

## The Museum of forgotten memories by Anstey Harris

Reviewed by Skye



I had read some excellent reviews online so decided to give this book a go (also, I loved the cover!). The author's previous book, *The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton* was a really popular title in the libraries, getting lots of loans and good feedback from borrowers.

Cate finds herself widowed, unemployed and unable to pay the rent on her London flat. The only option available for her and son Leo is to see the summer out in her late husband Richard's ancestral home - an old Victorian museum in the small village of Crouch-on-Sea. Richard had become estranged from his family, leaving Cate with little idea of what she and Leo can expect. They are greeted by a rundown and ramshackle museum of exotic animals arranged in elaborate dioramas, large lush gardens and a beautiful glass domed library.

Caretaker, Araminta Buchan is seemingly unimpressed with the new arrivals, as she works to prevent the collection being divided and sold due to dwindling visitor numbers and the high cost of maintaining the buildings.

As Cate and Leo adjust to village life, the story of their life with Richard and journey through his illness is told with great compassion and heart. This book brilliantly describes and captures the complexities of relationships, addressing some heavier issues such as mental health and grief.

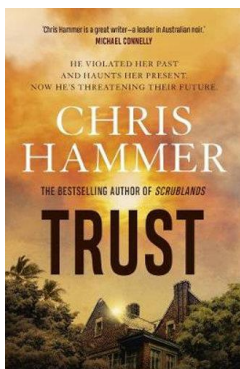
It was a moving, poignant but essentially heart-warming and uplifting tale, a story about the ups and downs of having a family, about second chances and never losing hope. The characters grow and evolve, the descriptions made your imagination soar and there was much depth hidden between the pages. I enjoyed this far more than I had anticipated, it would make an excellent summer read.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

This title is also available as an e-book

## Trust by Chris Hammer (Martin Scarsden bk 3)

Reviewed by Pat



Martin Scarsden's new life seems perfect, right up until the moment it's shattered by a voicemail: a single scream, abruptly cut off, from his partner Mandalay Blonde.

Racing home, he finds an unconscious man sprawled on the floor and Mandy gone. Someone has abducted her. But who, and why?

So starts a twisting tale of intrigue and danger, as Martin probes the past of the woman he loves, a woman who has buried her former life so deep she has never mentioned it.

And for the first time, Mandy finds denial impossible, now the body of a mystery man has been discovered, a man whose name she doesn't know, a man she was engaged to marry when he died. It's time to face her demons once and for all; it's time she learned how to trust.

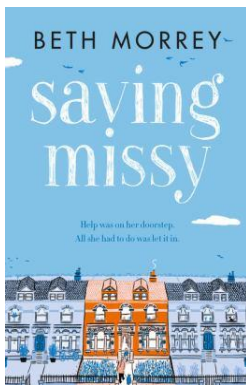
Set in a Sydney riven with corruption and nepotism, privilege and power, *Trust* is the third riveting novel from award-winning and internationally acclaimed writer Chris Hammer.

I was lucky enough to be given a prepublication copy of *Trust*, could not put it down! Be first in line to read this when it arrives.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

## Saving Missy by Beth Morrey

Reviewed by Donna



Missy Carmichael is a prickly 79 year-old lady, rattling around in her large London house, indulging in her favourite beverages. With no real friends and her family having moved on, Missy lives in her memories.

An act of kindness turns Missy's life around and she gradually learns to accept the friendships offered by those she had previously avoided. Central to her newly found happiness is a mad scruffy female dog called Bob (named after the Blackadder character, of course).

This is a novel ultimately about the power of connection and the value of community. It is also about self-forgiveness and the adage, you're never too old.

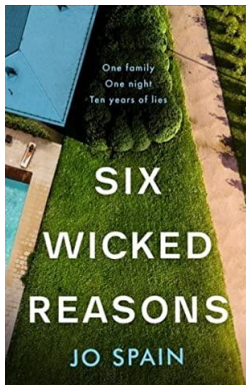
It is a joyful and easy read, a lovely uplifting book – just what we all need during these uncertain times.

Saving Missy is available as an e-book in BorrowBox and CloudLibrary.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

## Six wicked reasons by Jo Spain

Reviewed by Pat



This is a completing story of a dysfunctional family with a recently departed mother, a cruel narcissistic father and six children with a reason to murder.

