

MR B'S EMPORIUM

CHRISTMAS
CATALOGUE
2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas and welcome to the 2022 Mr B's Christmas Catalogue! This year, after a lot of debate and discussion, we have selected a bumper 105 books (plus three awesome games) for you to browse. These are our top reads for the festive season, all hand-picked and reviewed by our overexcited booksellers. You will find something here for every book lover you know... plus a few treats for yourself too, no doubt!

All of the books featured in the catalogue are available in our shop and on our wonderful website, with

10% OFF RIGHT UP UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

To see all of the catalogue books, plus lots more:

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

A huge thank you to the incredible Nadia Shireen for illustrating our catalogue this year. The *Grimwood* books have kept us laughing all year and we are ecstatic to have Nadia adorn our catalogue with her gorgeous illustrations.



GRIMWOOD: LET THE FUR FLY!
BY NADIA SHIREEN
HB - £12.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER
(YOUNG READERS)

Prepare to laugh your head off... before it gets bitten off! Ted and Nancy are two young foxes who have moved to the strange woodland of Grimwood, a place filled with some very *unique* animals. Treebonking squirrels, an over-dramatic duck, a murderous eagle, a DEFINITELY NOT CUTE rabbit with anger issues, and many more make up this wild and wonderful place. But Ted and Nancy's happy new life is about to come under threat when the dastardly mayor of neighbouring Twinklenuts reveals his plans for the forest. Cute, hilarious and full of mischief, the *Grimwood* series is guaranteed to leave the whole family in fits of laughter.

FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

THE PASSENGER/ STELLA MARIS
BY CORMAC MCCARTHY

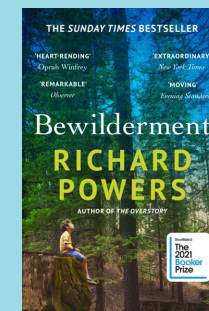
HB - EACH £20 - PAN MACMILLAN (FICTION)

America's greatest living novelist returns after a 17-year break with two new novels. In *The Passenger*, salvage diver Bobby Western investigates a mysterious plane crash whilst grappling with the legacy of his father's role in the Manhattan Project. In *Stella Maris*, Bobby's sister Alicia arrives at a mental hospital with \$40k in cash and a toothbrush, ready to thrash out the mysteries of the universe. This monumental duet confirms McCarthy's greatness.



BEWILDERMENT BY RICHARD POWERS
PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

Theo is a promising scientist and widowed father to an unusual nine-year old. Theo knows that Robin is special, but Robin's school wants him medicated. To keep his son off drugs, Theo puts his son forward for an experimental neuroscientific treatment. The results are extraordinary, changing their lives, and possibly the world. A heart-rending study of childhood and astronomy, parenthood and the eternal, *Bewilderment* is a novel of high intelligence and emotion.



SHRINES OF GAIETY BY KATE ATKINSON
HB - £20 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

Prepare to be whisked away to the dancefloors of 1920s Soho, where nightclub queen Nellie Croker has made a fortune capitalising on post-war London's hankering for a good time. But there's a dark side to all this glitz and glam – across the city, young women are going missing, and it's down to amateur spy Gwendolen Kelling to dive into the criminal underworld underpinning Nellie's empire and discover why. *Shrines of Gaiety* is Kate Atkinson at her best.



OUR MISSING HEARTS BY CELESTE NG
HB - £20 - LITTLE, BROWN (FICTION)

In the wake of an economic crisis, the US government passes a series of laws to quell 'unpatriotic' behaviour. But as 12-year-old Bird Gardner begins to realise, just existing as an Asian-American is enough to be accused of 'anti-American' sentiment. Despite his father's pleas to keep his head down, when Bird receives a clue to his missing mother's whereabouts, he is drawn into a quest to find her.



WORLDWIDE WORDS



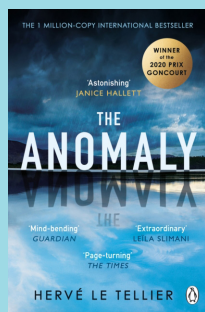
THE PACHINKO PARLOUR BY ELISA SHUA DUSAPIN PB -£9.99 - DAUNT BOOKS (FICTION)

Cultures and languages intermingle with class in this sparse novella set in Tokyo. Claire speaks broken English with her grandparents – refugees of the Korean War – having been raised in French-speaking Switzerland, and her Japanese is rusty at best. Lost in translation with her own family, Claire will need their help to recognize the cure for her feeling of rootlessness. One of this year's most elegant explorations of what really forges our cultural identity.



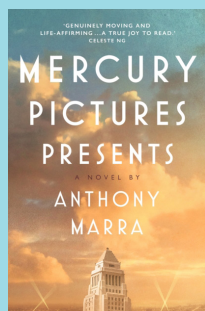
MOTH BY MELODY RAZAK PB -£9.99 - ORION (FICTION)

Delhi, 1946: 14-year-old Alma is about to be married, leaving behind her loving academic parents and boisterous, funny younger sister Roop. But over the course of just a few weeks, the devastating violence that sweeps India in the wake of Partition will shatter their comfortable family life forever. A poignant and powerful story of hope and survival, with larger-than-life characters who will stay with you long after the final page.



THE ANOMALY BY HERVÉ LE TELLIER PB -£9.99 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

What if you could meet yourself? Flying through a terrifying storm, an aircraft duplicates. The first plane lands in March and the passengers continue with their lives; the second plane lands in June. Each passenger has a double. How and why did this anomaly occur, and how do the passengers continue their lives? This French prize-winner is a pleasantly mind-bending puzzle and an invitation to ponder the big questions of science and life.



MERCURY PICTURES PRESENTS BY ANTHONY MARRA HB -£16.99 - JOHN MURRAY (FICTION)

In the tumultuous build up to WWII, tired Hollywood studio 'Mercury Pictures' is facing a host of troubles. Through the eyes of illegal immigrant and assistant producer Maria, Marra introduces a diverse cast of characters each grappling with their national identities, painful pasts, and memories of home in a USA that is becoming increasingly hostile to outsiders. This intricate novel encapsulates the lives of those trapped in the embers of wartime.

FAMILY DRAMAS

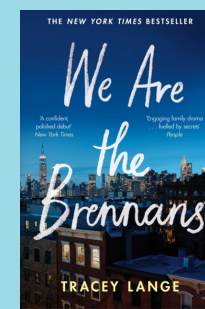
THE QUEEN OF DIRT ISLAND BY DONAL RYAN HB -£14.99 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

Born on the day of her father's death, Saoirse Aylward is left to grow up in a house filled with fierce, loyal women. Her mother and nana protect Saoirse the only way they know how – with full hearts, unshakeable love, and the odd splash of violence when the family is threatened. Moving from mid-80s Tipperary to the dawn of the new century, *The Queen of Dirt Island* is a compelling, gritty and hilarious family saga.



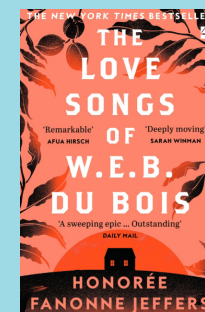
WE ARE THE BRENNANS BY TRACEY LANGE PB -£8.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (FICTION)

The Brennans are the closest-knit Irish-American family you'll ever meet – or they were, until youngest daughter Sunday Brennan upped and left for LA five years ago, with no explanation and barely a goodbye. Now Sunday's back in town, contending with her three brothers and ex-fiancé as their family-run pub business comes under threat, and the secrets of the last few years emerge. A fast-paced family drama, for fans of Claire Lombardo and Mary Beth Keane.



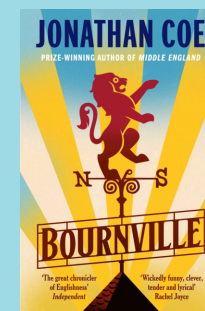
THE LOVE SONGS OF W.E.B. DU BOIS BY HONORÉE FANONNE JEFFERS PB -£9.99 - HARPER COLLINS (FICTION)

Ailey Pearl Garfield has always felt like an outsider – in the city where she was raised, and in rural Georgia where she spends her summers visiting her extended family. A deep dive into her family's roots, from the early days of colonisation in the American South through to the height of the Jim Crow era, reveals unexpected truths about their collective past, in this lyrical and truly sweeping multi-generational epic.

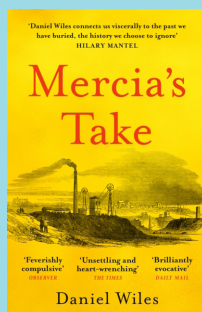


BOURNVILLE BY JONATHAN COE HB -£20 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

On VE Day, Mary is 11-years-old, living in the shadow of both WWII and the Cadbury's factory in Bournville, a placid suburb of Birmingham. Centring on the big moments in the British century - The Queen's coronation, the '66 World Cup Final, Diana's death and Covid-19 - we follow Mary as she grows up, starts a family, loves and lives through it all. *Bournville* is a nostalgic and deeply moving portrait of one family and one country.

