
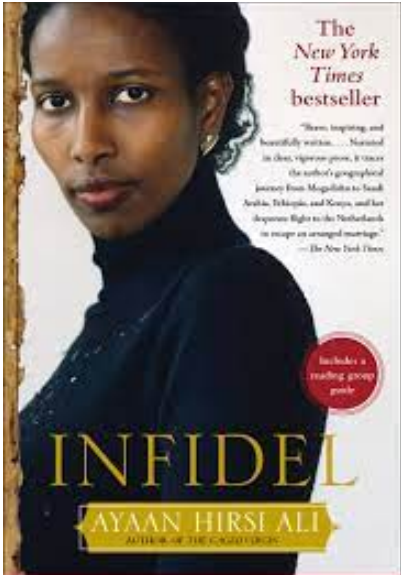
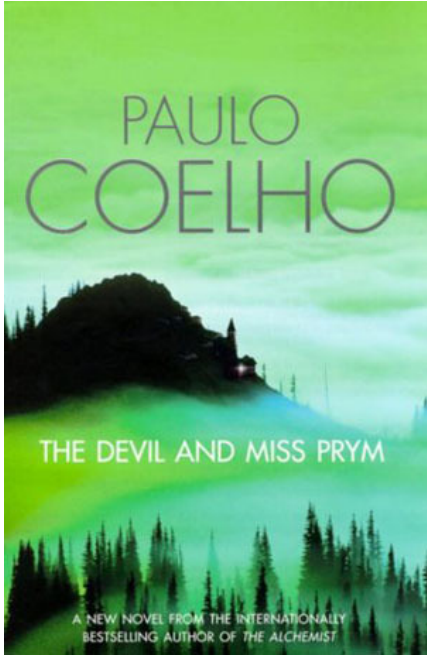
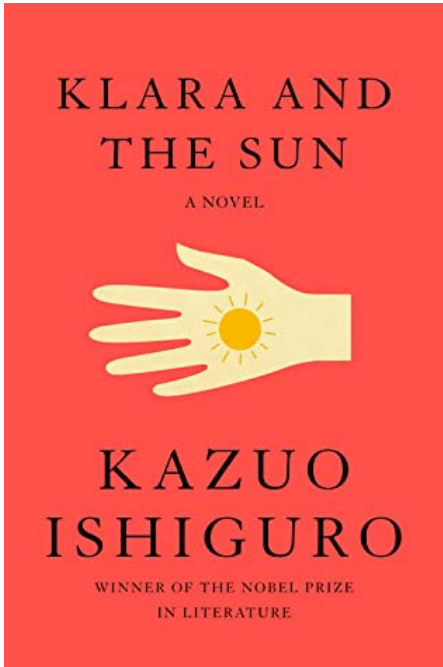


## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

### [NHS Library recommendations](#)

	<p><a href="#">Shiver</a> From NHS Book Club</p> <p>“This volume includes nine of Junji Ito’s best short stories, as selected by the author himself and presented with accompanying notes and commentary. An arm peppered with tiny holes dangles from a sick girl’s window... After an idol hangs herself, balloons bearing faces appear in the sky, some even featuring your own face... An amateur film crew hires an extremely individualistic fashion model and faces a real bloody ending... An offering of nine fresh nightmares for the delight of horror fans.” (Goodreads).</p>
	<p><a href="#">Infidel</a> From NHS Book Club</p> <p>“Raised in a strict Muslim family, Hirsi Ali survived civil war, female mutilation, brutal beatings, adolescence as a devout believer during the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four troubled, unstable countries ruled largely by despots. She escaped from a forced marriage and sought asylum in the Netherlands, where she earned a college degree in political science, tried to help her tragically depressed sister adjust to the West, and fought for the rights of Muslim women and the reform of Islam as a member of Parliament. Under constant threat, demonized by reactionary Islamists and politicians, disowned by her father, and expelled from family and clan, she refuses to be silenced.” (Goodreads).</p>

