

BDS Catalogue 2007

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The Book Discussion Scheme (BDS)

In 2007, the BDS celebrates 34 years of continuous good reading. The organisation is a member of the Federation of Workers' Education Associations (FWEA), and provides individuals throughout New Zealand the opportunity to get together in small groups and discuss a range of literature. The objective is that members of each group will read the material supplied for a month and then meet to discuss it. A maximum of ten titles are issued over the year. Discussions are from one to two hours' duration and can be guided by questions contained in the accompanying booknotes.

Using the 2007 BDS Catalogue

- Choose at least 25 titles from the catalogue.
- Ensure the catalogue is made available to all the members of the group.
- Please choose widely from the catalogue.
- Titles purchased within the last two years are indicated with a • before the publication date.
- You will be advised of newly approved titles via newsletters, email and the BDS website. Titles can be added to, or deleted from, your group's booklist at any time during the year. Please contact the office.
- While most books are available for one month's reading, a small number are designated as two-month loans. If a group chooses to read these within one month, the BDS office should be notified in time for another book despatch.
- Groups receive ONE copy of the 2007 catalogue. Extra copies are available from the Book Discussion Scheme at \$3-00 each.
- For your reference, a space is provided on the inside back cover to list your group's book choices.

Note:

All titles contained in this catalogue have been approved by the Book Discussion Scheme Committee. Certain books may contain material that is offensive to some readers.

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Bequests to the BDS

Did you know you can leave a charitable gift to the BDS? If you wish to leave a legacy for the BDS, the following is suitable wording: "To the Book Discussion Scheme the sum of \$..... for the general purposes of the BDS. I declare that the receipt of the Chairperson of the BDS will be sufficient for my Trustee(s) or Executor(s)."

Fiction – General (A – Z)

ACCIDENTAL TOURIST (THE)

1985 *Tyler, Anne* 355 pp

How does a man addicted to routine cope with pain, loss and chaos? A comedy, and not a shallow one. US novel.

ACCORDING TO QUEENEY

2001 *Bainbridge, Beryl* 224 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 2001. Bainbridge investigates the darker, melancholic side to the character of Dr Samuel Johnson, the great lexicographer. There are several narrators, including Queenev, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thrale, Johnson's close friends. Includes excerpts from actual letters and journal writings.

ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN (THE)

1884 *Twain, Mark* 370 pp

This great American novel is far more than a children's book. On individuality and values, conformity and escape.

AGE OF INNOCENCE (THE)

1920 *Wharton, Edith* 229 pp

Pulitzer Prize, 1921. Set in New York in the 1870s in a society where the constricting social code puts individual lives under great pressure. It is also a story about love.

ALBERT WENDT'S SHORT STORIES (THE BEST OF)

1999 *Wendt, Albert* 390 pp

"For Wendt, the past is a pulsating present", (*Listener*, 1999). Twenty-nine selected short stories from one of the Pacific's major writers with themes of Samoan family and social histories. Includes published stories plus previously uncollected work. Author of *Sons For The Return Home*.

ALIAS GRACE

1997 *Atwood, Margaret* 542 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 1997. Is Grace Marks a female fiend or *femme fatale*? An Irish servant girl, convicted of murdering her employer in the 1840s, develops the reputation as one of Canada's most notorious female criminals. Historical novel.

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND AND THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

1865 *Carroll, Lewis* 253 pp

The English children's classic. A fantasy tale of the child, Alice, who meets famous characters such as the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and many others.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

1919 *Remarque, Eric Maria* 192 pp

Remarque, who lost his German citizenship as a result of this work, powerfully portrays the agony and futility of war.

AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY (THE)

2000 *Chabon, Michael* 639 pp

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 2001. Following his escape from 1939 Prague, a young Jewish artist, Joe Kavalier, joins forces with his New York cousin, Sammy Clay. They become the creative forces behind a Nazi-busting, comic book superhero who promotes good over evil. A witty look at how art can offer a gesture of defiance and hope.

AMSTERDAM

1998 *McEwan, Ian* 178 pp

Booker Prize, 1998. A black fable that opens with the funeral of good-time, forty-something, Molly Lane, who suffered from an unspecified degenerative disease. Her death is the catalyst for a euthanasia pact between two of the male mourners: Should either be stricken with such an illness, the other will bring about his death. A plot of twists and turns. Author of *A Child In Time*, *Enduring Love*.

ANIL'S GHOST

2000 *Ondaatje, Michael* 311 pp

Kiriyama Pacific Rim Book Prize for Fiction, 2000. Forensic anthropologist, Anil Tissera, returns to Sri Lanka as a representative of an international human rights' organisation to assist in an investigation into suspected mass political murders throughout the 1980s and 1990s. With almost hallucinatory imagery and the gradual interweaving of characters' pasts, Ondaatje leads his readers into a riveting mystery. Author of *The English Patient*.

ANIMAL FARM

1945 *Orwell, George* 118 pp

The animals on a farm take over and administer the farm for themselves. A satire about dictatorship. UK.

ANNA KARENINA

1877 *Tolstoy, Leo* 853 pp

A novel offering insight into the lives of upper class Russians before the Revolution. This the story of the tragic fate of Anna, locked in a dull marriage, and who falls in love with a young officer. **2-month loan.**

ARTIST OF THE FLOATING WORLD (AN)

1987 *Ishiguro, Kazuo* 206 pp

A novel about post-war Japan, peopled by old and young individuals, each needing to live in the present.

AS I LAY DYING

1930 *Faulkner, William* 242 pp

Members of a Mississippi family tell their stories on the way to the funeral of their wife/mother. US.

ASSISTANT (THE)

1959 *Malamud, Bernard* 244 pp

A stranger finds himself amongst the family of a Jewish shopkeeper. He betrays his employer's trust and friendship, but learns about compassion.

ASTA'S BOOK

1993 *Vine, Barbara* 437 pp

A diary written in 1905 by a Danish immigrant to England seems to hold the key to an unsolved murder, the mystery of a missing child. Mixture of biography, true crime and romance.

ATONEMENT

• 2001 *McEwan, Ian* 372 pp

Briony Tallis, a precocious 13-year-old, witnesses a quarrel between her older sister and Robbie, the son of her family's cleaning woman. She then believes the shadowy figure who assaults her cousin, Lola, late that night is Robbie. Her assumption brings disaster not simply to the two young people discovering themselves to be lovers, but to everyone else in the well-intentioned, prosperous family. Author of *Enduring Love*.

AUSTERLITZ

2001 *Sebald, WG* 415 pp

Translated from German. National Book Critic's Circle Award for Fiction, 2001; the Berlin Literature Prize; Literatur Nord Prize, 2001, and the *LA Times* Book Award. Over a period of 30 years, architectural historian Jacques Austerlitz, tells the story of his life to an anonymous narrator. Transported out of Czechoslovakia via *Kindertransport* on the eve of World War II, he was adopted by Welsh Calvinists who destroyed all traces of his identity. Sebald combines fiction, memoir, travelogue and philosophy to create a very visual insight into the role of memory and remembering.

AUTOGRAPH MAN (THE)

• 2002 *Smith, Zadie* 419 pp

Half-Chinese, half-Jewish autograph trader, Alex-Li Tandem, is on a quest to track down the reclusive ageing actress, Kitty Alexander, whose extremely rare signatures are the envy of collectors everywhere. However, Alex's journey is more spiritual than commercial, and shaped by the Kabbalistic guidance of a black Jewish friend. Author of *White Teeth*.

BACK WHEN WE WERE GROWNUPS

2001 *Tyler, Anne* 274 pp

A disastrous family picnic is the catalyst for Rebecca Davitch, 53-year-old widow and matriarch of an extended family, to question her life and who she has become. She embarks on a quixotic interior journey with both funny and moving results. Author of *The Accidental Tourist*.

BALTHASAR'S ODYSSEY

• 2002 *Maalouf, Amin* 391 pp

At a time when doomsday is believed to be imminent, Genoese Levantine merchant, Balthasar Embriaco, is thrown by chance into a quest to find a mysterious book which, according to legend, contains the most secret name of God. He sets out on a long journey from Constantinople, through the Mediterranean, to London shortly before the Great Fire. His adventures, his love for the woman he yearns to marry, and the people he befriends on his travels make an entertaining read.

BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS

2001 *Sijie, Dai* 172 pp

Two Chinese youths are banished to the countryside during the Cultural Revolution for re-education by the peasants. To combat boredom, bad food and unsavoury work, they tell stories. The discovery of a hidden cache of novels written by great 19th-century writers, which they share with the daughter of a tailor, transforms their lives. Sparely written with humorous moments. Translated from French.

BARN BLIND

1994 *Smiley, Jane* 218 pp

The horses that graze on the Karlson farm become the consuming obsession of a woman who sees in them the ultimate fulfillment of her every wish. An exploration of the themes of work, love and duty, as well as an inquisition into the decline and fall of a family.

BEE SEASON

2001 *Goldberg, Myla* 275 pp

Eliza Naumann is an unremarkable nine-year-old in a very remarkable family until she skyrockets through all the local spelling bees to the national championships. Her father, Saul, takes this as a sign that she is destined for greatness. *Bee Season* is a portrait of a family obsessed with the divine. Blends Jewish mysticism and the dynamics of an unconventional family to come to a startling conclusion.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM

1995 *Atkinson, Kate* 382 pp

Ruby Lennox tells the story of The Family, from the day at the end of the 19th century when a French photographer catches frail, beautiful Alice and her children, to the startling, witty and memorable events of Ruby's own life. Set in northern England.

BEL CANTO

2001 *Patchett, Ann* 318 pp

Orange Prize, 2002. Built around the tension of a political hostage situation in an unnamed South American country, the story focuses on an eclectic mix of characters thrown together in unusual circumstances, and how time is suspended for them. One of the captives, an opera singer, enraptures them all with her daily singing practice. Author of *Truth And Beauty*.

BELL JAR (THE)

1963 *Plath, Sylvia* 250 pp

The only novel by the well-known poet. Brilliant treatment of the effects of society's expectations on a sensitive young woman. It raises the question, "Is it good to be normal?"

BELLAROSA CONNECTION (THE)

1989 *Bellow, Saul* 102 pp

US novel about a man rescued from Nazism. Your chance to get to know Bellow in one of his short works.

BELOVED

1987 *Morrison, Toni* 275 pp

Exuberant, but painful writing of a black American writer about ex-slaves. The effects of slavery continue even now.

BEYOND ILLUSIONS

2002 *Huong Duong, Thu* 247 pp

In a Vietnam scarred by wartime memories of deprivation, long marches to the front and American bombings, a young woman marries her professor because she admires his idealism. When he, in order to take care of her and their child, writes and sells articles in support of the corrupt government, she loses her love and respect for him.

BIRD ARTIST (THE)

1994 *Norman, Howard* 289 pp

The story, set in Newfoundland, of a young man coming to terms with himself, his art and his crime.

BIRDS OF AMERICA

1998 Moore, Lorrie 291 pp

A collection of short stories that moves along a spectrum of emotions – from biting humour to bitter despair – offering “a series of portraits of the young, the hip, the lost, the unsettled, and the unhinged of modern day America”.

BIRDSONG

1994 Faulks, Sebastian 407 pp

Both a love story and a compellingly readable account of World War I trench warfare. UK

BITTER FRUIT

• 2001 Dangor, Achmat 281 pp

Silas Ali was a member of the ANC underground and is now a ministerial liaison officer to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He sees Du Boise, the policeman who raped his wife, Lydia, 20 years earlier. When Silas tells Lydia about seeing Du Boise, it triggers a family crisis. Caught between the two worlds of pre- and post-apartheid South Africa, the Alis, like many of their friends, are part of the establishment, but with deep wounds from the apartheid system.

BLACK PRINCE (THE)

1973 Murdoch, Iris 416 pp

The blurb says it is “a meditation of art, of love and of the power of human relationships”. UK novel, exploring the language/silence theme.

BLACK RAIN

1969 Ibuse, Masui 300 pp

Won Japan’s highest literary award. Novel based on real diaries and interviews with survivors of Hiroshima.

BLACKWATER LIGHTSHIP (THE)

1999 Tóibín, Colm 273 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 1999. Ireland in the early 1990s. Helen’s adored, younger brother is dying and the family find themselves gathered in the grandmother’s house, together with two of Declan’s friends. A story of an estranged family painfully starting to communicate. Told in a quiet, non-judgemental way. Author of *The Heather Blazing*.

BLIND ASSASSIN (THE)

2001 Atwood, Margaret 637 pp

Winner Booker Prize, 2001. “Ten days after the war,” says Iris Chase, “my sister, Laura, drove a car off a bridge.” Iris pens a letter of the Chase family saga, but Laura’s posthumously published novel *The Blind Assassin* interrupts as a parable on reality. Atwood deftly moves the reader through several narratives. Author of *The Handmaid’s Tale*, *Cat’s Eye*, *Alias Grace*.

BODY ARTIST (THE)

2001 DeLillo, Don 124 pp

When body artist, Lauren, is left alone after her husband’s sudden suicide, she spends days working her body to its extreme limits and obsessively reliving their time together. Into her solitude, appears a strangely transparent character who resembles her husband, both in appearance and voice.

BONESETTER’S DAUGHTER (THE)

2001 Tan, Amy 339 pp

Ruth Young knows very little of her mother's past, until some papers written in Chinese calligraphy, fall into her hands. We are taken back to LuLing's birthplace; the remote, mountainous region in China where Peking Man was discovered in the 1920s. Tan uses the conflicts of mothers, daughters, and sisters to explore the dynamic that exists between first-generation Americans and their immigrant elders. Author of *The Joy Luck Club*.

BORDER CROSSING

2001 Barker, Pat 281 pp

While trying to cope with marital difficulties, child psychologist, Tom Seymour, is dramatically confronted with a patient from the past: Danny Miller, convicted of murder at age 10. Barker sets up a tantalising series of questions as personal and professional boundaries become blurred. Atmospheric thriller set against the backdrop of urban Newcastle. Author of *Regeneration Trilogy*.

BOX GARDEN (THE)

1977 Shields, Carol 213 pp

About Charleen, a solo mother bringing up her son on a restricted income, and struggling to make sense of her life. Includes perceptive observations of men. Canadian novel.

BRICK LANE

2003 Ali, Monica 492 pp

Growing up in a Bengali village, Nazneen is sent to England to marry pompous middle-aged Chanu and live on a London council estate. Nazneen and Chanu gradually build a fragile, but companionable, peace together until Karim, a young Islamic activist, breaks through that peace.

BY THE SEA

2001 Gurnah, Abdulrazak 245 pp

When two men meet in a small English seaside town, there begins the unravelling of a story started long ago in Zanzibar. One is an elderly shopkeeper who apparently speaks no English. The other is Latif Mahmud, a lecturer at London University. Their stories are complex and intertwined, and the resulting tale one of seduction and deception, love and betrayal.

CAL

1983 MacLaverty, Bernard 153 pp

Realistic novel about a young man from a Catholic family in a Protestant area of Northern Ireland.

CANNERY ROW

• 1945 Steinbeck, John 148 pp

Cannery Row is in many senses a forgotten Steinbeck novel due to its less than ambitious credentials; it is, however, one of his finest. The novel is based in the eponymous Cannery Row, and the story is essentially a light-hearted comedy about a community of social drop-outs who, through their cunning and scant regard for the law, live a simple and contented life.

CANTERBURY TALES

1387 Chaucer, Geoffrey 280 pp

Chaucer is "gay, robust, racy and broad". Neville Coghill's translation into modern English.

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN

1994 De Bernières, Louis 436 pp

Humorous novel about a young Italian officer who is posted to a Greek island during World War II.

CASE HISTORIES

• 2004 *Atkinson, Kate* 410 pp

Private detective Jackson Brodie, ex-cop, ex-husband and weekend dad, takes on three seemingly unrelated cases: A toddler missing for 34 years; a young woman brutally killed while temping for her father's law firm, and an overwrought mother driven to axe murder. Jackson's reluctant persistence heats up these cold cases, leading him to reassess his own painful history and offer him a chance at happiness and some measure of reconciliation with the past. Author of *Behind The Scenes At The Museum*.

CAT'S EYE

1988 *Atwood, Margaret* 421 pp

Canadian novel exploring the lifelong effects of childhood events.

CATCH-22

1961 *Heller, Joseph* 477 pp

"Devastatingly original" novel about war . . . what it brings out of, and does to people. Find out why it is so famous.

CATCHER IN THE RYE (THE)

1951 *Salinger, JD* 220 pp

A 16-year-old boy's values, thoughts and feelings portrayed with understanding.

CAVE (THE)

2003 *Saramago, José* 294 pp

An allegorical tale of Cipriano Algor, an old man who makes a living selling hand-made pottery to the metropolis known as The Centre. Suddenly, his humble pottery is no longer wanted and he is forced to retire. When his family moves into The Centre, he comes across a disturbing secret. Author won the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature.

CHILD IN TIME (THE)

1987 *McEwan, Ian* 220 pp

UK novel which will make you wonder about time. Can the future influence the present? A tragedy has shattered the life of the main character, a children's novelist. The aftermath is both moving and uplifting.

CHILDHOOD'S END

1954 *Clarke, Arthur C* 189 pp

Classical science fiction, easy to read and suitable for introduction to the genre.

CHOSEN (THE)

1967 *Potok, Chaim* 280 pp

An insight into a wholly Jewish world. This novel focuses on the friendship between two boys. US.

CIDER HOUSE RULES (THE)

1985 *Irving, John* 731 pp

Entertaining novel that may help us to see the integrity on both sides of the abortion issue. Some

content may disturb.

CITY OF THE MIND

1991 *Lively, Penelope* 220 pp

Matthew Holland shares in the upbringing of his eight-year-old daughter. As an architect, his work takes him over the ever-changing cityscape of London with all the diversity and evidence of past history – the city's and his own.

CLAUDINE AT SCHOOL

1900 *Colette, Sidonie-Gabrielle* 220 pp

French novel, "somewhat salacious", recounting the adventures and fantasies of a young girl.

CLERKENWELL TALES (THE)

• 2003 *Ackroyd, Peter* 213 pp

The scene is London, 1399. By the side of the River Fleet in Clerkenwell, the people are restless and disenchanting with the Church and their King. At the centre of the confusion is the nun, Sister Clarice, who has visions of the future. This is a story of adventure and suspense set in the late Medieval world. Author of *First Light*.

CLOCKWORK ORANGE (A)

1962 *Burgess, Anthony* 144 pp

This fantasy of urban violence raises questions about society's right to tamper with the individual. UK.

COLD MOUNTAIN

1997 *Frazier, Charles* 436 pp

National Book Award (US), 1997. A story of two parallel journeys in the waning months of the American Civil War. Inman, a disillusioned Confederate soldier, leaves his hospital bed and embarks on a dangerous trek home to Cold Mountain, and the woman he loves.

COLOUR (THE)

2003 *Tremain, Rose* 366 pp

Set against the background of the mid-19th century gold rush, English immigrants and newlyweds, Joseph and Harriet Blackstone, seek a more prosperous life in New Zealand. Together, with Joseph's widowed mother, they attempt to build a farm. When Joseph discovers gold in the local creek, he abandons Harriet and his mother and heads to the gold fields escaping his failing farm and eroding marriage. Author of *Restoration, Music And Silence*.

COLOR PURPLE (THE)

1982 *Walker, Alice* 294 pp

Painful and moving US novel set in Black America, and told to God by an African-American girl.

CONDITIONS OF FAITH

2001 *Miller, Alex* 406 pp

Inspired by his mother's journal writings, this prize-winning author created the story of Emily Stanton, a young Australian woman who leaves academic life in 1920s Melbourne to become the wife of a Scottish engineer based in Paris. But conventional marriage awakens her desire to look beyond the roles seen to be appropriate for women of her time.

CONSTANT GARDENER (THE)

2001 *Le Carré, John* 570 pp

Justin Quayle is a British diplomat and amateur gardener, based in Nairobi, and who undertakes a personal odyssey in pursuit of his wife's murderers. The investigation leads him into a murky web of exploitation involving Kenyan greed, and a major pharmaceutical company eager to promote its "wonder cure". Author of *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold*.

