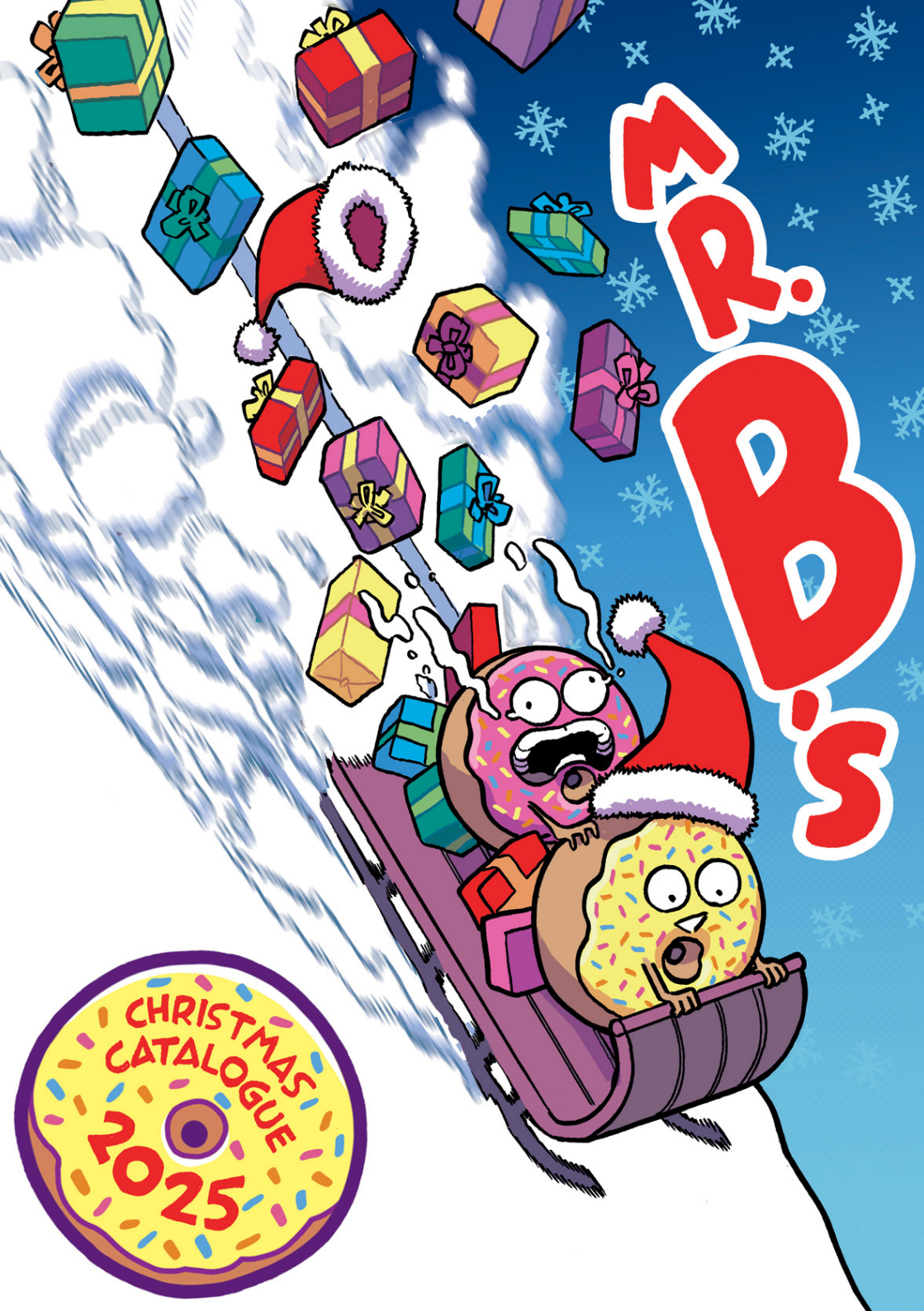


MR. B's



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome to the Mr B's Christmas Catalogue 2025! It has been a year stuffed full of great books, from new authors and old favourites alike. Our team of intrepid book elves have been busy scouring the new releases to bring you the best fiction, non-fiction and children's books that will make perfect gifts for your loved ones. This year's catalogue is our biggest ever, with a record 123 books, as well as three tried-and-tested games to keep the family entertained over the holidays. You'll also find details of our world-famous reading gifts (including our brand new romance club, The New Romantics!), and our iconic Mr B's merchandise. So grab a cuppa, pop the fire on, and enjoy browsing!

10% off all books and games in our catalogue right up until Christmas Day!

A massive thank you to our cover illustrator this year, the brilliant Neill Cameron. His *Mega Robo Bros* series is a perennial Mr B's bestseller and we are already huge fans of the Donut Squad gang!

DONUT SQUAD
by NEILL CAMERON
PB - £9.99 - DFB PHOENIX (AGE 7+)

Meet Sprinkles, the leader. Jammyboi, who spreads stickyness everywhere. Then there's Dadnut and Lil' Timmy, lovers of obscure facts, and oddball Spronky. Together, they are the Donut Squad, a group of fun-loving sweet treats locked in a never-ending forever war against the Bagel Battalion. Hilarious, unhinged and a complete original, this is an amazing new graphic novel series from the genius that is Neill Cameron, creator of the Mr B's bestselling *Mega Robo Bros*.



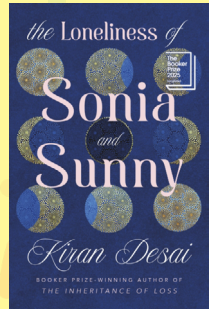
FICTION HIGHLIGHTS

THE LONELINESS OF SONIA AND SUNNY

by KIRAN DESAI

HB - £25 - HAMISH HAMILTON

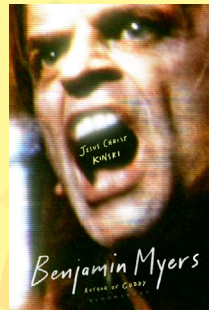
In Vermont, aspiring writer Sonia is homesick for India. In Brooklyn, struggling journalist Sunny wants a life away from his overbearing mother. Each feels alienated, stuck between modernity and tradition, American culture and Indian. After rejecting their grandparents' attempt at matchmaking, Sonia and Sunny are nevertheless drawn together in their search for happiness and identity. In turns epic and intimate, this masterful book is perfect for fans of Rohinton Mistry.



JESUS CHRIST KINSKI by BENJAMIN MYERS

HB - £18.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Klaus Kinski – legendary actor, notorious womaniser, violent colleague, scourge of Werner Herzog – is brought to vivid life in this virtuoso novel from Benjamin Myers, author of Mr B's bestseller *The Offing*. Step inside the crazed mind of this controversial leading man, as he delivers a manic monologue to a hostile audience. Meanwhile, 50 years later, a writer becomes obsessed with watching videos of Kinski as he holes up in his Yorkshire home during lockdown.



CHARLOTTE G'S FAVE: KATABASIS

by R. F. KUANG

HB - £22 - HARPERVOYAGER



Haunted by her role in the gruesome death of her professor, Cambridge student Alice Law makes the dangerous descent into hell to bargain for his soul. But the deadly obstacles she must overcome reveal she may know less about the truth than she realised. **Charlotte says:** "A carefully crafted tale that reminds us of the importance of friendship, forgiveness and staying true to your beliefs."



THE SILVER BOOK by OLIVIA LAING

HB - £20 - HAMISH HAMILTON

1970s Rome and the film studios at Cinecittà are buzzing. Cameras roll on two iconic silver screen classics and set designer Danilo is never far from the dark side of the business. Full of nefarious characters, a lust for love and creative ambition, this is a sultry, edge of danger ride through a city so rich in atmosphere it feels like you're on set with Fellini.



FICTION

COLORED TELEVISION by DANZY SENNA PB - £9.99 - DIALOGUE

Jane and Lenny have always prided themselves on never selling out: she's a professor and novelist, he's an abstract painter. But when a friend loans them his Hollywood Hills mansion for the year, giving them the chance to play at being Successful Black Artists, Jane does something unscrupulous and lands a TV writing job, setting off a spiral of events beyond her control... A sharply funny novel about family, race, and success, for fans of *All Fours*.

EMMA'S FAVE: AMONG FRIENDS by HAL EBBOTT

HB - £18.99 - PICADOR

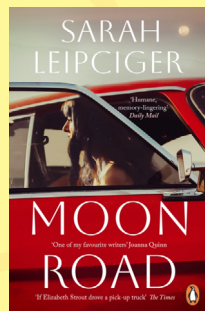
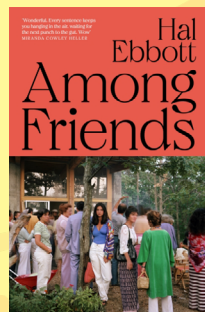
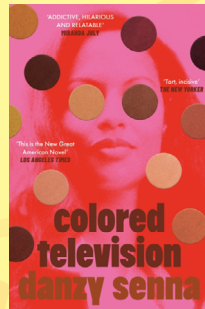
Amos and Emerson have been friends for over thirty years. Languishing in their New York City wealth, they wait for nothing. When their two families meet for a birthday weekend, a shocking act of violence forces them to question the foundations of their friendship. **Emma says:** "An absolutely exquisite novel with some of the most sublime writing I've come across in years. With uncomfortable truths and morally ambiguous characters, it's a book that gets under your skin."

MOON ROAD by SARAH LEIPCIGER PB - £9.99 - TRANSWORLD

Kathleen and Yannick haven't spoken for nineteen years, not since their twenty-two-year-old daughter went missing. When unexpected news surfaces from the other side of Canada, they set off in a rickety old pickup truck on a road trip through forests and over mountains, seeking answers they had lost all hope of finding. Beautifully tender and unexpectedly heartwarming, *Moon Road* is perfect for fans of Anne Tyler and Elizabeth Strout.

JULIETTE'S FAVE: SLANTING TOWARDS THE SEA by LIDIJA HILJE PB - £10.99 - DAUNT BOOKS

What Ivona and Vlaho shared was a love so utterly fulfilling that their separation was unfathomable. Even more baffling is her post-divorce friendship with Vlaho, his new wife and kids. But as Ivona faces further upheavals, secrets resurface, threatening to expose old wounds. **Juliette says:** "With intimate intensity, Hilje explores complex moral questions, aching loss, connection and betrayal - all amidst the sun-baked olive groves of her native Croatia."



