READING GROUP COLLECTIONS

Updated 19/05/15

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READING GROUP COLLECTIONS

Collection Number	Title	Author	Copies
Reading Group 01	Gold	Chris Cleeve	10
		Kate and Zoe are friends but als	
	gold	athletes at the top of their game in the world's greatest sporting	
		by tragedy, and each with a grea	
	- 46	must choose between family an	
	Superior Independent Theiline Date Entere	themselves: what will I sacrifice	
	"Supplicational The House "Magan Record" Independent on Sanday		
	chris cleave	448 pages	
Reading Group 02	A Cupboard Full of Coats	Yvvette Edwards	10
		It's been fourteen years since Ji	
		brutally stabbed to death in the	
	a listband	London. Fourteen years for Jinx accustomed to the huge weight	
	Full of Coats	that has destroyed her life. Four	•
	YVVETTE EDWARDS	an impossible shame.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		288 pages	
Reading Group 03	Gillespie and I	Jane Harris	10
January Croup Co		In 1888, young, art-loving Harrie	
		Glasgow at the time of the Inter	
	1. Physicanic of 20 Historicans, in the control of	Befriending the Gillespie family,	
	Linespie	becomes a fixture in all of their tragedy strikes the promise and	
	and	world all too rapidly disorientate	
	HARRIS	deception.	e into mystery and
	Compt Vice ductional action of The Observabilities	·	
		440 pages	
Reading Group 04	All that I am; a novel	Anna Funder	10
		One September morning, elderl	
	Total Land	wakes to the sound of a parcel be door. Inside she finds a tattered	
	Ye what do be one or performance of the contract of the contra	Opening it she meets with a floor	
		time in Germany during the Naz	
	The spanse of th	0.70	
		370 pages	
	ANNA FUNDER TOT THE ANNAD PROBING AUTHOR OF STREAMS		
Reading Group 05	The Unknown Bridesmaid	Margaret Forster	10
	The	When Julia was eight, she was a bridesmaid at her beautiful cous	
	Unknown Bridesmaid	mother saw this as a chore, but	
		Mile and the disease as a second the second	C

416 pages

When the time came, even the fact that her bridesmaid's dress didn't fit, and was plain cream rather than the pink she'd hoped for, couldn't ruin the day. But after this, things began to go wrong for Julia, starting with an episode involving her cousin's baby, a pram, and a secret trip round the block.

The Last Runaway

Tracy Chevalier

10

CHEVALIER

When Quaker Honor Bright sails from Bristol with her sister, she is fleeing heartache for a new life in America, far from home. But tragedy leaves her alone and vulnerable, torn between two worlds and dependent on the kindness of strangers, and life in 1850s Ohio is precarious and unsentimental.

320 pages

Reading Group 07

Threads of Treason

Mary Bale

10

(hreads of

When two of the nuns creating the Bayeux Tapestry fall from the tower of the Priory of St Thomas the Apostle, Abbess Eleanor and her protege, Therese, are sent to investigate. As the adventures unfold, the intrigue created between the Norman princes and bishops, as well as the tensions between the conquerors and the native Britons, deepen to great and dramatic effect.

272 pages

Reading Group 08

The Behaviour of Moths

Poppy Adams

10

The Behaviour of Moths Poppy Adams

Ginny watches & waits for her younger sister to return to the crumbling mansion that was once their childhood home. Vivien has not stepped foot in the house since she left, 47 years ago; Ginny, the reclusive lepidopterist, has rarely ventured outside it. The remembrance of their youth, of loss, & of old rivalries plays across Ginny's mind.

308 pages

Reading Group 09

The Constant Gardener

John Le Carre

10

The young and beautiful Tessa Quayle has been horribly murdered on the shores of Lake Turkana. Her African lover has vanished, and her husband, Justin, a career diplomat and amateur gardener, sets out in pursuit of the killers and their motive.

506 pages

Reading Group 10

People of the Book

Geraldine

Brooks

Geraldine Brooks

10

When Hannah Heath gets a call in the middle of the night in her Sydney home about a precious medieval manuscript which has been recovered from the smouldering ruins of wartorn Saraievo, she knows she is on the brink of the experience of a lifetime.

372 pages

Reading Group 11

Iron House

John Hart



Michael is a fighter and killer but now he wants out, he wants a new life with Elena, the mother of his unborn child. But the man who could set him free is dying and when he is dead they will come for Michael and they will kill Elena. They are ruthless in protecting what they have - but so is he.

Rice Paper Diaries

Francesca Rhydderch

10

The Diaries RHYDDERCH

British bride Elsa, her husband Tommy Jones, and daughter Mari, struggle as war engulfs Hong Kong. Their absorbing, poignant story is told from the perspectives of Elsa and Tommy, their amah Chan, and finally Mari as she returns to the Welsh seaside home she has never known.

224 pages

Reading Group 13

Bunch of Fives

Helen Simpson

10

These are funny, heartfelt, and sensuous stories that deal with the full stretch, from birth to death and everything in between.

320 pages

Reading Group 14

Island Wife

Judy Fairbairns

10

A memoir of a woman's life on a remote Scottish island - from 19-year-old girl to wife of one to mother of five, hotelier, domestic miracle worker, to empty nester to writer.

304 pages

Reading Group 15

And the Mountains Echoed

Khaled Hosseini

10

A multi-generational family story revolving around brothers and sisters, 'And the Mountains Echoed' explores the ways in which they love, wound, betray, honour and sacrifice for each other.

404 pages

Reading Group 16

Lady Almina

and the

Fiona Carnarvon

10

Lady Fiona Carnarvon, chatelaine of Highclere Castle, the setting for the hit TV show 'Downton Abbey', discovers a fascinating history of the place and the people who lived there.

320 pages NF

Reading Group 17

Over My Dead Body

Hazel McHaffie

10

This novel explores the ethical issues around organ donation and transplantation. When young widow Elvira Kennedy and her daughter are fatally injured in a car crash, a stranger appears at Elvira's bedside in Intensive Care, claiming to her new boyfriend. He insists that she wanted to donate her organs. Her mother, Carole, is shocked by this revelation. How can she agree to donation knowing what she knows: a dark secret the family have kept hidden for over 30 years? If it emerges it could shatter all their lives.



Housekeeping Housekeeping

Marilynne Robinson

10

Housekeeping' is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of

two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of

Sylvie, the eccentric and remote sister of their dead mother.

MARILYNNE ROBINSON

224 pages

Reading Group 19

Meeting the English

Cate Clanchy

Kate Clanchy

10

Struan Robertson, orphan and 17, leaves his native town of Cuik and arrives in London in the fine summer of 1989. His job is to care for Phillip, dumbfounded and paralysed by a stroke. As the city bakes, Struan finds himself tangled in a midsummer's dream of mistaken identity, giddying property prices, wild swimming and passions.

310 pages

Reading Group 20

An Officer and a Spy

Robert Harris

10

Paris, January 1895. Army officer Georges Picquart witnesses a convicted spy, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, being humiliated in front of 20,000 spectators baying 'Death to the Jew!' The officer is promoted and put in command of shadowy intelligence unit, the Statistical Section. The spy is shipped off to a lifetime of solitary confinement on Devil's Island and his case seems closed forever. But gradually Picquart comes to believe there is something rotten at the heart of the Statistical Section.

464 pages

The Agincourt Bride

Joanna Hickson

10

This is the epic story of the queen who founded the Tudor dynasty, told through the eyes of her loyal nursemaid. Her beauty fuelled a war. Her courage captured a king.

559 pages

Reading Group 22

Reading Group 21

State of Wonder

ANN PATCHETT

Ann Patchett

10

There were people on the banks of the river. Among the tangled waterways and giant anacondas of the Brazilian Rio Negro, an enigmatic scientist is developing a drug that could alter the lives of women for ever. Dr Annick Swenson's work is shrouded in mystery; she refuses to report on her progress, especially to her investors.

