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november 2021

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for residents of wythall & hollywood

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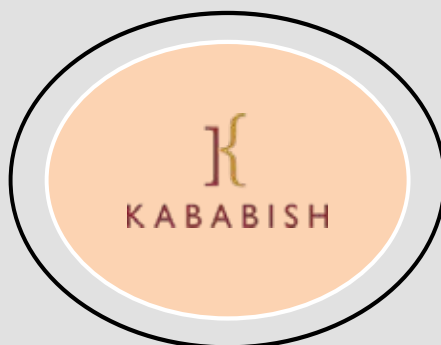
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Exciting times ahead

Welcome to the new look
Wythall Directory!

The Wythall Directory has been going since 2005 and I'm excited to have taken it over.

The magazine is a great way of putting residents in touch with local businesses and tradespeople and provides useful information about what's going on in the area each month.

Fancy winning a bottle of Prosecco*?!

If so just head to the Wythall Directory's Facebook page and follow us. Anyone who does that before 1st December will be entered into our free prize draw and a bottle of prosecco will be delivered to the lucky winner!



Zoe Reece

Tel: 07557 220585

Email: zoe@dorridgedirectory.com

www.wythalldirectory.com

**To qualify you must live in the Hollywood or Wythall postcode area.*



contents

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 6 | Events | 32 | Useful telephone numbers |
| 23 | Competition | 33 | Index |
| 27 | Puzzles | 34 | Book reviews |
| 28 | Recipe | | |

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community events

Wythall & Hollywood Country Market

Wythall Park, Silver St, Wythall

20 November 10am – 12 noon

Farmers' market and craft fair offering a wonderful array of home-produced goodies including jams, cakes, biscuits, bread, soups, stir-fries, seasonal vegetables, potted plants, gifts, and cards. Also available: craft demonstrations, kids' crafts, tea and coffee. Email whcountrymarket@gmail.com for more info.

Wythall Winter Wonderland

Packhorse Lane

20 November 12 noon to 6pm

Featuring Christmas Craft & gift market, Santa's Grotto, food, gifts, raffle and choir. This year we are creating our own village market consisting of 50 of our local businesses selling food, crafts & gifts. At the Packhorse pub you'll find a kid's area with a bouncy castle, face painting

& entertainment. Kingswood Meeting House will have an indoor market & Santa in his grotto. Grotto tickets are only £5 per child and they receive a gift. All monies raised will be split between Teenage Cancer Trust - in loving memory of Callum Brown, Acorns & Hollytrees & Kingswood chapel.

Quiz Night

Wythall Community

Club, Wythall House

20 November, 8.30pm

Test your general knowledge, challenge yourself with special themed rounds, and enjoy a selection of award-winning ales, or other alcoholic / soft drinks. Hurry and book as there's only a limited number of teams. Visit www.WythallCommunityClub.org.uk for more info.

Jim Davidson

Palace Theatre, Redditch

24 & 25 November

After months of Lockdown, and with the comedy pressure valve

set to explode, the people's favourite is back with a brand-new show for 2021! Join Jim Davidson OBE, one of Britain's greatest ever comedians, for a hilarious white-knuckle get-away. Visit www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk to book.

Solihull's Jingle Bell Jog

Solihull

12 December

Join Solihull BID to spread plenty of festive cheer this December by donning a Santa suit and completing the Jingle Bell Jog to raise money for homeless charity Change Into Action. Run, walk, dance, jog or jingle your way around our family-friendly 2.5km fun run through Solihull town centre. To book: www.solihullbid.co.uk/events/solihull-jingle-bell-jog-2021/

Rats In The Kitchen (Tribute to UB40)

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From Birmingham, the home city of reggae giants UB40, Rats In The Kitchen are the world's number 1 UB40 Tribute Show. This fully live, eight piece band, will perform up to 3 hours of pulsating reggae hits now spanning more than 25 years! Adults only. Tickets £32.50 in advance only, including buffet. Book at www.landroversc.co.uk



Spook-tacular Community



It's all about the community with your local property professional **Louise Lane**.

smarthomes were extremely proud to sponsor the 3rd 'Wythall Witch Walk' this year. Once again, it was a massive success with more residents that ever taking part. It was great to see so many members of the community getting into the spirit of things by decorating their homes, not to mention the extremely generous donations that were made by local businesses and residents. smarthomes also sponsored

'Halloween in Hollywood' - an adult-only event at Hollywood Golf Club. The event was a 'sell out' and the efforts people went to with their costumes was amazing, as was the DJ, food, and the Flash Mob! I think it's fair to say a fabulous time was had by all, and I for one thoroughly enjoyed spending time with my friends and neighbours at this wonderful charity evening. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who



helped organise both events for our community, but especially to **Alison Skeoch** and **Claire Morris**.

