

The Essex Serpent The Number One Bestseller And British Awards Of The Year

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[Only Americans Burn in Hell](#) - Jarett Kobek 2020-01-02

A despairingly hilarious satire of the modern world, from #MeToo to Trump, by the bestselling author of *I Hate the Internet*.

[Final Demand](#) - Deborah Moggach 2012-03-31

'Final Demand is strong on narrative, dashing the reader along, but, though fast-paced and transparently written, nevertheless creates people of memorable complexity' Independent Natalie is a girl who should be going somewhere. Beautiful, bright and ambitious, she's stuck in a dead-end job in the accounts department of Nu-Line Telecommunications, living her life through wild weekends and yearning for something more. When she sees a chance to change her life, she takes it. After all, it's only a minor crime. Nobody's going to get hurt. But other people do get hurt, because Natalie's actions do have consequences – tragic consequences. Poignant and beautifully written, Final Demand is a cautionary tale about the battle between greed and love, about human hopes and our own frailty in the face of temptation. 'A chilling, impeccably plotted novel' *Cosmopolitan* 'Powerful...vividly evoked' *Sunday Times*

[The Dutch Wife](#) - Ellen Keith 2018-09-01

A sweeping story of survival during World War II Amsterdam, May 1943. As the tulips bloom and the Nazis tighten their grip across the city, the last signs of Dutch resistance are being swept away. Marijke de Graaf and her husband are arrested and deported to different concentration camps in Germany. Marijke is given a terrible choice: to suffer a slow death in the labor camp or—for a chance at survival—to join the camp brothel. On the other side of the barbed wire, SS officer Karl Mÿller arrives at the camp hoping to live up to his father's expectations of wartime glory. When he encounters the newly arrived Marijke, this meeting changes their lives forever. Woven into the narrative across space and time is Luciano Wagner's ordeal in 1977 Buenos Aires, during the heat of the Argentine Dirty War. In his struggle to endure military captivity, he searches for ways to resist from a prison cell he may never leave. From the Netherlands to Germany to Argentina, *The Dutch Wife* braids together the stories of three individuals who share a dark secret and are entangled in two of the most oppressive reigns of terror in modern history. This is a novel about the blurred lines between love and lust, abuse and resistance, and right and wrong, as well as the capacity for ordinary people to persevere and do the unthinkable in extraordinary circumstances.

[The Muse](#) - Jessie Burton 2016-07-26

From the #1 internationally bestselling author of *The Miniaturist* comes a captivating and brilliantly realized story of two young women—a Caribbean immigrant in 1960s London, and a bohemian woman in 1930s Spain—and the powerful mystery that ties them together. England, 1967. Odelle Bastien is a Caribbean émigré trying to make her way in London. When she starts working at the prestigious Skelton Institute of Art, she discovers a painting rumored to be the work of Isaac Robles, a young artist of immense talent and vision whose mysterious death has confounded the art world for decades. The excitement over the painting is matched by the intrigue around the conflicting stories of its discovery. Drawn into a complex web of secrets and deceptions, Odelle does not know what to believe or who she can trust, including her mesmerizing colleague, Marjorie Quick. Spain, 1936. Olive Schloss, the daughter of a Viennese Jewish art dealer and an English heiress, follows her parents to Arazuelo, a poor, restless village on the southern coast. She grows close to Teresa, a young housekeeper, and Teresa's half-brother, Isaac Robles, an idealistic and ambitious painter newly returned from the Barcelona

salons. A dilettante buoyed by the revolutionary fervor that will soon erupt into civil war, Isaac dreams of being a painter as famous as his countryman Picasso. Raised in poverty, these illegitimate children of the local landowner revel in exploiting the wealthy Anglo-Austrians. Insinuating themselves into the Schloss family's lives, Teresa and Isaac help Olive conceal her artistic talents with devastating consequences that will echo into the decades to come. Rendered in exquisite detail, *The Muse* is a passionate and enthralling tale of desire, ambition, and the ways in which the tides of history inevitably shape and define our lives.

[Persons Unknown](#) - Susie Steiner 2017-07-04

In this brilliant crime novel from the author of *Missing, Presumed*, a detective investigates her most personal case yet: a high-profile murder in which her own family falls under suspicion. "[Susie] Steiner populates this hot-button narrative with achingly human characters, but no one compares to the hormonal, mordantly funny mom-cop who will stop at nothing to save her son."—*People* (Book of the Week) As dusk falls, a young man staggers through a park, far from home, bleeding from a stab wound. He dies where he falls, cradled by a stranger, a woman's name on his lips in his last seconds of life. Detective Manon Bradshaw handles only cold cases. Five months pregnant, in pursuit of a work-life balance rather than romantic love, she's focused on being a good mother to her two children: her adopted twelve-year-old son, Fly Dent, and the new baby. But the man died just yards from the police station where she works, so Manon can't help taking an interest. And as she sidles in on the briefing she learns that the victim, a banker from London worth millions, is more closely linked to her than she could have imagined. When the case begins to circle in on Manon's home and her family, she finds herself pitted against the colleagues she once held dear: Davy Walker and Harriet Harper. Can Manon separate what she knows about the people she loves from the suspicion hanging over them? Can she investigate the evidence just as she would with any other case? *Persons Unknown* shows acclaimed author Susie Steiner writing her most intricate, suspenseful novel yet. Praise for *Persons Unknown* "A police procedural as concerned with the mysteries of human hearts as with who stabbed a banker to death at a park in Cambridgeshire. [Full of] winning prose, sympathetic characters and an appreciation of life's joys as keen as a knowledge of its dangers."—*The Wall Street Journal* "Susie Steiner blends the police procedural and the human drama perfectly."—*The Charlotte Observer* "[Steiner] has created a masterful mystery within an engaging narrative perfect for Kate Atkinson fans. Readers will be astonished by the unexpected turns at the conclusion, which will leave fans eagerly awaiting the next book. This series needs to be snapped up by the BBC or PBS."—*Booklist* (starred review) "[An] engrossing stunner, incorporating social justice issues into the narrative, along with superb plotting, dark humor, and excellent characterizations."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

