enters the vice-presidential mansion. Their quarry is the president, who has unfortunately stayed home to watch a favourite soap opera. And thus, from the beginning, things go awry.
<i>Between Us</i>	Hardy, Marieke McGuire, Michaela	Writing a letter can be an act of confession or celebration, while receiving one can bring joy, insight and vivid memories. Ambassadors for correspondence Marieke Hardy and Michaela McGuire have lured some of our best and brightest to the literary afternoons of Women of Letters to write and read missives of all kinds.

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<i>The Binding</i>	Bridget Collins	Young Emmett Farmer is working in the fields when a strange letter arrives summoning him away from his family. He is to begin an apprenticeship as a Bookbinder—a vocation that arouses fear, superstition, and prejudice among their small community but one neither he nor his parents can afford to refuse. For as long as he can recall, Emmett has been drawn to books, even though they are strictly forbidden. Bookbinding is a sacred calling, Seredith informs her new apprentice, and he is a binder born. Under the old woman’s watchful eye, Emmett learns to hand-craft the elegant leather-bound volumes. But while Seredith is an artisan, there are others of their kind, avaricious and amoral tradesman who use their talents for dark ends
<i>The Biographer’s Lover</i>	Murray, Ruby	When a young woman is hired to write the life of an unknown artist from Geelong, she thinks it will be just another quick commission paid for by a rich, grieving family obsessed with their own history. But Edna Cranmer was not a privileged housewife with a paintbrush. Edna’s work spans decades. Her soaring images of red dirt, close interiors and distant jungles have the potential to change the way the nation views itself.
<i>Black Rock , White City</i>	Patric, A.S.	A powerful novel about two refugees starting over after losing everything. Now working as cleaners in a suburb of Melbourne, they struggle to rebuild their lives. During a hot Melbourne summer Jovan's janitorial work at a hospital is disrupted by mysterious acts of vandalism and the attacks become more violent and racially charged. Black Rock White City is an essential story of displacement and immediate threat--the new reality of suburban life--and the deeply personal responses of two refugees seeking redemption.
<i>Blood Witness</i>	Hammond, Alex	One man's search for justice and redemption plunges him into the violent world of Melbourne's underbelly. Blood Witness is a dark powerful thriller from a talented new voice.
<i>Breath</i>	Winton, Tim	On the wild, lonely coast of Western Australia, two thrill-seeking and barely adolescent boys fall into the enigmatic thrall of veteran big-wave surfer Sando. Together they form an odd but elite trio. Full of Winton’s lyrical genius for conveying physical sensation, <i>Breath</i> is a rich and atmospheric coming-of-age tale from one of world literature’s finest storytellers
<i>Breakfast At Tiffany’s</i>	Capote, Truman	In this seductive, wistful masterpiece, Holly Golightly knows that nothing bad can ever happen to you at Tiffany's; her poignancy, wit, and naïveté continue to charm audiences in this novel by Truman Capote.
<i>Bridge, The</i>	Gandolfo, Enza	Drawing on true events of Australia’s worst industrial accident — a tragedy that still scars the city — <i>The Bridge</i> is a profoundly moving novel that examines class, guilt, and moral culpability. Yet it shows that even the most harrowing of situations can give way to

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		forgiveness and redemption. Ultimately, it is a testament to survival and the resilience of the human spirit.
<i>Bridge of Clay</i>	Zusak, Marcus	The breathtaking story of five brothers who bring each other up in a world run by their own rules. As the Dunbar boys love and fight and learn to reckon with the adult world, they discover the moving secret behind their father's disappearance. At the center of the Dunbar family is Clay, a boy who will build a bridge—for his family, for his past, for greatness, for his sins, for a miracle. The question is, how far is Clay willing to go? And how much can he overcome?
<i>The Broken Shore</i>	Temple, Peter	Broken by his last case, homicide detective Joe Cashin has fled the city and returned to his hometown to run its one-man police station while his wounds heal and the nightmares fade. But as the case unfolds he finds himself holding on to something that it might be better to let go.
<i>Brooklyn</i>	Toibin, Colm	Eilis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the hard years following World War Two. When an Irish priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Eilis in America -- to live and work in a Brooklyn neighbourhood "just like Ireland" -- she decides she must go, leaving her fragile mother and her charismatic sister behind.
<i>Burial Rites</i>	Kent, Hannah	Set against Iceland's stark landscape, Hannah Kent brings to vivid life the story of Agnes, who, charged with the brutal murder of her former master, is sent to an isolated farm to await execution.
<i>Café Scheherazade</i>	Zable, Arnold	'In Acland Street, St Kilda, there stands a cafe called Scheherazade.' Thus begins this haunting meditation on displacement and the way the effects of war linger in the minds of its survivors. At once fable and history, it takes the reader on a journey which ranges from Kobe to Paris, from Vilna and back to Melbourne.
<i>Cairo</i>	Womersley, Chris	Frustrated by country life and eager for adventure and excitement, eighteen-year-old Tom Button moves to the city to study. Once there, and living in a run-down apartment block called Cairo, he is befriended by an eccentric musician Max Cheever, his beautiful wife Sally, and their close-knit circle of painters and poets.

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<i>Caleb's Crossing</i>	Brooks, Geraldine	Geraldine Brooks takes a remarkable shard of history and brings it to vivid life. In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, Brooks has created a luminous tale of love and faith, magic and adventure.
<i>The Camel Bookmobile</i>	Hamilton, Masha	Fiona Sweeney wants to do something that matters, and she chooses to make her mark in the arid bush of north-eastern Kenya. By helping to start a traveling library, she hopes to bring the words of Homer, Hemingway, and Dr. Seuss to far-flung tiny communities where people live daily with drought, hunger, and disease.
<i>Chilbury Ladies Choir</i>	Ryan, Jennifer	The village of Chilbury in Kent is about to ring in some changes. This is a delightful novel of wartime gumption and village spirit that will make your heart sing out. Kent, 1940. In the idyllic village of Chilbury change is afoot. Hearts are breaking as sons and husbands leave to fight, and when the Vicar decides to close the choir until the men return, all seems lost. But coming together in song is just what the women of Chilbury need in these dark hours, and they are ready to sing. With a little fighting spirit and the arrival of a new musical resident, the charismatic Miss Primrose Trent, the choir is reborn.
<i>The Choke</i>	Laguna, Sofie	A brilliant, haunting novel about a child navigating an often dark and uncaring world of male power, guns and violence, in which grown-ups can't be trusted and comfort can only be found in nature, <i>The Choke</i> is a compassionate and claustrophobic vision of a child in danger and a society in deep trouble.
<i>City of Crows</i>	Womersley, Chris	Desperate to save herself and her only surviving child Nicolas from an outbreak of plague, Charlotte Picot flees her tiny village in the French countryside. But when Nicolas is abducted by a troop of slavers, Charlotte resorts to witchcraft and summons assistance in the shape of a malevolent man.
<i>Clockmaker's Daughter, The</i>	Morton, Kate	In the summer of 1862, a group of young artists led by the passionate and talented Edward Radcliffe descends upon Birchwood Manor on the banks of the Upper Thames. Their plan: to spend a secluded summer month in a haze of inspiration and creativity. Over one hundred and fifty years later, Elodie Winslow, a young archivist in London, uncovers a leather satchel containing a sepia photo and a sketch book. Who is in the photo?