FICTION

NIC'S FAVE: DUSK by ROBBIE ARNOTT HB - £16.99 - CHATTO & WINDUS

A wild puma roams a distorted version of the Tasmanian highlands. Twins Iris and Floyd are on its trail - lured by the bounty on its head and hindered by the reckless greed of other trackers. **Nic says:** "Let's begin at the end. *Dusk's* last scenes are all you could want from a finale. Before then Arnott weaves a stunning tale of loyalty, betrayal, desperation, the thin line between man and beast, and the ties that bind."

WILD DARK SHORE by CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY PB - £9.99 - CANONGATE

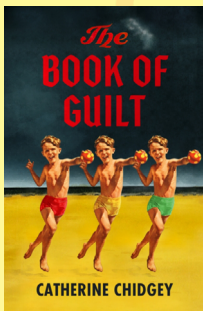
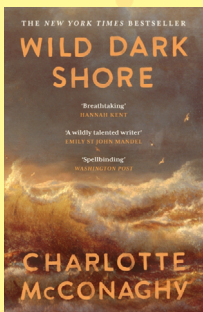
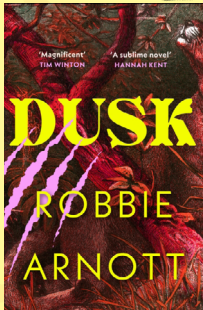
On the subantarctic island of Shearwater, the Salt family toil as caretakers for an underground seed bank. Climate change and recent disaster on the island endanger not just the project but the family's sanity. Their isolation and secrets are broken by the arrival of Rowan, who washes ashore looking for her husband, and becomes equally trapped. A thrilling story of second chances and the humbling power of the natural world.

NETHMI'S FAVE: THE BOOK OF GUILT by CATHERINE CHIDGEY HB - £20 - JOHN MURRAY

England, 1979. Triplets Vincent, William, and Lawrence are the last remaining residents of the Captain Scott Home for Boys. Under the watchful eyes of three Mothers, they dream of being cured of the mysterious Bug and joining their friends in Margate. But when the government shuts down the home, the boys begin to understand that they've been lied to their whole lives... **Nethmi says:** "An eerie alternate history novel steeped in equal parts mystery and tragedy."

IDLE GROUNDS by KRYSTELLE BAMFORD HB - £16.99 - HUTCHINSON HEINEMANN

On a bright summer's day in 1980s New England, three-year-old Abi goes missing on the grounds of her aunt's estate during a family gathering. Whilst their parents bicker and talk politics, it's up to a troop of Abi's cousins to embark on a quest to find her. But the deeper they walk, the more threatening the woods become. Whimsical, unique, and endlessly playful, this is a perfect read for fans of Susanna Clarke's *Piranesi*.



WORLD FICTION

TOM M'S FAVE: THE DIRECTOR
by DANIEL KEHLMANN
HB - £22 - RIVERRUN



G. W. Pabst, film director extraordinaire, is back in Europe after flopping in Hollywood. But the day he arrives back in Austria, Germany annexes the country, leaving him trapped. When the Nazis discover the great man is home, they send for him... **Tom M says:** "An exuberant masterpiece of historical recreation from the great contemporary German author. Can Pabst continue to make art under the constraints of fascism – and keep himself alive in the process?"

SOYANGRI BOOK KITCHEN by KIM JEE HYE
HB - £14.99 - HARVILL SECKER

Yoojin is the proprietor of the Soyangri Book Kitchen, a sanctuary in the peaceful Korean countryside for weary souls, where there is always good food and the shelves are lined with wonderful books. Over the course of a year, seven people arrive for an overnight 'bookstay', each carrying with them problems they need to solve. The perfect next read for fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* and *Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop*.

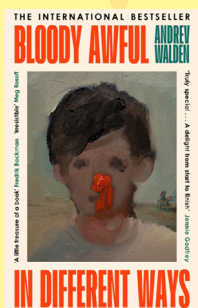
SÔFFI'S FAVE: ENDLING by MARIA REVA
HB - £20 - VIRAGO PRESS



Ukraine, 2022. Maverick scientist Yeva is about to embark on a journey with two angry women, a van load of kidnapped men, and one endangered snail through a country on the brink of war. **Sôffi says:** "Hilarious and heartfelt, *Endling* takes on environmental entropy, the marriage industry and the Russia-Ukraine war, wrapping them up in playful irony and masterful prose. A thrilling and surprising book delivering the gut punch of a Percival Everett novel, told with the wit and pathos of George Saunders."

BLOODY AWFUL IN DIFFERENT WAYS by ANDREV WALDEN
PB - £14.99 - FIG TREE

It is Christmas, 1983, and young Andrev has just been told his father is not actually his father. And so begins a new childhood, where one man after another arrives to sweep his mother off her feet, and Andrev wonders if each will step in to the void left by her revelation. Raw but often joyful, funny and uplifting, this stunning Swedish coming-of-age bestseller is perfect for fans of Fredrik Backman.



WORLD FICTION

ROHAN'S FAVE: ON EARTH AS IT IS BENEATH
by ANA PAULA MAIA
PB - £11.99 - CHARCO PRESS



Deep in the Brazilian wilderness, a penal colony was built on desecrated land. Having long failed to rehabilitate the inmates, the state announces its closure, but few will ever leave alive. The warden releases a few men every night - they will earn their freedom if they can escape his rifle. **Rohan says:** "Sharp, propulsive, and gritty. A beautiful gut-punch of a novel. Ana Paula Maia cements herself as one of the most exciting voices in South American literature."

MONA'S EYES by THOMAS SCHLESSER
HB - £20 - EUROPA EDITIONS

Mona has just one year left before she loses her eyesight forever. So, her grandfather vows to take her to the galleries of Paris every week - the Louvre, the Musee d'Orsay and others - to teach her about the impact of great works of art, from Botticelli to Basquiat. A huge bestseller in France, this beautiful and moving novel is a mix of *Sophie's World* and *All the Light We Cannot See*.

LAURA K'S FAVE: LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR
by PIRKKO SAISIO
PB - £14.99 - PENGUIN CLASSICS

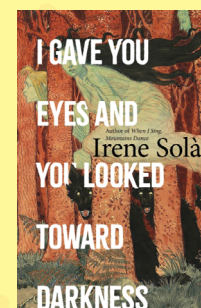
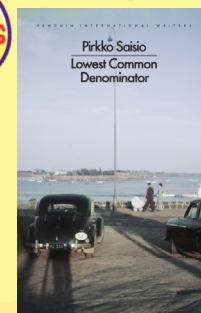
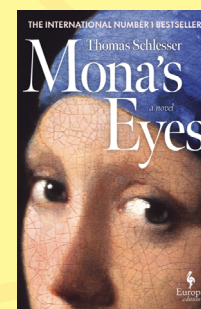
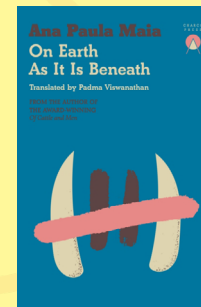


Growing up in a communist home in post-war Helsinki, Pirkko is sure of two things: she'd prefer to be a boy and one day she'll become an artist. These vivid impressions of childhood give us a scrappy cult author in the making. **Laura K. says:** "Originally published in Finnish in 1998, this incisive family portrait and intimate coming-of-age story playfully questions the very nature of memory, with echoes of Elena Ferrante."

LAURA GM'S FAVE: I GAVE YOU EYES AND YOU LOOKED TOWARD DARKNESS by IRENE SOLÀ
HB - £14.99 - GRANTA



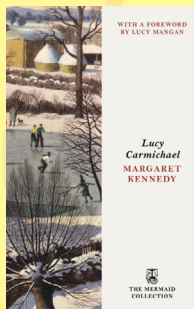
Bernadeta lies on her deathbed as the ghosts of her ancestors keep vigil over her and her descendants tidy around her, feed her, watch videos. The dead women of Mas Clavell tell their stories: reapers, bandits, wolves, and the devil itself: now as a goat, now as a bull, both enemy and lover. **Laura GM says:** "Otherworldly, folkloric, and atmospheric, Solà's prose is playful and so vividly painted that you can almost hear the shadows."



REDISCOVERED CLASSICS

LUCY CARMICHAEL by MARGARET KENNEDY
PB - £12.99 - PENGUIN

Kennedy's rediscovered novel *The Feast* was republished in 2020 to universal acclaim – and a place on the Mr B's bestseller list. *Lucy Carmichael* is every bit as brilliant, telling the story of a young woman who, after being jilted at the altar, abandons her suburban home for a life in the country, where she finds solace in a stimulating new job and gossipy colleagues. A charming and wonderful coming-of-age tale perfect for winter nights.



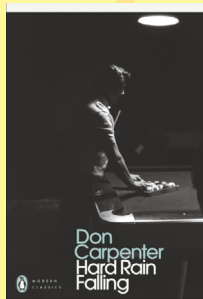
FALL, BOMB, FALL by GERRIT KOUWENAAR
PB - £12.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS

Dutch teenager Karel is sick of hearing about impending war on the radio, tired of everyone around him discussing it – he's more interested in the girl he's just fallen for. If war is coming, let it come! That is, until he's walking around town and a bomb almost claims his life, sending this naïve young man on a crash course with history. *Catch-22* meets *The Catcher in the Rye* in this charming, rediscovered coming-of-age novel.



ED'S FAVE: HARD RAIN FALLING
by DON CARPENTER
PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN CLASSICS

Jack Levitt navigates gritty pool halls and brutal prisons, repeatedly coming into the orbit of the enigmatic Billy Lancing. When they become cellmates, it becomes apparent this relationship could offer a different kind of life for Jack. **Ed says:** "Taking in the sweep of one man's life from his pregnant mother's wild arrival in town, through his criminally spiralling youth to finally finding a kind of peace, this is an intense and deeply affecting hardboiled story."



THE CAT by GEORGES SIMENON
PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN CLASSICS

Émile and Marguerite live in uncomfortable silence in their Paris apartment, while the din of life screams on outside. After marrying in their 60s, the pair lived in peace – that is, until Émile's beloved cat disappeared. Thinking Marguerite the culprit, he immediately took revenge on her parrot, leading to a life of spite and silence, where they now communicate only by petty notes. A tense portrait of a poisoned marriage by the French master.



