



Suggested books from the Penguin Random House catalogue

This booklet contains summaries of 28 titles recommended by one of Prison Reading Groups' most experienced volunteers.

Please choose one first choice and one second choice from this booklet, or from the wider Penguin Random House catalogue (which includes imprints such as Penguin Classics, Vintage and Windmill).

Choices should be sent to
admin@prg.org.uk by 5 July 2019.

Transcription

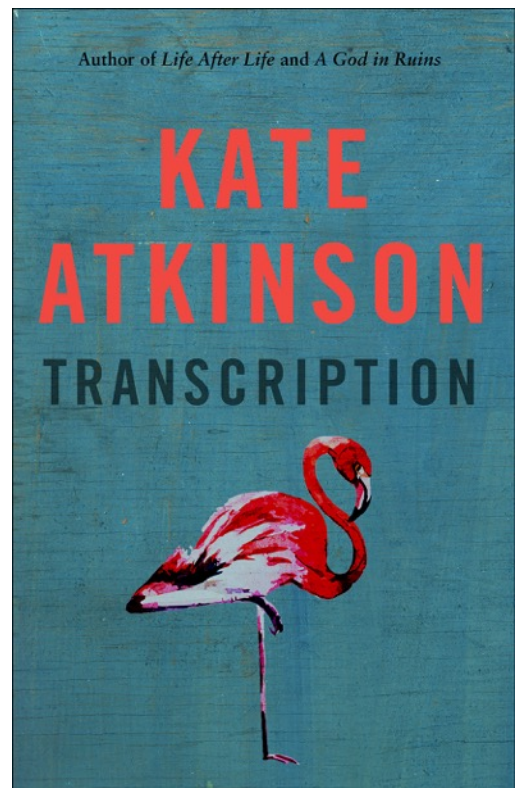
Kate Atkinson

In 1940, eighteen-year old Juliet Armstrong is reluctantly recruited into the world of espionage. Sent to an obscure department of MI5 tasked with monitoring the comings and goings of British Fascist sympathizers, she discovers the work to be by turns both tedious and terrifying. But after the war has ended, she presumes the events of those years have been relegated to the past for ever.

Ten years later, now a producer at the BBC, Juliet is unexpectedly confronted by figures from her past. A different war is being fought now, on a different battleground, but Juliet finds herself once more under threat.

A bill of reckoning is due, and she finally begins to realize that there is no action without consequence.

Transcription is a work of rare depth and texture, a bravura modern novel of extraordinary power, wit and empathy. It is a triumphant work of fiction from one of this country's most exceptional writers.



If Beale Street Could Talk

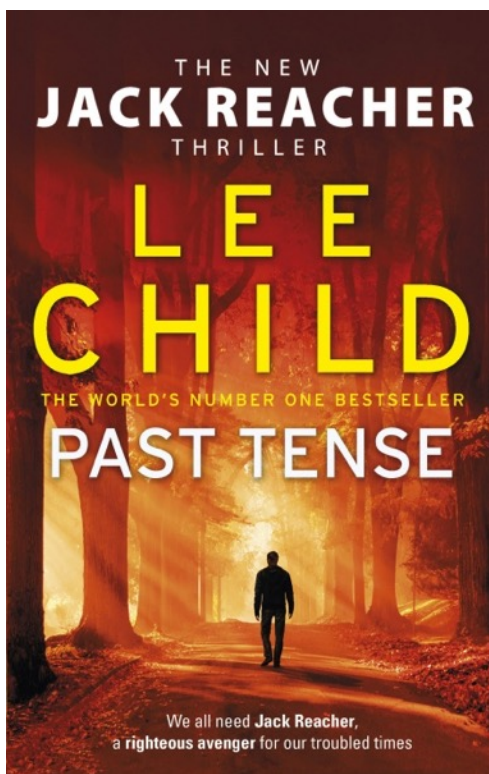
James Baldwin

'Achingly beautiful' *Guardian*

Harlem, the black soul of New York City, in the era of Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles. The narrator of Baldwin's novel is Tish nineteen, and pregnant. Her lover Fonny, father of her child, is in jail accused of rape. Flashbacks from their love affair are woven into the compelling struggle of two families to win justice for Fonny. To this love story James Baldwin brings a spare and impassioned intensity, charging it with universal resonance and power.

'If Beale Street Could Talk affirms not only love between a man and a woman, but love of a type that is dealt with only rarely in contemporary fiction - that between members of a family' *Joyce Carol Oates*





Past Tense

Lee Child

Jack Reacher never looks back...until now.

This thriller follows Reacher on a quest into his father's past, and climaxes in the most blood-curdling ticking time bomb of an adventure yet.

The present can be tense . . .

A young couple trying to get to New York City are stranded at a lonely motel in the middle of nowhere. Before long they're trapped in an ominous game of life and death.

But the past can be worse . . .

A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens



PENGUIN CLASSICS

CHARLES DICKENS

A Tale of Two Cities

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...'

After eighteen years as a political prisoner in the Bastille the aging Dr Manette is finally released and reunited with his daughter in England. There, two very different men, Charles Darnay, an exiled French aristocrat, and Sydney Carton, a disreputable but brilliant English lawyer, become enmeshed through their love for Lucie Manette. From the tranquil lanes of London, they are all drawn against their will to the vengeful, bloodstained streets of Paris at the height of the Reign of Terror and soon fall under the lethal shadow of La Guillotine.

Charles Dickens is one of the best-loved novelists in the English language, whose 200th anniversary was celebrated in 2012. His most famous books, including *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *David Copperfield* and *The Pickwick Papers*, have been adapted for stage and screen and read by millions.

The Power of Habit

Charles Duhigg

Why do we do develop habits? And how can we change them?

