



Porirua Library Book Club in a Bag

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

The secrets of strangers. Charity Norman. (2020). Fiction (NZ/UK):

A regular weekday morning veers drastically off course for a group of strangers whose paths cross in a London café. Their lives never to be the same again when an apparently crazed gunman bursts into the café, kills the owner and holds them hostage. But there is more to the situation than first meets the eye, and as the captives grapple with their own inner demons the line between right and wrong starts to blur. Will the secrets they keep stop them from escaping with their lives.

The book woman of Troublesome Creek. Kim Michele Richardson (2019).

Fiction (US):

The book woman of Troublesome Creek follows the trials and tribulations of Cussy Carter, who joins a group of pack horse librarians, woman delivering books, hope and education to the poor and struggling people of rural Kentucky. Complicating matters is the fact that Cussy suffers from a rare congenital condition resulting in her skin being blue; this ensures that not only must she face the harshness of rural life during the depression but also face prejudice, discrimination and bigotry from her work colleagues and the town's people for her skin colour.

An American marriage. Tayari Jones (2018). Fiction (US):

A love story that is also a clear-eyed look at the effects of injustice in contemporary American life. The novel follows the effects on a newlywed couple following the incarceration of the husband, Roy, for a crime he did not commit. His wife, Celestial is left bereft and as Roy's absence drags on Celestial faces heart-wrenching decisions about loyalty and moving on with her life.

Little fires everywhere. Celeste Ng (2017). Fiction (US):

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned - from the layout of the winding roads, to the colours of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardson family. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides.

Check library website for the most up-to-date list of titles: <http://www.porirualibrary.org.nz>



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Educated. Tara Westover (2018). Memoir (US):

Tara Westover grew up in a survivalist family in Idaho preparing for the end of the world. Her family didn't believe in schooling, getting medical treatment or being part of society. At 16 Tara decided to educate herself. Her struggle for knowledge would take her far from home and her family ties. This is a harrowing and thought provoking memoir.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris (2018). Fiction (Australia):

A tale of hope and courage is based on interviews with a Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist. Lale Sokolov. He was transported to the camp in April 1942, where he was given the privileged position of tattooist. He fell in love with Gita, who he comforted while she was in line to have her number tattooed on her arm. From that brief encounter, Lale vows to survive the camp and marry her. His story will make you weep, it shows the very best of humanity in the very worst of circumstances.

The Last of the Bonegilla Girls. Victoria Purman. (2018). Fiction (Australia):

The Last of the Bonegilla Girls brings together four girls who meet at an Australian immigration centre; The Bonegilla Migrant Camp. The girls meet in 1954 with the girls and their families escaping a war ravaged Europe. The book explores the friendships forged in the camp and the girls' lives throughout the decades as they face the challenges of establishing new lives for themselves in Australia.

The Sixteen Trees of the Somme. Lars Mytting. (2017 – English edition).

Fiction (Norway):

An epic tale of a young man trying to uncover his family history and secrets. The death of Edvards' grandfather is the trigger for him to embark on a journey of discovery – taking him from his isolated farm in Norway, to the Shetlands and on to the battle fields of France as he searches for the truth about the cause of his parents' death.

The Woman in the Window. A. J. Finn. (2018). Fiction (US):

It's been months since Anna Fox was willing and able to leave her home. She spends her days swallowing pills, drinking way too much red wine, watching old movies, reminiscing about her family, and spying on her neighbours. One night Anna believes she has witnessed a murder at the new neighbour's house and yet no one seems to believe her. As Anna struggles to uncover the truth about what really happened, her own sanity is questioned and her closely held secrets are exposed.



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Chappy. Patricia Grace. (2015). Fiction (New Zealand):

Uprooted from his privileged life in Europe, Daniel is sent to New Zealand to sort himself out. Daniel journeys with his family to piece together their history and to discover a remarkable love story between his Maori grandmother and his Japanese grandfather.

The Dry. Jane Harper. (2017). Fiction (Australia):

It hasn't rained in Kiewarra for two years. Tensions in the farming community are already high when three members of the Hadler family are discovered dead. Everyone assumes Luke Hadler committed suicide after killing his family. Federal Police investigator Aaron Falk returns to his hometown for the funerals and is unwillingly drawn into the investigation.

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 (Australia):

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



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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.

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). YA Fiction (New Zealand):

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 (UK):

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 (Australia):

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



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plotting, interesting and likeable characters, as well as dry wit undercut by an unsettling dark edge.

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 (UK):

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 (New Zealand):

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.