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PROFILE BOOKS
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
**The Confidence Men**
How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History
Margalit Fox

The true story of two First World War prisoners who pulled off one of the most ingenious escapes of all time

Imprisoned in a remote Turkish POW camp during the First World War, two British officers, Harry Jones and Cedric Hill, cunningly join forces. To stave off boredom, Jones takes a handmade Ouija board and holds fake séances for fellow prisoners. One day, an Ottoman official approaches him with a query: could Jones contact the spirits to find a vast treasure rumoured to be buried nearby? Jones, a lawyer, and Hill, a magician, use the Ouija board – and their keen understanding of the psychology of deception – to build a trap for their captors that will lead them to freedom.

The Confidence Men is a nonfiction thriller featuring strategy, mortal danger and even high farce – and chronicles a profound but unlikely friendship.

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**The Nation of Plants**
A Radical Manifesto for Humans
Stefano Mancuso

This playful manifesto – presented for the plant nation by a leading neurobiologist – is an international bestseller

As plants see it, humans are not the masters of Earth but only one of its most unpleasant and irksome residents. They have been on the planet for about 300,000 years (nothing compared to the three billion years of plant evolution), yet have changed the conditions of the planet so drastically as to make it a dangerous place for their own survival. It’s time for plants to offer advice.

In this playful, philosophical manifesto, Stefano Mancuso, expert on plant intelligence, presents a new constitution on which to build our future as beings respectful of the Earth and its inhabitants. These eight articles – the fundamental pillars on which plant life is based – must henceforth regulate all living beings.

---

Margalit Fox was a senior writer at The New York Times, where, as a member of the celebrated Obituary News Department, she wrote the public sendoffs of many leading figures of our age. Her previous books are Conan Doyle for the Defence, The Riddle of the Labyrinth and Talking Hands.

Stefano Mancuso is a leading authority in plant neurobiology, which explores signalling and communication at all levels of biological organisation. He teaches at the University of Florence and has been ranked ‘world changer’ by the New Yorker. His works, including The Revolutionary Genius of Plants and The Incredible Journey of Plants, are widely translated all over the world.
How to Deal With Idiots
(and stop being one yourself)

Maxime Rovere TRANSLATED BY DAVID BELLOS

An alternative to chucking your most irksome relative out a window - and one sure to spark debate

Idiocy is all around us: whether it's the uncle spouting conspiracy theories, the colleagues who repeat your point but louder, or the commuters who still can't gauge two metres, our lives are beset by idiots. But what is the answer to this perpetual scourge?

It may be closer to home than you thought. With warmth, wit and wisdom, philosopher Maxime Rovere illuminates a new understanding for the affliction of our age, offers tools and strategies to root out this poison from our lives, and reveals how to stop being the idiot yourself.

Alessandro Barbero is an Italian historian, novelist and essayist. He is the author of The Bottle, The Day of the Barbarians and Charlemagne. He writes for Il Sole 24 Ore and La Stampa, is the editor of Storia d’Europa e del Mediterraneo and regularly appears on television and radio.

Allan Cameron has translated twenty-four books including The Anonymous Novel by Alessando Barbero.

Dante

Alessandro Barbero TRANSLATED BY ALLAN CAMERON

A new biography of Dante in time for the 700th anniversary of his death

Dante Alighieri’s Divine Comedy has defined how people imagine and depict Heaven and Hell for over 700 years. However, outside of Italy, his other works are not well known, and less still is generally known about the context he wrote them in.

In Dante, Barbero brings the legendary author’s Italy to life, describing the political intrigue, battles, city and society that shaped his life and work.

Over 100,000 copies sold in Italy
Pocket World in Figures 2022

The Economist

The new edition of this annual pocket blockbuster, packed with the latest amazing data about the world

For over thirty years, Pocket World in Figures has been the indispensable handbook on the state of the world. Where else would you find out, in a single volume, that Zambia is the most entrepreneurial country on Earth, that Qatar uses the most energy per head of population and that the Virgin Islands has the fourth-highest murder rate of any region in the world?

The latest edition includes information from over 180 countries, presented in a series of rankings and country profiles. Fully updated and revised each year to include new rankings and features, it also includes detailed statistical profiles of more than sixty-five of the world’s major economies, the euro area and the world itself.

Showcasing the Economist’s strength in data journalism with charts and graphs, the Pocket World in Figures 2022 also invites readers to test their knowledge with a fiendishly difficult quiz.

What’s the Use?
The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics

Ian Stewart

A bestselling author tries to rehabilitate a much-maligned field

Many people think mathematics is useless. Professor Ian Stewart knows that they’re wrong. Mathematical sciences (pure and applied mathematics, statistics and computer science) contributed $37 trillion to the US economy in the first decade of the twenty-first century. In the UK, the 2.8 million people employed in mathematical science occupations contributed £208 billion to the economy in a single year – that’s 10 per cent of the workforce contributing 16 per cent of the economy.

In What’s the Use?, Professor Stewart asks why there is such a vast gulf between public perceptions of mathematics and the reality, and looks for ways of bridging that gap. Mathematics is broader and more advanced than most of us imagine. Many of its uses are hidden from public view. This book aims to clarify the ways that mathematics contributes to all our lives.

Ian Stewart is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of Warwick and the author of the bestseller Professor Stewart’s Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities. His recent books include Do Dice Play God?, Significant Figures, Professor Stewart’s Incredible Numbers, Seventeen Equations that Changed the World, Professor Stewart’s Casebook of Mathematical Mysteries and Calculating the Cosmos. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society.
**Something Out of Place**

Women and Disgust

Eimear McBride

A provocative, intimate essay from Eimear McBride, award-winning author of *A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing*

In her blistering nonfiction debut, Eimear McBride unpicks the contradictory forces of disgust and objectification that control and shame women. From playground taunts of ‘only sluts do it’ but ‘virgins are frigid’, to ladette culture, and the arrival of ‘ironic’ porn, via Debbie Harry, the Kardashians and the Catholic Church – she looks at how this prejudicial messaging has played out in the past, and still surrounds us today.

In this subversive essay, McBride asks – are women still damned if we do, damned if we don’t? How can we give our daughters (and sons) the unbounded futures we want for them? And, in this moment of global crisis, might our gift for juggling contradiction help us to find a way forward?

**Being a Human**

Adventures in 40,000 Years of Consciousness

Charles Foster

A radical work of nature writing and philosophical enquiry, resituationg us in our real human skins

What kind of creature is a human? If we don’t know what we are, how can we know how to act? In *Being a Human* Charles Foster sets out to understand what a human is, inhabiting the sensory worlds of humans at three pivotal moments in our history.

Foster begins his quest in a wood in Derbyshire with his son, shivering, starving and hunting, trying to find a way of experiencing the world that recognises the deep expanse of time when we understood ourselves as hunter-gatherers, indivisible from the non-human world, and when modern consciousness was first ignited. From there he travels to the Neolithic, when we tamed animals, plants and ourselves, to a way of being defined by walls, fences, farms, sky gods and slaughterhouses. And finally to the rarefied world of the Enlightenment, when we decided that the universe was a machine and we were soulless cogs within it.

**August**

Feminism / Social History

A format hardback

160pp £9.99

ISBN 978 1 78816 286 9
eISBN 978 1 78283 572 1

World

Eimear McBride’s debut novel, *A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing*, received a number of awards including the Goldsmiths Prize, the Baileys Women’s Prize for Fiction and Irish Novel of the Year. Her second novel, *The Lesser Bohemians*, won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. She occasionally writes and reviews for the Guardian, TLS and New Statesman.