In *The Power of Habit*, award-winning *New York Times* business reporter Charles Duhigg translates cutting-edge behavioural science into practical self-improvement action, distilling advanced neuroscience into fascinating narratives of transformation.

From Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps to Martin Luther King Jr., from the CEO of Starbucks to the locker rooms of the NFL, Duhigg explores the incredible results of *keystone habits*, and how they can make all the difference between billions and millions, failure and success – or even life and death.

The Power of Habit makes an exhilarating case: the key to almost any door in life is instilling the right habit.

'Absolutely fascinating.' *Wired*

THE POWER OF HABIT

Why we do what we do and how to *change*



CHARLES DUHIGG

Ivy and Abe

Elizabeth Enfield

'If you liked Jojo Moyes' *Me Before You* this is the perfect new read for you . . . a story for anyone who has ever wondered what if . . . ?' *Woman's Weekly*

Ivy is always destined to meet Abe.

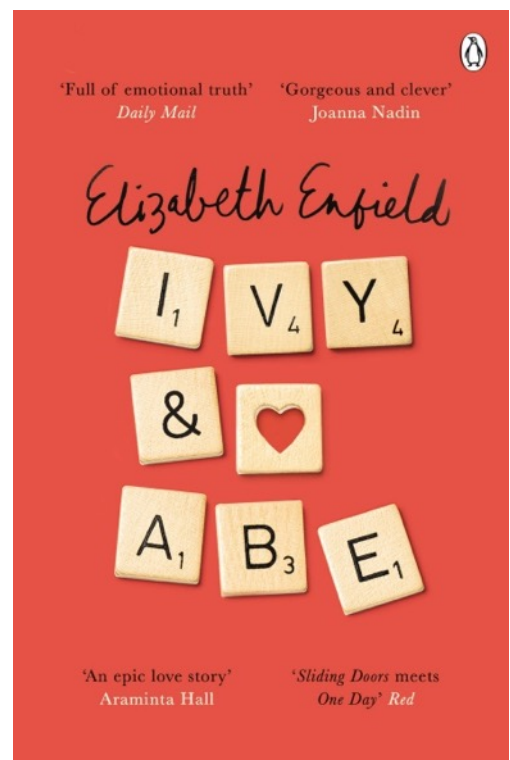
But when is the RIGHT time?

At school, as a free spirit in her twenties or when she is married . . . to someone else?

Perhaps they meet when she is a widow in her sixties? Or maybe he remains a stranger, glimpsed only fleetingly.

Ivy and Abe are soulmates. But what if they meet at the WRONG time, and fate and circumstance stand in Ivy's way?

Told over Ivy's lifetime, across a series of alternate realities, Ivy & Abe is a story for anyone who has ever wondered 'what if?'



Ordinary People

Diana Evans

'You can take a leap, do something off the wall, something reckless. It's your last chance, and most people miss it.'

South London, 2008. Two couples find themselves at a moment of reckoning, on the brink of acceptance or revolution. Melissa has a new baby and doesn't want to let it change her but, in the crooked walls of a narrow Victorian terrace, she begins to disappear. Michael, growing daily more accustomed to his commute, still loves Melissa but can't quite get close enough to her to stay faithful. Meanwhile out in the suburbs, Stephanie is happy with Damian and their three children, but the death of Damian's father has thrown him into crisis – or is it something, or someone, else? Are they all just in the wrong place? Are any of them prepared to take the leap?

Set against the backdrop of Barack Obama's historic election victory, *Ordinary People* is an intimate, immersive study of identity and parenthood, sex and grief, friendship and aging, and the fragile architecture of love.

'Diana Evans is a lyrical and glorious writer; a precise poet of the human heart' Naomi Alderman, author of *The Power*



Family (Vintage Minis)

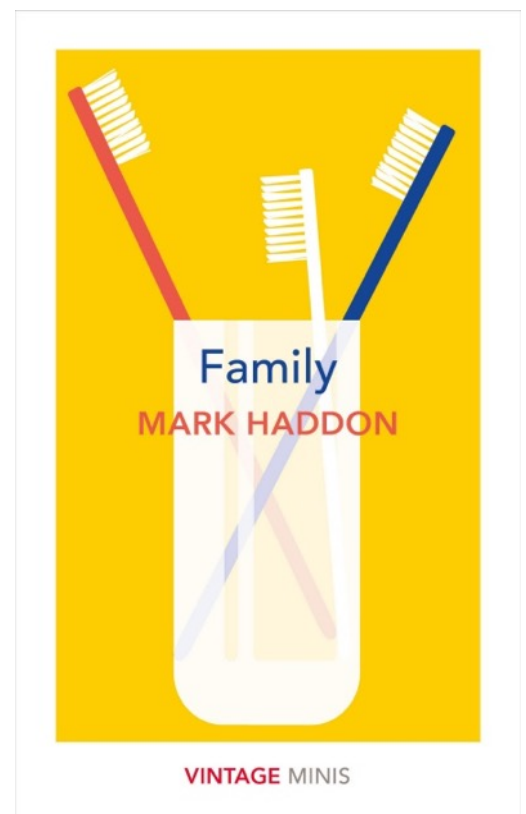
Mark Haddon

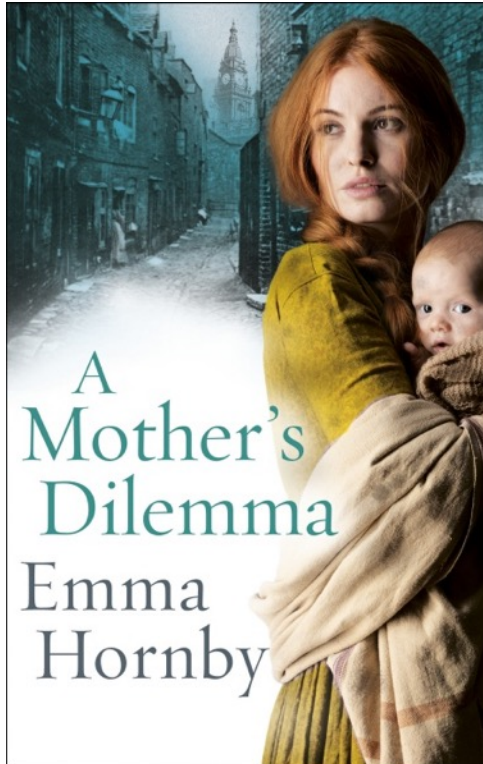
Great minds. Big ideas. Little books.