353 pages

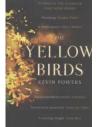
Reading Group 23

The Yellow Birds

Kevin Powers

10

Poet and veteran Kevin Powers has composed an unforgettable account of friendship and loss. It vividly captures the desperation and brutality of war, and its terrible after-effects. But it is also a story of love, of great courage, and of extraordinary human survival.



The Garden of Evening Mists

Tan Twan Eng

10

In the lush highlands of Malaya, a woman sets out to build a memorial to her sister, killed at the hands of the Japanese during the brutal Occupation of their country. Yun Ling's quest leads her to 'The Garden of Evening Mists', and to Aritomo, a man of extraordinary skill and reputation, once the gardener of the Emperor of Japan. When she accepts his offer to become his apprentice, she begins a journey into her past, inextricably linked with the secrets of her troubled country's history.

351 pages

Reading Group 25

The Daughter of Time

Josephine Tey

10

This work is Josephine Tey's search for the truth about the murder of the Princes in the Tower. Was Richard III the monster the history books have portrayed? The search takes the form of a crime novel featuring Inspector Alan Grant.

224 pages

Reading Group 26

Merivel

Rose Tremain

10

The gaudy years of the Restoration are long gone. Robert Merivel, physician and courtier to Charles II, loved for his ability to turn sorrow into laughter, now faces the agitations and anxieties of middle age. Questions crowd his mind: has he been a good father? Is he a fair master? Is he the King's friend or the King's slave? In search of answers, Merivel sets off for the French court. But Versailles - all glitter in front and squalor behind - leaves Merivel in despair.

341 pages

Reading Group 27

The Wimbledon Poisoner

Nigel Williams

10

Henry Farr is forty years old. He is suburban, average, conventional, and desperate to be rid of his wife, Elinor. Farr begins to concoct a recipe for the perfect murder. But his plans go terribly, terribly wrong and before long, poor Henry's best efforts to set himself free send him spiralling out of control.

329 pages

Reading Group 28

The Aftermath

WIMBLEDON

POISONER

Rhidian Brook

Hamburg, 1946. Charged with overseeing the rebuilding of this devastated city, Colonel Lewis Morgan is requisitioned a house, where he will be ioined by his wife. Rachael, and son. Edmund. But rather than force its owners, a German widower and his daughter, to leave their home, he insists that the two families live together.

327 pages

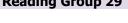
Reading Group 29

Waiting for Sunrise

William Boyd

10

Moving from Vienna to London's West End, the battlefields of France and hotel rooms of Geneva, 'Waiting for Sunrise' tells the story of young English actor Lysander Rief who meets Sigmund Freud in a cafe, begins to write a journal, enjoys secret trysts with Hattie Bull and appears - miraculously - to have been cured of his neurosis.





Leaving Alexandria

Richard Holloway

10

Why is the Church, which claims to be the instrument of God's love, so prone to cruelty and condemnation? And how can a man live with the tension between public faith and private doubt? In his memoir, Richard seeks to answer these questions and to explain how, after many crises of faith, he finally and painfully left the Church.

358 pages **NF**

Reading Group 31

Capital Union

Victoria Hendry

10

Edinburgh, 1942. Newlywed Agnes Thorne is struggling to deal with married life in the big city and a husband more determined to fight for Scottish independence than Hitler. His obsession makes Agnes a reluctant participant in the nascent nationalist movement, but at least that brings her into contact with its charismatic leader Douglas Grant.

208 pages

Reading Group 32

Chance Witness

Matthew Parris

10

MATTHEW PARRIS
Chance Witness
An Oundar's Life in Police

STRUCTIONS

HEATILLA

SARAH HARRISON

After leaving Cambridge, Parris approached the Foreign Office and became an assistant in Margaret Thatcher's Private Office. He spent seven years as a Conservative MP before quitting Parliament to present a TV programme. This is his memoir.

524 pages NF

Reading Group 33

Instructions for a Heatwave

Maggie O'Farrell

10

London, July 1976. It hasn't rained for months, and Robert Riordan tells his wife Gretta that he's going round the corner to buy a newspaper. He doesn't come back. The search for Robert brings Gretta's children - two estranged sisters and a brother on the brink of divorce - back home, each with different ideas as to where their father might have gone. None of them suspects that their mother might have an explanation that even now she cannot share. 384 pages

Reading Group 34

The Flowers of the Field

Sarah Harrison

10

From London and the fields of Kent to Paris, Vienna and the Western Front, the lives of three very different women are changed irrevocably by love, ambition and the horrors of the First World War.

746 pages

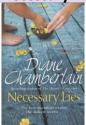
Reading Group 35

Necessary Lies

Diane Chamberlain

10

North Carolina, 1960. Newlywed Jane Forrester, fresh out of university, has sought what most other women have shunned: a career. But life as a social worker is far from what she expected. Out amongst the rural tobacco fields of Grace County, Jane encounters a world of extreme poverty that is far removed from the middle-class life she has grown up with. But worse is still to come. Working with the Hart family and their 15-year-old daughter Ivy, it s not long before Jane uncovers a shocking secret, and is thrust into a moral dilemma.





Peter May

10



When Detective Sime Mackenzie boards a light aircraft at Montreal's St. Hubert airfield, he does so without looking back. For Sime, the journey ahead represents an opportunity to escape the bitter blend of loneliness and regret that has come to characterise his life in the city. Travelling as part of an investigation team, Sime's destination lies in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Only two kilometres wide and three long, Entry Island is home to a population of around 130: the wealthiest of which has just been discovered murdered. 432 pages

Reading Group 37

The Sisters Brothers

Patrick de Witt

10



From the author of 'Ablutions', 'The Sisters Brothers' is an offbeat Western about a reluctant assassin and his murderous brother who are on the trail of a man named Hermann Kermit Warm. On the way, the brothers have a series of unsettling and violent experiences in the Darwinian landscape of Gold Rush America.

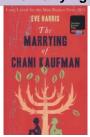
325 pages

Reading Group 38

The Marrying of Chani Kaufman

Eve Harris

10



19-year-old Chani lives in the ultra-orthodox Jewish community of North West London. She has never had physical contact with a man, but is bound to marry a stranger. The rabbi's wife teaches her what it means to be a Jewish wife, but Rivka has her own questions to answer. Soon, buried secrets, fear and sexual desire bubble to the surface in a story of liberation and choice. 371 pages

Reading Group 39

The Well at the World's End

Neil Gunn

10

NEW



Peter is a man searching for his lost youth and, during the course of the novel, he finds if not youth itself then spiritual rejuvenation. Searching for the well at the world's end, he meets Highlanders who teach him about life and about himself.

