

**When Will There be Good News?  
Kate Atkinson**

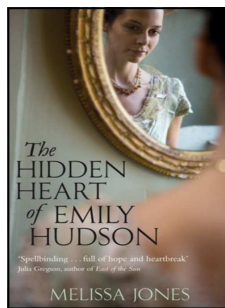
In rural Devon six-year-old Joanna Mason witnesses an appalling crime. Thirty years later the man convicted of the crime is released from prison. In Edinburgh, sixteen-year-old Reggie works as a nanny for a G.P., Dr Hunter, who has gone missing. Across town, Detective Chief Inspector Louise Monroe is also looking for a missing person, unaware that hurtling towards her is an old friend -- Jackson Brodie -- himself on a journey that becomes fatally interrupted.

# Senior Choice

**Years 11, 12 & 13  
Autumn 2010**

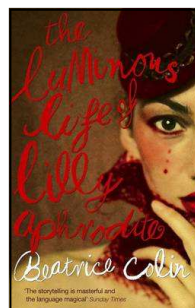


**LEWESTON**  
SHERBORNE



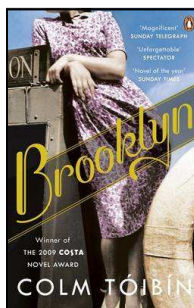
**The Hidden Heart of Emily Hudson  
Melissa Jones**

Emily Hudson is dispatched into the care of her distant uncle at the family's Newport beach house at the outbreak of the Civil War. She is an orphan. During the summer, it is Emily's cousin William, himself an outsider, who is her saviour. William's friendship offers Emily the chance to escape to London to pursue her dreams, but his patronage soon turns darker and more controlling. And as Emily's health falters, she turns to some rather unsuitable means to find the release she craves . . .



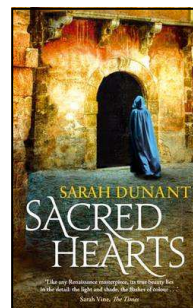
**The Luminous Life of Lilly Aphrodite  
Beatrice Colin**

As the clock chimed midnight at turn of the 20th century, Lilly took her first breath. Born to a cabaret dancer and orphaned in a scandalous double murder, Lilly finds refuge at a Catholic orphanage, coming under the wing of Sister August. There she meets Hanne Schmidt, a teen prostitute, and forms a bond that will last them through tumultuous love affairs, disastrous marriages, and destitution during the First World War. Lily finds success in the golden age of Hollywood movies, but even this must end...



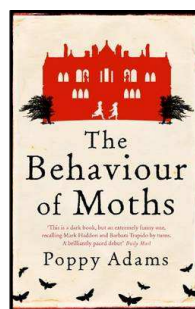
**Brooklyn  
Colm Toibin**

For Eilis Lacey in Ireland in the 1950s opportunities are scarce. When her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go, leaving behind her home for the first time. At a crowded lodging house in Brooklyn, Eilis can only be reminded of what she has sacrificed. Just as she takes tentative steps towards friendship, and perhaps something more, Eilis receives news which sends her back to Ireland to be confronted by a terrible dilemma—the choice between duty and one great love.



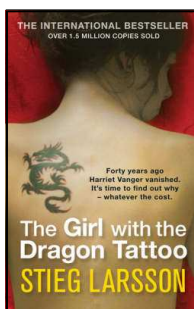
**Sacred Hearts  
Sarah Dunant**

1570 in the Italian city of Ferrara, and the convent of Santa Caterina is filled with noble women who are married to Christ because many cannot find husbands outside. Enter sixteen-year-old Serafina, ripped by her family from an illicit love affair, howling with rage and hormones and determined to escape. While on the other side of the great walls, counter-reformation forces in the Church are pushing for change, inside, Serafina's spirit and defiance ignite a fire that threatens to engulf the whole convent.



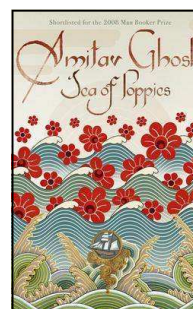
**The Behaviour of Moths  
Poppy Adams**

From her lookout on the first floor, Ginny watches and waits for her younger sister to return to the crumbling mansion that was once their idyllic childhood home. Vivien has not set foot in the house since she left, forty-seven years ago; Ginny, the reclusive moth expert, has rarely ventured outside it. But with Vivien's arrival, dark, unspoken secrets surface. Told in Ginny's unforgettable voice, this debut novel tells a disquieting story of two sisters and the ties that bind - sometimes a little too tightly.