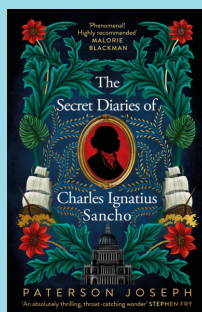


BEST OF BRITISH WRITERS



MERCIA'S TAKE BY DANIEL WILES PB - £8.99 - SWIFT PRESS (FICTION)

The Black Country, 1870s. Michael is pushing himself harder and harder down the mine to make sure his son, Luke, goes to school. Because this is no life for a man. Soot in your lungs, the heat, the dirt, the constant fear of collapse. The pitiful pay. Luke deserves more. Then, something glistens at the thwack of his pickaxe... Gold! Michael's life is about to change forever. A spare masterpiece beloved by the Mr B's Team.



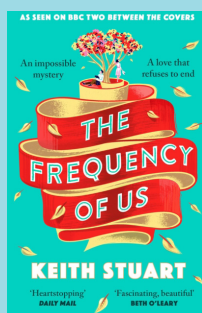
THE SECRET DIARIES OF CHARLES IGNATIUS SANCHO BY PATERSON JOSEPH HB - £16.99 - LITTLE, BROWN (FICTION)

Charles Ignatius Sancho was a composer and writer, believed to be the first black person to vote in Britain. In *The Secret Diaries*, Paterson Joseph brings Sancho back to life, painting an evocative and original portrait of Regency London through the eyes of a protagonist on the fringes of society. From escaped slave evading capture, to an attendant at a royal soirée, Sancho's thrilling and gut-wrenching story is an unmissable historical romp.



STONE BLIND BY NATALIE HAYNES HB - £18.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (FICTION)

Medusa is the only mortal in a family of Gods. She alone can experience ageing, weakness, and love. When Medusa is witness to an act of sacrilege in Athene's temple, her mortal life is forever changed. Rage. Snakes. Stone. You may think you know the rest - think again. With all the drama and heartbreak (and occasional gore) of a true Greek tragedy, Haynes tells Medusa's story in a way you've never heard it before.



THE FREQUENCY OF US BY KEITH STUART PB - £8.99 - LITTLE, BROWN (FICTION)

Social worker Laura must decide if elderly gentleman Will should remain in his home, or be taken into residential care. Eccentric and misanthropic, Will lives with memories of his wife Elsa, who he lost in the Bath Blitz: a wife who others claim Will has imagined. Laura's investigations lead her to a wartime scandal and a timeless romance, and a reckoning with her own vulnerabilities. A moving novel, and a compelling portrait of wartime Bath.

CRIMINALLY GOOD FICTION

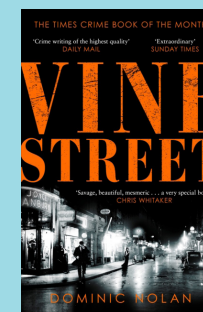
THE THREE DAHLIAS BY KATY WATSON HB - £14.99 - LITTLE, BROWN (FICTION)

When she is cast to play beloved fictional sleuth Dahlia Lively on the big screen, actress Posy Starling has some pretty big shoes to fill - those of previous Dahlia actresses and fan favourites Rosalind King and Caro Hooper to be precise. When a convention to celebrate the new movie goes awry, and fictional bodies turn into real ones, the three rival actresses must channel their inner detectives to unmask the killer.



VINE STREET BY DOMINIC NOLAN PB - £10.99 - HEADLINE (FICTION)

London, 1935. Sergeant Geats knows Soho like the back of his hand. He knows the jazz clubs, the wise guys, the prostitutes and pimps. And he ain't afraid to crack a few skulls to keep them all in line. When a working girl is found strangled, nobody seems to care, but Geats knows better. An epic, savagely brilliant crime novel with a stunning sense of place, perfect for fans of Michael Connelly and James Ellroy.



A HELPING HAND BY CELIA DALE PB - £9.99 - DAUNT BOOKS (FICTION)

Josh and Maisie Evans are holidaying in Italy - a trip they can only afford after their elderly lodger, Auntie Flo, died, leaving them her entire estate. When they meet cantankerous widow Mrs Fingal and her exasperated niece, the group immediately hits it off and an unconventional but doomed new living arrangement is agreed. A perfectly horrid little novel about greed, isolation, and abuses of power. *A Helping Hand* is the perfect read for fans of Shirley Jackson and Ruth Rendell.

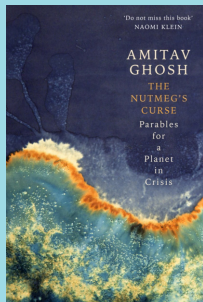


THE PARTISAN BY PATRICK WORRALL HB - £16.99 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

London, 1961. Yulia and Michael, two young chess prodigies from either side of the Iron Curtain, meet at a tournament. They are about to compete in the deadliest game ever played, for there are dark forces circling and tensions between east and west are reaching breaking point. Prepare to be taken on a thrilling journey from the halls of Cambridge to the Moscow underworld. *Killing Eve*-meets-*The Queen's Gambit* in this high-stakes espionage thriller from a stunning new voice.



SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT



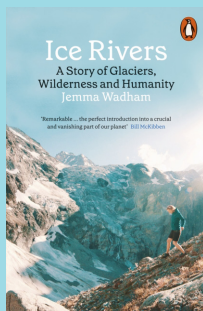
THE NUTMEG'S CURSE BY AMITAV GHOSH PB -£10.99 - JOHN MURRAY (GEOPOLITICS)

An accessible and wide-ranging work of environmental philosophy, *The Nutmeg's Curse* charts the links between thought and policy from the colonisation of the Banda Islands in the seventeenth century to our current climate, political and social crises. Ghosh has an unmatched ability to present an argument that exists at the convergence of various disciplines: combining history, geopolitics, economics, and indigenous storytelling, Ghosh reveals the trajectory we're travelling along, and presents solutions for correcting our course.



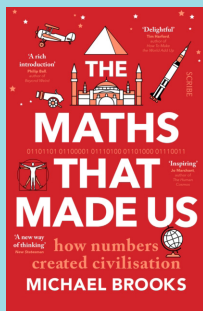
BEING YOU BY ANIL SETH PB -£9.99 - FABER & FABER (SCIENCE)

Anil Seth invites you to the edge of the most exciting scientific and philosophical frontier: the study of consciousness. With clarity and insight from two decades of experimentation, Seth delivers a radical new theory of consciousness as an active, constructive process. He explains why consciousness occurs, and how we can know about it; why animals have consciousness but a machine cannot; and why all of this matters to our experience of being in the world.



ICE RIVERS BY JEMMA WADHAM PB -£12.99 - PENGUIN (ENVIRONMENT/ ADVENTURE)

From the Norwegian fjords to the Himalayan sheets, Wadham's life-long obsession with glaciers takes her across the world to explore the intricacies of these once grand landscapes. Part memoir, part climate investigation, part adventure to the ends of the earth, this book is an elegantly written exploration of the seemingly immutable earth that surrounds us and the devastating rate at which it is disappearing before our eyes.



THE MATHS THAT MADE US BY MICHAEL BROOKS PB -£9.99 - SCRIBE (MATHS)

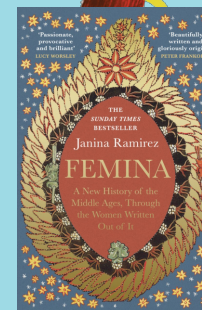
Meet your new favourite maths teacher! Taking the abstract subject of higher mathematics - all that pi you studied at school without knowing why - Brooks realigns the subject with the things that drove its development: exploration, architecture, technology, medicine and design. A history of civilization, with an eccentric cast of characters from ancient Egyptian priests to the Apollo astronauts, this is the perfect book about numbers for wordy people.

A WOMAN'S WORLD



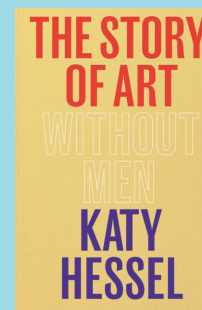
FEMINA BY JANINA RAMIREZ HB -£22 - Ebury (HISTORY)

You might know a few famous women across history, but Janina Ramirez is about to make you rethink everything you were taught in school! From pioneers of medicine, to forgotten queens (and a female king), and women whose names have been lost to time, Ramirez's rigorously researched book provides an essential revisionist history of the famously patriarchal Middle Ages. Perfect for fans of Madeline Miller and Pat Barker who are looking to branch out into non-fiction.



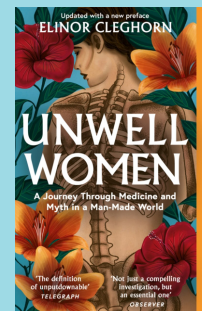
THE STORY OF ART WITHOUT MEN BY KATY HESSEL HB -£30 - CORNERSTONE (ART/HISTORY)

Hessel takes on the mammoth task of introducing us to scores of forgotten female artists - from painters and quilters to sculptors and photographers - and does it in serious style. She asks the big questions, like 'who writes art history?' and 'who really painted *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*?' From the 1500s to the 1990s, Hessel has left no stone unturned in this sobering and fascinating cartography of women's artistic legacy.