CORRECTIONS (THE)

2001 Franzen, Jonathan 653 pp

Winner of the National Book Award, 2001. Mid-Western American family, the Lamberts, are in disarray. Patriarch Albert is suffering from Parkinson's Disease, his wife Enid is attempting to break out of the constraints of their long marriage, and their three adult children are each buffeted by the options forced upon them. *The Corrections* takes a bittersweet look at a family struggling to maintain its identity against the stresses of the modern age. Quirky, sometimes funny, and always very engaging.

CRIME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (A)

1998 Berne, Suzanne 248 pp

Winner of the Orange Prize, 1999. Ten-year-old Marsha narrates this story set in 1970s suburban Washington. The horrifying murder of a young boy is the most visible crime in Marsha's neighbourhood, but it is by no means the only one. First novel by this author.

CROW LAKE

• 2002 Lawson, Mary 295 pp

Kate Morrison relives events that left seven-year-old Kate, her toddler sister, and two teenage brothers to fend for themselves after their parents are killed in a car accident. Planning a return trip to her childhood home in rural Northern Ontario, she recalls her upbringing, the tragedy, and her brother's sacrifices to hold the family together.

CRYPTOGRAPHER (THE)

• 2004 Hill, Tobias 272 pp

Having created the world's first electronic currency from an unbreakable code, John Law, owner of Soft Mark, is the world's first quadrillionaire. He is mysterious and charming with something to hide. It is tax inspector Anna Moore's job to find out just what is behind Law's wry smile and calm demeanour.

CUBA AND THE NIGHT

1995 Iyer, Pico 234 pp

Iyer's skills as a travel writer are used to effect with setting and atmosphere in this first novel. Castro's Cuba is the central character "... the melancholy, ebullient, and dazzlingly inconsistent island". The narrator is a jaded journalist who meets a woman he suspects is only looking for a ticket to America.

CUNNING MAN (THE)

1994 Robertson, Davies 469 pp

Canadian novel about a holistic practitioner or "cunning man". Tells of his life of theatre, art and music, as well as his adventures in the Canadian army in World War II, and the secrets of a doctor's consulting room.

CURE FOR DEATH BY LIGHTNING (THE)

1997 Anderson-Dargatz, Gail 292 pp

Fifteen-year-old Beth Weeks suffers the ill-effects of an abusive father and grinding work on the family farm. A relationship with a half-Indian girl allows her access to the reservation, normally off-limits to outsiders. Recipes and folk remedies sprinkle the text. A coming-of-age, first novel.

CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (THE)

2003 *Haddon, Mark* 272 pp

A murder mystery like no other. Christopher Boone is a 15-year-old who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome. Christopher can understand maths. He can understand science. What he can't understand, is other human beings. When the dog next-door is killed by a garden fork, he sets off in the manner of his favourite character, Sherlock Holmes, to find the killer. Winner of the Whitbread Book of the Year Award.

DARK ROOM (THE)

2001 *Seiffert, Rachel* 391 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 2001. A novel in three parts. The stories of three ordinary Germans: A young photographer in 1930s Berlin; a 12-year-old girl guiding her siblings across a devastated Germany in 1945, and 50 years later, a young teacher obsessed with what his grandfather did in the war. Seiffert uncovers a landscape of deep and terrible ambivalence, but never tells the reader what to think.

DAUGHTER OF FORTUNE

1999 *Isabel, Allende* 399 pp

With the help of a Chinese physician friend, a young Chilean woman is smuggled onto a sailing ship in 1849, bound for the Californian goldfields. Both characters are searching; she for her lost lover, he for some purpose in a foreign world. Inspired by California's short, but extravagant history. Author of *Paula*.

DAVITA'S HARP

1985 *Potok, Chaim* 438 pp

A novel about a girl who is influenced by both Hasidic Jews and Christians in her US upbringing.

DEAD MAN'S RANSOM

1984 *Peters, Ellis* 189 pp

One of the detective stories where Peters uses her thorough knowledge of Medieval history. The detective, Brother Cadfael, is a monk. Set near Wales in the 12th century.

DEATH IN SUMMER

1998 *Trevor, Williams* 214 pp

Thaddeus Davenport's advertisement for a nanny for his baby daughter after his wife's death brings in some response, but in the end his mother-in-law takes on the task. One of the rejected applicants forms an unnatural obsession for Thaddeus, and he finds his life changing, yet again.

DEATH OF VISHNU (THE)

2001 *Suri, Manil* 329 pp

On the landing of a Bombay apartment building, Vishnu lies in a coma, near death. While he vividly dreams of his past, around him the residents tell stories of their daily lives. We follow their squabbles, dreams and romances. Combines Hindu and Islamic mythology, a dash of *Bollywood*, and acutely observed detail of life in Bombay.

DEEP END OF THE OCEAN (THE)

1996 *Mitchard, Jacquelyn* 516 pp

A child's disappearance leads to a nationwide police search. Nine years later, Vincent knocks on the door. This novel reveals what can drive a family apart, and what can hold them together. US.

DIARY OF AN ORDINARY WOMAN

• 2003 *Forster, Margaret* 403 pp

Forster's novel takes the form of a diary. Its author, Millicent King, born in 1901, confides everything in a series of journals which become not just an absorbing account of her inner life, but also a personal record of the twentieth century. Author of *Hidden Lives* and *Good Wives?*

DISGRACE

1999 *Coetzee, JM* 220 pp

Winner of the Booker Prize, 1999. The two worlds of a father and daughter living in South Africa are linked by their experiences of the state of "disgrace". David Lurie, a university professor, has an affair with a student and, once discovered, refuses to publicly repent. He takes refuge on Lucy's remote property, but cannot avoid the repercussions of his country's inherited disgrace to which Lucy falls victim after a violent home invasion. Author of *Waiting For The Barbarians*.

DISPOSSESSED (THE)

1974 *Le Guin, Ursula* 319 pp

Science fiction. Individuals respond to different kinds of work.

DISTANT SHORE (A)

• 2003 *Phillips, Caryl* 312 pp

Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Best Book. Two lonely lives intertwine in this novel set in contemporary England. Dorothy has recently moved to a new subdivision in a small village after a forced retirement. Solomon, an illegal immigrant escaping a violent past in Africa, is the night watchman at the subdivision. They form a cautious friendship. A poignant and quietly powerful portrait of contemporary alienation.

DRINKING COFFEE ELSEWHERE

• 2003 *Packer, ZZ* 240 pp

With a combination of tenderness and dark humour, Packer's debut collection of short stories take the reader into the lives of characters on the periphery, unsure of where they belong. Several stories are set in black communities in the American South, and explore the identity crises of economically disenfranchised teens and young women.

DUBLINERS (THE)

1914 *Joyce, James* 207 pp

Stories about ordinary men and women in Dublin at the beginning of the 20th century. Joyce's first masterpiece.

EASTER ISLAND

• 2004 *Vanderbes, Jennifer* 431 pp

Easter Island connects parallel stories of two remarkable women: That of Elsa Pendleton who travels to the island in 1913 with her much older husband and her mentally impaired sister to study the toppled moa statues, and that of Dr Greer Farraday who, in the 1970s, after the death of her famed scientist-husband and accused of fraud, escapes to the island and studies ancient pollen. Both are connected by love, betrayal and intellectual endeavour in different times.

ELEMENT OF WATER (THE)

2002 *Davies, Stevie* 253 pp

Spring 1945, and the Third Reich holes up in barracks at Lake Plön trying to maintain the illusion of government. Thirteen years later, the children of an SS officer and an Intelligence officer meet

at the same barracks, now transformed into a British Army Boarding School. *The Element Of Water* challenges the reader with issues of memory, guilt, love and responsibility.

EMMA

1816 Austen, Jane 432 pp

Classical novel on “the frequent disconnections between an individual’s inner life and the smooth world of manners”. On self-deceit and self-discovery.

ENDURING LOVE

1997 McEwan, Ian 243 pp

The organised life of science writer, Joe Rose, is changed irrevocably when he witnesses a tragic air balloon accident. In the rescue attempt, he meets a stranger who develops a haunting obsession. It becomes a test on Joe’s rationalism and his marriage. Author of *A Child In Time*.

ENGLISH PASSENGERS

2000 Neale, Matthew 462 pp

Whitbread Book of the Year Winner. An epic tale based on real events in Tasmanian history. It tells two parallel stories: One of three eccentric Englishmen who set sail for Tasmania in 1857 to find the Garden of Eden; the other of a young Tasmanian Aborigine and his tribe, struggling against the invading British. Exhibits a tart wit and sense of the ironic.

ENGLISH PATIENT (THE)

1992 Ondaatje, Michael 302 pp

Winner of the 1992 Booker Prize. A moving and lyrical account of a group of shell-shocked characters and their relationships. Set in the desert and in Italy at the end of World War II.

EQUAL MUSIC (AN)

1999 Seth, Vikram 485pp

Michael, the sensitive musician and narrator, attempts to recapture the nostalgia of the past when he happens across his lost love Julia, the woman he left behind in Vienna ten years before. Themes of love, music and creativity.

EUCALYPTUS

1998 Bail, Murray 255 pp

Winner of Miles Franklin Award and Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, 1999. A fable-like story about a man obsessed with eucalyptus and the idea of offering his daughter’s hand in marriage to any man who can identify all the gum species on his property. But, Holland is wary of spinners of tales (like himself) and their possible effect on his daughter. Australia.

FAMILY MATTERS

2002 Mistry, Rohinton 500 pp

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and winner of the Kiriyaama Pacific Rim Book Prize for Fiction, 2002. In 1990s Bombay, Nariman Vakeel is a 79-year-old Parsi widower, suffering from Parkinson’s Disease and living with his two resentful stepchildren. Becoming bedridden with a broken ankle, he is forced to recuperate at his daughter’s which tests relationships and family ties. Author of *A Fine Balance*.

FAMILY TREE (THE)

• 2005 Cadwalladr, Carole 476 pp

While working on her Ph.D. in Cultural Studies, Rebecca Monroe grapples with the nature-versus-nurture debate. Her husband is a behavioural geneticist who is certain he knows the

answer – it’s in the genes. But, as Rebecca explores her grandparents’ relationship, her findings take off in surprising directions. She interweaves the stories of three generations of her relatives from the 1940s and 1970s with the present to show a bleakly funny, unsentimental view of a family unravelling and then coming together.

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

1875 *Hardy, Thomas* 491 pp

Classical novel. Hardy’s first love story; humorous, too. About the attitudes and habits of rural men and women.

FAREWELL TO ARMS (A)

1926 *Hemingway, Ernest* 286 pp

Novel from the Italian front, 1918. A love affair between an American ambulance driver and an English nurse. US.

FASTING, FEASTING

1999 *Desai, Anita* 228 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 1999. A novel of vignettes that focuses on a close-knit Indian family. The eldest spinster daughter, still at home, pines to be elsewhere, while her ambitious sister succeeds in marrying “well”. Brother Arun, the heir of the family, is sent off to an American university. As Desai observes, “if one part of a community suffers, everybody suffers.”

FINE BALANCE (A)

1996 *Mistry, Rohinton* 752 pp

Booker shortlist, 1996. Set in mid-1970s India, after the declaration of a “State of Internal Emergency”. Four characters are brought together by circumstance, eventually to overcome social and political barriers. A compelling narrative that balances simple humanity, humour and hope with the inevitable forces of fate.

FIRST LOVE

Mid-1880s *Turgenev, Ivan* 106 pp

A novella translated from the Russian. Turgenev describes a young boy’s growth as he is awakened to the complicated nature of adult love.

FISH OF THE INLAND SETO SEA

1999 *Pilgrim, Ruri* 316 pp

The best fish in Japan, it is said, come from the rapid waters of the Seto Inland Sea, also the native homeland of Pilgrim’s family. The author recounts the customs of a little-known society, especially as they affect women. Although the narrative takes place during an historical period of enormous change (1870s to 1950s), the small details resonate.

FLAUBERT’S PARROT

1984 *Barnes, Julian* 190 pp

“Part novel, part stealthy literary criticism”. Actually said about Flaubert. Set in France; the narrator is intriguing, too.

FLIGHT OF THE MAIDENS (THE)

2000 *Gardam, Jane* 278 pp

Set in the summer of 1946 with three young women poised between school and university. Gardam paints an intelligent and often witty picture of the leaving behind of childhood, and the new freedoms of post-war England. Author of *Queen Of The Tambourine*, *Sidmouth Letters*.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1985 *Lurie, Alison* 279 pp

A Pulitzer Prize Winner. Contemporary English society seen through American eyes, and compared with the US.

FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN (THE)

1969 *Fowles, John* 399 pp

A somewhat experimental novel with surprises, such as alternative endings. Set in 19th-century Lyme Regis. UK.

FRUIT OF THE LEMON

1999 *Levy, Andrea* 341 pp

London-born Faith Jackson is furious when her parents decide to retire to their native Jamaica. However, when her own English life becomes less than perfect, Faith makes the journey back to her roots – discovering her own prejudices about Caribbean culture.

FUGITIVE PIECES

1997 *Michaels, Anne* 294 pp

Winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, 1997. A first novel by one of Canada's foremost poets. Jakob Beer's parents are murdered by Nazi soldiers and his sister abducted. He is miraculously rescued by a Greek geologist. They migrate to Canada, but Jakob's spirit remains forever linked with that of his lost sister.

GESTURE LIFE (A)

1999 *Lee, Chang-Rae* 356 pp

Lee puts us inside the skin of a man who, "if he could choose, might always go silent and unseen". That is until his adopted daughter, Sunny, attempts to peel away Franklin Hata's scrupulous self-control as a respected citizen living in suburban USA. His experience overseeing "comfort women" forced to service Japanese troops during World War II is revealed as flashbacks. Written with unhurried elegance. Some content may disturb.

GIANT O'BRIEN (THE)

1998 *Mantel, Hilary* 211 pp

Charles O'Brien, a genial Irish giant with a flair for storytelling, comes to London in 1782 with a band of hangers-on to display himself in order to make money. He is doomed, because he can't stop growing. Based on a real person, O'Brien's bones lie in the Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, London.

GILEAD

• 2004 *Robinson, Marilynne* 282 pp

In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son. Ames is the son of an Iowan preacher and the grandson of a minister who went to Kansas to fight for abolition. Reverend Ames writes to his son about the tension between his father – an ardent pacifist – and his grandfather. He tells a story of the bonds between fathers and sons which are tested in his tender and strained relationship with his namesake, John Ames Boughton, his best friend's wayward son. Winner of the Pulitzer and National Book Circle Critics' Fiction Prizes. Author of *Housekeeping*.

GIRL WHO PLAYED GO (THE)

• 2003 *Sa, Shan* 280 pp

Kiriyama Fiction Prize Winner. Set in Japanese-occupied Manchuria in the 1930s. In the Square Of A Thousand Winds, a sixteen-year-old Chinese girl beats all-comers at the ancient game of Go. One of her opponents is unknown to her, a Japanese officer of the occupying power. Their encounters are like the game itself, restrained, subtle and surprisingly fierce.

GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING

• 1999 *Chevalier, Tracy* 248 pp

Set in 17th-century Delft, this historical novel, inspired by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer's masterpiece, intertwines the art of Vermeer with his life and that of a servant. Sixteen-year-old Griet goes to work in the home of the painter and becomes his subject. Through her eyes, we experience the complicated family life, the small-town society in Delft, and life with an obsessive genius.

GLASS PALACE (THE)

2000 *Ghosh, Amitav* 552 pp

Spanning most of the 20th century and starting with the British arrival in Burma, this story carries Dolly and Rajkumar, and many other characters, through the growing opposition to British rule in India, the Japanese invasion of Burma and Malaya, and back to the military state of Burma/Myanmar in 1996.

GO-BETWEEN (THE)

1953 *Hartley, LP* 280 pp

An old man recalls his boyhood and the experience that shaped his life. A profound and poetic novel. UK.

GOD OF SMALL THINGS (THE)

1997 *Roy, Arundhati* 340 pp

Booker Prize Winner, 1997. Roy's comment on the title: "There's a sort of invincibility in the small thing, because it is not seeking to be a big thing." A novel set in the late 1960s in Ayemenem, western India; most of it is told by the twins of a Syrian Christian family with an electric mix of people. Exotic, funny and tragic.

GOOD FAITH

• 2004 *Smiley, Jane* 438 pp

A humorous look at the economic boom of the 1980s. Joe Stratford is an amicable real estate agent in the small town of Rollin Hills. When smooth-talking Marcus Burns comes to town, he convinces Joe and other decent, but naïve people that it's never been easier to get rich quick. *Good Faith* portrays the seductions and illusions that can seize America during its periodic golden ages. Author of *A Thousand Acres* and *Barn Blind*.

GOSPEL OF JUDAS (THE)

• 2000 *Mawer, Simon* 345 pp

Roman Catholic priest and renown biblical-era scholar, Leo Newman, is summoned to Jerusalem to decipher a recently discovered scroll. Leo senses that the scroll, if authentic, could open Christianity to a complete reinterpretation. He finds his faith challenged further by his attraction to Madeline, the wife of a British diplomat. All narrative strands seamlessly produce a tightly crafted literary thriller, and a tale of love and betrayal.

GRAPES OF WRATH (THE)

1939 *Steinbeck, John* 416 pp

An American mid-west family's journey to the false Garden of Eden of California during the

Depression. Author of *Cannery Row*.

GREAT FIRE (THE)

2003 *Hazzard, Shirley* 314 pp

Aldred Leith, a 32-year-old English war hero, arrives in Hiroshima during the occupation, post-World War II. Billeted in a compound overseen by a boorish Australian brigadier and his scheming wife, he is immediately enchanted by the couple's children, a brilliant sickly young man and his adoring sister, who prove to be prisoners in a different sort of conflict.

GREAT GATSBY (THE)

1926 *Fitzgerald, F Scott* 188 pp

A novel of the "jazz age", symbolising the American dream. The first part of a trilogy, but quite self-contained.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

1726 *Swift, Jonathan* 320 pp

Satire on humans and human institutions; also a tale of travels to fantastical lands.

HALF A LIFE

2001 *Naipaul, VS* 224 pp

Author awarded Nobel Prize for Literature, 2001. The child of a mixed-caste marriage, Willie Chandran, escapes his scorned family for university in London and a bohemian lifestyle. The story reflects Naipaul's fascination for themes of fragmentation, inheritance, and post-colonialism as Willie falls in love, and experiences the collapse of his illusions when he and Ana immigrate to her homeland in Africa. Autobiographical novel.

HAMILTON CASE (THE)

• 2003 *De Kretser, Michelle* 369 pp

Set in 1930s Ceylon. Sam Obeyesekere, born to a privileged family and educated at Oxford, returns home to practice law. When he is approached to give his thoughts on the Hamilton Case, a scandalous murder that shakes the upper echelons of island society, he is flattered by the request and declares an Englishman guilty of the crime. His accusation will have devastating consequences for his future.

HANDMAID'S TALE (THE)

1987 *Atwood, Margaret* 324 pp

A visionary novel that looks to the future of the human race and a world radically changed. Offred, the handmaid, learns how to survive in the repressive, post-holocaust Republic of Gilead. Ominous references to the "time before" points to present-day society. Author of *Alias Grace*.

HANNA'S DAUGHTERS

1998 *Fredriksson, Marianne* 360 pp

In modern-day Stockholm, Anna discovers a sepia photograph of her grandmother as a young woman, quite unlike the cold, forbidding person she thinks she knows. Curiosity leads Anna to discover the realities of past generations. Translated from Swedish.

HARMONY SILK FACTORY (THE)

• 2005 *Aw, Tash* 362 pp

Set in Malaysia in the 1930s and 1940s with the Second World War as backdrop, and the Japanese about to invade. It is the story of four people: Johnny, an infamous Chinaman whose shop house, The Harmony Silk Factory, is used as a front for his illegal businesses; Snow Soong,

the beautiful daughter of one of the Kinta Valley's most prominent families; Kunichika, a Japanese officer who loves Snow, and an Englishman, Peter Wormwood, who went to Malaysia and who also loved Snow to the end of his life. A journey that exposes the cultural tensions of the era.

HAVE THE MEN HAD ENOUGH?

1989 Forster, Margaret 251 pp

Unsentimental novel about the complications of family life and the desolation of old age.

HEART OF DARKNESS

1902 Conrad, Joseph 343 pp

Three stories by a master storyteller. *Heart Of Darkness* tells of a journey into the heart of the Belgian Congo, as well as that of Mr Kurtz, the ivory hunter. Powerful adventure.

HEART OF THE MATTER (THE)

1948 Greene, Graham 271 pp

A policeman in a British colony in Africa during the war is led to disaster. A story of love and faith.

