

Library and Knowledge Services

Read to Relax

A selection of books from our Free Time Collection

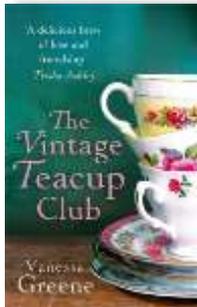
This collection, available to all library members, is to encourage everyone to get reading, either to help learning or as a stress buster.

- ❖ Browse our library catalogue: <http://tiny.cc/qj08fw> ❖
Type 'fiction' in the search box to list all *Read to Relax* books

The Vintage Teacup Club

Vanessa Greene

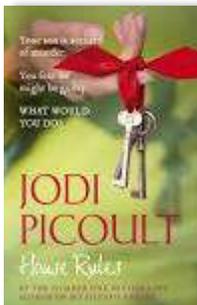
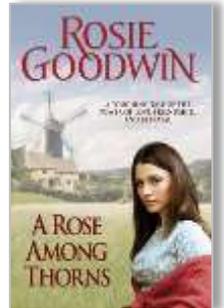
At a car boot sale, three very different women meet and fall for the same vintage tea set. They decide to share it - and form a friendship that changes their lives. Dealing with friendship and families, relationships and careers, highs and lows.



A Rose Among Thorns

Rosie Goodwin

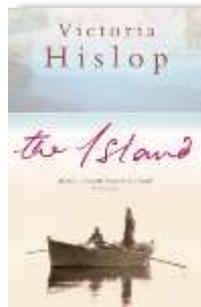
Despite losing her mother, Sassy has grown up surrounded by love: although poor, she is happy. Her father marries wealthy widow Elizabeth, who despairs of a step-daughter more at ease with servants than those above stairs.



House Rules

Jodie Picoult

Teenager Jacob is brilliant at maths, wicked sense of humour, extraordinarily organised, hopeless at reading social cues. He has Asperger's and is locked in his own world. Jacob tries to be like everyone else, but doesn't know how.



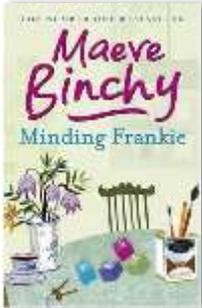
The Island

Victoria Hislop

A dramatic tale of four generations, rent by war, illicit love, violence and leprosy, from the thirties, through the war, to the present day. Alexis Fielding longs to find out about her mother's past.

Minding Frankie

Maeve Binchy



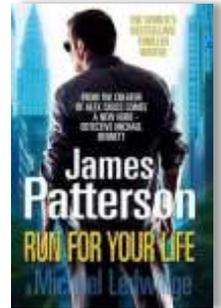
Baby Frankie has an unusual family. Her mother is desperate to find someone to take care of her child. This is a story about unconventional families, and relationships which aren't quite what they seem.

Run For Your Life

James Patterson

A man who calls himself 'the Teacher' is devising a meticulous plan.

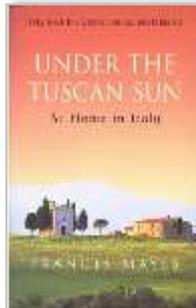
Intent on exacting revenge and causing mass hysteria, he embarks on the worst killing spree the city has ever seen. The whole New York Police Department is tested to its limits.



Under the Tuscan Sun

Frances Mayes

In the vibrant local markets and hill towns, the author explores the nuances of the Italian landscape, history and cuisine. Each adventure yields delightful surprises. Mayes writes a celebration of the extraordinary quality of life in Tuscany.



New Moon

Stephanie Meyer

For Bella, there is one thing more important than life itself: Edward. But being in love with a vampire is dangerous. As their relationship threatens all that is near and dear, they realise their troubles are just beginning.

Long Way Down

Ewan McGregor, Charley Boorman



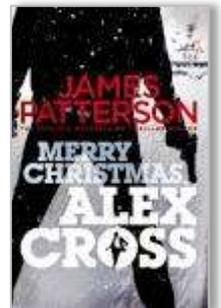
After their fantastic trip round the world in 2004, fellow actors and bike fanatics Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman couldn't shake the travel bug. And after an inspirational UNICEF visit to Africa, they set off

on a 15,000-mile journey with two new BMWs.

Merry Christmas

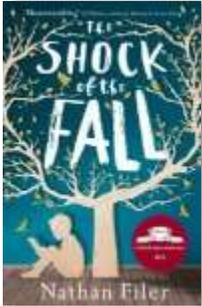
James Patterson

A father is threatening to murder his own children and his ex-wife. Then just as the insanity peaks, a second horrific situation explodes that puts millions of people at risk. This is the most shocking Alex Cross novel yet: a breakneck-paced and heart-pounding adrenaline rush of a thriller.