UNWELL WOMEN BY ELINOR CLEGHORN PB -£9.99 - ORION (MEDICINE/HISTORY)

For centuries, medicine has been the realm of men; funded by, researched for, and catered to. This timely book unpacks the myriad ways that women have been demonised and their bodies traumatised, and the incredible ways in which they have fought back. Cleghorn makes a compelling case for demanding change in a realm which has led to countless misdiagnoses, habitual blame, and a criminal lack of funding for research into women's health.

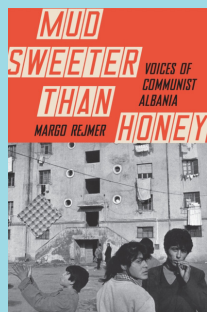


BITCH BY LUCY COOKE HB -£20 - TRANSWORLD (NATURE)

She stole a lion's girlfriend and she witnessed meerkats commit murder, now Lucy Cooke is back to deconstruct long-held stereotypes about the female animal. From cannibalistic redback spiders, to female albatross couples raising chicks together, Cooke shakes up a captivating cocktail of scientific data, cultural anecdotes, and wacky animal behaviours to tear open the Darwinian status quo. *Bitch* is a hilarious and important book that heralds a new era for evolutionary science and beyond.



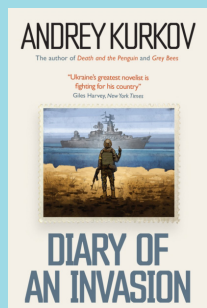
POLITICS & HISTORY



MUD SWEETER THAN HONEY BY MARGO REJMER

PB - £12.99 - QUERCUS (MEMOIR/POLITICS)

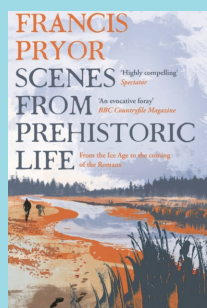
After breaking ties with the USSR, China, and Yugoslavia, Enver Hoxha saw an opportunity to enact a brutal dictatorship that would place Albania under 41 years of communist rule. Traversing accounts from the most notorious figures of Hoxha's regime, to those thrown into prisons and labour camps for rebelling against it, Rejmer's compelling combination of testimony, reportage, and searing narrative inserts Albania back into the history of The Cold War.



DIARY OF AN INVASION BY ANDREY KURKOV

HB - £16.99 - WELBECK (POLITICS)

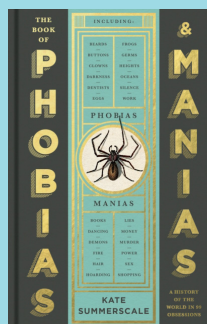
Though best known for his satirical novels, since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, Andrey Kurkov has been documenting the human face of Ukraine's increasingly volatile socio-political climate. Written from the war-torn Kyiv countryside, *Diary of an Invasion* contemplates Pushkin, hipster bookshops, and Putin's dreams of a new USSR in spare, captivating prose. This is an urgent and essential book penned from the front lines of these unprecedented times.



SCENES FROM PREHISTORIC LIFE BY FRANCIS PRYOR

PB - £10.99 - HEAD OF ZEUS (HISTORY)

Esteemed archaeologist Francis Pryor returns with a fresh and exciting exploration of British and Irish prehistory. Using excavations and surveys to craft a series of vignettes detailing the lives of our ancestors - from Mesolithic jewellery makers to Bronze Age farmers - this is a deliciously tangible portrait of a time that feels so wildly different from our own. Whether you're a pro or a novice, Pryor's prehistoric pilgrimage has something for everyone.



THE BOOK OF PHOBIAS AND OBSESSIONS BY KATE SUMMERSCALE

HB - £16.99 - PROFILE (HISTORY/PSYCHOLOGY)

Arachnophobic? Compulsive hoarder? Terrified of clowns? From the masterful writer of the classic *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* comes a fascinating and fun exploration of the things that fixate us. Detailing some of the most weird and wonderful obsessions and fears, Summerscale interweaves social history and case studies in this entertaining and enlightening slice of psychology.

BIOGRAPHY

THE LIGHT WE CARRY BY MICHELLE OBAMA

HB - £25 - PENGUIN (MEMOIR)

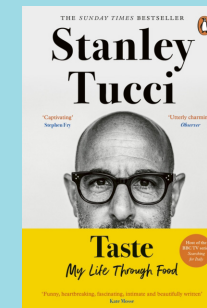
Michelle Obama returns with this inspirational and powerful follow-up to her bestselling memoir, *Becoming*. Written with the same humour and candour, Obama tackles questions we all face: how to navigate change, stay hopeful, cope with uncertainty and build enduring relationships. Drawing on stories and experiences from Obama's family life, career and time as First Lady, *The Light We Carry* is filled with guiding principles and practical habits that inspire and encourage.



TASTE BY STANLEY TUCCI

PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (FOOD/MEMOIR)

From the infamous master of the perfect negroni (oh, and world-famous actor, of course) comes a remarkable memoir of a man's life through his stomach. Tucci's story is a heady mix of his own life spent in NYC and his Italian family roots, with a dusting of Hollywood glamour to top it off. His writing oozes charm, and is packed with stellar recipes from Italian classics to cocktails. This book will have your heart warming and your mouth watering at every turn.



I'M GLAD MY MOM DIED BY JENNETTE MCCURDY

HB - £20 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (MEMOIR)

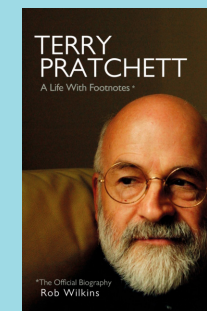
I Carly star Jennette McCurdy never wanted to be an actor, but it was her mother's dream, and Jennette would do anything to make her happy. Thrown into auditions at the age of six, landing Nickelodeon fame in her teens - and with it, disordered eating and alcoholism - and coming to terms with her mother's parental abuse thereafter, this compulsive read somehow manages to walk the line between Sedaris-worthy humour and utter heartbreak.



TERRY PRATCHETT BY ROB WILKINS

HB - £25 - TRANSWORLD (BIOGRAPHY)

As Sir Terry Pratchett's longtime assistant, few knew the writer as intimately as Rob Wilkins. Started by Pratchett before succumbing to dementia, and finished by Wilkins thereafter, this remarkable biography is a dedicated catalogue of a full life, animated by the pure love of its author for his late friend. From school boy antics, to writing techniques and the birth of Pratchett's children, Wilkins has rendered a peerless portrait of a beloved man.

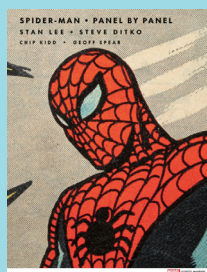


BEAUTIFUL BOOKS



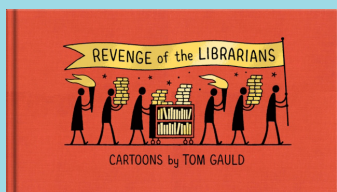
MEZCLA BY IXTA BELFRAGE HB - £26 - EBURY (FOOD)

From Ottolenghi Test Kitchen graduate Ixta Belfrage, *Mezcla* is the cookery equivalent of sunshine - perfect for the colder days ahead. Influenced by Mediterranean and South American cuisines, these meat, veg, and fish recipes are bursting with bright and exciting flavour combinations. Whether you're after something super-quick and easy or are looking to spend some serious, quality time in your kitchen, Ixta has the answer. We'd recommend the miso butternut squash gnocchi to start!



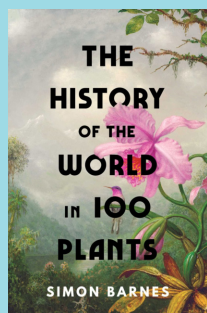
SPIDER-MAN: PANEL BY PANEL BY CHIP KIDD, ET AL. HB - £45 - ABRAMS (ART)

Sixty years after *The Amazing Spider-Man's* initial publication, award-winning graphic designer Chip Kidd retells Stan Lee and Steve Ditko's iconic stories with a twist, using original comic book panels - blown up and restored - to dramatic effect. With original art from the Library of Congress, and words from Marvel editor Tom Brevoort - whether you're a die-hard *Spider-Man* fan, or you've just been bitten by the radioactive bug, this beautifully illustrated book is a must have.



REVENGE OF THE LIBRARIANS BY TOM GAULD HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE (HUMOUR)

No one is safe from Tom Gauld's scathing and whip-smart gaze in this latest collection of literary cartoons. Through a series of library and bookshop-centric strips, Gauld takes on COVID, Kafka, complacent authors, and mean memoirists - all in his signature minimalist style. This laugh out loud compendium will make the perfect gift for the bookworm, writer or salesman-turned-giant-bug in your life.



THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 100 PLANTS BY SIMON BARNES HB - £30 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (NATURE)

Plants give us our food. They give our food its food. Plants give us the air we breathe and control the rain. They moderate the climate and give us shelter, buildings, instruments, religious symbols. Plants give us meaning. Plants are our future. In this extraordinary visual masterpiece, Simon Barnes gives us the story of 100 plants that have had the biggest impact on the human race.

