

What's Next Episode 4

Hello Book Lovers! Welcome to What's Next? The Riverina Regional Library's podcast for readers. My name is Amy Heap and reading is my super power. I am here to be your personal librarian, helping you to find your next great read. You can email me at amyheap@gmail.com to let me know what you like and don't like to read, what you are in the mood for, and I will give some reading suggestions, just for you, though everyone can listen in.

Mysteries in the UK:

Kate Atkinson – Jackson Brodie series ~ Case Histories, One Good Turn, When Will There Be Good News, Started Early, Took My Dog, Big Sky. Transcription - Juliet Armstrong is 18 when she is recruited into MI5, and a job that is mundane and frightening at the same time. Her war, like that of so many others, was complicated, and ten years later people from her past turn up again, and she must confront the things that happened during the war.

J.K. Rowling/Robert Galbraith – Cormoran Strike series.

Ann Cleeves – Vera Stanhope series, Shetland Island series, The Two Rivers series (The Long Call).

Scotland:

Helen Fitzgerald – The Cry, Worst Case Scenario ~ which is a gritty, funny, dark book set in Glasgow. It's about a social worker in her early 50s, menopausal and totally over her job. She decides that she will resign, and for the final weeks will do everything wrong, which unsurprisingly, does not go well. Even though it's over the top, and uncomfortable, it's also relatable, funny, and tragic.

Mark Douglas-Home – Cal McGill, the Sea Detective ~ The Malice of Waves - atmospheric Scottish setting, small town secrets, and an intriguing mystery, along with likeable main characters.

Ian Rankin – Rebus series.

Stuart MacBride – Logan McRae series.

More British police procedurals:

Wilkie Collins – The Moonstone, The Woman in White.

P.D. James' Adam Dalgliesh, **Elizabeth George's** Inspector Lynley, **Peter Robinson's** Inspector Banks, **Debra Crombie's** Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James, **Reginald Hill's** Dalziel and Pascoe, and **Ruth Rendell's** Inspector Wexford.

Police plus clergy:

James Runcie – The Grantchester Mysteries.

G.K. Chesterton – The Father Brown Mysteries

Police pesterers:

Agatha Christie – Hercules Poirot series, Miss Marple series.

Wales:

Claire Douglas – Do Not Disturb is about a woman who moves from London after something happens there, to run a guesthouse in Wales, but once the first guest arrives, the trouble starts.

C.L. Taylor – The Lie is about Jane Hughes who has a loving partner, a job in an animal sanctuary and a tiny cottage in rural Wales. She's happier than she's ever been but her life is a lie. Jane Hughes does not really exist.

Clare Mackintosh – I Let You Go is another story of a woman who escapes to Wales, this time a remote cottage on the coast, but her past catches up with her.

Ireland:

Tana French – The Dublin Murder Squad series (6 books – In the Woods to The Trespasser) ~Set in and around Dublin, they are atmospheric, detailed, dark but with delightful bursts of light, character driven novels. Each book has a different main character, who is a minor or supporting character from the novel before, and The Wych Elm~ about Toby, who has always been lucky,

if you can call privilege luck, until one night, when he is viciously attacked. This incident shifts the ground from underneath him, and when a skull is found in the garden of the family house, he finds himself struggling to put the pieces back together. This is not a fast-paced thriller, the central 'mystery' isn't even revealed until you are a long way into a long book, but it is a fascinating look at family dynamics, Irish culture, identity, and privilege.

Canada:

Louise Penny – Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series. It's a police procedural series, quirky and character driven, set in Quebec.

Alan Bradley – Flavia de Luce series. Canadian author, but set in an English village in the 1950s. The first is called *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*. It's about an 11-year-old girl who lives in a crumbling old country house and who has a passion for chemistry, and a well-stocked laboratory. It's a sweet and amusing series about precocious Flavia solving murders in her village.

U.S.:

Donna Leon – the Commissario Brunetti series is set in Venice, but the author is American.

Attica Locke – *The Cutting Season* ~ Caren Gray's family has been on the Belle Vie plantation for years; first as slaves, and then as workers. One morning Caren finds a woman dead, and it turns into a current and historical mystery. Two series – Jay Porter, which are legal thrillers, and *Highway 59* about a black Texas Ranger.

Michael Connolly - the Harry Bosch series, set in LA, and he also has other detectives; Renee Ballard, Renee Ballard with Harry Bosch, Jack McEvoy, and Mickey Haller.

James Patterson – so many books!

Lee Child – is actually English, but his character, Jack Reacher isn't. Lee Child will team up with his brother Andrew to write the next few Jack Reacher novels, and then Andrew will go it alone as Lee retires.

Karin Slaughter, Harlan Coben, Janet Evanovich, Mary Higgins Clark, Sara Paretsky.

Other parts of the world:

Alexander McCall Smith - has mystery series set in Edinburgh (Isabel Dalhousie), Botswana (The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency), and Sweden (Detective Varg).

Nordic/Scandi Noir:

Steig Larsson - Millennium series (Sweden)

Arnaldur Indridason - Reykjavik Wartime mysteries and the Inspector Erlendur Mysteries (Iceland)

Yrsa Sigurdardottir - Thóra Gudmundsdóttir series, Freyja and Huldur series (Iceland).

Hakan Nesser - Inspector Van Veeteren and the Inspector Barbarotti mysteries (Sweden).

