LIBRARY BOOK L®VERS' GROUP

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL READERS

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Broken Country

Clare Leslie Hall | Fiction

Everyone in the village said nothing good would come of Gabriel's return. And as Beth looks at the man she loves on trial for murder, she can't help think they were right. She was seventeen when she'd first met Gabriel. Over that heady, intense summer, he made her think and feel and see differently. She thought it was the start of her

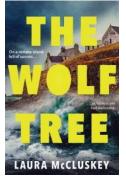


great love story and that it would last forever. When Gabriel left to become the person his mother expected him to be, she was broken. It was Frank who picked up the pieces. Together they'd built a home very different from the one she'd imagined with Gabriel. And there was a time - even years - when she was happy. Watching her husband and son riding a tractor across their farm, she remembered feeling so sure that, after everything, this was the life she was supposed to be leading. But then Gabriel came back, and all Beth's certainty about who she was and what she wanted crumbled. Even after ten years, their connection was instant. She knew it was wrong and she knew people could get hurt. But how could she resist a second chance at first love?

The wolf tree

Laura McCluskey | Fiction

On a small island off the coast of Scotland, an isolated community is grieving. Eighteen-year-old Alan Ferguson was found at the foot of the lighthouse - an apparent suicide. DIs Georgina Lennox and Richard Stewart are sent to investigate. A raging storm keeps them trapped on the island for five days. And the locals don't

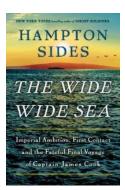


take kindly to mainlanders. As George and Richie question the island's inhabitants, they discover a village filled with superstition and shrouded in secrets. But someone wants those secrets to stay buried. At any cost.

The Wide Wide Sea

Hampton Sides | Non Fiction | 910.72 SIDE

Part high-seas adventure, part examination of the Age of Exploration, this account of Captain James Cook's last voyage in 1776 charts how his overt and covert missions came to a head on the island of Hawaii and left behind a complex and controversial legacy still debated to this day.



Outrageous Fortunes

Megan Brown and Lucy Sussex Non Fiction | 928 BROWN

The gripping story of Australia's first female crime writer and her career-criminal son. When Mary Fortune arrived in Melbourne with her infant son in 1855, she was determined to reinvent herself. The Victorian goldfields were just the place. After a time selling sly grog and a bigamous marriage to a policeman, Mary



became a pioneering journalist and author. The Detective's Album was the first book of detective stories to be published in Australia and the first by a woman to be published anywhere in the world. Her work appeared in magazines and newspapers for over forty years - but none of her readers knew who she was. She wrote using pseudonyms, often adopting the voice of a male narrator to write about 'unladylike' subjects. When Mary died in 1911, her identity was nearly lost. In Outrageous Fortunes, Megan Brown and Lucy Sussex retrieve Fortune's astonishing career and discover an equally absorbing story in her illegitimate son, George. While Mary was writing crime, George was committing it, with convictions for theft and bank robbery. In their intertwined stories, crime fiction meets true crime, and Melbourne's literary bohemia consorts with the criminal underworld.



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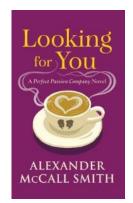
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Looking for you

Alexander McCall Smith | Fiction

What if you met the person you were destined to be with? And what if you never saw them again...? There's a new case for the Perfect Passion Company. After a serendipitous meeting in a supermarket, Clea meets the man of her dreams. But having left suddenly without his phone number, she can't stop thinking about what might have been.

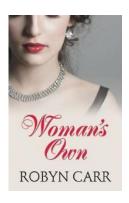


Can apprentice matchmaker Katie, with the help of her enigmatic neighbour William, help orchestrate the forces of Kismet and choreograph another happy union? And now that the newly single William's engagement is off, can Katie seize the moment to tell him how she feels before her chance has gone forever?

Woman's own

Robyn Carr | Fiction

Ablaze against the bustle of nineteenth-century Philadelphia is this sweeping saga of three generations of strong, women, all seemingly cursed when it comes to love. At its center is young Lilly Armstrong, a beauty on the brink of womanhood, too brave and too fearless to settle for the status quo. In a booming city animated by inventors, builders

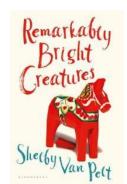


and artists, and now excited for the great Centennial Exhibition, Lilly aspires to carve out a life of independent freedom for herself and her women kin, lives not dependent on men. But of course, there is a man, a man who admires Lilly, who thinks like she does and who would move heaven and earth to help Lilly realize her dreams. With the guidance of her quietly resilient mother and the unexpected aid of her estranged and powerful grandmother, and despite the foolish meddling of her shallow and ambitious sister, Lilly is determined to lead her family of women into the challenge of the next century on her own terms.

Remarkably Bright Creatures

Shelby Van Pelt | Fiction

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Ever since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago keeping busy has helped her cope. One night she meets Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the



aquarium who sees everything, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors - until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late...

Sunrise over Mercy Court

Fiona McCallum | Fiction

Howard and Elsie Manning were born on the same day, met at kindergarten, and have been married for 59 years. They have lived sensible, productive lives, and raised two self-sufficient daughters. Now, at 78, they are bored with the predictability of life, fed up with contemporary society, have aching joints and dwindling finances, and - funeral



by funeral - their circle of friends is shrinking. Worst of all, they are grieving for their beloved, recently deceased dog Maisie. Together Howard and Elsie consider bringing their lives to a peaceful end, but it turns out leaving this world is not easy, especially if they want to avoid pain or mess. Even the apparently simple methods have much room for error, as they discover. Then a knock at the door changes everything.



