



Reading list for

C1

2019 - 2020

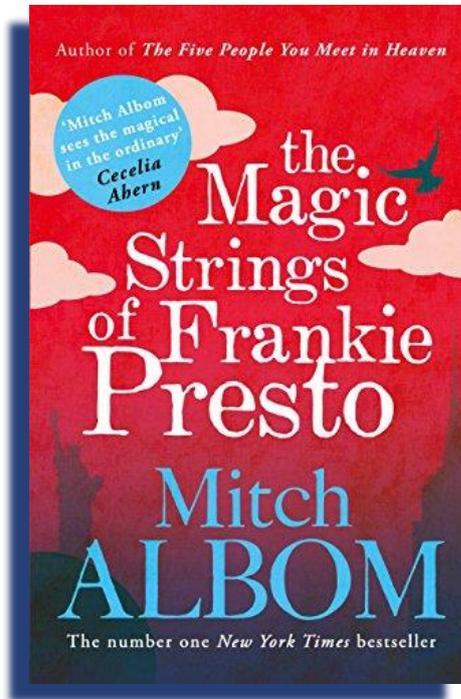
Write to be understood,

Speak to be heard,

Read to GROW



The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto



by Mitch Albom

Harper

Genre: Fiction, Music

This is the epic story of Frankie Presto—the greatest guitar player who ever lived—and the six lives he changed with his six magical blue strings.

In Albom's most sweeping novel yet, the voice of Music narrates the tale of its most beloved disciple, young Frankie Presto, a war orphan raised by a blind music teacher in a small Spanish town. At nine years old, Frankie is sent to America with nothing more than an old guitar and six strings imbued with the power to change lives. Relying on music to survive, Frankie's talent weaves him through the musical landscape of the twentieth century, from Detroit's jazz scene and the Grand Ole Opry, to Elvis mania and Woodstock.

As his fame grows, Frankie finds love, friendship, and celebrity. Even so, his gift becomes his burden. Overwhelmed by life, loss, and the power of his strings, Frankie disappears for years, only to reemerge in a spectacular and mysterious farewell.

Review

[USA Today](#)

Video

[Mitch Albom on *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*](#)
[Music artists discussing Frankie Presto](#)

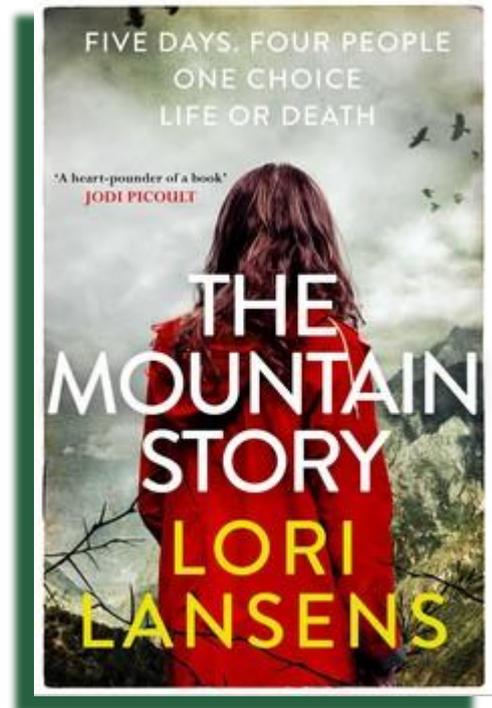


The Mountain Story

by Lori Lansens

Simon & Schuster

Genre: Fiction, Adventure



Braving a landscape both unforgivingly harsh and breathtakingly beautiful, four hikers find themselves faced with an impossible question: How much will they sacrifice for a stranger?

Nola has gone up the mountain to commemorate her wedding anniversary, the first since her beloved husband passed. Blonde, stick-thin Bridget is training for a triathlon. Vonn is working out her teenage rebellion at eight thousand feet, driven by family obligation and the urge to escape her mistakes. Still reeling from the tragic accident that robbed him of his best friend, Wolf Truly is the only experienced hiker among them, but he has come to the cliffs on his eighteenth birthday without food or supplies because he plans to take his own life.

When a series of missteps strands this unusual group together in the wilderness, they soon realize that their only defense against the brutality of nature is one another. The three who make it home alive will be forever changed by their harrowing days on the mountain.

