

NANOOSE LIBRARY NEW BOOK SYNOSES - APRIL 2021

FICTION

Ayad Akhtar

Homeland elegies

The book endeavours to capture a country in which debt has ruined countless lives and our ideals have been sacrificed to the gods of finance, where a TV personality is president and immigrants live in fear, and where the nation's unhealed wounds of 9/11 wreak havoc around the world. It is told through the lens of a story about one family, from a heartland town in America to palatial suites in Central Europe to guerilla lookouts in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Ashley Audrain

The push

Blythe Connor is determined that she will be the warm, comforting mother to her new baby Violet that she herself never had. But Blythe becomes convinced that something is wrong with her daughter as she doesn't behave like most children do. The more her husband, Fox, dismisses her fears, the more Blythe begins to question her own sanity. When their son Sam is born, Blythe has the blissful connection she'd always imagined with her child. But the life as they know it is changed in an instant.

Clive Cussler

Wrath of Poseidon

Ten years ago, a chance meeting at the Lighthouse Café in Redondo Beach led Sam Fargo and Remi Longstreet on the adventure of a lifetime, hunting the legendary riches stolen from the Persian King Croesus in 546 B.C. But they weren't the only ones. When Sam and Remi run afoul of a criminal drug-running operation, their hopes of finding the treasure are dashed.

Cecilia Eiback

The historians

1943 and Sweden's neutrality in the war is under pressure. Laura Dahlgren, the young right-hand of the chief negotiator to Germany, is privy to these tensions, even as she tries to keep her head down in the mounting fray. However, when Laura's best friend from university, Britta, is discovered murdered in cold blood, Laura is determined to find the killer.

Katrine Engberg

The tenant

When a young woman is murdered in her own apartment, with an intricate pattern of lines carved into her face, Copenhagen police detectives Jeppe Korner and Anette Werner are assigned to the case. They establish a link between the victim, Julie Stender, and her landlady, Esther de Laurenti. Esther turns out to be a budding novelist and when Julie turns up as a murder victim in the still-unfinished mystery she's writing, the link between fiction and real life grows both more urgent and more dangerous.

Tarryn Fisher

The wrong family

Before moving in with the Crouch family, Juno thought Winnie and her husband, Nigel, had the perfect life. Only now that she's living in their beautiful house, she sees the cracks in the crumbling facade are too deep to ignore. Still, she isn't one to judge. After her grim diagnosis, the retired therapist simply wants a place to live out the rest of her days in peace. But that peace is shattered the day Juno overhears a chilling conversation between Winnie and Nigel.

Beth Follett

Instructor

When Ydessa Bloom's husband dies in a Cessna crash in an Ontario lake, she rents a cottage there, without really comprehending why, and stays for three months. There she meets three people who will influence her life dramatically, her landlady, a yoga teacher, and a precocious eight-year-old boy named Henry Rattle. Years later, at the age of twenty-five and reeling from personal tragedy, Henry seeks Ydessa out once again, and they find themselves drawn into an encounter that will change them both.

Molly Green

An orphan's war

Liverpool, 1940. When her childhood sweetheart Johnny is killed in action, Maxine Grey loses her husband - her best friend. Desperate to make a difference in the war, Maxine takes a nursing job at

London's St.Thomas's hospital. She takes comfort in the attentions of a handsome surgeon, but Edwin Blake isn't all he seems. And as the Blitz descends on the capital, Maxine faces more heartache. When she returns to Liverpool, she harbours a secret.

Jane Harper *The survivors*

Kieran Elliott's life changed forever on the day a reckless mistake led to devastating consequences. The guilt that still haunts him resurfaces during a visit with his young family to the small coastal community he once called home. His parents are struggling in a town where fortunes are forged by the sea. Between them all is his absent brother, Finn. When a body is discovered on the beach, long-held secrets threaten to emerge.

Nadia Hashimi *Sparks like stars*

Kabul, 1978: The daughter of a prominent family, Sitara Zamani lives a privileged life in Afghanistan's thriving cosmopolitan capital. But the ten-year-old Sitara's world is shattered when communists stage a coup, assassinating the president and Sitara's entire family. Only she survives. Smuggled out of the palace by a guard named Shair, Sitara finds her way to the home of a female American diplomat, who adopts her and raises her in America. There, she takes on a new name, Aryana Shepherd. She throws herself into her studies, becoming a surgeon until someone from her past reappears.

Helen Humphreys *Rabbit foot Bill*

Saskatchewan, 1947. Leonard Flint, a lonely boy in a small farming town befriends the local outsider, a man known as Rabbit Foot Bill. Bill doesn't talk much, but he allows Leonard to accompany him as he sets rabbit snares and to visit his small, secluded dwelling. Being with Bill is an escape from school, bullies and a hard father. So his shock is absolute when he witnesses Bill commit a sudden violent act and he goes to prison. Years later as a newly graduated doctor of psychiatry, Leonard arrives at the Weyburn Mental Hospital. To his great surprise, he is reunited with Bill and soon becomes fixated on discovering what happened on that fateful day.

