



Bookshelf

RESIDENT BOOKWORM JOANNE FINNEY PICKS HER FAVOURITE READS, FROM LITERARY GEMS TO GRIPPING FAMILY DRAMAS

This month's 10 books to read right now!

Book of the month

FREE LOVE



TESSA HADLEY

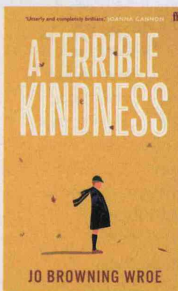
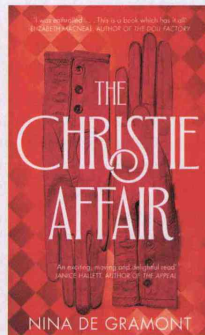
FREE LOVE

by Tessa Hadley
I've been a fan of Hadley's elegant, incisive writing since her debut *Accidents In The Home*. Set in the Swinging Sixties, her new novel follows dutiful housewife Phyllis, who turns her life upside down after she kisses the twentysomething son of a family friend. A compelling read with great insights about love, passion and marriage.

Moving mystery

THE CHRISTIE AFFAIR

by Nina de Gramont
If you're an Agatha Christie fan, you'll probably know she disappeared for 11 days in the 1920s, prompting a countrywide search. Told from the perspective of the 'other woman', the mistress of Agatha's husband, this novel imagines what happened during those days and pulls off the trick of being both a gripping mystery and a stirring story about lost love.



Emotional read

A TERRIBLE KINDNESS

by Jo Browning Wroe
Almost from the first pages of this moving read, I was felled by the big emotions it brought on. It's the story of newly qualified embalmer William, who rushes to volunteer his services after the 1966 Aberfan disaster. What he sees on that terrible day forces him to face the losses in his own life.



Tender and touching

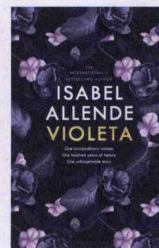
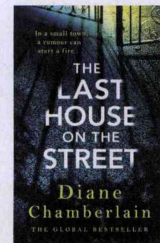
LITTLE WING

by Freya North
Keep the tissues close for this poignant story about a pregnant 16-year-old exiled to the island of Harris in the Outer Hebrides in the 1960s. Years later, Nell also finds herself on the beautiful but bleak island on a hunt to find out more about her family. Nell and Dougie, who she meets on the island, are characters you'll fall in love with.

Vivid storytelling

THE LAST HOUSE ON THE STREET

by Diane Chamberlain
This thoughtful story runs across two connected timelines. In 2010, Kayla and her small daughter move into a new house after the death of her husband, while in 1965, Ellie defies her parents to join a programme that's registering black Americans to vote.



Historical fiction

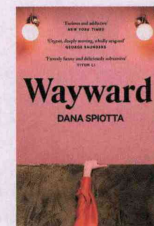
VIOLETA

by Isabel Allende
From the author of *The House Of The Spirits* comes the tale of Violeta del Valle, born in South America in 1920. We see key events through her eyes, from the Second World War to the fight for women's rights. Allende's beautiful, dramatic storytelling means it never reads like a history lesson.

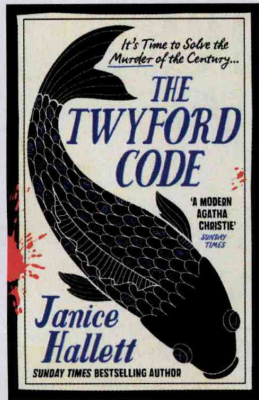
Sharp and funny

WAYWARD

by Dana Spiotta
Feeling adrift from her life, fiftysomething Samantha decides on impulse to leave the family home and move to a dilapidated Arts and Crafts cottage. A smart look at midlife, the menopause and mother-daughter dynamics.