Review

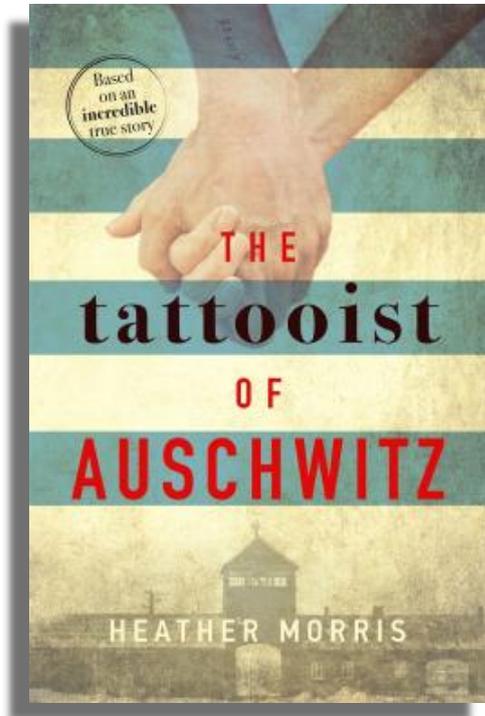
nationalpost.com

Video

[Lori Lansens on *The Mountain Story*](#)



The Tattooist of Auschwitz



by Heather Morris

Harper

Genre: Historical Fiction

In April 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a Tätowierer (the German word for tattooist), tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. Imprisoned for more than two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism—but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion.

A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is an unforgettable love story and a testament to the endurance of love and humanity in the midst of atrocity.

Review

[Washington Independent](#)

Video

[Heather Morris on *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*](#)

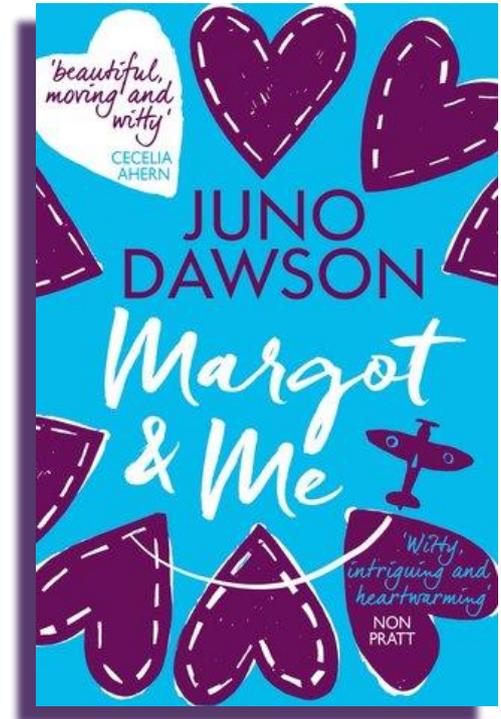


Margot & Me

by Juno Dawson

Hot Key Books

Genre: Fiction, Young Adult



Fliss is on the way to visit her grandmother in Wales - the grandmother who she doesn't get on with - with her mother who is recuperating from chemotherapy. But her mum is getting better so Fliss can concentrate on being grouchy and not looking forward to meeting her grandmother Margot, who is so cold and always so unforgiving of Fliss's every mistake . . . But when the six months is up, Fliss consoles herself, she and her mum will go back to London and back to Real Life!

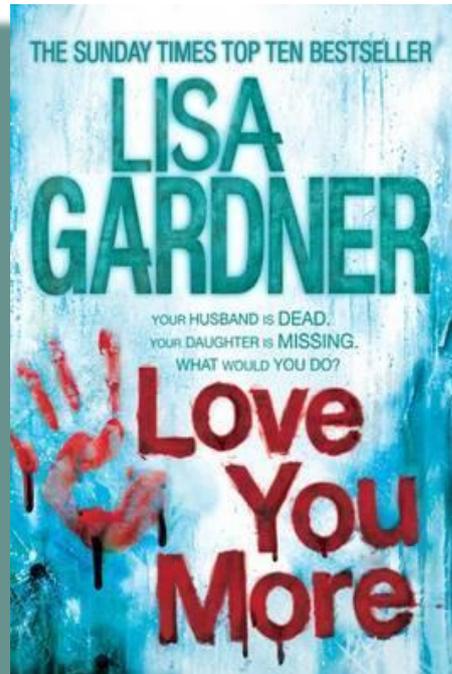
During her stay, Fliss discovers a diary at the back of her bookcase. It is from the 1940s and is set in World War II, and, Fliss realises, is actually Margot's diary from when she was a young woman during the Blitz. Intrigued, Fliss begins to read. There she discovers a whole new side to Margot, a wartime romance and also Margot's deepest, most buried secret. And it is then that Fliss discovers something terrible in her own life that she is going to have to come to terms with...

Review

wordrevel.com



Love You More



by Lisa Gardner

Headline

Genre: Thriller

One question, a split-second decision, and Brian Darby lies dead on the kitchen floor. His wife, state police trooper Tessa Leoni, claims to have shot him in self-defense, and bears the bruises to back up her tale. For veteran detective D. D. Warren it should be an open-and-shut case. But where is their six-year-old daughter?

