

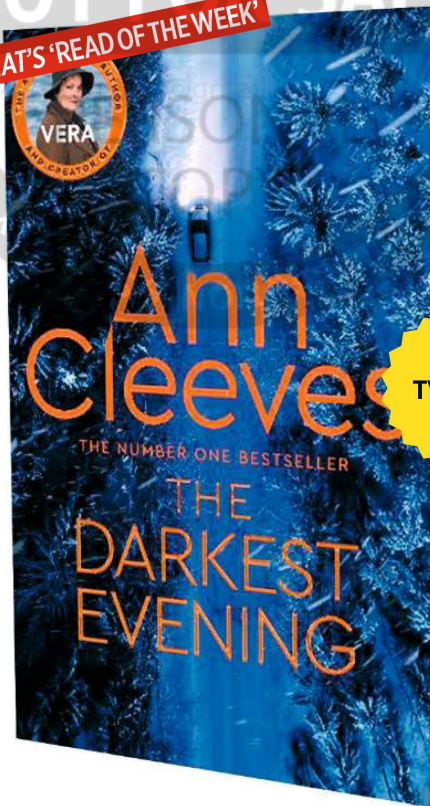
!The Unmissables

14

The Week's Hot New Reads

Books you need to get your mitts on

HEAT'S 'READ OF THE WEEK'



THE TWISTY ONE

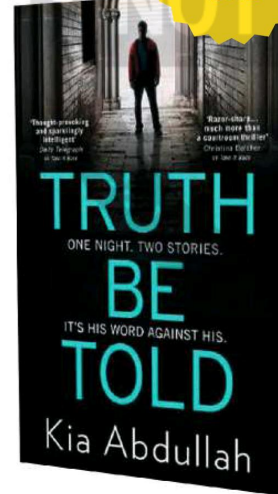
The Darkest Evening

ANN CLEEVES (PAN MACMILLAN, £18.99)

She might be missing from our screens right now, but feisty detective Vera Stanhope is certainly keeping busy in Ann Cleeves' ninth novel about her. Driving home through a blizzard, Vera discovers an abandoned car with a baby in it. Later that evening, a young woman's body is discovered outside the ancestral pile of the local aristocratic family, the Stanhopes. Yes, our fiercely working-class Vera has very posh relations, and it soon becomes apparent that they are linked to the dead woman. And as DI Stanhope and her team dig deeper into what happened that snowy night – and why – we also find out more about Vera's past. It's brilliantly written, with more twists and turns than you can shake one of Vera's hats at.

★★★★★ Julie Emery

THE GRIPPING ONE

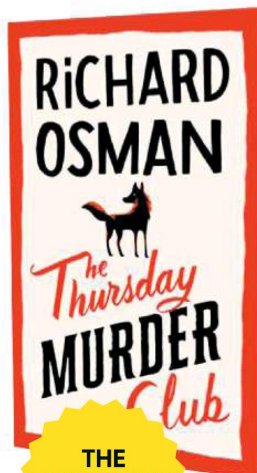


Truth Be Told

KIA ABDULLAH (HQ, £12.99)

Seventeen-year-old Kamran Hadid has the world at his feet. From a rich family, he attends an elite school and has a place at Oxford. Then a wild night results in a drunken encounter that changes his life forever. Seeking the help of a counsellor, he reports the incident, thinking it'll be the end of it, but it unwittingly sets the wheels in motion for a tense, high-profile court case. A deeply profound and thought-provoking read. ★★★★★ Kay Ribeiro

#82



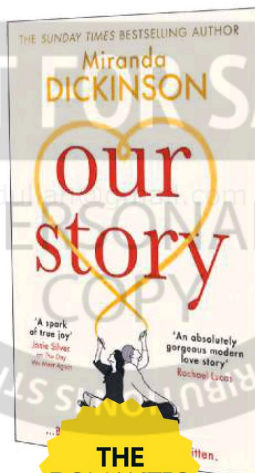
THE MYSTERIOUS ONE

The Thursday Murder Club

RICHARD OSMAN (VIKING, £14.99)

Imagine if Miss Marple ended up in a retirement community and set up her own club to investigate murders – that is roughly the premise of Richard Osman's debut novel. Quirky, joyful and oh-so-British, it sees a group of retirees who investigate cold cases for fun, but find themselves in the middle of a real-life murder mystery. The book has its share of twists, but it's the warm and witty characters that really make it worthwhile. Fans of Osman (from *Pointless*) will recognise his humour, and will be thrilled to know the film rights have been snapped up by Steven Spielberg's production company.

★★★★★ Katie Holloway



THE ROMANTIC ONE

Our Story

MIRANDA DICKINSON (HQ, £7.99)

Having landed her dream job as a scriptwriter for a TV production company, Otty is on cloud nine. That is until she gets evicted the night before her first day. Joe, a writer at the company, is juggling keeping his job with finding a new roommate after his upped and left, leaving him to cover the rent. When fate intervenes and they find themselves living and working together, the pair soon realise it's going to take more than just words to write their own happily ever after. A slow-burning, heart-wrenching and witty portrayal of modern love, *Our Story* is perfect for anyone who's a sucker for a good romance novel.

★★★★ Lucy Addicott