





Merry Christmas! Lockdowns may come, lockdowns may go. Holidays may be on, holidays may be off. But there's one thing you can rely on – in the middle of the Autumn the all new entirely made-by-us Mr B's Christmas Catalogue will always arrive to inspire your book gifting.

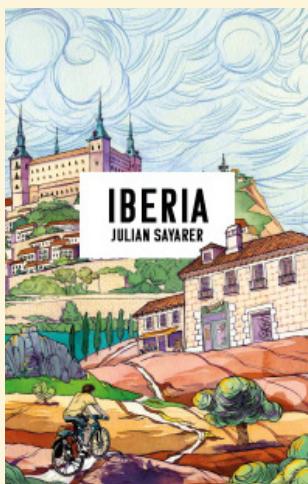
This 2021 renewal features 108 tempters, each of which we've selected (after fierce debate) and reviewed ourselves. We hope you find something for everyone and, perhaps, a treat or two to circle for yourself - we're guessing that you've earned it more than ever this year!

**All of these books are available in the shop or online with
10% OFF the prices shown**

To buy anything in the catalogue or to browse other titles or ask for recommendations, please:

**Visit us at 13-15 John St, Bath, BA1 2JL
or at www.mrbsemporium.com
Call us on 01225 331155 or email us at
books@mrbsemporium.com**

Our fantastic catalogue cover was created by our very own Tessimo Mahuta and Edward Scotland. Tess has also been busy creating the amazing cover for:



**IBERIA BY JULIAN SAYARER
PB - £9.99 - FOX, FINCH & TEPPER
(TRAVEL)**

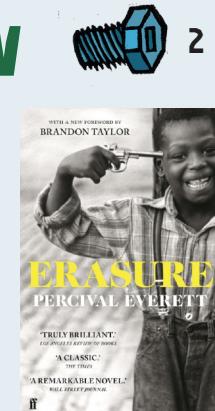
Finding himself in Lisbon amidst a pandemic, Julian Sayarer decides simply to ride. Through hazy landscapes and on baked roads, he pedals east. During long hours in the saddle, his thoughts traverse matters big and small – hopping from post-colonial culpability to the supremacy of an orange picked at the roadside. Across 900 miles of sun-drenched olive groves, vast mountainscapes, and dormant towns glimpsed through driving rain, Sayarer's journey is punctuated by fleeting, beautiful moments of human connection. Iberia is a celebration of a shared humanity and community found in a uniquely fragile time.

Fox, Finch & Tepper is a publishing house formed by the team at Mr B's. 'Iberia' is our first non-fiction title.

A is for AWESOME FICTION

**ERASURE BY PERCIVAL EVERETT
PB - £8.99 - FABER (FICTION)**

Thelonious (Monk) Ellison is a black author, frustrated by his publisher's narrow expectations of what he can and should write. When Monk suddenly becomes responsible for caring for his mother, he needs money, fast. Doing away with his integrity and writing what he considers to be a gimmick of a novel, Thelonious is suddenly launched into fame, fortune, and financial security. With his signature, suave intelligence and humour, Everett articulates a suspicion of authorship and culture.



**GREY BEES BY ANDREY KURKOV
PB - £8.99 - QUERCUS (FICTION)**

This disarmingly funny novel from the author of 'Death and the Penguin', shines a light on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, through its tale of two frenemies living in a war zone. Beekeeper Sergei and Pashka, the only other remaining inhabitant of their "grey zone" village, have a cantankerous and hilarious relationship as they navigate life amongst the war, before Sergei makes plans for an unlikely road trip to seek sanctuary for his beloved bees.



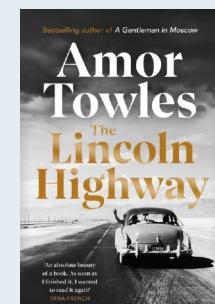
**SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE BY CLAIRE KEEGAN
HB - £10 - FABER (FICTION)**

Winter, 1985. Bill Furlong makes his rounds as the coal and timber merchant in a small Irish town. At home his wife Eileen and their five daughters prepare for Christmas. But something dark is brewing under the facade of this seemingly happy town, where the church wields so much power – and Bill's moral centre is about to be tested to its limit. A miniature masterpiece of rare perfection and the perfect winter read.



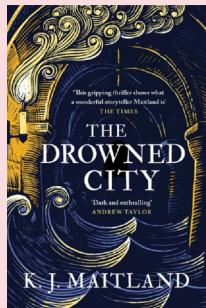
**THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY BY AMOR TOWLES
HB - £20 - CORNERSTONE (FICTION)**

Teenager Emmett is back home in Nebraska after a gruelling year of incarceration. But the town hasn't forgotten what happened and his family's farm has gone bust. Emmett collects his brother and their last remaining dollars – plus a couple of unexpected visitors – and flees into the heart of 1950s America. Full of great characters and richly imagined settings, this is a modern masterpiece from one of our greatest storytellers.



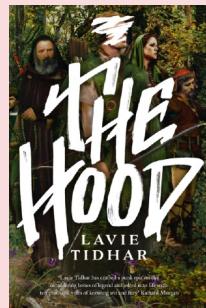


B is for BACK IN TIME



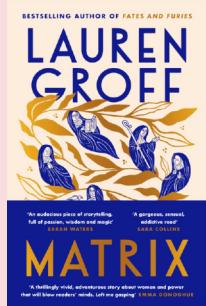
THE DROWNED CITY BY K.J. MAITLAND PB - £8.99 - HEADLINE (FICTION)

In 1607 a terrible storm surge funnelled in from the Bristol Channel drowning thousands and causing catastrophic damage. Daniel Pursglove is plucked from his Newgate jail cell and thrust into the aftermath of this natural disaster. He is tasked, on the orders of an increasingly paranoid King James, with finding gunpowder plot conspirator Spero Pettinger amongst Bristol's Catholic spy cells and silty detritus. A brilliant grimey historical crime novel rife with intrigue and superstition.



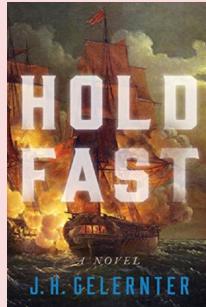
THE HOOD BY LAVIE TIDHAR HB - £18.99 - HEAD OF ZEUS (FICTION)

Something unusual is afoot in Sherwood. Rebecca, the daughter of a Jewish money-lender senses this, and sees an opportunity, regardless of the cost. Meanwhile, Will Scarlett is back from the crusade, walking off an attempted murder and all hopped up on Khat. Featuring a familiar cast in unfamiliar guises, Tidhar has created a narcotic, fantastical and humorous retelling of the lives of Marian, Robin, the merry men and their compatriots.



MATRIX BY LAUREN GROFF HB - £16.99 - CORNERSTONE (FICTION)

This is not a novel, but a lifetime; a character study of Marie de France, a near-mythical historical figure and a woman so extraordinary her legacy still echoes centuries later. Beautifully written and at times almost painfully evocative, it's also a political statement; an exploration of womanhood, freedom and agency. With the scope and power of 'Circe' and a nuance all its own, this is a story to draw you beyond reality's reach.



HOLD FAST BY J.H. GELERTNER HB - £16.99 - W W NORTON (FICTION)

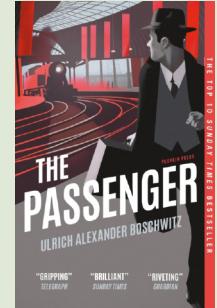
After years of serving King and Country, Thomas Grey seizes the opportunity to fight a covert war of his own, taking him to the very heart of Napoleon's government in the hope of avenging his wife's death and turning the tide of war in England's favour. An unrelenting espionage thriller set in the Napoleonic Wars, full of desperate sea battles and nerve-jangling spy action - think Patrick O'Brian meets Ian Fleming.

C is for CRIME FEST



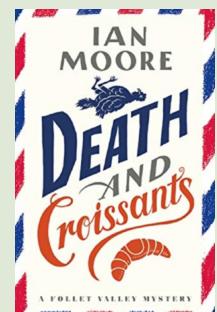
THE PASSENGER BY ULRICH ALEXANDER BOSCHWITZ PB - £8.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS (FICTION)

Jewish businessman Otto Silbermann knew things in Berlin were bad – but he never expected stormtroopers to hammer down the front door. Finding that everyone he once trusted has now deserted him, desperate and afraid, he takes to the country's train network where he can hide from the tyranny overtaking the country. Rediscovered after decades out of print, this is a thrilling literary manhunt for fans of 'Alone in Berlin'.



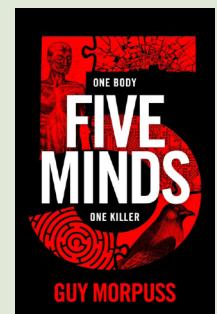
DEATH AND CROISSANTS BY IAN MOORE HB - £14.99 - PRELUDE BOOKS (FICTION)

Murder and mirth abound in this cosy crime set in the Loire Valley. Hapless B&B owner and classic film enthusiast Richard Ainsworth is dragged into a real-life crime thriller when a guest disappears, leaving only a bloody handprint. Led astray by the beautiful and enigmatic Valerie Dorsey, Richard tackles the Italian mafia, rival B&B owners and nudists in a thrilling search for the truth and a nice cup of tea and a sit down.



