

Mr B's EMPORIUM



Christmas Catalogue 2023

★ MERRY CHRISTMAS! ★

Merry Christmas and welcome to the Mr B's 2023 Christmas Catalogue! This is our biggest and best catalogue ever, with a bumper 114 books for you to browse, all selected and reviewed by our Mr B's team. You'll also find games, puzzles, and of course our iconic Mr B's Reading Gifts.

And our in-house publishing imprint, Fox, Finch and Tepper, has unearthed another gem of a book. We have just published *Winter Love* by Han Suyin, an explosive 1940s love story. You can find out more on the back cover!

We are sure you'll be able to find the perfect gift for your loved ones in these pages – and maybe a couple for yourself too. All the books, games and puzzles featured in the catalogue are available in store or on our website, with

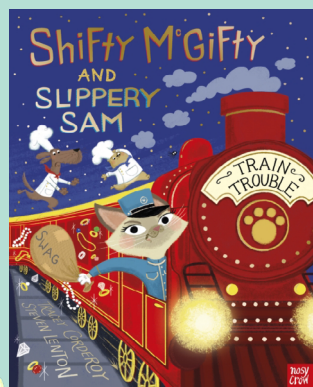
10% off right up until Christmas!

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 is due to our cover illustrator this year, the brilliant Steven Lenton. *The Shifty McGifty and Slippery Sam* series, which he created alongside Tracey Corderoy, has been a favourite of the shop team – and our customers – ever since they first appeared a decade ago, so we are thrilled to bring his delightful illustrations to our catalogue.



SHIFTY MCGIFTY AND SLIPPERY SAM: TRAIN TROUBLE!

by TRACEY CORDEROY
AND STEVEN LENTON

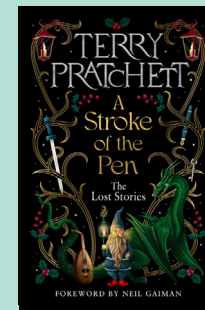
PB - £7.99 - NOSY CROW (AGE 2+)

Shifty and Sam, the famous burglars-turned-bakers, are delighted to be asked to bake on-board the Paw-rient Express, a prestigious locomotive travelling to Venice for carnival night. But oh no! Someone has stolen all the passengers' gems. Can Shifty and Sam catch the thief before it's too late? A brilliant rhyming picture book about cake, crime and carnivals!

FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

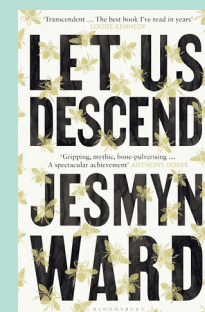
A STROKE OF THE PEN by TERRY PRATCHETT HB - £20 - DOUBLEDAY

Secreted in the archives of *The Western Daily Press*, 20 short stories laid dormant, waiting to be discovered by the keenest of observers. And so it was, that Pratchett's pseudonym, Patrick Kearns, was unearthed, gone unnoticed by his publisher and closest friends until now. Enclosed are tales of hauntings, inventors at the beginning of times, otherworldly visitors and bizarre weather. A magical collection rife with hints of what was to come.



LET US DESCEND by JESMYN WARD HB - £18.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Annis was born into slavery but has always dreamed of a free life in the wild. Her mother's stories protected her from the worst of the plantation's horrors, but now, as she is hellishly marched towards a Louisiana slave market, she finds herself visited by spirits of the land and the ghost of her warrior grandmother. A powerful new novel of lyrical beauty from a multiple award-winning author.



PROPHET SONG by PAUL LYNCH HB - £16.99 - ONEWORLD

The Irish government has lurched to the right, cracking down on protests and breaking trade unions. When Eilish's trade unionist husband disappears, her family's lives sink into a Kafkaesque nightmare. No longer able to renew her passport, fired from her job, and living in a country spiralling towards civil war, Eilish must fight to keep her children safe amidst escalating hostility and violence. A spectacular political dystopia for our time.

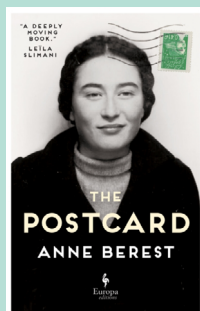


THE FRAUD by ZADIE SMITH HB - £20 - HAMISH HAMILTON

Literary superstar Zadie Smith returns with her first novel in six years: a historical tour-de-force that transports us to 19th century London. We find a place populated by Charles Dickens, William Ainsworth and the overlooked Eliza Touchet, a housekeeper who finds herself enthralled by a case of mistaken identity and the 'Trial of the Century'. Told with Smith's signature wit, charm, and intelligence, *The Fraud* is sure to dazzle fans both old and new.

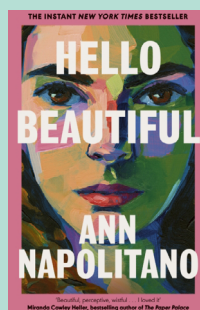


FAMILY DRAMAS



THE POSTCARD by ANNE BEREST HB - £18.99 - EUROPA EDITIONS

In 2003, Anne Berest's family received an anonymous postcard. On one side was the Opera Garnier in Paris, on the other, the names of the four members of her family who died at Auschwitz. In this stunning blend of novel and family history, Berest recreates the lives of Emma, Ephraïm, Jacques, and Noémie, to deliver a powerful and deeply moving story of family, war, and the confrontation of evil.



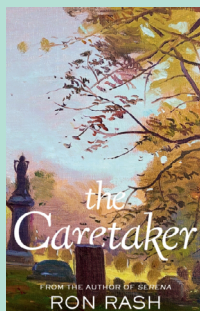
HELLO BEAUTIFUL by ANN NAPOLITANO HB - £16.99 - VIKING

1990s, Chicago. The four very different Padavano girls – Julia, Cecelia, Sylvie, and Emeline – are the beating heart of their Italian-American neighbourhood. But when William, an outsider with a dark past, falls in love with Julia, it opens a rift in this tight-knit family. Not only a subtle re-writing of *Little Women*, but also a tender, beautifully written saga that brims with life and love.



FAMILY LORE by ELIZABETH ACEVEDO HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE

Flor can predict when people will die. In fact, all the sisters in this Dominican-American family have gifts. When Flor organises a 'living wake' for their family, her sisters fear what it is she has seen in their future. Moving through both time and family generations, this is a smart and enchanting saga, infused with Latin American culture and rendered in Acevedo's vivid and poetic prose.



THE CARETAKER by RON RASH HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE

After being disinherited by his wealthy parents for marrying hotel maid Naomi, Jacob's life takes another turn when he is sent off to fight in Korea. He leaves his pregnant wife under the care of his friend Blackburn, a man haunted by his brush with polio. When Jacob returns, he finds a shocking series of lies has shattered all he left behind. A heart-rending small-town American tale filled with unforgettable characters.

WINTER IS COMING



STOLEN by ANN-HELÉN LAESTADIUS PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Elsa is a nine-year-old Sámi girl growing up in a community of indigenous reindeer herders in Arctic Sweden. Her childhood innocence is shattered when she witnesses the murder of her favourite reindeer. As time goes on, violent and racist attacks against the Sámi ramp up, getting ever closer to home. As Elsa grows, so does her pride in her people – and a burning need for justice for her family and community.



MISTLETOE MALICE by KATHLEEN FARRELL HB - £10 - FABER & FABER

“Do you really enjoy spending Christmas with your family? Or do they talk too much?” These are important questions that are inevitably asked by many each year during the festive season. Take solace in *Mistletoe Malice*, a hilarious portrait of a dysfunctional family's festivities as they reunite in their cliff-top cottage. A sumptuous rediscovered classic, perfect for fans of Barbara Pym and anyone who loved *The Feast*.



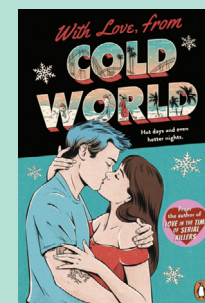
THE LONG SHADOW by CELIA FREMLIN PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER

Imogen's husband Ivor died in a car crash two months ago. When she answers the phone in the middle of the night to find herself accused of his murder, Imogen's life is thrown into chaos. Add to that the strange visitors that keep arriving to stay for Christmas and just won't leave, and you have the perfect dark and quirky winter mystery. A reissued crime classic worthy of comparison with Patricia Highsmith.

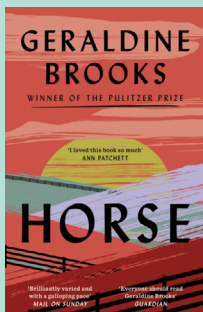


WITH LOVE, FROM COLD WORLD by ALICIA THOMPSON PB - £9.99 - TRANSWORLD

An icy winter-wonderland, smack bang in the middle of always-sunny Orlando, Florida. Two co-workers who can't stand each other. But with their workplace on the brink of ruin, Lauren and Asa will have to put their heated rivalry on ice in order to save their beloved Cold World. This unconventional winter romcom is deliciously wacky and full of Christmas charm.



