

Mr B's
Christmas
Catalogue
2026

Celebrating 20 years of delightful reading

MR B'S WELCOME

Dear Customers,

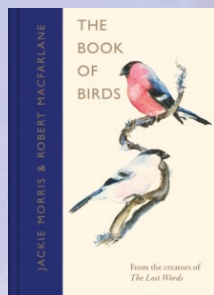
Welcome to the Mr B's Christmas Catalogue 2026! This has been a special year for us as Mr B's hit the big 2-0 in style culminating in a full party weekend here in Bath in July.

Amidst the whirlwinds of our bookselling days, it's been great to reflect on making it to two decades and to celebrate with customers old and new. Thank you all for your support and custom. It's not a given that any good business – whether independent or large corporate – can make it two years let alone 20 on today's high street, and we are grateful for every single time that you decide to buy a book from us.

We're wrapping up our big birthday year with our 21st Christmas Catalogue. We have created every one of them ourselves - and - if we set aside Juliette's clip-art special from 2006 - each has had a cover from a guest illustrator. That all began when writer, artist and customer Jackie Morris gave us a beautiful pen and ink drawing for our 2007 catalogue, and now we are delighted to have her artwork adorning our catalogue almost 20 years later.

Wishing you all happy reading this holiday season.

Nic & Juliette



THE BOOK OF BIRDS - JACKIE MORRIS & ROBERT MACFARLANE - £35 - HB - PENGUIN

Jackie has had a big year: she was recently named winner of the prestigious Wainwright Prize for *The Book of Birds*, a collaboration with nature writer Robert Macfarlane. Featuring 49 British birds, this beautiful book blends Robert's words with Jackie's illustrations in a stunning reimagining of the classic field guide. It would sit proudly on the coffee table of nature enthusiasts all over the UK and beyond.



10% off all books and games in this catalogue until Christmas Day!

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

MURDER ON THE ROYAL CRESCENT
HARRIET F. TOWNSON - HB - £16.99 - PENGUIN

December, 1936. Librarian and part-time detective Dora Wildwood is summoned to Bath's world-famous Royal Crescent to solve a murder that hangs over the city. Twenty years after Daisy Palmer, fiancé of the eccentric recluse Lord Meroe, was found dead, another murder has the community in shock. Can Dora unlock the secrets of these two killings? A dastardly, charming delight for Agatha Christie fans.



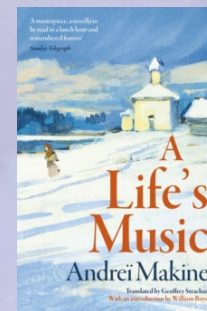
COLD - A. S. BYATT
HB - £12.99 - VINTAGE

A princess, born in the summer and closely protected, discovers it is the cold that truly awakens her spirit. When she falls in love with a prince from the warmer south, she is forced to confront the choice between a life as her truest self, or to sacrifice everything she knows for love. A newly republished tale in a beautiful gift edition from a masterful storyteller.



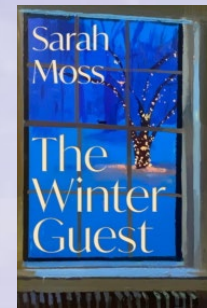
A LIFE'S MUSIC - ANDREÏ MAKINE HB
£14.99 - HODDER & STOUGHTON

Andreï Makine has a gift for nostalgia and writes post-war tales like a Russian romantic. In a snowbound railway station, one of the stranded passengers is playing a piano... beautifully. He is Alexei Berg, a classically trained musician whose burgeoning career was scuppered in 1941 by political upheaval and the outbreak of WWII. On the train back to Moscow, Alexei is going to tell his life story.



THE WINTER GUEST - SARAH MOSS
HB - £12.99 - PAN MACMILLAN

"Tell me the worst thing you've ever done." On Christmas Eve, in a hotel on Ireland's west coast, two strangers meet for the first time. As a snow storm gathers force outside, the hotel's only guests share a three-course candlelit meal. The conversation flows like the many glasses of wine, and soon the two recount the darkest moments of their lives in this tense and festive psychological drama.



FANTASTIC FICTION

EMMA'S FAVE



GAINING GROUND - JOAN BARFOOT PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER

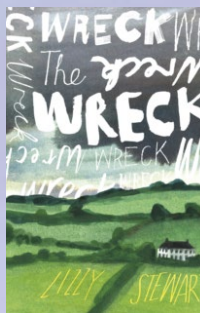
Abra makes the decision to leave her family and comfortable suburban life behind for one of solitude and freedom in an isolated cabin. But 10 years later, her daughter appears, seeking answers. **Emma says:** "This 1970s Canadian reissue is a feminist masterpiece that examines the true cost of freedom, and how much a woman needs to sacrifice to live a life on her own terms. Profoundly moving, it made me reflect on my own choices in life, and that to me, is the power of books."

