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Ken Liu’s *The Grace of Kings* is an epic fantasy that weighs in at over 600 pages, the first volume of the trilogy that comprises The Dandelion Dynasty. The author was born in China in 1976 and moved to America at the age of 11. He read English at Harvard and studied law at Harvard Law School. He has published more than eighty short stories, including ‘The Paper Menagerie’ (2012), which, uniquely, won all three of the top awards in the world of SF and fantasy – the Hugo, the Nebula, and the World Fantasy Award. He has also translated into English China’s all time bestselling SF novel, *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu, for which he won a Hugo award.

‘An instant classic. I can’t really recall when I read an epic fantasy of breathtaking scope and philosophical ambition comparable to *The Grace of Kings*. Clearly it raises a new standard of excellence.’

JOHN KWOK

*The Grace of Kings* is his first novel. The author draws his inspiration from the myths of Ancient China’s Han Dynasty (206BC–220AD), but he transposes these into a setting of his own creation, an archipelago of islands disputed by feuding princes, warlords and bandits following the death of the Emperor who had united them into a single realm. The novel teems with characters drawn from all walks of life: warriors and shopkeepers, bureaucrats and scholars, cooks and concubines, high-born aristocrats and low-life vagabonds. Rarely seen but ever present are the shapeshifting Gods who intervene with touches of magic to favour their champions. Silk-shrouded war balloons control the skies and giant armour-plated cetaceans patrol the oceans beneath.

Each chapter is an elegantly crafted scene – almost a short story – centred on one of the protagonists. Cumulatively they unveil to the reader an immense narrative arc from the first stirrings of rebellion to the destruction of the empire and the emergence of a lethal feud between the two rebel leaders. We witness battles and fleet actions, sieges and subterfuges, acts of unspeakable cruelty and heroic endurance, master classes in treachery and deceit.

But *The Grace of Kings* is much more than a military adventure; it is a novel of ideas about statecraft and the legitimacy of government, about the obligations of family and friendship and about the lessons of history. Importantly it is a story in which women play at least an equal role in the foreground of events.

Above all *The Grace of Kings* is an invitation to a new world, superbly imagined, compulsively readable and wholly convincing. If the Gods are kind, it may one day win for its author a place alongside J.R.R. Tolkien, Frank Herbert and George R.R. Martin.
The bestselling debut novel in Sweden (2014)
A Spiegel bestseller in Germany (2015)
Winner of Specsavers CrimeTime Best Novel Award, Sweden (2015)
Sold in twelve territories (2015)
TV series in production with the creators of The Bridge (2016)

Few crime fiction readers who embark on this novel will be able to put it down without racing through its 600 pages to the final confrontation. Victim Without a Face is a stunningly successful debut for Stefan Ahnhem, a 48 year old Swedish writer who earned his spurs writing screenplays for Henning Mankell’s Wallander television series. He has now won Sweden’s annual crime award for the year’s best novel, and earned a place on the bestseller lists in Sweden, Denmark and Germany. He also delivered his second novel, The Ninth Grave, which Head of Zeus will publish in September 2016.

Victim Without a Face opens with a series of gruesomely inventive killings in the Swedish town of Helsingborg.

The police investigations quickly establish that the victims were all once pupils from the same class in the same school, and that each has been slain in a way that reflects the character of the deceased.

For Fabian Risk, the lead investigator, the almost total absence of forensic clues is not the only problem. He too was a pupil in the same class, and is therefore both a potential victim and a potential suspect.

What follows is a helter-skelter ride of unremitting suspense, unexpected twists and revelations, false leads and dead ends, ingenuity and evil that single out this author as a master of the large-scale crime saga.
MARY GIBSON

The publication in 2014 of Mary Gibson’s first novel, Custard Tarts and Broken Hearts, immediately established her as a writer with a profound feeling for time and place and for the vagaries of the human heart.

‘A lovely read for anyone who enjoys historical fiction or family saga... She could well become a household name.’ Left on the Shelf

Girls from the Bermondsey factories join the ATS to shore up England’s defences against Hitler in this wonderful new novel from the bestselling author of Custard Tarts and Broken Hearts.

May Lloyd’s father calls her his homing pigeon, because of her uncanny knack of navigating her way around the streets of South London – even in pitch darkness. It is a gift that will save her life when the Blitz destroys nearly everything she holds dear. With her home in ruins, May joins the ATS and becomes a gunner girl, operating Ack Ack guns against the Luftwaffe. Meanwhile, her sister, Peggy, makes a daring bid to escape a stifling marriage and find love and freedom amid the heady chaos of war.

MARY GIBSON was born and brought up in Bermondsey, where both her grandmother and great aunt were factory girls. She is the author of the bestselling Custard Tarts and Broken Hearts, which was selected for World Book Night in 2015. She lives in Kent.
The third novel in this brilliant series, set in the fourth century AD, sees rival claimants battle for control of Rome and its empire.

Centurion Aurelius Castus has been promoted to tribune and seems settled in a life of comfort with his new wife and young son. But Rome is in the tyrannical grip of the usurper Maxentius and the emperor Constantine plans to retake the city in a surprise attack from the west.

Castus, who once saved the emperor’s life, is called upon to play a key role in the campaign, but is ensnared in politics and stratagems beyond his control. Nothing is what it seems – not even his fragile marriage to Sabina.

IAN ROSS has been researching and writing about the later Roman world and its army for over a decade. He spent a year in Italy, teaching English, and now lives in Bath.

CONN IGGULDEN:
‘Hugely enjoyable. The author winds up tension into an explosion of fast-paced events.’

BEN KANE:
‘A thumping good read... Set in a little-known era of the Roman Empire, it throws us head first into a chaotic world in which emperors rise and fall, fortunes change and a man does not know who to trust.’

M.C. SCOTT:
‘Ian Ross blazes into the world of empire and legions. This is up there with Harry Sidebottom and Ben Kane.’

BBC HISTORY:
‘Hugely exciting, the first in a gripping sequence of books about a period often overlooked by novelists.’
A woman must decide if the father of her daughter’s killer lives or dies. A dark, emotional suspense novel from a rising American talent.

Once upon a time, Maris was an ordinary, suburban mother. Then her daughter was murdered, and everything fell apart. One year later, she gets a phone call. It’s the father of her daughter’s killer. He says he is responsible for the murder and he’s on the Golden Gate bridge, ready to jump. If Maris asks him to, he’ll end his life.

This is a powerful domestic thriller with themes of guilt, retribution and forgiveness. It puts you in the shoes of a woman who has lost her daughter and has a chance at revenge. And it asks, what would you do?

SOPHIE LITTLEFIELD is a rising star in the US, where she has been nominated for the Edgar, Barry and Macavity awards, and has won the Anthony Award. The Guilty One is her second UK novel, following 2014’s The Moon Pool.
Northern Ireland at the height of the Troubles: John Delorean, a maverick American entrepreneur and consummate conman, establishes a factory in Belfast to make a luxury sports car with gull-wing doors.

The car, which would become one of the world’s most iconic, first rolled off the production line during the appalling hunger strikes of 1981.

This strange episode, riven with fraud, terrorism – and some comedy – is brought to life through the eyes of Delorean’s fixer in Belfast, a traumatised Vietnam war veteran, and of a woman who takes a job in the factory against her husband’s wishes.

GLENN PATTerson was born and lives in Belfast. He has written several acclaimed novels and co-wrote the screenplay of the film Good Vibrations.

‘One of the best contemporary Irish novelists... Glenn Patterson has become the most serious and humane chronicler of Northern Ireland over the past thirty years.’

COLM TÓIBÍN
’A work of sublime intelligence and importance that explodes the old myths of the Pyramid Text... A treasure-house of secrets that is a perfect joy to read.’

SIMON WINCHESTER

The 4,000 year old Book of the Dead, carved onto the walls of burial chambers in Egypt’s pyramids, has intrigued scholars, mystics and historians ever since it was discovered in 1881. Usually misconstrued as a garbled collection of primitive myths and incantations – or plain gibberish – these Pyramid Texts have been recast by Susan Brind Morrow as a poetic and intelligent work of literature. While earlier translators have misunderstood the meaning of the metaphors depicted on the ancient walls, Brind Morrow’s detective work reveals them to be lyrical and meaningful reflections on philosophy, nature and religion.

SUSAN BRIND MORROW studied Classics, Arabic and Egyptology at Columbia University. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship for her new work on the Pyramid Texts.

James P. Allen’s standard translation, published in 2005, is in italics and Susan Brind Morrow’s new translation is below.

Recitation:
Pull back, Baboon’s penis! Open sky’s door! You sealed door open a path for Unis on the blast of heat where the gods scoop water.
Horus’s glide path – TWICE – will Unis glide on, in this blast of heat where the gods scoop water, and they will make a path for Unis that Unis may pass on it: Unis is Horus.

Say the words:
The sword of Orion opens the doors of the sky. Before the doors close again the gate to the path over the fire, beneath the holy ones as they grow dark As a falcon flies as a falcon flies, may Unis rise into this fire Beneath the holy ones as they grow dark.
They make a path for Unis, Unis takes the path, Unis becomes the falcon star, Sirius.
An unputdownable family drama confronting the issue of middle class alcoholism. The new gritty, emotional bestseller from Amanda Prowse.

In the early years of their marriage, Romilly was happy. She had worked hard for her modern house in a neat Bristol suburb. She adored her gap-toothed daughter and her handsome, kind husband. Sure, life was sometimes exhausting — but nothing that a large glass of wine at the end of the day couldn’t fix.

Then a new neighbour arrived and everything unravelled. A glass of wine became a bottle; one bottle became two. Romilly’s family were once everything to her. Now, after years of hiding the drinking, she must finally admit that she has found another love...

AMANDA PROWSE is the author of nine novels, including the number 1 bestseller What Have I Done? She lives in Bristol, where this book is set, with her husband and two children.

“Amanda Prowse

‘Prowse is a warmly accessible but subtle writer and handles her explosive subject with delicate skill... “Deeply moving” and “inspiring” are terms often lavished on the underwhelming, but here they are understatements.’

Daily Mail
KATIE MAGUIRE

Katie Maguire was one of seven sisters born to a Police Inspector in Cork, but the only sister who decided to follow her father into An Garda Síochána. To the dismay of some of her male subordinates, she rose quickly through the ranks, gaining a reputation for catching Cork’s killers, often at great personal cost.

Katie spent seven years in a turbulent marriage in which she bore, and lost, a son – an event that continues to haunt her. Despite facing turmoil at home, and prejudice at work, she is one of the most fearless detectives in Ireland.

‘Once one of Britain’s finest horror writers, Graham Masterton has turned himself into one of this country’s most exciting crime novelists... If you have not read one, read all four now.’ Daily Mail

DS Katie Maguire might look like an Irish pixie, but she’s tough as steel when she needs to be. Now she’s investigating a family, missing for five years, whose mutilated bodies have just surfaced in a local peat bog.

Set in a bleak, rain-drenched landscape – the Ireland that the tourists don’t see – the Katie Maguire novels are vivid, gruesome and gripping, and star one of the most interesting and sympathetic heroines to arrive in crime fiction for some years.

GRAHAM MASTERTON was a bestselling horror writer who has now turned his talent to criminwriting. He lived in Cork for five years, an experience that inspired the Katie Maguire series.
Tuscany, 1358: Thomas Blackstone has built a formidable reputation in exile, fighting as a mercenary amid the ceaseless internecine warring of Italy’s City States. But success has bred many enemies.

When a dying man delivers a message recalling Blackstone to England, it’s almost certainly a trap. Yet Blackstone cannot decline – the summons is from the Queen. Blackstone will brave the terrors of the High Alps in winter, face the Black Prince in tournament in Windsor, confront the bloody anarchy of a revolt in France and submit to trial by combat with a man he knows could kill him.

Every step of the way he will be shadowed by a killer who has been instructed to inflict the maximum pain on his target before he despatches him to hell.

DAVID GILMAN enjoyed an impressive variety of jobs – from firefighter to photographer to soldier in the Parachute Regiment’s Reconnaissance Platoon – before turning to writing full-time.

‘A thrilling, fast-moving, engaging tale, with unexpected twists, beautiful prose, excellent characterization and dialogue, human sentiment and motivation, and graphic descriptions of war. The reader is utterly convinced by the medieval world in this stunning work. I am reminded of great books such as those of Zoe Oldenbourg.’

_Historical Novel Society_

‘I see flashes of brilliance that surpass Bernard Cornwell.’ _Bookbag_
A moving and powerful debut that blends war-time London, the nightly pounding of incendiary bombs and an ancient legend from the deep past.

After her mother is killed in the Blitz and her father in the Western Desert, twelve-year-old Anna Cooper is sent to live with an uncle she has never met - the Ravenmaster at the Tower of London.

Amid the Tower's old secrets and hidden ghosts, the ravens begin to disappear and Anna must brave the war-torn city to find them. With Nazi forces massing on the other side of the channel, the fate of Britain might be at stake, for an ancient legend foretells that 'the Kingdom will fall' if the ravens ever leave the Tower.

JOHN OWEN THEOBALD was born and raised in Eastern Canada. He moved to the UK to study the poetry of Keats, and in 2009 received a PhD from the University of St Andrews. He now lives in London.

**Friday, 4 October 1940**

Only three exits lead out of the Tower of London. All run alongside the south Outer wall, and all have guards positioned throughout the night. There is no escape through any door.

*There is only one way.*

For a moment I think I hear something, a whisper of sound. A low croak.

The ravens. Have they heard me? Those bloody birds will give me away. Even locked in their cages they are a nightmare.