WINTER FICTION

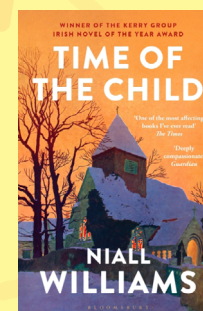
A LONG WINTER by COLM TÓIBÍN
HB - £12.99 - PICADOR

Based on true events in Catalonia twenty years after the Spanish Civil War, Tóibín tells a story of a father and son surviving in the wake of grief, loneliness, and loss. After a fight with his father, Miquel's mother walks out of their home high up in the Pyrenees and does not return, leaving them to battle the harsh winter, and their resentment of each other, alone, until an unexpected arrival brings the promise of hope.



TIME OF THE CHILD by NIAL WILLIAMS
PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY

In the small Irish town of Faha, the doctor and his eldest daughter live together in polite silence, their love and loyalty comforting yet stifling. Shortly before Christmas, their world and relationship is transformed by the arrival of a baby left in their care. Ronnie discovers within herself a purpose beyond her disappointed dreams, whilst her father juggles with community gossip in a desperate attempt to shield his family.



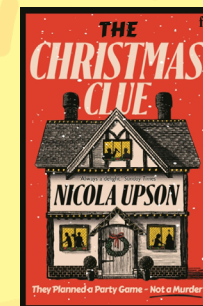
ADVENT by GUNNAR GUNNARSSON
HB - £12.99 - VINTAGE CLASSICS

Every winter during Advent, Benedikt risks the perilous Nordic mountains to rescue sheep lost in the wintry blizzards. His only companions are a loyal dog who can sense wayward sheep through the storms before Benedikt can, and a ram that leads them to safety. Translated into English for the first time in 90 years, this drama of selfless endurance for the greater good is an Icelandic classic akin to *A Christmas Carol*.



THE CHRISTMAS CLUE by NICOLA UPSON
HB - £10 - FABER & FABER

The Pratts have planned a Christmas to die for. It's 1943 in a snowy English village and despite the war shortages, Anthony and Elva Pratt have prepared a murder mystery game for some festive cheer. But when they get to the Tudor Close Hotel, they are faced with the real thing: a shocking murder that needs solving before it's too late. A delightful cosy crime novel loosely based on the true story of the couple who invented *Cluedo*.

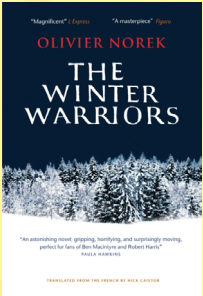


HISTORICAL FICTION



THE WINTER WARRIORS by OLIVIER NOREK
HB - £18.99 - OPEN BORDERS PRESS

Finland, 1939. When the conscription officer arrives at the peaceful village of Rautjärvi with news of Soviet invasion, few can imagine what is to come, least of all young Simo, who is about to become the most legendary and feared sniper in the world. Combining real-life figures with thrilling storytelling, this epic and brilliantly researched novel is perfect for Robert Harris and Ben Macintryre fans.



TIANANMEN SQUARE by LAI WEN
PB - £9.99 - SWIFT PRESS

Lai lives in a small Beijing flat with her parents, younger brother, and grandparents. Her father is a sunken figure haunted by what happened in the Cultural Revolution. As Lai grows older, she begins to understand the history of both her family and her country. When she earns a place at a prestigious university, she joins student protests, convinced change is in the air... A big, sweeping family saga for fans of *Pachinko*.



KATE'S FAVE: THE EIGHTS by JOANNA MILLER
HB - £16.99 - FIG TREE

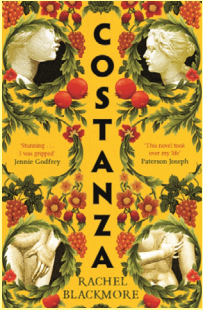


Oxford, 1920. Dora, Marianne, Otto, and Beatrice are part of the first class of women who are allowed to matriculate at Oxford University. This is a time when everything is changing—the shadow of WWI looms large, and the threat of the Spanish Flu hasn't yet been chased away. **Kate says:** "In this powerful and moving story, Miller's skill is in the distinctive voice she crafts for each character, which has you rooting for them through the adversity they face."



COSTANZA by RACHEL BLACKMORE
PB - £9.99 - RENEGADE BOOKS

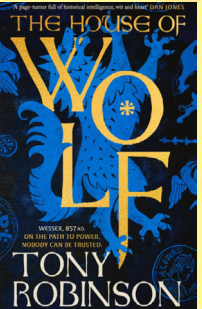
Costanza Piccolomini has been noticed by renowned sculptor Gianlorenzo Bernini, whose affections draw her away from herself and into the world of notoriety. Their relationship quickly grows, their attraction unyielding, and Costanza soon learns that for a woman in Roman society, affection comes with a price. A gripping retelling of a 17th-century silenced woman, complete with blackmail, ferocity and rage.



HISTORICAL FICTION

THE HOUSE OF WOLF by TONY ROBINSON
HB - £25 - SPHERE

The High Court of Aethelwulf stands on the brink of collapse. Moving between Anglo-Saxon Wessex and 9th-century Rome, national treasure Sir Tony Robinson paints a vivid portrait of European Christendom in crisis, as warring siblings battle for the crown and the Vikings begin their assault overseas. Thus begins an epic struggle between greed and morality, ambition and betrayal, freedom and tyranny: because change always meets with conflict, and on the path to power, no one can be trusted.



THE FROZEN RIVER by ARIEL LAWHON
PB - £9.99 - SWIFT PRESS

When midwife and healer Martha Ballard is called to identify the body of a man frozen in the river, it soon emerges the dead man is one of the town's most respected gentlemen. Then details of Martha's diary become public, and she finds herself at the centre of a scandal involving the most shocking of crimes, forcing her to question who she can truly trust... A gripping and heartrending novel for fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing*.



SUE'S FAVE: SEASCRAPER by BENJAMIN WOOD
HB - £14.99 - VIKING

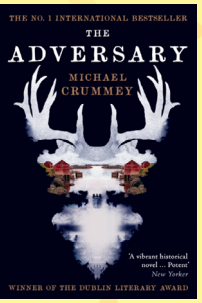


Each day, like his grandfather before him, young Thomas scrapes the tideline for shrimp. Cold and wet, he dreams of warmth and success as a folk musician. When a chance encounter opens him up to the possibility of a different life, Thomas has a choice to make. But what is true and what is not? **Sue says:** "I loved it for its haunting sense of place and its poignant portrayal of a small life reaching for fulfilment. A perfect book for fans of *The Offing*."

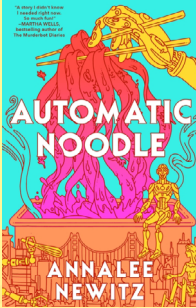


THE ADVERSARY by MICHAEL CRUMMEY
PB - £9.99 - SERPENT'S TAIL

Set in early 19th-century Newfoundland, in the fictional community of Mockbeggar, *The Adversary* follows the ruthless rivalry between the vulgar Abe Strapp, and the scheming Widow Caines, who each head opposing mercantile firms. But they have more than each other to contend with - whether it be the arrival of a deadly plague, or a rowdy band of sailors and thieves. Gruesome and violent, yet unexpectedly funny with some of the best historical swear words you'll ever encounter.



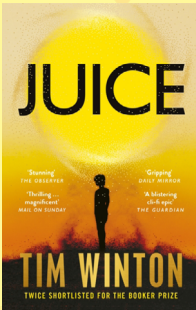
FANTASY & SCI-FI



AUTOMATIC NOODLE by ANNALEE NEWITZ
HB - £14.99 - TOR PUBLISHING

A near-future novella about four robots, a human, and a car who open up a noodle shop in a futuristic post-war San Francisco, in newly independent California. When an anonymous comment sparks a review bombing frenzy, our heroes must think outside the wok and rebuild from the ground up. A charming, cosy sci-fi for fans of Becky Chambers and TJ Klune, with delicious food writing and a political undercurrent simmering beneath the surface.

HENRY'S FAVE: JUICE by TIM WINTON
PB - £9.99 - PICADOR



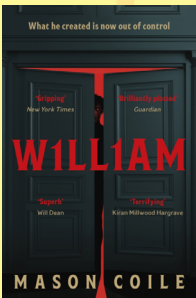
A man and child traverse a ruined landscape in future Australia, when they are taken at crossbow-point and caged. Realising his only hope of escape lies in establishing a rapport with his captor, the man tell his story: a tale of a childhood lived in a place ravaged by uninhabitable temperatures and strange beings, where to survive he had to do the unthinkable. **Henry says:** "A moving and thrilling SF novel from the Australian master."

FREEZING POINT by ANDERS BODELSEN
PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER



When young magazine editor Bruno discovers he has an incurable cancer, he thinks his days are numbered. But his doctor offers him a unique opportunity: to be cryogenically frozen and suspend his life until a cure is discovered. Bruno agrees, but will the world he wakes up in be the same as the one he remembers? A rediscovered, darkly comic Danish dystopian classic that portrays the beauty of life and death by removing the possibility of the latter.

CLEM'S FAVE: WILLIAM by MASON COILE
PB - £9.99 - BASKERVILLE



Henry, an incredible inventor trapped at home with agoraphobia, finishes fully automating his smart-house with excessive security upgrades, and returns to the greatest invention of his career: William, an entirely-too-conscious artificial intelligence who is currently lying unattended and deformed in Henry's attic. **Clem says:** "Stephen King meets *Black Mirror*, *William* is gory, shocking and perfectly paced, combining psychological thriller with science fiction speculation. A haunted house horror for the Bluetooth age."

FANTASY & SCI-FI

BLOOD OVER BRIGHT HAVEN by M. L. WANG
PB - £9.99 - CORNERSTONE

Sciona is an ambitious student who has a rare opportunity, as a spellworking woman, to audition before the Council. If successful, she will win a place amongst the mages of the city of Tiran, a city wholly dependent on magic and protected by a wall that keeps out the Blight. Sciona soon finds unexpected friendship in refugee Thomil, who reveals the true nature of the city she has naïvely revered. Deliciously dark academia fantasy for fans of Leigh Bardugo and R.F. Kuang.



