

MR B'S EMPORIUM OF READING DELIGHTS



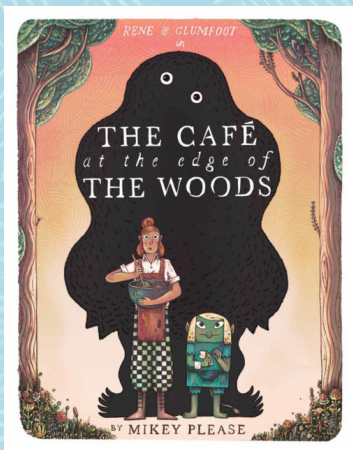
X-MAS
CATA
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2024



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Welcome to this year's Mr B's Christmas Catalogue! All the books and games have been handpicked by the Mr B's Team and are available in store or online, with **10% off right up until Christmas!**

A massive thank you to our cover illustrator this year, the superb Mikey Please!



THE CAFÉ AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS by MIKEY PLEASE PB - £7.99 - HARPER (AGE 4+)

Rene has finally achieved her dream – opening a café at the edge of an enchanted wood! With the help of her waiter Glumfoot, she's ready to dish up some fine foods. But they might have to go back to the drawing board when it turns out that the locals have a taste for the disgusting... Anyone for pickled bats, battered mice or maggot fondue? The animator and filmmaker brings his stunning illustrations and quirky storytelling to a debut perfect for fans of the *Hilda* series.

WOLF MOON by JULIO LLAMAZARES A MR B'S SPECIAL EDITION

HB - £14.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS/MR B'S (FICTION)

Mr B's have collaborated with our friends at Pushkin Press to resurrect this incredible novel which we loved to recommend as a limited edition (500 copies) hardback with a new foreword from Benjamin Myers.



Amidst the wild Cantabrian Mountains, as winter approaches, four fugitives lie low. It's 1937 and Franco's triumphant Guardia Civil hunt the few remaining Republican fighters hiding out in this unforgiving landscape. If they are going to stay ahead and stay alive, these rebels must resist the call of home. Huddling around campfires, they nurse wounds and snatch uneasy sleep. Peering over mountain crests, they scan the valley for threats. This powerful short novel of the long war of resistance against Spain's dictatorship is peppered with action and brimming with tension.



FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

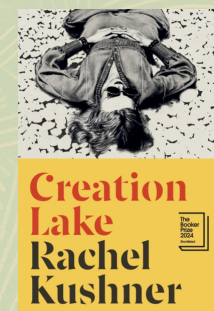
THE CITY AND ITS UNCERTAIN WALLS by HARUKI MURAKAMI HB - £25 - HARVILL SECKER (FICTION)

A young man leaves the real world for a mysterious walled city, on the trail of his vanished girlfriend. Here, you must check your shadow at the gate, beware horned beasts that run through the streets and abandon any idea of time passing... The great Japanese writer returns with his first novel in six years in this ode to books, libraries and love – it's an absolute triumph!



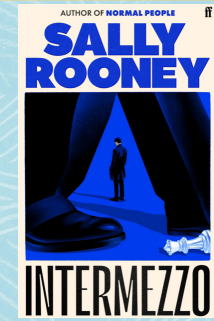
NIC'S FAVE: CREATION LAKE by RACHEL KUSHNER HB - £18.99 - JONATHAN CAPE (FICTION)

Kushner brings her American cool prose to rural France as uber-calm and controlling private spy Sadie infiltrates eco-activists for her mysterious clients. Seducing every radical and estranged idealist in her path, her irreverent and cynical commentary draws you into her unreliable narration. **Nic says:** "With a steadily accelerating plot and a truly unforgettable anti-heroine, *Creation Lake* mixes noir, satire, environmental politics and some joyous misogyny-crushing into a dazzling whirlpool of a novel."



INTERMEZZO by SALLY ROONEY HB - £20 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

Peter, a successful lawyer, is self-medicating and struggling to manage his relationships with two women. Meanwhile, Ivan, a socially awkward competitive chess player, has fallen for Margaret, an older woman trying to break free from her past. These two brothers must navigate their differences with each other, and those they love, to have a chance at happiness. Rooney is at the height of her powers in this stunning new work.



LAURA'S FAVE: JAMES by PERCIVAL EVERETT HB - £20 - PAN BOOKS (FICTION)

What was Jim doing all those times he was separated from Huck? His adventures on the Mississippi River equal survival as he goes from being undercover in a minstrel band to the hot, furnace belly of a steamer ship in a heart-racing succession of chance encounters. **Laura says:** "Full of dignity and wit, *James* is an adventure tale to stand the test of time – get ready to meet the real Jim."



FANTASTIC FICTION

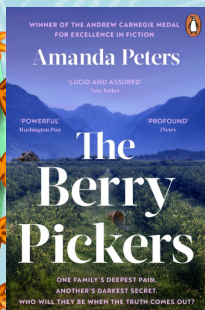
EMMA'S FAVE: WELLNESS by NATHAN HILL PB - £10.99 - PICADOR (FICTION)

Jack and Elizabeth meet as students in 90s Chicago and fall instantly in love. Two decades later they're married with a son, designing their 'forever home', and dealing with the pressures and failures of parenting and unfulfilled ambitions. **Emma says:** "A novel about the stories we tell ourselves of who we are, the demands we place on ourselves to be perfect and the constant need for certainty in a world where there is none."



THE BERRY PICKERS by AMANDA PETERS PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN BOOKS (FICTION)

Maine, 1962. Young Ruthie vanishes from the berry farm where her indigenous Nova Scotian family works each summer. The police are no help and Ruthie's family slowly unravels as the years go by without her. Meanwhile, Norma grows up in an affluent Maine family who insist her vivid memories of berry fields are but a dream... A sweeping tale of family, loss and hope, for fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing*.



SUE'S FAVE: THE LAND IN WINTER by ANDREW MILLER HB - £20 - SCEPTRE (FICTION)

December 1962, the worst winter in living memory. Two young couples meet – the local doctor and his pregnant wife, and a novice farmer with his troubled young bride. All must confront their differences as the harsh weather forces them to re-evaluate their lives. **Sue says:** "Many will remember that dreadful winter, when lives were lost but remarkable tales of endurance and bravery emerged. I was moved by this story that examines the human heart in all its wonderful imperfections."



AFTER ANNIE by ANNA QUINDLEN HB - £16.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (FICTION)

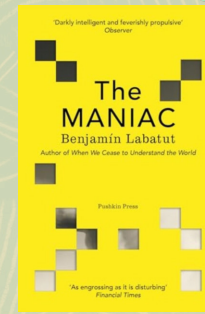
Annie Brown lit up every room, but now her sudden death has her closest circle reeling. With elegance and so much joy, Annie's life is revealed to us in sparkling scenes by her daughter, husband and best friend who knew her the longest but now finds herself on the periphery. A moving and restorative portrait that makes it impossible not to imagine Annie vibrantly alive. For fans of Ann Patchett.



FANTASTIC FICTION

TOM M'S FAVE: THE MANIAC by BENJAMIN LABATUT PB - £9.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS (FICTION)

Hungarian mathematician John von Neumann was arguably the most intelligent man in history – and one of the most controversial. His fingerprints are on everything from the atomic bomb to AI. Technology is still, a century later, catching up with his disturbing ideas... **Tom M says:** "Labatut confirms himself the most exciting new writer around with this spectacular non-fiction novel. Terrifying, mind-expanding and utterly gripping, it's a must-read for fans of Roberto Bolaño and the *Oppenheimer* movie."



PLAYGROUND by RICHARD POWERS HB - £20 - HUTCHINSON HEINEMANN (FICTION)

Despite their differences, Todd and Rafi befriend each other as boys upon discovering an equal obsession with chess and Go, and later with the emergence of AI. Together with marine biologist Evie and artist Ina, they converge on an island and the strategy games of youth develop into decisions that could threaten the environment. A book that captures the obsessive pull of the ocean, the human tendency to exploit and the capabilities of technology.



TOM H'S FAVE: THE HORSE by WILLY VLAUTIN HB - £18.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

Al Ward lives beyond the edge of society, under the weight of addiction and in the hope of being forgotten. When a hopelessly old, blind horse arrives at his doorstep, Al contemplates the best path forward for himself and the animal and reflects on his former life as a musician. **Tom H says:** "With characters full of heart against a tapestry of tragedy, this novel plucks at every heartstring, yet is full of hope and love and music."



THE HALF MOON by MARY BETH KEANE PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN BOOKS (FICTION)

It's winter at the Half Moon bar in upstate New York and storms are raging inside and out. While snow blankets the ground, bartender Malcolm and his wife Jess are about to face each other for the first time in months, after Jess packed up and left. Trapped inside, they must finally confront the problems of the past. A gripping and delicately rendered novel of an ordinary marriage.

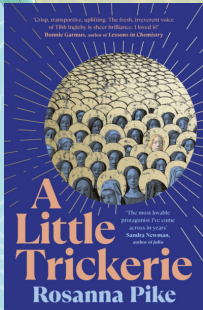




HISTORICAL FICTION

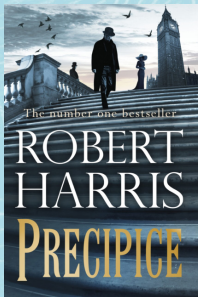
LOTTIE'S FAVE: A LITTLE TRICKERIE
by ROSANNA PIKE
HB - £16.99 - FIG TREE (FICTION)

In medieval England, the life of a vagrant is a hard one. Now that Tibb's ma has passed and she's left to survive alone, it's looking even harder. Meeting a cast of colourful characters who are set to become both enemies and companions, Tibb may be able to thrive, but only if she can fool folks with a little trickery. **Lottie says:** "This is completely fresh and original historical fiction. Tibb's story is a riot - a perfect balance of humour, darkness and tenderness."



