



SPRING

"Reading a book is like re-writing it for yourself. You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the world." – Angela Carter

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



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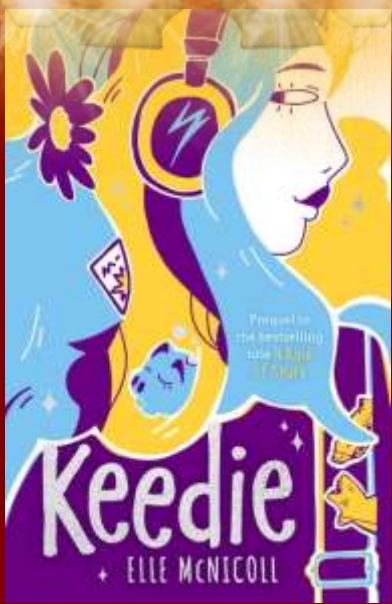
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Wish List Spotlight:

Keedie by Elle McNicoll

Set in Juniper five years before *A Kind of Spark* comes a powerful coming-of-age story from award-winning author Elle McNicoll.

As Keedie and her twin 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.



On This Day in History... The Birth of Angela Carter, 7th May 1940



Angela Carter (1940-1992) was an English novelist, short story writer, poet and journalist. She is best known for her feminist works of magical realism, including the short story collection *The Bloody Chamber*, for which she rewrote classic fairy tales and folk tales to deal with issues of feminism and metamorphosis.

Carter studied English Literature at the University of Bristol, and shortly thereafter relocated to Tokyo for two years, she claims it was there that she "learnt what it is to be a woman and became radicalised". Carter continued to travel widely, exploring the United States, Asia, and Europe. Throughout her career she published 9 novels, 6 short story collections, 3 poetry collections, 5 children's books, and a host of plays, non-fiction, articles, and essays. In 2008, *The Times* newspaper ranked Angela Carter 10th in their list of The Greatest British Writers Since 1945, and in 2012, her novel *Nights at the Circus* was selected the best ever winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize (one of Britain's oldest literary prizes), which it originally won in 1984.

Carter passed away in 1992 at the age of 51 after developing lung cancer. At the time of her death, she was working on a sequel to Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, based on the life of Jane's stepdaughter Adèle Varens. Only a synopsis survives of the unfinished work.

Burning Your Boots by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

As well as her eight novels, Angela Carter published four wonderful collections of short stories during her lifetime and contributed stories to several anthologies. The stories were scattered amongst different publishers, and a couple of the volumes are now out of print. In *Burning your Boots* they are gathered for the first time; this is a key collection and a major event for Angela Carter aficionados.



Wise Children by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Dora and Nora Chance are a famous song-and-dance team of the British music halls. Billed as *The Lucky Chances*, the sisters are the illegitimate and unacknowledged daughters of Sir Melchior Hazard, the greatest Shakespearean actor of his day. At once ribald and sentimental, glittery and tender, this rambunctious family saga is Angela Carter at her bewitching best.



The Magic Toyshop by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

One night Melanie walks through the garden in her mother's wedding dress. The next morning her world is shattered. Forced to leave the comfortable home of her childhood, she is sent to London to live with relatives she never met: Aunt Margaret, beautiful and speechless, and her brothers, Francie, whose graceful music belies his clumsy nature, and the volatile Finn, who kisses Melanie in the ruins of the pleasure garden. And brooding Uncle Philip loves only the life-sized wooden puppets he creates in his toyshops. The classic gothic novel established Angela Carter as one of our most imaginative writers and augurs the themes of her later creative works.

The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Discover Angela Carter's classic feminist retelling of favourite fairy tales interwoven by a master of seductive, luminous storytelling. From familiar fairy tales and legends - Red Riding Hood, Bluebeard, Puss in Boots, Beauty and the Beast, vampires and werewolves - Angela Carter has created an absorbing collection of dark, sensual, fantastic stories.



