

Booklist

SABRINA GOSLING

Book Selector

ALI, Monica

Brick Lane.- Doubleday, 2003.

Multi-award-winning first novel about Bangladeshi immigrant life in London. A big favourite with reading groups and book clubs.

ASLAM, Nadeem

Maps for lost lovers.- Faber, 2004.

The Bookseller described this as: 'a harder-edged version of the kind of immigrant story Monica Ali had so much success with in **Brick Lane**.'

BANKS, Russell

The darling.- Bloomsbury, 2004.

BLAKE, Victoria

Bloodless shadow.- Orion, 2003.

Cutting blades.- Orion, 2005.

CALDWELL, Ian and THOMASON, Dustin
The rule of four.- Century, 2004.

Coming-of-age story and literary thriller linked to a 15th century manuscript, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. More cerebral and better written than **The Da Vinci code**, but with similar appeal.

CAPELLA, Anthony

The food of love.- Time Warner, 2004.

Set in Italy, Capella's first novel is 'an enchanting tale of food, foreignness, love and mistaken identity.' [Good Bk. Guide].

CHEVALIER, Tracy

The lady and the unicorn.-

HarperCollins, 2003.

Another absorbing historical novel from the author of **Girl with a pearl earring**.

CONNELLY, Michael

The narrows.- Orion, 2004.

A gripping crime thriller that is a sequel to his stand-alone title, **The poet**, but also features Harry Bosch and his other series characters. Harry Bosch fans will be pleased to hear that **The closers**, the most recent addition to the series, will be in the libraries soon.

CONNOR, John

Phoenix.- Orion, 2003.

CUMMING, Charles

A spy by nature.- Joseph, 2001.

The hidden man.- Joseph, 2003.

DONALDSON, Stephen

The runes of the earth.- Gollancz, 2004.

A long-awaited new novel: the first book in **The last chronicles of Thomas Covenant**.

FABER, Michel

The crimson petal and the white.-

Canongate, 2002.

For those who like a really thick historical novel, this 800-page book is just the thing. Set in Victorian London, it has been described as 'riveting and absolutely unforgettable.'

FOSSUM, Karin

He who fears the wolf.- Harvill, 2003.

Superior crime fiction from Norway - the second of this author's **Inspector Sejer** mysteries to be translated into English.

GALGUT, Damon

The good doctor.- Viking, 2003.

This compelling local novel set in a run-down hospital in a former South African homeland was short-listed for the Booker Prize.

HARVEY, John

Flesh and blood.- Heinemann, 2004.

Ash & bone.- Heinemann, 2005.

HARUF, Kent

Eventide: a novel.- Picador, 2005.

HILL, Susan

Various haunts of men.- Chatto, 2004.

Pure in heart.- Chatto, 2005.

HORTON, Lesley

Snares of guilt.- Orion, 2002.

On dangerous ground.- Orion, 2003.

Gritty, engrossing British crime fiction set in multi-cultural Bradford.

HOSSEINI, Khaled

The kite runner.- Bloomsbury, 2004.

Story of betrayal and redemption in Afghanistan.

ISHIGURO, Kazuo

Never let me go.- Faber, 2005.

KELLY, Jim

The water clock.- Penguin, 2003.

The first in a trilogy of atmospheric mysteries set in the Cambridgeshire fens. Its sequel, **The fire baby**, will be in libraries soon, and the third, **The moon tunnel**, is on order.

KINGSOLVER, Barbara

The poisonwood bible.- Faber, 2000.

Just a reminder for any who missed this wonderful novel set in post-colonial Congo.

KOSTOVA, Eliabeth

The historian.- Little, 2005.

This chilling first novel is an atmospheric reworking of the Dracula story.

LAWSON, Mary

Crow Lake.- Chatto, 2002.

A wonderfully assured and compelling first novel in which a woman, at a family reunion, looks back on her childhood in rural Canada. She and her sister were brought up by their two elder brothers in the small farming community of Crow Lake.

LE CARRÉ, John

Absolute friends.- Hodder, 2004.

LEHANE, Dennis

Shutter Island.- Bantam, 2003.

A compelling psychological suspense story filled with twists and turns. This page-turner from the author of **Mystic river** will keep you guessing to the very end (and perhaps even after).

LEVY, Andrea

Small Island.- Review, 2004.

