



Mr B's  
Emporium  
& Reading  
Delights

2019  
Christmas  
Catalogue





# MERRY CHRISTMAS BOOK LOVERS!



Merry Christmas! In an expansive year for Mr B's we present our 2019 Christmas Catalogue...bigger (definitely) and better (we hope) than ever.

Just like the shop itself, this catalogue may have a few more books in it than previously, but the principle hasn't changed – The Mr B's team have picked (and reviewed) every single one ourselves to give you 86 great ideas for your festive book-buying (and games and other gifts too).

If that's not enough then we've another 20,000 or so here in the shop – so pop by, give us a call or message us for more recommendations.

**THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS SEASON THERE'S 10% OFF ALL BOOKS AND GAMES IN THIS CATALOGUE**

To buy:

Visit: 13/15 John St, Bath, BA1 2JL

Go to: [www.mrbsemporium.com](http://www.mrbsemporium.com)

Call: 01225 331155

Email: [books@mrbsemporium.com](mailto:books@mrbsemporium.com)



A massive thanks to Gemma Dunnell for creating the stunning illustrations on the cover and throughout this catalogue. She was inspired by the incredible art work by Alex Lucas which adorns the newly expanded Mr B's, including the Wood between the Words children's room which gave this year's catalogue its theme and superb puns.

In this exceptional, expansive year, we would like to say a massive thanks again to all our crowdfunders and to everyone who supports us and shops with us all year round!





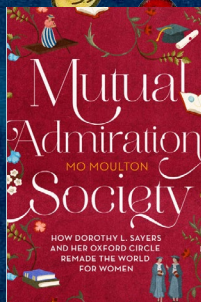
# TREEMENDOUS HEROINES

## MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY

BY MO MOULTON

HB - £20 - CORSAIR (BIOGRAPHY)

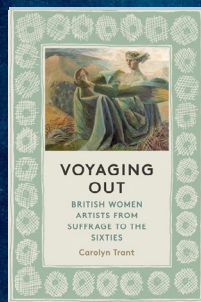
You are Dorothy L Sayers, an intelligent, witty, outspoken woman at Somerville College in Oxford. Unfortunately, it is 1912 and women's rights are thin on the ground – even down to the fact that the university won't confer degrees on women. What do you do? You form a legendary support group with a few like-minded friends that successfully challenges the status quo and witnesses milestones in female emancipation. This is a lively, feisty, anecdote laden history.



## VOYAGING OUT BY CAROLYN TRANT

HB - £24.95 - THAMES & HUDSON (ART)

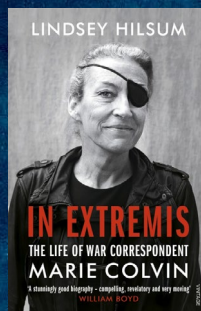
This incredible chronicle of key female artists from the Suffragette movement to the swinging Sixties traces their progress in the fight for equality and recognition. It's a feast for the eyes, with beautiful colour reproductions of their works generously scattered throughout, but the real joy of the book is the biography of each woman. This book is a beautiful homage to the women who fill its pages – feisty and passionate, often eccentric, and always remarkably talented.



## IN EXTREMIS BY LINDSEY HILSUM

PB - £9.99 - VINTAGE (BIOGRAPHY)

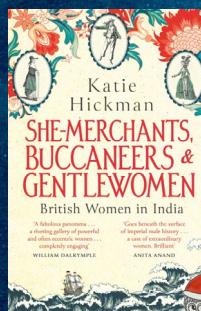
Marie Colvin was the last of her kind. Hard-drinking, hard-partying, wild, reckless – and a brilliant journalist. She reported from war zones and tyrannical regimes around the world and was famous for her encounters with figures from Yasser Arafat to Colonel Gaddafi. Hilsum's brilliant biography, which draws on Colvin's extensive diaries, as well as interviews with friends, family and colleagues, is an engrossing read and a wonderful tribute to an inspirational woman.



## SHE-MERCHANTS, BUCCANEERS & GENTLE-WOMEN BY KATIE HICKMAN

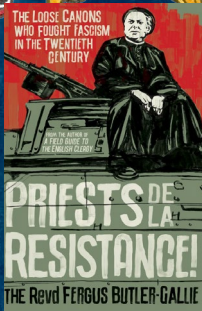
HB - £20 - VIRAGO (HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY)

This previously untold slice of cultural history paints a fascinating portrait of the women who emigrated from Europe to India in the two centuries before the establishment of the British Raj. From courtesans to traders, milliners to actresses, these women blazed their own trails and carved out exceptional lives for themselves. Hickman is a wonderful storyteller, and the women who fill the pages of this book have some incredible stories to tell.



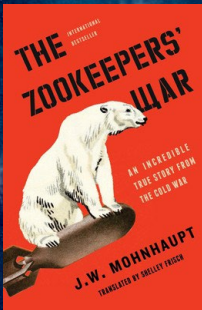


# DON'T FIR-GET YOUR HISTORY



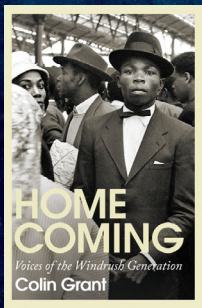
## PRIESTS DE LA RESISTANCE! BY THE REVD FERGUS BUTLER-GALLIE HB - £12.99 - ONEWORLD (HISTORY)

The genius title alone should be enough to sell you this book! Rev Butler-Gallie presents fifteen men and women – bishops, priests, monks, nuns and pastors – who stood up to fascism in its many forms. A motley crew of hard-drinking, chain-smoking clerics, they have taken bullets in Alabama, ridden on tanks during the French resistance and stood face-to-face with the Nazis in Germany. A delightfully-written, riotous cocktail of oddballs, guns, humour and evil.



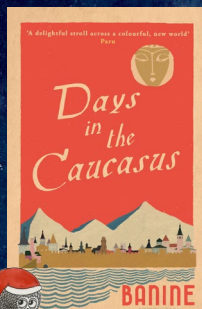
## THE ZOOKEEPERS' WAR BY J. W. MOHNHAUPT HB - £18.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (HISTORY)

Either side of the wall, in cold-war Berlin, there were two zoos whose rivalry mirrored the wider schism between East and West. Both were run by passionate animal-lovers driven by different motives and political pressures to create the city's greatest animal collection. Unity the elephant arrives from Vietnam in thanks for East German aid, Chi Chi the panda is followed by hippos, bears, eagles and more, as two animal tribes go to war in this true tale of zoological one-upmanship.



## HOMECOMING BY COLIN GRANT HB - £18.99 - VINTAGE (HISTORY)

Bus drivers from Bristol. Dockers from Cardiff. Nurses in Manchester. Teachers in Croydon. These voices and many more make up Colin Grant's astonishing ode to the Windrush generation. We hear from more than a hundred pioneers from those early ships, their stories of hope, toil and regret. Collected here by Grant, son of Jamaican parents, these fragments paint a rich, textured tapestry of Caribbean-British life and culture.



## DAYS IN THE CAUCASUS BY BANINE HB - £16.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS (MEMOIR)

This coming of age memoir is a poignant, irreverent window onto a world you can scarcely believe existed. The author, Banine, was born in Baku, Azerbaijan in 1905. Her Muslim grandfather was fabulously wealthy; having discovered an oilfield on his land and Banine's delightfully eccentric extended family spend much of her childhood trying to marry into the money. The family's fortune – and their entire way of life – is ultimately at risk though, from the impending Russian Revolution.







# DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS



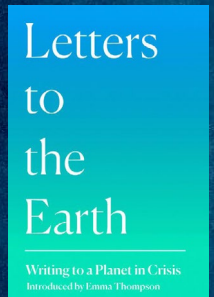
**ON FIRE BY NAOMI KLEIN**  
**HB - £20 - PENGUIN (ENVIRONMENT)**

Klein's *This Changes Everything* was a monumental book in laying bare the vested interests and inequalities fundamentally fuelling climate collapse. Now, as we find ourselves close to a point of no return, her incomparable insight and clarity are needed more than ever. *On Fire* collects vital writing on climate breakdown from the last decade, as well as new pieces investigating our current window of opportunity and the rising political movements fighting for our future.



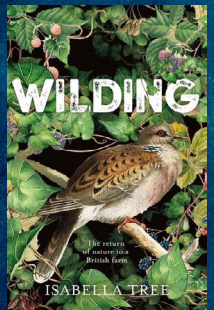
**LETTERS TO THE EARTH**  
**INTRODUCED BY EMMA THOMPSON**  
**HB - £10 - HARPER COLLINS (ENVIRONMENT)**

In February, an open call went out for letters to a planet in crisis. Over 1000 came in and were read out in April at events across the UK. This is a gorgeous, light-in-the-dark sample of these – addressed to children (born and unborn), grandparents, non-human species and the earth itself. I can't imagine a more truthful way to gift beauty this year. All royalties from the book will also go to creative campaigning for environmental justice.



