

**NANOOSE LIBRARY
MARCH 2021 NEW BOOK SYNOPSES**

FICTION

Rebecca Alexander* *A baby's bones

Archaeologist Sage Westfield has been called in to excavate a sixteenth-century well, and expects to find little more than soil and the odd piece of pottery. But the disturbing discovery of the bones of a woman and newborn baby make it clear that she has stumbled onto an historical crime scene.

Kelley Armstrong* *A stranger in town

Detective Casey Duncan has noticed fewer and fewer residents coming in to the hidden town of Rockton. Her boyfriend, Sheriff Eric Dalton, presumes it's the natural flux of things, but Casey's not so sure. Something bigger is happening in the small town they call home.

Gail Bowen* *The unlocking season

On a Saturday bright with harbingers of spring, Joanne Kilbourn-Shreve, her husband, Zack, and their family prepare to celebrate the season. Joanne's life is full, and at 60, she has been given the chance to understand a part of her history that for years was shrouded in secrecy.

Charles Demers* *Primary obsessions

Dr. Annick Boudreau regularly confronts a myriad of mental health issues in her psychology practice in Vancouver, B.C. But even Annick is stunned when Sanjay, a young patient who suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, is arrested for the brutal murder of his roommate. Everything Annick knows about her patient has her convinced that he's innocent. But the police and prosecution are convinced that they have caught the perpetrator and Annick feels compelled to investigate on her own.

Naoise Dolan* *Exciting times

Ava moved to Hong Kong to find happiness, but so far, it isn't working out. Since she left Dublin, she's been spending her days teaching English to rich children. When Ava befriends Julian, a witty British banker, he offers a shortcut into a lavish life her meagre salary could never allow. Ignoring her feminist leanings, Ava finds herself moving into Julian's apartment and, eventually, into a sexual relationship with him. When Julian's job takes him back to London, she stays put, unsure where their relationship stands. Enter Edith, a Hong Kong-born lawyer, striking and ambitious. Ava finds herself drawn to the Edith and then Julian returns.

Ian Hamilton* *Fortune: the lost decades of Uncle Chow Tung

Hong Kong, 1995. Two years before Hong Kong is to be returned to China, the Communist government has its eye on the New Territories, and tensions are running high among the triads. A turf war breaks out in Macau and quickly spreads to Hong Kong. In response, the Organized Crime Triad Bureau of the Hong Kong Police, backed by the Chinese government, begins a major crackdown on gang activities. Several triad leaders ask Uncle to intervene and bring an end to the violence. As Uncle begins mediation talks, his own territory of Fanling is attacked by a neighbouring gang.

Kristen Hannah* *The Four Winds

Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up,

and dust threatens to bury them all. Elsa Martinelli, like so many of her neighbours, must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life.

Mick Herron **Slow horses**

London, England: Slough House is where the washed-up MI5 spies go to while away what's left of their failed careers. The "slow horses," as they're called, have all disgraced themselves in various ways to be relegated here. One thing they all have in common, though, is they all want to be back in the action. River Cartwright, one such "slow horse," is bitter about his failure and about his tedious assignment transcribing cell phone conversations. When a young man is abducted and his kidnappers threaten to broadcast his beheading live on the Internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem himself.

Anthony Horowitz **Moonflower murders**

Retired publisher Susan Ryeland is running a small hotel on a Greek island with her long-term boyfriend Andreas. She's exhausted with the responsibilities of making everything work on an island where nothing ever does, and she's beginning to miss London. Then the Trehearnes come to stay. The mysterious story they tell, about a murder that took place on the same day and in the same hotel in which their daughter was married fascinates Susan and piques her editor's instincts.

J.D. Kirk **The big man upstairs**

Burdened by guilt over the trauma recently inflicted on his friends and colleagues, former-Detective Chief Inspector Jack Logan has spent the past nine months living in self-imposed exile. When a mother and her young daughter are the victims of a double murder staged to look like suicide, Logan is dragged back to help hunt down and catch a brutal, calculating killer.