[The Poison Bed](#) - Elizabeth Fremantle 2019-04-02

A spellbinding thriller set in the Jacobean Court of 1615 surrounding a famed couple imprisoned on suspicion of murder—but was it Lord Robert or Lady Frances who committed the crime? A marriage. A murder. One of them did it. Which of them will die for it? In the autumn of 1615, scandal rocks the Jacobean court, when a celebrated couple, Robert and Frances Carr, are imprisoned on suspicion of murder. Frances is young, captivating, and from a notorious family. She has been rescued from an abusive marriage by Robert, and is determined to make a new life for herself. Whatever the price. Robert is one of the richest and most famous

men in the kingdom. He has risen from nothing to become one of the country's most powerful men. But to get to the top, you cannot help making enemies. Some believe she is innocent; others think her wicked or insane. He claims no knowledge of the murder. The king suspects them both, though it is his secret at stake. Now a man is dead. And someone must pay with their life. Who is telling the truth? Who has the most to lose? And who is willing to commit murder?

Only in Naples - Katherine Wilson 2016

"In the tradition of M.F.K. Fisher and Peter Mayle, this ... memoir follows American-born Katherine Wilson on her adventures abroad, where a three-month rite of passage in Naples turns into a permanent embrace of this boisterous city on the Mediterranean. It is all thanks to a surprising romance, a new passion for food, and a spirited woman who will become her mother-in-law--and teach her to laugh, to seize joy, and to love"--

The Essex Serpent - Sarah Perry 2017-04-20

THE SUNDAY TIMES NUMBER ONE BESTSELLER Overall Book of the Year and Fiction Book of the Year at the British Book Awards 2017 (Nibbies) Longlisted for the 2017 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction The Waterstones Book of the Year 2016 Shortlisted for the 2016 Costa Novel Award London, 1893. When Cora Seaborne's controlling husband dies, she steps into her new life as a widow with as much relief as sadness. Along with her son Francis - a curious, obsessive boy - she leaves town for Essex, in the hope that fresh air and open space will provide refuge. On arrival, rumours reach them that the mythical Essex Serpent, once said to roam the marshes claiming lives, has returned to the coastal parish of Aldwinter. Cora, a keen amateur naturalist with no patience for superstition, is enthralled, convinced that what the local people think is a magical beast may be a yet-undiscovered species. As she sets out on its trail, she is introduced to William Ransome, Aldwinter's vicar, who is also deeply suspicious of the rumours, but thinks they are a distraction from true faith. As he tries to calm his parishioners, Will and Cora strike up an intense relationship, and although they agree on absolutely nothing, they find themselves at once drawn together and torn apart, affecting each other in ways that surprise them both. The Essex Serpent is a celebration of love, and the many different shapes it can take.

The Mere Wife - Maria Dahvana Headley 2018-07-17

New York Times bestselling author Maria Dahvana Headley presents a modern retelling of the literary classic Beowulf, set in American suburbia as two mothers—a housewife and a battle-hardened veteran—fight to protect those they love in *The Mere Wife*. From the perspective of those who live in Herot Hall, the suburb is a paradise. Picket fences divide buildings—high and gabled—and the community is entirely self-sustaining. Each house has its own fireplace, each fireplace is fitted with a container of lighter fluid, and outside—in lawns and on playgrounds—wildflowers seed themselves in neat rows. But for those who live surreptitiously along Herot Hall's periphery, the subdivision is a fortress guarded by an intense network of gates, surveillance cameras, and motion-activated lights. For Willa, the wife of Roger Herot (heir of Herot Hall), life moves at a charmingly slow pace. She flits between mommy groups, playdates, cocktail hour, and dinner parties, always with her son, Dylan, in tow. Meanwhile, in a cave in the mountains just beyond the limits of Herot Hall lives Gren, short for Grendel, as well as his mother, Dana, a former soldier who gave birth as if by chance. Dana didn't want Gren, didn't plan Gren, and doesn't know how she got Gren, but when she returned from war, there he was. When Gren, unaware of the borders erected to keep him at bay, ventures into Herot Hall and runs off with Dylan, Dana's and Willa's worlds collide.