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Fiendishly clever

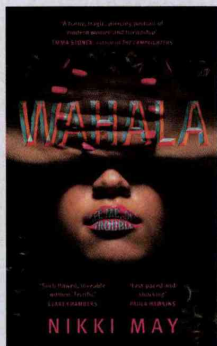
THE TWYFORD CODE
 by Janice Hallett

The author of word-of-mouth hit *The Appeal* is back with another ingenious whodunnit. Ex-con Steven and some of his old classmates join up to solve the mystery of their teacher's disappearance on a school trip 40 years ago. Their only lead? A connection to the famous children's author Edith Twyford and clues she put in her books.

Female friendship

WAHALA by Nikki May

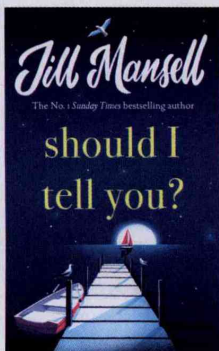
I couldn't put down this wildly entertaining read about three women in their 30s, all dealing with marriage problems, parenthood and difficult bosses. Ronke, Simi and Boo bonded at university over their mixed English and Nigerian heritages and have stayed close, until an old friend arrives from Lagos, bringing trouble.



Romantic page-turner

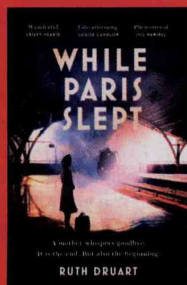
SHOULD I TELL YOU?
 by Jill Mansell

Amber, Lachlan and Raffaele met in the Cornwall home of wonderful foster parents. Now adults, their bond is still strong, especially when their widowed foster father finds love and the trio are suspicious of his new girlfriend. Emotions are running high; even more so as Lachlan and Amber fight their feelings for each other.



LOVE READING?
 Join GH's online book club

Each month, we pick a book for members to read and discuss together. It's free to join and there'll also be lots of book chat, reviews, exclusive short stories, interviews with authors and book giveaways. The book for this month is *While Paris Slept* by Ruth Druart. To join in the conversation, find us at [facebook.com/groups/GoodHousekeepingBookRoom](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GoodHousekeepingBookRoom)



The books that
CHANGED MY LIFE



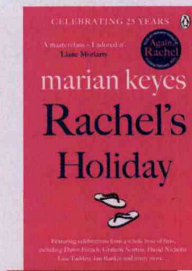
Jill Mansell

Jill Mansell has written more than 30 novels, including her latest *Should I Tell You?* (see left). Here, she shares the books that have made her laugh, cry and think...

THE LAST BOOK THAT MADE ME LAUGH

I'm really not a re-reader, because there are simply too many books clamouring to be read, but I'm currently loving *Rachel's Holiday* by Marian Keyes every bit as much as I did first time round. It's about rehab and addiction, but still manages to be one of the funniest novels I've ever read.

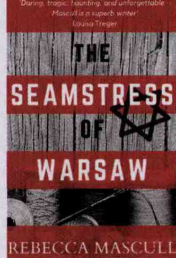
by Rebecca Mascull gave me a new understanding of the terrible plight of the Jewish people in Warsaw during the Second World War. This brilliant book



describes the true horrors in astonishing detail, as well as the strength of the human spirit.

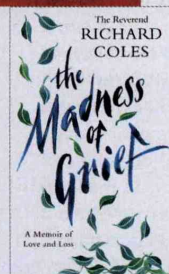
THE BOOK THAT GOT ME THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME

When life is hard, I want something that will whisk me away. I also want many more books by the same author, so I can move seamlessly on to the next. If an escapist beach read is your bag, try Elin Hilderbrand's novels, set on Nantucket island in the US.



THE LAST BOOK THAT MADE ME CRY

While Paris Slept by Ruth Druart tells the story of two couples during the Second World War. About to be herded on to a train to Auschwitz, a desperate mother hands her baby over to a stranger. Years later, that stranger and his wife are living in California - but their beloved son doesn't belong to them. I was on tenterhooks throughout.



THE BOOK I MOST OFTEN GIVE TO OTHERS

The Madness Of Grief by the Reverend Richard Coles, about the death of his husband, David, is beautifully written. I can recommend it to anyone struggling with the loss of a loved one. □

THE BOOK THAT CHANGED THE WAY I THINK
The Seamstress Of Warsaw