

NANOOSE LIBRARY
DECEMBER, 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

FICTION

Sara Ackerman

Radar girls

Daisy Wilder prefers the company of horses to people, bare feet and salt water to high heels and society parties. Then, in the dizzying aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbour, Daisy enlists in a top secret program, replacing male soldiers in a war zone for the first time. But not everyone thinks the women are up to the job, and the new recruits must rise above their differences and work side by side despite the resistance and heartache they meet along the way. With America's future on the line, Daisy is determined to prove herself worthy.

Ace Atkinson

The heathens

The Byrd clan is one of the wildest families in Tibbehah County. The three kids are the ire of school resource and truant officers--they peddle pot and steal car parts, doing what they can to survive with a mother who sometimes disappears for months on end. But when their mother returns with a new husband, a registered sex offender, a homicide soon follows, and the kids hit the highway. U. S. Marshal Lillie Virgil is convinced the Byrd kids are guilty of murder, and sets off on a cross-country hunt to track them down and bring them to justice. Back in Tibbehah, Sheriff Quinn Colson isn't so sure. And as he digs deeper into the case, he comes to think there may be a larger conspiracy at work.

Camille Aubrey

The godmothers

Meet the Godmothers: Filomena is a clever and resourceful war refugee with a childhood secret. Amie, a beautiful French girl from upstate New York, escapes an abusive husband for a new life. Lucy, a tough-as-nails Irish lass, runs away from a strict girls' home to become a nurse. And the glamorous Petrina, the family's only daughter, graduates with honours from Barnard College. These four women marry into an elegant, prosperous Italian family, and then must take charge of the family's business when their husbands are forced to leave them during the war.

Lauren Ling Brown

Society of lies

Maya has returned to Princeton for her college reunion, a decade since she graduated, and she is looking forward to seeing old faces and reminiscing about her time there. This visit is special because Maya will also be attending the graduation of her little sister, Naomi. But what should have been a dream weekend becomes Maya's worst nightmare when she receives the news that Naomi is dead. The police are calling it an accident, but Maya suspects that there is more to the story than they are letting on.

Corinna Chong

Bad land

Regina is a socially awkward loner who is content to live a life withdrawn from everyone except her cherished pet bunny. But after seven years of silence, Regina's brother, Ricky, shows up unannounced on her doorstep, along with his daughter, Jez, a peculiar six-year-old, upending Regina's life. It's clear to Regina that something terrible has happened. After all, Regina and Ricky lived a childhood fraught with buried secrets. But this secret is one that cannot stay buried for long.

Michael Connelly

The waiting

LAPD Detective Renée Ballard and the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit's newest recruit, Patrol Officer Maddie Bosch, Harry's daughter, get a hot shot DNA connection between a recently arrested man and a serial rapist and murderer who went quiet twenty years ago. The arrested man is only twenty-three, so the genetic link must be familial. It is his father who was responsible for a five-year reign of terror in the city of angels. But when Ballard and her team move in on their suspect, they encounter a baffling web of secrets and legal hurdles.

Armando Lucas Correa

The silence in her eyes

Leah has been living with akinetopsia, or motion blindness, since she was a child. For the last twenty years, she hasn't been able to see movement. As she walks around her upper Manhattan neighbourhood with her white stick tapping in front, most people assume she's blind. But Leah sees a good deal, and with her acute senses of smell and hearing, very little escapes her notice. She has a quiet, orderly life, with little human contact beyond her longtime housekeeper, her doctor, and her elderly neighbour. That

NANOOSE LIBRARY
DECEMBER, 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

all changes when Alice moves into the apartment next door and Leah can immediately smell the anxiety wafting off her. Worse, Leah can't help but hear Alice and a late-night visitor engage in a violent fight. Worried, she befriends her neighbour and discovers that Alice is in the middle of a messy divorce from an abusive husband.

