



Summer Reads

with Cavan Library Service

2026



Summer Reads 2026

“When I got [my] library card, that was when my life began.”

Rita Mae Brown

Wondering what to read this Summer? Let us guide you with our top picks for Summer 2026.

This year we're doing something a little different. Our picks have a shorter loan period of 10 days - Books will come back quicker giving you a chance to get through more of the titles on the list.

Cavan Library service is always proud to support Irish authors. This year you'll spot a mix of well known names like Liz Nugent, Ardal O'Hanlon, Louise O'Neill, Dave Rudden & Colm Toibin and some exciting debut authors like Djamel White, Clíodhna O'Sullivan, Jen Bray & Neil Tully

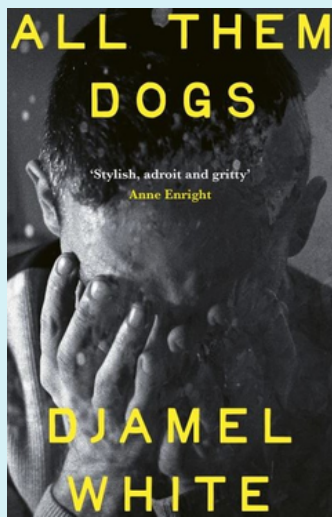
Your opinion matters and we always love to hear readers thoughts - Complete book reviews in branch when returning a Summer Read book or under Recommended Reads on our website. And don't forget to fill out a feedback form at the end of summer to let us know what you think about this years list

Cavan Library Staff

Many titles are available as e-audiobooks and/or e-books on the Borrow Box app.

Visit our Website www.cavanlibrary.ie for more information about our services or follow us on Facebook: Cavan County Library Service

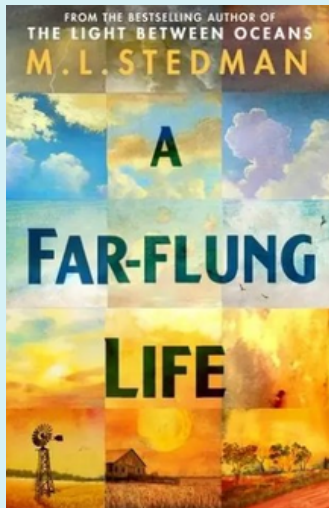




All Them Dogs - Djamel White

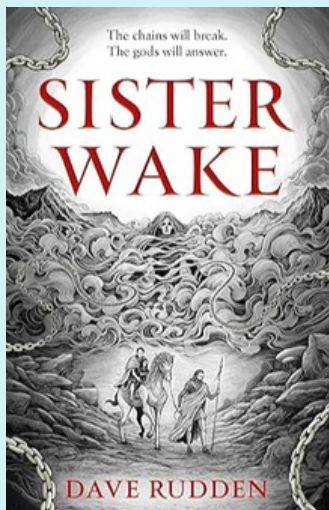


Tony's old mentor is dead; his best pal Kenny is on the straight and narrow and the West Dublin gangland has changed. Tony is keen to reinstate himself, and when the opportunity arises to work with Darren 'Flute' Walsh, a top enforcer of notorious crime boss Angus Lavelle, it feels like a no brainer. Tony finds himself drawn to his new associate in more ways than one. With retribution from his past actions always close in the rear view, the protection offered by Flute's standing in the gang is crucial. But how safe is Tony, when a mutual attraction starts to complicate matters?



A Far Flung Life - M.L. Steadman

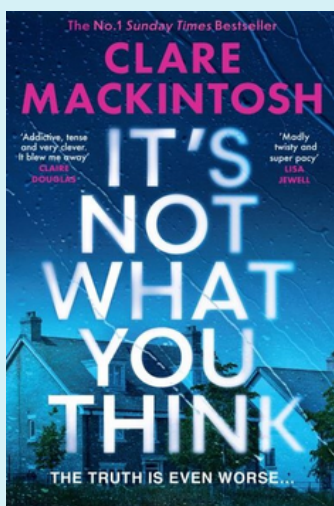
Western Australia, 1958. A truck rumbles along a lonely outback road. A moment's inattention, and in a few muddled seconds the lives of the MacBride family are shattered. Instead of leaving them to heal, fate comes back for them in a twist of consequences that will cause one of them to lose their life, and another to sacrifice theirs for the sake of an innocent child. A Far-flung Life explores the hearts of a handful of isolated souls and the secrets they shield in order to survive.



Sister Wake - Dave Rudden



For three hundred years the island of Croi' has been subject to the Empire of the Answering. Clans have been subjugated, their language outlawed, their religion reduced. Until the Gods return. Feral and majestic, they throw the Empire into chaos. The dispossessed and the vengeful struggle for power. A ruthless priestess rallies the faithful, offering a choice - believe, or die; even as the empire's Queen makes the first moves in a long and dangerous game. But one woman will decide the fate of them all: Sister Wake, unwilling saint of the Goddess of Death.