Charles Foster is the author of *The New York Times* Bestseller *Being a Beast*, which was longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize and the Wainwright Prize, won the 30 million d’amus Prize in France, and is the subject of a forthcoming feature film. In 2016, he won the Ig Nobel Prize for Biology.

**August**

Nature / Philosophy

Demy hardback

320pp £16.99

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eISBN 978 1 78283 810 4

WxUSAC

Charles Foster

Author of *Being a Beast*
Know Your Rights
The Law in 60 Seconds
Christian Weaver

We engage with the law every day: when we leave the house, and even when we don’t, we’re bound by rules we don’t even notice, until they’re used against us. Knowing our rights means taking control of our lives.

In this handbook, lawyer Christian Weaver brings together everything you need to know to claim your space in the world. Whether you are arguing with your landlord, looking for a refund, going to a protest or being harassed, this essential guide illuminates the full power of the law, and arms you with your rights, including:

- in a relationship
- at home
- out on the street
- when you’ve spent money, owe it or are owed it.

From housing to relationships, police conduct to travel, this guide will give you the confidence and clarity to take control in any situation.

Christian Weaver is a barrister at a leading human rights chambers. Tired of people he knew being unfairly stopped and searched, he created the YouTube series ‘The Law in 60 Seconds’ in 2018; the videos have thousands of views and have been featured in BBC News, BBC Radio 4, the Guardian and the Independent.

Courage is Calling
A Book about Bravery
Ryan Holiday

Fortune favours the bold. All great leaders of history have known this, and were successful because of the risks they dared to take. But today so many of us are paralysed by fear.

Drawing on ancient Stoic wisdom and examples across history and around the world, Ryan Holiday shows why courage is so important, and explains how to cultivate it in our own lives. Courage is not simply physical bravery but also doing the right thing and standing up for what you believe; it is creativity, generosity and perseverance. And it is the only way to live an extraordinary, fulfilled and effective life.

Everything in life stems from courage. This book will equip you with the bravery to begin.

Ryan Holiday is one of the world’s foremost thinkers and writers on ancient philosophy and its place in everyday life. His books have sold over 3 million copies worldwide, and include The Obstacle is the Way, Ego is the Enemy, Stillness is the Key and The Daily Stoic.
Between Two Hells
The Irish Civil War
Diarmaid Ferriter

The definitive account of a conflict that continues to shape Irish politics

After the end of the Irish War of Independence in 1921 Irish republicans signed a compromise treaty with London creating an Irish Free State but which required an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. It split the republican movement and the country in two and in 1922 Ireland collapsed into a cruel civil war, ripping Sinn Féin, the IRA, local communities and families asunder. While the body count suggests it was less devastating than some other European civil wars it had a harrowing impact on the small island and cast a long shadow, socially, economically and politically. Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, the two parties that grew out of the rival factions, have ruled Ireland since the end of the civil war but it was only in 2020 – almost a century after the conflict – that the two could see their way to officially sharing power. Drawing on previously unpublished sources, Ireland’s most renowned historian lays bare the impact of the war, the lives it cost, the fate of its survivors and how this tragedy shaped modern Ireland.

Confronting Leviathan
A History of Ideas
David Runciman

A sparkling guide to the essential figures of political theory

Based on the History of Ideas podcast series by Talking Politics host David Runciman, Confronting Leviathan explores some of the most important thinkers and prominent ideas lying behind modern politics – from Hobbes to Gandhi, from democracy to patriarchy, and from revolution to lockdown.

While explaining the most important and oft-cited ideas of thinkers such as Constant, de Tocqueville, Marx and Engels, Hayek, MacKinnon and Fukuyama, David Runciman shows how crises – revolutions, wars, depressions, pandemics – generated these new ways of political thinking. This is a history of ideas to help make sense of what’s happening today.
The Digital Silk Road
China’s Quest to Wire the World and Win the Future
Jonathan Hillman

An expert on China’s growing digital empire provides an urgent look at the battle to connect and control tomorrow’s networks

Its vast infrastructure projects now extend from the ocean floor to outer space, and from Africa’s megacities into rural America. China is wiring the world, and, in doing so, rewriting the global order.

As things stand, the rest of the world still has a choice. But the battle for tomorrow will require America and its allies to take daring risks in uncertain political terrain. Unchecked, China will reshape global flows of data to reflect its interests. It will develop an unrivalled understanding of market movements, the deliberations of foreign competitors, and the lives of countless individuals enmeshed in its systems. Networks create large winners, and this is one contest that democracies can’t afford to lose.

Taking readers on a global tour of these emerging battlefields, Jonathan Hillman reveals what China’s digital footprint looks like on the ground, and explores the dangers of a world in which all routers lead to Beijing.

September
Politics
Royal hardback
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UK & Commonwealth

Jonathan Hillman is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has served as a policy advisor to the US Trade Representative, testified before Congress, briefed Fortune 500 executives, and his commentary has been published in the Washington Post, Financial Times and Wall Street Journal.

The War of Nerves
Inside the Cold War Mind
Martin Sixsmith

A major new history of the Cold War: exploring the conflict through the minds of the people who lived it

More than any other conflict, the Cold War was fought on the battlefield of the human mind. Thirty years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, its legacy endures – not only in our politics, but in our own thoughts and fears.

Drawing on a vast array of untapped archives and unseen sources, Martin Sixsmith vividly recreates the tensions and paranoia of the Cold War, framing it for the first time from a psychological perspective. Revisiting towering personalities such as Khrushchev, Kennedy and Nixon, as well as the lives of the unknown millions who were caught up in the conflict, this is a gripping account of fear itself – and in today’s uncertain times, it is more resonant than ever.

Martin Sixsmith studied Russian at Oxford, Harvard, the Sorbonne and in St Petersburg, and psychology at Birkbeck and London Metropolitan University. He witnessed the end of the Cold War first hand, reporting for the BBC from Moscow during the presidencies of Gorbachev and Yeltsin. He is the author of two novels and several works of nonfiction, including Philomena and Russia: A 1,000-Year Chronicle of the Wild East.

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World
A Cheesemonger’s Compendium of British & Irish Cheese
Ned Palmer

A full-colour, delicious guide to artisanal and farmhouse cheeses from the bestselling author of A Cheesemonger’s History of the British Isles

A Cheesemonger’s Compendium introduces 150 of the finest cheeses from across the British Isles. It is a perfect companion for all of us hooked by Ned Palmer’s acclaimed Cheesemonger’s History. Each cheese on Palmer’s cheeseboard is accompanied by a morsel of history or a dash of folklore, a description of its flavours, and an enticing illustration.

Palmer peppers his book with stories of eccentric and colourful cheesemakers and celebrates both traditional farmhouse and modern artisanal cheeses – fresh, mould-ripened, washed-rind, blue and hard. He explains how to buy your cheese like a monger, how to cut and store it, and how best to match it with drinks. The guide is completed by a brilliantly illustrated gazetteer.

Ned Palmer worked as a jazz pianist and hospital porter before a shift at Borough Market led him into a life of mongering. Visiting farms for Neal’s Yard Dairy, he had the idea for a Cheesemonger’s History, the success of which has established him as Britain’s favourite cheese fancier.

A Spotter’s Guide to Countryside Mysteries
From Scowles and Piddocks to Witch’s Broom
John Wright

A grown-up I spy for the great outdoors that illuminates the details we might otherwise miss

The natural world is full of mysteries, whether the masses of twigs that look like abandoned nests, fuzzy red balls on roses, stranded ponds on hilltops, or even the shaded ways we walk along.

One of Britain’s best-known naturalists, John Wright here introduces us to the natural (and unnatural) mysteries of the countryside, giving us the tools to identify Witch’s Broom, Robin’s Pincushion, Dew ponds, Hollow Ways and many more, as well as their histories, how they come to be, and where to find them. From the enormous to the truly tiny he illuminates the oddities that pepper our countryside and the pleasure of spotting and understanding them.

Beautifully illustrated, practical and entertaining, this is for anyone who has wondered what is that? or simply longs to get outside again.

John Wright is a naturalist and one of Great Britain’s leading experts on fungi. His most recent books include A Natural History of the Hedgerow and The Forager’s Calendar. He lives in Dorset, where he regularly leads forays into nature and goes on long walks across all terrains.

October
Nature
Demy hardback
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World
Exclusive Europe
The Daily Laws
366 Meditations on Power, Seduction, Mastery, Strategy and Human Nature
Robert Greene

From the #1 bestselling author, a year’s worth of daily wisdom and guidance

Robert Greene gets asked the same question again and again: ‘I want to become more powerful, more successful, the best at what I do. What’s the secret?’

The answer: Pick up *The Daily Laws* every single day.

*The Daily Laws* draws from Greene’s work to give refined and concise wisdom for each day of the year, in easy-to-digest lessons that are simple to absorb. Each day features a Commandment as well – a prescription or prompt to follow. Each month centres around a major theme like power, seduction, strategy, human nature, mastery, psychology, leadership or emotion.

‘Daily study,’ Tolstoy wrote in 1884, is ‘necessary for all people.’ This book will be a Rosetta Stone for understanding and internalising the lessons of Greene’s books, and will reward a lifetime of reading.

Famed across the known world, jealously guarded by private collectors, built up over centuries, destroyed in a single day, ornamented with gold leaf and frescoes or filled with bean bags and children’s drawings – the history of the library is rich, varied and stuffed full of incident.

In this, the first major history of its kind, Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen explore the contested and dramatic history of the library, from the famous collections of the ancient world to the embattled public resources we cherish today. Along the way, they introduce us to the antiquarians and philanthropists who shaped the world’s great collections, trace the rise and fall of fashions and tastes, and reveal the high crimes and misdemeanours committed in pursuit of rare and valuable manuscripts.


Andrew Pettegree holds a professorship at St Andrews University and is one of the leading experts on Europe during the Reformation. He is the author of *The Invention of News* and *Brand Luther*.

Arthur der Weduwen is associate editor of the Universal Short Title Catalogue project at St Andrews. This is his fifth book.
**The Colour Code**

**A Compendium**

**Paul Simpson**

*A kaleidoscopic compendium of colour cultures and meanings that will change the way you see the spectrum*

How many colours are there? In the West we see seven, but the Chinese see five, while the Pirahã tribe in the Amazon have no words for the spectrum. Colour isn’t something we see; it’s something we think.

In this popular culture miscellany, Paul Simpson takes eleven key colours and explores how they have shaped our evolution as a species, persuaded us in politics and culture and allowed us to express or oppress personal freedoms. *The Colour Code* investigates such issues as the shifting gender of pink, the poisonous potential of green, the decadence of yellow, the performance-diminishing impact of grey and the ways in which orange has shaped power in Europe.

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**Fabric**

**The Hidden History of the Material World**

**Victoria Finlay**

*A magnificent work of original research, unwinding history through cloth – how we make it, use it and what it means to us*

From our earliest ancestors to babies born today, fabric is a necessary part of our everyday lives, but it’s also an opportunity for creativity, symbolism, culture and connection. Travelling across the world and bringing history to life, bestselling author Victoria Finlay investigates how and why people have made and used cloth.

A century ago in Wales, women would sew their own funeral clothes over tea with friends. In Papua New Guinea, bark is stripped from trees and beaten into cloth. Harris Tweed has a particular smell, while Guatemalan weavers use dazzling colours. Uncovering the stories of the fabrics people wear and use from sacking to silk, *Fabric* combines science, history, tradition and art in a captivating exploration of how we live, work, craft and care.

---

**Paul Simpson** writes on culture. An award-winning journalist, he launched the renowned football monthly *FourFourTwo* and has edited the Design Council magazine. He has written books on cult movies, Elvis Presley and Tolkien, and became interested in colour after buying a yellow suit and being told he couldn’t wear it to the office.

**Victoria Finlay** is the critically acclaimed author of *Colour: Travels Through the Paintbox* and the former arts editor of the *South China Morning Post*. She studied social anthropology and has travelled around the world in search of stories about her subjects, from colour to jewels and fabric. As well as writing, she has worked in international development.
The Rule of Laws
A revelatory global history of law, from the ancient world to the present

Fernanda Pirie

The laws now enforced throughout the world are almost all modelled on systems developed in Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During two hundred years of colonial rule, Europeans exported their laws everywhere they could. But they weren’t filling a void: in many places, they displaced traditions that were already ancient when Vasco da Gama first arrived in India. Even the Romans were inspired by earlier precedents.

Where, then, did it all begin? And what has law been and done over the course of human history? In The Rule of Laws, pioneering anthropologist Fernanda Pirie traces the development of the world’s great legal systems – Chinese, Indian, Roman and Islamic – and the innumerable smaller traditions they inspired. At the heart of the story is a paradox: how did the pronouncements of the powerful become a vital weapon in ordinary people’s fight for justice?

Fernanda Pirie is Professor of the Anthropology of Law at the University of Oxford. A former barrister, she has led anthropology’s recent turn to deeper engagements with legal theory and history. She specialises in Tibetan societies.

Tom Standage

The world can be an amazing place if you know the right questions to ask:

Are overweight politicians less trustworthy? Why are Zoom meetings so dissatisfying? How can football reduce civil wars? Is it better to be a poor pupil in a rich country, or the other way around? How has the pandemic changed the consumption of illegal drugs? And how do sports stadiums emptied by the pandemic make it possible to measure referees’ bias?

The ever-curious minds of The Economist Explains reveal the counterintuitive answers to simple questions – and the bizarre answers to questions most wouldn’t even think to ask. Join the intrepid team at the The Economist as they investigate our Truly Peculiar world.

Tom Standage is Deputy Editor of The Economist. He is the author of several books, including Uncommon Knowledge, Seriously Curious, Writing on the Wall: Social Media – The First 2,000 Years and The Victorian Internet. His writing has appeared in The New York Times, Daily Telegraph, Guardian and Wired.
At Christmas We Feast
Festive Food Through the Ages
Annie Gray

A celebration of Christmas through the table

For many people Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without a turkey and trimmings, pudding and brandy butter, and a feeling by the end of the day that movement is impossible. But where do our notions of ‘traditional fare’ come from – and when modern writers ‘reinvent’ the Christmas meal, are they really doing anything so very different?

Food historian Annie Gray presents a delectable trip through time, from the earliest mentions of gluttonous meals at Christmas to the trappings and traditions of the present day. Tracing the birth of the twelve-day celebration under Edward I to the restoration of holiday splendour under Victoria, At Christmas We Feast features classic recipes side by side with vibrant cultural and historical context.

From the familiarity of plum pudding and mince pies to the extravagance of boar’s head and brawn, At Christmas We Feast is stuffed full of recipes, doused with history and tradition, and sprinkled with the joy of the feasts of Christmas past.

Annie Gray is a historian, cook, broadcaster and writer specialising in the history of food and dining in Britain from around 1600 to the present day. She has presented TV history documentaries including Victorian Bakers and The Sweet Makers and appears on BBC Radio 4’s The Kitchen Cabinet. She lives in East Anglia.

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UK & Commonwealth

28 29
The Wordhord
Daily Life in Old English
Hana Videen

An entertaining and illuminating collection of weird, wonderful and downright baffling words from the origins of English

Old English is the language we think we know until we actually see it. Used in England over a thousand years ago, it is rich with words that haven’t changed (word), others that are unrecognisable (neorxnawang – paradise) and some that are curiously mystifying (gafol-fisc – tax-fish).

In this beautiful little book, Hana Videen has gathered these gems together to create a glorious trove and illuminate the lives, beliefs and habits of our linguistic ancestors. We discover a world where choking on a bit of bread might prove your guilt, where fiend-ship was as likely as friend-ship, and you might grow up to be a laughter-smith. These are the magical roots of our own language: you’ll never see English in the same way again.

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World
Exclusive Europe

Hana Videen has been hoarding Old English words since 2013, when she began tweeting one a day. Now over 20,000 people follow for these daily gems from her wordhord. Following her Old English doctorate at King’s College London, she is now a writer and blogger in Canada, translating curiosities of history into engaging narratives.

Everything I Know about Life I Learned from PowerPoint
Russell Davies

A book about PowerPoint built out of PowerPoint – jokes, culture, politics, serious points about power and more, better, jokes

In the beginning was the Word.
Now there’s PowerPoint.

It’s used for weddings, warfare and webinars, for literature, lessons and law. And, of course, to tell everyone that Q4 is going to be a lot more challenging than Q3.

It’s probably the most successful piece of software in history but do you know who invented it and what it has to do with concertinas?

PowerPoint is about presentation, theatre and culture. About how to think, create and persuade. And it’s hated and loved in equal measure for reasons that tell us a lot about power and who gets to say what where.

All of life is somewhere in a PowerPoint slide. Come inside to find out why.

Russell Davies has squandered what talents he has learning more about PowerPoint, creativity and communication than is really healthy. He’s used PowerPoint inside 10 Downing Street, written about it for Wired, and put it in a MoMA exhibition. He’s PowerPointed for organisations such as Nike, Microsoft and Apple. Next slide please.

November
Business / Management
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eISBN 978 1 78816 736 9
World
Exclusive Europe
Magritte
A Life
Alex Danchev

The first major biography for our time, from the celebrated biographer of Cézanne

René Magritte’s surreal sensibility, deadpan melodrama, and fine-tuned outrageousness have all become inescapably part of our times. But these groundbreaking subversions all came from a middle-class Belgian gent, who kept a modest house in a Brussels suburb and whose first one-man show sold absolutely nothing.

Through a deep examination of Magritte’s friendships and his artistic development, Alex Danchev explores the path of a highly unconventional artist who posed profound questions about the relationship between image and reality, challenged the very nature of authenticity and whose influence can be seen in the work of everyone from Jasper Johns to Beyoncé.

Alex Danchev, who died as he was finishing this biography, was the author of Georges Braque and Cézanne: A Life, as well as a new translation of The Letters of Paul Cézanne. He was a professor of International Relations at the University of St Andrews, where his archive resides.

November
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WxUSAC

Five Straight Lines
A History of Music
Andrew Gant

A sweeping and lively account from a master of the subject

Whether you prefer Baroque or pop, theremins or violins, the music you love and listen to shapes your world. But what shaped the music?

Ranging across time and space, this book takes us on a grand musical tour from music’s origins in prehistory right up to the twenty-first century. Charting the leaps in technology, thought and practice that led to extraordinary revolutions of music in each age, the book takes us through medieval Europe, Renaissance Italy and Jazz Age America to reveal the rich history of music we still listen to today.

From Mozart to McCartney, Schubert to Schoenberg, Professor Andrew Gant brings to life the people who made the music, their techniques and instruments, as well as the places their music was played, from sombre churches to rowdy taverns, stately courts to our very own homes.

Andrew Gant is a composer, choirmaster, university teacher and writer. He lectures in music at St Peter’s College, Oxford, and has directed the choirs of The Guards’ Chapel, Worcester College Oxford and Her Majesty’s Chapel Royal. He is the author of O Sing Unto the Lord and Christmas Carols.

November
Music / History
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World
The Sunny Nihilist
How a meaningless life can make you truly happy
Wendy Syfret

How believing in nothing is the key to a happy life – welcome to Sunny Nihilism

Nihilism is making a comeback, and for younger generations the idea that existence is meaningless is cause for celebration, not despair.

Written directly for burnt-out millennials disillusioned with the search for meaning through career success, a beautiful life and a beautiful Instagram account, The Sunny Nihilist explains why achievement has not made us happy. Making the case for rejecting the cult of purpose and accepting our un-importance in the universe as a positive reality, it urges us to be cheerful in the face of it – because if nothing matters, we might as well be happy and good to each other.

The Nature Seed
How to Raise Adventurous and Nurturing Kids
Lucy Jones and Kenneth Greenway

The Nature Seed is a practical and philosophical guide to sharing the wonders of the natural world with your children

While children spend less time outdoors than ever, adults also live in a time of chronic disconnection from nature. How, then, do we rewild childhood?

The Nature Seed is a practical and philosophical guide to sharing the wonders of the natural world with children. It’s a manual for finding awe in the cracks of the pavement and magic on a walk around the block. It offers a radical vision that calls for a new kinship with nature in both town and countryside with creative ideas and activities to nurture your child’s love for the wild drawn from extensive experience.

For parents and adults with children in their lives, The Nature Seed is an inspiring cry for wild play, peace and adventure for all.

Wendy Syfret is an award-winning Melbourne-based journalist, writer and editor, writing for publications all over the world, including the Guardian, Refinery29, Vice and Man Repeller. Her previous roles include Managing Editor of Vice Asia, Head of Editorial for Vice Australia and Australia Editor for i-D Magazine.

Lucy Jones is the author of Losing Eden and Foxes Unearthed. Especially interested in the science of our attachment to nature, she has spent as much time as possible with her children outside over the past few years.

Kenneth Greenway is the Cemetery Park Manager of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. He has two decades of experience working with children in natural spaces, including running forest schools.

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is the Cemetery Park Manager of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. He has two decades of experience working with children in natural spaces, including running forest schools.
The Family Firm
A Data-Driven Guide to Better Decision Making in the Early School Years
Emily Oster

Bestselling author Emily Oster shares her framework for making choices and managing life with kids aged 5 to 12.

From age 5 to 12, parenting decisions do not come with the frequency that they do with a baby, but they are almost always more complicated. What’s the right kind of school? How do you get them to eat healthily? Should they play a sport? Are you a helicopter parent, a free-range parent, a tiger parent, an ostrich parent? Is that last one even a thing?

Daily logistical challenges are punctuated by big, consequential decisions that you often have no idea how to think about. Oster outlines a framework and some systems: a way to run your family a bit more like a firm, beginning with the ‘Big Picture’ for your family and going on to explain ways to structure your day-to-day, and how to approach big decisions.

People will often tell you parenting is a job, albeit an underpaid one where the employees frequently tell you they hate you and you ruined their life. So maybe it’s time to start treating it like one.

Are We Having Fun Yet?

Lucy Mangan

Lucy Mangan’s first foray into fiction is a witty update of the classic Diary of a Provincial Lady.

Meet Liz: all she wants is some peace and quiet so she can read a book with her cat Henry, love of her life, by her side. But trampling all over this dream is a group of wild things also known as Liz’s family. Namely:

Richard - a man, a husband, no serious rival to Henry.
Thomas – their sensitive seven year old son, for whom life is a bed of pain already.
Evie – five year old acrobat, gangster, anarchist, daughter.

And as if her family’s demands (Where are the door keys? Are we made of plastic? Do ‘ghost poos’ really count?) weren’t enough, Liz must also contend with the madness of parents, friends, bosses, and at least one hovering nemesis. Are We Having Fun Yet? is a year in the life of one woman as she faces all the storms of modern life (babysitters, death, threadworms) on her epic quest for that holy grail: a moment to herself.
**World of Wonders**

In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks and Other Astonishments

Aimee Nezhukumatathil

An award-winning poet’s nonfiction debut – essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support and inspire us.

“What the peacock can do is remind you of a home you will run away from and run back to all your life.’

The axolotl teaches us to smile, even in the face of unkindness; the touch-me-not plant shows us how to shake off unwanted advances; the narwhal demonstrates how to survive in hostile environments.

In her nonfiction debut, award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil explores the many places she has called home, from inhospitable plains to tall mountains in big-sky country. No matter where she is transplanted, Nezhukumatathil finds beauty and kinship, even in the strange and the unlovely.

For it is this way with wonder: it requires that we are curious enough to look past the distractions in order to fully appreciate the world’s gifts.

**Warning**

When I am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple

Jenny Joseph

Twice voted poem of the year, Warning is an uplifting poem about growing older – now beautifully redesigned with new illustrations

‘A poem that was to inspire two generations of women to contemplate behaving badly’ Mail on Sunday

‘The most popular poem in Britain’ Guardian

‘Continues to inspire with its humour ... speaks to the devil in us all ... Utterly charming and uplifting’ Good Book Guide

**Politically Correct Bedtime Stories**

James Finn Garner

A new edition of the bestselling, witty, contemporary parody of traditional fairy tales

‘Essential reading for adults of all ages ... the wisest, funniest, most thoughtful thing yet written on the subject of PC’ Observer

‘One of those works which cleave an author instantly to your heart ... It is beautiful. It demolishes, in a few but elegant words, a dozen kinds of silliness’ Libby Purves, The Times

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the author of four collections of poems, including Oceanic, winner of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award. Her writing appears in Poetry, The New York Times Magazine and Tin House. She serves as poetry faculty for the Writing Workshops in Greece, and is professor of English and creative writing in the University of Mississippi’s MFA programme. This is her first work of nonfiction.
Libertie

Kaitlyn Greenidge

From the critically acclaimed and Whiting Award-winning author of We Love You, Charlie Freeman comes a book about what freedom actually means – and where to find it.

Coming of age as a free-born Black girl in Brooklyn after the Civil War, Libertie Sampson was all too aware that her purposeful mother, a practising physician, had a vision for their future together: Libertie would go to medical school and practise alongside her. But Libertie, drawn more to music than science, feels stifled by her mother’s choices and is hungry for something else – is there really only one way to have an autonomous life? And she is constantly reminded that, unlike her mother who can pass, Libertie has skin that is too dark. When a young man from Haiti proposes to Libertie and promises she will be his equal on the island, she accepts, only to discover that she is still subordinate to him and all men. As she tries to parse what freedom actually means for a Black woman, Libertie struggles with where she might find it – for herself and for generations to come.

Kaitlyn Greenidge’s debut novel, We Love You, Charlie Freeman, was one of The New York Times Critics’ Top 10 Books of 2016 and a finalist for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. She is a contributing writer for The New York Times, and her writing has also appeared in Vogue, Glamour, Wall Street Journal and elsewhere. Libertie is her second novel.
Lose Your Mother
A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route
Saidiya Hartman

A profound and harrowing meditation by a descendant of slaves who journeyed to Africa to understand her past

The slave, Saidiya Hartman observes, is a stranger torn from family, home and country. To lose your mother is to be severed from your kin, to forget your past, and to inhabit the world as an outsider. In Lose Your Mother, Hartman traces the history of the Atlantic slave trade by recounting a journey she took along a slave route in Ghana.

There are no known survivors of Hartman’s lineage, no relatives to find. She is a stranger in search of strangers, and this fact leads her into intimate engagements with the people she encounters along the way, and with figures from the past, vividly dramatising the effects of slavery on three centuries of African and American history.

Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments
Intimate Histories of Riotous Black Girls, Troublesome Women and Queer Radicals
Saidiya Hartman

MacArthur ‘genius’ Saidiya Hartman pushes historical methods to the limit to imagine the lives of America’s first free Black women

At the dawn of the twentieth century, Black women in the US were carving out new ways of living. They refused to labour like slaves or to accept degrading conditions of work. Wrestling with the question of freedom, they invented forms of love and solidarity outside convention and law. These were the pioneers of free love, common-law and transient marriages, queer identities, and single motherhood – all deemed scandalous, even pathological, at the dawn of the twentieth century, though they set the pattern for the world to come.

In Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments, Saidiya Hartman deploys both radical scholarship and profound literary intelligence to examine the transformation of intimate life that they instigated. With visionary intensity, she conjures their worlds, their dilemmas, their defiant brilliance.

Saidiya Hartman is a Columbia University professor of English and Comparative Literature. She is the author of Scenes of Subjection and Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments. In 2019, she was awarded a MacArthur ‘Genius’ Grant.
Pop Song
Adventures in Art & Intimacy
Larissa Pham
An inventive, exquisite memoir-in-essays by a blazing new talent

Plumbing the well of culture for clues about love and loss – from Agnes Martin’s abstract paintings to Anne Carson’s Eros the Bittersweet to Frank Ocean’s Blonde – this brilliant work of debut nonfiction explores the state of falling in love, whether with a painting or a person.

Pham creates a perfectly fractured portrait of modern intimacy, triumphant in its vulnerability and restlessness. Pop Song is a book about distances: the miles we travel to get away from ourselves, or those who hurt us, and the impossible gaps that can exist between two people sharing a bed.

Here is a map to all the routes by which we might escape our own needs before finally finding a way home.

Larissa Pham is an artist and writer in Brooklyn. She has written essays and criticism for the Paris Review Daily, The Nation, Art in America, the Poetry Foundation and elsewhere. She was an inaugural Yi Dae Up Fellowship recipient from the Jack Jones Literary Arts Retreat.

Sea Change
Alix Nathan
From the acclaimed author of The Warlow Experiment, the moving story of a mother and daughter separated in Regency England

‘I’ll be back soon, my love. Tonight, I hope.’

The last Eve saw of her mother was a wave from the basket of a rising balloon. A wilful, lonely orphan in the house of her erratic artist guardian, Eve struggles to retain the image of her missing mother and the father she never knew. In a London beset by pageantry, incipient riot and the fear of Napoleonic invasion, Eve must grow into a young woman with no one to guide her through its perils.

Far away, in a Norfolk fishing village, the Rev Snead preaches hellfire and damnation to his impoverished parishioners and oppressed wife. Snead illustrates his sermons with the example of a mute woman pulled from the sea, over whom he keeps a very close watch indeed.

Alix Nathan’s novel The Warlow Experiment was a BBC Radio 4 Book at Bedtime and a Sunday Times fiction Book of the Year. Her short stories have been published in Ambit, the London Magazine and New Welsh Review. She lives in Shropshire where she owns some ancient woodland with her husband.
To the Friend Who Did Not Save My Life

Hervé Guibert

The cult classic that describes with devastating, darkly comic clarity the experience of being diagnosed with AIDS

A New York Times Book of the Year

After being diagnosed with AIDS, Hervé Guibert wrote this moving, irreverent and deeply personal novel, chronicling three months in the penultimate year of his narrator’s life. In the wake of his friend Muzil’s death, he goes from one quack doctor to another, from holidays to test centres, charting the highs and lows of trying to cheat death.

On publication in 1990, the novel scandalised French media, which quickly identified Muzil as Guibert’s close friend Michel Foucault. The book became a bestseller, and Guibert a celebrity. The book has since attained a cult following for its tender, fragmented and beautifully written accounts of illness, friendship, sex, art and everyday life. It catapulted Guibert into notoriety and sealed his reputation as a writer of shocking precision and power.

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Hervé Guibert (1955–91) was a writer, photographer and filmmaker. He finished three more books, including The Compassion Protocol, and a film, La Pudeur ou l’Impudeur, before he died aged thirty-six, only one year after the publication of To the Friend.

Linda Coverdale has translated over sixty works from French, including Roland Barthes, Annie Ernaux, Georges Simenon and Édouard Louis.

All of You Every Single One

Beatrice Hitchman

An exhilarating queer love story set in early twentieth-century Vienna

‘I know,’ he says, ‘too much. You’ll learn to be too much, too.’ Then gently, ‘I think it might help.’

When Julia flees her unhappy marriage for the handsome tailor Eve Perret, she expects her life from now on will be a challenge, not least because the year is 1911. They leave everything behind to settle in Vienna, but their happiness is increasingly diminished by Julia’s longing for a child.

Ada Bauer’s wealthy industrialist family have sent her to Dr Freud in the hope that he can fix her mutism and do so without a scandal. But help will soon come for Ada from an unexpected quarter and many lives will be irrevocably changed.

All of You Every Single One is an epic novel about family, freedom and how true love might survive impossible odds.

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Exclusive Europe

Beatrice Hitchman is an author and academic. Her first novel, Petite Mort, was nominated for the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Polari Prize, the HWA Debut Prize and the Authors’ Club Best First Novel Prize. She currently works as a Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Brighton.
The Five Wounds

Kirstin Valdez Quade

From an award-winning storyteller comes a stunning debut novel following one family’s extraordinary year of love and sacrifice

It’s Holy Week in the town of Las Penas, New Mexico, and thirty-three-year-old unemployed Amadeo Padilla is to play Jesus in the Good Friday procession. He is preparing feverishly for this role when his fifteen-year-old daughter Angel shows up pregnant on his doorstep.

Vivid, darkly funny, and beautifully rendered, The Five Wounds spans the baby’s first year as five generations of the Padilla family converge: Amadeo’s mother, Yolanda, reeling from a recent discovery; Angel’s mother, whom Angel isn’t speaking to; and Tío Tíve, keeper of the family’s history. In the absorbing, realist tradition of Elizabeth Strout and Jonathan Franzen, Kirstin Valdez Quade brings to life the struggles of her characters to parent children they may not be equipped to save.

Kirstin Valdez Quade is the author of Night at the Fiestas, winner of the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Prize. The recipient of a ‘5 Under 35’ award from the National Book Foundation, she teaches at Princeton University.

Cook As You Are

Recipes for Real Life, Hungry Cooks and Messy Kitchens

Ruby Tandoh

A beautifully illustrated cookbook for every taste, kitchen and body

Ruby Tandoh wants us all to cook, and this is her cookbook for all of us – the real home cooks, juggling babies or long commutes, who might have limited resources and limited time. From last-minute inspiration to delicious meals for one, easy one-pot dinners to no-chop recipes for when life keeps your hands full, Ruby brings us 100 delicious, affordable and achievable recipes, including salted malted magic ice cream, one-tin smashed potatoes with lemony sardines and pesto and an easy dinner of plantain, black beans and eden rice.

This is a new kind of cookbook for our times: an accessible, inclusive and inspirational addition to any and every kitchen. You don’t have to be an aspiring chef for your food to be delectable or for cooking to be a delight. Cook as you are.

Ruby Tandoh is a food writer who has written for, among others, the New Yorker, Guardian, Taste, Vittles and Vice. A finalist on the 2013 Great British Bake Off, she has published Eat Up, a book about the pleasure of eating, as well as two cookery books, Crumb and Flavour. When she’s not cooking or writing, she watches reality TV and listens to podcasts about maligned women from the 90s.
The Poetry of Horses
By the World’s Greatest Poets
Various

Since prehistory, horses have given us assistance, close companionship and artistic inspiration.

Horses offer everything from practical help to brisk exercise to the sheer exhilaration of galloping together across open country. They provide entertaining antics when we’re bored and quiet understanding when we need it most. To poets in particular, these beloved creatures are the most wonderful muses, as they neigh, whicker and nuzzle, reflecting back at us our heartfelt tenderness and high spirits.

The Poetry of Horses offers a selection of verses in praise of the horse by some of the most celebrated poets of all time. The perfect gift for literary horse fans.

Renowned poets spanning a great range of eras and styles, all writing in praise of the horse. Including poems from Philip Larkin, Carol Ann Duffy, Rudyard Kipling, Sir Philip Sidney, Matsuo Bashō, Louise Glück, Robert Browning and Ted Hughes, there should be something to please every equestrian.

Oppositions
Selected Essays
Mary Gaitskill

A collection of provocative and searchingly analytical essays by the author of Bad Behavior, This is Pleasure and Lost Cat

Nuanced, daring and tender, these essays from the celebrated author of This is Pleasure and Bad Behavior consistently fascinate and provoke. Mary Gaitskill takes on a broad range of topics from Nabokov to horse-riding with her unique ability to tease out unexpected truths and cast aside received wisdom.

Written with startling grace and linguistic flair, and delving into the complicated nature of love and the responsibility we owe to the people we encounter, the work collected here inspires the reader to think beyond their first responses to life and art. Spanning thirty year of Mary Gaitskill’s writing, and covering subjects as diverse as Dancer in the Dark, the world of Charles Dickens and the Book of Revelation with her characteristic blend of sincerity and wit, Oppositions is never less than enthralling.

Mary Gaitskill is the author of the story collections Bad Behavior, Because They Wanted To, and Don’t Cry; the novels Veronica, The Mare and Two Girls, Fat and Thin; the novella This is Pleasure and the memoir Lost Cat. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and her work has appeared in the New Yorker, Harper’s, Esquire, The Best American Short Stories and the O. Henry Prize Stories.
INTRODUCTION BY HELEN OYEYEMI

Whimsical and sinister, each story by Silvina Ocampo is like a knife of spun sugar that can still pierce between your ribs. A thief breaks into the house of a psychic with disastrous results, a bride has her personality subsumed by the previous occupant of her home, and two men switch destinies for a change of pace.

The Impostor offers a comprehensive collection from one of the twentieth century’s great forgotten woman writers. Here are tales of doubles and living dolls, angels and demons, a beautiful seer who writes the autobiography of her own death, and much else that is mad, sublime and delicious.

