

## The heron's cry by Ann Cleeves

North Devon is enjoying a rare hot summer with tourists flocking to its coastline. Detective Matthew Venn is called out to a rural crime scene at the home of a group of artists.

Reviewed by  
Pat

What he finds is an elaborately staged murder. Dr Nigel Yeo has been fatally stabbed. His daughter Eve is a glassblower, and the murder weapon is a shard of one of her broken vases.

Matthew is unnerved though, to find that she is a close friend of Jonathan, his husband.

Then another body is found - killed in a similar way. Matthew finds himself treading carefully through the lies that fester at the heart of his community and a case that is dangerously close to home . . .

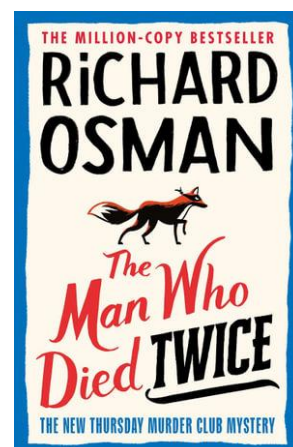
This is the second novel in Ann Cleeves' Two Rivers series following, *The Long Call*.

For fans of the *Vera* and *Shetland* series, *Two Rivers* is shaping up to equal those. I have heard a rumour that there is a TV series on the way.

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# The man who died twice by Richard Osman



The Thursday Murder Club pursue a brand-new mystery. Elizabeth has just had a visit from a man she thought was dead. It's (one of) her ex-husbands, and he's being hunted. His story involves some diamonds, some spies, and a very angry mobster.

Reviewed by  
Pat

Elizabeth puts it down to his normal grandstanding, but then the bodies start piling up. She enlists Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron in the hunt for the killer. If they find the diamonds - well, that's just a bonus...

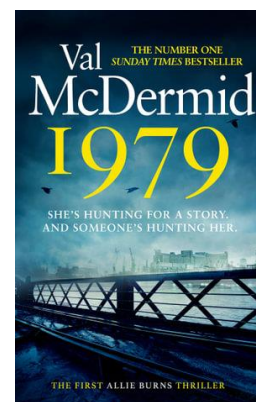
But this time the murderer isn't some small-time criminal, and it soon becomes terrifying clear that they wouldn't bat an eyelid at killing four septuagenarians. Can our team find the killer before the killer finds them?

**This book is a joy. A thoughtful and convoluted mystery infused with humour, humanity and the power of friendship.**

**Not to mention the wonderful concept that age doesn't mean slowing down and behaving a certain way. One sitting guaranteed!**

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# 1979

## by Val McDermid

The year, 1979 started badly and only got worse. Blizzards, strikes, power cuts and political unrest were the norm. For journalist Allie Burns, however, someone else's bad news was the unmistakable sound of opportunity knocking, and the year is ripe with possibilities.

Reviewed by  
Pat

But Allie is a woman in a man's world. Desperate to get away from the "women's stories" the Glasgow desk keeps assigning her, she strikes up an alliance with wannabe investigative journalist Danny Sullivan.

From the start, their stories create enemies. First an international tax fraud, then a potential Scottish terrorist group aiming to cause mayhem ahead of the impending devolution referendum. Then Danny is found murdered in his flat.

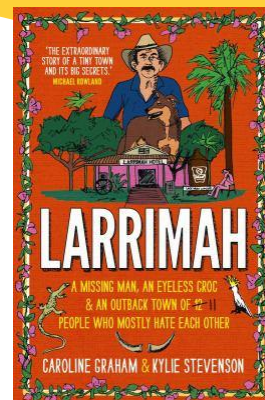
For Allie, investigative journalism just got personal. changes in his own personal and professional life.

The first novel in McDermid's newest series, 1979 is an atmospheric journey into the past with intriguing insight into the present and the latest additions to McDermid's crime pantheon.

**Britain's Queen of Crime is back! I dare you to stop reading.**

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# Larrimah by Caroline Graham & Kylie Stevenson

Reviewed by  
Skye

A missing man, an eyeless croc and an outback town of 11 people who mostly hate each other – what more could you ask for in an Australian true crime book?

