

TO BUY OR DOWNLOAD

Great reads

Books editor Fanny Blake picks the best new books out this month and chats to poet and author Sophie Hannah

Hot books this month

Anna, an American ex-pat in Switzerland, tries to be a good wife and mother but her life is unravelling through a series of affairs. I read this at a sitting, transfixed by this insightful and shocking portrait of a woman on the edge.

LITERARY SECRET

The Kindness by Polly Samson
(Bloomsbury)

Beneath the golden life shared by Julian and Julia and their daughter Mira lies a secret. A razor-sharp dissection of a relationship, this is exquisitely written and plotted.

COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP

Rise by Karen Campbell (Bloomsbury)

Justine runs from an abusive relationship to the Highlands where she meets Michael and Hannah, equally escaping their past but to mend their marriage. A compassionate and poignant novel about forgiveness and identity.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA

Hausfrau by Jill Alexander Essbaum
(Mantle)

CHILLING CRIME

The Shut Eye by Belinda Bauer
(Bantam)

Five footprints in cement are all that's left of Anna's four-year-old son, who has vanished without trace. Will a visionary psychic help solve the mystery, or is he a fraud? A twisty, fast-paced plot that kept me on tenterhooks.

FEEL-GOOD ROMANCE

Summer at Little Beach Street Bakery
by Jenny Colgan (Sphere)

The Cornish idyll enjoyed by Polly Waterford and her boyfriend, Huckle, is threatened when the ownership changes of the bakery she runs. A fun, warm-hearted read with recipes too.