HOME & AWAY

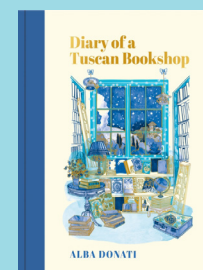
HOME IS NOT A PLACE BY JOHNY PITTS & ROGER ROBINSON

HB - £25 - HARPER COLLINS (PHOTOGRAPHY)
Photographer Johny Pitts and poet Roger Robinson set out in a Mini Cooper to drive the coasts of Britain, seeking to answer the question 'What is Black Britishness?' Starting in Tilbury, where the *Empire Windrush* docked in 1948, Pitts and Robinson chart Black British histories and culture from Scarborough to Bristol. The resulting travelogue of photographs, poetry and essays explore the human face of overlooked narratives and histories intrinsic to modern Britain.



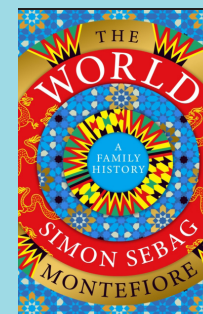
DIARY OF A TUSCAN BOOKSHOP BY ALBA DONATI HB - £14.99 - ORION (MEMOIR)

Discover the incredible story of how one Italian woman opened a tiny bookshop that inspired a nation. Alba Donati was a publicist tired of the rat race when she decided she wanted to start a bookshop in her hometown of Lucignana. Despite facing a fire, a pandemic, and the fact that the town had only 180 residents, Alba succeeded against all odds, making the 'Bookshop on the Hill' a beacon for the community.



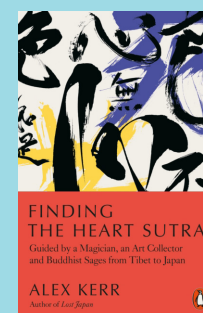
THE WORLD BY SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIORE HB - £35 - ORION (HISTORY)

Montefiore begins with one family walking on a beach almost one million years ago. From there he takes us on a journey through time in the pockets of the great families: the Caesars, the Bonapartes, the Rothschilds and Rockefellers, the Kennedys, the Castros and many more. We span centuries and continents, cultures and religions, in search of the people that have defined our history. This is spellbinding storytelling at its finest.



FINDING THE HEART SUTRA BY ALEX KERR PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN (PHILOSOPHY)

The Heart Sutra—a seventh-century Buddhist poem of 56 lines and multitudes of meaning—is both goal and guide for travel writer Alex Kerr. From his 40 years travelling through Japan, Korea, China, India, Mongolia, Tibet and Vietnam, Kerr traces the influence of this concise, mystical text, and explores its universe of philosophical thought. This is a story both highly personal and brimming with cultural insight, and a love letter to language and learning.



NATURE

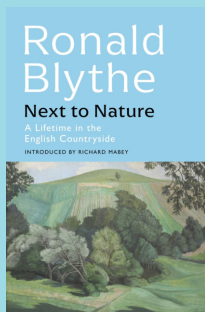


THE MUSEUM OF THE WOOD AGE BY MAX ADAMS HB -£27.99 - HEAD OF ZEUS (HISTORY/NATURE)

From *The Shigir Idol*, the oldest known wooden carving, through the first Viking ships, and on to the industrial revolution, Adams propels us through a riveting picture of human history. Not simply a curiosity cabinet of oaken interests, this book is instead a revelation of all the ways in which wood has bound cultures, continents, and generations of curious and resourceful humans.

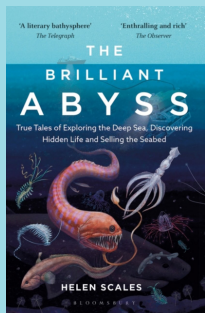
NEXT TO NATURE BY RONALD BLYTHE HB -£25 - JOHN MURRAY (NATURE)

Ronald Blythe is a national treasure who inspired a generation of nature writers. In this definitive collection of Blythe's diaries – from New Year's Day snow to Christmas carols at a village church – we feel the rhythms and realities of rural life. His writings are like footpaths connecting time to place, landscape to language, reader to world. This is an unmissable invitation to witness a simple life, richly lived.



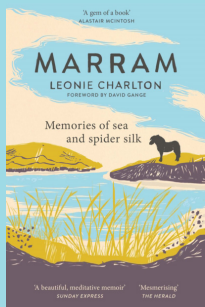
THE BRILLIANT ABYSS BY HELEN SCALES PB -£10.99 - BLOOMSBURY (SCIENCE)

The deep sea is the last remaining true wilderness on our planet. But humanity is making headway in uncovering the mythical, often monstrous, and sometimes outright bizarre denizens of this alien environment. Here we learn not only about such marvels of the seas, but also how human impact can be evidenced in the deep, and the steps that we must take to quell future environmental disasters.



MARRAM BY LEONIE CHARLTON PB -£9.99 - SANDSTONE PRESS (TRAVEL)

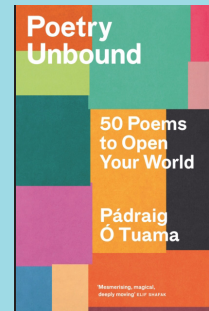
Facing crippling grief, Leonie Charlton recommits to her life by trekking the Outer Hebrides with her best friend and two ponies. But her plans fall off course as she is forced to acknowledge that this is not something she can easily run away from. Ingratiating herself in the Hebridean landscape might just be her saviour. A heart-breaking, life-affirming and wonderful memoir, perfect for fans of *The Salt Path* and *The Outrun*.



STORYTELLING

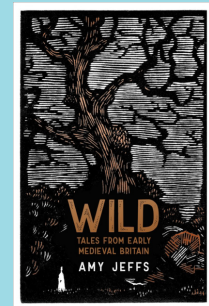
POETRY UNBOUND BY PÁDRAIG Ó TUAMA HB -£18.99 - CANONGATE (POETRY)

This incredibly inspiring and life-affirming collection of poems features works from authors of varied backgrounds and experiences, including Lemn Sissay, Raymond Antrobus, Natalie Diaz, Ocean Vuong, Roger Robinson, Patience Agbabi and Margaret Atwood. Each poem is paired with an illuminating short essay by Pádraig Ó Tuama, host of the wildly popular *Poetry Unbound* podcast. This is the perfect gift for the poetry lover in your life!



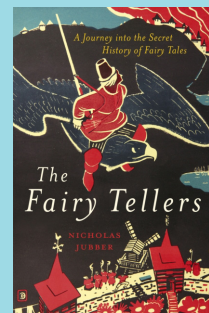
WILD BY AMY JEFFS HB -£20 - QUERCUS (FOLKLORE)

Sheer cliffs, salt spray, whales with mountains on their backs... these are wild landscapes of a world almost familiar. Existing somewhere between fiction and reality, *Wild* charts a journey on foot through fen, forest, cave, and the words of Mediaeval texts. With arcane prose and exquisite wood engravings, this time travelling tome is a welcome companion to *Storyland* and a hypnotic portal to lost and imagined worlds.



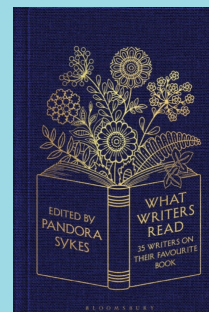
THE FAIRY TELLERS BY NICHOLAS JUBBER PB -£10.99 - JOHN MURRAY (FOLKLORE)

Award-winning author Nicholas Jubber returns with this sweeping global search for the unlikely wordsmiths, inventors, thieves, and rebels behind our most treasured myths and fairy tales. From Lapland to the Levant, Jubber uncovers the hidden meanings of *Hansel and Gretel*, the disturbing legacy of *Cinderella*, and the effects of retellings and embellishments over time. *Fairy Tellers* is a rigorously researched and warmhearted ode to the stories that make us.



WHAT WRITERS READ ED. BY PANDORA SYKES HB -£12.99 - BLOOMSBURY (ESSAYS)

If you've ever wanted to find out what's on the bookshelves and bedside tables of your favourite authors, now's your chance! In this stunning collection, 35 best-selling writers reveal their most beloved books and hot new recommendations. Discover William Boyd's childhood favourite, the novels that made Elizabeth Strout the writer she is today, and Nikesh Shukla's current must-read. This is the perfect gift for every literature lover (or any nosy reader!) in your life.



READING SUBSCRIPTIONS

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 to their door in our gorgeous subscription wrapping.



The subscription begins with a voucher inviting the recipient to get in touch so that we can discover their reading preferences. We'll then appoint one of our booksellers to be their bibliotherapist and choose them a fantastic 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.

£50 FOR THREE PAPERBACKS TO THE UK

£95 FOR SIX PAPERBACKS TO THE UK

£160 FOR ELEVEN PAPERBACKS TO THE UK

MR B'S READING SPAS

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.

**READING SPAS COST £95,
WHICH INCLUDES £60 TO
SPEND ON FAVOURITE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS, A MR B'S
MUG AND CLOTH BAG AND A £10
GIFT VOUCHER TO TAKE AWAY.**



AND INTRODUCING...

