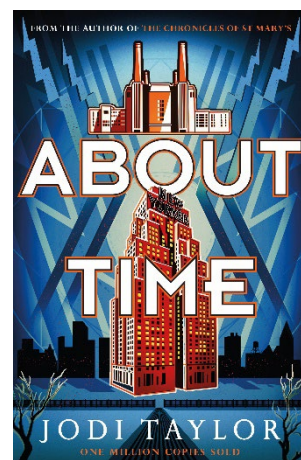


# About Time by Jodi Taylor



Lovers of the Time Police and Team Weird rejoice – the fourth book of this fabulous series is here!

Jodi Taylor is a genius! Every book in this series is a rollicking time travelling adventure told with top notch humour.

Reviewed by  
Skye

I was so excited when this book was available as this series is one of the funniest, most enjoyable I have ever read. It is essential that these be read in order though, as it would be close to impossible to follow the characters otherwise.

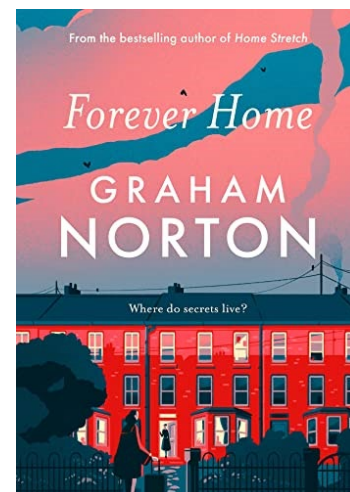
In About Time we learn more about the circumstances of Jane's parents' death, how nasty her grandma really is and how the romance with Lt Grint is progressing. Matthew spends more time with his mother Max, and Luke learns more about his family legacy.

If you're not a regular sci-fi reader, don't be put off – dive in and enjoy this fantastic, funny, warm-hearted adventure.

Reserve your copy [here](#)



# Forever Home by Graham Norton



Reviewed by  
Pat

Carol is a divorced teacher living in a small town in Ireland. A second chance at love brings her unexpected connection and belonging. The new relationship sparks local speculation: what does a woman like her see in a man like that? What happened to the wife who abandoned him all those years ago? But the gossip only serves to bring the couple closer.

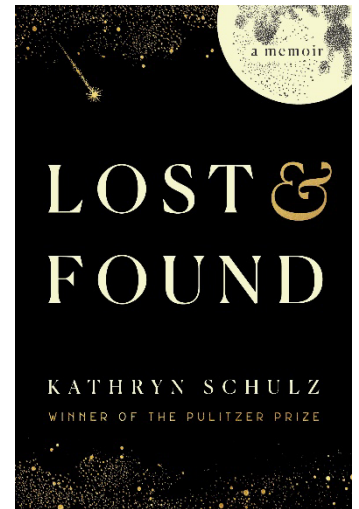
When Declan becomes ill, things start to fall apart. His children are untrusting and cruel, and Carol is forced to leave their beloved home and move back in with her parents. Carol's mother is determined to get to the bottom of things, refusing to see her daughter suffer in this way. It seems there are secrets in Declan's past - strange rumours that were never confronted.

Graham Norton really gets people and relationships. This was a joy to read.

Reserve your copy [here](#)



# Lost & found: a memoir by Kathryn Schulz



Reviewed by  
Elsa

Within the space of 18 months the author experiences the extreme gamut of life's emotional rollercoaster. She loses her father and marries the woman she has found a deep and abiding love with.

This is a beautifully written book, in parts memoir but equally a guidebook on the intricacies and nuances of the human experience. It is a tender, touching and heartfelt book about love in its many forms, and I often found myself smiling quietly in recognition of the memories of what it felt like when you've found a deep love.

An enduring account of joy, sorrow  
and hope!

Reserve a copy [here](#)



# Ruth & Pen by Emilie Pine



Reviewed by  
Elsa

On a single day in Dublin in 2019 two women's lives will be changed. Ruth's marriage to Aidan is in crisis – how do you come back from the loss of an unborn baby?

For Pen – who experiences the world through a completely individual prism – how do you find the words, when words are so hard to find, to tell Alice how she feels?