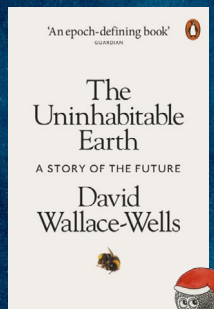
**WILDING BY ISABELLA TREE**  
**PB - £9.99 - PICADOR (ENVIRONMENT)**

*Wilding* is a song of hope. Describing the development and success of the controversial Knepp Farm rewilding project, this book combines science and memoir with lyrical descriptions of recovering wildlife: turtle doves, nightingales, purple emperor butterflies. It will challenge your vision of the British 'wild' before the advent of industrial agriculture, and leave you with a profound appreciation of nature's resilience.



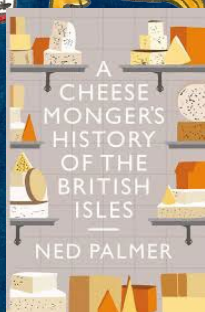
**THE UNINHABITABLE EARTH**  
**BY DAVID WALLACE-WELLS**  
**PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (ENVIRONMENT)**

There's an overarching debate around fear versus hope when engaging with the climate and ecological crises. We need active hope to fight despair, whilst honest narratives about the reality we're facing are crucial to counteracting the collective denial which brought us here. Few voices have cut through the noise as effectively this year as Wallace-Wells' with this investigation of our near-future home. It's tough yet underpinned with faith in our ability to change, and a must-read.



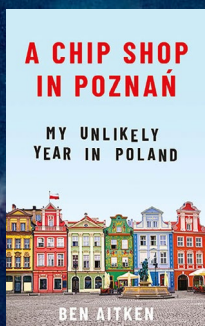


# LEAF THROUGH THESE TASTY BOOKS



## A CHEESEMONGER'S HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ISLES BY NED PALMER HB - £16.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (FOOD)

If a strong cheddar, a hearty stilton or a bubbling Welsh rarebit gets your mouth watering, then this is the book for you. Join cheese aficionado Ned Palmer as he takes us on a thrilling cheese odyssey of the UK. Not just a comprehensive guide to the nation's best regional delights, this beautiful book also traces the history of cheese and its importance to our culture, from its Neolithic origins right up to today.



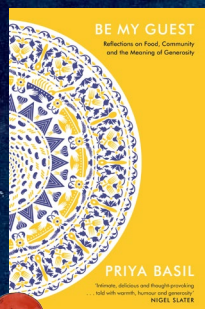
## A CHIP SHOP IN POZNAŃ BY BEN AITKEN PB - £12.99 - ICON BOOKS (TRAVEL/MEMOIR)

Three months before THAT referendum, Ben Aitken made a contrary decision – to skip out on England and move to Poland; to experience the homeland that the thousands who'd done the opposite had left behind. Through an often hilarious diary-style narrative we explore modern Poland, with many nods to its communist and more distant past. From beaches to farms; from mountains to that chippy, it's the encounters with the Poles themselves that stand out; and their love of coleslaw.



## THE QUICK ROASTING TIN BY RUKMINI IYER HB - £16.99 - SQUARE PEG (FOOD)

Another smash hit in the *Roasting Tin* series that we are all in love with – this time super quick recipes, but with no compromise on taste. From inventive lunch-box alternatives to exotic date night specials, Iyer's talent for flavour combinations is second to none and a chop-it-and-chuck-it-in style suits the time-poor cook! A vibrantly coloured collection with a good balance of options for vegans, vegetarians and omnivores alike.



## BE MY GUEST BY PRIYA BASIL HB - £12.99 - CANONGATE (FOOD)

Author Priya Basil was born in London, has Indian parentage and spent most of her childhood in Kenya. Her family history and the experience of being an outsider are considered through her experiences of hospitality and sharing food. This is a timely reminder that the simple act of eating together can cut through differences and create strong family and community ties. You'll see the hosting of that Christmas dinner in a whole new light.



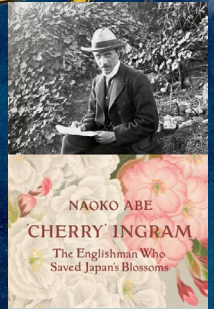




# YEW'LL LOVE THESE GARDEN & NATURE BOOKS

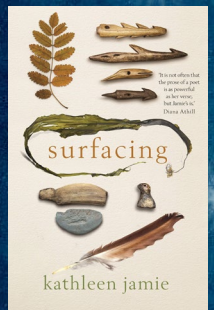
## CHERRY INGRAM BY NAOKO ABE HB - £18.99 - VINTAGE (NATURE/BIOGRAPHY)

This beautiful biography tells the story of Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram, the unsung hero of the iconic Japanese cherry blossom. Ingram fell in love with the trees as a young man but, when mismanagement caused the cherry tree population to collapse in Japan in the 1920's, Ingram – with the help of other passionate 'cherry guardians' – brought his own stock from the UK to save them. This quirky book is a fine tribute to Ingram's unique place in botanic history.



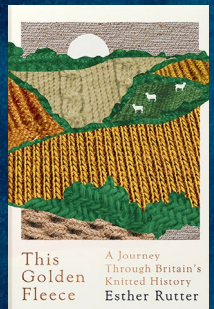
## SURFACING BY KATHLEEN JAMIE HB - £12.99 - SORT OF BOOKS (NATURE)

*Surfacing* is a seamless fusion of memoir, travelogue and nature writing, which delves into what reconnects us to our past. In these 12 quietly moving and important essays, as with previous works like *Findings*, Jamie shows off her ability to be simultaneously poetic and thought provoking. From the archaeology of Hunter-Gatherers in Alaska, Neolithic Farmers in Scotland, to her changing family, Jamie links them all with her observations and exquisite prose.



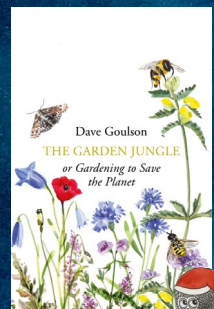
## THIS GOLDEN FLEECE BY ESTHER RUTTER HB - £16.99 - GRANTA BOOKS (CRAFT)

Esther Rutter grew up on a Suffolk sheep farm where she learned to spin, weave and knit from a young age. In *This Golden Fleece* she embarks on a tour of the UK, from Shetland to the Channel Islands, uncovering, and participating in, its rich knitting history. She spends time with mill workers on the Scottish borders, Welsh stocking knitters and plots the history of the Highland walking sock. A beautiful meditation on history, culture and woolly jumpers.



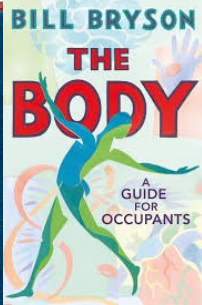
## THE GARDEN JUNGLE BY DAVE GOULSON HB - £16.99 - VINTAGE (GARDEN)

Dave Goulson is a man on a mission. In *A Sting in the Tale* he started with humble bumblebees and how to halt their declining numbers. Now, he explores how every gardener can do their bit to help the complex ecosystems that exist in every nook and cranny of their plot – no matter how large or small. A better understanding of how we can all garden in harmony with nature is surely a good thing for the planet (and the bees).



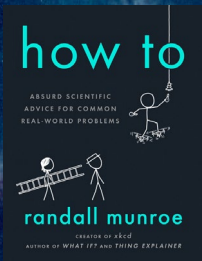


# SPRUCE UP ON YOUR SCIENCE



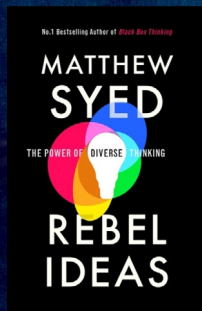
## THE BODY BY BILL BRYSON HB - £25 - TRANSWORLD (SCIENCE)

*The Body* is a quintessential work by Bill Bryson: he takes on a huge topic and breaks it down into charming, digestible segments. The book covers everything from the way our bodies process their surroundings, to the state of the pharmaceuticals industry, and gazes ahead at what the medical profession may look like in the not-so-distant future. Humorous and enlightening reading for those looking to better understand who we are, where we come from and the world around us.