Jaima Fixsen

The specimen

1826. Isobel Tait finds herself, by chance, staring at a tiny human heart floating in a jar. It should be of little consequence; Dr. Burnett is renowned for his collection of oddities and medical specimens, and this, a juvenile heart with a damaged mitral valve, is not the strangest thing on display. Except that the condition is rare, and that Isobel's young son, who has been missing for months, suffered from the ailment. A phantom pulse beats in Isobel's ears. She knows something here isn't right.

Nick Harkaway

Karla's choice

It is spring in 1963 and George Smiley has left the Circus. With the wreckage of the West's spy war with the Soviets strewn across Europe, he has eyes only for a more peaceful life. And indeed, with his marriage more secure than ever, there is a rumour in Whitehall that George Smiley might almost be happy. But Control has other plans. A Russian agent has defected, and the man he was sent to kill in London is nowhere to be found. Smiley reluctantly agrees to one last simple interview with Szusanna, a Hungarian émigré and employee of the missing man, and sniff out a lead. But, as Smiley well knows, even the softest step in the shadows resounds with terrible danger.

Robert Harris

Precipice

In London, twenty-six-year-old Venetia Stanley is part of a fast group of upper-crust bohemians and socialites known as "The Coterie." She's also engaged in a clandestine love affair with the Prime Minister, H. H. Asquith, a man more than twice her age. He writes to her obsessively, sharing the most sensitive matters of state. As Asquith reluctantly leads the country into war with Germany, a young intelligence officer with Scotland Yard is assigned to investigate a leak of top-secret documents. Suddenly, what was a sexual intrigue becomes a matter of national security.

Curtis "50 cent" Jackson

Aaron Philip Clark

The accomplice

New York-born and Texas-bred Nia Adams has always dreamt of becoming a Texas Ranger. She knows the dangers of the job, and as the first black female ranger, she knows the politics, but she's never encountered a criminal like Desmond Bell. A Vietnam vet turned thief, Desmond steals more than money; he steals the secrets of the rich and powerful and blackmails them for millions. When Desmond steals from the Duchamps, the wealthiest family in the country, Nia's investigation into the robbery threatens to expose him and the criminal enterprise he works for.

Thomas King

Black ice

Thumps DreadfulWater has a lot on his plate. With Duke out of commission following his wife's tragic death, Thumps is appointed temporary deputy sheriff, a role that makes him doubly eager for Duke's swift recovery. First, a myopic private investigator dies while in custody. The autopsy concludes that he died of natural causes; then an assault rifle is found in the trunk of the dead man's rental car, and the mystery woman he was investigating disappears. Meanwhile, Thumps contends with a couple of horse-thieving octogenarians and a large, slobbery dog acquired in the line of duty.

T.J. Klune

The house in the Cerulean Sea

Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by Extremely Upper Management, he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days. But the

NANOOSE LIBRARY
DECEMBER, 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

children aren't the only secret the island keeps. Their caretaker is the charming and enigmatic Arthur Parnassus, who will do anything to keep his wards safe.

Jean Hanff Korelitz

The secret

Anna Williams-Bonner has taken care of business. That is to say, she's taken care of her husband, bestselling novelist Jacob Finch Bonner, and laid to rest those anonymous accusations of plagiarism that so tormented him. Now she is living the contented life of a literary widow, enjoying her husband's royalty checks in perpetuity, but for the second time in her life, a work of fiction intercedes, and this time it's her own debut novel, *The Afterword*. But when Anna publishes her book and indulges in her own literary acclaim, she begins to receive excerpts of a novel she never expected to see again, a novel that should no longer exist.

David Lagercrantz

Fatal gambit

When Samuel Lidman spots his wife, who was confirmed dead fourteen years ago, in the background of a friend's holiday photo, he brings it to disgraced former professor and government consultant Hans Rekke and his unofficial partner and temporary roommate, Detective Micaela Vargas. Their initial skepticism gives way to cautious belief—but where will this case lead them?

