

APRIL 2019

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.org - 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.org)

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

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	Copies	LP & Audio
CLASSICS			
Thackeray, William Makepeace 720 pgs	Vanity Fair Set during the Napoleonic wars, 'Vanity Fair' follows Becky Sharp as she cuts a swathe through Regency society. War, money, and national identity are the themes of Thackeray's great satirical novel, as it exposes a world on the make. In Becky, Thackeray created one of the most memorable female characters in Victorian fiction. <i>"The book is as enjoyable today as it ever was. It's a much easier read, too, in terms of its language and style than some others of similar era. In fact it jogs along so easily, its characters are so engaging and its wit so sly that despite its length it requires no effort from the reader and feels like a loss to have finished."</i>	10	
Salinger, J D 240 pgs	The Catcher in the Rye [Radio 2 Book Club] It's Christmas and Holden Caulfield has just been expelled from yet another school. Fleeing the crooks at Pencey Prep, he pinballs around New York City seeking solace in fleeting encounters – shooting the bull with strangers in dive hotels, wandering alone round Central Park, getting beaten up by pimps and cut down by erstwhile girlfriends. An all-time classic coming-of-age story: an elegy to teenage alienation, capturing the deeply human need for connection and the bewildering sense of loss as we leave childhood behind. <i>"..extremely well written with some profound insights. Although it's very much of it's time (1950s), it's also 'modern' in many ways... I found his unfolding psychological crisis deeply moving."</i>	10	
NON-FICTION			

AUTHOR & Length	TITLE	COPIES	LP & AUDIO
Moore, Kate 480 pgs	<p>The Radium Girls As the First World War spread across the world, young American women flocked to work in factories, painting dials with a special luminous substance made from radium. However, as the years passed, the women began to suffer from mysterious and crippling illnesses. It turned out that the very thing that had made them feel alive – their work – was slowly killing them. These courageous women – in the face of unimaginable suffering – refused to accept their fate quietly, and instead became determined to fight for justice. Drawing on previously unpublished diaries, letters and interviews, <i>The Radium Girls</i> is an intimate narrative of an unforgettable true story. It is the powerful tale of a group of ordinary women from the Roaring Twenties, who themselves learned how to roar. <i>“this is utterly compelling reading - one of those books that I couldn't wait to get back to: a must-read.”</i></p>	10	
OTHER FICTION			
Dean, Will 352 pgs	<p>Dark Pines [Zoe Ball Book Club choice] SEE NO EVIL: Eyes missing, two bodies lie deep in the forest near a remote Swedish town. HEAR NO EVIL: Tuva Moodyson, a deaf reporter on a small-time local paper, is looking for the story that could make her career. SPEAK NO EVIL: A web of secrets. And an unsolved murder from twenty years ago. Can Tuva outwit the killer before she becomes the final victim? She'd like to think so. But first she must face her demons. <i>“Set in a near isolated Swedish town it is a story of murder, of secrets, and of one woman's relentless determination to find the killer. Lead female is Tuva, a deaf reporter for the local newspaper. I loved her character, it really added an extra dimension with her being deaf.”</i></p>	10	
James, P D 192 pgs	<p>Sleep No More: six murderous tales The acknowledged 'Queen of Crime', P. D. James, was a past master of the short story. Six of these are published here together for the first time. As they unfold, the dark motive of revenge is revealed at the heart of each. The punishments inflicted on the guilty are fittingly severe, but here they are meted out by the unseen forces of natural justice rather than the institutions of the law. Once again, P. D. James shows her expert control of the short-story form, conjuring motives and scenarios with complete conviction, and each with a satisfying twist in the tail. <i>“I was hooked on this collection from the moment I opened the front cover and I wasn't released from the book's grip until I had closed the back cover.. This is certainly a book for those fans of classic crime writing.”</i></p>	10	
Steiner, Susie 384 pgs	<p>Persons Unknown [Theakstons Crime Novel Shortlisted] As dusk falls a young man staggers through a park, far from home, bleeding heavily from a stab wound. He dies where he falls; cradled by a stranger, a woman's name on his lips in his last seconds of life. DI Manon Bradshaw can't help taking an interest - these days she only handles cold cases, but the man died just yards from the police station where she works. She's horrified to discover that both victim and prime suspect are more closely linked to her than she could have imagined.</p>	10	