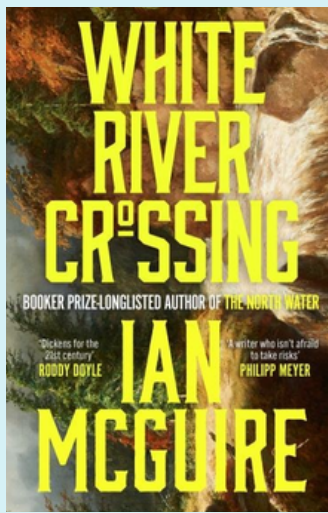
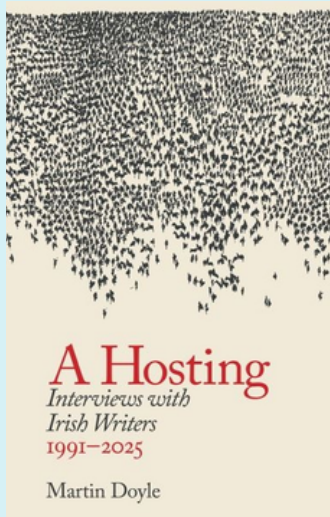
It's Not What You Think - Clare Mackintosh

He has a secret. She knows he's lying...
Nadeeka is certain Jamie is having an affair. She knows the tell-tale signs. She's been here before.
When Jamie claims to be at work late, she knows he's lying. He's with another woman, and she's determined to catch him in the act.
But when Nadeeka arrives home to confront him, Jamie can't explain himself. The house has become a crime scene. Jamie is dead.

A Hosting: Interviews with Irish Writers - Martin Doyle

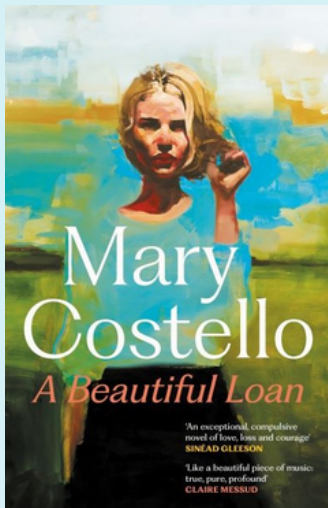


Martin Doyle, has been a journalist for almost 35 years and in that time has interviewed many Irish writers at different stages of their careers. This selection offers a portrait of the Irish literary world as it has evolved in the past four decades. It provides an insight into the creative processes of many favourite writers, while serving as an appetiser for some of the greatest works of modern Irish fiction and nonfiction. Writers interviewed include: Sally Rooney, Claire Keegan, Roddy Doyle, Colm Tóibín, Claire Kilroy, Donal Ryan, Alice Taylor and Paul Murray.



White River Crossing - Ian McGuire

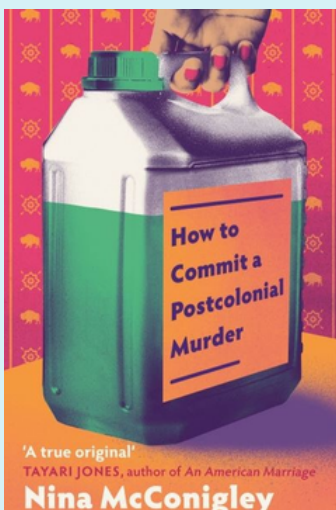
A ragged fur peddler arrives at a Hudson Bay Company outpost in the winter of 1766 with a lump of gold, claiming that there is more like it further north at Ox Lake. The outpost's chief factor, Norton, dreams of instant riches and launches a perilous expedition to find the gold and bring it back – Accompanied by his deputy, Shaw, and led by a family of native guides. During the journey north, Shaw's callousness and arrogance lead him to commit an act of sexual violence whose disastrous consequences will only fully emerge once they reach their final destination.



A Beautiful Loan - Mary Costello

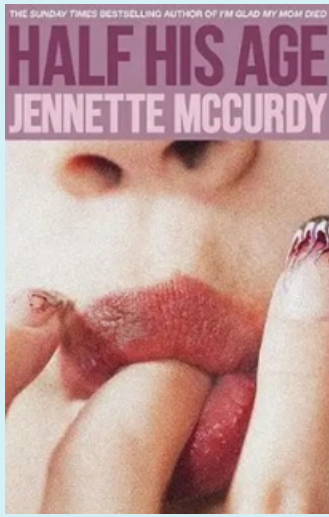


In 1985 Dublin, 19-year-old Anna Hughes is in thrall to Peter Gallagher, an older, worldly man. Anna is introverted and naïve, and Peter's experience, wide circle of friends and thirst for adventure captivates her. Her obsessive longing for him leads to marriage and, eventually, a crushing betrayal. As Anna's life becomes less predictable, she uncovers deeper layers of herself. Her journey gives an intimate portrait of a woman embracing herself as she is, claiming the life she yearns for.



