

DECEMBER 2017

READING GROUP TITLES

(Recent titles available in multiple copies)

This listing includes recently published titles, which Peterborough Libraries have available in multiple copies. We hope this might prove helpful when you're looking for suitable titles with sufficient copies. This list can also be downloaded from the Reading Groups page at www.vivacity-peterborough.com - follow the libraries link.

If you have any comments or queries, please contact Elaine Wilkinson at Central Library (tel 01733 864277, or email elaine.wilkinson@vivacity-peterborough.com)

Key: NF=Non-Fiction; L=Large Print; A=Audio

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	Copies	LP & Audio
NON-FICTION			
Marsh, Beezy 346 pgs	Keeping My Sisters' Secrets Eva, Peggy and Kathleen were sisters born into a close-knit working class family. As they grew up between the wars, they dreamed of escaping their violent father and the crime-ridden slums of Waterloo. As the years pass the sisters all lived close together, sharing each other's lives, supporting each other through hard times. 'Keeping My Sisters' Secrets' is a rich, moving story of three sisters fighting to survive through decades of social upheaval, their love for each other the one constant in a changing world. <i>"A true story of three East End girls lives before and through WW11. Their ups and downs - true Grit!"</i>	10	
BOOKER PRIZE FICTION			
Saunders, George 384 pgs	Lincoln in the Bardo [Booker prize winner] The American Civil War rages while President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns to the crypt several times alone to hold his boy's body. From this seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of realism, entering a thrilling, supernatural domain both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself trapped in a transitional realm - called, in Tibetan tradition, the bardo - and as ghosts mingle, squabble, gripe and commiserate, and stony tendrils creep towards the boy, a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul. <i>"This truly is a book unlike any I have read and it has left its mark on me. I can still feel a touching sympathy for Abraham and many of the cemetery dwellers days after finishing this book. It may be difficult to follow, at times, but it is well worth the effort and will be over before you are ready to part with it."</i>	10	

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
Smith, Ali 272 pgs	Autumn [shortlisted for Booker Prize] Daniel is a century old. Elisabeth, born in 1984, has her eye on the future. The United Kingdom is in pieces, divided by a historic once-in-a-generation summer. Love is won, love is lost. Hope is hand in hand with hopelessness. The seasons roll round, as ever . . . <i>"Another great book by Ali Smith, Autumn is about retreating and uncovering stories, about divisions in modern Britain, and about a kind of autumnal melancholy sparked by things falling apart like always. It is written in Smith's distinctively punning and clever style, infused with pop culture and literary references, which will not be for everyone but will delight fans and anyone who likes stylistic literary fiction about vividly described characters, with the action and thought mixed closely together."</i>	10	
OTHER FICTION			
Bolton, Sharon 448 pgs	Dead Woman Walking Just before dawn in the hills near the Scottish border, a man murders a young woman. At the same time, a hot-air balloon crashes out of the sky. There's just one survivor. She's seen the killer's face - but he's also seen hers. And he won't rest until he's eliminated the only witness to his crime. Alone, scared, trusting no one, she's running to where she feels safe - but it could be the most dangerous place of all. <i>"Simply breath-taking crime thriller which totally grabs you from the beginning with multiple hidden secrets gradually untangling itself piece by piece."</i>	10	
Britton, Fern 416 pgs	The Postcard Life in the Cornish village of Pendruggan isn't always picture perfect. Penny Leighton has never told anyone why she's estranged from her mother and sister. For years she's kept her family secrets locked away in her heart, but they've been quietly eating away at her. When an unwelcome visitor blows in, Penny is brought face to face with the past. And a postcard, tucked away in a long-hidden case, holds the truth that could change everything. <i>"Loved this book. Warm and cosy like a favourite jumper. A real feel good holiday read."</i>	10	
Haig, Matt 336 pgs	How to Stop Time Tom Hazard has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries. Always changing his identity to stay alive, Tom has the perfect cover - working as a history teacher at a London comprehensive. Here he can teach the kids about wars and witch hunts as if he'd never witnessed them first-hand. He can try to tame the past that is fast catching up with him. The only thing Tom must not do is fall in love. <i>How to Stop Time</i> is a wild and bittersweet story about losing and finding yourself, about the certainty of change and about the lifetimes it can take to really learn how to live. <i>"A wonderful read, full of action and delightful twists and turns. More importantly for me though is Matt Haig's insight into human nature. This is a real tour de force. The writing is just stunning."</i>	10	
Harper, Jane 294 pgs	The Dry [Radio 2 Book Club] Amid the worst drought to ravage Australia in a century, it hasn't rained in small country town Kiewarra for two years. Tensions in the community become unbearable when three members of the Hadler family are brutally murdered. Everyone thinks Luke Hadler, who committed suicide after slaughtering his wife and six-year-old son, is guilty. Policeman Aaron Falk returns to the town of his youth for the funeral of	10	