Following on from their successful podcast 'Lost in Larrimah' journalists Kylie Stevenson & Caroline Graham continue their investigation into the disappearance of Paddy Moriarty and his dog Kelly.

Their affection for this remote town and the characters that call Larrimah home really resonates throughout this book.

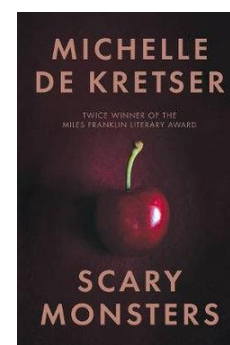
We journey through the formation of the town, the stories of its residents (some uplifting, some sad, and many that are frankly bizarre) in the search to discover what happened to Paddy and what will happen to this small and shrinking town.

Larrimah is a truly unique town, and the authors provide us with a wonderful insight into the realities of living in a remote community, while working to uncover the mysterious disappearance of one of its most colourful characters!

*This is one of our Summer Stories titles.*

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## Scary Monsters by Michelle de Kretser

Michelle de Kretser's electrifying take on scary monsters turns the novel upside down - just as migration has upended her characters' lives.

Lili's family migrated to Australia from Asia when she was a teenager. Now, in the 1980s, she's teaching in the south of France. She makes friends, observes the treatment handed out to North African immigrants and is creeped out by her downstairs neighbour. All the while, Lili is striving to be A Bold, Intelligent Woman like Simone de Beauvoir.

Lyle works for a sinister government department in near-future Australia. An Asian migrant, he fears repatriation and embraces 'Australian values'. He's also preoccupied by his ambitious wife, his wayward children and his strong-minded elderly mother. Islam has been banned in the country, the air is smoky from a Permanent Fire Zone, and one pandemic has already run its course.

Its reversible format enacts the disorientation that migrants experience when changing countries changes the story of their lives.

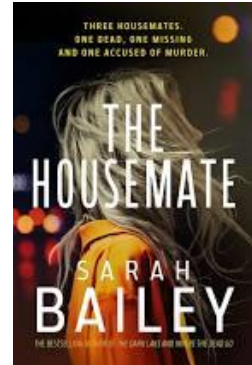
Three scary monsters – racism, misogyny and ageism roam through this mesmerising novel. I absolutely loved this book, my first 5 stars of the year. I read it in 2 sittings, laughing, crying and gritting my teeth in anger at what we could (or maybe have) become.

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# The housemate by Sarah Bailey



Reviewed by  
Pat

Three housemates. One dead, one missing and one accused of murder. Dubbed the Housemate Homicide, it's a mystery that has baffled Australians for almost a decade.

Melbourne-based journalist Olive Groves worked on the story as a junior reporter and became obsessed by the case.

Now, nine years later, the missing housemate turns up dead on a remote property. Olive is once again assigned to the story, this time reluctantly paired with precocious millennial podcaster Cooper Ng.

As Oli and Cooper unearth new facts about the three housemates, a dark web of secrets is uncovered. The revelations catapult Oli back to the death of the first housemate, forcing her to confront past traumas and insecurities that have risen to the surface again.

Sarah Bailey is a real star of the crime genre.

I devoured *The Housemate*, the characters are complex, the plot twists and turns.

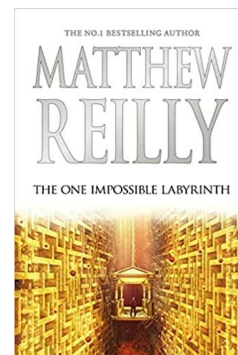
Each turn takes the reader further into a web, 20 years in the making. There are gasp out loud moments and I was never sure who I could trust.

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# The one impossible labyrinth by Matthew Reilly



This story continues Jack West Jnr's adventures in *The Two Lost Mountains*. Jack finds himself up against multiple adversaries in pursuit of a throne that will save humanity from the collapse of the universe.

**Reviewed by  
Louise**

A number of Jack's crew are in different locations around the world working on Jack's main game, to save the universe.

Along with Jack are his core crew - Zoe, Lily and Easton. They take on various ancient challenges and mazes to try and beat the forces who will use the ultimate powers at the end of the Labyrinth in their own interests.