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<i>Common People</i>	Birch, Tony	In this unforgettable new collection, Tony Birch introduces a cast of characters from all walks of life. These remarkable and surprising stories capture common people caught up in the everyday business of living and the struggle to survive. From two single mothers on the most unlikely night shift to a homeless man unexpectedly faced with the miracle of a new life, Birch's stories are set in gritty urban refuges and battling regional communities.
<i>The Constant Gardener</i>	Le Carre, John	The novel opens in northern Kenya with the gruesome murder of Tessa Quayle: young, beautiful, and dearly beloved to husband Justin. When Justin sets out on a personal odyssey to uncover the mystery of her death, what he finds could make him not only a suspect among his own colleagues, but a target for Tessa's killers as well.
<i>Crashing Through</i>	Kurson, Robert	Blinded at age three, Mike May defied expectations by breaking world records in downhill speed skiing, joining the CIA, and becoming a successful inventor, entrepreneur, and family man. He had never yearned for vision. Robert Kurson gives us a fascinating true account of one man's choice to explore what it means to see, and to truly live.
<i>Cry, The Beloved Country</i>	Paton, Alan	<i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i> is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, it is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.
<i>The Couple Next Door</i>	Lapene, Shari	Anne and Marco Conti seem to have it all--a loving relationship, a wonderful home, and their beautiful baby, Cora. But one night when they are at a dinner party next door, a terrible crime is committed. Suspicion immediately focuses on the parents. But the truth is a much more complicated story.
<i>Currawalli Street</i>	Morgan, Christopher	We all have secret lives. And we are all pretty good at keeping them secret. With simplicity and great beauty, Currawalli Street reveals the echoes between past and present through the story of one ordinary street and its families, from the pre-war innocence of early 1914 to the painful and grim consequences of the Vietnam War.
<i>The Dalai Lama's Cat</i>	Michie, David	Starving and pitiful, a mud-smearred kitten is rescued from the slums of New Delhi and transported to a life she could have never imagined. In a beautiful sanctuary overlooking the snow-capped Himalayas, she begins her new life as the Dalai Lama's cat.

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<i>Danger Music</i>	Ayers, Eddie	Eddie Ayres has a lifetime of musical experience - from learning the viola as a child in England and playing with the Hong Kong Philharmonic for many years, to learning the cello in his thirties and landing in Australia to present an extremely successful ABC Classic FM morning radio show. But all of this time Eddie was Emma Ayres.
<i>The Danish Girl</i>	Ebershoff, David	It starts with a question, a simple favour asked by a wife of her husband while both are painting in their studio, setting off a transformation neither can anticipate. Uniting fact and fiction into an original romantic vision, <i>The Danish Girl</i> eloquently portrays the unique intimacy that defines every marriage
<i>Days Without End</i>	Barry, Sebastian	Thomas McNulty, aged barely seventeen and having fled the Great Famine in Ireland, signs up for the U.S. Army in the 1850s. With his brother in arms, John Cole, Thomas goes on to fight in the Indian Wars—against the Sioux and the Yurok—and, ultimately, the Civil War. Orphans of terrible hardships themselves, the men find these days to be vivid and alive, despite the horrors they see and are complicit in.
<i>Dear Ijeawele</i>	Adichie, C.N.	This novel is a powerful new statement about feminism today. It investigates how to empower a daughter to become a strong, independent woman. From encouraging her to choose a helicopter, and not only a doll, as a toy if she so desires; having open conversations with her about clothes, makeup, and sexuality; debunking the myth that women do not have 'rights'.
<i>Deranged Marriage</i>	Das, Sushi	An affectionate, often hilarious, memoir of growing up in London in the 1970s in an Indian household, and avoiding an arranged marriage.
<i>The Diggers Rest Hotel</i>	McGeachin, Geoffrey	In 1947, two years after witnessing the death of a young Jewish woman in Poland, Charlie Berlin has rejoined the police force a different man. Sent to investigate a spate of robberies in rural Victoria, he soon discovers that World War II has changed even the most ordinary of places and people.
<i>The Dressmaker</i>	Ham, Rosalie	After twenty years spent mastering the art of dressmaking at couture houses in Paris, Tilly Dunnage returns to the small Australian town she was banished from as a child. But as her dresses begin to arouse competition and envy in town, causing old resentments to surface, it becomes clear that Tilly's mind is set on a darker design.

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<i>The Dry</i>	Harper, Jane	In the grip of the worst drought in a century, the farming community of Kiewarra is facing life and death choices daily when three members of a local family are found brutally slain. Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk reluctantly returns to his hometown for the funeral of his childhood friend, loath to face the townsfolk who turned their backs on him twenty years earlier.
<i>The Eye of the Sheep</i>	Laguna, Sophie	Meet Jimmy Flick. He's not like other kids. He finds a lot of the adult world impossible to understand - especially why his Dad gets so angry with him. Jimmy's mother Paula is the only one who can manage him. But when Jimmy's world falls apart, he has no one else to turn to. He alone has to navigate the unfathomable world and make things right.
<i>Father Bob: The Larrikin Priest</i>	Williams, Sue	This is the life story of Father Bob Maguire - a rare behind-the-scenes look at the much-loved 'people's priest'. A lively portrait of the man behind the resilient social activist and popular media performer who refuses to be defeated by enforced retirement from the parish over which he presided for nearly forty years.
<i>The Fighter</i>	Zable, Arnold	A young boy - skinny, wide-eyed and unlikely - knocks on the door of an ex-boxer. And a backyard gym becomes the training ground of a champion fighter. The boy from Amess Street worked his way up to beat some of the world's best - to find dignity in the brutality of the boxing ring. And to find a world outside the confines of a home where the dark shadow of a tragic past was ever-present.
<i>Flying With Paper Wings</i>	Jeffs, Sandy	<i>Flying with Paper Wings</i> is anything but a misery memoir. Glittering with black humour and without self-pity, it shifts other people's perceptions of mental distress beyond kindness, compassion, sympathy and fear into some deeper perception.
<i>Franklin and Eleanor</i>	Rowley, Hazel	In this ground breaking new account of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt's marriage, Hazel Rowley describes the remarkable courage and lack of convention that kept FDR and Eleanor together. She reveals a partnership that was both supportive and daring, and one that has only raised more eyebrows since their passing.
<i>French Perfumer</i>	Hampson, Amanda	Iris Turner, an unworldly young Englishwoman, arrives in the French Riviera to take up a secretarial role for the mysterious Hammond Brooke. Living in a small, exclusive hotel among eccentric and unpredictable aristocrats and struggling to gain her employer's trust, she soon realises that nothing is as it seems.