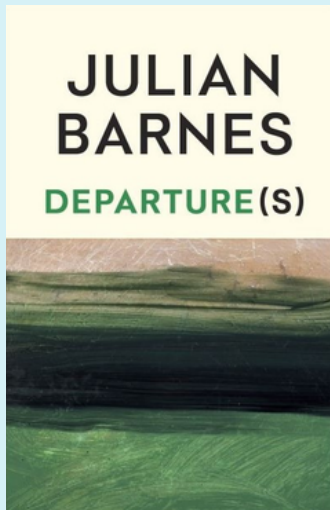
How To Commit A Postcolonial Murder - Nina McConigley

Summer 1986. Tween sisters Georgie Ayyar and Agatha Krishna welcome their aunt, uncle and young cousin - newly arrived from India - into their house in rural Wyoming where they'll all live together. Because this is what families do. That is, until the sisters decide that it's time for their uncle to die. To understand why, you need to hear Georgie's story. It's one of violence hiding in their house and history, of her once-unshakeable bond with her sister, of being an Indian-American girl in the heart of the West.



Half His Age - Jennette McCurdy

Waldo is ravenous. Horny. Blunt. Naive. Wise. Impulsive. Lonely. Angry. Hurting. Endlessly wanting. And the thing she wants most of all? Mr Korgy, her creative writing teacher, with the wife and the kid and the mortgage, with the dead dreams and the atrophied looks and the growing paunch. She doesn't know why she wants him. Is it his passion? His life experience? The fact that he knows books and films that she doesn't? Or are they kindred spirits, sharing how they take in the world around them? Or, perhaps, it's just enough that he sees her when no one else does.



Departures - Julian Barnes

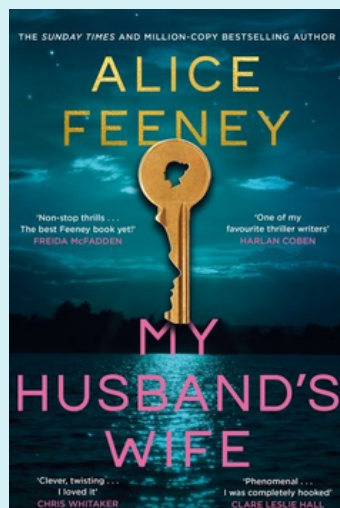
Departure(s) is a book about many things - A man called Stephen and a woman called Jean, who fall in love when they are young and again when they are old. A Jack Russell called Jimmy, famous for his good behaviour. The mischievous nature of memory. The aging body, and how it begins to fail. Taking our chances, facing our fate. Ultimately, it's about the only things that ever really mattered - How we find happiness in this life, and when it is time to say goodbye



Contentious Spaces - Rosaleen McDonagh

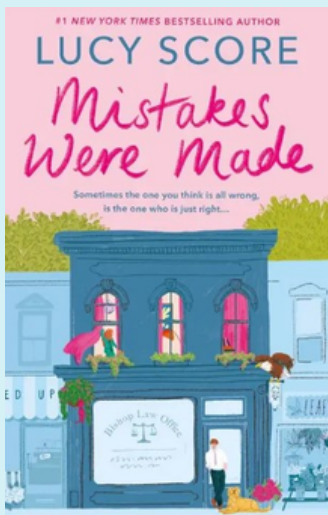


The Traveller families who live in Saint Rita's are on borrowed time. In just a week they will be evicted by the local council, threatening not only their homes but also their history and the stories that have shaped them. Charlene, a proud young beoir suffers a humiliating betrayal. Her mother, Kate, is left to navigate unbearable loss while holding the family together. Her cousin, Sheena, strives to find her place in a new environment that is quick to dismiss her. Her uncle Tommy fights despair as his teenage son spirals out of control.



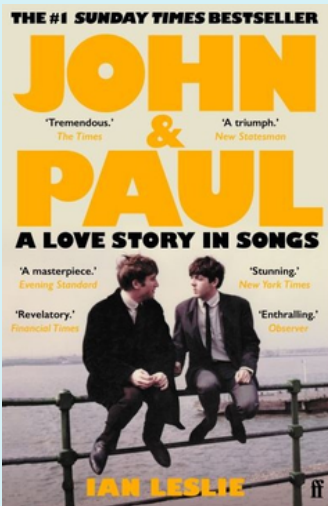
My Husband's Wife - Alice Feeney

When Eden Fox returns from a run, to Spyglass, an enchanting old house in Hope Falls - nothing is as it should be. Her key doesn't fit. A woman, eerily similar to her, answers the door. And her husband insists that this stranger is his wife. One house. One husband. Two women. Someone is lying. Six months earlier, a Londoner named Birdy inherits Spyglass. This brings her to the pretty seaside village of Hope Falls. But then Birdy stumbles upon a shadowy London clinic that claims to be able to predict a person's date of death, including her own.



