

the offering a bbc radio 2 book club pick

The offering a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick has become a significant event in the literary calendar, capturing the attention of book lovers across the UK and beyond. When a book is chosen by BBC Radio 2's esteemed book club, it usually signifies a work of exceptional quality, relevance, or charm that resonates with a diverse audience. This article explores the process behind selecting a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick, the impact of such selections on authors and readers, and provides guidance on how to engage with this celebrated literary event.

Understanding the BBC Radio 2 Book Club

What Is the BBC Radio 2 Book Club?

The BBC Radio 2 Book Club is a long-standing initiative that promotes contemporary and classic literature through weekly discussions, author interviews, and listener engagement. Hosted by renowned personalities, the club aims to inspire reading across all ages and demographics. It has a broad audience reach, thanks to BBC's extensive platform and the popularity of its presenters.

The Role of the Book of the Week

Each week, the club highlights a "Book of the Week," which often becomes a candidate for the annual BBC Radio 2 Book of the Year. These selections are based on various criteria, including literary merit, cultural relevance, and appeal to the station's diverse audience.

How Is a Book Chosen as a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick?

The Selection Process

Choosing a book for the BBC Radio 2 Book Club involves a multi-stage process:

1. **Nominations and Recommendations:** Publishers, authors, and literary agents can submit titles for consideration. Additionally, the public is encouraged to suggest books via social media and the club's website.
2. **Shortlisting:** A panel of literary experts, radio presenters, and book critics review submissions to create a shortlist of potential picks.
3. **Final Selection:** The final decision is made by the club's editorial team, often in consultation with guest judges or previous winners, ensuring the chosen book aligns with the club's ethos.
4. **Announcement and Promotion:** Once selected, the book is announced on-air, accompanied by interviews with the author and discussions about its themes and significance.

Criteria for Selection

While the process can vary year by year, some consistent factors influence the choice:

- **Literary Quality:** The story's craftsmanship, originality, and overall writing excellence.
- **Relevance:** How the book resonates with current social, cultural, or political issues.

- Audience Engagement: The potential to spark conversation and connect with a broad listener base.
- Author's Profile: The author's reputation, previous works, and ability to promote the book.

The Impact of Being a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick

For Authors

Securing a spot as a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick can be a career-defining moment for authors. The benefits include:

- Increased Visibility: Exposure to millions of listeners boosts sales and readership.
- Enhanced Credibility: Recognition from a reputable platform can open doors to awards and international markets.
- Promotion Opportunities: Authors often participate in interviews, book signings, and literary festivals.

For Readers

Readers gain access to a curated list of high-quality books that are often accompanied by insightful discussions and author insights. Benefits include:

- Guided Reading Choices: Helping readers discover new authors or genres.
- Community Engagement: Participating in discussions, book clubs, and social media conversations.
- Cultural Enrichment: Engaging with themes that reflect contemporary societal issues.

For the Literary Community

The selection process and the subsequent discussions foster a vibrant literary community, encouraging:

- Dialogue: Between readers, critics, and authors.
- Diversity: Highlighting voices from different backgrounds and perspectives.
- Literary Appreciation: Promoting the value of well-crafted storytelling.

Notable Past BBC Radio 2 Book Club Picks

Recent Celebrated Selections

Some notable books that have gained popularity through the BBC Radio 2 Book Club include:

- "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig: A philosophical exploration of life's choices.
- "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell: A poignant historical novel about Shakespeare's son.
- "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman: A charming mystery series that captivated audiences.
- "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones: A compelling story about love and injustice.

Impact of Past Picks

Many past selections have gone on to become bestsellers, win literary awards, and inspire adaptations for stage and screen.

How to Engage with the BBC Radio 2 Book Club

Listening and Participating

Listeners can participate in the club by:

- Tuning in to weekly broadcasts on BBC Radio 2.
- Joining the conversation via social media using designated hashtags.
- Sharing reviews and thoughts on online forums and book groups.