HISTORICAL FICTION



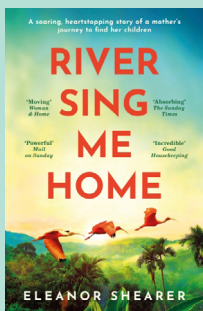
HORSE by GERALDINE BROOKS
PB - £9.99 - ABACUS

In mid-19th century Kentucky, as civil war looms, the champion stallion Lexington's fate becomes inextricably linked with that of his enslaved stable boy, Jarret. At the whim of a string of unscrupulous racehorse owners, Jarret's desperate bid for freedom comes at huge cost. Moving between Jarret's story and a heart-wrenching tale of love in the present day, this is a stunning tale of the echoes of slavery from a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.



THE TURNGLASS by GARETH RUBIN
HB - £16.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

1880s, Essex. 1930s, California. Two opulent glass houses dominate the coastlines on opposite sides of the world, 50 years apart. The events that occur in each will unravel the mysteries of one old-money, aristocratic English family. One of the most inventive, mind-bending mysteries of recent years, this tête-bêche novel – where two interlinked stories are printed back-to-back – will delight fans of Stuart Turton and Anthony Horowitz.



RIVER SING ME HOME by ELEANOR SHEARER
PB - £8.99 - HEADLINE

The year is 1834 and the law says Rachel, a former plantation slave, is free. But the only way she can feel true freedom is to set out on a treacherous journey across the Caribbean, in search of the five children who were taken from her and sold. This is a deeply moving and powerful debut novel of motherly love, set in the humid forests and plantations of 19th century Barbados and beyond.



A HISTORY OF BURNING by JANIKA OZA
HB - £16.99 - CHATTO & WINDUS

Porbandar, 1898. A young boy is tricked into indentured servitude and forced to make an impossible choice in the name of survival. Spanning one hundred years, five continents, and four generations, *A History of Burning* tells the story of an exiled Indo-Ugandan family trying to find their way home. Vast, intricate, and impossible to forget, this is bold storytelling on an epic scale, perfect for fans of *Pachinko*.

QUIRKY FICTION

REALLY GOOD, ACTUALLY by MONICA HEISEY
PB - £9.99 - FOURTH ESTATE

Maggie's marriage has ended 608 days after it began. Now a Surprisingly Young Divorcee (trademark still pending) diving headfirst into the terror of online dating, Maggie's taking terrible advice from her mates, engaging in ill-advised threesomes, and trying not to think too hard about where it all went wrong. Laugh-out-loud funny and painfully relatable, this sharp debut from a writer of *Schitt's Creek* will have you in stitches.



WELCOME TO THE HYUNAM-DONG BOOKSHOP by HWANG BO-REUM
HB - £14.99 - BLOOMSBURY

When burned-out Yeongju realises that her ambitious career and traditional marriage are not bringing her the joy or fulfilment she craves, she gives up her conventional life to open a bookshop on the outskirts of Seoul. After months of tears and hard work, she slowly discovers the healing power of books and creates a haven for writers, readers, and lost souls. A quirky, delightful novel about the power of bookshops.



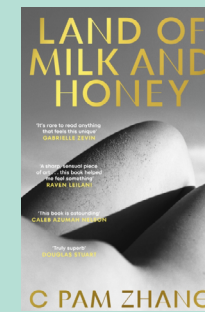
A LADY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE-HUNTING by SOPHIE IRWIN
PB - £8.99 - HARPER COLLINS

A regency romp perfect for brightening up a long winter evening. Kitty's parents have died, leaving her with huge debts. Needing to marry rich to protect her sisters' futures, Kitty sets her sights on London's high society. Shamelessly using every wit, charm, and trick available to her, true love doesn't get a look in – until her scheming meets its match. This is a hilarious, witty and romantic comedy of errors.



LAND OF MILK AND HONEY by C PAM ZHANG
HB - £16.99 - CORNERSTONE

In a world on the brink of full ecological collapse, a woman takes a mysterious job as chef to a millionaire and his daughter, who run a scientific institute in the Italian mountains. Living largely in isolation, she becomes obsessed by the culinary challenges she is tasked with and the reactions of her employers. A sharp, atmospheric novel of environmental collapse, control, sex, and desire.



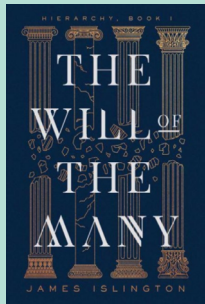


FANTASY & SCI-FI

EMILY WILDE'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF FAERIES by HEATHER FAWCETT PB - £9.99 - ORBIT

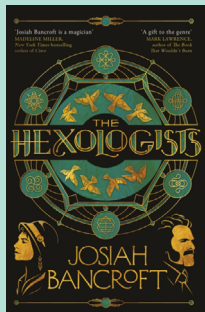
Cambridge professor Emily Wilde travels to the far north to aid her research in writing the world's first encyclopaedia of faerie lore. She's not there to make friends with the gruff townsfolk, and certainly isn't there to fall under the charms of her academic rival Wendell Bumbleby. But as Emily gets closer to uncovering the mysteries of the most elusive of all faeries, she realises Wendell has his own secrets.

THE WILL OF THE MANY by JAMES ISLINGTON HB - £20 - SIMON & SCHUSTER



Vis, an orphan with a shrouded past, is adopted by a powerful senator within the Hierarchy with the aim of being sent to the famed Catenan Academy, where he must uncover a suspected hidden agenda. But to excel in the Academy, Vis will have to become proficient in the use of Will, a power he has opposed his entire life. A brilliant opening to a powerful new series for Patrick Rothfuss fans.

THE HEXOLOGISTS by JOSIAH BANCROFT PB - £9.99 - ORBIT



The King wants to be baked into a cake... this is just the latest predicament the Hexologists find themselves in. Warren and Iz Wilby are no strangers to odd requests, helping clients all over the city with charmed relics and spells. As their latest mystery unfolds, they expose a buried royal secret, and face violent opposition. A wildly inventive new fantasy series, complete with a bookish dragon – what's not to love!

INFINITY GATE by M.R. CAREY PB - £9.99 - ORBIT



Scientist Hadiz Tambuwal is searching for a solution to climate collapse; the discovery she makes will change the fate of our planet and many others. Opening the multiverse, Hadiz plunges into a conflict between the Pandominion and the Ansurrection. Her actions will drag her lover into a brutal military machine, give hope to humanity, and sharpen the blade that will perform surgery upon the universe. An epic of scope and heart, action and intelligence.

CRIME & MYSTERY



EVERYBODY KNOWS by JORDAN HARPER PB - £8.99 - FABER & FABER

LA publicist Mae is used to burying stories to protect the rich and famous from scrutiny. But when her boss is gunned down outside a hotel, Mae takes a trip into the underbelly of the city to do just the opposite: bring this violent crime to light. Harper combines Michael Connelly's luscious LA setting with swaggering prose reminiscent of James Ellroy to create one of the great modern noir novels.



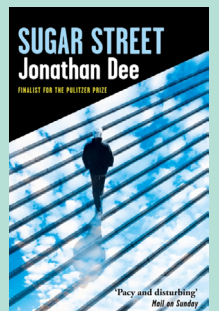
THE SCARLET PAPERS by MATTHEW RICHARDSON PB - £8.99 - MICHAEL JOSEPH

Max Archer is a history professor who has built a quiet yet satisfying life researching and penning books about his obsession: the Cambridge Spies. But when he receives an anonymous invitation, he is plunged into a real-life espionage adventure. Scarlet King, one of Britain's most elusive spies, has emerged from the shadows – and she wants Archer to tell her story. A pulsating spy thriller perfect for fans of Mick Herron.



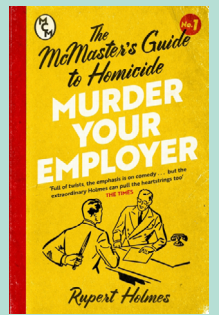
SUGAR STREET by JONATHAN DEE PB - £9.99 - CORSAIR

An unnamed narrator hits the road with \$170k in a bag and no destination in mind. All he knows is that he wants to escape his past and disappear; truly vanish from sight. But is that even possible in modern America, where nothing goes unseen, and everybody craves attention? A thrilling and darkly humorous novel that is political and philosophical but moves with the speed of a freight train.