HEAT AND DUST

1975 Jhabvala, Ruth Praver 181 pp

Booker Prize, 1975. A young Englishwoman travels to India to discover the full story of a scandal created by her grandfather's first wife. Compares the present-day country with the India of the 1920s.

HEATHER BLAZING (THE)

1993 Tóibín, Colm 245 pp

A High Court judge who, nearing retirement, is made to understand that he has hardly begun to live. Redmond's survey of his life is etched against the Wexford coastline. Irish novel.

HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA

1929 Hughes, Richard 173 pp

An unconventional and unsentimental treatment of childhood and the notion of its so-called "innocence". Loosely based on material from *The Atrocities Of Pirates* (1824), Hughes imaginatively fuses piracy and his own observations of children to create a pirate romance.

HOBBIT (THE)

1954 Tolkien, JRR 318 pp

A famous fantasy-adventure work, peopled with creatures from folklore and the writer's imagination.

HOMESTEAD

2001 Lippi, Rosina 206 pp

Winner of the Pen/Hemingway Award, a collection of twelve linked stories, each told by a different woman from the isolated Austrian village of Rosenau. These introspective stories interweave to form a picture of the village throughout the 20th century.

HOURS (THE)

1999 Cunningham, Michael 226 pp

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, Pen Faulkner Award, 1999. Cunningham draws from Virginia Woolf's life and her book, *Mrs Dalloway*, to interweave the lives of three women in different places and

decades. A carefully shaped novel with spare prose. Reading of *Mrs Dalloway* is not essential, but will complement.

HOUSE OF MIRTH (THE)

1905 *Wharton, Edith* 338 pp

Introduction written in 1985. Rediscovered novel from the New York world of the moneyed classes. Story of the tragedy of failed social climber, Lily Bart, who desperately seeks to hide her poverty. US.

HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG (THE)

2000 *Dubus, André III* 365 pp

A modern tragedy set in California that captures the dark side of the immigrant experience. Behrani, a former colonel in the Shah's Air Force, yearns to restore his family's dignity and sees an opportunity to have his own piece of the American Dream in the purchase of a country bungalow. But, the former owner has her own desperate reasons to get the house back. A legal tussle escalates into personal confrontation – with dire results.

HOUSEKEEPING

1981 *Robinson, Marilynne* 186 pp

Mom is gone, great aunts die, Aunt's house-keeping is unorthodox. Two sisters respond in totally different ways. US. Author of *Gilead*.

HOW TO BE GOOD

2001 *Hornby, Nick* 243 pp

Dr Kate Carr wants a divorce from her husband David, an underemployed writer with a regular local newspaper column entitled, "The Angriest Man In Holloway". Family life is turned on its head when David experiences a personal transformation at the hands of a faith healer. A wry, humorous novel.

HUNGRY TIDE (THE)

• 2004 *Ghosh, Amitav* 400 pp

A contemporary story of adventure and unlikely love, identity and history. It is set off the easternmost coast of India in the Bay of Bengal on a labyrinth of tiny islands known as the Sundarbans. Told from the perspective of its two main characters: Kanai, a Delhi, businessman and translator, and Piya, an American scientist of Indian descent, who has come to the country to study the rare Irrawaddy dolphin. Author of *The Glass Palace*.

I HEARD THE OWL CALL MY NAME

1967 *Craven, Margaret* 168 pp

A young priest who has not long to live, is sent to a village in the wilds of British Columbia. Canadian fiction.

IDEA OF PERFECTION (THE)

2001 *Grenville, Kate* 401 pp

Winner Orange Prize, 2001. Two outsiders arrive at the depressed little bush town of Karakarook, New South Wales. Their opposing concerns manifest in the debate over the town's old wooden bridge: Heritage versus modern engineering. Both funny and touching in its observations of the plain and the flawed.

IF NOBODY SPEAKS OF REMARKABLE THINGS

• 2003 *McGregor, Jon* 288 pp

A multi-layered narrative that charts a single day in the life of the residents of an ordinary suburban street that will be shaken by a dramatic event.

ILIAD (THE)

9th Century BC *Homer* 456 pp

The story of Achilles of Troy and the tragedy that sprang from a flaw in his character. Translated by R Lattimore.

IN THE LAKE OF THE WOODS

1994 *O'Brien, Tim* 306 pp

Both a simple mystery story about a wife's disappearance, and an attempt to come to terms with the moral and emotional nightmares of Vietnam. US fiction.

INNOCENCE OF ROAST CHICKEN (THE)

1996 *Richards, Jo-Anne* 248 pp

Set in South Africa, the story shifts between two worlds: A chicken farm in 1966, and Johannesburg in 1989. Kate, the narrator, is cynical about many things, but especially the new spirit of hope and freedom in her country. A suspenseful plot.

JADE PEONY (THE)

1995 *Choy, Wayson* 238 pp

Set in Vancouver's Chinatown in 1933, this three-part story is the reminiscences of an immigrant Chinese family. The younger generation reject their elders' prejudices and aversion to mixing with those outside their culture, but are still influenced by their stories. The war brings racial hysteria towards fellow Japanese immigrants and this leads to the final tragedy.

JAMES MIRANDA BARRY

1999 *Duncker, Patricia* 375 pp

An elegant exploration of the way gender and identity shape a life. James Miranda Barry enrolls as a medical student in Edinburgh, the start of a career as a military surgeon. He also achieves fame as a duellist and a celebrated social figure. Barry was born female, but successfully maintained a male identity for over 50 years.

JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB (THE)

• 2004 *Fowler, Karen Joy* 288 pp

A California book club forms to discuss the novels of Jane Austen. As the five women and one man discuss Austen's stance on marriage, social status and love, they inevitably reveal intimacies about their own life. A work of fiction and a helpful guide to Jane Austen.

JANE EYRE

1847 *Brontë, Charlotte* 560 pp

The story of an orphan brought up in an institution. She becomes a governess and falls in love with her pupil's father. Classic.

JASMINE

1991 *Mukherjee, Bharati* 241 pp

Jasmine Vihj, widowed at 17 years of age, flees from her small Indian village to America. Reflects author's preoccupation with the fractured lives of immigrants caught up in a cross-cultural metamorphosis.

JAZZ

1992 *Morrison, Toni* 229 pp

Novel about life in Harlem, the capital of Black America in the 1920s. Author awarded Nobel Prize for Literature, 1994.

JOURNAL OF MRS PEPYS (THE)

1998 *George, Sara* 240 pp

A fictional account of Elizabeth Pepys, wife of the diarist, Samuel. The minutiae of daily life, the ups and downs of marriage, and the struggle from poverty of this famous 17th-century household, are set against the huge events of fire and plague.

JOY LUCK CLUB (THE)

1989 *Tan, Amy* 287 pp

Novel about Chinese mothers in the US, and their American-born daughters.

JUMPING THE QUEUE

1978 *Wesley, Mary* 202 pp

What happened when Matilda Poliport decided to leave this world? UK novel of great originality.

KATE, CATERINA

2001 *Rivière, William* 378 pp

A story of divided and complex loyalties during the Mussolini regime in Italy. The three main characters are Kate Caterina D'Alessandria, an English woman married to an Italian; Kate's father-in-law, and his daughter who is the wife of a prominent fascist – all achieving some understanding of themselves.

KITE RUNNER (THE)

• 2003 *Hosseini, Khaled* 324 pp

Narrated by Amir, a 40-year-old novelist living in California. *The Kite Runner* tells the story of a boyhood friendship destroyed by jealousy, fear and ruthless evil that transcends politics. Running parallel to this personal narrative of loss and redemption, is the story of modern Afghanistan and of Amir's relationship with the war-torn city of his birth.

KNOWLEDGE OF ANGELS

1994 *Walsh, Jill Paton* 284 pp

A novel set in the 15th century on a Mediterranean island. About a child abandoned by her mother and suckled by wolves. Also about a castaway whose beliefs represent such a challenge to the established order that the Inquisition becomes involved, with disastrous consequences.

KRIK? KRAK!

1991 *Danticat, Edwidge* 224 pp

A collection of powerful interlinked stories dramatising the tragedy of Haiti – its poverty, its repressive regime, and the hopes and dreams of its people.

LAMBS OF GOD

1997 *Day, Marele* 263 pp

Three nuns living in the isolated, crumbling St Agnes Monastery have a surprise visit from Father Ignatius. The Church's intentions to make "better" use of the real estate, stirs the women to use all their resources to protect a cherished life. Humorous tale by an Australian author.

LARRY'S PARTY

1997 *Shields, Carol* 339 pp

Winner of the Orange Prize, 1998. Larry Weller, an ordinary modern man, has always viewed his life as a puzzle and this may explain why he is so affected by his first visit to the maze at Hampton Court. The maze motif weaves its way through the narrative to the culminating event of Larry's party at age 46. Author of *The Box Garden*.

LAST OF THE WINE (THE)

1956 *Renault, Mary* 384 pp

The author writes with great authenticity of the decline of Athens, and the year of Socrates and Plato.

LAST ORDERS

1996 *Swift, Graham* 295 pp

Four men meet to carry out the last wishes of their friend – to have his ashes scattered into the sea. "About how we live and die, and our struggle to make abiding connections between the two." Booker Prize Winner, 1996.

LAYING ON OF HANDS (THE)

• 2002 *Bennett, Alan* 199 pp

BENNETT'S extraordinary ear for dialogue and sharpness of perception have made him a master storyteller. In "Father! Father! Burning Bright" he writes with tragicomic insight about a son's vigil at his father's deathbed where their lifelong battle continues to the end. "The Laying On Of Hands" is a brilliantly funny satire, while in "Miss Fozzard Finds Her Feet", a lonely, unmarried department store clerk discovers there is more to life than looking after her brother.

LE TESTAMENT FRANÇAIS

1995 *Makine, Andrei* 273 pp

An autobiographical novel that reflects the power of storytelling; how nostalgic memory is at odds with cultural and historical fact. A boy's awakening in two parallel worlds: The Stalinist era, and a mysterious, Atlantis-like world of his grandmother's creation. Translated from French.

LETTERS TO ALICE

1984 *Weldon, Fay* 156 pp

Subtitled *On First Reading Jane Austen*. Fictitious correspondence on writing novels with much about Jane Austen, and her life and time in England.

LIFE OF PI

2001 *Martel, Yann* 319 pp

Winner Man Booker Prize, 2002. The story of Pi, an unusual boy, brought up in a zoo in India. When Pi's father decides to move the family to Canada and sell animals to the great zoos of America, the ship taking them across the Pacific sinks. Pi finds himself on a life-raft along with a hyena, an orang-utan, a zebra, and a Bengal tiger.

LITTLE FRIEND (THE)

2003 *Tartt, Donna* 555 pp

In a small Mississippi town, twelve-year-old Harriet Cleve Dufresnes has grown up in the shadow of her brother Robin's murder. Robin's killer has never been identified and ten years later, his family are still devastated by the tragedy. One summer, Harriet resolves to get revenge on the man she believes murdered her brother in an attempt to resurrect the happy family she knows only from photographs.

LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

1971 *Munro, Alice* 250 pp

Together with Atwood and Laurence, Munro is the best known Canadian woman writer alive. Autobiographical novel. French rural Ontario.

LOLITA

1955 *Nabokov, Vladimir* 312 pp

Tragedy about “the rapture and the tenderness of a middle-aged man for a too-young girl”. Eroticism, but with delicacy. Set in the USA.

LONDON: THE NOVEL

1998 *Rutherford, Edward* 1299 pp

A story that follows the River Thames to the heart of London, from Roman times through 16 centuries to the Victorian engineers of the Tower Bridge, and the Dockland developments of today. Historical fiction. **2-month loan.**

LONG LONG WAY (A)

• 2005 *Barry, Sebastian* 304 pp

The story of Willie Dunne, a young man who leaves his native Dublin in 1914 to join the Allies on the Western Front. Caught between the catastrophic violence he encounters there and the growing political tension at home over Irish independence, Willie finds himself confronting unbearable choices regarding family, patriotism, and the devotion he feels toward his regiment.

LOOKING THROUGH GLASS

1995 *Kesavan, Mukul* 375 pp

The account of a man who, on a long train journey from Delhi, suddenly finds himself in the year 1942, and slowly discovers the unreliability of history. A humorous novel.

LORD OF THE FLIES (THE)

1954 *Golding, William* 248 pp

Story of survivors of an air crash on a tropical island. Allows human nature to be observed with the descent into savagery of well brought-up schoolboys when society's rules are lost. UK.

LORD OF THE RINGS (THE)

1954-1956 *Tolkien, JRR* 527 pp

Trilogy: *The Fellowship of the Ring*; *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*. These are the classic fantasy adventures of our times; the struggle to overcome the forces of evil in a dangerous world. **2-month loan.**

LOVE

• 2003 *Morrison, Toni* 202 pp

Many women are obsessed with Bill Cosey, owner of the Cosey Hotel and Resort on the US East Coast. More than just being the owner, he shapes their yearnings for a father, husband, lover, guardian and friend. Even after his death, he dominates their lives. Author of *Beloved*, *Jazz*.

LOVE, AGAIN

1997 *Lessing, Doris* 340 pp

Sarah Duncan is a 60-year-old producer and founder of a leading fringe theatre. She commissions a play based on the journal of a beautiful, wayward, 19th-century mulatto woman. The play captivates all who come in contact with it, and changes the lives of those involved in it.

LOVE AND VERTIGO

2000 *Teo, Hsu-Ming* 300 pp

The story of Grace Tay, a young woman of Chinese descent, whose family came from Singapore. Grace has grown up in Sydney, but is drawn back to Singapore to explore her family's origins and the reason for her mother's suicide, while on holiday there. Evokes the life, traditions and tastes of a Chinese family.

LOVE IN A COLD CLIMATE

1949 *Mitford, Nancy* 437 pp

Also contains *The Pursuit Of Love*. "Delicious exposes of the English upper crust", (cover). Aristocratic England in full decadence. (Small print.)

LOVE OF A GOOD WOMAN (THE)

1998 *Munro, Alice* 340 pp

Munro's ninth collection of short fiction, set in western Canada. The subject matter is classic Munro: Secrets, love, betrayal, and the stuff of ordinary lives. But as is usual, the path she takes, is anything but ordinary. Author of *Lives Of Girls And Women*.

LOVERS' KNOTS

1993 *Halligan, Marion* 377 pp

A hundred-year family novel which focuses on particular lives at key points. A novel about ways of seeing, and means of living. Australian fiction.

MADAME BOVARY

1856 *Flaubert, Gustave* 274 pp

Describes the fall of Emma Bovary into adultery, debt and eventual death. Classic of World Literature.

MANFRED'S PAIN

1992 *Wilson, Robert McLiam* 197 pp

A gripping novel about a middle-aged man living with pain. A lesson in coping with loneliness and despair.

MANGO'S KISS (THE)

2003 *Wendt, Albert* 463 pp

Life in colonial Samoa in the 1880s is a time of change, as old structures and beliefs conflict with the modern, secular world. We follow Peleiupe, the daughter of a high-born and respected pastor, through the following 40 years of passion, struggles and tension, as her family is increasingly confronted by the modern world. Author of *The Best Of Albert Wendt's Short Stories, Sons For The Return Home*.

MAP OF LOVE (THE)

1999 *Soueif, Ahdaf* 529 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 1999. A century after one of her forebears married into an Egyptian family, Isabel Parkman returns to Egypt after falling in love with an Egyptian in New York. A story-within-a-story that explores inter-racial love, British colonial history, and the effects of imperialism in a third-world country.

MAP OF THE WORLD (A)

1994 *Hamilton, Jane* 415 pp

A harrowing tale about guilt, betrayal and the loss of innocence. Set on a dairy farm in a small mid-west town. US novel.

MARCH

• 2005 *Brooks, Geraldine* 346 pp

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 2006. Set during the American Civil War and using the journals and letters of Bronson Alcott, Louisa May Alcott's father. *March* tells the story of John March, the absent father in *Little Women*. In Brooks' telling, March is portrayed as an abolitionist and idealistic chaplain on the front lines of a war that tests his faith in himself, and in the Union cause. He learns that his side, too, is capable of barbarism and racism. Sick and discouraged, he returns to his little women who have grown strong in his absence.

MASTER (THE)

• 2004 *Tóibín, Colm* 359 pp

IMPAC Prize Winner, 2006. Tóibín turns a lifelong obsession with writer Henry James into a scrupulously researched and artfully rendered biographical novel. The narrator takes us inside the mind of James, focusing on his middle years around 1890 when he went from failure to renown. This book is a fictional study based on biographical materials and family accounts. Author of *Heather Blazing*, *Blackwater Lightship*.

MASTER AND MARGARITA (THE)

1967 *Bulgakov, Mikhail* 402 pp

Novel suppressed for 26 years in the former USSR. Parable, fable, "Faustian fiction". Sata visits Moscow accompanied by a nasty band of assistants and transforms thousands of lives.

MASTER BUTCHER'S SINGING CLUB (THE)

• 2003 *Erdich, Louise* 388 pp

When Fidelis Waldvogel, World War I veteran, returns from war, he finds and marries the pregnant lover of his best friend who was killed in action. Seeking to make a good life for Eva and her son, Fidelis journeys to the United States and settles down in Argus, North Dakota to the life of a butcher. Erdich's novel traces Fidelis's life with Eva and their four sons as it entangles with that of the charismatic Delphine Watzka in an exploration of love, loss, sacrifice, and strength. Author of *The Painted Drum*.

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

1997 *Golden, Arthur* 434 pp

The geisha, Sayuri, narrates the tale of her life; her origins as an orphaned fishing-village girl in 1929, the auction of her *mizuage* (virginity) as a teenager, and her reminiscent old age as distinguished mistress of the patron of her dreams. Golden captures a vivid, now-vanished world in Japanese culture.

MIDDLEMARCH

1872 *Eliot, George* 896 pp

Novel about Dorothea, a woman of intelligence, limited by a narrow society. English classic. **2-month loan.**

MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN

1961 *Rushdie, Salman* 462 pp

Winner of the Booker Prize, 1981. The novel is an epic of modern India and characters that were born at midnight on the day India became independent. **2-month loan.**

MISS GARNET'S ANGEL

2000 *Vickers, Salley* 342 pp

When Julia Garnet is touched by the spirit of the Archangel Raphael depicted in the paintings she discovers in a local Venetian church, her cautious life begins an unexpected transformation. "... like the shifting sea-light of Venice, nothing here is quite as it seems". (Cover.)

MOBY DICK

1851 *Melville, Herman* 480 pp

The classic American story of the white whale and the evil seaman.

MONTANA 1948

1995 *Watson, Larry* 175 pp

The events of one cataclysmic summer will forever alter 12-year-old David Hayden, son of the town's sheriff. The revelations of the family's Sioux housekeeper form the heart of the story. US.

MOON TIGER

1987 *Lively, Penelope* 207 pp

The main character, in recalling the events of her life, sees to which extent it is "the history of the world". English novel. Booker Prize Winner, 1987.

MORAL HAZARD

2002 *Jennings, Kate* 175 pp

Liberal feminist, Cath, is forced to take a job as a financial speechwriter for a conservative Wall Street firm to support her husband who is ill with Alzheimer's Disease. By day, she deals with the world of high finance; by night she must watch the disintegration of the man she loves.

MOTHER CAN YOU HEAR ME?

1979 *Forster, Margaret* 268 pp

The heroine has an elderly mother and a teenage daughter. Makes you discuss how to be a mother and how to be a daughter. UK novel.

MOTHER RUSSIA

1992 *Rubens, Bernice* 443 pp

Historical novel about love of many sorts set in Russia, from the turn of the 20th century, through the Tsarist regime and the Revolution.

MR DARWIN'S SHOOTER

2000 *MacDonald, Roger* 365 pp

A story based on the spiritual conflict that existed between Charles Darwin and his little-known field assistant (or shooter), Sym Covington. The discoveries on the voyage of the "Beagle" seriously test Covington's faith in creationism and his understanding of Biblical truth. Australian author.

MRS COOK

2002 *Day, Marele* 368 pp

Elizabeth Batts was married to Captain James Cook for fourteen years with only an estimated four of those years spent together. Day uses a mix of research and documents, poetic licence and imagination to suggest what Elizabeth's life might have been during James's voyages, and then following his death. Her life is one of courage, hardship and survival. Author of *Lambs Of God*.