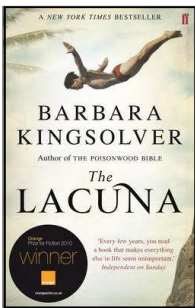
**The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo  
Stieg Larsson**

Forty years ago, Harriet Vanger disappeared. Her body was never found, yet her uncle is convinced it was murder. He employs Mikael Blomkvist and the tattooed, truculent computer hacker Lisbeth Salander to investigate. The disappearance is linked to other murders and they discover an appalling family history. Blomkvist and Salander are about to find out how far the Vangers are prepared to go to protect themselves. Compelling but visceral and violent—not for the faint hearted.



**Sea of Poppies  
Amitav Ghosh**

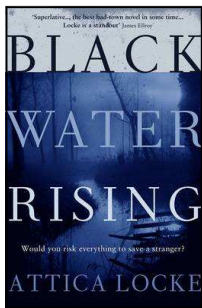
An epic saga, set just before the Opium Wars and centred around an old slaving ship, the Ibis. Its destiny is a voyage across the Indian Ocean, its crew a motley array of sailors, stowaways, coolies and convicts. Fate has thrown together a diverse cast of Indians and Westerners. As their old family ties are washed away they, like their historical counterparts, come to view themselves as jahaj-bhais or ship-brothers. An unlikely dynasty is born, which will span continents, races and generations.



**The Lacuna**  
**Barbara Kingsolver**

Harrison Shepherd is a liability to his social-climbing mother, Salomé who invariably finds her rich men-friends on the losing

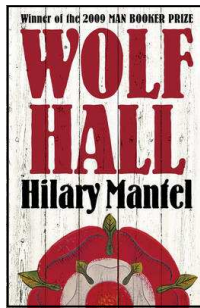
side of the Mexican Revolution. Life is what he learns from servants in the kitchen and on the streets. He ends up mixing plaster for famed Mexican muralist, Diego Riviera and makes himself useful to the muralist, his wife Frida Kahlo and the exiled Bolshevik leader, Lev Trotsky. Returning to America he finds an extraordinary use for his talents of observation in the political arena.



**Black Water Rising**  
**Attica Locke**

On a dark night, out on the bayou to celebrate his wife's birthday, Jay Porter hears a scream. Saving a distressed woman from

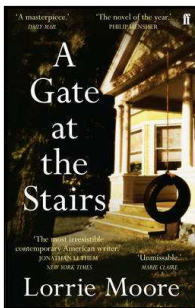
drowning, he opens a Pandora's Box. Not the lawyer he set out to be, Jay long ago made peace with his radical youth, tucked away his darkest sins and resolved to make a fresh start. His impulsive act out on the bayou is heroic, but it puts Jay in danger, ensnaring him in a murder investigation that could cost him his practice, his family and even his life. A provocative thriller.



**Wolf Hall**  
**Hilary Mantel**

'Lock Cromwell in a deep dungeon in the morning,' says Thomas More, 'and when you come back that night he'll be sitting on a plush

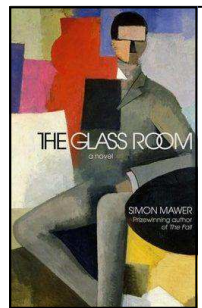
cushion eating larks' tongues, and all the gaolers will owe him money.' England, the 1520s. Henry VIII is on the throne, but has no heir. Cardinal Wolsey is his chief advisor, charged with securing the divorce the pope refuses to grant. Into this atmosphere of distrust and need comes Thomas Cromwell, first as Wolsey's clerk, and later his successor. An epic novel of Tudor politics.



**A Gate at the Stairs**  
**Lorrie Moore**

America is gearing up for war in the Middle East and Tassie Keltjin, a 'half-Jewish' farmer's daughter from the plains of the Midwest, has come to

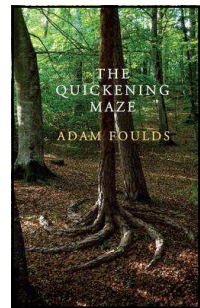
university - escaping her provincial home to encounter the complex world of culture and politics. When she takes a job as a part-time nanny, Tassie is drawn into the life of their newly-adopted child and increasingly complicated household and a stranger to herself. Love leads her to new experiences - but it is the past and the future burst forth in dramatic and shocking ways.



**The Glass Room**  
**Simon Mawer**

Cool. Balanced. Modern. High on a Czechoslovak hill, the Landauer House shines as a wonder of steel, glass and onyx. Built for Viktor and

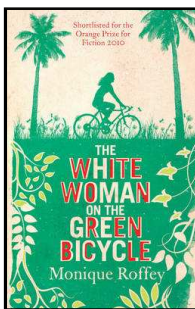
Liesel Landauer, a Jew married to a gentile. But the radiant honesty of the house quickly tarnishes as the storm clouds of WW2 gather, and eventually the family must flee, accompanied by Viktor's lover and her child. But the house's story is far from over as it passes from hand to hand amidst the best and the worst of events in Eastern Europe.