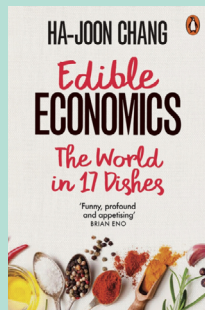
MURDER YOUR EMPLOYER by RUPERT HOLMES PB - £10.99 - HEADLINE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to get rid of that one person who makes your life a misery? Would the world be a better place, not just for you but for everyone around them? Welcome to the McMasters Conservatory for the Applied Arts, a 'Poison Ivy League' institution that will prepare you to discreetly delete the cause of your suffering. A clever and very mischievous mystery.





OUR WORLD



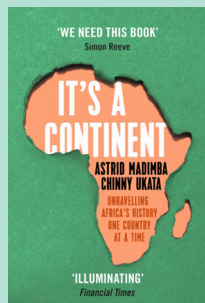
EDIBLE ECONOMICS by HA-JOON CHANG PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN (ECONOMICS)

Pairing okra with the history of unfreedom under capitalism, acorns with a study of how economic policies interact with culture, carrots with patent systems, and pasta with South Korea's economic success story, Ha-Joon Chang demonstrates that considering a range of economic perspectives is as beneficial and fun as eating food from across the world. A delicious dip into geopolitics, economics and how our view of world cultures is formed.



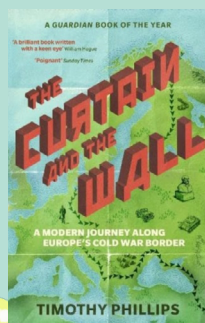
BAD DATA by GEORGINA STURGE PB - £10.99 - LITTLE, BROWN (POLITICS)

Gathering data for the purposes of informing and testing government policies has been normal practice since the Victorian era. But governments frequently get things wrong because they're using bad data, often unaware. Accessible and authoritative, *Bad Data* will equip you with understanding of how data is collected and used, the unintended consequences of target setting, and how statistics constrict policy making. You'll never again read the news in the same way.



IT'S A CONTINENT by ASTRID MADIMBA & CHINNY UKATA PB - £10.99 - CORONET (HISTORY)

An accessible and entertaining historical tour of Africa's 54 nations. From the Carthaginian Empire to the polarising figure of Gaddafi, by way of Mansa Musa (probably the richest man ever, whose gift-giving on pilgrimage to Mecca crushed the value of gold in Cairo), Doria Shafik (Egypt's feminist reformer), sexuality in pre-colonial Uganda, and the present-day effects of incomplete and disruptive decolonisation. This is a bold and entertaining reappraisal of untold history.



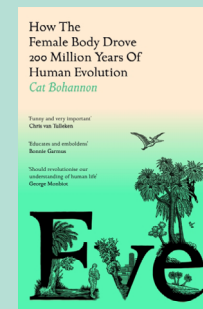
THE CURTAIN AND THE WALL by TIMOTHY PHILLIPS PB - £10.99 - GRANTA (TRAVEL)

Take a journey along the fault lines and through the shadow of the Cold War. Phillips uncovers the stories of people whose lives were shrouded by the Iron Curtain; from a countess whose garden wall became an international border, to an activist who crawled through a kill zone to steal an automatic firing device. Full of fascinating characters and incisive historical analysis, this is a journey through history sharply relevant to the present.

HISTORY

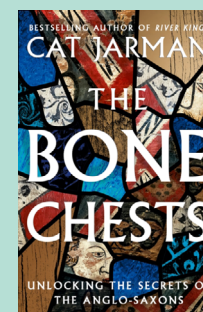
EVE by CAT BOHANNON HB - £25 - CORNERSTONE (HISTORY/SCIENCE)

Bohannon delves into 200 million years of biology and anthropology to explore the science behind the evolution of the female sex. Accessibly written and asking key questions, *Eve* interrogates many fascinating parts of the female anatomy, such as milk production, placental development, and the menopause, to discover how female evolution has shaped – and continues to shape – our lives. A celebration of womanhood, perfect for fans of *Sapiens*.



THE BONE CHESTS by CAT JARMAN HB - £25 - WILLIAM COLLINS (HISTORY)

Within Winchester Cathedral laid six chests. The extraordinary contents of these were made up of jumbled remains of those who helped or witnessed the creation of the Kingdom of Wessex, those who stood fast against the Viking threat, and those who played a part in the Norman conquest. Building on the work of a team of forensic archaeologists, Jarman explores who they were, why they were kept, and why in Winchester Cathedral?



THE RACE TO THE FUTURE by KASSIA ST CLAIR HB - £20 - JOHN MURRAY (HISTORY)

It's 1907 – the pivotal early years for the car and the late years of imperial rule in China and Russia. This is the backdrop for the first edition of the impossibly treacherous Peking-to-Paris automobile race. Five teams race across two continents in a rule-free race, competing for pride and a big bottle of champers. Roads fail to materialise, rivers need traversing and national rivalries are stoked, all of which St Clair crams into this breakneck account.



THE SHIP BENEATH THE ICE by MENSUN BOUND PB - £10.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (HISTORY)

More than a century after Ernest Shackleton's ship, *The Endurance*, succumbed to the brutal ice of Antarctica, the world's most famous shipwreck was finally found. Mensun Bound was Director of Exploration on the quest to find the ship and here he gives us the dramatic story of the team's adventures, as well as telling of Shackleton's legend. An amazing tale is brought to vivid life in this special book.



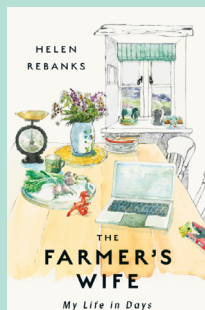
BIOGRAPHY



A MEMOIR OF MY FORMER SELF by HILARY MANTEL

HB - £25 - JOHN MURRAY (MEMOIR)

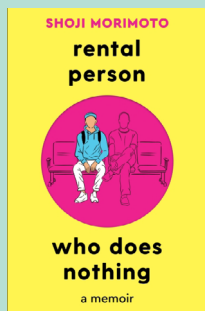
Hilary Mantel, who died last year, was best known for her novels, in particular the multi-Booker winning *Wolf Hall* series. But she was also an accomplished contributor to magazines, newspapers, and journals. This 'final' book collects her wonderful journalism, ranging in topic from her obsession with Thomas Cromwell, her personal health issues, life in Saudi Arabia, and much, much more. Essential reading for new and old fans alike.



THE FARMER'S WIFE by HELEN REBANKS

HB - £20 - FABER & FABER (MEMOIR/FOOD)

A beautifully illustrated portrait of Rebanks' life at her Lake District farm, capturing the unsung work of keeping home for her husband James and their four children... oh, and the six dogs, two ponies, 20 chickens, 50 cattle and 500 sheep. Alongside some delicious recipes, Rebanks shares how her daily routines have shaped her and offers insights into where our food comes from and the people involved in putting it on our tables.



RENTAL PERSON WHO DOES NOTHING by SHOJI MORIMOTO

HB - £14.99 - PICADOR (MEMOIR)

After his boss told him he was worthless, Morimoto quit his job and set up his Rental Person Who Does Nothing service, where he hires himself out to do... nothing! Need another player for a game? Someone to share a beer with? A park bench reserving? He's your man! Morimoto explores loneliness, the value of the individual, the cruelties of capitalism, and the peculiarities of Japanese culture in this heartwarming memoir.



ONCE UPON A TOME by OLIVER DARKSHIRE

PB - £10.99 - TRANSWORLD (MEMOIR/BOOKS)

Darkshire arrived for an interview at Sotheran's – one of the world's oldest bookshops – and found his home. This is a place filled with teetering stacks of old books, eccentric employees, mysterious cupboards... and apparently a resident ghost! Written with warmth and wit, this is the tale of one man's life among the bookshelves, as well as a love letter to anyone who knows the joy of old books.

HOBBIES



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 GAMES by MARCUS DU SAUTOY

HB - £22 - FOURTH ESTATE (MATHS)

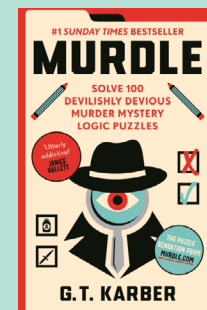
For as long as humans have existed, we have played games. In this fascinating history of one of humanity's oldest traditions, renowned mathematician du Sautoy investigates how games are integral not only to our psychology and culture, but also to our first foray into the study of mathematics. Learn how games have influenced mathematical investigation, and in turn, how maths can help you win games from *Connect 4* to *Catan*.



