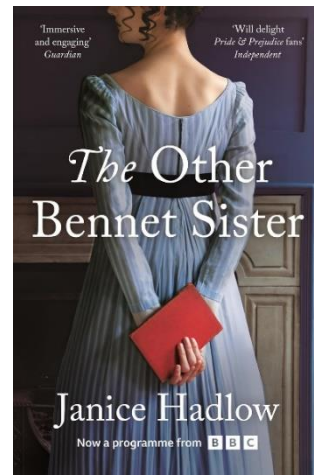


Teatime with Jane - Booklist 2026-2027:

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THE OTHER BENNET SISTER Janice Hadlow

The Other Bennet Sister presents Mary Bennet in a whole new light as she becomes Austen's newest leading lady. While her sisters are celebrated for their beauty or their wit, Mary is the "plain" middle sister, the introvert in a family of extroverts, and a constant disappointment to her mother. One by one, the Bennet sisters have found their place. But what happens to the one left behind? This is the brilliant, witty, and heartbreakingly relatable story of Mary Bennet.



21 – 28 October : THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO

Horace Walpole

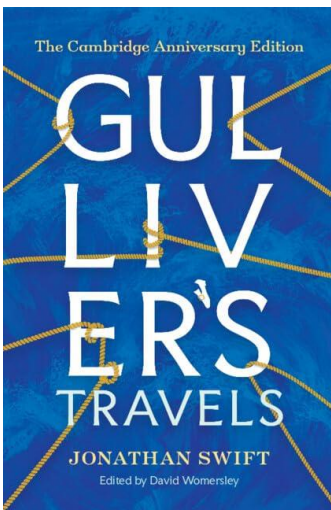
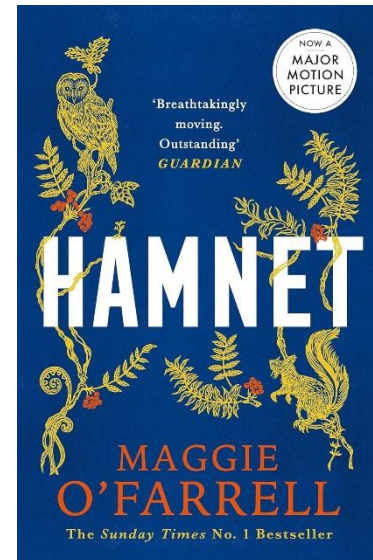
On the day of his son's wedding, Manfred sees a gigantic helmet crash down from nowhere and kill his heir. Then, *The Castle of Otranto* becomes a feverish struggle for power, survival, and escape inside a castle shadowed by signs no one can master. This is early Gothic fiction with a tyrannical ruler, a pursued young woman, hidden passages, supernatural warnings, buried lineage, and a house that seems marked for ruin.



18-25 November: HAMNET

Maggie O'Farrell

On a summer's day in 1596, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon takes to her bed with a sudden fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet, searches everywhere for help. Why is nobody at home? Their mother, Agnes, is over a mile away, in the garden where she grows medicinal herbs. Their father is working in London. Neither parent knows that Hamnet will not survive the week. *Hamnet* tells the powerful story of Agnes and Will, and of the son whose life has been all but forgotten, but who inspired one of the greatest plays ever written.



20-27 January: GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

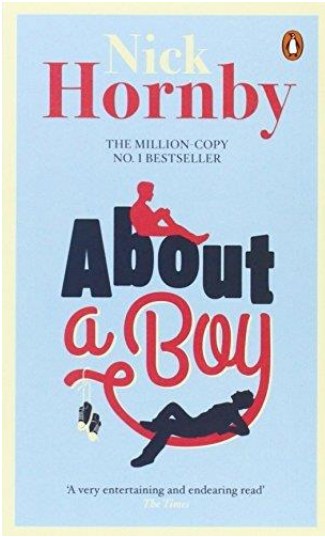
Jonathan Swift

Through the eyes of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon turned explorer, Swift takes readers on fantastical voyages to strange and captivating lands, challenging perceptions of size, classification, and human nature. Blending clever dialogue with sharp political and social satire, Swift's narrative flows seamlessly, offering humour, common sense, and thought-provoking insights into the absurdities of human behaviour.

17-24 February: ABOUT A BOY

Nick Hornby

Thirty-six-year-old Londoner Will loves his life. Living carefree off the royalties of his dad's Christmas song, he's rich, unattached and has zero responsibilities - just the way he likes it. But when Will meets Marcus, an awkward twelve-year-old who listens to Joni Mitchell and accidentally kills ducks with loaves of bread, an unlikely friendship starts to bloom. Can this odd duo teach each another how to finally act their age?



24-31 March: CRANFORD

Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell

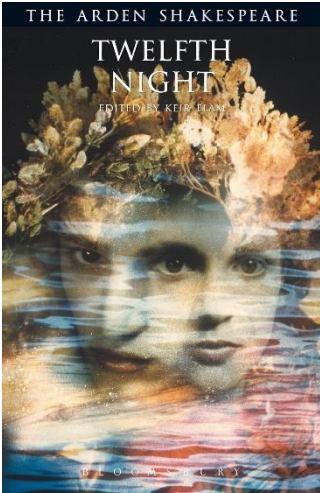
Elizabeth Gaskell's *Cranford* is a charming Victorian novel set in a small English town dominated by independent, eccentric widows and spinsters. The ladies practice "elegant economy"—hiding modest finances under strict social rituals. Narrated by Mary Smith, the episodic story follows the gentle Miss Matty as she navigates lost loves, financial ruin and her community's resilient bonds, ultimately celebrating female solidarity and quiet grace.



21-28 April: TWELFTH NIGHT

William Shakespeare

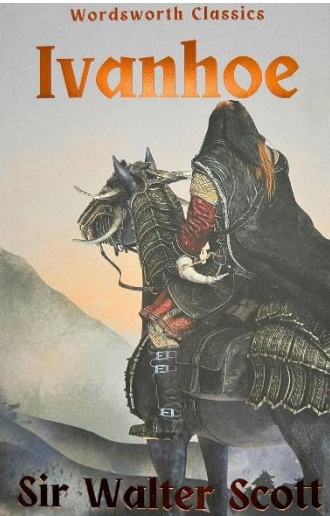
Twelfth Night begins with the scene when twins, Sebastian and Viola, are separated during a shipwreck. Each one believes the other dead. Viola disguises herself as a boy named Cesario and enters the service of Duke Orsino, who thinks he is in love with the lady Olivia. Orsino sends Viola-Cesario to plead his cause to Olivia, who promptly falls in love with the messenger. Viola, meanwhile, is in love with Orsino and, when her twin, Sebastian, is rediscovered, many comic situations of mistaken identity ensue.



19-26 May: IVANHOE

Sir Walter Scott

Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott, often considered one of the greatest historical novels in English literature, transports readers to the mediaeval world of chivalry, romance and adventure. Set in 12th-century England, the story follows the noble knight Ivanhoe as he embarks on a quest to restore Richard the Lionheart to the throne and win the heart of his beloved Lady Rowena. Filled with thrilling jousts, daring rescues, and political intrigue, *Ivanhoe* captivates readers with its vivid portrayal of mediaeval life and timeless themes of honour, loyalty, and love.



SUMMER EDITION: TO BE DECIDED