Glimpt

What is in the export files

Glimpt keeps your lists, your watches and your settings in your own browser and nowhere else. Export, in Commonplace › Share, makes a copy you can keep, move to another device, or take to another reading app. There are two kinds of file. This explains both, field by field, and, at the end, how another app can send Glimpt a colourway.

Which one to use

FILE	USE IT FOR	OPENS IN
For Glimpt `glimpt-backup-`*`date`*`.json`	Backups, and moving everything to Glimpt on another phone or computer: the lists, the watches, the settings with your favourite podcasts, the colour scheme. Import puts it all back.	Glimpt (Import), any text editor
CSV for others `glimpt-list.csv`	Taking your lists to Goodreads, StoryGraph and other reading apps, or into a spreadsheet.	Goodreads, StoryGraph, Numbers, Excel, Google Sheets

Both are plain text in open formats: JSON is defined by RFC 8259, CSV by RFC 4180. Neither needs Glimpt to be read, and neither passes through any server: the file is made on your device and saved there.

The For Glimpt file

One object: a marker, where and when it was made, the books, and the settings as Glimpt stores them. Each book is the identity of the book and nothing heavy: the reviews and summaries Glimpt has saved stay behind, and are fetched again when you open the book on another device.

```
{
  "glimpt": 1,
  "from": "glimpt.net",
  "at": "2026-10-14T09:41:00.000Z",
  "books": [
    {
      "id": "w:OL20893680W",
      "b":  ["OL20893680W", "Piranesi", "Susanna Clarke", 2020, 10521270, 272, 433, 63],
      "t":  1790938847302,
      "s":  "own"
    }
  ],
  "ls": {
    "br.settings":   "{\"ownClerk\":true,\"podcastApp\":\"tingting\",\"podFavourites\":
[{\"name\":\"A Meal of Thorns\",\"id\":null}]}",
    "br.watches":    "{\"w:OL20893680W\":{\"price\":129,\"formats\":[\"paperback\"]}}",
    "br.theme":      "{\"preset\":\"paper\"}",
    "br.theme.mine": "[\"#1d5c4f\",\"#faf9f6\"]",
    "br.theme.edits": "{\"lagoon\":{\"accent\":\"#0f9aa5\", …}}",
    "br.stacks":     "[{\"id\":\"s1x9k2ab\",\"name\":\"Read these
next\",\"at\":1790938847302,\"books\":[[\"OL20893680W\",\"Piranesi\",\"Susanna
Clarke\",2020,10521270]],\"out\":[]}]"
  }
}
```


Top level

FIELD	MEANING
`glimpt`	The format version, `1`. It is how Import tells this file from a plain list file.
`from`	The address of the Glimpt that made it.
`at`	When the file was made, in ISO 8601, UTC.
`books`	The books on your lists, most recently added first, each as below.
`ls`	The settings, keyed as Glimpt keeps them in the browser; each value is itself a JSON text, kept exactly as stored. Any key may be missing when you never changed that setting.

The keys in `ls`

KEY	HOLDS
`br.settings`	Connexions (whether Glimpt's own clerk sums up the reviews), the podcast app episodes open in, your favourite podcasts (`podFavourites`, each a name and Apple's show id), the shops switched on, the review sites (`sources`: `added`, the sites you added yourself, each with its address and language; `removed`, the built-in sites you removed with a long press; `skipped`, the sites you unticked, which stay listed but are not searched), and the printed bookmarks' look (`bookmarks`: background, paper, seed, wording).
`br.watches`	The price and format watches, by book id: the picture the watch last saw, so news is news.
`br.theme`	The colour scheme in use.
`br.theme.mine`	The eight colours of Mine, your own scheme, if you changed it or took one in from another app (see the last section).
`br.theme.edits`	Your changes to the other schemes (Paper & ink, Lagoon, Stark), one set of seeds for each scheme you changed. Missing when you changed none.
`br.stacks`	The stacks of recommendations you have been sent (Commonplace › Share › Send a stack makes one; Scan reads its QR code), newest first. Each has an `id`, the `name` its sender gave it, `at` (when it arrived, in milliseconds), its `books` (each a list of five: Open Library work id, title, author, year, cover id, the first five values of a book below), and `out`, the positions of the books you said were not for you. Import adds the stacks you do not have and leaves yours as they are. Missing when you have been sent none.

Each book

FIELD	MEANING
`id`	How Glimpt recognises the book. `w:` followed by an Open Library work id when the book came from Open Library; otherwise `t:` followed by the title and author in lower case without accents or punctuation, joined by `|`.
`b`	The book itself, as a list of eight values in this fixed order (see below).
`t`	When you added it: milliseconds since 1 January 1970, UTC. Moving a book between lists keeps this date.
`s`	The list: `"own"` or `"want"`. A book without it is on Want.

