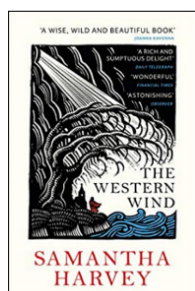


# WINTER READS

Books chosen by boys, beaks and staff  
All books are available from the Vaughan Library



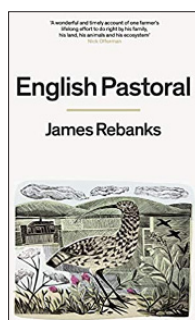
**HARROW**  
SCHOOL  
VAUGHAN LIBRARY



## *The Western Wind* by Samantha Harvey

It's set in Oakham in Somerset in medieval times and Harvey's writing is so rich that the sense of place and time is incredibly vivid. There is an interesting cast of characters and an intriguing mystery story that unfolds in reverse, which really keeps you engaged. I would definitely recommend it.

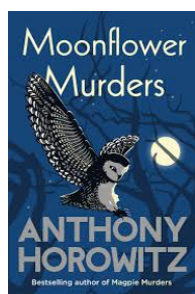
Recommended by Kirsty Matthews,  
Academic Principal HSSC



## *English Pastoral* by James Rebanks

The author – a sheep farmer from the Lake District and Oxford graduate – gives us a unique and eloquent account of how farming has shaped, and continues to shape, our rural British landscape. This urgent, necessary treatise is infused with the hard-fought, first-hand experience of an earnest man grappling with how to pay the bills and yet, at the same time, carve out a patch of England that cares intimately about wildlife, nature and the social heritage of his craft.

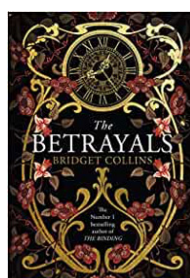
Recommended by RCHA



## *Moonflower Murders* by Anthony Horowitz

A labyrinth of clues. A mystery novel hiding a deadly secret. A killer with a fiendish plot: a brilliantly intricate and original thriller from the bestselling author of *Maggie Murders*.

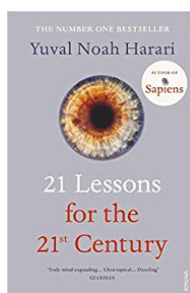
Recommended by Daniel Sidhom (*The Knoll*, Lower Sixth)



## *The Betrayals* by Bridget Collins

A compelling, magical and forensically crafted book about the 'grand jeu', an archaic game which combines music, maths and movement. Set in the 1930s in an unnamed (but familiar) European country, it's an unusual and complex story based on Herman Hesse's *The Glass Bead Game*.

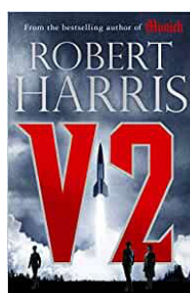
Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



## *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* by Yuval Noah Harari

The follow up to *Sapiens* and *Homo Deus*. I am recommending it as I believe all Harrovians should read it to broaden their understanding of our species: our past, present and future.

Recommended by Gregory Warmback,  
Development Officer



## *V2* by Robert Harris

A gripping story of espionage that focuses on the deadly Nazi V2 rocket programme.

Recommended by JPM



## *Reality and other Stories* by John Lanchester

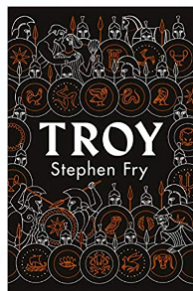
A disquieting collection of sinister stories about the perils of technology and contemporary culture.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



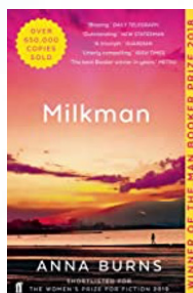
**Sex Power Money** by Sara Pascoe  
A funny book with serious intent, *Sex Power Money* interrogates this contentious triptych and examines the links between the three. Asking uncompromising questions about the sex industry, objectification and the erotic allure of immense wealth, Pascoe offers a splenetic, incisive and frequently hilarious account of the modern condition.

