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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins and Miss Walker



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Heartstopper Season 3 Premieres on Netflix



Season 3 of the *Heartstopper* TV series, based on Alice Oseman's graphic novel series of the same name, premiered on Netflix on the 3rd of October. The series follows the relationship and day-to-day lives of British teenagers Nick Nelson and Charlie Spring, along with their friends. From its first televised season, *Heartstopper* was lauded for its depiction of LGBTQ+ relationships and heart-warming storytelling, as well as its accurate representation of British life and schooling. Some critics have referred to the show as one of Netflix's most-acclaimed original series. The original graphic novel series currently consists of 5 instalments, with a sixth and final instalment slated to be published in the near future. Alice Oseman writes and illustrates the graphic novels, as well as publishing traditional fiction in prose. The characters of Nick and Charlie first appeared as background characters in Oseman's 2014 novel *Solitaire*, which features Charlie's sister Tori as the protagonist, but the author "fell in love" with the couple while writing the novel and decided she needed to tell their story. The *Heartstopper* graphic novel series began as a webcomic in September 2016 and was published on website Tapas. It is still available to read online for free [here](https://www.heartstoppercomic.com/).

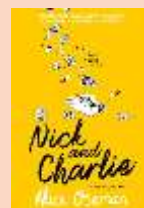
The Heartstopper Yearbook by Alice Oseman

The full-colour *Heartstopper Yearbook* is packed full of exclusive content from the *Heartstopper* universe - including never-before-seen illustrations, an exclusive mini-comic, a look back at Alice's *Heartstopper* artwork over the years, character profiles, trivia, and insights into her creative process - all narrated by a cartoon version of Alice herself. By the winner of the YA Book Prize, *Heartstopper* is about love, friendship, loyalty and mental illness. It encompasses all the small stories of Nick and Charlie's lives that together make up something larger, which speaks to all of us.



Nick and Charlie by Alice Oseman

Charlie: "I have been going out with Nick Nelson for two years. He likes rugby, Formula 1, dogs, the Marvel universe, the sound felt-tips make on paper, rain and drawing on shoes. He also likes me." Nick: "Things me and Charlie Spring do together include: Watch films. Sit in the same room on different laptops. Text each other from different rooms. Make out. Make food. Make drinks. Get drunk. Talk. Argue. Laugh. Maybe we're kind of boring. But that's fine with us." Everyone knows that Nick and Charlie are the perfect couple - that they're inseparable. But now Nick is leaving for university, and Charlie will be left behind at Sixth Form. Everyone's asking if they're staying together, which is a stupid question - they're 'Nick and Charlie', for God's sake! But as the time to say goodbye gets inevitably closer, both Nick and Charlie question whether their love is strong enough to survive being apart. Or are they delaying the inevitable? Because everyone knows that first loves rarely last forever...



Heartstopper Volume 1 by Alice Oseman

Charlie, a highly-strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful, soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...? Charlie Spring is in Year 10 at Truham Grammar School for Boys. The past year hasn't been too great, but at least he's not being bullied anymore. Nick Nelson is in Year 11 and on the school rugby team. He's heard a little about Charlie - the kid who was outed last year and bullied for a few months - but he's never had the opportunity to talk to him. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and sometimes good things are waiting just around the corner...



Heartstopper Volume 2 by Alice Oseman

Nick and Charlie are best friends. Nick knows Charlie's gay, and Charlie is sure that Nick isn't. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is discovering all kinds of things about his friends, his family ... and himself.

The Week Junior Book Awards 2024 Shortlists Announced

The Week Junior Book Awards were created in 2023 to celebrate children's books and honour creative excellence within the industry. The award is run in partnership with *The Bookseller*, a British publishing magazine. Thirteen categories make up the awards, including six new categories for this year. The new categories are Animals and Nature, Graphic Novel, Hobbies and Interests, Picture Book, Poetry, and Wellbeing. The award ceremony for this year's winners will be held on the 30th of September. This year's judges include BBC Newsround presenter Ricky Boletto, Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho, author Sophie Dahl, children's TV presenter and author Jess French, Comics Laureate Bobby Joseph, and author S.F. Said. Each winning author will receive a trophy at the awards ceremony, the right to use the winners' digital logo in their online book promotion, and a variety of follow-up promotions. The awards are pitched quite young, but we have a couple of the books from this year's Children's Book of the Year: Older Fiction category in the library (see below). Last year's Older Fiction winner was a book by one of this year's judges: *Tyger* by S.F. Said.

