NEW TITLES
JULY – DECEMBER 2018

HEAD OF ZEUS

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The Girl Who Thought Her Mother Was A Mermaid
Tania Unsworth

A girl who believes her mother might have been a mermaid runs away to the ocean to solve the mystery of who she really is.

Stella is the odd one out. She sleepwalks, is terrified of water, yet obsessed by the ocean. Her mum who died when Stella was eight remains the biggest mystery of all. Who was she and why did she give Stella a necklace called ‘the word of the sea’ before she died? Nobody can give her any answers. Her father is consumed by grief and her grandmother’s memories are fading with dementia.

When Stella’s only friend in the world, Cam, moves house, Stella runs away. She’s determined to find out who her mum was and who she is too. She ends up in Crystal Cove at a run-down aquarium with a mermaid show. There she meets Pearl who reveals disturbing secrets. It’s only by facing her fear of the ocean that Stella will truly uncover the truth.

This is an exquisitely imagined story about a girl on an adventure above and below the waves.

‘The first time Stella Martin ran away, it was in her sleep.

The second was by accident.

But the third time she did it on purpose, to find out whether she was human or not.’
Ten NASTY Little Toads

Greetings!

Big, fat warty welcome wishes from me, Madame Rana!

Why have you picked up this book? I can think of four possible reasons.

1) You are a nasty little toad and want to look up your friends.

2) You want to read some mind-boggling, brain-blowing, totally twisted toady tales that will make you laugh, gasp, groan, gulp and fall out of bed. (Even if you are not reading it in a bed – spooky!)

3) You were reaching for some other book but MYSTERIOUSLY picked up this one instead, because you are no match for my wondrously witchy powers!

4) You sensed that there are in fact twelve horrid little toads in this book, rather than the ten that were promised on the front cover, and wanted to check for yourself.

Anyway! Whatever your reason for being here, WELCOME! I hope you will enjoy the contents of this book. But, please, DO NOT attempt to imitate any of the toadish behaviour you will encounter. THERE COULD BE CONSEQUENCES...

Toodle-toadle-loo!

MADAME R

Steve Cole is the bestselling author of Astrosaurs and Young Bond, among many other books.

stevecolebooks.co.uk
@SteveColeBooks

Ten Nasty Little Toads: The Zephyr Book of Cautionary Tales
Steve Cole / illustrated by Tony Ross

Astrosaurs author Steve Cole teams up with the UK’s most popular illustrator, Tony Ross, in a full-colour gift book of ten darkly comic and hilarious cautionary tales.

In these delightfully humorous tales of a decidedly blackish hue, ten follysome toads can never change their beastly habits despite the efforts of goodly witch Madame Rana who reminds them, ‘It’s never too late to change.’

The Toad With Square Eyes develops mutant thumbs and fingers and finds himself on the other side of the screen; Cherry Oddfellow, the Dirty Little Toad, is part-girl, part-mudslide; and Jeremiah Bratson, the Spoiled Little Toad, finds himself face-to-face with a perfect robot replica.

Featuring toady facts, quizzes and games, this collection of tales is a warning to certain children that there must come an hour when they pay the price...

Tony Ross is the UK’s most popular illustrator, best known for his work on Little Princess, Horrid Henry and David Walliams.
The Monsters We Deserve
Marcus Sedgwick

Taut, tense, terrifying. Prizewinning author Marcus Sedgwick writes of the monsters we create in literature and in our own minds in this reappraisal of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein.

The Villa Diodati, on the shores of Lake Geneva, 1816: the Year without Summer. As Byron, Polidori, and Mr and Mrs Shelley shelter from the unexpected weather, old ghost stories are read and new ghost stories imagined. Born of the twin brains of the Shelleys is Frankenstein, one of the most influential tales of horror of all time.

In a remote mountain house, high in the French Alps, an author broods on Shelley’s creation. Reality and perception merge, fuelled by poisoned thoughts. Humankind makes monsters; but who really creates who? This is a book about reason, the imagination, and the creative act of reading and writing. Marcus Sedgwick’s ghostly, menacing novel celebrates the legacy of Mary Shelley’s literary debut in its bicentenary year.

'It sounds like...
...like breathing. Close up. Next to me. Around me. Somewhere, the sound of breathing.

Slow, deep, right close to me somehow.

Then I know what it is! It’s me! So I hold my breath.

Yet the breathing continues.

I listen to it, eyes wide, seeing utterly nothing and focusing only on the breathing, the breathing, the breathing, until, with a shudder, I sit up, banging my head on a beam, fumbling for the electric torch, switching it on and swinging it this way and that in the gloom.

Nothing.

And the breathing has stopped.

I do not sleep again. Not this night. I ask myself this: do monsters always stay in the book where they were born? Are they content to live out their lives on paper, and never step foot into the real world? It’s very late before the sun creeps over the mountain opposite and shows itself, by which time I have been clinging to the grey dawn for hours, beaten and drawn, beaten and drawn.'
To make a kid fall in love with science is the greatest thing we very lucky few can give back to society.

Patron of NatSCA (Natural Sciences Collections Association) • Ambassador of Norfolk Wildlife Trust • Ambassador of Marine Conservation Society • Ambassador of Tropical Biology Association • Ambassador of Bristol Museum • Trustee of Jane Goodall Institute UK • Patron of Norwich Science Festival • Patron of Youth STEMM Awards

A year-long *T. rex* sized campaign

- Authorless event packs with activity sheets, dinosaur name generator, fun facts and more
- Bold and colourful POS: FSDUs, posters, bookmarks, dinosaur badges and stickers
- Partnerships with key organisations, museums and galleries
- Advertorial planned with National Geographic for Kids, Mumsnet, First News, Fun Kids Radio
- Author events at major UK and international literary festivals
- TV and radio appearances throughout 2018
- Author signing tours

So You Think You Know About... Dinosaurs?

**Dr Ben Garrod**

Following *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Triceratops* and *Diplodocus*, the series continues with *Velociraptor*, *Stegosaurus* and *Spinosaurus*, the most up-to-date dinosaur books on the market. Introduced by Dr Jane Goodall.

Dr Ben Garrod’s *So You Think You Know About... Dinosaurs?* is fun, funny and informative. A highly collectable, pocket-size series.

TV scientist Ben Garrod is proud to be a geek as he mixes hard science and humour to prove that science is for everyone. All children know their dinosaurs but Ben encourages them to think differently, revealing how new discoveries and breakthroughs occur in science every day. By looking at the evolutionary arms race, prey, predators, place, time, groups and species, Ben reveals new-look dinosaurs. Each book contains additional sections: Ask an Expert, New Science and Fossil Finder as well as quizzes to test your dinosaur knowledge.

Palaeo art by Scott Hartman and Gabriel Ugueto. Illustrations by Ethan Kocak.

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Palaeo art by Scott Hartman and Gabriel Ugueto. Illustrations by Ethan Kocak.
Mr Tiger, Betsy and the Blue Moon
Sally Gardner / illustrated by Nick Maland

Tigers have their secrets and their whiskers, their tails and their tales.

Book One of a new series full of fairy-tale ingredients. When Betsy K Glory, the daughter of a mermaid and an ice-cream maker, meets the mysterious Mr Tiger they have a giant challenge: a moon to turn blue, berries to collect and wishable-delicious ice-cream to create. The sort that makes wishes come true.

With Mr Tiger and his troupe of Gongalong circus acrobats, a toad under a spell, a lonely giant, and Mum and Dad, Betsy sets off on her quest.

This book will be printed in blue ink in Dyslexie, a font specially designed to make reading easier – and more fun. Sally is the founder of NuWord, which champions positive debate about dyslexia.

Sally Gardner has won numerous awards including the Costa and the Carnegie.

Nick Maland’s illustration work has won the Book Trust Early Years Award among others.

“The following morning Betsy looked out of her bedroom window and there in the distance she could see the top of a circus tent.

“Please let’s go and see if Mr Tiger is there,” said Betsy.

“Why don’t we eat first,” said Dad, handing Betsy a basket of freshly-baked rolls.

“Do I have to?” she said as she followed him into the café. She was surprised to see, sitting in the corner, a gentleman reading a newspaper. That’s odd, thought Betsy, because the café was not open yet. But stranger still, she caught a glimpse of an orange-and-brown striped tail beneath the table. She looked again. Those were not hands holding the newspaper, they were brown-and-orange striped paws.

“Dad,” said Betsy, as Mr Glory put the tray down in front of the gentleman.

“Dad,” she whispered. “Mr Tiger!”

“Did someone say my name?” came a purring voice from behind the newspaper. Betsy could feel her legs go wobbly. There, seated in front of her, was none other than Mr Tiger himself. He wore a smart top hat through which two furry ears stuck out, a bow tie and a tiger skin coat. He stood up and towered over Dad and Betsy.

Putting out a paw, he said, “You must be Betsy K Glory. A pleasure to meet you. Would you join me for breakfast?”
The Snow Angel
Lauren St John
Illustrated by Catherine Hyde


‘A big-hearted story of courage, friendship, refuge and mountains, rich in a sense of place and of nature, and hope for a better world.’

NICOLETTE JONES, SUNDAY TIMES

‘A powerful thread of hope and humanity shines through the story, transforming it into something utterly life-affirming.’ OBSERVER

Me Mam. Me Dad. Me.
Malcolm Duffy

Humorous and heartbreaking debut novel with the fresh, funny, honest voice of a 14-year-old Geordie lad recounting the trials and tribulations of family life and finding first love.

‘A glorious, soaring voice telling an important story. Made me guts feel funny, like I was on a rollercoaster.’ JOANNA NADIN

A Kingdom Falls
John Owen Theobald

In the dramatic conclusion to the Ravenmaster Trilogy, Anna Cooper must find the strength to face her greatest fear in Britain’s darkest hour.

‘Breathless, intricate... a worthwhile read.’ THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

‘Theobald killed it with this one... recommend it to your children or grandchildren.’ PROFESSIONAL BOOKWORM

HEAD OF ZEUS
FICTION
Shadows in Heaven
Nadine Dorries

A rags-to-riches story of family secrets, set in post-war Ireland.

Nadine’s wonderful new novel is rooted in one of the places dearest to her heart – the west coast of Ireland.

In post-war Ballymara, two women are waiting for ambitious Michael Malone to return home. Rosie is the local schoolteacher and most people think she is promised to him. Just a few have guessed that he has secretly begun to woo Sarah, whose brutal fisherman father would kill her if he knew.

Both Rosie and Sarah love Michael, both hope to become his wife and their lives will interweave in a tale of tangled secrets, old promises and new feuds. Michael Malone’s choice will have fateful consequences for everyone – especially, in due course, for his young daughter.

This is the first in a new sequence of novels with a brilliant new cast of characters and a story that will lead to Liverpool in Mary Kate and back to Ireland in The Seven Acres.
I wrote *The Boy at the Door* while spending a year in Sandefjord, Norway, with my two children. This lovely little town is idyllic and peaceful, but my novelist’s mind immediately imagined less pleasant stories beneath the perfect surface.

Central to the story is Cecilia, a young woman trying hard to fit in. She makes one big mistake and I was interested in exploring the repercussions of this mistake, how one bad choice can set you on the wrong path, forever.

Having had a very international upbringing I have often felt like an outsider in Norway, which is a fairly normative society. I really enjoyed exploring motherhood in the context of a wealthy Norwegian. It’s a world I know well, and it was interesting to use those experiences in fiction.

**ALEX DAHL**

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Alex Dahl is a half-American, half-Norwegian author. Born in Oslo, she currently divides her time between London and Sandefjord.

@authoralex
ceciliawilborg.wordpress.com

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**The Boy at the Door**

**Alex Dahl**

Head of Zeus’s lead summer debut. A dark psychological thriller from a brilliant new voice.

What would you do for the perfect life? Would you lie? Would you steal? Would you kill?...

Cecilia Wilborg has the perfect life. A handsome husband, two beautiful daughters and a large house in the picture-postcard town of Sandefjord.

But then Tobias enters her life. He is a small, friendless eight-year-old. And he threatens to bring Cecilia’s world crashing down.

© Nina Rangoy
Four Dominions

Eric Van Lustbader

The latest instalment in the globe-spanning, action-packed Testament series.

The End of Days has been predicted for the last two thousand years. But now, without warning, it is upon us.

Braverman ‘Bravo’ Shaw, member of a secret Franciscan splinter sect, has survived a battle as old as time itself: the battle between good and evil. Working with his once-blind sister, Emma, and his confessor, Fra Leoni, Bravo went to war with the Fallen, Lucifer’s advance guard and emerged with The Book of Deathly Things – Lucifer’s first and last Testament.

Now, back in New York, the book’s secrets have revealed themselves to Emma. With the Testament stolen by Bravo, Emma realises the Fallen army will awaken fully. And come to claim what is theirs.

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
TRANSLATED INTO TWENTY LANGUAGES

Even though I write fiction, it’s been my goal from the beginning to introduce readers to different civilizations, different histories, especially the histories of secret societies that appear in my Testament series. I’ve always wanted them to come away from my books learning or understanding something new – especially about themselves. ERIC VAN LUSTBADER

Eric Van Lustbader is the author of twenty-five international bestsellers, including the three most recent Jason Bourne novels. His books have been translated into over twenty languages.

ericvanlustbader.com
@EVanLustbader

‘Action, suspense, and politics blended to perfection by a master.’ LEE CHILD
The dark days of the war are over, but the family secrets it held are only just dawning.

‘This rich and engrossing novel follows them through the testing years of the coming war, including a movingly drawn forbidden love affair.’

SUNDAY MIRROR

‘A great big satisfying saga full of passionate love, ghastly betrayal and, as Britain tips inexorably into conflict, thrilling drama.’

DAILY MAIL

Summer of Love
Caro Fraser

A standalone sequel to The Summer House Party set in 1960s London and Kent.

In the hot summer of 1949, a group of family and friends gather at Harry Denholm’s country house in Kent. Meg and Dan Ranscombe, emerging from a scandal of their own making; Dan’s godmother, Sonia; and her two young girls, Laura and Avril, only one of whom is Sonia’s biological daughter. Amongst the heat, memories, and infatuations, a secret is revealed to Meg’s son, Max, and soon a terrible tragedy unfolds that will have consequences for them all.