A series of short books by the world's greatest writers on the experiences that make us human. *Family* is taken from Mark Haddon's 2016 collection *The Pier Falls*.

"Literature for the Twitter generation ... there is clarity in the distillation"

Mark Haddon is a writer and artist. His bestselling novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, was published in 2003. It won seventeen literary prizes, including the Whitbread Award. In 2012, a stage adaptation by Simon Stephens was produced by the National Theatre and went on to win 7 Olivier Awards in 2013 and the 2015 Tony Award for Best Play. *The Pier Falls*, a collection of short stories, was published in 2016.





A Mother's Dilemma

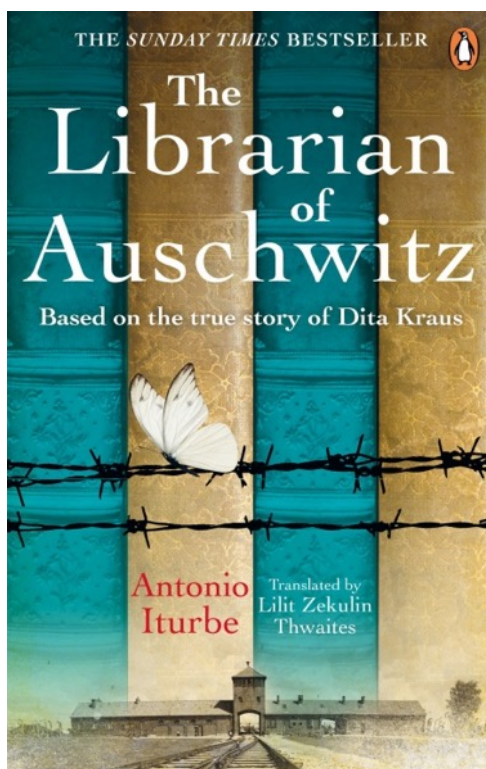
Emma Hornby

Minnie Maddox cares deeply for mothers and their babies – she makes a living by taking in unwanted children and finding them good adoptive homes – and is delighted for her neighbour when she finally becomes a mother after decades of trying. But when the baby dies of natural causes while under her roof, and knowing her neighbour will be devastated, Minnie swaps it with one of the infants in her care.

Now seventeen, Jewel Nightingale knows nothing of her true origins. But assaulted by her hateful cousin and making the dreadful discovery that she is pregnant, she faces a desperate dilemma. Fleeing her job as a domestic maid, she follows an advertisement to a house in Bolton's dark slums, where a woman promises to help her when the child is born. Little does Jewel know that there's a terrible price to pay ...

The Librarian of Auschwitz

Antonio Iturbe



For readers of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *The Choice*: this is the story of the smallest library in the world – and the most dangerous.

'It wasn't an extensive library. In fact, it consisted of eight books and some of them were in poor condition. But they were books. In this incredibly dark place, they were a reminder of less sombre times, when words rang out more loudly than machine guns...'

Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious books the prisoners have managed to smuggle past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the secret librarian of Auschwitz, responsible for the safekeeping of the small collection of titles, as well as the 'living books' - prisoners of Auschwitz who know certain books so well, they too can be 'borrowed' to educate the children in the camp.

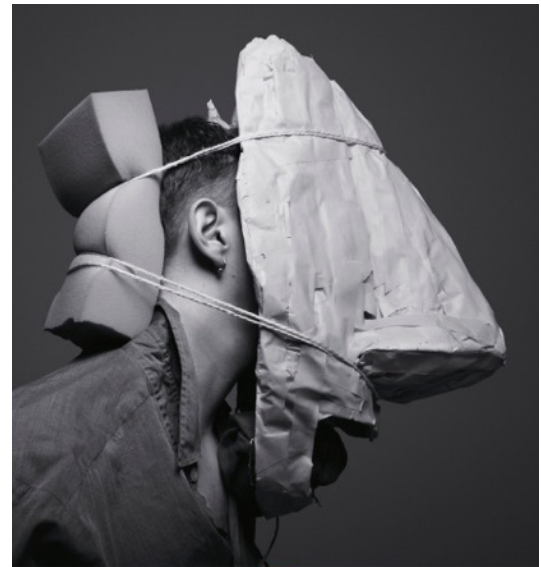
Metamorphosis and Other Stories

Franz Kafka

This collection of new translations brings together the small proportion of Kafka's works that he himself thought worthy of publication.

It includes *Metamorphosis*, his most famous work, an exploration of horrific transformation and alienation; *Meditation*, a collection of his earlier studies; *The Judgement*, written in a single night of frenzied creativity; *The Stoker*, the first chapter of a novel set in America and a fascinating occasional piece, and *The Aeroplanes at Brescia*, Kafka's eyewitness account of an air display in 1909.

Together, these stories reveal the breadth of Kafka's literary vision and the extraordinary imaginative depth of his thought.



PENGUIN CLASSICS

FRANZ KAFKA

Metamorphosis and Other Stories

The Beach Wedding (Quick Read)

Dorothy Koomson

Will your past always catch up with you?

Tessa Dannall is excited and happy when her daughter, Nia, arrives at their family's tropical beach resort to get married.

