

s f t w BOOKS

- TOP READS**
1. The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
 2. Grown Ups by Marian Keyes
 3. The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

4. The Darkest Evening by Ann Cleeves
 5. Still Life by Val McDermid
- Source: WHSmith

HEAR ME OUT
Sarah Harding, £20

PICK OF THE WEEK

SARAH will admit she has always liked a drink and a good night out but there is so much more to her than that.

The former Girls Aloud singer's revealing memoir, written since her cancer diagnosis, reveals all her highs and lows.

As well as talking about having ADHD, she tells how she often felt as though she didn't really fit in, even at the height of her fame.

Setting the record straight was Sarah's primary motivation and this incredibly moving memoir does that.

★★★★★



BLACKSTOKE
Rob Parker, £8.99

THE author swaps crime for horror to great effect.

The newly opened cul-de-sac of the book's title seems idyllic for its residents. But when bad things start to happen to the locals, the area's disturbing past is brought vividly back to life.

Soon nobody is safe, as the original powers of Blackstoke return to reclaim their territory on the last night of dark revelations.

Don't read this chiller with the lights off.

★★★★★

JONATHAN WHITELAW



HER debut novel, crime thriller Blood Orange, was one of THE books to read in 2019.

Now Harriet Tyce's second book, *The Lies You Told*, is out in paperback.

Another thriller, it is about a woman who fears her husband is having an affair and returns to her London roots to pick up the pieces of her life.

It tells of her battles settling her daughter into a new school, dealing with competitive mums and returning to the criminal barrister's career she quit to be a mother – which brings with it a challenging case.

Oxford-educated ex-barrister Harriet, 47, whose first novel was about a young lawyer whose life spirals after taking on a murder case, says: "I wrote *Blood Orange* while doing a course in creative writing so thought only about 14 people would read it.

Impaled on railings

"The success was a big surprise, and being chosen as a Richard & Judy Book Club pick made a very big difference.

"It had quite a lot of visibility before lockdown, so people knew about it when they were looking for something to read in those first strange months.

"This time round, I knew that people would be waiting for the next book, and I was anxious not to disappoint."

Harriet lives in North London with husband Nat, who works in finance, and children Freddy, 16, and 12-year-old Eloise. She was born and grew up in Edinburgh and worked as a criminal barrister for ten



SUCCESS STORY
Harriet

The legal eagle killing it as an author

years, leaving after the birth of her son.

She says: "I gave up being a barrister after having children, because it's not a career that can be done part-time. I don't miss it. I found it stressful and there are many aspects of the job that can be aggressive."

"It was fascinating, though, and I'm really glad I've been able to bring some of what I know into my novels."

"Writing a book was always going on at the back of my mind. But it was only when a friend said he was going to

write a book that I realised how much it was something I wanted to do. It only took me another ten years after that to actually get on with it."

But since finding her groove as a writer, there has been no stopping Harriet.

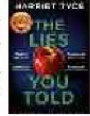
She says: "I've just finished my third novel, which is about friendship and lies."

"It opens with the discovery of a body impaled on railings outside a house in Edinburgh's New Town after a New Year party which has gone horribly wrong." These days Harriet

writes full-time and finally feels she is living the life she was meant to.

Laughing, she says: "It's pretty close to the perfect life, – other than being in a beautiful beach location 24/7. I get to spend my time reading, talking to readers and other writers, and sitting in bed making stories up. I am very lucky indeed."

●*The Lies You Told* by Harriet Tyce is out now in paperback.



NEW MUSIC
By JIM GELLATLY

PG CIARLETTA

WHERE: Kirkcaldy, Fife
FOR FANS OF: Gerry Cinnamon, The View, Jake Bugg
JIM SAYS: Phil Ciarletta is the latest in a long line of Scots with Italian blood making their name in music.

He could become a household name like Capaldi, Spiteri, Nutini and Benedetti.

Phil, who's grandfather's family emigrated to Fife in the 1940s, said: "As a Scots Italian, I feel music is embedded within our culture. I am proud of both my Scottish and Italian roots. To be grouped with such



names would be an honour."

Performing as PG Ciarletta, Phil got off to a great start last year with his debut single *The Sesh* reaching No1 in the iTunes Alternative chart and No8 in the Official Scottish Chart.

He is raring to get out on the road as restrictions start to ease. He reckons the latest track *Let Go* is perfect for better times ahead. He said: "Let Go is the end of lockdown party anthem." You said it, fella!

MORE: facebook.com/PGCiarletta

●Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. amazingradio.com/jimgellatly.com

PROMOTED CONTENT

WIN £5,000 AND MAKE YOUR DOWNTIME TOTALLY EPIC

Wow, these action-packed pages will guarantee your weekend is a thrill-a-minute – just like my job!

As a pro Hollywood stuntman my work is pretty full-on, but I like my downtime to be really epic, too.

So when I'm not dodging robot sharks or somersaulting off bridges, I'm playing the Bonanza, Tomb of Ra and Book of Dead slots at PokerStars Casino.

Yes, my CV includes 924 explosions and 684 car chases but once I'm off the set, I'll head to my trailer and log on for some spinning, scooping and stacking.

And if you want your downtime to be just as epic, why not enter the PokerStars Casino prize draw for a chance to

win £5,000 – that would make anyone's time out truly explosive. With that pile of cash you could treat yourself to a nice, big widescreen telly, surround sound system or even a lifetime's supply of popcorn.

Head to thesun.co.uk/pokerstars to enter the prize draw. And even if you're not lucky this time, you can always make your downtime epic with the new games at PokerStars Casino!

Yours epically, Alfonso

Alfonso Steak



VISIT [THESUN.CO.UK/POKERSTARS](https://thesun.co.uk/pokerstars) TO ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW

