

Cathy  
Rentzenbrink

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## FICTION

With so many good books to choose from there are twice as many Editor's Choices this month

I've doubled the titles in Editor's Choice this month, as I read so many good books and couldn't bear to choose between them. Some trends: the vogue for elderly protagonists continues with *My Grandmother Sends her Regards and Apologies* by Fredrick Backman, *Himmeler's Cook* by Franz-Olivier Giesbert and *A Year of Marvellous Ways* by Sarah Winman. Lots of books about books, including the charming *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* by Swedish bookseller Katarina Bivald and *The Reader on the 6.27* by Jean-Paul Didierlaurent, whose narrator works in a book pulping factory—L'horreur! I was also very taken with the likeable murderous author at the heart of *The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango. Lots of coming-of-age stories: Joanna Rakoff's *A Fortunate Age* takes us to New York in the 1990s, the action in *The House at the Edge of the World* by Julia Rochester flits between Devon and London and Belinda McKeon's excellent second novel *Tender* is set in Dublin with occasional train trips home by the student characters.

My Book of the Month, *The Versions of Us*, is thematically similar to the Kate Atkinson I chose for May in that after the first meeting of Eva and Jim, time splits and we read three different versions of their possible lives. Orion has offered to host drinks with the author Laura Barnett for me and one of the readers of this column. Tweet me @cathyreadsbooks to tell me why you should be my plus one.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE/BOOK OF THE MONTH

Personal favourites

## TOP SELLER

Likely to be the biggest selling titles of the month based on an author's sales history

## ONES TO WATCH

Titles with strong sales potential and publisher support, regardless of sales history of the author

## DÉBUT BOOKS

Indicated by the icon below



RATINGS based on previous sales in a similar format

\*\*\*\*\* 50,000+ | \*\*\*\* 25,000-49,999 | \*\*\* 10,000-24,999 \*\* 5,000-9,999 \* 3,000-4,999

Sales are from the Total Consumer Market (TCM) only, which excludes e-book, export, direct, library and other sales.

Ratings are based on the previous 12 months of sales of the author's previous books in a similar format, provided it has at least six months of sales available through BookScan.

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



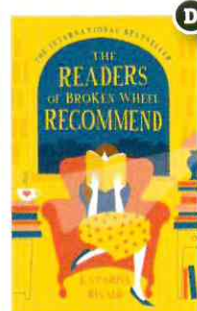
## COMMERCIAL

LAURA BARNETT  
THE VERSIONS OF  
USWEIDENFELD &  
NICOLSON, 4TH,  
£12.99, HB,  
9781474600163

*Life After Life* meets *One Day* in this highly enjoyable and commercial novel that should do very well indeed. Eva and Jim first meet in Cambridge in 1958 and from that moment on time splits and their lives play out in three different versions. As the years unfold, we are whisked off to New York, Los Angeles, an artists' commune in

Cornwall and back to Cambridge as Eva and Jim, sometimes together, sometimes with other partners and children, perform an intricate lifelong dance. All the highs and lows of life and love are here and I had to reach for the tissues several times. Perhaps one of the joys of this type of novel is that they encourage readers to examine his or her own paths not taken, and Orion is exploring that idea with a social media campaign encouraging people to share their own #whatif moments, five of which will be printed in the paperback.

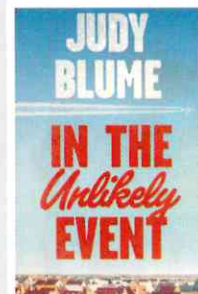
Fancy chatting to the author? Orion is offering a reader of this column the chance to come with me to meet her for a drink just by their offices. Tweet me @cathyreadsbooks to tell me why I should choose you as my plus one.



## LITERARY

KATARINA  
BIVALD  
THE READERS OF  
BROKEN  
WHEEL  
RECOMMEND  
CHATTO &  
WINDUS, 18TH,  
£12.99, HB,  
9780701189068

A début from a Swedish bookseller about a Swedish bookseller who visits her elderly pen friend, Amy, in America only to discover on her arrival at Broken Wheel that Amy has just died. Luckily the wider community want Sara to stay for a visit and, after various amusing misunderstandings, a new bookshop is born. Shades of *84 Charing Cross Road* here, with a fresh, Swedish twist. If you like books about books, then this will please you.



## COMMERCIAL

JUDY BLUME  
IN THE UNLIKELY  
EVENT  
PICADOR, 2ND,  
£16.99, HB,  
9781509801657

Surely we all grew up in thrall to Judy Blume. I'm sure women of a certain age (mine) will flock to read this adult novel from the author of *Tiger Eyes* and *Forever* who has clocked up lifetime sales of more than 75 million copies. They won't be disappointed. Blume takes us to her hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey, in the early 1950s when there were three plane crashes in just over a year and the local people felt they were living under the constant threat of death.