It's June 2008 and twenty-one-year-old Adam Lattimer vanishes, presumed dead. The strain of his disappearance breaks his already fragile family.

Ten years later, with his mother deceased and siblings scattered across the globe, Adam turns up unannounced at the family home. His siblings return reluctantly to Spanish Cove, but Adam's reappearance poses more questions than answers. The past is a tangled web of deceit.

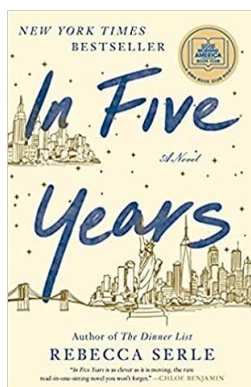
And, as tension builds, it's apparent somebody has planned murderous revenge for the events of ten years ago.

A well written murder mystery with shades of Agatha Christie with all of the suspects gathered in one location, knowing one of them is a murderer. Although a clever detective does not reveal the murderer, this is done through clever narration from each of the suspects.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

## In five years by Rebecca Serle

Reviewed by Pat



When Type-A Manhattan lawyer Dannie Cohan is asked this question at the most important interview of her career, she has a meticulously crafted answer at the ready. Later, after nailing her interview and accepting her boyfriend's marriage proposal, Dannie goes to sleep knowing she is right on track to achieve her five-year plan.

But when she wakes up, she's suddenly in a different apartment, with a different ring on her finger, and beside a very different man. The television news is on in the background, and she can just make out the scrolling date. It's the same night—December 15—but 2025, five years in the future.

After a very intense, shocking hour, Dannie wakes again, at the brink of midnight, back in 2020. She can't shake what has happened. It certainly felt much more than merely a dream, but she isn't the kind of person who believes in visions. Determined to ignore the odd experience, she files it away in the back of her mind.

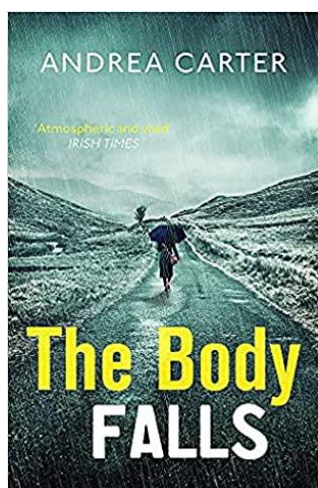
That is, until four-and-a-half years later, when by chance Dannie meets the very same man from her long-ago vision.

Brimming with joy and heartbreak, *In Five Years* is an unforgettable love story that reminds us of the power of loyalty, friendship, and the unpredictable nature of destiny.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

## The body falls by Andrea Carter

Reviewed by Pat



Ben returns to Glencara from a six month working sabbatical in Florida to find the town overrun with cyclists at the start of a charity run. The run doesn't get started as the weather takes a bad turn and storms and flooding cut the town off. That evening the local vet is out on a call when a body hits her jeep. The body is Bob Jameson, organiser of the charity bike run and man of many secrets and enemies, presumed murdered by a snake bite.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Body Falls* which is an easy read with a good mystery attached. I loved the anarchy of a body rolling down a hill and hitting a vehicle, most unusual and attention grabbing and then the snake. The scene is finally set by the weather conditions, torrential rain and flooding.

Bob Jameson is an extremely unpleasant man and it would appear that many people in town for the cycle race would have reason to kill him. As the secrets are gradually revealed it seems that nobody mourns him and some go as far as to applaud the killer.

This is a novel about people which is engrossing. With the storm there is no forensic investigation so it's all about talking, information gathering and deduction. The characters are well drawn and believable, if a little helpless and cowered. Ben and her friends are their usual nosy selves and this gives the novel a warm and homely feel.

The storm and its effects pervade the novel, cutting the town off and making them self-reliant. It can't help but feel normal almost in these times of quarantine. It can't be anything but accidental, but it certainly feels relevant.

This is a good read that I have no hesitation in recommending.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)



## The yellow bird sings by Jennifer Rosner

Reviewed by Donna



The Yellow Bird Sings is a story of love and music set in German-occupied Poland in World War Two. Jewish Roza and her daughter live a dangerous existence hiding in a barn until Roza makes an agonising decision in order to protect the life of her daughter Shira. This is more than just another Holocaust story.