PRECIPICE by ROBERT HARRIS
HB - £22 - HUTCHINSON HEINEMANN (FICTION)

Prime Minister Asquith leads a country in strife – the Irish Question has yet to be answered and war is brewing on the continent. The last thing he should do is share state secrets - but as he begins an affair with Venetia Stanley, a socialite half his age, he offers her a dangerous window into the corridors of power. A high-stakes political thriller from a true master of historical fiction.



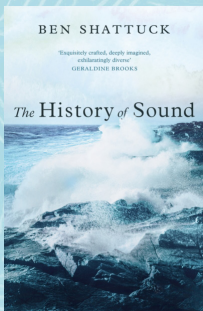
ED'S FAVE: THE HEART IN WINTER
by KEVIN BARRY
HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE BOOKS (FICTION)

Tom Rourke is a young Irish poet living in 1870s Butte, Montana, who falls hopelessly in love with a mine owner's wife. What follows is a wild, romantic ride into the Old West, as the pair run away, unaware of the carnage that is hot on their heels. **Ed says:** "I absolutely loved this book and knew it was special from the first page. Amazing characters and perfect writing make this my favourite read in years."



THE HISTORY OF SOUND by BEN SHATTUCK
PB - £14.99 - SWIFT PRESS (FICTION)

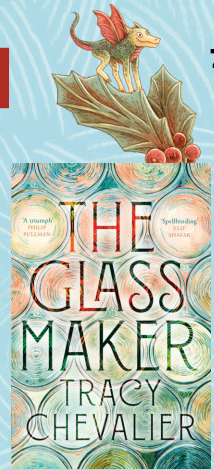
Set amidst the breathtaking landscape of New England across 300 years, these interconnected stories explore the many ways the past can be misunderstood and how heartache and desire can echo through the centuries. Whether it's a massacre in 1700s Nantucket, two men collecting folk songs in the shadow of WWI or the sighting of the great auk in the contemporary woods of New Hampshire, each story reveals something about the previous.



HISTORICAL FICTION

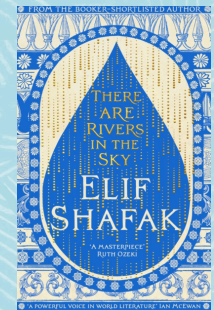
THE GLASSMAKER by TRACY CHEVALIER
HB - £20 - THE BOROUGH PRESS (FICTION)

On Murano, a small island in the Venetian Lagoon, a family make their fortune creating glassware. As a woman, the studio is off-limits to Orsola Rosso. But glassmaking calls to her and when Orsola is determined, nothing will stop her. Skipping through time like a pebble on the water, from 1486 to 1915, Chevalier has crafted a unique masterpiece of family, passion and love; a story of a city in constant motion.



THERE ARE RIVERS IN THE SKY
by ELIF SHAFAK
HB - £18.99 - VIKING (FICTION)

A forgotten poem resurfaces from the ruined Mesopotamian city of Nineveh and its ancient words connect three seemingly disparate lives; a boy in the Victorian slums, a Yazidi girl on the banks of the River Tigris and a young hydrologist in modern day London. A rich, sweeping novel that spans centuries, continents and cultures, weaving stories connected by rivers, rains, and water droplets with characters that refuse to be forgotten.



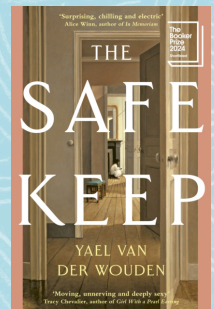
ONCE A MONSTER by ROBERT DINSDALE
PB - £9.99 - PAN BOOKS (FICTION)

Ten-year-old Nell, an orphaned mudlark, finds a monstrous-looking man lying on the riverbank. As Nell nurses him back to health, an unlikely friendship starts to grow and the man, Minos, is left wondering who he is - man or monster. Meanwhile Nell's master, Murdstone, has other, more sinister plans for him. A Dickensian tale mixed with greek mythology which ultimately explores the dichotomy of good and evil.



THE SAFEKEEP by Yael Van Der Wouden
HB - £16.99 - VIKING (FICTION)

A house is a precious thing. In 1961, one such house in the Dutch countryside harbours secrets and deceptions that are rooted in the past, propelling the two women who live there on a journey of discovery and reckoning. An exhilarating, twisted tale of desire, suspicion and obsession that gives the feel of a gothic novel while being completely, and terribly, real.

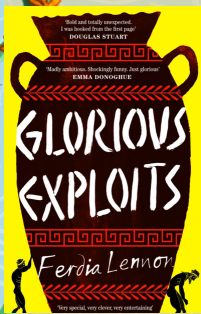


OFFBEAT FICTION

ROHAN'S FAVE: GLORIOUS EXPLOITS by FERDIA LENNON

HB - £16.99 - FIG TREE (FICTION)

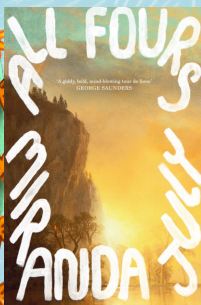
After a failed invasion of Syracuse, thousands of captured Athenian soldiers languish in the city's quarries. Two unemployed theatre-lovers, fearing the great Greek tragedies will be lost forever if Athens burns, recruit the prisoners to stage an audacious production of *Medea* to preserve its memory. **Rohan says:** "Hilarious and devilishly witty, with no shortage of bite, this is a truly original tale of love, art and friendship in the midst of war."



ALL FOURS by MIRANDA JULY

HB - £20 - CANONGATE BOOKS (FICTION)

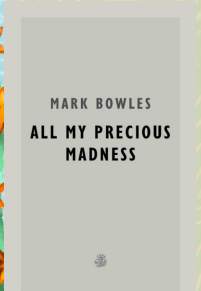
A semi-famous artist sets off from LA, planning to drive cross-country to New York for a work trip. But on the first night – and at the first town she comes across – she holes up in a motel room. So begins a month of lies, breakdowns, self-discovery and sex, as she faces up to middle age and the menopause. Raunchy, hilarious and acutely insightful.



TOM B'S FAVE: ALL MY PRECIOUS MADNESS by MARK BOWLES

PB - £10.99 - GALLEY BEGGAR PRESS (FICTION)

All My Precious Madness tells the tale of a man at his wit's end. Run down by the injustices of the world and a past he can't stop analysing, Henry Nash is approaching breaking point... **Tom B says:** "A brutally funny manifesto for current times. At face value, one could call Bowles' protagonist a cynic, but underneath the frothing rage held in these pages lies a deep love and compassion for humanity."



THE AXEMAN'S CARNIVAL by CATHERINE CHIDGEY

PB - £14.99 - EUROPA EDITIONS (FICTION)

When Marnie rescues a baby magpie, names him Tama and lovingly hand-rears him, she gains an unexpected ally. Living on a remote and failing New Zealand sheep farm, Marnie has been lonely and the bird's arrival highlights the cracks in her marriage to Rob, who is struggling to make their farm viable. Funny and sad, it is Tama's shrewd observations that make this characterful family drama stand out from the crowd.



TRANSLATED FICTION

LAURA GM'S FAVE: DJINNS by FATMA AYDEMIR

PB - £12.99 - PEIRENE PRESS (FICTION)

Huseyin has worked tirelessly in Germany for three decades. Finally, he's achieved his dream: a small flat back home in Istanbul and retirement. And then, he dies. As his family travel to bury him, Aydemir masterfully examines generational tension and the burdens of cultural and personal history. **LGM says:** "A powerful story about the complexities of migration, belonging, the weight of family secrets and life caught between two worlds. A must-read for fans of Zadie Smith and Kamila Shamsie."



SEASON OF THE SWAMP by YURI HERRERA

PB - £14.99 - AND OTHER STORIES (FICTION)

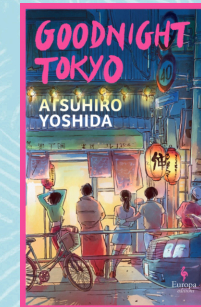
An atmospheric tale of speculative historical fiction in C19 New Orleans. The future Mexican president, Benito Juárez arrives as an anonymous exile in a city alive with heat, music, revolution, yellow fever and the horrors of slavery. Herrera's novel is both a love letter to the place and a meditation on history and exile, bringing his trademark poetic style to this lesser-known chapter of Juárez's life.



GOODNIGHT TOKYO by ATSUHIRO YOSHIDA

PB - £14.99 - EUROPA EDITIONS (FICTION)

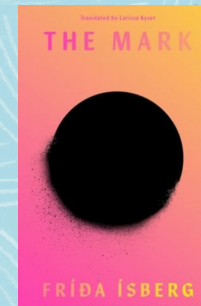
Matsui is a Tokyo cab driver who works the night shift, picking up customers between 1am and 4.30am in a city that never sleeps. As these nighthawks and insomniacs enter his cab, he collects their ever-stranger stories: there's a thief on the search for loquats, a film set designer looking for props, someone giving funerals to old telephones... A quirky, life-affirming read for fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*.



THE MARK by FRÍÐA ÍSBERG

HB - £16.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

Would you pass the empathy test? This is the question on our four characters' lips in the month leading up to a referendum in Reykjavík, which would mean the 'mark' of empathy can determine one's status in society. This is a topical, polyphonic, *Black Mirror*-esque novel that questions whether we can live in a world defined by our faith in each other, or by our fear of the future.



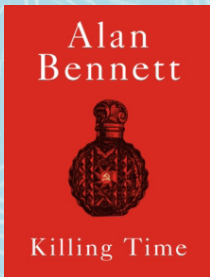


MINI MASTERPIECES

KILLING TIME by ALAN BENNETT

HB - £10 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

At Hill Topp House, a council-run home for the elderly, life for a cast of typically comic characters – including a knitter, a deluded archaeologist and an ex-cruise ship hairdresser – is about to be upended in unexpected ways. Bennett is the epitome of a national treasure, and this delightfully funny and moving novella, produced in the year he turned 90, is yet another display of his extraordinary talents.