MURDLE by G.T. KARBER

PB - £14.99 - SOUVENIR PRESS (PUZZLES)

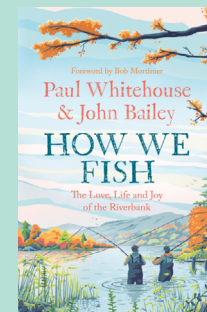
Calling all armchair detectives – this is the book for you! Help Deductive Logico solve a series of increasingly difficult logic puzzles to find out whodunnit. From grand chateaus to kitschy diners, and oil rigs to art museums, murder lurks around every corner. While Logico has the clues, the suspects, and the motives, he needs you to use your little grey cells to put them all together.



HOW WE FISH by PAUL WHITEHOUSE & JOHN BAILEY

HB - £22 - HARPER COLLINS (SPORT/MEMOIR)

Comedian and actor Paul Whitehouse has been a devoted fisherman for as long as he can remember – a hobby that led to his popular TV show *Gone Fishing* with friend and fellow comic Bob Mortimer. In this warm and funny book, he teams up with the show's fishing consultant John Bailey to bring us stories from the riverbank, as the pair unpack one of the world's most enduring pastimes.



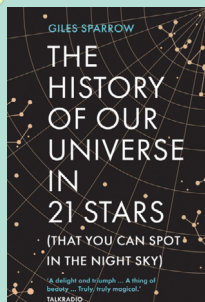
A HANDHELD HISTORY by LOST IN CULT

HB - £35 - HARPER COLLINS (HOBBIES)

Teeming with gorgeous illustrations and photographs, this nostalgic book chronicles the evolution of handheld gaming devices through the eyes of those who grew up with them. A collection of lovingly curated essays that follows the gaming industry from its humble beginnings in the aptly named 'Game & Watch' (a single game and a clock on an LCD screen), to the Internet compatible devices we now use to play multitudes of games.



FRONTIERS



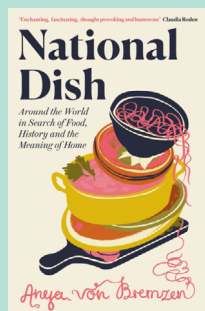
THE HISTORY OF OUR UNIVERSE IN 21 STARS by GILES SPARROW PB - £9.99 - WELBECK (SCIENCE)

Every star has a story. Here, we get a history of 21 of them, looking at what each of these flickers of light in the night sky can tell us about the birth, life, and death of our universe. From red giants to supernovae, from stellar cities to our own Sun, *The History of Our Universe in 21 Stars* shows how what we see when we look up can help us unravel the mysteries of the cosmos.



THE MAN WHO LOVED SIBERIA by ROY JACOBSEN & ANNELIESE PITZ HB - £25 - MACLEHOSE (ADVENTURE)

Norwegian novelist Roy Jacobsen, who gave us shop favourites *The Unseen* and *The Burnt-Out Town of Miracles*, joins forces with his wife Anneliese Pitz, to recount the 19th century adventures of Fritz Dörries, who traversed Siberia for two decades gathering and recording the fauna and flora he encountered. Based on Dörries' own account, this quasi-memoir is a love-letter to wilderness and a bombardment of thrilling escapades with bears, bandits and oh so much snow and ice.



NATIONAL DISH by ANYA VON BREMZEN HB - £22 - PUSHKIN PRESS (FOOD & DRINK)

How do certain foods become national dishes? This book grabs a fork and digs into this question, looking at the history of some of the world's most iconic fare. From Pizza Margherita in Naples to ramen in Tokyo, *National Dish* serves up concise, digestible history with a hearty side of sizzling sensory description. A joyful and inquisitive ode to our best loved dishes – this book is a food-lover's dream!



WANDERLUST: BRITISH & IRISH ISLES by GESTALTEN HB - £40 - GESTALTEN (TRAVEL)

Gestalten continues its inspirational series of guides to the world's best hiking trails with an in-depth look at what's on offer in our own backyard. Jaw-dropping photography of the landscape is accompanied by well-researched commentary on the history and features of our long-distance footpaths, from the South West Coast Path to the Scottish Highlands. Guaranteed to inspire all explorers, whether they're seasoned walkers or armchair travellers.

NATURE



THE GOLDEN MOLE by KATHERINE RUNDELL PB - £10.99 - FABER & FABER (NATURE)

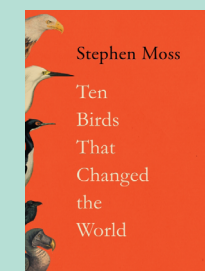
Welcome to the lives of some of Earth's most astonishing creatures. *The Golden Mole* is a perfect reminder of the magic of the natural world - each chapter is full of unbelievable facts, behaviours and mysteries surrounding each animal. Discover how seahorses change colour, hermit crabs swap shells and swifts migrate the globe while half asleep. A true celebration of species.



TEN BIRDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD by STEPHEN MOSS

HB - £16.99 - GUARDIAN FABER (NATURE)

The fates of humans and birds are inextricably linked. Here, one of our greatest nature writers examines the impact of birds on our culture through legends, politics, war and symbolism. Examining 10 key species – from Odin's faithful ravens and Darwin's finches, through wild American turkeys, to the emperor penguin – he enlightens us about their influence and details the pressures put upon them by climate change and human greed.



AN IMMENSE WORLD by ED YONG PB - £10.99 - VINTAGE (NATURE)

Discover the world as you've never seen it before - through the eyes of animals. Our world is teeming with sights and textures, smells and tastes... but how much of it do we really perceive? Taking us beyond the confines of our own senses, this magnificent book reveals the strange and mysterious ways that creatures interact with their surroundings – from scallops with 200 eyes, to crickets with ears for knees!



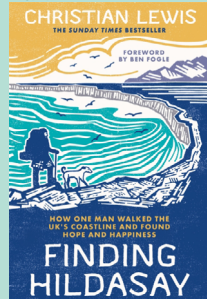
THE LOST RAINFORESTS OF BRITAIN by GUY SHRUBSOLE PB - £10.99 - WILLIAM COLLINS (NATURE)

Forget the Amazon - much of Britain's temperate climate is perfect for a beautiful rainforest ecosystem! When Shrubsole moved to Dartmoor and discovered tiny pockets of rainforest, he began a mission to identify, map and raise awareness for these amazing places, filled with luscious green mosses, lichen and ferns. A thought-provoking and award-winning work of inspiration.



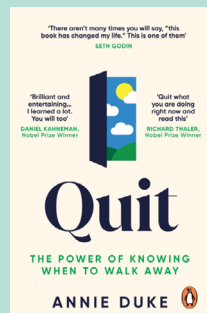


LIFE AFFIRMING



FINDING HILDASAY by CHRISTIAN LEWIS
PB - £10.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (TRAVEL)

Homeless and penniless, veteran Lewis felt the pull of the coast. With his canine companion in tow, he walked the entire UK coastline, a journey spanning several years that saw him rediscover his Irish roots, spend time in isolation on a Scottish island, and feature on Ben Fogle's *New Lives in the Wild* TV show. A humbling story of recovery and adventure, ideal for fans of *The Salt Path*.



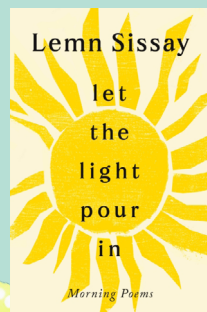
QUIT by ANNIE DUKE
PB - £10.99 - Ebury (PSYCHOLOGY)

To win at life, you have got to know when to quit. An ex-professional poker player-turned-consultant for big business, Duke reframes quitting as a positive and necessary solution to greater happiness and achieving both your professional and personal goals. An absorbing toolkit of a book filled with compelling case studies from the worlds of sport, finance, and entertainment. A game-changer for fans of Malcolm Gladwell and Daniel Kahneman.



THE CRANE WIFE
by CJ HAUSER
PB - £10.99 - VIKING (MEMOIR)

A bold, smart, and frank memoir-in-essays about love, family, friendships, and motherhood from an author who isn't afraid to overshare. Like about the time she went travelling to study whooping cranes 10 days after calling off her wedding, or confessional vignettes on kissing internet strangers. This funny, tender book delivers profound reflections about modern culture love and grief, perfect for fans of Nora Ephron.



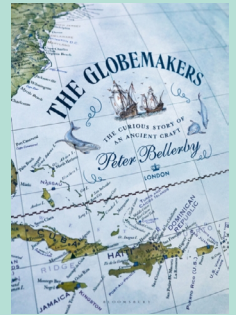
LET THE LIGHT POUR IN by LEMN SISSAY
HB - £12.99 - CANONGATE (POETRY)

For the past ten years Lemn Sissay has composed a poem each day as dawn breaks. *Let the Light Pour In* works the best of these into a collection of daily affirmations that radiate hope and wonder in times of darkness. We see Sissay battle his personal demons throughout, wrestling with the weight of the world in pursuit of a defiant and radical joy. A perfect uplifting read from one of the nation's favourite poets.