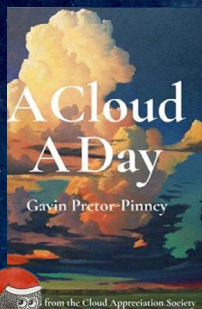
## HOW TO BY RANDALL MUNROE HB - £16.99 - JOHN MURRAY (SCIENCE)

Ever wondered how to jump high? Not high-jump high but really high? Or how about delivering a parcel...from space? Randall's got you covered. Here we have a collection of real-world issues with absurd and over the top solutions, as well as a Q & A with astronaut Chris Hadfield on the best way to make an emergency landing. He even gives you tips on how to properly vapourise the book once you've finished reading it!



## REBEL IDEAS BY MATTHEW SYED HB - £20 - JOHN MURRAY (PSYCHOLOGY)

What connects tragic events such as the Mount Everest disaster in 1996 and the terrorist attack of 9/11? Syed, the acclaimed journalist and podcaster, takes on this question with a new way of thinking – cognitive diversity (the idea of being open to different viewpoints). This, he argues, can help tackle terrorism, climate change and other key issues of our age. A bold, radical and provocative blueprint for the future from one of the country's leading thinkers.



## A CLOUD A DAY BY GAVIN PRETOR-PINNEY HB - £20 - PAVILION BOOKS (SCIENCE/NATURE)

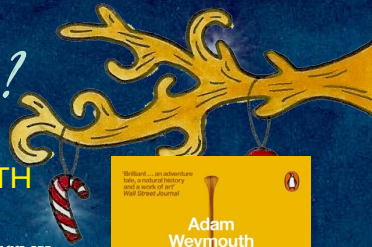
The perfect book for anyone who has their head in the clouds! A fabulous selection of photographs, satellite images and clouds in art and literature. All selected by the 'Cloud Appreciation Society', each comes with fascinating cloud science, including explanations of the 10 main cloud types. This is a stunning book which encourages you to take a moment each day to clear your mind, get outside, and to stare up at the sky to appreciate the natural beauty around us.





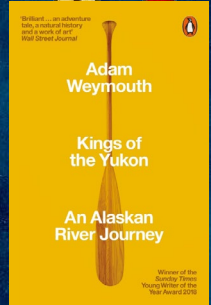


# ARE YOU PINING FOR ADVENTURE?



## KINGS OF THE YUKON BY ADAM WEYMOUTH PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (TRAVEL/NATURE)

In the Yukon, the kings are the salmon. Their epic unfathomable journey up that mighty river intrigues Adam Weymouth enough to clamber into a canoe and paddle for four months from Northern Canada to the Alaskan Bering Sea coast, aiming to cross paths with the salmon as they leap their way upstream. En route to that meeting he paddles by historic gold-rush towns, describing the stunning scenery and the importance of the salmon to the local population (human and bear!)



## GREAT EXPEDITIONS BY MARK STEWARD PB - £12.99 - HARPER COLLINS (TRAVEL)

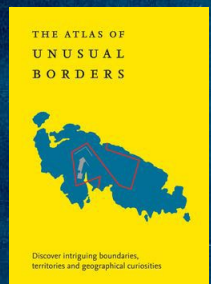
Learn all about the brave (and sometimes foolhardy!) men and women who dared to explore. Spanning several centuries and multiple continents, *Great Expeditions* takes you through the famous and oft forgotten journeys which have shaped our civilisation today. With accompanying maps to show you every step of the way, this book is an aspiring gallery for every adventurer at heart.



## THE ATLAS OF UNUSUAL BORDERS BY ZORAN NIKOLIC

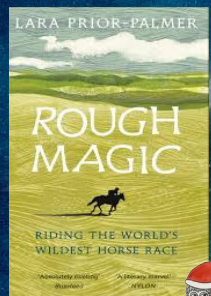
PB - £14.99 - HARPER COLLINS (TRAVEL)

This fascinating book charts weird and wonderful curiosities of geography from around the world. From wedding gift enclaves in Bosnia, to bizarre Finnish boundaries drawn up to build a lighthouse and towns where neighbours need passports to pop in for a cup of tea. With beautiful maps and potted histories of all of these quirks of cartography, this is a timely gift for anyone intrigued by international bonds and divisions.



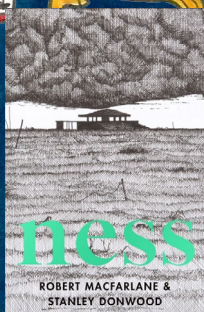
## ROUGH MAGIC BY LARA PRIOR-PALMER HB - £16.99 - Ebury (MEMOIR)

On a whim, staggeringly underprepared for the epic challenge ahead, teenager Lara entered the Mongol Derby, the world's toughest horse race, and became its first ever female winner. This hugely entertaining and often poetic account of her journey takes us across the rugged Mongolian steppe aboard 25 semi-wild ponies. With very British wit and lyrical prose she philosophises on the competitive spirit, teenage angst and on man's relationship with horses and the landscape.





# PROSE & VERSE KNOT TO BE MISSED



## NESS BY ROBERT MACFARLANE & STANLEY DONWOOD

HB - £14.99 - PENGUIN (MYTH)

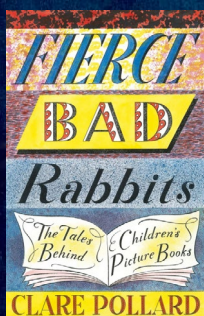
A hypnotic blend of narrative, poetry, art, nature and myth, the latest collaboration between nature writer Robert Macfarlane and acclaimed artist Stanley Donwood bends genre and form. It is also part-mystery, following five more-than-human forms as they traverse land, sea and time, heading for the mystical Green Chapel, where they will converge and take a new form – *Ness*. This beautiful work will appeal to fans of Max Porter, Melissa Harrison and Benjamin Myers.



## DEAF REPUBLIC BY ILYA KAMINSKY

PB - £10.99 - FABER & FABER (POETRY)

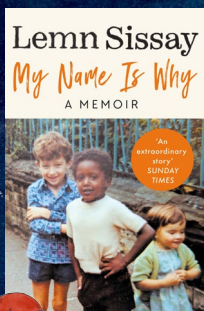
In a town held under martial law, a child is shot by soldiers in the middle of the town square. As a result, the town's inhabitants become deaf and develop their own sign language, impenetrable to the authorities. Through a narrative which is as direct as it is moving, punctuated by the intimate visual of a signed word, Kaminsky leads us to the gut of repression, silence and the fragility of our own humanity.



## FIERCE BAD RABBITS BY CLARE POLLARD

HB - £14.99 - PENGUIN (BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS)

Dive beneath the magical tales of your childhood in this glorious book revealing the stories behind some of the greatest picture books in history. Find out what *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* was really about, how the *Hungry Caterpillar* is built on capitalism and why *Meg and Mog* owe a debt to Polish embroidery. From Edward Lear to Julia Donaldson, Pollard's investigations will make you see your favourite characters in a whole new light.



## MY NAME IS WHY BY LEMN SISSAY

HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE (MEMOIR)

Poet Lemn Sissay was taken from his Ethiopian mother and shovelled into the dire British care system in the 1970's. He grew up lonely and bullied. He didn't even know his real birth name - given to him by the mother he'd never met - until he was 17, when the files exposing the state's suppression of his true identity were opened up. This is his story, told in beautiful prose. It is a tale to make you angry, yet rejoice that Sissay battled through adversity to become the poet and man he is today.







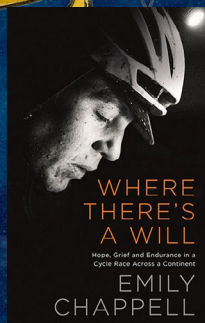
# YOU WALNUT BELIEVE THESE LIFE STORIES



## WHERE THERE'S A WILL BY EMILY CHAPPELL

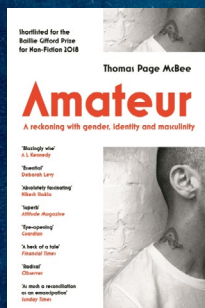
HB - £14.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (SPORT/MEMOIR)

When Emily Chappell first attempted to complete the notorious Transcontinental – a 4,000km endurance bike race across mainland Europe – in 2015, she blacked out halfway and woke, exhausted and mentally shot, laying on her back in a field. A year later she entered again; this time she won. Chappell, who used to be a London cycle courier, tells the story of how she overcame physical challenges and crippling self-doubt to turn defeat to glory in this gritty, inspiring memoir.