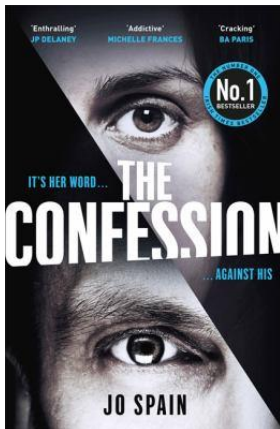
The Yellow Bird Sings is a heartbreaking story, simply told, which tells of the enduring love between a mother and daughter. It is also about the power of storytelling and music's ability to sustain lives through great trauma and hardship. In times of great uncertainty and anxiety, this novel's spirit of humanity and resilience is even more relevant today.

The Yellow Bird Sings is also available as an e-book on BorrowBox.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

## The confession by Jo Spain

Reviewed by Skye



I've been on a bit of a Jo Spain binge after reading [Dirty Little Secrets](#) earlier this year. I've now made my way through her entire back catalogue and enjoyed the lot.

In addition to the Inspector Tom Reynolds series, there are also several stand-alone novels. They are all gritty police procedurals, set in Ireland, with interesting and complex characters and storylines. I could (and maybe should) have written reviews on each and every one of them, but as I recently finished *The Confession* it seemed the best choice.

This book takes an unusual approach, in that the end result is exposed in the first chapter. You just have no idea how you got there.

*The Confession* opens with the savage beating of disgraced banker Harry McNamara in his opulent home as his wife Julie watches, frozen by fear. Shortly after the intruder, JP Carney hands himself in, confessing to the crime. Detective Sergeant Alice Moody is suspicious – why did JP confess and were the circumstances truly as he described? What follows is a tightly written thriller, motives and actions are called into question, the messy world of finance is interrogated, and relationships are re-examined.

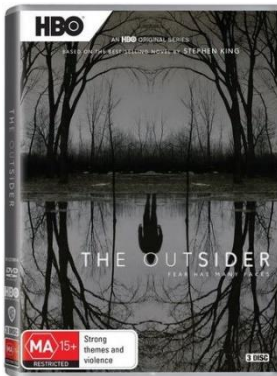
This, like all the Jo Spain books, is a great read. I highly recommend it.

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#).



## The Outsider (TV series)

Reviewed by Lita



One of the best adaptations of a Stephen King novel so far.

The series begins with the discovery of an unspeakable crime, with all the evidence pointing to an unlikely suspect. Is he really the one?

But as the investigation continues, answers emerge that questions the beliefs of all those involved.

Not to give too much away, but the supernatural theme that runs through all Stephen King's stories, is given a deft touch, that builds until you as a viewer along with the cast are ready to accept the unbelievable.

The Outsider boasts an excellent cast (Ben Mendelson and Jason Bateman and Cynthia Erivo), as well as a creepy, suspenseful mood inducing musical score.

Thoroughly enjoyable, refreshing series. 9/10

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)

## His dark materials (TV series)

Reviewed by Skye



As a reader, I always approach book adaptations with a mixture of excitement and dread. I'm never sure if the intricacies and nuance of a novel can be translated to film.

But I really enjoyed the books that this series is based on, and it's been a year or so since I read them so I knew I wouldn't be all caught up in the details that the series omitted! So, I set aside a day and binged the entire season!

This season follows the first book in the series by Philip Pullman, *The Northern Lights*, and essentially stays true to the novel (if with a little re-arranging and contemporising).

The imagery of the novel is wonderfully portrayed, however the tone and pace aren't quite right. The novel takes its time, laying the possibilities of the meaning of dust, the role of the Magisterium and the part that Lyra has to play, slowly and carefully developing the characters and plot. The series kind of jumps in and tells you all these things in the first couple of episodes, which felt a little sad to me – sometimes the beauty is in the subtleties.

It's definitely a series that takes a few episodes to really get engrossed in. It took me some time to accept the talking animals (which actually are really well done), and to feel engaged and invested in the characters. That all being said, I'll definitely watch the following seasons (and probably re-read the books too!).

Interested in this title? Check out the library [catalogue](#)