MAKERY

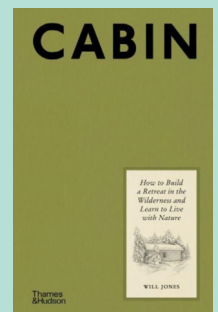
THE GLOBEMAKERS by PETER BELLERBY
HB - £25 - BLOOMSBURY (CRAFT)

Peter Bellerby just wanted a special globe for his father's 80th birthday... he ended up reviving a forgotten craft. This inspirational story follows his pursuit for perfection, as he not only builds his father's globe but finds the world's only bespoke globe-making business. Full of the passion for his meticulous and intricate work, the book is gorgeously illustrated and is perfect for anyone interested in craftsmanship, art history and the world.



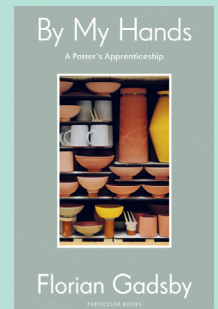
CABIN by WILL JONES
HB - £20 - THAMES & HUDSON
(ARCHITECTURE)

This is the story of how Will Jones moved with his family from London to the Canadian wilderness, and how he built his perfect cabin. It is also a hymn to cabin-lovers everywhere, a history of cabin building and living, and a tribute to the great cabins of the past. Full of beautiful illustrations, this gorgeous book does for cabins what *Norwegian Wood* did for wood stacks.



BY MY HANDS by FLORIAN GADSBY
HB - £30 - PENGUIN (CRAFT)

Join 'the internet's favourite potter' Florian Gadsby in this ode to domestic, everyday objects. Gadsby takes the likes a hand-thrown mug or bowl and shows just how they can make life more meaningful. From England to Ireland then Japan, he moulds the story of these items around that of his life and artistic awakening, and declares the value of devoting one's life to a craft. Perfect for fans of Edmund de Waal.



THE SECRET OF COOKING by BEE WILSON
HB - £28 - FOURTH ESTATE (FOOD & DRINK)

Your new kitchen classic. Much more than a collection of recipes, this foodies' dream companion explores why we cook, and honours the chefs that have come before; the many influences that everyone builds on. Mixing insightful food writing with scrumptious recipes as tools to bring out the best cook in everyone, this collection will sit perfectly on your cookbook shelf alongside Diana Henry and Anna Jones.



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PUZZLES & GAMES

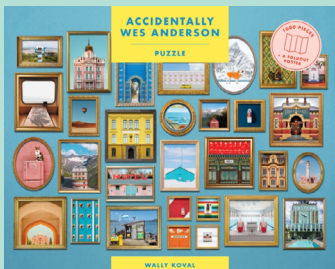


ACCIDENTALLY WES ANDERSON: PUZZLE

by WALLY KOVAL

PUZZLE - £19.99 - LAURENCE KING

More luxurious than an afternoon spent at The Grand Budapest Hotel, this puzzle is the missing piece on the coffee table of any jigsaw aficionado, film buff or Wes Anderson fan. The pieces reveal a wall of ornate frames containing photos printed in the *Accidentally Wes Anderson* book, from the London Aquatics Centre and the Singapore Changi Airport to the Post Office at the End of the World in Argentina.



SPOTS by JON PERRY GAME - £24.99 - CMYK GAMES

Match the spots on your dice to the spots on your dogs! If you don't roll the right numbers, don't panic – use treats or perform tricks to change your dice, or bury unwanted numbers in your backyard. Be the first to complete your pack of spotted dogs to win the game. A deceptively simple but endlessly engaging game full of adorable artwork and individually named dogs! What more could you want?



FLAMECRAFT by MANNY VEGA

& SANDARA TANG

GAME - £38.99 - LUCKY DUCK

Find your individual tiny dragons their dream jobs in this adorable game made with so much love and attention it would be a joy to play for the art alone. Thankfully, it's also a fun head-scratcher of a challenge in strategy and luck. Draw dragon cards, place them in local shops like 'Draco Bell' and 'Critical Rolls', and build your reputation as the ultimate Flamekeeper. Perfect for fans of *Everdell's* play style.



HEAT by ASGER HARDING GRANERUD

& DANIEL SKJOLD PEDERSEN

GAME - £61.99 - DAYS OF WONDER

Play cards from your hand to try and cross the line first, in this high-octane racing game. Shift gears to play more cards and get the jump on your opponents – but watch out for those tight corners at high speed or your dreams of standing on the podium will turn to dust! This is loads of frantic fun with a good smattering of strategy to boot.



KIDS VISUAL NON-FICTION



THE SECRET MOUNTAIN by KAJA KAJFEŽ

HB - £12.99 - SCHOLASTIC (AGE 5+)

Prepare to be taken on a magical interactive journey in this gorgeous children's book. Travel through dozens of luscious nature scenes, watch animals forage, play, and hunt. Featuring snow leopards, llamas, red pandas and more - what can you spot? Highlighting Kaja Kajfež's stunning and unique illustrations, *The Secret Mountain* is the most beautiful search & find book you are ever likely to come across.



EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN

by MOLLY OLDFIELD

PB - £16.99 - LADYBIRD (AGE 8+)

Want to know where ideas come from? Ask Rob Biddulph! What does Benjamin Zephaniah have to say about Prime Ministers? What can Heston Blumenthal tell us about food? This book has the answers to these questions and hundreds more. Compiled by Molly Oldfield – one of the original *QI* Elves – and featuring dozens of contributors and illustrators, this will keep curious kids questioning the world around them throughout the year.

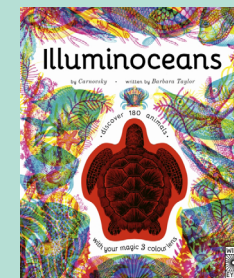


ILLUMINOCEANS

by BARBARA TAYLOR & CARNOVSKY

HB - £20 - WIDE EYED EDITIONS (AGE 7+)

Get ready to dive beneath the surface and encounter the creatures, seascapes, and surprising underwater features of all of Earth's oceans. From the mighty Pacific to the polar seas, use the included magic three-colour lens to explore fin-tastic fish and tentacled titans, all rendered in bold, vibrant images and informative detail. Continent by continent, ocean by ocean, and layer by layer, *Illuminoceans* is the ocean like you've never seen it before!



A WHALE OF A TIME

by LOU PEACOCK & MATT HUNT

HB - £25 - NOSY CROW (AGE 6+)

This stunning collection of poetry, featuring a wide range of contributors, has a poem for every day of the year that is guaranteed to have you belly-laughing. There are poems from Maya Angelou, Brian Bilston, Wendy Cope, Roald Dahl, Edward Lear, Spike Milligan, Michael Rosen, Benjamin Zephaniah and many more. Beautifully illustrated and full of love and laughter, this will make a great Christmas gift for any child.





PICTURE BOOKS



THE BOY WHO BROUGHT THE SNOW
by HOLLIE HUGHES & ANNA WILSON
PB - £7.99 - BLOOMSBURY (AGE 3+)

Find your seasonal sparkle with this stunning rhyming storybook. Quinn is in search of a home on the all-too-drab city streets when he discovers a magical snow globe with the power to change not only his life, but the lives of all around him. With the first snowfall comes the best thing Quinn could ever have wished for. A beautifully illustrated Christmas tale full of wonder and warmth.



THE LITTLEST YAK
by LU FRASER & KATE HINDLEY
PB - £7.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (AGE 3+)

Little Gertie and her family of yaks are moving on from their mountain home. But how is Gertie going to fit all of her belongings on her sledge? There is just too much! Things get worse when one member of the family gets left behind... will they make it home again? A heartwarming and adorable story about how a home is so much more than what you own.



MOOMIN MAIL by AMANDA LI
& FILIPPA WIDLUND
HB - £14.99 - PAN MACMILLAN (AGE 3+)

Ever fancied receiving a postcard from Moominpappa? Want to know what Little My would write about if she had her own book? Would you like to know Moominmamma's perfect pancake recipe? Discover all this and more as Tove Jansson's iconic characters are brought to vivid life in this interactive book for young readers. A delightful slice of fun that combines Moomin magic with the format of *The Jolly Postman*.



CLIVE PENGUIN by HUW LEWIS JONES
& BEN SANDERS
HB - £12.99 - LITTLE TIGER (AGE 3+)

Clive lives in a big penguin huddle in the South Pole, but he still cannot get warm enough. One day he spots the perfect accessory, but will it solve his problem, or simply create a new one? Full of the kind of humour familiar to Jon Klassen fans, this quirky story is great fun for kids and parents alike, and will have you chuckling through your Christmas pudding.