Multi-award-winning fourth novel from this author who was born in London to Jamaican parents: Whitbread Best First Novel and Book of the Year 2004, Orange Prize 2004, Commonwealth Prize for Best Book 2005. Another book club favourite.

LEWYCKA, Marina

A short history of tractors in Ukrainian.-

Viking, 2005.

This debut won the Bollinger Everyman

Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction. One of the prizes was to have a pig named after the book! **The Booklist** described it as a 'funny, tender and intelligent novel that is as much social history as family saga... a delight.' (Only in City Library stock).

LONGWORTH, Gay

Dead alone.- HarperCollins, 2002.

The unquiet dead.- HarperCollins, 2004.

MCLAREN, John

Blind eye.- Schuster, 2004.

An exciting and gripping mix of political thriller and naval sea adventure.

MALLADI, Amulya

Serving crazy with curry.- Piatkus, 2004.

After an unsuccessful suicide attempt, a young Indian woman becomes a mute and finds solace in her mother's kitchen, cooking fancy dishes for her family.

MARSHALL, Michael

The Straw Men.- HarperCollins, 2002.

The lonely dead.- HarperCollins, 2004

Blood of angels.- HarperCollins, 2005.

A sequence of melodramatic potboilers in the 'serious gore' genre – they require a suspension of belief but will keep you glued to the page.

MARTEL, Yann

Life of Pi: a novel.- Canongate, 2002.

People seem to either love or hate this strange, fabulous tale.

MASON, Daniel

The piano tuner.- Picador, 2002.

Historical novel set mainly in 19th-century Burma. Medicine, music, history and politics - all mesh in this atmospheric debut by a young American medical student.

MITCHELL, David

Cloud atlas.- Sceptre, 2004.

Complex literary novel about civilisation encompassing six interlocking narratives through time and space.

NIFFENEGGER, Audrey

The time traveler's wife.- Cape, 2004.

Romantic first novel about a time-travelling librarian that won the local Boeke Prize for the most 'compulsively readable, unputdownable' paperback.

PAOLINI, Christopher

Eragon.- Doubleday, 2004

PULLMAN, Philip

Northern lights.- Scholastic, 2001.

The subtle knife.- Scholastic, 2001.

The amber spyglass.- Scholastic, 2001.

QUIGLEY, Sarah

Shot.- Virago, 1993.

QUIGLEY, Sheila

Run for home.- Century, 2004.

Set on a rough council estate in the north of England, this debut is a tough, gritty crime

thriller with a strong sense of place, a cast of interesting characters and lots of action - something for the Martina Cole/Lynda La Plante fans.

ROBERTS, Nora

Northern lights.- Piatkus, 2004.

ROY, Arundhati

The god of small things.- Flamingo, 1998.

This Indian first novel won numerous awards, including the 1997 Booker Prize, and was a huge commercial success - a favourite with book clubs and reading groups.

RUIZ ZAFON, Carlos

The shadow of the wind / translated by Lucia Graves.- Weidenfeld, 2004.

'Part detective story, part boy's adventure, part romance, fantasy, and gothic horror; the intricate plot is urged on by extravagant foreshadowing and nail-biting tension... rich, lavish storytelling...' [BL 1/3/04]

SEYMOUR, Gerald

The unknown soldier.- Bantam, 2004.

Entertaining and thought-proving espionage thriller set mainly in Saudi Arabia.

SHARP, Zoe

Riot acts.- Piatkus, 2002.

Hard knocks.- Piatkus, 2003.

SMITH, Zadie

White teeth.- Penguin, 2001.

Multi-layered first novel that holds a mirror up to contemporary multi-cultural Britain. (Copies available in general stacks)

SPRAGG, Mark

An unfinished life.- Cape, 2005.

STACEY, Lyndon

Cut throat.- Arrow, 2003.

Blindfold.- Hutchinson, 2003.

Deadfall.- Hutchinson, 2004.

Outside chance.- Hutchinson, 2005.

THOMAS, Rosie

Sun at midnight.- HarperCollins, 2004.

VANDERHAEGE, Guy

The last crossing.- Little, 2004.

WAKLING, Christopher

Beneath the diamond sky.- Picador, 2004.

A psychological examination of how character fragments when a group of backpackers trekking in the Himalayas is taken hostage by a band of terrorists in Kashmir. Scary, believable, well written, and above all, compulsively readable.

WALKER, Fiona

Tongue in cheek.- Hodder, 2005

WOLSTENCROFT, David

Good news, bad news.- Hodder, 2004.