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<i>Full Bore</i>	McInnes, William	A chance encounter in an auction house is the jumping-off point for William's inimitable take on our sport-obsessed nation, Australian popular culture and the artefacts and memorabilia that both make us cringe with recognition and laugh with warm affection. His trademark humour and anecdotes litter this collection, making it a true delight.
<i>Gentleman In Moscow</i>	Towles, Amor	In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and 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 entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.
<i>The German Girl</i>	Correa, Armando Lucas	In 1939 before everything changed, Hannah Rosenthal lived a charmed life. Her family moved in Berlin's highest social circles, admired by friends and neighbors. Eleven-year-old Hannah was often taken by her mother for an afternoon treat at the tea room of the beautiful Adlon Hotel, both dressed in their finest clothes. She spent her afternoons at the park with her best friend Leo Martin. But, in an instant, that sunlit world vanished. Now the streets of Berlin are draped with red, white, and black flags; their fine possessions are hauled away, and they are no longer welcome in the places that once felt like home. The two friends make a pact: come what may, they promise to have a future together.
<i>The Girl in Times Square</i>	Simons, Paullina	Lily's life is turned upside down with the disappearance of her flat mate, incredible revelations about her family and a personal discovery, all of which will affect her forever. What if everything you believed about your life was a lie? This is the odyssey of two young women, Lily and Amy, roommates and friends on the verge of the rest of their lives.
<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Hawkins, Paula	Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night; a regular, monotonous routine. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved.
<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Walls, Jeanette	The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. <i>The Glass Castle</i> is truly astonishing: a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.

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<i>Go Set A Watchman</i>	Lee, Harper	From Harper Lee comes a landmark new novel set two decades after her beloved Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> . Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch--"Scout"--returns home from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town and the people dearest to her.
<i>Gone Girl</i>	Flynn, Gillian	On her fifth wedding anniversary, Amy Dunne disappears. Her husband, Nick, under mounting pressure from the police and the media, as well as Amy's fiercely dotting parents, parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behaviour. Nick is oddly evasive, and he's definitely bitter, but is he really a killer?
<i>The Good People</i>	Kent, Hannah	Nóra Leahy has lost her daughter and her husband in the same year, and is now burdened with the care of her four-year-old grandson, Micheál. The boy cannot walk, or speak, and Nora, mistrustful of the tongues of gossips, has kept the child hidden from those who might see in his deformity evidence of otherworldly interference. Unable to care for the child alone, Nóra hires a fourteen-year-old servant girl, Mary, who soon hears the whispers in the valley about the blasted creature causing grief to fall upon the widow's house.
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Steinbeck, Jonathan	First published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.
<i>The Grass is Singing</i>	Lessing, Doris	Mary Turner is a self-confident, independent young woman who becomes the depressed, frustrated wife of an ineffectual, unsuccessful farmer. Little by little the ennui of years on the farm work their slow poison, and Mary's despair progresses until the fateful arrival of an enigmatic and virile black servant, Moses. Locked in anguish, Mary and Moses -- master and slave -- are trapped in a web of mounting attraction and repulsion. Their psychic tension explodes in an electrifying scene that ends this disturbing tale of racial strife in colonial South Africa.
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Atwood, Margaret	Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander only once a day to walk to food markets. She can remember the years before, when she lived and made love with her husband, when she played with her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now...

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<i>The Happiest Refugee</i>	Do, Anh	Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. But nothing -- not murderous pirates, nor the imminent threat of death by hunger, could quench their desire to make a better life in the country they had dreamed about.
<i>Hate Race, The</i>	Clarke, Maxine Beneba	'Against anything I had ever been told was possible, I was turning white. On the surface of my skin, a miracle was quietly brewing . . .' Suburban Australia. Sweltering heat. Three bedroom blonde-brick. Family of five. Beat-up Ford Falcon. Vegemite on toast. Maxine Beneba Clarke's life is just like all the other Aussie kids on her street.Except for this one, glaring, inescapably obvious thing.
<i>Hello, Beautiful!</i>	Rayson, Hannie	"I realise that, despite all the references to my longing to be a writer, one thing is apparent; I don't actually do much writing. My Diary is prima facie evidence of self-delusion on a grand scale". A memoir in parts, from one of Australia's best-loved playwrights.
<i>The Help</i>	Stockett, Katherine	Skeeter is a college graduate. Aibileen is black maid. Minnie is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. Why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times.
<i>Her</i>	Disher, Gary	A dark and unsettling novel that looks into the darker side of an Australian past, particularly the status of girls and women in our society. The novel spans across a 10 year period, from 1909 to 1919, set in outback Australia. <i>Her</i> is told from the perspective of You, a young girl who is bought for less than 10 shillings by a scrap man.
<i>Homegoing</i>	Gyasi, Yaa	Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in eighteenth-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold with thousands of others into the Gold Coast's booming slave trade, and shipped off to America, where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. One thread of <i>Homegoing</i> follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana, as the Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and British colonization.