Afterwards, Avril, Laura and Max must come of age in a society still reeling from the war, haunted by the choices of that fateful summer. Cold, entitled Avril will go to any lengths to take what is hers. Beautiful, naïve Laura finds refuge and love in the London jazz clubs, but Max, with wealth and unrequited love, has the capacity to undo it all.
Smile of the Wolf

Tim Leach

A new novel from a prize-nominated rising star set in the merciless landscape of eleventh-century Iceland.

Eleventh-century Iceland. One night in the darkness of winter, two friends set out on an adventure but end up killing a man.

Kjaran, a travelling poet who trades songs for food and shelter, and Gunnar, a feared warrior, must make a choice: conceal the deed or confess to the crime and pay the blood price to the family. For the right reasons, they make the wrong choice.

Their fateful decision leads to a brutal feud: one man is outlawed, free to be killed by anyone without consequence; the other remorselessly hunted by the dead man’s kin.

Set in a world of ice and snow, it is an epic story of exile and revenge, of duels and betrayals, and two friends struggling to survive in a desolate landscape, where honour is the only code that men abide by.

The inspiration for Smile of the Wolf came from a footnote in the thirteenth-century Icelandic saga, Laxdæla Saga, where it noted that Icelandic ghosts were physical, tangible, and capable of killing the living. This led to the kind of ‘What if?’ idea that often kicks off a book: what if someone were pretending to be one of these ghosts? The ghost in my novel is a minor aside in Laxdæla Saga, and some of the characters – such as Olaf the Peacock – are actual historical figures. All of the places mentioned have a historical basis.

The work as a whole was very much inspired by the strange and fascinating culture and society presented by the Icelandic Sagas, in particular the cyclical nature of blood feuds, the interesting and dynamic role women played in these feuds, the traps of honour that men found themselves in as a result.

TIM LEACH
Meet
Inspector Betty Church

Thirty-eight-year-old Betty Church is a female police inspector in 1939, a rarity akin to unicorns or pots of gold at the end of rainbows. A self-professed curvaceous peg in a square hole, this tall, blonde bombshell has devoted her life to solving crimes under the tutelage of her redoubtable godmother, March Middleton – one-time assistant to the famous personal detective Sidney Grice.

Raised in Sackwater, a dead-end seaside town in Suffolk, Betty escaped as soon as she could and joined the Met in London. Resented by her fellow officers and overlooked by her superiors, Betty struggled at first but was finally promoted to sergeant. In 1939, just as her career seemed to be on the turn, Betty lost her left hand in a terrible accident. Under the threat of forced retirement, her godmother secured Betty a position back in Sackwater – a bitter pill to swallow, sweetened only by her promotion to inspector.

As the clouds of war descend over Europe, it is clear that Sackwater Central Police Station has become a dumping ground for unwanted men. A lone female on a depleted force, stuck in a town it seems time forgot, Betty feels her promotion is a double-edged sword. But she will soon find that Sackwater is anything but sleepy when it comes to murder...

Betty Church and the Suffolk Vampire
M.R.C. Kasasian

September 1939: A new day dawns in Sackwater, not that this sleepy seaside town is taking much notice.

Inspector Betty Church – one of the few female officers on the force – has arrived from London to fill a vacancy at Sackwater police station. But Betty isn’t new here. This is the place she grew up. The place she thought she’d left behind for good.

Time ticks slowly in this dead-end seaside town, and crime is of a decidedly lighter shade. Having solved the case of the missing buttons, Betty’s called to the train station to investigate a stolen bench. But though there’s no bench, there is a body. A smartly dressed man, stone-cold dead, with two distinctive puncture wounds in his throat.

While the locals gossip about the Suffolk Vampire, Betty Church steels herself to hunt a dangerous killer.
The Girl in the Pink Raincoat

Alrene Hughes

A wartime saga set in Manchester, following the lives and loves of workers in Rosenberg’s raincoat factory.

With whispers of war across Europe, many are uncertain of what the future will bring. For Gracie Earnshaw, who works in German-Jewish owned Rosenberg’s raincoat factory, life is turned upside down when she meets the boss’s charismatic nephew, Jacob.

Through Jacob, with his ambitions to be a writer, Gracie glimpses another world: theatre, music and prejudice. But their hidden romance is tested when war finally erupts and tragedy unfolds.

Gracie struggles with heartbreak, danger and old family secrets. But, eventually, the love of her first sweetheart comes back to her in an unexpected way, giving her the strength to carry on and find happiness again.

I was never one of those writers who scribbled down stories as a child, but I came from a family who could spin a story out of anything. I didn’t write creatively until my mid-thirties when I joined a writing class and I was hooked. My first short story was about a Belfast teenager on her first day in Manchester which was published in an anthology about the city. Over the years I wrote short stories and poetry, but my dream was to write a novel. I found my story when I remembered an old scrapbook from the 1940s belonging to my mother when she and her sisters sang as The Golden Sisters, entertaining troops and civilians to raise morale. The period continued to fascinate me and now I’ve written a new World War Two novel set in Manchester, _The Girl in the Pink Raincoat_.

Alrene Hughes
Ball Lightning
Cixin Liu

A new standalone science fiction novel from Cixin Liu, the bestselling and award-winning author of The Three-Body Problem.

When Chen’s parents are incinerated before his eyes by a blast of ball lightning, he devotes his life to cracking the secret of mysterious natural phenomenon. His search takes him to stormy mountaintops, an experimental military weapons lab, and an old Soviet science station.

The more he learns, the more he comes to realize that ball lightning is just the tip of an entirely new frontier in particle physics. Although Chen’s quest provides a purpose for his lonely life, his reasons for chasing his elusive quarry come into conflict with soldiers and scientists who have motives of their own: a beautiful army major with an obsession with dangerous weaponry, and a physicist who has no place for ethical considerations in his single-minded pursuit of knowledge.
Ruth Mancini is a criminal defence lawyer, author and freelance writer. She lives in Oxfordshire with her husband and two children.

@RuthMancini

In the Blood
Ruth Mancini

From an exciting new voice in British crime fiction, a lawyer takes on the case of a young mother accused of poisoning her own child.

In southeast London, a young mother has been accused of the unthinkable: poisoning her own child. Then, as he recovers in hospital, someone tampers with his IV line and leaves him to bleed to death.

The mother, Ellie, denies all charges and criminal defence lawyer Sarah Kellerman takes on the case. But even as Sarah begins to believe her client, something about her story doesn’t add up. And if Ellie didn’t harm her child, then who did?

Balancing the case with raising her disabled five-year-old son, Sarah becomes more and more involved, overstepping professional boundaries in an attempt to uncover the truth. The hospital refuses to give answers and a key witness disappears, but it’s only when her own son becomes unwell that Sarah realizes she’s been drawn into a dangerous and deadly game.

In the Blood was inspired in part by a real-life case. I was waiting in court one morning when a young woman was brought up from the cells. The charge was murder, the victim her newborn child. I’ve dealt with many cases over the years involving maternal child neglect or physical abuse, but the facts of this one were unusual and it really stayed with me. The woman was so young and looked so completely lost, yet her expression was – at the same time – closed-off and impenetrable. All I could think was, ‘What terrible thing has happened in her past?’ – and (the defence lawyer in me) ‘What if there’s more to this than meets the eye?’

As is usual, the case was sent straight to the Crown Court and – as this wasn’t my client or my usual court – that’s where my brief involvement was to end. But the spark that ignites a story had been lit.

RUTH MANCINI

‘Full of unexpected twists and turns that keep you guessing. I couldn’t put it down.’ Jessica Jarlvi
One of the great pleasures of writing about a brother and sister and their powerful imaginations across this series is that the process has deepened our own sibling relationship. Unfortunately, neither one of us can alter reality with our art or move in and out of paintings yet, but our wings are growing in nicely and our time jumping has improved immensely.

JOHN AND CAROLE BARROWMAN

John Barrowman has worked in TV, musical theatre and film, and stars as Captain Jack Harkness in Torchwood and Doctor Who. His sister, Carole, is an English professor.

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Inquisitor

John and Carole Barrowman

A magical fantasy thriller set in a world where art and music comes to life, from John Barrowman – star of SF favourites Arrow and Doctor Who – and his sister.

Rémy Dupree and his friends Matt and Em Calder are battling to save the world as we know it. All have superpowers – Rémy can alter reality with music and Matt and Em can bring art to life – but will their powers be enough?

With the world loosening at the seams, Rémy discovers that only he can halt the rise of the darkness and save humanity.

But is Rémy up to the challenge?
THRILLER

Emma Dibdin grew up in Oxford, and now lives in New York. She is a writer and journalist whose work has appeared in Esquire, Marie Claire, Harper’s Bazaar and Cosmopolitan. Her first novel, The Room by the Lake, is also published by Head of Zeus. 

@emmdib

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Fiction / Thriller
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I decided to write a thriller about the dark side of Hollywood, and specifically how powerful men in that industry get away with abuse. I’ve been working as an entertainment journalist for eight years, and in that time I’ve heard a lot of whispered stories – some of them just rumours, some of them more than that. Many of those stories have been revealed over the last few months, beginning with the Harvey Weinstein exposé in autumn.

My protagonist is a young and very ambitious journalist who’s assigned to interview an actor she has always idolized. She is smart and driven, but also naïve. As a reporter, you should be objective about your subject, but as a fan you don’t want to believe any ill of your favourite celebrity. There’s a kind of one-sided intimacy that develops when you watch someone on screen over and over again. You feel like you know them. You feel loyal to them. Through His Eyes is about abuse in Hollywood, but it’s also about celebrity hero worship, and how the one feeds the other...

EMMA DIBDIN

‘Intelligently written, shocking and sinister.’

BOOKISH JOTTINGS

© Martin Breeden

Through His Eyes
Emma Dibdin

Dark atmospheric thriller about a young female journalist drawn into the life of a troubled Hollywood actor.

Jessica Harris has just received a career-making assignment. She’s going to interview Clark Conrad – A-list Hollywood heart-throb and Jessica’s secret teenage crush. Clark’s going through a messy divorce, and wants to rebrand himself in the public eye.

But halfway through her interview, Clark’s teenage daughter is found floating face down in his infinity pool. And then his young girlfriend accuses him of abuse.

As Clark’s world darkens, Jessica is drawn to help him. This is the man she’s always dreamed of being close to. And now he needs her. He can’t be the monster they say he is... can he?
A NEW HISTORICAL THRILLER FROM
THE AUTHOR OF THE MASTER OF WAR SERIES

‘I’m totally bedazzled. I’d never thought that another writer could rival Bernard Cornwell when it came to dramatizing battles, but David is giving him a real run for his money. The battle scenes are so realistic it is almost like time-traveling, though definitely not for the faint of heart. And the level of suspense is ratcheted up to a truly brutal level, for it is impossible for a reader to predict what will be coming next.’

SHARON PENMAN

David Gilman enjoyed many careers, including firefighter, paratrooper and photographer, before turning to writing full-time. He is an award-winning author and screenwriter and was shortlisted for the Wilbur Smith Writing Prize.

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Night Flight to Paris
David Gilman

From a critically acclaimed author comes a WWII standalone novel, following an SOE agent sent into Nazi-occupied France to track down and extract a missing radio operator.

February, 1943.

Englishman and ex-teacher Harry Mitchell is recruited by the SOE for a dangerous mission in occupied Paris: locate and extract a compromised wireless operator.

But Mitchell has his own motive for taking the mission. The wife and daughter he left behind in Paris have fallen into the hands of the Gestapo.

As he searches for his family, Mitchell must navigate the treacheries and betrayals of war. Courage will only take him so far. Occupied Paris is a nest of vipers... and the vipers are expecting him.
Women’s contributions to science are often minimised or erased as history unfolds. The Psychology of Time Travel partly stemmed from me wondering whether female scientists would have been harder to ignore if time travel rather than space exploration had been achieved in the Sixties – the scientists could keep time travelling down the decades to remind you they existed.

As I’m a psychologist by training, I was particularly drawn to the question of what emotional adjustments time travel would demand. How do you cope with revisiting the past when it means seeing all the people you’ve lost? If the years ahead contain bad news, what do you do in the meantime? And how might this knowledge affect the stories that you leave behind?

I decided to write about a time-travelling woman, Bee, and her granddaughter, Ruby. My mystery plot enabled me to explore all my emotional questions and more, as Ruby faces the possibility that her grandmother’s life is in danger.

Kate Mascarenhas is a half-Irish, half-Seychellois midlander. She has worked as a copywriter, an assistant psychologist, and a bookbinder. She lives with her husband in a small terraced house which she is slowly filling with Sindy dolls. This is her first novel.

The Psychology of Time Travel
Kate Mascarenhas

A time-travel murder mystery from a brilliantly original new voice.

1967: Four female scientists invent a time-travel machine. They are on the cusp of fame: the pioneers who opened the world to new possibilities. But then one of them suffers a breakdown and puts the whole project in peril...

2017: Ruby knows her beloved Granny Bee was a pioneer, but they never talk about the past. Though time travel is now big business, Bee has never been part of it. Then they receive a message from the future – a newspaper clipping reporting the mysterious death of an elderly lady...

2018: When Odette discovered the body she went into shock. Blood everywhere, bullet wounds, flesh. But when the inquest fails to answer any of her questions, Odette is frustrated. Who is this dead woman that haunts her dreams? And why is everyone determined to cover up her murder?
‘Fast, funny and tough, David Gordon’s *The Bouncer* will toss you over his shoulder like King Kong and carry you away.’
MAX ALLAN COLLINS, AUTHOR OF *ROAD TO PERDITION*

‘*The Bouncer* is a tour-de-force, ranging from underworld crime to a unique caper and a terrorist plot. David Gordon brings an outstanding new voice to the contemporary crime novel.’
ROBERT CRAIS, AUTHOR OF *WANTED*

The Bouncer
David Gordon

In a diabolically imaginative new thriller, nothing and no one is as expected from a vial of yellow fragrance to a gangster who moonlights in women’s clothes.

Joe Brody is just your average Dostoevsky-reading, Harvard-expelled strip club bouncer who has a highly classified military history and a best friend from Catholic school who happens to be head mafioso Gio Caprisi.

FBI agent Donna Zamora, the best shot in her class at Quantico, is a single mother stuck at a desk manning the hotline. Their storylines intersect over a tip from a cokehead that leads to a crackdown on Gio’s strip joint in Queens and Joe’s arrest.

Outside the jailhouse, the Fed and the bouncer lock eyes, as Gordon launches them both headlong into a non-stop plot that goes from back-road gun show intervention to high-stakes perfume heist, and manages to touch everyone from the CIA to the Flushing Triads. Beneath it all lurks a sinister criminal mastermind whose manipulations could cause chaos on a massively violent scale.

