# How to Use This Planner

Start in November, finish before the rush

This planner is for one job: giving books, and bookish gifts, well, without the December panic. It works best if you start it in November, when choices are still wide and delivery is still ordinary, and finish it before the last week of December, when only the expensive and the hurried are left. Work through it in order. First, match each person on your list to a reader type. Second, set a budget that holds. Third, write the gift list. Fourth, track each gift through buying, making and wrapping. Fifth, write the note. The note is not an extra. For a book gift, the note is half the gift, because it says why this book, for this person, now.

## What is inside

A reader-type gift finder (ten reader types, with gift ideas for each), a budget planner and a spending tracker, two gift-list pages, a buy / make / wrap status tracker, a wrapping page, book-gift note pages, inscription idea and writing pages, stocking-filler ideas, a December gifting calendar, a posting and delivery page, and an after-Christmas thank-you page. Print the whole planner once, and print extra copies of the pages you use most - the gift list and the status tracker usually need more than one copy.

## One rule

Buy the book for the reader they are, not the reader you wish they were. A challenging classic for someone who reads for comfort is not a thoughtful gift; it is a chore in a ribbon. The finder on the next pages exists to stop exactly that mistake, and it is worth ten minutes of honesty before a single purchase.

# Reader-Type Gift Finder (1 of 2)

Find the type, then pick from its ideas

## 1. The Comfort Reader

Reads to unwind, re-reads favourites, likes warmth over challenge.

Gift ideas: A cosy novel in a series they love; a beautiful re-reading copy of an old favourite; a reading light and a bookmark set; a book of short, gentle stories for tired evenings.

## 2. The Deep Diver

Reads one subject thoroughly, keeps notes, follows footnotes.

Gift ideas: A serious, well-reviewed book in their subject; a companion volume or atlas for a book they already own; a subscription to a serious magazine in their field; a notebook made for marginalia.

## 3. The Speed Reader

Finishes books in days, always needs the next one, loves a series.

Gift ideas: The next two books in their series, not one; a short-story collection for gaps between novels; a gift card for their bookshop with a list of your picks inside; a book-club membership.

## 4. The Reluctant Reader

Rarely finishes books, says they have no time, but loves stories.

Gift ideas: A short, gripping novella under 200 pages; a brilliant audiobook for commutes; a graphic novel or illustrated edition; a book of essays they can dip into, one piece at a time.

## 5. The Young Reader

Reads for adventure, identity and belonging; outgrows books fast.

Gift ideas: The next book in the series they are mid-way through; a book about their current passion, whatever it is; a journal for their own writing or drawing; a book chosen with them, not for them, if you can manage a trip together.

# Stocking Fillers (1 of 2)

Small, bookish, and actually wanted

A stocking filler fails when it is bought because it is small, not because it is wanted. The test for every item below is the same: would this person be pleased to find it on any ordinary day, not just in a stocking? If the answer is no, it is filler in the bad sense, and it should not go in.

- **A pocket notebook and a good pencil, for the reader who annotates.**
- **A set of beautiful bookmarks - one for each book currently being read.**
- **A reading light that clips to the book, for the night reader.**
- **A bookish mug and a packet of tea or cocoa, for the reading chair.**
- **A literary postcard set, for the person who still writes letters.**
- **A tiny book of poems, for the bedside table.**
- **A bookplate set with their name on it, for the collector.**
- **A keyring or pin with a bookish design, for the bag they carry everywhere.**