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<i>This House of Grief</i>	Garner, Helen	Robert Farquharson, a separated husband, was driving his three sons home to their mother when his car plunged into a dam. The boys, aged ten, seven, and two, drowned. Was this an act of deliberate revenge or a tragic accident? An utterly compelling book, this is the true story of a man and his broken life.
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Collins, Suzanne	In post-apocalyptic America, the nation of Panem selects 24 children annually to participate in the games, where they are forced to fight to the death, leaving only one survivor to claim victory. It is a death sentence to the participants from the poor district 12. . But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.
<i>The Husband's Secret</i>	Moriarty, Liane	Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all—she's an incredibly successful businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. Her life is as orderly and spotless as her home. But that letter is about to change everything, and not just for her: Rachel and Tess barely know Cecilia—or each other—but they too are about to feel the earth-shattering repercussions of her husband's secret.
<i>The Ice House</i>	Walters, Minette	The three women living in seclusion at an elegant Hampshire country house have long been fodder for village gossip; even whispers of a witches' coven. So when a faceless corpse of uncertain vintage is found in the Streech Grange ice house, Chief Inspector Walsh can't wait to make a case of it.
<i>In Her Blood</i>	Hauxwell, Annie	Catherine Berlin, investigator with the Financial Services Agency, finds the almost-headless body of her informant rolling in a shallow reach of the Thames. That it's linked to an investigation of local loan shark Archie Doyle is no surprise to Berlin, but when Berlin's own unorthodox methods are blamed for the murder, she realises bigger predators are circling.
<i>Inaugural Meeting of the Fairdale ladies Bookclub</i>	Green, Sophie	Books bring them together - but friendship will transform all of their lives. Five very different women come together in the Northern Territory of the 1970s, by an exceptional new Australian author. A story of five different women united by one need: to overcome the vast distances of Australia's Top End with friendship, tears, laughter, books and love.
<i>Is it Just Me?</i>	Swan. Chrissie	From weight to wee, children to crap dates, nothing is off limits for Chrissie Swan, self-confessed 'over-sharer'. Celebrity, friendship, love, being a working mum, 'having it all' and the general chaos of life - "Is It Just Me?" is Chrissie at her hilarious, candid and fearless best.

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<i>The Jade Lily</i>	Manning, Kirsty	<p>In 2016, fleeing London with a broken heart, Alexandra returns to Australia to be with her grandparents, Romy and Wilhelm, when her grandfather is dying. With only weeks left together, her grandparents begin to reveal the family mysteries they have kept secret for more than half a century.</p> <p>In 1939, two young girls meet in Shanghai, the 'Paris of the East': beautiful local Li and Viennese refugee Romy form a fierce friendship. But the deepening shadows of World War Two fall over the women as Li and Romy slip between the city's glamorous French Concession and the desperate Shanghai Ghetto. Eventually, they are forced separate ways as Romy doubts Li's loyalties.</p>
<i>Jasper Jones</i>	Silvey, Craig	<p>Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress. Jasper takes him to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery</p>
<i>Joe Cinques Consolation</i>	Garner, Helen	<p>In October 1997, a clever young law student at ANU made a bizarre plan to murder her devoted boyfriend after a dinner party at their house. Some of the dinner guests &amp;#8211; most of them university students &amp;#8211; had heard rumours of the plan. Nobody warned Joe Cinque. He died one Sunday, in his own bed, of a massive dose of Rohypnol and heroin. His girlfriend and her best friend were charged with murder.</p>
<i>Keeping Hope Alive</i>	Abdi, Dr Hawa	<p>The moving memoir of one brave woman who, along with her daughters, has kept 90,000 of her fellow citizens safe, healthy, and educated for over 20 years in Somalia.</p>
<i>Kitchen Confidential</i>	Boudainn, Anthony	<p>A deliciously funny, delectably shocking banquet of wild-but-true tales of life in the culinary trade from Chef Anthony Bourdain, laying out his more than a quarter-century of drugs, sex, and haute cuisine—now with all-new, never-before-published material.</p>
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Hosseini, Khaled	<p><i>"It may be unfair, but what happens in a few days, sometimes even a single day, can change the course of a whole lifetime."</i></p> <p>Amir is the son of a wealthy Kabul merchant, a member of the ruling caste of Pashtuns. Hassan, his servant and constant companion, is a Hazara, a despised and impoverished caste. Their uncommon bond is torn by Amir's choice to abandon his friend amidst the increasing ethnic, religious, and political tensions of the dying years of the Afghan monarchy, wrenching</p>

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		them far apart. But so strong is the bond between the two boys that Amir journeys back to a distant world, to try to right past wrongs against the only true friend he ever had.
<i>Leaving Ocean Road</i>	Campion, Ester	Ellen left her beloved Ireland to make a new life in Australia. Now struggling to cope with the death of her much loved husband, Nick, Ellen finds her world turned upside down when an unexpected visitor lands on her doorstep. The arrival of Gerry Clancy, her first love from Ireland, may just be the catalyst that pulls Ellen out of her pit of grief, but it will also trigger a whole new set of complications for her and those she holds dear.
<i>Let Me Sing You Gentle Songs</i>	Olsson, Linda	Olsson leads us through the flowering but unusual and tender friendship of Veronica and Astrid, as they slowly and carefully reveal their life histories and sometimes heart-rending pasts. A stunning first novel by a new writer with genuine talent.
<i>Life of Pi</i>	Martel, Yann	Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.
<i>Life to Come, The</i>	De Kretser, Michelle	Set in Australia, France, and Sri Lanka, The Life to Come is about the stories we tell and don't tell ourselves as individuals, as societies, and as nations. Driven by a vivid cast of characters, it explores necessary emigration, the art of fiction, and ethnic and class conflict. The stand-alone yet connected worlds of The Life to Come offer meditations on intimacy, loneliness, and our flawed perception of reality. Enormously moving, gorgeously observant of physical detail, and often very funny.
<i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i>	Sanders, G	The American Civil War rages while President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns to the crypt several times alone to hold his boy's body. From this seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss.
<i>The Light Between Oceans</i>	Stedman, M.L.	After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season and shore leaves are granted every other year at best, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel.

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<i>The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul</i>	Rodrigues, Deborah	From the author of the memoir <i>Kabul Beauty School</i> comes a fiction debut as compelling as real life: the story of a remarkable coffee shop in the heart of Afghanistan, and the men and women who meet there — thrown together by circumstance, bonded by secrets, and united in an extraordinary friendship. After hard luck and some bad choices, Sunny has finally found a place to call home — it just happens to be in the middle of a war zone.
<i>The Little Paris Book shop</i>	George, Nina	“There are books that are suitable for a million people, others for only a hundred. There are even remedies—I mean books—that were written for one person only...A book is both medic and medicine at once. It makes a diagnosis as well as offering therapy. Putting the right novels to the appropriate ailments: that’s how I sell books.”
<i>The Little Stranger</i>	Waters, Sarah	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, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds, the clock in its stable yard permanently fixed at twenty to nine. Its owners – mother, son and daughter – are struggling to keep pace with a changing society, as well as with conflicts of their own.
<i>The Lone Child</i>	George, Anna	Neve Ayres has always been so careful. Since her mother’s death when Neve was seven, she’s learned to look after herself and to keep her cards close. But now her deliberately constructed world has collapsed: her partner’s left her when she was eight months pregnant. And so, alone with her newborn son, she’s retreated to her cliff-top holiday house in coastal Flinders. There, another child comes into her life.
<i>The Lost Pages</i>	Pericic, Majija	The Lost Pages is a richly reimagined story of Max Brod’s life filtered through his relationship with Franz Kafka. In this inspired novel of friendship, fraud, madness and betrayal, Marija Perićić writes vividly and compellingly of an extraordinary literary rivalry.
<i>Love and other Impossible Pursuits</i>	Waldman, Ayelet	In this moving, wry, and candid novel, widely acclaimed novelist Ayelet Waldman takes us through one woman’s passage through love, loss, and the strange absurdities of modern life.

