

The local news

Mirian Gershow

Bright, precocious but socially awkward Lydia Pasternak reports on the aftermath of her older brother's disappearance. Danny was everything Lydia wasn't: at ease with their parents, popular in school, physically imposing, beloved by the opposite sex. Danny went from being Lydia's playmate in their youth to her tormentor in high school, so his disappearance leaves Lydia with some very mixed feelings, one of which is relief. As time goes on and the weekend search parties prove more and more fruitless, Lydia struggles with the fact that her geeky best friend, David, has feelings for her; she also obsesses over the private investigator hired by the family and allows herself to be sucked into the social world Danny once dominated.

General GER

Halfway house

Katharine Noel

One day, Angie Voorster - diligent student, all-star swimmer, and Ivy League-bound high school senior - dives to the bottom of a pool and stays there. In that moment, everything the Voorster family believes they know about one another changes. *Halfway House* is the story of Angie's psychotic break and her family's subsequent turmoil. Each of her family members responds differently to the ongoing crisis: her father Pieter, a Dutch-born professional cellist, retreats further into his career; her mother begins a destabilizing affair with a younger man; her younger brother, Luke, first distances himself as much as possible from his sister, then later drops out of college to be closer to her. And Luke's college girlfriend Wendy, who comes from a farming town in Iowa, provides an outsider's perspective on the family's teeter toward collapse.

General NOE

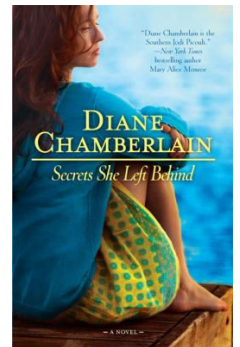
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Jodi Picoult Readalikes



Testimony

Anita Shreve

A sex scandal rocks a posh New England boarding school, and, what's worse, there's a videotape. The result? Divorces, wrecked careers, and one death.

General SHR

Midwives

Chris Bohjalian

This thrilling, compulsive tale explores what happens when a woman who has devoted herself to ushering life into the world finds herself charged with responsibility in a patient's tragic death.

Suspense Crime BOH

Not my daughter

Barbara Delinsky

A pregnancy pact between three teenaged girls puts their mothers' love to the ultimate test in this emotionally wrenching story of love and forgiveness.

General DEL

The crying tree

Naseem Rakha

Irene's 15 year old son is murdered and Daniel Robbin is sentenced to death. Faced with a growing sense that Robbin's death will not stop her pain, Irene takes the extraordinary step of reaching out to her son's killer. The two forge an unlikely connection that remains a secret from her family and friends. Years later, Irene receives the notice that she had craved for so long - Robbin has stopped his appeals and will be executed within a month. This announcement shakes the very core of the Stanley family. Irene, it turns out, isn't the only one with a shocking secret to hide. As the execution date nears, the Stanleys must face difficult truths and find a way to come to terms with the past.

General RAK

The deep end of the ocean

Jacqueline Mitchard

It happened in a flash. One minute Beth Cappadora was the happily married mother of three. The next minute, one of them, three-year-old Ben, was missing. Was he kidnapped? No one knew, and as minutes lengthened into hours, days, weeks, months, years, even the woman police officer obsessed with the case gave up hope. So began the slow-motion nightmare for Beth, for her family, for everyone involved in the ultimate testing of the ties that bind people together and the wounds that tear them apart. But suddenly something so unexpected happens, it changes everything.

General MIT

Secrets she left behind

Diane Chamberlain

One afternoon, single mother Sara Weston disappears, leaving her teenage son alone. Keith Weston nearly lost his life in an act of arson. He survived--but with devastating physical and emotional scars. Without his mother, he has no one to help him heal, no money, nothing to live for. Isolated and angry, his hatred has one tight focus: his half-sister, Maggie Lockwood. 19-year-old Maggie spent a year in prison for the acts that led up to the fire. Now she's back home. But her release cannot free her from the burden of guilt she carries. Now the person Keith despises most is the closest thing he has to family--until Sara returns. If Sara returns--

General CHA

The kindest thing

Cath Staincliffe

Your husband, your family, your freedom. What would you sacrifice for love? A love story, a modern nightmare and an honest and incisive portrayal of a woman who honours her husband's wish to die and finds herself in the dock for murder.

Suspense STA

While my sister sleeps

Barbara Delinsky

Molly has always lived in her sister's shadow. But when her sister, a world-class runner, suffers a heart attack and does not regain consciousness, Molly must make the tough decisions in a role that will destroy some of her most cherished beliefs about the sister she thought she knew.

General DEL

The abortionist's daughter

Elisabeth Hyde

Colorado abortion clinic founder Dr. Diana Duprey is found dead beside her home pool. Who killed her? The clues are few but the suspects are legion-Diana's high-profile career had inflamed feelings on both sides of the debate. Among the suspects are the minister whose pro-life group regularly picketed her clinic; the woman who left hate messages on her voice mail; her daughter, with whom she'd argued that morning; and her husband, whose litany of resentment and rejection grew daily. The police have a tough time sifting through the sensational publicity and intricate interrelationships of these small-town, high-powered people.

General HYD

The art of mending

Elizabeth Berg

54-year-old Laura is looking forward to her annual family reunion in Minnesota. But her vacation plans are marred when her father is felled by a stroke, and her sister, Caroline, at the urging of a therapist, confronts Laura and her brother with disturbing information about her relationship with their mother. As she details the verbal and physical abuse she was subjected to, Laura and her brother are tempted to write Caroline's confidences off as just another example of her histrionics. Because if what she says is true, what would that mean about their complicity in the family dynamics?

General BER