

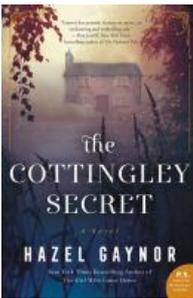
### **Chai Tea Sunday / Heather A. Clark**

Thirtysomething Nicky Fowler has it all - a rewarding career, a loving husband and the perfect home. But when she and her husband suffer a complicated tragedy, the strain of two people dealing with an impossible situation in different ways breaks up their marriage. Emotionally lost, Nicky travels to Kenya to volunteer at an orphanage. Amidst the violence and abject poverty, Nicky discovers the one thing that keeps Kenyans moving forward: hope. Over steaming mugs of chai, the country's signature drink, Nicky opens up to her host mother, Mama Bu, and finds understanding, love and strength. And with that strength, Nicky realizes what she needs to do to save the endangered children she's grown to love.



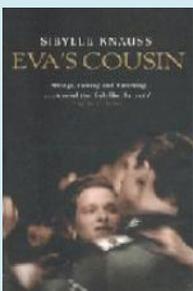
### **Chasing the Light / Jesse Blackadder**

It's the early 1930s. Antarctic open-sea whaling is booming and the territorial race for the mysterious continent is in full swing. Aboard a ship setting sail from Cape Town carrying the Norwegian whaling magnate Lars Christensen are three women: Lillemor Rachlew, who tricked her way on to the ship and will stop at nothing to be the first women to land on Antarctica; Mathilde Wegger, a grieving widow who's been forced to join the trip by her calculating parents-in-law; and Lars's wife, Ingrid Christensen, who has longed to travel to Antarctica since she was a little girl and has made a daunting bargain with Lars to convince him to take her. As they head south through icy waters, the race is on for the first women to land on Antarctica. None of them expect the outcome and none of them know how they will be changed by their arrival.



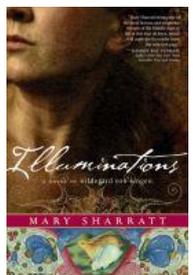
### **The Cottingley Secret / Hazel Gaynor**

When two young cousins, Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright from Cottingley, England, claim to have photographed fairies at the bottom of the garden, their parents are astonished. But when one of the great novelists of the time, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, becomes convinced of the photographs' authenticity, the girls become a national sensation, their discovery offering hope to those longing for something to believe in amid a world ravaged by war. Frances and Elsie will hide their secret for many decades. But Frances longs for the truth to be told. One hundred years later... When Olivia Kavanagh finds an old manuscript in her late grandfather's bookshop she becomes fascinated by the story it tells of two young girls who mystified the world.



### **Eva's cousin / Sibylle Knauss**

In the summer of 1944 Gertraud Weisker was 20 years old when her cousin Eva Braun invited her to come and keep her company at Berchtesgaden. This is the story of her fascination with the easy, glamorous lifestyle of her cousin and the gradual realisation of the dark history unfolding around it.



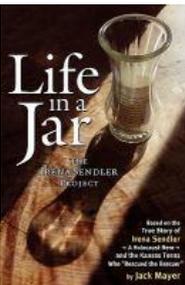
### **Illuminations : A Novel of Hildegard Von Bingen / Mary Sharratt**

A novel based on the true story of Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179), who was offered by her parents as a tithe to the Church as a young child and who triumphed to become a powerful abbess, composer, prophet and polymath.



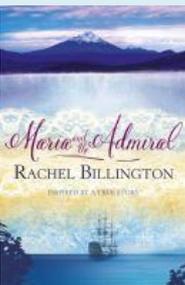
### The Lanarchs / Owen Marshall

William James Mudie Larnach's name resonates in New Zealand history - the politician and self-made man who built the famous 'castle' on Otago Peninsula. In 1891, after the death of his first two wives, he married the much younger Constance de Bathe Brandon. But the marriage that began with such happiness was to end in tragedy. The story of the growing relationship between Conny and William's younger son, Dougie, lies at the heart of Owen Marshall's subtle and compelling novel. The socially restrictive world of late nineteenth-century Dunedin and Wellington springs vividly to life as Marshall traces the deepening love between stepmother and stepson, and the slow disintegration of the domineering yet vulnerable figure of Larnach himself.



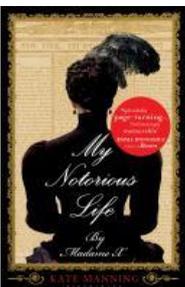
### Life in a Jar : the Irena Sendler Project / Jack Mayer

During World War II, Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, organized a rescue network of fellow social workers to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. After the war her heroism was suppressed by communist Poland and remained virtually unknown for 60 years until three high school girls from an economically depressed rural school district in southeast Kansas stumbled upon a tantalizing reference to Sendler's rescues, which they fashioned into a history project.



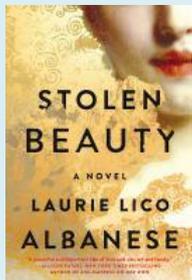
### Maria and the Admiral / Rachel Billington.

