

SUMMER
READING
AND
LISTENING
WITH
**The
Reading
House**



July - September 2021

0116 497 1233

INTRODUCING IAIN MAITLAND



Iain Maitland is the author of three thrillers as well as two non-fiction books on mental health. An ambassador for Stem4, the teenage mental health charity, Iain also speaks on mental health issues in the workplace. A writer since 1987, he is a journalist and has written more than 50 books, mainly on business, which have been published around the world.

What inspired the story behind *Mr Todd's Reckoning*?

A few years ago I was subjected to a random tax enquiry and spent some time being investigated by someone from the local tax office – after five months or so they decided I owed them about £50. The guy who did it – in essence, someone on a fairly low salary but who wielded considerable power in a way – was, with a tweak and an embellishment, my Mr Todd.

Introduce us to your narrator Malcolm Todd.

Malcolm has just been made redundant by HMRC. He sits at home angry and frustrated. He lives with his son, Adrian, who is unemployed and keeps disappearing during the day. They live in a tiny and cramped bungalow during the hottest summer on record. The next-door neighbour plays Ringo Starr music, loudly,

over and over again. Everything is reaching boiling point for Malcolm.

What made you decide to structure the novel as diary entries?

I wanted to go back and forth in time so that, as the book starts, you get the sense of a wronged but decent man who knows he has some anger management issues. He deals with that by keeping a diary and writing about whatever has made him unhappy in the past. Little by little, we get a better sense of the man.

In light of recent lockdowns, how do you think new readers or listeners will respond to the claustrophobic themes?

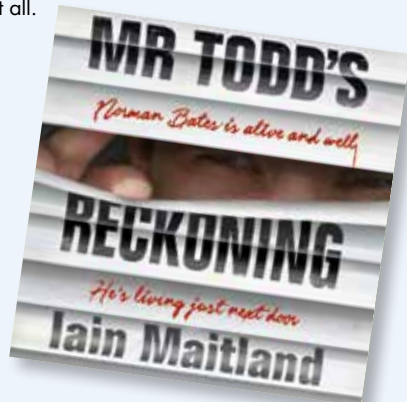
In some ways, it is a perfect lockdown thriller – two people, who don't get along, in a small, confined space and both of them on edge. And tensions are rising. Most people will recognise the set-up and feel some, but hopefully not all, of the emotions of Mr Todd.

How important is it that your book will be available in audio as well as traditional formats?

Audio is the perfect medium for a story – especially a creepy thriller. Close the door, turn the lights down, make yourself comfortable – and get ready to jump out of your skin.

Is there anything about the book that you think will translate particularly well into audio?

I love the idea that you will start by empathising with this man – redundancy, troubled son, lockdown etc – and then, as the reading progresses, you'll feel the dread and sense the menace and, by the end, the utter horror of it all.





Welcome to our **BRAND NEW** catalogue and our new look for the July – September 2021 quarter! We're looking forward to the Summer and to all of the exciting releases we have coming your way. This issue includes some Summer listens and our favourite current and upcoming books from our different collections.

After spending a sunny week in Cornwall, I feel it prudent to highlight some fabulous holiday reads we have this quarter. **Jenny Colgan's** latest cosy romance *Sunrise by the Sea* dishes up a healthy dose of Cornish Sun with some heart-warming romance. The fourth in the Little Beach Street Bakery series, we visit old characters and join new ones in an uplifting feel good romance for summer.

Moving to the skies now, **Saskia Swann** and **Nicola Stow** tell all in the mile-high memoir *Above and Beyond*. Saskia is a flight attendant on board a private jet and lifts the lid on the world of luxury travel. Read by **Julie Maisey**, this memoir is a highly recommended to all those who love to travel and makes for a great summer listen.



Laura Jarman

The Reading House Marketing Manager



ROSIE ARCHER I'LL BE SEEING YOU

1943. After the heartache of the previous year, usherette Connie Baxter now appears to have everything a girl could want. But appearances can be deceptive and Connie is struggling in more ways than one. Then, to compound Connie's problems, her nemesis, Cousin Marlene, returns home and secrets come to light, revealing jealousies that could shatter Connie's world once more.

