

NANOOSE LIBRARY – OCTOBER NEW BOOK SYNOPSES

FICTION

Malka Adler

The brothers of Auschwitz

Dov and Yitzhak live in a small village in the mountains of Hungary, isolated both from the world and from the horrors of the war. But one day in 1944, everything changes. The Nazis storm the homes of the Jewish villagers and inform them they have one hour before the train will take them to Auschwitz. Six decades later, from the safety of their living rooms at home in Israel, the brothers finally break their silence to a friend who will never let their stories be forgotten.

Fredrik Backman

Anxious people

Viewing an apartment normally doesn't turn into a life-or-death situation, but this particular open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes everyone in the apartment hostage. As the pressure mounts, the eight strangers slowly begin opening up to one another and reveal long-hidden truths. As police surround the premises and television channels broadcast the hostage situation live, the tension mounts and even deeper secrets are slowly revealed.

James Lee Burke

A private cathedral

The Shondell and Balangie families are longtime enemies in the New Iberia criminal underworld. Yet their youngest heirs, Johnny Shondell and Isolde Balangie, rock and roll-musician teenagers with magical voices, have fallen in love and run away after Isolde was given as a sex slave to Johnny's uncle. As he seeks to uncover why, Detective Dave Robicheaux gets too close to both Isolde's mother and the mistress of her father, a New Orleans mafioso who hires a mysterious assassin to go after Robicheaux and his longtime partner, Clete Purcel. In order to defeat him and rescue Johnny and Isolde, Robicheaux will have to overcome the demons that have tormented him throughout his adult life.

Alyssa Cole

When no one is watching

Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighbourhood seems to change every time she blinks. To hold onto her community's past and present, Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block—her neighbour Theo. But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbours may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalize the community may be more deadly than advertised.

Jeffery Deaver

The never game

A young woman has gone missing in Silicon Valley and her father has hired Colter Shaw to find her. The son of a survivalist family, Shaw is an expert tracker. Now he makes a living as a "reward seeker," traveling the country to help police solve crimes and private citizens locate missing persons. But what seems a simple investigation quickly thrusts him into the dark heart of America's tech hub and the cutthroat billion-dollar video-gaming industry.

Louise Fein

Daughter of the Reich

As the dutiful daughter of a high-ranking Nazi officer, Hetty Heinrich is keen to play her part in the glorious new Thousand Year Reich. But she never imagines that all she believes and knows about her world will come into stark conflict when she encounters Walter, a Jewish friend from the past, who stirs dangerous feelings in her. Confused and conflicted, Hetty doesn't know

whom she can trust and where she can turn to, especially when she discovers that someone has been watching her.

Ken Follett

The evening and the morning

997 CE, the end of the Dark Ages. England is facing attacks from the Welsh in the west and the Vikings in the east. Those in power bend justice according to their will, regardless of ordinary people and often in conflict with the king. In these turbulent times, three characters, a young boatbuilder, a Norman noblewoman and a monk, find their lives intertwined.. And each in turn comes into dangerous conflict with a clever and ruthless bishop who will do anything to increase his wealth and power.

Elly Griffiths

The lantern men

Everything has changed for Dr. Ruth Galloway. She has a new job, home and partner, and is no longer North Norfolk police's resident forensic archaeologist. That is, until convicted murderer Amyas March offers to make DCI Nelson a deal. Nelson was always sure that March killed more women than he was charged with. Now March confirms this, and offers to show Nelson where the other bodies are buried - but only if Ruth will do the digging.

Frances Itani

The company we keep

Hazzley is at loose ends, even three years after the death of her husband. When her longtime friend Cassandra, café owner and occasional dance-class partner, suggests that she start up a conversation group. Hazzley posts a notice on the community board at the local grocery store. The six strangers who join the group are learning that beginnings can be possible at any stage of life, but as they tell their stories, they must navigate what is shared and what is withheld.

Peter James

The secret of Cold Hill

Cold Hill House has been demolished to make way for a new housing estate. Luxury-living at its best. The first two families move in, and as soon as they do, the unearthly residents of Cold Hill begin to make themselves known. Nobody who moves into Cold Hill reaches their fortieth birthday, and the old couple that have just arrived - let's just say their days are numbered.

Louise Jensen

The family

Laura is grieving after the sudden death of her husband. Struggling to cope emotionally and financially, Laura is grateful when a local community, Oak Leaf Organics, offer her and her 17-year-old daughter Tilly a home. But as Laura and Tilly settle into life with their new 'family', sinister things begin to happen. When one of the community dies in suspicious circumstances Laura wants to leave but Tilly, enthralled by the charismatic leader, Alex, refuses to go.

