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Coming of age

THE DIVINES

by *Ellie Eaton, Hodder & Stoughton*

As this smart, dramatic novel opens, boarding-school student Gerry Lake is lying on the ground motionless “like a bird with a broken wing”. The girls of St. John the Divine gather round, applauding what they think is a prank. But it’s clear something dark and tragic has occurred and the big question is: who is to blame? Josephine – a former “Divine” – is now in her 30s and an impromptu visit to the school’s old site evokes memories of the weeks before the accident and some ugly truths. Gripping reading.

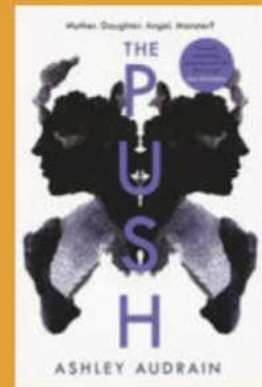


Comedy

HEIRESS ON FIRE

by *Kellie McCourt, HQ*

This light-hearted debut is wickedly sarcastic and correctly billed as “*Crazy Rich Asians* with a little *Miss Fisher’s Mysteries* thrown in”. We begin in Sydney’s glitzy eastern suburbs, where our billion-heiress protagonist is sipping sauvignon blanc in her mother’s pool house, hiding from the police. Her own penthouse was burned down the week before, taking her plastic surgeon husband with it and our heiress is a murder suspect. She claims innocence and sets out to prove it with the help of her new assistant – also a former felon.



Suspense

THE PUSH

by *Ashley Audrain, Michael Joseph*

The expectations of motherhood are scrutinised in this engrossing novel. Blythe never intended to be a parent – too much in her family history to deal with – but when she marries Fox he persuades her otherwise. Daughter Violet is born and though Fox thinks she’s adorable, Blythe is convinced there’s something wrong. Violet doesn’t show empathy, or is it Blythe who can’t love her? When Sam is born Blythe sees everything in him Violet is not. What happens next changes everything.