Following Announcements

Stay updated on upcoming picks by:

- Visiting the BBC Radio 2 website.
- Following the station's social media accounts.
- Subscribing to newsletters or podcasts related to the book club.

Choosing Your Next Read

When a book is announced as a club pick:

- Read the book thoroughly.
- Engage with accompanying discussions and author interviews.

- Participate in local or online book clubs focused on the selection.

Tips for Authors Aiming for a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick

Writing a Book That Resonates

Authors interested in catching the attention of the BBC Radio 2 Book Club should focus on:

- Crafting compelling characters and narratives.
- Addressing themes that are socially relevant or thought-provoking.
- Maintaining high-quality literary standards.

Building Relationships with Publishers and Media

Networking with publishers who have a track record of placing books with the BBC can be beneficial.

Also, engaging with media outlets and literary festivals increases visibility.

Engaging with the Audience

Authors can:

- Participate in interviews and book festivals.
- Use social media to connect with readers and promote their work.
- Encourage reviews and discussions about their books.

The Future of the BBC Radio 2 Book Club

Adapting to Changing Media Landscapes

As digital media evolves, the BBC Radio 2 Book Club is expanding its reach through podcasts, social media, and online events. These platforms allow for more interactive engagement and global participation.

Promoting Diversity and Inclusion

The club continues to emphasize highlighting diverse voices, including authors from underrepresented backgrounds, to promote a richer and more inclusive literary landscape.

Encouraging New Voices

Emerging authors are increasingly featured, providing fresh perspectives and innovative storytelling that appeal to contemporary audiences.

Conclusion

The offering a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick remains a coveted honor that underscores a book's literary excellence and cultural relevance. For authors, it offers unparalleled exposure and validation, while for readers, it opens doors to compelling stories that reflect societal themes and human experiences. Staying engaged with the club's selections, participating in discussions, and understanding the selection process enrich the reading experience and foster a vibrant community of book enthusiasts. As the club continues to evolve, it promises to remain a vital platform for celebrating outstanding literature and inspiring new generations of readers and writers alike.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Offing' and why is it a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick?

'The Offing' is a novel by British author Ben Myers that explores themes of friendship, loss, and coming of age. It has been selected by BBC Radio 2's Book Club for its compelling storytelling and literary significance, making it a trending choice among readers and critics alike.

Who is the author of 'The Offing' and what other works are they known for?

Ben Myers is the author of 'The Offing.' He is known for his poetic and lyrical writing style, with other notable works including 'The 13th Apostle' and 'A Soldier of the Great War.'

What themes are explored in 'The Offing' that make it relevant today?

'The Offing' explores themes such as friendship, innocence, mental health, and the impact of war—all of which resonate with contemporary discussions on emotional well-being and social issues.

How can readers participate in the BBC Radio 2 Book Club

discussions about 'The Offing'?

Readers can participate in discussions by tuning into BBC Radio 2's Book Club programs, engaging on their social media platforms, or joining online forums and book groups dedicated to the club's selections.

What has been the critical reception of 'The Offing' since its selection?

'The Offing' has received positive reviews for its lyrical prose and heartfelt storytelling, with critics praising its ability to evoke nostalgia and emotional depth, which contributed to its selection as a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick.

Are there any upcoming events or author interviews related to 'The Offing' on BBC Radio 2?

Yes, BBC Radio 2 plans to feature interviews with Ben Myers and host live discussions about 'The Offing,' providing listeners with deeper insights into the book and its themes.

What age group is 'The Offing' most suitable for?

'The Offing' is suitable for adult readers, particularly those interested in literary fiction, coming-of-age stories, and poetic narratives. It appeals to a wide age range but is especially popular among young adults and older readers.

How does 'The Offing' compare to other recent BBC Radio 2 Book Club picks?

'The Offing' stands out for its poetic language and emotional storytelling, aligning with other critically acclaimed selections but offering a unique perspective on friendship and loss that resonates with modern audiences.

Where can I find a copy of 'The Offing' to read and join the BBC Radio 2 Book Club discussion?