Paul Lynch

Prophet song

On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her step. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police are here to interrogate her husband, a trade unionist. Ireland is falling apart. The country is in the grip of a government turning towards tyranny and Eilish can only watch helplessly as the world she knew disappears. When first her husband and then her eldest son vanish, Eilish finds herself caught within the nightmare logic of a collapsing society.

Kat Martin

The last mile

When Abigail Holland awakes to the sound of a nighttime intruder in her rambling Denver Victorian, she knows exactly what the black shrouded figure is after—the map she recently inherited from her grandfather. Whoever he is, the man who grapples with her, then escapes, is willing to kill for the location of a treasure King Farrell hunted for more than ten years. The Devil's Gold has claimed hundreds of lives, and it was her grandfather's obsession. With a killer pursuing her and her own family not to be trusted, Abby decides to take up the search herself. But she'll need help to do it, and there's no one better than renowned explorer and treasure hunter Gage Logan.

Alexander McCall Smith

The Great Hippopotamus Hotel

Another in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. Mma Ramotswe has a deft hand in delicate cases, and never allows an act of injustice to pass unanswered. So, when it comes to her attention that a matter involving dubious motives has arisen, and that it will require the utmost discretion to resolve, she has no choice but to lend her skills in the arts of detection and reconciliation. She is, after all, head of Botswana's premier detective agency, but that doesn't mean she can't use the help of Mma Makutsi and Mma Potokwane. Meanwhile, Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni has found himself in complicated circumstances of his own, requiring not a little of Mma Ramotswe's time and expertise.

Liz Moore

The God of the woods

Early morning, August 1975: a camp counsellor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found.

Ann Napolitano

Within arm's reach

Gracie has a secret with the power to unhinge her precariously balanced family. Years of repressed anger and buried grief have forged a fault line through the McLaughlins, an Irish-American clan whose

NANOOSE LIBRARY
DECEMBER, 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

dysfunction simmers under a patina of carefully controlled propriety. Now the unthinkable has happened: Gracie is pregnant out of wedlock and she's planning to keep the child. As the scandal reverberates through the family, each member is forced to a reckoning point: will the wreckage of their past and the deafening silence of their present strangle what little sense of family bond remains? Only one woman, Gracie's grandmother and the clan matriarch, Catharine McLaughlin, has a plan. In Gracie's unborn child, Catharine sees the potential of a brand new life to resuscitate her failing family, dispel the ghosts that haunt her waking hours, and unlock the decades of stunted dialogue that have squelched them all.

Carlene O'Connor

Murder in Connemara

Former New Yorker and interior designer Tara Meehan is eagerly anticipating the grand opening of her architectural salvage shop Renewals in her newly adopted home of Galway. She's in the midst of preparations when heiress Veronica O'Farrell bursts in to announce she's ready for some renewal of her own. To celebrate one year of sobriety, she's invited seven people she wronged in her drinking days to historic Ballynahinch Castle Hotel in neighbouring Connemara to make amends in style. But perhaps one among them is not so eager to pardon her past misdeeds. Veronica is found lying in the ruins of manor house Clifden Castle with an antique Tara Brooch buried in her heart.

Joseph O'Connor

My Father's house

September 1943: German forces occupy Rome. Gestapo boss Obersturmbannführer Paul Hauptmann rules with terror. Hunger is widespread. Rumours fester and the war's outcome is far from certain. Diplomats, refugees, and escaped Allied prisoners flee for protection into Vatican City. A small band of unlikely friends led by a courageous Irish priest is drawn into deadly danger as they seek to help those seeking refuge. Based on the true story of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, who risked his life to smuggle thousands of Jews and escaped Allied prisoners out of Italy under the nose of the Nazis.

Fawn Parker

Hi, it's me

Shortly after her mother's death, Fawn arrives at the farmhouse. While there, she will stay in her mother's bedroom in the house, which is also occupied by four women who live by an unusual set of beliefs. Wrestling with longstanding compulsive and harmful behaviours, as well as severe self-doubt, Fawn is confronted with the reality of her mother's death. It is her responsibility to catalogue the furniture and possessions in the room, then sell or dispose of them. Instead, Fawn becomes fixated on archiving her mother's writing and documents, searching for signs, and drawing tenuous connections to help her understand more about the enigmatic woman in the pages.

