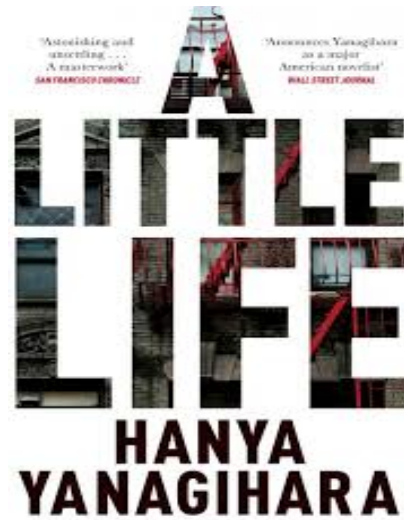




Words Worth Reading

Welcome to our Summer newsletter, the first for a new year.



Inside:

Reviews

We review some of our favourite books from 2015.

What's New?

See which novels we are looking forward to in 2016. Does your favourite author have a new book out this year?

Kids

There are heaps of great new books to read these summer holidays and we review some of them here for you.

Story Time

Story Time is back on Thursday 4th February at our Maling Rd store at 10.30am.

“And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.”

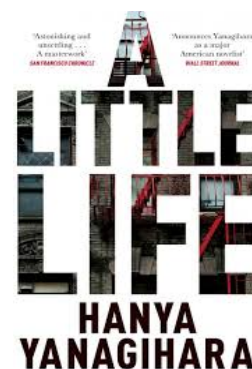
— F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Tim's Bookshop Top 10 Books

1. *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara
2. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
3. *The Eye of the Sheep* by Sofie Laguna
4. *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks
5. *Reckoning: A Memoir* by Magda Szubanski
6. *Lost Melbourne* by Heather Chapman and Judith Stillman
7. *The Lake House* by Kate Morton
8. *Keating* by Kerry O'Brien
9. *Where my Heart Used to Beat* by Sebastian Faulks
10. *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James

A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara

Put simply, this is a novel about one man and his three college friends and their lives as they grow older. But there is *nothing* simple about this book. As the reader gradually comes to know Jude, Willem, J.B and Malcolm, you will experience everything they experience, as if you too were part of this tight-knit group. The story weaves between the past and the present with grace, always with the knowledge that something terrible happened to Jude in his youth, something he will not discuss and that can frustrate his friends, but also make them want to protect him always. Unfortunately, some trauma is so bad and so relentless that it cannot be put to rest or forgotten. Even with the support and love surrounding him as an adult, Jude struggles to survive.

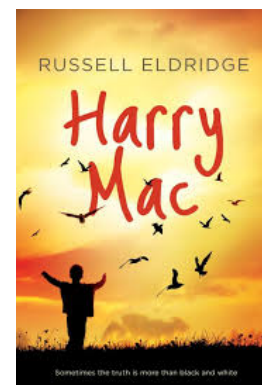


This book is incredibly sad. The damage people can do to other people is explored in depth with rawness and honesty. And yet at its very heart it is a book about friendship and love and that is what will keep you turning the pages. It is a book that really will stay with you forever as Yanagihara brilliantly explores the best and worst humanity has to offer.

Harry Mac by Russell Eldridge

Set in the 1960's in a turbulent South Africa, *Harry Mac* is told from the perspective of a young boy as he begins to take notice of the world around him. And although the lane in which he lives with his family is not very long, and the house in which he lives not too big, the actions of those he loves can have huge, far-reaching consequences.

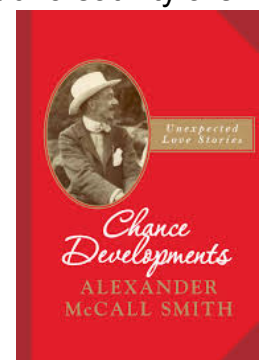
Harry Mac is Tom's father, a great big rhino of a man and the editor of a local paper who comes into conflict with the police on a regular basis thanks to his political stance. His moods rule their home and Tom, who watches everything and hears things never meant for a twelve-year-old, worries a great deal about the secrets and plots that seem to be everywhere. Told simply, this is a thoughtful and warm coming-of-age story about family, friendship and making the right choices.