Jonathan Kellerman

Half Moon Bay

Deputy Coroner Clay Edison has his hands full. He's got a new baby and he's working the graveyard shift. Workers demolishing a local park have made a haunting discovery: the decades-old skeleton of a child. No sooner has Clay begun to investigate than he receives a call from a local businessman, wondering if the body could belong to his sister. She went missing fifty years ago, the man says, or at least I think she did.

Stephen King

Elevation

Although Scott Carey doesn't look any different, he's been steadily losing weight. There are a couple of other odd things, too. He weighs the same in his clothes and out of them, no matter how heavy they are. In the small town of Castle Rock, Scott is engaged in a low grade battle

with the lesbians next door, who are trying to launch a new restaurant, but the people of Castle Rock want no part of a gay married couple. When Scott finally understands the prejudices they face, including his own, he tries to help. Unlikely alliances, the annual foot race, and the mystery of Scott's affliction bring out the best in people who have indulged the worst in themselves and others.

Thomas King ***Indians on vacation***

Meet Bird and Mimi in this novel inspired by a handful of old postcards sent by Uncle Leroy nearly a hundred years earlier. Bird and Mimi attempt to trace Mimi's long-lost uncle and the family medicine bundle he took with him to Europe. They travel to Europe, where their wanderings through its famous capitals reveal a complicated history, both personal and political.

Frances Liardet ***We must be brave***

December 1940. As German bombs fall on Southampton, England, the city's residents flee to the surrounding villages. In Upton village, amid the chaos, newly married Ellen Parr finds a girl asleep, unclaimed at the back of an empty bus. Little Pamela, it seems, is entirely alone. Ellen has always believed she does not want children, but when she takes Pamela into her home, the child cracks open the past Ellen thought she had escaped and the future she and her husband Selwyn had dreamed for themselves. As the war rages on, love grows where it was least expected, surprising them all. But with the end of the fighting comes the realization that Pamela was never theirs to keep.

Henning Mankel ***After the fire***

Fredrik Welin is a seventy-year-old retired doctor. Years ago he retreated to the Swedish archipelago, where he lives alone on an island. He swims in the sea every day, cutting a hole in the ice if necessary. He lives a quiet life. Until he wakes up one night to find his house on fire. Fredrik escapes just in time, as neighbouring islanders arrive to help douse the flames. All that remains in the morning is a stinking ruin and evidence of arson. The house that has been in his family for generations and all his worldly belongings are gone. He cannot think who would do such a thing, or why. Without a suspect, the police begin to think he started the fire himself.

Alexander McCall Smith ***The second worst restaurant in France***

Renowned cookbook writer Paul Stuart, renewed and refreshed from his time in Tuscany, has returned to Scotland to work on his new book, *The Philosophy of Food in Six Easy Chapters*. Writing, though, is complicated by Paul's changed domestic circumstances. His editor and new girlfriend, Gloria, has moved in with him despite not being specifically invited, and she's brought her two rather demanding Siamese cats. When Paul's cousin, Chloe, suggests Paul visit her in the French countryside, Paul jumps at the chance. However, once he arrives, he finds his fortunes tangled up with the infamous local restaurant that gives the book its title.

Mhairi McFarlane ***Don't you forget about me***

If there's one thing worse than being fired from the grottiest restaurant in town, it's coming home early to find your boyfriend in bed with someone else. Reeling from the indignity of a double dumping on the same day, Georgina snatches at the next job that she's offered – barmaid in a newly opened pub, which just so happens to run by the boy she fell in love with at school: Lucas McCarthy. And whereas Georgina has done nothing but dead-end jobs in the last twelve years, Lucas has not only grown into a broodingly handsome man, but also has turned into an actual grown-up with a business and a dog along the way. Meeting Lucas again not only throws

Georgina's rackety present into sharp relief, but also brings a dark secret from her past bubbling to the surface.

Catherine McKenzie ***You can't catch me***

Twelve years ago Jessica Williams escaped a cult. Thanks to the private detective who rescued her, she reintegrated into society and tried to put it all behind her. Then, at an airport bar, Jessica meets a woman with an identical name and birth date. It appears to be just an odd coincidence—until a week later, when Jessica finds her bank account drained and her personal information stolen. Following a trail of the grifter's victims, each with the same name, Jessica gathers players for her own game. According to her plan, they'll set a trap and wait for the impostor to strike again.

James Patterson ***The midwife murders***

To Senior Midwife Lucy Ryuan, pregnancy is not an unusual condition, it's her life's work. But when two kidnappings and a vicious stabbing happen on her watch in a university hospital in Manhattan, her focus abruptly changes. Something has to be done, and Lucy is fearless enough to try. Rumours begin to swirl, blaming everyone from the Russian Mafia to an underground adoption network. The feisty single mom teams up with a skeptical NYPD detective to solve the case, but the truth is far more twisted than Lucy could ever have imagined.

