

Brave New Reads 2016



**NEW
WORDS
NEW
WORLDS**

www.bravenewreads.org.uk

**‘Brave New Reads
is a great way of
reading outside your
usual “box” and because
the books have been
so carefully selected
you’re confident
they’re worth a try.’**

– 2015 Norwich Reader



#BraveNewReads

Looking for something fantastic to read?

Together with a hundred dedicated readers, we've chosen six brilliant books to take you on a journey this summer. From fighter pilots in the Mojave Desert, to one-eyed dogs on Irish beaches, to heartbreaking injustice on death-row, Brave New Reads promises original, astonishing stories to explore and adore.

But it's not just about reading – you can get to know the books through book clubs and workshops, enjoy fun book quizzes, and join in discussions. You can also meet the authors at intimate events, where you'll hear them read and get to ask your pressing questions.

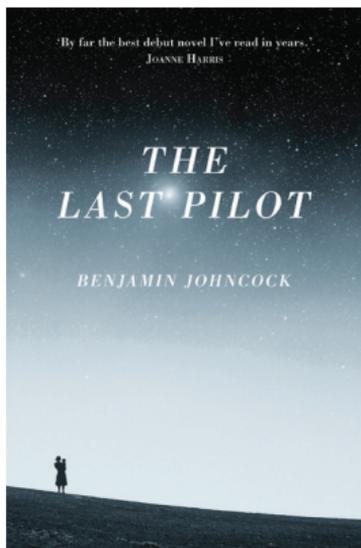
With an outstanding track-record of recommending amazing books, Brave New Reads takes place in libraries and bookshops across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, as well as online.

Find out more at www.bravenewreads.org.uk, join the chat online with [#BraveNewReads](https://twitter.com/BraveNewReads) or pop into your local library.

Turn the page to discover the six reader recommended titles.

Happy Reading!

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The Last Pilot Benjamin Johncock

'First light was a diesel spill across the sky. The ground was gray. The hard silence of the desert sung.'

Technically brilliant and emotionally charged, this novel will transport you to America in the early days of the space race. Jim Harrison is in training to break the sound barrier, poised to become one of the very first astronauts, but his promise will be tested by a family crisis of stellar proportions. Discover a different world in this economic, elegant, and hugely powerful book.



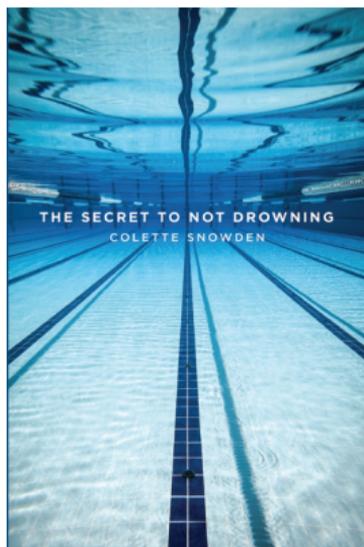
'An outstanding read: riveting, snappy, and very very cool.'

– Sam, Norwich Readers' Circle

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The Secret to Not Drowning Colette Snowden

“The secret to not drowning,” she says, “is to get out of the pool before you get too tired to keep swimming.””

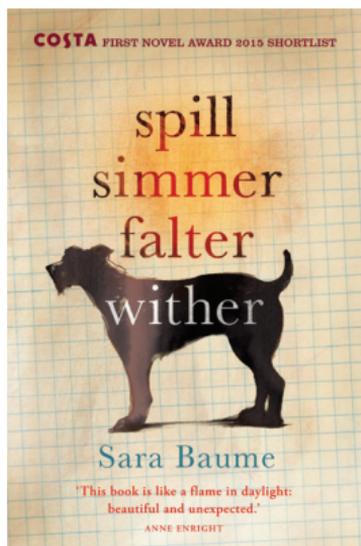


Marion can't do anything without *Him* knowing. Her only escape is her weekly swimming trip, but soon she'll learn that taking the plunge creates far-reaching ripples. An intimate and immersive glimpse into emotional abuse, *The Secret to Not Drowning* shows how the smallest of acts can be the bravest. Take a chance with this compelling and quietly wonderful novel.



'A humorous and imaginative page turner, written with a terrifying sense of menace and discomfort.'
– Ruth, Cambridge Readers' Circle

#BraveNewReads



Spill Simmer Falter Wither Sara Baume

'I was wrong to try and impose something of my humanness upon you, when being human never did me any good.'