THE PARTY by TESSA HADLEY

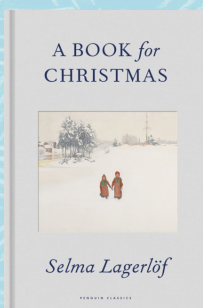
HB - £12.99 - JONATHAN CAPE (FICTION)

One winter's night in post-war Bristol, sisters Moira and Evelyn sneak off to a party at a dockside pub. Amidst the thrum of live jazz and the fizz of homemade cider, they meet two men with an air of sophistication and worldliness unknown to them. When one invites the sisters to his grand suburban mansion, they begin to learn things about themselves and each other from which there is no going back. An irresistible novella for a fireside read.

A BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS by SELMA LAGERLOF

HB - £12.99 - PENGUIN CLASSICS (FICTION)

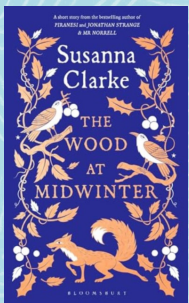
Holiday stories by the Nobel Prize-winning author translated into English for the first time. Filled with warmth, the spirit of giving and Swedish folklore, these stories remind readers of the magic of books and how they bring people together, especially during the holiday season. A timeless, enchanting and heartwarming read that celebrates the beauty of human connection.



THE WOOD AT MIDWINTER by SUSANNA CLARKE

PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY CIRCUS (FICTION)

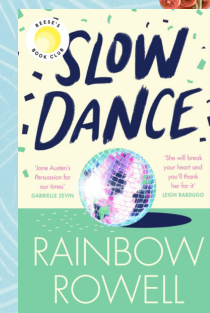
Wander your way into a hauntingly beautiful tapestry of myth, memory and the ephemeral nature of time. Set in the same world as Clarke's bestselling *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*, a backdrop of stark, wintry landscape, this short story weaves together elements of folklore and magic with her signature prose, rich in atmosphere and detail, making the reader question what lies beyond the peripherals of the familiar. A stunning hardback with exquisite illustrations throughout.



ROMANCE

SLOW DANCE by RAINBOW ROWELL HB - £16.99 - MICHAEL JOSEPH (FICTION)

A chance meeting at a wedding sees will-they-won't-they pair Shiloh and Cary reunited for the first time in years... is now the moment they'll finally make things work? A heartfelt, hopeful riff on Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, this big-hearted power ballad of a book will make you laugh, make you cry, and give you a reason to believe in second chances.



THE MOST WONDERFUL CRIME OF THE YEAR by ALLY CARTER

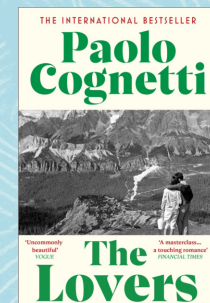
PB - £9.99 - PAN BOOKS (FICTION)

Maggie and Ethan are bestselling crime writers... and bitter rivals. Invited to spend Christmas at a glorious English estate with a mysterious 'fan', who turns out to be not quite what they expected, Maggie and Ethan find themselves thrown headfirst into a mystery even they couldn't pen - and a romance they never expected. Think *Knives Out*, but with Christmas jumpers... and kissing!



THE LOVERS by PAOLO COGNETTI PB - £9.99 - VINTAGE (FICTION)

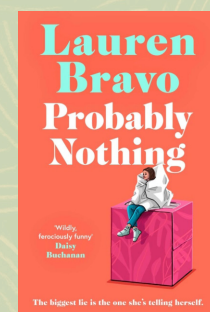
Fausto leaves Milan for the solace of the Italian Alps, where he takes a job as a chef in a remote village restaurant. It's here that he meets waitress Silvia, a woman seeking a change of her own. The two form a bond as they talk, climb glaciers, and carve a new kind of life for themselves. Inspired by Kent Haruf's *Plainsong*, this is a quiet but unforgettably beautiful novel.



AMY'S FAVE: PROBABLY NOTHING by LAUREN BRAVO

HB - £20 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (FICTION)

Bryony had just been on a few dates with Ed and was about to break things off, when she receives a call to say that he has unexpectedly died. It turns out Ed's family thought she was the love of his life and, being a relentless people pleaser, she gets more and more involved in their lives. **Amy says:** "Relatable characters and a story that is brimming with humour and lots of awkwardness, Bravo's warmth and wit make this an ultimately uplifting story."

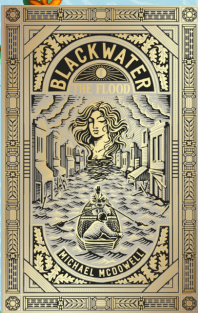


FANTASY & SCI-FI

BLACKWATER: THE FLOOD by MICHAEL MCDOWELL

PB - £9.99 - TRANSWORLD (FICTION)

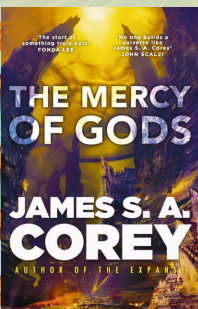
Welcome to the flooded town of Perdido, Alabama, where we meet the Caskeys, a family of rich white landowners headed by the powerful matriarch Mary-Love. When her devoted son Oliver rescues a mysterious woman stranded in a hotel, none of them can imagine how much she will slowly infiltrate each of their lives... Originally published in the 80s and written by *Beetlejuice* screenwriter McDowell, this is a highly addictive, southern gothic horror saga.



HENRY'S FAVE: THE MERCY OF GODS by JAMES S. A. COREY

HB - £22 - ORBIT (FICTION)

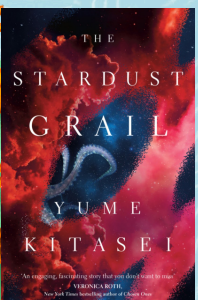
Humans left earth long ago, making a new life on the secluded planet of Anjiin. When the Carryx – part hive mind, part empire – arrive intent on enslaving the population, a group of scientists face a battle for existence like they've never known. **Henry says:** "This book was an immediate favourite, taking a familiar science fiction trope and revitalising the format, sending the reader in directions they wouldn't have anticipated."



THE STARDUST GRAIL by YUME KITASEI

HB - £16.99 - HARPER VOYAGER (FICTION)

Love *Indiana Jones* but wish there were more space octopuses? Then this is your next read! Come for the space heist where the survival of a species is at stake, stay for the tender friendships, stunning world-building and contemplation of existence and morality. Fans of Becky Chambers' *Wayfarers* series – prepare to make Yume Kitasei your new obsession.



SÔFFI'S FAVE: THE LAST DAY by OWAIN OWAIN

PB - £10 - PARTHIAN BOOKS (FICTION)

In a future where machines have won, the 'lost' C20 exists only as a handful of diary entries written by a man named Marc, who's soon to be assimilated as a resource for the state. But Marc has a secret defence: a language that the machine dictator cannot translate... **Sôffi says:** "A testament to the depth and creativity of Welsh literature, perfect for fans of Orwell, Huxley and Vonnegut, while also being completely singular."



FANTASY & SCI-FI

A DARK AND DROWNING TIDE by ALLISON SAFT

HB - £19.99 - DAPHNE PRESS (FICTION)

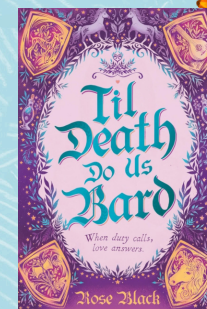
Lorelei's hard work finally pays off when she is made co-captain on the king's expedition, where five royal academics – including Lorelei's mentor – are sent in search of the centre of faerie magic. But when someone is murdered en route, the expedition is thrown off course and Lorelei's future placed in peril. Delightful, beautifully written fantasy for fans of *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries*.



TIL DEATH DO US BARD by ROSE BLACK

PB - £9.99 - HODDERSCAPE (FICTION)

When his bard husband Pie disappears, Logan 'The Bear' Theaker is determined to find him, even if it means returning to the dangerous world of adventuring that he gave up for his marriage. But he soon discovers that Pie is involved in a nefarious plot to raise an undead army and Logan begins to doubt whether he or his marriage will survive this quest. A cosy fantasy adventure perfect for fans of *Legends & Lattes*.



BURY YOUR GAYS by CHUCK TINGLE

PB - £9.99 - TITAN BOOKS (FICTION)

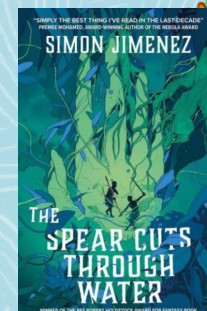
Hollywood screenwriter Misha Byrne is told to kill off the queer co-leads in his TV show. It's what "the algorithm" demands. When Misha refuses, monsters from his past filmography begin to stalk him in the real world. Can he survive his own story or will he fall victim to the very trope he is trying to subvert? A novel by turns satirical and genuinely terrifying!



THE SPEAR CUTS THROUGH WATER by SIMON JIMENEZ

PB - £9.99 - REBELLION PUBLISHING (FICTION)

A unique blend of fantasy, myth and storytelling innovation, this epic novel follows two warriors on a quest to overthrow an ancient regime controlled by gods. Told through multiple perspectives, Jimenez weaves together dreams, memories and the present, to create a rich, immersive experience. His lyrical prose and intricate world-building bring to life a tale of rebellion, love, sacrifice and emotional depth.

