



## WINTER

*"Truth is like fire; to tell the truth means to glow and burn." — Gustav Klimt*

If you would like to renew a book, or have any comments/ queries, please don't hesitate to contact me at [library@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:library@newsteadwood.co.uk)

Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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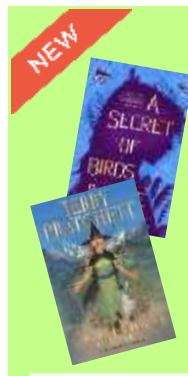
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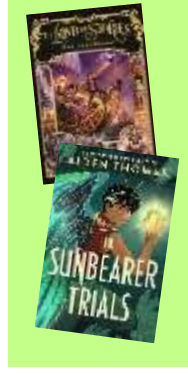
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**A Secret of Birds and Bone by Kiran Millwood Hargrave**  
In an Italian city ravaged by plague, Sofia's mother carves beautiful mementos from the bones of loved ones. But one day, she doesn't return home. Did her work lead her into danger? Sofia and her little brother Ermin are sent to the convent orphanage but soon escape, led by an enigmatic new friend and their pet crow, Corvith. Together they cross the city underground, following clues in bones up to the towers of Siena, where - circled by magpies - the children find the terrible truth ...



**The Land of Stories #5: An Author's Odyssey by Chris Colfer**  
In the highly anticipated continuation of the Land of Stories series, Conner learns that the only place to fight the Masked Man's literary army is inside his own short stories! When the twins and their friends enter worlds crafted from Conner's imagination, finding allies no one else could have ever dreamed of, the race begins to put an end to the Masked Man's reign of terror. Can the twins finally restore peace in the fairy tale world?



**The Sunbearer Trials by Aiden Thomas**  
Welcome to The Sunbearer Trials, where ten semidioses compete in a series of challenges with the highest of stakes in this breath-taking, Mexican-inspired fantasy from Aiden Thomas, the author of the New York Times bestselling Cemetery Boys. Only the most powerful and honourable will be chosen. Teo, the seventeen-year-old trans son of the goddess of birds, isn't worried. As a Jade, it's unlikely he'll be chosen to compete in the Trials, and even if his best friend Niya competes, she's a born-and-bred Gold semidiós with unparalleled abilities. But for the first time in over a century, Sol chooses not one, but two Jade competitors: Teo - and Xio, the thirteen-year-old child of the god of bad luck. With the odds stacked against them, Teo is determined to get himself and his friends through the trials unscathed - for fame, glory, and their own survival...



**The Boy Who Drew the Future by Rhian Ivory**  
Noah and Blaze live in the same village over 100 years apart. But the two teenage boys are linked by a river and a strange gift: they both compulsively draw images they don't understand, that later come true. They can draw the future. 1860s - Blaze is alone after his mother's death, dependent on the kindness of the villagers, who all distrust his gift as witchcraft but still want him to predict the future for them. When they don't like what he draws, life gets very dangerous for him. Now - Noah comes to the village for a new start. His parents are desperate for him to be 'normal' after all the trouble they've had in the past. He makes a friend, Beth, but as with Blaze the strangeness of his drawings start to turn people against him and things get very threatening. Will he be driven away from this new home - and from Beth? Will both boys be destroyed by their strange gift, or can a new future be drawn?

### Wish List Spotlight:



**Our Final Warning: Six Degrees of Climate Emergency by Mark Lynas**

Mark Lynas delivers a vital account of the future of our earth, and our civilisation, if current rates of global warming persist. And it's only looking worse.

We are living in a climate emergency. But how much worse could it get? Will civilisation collapse? Are we already past the point of no return? What kind of future can our children expect? Rigorously cataloguing the very latest climate science, Mark Lynas explores the course we have set for Earth over the next century and beyond. Degree by terrifying degree, he charts the likely consequences of global heating and the ensuing climate catastrophe.

These escalating consequences can still be avoided, but time is running out. We must largely stop burning fossil fuels within a decade if we are to save the coral reefs and the Arctic. If we fail, then we risk crossing tipping points that could push global climate chaos out of humanity's control.

