

MY FAVOURITE BOOK

heston blumenthal



alice's adventures in wonderland

Lewis Carroll (Macmillan Children's Books, £20)

"A favourite book should stand the test of time, and I've loved *Alice In Wonderland* ever since I was a kid. Everyone knows the story; it's vivid, magical and a truly iconic read."



what are they reading?



Who? Actor Josh Hartnett reading *Zeroville* by Steve Erickson (Europa Editions, £9.99).

What is it? Set in the '70s, the story follows Ike, a film junkie who goes to Hollywood and starts a long, turbulent journey into the movie world. It's due to be made into a film early next year.



HEAT'S TOP FIVE BOOKS

The best books for you to be reading right now!



1 This Is How It Ends

Kathleen MacMahon (Sphere, £12.99)

A love story set against Obama's rise to power and an economic crash might sound dull, but it's not. ★★★★★



2 The Other Half of Me

Morgan McCarthy (Headline, £14.99)

Gorgeously written tale of inseparable siblings whose lives crack as they confront their family past. ★★★★★



3 Heart-Shaped Bruise

Tanya Byrne (Headline, £12.99)

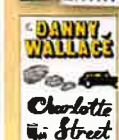
Edgy psychological thriller written from the perspective of an inmate in a young offenders' institute. ★★★★★



4 My Story

Tom Daley (Michael Joseph, £16.99)

Our favourite Olympian gives an honest insight into the challenges he's faced during his rise to the top. ★★★★★



5 Charlotte Street

Danny Wallace (Ebury, £12.99)

His book *Yes Man* was turned into a film, and now one of our fave writers has turned his hand to fiction. ★★★★★

heat review books



perfect for a lazy sunday on the sofa

this is how it ends

KATHLEEN MACMAHON (Sphere, £12.99)

The plot: Addie is 38 and has no great excitement in her life. She's single, living with her dog Lola, and her day is governed by daily swims in the freezing Irish Sea and looking after her ill father. This all changes when a distant American relative, Bruno, turns up seeking contact with his long-lost family. Her father is adamant that he doesn't want to meet him, but Addie bumps into Bruno on the beach and an attraction develops. The story is set against the backdrop of the Lehman Brothers crash and the Obama/McCain US election, and the changes on the

world's economic and political stages encourage Addie and Bruno to rethink their own ways of living.

What's right with it? It's an all-consuming love story that manages to avoid being soppy – no mean feat. By the end, you feel you know Addie and Bruno as well as your best friend.

What's wrong with it? Call us childish, but the fact that Bruno is her cousin (albeit second and removed) did make us feel a bit icky at the start.

Verdict: A unique romance that can't fail to enchant you.

★★★★ @StarStyleJo

peaches for monsieur le curé

JOANNE HARRIS (Doubleday, £18.99)

The plot: The third novel in the *Chocolat* series (which inspired Johnny Depp to grow a sexy little 'tache in the film version) sees chocolatier Vianne and her two daughters return to the little French village they left eight years ago. There they discover everything has changed with the arrival of a new community of Moroccans down the river. Religious and social conflict erupts and Vianne finds herself having to defend her old nemesis, Father Reynaud.

What's right with it? The relationship between the two communities and how they're dealing with multiculturalism

is completely absorbing and atmospheric, and Vianne and Father Reynaud are engaging narrators.

What's wrong with it? Although the references to magic, aura-reading and witchcraft are subtle and unobtrusive, they do drive the story. If you're not a fan of spirituality, steer clear.

Verdict: Joanne bravely tackles religious differences head-on but very sensitively. It's expressive, rich, vibrant and even shocking in parts. There are allusions to storylines from the previous two books, but they're not alienating to new readers. ★★★★★ @jousmar