Mistakes Were Made - Lucy Score

Literary agent Zoey Moody, exiled from Manhattan, needs her client Hazel's romance novel to succeed to return to New York. Nothing will stand in her way. Nothing except her landlord, Gage Bishop. It's clear they're all wrong for each other. Zoey's allergic to commitment and can't work a calendar app; Gage is looking for a wife and has the next five years all planned out. She's afraid of animals. He lives in a literal barn. But when Gage's world is rocked by a devastating family secret, he turns to Zoey for one night to forget everything.



John & Paul - Ian Leslie

John Lennon and Paul McCartney knew each other for twenty-three years, from 1957-1980. This book is the myth-shattering biography of a relationship that changed the cultural history of the world. The Beatles shook the world to its core in the 1960's and, remain an active ingredient in our cultural bloodstream, as new generations fall in love with their songs and their story. At the heart of this phenomenon lies the dynamic between John and Paul. Few other musical partnerships have been rooted in such a deep, intense and complicated personal relationship.

Whatever Happened to Madeline Stone? - Louise O'Neill



2002: Twin sisters Madeline and Chelsea are stars of the sitcom Double Trouble, but everyone knows it's Maddie who shines brightest. Until Chelsea beats her sister for the role of a lifetime. And then Maddie disappears. 2025: When a storage locker is found containing heart-breaking truths about the year Maddie went missing, Chelsea feels a flicker of hope for the first time in twenty years. This is her chance to discover what really happened to her twin, but to follow the trail she'll have to face the past and step back into the spotlight.

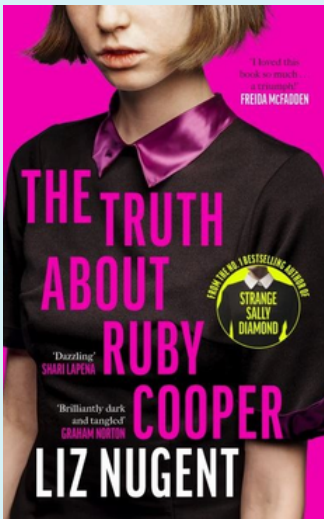
Tayari Jones



Kin - Tayari Jones

Vernice and Annie, have been best friends since early childhood, but are fated to live starkly different lives. The girls are inseparable but as they grow up, their lives start to look very different in the segregated America of the 50s & 60s. Both girls leave Honeysuckle in search of something that might fill the hole left by their absent mothers: a university education, the promise of a first love, the hope offered by the simmering civil rights movement. But it is Annie whose bad decisions pull her into a world of danger, leaving her oldest friend to battle to save her.

The Truth About Ruby Cooper - Liz Nugent



If my sister hadn't been beautiful, none of it would have happened.

Ruby Cooper and her sister, Erin, live an idyllic life in their close-knit church community in Boston. But when Ruby is 16, she is involved in an incident that causes her family's world to implode. Across decades, the fallout leaves a wake of destruction behind Ruby in Dublin and Erin in Boston. Not that Ruby wants to think about the past.

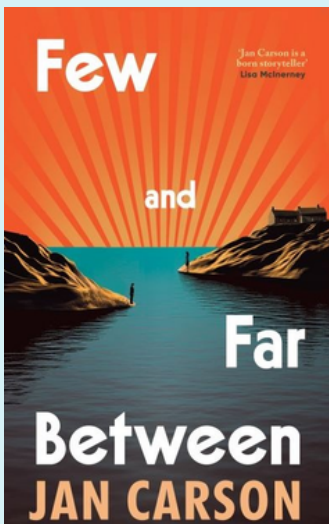
But it can't stay a secret forever.

Frostlines - Neil Shea



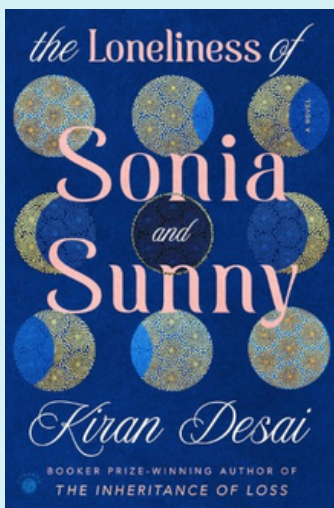
As warming reshapes our planet, the Arctic, a region that once seemed unchangeable beyond the reach of modern problems, is quickly coming undone. Neil Shea begins his journey with wolves in Canada and travels among the Indigenous Netsilingmiut and Tlicho peoples of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. In Alaska he tracks the patterns of caribou, now shifting after thousands of years of predictability. In the European Arctic he explores the new Cold War that is rising over who controls the pole, and who will reap its riches as the ice melts.