333 pages

Reading Group 40

Darkest Hour

Barbara Erskine

NEW



In the summer of 1940, most eyes are focussed on the skies above the South of England. The battle for Britain has just begun. But young Evie Lucas has eyes for no-one but a dashing young pilot called Tony. Evie has a glittering career as an artist, and she wants his parents to have something to remember him by in case it all goes wrong in the war. Seventy years later, and art historian Lucy uncovers the mystery surrounding a painting in her home - and accidentally ends up stirring up a hornet's nest of history

Reading Group 41 In her Shadow **Louise Douglas** 10 One ordinary morning at work Hannah Brown glimpses a young woman with dark hair, wearing a **NEW** green coat spattered with rain. The woman is identical to her childhood best friend, Ellen Brecht. But Hannah believes Ellen is dead. Could it really be 448 pages **Reading Group 42 China Doll** Lisa See 10 In 1938, Ruby, Helen and Grace, three girls from very different backgrounds, find themselves competing at **NEW** the same audition for showgirl roles at San Francisco's exclusive 'Oriental' nightclub, the Forbidden City. Grace, an American born Chinese girl has fled the Midwest and an abusive father. Helen is from a Chinese family who have deep roots in San Francisco's Chinatown. And, as both her friends know, Ruby is Japanese passing as Chinese. 371 pages Mrs Sinclair's Suitcase **Louise Walters Reading Group 43** 10 Roberta likes to collect the letters she finds in secondhand books. When her father gives her some of her Mrs Sinclair's **NEW** grandmother's belongings, she finds a letter from the grandfather she never knew - dated after he supposedly died in the war. Dorothy is unhappily married to Albert, who is away at war. When a plane crashes in the field behind her house she meets Squadron Leader Jan Pietrykowski, and as their bond deepens she dares to hope she might find happiness. 336 pages **Reading Group 44** Jack of Spies **David Downing** 10 Jack McColl is an international automobile salesman, travelling the world in search of markets for the **NEW** luxury Maia he has in train. He is also a spy, moonlighting for the embryonic British intelligence services in the run-up to the First World War. 'Jack of Spies' takes McColl and his sweetheart, the beautiful American socialist Caitlin Hanley, from the brothels and opium dens of pre-war Shanghai to the wet backstreets of Dublin via San Francisco Bay, as they work to foil a German plot that threatens to expose the British Empire' 290 pages Why be Happy When You Could **Jeanette Winterson** Reading Group 45 10 be Normal? This book is the story of a life's work to find Vhy Be Happy happiness. It is the story of how the painful past en You Could **NEW** Jeanette Winterson thought she had written over and

This book is the story of a life's work to find happiness. It is the story of how the painful past Jeanette Winterson thought she had written over and repainted returned to haunt her later life, and sent her on a journey into madness and out again, in search of her real mother.

230 pages - **NF**

Beautiful Ruins

Beautiful Ruins

Jess Walter

Jess Walter

10

Gloriously inventive, filled with surprises, 'Beautiful Ruins' is a novel about love and fame, dreams and reality.

352 pages

NEW

Reading Group 47

Reading Group 48

Testament of Youth

Vera Brittan

10

One woman's unforgettable record of the First World War, 'Testament of Youth' is in spirit and impact as powerful a classic as All Quiet on the Western Front and Goodbye to All That - a haunting elegy for a lost generation.

661 pages - **NF**

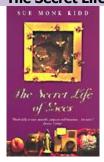
NEW

The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd

10

NEW



Vera Brittair

TESTAMENT OF YOUTH

Lily has grown up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four years old. Now 14, she yearns for forgiveness and a mother's love. When her only friend, a black servant, is beaten, the two become fugitives from justice, and end up following a trail left by Lily's mother.

375 pages

Reading Group 49

The Snow Flower and the Secret Fan

Lisa See

10

NEW



'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' is a story of two extraordinary women surviving in a time of strict rules and ancient customs. With the eye of a historian and the vibrancy of a true storyteller, Lisa See has written a mesmerising novel filled with colour, fascinating detail and heartfelt drama.

340 pages

Reading Group 50

Witches

Tracy Borman

10

NEW

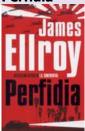


September 1613. In Belvoir Castle, the heir of one of England's great noble families falls suddenly and dangerously ill. His body is 'tormented' with violent convulsions. Within a few short weeks he will suffer an excruciating death. Soon the whole family will be stricken with the same terrifying symptoms. It is said witches are to blame. This book traces the dramatic events which unfolded at one of England's oldest and most spectacular castles four hundred years ago. 352 pages - **NF**

Reading Group 51	The Road Dance	John Mackay 10
NEW	Road Dance	Life in the Scottish Hebrides can be harsh - the edge of the world some call it. For Kirsty MacLeod, the love of Murdo promises a new life away from the scrape of the land and the repression of the church. But the Great War looms.
	JOHN MACKAY	210 pages
Reading Group 52	Project Me	Carol Anne Hunter 10
<mark>NEW</mark>	PROJECT ME Carel Anne Hunter	When her husband of 30 years trades her in for a more current model, Maggie resolves to live the quiet life. The safe life. The single life. Well, she is only weeks away from her 50th, doesn't do drink or men and has already embraced Trainee Old Duffer status. But waking up one morning with the office geek and a hangover makes her think again - maybe there is life after marriage. She decides to refurbish, re-brand and re-launch, and all before her golden birthday, but she hasn't a clue where to start. Cue the conception of Project Me. 236 pages
Reading Group 53	Little Egypt	Lesley Glaister 10
<mark>NEW</mark>	LESLEY GLASTER Little EGYPT	Author of 11 previous novels, Lesley Glaister returns with a darkly humorous tale looping from the present day back to England and Egypt in the 1920s. 304 pages
Reading Group 54	Hinterland	Caroline Brothers 10
NEW	Historland	It is night, and two boys are crossing a river that is also a border. They have nothing but the clothes on their backs, their inheritance stitched into the lining of a belt, and the courage of an enormous gamble: that Europe will offer them a future they can no longer wait for in Afghanistan. 256 pages
Reading Group 55	The Narrow Road to the Deep	Richard Flanagan 10
NEW	Richard Flanagan The Narrow Road to the Deep North	Forever after, there were for them only two sorts of men: the men who were on the Line, and the rest of humanity, who were not. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Burma Death Railway, surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he receives a letter that will change his life forever. Hailed as a masterpiece, Richard Flanagan's epic novel tells the unforgettable story of one man 448 pages

NEW

Perfidia



James Ellroy

It is December 6, 1941, in Los Angeles. World War II has raged for two years in Great Britain and Europe. Japan has gone on a rampage in Asia and the Pacific and America's entrance into the war is a widely accepted and utterly foregone conclusion. Los Angeles is mainland America's gateway to the Pacific conflict, home to the largest Japanese community in the United States. Bomber squadrons of the Imperial Japanese Air Corps will attack the U.S. fleet moored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, within 24 hours.

10

10

Reading Group 57

NEW

The Secret Rooms



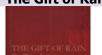
Catherine Bailey

592 pages

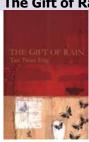
In April 1940, the ninth Duke of Rutland died in mysterious circumstances in one of the rooms of his family estate, Belvoir Castle. 60 years on, 'The Secret Rooms' is the true story of family secrets and one man's determination to keep the past hidden at any cost.

466 pages

Reading Group 58



The Gift of Rain



Tan Twan Eng

Driven by the prophetic words of an ancient soothsayer, this novel explores the opposing ideas of predestination and self-determination, as Philip traces a perilous and sometimes unclear path through the terrible years of the Second World War in Penang, Malaysia

508 pages

Reading Group 59

NEW

NEW

Effie Gray



S. F. Cooper

10 The Scottish beauty Effie Gray is the heroine of a

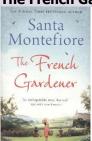
great Victorian love story. Married at 19 to John Ruskin, she found herself trapped in an unconsummated union. She would fall in love with her husband's protege, John Everett Millais, and inspire some of his most memorable art, but controversy and tragedy continued to stalk her. Suzanne Fagence Cooper has gained exclusive access to Effie's family letters and diaries to show the rise and fall of the Pre-Raphaelite circle from a new perspective, through the eyes of a woman whose charm and ambition helped to shape the careers of both her husbands. Effie Gray is a compelling portrait of the extraordinary woman behind some of the greatest paintings of the Victorian era. 296 pages

Reading Group 60

The French Gardener

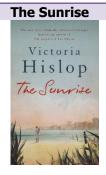
Santa Montefiore

NEW



Miranda and David move out of London into a country house with a magical garden. But Miranda insists on tottering across the wet lawn in kitten heels, David is never there, and the kids won't tear themselves away from the telly. Then an enigmatic Frenchman arrives and begins to heal the past and the present. But who is he?