Read by Tamsin Kennard
September 2021
7hrs 55mins

£27.49

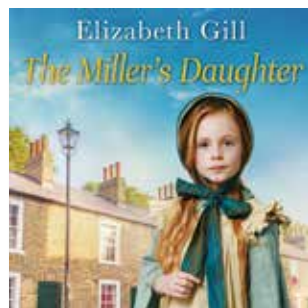


KAY BRELLEND STRAY ANGEL

East London, 1915. While the man she loves is away fighting, Lily Larkin is left in charge of Greg's warehouse. But Lily has a secret: before dying, her mother gave birth to a child who was spirited away. Searching every corner of the city to find her long-lost sister, Lily soon discovers there is a world of wickedness within London's poorest alleys.

Read by Annie Aldington
August 2021
10hrs

£29.49

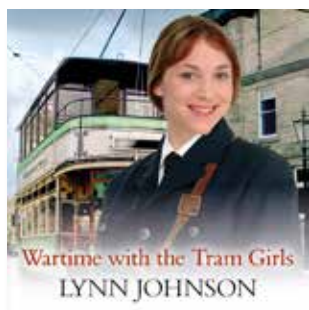


ELIZABETH GILL THE MILLER'S DAUGHTER

Grieving for their mother and abandoned by their father, Mary and her siblings seek refuge at The Foundling School. When the nuns hire Mary's father, and he arrives with the pregnant 16-year-old he left their mother for, Mary's newfound world is shaken. Can she make a new life for her siblings when their father is set on disrupting it?

Read by Anne Dover
July 2021
10hrs 20mins

£29.49

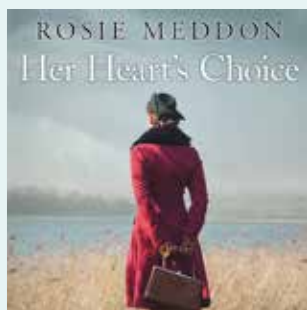


LYNN JOHNSON WARTIME WITH THE TRAM GIRLS

July 1914. Hiding her privileged background and her suffragette past, Constance Copeland signs up to be a Clippie on the trams in Staffordshire. Constance, known as Connie, soon makes fast friends with fellow Clippies, as well as growing closer to the charming, gentle Inspector. But Connie is haunted by another secret; and if it comes out, it could destroy her new life.

Read by Julia Franklin
September 2021
1 hrs 50mins

£30.49



ROSIE MEDDON HER HEART'S CHOICE

Lou Channer yearns to contribute to the war effort and takes a job as a clerk in the Royal Canadian Naval Yard in Plymouth. Lou catches the eye of local wheeler-dealer Harry, but then Lieutenant Douglas Ross asks her out, and she can't decide who to give her heart to. But tragedy is always just around the corner, and when Lou's depot is burgled, she's suddenly the primary suspect...

Read by Penelope Freeman
July 2021
10hrs 10mins

£28.49

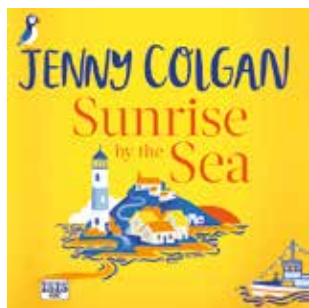


FENELLA J. MILLER THE SPITFIRE GIRL IN THE SKIES

Hampshire, 1940. Ellie Simpson is attached to an Air Transport Auxiliary base in Hampshire. Being an ATA girl is definitely exciting but, as Ellie soon finds out, wearing the distinctive blue uniform also means putting her life on the line every time she takes to the skies. It will take friendship and a strength she didn't know she possessed to help her country - and those she loves - to survive.

Read by Helen Keeley
July 2021
7hrs 40mins

£27.49



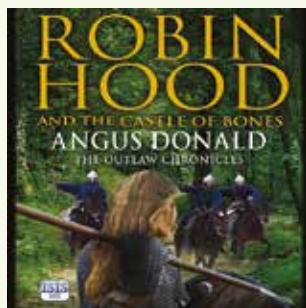
JENNY COLGAN
SUNRISE BY THE SEA

Marisa Rosso is struggling since the death of her beloved grandfather. So when her flatmate offers her one of his uncle's rentals on a remote island off the Cornish Coast, Marisa jumps at the opportunity. Perhaps some solitude is just what she needs. But between her noisy Russian piano-teaching neighbour and the hustle and bustle of a busy community, Marisa finds solitude is not so easy to come by...