THE CRIME SYNDICATE: A MR B'S READING CLUB

This year we wanted to introduce a new branch to our tree of fabulous gifts, and with a plethora of crime fans amidst our team and our customers, we're incredibly excited to introduce The Crime Syndicate.

We'll scout the country, interrogate publishers, and inspect our bookshelves to select our most anticipated piece of crime writing each month. It could be anything from a Golden Age mystery to a hard-boiled noir, but we promise that each book will have the Mr B's seal of approval, and will be delivered straight to your door, wrapped in our criminally magnificent gift wrap. (A rap sheet, if you will...)



Our first book will be posted in January 2023, but vouchers will be available to purchase from November, either online, in store or over the phone.

You can subscribe for 3, 6, or 12 months, or simply sign up to pay monthly.

**EACH MONTH COSTS £12.99 AND INCLUDES OUR HOTLY
ANTICIPATED CRIME BOOK OF THE MONTH AND POSTAGE**



For more information, or to purchase any of our reading gifts, head to:

WWW.MRBSEMPORIUM.COM/GIFTS

FUN AND GAMES

HERE AT MR B'S WE HAVE A RAPIDLY GROWING INFATUATION WITH BOARD GAMES! WE FIGURE WE SHOULD SPREAD OUR LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE TO OUR CUSTOMERS, SO HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR RECENT FAVOURITES:

THE FUZZIES BY ALEX HAGUE

£19.99



The game begins with an upside cone of fuzzy balls which stick together... but the tower won't stay stable for long! Draw a card and pick out a fuzz ball of the corresponding colour to place on top of the tower. So begins the *Jenga*-like quest of stacking as high as possible until one player inevitably topples the tower and loses the game. An easy-to-pick-up game for people of all ages with a huge amount of re-playability.

GHOST BLITZ BY JACQUES ZEIMET

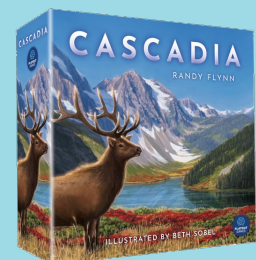
£12.99

Five objects sit between the players and a card from the deck is flipped. The card will represent four of the five objects - the quickest to grab the piece that is NOT represented wins that card. Simple, right? But there's a catch - if the object is represented on the card in its correct colour, then you had better grab that one instead! Snappy, hilarious, and competitive, this is a perfect game for all ages and great for fans of *Dobble*.



CASCADIA BY RANDY FLYNN

£39.99



A beautiful wildlife habitat-building game in which players take turns drafting hexagonal tiles to piece together their unique landscapes. Place your tiles according to the preferences of five different animals and build the largest area of each habitat to maximise your score and beat your opponents. Featuring a variable pool of point-scoring mechanisms, *Cascadia* is an incredibly re-playable light strategy game for ages 8 and up.



A WINTER'S TALE

THE WINTER GARDEN BY ALEXANDRA BELL PB - £8.99 - CORNERSTONE (FICTION)

How far would you go to undo the biggest mistake you ever made? On the night her mother dies, eight-year-old Beatrice is invited to the Winter Garden, a place filled with magic and wonder. But when the garden disappears, nobody will believe it ever existed. Eighteen years later, her chance to visit may come again... An enchanting winter fairy tale for fans of *The Night Circus* and *The Bear and the Nightingale*.



THE HAUNTING SEASON BY VARIOUS AUTHORS PB - £8.99 - LITTLE, BROWN (SHORT STORIES)

A warm blanket, candlelight, and a cup of something hot are required for reading this dark and ghostly collection of winter tales. Let the gothic masters sweep you through the Yorkshire Moors, tantalise you with the mysteries of a glittering London market, and ensnare you in the legacies of an ancient family mansion. With stories from Kiran Millwood Hargrave, Jess Kidd, Andrew Michael Hurley and many others, you'll know you are in good hands.



WINTER IN THE AIR BY SYLVIA TOWNSEND WARNER

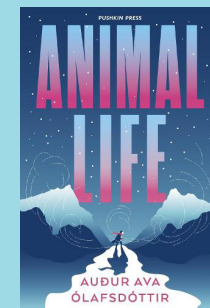
PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER (SHORT STORIES)

In this delicious collection of stories, set among a glittering snowy landscape, we find schoolyard brawls, a wintery murder, a stolen kitchen knife and a woman returning to the place of her unruly marriage. And running underneath them all is the fabric of the town that ties them all together. A witty and subversive collection of classic stories from a brilliant, rediscovered author; this is the perfect Christmas read.



ANIMAL LIFE BY AUÐUR AVA ÓLAFSDÓTTIR PB - £9.99 - PUSHKIN (FICTION)

Domhildur's family has always dealt in beginnings and endings – she is from a long line of midwives on her mother's side, and a long line of undertakers on her father's side. Leading up to Christmas and about to deliver her 1,922nd baby, Domhildur discovers a cache of her grandmother's extraordinary letters and manuscripts, which reveal a woman with an unconventional approach to midwifery. A quirky, funny, and reflective novel.



KIDS' PICTURE BOOKS



THE SNOWFLAKE BY BENJI DAVIES PB -£7.99 - HARPER COLLINS (CHILDREN'S 1+)

Welcome winter in with this delightful snowy tale from a beloved picture book author and Mr B's favourite. High up in the clouds a snowflake forms. Perfectly fluffy and white, it begins to fall. Where will it land? And will it change a life? This delicate story brings together a snowflake and one special little girl, both looking for their place in the world. A Christmas classic in the making and the perfect read for the season.



THE BOY WHO DREAMED DRAGONS BY CARYL LEWIS & CARMEN SALDAÑA HB -£12.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 3+)

Albie is a little boy who dreams dragons. They can sometimes be fierce and bright, sometimes soft and whispery and gentle. And they always stay with him, not just at night but throughout the day, too. The problem for Albie is that only he can see them... or so he thinks. A beautifully written and gorgeously illustrated picture book about imagination, emotion and forming connections.



ONCE UPON A FAIRYTALE BY NATALIA & LAUREN O'HARA PB -£7.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (CHILDREN'S 3+)

This is the choose-your-own adventure that dreams are made of, where the story is different every time. If you have ever wanted to be princess of all the land, or a sassy gingerbread man making his own way in the world, or be a fairy feasting in the trees, this is your chance. This delightful picture book, filled with beautiful illustrations, helps children discover storytelling in a whole new way.



THE BEASTLY BUNCH BY LEISA STEWART-SHARPE & PIPPA CURNICK PB -£6.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 3+)

Flo the flamingo is going to throw the most amazing, cultured pool party the neighbourhood has seen. She certainly won't be inviting her stinky, spitty, bitey neighbours, the Beastly Bunch. But when Flo's party is a flop and all her guests desert her, it turns out the beasts next door might have just the kind of energy the party needs. A fun, riotous picture book that celebrates acceptance, friendship... and parties.



KIDS' PICTURE BOOKS

FAMOUS ROBBERIES BY SOLEDAD ROMERO MARIÑO & JULIO ANTONIO BLASCO HB -£16.95 - GESTALTEN (CHILDREN'S 10+)

Witness the great robberies from history in this exciting and fascinating book. Learn how robbers appeared to walk through walls, evaded the police and pulled off the most audacious heists the world has ever seen. From the Great Train Robbers to the Antwerp Diamond Heist, the Citibank Hack and many more, this book brings these thrilling events to brilliant life through retro-style newspaper reports and wonderful illustrations.



LISTEN TO THE MUSIC BY MARY RICHARDS & CAROLINE BONNE-MÜLLER HB -£16.99 - WIDE EYED EDITIONS (CHILDREN'S 4+)

Prepare for an immersive, enchanting musical odyssey. Spanning centuries and continents, this interactive book takes us through the key moments in musical history. From *Greensleeves* in 16th century England, to Mozart's piano sonata, and even Charlie Parker's bebop Saxophone jazz in 1940s New York, this is a spectacular trip through history, complete with accompanying music clips.



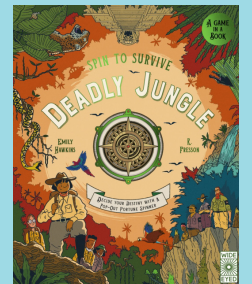
WILDERNESS BY STEVE MCCARTHY HB -£12.99 - WALKER (CHILDREN'S 3+)

The Vasylenko family lives for adventure. They love the thrill of exploring the outside world. All, that is, except Oktober. He prefers a warm bed and being inside four walls. As far as Oktober is concerned, adventure should take place only in a book. Now his family have been driven from their home and he must confront his fears... maybe he'll find he's braver than he thought. A visually stunning tale of bravery, family and friendship.

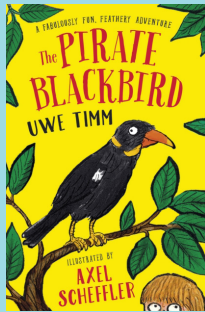


SPIN TO SURVIVE: DEADLY JUNGLE BY EMILY HAWKINS & R. FRESSON HB -£20 - WIDE EYED EDITIONS (CHILDREN'S 7+)

Lost in the Amazon Rainforest, you have one mission: discover and protect the Lost City of the Jaguar God. To succeed you must battle jaguars, treasure hunters and ferocious river rapids. A game-in-a-book to play alone or with the family, you'll feel like you have stepped straight into *Jumanji*. With nothing but instinct and the Survival Spinner, do you have what it takes to make it out of the jungle alive?