Recommended by Marie Staunton,  
Head of Library and Archive



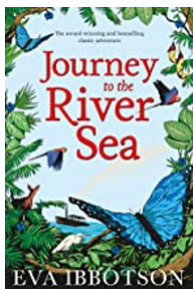
**Troy** by Stephen Fry  
A lively and entertaining re-telling of the Trojan myth.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



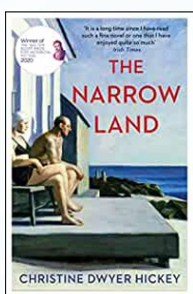
**Milkman** by Anna Burns  
It's a clever, witty and entertaining read set in the depth of the Troubles in the early 1970s. If the Northern Irish dialect is a new experience, you will quickly fall in with the writing style.

Recommended by Ralph Arundell,  
Director of Operations



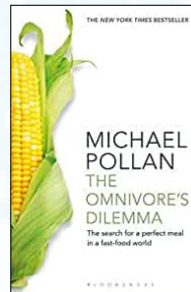
**Journey to the River Sea**  
by Eva Ibbotson  
I loved reading this book because of the calm, beautiful descriptions dotted throughout the text and because it really conveyed a powerful and valuable meaning of adventure and courage.

Recommended by Saarvin Cambatta-  
Mistry (*Lyon's*, Shell)



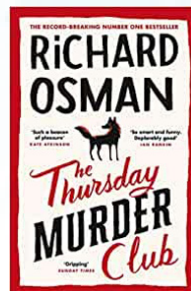
**The Narrow Land**  
by Christine Dwyer Hickey  
It's about the painter Edward Hopper and his wife, and a young refugee from the war in Germany who befriends them. It is set in Cape Cod on the coast where they had a holiday home and is a wonderful evocation of that part of the world and the lives of Hopper and the people living there in the years after the war.

Recommended by Caroline Sampson,  
House Masters' Secretary



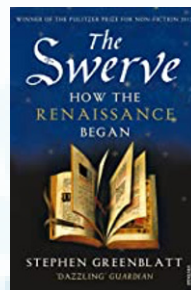
**The Omnivore's Dilemma**  
by Michael Pollan  
Acclaimed food writer Michael Pollan sets out to answer the question "what should we have for dinner?". The book follows three vastly different meals from paddock to plate and, in doing so, evaluates industrial farming, organic certification, hunting and foraging. It is a fascinating read at a time when global food systems are being strained by a pandemic and a growing population.

Recommended by OWM



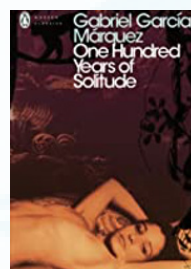
**The Thursday Murder Club**  
by Richard Osman  
Richard Osman's debut novel is a welcome addition to the detective fiction genre. A group of older people living in a retirement village keep themselves active by investigating old murders. They are then drawn to investigate a murder on their own doorstep. It is understated, humorous and well written. It also tackles issues of aging, usefulness and dementia in a charming and thoughtful manner.

Recommended by Amada Deal,  
Assistant Librarian



**The Swerve: How the Renaissance Began**  
by Stephen Greenblatt  
It is all about a 15th-century Italian Humanist who is chasing around Europe looking for classical texts, when he stumbles across Lucretius' *On the Nature of Things*, which Greenblatt argues is a fundamental text that reshaped how we viewed the world. The second chapter, which is all about how the monasteries preserved texts for the best part of 1,000 years, is wittily written. Greenblatt talks about how the monks had 'reading periods' and were punished if they did not take it seriously... It all sounds very familiar!

