

NANOOSE LIBRARY - NOVEMBER NEW BOOK SYNOPSSES

FICTION

Alfon Dov

A long night in Paris

When an Israeli tech entrepreneur disappears from Charles de Gaulle airport with a woman in red, logic dictates youthful indiscretion. But Israel is on a state of high alert nonetheless. Colonel Zeev Abadi, the new head of Unit 8200's autonomous Special Section, who just happens to be in Paris, also just happens to have arrived on the same flight. For Commissaire Léger of the Paris Police coincidences have their reasons, and most are suspect. When a second young Israeli is kidnapped soon after arriving on the same flight, this time at gunpoint from his hotel room, his suspicions are confirmed.

Lin Anderson

Time for the dead

When forensic scientist Rhona MacLeod returns to her roots on Scotland's Isle of Skye, a chance encounter in the woods behind a nearby activities centre leads her to what seems to be a crime scene, but without a victim. Could this be linked to a group of army medics, who visited the centre while on leave from Afghanistan and can no longer be located on the island? Two days later a body is found at the base of Kilt Rock, face and identity obliterated by the fall, which leads Rhona to suspect the missing medics may be on the island for reasons other than relaxation.

Jeffrey Archer

Heads you win

Leningrad, Russia, 1968. Alexander Karpenko is no ordinary child, and from an early age, it is clear he is destined to lead his countrymen. But when his father is assassinated by the KGB for defying the state, he and his mother will have to escape from Russia if they hope to survive. At the docks, they are confronted with an irreversible choice: should they board a container ship bound for America, or Great Britain? Alexander leaves that choice to the toss of a coin. In a single moment, a double twist decides Alexander's future.

Penny Chamberlain

Songs from a small town

Inspired by a true incident of mass hysteria in Le Roy, New York in 2011-2012, this is a novel written as a series of stories. It examines a mysterious condition that strikes only teenage girls in a small farming town--their arms twitch and jump, and they can't control the movements--and while people speculate about what is causing the disease, no one knows for sure. As the stories progress, various facets of this bizarre phenomenon are explored, dark secrets come to light, and the hysteria grows.

Chanel Cleeton

When we left Cuba

The Cuban Revolution took everything from sugar heiress Beatriz Perez, her family, her people, her country. Recruited by the CIA to infiltrate Fidel Castro's inner circle and pulled into the dangerous world of espionage, Beatriz is consumed by her quest for revenge and her desire to reclaim the life she lost. As the Cold War swells like a hurricane over the shores of the Florida Strait, Beatriz is caught between the clash of Cuban American politics and the perils of a forbidden affair with a powerful man driven by ambitions of his own.

Olive Collins

The tide between us

Inspired by the real story of 2,000 Irish children deported to Jamaica. 1821: Among the thousands of Irish deportees to the Caribbean British Colonies is a 10 year old Irish boy, Art O'Neill. As an indentured servant on a sugar plantation in Jamaica, Art gradually acclimatizes to the exotic country and the unfamiliar customs of the African slaves.

Ireland 1991: One hundred years later a skeleton is discovered beneath a fallen tree on the grounds of Lugdale Estate. By its side is a gold coin minted in 1870. Yseult, the owner of the estate, watches as events unfold, fearful of the long-buried truths that may emerge about her family's past and its links to the slave trade.

Ron Corbett

Mission Road

Another in the Frank Yakabuski series. In the final scene of Cape Diamond, millions of dollars' worth of diamonds went missing, which is where this novel begins. When rumours spread that they were buried on Mission Road, an old logging trail outside the town, people swarm to the area, setting up temporary camps and searching for fortune. But when a known murderer shows up, the real mystery begins.

Fiona Davis

The lions of Fifth Avenue

1913. On the surface, Laura Lyons couldn't ask for more out of life - her husband is the superintendent of the New York Public Library and a family home in an apartment within the building. But Laura wants more and applies to the Columbia Journalism School. As her studies take her all over the city, she finds herself drawn to Greenwich Village's new bohemia, where she discovers the Heterodoxy Club--a radical, all-female group. Soon, Laura finds herself questioning her traditional role as wife and mother. But when valuable books are stolen back at the library, she's forced to confront her shifting priorities.