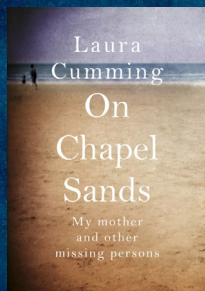
## AMATEUR BY THOMAS PAGE MCBEE PB - £9.99 - CANONGATE (GENDER/MEMOIR)

This illuminating memoir opens with McBee, a trans man, being confronted and offered a fight in the street. Unsure how to deal with the situation, McBee sets off to discover what it is to be a man in our age of toxic masculinity. He signs up for white collar boxing at Madison Square Garden and we follow him as he trains for the fight and explores gender in the 21st century.



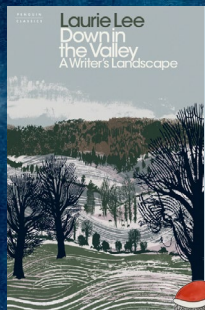
## ON CHAPEL SANDS BY LAURA CUMMING HB - £16.99 - VINTAGE (MEMOIR)

Laura Cumming's mother Betty made the headlines when, as a 3 year old in 1929, she was kidnapped whilst playing on the beach at Chapel Sands. Betty was recovered safe and sound days later, but the whole episode was shrouded in mystery and the local community clammed up. Laura has used her mother's own recollections and some extensive research to piece together the story of Betty's blighted childhood, which reads like a tightly plotted thriller.



## DOWN IN THE VALLEY BY LAURIE LEE HB - £12.99 - PENGUIN (NATURE/MEMOIR)

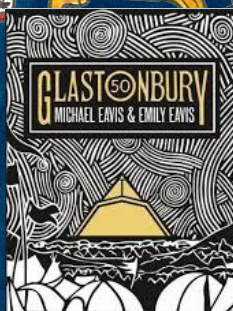
Laurie Lee's books have touched the lives and hearts of millions of readers. From *Cider With Rosie* through to his novels, poetry, travel-writing and memoirs, he painted vivid pictures of a land and an age now lost. Now, in this never-before published work, we see Lee return to the Cotswolds and the valley that made him. With his traditional humour and sense of place, he beautifully captures the landscape and people of his home.



10



# (MONKEY) PUZZLE BOOKS & GIFTS



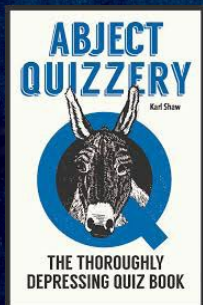
## GLASTONBURY 50 BY MICHAEL & EMILY EAVIS HB - £30 - TRAPEZE (MUSIC)

It began life in 1970 as a dairy farmer's dream, with £1 tickets, music, dancing, 1,000 visitors and free milk. It's now a phenomenon, the most revered music festival on the planet, has over 200,000 annual customers and attracts the biggest names in music. Here is the full, visual story of how Michael Eavis and his daughter Emily made it happen, including testimony from legends like Jay-Z and Dolly Parton and incredible photographs from down the years.



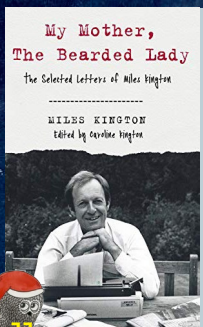
## AYOADE ON TOP BY RICHARD AYOADE HB - £12.99 - FABER & FABER (FILM)

If you like the mapcap and completely unpredictable Ayoade, then you will like this book. A definitive analysis of the Gwyneth Paltrow film 'View from the Top' with added footnotes and his trademark deadpan humour. You don't have to watch the film it is (loosely) based on; you don't even have to know of it. Just be glad that this film was created so that this book exists. A hilarious and completely unnecessary but compulsive read!



## ABJECT QUIZZERY BY KARL SHAW HB - £12.99 - OLD STREET PUBLISHING (QUIZZES)

It wouldn't be a Christmas catalogue without a quiz book, but this year we are going in a different direction. Gone are the days of the GCHQ and Bletchley Park quizzes, in lieu of something more achievable, albeit more cynical. Ever wondered how many press-ups it takes to burn off one crème egg? Or who or what did writer and scientist Isaac Asimov describe as 'The most potent force for atheism ever conceived'? Perfect for the family pessimist, or those with a sense of humour a shade or two darker, this gift will ensure that Christmas isn't too festive!



## MY MOTHER, THE BEARDED LADY BY MILES KINGTON HB - £25 - UNBOUND (LETTERS/HUMOUR)

Humorist, musician and a distinguished journalist for The Times, Independent and Punch – among many others – Miles Kingston was an early supporter of Mr B's. When he died in 2008 he left behind a huge cache of letters which show off his wit and unique style. This wonderful collection was carefully selected by his wife, Caroline, and includes often hilarious correspondence with Melvyn Bragg, Andre Previn, John Cleese and Kenneth Williams.





# SOME ALDER-NATIVES TO THE BOOKS



## THE MIND

£9.99 | CARD GAME | 2-4 PLAYERS

In round 1, take the deck of cards (numbered 1 to 100) and deal each player a card. Then simply take it in turns to play the cards in order from lowest to highest. If successful, move on to the next round, dealing an extra card to everyone each time. The catch? No talking. In fact, no communicating whatsoever! This is one devilishly difficult card game, that's quick to play and perfect for when you've exhausted every ounce of conversation over dinner!



## DOBBLE HARRY POTTER

£14.99 | CARD GAME | 2-8 PLAYERS

*Dobble* is the fast-paced mega-version of snap – each card displays 8 different symbols, find the matching symbols on the cards to claim them for yourself. Most cards at the end of the game wins! This brilliant little card game now brings a bit of Harry Potter magic to the table in this new edition as you try and match symbols from J.K. Rowling's wonderful wizarding world. The perfect stocking-filler for every Potterhead out there!



## SUSHI GO PARTY!

£22.99 | CARD GAME | 2-8 PLAYERS

In this delicious little card drafting game, players pass and collect cards while trying to complete different sets of sushi, tempura and sashimi to score points at the end of each round. This wonderfully simple concept coupled with the adorable graphic design might sound like a sweet, gentle little dish, but don't be fooled – it can be one fiercely competitive game! A load of different menu options allows you to customise each game for hours of fun.



## DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS ESSENTIALS KIT

£24.99 | ROLE PLAYING GAME | 2-6 PLAYERS

The popularity of Dungeons & Dragons has surged in recent years and this new boxed kit is the perfect starting point for any new adventure or a great addition to any existing collection. This box contains everything you need to start playing including a brand-new adventure, sidekick and magic item cards and a new rules variant which means you can now start small with just two players.





*\*\* RECOMMENDED BY THE GUARDIAN & THE TIMES \*\**



Treat the book-lover in your life to a Mr B's Reading Subscription! A dedicated bibliotherapist from the Mr B's team will hand-pick a book a month chosen to suit the gift recipient's tastes and send it beautifully wrapped to their door.

The subscription begins with the arrival of a wax-sealed voucher asking the recipient to get in touch so that we can discover their reading preferences. Once we know what your book-lover likes to read, we'll appoint one of our booksellers to be their bibliotherapist and pick them a great new book each month.

We offer 3, 6 or 11 month subscriptions. You can also choose between paperback or hardbacks and we deliver across the globe.

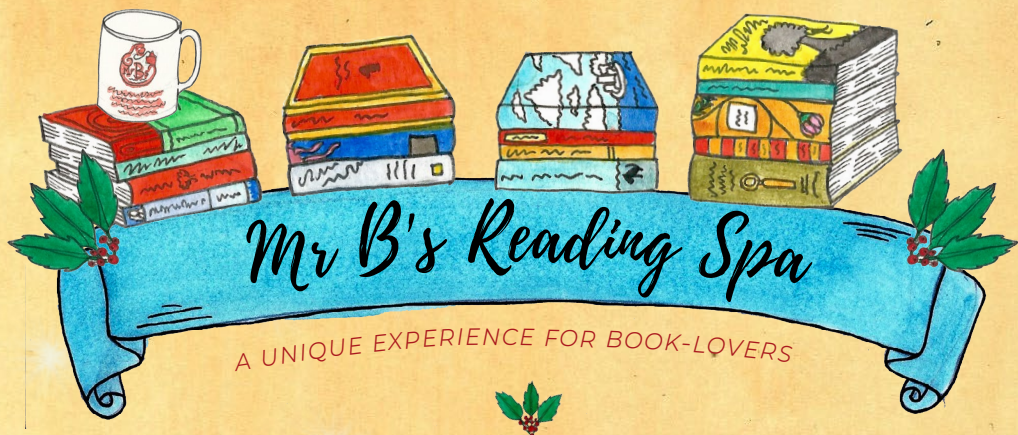
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£145 FOR ELEVEN PAPERBACKS TO THE UK*

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Indulge your favourite book-lover with a Mr B's Reading Spa. They will be invited to our gorgeous shop in Bath for some bookish pampering in one of our sumptuous bibliotherapy rooms. One of our team of booksellers will learn all about their favourite reads with an informal chat over coffee and cake, before introducing a tower of books selected to suit their tastes.

*READING SPAS COST £80. INCLUDES £55 TO SPEND ON FAVOURITE RECOMMENDATIONS, A MR B'S MUG AND CLOTH BAG AND A £5 GIFT CARD.*

Reading Spa appointments are available Monday - Friday. Sessions last up to 90 minutes. Our Reading Spas have been phenomenally popular in recent times, so appointments usually need to be booked at least 6 months ahead, but our vouchers never expire.

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**EMAIL: [BOOKS@MRBSEMPORIUM.COM](mailto:BOOKS@MRBSEMPORIUM.COM)**







# MR B'S MERCHANDISE



NOW YOU CAN TAKE A LITTLE BIT OF MR B'S HOME WITH YOU!

## MR B'S T-SHIRTS

You'll be the talk of the town in your new, official Mr B's t-shirt! Made of super soft all recycled materials, these classic fit t-shirts feature a Mr B's logo on a distressed orange background. Available in small, medium, large and extra large.

£15



## MR B'S MUGS

Sip your morning cuppa from your very own Mr B's recepticle! Just like the booksellers do!

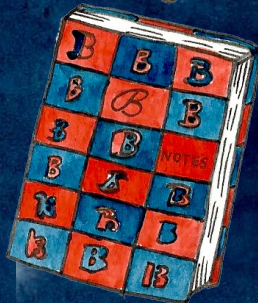
£6



## MR B'S "B-FORMAT" NOTEBOOKS

This first Mr B's Notebook is a tribute to the B-Format paperback, the familiar standard form of so many of the physical books that grace our shelves. Each notebook features alternate blank and lined pages, making them perfect for doodlers and writers alike.

£10



## MR B'S REWRITES THE CLASSICS TOTE BAGS

Our Mr B's tote bags are perfect for lugging around your favourite books. Featuring our Mr B's logo on one side and a "Mr B's Rewrites the Classics" quote on the back. Current designs include "Dracula", "Portrait of a Lady" and "Catch 22".

£2



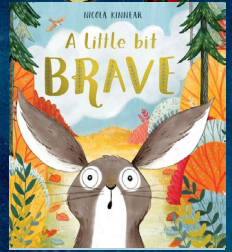


# BOOKS FOR LITTLE PALMS



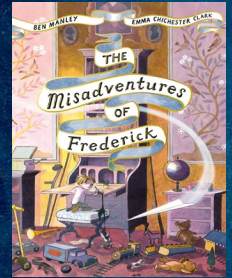
**A LITTLE BIT BRAVE BY NICOLA KINNEAR**  
PB - £6.99 - SCHOLASTIC (CHILDREN'S 2+)

Logan is a stay-at-home bunny, happy to dust his shell collection and bake cookies while his best friend Luna heads out on exciting adventures. Until Luna doesn't come home. With a scarf and a snorkel and a tin of fresh cookies, Logan will explore chilly rivers and dark caves to find Luna and discover his own sense of adventure. This is a beautifully illustrated, uplifting tale about stepping out of your comfort zone.



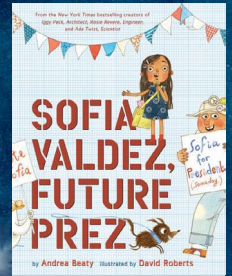
**THE MISADVENTURES OF FREDERICK BY BEN MANLEY & EMMA CHICHESTER CLARK**  
HB - £12.99 - TWO HOOTS (CHILDREN'S 3+)

A melancholic bedroom is illuminated by the arrival of a paper plane. Emily wants Frederick to come for an ice cream. But memories of the last time, when he threw up in his music box, means Frederick must stay inside. Undaunted, Emily flings missives from her joyous outdoor days, and Frederick replies eloquently ("with bitter regret") explaining the threats preventing him joining in. A beautiful book about giving things a go, that is such fun to read and has a hilarious ending.



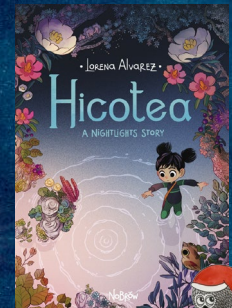
**SOFIA VALDEZ, FUTURE PREZ**  
BY ANDREA BEATY & DAVID ROBERTS  
HB - £12.99 - ABRAMS (CHILDREN'S 3+)

Sofia is punchy and idealistic and she always comes through for the people she cares about. This time, she's taking on City Hall! Mount Trashmore, the local landfill, is a dangerous place and Sofia is determined to campaign to have it turned into a big green park; only the adults in charge won't take her seriously because she's just a kid... but Sofia never let that stop her before! A rhyming picture book masterpiece from the creators of *Iggly Peck*, *Architect*.



**HICOTEA BY LORENA ALVAREZ**  
HB - £14.99 - NOBROW PRESS (CHILDREN'S 8+)

On a school trip to the local wetlands, Sandy discovers an empty turtle shell. Upon peering into it, Sandy is taken to the magical world of Hicotea the tortoise and her disappearing museum of oddities. Determined to save Hicotea's precious world from the greedy crows, Sandy sets off on a quest to save her friend and all that she loves. This is a book for those who care for nature, imagination, and beautiful illustrations.



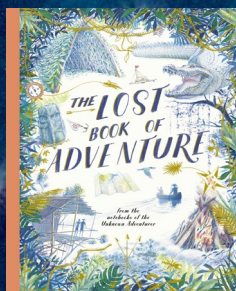


# BOOKS FOR BLOSSOMING MINDS



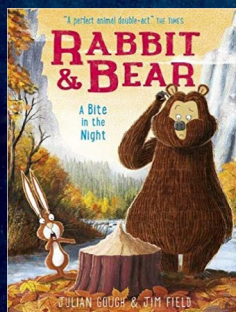
## CHARLIE TURNS INTO A T-REX BY SAM COPELAND PB - £6.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 7+)

Charlie has two big problems. Not only is his Dad's business in trouble and he might have to move in with Aunt Brenda (and her seventeen cats!) but he's finding it hard to control when he turns into an animal... and back again. Thankfully, all Charlie and his friends have to do is recover the McGuffins' stolen gold and everything will be fine. Right? Laugh-out-loud humour with a big heart.



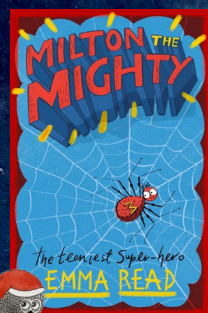
## THE LOST BOOK OF ADVENTURE HB - £20 - FRANCES LINCOLN (CHILDREN'S 8+ TO ADULT)

Delve into the found clothbound notebook of the Unknown Adventurer, which will tell you everything you need to survive in the wild from rafting to tying knots. Whilst you learn, find out more about the Unknown Adventurer himself, as he tells of his incredible escapades from surviving a Saharan dust storm to being dragged off by a hyena in Botswana. This is a practical love letter to the wild, wrapped up with a beautifully illustrated story.



## RABBIT & BEAR: A BITE IN THE NIGHT BY JULIAN GOUGH & JIM FIELD HB - £9.99 - HODDER (CHILDREN'S 6+)

The latest in a superb, witty series we love at Mr B's and which is perfect for early readers. Rabbit is one of life's worriers. Luckily his neighbour Bear is always at hand to lend with a gentle life lesson such as my favourite ever line "worrying doesn't fix things. But breakfast does"! With brekky consumed, Rabbit and Bear need to put their heads together with their woodland pals to solve the mystery of the disappearing trees.



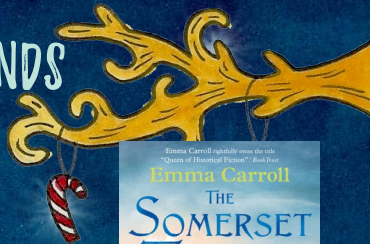
## MILTON THE MIGHTY BY EMMA READ PB - £6.99 - CHICKEN HOUSE (CHILDREN'S 7+)

Become a spider warrior not a worrier with the help of Milton, the eight-legged hero of this hilarious story. Along with friends hairy Ralph and daddy long legs Audrey, can Milton save the spidery gang from pest control with the help of his house-girl Zoe and her arachnophobic dad? Funny, warm-hearted and equally loved by boys and girls, this has been a big hit in the B family.