The Shock of the Fall

Nathan Filer



This is a novel about one man's descent into mental illness. A story of living with schizophrenia, complicated by grief. 'His name's Simon. I think you're going to like him. But in a couple of pages he'll be dead.'

Breaking Dawn

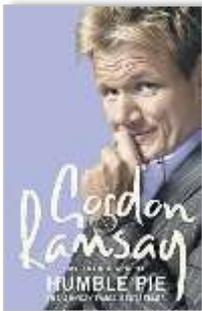
Stephanie Meyer

In love with a vampire is both fantasy and nightmare for Bella Swan. Her choice to join the dark of immortals or pursue a fully human life has become the thread from which the fate of two tribes hangs.



Humble Pie: My Autobiography

Gordon Ramsay



Gordon Ramsay became the world's most famous and infamous chef. This autobiography talks about his difficult childhood - his father's alcoholism and violence, his brother's heroin addiction, his failed

first career as a footballer, his working relationship (and subsequent feud) with Marco Pierre White, and his kitchen life.

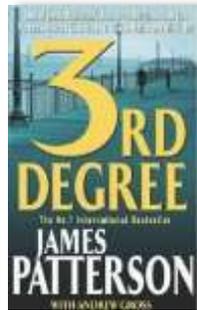


Two Brothers

Ben Elton

A poignant novel set in Berlin between 1920 and 1945. In 1920 two babies were born, two brothers, twins in all but blood. As Germany marches into its Nazi

Armageddon, the ties of family, friendship and love are tested to the very limits.



3rd Degree

James Patterson

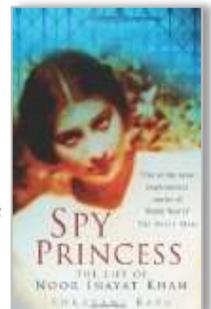
Detective Lindsay Boxer is enjoying a quiet afternoon when a townhouse across the street explodes. A note signed 'August Spies' is found at the scene, and the body of

an infant who was asleep in the house cannot be found.

Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan

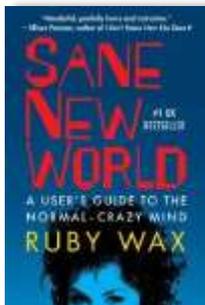
Shrabani Basu

Noor Inayat Khan became a British secret agent for SOE during World War II. This is the story of her life, from her birth in Moscow - to her capture by the Germans. She was awarded the George Cross and, under torture, revealed nothing, not even her own real name.



Sane New World:

A User's Guide to the Normal-Crazy Mind
Ruby Wax

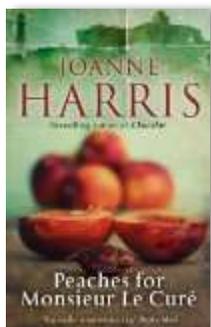


Why we sabotage our sanity, how our brains work and how we can rewire our thinking to find calm in a frenetic world. She has been on tough journey herself battling depression to achieving a degree.

Peaches for Monsieur Le Curé

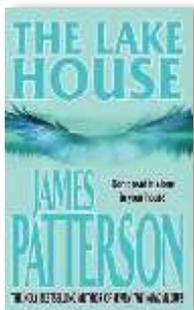
Joanne Harris

When Vianne Rocher receives a letter from beyond the grave, she allows the wind to blow her back to the village in France where, eight years ago, she opened up a chocolate shop. Father Reynaud, Vianne's adversary, is disgraced. Could it be that Vianne is the only one who can save him?

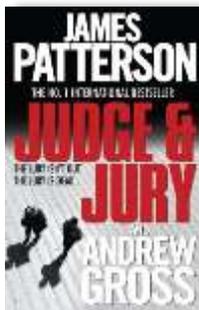


The Lake House

James Patterson



Frannie's life's turned upside down when she rescues six children from a school that created them. Frannie is suing for custody and the case involves extraordinary creatures; ensuring there is no happy ending.



Judge & Jury

James Patterson

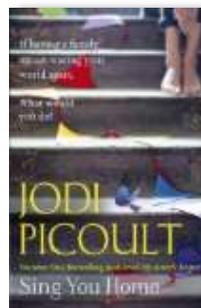
Andie DeGrasse, aspiring actress and single mother, does not want to do jury service. But despite her attempts to get dismissed, she still ends up as Juror No.11

in a landmark trial against notorious Mafia Don, Dominic Cavallo.

