



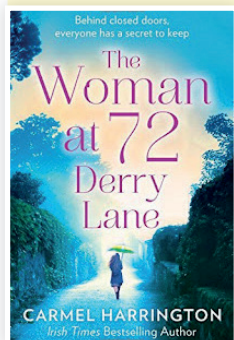
Good books for darker days

Our library staff give their recommendations of good books for Autumn evenings

As the Autumn evenings close in upon us, what better way to embrace the dark nights than with a good book? From a vast array of genres, here are some of the best books as recommended by our library staff.

Caitríona from the Mobile Library recommends:

The Woman at 72 Derry Lane by Carmel Harrington



Set between 2004 and the present day, there are three strands to this story, Stella (and the reality of her seemingly perfect marriage), Rea (who lives alone and suffers from agoraphobia) and Skye—the lovely daughter/sister that just wants to go on a long-awaited family holiday. Each narrative was as captivating as the next. Each one hit you in the face with surprises at different points, Carmel Harrington is one of my newest finds!

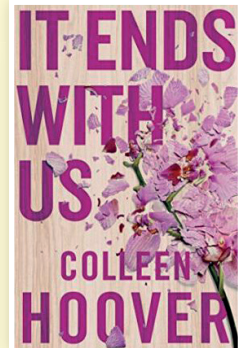
Liar by KL Slater



KL Slater writes light domestic thrillers, with layers of twists, turns and intrigue. This one features the perfect Amber, who has seemingly fallen in love with young widower Ben and his two young sons. But she is not at all what she seems, and only Ben's mother has copped this. Ben is blinded to her charms, with tragic

and heart-breaking consequences.

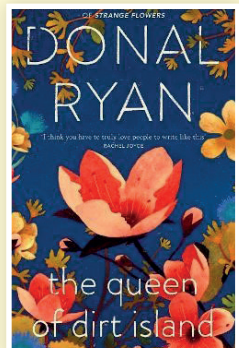
It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover



Colleen is currently top of all bestsellers lists, and I was not disappointed with this one. It's a love story, of sorts, and I was dying to discover who would win Lucy's affections in the end, Ryle or Atlas? It is also a tale of domestic abuse, with an unexpected ending. A great read, and I'm off to order more of Colleen's books.

Majella from Graiguenamanagh Library recommends:

The Queen of Dirt Island by Donal Ryan



The Aylward women are mad about each other, but you wouldn't always think it. In spite of what the neighbours might say about raised voices and dramatic scenes—that their house is a place of peace, filled with love, a refuge from the sadness and cruelty of the world.

Theirs is a story of terrible betrayals and fierce loyalties, of isolation and togetherness, of trans-

gression, forgiveness, desire, and love. About all the things family can be and all the things it sometimes isn't. More than anything, it is an uplifting celebration of fierce, loyal love and the powerful stories that last generations. Beautifully written!

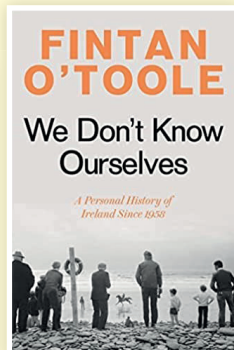
Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan



It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him—and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church.

Shortlisted for the Booker prize!

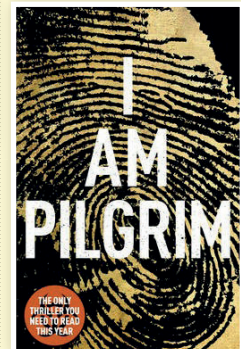
Marie from Loughboy Library recommends:



We Don't Know Ourselves by Fintan O'Toole
Fintan O'Toole's personal account of his own memories gives us a remarkable insight into Ireland's development since the 1950's. Told through a personal lens of his own life and experiences, the book charts the changes that have come about in that time. A great book for anyone wishing to understand our own recent past and the decisions and events that have shaped Ireland

—the introduction of free education to name one. A range of issues are covered in the book chronologically and in short chapters - the influence of American culture, the economic developments brought out by foreign direct investment as well as the impact of the violence of the Troubles in the North. The book was the winner of the An Post Irish Book Awards in 2021. A very readable book for anyone with any interest in how our country has got to where it is today!

I am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes



A fast-paced thriller by Terry Hayes which became an instant best-seller when it was first released.

The story revolves around a former intelligence officer, whose codename is Pilgrim and his race to prevent an act of mass terrorism causing destruction on a massive scale. The plot takes the protagonist to different parts of the world, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Afghanistan, all at breakneck speed. If you like a good page turner, this is the book for you! The second novel by Terry Hayes "The Year of the Locust" is now due to be released in March 2023.