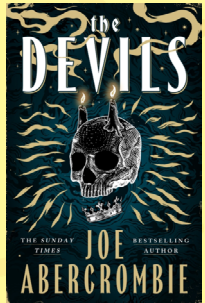
ISABELLA NAGG AND THE POT OF BASIL by OLIVER DARKSHIRE
HB - £20 - HODDERSCAPE

In the miserable village of East Grasby, Isabella Nagg divides her time between her lazy lout of a husband and her wandering donkey. When Mr Nagg brings home a stolen book from the local wizard, Isabella wonders what harm a little magic could do? This debut novel from a beloved rare bookseller is cosy and witty, full of Pratchett-esque footnotes, and set in a world of goblins, sentient animals, and talking plants, of course!



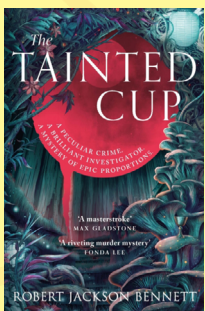
THE DEVILS by JOE ABERCROMBIE
HB - £25 - GOLLANCZ

An unlikely princess needs placing on a foreign throne – a mission with near-impossible odds of success. In steps the Vatican, which holds a hellish group of misfits – including a vampire, immortal knight, necromancer, and werewolf – perfect for just this sort of hopeless task. Equally bloody and funny, this stupendously action-packed fantasy epic is like a gothic *Suicide Squad* set in an alternative Medieval Europe.



THE TAINTED CUP by ROBERT JACKSON BENNETT
PB - £12.99 - HODDERSCAPE

In the home of the richest family in Daretana, a tree spontaneously erupts from an Imperial Officer's chest. Even in the Empire, where magical augmentation and contagion are the norm, it is an impossible death. Enter the brilliant and eccentric investigator, Ana Dolabra and her memory-augmented new assistant, Dinios Kol. When they discover that this strange death was not an isolated incident, they begin to uncover a plot that threatens the safety of the whole Empire...



ROMANCE

HEART THE LOVER by LILY KING
HB - £18.99 - CANONGATE

Isn't there something so heartbreakingly beautiful about the lives we almost lead? *Heart the Lover* attacks this question with a ferocity that will leave you breathless, as we see our narrator swept into an intoxicating love triangle in her youth, then meet her again, decades later, as her past decisions re-emerge in devastating ways. A read-in-one-sitting, audible-sob-inducing, great big beauty of a book - essential for fans of Coco Mellors, and Sally Rooney.

ROSA'S FAVE: THE GEOGRAPHER'S MAP TO ROMANCE
by INDIA HOLTON
PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN

Elodie Tarrant is an expert on magical disasters, and fazed by nothing - except her fake husband Gabriel Tarrant, who she married for convenience a year ago. Elodie may know tornados and earthquakes... but she doesn't know that Gabriel is secretly pining for her. When they're accidentally assigned to deal with the same catastrophe, chaos ensues. **Rosa says:** "Hilarious and sweet, with whimsy, wit and wonder. Holton delivers with this *Twisters-meets-Anne of Green Gables* story."

THE FAVOURITES by LAYNE FARGO
PB - £9.99 - VINTAGE

A retelling of *Wuthering Heights* set in the cut-throat, competitive world of figure skating. Meet Kat Shaw and Heath Rocha: sometimes partners, sometimes rivals, known for their electric chemistry... both on and off the ice. As the 10-year anniversary of their final skate approaches, an unauthorized documentary reignites public obsession with the pair. Think *I, Tonya* meets *Daisy Jones and the Six* - perfect for fans of Taylor Jenkins Reid.

GOOD SPIRITS by B. K. BORISON
PB - £9.99 - HARPER HQ

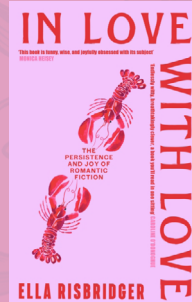
Harriet has no idea why she's being haunted. All smiles and candy canes, she's no Scrooge. So why has the Ghost of Christmas Past turned up on her doorstep? What's more... why is he kind of sexy? Witty, whimsical, and full of feel-good festivity, *Good Spirits* is cosier than a gingerbread scented candle - and just as spicy. An instant holiday classic!

LIV'S FAVE: IN LOVE WITH LOVE
by ELLA RISBRIDGER
HB - £16.99 - SCEPTRE

Part literary criticism, part social history, total passion project, *In Love With Love* is a wild tour through the romance wilderness: a deeply heartfelt and wholly joyful exploration of a genre often misunderstood and underappreciated. **Liv says:** "Clever, funny, brilliant - I'm completely smitten. If you've ever wanted to read about Jane Austen, Jilly Cooper, Judith Butler, and giant sexy aliens in the same book, *In Love With Love* is for you."

YOU ARE ELIZABETH BENNET
by EMMA CAMPBELL WEBSTER
HB - £10 - FABER & FABER

It is a truth universally acknowledged that an Austen heroine must be in want of a husband... or is it? Transported to Jane's Regency-era world, in this choose-your-own-adventure novel readers can decide their own destiny: whether it's marrying a single man in possession of a good fortune, or becoming a famous author themselves! Endlessly entertaining and incredibly funny, this is an essential addition to any Austen fanatic's shelf.



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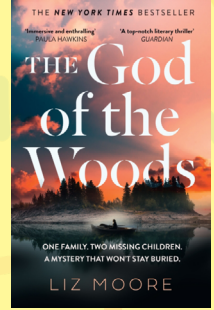
Welcome to *The New Romantics* - a monthly book subscription for those in love with love stories. Each month we'll handpick a brand new romantic read and deliver it straight to your door. Talk about You've Got Mail! Whether you prefer rugged cowboys or Regency romps, forbidden love or forced proximity, *The New Romantics* will keep your heart racing and your TBR pile irresistible.

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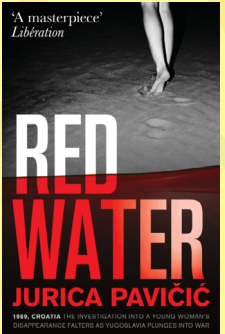
CRIME & MYSTERY

THE GOD OF THE WOODS by LIZ MOORE
PB - £9.99 - THE BOROUGH PRESS



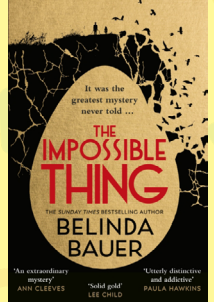
In August, 1975 a girl goes missing from a summer camp in the Adirondack Mountains. But this isn't just any girl – Barbara Van Laar is the daughter of the wealthiest family in town and the second Van Laar child to disappear without a trace. Age-old grudges and small-town gossip bubble beneath the surface of this multi-perspective mystery. Perfect for fans of *All the Colours of the Dark*.

LUCINDA'S FAVE: RED WATER by JURICA PAVIČIĆ
PB - £9.99 - BITTER LEMON PRESS



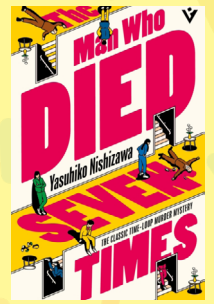
On the Dalmatian coast, 17-year-old Silva fails to return home after a beach party. It's September 1989, though, and the police enquiry is derailed by political upheaval. Silva's twin brother Mate turns investigator. **Lucinda says:** "I love crime novels that go beyond the police procedural and this one takes in the fall of communism and the outbreak of the Bosnian war. Despite the epic big picture backdrop, it delivers great characters and a satisfyingly complex plot."

THE IMPOSSIBLE THING by BELINDA BAUER
HB - £16.99 - BANTAM



1926, the Yorkshire coast: a child dangles perilously from a rope at the cliff edge, reaching for a bird's nest which contains a beautiful, unique egg. Present day, Wales: when Patrick finds his friend Nick tied up after a robbery at his home, the pair are bewildered to discover the only thing missing is an ornate bird's egg Nick found amongst old junk in the attic. A glorious double mystery full of heart and humour.

THE MAN WHO DIED SEVEN TIMES by YASUHIKO NISHIZAWA
PB - £14.99 - PUSHKIN VERTIGO



Hisataro possesses an unusual power: every so often, he will fall into a time-loop and must relive the same day nine times. When his grandfather dies under suspicious circumstances at a family New Year's gathering, Hisataro has eight chances to figure out whodunnit. But with a large inheritance up for grabs, every family member is a suspect... A cracking locked-room murder mystery with a time-travelling twist, perfect for fans of Stuart Turton.

MR B'S NEWS

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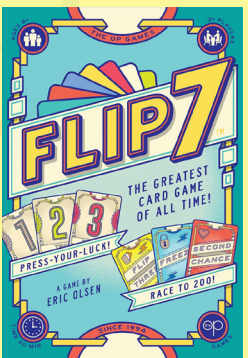
GAMES



FLIP 7
by **ERIC OLSEN**
3-18 PLAYERS - £9.99 - USA-OPOLY (8+)



Blending *Uno* and *Blackjack*, *Flip 7* is a fast-paced push-your-luck game where the main objective is to score as many points as possible without revealing the same card twice and going bust! The idea is straightforward enough, but throw in a few action cards and modifiers - as well as a table full of excited players - this game becomes a raucous, laugh-out-loud load of fun. Perfect for a quick 20 minutes or a full evening of entertainment (as experienced at our last staff party!).



HERO SLAM by **JAMIE SMART**
1-4 PLAYERS - £20 - LAURENCE KING (6+)



Collect your heroes. Defeat evil. Try not to die. *Hero Slam* is a hilarious, story-driven card game from *Bunny vs Monkey* author Jamie Smart. The Enchanted Forest has been invaded by a great evil; each player must recruit a band of heroes - ranging from the hardcore (Battle-Hardened Tortoise, Unicorn in a Tank) to the almost useless (90s Pig, Weird Slug) - before facing off against a mighty baddie to save the forest! Combining a push-your-luck game with a Top Trumps-style play, this will appeal to kids (and adults) who like card collection games like *Pokemon*, and anybody who has enjoyed Jamie Smart's graphic novels.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING: TRICK-TAKING GAME
by **BRYAN BORNMUeller**
1-4 PLAYERS - £24.99 - OFFICE DOG (10+)

Work together to beat each scenario in this glorious co-operative card game where players relive *The Fellowship of the Ring*. It begins as a simple trick-taking game (à la *Whist*), but each chapter introduces new characters, twists and goals to keep each round fresh and challenging. With 18 scenarios and dozens of characters to play, the evocative theme brings this brilliant game to life. A hand of cards typically takes 20 minutes, but don't be surprised if you find yourself playing it all night- it is an absolute blast!