KATE'S FAVE



THE THINGS WE NEVER SAY - ELIZABETH STROUT HB - £18.99 - PENGUIN

Artie Dam is a history teacher and pillar of his community, happiest when out on his boat on the Massachusetts Bay. However, his life is upended by a letter containing a secret that has long gone unspoken, forcing him to confront a new reality. **Kate says:** "Strout's finest novel yet: a searing, compassionate book that gave me a new lens through which to see the world."



THE WRECK - LIZZY STEWART HB - £25 - VINTAGE

Part novel, part graphic novel, this is the story of four friends, two couples, who decide to try living together in their 40s in a big countryside house outside Bristol - a utopia of sorts. As they each find a way to adjust to this new life, they create a wonderful existence... until tensions and feelings erupt and the bubble bursts, leaving wrecks in their wake.



FROGS FOR WATCHDOGS - SEÁN FARRELL PB - £10.99 - JOHN MURRAY

A rented farmhouse finally provides stability for a mother and her young son and daughter - but for the boy, this new world is fraught with danger. Who is the man stealing hay from their barn - and is he the same person who is making threatening phone calls? A convincing child's voice and a glorious mix of suspense and humour marks out this Irish coming-of-age novel.

FANTASTIC FICTION

SUE'S FAVE

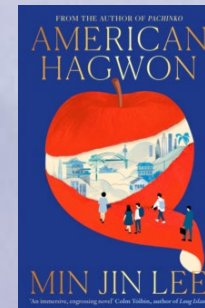


SOLACE IN WINTER - MARY LAWSON HB - £18.99 - VINTAGE

Deep winter, 1969. As the Vietnam War drives young men north across the Canadian border, widower Jack's quiet life is upturned by the arrival of a dog and a draft-dodger who have come uninvited to his quiet cabin in Solace. **Sue says:** "This exquisite snow globe of a novel is a refuge, a story of connection and moral complexity."

AMERICAN HAGWON - MIN JIN LEE HB - £25 - HARPER COLLINS

When their lives in Korea are upended by the betrayal of a friend and the 1997 Asian financial crisis, John and Helen Koh are determined to secure their children's futures. Moving from Seoul, to Sydney, and eventually to California, the Koh family struggle to adapt to their new environment but remain steadfast in their belief that education holds the key to success. A stunning modern epic from the author of *Pachinko*.



DOMINION - ADDIE E. CITCHENS PB - £12.99 - EUROPA

Reverend Sabre Winfrey, Jr. is the pillar of his community of Dominion, Mississippi. Little does his congregation know that it's his wife, Priscilla, who dictates his sermons. Unlucky that their son takes after his father. Nicknamed Wonderboy, he's bright, handsome and athletic - masking a much darker side. This time there will be repercussions, and Priscilla might have seen it coming. **Laura K says:** "A fierce cross-examination of parental and social responsibility by a debut author pulling out all the stops."

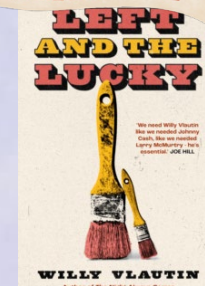
LAURA K'S FAVE



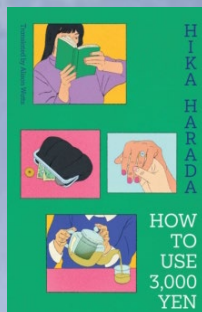
THE LEFT AND THE LUCKY - WILLY VLAUTIN HB - £16.99 - FABER & FABER

Brothers from a broken home - young, quiet Russell and older, brasher Curtis. A chance encounter with steadfast neighbour Ed-die for the lucky one. A path of violence for the other, the one left behind. **Juliette says:** "Willy's characters are unforgettable. He gives voice to life's underdogs, finding the soft underbelly of a harsh world with incredible warmth and gentle wit. A deeply moving story of resilience, friendship and luck."

JULIETTE'S FAVE



WORLD FICTION



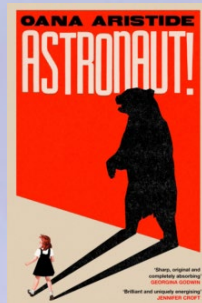
HOW TO USE 3,000 YEN - HIKA HARADA PB - £14.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

A young woman tries to work out how to live in a financially insecure world; her mother plots a future as a single-income household; her grandmother ponders the meaning of old age. Three generations of women in one family negotiate love, family and work, in this bestselling Japanese novel, perfect for fans of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* and *Goodnight Tokyo*.



THE LAST APARTMENT IN ISTANBUL - DEFNE SUMAN PB - £10.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Pericles, 75 years old, still lives in the beautiful Istanbul apartment building where he was born. Yet with his Greek heritage, he is seen as an outsider by many. As the old neighbourhood is devoured by developers, the residents of Pericles's block hold firm – including the newest tenant, Leyla, a young writer, who persuades him to tell his eventful life story. **Lucinda says:** “Suman thoughtfully addresses themes of displacement, cultural identity, and the complexities of living in a city that is constantly evolving.”