David Gordon holds an MA in English and Comparative Literature and an MFA in Writing from Columbia University. His work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

davidgordonx.blogspot.co.uk
@davidgordonx
The Witches of St Petersburg
Imogen Edwards-Jones

Brimming with black magic, sex and intrigue, a sumptuous historical novel set in nineteenth-century Russia.

Two Montenegrin princesses, Militza and Stana, are married into the Russian aristocracy of the last Tsar by their father. Initially shunned by society and, in Stana’s case, married to a man she detests, life isn’t easy.

Fascinated by the occult, the sisters soon become close to the Tsarina Alexandra who is willing to try anything to precipitate the birth of the son and heir the country longs for. If she puts her faith in them, Militza and Stana promise they can help the Tsarina produce a boy.

The girls hold seances, experiment with a variety of rituals and bring various men to the Tsarina who they feel have spiritual power. Their closeness to the Empress and power in court is undisputed: until, that is, Grigori Rasputin arrives. Militza and Stana, along with most of female Russian society, are intoxicated, but by bringing Rasputin into their lives, have they taken a fatal step too far?

My novel is a true story about the Princesses of Montenegro who married into the Russian court at the end of the 1800s. They were sometimes known as the Black Princesses because of their black eyes, black hair and their obsession with black magic; they befriended the Tsarina to the exclusion of all others and they were responsible for bringing Rasputin into the Russian Court.

I heard this story one night in Moscow about fifteen years ago and became obsessed with it myself. I have travelled back and forth for ten years researching the story and visiting as many palaces and places as I could, including Znamenka on the Gulf of Finland where they lived and the palace on the Moika in St Petersburg, where Rasputin was murdered.

It is a tale of black magic and trickery, love and lust and the quest for power, no matter what. Is it possible to open Pandora’s box, dance with the Devil and get away with it? Can you consort with the dead and leave untouched?

Imogen Edwards-Jones
Gallows Court
Martin Edwards

First in a new series of Golden Age murder mysteries from the editor of the British Library crime classics series.

London, 1930

A headless corpse; an apparent suicide in a locked room; a man burned alive during an illusionist’s show in front of thousands of people. Scotland Yard is baffled by the sequence of ghastly murders unfolding across the city and at the centre of it all is mysterious heiress Rachel Savernake. Daughter of a grand judge, Rachel is as glamorous as she is elusive.

Jacob Flint, a tenacious young journalist eager to cover the gruesome crimes, is drawn into Rachel’s glittering world of wealth and power. But as the body count continues to rise, Jacob is convinced Rachel is harbouring a dark secret and he soon becomes part of a dangerous game that could leave him dancing at the end of the hangman’s rope if he pursues the truth.

I wrote Gallows Court because I became excited by an idea for a character. I called her Rachel Savernake, and she seemed mysterious even to me. My other crime novels have been driven by a setting, or an intriguing or ingenious motive. This time, even before writing a word, I knew Gallows Court would be very different.

For a start, it would be set in 1930. While researching my non-fiction book, The Golden Age of Murder, I’d become fascinated by the Thirties. I love the detective novels of that era – but I’d no desire to write a pastiche whodunnit. I wanted to write a novel about a woman who was dangerous to know.

Telling her story felt like a fresh beginning for me as an author, so I decided to write in a fresh way. Usually, I know how a book will end before I start on chapter one. This time there was no outline, nothing. I’d no idea what was going to happen. All I knew was this: Rachel has arrived in London out of the blue, she is as ruthless as she is rich, and she involves herself in a series of bizarre murders. But why? I was desperate to find out...

MARTIN EDWARDS
My new trilogy follows Balthazar Kovacs, a 36-year-old Gypsy cop living and working in Budapest. Kovacs is going to take you deep into the hidden city to an underworld visitors never get to see: the gritty back-alleys of District VIII; the endemic corruption that reaches deep into the government as officials and their business allies plunder state coffers at will; a rule of law bent to serve the interests of the rich, well-connected and powerful; the rising power of international organized crime gangs who use the Hungarian capital as a springboard for their European operations and the ghosts of Communism and Nazism that still haunt Hungary.

Kovacs will also take you on a gripping journey into the heart of the new Europe – a continent that on the surface seems familiar but is still a new and unknown land in transition. The trilogy will not be a classic police procedural but will see Kovacs confront the large and dark forces that compete for power and influence in Hungary and its neighbours. With each episode it will probe deeper into Kovacs’s own past, his struggle to build his relationship with his son, the compromises that he makes, especially with his brother Gaspar, and the secrets at the heart of his own family.

ADAM LEBOR

Adam LeBor lives in Budapest and writes for The Economist, Newsweek, New York Times, The Times and other publications. He is the author of a number of non-fiction books, including the Orwell Prize shortlisted Hitler’s Secret Bankers.

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"LeBor reveals that crime fiction still has exciting new avenues to explore."
VAL MCDERMID

Kossuth Square
Adam LeBor

The death of a local politician reveals the dangerous fractures running through Budapest in Adam LeBor’s latest dark police procedural.

In Kossuth square, Lajos Kolompar, a local politician is found dead, face down in a pond in front of Parliament. With his blood alcohol nudging fatal levels, he’s believed to have fallen and drowned.

Gypsy cop Balthazar Kovacs of the Budapest murder squad reads of Kolompar’s death in the news. It stays in the back of his mind until his old girlfriend, journalist Eniko Szalay, receives a tip-off from the coroner’s office that Kolompar’s autopsy results were tampered with.

And his body accidentally cremated.

Soon, Kovacs is drawn into the Budapest underworld of people smuggling, blackmail and violent political tensions – always caught between the two worlds of the Gypsy and the non-Gypsy, of the law and family loyalty.
Zosia Wand is an author and playwright. She was born in London and lives in Cumbria with her family. She is passionate about good coffee, cake and her adopted landscape on the edge of the Lake District. Her first novel, Trust Me, was published by Head of Zeus in 2017.

@zosiawand

The Accusation
Zosia Wand

Who would you choose if you had to – your daughter or your husband?

Eve lives in the beautiful Cumbrian town of Tarnside with her husband Neil. After years of trying, and failing, to become parents, they are in the final stages of adopting four-year-old Milly. Though she already feels like their daughter, they just have to get through the ‘settling in’ period: three months of living as a family before they can make it official.

But then Eve’s mother, Joan, comes to stay. Joan has never liked her son-in-law. He isn’t right for Eve; too controlling, too opinionated. She knows Eve has always wanted a family, but is Neil the best man to build one with?

Then Joan uncovers something that could smash Eve’s family to pieces...

My husband and I have two adopted daughters and I wanted to write about the adoption process as I experienced it: riddled with fears, trials and triumphs. The difficulty with adoption is the scrutiny it puts on you and your loved ones, forcing anything that’s dark up into the light. I don’t know how we would have coped without our support network around us.

Eve and Neil are still new to Tarnside – a small market town, where everyone knows everyone – when she and Neil adopt Milly. The Accusation is set during the critical ‘settling in’ stage of the adoption process, when Milly has been placed with her new family, but is not yet officially their child. The stakes are high: a new child, no extended family support locally, a relatively new community.

When an accusation is made that threatens the future of their family unit, who will the authorities – and their neighbours – believe?

ZOSIA WAND

‘Intriguing and unsettling.’
JANE LYTHELL
A GOD WAKES, THE WORLD ENDS

I. THE GLASS BREAKS
II. THE SWORD FALLS
III. THE SEA RISES

A NEW TRILOGY FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE LONG WAR

‘Sieges, catapults, battles, longswords, beheadings a-plenty, profanity and rather bloody mayhem. Brilliant.’ SFFWorld

‘High fantasy, military exploits, and touches of an almost Lovecraftian mythos.’ Publishers Weekly

‘Epic fantasy at its scary, fun, sarcastic, shock-laden best.’ The Bookbag


@Smith23AJ

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The Glass Breaks
A.J. Smith

An epic feat of world-building, The Glass Breaks is the first volume in a new trilogy from one of British fantasy’s most innovative voices.

Seventeen-year-old Duncan Greenfire is alive. Three hours ago, he was chained to the rocks and submerged as the incoming tide washed over his head. Now the waters are receding and Duncan’s continued survival has completed his initiation as a Sea Wolf.

It is the 167th year of the Dark Age. The Sea Wolves and their Eastron kin can break the glass and step into the void, slipping from the real world and reappearing wherever they wish. Wielding their power, they conquered the native Pure Ones and established their own Kingdom.

The Sea Wolves glorify in piracy and slaughter. Their rule is absolute, but young Duncan Greenfire and duellist Adeline Brand will discover a conspiracy to end their dominion, a conspiracy to shatter the glass that separates the worlds of Form and Void and unleash a primeval chaos across the world.
Forget My Name
J.S. Monroe

She came home to find strangers living in her house. But who is she? And who is telling the truth? The new psychological thriller from the 100,000 copy selling author of Find Me.

She arrived into Heathrow after a difficult week at work. Her bag had been stolen. Her whole life was in there – passport, wallet, house key. When she tried to report the theft, she couldn’t remember her own name. All she knew was her own address.

Now she is at the door of Tony and Laura, a young couple living in Wiltshire. She says she lives in their home. They say they have never met her before.

One of them is lying. But which one?

Forget My Name is about the arrival in the village of a beautiful mystery woman with no memory. It is based on real-life stories where people turn up in communities with no idea who they are.

The village call the woman ‘Jemma’ and I tell the story from her point of view as well as from the points of view of a number of other characters: the couple whose house she turns up at; the GP who believes she is a psychotic killer with amnesia of her crimes; the local journalist who believes she is the long-lost daughter of a friend.

Ultimately, Forget My Name is a twisting story about memory, identity, dark pasts that can never be escaped and people who are not what they seem. I have tried to mirror the stresses of modern life, including our growing fear of dementia, and then distort them beyond all recognition, leaving us looking at our own lives, and the role memory plays in defining who we are.

J.S. MONROE

J.S. Monroe read English at Cambridge, worked as a freelance journalist in London and was a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4. Monroe was also a foreign correspondent in Delhi for the Daily Telegraph and was on its staff in London as Weekend editor.

@JSThrillers

© Hilary Stock

‘The most ingenious thriller you will read this year. I couldn’t put it down.’ M.J. ARIDGE
Kitty
Amanda Prowse

Amanda Prowse, queen of heartbreaking, uplifting women’s fiction, asks what happens if you marry the wrong man. Can you find love in your twilight years, after living a lie?

Kitty Montrose lives an idyllic life in the Scottish Highlands. An adored only child, she delights in the closeness she shares with her horse-riding mother and her gentle father.

But her perfect world is shattered when her mother is diagnosed with clinical depression. The illness lurks in their home like a dark monster. Kitty finds solace and escape in the arms – and the bed – of her best friend Angus.

Soon they are married, with a baby on the way. But what happens when Angus turns cold and unfeeling? Will Kitty regret staying with him for the sake of their child? And, years later, can Kitty’s old flame, Theo Montgomery, help her to discover her perfect life? Or is it too late for them both?

Three-and-a-Half Heartbeats
Amanda Prowse

A bittersweet story of love, loss and hope.

Grace and Tom Penderford had a strong marriage, a comfortable home in the English countryside and a healthy baby girl, Chloe. They were happy. They were normal.

But soon after Chloe turns three, tragedy strikes when a disease called Sepsis takes her life. Now, with their world crumbling, Grace and Tom must mend each others broken hearts... and try to save their marriage if they can.
After the Peace
Fay Weldon

From the witty and mischievous mind of Fay Weldon comes this delectable account of family life as we live it now.

This is the story of the Honourable Guinevere Dilberne, daughter of Arnold, 11th Earl of Dilberne, Sandra Sinclair and Rita Boniface. Yes, that’s right. Three parents. Or, in fact, four, if you wish to count Sandra’s husband Clive. Though he played little part in it.

It all begins with a loving couple, their interfering neighbour, a test tube and a turkey baster. These days, anything can happen...

‘Wise and witty... filled with sharp observations.’
The Times
Graham Masterton trained as a newspaper reporter before beginning his career as an author. Graham’s credits as a writer include the bestselling horror novel *The Manitou* and the *Katie Maguire* crime series, which became a top-ten bestseller in 2012.

*Grahammasterton.co.uk  @GrahamMasterton*

The heroine and hero of *Ghost Virus* are two police detectives in Tooting, London – DS Jamila Patel and DC Jerry Pardoe. They start by investigating what appears to be an honour killing, but gradually they discover that they are confronting a threat that is far stranger and far more destructive. The death toll begins to mount rapidly – and horrendously.

In *Ghost Virus*, there is one lesson to be learned: be very wary of what clothes you wear. Before you know it, the person who once owned those clothes could be wearing you.

**GRAHAM MASTERTON**

It is more than three years since I last wrote a horror novel. Writing about a criminal investigation into the supernatural is very different from writing about an earthly crime, but just as challenging because you must still obey the laws of forensics and the laws of whatever mythology is involved.

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**GRAHAM MASTERTON**

A virus spreads through London, forcing those infected to commit horrific crimes. The first new horror novel from Graham Masterton in over three years.

Samira had been staring into her mirror all morning before she picked up the small bottle of sulphuric acid and poured it over her forehead. She was a young woman with her whole life ahead of her. What could have brought her to this?

DC Jerry Pardoe and DS Jamila Patel of Tooting Police suspect it’s suicide. But then a random outbreak of horrific crimes in London points to something more sinister. A deadly virus is spreading: something is infecting ordinary Londoners with an insatiable lust to murder. All of the killers were wearing second-hand clothes. Could these garments be possessed by some supernatural force?

The death count is multiplying rapidly. Now Jerry and Jamila must defeat the ghost virus, before they are all infected...
A Tremarnock Secret

Emma Burstall

The fourth novel in Emma Burstall’s heartwarming series, set in the Cornish seaside village of Tremarnock.

Esme Posorsky is an enigma. For as long as people can remember, she has been part of community life in the quaint Cornish fishing village of Tremarnock, but does anyone really know her? She is usually to be found working in her pottery studio or at home with her beloved cat, Rasputin. But when an old school friend turns up with a secret from the past, nothing will ever be the same again.