Copies of 'The Offing' are available at most bookstores, online retailers, and local libraries. You can also listen to the BBC Radio 2 Book Club episodes for discussions and insights into the book.

Additional Resources

Offing a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick: An In-Depth Exploration

In the ever-evolving landscape of literary appreciation, few platforms hold as much cultural sway and discerning influence as the BBC Radio 2 Book Club. Since its inception, the program has established itself as a vital space for promoting contemporary and classic literature, guiding readers towards compelling titles, and fostering a vibrant community of book lovers. Each season, anticipation builds around the potential selection—an author or title that resonates with the club's ethos, captivates audiences, and sparks meaningful conversations.

One of the most intriguing aspects of this process is identifying the offing—the potential pick that is gaining momentum, capturing critical praise, and aligning with the club's mission to celebrate diverse voices and compelling storytelling. This article offers an in-depth examination of what it takes to be an Offing a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick, exploring the criteria, process, and impact of such a selection, alongside expert insights and a spotlight on recent successful choices.

Understanding the Significance of a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick

Before delving into the mechanics of how a book becomes a potential pick, it's essential to understand the platform's significance and influence.

The Cultural Impact

BBC Radio 2's Book Club is a trusted institution in the UK literary scene. With millions tuning in regularly, the selection of a book by the club can propel it into bestseller lists, stimulate national conversations, and even influence academic discourse. The club's endorsements are viewed as a mark of quality and relevance, often reflecting broader societal themes and contemporary issues.

Audience Engagement

The club's audience is diverse, ranging from avid readers to casual listeners, spanning various age groups and backgrounds. This diversity necessitates careful curation, ensuring that each pick appeals to a broad spectrum while maintaining literary integrity and cultural resonance.

The Power of the Selection

A BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick is more than just a recommendation; it is a cultural event. The chosen book often benefits from increased visibility, reviews, and discussions, which can significantly impact an author's career and readership.

The Path to Being an Offing: Criteria and Considerations

Becoming a candidate for the BBC Radio 2 Book Club's selection is a nuanced process driven by several key factors. Here is an in-depth look at the primary criteria and considerations that shape this process:

1. Literary Merit and Quality

At the core of any potential pick is the intrinsic quality of the writing. The book should demonstrate originality, craftsmanship, and depth. The club's curators seek works that offer fresh perspectives, compelling narratives, or innovative storytelling techniques.

2. Relevance and Timeliness

The book's themes should resonate with current societal conversations, cultural debates, or historical moments. For instance, stories exploring identity, social justice, or environmental issues often find a receptive audience.

3. Diversity and Inclusivity

The club actively seeks to promote voices from underrepresented backgrounds, including diverse authors, genres, and perspectives. This aligns with the broader cultural movement toward inclusivity in literature.

4. Audience Appeal and Accessibility

While literary quality is paramount, the book should also be accessible enough to engage a broad audience. It should be compelling without requiring extensive prior knowledge, ensuring it appeals to both dedicated readers and casual listeners.

5. Critical Reception and Word of Mouth

Books that have garnered positive reviews, awards, or widespread buzz tend to be strong candidates. Critical acclaim can serve as a signal that the book has the potential for impactful discussion.

6. Compatibility with the Club's Values

The selection process considers the club's mission to promote meaningful, thought-provoking literature that can inspire discussion and reflection.

The Selection Process: From Candidate to Potential Pick

Understanding how a book moves through the selection pipeline reveals the meticulous nature of the process.

Step 1: Nominations and Recommendations

The process begins with nominations from various sources:

- Literary critics and editors often recommend titles based on their reviews.
- Authors and publishers may submit books for consideration.
- BBC Radio 2's internal team continuously scans literary awards, bestseller lists, and cultural trends.
- Listeners and community feedback can also influence the process, with the club's social media channels and listener polls providing valuable insights.

Step 2: Curatorial Review and Shortlisting

Once nominations are gathered, a panel of curators, including literary experts, broadcasters, and cultural commentators, reviews the submissions. They assess each title against the criteria outlined earlier, considering factors like relevance, diversity, and potential for discussion.