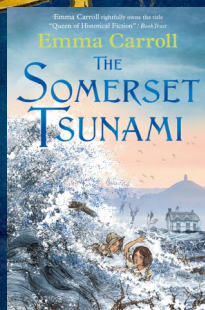
# MORE BOOKS FOR BLOSSOMING MINDS



## THE SOMERSET TSUNAMI BY EMMA CARROLL

PB - £6.99 - FABER & FABER (CHILDREN'S 9+)

It's 1616 and Barrow Hall has a new member of staff, hired to teach young Master Spicer how to grow up into a man with a capital M – only this new teacher is a girl in disguise. Fortune Sharpe shrugs off gender stereotypes in her new position, but with the master of this house growing ever more paranoid of witchcraft and the nearby sea threatening to engulf the entire household, she's got her work cut out, in this page-turner of a historical novel.



## INVISIBLE IN A BRIGHT LIGHT BY SALLY GARDNER HB - £10.99 - HEAD OF ZEUS (CHILDREN'S 10+)

Opening night. 1870. The Royal Opera House in the freezing city of C-. For Celeste, abandoned outside as a baby many years earlier, the Opera House is all she has known. When a strange dream turns reality on its head, Celeste finds herself inside 'The Reckoning' – a dangerous game where she does not know the rules. Inspired by dark fairy tales, this enchanting story will transport you to the gutter of time and keep you hooked until the very end.



## FROSTHEART BY JAMIE LITTLER PB - £7.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 8+)

Ash lives in Furi, a stronghold isolated in the middle of the dangerous Snow Sea. Setting off on the sleigh Frostheart to find his parents, Ash will be taken on a perilous journey where he will soon uncover that the key to their discovery may be the very thing he has been warned against. A fast-paced adventure rich with action, laughs and enchanting characters, not to mention Littler's incredible illustrations which are scattered throughout.



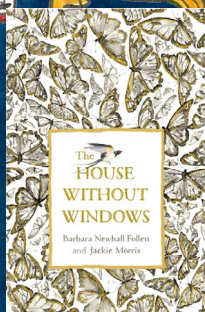
## THE GIRL WHO SPEAKS BEAR BY SOPHIE ANDERSON PB - £6.99 - USBORNE (CHILDREN'S 9+)

In this heart-warming tale we follow Yanka, a young girl who was found abandoned in a bear cave and stands out from everyone else in her village. Out in the Snow Forest Yanka sets to uncovering the truth about her family, desperate to find out where she truly belongs. Russian fairytales are interwoven throughout and create the perfect backdrop for this magical and mysterious adventure. This is a story absolutely brimming with memorable characters, love and friendships.



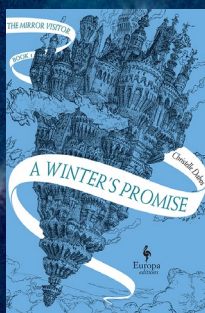


# BOOKS FOR BUDDING BIBLIOPHILES



## THE HOUSE WITHOUT WINDOWS BY BARBARA NEWHALL FOLLETT & JACKIE MORRIS HB - £12.99 - PENGUIN (CHILDREN'S 10+ TO ADULT)

Rediscovered by Jackie Morris, this is a beautiful illustrated edition for young and old. Published when Follett was just twelve, it captures a longing for the wilderness in the style of a fable, which seems strangely prophetic, as years later the author would walk out with \$30 in her pocket and disappear forever. Infused with the wonder of youth, the descriptions convey an almost transcendent love of nature's joys to reawaken your inner child.



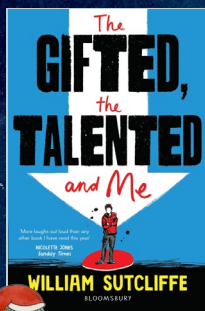
## A WINTER'S PROMISE BY CHRISTELLE DABOS PB - £7.99 - EUROPA EDITIONS (YOUNG ADULT 13+)

This French story is an epic of Pullman stature. Ophelia is an archivist; she can read the history of an object through her hands and walk through mirrors. But when she finds herself pledged to icy Thorn, she has no choice. How will a stubborn, headstrong young woman survive on an ark so different from her own, so bound by strange magic and high society? Well, by disobeying mostly.



## THE DEATHLESS GIRLS BY KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE HB - £12.99 - ORION (YOUNG ADULT 13+)

When seventeen-year-old twins Lil and Kizzy are captured and enslaved to the cruel Boyar Valcar, their lifelines are changed irrevocably. Forced to work in the castle kitchens, they will soon learn not only of their own strength, but the strength of a terrifying figure known as the Dragon who takes girls like them as gifts. Perfect for fans of fairytales, folklore, and the gothic, this is a chilling and atmospheric read.



## THE GIFTED, THE TALENTED AND ME BY WILLIAM SUTCLIFFE PB - £7.99 - BLOOMSBURY (YOUNG ADULT 13+)

Sam is fifteen and doesn't care about being famous. He's struggling with the move to a new life in London after his family's financial situation suddenly changes. Enrolling at the North London Academy for the Gifted and Talented seems like the worst thing in the world, with everyone chasing stardom and world domination. Littered with witty humour and a fantastic coming of age theme, this is an effortless read which captures the drama of teenage life in a nutshell.







# POPLAR FICTION



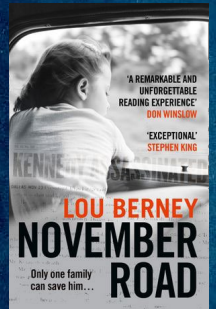
## FIVE DAYS OF FOG BY ANNA FREEMAN PB - £8.99 - ORION (FICTION)

Based on the lives of real women, Freeman's new novel tells the story of an all-female criminal gang, 'The Cutters', operating in London in the 1950's. The novel has several narrators, but centres around Florrie, the 19-year-old daughter of the gang boss, and next in line to head up 'The Cutters'. The book spans the 5 days of the Great Smog in 1952, which makes this tight little tale gritty, wicked-fast and oozing with atmosphere.



## NOVEMBER ROAD BY LOU BERNEY PB - £8.99 - HARPER COLLINS (FICTION)

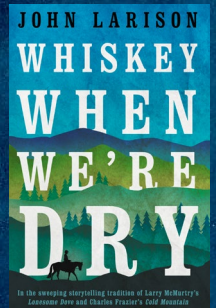
President Kennedy is dead and Frank Guidry, a street lieutenant for the New Orleans mob, knows way too much about the guys who are responsible. Rather than waiting for trouble to find him, Guidry flees, heading west, aiming at Las Vegas and freedom. But his bosses are on his tail and they won't stop until Guidry's mouth is closed for good. A perfectly-paced thriller set against the backdrop of conspiracy in 1960's America.



## WHISKEY WHEN WE'RE DRY BY JOHN LARISON

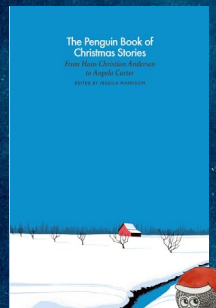
PB - £8.99 - OLDCASTLE BOOKS (FICTION)

After the death of her father, Jess sets out to find her outlaw brother. But, feeling vulnerable and alone, she goes dressed as a man, her hair shorn and her breasts bound. Larison's novel is full of surprises and is hugely relevant to our time. It's a tender, moving story about one young woman's search for identity and meaning in a man's world – with added gunfights, sieges, wild horses, sharp shooting and *plenty* of whiskey.



## THE PENGUIN BOOK OF CHRISTMAS STORIES HB - £20 - PENGUIN (SHORT STORIES)

Wrap yourself up in your favourite blanket, grab a mug of mulled wine and settle down by the fire with this captivating and superbly curated collection of stories for the festive season. Join some of the greatest storytellers, including Capote and Calvino, Sayers and Spark, Saki, Chekhov and more as they weave tales packed with magic, family, cold nights and wooden cabins, all collected and presented by Penguin in this beautifully designed edition.



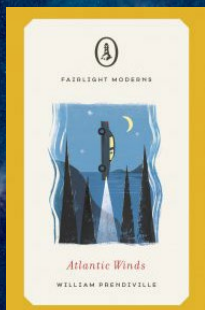


# !(SYCA)MORE POPLAR FICTION



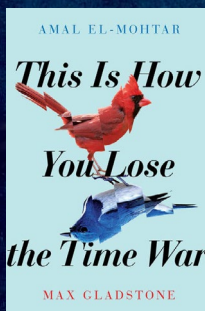
## LOVE BY HANNE ORSTAVIK PB - £10.00 - AND OTHER STORIES (FICTION)

It is an icy Norwegian evening; single mother Vibeke has forgotten that tomorrow is her son Jon's ninth birthday. Told in prose as sharp as a breath of wintry air, Vibeke and Jon have their own separate and eventful evenings, flirting with tragedy and fumbling connections. *Love* is an atmospheric, thrilling novel of love and loneliness and the many ways we miss each other, told by a prize-winning powerhouse of Norwegian literature.