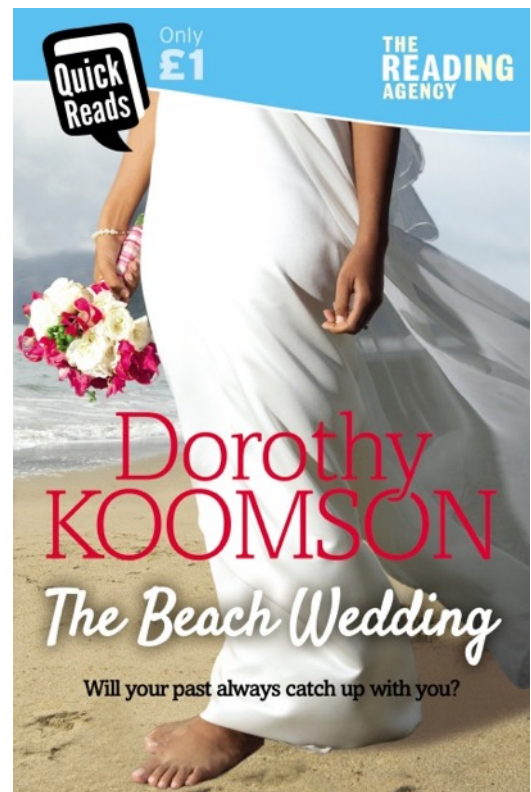
Tessa is also trying to forget the last time she went to a wedding on this beach and how that day changed her life for ever.

But as the big day draws near, Tessa realises she must face the deadly ghosts from her past – or they may ruin her daughter's future...

'Terrifically addictive' *Good Housekeeping*

'Beautifully written' *Closer*

'Koomson just gets better and better' *Woman and Home*





The House

Simon Lelic

The perfect couple. The perfect house... The perfect crime.

Londoners Jack and Syd moved into the house a year ago. It seemed like their dream home: tons of space, the perfect location, and a friendly owner who wanted a young couple to have it.

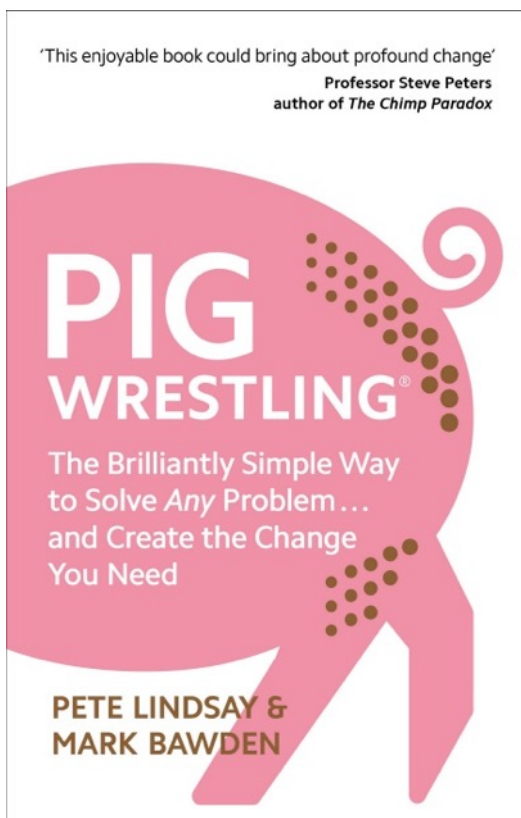
So when they made a grisly discovery in the attic, Jack and Syd chose to ignore it. That was a mistake.

'A bundle of creepy chills, perfectly timed for Halloween . . . read it' *Thriller of the Month, The Observer*

'Deeply creepy . . . This clever, twisting plot, told in convincing voices, will haunt you in the very best way' *The Sunday Mirror*

Pig Wrestling

Pete Lindsay and Mark Bowden



'This enjoyable book could bring about profound change' Professor Steve Peters, author of *The Chimp Paradox*

Pig Wrestling is a simple story with a powerful message.

Meet a stressed Young Manager, whose teams are at each other's throats. At his local coffee bar he shares his frustrations with his barista – who turns out to be more than he seems. It's the start of a journey into Pig Wrestling – a process that can be used to resolve any seemingly impossible problem. By reframing the issue we can all create change, whenever and wherever we need it most.

Developed out of the authors' work in elite sports and business – including Manchester City, Olympic champion Jessica Ennis-Hill and the England Cricket team – this instantly memorable story will help you thrive in complex and messy times.

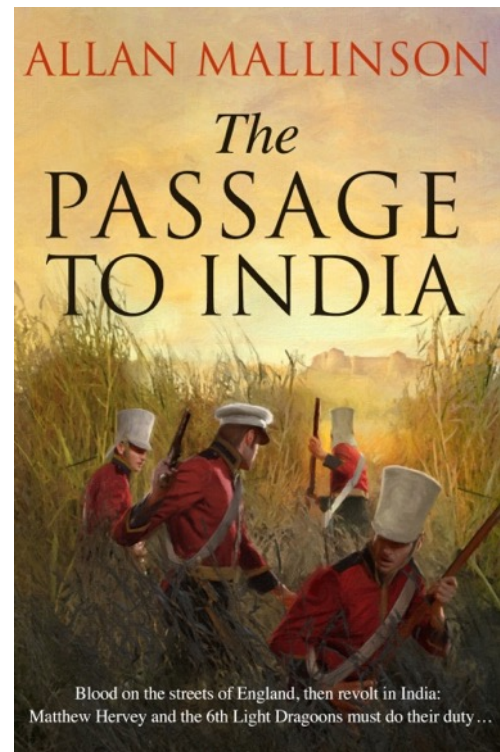
The Passage to India

Allan Mallinson

It is 1831, riots and rebellions are widespread . . .