The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock - Imogen Hermes Gowar 2018-09-11

Shortlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction • A Refinery 29 Favorite Book of the Year • A Booklist Top 10 First Novels of the Year • A People Best Book of the Fall "Wonderful... completely transporting." —Madeline Miller, New York Times bestselling author of *Circe* and *The Song of Achilles* In 1780s London, a prosperous merchant finds his quiet life upended when he unexpectedly receives a most unusual creature—and meets a most extraordinary woman—in this much-lauded, atmospheric debut that examines our capacity for wonder, obsession, and desire with all the magnetism, originality, and literary magic of *The Essex Serpent*. One September evening in 1785, Jonah Hancock hears an urgent knocking on his front door near the docks of London. The captain of one of Jonah's trading vessels is waiting eagerly on the front step, bearing shocking news. On a voyage to the Far East, he sold the Jonah's ship for something rare and far more precious: a mermaid. Jonah is stunned—the object the captain presents him is brown and wizened, as small as an infant, with vicious teeth and claws, and a torso that ends in the tail of a fish. It is also dead. As gossip spreads through the docks,

coffee shops, parlors and brothels, all of London is curious to see this marvel in Jonah Hancock's possession. Thrust from his ordinary existence, somber Jonah finds himself moving from the city's seedy underbelly to the finest drawing rooms of high society. At an opulent party, he makes the acquaintance of the coquettish Angelica Neal, the most desirable woman he has ever laid eyes on—and a shrewd courtesan of great accomplishment. This meeting sparks a perilous liaison that steers both their lives onto a dangerous new course as they come to realize that priceless things often come at the greatest cost. Imogen Hermes Gowar, Britain's most-heralded new literary talent, makes her debut with this spellbinding novel of a merchant, a mermaid, and a madam—an unforgettable confection that explores obsession, wonder, and the deepest desires of the heart with bawdy wit, intrigue, and a touch of magic.

Character Breakdown - Zawe Ashton 2020-02-06

'Entertaining...revealing, shocking' BERNARDINE EVARISTO 'Sublime' CANDICE CARTY-WILLIAMS Actor and director Zawe Ashton brings us a unique look at life, work and the absurdities of today's world Zawe Ashton has been acting since she was six. She has played many different roles, from 'cute little girl' to 'assassin with attitude', Oscar Wilde's *Salome* to St Trinian's schoolgirl by way of *Fresh Meat's* *Vod*. In *Character Breakdown*, Zawe scrolls through a version of her life. Or is it a version of her art? Or something in between. In it, she encounters glamour, horror, absurdity and questions like- is a life spent more on performance than reality any life at all? 'A very great book' Lena Dunham 'Smart, funny, vivid, honest, dark, timely' The Times 'A smart, funny and well-written take-down of modern showbiz' Elizabeth Day Selected by Bernadine Evaristo as one of the 20 Black British Womxn Writers

After the Eclipse - Sarah Perry 2017-09-26

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. "A heartfelt memoir and a suspenseful story" of a murdered mother (Gabourey Sidibe, *Book of the Month Club*). When Sarah Perry was twelve, she saw a partial eclipse; she took it as a good omen for her and her mother, Crystal. But that moment of darkness foreshadowed a much larger one: two days later, Crystal was murdered in their home in rural Maine. It took twelve years to find the killer. In that time, Sarah rebuilt her life amid abandonment, police interrogations, and the exacting toll of trauma. She dreamed of a trial, but when the day came, it brought no closure. It was not her mother's death she wanted to understand, but her life. She began her own investigation, one that drew her back to Maine, deep into the darkness of a small American town. "Pull[ing] the reader swiftly along on parallel tracks of mystery and elegy" in *After the Eclipse*, "Perry succeeds in restoring her mother's humanity and her own" (*The New York Times Book Review*). "Raw and perfect . . . After the Eclipse [has] an eerie, heartbreaking power that it shares with the very best of true crime." —Laura Miller, *Slate* "A gut punch . . . A heartbreaking yet hopeful testament to human resilience." —Samantha Irby, *Marie Claire* "With clear, powerful prose, Perry paints a portrait of unconventional motherhood while questioning society's handling of violence against women. Reminiscent of Maggie Nelson's *The Red Parts*, *After the Eclipse* tells the very human story at the center of a needless crime." —*W Magazine*

A Quaint and Curious Volume - 2019-08-19

Introduced by Sarah Perry, the best-selling author of *The Essex Serpent*. Uncanny. Mysterious. Eerie. Gothic. It draws us in with its air of mystery and repels us with its violence and darkness. But who were the first practitioners of the now-prevalent genre?

The Doll Factory - Elizabeth Macneal 2019-08-13

In this "sharp, scary, gorgeously evocative tale of love, art, and obsession" (Paula Hawkins, bestselling author of *The Girl on the Train*), a beautiful young woman aspires to be an artist, while a man's dark obsession may destroy her world forever. *The Doll Factory* is a sweeping tale of curiosity, love, and possession set among all the sordidness and soaring ambition of 1850s London. The greatest spectacle London has ever seen is being erected in Hyde Park and, among the crowd watching, two people meet. For Iris, an aspiring artist of unique beauty, it is the encounter of a moment—forgotten seconds later—but for Silas, a curiosity collector enchanted by the strange and beautiful, the meeting marks a new beginning. When Iris is asked to model for Pre-Raphaelite artist Louis Frost, she agrees on the condition that he will also teach her to paint, and suddenly her world expands beyond anything she ever dreamed of. But she has no idea that evil stalks her. Silas, it seems, has thought of only one thing since that chance meeting, and his obsession is darkening by the day...