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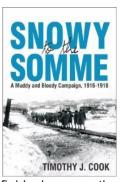
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Snowy to the Somme

Timothy J Cook | Non Fiction 940.481

In 1915, news of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landing, and the slaughter at Gallipoli stirred tens of thousands of young men to go to war. They answered the call and formed battalions of the Australian Imperial Force. By the time the new recruits were combat ready, the campaign at

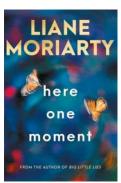


Gallipoli had ended. Their battlefields became the muddy paddocks of France and Belgium. This book traces the story of one of these battalions, the 55th, from its birth in the dusty camps of Egypt through three years of brutal, bloody conflict on the bitter Western Front. When the Great War ended in 1918, over 500 of the 3,000 men who served in the 55th had been slain and another 1,000 wounded. Author Tim Cook shares personal stories of Australian men as they stared down the horrors of war with determination, courage and mateship.

Here one moment

Liane Moriarty | Fiction

If you knew when you were going to die, what would you do differently? It all begins on a flight from Hobart to Sydney. The flight will be smooth. It will land safely. Everyone who gets on the plane will get off the plane. But almost all of them will be changed forever. Because on this ordinary flight, something extraordinary



happens. 'A lady', unremarkable until she isn't, predicts how and when many of the passengers are going to die. For some, death is far in the future; for others, it is very close. A brilliantly constructed story that looks at free will and destiny, grief and love, and the endless struggle to maintain certainty and control in an uncertain world. Liane Moriarty is a modern-day Jane Austen who humorously skewers social mores while spinning a web of mystery and asking profound, universal questions.

The Mademoiselle alliance

Natasha Lester | Fiction

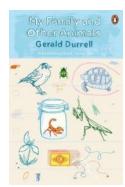
How did a young Parisienne mother, celebrated for her beauty and glamour, come to lead the largest spy network in France? Morocco, 1928. Eighteen-year-old Frenchwoman Marie-Madeleine is not the kind of woman who goes through life sitting down, something her new husband can attest. Her unconventionalities - rally car



driving, flying planes and dabbling in intelligence work for the government - earn her a reputation, but she knows who she is at heart: an adventurer. Paris, 1936. As Europe teeters on the brink of war, a chance encounter with a mysterious man codenamed Navarre turns Marie-Madeleine's life upside down. Recruited to help build a resistance network known only as Alliance, she conceals her identity - and her gender - as she navigates a perilous double life away from her children and the man she loves. Capture and death are only a heartbeat away.

My family and other animals Gerald Durrell | Non Fiction 925 DURR

My Family and Other Animals is the bewitching account of a rare and magical childhood on the island of Corfu by treasured British conservationist Gerald Durrell. Escaping the ills of the British climate, the Durrell family - acne-ridden Margo, gun-toting Leslie, bookworm Lawrence and budding naturalist Gerry, along with their long-suffering mother



and Roger the dog - take off for the island of Corfu. But the Durrells find that, reluctantly, they must share their various villas with a menagerie of local fauna - among them scorpions, geckos, toads, bats and butterflies. Recounted with immense humour and charm My Family and Other Animals is a wonderful account of a rare, magical childhood.



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Other people's houses

Clare Mackintosh | Fiction

Even on the most desirable street, there's a dark side . . . The Hill is the kind of place everyone wants to live: luxurious, exclusive and safe. But now someone is breaking and entering these Cheshire homes one by one, and DS Leo Brady suspects the burglar is looking for something, or someone, in particular. Over

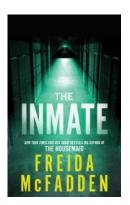


the border in Wales, DC Ffion Morgan recovers the body of an estate agent from the lake. There's no love lost between Ffion and estate agents, but who hated this one enough to want her dead - and why? As their cases collide, Ffion and Leo discover people will pay a high price to keep their secrets behind closed doors.

The inmate

Freida McFadden | Fiction

There are three rules Brooke Sullivan must follow as a new nurse practitioner at a men's maximum-security prison: 1) Treat all prisoners with respect. 2) Never reveal any personal information. 3) Never EVER become too friendly with the inmates. But none of the staff at the prison knows Brooke has already broken the rules. Nobody

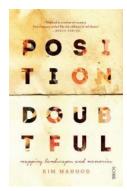


knows about her intimate connection to Shane Nelson, one of the penitentiary's most notorious and dangerous inmates. And they certainly don't know that Shane was Brooke's high school sweetheart - the star quarterback who is now spending the rest of his life in prison for a series of grisly murders. Or that Brooke's testimony was what put him there. But Shane knows. And he will never forget.

Position Doubtful: mapping landscapes and memories

Kim Mahood | Non Fiction 828.309 MAHO

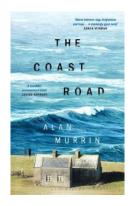
This is a beautiful and intense exploration of friendships, landscape, and homecoming. Written with great energy and humour, Position Doubtful offers a unique portrait of the complexities of black and white relations in contemporary Australia.



The Coast Road

Alan Murrin | Fiction

Set in 1994, The Coast Road tells the story of two women-Izzy Keaveney, a housewife, and Colette Crowley, a poet. Colette has left her husband and sons for a married man in Dublin. When she returns to her home in County Donegal to try to pick up the pieces of her old life, her husband, Shaun, a successful businessman, denies her



access to her children. The only way she can see them is with the help of neighbour Izzy, acting as a gobetween. Izzy also feels caught in a troubled marriage. The friendship that develops between them will ultimately lead to tragedy for one, and freedom for the other.

