

On the Radio

Seven days

Today

Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour, BBC Radio 2, 7pm
 Tony Blackburn presents the fastest hour on radio jam-packed with hits. Wind down your weekend with sounds from Stevie Wonder, The Jackson 5 and Dolly Parton.

Monday

Ian Hislop's Oldest Jokes, BBC Radio 4, 1.45pm
 The Have I Got News For You team captain investigates why certain themes and techniques have prevailed through centuries of British comedy. He begins in the dark ages, where wordplay features in even the most ancient tomes.

Tuesday

Things Fell Apart, BBC Radio 4, 9am
 Jon Ronson investigates how an American media polarised over Antifa led to an innocent family on a Twilight-themed lockdown-escaping camping trip getting barricaded in the woods by armed, hostile townspeople.

Wednesday

The Quay Sessions, BBC Radio Scotland, 8pm
 King Creosote, Rachel Sermanni and Rosie H Sullivan join Roddy Hart for a Celtic Connections special, recorded in front of an audience at Pacific Quay in Glasgow.

Thursday

McLevy in the New World, BBC Radio 4, 2.15pm
 Brian Cox stars in a two-part special of the Victorian detective drama. In disgrace, Edinburgh sleuth McLevy flees Leith for San Francisco – and Jean (Siobhán Redmond) rashly goes with him.

Friday

Alexander Armstrong, Classic FM, 10am
 The Pointless host provides a mix of music and chat for the mid-morning, including his Famous Five quiz and Classic FM's album of the week.

Saturday

Sounds Of The 80s with Gary Davies, BBC Radio 2, 8pm
 It's all about three-minute heroes on this week's show – how many tracks lasting 180 seconds or less can Gary squeeze into one show?

Books



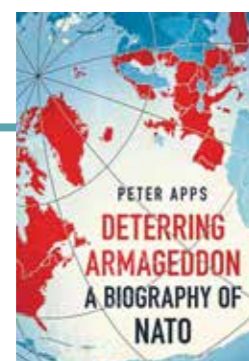
The Last Word

Elly Griffiths, Quercus, £22
 We're going to have the last word on this one – great. In her latest offering, chart-topping Griffiths brings back the vibrant characters from her best-selling The Postscript Murders, shortlisted for the CWA Gold Dagger Award. This twisty but cosy mystery sees Natalka and Edwin running a Sussex detective agency. Business is brisk, but a bit boring, until a local writer is found dead. Edwin, "the oldest sleuth in the country", follows the trail to a sinister writers' retreat...



The Showman

Simon Shuster, William Collins, £22
 Ever wondered how a comedian became a war hero who gained a standing ovation from the British parliament? Then this is the book for you. Journalist Shuster has reported from Russia and Ukraine for 17 years. In 2019 he interviewed Volodymyr Zelensky for a profile for his presidential campaign. When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, he spent months with the president's team. This intimate biography is the result.



Detering Armageddon: A Biography Of Nato

Peter Apps, Wildfire, £24.99
 This audio, narrated by the author and Reuters columnist over 15-and-a-half hours, takes the reader from the back-room deals that led to Nato's creation, through the Cold War, the Balkan wars and Afghanistan to the current confrontation with the Kremlin after

Meet the Author

Liz Webb, The Saved, published by Allison & Busby on Thursday, £16.99



In Liz Webb's atmospheric sophomore novel, secrets, lies and bodies wash up on the shore of a remote Scottish island.

While the dramatic backdrop of Scotland's Slate islands largely influenced The Saved, her key inspiration is as chilling as her dark and twisting plot. It centres on a real-life medical phenomenon where the seemingly dead have returned to life.

"I'd read about this bizarre medical thing where, if you have a heart attack when you're freezing cold, you can be resuscitated up to six hours later because your organs use much less oxygen," said Liz.

"This actually happened to seven teenagers in Denmark in 2011 after they fell into ice-cold water when their boat overturned. Their hearts stopped beating. They were taken to hospital where a doctor said 'you're not dead until you're warm and dead' and was able to revive them. I thought it was absolutely fascinating and a brilliant hook for a second novel."

The Saved, a follow-up to The Daughter, Liz's hit nail-biting thriller published in 2022, follows a young couple, Nancy and Calder, as they move from London to the remote Scottish island of Langer, where Calder grew up, to start a new life together.