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<i>Love in The Time of Cholera</i>	Garcia Marquez, Gabriel	In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.
<i>Lovesong</i>	Miller, Alex	Seeking shelter in a Parisian cafe from a sudden rainstorm, John Patterner meets the exotic Sabiha and his carefully mapped life changes forever. Resonant of the bestselling <i>Conditions of Faith</i> , Alex Miller's keenly awaited new novel tells the deeply moving story of their lives together, and of how each came undone by desire.
<i>Lucky Galah, The</i>	Sorensen, Tracy	It's 1969 and a remote coastal town in Western Australia is poised to play a pivotal part in the moon landing. Perched on the red dunes of its outskirts looms the great Dish where radar technician Evan Johnson and his colleagues stare at the screen, transfixed, as Armstrong takes that first small step. <i>The Lucky Galah</i> is a novel about fate. About Australia. About what it means to be human. It just happens to be narrated by a galah called Lucky.
<i>Major Pettigrew's Last Stand</i>	Simonson, Helen	You are about to travel to Edgecombe St. Mary, a small village in the English countryside filled with rolling hills, thatched cottages, and a cast of characters both hilariously original and as familiar as the members of your own family. Among them is Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired), the unlikely hero of Helen Simonson's wondrous debut. Wry, courtly, opinionated, and completely endearing, Major Pettigrew is one of the most indelible characters in contemporary fiction, and from the very first page of this remarkable novel he will steal your heart.
<i>A Man Called Ove</i>	Backman, Fredrik	A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door. Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him <i>the bitter neighbor from hell</i> , but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?
<i>Me Before You</i>	Moyes, Jojo	Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has never been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair-bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is.

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<i>Men on the Menu</i>	Smyth, Bambi	Recently single and defiantly youthful, Bambi Smyth is determined to take control of her own destiny, and give love another chance. So she sets off on a journey across the globe to combine her three greatest passions, food, travel and men, hoping to widen her horizons – and maybe her heart – along the way.
<i>Mere Wife, The</i>	Dahvana Headley, Maria	Two mothers—a suburban housewife and a battle-hardened veteran—struggle to protect those they love in this modern retelling of <i>Beowulf</i> . From the perspective of those who live in Herot Hall, the suburb is a paradise. Picket fences, entirely self-sustaining, lawns, playgrounds and wildflowers. But for those who live surreptitiously along Herot Hall’s periphery, the subdivision is a fortress guarded by an intense network of gates, surveillance cameras, and motion-activated lights.
<i>Middlesex</i>	Eugenides, Jeffrey	<i>Middlesex</i> tells the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides, and three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family, who travel from a tiny village overlooking Mount Olympus in Asia Minor to Prohibition-era Detroit, witnessing its glory days as the Motor City and the race riots of 1967 before moving out to the tree-lined streets of suburban Grosse Pointe, Michigan.
<i>Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil</i>	Berendt, John	Voodoo. Decadent socialites packing Lugars. Cotillions. With towns like Savannah, Georgia, who needs Fellini? <i>Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil</i> takes two narrative strands--each worthy of its own book--and weaves them together to make a single fascinating tale.
<i>Mister Pip</i>	Jones, Lloyd	In a novel that is at once intense, beautiful, and fable like, Lloyd Jones weaves a transcendent story that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the power of narrative to transform our lives.
<i>Mr. Rosenblum’s list</i>	Solomons, Natasha	The story follows Jakob Rosenblum, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, who arrives in London determined to fit in. Presented with a leaflet entitled "While You Are in England: Helpful Information", he resolves to follow its guidance unswervingly: he gives up speaking German, even to his wife, Sadie, except "at moments of extreme stress"; he refrains from criticising the peculiarities of his adopted country and from expressing any political opinions. But when he is arrested as a "class B enemy alien (possible security risk)", he decides that he must still be doing something wrong.

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<i>Month Of Sundays, A</i>	Byrski, Liz	For over ten years, Ros, Adele, Judy and Simone have been in an online book club, but they have never met face to face. Until now. Each member has been asked to choose a book which will teach the others more about her. And with each woman facing a crossroads in her life, it turns out there's a lot for them to learn, not just about their fellow book-clubbers, but also about themselves.
<i>The Mouth That Roared</i>	Twentyman, Les	Raised in Braybrook in Melbourne's Western suburbs, Les has devoted his life to young people doing it tough both in Melbourne's west and more recently in western Sydney, setting up crucial programs, services and resources to assist youth at risk. His is a success story on many fronts: attracting a dedicated and passionate team who work directly with the young people to bring about individual change; and building a huge public profile to support his work. His personal contact list would be the envy of prime ministers: from politicians to prominent business people to police command to sports champions and CEOs of major sporting codes, to the governor general.
<i>Murder in Mount Martha</i>	Simpson, Janice	In 1953, a small dog leads his owner to the mutilated, dead body of a young girl. The senseless and brutal homicide not only shakes up the small seaside town of Mt Martha, but also begins an Australia-wide manhunt for the callous murderer. However, the witness testimonies are strangely inconsistent, and without a prime suspect, the case goes cold. That is until the present time, when Nick Szabo begins an unrelated research project and comes across an old newspaper clipping. Aided by his friend Arthur, he digs deeper into the case, uncovering horrific layers of deception and betrayal.
<i>Museum of Modern Love</i>	Rose, Heather	She watched as the final hours of <i>The Artist is Present</i> passed by, sitter after sitter in a gaze with the woman across the table. Jane felt she had witnessed a thing of inexplicable beauty among humans who had been drawn to this art and had found the reflection of a great mystery. What are we? How should we live? If this was a dream, then he wanted to know when it would end. Maybe it would end if he went to see Lydia. But it was the one thing he was not allowed to do.
<i>Music and freedom</i>	Morrison, Zoe	Alice Murray learns to play the piano aged three on an orange orchard in rural Australia. Recognising her daughter's gift, her mother sends Alice to boarding school in the bleak north of England, and there Alice stays for the rest of her childhood. Then she's offered a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London, and on a summer school in Oxford she meets Edward, an economics professor who sweeps her off her feet.