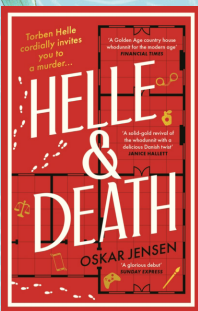




CRIME & MYSTERY

HELLE & DEATH by **OSKAR JENSEN**
PB - £9.99 - VIPER (FICTION)

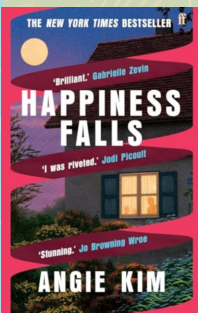
In this brilliant homage to the Golden Age of Detective Fiction, a group of old university friends reunite in the magnificent country house of tech genius Anthony Dodd. But when their host is found dead, friends quickly become suspects and art historian Torben Helle is reluctantly on the case. A classic locked-room murder mystery with a modern twist and plenty of humour, for fans of Agatha Christie and Richard Osman.



NETHMI'S FAVE: HAPPINESS FALLS
by **ANGIE KIM**

PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

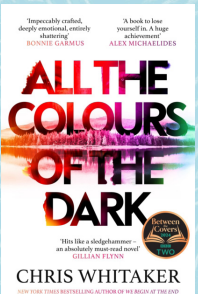
Eugene Parkson is the only witness to his father's disappearance. But due to his Angelman Syndrome and autism, he cannot communicate what happened. The police are as convinced of his guilt as his sister Mia is of his innocence. But when Mia uncovers the secret her father has been hiding, she questions everything she knows about her family. **Nethmi says:** "Both a gripping mystery and an exploration of humanity and the philosophy of language. Perfect for fans of Celeste Ng."



ALL THE COLOURS OF THE DARK
by **CHRIS WHITAKER**

HB - £20 - ORION (FICTION)

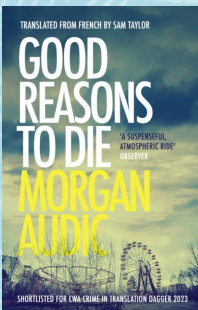
As young Patch wanders through the woods to school, he stumbles upon something that will alter the course of his life forever. When he disappears, his fiercely loyal best friend Saint vows to never stop searching for him. But this masterpiece from the *We Begin at the End* author is far more than a simple abduction story; it is a small-town crime drama for the ages that will leave readers forever changed.



GOOD REASONS TO DIE by **MORGAN AUDIC**

PB - £12.99 - MOUNTAIN LEOPARD PRESS (FICTION)

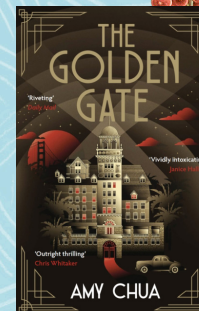
A group of disaster tourists get more than they bargained for when their bus arrives in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone – a mutilated body strung from one of the abandoned buildings. Local cops Joseph and Galina begin the hunt for the killer – but the victim's father, a Moscow-based oligarch, decides to send his own man to exact a different kind of justice. A dark, disturbing and completely original police procedural.



CRIME & MYSTERY

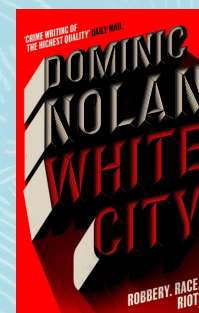
THE GOLDEN GATE by **AMY CHUA**
PB - £9.99 - CORVUS (FICTION)

A beguiling mystery set amongst the glamorous, monied families of Berkeley, California, in 1944. When a former presidential candidate is murdered in a famous hotel, it re-opens a second enquiry into an earlier tragedy - the death of little Lily Stafford - and puts the three Bainbridge heiresses under suspicion. But no-one is co-operating, and powerful outside influences are in play. An atmospheric murder-mystery puzzle.



WHITE CITY by **DOMINIC NOLAN**
HB - £20 - HEADLINE (FICTION)

1950s London. Claire Martin is a mother trying to keep her son from the jaws of gangsters while looking for her disappeared husband. Meanwhile Addie Rowe, daughter of a missing Jamaican postman, struggles to keep her sister safe in Brixton. Both become entwined in a web of crime in this brilliant and gritty tale of race, violence and corruption from the author Mr B's bestseller *Vine Street*.



THE NIGHT OF BABA YAGA
by **AKIRA OTANI**

PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER (FICTION)

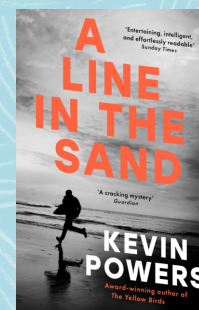
Shindo, a skilled streetfighter, is kidnapped (after putting up a good fight) in broad daylight by yakuza. The gang's boss has a special assignment – he needs a female bodyguard for his daughter Shoko, not trusting any of the men in his employ. As the two strike up a bond, jealousy becomes rife in the ranks and violence seems the only solution. A surprising, ultra-violent, ultimately tender, feminist thriller.



A LINE IN THE SAND
by **KEVIN POWERS**

PB - £9.99 - SCEPTRE (FICTION)

Arman worked as an interpreter for the Americans back in his native Iraq. When things spiralled out of control in 2005, he found himself fast-tracked to a new life in the US. But, when he finds a body on the beach after his morning swim, Arman's past comes hurtling into the present. A beautifully written, intelligent thriller of greed, power and the many moral corruptions of the western war machine.



GAMES



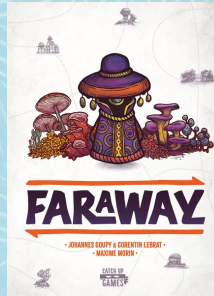
ARC'S by **COLE WEHRLE & KYLE FERRIN**
2-4 PLAYERS - £54.99 - LEDER GAMES (14+)

Arcs is an epic, spacefaring strategy game from the studio that brought you Mr B's faves *Root* and *Ahoy*. Players compete to fulfil their ambitions and gain power as they explore, battle and negotiate their way through the far reaches of the universe. This is tremendously fun and competitive and full of twists and turns!

FARAWAY

by **JOHANNES GOUPY & CORENTIN LEBRAT**
2-6 PLAYERS - £20 - CATCH UP GAMES (10+)

Travel across the mystical continent of Alula, visiting sanctuaries and meeting its inhabitants. Each round, play cards from left to right to represent your journey and at the end of the game travel back along your cards from right to left to score points. This is a lovely gentle card game with a great puzzle at its heart.



SKY TEAM by **LUC RÉMAND**
2 PLAYERS - £29.99 - SCORPION MASQUÉ (14+)

In this co-operative two-player game, you work together piloting a commercial plane by managing everything from engines to landing gear in the sheer hope of touching down safely. The catch? During rounds the players can't speak so rely on trust and intuition to get the job done! This is quick to play and strikes a perfect balance of tension and joy.



EAT THE REICH by **GRANT HOWITT**
3-6 PLAYERS - £25 - ROWAN, ROOK & DECARD (16+)

It's 1943 and players form a squad of highly trained vampire commandos, dropped into war-torn Paris with one simple objective: to feast on Hitler's blood. This book belongs on the shelf of any RPG fan for the artwork alone. All players craft the narrative in this over-the-top yet simple roleplaying game that's flooded with an abundance of gory fun.



DROPOLTER by **PAUL SCHULZ**
2-5 PLAYERS - £20 - OINK GAMES (6+)

Scream with excitement with this wonderful family game designed to test your dexterity. You start each round with five lucky charms in your hand: drop only the correct charms that the ghost wants to see and claim a lucky bell. First to five bells is the winner! Fast and hilarious, this is a great casual game for kids and adults.



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MR B'S READING GIFTS

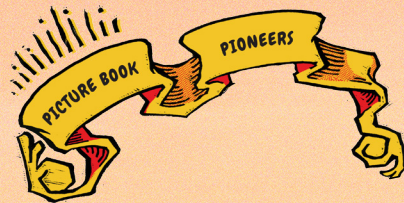
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Offer the joy of a monthly book by mail with our Reading Clubs. Each month we post a new book we've certified as worthy of our members!

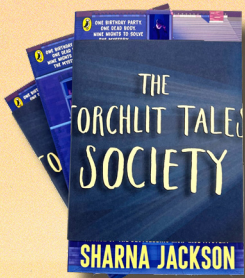


THE CRIME SYNDICATE

Our top investigators are on the case, scouring the world of crime fiction for our most hotly anticipated killer read.



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ABED SALAMA

by **NATHAN THRALL**

PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN BOOKS (POLITICS)

Abed's five-year-old son, Milad, is excited for a school trip to a theme park on the outskirts of Jerusalem. When the bus crashes near the Israeli separation wall, Palestinian Abed must navigate a labyrinth of bureaucratic and emotional obstacles to reach his son. Thrall describes the experiences of witnesses and responders, uncovering the authentic truth of ordinary lives in a place where politics manifests in every aspect of daily life.

CONFLICT by GENERAL DAVID PETRAEUS

& **ANDREW ROBERTS**

PB - £12.99- WILLIAM COLLINS (MILITARY HISTORY)

General Petraeus is a man who knows war. After serving 37 years in the US Army, he became CIA Director and commanded the coalitions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here, he teams up with acclaimed historian Andrew Roberts to provide a history of modern warfare since the end of WWII. Looking at war strategy, the problems of adapting to sophisticated weaponry, and more, this is essential reading for military history buffs.

SAM'S FAVE: THE COMING WAVE

by **MUSTAFA SULEYMAN**

PB - £10.99 - VINTAGE (SCIENCE)

Human civilisation has always been shaped by waves of proliferating generalised technologies. Synthetic biology and AI together form a tsunami: technologies with unprecedented potential and danger. The fruit will not remain on the tree - what will the future look like? **Sam Says:** "Join an AI insider for an accessible study of technology's historic influences, a survey of the coming decade and an examination of the narrow path between catastrophe and dystopia, into a world of unconstrained potential."