Few And Far Between - Jan Carson



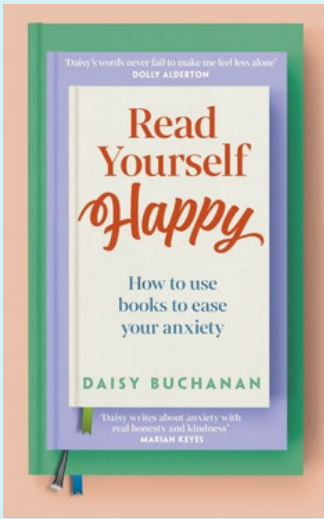
It's 2017 and the last residents of the Lough Neagh Archipelago are facing eviction. The flood planned to combat a devastating algae outbreak will submerge their homes, forcing them back to the Mainland for the first time in fifty years. Robert-John and Marion came to the islands as children in the 70s with their father, an anthropologist studying the unique society that had developed there. They have grown used to their haunted existence on the Ark. How will they cope with a new life on the Mainland? Is it possible to leave the past behind? And will the Ark ever let them go...

The Loneliness of Sonia And Sunny - Kiran Desai



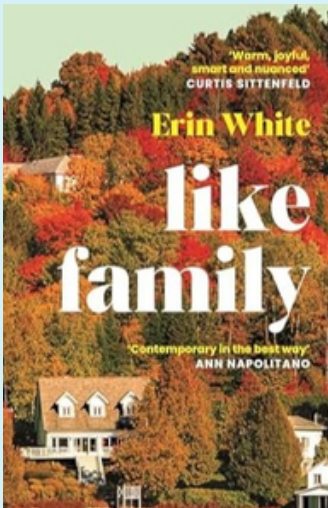
When Sonia and Sunny first glimpse each other on an overnight train, they are captivated, yet also embarrassed by the fact that their grandparents had once tried to matchmake them. Sonia has returned to her family in India, fearing she is haunted by a dark spell cast by an artist to whom she had once turned for intimacy and inspiration. Sunny is attempting to flee his imperious mother and the violence of his warring clan. Uncertain of their future, Sonia and Sunny embark on a search for happiness together as they confront the many alienations of our modern world.

Read Yourself Happy - Daisy Buchanan



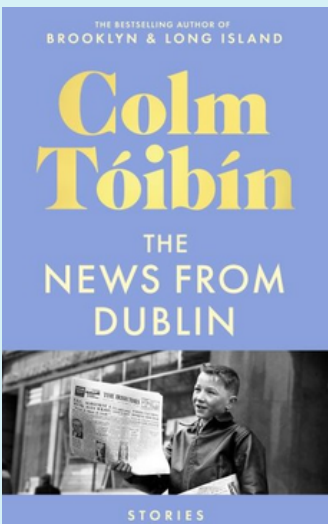
After being diagnosed with General Anxiety Disorder, Daisy returned to reading and discovered that losing herself in a good book helped her find her confidence through characters, her sexuality through racy romps and more peace with every page. This book combines her own journey, the wisdom of the characters, writers and literary worlds she has loved and the advice of experts to help you read yourself calmer. This book will help you form one of the healthiest habits you already have at your fingertips.

Like Family - Erin White



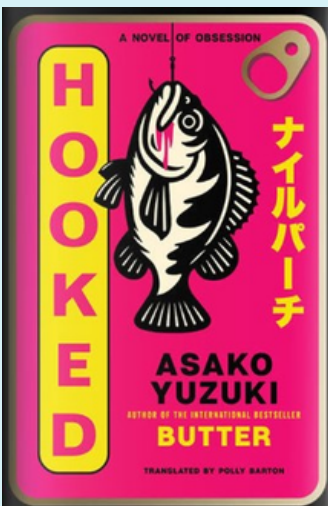
Radclyffe, New York, is an idyllic upstate town, nestled in the hills away from the city. Ruth, Caroline and Tobi are living the dream; Ruth has a wife she loves, sprawling land and wonderful children. Caroline, an ex-Manhattanite, is enjoying a slower pace, time to focus on her music. Tobi runs an Instagram-famous pottery business that is constantly expanding. But cracks are appearing beneath the surface. After an unexpected death rocks their community, these friends are forced to confront tensions that have long been buried and reveal the secrets they never shared.

The News From Dublin - Colm Tóibín



A woman in Galway hears of the death of her son in the First World War. An Irishman seeks anonymity in Barcelona, haunted by crimes he has committed. A man goes to Dublin from Enniscorthy to implore the Minister for Health for a special favour. A young woman is pregnant during the Spanish Civil War. An undocumented worker finds himself living an illegal life and must leave San Francisco, and his child, after thirty years in America. Three sisters who have been living in Argentina decide to return to Catalonia.