MRS DALLOWAY

1925 *Woolf, Virginia* 198 pp

A summer's day in London and Clarissa Dalloway, fashionable and wealthy society hostess, prepares for a party. Woolf captures the inner world of Mrs Dalloway and of those whose lives are interwoven with hers, including that of shell-shocked WWI veteran, Septimus Smith. Author of *Orlando*.

MURDER AND WALKING SPIRITS

1991 *Davies, Robertson* 357 pp

Murdered by his wife's lover, Connor Gilmartin begins a fantastical journey into his past. Canadian entertainment, set partly in the afterlife.

MUSIC AND SILENCE

1999 *Tremain, Rose* 454 pp

Winner of Whitbread Novel Award, 1999. An English lutenist joins King Christian IV's royal orchestra in 1629. They constitute the finest musicians of Europe, but they must play in a cold, wine cellar where the music is piped up into the state rooms. Chronicles the illusions and delusions of this "colourful" household over the period of a year. Author of *Restoration*.

MUSIC PROGRAMME (THE)

1989 *Micou, Paul* 300 pp

The imminent arrival of a US Congressional envoy at the Music Programmes's Timbali HQ, results in hilarious events among the panic-stricken employees.

MY SON'S STORY

1981 *Gordimer, Nadine* 160 pp

An alienated South African teenager discovers that his father, a prominent black revolutionary, is involved with a white activist. Exploration of what the struggle for freedom does to people's private and public lives.

MY YEAR OF MEAT

1998 *Ozeki, Ruth L* 431 pp

Jane, a young documentary filmmaker, is involved in the production of a series, *My American Wife*, about red meat. The series is broadcast on Japanese television, and sponsored by a US lobby group looking for new markets. The novel deals with cross-pollination of people and values, toxicity in meat, synthetic oestrogens, camera angles, and issues to do with media perspectives and reliability. An exposé with humour.

NAMESAKE (THE)

• 2004 *Lahiri, Jhumpa* 291 pp

Gogol is named after his father's favourite author. But, growing up in an Indian family in suburban America, the boy starts to hate the awkward name and itches to cast it off, along with the inherited values it represents. Determined to live a life far removed from that of his parents, Gogol sets off on his own path, only to discover that the search for identity depends on much more than a name

NERVOUS CONDITIONS

1988 *Dangarembga, Tsitsi* 204 pp

Growing up in rural Zimbabwe, Tamba has an all-consuming desire for education. Provides an insight into the lives of indigenous people few of us know about, and the effects of colonisation on them.

NICE WORK

1989 *Lodge, David* 384 pp

UK novel, exploring the English class society of our days – and perhaps it is not limited to England? A humorous, satirical writer.

NIGHT LETTERS

1996 *Dessaix, Robert* 276 pp

An Australian man travels Switzerland and Italy after being diagnosed as HIV positive. His letters home to a friend reflect on questions of morality, seduction and the search for paradise. Fictional travel writing.

NO GREAT MISCHIEF

2001 *MacLeod, Alistair* 262 pp

Winner IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, 2001. Canadian writer MacLeod says: “In many ways [the book] is about the loss of a way of being.” A tale that frequently switches from the folkloric past of a Celtic immigrant family forced from the Scottish Highlands in 1779 to that of the present narrator, Alexander MacDonald, a Nova Scotia descendant.

NORTHANGER ABBEY

1818 *Austen, Jane* 252 pp

Portraying upper-class society in England of the 1800s, this novel is also a satire on the Gothic horror story popular at the time. UK.

ODD WOMAN (THE)

2001 *Godwin, Gail* 423 pp

Professor Jane Clifford is in her early thirties, an intelligent, and attractive woman. As a popular teacher at a mid-Western American college, her life would appear to be going somewhere. Her standby of looking to books for the answers to life’s conundrums, leads only to questions and wanting much more.

ODYSSEY (THE)

9th Century BC *Homer* 376 pp

Translated into English prose by TE Shaw. The metaphorical journey of Oysseus.

OLD FILTH

• 2004 *Gardam, Jane* 260 pp

Sir Edward Feathers known as Filth (an acronym for “Failed in London, Try Hong Kong”) is a retired international lawyer and judge. Recently widowed, he is left to contemplate his long marriage, the moral contradictions of his career, and the passionate hatred he harbours for his next-door neighbour. He keeps returning to the trauma of his childhood as a “Raj orphan”, one of the countless colonial children sent away from their parents to be educated back “home” in England.

OLD SCHOOL

• 2004 *Wolff, Tobias* 195 pp

Narrated by a scholarship student at a prestigious New England prep school in the early 1960s. The school has a tradition of inviting literary stars to judge a contest of senior pupils writing, the winner being granted a private audience with the literary star. The narrator is determined to meet Ernest Hemingway. In his fervent desire to be chosen, the narrator “borrows” an idea and reveals

a secret about his heritage that he has carefully hidden. He wins, but the results of the story's publication are disastrous and his life is changed forever.

OLIVER TWIST

1838 *Dickens, Charles* 414 pp

One of the great novels of social concern, depicting the world of poverty and crime in the workhouses of London. Colourful and entertaining.

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF IVAN DENISOVICH

1962 *Solzhenitsyn, Alexander* 143 pp

Reflects the author's experience in a labour camp in Stalinist Russia.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE

1967 *Márquez, Gabriel Garcia* 380 pp

Epic story of a South American family in a town built in the jungle. The author won the Nobel Prize in 1982.

ONE TRUE THING

1995 *Quindlen, Anna* 289 pp

Journalist Ellen Gulden is accused of the mercy killing of her terminally ill mother for whom she has been caring. Poignant and revealing portrait of family life. American novel.

OPIUM CLERK (THE)

2001 *Basu, Kunal* 313 pp

This novel spans two generations and several decades at the end of the late 19th century, and traces the opium trade from the fields of India to the smoky dens of the Chinese treaty ports. Hiran, a high-caste Indian who breaks with Brahmin tradition to become a clerk in a British auction house trading in opium, finds himself an unwitting pawn in the British struggle with the Chinese for control of the opium trade.

ORACLE NIGHT

• 2004 *Auster, Paul* 207 pp

While recovering from a near-fatal illness, writer Sidney Orr purchases a blue notebook from a neighbourhood stationery shop. He feels compelled to write about a man who walks away from his comfortable, staid life after a brush with death. Parallel tales of his wife, a famous writer and family friend, and his drug-addicted son, as well as a World War II veteran, Ed Victory, preoccupy and divert the reader, creating a multilayered dreamlike quality.

ORCHARD (THE)

1995 *Modjeska, Drusilla* 268 pp

The stories of four women at different ages, and their self-analysis. Raises important questions about the relationship between writing and experience. Australia

ORLANDO

1928 *Woolf, Virginia* 206 pp

The hero lives through four centuries and many disguises. The story "stands history on its head". Readers would benefit from reading *Portrait Of A Marriage* for background on the Bloomsbury group of which Woolf was a member.

ORYX AND CRAKE

2003 *Atwood, Margaret* 436 pp

Earth has been left devastated by an ecological and scientific disaster, leaving in its wake a nightmarish world. The narrator, who calls himself Snowman, takes a journey back into his own past and back to the high-tech bubble dome, where the Paradise Project unfolded and the world came to grief. How did everything fall apart so quickly? Author of *A Handmaid's Tale*, *Alias Grace*, *Blind Assassin*.

OUR FATHER

1987 *Rubens, Bernice* 212 pp

UK novel of Veronica Smiles and her meetings with God. Serious and wickedly funny with a touch of black humour.

OUT OF MIND

1984 *Bernlef, J* 129 pp

Novel translated from the Dutch. An ageing man writes movingly of his descent into senility. The Journal *Mind's* Book of the Year Award.

PADDY CLARKE HA HA HA

1991 *Doyle, Roddy* 282 pp

Booker Prize, 1993. An Irish boy's view of what it is like to be in a family that is falling apart. Set in the 1960s. Funny, as well as sad.

PAINTED DRUM (THE)

• 2005 *Erdrich, Louise* 277 pp

Native American antiquities specialist, Faye Travers, stumbles onto a ceremonial drum when she handles the estate of John Jewett Tatro, whose grandfather was an agent at the Ojibwe reservation. Under the drum's spell, she secrets it away and eventually repatriates it to that reservation on the northern plains – the home of her grandmother. Weaving many threads, Erdrich details the multigenerational history surrounding the drum.

PAINTER (THE)

2003 *Davenport, Will* 410 pp

Parallel stories of frustrated passion. In 1662, Rembrandt accidentally stows away on a ship to Hull. To pay for his passage, he must paint a portrait of the captain and his beautiful wife, Amelia. In contemporary times, Amy Dale, an aspiring painter, discovers their secrets in a journal written by her ancestor, Amelia, and she, too, finds herself falling in love.

PALACE WALK

1956 *Mahfouz, Naguib* 498 pp

First volume of the Cairo trilogy, and a sweeping family saga crossing three generations. Opens during the First World War and tells of Ahmad, a prosperous shopkeeper, his wife, Amina, and the sleazier side of Cairo. Translated from Arabic.

PASSAGE TO INDIA (A)

1924 *Forster, EM* 317 pp

Described as one of the best written novels in English in the 20th century. An early insight into difficult race relations.

PEPPERED MOTH (THE)

2000 *Drabble, Margaret* 392 pp

An account of four generations of a family that has its 19th-century roots in a South Yorkshire

mining town. Through adaptation, the image of the ever-darkening peppered moth reflects both Bessie Bawtry and her granddaughter's varying abilities to adapt to their own circumstances. Author of *The Radiant Way*, *The Waterfall*, *The Witch Of Exmoor*.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S WIFE (THE)

2000 *Sole, Robert* 320 pp

In 1891, during an annual family photograph on the beach at Alexandria, Cairo, a fledgling photographer, Milo Touta, meets and falls in love with a painter, Dora Sawaya. His business flourishes with Dora developing flair as a portraitist, much to her husband's chagrin. Packed with period detail of turn-of-the-century Egyptian society. Translated.

PIANO MAN'S DAUGHTER (THE)

1995 *Findlay, Timothy* 490 pp

In 1939, a young piano tuner, Charlie Kilworth, pieces together the story of his mad, mercurial mother, Lily Kilworth, who carried a wicker suitcase everywhere she went. Charlie ponders whether he dares become a father himself given his background. Canada.

PICKUP (THE)

2002 *Gordimer, Nadine* 270 pp

Winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2002 for Africa. About a casual encounter between a wealthy girl and an educated, but poor Arab man in a garage in Cape Town. When the friendship turns into love, unimagined consequences are set into motion. Author of *My Son's Story*.

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

1967 *Lindsay, Joan* 213 pp

An Australian "more-than-a-mystery" story of a girls' school outing which ended in tragedy. Light reading.

PILGRIM

1999 *Findley, Timothy* 486 pp

Pilgrim is an enigmatic man who claims that he cannot die, and is tired of being "captive to the human condition". A suicide attempt fails, and in 1912 he undergoes treatment in a Zürich clinic. And so begins a battle of wills with his psychiatrist, Carl Jung. Author of *The Piano's Man's Daughter*.

PLAGUE (THE)

1947 *Camus, Arthur* 272 pp

Based on existentialist philosophy, this novel, set in Algeria, studies people's reactions to isolation during a plague.

POISONWOOD BIBLE (THE)

1999 *Kingsolver, Barbara* 614 pp

Kingsolver waited 30 years to write this book, having experienced the Belgian Congo as a child. In 1959, Baptist missionary, Nathan Price, sets off for the Congo with his wife, four daughters, and Betty Crocker cake mixes. They are woefully unprepared for the isolation, climate, and political upheaval as the Congolese seek independence from Belgium

PORTRAIT OF A LADY (A)

1881 *James, Henry* 648 pp

A 19th-century exploration of what freedom can mean for a young woman. An American novel,

set in England. **2-month loan.**

POSSESSING THE SECRET OF JOY

1992 Walker, Alice 270 pp

A novel that attacks the practice of female genital mutilation and the mythologies various cultures use to sustain this practice. Tashi (a character from *The Color Purple*) chooses to have a clitorrectomy, the only remaining definitive stamp of Olinki tradition. On realising the full implications, Tashi's drastic reaction ultimately frees her.

POSSESSION

1990 Byatt, AS 511 pp

Booker Prize Winner, 1990. UK. Intricate, moving and poetic story which is a critique of Victorian poetry and a satire on the modern biography industry. It is also about love. **2-month loan.**

POSTCARDS

1992 Proulx, E Annie 339 pp

Story of Loyal Blood who spends a lifetime on the run from a crime. His only contact with his past is through a series of postcards he sends home at irregular intervals.

POSTMORTEM

1990 Cornwell, Patricia 404 pp

Thriller in which Dr Kay Scarpetta, chief medical examiner in Virginia, tracks down a serial killer of women. Best First Crime Novel of the Year Award.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

1813 Austen, Jane 327 pp

Her best known novel. The novel relates the story of the Bennett family, and contains many examples of Austen's wisdom and sharp observation.

PROMISE (THE)

1969 Potok, Chaim 349 pp

This sequel to *The Chosen* continues Potok's recurrent theme of issues that still divide Judaism. Narrator Rueven Malter, a young man studying to be a rabbi, must decide where he stands with his father, his friend, Abraham Gordon, a writer of books on how to be a religious Jew and an atheist, and his uncompromising Talmud teacher, Rav Kalman.

PROPERTY OF RAIN (THE)

2001 Lambert, Angela 348 pp

This grippingly plotted novel examines the historical conflicts that led Britain to lose its empire. In 1921, two children are born thousands of miles apart: Sam Savage, the son of a farm worker in a seemingly idyllic English village, and in Northwest India, Lakshmi, fourth daughter of an Untouchable road sweeper. At fifteen years of age, their lives become inextricably intertwined.

PURPLE HIBISCUS

• 2003 Adichie, Chimamenda Ngozi 307 pp

Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Best First Book. Kambili Achike is a 15-year-old Nigerian girl growing up in sheltered privilege in a country ravaged by political strife and personal struggle. Respected, and generous with his money, her fanatically religious father is nevertheless cruel when his wife and children don't live up to his expectations. When Kambili and her older brother visit their aunt, family secrets and tensions bubble to the surface, setting in motion a chain of

events that allows Kambili to slowly blossom as she begins to question the authority of the adults she once held sacred.

QUARANTINE

1997 *Crace, Jim* 243 pp

Whitbread Novel, 1997. A fictional recreation of Christ's forty days in the wilderness, about 2000 years ago. The interrelations of the desert dwellers living amongst the caves in "quarantine", reveals a story of spiritual quest and human failing.

QUEEN OF THE TAMBOURINE (THE)

1991 *Gardam, Jane* 227 pp

Whitbread Best Novel of the Year, 1991. Told mainly through letters, this black comedy describes Eliza Peabody's gradual decline into an unreal world. Explores relationships and "all kinds of love". Sad and funny.

QUIET AMERICAN (THE)

1955 *Greene, Graham* 212 pp

One of Greene's lighter novels. Set in Vietnam in the 1950s.

READER (THE)

1997 *Schlink, Bernhard* 216 pp

A pared-down, moral mystery that begins in post-war Berlin. The teenage Berg has an affair with an older woman, Hanna, whom he feels he betrays. Later, as a law student, he sits in on a trial in which Hanna is a principal defendant. They communicate during her imprisonment where he discovers another of her secrets. Translated from German.

READING IN THE DARK

1996 *Deane, Seamus* 233 pp

Irish Literature Prize, 1997. An unnamed narrator looks back on his childhood and adolescence in the 1940s and 1950s in the Bogside neighbourhood of Derry. Fragments of his family's tortured history are pieced together by a son who refuses to adhere to the family's unspoken pact of silence.

RECTOR'S WIFE (THE)

1991 *Trollope, Joanna* 284 pp

Light novel. Portrayal of the petty frustrations of clerical life and the rebellion of Anna Bouverie. UK.

REGENERATION TRILOGY

i REGENERATION

1991 *Barker, Pat* 252 pp

First book in the *Regeneration* trilogy. Vivid evocation of the agony of World War I. Challenges assumptions about the relationship between doctors and patients.

ii EYE IN THE DOOR (THE)

1993 *Barker, Pat* 277 pp

Second book in the *Regeneration* trilogy. The story moves from Scotland to England at the close of WWI. Billy Prior, recently discharged from Craiglockhart War Hospital, enters the Intelligence Unit, Ministry of Munitions. Decline of morality on the home front and the shift in perspective about the war, are the focus of this novel.

iii GHOST ROAD (THE)

1995 *Barker, Pat* 276 pp

Booker Prize Winner, 1995. Third and final book in the *Regeneration* trilogy. The story continues with WWI as backdrop. Two men relate the slaughter of the war: One returning to the front after shell shock, and the other psychologist, William Rivers.

RESTORATION

1989 *Tremain, Rose* 382 pp

Set in the England of Charles II. Award-winning blend of “history and imagination”. Robert Merivel, having abandoned his medical studies to revel in gluttony, indolence and buffoonery at Charles II’s court, seeks his spiritual and social restoration. UK.

RIDERS (THE)

1994 *Winton, Tim* 377 pp

Australian novel in which the main character travels Europe in search of his wife who has inexplicably vanished.

ROOM WITH A VIEW (A)

1908 *Forster, EM* 256 pp

A classic tale of romantic intrigue. A charming young English woman, Lucy Honeychurch, finds her “undeveloped heart is awakened by her experiences in Italy, and by her encounter with the unconventional George Emerson”, (book blurb). Author of *A Passage To India*.

ROSE TREE (THE)

1992 *Keane, Mary Walkin* 244 pp

This partly autobiographical novel by an Irish writer living in Canada, tells of a Dublin schoolteacher recalling her childhood and adolescence in a small town in the west of Ireland.

SACRED ART OF STEALING (THE)

• 2002 *Brookmyre, Christopher* 410 pp

The Sacred Art Of Stealing is a satirical crime novel. The plot centres around the relationships between a likeable thief, Zal Innez, and Angelique d’Xavia, the Asian-Scottish detective whose job it is to catch him. The crime is a bank robbery, and the thieves are smart. Typical Brookmyre black humour and frequent use of strong language, as well as hilarious observations and remarks.

SACRED HUNGER

1994 *Unsworth, Barry* 627 pp

Booker Prize Co-winner, 1994. Suspenseful period piece that follows the failing fortunes of William Kemp, a merchant pinning his last chance to a slave ship. The voyage of the “Liverpool Merchant” is thwarted by disease and mutiny. Those left on board, sail for the wilderness of Florida to set up a secret, Utopian society. A meditation on how avarice dehumanises the oppressor, as well as the oppressed.

SATURDAY

• 2006 *McEwan, Ian* 304 pp

Saturday, February 15, 2003. Henry Perowne a successful neurosurgeon, happily married with two grown-up children, wakes up before dawn. Drawn to the window of his bedroom, he is filled with a growing unease. On his way to his usual squash game, and trying to avoid the hundreds of thousands of war protestors filling the streets of Londo, he has a minor car accident which brings him into a confrontation with Baxter, a small-time thug – an encounter that has savage consequences. Author of *Atonement, Amsterdam*.

SCHINDLER'S LIST

1982 *Keneally, Thomas* 429 pp

First titled, *Schindler's Ark*, Booker Prize Winner, 1982. Recreates the story of Oskar Schindler, a flamboyant German industrialist, who risked his life to protect Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland.

SEA (THE)

• 2005 *Banville, John* 264 pp

Man Booker Prize, 2006. After his wife's recent death, Max Morden travels back to the seaside town where he lived as a child, retreating from the grief, anger and numbness of his life without her. There, he relives the childhood summer when he met the Graces, a well-heeled vacationing family who took him in and unwittingly introduced him to a world of feeling he'd never experienced before. Interwoven with this story, are his memories of his past, his wife, her long decline into illness, and of moments, both significant and mundane, of his present life.

SHADOWS ON THE GRASS (THE)

1960 *Dinesen, Isak (Karen Blixen)* 1127 pp

Autobiographical novel about the lives of the Kikuyu people on the farm of Danish Baroness Blixen. An extension of *Out Of Africa*.

SHE MAY NOT LEAVE

• 2005 *Weldon, Fay* 284 pp

Hattie, a literary-rights agent, and journalist Martyn are partners. They hire Polish *au pair* for their daughter, Kitty. Agnieszka produces unprecedented order in their household, allowing Hattie to return to work and the couple to enjoy real food and sex once in a while. However, Hattie's grandmother, Frances, who narrates, suspects Agnieszka isn't quite what she seems. Can they afford to let her go?