The Wicked Cometh - Laura Carlin 2018-02-01

font size="+1" The nail-biting historical mystery with a heady romance at its heart/ font size 'Beguiling' Stylist ***** Hester White once had a comfortable home and a loving family, but after the untimely death of her parents, her life was turned upside down, leading her to live with her aunt and uncle in the slums of London. As the years turn, people begin to disappear from these murky streets in mysterious circumstances . . . with nobody to investigate their absences. When a life-threatening accident crosses Hester's path with Calder Brock's, it appears Hester's fortune has changed. Handsome, charming and wealthy, Calder is quick to invite her into his home, introducing Hester to his mysterious sister Rebecca, who takes Hester under her wing. In the opulence of her new home, Hester believes she has now escaped the darkness of the slums for good. But, Hester is about to find out, appearances can hide the ugliest of truths. When she is lured back onto the streets to investigate the mystery, the clues seem to lead her back far closer to her new friends than she could ever have imagined. . . ***** 'Carlin can tell a good story' Observer 'Contains lovely, lyrical writing . . . and a heady romance at its heart' Sunday Express

Wakenhyrst - Michelle Paver 2019-04-04

A Times Best Book of 2019. "Something has been let loose..." In Edwardian Suffolk, a manor house stands alone in a lost corner of the Fens: a glinting wilderness of water whose whispering reeds guard ancient secrets. Maud is a lonely child growing up without a mother, ruled by her repressive father. When he finds a painted medieval devil in a graveyard, unhallowed forces are awakened. Maud's battle has begun. She must survive a world haunted by witchcraft, the age-old legends of her beloved fen - and the even more nightmarish demons of her father's past. Spanning five centuries, *Wakenhyrst* is a darkly gothic thriller about murderous obsession and one girl's longing to fly free by the bestselling author of *Dark Matter* and *Thin Air*. *Wakenhyrst* is an outstanding new piece of story-telling, a tale of mystery and imagination laced with terror. It is a masterwork in the modern gothic tradition that ranges from Mary Shelley and Bram Stoker to Neil Gaiman and Sarah Perry.

[The Betrayals](#) - Bridget Collins 2020-11-12

From the Number 1 bestselling author of *THE BINDING* If everything in your life was based on a lie Would you risk it all to tell the truth? At Montverre, an exclusive academy tucked away in the mountains, the best and brightest are trained for excellence in the grand jeu: an arcane and mysterious contest. Léo Martin was once a student there, but lost his passion for the grand jeu following a violent tragedy. Now he returns in disgrace, exiled to his old place of learning with his political career in tatters. Montverre has changed since he studied there, even allowing a woman, Claire Dryden, to serve in the grand jeu's highest office of Magister Ludi. When Léo first sees Claire he senses an odd connection with her, though he's sure they have never met before. Both Léo and Claire have built their lives on lies. And as the legendary Midsummer Game, the climax of the year, draws closer, secrets are whispering in the walls...

[The Night She Disappeared](#) - Lisa Jewell 2021-09-07

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Then She Was Gone* comes "her best thriller yet" (Harlan Coben, New York Times bestselling author) about a young couple's disappearance on a gorgeous summer night, and the mother who will never give up trying to find them. On a beautiful summer night in a charming English suburb, a young woman and her boyfriend disappear after partying at the massive country estate of a new college friend. One year later, a writer moves into a cottage on the edge of the woods that border the same estate. Known locally as the Dark Place, the dense forest is the writer's favorite place for long walks and it's on one such walk that she stumbles upon a mysterious note that simply reads, "DIG HERE." Could this be a clue towards what has happened to the missing young couple? And what exactly is buried in this haunted ground? "Utterly gripping with richly drawn, hugely compelling characters, this is a first-class thriller with heart" (Lucy Foley, New York Times bestselling author) that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Florence Adler Swims Forever - Rachel Beanland 2020-07-07

"The perfect summer read" (USA TODAY) begins with a shocking tragedy that results in three generations of the Adler family grappling with heartbreak, romance, and the weight of family secrets over the course of one summer. *A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice * One of USA TODAY's "Best Books of 2020" * One of Good Morning America's "25 Novels You'll Want to Read This Summer" * One of Parade's "26 Best Books to Read This Summer" Atlantic City, 1934. Every summer, Esther and Joseph Adler rent their house out to vacationers escaping to "America's Playground" and move into the small apartment above their

bakery. Despite the cramped quarters, this is the apartment where they raised their two daughters, Fannie and Florence, and it always feels like home. Now, Florence has returned from college, determined to spend the summer training to swim the English Channel, and Fannie, pregnant again after recently losing a baby, is on bedrest for the duration of her pregnancy. After Joseph insists they take in a mysterious young woman whom he recently helped emigrate from Nazi Germany, the apartment is bursting at the seams. Esther only wants to keep her daughters close and safe but some matters are beyond her control: there's Fannie's risky pregnancy—not to mention her always-scheming husband, Isaac—and the fact that the handsome heir of a hotel notorious for its anti-Semitic policies, seems to be in love with Florence. When tragedy strikes, Esther makes the shocking decision to hide the truth—at least until Fannie's baby is born—and pulls the family into an elaborate web of secret-keeping and lies, bringing long-buried tensions to the surface that reveal how quickly the act of protecting those we love can turn into betrayal. "Readers of Emma Straub and Curtis Sittenfeld will devour this richly drawn debut family saga" (Library Journal) that's based on a true story and is a breathtaking portrayal of how the human spirit can endure—and even thrive—after tragedy.