**The Quicken Maze**  
**Adam Foulds**

Based on events in Epping Forest on the edge of London around 1840, this book centres on the incarceration of the

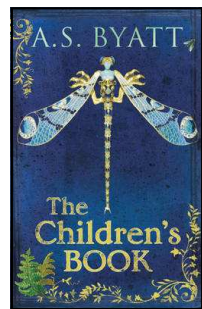
poet John Clare. After years struggling with alcohol, neglect and depression, Clare finds himself in an Asylum - run on reformist principles which would later become known as occupational therapy. At the same time, the young Alfred Tennyson, moves nearby and becomes entangled in the life and catastrophic schemes of the asylum's owner, the peculiar, charismatic Dr Matthew Allen.



**The White Woman on the Green Bicycle**  
**Monique Roffey**

When George and Sabine Harwood arrive in Trinidad from George instantly takes to their new life,

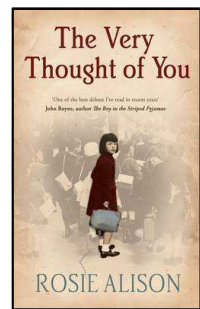
but Sabine feels isolated, heat-fatigued, and ill at ease with the racial segregation and the imminent dawning of a new era. Her solace is her growing fixation with Eric Williams, the leader of Trinidad's new national party, to whom she pours out all her hopes and fears for the future in letters that she never brings herself to send. George's discovery of the letters has tragic consequences.



**The Children's Book**  
**A S Byatt**

Olive Wellwood writes a special private book, bound in different colours, for each of her children. In their rambling house near Romney Marsh they

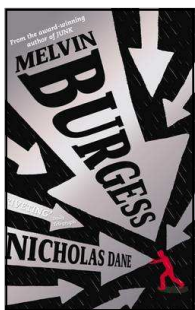
play in a story-book world - but their lives and those of their friends are already inscribed with mystery. They grow up in the golden summers of Edwardian times, but as the sons rebel against their parents and the girls dream of independent futures, they are unaware that in the darkness ahead they will be betrayed unintentionally by the adults who love them.



**The Very Thought of You**  
**Rosie Alison**

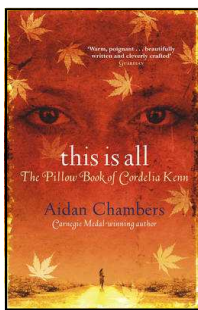
England, 31st August 1939: the world is on the brink of war. Thousands of children are evacuated from London to escape the

Blitz. Torn from her mother, Anna Sands is relocated with other children to a large Yorkshire estate which has been opened up to evacuees by Thomas and Elizabeth Ashton. Soon Anna gets drawn into their unravelling relationship, seeing things that are not meant for her eyes - and finding herself part-witness and part-accomplice to a love affair, with unforeseen consequences.



**Nicholas Dane  
Melvin Burgess**

Nick's mother dies suddenly and at 14 Nick is sent into a boys' home, where he finds intimidation and violence keep order. After countless fights and punishments, Nick thinks life can't get any worse - but the deputy head, Mr Creal, who has been grooming him with sweets and solace, has something much more sinister in mind. The scarring, shaming experience he suffers at the hands of Mr Creal can never quite be suppressed, and when the old hatred surfaces, bloody murder and revenge lead to an unforgettable climax.



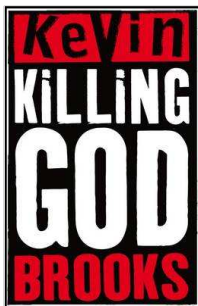
**This is all**  
Subtitled "The Pillow Book of Cordelia Kenn".

**Aidan Chambers**  
This is the story of Cordelia from the time she is 15 until she is 20. She is pregnant and plans to give this account to her daughter on her 16th birthday so that they can share their youth together. She tells of her difficult upbringing and of her love for William Blacklin, with whom she falls deeply in love. She writes about her teacher, describes her unsettling affair with a married man and a terrifying experience with an unbalanced and obsessive young man.