With an array spanning the length of Ocampo’s career, these haunting stories are among the world’s strangest and best.
The Last Thing He Told Me
Laura Dave

Breakneck pacing, dazzling plot twists and unforgettable characters. This propulsive thriller with a heart is perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty and Celeste Ng

“SOON TO BE A MAJOR TV SERIES STARRING JULIA ROBERTS”

Before Owen Michaels disappears, he manages to smuggle a note to his new wife, Hannah: ‘Protect her’. Hannah knows exactly who Owen needs her to protect – his sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey, who lost her mother tragically as a child. And who wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother.

As her increasingly desperate calls to Owen go unanswered, his boss is arrested for fraud and the police start questioning her, Hannah realises that her husband isn’t who he said he was. And that Bailey might hold the key to discovering Owen’s true identity, and why he disappeared. Together they set out to discover the truth. But as they start putting together the pieces of Owen’s past, they soon realise that their lives will never be the same again ...


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The Rule
David Jackson

From the bestselling author of Cry Baby, The Rule is the dark and thrilling tale of two parents who will go to any lengths to protect their child

When you break THE RULE, bad things happen.

Daniel is looking forward to his birthday. He wants fish and chips, a chocolate caterpillar cake, and six comics starring his favourite superhero. Daniel will be twenty-three next week. And he has no idea that he’s about to kill a stranger.

Daniel’s parents know that their beloved and vulnerable son will be taken away. They know that Daniel didn’t mean to hurt anyone. They dispose of the body. Isn’t that what any loving parent would do? But as forces on both sides of the law begin to close in on them, they realise they have no option but to finish what they started. Even if it means that others will have to die ...

Because they’ll do anything to protect him. Even murder.

David Jackson is the author of nine crime novels, including the bestseller Cry Baby and the standalone The Resident. When not murdering fictional people, David spends his days as a university academic in his home city of Liverpool. He lives on the Wirral with his wife and two daughters. Find him @Author_Dave.

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Exclusive Europe
Five Minds

Guy Morpuss

The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle meets Westworld in this stunning high-concept crime thriller of multiple minds, changing allegiances and revenge.

ONE BODY. FIVE MINDS. ONE KILLER.

The Earth’s population has finally been controlled. At seventeen, you must choose how you die. As a worker, dying as nature intended. As an android, your mind downloaded and given eighty years of sentience. As a hedonist, with unlimited money and leisure, but dead at forty-two. Or as a commune, five minds sharing one body, each living four hours a day, but with a combined existence of over a century.

Alex, Kate, Sierra, Ben and Mike are a commune, years of petty rivalries splitting them into factions. Toward the end of their first life, they travel to a Death Park where games are played in which time can be won to increase lifespans. The plan is to win time to upgrade their next body. But then Kate accepts a dangerous offer, and one of them disappears. The games become about mere survival. Because one of the commune is trying to murder all the others ...

Guy Morpuss is a barrister and QC at a commercial law firm in London, specialising in financial and sports law. To the surprise of everyone, including himself, he suddenly found time to write a novel about five people stuck in one body, trying to kill one another. He lives in Surrey with his wife and two children.

Black Drop

Leonora Nattrass

An atmospheric and brilliantly plotted historical thriller set in London during the uproar of the French Revolution.

This is the confession of Laurence Jago. Clerk. Gentleman. Accidental spy.

July 1794, and the streets of London are filled with rumours of revolution, intrigue and espionage. The war against the French is not going in Britain’s favour, and negotiations with the newly independent American colonies are on a knife edge.

Laurence Jago – clerk to the Foreign Office - is more fearful than most. A highly sensitive letter has been leaked to the press, and Laurence is a suspect. Then he discovers the body of a fellow clerk, supposedly a suicide. Blame for the leak is shifted to the dead man, but Laurence is certain both of his friend’s innocence, and that he was murdered. But after years of hiding his own secrets from his employers, and at a time when even a hint of treason can lead to the gallows, how can Laurence find the true culprit without incriminating himself?

Leonora Nattrass studied eighteenth-century literature and politics, and spent ten years lecturing in English and publishing works on William Cobbett. She then moved to Cornwall, where she lives in a seventeenth-century house with seventeenth-century draughts, and spins the fleeces of her traditional Ryeland sheep into yarn. Black Drop is her first novel.
In the bitter winds of autumn 1963, Tove Jansson, helped by Brunström, a maverick fisherman, raced to build a cabin on a treeless skerry in the Gulf of Finland. The island was Klovharun, and for thirty summers Tove and her beloved partner, the graphic artist, Tuulikki Pietilä, retreated there to live, paint and write, energised by the shifting seascapes and the island’s austere rocky charms.

Notes from an Island, written in 1996, is both a chronicle of this period and a paean to the mature love that Tove and ‘Tuuti’ shared for their island and for each other. Tove’s spare prose, and Tuulikki’s subtle washes and aquatints, interspersed with laconic diary entries from Brunström himself, combine to form a work of meditative and plangent beauty.

The Finnish artist and author Tove Jansson (1914–2001) is best known as the creator of the world-famous Moomin stories and as author of The Summer Book. For more than forty years she shared her life with the graphic artist and professor, Tuulikki Pietilä (1917–2009). Klovharun was their summer island refuge.

Tove Jansson published Moominland Midwinter, the fifth of her series of Moomin novels, in 1957. It was an instant classic, and its special message of courage and hope in coping with isolation and a world rendered utterly strange has resonated through the decades, chiming particularly with our recent life under lockdown.
PROFILE PAPERBACKS
Civilisation has always been a contentious concept. Long considered a singular phenomenon that spread across the world from a single source, it was used as a means of validating colonial adventures in the colonial age – justifying domination of other peoples by claiming a ‘civilising mission’. The beating heart of this debunked theory was a rigid idea of Progress.

In this book, renowned historian David Olusoga traces the development of the idea of progress and civilisation from equal exchanges and mutual curiosity through to chauvinism, colonialism and theft. Throughout he shows how incredible art – both looted and created – is key to understanding our histories.

David Olusoga is a British-Nigerian historian and BAFTA-winning broadcaster and filmmaker. He has written three other books: The Kaiser’s Holocaust, The World’s War and most recently Black and British, which was a Waterstones History Book of the Year 2016, longlisted for the 2017 Orwell Prize and won both the PEN Hessell-Tiltman and Longman-History Today awards. He teaches at Manchester University.

No one can successfully achieve goals and new objectives, provide outstanding service, engage in exceptional teamwork, make change in their community or lead other people without personal accountability.

After decades of working with organisations and individuals, John G. Miller knows that the troubles that plague them cannot be solved by pointing fingers and blaming others. Rather, the real solutions are found when each of us recognises the value of our own accountability. In this book, Miller explains how negative, ill-focused questions like ‘Who dropped the ball?’ harm rather than help. Conversely, when we begin to ask better questions – QBQs, questions behind the questions – and to see power in ourselves, then our lives and organisations are transformed.

Succinct, insightful and practical, this book provides the tools for putting personal accountability into daily action, with astonishing results.