As a community we have raised thousands of pounds for **Teenage Cancer Trust**, **Acorns Children's Hospital** and **Hollytrees Animal Sanctuary**, all in loving memory of Callum Brown.



Louise Lane

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How Much Is That Phone in the Advert?

Mobile phones are expensive. I mean really expensive. The latest iPhones and top of the range Android phones cost upwards of £1000 so they are a big financial commitment. But are they value for money? Is £1000 phone any better than one which costs £200?

When you watch a phone advert it's easy to believe that owning the latest model will make your life infinitely better. With ultrahigh resolution screens, multiple professional quality cameras and massively powerful computing engines, you could easily use your phone to replace your laptop, camera, TV and, at a push, your spouse!

But how many of these fantastic features will you actually use?

Most of use our phones for fairly mundane, low-power tasks. We text, check our social media, post selfies or snapshots,

watch YouTube videos, make quick videos to post on social media, play a game, and some of us even use them to make phone calls. But none of these tasks require any of the high-end features that are pushing the cost of your phone through the roof.

Budget phones summon up the image of a piece of sad plastic that struggles to turn on, let alone do anything useful. But there's a big difference between 'budget' and 'great value for money.'

Big brand names such as Apple and Samsung market their phones as status symbols. Pulling out the latest iPhone or flipping open your foldable Samsung is

the same as wearing a Rolex watch or rocking up in your sports car. If you enjoy that feeling and are happy with the cost then these are the phones for you.

If you want a phone that has almost all the features of the top brands; screen, cameras, powerful processor etc., there are a range of less well-known brands that will deliver all this for a lower cost. Many of these from Chinese manufacturers where components and labour costs are lower. You'll still get a high-quality product, and the phone will power through all of your day-to-day tasks with room to spare, but people won't recognise the logo on the back.

For example, my 12-year-old needed a new phone and we wanted to get one that would be fun to use rather than the low powered basic model he'd started out with. I came across a phone from Xiaomi, the Redmi Note 9. This has a



powerful octa core processor, loads of memory, 64 GB of storage space, ultrahigh resolution screen, three high resolution specialist cameras, fast charge, and long battery life and all for the very pocket friendly cost of £150. From a pre-teenage point of view, he's pleased as punch with the power and quality of the phone. From a parent point of view, I'm delighted with the price.

So, when buying a new phone my advice is to be honest about what you're going to use it for. If you feel a premium phone is worth the money go for it. If you want a phone that does everything and is a pleasure to use but is easy on your pocket, shop around.

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A family concern



Hear This - Tinnitus is a modern epidemic

Tinnitus is the name given to the perception of persistent ringing, buzzing, hissing, or whistling sounds in the head or the ears without an external sound source. The word 'tinnitus' derives from the Latin for 'ringing'. It can be intermittent or continuous; low, medium, or high pitched and can be a single noise or many. It can be heard in one or both ears, or may feel like it is in the head. For some people it's a minor annoyance, but for others it can be debilitating.

It is not a disease or illness; it is a symptom generated within the auditory system which may be due to an underlying condition or may be idiopathic (a medical term which means 'unknown cause').

The British Tinnitus Association estimate that 1 in 8 people suffer from the condition. Tinnitus in older people is mostly a function of wear

and tear, so as people live longer, the number of people with tinnitus will increase. But the rise in numbers over the past two decades is only partially explained this way. A study from Statistics Canada revealed that 80% of adults aged 19 to 29 reported using headphones or earbuds connected to audio devices in the past year, significantly more than adults aged 30 to 49 (53%) or 50 to 79 (28%), and those adults aged 19 to 29 had rates of tinnitus over one third higher than for older adults. This could further inflate the numbers.

