



Books Recommended/Mentioned at the 2026 Festival

The **Friday Night Book Club** discussed the following books:

‘Whistler’ by Ann Patchett

‘Griefdog’ by Michael Winkler

‘At Sea’ by Yassmin Abdel Magied

AUTHORS & TITLES

ANDERSEN, Hans Christian	‘Princess and the Pea’
ARNOTT, Robbie	‘Flames’ (2018)
ASH, Romy	‘Mantle’
AU, Jessica	‘Cold Enough for Snow’
BARKER, Pat	Trilogy – connects with topical film “The Odyssey” <i>Trojan Wars series</i> 2018 The Silence of the Girls, 2021 The Women of Troy, 2024 The Voyage Home Also - <i>Regeneration Trilogy</i> 1991 Regeneration, 1993 The Eye in the Door, 1995 The Ghost Road
BATES, Dianne	‘Grandma Cadbury’s Trucking Tales’
BIRCH, Tony	‘Shadowboxing’ (2006)
BIRCH, Tony	‘Blood’ (2011)
BIRCH, Tony	‘Women and Children’ (2023)
BIRCH, Tony	‘The White Girl’ (2019)
BIRCH, Tony	‘Ghost River’ (2015)
BLYTON, Enid	‘The Magic Faraway Tree’
BOLANO, Roberto	‘2666’
BOND, Michael	‘A Bear Called Paddington’
BOYD, Martin	The Langton Quartet - ‘The Cardboard Crown’, ‘A Difficult Young Man’, ‘Outbreak of Love’, and ‘When Blackbirds Sing’
CARTER, Paul	‘Road to Botany Bay’
CLARKE, Susanna	‘Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell’
CRICHTON, Michael	‘Jurassic Park’
BUCKLE, Craig	‘Brave Little Lion’
DICKINS, Barry	Assorted plays, essays and stories
FITZGERALD, F Scott	‘The Great Gatsby’
FITZGERALD, F Scott	‘Tender is the Night’
FITZSIMONS, Peter	‘Kokoda’ (2004)
FOX, Mem	‘Sail Away: The Ballad of Skip and Nell’
FOX, Mem	‘Where is the Green Sheep’
HAMID, Mohsin	‘Exit West’
HARDY, Thomas	‘Tess of the D’Urbervilles’
HAYES, Bill	‘Insomniac City: New York, Oliver and Me’

HELLER, Joseph	'Catch 22' (1961)
JENSEN, Erik	'Acute Misfortune' (2014)
JENSEN, Erik	'Angry at Breakfast' (2024)
JOHNSTON, George	'My Brother Jack'
KEEGAN, Claire	'Small Things Like These'
KRAUS, Daniel	'Angel Down' (2025) – 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
LARKIN, Philip	'This Be The Verse' - poem
LERNER, Ben	'Transcription'
MCCULLOUGH, Colleen	'Ladies of Missaloughi'
MACLEOD, Alistair	'The Boat' (1968) – short story
MCINNES, William	'A Man's Got To Have a Hobby: Long Summers With My Dad'
MELVILLE, Herman	'Moby Dick' (1851)
MURRAY, Paul	'The Bee Sting' (2023)
NESBO, Jo	Crime novels – Norwegian author
O'DONNELL, Mabel	'Janet and John' – reader, British
OUSTON, Adam	'Mine' (2026)
PATCHETT, Ann	'Bel Canto' (2001)
PORTER, Max	'Lanny'
POWELL, Anthony	'Dance to Music of Time'
PROULX, Annie	'Shipping News'
PUNG, Alice	'Unpolished Gem' (2006)
RAND, Ayn	'The Fountainhead'
RAND, Ayn	'Atlas Shrugged'
STROUT, Elizabeth	'Tell Me Everything' (2024)
STROUT, Elizabeth	'The Things We Never Say' (2026)
STUART, Douglas	'John of John' (2026) – longlist of Booker Prize *
SZALAY, David	'Flesh' (2025) Booker Prize winner
TEMPLE, Peter	Crime novels
THOMAS, Claire	'On Not Climbing Mountains' (2026)
TOIBIN, Colm	'The Master'
VONNEGUT, Kurt	'Slaughterhouse V'
WINKLER, Michael	'Grimmish' (2021)
WRIGHT, Alexis	'Carpentaria'
ZASLAVSKY, Alice	'Salad for Days: Breezy Ways with Veg, All Year Round'
LU, Siang	'Ghost Cities' (2024), winner Miles Franklin Award 2025
TIFFANY, Carrie	'Exploded View' (2020)
BUNTING, Philip	'Mopoke'
ASH, Romy	'Floundering'
SHAKESPEARE, William	'Macbeth'

2026 Booker Prize Longlist

The 13 nominated books, and their UK publishers, are:

- *The Shadow of the Object* by Chloe Aridjis (Chatto & Windus)
- *Switzky* by Emma Cline (Chatto & Windus)
- *Helen of Nowhere* by Makenna Goodman (Fitzcarraldo Editions)
- *The End of Everything* by M. John Harrison (Serpent's Tail)
- *The Disappearance's* by Marlon James (Hamish Hamilton)
- *Black Bag* by Luke Kennard (John Murray)
- *The Renovation* by Kenan Orhan (Hamish Hamilton)
- *May We Feed the King* by Rebecca Perry (Granta)
- *The Palm House* by Gwendoline Riley (Picador)
- *The Things We Never Say* by Elizabeth Strout (Viking)
- *John of John* by Douglas Stuart (Picador)
- *All Them Dogs* by Djamel White (John Murray)
- *The Vivisectors* by Missouri Williams (4th Estate)

AUTHORS @ FESTIVAL – LATEST BOOKS

ARNOTT, Robbie	‘Dusk’ (2024) – 2025 Indie Book Awards – The Age Book of the Year – Fiction
BLAKE, Martin	‘Why We Love Footy: An Aussie Rules History in 50 Great Moments’ (2026)
BIRCH, Tony	‘Pictures of You: Collected Short Stories’ (2025)
GOODWIN, Caz	‘Wombat Dreaming’ (2025)
HARMS, John	‘Play On’ (2003)
ISSA, Antoun	‘Rebirth: A Love Story from the Depths of War’ (2026)
JENSEN, Erik	‘A Lick of Fireweed’ (2025)
KAIN, Simone	‘George the Farmer’ (2025)
LIM, Rebecca	‘The Graduate’ (2026)
MANSOUR-NAHRA, Jessica	‘The Burn’ (2026)
MANSOUR-NAHRA, Jessica	‘The Farm’ (2025)
MCINNES, William	‘It’s a Scorcher’ (2025)
PUNG, Alice	‘One Hundred Days’ (2021)
REMEIKIS, Amy	‘Where It All Went Wrong’ (2026)
REMEIKIS, Amy	‘Screw Nice’ (2026)
ZASLAVSKY, Alice	‘In Praise of Veg’ (2021)

COMING SOON

BIRCH, Tony	‘You Miss My Heart’ – to be released in February 2027
ZASLAVSKY, Alice	‘Weeknights with Alice’ – coming out in September 2026