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<i>The Namesake</i>	Lahiri, Jhumpa	<i>The Namesake</i> takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge, Massachusetts. An engineer by training, Ashoke adapts far less warily than his wife, who resists all things American and pines for her family.
<i>Night</i>	Wiesel, Elie	<i>Night</i> is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps.
<i>Night Circus</i>	Morgenstern, Erin	Welcome to Le Cirque des Rêves. Beyond the smoke and mirrors, however, a fierce competition is under way--a contest between two young illusionists, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in a "game" to which they have been irrevocably bound by their mercurial masters. Unbeknownst to the players, this is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will.
<i>Night Games</i>	Krien, Anna	The Pies beat the Saints and the city of Melbourne was still cloaked in black and white crepe paper when the rumour of a pack rape by celebrating footballers began to surface. By morning, the head of the sexual crimes squad confirmed to journalists that they were preparing to question two Collingwood players.
<i>Nine Perfect Strangers</i>	Moriarty, Liane	Could ten days at a health resort really change you forever? In Liane Moriarty's latest page-turner, nine perfect strangers are about to find out...Nine people gather at a remote health resort. Some are here to lose weight, some are here to get a reboot on life, some are here for reasons they can't even admit to themselves. Amidst all of the luxury and pampering, the mindfulness and meditation, they know these ten days might involve some real work. But none of them could imagine just how challenging the next ten days are going to be.
<i>On the Java Ridge</i>	Serong, Jock	Amid the furious ocean there was no human sound on deck: some people standing, watching the wave, but no one capable of words. On the Java Ridge, skipper Isi Natoli and a group of Australian surf tourists are anchored beside an idyllic reef off the Indonesian island of Dana. In the Canberra office of Cassius Calvert, Minister for Border Integrity, a Federal election looms and (not coincidentally) a hardline new policy is being announced regarding maritime assistance to asylum-seeker vessels in distress. A few kilometres away from Dana, the Takalar is having engine trouble.

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<i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i>	Winterson, Jeanette	This is the story of Jeanette, adopted and brought up by her mother as one of God's elect. Zealous and passionate, she seems seems destined for life as a missionary, but then she falls for one of her converts. At sixteen, Jeanette decides to leave the church, her home and her family, for the young woman she loves. Innovative, punchy and tender, <i>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</i> is a few days ride into the bizarre outposts of religious excess and human obsession.
<i>Orphan Train</i>	Baker Kline, Christina	A captivating story of two very different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan-train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers to questions no one has ever thought to ask.
<i>Pachinko</i>	Lee, Min Jin	<i>Pachinko</i> follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity.
<i>A Pale View of Hills</i>	Ishiguro, Kazuo	Etsuko, a Japanese woman now living alone in England, dwelling on the recent suicide of her daughter. Retreating into the past, she finds herself reliving one particular hot summer in Nagasaki, when she and her friends struggled to rebuild their lives after the war. But then as she recalls her strange friendship with Sachiko - a wealthy woman reduced to vagrancy - the memories take on a disturbing cast.
<i>People of the Book</i>	Brooks, Geraldine	In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artefacts in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—she begins to unlock the book's mysteries
<i>Poisonwood Bible</i>	Kingsolver, Barbara	The <i>Poisonwood Bible</i> is a story 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 everything 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.

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<i>Pomegranate Soup</i>	Mehran, Marsha	Beneath the holy mountain Croagh Patrick, in damp and lovely County Mayo, sits the small, sheltered village of Ballinacroagh. To the exotic Aminpour sisters, Ireland looks like a much-needed safe haven. It has been seven years since Marjan Aminpour fled Iran with her younger sisters, Bahar and Layla, and she hopes that in Ballinacroagh, a land of “crazed sheep and dizzying roads,” they might finally find a home.
<i>Power of Hope, The</i>	Karapanagiotidis, Kon	A powerful, inspiring memoir from Kon Karapanagiotidis, founder of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, which argues that by putting community, love and compassion at the centre of our lives, we have the power to change our world. 'I hope you take from this book the message that we all matter. That there is a place for all of us. That once we know our own voice, live the values close to our hearts and follow our dreams, we can be unstoppable. Hope is only exhausted if we forsake ourselves, otherwise no one can take hope away from us. It is both our sanctuary and our destiny to live a life with love, belonging, connection and community.'
<i>Rebellious Daughters</i>	Katsonis, Maria & Kofman, Lee	In <i>Rebellious Daughters</i> , some of Australia’s most talented female writers share intimate and touching stories of rebellion and independence as they defy the expectations of parents and society to find their place in the world. Powerful, funny and poignant, these stories explore everything from getting caught in seedy nightclubs to lifelong family conflicts and marrying too young.
<i>Red Tent, The</i>	Diamant, Anita	Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of Genesis that are about her father, Jacob, and his dozen sons. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent
<i>Reluctant Fundamentalist, The</i>	Hamid, Mohsin	Changez is living an immigrant’s dream of America. At the top of his class at Princeton, he is snapped up by the elite "valuation" firm of Underwood Samson. But in the wake of September 11, Changez finds his position in his adopted city suddenly overturned, and his budding relationship with Erica eclipsed by the reawakened ghosts of her past.
<i>Room at the Top, A</i>	Ducker, Heath	Heath is still just 28 and he is truly a remarkable young man. He is now a solicitor at Gadens, has walked the Kokoda Track four times. Heath Ducker grew up on the wrong side of the tracks. He couldn't even see the tracks from where he lived, in dilapidated government housing, with shattered windows and holes in the floor that let the weeds climb through. He lived with his emotionally fragile, single mother and nine siblings, conceived with half a dozen different fathers, none of whom ever moved in.

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<i>Rosie Effect, The</i>	Simsion, Graeme	Don Tillman and Rosie Jarman are back. If you were swept away by Graeme Simsion’s international smash hit <i>The Rosie Project</i> , you will love <i>The Rosie Effect</i> . <i>The Wife Project</i> is complete, and Don and Rosie are happily married and living in New York. But they’re about to face a new challenge.
<i>Rosie Project, The</i>	Simsion, Graeme	Don Tillman, professor of genetics, has never been on a second date. He is a man who can count all his friends on the fingers of one hand, whose lifelong difficulty with social rituals has convinced him that he is simply not wired for romance. So when an acquaintance informs him that he would make a “wonderful” husband, his first reaction is shock. Yet he must concede to the statistical probability that there is someone for everyone, and he embarks upon <i>The Wife Project</i> .
<i>Rules of Backyard Cricket, The</i>	Serong, Jock	It starts in a suburban backyard with Darren Keefe and his older brother, sons of a fierce and gutsy single mother. The endless glow of summer, the bottomless fury of contest. All the love and hatred in two small bodies poured into the rules of a made-up game. Darren has two big talents: cricket and trouble. No surprise that he becomes an Australian sporting star of the bad-boy variety—one of those men who’s always got away with things and just keeps getting. Until the day we meet him, middle aged, in the boot of a car. Gagged, cable-tied, a bullet in his knee. Everything pointing towards a shallow grave.
<i>Sapphire Skies</i>	Alexander, Belinda	A love bigger than a war. A beautiful woman lost. A mystery unsolved ... until now. 2000: The wreckage of a downed WWII fighter plane is discovered in the forests near Russia’s Ukrainian border. The aircraft belonged to Natalya Azarova, ace pilot and pin-up girl for Soviet propaganda, but the question of her fate remains unanswered.
<i>Scarlet Letter</i>	Hawthorne, Nathaniel	Set in the harsh Puritan community of seventeenth-century Boston, this tale of an adulterous entanglement that results in an illegitimate birth reveals Nathaniel Hawthorne’s concerns with the tension between the public and the private selves. Publicly disgraced and ostracized, Hester Prynne draws on her inner strength and certainty of spirit to emerge as the first true heroine of American fiction. Arthur Dimmesdale, trapped by the rules of society, stands as a classic study of a self divided.
<i>Secret Life of Bees, The</i>	Monk Kidd, Sue	Set in South Carolina in 1964, <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i> tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily’s fierce-hearted black “stand-in mother,” Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free