YOUNG READERS



ADVENTUREMICE: MICE ON THE ICE
by PHILIP REEVE & SARAH MCINTYRE
PB - £6.99 - DAVID FICKLING (AGE 5+)

The legendary storytelling duo are back with this cute story of mice, ice, and friendship. Pedro has worked hard to join the ranks of the Adventuremice, the fearless team tasked with protecting the Mouse Islands from harm. Now, the Frost Fair is coming to town! When unexpected snowfall threatens the fair, Pedro and his pals must gather all their wits to save the day!



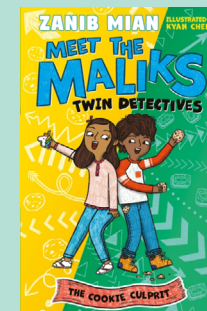
HUXLEY AND FLAPJACK by ALAN MACDONALD &
FRANCESCA GAMBATESA
PB - £6.99 - LITTLE TIGER (AGE 5+)

Unlikely companions Huxley the koala and Flapjack the penguin are complete opposites when it comes to adventures. Excited to spend their pocket money, they set off to the new department store in town. Huxley will need all the help he can get from his best friend Flapjack when he gets caught up with a thief. Will he be able to prove he isn't the real robber? A super cute chapter book for early readers.



MEET THE MALIKS
by ZANIB MIAN & KYAN CHENG
PB - £6.99 - HODDER (AGE 7+)

Maysa and Musa are twins – but that's where their similarities end. Musa's the good one, Maysa's the naughty one, and everyone knows it. When a cookie-baking competition at the mosque ends up in crumbs, Maysa gets the blame. Now the twins must team up and, with the help of their neighbour Norman, find out who the real culprit is. Hilarious, warm, and mysterious, this is a perfect new series for fans of *Tom Gates*.



BEAR AND BIRD: THE STARS AND OTHER STORIES by JARVIS
HB - £9.99 - WALKER BOOKS (AGE 5+)

Best friends Bear and Bird are always on the lookout for fun and new buddies in this collection of offbeat and charmingly illustrated adventures. There are misunderstandings over tortoises and cake catastrophes abound in these sweet tales perfect for early readers in search of their new favourite characters. Get ready for plenty of kind-hearted misunderstandings that have the classic feel of *Frog and Toad*.



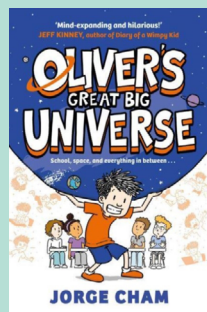


CHILDREN'S FICTION



FINDING WONDER by LAUREN ST JOHN
PB - £7.99 - FABER & FABER (AGE 9+)

Roo's father is gone, but in his coat pocket she discovers a lottery ticket that will change her life forever. To fulfil his final wish and 'grab life by the wings and fly,' Roo decides to buy her dream horse, a fiery showjumper named Wonder Boy. When Wonder vanishes without a trace, the race to save him begins. Mysterious and full of adventure, this is a brilliant new novel from the queen of animal stories.



OLIVER'S GREAT BIG UNIVERSE
by JORGE CHAM
HB - £12.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (AGE 8+)

Oliver is 11 years old and has a new school, new friends, and an annoying sister to deal with. About the only thing he can really make sense of is science - he's obsessed with space and can tell you pretty much everything about it! Funny, engaging, and packed with space facts, this is a great new diary-format series for readers of *Tom Gates* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.



THE KINGDOM OVER THE SEA
by ZOHRA NABI & TOM CLOHOSY COLE
PB - £7.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (AGE 9+)

Yara is left a cryptic note from her mother, which offers hints about her family's past. She must journey to Zehaira, a place you won't find on any map. It is a land full of thieves, djinns, and alchemists, where Yara will find out the truth, once and for all. This brilliant story is a magical door to a faraway place, an enchanting adventure for fans of Sophie Anderson and Eva Ibbotson.



TAPPER WATSON AND THE QUEST FOR THE NEMO MACHINE by CLAIRE FAYERS
PB - £7.99 - FIREFLY PRESS (AGE 8+)

Prepare yourself for the strangest, funniest science fiction adventure story of the year! Tapper Watson is no hero, he just reads about them in his books, safely in his own world. But when he ends up on a wild adventure to Earth, he is forced to reckon with everything he thinks he knows... as assassin lobsters chase him and his ragtag group of scoundrels through space.



CHILDREN'S FICTION

IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES
by KATHERINE RUNDELL
HB - £14.99 - BLOOMSBURY (AGE 9+)

When Christopher sees hordes of magical beings racing down the hill towards him, he realises his grandfather has some pretty huge secrets. What follows is a truly epic adventure, filled with mystical creatures and wonderful characters, set in the last magical place on earth - The Archipelago. He will encounter unicorns, griffins, selkies, and so much more in this timeless story from queen of imagination Rundell.



HER MAJESTY'S LEAGUE OF REMARKABLE YOUNG LADIES by ALISON D. STEGERT
PB - £7.99 - CHICKEN HOUSE (AGE 9+)

Winnie, girl-genius and awesome inventor, is the latest addition to the Queen's League of Remarkable Young Ladies, a job she was made for. When it emerges that someone is stalking Her Majesty, it is up to Winnie and her charges to stop them. And perhaps she might get a shot at winning a top prize for inventors along the way! The next great historical murder mystery, perfect for fans of *Murder Most Unladylike*.



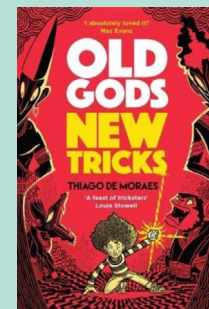
ARKSPIRE by JAMIE LITTLER
PB - £7.99 - PUFFIN (AGE 9+)

Enter the world of Arkspire, an enchanted place where five Arcanists - a group of all powerful magicians - have protected the Great City since forever. We follow Juniper, a cheeky, fiery thief who steals an enchanted relic, releasing a mysterious creature and causing mayhem of the highest order. Soon Juniper and everyone she loves is pulled into an extraordinary quest of magic, power, and prestige.



OLD GODS NEW TRICKS by THIAGO DE MORAES
PB - £7.99 - DAVID FICKLING (AGE 8+)

Trixie knows that the Gods have stolen electricity from Earth. She knows it like she knows the sky is blue. But she will need the help of trickster gods from all different cultures to help her break into the home of the Gods and save electricity. Brilliant storytelling combined with awesome illustrations make this the perfect adventure for fans of *Loki* and *Who Let the Gods Out*.





GRAPHIC NOVELS



MAX & CHAFFY: SEARCH FOR THE ICE CHAFFY
by JAMIE SMART
PB - £6.99 - DAVID FICKLING (AGE 4+)

Max lives on Animal Island with their funny animal friends, including Foghorn the grumpy sailor, Crumbles the clumsy baker, Chief Constable Moose, and the elusive Chaffy. When the island has a very snowy day, Max sets off to find the rarest Chaffy of all – can you help find it? The creator of the bestselling *Bunny vs Monkey* and *Looshkin* is back with this unbelievably cute and fun new series.



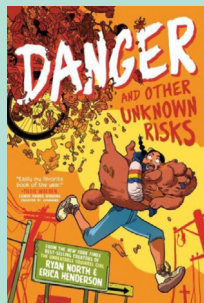
SQUIRE & KNIGHT by SCOTT CHANTLER
PB - £12.99 - FIRST SECOND (AGE 7+)

Squire is an intelligent, bookish lad who lives in the shadow of his inept boss, Sir Kelton. When the pair stumble upon a village plagued by a fearsome dragon, Kelton immediately rides off into battle, leaving Squire behind to catch up on some reading. But, as Squire quickly discovers, not everything is as it seems in this strange place. A brilliant, funny adventure, fronted by a memorable double-act.



SQUISHED by MEGAN WAGNER LLOYD
& MICHELLE MEE NUTTER
PB - £10.99 - SCHOLASTIC US (AGE 9+)

All 11-year-old Avery Lee wants is her own bedroom, where she can make art without being interrupted by her six siblings. So, when her parents give her older brother Theo his own room, moving her baby brother in with her and her sisters, Avery decides enough is enough. A funny and heartfelt graphic novel that will delight fans of *The Babysitters Club*, *Making Friends* and *Smile*.



DANGER AND OTHER UNKNOWN RISKS
by RYAN NORTH & ERICA HENDERSON
PB - £14.99 - PENGUIN PUTNAM (AGE 12+)

At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, 1999, the world as we knew it ended. But it wasn't technology that destroyed civilisation – it was magic. Years later, the world is a very different place, splintered into a series of realms that are becoming increasingly unstable. It's up to Marguerite de Pruitt and her dog Daisy to restore balance to the realms and save the world.