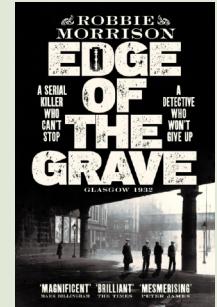
FIVE MINDS BY GUY MORPUSS HB - £12.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (FICTION)

The world's resources are depleted to the point that some humans now exist five to a body, each getting four hours of time a day. Mike, Selena, Alex, Katie and Ben form one mostly happy 'commune'. But when one member of the commune is erased, it's up to the others to investigate... tag-team style. A scintillating, totally unique murder mystery for fans of 'The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle', and 'Ready Player One'.



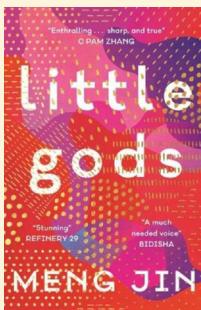
EDGE OF THE GRAVE BY ROBBIE MORRISON PB - £9.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (FICTION)

On the gritty streets of interwar Glasgow, gangs roam and control the money, flashing knives and flying fists. Among the carnage, a sadistic serial killer goes unchallenged and Inspector Jimmy Dreghorn is drawn into an investigation in which he has a personal stake. But no-one can escape unscathed from these troubled times, where everyone carries the scars of the past. A phenomenal debut from an incredible new voice in British noir.





D is for DARN FINE FIC



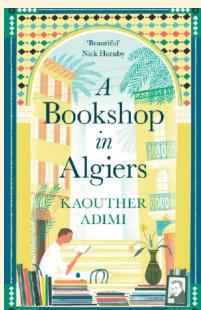
LITTLE GODS BY MENG JIN PB - £8.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS (FICTION)

After her mother's death, troubled seventeen-year-old Liya rebels one last time. Hopping a plane from America to Shanghai with only a secret address for company, she will finally come to understand her brilliant yet tormented mother, find the ghost of her father, and discover the origins of her true self. A puzzle of a family history seen through multiple perspectives; this sharp debut is a beauty of a multi-generational reckoning.



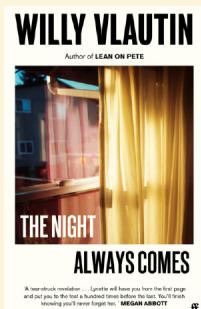
MEMORIAL BY BRYAN WASHINGTON PB - £8.99 - ATLANTIC BOOKS (FICTION)

Benson and Mike have been together for four years, but they are beginning to drift apart. Mike heads home to Japan to be with his dying father – just as his mother Mitsuko arrives to stay. This leaves Benson getting to know Mitsuko in the claustrophobic confines of their Houston apartment, while also pondering his romantic quandary. A sensitive and funny page turner exploring love in the 21st century by a hugely talented young American writer.



A BOOKSHOP IN ALGIERS BY KAOUTHER ADIMI HB - £12.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (FICTION)

A homage to books, bookshops and publishing which transports you to 1930s, and modern, Algiers. Edouard Charlot creates the tiny but influential Les Vraies Richesses bookshop – cultural hub, home from home for Albert Camus and first publisher of many great writers. A small sanctuary that witnesses war and revolution in Algeria. Now, the blasé Ryad is here to undertake the final clear-out of this historic book space – slowly learning what it represents.



THE NIGHT ALWAYS COMES BY WILLY VLAUTIN PB - £12.99 - FABER (FICTION)

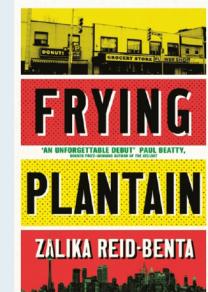
Lynette has spent years working two jobs and looking after her disabled brother, always with the dream of one day owning the Portland house they rent. She is so close...and then everything falls apart. We follow Lynette over 24 devastating hours as she scrambles desperately to keep the various elements of her life together and hold on to her dream. A spare, tender, thrilling novel from a one of our favourite authors.

F is for FAMILY TALES



FRYING PLANTAIN BY ZALIKA REID-BENTA PB - £8.99 - DIALOGUE BOOKS (FICTION)

Kya is coming-of-age in Toronto's 'Little Jamaica' district and is struggling to see where she fits in. She doesn't feel totally at home anywhere – back in Jamaica, with the Canadians at school or even among children of other Islands families in her district. Exploring the relationships between generational barriers, mothers and daughters, race, and identity, Frying Plantain is an important and thoroughly enjoyable literary page-turner.



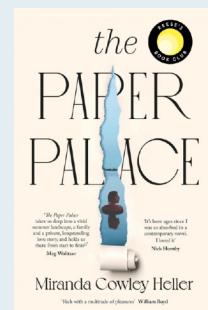
SORROW AND BLISS BY MEG MASON HB - £14.99 - WEIDENFELD & NICHOLSON (FICTION)

Martha is a 40-something successful writer – yet under the surface she has been struggling since her teens with an undiagnosed mental illness, and her husband has just walked out on their perfect marriage. As she tries to figure out just where to go from here, Martha is bolstered by her eccentric family and wonderfully witty, wise-cracking sister, in a poignant and darkly funny exploration of mental health in the modern age.



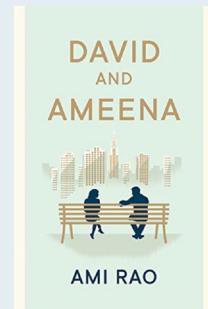
THE PAPER PALACE BY MIRANDA COWLEY HELLER HB - £14.99 - VIKING (FICTION)

In their annual tradition, Elle and her family are spending the summer at their rambling pond-side cabin in the backwoods of Cape Cod. But one evening an irrevocable act forces Elle to make a choice between her happy marriage and childhood sweetheart, Jonah. Combining lush, cinematic description with propulsive pace, Elle must wrestle her decision over the next 24 hours, while the tragic events from her seemingly golden family's past are gradually unspooled.



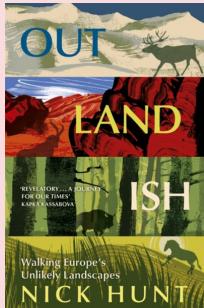
DAVID AND AMEENA BY AMI RAO PB - £8.99 - FAIRLIGHT BOOKS (FICTION)

An intricate, multicultural love story set in modern day New York. A chance encounter on the subway sparks a deep connection between David, a Jewish American and Ameena, a British-Pakistani. Despite their very different backgrounds, they bond over jazz and art but as they open their hearts to each other, it becomes increasingly challenging to keep the purity of their love separate from the pervading issues of culture, identity and politics.



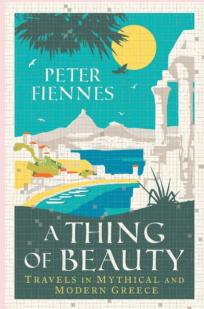


G is for GREAT JOURNEYS



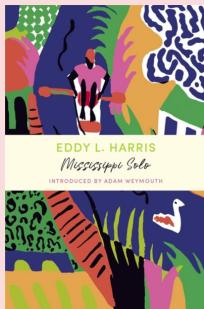
OUTLANDISH BY NICK HUNT HB - £16.99 - JOHN MURRAY (TRAVEL)

A travel book that makes the nearby bigger and more mysterious, 'Outlandish' explores European wildernesses that seem to belong to far-off continents or long-ago geological ages. Exploring arctic tundra in Scotland, primeval forest in Poland, Spanish desert and Hungarian steppe, Hunt's writing meshes landscapes, cultures, and concern for the future of the places he visits. Perfect for any armchair traveller or enthusiast of other cultures.



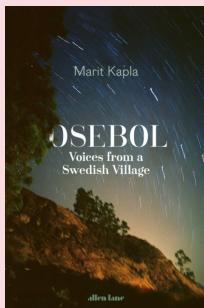
A THING OF BEAUTY BY PETER FIENNES HB - £18.99 - ONEWORLD (TRAVEL)

Travelling through Greece in search of the locations immortalised in the Greek Myths, Peter Fiennes discovers both eternal beauty and man-made eyesores and is awe-struck by both. In fact, this book is full of glorious paradox: the restrictions of the global pandemic enable Peter to describe a largely tourist-free experience; the uncertainty of our future versus the enduring stories of Classical Greece inspires him to revisit their ancient philosophy for advice and hope.



MISSISSIPPI SOLO BY EDDY L HARRIS PB - £12.99 - JOHN MURRAY (TRAVEL)

In 1988 when Eddy L Harris decided to paddle the 2,000-miles of the Mississippi with no experience, his friends thought he was crazy. But Harris is a man with more than his fair share of Kerouac-inspired adventure in his heart. Paddling through the Southern states from 'where there ain't no black folks to where they still don't like us much', this classic travelogue is a stunning exploration of the American population, the good, bad and ugly.