Read by Catrin Walker-Booth
July 2021

9hrs 25mins

£29.49



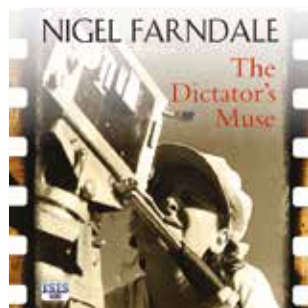
ANGUS DONALD
ROBIN HOOD AND THE CASTLE OF BONES

Spring 1192. Robin Hood and his band of men find themselves in the Duchy of Burgundy and captured by a renegade knight. Meanwhile the cunning Earl of Locksley plots to advance King Richard's cause in the two Burgundies, and Alan Dale embarks on a private quest to rescue a damsel in distress and falls foul of the monstrous guardian of the Castle of Bones.

Read by Mike Rogers
July 2021

8hrs 35mins

£27.49



NIGEL FARNDALE
THE DICTATOR'S MUSE

As Hitler's grip on power tightens, preparations are being made for the Berlin Olympics. Leni Riefenstahl is the pioneering star film-maker of the Third Reich. She has been chosen to capture the Olympics on celluloid. Through her camera lens, Leni is able to manipulate the truth. But while some scenes from her life end up on the cutting room floor, this does not mean they are lost forever...

Read by Antonia Beamish
September 2021

11hrs

£30.49



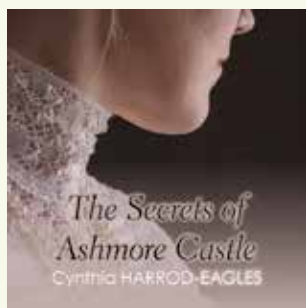
MEL GIEDROYC
THE BEST THINGS

Sally Parker is struggling to find the hero inside herself. Her husband Frank has lost his business, their home and their savings, in one fell swoop. Their bank cards are being declined. The children have gone feral. And now the bailiffs are at the door. What does an ordinary woman do when the bottom falls out? Sally is about to surprise everybody. Most of all herself.

Read by the Author
July 2021

11hrs 25mins

£30.49



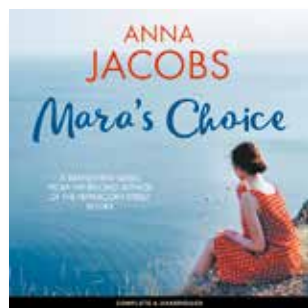
CYNTHIA HARROD-EAGLES
THE SECRETS OF ASHMORE CASTLE

1901. When the Earl of Stainton dies in a hunting accident, Giles, the eldest son of the noble Tallant family must replace him as the head of the family. But Giles also inherits his father's significant financial troubles and soon faces an impossible choice between moneyed daughter of a baronet Kitty Bayfield, and her penniless companion Nina who captures his heart.

Read by Penelope Freeman
September 2021

16hrs 45mins

£34.49



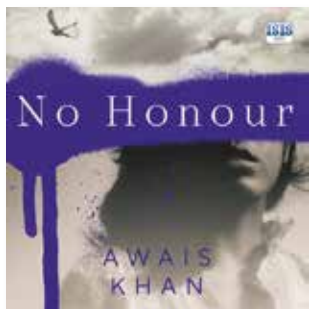
ANNA JACOBS
MARA'S CHOICE

When Mara Gregory receives a letter from the father whom she believed to have died, her world is turned upside down. In the face of her mother's opposition, Mara arranges to meet her father on Australia's west coast. Will Mara find him the disappointing that her mother promises? And when Australia brings another man into her life, she's faced with some heartrending choices.

Read by Taryn Ryan
September 2021

9hrs 5mins

£27.49

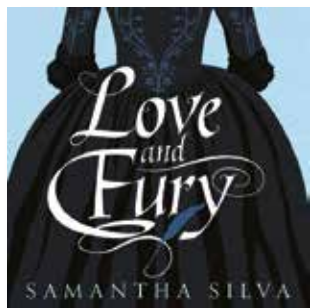


AWAIS KHAN
NO HONOUR

A young woman defies convention in a small Pakistani village, with devastating results for her and her family. A stunning, immense and beautiful novel about courage, family and the meaning of love, when everything seems lost...