You can find all of this year's Junior Book Awards shortlists [here](https://www.thebookseller.com/junior-book-awards-2024-shortlists).

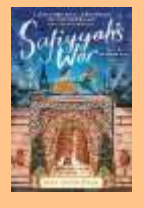
Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell

The day Christopher saved a drowning baby griffin from a hidden lake would change his life forever. It's the day he learned about the Archipelago, a cluster of unmapped islands where magical creatures of every kind have thrived for thousands of years - until now. And it's the day he met Mal, a girl on the run who desperately needs his help. Mal and Christopher embark on a wild adventure, racing from island to island, searching for someone who can explain why the magic is fading and why magical creatures are suddenly dying. They consult sphinxes, battle kraken, and negotiate with dragons. But the closer they get to the dark truth of what's happening, the clearer it becomes: No one else can fix this. If the Archipelago is to be saved, Mal and Christopher will have to do it themselves.



Safiyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan

War comes to the streets of Paris and Safiyah's life changes for ever. Her best friend's family have fled, and the bombing makes her afraid to leave the mosque where she lives. But when her father is arrested by the Nazis for his secret Resistance work, it falls to Safiyah to run the dangerous errands around the city. It's not long before hundreds of persecuted Jews seek sanctuary at the mosque. Can Safiyah find the courage to enter the treacherous catacombs under Paris and lead the Jews to safety?



"The love of books is among the choicest gifts of the gods."—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



Keedie by Elle McNicoll

Set in Juniper five years before *A Kind of Spark*, *Keedie* is a powerful coming-of-age story that thoughtfully tackles bullying, navigating friendships, and the joys and difficulties of being an autistic teenager. As Keedie and her twin sister Nina approach their fourteenth birthday, they seem to only be growing further apart. Keedie instead feels drawn to, and fiercely protective of, their quiet younger sister Addie - who on the surface is the opposite of loud and fiery Keedie, but in fact they have more in common than anyone knows.



Ovid's Metamorphoses translated by Stephanie McCarter

The first female translator of the epic into English in over sixty years, Stephanie McCarter addresses accuracy in translation and its representation of women, gendered dynamics of power, and sexual violence in Ovid's classic. Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is an epic poem, but one that upturns almost every convention. There is no main hero, no central conflict, and no sustained objective. What it is about (power, defiance, art, love, abuse, grief, rape, war, beauty, and so on) is as changeable as the beings that inhabit its pages. The sustained thread is power and how it transforms us, both those of us who have it and those of us who do not. For those who are brutalized and traumatized, transformation is often the outward manifestation of their trauma. A beautiful virgin is caught in the gaze of someone more powerful who rapes or tries to rape them, and they ultimately are turned into a tree or a lake or a stone or a bird. The victim's objectification is clear: They are first a visual object, then a sexual object, and finally simply an object. Around 50 of the epic's tales involve rape or attempted rape of women. Past translations have obscured or mitigated Ovid's language so that rape appears to be consensual sex. Through her translation, McCarter considers the responsibility of handling sexual and social dynamics.



The Undercover Economist Strikes Back by Tim Harford

Thanks to the worldwide financial upheaval, economics is no longer a topic we can ignore. From politicians to hedge-fund managers to middle-class IRA holders, everyone must pay attention to how and why the global economy works the way it does. Enter Financial Times columnist and bestselling author Tim Harford. In this new book that demystifies macroeconomics, Harford strips away the spin, the hype, and the jargon to reveal the truth about how the world's economy actually works. With the wit of a raconteur and the clear grasp of an expert, Harford explains what's really happening beyond today's headlines, why all of us should care, and what we can do about it to understand it better.



This Winter by Alice Oseman

I used to think that difficult was better than boring, but I know better now... I'm not going to think about the past few months, about Charlie and me, and all of the sad. I'm going to block it all out. Just for today. "Happy Christmas," I say. The festive season isn't always happy for Tori and her brother Charlie. And this year's going to be harder than most.



Goodreads' Most Popular Horror Novels of the Past Five Years

In honour of the Halloween season, Goodreads have assembled a collection of the 78 most popular horror novels of the past five years, according to Goodreads regulars. The titles were selected and sequenced by tracking user ratings and reviews, and noting which books end up on Goodreaders' personal digital shelves - each title on the list also has a rating of 3.5-stars or above. Goodreads says of great horror books: "The Halloween horror movie season is upon us, and the theaters are filled with options. But serious book people can tell you: For a really terrifying experience, nothing beats a good horror novel. It's a head-game thing. A skilled novelist can turn your own imagination against you, encouraging you to imagine horrors that are way scarier than anything you find on the screen. You become complicit in the horror. It's your brain providing the imagery, after all." Click [here](https://www.goodreads.com/horror) to read the full list.