Ghosts of the Past - Tony Park 2019-09-01

A forgotten African war. A missing treasure worth killing for. German South West Africa 1906, Australian horse trader Cyril Blake is executed in cold blood by the Kaiser's soldiers. Sydney, the present day. Blake's great-great nephew, recently widowed Nick Eatwell, is approached by South African journalist Susan Vidler who is investigating his ancestor's mysterious demise. Intrigued and looking for distraction, Nick discovers a long-lost manuscript which tells how Blake stayed in South Africa after serving in the Anglo Boer War and joined the Nama people in their rebellion against the Germans in South West Africa, modern-day Namibia. In Munich, historian Anja Berghoff, researching the origin of the wild 'ghost' horses of Namibia, stumbles across intriguing letters from Irish-German spy Claire Martin, with whom Blake had an affair. As Nick and Anja's paths cross, they find themselves racing through southern Africa and time on the trail of a legend. But they're not alone. Someone else is chasing these ghosts of the past, looking for clues to a hidden treasure worth killing for. *Ghosts of the Past* is based on a true story.

Essex Girls - Sarah Perry 2020-10-01

'Not all Essex girls are party girls. They can be sages, martyrs, leaders. In her neat and provocative little book, Sarah Perry celebrates their courage and vivacity.' Hilary Mantel A defence and celebration of the Essex Girl by the best-selling author of *The Essex Serpent* Essex Girls are disreputable, disrespectful and disobedient. They speak out of turn, too loudly and too often, in an accent irritating to the ruling classes. Their bodies are hyper-sexualised and irredeemably vulgar. They are given to intricate and voluble squabbling. They do not apologise for any of this. And why should they? In this exhilarating feminist defence of the Essex girl, Sarah Perry re-examines her relationship with her much maligned home county. She summons its most unquiet spirits, from Protestant martyr Rose Allin to the indomitable Abolitionist Anne Knight, sitting them alongside Audre Lorde, Kim Kardashian and Harriet Martineau, and showing us that the Essex girl is not bound by geography. She is a type, representing a very particular kind of female agency, and a very particular kind of disdain: she contains a multitude of women, and it is time to celebrate them.

After Me Comes the Flood - Sarah Perry 2020-03-17

From the internationally bestselling author of *The Essex Serpent*—soon to be an Apple TV+ Series "A beautiful, dream-like, unsettling narrative in which every word, like a small jewel, feels carefully chosen, considered and placed. Rarely do debut novels come as assured and impressive as this one."—Sarah Waters, New York Times bestselling author of *The Paying Guests* Elegant, sinister and psychologically complex, *After Me Comes the Flood* is the haunting debut novel by Sarah Perry, the bestselling author of *The Essex Serpent* and *Melmoth*. One hot summer's day, John Cole decides to shut his bookshop early, and possibly forever, and drives out of London to see his brother. When his car breaks down on an isolated road, he goes looking for help and finds a dilapidated house. As he approaches, a laughing woman he's never seen before walks out, addresses him by name and explains she's been waiting for him. Entering the home, John discovers an enigmatic clan of residents all of whom seem to know who he is, and also claim they have been awaiting his arrival. They seem to be waiting for something else, too—something final.... Written before Sarah Perry's ascension to an internationally bestselling author, *After Me Comes the Flood* is a

spectacular novel of obsession, conviction, and providence.

Lie With Me - Philippe Besson 2019-04-30

The award-winning, bestselling French novel by Philippe Besson—"the French Brokeback Mountain" (Elle)—about an affair between two teenage boys in 1984 France, translated with subtle beauty and haunting lyricism by the iconic and internationally acclaimed actress/writer Molly Ringwald. We drive at high speed along back roads, through woods, vineyards, and oat fields. The bike smells like gasoline and makes a lot of noise, and sometimes I'm frightened when the wheels slip on the gravel on the dirt road, but the only thing that matters is that I'm holding on to him, that I'm holding on to him outside. Just outside a hotel in Bordeaux, Philippe chances upon a young man who bears a striking resemblance to his first love. What follows is a look back at the relationship he's never forgotten, a hidden affair with a gorgeous boy named Thomas during their last year of high school. Without ever acknowledging they know each other in the halls, they steal time to meet in secret, carrying on a passionate, world-altering affair. Dazzlingly rendered in English by Ringwald in her first-ever translation, Besson's powerfully moving coming-of-age story captures the eroticism and tenderness of first love—and the heartbreaking passage of time.

Melmoth - Sarah Perry 2018-10-02

Twenty years ago Helen Franklin did something she cannot forgive herself for, and she has spent every day since barricading herself against its memory. But the sheltered life she has crafted for herself is about to change. A strange manuscript has come into her possession, and its contents have the power to unravel every strand of her fragile safety net. It is filled with testimonies from the darkest chapters of human history, which all record sightings of a tall, silent woman in black, with unblinking eyes and bleeding feet: Melmoth, the loneliest being in the world. Condemned to walk the Earth forever, she tries to beguile the guilty and lure them away for a lifetime wandering alongside her. Everyone that Melmoth seeks out must make a choice: to live with what they've done, or be led into the darkness. Despite her scepticism, Helen can't stop reading, or shake the feeling that someone or something is watching her. As her past finally catches up with her, she too must choose which path to take. Exquisitely written, and gripping until the very last page, this is a masterpiece of moral complexity, asking us profound questions about mercy, redemption, and how to make the best of our conflicted world.

I Still Dream - James Smythe 2018-04-05

'The best fictional treatment of the possibilities and horrors of artificial intelligence that I've read' Guardian In 1997 Laura Bow invented Organon, a rudimentary artificial intelligence.

