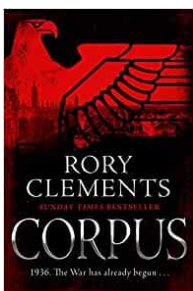


# FROM YOUR LIBRARY SHELVES –



Here are some suggestions for your reading pleasure –

## **Fiction: Rory Clements: Corpus [2017], a Sunday Times Bestseller**

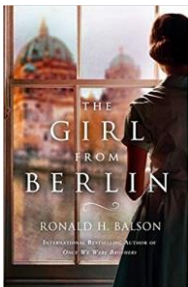


1936, Europe is in turmoil. In Germany Nazi power is rising, in Russia Stalin has unleashed the Great Terror, and in Spain civil war is raging. Across the channel England too is grappling with their king, Edward VIII, who wants to marry a twice-divorced American.

Set against this background, Tom Wilde, a maverick history professor at Cambridge University, finds himself dragged into a world of murder and espionage.

It's a rollicking tale, intriguing and unusual. I hadn't realized how many of the English people, especially the upper crust, admired and supported Hitler, while others openly embraced communism and fought in the Spanish Civil War. Well worth the read, not only for the intriguing story but also for a glimpse of the atmosphere prevailing at that time.

## **Fiction: Ronald Balson: The Girl from Berlin [2018]**



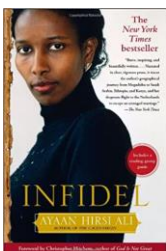
In present day America, an old friend calls on Catherine Lockhart and Liam Taggart for help. His aunt is being evicted from her home in the Tuscan hills by a powerful corporation claiming they own the deeds, even though she can produce her own set of deeds to her land. Catherine and Liam's only clue is a bound handwritten manuscript, entirely in German, and hidden in its pages is a story long-forgotten...

The story was written by Ada Baumgarten who was born to Jewish parents in Berlin in 1918. She was a violin prodigy and her life was full of the rich culture of Berlin's interwar society. She formed a deep attachment to her childhood friend Kurt, but they were torn

apart by the growing unrest as her Jewish family came under suspicion. As the tides of history turned, it was her extraordinary talent that would carry her through an unravelling society. She moved to Bologna but Italy was not the haven her family had hoped, and further heartache waited.

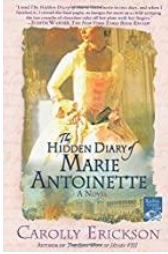
What became of Ada? How is she connected to the conflicting land deeds of a small Italian villa? As they dig through the layers of lies, corruption, and human evil, Catherine and Liam uncover an unfinished story of heart, redemption, and hope. Ronald Balson's books are well researched, depicting the times in accurate and unflinching clarity. An absorbing and spell-binding read.

## **Non-Fiction: Ayaan Hirsi Ali: Infidel**



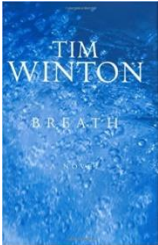
Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali is also a Dutch activist and politician who has attracted controversy, and death threats were made against her in the early 2000's. This inspiring and beautifully written book tells of her courageous and enduring fight against the power and cruelty of Radical Islam, (including forced marriage and genital mutilation).

## **Fiction: Carolly Erickson: The Hidden Diary of Marie Antoinette [2006]**



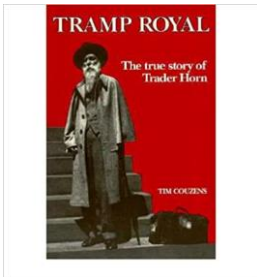
This is historical fiction and an easy read. It is perhaps not all true, but it is interesting as it gives such a wealth of detail of the background and lives during that period. It also gives a new perspective on character of Marie Antoinette.

### **Fiction: Tim Winton: Breath**



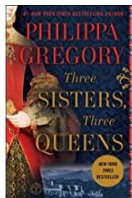
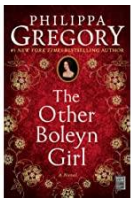
This is set in Western Australia in the 1970's. It is the story of a young man's experience in pushing himself to the limit in fear and exhilaration, his youthful erotic experience- and later - in maturity, the emptiness of leaving such intensity - in love and in life - behind. Rather philosophical!

### **Non-Fiction: Tim Couzens: Tramp Royal**



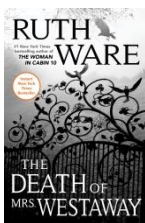
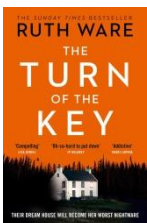
On a spring morning in 1925 a frail old man from a doss house in Johannesburg turned up on the verandah of novelist Ethelreda Lewis hawking gridiron and toasting forks. They fell into conversation and his reminiscences about Equatorial Africa in the 1870s so captivated her that she decided to write them down. The book, Trader Horn, became an international best seller in 1927. Many believed it was fiction and the Hollywood film, released in 1931, did little to convince the sceptics. In Tramp Royal Tim Couzens researched the life of Aloysius Smith, known as Trader Horn, and follows it from Lancashire in the 1860s, through Africa, Buffalo Bill's America, Cockney London in 1880s, gunrunning in Madagascar, and the Anglo-Boer War. It is truly a great read if you enjoy history.

### **Historical Fiction: Philippa Gregory: various novels**



If one is interested in English history, particularly the Tudor/Elizabethan period, her books are fascinating. They are thoroughly researched and often give the (supposed) perspective of that particular character, being expressed in the 1st person. One learns about the habits, customs, norms, ambitions, relentless scheming and intrigue of that period in an entertaining way. You will find several others on our library shelves.

### **Fiction, thrillers: Ruth Ware: various titles**



If you enjoy a good British psychological thriller without the violence and swearing that is so prevalent in many books today, then Ruth Ware's novels are definitely worth reading. They have been described as having hints of Daphne du Maurier mixed with a touch of Agatha Christie – both favourite authors of many of us. We have several of her novels on our shelves, so read and enjoy.

**We'd love to hear from you too! Have you enjoyed a particular book? Your review or comments would be very welcome – send them to [libbybaker@mweb.co.za](mailto:libbybaker@mweb.co.za)**