This book must not be ignored. It really is our final warning.

### The Handmaid's Tale Opens at the West End

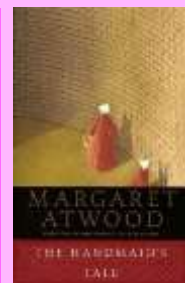


On February the 1<sup>st</sup> The Handmaid's Tale, a new production of the opera based on Margaret Atwood's award-winning dystopian novel of the same name, opened at The Coliseum theatre on London's West End. The opera was composed by Paul Ruders in 1998 and stars American mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey as the protagonist Offred. The original novel is narrated using a highly complex first-person narrative and Ruders found the task of converting the narrative into a third-person opera significantly difficult, however the show has received largely positive reviews to date. The Financial Times have described the show as 'one of the most powerful operas of the century' and The Times praised the production saying it's 'three absorbing hours; well worth your time.'

The opera will be running until the 15<sup>th</sup> of February this year. Click [here](#) to read Clive Paget's review of the opera for The Guardian.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (Recommended for Older Readers)

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are valued only if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the years before, when she lived and made love with her husband, Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now...



### On This Day in History... The Death of Gustav Klimt, 6th February 1918

Gustav Klimt, born July 1862, was an Austrian symbolist painter and one of the most prominent members of the Vienna Secession movement. Symbolism was a 19<sup>th</sup> century art movement originating in France and Belgium that sought to 'represent absolute truths symbolically through language and metaphorical images.' Other renowned symbolist painters included Paul Gauguin, Edvard Munch, and Gustave Moreau. The Vienna Secession movement, another art movement Klimt was involved in, was formed by a group of artists who resigned from the Association of Austrian Artists in protest against its support for more traditional artistic styles.

Klimt began his career focusing on architectural painting, which he studied in Vienna from 1876-

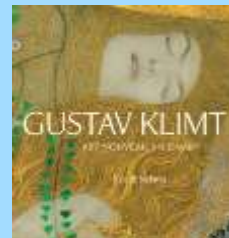


1883, and subsequently began his career painting interior murals and ceilings in large public buildings. In 1888 he received the Golden Order of Merit from the Emperor of Austria for his contributions to murals painted in the national theatre of Austria.

Klimt painted various subjects, but his primary subject was the female body. Some of his most famous paintings include The Kiss (pictured left) and Portrait of Emilie Flöge (pictured right), the subject of which was his companion until the end of his life. Klimt died at the age of 55 from complications of influenza, leaving several paintings unfinished. He's buried in Hietzing, Vienna.



Gustav Klimt: Art Nouveau Visionary by Eva di Stefano  
Gustav Klimt's decorative, seductive style, jewel-like colours, use of gold and pattern, and sensuous line, continue to captivate art lovers today. One of the masters of modern European painting, he helped found the popular Viennese Secession, or Art Nouveau, movement. This lushly illustrated volume explores his fascinating artistic career, covering Vienna at the time of Klimt's creative peak. With more than 300 beautifully reproduced pictures, paintings, and photographs, it presents Klimt's entire artistic posters for exhibitions, erotic drawings, and pictorial masterpieces such as The Kiss, Death and Life, and Tree of Life, along with countless portraits such as the famous Adele Bloch-Bauer I.



### LGBT+ History Month 2024: Medicine #UnderTheScope



Since 2005, LGBT+ History Month has been celebrated annually in the UK throughout the month of February. This year's theme is Medicine #UnderTheScope and aims to celebrate the contribution of LGBT+ people to the field of medicine and healthcare, both historically and in the present day. More specifically, organisers want to 'showcase the amazing work of LGBT+ staff across the NHS and in other healthcare settings, while still shining a light on the history of the LGBT+ community's experience of receiving healthcare which has been extremely complicated leaving LGBT+ people still facing health inequalities even today.'

Find out more about 2024's LGBT+ History Month [here](#).

Below are some books concerned with LGBT+ history, as well as some written by Oliver Sacks, the late world-renowned LGBT+ neurologist.

