

Bromley House Library
November Book List

FICTION

CRIME

CLEVERLY, Barbara The blood royal
On his return from India, Commander Joe Sandilands, now adept at the arts of dynamic diplomacy, finds himself up to his neck in a tricky political situation. A war-weary London is reeling from IRA atrocities and Joe is further plagued by the machinations of a spy-ring being run under his nose by a Russian émigré princess. When a war hero is gunned down and the life of an even more popular Englishman threatened, Joe knows he only has days to root out the woman who is behind the killings: Irish? Russian? Or somebody quite other?

COBEN, Harlan Shelter
Mickey Bolitar's year can't get much worse. After witnessing his father's death and sending his mom to rehab, he's forced to live with his estranged uncle Myron and switch high schools. A new school comes with new friends and new enemies, and lucky for Mickey, it also comes with a great new girlfriend, Ashley. For a while, it seems like Mickey's train-wreck of a life is finally improving - until Ashley vanishes without a trace. Unwilling to let another person walk out of his life, Mickey follows Ashley's trail into a seedy underworld that reveals that this seemingly sweet, shy girl isn't who she claimed to be. And neither was Mickey's father.

FOSSUM, Karin The caller
One mild summer evening Lily and her husband are enjoying a meal while their baby daughter sleeps peacefully in her pram beneath a maple tree. But when Lily steps outside she is paralysed with terror. The child is bathed in blood. Inspector Sejer is called to the hospital to meet the family. Mercifully, the baby is unharmed, but her parents are deeply shaken, and Sejer spends the evening trying to comprehend why anyone would carry out such a sinister prank. Then, just before midnight, somebody rings his doorbell...

FOSSUM, Karin Don't look back
At the foot of the Kollen mountain lies a small village where the children play unafraid in the streets. But the tranquillity is about to be irrecoverably shattered by a most sinister crime when a young woman's naked body is found lying by the lake. Inspector Sejer - smart, tough and enigmatic - is called in to investigate. Only he can uncover the dark secrets of this quiet community, hidden by deep family ties...

HOLT, Anne Fear not
A drug addict dead in a basement, a young asylum seeker floating in the harbour, a high profile female bishop stabbed to death in the street. What is the connection? During a snowy Christmas season in Norway, criminal psychologist and profiler Inger Johanne Vik finds not only her husband and herself but also her autistic daughter drawn into the investigation of a number of disturbing deaths.

JAMES, P.D. Death comes to Pemberley
The year is 1803, and Darcy and Elizabeth have been married for six years. There are now two handsome and healthy sons in the nursery, Elizabeth's beloved sister Jane and her husband Bingley live nearby and the orderly world of Pemberley seems

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when Alice decides she wants what they've got, Clover and Laura have to find out who they really are. Without the children, can their marriages - and friendship - survive?

CHAMBERLAIN, Diane The midwife's confession
'I don't know how to tell you what I did.' The unfinished letter is the only clue Tara and Emerson have to the reason behind Noelle's suicide. Everything they knew about Noelle - her calling as a midwife, her passion for causes, her love for her family - described a woman who embraced life. But they didn't know everything. Because the unaddressed letter reveals a terrible secret...and a legacy of guilt that changes everything they thought they knew about the woman who delivered their children.

DAVIES, Martin The year after
DECEMBER 1919. Tom Allen, uncomfortable in London after five years in uniform, receives an invitation to spend Christmas at Hannesford Court. It's almost as if nothing has changed. Cards in the library after dinner. The Boxing Day shoot. The New Year ball. Margot. But Tom hasn't forgotten the professor. A strange meeting in Germany has raised a question in his mind: in all his visits to Hannesford before the War, all those years observing the glittering life of its owners, how much did he ever really see?

EUGENIDES, Jeffrey The marriage plot
It's the early 1980s. In American colleges, the wisened-up kids are inhaling Derrida and listening to Talking Heads. But Madeleine Hanna, dutiful English major, is writing her senior thesis on Jane Austen and George Eliot, purveyors of the marriage plot that lies at the heart of the greatest English novels. As Madeleine studies the age-old motivations of the human heart, real life, in the form of two very different guys, intervenes. Leonard Bankhead – charismatic loner and college Darwinist – suddenly turns up in a seminar, and soon Madeleine finds herself in a highly charged erotic and intellectual relationship with him.

FORESTER, C.S. The pursued
Marjorie had never seen a dead body until she got home one tranquil summer evening and found her sister Dot lying on the kitchen floor in a pretty dress, with her head in the oven. She looked peaceful, as if she was asleep. Their mother suspects, however, that Dot's death was far from natural. What's more, she knows who the killer is - and she is determined to make him suffer. So slowly and meticulously, she plots her revenge. After all, who would suspect a neatly dressed, grey-haired widow of anything? And what could possibly go wrong?

GIBBON, Lewis Grassic A Scot's Quair
Written by one of the all-time greats of Scottish literature, truly revolutionary, 'A Scots Quair' is a trilogy of novels: 'Sunset Song' (1932), 'Cloud Howe' (1933) and 'Grey Granite' (1934). At each book's core is the heroine Chris Guthrie, as she grows from a child into adulthood through the Great War to the development of communism in the 1920s. Grassic Gibbon's writing is unique and riveting, blending Scots and English in an accessible style, and eloquent in its humanity and celebration of nature.