1993, Sadie Donovan struggles with the legacy of her grandmother, the famous essayist Laura Lyons, especially after she's wrangled her dream job as a curator at the New York Public Library. But the job quickly becomes a nightmare when rare documents for the exhibit Sadie's running begin disappearing from the library's Berg Collection. Determined to save both the exhibit and her career, Sadie teams up with a private security expert to uncover the culprit.

Anne Emery

Postmark Berlin

Father Brennan Burke is struggling, and he's been coping: self-medicating with drink. He's barely managing, but his troubles intensify when the body of one of his parishioners, Meika Keller, washes up on the coast of Halifax. She came to Canada after escaping past a checkpoint in the Berlin Wall. An army colonel is charged with her murder, and defence lawyer Monty argues that Meika's death was a suicide. Guilty of neglecting his duties as a priest when Meika needed him most, Brennan feels compelled to uncover whatever instigated her cry for help and led to her death.

Janet Evanovich

Twisted twenty-six

Another in the Stephanie Plum series. Grandma Mazur is a widow again. This time her marriage lasted a whole 45 minutes. The unlucky groom was Jimmy Rosolli, local gangster, lothario and heart attack waiting to happen. It's a sad day, but if she can't have Jimmy at least Grandma can have all the attention she wants as the dutiful widow. But some kinds of attention are not welcomed, particularly when Jimmy's former "business partners" are convinced that his widow is keeping the keys to their financial success for herself.

Vince Flynn

Total power

When Mitch Rapp captures ISIS's top technology expert, he reveals that he was to meet a man who claims to be able to bring down America's power grid. Rapp is determined to eliminate this shadowy figure, but the CIA's trap fails. The agency is still trying to determine what went wrong when the country is plunged into darkness. Rapp and his team embark on a desperate search for the only people who know how to repair the damage - the ones responsible. But his operating environment is like nothing he's experienced before. Computers and communication networks are down, infrastructure is on the brink of collapse, and the supply of food is running out.

Tana French

The searcher

Retired detective Cal Hooper moves to a remote village in rural Ireland. His plans are to fix up the dilapidated cottage he's bought, walk the mountains and put his old police instincts to bed forever. Then a local boy appeals to him for help. His brother is missing, and no one in the village, least of all the police, seems to care. And once again, Cal feels that restless itch.

Kristin Harmel

The book of lost names

Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books one morning when she sees a photograph in a magazine of a book she hasn't seen in sixty-five years—a book she recognizes as The

Book of Lost Names. The accompanying article discusses the looting of libraries by the Nazis during World War II, an experience Eva remembers well, and the search to reunite people with the texts taken from them. The book, an eighteenth-century religious text thought to have been taken from France, is now housed in Berlin's Zentral-und Landesbibliothek library, it appears to contain some sort of code, but researchers don't know what the code means. Only Eva holds the answer.

Thomas King **Obsidian**

Thumps DreadfulWater's world is turned upside down when Nina Maslow, the producer of a true-crime reality-TV show, turns up dead after working on a cold case that Thumps has spent years trying to forget. What's more, someone seems set on taunting Thumps, leaving reminders of the Obsidian murder case around town. Is it possible that the elusive serial killer who murdered his girlfriend and her daughter all those years ago has resurfaced in Chinook?

Asha Lemmie **Fifty words for rain**

Kyoto, Japan, 1948. "If a woman knows nothing else, she should know how to be silent. Do not question. Do not fight. Do not resist." Such is eight-year-old Noriko "Nori" Kamiza's first lesson. She will not question why her mother abandoned her with only these final words. She will not fight her confinement to the attic of her grandparents' imperial estate. The illegitimate child of a Japanese aristocrat and her African American GI lover, Nori is an outsider from birth. Though her grandparents take her in, they do so only to conceal her, fearful of a stain on the royal pedigree. Nori accepts her solitary life. But when chance brings her legitimate older half-brother, Akira, to the estate that is his inheritance and destiny, Nori finds in him the first person who will allow her to question, and the siblings form an unlikely but powerful bond.