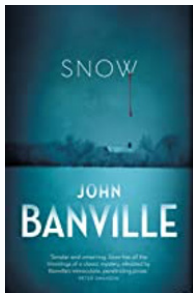
Recommended by JESB



**A Hundred Years of Solitude**  
by Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
I like the book because, with its imaginative blend of magic, fantasy, and reality, the whole novel morphs into one beautiful poem of history, progress and human life.

Recommended by Vincent Song (*The Head Master's*, Remove)

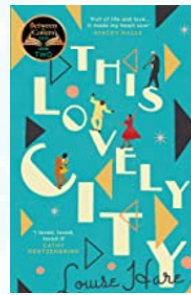




*Snow* by John Banville

A classic murder mystery, Banville's depiction of the new Republic of Ireland is fascinating. Strafford's investigation is hampered by the Roman Catholic Church whose grip — politically and emotionally — is evident over the country and its people.

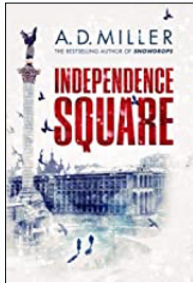
Recommended by Marie Staunton,  
Head of Library and Archive



*This Lovely City* by Louise Hare

A tale of young love and shameful prejudice with a disturbing mystery, all set in 1950s' Brixton. Lawrie has settled, along with many of his fellow Windrush passengers, to build a new life in a country that needs him but may not want him.

Recommended by Marie Staunton,  
Head of Library and Archive



*Independence Square* by A D Miller

An exceptional political thriller, *Independence Square* is a story of ordinary people caught up in extraordinary times. It is a story about corruption and personal and political betrayals. It is a story about where, in the 21st century, power really lies.

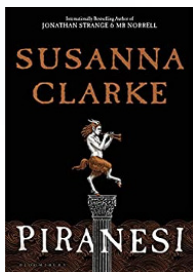
Recommended by CM



*The End of Loneliness*  
by Benedict Wells

German contemporary literature at its best, I think. A melancholy read but so beautifully written.

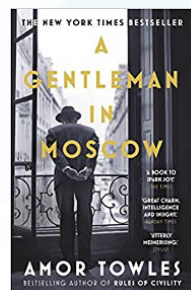
Recommended by Astrid Jennewein,  
HR Manager



*Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke

Mysterious, entrancing and unique, this is a book which it is best to know as little as possible, before losing yourself in its labyrinth. I loved it.

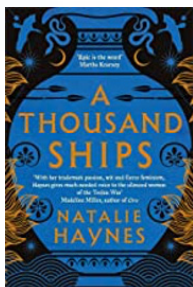
Recommended by Joanne Payne,  
Assistant Librarian



*A Gentleman in Moscow*  
by Amor Towles

Set after the Bolshevik Revolution, it tells the story of a Russian aristocrat living under house arrest in a luxury hotel for 30 years. Despite every setback, the Count maintains his wit and humanity in this wonderful novel full of humour and pathos.

Recommended by Arturo Saville  
Mascioni (*Rendalls*, Shell)



*A Thousand Ships* by Natalie Haynes

An excellent and vivid portrayal of the Trojan War as seen from an entirely female perspective.

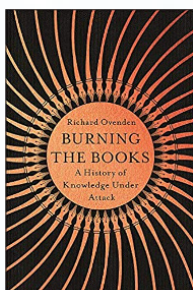
Recommended by HAH



*Flights* by Olga Tokarczuk

A sweeping, lyrical novel, told with wit and vivacity. A significant story of travel and human connection in a polarised world.

Recommended by KAF



*Burning the Books: A History of Knowledge Under Attack*  
by Richard Ovenden

From the destruction of the Great Library of Alexandria to the Windrush papers, *Burning the Books* charts the extraordinary history of hostility towards knowledge, and of those who have fought to preserve it.

Recommend by JPM



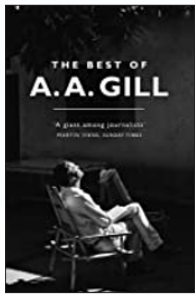
*All the King's Men*  
by Robert Penn Warren

Set in the 1930s, this book traces the rise and fall of Willie Stark, who begins his political career as an idealistic man of the people but soon becomes corrupted by success. A gritty tale of politics in the American South.

