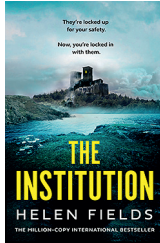


## THE BOOKSHELF

Settle down with a good book – we've six captivating titles to inspire you...

*"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me"*

CS Lewis

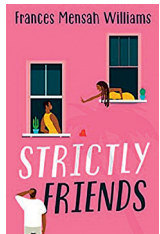


### PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

#### **The Institution**

by Helen Fields (£14.99 HB, Avon)

Set in a remote location, the Institution houses the most dangerous and deranged men on earth. Following the murder of a heavily pregnant nurse and the disappearance of her baby daughter, forensic profiler Dr Connie Woolwine is sent to investigate the case. Renowned for her ability to get inside a murderer's head, she must go undercover among murderers to find the baby girl before it's too late. This twisty, claustrophobic thriller is ideal for fans of *The Sanatorium*.



### ROMANTIC FICTION

#### **Strictly Friends** by Frances Mensah Williams

(£8.99, Lake Union)

When Ruby Lamont's six-year-old son, Jake, begins to ask questions about his estranged father, she decides it's time she found out the truth, for both their sakes. Ruby sets off to the Caribbean to find Kenny, leaving behind Griffin, her best friend. Sparks fly as she confronts Kenny, and to add insult to injury, Griffin turns up out of the blue, seemingly with more on his mind than offering moral support! With believable characters and a strong and somewhat stubborn protagonist, this is a well-drawn and delightful story of love, loss and friendship, perfect for fans of Tessa Bailey.



### WOMEN'S FICTION

#### **The Woolworths Girl's Promise**

by Elaine Everest  
(£7.99, Pan)

Set in 1917, when Billington has lost her fiancé, Charlie, in the war and faces a lonely future estranged from her upper-class parents due to her relationship with Charlie Sayers and his family. She's taken in by Charlie's father and is thrilled to find a job at Woolworths, starting at the bottom of the ladder. Soon her work takes her to a newly built store in Kent and with it the chance of marriage. But can Betty ever forget the promise she made to Charlie? This nostalgic story transports the reader back in time, with warm characters and a hint of romance.

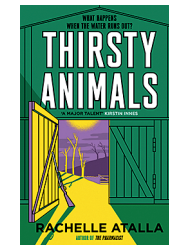


### HISTORICAL FICTION

#### **The Royal Show** by Anton Du Beke

(£18.99 HB, Orion)

The opportunity of a lifetime has been offered to the Forsyth Variety Company, to entertain Her Majesty at the 1962 Royal Variety Performance. Owner of the company, Ed Forsyth, takes them to the Seagate Theatre to rehearse for the last show before his retirement. But Ed's son, Cal, has absconded leaving his sister, Evie, to manage the performance alone. Tensions begin to rise along with the curtain, and dark secrets threaten to spill out onto the stage. Fans of *Strictly Come Dancing* will love this brand new series by the King of the Ballroom!



### CONTEMPORARY FICTION

#### **Thirsty Animals**

by Rachel Atalla  
(£18.99 HB, Hodder)

The world is running out of water and with the supply in the Scottish cities drying up, Aida returns home to live with her mum at their country farm. Tensions are brewing at the border and as southerners head to Scotland assuming there's an eternal spring, fewer and fewer are let through. Suspicious strangers arrive at the farm asking for help and Aida and her family have heartbreaking decisions to make. Compelling, unsettling and emotive, this is an exciting story of survival and self-discovery.



### CRIME FICTION

#### **Her Deadly Game** by Robert Dugoni (£8.99, Thomas & Mercer)

When Keera Duggan's career as a Seattle prosecutor is compromised after an affair with a senior colleague ended badly, she returns to her family's failing criminal defence law firm to work for her father. She's hoping to restore the firm's reputation, her relationship with her father and her career. When Keera's hired to defend an investment adviser accused of killing his wife, the prosecutor they face is an old flame of hers, and eager to destroy her defence in court. But as a former chess prodigy, she is confident that she can outmanoeuvre him. This intelligent thriller has well-drawn characters, a super plot!

## WORD OF THE MONTH

### *Snecklifter* (noun)

A person who pokes their head into a pub to see if there's anyone who might stand them a drink.