If your tinnitus is preventing you getting to sleep, it may be that the shift from a relatively noisy daytime environment to the quietness of the bedroom makes the tinnitus noises more noticeable. Some people find having some low-level sound can help mask tinnitus.

For more information go to www.tinnitus.org.uk



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Protect and Survive

No...not the 1970s public information campaign exhorting us to hide under a table in case of nuclear attack. This is far more useful. It's my public information campaign

about protecting tender perennials and taking cuttings to over winter so your plants survive and even multiply. First the protection: to protect tender perennials such as Salvias and Pelargoniums, lift them and bring them into a greenhouse. If you have a heater, set it to the frost setting (around 5C). You can use bubble wrap to insulate the greenhouse for additional heat conservation. If you do this the heater will only need to kick in on extremely cold days and nights.

For tender bulbs and tubers such as dahlias, wait until the foliage has been blackened by the frost, then lift them and place in a box of sand in a dry, dark, frost-free location.

Plants like Agapanthus, which are generally happy to be left in the ground with a little protection, are best left undisturbed. Cover the top with a generous quantity of well-rotted compost or bark mulch. This can be removed from around the crown of the plant in spring and will help retain moisture throughout the spring growing season.

November is the start of the bare root planting season. Plant roses, hedging and trees, and it's also a good time to move any of these plants which you think are in the wrong area of the garden. They are more likely to survive this treatment if moved at this time of year.

So, what else can we do in November?

- Ideally your spring bulbs should already be planted but if you haven't done it yet, just put some in this month. November is actually the perfect month to plant tulip bulbs are because the less time they are in the ground the less likelihood of them developing a virus called tulip fire blight.
- Plant garlic cloves if you have an area with free draining soil.
- Dig over the vegetable plot, leaving clods to break down over winter
- Rake the fallen leaves regularly from lawn areas because if you leave them they deprive the lawn of light.
- Bring in garden tools for the winter. Clean, sharpen, and oil them first.
- Keep removing weeds. It is easier to see them once garden plants have died back. November is a great time to get rid of persistent perennial weeds



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at **Solihull's Core Theatre** on **Saturday 29 January 2022**

For your chance to win these tickets, visit the **Core Theatre website page for this event - www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk - to find the answer to this question:**

Who are joining Mick and Gordy on stage?

Email your answer to:

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and please put **'Moody Blues'** as the subject line.

Closing date for entries is 15th December.

The winner will be drawn at random and notified by email after this date.

Please note there is no cash value nor exchange for this prize so please don't enter if you cannot attend the date shown above.

About the show:

GO NOW! The Music of The Moody Blues is an opportunity for fans to experience this timeless music live, in a tribute to... The Greatest Classic Rock Band of a Generation and Rock and Roll Hall Of Famers THE MOODY BLUES.

Gordy Marshall toured and recorded with The Moody Blues for twenty-five years.

Together with Mick Wilson (lead singer of 10CC for twenty years) they present a super-group of world class musicians, singers and songwriters and meticulously recreate the elegance of a Moody Blues Concert.

In this show, all the classic hits are celebrated, including Nights in White Satin and a show-stealing rendition of Eve of the War from Jeff Wayne's The War of the Worlds.

If I Only Had a Moustache!

It's Movember!

So sings the character Marcus Thornton in the film *A Million Ways to Die in the West*. If you haven't seen the clip on YouTube, watch it and give yourself an ear worm for the whole of Movember! You're welcome.

The Movember movement started in Australia in 2003. Travis Garone and Luke Slattery came up with the idea (over a beer of course). It began as a jokey way of trying to bring the moustache back into fashion. Inspired by a friend's mother who was fundraising for breast cancer, they decided

to make generate a campaign for men's health and prostate cancer. They designed the rules of Movember, which remain unchanged today, and agreed to charge ten dollars to 'Grow a Mo'. Trav designed the first Movember logo, and they sent out an email, subject: 'Are you man enough to be my man?' and found 30 volunteers.

In 2004 they formalised the idea, registered a company and created a website.