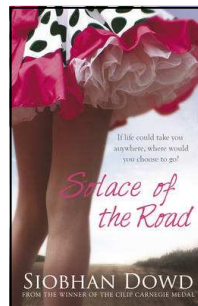
**If I Stay**  
**Gayle Forman**

Life can change in an instant. A cold February morning ...a snowy road ...and suddenly all of Mia's choices are gone. Except one. As alone as she'll ever be, Mia must make the most difficult choice of all. Gripping, heartrending and ultimately life-affirming, "If I Stay" will make you appreciate all that you have, all that you've lost - and all that might be. "A haunting and heartbreaking novel reminiscent of *The Lovely Bones* ...". *The Bookseller*.



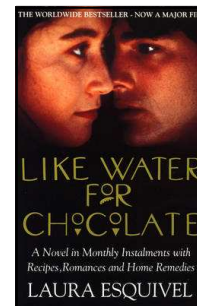
**Killing God**  
**Kevin Brooks**

Dawn Bundy is fifteen. She doesn't fit in and she couldn't care less. Dawn has other things on her mind. Her dad disappeared two years ago and it's all God's fault. When Dawn's dad found God, it was the worst time ever. He thought he'd found the answer to everything. But that wasn't the end of it. Look out for other books by the same author.



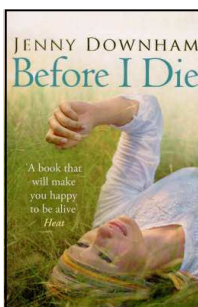
**Solace of the Road**  
**Siobhan Dowd**

Memories of Mum are the only thing that make Holly Hogan happy. She hates her foster family and she hates her life. Then she finds the wig, and everything changes. Wearing the long, flowing blonde locks she feels transformed. She's not Holly any more, she's Solace. She's older, more confident - the kind of girl who can walk out of her life, hitch to Ireland and find her mum. So begins a bittersweet and sometimes hilarious journey.



**Like Water for Chocolate**  
**Laura Esquivel**

A poignant tale, touched with magic, earthiness, wit - and recipes. It relates the bizarre history of a Mexican family. Tita, the youngest daughter, has been forbidden to marry, condemned by tradition to look after her mother. But Tita falls in love with Pedro. In desperation, Pedro marries her sister so that he can stay close to her. For 22 years, Tita and Pedro are forced to circle each other in unconsummated passion. Only a freakish chain of tragedies and fate finally unites them.



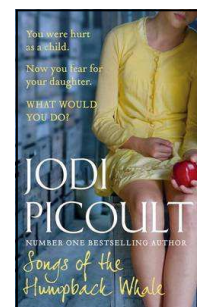
**Before I Die**  
**Jenny Downham**

Tessa has just a few months to live. Fighting back against hospital visits, endless tests, drugs with side-effects, Tessa compiles a list. It's her To Do Before I Die list. Released from the constraints of 'normal' life, Tessa seeks new experiences to make her feel alive while her failing body struggles to keep up. Tessa's feelings, her relationships with her family, her best friend and her new boyfriend, all are painfully crystallized in the precious weeks before Tessa's time finally runs out.



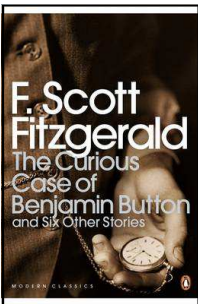
**Dear John**  
**Nicholas Sparks**

When John meets Savannah, he realises he is ready to make some changes. Always the angry rebel at school, he has enlisted in the Army, not knowing what else to do with his life. Now he's ready to turn over a new leaf for the woman who has captured his heart. What neither realises is that the events of 9/11 will change everything. John is prompted to re-enlist and fulfil what he feels is his duty to his country. But the lovers are young and their separation is long. Can they survive the distance?

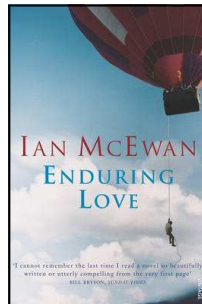


**Songs of the Humpback Whale**  
**Jodi Picoult**

Jane had always lived in somebody's shadow. Escaping a childhood of abuse by marrying oceanographer Oliver Jones, she finds herself taking second place to his successful career. When her daughter Rebecca is similarly treated, Jane sets off with her to drive across America to the New England apple orchard where Jane's brother Joley works. Oliver, used to tracking humpback whales across vast oceans, now has the task of tracking his wife across a continent.



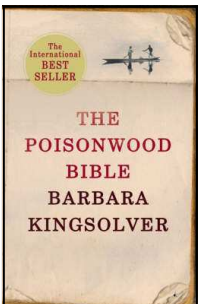
**The Curious Case of Benjamin Button & six other stories**  
**F Scott Fitzgerald**  
 Full grown with a long, smoke-coloured beard, requiring the services of a cane and fonder of cigars than warm milk, Benjamin Button is a very curious baby indeed. And, as Benjamin becomes increasingly youthful with the passing years, his family wonders why he persists in the embarrassing folly of living in reverse. This collection displays F. Scott Fitzgerald's unmatched gift as a writer of short stories.