Read by Nikki Patel
August 2021
9hrs 35mins

£28.49

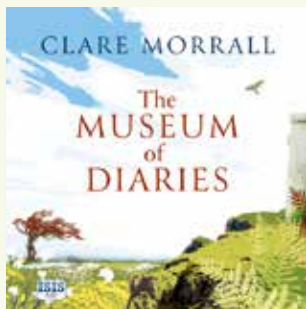


SAMANTHA SILVA
LOVE AND FURY

August, 1797. When Mary Wollstonecraft's labour begins everything appears normal. However, after her baby girl is delivered, both mother and child will fight for survival. In that time, Mary Wollstonecraft weaves the tale of her life. She describes a life lived against the conventions and restrictions of her time. A life that urgently demanded equality for herself and all women. A life that tempered triumph with loss.

Read by Julia Franklin
July 2021
10hrs

£28.49



CLARE MORRALL
THE MUSEUM OF DIARIES
EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE IN AUDIO

Forced into retirement, history professor Ellen Kershaw finds herself at a loose end until she is contacted by a reclusive billionaire. Theodore Shepherd is funding a museum for diaries, and he wants Ellen to curate it. Ellen soon finds herself immersed in the diaries that await her. But as voices from the past start to interweave with the present, secrets from her own childhood come to light...

Read by Penelope Freeman
September 2021
10hrs 10mins

£29.49



E.H. YOUNG
CHATTERTON SQUARE

Part of the British Library Women Writers series. *Chatterton Square* concerns the complex web of relationships between two neighbouring families, the Blacketts and the Frasers. Framed by the advance of the Second World War, the subtle mechanics of marriage and love are laid bare through the observation of three of the marital options open to the mid-century woman: unmarried, separated, miserably married.

Read by Patience Tomlinson
August 2021
13hrs 40mins

£32.49



SHEILA O'FLANAGAN
THREE WEDDINGS AND A PROPOSAL

Delphie is enjoying her brother's wedding, but when she sees all the missed calls that evening, she knows it can't be good news. And she's right. Delphie has been living her best life, loving her job, her friends, her no-strings relationships and her dream house by the sea. Now she has to question everything she believed about who she is and what she wants...

Read by Caroline Lennon
August 2021
13hrs 20mins

£32.49

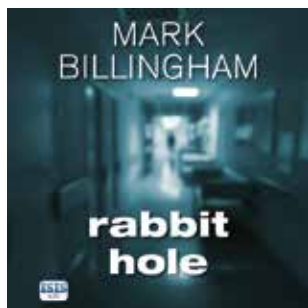


EVA BJÖRG ÆGISDÓTTIR
GIRLS WHO LIE

When single mother Marianna disappears from her home, leaving an apologetic note, everyone assumes that she's taken her own life...until her body is found seven months later, clearly the victim of murder. Her neglected 15-year-old daughter Hekla has been placed in foster care, but is her perfect new life hiding something sinister? Police officer Elma and her colleagues take on the case, which becomes increasingly complex...

Read by Diana Croft
July 2021
11hrs 10mins

£29.49

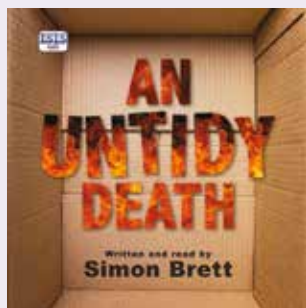


MARK BILLINGHAM
RABBIT HOLE

They were meant to be safe on Fleet Ward: psychiatric patients monitored, treated, cared for. But now one of their number is found murdered, and the accusations begin to fly. Was it one of his fellow patients? A member of staff? Or did someone come in from the outside? DC Alice Armitage is quickly on the trail of the killer. The only problem is, Alice is a patient too.