James Patterson/Brian Sitts

The perfect assassin

Dr. Brandt Savage is on sabbatical from the University of Chicago. Instead of doing solo fieldwork in anthropology, the gawky, bespectacled PhD finds himself enrolled in a school where he is the sole pupil. His professor, "Meed," is demanding. She's also his captor. Savage emerges from their intensive training sessions physically and mentally transformed, but with no idea why he's been chosen, and how he'll use his fearsome new abilities.

Ian Rankin

Midnight and blue

John Rebus spent his life as a detective putting Edinburgh's most deadly criminals behind bars. Now, he's joined them. As new allies and old enemies circle, and the days and nights bleed into each other, even the legendary detective struggles to keep his head. That is, until a murder at midnight in a locked cell presents a new mystery. They say old habits die hard. However, this is a case where the prisoners and the guards are all suspects, and everyone has something to hide.

Susan Rieger

Like Mother, like Mother

Detroit, 1960. Lila Pereira is two years old when her angry, abusive father has her mother committed to an asylum. Lila never sees her mother again. Three decades later, Lila rises to the pinnacle of American media as the powerful executive editor of The Washington Globe. Lila unapologetically prioritizes her career, leaving the rearing of her daughters to her generous husband, Joe. He doesn't mind, until he does. But Grace, their youngest daughter, feels abandoned and as she grows up, she cannot shake her

NANOOSE LIBRARY
DECEMBER, 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

resentment. She wants out from under Lila's shadow, yet the more she resists, the more Lila seems to shape her life. Grace becomes a successful reporter, even publishing a bestselling book about her mother. In the process of writing it, she realizes how little she knows about her own family.

J.D. Robb

Forgotten in death

Another in the homicide detective Eve Dallas series. The body was left in a dumpster like so much trash, the victim a woman of no fixed address, known for offering paper flowers in return for spare change and for keeping the cops informed of any infractions she witnessed on the street. But the notebook where she scribbled her intel on litterers and other such offenders is nowhere to be found. Then Eve is summoned away to a nearby building site to view more remains, in this case decades old, adorned with gold jewelry and fine clothing, unearthed by recent construction work. She isn't happy when she realizes that the scene of the crime belongs to her husband, Roarke—not that it should surprise her, since the Irish billionaire owns a good chunk of New York. Now Eve must enter a complex world of real estate development, family history, shady deals, and shocking secrets to find justice for two women.

Nora Roberts

Legacy

Adrian Rizzo was seven when she met her father for the first time. That was the day he nearly killed her—before her mother, Lina, stepped in. Soon after, Adrian was dropped off at her grandparents' house in Maryland, where she spent a long idyllic. Lina, meanwhile, traveled the country promoting her fitness brand and turning it into a billion-dollar business. A decade later, Adrian has created her own line of yoga and workout videos, following in Lina's footsteps but intent on maintaining creative control. But while Lina dismisses the death threats that Adrian starts getting as a routine part of her daughter's growing celebrity, Adrian can't help but find the vicious rhymes unsettling. Year after year, they keep arriving—the postmarks changing, but the menacing tone the same.

Mandy Robotham

The hidden storyteller

Hamburg, 1946. Posted to an Allied-run Hamburg, reporter Georgie Young returns to the country she fled seven years prior to find it unrecognizable. Amidst the stark horrors of a bombed-out city crumbling under the weight of millions of displaced Europeans, she discovers pockets of warmth: a violinist playing amidst the wreckage, couples dancing in the streets, and a nation trying to make amends. But when she joins forces with local policeman Harri Schroder to solve a murder case he is working on, a woman with the word traitor engraved into her skin, she soon discovers that the darkest secrets of war haven't been left in the past.

