

# QUICK READS for busy people



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## 2025 READING LIST

**JAMES LEE BURKE**  
**HARBOR LIGHTS**  
AND OTHER STORIES

**Title:** Harbor lights : and other stories  
**Author:** James Lee Burke  
**Published:** 2024  
**Crime fiction**

Eight stories from an acclaimed American mystery writer. His tales travel from marshlands on the Gulf of Mexico and the sweeping plains of Colorado to prisons, saloons and trailer parks across the South, weaving together stories of love, friendship, survival and revenge.

**ALEX MCCARTHY**  
**The Unbroken Beauty**  
Rosalind Bone

**Title:** The unbroken beauty of Rosalind Bone  
**Author:** Alex McCarthy.  
**Published:** 2024  
**Adult fiction**

The Welsh village of Cwmcysgod may appear a sleepy sort of place. But beneath the surface, tensions simmer and painful truths threaten to emerge. Sixteen-year-old Catrin Bone is beginning to question her world, and a past that seems to entrap her reclusive mother, Mary.

**FIONA MCFARLANE**  
**HIGHWAY 13**

**Title:** Highway 13  
**Author:** Fiona McFarlane  
**Published:** 2024  
**Crime fiction eAudiobook eBook**

Winner of The Story Prize 2024 for short fiction. In 1998, an apparently ordinary Australian man is arrested and charged with a series of brutal murders. The news shocks the nation but its impact travels even further - from the killer's home town in country Australia to the tropical Far North, and to Texas and Rome.

**VINCENZO LATRONICO**  
**Perfection**

**Title:** Perfection  
**Author:** Vincenzo Latronico  
**Published:** 2025  
**Adult fiction**

Expats Anna and Tom are living the dream in Berlin, in a bright, plant-filled apartment. Young, cool digital creatives, they enjoy slow cooking, Danish furniture and the city's 24-hour party scene. But they begin to feel disillusioned, bored and find themselves doing something they could never have predicted.

**GAIL JONES**  
**THE NAME OF THE SISTER**

**Title:** The name of the sister  
**Author:** Gail Jones  
**Published:** 2025  
**Crime fiction eAudiobook eBook**

A young woman stumbles onto an outback road at night. Nobody knows who she is and she has lost the ability to speak. The story of the Unknown Woman sets off a media storm that catches the eye of Angie, a freelance journalist. Dozens of people step forward claiming to hold the key to her identity.

**NATASHA BROWN**  
**UNIVERSITY**

**Title:** Universality  
**Author:** Natasha Brown  
**Published:** 2025  
**Crime fiction eAudiobook eBook**

On a Yorkshire farm, a man is brutally bludgeoned with a solid gold bar. A plucky young journalist sets out to uncover the truth surrounding the attack, connecting the dots between an amoral banker landlord, an iconoclastic columnist, and a radical anarchist movement.

**LEE CHILD**  
**SAFE ENOUGH**

**Title:** Safe enough and other stories  
**Author:** Lee Child  
**Published:** 2024  
**Crime fiction eBook**

A compilation of 20 pulse-pounding short stories by a master thriller writer. Meticulously plotted, they explore humanity at its best and worst. A drug-dealing hit man unburdens his fears to a stranger. An overlooked rookie cop is assigned to the department's file room. A ruthless killer only kills bad guys and much more.

**JOHN BOYNE**  
**Water**

**Title:** Water  
**Author:** John Boyne  
**Published:** 2023  
**Adult fiction eBook**

The first thing Vanessa Carvin does when she arrives on the island is change her name. To the locals, she is Willow Hale, a solitary outsider escaping Dublin to live a hermetic existence in a small cottage, not a notorious woman on the run from her past. But scandals follow like hunting dogs. And she has some questions of her own to answer.

**CLAIRE KEEGAN**  
**SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE**

**Title:** Small things like these  
**Author:** Claire Keegan  
**Published:** 2021  
**Adult fiction eAudiobook eBook**

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. Leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

**AMANDA LOHREY**  
**Vertigo**

**Title:** Vertigo  
**Author:** Amanda Lohrey  
**Published:** 2009  
**Adult fiction**

Luke and Anna leave the city, fleeing a past and a future that fill them with fear. On the coast they discover a natural world that is both destructive and rejuvenating. Events sweep them up and they must confront what they have tried to put behind them. A distinctly Australian text in its evocation of landscape and nature.

**MELANIE CHENG**  
**THE BURROW**

**Title:** The burrow  
**Author:** Melanie Cheng  
**Published:** 2024  
**Adult fiction eBook**

Amy, Jin and Lucie are leading isolated lives in their partially renovated, inner-city home. They are not happy, but they are also terrified of change. When they buy a pet rabbit for Lucie, and then Amy's mother, Pauline, comes to stay, the family is forced to confront long-buried secrets. Will opening their hearts to the rabbit help them to heal?

**ETGAR KERET**  
**Autocorrect: stories**

**Title:** Autocorrect: stories  
**Author:** Etgar Keret  
**Published:** 2025  
**Adult fiction**

Imagine a world in which you could take back the stupid thing you just said, unspill the coffee, avoid the accident, roll life back 30 seconds and do it over again. In Etgar Keret's universe, all things are possible. Ranging from sci-fi scenarios to fictional thought-experiments, the stories here deliver irreverence, surprises, existential unease and hope.

**MICHIKO AOYAMA**  
**The healing hippo of Hinode Park**

**Title:** The healing hippo of Hinode Park  
**Author:** Michiko Aoyama  
**Published:** 2025  
**Adult fiction**

Nestling at the bottom of a five-storey apartment block is the children's playground, Hinode Park. If you look to the side, standing on stubby legs, is a hippo. For decades, its quiet power has sustained the hearts of one community. Meet the neighbours who will reach out to kabahiko. Its subtle portrayal of the magic of community will lodge itself in every reader's heart.

**NITA PROSE**  
**THE MISTLETOE MYSTERY**

**Title:** The mistletoe mystery  
**Author:** Nita Prose  
**Published:** 2024  
**Crime fiction eAudiobook eBook**

The first few Christmases without her Gran were hard on Molly Gray, but this year her boyfriend is intent on making the season Molly's most joyful yet. But when a Secret Santa gift exchange at the Regency Grand Hotel raises questions about who Molly can and cannot trust, she dives headfirst into solving her most personal mystery yet.