Meanwhile teenager, Rosie, is excited to find a bottle washed up on Tremarnock beach with a message from a former German prisoner of war. While the rest of the village is up in arms about a new housing development, she sets out to find him. Little does she know, however, that her discovery will unleash a shocking chain of events that threatens to blow her family apart.

Tremarnock may look like a cozy backwater, but some of its residents are about to come face-to-face with tough decisions and cold reality...

‘The literary equivalent of strawberries and cream and a gin and tonic on a hot summer’s day, Tremarnock Summer is a delicious, delightful and decadent tale fans of Fern Britton and Veronica Henry are going to love... Difficult to put down, hard to resist and an absolute joy from beginning to end, Tremarnock Summer is an outstanding romp you will not want to miss!’

Bookish Jottings
Glowing Reader Reviews for
The Lost Sisters

‘The twists and turns of the story kept my attention... I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys historical fiction.’ Caroline Hughes

‘Just one word sums this book up: BRILLIANT! One of those books you can’t put down.’ Linda Hallam

‘A compulsive, shocking and compelling tale guaranteed to delight fans of Maggie Hope and Rosie Goodwin.’ Wendy Haines

‘A great family saga that has it all; love, murder and mystery.’ Sue Ward

‘A powerful read... has everything in it, mystery, crime, secrets and lies.’

Lindsey lives in Shropshire with her husband and dog. She loves to read and has recently discovered photography. Lindsey is the daughter of million copy bestselling author Meg Hutchinson. @LHutchAuthor

The Lost Sisters
Lindsey Hutchinson

A heart-wrenching saga of two girls, forced to survive without a mother’s love. Bestselling Lindsey Hutchinson returns to her beloved Black Country.

Orpha Buchanan and Peg Meriweather had a very different start in life. Orpha surrounded by wealth and riches, Peg dumped on a doorstep as a baby with nothing to her name. But one thing they had in common was a mother who despised them and wished them gone.

Hortense Buchanan wasn’t made to be a mother. Bullied herself when she was a child, she continues the tradition with her own children. When her daughter, Orpha, runs away from home, Hortense celebrates, never once worrying for her safety.

Hortense Buchanan wasn’t made to be a mother. Bullied herself when she was a child, she continues the tradition with her own children. When her daughter, Orpha, runs away from home, Hortense celebrates, never once worrying for her safety.

Circumstances bring Orpha and Peg together, and soon they’re as close as family, making their way in the bustle of a booming Birmingham and the smoke-filled Black Country. But before long, Hortense realises that her daughter stands in the way of the one thing she really cares about, and the bitter legacy of the Buchanans looks set to destroy them all...
Fiona Walker is the bestselling author of sixteen novels. She lives in Warwickshire with her partner and two children plus an assortment of horses and dogs.

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@fionawalkeruk

The Country Lovers
Fiona Walker

Love affairs, village rivalries, horses, jealousy and secrets – fans of Fiona Walker’s bestselling Hugo and Tash novels will relish this return to her classic territory with a whole new cast of Cotswold characters.

Few women in Compton Magna could fail to notice the arrival of Luca O’Brien. The village stud’s new manager, known internationally as the Horse Maker, brims softly-spoken sex appeal from his wild blond curls to his leather boot soles.

Gossipy riding quartet The Saddle Bags are all smitten; young village mum Carly Turner wants to learn his healing skills; bored horse-wife Monique Austen longs to take him straight to bed.

Only his old friend Ronnie Percy sees how much Luca’s changed from the rising star she met a decade ago, the golden armour masking deep secrets.

But as Ronnie soon discovers, Luca’s slow smile and sympathetic hands belie a volcanic core. And when his past catches up with him, the heat is on to save the stud.

‘Fans of the sex-and-horses rural romp will feel right at home with this pleasing doorstop of a novel... Walker is an engaging writer with a sharp ear for dialogue and I raced through this beautifully plotted narrative.’

Daily Mail on The Country Set

‘With feisty characters, sexy menfolk, long-buried secrets and a healthy dollop of sauce, this book is a total riot from start to end.’

Heat on The Country Set
Andreas Pflüger is a German screenwriter and author. He has written a number of episodes of the popular German police procedural Tatort. His first thriller, In The Dark, also features Jenny Aaron and is published by Head of Zeus.

A Shadow Falls
Andreas Pflüger

Blind detective Jenny Aaron hunts a terrifying serial killer in this edge-of-the-seat thriller. But does she risk falling into his trap?

Blind Special Ops agent Jenny Aaron has just survived the worst thirty-six hours of her life. She has a standing offer to re-join the Department, the secret elite unit she used to belong to before she lost her sight. But first she must rest – and think.

Then Aaron receives a message that changes everything. The man she hates most in the world has left her a fortune. This is the man who held her captive in his basement and toyed with her life. The man who tried to not only kill her, but to destroy her and those she loves.

The money he has left Aaron is life-changing, but why is it in her hands?
Anthony J. Quinn is an Irish author and journalist. He was born in County Tyrone and studied English at Queen’s University, Belfast. His first novel, Disappeared, was a Daily Mail crime novel of the year.

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@ajquinn

The Listeners
Anthony J. Quinn

From the author of the Celcius Daly novels, a new crime series set in the brooding landscape of the Scottish Borders.

Detective Carla Herron is leading the investigation into the savage murder of a respected psychotherapist whose decapitated head has been found in a forest clearing.

The crime scene is devoid of any leads but a patient at the nearby Deepwell psychiatric hospital has declared responsibility for the deed in a vividly detailed confession – even though his claim is demonstrably impossible.

Dedicated and full of aspiration, Carla throws herself into the investigation. She discovers that several of the other patients on the ward have made similar confessions in the past year. Faced with secrecy, professional betrayals and cover-ups, she is soon stripped of any illusions about her capabilities. Ignoring the advice of her superiors, Herron delves into the hidden secrets of the hospital, embarking on a chilling trail through the bleak Scottish Borders that winds perilously between hallucination, violent fantasy, all towards a final, deadly twist.

Stationed amid the heather and pine-forested hills of the Borders, Detective Carla Herron is trying to find her place in the world, in her career, and in her personal life. When a patient at a local psychiatric hospital makes a false confession to murder and describes in hypnotic detail his recurring nightmare, a grisly crime scene in the middle of a nameless forest, she becomes obsessed with finding its exact location.

In the course of the novel, this mental landscape becomes a refuge for Herron, a hiding place from the pressures of her personal life, even though it links her to the darkest place imaginable, the mind of a man who fantasizes about murder. Herron’s obsession is finally rewarded when she discovers a perfect fit for the patient’s nightmare in the landscape of the Southern uplands.

However, it is a trick landscape, assembled by a calculating murderer, which carries Herron far beyond her own limits as a detective and a human being, into a deepening torrent of nightmares and dangerous fantasies.

ANTHONY J. QUINN

‘Quinn is a superb writer and probably one of the best crime novelists around at the moment.’

INDEPENDENT
Ken Bruen is one of the most prominent Irish crime writers of the last two decades. Born in Galway, he spent twenty-five years travelling the world before he began writing in the mid 1990s.

‘No one writes like Ken Bruen... Brilliantly and darkly told, a sweet mother’s milk that is terminally poisonous but nearly irresistible after one taste. It does not take an especially long time to read, but should be lingered over. Once you are finished, you will want to visit or revisit its predecessors, as the case may be, in order to prepare yourself for the next instalment. But be ready to have your skull fractured and your heart broken.’

BOOKREPORTER

Ken Bruen is one of the most prominent Irish crime writers of the last two decades. Born in Galway, he spent twenty-five years travelling the world before he began writing in the mid 1990s.

In the Galway Silence
Ken Bruen

A brand-new tale featuring profane antihero and disgraced former policeman Jack Taylor from the master of noir crime fiction.

After much tragedy and violence, Jack Taylor has at long last landed at contentment. Of course, he still knocks back too much Jameson and dabbles in uppers, but he has a new woman in his life, a freshly bought apartment, and little sign of trouble on the horizon.

But once again, trouble comes to him, this time in the form of a wealthy Frenchman who wants Jack to investigate the double-murder of his twin sons. Jack is meanwhile roped into looking after his girlfriend’s nine-year-old son, and is in for a shock with the appearance of a character from his past.

The plot is one big chess game and all of the pieces seem to be moving at the behest of one dangerously mysterious player: a vigilante called ‘Silence’, because he’s the last thing his victims will ever hear.
‘The two stars of my books are Sir Robert Carey and Sergeant Henry Dodd.

Sergeant Dodd is a tough dour Borderer with more brains than you’d expect and a dark past. He’s invented.

Sir Robert Carey is real – a swashbuckling, chivalrous dandy. He’s cousin to Queen Elizabeth I and related to almost everybody at Court. He’s good at war and investigations, a serious fashion-victim with a quick temper and an ingenious imagination. I have lifted him pretty much unchanged from the pages of his memoirs. As G.M. Fraser said, ‘If Sir Robert Carey hadn’t existed, it would have been necessary to invent him.’

P. F. CHISHOLM

‘Where history leaves lacunae, her imagination leaps gleefully in to fill the gap.’

DIANA GABALDON

SWORDS IN THE EAST
P.F. Chisholm

A new omnibus in the highly acclaimed Sir Robert Carey Mysteries, full of roguish courtiers, rival gangs, border raiders, treason, realpolitik and unbridled ambition.

1592. Courtier Sir Robert Carey and Carey’s surly, larcenous, and loyal henchman Henry Dodd, Land Sergeant of Gilsland, are back in Carlisle and the Debateable Lands.

As Carey struggles to solve the murder of a local minister, he battles with his deep adoration for Lady Elizabeth Widdrington, while despising her elderly, abusive husband – will the man never die?

Plunging readers straight into the raucous world of late-sixteenth century border reivers and unfettered Elizabethan intrigue, Swords in the East, the third chronicle of Sir Robert Carey’s adventures, collects the novels A Chorus of Innocents, A Clash of Spheres and a brand-new Sir Robert Carey mystery under one volume.

P.F. Chisholm started writing at the age of 7, studied under her Hungarian novelist grandmother at 12, and was first published at 18. Her first novel, A Shadow of Gulls, won the David Higham Award for Best First Novel.

patriciafinney.com
@patriciafinney

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DIANA GABALDON
Killer of Kings
Matthew Harffy


Beobrand has land, men and riches. He should be content. And yet he cannot find peace until his enemies are food for the ravens. But before Beobrand can embark on his bloodfeud, King Oswald orders him southward, to escort holy men bearing sacred relics.

When Penda of Mercia marches a warhost into the southern kingdoms, Beobrand and his men are thrown into the midst of the conflict. Beobrand soon finds himself fighting for his life and his honour.

In the chaos that grips the south, dark secrets are exposed, bringing into question much that Beobrand had believed true. Can he unearth the answers and exact the vengeance he craves? Or will the blood-price prove too high, even for a warrior of his battle-fame and skill?

— Praise for the series —

‘Murder, betrayal and vengeance fuel tribal warfare and personal combat. Beobrand is the warrior to follow.’
DAVID GILMAN

‘Historical fiction doesn’t get much better than this.’
ANGUS DONALD

‘A tale that rings like sword song in the reader’s mind. Harffy knows his genre inside out.’
GILES KRISTIAN

‘Battles, treachery, revenge and a healthy dose of Dark Age adventure.’
S.J.A. TURNEY

© Stephen Weatherly
Otto Penzler is the proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York City, founder of the Mysterious Press, and a two-time Edgar award-winner.

MysteriousBookshop.com

The Big Book of Christmas Mysteries
ed. Otto Penzler

Have a criminally good Christmas! Yuletide whodunits starring Sherlock Holmes, Brother Cadfael, Miss Marple, Poirot, Rumpole, Inspector Morse and many more.

Festive felonies, unscrupulous santas, deadly puddings, and misdemeanors under the mistletoe...

From Victorian detective stories to modern mysteries, police procedurals to pulp fiction, comic gems to cozy crime, there’s something for every festive mood in this must-read collection starring sixty of the world’s favourite detectives.

Featuring an all-star cast of authors including Isaac Asimov, Mary Higgins Clark, Arthur Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, Colin Dexter, Thomas Hardy, H.R.F Keating, Ngaio Marsh, John Mortimer, Ellis Peters, Sara Paretsky, Robert Louis Stevenson and – of course – Agatha Christie, this is the biggest and best Christmas crime anthology in print today.
Joyce Carol Oates is the author of over seventy books and the winner of a host of prizes including the National Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Oates is Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University.

Night-Gaunts
And Other Tales of Suspense
Joyce Carol Oates

Six feverishly unsettling works from one of our greatest literary imaginations.

A woman, naked except for her high-heeled shoes, seated in front of the window in an apartment she cannot afford. In this exquisitely tense narrative reimagining of Edward Hopper’s Eleven A.M., 1926, the reader enters the minds of both the woman and her married lover, each consumed by alternating thoughts of disgust and arousal, as he rushes, amorously, murderously, to her door.

In ‘The Long-Legged Girl,’ an ageing, jealous wife crafts an unusual game of Russian roulette involving a pair of Wedgwood teacups, a strong Bengal brew, and a lethal concoction of medicine. Who will drink from the wrong cup, the wife or the dance student she believes to be her husband’s latest conquest?

Revelling in the uncanny, this taut collection stands at the crossroads of sex, violence, and longing – and asks us to interrogate the intersection of these impulses within ourselves.

‘Even within the wild and tangled menagerie that comprises our literary landscape, Joyce Carol Oates is a startling creature, possessed of a speed and talent that hints at the uncanny... and provides further confirmation of a unique writer’s restless, preternatural brilliance.’

Guardian
Molly’s Will
Elske Rahill
The new novel from one of the most exciting voices in Irish literature.

A novel about four generations of women and the violent tensions and loving devotion, envy and self-sacrifice that family life embodies.

Molly is now in her nineties, and she helps her grand-daughters Cara and Freya bring up their young children with unstinting care. Hers has been a life of unselphying service, from her working class Dublin girlhood to her current status as the wealthy widow of a famous artist. But her own children, particularly her daughter Eileen, are her life’s great failure: unhappy, self-indulgent women who resent the younger generation’s apparent freedom from guilt and their unconventional family arrangements. This intricate web of female relationships comes under terrible strain when Molly, her health sapped by her constant efforts on behalf of others, decides to consult the family solicitor about changing her will. This is a novel of great tenderness in its depiction of the small pleasures of family life, and ruthless in its portrayal of the dangerous power of money.