Read by Maxine Peake
August 2021
10hrs 15mins

£29.49

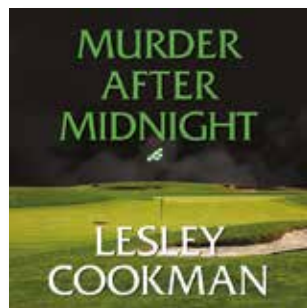


SIMON BRETT
AN UNTIDY DEATH

When the body of a prospective client is discovered in her burned-out home, the police are quick to dismiss it as an unfortunate accident. But professional declutterer Ellen Curtis is not so sure and is quickly drawn into a baffling investigation where nothing is as it first appears.

Read by the Author
September 2021
7hrs 5mins

£25.49

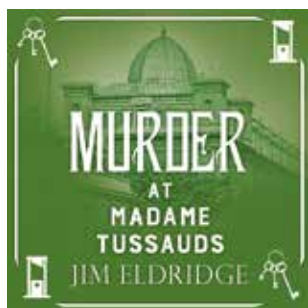


LESLEY COOKMAN
MURDER AFTER MIDNIGHT

When a woman's body is found on the local golf course after an illicit New Year's party, news quickly spreads, and Libby Serjeant finds herself being tracked down by locals desperate to share information about the victim, Jackie Stapleton. Is the murder linked to some distinctly dodgy dealing, a dispute with the local golf club, or something far more sinister – a ghost from Libby's past?

Read by Patience Tomlinson
September 2021
8hrs

£27.49



JIM ELDRIDGE
MURDER AT MADAME TUSSAUDS

London, 1896. Madame Tussauds opens to find one of its nightwatchmen decapitated and his colleague nowhere to be found. To the police, the case seems simple: one killed the other and fled, but workers at the museum aren't convinced. Scotland Yard detective John Feather enlists 'The Museum Detectives' Daniel Wilson and Abigail Fenton to aid the investigation.

Read by Peter Wickham
July 2021
8hrs 45mins

£27.49



KATE ELLIS
THE STONE CHAMBER

On a summer's evening, Robert and Greta Gerdner are shot dead at their home. DI Wesley Peterson suspects the execution-style murders might be linked to Robert's past career in the police – until Robert's name is found on a list of people who've been sent tickets for a tour of a former asylum on Dartmoor....

Read by Gordon Griffin
September 2021
10hrs 5mins

£29.49

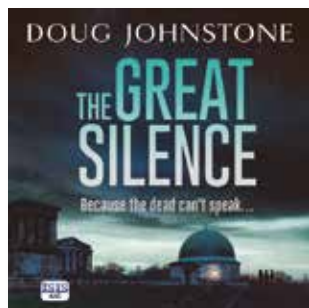


MIKE HOLLOW
THE STRATFORD MURDER

October 1940. Bombs are falling on Stratford when air-raid warden Sylvia Parks sees a house violating the strict blackout regulations. With no answer at the door she manages to break in, only to discover the body of a young woman – and she's been strangled with a stocking. For Detective Inspector John Jago, the scene brings back memories of the gruesome Soho Strangler. Is there a connection?

Read by Simon Mattacks
July 2021
8hrs 25mins

£28.49

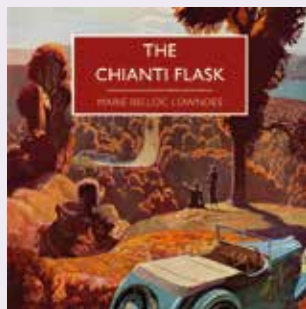


DOUG JOHNSTONE
THE GREAT SILENCE

Keeping on top of the family funeral directors' and private-investigation businesses is no easy task for the Skelf women, and when matriarch Dorothy discovers a human foot while walking the dog, a perplexing case presents itself... Daughter Jenny and granddaughter Hannah have their hands full too and the women are immersed in their most challenging cases yet.

Read by Sarah Barron
August 2021
9hrs 15mins

£28.49

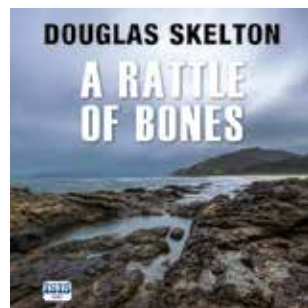


MARIE BELLOC LOWNDES
THE CHIANTI FLASK

A British Library Crime Classic. A young woman called Laura Dousland is on trial for murder, accused of poisoning her elderly husband. The couple's Italian servant, chief witness for the prosecution, is on the stand and is also under suspicion. But at the heart of the puzzle is the Chianti flask that almost certainly held the wine containing the poison which killed him, which has disappeared...