#### Hallucinations by Oliver Sacks

Have you ever seen something that wasn't really there? Heard someone call your name in an empty house? Sensed someone following you and turned around to find nothing? Hallucinations don't belong wholly to the insane. Much more commonly, they are linked to sensory deprivation, intoxication, illness, or injury. In some conditions, hallucinations can lead to religious epiphanies or even the feeling of leaving one's own body. Humans have always sought such life-changing visions and for thousands of years have used hallucinogenic compounds to achieve them. In Hallucinations, with his usual elegance, curiosity, and compassion, Dr Oliver Sacks weaves together stories of his patients and of his own mind-altering experiences to illuminate what hallucinations tell us about the organisation and structure of our brains, how they have influenced every culture's folklore and art and why the potential for hallucination is present in us all, a vital part of the human condition.



#### The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks

In his most extraordinary book, Oliver Sacks recounts the stories of patients lost in the bizarre, apparently inescapable world of neurological disorders. These are case studies of people who have lost their memories and with them the greater part of their past; who are no longer able to recognize people or common objects; whose limbs have become alien; who are afflicted and yet are gifted with uncanny artistic or mathematical talents. In Dr Sacks' splendid and sympathetic telling, each tale is a unique and deeply human study of life struggling against incredible adversity.



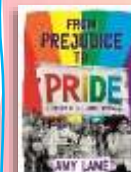
#### Awakenings by Oliver Sacks

This is an extraordinary account of a group of 20 patients, survivors of the great sleeping-sickness epidemic which swept the world in the 1920s, and the astonishing, explosive "awakening" effect they experienced 40 years later through a new drug, L-DOPA, administered by Dr Sacks. The stories he tells of these remarkable individuals are moving, often courageous and sometimes tragic. Now hailed as a medical classic, Awakenings was first published in 1973 and won the Hawthornden Prize of that year. It has since inspired a TV documentary, radio and stage plays and a major feature film. For this revised edition the author has written much new material, including a section about Awakenings on stage and screen.



#### From Prejudice to Pride: A History of the LGBTQ+ Movement by Amy Lamé

From Prejudice to Pride looks at the rise and achievements of the LGBTQ+ movement and the different communities, pioneers and stories of heartbreak and courage that have marched alongside it. Perfect for readers aged 11 and upwards, this book will inspire courage and pride in young LGBTQ+ people and help answer questions for all readers interested in gender and identity. Follow LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day, and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today.



#### Trans Britain: Our Journey From the Shadows by Christine Burns et al

Over the last five years, transgender people have seemed to burst into the public eye: Time declared 2014 a 'trans tipping point', while American Vogue named 2015 'the year of trans visibility'. From our television screens to the ballot box, transgender people have suddenly become part of the zeitgeist. This apparently overnight emergence, though, is just the latest stage in a long and varied history. The renown of Paris Lees and Hari Nef has its roots in the efforts of those who struggled for equality before them, but were met with indifference - and often outright hostility - from mainstream society. Trans Britain chronicles this journey in the words of those who were there to witness a marginalised community grow into the visible phenomenon we recognise today: activists, film-makers, broadcasters, parents, an actress, a rock musician and a priest, among many others.



#### Queer: A Graphic History by Meg-John Barker and Jules Scheele

Activist-academic Meg-John Barker and cartoonist Jules Scheele illuminate the histories of queer thought and LGBTQ+ action in this ground-breaking non-fiction graphic novel. From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, Queer explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexuality; and how these views have been disputed and challenged. Along the way we look at key landmarks which shift our perspective of what's 'normal' - Alfred Kinsey's view of sexuality as a spectrum, Judith Butler's view of gendered behaviour as a performance, the play Wicked, or moments in Casino Royale when we're invited to view James Bond with the kind of desiring gaze usually directed at female bodies in mainstream media.



## Valentine's Day

The origins of Valentine's Day are disputed; however, it's fairly widely agreed that the day has its origins in honouring one of several potential martyrs known as Saint Valentine. Over time, the day has evolved through folk and commercial traditions to become a festival celebrating romantic love. This year, Valentine's Day falls during half term, so why not use the opportunity to stock up on romance novels from the library to read over the week? Below are some of our recommendations.