This stage often results in a shortlist—typically 3 to 5 titles—that are then subjected to further scrutiny.

Step 3: Audience Testing and Expert Deliberation

The shortlisted titles might undergo a form of audience testing, such as preview discussions or social media polls, to gauge potential appeal.

Simultaneously, the team evaluates logistical considerations—such as availability of the author for interviews, the feasibility of discussions, and the timing within the broadcasting schedule.

Step 4: Final Selection and Announcement

After thorough deliberation, the final choice is made. The selected book is announced via the club's media channels, accompanied by interviews, discussions, and promotional activities.

The reveal often generates significant buzz, with the broadcast itself serving as a platform for engaging storytelling and author insights.

Case Studies: Recent Successful BBC Radio 2 Book Club Picks

Analyzing recent choices provides insight into what makes a book an effective and celebrated pick.

Example 1: "Girl, Woman, Other" by Bernardine Evaristo

- Why it was chosen: Celebrated for its innovative structure and rich portrayal of diverse British lives, the novel aligns with the club's commitment to diversity and contemporary relevance.
- Impact: The book's selection boosted sales, sparked widespread discussions on identity and community, and earned the Booker Prize.

Example 2: "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell

- Why it was chosen: Its lyrical storytelling and poignant exploration of grief and family resonated deeply with audiences.
- Impact: The selection highlighted historical fiction's power and contributed to increased interest in Shakespearean themes.

Example 3: "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones

- Why it was chosen: The novel's themes of love, injustice, and societal division struck a chord amid current social debates.
- Impact: It fostered conversations on race, relationships, and societal structures, aligning with the club's mission to provoke thoughtful discussion.

The Impact of a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick

The selection of a book by the club has tangible and intangible impacts:

1. Literary Promotion and Sales Boost

A BBC Radio 2 pick often catapults a book into the national spotlight, leading to increased sales and library acquisitions.

2. Cultural Conversations

The club's platform encourages discussions that extend beyond literary circles, influencing cultural narratives.

3. Author Recognition

Authors benefit from the visibility, which can lead to further publishing opportunities, awards, and international recognition.

4. Community Building

Listeners become part of a shared cultural experience, fostering community through book discussions, social media engagement, and live events.

Conclusion: The Art and Strategy of Offing a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick

Choosing a book for the BBC Radio 2 Book Club is an intricate blend of literary judgment, cultural insight, and strategic timing. It involves a rigorous process of nominations, reviews, audience engagement, and expert discussion. The goal is to select a title that not only meets high standards of literary quality but also resonates with contemporary societal themes and broad audiences.

The power of such a selection cannot be overstated. It elevates the chosen work, influences cultural discourse, and fosters a deeper appreciation of literature's role in society. Whether it's a debut novel or a seasoned classic, the process underscores the importance of curated cultural promotion—an art that combines expertise, intuition, and a genuine love for storytelling.

As the BBC Radio 2 Book Club continues to evolve, its role as a tastemaker and cultural catalyst remains vital. The next offering—the potential pick—awaits its moment to inspire, challenge, and delight audiences across the UK and beyond.

The Offing A Bbc Radio 2 Book Club Pick

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Offing* Benjamin Myers, 2019 FROM THE WALTER SCOTT PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF THE GALLOWS POLE COMES A POWERFUL NEW NOVELA TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR _____ 'What a radical thing, these days, to have written a book so full of warmth and kindness ... Gorgeous' - Max Porter, author of *Lanny* 'Glorious ... Leaves an indelible impression ... A moving and subtle novel in many ways, infused with a love of the minute pleasures in life, and the lasting regrets' - Scotland on Sunday _____ One summer following the Second World War, Robert Appleyard sets out on foot from his Durham village. Sixteen and the son of a coal miner, he makes his way across the northern countryside until he reaches the former smuggling village of Robin Hood's Bay. There he meets Dulcie, an eccentric, worldly, older woman who lives in a ramshackle cottage facing out to sea. Staying with Dulcie, Robert's life opens into one of rich food, sea-swimming, sunburn and poetry. The two come from different worlds, yet as the summer months pass, they form an unlikely friendship that will profoundly alter their futures. _____ An i Book of the YearA Reading Agency Book of the YearA BBC Radio 2 Book Club PickA BBC Radio 4 'Book at Bedtime'An Observer Pick for 2019