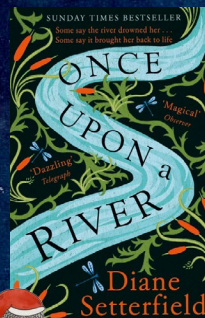
## ATLANTIC WINDS BY WILLIAM PRENDIVILLE PB - £7.99 - FAIRLIGHT (FICTION)

Fairlight Moderns are back with an unassuming novella about young love, civil unrest and small town certainty. This lyrical tale imbued with a strong sense of place, plays out in 1970's Canada against the backdrop of the island community of Bear Lake. The two key protagonists, teenagers and best friends Tom and Cormic, are the kinds of characters who'll stick with you long after you've finished following their efforts to navigate troubled times.



## THIS IS HOW YOU LOSE THE TIME WAR BY AMAL EL-MOHTAR & MAX GLADSTONE PB - £10 - QUERCUS (FICTION)

As world-ending warfare unfolds in the far future, each side sends an agent back in time to change the past in hope of swaying the final outcome. The two rival time agents fall in love, resulting in this most impressive and unusual of science-fiction novels: a time-travelling military thriller written entirely in love letters. Imaginative and innovative, this wonderful co-authored novel also has the greatest author photograph you will ever see.



## ONCE UPON A RIVER BY DIANE SETTERFIELD PB - £8.99 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

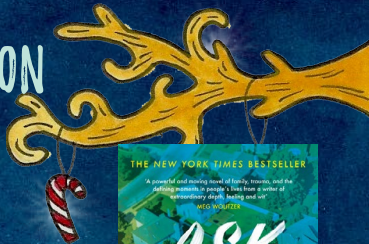
A mystery that is both heart-poundingly tense and beautifully written. Set in the late 1800's, it is utterly captivating, unguessable and has an extraordinary twist following a plot that winds like the Thames through the stories told by vibrantly written characters. Their lives and lies begin to unravel when a drowned girl, brought to the riverside inn where these storytellers weave their tales, miraculously comes back to life.







# EVEN (SYCA)MORE POPLAR FICTION



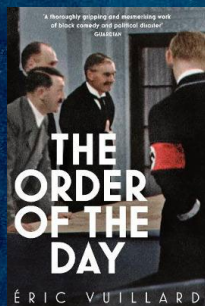
## ASK AGAIN, YES BY MARY BETH KEANE HB - £14.99 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

Two Irish-American families living as neighbours on a sleepy suburban street. A childhood romance. A tragedy that reverberates over generations. *Ask Again, Yes* is a timely, emotionally resonant novel about mental health and the origins of life's fracture points, about love and inheritance, and about the power of redemption and forgiveness, undiluted by decades.



## THE ORDER OF THE DAY BY ERIC VUILLARD PB - £8.99 - PICADOR (FICTION)

The titans of German industry sit around a boardroom table while Hitler pleads for funding to expand the country's borders. Neville Chamberlain offers rental of his flat to the Nazi foreign minister. These are the meetings that led to war, brought terrifyingly to life by Vuillard in this mesmerising blend of fact and fiction. A provocative, uncomfortable look at the grey areas of war, which claimed the Prix Goncourt, France's highest literary prize.



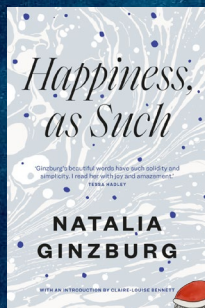
## BEFORE THE COFFEE GETS COLD BY TOSHIKAZU KAWAGUCHI PB - £8.99 - PICADOR (FICTION)

A Tokyo coffee shop offering time travel should be mobbed every day of the week, right? Wrong. When there are so many arbitrary restrictions – not least of which being the cardinal rule that you have to drink up and return to the present day before your coffee gets cold – few can be bothered to fulfil all the criteria required. For those that do, though, there is the offer of a precious second chance to make right those missed opportunities in life.



## HAPPINESS, AS SUCH BY NATALIA GINZBURG PB - £9.99 - DAUNT BOOKS (FICTION)

Set against the backdrop of an Italy struggling with post-war political extremism, this novel focusses on the complicated lives and loves of an Italian family in the 1970's. Their story is revealed through the letters written and received by the adored son, Michele - who has had to flee the country due to his own political activism. The trials and tribulations veer from the ridiculous to the tragic and the letters themselves are as much about what is left unsaid.





# WOULD YOU LIKE OUR FAVOURITES?!



## THIS IS NOT A DRILL

AN extinction rebellion HANDBOOK



JESS' FAVE: THIS IS NOT A DRILL

BY EXTINCTION REBELLION

PB - £7.99 - PENGUIN (ENVIRONMENT)

For the first time this was a no-brainer, as Extinction Rebellion is where my brain (and the rest of me!) has often been in 2019; delivering talks or blocking bridges. Half of the book reflects the reality of climate collapse, admitting the grief so many of us feel, and the rest suggests ways forward when all else has failed, with curiosity and soberly grounded in the history of civil disobedience. It's an invitation to join or just understand a vital movement.

HANNAH'S FAVE: THE STARLESS SEA

BY ERIN MORGENSTERN

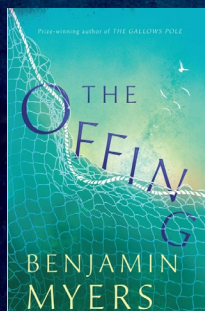
HB - £16.99 - VINTAGE (FICTION)



*The Starless Sea* is the magical adventure of the year that you'll never want to leave from the author of *The Night Circus*. In his university library, Zachary Ezra Rollins discovers an unmarked book telling the story of him...at a masquerade party in New York. The only logical step is to find this fictional party, meet a woman dressed as Max from *Where the Wild Things Are*, and descend into a secret underground library in order to protect Time and Fate's stories.

TOM M'S FAVE: THE OFFING BY BENJAMIN MYERS

HB - £16.99 - BLOOMSBURY (FICTION)

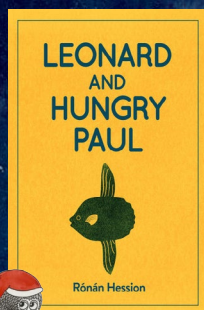


If a novel can ever be perfect, *The Offing* is it. Set just after WWII, it is the tale of one teenage boy's coming-of-age summer, his discovery of poetry, his deep love of nature, and his beautiful blossoming friendship with the lonely, romantic Dulcie. Myers is one of the UK's most exciting contemporary voices and he has conjured an exquisite, beautiful novel that will appeal to fans of Laurie Lee and J.L. Carr.

RHIAN'S FAVE: LEONARD AND HUNGRY PAUL

BY RONAN HESSON

PB - £8.99 - BLUEMOOSE BOOKS (FICTION)



A gin and tonic of a book, to be savoured at the end of a long, tiring day – or year! This is a wholesome, empathetic and quiet marvel of a story with a pinch of Irish humour. Leonard fills his days but not his heart writing children's encyclopaedias, while Paul, his best friend and part-time postman, still lives with his parents in his early thirties. Two undemanding, gentle misfits who just haven't found their place in the world but find wonder in the everyday.





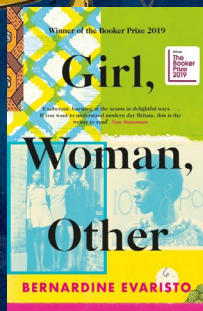


# OUR FANTAS-TEAK FAVOURITES



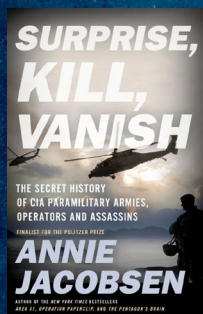
**NIC'S FAVE: GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER**  
BY BERNADINE EVARISTO  
HB - £16.99 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

In twelve deftly interlinked narratives we are given a dozen very different views of what it is to be black and female. Drifting back and forth across generations, and moving around Britain and occasionally beyond to reflect heritages from the Caribbean to Nigeria, we get a myriad of dramatic and overlapping life stories. From rebellious squatter turned playwright Amma to accidental cult member Dominique, the characters are always memorable, often pugnacious and the writing is poetic, accessible and compelling.



**SAM'S FAVE: SURPRISE, KILL, VANISH**  
BY ANNIE JACOBSEN  
HB - £25 - JOHN MURRAY (HISTORY)

Combining newly declassified detail, deep journalism and visceral narrative, *Surprise, Kill, Vanish* is the definitive story of the CIA. Beginning with its inspiration and development alongside Churchill's Department of Ungentlemanly Warfare, and following the different ways the CIA has been utilised by different presidents, this is also a thought-provoking examination of the ethics surrounding 'third hand' diplomacy: assassination, sabotage, and drone strikes. An important and thrilling read.