Read by Annabelle Indge
September 2021
7hrs 50mins

£27.49

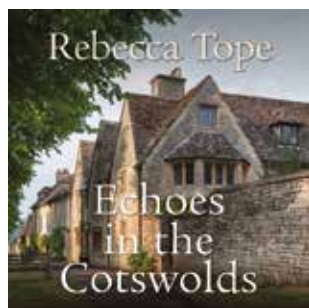


DOUGLAS SKELTON
A RATTLE OF BONES

In 1752 James of the Glens was executed for murder. He was almost certainly innocent. Banners are placed at his gravesite claiming that his namesake, James Stewart, is innocent of murder. The young Stewart has been in prison for ten years for the murder of his lover, a lawyer and politician. Rebecca Connolly smells a story but soon finds herself in the sights of Inverness crime matriarch Mo Burke.

Read by Sarah Barron
September 2021
10hrs 10mins

£29.49

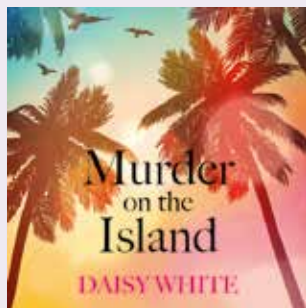


REBECCA TOPE
ECHOES IN THE COTSWOLDS

Thea Osborne agrees to do a second spell of house-sitting for Lucy Sinclair, in her new home in Northleach. Thea is glad of the change of scene but when a man is found dead in a Northleach house and turns out to be Lucy's stepson, Thea is once again at the very heart of a police investigation.

Read by Caroline Lennon
August 2021
8hrs 10 mins

£27.49

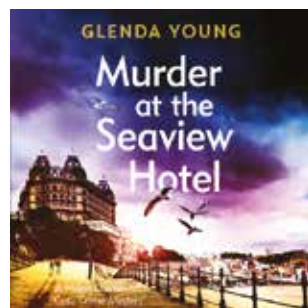


DAISY WHITE
MURDER ON THE ISLAND

When recently divorced Chloe Canton is gifted her grandmother's house in Bermuda in her will, it seems a perfect time for a fresh start. But her chance at paradise comes with a rundown business and interfering neighbours. Then Chloe discovers a dead body on the local riding trail and finds herself dragged into a murder investigation.

Read by Charlotte Strevens
July 2021
8hrs 20mins

£27.49



GLENDA YOUNG
MURDER AT THE SEAVIEW HOTEL

After the death of her husband Tom, Helen Dexter is contemplating her future as the sole proprietor of the Seaview Hotel. There's an offer from a hotel chain developer, but also a booking from a group of Elvis impersonators. Tom loved Elvis and for Helen this is a sign that she should stay. But then one of the guests is found murdered and Helen must investigate with her trusty greyhound.

Read by Colleen Prendergast
September 2021
10hrs 15mins

£28.49



MICHAEL DIXON

TIME TO HEAL

TALES OF A COUNTRY DOCTOR

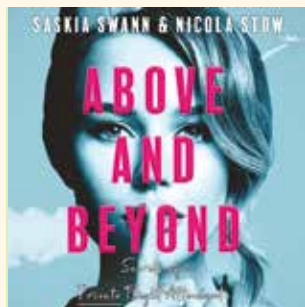
Time to Heal tells the story of the colourful life of a country doctor towards the end of his career. In turn shocking, sad and funny, it describes a doctor who feels poorly served by the conventional medicine of his time. Young doctors no longer want to enter General Practice. The author explores why and how pandemics might provide the answers.

Read by Simon Mattacks

August 2021

8hrs 30mins

£27.49



SASKIA SWANN & NICOLA STOW

ABOVE AND BEYOND

SECRETS OF A PRIVATE FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Heavily in debt, and earning peanuts as a 'trolley dolly', Saskia Swann desperately needed to get her life back on track. After a chance meeting, she landed a job as cabin crew – but this time on a private jet. In this gripping exposé, Saskia Swann pulls back the first-class curtain on the lifestyles of the mega-rich and famous.