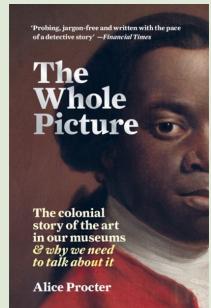
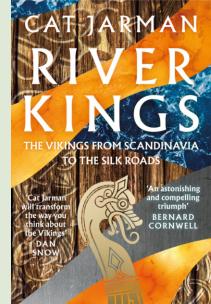
OSEBOL BY MARIT KAPLA HB - £20 - ALLEN LANE (SOCIAL HISTORY/ TRAVEL)

The riverside village of Osebol, like many other rural Swedish communities, has a declining population thanks to the steady automation of the forestry industry on which it relies. In this incredible polyphonic book which blurs the lines between storytelling and social history, Marit Kapla reconnects with the hometown of her youth by interviewing almost all its inhabitants and weaving together their memories, opinions and musings to paint a vivid picture of rural Swedish life.

H is for HISTORY

RIVER KINGS BY CAT JARMAN PB - £9.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (HISTORY)

Using a whole host of bioarchaeological techniques, Cat Jarman examines Viking travel and trade routes, from Scandinavia to their lesser-known journeys eastward to Baghdad and India. Confronting some of the other big questions in this fascinating field, from the roles of Viking women to the practicality of metal-detectorists, 'River Kings' provides a new social and geographical framework for what we know about the near mythological voyagers of the medieval age.

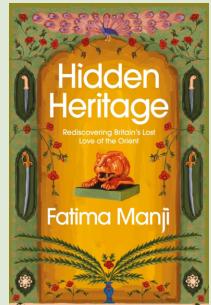


THE WHOLE PICTURE BY ALICE PROCTER PB - £9.99 - OCTOPUS (ART/HISTORY)

In this seminal study of art and colonial history, Alice Procter unpacks the building blocks of how we engage with culture and art across the globe. Focusing on specific artefacts housed in the British Museum, the V&A and the National Portrait Gallery, Procter dismantles the behaviour of the British Empire and the enduring legacy of colonialism in spaces entrusted with the education of the public. A timely and penetrating read executed with deadly precision.

HIDDEN HERITAGE BY FATIMA MANJI HB - £20 - VINTAGE (HISTORY)

Taking us through six fascinating case-studies, broadcaster and journalist Fatima Manji places Britain's historic relationship with the Orient under the microscope. From Kew Gardens to the Brighton Pavilion, Powis Castle to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Manji takes a tour of Britain's vibrant heritage spaces to find the art and relics of the Orient. This is a compelling and powerful look at the history of a nation struggling with the identity of its colonial past.



AFTERMATH BY HAROLD JAHNER HB - £20 - EBURY (HISTORY)

Harald Jähner gathers the unravelling threads of German life after the fall of the Third Reich in vivid prose in this magnificent book. By unearthing the experiences of civilians, collaborators, Nazis, Polish Jews, German Jews and others lost to history, this book is a testament to a nation undergoing monumental change in the wake of unspeakable horror. Featuring black and white photography and posters from the era, 'Aftermath' is a truly immersive read.





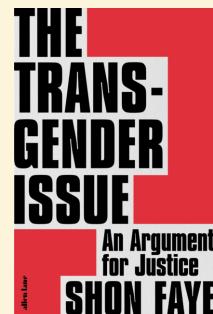
I is for INFORMATIVE



EARTHSHOT BY COLIN BUTFIELD & JONNIE HUGHES

HB - £20 - JOHN MURRAY (ENVIRONMENT)

In the wake of this year's IPCC report and COP26 summit, it's no surprise that more of us are suffering from eco-anxiety than ever. Butfield and Hughes distil mammoth issues such as deforestation, excessive waste, and ocean pollution into unifying and ambitious goals for the future of our planet. With its rallying cry of 'urgency + optimism = action', 'Earthshot' is a radical and stubbornly optimistic survival guide for apocalyptic times.



THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE BY SHON FAYE

HB - £20 - ALLEN LANE (EQUALITY)

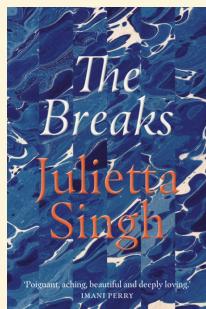
Despite making up less than one percent of the population, trans people are the focus of an increasingly hostile and polarised 'debate'. Shon Faye pierces through the noise, focusing on the reality of life for British trans people today with intelligence, sensitivity, and care. This landmark book is the perfect read for everyone wanting to learn more and see how trans liberation may be the key to a more liberated society for us all.



MANIFESTO BY BERNADINE EVARISTO

HB - £14.99 - PENGUIN (EQUALITY/ESSAYS)

This long-awaited memoir from the Booker-winning author reveals her lifelong commitment to creative communities, writing and activism. She takes us on a journey from a childhood of adversity to her time directing Britain's first theatre company for Black women in 1980s London, exploring themes of sexuality, self-hood and race along the way. Evaristo's remarkable persistence and passion for the creative life shine throughout.



THE BREAKS BY JULIETTA SINGH

PB - £9.99 - DAUNT BOOKS (ESSAYS)

'The Breaks' is Julietta Singh's letter to her six-year-old daughter. Singh imparts the wisdom, stories, and family history that she has collected over her lifetime; preparing her daughter to enter a world uneasy with Brownness. Singh begins the visionary work of imagining alternative futures, by providing alternative approaches to how we live today. In a style reminiscent of James Baldwin, 'The Breaks' is a much needed, convincing and optimistic proposal, that other worlds are possible.

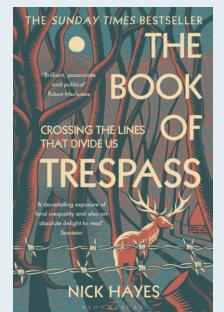
J is for JEWELLED ISLE



THE BOOK OF TRESPASS BY NICK HAYES

PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY (NATURE)

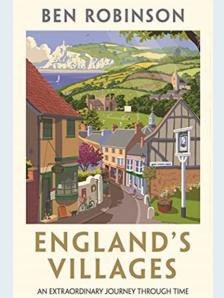
By law of trespass in the UK, we are excluded from 92% of our lands and 97% of waterways. Blocked by rules and legislation both ancient and rarely questioned, Nick Hayes explores how modern social inequality stems from the uneven distribution of land. Through the stories of poachers, gypsies, hippies, ramblers, protesters and migrants, Hayes takes us on a journey to transform the way we see the parts of this country almost entirely unknown to us.



ENGLAND'S VILLAGES BY BEN ROBINSON

HB - £25 - MANILLA (ARCHITECTURE/HISTORY)

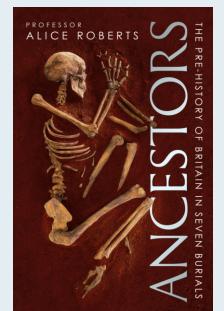
As a form of settlement, villages have lived on from prehistoric and Roman times, throughout medieval England, to modern 'urban' villages. From the origins of village pubs, greens, and ponds, to the real meaning behind many oddball names, take a journey through the quirks of England's villages in the company of expert archaeologist Dr Ben Robinson. A compelling combination of archaeology, social history and architecture.



ANCESTORS BY ALICE ROBERTS

HB - £20 - SIMON AND SCHUSTER (ARCHAEOLOGY)

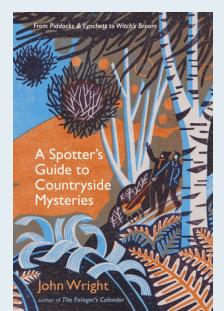
Using new advances in genetics and exploring important archaeological discoveries, this fascinating pre-history of Britain in seven burials is as impressively detailed as it is joyful in style. Charting our global ancestry in life and death, 'Ancestors' is where ancient history meets modern technology, and where what we do know meets what we don't. Professor Alice Roberts is just as full of charm, humour, and indefatigable enthusiasm in writing as she is on the screen.



A SPOTTER'S GUIDE TO COUNTRYSIDE MYSTERIES BY JOHN WRIGHT

PB - £16.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (NATURE)

Jon Wright guides us over the tussocks and fairy rings and across the water meadows and strip lynchets that we might barely notice but which all reveal fascinating natural mysteries. Split into sections covering the field, the wood and the seashore, and stunningly presented with photos throughout, the great oddities of the British countryside are laid bare and brought to life by one of our most infectiously enthusiastic nature writers.



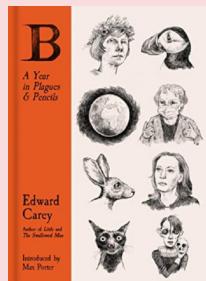


K is for KREATIVITY



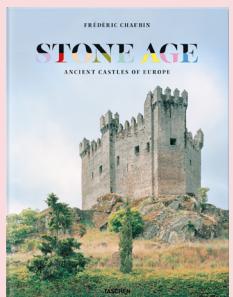
HAYAO MIYAZAKI BY JESSICA NIEBEL HB - £40 - DISTRIBUTED ART (ART/FILM)

If you think you've seen Miyazaki's complete work, then think again; this phenomenally produced and vividly illustrated book holds not only stills and preliminary sketches from almost all of Miyazaki's films, but original cell animation from many Ghibli movies. With a story that builds on his well-documented work ethic into an arching narrative about creativity, art, animation, and Miyazaki's life, this truly is a masterpiece worthy of bearing his name and honouring his continued legacy.



