

In this new series, notable writers tell us about their reading habits. Is there someone you would like to see featured? Write to us with your suggestions.

THIS WEEK I'M READING...

Jenny Eclair

The comedian, novelist and actress on wicked characters and water-logged books



Tell us about what you're reading... Polly Sampson's The Kindness. Polly is a properly elegant writer, no sentence is too much trouble; there is an attention to detail that shows how much she cares; nothing is ever rushed. The Kindness is a book about betrayal

wrapped up as something else entirely: a gift, or as the title suggests, a 'kindness'. The twist, when it comes, leaves you slack-jawed. Good books change their temperature and flavour - I can feel the weather in this book, I can smell the gardens and I

believe the sex. I like how flawed the characters are, her leading men and women are weak, selfish and deceitful, which makes sense to me. Nice people rarely do anything interesting.

Do you prefer Kindle or heaving bookshelves?

Both, but mostly wobbling piles of books on the floor.

What is in your ideal holiday reading list?

The new Kate Atkinson, *A God In Ruins*.

Do you have a favourite reading spot?

The bath. All my books end up three times bigger than when I bought them,

they're so water-logged they barely close. Bed is good, bus journeys are good. I often buy a book and then download it onto my phone as an emergency public transport back-up.

What is your favourite bookshop?

Peckham Review - the novelist Evie Wyld used to work behind the till.

Which authors have influenced you most?

Anything I've ever read will have some kind of influence, which is why I stop reading novels when I'm writing.

◆ *Moving*, by Jenny Eclair, is published by Sphere, priced £13.99; offer price, £12.49.