Read by Julie Maisey

July 2021

9hrs

£27.49



SUPRIYA VANI AND CARL A. HARTE

JACINDA ARDEN: LEADING

WITH EMPATHY

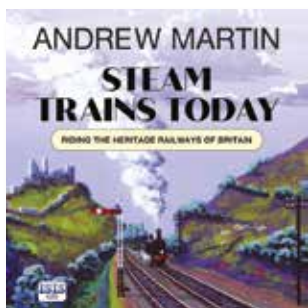
Jacinda Arden: Leading with Empathy carefully explores the influences that have shaped Arden. We visit the places, meet the people and understand the events that propelled the daughter of a small-town Mormon policeman to become a modern leader admired for her empathy and courage.

Read by Kirsty Gillmore

August 2021

13hrs 25mins

£32.49



ANDREW MARTIN

STEAM TRAINS TODAY

RIDING THE HERITAGE RAILWAYS OF BRITAIN

After the Beeching cuts of the 1960s, many railways were 'rationalised' and gradually shut down. Rural communities were isolated and steam trains slowly gave way to diesel and electric traction. But some people were not prepared to let the romance of train travel die. Andrew Martin goes out to meet these enthusiasts and find out just what it is about preserved railways that makes people so devoted.

Read by the Author

September 2021

10hrs 55mins

£29.49



IAIN MAITLAND

MR TODD'S RECKONING

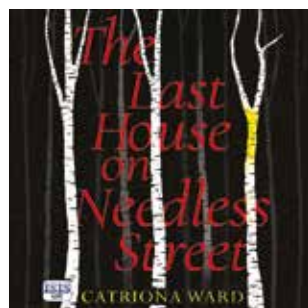
Behind the normal door of a normal house, two men are slowly driving each other insane. One of them is a psychopath. The father: Mr Todd has been robbed of his job as a tax inspector and is stuck at home...with him. The son: Adrian has no job, no friends. He is at home all day, obsessively tap-tap-tapping on his computer. And he's getting worse...

Read by Michael Simkins

August 2021

8hrs 50mins

£27.49



CATRIONA WARD

THE LAST HOUSE ON NEEDLESS STREET

A BBC 2 Behind the Covers Book Club Pick

This story of Ted, who lives with his daughter and his cat in an ordinary house at the end of an ordinary street. You think you know what's inside the last house on Needless Street. In the dark forest at the end of Needless Street, something lies buried. But it's not what you think...

Read by Christopher Ragland

July 2021

12hrs

£30.49

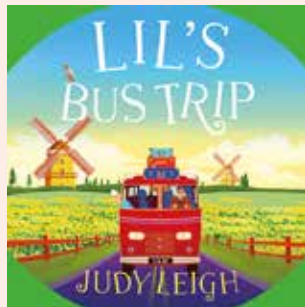


LISA HOBMAN
UNDER A SICILIAN SKY

Global box office sensation Ruby Locke and her fiancé are Hollywood's new glitterati. Overnight, however, Ruby's life implodes when her social media accounts are hacked with a multitude of vile posts. Ruby escapes to the beautiful island of Sicily to avoid the media scrutiny and is left questioning not only who wants to destroy her career, and why, but also if celebrity lifestyle is really for her...

Read by Eilidh Beaton
July 2021
12hrs 40mins

£30.49



JUDY LEIGH
LIL'S BUS TRIP

When 82-year-old Lil decides to book herself, her daughter, Cassie, and her friend Maggie on a bus trip across Europe, she hopes for a little adventure. From moving moments on the beaches of Normandy, outrageous adventures in Amsterdam, to the beauty of Bruges, the holiday is just the tonic the ladies needed. But can they embrace the fresh starts that the trip has given them?

Read by Julie Mullen
August 2021
9hrs 55mins

£28.49

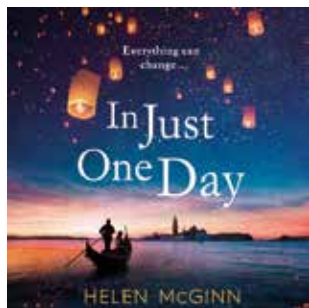


PORTIA MACINTOSH
WILL THEY, WON'T THEY?