Recommended by AGC



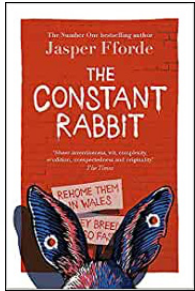




*The Best of A. A. Gill* by A A Gill

What a sad loss his untimely death was. Peerlessly observant and laugh-out-loud funny, this is one of those gems that keeps you dipping in and out. A brilliant journalist who was often pigeonholed by many as just a food and TV critic, but this collection shows he was so much more.

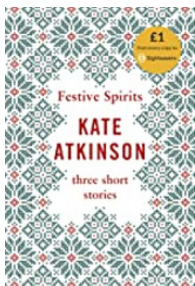
Recommended by Ralph Arundell,  
Director of Operations



*The Constant Rabbit*  
by Jasper Fforde

Another characteristically eccentric concept breaks free from the wildly inventive mind of Jasper Fforde as a bizarre tale of human-rabbit coexistence masks a clever allegory about belonging and identity.

Recommended by Joanne Payne,  
Assistant Librarian



*Festive Spirits* by Kate Atkinson

Three short, but exquisitely formed, tales with a yuletide theme from the pen of the mercurial Kate Atkinson, *Festive Spirits* is a diverse and winning collection. Easily digestible in one sitting, this volume makes the perfect pick-me-up for the whirlwind festive season.

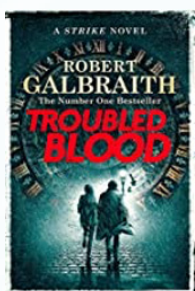
Recommended by CM



*The Snakes* by Sadie Jones

A beautifully written, dark, suspenseful thriller about the corruption of money and abuse within a dysfunctional family.

Recommended by Astrid Jennewein,  
HR Manager



*Troubled Blood* by Robert Galbraith

Private Detective Cormoran Strike is visiting his family in Cornwall when he is approached by a woman asking for help finding her mother, Margot Bamborough, who went missing in mysterious circumstances in 1974. Strike has never tackled a cold case before, let alone one 40 years old, but, despite the slim chance of success, he is intrigued and takes it on. This is a perfect read for winter.

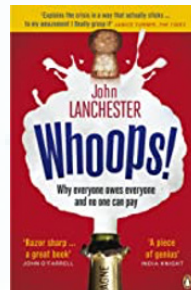
Recommended by Amanda Deal,  
Assistant Librarian



*This is Happiness* by Niall Williams

A wistful coming-of-age in a small Irish parish, *This is Happiness* sings with tenderness and humanity. A deft chronicler of the Celtic state of mind, Williams has produced another lyrical treatise on identity, community and belonging.

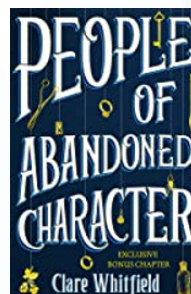
Recommended by JMA



*Whoops!* by John Lanchester

'Normally a writer of amusing novels, this time he addresses the financial collapse of 2008. In a way that *The Big Short* exposed subprime lending on film so this does in prose, amusing and disturbing in equal measure, but it makes complex finance and economics accessible to the uninitiated.

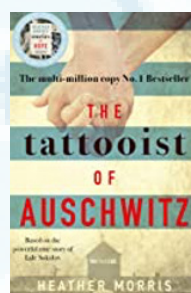
Recommended by Ralph Arundel,  
Director of Operations



*People of Abandoned Character*  
by Clare Whitfield

An absorbing page turner that tells the story of a disaffected wife who thinks that her husband may be Jack the Ripper. Hugely atmospheric, it's full of flawed and complex characters including a sinister housekeeper who definitely has a touch of the Mrs Danvers about her!

Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



*The Tattooist of Auschwitz*  
by Heather Morris

A heartfelt tale of love born in darkness, inspired by the astonishing true story of Lale Sokolov, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is as remarkable as it is life-affirming. Morris' deft approach to the most emotive subject matter is a triumph of empathetic storytelling.

Recommended by Mackenzie Morgan  
(Lyon's, Remove)

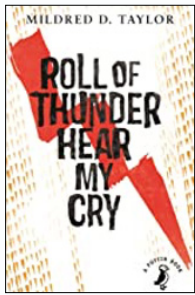


*The Sicilian* by Mario Puzo

A ripping yarn of mafia derring-do, as told by a master storyteller who wrote the infamous *The Godfather*.

Recommended by HAH





*Roll of Thunder Hear my Cry*  
by Mildred D Taylor

This book was written on quite a harsh and unforgiving subject, but I think it really gives a great picture of the history of the black race and diversity.

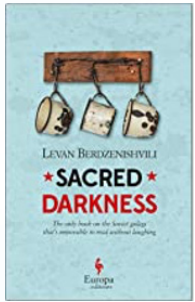
Recommended by Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry (Lyon's, Shell)



*Ready Player Two* by Ernest Cline

The eagerly and long-awaited sequel to *Ready Player One* plunges Wade Watts straight back into another riddle-solving adventure. A new and powerful enemy awaits, and Wade must once again navigate the virtual universe to safeguard the future of OASIS.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins, Assistant Librarian



*Sacred Darkness*  
by Levan Berzenishvili

Based on true events and a thrilling marriage of reportage and lived experience, *Sacred Darkness* tears apart the fabric of Russian Soviet repression with biting humour and wry insight.

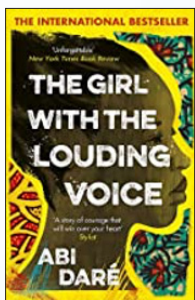
Recommended by KAF



*We Had it So Good* by Linda Grant

An engaging and well-written story of a London family from the late 1960s to the present.

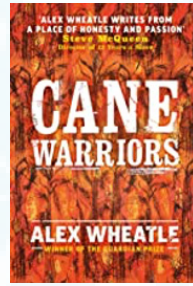
Recommended by Astrid Jennewein, HR Manager



*The Girl with the Louding Voice*  
by Abi Dare

Dare's exuberant, moving debut revolves around Adunni, a Nigerian girl regarded as property at the age of 14 yet determined to find her 'louding voice' and live a life that she controls.

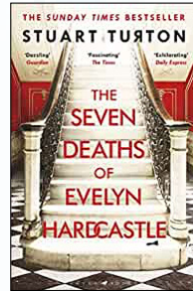
Recommended by Marie Staunton, Head of Library and Archive



*Cane Warriors* by Alex Wheatle

A dramatisation of true events, this is the compelling and powerful story of Tacky's war – a slave uprising in Jamaica in 1760. Narrated by 14 -year old Moa, this harrowing portrayal of plantation life is brought to life in this short but important read.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins, Assistant Librarian



*The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*  
by Stuart Turton

An inventive, mind-bending and original high-concept murder mystery with a cast of fantastically odd characters.

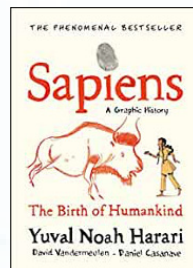
Recommended by Daniel Sidhom (*The Knoll*, Lower Sixth)



*10 minutes 38 seconds in this Strange World* by Elif Shafak

Capturing the evocative recollections of Tequila Leila in the ten minutes after her death, Shafak's spellbinding novel extracts the value of a fully lived life from its untimely ending. An excellent read and surprisingly uplifting.