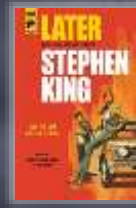
Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

After receiving a frantic letter from her newlywed cousin begging for someone to save her from a mysterious doom, socialite Noemi Taboada heads to High Place, a distant house in the Mexican countryside. She's not sure what she will find - her cousin's husband, a handsome Englishman, is a stranger, and Noemi knows little about the region. Noemi is more suited for cocktail parties than amateur sleuthing. But she's also tough and smart, with an indomitable will, and she is not afraid: not of her cousin's new alluring, menacing husband; not of his father; and not even of the house itself, which begins to invade Noemi's dreams with dark visions. For there are many secrets behind the walls of High Place. The family's once colossal wealth and faded mining empire keeps them safe from prying eyes, but as Noemi digs deeper, she unearths stories of violence and madness.



Later by Stephen King

The son of a struggling single mother, Jamie Conklin just wants an ordinary childhood. But Jamie is no ordinary child. Born with an unnatural ability his mom urges him to keep secret, Jamie can see what no one else can see and learn what no one else can learn. But the cost of using this ability is higher than Jamie can imagine - as he discovers when an NYPD detective draws him into the pursuit of a killer who has threatened to strike from beyond the grave.



The Only Good Indians by Stephen Graham Jones

Ricky, Gabe, Lewis and Cassidy are men bound to their heritage, bound by society, and trapped in the endless expanses of the landscape. Now, ten years after a fateful elk hunt, which remains a closely guarded secret between them, these men - and their children - must face a ferocious spirit that is coming for them, one at a time. A spirit which wears the faces of the ones they love, tearing a path into their homes, their families and their most sacred moments of faith. Ten years after that fateful hunt, these men are being stalked themselves. Soaked with a powerful gothic atmosphere, the endless expanse of the landscape press down on these men - and their children - as the ferocious spirit comes for them one at a time.



The Last House on Needless Street by Catriona Ward

This is the story of a serial killer. A stolen child. Revenge. Death. And an ordinary house at the end of an ordinary street. All these things are true. And yet they are all lies... You think you know what's inside the last house on Needless Street. You think you've read this story before. That's where you're wrong. In the dark forest at the end of Needless Street, lies something buried. But it's not what you think...



Monstrillo by Gerardo Sámama Córdova

Grieving mother Magos cuts out a piece of her deceased eleven-year-old son Santiago's lung. Acting on fierce maternal instinct and the dubious logic of an old folktale, she nurtures the lung until it gains sentience, growing into the carnivorous little *Monstrillo* she keeps hidden within the walls of her family's decaying Mexico City estate. Eventually, *Monstrillo* begins to resemble the Santiago he once was, but his innate impulses—though curbed by his biological and chosen family's communal care—threaten to destroy this fragile second chance at life.



Salman Rushdie Writing First Work of Fiction Since 2022 Knife Attack

Sir Salman Rushdie is working on his first work of fiction since he was the victim of a knife attack in 2022. Rushdie spent years in hiding after the 1988 publication of *The Satanic Verses* led to death threats against him. Before the event at which the attack occurred in 2022, he had a prescient nightmare about an attack but ultimately decided to see it through, motivated by the audience and compensation. Following the stabbing incident, Rushdie suffered severe injuries, including damage to his liver and the loss of sight in one eye, which he finds distressing daily. Despite these challenges, he feels fortunate to have avoided brain damage. Rushdie's upcoming trial against his alleged attacker Hadi Matar has been delayed, with discussions about Rushdie's memoir about the events, *Knife*, potentially influencing the case. In the memoir, he expresses his thoughts on violence, questioning whether disingenuousness justifies such actions. Rushdie reflects on the attack, noting how even in crisis, he thought about his belongings, revealing a survival instinct. In the book, his wife, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, also shares her emotional response to the attack and the changes it brought to their lives. Rushdie describes *Knife*, as a mix of love and horror, emphasizing that love ultimately triumphed over hatred while grappling with something horribly tangible. He plans to continue public appearances but with heightened security, asserting his desire to live freely despite the risks. The trilogy of novellas he is currently working on each relate to one of "the three worlds in [his] life: India and England and America. And they all in some way consider the idea of an ending." Read more [here](https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-67890).