SHIPPING NEWS (THE)

1993 *Proulx, E Annie* 337 pp

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 1994. After his wife's death, Quayle heads with his two daughters for his ancestors' homeland, the remotest part of Newfoundland.

SHORT HISTORY OF A PRINCE (THE)

1998 *Hamilton, Jane* 432 pp

The summer of 1972 in Illinois, is a turning point for adolescent Walter. He is obsessed with ballet, literature, and classical music; aware also of his homosexuality and the urge to hide it. Two decades later, he discovers a way to reconcile himself to the past. Author of *A Map Of The World*.

SHRIMP AND THE ANEMONE (THE)

1944 *Hartley, LP* 190 pp

A summer in the lives of Eustace and Hilda, brother and sister. Deep perception of human relationships. Autobiographical novel. First book in a trilogy. UK.

SIDDHARTHA

1922 *Hesse, Herman* 119 pp

A lyrical novel about a young Indian's search for truth among Eastern religions and other wisdom. Translated from German.

SIDMOUTH LETTERS (THE)

1980 *Gardam, Jane* 148 pp

Rich variety of short stories, written with sharp observations of human behaviour. Bizarre and full of humour.

SILAS MARNER

1861 *Eliot, George* 190 pp

Once in her childhood, George Eliot saw a linen weaver. Years later, she built this “legendary tale” on the memory. About a lonely man whose life is transformed by someone else’s child who becomes his own.

SILENCE

1969 *Endo, Shusaku* 306 pp

Novel translated from Japanese. Endo writes of conflict between Catholic Christianity and the “Japanese blood”.

SIMISOLA

1994 *Rendell, Ruth* 323 pp

Detective novel in which Inspector Wexford solves a case set against a background of rising unemployment and social change.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE 5

1970 *Vonnegut, Kurt* 143 pp

A book based on Vonnegut’s wartime experience. This is science fiction with a message and humour. US.

SMALL ISLAND

• 2004 *Levy, Andrea* 534 pp

Commonwealth Writers’ Prize, Best Book; Orange and Whitbread Prize Winner that focuses on an immigrant Jamaican couple and an English couple in post-war Britain. Gilbert and Hortense rent a room in a house owned by Queenie and the absent Bernard, and confront the growing prejudice towards coloured immigrants on the part of many “Mother Country” residents. A comedy of errors occurs when Bernard, presumed dead, returns to find “Coloureds” in his home, and his wife producing a baby which is certainly not his. Author of *Fruit Of The Lemon*.

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS

1994 *Guterson, David* 345 pp

Canadian novel set in 1954 about the trial of a Japanese-American fisherman for murder and the treatment of Japanese Americans in World War II.

SNOWLEG

• 2005 *Shakespeare, Nicholas* 387 pp

When Peter Hithersay discovers that his father is not the Englishman his mother married, but an East German political dissident with whom she had a brief affair in the sixties, he abandons Winchester for Leipzig in search of his past. There, he meets a young woman and falls in love. Their romance ends when his scheme to smuggle her out of the country goes awry and he returns to England. Nineteen years later, when the two Germanys are reunited, Peter goes back to look for the woman he has never stopped loving.

SOMETHING LIKE A HOUSE

2001 *Smith, Sid* 227 pp

Whitbread First Novel Award, 2001. Jim Fraser, a young British private, deserts from his regiment at the end of the Korean War. He finds himself very sick in a Southern China clinic where he is held captive and then given as a “slave” to Tao, a member of the ancient tribe of Miao. He adopts their way of life, and after nearly 35 years, learns the truth about the part the clinic plays in the life of the village.

SONGLINES (THE)

1987 *Chatwin, Bruce* 293 pp

Australian Aboriginal topic. The book asks universal questions about restless, wandering people.

SONGS OF THE KINGS (THE)

• 2001 *Unsworth, Barry* 245 pp

A measured, but compelling tale sourced from the writings of Euripides and Homer. *En route* to Troy, King Agamemnon’s fleet becomes stranded by an unfavourable wind. The King’s advisors convince him that the sacrifice of his daughter, Iphigeneia, priestess of Artemis, is the only way to appease the gods. Meanwhile, the blind singer’s ability to construct events through song, is targeted as an ideal vehicle to manipulate the emotions of the troops. Unmistakeable resonances with modern media and political machinations. Author of *Sacred Hunger*.

SONS AND LOVERS

1913 *Lawrence, DH* 511 pp

A fine novel of the author’s early period. The hero has to struggle against his mother’s domineering love.

SOPHIE’S WORLD

1991 *Gaarder, Jostein* 427 pp

A series of letters written to 14-year-old Sophie, opens her mind to the fundamental questions about existence that philosophers have been asking since the dawn of civilisation. Lucid introduction to philosophy. **2-month loan.**

SPARROW (THE)

1997 *Russell, Mary Doria* 502 pp

Arthur C Clarke Award, 1998. The first of two books about an ambitious Jesuit mission to the distant world of Rakhat in 2059. Father Emilio Sandoz returns to Earth 40 years later with his faith completely shattered. Although the society they experience is alien, it is the human issues – faith, love and the role of God in human affairs – that drive the story.

SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD (THE)

1963 *Le Carré, John* 240 pp

One of the best known spy novels. Let this be your first one. Stark drama. UK.

ST AGNES’ STAND

1994 *Eidson, Thomas* 201 pp

An injured outlaw – heading for freedom in California – stumbles across the trapped survivors of an Apache ambush: Three nuns and seven orphaned children. Sister St Agnes, a resourceful woman, is convinced that Nat Swanson is sent by God to rescue them. An electric sense of atmosphere, with surprises. Set in the mid-19th century.

STONE CARVERS (THE)

2002 *Urquhart, Jane* 392 pp

When Pater Archangel Gstir establishes a congregation in the wilds of Ontario during the mid-19th century, he becomes obsessed with the building of an immense church. Joseph Becker is commissioned to carve the crucifix and the Virgin and Child. At the outbreak of the war in 1914, his granddaughter, Klara, carries on the family traditions of carving and tailoring. When she is left bereaved, she retreats into memory and is moved only by her construction of a great monument to those lost.

STONES FROM THE RIVER

1994 *Hegi, Ursula* 525 pp

Trudi Montag is a *Zwerg* or dwarf, living in a small German town spanning the period 1915-1952. She learns that being different is a secret that all humans share. A novel about ordinary people living in extraordinary times.

STORY OF LUCY GAULT (THE)

2003 *Trevor, William* 228 pp

It is a time of social upheaval in 1920s Ireland when Lucy Gault's family are forced to leave their big house in rural Cork. Lucy hatches a plan to try and intervene in the hope that her parents will be forced to stay. Encapsulating the emotions of a child, Trevor reveals the aftermath of a calamity that blights the lives of the Gaults for years to come. Author of *Death In Summer*.

STRANGE MEETING

1971 *Hill, Susan* 179 pp

A strong friendship develops between two soldiers between battles. Critics were intrigued at the author being female.

SUMMER BEFORE THE DARK (THE)

1973 *Lessing, Doris* 234 pp

A mother of grown-up children searches for self definition. Easier to read than *The Golden Notebook*. UK fiction.

SUNRISING

1984 *Cook, David* 247 pp

Rural uprisings and the urban underworld of 1830s England, set the scene for this story of the survival of the good.

TEMPLES OF DELIGHT

1990 *Trapido, Barbara* 361 pp

"A baroque romance of untimely deaths, orphan babies, stolen novels, canny nuns, and dark forceful lovers", (cover).

TENDER IS THE NIGHT

1934 *Fitzgerald, F Scott* 326 pp

Continuing the portrait of society begun in *The Great Gatsby*. This novel has different characters and can be read separately. It tells of the dissolution that often follows the bohemian life. US.

THEORY OF WAR

1994 *Brady, Joan* 208 pp

Story of Jonathon Carrick, sold into white slavery as a child in post-Civil War America, and his desire for revenge on the family who enslaved him. Also a vivid account of life in the primitive west. Whitbread Book of the Year, 1993

THINGS FALL APART

1958 *Achebe, Chinua* 187 pp

A classic of African writing in modern time. The arrival of Europeans to an Ibo area.

THINKS

2001 *Lodge, David* 352 pp

A satirical look at academic life and the sparring of two characters that are philosophically poles apart. Ralph Messenger is a cognitive scientist, an international academic star, and philanderer. Helen Reed is a novelist, newly appointed to teach creative writing at the same university, and recently widowed. Their relationship is the catalyst for both comedy and social commentary.

Author of *Nice Work*.

THOUSAND ACRES (A)

1991 *Smiley, Jane* 371 pp

Smiley transposes the King Lear story to the modern day in this tale of a farmer who decides to retire and hand over the farm to his three daughters. Winner of the Pulitzer Fiction Prize, 1991.

THREAD OF GRACE (A)

• 2005 *Russell, Mary Doria* 430 pp

In 1943, Claudette Blum and her father are among thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing over the Alps towards Italy to find safety. Although the Italians have split with Hitler, the Nazis seize control and the country becomes a battleground. Using oral and written histories, Russell tells the little-known story of those who sought refuge in Italy during the final phase of World War II, and of those who risked all to help them. Author of *The Sparrow*.

TIGER IN THE TIGER PIT (THE)

1983 *Hospital, Janet Turner* 256 pp

Several generations of a family seen through the eyes of each member. Australian novel.

TIME TRAVELLER'S WIFE (THE)

• 2004 *Niffenegger, Audrey* 518 pp

This extraordinary, magical novel is the story of Clare and Henry who have known each other since Clare was six and Henry thirty-six, and were married when Clare was twenty-two and Henry thirty. Impossible but true, because Henry is one of the first people diagnosed with Chrono-Displacement Disorder. Periodically, his genetic clock resets and he finds himself pulled suddenly into his past or future. The couple's struggle to lead normal lives in the face of a force they can neither prevent nor control, is moving and unforgettable.

TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD

1960 *Lee, Harper* 290 pp

The lawyer's story as told by his daughter, portrays the best and worst of life in the US South during the Depression. It tells of Atticus' attempt to defend a black man accused of rape.

TO THE LAST CITY

2003 *Thubron, Colin* 168 pp

A group of five Europeans travel deep into the Peruvian Andes in search of the lost Inca civilisation's ruins and one city in particular – Vilcabamban – the last city where the Incans tried to subsist, free of the Spanish Conquistadores. As they travel, façades are stripped away to reveal their true intentions. Author of *In Siberia*.

TREE OF MAN (THE)

1959 *White, Patrick* 479 pp

Novel about ordinary individuals and their hidden visions. Set against background of Australian rural landscapes.

TRUE HISTORY OF THE KELLY GANG

2001 *Carey, Peter* 401 pp

Booker Prize Winner, 2001. Ned Kelly, the legendary Australian bush outlaw, headed a gang whose mythic two years on the run ended in a shootout with the police at a pub in Glenrowan, June 1880. Being the only survivor, he was tried and hanged, aged 26 years. Kelly narrates his own "history", driven, as he claims, to becoming an outlaw because of the harassment of both him and his family by corrupt police.

TULIP FEVER

1999 *Moggach, Deborah* 259 pp

The rich texture of 17th-century Amsterdam – the golden age of painting, religious toleration, and feverish tulip speculation – offers a backdrop to the drama of a doomed love triangle. Colour plates of Dutch paintings are an added feature.

TURN OF THE SCREW (THE)

1898 *James, Henry* 296 pp

A psychological novel and a ghost story in which the spirits of children reappear to haunt a governess. Or do they?

TWILIGHT

1987 *Wiesel, Elie* 217 pp

Translated from French. The author, a survivor of a concentration camp, is a leading humanitarian. An attempt to understand Jewishness in our time.

UNDERGROUND MAN (THE)

1997 *Jackson, Mick* 266 pp

Booker shortlist, 1997. The fifth Duke of Portland is a Victorian misfit, who spends his time and wealth creating a network of tunnels beneath his Nottinghamshire estate. As he withdraws from society, he falls prey to his lonely self-absorption and the mercy of his household staff. The Duke's piecing together of the truth about his past, builds to an intense and powerful conclusion.

UNLESS

2002 *Shields, Carol* 213 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 2002. Reta Winters has a loving family, good friends, and growing success as a writer of light fiction. But her world is changed when her 19-year-old daughter abandons university to sit on a Toronto street corner with a begging bowl. An often funny meditation on society. Author of *The Box Garden*, *Larry's Party*.

VERNON GOD LITTLE

• 2003 *Pierre, DBC* 288 pp

Teenager Vernon Gregory Little narrates the story of his life after the Columbine-style slaughter of a group of students at his high school. When Vernon finds himself blamed for the killings, his small Texas town is blanketed under a media siege. Contains an absurd mix of all that's wrong in American (Western) society. Man Booker Prize Winner and Whitbread Best First Novel Award.

VOYAGE OF THE NARWHAL

1999 *Barrett, Andrea* 397 pp

In 1855, Zeke Voorhees, commander of the sailing ship, “Narwhal”, sets off from Massachusetts in search of a missing British explorer, and to discover the link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. A strange and rare sea story that reimagines other great polar expeditions.

WAITING

1999 *Jin, Ha* 308 pp

Pen/Faulkner Award Winner, 2000. Lin Kong, a Chinese army doctor, returns to Goose Village every summer to seek a divorce from his humble, loyal wife. He wishes to marry his love, Manna Wu. According to army regulations, he must have his wife’s consent, and then can only be free after 18 years have passed. A novel of love, politics and truths about the human heart.

WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS

1980 *Coetzee, JM* 156 pp

Booker Prize Winner, 1983. This novel is unanimously praised by critics for its portrayal of cruelty and courage. For decades, the magistrate has run the affairs of a tiny frontier settlement, ignoring impending war between the barbarians and the Empire. A series of events jolts him into sympathy with the victims.

WALLED GARDEN (THE)

2000 *Dunne, Catherine* 309 pp

The story of a woman who reconciles herself with her past at the time of her mother’s death. Set in the Dublin suburbs, it depicts the mother-daughter relationship, while painting an atmospheric picture of Irish life from the 1950s to the present. Tender, but unsentimental.

WATERFALL (THE)

1989 *Drabble, Margaret* 250 pp

Psychological novel in which love transforms the world. Set in modern England.

WE WERE THE MULVANEYS

2001 *Oates, Joyce Carol* 453 pp

The chronicle of one family’s heyday and fall from grace. Told primarily from the perspective of Judd, the youngest, we learn of 16-year-old Marianne’s date rape, and its devastating effects on the family and their ties with the upstate New York community in which they live.

WHEN I LIVED IN MODERN TIMES

2000 *Grant, Linda* 260 pp

Winner Orange Prize for Fiction, 2000. In 1946, Evelyn Sert, a young hairdresser from Soho, arrives in the Bauhaus city of Tel Aviv. Like many others in search of a new Jewish identity, she experiences a city teeming with idealists and refugees. She changes her name to “Priscilla Jones”, and is soon drawn into a world of shifting identities, lies and secrets.

WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS

2000 *Ishiguro, Kazuo* 368 pp

Shortlisted Booker Prize, 2000. Chris Banks has dedicated his life to detective work, but behind his successes lies one unsolved mystery: The disappearance of his parents when he was a small boy living in the International Settlement in Shanghai. The story moves between England and China in the inter-war period. A deliberate antithesis to classic English detective fiction. Author of *An Artist Of The Floating World*.

WHERE WE ONCE BELONGED

1996 *Figiel, Sia* 236 pp

A first book by this Samoan author who uses the traditional storytelling form of *suifefiloi* to write of 13-year-old Alofa Filiga's learning to come to terms with violence, womanhood and her own personal search for identity.

WHITE TEETH

2000 *Smith, Zadie* 462 pp

Whitbread Best First Novel, 2000. A comic epic that tells of three families: One Indian, one white, one mixed, in North London and Oxford, from WWII to the present day. Captures the angst of life in an alien culture.

WIDE SARGASSO SEA

• 1966 *Rhys, Jean* 151 pp

Born into an oppressive, colonialist society, Creole heiress, Antoinette Cosway, meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent sensuality and beauty. After their marriage, the rumours begin, poisoning her husband against her. Caught between his demands and her own precarious sense of belonging, Antoinette is driven towards madness.

WISE CHILDREN

1991 *Carter, Angela* 232 pp

English novel. The twin narrators were dancing girls and lived their lives in the light theatre world.

WITCH OF EXMOOR (THE)

1996 *Drabble, Margaret* 276 pp

The orderly lives of Frieda Haxby's siblings are upset by her bizarre and self-absorbed lifestyle. When she disappears, "the descent into chaos is swift". Drabble investigates the intricacies of family warfare.

WITH NO ONE AS WITNESS

• 2005 *George, Elizabeth* 664 pp

The police never suspected a serial killer, until they found the fourth murdered boy – the first white victim – his body draped over a tomb in a London graveyard. Suddenly, a series of crimes and a potential public relations disaster have Scotland Yard on the defensive, scrambling to apprehend a maniac while avoiding accusations of racism. Detective Superintendent Thomas Lynley has been assigned to the investigation, along with his disgraced partner, Barbara Havers, who's fighting for her professional future.

WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS (THE)

1996 *Doyle, Roddy* 225 pp

Author of *Paddy Clarke Ha,Ha,Ha*, shows the inner life of a battered Dublin wife and mother. Her courage and self-knowledge win through a violent marriage. Content and language may disturb.

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

1847 *Brontë, Emily* 373 pp

English classic with plenty of dramatic action. Story of three generations of two contrasting families, the Earnshaws and the Lintons, and of the passionate love of Catherine and Heathcliff.

YEAR'S MIDNIGHT (THE)

1995 *Benzie, Alex* 572 pp

A Scottish novel in which a watchmaker attempts to repair a clock damaged a century earlier after an unjust hanging – thus releasing a tidal wave of hypocrisy and hostility. **2-month loan.**

YOU SHALL KNOW OUR VELOCITY

2002 *Eggers, David* 350 pp

To help cope with their overwhelming grief at a friend's death, two young Americans travel the world trying to give away money to those in need. However, nothing is as it seems, and the result is a moving and very funny novel. (Included is an additional insert written by the author in 2003.)

Fiction – By NZ Authors

BETWEEN FRIENDS

1994 *Burgess, Linda* 178 pp

Humorous, ironic tale of two friends and their families as they live out their lives in New Zealand through the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

BILLIE'S KISS

2002 *Knox, Elizabeth* 319 pp

In 1903, the "Gustav Edda", bound for the island of Kissock and Skilling off the coast of Scotland, suffers a violent explosion. Young Billie Paxton survives after she jumps off the ship before the tragedy, but comes under suspicion of a fellow-passenger, Murdo Hesketh, and Lord Hallowhulme, the colonist owner of the island. Author of *The Vintner's Luck*.

BLACKBALL '08

1984 *Beardsley, Eric* 245 pp

Novel about the miners' strike in a small New Zealand West Coast town.

BLINDSIGHT

• 2005 *Gee, Maurice* 192 pp

Winner Montana NZ Book Awards Deutz Medal for Fiction, 2006. Narrated by Alice, as an old woman looking back over the mistakes and tragedy of her family history. At the heart of the story lies the relationship between Alice and her brother, Gordon, and the mystery behind their estrangement. For more than thirty years, they do not meet. Then a young man appears at Alice's door, claiming a relationship she never knew she had. Author of *Crime Story* and *In My Father's Den*.

BONE PEOPLE (THE)

1984 *Hulme, Keri* 445 pp

A provocative and poetic novel set in a remote South Island beach community where three lone characters, one being a mute child, are brought together by mutual need. Powerful forces act to separate and unify them. Bound in Maori mythology and Christian symbolism. Booker Prize Winner, 1985.

BOOK BOOK

• 2004 *Farrell, Fiona* 367 pp

Kate filters the world through her reading and sets off from her Otago home on a challenging, eye-opening OE. Books have always shaped her life and made sense of her world. Through a mix of memoir and fiction, Farrell writes of life from *The Little Red Hen* to *Owls Do Cry*, from TS Eliot to Aphra Behn. Author of *The Hopeful Traveller*, *Six Clever Girls Who Became Famous Women*.