In England, the new government is facing protests against the attempts of the Tory-dominated House of Lords to thwart the passing of the Reform Bill. In India, relations are strained between the presidency of Madras and some of the neighbouring princely states.

Having taken command of the action in Bristol to restore order after one of the bloodiest and most destructive riots in the nation's history, Lieutenant-Colonel Matthew Hervey is out of favour with the new government. But then his old friend, Sir Eyre Somervile, offers him a lifeline. Somervile has persuaded the Court of Directors of the East India Company to approve an increase in the Madras military establishment. Hervey and the 6th Light Dragoons are sent to the princely state of Coorg.



The Rajah is in revolt against the East India Company's terms and Hervey's regiment is called upon to crush the rebellion. With the stakes raised by an unexpected visitation from his past, for Hervey the question is whether he and his men will get out of this brutal war unscathed?

Sanctum

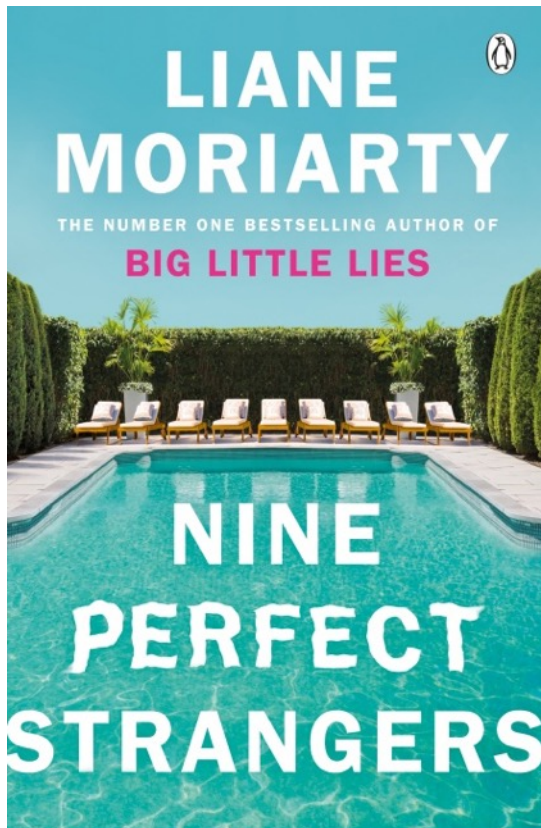
Denise Mina

From the two-time winner of the *Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award*

Susie Harriot, a respected psychiatrist, has been convicted of the brutal murder of a serial killer in her care. It looks certain that she will be given a life sentence, depriving her of her home, her family and her two-year-old daughter.

Susie's husband, Lachlan, is convinced she is innocent and is desperate to prove it. Each night, he climbs the stairs to her study and goes through her papers – her case notes, her interviews, and the press cuttings from the trial. But the more Lachlan discovers, the more he suspects that his wife has been hiding a dark secret.





Nine Perfect Strangers

Lianne Moriarty

The Sunday Times No. 1 Bestseller, from the author behind the award-winning TV series Big Little Lies

Nine perfect strangers, each hiding an imperfect life.

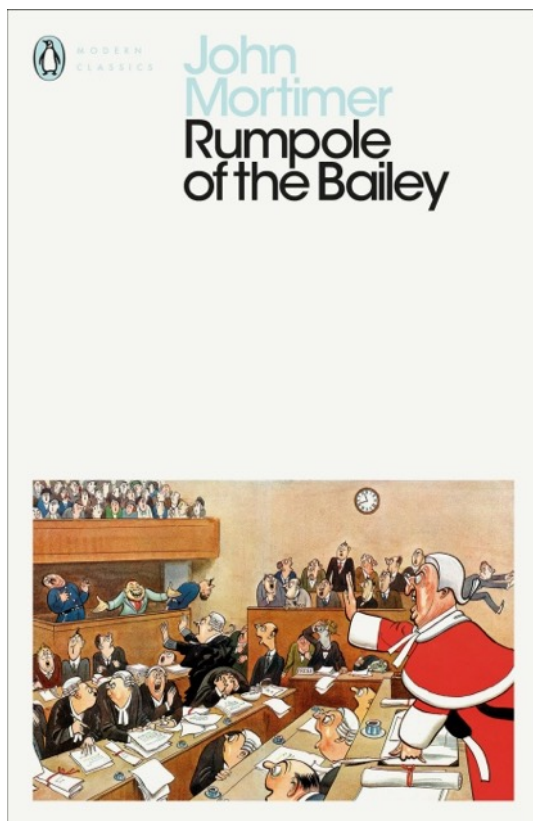
A luxury retreat cut off from the outside world.

Ten days that promise to change your life.

But some promises - like some lives - are perfect lies . . .

'Fantastic' *Times*

'Original, suspenseful, downright brilliant' *Clare Mackintosh*



Rumpole of the Bailey

John Mortimer

'Rumpole, like Jeeves and Sherlock Holmes, is immortal' P. D. James

Horace Rumpole - dishevelled barrister at law, drinker of claret and smoker of cigars, inveterate quoter of Wordsworth and eternal defender of the underdog - is one of the greatest English comic characters ever created. This is the original volume of Rumpole stories, introducing us to the legal triumphs that first made the Old Bailey Hack's name, along with a host of choice villains, frequent forays to Pommeroy's wine bar and, of course, his formidable, magisterial wife Hilda, She Who Must Be Obeyed.