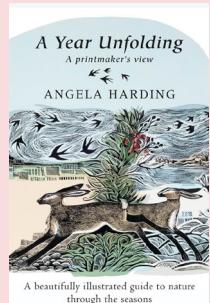
B: A YEAR IN PLAGUES AND PENCILS BY EDWARD CAREY HB - £14.99 - GALIC BOOKS (ART/ESSAYS)

What do you do when you find yourself facing lockdown with a stash of B Pencils? If you're Edward Carey, you draw. Every day, Carey put pencil to paper and produced a wealth of beautiful, unique and poignant illustrations. From portraits of infamous characters such as Shakespeare, to haunting monsters (and even the fly which sat on Mike Pence's head) this collection reflects on a year of tragedy, hope, and joy in the little things.



STONE AGE BY FREDERIC CHAUBIN HB - £50 - TASCHEN (ARCHITECTURE)

Following on the success of his book on Soviet design, CCCP, photographer Frederic Chaubin spent five years traversing the continent, documenting the most impressive castles to be found. The result is a breath-taking compendium of more than two hundred photographs and essays on castle history and architecture, exploring the effects of decay, myth and legend on their enduring legacy.



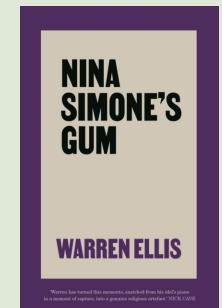
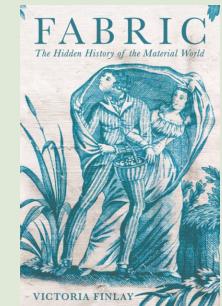
A YEAR UNFOLDING BY ANGELA HARDING HB - £20 - SPHERE (NATURE/ART)

From the cover illustrator of 'The Salt Path' comes a gorgeous collection of prints depicting Angela Harding's view of each season from the window of her home in the English countryside. She not only collects some of her most masterful prints to date but also unveils some of her tried and tested printing methods, the creation of her most iconic pieces, and the ever evolving path down which her art has led her.

L is for LISTS & LIVES

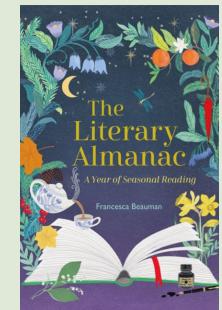
FABRIC BY VICTORIA FINLAY HB - £25 - PROFILE BOOKS (TEXTILES/HISTORY)

Following on from 'Colour', her entertaining exploration of pigments, Victoria Finlay has penned a fabulously wide ranging, yet personal journey into the world of cloth. Travelling the globe in search of traditional manufacturing and design techniques, every fabric has an important story to tell. Part travelogue, part history, part memoir, Victoria shows why particular fabrics still elicit such a strong emotional response in us all.



NINA SIMONE'S GUM BY WARREN ELLIS HB - £20 - FABER (MUSIC/MEMOIR)

In 1999 award-winning musician and composer Warren Ellis was moved by a heady mix of awe and wonder, to sneak on stage and stow away a piece of Nina Simone's used gum. It has since remained central to Ellis' work, informing his writing, and illuminating a love for objects found and discarded. A fascinating memoir of music, obsession, charisma, and the power of talismans and memory.



THE LITERARY ALMANAC BY FRANCESCA BEAUMAN HB - £14.99 - QUERCUS (BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS)

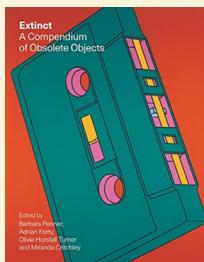
You'll never be stuck for reading inspiration again with these hand-picked seasonal suggestions from bookish expert Francesca Beauman. Whether you're on the hunt for the perfect novel to curl up with by the fire on a chilly winter's night, or something more niche – the perfect book for Mother's Day, back-to-school day, or even 'two books about coal-mining' – this guide has you covered with its impressive range of reading recommendations.



GASTRO OBSCURA BY CECILY WONG & DYLAN THURAS HB - £32.99 - WORKMAN (FOOD/TRAVEL)

Ever wondered what the diet of a Knight Templar was? And what do blood soup, creamed celery, and sea worms have in common? Covering the globe (and pretty much all of food history), this encyclopaedic exploration has it all. Whether you want to brush up on your Victorian table etiquette or learn where to find the best tacos in New York, this lavish book will get your mouth watering and your mind boggling.

13 M is for MIND & MATTER



EXTINCT: A COMPENDIUM OF OBSOLETE OBJECTS HB - £29 - REAKTION BOOKS (DESIGN HISTORY)

Contributors make a case for the great extinct inventions in 85 illuminating essays. Each homage is placed alongside a photograph or historic illustration so that you can reminisce about the Sinclair C5, Minidisk, or Flying Boat whether or not you were there at the time. From 75m high Moon Towers shining fiendishly bright arc lamps high above the streets, to the humble 1920s serving hatch, this is a magical jaunt down the cul-de-sacs of progress.



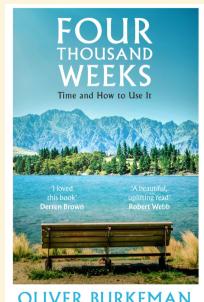
THE PRACTICE OF NOT THINKING BY RYUNOSUKE KIOKE PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (MINDFULNESS)

Do you struggle to stay calm, or to sleep at night? Then let former monk Ryunosuke Koike show you the way to peace of mind. Using simple Zen practices, Koike demonstrates how we can learn to see the transience of negative thought. By adopting his practical everyday steps, you can ease anxiety, begin to reconnect with your senses and live in a more positive way. A quietly life-changing book perfect for cluttered minds.



RUTHERFORD & FRY'S COMPLETE GUIDE TO ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING BY ADAM RUTHERFORD & HANNAH FRY HB - £16.99 - TRANSWORLD (SCIENCE)

This entertaining book tackles the most pertinent questions about life as we know it (or think we do!) From the big bang to the latest developments in neuroscience - via dinosaur extinction - there is a mind-boggling array of knowledge in here. Fortunately, Rutherford and Fry have a knack of explaining scientific concepts in a fun and engaging way – as demonstrated by the popularity of their long running radio show.



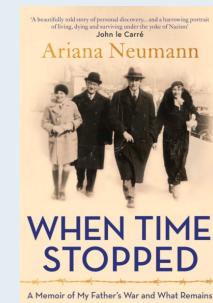
FOUR THOUSAND WEEKS BY OLIVER BURKEMAN HB - £16.99 - VINTAGE (PSYCHOLOGY)

What are we to do with this precious, brief time on earth? Four thousand weeks of it per person, on average. We all spend inordinate amounts of time checking emails, scrolling websites and generally wasting this limited time. Drawing on the insights of philosophers, psychologists, and spiritual teachers to show us how we can ditch the distractions and focus on what really counts, this inspiring and liberating book might just change your life.

N is for NARRATIVES

WHEN TIME STOPPED BY ARIANA NEUMANN PB - £8.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (MEMOIR)

Ariana Neumann was always fascinated by the enigma of her father, a confident and successful man who woke in the night screaming in a foreign language. Beginning with a box of papers left to her after his death, Ariana follows her father's shadow from Nazi-occupied Prague to the heart of Hitler's Berlin, discovering a tragic and compelling family history and a new understanding of her father and herself. An exceptionally moving memoir of reckoning with the past.



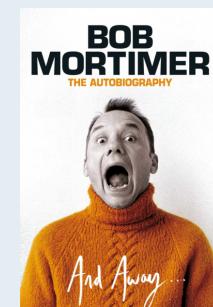
WICKED ENCHANTMENT BY WANDA COLEMAN PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (POETRY)

Wanda Coleman was the unofficial poet laureate of Los Angeles in the 70s. Master of the sonnet, Coleman's poems hum with a stinging humour, and a cool wisdom, which perfectly captures real life in the city - unglamorous, authentic and relentlessly focused on the everyday. With an Introduction by Terrance Hayes, this is the first anthology of Wanda Coleman's work available in the UK.



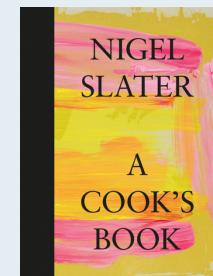
AND AWAY BY BOB MORTIMER HB - £20 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (HUMOUR)

From Shooting Stars and Big Night Out, through to his anarchic performances on Would I Lie To You? Bob Mortimer holds a special place in the nation's heart. When he was diagnosed with a heart condition that required an immediate triple bypass in 2015, Bob took some time to reflect. The result is this warm, hilarious and sincere memoir that details his childhood, rise to fame and the event which changed his life.



A COOK'S BOOK BY NIGEL SLATER HB - £30 - FOURTH ESTATE (FOOD)

Nigel Slater is back with possibly his most complete, and most charming recipe book yet. Chapters such as Everyday Dinners, A Bowl of Soup and Four Chocolate cakes are nestled between Slater's characteristically warm and sumptuous food writing. With over 200 recipes to choose from, and a personal tale behind each table (perfectly set with a crisp linen cloth in even crisper photographs), this is the perfect present for the foodie in your life.



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Our unique and award-winning experience for book lovers. Indulge your favourite avid reader 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.