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Lion Women of Tehran* Marjan Kamali, 2024-11-21 A BBC RADIO 2 BOOK CLUB PICK 'As heart-wrenching as it is achingly beautiful' Sadeqa Johnson, author of *The House of Eve* 'Heartbreaking and life affirming' Adrienne Brodeur, author of *Little Monsters* 'Courage, friendship, loyalty, hardship, love - this novel has everything' Mary Beth Keane, *Ask Again, Yes* From the author of *The Stationery Shop of Tehran*, a heartfelt, epic new novel of friendship, betrayal and redemption set against three transformative decades in Tehran, Iran. In 1950s Tehran, seven-year-old Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father, forcing Ellie and her mother to move to a tiny home downtown. Lonely and bearing the brunt of her mother's endless grievances, Ellie dreams of a friend to alleviate her isolation. Luckily, on the first day of school, she meets Homa, a kind, passionate girl with a brave and irrepressible spirit. Together, the two girls play games, learn to cook in the stone kitchen of Homa's warm home, wander through the colorful stalls of the Grand Bazaar, and share their ambitions for becoming 'lion women.' But their happiness is disrupted when Ellie and her mother are afforded the opportunity to return to their previous bourgeois life. Now a popular student at the best girls' high school in Iran, Ellie's memories of Homa begin to fade. Years later, however, her sudden reappearance in Ellie's privileged world alters the course of both of their lives. Together, the two young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have enormous consequences. Praise for Marjan Kamali 'Evocative, devastating, and hauntingly beautiful' Whitney Scharer, author of *The Age of Light* 'A beautifully immersive tale' Jasmin Darznik, author of *The Good Daughter* and *Song of a Captive Bird* 'At once masterfully plotted, beautifully written, and populated by characters who are arresting, lovable and so real' Elinor Lipman, author of *Turpentine Lane* 'A sweeping romantic tale of thwarted love' Kirkus Reviews 'Enchanting' My Weekly

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Perfect Golden Circle* Benjamin Myers, 2022-05-12 **Selected for BBC 2 Between the Covers 2022** **The BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick** **Longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize 2022** 'In this folksy, magnetic tale, two outsiders seek healing and enlightenment by creating crop formations in a Wiltshire field ... A memorable hymn to beauty' OBSERVER 'The pleasures of this bountiful novel are like a glass of cool water on a parched summer day' THE TIMES 'A spirited and anarchic novel... a roiling, rollicking crop-circle folk tale' GUARDIAN England, 1989. Over the course of a burning hot summer, two very different men - traumatized Falklands veteran Calvert, and affable, chaotic Redbone - set out nightly in a clapped-out camper van to undertake an extraordinary project. Under cover of darkness, the two men traverse the fields of rural England in secret, forming crop circles in elaborate and mysterious

patterns. As the summer wears on, and their designs grow ever more ambitious, the two men find that their work has become a cult international sensation – and that an unlikely and beautiful friendship has taken root as the wheat ripens from green to gold. Moving and exhilarating, tender and slyly witty, *The Perfect Golden Circle* is a captivating novel about the futility of war, the destruction of the English countryside, class inequality – and the power of beauty to heal trauma and fight power. 'Brilliantly constructed and steeped in rural atmosphere' FINANCIAL TIMES, Best summer books of 2022

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *A Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary* R. W. Burchfield, 1972 These volumes replace the 1933 Supplement to the OED. The vocabulary treated is that which came into use during the publication of the successive sections of the main Dictionary -- that is, between 1884, when the first fascicle of the letter A was published, and 1928, when the final section of the Dictionary appeared -- together with accessions to the English language in Britain and abroad from 1928 to the present day. Nearly all the material in the 1933 Supplement has been retained here, though in revised form (Preface).