'I thank heaven for small mercies. The first of these is Rumpole' *Clive James*

'A fruity, foxy masterpiece, defender of our wilting faith in mankind' *Sunday Times*

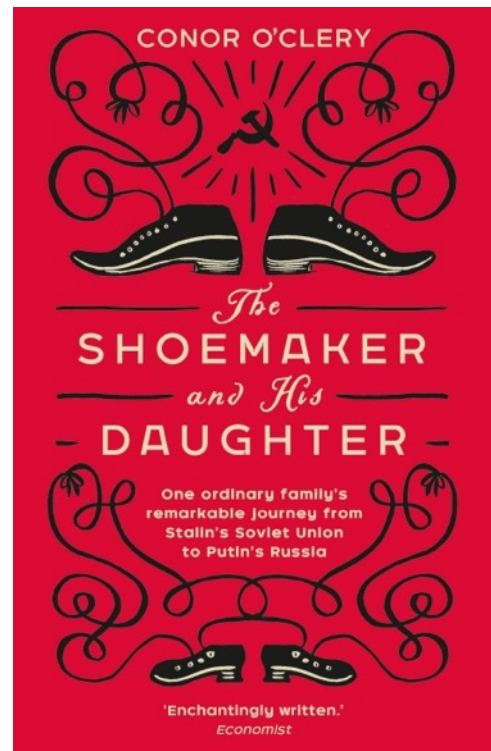
The Shoemaker and His Daughter

Conor O'Clery

'A tour de force ... Love, politics, murder, wars, and the fracturing of ties, personal and ethnic. O'Clery is a gifted writer.' Luke Harding, bestselling author of *Collusion*

The Soviet Union, 1962. Gifted shoemaker Stanislav Suvorov is imprisoned for five years. His crime? Selling his car for a profit. On his release, social shame drives him and his family into voluntary exile in Siberia, 5,000 kilometres from home. In a climate that's unfriendly both geographically and politically, it's their chance to start again.

The Shoemaker and His Daughter is an epic story spanning the Second World War to the fall of the Soviet Union, taking in eighty years of Soviet and Russian history, from Stalin to Putin. Following the footsteps of a remarkable family Conor O'Clery knows well - he is married to the shoemaker's daughter - it's both a compelling insight into life in a secretive world at a seismic moment in time and a powerful tale of ordinary lives shaped by extraordinary times.

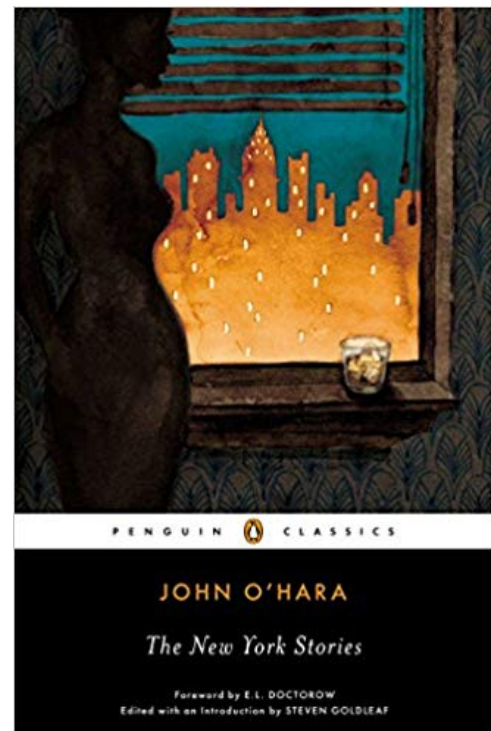


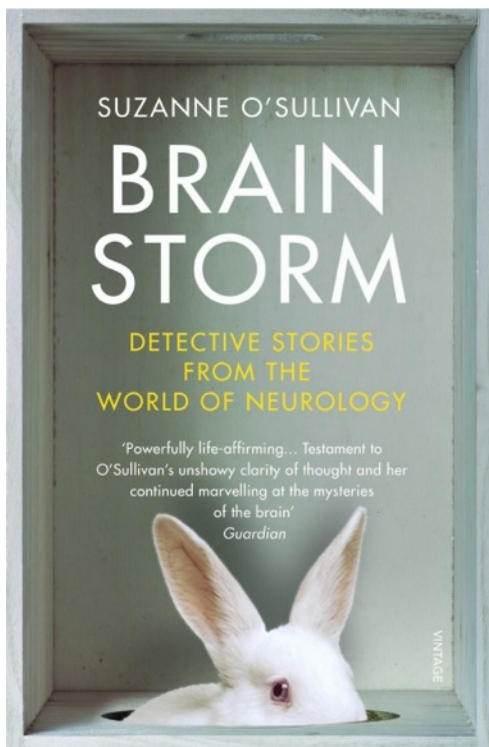
The New York Stories

John O'Hara

The New York stories of John O'Hara, "among the greatest short story writers in English, or in any other language" (Brendan Gill, *Here at The New Yorker*)

Collected for the first time, here are the New York stories of one of the twentieth century's definitive chroniclers of the city--the speakeasies and highballs, social climbers and cinema stars, mistresses and powerbrokers, unsparingly observed by a popular American master of realism. Spanning his four-decade career, these more than thirty refreshingly frank, sparsely written stories are among John O'Hara's finest work, exploring the materialist aspirations and sexual exploits of flawed, prodigally human characters and showcasing the snappy dialogue, telling details and ironic narrative twists that made him the most-published short story writer in the history of the New Yorker.