YOUNG READERS



THE PIRATE BLACKBIRD BY UWE TIMM & AXEL SCHEFFLER PB - £6.99 - SCHOLASTIC (CHILDREN'S 5+)

When a tiny Mynah bird called Froggy is stolen from the jungle and transported to the big city, he must use his amazing powers of mimicry to outwit everyone in sight. Will his powers help him fit in to this new environment, or will it just make him stand out even more? And can he ever find his way back home? A delightful adventure with illustrations from the legendary Axel Scheffler.



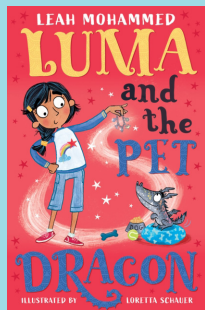
ME, MY BROTHER AND THE MONSTER MELTDOWN BY ROB LLOYD JONES & ALEX PATRICK PB - £6.99 - WALKER (CHILDREN'S 6+)

Insane monsters are smashing up supermarkets in the town of Rottingdean and the adults are freaking out! But Otis thinks he's seen this six-headed giant gingerbread man, the flying laser sharks and the troll with exploding eyes somewhere before... his brother Jago drew them! It's up to these fearless brothers and their friends to save the day. A hilarious riot of a story.



SPACE BLASTERS BY KATIE & KEVIN TSANG PB - £6.99 - HARPER COLLINS (CHILDREN'S 6+)

Suzie loves inventing new gadgets... not that they always go to plan. When her latest creation - the Super 3DTV Gizmo - goes wrong, she is accidentally transported into her favourite TV show, Space Blasters. Suzie is having a great time with her favourite characters, meeting aliens and exploring new planets... until moons start disappearing. A hilarious space adventure, perfect for fans of *Grimwood* and *Bunny vs Monkey*.



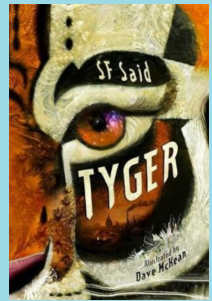
LUMA AND THE PET DRAGON BY LEAH MOHAMMED & LORETTA SCHAUER PB - £6.99 - WELBECK (CHILDREN'S 5+)

When Luma's dream of getting a new puppy is quashed, she's sure it's going to be the worst birthday ever. But when she takes a walk over to her Nani's house, she finds something that will change her birthday - and her life - forever... a baby dragon called Timir! Luma must keep Timir a secret from her family but the naughty little dragon just keeps attracting trouble. A cute, magical story about friendship, pets and family.

CHILDREN'S FICTION

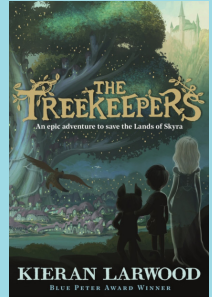
TYGER BY SF SAID & DAVE MCKEAN HB - £12.99 - DAVID FICKLING (CHILDREN'S 10+)

In an alternate present London where colonialism never ended and slavery is still rife, young Adam Alhambra spends his days delivering packages for his family's business. When he stumbles across a mythical tyger in a disused warehouse, his life - and the city's fortunes - could be about to change for ever. A stunning masterpiece filled with dark magic and adventure that echoes Phillip Pullman and CS Lewis, *Tyger* is destined to become a classic of children's literature.



THE TREEKEEPERS BY KIERAN LARWOOD HB - £12.99 - FABER & FABER (CHILDREN'S 8+)

Liska is a shapeshifter in the magical city of Arborven, a place built around a gigantic tree that gives extraordinary power to its inhabitants. But with great power comes hierarchy and corruption. When the tree comes under threat, Liska must try to unite the city and do everything possible to protect her home. A beautifully written and compelling tale of nature and power from a Mr B's favourite.



THE LOST GIRL KING BY CATHERINE DOYLE PB - £7.99 - BLOOMSBURY (CHILDREN'S 8+)

Emma and Liam are staying at their gran's house in the wilds of Connemara for the summer. On a walk one afternoon, they spy a hawk fly straight through a waterfall. The children follow and find they have discovered the entrance to Tír Na Nóg, the legendary land of eternal youth. But when Liam is captured by a headless horseman, it becomes clear that nothing is quite what it seemed. *Narnia-meets-Peter Pan* in this brilliant adventure novel.

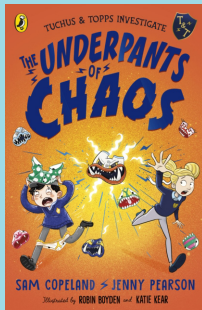


THE ELEMENTAL DETECTIVES BY PATRICE LAWRENCE PB - £7.99 - SCHOLASTIC (CHILDREN'S 9+)

Ancient London is a place filled with elemental magic. A place of fiery Dragons, airy Fumis, watery Chads and earthbound Magogs. But humans have been quietly destroying this world for centuries and now the elements want revenge and have enacted a sleeping curse. Only Marisee and Robert, the elemental detectives, can save the world. History and magic are weaved together to deliver a thrilling novel, perfect for fans of *Nevermore* and *Mortal Engines*.

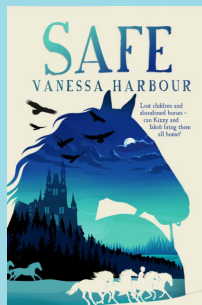


CHILDREN'S FICTION



THE UNDERPANTS OF CHAOS BY SAM COPELAND & JENNY PEARSON PB -£7.99 - PUFFIN (CHILDREN'S 7+)

Unexplained things keep happening in the town of Little Stranghaven: peculiar shivers are striking the school; a wave of uncontrollable ballroom dancing; military chicken attacks. Yet only Agatha Topps seems to be able to remember them... That is until new boy Lenny Tuchus starts at her school. Together, this duo must work out what the heck is going on. A wild, strange mystery packed full of hijinks and laugh-out-loud fun.



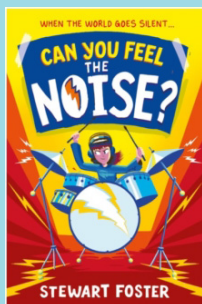
SAFE BY VANESSA HARBOUR PB -£7.99 - FIREFLY (CHILDREN'S 8+)

Lost children. A band of horses in danger. Only Jakob and Kizzy can help. In the embers of WWII, two fearless children are tricked into and perilous life-or-death journey far from their homes. They shelter in a seemingly abandoned mansion... but what they find there will change their lives forever. Bringing together history, horses and adventure, this is a thrilling wartime novel with two extraordinary protagonists at its heart.



MURDER AT SNOWFALL BY FLEUR HITCHCOCK PB -£7.99 - NOSY CROW (CHILDREN'S 9+)

When Lucas and Ruby find a trunk buried beneath the snow, Lucas is convinced it's a body. The moment they open the trunk, the two intrepid detectives are thrown into a thrilling adventure that must be solved before the snow melts. This wintery mystery, which is set in the Bath Christmas Market (with a mention of Mr B's!), is the perfect end of the year read.



CAN YOU FEEL THE NOISE? BY STEWART FOSTER PB -£7.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (CHILDREN'S 9+)

Sophie and her friends are halfway through a Battle of the Bands competition when she wakes up one morning completely deaf. Life as she knows it is over and music has lost all meaning... unless there's some other way to feel the music. Local author Stewart Foster delivers a heart-warming story of overcoming difficulty and embracing who you are; perfect for fans of *Wonder*.

TEEN & YOUNG ADULT

A MAGIC STEEPED IN POISON BY JUDY I. LIN PB -£8.99 - TITAN BOOKS (TEEN 13+)

When Ning creates a poison that accidentally kills her mother and threatens her sister, her life is thrown into disarray. Her only chance of saving her sister is to compete amongst masters of the ancient and magical art of tea-making. Between all the courtly politics and secrets, Ning might be in more danger than she ever could have thought. A beautifully intricate fantasy about family, magic, and tea, perfect for fans of Leigh Bardugo.



I MUST BETRAY YOU BY RUTA SEPETYS PB -£7.99 - HACHETTE (TEEN 12+)

Cristian is trapped by an evil dictatorship. Has been since the day he was born. When he runs afoul of the secret police, he's given an impossible decision: inform on his family to save his grandfather, or risk all their lives by resisting. Who can Cristian trust? Based on the real events of the 1989 Romanian Revolution, this is a stunning thriller from the queen of YA historical fiction.



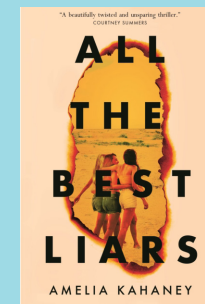
ELLIE PILLAI IS BROWN BY CHRISTINE PILLAINAYAGAM PB -£8.99 - FABER & FABER (TEEN 12+)

Ellie Pillai has never been cool. Never been totally invisible either. She's happy with her head full of songs and her dreams of studying drama. But things are starting to change. People are starting to notice her – and she has certainly noticed the new boy at school. Maybe the time has come for Ellie to stand out for once. A warm, funny and uplifting novel from a fresh new voice.



