

PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS

COMPELLING: Coming Home, Perfect Love and The Black Album

**BOOK OF
THE WEEK**

PERFECT LOVE

Elizabeth Buchan

(Pan, £5.99)

DON'T be put off by the prissy, arty cover. This is an easy-flowing tale of the battleground of modern marriage, adultery and different loves all in a tangled relationship: father/daughter/stepmother/lover/son-in-law. An honest, realistic story.

FICTION

COMING HOME

Rosamunde Pilcher

(Coronet, £6.99)

ANOTHER family saga set mostly in Cornwall and steeped in nostalgia and love of a bygone age. It tells of a wealthy family and those touched by it, warm characters who live beyond the page, even when the Second World War intrudes.

HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR

Michael Palin

(Mandarin, £5.99)

THE first novel of such a well-loved personality can hardly go unnoticed. I was disappointed. It may be well written but this story of a pathetic under-postmaster with a Hemingway fetish degenerated into farce.

THE BLACK ALBUM

Hanif Kureishi

(Faber, £5.99)

THIS second novel from the highly talented author of *The Buddha Of*

Suburbia is set in London in 1989 amid raves, ecstasy, sexual passions and excess, where a young clean-cut man from the provinces has his world turned upside down. A joy to read.

THE SMELL OF APPLES

Mark Behr

(Abacus, £5.99)

AN enthralling story of a boy growing up in South Africa. The horror of apartheid and the disregard of feeling for the black man is woven into a disturbing story of family life and disillusionment. Very powerful.

NON-FICTION

GONE SHOPPING

Lorraine Gamman

(Signet, £5.99)

THERE shouldn't be, but there is, a certain romance attached to true villains. Shirley Pitts was born to crooked parents. She learned to steal at seven to help support her family while her father was in jail. She became an ace shoplifter, con woman, manipulator and thief, and lived a charmed life until cancer claimed her at 58. Fourteen Rolls took the wreaths to her funeral.

RAIN MEN

Marcus Berkman

(Abacus, £6.99)

A HYMN to cricket, aimed at the totally besotted. A funny and astute appraisal for the enthusiast.

SARAH BROADHURST