The story of a lonely man, and his one-eyed rescue dog. One Eye and his owner are both outcasts from society, clumsily navigating the world as best they can, each completely dependent on the other. Simultaneously tender and tragic, this is a compassionate and claustrophobic tale of loneliness and friendship. Dog-lover or not, this poetically poignant novel is sure to touch your heart.



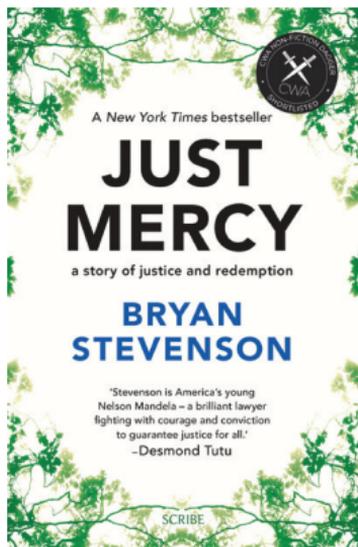
'I found myself engrossed in this jewel of a story. Sensitive, funny and hugely affecting, Baume's language ribbons naturally out onto the page.'

– Alvinia, Ely Readers' Circle

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Just Mercy Bryan Stevenson

'We are all broken by something. We have all hurt someone and been hurt. We all share the condition of brokenness even if our brokenness is not equivalent.'



This crucial and devastating non-fiction book takes us to death row, showing the heartbreaking histories of the prisoners and revealing the inherent prejudices of modern-day America. A scathing, virulent, and utterly necessary condemnation of the US justice system, this book is sure to leave you gasping, crying and raging, but also filled with gratitude and hope. Absolutely not to be missed.



'An autobiography, a social history, a treatise on the importance of equal justice, and a gripping thriller.'
– Kathryn, Norwich Readers' Circle

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Signs Preceding the End of the World Yuri Herrera

(Translated by Lisa Dillman)

*'They carried photos
like promises but by the
time they came back
they were in tatters.'*

Makina is gutsy, determined and not frightened of anything. When her mother asks her to travel from Mexico to the US to find her brother, she sets off almost immediately, pausing only to meet the local underlords. Carrying an unknown package from a kingpin, she traverses underworlds, borders, and boundaries, crossing dreamy lands. Echoing Greek myths, this breath-taking novella will move you to other planes of existence.



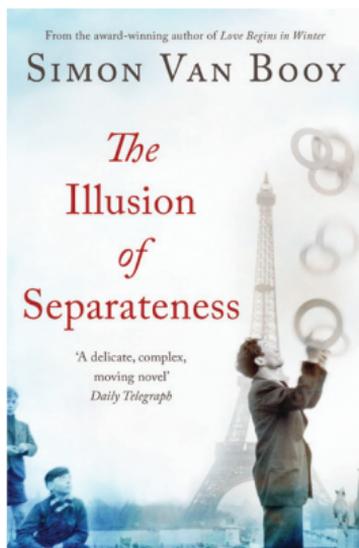
'Full of heart and guts, poetic, brief and rich – nothing short of stunning.'

– Roland, Norwich Readers' Circle

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The Illusion of Separateness Simon Van Booy

*'He did what they told
him to do. He would
have done anything
they told him to do.
He hid inside the
pronoun we.'*



An uplifting tale of interconnection, coincidence, and the strangeness of life, this striking novel explores the impact of small actions. Moving across time and space, from wartime Britain to modern-day California, *The Illusion of Separateness* shows the tenderness of people, and how seemingly simple actions have great consequences. Haunting, luminous, and totally absorbing, this book will give you a fresh perspective on what it means to be human.



*'Beautifully written. A magical read, which kept me
captivated until the very last page!'*

– Joy, Huntingdon Readers' Circle

#BraveNewReads

**‘Brave New Reads
brought me great
pleasure. It flooded my
imagination, led on to
reading other things,
and encouraged me to
explore the ideas and
issues that cascaded
from the pages.’**

– 2015 Bury St Edmunds Reader



#BraveNewReads

How we chose the books: Meet the Readers' Circle.