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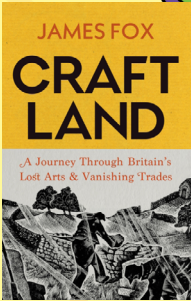
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TRAVEL & NATURE



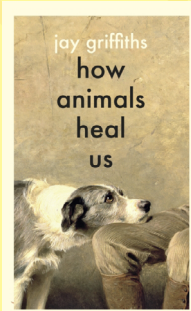
CRAFTLAND by JAMES FOX
HB - £25 - THE BODLEY HEAD

Britain is a nation built on craft. Drystone walling, watch-making, rush-weaving, coopers, tanners – the list is endless. Historian Fox travels the length and breadth of the country to meet the people keeping these ancient trades alive and, in the process, tells the story of the many communities built on their skill and labour. An endlessly fascinating story of work, art, and social history, that goes a long way to explain who the British are.



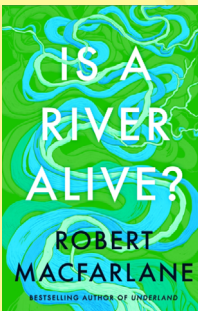
PATRIA by LAURENCE BLAIR
PB - £12.99 - VINTAGE

Echoing Bruce Chatwin's *In Patagonia*, Laurence Blair travels across South America in search of untold and forgotten stories. From renegade Incan kingdoms and flourishing Amazonian civilisations to black revolutionaries and free republics of runaway slaves, we're immersed in the last five centuries of the continent's history like never before. Part travel writing, part narrative history, *Patria* is perfect for fans of Sophy Roberts and David Grann.



HOW ANIMALS HEAL US by JAY GRIFFITHS
HB - £20 - HAMISH HAMILTON

A soul-filling dive into the astounding ways in which animals share, shape and enhance our world. They cure loneliness, inspire creativity and guide us with their morality, moulding our dreams and inspiring our songs. From therapy parrots to life-saving humpback whales, Griffiths explores how animals better our lives, heal our bodies and our souls, and shows the myriad ways we could benefit if we learn to tune in and really hear what they have to say.



KATRINA'S FAVE: IS A RIVER ALIVE?
by ROBERT MACFARLANE
HB - £25 - HAMISH HAMILTON



Recognising the ill health of his local river in Cambridgeshire, Macfarlane visits three rivers across the world, journeying to Ecuador, India and Canada. He meets activists, indigenous people, conservationists, educators, musicians and guides, and, of course, the rivers themselves, to ponder the question: Is a River Alive? **Katrina says:** "This book chronicles an awakening to a way of recognising the environment and our interconnectedness that is vital to our continued conservation and hope for Earth."

SCIENCE

THE STORY OF A HEART by RACHEL CLARKE
PB - £10.99 - ABACUS

Nine-year-old Max had been in hospital for more than a year and was in desperate need of a heart. Hope arrives for Max at the same time as tragedy for the family of a young girl named Keira. What follows is one of the most astonishing, moving and life-affirming stories you will ever read. Winner of the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, Clarke's incredible book mixes an empathetic human story with the history of medical advancements.

LOTTIE'S FAVE: EVERYTHING IS TUBERCULOSIS
by JOHN GREEN
HB - £22 - EBURY PRESS



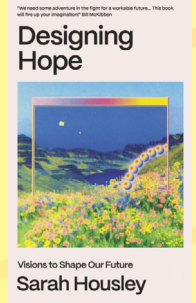
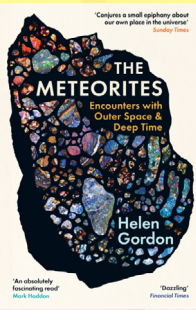
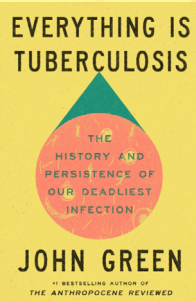
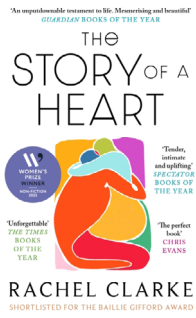
Tuberculosis has killed one in every seven people who have ever lived. It's famed with spawning the genius of the Romantic poets, and sparking the beauty standards of the Western world. But this is no illness of the past: since finding the cure in 1950 a staggering 150 million people have died from the disease. **Lottie says:** "From the genius writer of *The Fault in Our Stars* comes a remarkable tale of medicine, culture, art, and humanity that I will never forget."

THE METEORITES by HELEN GORDON
PB - £10.99- PROFILE BOOKS

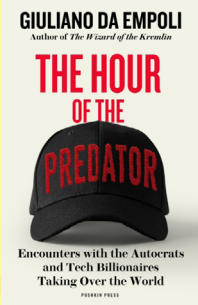
We gaze at the sky and see stars, planets, moons and comets whose trajectories will never intersect with our own. And yet they do, in the form of meteorites. These strange rocks, which often command huge monetary sums, connect us with the vastness of the universe and may even have been where life on Earth originated. Gordon takes us on a tour of these vital and fascinating items – as well as the collectors who prize them.

DESIGNING HOPE
by SARAH HOUSLEY
HB - £14.99 - THE INDIGO PRESS

Dream of a better future. Better yet: design it, then create it. The world's in a polycrisis and our most exciting innovations create new problems of their own. This book resets expectations. Through exploration of four emerging futures – More-than-human, Degrowth, Solarpunk, and the Metaverse – Housley inspires critical thinking, imagination, and hope for the decades ahead. An essential read for the hopeful and engaged.

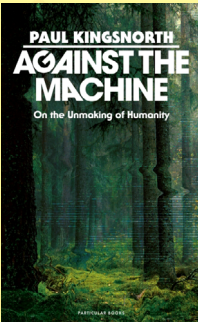


THE WORLD AROUND US



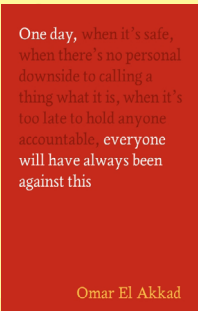
THE HOUR OF THE PREDATOR by GIULIANO DA EMPOLI
PB - £12.99 - PUSHKIN PRESS

Tech bros are holding our governments to ransom. Presidencies are turning into monarchies. Dissidents are disappeared at will. Our democracies are falling apart before our eyes – and da Empoli’s seen it all from the inside. As an adviser to Macron in France and Renzi in Italy, he’s been to Davos, roamed the halls of the UN General Assembly, met the autocrats and billionaires that control our world. And he has a warning for us...



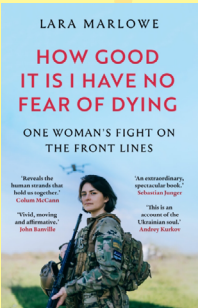
AGAINST THE MACHINE by PAUL KINGSNORTH
HB - £25 - PARTICULAR BOOKS

The Machine is choking Western civilisation. This is not a new phenomenon; it has been happening for over a century. Techno-capitalism has us all in its grip, with false promises of prosperity for all, so long as we plough on towards some undefined future. In this incredibly pertinent book, novelist and essayist Kingsnorth shows where we have gone wrong, from the Industrial Revolution to the rise of AI, while also plotting a way forward for the beleaguered human spirit.



ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST THIS by OMAR EL AKKAD
HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE

Egyptian-born El Akkad has spent most of his adult life in the West, where as a reporter he covered the war in Afghanistan and the Arab Spring. Here he lays bare the facts of the Israeli government’s genocidal actions of the past two years and the pathetic response of the world’s great powers, while also weaving in his own story of migration, and his loss of faith in Western ideals. Powerful, thought-provoking, and essential.



HOW GOOD IT IS I HAVE NO FEAR OF DYING by LARA MARLOWE
PB - £12.99 - APOLLO

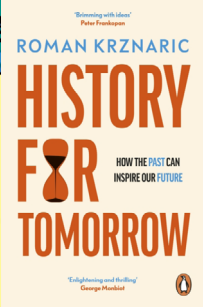
Yulia Mykytenko is one of the only female platoon commanders on the front line in Ukraine’s defence of its country from the Russian invasion. Here she shares her story, a tale stained by the brutal realities of a form of combat that hasn’t changed all that much in a century. Rejecting easy answers and politically safe viewpoints, this raw and honest account delivers a revelatory and frank view of the conflict from the ground.

THOUGHTS



HISTORY FOR TOMORROW by ROMAN KRZNARIC
PB - £10.99 - W H ALLEN

How can we learn from the past to better deal with the future? Social philosopher Krznaric takes us on a journey to answer exactly that question. He explores the origins of capitalism to better understand AI, and finds inspiration from 18th-century Japan for creating a regenerative economy from. He even connects the radical revolts of the past to our mission to tackle the climate crisis. An informative and thought-provoking read for fans of Yuval Noah Harari and Rutger Bregman.



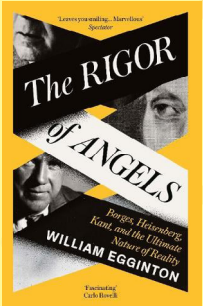
CHASING THE DARK by BEN MACHELL
HB - £22 - ABACUS

Poltergeists, ghosts, paranormal activity... How do we explain things when science fails? Enter the Society for Psychical Research, a group founded to answer exactly these questions. A group whose members have included Prime Ministers, military commanders, and eminent scientists. Most notorious of all was a young naval officer called Tony Cornell, who spent 60 years investigating strange goings on. In this fascinating read, his casebook is opened, revealing all manner of forays into the unexplained.