Hooked - Asako Yuzuki



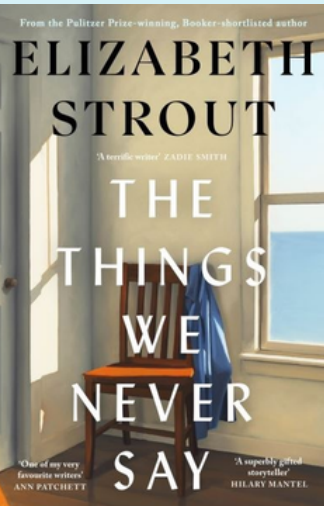
Eriko's life appears perfect - devoted parents, spotless apartment and a job in one of Japan's largest trading companies. But beneath her flawless surface she is wracked by loneliness. Eriko becomes fascinated with a popular blog written by a housewife, Shoko. When Eriko tracks Shoko down and befriends her, Shoko is at first charmed. But as Eriko's obsession with Shoko deepens, her increasingly possessive behaviour starts to raise suspicion. As Eriko's carefully laid plans begin to unravel, how far will she go to hold on to the best friend that she's ever had?

Her Hidden Fire - Clíodhna O'Sullivan



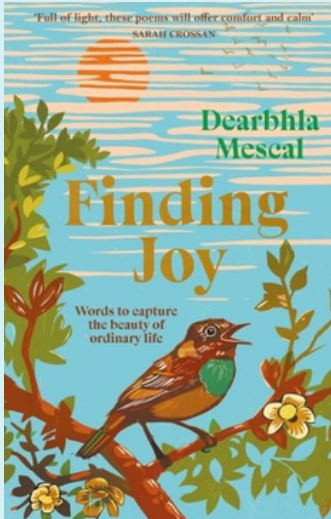
In a world where magical abilities are an elite privilege, the ruling family of Ailm's Keep is on a knife edge: can Ionain, the heir apparent, channel magic or will the family be cast out and replaced by a cruel master from a neighbouring land? When Éadha, a servant girl who loves Ionain, discovers that she can draw power, she finds herself in grave danger. It's extremely rare for a girl to have this talent, and certainly never outside the great families. At Ionain's moment of truth, Éadha makes a desperate gamble to save him, Ailm's Keep, and ultimately herself.

The Things We Never Say - Elizabeth Strout



Artie is a man with a secret. He teaches American history to high schoolers, correcting their casual ignorance, and lending a kind word to those who need it most. He spends his free time sailing, or with his son and his wife - and as Artie does these things, he plans the event that will forever change the world he inhabits. But when an accident awakens a new perspective in Artie, and he realizes that life has its own secret it's been keeping from him he charts another course full of grief, hilarity and heart, to a place where the end marks the beginning.

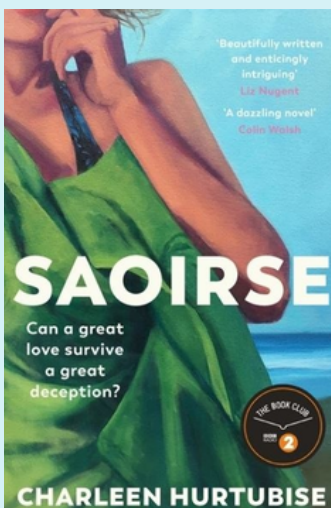
Finding Joy - Dearbhla Mescal



"This little book is a culmination of my curated joys throughout the past few years. It contains my rambling thoughts on life's issues that have popped up along the way."

Whether you're seeking comfort in difficult times, a spark of inspiration or simply a gentle pause in the rush of modern living, this book offers a literary hug for the soul. With words that soothe and encourage, Dearbhla reminds us that joy isn't found in grand gestures, it's woven into the quiet, ordinary moments we often overlook.

Saoirse - Charleen Hurtubise



In Donegal 1999, Saoirse is an artist living an outwardly idyllic life. Her husband Daithí and two daughters are regular subjects for her work, and in them she has found the safe home that she has always longed for. She tends not to talk about her past, and those that love her have accepted that the full story is too painful for her to disclose. When her Dublin exhibition unexpectedly wins a prestigious award that invites a swarm of publicity, Saoirse is left panic stricken. The unanticipated recognition threatens to expose a decade's worth of buried memories and past crimes.

THE LOCK-KEEPER'S WIFE

JOHN MACKENNA — A NOVEL



The Lock-keeper's Wife - John Mackenna



Julie McDermot has just been released from the psychiatric institution where her husband committed her after the devastating loss of their two infant children. Returning to her narrow, lonely life along the canal, Julie is haunted by grief. As she struggles to piece herself back together, an unexpected encounter with a stranger along the canal offers a glimmer of connection and the fragile possibility of hope. Their encounter also brings long-submerged realities to the surface, to a place where they can no longer be ignored

AND NOW, BACK TO YOU



And Now, Back To You - B.K. Borison

Jackson and Delilah have clashed for years - until they're partnered against their will to cover the snowstorm of the century, finding themselves scrambling to figure out how to work together. Eager to be taken seriously as a journalist, Delilah offers Jackson a deal. If he can help her ace this assignment, she'll help him rediscover his fun side. With an undiscovered chemistry burning beneath their clashes, the unlikely partnership quickly tumbles into an easy and surprising friendship. But when other feelings start to enter the equation, can Jackson and Delilah withstand the storm?