While Nancy struggles to adapt to island life, a tragic accident and unbelievable recovery shatter what she thinks she knows about the man she loves.

"The idea that you could be clinically dead and come back was amazingly interesting," added Liz, who has previously worked as a script editor and radio drama producer for the BBC and as a stand-up comedian.

"Nancy finds Calder's body floating in the water. He is

clinically dead and she is adjusting to that fact when he is brought back in this amazing way. The doctors say he's completely well but she looks into his eyes and she thinks something is really wrong. They don't have the click they always had. By the time he is fully recovered, she feels like she's going home with a stranger."

It was on a writing retreat to the isle of Seil, one of the three Slate islands off the coast of west Scotland, where the fictional island of Langer, and indeed her entire second novel, took shape.

"Going to the Slate islands really built the book for me because there was so much that was different and inspiring, like its peat bogs (where a body could be preserved for years), the nearby Corryreckan whirlpool and its incredible

slate beaches of endless glinting, grey angles," added Liz.

"The thing about slate is that, once you smash it, you can't ever put it back together because the pieces have shattered."

"That seemed a perfect motif for Calder and Nancy because they have absolute trust but what happens when something makes one of them doubt the other? How far can you push a relationship where you think you have complete trust before it's broken forever?"

Liz added: "Everyone's worst fear is that the person they love might die. You think that's the worst that could happen but imagine if they came back and everyone thought they were the same but only you thought something was wrong. I think that would be terrifying."

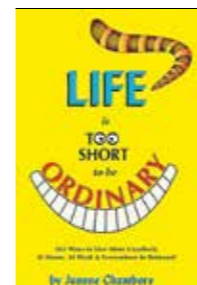


A Maid On Fifth Avenue

Sinéad Crowley, Head of Zeus, £20
 Crowley is the author of the bestselling DS Claire Boyle crime novels and the Belladonna Maze.

Her latest dual-timeline offering finds Irishwoman Annie fleeing her west coast home to work with the rich Cavendish family in their New York mansion.

But her past catches up with her. Fast forward a century to post-pandemic Ireland and Emer is also running. Annie and Emer's lives are entwined.



Life's Too Short To Be Ordinary

MJ Robotham, Aria, £20

We last featured Robotham with The Resistance Girl (2022), inspired in part by The Shetland Bus (Churchill's wartime maritime lifeline between Shetland and German-occupied Norway). This offering, while written with the same flair, is a refreshing, guffaw-inducing faux-memoir featuring writer Ruby Devereaux, now 90, with a wild life behind her, and demands to write a final book – warts and all!

TOP 10 FICTION

- 1 The Atlas Complex
Olivie Blake
- 2 Iron Flame
Rebecca Yarros
- 3 The Last Devil To Die
Richard Osman
- 4 The Fourth Wing
Rebecca Yarros
- 5 The Secret Lee Child & Andrew Child
- 6 Prophet Song
Paul Lynch
- 7 Ruthless Vows
Rebecca Ross
- 8 The Running Grave
Robert Galbraith
- 9 Divine Rivals
Rebecca Ross
- 10 A Curse For True Love
Stephanie Garber

NON-FICTION

- 1 Bored Of Lunch: Healthy Slow Cooker Even Easier
Nathan Anthony
- 2 Politics On The Edge
Rory Steward
- 3 Deliciously Ella: Healthy Made Simple
Ella Mills (Woodward)
- 4 How They Broke Britain
James O'Brien
- 5 Unruly
David Mitchell
- 6 My Effin' Life
Geddy Lee
- 7 Sí SEÑOR: My Liverpool Years
Roberto Firmino
- 8 Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays The Rent
Judi Dench
- 9 Pinch Of Nom Express: Fast, Delicious Food
Kate & Kay Allinson
- 10 Emperor Of Rome
Prof Mary Beard

AUDIOBOOKS

- 1 Atomic Habits
James Clear
- 2 Unruly
David Mitchell
- 3 None Of This Is True
Lisa Jewell
- 4 How They Broke Britain
James O'Brien
- 5 Ultra-Processed People
Chris van Tulleken
- 6 The Diary Of A CEO
Steven Bartlett
- 7 Friends, Lovers And The Big Terrible Thing
Matthew Perry
- 8 The Wager
David Grann
- 9 The Fellowship Of The Ring
J R R Tolkien
- 10 The Woman In Me
Britney Spears