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *Three Women and a Boat* Anne Youngson, 2021-08-31 THE BBC RADIO TWO BOOK CLUB PICK A hugely charming, uplifting story that shows it's never too late for new adventures - for fans of HAROLD FRY, DEAR MRS BIRD and THE LIBRARIAN. 'Full of grace and humanity' SUNDAY TIMES 'Life-affirming and funny' GOOD HOUSEKEEPING Meet Eve, who has departed from her thirty-year career to become a Free Spirit; Sally, who has waved goodbye to her indifferent husband and two grown-up children; and Anastasia: defiantly independent narrowboat-dweller, suddenly vulnerable as she awaits a life-saving operation. Inexperienced and ill-equipped, Sally and Eve embark upon a journey through the canals of England, guided by the remote and unsympathetic Anastasia. As they glide gently - and not so gently - through the countryside, the eccentricities and challenges of canalboat life draw them inexorably together, and a tender and unforgettable story unfolds. Disarmingly truthful and narrated with a rare, surprising wit, *THREE WOMEN AND A BOAT* is a journey over the glorious waterways of England and into the unfathomable depths of the human heart. ----- What customers are saying: 'Moving, tender and just a balm for the soul' ***** 'Perfect for those in need of an uplifting read' **** 'A warm and enjoyable read' *****

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Farm* Joanne Ramos, 2019 For nine months you belong to the Farm. You dedicate yourself to the all-consuming task of producing the perfect baby for your überwealthy clients. Jane, an immigrant from the Philippines is thrilled to make it through the highly competitive Host selection process. But now pregnant Jane grows desperate to reconnect with her life outside

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *A Splintering* Dur E. Aziz Amna, 2025-09-04 Set against an oppressive backdrop of political violence and natural disaster, *A Splintering* traces the class struggle of a woman stuck between province and metropolis, motherhood and ambition. Disquieting and utterly gripping.

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Frequency of Us* Keith Stuart, 2021-03-25 *** A BBC2 BETWEEN THE COVERS BOOK CLUB PICK *** BBC RADIO 4 BOOK AT BEDTIME *** 'A fascinating, beautiful, heartwarming novel. It kept me gripped from the very first chapter' -- BETH O'LEARY In Second World War Bath, young, naïve wireless engineer Will meets Austrian refugee Elsa Klein: she is sophisticated, witty and worldly, and at last his life seems to make sense . . . until, soon after, the couple's home is bombed, and Will awakes from the blast to find himself alone. No one has heard of Elsa Klein. They say she never existed. Seventy years later, social worker Laura is battling her way out of depression and off medication. Her new case is a strange, isolated old man whose house hasn't changed since the war. A man who insists his fiancé vanished many, many years before. Everyone thinks he's suffering dementia. But Laura begins to suspect otherwise . . . From Keith Stuart, author of the much-loved Richard & Judy bestseller *A Boy Made of Blocks*, comes a stunning, emotional novel about an impossible mystery and a true love that refuses to die. 'Enthralling, a real thing of beauty. Dazzling' -- JOSIE SILVER 'The Frequency of Us is a novel with a

bit of everything: a sweeping love story, wonderfully complex characters, and a sprinkling of the supernatural. I loved it, and know it'll stay with me for some time' -- CLARE POOLEY 'A complete joy! An intelligent, intricate and emotive mystery' -- LOUISE JENSON

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Book of Guilt* Catherine Chidgey, 2026-05-21 MORNING, AFTERNOON, NIGHT. THE MOTHERS ARE ALWAYS WATCHING . . . 'Original, dark, clever and compelling' Mary Ann Sieghart, author of *The Authority Gap* 'This is a compelling and terrifying novel whose alternative history engages chillingly with current possibilities. No one writes children better than Chidgey. She exactly gets their experimental cruelty and related innocence as they attempt to piece their world together' Elizabeth Cook, author of *Lux England*, 1979. Vincent, Lawrence and William are the last remaining residents of a secluded New Forest home, part of the government's Sycamore Scheme. Every day, the triplets do their chores, play their games and take their medicine, under the watchful eyes of three mothers: Mother Morning, Mother Afternoon and Mother Night. Their nightmares are recorded in *The Book of Dreams*. Their lessons are taken from *The Book of Knowledge*. And their sins are reported in *The Book of Guilt*. All the boys want is to be sent to the Big House in Margate, where they imagine a life of sun, sea and fairground rides. But, as the government looks to shut down the Sycamore Homes, the triplets begin to question everything they have been told. Gradually surrendering its dark secrets, *The Book of Guilt* is a profoundly unnerving exploration of belonging in a world where some lives are valued less than others.