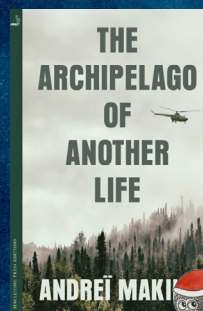
**ED'S FAVE: GUN LOVE BY JENNIFER CLEMENT**  
PB - £8.99 - VINTAGE (FICTION)

Pearl and her mother live in a backwoods Florida trailer park that is crawling with suspicious characters. They have no material possessions and sleep in their car, yet this simple existence seems enough. But the arrival of the mysterious Eli—and the looming violence he brings with him—turns Pearl's life upside down. Told in an unforgettable poetic voice which flows like a Johnny Cash ballad, *Gun Love* is an elegant slice of modern southern gothic.



**LUC'S FAVE: THE ARCHIPELAGO OF ANOTHER LIFE BY ANDREI MAKINE**  
PB - £14.99 - QUERCUS (FICTION)

This 'Siberian Western' had me gripped from the start. It's the 1960's and a 14 year old 'orphan of the Gulags' is sent to a small town in the far Eastern fringes of Siberia. He's ostensibly there to 'learn a trade' but in reality it's so he can be airbrushed from history. When a man arrives on the sporadic helicopter service (the only way in or out) dressed in full hunting gear and immediately heads away from town into the desolate woods, the boy has to find out what he's up to and follows him in.



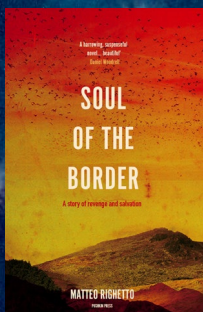


# GO (CHEST)NUTS FOR OUR FAVOURITES



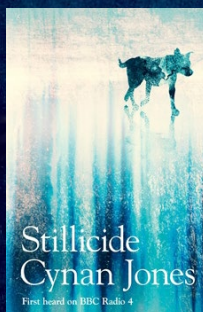
## LOTTIE'S FAVE: LANNY BY MAX PORTER HB - £12.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

Flick through a few pages of *Lanny* and you'll fast realise this isn't any ordinary novel. Snippets of conversations scrawl themselves across the pages, building a captivating, entertaining, unnervingly accurate picture of the inhabitants of a small commuter village outside London. The book follows the family of Lanny, an unusual young boy who one day doesn't come back from a trip to the woods. Full of mysticism, stark emotion and incredible characters, it had me gripped from its beautiful start to its heart-pounding ending.



## JULIETTE'S FAVE: SOUL OF THE BORDER BY MATTEO RIGHETTO PB - £9.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS (FICTION)

Almost fable-like in its style, this is a beautiful tale of gritty determination and resilience in the Italian alps in the late C19. A struggling family of tobacco farmers turns to smuggling across the Austrian border to avoid starvation. When Augusto fails to return, it is down to his teenage daughter Jole to risk the perilous journey across the craggy landscape to provide for her family and to discover what became of her missing father.



## TOM H'S FAVE: STILLICIDE BY CYNAN JONES HB - £12 - GRANTA (FICTION)

Set in the not-too-distant future, these interconnecting narratives make up the story of a fractured community. The climate crisis has led to drought and thus the commodification of water; terrorists target the heavily armoured water train and grand plans to tow an iceberg south take shape. Each chapter juxtaposes the dystopian and the everyday, pulling at the heartstrings and making the whole thing feel very real. The writing is terse, focused, powerful. It cuts straight to the heart and close to the bone.



## LAURA'S FAVE: LITTLE FAITH BY NICKOLAS BUTLER PB - £8.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

Lyle Hovde's struggle with faith in the face of personal tragedy is both heart-wrenching and heart-warming. Living out his golden years in rural Wisconsin, Lyle spends his days caring for his best friend and his apple orchard, alongside his one true shining light: his 5-year-old grandson Isaac. When Lyle's daughter threatens to sever family ties in the name of religion, Lyle, sensing danger for the boy, becomes surer of his place and the consequences of his inaction. A beautiful and powerful read.





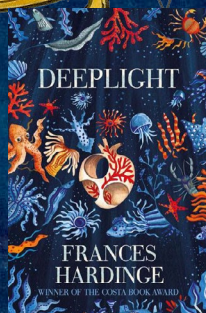


# WI-LLOW ON TREE PUNS NOW..(FAVOURITES!)

## EMMA'S FAVE: DEEPLIGHT BY FRANCES HARDINGE

HB - £12.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (YOUNG ADULT 12+)

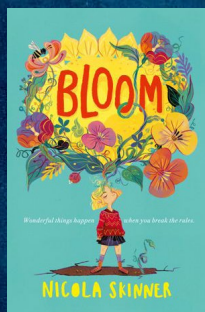
The gods of the Undersea ruled the Myriad islands for centuries until the day they destroyed each other in a fit of madness. What's left of the gods are now valuable relics and everyone wants a piece. Street urchins Hark and Jelt are desperate for anything they can scavenge and sell, so when they find something deep beneath the ocean, they realise their fortunes could turn, but at what price? Frances Hardinge is a masterful storyteller with a powerful imagination, and this book is simply extraordinary.



## AMY'S FAVE: BLOOM BY NICOLA SKINNER

HB - £12.99 - HARPER COLLINS (CHILDREN'S 9+)

*Bloom* was one of the first books I read this year, and nothing else has managed to top it! Sorrel Fallowfield is exceptionally good and never breaks the rules, until she and her best friend Neena find some 'Surprising Seeds' which transform their lives and those of everyone else in town. This is a hilarious, magical coming of age story with wonderful underlying messages about the importance of the environment, friendship and green spaces.



## HENRY'S FAVE: SKYWARD BY BRANDON SANDERSON

PB - £8.99 - GOLLANCZ (YOUNG ADULT/FICTION)

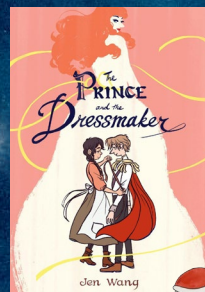
Here is one of those books where it is clear the author had as much fun writing the book as I had reading it. The start of a new science fiction series from a world building pro, *Skyward* provides that much needed thrill ride kick for fans of *Star Wars*, *Ready Player One* and *Starfox*. An awesome planet, epic dog fights and a wholesome coming of age story will leave readers eager for part two!



## GEMMA'S FAVE: THE PRINCE AND THE DRESSMAKER BY JEN WANG

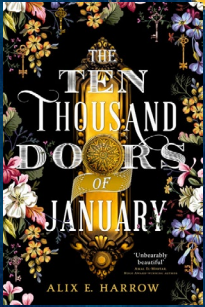
HB - £15.99 - MACMILLAN USA (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

Like a pink meringue, this story is fluffy, pastel, and has just the right amount of gooey sweetness. Paris is at the height of its decadence, and Prince Sebastian wants nothing more than to join in. Thankfully, Sebastian has Frances, his best friend and dressmaker extraordinaire to transform him every night into the beautiful Lady Crystallia. But can Sebastian and Frances' secret be kept forever?





# OAK-AY THAT'S ENOUGH NOW



**KATE'S FAVE: THE TEN THOUSAND DOORS OF  
JANUARY BY ALIX E. HARROW**  
HB - £12.99 - LITTLE BROWN (FICTION)

January Scaller has always been a well-behaved curiosity, living under the rules of a foreboding master. Then, she discovers a leather bound book, full of far-flung adventures, mystical portals and otherworldly explorers. As January's own story starts to merge with the tale she is reading, it's time to wave goodbye to her former quiet existence and begin a new life of magical world-swapping adventures. I adored this beautifully written, enchanting adventure!

**Finally The Mr B's Team are very proud to present the 6th title from  
our own micro-publisher Fox, Finch & Tepper...**

**THE WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE  
BY GLORIA NAYLOR**  
PB - £9.99 - FOX, FINCH & TEPPER (FICTION)

First written in 1982, and the winner of a National Book Award that year, Gloria Naylor has masterfully crafted a novel in 7 parts. Each introduces us to a different woman living in Brewster Place – a run-down, dead-end apartment block in a shabby suburb of an unnamed American city. Each woman has a very different story to tell, and a searing persona of her own which sings through the chapter. At once honest, lyrical, funny, gritty and wise, this incredible novel shows us how even in the face of racial and social discrimination, women can rise above it with an unwavering ability to hope.



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