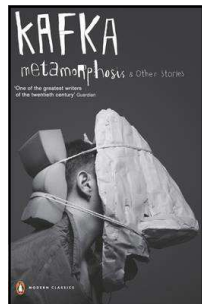
**Enduring Love**  
**Ian McEwan**  
 On a windy summer's day in the Chilterns the calm, organised life of Joe Rose is shattered by a ballooning accident. What happens is shocking and tragic, but seems inconsequential. But the consequences come after as the accident brings together Joe with Jed Parry. Unknown to Rose, something passes between them that leads to an obsession so powerful that it will test Rose's beloved scientific rationalism, threaten the love of his wife Clarissa and drive him to take desperate measures merely to stay alive.



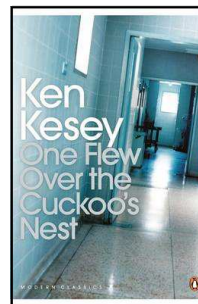
**The Outsiders**  
**S E Hinton**  
 In Ponyboy's world there are two types of people. There are the Socs, the rich society kids who get away with anything. Then there are the greasers, like Ponyboy, who aren't so lucky. Ponyboy has a few things he can count on: his older brothers, his friends, and trouble with the Socs, whose idea of a good time is beating up greasers like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect - until the night things go too far...



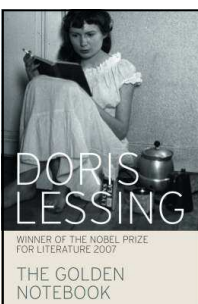
**The Poisonwood Bible**  
**Barbara Kingsolver**  
 This story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. They carry with them everything they believe they will need from home, but soon find that all of it - from garden seeds to Scripture - is calamitously transformed on African soil. This is a tale of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction; dancing between darkly comic human failings and poetic justice.



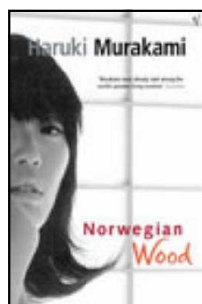
**Metamorphosis and other stories**  
**Franz Kafka**  
 Gregor Samsa wakes one morning to find himself transformed into an insect. Gregor worries about how he will get to his job work since he is the sole provider for his parents and sister. His sister Grete attempts to care for her brother by providing him with milk and the stale, rotten food he now prefers. He takes to hiding beneath a sofa whenever someone enters his room. When alone, he amuses himself by looking out of his window and crawling up the walls and on the ceiling...



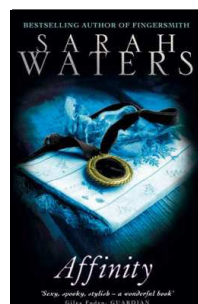
**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**  
**Ken Kesey**  
 Here is the unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her. We see the struggle through the eyes of Chief Bromden, the seemingly mute half-Indian patient who witnesses and understands McMurphy's heroic attempt to do battle with the awesome powers that keep them all imprisoned.



**The Golden Notebook**  
**Doris Lessing**  
 Anna Wulf is a young novelist with writer's block. Divorced, with a young child, she feels her life is falling apart. Fearing the onset of madness, she records her experiences in four coloured notebooks. But it is the fifth, golden, notebook that is the key to her recovery and renaissance. Bold and illuminating, fusing sex, politics, madness and motherhood. A wry and perceptive portrait of the intellectual and moral climate of the 1950s—a society on the brink of feminism.



**Norwegian Wood**  
**Haruki Murakami**  
 When he hears her favourite Beatles song, Toru Watanabe recalls his first love Naoko, the girlfriend of his best friend Kizuki. Immediately he is transported back almost twenty years to his student days in Tokyo, adrift in a world of uneasy friendships, casual sex, passion, loss and desire - to a time when an impetuous young woman called Midori marches into his life and he has to choose between the future and the past.



**Affinity**  
**Sarah Waters**  
 Set in and around the women's prison at Millbank in the 1870's - an eerie and utterly compelling ghost story, mystery and poignant love story with an unexpected twist in the tale. Following the death of her father, Margaret Prior has decided to pursue some 'good work' with the lady criminals of one of London's most notorious gaols. Surrounded by prisoners, murderers and common thieves, Margaret feels herself drawn to one of the prisons more unlikely inmates - the imprisoned spiritualist - Selina Dawes.