Neil Tully

People don't care what's true

Just whatever story suits them best

Brilliant and intriguing
THE IRISH PRESS
Unlikely, utterly
hired and stunning
DAILY MAIL
Explosive and powerful
THE IRISH PRESS
Tightly absorbing
THE IRISH PRESS

The Visit

The Visit - Neil Tully



"The lad is a bit like a stray dog. I keep an eye on him and throw him a few scraps. There are plenty of people in this town who'd just as soon drop him off in the wilderness and hope there's no scent to follow home. The problem is that Patrick could find his way out of any wilderness and they wouldn't like whatever starved thing came back." Sergeant Jim Field feels guilty paternalism for Patrick Hatten, a young man struggling to find a purpose in a small-town Wexford community. Patrick is full of anger and action, and his actions could have devastating effects.

LONDON FALLING

A MYSTERIOUS DEATH IN A GILDED CITY

AND A FAMILY'S SEARCH FOR TRUTH

PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF
EMPIRE OF PAIN AND SAY NOTHING

London Falling - Patrick Radden Keefe

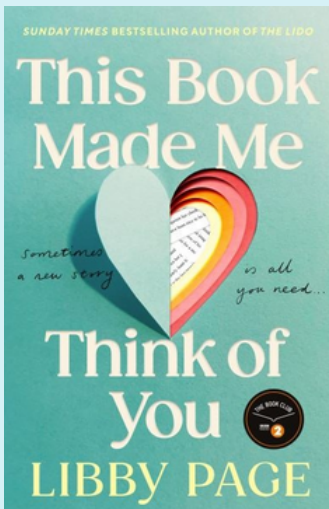
In 2019, a London teenager, Zac Brettler, mysteriously fell to his death from a luxury apartment building on the banks of the Thames. When his grieving parents began their desperate quest to understand how their son had died, they made a terrible discovery: Zac had been leading a fantasy life, posing as the son of a wealthy Russian oligarch. Patrick Radden Keefe follows Zac's parents on a dark journey to find out what brought Zac to the balcony that night - and how a teenager's world of make-believe drew him into the city's terrifying underworld.



The Lies Between Us - Jen Bray

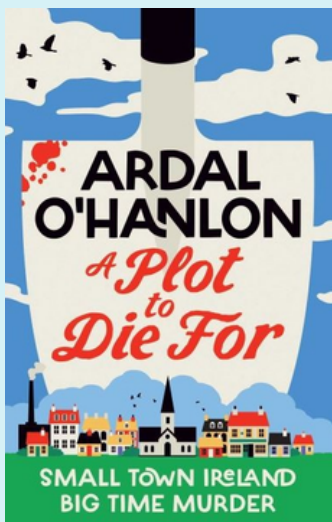


Just before a dinner at their mother's holiday cottage, Susannah disappears. That same night a young woman is killed violently on a nearby beach. Amid the confusion the next morning, Lucy discovers a link between Susannah and the victim. Lucy must summon all she knows from her short-lived policing career to figure out the connection and find her sister. But tracking down Susannah means resurrecting ghosts that the sisters and their mother desperately want to keep buried. Even if Lucy finds Susannah, will the truth destroy them all?



This Book Made Me Think Of You - Libby Page

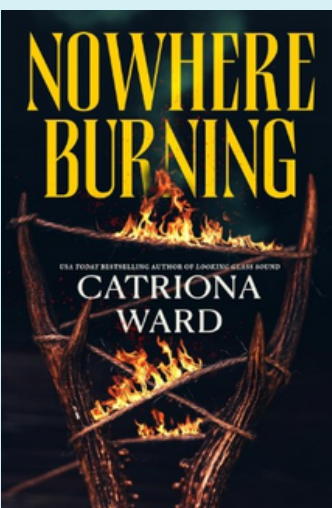
When Tilly Nightingale receives a call telling her there's a birthday gift from her fiancé waiting for her at her local bookshop, it couldn't come as more of a shock. Partly because she can't remember the last time she read a book for pleasure. Mainly because Joe died five months ago... The gift is simple – twelve carefully-chosen books from Joe, one for each month, to help her turn the page on her first year without him.



A Plot To Die For - Ardal O'Hanlon



When beloved celebrity gardener Finn O'Leary returns to his hometown to care for his aging mother, he is naturally roped into the Tidy Towns committee. With everyone's favourite gardener on board, Aoife is sure that Abbeyford will take home the prize. But Finn's only been back a week when an alto-baritone at his mother's choir practice drops dead. Finn soon finds himself trying to solve a murder. For one of his many qualities is that people tend to confide in him. With his mother, her carer and Aoife in tow, Finn sets out to discover who has brought murder to town...