Reviews for
In White Ink

‘I can not think of a short story writer who is more precise and grave in her laying out of that theme... In White Ink captures women and mothers caught inside their lives; Rahill’s art sets them free into ours.’
Kirsty Gunn, Guardian

‘These stark, brave and powerful stories could only have come from Elske Rahill, one of the most interesting writers to come out of Ireland in the past decade.’
Belinda McKeon

‘This is the real stuff, a collection of beautifully balanced short stories written in prose that is both visceral and exquisite in its emotional unrest and intimacy.’
Mike McCormack

‘Rahill has attempted to do something bravely original and, with that, has singled herself out as an intriguing and definitive voice of a new generation of Irish writers.’
Irish Independent

‘A delicate, brutally honest collection.’
Sunday Express

Elske Rahill grew up in Dublin and lives in Burgundy, France, with her partner and three children. She is the author of Between Dog and Wolf and the collection of short stories In White Ink, published by Head of Zeus in 2017.
‘I belonged to the sea as much as the land. My mother said I was one of the sea people and the seals were my cousins. And I believed her. They loved my grey-green eyes and I loved their slow cool appraisal of everything. Whenever I saw one I wanted to take my clothes off and follow. I imagined an inverted life where the wave was my sky, an underwater world of the underside of boats and islands and the mountains of the continental shelf.

Gales came and went, of course, because our home was a tiny island in the face of the Atlantic. Seas came to us from other continents. A fetch of a thousand miles is nothing to a storm. There were nights when it seemed the universe was conspiring to drown us all, with the air and rain falling on our house it was as though we lived inside a tin drum. Later when daylight came we would look to see if apple trees had come down, if there was seaweed in the branches, blisters of salt spume, if the ditches were littered with things from the water. The sea boiled over the rocks consuming and retiring, consuming and retiring, bright green and white and iron-grey, the surface, as far as the grey uncertain horizon, fretted, broken, chaotic.

Those were the days I loved.’

William Wall is the author of four novels, two volumes of short stories and three collections of poetry. His work has won many awards, including the Virginia Faulkner Award and the Raymond Carver Award. In 2016 he won the Drue Heinz Literature Prize.

Grace’s Day
William Wall

A stunning novel by the prize-winning Irish writer William Wall.

Grace and her mother and sisters live on an island off the west coast of Ireland. Their father is a successful writer of travel books that advocate a simpler way of life, though he is so seldom there that his family become the subjects of his social experiments, and his children’s freedom is indistinguishable from poverty. Grace and Jeannie take turns to look after their little sister Emily. Then one day – Grace’s day – Em falls from the island’s watchtower. But why and how Em found her way to that dangerous height remains a mystery, and Grace’s lifelong remorse and guilt force her to relive the moment of her sister’s death again and again.

This is a novel written with uncanny style and control, in a range of voices that mirror the growing wisdom of the characters about a world of adult self-indulgence and the consequences of careless decisions and dishonest compromises.

William Wall is an underrated Irish master whose work is reaching astonishing maturity.
Since the dawn of language, people have told stories – to offer a glimpse into another mind, another culture, another time, another life. At its best, the short story has been honed to be the perfect art form. Around the world, in languages as different as Arabic and Azeri, from countries as dissimilar as China and the Czech Republic, short stories offer windows onto countless worlds. Heartbreaking or haunting, terrifying or riotously funny, the 100 stories in this collection offer a sweeping panorama of the planet and its peoples. It includes the greatest masters of the short story, from Chekhov and Maupassant to Borges and Calvino, but what I have found most exhilarating about preparing this anthology has been discovering many other writers of dazzling brilliance whose stories rank among the finest ever penned.

Susan Sontag claimed, ‘Translation is the circulatory system of the world’s literatures.’ Without it, as George Steiner remarked, ‘We would be living in provinces bordering on silence.’ Found in Translation, I believe, offers the perfect way to travel the globe, and to travel in time, without leaving your armchair.

Frank Wynne

Frank Wynne has translated many authors including Michel Houellebecq, Boualem Sansal, Frédéric Beigbeder and the late Ivorian novelist Ahmadou Kourouma. He won the International IMPAC Literary Award with Houellebecq for Atomised.
Natalia Ginzburg was born in 1916 into a cultured family of intellectuals. She married Leone Ginzburg, a brilliant writer and editor, who was tortured and murdered by the Nazis in 1944. Her books include *Family Sayings*, *All Our Yesterdays* and *The Little Virtues*.

In this concentrated masterpiece, Ginzburg takes us into an Italian village in the 1930s whose almost claustrophobic atmosphere reflects its residents’ entanglements as they cope in various ways with the changes brought about by fascism and by modernization.

At the centre of this elegant novel is a doomed, yet oddly not tragic love affair. Elsa, romantic and introspective, and Tommasino, son of the family whose ageing factory dominates the town, conduct an affair that while not greatly passionate, has its own strange fulfillment. The lovers, who never meet in their own village, where society and family entrap them, agree to avoid marriage. The novel captures the intergenerational stories told and retold in quiet evening conversations, and as always with Ginzburg the intricate power of family life is the real subject of the story.

‘An author commonly ranked with Umberto Eco as one of Italy’s most important writers of fiction.’
New York Times

‘There is something of Beckett in Ginzburg’s prose; of Chekhov, whom she greatly admired; and of Shakespeare’s late plays, in which tragedy most often occurs offstage.’
The New Yorker

‘Ginzburg was a masterful writer, a witty, elegant prose stylist and a fiercely intelligent thinker.’
Kirkus

‘A glowing light of modern Italian literature.’
New York Times Review

Voices in the Evening
Natalia Ginzburg

One of Italy’s greatest twentieth-century writers, and a pioneering female author, who redefined the subject matter of literary fiction.

In this concentrated masterpiece, Ginzburg takes us into an Italian village in the 1930s whose almost claustrophobic atmosphere reflects its residents’ entanglements as they cope in various ways with the changes brought about by fascism and by modernization.

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Teethmarks On My Tongue
Eileen Battersby

An unusual coming-of-age debut novel, with brilliant characterisation, sharp humour and a vivid sense of place.

‘Battersby is a subtle and convincing psychologist, not just for human beings but also for these one-ton gods in our midst: horses…’

This book is the sentimental education of an intelligent but unwary girl, who’s in love with astronomy and animals but doesn’t know much about the ordinary terrestrial life in between. She’s called Helen Stockton Defoe, and like Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe she endures the strangest adventures while remaining fundamentally solitary.’

Edmund White

‘A big, tense novel that yet is light and sleek as a show-horse jumping effortlessly over a high fence. A wonderful debut.’

John Banville

‘Teethmarks On My Tongue is an utterly stirring (first!) novel. It’s stylish, perfectly observed, ambitious and complete.’

Richard Ford

Oisín Fagan is a writer and activist. He does work with the Irish Housing Network, and as a language teacher campaigning on social issues. He won the inaugural Penny Dreadful Novella Prize for The Hierophants. Hostages is his first collection.

@OisinFagan

Hostages
Oisín Fagan

Five long stories from one of Ireland’s best new young writers. A bomb is born, lives and dies in a demented rural school; Ireland experiences a rain of corpses falling from the sky; a strange tribal matriarchy on the banks of the River Boyne is threatened with extermination. In these five stories the world breaks down in an endless cycle of hunger, desperation, violence and domination. This is a truly radical vision of a dysfunctional yet stubbornly hopeful world, quite unlike any other in contemporary fiction.

Oisín Fagan has been described by Colin Barrett as ‘The best new young writer in Ireland. Darkly funny, dazzlingly smart and ablaze with love and ferocity.’
William Gerhardie (1895–1977) was born in St Petersburg. Leaving Russia in the wake of the 1917 revolution, Gerhardie travelled to Siberia with the British Military Mission. His first novel, Futility, was published in 1922.

Futility
William Gerhardie

‘To my generation Gerhardie was the most important new novelist to appear in our young life.’ Graham Greene

William Gerhardie’s first comic novel tells the story of a young Englishman who returns to St Petersburg where he was raised and falls in love with the daughter of a highly eccentric and dysfunctional family – a relationship which is played out with the armies of the Russian Revolution marching outside the parlour window.

Part-British romantic comedy, part-Russian social realism, with Gerhardie’s trademark large cast of wonderfully realised and highly memorable characters, this funny and poignant novel is the tale of persistence in love and hope in the face of what should be insurmountably difficult circumstances.
Ron Chernow is the author of Alexander Hamilton, which has sold over 1.5 million copies and inspired the musical Hamilton, and of Grant, a life of the great Civil War general and US President. A graduate of Yale and Cambridge, Chernow’s Washington: A Life won the Pulitzer prize in 2011.

The Warburgs
The Twentieth-Century Odyssey of a Remarkable Jewish Family
Ron Chernow

The epic, heart-rending saga of the great German-Jewish banking dynasty, from a bestselling, Pulitzer-prizewinning author.

A story of brilliant achievement, dazzling personalities and human frailty set against the dark background of European racism and paranoia.

The Warburgs were bankers, patrons of the arts, scholars, socialites, philanthropists and politicians. This Jewish family from Westphalia became a German success story, and embraced German culture with a passion: they loved the art, music and literature of their country and never wavered from their patriotic identification with their homeland. They advised a German Kaiser; their American cousins advised two presidents. Their investment bank still exists and is one of the oldest in the world. The Warburgs endowed libraries, built mansions and collected paintings. But in 1933 the family became a prime target of the Nazis and the world they knew came crashing down.

‘Ron Chernow’s blockbuster history traces the heart-rending saga of this German-Jewish banking family... Chernow is never less than readable. A graceful and lucid writer, he offers old-fashioned narrative in the grand style.’

NEW YORK NEWSDAY

A film version of Grant, produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, will shortly be in production.
Research says that 80% of all submitted manuscripts are rejected, and I have no reason to doubt it. But ask yourself exactly what category (or categories) yours fell into? Check the possibilities below.

#1 Perhaps your novel was just plain boring.

#2 Perhaps you have nothing to say.

#3 Perhaps it had no structure, no conclusion, wandered too much.

#4 Perhaps it was too old-fashioned.

#5 Perhaps there’s no USP – unique selling proposition – and, though editors loved it, Marketing didn’t think they could sell it.

#6 Perhaps it was too controversial and likely to upset people.

#7 Perhaps your synopsis failed to explain your plot.

#8 Perhaps it’s too good for them: too much fine writing, too little plot.

#9 Perhaps they didn’t get further than a page before rejecting you as illiterate (if you think this applies to you, turn to Part 3).

Anyway, your novel’s been rejected. Let’s take these possibilities one at a time. Be brave. Learn from it.
The Colour of Time
A New History of the World 1850–1960
Dan Jones and Marina Amaral

Two hundred photographs of defining events of the modern world – brought to life as you have never seen them before.

The Colour of Time spans more than a hundred years of world history from the reign of Queen Victoria and the US Civil War to the Cuban Missile Crisis and beginning of the Space Age. It charts the rise and fall of empires, the achievements of science, industry and the arts, the tragedies of war and the politics of peace, and the lives of men and women who made history.

The book is a collaboration between a gifted Brazilian artist and a leading British historian. Marina Amaral has created 200 stunning images, using contemporary photographs as the basis for her full-colour digital renditions. Dan Jones has written a narrative that anchors each image in its context, and weaves them into a vivid account of the world that we live in today. A fusion of amazing pictures and well-chosen words, The Colour of Time offers a unique – and often beautiful – perspective on the past.
Paul Lay is editor of History Today. He sits on the advisory boards of the Institute of Historical Research and the History and Policy unit at KCL.

Paul Lay

Providence Lost
The Rise and Fall of the English Republic

Paul Lay

Having won two civil wars, conquered Ireland and Scotland and seen off Charles II, in 1653 Oliver Cromwell assumed the title Lord Protector. The same Protestant wind that had filled the sails of Drake’s ships in 1588 was surely behind him.

Determined to avenge the loss of the Puritan colony of Providence Island, he decided to take on the Spanish in the New World, but an assault on the island of Hispaniola proved a disaster. To Cromwell, obsessed with God’s plan for an elect nation, this was a grievous blow. Concluding that God had deserted him because his domestic reforms had not gone far enough, he introduced the hardline puritan rule of the Major-Generals. Sectarianism and fundamentalism ran riot; Levellers and royalists joined together in conspiracy against Cromwell. The only way out seemed to be a return to Parliament presided over by a king. But would Cromwell accept the crown?

‘In the wake of the catastrophe of the Western Design, Oliver Cromwell’s audacious plan to seize Spanish territories in the New World, the chastened Lord Protector wrote in October 1655:

“It is not to be denied but the Lord hath greatly humbled us in that sad loss sustained at Hispaniola; no doubt we have provoked the Lord, and it is good for us to know so, and to be abased for the same... though He hath torn us, yet He will heal us; though He hath smitten, yet He will bind us up... The Lord Himself hath a controversy with your enemies, even with that Roman Babylon, of which the Spaniard is the great underpropper.”

A national day of solemn fasting and humiliation was ordered for 6 December. For the first time, the all-conquering Cromwell had tasted defeat.

“We have provoked the Lord and it is good for us to know so, and to be abased for the same... we should... lay our mouths... in the dust.”

Providence was lost. What could be done to restore England, God’s chosen nation?”

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Rome
Eternal City
Ferdinand Addis

A thrilling portrait of the city at the heart of Western civilization, brought to life in twenty-two scenes from its 2,500-year history.

Why does Rome continue to exert a hold on the world’s imagination? Ferdinand Addis brings the myth of Rome alive by concentrating on vivid episodes from its long and unimaginably rich history. Each of his beautifully-composed chapters is an evocative, self-contained narrative, whether it is the murder of Caesar; the near-destruction of the city by the Gauls in 390 BC; the construction of the Colosseum and the fate of the gladiators; Bernini’s creation of the Baroque masterpiece that is St Peter’s Basilica; the brutal crushing of republican dreams in 1849; the sinister degeneration of Mussolini’s first state, or the magical, corrupt Rome of Fellini’s La Dolce Vita.

This is an epic, kaleidoscopic history of a city indelibly associated with republicanism and dictatorship, Christian orthodoxy and its rivals, high art and low life in all its forms.
Darach Ó’Séaghdha is the author of popular twitter account @theirishfor. He lives just outside Dublin, where he works as a civil servant during the day and explores language at night and in the early morning. @theirishfor

Craic Baby
Dispatches from a Changing Language
Darach Ó Séaghdha

The follow-up to the bestselling Motherfoclóir.

What do we talk about when we talk about Irish? When we talk about saving or supporting a language do we mean the musical combination of syllables, or something more profound? How do new words enter a language, and what is the relationship between that strange dialect called Hiberno-English and its parent language?

Craic Baby picks up exactly where Motherfoclóir left off and explores the very new and very old parts of the Irish language from a personal perspective. While Motherfoclóir was steeped in memory and a father-son relationship, Craic Baby hinges on the beginnings of a father-daughter relationship, and how watching a child learn to communicate changes how you think about language. Craic Baby will share more Irish words and issues connected to the language, in the same style as Motherfoclóir, but treated with greater confidence and more depth.

‘EADRÁIN’
doesn’t have an exact match in English; it refers to the act of separating fighters from each other

‘Duirling’
row of boulders thrown up on the coast by storm or tide

‘COMHLA BREAĆ’
is a magical trapdoor to fairy dwellings that is hidden amongst rocks

‘EADRÁIN’
doesn’t have an exact match in English; it refers to the act of separating fighters from each other

‘Rígdomna’
means heir-apparent; material of a king

‘Gabhairín’
potatoes sold secretly by child dealers

‘EADRÁIN’
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The Story of Crossrail
Christian Wolmar

The story of an engineering marvel of the modern age, from Britain’s bestselling writer on railways.

At the end of 2018, London’s biggest engineering project will come to fruition. It has taken three-quarters of a century and cost £15 billion. For the first time, trains will run through tunnels built under central London between Paddington and Liverpool Street. Driving through a subterranean world of rock and mud; employing digital technology at the extreme cutting edge; and realising a vision of east-west metropolitan access conceived in the era of Attlee and Churchill – Crossrail is an engineering marvel of the twenty-first century.

In The Story of Crossrail, Christian Wolmar outlines the postwar history of the idea of a trans-London east–west railway line to the passing of the Crossrail Act of 2008, and describes the lengthy, complex – and extraordinary – engineering processes that will bring the new line into being.

Christian Wolmar is a writer and broadcaster on transport matters and the author of Fire and Steam. He writes regularly for the Independent and Evening Standard and appears on TV and radio as a commentator.

christianwolmar.co.uk

* Crossrail will cost £14.8 billion and is currently Europe’s largest infrastructure project.
* It will stretch for over 100 kilometres from Reading and Heathrow in the west to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.
* Crossrail will stop at 41 stations – 10 newly built and 30 newly upgraded.
  * Eight giant machines have burrowed below the London streets to construct 42 kilometres of new rail tunnels.
* Each tunnelling machine weighs 1,000 tonnes and is 150 metres long.
* Tunnelling progressed at a collective average of 38 metres per day.
* The fastest day of tunnelling by a single machine was 72 metres by Ellie on 16 April 2014 between Pudding Mill Lane and Stepney Green.
* Over 200,000 tunnel segments were used to line the 42 kilometres of tunnels.
* Over 3m tonnes of excavated material was shipped to Wallasea Island in Essex to create a new 1,500 acre RSPB nature reserve.
David Lough is the author of *No More Champagne*, a much-praised study of WSC’s finances. David studied history at Oxford and later founded a business that advises families on investments, tax affairs and inheritance planning.

davidlough.uk

**Darling Winston**

**Forty years of letters between Winston Churchill and his mother**

David Lough

The first ever collection of the letters between Churchill and his mother sheds revelatory light on the future wartime premier.

Between 1881, when Churchill was just six, and 1921, the year of his mother’s death, Winston Churchill and Jennie Jerome were prolific and energetic correspondents. Their exchange of letters has never before been published as a volume of correspondence, and many of these intimate letters – between two highly gifted writers – are being published here for the first time.

A significant addition to the Churchill canon, *Darling Winston* traces Churchill’s emotional, intellectual and political development as confided to his main mentor. As well as providing a basic narrative of Jennie and Winston’s lives over a forty-year period, *Darling Winston* portrays a mother–son relationship characterized at the outset by Winston’s dependence on his mother, which is dramatically reversed as her life crumbles tragically towards its end.

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**Dearest Winston,**

It is with very unusual feelings that I sit down to write to you my weekly letter. Generally it is a pleasure – but this time is quite the reverse. The enclosed letter will explain why. I went to Cox’s this morning & find out that not only you have anticipated the whole of yr quarter’s allowance due this month but £45 besides – & now this cheque for £50 – & that you knew you had nothing at the bank. The manager told me they had warned you that they would not let you overdraw & the next mail brought this cheque. I must say I think it is too bad of you – indeed it is hardly honourable knowing as you do that you are dependent on me & that I give you the biggest allowance I possibly can, more than I can afford...

...I confess I am quite disheartened about you. You seem to have no real purpose in life & won’t realize at the age of 22 that for a man life means work, & hard work if you mean to succeed. Many men at yr age have to work for a living & support their mother. It is useless my saying more – we have been over this ground before – it is not a pleasant one. I will only repeat that I cannot help you any more & if you have any grit in you & are worth yr salt you will try & live within yr income & cut down yr expenses in order to do it. You cannot but feel ashamed of yrself under the present circumstances – I haven’t the heart to write more.

**Yr Mother**

JSC
‘Ivan Karp had been the manager of the Leo Castelli gallery and had looked after the early careers of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein amongst others, but, being ambitious, had decided to strike out on his own and establish his own company.

I arrived at the downtown gallery at the agreed time and was told to go straight in to Mr. Karp’s office by his secretary. When I opened the door, there he was, looking like a stereotypical Hollywood producer, revolving on a swivel chair, chomping on a huge cigar, and holding forth on the phone, with the kind of accent in which New York in pronounced “noo yoik”.

Finishing his call, he turned to me, “I’ll be with you in a moment; first I have to see an Irish guy.” What was he expecting? Someone with red curly hair and freckles, perhaps. I timidly retaliated, “I’m Irish.”

“You don’t look Irish to me, never mind, let’s look at your stuff – you’ve got two minutes!”

I nervously tumbled my slides onto his desk. Popping one of this magnifying things that jewellers use into his eye, he began scrutinizing the slides, one by one. After about twelve, he put the slides down, removed the magnifying glass, looked straight at me and somewhat incredulously inquired, “Are you sure you’re from Ireland? These are too good – no art ever came out of that bog”.

Robert Ballagh is an Irish artist, painter and designer. He lives and works in Dublin.

robertballagh.com
‘A fresh and historically convincing perspective. An enthralling narrative and a work of penetrating insight and dispassionate balance, which is captivating from start to finish.’
Colin Kidd, Guardian on JACOBITES

**Peterloo**, a film by Mike Leigh, director of *Mr. Turner* and *Secrets & Lies*, will be released in Autumn 2018 and stars Maxine Peake.

Jacqueline Riding is the historical adviser to Mike Leigh on this project and her book – which reflects the historical characters who appear in the film – will coincide with its release.

Jacqueline Riding is the author of *Jacobites: A New History of the ’45 Rebellion*. She is a consultant for museums, galleries and historic buildings, and a historical adviser on feature films.

jacquelineriding.com

Peterloo
The Story of the Manchester Massacre
Jacqueline Riding

Peterloo: a defining moment in the history of British democracy.

Manchester, August 1819. 60,000 people had gathered in the cause of parliamentary reform. To those defending the status quo, the vote was not a universal right, but a privilege of wealth and landownership. To radical reformers the fundamental overhaul of a corrupt system was long overdue. The people had come to hear one such reformer, Henry Hunt, from all over Lancashire, walking to the sound of hymns and folk songs. By the end of the day fifteen of them, including two women and a child, were dead or mortally wounded, and 650 injured, hacked down by drunken yeomanry after local magistrates panicked at the scale of the meeting. The British state, four years after defeating the ‘tyrant’ Bonaparte at Waterloo, had turned its forces against its own people, as they peacefully exercised their liberties.

Jacqueline Riding’s compelling book ties in to Mike Leigh’s forthcoming film *Peterloo*, for which the author was historical adviser, in advance of the bicentenary of Peterloo in 2019.
All That Was

James Hamilton-Paterson

A ruthless but entertaining account of how Britain lost its industrial and technological prowess.

Between 1939 and 1945, Britain produced around 125,000 aircraft, and enormous numbers of ships, motor vehicles, armaments and textiles. We developed radar, antibiotics, the jet engine and the computer. Less than seventy years later, the major industries that had made Britain a global industrial power, and had employed millions of people, were dead.

Had they really been doomed, and if so, by what? Can our politicians have been so inept? Was it down to the superior competition of wily foreigners? Or were our rulers culturally too hostile to science and industry?

James Hamilton-Paterson, in this evocation of the industrial world we have lost, analyses the factors that turned us so quickly from a nation of active producers to one of passive consumers and financial middlemen.

‘In my first twenty years I took for granted that virtually everything we bought or used or saw, whether in the street, in the sky or on the sea, was British made by a British-owned company. In 1950 practically every car or lorry on our roads had been designed and built in Britain. A trip down to the London docks guaranteed that most of the ships there would be British registered, and every one of them would have been built in a British shipyard. In those days Second World War vintage propeller-driven aircraft were swiftly yielding to the Cold War’s early generation of jet aircraft, almost all of which were British designed and built.

For many years I had no real perception that behind the scenes there had long been ominous signs that this happy state of affairs would not last indefinitely. I could not have guessed that within a decade or two most of those familiar brands whose eternal existence I took for granted would gradually become extinct or foreign-owned.’
’Crossing a little bridge near the cottage, Boy becomes transfixed by the reflected light of the stream running underneath. He bates towards it so I let him go, and follow him down to the side of the bridge. He lands gently on a wedge of sand, walks over a small patch of gravel, dips down, sips, then steps in. The late afternoon sun splinters the canopy in shafts of mottledauburns and pale yellows. Leaves fall free from dead bushes, cut across the warm breeze, and land on the water like the tipped contents of a hole punch.

Boy vigorously begins his first wild bath. Exposed and with wet feathers, a bathing hawk makes an easy target for predators. Confident in my company, this rarely seen secretive behaviour is a joy to witness. Photographers and film makers could wait a lifetime to see it. The vaulted spray from his feathers scatters, arches over in tiny droplets, and tings my skin. I reach down to throw water on his back. His vibrations and contortions become even more frenzied. Scooping up a handful of water, I raise it over his head. He follows my finger tips and opens his beak. I trickle water into his mouth, Boy drinks deeply and swallows. When finished he walks up onto the sand, and wriggles off the excess water like a tiny wet dog. I hold my glove towards his chest, he hops over the ground, and he steps up.

The water has parted his feathers, his crop, as round as a golf ball, is tissue thin with threading capillaries over a taut, flesh-coloured surface. On the side of his head, his ears appear as two holes drilled and disappearing into his skull. In his drenched state, Boy is the oddest, most ugly and most beautiful little hawk in the world.’
‘A strongly personal perspective on the Irish century that followed the Rising – charting a flawed history that is marked as much by complacency, corruption and institutional and clerical abuse, as it is by the sacrifices and nation-building achievements of the Republic’s founding fathers.’

**SUNDAY INDEPENDENT** on *1916: The Mornings After*

‘A timely and courageous book.’

**SUNDAY TIMES** on *Michael Collins*

‘A riveting, moving read, which puts a human face on one of the giants of recent Irish history.’

**IRISH INDEPENDENT** on *Michael Collins*

‘No student of Irish history can afford to ignore this book.’

**TLS** on *The IRA*

‘This tale of murder and mayhem is also a labour of love. Written with pace and clarity, this is an important work that shows how desperate measures taken in desperate times don’t easily go away.’

**IRISH INDEPENDENT** on *The Twelve Apostles*

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**Tim Pat Coogan** is Ireland’s best-known historical writer. His 1990 biography of Michael Collins rekindled interest in Collins and his era. He is also the author of *The IRA; Long Fellow, Long Shadow; 1916: The Mornings After* and *The Twelve Apostles*.

The GAA and the War of Independence

Tim Pat Coogan

The stirring story of the GAA and the role it played in Ireland’s fight for nationhood.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was founded in 1884, its objective being to promote Irish identity and revive the traditional sports of hurling, football and handball. After the turn of the century, the GAA became politicised, its club committees infiltrated by members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. As Ireland drifted close to civil war in 1914, the Irish Volunteers drilled with hurley sticks in the absence of guns. Many of those interned after the 1916 Rising were GAA members and the British banned Gaelic games after 1918. On Bloody Sunday, 1920, twelve spectators and a player were killed at Croke Park in a raid by British Auxiliary forces.

Tim Pat Coogan charts the relationship between Gaelic sports and Ireland’s national struggle in the period 1916–23 and explores the central role they have played in the social, cultural and political life of nationalist Ireland.
Oscar
A Biography
Matthew Sturgis

‘I don’t regret for a single moment having lived for pleasure. I did it to the full, as one should do everything that one does. There was no pleasure I did not experience.’ Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde’s life – like his wit – was alive with paradox. He was both an early exponent and victim of ‘celebrity culture’: famous for being famous, he was often ridiculed and disparaged. His achievements were frequently downplayed, his successes resented. He had a genius for comedy but strove to write tragedies. He was a snob but was prone to great acts of kindness. Although happily married, he became a passionate lover of men. At the height of his success he brought disaster upon himself by defending his love for Lord Alfred Douglas. Having delighted in fashionable throngs, he died almost alone.

In the first major biography of Oscar Wilde in thirty years, Matthew Sturgis brings alive the radical ideas and distinctive characters of the fin de siècle to write the richest account of Wilde’s life to date.

7 Things You Didn’t Know About Oscar Wilde

1. He wished that he been a blond.
2. He was an enthusiastic tennis player – his brother, Willie, referred to him as a ‘Lawn Tennysonian’.
3. As part of his campaign for dress-reform he advocated wearing finely-spun woollen underwear.
4. When he went to America in 1882 the person he most wanted to meet was the inventor Thomas Edison.
5. He shocked his neighbours on Tite Street by painting his front door with bright white gloss paint, so that it looked like enamel.
6. His recipe for a successful dinner party was ‘very little to eat, very little light, and a great many flowers’.
7. While in Reading Prison he helped the warders with their answers to newspaper prize competitions and boasted of winning a silver tea-service and a grand piano.

© Garlinda Birkbeck
Michael Fewer enjoyed thirty years as a practicing architect, and was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, when he took up writing full-time in 2000. He has since written twenty-two books on walking, travel, history, architecture and the environment.