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<i>Secret Son, The</i>	Ackland, Jenny	An Australian historian determined to find the truth, a stolen inheritance, a wishing tree, a long-lost grandmother, and an unlikely sweetheart come together in a dazzlingly original, audacious and exhilarating novel about love, honour and belonging.
<i>Shadow of the Wind, The</i>	Ruiz Zafon, Carlos	Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled <i>The Shadow of the Wind</i> , by one Julián Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written. In fact, Daniel may have the last of Carax's books in existence.
<i>Skylarking</i>	Mildenhall, Kate	Kate and Harriet are best friends, growing up together on an isolated Australian cape in the 1880s. As daughters of the lighthouse keepers, the two girls share everything, until a fisherman, McPhail, arrives in their small community. When Kate witnesses the desire that flares between him and Harriet, she is torn by her feelings of envy and longing. But one moment in McPhail's hut will change the course of their lives forever.
<i>Sisters of Spicefield</i>	Cusworth, Fran	Assisted by IVF, Jessica and Matt have four beautiful children, and they donate a leftover embryo to a childless couple. Seven years later, grief stricken after the death of their youngest child, their marriage is breaking down. Then a new girl starts at the children's school, and Jessica realises this child, Mia, is her biological offspring.
<i>Shepherd's Hut, the</i>	Winton, Tim	For years Jaxie Clackton has dreaded going home. His beloved mum is dead, and he wishes his dad was too, until one terrible moment leaves his life stripped to nothing. No one ever told Jaxie Clackton to be careful what he wishes for. And so Jaxie runs. There's just one person in the world who understands him, but to reach her he'll have to cross the vast saltlands of Western Australia. It is a place that harbours criminals and threatens to kill those who haven't reckoned with its hot, waterless vastness. This is a journey only a dreamer - or a fugitive - would attempt.
<i>Slap, The</i>	Tsiolkas, Christos	At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own. This event has a shocking ricochet effect on a group of people, mostly friends, who are directly or indirectly influenced by the slap. In this remarkable novel, Christos Tsiolkas turns his unflinching and all-seeing eye onto that which connects us all: the modern family and domestic life in the twenty-first century.

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<i>Sold</i>	Gullifer, Brendan	Sold takes a fly-on-the-wall look at Melbourne’s property industry. Set in the leafy, prosperous inner suburbs, it follows the fortunes and misfortunes of three agents as they jostle, thrive and try to survive. It reveals the routines, the agents’ listing tricks and the subtle intimidation used to motivate staff and prospective vendors at Prender and Prender Real Estate.
<i>Songs of a War Boy</i>	Adut, Deng Thiak	Deng Adut's family were farmers in South Sudan when a brutal civil war altered his life forever. At six years old, his mother was told she had to give him up to fight. At the age most Australian children are starting school , Deng was conscripted into the Sudan People's Liberation Army. He began a harsh, relentless military training that saw this young boy trained to use an AK-47 and sent into battle. He lost the right to be a child. He lost the right to learn.
<i>Spare Room, The</i>	Garner, Helen	How much of ourselves must we give up to help a friend in need? Helen has little idea what lies ahead—and what strength she must muster—when she offers her spare room to an old friend, Nicola, who has arrived in the city for cancer treatment. Skeptical of the medical establishment, and placing all her faith in an alternative health center, Nicola is determined to find her own way to deal with her illness, regardless of the advice Helen offers.
<i>Spark of Light</i>	Picoult, Jodie	The warm fall day starts like any other at the Center—a women’s reproductive health services clinic—its staff offering care to anyone who passes through its doors. Then, in late morning, a desperate and distraught gunman bursts in and opens fire, taking all inside hostage. After rushing to the scene, Hugh McElroy, a police hostage negotiator, sets up a perimeter and begins making a plan to communicate with the gunman. As his phone vibrates with incoming text messages he glances at it and, to his horror, finds out that his fifteen-year-old daughter, Wren, is inside the clinic.
<i>St Kilda Blues</i>	McGeachin, Geoffrey	A serial killer's work goes unnoticed until Detective Berlin is on the case in this third spine-tingling Charlie Berlin novel. It's 1967, the summer of love, and in swinging Melbourne Detective Sergeant Charlie Berlin has been hauled out of exile in the Fraud Squad to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl,
<i>Station Eleven</i>	St John Mandel, Emily	One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time—from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theatre troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains - this suspenseful, elegiac, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five

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		people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet
<i>Suite Francaise</i>	Nemirovsky, Irene	Beginning in Paris on the eve of the Nazi occupation in 1940. <i>Suite Française</i> tells the remarkable story of men and women thrown together in circumstances beyond their control. As Parisians flee the city, human folly surfaces in every imaginable way.
<i>Summer of '82</i>	O'Neil, Dave	Do you remember finishing your last Year 12 exam and wondering what to do next? Do you remember waiting for your results and being stuck in limbo? Do you remember going to gigs, forming a band, getting bottles thrown at you by skinheads, making a bomb and getting arrested? Do you remember hitchhiking to Mildura to see the love of your life, but ending up in a caravan park by yourself on New Year's Eve? You don't? What? Did all this only happen to Dave O'Neil? That's what this book is about – the summer in which Dave finished school and waited ten weeks to find out whether he'd make it into uni or have to get that trade his dad kept banging on about. <i>The Summer of '82</i> is the hilarious and heartfelt story of a boy becoming a man in suburban Australia.
<i>Taboo</i>	Scott, Kim	<i>Taboo</i> takes place in the present day, in the rural South-West of Western Australia, and tells the story of a group of Noongar people who revisit, for the first time in many decades, a taboo place: the site of a massacre that followed the assassination, by these Noongar's descendants, of a white man who had stolen a black woman. They come at the invitation of Dan Horton, the elderly owner of the farm on which the massacres unfolded. He hopes that by hosting the group he will satisfy his wife's dying wishes and cleanse some moral stain from the ground on which he and his family have lived for generations. But the sins of the past will not be so easily expunged.
<i>Tattooist of Auschwitz</i>	Morris, Heather	In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a <i>Tätowierer</i> (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for more than two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive.

