

Bookshelf

Good Housekeeping

We bring you our favourite new hardbacks, paperbacks and e-books – from light-hearted fiction to literary gems

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ON MY BEDSIDE TABLE

Joanna Trollope



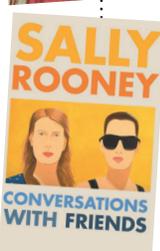
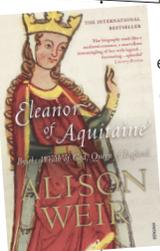
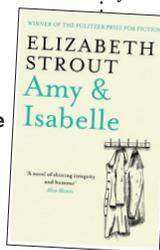
was remarkable and, for the 12th century, quite amazing. She married two kings, was the mother of Richard the Lionheart (and King John) and led a life you simply could not make up.

◆ If you haven't read **EAST WEST STREET** by **PHILIPPE SANDS**, you have missed out

With 20 bestsellers to her name, Joanna Trollope is passing on her expertise as chair of the BBC's National Short Story Award*. She shares her current reads.

◆ Having belatedly discovered her, I'm having a bit of an orgy of **ELIZABETH STROUT**. I'm now deep in the pages of **OLIVE KITTERIDGE**, which is an extraordinary exploration of a person, a marriage and a community. **AMY & ISABELLE** is next – I can't wait.

◆ A very different book is **ALISON WEIR**'s **ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE**. She



big time. It's partly a memoir of wartime Ukraine, partly a gripping historical detective story, and altogether outstanding.

◆ I like variety in everything. Books especially. Hence **SALLY ROONEY**'s **CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS**, which you could regard as 'just' a romantic comedy. But not only is it beautifully, wittily written, it's also a serious feminist text and as thought-provoking as it pretends it isn't.

◆ I have **THE SECRET SCRIPTURE** by **SEBASTIAN BARRY** saved up as a treat. It's something I meant to read when it came out and never got round to. Lovely!

Good Housekeeping's **THREE HOT READS**



◆ Not content with winning Oscars, **TOM HANKS** has proved he's also a talented writer with **UNCOMMON TYPE**, 17 beautiful slices of Americana. Some of the stories are quirky, some nostalgic and all feature typewriters. You can almost hear his voice in your head as you read.

◆ Many of us feel a little stir-crazy at Christmas but pity the poor Birch family who are trapped in quarantine together in **SEVEN DAYS OF US**.

Secrets start to wriggle out, transforming their relationships in **FRANCESCA HORNAK**'s wonderfully Richard Curtis-esque debut.

◆ The one-liners come thick and fast in comedian **SARAH MILLICAN**'s memoir **HOW TO BE CHAMPION**, and when bad things happen – bullying or divorce – the jokes become funnier and more real. You'll be laughing a lot, crying a bit and cheering for her, too.

Book of the month

In **MANHATTAN BEACH**, **JENNIFER EGAN**'s evocative writing transports us back in time to stylish 1940s

New York nightclubs, the bustle of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the U-boat-infested Atlantic. A young girl is determined to become the first female diver in the Yard, fixing warships below the water. But she is haunted by the day her father walked out on the family. Can a powerful local racketeer help her find the truth?