Nowhere Burning - Catriona Ward

Movie star Leaf Winham, built Nowhere House to hide from his fame - and to hide his crimes. Only when Nowhere House went up in flames were the graves discovered, the last resting places of young men who would never go home. Years later, it is rumoured that Nowhere is now a refuge for runaway children, a place adults cannot enter. Drawn by this promise, fourteen-year-old Riley pulls her brother Oliver from his bed in the middle of the night, hoping to find a new family. But there is darkness in the ruins of Nowhere House, which asks a terrible price for sanctuary.

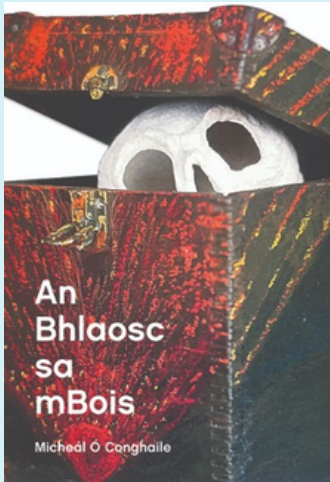


Why not make one of your Summer Reads an “As Gaeilge” title?



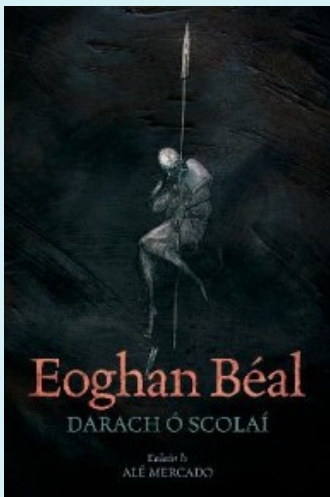
SÍ - Seán Ó Muireagáin

Tá Hannah agus a haintín Brídín ina n-aonar, ag cónaí i gceantar tuaithe ar imeall an Aigéin Atlantaigh, agus tá rúndiamhair dhorcha acu nach féidir leo a roinnt leis an bpobal. Ach tarlaíonn imeachtaí tubaisteacha a mheallann an suaimhneas sin, cuireann siad a saol i mbaol, agus osclaíonn siad doras don dorchadas nach féidir leo a dhúnadh arís. De réir mar a thiteann scáil thar a saol, tuigeann siad go bhfuil súile ag féachaint orthu go géar agus go bhfuil bagairt ag teacht ón taobh amuigh.



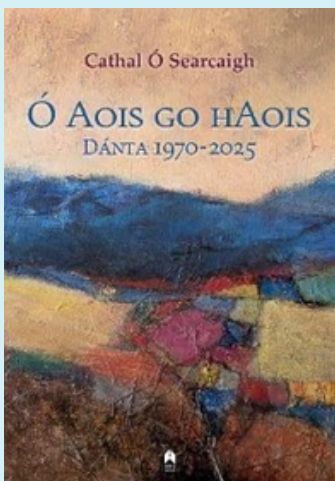
An Bhlaosc Sa mBois - Micheál Ó Conghaile

Tá go leor cainte déanta le blianta beaga anuas faoi scannal na n-áras máithreacha agus leanaí, agus is anois atá scríbhneoirí agus ealaíontóirí eile tosaithe ag dul i ngleic leis an uafás. Seo nóibhille nua ar an ábhar ó scríbhneoir a bhfuil sé cruthaithe go minic aige nach leasc leis cúinní dorcha na hÉireann a ransú agus solas an lae a scaoileadh isteach orthu.



Eoghan Béal - Darach Ó Scoláí

Tá scéal Eoghain Béal ar cheann de na scéalta móra is lú eolais orthu sa Ghaeilge. Is sa nua-insint seo, bunaithe ar an seanscéal Caithréim Cheallaigh, a insítear scéal an rí ar Chonnachta a d’ordaigh, ar leaba a bháis dó, gan é a chur sa reilig. “Cuirtear anseo mé ar thaobh an rátha,” ar sé, “i mo sheasamh sa gcré, m’aghaidh leis an tuaisceart, agus mo gha dearg i mo dheasláimh.”



Ó Aois Go hAois - Cathal Ó Searcaigh

Tá an bailiúchán seo ag léiriú turas Chathal Ó Searcaigh mar fhilí nua-aimseartha Éireannach, ag iniúchadh téamaí féiniúlachta, traidisiún agus taithí an duine. Díríonn na dánta ar cheisteanna dímheasa, féinaitheantais, agus castachtaí na beatha nua-aimseartha, go minic ag tarraingt ar a thaithí i bpobal Gaeltachta agus a shaol níos déanaí i suíomhanna uirbeacha.