As the homicide investigation ratchets into a frantic statewide search for a missing child, D. D. Warren must partner with former lover Bobby Dodge to break through the blue wall of police brotherhood, seeking to understand the inner workings of a trooper's mind while also unearthing family secrets. Would a trained police officer truly shoot her own husband? And would a mother harm her own child?

For Tessa Leoni, the worst has not yet happened. She is walking a tightrope, with nowhere to turn, no one to trust, as the clock ticks down to a terrifying deadline. She has one goal in sight, and she will use every ounce of her training, every trick at her disposal, to do what must be done. No sacrifice is too great, no action unthinkable. A mother knows who she loves. And all others will be made to pay.

Literary award

Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award (RT Award) for Best Suspense/Thriller (2011)

Review

[Mystery reads](#)

Audio

[Lisa Gardner on *Love You More*](#)

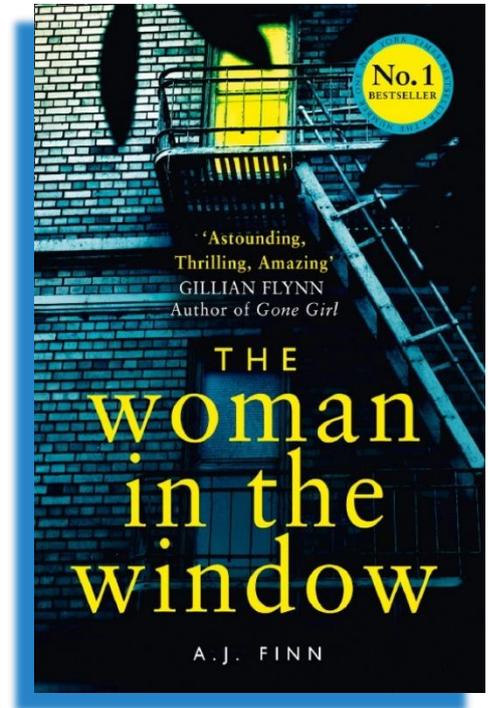


The Woman in the Window

by A.J. Finn

William Morrow

Genre: Mystery, Thriller



Anna Fox lives alone—a recluse in her New York City home, unable to venture outside. She spends her day drinking wine (maybe too much), watching old movies, recalling happier times . . . and spying on her neighbors.

Then the Russells move into the house across the way: a father, a mother, their teenage son. The perfect family. But when Anna, gazing out her window one night, sees something she shouldn't, her world begins to crumble—and its shocking secrets are laid bare.

What is real? What is imagined? Who is in danger? Who is in control? In this diabolically gripping thriller, no one—and nothing—is what it seems.

Review

[Washington Independent](#)

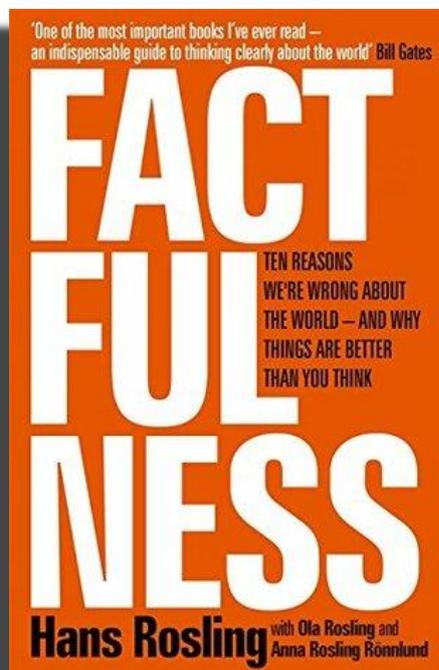
Video

[A.J. Finn on *The Woman in the Window*](#)



Factfulness

Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think



by Hans Rosling

Sceptre

Genre: Nonfiction

When asked simple questions about global trends—what percentage of the world’s population live in poverty; why the world’s population is increasing; how many girls finish school—we systematically get the answers wrong. In *Factfulness*, Professor of International Health and global TED phenomenon Hans Rosling, together with his two long-time collaborators, Anna and Ola, offers a radical new explanation of why this happens. They reveal the ten instincts that distort our perspective—from our tendency to divide the world into two camps (usually some version of us and them) to the way we consume media (where fear rules) to how we perceive progress (believing that most things are getting worse).

Our problem is that we don’t know what we don’t know, and even our guesses are informed by unconscious and predictable biases.

Review

[The Guardian](#)

Video

[Bill Gates on *Factfulness*](#)

[Why we wrote *Factfulness*](#)

