

My Next Read

Readers Advisory Service



Dear Kath,

Thank you for your recent submission to the My Next Read personal readers advisory service. Based on the information you provided, which is detailed below, our librarians have conducted some research and have come up with the following suggestions for your next read.

1. **Are you interested in books for adults, youth or children?**

Adults

2. **What type of books are you interested in?**

Fiction; Non-fiction

3. **What format do you prefer?**

Books; Large Print

4. **Please list some of your favourite author's.**

Celeste Ng, Liane Moriarty,

5. **What phrase would you use to describe your favourite books.**

I like books that make me think; I like page turners

6. **Please list the titles of your favourite books OR books you have recently read and enjoyed.**

A Little Life, Boy Swallows Universe, Wimmera, Daisy Jones and the Six, Jasper Jones

7. **Please list a few authors you haven't liked.**

Can't think of any, I won't keep reading if I don't like

8. **Please indicate any material you DO NOT want included in the books we list for you by checking each element you wish to exclude.**

Explicit gore/violence

9. **Please list a few of your favourite movies or television shows.**

Fleabag, The Letdown, Have you Been paying attention, The Weekly

10. **What are you in the mood to read next?**

A feel good story; Easy reading

11. **Is there anything that you would like to tell us about your reading or interests that might help us?**

Don't like Romance (spew), horror, historical,

12. **May we share this list of suggestions on our website?**

Yes



Sing, unburied, sing by Jesmyn Ward

An intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle, *Sing, Unburied, Sing* examines the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power - and limitations - of family bonds. Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. His mother, Leonie, is in constant conflict with herself and those around her. She is black and her children's father is white. Embattled in ways that reflect the brutal reality of her circumstances, she wants to be a better mother, but can't put her children above her own needs, especially her drug use. When the children's father is released from prison, Leonie packs her kids and a friend into her car and drives north to the heart of Mississippi and Parchman Farm, the State Penitentiary. At Parchman, there is another boy, the ghost of a dead inmate who carries all of the ugly history of the South with him in is wandering. He too has something to teach Jojo about fathers and sons, about legacies, about violence, about love. Rich with Ward's distinctive, lyrical language, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

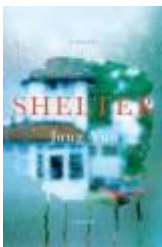
brings the archetypal road novel into rural twenty-first century America. It is a majestic new work from an extraordinary and singular author.



The Dutch house by Ann Patchett.

Danny Conroy grows up in the Dutch House, a lavish mansion. Though his father is distant and his mother is absent, Danny has his beloved sister Maeve: Maeve, with her wall of black hair, her wit, her brilliance. Life is coherent, played out under the watchful eyes of the house's former owners in the frames of their oil paintings. Then one day their father brings Andrea home. Though they cannot know it, her arrival to the Dutch House sows the seed of the defining loss of Danny and Maeve's lives.

The siblings are drawn back time and again to the place they can never enter, knocking in vain on the locked door of the past. For behind the mystery of their own exile is that of their mother's: an absence more powerful than any presence they have known.



Shelter by Jung Yun

Kyung Cho's home is worth less money than he owes. A tenure-track professor, he and his wife, Gillian, have always lived beyond their means. Now their decisions have caught up with them, and Kyung is anxious for his family's future: all he wants is to provide the home that was denied him to their son. Not that he ever wanted for pleasing things -- his father moved the family from Korea, and made good money engineering patents for the university that now employs his son. Kyung was raised

in the town's most affluent neighborhood, in the exquisite house where his parents, Jin and Mae, still live, but his childhood was far from comfortable. Jin was always swift to anger, and whenever he took a hand to Mae, she would inflict the wounds she suffered on Kyung. With the support of his parents' pastor, Kyung brought the cycle to a halt, but he cannot bear the thought of asking them for help. Yet when Jin and Mae become victims of a violent home invasion, the dynamic suddenly changes, and Kyung is compelled to take them in. As the carefully established distance between Kyung and his parents collapses, he must reckon with his childhood, even as the life that he has built begins to crumble. As Shelter veers swiftly toward its startling conclusion, Jung Yun's debut novel leads us through dark and violent territory, where, unexpectedly, the Chos discover hope. Taut and masterfully told, it is riveting as it is profound.



October suite by Maxine Clair

October Brown, an African-American teacher at a private school in Kansas, becomes pregnant by the father of a student and returns home to Ohio, where she and her sister were raised by their aunts after their father killed their mother 20 years before. Confused and unhappy, October gives the baby to her sister and goes back to teaching. Then she regrets her decision.

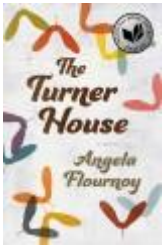


The Giver of stars by Jojo Moyes

Set in Depression-era America, a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond, from the author of Me Before You and The Peacock Emporium Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women

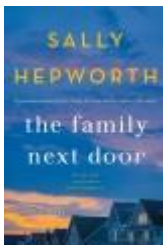
to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes a classic drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. Though they face all kinds of dangers, they're committed to their job--bringing books to people who

have never had any, sharing the gift of learning that will change their lives. Based on a true story rooted in America's past, *The Giver of Stars* is unparalleled in its scope. At times funny, at others heartbreaking, this is a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond.