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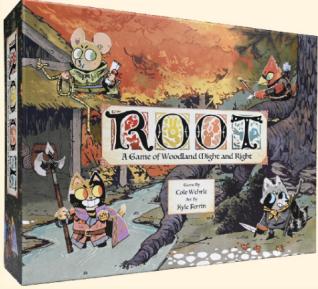
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FUN AND GAMES

ON THE RARE OCCASIONS IN 2021 THAT THE MR B'S TEAM WEREN'T SPENDING THEIR EVENINGS READING THE BOOKS IN THIS CATALOGUE (AND MANY MORE BEYOND BESIDES), YOU COULD FIND THEM BEING FAR TOO COMPETITIVE OVER BOARD GAMES. HERE ARE THREE OF OUR CURRENT FAVOURITES:

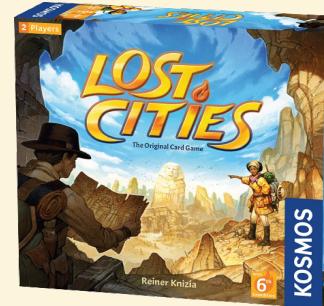
ROOT BY COLE WEHRLE AND ART BY KARL FERRIN £59.99



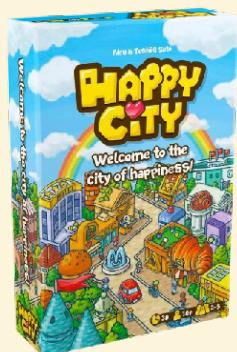
This beautifully designed game pits woodland creatures against one another as they all vie for control of the forest. Play as members of the different factions: The Vagabond, The Eyrie the Marquise de Cat, and The Woodland Alliance, and use your unique abilities and point scoring tactics as you battle it out for different territories. A terrifically fun and super competitive multiplayer adventure - wargames never looked so cute!

LOST CITIES BY REINER KNIZIA £34

Set off on a thrilling journey of discovery! You lead a team of explorers as they seek five different lost cities and the valuable artefacts hidden within. Move your explorers ahead while slowing down your opponents to win the game. This is a quick to learn game with tons of tactical options for up to four players: suitable for families, seasoned board game veterans and the board-game-curious. Beautiful artwork compliments finely-tuned gameplay mechanics for a game you'll play again and again.



HAPPY CITY BY AIRU AND TOSHIKI SATO £19.99

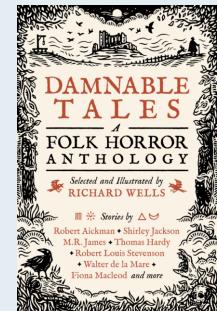


A family card game that celebrates a happy high street? No surprise we LOVE 'Happy City'. Round by round each player buys features for their personal city that give you either more cash to help fund future additions or that boosts your population or their contentedness. And a large and happy population will ultimately win you the game. Will you throw in a steelworks to swell your coffers? Or add a bookshop to (needless to say) keep that happiness tally rocketing. This is a beautifully designed and easy-to-learn game which is both fun and skulduggery to play!

O is for OLDE TAYLES

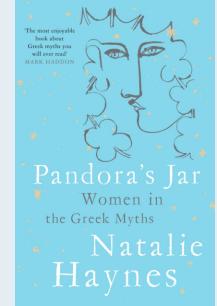
DAMNABLE TALES BY RICHARD WELLS HB - £25 - UNBOUND (CLASSIC FICTION)

Drawing upon the haunted landscapes of folk-horror, these twenty-two spectacularly creepy yet beautifully illustrated stories will pull you under their spell with witches' curses, ancient horrors, impenetrable forests, and misty moors. Featuring the masters of classic supernatural fiction such as M. R. James and Sheridan Le Fanu, as well as some rather unsuspecting voices like Thomas Hardy, this anthology will make the perfect gift for anyone who isn't afraid of a good scare...



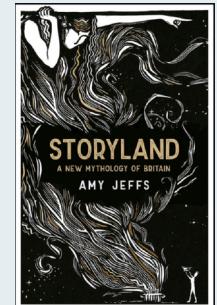
PANDORA'S JAR BY NATALIE HAYNES PB - £9.99 - PICADOR (MYTHS)

Fun, feisty and fascinating, this is an eye-opening and ground-breaking discussion of how history – and society – never sit still. Haynes leaves you wondering whether Medusa really was a monster, whether Medea had a point, whether Helen of Troy was actually to blame for the war, and for how long, exactly, we have been looking at history through the male gaze when it's so much more interesting, tragic, and hilarious not to.



STORYLAND BY AMY JEFFS HB - £25 - QUERCUS (HISTORY/MYTHS)

Did you know that the mythical founder of Bath was a necromancer? Packed with equally fascinating half-forgotten ancient stories, this collection is a masterful retelling for modern audiences that expertly captures the drama and tension of the originals. Accompanied by stunning linocut prints and contextualised by thoughtful commentary, this is a perfect book for any lover of history and myth and has earned its place in the history of storytelling in the British Isles.



SISTERSONG BY LUCY HOLLAND HB - £16.99 - MACMILLAN (FICTION/MYTHS)

A reimagining of traditional British murder ballad 'The Twa Sisters', 'Sistersong' is a superb tale of magic, betrayal and tragedy. In 535AD, in the kingdom of Dumnonia, impending Saxon invasion, paganism and folklore are threatened by Christianity. Three siblings, Riva, Keyne and Sinne navigate this changing world, each of their stories interwoven throughout. Holland skilfully explores themes of gender, identity, love and religion, whilst keeping the heart of this old treacherous folk ballad.



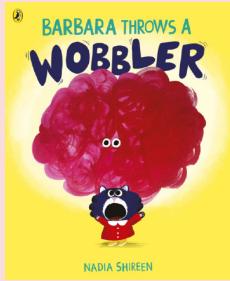


P is for PICTURE BOOKS



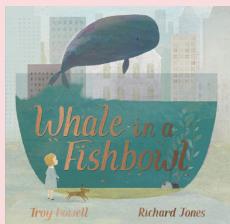
GEORGIE GROWS A DRAGON BY EMMA LAZELL PB - £6.99 - PAVILION (CHILDREN'S 3+)

Georgie loves to grow things in her greenhouse, but it's a huge surprise when she finds that she's successfully managed to grow a magical dragon! The trouble is, she's not exactly sure how to take care of one... But once she gets the hang of things, a friendship blossoms. One for the easy-readers, this boldly illustrations is all about making friends and dreaming big.



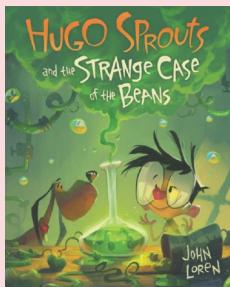
BARBARA THROWS A WOBBLER BY NADIA SHIREEN PB - £7.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 2+)

On a day when nothing seems to be going quite right, Barbara can't help but throw a wobbler. The wobbler is different from a huff and it's not quite a tizzy, but it's big and makes her day go from bad to worse. That's until Barbara has a novel thought: can she unmake the wobbler? A fun story about the power in taking control of our feelings from the author of 'The Bumblebear'.



WHALE IN A FISHBOWL BY TROY HOWELL & RICHARD JONES PB - £7.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 3+)

Wednesday the whale lives inside her gigantic fishbowl in the middle of a ginormous city. If she jumps high enough, she can glimpse something wonderfully blue in the distance, but can she jump even higher to reach it? A heartfelt exploration of belonging and what it means to feel free, illustrated in beautiful shades of blue.



HUGO SPROUTS AND THE STRANGE CASE OF THE BEANS BY JOHN LOREN HB - £12.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (CHILDREN'S 4+)

Hugo is fed up with being small. Luckily, Hugo is a mad scientist who can create an amazing potion to turn him into the tallest of them all! When he grows however, Hugo turns into a bit of a jerk...he may have gained power, but can he learn responsibility too? John Loren's rhyming madcap adventure book is full of good, evil, and a pet dog named Ulysses.

P is for PICTURE BOOKS



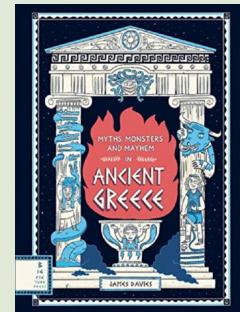
THE STORY THIEF BY GRAHAM CARTER HB - £12.99 - ANDERSEN PRESS (CHILDREN'S 3+)

Olive's story time get's interrupted when a strange sea monster steals her book, and she isn't the only one: there's a story thief on the loose! An epic book-rescuing adventure into the deep seas begins, and what Olive finds isn't what she expected at all. Her triumphant return with a new storyteller changes everyone's lives for the better, because that's just what great stories do. A unique mystery adventure not to be missed!



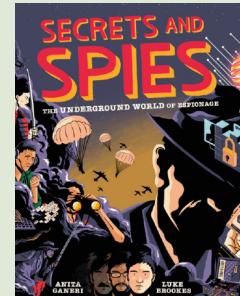
THE LIGHTS THAT DANCE IN THE NIGHT BY YUVAL ZOMMER HB - £12.99 - OUP (CHILDREN'S 3+)

From the author-illustrator who had us marvelling at beasts, bugs and blooms, comes a beauty of a storybook where the northern lights dance across the pages in rhyme, traveling from pole to pole and introducing readers to a diversity of colourful animals on their wintry journey. Oh, and there's glitter on the cover!