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	And as the Cambridgeshire police force closes ranks against her, she is forced to contemplate the unthinkable. How well does she know her loved ones, and are they capable of murder? <i>“a steady paced, slow burner of a book.”</i>		
Candlish, Louise 448 pgs	Our House When Fi Lawson arrives home to find strangers moving into her house, she is plunged into terror and confusion. She and her husband Bram have owned their home on Trinity Avenue for years and have no intention of selling. How can this other family possibly think the house is theirs? And why has Bram disappeared when she needs him most? As the nightmare takes grip, both Bram and Fi try to make sense of the events that led to a devastating crime. What has he hidden from her - and what has she hidden from him? <i>“All the twists and turns kept me guessing right till the end and after I'd finished kept me thinking about it for a long time.”</i>	10	
Hendricks, Greer and Pekkanen, Sarah 384 pgs	The Wife Between Us [Richard & Judy Book Club] When you read this book, you will make many assumptions. It's about a jealous wife, obsessed with her replacement. It's about a younger woman set to marry the man she loves. The first wife seems like a disaster; her replacement is the perfect woman. You will assume you know the motives, the history, the anatomy of the relationships. You will be wrong. <i>“Really loved this book, it kept me puzzled until the end with one more unexpected twist! Would recommend!”</i>	10	
Cannon, Joanna 496 pgs	Three Things About Elsie [Richard & Judy Book Club] 84-year-old Florence has fallen in her flat at Cherry Tree Home for the Elderly. As she waits to be rescued, she considers the charming new resident who looks exactly like a man she once knew – a man who died sixty years ago. His arrival has stirred distant memories she and Elsie thought they'd laid to rest. Lying prone in the front room, Florence wonders if a terrible secret from her past is about to come to light ... <i>“The story unfolds like unravelling a tangled ball of string, and has everything to keep the reader enthralled; humour, love, friendship, tragedy, mystery, suspense, and all the lovely brave and complicated characters.”</i>	10	
Dillon, Lucy 464 pgs	Where the Light Gets in It was Betty, defiant to the end, who sent Lorna back to Longhampton. And right now, with the keys to the town's gallery in her hand, Lorna feels about as courageous as Betty's anxious little dachshund, trembling beside her. Lorna's come home to Longhampton to fulfil a long-held dream, but she knows, deep down, there are ghosts she needs to lay to rest first. But as Lorna – and the little dog – tentatively open their cracked hearts to old friends and new ones, something surprisingly beautiful begins to grow around the gallery, something so inspirational even Lorna couldn't have predicted the light it lets into her world . . . <i>“An emotional tale that makes you smile on the way.”</i>	10	
Morton, Kate 592 pgs	The Clockmaker's Daughter In the summer of 1862, a group of young artists descends upon Birchwood Manor in rural Oxfordshire. Their plan: to spend a secluded summer month in a haze of inspiration and creativity. But by the time their stay is over, one woman has been shot dead while another has	10	A

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	disappeared. Over one hundred and fifty years later, Elodie Winslow, a young archivist in London, uncovers a leather satchel containing two seemingly unrelated items: a sepia photograph of an arresting-looking woman in Victorian clothing, and an artist's sketchbook containing a drawing of a twin-gabled house on the bend of a river. <i>“one of those special stories that you can't stop reading but you don't want to end.”</i>		
Hughes, Kathryn 448 pgs	The Key 2006: Sarah is drawn to the abandoned Ambergate Asylum and whilst exploring the old corridors she discovers a suitcase in an attic belonging to a female patient who was admitted to the asylum 50 years earlier. The shocking contents of the suitcase lead Sarah to unravel a forgotten story of tragedy, lost love and an old wrong that only Sarah may have the power to put right. <i>“the entire story had me engrossed the main characters beautifully brought to life in such a way that you become drawn into their surroundings, their plight and feel the fact that there's a twist waiting for you building with every page.”</i>	10	L
Trollope, Joanna 336 pgs	An Unsuitable Match Rose Woodrowe has just got engaged to Tyler Masson – a wonderful, sensitive man who is head-over-heels in love with her. The only problem? This isn't the first time for either of them, and their five grown-up children have strong opinions on the matter . . . Who to listen to? Who to please? Rose and Tyler are determined to get it right this time, but in trying to make everyone happy, can they ever be happy themselves? <i>“The latest Trollope novel - observant (she is so good at families!) and in this novel she is dealing with the issue of late second marriages and how the adult offspring of the main protagonists react. Pleasant easy but thought-provoking read.”</i>	10	A
Turton, Stuart 528 pgs	The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle As fireworks explode overhead, Evelyn Hardcastle, the young and beautiful daughter of the house, is killed. But Evelyn will not die just once. Until Aiden - one of the guests summoned to Blackheath for the party - can solve her murder, the day will repeat itself, over and over again. The only way to break this cycle is to identify the killer. But each time the day begins again, Aiden wakes in the body of a different guest. And someone is determined to prevent him ever escaping Blackheath. <i>“It's simultaneously a page-turner that leaves you desperate to understand the central mystery, a mind-meltingly well-constructed narrative that plays with time and character in all sorts of clever ways, and a well-written and thoughtful story about vengeance, family, forgiveness and most interesting, ideas of self.”</i>	10	
Chevalier, Tracy 248 pgs	The Girl with the Pearl Earring [Radio 2 book club] Johannes Vermeer can spot exceptional beauty. When servant girl Griet catches his eye, she soon becomes both student and muse. But then he gives her his wife's pearl earrings to wear for a portrait, and a scandal erupts that could threaten Griet's future. Vivid and captivating, this is a timeless modern classic and an international bestseller. <i>“Descriptive and atmospheric. This book gives the reader a window into the structure of Delft society of the period. The central character, Griet, has depth, strength and integrity. I found the book far more satisfying than the film.”</i>	10	