Reading Group 61 NEW



Victoria Hislop

In 1972, Famagusta in Cyprus is the most desirable resort in the Mediterranean. Tourism and commerce boom in the city, with Greek and Turkish Cypriots living and working harmoniously side by side. Elsewhere on the island, there has been a decade of unrest and violence between the communities and in 1974, following a Greek military coup, Turkey invades the island to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority. 339 pages

10

10

10

Reading Group 62

NEW

NEW



Peter May

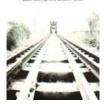
In 1965, five teenage friends fled Glasgow for London to pursue their dream of musical stardom. Yet before year's end three returned, and returned damaged. In 2015, a brutal murder forces those three men, now in their sixties, to journey back to London and finally confront the dark truth they have run from for five decades

424 pages

Reading Group 63

Life's Music

ANDREÏ MAKINE



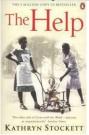
Andrei Makine

In a snowbound railway station deep in the Soviet Union, a stranded passenger comes across an old man playing the piano in the dark, silent tears rolling down his cheeks. When the Moscow train eventually arrives they share a compartment, and the pianist, Alexei Berg, gradually reveals his story.

106 pages

Reading Group 64

The Help



Kathryn Stockett

Aibileen is a black maid, raising her 17th white child, but with a bitter heart after the death of her son. Minny is the sassiest woman in Mississippi. Skeeter is a white woman with a degree but no ring on her finger. Seemingly as different as can be, these women will come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk.

444 pages

Reading Group 65

And the Land Lay Still



James Robertson

It is the age of the bomb, the Cold War, Margaret Thatcher and North Sea Oil. As nationalism becomes a credible force in Scotland, a gay photographer, a feminist journalist, a war veteran and a guilt-ridden Conservative MP find their private lives entangled with the ideological conflicts of the times.

673 pages

Reading Group 66

Four Old Geezers and a Valkyrie



Gordon Lawrie

Brian - aka 'Captain' - is a newly-retired, disillusioned teacher facing financial disaster after an acrimonious divorce. But a chance meeting leads him to dig out his ancient guitar and to a series of hilarious jam sessions from which emerge two surprise YouTube hits, sending the band and its lawyer into encounters with a tiny manager, a boy band, a cigar-puffing earl and a famous rock group.

10

Wake

Anna Hope

10



Five days in November, 1920: as the body of the Unknown Soldier makes its way home from the fields of Northern France, three women are overcoming loss in their own way: Hettie, who dances for sixpence a waltz at the Hammersmith Palais; wealthy Evelyn, who toils at a lowly job in the pensions office, and Ada, a housewife who snatches glimpses of her dead son in the street. As each struggles to move on with her life, a wartime mystery begins to unravel. 432 pages

Reading Group 68

The Legacy

Katherine Webb

10



Following the death of their grandmother, Erica Calcott & her sister Beth return to Storton Manor, where they spent their summer holidays as children. When Erica begins to sort through the house, she relives memories of her childhood - & of her cousin, Henry, whose disappearance from the manor tore the family apart.

432 pages

Reading Group 69

Stonemouth

Iain Banks

10

ANKS tonemouth Stewart Gilmour is back in Stonemouth. After 5 years in exile his presence is required at the funeral of patriarch Joe Murston, and even though the last time Stu saw the Murstons he was running for his life, staying away might be even more dangerous than turning up.

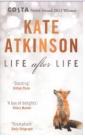
432 pages

Reading Group 70

Life After Life

Kate Atkinson

10



What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right? During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances? And third chances? In fact an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to? 'Life After Life' follows Ursula

480 pages

Reading Group 71

The Woman Upstairs

Claire Messud

10

A teacher (and artist) tells the story of her relationship with a family. In the beginning Reza Shahid is a new and outstandingly bright and lovely child in class but as our narrator's involvement with first the mother and then the father grows, we begin to feel that something, somewhere is very wrong.

320 pages

Reading Group 72

Red Dust Road

Jackie Kay

10



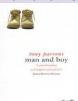
In this revelatory and redemptive book Jackie Kay tells the story of her own life. It is a book about belonging and beliefs, strangers and family, biology and destiny and what makes us who we are.

288 pages NF

Man and Boy

Tony Parsons

10



A fabulously engaging and exciting novel about a man who has to learn about life and love the hard way. Harry Silver has it all. A successful job in TV, a gorgeous wife, a lovely child. And in one moment of madness, he chucks it all away. Man and Boy is the story of how he comes to terms with his life and achieves a degree of self-respect, bringing up his son alone and, gradually, learning what words like love and family really mean. It is very well written, pacy, funny, and heart-breakingly moving 343 pages

Reading Group 74

Hand That First Held Mine

Maggie O'Farrell

10

Maggie
O'Farrell
The hand that
first held mine
tirstic head mine
tirstic held mine
tirstic head mine
tirstic head mine

When the bohemian, sophisticated Innes Kent turns up by chance on her doorstep, Lexie Sinclair realises she cannot wait any longer for her life to begin, and leaves for London. There, at the heart of the 1950s Soho art scene, she carves out a new life for herself, with Innes at her side.

374 pages

Reading Group 75

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

10

TO KILL A MOCKING-BIRD

PROBLEM TO THE SERVICE OF T

'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird'. This is a lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of the story - a black man charged with raping a white girl in the 30s American South.

320 pages

Reading Group 76

The Invention of Wings

Sue Monk Kidd

Q



Sarah Grimke is the middle daughter. The one her mother calls difficult and her father calls remarkable. On Sarah's 11th birthday, Hetty 'Handful' Grimke is taken from the slave quarters she shares with her mother, wrapped in lavender ribbons, and presented to Sarah as a gift. Sarah knows what she does next will unleash a world of trouble. She also knows that she cannot accept. And so, indeed, the trouble begins

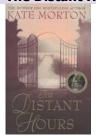
373 pages

Reading Group 77

The Distant Hours

Kate Morton

10



Edie Burchill and her mother have never been close, but when a letter arrives one Sunday, marked with the return address of Millderhurst Castle, Kent, Edie begins to suspect that her mother's emotional distance masks an old secret.

320 pages

Reading Group 78

Hero of Our Time

Mikhail Learmontov

10



Pechorin is a dangerous man, Byronic in his wasted gifts and his cynicism, and desperate for any kind of action that will stave off boredom. Lermontov builds up a portrait of a man caught in and expressing the sickness of his times.

Tiny Bit Marvellous

Dawn French

10

ATINY
Bit
Marvellous

DAWN
FRENCH

This is a poignant novel by Dawn French which is told through the eyes of a mother and her two teenage children. Each chapter is narrated by a different voice, telling the story of a modern family, all living in their own separate bubbles, lurching towards meltdown.

320 pages

Reading Group 80

The Black-eyed Blonde

Benjamin Black

10



It is the early 1950s. In Los Angeles, private detective Philip Marlowe is as restless and lonely as ever, and business is a little slow. Then a new client arrives: young, beautiful, and expensively dressed, Clare Cavendish wants Marlowe to find her former lover, a man named Nico Peterson. Soon Marlowe will find himself not only under the spell of the black-eyed blonde, but tangling with one of Bay City's richest families and developing a singular appreciation for how far they will go to protect their fortune.

256

The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle

Kirsty Wark

10

THE
LEGACY OF
ELIZABETH
PRINGLE
KIRSTY WARK

Seemingly on a whim, 95-year-old Elizabeth Pringle bequeaths Homelea, her beloved house on Arran, to a woman she has never met. As a young woman comes take up Homelea she slowly unlocks the mysteries and heartbreaking secrets of Elizabeth Pringle's true legacy, in a multi-generational story of love and belonging.

448 pages

Reading Group 82

Reading Group 81

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

Paul Torday

9

An extraordinary, beguiling tale of fly-fishing and political spinning, of unexpected heroism and late-blooming love, and of an attempt to prove the impossible, possible.