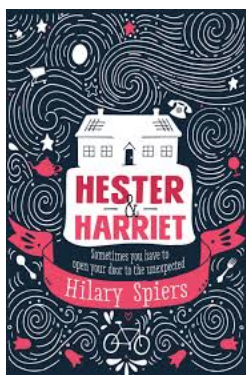
Chance Developments by Alexander McCall Smith

Whilst Alexander McCall Smith is best known for his series of delightful novels such as *The Number One Ladies Detective Agency* and *44 Scotland Street*, every so often he produces a stand-alone novel, or in this case five short stories, and his humour and thoughtful creativity are a joy to experience. The stories in this book are each based on a photograph. The photos are of real people but nothing is known about who they actually were so McCall Smith has imagined the story behind each shot.

The stories that emerge are heartwarming, engaging and at times, bittersweet. One is set in Australia, in the newly founded gold-mining town of Bendigo as a young man attempts to make his fortune. The others explore Canada, Ireland and Scotland and all are about the endless possibilities of love and of life as a journey that we all experience in our own way.



Hester & Harriet by Hilary Spiers



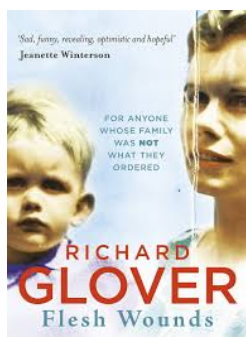
Two widowed sisters live comfortably and peacefully together, whiling away their later years with good food, good wine and very little stress. The worst thing that ever happens to them is the annual Christmas party they have to attend at their cousins' place where the company is dull and the food horrendous.

Fortunately, this year they stumble across a young girl and her baby, hiding out in a bus shelter in the freezing cold, and now they have the perfect excuse not to attend Christmas dinner. Taking Daria and her son Milo into their home does bring about all sorts of new problems however, and life becomes even more hectic when their cousin's teenage son invites himself to stay too, but maybe some excitement in their lives was just what they needed! As Daria's past starts

to catch up with her, Hester and Harriet might be forgiven for turning her over to the authorities rather than endanger themselves, and yet, there is a baby involved....

This is a heartwarming, humorous story about charity and family. A perfect summer read (even if all the action takes place in chilly Britain!).

Flesh Wounds by Richard Glover



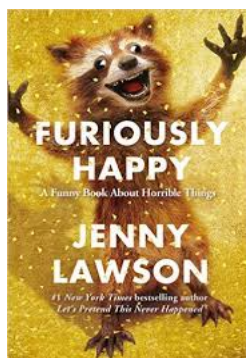
Richard Glover's memoir is about growing up emotionally neglected by both his parents. His father, Ted, although hard working and friendly, battled with alcohol and was distant. His mother, Alice/Bunty/Anna, who had invented a past very different from reality, left 14-year-old Richard to live with his English teacher instead.

In the first half of the book he tells the story of his parents, his conception, their lives in New Guinea and 1970's Australia. The stories would be miserable and uncomfortable to read if not for Glover's ability to laugh at these situations whilst he also tries to make sense of them.

The second half outlines Richard's journey to find out more about his family history, and perhaps find answers to why things were the way they were. He meets family he didn't even know existed thanks to his mother's delusions, and uncovers a past that is perhaps less glamorous, but just as interesting, as the one his mum had fabricated.

This honest and revealing story is very sad and yet also very optimistic. It is an enjoyable and easy read filled with heartbreak and humour, leaving you feeling completely satisfied that for all the pain Richard suffered, he is ok.

Furiously Happy: A Funny Book About Horrible Things by Jenny Lawson

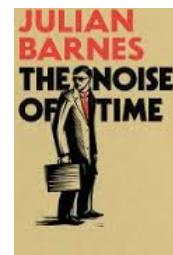


This is the second of Jenny Lawson's 'mostly true' memoirs, but you don't have to have read the first to appreciate this book. She has been diagnosed with many forms of mental illness over the years, and these essays and ramblings mostly cover her thoughts on depression and anxiety. It's a heartfelt memoir, but that's under the layers of ridiculous, hysterical craziness. I was reading this on the couch at home, and had to keep reading bits aloud to people who were wondering why I was crying with laughter. Great for fans of Felicia Day or Caitlin Moran, or anyone who smiles when they look at the furiously happy raccoon on the front cover.

Novels to look forward to in 2016...

The Noise of Time by **Julian Barnes** Out 1st February

His first novel in four years looks at three key time periods in the life of a Russian composer. Atmospheric and disquieting, it is a book about courage in the face of a terrifying and all controlling power.

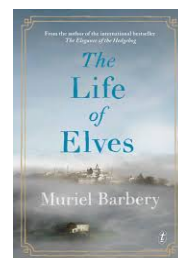


The High Mountains of Portugal by **Yann Martel** Out 2nd Feb

Part quest, part ghost story, part contemporary fable—Martel offers the reader a haunting exploration of great love and great loss. Filled with tenderness, humor, and endless surprise, it takes the reader on a road trip through Portugal in the last century—and through the human soul.