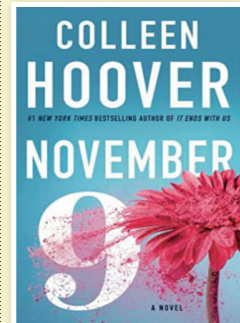
Karyn from Castlecomer Library recommends:

The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller



brought this book on my holidays and found it a really addictive read! The story begins the morning after Elle Bishop and her family have a get-together with friends at their holiday home in Cape Cod. Elle and her family have been spending summers at the house for 50 years and it holds many memories and secrets. Elle goes out for a morning swim and recounts the passionate encounter she had the previous night with her first childhood love Jonas, whilst her husband Peter and family are gathered inside. Elle is a happily married mother of three but over the next 24 hours she will make a decision whether she will stay with her husband or with Jonas. The present day narrative spans 24 hours but the novel recounts over 50 years as we learn about the complex family relationships that Elle has with her sister, her mother and her father, her husband and of course with her childhood friend Jonas. This is story about real love but it is has dark moments that are harrowing to read at times.

November 9 by Colleen Hoover



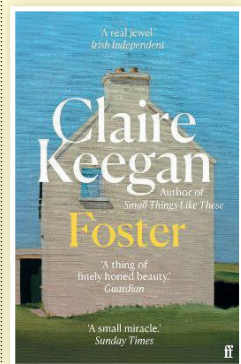
I jumped on the #booktok bandwagon and downloaded this audiobook by Colleen Hoover from the Borrowbox app. November 9 is a contemporary romance novel and tells the story of an aspiring actress called Fallon and a young writer called Ben. They meet on November 9 the day before Fallon is due to move to LA and despite their strong connection, they agree to meet the following year on the same date. Fallon's life becomes the inspiration for the novel that Ben

is writing. As the years pass and they continue to meet on November 9 we learn about the relationships and challenges that keep a fulfilling romantic relationship just out of their reach. In the end, Ben reveals in his novel something that Fallon is unsure if it is a plot-twist or a truth that Fallon cannot bear to hear. I really liked this book, an easy read but it had some depth to it. Great to listen to in the car too!

Dorothy from Library HQ recommends:

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan
Shortlisted for this year's Booker prize, Small Things Like These is a very short but moving and powerful story. It shines a light on the Magdalene Laundries and Irish Society in the 1980's through the main character, Bill Furlong, a coal man in a local town. Although born to an unmarried mother he lives a relatively comfortable life with his wife and daughters.

Foster by Claire Keegan

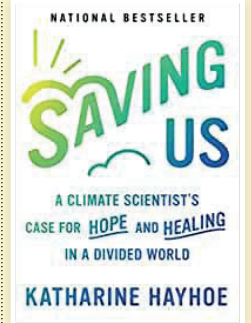


Foster is the basis for the award-winning film The Quiet Girl (or An Cailín Ciúin in Irish). A young girl from a dysfunctional family in rural Ireland is sent away to stay with distance relatives while her mother has another child. She finds love and affection from her foster parents, however, she also discovers a terrible and tragic secret. Another short but emotional read.

Sophie from Ferrybank Library recommends:

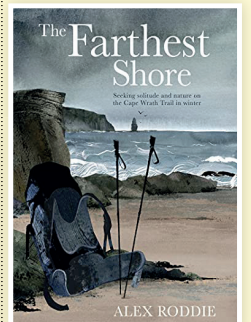
Saving Us - A climate Scientist's case for Hope and Healing

in a Divided World by Katherine Hayhoe



A fascinating and surprisingly accessible look at climate change and how to effectively communicate with each other so that we may make impactful, positive changes. This is a hopeful book which is not all doom and gloom but instead focuses on practical solutions and ways in which we can work together to tackle this pressing crisis.

The Farthest Shore- Seeking solitude and Nature on the Cape Wrath Trail in Winter by Alex Roddie

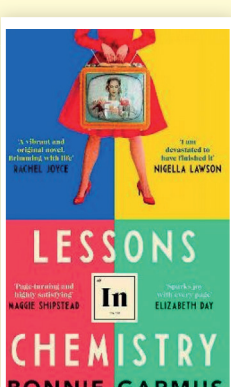


The Farthest Shore is the story of award-winning writer Alex Roddie's 300 mile trek through the Scottish Highlands. Alex sets out on his journey seeking solitude and answers to his anxiety and an opportunity to leave the chaos of the internet behind for a month. Beautifully written and thought-provoking, this book will encourage you to connect with nature more meaningfully.

Alicia from Library HQ recommends:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Recommended by a colleague at work, I brought home "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus and boy was I in for a treat! The main character, Elizabeth Zott



is a 30-year-old single mother and the reluctant star of a cooking show for housewives called Supper at Six in 1960's America. She is a research chemist, though her academic career has foundered despite her obvious talent, and as the story unfolds we understand why. She is not your average woman, in fact, Elizabeth would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 60s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable and Elizabeth find herself dealing with loss and supporting herself and her baby daughter on her own with the help of a highly intelligent dog. Laugh out loud, funny, unpredictable and quirky I absolutely loved Lessons in Chemistry and was sad when I finished it. Elizabeth Zott is a heroine, a feminist, a mother and a role model for all women. A page-turning thumping good read.

All of these are available through the library service - see kilkennylibrary.ie for details.

Reading a good book is one of the great pleasures of life, and we hope our recommendations will unearth a few gems for you!