NOT THE END OF THE WORLD by HANNAH RITCHIE

PB - £10.99 - VINTAGE (ENVIRONMENT)

The doomsday narrative on climate change is paralysing, often untrue and undermines scientists. If we want clarity, we need to shift our focus. Join Oxford University academic Hannah Ritchie on a tour of the long-term trends and opportunities. Full of surprising and hope-provoking facts, she argues our world is not yet a lost cause, but with appropriate and swift action, an opportunity to build a truly sustainable planet.

THE UMBRELLA MURDER

by **ULRIK SKOTTE**

HB - £25 - W H ALLEN (HISTORY)

London, 1978: a Bulgarian dissident is poisoned with the tip of an umbrella in broad daylight. It is the most daring murder of the Cold War, but the perpetrator is nowhere to be found. Years later, young journalist Ulrik Skotte uncovers information that sets him on a 25-year-long investigation into the spy responsible for the murder. A thrilling, true crime page-turner that delves into the hidden world of spy craft.

NORMAL WOMEN by PHILIPPA GREGORY

PB - £10.99 - WILLIAM COLLINS

(HISTORY)

The Bayeux Tapestry depicts more penises than women; Churchill's *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* names only 98 women against 1,413 men. Contemporary histories often focus narrowly on heroines and specific movements. So what have 'normal women' been up to? Beloved novelist Gregory takes us on an expansive and meticulously researched tour of the nuns, pirates, soldiers, witches and female husbands, that have formed the fabric of our national story.

TIME'S ECHO by JEREMY EICHLER

PB - £10.99- FABER & FABER (MUSIC/HISTORY)

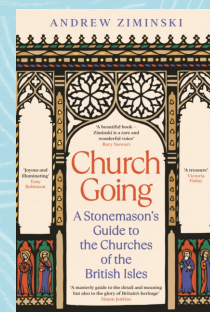
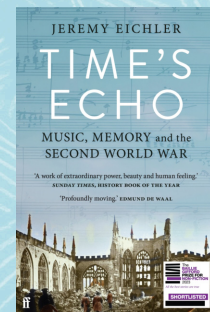
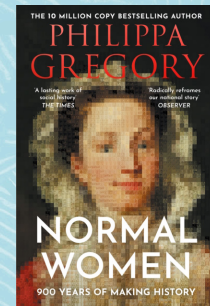
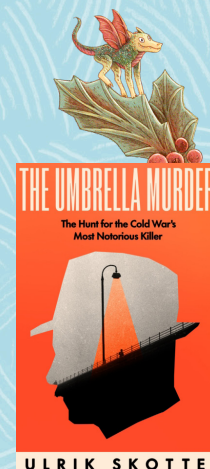
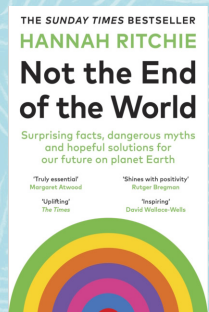
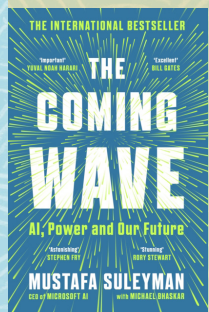
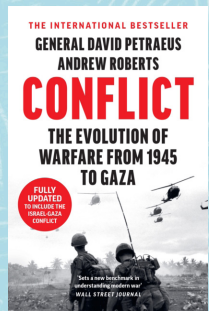
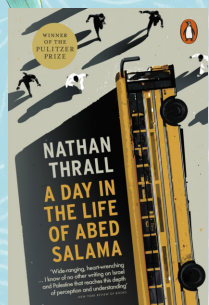
In this revelatory book, critic and historian Eichler makes the case for the power of music, an art form uniquely capable of carrying forward meaning from the past. Focussing on four major composers - Shostakovich, Britten, Schoenberg and Strauss - he investigates how their experiences of WWII and the Holocaust informed and shaped their music. Riveting and beautifully written, Eichler proposes a new way to understand history and music.

CHURCH GOING

by **ANDREW ZIMINSKI**

HB - £25- PROFILE BOOKS (ARCHITECTURE)

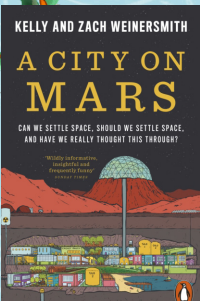
A stonemason of more than three decades, Ziminski has often found himself working on churches around the UK - and frequently acts as an impromptu guide for visitors to the secret histories of these revered buildings. Here he travels the length and breadth of the British Isles to show what church architecture reveals about our shared history. A beautifully written and fascinating work of history from a master craftsman.



A CITY ON MARS

by **KELLY & ZACH WEINERSMITH**
PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN BOOKS (SCIENCE)

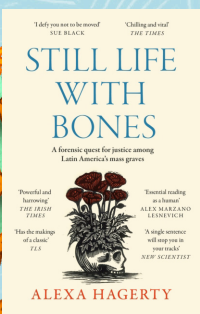
Earth is struggling under the strains of human existence – does a new life elsewhere beckon? What would that look like? In this informative, funny book, bestselling authors, Kelly and Zach Weinersmith guide us through life on Mars. What is microgravity like? How will we eat? Who will build the nations of the future? What is sex like in space? Great scientific entertainment, complete with Zach's illustrations.



STILL LIFE WITH BONES

by **ALEXA HAGERTY**
PB - £12.99 - WILDFIRE (SCIENCE)

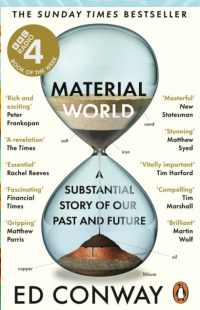
Dr Hagerty is an anthropologist seeking justice for victims of genocide in Latin America. Working with forensic anthropologists in Guatemala and Argentina, she recovers the bodies of victims so that they can be returned to their surviving relatives, gathering evidence of lost lives and hidden crimes. This is an amazing insight into the science of forensics, the anthropology of grief and justice, dreams and inhumations. An emotional and essential read.



MATERIAL WORLD by ED CONWAY

PB - £10.99 - W H ALLEN (SCIENCE/HISTORY)

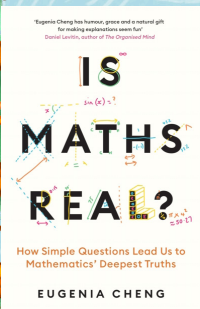
There's a good chance you're a resident of the ephemeral world, dealing in ideas and services: welcome to the material world that makes it possible. It's dirty and dangerous and absolutely fascinating. Detailing the world history of civilisation from the perspective of the materials it's built upon and describing the processes underlying all that we do, this is a perfect read for fans of Peter Frankopan and Tim Marshall.



IS MATHS REAL? by EUGENIA CHENG

PB - £10.99 - PROFILE BOOKS (MATHEMATICS)

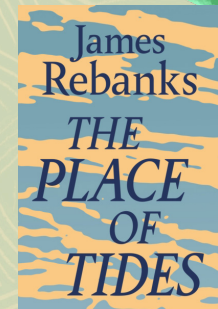
Prepare to be launched into a world of curiosity, as Cheng takes us through the endless possibilities of mathematics, using the simplest of questions. Why do two negatives cancel each other out? Where does trigonometry come from? Why is 1 not a prime number? Accessible, fun and with solid maths at its core, this is the perfect book for the armchair mathematician in your life!



LUCINDA'S FAVE: THE PLACE OF TIDES

by **JAMES REBANKS**
HB - £22 - ALLEN LANE (NATURE)

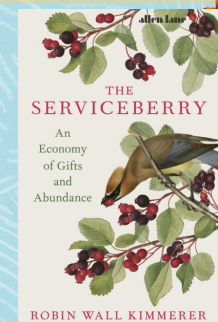
Rebanks leaves his beloved farm to spend a couple of months in the remote Vega archipelago, nurturing Eider Ducks. His guide is Anna, a Norwegian septuagenarian who has single-handedly revived her ancient family tradition of gathering Eiderdown. In between the hard work of preparing the island for the nesting season, there is time for storytelling, exploring and reflection. **Lucinda says:** "I was transfixed by the simple, raw, beautiful island life and utterly beguiled by Anna and the ducks!"



THE SERVICEBERRY

by **ROBIN WALL KIMMERER**
HB - £14.99 - ALLEN LANE (NATURE)

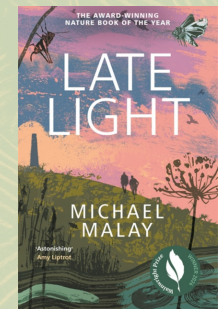
Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the enduring benefits of giving. An unexpected bountiful harvest of serviceberries provides Robin Wall Kimmerer with literal 'food for thought' as she explores the different ways in which the natural world is built on a sustainable concept of giving - and why our increasingly money obsessed culture might be failing us all. This beautiful manifesto reminds us how good it feels to give a gift.



KATRINA'S FAVE: LATE LIGHT

by **MICHAEL MALAY**
PB - £10.99 - MANILLA PRESS (NATURE)

Malay arrived in England disconnected from the natural world, until he met some new friends. Blending nature writing and memoir, *Late Light* focuses on four underappreciated species: eels, moths, mussels and crickets. Discovering these, he explores themes including migration, conservation and culture. **Katrina says:** "Malay's beautifully attentive writing captures a bittersweet love for a threatened world. It is a celebration of the power that our attention to nature has and how it may inspire us to adapt and survive."