Craig Johnson *Next to last stand*

One of the most viewed paintings in American history, Custer's Last Fight was destroyed in a fire in Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1946. Or was it? When Charley Lee Stillwater dies of an apparent heart attack at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers & Sailors, Walt Longmire is called in to try and make sense of a piece of a painting and a shoebox containing a million dollars.

Sadeqa Johnson *The yellow wife*

Born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia, Pheby Brown was promised her freedom on her eighteenth birthday. But when her birthday finally comes around, instead of the idyllic life she was hoping for with her true love, she finds herself thrust into the bowels of slavery at the infamous Devil's Half-Acre, a jail where slaves are broken, tortured, and sold every day. Forced to become the mistress of the brutal man who owns the jail, Pheby faces the ultimate sacrifice to protect her heart.

Julia Kelly *The last garden in England*

Emma Lovett, who has dedicated her career to breathing new life into long-neglected gardens, has just been given the opportunity of a lifetime: to restore the gardens of the famed Highbury House estate, designed in 1907 by her hero Venetia Smith. But as Emma dives deeper into the gardens' past, she begins to uncover secrets that have long lain hidden.

Sarah Langan *Good neighbours*

Welcome to Maple Street, a picture-perfect slice of suburban Long Island, its residents bound by their children, their work, and their illusion of safety in a rapidly changing world. Arlo Wilde, a has-been rock star, his wife, ex-pageant queen Gertie, feels socially ostracized and adrift. Spunky preteen Julie curses like a sailor and her kid brother Larry is called "Robot Boy" by the kids on the block. Their next-door neighbour and the Street's Queen Bee, Rhea Schroeder, a lonely community college professor repressing

her own dark past, welcomes Gertie and family into the fold. Then, during one spritzer-fuelled summer evening, the new best friends share too much, too soon.

Annabel Lyon ***Consent***

Saskia and Jenny are twins who are alike only in appearance. Saskia is a hard-working grad student whose interests are solely academic, while Jenny, an interior designer, is a thrill-seeker. Still, when Jenny is severely injured in an accident, Saskia puts her life on hold to be with her sister.

Sara and Mattie are sisters with a difficult relationship. Mattie, the younger sister, is affectionate, curious and intellectually disabled. As soon as Sara is able, she leaves home, in pursuit of a life of her dreams. But when their mother dies, Sara inherits the duty of caring for her sister.

Eventually events engulf Sara and Saskia, sisters in mourning, in a quest for revenge.

Laura Morelli ***The night portrait***

Milan, 1492: When a 16-year old beauty becomes the mistress of the Duke of Milan, she must fight for her place in the palace against those who want her out. Soon, she finds herself sitting before Leonardo da Vinci, who wants to ensure his own place in the palace by painting his most ambitious portrait to date.

Munich, World War II: After a conservator unwittingly places a priceless Italian Renaissance portrait into the hands of a high-ranking Nazi leader, she risks her life, working with an American soldier, to get it back.

Sarah Pinborough ***Behind her eyes***

Louise is a single mom, a secretary, stuck in a modern-day rut. On a rare night out, she meets a man in a bar and sparks fly. Though he leaves after they kiss, she's thrilled she finally connected with someone. When Louise arrives at work on Monday, she meets her new boss, David, the man from the bar. The very married man from the bar, who says the kiss was a terrible mistake but who still can't keep his eyes off Louise.

Kate Quinn ***The rose code***

1940. As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call to Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Debutante Osla is the girl who has everything but she burns to prove herself. Self-made Mab, product of east-end London poverty, works the legendary codebreaking machines as she conceals old wounds and looks for a socially advantageous husband. Both Osla and Mab are quick to see the potential in local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles. But war, loss, and the impossible pressure of secrecy will tear the three apart.

Kelly Rimmer ***Truths I never told you***

With her father recently moved to a care facility for his worsening dementia, Beth Walsh volunteers to clear out the family home and is surprised to discover the door to her childhood playroom padlocked. She's even more shocked at what's behind it—a hoarder's mess of her father's paintings, mounds of discarded papers and miscellaneous junk in the otherwise fastidiously tidy house.

Douglas Stuart ***Shuggie Bain***

"Shuggie" Bain, is a sweet and lonely boy who spends his 1980s childhood in run-down public housing in Glasgow, Scotland. Thatcher's policies have put husbands and sons out of work, and the city's notorious drugs epidemic is waiting in the wings. Shuggie's mother Agnes walks a wayward path: she is Shuggie's guiding light but a burden for him and his siblings, finding increasing solace in drink.

Olga Tokarczuk ***Flights***

Flights explores what it means to be a traveler, a wanderer, a body in motion not only through space but through time. Where are you from? Where are you coming in from? Where are you going?

Nicola Yoon

The sun is also a star

Natasha believes in science and facts, not fate or destiny. She's definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Particularly when her family is hours away from being deported to Jamaica.