Hilary Mantel **The error & the light**

England, May 1536. Anne Boleyn is dead. Thomas Cromwell breakfasts with the victors. The blacksmith's son from Putney emerges from the spring's bloodbath to continue his climb to power and wealth, while his formidable master, Henry VIII, settles to short-lived happiness with his third queen before Jane dies giving birth to the male heir he most craves. Cromwell is a man with only his wits to rely on. Despite rebellion at home, and the threat of invasion testing Henry's regime to the breaking point, Cromwell's robust imagination sees a new country in the mirror of the future.

Ilana Masad **All my mother's lovers**

Intimacy has always eluded twenty-seven-year-old Maggie Krause, despite being brought up by model married parents, until Lucia came into her life. But when Maggie's mom, Iris, dies in a car crash, Maggie returns home only to discover a withdrawn dad, an angry brother, and, along with Iris's will, five sealed envelopes, each addressed to a mysterious man she's never heard of. In an effort to run from her own grief and discover the truth about Iris, Maggie embarks on a road trip, determined to hand-deliver the letters and find out what these men meant to her mother.

Santa Montefiore **The secret hours**

Arethusa Clayton has always been formidable. On her death, she leaves unexpected instructions. Instead of being buried on the east coast of America, where she and her late husband raised their two children, Arethusa has decreed that her ashes be scattered in a remote corner of Ireland. All Arethusa ever told Faye was that she grew up in a poor farming family and left Ireland, alone, to start a new life in America. But who were her family in Ireland and where are they now? And who is the mysterious benefactor of a significant share of Arethusa's estate?

Silvia Moreno-Garcia **Mexican gothic**

After receiving a frantic letter from her newly-wed cousin begging for someone to save her from a mysterious doom, Noemí Taboada heads to High Place, a distant house in the Mexican countryside. She's not sure what she will find—her cousin's husband, a handsome Englishman, is a stranger, and Noemí knows little about the region. Her only ally in this inhospitable abode is the family's youngest son.

Lesley Pearce

You'll never see me again

When Betty's husband returns from the war broken and haunted, she knows her marriage is doomed. Escaping, she goes on the run armed with a new identity. But penniless and alone, Betty quickly finds that starting again is much harder than she thought. And she never imagined it could end in murder.

Ross Pennie

Bitter paradise

After weeks of torture at the hands of Syria's secret police, the bombing of his villa in the ancient city of Aleppo, and the murder of his daughter, trauma surgeon Dr. Hosam Khousa flees his homeland with his wife and son. They make their way to Canada as refugees, where Hosam is forced to trade his scalpel for a barber's clippers. Though he aches to regain his once-prominent surgical career, cutting hair in Hamilton, Ontario, seems a safe way to make a living, until a fellow Syrian is slashed to death in the barbershop. The ensuing gangland vendetta entangles Hosam and threatens his family.

Jodi Picoult

The book of two ways

Everything changes in a single moment for Dawn Edelstein. She's on a plane when the flight attendant makes an announcement: prepare for a crash landing. Thoughts flash through her mind. The shocking thing is, the thoughts are not of her husband, but a man she last saw fifteen years ago: Wyatt Armstrong. Dawn, miraculously, survives the crash, but so do all the doubts that have suddenly been raised. Back in Boston, there is her husband, Brian, her beloved daughter, and her work in hospice. But in Egypt is Wyatt Armstrong, who works as an archaeologist, a job she once studied for. After the crash, the airline offers flights to wherever they want to go. The obvious option for Dawn is to go home to her family. The other is to return to reconnect with Wyatt and their unresolved history, and maybe even complete her research on The Book of Two Ways--the first known map of the afterlife.

J.D. Robb

Golden in death

Pediatrician Kent Abner received the package on an April morning. Inside was a cheap trinket, a golden egg that could be opened into two halves. When he pried it apart, highly toxic airborne fumes killed him. After Eve Dallas undergoes testing to reassure both her and her husband that she hasn't been exposed, it's time to look into Dr. Abner's past and relationships. While the lab tries to identify the deadly toxin, Eve hunts for the sender. But when someone else dies in the same grisly manner, it becomes clear that she's dealing with either a madman—or someone who has a hidden and elusive connection to both victims.