BOOK OF SECRETS (THE)

1987 *Kidman, Fiona* 274 pp

The story of a woman whose “secrets” run contrary to the prevailing codes in a community of Scottish settlers in New Zealand. NZ Book Award, 1988.

BREED OF WOMEN (A)

1977 *Kidman, Fiona* 345 pp

Partly autobiographical novel about country and city New Zealanders.

BULIBASHA

1994 *Ihimaera, Witi* 291 pp

Story of two Maori families who clash constantly – in sport, in cultural contests, and finally in the Golden Fleece Shearing Contest.

CAPTIVE WIFE (THE)

• 2005 *Kidman, Fiona* 367 pp

Runner-up Deutz Medal Montana NZ Book Awards, 2006. This fictionalised account is based on the true story of Betty Guard and her two children who, returning from Sydney to the whaling station on Arapawa Island in the early 1830s, were captured by Ngati Ruanui and held for ransom. After her violent rescue and reunification with her husband, Betty’s life among the tribe is held under scrutiny. *The Captive Wife* reflects the social and sexual politics of early New Zealand.

COUSINS

1992 *Grace, Patricia* 256 pp

Novel about three women, about women’s place now, and about the struggle of the *whanau* to survive.

CRIME STORY

1994 *Gee, Maurice* 272 pp

Worlds separate Brent Rosser, a petty thief, from Ulla Peet, wife of Athco Properties’ Athol Peet. A burglary gone wrong, brings them into confrontation. A chilling novel of 1990s New Zealand that asks questions about the perpetrators of crime and the victims, the price of greed, and personal isolation. Some graphic passages.

CURATIVE (THE)

2000 *Randall, Charlotte* 254 pp

William Lonsdale, a previously wealthy nobleman, is an inmate in Bedlam, London’s lunatic asylum of the 1800s. As narrator, his acerbic wit, worldliness and lucid insights, pull the reader into his rich past and troubled present.

DELPHINE’S RUN

2003 *Fearnley, Laurence* 223 pp

Delphine works as a food-trolley girl on the Brest-Paris train. Her relationships are complicated and her work predictable, until a bomb explosion on the train disturbs the only uncomplicated aspect of her life.

DENNISTON ROSE (THE)

• 2003 *Patrick, Jenny* 367 pp

Set in the 1880s in the bleak coal-mining village of Denniston. Isolated high on a plateau above

the West Coast, is a place that makes or breaks those who live there. Into this chaotic community come five-year-old Rose and her mother.

DOGSIDE STORY

2001 *Grace, Patricia* 301 pp

Winner Kiriyama Pacific Rim Prize for Fiction, 2001. The rivalry of two sisters, Ngarua and Maraenohono, leads to the division of their community. The communities then become “Godside” (known for its piety and properness) and “Dogside” (forever wayward). For Grace, this is a shift in writing, focusing more on the internal struggles of Maoridom. Author of *Cousins*, *Potiki*, *Sky People*.

ECHOES OF MY SISTERS

1996 *Alexander, Vonnice* 293 pp

Jackson Bay, Westland in 1875 appears a wild and alien place to the newly arrived O’Sullivans. The novel follows several generations of women in the family, the characters’ loves and losses, intertwined with the colony’s history.

FAREWELL SPEECH

1990 *MacAlpine, Rachel* 285 pp

Novel on Ada Wells, Kate Sheppard and other early Christchurch feminists.

FEATHERSTONE

2002 *Gunn, Kirsty* 256 pp

During one long, hot summer weekend in a small town, we learn that, years ago, a young girl, Francie, left Featherstone never to return. Francie’s uncle, Sonny, becomes convinced that she has returned. But is Francie real, a figment of his desires, or an apparition? Life in Featherstone becomes unsettled, intense and intimate.

GARDEN PARTY (THE)

1932 *Mansfield, Katherine* 255 pp

Short stories. Sensitive revelations of human behaviour in quite ordinary situations.

GIRLS HIGH

1990 *Anderson, Barbara* 231 pp

New Zealand novel, sketching the lives of the teachers of “Girls High” in a New Zealand town.

GOD BOY (THE)

1957 *Cross, Ian* 181 pp

A small boy narrates events of the past which changed his life as he was caught up in an adult drama. NZ.

GODWITS FLY (THE)

• 1938 *Hyde, Robin* 259 pp

A New Zealand classic, first published in 1938. Strongly autobiographical, it vividly conveys Eliza Hannay’s growth to adulthood, her dreams of poetry and love, and her painful encounters with the realities of romance.

GOING WEST

1992 *Gee, Maurice* 279 pp

Goodman Fielder Wattie Award, 1993. As in *Plumb*, a man looks back on his life and relationship with his friend and poet – the subject of the biography he plans to write. Mysteries of character

unfold.

HARLEQUIN REX

1999 *Marshall, Owen* 299 pp

Montana NZ Book Awards Deutz Medal, 2000. David Stallman becomes a nurse to patients known as “Harlequins”, at the Slaven Centre near Picton. They are victims of an epidemic resembling Tourette’s Syndrome, a disease of disinhibition. His relationship with staff and patients form the action. A sadder, wiser man, he leaves as a possible carrier of the disease to an unprepared world. Author of *Tomorrow We Save The Orphans*.

HIBISCUS COAST

• 2005 *Morris, Paula* 253 pp

Emma Taupere is back in Auckland after a stint learning painting in Shanghai. Her ex-boyfriend, Siaki, has talked her into becoming involved in his latest scheme, an international scam to steal two Goldies from Auckland Museum and replace them with forgeries. *Hibiscus Coast* is set in an art world inhabited by ruthless collectors who will do anything to own certain paintings – even resort to crime.

HOPEFUL TRAVELLER (THE)

2002 *Farrell, Fiona* 269 pp

This is a book of two independent, yet parallel halves, beginning at either end of the book and upside down to each other. In 1851, six people buy an island at the end of the world, while in the present day, six prepare to celebrate a 50th birthday on that same island. Some 150 years separate the two halves, but subtle echoes link them together. Author of *Six Clever Girls Who Became Famous Women*.

IN MY FATHER’S DEN

• 1972 *Gee, Maurice* 175 pp

When Celia Inverarity is brutally murdered, Paul Prior, her English teacher and mentor, is suspected of being her murderer. Her death and the violence that follows, cause him to examine the past – a past that is as secret as his father’s den. Eventually, the murderer is exposed, but not before a family has been split apart and old wounds revealed. Author of *Plumb, Loving Ways*.

IT COULD BE YOU

1997 *McCauley, Sue* 199 pp

A New Zealand writer, journalist and screenwriter whose stories have been brought together from numerous publications. The stories range from the blackly humorous to the infinitely sad, providing insights into the drama of everyday existence. Some content may disturb.

LEAVING FOR TOWNSVILLE

1997 *Tate, Bronwyn* 303 pp

“Rick has a bit of a midlife crisis and Hazel carries on coping. But, as the two work through their break-up and its fall-out – Rick in Australia and Hazel in New Zealand – events at a country swimming hole one summer long ago, begin to haunt them both.” (Cover.)

LET ME SING YOU GENTLE SONGS

• 2005 *Olsson, Linda* 267 pp

One bleak March evening, Veronika arrives in a small Swedish village in pursuit of stillness and solitude. Her arrival is silently observed by Astrid, her reclusive neighbour, who, in the safety of her home, guards family secrets and personal tragedy. The two women – one young, one old – are

drawn together, and against a backdrop of changing seasons, they become close friends. Set in Sweden and New Zealand.

LET THE RIVER STAND

1993 *O'Sullivan, Vincent* 304 pp

Winner of the 1994 Montana NZ Book Award. Group of characters and their inter-relationships. Set mainly in the Waikato in the 1930s and 1940s, but also ranging as far as Tasmania and the Spanish Civil War.

LIVING IN THE MANIOTOTO

1979 *Frame, Janet* 240 pp

Sophisticated novel; more “difficult” than the autobiographies. The central character, a writer with three personalities, journeys from New Zealand to California to a strange inheritance.

LOVING WAYS

1996 *Gee, Maurice* 214 pp

New Zealand novel set in Nelson. Three siblings who come together after 30 years' separation around the sickbed of their father. About characters who want or who lack love. Some violence may disturb.

MAN ALONE

1939 *Mulgan, John* 205 pp

New Zealand novel about an Englishman who came to NZ in the 1920s. He got caught up in the Depression of the 1930s and was much preoccupied with injustice.

MANSFIELD

• 2004 *Stead, CK* 245 pp

A fictional account of three years in the life of Katherine Mansfield, from 1915 to 1918, against the backdrop of WWI. It explores her loves and desire to write the “new kind of fiction”. Friendships with TS Eliot, Bertrand Russell, DH Lawrence and others, are portrayed, as well as her erratic relationship with John Middleton Murray. Author of *The Secret History Of Modernism, Talking About O'Dwyer*.

MATTER OF PARIHAKA (THE)

2000 *Bohan, Edmund* 231 pp

The third Inspector O'Rorke novel set in colonial New Zealand. The invasion and destruction of Te Whiti's community of Parihaka in 1881, prompts an investigation into police brutality. Historic tale with political intrigue.

MEMORY

1987 *Mahy, Margaret* 234 pp

A “problem” teenager and a lady suffering from Alzheimer's Disease are the heroes; yet not depressing reading.

MISERABLES (THE)

1993 *Wilkins, Damien* 237 pp

Montana NZ Book Award, 1994. Novel set mainly in Wellington. Son attending his father's funeral, reflects on the lives of various family members.

MR PONSONBY

1988 *Middleton, Ian* 160 pp

Novel with a message: Stop the property developers who reshape Auckland without regard to the humans who live there.

MY NAME IS PARADISO

1995 *McNeish, James* 239 pp

In July 1943, David Mulberry, a NZ-born scholar, archaeologist and British officer, is parachuted into Sicily with the Allied Forces and disappears. Twenty years later, his son arrives to search for him and solve the riddle of his presumed death.

NEW NET GOES FISHING (THE)

1977 *Ihimaera, Witi* 220 pp

Short stories, invaluable for offering us insight into the daily life of Maori people. Told with warmth.

NIGHTS IN THE GARDEN OF SPAIN

1995 *Ihimaera, Witi* 303 pp

Ihimaera explores the dilemmas of the minority gay culture, and the challenges that must be faced when one partner opts out of marriage. Some content may disturb.

ONCE WERE WARRIORS

1990 *Duff, Alan* 198 pp

Award-winning, realistic study of the lives of some urban Maori. Angry/hopeful book. Language and content may disturb.

ORACLES AND MIRACLES

1987 *Eldred-Grigg, Stevan* 261 pp

Novel written by a historian about working-class women in Christchurch in the 1930s and 1940s.

OTHER HALVES

1982 *McCauley, Sue* 254 pp

Novel about present-day New Zealand; Maori and Pakeha, the young and the middle-aged, of unemployment, prejudice and love.

OWEN MARSHALL'S SHORT STORIES (BEST OF)

• 1997 *Marshall, Owen* 421 pp

Themes of marriage, families, and provincial town life with its loners and misfits, its underdogs and losers, are set into focus in this collection of 67 short stories by one of our finest short story writers. Author of *Tomorrow We Save The Orphans*, *Harlequin Rex*.

OWLS DO CRY

1961 *Frame, Janet* 173 pp

Her first novel. The story of the loss of imagination and innocence in the bleak world of small-town New Zealand. Poignant literature.

PLUMB

1978 *Gee, Maurice* 272 pp

The first volume about the Plumb family. Plumb is a minister whose disenchantment with the Church, and involvement with socialism, lead to his becoming a conscientious objector, and, subsequently, imprisonment.

POPULATION OF ONE (A)

1991 *Glenday, Alice* 130 pp

A novel told as a series of episodes which work as short stories. Written with humour and a fine sense of irony. Mobil/Dominion/Sunday Times Short Story Award, 1990. NZ.

POTIKI

1986 *Grace, Patricia* 185 pp

Award-winning NZ novel. Insight into a Maori community when it is threatened by Pakeha development.

PROVOCATION

1999 *Grimshaw, Charlotte* 282 pp

Drawing on her experience as a criminal lawyer, Grimshaw's first novel deals with the extremes of human behaviour. Anyone can be provoked, and it acts as a powerfully destructive force between Stella and her much older barrister lover with his fast lifestyle. Her achievement is in the shift from neediness and naivety to self-awareness and consolation in solitude.

ROUNDNESS OF EGGS (THE)

1989 *Greenwood, Lisa* 205 pp

The family of the middle-aged heroine discuss, and are bewildered, by her changed values and behaviour.

SCARECROW (THE)

1963 *Morrieson, RH* 181 pp

Novel from a small New Zealand town by a highly original writer. "... shudders come as fast as smiles". (Cover.)

SEASON OF THE JEW (THE)

1986 *Shadbolt, Maurice* 489 pp

Historical novel set in Hawkes Bay. About Te Kooti, the 19th-century Maori leader.

SECOND-HAND CHILDREN

1984 *Marshall, Heather* 144 pp

NZ stories of children growing up in the Depression.

SECRET HISTORY OF MODERNISM (THE)

2001 *Stead, CK* 230 pp

Auckland at the start of the new millennium, and Laszlo Winter is suffering from writer's block. Prompted by a chance meeting, memories of his life 50 years earlier, flood back. The narrative moves between the present and the life of the young Laszlo, researching Shakespeare in a London bed-sit, and nursing ambitions to be a writer. Author of *Death Of A Body*, *Talking About O'Dwyer*.

SHAG INCIDENT (THE)

2002 *Johnson, Stephanie* 295 pp

Montana NZ Book Awards Deutz Medal Winner. "In my experience, it was a man completely unknown to me who shaped the entirety of my mid-late life". So speaks the ex-All Black and millionaire blockbuster novelist, Howard Shag, in his authorised biography written by Melody Argyle. A darkly satirical and wickedly funny novel that takes on a range of contemporary matters.

SHARK THAT ATE THE SUN (THE)

1992 *Pule, John Puhia* 294 pp

A first novel by a Niuean writer, recounting what it is like to be a stranger in the streets of Auckland. A story of a father and son.

SHOT

2003 *Quigley, Sarah* 250 pp

Hit by a wayward bullet while revisiting her childhood neighbourhood for a donut, Lena's life changes physically and emotionally. Leaving behind her long-term relationship and career as a stand-up comedian, she heads for Alaska. When Lena meets a mysterious tracker and a speechless child, she discovers that loss can sometimes be gain.

SIX CLEVER GIRLS WHO BECAME FAMOUS WOMEN

1996 *Farrell, Fiona* 303 pp

Six schoolfriends who cope with adolescence in the 1960s meet again 35 years later. They confront the issues of middle age. "A lot can happen in a single day". NZ.

SKY PEOPLE (THE)

1994 *Grace, Patricia* 190 pp

Stories of the Sky People – the unwanted, the dispossessed, the wounded in love, and their redemption.

SOLDIER'S TALE (A)

1976 *Joseph, MK* 152 pp

Award-winning novel by NZ author. The story is set in Normandy in 1944.

STAYING HOME AND BEING ROTTEN

1992 *Koea, Shonagh* 188 pp

NZ Novel. Rosalind refuses to be manipulated by James and attempts to rebuild her life the way she wants to. "A black comedy of manners".

STORY OF A NEW ZEALAND RIVER (THE)

1920 *Mander, Jane* 318 pp

An Englishwoman marries a "colonial", and goes to live in Kaipara.

TALKING ABOUT O'DWYER

1999 *Stead, CK* 219 pp

A soldier of the Maori Battalion in WWII Crete, is killed in action. A *makutu* curse is placed on Officer Donovan O'Dwyer by the dead soldier's family, and so he lives under its spell for half of his life. Author of *The Death Of The Body* and *Mansfield*.

TANGI

1973 *Ihimaera, Witi* 207 pp

The author's first novel. Portrays with humour and warmth people coming together for a funeral.

TOMORROW WE SAVE THE ORPHANS

1992 *Marshall, Owen* 192 pp

Varied stories, illustrating aspects of New Zealand life.

TU

• 2004 *Grace, Patricia* 287 pp

Deutz Medal Winner, Montana NZ Book Awards. *Tu* tells the story of Te-Hokowhitu-a-Tu, one

of three sons from the same family who go to war, but the only son to return. When his young niece and nephew come to him to find out what really happened, Tu decides to hand over his diary which records his wartime experiences and the life of his family in 1940s Wellington. Grace has drawn from the accounts of her father and other relatives, creating an authentic and moving story. Author of *Dogside Story*, *Cousins*.

VINTNER'S LUCK (THE)

1998 *Knox, Elizabeth* 241 pp

Montana NZ Book Awards Winner, 1999. One summer night in 1808, winemaker Sobran Jodeau sets out to drown his sorrows in his family's vineyard. He meets a beautiful, male angel and an enduring relationship develops. A fantastical love story set in the 19th-century French countryside.

VISITATION (THE)

1996 *Reidy, Sue* 269 pp

Two sisters growing up in a Catholic family in the 1960s, experience a vision of the Virgin Mary hovering about the lemon tree in their backyard. Humorous debut by NZ author.

WARRIOR QUEEN (THE)

1995 *Else, Barbara* 223 pp

A subversive look at middle-class marriage, set in the trendy homes of Remuera and Parnell. Black comedy.

WEAVER'S APPRENTICE (THE)

1986 *Brown, Michael* 297 pp

NZ novel. Mysticism in a small community. A Presbyterian minister and a young psychic are locked in a struggle in a South Island fishing village.

WINTER IN THE SUMMER GARDEN

1999 *Templeton, Natasha* 320 pp

Resident in NZ, but Russian born, Templeton tells the story of the siege of Leningrad and the dreadful events that preceded it, through the eyes of the Shubin family. An introduction also to the work of Russian poet, Anna Akhmatova.

Non-Fiction (A – Z)

ANGELA'S ASHES

1996 *McCourt, Frank* 363 pp

Memoir of growing up in New York in the 1930s, and Ireland in the 1940s. A story of extreme poverty, courage and survival against, apparently, overwhelming odds. Pulitzer Fiction Prize, 1996.

ARCANUM (THE)

1998 *Gleeson, Janet* 266 pp

The 18th-century alchemist, Johann Bottger, was held captive by Augustus II of Saxon, until he fortuitously discovered the arcanum (or secret formula) for porcelain. Recently introduced from the Orient, "white gold" was quickly becoming the symbol of power, prestige and good taste in Europe. An investigation into the development of European porcelain and the founding of the Meissen works in Dresden that combines science, adventure and some industrial espionage.

ART OF TRAVEL (THE)

• 2002 *De Botton, Alain* 261 pp

De Botton writes an alternative travelogue. He chooses writers, artists and philosophers as his companions such as Flaubert, Edward Hopper, Baudelaire, Wordsworth, Van Gogh and Ruskin, riding on their shoulders to give focus and direction to his journeys. A philosophical investigation into the motivations for travel.

ASK THAT MOUNTAIN

1975 *Scott, Dick* 216 pp

An account of the 19th-century Maori-European struggles at Parihaka in Taranaki, and the doctrine of passive resistance preached by Te Whiti and Tohu.

AUTO DA FAY

2002 *Weldon, Fay* 366 pp

This is scriptwriter, novelist, journalist and feminist Weldon's account of her life from the 1930s to the 1990s, from New Zealand to the UK. Love, sex, babies, blokes, poverty, politics and not a few Very Famous Names are covered. Author of *Letters To Alice*.

BAD BLOOD

2001 *Sage, Lorna* 287 pp

From a childhood of Gothic proportions in a remote Welsh vicarage, through to Sages's adolescence, leaving herself teetering on the brink of the 1960s. Sage brings to life a vanished time and place, and illuminates the lives of three generations of women. A tale of thwarted love, failed religion, and salvation found in books.

BELIEVING CASSANDRA

1999 *AtKisson, Alan* 229 pp

"The earth is not a lost cause even if the problems are vast", (author). AtKisson presents an upbeat message on sustainability with examples of past social change successes, and current pragmatic responses. Using the analogy of the Greek myth of Cassandra and her gift of seeing into the future, the reader is encouraged to look ahead and develop an appetite for the solutions.

BEYOND THE SKY AND THE EARTH

1999 *Zeppa, Jamie* 342 pp

A rich and uplifting memoir of Zeppa's three years on a teaching programme in Bhutan, the tiny Buddhist kingdom south of Tibet. She gives an account of the difficulties and joys of living alone in an alien culture far away from the security of home in Canada, but comes to be reinvigorated by the warmth of this country's people.