Tom Ryan

The Treasure Hunters Club

For nearly a century, people have ventured to the idyllic seaside town of Maple Bay in search of a legendary lost pirate treasure, but locals know there's more than just gold buried in the sand. As the paths of three strangers converge in Maple Bay, the truth is about to be blown wide open. But not before the bodies start to pile up.

Karen Swan

The secret path

Tara Tremain has worked hard to leave the controlling grasp of her extremely affluent family far behind. With her own career in medicine, she doesn't need the Tremains' expectations weighing her down any more. But pulled back into the family's orbit one last time for an unmissable party in the jungles of Costa Rica, she finds herself flung into action: a local boy is desperately ill and she must trek for days into the jungle to save his life. What Tara could never have predicted is that the one person who can help her in this impossible journey is Alex Carter, the man who destroyed her life ten years ago

Jesse Q. Sutano

Vera Wong's unsolicited advice for murderers

Sixty-year-old self-proclaimed tea expert Vera Wong enjoys nothing more than sipping a good cup of Wulong and doing some healthy 'detective' work on the internet (AKA checking up on her son to see if he's dating anybody yet). But when Vera wakes up one morning to find a dead man in the middle of her tea shop, it's going to take more than a strong Longjing to fix things. Knowing she'll do a better job than

NANOOSE LIBRARY
DECEMBER, 2024 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

the police possibly could because nobody sniffs out a wrongdoing quite like a suspicious Chinese mother with time on her hands, Vera decides it's down to her to catch the killer.

NON FICTION

Max Fisher

The Chaos Machine: the inside story of how social media rewired our minds and our World

We all have a vague sense that social media is bad for our minds, for our children, and for our democracies. But the truth is that its reach and impact run far deeper than we have understood. Building on years of international reporting, Max Fisher tells the gripping and galling inside story of how Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networks, in their pursuit of unfettered profits, preyed on psychological frailties to create the algorithms that drive everyday users to extreme opinions and, increasingly, extreme actions. As Fisher demonstrates, the companies' founding tenets, combined with a blinkered focus maximizing engagement, have led to a destabilized world for everyone.

John Grisham

Framed: astonishing true stories of wrongful convictions

A fundamental principle of our legal system is a presumption of innocence, but once someone has been found guilty there is very little room to prove doubt. The book shares ten true stories of men who were innocent but found guilty and forced to sacrifice decades of their lives to prison while the guilty parties remained free. In each of the stories, John Grisham and Jim McCloskey recount the hard-fought battles for exoneration. They take a close look at what leads to wrongful convictions in the first place, and the racism, misconduct, flawed testimony, and the corrupt court system that can make them so hard to reverse.

Dave Grohl

The storyteller: tales of music and life

Grohl is an American musician. He founded the rock band Foo Fighters, of which he is the lead singer, guitarist, and principal songwriter. From 1990 to 1994, he was the drummer of the grunge band Nirvana. In 1986, at age 17, Grohl joined the punk rock band Scream, replacing drummer Kent Stax. The book is a collection of memories from his early days growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, to hitting the road at the age of 18, and all the music that followed.

Fred Sasakamoose

Call me Indian: from the trauma of Residential School to becoming the NHL's first Treaty Indigenous player

Fred Sasakamoose, at the age of seven, endured the horrors of residential school for a decade before becoming one of 120 players in the most elite hockey league in the world. He has been heralded as the first Indigenous player with Treaty status in the NHL, making his official debut as a 1954 Chicago Black Hawks player on Hockey Night in Canada and teaching Foster Hewitt how to pronounce his name. Sasakamoose played against such legends as Gordie Howe, Jean Beliveau, and Maurice Richard. After twelve games, he returned home.

Sasakamoose's story was far from over once his NHL days concluded. He continued to play for another decade in leagues around Western Canada. He became a band councillor, served as Chief, and established athletic programs for kids. He paved a way for youth to find solace and meaning in sports for generations to come. Yet, threaded through these impressive accomplishments were periods of heartbreak and unimaginable tragedy, as well moments of passion and great joy.