John G. Miller is the founder of QBQ, Inc., an organisational development company dedicated to making personal accountability a core value for organisations and individuals. QBQ, Inc. has worked with hundreds of Fortune 500 and other companies, governmental and non-governmental organisations around the world.
The Happy Traitor
Spies, Lies and Exile in Russia: The Extraordinary Story of George Blake
Simon Kuper
A ‘humane and informative’ biography of George Blake, the most notorious double agent in British history

‘Kuper provides a different and valuable perspective, humane and informative. If the definition of a psychopath is someone who refuses to accept the consequences of his actions, does George fit the definition? There he sits, admitting it was all for nothing, but has no regrets. Or does he?’ John Le Carré

‘A deeply human read, wonderfully written, on the foibles of a fascinating, flawed, treacherous and sort of likeable character’ Philippe Sands

Create Space
How to Manage Time, and Find Focus, Productivity and Success
Derek Draper
The crucial handbook you need to create space in your busy life

‘Derek Draper will do something for you that no politician can; he will help you take back control’ Robert Peston, ITV Political Editor

‘A stimulating, thought-provoking and valuable guide for those who are serious about “being the best they can be”’ Valerie Scoular, former Group HR Director at Barclays

‘Each chapter takes a vital skill and digs deep to really understand it, through very lifelike and funny stories. If you’re serious about your career ... get reading’ Ian King, Business Editor, Sky News

All Against All
The Long Winter of 1933 and the Origins of the Second World War
Paul Jankowski
How ideas moved the world from post-war to pre-war once more

[One] of the most stimulating histories of the interwar period to have been published in recent years’ Tony Barber, Financial Times

Praise for Verdun:

‘The horrors have been described often and elaborately, but Mr. Jankowski is skilled enough that his accounts still provoke’ Wall Street Journal

Dancing with the Octopus
The Telling of a True Crime
Debora Harding
A fierce, strikingly redemptive exploration of the impact of traumatic violence on victim, perpetrator and society

‘Extraordinary, so powerful and like nothing I’ve read. Astonishing book. It deserves to be the most massive hit’ Kate Mosse

‘A beautiful and exacting monument to resilience and recovery’ Jessamy Calkin, Daily Telegraph

‘Incredible … a memoir like few others … seek it out’ Jane Garvey, Woman’s Hour
Fracture
Stories of How Great Lives Take Root in Trauma
Matthew Parris
The presenter of Great Lives explores the surprising connection between trauma and greatness

‘Graceful and considered … an elegant, compassionate and wide-ranging tribute to the resilience of humans’ The Times

‘Parris has a feel for language, a sense of history and a wonderful wit’ Scotland on Sunday

‘Parris is a skilful entertainer, who informs as well as amuses’ Literary Review

Imperial Tragedy
From Constantine’s Empire to the Destruction of Roman Italy AD 363–568
Michael Kulikowski
Two hundred years of Roman imperial politics and power brought to life in an action-packed narrative

‘A fascinating account showing just what it was like to be a Roman emperor – the endless court politics, the shock of outside events, the need to bring in reforms, and, above all, the constant struggle to stay alive and keep your place on the throne’ Jerry Toner, Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge

‘A tour de force history of the inner workings of the late Roman Empire. Kulikowski tells a vivid, compelling story of the humans who fought to control the machinery of the empire until the entire system could no longer hold’ Kyle Harper, author of The Fate of Rome

Great State
China and the World
Timothy Brook
The last eight centuries of China’s relationship with the world told through the eyes of traders, invaders, civil servants, visionaries and traitors

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How the human history of conflict has transformed the world we live in – for good and evil

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‘Infused with Bennett’s dry wit and warmth … Bennett’s Talking Heads are beautifully structured, unpeeling layer by layer as characters play a complex dance with the truth’ Financial Times

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This ambitious and successful translation is probably the best version of The Aeneid in modern English … this is not a translation just for scholars: Bartsch writes clear, vivid, concise lines that read well and read rapidly’ Professor Jim O’Hara, George L. Paddison Professor of Latin, University of North Carolina

‘Terrific … fresh and pacy. Bartsch walks the tightrope between maintaining the grandeur of the original and making the poem accessible to modern readers and makes it look easy. The Aeneid is the great refugee narrative of its own time, and it should be for our time too.’ Natalie Haynes, Observer Books of the Year
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The Montgomery Story
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The inspiring account of the march towards American Civil Rights, as told by Martin Luther King, Jr.

‘It’s still shocking to read this account, detailing the overt racism of the time ... King, of course, was one of the finest orators of the twentieth century, but passion pours from his pen, too’ The Crack

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A self-help guide for freelancers, business owners and company employees working from home

‘Could there be a more apt moment for a book about working on your own? ... Kind, realistic and genuinely helpful’ Observer

‘Sound advice ... invaluable in years to come’ Herald Scotland

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Elaine Morgan

According to the Book of Genesis, God first created man. This justified treating women as inferior. Until this book

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‘One of the key feminist texts’ Guardian

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Essential Conversations for Anxious Parents & Worried Kids
Abigail Gewirtz

A timely guide to talking to our kids about the things that worry them

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‘Remarkable ... Compelling advice illustrated with memorable case examples’ Ann S. Masten, PhD, Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development, University of Minnesota
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An Empathy Handbook
Henry James Garrett

Why are you kind? How could you be kinder?

‘Interspersed with Henry’s beautifully metaphorical illustrations, this is a great and easy-reading practical exploration of what kindness means in the modern world’ Matt Haig

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‘Henry Garrett is one of my favourite people to follow on Instagram and as a human … not just beautiful to look at but feels urgent in its message … this book is a reminder of the life-changing power of empathy’ Emma Gannon

Drawing on the Dominant Eye
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Betty Edwards

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The Disaster Tourist

Yun Ko-eun

A satirical Korean eco-thriller with a fierce feminist sensibility

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‘There is a sense of impending catastrophe, of something huge and uncontrollable swallowing up those who spend their lives packaging, controlling and creating these macabre tours ... Phenomenal’ Spectator

‘A fresh and sharp story about life under late capitalism ... an entertaining eco-thriller’ Guardian

Act of Grace

Anna Krien

An exhilarating debut novel from the award-winning author of Night Games

‘A potent study of power ... Krien crosses cultural and generational divides to dazzling effect’ Lucy Knight, Sunday Times

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‘The wisdom and balance of Krien’s writing captivates’ Daily Telegraph

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Shortlisted for the Booker Prize
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You can’t choose your family, but they make choices for you

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‘Explosive, provocative and thoughtful’ Philippa Gregory

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I Give It To You

Valerie Martin

A timeless story of family, war, art and betrayal from bestselling novelist Valerie Martin

‘Exquisite’ Jane Shilling, Daily Telegraph

‘Martin’s writing is a reward in itself, a wonderful precision-tool. She uses it to chisel at the human condition – and the effect is astonishing’ Financial Times

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‘Gaitskill’s prose is conceptual, clean-limbed and immediate ... an experience to savour’ Vidyan Ravinthiran, Daily Telegraph

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Mary Gaitskill

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The Mare
Mary Gaitskill

A profound, important novel about how love and family are shaped by place, race and class

‘Her voice captures a child’s mixture of insight and innocence ... As a model for getting back in contact with the natural world, this is a delirious dream. As an acknowledgment of what human beings fail to offer each other, it comes closer to being a nightmare’ The Times

‘The Mare is a dark, dreamlike novel, at times nightmarish, at others offering glimpses of the sublime, shocking in its raw depiction of violence, and beautiful in its evocation of flawed love’ Financial Times
VIPER PAPERBACKS
The Appeal

Janice Hallett

An extraordinarily inventive thriller debut in which the reader is challenged to solve the crime ... and predict the victim

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‘The Appeal grips from the start, expertly stage-managing emails and messages to create an intriguing mystery with a cast of vivid, memorable characters. Original, clever, devious - and never less than utterly compelling - this is a case you’re about to become obsessed with. A real triumph’ Alex North, author of The Whisper Man

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