



BOOK

Our pick of the latest paperback fiction

Mrs Death Misses Death

by Salena Godden
(Canongate, £8.99)

Poet Salena Godden reinvents Death as a kindly elderly black woman in this thought-provoking mix of prose and poems.

As a boy, writer Wolf Willeford witnessed Mrs Death take his mother in a fire. But his initial fury at Death gives way to respect and he decides to write her memoirs. Death's stories tell of a Victorian prostitute, Princess Diana, David Bowie and the Moors Murders.

GARRY BUSHELL

The Dictionary Of Lost Words

by Pip Williams
(Vintage, £8.99)

Motherless Esme Nicoll is sitting under a table in an Oxford shed in 1887 while lexicographers, including her father, compile the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, deciding which words should, and shouldn't, appear in it.

Esme learns that the rejected words, such as "sisterhood" or "loss", are often key to women's experiences. So she sets out to create her own dictionary of lost words against a backdrop of the suffragette movement.

EITHNE FARRY

While Paris Slept

by Ruth Druart
(Headline, £7.99)

In Paris in 1944, railway worker Jean-Luc suspects that Jewish people are being transported east from his depot. After a baby is thrust into his arms by a desperate Jewish mother, he leaves France with the baby, seeking a fresh start. But after the war, the baby's family vow to trace him and when he is arrested in California in 1953, his life is derailed by this act of self-sacrifice. A moving read.

LUCY HELIKER

The Ends Of The Earth

by Abbie Greaves
(Century, £7.99)

For the past seven years, every day has been exactly the same for Mary O'Connor. As soon as she finishes her supermarket shift, she travels to Ealing station where she stands on the platform, searching for her husband, holding a sign that reads "Come Home Jim". Local newspaper reporter Alice realises that finding Jim would not only save her career but bring closure for Mary.

This is a beautifully crafted, tender love story. **ANNE CATER**

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