Homecoming - Susie Steiner 2015-01-02

Up on the North Yorkshire moors, the Hartle family is about to have a life-changing year. Ann and Joe, with more than thirty years of marriage between them, are torn between giving up or pressing on with their struggling farm. Max, their elder son, is set to inherit the farm, and his wife Primrose has news to share, but is he ready for these new responsibilities? The younger son, Bartholomew, escaped to the south as soon as he could, building a new life for himself with his girlfriend Ruby. But when tragedy strikes, he is forced to return home - and come to terms with his past, in order to create a future.

Wrecker - Noel O'Reilly 2018-07-12

'Compelling' Sunday Times A powerful debut exploring the dark side of Cornwall - the wrecking and the drowned sailors - where poverty drove villagers to dark deeds...

Missing, Presumed - Susie Steiner 2016-06-28

A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice • A page-turning mystery that brings to life a complex and strong-willed detective assigned to a high-risk missing persons case NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • NAMED ONE OF THE 10 BEST MYSTERIES OF THE YEAR BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL "An extraordinarily assured police procedural in the tradition of Ruth Rendell and Elizabeth George."—Joseph Finder, author of *The Fixer* "Surprise-filled . . . one of the most ambitious police procedurals of the year. Detective Bradshaw's biting wit is a bonus."—The Wall Street Journal "Missing, Presumed has future BBC miniseries written all over it."—Redbook "A highly charismatic and engaging story."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "This combination of police procedural and an unfolding family drama that continuously twists and turns will work well for fans of Kate Atkinson and Tana French."—Booklist At thirty-nine, Manon Bradshaw is a devoted and respected member of the Cambridgeshire police force, and though she loves her job, what she longs for is a personal life. Single and distant from her family, she wants

a husband and children of her own. One night, after yet another disastrous Internet date, she turns on her police radio to help herself fall asleep—and receives an alert that sends her to a puzzling crime scene. Edith Hind—a beautiful graduate student at Cambridge University and daughter of the surgeon to the Royal Family—has been missing for nearly twenty-four hours. Her home offers few clues: a smattering of blood in the kitchen, her keys and phone left behind, the front door ajar but showing no signs of forced entry. Manon instantly knows that this case will be big—and that every second is crucial to finding Edith alive. The investigation starts with Edith's loved ones: her attentive boyfriend, her reserved best friend, her patrician parents. As the search widens and press coverage reaches a frenzied pitch, secrets begin to emerge about Edith's tangled love life and her erratic behavior leading up to her disappearance. With no clear leads, Manon summons every last bit of her skill and intuition to close the case, and what she discovers will have shocking consequences not just for Edith's family but for Manon herself. Suspenseful and keenly observed, *Missing, Presumed* is a brilliantly twisting novel of how we seek connection, grant forgiveness, and reveal the truth about who we are. Praise for *Missing, Presumed* "Smart, stylish . . . Manon is portrayed with an irresistible blend of sympathy and snark. By the time she hits bottom, professionally and privately, we're entirely caught up in her story."—The New York Times Book Review "Nuanced suspense that's perfect for Kate Atkinson fans."—People "Drenched in character and setting, with pinpoint detail that breathes life and color into every sentence."—The News & Observer "You might come to *Missing, Presumed* for the police procedural; you'll stay for the layered, authentic characters that Steiner brings to life."—Bethanne Patrick, NPR "Where [Susie] Steiner excels is in the depth and clarity with which she depicts her characters. . . . It all adds up to a world that feels much bigger than the novel in which it is contained."—The Guardian

At Hawthorn Time - Melissa Harrison 2015-07-07

It is dawn on a May morning. On a long straight road between two sleeping fields a car slows as it arrives at the scene of an accident. Howard and Kitty have been married for thirty years and now sleep in different rooms. They do not discuss it. It was always Kitty's dream to move from their corner of north London into the countryside, and when the kids were gone they moved to the village of Lodeshill. Howard often wonders if anyone who lives in this place has a reason to be there. Jack was once a rural rebel, a protestor who only ever wanted the freedom to walk alone in his own country. Having finished another stint in prison for trespassing, he sets off once more, walking north with his old battered backpack. Jamie is a nineteen-year-old Lodeshill boy who works in a distribution center and has a Saturday job at the bakery. He spent his childhood exploring the land with his grandfather and playing with Alex who lived in the farmhouse next-door. As the lives of these people overlap, we realize that mysterious layers of history are not only buried within them, but also locked into the landscape. A captivating novel, *At Hawthorn Time* is about identity, consumerism, changing boundaries and our own long, straight path into the unknown.

The Stylist - Rosie Nixon 2018-09-04

In the tradition of *The Devil Wears Prada* comes Rosie Nixon's debut novel, which follows a young woman who is thrown into the fast-paced world of fashion and glamour as she's forced to navigate the treacherous Hollywood red carpets...while finding a fairytale love of her own. "A stylish, fun read, I absolutely loved it!"—Jackie Collins Amber Green loves working at Smith's, London's ultra-exclusive boutique frequented by everyone who's anyone, including Mona Armstrong, the stylist to the stars. She is fierce, demanding, and can make or break a career with a snap of her manicured nails. When Mona's latest assistant walks out and with awards season arriving faster than you can say "Rodeo Drive", Amber finds herself agreeing to work for one of the most infamous—and volatile—women in Hollywood. And the stars aren't much better. Amber's life is turned inside out as she becomes familiar with all Hollywood has to offer, on and off the red carpet. As she begins to enjoy life in the dressing rooms of the hottest stars, Amber discovers she's the one in the spotlight when she catches the attention of two very different men. But Mona's behavior is growing increasingly erratic and unless Amber can out-style everyone in Hollywood, she's in danger of being Mona's latest fashion victim.