329 pages

Reading Group 83

Silas Marner

George Eliot

9

When the weaver Silas Marner is wrongly accused of crime and expelled from his community, he becomes a miser and vows to turn his back on the world. However, the arrival of a tiny child in his cottage melts his heart and changes his life

192 pages

Reading Group 84

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Robert Louis Stevenson

9



The story of respectable Dr Jekyll's strange association with 'damnable young man' Edward Hyde, the hunt through fog-bound London for a killer, and the final revelation of Hyde's true identity is a chilling exploration of humanity's basest capacity for evil. The other stories in this volume also testify to Stevenson's inventiveness within the gothic genre: 'Olalla', a tale of vampirism and tainted family blood, and 'The Body Snatcher', which shows the murky underside of medical practice.

Twenty Chickens for a Saddle

Robyn Scott

10

Twenty Chickens for a M

When Robyn Scott was six years old her parents abruptly exchanged the tranquil pastures of New Zealand for a converted cowshed in the wilds of Botswana. Once there, Robyn and her siblings, mostly left to amuse themselves, grew up collecting snakes, canoeing with crocodiles and breaking in horses in the veld. In the shadow of one of Africa's worst AIDS crises, this moving, enchanting memoir is an extraordinary portrait of an unforgettable childhood.

453 pages NF

Reading Group 86

One Day

David Nicholls

'I can imagine you at forty,' she said, a hint of malice in her voice. 'I can picture it right now.' He smiled without opening his eyes. 'Go on then.' 15th July 1988. Emma and Dexter meet for the first time on the night of their graduation. Tomorrow they must go their separate ways. So where will they be on this one day next year? And the year after that? And every year that follows? Twenty years, two people, ONE DAY. From the author of the massive bestseller STARTER FOR TEN.

448 pages

Reading Group 87

The Hundred-year-old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and

Jonas Jonasson

10

Disappeared

On his 100th birthday Allan Karlsson makes his escape from the old people's home and embarks on an unlikely and momentous adventure.

388 pages

Reading Group 88

Sister

Rosamund Lupton

9

What would you do if your sister disappeared without a trace? This is an emotionally fraught and at some times terrifying story about two sisters and the strength that binds them.

359 pages

Reading Group 89

Trust



Ajay Close

10

Lexa, Gabriel and Rae are unlikely friends. Let's call them sisters-in-arms. They meet in the macho world of merchant banking in that polarised decade of strikes and serious money: the 1980s. Twenty-five years later, those awful yet exhilarating days are a distant memory. Lexa, Gabriel and Rae have other jobs, in another country. Then comes the banking crisis, and the return of a face from the past, and suddenly they're back in the game, and playing for higher stakes than ever.

Collected Ghost Stories

M. R. James

8



MR James is probably the finest ghost-story writer England has ever produced. Along with a tail-piece by MR James, this title contains thirty tales that can be considered as classics of their genre, including "Casting the Runes", "Oh, Whistle and I'll come to you, My Lad", "The Tractate Middoth", "The Ash Tree" and "Canon Alberic's Scrapbook".

352 pages

Reading Group 91

The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul

Deborah Rodriguez

10

Described Soft

In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together. Sunny, the proud proprietor, who needs an ingenious plan to keep her cafe and customers safe. Yazmina, a young pregnant woman stolen from her remote village and now abandoned on Kabul's violent streets. Candace, a wealthy American who has finally left her husband for her Afghan lover, the enigmatic Wakil. Isabel, a determined journalist with a secret that might keep her from the biggest story of her life.

380 pages

Reading Group 92

Time's Legacy

Barbara Erskine

8

BARBARA ERSKINE HOUSELING Times Legacy Abi Rutherford has walked out of her new job, disturbed by the erratic behaviour of her boss. His behaviour seems even stranger because he is rector of St John's, a sprawling Cambridgeshire parish. Something is going on there that has disturbed him deeply - & the response of the church authorities is strangely secretive.

448 pages

Reading Group 93

Case Histories

Kate Atkinson

10



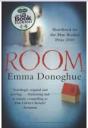
Cambridge is sweltering, during an unusually hot summer. To Jackson Brodie, former police inspector turned private investigator, the world consists of one accounting sheet Lost on the left, Found on the right and the two never seem to balance. Jackson has never felt at home in Cambridge, and has a failed marriage to prove it. Surrounded by death, intrigue and misfortune, his own life haunted by a family tragedy, he attempts to unravel three disparate case histories and begins to realise that in spite of apparent diversity, everything is connected.

Reading Group 94

Room

Emma Donoghue

15



It's Jack's birthday and he's excited about turning five. Jack lives with his Ma in Room, which has a locked door and a skylight, and measures 11 feet by 11 feet. He loves watching TV but he knows that nothing he sees on screen is truly real. Until the day Ma admits that there's a world outside.

336 pages

Reading Group 95

Long Song

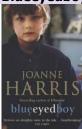
Andrea Levy





Set in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery and the early years of freedom that followed, this novel follows the life of July, a slave girl, who lives upon a sugar plantation named Amity.

Blueeyedboy



Joanne Harris

10

Once there was a widow with three sons, and their names were Black, Brown and Blue. Black was the eldest; moody and aggressive. Brown was the middle child, timid and dull. But Blue was his mother's favourite. And he was a murderer.

528 pages

Reading Group 97

Revolutionary Road



Richard Yates

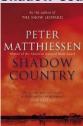
10

Hailed as a masterpiece from the moment of its first publication, Revolutionary Road is the story of Frank and April Wheeler, a bright, beautiful, and talented couple whose empty suburban life is held together by the dream that greatness is only just round the corner. With heartbreaking compassion and clarity, Richard Yates shows how Frank and April mortgage their hopes and ideals, betraying in the end not only each other, but their own best selves

352 pages

Reading Group 98

Shadow Country



Peter Matthiessen

10

Inspired by a near-mythic event of the wild Florida frontier at the turn of the 20th century, 'Shadow Country' reimagines the legend of the Everglades sugar planter and notorious outlaw E.J. Watson, who drives himself to his own violent end at the hands of his neighbours

912 pages

Reading Group 99

The Tiger's Wife



Téa Obreht

6

Remembering stories her grandfather told her, Natalia becomes convinced he spent his last days searching for 'the deathless man', a vagabond who claimed to be immortal. As she struggles to understand why her grandfather would go on such a farfetched journey, she stumbles across a clue that leads her to the story of the tiger's wife.

335 pages

Reading Group 100

Caravaggio



Andrew Graham-Dixon

10

A new biography of one of history's most compelling artists, published to coincide with the 400th anniversary of his mysterious death.

544 pages NF

Reading Group 101

Wasp Factory



Iain Banks

10

Frank, no ordinary 16-year-old, lives with his father outside a remote Scottish village. His elder brother Eric is confined to a psychiatric hospital. When news comes of Eric's escape, Frank has to prepare the ground for his brother's inevitable return