The Battle of the Four Courts

The First Three Days of the Irish Civil War

Michael Fewer

A meticulous, compellingly readable reconstruction of those three summer days that ignited the civil war – the defining event of modern Irish politics.

The Irish Civil War began at around four o’clock in the morning on June 28, 1922. An 18-pounder artillery piece began to fire on the thick granite walls of the Four Courts – a beautiful eighteenth-century complex of buildings that housed Ireland’s highest legal tribunals.

Inside the courts a large party of IRA men were barricaded – a clear sign that the treaty ending the war of independence would never be accepted by passionate republicans. After three days of fighting, with the buildings in ruins, the garrison surrendered. But the Four Courts also housed Ireland’s historical archives, and these irreplaceable documents were destroyed, with leaves of burnt parchment raining down over the city. This was a cultural disaster for the new state and its historical memory.

Although the attack on the Four Courts by the National Army in June 1922 was one of the most important events in modern Irish history, I was surprised to find that no comprehensive account of the siege has ever been published.

As in all wars, the first shot fired in the Irish Civil War in June 1922 was only the beginning of a series of chaotic developments, with little turning out as expected by any of the protagonists. It was a war between solidly entrenched idealists and political pragmatists, and before the conflict petered out, ten months later, many of the leaders, including Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith, Rory O’Connor and Liam Lynch, would be dead. This work deals primarily with the first sixty hours of organised hostilities between the two sides, from the firing of the first shot to the surrender of the garrison.

I hope I have told the story of the battle accurately, identifying some stories about this historic event that have no basis in fact, and in each case setting the record as straight as it can be set at this remove. It is a story that has long deserved to be told, and I hope I have done it justice.

MICHAEL FEWER
Robert K. Massie was born in Lexington, Kentucky in 1929. He is the bestselling author of Peter the Great, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, Catherine the Great and Dreadnought.

Nicholas & Alexandra
The Last Tzar and His Family
Robert Massie

An illustrated edition of Robert Massie’s Nicholas and Alexandra, published to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the execution of Tzar Nicholas II and his family in 1918.

A superbly crafted and human portrait of the last days – and last rulers – of the Russian Empire. Pulitzer prize-winning author Robert K. Massie sweeps readers back to the extraordinary world of imperial Russia to tell the story of the decline and fall of the ruling Romanov family: Tzar Nicholas II’s political naivete; his wife Alexandra’s obsession with the corrupt mystic Rasputin; and their son Alexis’s battle with haemophilia.

Against a lavish backdrop of luxury and intrigue, Massie unfolds a family tragedy played out on the brutal stage of early twentieth-century Russian history – the tale of a doomed empire and the death-marked royals who watched it crumble.

‘A moving, rich book...
The tale is so bizarre, no melodrama is equal to it.’
Newsweek

‘A wonderfully rich tapestry. Massie describes those strange and terrible years with sympathy and understanding.’
New York Times

‘An all-too-human picture... Nicholas and Alexandra truly come alive, as does their almost storybook romance.’
Newsday
Egeria, a Galician pilgrim who embarked on a three-year tour of the Holy Land in the dying days of the Roman Empire.

Wu Zhao, China’s only female emperor, ruthlessly plotted her way to power in the seventh century.

Æthelflæd of Mercia, eldest daughter of Ælfred the Great, contained the Viking threat through diplomatic and military means in the aftermath of her father’s death.

Wynflæd, an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman of the tenth century is known to have owned a red felt tent, male slaves and a double badgerskin gown.

Wallada bint al-Mustakfi, poet, daughter of a caliph of Cordoba, held court in her eleventh-century literary salon, and conducted affairs with both men and women.

Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir, a Scandinavian adventuress and wise woman of the early eleventh century, was the first European to give birth in America.

Trotā, a learned physician of twelfth-century Salerno, treated women for uterine problems, as well as advising on matters such as skin conditions, the whitening of teeth and anti-ageing creams.

Mary Astell, British feminist philosopher of the late seventeenth century, out-thought the celebrated John Locke.

Max Adams is the author of The King in the North, In the Land of Giants, Ælfred’s Britain and The Wisdom of Trees. He has lived and worked in the North-East of England since 1993.

theambulist.co.uk

Unquiet Women
From the Dusk of the Roman Empire to the Dawn of the Enlightenment
Max Adams

Max Adams brings to life the forgotten experiences – and voices – of some of the most extraordinary women in history.

Wynflæd was an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman who owned male slaves and badgerskin gowns; Egeria a Gaulish nun who toured the Holy Land as the Roman Empire was collapsing; Gudrid an Icelandic explorer and the first woman to give birth to a European child on American soil; Mary Astell a philosopher who out-thought John Locke.

In this exploration of some of the most remarkable – but little-known – women living between the last days of Rome and the Enlightenment, Max Adams overturns the idea that women of this period were either queens, nuns or invisible. A multi-faceted and beautifully illustrated study of women’s intellect, influence and creativity, Unquiet Women brings to life the experiences of women whose voices are barely heard and whose stories are rarely told.
Francis Pryor

The Fens
Francis Pryor

A personal, historical journey across one of the most mysterious regions of England.

The Fens are Britain’s most distinctive, complex and least understood landscape. Francis Pryor has lived in, excavated, farmed, walked – and loved – the Fen Country for more than forty years: its levels and drains, its soaring churches and magnificent medieval buildings.

In *The Fens*, he counterpoints the history of the Fenland landscape and its transformation – the great drainage projects that created the Old and New Bedford Rivers, the Ouse Washes and Bedford Levels, the rise of prosperous towns and cities such as King’s Lynn, Cambridge, Peterborough, Boston and Lincoln – with the story of his own discovery of it as a working archaeologist.

Interweaving personal experience, the graft and grime of the dig, and lyrical evocations of places, Francis Pryor offers a unique portrait of a neglected but remarkable corner of England.

‘Pryor feels the land rather than simply knowing it.’
Guardian on *The Making of the British Landscape*

‘Francis Pryor is a modern field archaeologist with a reputation second to none.’
Alan Garner

‘This beautifully produced book brings us up to date with the latest in Stonehenge thinking... This splendid book is nearly as good as wandering among the stones themselves.’
Daily Mail on *Stonehenge*

Pryor... represents his discipline attractively to the general public. His latest book is designed for just such an audience, and packages for it, with concision and splendid visual illustration, the past decade’s worth of new discovery... Pryor is especially able in conveying the dynamism of prehistory, with its constant changes, both of the form of individual monuments and in broader patterns of ritual behaviour and architectural fashion.”
TLS on *Stonehenge*

‘Written with pace and passion... immensely readable.’
Tom Holland on *Britain BC*

‘Pryor is that rare combination of a first-rate working archaeologist and a good writer.’
TES on *Home*
Matthew Dennison is author of the critically acclaimed *Behind the Mask: The Life of Vita Sackville-West* and *Over the Hills and Far Away*: The Life of Beatrix Potter. He is a contributor to *Country Life*.

**Eternal Boy**

*The Life of Kenneth Grahame*

Matthew Dennison

The poignant story of Kenneth Grahame, author of the children’s classic *The Wind in the Willows*, and of the vision of English pastoral that inspired it.

Having retired early from his job as Secretary of the Bank of England, Kenneth Grahame moved with his fanciful wife Elspeth and fragile son Alistair to a house in the Berkshire village of Cookham where he had grown up.

His love of, and wanderings in, this idyllic Thames-side environment spawned *The Wind in the Willows*: an enduring classic of children’s literature; a cautionary tale for adult readers; a warning of the fragility of the English countryside; and an expression of fear at threatened social changes that, in the aftermath of the World War I, became reality. Like its remarkable author, *The Wind in the Willows* balances conservatism with more maverick tendencies. Grahame was an Edwardian pantheist whose work has a timeless appeal, an escapist whose withdrawal from reality took the form of time travel into his own past.

In *The Wind in the Willows*, Grahame embraced an alternative approach to autobiography. Toad and Ratty’s fantasy of the ‘open road’ is the escapism of Grahame the banker, who, in line with Edwardian fashion, spent his weekends in lengthy walks along the Thames in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, ‘tempted... [by] the treasures of hedge and ditch; the rapt surprise of the first lords-and-ladies, the rustle of a field-mouse, the splash of a frog’.

**MATTHEW DENNISON**

**From the reviews of 'Over the Hills and Far Away': The Life of Beatrix Potter**

‘Fascinating... Dennison’s clever, searching account of her life shows the incredible fight she had to make herself into the kind of woman she wanted to be’ The Times

‘Finely written and dancingly quick’ TLS

‘...A beautifully produced biography unveils Potter as ahead of her time’ Country Life

‘A biography for anyone who has ever been in thrall to the intricate world of bunnies and cabbage patches’ Sunday Times

**Reviews for The First Iron Lady: A Life of Caroline of Ansbach**

‘A scintillating, thoroughly researched biography’ The Times

‘Dennison is a talented biographer’ Daily Telegraph
The Landmark Library is a record of the achievements of humankind from the late Stone Age to the present day. Each volume in the series is devoted to a crucial theme in the history of civilization, and offers a concise and authoritative text accompanied by a generous complement of images. Contributing authors to the Landmark Library are chosen for their ability to combine scholarship with a flair for communicating their specialist knowledge to a wider, non-specialist readership.
Nigel Spivey is Senior Lecturer in Classical Art and Archaeology at Cambridge University, and the author of Songs on Bronze: The Greek Myths Made Real and Classical Civilization. He presented the TV series How Art Made the World (2005).

Rupert Christiansen is opera critic and arts columnist for The Daily Telegraph. His books include Tales of the New Babylon: Paris in the Mid-Nineteenth Century and Romantic Affinities: Portraits From an Age 1780–1830. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1997.

City of Light
The Reinvention of Paris
Rupert Christiansen

A sparkling account of the nineteenth-century rebuilding of Paris as the most beautiful city in the world – a position that it has never relinquished since.

In 1853 the French emperor Napoleon III inaugurated a vast and ambitious programme of public works, directed by Georges-Eugène Haussmann, the prefect of the Seine département. Haussmann’s renovation of Paris would transform the old medieval city of squalid slums and disease-ridden alleyways into a ‘City of Light’ – characterized by wide boulevards, apartment blocks, parks, squares and public monuments, new railway stations and department stores and a new system of public sanitation.

City of Light charts a fifteen-year project of urban renewal which – despite the interruptions of war, revolution, corruption and bankruptcy – would set a template for nineteenth- and early twentieth-century urban planning and create the enduring and globally familiar layout of modern Paris.

The Sarpedon Krater
The Life and Afterlife of a Greek Vase
Nigel Spivey

The story of a wine-mixing bowl from ancient Athens, and its remarkably enduring influence.

Once the pride of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Sarpedon krater is a wine-mixing bowl crafted by two Athenians, Euxitheos (who shaped it) and Euphronios (who decorated it), in the late sixth century BC. The moving image Euphronios created for the krater, depicting the stricken Trojan hero Sarpedon being lifted from the battlefield by ‘Sleep’ and ‘Death’, was to have an influence that endured well beyond Antiquity.

Nigel Spivey not only explores the vibrant civilization that produced the krater, but also reveals how its motifs were elaborated in later Greek art and in Christian Renaissance iconography. He tells the story of a small object, once consigned to the obscurity of an Etruscan tomb, whose influence extends far beyond its size and former confinement. The Sarpedon Krater is a fascinating case-study of the deep classical roots of the ideas and iconography of western art.
Colin Jones is Professor of History at Queen Mary College, a Fellow of the British Academy and an expert on eighteenth-century France. He is the author of *The Great Nation France 1715–99*, *A History of France* and *Paris: Biography of a City*.

**Versailles**  
**Landscape of Power and Pleasure**  
**Colin Jones**

The 400-year story of the creation, the golden age and the reinvention of one of the world’s iconic structures.

Few buildings carry such a freight of historical symbolism as the Palace of Versailles. First built as a hunting lodge by Louis XIII in the early seventeenth century, then radically repurposed by his absolutist son Louis XIV, Versailles became the focus of that king’s centralized power.

Drawing on a new wave of research in recent years, particularly on the construction and material culture of Versailles, Colin Jones describes the building campaigns undertaken by Louis XIV and his formal installation of the court at Versailles in 1682; the ritualized rhythms of life at the court of the Sun King; the palace’s fortunes under Revolution, First Empire, Restoration and July Monarchy; its return to the political stage in the Franco-Prussian War; its later role as a venue for treaty signings and state occasions; and its continuing legacy as imposing physical embodiment of the glory and drama of French history.

Ian Thomson is the author of an acclaimed biography of Primo Levi and of two prize-winning travel books, *Bonjour Blanc: A Journey Through Haiti* and *The Dead Yard: Tales of Modern Jamaica*.

**Dante’s Divine Comedy**  
**A Journey Without End**  
**Ian Thomson**

A brilliant and accessible biography of the great epic poem and its enduring influence.

As a singer of other-worldly horror and celestial beatitude alike, Dante has no equal. Yet, in spite of our distance from medieval theology, the Florentine poet’s allegorical journey through hell, purgatory and paradise remains one of the essential works of world literature. At least fifty English language versions of the ‘Inferno’ – the first part of Dante’s epic – appeared in the twentieth century alone.

If Dante’s Comedy speaks to our present condition, it is because Dante wrote the epic of Everyman who sets out in search of salvation in this world. And he wrote his great poem in the ordinary Italian of his time. He wrote about suffering bodies and human weakness, and about divine ecstasy, in words that have resonated with readers and writers for the last seven hundred years.
Peter Conrad is a literary critic and cultural historian. His books include The Everyman History of English Literature; Creation: Artists, Gods & Origins; and Modern Times, Modern Places: Life and Art in the Twentieth Century.

Shakespeare
The Theatre of Our World
Peter Conrad

An admired critic distills in magisterial fashion the achievement and legacy of the world’s greatest dramatist.

In 1623 the actors John Heminges and Henry Condell assembled and published one of the most influential books ever published in the English language: Mr. William Shakespeare’s Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies – better known as The First Folio. In doing so they preserved literature’s most dramatically vital and poetically rich account of our human world. Shakespeare’s legacy is endlessly renewed as his work is staged, adapted or critically interpreted. His characters have shaped the way we think about consciousness and morality, love and death, politics and war.

Peter Conrad explores the phenomenon of Shakespeare; the world-view of his plays, their generic originality, and their astonishing language; and goes on to assess his global legacy across every continent and across every genre of the creative arts in the four hundred years that have elapsed since his death.