The Second Sight of Zachary Cloudesley - Sean Lusk 2022-06-09

A BBC Between the Covers Book Club pick and Sunday Times Historical Fiction Book of the Month, for fans of *PANDORA*, *THE ESSEX SERPENT* and *THE NIGHT CIRCUS*. 'One of the best books I've read this year. Atmospheric, engaging, and elegantly written, this amazing tale of a clockmaker whose son possesses unusual talents is completely

unforgettable...' - Bonnie Garmus, *LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY* ----- Zachary Cloudesley is gifted in a remarkable way. But not all gifts are a blessing... Leadenhall Street, London, 1754. Raised amongst the cogs and springs of his father's workshop, Zachary Cloudesley has grown up surrounded by strange and enchanting clockwork automata. He is a happy child, beloved by his father Abel and the workmen who help bring his father's creations to life. He is also the bearer of an extraordinary gift; at the touch of a hand, Zachary can see into the hearts and minds of the people he meets. But then a near-fatal accident will take Zachary away from the workshop and his family. His father will have to make a journey that he will never return from. And, years later, only Zachary can find out what happened. A beautifully crafted historical mystery of love and hope, and the adventure of finding your place in the world. ----- 'A dashing, magical debut . . . intricately plotted, and peopled with intriguing characters' - Daily Mail 'Fans of eccentrically flavoured historical fiction with a touch of magic are in for a treat' - Metro What readers are saying: 'an excellent historical, magical realist novel' 'beautifully written' 'full of love and humour' 'original and rich in historical detail' 'my best book of 2022' 'totally engrossing...unforgettable'

The Paying Guests - Sarah Waters 2014-09-16

The New York Times bestselling novel that has been called “a tour de force” (Wall Street Journal), “unputdownable” (The Washington Post), “a delicious hothouse of a novel” (USA Today), “effortless” (The Economist), “seductive” (Vanity Fair) and “pitch perfect” (Salon) “Superb, bewitching...Forget about *Fifty Shades of Grey*; this novel is one of the most sensual you will ever read, and all without sacrificing either good taste or a “G” rating” - NPR “One of the year’s most engrossing and suspenseful novels...a love affair, a shocking murder, and a flawless ending ... Will keep you sleepless for three nights straight and leave you grasping for another book that can sustain that high.” — Entertainment Weekly (A rating) “Volcanically sexy, sizzingly smart, plenty bloody and just plain irresistible.” —USA Today (4 stars) It is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned; the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. And in South London, in a genteel Camberwell villa—a large, silent house now bereft of brothers, husband, and even servants—life is about to be transformed as impoverished widow Mrs. Wray and her spinster daughter, Frances, are obliged to take in lodgers. With the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, a modern young couple of the “clerk class,” the routines of the house will be shaken up in unexpected ways. Little do the Wrays know just how profoundly their new tenants will alter the course of Frances’s life—or, as passions mount and frustration gathers, how far-reaching, and how devastating, the disturbances will be. Short-listed for the Man Booker Prize three times, Sarah Waters has earned a reputation as one of our greatest writers of historical fiction, and here she has delivered again. A love story, a tension-filled crime story, and a beautifully atmospheric portrait of a fascinating time and place, *The Paying Guests* is Sarah Waters’s finest achievement yet.

Melmoth - Sarah Perry 2018-10-16

From the internationally bestselling author of *The Essex Serpent*—soon to be an Apple TV+ Series “Masterful...scary and smart, working as a horror story but also a philosophical inquiry into the nature of will and love. Perry did as much in her richly praised novel *The Essex Serpent*, but this is a deeper, more complex novel and more rewarding.”—The Washington Post In *Melmoth*, Sarah Perry’s breathtaking follow-up to *The Essex Serpent*, a mysterious dark-robed figure has roamed the globe for centuries, searching for those whose complicity and cowardice have fed into the rapids of history’s darkest waters—and now, it is heading in our direction. It has been years since Helen Franklin left England. In Prague, working as a translator, she has found a home of sorts—or, at least, refuge. That changes when her friend Karel discovers a mysterious letter in the library, a strange confession and a curious warning that speaks of *Melmoth the Witness*, a dark legend found in obscure fairy tales and antique village lore. As such superstition has it, *Melmoth* travels through the ages, dooming those she persuades to join her to a damnation of timeless, itinerant solitude. To Helen it all seems the stuff of unenlightened fantasy. But, unaware, as she wanders the cobblestone streets Helen is being watched. And then Karel disappears....

Deeplight - Frances Hardinge 2020-04-14

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea meets *Frankenstein* in this inventive YA fantasy from award-winning author Frances Hardinge The gods are dead. Fifty years ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. Nobody knows why. Now, even coin-sized scraps of dead god are worth a fortune because of the strange powers they’re said to

possess. But few are brave enough to dive and search for them. When fifteen-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of one of these deities, he’ll risk everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, scientists, and cults who would kill for its power. Because Hark needs the heart if he wants to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. But the power of a god was not meant for human hands. With the heart, Jelt begins to eerily transform, and Hark will have to decide if he can stay loyal to his friend—or what he’s willing to sacrifice to save him.

