



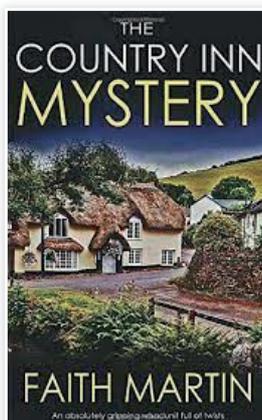
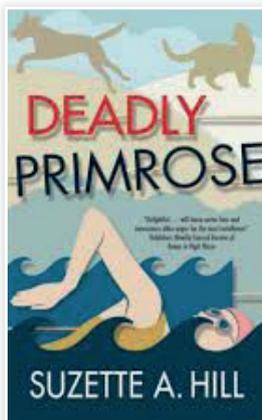
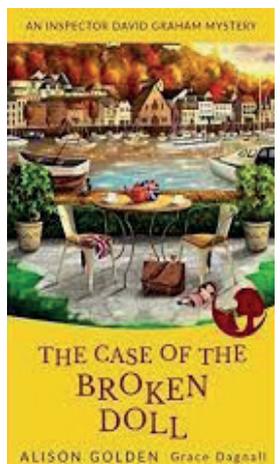
# Relax and take it easy with our recommended cosy reads

**I**t's November, time for firesides, cups of cocoa and cosy reads. A cosy read is one that provides escapism without being too taxing on the brain or stressful on the emotions. A book that allows you to be transported into gentle yet engaging worlds of crime, mystery, adventure or family drama.



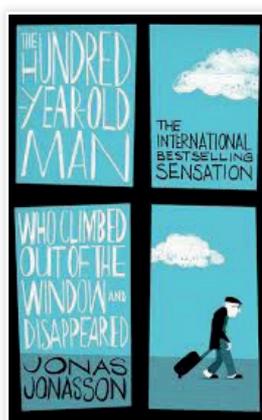
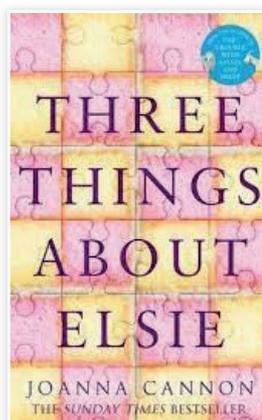
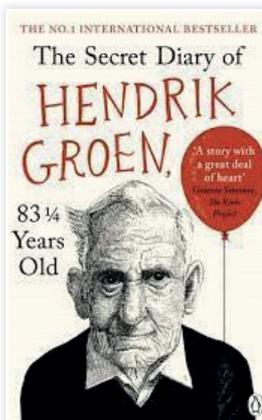
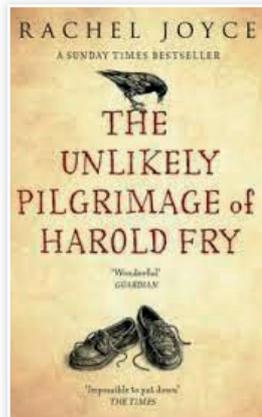
## Cosy Crime/Mystery

Cosy mysteries are novels where the murder takes place off stage or rather off page. Allowing the reader to focus on the puzzle of the mystery not the gory reality of the murder. Often told from the view point of an amateur sleuths, someone who just happens to have all sorts of convenient connections to help solve the mystery. M.C. Beaton and her two most popular characters **Agatha Raisin** and **Hamish Macbeth** are classics in this genre and a great starting point. Other good options include **The Case of the Broken Doll** by Alison Golden, **The Country Inn Mystery** by Faith Martin or **Deadly Primrose** by Suzette A. Hill



## Cosy (kinda) Characters

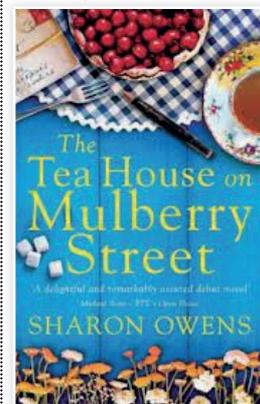
The success of **"The Thursday Murder Club"** and its sequels set me thinking about other novels fea-



turing older protagonists. The characters in these novels are not quite ready to put on their slippers yet. Sit back and join them on their adventures. You could join in the adventures of the **'Old-But-Not Dead Club'** in

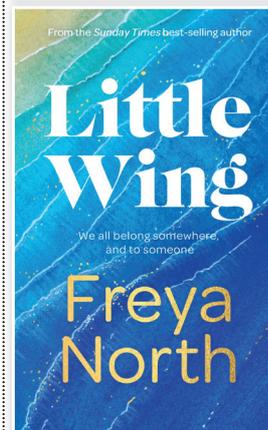
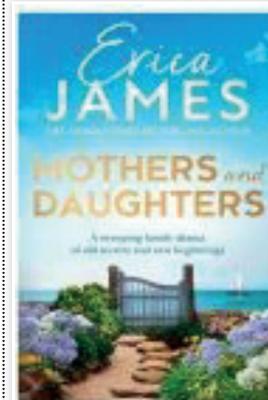
the **The secret Diary of Hendrik Groen** 83 1/4 years old or head off with **The Hundred year old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared** by Jonas Jonasson. **The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry** by Rachel Joyce and **Three things about Elsie** Joanna Cannon take journeys through lives of the main characters exploring the events and people who made them who they are.

## Cosy like Maeve Binchy



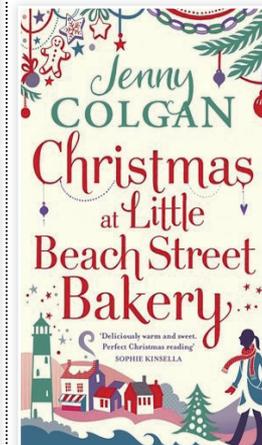
Maeve Binchy is the queen of cosy. **The Circle of Friends** and **Firefly Summer** novels are gently reflecting the changing times of Ireland in the 50's and 60's without delving

too deep into the political or social changes afoot. It is often said that Maeve Binchy is never snide or cruel with her writing and I can't think



of anything cosier. Authors with a similar feel include **The Teahouse on Mulberry Street** by Sharon Owens, Freya North's **Little Wing** or Erica James in her 2022 book **Mothers and Daughters**. All these explore family dramas, old secrets being uncovered and the desire to belong to a family and a place either through tradition or discovery.

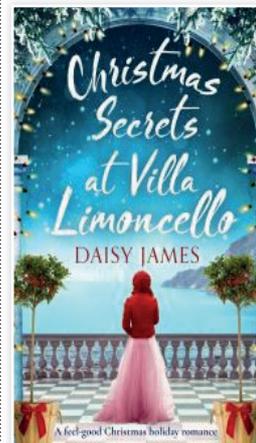
## Cosy like it's already Christmas



Once Halloween is done and there is talk of the 'toyshow' it is surely time to start searching out the cosy Christmas reads. The

books that have mistletoe and Christmas trees sprinkled with snow on the cover in warm reds and pinks or Christmassy silvers and blues. They have taglines that conjure up firesides and gingerbread with just a hint of family drama.

Christmas, a bakery and all wrapped up for a visit to the beach in winter, can you actually come up with a cosier backstory..... **Jenny Colgan's Christmas tales** are sure to get you cosy for the festive season. How about **Christmas in Tuscany** with Daisy



James in her lovely romantic feel good novel **Christmas secrets at Villa Limoncello**

