



## Porirua Library Book Club in a Bag

The following titles are available for borrowing. Most recent purchases listed first.

**Gold. Chris Cleave.** (2012). Fiction (UK):

Zoe Castle and Kate Meadows met at age 19 trying out for the British Cycling Team and have been friends and rivals for 13 years now. Kate might have more natural ability, but Zoe is the more driven of the two. Kate is married to a fellow racer, Jack Argall, and they have an eight-year-old daughter, Sophie, who suffers from leukemia. Zoe is pursued by her own demons and has a tabloid reputation for sleeping around. Things begin to heat up when the International Olympic Committee changes its rules so that only one cyclist, either Zoe or Kate, will be eligible to compete in the 2012 London Games.

**The Alice Network. Kate Quinn.** (2017). Fiction (US):

The Alice Network follows the fortunes of two women - Eve Gardiner and Charlie St. Clair. Eve worked as a spy in enemy occupied France during World War I, and Charlie is a pregnant and unwed American socialite searching for her cousin in the aftermath of World War II. The woman and the two time frames connect as Charlie and Eve journey to France to look for the missing cousin and navigate the past.

**The secret chord. Geraldine Brooks.** (2015). Fiction (Aus):

A novel about King David, set in Second Iron Age Israel. Brooks traces his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

**Can't we talk about something more pleasant? Roz Chast.** (2014). Memoir. Graphic. Non-Fiction (US):

Told through cartoons, family photos and documents, Chast, a well-known cartoonist in the US, records her relationship with her parents as they become very old. A memoir that is both comforting and discomfiting, both painful and comic. Chast brings to her narrative an unflinching honesty in respect of her feelings of guilt and resentment, but also of love.



## Porirua Library Book Club in a Bag

**The tilted world. Tom Franklin & Beth Ann Fennelly. (2013).** Fiction (US):

Set during the Mississippi flood of 1927, it is both an historical and a mystery novel. The little town of Hobnob is protected only by a faltering levee that may explode under the pressure of water or, deliberately, by saboteurs from New Orleans seeking to save their own city. Into town come two prohibition agents looking for their missing predecessors. An orphaned baby changes everything. A novel about natural disaster, law, liquor, love and hate, novelist Franklin and poet Fennelly's combined talents has produced a novel that is a page-turner, laced with lyricism.

**From the cutting room of Barney Kettle. Kate de Goldi. (2015).** Junior/YA Fiction (NZ):

Wannabe film-maker Barney and his sister Ren film the story of the people of their community in Christchurch, uncovering interesting stories and a mystery, all of it taking place in the summer of 2011. Winner of the 2016 Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction, it will have appeal across all ages.

**Lab girl: A story of trees, science and love. Hope Jahren. (2016).** Non-Fiction (US):

Part memoir, part story of a friendship, it is also an account of Jahren's work as a scientist. An illuminating account of her work as a biologist and her struggles to get there, her friendship with another brilliant scientist and their adventures in the field, as well as the intense relationship she has with the plants, seeds and soil she studies. Appeared on many critics' best books of 2016 lists.

**Two turtle doves : A memoir of making things. Alex Monroe. (2014).** Non-Fiction (GB):

The story of a life of making things, tipped sideways by two extraordinary events that occur during his childhood in 1970s Sussex and as he starts out on his career as a jewellery designer, elevating this straightforward memoir into something else.

**Big little lies. Liane Moriarty. (2014).** Fiction (Aus):

Set in a suburb of Sydney, Perriwee School's Trivia Quiz night ends in chaos. As the police investigate what appears to be a tragic accident, signs indicate that it might be something more sinister. A novel that explores the reality of parenting, playground politics, and fractured families. Another of Moriarty's novels exhibiting her signature plotting, interesting and likeable characters, as well as dry wit undercut by an unsettling dark edge.



## Porirua Library Book Club in a Bag

---

### **Housekeeping. Marilynne Robinson. (1980). Fiction (US):**

Robinson's debut novel takes place in Fishbone, a small township set by a glacial lake, in 1950s northwest America. It explores faith, family, loneliness and ageing through the story of two sisters growing up in the care of different members of their family: a competent grandmother, followed by two markedly less competent great-aunts, until finally an eccentric aunt arrives to take over their raising. Gorgeous prose and wonderful characters. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Literature.

### **The summer before the war. Helen Simonson. (2016). Fiction (GB):**

Set in the Sussex village of Rye in 1914, nearing the end of a hot beautiful summer. A young woman arrives to take up the position of Latin 'master' at a nearby boys' school. Beatrice is mourning the death of her father and wants to be left alone to teach and to write, but the collection of characters around her and the landscape have other ideas.

### **The Chimes. Anna Small. (2015). Fiction (NZ):**

Dystopian mystery set in a re-imagined London, where life is orchestrated by a vast musical instrument that prevents people from forming new memories and where the written word has been destroyed. Into this world steps Simon who is beginning to remember. In London he meets Lucian who has other gifts. A richly satisfying novel that explores how sound may be both beautiful and dangerous. Long-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2015.