Henning Mankell - Kurt Wallander series (Sweden).

Camilla Läckberg - Patrik Hedström mysteries (Sweden).

Alex Dahl - The Boy at the Door (Norway). It's about a woman with a loving family and an affluent Sandefjord home, who is forced to prove how far she will go to safeguard her life when she is manipulated by a desperate stranger.

Jo Nesbo - Harry Hole series (Norway)

Steffen Jacobsen - Danish thrillers.

Africa:

Oyinkan Braithwaite - My Sister the Serial Killer. Korede's younger sister, Ayoola, has just killed her third boyfriend, and calls practical Korede to come and clean up. Things get tricky when the sisters both have their eye on the one man. Lots of typical sister relationship issues, and some that are not so typical, in this darkly amusing book. It's a quick read, with a great Nigerian setting.

Deon Meyer - Benny Griessel, detective series (Cape Town, South Africa).

Angela Makholwa - The Black Widow Society is set in 1994 when South Africans were finally seeing the light of freedom and independence, three well-respected businesswomen formed the Black Widow Society, a secret organisation aimed at liberating women trapped in emotionally and physically abusive relationships by assisting in 'eliminating' their errant husbands. (South Africa)

Similar to Agatha Christie:

Georges Simenon - Maigret series (France).

Martin Walker - Bruno, Chief of Police series (France)

Sujata Massey - Perveen Mistry series, an historical mystery series set in India of the 1920s.

Abir Mukherjee - Sam Wyndham series (India - 1919)

Vikram Chandra – Sacred Games ~It's about gangsters and police in Mumbai, set mostly in the present with some historical parts. It is epic in scale, with so many characters, such an intricate mystery and an enthralling look at Indian culture.

China:

Qiu Xiaolong – Inspector Chen series ~police procedural (Shanghai)

Japan:

Keigo Higashino – Kyoichiro Kaga Mystery series. Malice ~ Bestselling novelist Kunihiro Hidaka is found brutally murdered in his home on the night before he's planning to leave Japan and relocate to Vancouver. His body is found in his office, in a locked room, within his locked house, by his wife and his best friend, both of whom have rock solid alibis. Or so it seems.

Korea:

Un-Su Kim - The Plotters follows the assassin Reseng as he uncovers an extraordinary scheme set into motion by a convenience store clerk, her

wheelchair-bound sister, and a cross-eyed librarian. In this action-packed story, Reseng must decide if he will remain a pawn in the background or take control of his story.

New Zealand:

Eleanor Catton - *The Luminaries*. A large cast of characters, complex and well-drawn, whose involvement in a mystery, slowly revealed, had me enthralled for more than 800 pages, in the moody, wild New Zealand goldfields of the 1860s.

Ngaio Marsh – classic crime author from New Zealand, books set in the U.K.

Paddy Richardson - Set in small coastal town in New Zealand, with flashbacks to East Germany, it's a story of the ways in which a group of women have suffered, and how they can come together to seek safety.

Australia:

Liane Moriarty – contemporary fiction/chick lit with mysteries.

Kate Morton – mostly set in the UK, with a modern and an historical setting, Gentle and romantic mysteries set in the past and modern day.

Kerry Greenwood - Phryne Fisher series, set in 1920s Australia.

Sulari Gentill - Rowland Sinclair series. Set in the 1930s, has loveably amusing and quirky characters, and Australian political history.

Australian rural noir:

Jane Harper – Aaron Falk series (*The Dry*, *Force of Nature*), *The Lost Man*, new one coming ~*Survivors*.

Chris Hammer – Martin Scarsden series (*Scrublands*, *Silver*, coming soon ~*Trust*).

Garry Disher – Inspector Challis series, and Paul Hirschhausen series with a country town police officer (third book out in November).

Peter Temple - Jack Irish series, and *The Broken Shore* series.

More Australian mysteries:

Aiofe Clifford - stand-alone mystery novels like *Second Sight* ~ Eliza Carmody returns home to the country to work on the biggest law case of her career. The only problem is this time she's on the 'wrong side' – defending a large corporation against a bushfire class action by her hometown of Kinsale.

Christian White - *The Nowhere Child* – a woman is approached by an American man convinced that she is his sister, who disappeared from their home in 1990. What follows is a fast-paced, psychological thriller, told in the present, and 1990. His second book is called *The Wife and The Widow*.

Romantic Suspense:

Mary Stewart - novels about young women who stumble into danger and must work out who the villain is to save themselves and those around them, while falling in love. This *Rough Magic* is set on Corfu, *The Moonspinners* in Crete, *The Ivy Tree* next to Hadrian's Wall, and *Madam, Will You Talk?* In the south of France.

Other English writers of romantic suspense include **M.M. Kaye**, **Susan Moody**, and **Dorothy Eden**, and US writers include **Nora Roberts**, **Mary Burton**, **Karen Robards**, and **Jennifer Ryan**.

What I am reading:

Clade by **James Bradley** ~ It's climate fiction, and it is frightening, gripping, global, personal and life-affirming.

Driving Over Lemons: An Optimist in Andalucia by **Chris Stewart**, which is the true story of an Englishman and his wife buying a rundown farm in Spain and having uncomfortable adventures.

Whale Rider by **Witi Ihimaera** - a lovely story blending reality and mythology, set in New Zealand, narrated by Jay Laga'aia.

Utopia Avenue by **David Mitchell**. It's about a band in 1967 London.