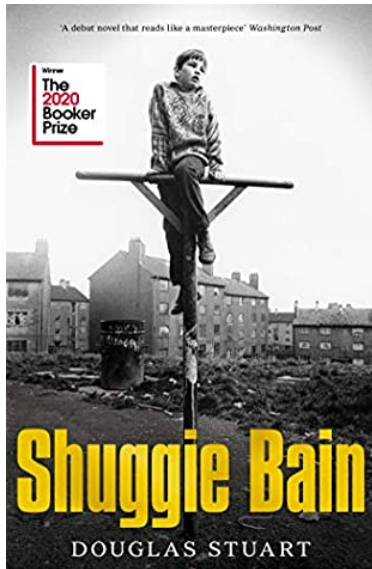
	<p><a href="#"><u>The Devil and Miss Prym</u></a></p> <p>“A stranger arrives at the remote village of Viscos, carrying with him a backpack containing a notebook and eleven gold bars. He comes searching for the answer to a question that torments him: Are human beings, in essence, good or evil? In welcoming the mysterious foreigner, the whole village becomes an accomplice to his sophisticated plot, which will forever mark their lives.</p> <p>A novel of temptation by the internationally bestselling author Paulo Coelho, <i>The Devil and Miss Prym</i> is a thought-provoking parable of a community devoured by greed, cowardice, and fear—as it struggles with the choice between good and evil.” (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>
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	<p><a href="#"><u>Klara and the Sun</u></a></p> <p>“The first novel by Kazuo Ishiguro since he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her.</p> <p><i>Klara and the Sun</i> is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: What does it mean to love?” (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>
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	<p><a href="#"><u>The Shadow King</u></a></p>
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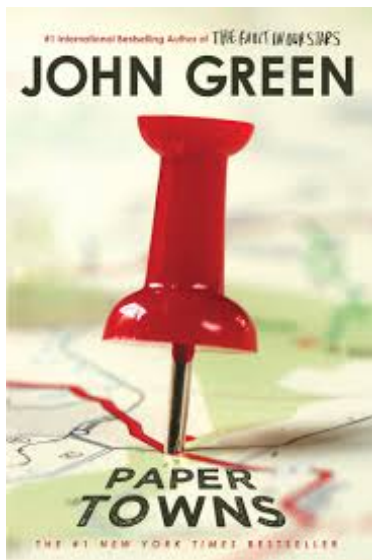
	<p>"Ethiopia. 1935. With the threat of Mussolini's army looming, recently orphaned Hirut struggles to adapt to her new life as a maid. Her new employer, Kidane, an officer in Emperor Haile Selassie's army, rushes to mobilize his strongest men before the Italians invade.</p> <p>Hirut and the other women long to do more than care for the wounded and bury the dead. When Emperor Haile Selassie goes into exile and Ethiopia quickly loses hope, it is Hirut who offers a plan to maintain morale.</p> <p><i>The Shadow King</i> casts light on the women soldiers written out of African and European history. It is a captivating exploration of female power, and what it means to be a woman at war" (<i>International Booker Prize</i>).</p>
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	<p><a href="#">The New Wilderness</a></p> <p>"A debut novel that explores a mother-daughter relationship in a world ravaged by climate change and overpopulation: Bea's five-year-old daughter, Agnes, is slowly wasting away. The smog and pollution of the City—an over-populated, over-built metropolis where most of the population lives—is destroying her lungs. But what can Bea do? No one leaves the City anymore, because there is nowhere else to go. But across the country lies the Wilderness State, the last swath of open, protected land left. Here forests and desert plains are inhabited solely by wildlife. People are forbidden. Until now" (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>
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## [Shuggie Bain](#)

The debut novel by Douglas Stuart draws on his own childhood in 1980s Glasgow, and is the winner of the 2020 Booker prize. Shuggie is the youngest of three children, and Agnes is his alcoholic mother. This widely acclaimed story centers on the relationship between mother and son. "Douglas Stuart's startling Glasgow-set debut novel creates a world of poverty and suffering offset by pure, heart-filling, love," said *The Scotsman Review*. "It's a novel that deserves, and will surely often get, a second reading" (*Goodreads*).



## [Paper Towns](#)

"Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificently adventurous Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs into his life—dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge—he follows. After their all-nighter ends, and a new day breaks, Q arrives at school to discover that Margo, always an enigma, has now become a mystery. But Q soon learns that there are clues—and they're for him. Urged down a disconnected path, the closer he gets, the less Q sees the girl he thought he knew..." (*Goodreads*).