Valparaiso, June 1822. Thomas Cochrane has led the Chilean fleet to victory, and as the news spreads of the country's independence from Spain, a British woman, Maria Graham, watches from her house near Valparaiso Bay. A vivacious and clever young widow, her first thought as she contemplates her compatriot's arrival is that her loneliness has come to an end. Lauded in the press, and admired by Napoleon, Cochrane had long been at odds with the Admiralty, who failed to subdue his outspoken independence. In Maria Graham he meets a woman whose intelligence and spirit of adventure match his own. Based on a true story, the novel vividly imagines the intensity of Maria and Thomas's first meeting and their parting in Rio de Janeiro 10 months later. Against the backdrop of one of the most beautiful and remote cities on earth, caught between the Pacific and the snow-capped Andes, this is the story of two exceptional people whose lives are joined before being torn apart by family ties, natural disaster and war.



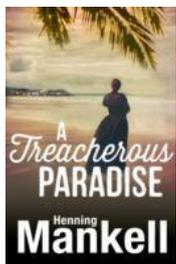
### My notorious life by Madame X / Kate Manning

This is the testament of Axie Muldoon - midwife, female physician, distributor of 'obscene' materials, and the most scandalous woman in New York. Her story begins in 1860, when she is thirteen years old, the child of Irish emigrants, forced to beg on the streets for pennies with her little sister Dutch and baby brother Joe. When a Christian philanthropist sends the children West to 'save' them, Axie is separated from her mother and siblings, and embarks on a quest to reunite her family. Back in New York, Axie is taken in by a local midwife who teaches her the craft she will live by - and later fight for. She makes her fortune, and discovers that the right way is not always the way of God or the law, and that you should never trust a man who says 'trust me.' But what if that man is the irresistible Charlie G. Jones (the 'G' is for Great), fellow orphan and poetical Irish soul? As she tends to her family and her desperate patients, the man who would be the righteous instrument of her downfall circles ever closer... In electrifying prose and based on a true story, Kate Manning depicts nineteenth-century New York in all its contradictions - a morass of deprivation, moral hysteria, back alleys and blind eyes - in this stunning tale of sex, freedom, family and the many faces of love.



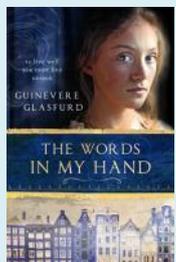
### **Stolen beauty : a novel / Laurie Lico Albanese**

1900: Adele Bloch-Bauer--young, beautiful, brilliant, and Jewish--meets the modern painter Gustav Klimt in turn-of-the-century Vienna when sex, art, and anti-Semitism are just beginning to break through the façade of conventional society. Her intoxicating vulnerability and intensity fuel a love triangle that threatens her world, even as it ignites the creation of Klimt's greatest works: Judith , the blood-lusty femme fatale; the Portrait of Adele in gold, and the voluptuous Kiss. But political hatred is brewing. A hungry young artist haunts Vienna's streets and museums, and his name is Adolf Hitler. 1938: Maria Altmann is a love-struck newlywed when the Nazis invade Austria, and overnight, her beloved Vienna becomes a war zone. When her husband is arrested and her family is forced out of their beautiful, stately home on the Ringstrasse, Maria must summon a courage she never knew she possessed--and faces impossible risks in order to preserve the legacy of heroism and brilliance that her aunt, the renowned Adele Bloch-Bauer, instilled in her. Twining the tales of two remarkable women across more than a hundred years, Stolen Beauty juxtaposes passion and discovery against hatred and despair, and shines a light on our ability to love, to destroy, and above all, to endure.



### **A treacherous paradise / Henning Mankell**

In 1904 Hanna Lundmark escapes the brutal poverty of rural Sweden for a job as a cook onboard a steamship headed for Australia. On the voyage she finds love in the form of the ship's mate, whom she marries. But disaster strikes when her husband is struck down by a fatal illness while the ship is docked on the East African coast. Jumping ship at the port of Lourenco Marques, Hanna decides to begin her life anew. Stumbling across a down-at-heel hotel, Hanna becomes embroiled in a sequence of events that lead to her inheriting the most successful brothel in town, complete with a chimpanzee who serves drinks. Hanna tries to befriend the prostitutes working for her, and change life in the town for the better, but the distrust between blacks and whites, and the shadow of colonialism, lead to tragedy and murder.



### **The words in my hand / Guinevere Glasfurd**

The re-imagined true story of Helena, a 17th century Dutch maid, desperate to educate herself and use her mind, in an era where women were kept firmly in their place. Helena works in the Amsterdam lodging house of an English bookseller who rents out a room to the mysterious 'Monsieur' who turns out to be Rene Descartes.

### **Other titles to try:**

Beauty in Thorns / by Kate Forsyth  
Burial Rites / by Hannah Kent  
Day After Night / by Anita Diamant  
The Fatal Tree / by Jake Arnott  
The Hanging of Mary Ann / by Angela Badger  
Miss Jane / by Brad Watson  
My Mother's Secret / by L. Witterick  
The Queen of Four Kingdoms / by Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent  
The Secrets of Mary Bowser / by Lois Leveen