They researched men's health issues and agreed to formally support prostate cancer as their cause. By 2006 the Movember Foundation was established as an official Australian charity. They also started to branch out into supporting male mental health. The following year Movember started to grow internationally. There are now official campaigns in 21 countries and together they have raised around 350 million pounds and supported more than 1,000 men's health programs. They focus on the four key men's health issues: prostate cancer, testicular cancer, poor mental health, and physical inactivity.



So, what are the rules.

- The first step is simply registering on Movember.com.
- Start with a clean-shaven, including your upper lip, sideburns, and handlebar zones.
- For the entire month of Movember, you must grow and groom a moustache
- Beards, goatees and fake moustaches don't count
- Use the power of the moustache to create conversation and raise funds for men's health
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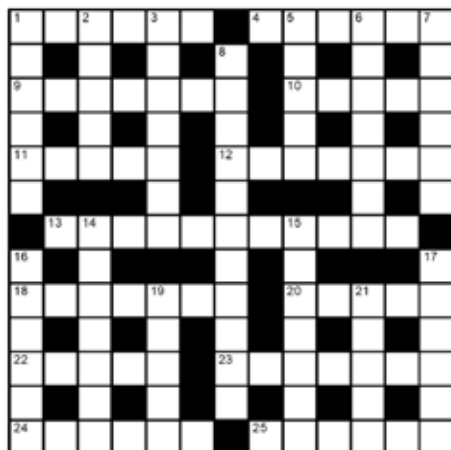
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crossword

clues



- 1 Second in command (6)
- 4 Person who maltreats or harms (6)
- 9 Flammable gas (7)
- 10 Small herring (5)
- 11 British Actress _____ Mirren (5)
- 12 American term for poorly educated person from the south (7)
- 13 Weaken, fall apart (11)
- 18 Delinquent, thug (7)
- 20 Man-made fibre (5)
- 22 Home of Glasgow Rangers (5)
- 23 _____ Man - Beatles song (7)
- 24 There are eleven in the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas' (6)
- 25 Large snake (6)

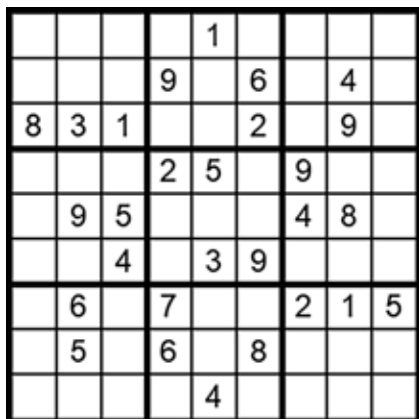
Down

- 1 Hidden _____ - quiet wisdom or insight (6)
- 2 Move stealthily (5)
- 3 Learner, cadet (7)
- 5 Located, stationed (5)

- 6 Glut, plethora (7)
- 7 Second try at an exam (6)
- 8 The action of enlisting new people (11)
- 14 Activity done purely to increase someone's sense of self-importance (3,4)

- 15 Escapee, fugitive (7)
- 16 Shellfish (6)
- 17 Hidden, not noticed (6)
- 19 Famous Egyptian city (5)
- 21 Blood-sucking worm (5)

answer on page 33



how to play sudoku

It's simple!

Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box, contains the numbers 1 through to 9 with no repetition. You don't need to be a genius. These puzzles use logic alone. Watch out! Sudoku is highly addictive.

answer on page 33

Poached Pears

Pears are in season right now and this is such a great way to serve them



Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour + 5-10 minutes for the sauce

Serves: 4

Ingredients

1 750ml bottle of soft,
fruity red wine
125g granulated sugar
2 cloves
1 stick of cinnamon
Zest of half a lemon
1 vanilla pod, split (optional)
4 hard pears
Creme de cassis

Method

Preheat the oven to 180C/
gas mark 4. Pour the wine
into a saucepan with the

sugar, spices and lemon
zest and bring to the boil,
stirring dissolve the sugar.

Meanwhile, peel the pears.
Leave the stalk intact but cut
out the core at the base. Use
a non-metallic ovenproof dish
just wide enough to hold the
pears in a single layer and
lay them in there. Don't use a
large dish because when you
pour the spiced wine over the
top - the fruit should just be
submerged. Cover the dish

and bake for about an hour,
checking after 45 minutes.
When the fruit is tender, but
still holds its shape, lift it out
of the liquid and set aside.

