

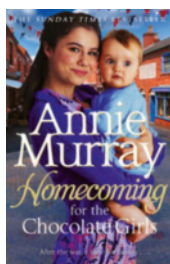


Great reads

Zoe West shares her favourite picks for the week

Homecoming for the Chocolate Girls

by Annie Murray (£8.99, PB, Pan Macmillan)



The Chocolate Girls are back! It's 1946 and war is over. In the final instalment of this gripping family saga, Ann Gilby's husband Len has left her and she is finally free to follow her heart, though her divorce causes a scandal, when she plans to live with the father of her youngest child. Daughters Joy and Sheila's husbands return, but war has changed them, with Joy's husband traumatised from his time at a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp and Sheila's having outgrown Birmingham. It's a heart-warming and affecting tale.

The Little Penguin Bookshop

by Joanna Toye (£7.99, PB, Cornerstone)

Every reader knows the power of books to change lives – especially during turbulent times. When Carrie Anderson sets up a bookstall selling colourful Penguin paperbacks at a train station during World War Two, she hopes to offer a welcome distraction and escapism to the evacuees, soldiers and housewives that pass by. Gifting a book to handsome officer Mike, she starts her own love story, but when he gets posted abroad, Carrie's world is turned upside down. Relying on the station community and her beloved books, will it be enough to pull her through? It's a story of love, resilience and hope.

Woman's Weekly LOVES



My Favourite Mistake

by Marian Keyes (£22, HB, Penguin)

We love this author for her humour, relatable style and life-affirming wisdom – all of which are very much present in her latest novel. When Anna leaves her fabulous apartment and beauty PR job in New York to move back to her homeland of Ireland, people are simply confused – not least her family. Regardless, Anna takes on the PR for a high-end coastal resort and in doing so ends up meeting someone from her past, someone she once called a friend. Is it time to face up to her old mistakes? A big-hearted read full of big feelings, we'd expect nothing less from this much-loved writer.



The Library Thief

by Kuchenga Shenjé (£16.99, HB, Little, Brown)

When young would-be bookbinder Florence takes on a commission to restore the books at Lord Belfield's library, she realises the scandal that has marked her life is nothing compared to the goings-on at Rose Hall. Belfield's wife had recently drowned in the nearby river and, when Florence finds her diary, she suspects foul play. Superbly plotted around a fascinating cast of characters, Shenjé weaves race, identity, feminism, sexuality and class into a beguiling mystery.



Not That I'm Bitter

by Helen Lederer (£20, HB, Mirror Books)

It seems like Helen has always been on our screens, providing side-splitting laughs and appearing on shows such as *Absolutely Fabulous*. She has also written for radio and performed in the West End. Helen was one of the few women on the comedy scene in the 1980s, alongside comedians like Dawn French and Harry Enfield – but with success came darker moments as she battled with her own mental health. In this honest memoir, the comedy star pulls no punches. Brilliant!



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