Hello AV fiction lovers. Based on members’ votes, here’s the booklist for 2024 and some tables to explain the abbreviations.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **abbreviation** | **meaning** |  | **bookseller** | **abbrev.** | **shipping** |
| y | available | [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com.au/) | AM | $4 / free > $39 |
| x | not available | [Angus & Robertson](https://www.angusrobertson.com.au/) | AR | $10 |
| k  | thousand words  | [The Book Grocer](https://bookgrocer.com/) | BG | $10 |
| VL | [all Victorian libraries](https://libsvic.org.au/client/en_AU/default/?dt=list) (available for interlibrary loan) | [Booktopia](https://www.booktopia.com.au/) | BT | $10 |
| Ko | Kobo e-reader | [Dymocks](https://www.dymocks.com.au/) | D | $10 |
| Kn | Kindle e-reader | [Fishpond](https://www.fishpond.com.au/) | F | $8 |
| A | Audible |  |  |  |
| L | [Libby](https://www.overdrive.com/) is a free app on smart devices, borrowing through your local library. (Thus, the y/x below relates only to my local Merri-bek library’s collection. Search your app for your library’s holdings.) You can borrow the same resources via Overdrive on Kobo e-readers. |  |  |  |
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| [Aspergers Victoria Book Club, 2023](https://aspergersvic.org.au/AV_Book_Club) |
| ***category*** | ***title, author*** | ***year*** | ***k*** | ***VL*** | ***L*** | ***Ko***  | ***Kn***  | ***A*** | ***bookseller $*** | ***meeting*** |
| **Actually Autistic Novels** | [Bicycle Diaries by David Byrne](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6477815-bicycle-diaries?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_24) | 2008 | 80 | y | y | 12 | 9 | x | AM39, AR22, BT22, D23, **F19** | Wed 31 January |
| [Strong Female Character by Fern Brady](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/59903149-strong-female-character?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=M8dC4RSLln&rank=1)\* | 2023 | 72 | y | x | 20 | 20 | y | **AM17**, AR22, BT22, D45, F26 | Th 28 March |
| [Exciting Times by Naoise Dolan](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50175419-exciting-times?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=TUeLmBtVDN&rank=1) | 2020 | 64 | y | x | 13 | 13 | y | **AM18, AR18, BT18,** D23, **F18** | Th 30 May |
| **Members’ Suggestions** | [Dubliners by James Joyce](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/11012.Dubliners?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_25) | 1914 | 67 | y | y | 1 | 1 | y | AM13, **AR10, BG10, BT10, D10**, F11 | Wed 31 July |
| [Orlando by Virginia Woolf](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18839.Orlando?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_22) | 1928 | 108 | y | x | 1 | 1 | y | AM10, AR10, BG10, BT10, D10, **F9** | Mon 30 September |
| [Robot Dreams by Isaac Asimov](https://www.penguin.com.au/books/robot-dreams-9780441731541) | 1990 | ? | x | x | x | 10 | y | **AM15**, AR26, BT26, **F15** | Th 28 November |
| ***category*** | ***title, author*** | ***year*** | ***k*** | ***VL*** | ***L*** | ***Ko***  | ***Kn***  | ***A*** | ***bookseller $*** | ***meeting*** |

**Notes**

* I’m pleased to see that all of this year’s books are available on either **Kobo or Kindle**. Note that you can use Kobo and Kindle as apps on any smart device, whether you have an e-reader or not.
* For those of you who prefer physical books, five of this year’s tomes are in the **Victorian Libraries’** collection. Inexplicably, this database doesn’t report on every library in the state, so it’s worth searching in your local library’s catalogue as well.
* \* Fern Brady’s wondrous memoir, ***Strong Female Character***, is new and popular, so you’ll need to get on library waiting lists early.
* I’ve also reported on the price and availability from six Australian online **vendors**. Please let me know if there’s a good online source I’ve missed. Alternatively, your local bookstore should be able to order titles for you.
* If you prefer **audio books**, five of our titles are available on Audible, although there are various other audio platforms, including Libby.
* A counterintuitive tip for more productive online catalogue searches: **Don’t use the word “by”** e.g. type “Orlando Virginia Woolf”
* The 2023 experiment with **variable** **meeting nights** at the end of the month worked well enough, so let’s continue with it in 2024. That is, most monthly clubs meet on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings and on the first, second, third or fourth week of the month, so our end of the month dates are less likely to clash with other clubs. We’ll still run from 7:30 to 9pm. Your mental cue: the end of every odd month.
* Ange advises that there’s plenty of substance in each of the short stories in James Joyce’s ***Dubliners***, so if you’ve focused on one or a few of the stories, feel free to still register for book club in July. If you’d like to watch commentaries to “warm up”, YouTube has some great reviews for each story.
* AV will post all the book and signup details in the preceding monthly newsletters and on the website. Once you sign up for a given month, they’ll send you the **Zoom link**.
* This year we’re opening the book club to **non-members**.
* Also, to bring us in line with all the other AV interest groups, we’ll now be **charging** $5 for members to RSVP and $10 for non-members.
* I’ve started a **database** of autistic authors of adult fiction. Thank you to those of you who’ve given suggestions for this. I’d appreciate ongoing collaboration, so please let me know when you find new novels and if you can help me update the database over time.
* Please let me know via return **email** if I’ve missed anything or if you have any questions, compliments, complaints, existential angst or plausible treasure maps.

I’m thrilled to be joining you for our fourth year of immersive bookery lookery.

David