Then pour the liquid back into
the saucepan and bring to the
boil. Reduce by about half until
it becomes thick and syrupy,
then taste and pour in the
creme de cassis to taste. Pour
the sauce back on to the pears
and serve warm or cool, with
ice cream, cream, or custard.



Mark O'Sullivan

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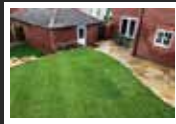
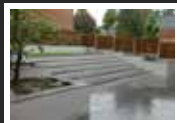
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The Glorious Madness of The Beaujolais Run

At one minute past midnight on the third Sunday in November, villages and towns in a region in France release cases of wine for immediate delivery across the world.

"Le Beaujolais est arrivé!" This rousing call signals the introduction of the year's new wine, the famous Beaujolais Nouveau. Originally, pitchers of the wine were taken straight from the producers' barrels to the towns amid much fanfare and celebration. Then in 1972 an enterprising soul saw a fabulous marketing opportunity: a race to distribute the first bottles of the new vintage. The Beaujolais Run involves teams competing to be the first to get the first case of Nouveau from Paris to London. It's a 500mile race to south-eastern France to collect the first bottles of the new wine, and then 500 miles back again. Beaujolais is described by wine sellers as '...a light fruity red burgundy wine made from the Gamay grape.' It's described by almost everyone else as 'awful', and by French standards it's pretty rubbish if we're honest, so you'd have to be utterly bonkers to undertake a round trip of 1000 miles to get your hands on a bottle. Well, us Brits have elevated being bonkers to an artform. The more ridiculous or pointless the challenge, the more likely we are to bounce enthusiastically into action. And so it proved with the Beaujolais Run.

In its early years the event was purely about speed. Any mode of transport could be used. The glorious madness peaked in the 1980s when the RAF touched down in Beaujeu with a Harrier Jump-Jet at midnight, picked up the wine and then landed 32 minutes later in London. At that point the organisers had to rethink the rules! So now the mission is to get from southern England to Mâcon by covering the shortest distance. The Beaujolais Run has become a treasure hunt through the French countryside,

following a series of cryptic navigational clues through six checkpoints. Competitors must take a photograph of themselves at an obscure landmark at each checkpoint to prove they were there. You can use maps, sat-navs or even ask the locals! Handy Hint: Map readers tend to succeed over tech-users because some countryside back routes thwart the sat-navs.

The Beaujolais Run is a popular event in the amateur motor sport year, and anything goes - vintage cars family saloons, motorcycles

and even supercars. Dress code is fancy dress! There is a new theme every year and locals have learned to be quite blasé about being stopped and asked for directions by someone dressed as a gorilla, or a WWII German Officer, driving a Morris Minor! The entry fee is £1995 per car which includes the Eurotunnel fees, accommodation, and organised dinners and drinks events along the way. In addition, participants are required to raise a minimum of £1,250 per car for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

If you fancy taking part, take a look at www.beaujolaisrun.com for further information. You need a minimum of two team members, a vehicle, an entry fee, and the intention to raise a lot of money via sponsorship. A sense of humour and a love of scavenger hunts, cryptic clues and / or escape rooms is advantageous.

The French say, 'La vie est trop courte pour boire du mauvais vin', which translates as Life is too short to drink poor wine, however it would appear that Brits will happily drive very long distances for it!



useful numbers

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Wythall Lane Surgery	0121 628 2345
Hollywood Medical Practice	01564 822642
Hollyoaks Medical Centre	01564 823182

Council

Bromsgrove District Council (main switchboard)	01527 881288
Bromsgrove District Council (emergency out of hours)	01527 871565

Utilities

Electricity power cut	105
Gas leak	0800 111 9999
Severn Trent Water (main switchboard)	024 7771 5000
Severn Trent Water (emergencies)	0800 783 4444

Travel

National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50
First Bus Worcestershire	0345 646 0707

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local police contact for wythall & hollywood

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16 Dennis Plumbing
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18-19 Woodrush Hub 01564 820099