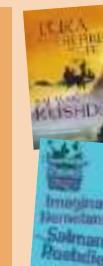
Haroun and the Sea of Stories by Salman Rushdie

Haroun's father is the greatest of all storytellers. His magical stories bring laughter to the sad city of Alifbay. But one day something goes wrong and his father runs out of stories to tell. Haroun is determined to return the storyteller's gift to his father. So, he flies off on the back of the Hoopie bird to the Sea of Stories - and a fantastic adventure begins.



Luka and the Fire of Life by Salman Rushdie

Imagine you are Luka, a twelve-year-old boy who has to save the life of the storyteller father you adore. Imagine you have two loyal companions by your side: a bear called Dog who can sing and a dog called Bear who can dance. Imagine you must now embark on a journey through the Magic World to steal the Fire of Life, a seemingly impossible and exceedingly dangerous task... With *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* Salman Rushdie proved that he is one of the best contemporary writers of fables, and it proved to be one of his most popular books with readers of all ages. While *Haroun* was written as a gift for his first son, Luka and the Fire of Life, the story of Haroun's younger brother, is a gift for his second son on his twelfth birthday.



Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism, 1981-1991 by Salman Rushdie

Drawing from two political and several literary homelands, this collection presents a remarkable series of trenchant essays, demonstrating the full range and force of Salman Rushdie's remarkable imaginative and observational powers. With candour, eloquence and indignation he carefully examines an expanse of topics; including the politics of India and Pakistan, censorship, the Labour Party, Palestinian identity, contemporary film and late-twentieth century race, religion and politics. Elsewhere he trains his eye on literature and fellow writers, from Julian Barnes on love to the politics of George Orwell's 'Inside the Whale', providing fresh insight on Kipling, V.S. Naipaul, Graham Greene, John le Carré, Raymond Carver, Philip Roth and Thomas Pynchon among others. Profound, passionate and insightful, *Imaginary Homelands* is a masterful collection from one of the greatest writers working today.

Sherlock Holmes Weekend

Sherlock Holmes Weekend is a bi-annual event held in Cape May, New Jersey. This year it is taking place from 14th-16th of October. The event features an original Sherlock Holmes story written by different writers, and played out by actors, and is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Centre for Arts & Humanities. Holmes' creator, Scottish author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is believed to have been inspired by his teacher Doctor Joseph when creating Holmes: a lone character solving crimes with science and a magnifying glass. Doyle was the first author ever to create a character with such characteristics. Since his first literary appearance in 1887, Sherlock Holmes has become a beloved and iconic fictional detective, featuring in numerous adaptations in various forms of media.



Sherlock Holmes #1: A Study in Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle

The reader first encounters Holmes through the eyes of Dr. John Watson, who is convalescing in the wake of the Afghanistan war. The two strike up a friendship, which is cemented by the grim discovery of a dead man in a boarding house. The murdered man's face is contorted in an expression of abject horror, but he bears no wounds. The two investigate the mysterious death, and so begins a world-famous relationship. "A Study in Scarlet" is the first time the world got a taste of the formidable powers of deduction and investigative skills of Sherlock Holmes. Such was the book's power, and it certainly wouldn't be the last.



Sherlock Holmes #2: The Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle

A dense yellow mist swirls in the streets of London as Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson accompany a beautiful young woman to a sinister assignation. For Mary Marston has received several large pearls - one a year for the last six years - and now a mystery letter telling her she is a wronged woman. If she would seek justice she is to meet her unknown benefactor, bringing with her two companions. But unbeknownst to them all, others stalk London's fog-enshrouded streets: a one-legged ruffian with revenge on his mind - and his companion, who places no value on human life...



Sherlock Holmes #3: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes is the series of short stories that made the fortunes of the Strand magazine, in which they were first published, and won immense popularity for Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. The detective is at the height of his powers and the volume is full of famous cases, including 'The Red-Headed League', 'The Blue Carbuncle', and 'The Speckled Band'.



Sherlock Holmes #5: The Hound of the Baskervilles

Holmes and Watson face a so-called family curse on Dartmoor in 1889. Asked by an acquaintance to investigate the recent death of Sir Charles Baskerville and protect the next of kin, Sir Henry Baskerville, Holmes dismisses the curse as nonsense. At Baskerville Hall, Watson must keep on his toes to protect Sir Henry as Holmes gathers clues. From devilish hounds to the deadly Grimpen Mire to an escaped convict, England's West Country seems determined to take Sir Henry like it took his kin.