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	his childhood best friend, and is unwillingly drawn into the investigation. As questions mount and suspicion spreads through the town, Falk is forced to confront the community that rejected him twenty years earlier. Because Falk and Luke Hadler shared a secret, one which Luke's death threatens to unearth. <i>"Great writing style from the author, the pace is really good and all the cliff hangers and shocking moments come at just the right time. The characters are very likeable and you get a real visual idea of each character and the setting."</i>		
Hawkins, Paula 368 pgs	Into the Water In the last days before her death, Nel called her sister. Jules didn't pick up the phone, ignoring her plea for help. Now Nel is dead. They say she jumped. And Jules has been dragged back to the one place she hoped she had escaped for good, to care for the teenage girl her sister left behind. But Jules is afraid. So afraid. Of her long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of knowing that Nel would never have jumped. And most of all she's afraid of the water, and the place they call the Drowning Pool. <i>"I wasn't sure to begin with - found the different strands of the story a bit confusing. But gradually it begins to weave together and make sense and takes different twists and turns that keep you turning the pages. I really enjoyed it - couldn't put it down towards the end!"</i>	10	L & A
Hogan, Ruth 309 pgs	The Keeper of Lost Things Once a celebrated author of short stories now in his twilight years, Anthony Peardew has spent half his life lovingly collecting lost objects, trying to atone for a promise broken many years before. Realising he is running out of time, he leaves his house and all its lost treasures to his assistant Laura, the one person he can trust to fulfil his legacy and reunite the thousands of objects with their rightful owners. But the final wishes of the Keeper of Lost Things have unforeseen repercussions which trigger a most serendipitous series of encounters. <i>"What a wonderful, enchanting and magical story."</i>	10	
Keaney, Brian 392 pgs	The Alphabet of Heart's Desire [won from publisher] In 1802 Thomas de Quincey, a young man from a comfortable middle-class background who would go on to become one of the most celebrated writers of his day, collapsed on Oxford Street and was discovered by a teenage prostitute who brought him back to her room and nursed him to health. It was the beginning of a relationship that would introduce Thomas to a world just below the surface of London's polite society. Yet it is also a world where love might blossom, and goodness survive. The lives of a street girl, an aspiring writer, and a freed slave cross and re-cross the slums of London in this novel about the birth of passion, the burden of addiction, and the consolations of literature. <i>"Novels which interweave fact and fiction are really fascinating and this was no exemption. A strong story, strong characters and an insight into a very troubled man. London, comes through in all its stinking glory with the opium fog killing you if the stench and the dirt on the ground doesn't get you first."</i>	10	
Land, Ali 352 pgs	Good me, bad me [Richard & Judy Book Club] Annie's mother is a serial killer. The only way she can make it stop is to hand her in to the police. But out of sight is not out of mind. As her mother's trial looms, the secrets of her past won't let Annie sleep, even with a new foster family and name - Milly. A fresh start. Now, surely, she can be whoever she wants to be. But Milly's mother is a serial killer. And blood is thicker than water. Good me, bad me. She is, after all, her mother's daughter. <i>"Loved this book, really creepy - excellent insights"</i>	10	

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	<i>into behaviour and disturbed states of mind, pretty original and very engaging!"</i>		
Lewis, Susan 400 pgs	Hiding in Plain Sight Andee Lawrence is in heaven. Well, the South of France to be exact. Ex-detective Andee has swapped freelance investigation and a broken marriage, for two months in Provence, renovating a beautiful villa with the new man in her life. But her world is about to be shattered. 'Remember me?' Two words spoken by a woman from the back of a car that say so much yet reveal so little. As the car drives away Andee is left reeling. Almost thirty years ago, fourteen year old Penny had disappeared from her family's life, never to be heard from again. It is the missing child case that has haunted Andee her whole life; And now Penny - Andee's sister - is back. The question is: why? <i>"Couldn't put the book down - a real page turner."</i>	10	
Riley, Lucinda 608 pgs	The Olive Tree It has been twenty-four years since a young Helena spent a magical holiday in Cyprus, where she fell in love for the first time. When the now crumbling house, 'Pandora', is left to her by her godfather, she returns to spend the summer there with her family. Yet, as soon as Helena arrives at Pandora, she knows that its idyllic beauty masks a web of secrets that she has kept from William, her husband, and Alex, her son. At the difficult age of thirteen, Alex is torn between protecting his beloved mother, and growing up. And equally, desperate to learn the truth about his real father . . . <i>"The Olive Tree totally captivated me, I loved it from beginning to end. Lots of relationships and secrets all set in beautiful Cyprus. I just had keep reading to see what happened next."</i>	10	A
Robinson, Peter 464 pgs	Gallows View The first in the DCI Banks series, now a TV adaptation. Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks has recently moved to the Yorkshire Dales from London to escape the stress of the metropolis. But he soon finds that life in the country is not quite as idyllic as he had imagined. A peeping Tom is frightening the women of Eastvale. Two glue-sniffing thugs are breaking into homes. An old woman may or may not have been murdered. In addition, Banks has to deal with his attraction to a young psychologist Jenny Fuller. As the tension mounts, both Jenny and Banks's wife are drawn deeper into events. And Banks realises that his cases are weaving closer and closer together. <i>"Brilliant book! I am really hooked on the Peter Robinson Inspector Banks stories and would recommend them to anyone who likes crime novels."</i>	10	A
Whitehead, Colson 400 pgs	The Underground Railroad Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. All the slaves lead a hellish existence, but Cora has it worse than most; she is an outcast even among her fellow Africans and she is approaching womanhood, where it is clear even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a slave recently arrived from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they take the perilous decision to escape to the North. In Whitehead's razor-sharp imagining of the antebellum South, the Underground Railroad has assumed a physical form: a dilapidated box car pulled along subterranean tracks by a steam locomotive, picking up fugitives wherever it can. <i>"A tour de force read, not sensationalist, written dispassionately but allowing the reader to feel the full force of the horrors of slavery. Although a shocking story the author made it readable."</i>	10	