

BOOK REVIEWS – JANUARY 2019.

CHEER UP LOVE – Adventures in depression with the Crab of Hate by Susan Calman. (Published by Two Roads - May 2016).

“I’m a depressed, foul mouthed, angry, serious, intelligent, passionate, emotional, sensitive, polite, feminist comedian.”

Susan Calman certainly is all of the above and more... The insight we are given to her life, the honesty as she takes us through what it is like living with depression, makes compelling reading. She admits herself that once she started talking about her mental health problem she started feeling strangely positive about it. Therefore, this is not a depressive book. On the contrary, it is full of humour, honesty and an outline of her career as a comedian, quiz show presenter, contestant on Strictly Come Dancing (more about this in her second novel, Sunny Side Up, which will be reviewed soon). We also read about her love of cats, she has four, and her lovely, if not slightly long suffering, wife. Recommended.

SLOW COOKER FOR TWO COOKBOOK by Steven D. Shaw. (Published by Create Space Independent Publishing Platform - January 2018).

250 recipes and I can’t wait to get started! I have always had a slow cooker but my recipes have never just been for two people, therefore, too much leftovers, which can sit in the freezer for weeks if not months, until I eventually uncover and reheat or worse, throw out! Breakfast, lunch and dinner recipes, it has everything. Okay, you might not have every ingredient in your cupboard but with plenty of recipes to choose from you can carry on until you find the ideal one. I am going to try the Creamy Beef Mix using, of course, the left over beef from Christmas! All in the slow cooker, leaving me to continue my reading uninterrupted, with exact measurements for two people, no waste! What’s not to like? Ideal Book.

THE APPEAL by John Grisham. (Published by Cornerstone - April 2010).

I am not sure why I hadn’t read this book considering it was published back in 2010. I thought that I had read every single one of his books. As a Lawyer back in the day, it came as no surprise that this book is situated around the USA legal and court systems. He writes what he knows about it and is excellent at it. This time it is regarding a multimillion dollar case against a chemical company, Krane Chemical, who have been accused of dumping toxic waste to the detriment of a small village in Mississippi. A story that has occurred many times but the difference here is the victims have won the case. As it goes to appeal, the owner, Carl Trudeau, is unbelievable in his greed and arrogance, we learn about years of the American legal system, the victims who have died or are dying and their families and mainly their lawyers, married couple, Mary Grace and husband Wes, who have lost their house, cars and wealthy way of life to ensure the appeal goes through. But, does it? Brilliant as ever, interesting and very well written. Recommended.