MYTHS, MONSTERS AND MAYHEM IN ANCIENT GREECE BY JAMES DAVIES HB - £14.99 - BIG PICTURE (CHILDREN'S 6+)

The Greek myths have captured our hearts and minds for thousands of years, and it's no different today. James Davies brings these tales of betrayal, love, war and jealousy to a new generation with this fun and detailed graphic novelisation. Perfect for fans of Percy Jackson or maybe even for those who haven't heard the Greek Myths before, this will make an excellent Christmas gift.

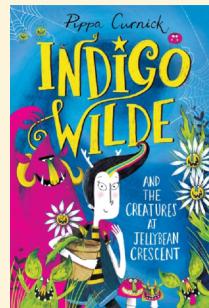


SECRETS AND SPIES BY ANITA GANERI & LUKE BROOKES HB - £19.99 - LITTLE TIGER (CHILDREN'S 6+)

From ciphers and codebreaking to modern technology and undercover missions, this strikingly illustrated book blends history, espionage, action, and activities to put your spy skills to the test. Whether it's double agents feeding false information to the Nazis or the evolution from codebreaking to hacking and how to make your own cipher, this book will thrill kids looking for an exciting new book with a bit of a twist!



R is for RIOTOUS READS



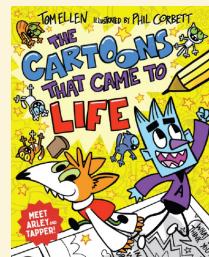
INDIGO WILDE BY PIPPA CURNICK HB - £9.99 - HACHETTE (CHILDREN'S 6+)

Indigo Wilde has lived at the crazy, colourful Jellybean Crescent ever since she was found in the Unknown Wilderness and adopted by her famous explorer parents. Now she spends her days with brother Quigley in a house filled with weird and wonderful creatures brought home from her parents' adventures. But the latest addition to the house has escaped and has gone on a rampage! A beautiful, wild new series for fans of Amelia Fang and Ottoline.



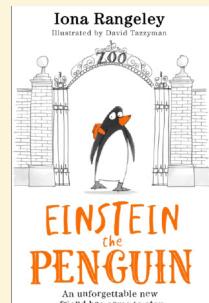
RED PANDA RESCUE BY JESS BUTTERWORTH, ILLUSTRATED BY KIRSTI BEAUTYMAN PB - £5.99 - ORION (CHILDREN'S 6+)

Tilly has no plans for her summer holiday, and she's worried that it's going to suck while everyone else's will be amazing! Then the opportunity of a lifetime comes—going to Nepal to observe Red Pandas! If she can win this trip, she's sure to make friends in her new school and have the best holiday ever! Part diary, part narration with lots of pictures, this is the perfect early readers adventure.



THE CARTOONS THAT CAME TO LIFE BY TOM ELLEN, ILLUSTRATED BY PHIL CORBETT PB - £6.99 - CHICKEN HOUSE (CHILDREN'S 7+)

Finn is obsessed with comics and loves making his own featuring hero characters Arley and Tapper. But when he's bullied at school Finn finds he can't draw them any more.... Then suddenly Arley and Tapper climb out of his drawing pad for real! Can Finn and best friend Isha find a way to get them back on the paper? A brilliant read for comic book lovers and for fans of the Tom Gates series.



EINSTEIN THE PENGUIN BY IONA RANGELEY, ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID TAZZYMAN HB - £12.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (CHILDREN'S 7+)

When the Stewarts spend a winter's day at London Zoo, they're particularly taken with one cute penguin - Mr Stewart even jokes that the penguin can come to stay with them whenever he likes. Then later that evening, to everyone's surprise, there's a knock at the door... their feathered friend has arrived with a rucksack labelled Einstein on his back. A wonderful illustrated story that will delight fans of Paddington - children and adults alike.

R is for RIOTOUS READS



AMARI AND THE NIGHT BROTHERS BY B. B. ALSTON PB - £7.99 - FARSHORE (CHILDREN'S 8+)

When Amari's brother goes missing, and the police don't seem to care why, her own investigation leads to the mysterious Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. Tasked with monitoring the world of aliens, druids and mermaids, Amari is sure they will have all the answers – she just has to become a junior agent first! Alston deftly explores family, identity and economic and racial inequality in this rip-roaring Harry Potter meets Men in Black tale.



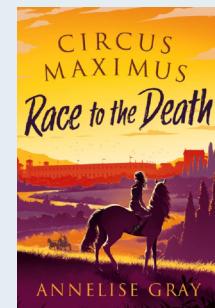
FIREBORN BY AISLING FOWLER HB - 12.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (CHILDREN'S 9+)

A dramatic adventure introducing a remarkable new heroine. Twelve is known only by that numeric because she is a Huntling – a trainee learning to fight the monsters of the Northern forests in order to defend the seven clans. Better at making friends with her squirrel Widge than with her fellow students, the brooding fur-clad axe-wielding Twelve soon finds herself bypassing training to undertake a dangerous rescue mission alongside the Lodge's stone guard dog.



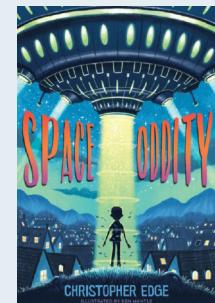
CIRCUS MAXIMUS BY ANNELISE GRAY PB - £7.99 - HEAD OF ZEUS (CHILDREN'S 9+)

Twelve-year-old Dido dreams of becoming Rome's greatest charioteer, and to compete at Circus Maximus, the sporting stage of the ancient Roman world. But there are many obstacles that stand in the way of victory: her horse is sick in Rome, and as a girl she's not allowed to compete. When her father Antonius – the trainer of Rome's most popular racing team - is suddenly murdered, Dido comes up against a new enemy: the Emperor Caligula.



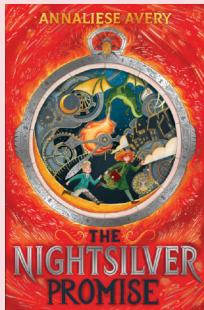
SPACE ODDITY BY CHRISTOPHER EDGE, ILLUSTRATED BY BEN MANTLE PB - £6.99 - CHICKEN HOUSE (CHILDREN'S 7+)

This is an epic space odyssey. This is a story about space and aliens and adventure. But this is also a story about a boy, just trying to make it through school, and his embarrassing dad, who is making that task very difficult indeed. This is both an exhilarating and a gentle book with fantastic illustrations sprinkled throughout to fully capture the imagination and whisk readers off into space!





S is for STORYTELLING



THE NIGHTSILVER PROMISE BY ANNALIESE AVERY

PB - £7.99 - SCHOLASTIC (CHILDREN'S 9+)

In London, the Empire of Albion, everyone's fate is determined by the star tracks on their wrist. So, on Paisley's 13th birthday when she discovers that her destiny is to die, she embarks on a journey with her brother to find their missing mother before it's too late. But they must be careful - her brother is touched by dragons who disappeared long ago, and a new power is stalking the sewers of London.



THE CHIME SEEKERS BY ROSS MONTGOMERY PB - £7.99 - WALKER BOOKS (CHILDREN'S 9+)

Life sucks for Yanni since his baby sister Ari was born, and it's about to get a whole lot worse. Unbeknownst to Yanni's parents, their new home straddles a line between worlds, and when evil faeries replace Ari with a changeling, Yanni has no choice but to venture into this wild unknown. With a taste of Bowie's 'Labyrinth' and C.S Lewis' 'Chronicles of Narnia', this new children's fantasy book is full of heart and adventure!



MAGGIE BLUE AND THE DARK WORLD BY ANNA GOODALL PB - £7.99 - GUPPY BOOKS (CHILDREN'S 8+)

Maggie Blue feels like a burden, shipped off to stay at her aunt's house because her Mum can't look after her. When Maggie sees her school nemesis Ida being sucked into a portal to a parallel world she is determined to help, no matter the danger. With the help of talking cat Hoagy, Maggie will soon realise the Dark World is very different to ours, and that she may be more important than she thinks.



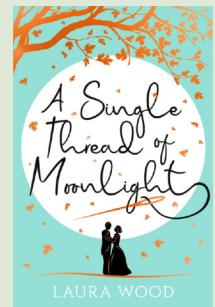
WHEN THE SKY FALLS BY PHIL EARLE PB - £7.99 - ANDERSEN PRESS (CHILDREN'S 9+)

As the Second World War rages, unlike other children, Joseph is sent to London to live with Ms. F, who cares nothing about people, only about her dilapidated zoo. When furious Joseph is charged with watching Adonis, a silverback gorilla, he finds an affinity with the beast that changes everything. A beautiful and thrilling story, the perfect read for young history enthusiasts and fans of Michael Morpurgo.

T is for TEEN FICTION

A SINGLE THREAD OF MOONLIGHT BY LAURA WOOD PB - £7.99 - SCHOLASTIC (TEEN 12+)

When Iris Grey's father remarries, she's stuck with a wicked stepmother and two nasty stepsisters. After her father dies suddenly in mysterious circumstances, she runs away to make a life for herself stitching beautiful dresses in London. When Nicholas Wynter waltzes into her life and offers her the opportunity to exact revenge on her wicked stepfamily, she simply can't refuse! 'Cinderella' meets 'The Count of Monte Cristo' in this cosy, delightfully vengeful fairytale retelling.