WHY FISH DON'T EXIST by LULU MILLER

HB - £16.99 - ONE (NATURE/TRUE CRIME)

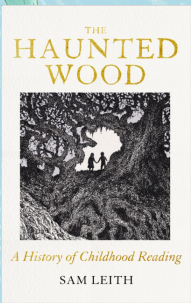
When Miller's life began to unravel, she looked to her hero for inspiration. David Starr Jordan was a C19 taxonomist who overcame terrible challenges to name many of the ocean's creatures and became the founding president of Stanford University. But as Miller digs deeper into his life story, she finds some shocking revelations. A dark, hopeful and stupendously entertaining blend of natural history, memoir, science and true crime.





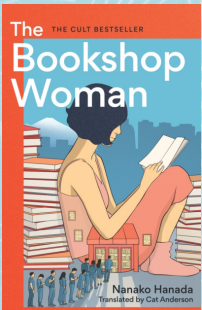
LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

THE HAUNTED WOOD by SAM LEITH HB - £30 - ONEWORLD (BOOKS)



Journalist Sam Leith delivers a love letter to books and reading in this beautifully produced book. Discover the truth behind the myths, as he guides you through a comprehensive, delightful tour of children's books, from the ancient tales of Aesop to the modern classics of Philip Pullman, and looks at what the future may hold for young readers. A book-lover's delight!

THE BOOKSHOP WOMAN by NANAKO HANADA HB - £16.99 - BRAZEN (MEMOIR)



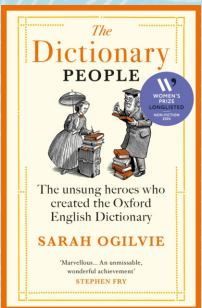
Newly single bookshop manager Hanada has just moved into a cramped apartment on the outskirts of Tokyo. With no friends and no hobbies other than reading, loneliness quickly sets in. Until she discovers Perfect Strangers – a website that matches up its users for half-hour chats. Using her book expertise, Nanako offers the perfect book recommendation in exchange for a meeting and suddenly her life is full of human connection.

COLLECTED POEMS by WENDY COPE HB - £20 - FABER & FABER (POETRY)



Celebrated for her wit and warmth, Wendy Cope is one of the nation's best-loved poets. Since her 1986 debut, Cope's observations of everyday life – its moments of love, grief, joy and pleasant mundanity – have attracted generations of readers and helped dispel the pompous air of much traditional, male-dominated poetry. Enjoy for the first time this stunning volume of her full works, including never-before collected poems.

THE DICTIONARY PEOPLE by SARAH OGILVIE PB - £10.99 - VINTAGE (HISTORY/LANGUAGE)



The Oxford English Dictionary, the gold standard of English dictionaries, associated for over a century with the hallowed institutions of the elite... But its origins relied on the help of the general public. For decades, its curators crowdsourced words from a hugely diverse range of people. Here, lexicographer Sarah Ogilvie delves into the archives to discover the murderers, astronomers, suffragists, queer couples and others behind the OED's definitions.

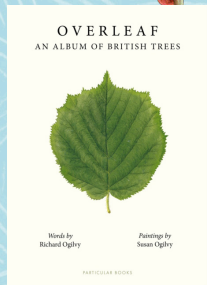


VISUAL BOOKS

OVERLEAF

by RICHARD AND SUSAN OGILVY HB - £25 - PARTICULAR BOOKS (NATURE/ART)

The amazing Susan Ogilvy, botanical painter and illustrator of *Nests*, returns with a stunning collection of paintings of the leaves of native British trees. Her artwork is paired with the words of her brother-in-law, forester Richard Ogilvy, to help reacquaint us with the trees of the British Isles. A handsome book featuring 74 gorgeously detailed species, which would sit proudly on the coffee table of art and nature lovers.



THE SECRET LIFE OF BRICKS by DANIEL KONSTANSKI

HB - £30 - UNBOUND (ARCHITECTURE)

LEGO bricks made their debut more than 50 years ago, unlocking the imagination of generations of children and adults alike. Here you can take a fascinating visual tour of the history of LEGO, from the very first hollow bricks, through the design masters and testers that make the magic happen, to the complex designs of today, in the first ever official LEGO book for adult fans.



JOE LYCETT'S ART HOLE by JOE LYCETT HB - £35 - TRAPEZE (ART)

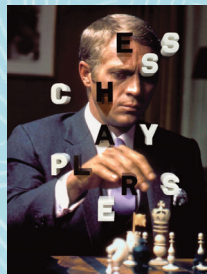
As well as being one of the UK's most provocative and best-loved comedians, Joe Lycett is also a keen and unique artist. In his first art book, you'll find hilarious and outrageous portraits of everyone who's anyone in British culture – from Liz Truss and Harry Styles, to Eamonn Holmes and Robert Peston. With stories to accompany his art, this is the ultimate comedy-lover's coffee table book.



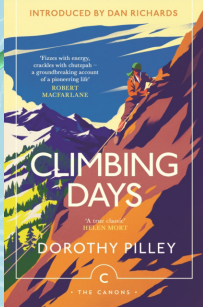
CHESS PLAYERS by VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS

HB - £29.95 - FUEL PUBLISHING (PHOTOGRAPHY)

"All chess players are artists": so goes the iconic quote from legendary artist and chess player Marcel Duchamp. This stunning book featuring photos and stories of 130 years of check-mate tension, takes us from a steam ship in 1888 to zero gravity matches in space. Along the way, John plays Yoko, Humphrey Bogart snatches a game between takes and the Wu-Tang Clan dodge knights in the park. Coffee table pawn for chess culture lovers!

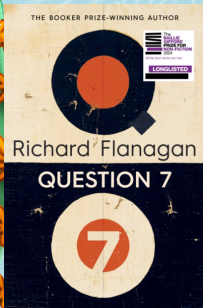


LIFE STORIES



CHARLIE'S FAVE: CLIMBING DAYS by DOROTHY PILLEY PB - £12.99 - CANONGATE BOOKS (ADVENTURE)

This wonderfully energetic rediscovered memoir from 1928 was written by one of the fiercest and most driven pioneers of women's rock climbing. It covers exploration during times where women were considered a liability and too dangerous to climb with. **Charlie says:** "Pilley was a game-changing member of the feminist movement and her incredible memoir acts as a record of her determination both as a journalist and a sportswoman."



QUESTION 7 by RICHARD FLANAGAN HB - £18.99 - CHATTO & WINDUS (MEMOIR/EVERYTHING)

Starting with Flanagan attending a ceremony at the site of a WWII slave labour camp in Japan where his father was held as a prisoner of war, this astonishing book weaves through war, the atomic bomb, HG Wells and Rebecca West's affair, Chekhov's *Question 7*, climate breakdown, philosophy, colonialism and the author's own devastating brush with death. The Booker Prize winner delivers a modern masterpiece that defies easy classification.



PULLING THE CHARIOT OF THE SUN by SHANE MCCRAE PB - £10.99 - CANONGATE BOOKS (MEMOIR)

Shane McCrae, born to a white mother and a black father, was kidnapped at 18 months by his white grandparents and raised in rural Texas, where they sought to erase his blackness and hide his heritage from him. Yet, despite their manipulations, the truth revealed itself as Shane began to question his identity. An extraordinary account from an award-winning poet that speaks to the wider story of race in America.



SURE, I'LL JOIN YOUR CULT by MARIA BAMFORD PB - £9.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER (MEMOIR)

The offbeat US stand-up comedian – and brilliant over-sharer – takes us on a hilarious and blunt deep dive into her chaotic life as she navigates being bipolar in show business, growing up with an eating disorder and always being powerfully drawn to fringe groups and cult-like beliefs – from 12-step programs to Suzuki violin training – in (mostly failed) attempts to join in and “better” her life.

LIFE STORIES

LIV'S FAVE: DOWN THE DRAIN by JULIA FOX PB - £10.99 - FOURTH ESTATE (MEMOIR)

Infamous muse Julia Fox finally tells her own story - and it's absolutely wild. From Italian convents to New York City's party scene, New Orleans squat houses to Hollywood film sets, Fox charts her turbulent course from outcast to icon with honesty and humour. **Liv says:** "At 33, Fox has already experienced several lifetimes worth of escapades and recounts them here in unflinching, exhilarating detail – essential reading for fans of *I'm Glad My Mom Died*."

THE RACKET by CONOR NILAND HB - £20 - SANDYCOVE (SPORT)

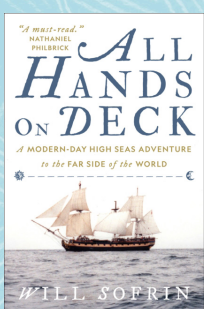
This is that most interesting of sports memoirs – the story of the guy who almost made it. Conor Niland spent most of his tennis career bouncing around between numbers 200 and 300 in the world, living hand-to-mouth, travelling relentlessly, winning some and losing more, existing for those rare golden moments and dreaming of Wimbledon. A brutally honest, funny and shocking look at life as a journeyman tennis pro.

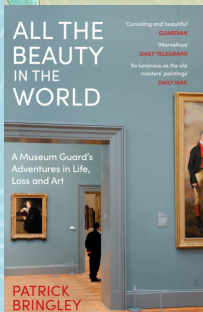
ALL HANDS ON DECK by WILL SOFRIN PB - £12.99 - ABRAMS PRESS (ADVENTURE)

With the deal signed to adapt Patrick O'Brian's bestselling *Master and Commander* into a movie – and with Russell Crowe ready to go – the production team needed a ship to stand in for Lucky Jack's HMS Surprise. Stumbling upon the perfect vessel, the only thing left is to sail it from Rhode Island to California. Enter 30 oddballs, ready to battle hurricanes, pirates and modern-day mutiny!

NIGHTS OUT AT HOME by JAY RAYNER HB - £22 - FIG TREE (FOOD)

Celebrated food critic Jay Rayner has spent the best part of three decades critiquing the dishes of professional chefs. Now he brings all that inspiration and influence to his very first recipe book. From crispy duck salad inspired by The Ivy to Jay's take on a Gregg's steak bake, the recipes are delicious and achievable and perfectly paired with anecdotes from his illustrious career. A true foodie's treasure trove!