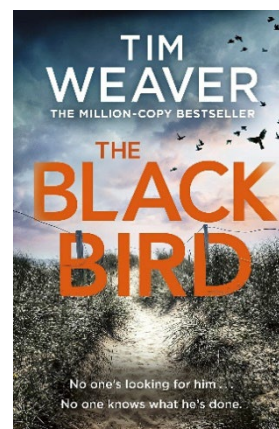
I really enjoyed the way this book unfolded, on a singular day, with each chapter told from the perspective of the different characters. It invites the reader into spaces they might not have ventured before – exploring points of views from characters on the spectrum and asexual and non-binary voices. We're also given a bird's eye view of a marriage in crisis, seeing the tale from both sides of the battlefield.

Touching, insightful and hopeful!  
I loved it!

Reserve your copy [here](#)



# The Blackbird by Tim Weaver



Reviewed by  
Pat

Ten seconds before they crash, Cate and Aiden Gascoigne are recorded on CCTV. The couple are laughing - happy, untroubled. Then their car plunges into a ninety-foot ravine. The impact should kill them. And if that doesn't, the fire will. Within seconds, the vehicle is an inferno. But when fire crews arrive at the scene, they find something impossible. The vehicle is empty. Cate and Aiden have vanished. Now only missing persons investigator David Raker can solve the mystery.

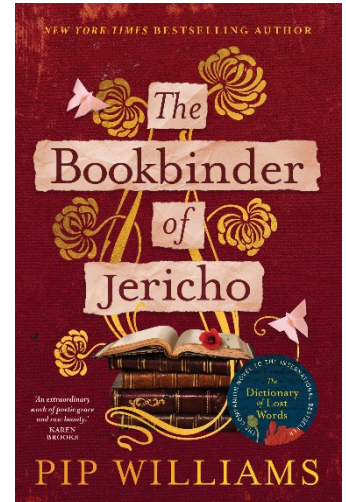
The story primarily surrounded the puzzling crash but had another tied-in unsolved mystery within it. Dating back 30 years, when three women were murdered, David starts to unwind a trail of evidence that could also lead to the killer.

A superb twisty crime thriller - writing at its very best. Will keep you on the edge of your seat and guessing right up to the end

Reserve your copy [here](#)



# The Bookbinder of Jericho by Pip Williams



I was eagerly awaiting the release of this book, following on from Pip Williams' first book *The Dictionary of Lost Words* and it was equally as wonderful.

As the nation marches towards the outbreak of WWI, twins Peggy and Maude work side-by-side at Clarendon press in Oxford. The recent loss of their mother means the sisters now live alone on their narrowboat, The Calliope, filled with memories and Ma's extensive library.

This wonderfully written and touching novel takes the reader through the horrors of the battlefield, the refugee experience, and the changing opportunities for women at home and abroad.

There are so many characters that deserve special mentions – Tilda, Gwen, Bastiaan and the Rowntree family. This book made me laugh, cry and hope all at once.

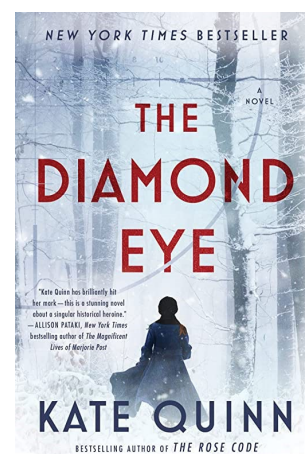
This is one of those very special books that stays with you long after the final page is read.

Reserve your copy [here](#)





# The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn



*The Diamond Eye* is based on the true story of WWII Russian sniper, Lyudmila Pavlichenko (Mila). Nicknamed Lady Death, she had 309 confirmed Nazi deaths by the war's end.

Reviewed by  
Donna

Aged 15, Mila became a mother to son Slavka. When Germany invades Russia, Mila joins the Red Army to protect her son and use her skills as a shooter. The novel doesn't shy away from all the horrors of war and the constant battles against sexism that Mila endures.

Mila becomes part of a Russian delegation to the US to gain military support and develops a warm friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt. It is here that an enemy from her past and Mila faces her deadliest foes.