Reading Group 102 Geraldine Brooks 10 Caleb's Crossing Caleb Cheeshateaumauk was the first native American to graduate from Harvard College back in BROOKS 1665. 'Caleb's Crossing' gives voice to his little known story. Caleb, a Wampanoag from the island of Martha's Vineyard, seven miles off the coast of CALEB'S Massachusetts, comes of age just as the first generation of Indians come into contact with English CROSSING settlers, who have fled there, desperate to escape the brutal and doctrinaire Puritanism of the Massachusetts Bay colony 320 pages Reading Group 103 W. M. Thackeray 10 Vanity Fair Set during the time of the Napoleonic Wars, this classic gives a satirical picture of a worldly society. The novel revolves around the exploits of the impoverished but beautiful and devious Becky Sharp. 912 pages **Reading Group 104** The Strange undoing of **David Greig Prudencia Hart** One wintry morning Prudencia Hart, an uptight academic, sets off to attend a conference in Kelso in the Scottish Borders. As the snow begins to fall, little does she know who or what awaits her there. Swept along on an enchanting dream-like journey of self discovery, Prudencia meets with magical moments, devilish encounters and wittily wild music. Inspired by the Border ballads, The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart by David Greig was first presented by the National Theatre of Scotland in the Victorian Bar of the Tron Theatre, Glasgow, in February 2011 and toured to Oran Mór, Glasgow, and Ghillie Dhu, Edinburgh, in association with the Traverse Theatre, in summer 2011. 96 pages NF **Reading Group 105** The Blackhouse **Peter May** 10 'The Blackhouse' is a murder mystery that explores the darkness in our souls, and just how difficult it is to escape the savagery of the past. 432 pages Reading Group 106 **Blow on a Dead Man's Embers** Mari Strachan With her husband shattered by the war, does one young woman have the strength to bring him back to life. 300 pages **Reading Group 107** The Unseen **Katherine Webb** Reverend Albert Canning leads a happy existence with his wife in a sleepy Berkshire village. But two new arrivals change all that - Cat, the new maid, and Robin Durrant, a leading expert in the occult. During a long spell of oppressive summer heat, the rectory becomes charged with ambition, love and jealousy; leading, ultimately, to murder. 416 pages

Reading Group 108 The Girl on the Cliff **Lucinda Riley** 10 A tiny figure stands at the cliff edge, hair flying in the LUCINDA RILEY breeze. Grania Ryan is hypnotised by the enchanting The GIRL vision, unaware this young girl - Aurora Lisle - will change her life in countless ways. As their paths begin LIFF to entwine, Grania's mother becomes deeply troubled as her family's past seems set to repeat its sorrows 560 pages **Reading Group 109 Kate Grenville** The Idea of Perfection 10 The Idea of Perfection is a romance between two people who have given up love. Set in rural New South Wales, Douglas Cheeseman and Harley Savage first clash over the conservation of the old bridge, but Kate eventually a closer relationship develops. Grenville Perfection 401 pages **Reading Group 110** Water for Elephants Sara Gruen 10 When Jacob Jankowski - recently orphaned and suddenly adrift - jumps onto a passing train, he enters

Reading Group 111

Pigeon English

Reading Group 112 Cloud atlas

Reading Group 113

Tale of Two Cities

Stephen Kelman

Depression.

418 pages

10 With equal fascination for the local gang - the Dell Farm Crew - and the pigeon who visits his balcony, 11-year-old Harri absorbs the many strange elements of his new life in England. But when a boy is knifed to death and a police appeal for witnesses draws only silence, Harri decides to start a murder investigation of his own.

a world of freaks, grifters and misfits in the form of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a travelling circus struggling to survive the Great

288 pages

David Mitchell

A reluctant voyager crossing the Pacific in 1850, and a young Pacific Islander witnessing the nightfall of science and civilization - these and the other narrators of 'Cloud Atlas' hear each other's echoes down the corridor of history, and their destinies are changed in ways great and small. A Richard & Judy review title.

10

544 pages

Charles Dickens

Rich in drama and romance, this deftly plotted 1859 historical novel bristles with suspense and culminates in a daring prison escape in the shadow of the guillotine.

House of Silk

Anthony Horowitz

10

SHENDOK HOLMS HOUSE SIKO HANHOY

It is November 1890 and London is gripped by a merciless winter. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are enjoying tea by the fire when an agitated gentleman arrives unannounced at 221B Baker Street. He begs Holmes for help, telling the unnerving story of a scarfaced man with piercing eyes who has stalked him in recent weeks.

294 pages

Reading Group 115

The Girl with Glass Feet

Ali Shaw

10

Strange things are happening on the remote & snowbound archipelago of St Hauda's Land. Unusual winged creatures flit around icy bogland; albino animals hide themselves in the snow-glazed woods; jellyfish glow in the ocean's depths - and Ida MacLaird is slowly turning into glass.

295 pages

Reading Group 116

Sophia's Secret

Susanna Kearsley

10

Carolyn McClelland, a writer of historical novels, finds herself with a familiar enemy: writer's block. A change of scenery leads her, and her book, in a whole new direction. Writing about the attempted Jacobite invasion of 1708, Carolyn takes up residence in a cottage in the North East of Scotland.

527 pages

Reading Group 117

Wolf Brother

Michelle Paver

10

It's 6000 years ago and evil stalks the land. Only Torak, a 12-year-old boy, and his beautiful wolf cub companion can defeat it. In this adventure, Torak and Wolf are joined by an incredible cast of characters as they battle to save the world.

244 pages

Reading Group 118

This Road is Red

Alison Irvine

10

Shortlisted for Scottish Saltire Award 2011/12. It is 1964. Red Road is rising out of the fields. To the families who move in, it is a dream and a shining future. It is 2010. The Red Road Flats are scheduled for demolition. Inhabited only by intrepid asylum seekers and a few stubborn locals, the once vibrant scheme is tired and out of time.

320 pages

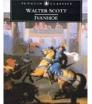
Reading Group 119

Ivanhoe

Walter Scott

10

Based on the authoritative Edinburgh text which returns to the manuscript and first edition of the novel, this book contains a critical introduction, a chronology of Walter Scott, a historical note, and notes on the text.



Little Drummer Girl



John Le Carré

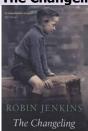
10

Lured by Israeli intelligence into the world of espionage, Charlie, a young actress, is plunged into a deceptive and delicate trap to ensnare an elusive Palestinian terrorist.

572 pages

Reading Group 121

The Changeling



Robin Jenkins

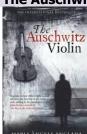
10

Exploring the theme of the fate that awaits goodness and innocence in the face of growing up and learning to live in our society, this novel charts the story of Tom, a 13-year-old from a Glasgow slum, and the events of a holiday with his teacher.

232 pages

Reading Group 122

The Auschwitz Volin



Maria Ángel Anglada

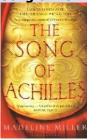
10

This translation originally published as The violin of Auschwitz. New York: Bantam; as The Auschwitz violin. London: Bantam, 2010 Imprisoned at Auschwitz, Daniel feels his humanity slipping away. Then a visit from a mysterious stranger changes everything, as Daniel's former identity as a crafter of fine violins is revealed to all. Interspersed with chilling Nazi documentation, this novel is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

128 pages

Reading Group 123

Song of Achilles



Madeline Miller

10

This is a breathtakingly original rendering of the Trojan War - a devastating love story and a tale of gods and kings, immortal fame and the human heart.

352 pages

Reading Group 124

Pure



Andrew Miller

10

Deep in the heart of Paris, its oldest cemetery is, by 1785, overflowing, tainting the very breath of those who live nearby. Into their midst comes Jean-Baptiste Baratte, a young engineer charged by the king with demolishing it. But before long, he begins to suspect that the destruction of the cemetery might be a prelude to his own.

342 pages

Reading Group 125

Bring up the Bodies



Hilary Mantel

10 + 1 tbk

The sequel to 'Wolf Hall', 'Bring up the Bodies' explores one of the most mystifying and frightening episodes in English history: the destruction of Anne Boleyn.

The Sealed Letter

Emma Donoghue

10

Emily 'Fido' Faithfull hasn't seen her friend Helen for vears. After bumping into her on the streets of Victorian London, Fido finds herself reluctantly helping Helen to have an affair with a young army officer. The women's friendship quickly unrayels - and the appearance of a mysterious sealed letter could destroy more than one life.

475 pages

Reading Group 127

Before I go to Sleep

S J Watson

11

Memories define us. So what if you lost yours every time you went to sleep? Your name, your identity. your past, even the people you love - all forgotten overnight. And the one person you trust may only be telling you half the story. Welcome to Christine's life.

448 pages

To the Lighthouse

Virginia Woolf

10

'To the Lighthouse' is Virginia Woolf's fifth novel, and was the first book to win her a large public. The story of an English middle class family in the years leading up to the First World War, it has remained the most popular of all her works.