Mum used to warn me, “don’t let your imagination get away from you.” Flo always said, “you are mad, Anna Cooper.” Mum is gone. Flo is gone. Lips pressed, I keep moving. It is several hours yet before the birds wake.

I have seen them for the last time.

I pause before Cradle Tower gate. Voices, definitely. Human voices, welling out of the night. Warders. A moment of panic threatens to overwhelm me. If I am caught out here...

*The voices grow.*

I rush back, crouching against the cold wall. My breathing has stopped. The rush of some distant gutter blocks out sound. They will shoot me.

You are a twelve year-old girl. They will not shoot you.

Noiselessly the two Yeoman Warders appear, first as huge magic-lantern shapes, then as themselves. Most of the dark uniformed men look the same: old, bearded, stern. Guardians of the Tower. Beefeaters, we called them at school. One is Yeoman Brodie, a giant man with an almost crooked nose. The other is the Watchman, whose name I’ve clean forgotten. They are all strangers, even Uncle. I wait until they disappear inside the Inner Ward, cloaks snapping behind them.

You can’t turn back now.

New guards will come. Along the south wall runs a corridor leading to Develin Tower. Silently I step towards it. The entrance steps are cut high and narrow, wet from rain. I take them cautiously, trying to maintain speed. There is only one way.

Climb.
Through world wars and civil strife, the Bangor Express has never missed an issue, but it needs a new lease of life or it’s soon to be a distant memory. Guardian journalist Rob Cullen, fresh off the plane from his London news desk, could be just the man to rescue it.

It’s been a long time since Rob had a real story to get his teeth into... and with the Bangor Express, that’s just what he’s going to get. From armed robberies to arson attacks, immigration raids to human trafficking, hostages to human skulls, there is no shortage of front-page news in the seemingly sleepy town of Bangor.

But is this humble weekly worth risking his life for? Rob’s got his work cut out with bailiffs knocking on the door and local gangsters threatening employees. And when he finds himself trapped in the local post office by a gunman who is one sandwich short of a picnic, Rob starts to question just how far he is willing to go...

‘Exciting, exhilarating, fantastically inventive... guaranteed to have you laughing out loud.’

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH on Mystery Man

COLIN BATEMAN, originally from Northern Ireland, is one of Britain’s most successful screenwriters and crime fiction authors. His novels have attracted both awards and acclaim: Divorcing Jack, his debut novel, won a Betty Trask Award and his novel Mystery Man was recommended as a Summer Read by the Richard & Judy Book Club. He is the creator of the BBC series Murphy’s Law and was listed by the Daily Telegraph as one of the Top 50 crime writers of all time.

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‘How do I know I’m not dreaming?’
DESCARTES

‘An easily won love hurts us as much as one which is difficult to win.’
SENeca

‘Only those things which are blessed with a happy outcome have been undertaken with sound advice.’
BOETHIUS

‘When I play with my cat who knows whether I do not make her more sport than she makes me?’
MONTAIGNE

‘If I had an income of 5,000 francs I would do nothing but work and amuse myself with women until I went to pieces.’
ENGELS

‘But, again, if life is good, how can death be anything but evil?’
PLOTINUS

The everyday lives and thoughts of the world’s great thinkers, collected in a beguiling and eccentric miscellany of fifty themes, ranging from sex and death, pets and politics, friendship and freedom, to hairdressers and extraterrestrials.

Stephen Trombley mines 2,500 years of Western thought for quotations that reflect the seriousness, the joy and the strangeness of human existence. He counterpoints these words of wisdom with episodes – sometimes humorous, sometimes poignant, sometimes peculiar – from the personal lives of the great philosophers.

STEPHEN TROMBLEY co-edited The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought with Alan Bullock. His most recent books include Fifty Thinkers Who Shaped the Modern World (2012) and A Short History of Western Thought (2011).
A history of British business genius, told through the inspiring stories of ten great entrepreneurs from the Elizabethan age to the present.

Britain’s ascent as a global power owed as much to the vision and creativity of traders, industrialists and bankers as it did to military prowess. Liam Byrne traces the nation’s entrepreneurial spirit through men such as Thomas Pitt, saviour of the East India Company; financier Nathan Rothschild, creator of the modern bond market; and John Spedan Lewis, founder of the pioneering John Lewis Partnership.

LIAM BYRNE MP is the Shadow Minister for Universities, Science and Skills. A technology entrepreneur before entering politics, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Harvard Business School.

He is the author of Turning to Face the East (2013).
Paris in 1968 – a city full of revolutionaries and spies. Will Flemyng and his brother are caught in the thick of the action.

Will Flemyng’s world is turned upside down after a mysterious encounter on the metro and a chance revelation from an East German contact. As a young spy, his first adventures behind the Iron Curtain have already established him as a valuable and trusted operative. But now he gets news that threatens the closest and most complicated relationship in his life, with his younger brother, also working in the secret service. This is the making of the man whose journey leads to The Madness of July – Will Flemyng, trapped with his friends and enemies in The Paris Spring.

JAMES NAUGHTIE is one of the best-known broadcasters in the UK. A presenter of Today on BBC Radio 4 for more than twenty years, and a prize-winning writer, he has written about politics in London and Washington for many years.
A haunting thriller set in the windswept marshes of Kent and Norfolk.

It is a year since Sam’s father died, but she cannot lay his ghost to rest. Jim was an undercover agent living a double life, and Sam has quit university to find out the truth about his work.

Her journey will take her from the nightclubs of 80s Soho to the salt marshes and shingle spits of Norfolk and Kent. Here, in a bleak landscape dotted with smugglers’ huts and buried bones, her father’s secret past calls to her like never before.

CLARE CARSON is an anthropologist and now works in international development, specialising in human rights. Her father was an undercover policeman in the 1970s. She drew on her own experiences to create the character of Sam, a rebellious eighteen-year-old who is nevertheless determined to make her father proud.
“I REMEMBER, AS A CHILD, driving through Colchester where there is an Avenue of Remembrance. The road is lined with trees and on each one is a plaque with a man’s name on it. I asked my mother what they were for and she told me they were to remember the men from Colchester who had been killed in the war. This memorial, along with a similar one I visited in Perth, Australia, gave me the idea for the ashgrove in The Lost Soldier. A solemn and dignified remembrance to the sacrifices made by so many individual men and women. I would have my own memorial grove and I would tell the story of those commemorated there. The Lost Soldier is that story.”

DINEY COSTELOE

Her fight to save the village war memorial uncovers a tragic story that reverberates from World War I to the present day.

In 1921, eight ash trees were planted in the Dorset village of Charlton Ambrose as a timeless memorial to the men killed in the First World War. Overnight a ninth appeared, marked only as for ‘the unknown soldier’.

With the village’s ashgrove under threat from developers, Rachel Elliot, a local reporter, sets out to save the memorial and solve the mystery of the ninth tree. In so doing, she uncovers the love story of Tom Carter and Molly Day, two young people thrown together by the outbreak of war.

DINEY COSTELOE is the bestselling author of The Throwaway Children. She divides her time between Somerset and West Cork with her husband, three children and seven grandchildren.
The first collection of Ken Liu’s multi-award-winning science fiction and fantasy tales.

Ken Liu has published almost 100 short stories and won nearly every genre award in existence. Here, he has selected his 15 favourite stories, including “The Man Who Ended History: A Documentary” (Finalist for Hugo, Nebula, and Sturgeon Awards), “Mono No Aware” (Hugo Award winner), “The Bookmaking Habits of Select Species” (Nebula and Sturgeon award finalists), and the most awarded story in Science Fiction and Fantasy history, “The Paper Menagerie” – the only story ever to win the Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards.

KEN LIU was born in China and moved to America at the age of 11. He read English at Harvard and studied law at Harvard Law School. He has won the Sturgeon, the Hugo, the Nebula, and the World Fantasy Awards. He also translated China’s all time bestselling SF novel, The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu, for which he won a Hugo Award.

‘Ken Liu has quickly become one of the most original and thought-provoking story writers of his generation. Deftly riffing off the power of narrative, this collection is as heartbreaking as it is charming.’ JOE MONTI

‘Had the fortune to obtain an advanced reader’s copy of The Paper Menagerie. One of the most impressive collections I’ve ever read. I’m in awe.’
JAMIE FORD

‘One of the best writers of short science fiction out there today. Ken’s work stands apart because he is both prolific and very, very good. We have prolific writers in science fiction and very good writers, but the intersection is pretty rare.’
JAMIE TODD RUBIN

‘The story not only moved me, but it shook me... He reminds us that at the heart of all fiction, even science fiction and fantasy, there is a story.’
AMAZING STORIES MAGAZINE
“QUEEN CATHERINE WAS RESPLENDENT in white satin, her litter borne by two gleaming pale horses, trapped in white cloth of gold. Her auburn hair hung loose over her shoulders, and over it lay a circlet studded with pearls. High above the crowd, King Henry rode on horseback through the streets to the adoring cheers of his subjects. His red hair gleamed as brightly as the jewels on his clothes. His tall frame was swathed in a gown of velvet and ermine, the layers beneath studded with precious stones: rubies, pearls and emeralds. Even the harness of his horse was made of damask and gold. He moved at the centre of a throng of choristers and crimson-clad knights. To the waiting crowds he looked like a hero resurrected from some ancient legend.”

LAUREN JOHNSON describes the coronation of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, 24 June 1509

England in 1509: a vivid portrait of a year that stands at a crossroads between two great monarchs – and marks the boundary between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

In 1509, Henry VII was succeeded by his son Henry VIII, second monarch of the house of Tudor. Lauren Johnson tells the story of this year not just from the perspective of king and court, but of merchant and ploughman; apprentice and laundress; husbandman and foreign worker. She looks at the social fabric of early Tudor England through the rhythms of the calendar year, juxtaposing political events in Westminster and the palaces of southeast England with the liturgical and agricultural events that punctuated the lives of ordinary people.

LAUREN JOHNSON is a historian and costumed interpreter with a first-class degree from Oxford University. Her first novel, *The Arrow of Sherwood*, appeared in August 2013.
1666: A year of fire and pestilence. The country is at war with the Dutch. Isaac Newton is a student at Trinity College, Cambridge. Samuel Pepys oversees the accounts of the King’s Navy. The baptist preacher John Bunyan languishes in Bedford County Gaol.

In Restoration Alexander Larman portrays a country in the throes of social, political and cultural change following the convulsions of Civil War and Cromwell’s Protectorate. From innkeepers to lawyers to courtiers, he investigates how the people of the time thought, ate, drank, loved and died, bringing alive the England of 300 years ago.

ALEXANDER LARMAN is a historian and journalist. His life of Lord Rochester, Blazing Star, was published by Head of Zeus in 2014.

PRAISE FOR ALEXANDER LARMAN’S BLAZING STAR: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN WILMOT, EARL OF ROCHESTER

‘A rich, witty and erudite biography from a brilliant new voice in English history.’
Dan Jones, author of The Plantagenets

‘Insightful and illuminating... Blazing Star is engagingly partisan and elegantly informative.’

The Times

‘It is delightful to read a life of Rochester which allows the reader to put his astonishing poetry in the context of the seedy, gaudy, dazzling, sordid, precarious Restoration court... Blazing Star is a very accomplished debut.’
Scotland on Sunday
From the lioness of British literature, a novel of love, death and the aristocracy set in London between the wars.

With one eye on the present and one on the past, Fay Weldon offers up to the reader the fate of an aristocratic family in the years before the Second World War. In Fay’s sharply observed novel, London is a city soaked in drizzle, peopled with flat-chested flappers, shell-shocked servicemen and aristocrats clinging to the past.

_Before the War_ is the first in a planned duet of novels, which chart the social impact of the Second World War on the fabric of the nation.

FAY WELDON, copywriter, novelist, short story writer, she-devil, journalist, teacher, wit and scourge of hypocrisy, is a national treasure.

Consider Vivien in November 1922. She is twenty-four, and a spinster. She wears fashionably droopy clothes, but she is plain and – worse – intelligent. At nearly six foot tall, she is known unkindly by her family as ‘the giantess’.

Fortunately, Vivien is rich, so she can travel to London and bribe a charismatic Gentleman Publisher to marry her. What he does not know is that Vivien is pregnant with another’s child, and will die in childbirth in just a few months...

‘A sparkling river of wit.’
_Mail on Sunday_

‘Written with an ever-present ironic twinkle, this is Fay Weldon at her most spellbinding.’
_Spectator_
First in a magical new YA Fantasy trilogy from the brother-and-sister team of John & Carole Barrowman.

Sixteen-year-old twins Matt and Em Calder are Animare: they can bring art to life, and travel in time through paintings. They work for Orion – the Animare MI5 – protecting the secrecy of their order and investigating crimes committed by their own kind.

It’s dangerous work. But then they are sent to Edinburgh to find a teenage boy who can alter reality with his music. This boy, Remy, is a Conjuror. And he carries something with him that could change humanity for all time...

JOHN BARROWMAN has worked in television, musical theatre and film. He has starred as Captain Jack Harkness in Torchwood and Doctor Who, and as Malcolm Merlyn in Arrow. His sister, CAROLE E. BARROWMAN, is a talk show host and English teacher. Together, they dreamed up the world of the Animare.

Step into the Barrowmans’ world, and meet the teenagers who can bring their art to life.

Then come and meet John Barrowman himself.

Nationwide author tour covering Media, Schools, Bookshops, Galleries and SF Conventions
Off the Grid is C.J. Box’s sixteenth Joe Pickett novel.

Pickett is a game warden, based in the fictional town of Saddlestring, Wyoming. Game wardens are armed law enforcement officers, each one solely responsible for patrolling thousands of square miles of rugged backcountry. Far beyond the reach of backup, by necessity they’re lone wolves living on their experience, their wits and their weapons as they confront the rough edges of mountain life.

Over sixteen books, Joe has been through some harrowing times – he’s taken on environmental terrorists, animal mutilators, corrupt bureaucrats, crazed hitmen, homicidal animal rights advocates, and violent dysfunctional families – but in many ways, he’s the antithesis of many modern crime protagonists. He’s happily married with a growing family of daughters. He does not arrive with excess emotional baggage, or a dark past. He works hard and tries, sincerely, to ‘do the right thing’. And that’s his greatest flaw and the engine that powers the series, as Joe’s good intentions have led him into dark and difficult territory.
Liverpool DCI Eve Clay hunts a sadistic killer targeting pensioners.

The second gripping thriller in the Red River City series.

In a smart part of Liverpool, old men and women are being murdered in their beds. Only one woman knows the killer’s motive. And she is deaf, mute, and locked up in an exclusive psychiatric ward. As DCI Eve Clay tries desperately to solve the case, her own shadowy past comes to haunt her.

Blood Vow is a fast-paced thriller with a sinister twist. Eve Clay has an intriguing past – she was abandoned by her birth mother and brought up in a Catholic care home. Eve’s job may be to solve murder cases in Merseyside, but her obsession is to solve the mysteries of her childhood.

MARK ROBERTS was born and raised in Liverpool. He was a teacher for twenty years and now works with children with severe learning difficulties. He is the author of What She Saw, which was longlisted for a CWA Gold Dagger.

‘Dark, gripping and believable. Roberts’ intimate knowledge of Liverpool makes the city into a sinister character of itself.’

GRAHAM MASTERTON

‘Brilliant storytelling.’

JIMMY MCGOVERN

‘A genuinely innovative crime writer with a taste for the macabre and unexpected.’

DAILY MAIL
“IN THE HEART OF the forest, it appears. In the clearing before me, at the centre, lies a book. It looks very old, clad in a worn white deerskin. I touch the cover gently with my fingertips. There is something exquisitely beautiful about this book. I feel that it is something that has been much honoured and loved.

Reverently I open the cover. On page after page of pale bark that curls at the edges, is inscribed the most beautiful and mysterious script. It looks as though it is written with light itself – the flowing lines shine golden and silver and sapphire. I know that I am looking at a timeless and radiant wisdom.”

ELLEN TOMPKINS

‘Elegant, graceful, humane... The Celestine Prophecy of the new millennium.’
Manda Scott

This inspirational and visionary book takes the reader on a journey through the lost teachings of the Elven – or Shining – Ones. Following the path through the ancient forest of the Deer Goddess herself, it offers a unique connection between the Elven Realms and the lost heritages of Lemuria and Atlantis.

Modern civilization is still mourning the loss of the wisdom of our connection with this beautiful, elemental world. It is said that we have been through an era when we have lost access to our higher spiritual capacities – to our multidimensional selves. In this shamanic, visionary work, Elen Tompkins brings it back to us, as a blueprint for a transformation of consciousness on the earth.

ELLEN TOMPKINS read English and Philosophy at university, before training to become a shamanic healer and Reiki master. She lives in Herefordshire.
Daughter of the Wolf is an enthralling historical saga of life and death, family and honour, ambition and treachery, set in Northumberland during the great Viking invasions of the ninth century.

At the heart of the story is a young woman, Elfrun of Donmouth. She is the daughter and heiress of Radmer, the King of Northumbria’s right hand man. She is born into a man’s world where women usually have two choices: to marry or to take the veil.

When the King sends Radmer overseas on a mission to Rome, she is left to hold the fort. Viking warlords are sailing up the Humber and marauding neighbours pose a threat closer to home. Elfrun must find the strength to take matters into her own hands if she is to save her lands, her people— and herself.

VICTORIA WHITWORTH is a lecturer at the University of the Highlands and Islands, where she specializes in the history of Early Medieval Britain.

“WHEN THE GREAT HEATHEN Army attacked the English kingdoms in the 860s, the Viking warlords who spear-headed the assault knew exactly what they were doing, pinpointing English resources and weaknesses alike with uncanny accuracy. Kingdom after kingdom tumbled. These are the birth-pangs of England.

This story is set on the shores of the Humber estuary, the front door to Northumbria. The thanes and clerics, shepherds, dairy-women and huntsmen, who work the land and serve Northumbria’s king are unaware of their danger. They know the Danes as traders and middlemen, not mercenaries, or spies. One young girl, daughter to the King of Northumbria’s right-hand man, is drawn irrevocably into the heart of feud, ambition and darkest treachery.”

VICTORIA WHITWORTH
“TEN THOUSAND CHILDREN LIKE Lisa Becker arrived in Britain in 1939, knowing no one, not speaking the language and increasingly a target for anti-German feeling. They all had different stories, different memories, but each of them had to manage these life-changing experiences and try to build themselves a new life. I have attempted to put myself in the shoes of one of them and, through her, to create a slightly different slant on how the people of London coped with the determined efforts of the Germans to bring the country to its knees.”

DINEY COSTELOE

If anything could be more emotionally gripping than Diney Costeloe’s bestseller, The Throwaway Children, it is this story of one child who escaped from Nazi Germany to England on the Kindertransport.

Lisa is thirteen when she arrives in England in August 1939, with just one precious letter from the mother she will never see again. Bullied at school for being German, worse comes when the Blitz blows her new home apart and she wakes up in hospital with no memory of who she is or where she came from. Only the letter in her pocket gives a clue as to her identity, so she is given a new name and despatched to a children’s home. But one person is sure she’s still alive. Harry, the trouble-prone boy who protected her at school, is determined to rescue Lisa again if he can...

DINEY COSTELOE is the bestselling author of The Throwaway Children. She divides her time between Somerset and West Cork with her husband, three children and seven grandchildren.
STELLA & JACK

Stella Darnell runs a successful cleaning company in west London. The daughter of a retired senior detective in the Metropolitan police who dies as the series opens, Stella becomes an unofficial detective. She solves his, and other, cold cases. It starts with Stella finding case notes for an unsolved murder in her dad’s attic: instead of shredding the files she begins to read.

A cleaner, like a detective, roots into shadowy places and restores order. Stella’s side-kick is Jack, a nighttime train driver, who has his own reasons for wanting to see justice done. Stella is rational and practical and given to little self-reflection. Jack is driven by intuition; he sees patterns everywhere and takes action accordingly.

They are an odd-ball pair, but their different skills and qualities make for a successful detective partnership.

‘A wonderfully eerie London setting, unique characters and a chilling plot... Lesley Thomson is one of our leading crime writers.’ ELLY GRIFFITHS

The summer of 1976 was the hottest in living memory. Britain sweltered, trees and plants wilted, fire ripped through forests and rivers ran dry. In London’s Kew Gardens a ten year old girl was parted from her friends and, dizzied by scorching heat, wandered lost into its secluded undergrowth.

Forty years later, the detective’s daughter Stella Darnell takes on a chilling new case. Along with Jack, a train driver, she will be drawn to the secret spaces of Kew, and to an unsolved murder that has lain dormant for decades.

LESLEY THOMSON grew up in west London. Her first novel, A Kind of Vanishing, won the People’s Book Prize in 2010. Her second novel, The Detective’s Daughter, was a no. 1 bestseller and sold over 500,000 copies.
From one of the most important contemporary American writers, *The Doll-Master and Other Tales of Terror* is a bold, haunting collection of six stories that look at the horrors that lurk beneath the everyday.

A young boy plays with dolls over action figures, but as he grows older, his passion takes on a darker edge... A white man shoots dead a black teenager, creating a media frenzy. But it could have been self-defense as he claims...

A nervous young woman tries to escape her husband. He insists he loves her, but she’s convinced he means to kill her...

Never one to shy away from uncomfortable truths, in these remarkable stories Oates explore the horrors that dwell – however deeply hidden – within us all.

JOYCE CAROL OATES is the author of over seventy works and the winner of a host of prizes including the National Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She is Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University.
Billy Wright, Bobby Moore, Gary Lineker and David Beckham: four titans of the beautiful game, who have all worn the England captain’s armband and therefore felt the hopes of a nation weigh heavily on their shoulders.

Bestselling football writer Colin Shindler explores the changing landscape of postwar England through the careers of four iconic England football captains. These men embody half a century of change, from Wright, who fought in World War II and smoked a pipe; to Moore, cool and modish hero of ’66; to savvy, telegenic Lineker; to the tattooed 21st century celebrity that is Beckham.

COLIN SHINDLER is a social and cultural historian, producer and journalist and the author of the bestselling Manchester City Ruined My Life and National Service, a social history of conscription between 1946 and 1962.

‘A wonderful book... extremely funny’ Sunday Times on Manchester United Ruined My Life

‘Compelling... the football book of the year’ The Times on Fathers, Sons and Football
We need to reclaim death from the experts, to make awareness of it part of our everyday lives, to de-medicalize it, or at least, to reduce over-medicalization. I do not suggest that we can magically rid ourselves of the fear of it, or that we should try obsessively to control the manner and timing of it. Death is grand and mysterious. It cannot be hidden away; the doing of it should not be reduced to a set of tried and tested manoeuvres.

One of the more pernicious myths of modern medicine is the notion that a doctor with ‘communication skills’ and a sympathetic manner can somehow magically transmute bad news into something palatable, that he or she can, Mary Poppins-like, give a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down.

This is not a book of consolation: death is only affliction, and the end of our days. We are frail and vulnerable animals. We cannot banish death, or ignore it, or sanitize it, or challenge its dominion.

‘Dying has never been so public, so vividly described, so contradictory or so sanitary. We have lost the ability to deal with death.’

Today it is likely that we will die in a busy hospital in the care of strangers. We may not even know that we are dying – victims of the kindly lie that there is still hope. In our final hours, we will probably be robbed of our dignity after a long series of excessive and hopeless medical interventions. Seamus O’Mahony’s thoughtful, moving and unforgettable book on the Western way of death describes how we have done our best to banish all thought of dying and made a good death increasingly difficult to achieve.

DR SEAMUS O’MAHONY is a Consultant Gastroenterologist at Cork University Hospital. He is Associate Editor for Medical Humanities of the Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and is a regular contributor to the Dublin Review of Books.
IT’S TERRIFYING HERE.
IT’S FUCKING GLORIOUS.

We were an eternity in the car. The city, normal people, decent radio stations and streetlights seemed distant memories. We were far, far gone from civilization. This was deep outback with nothing but brush. The straightest road to nowhere that didn’t twist or turn for hours. The odd railway track. The odd small village with buildings unchanged from the time the Brits ruled the Aussies and tried to culture the indigenous.

We drove up the fields. We drove down them. Tall, dark green mango trees in exact rows. Fucking zillions of them. People worked there, hurling the mangoes off the trees into the nets, laying them into the big blue bins. Getting paid badly by the bin.

The rays hit the leaves on the trees, everything is neon. The contrast turned up. Bight greens and blues. Yellows.

You lay and watch the sunset. The purples, the golds, the pinks, the reds changing into blues – royal, navy, violet, midnight. Once tiredness comes, you sleep soundly.

You wake with the sun.

‘Hopper started to get worse. He was seeing colours, dangerous colours. Ones that couldn’t be there in the dark, ones that made the panic noise in his chest.’

Three Irish migrants leave a man called Hopper for dead on an outback road in Australia. They barely know him; he’s out of his head on acid, and no-one will miss him in their world of hostels, wild nights on cheap wine and bad drugs and brutal work on isolated farms. But he is less easy to forget than to abandon.

Hopper’s fate intertwines with that of two other characters in this powerful novel of young people on the run. Fiona has fled an abusive relationship that has shattered her self respect; Murph’s family lost a fortune when the Celtic Tiger collapsed. In this vast promised land they try to escape their past, but shame and guilt drag them down into a murk of violence and cruelty.

E.M. REAPY is an Irish writer, editor and tutor. She was shortlisted for the Over the Edge New Writer of the Year Award 2014 and Red Dirt is her debut novel.
Nadine Dorries, bestselling author of The Four Streets trilogy, returns with this engrossing novel that draws on her roots in Liverpool, and early experiences as a nurse.

Liverpool, 1955. As the doors of St Angelus Hospital open to a new influx of student nurses, four very different girls begin a friendship that will change their lives forever. As they learn how to bandage limbs, suture wounds and perfect their hospital corners, they will also discover the delights and dangers on offer to young women in a suddenly very, very wide world.

Full of Nadine’s warmth, wit and wisdom, The Angels Of Lonely Lane is the first instalment in a new series that will follow these girls as they grow into women.

NADINE DORRIES grew up in a working class family in Liverpool. She trained as a nurse, then pursued a successful career in business. She has been the MP for Mid-Bedfordshire since 2005 and has three daughters.

FROM NADINE DORRIES, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE FOUR STREETS

‘The characters are engaging, the street scenes cinematic and the theme of the novel powerful.’ THE TIMES

‘Angela’s Ashes with a scouse accent.’ THE IRISH TIMES

‘A vigorous and vibrant story of childhood in fifties Liverpool... As fast-paced as it is entertaining. An addictive novel to be devoured in one sitting.’ SUNDAY EXPRESS

‘A heartbreaking tale.’ LIVERPOOL ECHO

‘Catholic Liverpool, Irish immigrants and dark secrets... a funny and sometimes shocking saga. I couldn’t put it down.’ CRISTINA ODONE
A locked-room mystery full of wit, originality... and grisly murders. ‘Delightful and original. A series that could well become a cult.’ Daily Mail

London, 1884: A young woman turns up at the door of 125 Gower Street – residence of Sidney Grice, Personal Detective, and his ward, March Middleton – imploring them to solve the mystery of her father’s murder.

Mr Nathan Garstang was found slaughtered in his bed, with no trace of a weapon or intruder. His French maid, the valet and the cook are all in the frame for murder. But what piques Sidney’s interest is the crime’s link to one of London’s most notorious unsolved murders. Ten years ago, Nathan’s uncle, aunt and servants were murdered in the very same house in the very same way. The Garston murderer is back. Unless, that is, he never left in the first place...

M.R.C. KASASIAN has now written four books in the Gower Street Detective series. He lives in Suffolk.
Gideon Crew – brilliant scientist, master thief – is living on borrowed time.

When his mysterious employer, Eli Glinn, gives him an eyebrow-raising mission, he has no reason to refuse. Gideon’s task: steal a page from the priceless Book of Kells, now on display in New York City and protected by unbreakable security.

Accomplishing the impossible, Gideon steals the parchment – only to learn that hidden beneath the gorgeously illuminated image is a treasure map dating back to the time of the ancient Greeks. And it leads to no ordinary fortune, but something far more precious: a discovery that could perhaps save Gideon’s life.

Together with his new partner, Amy, Gideon follows a trail of cryptic clues to an unknown island in a remote corner of the Caribbean Sea. There, off the hostile and desolate Mosquito Coast, the pair realize the extraordinary treasure they are hunting conceals an even greater shock - a revelation so profound that it may benefit the entire human race... if Gideon and Amy can survive.
‘Divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived’ – so goes the famous rhyme we use to remember the fates of Henry VIII’s six wives.

Katherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Kateryn Parr are names that have assumed mythic status in English history. Only three of these women would give Henry a child that survived infancy: two girls (Mary and Elizabeth) and one boy (Edward). All three would inherit the crown worn by their mighty father, but the Tudor dynasty would not outlive their deaths. Suzannah Lipscomb’s authoritative and insightful accounts of the lives of these six queens are embellished by beautiful images of the principal players in this most compelling of royal dramas.

SUZANNAH LIPSCOMB is a historian and TV presenter, and a Senior Lecturer at the New College of the Humanities. She is the author of 1536: The Year That Changed Henry VIII and The King is Dead: The Last Will and Testament of Henry VIII.
A love affair with the Lake District.

Hunter Davies, who has spent every summer in the Lake District for nearly half a century, takes us on an engaging and affectionate tour of the lakes, fells, traditions, denizens and history of one of England’s most adored landscapes. From the first discovery of the Lakeland as a tourist destination in the eighteenth century, to the tale of the Maid of Buttermere, to the poet Coleridge’s ascent of Scafell Pike, Hunter Davies brings the Lake District to life with colour and style.

HUNTER DAVIES is a prolific author, journalist and broadcaster. The author of a number of guides to the Lake District, as well as biographies of Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter and Wainwright, he divides his time between North London and Cumbria.

The Lake District

‘I don’t know any tract of land in which in so narrow a compass may be found an equal variety of sublime and beautiful features.’

William Wordsworth

HUNTER DAVIES

‘Affable, curious, unpretentious, never dull, Hunter is one of the most agreeable egomaniacs I know.’

Michael Palin
This series of handsomely produced books – selected by the distinguished critic, poet and editor Michael Schmidt, in conjunction with Neil Belton, editorial director at Head of Zeus – makes great forgotten works of fiction available to a new generation of readers.

The first eight books reflect Schmidt’s vision of the novel as an infinitely flexible aesthetic response to the extremity of modern experience.

The list includes an East European classic, a fable of the enduring tensions that have made the Balkans so lethally violent; a scarifying portrait of a self-destructive family and irresponsible fatherhood; a story of Jewish survivors set in the ruined, paranoid Berlin of the mid 1950s; and Now in November, a haunting and beautiful novel about a middle class city family reduced to dirt-poor rural poverty during the Great Depression. Here too are The Day of Judgment, the great Sardinian novel of the 20th century, and The Authentic Death of Hendry Jones, a remarkable novel about the enduring American myth of the gunslinger.

Apollo will challenge the established canon and surprise and move readers with its choice of books.
Josephine Johnson • Now in November

‘Now in November, the story of a dirt-poor farming family in the Midwest during the Great Depression, is a forgotten classic. Beautifully written, full of subtle characterisations, this remarkably mature novel (Johnson was twenty-four when she wrote it) deservedly won the Pulitzer Prize in 1935... brilliantly captures adolescent intensity and the uncertainty of “a world all wrong”.’

Carol Birch

It is a rare event when a truly neglected novel comes to light, one that has vanished despite its obvious claims to enduring status as a work of art. Now In November, written by a twenty-four-year old woman and awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1934, is a novel of great emotional power about a period uncomfortably close to our own: a time when middle-class families were plunged into dire straits and forced to do anything to survive.

Johnson tells the story, in restrained, bible-haunted prose, of a ruined city family who take on the lease of a farm somewhere in the American Midwest. For ten years, years of backbreaking, relentless labour, the parents and their three daughters try to make farming work. They have few distractions and almost no pleasures, apart from the heartbreaking beauty of the indifferent nature from which they try to make a living. In the tenth year, a young man from a neighbouring farm comes to work with them, upsetting the fragile balance of their lives. And in the summer of that year, the rains fail to come.

JOSEPHINE JOHNSON was born in 1910 and published ten works in her lifetime. She died in 1990. Now in November is her greatest achievement.
Salvatore Satta • The Day of Judgment

‘The Day of Judgment is that now improbable gift, for which one cannot be too thankful: a great European novel.’

Susan Sontag

‘To know ourselves we have to live our own lives to the bitter end, until the moment we fall into the grave. And even then we need someone to gather us up, to revive us, to speak about us both to ourselves and to others, as in a last judgment.’

Like Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa’s The Leopard, The Day of Judgment is the product of a lifetime’s quiet work and, like his Sicilian counterpart’s great book, it was published posthumously and immediately hailed as a classic of Italian and world literature.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, in the Sardinian town of Nuoro – isolated, surrounded by harsh mountains and a malarial plain – Don Sebastiano Sanna reflects on his life, his family’s history and the fortunes of this provincial backwater where he has lived out his days. He is the local aristocrat and notary, and the town’s inhabitants appear in his memories like lost souls awaiting release, condemned to rituals and small lives.

SALVATORE SATTA, an eminent jurist who rewrote the Italian penal code after the Second World War, died in 1975. The manuscript of The Day of Judgment was found among his papers.
Emanuel Litvinoff • The Lost Europeans

‘Litvinoff has the intimate, astringent touch of a Remarque, an Isherwood, a Kurt Weill – but he also knows the human heartbeat of the world of Anne Frank, and that humanity pervades this dramatic, mature story.’

