



## WINTER

"I think poetry should be alive. You should be able to dance it." – Benjamin Zephaniah

If you would like to renew a book, or have any comments/ queries, please don't hesitate to contact me at [library@newsteadwood.co.uk](mailto:library@newsteadwood.co.uk)

Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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NEW



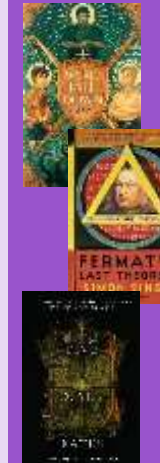
**Catch Your Death by Ravena Guron**  
When three girls are stranded at the grand Bramble Estate in the middle of a snowstorm, they stumble into a murder plot. Someone has poisoned wealthy Emily Vanforte in the middle of a family dinner – which means Devi, Lizzie and Jayne are trapped in the house with a killer and a mystery to solve. With knives under floorboards, vanishing guns and secret passages in the walls, no one is safe and everyone is a suspect. But in a house of liars and corruption, will the girls save themselves...or learn to fit in?

**We All Fall Down by Rose Szabo**  
In River City, where magic used to thrive and is now fading, the witches who once ruled the city along with their powerful King have become all but obsolete. The city's crumbling government is now controlled primarily by the new university and teaching hospital, which has grown to take over half of the city. Moving between the decaying Old City and the ruthless New, four young queer people struggle with the daily hazards of life—work, school, dodging ruthless cops and unscrupulous scientists—not realizing that they have been selected to play in an age-old drama that revives the flow of magic through their world. When a mysterious death rocks their fragile peace, the four are brought into each other's orbits as they uncover a deeper magical conspiracy.

**Fermat's Last Theorem by Simon Singh**  
The extraordinary story of the solving of a puzzle that has confounded mathematicians since the 17th century. The solution of Fermat's Last Theorem is the most important mathematical development of the 20th century. In 1963 a schoolboy browsing in his local library stumbled across the world's greatest mathematical problem: Fermat's Last Theorem, a puzzle that every child can understand but which has baffled mathematicians for over 300 years. Aged just ten, Andrew Wiles dreamed that he would crack it. Wiles's lifelong obsession with a seemingly simple challenge set by a long-dead Frenchman is an emotional tale of sacrifice and extraordinary determination. In the end, Wiles was forced to work in secrecy and isolation for seven years, harnessing all the power of modern maths to achieve his childhood dream. Many before him had tried and failed, including a 18-century philanthropist who was killed in a duel. An 18-century Frenchman made a major breakthrough in solving the riddle, but she had to attend maths lectures at the Ecole Polytechnique disguised as a man since women were forbidden entry to the school. A remarkable story of human endeavour and intellectual brilliance over three centuries, Fermat's Last Theorem will fascinate both specialist and general readers.

**My Fourth Time We Drowned by Sally Hayden**  
The treatment of refugees has become one of the most devastating human rights disasters in our history. In this book, award-winning journalist Sally Hayden unfolds a staggering investigation into the migrant crisis across North Africa. This book follows the experiences of refugees, telling a range of shocking and eye-opening human stories. But it also surveys the bigger picture: the negligence of NGOs and corruption within the United Nations. The economics of the twenty-first-century slave trade and the EU's bankrolling of Libyan militias. The trials of people smugglers, the frustrations of aid workers, the loopholes refugees seek out and the role of social media in crowdfunding ransoms. Who was accountable for the abuse? Where were the people finding solutions? Why wasn't it being widely reported? At its heart, this is a book about people who have made unimaginable choices, risking everything to survive in a system that wants them to be silent and disappear.

**Three Dark Crowns #4: Five Dark Fates by Kendare Blake**  
After the grim confrontation with Queen Katharine, the rebellion lies in tatters. Jules's legion curse has been unbound, and it is up to Arsinoo to cure, even as the responsibility of stopping the ravaging mist lies heavy on her shoulders, and her shoulders alone. Mirabella has disappeared. Katharine's reign remains intact—for now. When Mirabella arrives, seemingly under a banner of truce, Katharine begins to yearn for the closeness that Mirabella and Arsinoo share. But as the two circle each other, the dead queens hiss caution—Mirabella is not to be trusted. In this conclusion to the Three Dark Crowns series, three sisters will rise to fight as the secrets of Fennbirn's history are laid bare. Allegiances will shift. Bonds will be tested. But the fate of the island lies in the hands of its queens. It always has.