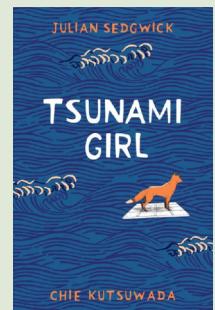
ACE OF SPADES BY FARIDAH ABIKE-IYIMIDE PB - £8.99 - USBORNE (TEEN 13+)

Ace of Spades has taken the YA world by storm for a reason; 'Get Out' meets 'Gossip Girl' is a hell of a pitch, but this tense, twisty thriller lives up to it. Devon and Chiamaka are two successful students at a rich, high-status school, but both of them have secrets. Blackmail, lies, and institutionalised racism make this a dark, plotty book with real depth and feeling. You won't see the twist coming.



TSUNAMI GIRL BY JULIAN SEDGWICK, ILLUSTRATED BY CHIE KUTSUWADA PB - £9.99 - GUPPY BOOKS (TEEN 12+)

March 2011. Teenaged Yuki has been having panic attacks and has gone to visit her grandfather in Japan to get away from it all. The next day, an earthquake and tsunami decimates the island, and her grandfather is missing. It will take an odd group of friends, both real and drawn in Yuki's sketchbook, to help her to heal. This coming-of-age story pulls on the heart strings and celebrates part prose, part Manga Japanese culture.



IRON WIDOW BY XIRAN JAY ZHAO HB - £14.99 - ONEWORLD (TEEN 14+)

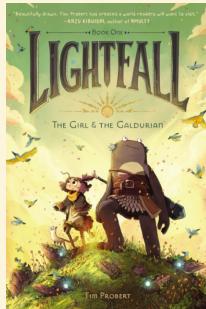
In Huaxia, boys dream of flying Chrysalises with the girls who dream only of escape from the robots and dangers that lurk behind the Great Wall. When 18-year-old Zetian's sister is murdered, she offers herself up as a pilot to get revenge. But in doing so, she will discover she has more power than anyone expects, and far more power than they would like a girl to have. 'The Handmaids Tale' meets 'Pacific Rim'.





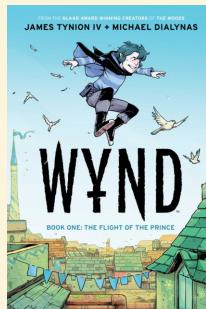
V is for VIBRANT VISUALS

WE'VE LONG CHAMPIONED GRAPHIC NOVELS AS A VITAL FORMAT FOR KEEPING YOUNG READERS ENGAGED, EXCITED AND VISUALLY STIMULATED. HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR RECENT FAVOURITES:



LIGHTFALL BY TIM PROBERT PB - £8.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (9+)

In the land of Irpa - a once desolate wasteland now sustained by floating mechanical lights - a Galdurian named Cad and a young girl named Bea and are on the search for her grandfather. But why did he mysteriously leave in the night, and what is the Seal of the Restless Sleeper he's gone to find? This fantasy graphic novel combines an epic quest with incredible illustrations, inventive world building, and terrifying monsters.



WYND BY JAMES TYNION IV & MICHAEL DIALYNAS PB - £10.99 - BOOM! STUDIOS (11+)

Wynd is a regular boy living in a fantasy world. But he has a secret: he has magical blood, and in Esserial this is punishable by death. When infamous magic hunter The Bandaged Man returns to his home city it's only a matter of time before Wynd is caught. Embarking on the most dangerous adventure he could imagine with his two friends at his side, Wynd will discover the magic in the world and within himself.



ALONE IN SPACE BY TILLIE WALDEN HB - 24.99 - EVERY HILL (13+)

This collection of short comics from award winning graphic novelist Tillie Walden focuses on the stories both published and unpublished she created between the ages of sixteen to twenty. Part surreal, part achingly real, Walden's comics cover themes of introversion, dreams, queerness, and youth. Walden has been a favourite of ours for many years, and we're so excited to see her work published in this beautiful collection.



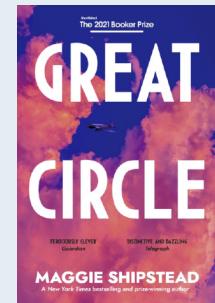
THE WIZERD VOL 1 BY MICHAEL SWEATER & RACHEL DOOKES PB - £13.99 - ONI PRESS (9+)

The Wizerd lives a peaceful and reclusive life in the forest. When Wallace the warrior princess turns up, demanding the creation of a potion which will make her the hunkiest warrior of all, the Wizerd agrees (if only to get this stranger out of their house). But their quest to find the potion ingredients may not be as quick or easy as they hoped... A humorous epic from the makers of Adventure Time.

W is for WE'VE LOVED

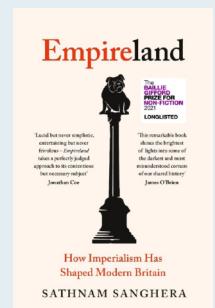
JULIETTE: GREAT CIRCLE BY MAGGIE SHIPSTEAD HB - £16.99 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

After an encounter with daredevil pilots sparks her obsession with flight, Marian Graves dreams of embarking on "a great circle" around the globe. When the sponsorship of a wealthy and dangerous man allows her dream to be realised, the expedition proves fatal. Fifty years on, troubled actress Hadley is asked to play Marian in a movie – a role that leads her to become consumed with the aviator's mysterious disappearance. A breathtakingly pacy tale.



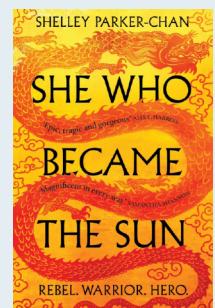
SAM: EMPIRELAND BY SATHNAM SANGHERA PB - £9.99 - VIKING (POLITICS/HISTORY)

The British Empire existed for hundreds of years, and its legacy is invisibly threaded through almost every aspect of British life: from our national institutions and education systems, to our language and particular attitudes about ourselves and our place in the world. 'Empireland' is a nuanced take on the subject, combining history and contemporary politics, built upon an incredible quantity of research. Here is what you probably weren't taught in school.



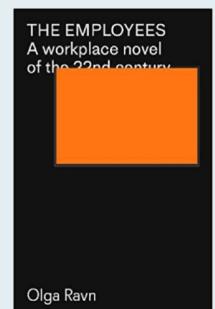
GEMMA: SHE WHO BECAME THE SUN BY SHELLEY PARKER-CHAN HB - £16.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (FICTION)

Zhu, a peasant girl living in Mongol occupied China, is told by a seer that she is fated to be 'nothing'. But when her father and brother are killed by bandits, Zhu is determined to escape both death and destiny. Assuming her brother's identity, she sets out to steal his fate and become the ruler of China. 'She Who Became the Sun' reimagines the story of Mulan with a fresh, queer, historical perspective.



CALLUM: THE EMPLOYEES BY OLGA RAVN PB - £12.99 - LOLLI EDITIONS (FICTION)

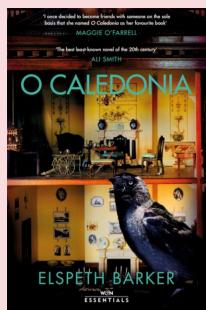
A vessel populated by humans and humanoids drifts through space, collecting objects. Humanoids begin to define themselves against these objects, grasping towards consciousness. The humans begin to pine for their old world becoming increasingly nostalgic. Told through a series of statements from both humans and humanoids, power shifts in this quietly explosive and unique novel. A small bang in a vacuum. Ann Carson meets Ursula LeGuin in this stunning novel.





W is for WE'VE LOVED

**KATE: O CALEDONIA! BY ELSPETH BARKER
PB - £8.99 - WEIDENFELD & NICHOLSON (FICTION)**

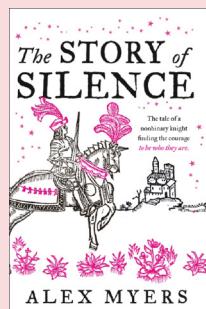


If Poe and Shirley Jackson were to rewrite Dodie Smith's 'I Capture the Castle', this skin crawling, fungi sprouting portrait of a childhood spent in the Scottish Highlands would surely be the result. Barker's protagonist Janet is wild, intelligent and unpopular. When her body is discovered at the beginning of this tragic tale, her death is quietly accepted, and she is soon forgotten. I promise that you won't be able to forget her so quickly.



**ED: A BURNING BY MEGA MAJUMDAR
HB - £14.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (FICTION)**

The lives of Jivan, a Muslim girl accused of a terrorist attack, PT Sir, a gym teacher caught up in the throes of right-wing politics, and outlier Lovely, an aspiring trans actress, are tragically interlinked in this taut and beautifully cynical novel of contemporary India. As her characters claw at self-preservation in the face of powerlessness, the quality of Majumdar's pared backwriting and the quiet unfolding of this shocking tale packs a real punch.



**RHIAN: THE STORY OF SILENCE BY ALEX MYERS
PB - £8.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (FICTION)**

This searing, beautifully-sculpted book is based on a French poem from 1286 about a child born female but raised as a boy and heir in medieval Cornwall. Retold through a bard, this is the tale of how Silence finds their way in a world where dragons and Merlin himself live alongside the trials and tribulations of the all-too-human. A sharp, self-aware masterpiece of storytelling that infuriated me, gave me hope, and left me reeling.