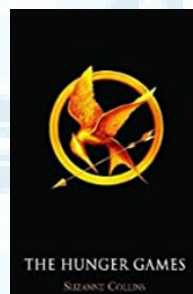
Recommended by HAH



*Sapiens: A Graphic History*  
by Yuval Noah Harari

A graphic re-working of the best-selling book about the creation and evolution of humans.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins, Assistant Librarian



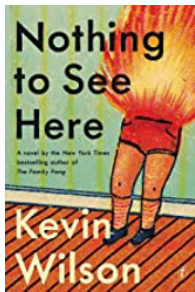
*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

This brilliant dystopian action novel is so exciting; I couldn't find a single moment where I was bored. I highly recommend it.

Recommended by Saarvin Cambatta-Mistry (Lyon's, Shell)

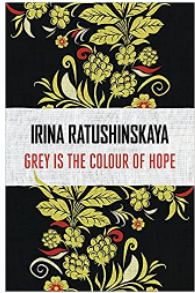






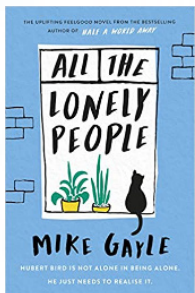
*Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson  
A quirky novel about a woman who finds meaning in her life when she begins caring for two children with remarkable and disturbing abilities.

Recommended by Helen Harrington,  
Assistant Librarian



*Grey is the Colour of Hope* by Irina Ratushinskaya  
The searing account of the author's experiences in a brutal Soviet labour camp. Only 28 when she was imprisoned for her poetry, Irina nearly died from maltreatment and a series of hunger strikes before eventually finding freedom. With surprising moments of humour, her inspiring memoir reveals how a group of incarcerated women built for themselves a life of selfless courage, order and mutual support.

Recommended by KAF



*All the Lonely People* by Mike Gayle  
A funny and moving meditation on love, race, old age and friendship that will not only charm and uplift but will also remind you of the power of ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference.

Recommended by Joanne Payne,  
Assistant Librarian



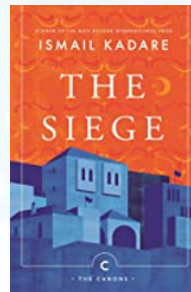
*Hag: Forgotten Folk Tales Retold*  
An anthology of dark and twisted British folktales retold with a feminist spin by some of today's best female authors.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



*An Official History of Britain: Our Story in Numbers* by Boris Starling  
Two centuries worth of data collection from the Office for National Statistics provides the background for this study of work, home and culture and how life has changed since these records began.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



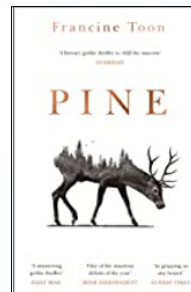
*The Siege* by Ismail Kadare  
A novel ostensibly about a siege in Albania by the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century but also a stinging critique of Communism in the 20th century.

Recommended by HAH



*Oranges* by John McPhee  
Inspired by the glass of freshly squeezed orange juice he bought every day on his morning commute, Pulitzer Prize-winner John McPhee takes us on a remarkable journey in search of the world's most popular fruit. A classic of reportage.

Recommended by AGC



*Pine* by Francine Toon  
An atmospheric read set in the highlands of Scotland about a missing girl and the small town that must give up its secrets to find her.

Recommended by Clare Wilkins,  
Assistant Librarian



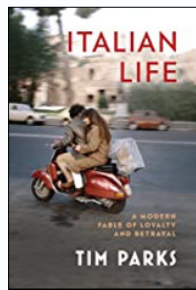
*Sofia Petrovna* by Lydia Chukovskaya  
Sofia is a Soviet Everywoman, a doctor's widow who works as a typist in a Leningrad publishing house. When her son is caught up in the maelstrom of the purge, she joins the long lines of women outside the prosecutor's office, hoping against hope for good news. Confronted with a world that makes no moral sense, Sofia goes mad, a madness which manifests itself in delusions little different from the lies those around her tell every day to protect themselves.

