

MONITOR GLAM READS

By Shauna Bartlett

Well, it could be a long wait for the sun to come out...



GLAMOUR MUST-READ

A Good Girl Comes Undone

by Polly Williams (Sphere, £14.99)

Annie Rafferty is the 'good girl' of the title, who has worked her way up the ladder at a glossy magazine and just bought a house with her sweet-but-flaky boyfriend. But just as she appears to have it made, life starts to unravel, and although *she* needs a shoulder to cry on, suddenly everyone is leaning on Annie. The exception is the new male exec in the office, who Annie is undeniably attracted to but doesn't know whether to trust. At its heart, this book is concerned with the search for Mr Right, but since you don't find out who he is until the final chapters, there are plenty of other goings-on to keep the narrative moving – this is the sort of book you'll devour in a handful of sittings.

The Stepmother

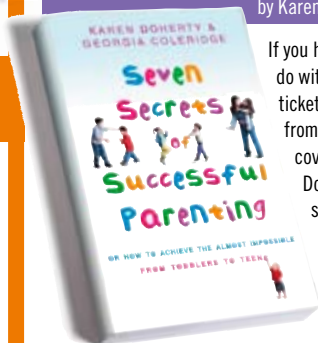
by Carrie Adams (Headline Review, £11.99)

Less chick lit and more chick noir, Adam's debut *The Godmother* dealt with the darker side of life – and her follow-up doesn't disappoint. This time, Tessa King has finally found her man, Jimmy – but he comes with baggage, in the form of an ex-wife and three daughters. The dual narrative gives both Tessa's point of view and Bea's (the ex-wife), so you find yourself torn between the two. On the one hand you want to see Jimmy reunited with his family, but on the other you're rooting for Tessa. The rivalry between the women lends the book its greatest moments, as each tries, with endearing fallibility, to do the right thing. And Adams has a genuinely original way with words, providing sparkling prose and witty one-liners that crackle off the page.



Seven Secrets Of Successful Parenting

by Karen Doherty and Georgia Coleridge (Bantam Press, £12.99)

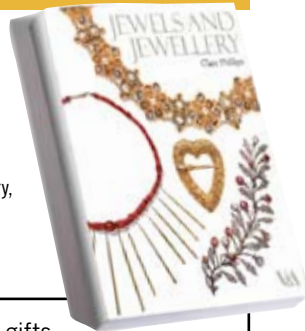


If you have (or want) children and feel your parenting skills could do with a makeover, this practical, advice-packed book is just the ticket. A mixture of anecdotes and tips, the advice is garnered from interviews with hundreds of parents and professionals and covers every angle, from tantrums to teething, bedtime to bullying. Doherty and Coleridge's research led them to identify seven styles of parenting, so the book gives a fascinating insight into the type of parent you are – as well as allowing you to steal a few neat ideas from other parenting styles. Whether you're a new parent, a mum-to-be or a seasoned pro, this book should have a place on your shelves.

Jewels And Jewellery

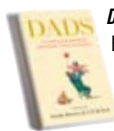
by Clare Phillips (V&A Publishing, £19.99)

Every girl loves a bit of bling, so here's a cheap way to enjoy (albeit vicariously) some seriously fabulously jewellery, courtesy of the V&A Museum. The museum's jewellery exhibition features pieces from all over the world, from medieval times right through to art nouveau and more contemporary designs – and this book brings each of the pieces to life by showing how the jewellery would have been made, hallmarked, distributed and worn. Each item tells a story, as the book gives you the background on world-famous pieces such as the Beauharnais Emeralds and the Armada Jewel. Visually stylish and educational, it will give your coffee table real style cachet.



DAD LIT

Tempt him out of the tool shed with these great Father's Day gifts



Dads edited by Sarah Brown and Gil McNeil (Ebury, £9.99) The PM's wife, Sarah Brown, and author

Gil McNeil have attracted a formidable line-up to celebrate fatherhood, including Ian Rankin and the late Anthony Minghella.



The Book Of Idle Pleasures edited by Dan Kieran and Tom Hodgkinson (Ebury, £9.99)

Whether you want to poke fun at your dad's lazy ways or encourage him to slow down, this is ideal for extolling life's simple pleasures.



Top Gear's Midlife Crisis Cars by Matt Master (BBC Books, £9.99)

The perfect gift for a middle-aged petrol-head, this book identifies 50 cars that are supposed to bestow upon their drivers the gift of eternal youth.



Dad Rules by Andrew Clover (Fig Tree, £14.99)

A must for new dads in need of reassurance that fatherhood isn't the end of life as they know it, as Clover uses wry humour to trace his transition from reluctant dad to happiest man in Britain.

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