Louise Penny ***All the devils are here***

On their first night in Paris, the Gamaches gather as a family for a bistro dinner with Armand's godfather, the billionaire Stephen Horowitz. Walking home together after the meal, they watch in horror as Stephen is knocked down and critically injured in what Gamache knows is no accident, but a deliberate attempt on the elderly man's life. When a strange key is found in Stephen's possession it sends Armand, his wife Reine-Marie, and his former second-in-command at the Sûreté, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, from the top of the Tour d'Eiffel, to the bowels of the Paris Archives, from luxury hotels to odd, coded, works of art.

Ruth Ware ***One by one***

Getting snowed in at a beautiful, rustic mountain chalet doesn't sound like the worst problem in the world, especially when there's a breathtaking vista, a cozy fire, and company to keep you warm. But what happens when that company is eight of your coworkers and you can't trust any of them?

Susan Wiggs ***The lost and found bookshop***

In the wake of a shocking tragedy, Natalie Harper inherits her mother's charming but financially strapped bookshop in San Francisco. She also becomes caretaker for her ailing grandfather Andrew, her only living relative—not counting her scoundrel father. But Andrew has begun displaying signs of decline. Natalie thinks it's best to move him to an assisted living facility to ensure the care he needs. To pay for it, she plans to close the bookstore and sell the derelict but valuable building. There's only one problem, Grandpa Andrew owns the building and refuses to sell. Natalie adores her grandfather; she'll do whatever it takes to make his final years happy. Besides, she loves the store and its books provide welcome solace for her overwhelming grief.

NON-FICTION

Julian Barnes ***The man in the red coat***

In the summer of 1885, three Frenchmen arrived in London for a few days' shopping. One was a Prince, one was a Count, and the third was a commoner with an Italian name, who four years

earlier had been the subject of one of John Singer Sargent's greatest portraits. The commoner was Samuel Pozzi, society doctor, pioneer gynaecologist and free-thinker, a rational and scientific man with a famously complicated private life.

The Man in the Red Coat is a portrait of the Belle Epoque – its heroes and villains, its writers, artists and thinkers – and a life of a man ahead of his time.

Rutger Bregman ***Humankind: a hopeful history***

If one basic principle has served as the bedrock of the author's thinking, it is that every progressive idea, whether it was the abolition of slavery, the advent of democracy, women's suffrage, or the ratification of marriage equality, was once considered radical and dangerous by the mainstream opinion of its time. By providing a new historical perspective of the last 200,000 years of human history, Bregman sets out to prove that we are in fact evolutionarily wired for cooperation rather than competition, and that our instinct to trust each other has a firm evolutionary basis going back to the beginning of Homo sapiens. The ultimate goal of the book is to demonstrate that while neither capitalism nor communism has on its own been proven to be a workable social system, there is a third option: giving "citizens and professionals the means (left) to make their own choices (right)." Reorienting our thinking toward positive and high expectations of our fellow man, Bregman argues, will reap lasting success.

Annie Grace ***This naked mind: control alcohol: find freedom, discover happiness & change your life***

Millions of people worry that drinking is affecting their health, yet are unwilling to seek change because of the misery and stigma associated with alcoholism and recovery. They fear drinking less will be boring, involving deprivation, difficulty and significant lifestyle changes. The book offers a new solution. Packed with insight into the reasons we drink, it will open your eyes to the startling role of alcohol in our culture. By addressing causes rather than symptoms it is a permanent solution rather than lifetime struggle. It removes the psychological dependence.

Ben Macintyre ***Agent Sonya: Moscow's most daring wartime spy***

In 1942, in a quiet village in the English Cotswolds, a thin, elegant woman lived in a small cottage with her three children and her husband, who worked as a machinist nearby. Ursula Burton was friendly but reserved, and spoke English with a slight foreign accent. Her neighbours knew little about her. They didn't know that she was a high-ranking Soviet intelligence officer, that her husband was also a spy, or that she was running agents across Europe. Behind the facade of her picturesque life, Burton was a dedicated Communist, a Soviet colonel, and a veteran agent, gathering the scientific secrets that would enable the Soviet Union to build the bomb. This true-life spy story is about the woman code-named "Sonya."

Michael Palin ***Erebus: the story of a ship***

The story of HMS Erebus, from its construction in the naval dockyards of Pembroke, to the part it played in Ross's Antarctic expedition of 1839–43, to its abandonment during Franklin's ill-fated Arctic expedition, and to its final rediscovery on the seabed in Queen Maud Gulf in 2014. The book explores the intertwined careers of the men who shared its journeys: James Clark Ross, who mapped much of the Antarctic coastline and Sir John Franklin, who, at the age of 60 and after a chequered career, commanded the ship on its final journey. The book describes life on board for the officers and crew who, one by one, froze and starved to death in the Arctic wastes as rescue missions desperately tried to track them down.