Nights at the Circus by Angela Carter
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Is Sophie Fevvers, toast of Europe's capitals, part swan...or all fake? Courtied by the Prince of Wales and painted by Toulouse-Lautrec, she is an aerialiste extraordinaire and star of Colonel Kearney's circus. She is also part woman, part swan. Jack Walsler, an American journalist, is on a quest to discover the truth behind her identity. Dazzled by his love for her, and desperate for the scoop of a lifetime, Walsler has no choice but to join the circus on its magical tour through turn-of-the-nineteenth-century London, St Petersburg and Siberia.

NEW

Nana by Emile Zola
(Recommended for Older Readers)

When the voluptuous blonde Nana stands on the stage of the Paris variety theatre, everyone senses that she has not a shred of talent. But that doesn't matter, because she has something else... Nana, the child from the gutter, daughter of a laundress, endowed with great sensual charms, rises to become the most sought-after courtesan in Parisian society. She becomes an idol to whom men throw themselves at the feet. Bankers sacrifice entire fortunes for her, aristocrats sacrifice their dignity, young people commit suicide because of her. Nana, in her boundless greed and wastefulness, walks over them unmoved, beautiful as a swamp blossom, a symbol of a declining era.



Perfect #2: The Trouble with Perfect by Helena Duggan

Having uncovered the secrets that lay behind the spookily pristine town of Perfect, Violet and the townsfolk are enjoying their new freedom from the maniacal rule of the evil Archer twins. But have they really seen the last of Edward Archer? Why is Boy acting strangely? And who is masterminding a scary zombie army?

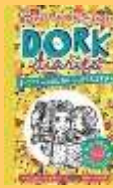
The Twyford Code by Janice Hallett

Forty years ago, Steven Smith found a copy of a famous children's book, its margins full of strange markings and annotations. He took it to his remedial English teacher, Miss Isles, who became convinced it was the key to solving a puzzle. That a message in secret code ran through all Edith Twyford's novels. Then Miss Isles disappeared on a class field trip, and Steven's memory won't allow him to remember what happened. Now, out of prison after a long stretch, Steven decides to investigate the mystery that has haunted him for decades. Was Miss Isles murdered? Was she deluded? Or was she right about the code? And is it still in use today? Desperate to recover his memories and find out what really happened to Miss Isles, Steven revisits the people and places of his childhood. But it soon becomes clear that Edith Twyford wasn't just a writer of forgotten children's stories. The Twyford Code has great power, and he isn't the only one trying to solve it...



Hivemind: The New Science of Tribalism in Our Divided World by Sarah Rose Cavanagh

Hivemind: A collective consciousness in which we share consensus thoughts, emotions, and opinions; a phenomenon whereby a group of people function as if with a single mind. Our views of the world are shaped by the stories told by our self-selected communities. Whether seeking out groups that share our tastes, our faith, our heritage, or other interests, since the dawn of time we have taken comfort in defining ourselves through our social groups. But what happens when we only socialize with our chosen group, to the point that we lose the ability to connect to people who don't share our passions? What happens when our tribes merely confirm our world view, rather than expand it? Leading a narrative journey from the site of the Charlottesville riots to the boardrooms of Facebook, considering such diverse topics as zombies, neuroscience, and honeybees, psychologist and emotion regulation specialist Sarah Rose Cavanagh leaves no stone unturned in her quest to understand how social technology is reshaping the way we socialize. It's not possible to turn back the clocks, and Cavanagh argues that there's no need to; instead, she presents a fully examined and thoughtful call to cut through our online tribalism, dial back our moral panic about screens and mental health, and shore up our sense of community.



Dork Diaries #14: Spectacular Superstar by Rachel Renée Russell

Nikki Maxwell's summer is packed with drama in this fourteenth instalment of the bestselling Dork Diaries series. Nikki and her bandmates are looking forward to an AWESOME summer on tour as the opening act for the world famous Bad Boyz! Nikki is a little worried when her frenemy, MacKenzie Hollister, weasels her way on to the tour. But she has a total MELTDOWN when she learns that MacKenzie is her new roommate! Will Nikki survive her dream tour turning into a nightmare?!