Jack and his crew are the only ones with the integrity to face and act as custodians of this power.

Great for adults and teens transitioning to Young Adult fiction.

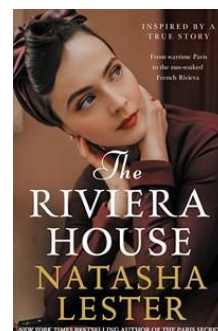
**Just when you think a moment of respite is coming, you're hit with more action!**

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## The Riviera House by Natasha Lester



Reviewed by  
Pat

Paris, 1939: The Nazis think Éliane can't understand German. They're wrong. They think she's merely cataloguing art in a Louvre Museum and unaware they're stealing national treasures for their private collections.

They have no idea she's carefully decoding their notes and smuggling information to the Resistance. But Éliane is playing a dangerous game. Does she dare trust the man she once loved with her secrets, or will he only betray her once again? She has no way to know for certain . . . until a trip to a stunning home on the French Riviera brings a whole new level of peril.

Present Day: Wanting to forget the tragedy that has left her life in shambles, Remy Lang heads to a home she's mysteriously inherited on the Riviera. While working on her vintage fashion business, she discovers a catalogue of the artworks stolen during World War II and is shocked to see a painting that hung on her childhood bedroom wall. Who is her family, really? And does the Riviera household more secrets than Remy is ready to face?

Natasha Lester brilliantly explores the impossible choices ordinary people faced every day during extraordinary circumstances, weaving fact with fiction and celebrating women who push the boundaries of their time.

I found myself with my phone in hand googling the real characters and events in this beautifully written and impeccably researched book. I love the way the author has placed fictional characters amongst real people and events!

*This is one of our Summer Stories titles*

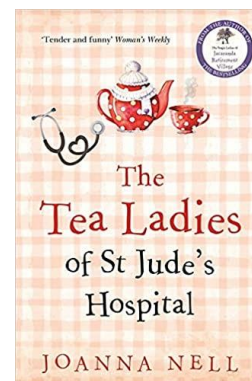
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# The tea ladies of St Jude's Hospital

## by Joanna Nell



The Marjorie Marshall Memorial Cafeteria has been serving refreshments and raising money at the hospital for over fifty years. Staffed by successive generations of dedicated volunteers, the beloved cafeteria is known as much for offering a kind word and sympathetic ear (and often unsolicited life advice) as for its tea and buns.

Reviewed by  
Pat

Stalwart **Hilary** has worked her way up through the ranks to Manageress; **Joy** has been late every day since she started as the cafeteria's newest recruit. Seventeen-year-old **Chloe**, the daughter of two successful surgeons, is volunteering during the school holidays because her mother thinks it will look good on her CV.

Chloe is at first bewildered by the two older women but soon realises they have a lot in common. When they discover the cafeteria is under threat of closure, this unlikely trio must band together to save it.

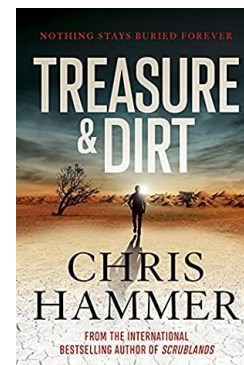
**The Tea Ladies is a delight. Warm characters, observations and great pace!**

*This is one of our Summer Stories titles.*

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# Treasure & dirt by Chris Hammer



In the desolate outback town of Finnigans Gap, police struggle to maintain law and order. Thieves pillage opal mines, religious fanatics recruit vulnerable young people and billionaires do as they please.

Then an opal miner is found crucified and left to rot down his mine. Nothing about the miner's death is straightforward, not even who found the body. Sydney homicide detective Ivan Lucic is sent to investigate, assisted by inexperienced young investigator Nell Buchanan.

But Finnigans Gap has already ended one police career and damaged others, and soon both officers face damning allegations and internal investigations. Have Ivan and Nell been set up and, if so, by whom?

As time runs out, their only chance at redemption is to find the killer. But the more secrets they uncover, the more harrowing the mystery becomes, as events from years ago take on a startling new significance.

I read this in a day, each page uncovering another mystery or revelation. Perfect for the summer holidays!

*This is one of our Summer Stories titles.*

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