The Life of Elves by **Muriel Barbery** Out 24th February

From the author of *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* comes *The Life of Elves*, a luminous novel about art, nature, dreams, the power of love, and how imagination can help us build a bridge to a better future.



Our Tiny, Useless Hearts by **Toni Jordan** Out 27th April

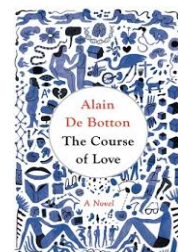
From Australian author Toni Jordan comes a funny new novel about some rather disastrous relationships. When Janice goes to stay at her sister's place she knows things will be a little crazy. Her sister Caroline has just been abandoned by her husband and Janice expects some grief. Having recently become a divorcee herself she should be an old hand at marriage break ups. Nothing, however, can prepare her for what is about to unfold...

Eligible by **Curtis Sittenfeld** Out 1st May

Eligible continues the series of modern day retellings of Jane Austen's books that has seen Val McDermid take on *Northanger Abbey*, Joanna Trollope *Sense and Sensibility* and Alexander McCall Smith recreate *Emma*. Now the rather daunting task of modernising everyone's favourite, *Pride and Prejudice*, has fallen to Sittenfeld. Early reports suggest she has done the classic justice, maintaining the warmth and humour Austen is famous for.

The Course of Love by **Alain de Botton** Out 2nd May

This year brings the first de Botton novel in 20 years and it is a story about love. It is not, however, a romance. It is instead, a study of how love changes over time and throughout the length of a relationship. And it is a reminder that no one is perfect, even when we think they are the perfect person for us.



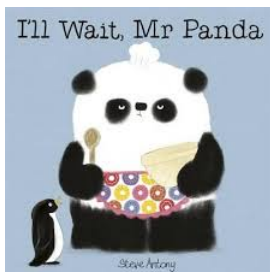
The Dry by **Jane Harper** Out in June

There is already a lot of buzz about this debut novel by Australian author, Jane Harper. Set in a small, drought-stricken, rural town the community is devastated when one of the local farmers kills his family and then himself. Aaron Falk returns to the town after 20 years as an investigator but he has his own secrets he shared with the dead man. With movie rights already snapped up by Reece Witherspoon's production company, we cannot wait to get our hands on this book!

Also Look Out For: New novels from Paula Hawkins, Anita Heiss, Annie Proulx, Jeffrey Archer, Joy Dettman, Matthew Reilly, Liane Moriarty and most exciting of all, Hannah Kent!

Books for Kids

I'll Wait, Mr Panda by Steve Antony

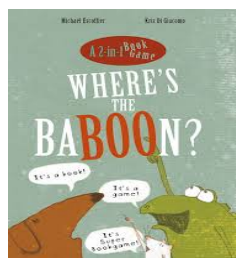


Mr Panda is baking. All the other animals ask him what he is making. Will there be cookies? Or cupcakes? Mr Panda keeps telling them all to wait but none are patient enough except one little penguin. Will the penguin's patience be rewarded in the end? The previous Mr Panda book was all about having good manners. Now Mr Panda helps kids to learn the importance of being patient with this cute and funny picture book. The book also comes with a free Mr Panda stuffed toy, whilst stocks last.

Jill & Dragon by Lesley Barnes

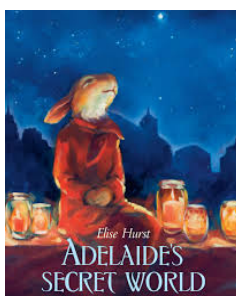


Jill loves books, but when she reaches the end of one particular book she realises that the poor vanquished dragon in the story looks terribly sad. She decides to bring him home and make him happy but the dragon isn't much good at anything other than cooking or burning things with his firey breath. Eventually Jill finds out how this talent can be put to use, and how even the King in the story will appreciate Dragon again. A bright and vibrant picture book for ages 4+.



Where's the Baboon by Michael Escoffier & Kris Di Giacomo

This fun new picture book will encourage children just learning to read. On each page the animals are at school and a question is asked. Each question will be in black ink with another word "hidden" in red ink. It is a book and a game in one. There is plenty to look at, animals to name and words to find. A different way to make learning fun for ages 4+.