Brain Storm

Suzanne O'Sullivan

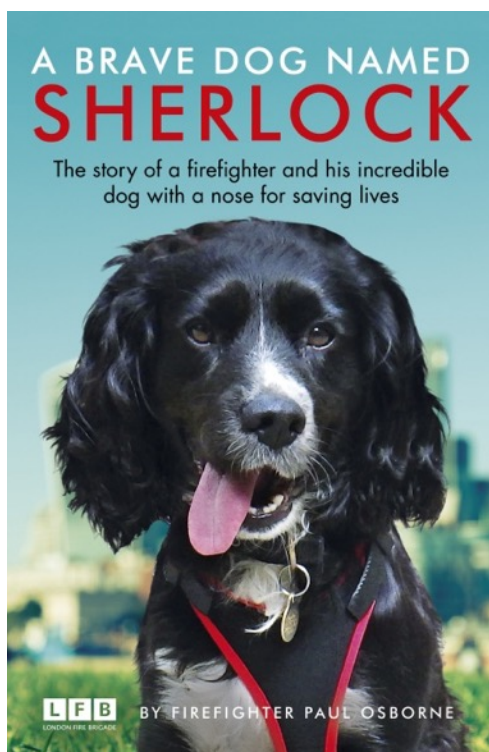
'Powerfully life-affirming... Brainstorm is testament to O'Sullivan's unshowy clarity of thought and her continued marvelling at the mysteries of the brain'
Guardian

Brainstorm examines the stories of people whose symptoms are so strange even their doctor struggles to know how to solve them. A man who sees cartoon characters running across the room; a teenager who one day arrives home with inexplicably torn clothes; a girl whose world turns all *Alice in Wonderland*; another who transforms into a ragdoll whenever she even thinks about moving.

It's a journey that will open your eyes to the unfathomable intricacies of the brain, and the infinite variety of human capacity and experience.

A Brave Dog Named Sherlock

Paul Osborne



The incredible true story of Sherlock, the brave dog with a nose for saving lives.

Firefighter Paul Osborne works with the Fire Investigation Dog unit, where he handles Sherlock – an excitable, bright-eyed cocker spaniel.

What makes Sherlock different? He's the most talented investigative dog the Fire Brigade has ever produced, capable of identifying extraordinarily subtle traces and scents even after thousand-degree blazes – even when he has to wear special protective boots due to the dangerous environments.

Today, Paul and Sherlock fearlessly plunge into the most dramatic fire scenes in London, helping to keep the capital safe around the clock. With remarkable insight into the life of London's most heroic working dog, this inspiring account of the London Fire Brigade's four-legged heroes will delight and amaze.

Written in collaboration with and with full support from the London Fire Brigade.

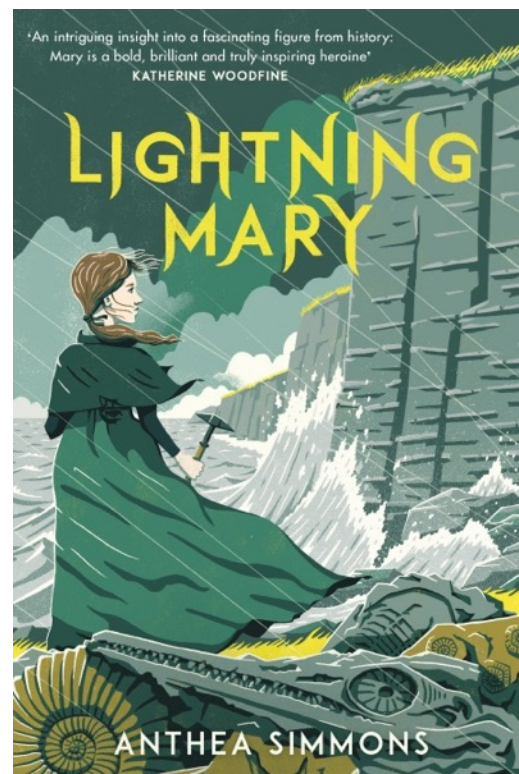
Lightning Mary

Anthea Simmons

Ordinary is what most people are and I am not. I am not ordinary at all. I am a scientist.

One stormy night, a group of villagers are struck by lightning. The only survivor is a baby - Mary Anning. From that moment on, a spark is lit within her. Growing up poor but proud on the windswept Dorset coast, Mary follows after her father, hunting for fossils uncovered by waves and landslips: ancient creatures, turned to stone. Ignoring other people's taunts, Mary faces danger to bring back valuable treasures to help feed her family. But tragedy and despair is never far away. Mary must depend upon her unique courage and knowledge to fulfil her dream of becoming a scientist in a time when girls have no opportunities for such ambitions.

What will happen when she makes her greatest discovery of all...?



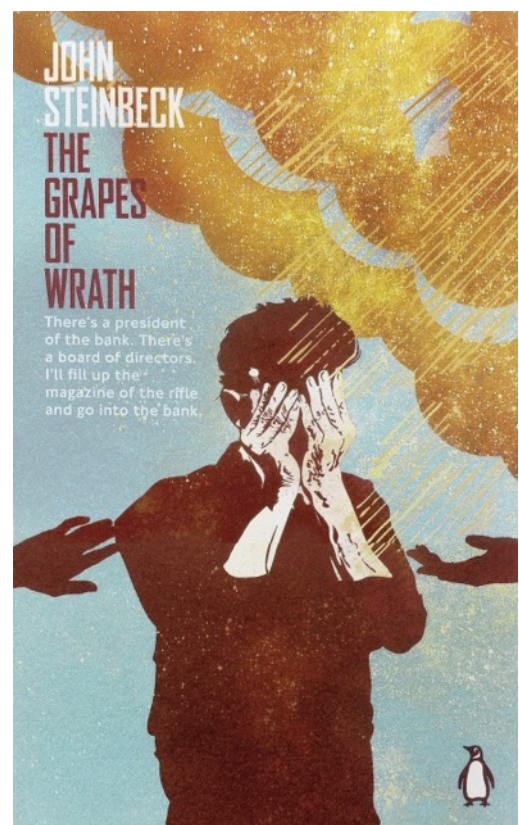
The Grapes of Wrath

John Steinbeck

'I've done my damndest to rip a reader's nerves to rags, I don't want him satisfied.'

Shocking and controversial when it was first published, *The Grapes of Wrath* is Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Joad family, forced to travel west from Dust Bowl era Oklahoma in search of the promised land of California.