Emmy Palmer is the star of the biggest fantasy series on TV. But when scandal strikes, Emmy must escape the city and return to her seaside hometown. Emmy's agent decides it would be a good look to star in the community Christmas pantomime, but who else could be playing her leading man but her ex-boyfriend who she ditched to move to London a decade ago...

Read by Karen Cass
September 2021
9hrs 10mins

£28.49



HELEN MCGINN
IN JUST ONE DAY

Flora has always adored her brother Billy. Born just 18 months apart, their childhood was spent like two peas in a pod. Now, as adults, they remain the best of friends. But, in just one day, everything changes. In just one day, Flora's life falls apart. In just one day, Flora has to learn how to live again.

Read by Antonia Beamish
August 2021
7hrs 50mins

£27.49



KERRY KAYA
THE PRICE

Harry Fletcher has spent his life surviving the tough streets of the East End. He knows working for notorious gangster Billy King is dangerous, and sleeping with Billy's beautiful wife, Susan, is deadly...but rules are meant to be broken. If Billy discovers the affair, Fletch is a dead man. But the closer he gets to Susan the more reckless Fletch becomes....

Read by Annie Aldington
July 2021
9hrs 30mins

£29.49

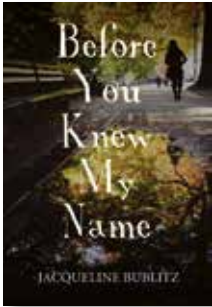


GEMMA ROGERS
THE BABYSITTER

Ali and Christopher Tolfrey's one-year-old daughter Eden is abducted whilst in the care of Ali's best friend. Brooke Simmons regains consciousness, dazed from a blow to the head, to find Eden is missing. Someone has taken Eden and Brooke knows who. But it's a secret she can't share without revealing the web of deceit she's spun. Can Brooke get Eden home before her lies come back to haunt her?

Read by Imogen Church
September 2021
9hrs 10mins

£28.49



JACQUELINE BUBLITZ
BEFORE YOU KNEW MY NAME

When she arrived in New York on her 18th birthday, Alice was looking for a fresh start. One month later, she's an unidentified murder victim. Ruby travelled halfway around the world to also start over, but then she finds Alice's body by the Hudson River. Alice is sure that Ruby is the key to solving the mystery of her life – and death. And Ruby finds herself unable to let Alice go...

Thriller
August 2021
330pp

£21.99

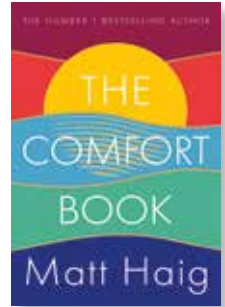


KATIE FFORDE
A WEDDING IN THE COUNTRY

Lizzie has just arrived in 1960s London, determined to make the best of her new life. Her mother is insisting she should have a nice wedding in the country to a Suitable Man chosen by her. Soon, Lizzie embraces 60s London life, and forgets all about her mother's marriage plans for her. All she can think about is that the man she is falling in love with appears to be engaged to someone else...

General Fiction
August 2021
384pp

£22.99



MATT HAIG
THE COMFORT BOOK

The Comfort Book is a collection of little islands of hope. It gathers consolations and stories that give new ways of seeing ourselves and the world. This is the book to pick up when you need the wisdom of a friend, the comfort of a hug or just to celebrate the messy miracle of being alive.

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LIMITED EDITION SIGNED AND UNSIGNED AVAILABLE

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Thriller
September 2021
336pp

£22.99



LISA JEWELL
THE NIGHT SHE DISAPPEARED

Midsummer 2017: Teenage mum Tallulah heads out on a date, leaving her baby son at home with her mother, Kim. At 11 p.m. she sends her mum a text message. At 4.20 a.m. Kim finds that Tallulah has not come home. Friends tell her that Tallulah was last seen heading to a pool party at a house in the woods nearby called Dark Place. Tallulah never returns. 2018: Walking in the woods, Sophie sees a sign nailed to a fence. A sign that says: DIG HERE...

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MAGGIE SULLIVAN
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Vera, the over-protected daughter of Ena, longs for independence from her mother. Vera's friend, Lily, decides it's high time that she and Vera take their lives into their own hands. The girls sign up for the Land Army, where life is very different from Coronation Street. But even with her daughter down south, Ena can't stop meddling in Vera's life...

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