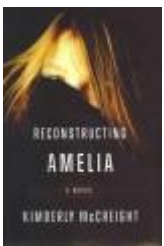
The Turner house by Angela Flournoy

The Turners have lived on Yarrow Street for over fifty years. Their house has seen thirteen children grown and gone -- and some returned; it has seen the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, the loss of a father. Despite abandoned lots, an embattled city, and the inevitable shift outward to the suburbs, the house still stands. But now, as ailing matriarch Viola finds herself forced to leave her home and move in with her eldest son, the family discovers that the house is worth just a tenth of its mortgage. The Turner children are called home to decide its fate and to reckon with how each of their pasts haunt -- and shape -- their family's future. *The Turner House* brings us a colourful, complicated brood full of love and pride, sacrifice and unlikely inheritances. It's a striking examination of the price we pay for our dreams and futures, and the ways in which our families bring us home.



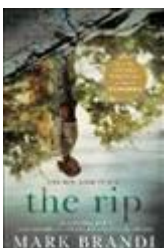
The Family next door by Sally Hepworth

The safest suburbs often hold the deepest secrets. Such is the case for Essie, a mother of two. In a moment of maternal despair she once made a terrible mistake, one she will always regret. Essie has since recovered, but she fears what may still lurk inside her. Her neighbours in Pleasant Court have their own issues. Driven and organised, Ange appears to have everything under control, except perhaps her husband. Practical, intellectual Fran can't stop running. For exercise, or something else? One day in February, during an unprecedented Melbourne heatwave, someone new arrives. Isabelle is single and childless, when everyone else is married with kids. She is renting, when everyone else owns. Her job is mysteriously vague. Strangest of all, Isabelle is very curious about her neighbours. Too curious, some might say. It soon becomes clear that Isabelle's choice of neighbourhood was no accident. And her presence might bring even more secrets to light...



Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight

In *Reconstructing Amelia*, Kate's in the middle of the biggest meeting of her career when she gets the telephone call from Grace Hall, her daughter's exclusive private school in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Amelia has been suspended, effective immediately, and Kate must come get her daughter, now. But Kate's stress over leaving work quickly turns to panic when she arrives at the school and finds it surrounded by police officers, fire trucks, and an ambulance. By then it's already too late for Amelia. And for Kate. An academic overachiever despondent over getting caught cheating has jumped to her death. At least that's the story Grace Hall tells Kate. And clouded as she is by her guilt and grief, it is the one she forces herself to believe. Until she gets an anonymous text: She didn't jump.



The Rip by Mark Brandi.

'It's funny how quick it happens and without you really noticing. Anton said once that it's like walking out into the sea, and you think everything's fine and the water's warm, but when you turn back you're suddenly miles from shore. I've never been much of a swimmer, but I get what he means. Like, being caught in a current or something. A rip.' A young woman living on the street has to keep her wits about her. Or her friends. But when the drugs kick in that can be hard. Anton has been looking out for her. She was safe with him. But then Steve came along. He had something over Anton. Must have. But he had a flat they could crash in. And gear in his pocket. And she can't stop thinking about it. A good hit makes everything all

right. But the flat smells weird. There's a lock on Steve's bedroom door. And the guy is intense. The problem is, sometimes you just don't know you are in too deep, until you are drowning.



The Van Apfel girls are gone by Felicity McLean

Part mystery, part coming of age story, *The Van Apfel Girls are Gone* is set in a distant suburb on the encroaching bushland, over the long hot summer of 1992. It's the summer of the school's Showstopper concert. The summer Tikka never forgot. The summer the Van Apfel sisters disappeared. Blackly comic, sharply observed and wonderfully endearing. 'We lost all three girls that summer. Let them slip away like the words of some half-remembered song and when one came back, she wasn't the one we were trying to recall to begin with.' Tikka Molloy was eleven and one-sixth years old during the long hot summer of 1992 - the summer the Van Apfel sisters disappeared. Hannah, beautiful Cordelia and Ruth vanished during the night of the school's Showstopper concert at the amphitheatre by the river, surrounded by encroaching bushland. Now, years later, Tikka has returned home to try and make sense of the summer that shaped her, and the girls that she never forgot. Blackly comic, sharply observed and wonderfully endearing, this is *Picnic at Hanging Rock* for a new generation, a haunting coming-of-age story with a shimmering, unexplained mystery at its heart.

Sites used to conduct this research include Novelist Plus (available through [the online resources page of the library website](#)), [Good Reads](#) and [Fantastic Fiction](#).

Kind Regards

Catherine



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We wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Shire - the people of the Yuin nation and show our respect to elders past and present.