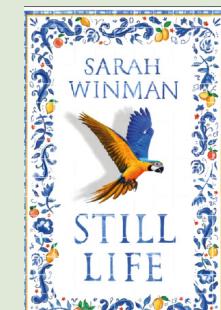
**EMMA: MRS MARCH BY VIRGINIA FEITO
HB - £14.99 - FOURTH ESTATE (FICTION)**

Relishing her luxurious lifestyle in Manhattan's Upper East Side, Mrs March is the dutiful wife of bestselling author George March. Every morning begins with a visit to her favourite patisserie, until the shopkeeper assumes that the sex-worker protagonist in George's latest book must be based on her. So begins an unsettling journey of intense paranoia, laced with razor-sharp humour - perfect for fans of Shirley Jackson and Patricia Highsmith.

W is for WE'VE LOVED

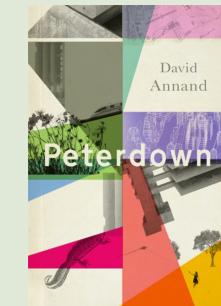
**HENRY: THE BOOK OF ACCIDENTS BY CHUCK WENDIG
HB - £16.99 - CORNERSTONE (FICTION)**

Nate and Maddie have moved their family back to Nate's childhood home in rural Pennsylvania, near the Ramble Rocks National Park. Their new home overlooks the mines where serial killer Edmund Walker Reese brutalised his victims before he was caught and executed. Now Nate's recently deceased father has started appearing in the house, Reese is manifesting in Maddie's art, and all the while their son Oliver is being led astray by the mysterious Jake.



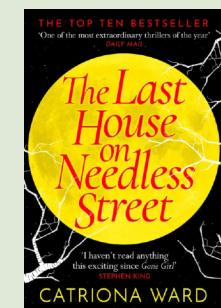
**LOTTIE: STILL LIFE BY SARAH WINMAN
HB - £16.99 - FOURTH ESTATE (FICTION)**

Florence, 1944: Ulysses is a young British soldier who's only ever known his small corner of East London. Evelyn is a 40-something Art Historian at the height of her career. When the unlikely pair team up to rescue an extraordinary Renaissance painting from German bombs, so begins a friendship that will traverse four decades. Featuring rich Florentine history and a cast of joyous characters, 'Still Life' is a love-song to humanity, family, and hope.



**TOM M: PETERDOWN BY DAVID ANNAND
HB - £16.99 - CORSAIR (FICTION)**

The fictional northern town of Peterdown has been selected as a splitter hub for HS2 and either the town's beloved football stadium or The Larkspur, an ugly but architecturally-significant housing estate, are proposed for demolition to facilitate it. This drives a wedge between Colin, local sports reporter and lifelong Peterdown FC fan, and his partner architect Ellie, who sees saving the Larkspur as her salvation. A wonderful modern epic of class, community, power and football.

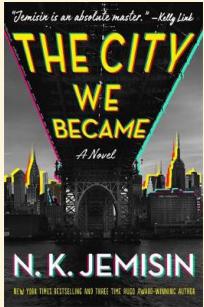


**AMY: THE LAST HOUSE ON NEEDLESS STREET BY CATRIONA WARD
PB - £8.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (FICTION)**

All is not well in the boarded-up last house on Needless Street. Ted's garden birds have been killed, his daughter is causing chaos, and Olivia, his beloved cat, is reading the bible again. Dee moves in next door, determined to get to the bottom of her younger sister's disappearance, convinced Ted is to blame. Constant twists and turns create a disturbing atmosphere that penetrates each page, leaving you desperate to uncover the multi-layered plot.

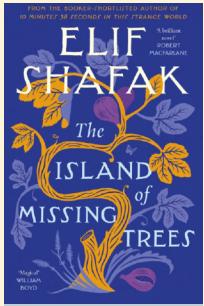


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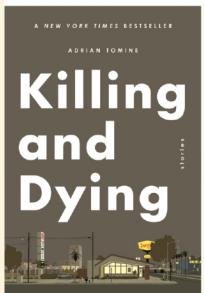
LAURA: THE CITY WE BECAME BY N.K. JEMISIN PB - £8.99 - ORBIT (FICTION)

The city of New York is dying a soul death, and so it calls on the five boroughs to save it - quite literally. The unsuspecting, underprepared and often uncooperative Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Manny and Aislyng each come to embody their home turf, and must work together to save the city they love against a dark entity hellbent on destruction. The first in the Great Cities trilogy, this is a wild ride.



NICOLE: THE ISLAND OF MISSING TREES BY ELIF SHAFAK HB - £14.99 - VIKING (FICTION)

Under the shade of a fig tree in 1970s Cyprus, teenagers Defne and Kostas fall in love. Forty years later in London, Ada is grieving the sudden loss of her mother, and her father's determined silence about the Cypriot civil war means the only clue she holds to the secrets of the past is the mysterious tree in the garden. This magical, mesmeric tale combines Shafak's keen political gaze with her typically vibrant, imaginative storytelling.



TESS: KILLING AND DYING BY ADRIAN TOMINE HB - £12.99 - FABER (GRAPHIC NOVEL)

Killing and Dying is a collection of six laugh-out-loud, honest vignettes of people's ambition, creativity, love, and loss with Tomine's signature mastery of visual language. With each story he carves a new hole out of the world through which we glimpse a profoundly moving understanding of other people. A beautifully crafted collection that is perfect for those looking to dip a toe into the world of graphic novels and for connoisseurs of the format alike.



LUCINDA: THE SCORPION'S HEAD BY HILDE VANDERMEEREN PB - £9.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS (FICTION)

A hugely enjoyable, pacy thriller that gives the Christmas action film a run for its money – think James Bond crossed with Villanelle! Gaelle comes to a secure psychiatric unit, disorientated and wondering if she really is guilty of attempting to murder her own son. Contract killer Michael, is on the run from both his dubious past and his current employers after messing up a lucrative job. Can either of them escape their fate?

W is for WE'VE LOVED



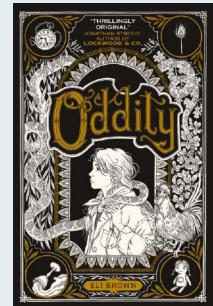
TOM H: PITY THE BEAST BY ROBIN MCLEAN HB - £14.99 - AND OTHER STORIES (FICTION)

Despite her affair with the next-door-neighbour, life for Ginny and her husband on their Montana ranch must go on. However, a gruelling day's work precedes a drunken haze of unjust and brutal retribution; left for dead, Ginny grabs a rifle and heads for the mountains where a vengeful game of cat and mouse ensues. Beautiful and brutal in equal measure; McLean's writing transforms the open plains into a claustrophobic and tightly wound tale of revenge.



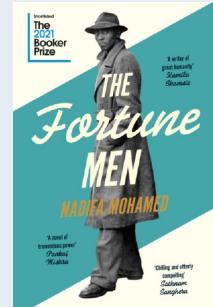
HANNAH: ODDITY BY ELI BROWN PB - £7.99 - WALKER BOOKS (TEEN/CHILDREN'S 11+)

Journey deep into this wild west alternative history, where we meet Clover and her physician father who travel the Unified States with their cures and avoid Oddities (ordinary objects with extraordinary abilities) at all costs. After her father is killed by bandits, Clover is thrown into an epic search for the truth of who her mother was and how Oddities killed her. YA 'True Grit' meets magical realism at its finest.



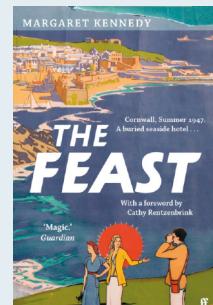
NIC: THE FORTUNE MEN BY NADIFA MOHAMED HB - £14.99 - VIKING (FICTION)

A tense atmospheric novel following the fortunes (or otherwise) of the streetwise Mahmood Mattan – a small-time Somalian crook whose big-time attitude doesn't help when he's framed for the murder of a local Jewish shopkeeper. As the story builds from the initial crime towards the trial, so the intensity increases in this brilliantly paced novel that also doubles-up as a fascinating social history of the chaotic melting pot that was Cardiff's Tiger Bay in the 1950s.



OUR CUSTOMERS': THE FEAST BY MARGARET KENNEDY PB - £9.99 - FABER (FICTION)

Come and stay a while at the Pendizack Hotel on the Cornish coast - before it's dashed into the ocean, that is. There, you'll meet a whole host of characters as they navigate the politically tumultuous backdrop of life's Post War banalities – poverty, money grabbing, and love included. Not only is this clever book utterly absorbing (and somewhat like playing a very long game of Cluedo), it's also a total riot.





And there you have it! Our 2021 Christmas Catalogue - 108 of this year's most enticing titles to kick-start your Christmas book browsing.



If these don't quite cover every bookish need on your list, then don't forget there are thousands more to choose from in our shop and on our website and some eager booksellers waiting to recommend them!

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THIS CATALOGUE WAS CREATED BY AMY COLES AND LOTTIE MAY WITH REVIEWS WRITTEN BY THE ENTIRE MR B'S TEAM AND EDITED BY KATE BROWN. THANKS ONCE AGAIN FOR TESSIMO MAHUTA AND EDWARD SCOTLAND FOR CREATING OUR BEAUTIFUL COVER.

Thank you all again for your loyal custom and support in 2021. We hope you have a safe, healthy and happy festive season and here's to a book-filled 2022!

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