Daniel is the good son, the good student, living up to his parents' high expectations, never the poet or the dreamer. But when he sees Natasha he forgets about all of that.

NON-FICTION

Rebecca Carroll

Surviving the white gaze

Rebecca Carroll grew up the only black person in her rural New Hampshire town. Adopted at birth by artistic parents, her early childhood was loving and idyllic and yet she couldn't articulate the deep sense of isolation she increasingly felt. Everything changed when she met her birth mother, a young white woman, who consistently undermined Carroll's sense of her blackness and self-esteem. Carroll's childhood became harrowing, and her memoir explores the tension between the aching desire for her birth mother's acceptance, the loyalty she feels toward her adoptive parents, and the search for her racial identity.

Bill Gates

How to avoid a climate disaster: the solutions we have and the breakthroughs we need

Bill Gates has spent a decade investigating the causes and effects of climate change. With the help of experts in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, political science, and finance, he has focused on what must be done in order to stop the planet's slide toward certain environmental disaster. In this book, he not only explains why we need to work toward net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases, but also details what we need to do to achieve this important goal.

Samra Habib

We have always been here: a queer Muslim memoir

Samra Habib has spent most of her life searching for the safety to be herself. As an Ahmadi Muslim growing up in Pakistan, she faced regular threats from Islamic extremists who believed the small, dynamic sect to be blasphemous. When her family came to Canada as refugees, Samra encountered a whole new host of challenges: bullies, racism, the threat of poverty, and an arranged marriage. Backed into a corner, her need for a safe space in which to grow and nurture her creative, feminist spirit became dire. The men in her life wanted to police her, the women in her life had only shown her the example of pious obedience, and her body was a problem to be solved.

Haley Healey

On their own terms: true stories of trailblazing women of Vancouver Island

A collection of stories about seventeen independent and diverse women who shaped the history of Vancouver Island. From the rainforest of Clayoquot Sound to the bustling city streets of Victoria, the Island has been home to an astounding number of inspiring women. These range from: pioneer and midwife Tuwa 'hwiye Tusium Gollelim, Mary Ann Gyves; world-renowned algae botanist Josephine Tilden; undiscovered aviatrix Lilian Bland; Vancouver Island's first African-Canadian teacher, Emma Stark; and entrepreneur and bounty hunter Ada Annie Rae-Arthur, better known as Cougar Annie.

Dr. Bonnie Henry

Be kind, be calm, be safe: three words and four weeks that shaped a pandemic

Dr. Bonnie Henry has been called one of the most effective public health figures in the world by The New York Times. She has been called a calming voice in a sea of coronavirus madness, and our hero in national newspapers. But in the waning days of 2019, when the first rumours of a strange respiratory ailment in Wuhan, China began to trickle into her office in British Columbia, these accolades lay in a barely imaginable future.

Coincidentally, Dr. Henry's sister, Lynn, arrived in BC for a long-planned visit on March 12, just as the virus revealed itself as a pandemic. For the four ensuing weeks, Lynn had rare insight into the whirlwind

of Bonnie's daily life. Both a global story and a family story, the book combines Lynn's observations and with Bonnie's recollections of how and why decisions were made.

The authors' advance from the publisher will be donated to charities with a focus on alleviating communities hit particularly hard by the pandemic.

Walter Isaacson ***The code breaker: Jennifer Doudna, gene editing, and the future of the human race***

When Jennifer Doudna was in sixth grade, she came home one day to find that her dad had left a paperback titled The Double Helix on her bed. She put it aside, thinking it was one of those detective tales she loved. When she read it on a rainy Saturday, she discovered she was right, in a way. As she sped through the pages, she became enthralled by the intense drama behind the competition to discover the code of life. Even though her high school counsellor told her girls didn't become scientists, she decided she would.

Driven by a passion to understand how nature works and to turn discoveries into inventions, she helped to make the most important biological advance since the discovery of the structure of DNA. She and her collaborators turned a curiosity of nature into an invention that will transform the human race: an easy-to-use tool that can edit DNA. Known as CRISPR, it opened a brave new world of medical miracles and moral questions. Doudna became a leader in wrestling with these moral issues and, with her collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier, won the Nobel Prize in 2020.

Roger L. Martin ***When more is not better: overcoming America's obsession with economic efficiency***

American democratic capitalism is in imminent danger. More than forty years ago, a dangerous decline began that has created an unprecedented state of economic disparity. While the rich are getting richer faster than ever, the middle-class family has fallen so far behind it would take three generations to recover, perhaps even longer in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The moment to rethink our economy and embark on a journey to repair our broken system is now.

Andrea Pitzer ***Icebound: shipwrecked at the edge of the world***

Long before Bering or Amundsen, long before Franklin or Shackleton, there was William Barents, in many ways the greatest polar explorer of them all. In this narrative of the Far North, enriched by her own adventurous sojourns in the Arctic, Andrea Pitzer brings Barents' three harrowing expeditions to life while giving us fascinating insights into one of history's most intrepid navigators.