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Tuition

- 14 Jo Harvey 07794 380725

9	4	6	3	1	5	7	2	8
5	7	2	9	8	6	1	4	3
8	3	1	4	7	2	5	9	6
6	8	7	2	5	4	9	3	1
3	9	5	1	6	7	4	8	2
2	1	4	8	3	9	6	5	7
4	6	8	7	9	3	2	1	5
1	5	9	6	2	8	3	7	4
7	2	3	5	4	1	8	6	9

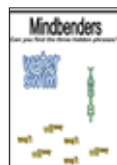
Sudoku Solution

from page 27

D	E	P	U	T	Y	A	B	U	S	E	R
E	R	R	R	C	H	A	U	E			
P	R	O	P	A	N	E	S	P	R	A	T
T	W	I	C	E	F	A					
H	E	L	E	N	R	E	D	N	E	C	K
S		E	U			I	E				
	D	E	T	E	R	I	O	R	A	T	E
S	G		T	U							
H	O	O	D	L	U	M	N	Y	L	O	N
R	T	U	E	A	E	S					
I	B	R	O	X	N	O	W	H	E	R	E
M	I	O	T	A	C	E					
P	I	P	E	R	S	P	Y	T	H	O	N

crossword Solution

from page 27

**Solution to Mind benders**

1. Swim under water
2. This way up
3. Where's there's a will there's a way.

mindbenders

from page 16

a good read

reviews By Willow Coby

Project Hail Mary

by Andy Weir

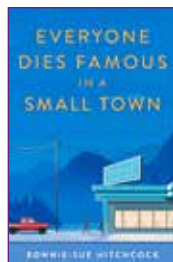
Ryland Grace wakes up on a spacecraft with no idea how or why he is there-or even who he is, and on top of this he has to work scientific miracles, from scratch using a Heath Robinson approach to staying alive. If this sounds like the plot of *The Martian* there are indeed similarities. Grace, like Mark Whitney is a scientist's scientist, self-deprecating, highly intelligent, and funny. The book alternates between Grace-on-Earth and Grace -in-Space as the narrative flips between the present day on the Hail Mary, and the events that led to him waking up alone and with no memory at the beginning of the book. The best science fiction happens when the author has put in the background work, uses it to craft a world we believe in, then creates characters we care about. Andy Weir has achieved all that here, and maintains a slick, fast paced plot to boot. There's loads of real science for the geeks, interesting, well-developed characters, excitement, thrills, and a touching friendship between the central characters. During the final third of the book, the stakes are raised ever higher, and I found myself reading ever faster in suspense all the way to the final page.



Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town

by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

This is a young adult novel with a difference. It's a collection of interconnected short stories all set in the mid-1990s, in Alaska and small towns scattered across the American west. Each story centres around one or two disparate teen characters who each face the challenges and rewards of small-town



life. Told through the ordinary events of their lives, we glimpse brief moments, like peeking through a window. We can see their inner struggles, how they deal with pain or boredom or survival, and how they find new paths and moments of healing. There are hitchhikers, kids with a 'reputation', free spirits, and young people who have suffered loss. Woven through the stories are some common threads; we get an early warning of wildfire in one story which is at the centre of the plot of another. The aftermath of events in one story, pop up in later ones. Each character's life has a 'butterfly effect' on the lives of other characters, some big and some small, and most of the characters never know the threads that connect them, even though we as readers are treated to the bigger picture and have the pleasure of seeing where all these lives overlap. In *Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town*, Hitchcock takes us into the inner workings of young minds and hearts. A beautiful read for older teens.

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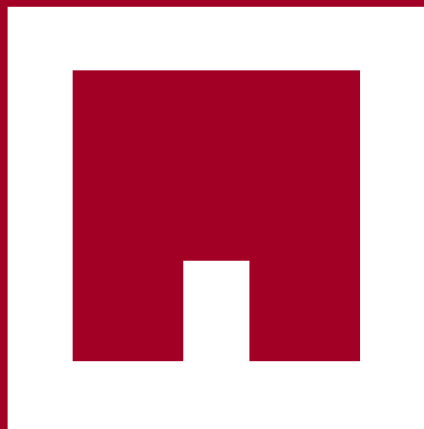


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