THE RIGOR OF ANGELS by WILLIAM EGGINGTON
PB - £12.99 - ONE

Jorge Luis Borges, an Argentine writer, comes to the realisation there can only be love if there is heartbreak. Werner Heisenberg, the German physicist, has a revelation about the nature of reality. Prussian philosopher Immanuel Kant pushes at the limits of the human mind. Three geniuses, whose ideas converge to paint a picture of the human experience and our relationship to reality, are profiled in this exhilarating narrative, perfect for fans of Benjamín Labatut.



THE CREATIVE ACT by RICK RUBIN
PB - £18 - CANONGATE

Rick Rubin has been at the heart of the music biz for more than 40 years, as founder of Def Jam Records, where he launched the careers of LL Cool J and the Beastie Boys, among many others, and later as head of Columbia, where he worked with the likes of Metallica, Green Day, and U2. In this unique book, Rubin examines the course of creativity and its boundless potential for uplifting the human soul, to deliver a wise and philosophical treatise.



HISTORY



INDIGNITY by LEA YPI
HB - £22 - ALLEN LANE

With what authority do we judge the past? Lea Ypi thought that records of her grandparents' youth were destroyed in the early days of communism in Albania. When she discovers a photograph of her grandmother, Leman, smiling on honeymoon in the Alps in 1941, she faces unsettling questions. *Indignity* transports you to the vanished world of Ottoman aristocracy, the horrors of war, and the making of modern Greece and Albania.

NUCLEAR WAR: A SCENARIO by ANNIE JACOBSEN
PB - £10.99 - TRANSWORLD

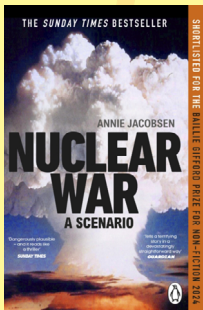
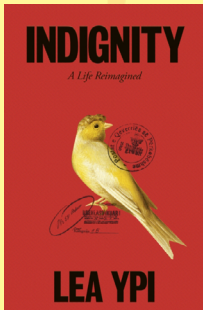
A ballistic missile carrying a nuclear warhead appears as a blip on a radar screen, and so the cogs of a devastating war begin to turn... Acclaimed journalist Annie Jacobsen takes us through this imagined scenario, minute-by-minute, in detail as terrifying as it is fascinating. Drawing on historical documents and interviews with the people who have been in the room, this is riveting military history and a timely exploration of the unthinkable.

WHEN WE SOLD GOD'S EYE by ALEX CUADROS
PB - £12.99 - WEIDENFELD & NICHOLSON

In 2004, a bloody clash between the Amazonian Cinta Larga tribe and Brazilian diamond prospectors made headlines around the world. Uncontacted until the 1960s, and exploited as the new underclass in Brazilian society, the Cinta Larga sell the abundant mineral wealth under their feet to survive. This will spell their ruin. Alex Cuadros' brilliant investigative journalism places indigenous voices front and centre. A southern take on *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

CHALLENGER by ADAM HIGGINBOTHAM
PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN

On a cold January morning in 1986, the Challenger space shuttle broke up over the Atlantic Ocean as millions watched live on TV around the world. All seven people on board died, and the hearts of onlookers were broken. Investigative journalist Higginbotham takes us back to the start of the NASA program to weave a thrilling tale of ambition, national pride, and ultimately disaster. A riveting read for fans of Patrick Radden Keefe.



HISTORY

ELEANOR by ALICE LOXTON
HB - £22 - MACMILLAN

In 1290, England mourned the death of a queen, Eleanor of Castile, beloved wife of King Edward I. Her body was carried on a 200-mile journey from Lincoln to London, a solemn procession that would be immortalised in stone when Edward commissioned 12 Eleanor Crosses along the route. Seven centuries later, Alice Loxton sets herself an epic challenge: to follow in history's footsteps by walking the entire funeral route, reflecting on love, loss, and legacy on the way.

HENRY V by DAN JONES
PB - £12.99 - APOLLO

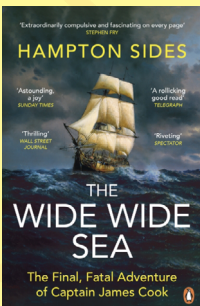
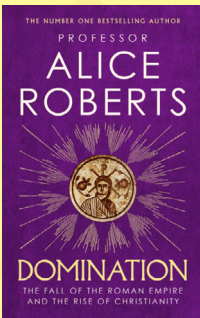
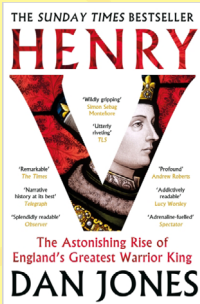
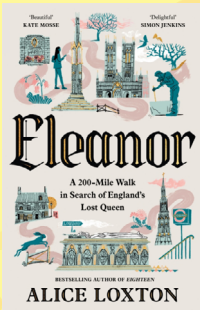
Henry V reigned for only nine years and four months and died at the age of just 35, yet he looms large over the landscape of the late Middle Ages as one of our most imposing monarchs. Historian Dan Jones dissects the man who would be king, in a compelling first-person narrative, bringing history to life as vividly as the day it was recorded. This is a thrilling account of the unmissable life of England's greatest king.

DOMINATION by ALICE ROBERTS
HB - £22 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

How did a small local cult grow into a significant cultural and political force? Travelling from South Wales, through the heart of the Roman Empire, all the way to Constantinople, Roberts charts the movement of people and the spread of Christianity across centuries, as power and religion combined to change the structure of everyday life. *Domination* draws on scientific and archaeological evidence to deliver a thrilling exploration of one of the key turning points in history.

THE WIDE WIDE SEA by HAMPTON SIDES
PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN

This gripping narrative history follows Captain James Cook's fatal third voyage, launched in 1776 under the guise of returning Mai, a celebrated Polynesian man to his homeland - but with secret orders to seek the Northwest Passage. Hampton Sides contrasts Mai's moving story of first contact, with Cook's unraveling: an admired leader, cartographer, and ethnographer who became volatile and hubristic. Deeply researched, blending mystery and historical analysis, and as thrilling as a Patrick O'Brian adventure.

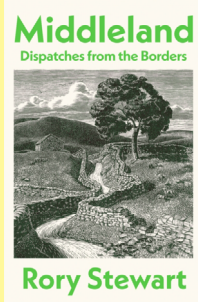
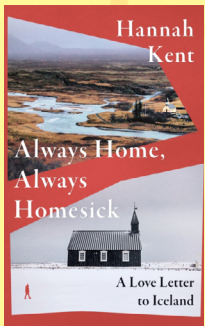


BIOGRAPHY

AMY'S FAVE: ALWAYS HOME, ALWAYS HOMESICK
by HANNAH KENT
HB - £16.99 - PICADOR



Hannah Kent travels to Iceland as a 17-year-old exchange student, where she is determined to learn Icelandic, before stumbling across the astonishing story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman hanged on the island, which would later become the basis for her award-winning novel *Burial Rites*. **Amy says:** "Kent's ode to Iceland - and storytelling - is a beautiful journey of family, place, and belonging, where every page brims with love for the land and its people."

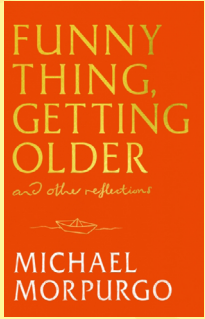


MIDDLELAND by RORY STEWART
HB - £22 - JONATHAN CAPE

The Rest Is Politics star Rory Stewart was MP for Britain's most rural constituency for nearly a decade. *Middleland* is a life-affirming, authentic, urgent portrait of rural Britain, a place and people frequently romanticised and whose challenges have been politicised. It is a book about cherishing a place, a people, and a history, and shows us what form more humane politics could take.

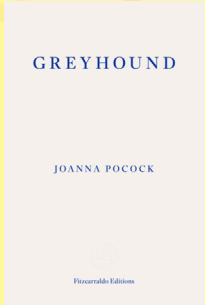
FUNNY THING, GETTING OLDER
by MICHAEL MORPURGO
HB - £20 - HODDER & STOUGHTON

Beloved writer Michael Morpurgo draws on a lifetime of observations and storytelling in this brand new collection of musings, memories, and stories. From personal anecdotes about childhood and getting older, to his thoughts on nature, war and peace, and writing, this book is a treasury of humour, introspection, and wonder. Interspersed with poems, stories, and even a play, this collection is a perfect blend for any fan of Morpurgo's enchanting writing.



GREYHOUND
by JOANNA POCOCK
PB - £14.99 - FITZCARRALDO

In 2023 Joanna Pockock travelled by Greyhound bus from Detroit to Los Angeles, recreating a journey she had taken seventeen years earlier. She revisited the same cities, bus stations, and motels, but in a very different America; one steeped in inequality and on the brink of environmental collapse. Delving into the communal experience of travelling by bus, Pockock opens our eyes to a connection we're in danger of losing.



LIFE & ART

SAM'S FAVE: THE STRANGERS
by EKOW ESHUN
PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN



An audacious and affecting exploration of Black masculinity across two centuries. Written in the second person, *The Strangers* invites the reader into the lives of five figures - Ira Aldridge, Matthew Henson, Frantz Fanon, Malcolm X and Justin Fashanu - each facing a moment of reckoning that will both cement their reputation and label them outsiders. **Sam says:** "Deeply felt and imagined, interspersed with illuminating essays, this is the most groundbreaking biography I've read in years."



THE SECRET PAINTER by JOE TUCKER
PB - £10.99 - CANONGATE

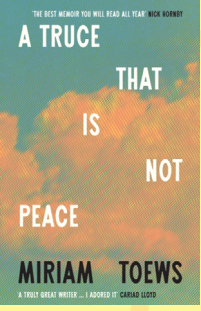
When Joe Tucker's uncle Eric - working class, 84-years-old, and severely arthritic - decided to put on an exhibition of his paintings, the family were surprised. They knew he enjoyed art and had a handful of completed works in the house. Then Eric told them to look in the attic. What they discovered was an astonishing collection of hundreds of masterpieces. A beautiful, uplifting book about Britain's 'Lost Lowry', ruminating on art, class and family.