GRISHAM, John The litigator

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Oscar Finley: street cop turned street lawyer. Wally Figg: expert hustler and ambulance-chaser. David Zinc: Harvard Law School graduate. Together, this unlikely trio make up Finley & Figg: specialists in injury claims, quickie divorces and DUIs. None of them has ever faced a jury in federal court. But they are about to take on one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the States.

JHABYALA, Praver Ruth A love song for India. Tales from east and west

Taking us from a sweltering Indian rooftop at night to the marble halls of an ageing Bollywood star's palace, this is a new collection of short stories from Ruth Praver Jhabvala. A wedding is planned between two innocents at a crumbling mansion of a grand Hudson Valley estate, while among the white-socked convent girls of post-colonial New Delhi a mixed-race couple contemplate their son's alienation and the failure of hope. A young English girl infiltrates Fifth Avenue theatrical royalty and a lovely Broadway starlet exacts a clever, protracted revenge against her nemesis.

KELLY, Cathy Christmas magic

From Dolores and Genevieve, two spinster sisters who must finally break free from their mother's powerful personality, to Alice, who is facing having to open her home and her heart to the one visitor that she doesn't want this Christmas, from a captivating family story triggered by a letter to Lily's disastrous arrival at her best friend's wedding, these are stories to make you laugh, cry and nod in recognition.

LIVELY, Penelope How it all began

When . . . Charlotte is mugged and breaks her hip, her daughter Rose cannot accompany her employer Lord Peters to Manchester, which means his niece Marion has to go instead, which means she sends a text to her lover which is intercepted by his wife, which is . . . just the beginning in the ensuing chain of life-altering events.

MACGUINNESS, Patrick The last hundred days

The socialist state is in crisis, the shops are empty and old Bucharest vanishes daily under the onslaught of Ceausescu's demolition gangs. Paranoia is pervasive and secret service men lurk in the shadows. In *The Last 100 Days*, Patrick McGuinness creates an absorbing sense of time and place as the city struggles to survive this intense moment in history. He evokes a world of extremity and ravaged beauty from the viewpoint of an outsider uncomfortably, and often dangerously, close to the eye of the storm as the regime of 1980s Romania crumbles to a bloody end.

MORGENSTERN, Erin The night circus

In 1886, a mysterious travelling circus becomes an international sensation. Open only at night, constructed entirely in black and white, *Le Cirque des Rêves* delights all who wander its circular paths and warm themselves at its bonfire. Although there are acrobats, fortune-tellers and contortionists, the Circus of Dreams is no conventional spectacle. Some tents contain clouds, some ice. The circus seems almost to cast a spell over its aficionados, who call themselves the *rêveurs* - the dreamers. At the heart of the story is the tangled relationship between two young magicians, Celia, the enchanter's daughter, and Marco, the sorcerer's apprentice.

NOBLE, Elizabeth The way we were

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A scandalously enjoyable account of lives, losses and inconsiderate love-making, 'The West End Front' boasts a visitors' book like no other. From the egregious con man Sir Curtis Lampson to the louche inhabitants of the 'Pink Sink' bar, Fifth columnists, communists, spies, spivs, charlatans and deposed monarchs, they're all here, somehow keeping their crumpets buttered and their dignity intact during the worst excesses of the Ritzkrieg. Delightfully gossipy and often moving, it shines an affectionate search-light on an entirely forgotten chapter of World War Two.'

NATURAL SCIENCE

FOTHERGILL, Alastair

Frozen planet

Take a journey to the last truly great wilderness regions. From the Great Melt in Spring to the 24-hour summer, the beginning of the Big Freeze and long dark winter, this epic television series will followed the dramatic landscapes and the emotional life stories of the animals that live there. Following the stories of the polar bear and wolf in the North Pole and the Adelie penguin and killer whale in the South Pole, we see how they survive these extremes, how they feed, mate and rear their young. But the real star is the ice and *Frozen Planet* tells its story, from its formation to its movement and its beauty. And of course what the future holds for it.

PHOTOGRAPHY

HUGO, Pieter

Permanent error.

In his previous well-received volumes of photographs, Hugo offers unflinching yet striking portraits of humans, animals, societies, and landscapes that shock and disturb, but also demand our attention. In *Permanent Error*, he documents a rubbish dump in Ghana that has become the repository for discarded computers from around the world. These haunting images document the true cost of a misguided policy - the shipping of millions of tons of obsolete computers to developing countries. The computers are burned to extract valuable metals, effectively turning the site into a toxic wasteland that contaminates air, soil, and groundwater for miles around.

POLITICS

CLINTON, Bill

Back to work. Why we need smart government
for a strong economy

In *Back to Work*, Bill Clinton addresses the urgent economic challenges facing the United States and offers a plan to get America "back into the future business." He details how to get out of the current economic crisis and lay a foundation for long-term prosperity, offering specific recommendations on how to put people back to work, increase bank lending and corporate investment, double exports, restore the manufacturing base, and create new businesses. He supports President Obama's emphasis on green technology, saying that a change in the way we produce and consume energy is the strategy most likely to spark a fast-growing economy and enhance national security.

HARRIS, Robin

The Conservatives

Taking as his starting point the larger-than-life personalities of the party's leaders and prime ministers since its inception, Robin Harris's book also examines the