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<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>	Bronte, Anne	Gilbert Markham is deeply intrigued by Helen Graham, a beautiful and secretive young widow who has moved into nearby Wildfell Hall with her young son. He is quick to offer Helen his friendship, but when her reclusive behavior becomes the subject of local gossip and speculation, Gilbert begins to wonder whether his trust in her has been misplaced. It is only when she allows Gilbert to read her diary that the truth is revealed and the shocking details of her past. Told with great immediacy, combined with wit and irony, <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> is a powerfully involving read.
<i>That Deadman Dance</i>	Scott, Kim	Big-hearted, moving and richly rewarding, <i>That Deadman Dance</i> is set in the first decades of the 19th century in the area around what is now Albany, Western Australia. In playful, musical prose, the book explores the early contact between the Aboriginal Noongar people and the first European settlers.
<i>Thousand Splendid Suns, A</i>	Hosseini, Khaled	Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other.
<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i>	Lee, Harper	Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> takes readers to the roots of human behaviour - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humour and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.
<i>Tree Place</i>	Sherborne, Craig	Shane, Moira and Midge, along with young Zara and Rory, are ‘trants’—itinerants roaming the plains north-west of Melbourne in search of disused houses to sleep in, or to strip of heritage fittings when funds are low. When they find their Tree Palace outside Barleyville, things are looking up. At last, a place in which to settle down.
<i>True North</i>	Niall, Brenda	Elizabeth and Mary Durack's ( <i>Kings In Grass Castles</i> ) closely intertwined creative lives were shaped by the pioneering past of their father and grandfather, who set up four vast cattle stations in north Queensland. Brenda Niall was given unprecedented access to private family letters, unpublished memoirs, diaries and family papers to write <i>True North</i> – a biography of the two sisters and a uniquely Australian story.

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<i>Tumbledown Manor</i>	Brown, Helen	Life's going down the gurgler for romance writer Lisa Trumperton. The deadline for her next novel is looming, her daughter won't eat but has a new tattoo each week, and now her Wall Street trader husband has run off with a woman at work. Lisa makes a quick escape, home to Australia, where at least her girl-magnet son seems to be making hay. Richly observed and laugh-out-loud funny, <i>Tumbledown Manor</i> is for anyone who believes it's never too late for a makeover.
<i>Unbroken Line, The</i>	Hammond, Alex	The violence of the past casts a long shadow – a dark legacy with lethal consequences. When defence lawyer Will Harris is attacked by masked men with a clear message to back off, he has no choice but to listen. If only he knew what they were talking about.
<i>Unnecessary Woman, An</i>	Alameddine, Rabin	One of Beirut's most celebrated voices, Rabih Alameddine follows his international bestseller, <i>The Hakawati</i> , with a heartrending novel that celebrates the singular life of an obsessive introvert, revealing Beirut's beauties and horrors along the way.
<i>Unpolished Gem</i>	Pung, Alice	After Alice Pung's family fled to Australia from the killing fields of Cambodia, her father chose Alice as her name because he thought their new country was a Wonderland. In this lyrical, bittersweet debut memoir & already an award-winning bestseller when it was published in Australia & Alice grows up straddling two worlds, East and West, her insular family and the Australia outside.
<i>Water for Elephants</i>	Gruen, Sara	Orphaned, penniless, Jacob Jankowski jumps a freight train in the dark, and in that instant, transforms his future. By morning, he's landed a job with the Flying Squadron of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. By nightfall, he's in love.
<i>Wayfaring Stranger</i>	Burke, James Lee	A sprawling thriller drenched with atmosphere and intrigue that takes a young boy from a chance encounter with Bonnie and Clyde to the trenches of World War II and the oil fields along the Texas-Louisiana coast.
<i>We need to talk about Kevin</i>	Shriver, Lionel	Eva never really wanted to be a mother - and certainly not the mother of the unlovable boy who murdered seven of his fellow high school students, a cafeteria worker, and a much-adored teacher who tried to befriend him, all two days before his sixteenth birthday. Now, two years later, it is time for her to come to terms with marriage, career, family, parenthood,

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		and Kevin's horrific rampage in a series of startlingly direct correspondences with her estranged husband, Franklin
<i>What Came Before</i>	George, Anna	When jaded lawyer David meets Elle, he decides she's his last chance of happiness and does everything he can to woo her and keep her. Everything, that is, except face his demons. Elle, a lawyer herself once but now a blossoming filmmaker, is done with heartbreak. But romance can be intoxicating and David is determined.
<i>Where'd You Go, Bernadette?</i>	Semple, Maria	Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears.
<i>When Breath Becomes Air</i>	Kalanithi, Pail	At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated.
<i>White Tiger, The</i>	Adiga, Aravind	The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur. On the occasion of the president of China's impending trip to Bangalore, Balram writes a letter to him describing his transformation and his experience as driver and servant to a wealthy Indian family, which he thinks exemplifies the contradictions and complications of Indian society
<i>Wolf Hall</i>	Mantel, Hilary	England in the 1520s is a heartbeat from disaster. If the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage of twenty years and marry Anne Boleyn. The pope and most of Europe opposes him. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell: a wholly original man, a charmer and a bully, both idealist and opportunist.
<i>Word of Honour</i>	DeMille, Nelson	He is a good man, a brilliant corporate executive, an honest, handsome family man admired by men and desired by women. But a lifetime ago Ben Tyson was a lieutenant in Vietnam. There the men under his command committed a murderous atrocity -- and together swore never to tell the world what they had done

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<i>Year of the farmer, the</i>	Ham, Rosalie	The last few years have been punishingly dry, especially for the farmers, but otherwise, it's all Neralie Mackintosh's fault. If she'd never left town then her ex, the hapless but extremely eligible Mitchell Bishop, would never have fallen into the clutches of the truly awful Mandy, who now lords it over everyone as if she owns the place. So, now that Neralie has returned to run the local pub, the whole town is determined to reinstate her to her rightful position in the social order. But Mandy Bishop has other ideas.
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