TEEN & YOUNG ADULT



THIEVES' GAMBIT by KAYVION LEWIS
PB - £8.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (AGE 13+)

Rosalyn is a member of the legendary Quest family, a prolific and highly skilled collection of thieves. When a heist goes catastrophically wrong, leaving her mother's life hanging in the balance, Rosalyn is forced to enter the Thieves' Gambit – a dangerous international heist competition where the prize might solve all her problems. Thrilling, cinematic and packed with epic twists, this is guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat.



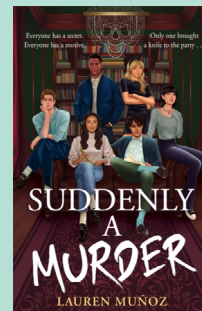
HIDEKI SMITH: DEMON QUELLER
by A. J. HARTLEY
PB - £8.99 - UCLAN (AGE 13+)

Meet Caleb Hideki Smith. He hates being half-Japanese and living in his American hometown, wanting nothing more than to blend into the crowd. But when he discovers an ancient shrine and fox spirits while walking in the Great Smokey Mountains, everything changes and suddenly fitting in is the least of his problems. This unpredictable and exciting story is full of Japanese folklore, samurai fights, and mystery.



SUDDENLY A MURDER by LAUREN MUNOZ
PB - £8.99 - HOT KEY BOOKS (AGE 14+)

When Izzy joins her best friend on a 1920s themed getaway to celebrate the end of high school, life seems perfectly carefree and glamorous... until secrets start to come out and blood is shed. Someone brought a knife to the party, and no one can be trusted. A brilliantly twisty murder mystery that calls to mind *Knives Out*, *Only Murders in the Building* and *One of Us is Lying*.



SING IF YOU CAN'T DANCE by ALEXIA CASALE
PB - £8.99 - FABER & FABER (AGE 12+)

Ven has her future all planned out. An accomplished and passionate dancer, she takes to the stage for the solo performance of her life. Then she suddenly collapses, and life will never be the same. Ven must learn to cope with a medical condition that threatens everything she knows, in this beautiful and uplifting tale of resilience.

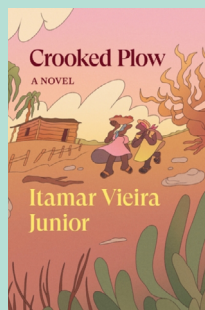


OUR 2023 FAVOURITES



TOM M'S FAVE: THE SHARDS by BRET EASTON ELLIS PB - £10.99 - SWIFT PRESS (FICTION)

One of literature's great provocateurs returns with this sensational coming-of-age novel about sex, violence and privilege in California. A semi-fictional version of Bret looks back on his final year at Buckley College in LA – a time of drugs and excess, sexual awakening and late 80s nihilism. And all the while a maniacal serial killer stalks the San Fernando Valley... Visceral, indulgent and unique – in other words, classic Bret Easton Ellis.



ROHAN'S FAVE: CROOKED PLOW by ITAMAR VIEIRA JUNIOR PB - £10.99 - VERSO (FICTION)

The machine of Brazilian industry pushes ever deeper into the country's hinterlands. The Quilombola, descendants of runaway slaves, are uprooted from their rural communities and must toil on new plantations as indentured servants to survive. This spellbinding saga follows the lives of two sisters and their fight for the right to exist on the land of their ancestors.



EMMA'S FAVE: THE VASTER WILDS by LAUREN GROFF HB - £20 - CORNERSTONE (FICTION)

17th century, Jamestown. A young servant girl flees her settlement and runs straight into the unknown and unforgiving wilderness, rather than face the men pursuing her. Only in this harsh landscape can she come to terms with how fleeting human life is, how powerful and almighty the natural world, and how daunting the unwavering greed of men. Astoundingly beautiful and brutally brave, I can't stop thinking about it.



BECKY'S FAVE: IN MEMORIAM by ALICE WINN HB - £14.99 - VIKING (FICTION)

Henry and Sidney are best friends at a prestigious school who, as war rumbles on, enlist and follow each other to the front line. Brilliant prose, a haunting depiction of queer love, and an ability to humanise both sides of the battle shine through in this harrowingly beautiful tale of WW1 and the forbidden romance that blooms in its grip. This stunning debut novel is painful, raw, and horrifically real.

OUR 2023 FAVOURITES

LAURA'S FAVE: TITANIUM NOIR by NICK HARKAWAY HB - £18.99 - CORSAIR (FICTION)

Cal Sounder works with the special crimes unit for hush-hush cases involving Titans, the elite class of über-humans. Titans have money, power and physical size to match a rhino, but they never wind-up dead. Until now. Cal's search for answers sends him on a monster hunt laden with designer drugs, fists like bricks and damsels holding their own. The first in a planned series, this fun techno-noir is Raymond Chandler-meets-*Sin City*.



HENRY'S FAVE: PERILOUS TIMES by THOMAS D. LEE HB - £16.99 - ORBIT (FICTION)

Whenever England is in Peril, Sir Kay and his fellow knights of the round table emerge from the earth with the sole task of fixing things. They were at Agincourt, they were at the Somme, they have fought, killed, and died to protect the realm. This time it's a dragon, although that seems to be just the start of their problems. Ideal for those that loved *The Stranger Times*.



RHIAN'S FAVE: DRIFT by CARYL LEWIS PB - £9.99 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

Nefyn lives in the windswept cottage in which she was born, with her twin brother, on the cliff above a Welsh cove. Five miles up the road, in a military prison, Hamza dreams of a country and a family he may never see again. Fate and a storm will change their lives, and yours, forever. Heartbreakingly beautiful, this lyrical, dreamy novella has all the makings of a modern classic.

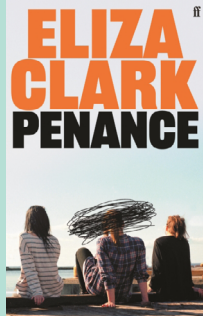


HANNAH'S FAVE: THE ISLES OF THE GODS by AMIE KAUFMAN HB - £16.99 - ONEWORLD (TEEN 12+)

Selly just wants to sail the seas with her father's fleet, but she's tasked with delivering the Prince to the Isles of the Gods to make a world-changing sacrifice. A multi-perspective seafaring adventure with sleeping gods, a charming prince, a determined sailor, and a future scholar, *The Isles of the Gods* just left me with that hungry yet completely satisfied feeling that a great book should. I wanted to swallow it in chunks and not come up for air.



OUR 2023 FAVOURITES



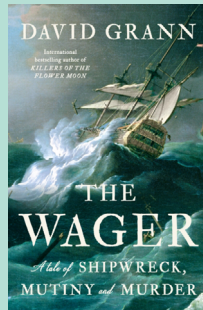
NETHMI'S FAVE: PENANCE by ELIZA CLARK
HB - £14.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

It's been almost a decade since 16-year-old Joan Wilson was murdered by three schoolmates, devastating the community of Crow-on-Sea. The case has faded into obscurity, overlooked in favour of more notable crimes. Now a struggling journalist decides to write a definitive account of the horrific incident and the circumstances leading up to it. But with conflicting accounts and rumours abound, how much can we really trust this version of events?



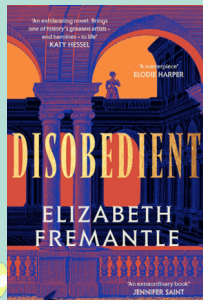
LIV'S FAVE: ROMANTIC COMEDY
by CURTIS SITTENFELD
HB - £16.99 - DOUBLEDAY (FICTION)

An unlucky-in-love comedy writer. A pop star who dates models. In a film, sparks would fly, and they'd fall in love. But in real life, why would someone like him ever fall for someone like her? Skewering our preconceptions about love, *Romantic Comedy* is wholly deserving of its tongue-in-cheek title. A sharp, self-aware novel that delivers both swoon-worthy romance and laugh-out-loud comedy.



TOM B'S FAVE: THE WAGER by DAVID GRANN
HB - £20 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (HISTORY)

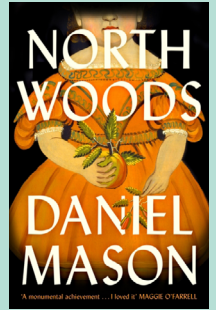
In 1741, a storm maroons the crew of *The Wager* off the coast of Chile; a series of mutinies and rebellions brew as the crewmates fight for survival against the hostile landscape... and each other. Using a variety of primary sources, Grann pieces together the messy and often contradicting accounts of the crew to give us an up-to-date and fresh account of one of Britain's most enticing seafaring legends.