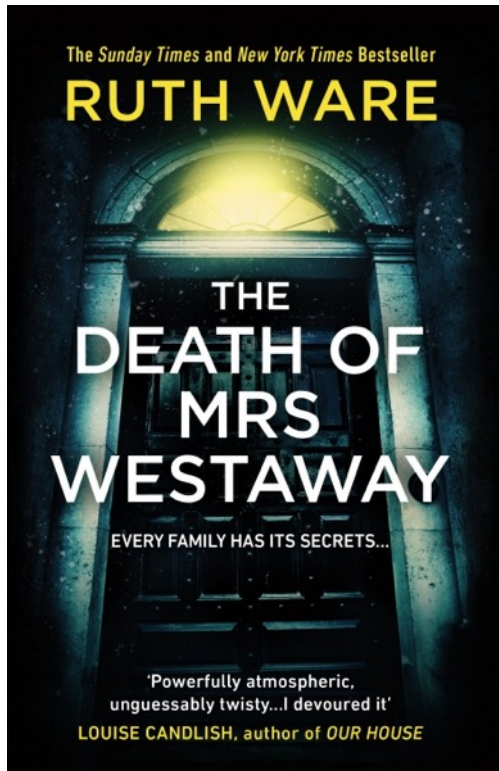
Their story is one of false hopes, thwarted desires and powerlessness, yet out of their struggle Steinbeck created a drama that is both intensely human and majestic in its scale and moral vision.



The Death of Mrs Westaway

Ruth Ware

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER



When Harriet Westaway receives an unexpected letter telling her she's inherited a substantial bequest from her Cornish grandmother, it seems like the answer to her prayers.

There's just one problem – Hal's real grandparents died more than twenty years ago.

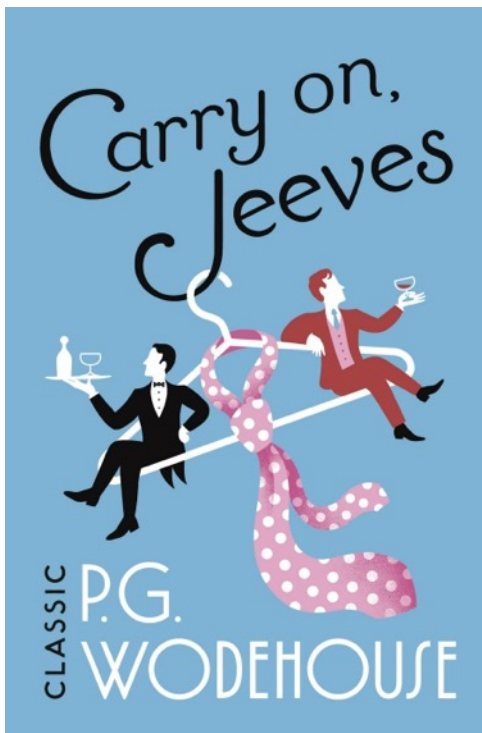
Hal desperately needs the cash and makes a choice that will change her life for ever. She knows that her skills as a seaside fortune teller could help her on her way to getting the money.

But once Hal embarks on her deception, there is no going back. She must keep going or risk losing everything, even her life...

The brand new psychological thriller from the Sunday Times and New York Times bestselling author of *The Woman in Cabin 10*.

Carry On Jeeves

P.G. Wodehouse



'What a very, very lucky person you are. Spread out before you are the finest and funniest words from the finest and funniest writer the past century ever knew'
Stephen Fry

A collection of ten uproarious short stories. From the moment Jeeves cures Bertie of a raging hangover with his own concoction of Worcestershire sauce and tomato juice, they become steadfast partners.

Whether it is fixing a plan-gone-wrong, or solving his friends' love lives, Jeeves is Bertie's unfaltering aide through a series of accidental – and self-imposed – misadventures.

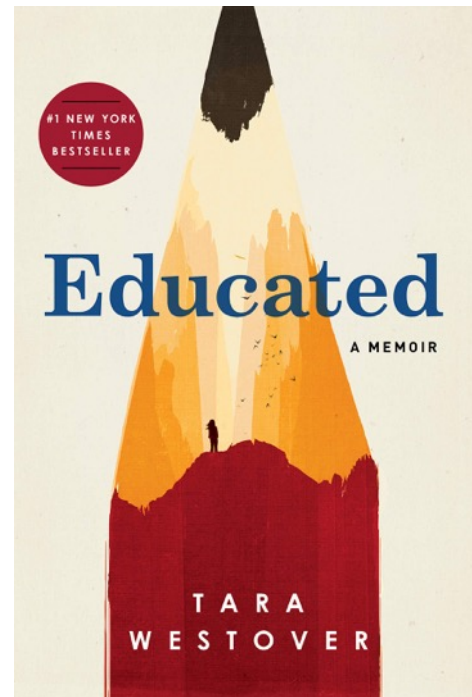
'The incomparable and tireless genius – perfect for readers of all ages, shapes and sizes!' *Kate Mosse*

Educated

Tara Westover

Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when Tara's older brother became violent.

Then, lacking a formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.



The Gypsy Code

Mike Woodhouse

The Gypsy Code is a true story of secret identity, revenge and forbidden love that's perfect for fans of *Running with the Firm*, *Undercover* and *Soldier Spy*.

Mike Woodhouse had everything: an engineering business, a wine bar, a home, a Range Rover and a boat. Then he caught a group of travellers stealing from his warehouse. A car chase, petrol bombing and court case later, and everything had changed.

A marked man, Mike was forced to leave everything behind and move to the Peak District for a fresh start. But his old life was never far behind and when he fell for Rhoda, a Romany Gypsy, kin to the very people he was hiding from, he knew he wouldn't be safe for much longer . . .