TOM H'S FAVE: A TRUCE THAT IS NOT PEACE
by MIRIAM TOEWS
HB - £16.99 - FOURTH ESTATE

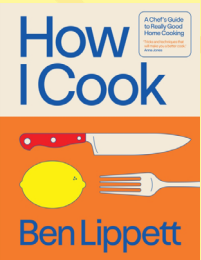


In search of the answer to the question "why do you write?", Miriam Toews explores her past, her memories, and decades of correspondence. A breathtaking memoir that explores the weight of grief in her characteristic blend of comedy and tragedy, bringing a raw and vulnerable Toews into the spotlight. **Tom H says:** "She is a masterful writer, and this memoir is something magical: a rollercoaster of emotions served up on a platter of spectacular prose."



HOW I COOK by BEN LIPPETT
HB - £26 - HARPERCOLLINS

Ben Lippett has been a professional chef all around the world, and concludes the most important word to use in the kitchen is "why?" Why am I adding salt now and not later? Why am I preheating my pan? Why has my chocolate mousse split? Why does this taste so good? Using more than 100 delicious everyday recipes, he guides us through the skills and techniques needed to sharpen your cookery skills - just like the professionals!



THE CULTURE

ANIME ARCHIVES by LOST IN CULT
HB - £35 - EXPANSE

A stunning visual journey through the history of anime. From iconic films that graced the bigscreen, such as *My Neighbour Totoro* and *Your Name*, to enduring series like *Dragon Ball Z*, which are rewatched by each new generation of anime fans, this compendium is a chronological celebration of the masterpieces of the genre. Dive into the artists, inspiration, and techniques behind anime classics with this thoughtful collection of essays, interviews, and retrospectives.

BOX OFFICE POISON by TIM ROBEY
PB - £10.99 - FABER & FABER

Hollywood's story is one of glittering success, great art, and bathtubs full of money... at least that's what it tells itself. In this funny and smart book, Robey shows us the other side of Tinsel Town through the colossal flops from more than a century of cinema: from *Cleopatra* – which nearly bankrupted 20th Century Fox, through *Dune*, *Waterworld*, and *Babe: Pig in the City*, to the modern-day disaster that was *Cats*.

THE SLICKS by MAGGIE NELSON
PB - £9.99 - FERN PRESS

What do Taylor Swift and Sylvia Plath have in common? In this inspired, unexpected essay, cultural critic Maggie Nelson deftly explores how these two iconic female artists, through their prolific, deeply personal works, have come to represent unbridled ambition and intensely confessional artistry... and have consequently found themselves the twin targets of misogynistic dismissal. Celebratory and rallying, this is the perfect stocking filler for the tortured poet in your life!

EVERYTHING MUST GO by DORIAN LYNKEY
PB - £12.99 - PICADOR

Prepare for the most fun you can have with the end of the world! Lynskey takes us on a tour of dystopia, from 1816 to today, taking in everything from Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* to *The Last of Us*, via Wells, Wyndham, McCarthy, Mandel and more. Structured around the big human fears – Comet strikes! Nuclear war! Pandemics! Zombies! – Lynskey's riveting book is an endlessly entertaining exploration of the genre.



DOG SHOW by BILLY COLLINS
HB - £14.99 - PICADOR

One of our most beloved and accessible poets turns his attention to man's best friend, in this warm and witty collection of poems and paintings celebrating all things canine. Taking a look at the silliness, the love, the absurdity and the complexity of our relationships with our four-legged friends, these 25 poems are accompanied by beautiful watercolours by Pamela Szttybel.

PHYSICS FOR CATS by TOM GAULD
HB - £16.99 - CANONGATE

The incomparable Tom Gauld is back with a brilliantly witty new collection of comic strips themed around science. Discover the hadron's news alerts about life at CERN! Find out what happens when a cat enters a wormhole! Learn to sympathise with the mental state of dark matter! Prepare to laugh, guffaw, chortle and snort your way through the festive season.

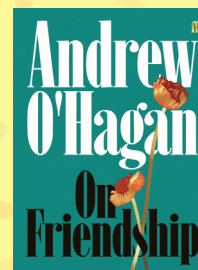
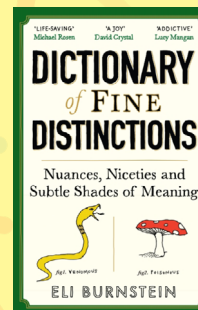
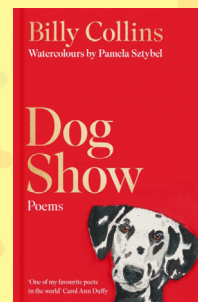
DICTIONARY OF FINE DISTINCTIONS by ELI BURNSTEIN
PB - £12.99 - PROFILE

What's the difference between jealousy and envy? How do you distinguish a flail from a mace or a morning star? If these are the kinds of thoughts that keep you up at night, look no further than the *Dictionary of Fine Distinctions*! Delve into the tiny but important differences that separate one word from another in this fascinating book for pernickety lovers of language. Soon you'll be using words with complete accuracy – or is that precision?

ON FRIENDSHIP by ANDREW O'HAGAN
HB - £12.99 - FABER & FABER

In this beautiful collection of personal essays, bestselling author Andrew O'Hagan reflects on the importance of friendship, a relationship that is often regarded as less important than romance but is in fact one of the greatest joys that life has to offer. Whether fleeting or lifelong, in childhood or in adulthood, with animals or with humans, O'Hagan explores why and how connections are made, through music, poetry, memory, and history, and how they enhance the experience of life.

WIT & WISDOM



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PICTURE BOOKS

OH DEAR, LOOK WHAT I GOT!
by **MICHAEL ROSEN & HELEN OXENBURY**
HB - £12.99 - WALKER BOOKS (AGE 2+)

I went to the shop to get a carrot. Oh dear, they gave me... a parrot! Oh dear, look what I got! Do I want that? No, I do not! From the duo that brought us the bestselling *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* comes another timeless story, brought to life with stunning illustrations and lots of heart. This is sure to become another modern classic for the whole family to cherish.

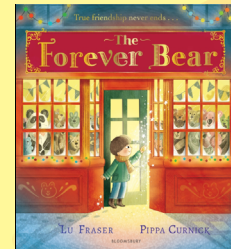
Oh Dear, Look What I Got!



Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury

THE FOREVER BEAR
by **LU FRASER & PIPPA CURNICK**
PB - £7.99 - BLOOMSBURY (AGE 3+)

Harry's birthday has come around again, and all he wants this year is a bear all of his very own. When he steps into 'Mr B's' magical bear shop, he is greeted by every bear he could imagine. Meeting roundish, thinnish, shaggy, and funny bears, Harry searches for the bear of his dreams, the one he will love for a lifetime. A heartwarming picture book.



LU FRASER PIPPA CURNICK

THE GNOME BOOK by **LOES RIPHAGEN**
HB - £12.99 - PUSHKIN CHILDREN'S (AGE 5+)

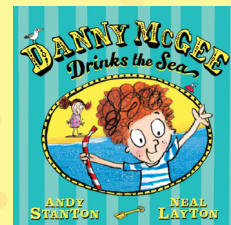
Dive into this delightful, offbeat and quirky compendium of gnome life. From laundry routines and favourite snacks to sign language with the neighbourhood seagull and family Scrabble nights, this book has it all. Charming, hilarious, a little bit naughty, and a delight on every page, this book will unlock their imagination, leave them awestruck at every turn, and inspire a lifelong love for tiny, magical things.



The Gnome Book
Loes Riphagen

DANNY MCGEE DRINKS THE SEA
by **ANDY STANTON & NEAL LAYTON**
PB - £7.99 - FABER & FABER (AGE 3+)

Danny McGee is a confident, arrogant little boy who believes he can indeed drink the sea. But once he starts, he just can't stop. Soon, nothing is safe from being swallowed whole by Danny McGee, not the mountains, not the trees, not even the weather girl on TV! He drinks the alphabet, the numbers, and even the writer. Filled with absurdist humour and a delicious twist, this story will have kids laughing uncontrollably.



DANNY MCGEE
Drinks the Sea
ANDY STANTON NEAL LAYTON

CHILDREN'S NON-FICTION



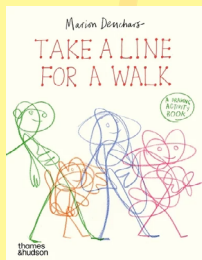
SECRETS FROM THE NORTH POLE
by **SASKIA GWINN & DARIA DANILOVA**
HB - £20 - FRANCES LINCOLN (AGE 5+)

A stunningly illustrated book about the magic of Christmas and the inner workings of the North Pole - this is essential bedtime reading for families to treasure in the run-up to the festive season. Join Head Elf, Ivy Everjingle, as she reveals secrets ranging from how Santa's suit is designed and the magic behind reindeer flight, to the many eclectic jobs of the Christmas elves and the power of believing.



OTHERLANDS
by **THOMAS HALLIDAY & GAVIN SCOTT**
HB - £20 - PUFFIN (AGE 9+)

Herds of dinosaurs plod their way through the forest. Fish weave dazzlingly among the coral. Monkeys fight for survival in the canopy... Prepare to take a dive into millions of years of evolution, as you discover the secret history of Earth through the lives of animals and plants inhabiting a place and time very different from our own. Exquisitely illustrated, this is an inspirational gift for the curious kid in your life.



TAKE A LINE FOR A WALK by **MARION DEUCHARS**
PB - £12.99 - THAMES & HUDSON (AGE 5+)

Our imaginations have been charmed by Marion Deuchars' new art activity book. What if creating art was as easy as dragging a pencil across a page? But what if that pencil had the hiccups or got a little bit spikey or a little bit wavy? This lovely book fosters creativity, imagination and individuality in the simplest sense. With 100+ activity prompts, it is sure to keep your little one occupied for hours.



HORRIBLE HISTORIES: BATH
by **TERRY DEARY & MARTIN BROWN**
PB - £6.99 - SCHOLASTIC (AGE 7+)

Find out about Jane Austen's shoplifting aunt! See how Romans bathed in stinky spring water! Discover which Bath resident invented the flushing loo! For years, we've been waiting for a fantastic children's book on Bath, and Terry Deary has finally answered our call. In the traditional *Horrible Histories* newspaper style, we dive headfirst into the history of our fair city, in this fully-illustrated book, bursting with funny facts and humour.



THE DIARY OF WISKA WILDFLOWER
by **HARRIET MUNCASTER**
PB - £7.99 - OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS (AGE 6+)

From the creator of *Isadora Moon* comes a fabulous new illustrated series all about embracing your individuality and finding your courage. Wiska Wildflower has just moved schools, and is missing her friends back home. But when her fantastic fashion designs catch the eye of two girls at her new school, she might not feel so alone any more... until things take a turn. Can Wiska find the courage to speak her truth and be herself?



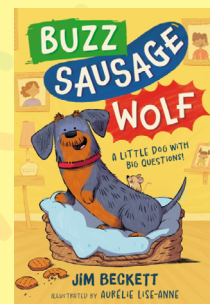
CRUISE SHIP KID: THIEF AT SEA!
by **EMMA SWAN**
PB - £7.99 - USBORNE (AGE 7+)

Ever wanted to live on a cruise ship and have adventures at sea? Silver does just that! Silver's mum is the ship's Deputy Entertainments Manager and her best friends are The Gang - a group of fun-loving seniors aged 80 to 99. Silver loves nothing more than getting up to all kinds of mischief and mayhem while solving mysteries. This great new mystery adventure series, written in accessible diary format, will have kids laughing out loud.



BUZZ SAUSAGE WOLF
by **JIM BECKETT**
PB - £7.99 - HACHETTE CHILDRENS (AGE 6+)

Meet Buzz, a feisty little sausage dog who wants to impress his new adopted family. But who in the family is really the pack leader? This wonderfully funny story is all about identity and learning to accept yourself just as you are. Perfect for fans of *Rabbit and Bear*, this book is full of large dollops of silliness... and the occasional unexpected dog fart.



SNAILS OF THE UNEXPECTED
by **TERRIE CHILVERS**
PB - £7.99 - FIREFLY PRESS (AGE 6+)

Shapeshifting snails on a mission to save the world from an evil slug takeover - what's not to love? This hilarious adventure follows two cheeky snails as they journey to Downing Street to challenge the new snail laws that are plaguing the local gardens. With evil slugs plotting to destroy everything, it's a race against time to stop them before the world falls into the hands of the bad guys forever.



YOUNG READERS

CHILDREN'S FICTION



MURDER AT CHRISTMAS
by FLEUR HITCHCOCK
PB - £7.99 - NOSY CROW (AGE 8+)

Grace is beyond excited to be spending Christmas in Bath with her mum and little brother. But that excitement is short lived when tragedy strikes at the hotel they're staying at - a murder! To make matters worse, her mum has gone missing too! Grace will need the help of her two new street-savvy friends and little brother to solve the mystery. Another thrilling middle grade murder mystery from Fleur Hitchcock.



SCARLET MORNING
by ND STEVENSON
HB - £14.99 - QUILL TREE BOOKS (AGE 10+)

Two orphans, more siblings than friends, leave the only home they've ever known to travel on a ship which might be (probably is) inhabited by pirates. This crazy adventure is full of imagination, unique characters, and an unknown world, and features Stevenson's amazing illustrations throughout. A brilliant prose debut from the bestselling author of *Nimona*.



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

When attacked by evil spirits, Evie is saved only by the powerful gemstone her parents entrusted to her. Her best friend Arthur isn't so lucky. Caught in the magical crossfire, he ends up in the body of a cat. On a mission to save everything she holds dear, Evie and Arthur team up with Cai, a trainee shaman who might be able to help them uncover the truth. Inspired by Jamaican mythology, this is a rip-roaring read for fans of *Percy Jackson*.



WILDLANDS by BROGEN MURPHY
PB - £8.99 - PUFFIN (AGE 9+)

In the very near future, two sisters journey to Scotland on the new train line that runs from the south, through the rewilding project Wildlands, to be with their mother. When Astrid and Indie suddenly find themselves off the train and in the midst of the animal-infested Wildlands, they must work together to survive the elements, nature and each other. Murphy's brilliant debut novel is unique, thrilling, and perfect for animal and adventure lovers.



CHILDREN'S FICTION

HANNAH'S FAVE: DRAGONBORN
by STRUAN MURRAY
HB - £14.99 - PUFFIN (AGE 9+)



Alex has always been suffocated by her mum's rules. When a kindly stranger appears to tell her she's actually a dragon, like her father before her, everything changes. She's whisked off to the island of Skralla to train with other young dragons. But there's something nefarious brewing around them. **Hannah says:** "This is the standout children's fantasy novel of 2025, and a perfect read for fans of *Skandar* and *Impossible Creatures*."



MEDUSA GORGON'S BAD HAIR DAY
by BETHANY WALKER
PB - £7.99 - SCHOLASTIC (AGE 8+)

Medusa Gorgon spends her days guarding Athena's magical shield. When she fails spectacularly and the shield goes missing, she is punished with a head full of snakes. Even worse, she's been sent through Hades' well to a 21st century school to retrieve the shield! Can Medusa negotiate the madness of modern life, return the shield, and lift the curse? A hilarious Greek Myth/school diary mash-up.



AVALANCHE by SIMON FOX
PB - £7.99 - NOSY CROW (AGE 9+)

Tom and his mum arrive at a luxury ski resort, ready to enjoy a well-earned break. What they don't expect is a team of highly trained kidnappers to infiltrate their chalet, looking for the dangerous technology created by the company Tom's mum works for. When an avalanche strikes, mother and son must fight their way out before it's too late. A pulse-pounding adventure thriller for *Alex Rider* fans.



SHRAPNEL BOYS by JENNY PEARSON
PB - £7.99 - USBORNE (AGE 9+)

London, 1939. Ronnie is both scared and excited: scared of the bombs that fall at night, but excited to race his friends to collect the best bits of shrapnel. But for Ronnie, the battles aren't just in the sky. They're at school and at home too. His little brother is up to no good with a secret job and dangerous new friends, and Ronnie's worried he's getting himself into big, big trouble. A powerful and beautifully written book for fans of Phil Earle and Michael Morpurgo.

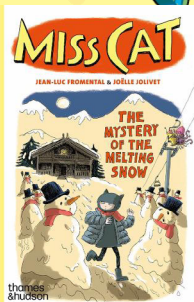




GRAPHIC NOVELS

MISS CAT: THE MYSTERY OF THE MELTING SNOW
by JEAN-LUC FROMENTAL & JOËLLE JOLIVET
PB - £9.99 - THAMES & HUDSON (AGE 7+)

Join Miss Cat, the cat-like detective with a nose for solving crimes, as she takes on a new case full of quirk, laughs, adventure and of course...mystery. While Miss Cat and her friends are staying at the Snoboll ski resort during the holidays, she discovers something curious - every night the snow on the slopes disappears and reappears first thing in the morning. It's up to Miss Cat and her friends to solve this curious case with some snowy sleuthing!



CABIN HEAD AND TREE HEAD
by SCOTT CAMPBELL
PB - £12.99 - DK FLIP (AGE 7+)

Prepare for the most surreal and hilarious graphic novel you have ever read! Cabin Head and Tree Head live in a world filled with other heads (including, yes, Brick Wall Head, Library Head, Doghouse Head, Garden Head, and many more), where even a simple haircut or a long goodbye can cause problems. Funny, strange, and completely original, this is a brilliant comic collection for readers of all ages.



UNFAIRIES by HUW AARON
PB - £9.99 - PUFFIN (AGE 8+)

Join Pip the tree-fairy on a mission to fulfil a dubious prophecy, save Oakhold, and organise a decent party. Tackling sinister political plots, warring unfairy tribes, and tedious bureaucracy, this is an epic adventure with oodles of slapstick humour. Beautifully illustrated, action-packed and intricately plotted. Turns out fairies are as magical as slugs, keen on brawls, and great at disco dancing.



INTO THE BEWILDERNESS
by GUS GORDON
PB - £8.99 - HARPERALLEY (AGE 9+)

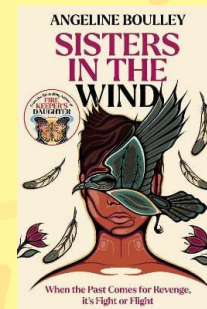
Luis and Pablo are best friends. Sure, Pablo can be a grumpy little mole sometimes, but Luis is always there with a new song and a positive outlook to cheer him up. Their simple life is filled with nature, books, and friends. When Luis is invited to a performance in the Big City, the pair must face their fears – but at least they have each other. A gorgeously cozy and witty graphic novel adventure.



TEEN & YOUNG ADULT

SISTERS IN THE WIND by ANGELINE BOULLEY
PB - £8.99 - ONEWORLD (AGE 14+)

From the author of *Firekeeper's Daughter* comes a beautiful, powerful, thrilling story of family and belonging. Lucy has been on the run from the foster system, earning money by working in a diner in the middle of nowhere. But when a pipe bomb goes off and Lily wakes up in the hospital with two people claiming they can help her connect with her Native American family, she doesn't know what to think... but she does know what she needs to do - run!



BECKY'S FAVE: GLASGOW BOYS
by MARGARET MCDONALD
PB - £8.99 - FABER & FABER (AGE 14+)



This incredible book explores masculinity, friendship, and intimacy as we follow Banjo and Finlay through their lives in the foster system. Once inseparable, their bond is shattered by one life-altering night. Beautifully written, it delves into the complexity of friendship and the powerful truth that family is not always who you're born to, but who you choose. **Becky says:** "I truly believe if we could bottle what this book is saying, there would be less hate in the world."



A LANGUAGE OF DRAGONS by S. F. WILLIAMSON
PB - £9.99 - HARPERFIRE (AGE 13+)

In an alternate World War II, being fought against dragons, Viv and her family are dragon linguists. When Viv's parents are accused of treason and she fights to clear their names, she's detained by the government and sent to Bletchley Park with other young criminals, where she is forced to help defeat the dragons and win the war. Full of twists, turns, betrayals, and epic dragon lore, this has taken the Mr B's team by storm!



OXFORD BLOOD by RACHAEL DAVIS-FEATHERSTONE
PB - £8.99 - WALKER BOOKS (AGE 14+)

Eva dreams of studying at Oxford University, and she's finally made it to Interview Week, along with her best friend (and secret crush) George. But when she finds George's lifeless body at the base of a statue, Eva's dream becomes a nightmare. The Oxford gossip mill is pointing fingers – and most of them are pointed squarely at her. Can Eva find the real killer before it's too late? An unputdownable mystery for fans of Holly Jackson.





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**Have a wonderful festive season and see you for more reading fun
in 2026!**