#### The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Falling in love with him won't be my story. Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. Never the poet. Or the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store - for both of us. The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?



#### A Pho Love Story by Loan Le

For years, the Mais and the Nguyens have been at odds, having owned competing, neighbouring pho restaurants. Bao and Linh, who've avoided each other for most of their lives, both suspect that the feud stems from feelings much deeper than friendly competition. But then a chance encounter brings Linh and Bao in the same vicinity despite their best efforts and sparks fly, leading them both to wonder what took so long for them to connect. But then, of course, they immediately remember. Can Linh and Bao find love in the midst of feuding families and complicated histories?



#### Melt My Heart by Bethany Rutter

Lily Rose is used to people paying attention to her gorgeous twin sister, Daisy. But even though Lily loves her own fat body, she can't shake the idea that no one would ever choose her over Daisy - not when they could have the thin twin. That is, until she meets Cal, the gorgeous, sweet guy from New Zealand who can't seem to stay away. The gorgeous, sweet guy who also happens to be Daisy's summer crush. Lily can't seem to figure out why she isn't as into him as she should be. She should be head-over-heels in love, not missing time at the ice-cream shack with her life-long best friend, Cassie. Not wondering what Cassie is getting up to with Cal's friend Jack, or what she's thinking about when they're alone...



#### The First Move by Jenny Ireland

Juliet believes girls like her - girls with arthritis - don't get their own love stories. She exists at the edges of her friends' social lives, skipping parties to play online chess under a pseudonym with strangers around the world. There, she isn't just 'the girl with crutches'. Ronan is the new kid: good looking, smart, a bad boy plagued by guilt over what happened to his brother Ciaran. Chesslife is his escape; there, he's not just 'the boy with the brother'. Juliet thinks Ronan thinks someone like Ronan could never be interested in someone like her - and she wouldn't want him to be anyway because he always acts like he's cooler than everyone else. Whereas, Ronan thinks life is already too complicated for dating and just wants to keep his head down at school. Little do they know they've already discovered each other online, and have more in common than they think...



#### Date Me, Bryson Keller by Kevin van Wye

Everyone at Fairvale Academy knows Bryson Keller, the super-hot soccer captain who doesn't believe in high-school relationships. They also know about the dare Bryson accepted - each week he has to date the first person who asks him out. A single school week is all anyone gets. There have been no exceptions to this. Now, until me, that is. Because brilliant Bryson Keller forgot one thing. He never said it could only be girls...



#### Cupid's Revenge by Wibke Brueggemann

Tilly isn't looking for a girlfriend, but her best friend Teddy is. Enter Katherine Cooper-Bunting: beautiful, charming, and perfect for Teddy. So why does Tilly find herself using any excuse to join the theatre production they're starring in? And why can't she stop thinking about Katherine?



#### Better Than the Movies by Lynn Painter

Liz Buxbaum gave her heart to Michael a long time ago. But her cool, aloof forever crush never really saw her before he moved away. Now that he's back in town, Liz will do whatever it takes to get on his radar... even befriend Wes Bennett. The annoyingly attractive next-door neighbour might seem like a prime candidate for romantic-comedy fantasies, but Wes has only been a pain in Liz's butt since they were kids. Yet, somehow, Wes and Michael are hitting it off, which means Wes is Liz's in. But as Liz and Wes scheme to get Liz noticed by Michael, she's shocked to discover that she likes being around Wes. And as they continue to grow closer, she must re-examine everything she thought she knew about love - and rethink her own ideas of what happily ever after should look like.



#### Once Upon a Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber

For as long as she can remember, Evangeline Fox has believed in true love and happy endings... until she learns that the love of her life will marry another. Desperate to stop the wedding and to heal her wounded heart, Evangeline strikes a deal with the charismatic but wicked Prince of Hearts. In exchange for his help, he asks for three kisses, to be given at the time and place of his choosing. But after Evangeline's first promised kiss, she learns that bargaining with an immortal is a dangerous game - and that the Prince of Hearts wants far more from her than she'd pledged. He has plans for Evangeline, plans that will either end in the greatest happily ever after or the most exquisite tragedy...