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Day We Left* Caroline Bond, 2023-11-02 ***A BBC RADIO 2 BOOK CLUB PICK*** Oli and Joe are identical twins. But they will never be the same. Lizzie Truman gives birth to her sons at thirty-one weeks. From the start, the differences between the twins are clear. Oli is bigger, stronger, healthier. Joe is small and much less robust, his future inexorably altered by the trauma of his premature delivery. As soon as the boys are well enough, Lizzie checks out of the maternity hospital and leaves her old life behind. By the time Oli and Joe are grown, Beth has a new name, a thriving business, and she has successfully raised her sons alone. But when the truth about their past emerges, the twins are forced to reassess everything they thought they knew about their mother, their upbringing and themselves. 'Wonderful ... such a great read ... made me emotional' Zoe Ball, BBC Radio 2 Book Club

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *Royals* Emma Forrest, 2021-06-10 The Autumn Radio 2 Book Club Pick A Grazia Book of the Year 'An Eighties Breakfast at Tiffany's' David Nicholls 'Elegant, sexy, tender wild' Emma Jane Unsworth July, 1981. London. Shy, working-class Steven finds solace in beauty. Eighteen-years-old, he dreams of being a fashion designer. He's also gay, maybe. There's a lot Steven isn't sure about yet. Then a brutal attack lands him in hospital, and he meets Jasmine - intoxicating, anarchic, fabulous Jasmine. Over the course of one summer, their giddy, glorious, maddening friendship will turn Steven's life upside down - and rewrite his destiny forever. 'Dazzling' Marian Keyes 'The coolest book you'll read this year' Red

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: *The Photographer of the Lost* Caroline Scott, 2019-10-31 A BBC RADIO 2 BOOK CLUB PICK 'This excellent debut is a melancholic reminder of the rippling after-effects of war' The Times 'A touching novel of love and loss' Sunday Times For fans of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* and *Where The Crawdads Sing* comes a moving story, inspired by real events, about how hope and love will prevail against all odds. 1921 In the aftermath of war, everyone is searching for answers. Edie's husband Francis never came home and was declared 'missing, believed killed'. But when she receives a mysterious photograph of him in the post, hope flares and she begins to search. Harry photographs gravesites on the Western Front, hired by grieving families. Plagued by memories of his last conversation with Francis, he has never stopped searching for his brother. After years apart, their search brings them together. As they uncover the truth they are haunted by the past and their own complex feelings - towards Francis, and towards each other. Are some questions better left unanswered? Perfect for fans of Maggie O'Farrell and Helen Dunmore, *The Photographer of the Lost* is a beautiful novel, inspired by real events in the wake of the First World War, about love and loss, grief and guilt, and the fleeting, fragile moments of life. Praise for *The Photographer of the Lost*: 'Epic... A beautifully written must-read' heat 'A gripping, devastating

novel about the lost and the ones they left behind' Sarra Manning, RED 'Terrific first novel' Daily Mail 'Scott has done an amazing job of drawing on real stories to craft a powerful novel' Good Housekeeping 'A deeply poignant and immersive novel . . . told in beautiful, elevated prose. I was completely caught up in these characters' stories' Rachel Hore 'What a wonderful debut novel . . . With a mystery at its heart and a moving, but page turning hook, I couldn't stop reading' Lorna Cook 'A sublimely rendered portrait of the search for answers amidst the chaos and devastation left behind in the aftermath of World War 1' Fiona Valpy 'A poignant hymn to those who gave up their lives for their country and to those who were left behind' Fanny Blake 'I was utterly captivated by this novel, which swept me away, broke my heart, then shone wonderful light through all the pieces' Isabelle Broom 'Beautiful, unflinching: The Photographer of the Lost is going to be on an awful lot of Best Books of the Year lists, mine included... unforgettable' Iona Grey 'Momentous, revelatory and astonishing historical fiction!' Historical Novel Society