BLESSINGS OF A GOOD THICK SKIRT (THE)

1986 *Russell, Mary* 224 pp

An account of some adventurous exploits recorded by women, and an investigation of what makes them abandon the comfort and safety of home for the risks and dangers of the unknown.

BOOKSELLER OF KABUL (THE)

• 2003 *Seierstad, Asne* 276 pp

Norwegian journalist Seierstad lived with the Khan family for several months, accompanying family members to work, school, shops and weddings. Her account of her life with them is full of the tragedy, contradictions, rivalries and the frustrations of daily life for a middle-class family in post-Taliban Kabul.

BRAINSEX

1989 *Moir, Anne & Jessel, David* 228 pp

Non-fiction subtitled, *The Real Differences Between Men And Women*. From a biologist's viewpoint.

BREAD AND ROSES

1984 *Davies, Sonia* 309 pp

First book of the autobiography by a leading NZ trade unionist, later a member of Parliament. Very involved in social issues, too.

BREAKING THE HABIT

1992 *Graham, Judith* 154 pp

Autobiography. About life as a Dominican nun in Dunedin. NZ.

BRUCE CHATWIN

1999 *Shakespeare, Nicholas* 550 pp

"Say almost anything of Bruce Chatwin," this biographer writes, "and the opposite is also true." Chatwin had many lives. The nondescript English public schoolboy became a Sotheby's entrepreneur, reluctant archeologist, jet-setting journalist, and finally a writer of controversial style. Author of *Utz, Songlines*. **2-month loan.**

BURY ME STANDING

1996 *Fonseca, Isabel* 317 pp

An arresting and candid study of the hidden world of European gypsydom. The author spent four years living with Romany families and groups, observing their culture, social organisation, and recording their oral history. Literary journalism.

CÉLESTINE: VOICES FROM A FRENCH VILLAGE

1995 *Tindall, Gillian* 292 pp

Letters discovered in a deserted house in Chassignolles, Central France, tell of the obscure and moving life of one woman, Célestine Chaumette.

CHANGING ORDER (A)

1986 *O'Regan, Pauline* 138 pp

Memories of her childhood, her years in a religious order, and her social work in a secular society. NZ.

CIDER WITH ROSIE

1959 *Lee, Laurie* 231 pp

Autobiography set in the Cotswolds. England in the early 20th century. Much-loved prose, written by a poet.

CLOUD FARM

• 2004 *Chetwynd, Jane* 182 pp

Successful academic, Jane Chetwynd, purchased, seemingly on impulse, a large rugged piece of land on Banks Peninsula in Canterbury. With little purpose in mind, but a need to escape from what had become for her an unfulfilling life, she set about with an incredible tenacity, regenerating and developing the land and making the house habitable.

COLOR OF WATER (THE)

1996 *McBride, James* 291 pp

Only two things mattered to James McBride's charismatic mother – school and church. The true story of a parent who dared to be different by marrying a black man, founding a Baptist church, and putting twelve children through college. Memoir.

COLOUR: TRAVELS THROUGH THE PAINTBOX

• 2002 *Finlay, Victoria* 494 pp

An account of Victoria Finlay's quest to uncover the many secrets hidden inside the paintbox. From mascara to violin varnish, from nomadic carpets to stained glass to pillar boxes, this is the story of the efforts of artists and artisans to reproduce the rainbow – and the impact their work has had on the world.

DANCE OF THE PEACOCKS

2003 *McNeish, James* 472 pp

Based on letters, diaries and interviews, McNeish tells the story of five young literary pathfinders – James Bertram, Geoffrey Cox, Dan Davin, Ian Milner and John Mulgan who left New Zealand in the 1930s. Having become caught up in the turmoil of the times, they were all either unable or unwilling to return. Author of *My Name Is Paradiso*.

DAUGHTER OF PERSIA

1992 *Farmaian, Satttareh Farman* 534 pp

Account of the writer's early life in her father's harem in Persia/Iran, and her flight from the Islamic Revolution.

DAUGHTERS OF THE PACIFIC

1994 *De Ishtar, Zohl* 272 pp

Stories told in the oral tradition captured the interest of the author while on a 1986 bike tour of the Pacific. They relate the personal experiences of women from these cultures, covering issues that appeal to both genders, such as colonisation, nuclear-free zones, cultural identity, and the exploitation of foreign nations.

DEAD MAN WALKING

1994 *Prejean, Helen* 347 pp

When Prejean was invited to write to a prisoner on Death Row who brutally killed two teenagers, she had little idea how much it would change her life. A nun's gripping, true story that is a powerful indictment of the death penalty.

DEEP SKY WAITS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN (THE)

1996 *Lees, Annette* 240 pp

The author uses stories of childhood in NZ, travel, natural history and fiction to explore our sense of place. A reflective and unconventional traveller's tale.

DEVIL'S CUP (THE)

• 2000 *Allen, Stewart Lee* 231 pp

In this humorous and lively account, the author does his fair share of risk-taking to traverse several continents, chronicling coffee's civilising impact upon human endeavour since the discovery of this elixir some 2000 years ago. The combination of travel-with-a-theme, history and culture makes this an appealing read to both coffee drinkers and others alike.

DISSOLVING DREAM (A)

1992 *Benson, Heather* 243 pp

Writer's account of her life in Uganda, married to a Ugandan, and the intense pressures of living through Amin's regime.

DIVING-BELL & THE BUTTERFLY (THE)

1998 *Bauby, Jean Dominique* 139 pp

After suffering a massive stroke, Bauby, editor-in-chief of French *Elle* magazine, finds himself completely paralysed (Locked-in Syndrome). With one eyelid, he "dictated" a memoir that recognises how personhood can continue, as insistent as ever, in an unresponsive body. Bauby's imagination and black humour dominate this little book.

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT

2002 *Fuller, Alexandra* 310 pp

The author recollects her extraordinary childhood in southern Africa where terrorism, curfews, ambushes and the AK-47 are part of the vocabulary of daily life. A story of bravado, driven by fire-in-the-belly love of Africa, no matter what the cost.

DOWN UNDER

• 2000 *Bryson, Bill* 389 pp

This travel narrative from veteran wanderer, Bill Bryson, provides an appreciative, informative and hilarious portrait of Australia. It's all there: The convict history, the love/hate affair with England, the vastness, and Australia's most fascinating inhabitants. Bryson makes common things seem exceptional. Author of *Notes From A Small Island, A Short History Of Nearly Everything*.

EARTH TIME

1998 *Suzuki, David* 261 pp

A collection of essays that investigate the concept of a slower way of life, more in tune with the earth and its resources. Issues move from globalisation, greed and political short-sightedness to those of nature, local initiatives, nurturing the earth and our children

E=MC²

• 2000 *Bodanis, David* 330 pp

Generations have grown up knowing that Albert Einstein's equation $E=mc^2$ changed the shape of our world, but never understanding what it actually means, why it was so significant, and how it governs our daily lives today – everything from the atomic bomb to a television's cathode ray tube. In this book, Bodanis writes the "biography" of one of the greatest scientific discoveries in history.

ESCAPE FROM BOSNIA: AZA'S STORY (As told to Sue McCauley)

1996 *McCauley, Sue* 240 pp

The stories of Brent King, NZ pilot sent as UN observer to Bosnia in 1993, and Aza Mehmedovic who Brent helps to escape from Zepa, a Muslim enclave under siege from the Serbs. This heart-rending telling of the struggle, starvation, and constant attacks on the enclave, as well as people's bravery and resourcefulness in their refusal to be defeated, fills the reader with admiration.

EXPERIENCE

2001 *Amis, Martin* 400 pp

Novelist Amis writes with candour of his relationship with his father, Kingsley Amis, the process of writing, and his missing cousin, Lucy Partington (a victim of serial killer Frederick West).

FALSE ECONOMY

1996 *Else, Anne* 159 pp

The author combines recent research, expert comment and full-length interviews to reveal the growing conflict between paid and unpaid work. Provides a starting-point for further debate.

FENCE AROUND THE CUCKOO (A)

1992 *Park, Ruth* 294 pp

Memories about growing up in New Zealand in isolation and poverty during the Depression years.

FIFTIETH GATE (THE)

1997 *Baker, Mark Raphael* 339 pp

The author is Australian, but his ancestry is Polish. A family memoir that moves from Poland and Germany to Jerusalem and Melbourne. Baker confronts his parents' childhood, their captivity in a prisoner-of-war camp, and the mystery of their survival.

FOUR CORNERS

2003 *Salak, Kira* 384 pp

Salak, a graduate student in her twenties, retraces the steps of 1927 British explorer, Ivan Champion, through Papua New Guinea. Salak navigates swamps, jungle terrain and mountain trails, deals with torrential rains and relentless mosquitoes, as well as risking PNG's high crime rate. She ruminates on her unquenchable appetite for danger, while recalling a childhood spent in a dysfunctional family.

FOX BOY (THE)

2001 *Walker, Peter* 342 pp

Walker undertook a memorable, personal journey to research the story of a young Maori boy, Ngatau Omahuru (aka William Fox jun). Omahuru was abducted during the 1860s Taranaki wars, adopted by Prime Minister William Fox, and raised as an English gentleman. The author discovered, among other things, the enmeshment of this little boy's fate with seminal events in NZ history.

FRED HOLLOWES: AUTOBIOGRAPHY WITH PETER CORRIS

1991 262 pp

Ophthalmologist Fred Hollowes spent years improving the eye health of the aborigines, and also worked in Nepal and Eritrea. His life story is related here by Peter Corris.

FROM THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

1998 *Dalrymple, William* 261 pp

Retracing the steps of two monks who took a journey across the Byzantine world in AD 587, Dalrymple makes his own pilgrimage, arcing the border countries of the Mediterranean. A rich combination of history and travel narrative.

FRONTIERS OF HEAVEN

1995 *Stewart, Stanley* 223 pp

Winner of the Thomas Cook/*Daily Telegraph* Travel Book Award, 1996. Stewart journeys into the land of exile, the great western province of Xinjiang. In modern Chinese history, it is the destination of soldiers, reluctant settlers, political prisoners and disgraced officials.

FUTURE EATERS (THE)

1994 *Flannery, Tim* 423 pp

An ecological history of the way successive peoples in Australasia have consumed the resources

needed for their own future.

GALILEO'S DAUGHTER

1999 *Sobel, Dava* 420 pp

The author based her book on the 124 surviving letters written to Galileo Galilei by his illegitimate daughter, Sister Maria Célèste. While Galileo tangled with the church and accusations of heresy, his daughter provided moral and emotional support, despite her reclusive life in a Franciscan convent – because she knew the strength of his faith. The letters are integrated into the contextual events of the early 1600s – Renaissance Italy. Author of *Longitude*.

GIRL, A SMOCK AND A SIMPLE PLAN (A)

• 2002 *Daffey, Chris* 256 pp

A comedy memoir about the author's quest to win over the affection of a girl in grade six. A tale told with all the angst of pre-adolescent boyhood, and the idiosyncrasies of Australian suburbia.

GOOD WIVES?

2002 *Forster, Margaret* 343 pp

Forster compares her own marriage with those of her subjects: Mary Livingstone, who followed her missionary-explorer husband through Africa; Fanny, wife of writer Robert Louis Stevenson and their life in the South Seas, and militant Jennie Lee who married politician, Nye Bevan. Author of *Have The Men Had Enough?*, *Hidden Lives*, *Mother Can You Hear Me?*.

GOOD WOMEN OF CHINA (THE)

2002 *Xinran* 229 pp

Poignant and haunting stories told to and recounted by Xinran, host of an evening radio programme in China during the 1980s and 1990s. After moving to England in 1997, she found the freedom to write this book.

GORILLAS IN THE MIST

1983 *Fossey, Dian* 242 pp

Dr Fossey's account of her 13 years of work with gorillas in Africa.

HANOI ADIEU

• 2005 *Perkins, Mandaley* 323 pp

Michel L'Herpiniere arrived in Hanoi as a teenager in the years before World War II and he fell in love with the country and its people. His story is entwined with the history of Vietnam in those years: The French response to the nationalist movement; the Japanese occupation; the rise of Vietminh and the refusal of the United States to aid a "colonial regime", and the political vacuum, chaos and tragedy in the aftermath of war.

HAREM WITHIN (THE)

1994 *Mernissi, Fatima* 254 pp

Mernissi was born in 1940 in a harem in Fez, a 9th-century Moroccan city. A noted Muslim feminist and sociologist, she weaves the tale of her childhood during a period of social transition in Morocco.

HAVANA DREAMS

1998 *Gimbel, Wendy* 212 pp

Raised in the USA, Gimbel also spent many childhood vacations in her father's homeland of Cuba. Revisiting in 1991, she searches in vain for the world of her grandmother's time, recording the stories of some of the "bourgeoisie" who remained in Havana, following President Batista's

departure – their social context remarkably changed by the revolution.

HIDDEN LIVES

1995 *Forster, Margaret* 307 pp

A memoir of Forster's grandmother and mother which reflects on the changes in women's lives across three generations – about sex, family and work.

HOUSE BY THE DVINA

1984 *Fraser, Eugenie* 336 pp

Fraser, daughter of a Russian father and a Scottish mother, writes of her life in Russia and her family's escape to Scotland, after the Revolution. It is the story of two families, separated by culture and geography, but bound together by marriage.

HOUSE AT KARAMU (THE)

2003 *Fletcher, Beryl* 438 pp

A funny and touching memoir covering 40 years of writer Fletcher's life. Spanning her wartime childhood in New Zealand, her early marriage and motherhood, and the growth of her feminist consciousness. A beautifully written memoir.

I HAVE IN MY ARMS BOTH WAYS

1990 *Jansen, Adrienne* 168 pp

Stories by immigrant women, told to Adrienne Jansen. NZ.

I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

1969 *Angelou, Maya* 281 pp

A Black poet's memories of her childhood in the US South, and early youth in North America.

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI (AN)

• 2004 *Orange, Claudia* 345 pp

A straightforward account of the history of the Treaty, featuring a wide range of illustrations. Covering not only the events of 1840, but also forces leading to the making of a treaty and the impacts, protests and negotiations that followed for the next century and a half. Author of *The Treaty of Waitangi*. Large-format book.

IN COLD BLOOD

1966 *Capote, Truman* 288 pp

A reportage-cum-novel about a notorious murder in America.

IN SIBERIA

1999 *Thubron, Colin* 278 pp

An examination of contemporary Siberia. Thubron writes that he set out "to find a core to Siberia, where there seemed none, or at least for a moment to witness its passage through the wreckage of communism ..." He records his contacts with a wide variety of ordinary people, many poor, drunk and disillusioned, as he travels in difficult places, living rough. His conclusion is that "Siberia is more Russian than Russia is".

IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

1998 *Underwood, Terry* 335 pp

After corresponding for five years, Terry Augustus and her husband set up their home – a tent and newly drilled bore – in the middle of nowhere: Australia's Northern Territory. Defying the odds of climate, isolation and an unforgiving landscape, they established the cattle station, "Riveren",

from scratch.

IRIS – A MEMOIR OF IRIS MURDOCH

1998 Bayley, John 294 pp

Author and literary critic, John Bayley, was married to the enigmatic writer, Iris Murdoch. Before her death in 1999, she suffered for several years from Alzheimer's Disease. This memoir recounts in a moving, but unsentimental way, their life together.

JANE AUSTEN

1998 Tomalin, Claire 345 pp

The six novels of Jane Austen picture a world of civility and reassuring stability, but her work also connected with some key events of the period. Sourcing local archives, Tomalin produces a picture of this author's life and English society at the end of the 18th century.

JANET FRAME: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

1984 Frame, Janet 195 pp

A three-volume autobiography of Janet Frame's childhood in Oamaru, her time as a student, a mental hospital patient, and later as an established author. *To the Is-land, An Angel At My Table, The Envoy From Mirror City*. **2-month loan.**

JOURNEY TO PRISON (THE)

2003 Lashlie, Celia 181 pp

A collection of ex-prison officer and prison manager Celia Lashlie's reflections and observations, based on her 15 years of experience with Corrections in New Zealand. She discusses the origins of crime in New Zealand: The way we punish offenders, the effectiveness of prison, parental responsibility, the role of drugs, education, and state institutions. Underpinning her argument, is the need for the community to take responsibility for the incidence of crime in NZ society

KATE SHEPPARD

1992 Devaliant, Judith 242 pp

Biography of the woman who led the campaign to win the vote for NZ women in the 1890s.

KINDNESS OF STRANGERS (THE)

• 2002 Adie, Kate 438 pp

Adie has reported from many of the world's trouble spots – Northern Ireland, Tiananmen Square and the 1991 Gulf War, among others. *The Kindness Of Strangers* offers a compelling combination of vivid frontline accounts and evocative writing, laced with the nitty-gritty of every day life, travelling the world by cattle truck and armoured vehicle.

LANGUAGE IN COMMON (A)

1987 Molteno, Marian 148 pp

A collection of stories based on the author's nine-year experience as an adult education worker in Croydon, South London, amongst women migrants mostly from India and Pakistan. The context parallels other Western countries' treatment of people transposed from their own cultures into a foreign one, often with language as a major barrier.

LEARNING OUR LIVING

2000 Pountney, Charmaine 313 pp

With 55 years of experience in NZ education, Pountney shares "her own educational journey and vision of how we could become a learning nation and why we should. [She] offers suggestions on

how to change schools and lives – and the world”. (Blurb.)

LETTERS FROM THE BAY OF ISLANDS: The Story of Marianne Williams

• 2004 *Fitzgerald, Caroline* 270 pp

In 1822, Marianne Williams, her missionary-husband, Henry, and their three children left England for the Bay of Islands. A year later, they arrived at a remote one-house settlement where they stayed for thirty years. Marianne’s letters to her family in England tell her story. Her courage and uncomplaining determination shine through as she describes, in vivid and compelling detail, the hardships and joys of their daily lives, their relationship with Maori, and the battles between different tribes.

LIAR’S CLUB (THE)

1995 *Karr, Mary* 320 pp

A funny, razor’s-edge memoir without self-pity. Karr, a prize-winning poet and critic, grew up in a swampy east Texas refinery town as part of a volatile, defiantly loving family.

LILLA’S FEAST

• 2004 *Osborne, Frances* 324 pp

Written by Lilla’s great granddaughter, the title refers to the cookery book written by Lilla while in Japanese camps during WWII. Lilla and her identical twin, Ada, were born in China in 1882 and her hundred years of life took her to Britain, India, and China during the Boxer Uprising, the Japanese invasion, and the Communist takeover. The story describes her family, her husbands, her travels and her great love of China and its food, language and culture.

LONG LOOP HOME

2001 *Wells, Peter* 315 pp

A memoir that expresses how it felt to be a child growing up in NZ during the 1960s and 1970s. Wells is also known as a filmmaker with an eye for telling detail and insight. Both he and his brother dealt with issues of being homosexual, and “the inadequate ideas’ of time and place”. (Cover.)

LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

1994 *Mandela, Nelson* 768 pp

Nelson Mandela’s account of his life as a freedom fighter. A readable and inspiring autobiography. (BDS 25th Anniversary Book). **2-month loan.**

LONGITUDE

1995 *Sobel, Dava* 175 pp

Story of a lone genius’ obsession with building the perfect time keeper, as well as a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation and clockmaking.

MAGICIAN’S SON (THE)

• 2006 *McCutcheon, Sandy* 324 pp

New Zealand-born Australian broadcaster, Sandy McCutcheon, was 48 years old when he uncovered some information about his background and birth parents. Even though his adopted parents had denied he was adopted, he always felt a sense of not belonging. Learning the circumstances of his birth and adoption, he discovered a family with uncanny parallels between its generations.

MAN WHO BROKE NAPOLEON’S CODES (THE)

• 2002 *Urban, Mark* 348 pp

A detailed, engaging and well-documented history of Wellington's campaign in the Peninsula War between 1809 and 1813, and the story of George Scovell, the officer who waged the intelligence battle against Napoleon's army to decrypt the French's messages.

MAP THAT CHANGED THE WORLD (THE)

• 2001 *Winchester, Simon* 338 pp

The fascinating story of an Oxfordshire blacksmith's orphaned son who discovered an unmistakable pattern in the rocks. From this, William Smith developed the first true geological map following fossils and rock patterns, earning him a place in history as the father of modern geology. Author of *The Surgeon Of Crowthorne*.