272 pages

Reading Group 128



Killed at the Whim of a Hat **Reading Group 129**

Colin Cotterill

When crime reporter Jimm Juree is forced to follow her family from Chiang Mai to a fishing village on the Gulf of Siam, she's convinced her career is over. But when oil workers unearth two skeletons, Jimm's new life becomes somewhat more promising - and a great deal more dangerous.

370 pages

Reading Group 130

Still Alice

Lisa Genova

10 + 1 tbk

Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. A Harvard professor, she has a successful husband and three grown children. She soon finds herself in the rapidly downward spiral of Alzheimer's Disease. Her short-term memory may be hanging on by a couple of frayed threads, but she is still Alice.

293 pages

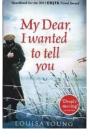
Reading Group 131

My Dear I Wanted to Tell You

Louisa Young

10 + 1 tbk

While Riley Purefoy and Peter Locke fight for their country, their survival and their sanity in the trenches of Flanders, Nadine Waveney, Julia Locke and Rose Locke do what they can at home



Tiny Sunbirds Far Away

Christie Watson

10

ar auras

Carol Rifka Bruni

Tell the

*V*olves I'm

ome

Set in the Niger Delta, 'Tiny Sunbirds Far Away' explores the world of 12-year-old Blessing and her family. Part comic, part tragic, it shows that some families can survive almost anything.

470 pages

Reading Group 133

Tell the Wolves I'm Home

Carol Rifka Brunt

10

There's only one person who has ever truly understood 14-year-old June Elbus, and that's her uncle, the renowned painter, Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her once inseparable older sister, June can only be herself in Finn's company; he is her godfather, confident, and best friend.

400 pages

Reading Group 134

Little Shadows

Marina Endicott

10

In this work, we follow the lives of the three Avery sisters: Aurora, the eldest and most conventionally beautiful; thoughtful Clover, a year younger; and headstrong Bella, the youngest. The girls, overseen by their fond but barely coping Mama, set out to make their living as a singing act after the death of their father.

530 pages

Reading Group 135

Fludd

Hilarv

Mantel

Hilary Mantel

10

Set in the fictitious village of Fetherhoughton, buried in the northern moorland, Mantel's cleverly absorbing novel centres on the community's relationship with the church, which bears some but not much resemblence to the Roman Catholic Church, c.1956.

185 pages

At the Loch of the Green

Andrew Greig

10

A fishing trip honouring a dying man's wish becomes a meditation on life, nature and friendship, a literary biography and a celebration of the beauty of the Highlands of Scotland.

324 pages NF

Reading Group 136

Corrie

Marie Macpherson

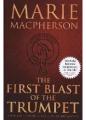
10

Hailes Castle, 1511. Midnight on a doom-laden Hallowe'en and Elisabeth Hepburn, feisty daughter of the Earl of Bothwell, makes a wish - to wed her lover, the poet David Lindsay. But her uncle has other plans.

380 pages

Reading Group 137

The First Blast of the Trumpet



Fruit of the Lemon

Andrea Levy

10

Faith, a young woman struggling to make her way in the world, is faced with a number of disappointments in her life. When her parents suggest a trip to Jamaica, Faith is unsure - but the journey leads to discoveries that restore her missing purpose.

339 pages

Reading Group 139

The Cone-Gatherers

Robin Jenkins

10

Calum and Neil are the cone-gatherers - two brothers at work in the forest of a large Scottish estate. But the harmony of their life together is shadowed by the dark obsessive hatred of Duror, the gamekeeper.

240 pages

Reading Group 140

The Newlyweds

Nell Freudenberger

10

Amina is 24 when she leaves Bangladesh for Rochester, N.Y., and for George Stillman, the husband who met and wooed her online. It's a romance that echoes ancient traditions - the arranged marriages of her home country. And though George falls for Amina because she doesn't 'play games', they will both hide a secret.

337 pages

Reading Group 141

The Summer of the Bear

<u>Be</u>lla Poller

ummer

Bella Pollen

10

It is the summer of 1979. A tamed brown bear finds himself tempted by the lure of freedom and the wild open sea. Meanwhile a grieving, broken family arrive on a windswept island in the Outer Hebrides, looking for the time and space to understand the strange, bewildering events that led to the loss of their husband and father.

441 pages

Reading Group 142

The Man Who was Thursday

G.K. Chesterton

10

Chesterton's masterpiece is a surreal, psychologically thrilling novel which centres on seven anarchists in turn of the century London who call themselves by the names of days of the week.

160 pages

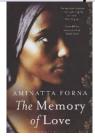
Reading Group 143

The Memory of Love

Aminatta Forna

10

Adrian Lockheart is a psychologist escaping his life in England. Arriving in Freetown in the wake of civil war, he struggles with the heat and with the secrets the country hides. 'The Memory of Love' is a tale of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, addressing the indelible effects of the past on our lives.



The Country Girls

Edina O'Brien

10

This novel tells the story of two Irish girls. Caithleen Brady and Bridget Brennan, and their escape from a life filled with countryside and convent to the allure and the crowds, lights and noise of Dublin.

445 pages

Reading Group 145

The English Patient



Michael Ondaatje

10 + 1 TBK

Now a multi Oscar-winning film, this is a tale of love and confusion set at end of the Second World War, following a small group of shell-shocked characters thrown together in an Italian villa

324 pages

Reading Group 146

Country Girl



Edna O'Brien

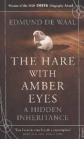
10

In 'Country Girl' we come face to face with literary life of high drama and contemplation. And along the way there are encounters with Hollywood giants, pop stars and literary titans - all of whom lend this life, so gorgeously, sometimes painfully remembered here, a terrible poignancy.

339 pages NF

Reading Group 147

Hare with Amber Eyes



Edmund De Waal

10

264 wood and ivory carvings of animals, plants and people, none of them larger than a matchbox; apprentice potter Edmund de Waal was entranced by the collection when he first encountered it in the Tokyo apartment of his great uncle Iggie. When he inherited them, he discovered that they unlocked a story larger than he could have imagined.

354 pages NF

Reading Group 148

Across the Bridge



Morag Joss

10

When a bridge collapses in the Highlands of Scotland, dozens of people vanish into the river below. A car hired by a woman tourist was filmed pulling onto the bridge moments before it fell. Now numbered among the missing, the woman seized her chance to start her life over.

310 pages

Reading Group 149

The House of Memories



Monica McInerney

10

Following a tragic accident, Ella O'Hanlon flees to the other side of the world in an attempt to escape her grief, leaving behind the people she blames for her loss, including Aidan, the love of her life. In London Ella is taken in by her uncle Lucas, whose extraordinary house holds many wonderful memories for her.

The Winter Palace

Eva Stachniak

9

WINTER PALACE
Vividly brings to life the early years of Catherine the Great has will be a substituted by the substitute of the substitute

Sophie, a vulnerable young princess, arrives from Prussia as a prospective bride for Empress Elizabeth's heir. Her destiny is to become the notorious Catherine the Great. Are her ambitions more lofty and far-reaching than anyone suspected, and will she stop at nothing to achieve absolute power?

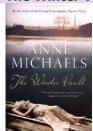
444 pages

Reading Group 151

The Winter Vault

Anne Michaels

10



Egypt, 1964. The great temple at Abu Simbel must be rescued from the rising waters of the Aswan Dam. Block by block it is to be dismantled and resurrected 60 metres higher. This most delicate and daunting of tasks is overseen by Avery, a young engineer who is carefully constructing a shared life with his new wife, lean

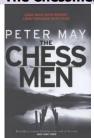
339 pages

Reading Group 152

The Chessmen

Peter May

10



THE NEW START. Fin Macleod, now head of security on a privately owned Lewis estate, is charged with investigating a spate of illegal game-hunting taking place on the island. THE OLD FRIEND. This mission reunites him with Whistler Macaskill - a local poacher, Fin's teenage intimate, and possessor of a long-buried secret. THE FINAL CHAPTER. But when this reunion takes a violent, sinister turn and Fin puts together the fractured pieces of the past, he realizes that revealing the truth could destroy the future.