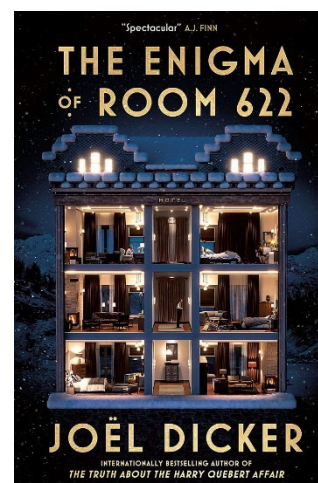
Brilliantly researched, with pictures and historical details at the end of the novel, I raced through this.

Compelling story of bravery, courage  
and love – you'll want to look up  
Lyudmila Pavlichenko.

Reserve your copy [here](#)



## The Enigma of Room 622 by Joel Dicker



It all starts with an innocuous curiosity: at the Hotel Verbier, a luxury hotel in the Swiss Alps, there is no Room 622.

Reviewed by  
Pat

This anomaly piques the interest of the writer Joel Dicker, Switzerland's most famous literary star, who is staying at the hotel to recover from a bad breakup, mourn the death of his long-time publisher and begin his next novel.

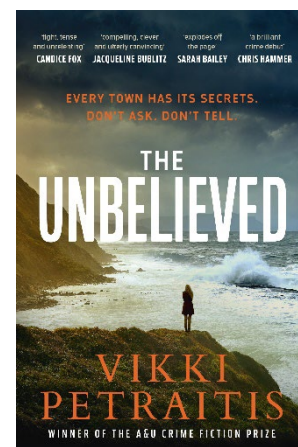
I borrowed this book because I thought it was a noir, or a thriller, or a spy story, because of the title. Instead, I discovered that this book is the author playing a game with the reader. But in a good way.

Reserve your copy [here](#)





# The Unbelieved by Vikki Petraitis



Vikki Petraitis has written numerous non-fiction crime books, *The Unbelieved* is her debut fiction novel. I listened to this book on Libby, the story was narrated by Maria Angelico, who brought the story to life.

Reviewed by  
Vicki

Senior Detective Pollard and her ex-police dog, Waffles, moved to Deception Bay after a distressing case she had worked on in Melbourne went tragically wrong. She wanted to leave her guilt and memories of the victim behind and look for a quieter life returning to where she grew up.

Deception Bay is a small community town and has some small, minded people; a community with secrets. The storyline is disturbing, believable and powerful.

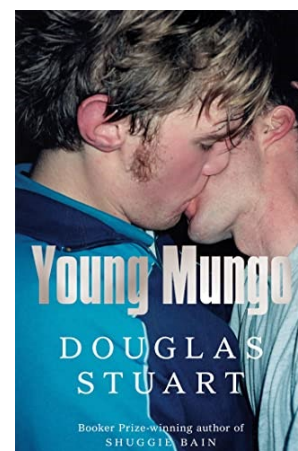
*The Unbelieved* won the 2022 Allen & Unwin crime fiction prize.

This story is about women's rights, the law and many situations that are familiar in everyday life.

Reserve your copy [here](#)



# Young Mungo by Douglas Stuart



*Young Mungo* is set in the same Glasgow setting as *Shuggie Bain* – a poverty-stricken housing estate, divided along sectarian lines.

15-year-old Mungo is a gentle, sensitive Protestant boy living with his sister Jodie, who runs the household. He yearns for the love of his alcoholic mother, who disappears for extended periods. His older brother, Hamish, is the violent leader of the local Proddy gang, The Billy Boys.

Reviewed by  
Donna

Mungo develops a friendship with James, a Catholic boy who tends pigeons. As their secret friendship develops into a tender relationship, both boys are terrified of the dangers should their relationship be discovered. Mungo bears the double sins of being queer and associating with the hated Catholic enemy.

I found this a much darker novel than *Shuggie Bain*, with less of its humour. This is so very sad. It is brutal and violent but utterly compelling. Despite this there remains a quiet sense of hope.

The beauty in the writing makes you continue, however the awfulness of events. A confronting, heart wrenching read.

Reserve your copy [here](#)