My Year of Rest and Relaxation by Ottessa Moshfegh
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Our narrator should be happy, shouldn't she? She's young, thin, pretty, a recent Columbia graduate, works an easy job at a hip art gallery, lives in an apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan paid for, like the rest of her needs, by her inheritance. But there is a dark and vacuous hole in her heart, and it isn't just the loss of her parents, or the way her Wall Street boyfriend treats her, or her sadomasochistic relationship with her best friend, Reva. It's the year 2000 in a city aglitter with wealth and possibility; what could be so terribly wrong?

International Dylan Thomas Day



International Dylan Thomas Day is observed annually on the 14th of May: the anniversary of the date his play *Under Milk Wood* was first read on stage in 1954. Hannah Ellis, Dylan Thomas' granddaughter, and the Creative Coordinator for his literary estate, said of the day: "International Dylan Thomas Day gives us a chance each year to celebrate Dylan Thomas' achievements. There is still the enthusiasm for a national day to mark my grandfather's life and legacy and we want to keep May 14th as a prominent date on the literary calendar. Dylan Thomas' writing has travelled through time – it is as relevant today in our troubled times as when it was written sixty-five years ago ... His poetry lives on. We invite you to tell us about how you are going to mark the day and encourage you, wholeheartedly, to get involved and to love the words." Find out more [here](#).

Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night by Dylan Thomas

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words might have danced in a green bay,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray,
Do not go gentle into that good night,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

[Click here to read more poems by Dylan Thomas](#)

Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas

Under Milk Wood takes the form of an emotive and hilarious account of a spring day in the fictional Welsh seaside village of Llareggub. We learn of the inhabitants' dreams and desires, their loves, and regrets. The play introduces us to characters such as Captain Cat who dreams of his drowned former seafellows and Nogogo Boyo who dreams of nothing at all. It is a unique and touching depiction of a village that has 'fallen head over bells in love'. The First Voice narration reveals the ordinary world of daily happenings and events, while the Second Voice conveys the intimate, innermost thoughts of the fascinating folk of Llareggub.



A Reader's Guide to Dylan Thomas by William York Tindall

Dylan Thomas is one of the most brilliant and difficult of modern poets. Pantheist, surrealist, bard, his extraordinary poems present problems for even the most expert reader. Thomas, like Joyce, is a writer who almost demands acts of exegesis. A friend of Thomas and one of the leading experts in the country on modern writing, William York Tindall brings both enormous erudition and high literary sensitivity to his poem-by-poem analysis of the great Welsh poet's verse.

Miscellany One: Poems, Stories, Broadcasts by Dylan Thomas

Poetry in this collection includes memorable pieces such as 'The Force that through the Green Fuse drives the Flower' and 'Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night', and a number not found in the usual anthologies. The prose includes the script 'Return Journey' in which a very original form of radio drama is conceived, a form which the poet fully worked out in *Under Milk Wood*. Four admirable stories also exhibit Thomas's kindly, humorous, and sometimes compassionate view of life.

Scottish Artist Collects Hundreds of Copies of Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Edinburgh-based sculptor Hans K Clausen has been collecting 1,984 copies of George Orwell's dystopian classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, in order to create an art installation based on the book to mark its 75th year since publication.

Copies of the book have been donated to Clausen from countries including Ukraine, Germany, and China. The condition of the books varies wildly; some are in mint condition, others are dog-eared, tea-stained, heavily annotated or turned into griffitted artworks.' Some standouts of the collection include a 'water-stained first edition, a secret love letter from a married woman to her first love, and a graphic novel version from Orwell's son Richard Blair.'

The resulting artwork will be a 'living sculpture'



wherein visitors are 'invited to open and read every volume.' The installation will be located in the community hall of Jura, the Hebridean island where a penniless Orwell wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in the late 1940s. The installation will be named the Winston Smith Library of Victory and Truth, a reference to the novel's protagonist. Poignantly, many of the books have been posted addressed to Winston Smith, 'care of Hans K Clausen'.