### A Tribute to Professor Benjamin Zephaniah



Professor Benjamin Obadiq Iqbal Zephaniah, born 15<sup>th</sup> April 1958, passed away on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 following a diagnosis of a brain tumour eight weeks prior. Zephaniah was a writer, poet, actor, musician, and professor of poetry and creative writing. He drew on his lived experiences of incarceration, racism, and his Jamaican heritage to inform his writing and has variously been described as "the people's laureate", a national treasure, and the heart and consciousness of Black Britain. Over his career, Benjamin Zephaniah was awarded the BBC Young Playwrights award as well as at least sixteen honorary doctorates, he was also listed in *The Times* list of 50

greatest post-war writers. Zephaniah was a committed vegan and animal-rights activist, as well as a self-proclaimed anarchist. In 2003 he was offered an OBE but publicly rejected it saying, "I get angry when I hear that word 'empire'; it reminds me of slavery, it reminds of thousands of years of brutality." In a tribute to Benjamin Zephaniah on Newswatch following his death, his friend of over 20 years said: "What a thoughtful, kind and caring man he was. The world has lost a poet, an intellectual and a cultural revolutionary. I have lost a great friend."

#### People Will Always Need People by Benjamin Zephaniah

People need people,  
To walk to  
To talk to  
To cry and rely on,  
People will always need people.  
To love and to miss  
To hug and to kiss,  
It's useful to have other people.  
To whom to moan  
If you're all alone,  
It's so hard to share  
When no one is there.  
There's not much to do  
When there's no one but you.  
People will always need people.

To please  
To tease  
To put you at ease,  
People will always need people.  
To make life appealing  
And give life some meaning,  
It's useful to have other people.  
If you need a change  
To whom will you turn.  
If you need to learn  
From whom will you learn.  
If you need to play  
You'll know why I say  
People will always need people.

People will always need people.  
To have friendly fights with  
And share tasty bites with,  
It's useful to have other people.  
People live in families  
Gangs, posess and packs,  
It seems we need company  
Before we relax,  
So stop making enemies  
And let's face the facts,  
People will always need people,  
Yes  
People will always need people.

#### Talking Turkeys by Benjamin Zephaniah

*Talking Turkeys* is an unconventional collection of straight-talking poems about heroes, revolutions, racism, love and animal rights, among other subjects, that will entice many new readers to poetry. It is his very first ground-breaking children's poetry collection - playful, clever and provocative - this is performance poetry on the page at its very best.

#### City Psalms by Benjamin Zephaniah

*City Psalms* was Benjamin Zephaniah's first collection from Bloodaxe back in 1992. It includes some of his best-known poems, including 'Dis Poetry', 'Money' and 'Us and Dem'.

#### Gangsta Rap by Benjamin Zephaniah

Ray has given up school. He sees no point in education and despises authority. And then he has no choice about school as he is excluded. But Ray also has troubles at home, which means he has nowhere to stay and ends up sleeping in the local record shop, owned by his friend Marga Man. Ray and his friends attend a Social Exclusion Project which means they can develop their music skills. Marga Man gets a record deal for them, and they become local heroes. But another rap band takes a dislike to Ray's music and gang warfare is the result...Based on Benjamin's own troubled experience of school and the music business, his passionate, immediate voice will appeal to all his fans.

#### Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing.

[Click here find out more about the life of Benjamin Zephaniah.](#)

[Click here to read more poetry by Benjamin Zephaniah.](#)

### Wish List Spotlight:

#### Sing if You Can't Dance by Alexia Casale

An entirely original and much needed authentic perspective from a teenager coming to terms with her disability as she's coming of age. Ven has her future all planned out. Her dance group is going places and so is she... Then she collapses. On stage. In hospital, Ven discovers that she has a medical condition - one that threatens to ruin everything. No more dancing... walking is challenging enough. But she doesn't want your pity. Ven is determined to have a big, exciting life. Sure, her future might be different, but it's not over... Because if you can't dance, you can always sing! Refreshing, uplifting and original, *Sing if you Can't Dance* is the unforgettable story of a teenager living life on her own terms.



### Christmas Holiday Reading Recommendations

The Christmas holidays are an excellent time to indulge yourself in a good book. Originating in Victorian England, it has long been tradition to read and tell ghost stories during the festive season, but it's also a great time to dive into something cosy, for example an Agatha Christie or Richard Osman cosy crime story, a fantasy romance with fairy tale elements, or a found family low-stakes science fiction novel. Here are some of our recommendations for books to lose yourself in over the holidays.

**Collected Ghost Stories by M.R. James**  
M. R. James is widely regarded as the father of the modern ghost story, and his tales have influenced horror writers from H. P. Lovecraft to Stephen King. First published in the early 1900s, they have never been out of print, and are recognized as classics of the genre. This collection contains some of his most chilling tales, including *A View from a Hill*, *Rats*, *A School Story*, *The Ash Tree*, and *The Story of a Disappearance and an Appearance*.

**Once Upon a Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber**  
For as long as she can remember, Evangeline Fox has believed in true love and happy endings... until she learns that the love of her life will marry another. Desperate to stop the wedding and to heal her wounded heart, Evangeline strikes a deal with the charismatic but wicked Prince of Hearts. In exchange for his help, he asks for three kisses, to be given at the time and place of his choosing. But after Evangeline's first promised kiss, she learns that bargaining with an immortal is a dangerous game—and that the Prince of Hearts wants far more from her than she'd pledged. He has plans for Evangeline, plans that will either end in the greatest happily ever after or the most exquisite tragedy...