Sing You Home

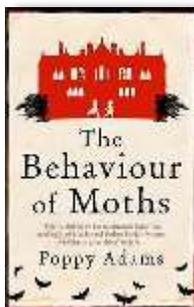
Jodi Picoult

In the aftermath of loss and divorce, Zoe throws herself into her career as a music therapist. When she allows herself to start thinking of children again, she remembers that there are still frozen embryos that she and her husband never used. *Sing You Home* is accompanied by a soundtrack available to download or listen to online.



The Behaviour of Moths

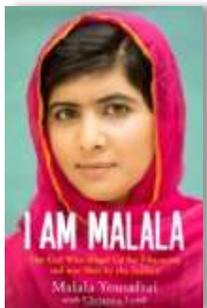
Poppy Adams



Ginny waits for her sister to return to the crumbling mansion that was once their idyllic childhood home. Vivien has not set foot in the house since she left, forty-seven years ago; Ginny, the reclusive moth expert, has rarely ventured outside it. This novel tells a disquieting story of two sisters and the ties that bind - sometimes a little too tightly.

I Am Malala

Malala You Safzai

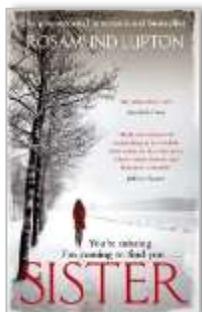


When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On 9 October 2012, she was shot in the head; few expected her to survive.

Sister

Rosamund Lupton

Beatrice's younger sister, Tess, is missing. As she learns about the circumstances surrounding her sister's disappearance, she is stunned to discover how little she knows of her life. She embarks on a dangerous journey to discover the truth, no matter the cost.



Eclipse

Stephanie Meyer

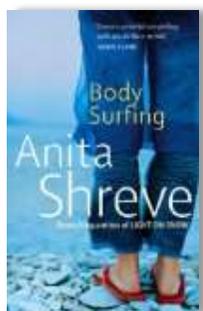
As Seattle is ravaged by mysterious killings and a malicious vampire continues her quest for revenge, Bella once again finds herself surrounded by danger. With her graduation quickly approaching, Bella has one more decision to make: life or death. But which is which?



The Piano

Jane Campion

Ada, her nine-year-old illegitimate daughter Flora, and her piano, leave Scotland to arrive in the remote bush of 19th-century New Zealand. Although mute, she does not consider herself silent as her piano is the vehicle of her expression.



Body Surfing

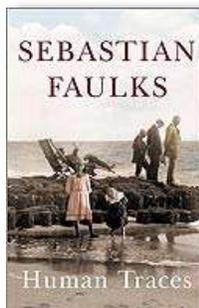
Anita Shreve

Sydney has already been divorced and once widowed. Trying to find her footing again, she has answered an advertisement to tutor the teenage daughter of a well-to-do couple.

Shreve weaves a story about risk, family, and the supreme courage that it takes to love.

Human Traces

Sebastian Faulks

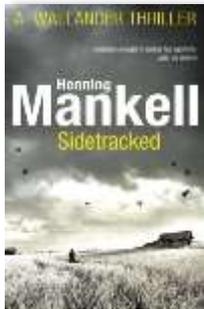


Jacques and Thomas Midwinter, both sixteen when the story starts in 1876, come from different countries and contrasting families. They are united by an ambition to understand how the mind works and whether madness

is the price we pay for being human.

Sidetracked: Kurt Wallander

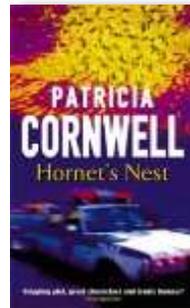
Henning Mankell



Inspector Kurt Wallander's restful summer plans are thrown into disarray when a teenage girl commits suicide, and a former minister of justice is butchered in the first of a series of apparently motiveless murders.

Hornet's Nest

Patricia Cornwell

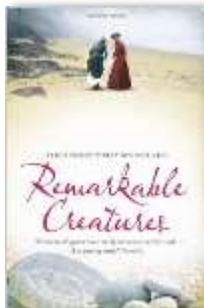
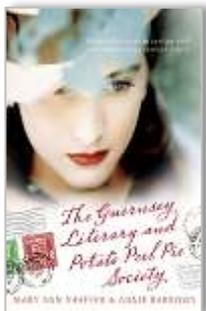


Deputy Chief Virginia West likes and respects her boss, Hammer, but with an increasing number of visiting businessmen being murdered by a maniac with a penchant for painting his victims bright orange, she finds it hard to accept Hammer's edict that a rookie reporter should ride on patrol with her to better relations with their citizens.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Mary Ann Shaffer, Annie Barrows

Dawsey Adams is a member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, and Juliet Ashton begins to hear from other members. Juliet soon realizes that the society is as extraordinary as its name.