Adrian Tinniswood is a distinguished social, architectural and cultural historian. He is the author of The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House 1918–1939. He was awarded an OBE for services to heritage in 2013.

The Royal Society
Scientific Endeavour in the Age of the Enlightenment
Adrian Tinniswood

The story of a British scientific institution that has changed the way we look at the world.

The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge has been at the forefront of scientific endeavour for more than 350 years, since receiving its royal charter from Charles II in 1662. Philosophical Transactions, published in 1665, established the concepts of scientific priority and peer review and is the oldest scientific journal in continuous publication in the world. The 8,000 Fellows elected to the Society include all of the scientific leading lights of the last four centuries, including Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Tim Berners-Lee and Stephen Hawking.

The Society’s motto, Nullius in verba, ‘on the word of no one’, is a reminder of its founders’ belief that authority must always be questioned; hypotheses can never be taken for granted; truths must be demonstrated or they are not truths at all. Adrian Tinniswood examines why the Royal Society has been such a pivotal institution in the cultural life of Britain and the world.
Michael Schmidt is the founder of Carcanet Press and the general editor of PN Review. He was until recently Professor of Poetry at the University of Glasgow. He has also been Writer in Residence at St John’s College, Cambridge.

Gilgamesh
The Birth of Epic Poetry
Michael Schmidt

The genesis and influence of the oldest great work of literature.

Three thousand years ago, a Sumerian epic was inscribed on twelve clay tablets, the exalted verse tale of a king of Uruk, a king ‘surpassing all other kings’. It tells the story of his great building projects, of a great flood, and of his doomed friendship with the wild man Enkidu, their violent adventures on Mount Lebanon and Enkidu’s death. Gilgamesh, inconsolable, journeys to the Underworld to rescue his friend and find eternal life, but he discovers instead the bitter truth that all men must die.

Michael Schmidt explores the meaning and long afterlife of the oldest surviving epic poem, a product of the first city states in the land between the Tigris and Euphrates.

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Am I Ugly?
One Woman’s Journey to Body Positivity
Michelle Elman

In July 2015, Michelle Elman posted a picture of herself on Instagram. She is wearing a bikini, but unlike so many of the bodies on Instagram, hers is not thin. And in the photo, you can see deep scars running across her stomach. At twenty-one years old, it was her first time wearing a bikini. The post went viral. It was shared by celebrities such as Zooey Deschanel and George Takei, and featured in over sixty publications including the Daily Mail, Independent, MTV, Cosmopolitan, People and Buzzfeed. It joined a passionate conversation all over the world: What is beauty? Who gets to decide? Why don’t we talk about scars?

Am I Ugly? follows Michelle’s journey through fifteen surgeries and body-confidence issues to embrace both her scars and her body. Her inspirational story takes us through childhood illnesses and the rough competitive background of school, to her arrival at university where her body insecurities were challenged again. It grapples with disordered eating, PTSD, and the complex interplay between beauty and illness.

‘Michelle Elman is Bo-Po personified. She shows that we should never hide the things that make us who we are.’
Curvy Kate

‘Her realistic approach to loving yourself is refreshing, and her posts are an important reminder that loving yourself isn’t automatic.’
Allure

‘One of the few people who truly embody the message that they teach. Her expertise is undeniable...’
@BodyPosiPanda
Age can be a bit of a problem for us seniors: if you tell people how old you are they’ll either think you’re lying or fishing for compliments. Or, worst of all, use it as a trigger to launch the ‘organ recital’ of all the ailments they’ve endured or overcome on the way to being (probably) a few years younger than you are.

The thing is, nobody prepares you to behave appropriately for your age, as very few of us feel we’re as old as we are. Of course our bodies remind us we can’t leap about like we used to, but though we may recognise that we are old, or older, at least in the eyes of the young, few of the things we thought would accrue with age have materialised (except the ailments).

Do you feel grown-up now you’re past seventy? Of course not. Are you more patient, tolerant, forgiving, and mellow? Yeah, right. When you’re stuck behind someone strictly observing the speed limit, do you mutter approvingly? Really! Do you act more responsibly than you did when you were younger? Only if you need to reassure your children and grandchildren. One thing age does is make you a better actor.

Peter Buckman is an author and literary agent. He has been involved in the publishing industry for many years; he was on the editorial board of Penguin Books, and worked as a commissioning editor for the New American Library in New York City. While there are endless books on being young, there are precious few on how to embrace the ageing process. We don’t think we’re old until suddenly we can’t do something that until now has never been a problem. We don’t feel we’re old because our habits and reactions were formed when we were younger, and as they served us well we see no reason to change them.

But growing older inevitably brings new challenges and The Genial Senior’s Companion to Ageing is a complete A–Z guide to help anyone face the later years of their life with a refreshing, reassuring and humorous approach.
The Hedgehog Handbook
Sally Coulthard

Hedgehogs, with their quiet determination and bristling, bumbling ways, are seen by many as one of life’s most enduring symbols of the countryside and town gardens. This shy, snuffling, enigmatic animal has captured the imagination of children and adults for centuries – from Beatrix Potter’s Mrs Tiggy-winkle to Sonic the Hedgehog.

Full to the brim with fascinating insights and countryside lore, The Hedgehog Handbook explores different facets of this much-admired mammal – from its wildlife habits to its literary heritage, how different cultures have viewed the hedgehog and what we can do to help preserve this icon of rural life.

Fun, sweet and warm hearted, The Hedgehog Handbook is a month by month celebration of one of the countryside’s best-loved creatures. Packed with inspirational quotes, entertaining facts, folklore and literary references, it’s the perfect gift for anyone with a penchant for prickles.

### TOP TEN HEDGEHOG FACTS

1. Hedgehogs can swim and climb trees
2. Hedgehogs are nocturnal
3. Hedgehogs have good eye sight and may even see in limited colour
4. Britain had roughly 30 million hedgehogs in the 1950s. New evidence suggests that we’re now down to less than a million
5. Hedgehogs have more teeth than humans – between 36 and 44 (humans only have 32)
6. Hedgehogs weigh between 200g and 2kg
7. Hedgehogs have more than a metre of intestines and a huge stomach for their size
8. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant
9. A group of hedgehogs is an ‘array’ or a ‘prickle’
10. Hedgehogs walk up to 2km every night
How I came to Kindfulness

On paper, life was good. I had a fantastic job, a wonderful family and plenty of friends to keep me entertained. But there were glaring gaps when it came to ticking those ‘winning at life’ boxes. I spent too much time comparing myself to others who seemed to be racing ahead of me. There was no boyfriend, let alone a husband. No pets, let alone kids. I could hear my biological clock quietly ticking away and being plus size, my body image wasn’t great.

Something had to change. And it had to be me. More specifically, the way I looked at my life. My decision to go to therapy was simple; you don’t wait until you’re in the middle of a battle to put your armour on. You don’t have to be experiencing mental health issues before you start to look after yourself. So I made my emotional wellbeing a priority. Little did I realise, this was my first true act of ‘kindfulness’.

Caroline Millington
Nightingales and Roses
Recipes from the Persian Kitchen
Maryam Sinaiee

Authentic, tasty recipes from Persian cook and food blogger, Maryam Sinaiee.

In Nightingales and Roses, Iranian food blogger and home cook, Maryam Sinaiee, takes us through a full year in the Persian kitchen. Each seasonal chapter offers up delicious recipes alongside insights into the festivals, traditions and rituals that colour day-to-day life in this region.

From Spring through to Winter, Maryam provides the reader with a true taste of real Persian cooking – including Lamb and Aubergine Stew, Baked Fish with Tamarind, Rosewater Ice Cream with Pistachios and Saffron Rice Pudding.

Full of flavour, history and culture, Nightingales and Roses is a wonderful introduction to the varied and delectable cuisine of Iran.

Sholeh Zard
Saffron Rice Pudding

There is a tradition in Iran that if you vow to make a certain quantity of this pudding each year, the wish you most hope for will be granted. After losing two babies to illness, my grandmother vowed to cook Sholeh Zard with twenty kilos of rice each year if her youngest – my father – continued to live. He did, and so each year huge cauldrons would appear in the courtyard of her house and relatives would bustle around, stirring the pudding and delivering it to friends, neighbours and those in need.

SERVES 6-8

150g (1½ cups) Thai jasmine, pudding or Arborio rice
3 whole cardamom pods
25g (2 small tablespoons) butter
Small pinch of salt
270g (9½ oz) sugar
1½ tablespoons rosewater (or more)
2 teaspoons saffron water
20g (¾ oz) almond slivers
10g (½ oz) pistachio slivers
Cinnamon, to decorate

Rinse the rice in cold water, gently rubbing the grains between your palms. Drain and cover with 550ml (1½ cups) of cold water. Leave to soak for a few hours or overnight.

Crack the cardamom pods and tie up in a piece of muslin. Put the rice, its soaking water, the butter, muslin pouch and another 900ml (3¾ cups) of cold water in a saucepan. Stir and cook on a low heat until the rice is soft and nearly all the water is absorbed. This will take up to an hour.

Remove the muslin pouch and add the sugar. Cook on low for another 10 minutes, stirring a few times. Stir in the rosewater and saffron water – use more saffron if the colour looks too pale, the pudding should be a deep yellow. Stir in half the almonds and cook for a further 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool a little. Ladle into individual bowls and decorate with cinnamon, pistachio and almond slivers just before serving.
For the Love of a Dog

Amanda Brookfield

After the death of her mother and the end of a post-divorce relationship leave her heartbroken, novelist Amanda Brookfield finds her once secure world imploding. As despair closes in, she talks of getting a puppy to revive her optimistic spirit.

Amanda is advised that her lifestyle will not suit becoming a dog-owner but she can’t resist Mabel, a beautiful golden doodle puppy. Arming herself with an arsenal of equipment, Amanda learns that there are no short-cuts to training and caring for a dog. Through battling daily challenges and constantly regrouping, Amanda realises she is starting to come to terms with her bereavement and the prospect of facing the rest of her life alone.

For the Love of a Dog tells the bigger, more poignant story about the labour of emotional recovery after the trauma of loss. Mabel shines like a light throughout, the unwitting architect of rebuilding self-belief. Mabel’s own journey is equally captivating: as she blossoms into a mischievous, endearing head-turner of a companion – as affectionate as she is glorious.
A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO BUILDING THE PERFECT IGLOO

1. Build your igloo on a slope to save effort. Of course, an igloo can be built on flat land without any problems, but by building your igloo into a hillside, the slope will cut down on the surface area of your igloo dome.

2. Use a snow prod to test the snow for consistency. Ideally, you’ll want to cut the bricks of your igloo from snow that is hard packed.

3. Outline the outer wall of your igloo. Use the heel of your boot to scuff out a line marking out the external walls.

4. Make your general plan for igloo construction. You’ll soon be using snow blocks cut from the snow inside the outer perimeter of your igloo to build the walls of your dome. You’ll be building from the inside out, cutting the door of your structure after finishing your dome from the inside.

5. Cut a narrow rectangular trench to prepare to harvest blocks. Traditionally igloo blocks are 3 feet (0.91 m) long, 15 inches (38 cm) high, and about 8 inches (20 cm) thick.

6. Harvest your blocks and begin assembling your first row. Section the hard-packed snow inside the perimeter of your rectangular trench into equal rectangular blocks. Then arrange your blocks around the perimeter of your igloo to create the first layer of your dome.

7. Level and shape igloo walls when necessary. This will make stacking and layering much easier.

8. Add blocks cut from the snow inside the igloo perimeter and then stack your next layer starting from the sloping end of your first row. As your dome wall rises, blocks will begin to decrease in size and slope inward.

9. Fit your cap-hole blocks carefully. The topmost blocks in your igloo dome are notoriously tricky to fit into place, so take your time and work carefully.

10. Carve vents in your igloo to prevent CO2 poisoning and let fresh air in. Now you can safely enjoy your cozy winter hideout!

The Little Book of Snow
Sally Coulthard

Is it true that no two snowflakes are ever alike? How many Christmases have actually been white? Do the Inuit have dozens of words for snow? Can it ever be too cold to snow?

Our memories and imagination are buried in snow. It’s the weather of play, joyful abandon and mischievous games – of snowball fights, skiing holidays and rattling down a hillside at full speed. It’s the weather of childhood – the world transformed into a temporary playground. Even as adults, the urge to throw a snowball is too hard to resist, those impish, childish instincts overtaking our adult workaday selves.

Packed with fascinating insights, outdoor fun, cultural lore and traditional wisdom, The Little Book of Snow delves into the history, science, literary and cultural heritage that surrounds snow, frost and ice – the perfect book for anyone who loves that feeling when you open the curtains in the morning and find the world has turned to white...
A Sense of Wonder
How to Capture the Miracles of Everyday Life
Francesco Dimitri

‘Philosophy begins in wonder,’ said Plato. Descartes agreed that ‘wonder is the first of all emotions’. Wonder is the impulse behind all scientific and philosophical endeavour, art and spirituality. It is the most fruitful human sense: fuelling our creativity; firing our curiosity; inspiring us to hope and to dream.

But our sense of wonder – that feeling we had as children seeing the Milky Way for the first time – gets used up. Faced with mortgage and money, we trade a sense of wonder for a sense of reality. And with the world getting ever more complex, reality too often brings anxiety and unhappiness.

Francesco Dimitri argues that this is because we have lost touch with our sixth sense – that of wonder. By exploring the nature of wonder in many areas of human experience – in religion and spirituality; in myth and folk tales; in modern science and technology – he sets out to show how we can reclaim our sense of wonder – not to become children again, but to become happier and more fulfilled adults.

‘A child raises her head on a clear summer night and sees the Milky Way for the first time; a teenager grasps the simple beauty of an equation; an Olympic gymnast does things with his body that no human body should be able to do. A Mozart aria on the radio; a parachute drop on a cloudless day; a skyscape reflected in a city puddle. There are many ways to experience a sense of wonder.

We speak different languages, cling to different ideas about politics and spirituality – even different notions of love – but a longing for wonder connects us all. Amaze me, we ask of magicians, artists and writers. Make me wonder, make me wise, we ask of scientists, philosophers and gods. ‘To survive is not enough,’ a character once said in an episode of Star Trek. ‘To simply exist is not enough.’ Our survival instinct might keep us going, but we need a sense of wonder to be fully alive.’
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