Adelaide's Secret World by Elise Hurst

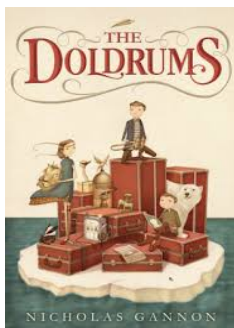
Adelaide is alone. Once her little shop behind the red curtain was full and bustling but now everyone seems to be in such a hurry. She watches the others who seem to be like her, the quiet ones and the dreamers and she takes their stories home with her. She feels that something is missing until the day she follows Fox home and realises that here is a kindred spirit. Elise Hurst is an artist as well as a storyteller and her books for children are stunning. For ages 5+



Perfect by Danny Parker & Freya Blackwood

Three children enjoy a perfect day together as they eat, play, create and spend time outdoors. The words are simple and rhyming, the pictures beautiful and inviting and the message important in this age of technology. Some times the simple things really are the best and parents and children alike will adore this perfect book. Ages 3+.

The Doldrums by Nicholas Gannon

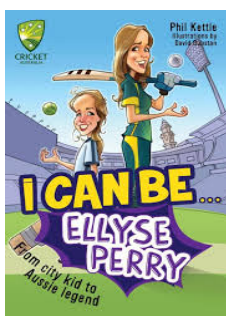


Poor Archer B Helmsley. His beloved grandparents have floated off on an iceberg during one of their explorations to the far corners of the world and now his mother won't let him leave the house, except to go to school. And school has just become so much worse with the arrival of the nasty new teacher, Mrs Murkley. Fortunately he has his neighbour, Oliver, and new friend, Adelaide, to keep him company and help him plan his grand adventures. Or one grand adventure anyway. Now all they have to do is get him out of the house....

With a wonderful story and beautiful colour illustrations children aged 8+ (and their parents), will thoroughly enjoy this book. And the best news is, it is only

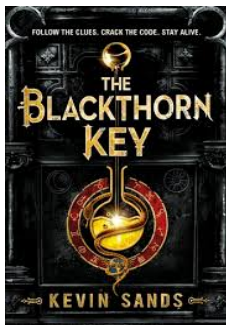
Book One, so there will be more to come!

I Can Be... by Phil Kettle



Jack Ace and Jill King from outback Queensland have been invited to Cricket Australia to meet some of their heroes. Each book in this series has an interview with the cricketer about how they got started, and how they came to play for Australia, and is packed with fun facts, quizzes, and helpful hints for kids. The two friends get tips for learning to spin bowl from Fawad Ahmed, ideas for rules for backyard cricket from Belinda Clarke, and advice on wicket keeping from Ian Healy. This is a fun new series for any cricket mad kids! 8+

The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands



Growing up in an orphanage, Christopher Rowe never thought he had much of a future ahead of him. Passing the exam to become an apprentice to an apothecary meant going to work for Master Blackthorn and a job that Christopher is good at and loves. Blackthorn is a hard but fair master and Christopher's life has vastly improved, until someone starts murdering apothecaries, that is. When his master suffers the same fate, Christopher is left to fend for himself, and to prove the identity of the murderers. This is an addictive, clever and fast-paced fantasy novel for ages 12+.

The Next Together by Lauren James



Katherine and Matthew fall in love at first sight. The first time they do so is in 1745, and then again in 1854 and finally in 2039, not to mention all the other times they meet in between. Not that they are always aware of having known each other previously, it's just that when they meet, they know they are meant to be together. Each time there is something momentous happening in the world, a battle or a war or a potential threat to humanity, and each time, although they are barely aware of their part in it, Katherine and Matthew are there to change the course of history.

Original and intriguing, this is something new for readers aged 14+.

Tim's Bookshop's Top 10 for Kids

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid #10 by Jeff Kinney
2. Grandpa's Great Escape by David Walliams
3. The Doldrums by Nicholas Gannon
4. The 65-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton
5. The Harry Potter Colouring Book
6. Girl Online #2 On Tour by Zoe Sugg
7. What Do You Wish For? By Jane Godwin and Anna Walker
8. The Day the Crayons Came Home by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers
9. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone Illustrated Edition
by J. K Rowling and Jim Kay
10. Wonder by R. J Palacio

Don't forget Story Time is back at our Canterbury store from February 4th at 10.30am and will return on the first Thursday of every month. Bring the kids from ages 0-5 for a fun half hour of stories and a free activity. Hosted by our children's book expert Jan, we are often joined by special guest authors as well.
See you there!



Liked our newsletter? Now "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for up-to-date reviews, upcoming events and much, much more!

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