400 pages

Reading Group 153

The Radetzky March

Joseph Roth

10

JOSEPH ROTH
The
Radetzky
March

In a subtle and touching study of family life at the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Roth manages to write in the form of the traditional family saga but at the same time giving it an individual manner and the wider panorama of a failing dynasty.

400 pages

Reading Group 154

The Book Thief

Marcus Zusak

10

Narrated in the all-knowing matter-of-fact voice of Death, witnessing the story of the citizens of Molching. By 1943, the Allied bombs are falling, and the sirens begin to wail. Liesel shares out her books in the air-raid shelters. But one day, the wail of the sirens comes to late.

592 pages

Reading Group 155

The Hunger Games

Suzanne Collins

10



Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. But Katniss has been clse to death before-and survival, for her, is second nature. The Hunger Games is a searing novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present. Welcome to the deadliest reality TV show ever...

Reading Group 156 The Mysterious Affair at Styles **Agatha Christie** 10 + 1 tbk Hercule Poirot is intrigued by the details surrounding the murder of wealthy Mrs Inglethorp, mistress of Styles Court. This was Agatha Christie's first novel, published 80 years ago in 1921. 297 pages **Reading Group 157** It's Fine by Me **Per Petterson** 10 Audun is the only one of his family who remains with his mother in working-class Oslo. He delivers newspapers when he is not in school and talks for hours about Jack London and Ernest Hemingway with his best friend - but there are some things Audun won't talk about. Stories about his family, the weeks he spent living in a couple of cardboard boxes, and the day of his little brother's birth, when his drunken father fired three shots into the ceiling. A beautiful and disquieting coming-of-age story from the winner of the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. 199 pages **Reading Group 158 Dominion** C. J. Sansom 10 At once a startling, sinister reimagining of 1950s Britain and a gripping, humane spy thriller, with DOMINION 'Dominion', C.J. Sansom once again asserts himself as the master of the historical thriller. 450 pages Reading Group 159 **Brixton Beach Roma Tearne** 10 Opening dramatically with the horrors of the 2005 Brixton London bombings, this is the profoundly moving story Beach of a country on the brink of civil war and a child's struggle to come to terms with loss. 409 pages **Time to Keep Silence** Reading Group 160 **Patrick Leigh Fermor** 20 From the French Abbey of St Wandrille to the abandoned and awesome Rock Monasteries of Cappadocia in Turkey, the celebrated travel writer Patrick Leigh Fermor studies the rigorous contemplative lives of the monks and the timeless beauty of their monastic surroundings. In his occasional retreats, the peaceful solitude and the calm enchantment of the monasteries was passed on as a kind of 'supernatural windfall' which A Time to Keep Silence so effortlessly records.

Reading Group 161

The Guilty One

Lisa Ballantyne

A little boy is found dead in a children's playground.
Daniel Hunter has spent years defending lost causes.
But his life changes when he is introduced to
Sebastian, an 11-year-old accused of murder. As he
plunges into the muddy depths of Sebastian's
troubled life, Daniel thinks back to his own childhood
in foster care.

409 pages

Rose Petal Beach

Dorothy Koomson

10

DOROTHY KOOMSON

Tamia Brenett is horrified when her husband, Scott, is accused of something terrible - but when she discovers who his accuser is, everything goes into freefall. Backed into a corner and unsure what to think, Tamia is forced to choose who she instinctively believes.

416 pages

Reading Group 163

Poisonwood Bible

BARBARA KINGSOLVER

Barbara Kingsolver

10

A fiery evangelist takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959, carrying all they need from home, but find it is calamitously transformed on African soil. The tale recounts the family's tragic undoing and reconstruction.

616 pages

Reading Group 164

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

10

The impact of this story has had a lasting and significant influence upon our ideas about the Christmas spirit, and about the season as a time for celebration, charity, and memory.

93 pages

Reading Group 165

Ghost Moth

Michele Forbes

10

NEW



Northern Ireland, 1949. Katherine must choose between George Bedford - solid, reliable, devoted George - and Tom McKinley, who makes her feel alive. The reverberations of that summer - of the passions that were spilled, the lies that were told and the bargains that were made - still clamour to be heard in 1969. Northern Ireland has become a tinderbox but tragedy also lurks closer to home. As Katherine and George struggle to save their marriage and silence the ghosts of the past, their family and city stand on the brink of collapse.

237 pages

Reading Group 166

The Girl on the Train

Paula Hawkins

10

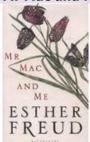
<mark>NEW</mark>



Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning. She knows it will wait at the same signal each time, overlooking a row of back gardens. She's even started to feel like she knows the people who live in one of the houses. 'Jess and Jason', she calls them. Their life - as she sees it - is perfect. If only Rachel could be that happy. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Now Rachel has a chance to become a part of the lives she's only watched.

NEW

Mr Mac and Me



Esther Freud

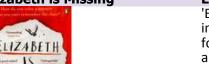
It is 1914, and Thomas Maggs, the son of the local publican, lives with his parents and sister in a village on the Suffolk coast. Life is quiet - shaped by the seasons, fishing and farming, the summer visitors, and the girls who come down from the Highlands every year to gut and pack the herring. Then one day a mysterious Scotsman arrives. To Thomas he looks like a detective, in his black cape and hat of felted wool, and the way he puffs on his pipe as if he's

Sherlock Holmes. Mac is what the locals call him

256 pages

Reading Group 168

Elizabeth is Missing



Emma Healey

when they whisper.

10 'Elizabeth is missing', reads the note in Maud's pocket in her own handwriting. Lately, Maud's been getting forgetful. She keeps buying peach slices when she has a cupboard full, forgets to drink the cups of tea she's made and writes notes to remind herself of things. But Maud is determined to discover what has happened to her friend. Elizabeth, and what it has to do with the unsolved disappearance of her sister

274 pages

Reading Group 169

Oh Dear Sylvia

Dawn French

10

10

10

10

NEW

NEW



Sukey, years back, just after the war

Who is in Coma Suite Number 5? A matchless lover? A supreme egotist? A selfless martyr? A bad mother? A cherished sister? A selfish wife? All of these. For this is Silvia Shute who has always done exactly what she wants. Until now, when her life suddenly, shockingly stops. Her past holds a dark and terrible secret, and now that she is unconscious in a hospital bed, her constant stream of visitors are set to uncover the mystery of her broken life.

342 pages

Reading Group 170

NEW

The Loved One



Evelyn Waugh

Originally published: London: Chapman & Hall, 1948 The more startling for the economy of its prose and plot, this novel's story, set among the manicured lawns and euphemisms of Whispering Glades Memorial Park in Hollywood, satirises the American way of death and offers Waugh's memento mori.

126 pages

Reading Group 171

NEW

H is for Hawk



Helen MacDonald

As a child Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. She learned the arcane terminology and read all the classic books, including T.H. White's tortured masterpiece, 'The Goshawk', which describes White's struggle to train a hawk as a spiritual contest. When her father dies and she is

knocked sideways by grief, she becomes obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. She buys Mabel on a Scottish quayside and takes her home to Cambridge. This book is a record of a spiritual journey an unflinchingly honest account.

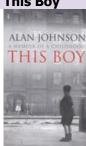
300 pages NF

This Boy

Alan Johnson

10

NEW



This is the story of two incredible women: Alan Johnson's mother, Lily, who battled against poor health, poverty, domestic violence and loneliness to try to ensure a better future for her children; and his sister, Linda, who had to assume an enormous amount of responsibility to protect her family.

297 pages **NF**