The eight values in `b`

#	VALUE	EXAMPLE	EMPTY WHEN UNKNOWN
0	Open Library work id. Add it to `https://openlibrary.org/works/` to see the book there.	`"OL20893680W"`	`""`
1	Title	`"Piranesi"`	`""`
2	First author	`"Susanna Clarke"`	`""`
3	Year first published	`2020`	`0`
4	Open Library cover id. The cover is at `https://covers.openlibrary.org/b/id/`*id*`–M.jpg`.	`10521270`	`0`
5	Number of pages	`272`	`0`
6	Average reader rating out of 5, times 100	`433` is 4.33	`0`
7	How many ratings that average is from	`63`	`0`

The values are a list rather than named fields to keep the file small: about fifty bytes a book, so a hundred books is a five-kilobyte file, and the settings add a kilobyte or two.

Importing

Import merges. Books are matched by `id`: one already in your list is updated, not doubled, so importing the same file twice changes nothing, and nothing is ever removed by an import. Watches are merged by book, the file's watch winning. The settings and the scheme in the file replace the ones on the device, since a backup is meant to put things back as they were. Glimpt then reloads once, so every part of it reads what has just come in.

The older list file

Before October 2026, Export made a list-only file, `glimpt-list.json`, with a `bookRadar` marker (`2`; `1` was the same without the two lists) instead of `glimpt`, and the same `exported` and `books` fields. Import still reads it: its books are added, and nothing else changes.

Colourways from other apps

Another web app can send Glimpt a colourway as a link. Nothing is kept until you say so: Glimpt opens wearing the colours and asks which of your colourways to replace with them, Paper & ink, Lagoon, Stark or Mine.

```
https://glimpt.net/#colourway=the colourway, as JSON, encoded with encodeURIComponent

{
  "glimpt": "colourway", "v": 1,
  "name": "Harbour at dusk", "from": "Palette Lab",
  "colours": { "paper": "#f4efe6", "ink": "#1c2230", "accent": "#0f6f74",
               "panel": "#ebe3d6", "edge": "#d9cdb9", "title": "#7a1f2b",
               "working": "#b85c1e", "highlight": "#c79a1a" }
}
```

FIELD	MEANING
`glimpt`, `v`	Always `"colourway"` and `1`. Anything else is turned away.
`colours`	Glimpt's eight colours, by role, as hex. Paper, ink and accent are required; Glimpt draws the others from those when they are left out. A key that is not one of the eight is turned away, so a misspelt one shows.
`name`, `from`	The colourway's name and the app that sent it, shown when you are asked. Plain text, at most 60 characters each.

The colourway rides after the `#`, which a browser never sends to a server: it goes from the sending app to Glimpt on your device and nowhere else. The whole link may be at most 4,000 characters. Replacing Mine stores the eight colours in `br.theme.mine`, and replacing another scheme in `br.theme.edits`, so the next For Glimpt file carries them; each scheme's Reset puts it back as Glimpt drew it. A colourway that is already that scheme asks nothing.

Set colours from photo

On any scheme, Glimpt's colour settings open Colours out of Space, in a window of its own, the same way in reverse: `https://colours-out-of-space.statichost.page/#glimpt=` followed by that scheme as a colourway, with one more field, `return`, the Glimpt address it came from. The app starts from your colours and sends the new ones back to that address as `#colourway=`, but only to a Glimpt address (glimpt.net, www.glimpt.net, the old book-radar.statichost.page, or a copy on the device itself); anything else goes to glimpt.net. The full format for apps is in Glimpt's `docs/send-a-colourway.md`.

The CSV file

One row per book, with a header row. The column names are the ones Goodreads uses for its own export, which is what Goodreads, StoryGraph and most other reading apps expect to import. Apps ignore the columns they do not know, so the last two are Glimpt's own and harmless elsewhere.

```
Title,Author,ISBN,ISBN13,Year Published,Date Added,Bookshelves,Exclusive Shelf,Glimpt List,Open Library Work
Piranesi,Susanna Clarke,,,2020,2026/09/30,owned,,Own,https://openlibrary.org/works/OL20893680W
Kallocain,Karin Boye,,,1940,2026/10/01,to-read,to-read,Want,
```

COLUMN	MEANING
Title	The title.
Author	The first author.
ISBN, ISBN13	Left empty. Glimpt's list keeps the book, not an edition, so it has no one ISBN to give. Reading apps match on the title and author instead.
Year Published	The year the book first came out.
Date Added	When you added it to your list, as `YYYY/MM/DD`.
Bookshelves	`to-read` for Want, `owned` for Own. Apps that read this column put the book on a shelf, or give it a tag, of that name.
Exclusive Shelf	`to-read` for Want. Empty for Own, because owning a book does not mean you have read it; some apps file a book with no reading status as read, so check those after importing.
Glimpt List	`Want` or `Own`, as in Glimpt.
Open Library Work	A link to the book on Open Library, when Glimpt knows it.

Opening it in a spreadsheet

The file is UTF-8 with a byte-order mark at the start, which is how spreadsheet programs know to show å, ä, ö and é correctly. Values containing a comma, a quote mark or a line break are wrapped in double quotes, with any quote mark inside doubled, as RFC 4180 describes.

The CSV is for taking your lists elsewhere. To bring everything back into Glimpt, use the For Glimpt file.

Glimpt · Wu Wave Interaktiv · This document describes the For Glimpt file, version 1, the CSV, and colourway links, version 1, October 2026. Licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.