Annie Lyons **The brilliant life of Eudora Honeysett**

Eudora Honeysett is done with this noisy, moronic world. At eighty-five, she isn't going to leave things to chance. Her end will be on her terms. With one call to a clinic in Switzerland, a plan is set in motion. Then she meets ten-year-old Rose Trewidney, a pint-sized rainbow of colour and sparkling cheer. All Eudora wants is to be left alone to set her affairs in order. Instead, she finds herself embarking on a series of adventures with the irrepressible Rose and their affable neighbour, the recently widowed Stanley.

Sarah J. Maas **A court of silver flames**

Nesta Archeron has always been proud, swift to anger, and slow to forgive. And ever since being forced into the Cauldron and becoming High Fae against her will, she's struggled to find a place for herself within the strange, deadly world she inhabits. The one person who ignites her temper more than any other is Cassian, the battle-scarred warrior whose position in Rhysand and Feyre's Night Court keeps him constantly in Nesta's orbit.

Alexander McCall Smith **How to raise an elephant**

The next book in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series sees Precious Ramotswe calling upon all her maternal instincts when she's faced with a two-ton case. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but can Mma Ramotswe and the rest of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency come together to raise a pipsqueak pachyderm?

Maggie O'farrel

Hamnet and Judith

On a summer's day in 1596, Judith, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon, takes to her bed with a fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet, searches everywhere for help. Their mother, Agnes, is over a mile away, in the garden where she grows medicinal herbs. Their father is working in London. Neither parent knows that one of the children will not survive the week.

Jael Richardson

Gutter child

Set in an imagined world in which the most vulnerable are forced to buy their freedom by working off their debt to society, In this world, Elimina Dubois is one of only 100 babies taken from the Gutter and raised in the land of opportunity as part of a social experiment led by the Mainland government. But when her Mainland mother dies, Elimina finds herself all alone, a teenager forced into an unfamiliar life of servitude, unsure of who she is and where she belongs.

Janet Skeslien Charles

The Paris library

Paris, 1939: Young and ambitious Odile Souchet has it all: her handsome police officer beau and a dream job at the American Library in Paris. When the Nazis march into Paris, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear, including her beloved library. Together with her fellow librarians, Odile joins the Resistance with the best weapons she has: books. But when the war finally ends, instead of freedom, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal.

Karin Slaughter

The silent wife

Investigating the killing of a prisoner during a riot inside a state penitentiary, GBI investigator Will Trent is confronted with disturbing information. One of the inmates claims that he is innocent of a brutal attack for which he has always been the prime suspect. The man insists that he was framed by a corrupt law enforcement team led by Jeffrey Tolliver and that the real culprit is still out there—a serial killer who has systematically been preying on women across the state for years.

Jeff Wheeler

Knight's ransom

A brutal war of succession has plunged the court of Kingfountain into a power struggle between a charitable king who took the crown unlawfully and his ambitious rival, Devon Argentine. The balance of power between the two men hinges on the fate of a young boy ensnared in this courtly intrigue. A boy befittingly nicknamed Ransom.

NON-FICTION

Barbara Amiel

Friends and enemies: a life in Vogue, Prison, and Park Avenue

From her early childhood in London during the Blitz to emigrating to North America and her rise to the top rungs of journalism; to her four husbands and other assorted beaus both famous and not; and right up to her marriage to Conrad Black and their prolific legal battles against the powerful and vengeful American justice system, Barbara Amiel's life has been as dramatic as it is glamorous.

Michael Cohen

Disloyal: the true story of the former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump

Once Donald Trump's fiercest surrogate, closest confidant, and staunchest defender, Michael Cohen knows where the skeletons are buried. He shows Trump's relentless willingness to lie, exaggerate, mislead, or manipulate. Trump emerges as a man without a soul—a man who courts evangelicals and then trashes them, panders to the common man, but then rips off small