LOTTIE'S FAVE: DISOBEY
by ELIZABETH FREMANTLE
HB - £18.99 - MICHAEL JOSEPH (FICTION)

1611, Rome. The Italian Renaissance has placed this great city at the centre of the world. But the freedom of artistic expression is reserved for men, and even Artemisia Gentileschi's unparalleled talent as a painter cannot free her from the constraints of society. Unbelievably gripping and told with dazzling prose, this novel remarkably recreates the dusty, stifling world of Gentileschi's Rome, and the brutality hidden within its narrow, sunbaked streets.

OUR 2023 FAVOURITES



KATRINA'S FAVE: NORTH WOODS
by DANIEL MASON

HB - £16.99 - JOHN MURRAY (FICTION)

A stunningly immersive, haunting, and timeless dive into the imagined history of one house in the woods of New England. Across 400 years, this house plays host to characters all linked by the refuge it provides, its adjoining apple orchard, the dangers of the woods, lost loves, family legacy, hidden bones, and secrets. Told with an imaginative dark humour, *North Woods* is a novel both beautifully told and hugely entertaining.

AMY'S FAVE: THE LAND OF LOST THINGS
by JOHN CONNOLLY

HB - £18.99 - HODDER & STOUGHTON (FICTION)

Ceres' daughter Phoebe lies comatose following a terrible accident. At her daughter's bedside day and night, Ceres can feel herself starting to break. After wandering into an old house on the hospital's estate, Ceres is suddenly pulled into a strange land filled with hints of childhood memories and dark fables. This is a novel brimming with magic, grief, hope, and Connolly's love of language.



SAM'S FAVE: MAGNIFICENT REBELS
by ANDREA WULF

PB - £12.99 - JOHN MURRAY (BIOGRAPHY)

We think with their minds and feel with their emotions; our concept of self-determination is theirs. In a single decade the 'Jena Set' – a collective of philosophers, poets, and scientists – changed the course of Western literature and thought. This group biography invites you into their world: a late 18th century Europe at war, with echoes of the French Revolution in the air and everything changing apace. A true intellectual drama and an absolute must-read.



SOFFI'S FAVE: CHAIN-GANG ALL-STARS
by NANA KWAME ADJEI-BRENYAH

HB - £18.99 - HARVILL SECKER (FICTION)

A brutal depiction of exploitation in the US prison system, this close-to-home dystopia is a tale of survival while the whole world is watching. Viewed by millions, prisoners fight like gladiators for the ultimate prize: their freedom. This is *The Hunger Games*-meets-*The Handmaid's Tale* with a huge amount of swagger and ferocity, but written with a distinct empathy and intellect that makes it one of the year's most astonishing reads.



OUR 2023 FAVOURITES



SUE'S FAVE: HOW TO BUILD A BOAT by ELAINE FEENEY

HB - £16.99 - HARVILL SECKER (FICTION)

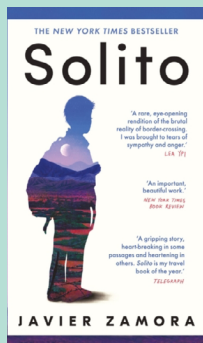
Young Jamie loves the colour red, Edgar Allan Poe... and his Dad. He has a beautiful, neuro-diverse mind yet struggles to belong. Jamie longs to build a perpetual motion machine to try to reach his mother, who died at his birth. His quest unites pupils and teachers alike before inspiring the wider community. This joyful book is written with great tenderness and humour, while celebrating the joy and messiness of human connections.



TOM H'S FAVE: WHEN GHOSTS COME HOME by WILEY CASH

PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

Puncturing the still night of small-town America, a plane crash in the early hours summons ailing sheriff, Winston Barnes, to the scene of the accident only to be greeted with an empty plane and a dead body. Wiley Cash's lyrical and tender prose weave together a gripping tale of racism and corruption with the vulnerability of a grieving family, to create a novel that's far greater than the sum of its parts.



LEAH'S FAVE: SOLITO by JAVIER ZAMORA

PB - £10.99 - ONEWORLD (MEMOIR)

Javier's parents moved to America from their home in El Salvador years ago, and always promised they'd send for him. For so long he's fantasised about going to McDonald's and swimming in his very own pool. Now, aged nine, he finally sets off – on foot and in the company of a paid coyote – on a journey where he will learn that family isn't just about who you're related to.



CHARLOTTE'S FAVE: THE MILKY WAY SMELLS OF RUM AND RASPBERRIES by DR JILLIAN SCUDDER

PB - £10.99 - ICON (SCIENCE)

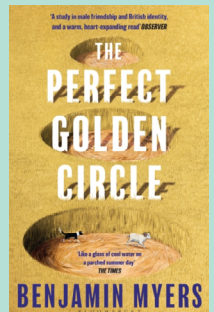
Join the celebrated astrophysicist Julia Scudder as she takes you on a wild and offbeat tour of the universe. Find out why the galaxy is flatter than a credit card; how supermassive black holes can sing a super-low B flat; why it rains iron on a brown dwarf, and diamonds on Neptune. Accessible, fun and full of incredible facts, this will satisfy the curiosity of all the space freaks out there.

OUR 2023 FAVOURITES

ED'S FAVE: THE PERFECT GOLDEN CIRCLE by BENJAMIN MYERS

PB - £8.99 - BLOOMSBURY (FICTION)

1980s, the West Country. In the summer heat, two curmudgeonly old friends are busy confounding the 'experts' and world media, designing ever more complex crop circles and painstakingly treading them out in the dead of night. Without an ounce of fluff or sappiness, Myers paints a humorous picture of friendship and protest, set against a backdrop of cornfields by moonlight. If you loved *The Detectivists*, or lived through the nuttiness of this period, you will adore this book.



LUC'S FAVE: BETWEEN DOG AND WOLF by KRISTINA GORCHEVA-NEWBERRY

PB - £12.99 - THE INDIGO PRESS (FICTION)

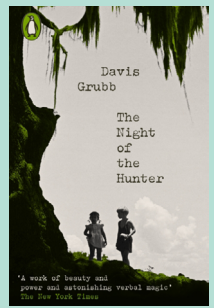
1980s Russia is a time of great political and social upheaval. For four teenagers growing up in Moscow, embracing glasnost and perestroika could usher in a new, more liberal and prosperous age... but revolution in Russia is never going to be easy. With echoes of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, this novel is a poignant and compelling account of family, friendship, and adolescence at the end of the Cold War.



NIC'S FAVE: THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER by DAVIS GRUBB

PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN CLASSICS (FICTION)

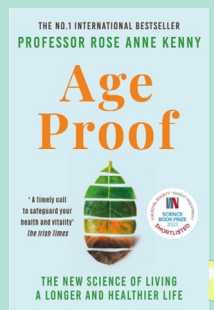
A man hangs for an out-of-character murderous bank robbery, and rumour has it only his kids know the location of the stolen money. When that rumour reaches the duplicitous and unhinged Harry "Preacher" Powell, a slow-burn chase begins. The desperation and tension that follows is expected, but the hidden delight is the exquisite writing and the incredible depiction of the precarious balance of money and morals in depression-era America.



JU'S FAVE: AGE PROOF by PROFESSOR ROSE ANNE KENNY

PB - £10.99 - BONNIER (SCIENCE)

Looking at varying physical and psychological aspects of our lives, from having a sense of purpose to braving cold showers, this book by a specialist geriatrician is stuffed full of science-backed research showing the power we have to influence our biological age. With its winning combo of being both practical and inspirational, it also extols the virtue of drinking wine with friends, earning itself a permanent re-read spot by my bedside!



FOX, FINCH & TEPPER



WINTER LOVE by HAN SUYIN
PB - £10.99 - FOX, FINCH & TEPPER
(FICTION)

From the moment Red encounters her charismatic new college classmate, Mara, she is drawn in. Recently married Mara is stylish and colourful and has a glamorous ease that lights up wintry, Blitz-ridden London. Their new friendship turns quickly into an illicit but exhilarating affair that begins in their London digs and intensifies through strained passionate trips to rural Wiltshire and the Welsh valleys. First published in 1962, *Winter Love* is an explosive unpredictable love story told in exquisite, intimate prose.

Fox, Finch & Tepper is the indie press created by Mr B's that specialises in resurrecting under-celebrated, beautifully written books with a strong sense of place that we feel deserve to grace the shelves of Britain's bookshops and be loved by many more readers. *Winter Love* is our eighth publication.

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This catalogue was created by Tom Mooney and Amy Tottle and edited by Nethmi Karunajeewa. The reviews were written by the whole Mr B's Team. Thank you once again to Steven Lenton for his super illustrations.