Strange Magic - Syd Moore 2017-05-04

Rosie Strange doesn't believe in ghosts or witches or magic. No, not at all. It’s no surprise therefore when she inherits the ramshackle Essex Witch Museum, her first thought is to take the money and run. Still, the museum exerts a curious pull over Rosie. There’s the eccentric academic who bustles in to demand she help in a hunt for old bones, those of the notorious Ursula Cadence, a witch long since put to death. And there’s curator Sam Stone, a man about whom Rosie can’t decide if he’s tiresomely annoying or extremely captivating. It all adds up to looking like her plans to sell the museum might need to be delayed, just for a while. Finding herself and Sam embroiled in a most peculiar centuries-old mystery, Rosie is quickly expelled from her comfort zone, where to her horror, the secrets of the past come with their own real, and all too present, danger as a strange magic threatens to envelope them all.

Poor Things - Alasdair Gray 2001

"The greatest Scottish novelist since Sir Walter Scott." Anthony Burgess *Strange Tricks* - Syd Moore 2021-05-06

Rosie Strange is back in the latest of the fabulously creepy Essex Witch Museum Mysteries Secretly Rosie Strange has always thought herself a little bit more interesting than most people - the legacy her family has bequeathed her is definitely so, she’s long believed. But then life takes a peculiar turn when the Strange legacy turns out not just to be the Essex Witch Museum, but perhaps some otherworldly gifts that Rosie finds difficult to fathom. Meanwhile Sam Stone, Rosie’s curator, is oddly distracted as breadcrumb clues into what happened to his missing younger brother and other abducted boys from the past are poised to lead him and Rosie deep into a dark wood where there lurks something far scarier than Hansel and Gretel’s witch... Praise for the Essex Witch Museum Mysteries: ‘I gleefully submitted to a tale of witchcraft, feminism, mysterious strangers, historical atrocities, plucky heroines and ghastly apparitions - and came away more proud than ever to be an Essex girl.’ Sarah Perry, author of *The Essex Serpent* ‘Confident, down-to-earth Essex girl Rosie is an appealing character, and there is plenty of spooky fun in this spirited genre mashup.’ Guardian

Remain Silent - Susie Steiner 2020-06-02

An immigrant’s mysterious death sets off a chilling hunt for the truth in this gripping crime novel from the author of *Missing*, *Presumed* “Brilliantly gripping.”—Lucy Foley, author of *The Guest List* “A police procedural with real imagination and heart, and a marvelous lightness of style and wit.”—Philip Pullman, author of *His Dark Materials* trilogy NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE GUARDIAN Newly married and navigating life with a preschooler as well as her adopted adolescent son, Manon Bradshaw is happy to be working part-time in the cold cases department of the Cambridgeshire police force, a job that allows her to potter in, coffee in hand, and log on for a spot of Internet shopping—precisely what she had in mind when she thought of work-life balance. But beneath the surface Manon is struggling with the day-to-day realities of what she’d assumed would be domestic bliss: fights about whose turn it is to clean the kitchen, the bewildering fatigue of having a young child while in her forties, and the fact that she is going to couples counseling alone because her husband feels it would just be her complaining. But when Manon is on a walk with her four-year-old son in a peaceful suburban neighborhood and discovers the body of a Lithuanian immigrant hanging from a tree with a mysterious note attached, she knows her life is about to change. Suddenly, she is back on the job full-force, trying to solve the suicide—or is it a murder—in what may be the most dangerous and demanding case of her life.

Things in Jars - Jess Kidd 2020-02-04

In this “miraculous and thrilling” (Diane Setterfield, #1 New York Times bestselling author) mystery for fans of *The Essex Serpent* and *The Book of Speculation*, Victorian London comes to life as an intrepid female sleuth wades through a murky world of collectors and criminals to recover a remarkable child. Bridie Devine—flame-haired, pipe-smoking detective extraordinaire—is confronted with the most baffling puzzle yet: the kidnapping of Christabel Berwick, secret daughter of Sir Edmund Athelstan Berwick, and a peculiar child whose reputed supernatural powers have captured the unwanted attention of collectors in this age of

discovery. Winding her way through the sooty streets of Victorian London, Bridie won't rest until she finds the young girl, even if it means unearthing secrets about her past that she'd rather keep buried. Luckily, her search is aided by an enchanting cast of characters, including a seven-foot-tall housemaid; a melancholic, tattoo-covered ghost; and an avuncular apothecary. But secrets abound in this foggy underworld where nothing is quite what it seems. Blending darkness and light, *Things in Jars* is a stunning, "richly woven tapestry of fantasy, folklore, and history" (Booklist, starred review) that explores what it means to be human in inhumane times.

If... - Sarah Perry 2020-03-10

"Imagination is the name of the game, and Perry plays it with distinction.

Eye-catching, mind-bending illustrations" (Booklist) Take a fantastical journey where anything can happen: leaves turn into fish, cats fly with wings, humans have tails, frogs eat rainbows, and dreams become visible. The Getty's first children's title, Sarah Perry's delightful picture book of "surreal possibilities" has remained a beloved backlist classic since it was first published in 1995. Her magical watercolors are an open invitation to the imagination and conjure up a world of limitless possibilities. Issued to celebrate a remarkable book's twenty-fifth anniversary, this enhanced, expanded, and enlivened edition will appeal to a brand-new generation of readers. Children of all ages will enjoy this romp through an inspiring, imaginative world.