



# Great reads

TO BUY OR DOWNLOAD

Books editor Fanny Blake picks the best new books out this month and chats to author Santa Montefiore

## HOT READS THIS MONTH

### CHILLING THRILLER

**A Game for All the Family** by Sophie Hannah (Hodder & Stoughton)  
Moving to Devon should be an idyllic change for Justine and her family. Instead, threatening anonymous phone calls and their daughter's strange withdrawal make her think again. Sinister and twisty: I was gripped.

### HISTORICAL

**Daughter of the House** by Rosie Thomas (HarperCollins)  
1910. The gift of clairvoyance gives Nancy Wix the means to break free from society's constraints and forge her own life. Wonderful theatrical backdrop for a spellbinding, romantic story.

### FICTIONAL MEMOIR

**Circling the Sun** by Paula McLain (Little, Brown)  
A racehorse trainer and aviator in the early 1900s, Beryl Markham was a woman who broke all the rules. I was swept up in colonial Africa, fascinated by her life and the goings on of the Happy Valley set.

### QUIRKY FUN

**Fishbowl** by Bradley Somer (Ebury Press)  
A goldfish called Ian takes a perilous plunge from the 27th floor of an apartment building. Meanwhile, stories of love, life and death go on inside each floor as he passes. I couldn't help falling (sorry!) for such a clever, irrepressible read.

### COSY CRIME

**The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra** by Vaseem Khan (Mulholland Books)  
The day he's due to retire, Inspector Chopra inherits a baby elephant. Together they embark on a murder investigation in Mumbai. An enchanting start to a new series.

## WHAT'S ON MY E-READER



### GIZZI ERSKINE

"I read *Valley of the Dolls* by Jacqueline Susann (Virago) when I was 18. Obviously, it's all about hedonism, and was an eye-opener into

the whole sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll thing, which was fascinating for me. I read it again when I was 25 and it was interesting to see how, given how much I'd grown up since the first time I'd read it, my perceptions had changed. I've downloaded it to take on holiday and enjoy once more.

I think *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon (Vintage) is brilliant. I work a lot with autistic kids and found how it was written really interesting. I want to see it in the theatre because I hear the play's wonderful, so I'll probably have another read of the book before I do.

I'm a massive horror fan and I've read pretty much every Stephen King novel. I've got his latest, *Finders Keepers* (Hodder & Stoughton), lined up for when I'm in the US. It's about a fan whose obsession with a reclusive writer goes way too far. Can't wait!"  
**Gizzi's Healthy Appetite: Food to Nourish the Body and Feed the Soul** (Mitchell Beazley) is out on 6 August.



## PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE



**IN A DARK, DARK WOOD** by Ruth Ware (Harvill Secker)  
Nora Shaw wakes in hospital

unable to remember why. Gradually she pieces together what happened at the hen party from hell. Tense and packed with suspense, it tears along like a runaway train.



**BLACK-EYED SUSANS** by Julia Heaberlin (Michael Joseph)  
The lone survivor of a serial killer,

Tessa is convinced that the wrong man is to be executed and the real killer is still out there, targeting her and her daughter. Sophisticated, disturbing and with plenty of red herrings. >>