Recommended by KAF



*The Devil and the Dark Water* by Stuart Turton  
Featuring fugitive detectives, a twice-dead leper and a stalking demon, *The Devil and the Dark Water* is a deliciously sinister period chiller set on a blighted sea voyage to from the Dutch East Indies to Amsterdam.

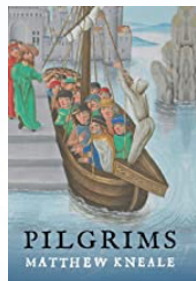
Recommended by Joanne Payne,  
Assistant Librarian



*Italian Life* by Tim Parks

Thought-provoking, surprising and always entertaining, *Italian Life* looks into the psyche of Italy and the Italians and how Italy really works.

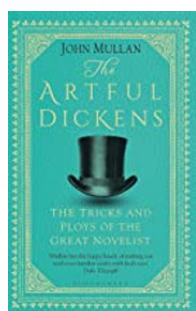
Recommended by HAH



*Pilgrims* by Matthew Kneale

A clever and witty novel featuring an assortment of beleaguered and bedevilled characters who hope that a pilgrimage to Rome will absolve them of their sins and ailments. An evocative historical exploration of fallible humans and the dangers of religious fervour.

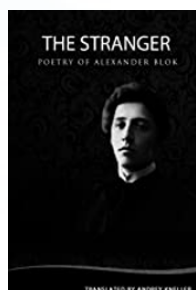
Recommended by Clare Wilkins, Assistant Librarian



*The Artful Dickens* by John Mullan

Told in a series of essays, this lively and entertaining book provides an insightful look at Dickens' fictional worlds. Ideal for fans of Dickens but also perfectly accessible for those who are new to his books.

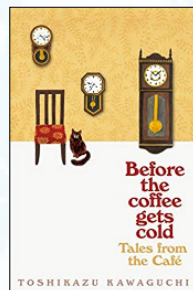
Recommended by Clare Wilkins, Assistant Librarian



*The Stranger: The Selected Poetry of Alexander Blok*

Alexander Blok was a major poet of the Russian Symbolism movement. This dual-language collection of his poetry seeks to represent the continuum of Blok's growth as a poet, with particular attention paid to the rhythm and melody of his writing.

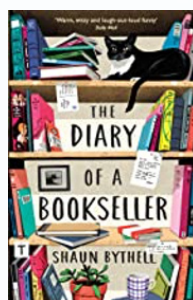
Recommended by KAF



*Tales from the Café: Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

From the author of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* comes *Tales from the Café*, a story of four new customers, each of whom is hoping to take advantage of Café Funiculi Funicula's time-travelling offer. This simple tale tells the story of people who must face up to their past in order to move on with their lives. Kawaguchi invites the reader to ask themselves: what would you change if you could travel back in time?

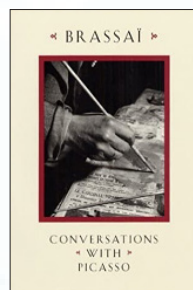
Recommended by Tace Fox, Archivist



*The Diary of a Bookseller & Confessions of a Bookseller* by Shaun Bythell

Wry and hilarious accounts of life in Scotland's biggest second-hand bookshop and the band of eccentrics and book-obsessives who work there. Bythell takes us with him on buying trips to old estates and auction houses, recommends books, introduces us to the thrill of the unexpected find, and evokes the rhythms and charms of small-town life, always with a sharp and sympathetic eye.

Recommended by Tace Fox, Archivist



*Conversations with Picasso* by Brassai

Since the early days of his career, photographer and journalist Brassai has been a guide to avant-garde Paris. He developed close personal and professional relationships with many artists and writers, not the least among these was Picasso. Brassai recorded his many meetings and appointments with the great Spanish artist from 1943 to 1946, resulting in this book.

Recommended by Arturo Saville Mascioni (*Rendalls*, Shell)

*With all best wishes for a Peaceful and Happy Christmas from all the Vaughan Librarians*