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: The Painter's Daughters Emily Howes, 2024-02-29
SELECTED FOR THE BBC RADIO 2 BOOK CLUB WINNER OF THE MSLEXIA NOVEL

COMPETITION 'Beautifully written . . . I raced through it' HILARY MANTEL 'As exquisitely and tenderly rendered as a Gainsborough painting' TRACY CHEVALIER 'A wonderfully powerful and haunting novel with a hugely gripping plot' DEBORAH MOGGACH 'A rich evocation of secrets, art, sisterhood and class' i PAPER 1759, Ipswich. Sisters Peggy and Molly Gainsborough are the best of friends and do everything together. They spy on their father as he paints, they rankle their mother as she manages the books, they tear barefoot through the muddy fields that surround their home. But there is another reason they are inseparable: from a young age, Molly has had a tendency to forget who she is, to fall into confusion, and Peggy knows instinctively that no one must find out. When the family move to Bath, Thomas Gainsborough finds fame as a portrait artist, while his daughters are thrown into the whirl of polite society. Here, the merits of marriage and codes of behaviour are crystal clear, and secrets much harder to keep. As Peggy goes to greater lengths to protect her sister, she finds herself falling in love, and their precarious situation is soon thrown catastrophically off-course. The discovery of a betrayal forces her to question all she has done for Molly - and whether any one person can truly change the fate of another . . . Inspired by true events and told with irresistible vibrancy and wit, Emily Howes' award-winning debut is a captivating and deeply moving novel about art, sisterhood and the price we pay for love. 'Vividly imagined and exquisitely brought to the page' RACHEL JOYCE 'A beautiful debut' JO BROWNING WROE 'An incredible first novel that'll leave you scouring the real-life paintings for clues' STYLIST 'FASCINATING' WASHINGTON POST

the offing a bbc radio 2 book club pick: Falling Animals Sheila Armstrong, 2023-05-25 *A BBC 2 BETWEEN THE COVERS BOOK CLUB PICK* *SHORTLISTED FOR THE RSL ONDAATJE PRIZE 2024* 'Vivid, sensuous ... A subtle tale of loss, loneliness and disconnection' PAUL LYNCH, IRISH INDEPENDENT 'Lush, lyrical and cleverly-constructed. A beautiful book' LOUISE KENNEDY 'Beautifully written ... An unchained sea-melody of outsiders, pilgrims and castaways' ANNE ENRIGHT The disquieting story of an unidentified man as told by those who crossed paths with him on the last day of his life, Sheila Armstrong's debut novel is haunting, lyrical and darkly suspenseful. On an isolated beach set against a lonely, windswept coastline, a pale figure sits serenely against a sand dune staring out to sea. His hands are folded neatly in his lap, his ankles are crossed and there is a faint smile on his otherwise lifeless face. Months later, after a fruitless investigation, the nameless stranger is buried in an unmarked grave. But the mystery of his life and death lingers on, drawing the nearby villagers into its wake. From strandings to shipwrecks, it is not the first time that strangeness has washed up on their shores. Told through a chorus of voices, *Falling Animals* follows the crosshatching threads of lives both true and imagined, real and surreal, past and present. Slowly, over great time and distance, the story of one man, alone on a beach, begins to unravel. Elegiac and atmospheric, dark and disquieting, Sheila Armstrong's debut novel marks her arrival as one of the most uniquely gifted writers at work in literary fiction today. Reader Reviews 'Beautifully written and gently catches the reader with its meditative prose and deep humanity'

'Such a beautiful book' 'Gorgeous wild setting and achingly recognisable characters'

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