Brave New Reads is chosen by readers, for readers. Our Readers' Circle—a group of more than 100 eager volunteers from across East Anglia—spent six months reading, reviewing and rating more than 120 books, before finally choosing the six boldest, bravest, and most exciting titles to be part of Brave New Reads 2016.

To get to the final six thought-provoking titles, we collected more than a thousand reviews, held many meetings, shortlisted three times, and debated and deliberated until we felt we'd covered every angle; from prose to plot. The dedicated Readers' Circle members campaigned for their favourite titles, encouraged other members to read the books and rated their top choices.

The result? Six stunning books chosen by people who love a good read!



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Enjoy Brave New Reads live.

Experience a new side to the Brave New Reads books with these special events. Meet some of the Brave New Reads authors in your local library at friendly, intimate readings and put your questions to them. Plus, for the first year ever, there are also two special creative writing workshops—perfect for aspiring authors—where you'll learn about the craft and art of fiction.

And it's not just the events in the brochure – all participating libraries will be running plenty of events where you can meet other friendly readers, and discuss what you loved and what you loathed over refreshments. There are book clubs galore, reader workshops, quizzes and more – pop into your library or visit www.bravenewreads.org.uk for more information on all the upcoming events.

Tickets for all the events on the opposite page can be booked online at www.bravenewreads.org.uk or in the host library (unless otherwise stated).

Please note these events may be subject to change – please confirm details with your local library or check online.



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The Brave New Reads Launch with Benjamin Johncock and Colette Snowden

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library,
Wednesday 4th May, 6pm, £2

Meet the Author: Benjamin Johncock

Swaffham Library, Friday 20th May, 6.30pm, £2

Meet the Author: Yuri Herrera

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library,
Friday 10th June, 6pm, £2

Meet the Author: Benjamin Johncock

Wisbech Library, Thursday 16th June, 10.30am, £2

Workshop Your Writing with Colette Snowden

Cambridge Central Library, Saturday 18th June, 2pm, £8

Meet the Author: Simon Van Booy

Huntingdon Library, Wednesday 29th June, 3.30pm, £2

Workshop Your Writing with Simon Van Booy

WCN Dragon Hall, Norwich,
Thursday 30th June, 6.30pm, £12

Meet the Author: Benjamin Johncock

Woodbridge Library, Tuesday 19th July, 7.30pm, £2

Norwich Finale: Book Lovers' Quiz

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library,
Wednesday 20th July, 6pm, £5 team
(Contact library to book place)

#BraveNewReads

Find Brave New Reads near you.

Pop into your local library to borrow the books, find out about upcoming events; from book clubs to quizzes, meet other readers and join in the conversation. Libraries in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire will also host author events, where you can get a first-hand perspective on the books.

If you want to know more about Brave New Reads, or find out what's happening in your local library, just ask the librarian for more information. You can also share your thoughts about the books or fill in a postcard.

Prefer to chat online? You can keep up to date with the libraries, and let them know what you think on Twitter [@NorfolkLibs](#), [@SuffolkLibrary](#) and [@CambsLibs](#).

Norfolk

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Diss, Dersingham, Hunstanton, Swaffham, Wroxham

Suffolk

Bury St Edmunds, Beccles, Elmswell, Haverhill, Ixworth, Woodbridge

Cambridgeshire

Cambridge Central, Cambourne, Ely, Huntingdon, Littleport, Wisbech

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As well as exclusive recordings of readings and events, you can find reviews from readers, competitions, blogs, other recommended books and details of all the events.

Join in the chat online.

Want to talk more about the books? You can join in online – just take a look at [#BraveNewReads](#) on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. You can also tell us what you think, meet other readers, and share your favourite book using [#BraveNewReads](#).

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Take a journey with your reading this summer.

Brave New Reads gives you six brilliant books to explore and enjoy. With book clubs, author events, plenty of online resources, and other readers to chat to, Brave New Reads offers a unique reading experience.

‘Brave New Reads was an excellent experience – it opened opportunities for me to read a whole variety of books and explore new genres and authors!’
– 2015 Norwich Reader

Want to know more?

Visit www.bravenewreads.org.uk

Email readers@writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

Phone 01603 877177

Or pop into your local participating library.



WRITERS'
CENTRE
NORWICH

— National Centre for Writing —

Brave New Reads is brought to you by Writers' Centre Norwich and the library services in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and was created in Norwich, England's first UNESCO City of Literature.



Suffolk Libraries



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