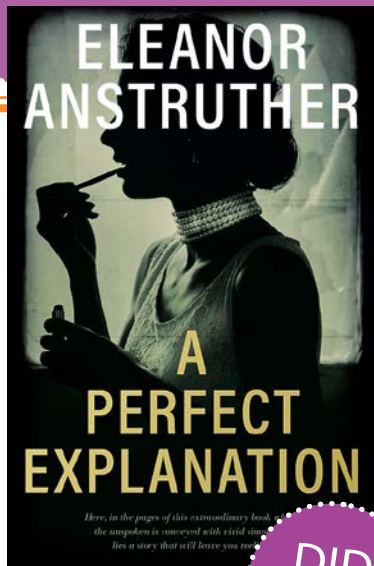


BOOK club

Our pick of the best reads around...



A Perfect Explanation

by Eleanor Anstruther

(£12.99, PB, Salt Publishing)

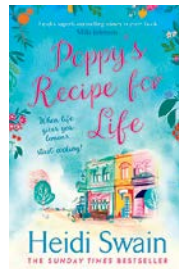
Clear your diary – this engaging fictionalisation of a true story is a fascinating read, in which the author's own grandmother, Enid Campbell, sold her son to her sister for £500. It's told from three different perspectives, moving between 1920s and 1960s London, when Enid is in a nursing home looking back on her life. Providing a real insight into the power of money and tradition within the aristocracy, it's a confident, gripping debut.

DID YOU

Poppy's Recipe for Life

by Heidi Swain (£7.99, PB, Simon & Schuster)

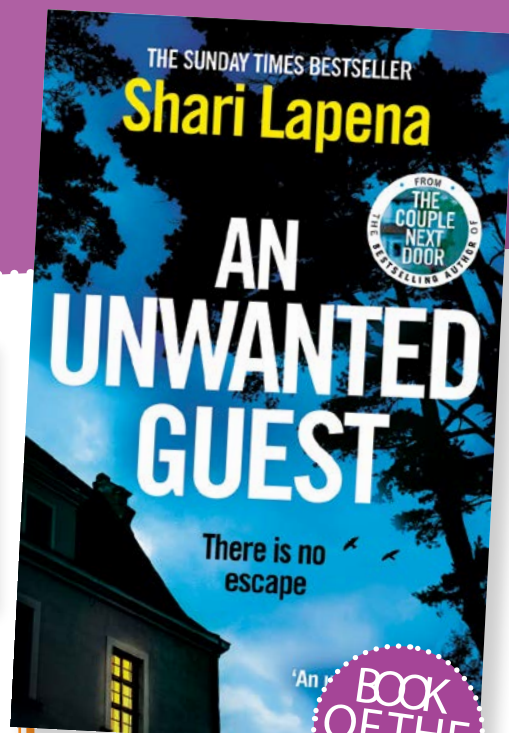
Poppy is moving into her dream cottage in Nightingale Square and is looking forward to starting a new life among neighbours and friends, working on the community garden and indulging her passion for cooking. But will her happiness be threatened by the arrival of a grumpy new neighbour and Poppy's troublesome brother, Ryan? As the go-to author for a heart-warming story, Swain delivers again with a cast of charming characters.



The Gift of Friends

by Emma Hannigan (£7.99, PB, Headline)

It's shocking and saddening to realise that the author of this uplifting tale passed away last year, only days after finishing her final novel. It's a wise, witty and life-affirming story about women who face a whole heap of troubles, but know that by turning to each other for support, they can get through anything. A beautiful summer read.



An Unwanted Guest

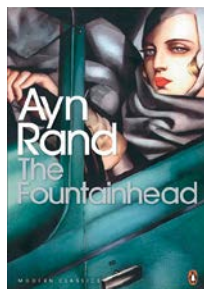
by Shari Lapena (£8.99, PB, Corgi)

This is a tense, pacy read from the bestselling author of *The Couple Next Door* and *A Stranger in the House*. As guests look forward to a relaxing weekend at the remote Mitchell's Inn, the weather turns. With a violent storm raging, the holidaymakers find themselves completely cut off. And then the first body is found. When the second and third are discovered, panic sets in as the guests realise they are being picked off one by one – and there's no way out...



REMEMBER THIS?

There have been many Jane Austen adaptations for TV. Can you name the book this film was based on, and the characters?



The Fountainhead
by Ayn Rand
(£9.99, PB, Penguin)

Howard Roark is an architect who will stop at nothing to build what he desires. Defying conventions, his designs are both modern and innovative, and he refuses to compromise despite any opposition he faces. Battling for over two decades against those who will do anything to bring him down, he encounters the beautiful Dominique

Francon – Roark's equal in many ways. She loves him fiercely, yet fights him at every step of his career. The quotes just keep coming in this epic novel of ambition, power, money and love.

Our verdict Rand's writing is brilliant and bitter, forcing you to question if Roark is a man of ego, a man of integrity – or both. A complex, beautiful book.

ANSWER: Sense and Sensibility – Emma Thompson as Elinor Dashwood and Kate Winslet as her younger sister, Marianne

WORDS: ZOE WEST. PHOTOS: ALAMY