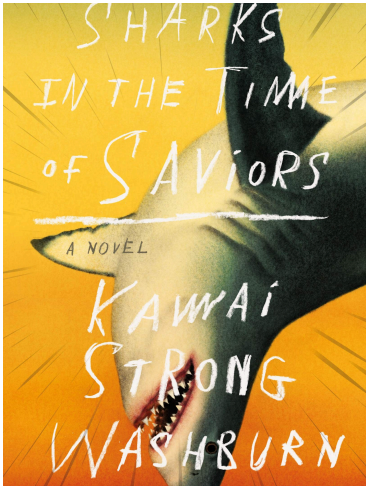



## [Transcendent Kingdom](#)

"Yaa Gyasi's stunning follow-up to her acclaimed national best seller *Homegoing* is a powerful, raw, intimate, deeply layered novel about a Ghanaian family in Alabama.



	<p>Gifty is a fifth-year candidate in neuroscience at Stanford School of Medicine studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after a knee injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her" (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>
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	<p><a href="#">Sharks in the Time of Saviors</a></p>
	<p>In 1995 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on a rare family vacation, seven-year-old Nainoa Flores falls overboard on a cruise ship into the Pacific Ocean. When a shiver of sharks appears in the water, everyone fears for the worst. But instead, Noa is gingerly delivered to his mother in the jaws of a shark, marking his story as the stuff of legends.</p> <p>When supernatural events revisit the Flores family in Hawaii - with tragic consequences - they are all forced to reckon with the bonds of family, the meaning of heritage, and the cost of survival" (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>

	<p><a href="#">Mayflies</a></p>
	<p>"In the summer of 1986, in a small Scottish town, James and Tully ignite a brilliant friendship based on music, films and the rebel spirit. With school over and the locked world of their fathers before them, they rush towards the climax of their youth: a magical weekend in Manchester, the epicentre of everything that inspires them in working-class Britain. There, against the greatest soundtrack ever recorded, a vow is made: to go at life differently. Thirty</p>

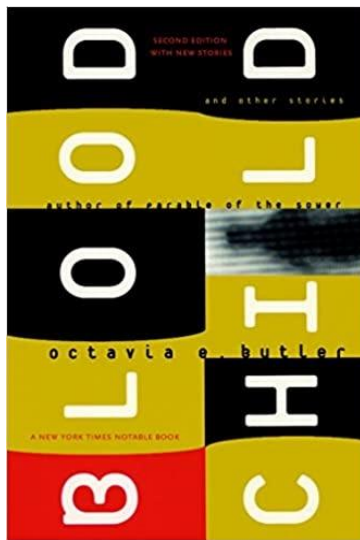
	<p>years on, half a life away, the phone rings. Tully has news.</p> <p><i>Mayflies</i> is a memorial to youth's euphorias and to everyday tragedy. A tender goodbye to an old union, it discovers the joy and the costs of love" (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>
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	<p><a href="#"><u>The Vanishing Half</u></a></p>
	<p>"The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?" (<i>Goodreads</i>).</p>



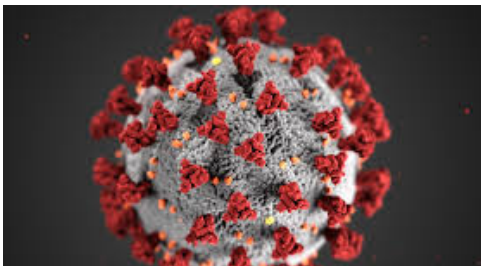
### [Beautiful Music for Ugly Children](#)

"My birth name is Elizabeth, but I'm a guy. Gabe. My parents think I've gone crazy and the rest of the world is happy to agree with them, but I know I'm right. I've been a boy my whole life. When you think about it, I'm like a record. Elizabeth is my A side, the song everybody knows, and Gabe is my B side--not heard as often, but just as good. It's time to let my B side play" (*Goodreads*).



### [Bloodchild and Other Stories](#)

"A writer who darkly imagined the future we have destined for ourselves in book after book, and also one who has shown us the way toward improving on that dismal fate, Octavia E. Butler (1947–2006) is recognized as among the bravest and smartest of contemporary fiction writers. A 1995 MacArthur Award winner, Butler transcended the science fiction category even as she was awarded that community's top prizes, the Nebula and Hugo Awards. She reached readers of all ages, all races, and all religious and sexual persuasions. For years the only African-American woman writing science fiction, Butler has encouraged many others to follow in her path" (*Amazon*).



### [The Decameron Project](#)

"As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, we asked 29 authors to write new short stories inspired by the moment. We were inspired by Giovanni Boccaccio's 'The Decameron', written

	as the plague ravaged Florence in the 14th century” ( <i>NYT Magazine</i> ).
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