JULIETTE'S FAVE: ALL THE BEAUTY IN THE WORLD by PATRICK BRINGLEY

PB - £10.99 - VINTAGE (MEMOIR/ART)

Grieving after his brother's death, Bringley quits his NYTimes job to become a museum guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a place where he can be surrounded by beauty. In his observations of the masterpieces and visitors, he finds solace and the space to start to heal. **Juliette says:** "With gentle wit, Bringley explores our relationship with art and with each other in a profoundly sensitive way."

ON THE ROOF by TOM ALLAN

**HB - £18.99 - PROFILE BOOKS
(CREATIVITY/MEMOIR)**

Allan stumbled away from his desk and into thatching. First, he earned six years of arduous stripes alongside Devon experts. Then, intrigued by broader thatching traditions, he headed to work in the Danube Delta, to Japan and beyond, learning each community's history and about the techniques and materials they use. A book about a subject you didn't know you wanted to know about, that leaves you truly appreciating this undying craft.

THE ART THIEF by MICHAEL FINKEL

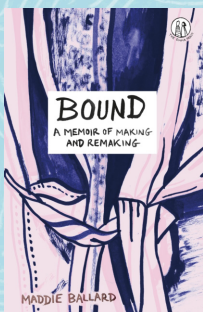
**PB - £10.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER
(ART/TRUE CRIME)**

In 2005, Stéphane Breitwieser, one of the world's most prolific art thieves, was sentenced for hundreds of thefts which spanned nearly a decade. He had stolen more than 200 works from museums, galleries and exhibits across Europe, but something made Breitwieser unique: he never planned to sell a single piece. He acquired each item simply for its beauty. Finkel takes us through this nail-biting and unbelievable tale with expert precision.

BOUND by MADDIE BALLARD

PB - £9.99 - THE EMMA PRESS (CREATIVITY)

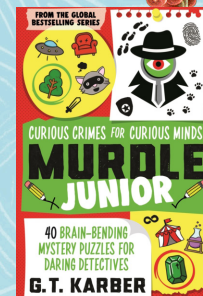
For anyone who finds comfort and self-expression in creativity, this book of poetic essays is a gentle exploration of what making reveals and inspires in us. Ballard's memoir travels through her sewing projects and explores how making and mending help her to explore her own heritage, perceive herself and care for loved ones. En route she addresses the role of garments in everyday life.



MURDLE JUNIOR by G. T. KARBER

PB - £8.99 - SOUVENIR PRESS (AGE 9+)

Murdle - the runaway bestseller of last Christmas - is now available for burgeoning detectives! Get ready to unravel the Case of the Missing Pencil, explore the secret passageways beneath The Mysterious Investigation Institute and unravel the conundrum of The Deadly Silent Spy Organization. With more than 40 puzzles and mysteries to solve and codes to break, this will keep the kids entertained for hours - and the grown-ups too!



THE INCREDIBLE POP-UP BUG

by BEN HOARE & JASMINE FLOYD
HB - £25 - TEMPLAR (AGE 6+)

Get closer than ever to teensy critters in this beautifully crafted book of giant pop-up bugs and flaps that reveal facts galore! Introduces young readers to bugs including spiders and beetles, with sections on habitat, anatomy, insect life and the interweaving worlds of insects and humans. Penned by an award-winning wildlife journalist, this stunningly-designed gem is perfect for fans of Yuval Zommer and budding nature enthusiasts.



AT HOME IN A BOOK

by LAUREN O'HARA
HB - £16.99 - PUFFIN (AGE 5+)

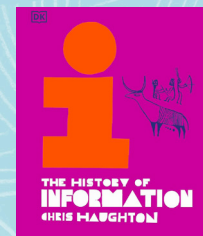
The perfect gift for literary families and future bookworms. Peek inside *Sherlock Holmes'* detective bag, learn more about each *Alice in Wonderland* character, say hello to Peter and Wendy, see what *Anne of Green Gables* has been up to, travel through worlds with gorgeous maps and much more! Nine classic children's stories are brought to life in completely new ways by O'Hara's charming illustrations and vibrant paper cut-outs.



THE HISTORY OF INFORMATION

by CHRIS HAUGHTON
HB - £20 - DK CHILDREN (FAMILY/AGE 10+)

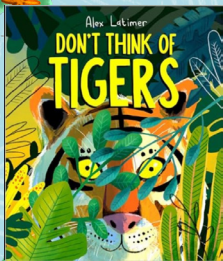
Why do we have kings and queens? How did democracy rise? Why did all the world's religions emerge at about the same time? What will a future with AI look like? In this wildly entertaining and fascinating book, bestselling author and illustrator Haughton answers all these questions and more. From the distant past to the tech of the future, this wonderfully illustrated book is sure to enthrall - it's like *Sapiens* for curious young minds!



PICTURE BOOKS

DON'T THINK OF TIGERS by ALEX LATIMER

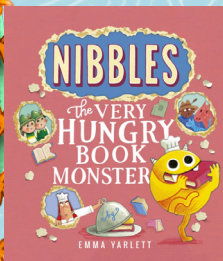
HB - £12.99 - ANDERSEN PRESS (AGE 3+)



There's only one rule: DON'T THINK OF TIGERS! Ready? Oh dear. You thought of tigers, didn't you? Please, think of anything else. Just no tigers. Our illustrator really, really can't draw tigers...Or can he? As his hilariously silly and irresistibly charming drawings of tigers gets more elaborate, Alex Latimer delivers a subtle but important message about creativity, trying again and embracing imperfection.

NIBBLES by EMMA YARLETT

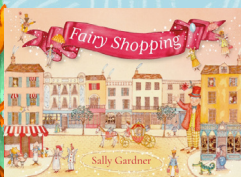
HB - £12.99 - LITTLE TIGER (AGE 3+)



Nibbles, the book-eating monster is searching for the perfect tasting book. But he'll have to search high and low to find it; journeying through all of our favourite well-known tales to find the yummiest story to devour. In this playful new picture book adventure, the whole family can interact with the story through flaps, book bites and so much more!

FAIRY SHOPPING by SALLY GARDNER

HB - £9.99 - ZEPHYR (AGE 3+)

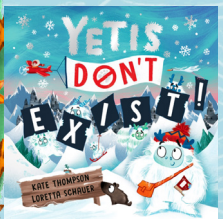


Fairy Shopping is a classic in the making: from its enchanting illustrations to its charming characters, this is a tale as old as time! Everything in Silverbell Street is always open, as long as you believe in fairies. So open your mind, strap on your wings and get ready to spend all day and night adventuring - with all manner of magical creatures!

YETIS DON'T EXIST

by KATE THOMPSON & LORETTA SCHAUER

PB - £7.99 - TEMPLAR (AGE 2+)



When the news gets to the yeti community that yetis don't exist, well, they just can't stand for that. They must let the humans know the truth! They venture high and low, around lakes and across mountains, but humans are harder to find than you might think... This wonderfully funny rhyming picture book is the perfect snowy adventure, that the whole family will want to return to again and again.

YOUNG READERS

BADGERS ARE GO!

by SUSANNAH LLOYD

PB - £7.99 - DAVID FICKLING (AGE 6+)



A heartwarming, wackadoodle story following young Lulu Whifferton-Rear at the Rumpington Academy of Badgering. Little does Lulu know that most of the humans she sees are actually BOPS – Badger Operated Persons – and it is up to the badgers operating them to bring world peace! Can a little badger save the whole world? The perfect next step for fans of Nadia Shireen's *Grimwood*.

PERNICKETY BOO

by SALLY GARDNER & CHRIS MOULD

HB - £12.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (AGE 7+)

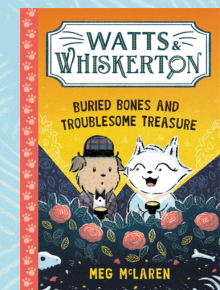


Pernickety Boo is an umbrella with very special powers – but he's desperate for an owner who'll really love him. When Pernickety meets the delightful Sylvie Moonshine and she takes a shine to him, he thinks all his dreams have been realised... but once his powers are revealed, some less-loveable people take an interest too. A beautifully illustrated delight for fans of *Paddington* and *Winnie-the-Pooh*!

WATTS & WHISKERTON

by MEG MCLAREN

PB - £6.99 - PICCADILLY PRESS (AGE 5+)

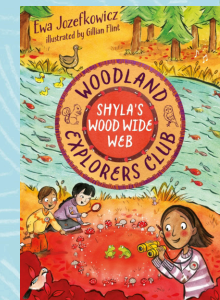


Watts isn't sure if he wants to be a detective like his parents. When they send him to stay at Whiskerton Manor whilst they head off on another adventure, he befriends Pearl, daughter of Count Whiskerton. The next morning, there are screams coming from the garden... someone's been messing with the Count's flowerbeds! Now cat and dog must team up - because there's a real-life mystery to solve.

SHYLA'S WOOD WIDE WEB

by EWA JOZEFKOWICZ & GILLIAN FLINT

PB - £7.99 - ZEPHYR (AGE 6+)



For fans of Jess Butterworth, *Shyla's Wood Wide Web* is the perfect book for kids who love nature - and are learning to read on their own! When Shyla discovers a fungi circle is actually a faerie ring, her passion for saving the forest grows and she makes it her mission to help and preserve every living thing! A lovely story full of friendship, adventure and magic.