Although Clausen wasn't successful in receiving funding for his work, the exhibition has the blessing of the Orwell Society. Clausen said of his installation that it is designed to be "a monument [to] the defiance of the printed word". He is currently about 100 volumes short of his target.

[Click here to read the original Guardian article by Severin Carrell](#)

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell

Nineteen Eighty-Four (also published as 1984) is a dystopian social science fiction novel and cautionary tale by English writer George Orwell. It was published on 8 June 1949 by Secker & Warburg as Orwell's ninth and final book completed in his lifetime. Thematically, it centres on the consequences of totalitarianism, mass surveillance and repressive regimentation of people and behaviours within society. Orwell, a democratic socialist, modelled the authoritarian state in the novel on Stalinist Russia and Nazi Germany. More broadly, the novel examines the role of truth and facts within societies and the ways in which they can be manipulated. The story takes place in an imagined future in the year 1984, when much of the world is in perpetual war. Great Britain, now known as Airstrip One, has become a province of the totalitarian superstate Oceania, which is led by Big Brother, a dictatorial leader supported by an intense cult of personality manufactured by the Party's Thought Police. Through the Ministry of Truth, the Party engages in omnipresent government surveillance, historical negationism, and constant propaganda to persecute individuality and independent thinking.



Where to Start With: Franz Kafka

Franz Kafka (1883-1924) was a prolific author and is widely regarded as one of the major figures of 20th-century literature. Over his career he wrote three novels, over 100 short stories, and numerous letters and essays. His work was notable for fusing realism and the fantastic, and typically features isolated protagonists 'facing bizarre or surrealistic predicaments and incomprehensible socio-bureaucratic powers.' Because Kafka's works are so extensive, it can be difficult to know where to begin. Karolina Watroba at the *Guardian* has put together a list of entry points to his work. Below are the relevant works we have in the library.

[Click here to read the original Guardian article by Karolina Watroba](#)

The Entry Point: The Trial by Franz Kafka
(Recommended for Older Readers)

A terrifying psychological trip into the life of one Joseph K., an ordinary man who wakes up one day to find himself accused of a crime he did not commit, a crime whose nature is never revealed to him. Once arrested, he is released, but must report to court on a regular basis - an event that proves maddening, as nothing is ever resolved. As he grows more uncertain of his fate, his personal life - including work at a bank and his relations with his landlady and a young woman who lives next door - becomes increasingly unpredictable. As K. tries to gain control, he succeeds only in accelerating his own excruciating downward spiral.



If You're in a Rush: Collected Stories by Franz Kafka
(Recommended for Older Readers)

Kafka was an obsessive writer who produced a huge volume of stories, novels, diaries and letters in his brief lifetime. The present volume includes all his available shorter fiction in a new collection edited and introduced by Gabriel Jospovici. The stories, which range from tiny fragments to substantial narratives, have been arranged both to illuminate one another and to illustrate Kafka's evolution as a writer - which, as Professor Jospovici shows, is more complex and radical than often thought.



Worth Persevering With: The Castle by Franz Kafka

The Castle is the story of K., the unwanted Land Surveyor who is never to be admitted to the Castle nor accepted in the village, and yet cannot go home. As he encounters dualities of certainty and doubt, hope and fear, and reason and nonsense, K.'s struggles in the absurd, labyrinthine world where he finds himself seem to reveal an inexplicable truth about the nature of existence. Kafka began *The Castle* in 1922 and it was never finished, yet this, the last of his three great novels, draws fascinating conclusions that make it feel strangely complete.



If You Only Read One: The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

The Metamorphosis is a novella by Franz Kafka, first published in 1915. It has been cited as one of the seminal works of fiction of the 20th century and is studied in colleges and universities across the Western world. The story begins with a traveling salesman, Gregor Samsa, waking to find himself transformed (metamorphosed) into a large, monstrous insect-like creature. The cause of Samsa's transformation is never revealed, and Kafka himself never gave an explanation. The rest of Kafka's novella deals with Gregor's attempts to adjust to his new condition as he deals with being burdensome to his parents and sister, who are repulsed by the horrible, verminous creature Gregor has become.