Remarkable Creatures

Tracy Chevalier

From the moment she's struck by lightning as a baby, it is clear Mary is different. Her discovery of strange fossilized creatures in the cliffs of Lyme Regis sets the world alight. But she must face powerful prejudice from a male scientific establishment.

The Other Hand

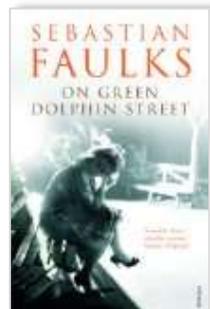
Chris Cleave



This is story about a Nigerian asylum-seeker and a British magazine editor who meet during the oil conflict in the Niger Delta, and are reunited in England several years later.

On Green Dolphin Street

Sebastian Faulk

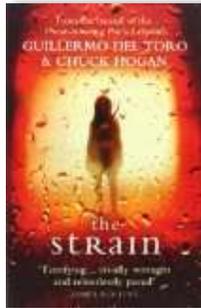


Washington, 1959. The world seems a place of parties, jazz and family happiness to Mary. But when Frank, enters her life, Mary embarks on a passionate affair, knowing that in the end she must confront an impossible decision.

The Strain: Book One of the Strain Trilogy

Guillermo Del Toro

A plane lands at JFK and mysteriously 'goes dark', stopping in the middle of the runway for no apparent reason. The pilots cannot be raised. It soon becomes clear that everyone on board is dead - although there is no sign of any trauma or struggle.



Just After Sunset

Stephen King

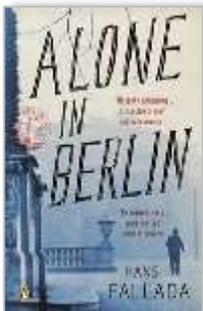


A blind intruder visits a dying man and saves his life, with a kiss. A woman receives a phone call from her husband.

Enter a world of masterful suspense, dark comedy and thrilling twists which will keep you riveted from the first page.

Alone in Berlin

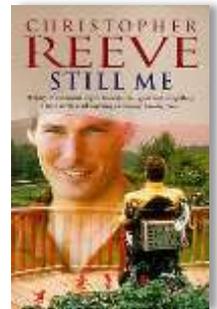
Hans Fallada



Inspired by a true story, this is the gripping tale of an ordinary man's determination to defy the tyranny of Nazi rule. At their house in Berlin, the various occupants try to live under Nazi rule in their different ways.

Still Me

Christopher Reeve

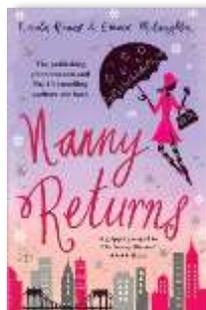


Superman actor, Christopher Reeve, was left paralysed from the neck down after a tragic riding accident. He refused to resign himself to the life of a quadriplegic. This is his autobiography about his paralysis and his journey to recovery.

Nanny Returns

Nicola Kraus and Emma McLaughlin

Set against the backdrop of a Manhattan economy cracking along the fault lines, The Nanny Returns plumbs the humour and heartbreak of a community who chose money over love, only to find the money evaporate - and their children ready to tell all.



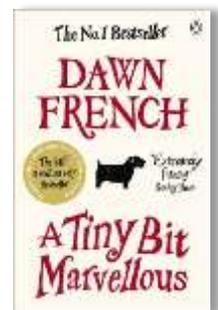
A Tiny Bit of Marvellous

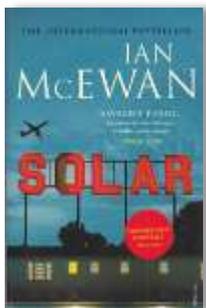
Dawn French

Everyone hates the perfect family. So you'll love the Battles. Meet Mo Battle, about to turn 50 and mum to two helpless, hormonal teenagers.

Somewhere, keeping quiet, is Dad... who's just, well... Dad.

A Tiny Bit Marvellous is comedian Dawn French's first novel.





Solar

Ian McEwan

Michael Beard is a Nobel prize-winning physicist. When his professional and personal worlds collide in a freak accident, an opportunity arises

for him to extricate himself from his marital mess, reinvigorate his career and save the world from environmental disaster.

Nobody's Child

Kate Adie

Inspiring stories of children without a mother or father. With a curiosity inspired by her own circumstances as an adopted child, Kate shows how adults have survived the experience of abandonment.



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