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DAY
A.L. Kennedy
 (Jonathan Cape)
 ★★★

Alfred Day enjoys the camaraderie of a World War Two bomber crew, but the horrors of war eventually grind him down. Kennedy is widely considered a superb stylist, but this occasionally clunky tale is not her best work. Day's character is vividly portrayed, but a lack of narrative propulsion lets things down.



AN OCEAN OF AIR
Gabrielle Walker
 (Bloomsbury)
 ★★★★★

Subtitled A Natural History of the Atmosphere, this fascinating popular science book takes a fresh look at the air around us, revelling in the extraordinary nature of something we take for granted. Walker knows her science and writes engagingly as she examines every facet of the atmosphere, from protective shield to life-giving force.



FRESH
Mark McNay
 (Canongate)
 ★★★

This energetic debut owes much to Welsh and Kelman, but has vigour all its own. Chicken factory worker Sean is in trouble when his psycho brother, to whom he owes money, is released from prison. While the plot isn't too original, the setting is vivid and the vernacular dialogue sparkles with acerbic wit.

BigPick

Books