**Ace of Spades by Faridah Àbiké-Íymidé**  
Welcome to Niveus Private Academy, where money paves the hallways, and the students are never less than perfect. Until now. Because anonymous texter, Aces, is bringing two students' dark secrets to light. Talented musician Devon buries himself in rehearsals, but he can't escape the spotlight when his private photos go public. Head girl Chiamaka isn't afraid to get what she wants, but soon everyone will know the price she has paid for power. Someone is out to get them both. Someone who holds all the aces. And they're planning much more than a high-school game...

**The ABC Murders by Agatha Christie**  
When Alice Asher is murdered in Andover, Hercule Poirot is already looking into the clues. Alphabetically speaking, it's one letter down, twenty-five to go. There's a serial killer on the loose. His macabre calling card is to leave the ABC Railway Guide beside each victim's body. But if A is for Alice Asher, bludgeoned to death in Andover, and B is for Betty Bernard, strangled with her belt on the beach at Bexhill, who will then be Victim C? More importantly, why is this happening?

**The Sun and the Star by Rick Riordan**  
As the son of Hades, Nico di Angelo has been through so much, from the premature deaths of his mother and sister, to being outed against his will, to losing his friend Jason during the trials of Apollo. But there is a ray of sunshine in his life—literally: his boyfriend, Will Solace, the son of Apollo. Together the two demigods can overcome any obstacle or foe. At least, that's been the case so far... Now Nico is being plagued by a voice calling out to him from Tartarus, the lowest part of the Underworld. He thinks he knows who it is: a reformed Titan named Bob whom Percy and Annabeth had to leave behind when they escaped Hades's realm. Nico's dreams and Rachel Dare's latest prophecy leave little doubt in Nico's mind that Bob is in some kind of trouble. Nico has to go on this quest, whether Mr. D and Chiron like it or not. And of course, Will insists on coming with. But can a being made of light survive in the darkest part of the world? and what does the prophecy mean that Nico will have to "leave something of equal value behind?"

**The Thursday Murder Club #3: The Bullet That Missed by Richard Osman**  
One Thursday afternoon in the seniors' center, a decade-old cold case – their favourite kind – leads the Thursday Murder Club to a local news legend and a murder with no body and no answers. A new foe they call "Viking", wants Elizabeth to kill former KGB chief Viktor, or he will kill her sweet best friend Joyce. Activist marked for death Ron and psychiatrist Ibrahim chase clues for Viking's identity, and investigate mob-queen prisoner from the last book.

**A Long Way to a Small Angry Planet by Becky Chambers**  
When Rosemary Harper joins the crew of the Wayfarer, she isn't expecting much. The ship, which has seen better days, offers her everything she could possibly want: a small, quiet spot to call home for a while, adventure in far-off corners of the galaxy, and distance from her troubled past. The crew is a mishmash of species and personalities and life on board is chaotic, but peaceful – exactly what Rosemary wants. Until the crew are offered the job of a lifetime. They'll earn enough money to live comfortably for years... if they survive the long trip through war-torn interstellar space without endangering any of the fragile alliances that keep the galaxy peaceful.

**The Bone Season by Samantha Shannon**  
The year is 2059. Paige Mahoney is working in the criminal underworld of Scion London, based at Seven Dials, employed by a man named Jaxon Hall. Her job: to scout for information by breaking into people's minds. For Paige is a dreamwalker, a clairvoyant and, in the world of Scion, she commits treason simply by breathing... Attacked, drugged and kidnapped, Paige is transported to Oxford – a city kept secret for two hundred years, controlled by a powerful, otherworldly race. Paige is assigned to Warden, a Rephaite with mysterious motives. He is her master. Her trainer. Her natural enemy. But if Paige wants to regain her freedom she must allow herself to be nurtured in this prison where she is meant to die.

**Boy Like Me by Simon James Green**  
It's 1994 and thanks to Section 28, there can be no mention of gay relationships in schools. When a school librarian leads Jamie to a disguised novel in the library that reflects his own confused feelings towards boys, he notices that he's not the only one who has checked the book out. In the margins of the pages, he and another student start to leave messages for each other, and Jamie starts to believe that he's not alone... and maybe also has a shot at finding love. That is, until the secret novel is discovered by the head teacher and all hell breaks loose.

**Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi**  
In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a café which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time. In *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, we meet four visitors, each of whom is hoping to make use of the café's time-travelling offer, in order to: confront the man who left them, receive a letter from their husband whose memory has been taken by early onset Alzheimer's, to see their sister one last time, and to meet the daughter they never got the chance to know. But the journey into the past does not come without risks: customers must sit in a particular seat, they cannot leave the café, and finally, they must return to the present before the coffee gets cold...

# library Ornament Competition

Design and make a book/literature-themed ornament for the library (can be any material).

Bring your ornament up to the library by **Monday 18th of December** to be in with a chance of winning.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes to be won!