John Sandford

Neon prey

It was a relatively minor criminal matter, all things considered, but enough that the U.S. Marshals obtained a warrant to enter the home. They didn't expect to unearth trophies from a score of killings. Now Davenport is on the trail of a serial murderer, one who was able to operate for years without notice or suspicion. But there's even more to this killer than meets the eye.

Nicholas Sparks

The return

Trevor Benson never intended to move back to New Bern, NC. But when a mortar blast outside the hospital where he worked as an orthopaedic surgeon sent him home from Afghanistan with devastating injuries, the dilapidated cabin he inherited from his grandfather seemed as good a place to regroup as any. Trevor isn't prepared to fall in love with a local and yet, from their very first encounter, his connection with Natalie Masterson can't be ignored. Further complicating his stay is the presence of a sullen teenage girl, Callie, who lives in the trailer park down the road from his grandfather's cabin. When he discovers she was once befriended by his grandfather, Trevor hopes Callie can shed light on the mysterious circumstances of his grandfather's death.

NON FICTION

Mark Adams

Tip of the iceberg: my 3,000-mile journey around wild Alaska, the last great American frontier

In 1899, railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman organized a most unusual summer voyage to the wilds of Alaska: He converted a steamship into a luxury "floating university," populated by some of America's best and brightest scientists and writers, including the anti-capitalist eco-prophet John Muir. Those aboard

encountered a land of immeasurable beauty and impending environmental calamity. Mark Adams sets out to retrace the 1899 expedition. He follows the George W. Elder's itinerary north through Wrangell, Juneau, and Glacier Bay, then continuing west into the colder and stranger regions of the Aleutians and the Arctic Circle. Along the way, he investigates how lessons learned in 1899 might relate to Alaska's current struggles in adapting to climate change.

Paul R. Alexander ***Three minutes for a dog: my life in an iron lung***

Contrary to popular belief Polio is not extinct. Paul Alexander's life is a saga that started in 1949 and has been profoundly shaped by the Polio epidemic of the early 1950's. Survivors of the 1950's Polio Epidemic in America are rare. Polio victims, like Paul Alexander, who require the assistance of an "Iron Lung" respirator for their life's breath are even rarer. Paul Alexander has crafted his life against all odds. Polio victims, their families, friends and communities continue to struggle with this obscure but still dangerous infectious disease. This book is a testimony to the strength of the human spirit and a reminder of the need to continue efforts to eradicate Polio.

Roxane Gay ***Not that bad: dispatches from rape culture***

Cultural critic Roxane Gay has edited a collection of essays that explore what it means to live in a world where women are frequently belittled and harassed due to their gender, and offers a call to arms insisting that "not that bad" must no longer be good enough.

David McCullough ***The pioneers: the heroic story of the settlers who bought the American ideal west***

Historian David McCullough rediscovers the settling of the Northwest Territory by pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define America. As part of the Treaty of Paris, in which Great Britain recognized the new United States of America, Britain ceded the land that comprised the Northwest Territory, a wilderness northwest of the Ohio River containing the future states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. A Massachusetts minister named Manasseh Cutler was instrumental in opening this vast territory to veterans of the Revolutionary War and their families for settlement. Included in the Northwest Ordinance were three remarkable conditions: freedom of religion, free universal education, and most importantly, the prohibition of slavery. In 1788 the first band of pioneers set out from New England for the Northwest Territory under the leadership of Revolutionary War veteran General Rufus Putnam. They settled in what is now Marietta on the banks of the Ohio River.

Angela Saini ***Superior: the return of race science***

After the horrors of the Nazi regime in WWII, the mainstream scientific world turned its back on eugenics and the study of racial difference. But a worldwide network of unrepentant eugenicists quietly founded journals and funded research, providing the kind of shoddy studies that were ultimately cited in Richard Herrnstein's and Charles Murray's 1994 title, *The Bell Curve*, which purported to show differences in intelligence among races.

Dissecting the statements and work of contemporary scientists studying human biodiversity, most of whom claim to be just following the data, Saini shows us how, again and again, science is retrofitted to accommodate race. Even as our understanding of highly complex traits like intelligence, and the complicated effect of environmental influences on human beings, grows, the hope of finding simple genetic differences between "races" to explain differing rates of disease, to explain poverty or test scores or to justify cultural assumptions, stubbornly persists.