WEE REVIEW

The Hoolet Thit Couldnae Fly,

Emma Grae, Luath Press, £6.99

Glasgow-based Grae is a passionate advocate of the Scots language and beating the stigma around mental illness. Her debut novel, Be Guid Tae Yer Mammy (Unbound, 2021) earned her the Scottish Fiction Book of the Year and Scots Book of the Year in 2022. This charming new tale, with illustrations by Bob Dewar, one of Scotland's foremost cartoonists, is her first book for wee ones. It tells the story of Iona whose owl, Brodie, struggles to fly but goes missing.

Pick of the podcasts



Catching The Kingpins

BBC Sounds

EncroChat is an app a bit like WhatsApp, although you are unlikely to have ever used it. Mainly because it was used almost exclusively by criminals. The encrypted communication app was favoured by organised gangs across Europe who used it for everything from petty crimes to murder plots.

But a technological breakthrough by French detectives in 2020 allowed officers to eavesdrop on the EncroChat network, leading to a continent-wide investigation by police forces.

In the UK, the Metropolitan Police, working with the National Crime Agency and other forces, uncovered the workings of organised crime groups.

Now a six-part true crime podcast will delve into the biggest organised crime bust in British policing history.

For over two months, police forces across Europe

were reading the secret communications of major league criminal networks.

"It was like being in a room with them and they are talking freely, and they don't see you there," says DCI Driss Hayoukane, the Senior Investigating Officer who led the Met's EncroChat operation. In the podcast, hosted by Mobeen Azhar, officers reveal how they used the gangsters' messages to unearth a murder plot in a joint operation with South Wales police.

They also discovered two apparently legitimate businessmen living in a Buckinghamshire village, whose wealth really came from cocaine trafficking and major league money laundering.

Mobeen Azhar also tackles recent difficult issues for the Met police: hacked EncroChat messages helped to expose the worst case of police corruption one anti-corruption officer had ever seen.

Things Fell Apart

BBC Sounds
 The excellent Jon Ronson delved into the Culture Wars in the first series of Things Fell Apart, exploring moments from history which snowballed into shocking events. He returns for a second

series of the podcast and this time takes a look at more recent history. In the first episode, a junk science medical term called "excited delirium" led to horrific police violence in the US.

The Diary Of A CEO

Widely available
 In 2021, entrepreneur and author Steven Bartlett made history when he joined BBC1 programme Dragons' Den, becoming the youngest Dragon in the programme's history. In The Diary

Of A CEO, Bartlett, 31, speaks to "some of the world's most influential people, experts and thinkers". Guests include Busta Rhymes, footballer Thierry Henry and Michael Buble.

Music

Saviors

Green Day
 Despite the protestations of single Look Ma, No Brains!, Billie Joe Armstrong and co have long since left their doofus reputation behind.

Opener The American Dream Is Killing Me is a truer representation of their ability to marry lyrics of substance to catchy pop-punk hooks.

The album finds the trio on ferocious form, with the metal snarl on the chorus of Bobby Sox and the breakneck riffs of 1981 ramping things up.

Robby Krieger & The Soul Savages

Robby Krieger & The Soul Savages
 The legendary Doors guitarist's new project is an explosive fusion of influences – soundtrack grooves peppered with hints of '60s psychedelia, jazz guitar solos, classic soul, blues and rock synth and more, extending beyond the borders of expectation.



Playlist

Today is Global Hug Day, a time for everyone to take comfort in human touch. Cuddle up and listen to our touchy-feely soundtrack.

You've Really Got a Hold on Me
Smokey Robinson & The Miracles

Come Back To What You Know
Embrace

Hold Me While You Wait
Lewis Capaldi

Back In My Arms Again
The Supremes

Hold Me
Fleetwood Mac

World Hold On
Bob Sinclair

Hold Each Other
A Great Big World

Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand
Diana Ross

I Wanna Hold Your Hand
The Beatles

Human Touch
Rick Springfield

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