CHILDREN'S FICTION

JED GREENLEAF

by **KIERAN LARWOOD & DAVID WYATT**
HB - £14.99 - FABER & FABER (AGE 9+)



When Jed's plant magic shows itself, he is inducted into the Leaf Guild... but the Leaf Guild is dwindling thanks to the power of the Iron and Fire Guilds. Can Jed harness his power in time to save his new home and family? Mixing history and magic and filled with characters you'll want to be best friends with, this is an exhilarating new stand-alone adventure from the author of *Podkin One-Ear!*

A RIDDLE FOR A KING

by **MARK FORSYTH & MATTHEW LAND**
PB - £7.99 - DAVID FICKLING (AGE 9+)



Philo gets more than he'd bargained for when he's thrust into a mysterious land, a place where nothing makes sense and everyone talks in riddles, in this addictive adventure novel filled with humour and unexpected friendship. Can Philo unravel the madness and make his way home or will he be stuck here forever? A labyrinth of riddles, puzzles and wordplay that is a worthy successor to *Alice in Wonderland*.

BECKY'S FAVE: THE BOY TO BEAT THE GODS

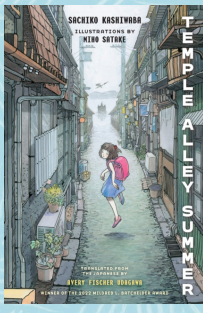
by **ASHLEY THORPE**
PB - £7.99 - USBORNE (AGE 9+)



Kayode dreams of eating the forbidden fruit of the Orishas to obtain their magic and put an end to their murderous regime. After the Orishas abduct his sister, Kayode has no choice but to eat the fruit to save her... can he control his new powers? **Becky says:** "Thorpe captures the formidable ruthless force of the African gods, whilst highlighting the importance of friendships, bravery and family above all else. A knock out for me!"

TEMPLE ALLEY SUMMER

by **SACHIKO KASHIWABA & MIHO SATAKE**
PB - £8.99 - YONDER (AGE 9+)

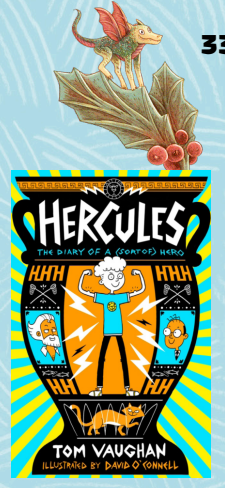


When Kazu wakes to find a girl in a white kimono sneaking round his house in the night, he knows something is off. Then she appears in his classroom the next day and he soon finds himself in the middle of a ghostly mystery. This hidden translated gem is a charming look at Japanese culture that is a delightful mix of *Kiki's Delivery Service* and *The House with Chicken Legs*.

CHILDREN'S FICTION

HERCULES

by **TOM VAUGHAN & DAVID O'CONNELL**
PB - £7.99 - SCHOLASTIC (AGE 8+)



Hercules Braver can't wait to start secondary school. Because Hercules has a foolproof plan – be strong and tanned like a Greek god, not weak and pale like a Greek yoghurt – to make him and his friends the most popular kids in school. What could possibly go wrong? A hilarious new diary-format illustrated series, perfect for fans of *Tom Gates* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

THE SWIFTS

by **BETH LINCOLN & CLAIRE POWELL**
PB - £7.99 - PUFFIN (AGE 9+)



Whenever a Swift is born, they're given a name from the Family Dictionary that predicts their personality. But Shenanigan Swift knows she's more than just a troublemaker... When someone tries to murder Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude at the family reunion, Shenanigan's determined to prove herself - as a detective! But with a family as eccentric as hers, finding out whodunnit won't be easy... A laugh-out-loud mystery for fans of *Lemony Snicket*.

CHRONICLES OF WHETHERWHY

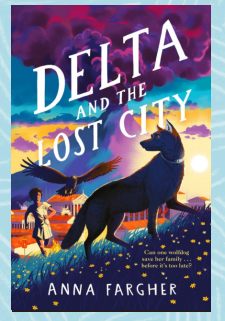
by **ANNA JAMES & DAVID WYATT**
HB - £14.99 - HARPERCOLLINS (AGE 8+)



In Whetherwhy, everyone has magic inside of them, grown from the changing seasons - and some people are Enchanters, who can wield all four seasons of magic! When Juniper discovers she is an Enchanter, she is taken to Thistledown Academy... whilst her twin brother Rafferty follows in her shadow. Featuring secret societies, dragons and magical realms, this is a gripping new fantasy series from the author of *Pages & Co*.

DELTA AND THE LOST CITY

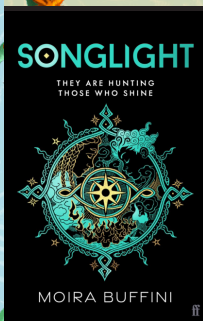
by **ANNA FARGHER & DAVID DEAN**
PB - £7.99 - MACMILLAN CHILDRENS (AGE 9+)



A historical adventure set in ancient Pompeii, as the earth begins to shake and Mount Vesuvius looms above. Young wolfdog Delta finds herself on the run after bearing witness to a horrible crime... but the unstable ground warns of a much larger threat. Determined to save her family, Delta must race against time and find them before it's too late!

HANNAH'S FAVE: SONGLIGHT by MOIRA BUFFINI
PB - £8.99 - FABER & FABER (AGE 15+)

In a near future world, Lark lives in danger: ever since her songlight emerged, anyone could betray her to the authorities - including her own family. But there is freedom brewing... if those with the gift are brave enough to use it. **Hannah Says:** “*The Hunger Games* meets *The Handmaid’s Tale* in this standout YA dystopia! Full of romance, friendship and adventure, *Songlight* blew me away with its gorgeous writing and complex, heart-wrenching characters.”



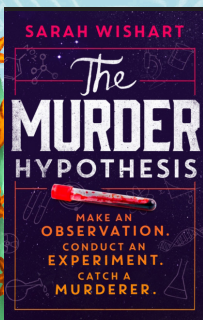
WHEN THE WORLD TIPS OVER
by JANDY NELSON
PB - £8.99 - WALKER BOOKS (AGE 15+)

Sometimes, it feels like the Fall siblings are cursed. Their father’s been missing for years, Dizzy’s best friend has dumped her, ‘perfect’ Miles is skipping school and struggling with his sexuality and Wynton’s been kicked out after getting arrested. But an encounter with a mysterious, rainbow-haired girl is about to change all their lives... A stunning family saga about sibling rivalries and enduring love, told with a hint of magic.



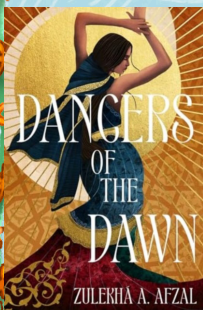
THE MURDER HYPOTHESIS
by SARAH WISHART
PB - £8.99 - HARPER FIRE (AGE 13+)

Desperate to move on from a traumatic incident in London, Grace’s dad moves the two of them to a quiet village in Devon, so safe that nobody bothers locking their door. With no Wi-Fi or phone signal, Grace is convinced she’ll have the most boring summer ever. Until a voice from the second-hand echo in their new house threatens to kill her... A riveting thriller full of twists and turns.



DANCERS OF THE DAWN
by ZULEKHA A. AFZAL
HB - £16.99 - ROCK THE BOAT (AGE 12+)

An enchanting fantasy debut from an exciting new voice. Aasira will do anything to prove she is nothing like her traitorous mother. All she wants is to be an assassin for the queen, but the closer she gets to graduation day, the more she starts to question everything she’s been told... Full of sisterhood, dancing and unique magic, this is a story you don’t want to miss!



TOBY AND THE PIXIES: WORST KING EVER!
by JAMES TURNER & ANDREAS SCHUSTER
PB - £9.99 - DAVID FICKLING (AGE 6+)

Toby was a normal kid... until he accidentally becomes king of the pixies! For shy Toby, these magical creatures aren’t easy to rule over – they are mischief makers, causing chaos wherever they go. When they try to help Toby out on a school trip, all they do is cause trouble and embarrassment! Hilarious, manic and lots of fun, this new series is perfect for *Bunny vs. Monkey* fans.



RUNE by CARLOS SANCHEZ
PB - £10.99 - FLYING EYE BOOKS (AGE 9+)

Follow best friends Chiri and Dai as they tumble into the alternate forest of Puddin’ - full of weirdly wonderful creatures ready to play their part on their quest to defeat the Shadow King. Chiri is non-verbal, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t full of magic... can they learn to use it in time? A fun and beautifully illustrated work of art full of colour, adventure, sign and pastries!



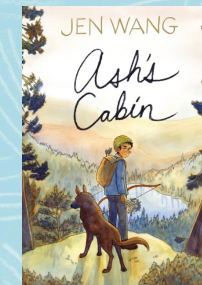
HARU: SPRING by JOE LATHAM
PB - £9.99 - ANDREWS MCMEEL (AGE 9+)

Haru is a little flightless bird with a big heart and big dreams. But there’s darkness lurking in their forest home... When Haru and best friend Yama – a very talkative boar – find a powerful artefact, they must face their fears and travel to the Beacon for answers. Filled with delicious illustrations, this is a dark coming-of-age tale for fans of *Lightfall* and Hayao Miyazaki movies.



ASH'S CABIN by JEN WANG
PB - £14.99 - FIRST SECOND (AGE 12+)

Tired of feeling like no one understands them or cares about the climate crisis, Ash runs away to their Grandpa Edwin’s fabled cabin in the woods, preparing to live off the land with only their dog for company. But Ash soon discovers the wilderness isn’t always kind and living in isolation isn’t as blissful as they imagined. An important, beautifully illustrated story of environmentalism, adventure and alienation.





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This catalogue was created by Tom Mooney, Amy Tottle and Soffi James. Reviews edited by Liv Burness. The reviews were written by the whole Mr B's Team. Thank you once again to Mikey Please for his incredible illustrations!



**Have a wonderful festive season and see you for more reading
fun in 2025!**