MARCHING ON

1997 *Davies, Sonja* 232 pp

The story of Sonja Davies' life continues after *Bread And Roses*. She traces her election as the first woman vice-president of the FOL, and as Labour MP for Pencarrow. There are personal losses, but she finds peace in her Wairarapa garden. NZ.

MEMORIES, DREAMS, REFLECTIONS

1967 *Jung, Carl* 375 pp

Psychologist Jung's mystical concepts are related to his actual experiences. Autobiography. **2-month loan.**

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD & EVIL

1995 *Berendt, John* 388 pp

Midnight is literary non-fiction comparable to another true crime story: Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. Berendt, an unknown journalist from New York, befriends the enigmatic, southern gentleman, Jim Williams. The author leads us into Savanna's culture and people interweaving it with a crime of passion. USA.

MIHIPEKA – EARLY YEARS

1990 *Edwards, Mihi* 314 pp

The Maori author writes about her early years growing up in NZ.

MILES TO GO

• 2004 *O'Regan, Pauline* 216 pp

A glimpse of one woman's journey towards, what is often dismissed as "old age", without acknowledging the wisdom that it can bring. Now in her eighties, author and nun, O'Regan, shows that there is nothing to fear about ageing, and a whole lot to look forward to. Author of *A Changing Order*.

MIND OVER MATTER

1993 *Fiennes, Ranulph* 314 pp

Description of the epic journey, begun in November 1992, when Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud set out to attempt the first unassisted crossing of the Antarctic continent.

MITFORD GIRLS

2001 *Lovell, Mary S* 611 pp

A biographical saga of the dynasty of the English Mitford family. Lord and Lady Redesdale, both eccentric parents, had six daughters and a son. Their privileged background, a rich network of connections, and the political affiliations of their daughters, make for fascinating reading. Author of *A Scandalous Life*.

MOTHER TONGUE

1990 *Bryson, Bill* 269 pp

Entertaining and informative non-fiction about the English language.

MY FEUDAL LORD

1994 *Durrani, Tehmina* 381 pp

Born to an influential, Pakistani family, Durrani was expected to marry well, living a sheltered life of leisure, and raising children. Her rebellion after a disastrous marriage to a politician, led to ostracism and a personal analysis of the “vulnerable position of women caught up in the complex web of Muslim society”.

MY PLACE

1987 *Morgan, Sally* 358 pp

On the search into a family tree with Aboriginal branches. Story of an Aboriginal girl brought up as white. Australian.

MY TRAITOR'S HEART

1990 *Malan, Rian* 425 pp

Autobiographical writing by a young Afrikaner in conflict with his famous family and his government. South Africa.

NAZI OFFICER'S WIFE (THE)

• 2001 *Beer, Edith Hahn* 305 pp

Born to a middle-class, non-observant Jewish family, Edith Hahn was a promising law student until the German *Anschluss* annexed Austria. Taking on a Christian friend's identity and documents, she eventually married a Nazi officer. Outwardly, she lived as a *Hausfrau*, but after the Russians conquered and burned her neighbourhood, she retrieved her identity papers and diploma, and from an illegal fugitive was eventually transformed into a feared judge.

NEXT 500 YEARS (THE)

1996 *Berry, Adrian* 322 pp

Imagine the prospects of colonisation on the Moon or Mars, the storage of human personalities on disk, or large-scale laboratory production of food. The author, a science correspondent, considers what sounds to be science fiction, but is firmly rooted in scientific fact – the possibilities of life in the next 500 years.

NGA URUORA: GROVES OF LIFE (THE)

1995 *Park, Geoff* 332 pp

A fresh perspective on NZ landscapes and our relationship with them. Park focuses on four significant places, tying in issues of their history, significance to Maori, ecological vulnerability and conservation concerns.

NICKEL AND DIMED

2002 *Ehrenreich, Barbara* 240 pp

Journalist Ehrenreich goes undercover to investigate the lives of low-paid workers in America. She tries to make ends meet on the minimum wage, working as a waitress, a cleaner, a nursing home assistant and a shop assistant. Told with a potent combination of humour and outrage.

NINE PARTS OF DESIRE

1994 *Brooks, Geraldine* 255 pp

The story of Brooks' intrepid journey toward an understanding of the women behind the veils, and of the often contradictory political, religious and cultural forces that shape their lives.

NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND

1995 *Bryson, Bill* 352 pp

Humorous account of a trip around Britain that long-time resident, Bryson, took before leaving for his native America. Draws attention to the oddities of life in his adopted country.

ON A SHOESTRING TO COORG

1976 *Murphy, Dervla* 264 pp

With her five-year-old daughter as travelling companion, the author, *en route* to Bombay, falls in love with Coorg and records this account of a little-known part of the Indian sub-continent.

OPPOSITE OF FATE (THE)

• 2003 *Tan, Amy* 398 pp

In her first collection of essays, Tan muses on topics as varied as rock-'n-roll, the film adaptation of *The Joy Luck Club*, her health problems, and other autobiographical observations. The selections are culled from essays, speeches, interviews, and are filled with wit, bemusement and honesty. Author of *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*.

OSCAR WILDE

1988 *Ellman, Richard* 593 pp

An extensive, but absorbing biography of the inimitable Oscar Wilde; playwright, aesthete and satirist. Ellman declares that Wilde taught us "to shape a sentence and live in style". **2-month loan.**

PAULA

1994 *Allende, Isabel* 330 pp

When her daughter Paula, aged 28, sinks into a coma, Allende commences the story of her family in order both to sustain her own spirits and to convey to her daughter the will to survive. Translated from Spanish.

PEEL ME A LOTUS

1969 *Clift, Charmian* 198 pp

The Australian writer, George Johnston, and the author spent time on a Greek Island. This is Clift's account.

PERIOD PIECE

1952 *Ravenat, Gwen* 284 pp

Subtitled, *A Cambridge Childhood*. Drawings illustrate the text of this collection of charming memories.

PIANO SHOP ON THE LEFT BANK (THE)

2000 *Carhart, TE* 242 pp

This engaging memoir recounts Thaddeus Carhart's experiences in a piano shop tucked into an out-of-the-way Paris street. Carhart provides technical explanations on the workings and history of the piano, and immerses the reader in Paris and the world of music lovers and their instruments.

PORTRAIT OF A MARRIAGE

1973 *Nicolson, Nigel* 269 pp

The marriage is that of Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicolson; the author is their son. UK .

PRAYING FOR SHEETROCK

1996 *Greene, Melissa Faye* 335 pp

Set in the American Deep South of the 1970s, this is a true story of the political awakening of a tiny black community in McIntosh, Georgia. They tell of their own experiences – outrageous, eloquent and touching – in a historic struggle for civil equality.

READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN

2003 *Nafisi, Azar* 368 pp

Part memoir, part literary criticism, *Reading Lolita In Tehran* is a moving testament to the power of art and its ability to change and improve people's lives. In 1995, Azar Nafisi resigned her job as university professor and invited seven female former students to meet weekly at her home to study Western Literature. They met for two years to talk and share, and "shed their mandatory veils and robes and burst into color".

RIDING THE BUS WITH MY SISTER

2002 *Simon, Rachel* 296 pp

Rachel Simon's sister is a spirited woman who lives intensely and often joyfully. Beth is intellectually disabled and spends her day "riding the buses". Rachel reluctantly makes a commitment to join Beth for a few days each week for a year in an attempt to breach the distance in their relationship, and to gain some insight into Beth's daily life

ROAD FROM COORAIN (THE)

1989 *Conway, Jill Kerr* 238 pp

Author writes of her memories as a young girl growing up on an Australian sheep farm, and the move to the city after five rainless years.

RUNNING IN THE FAMILY

1983 *Ondaatje, Michael* 207 pp

Non-fiction about the trip back to the author's birth country of Ceylon/Sri Lanka. Poetic writing about the place and his extraordinary family.

SAMUEL PEPYS: THE UNEQUALLED SELF

2003 *Tomalin, Claire* 499 pp

Winner of Whitbread Book Award (Biography). A meticulous biography, capturing the life of Samuel Pepys, the most famous diarist in English letters. Tomalin captures Pepys's life and times, including plague, fire, war, peace, domesticity, ill-health and extended family – all coloured by Pepys' own words as expressed in his journals.

SCANDALOUS LIFE (A)

1995 *Lovell, Mary S* 365 pp

Despite an aristocratic and privileged English background the "wayward" Lady Jane Digby (b. 1803) chose a life less conventional than that of most women of her time. After several marriages, scandals, and a lifelong search for love, she found, in her 50s, final fulfillment with a Bedouin sheikh, 20 years her junior. The reader gains a valuable glimpse into the centuries-old Bedouin

tradition that is now almost lost.

SCRIBBLING THE CAT

• 2004 *Fuller, Alexandra* 256 pp

When Fuller was in Zambia a few years ago visiting her parents, she asked her father about a nearby banana farmer known as a “tough bugger”. Her father’s response was a warning to steer clear. “Curiosity scribbled the cat,” he told her. Nonetheless, Fuller began a strange friendship with the man she calls K, a white African and veteran of the Rhodesian War. Together, they travel from Zambia through Zimbabwe and Mozambique to visit scenes of war, and to meet other veterans.

SEARCH FOR A MOTHER

1999 *Bareham, Tina* 234 pp

Abandoned as a baby at the outset of WWII, Bareham recounts a childhood spent in an English Barnardo’s children’s home. As an adult, she takes up the quest to find her natural mother and reconcile her struggle with the institutional philosophy of the time.

SEARCHING FOR CHARMIAN

1995 *Chick, Suzanne* 365 pp

Chick’s search for identity begins at 48 years of age when she discovers her birthmother is Charmian Clift, Australian essayist and novelist of the 1960s, and author of *Peel Me A Lotus*. Clift was also married to writer George Johnston of *My Brother Jack* fame. This moving book unfolds Chick’s attempts to comprehend the mother she never knew.

SEEING VOICES

1989 *Sacks, Oliver* 189 pp

On the world and language(s) of deaf people. Sacks makes a plea for sign, the entirely visual language which differs so greatly from spoken language. US.

SEVEN LIVES OF LADY BARKER (THE)

1996 *Gilderdale, Betty* 296 pp

Biography of a widely travelled, adventurous Victorian woman who lived in England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Mauritius, Australia and Trinidad. Best remembered in NZ for her classic book, *Station Life In New Zealand*. Hardcover edition.

SHARON AND MY MOTHER-IN-LAW: RAMALLAH DIARIES

• 2005 *Amiry, Suad* 194 pp

A funny and irreverent account of Amiry’s experience of living on the West Bank from the early 1980s to the present day. Daily chores, such as buying food and visiting friends and relatives, become Herculean tasks for anyone living in a state of siege. Contains a diary Amiry kept during the Israeli invasion of Ramallah in March 2002 when her 92-year-old mother-in-law came to live with her.

SHORT HISTORY OF NEARLY EVERYTHING (A)

• 2003 *Bryson, Bill* 627 pp

With an insatiable curiosity about the world around him, Bryson investigates seven topics of popular science which cover the growth of scientific ideas from the earliest days to cutting-edge quantum mechanics. Revealing the world in a way most of us have never seen it before, the

author skilfully presents the themes in an easy to understand manner for the non-scientist. Author of *Notes From A Small Island, Down Under*.

SKATING TO ANTARCTICA

• 1997 *Diski, Jenny* 250 pp

Both an intimate memoir and a travelogue of Diski's journey to the bottom of the world. Antarctica provides a haven which "is coloured white and filled with a singing silence". The physical journey with descriptions of the natural world is intercut by another one that moves into the author's early troubled years with abusive parents, her own drug use, and time spent in psychiatric wards. Laconic writing with haunting imagery.

SKIN TO SKIN: INTIMATE TRUE STORIES OF MAORI-PAKEHA RELATIONSHIPS

• 2005 *Archie, Carol* 279 pp

Ten families, 37 individuals. Some well-known, some not. This is a human account of modern Maori-Pakeha intermarriage and the mixed-race children of Aotearoa. Their stories cover the spectrum of overcoming everyday racism to the question of identity in a multi-cultural land.

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

• 2000 *Cunningham, Laura Shaine* 240 pp

A humorous memoir about growing up. Adopted by her two eccentric bachelor uncles after her mother's death, the author describes growing up in an unorthodox, but happy, Bronx household during the 1950s.

SLIPSTREAM

2002 *Howard, Elizabeth Jane* 493 pp

Novelist Howard writes that she has lived her life in "the slipstream of experience". Her memoir provides an unflinchingly honest view of her life, and outlines in fascinating detail the literary world she inhabited.

SNAKE DREAMING

2001 *Sykes, Roberta* 689 pp

Three volumes make up this collection of Sykes' autobiographies: *Snake Cradle*, *Snake Dancing* and *Snake Circle*, the first of which won *The Age Book Of The Year Award* and the *Nitta Kibble Award*. This collection covers Sykes' birth in Townsville, her brutal rape, and her political activism. Not only does the reader learn more about Sykes, but also about the struggles of Australia's Aboriginal community. **2-month loan.**

SOUTH FROM THE LIMPOPO

1998 *Murphy, Dervla* 557 pp

A veteran traveller, Murphy pedals her way 6000 miles through all nine provinces of the "new" South Africa. "A unique perspective on [this] country with its apparently insoluble problems and desperate inequalities." (Blurb.) Author of *On A Shoestring To Coorg, Ukimwi Road*.

STASILAND

• 2002 *Funder, Anna* 288 pp

During its 40-year-history, the former East Germany was the perfect police state. The secret police, known as the *Stasi*, had organised a large army of citizen informers. Funder, an Australian author, sets out to find out how it felt to live in "the most perfected surveillance state of all time". Her careful portraits of the people she meets, shine a dazzling light on one of the world's most paranoid and secretive regimes, and its effects on contemporary society.

STATION LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

1883 *Barker, Lady* 238 pp

The classic account of the author's life on a Canterbury sheep station in the 1860s.

SURGEON OF CROWTHORNE (THE)

1998 *Winchester, Simon* 207 pp

Subtitled, *The Tale Of Murder, Madness, And The Oxford Dictionary*. A biography about the preoccupations, obsessions and intense dedication of lexicographers, including the work of two notable protagonists: The troubled American, Dr WC Minor, one of the most assiduous of the OED's volunteers, and James Murray, the scholarly editor of *The Big Dictionary*.

TALES OF THE MAORI

1982 *Cowan, James* 200 pp

The author took it upon himself, before he died, to record the stories he had heard told. NZ.

TELL ME I'M HERE

1991 *Deveson, Anne* 268 pp

Women's Rights Non-Fiction Award, 1991. Deveson tells of the seven years of her son's schizophrenia, and the fear and anguish which this condition produces in patients and those close to them.

THIRD CLASS TICKET

1980 *Wood, Heather* 330 pp

Account of train travel through India of a group of villagers. Get to know them, as well as their country.

TIGER LADIES (THE)

2002 *Koul, Sudha* 330 pp

Through this personal and poetic memoir of her youth and young adulthood in Kashmir, Koul offers arresting glimpses of life before the region was torn apart by political forces and religious ideologies. She skillfully interweaves the story of her family with the myths and history of a rich society.

TIME TO BE IN EARNEST

1999 *James, PD* 266 pp

Part diary, part memoir, PD James considers the 12 months of her life between her 77th and 78th birthdays, and recounts her long and remarkable career – from 1920s Cambridge schoolgirl to the "Governor" of the BBC, and her status as an acclaimed crime-suspense writer.

TOOTH AND NAIL

1924 *Findlay, Mary* 267 pp

A New Zealand autobiography subtitled, *The Story Of A Daughter Of The Depression*. A teenage girl condemned by circumstances to fight tooth and nail for food and shelter.

TRACKS

1980 *Davidson, Robyn* 247 pp

A woman's solo travels across Australia on camel back.

TREATY OF WAITANGI (THE)

1988 *Orange, Claudia* 312 pp

A major work about the Treaty.

TRIAL OF THE CANNIBAL DOG (THE)

• 2003 *Salmond, Anne* 491 pp

Winner of the Montana Medal for Non-Fiction. Salmond vividly retells the story of Captain Cook's great voyages in the Pacific, focusing on the encounters between the explorers and the Pacific Island peoples they "discovered". Salmond's work reveals impressive anthropological knowledge, but also reads as a sensitive exploration of personality.

TRUE TO BOTH MY SELVES

1998 *Fitzherbert, Katrin* 302 pp

Katrin Thiele was made to conceal her German origins and never to mention her father – a former Nazi-Party official and *Wehrmacht* officer – after being "repatriated" to England. An insightful family memoir that delves into lesser known aspects of the German experience of two world wars.

TRUTH AND BEAUTY

• 2004 *Patchett, Ann* 257 pp

Patchett first met the poet, Lucy Greely, in college and remained friends with her until Greely's death. Mourning her best friend, Patchett writes of her memories of their devoted friendship which survived years of artistic, medical, economic and emotional upheavals. Using selections from Greely's letters, Patchett writes of their shared lives in a moving tribute and eulogy.

UKIMWI ROAD (THE)

1993 *Murphy, Dervla* 276 pp

Account of the author's 3000-mile solo bicycle ride across sub-Saharan Africa, and her involvement in the harrowing problems the people there face, especially AIDS.

UNCONSCIOUS CIVILIZATION (THE)

1997 *Saul, John Ralston* 195 pp

Saul's 1995 Massey Lectures address our current socioeconomic difficulties, and presents a strong argument against the economic determinism that regulates our lives. It is also a plea for democracy. Demands some vigorous thinking. Canada.

UNDER MY SKIN

1994 *Lessing, Doris* 419 pp

First volume of Doris Lessing's autobiography. Begins with her childhood in Africa and ends on her arrival in London in 1949. About the evolution of her consciousness, her sexuality and her political awareness. Distinctive and challenging writing.

UNQUIET MIND (AN)

1996 *Redfield, Jamison Kay* 219 pp

A candid account of a psychiatrist's firsthand experience of manic depression. Examines the illness from the dual perspective of the healer and the healed. USA.

WALKING IN THE SHADE

1998 *Lessing, Doris* 369 pp

The second volume of Lessing's autobiography, covering the period 1949-1962. Begins with her arrival in London from Africa "with nothing but her son and the manuscript of her first novel". We learn of her involvement with communism, her love affairs, the struggle with poverty, and the difficulties of single motherhood. (*Under My Skin*, Vol 1.)

WE WILL NOT CEASE

1939 *Baxter, Archibald* 189 pp

A recent edition of this personal statement of the socialist and pacifist; the father of James Baxter. NZ.

WHITE BOY RUNNING

• 1988 *Hope, Christopher* 272 pp

In a witty and sophisticated account, journalist and novelist Christopher Hope, chronicles his return to South Africa, after twelve years of absence, for the whites-only election of 1987. With a darkly satirical humour, he depicts the absurdities that are so frequently entangled with the horrors of repression.

WHITE CARGO

1999 *Kendal, Felicity* 319 pp

Reflections on the author's early life in India and the beginning of an acting career in 1960s London. Greatly influential were her parents who chose to tour a small theatre company through India, performing Shakespeare, Shaw and Wilde.

WHO IS SYLVIA?

1990 *Hood, Lynley* 303 pp

Lynley Hood's diary as she goes about gathering information for *Sylvia*, her book on the life of Sylvia Ashton Warner.

WILD SWANS

1991 *Chang, Jung* 676 pp

Autobiography of three generations of Chinese women's lives in China before, and during the Cultural Revolution. **2-month loan.**

WOMAN UNKNOWN (A): VOICES FROM A SPANISH VILLAGE

1999 *Graves, Lucia* 273 pp

A personal memoir of the daughter of poet, Robert Graves. She spent her childhood on the island of Majorca, and adult life raising a family in Catalonia. "[A] unique and perceptive appraisal of a country burdened by tradition, yet coming to terms with political change as the decades move on." (Blurb.)

YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING (THE)

• 2006 *Didion, Joan* 227 pp

Several days before Christmas 2003, John Gregory Dunne and Joan Didion saw their only daughter, Quintana, fall seriously ill and placed on life support. Days later, sitting down together to have dinner after visiting the hospital, John has a massive and fatal coronary. In a second, a close and symbiotic partnership of 40 years was over. *The Year Of Magical Thinking* is Didion's account of her grieving through the year to follow.

ZEN AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE

1974 *Pirsig, R* 406 pp

Explores values of modern society in regard to technology and personal worth. US.