Vanguard Press

The Lost Europeans is a brilliant evocation of postwar Berlin in the early 1950s, a divided city haunted by guilt and fear. The burgeoning economy allows people to enjoy a hectic nightlife, but nothing can be taken for granted in this landscape of ruins. Martin Stone, a young Jew, returns to the city from which his family was driven in 1938. He has concealed his destination from his father, whose bank was stolen by the Nazis, and hopes to win some form of restitution for the depressed old man living in London among his fellow exiles.

Stone can barely bring himself to talk to Germans, but he is gradually drawn into the seductive life of young people who lived through the disaster their parents created. His friend Hugo Krantz, a celebrated cabaret artist from the Weimar period, has already returned from London. Under the cover of his perfume business, he is obsessed with tracking down his former lover, Putzi von Schlesinger, who betrayed him to the Nazis and became an officer in the Waffen SS. Putzi is officially dead, but nothing is quite what it seems in this febrile city...

EMANUEL LITVINOFF was born in 1915 in Whitechapel, then a largely Jewish slum which was unforgettable described in his memoir Journey Through A Small Planet. He died in 2011.
Bosnian Chronicle

In a novel with the range and sweep of *Bosnian Chronicle*, the main conflict is between the large forces of history, religion and ideology, of east and west. Their passing embodiment in lives vividly portrayed gives history a hundred telling faces and voices.

*Michael Schmidt*

This is the great achievement of the great Yugoslav novelist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1961. Andrić wrote it in Belgrade in the 1940s while the city was under Nazi occupation.

In 1807, in the little Bosnian mountain town of Travnik, the apparently invincible Napoleonic regime establishes a consulate. The French consul finds himself intriguing against his Austrian rival and the Turkish viziers who are nominal rulers of the area, and dealing with a confusing cast of Bosnian notables, Catholic and Orthodox priests, Jewish merchants and Muslim farmers. Ethnic rivalries and strange forms of coexistence complicate the outsiders’ understanding of Bosnia; and a Serbian rebellion against the Turks is simmering beyond the mountains.

This Tolstoyan epic of mutual incomprehension and its tragic consequences tells us more about the Balkans than a dozen history books.

IVO ANDRIĆ is the author of *The Bridge On the Drina* and other works. He was born to a Croat family in a small Bosnian town near Travnik in what was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He died in 1975.
Charles Neider • The Authentic Death of Hendry Jones

‘Sam Peckinpah’s version of Billy’s brief life (Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid) is hailed as his masterpiece. But Neider’s book is better, better than any other book on the subject of men, horses and death.’

Clive Sinclair

A stark and violent exploration of an American myth, The Authentic Death of Hendry Jones is a novel about a doomed gunslinger. This is the world of the frontier and of Billy the Kid transposed to the furthest point west on the continent, the coast of Baja California with its mysterious cliffs and headlands.

Written in spare and subtle prose and in the voice of the otherwise unnamed Kid’s former sidekick Doc Baker, this slender novel, so brief and swift, deserves to be recognised as one of the great literary treatments of America’s obsession with the rule of the gun and of murderous vengeance.

CHARLES NEIDER was a Jewish refugee from Odessa who became a scholar of the works of Mark Twain. The Authentic Death of Hendry Jones was the basis of the only film directed by Marlon Brando, One-Eyed Jacks.
Howard Spring • My Son, My Son

‘A novel in the grand tradition... one scene succeeds another with compelling force. A book which is real, satisfying and fine.’

Evening Standard

An immensely gifted novelist in the great realist tradition, Howard Spring was hugely successful in his lifetime and, like many novelists of his generation, became unfashionable following his death in 1965.

My Son, My Son is his greatest achievement and deserves to find a new generation of readers. It is the story of two hard-driven, determined men, William Essex and Dermot O’Riordan, one a celebrated English novelist and the other a successful Irish entrepreneur and passionate nationalist, and of their sons, in whom are invested all the love, ambition and hope that fathers can imagine. Oliver Essex and Rory O’Riordan grow up as friends before the First World War, but their fathers’ lofty plans for them threaten to have disastrous consequences as events in Ireland spiral bloodily out of control.

HOWARD SPRING was born in Cardiff in 1889. He worked for the Manchester Guardian and the Evening Standard before becoming a full-time writer of novels, which include Fame Is the Spur, a fictional account of a working-class Labour leader’s rise to power.
Eudora Welty • Delta Wedding

‘The portrait she gives us is nothing short of wonderful, and the way she gets hold of the particular quality of Southern speech, with its nuances, obliquities, and special kind of humour, is a minor triumph.’

New Yorker

This subtle, lush, dynamic portrait of a large family in the Mississippi Delta encapsulates Eudora Welty’s unique vision of the South – not that of Faulkner, not quite that of Harper Lee – that marked her out as one of America’s greatest writers.

The Fairchild clan has gathered for the summer wedding of Dabney, the second daughter of the family, and Troy Flavin, the overseer of the family’s lands. Troy is deemed unsuitable due to his lowly origins, but no family member is vulgar enough to mention this out loud. Instead we see the build up to the wedding through various eyes, from a nine-year-old orphaned cousin, to a ninety-year-old spinster aunt. The apparent simplicity of the plot belies the complexity of family relationships wrapped within, with each individual voice brought out in exquisite detail amongst the chaotic mêlée of an overflowing house engulfed in the semi-tropical fug of late summer.

EUDORA WELTY (1909–2001) won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for The Optometrist’s Daughter. She wrote novels and short stories about the American South and lived her whole life in Jackson, Mississippi. Her house has been designated as a national Historic Landmark.
Christina Stead • The Man Who Loved Children

‘This crazy, gorgeous family novel is one of the great literary achievements of the twentieth century. I carry it in my head the way I carry childhood memories; the scenes are of such precise horror and comedy that I feel I didn’t read the book so much as live it.’

Jonathan Franzen

This is one of the least-read great novels of the twentieth century. Set in a suburb of Washington DC in the mid thirties, it is the work of an Australian writer who’d been living in the US for a mere four years.

Stead’s ruthless portrayal of the conflict between a wife and husband and its effects on their children is one of the weirdest and most intense fictional realizations of family dysfunction in all of literature. The eponymous father, Sam Pollitt, is a well-meaning monster of egoism and self-delusion, loving his children but subjecting them to mad schemes of self reliance, crackpot educational theories and casual cruel mockery when they dare to resist him. He speaks in a constant babble of cod accents, baby-talk and private jokes.

His long-suffering, embittered wife Henny, mother of their six children, is a geyser of resentment and rage against her improvident husband and his illusions, her language of hate as inventive as his idealistic gobbledygook. Between these astonishing parents stands Louie, Sam’s teenage daughter by his dead first wife, the only sane semi-adult figure in the book. Her attempts to rebel against her father drive the novel to its hair-raising climax.

CHRISTINA STEAD was born in Sydney in 1902 and lived for most of her life outside Australia. The Man Who Loved Children has been hailed as a masterpiece by Randall Jarrell, Jonathan Franzen and many other writers.

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