ALL THE BEST LIARS BY AMELIA KAHANEY PB -£8.99 - WALKER (TEEN 12+)

Syd, Rain, and Brie are supposed to be best friends for life. All hail from the wrong side of the tracks, all meant to be together forever... until they aren't. When a deadly fire blazes two weeks before the end of their high school career, nothing will ever be the same again. Full of shocking twists, this brilliant thriller will keep you guessing until the very end.





MAMO BY SAS MILLEDGE
PB -£10.99 - BOOM! STUDIOS (11+)

Jo's mother has fallen into a deep sleep and there's a ghostly creak in the attic. So, Jo calls on the only help she can find - Orla, the reluctant town witch. Orla longs to leave her hometown and her strict grandmother. But as the town's problems begin to escalate, her magical talent - and her growing bond with the enigmatic Jo - might just change her mind.



ACTION DUDE BY ANDY RILEY
PB -£7.99 - WELBECK (7+)

First name: Action. Second name: Dude. Action Dude is the town hero, who's always ready to face danger in whatever form it comes (and he's definitely not just a boy called Charlie with a wild imagination). When some evil robots go on the rampage at the local theme park, who else is there to call? A hilarious, action-packed graphic novel perfect for fans of *Bunny vs Monkey* and *Dog Man*.



MAPMAKERS AND THE LOST MAGIC
BY CAMERON CHITTOCK & AMANDA CASTILLO
PB -£11.99 - RANDOM HOUSE (8+)

Alidade has always dreamed of leaving her home in the Valley, a place where the Night Coats dictate how people spend their time. Then she stumbles upon a map that holds a magic unlike any she's seen. After awakening the Ancient Guardian Heron of the Valley, the unlikely duo determines to make their home a safe, free and green land once again.

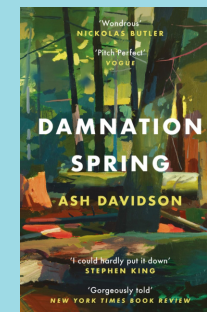


EVERYDAY HERO: MACHINE BOY BY IRMA KNIIVILA & TRI VUONG
PB -£11.99 - IMAGE COMICS (9+)

Machine Boy doesn't fit into this world. All he wants is to be a hero, but his robot powers are too strong and can only be calmed by his grandma's ancient karate training. When world-famous popstars ULTIMATE UNIVERSE play a concert in his town and ask for his help to save the world, how can he refuse? But these new friends might not be quite what they seem...

LAURA'S FAVE: DAMNATION SPRING BY ASH DAVIDSON
PB -£9.99 - HEADLINE (FICTION)

Rich Gundersen was born with logging in his blood. When he puts his family's savings on the line to buy a plot of ancient redwoods, his belief in a dying industry is put to the ultimate test, and a dark secret is revealed. Based on true events that devastated a Californian community in the 1970s, *Damnation Spring* tells the story of ecological disaster and its insidious echoes across the generations.



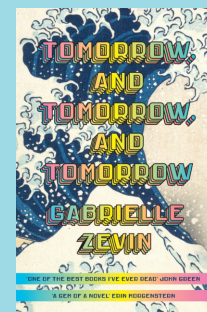
HENRY'S FAVE: THE HAND OF THE SUN KING
BY J.T. GREATHOUSE
PB -£8.99 - ORION (FICTION)

Our protagonist has two names. His father is raising him as Wen Aldur, hoping that he will become Hand of the Emperor. In secret, Wen's mother is raising him as Foolish Cur, teaching him the old magic of the once free country of Nayen. Pulled in both directions, our unlikely hero will have to tread carefully, as one foul step could spell his end. A brilliant debut novel for fans of Patrick Rothfuss and Robin Hobb.



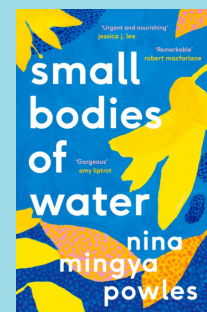
NETHMI'S FAVE: TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW
BY GABRIELLE ZEVIN
HB -£16.99 - VINTAGE (FICTION)

In 1986, two kids meet in a hospital and bond over hours spent playing *Super Mario Bros*. Years later, they meet again in a train station, and their mutual love of video games begins a decades-long journey into the world of game creation. From that moment, Sadie Green and Sam Mauser's lives are intertwined: co-creators of the hit videogame *Ichigo*, best friends, bitter enemies, selective strangers, but always inspiring one another to create.

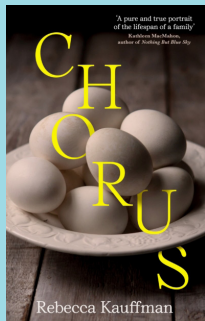


LIV'S FAVE: SMALL BODIES OF WATER
BY NINA MINGYA POWLES
PB -£9.99 - CANONGATE (ESSAY/MEMOIR)

In her debut essay collection poet Nina Mingya Powles reflects on a life lived globally and spent swimming: in her native New Zealand, in private pools in Shanghai, at the Ladies' Pond on Hampstead Heath. Exploring themes of memory and migration, longing and belonging, Powles blends memoir and nature writing in tender, lyrical prose, and from her quiet collection emerges a bold exploration of identity, and all the places that make us who we are.

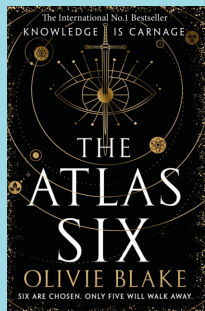


OUR 2022 FAVOURITES



EMMA'S FAVE: CHORUS BY REBECCA KAUFFMAN HB - £14.99 - PROFILE (FICTION)

Set in rural Virginia, this stunning novel spans from the Depression era through to the late 1950s, as we follow the lives of seven siblings in the aftermath of their mother's death. We witness how their childhood memories shape who they become as adults, and the different paths it forces them to take. Beautifully written, and masterfully constructed, this is undoubtedly perfect for fans of Elizabeth Strout and Kent Haruf.



SHELBI'S FAVE: THE ATLAS SIX BY OLIVIE BLAKE

PB - £8.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (FICTION)

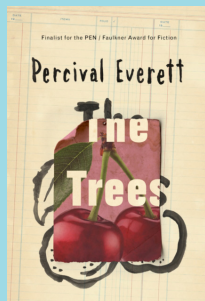
Once every decade, six young and ambitious magicians compete for entry into a secret guild of magical academicians - The Alexandrian Society. To qualify for initiation into the society, and to secure wealth and power beyond their wildest dreams, they must simply live with each other for a year. Easy right? *The Atlas Six* is jam packed with magic, whip smart prose and a cast of intriguing characters who you will love to hate.



LOTTIE'S FAVE: THE WHALEBONE THEATRE BY JOANNA QUINN

HB - £14.99 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

Dorset, 1919: When young Cristabel sees a the body of a whale wash up on the beach bordering her family estate, she knows this is her opportunity for greatness... but things don't always go to plan. This immersive coming-of-age tale takes us through the whirlwind of the 20th Century with Cristabel and her family as our guides. Expansive and beautiful, this dazzling novel fills the gap left behind by Sarah Winman's *Still Life*.



TOM M'S FAVE: THE TREES BY PERCIVAL EVERETT

PB - £9.99 - INFLUX PRESS (FICTION)

Money, Mississippi: A town that played host to one of the most appalling incidents in US history – the lynching of Emmett Till. Now death is in the air again... only this time the victims are from the other side of the tracks. Everett takes a story about racism, gruesome murders, the KKK, police brutality and burning crosses and somehow makes it absolutely hilarious. A page-turning work of savage comic brilliance from a seminal American voice.

OUR 2022 FAVOURITES

HANNAH'S FAVE: A FAR WILDER MAGIC BY ALLISON SAFT

PB - £7.99 - ORION (TEEN 12+)

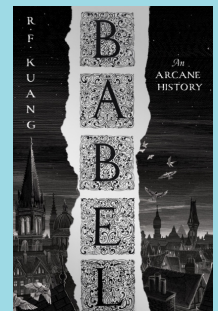
When sharpshooter Maggie and unlucky alchemist-to-be Wes cross paths under desperate circumstances, they can't help but depend on one another to turn their dreams into reality - however humble or high those dreams might be. What follows is a legendary hunt for a mythical beast, a dark magic unleashed and a slow burn romance - I promise that you won't be able to put this gorgeous and atmospheric book down.



RHIAN'S FAVE: BABEL BY R.F. KUANG

HB - £16.99 - HARPER VOYAGER (FICTION)

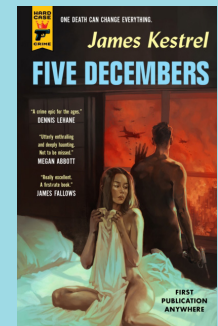
1800s, Oxford. Robin has been sent to work at the Babel institute, home to the world's brightest linguists and masters of Britain's most treasured commodity - silver. Dark academia at its best, Robin's story swings from the bright horizons of discovery to the darkest vices of empire; a tense, and richly detailed story of a promising young man discovering a world on the brink. *Babel* is a masterpiece of world building from the author of *The Poppy War*.



ED'S FAVE: FIVE DECEMBERS BY JAMES KESTREL

PB - £8.99 - TITAN BOOKS (FICTION)

Hawaii, 1941. America is on the brink of war. Honolulu police detective Joe McGrady is sent to investigate a brutal and inexplicable double murder that will consume his life for years to come. Taking McGrady across the Pacific to a reckoning with the harsh realities of war, this is a sweeping drama for the ages, that will delight fans of Raymond Chandler, Lawrence Osborne and even *All The Light We Cannot See*.



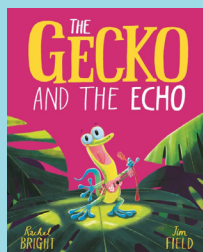
SAM'S FAVE: THE SOCIAL DISTANCE BETWEEN US BY DARREN MCGARVEY

HB - £20 - EBURY (POLITICS)

Darren McGarvey is a unique voice in contemporary British politics: an intelligent analyst with the authority of lived experience. Here he describes the forces that create and legitimise social division, and the core problem of proximity - frequently physical and almost always experiential - between politicians and the working class. Lucid, entertaining, and deeply uncomfortable, this is the perfect book to discuss over Christmas dinner!

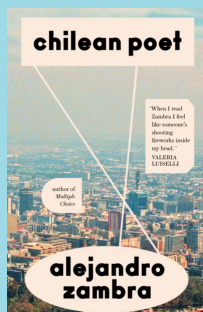


OUR 2022 FAVOURITES



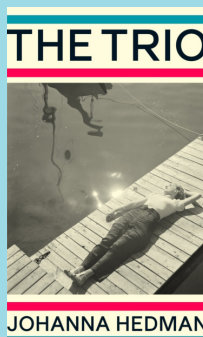
AMY & BABY ARTHUR'S FAVE: THE GECKO AND THE ECHO BY RACHEL BRIGHT & JIM FIELD
HB - £12.99 - HACHETTE (CHILDREN'S 1+)

Goldy the Gecko wants to be a singing sensation, a guitar playing pro - Goldy wants to be a star! But when 'the Goldy Show' starts to go wrong, something big will have to change, so the show can go on again! A touching tale of how treating others with kindness can go a long way, with rhymes by the wonderful Rachel Bright, and the illustrations we've come to love from Jim Field.



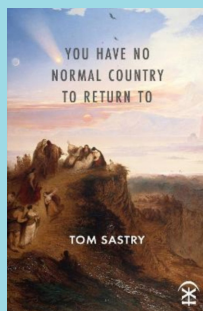
KATE'S FAVE: CHILEAN POET BY ALEJANDRO ZAMBRA
HB - £16.99 - GRANTA (FICTION)

Failing poet Gonzalo and headstrong Carla fall in and out of love at the drop of a hat. When Vicente - Carla's son by a previous marriage - comes into the picture, a heartwarming bond is formed between the neurotic step-father and his curious son. *Chilean Poet* is a riotous and tender exploration of literature, family and national identity, and is the perfect read for fans of Marquez and Murakami.



TOM H'S FAVE: TRIO BY JOHANNA HEDMAN
PB - £14.99 - PENGUIN (FICTION)

Thora, August, and Hugo are students from different worlds, whose lives will become magnetically entangled over two euphoric Stockholm summers. When many years have passed and estranged Hugo is visited by August and Thora's daughter, difficult questions reopen old wounds, and past and present become blurred. *The Trio* is an intimate portrayal of friendship, jealousy and regret, a perfect read for fans of Deborah Levy and André Aciman.



ROHAN'S FAVE: YOU HAVE NO NORMAL COUNTRY TO RETURN TO BY TOM SASTRY
PB - £9.99 - NINE ARCHES PRESS (POETRY)

Nothing's off the table in this interrogation of England's identity crisis. With trademark deadpan and pinpoint satire, Sastry tackles the difficult legacy of Empire, nationalism and its ties to the foundational myths of Englishness. Not content with easy answers, this collection explores the messiness of identity through portraits of family and friendship, dreamscapes and psychological journeys, questioning the ownership of the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves.

OUR 2022 FAVOURITES

NIC'S FAVE: WHAT HAPPENS AT NIGHT BY PETER CAMERON
PB - £8.99 - EUROPA EDITIONS (FICTION)

A troubled man and his ailing wife arrive in a cobbled European town and check into a hotel cloaked in faded grandeur. They've come to adopt a child from the nearby orphanage, but encounters with the hotel's extraordinary cast of characters threaten to derail their mission. Laced with the same mystery as the lichen schnapps served in the hotel's snug dim lit bar, this is a wry, unsettling and tremendously atmospheric novel.

JULIETTE'S FAVE: MY MESS IS A BIT OF A LIFE BY GEORGIA PRITCHETT
PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER (MEMOIR)

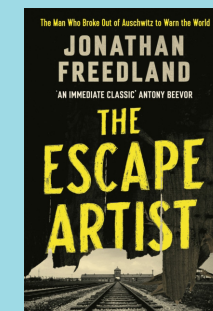
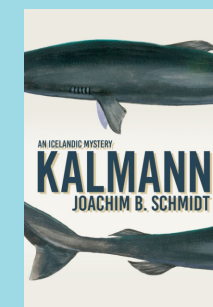
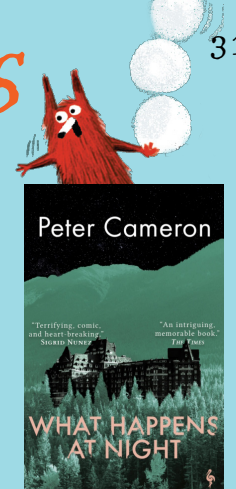
Writing scripts for a host of brilliant shows from *Spitting Image* to *VEEP*, Georgia Pritchett has made a life trail-blazing through a male-dominated world. So when she found herself wracked with anxiety and uncharacteristically lost for words, Pritchett's therapist suggested she write for herself. Told in vignettes and anecdotes, Pritchett details the hilarious and often heart-breaking moments in her life with British wit. A gloriously funny warts-n-all memoir that had me in bits.

LUC'S FAVE: KALMANN BY JOACHIM B. SCHMIDT
PB - £8.99 - BITTER LEMON PRESS (FICTION)

Rightly described as the 'Icelandic *Fargo*', this entertaining and quirky piece of Scandi crime sees self-styled sheriff, hunter, and fermented shark snack specialist Kalmann, pitched into the middle of a real life murder investigation. Set in the desolate landscape of rural Iceland, and filled with a supporting cast of eccentric characters, there is plenty of humour and warmth to balance the relentless cold and the sinister goings on.

TESS'S FAVE: THE ESCAPE ARTIST BY JONATHAN FREEDLAND
HB - £20 - JOHN MURRAY (HISTORY)

In April 1944, Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler became the first Jewish prisoners to escape from Auschwitz-Birkenau, hoping to alert the world to the Nazi killing machine. Freedland meticulously recounts the daring escape and unfathomable inaction that would follow the Vrba-Wetzler report, complicating our understanding of the 'good vs evil' rhetoric of the Holocaust. This remarkable story of survival, guilt and rage is a perfect read for fans of Philippe Sands and Max Hastings.






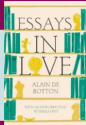



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We hope you've enjoyed dipping in to this year's offering of books! Don't forget, if you're not local to us you can head over to our online shop at WWW.MRBSEMPORIUM.COM where you can browse our book lists, and hop on to our 'Recommendation Station', where we are always on hand to help you find the perfect book.

Featured Lists

Here are some of our favourite book lists of the moment.



| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  <p>+30</p> |  <p>+7</p> |  <p>+5</p> |  <p>+29</p> |
| <p>Tom's 1,000 Books – The Books of My Decade of Reading</p> | <p>Loved Where The Crawdads Sing? Try These!</p> | <p>The Booker Prize 2022 Shortlist</p> | <p>Signed Books</p> |
| <p>BROWSE THE LIST</p> | <p>BROWSE THE LIST</p> | <p>BROWSE THE LIST</p> | <p>BROWSE THE LIST</p> |

10% DISCOUNT ON ALL TITLES IN THIS CATALOGUE FROM NOW UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY!

Finally, thank you to all our customers for your incredible support and custom this year. We hope you all have a wonderful festive season and can't wait to give you more recommendations in 2023!

MR B'S EMPORIUM OF READING DELIGHTS

13-15 JOHN STREET, BATH, BA1 2JL

WWW.MRBSEMPORIUM.COM

01225 331155

BOOKS@MRBSEMPORIUM.COM

THIS CATALOGUE WAS CREATED BY LOTTIE MAY AND TOM MOONEY AND EDITED BY KATE BROWN. THE REVIEWS WERE WRITTEN BY THE WHOLE MR B'S TEAM. THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN TO NADIA SHIREEN FOR HER BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS.