ASTRONAUT! - OANA ARISTIDE PB - £14.99 - HEADLINE

Romania, 1989. Amidst the rationing, guarded conversations, and covert informers of Ceaușescu's authoritarian regime, two lives collide. A curious schoolgirl who just wants to know where the colour has gone, and a police detective, more interested in dreaming up fairytales for his son than upholding the pretence of justice, are brought together by a string of grisly murders and a treasonous plot. Part thriller, part coming-of-age story, and entirely brilliant.



THE ANNIVERSARY - ANDREA BAJANI PB - £12.99 - PENGUIN

It's been 10 years since a man decided to cut all ties with his parents, leaving behind a family history marked by silence and violence. He soon discovers that leaving is not the same as being free. **Giuseppe says:** “Unfolding as an interior monologue, this novel slowly untangles the inheritance of trauma and explores the invisible threads that bind us to those who hurt us, and the long, painful journey towards breaking them.”

MODERN LIVES

THE STRANGERS - NAOMI ALDERMAN HB - £20 - PENGUIN

Blending memoir and speculative fiction, a recently bereaved Alderman discovers a strange new species. These ‘mimmoths’ possess psychological powers and carry environment-healing mycelium spores. But their presence is divisive and our author is drawn into a shadowy investigation. **Ronnie says:** “Moving, mysterious, and searing in its portrayal of grief, this book still manages to leave you feeling hopeful, curious, and expecting to see a mimmoth scurrying beneath a hedge as you pass.”

RONNIE'S FAVE



FRUIT FLY - JOSH SILVER HB - £16.99 - ONEWORLD

Mallory, a struggling writer, is desperate for that bestseller and is inspired to ‘GO DARK, GO GAY and GO SAD’. Queue a twisted idea using Grindr to find her perfect authentic story in a man called Leo, a struggling addict with demons – exactly the story she needs. How far will Mallory go to pen the perfect story? **Becky says:** “A relentless, twisted story of obsession; my jaw never stopped hitting the ground.”

BECKY'S FAVE



THE COMPOUND - AISLING RAWLE PB - £9.99 - HARPER COLLINS

Lily wakes in a luxury compound in the middle of the desert with nine other young women. Ten men will soon join them, and the reality TV show will begin. To win, Lily must win challenges and outlast her fellow contestants. But beneath the onscreen glamour lies a desperate tension. Because the world outside the compound is in ruins, and the contestants aren't competing for fame – they're fighting for survival.



I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY - JEM CALDER PB - £14.99 - FABER & FABER

When 23-year-old Joey meets 35-year-old Chuck at a bar, the two embark on an uncertain relationship, as they try to work out what they want, from each other and from their lives. **Lizzie says:** “The complexities of modern dating are captured with remarkable precision. Calder perfectly observes the mundane details of contemporary life in a way that makes the messy, ordinary lives we lead feel more meaningful.”

LIZZIE'S FAVE



PAST LIVES



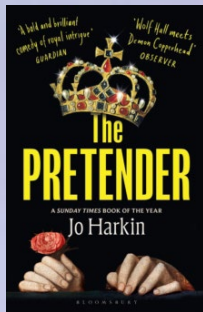
THE ORIGINAL - NELL STEVENS PB - £9.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

Grace lives as an overlooked guest in her uncle's home, where she forges paintings in secret to one day escape her situation. Her only friend in the world was her cousin Charles, who died in mysterious circumstances. Except now he's back. But is he the original? A clever mystery that plays around with the idea of authenticity in art, as well as life.



THE MATCHBOOK GIRL - ALICE JOLLY PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY

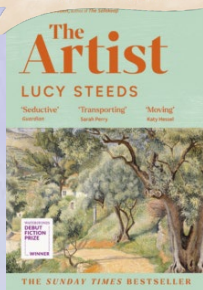
Vienna, 1938. In a city driven by its political instability and a place of increasing fear and violence, Adelheid, a young girl, does not speak. She draws and collects matchboxes whilst embracing a world that doesn't understand her. Then she meets Dr. Asperger, who invites her to Vienna's paediatric clinic for observation. But the threat of a Nazi occupation looms, and as children start disappearing, Adelheid must play a game she can't comprehend in order to survive.



THE PRETENDER - JO HARKIN PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Young peasant boy John is unwittingly plunged into a mire of skulduggery, plotting and revenge, when he's told he was swapped at birth, and is believed to be the rightful heir to the throne - a big ask, especially when puberty gets in the way. This is a head-spinning, emotional mix of brutality and complete hilarity, set within the torchlit corridors of Plantagenet power, inspired by a footnote in history.

AMY'S FAVE



THE ARTIST - LUCY STEEDS PB - £10.99 - JOHN MURRAY

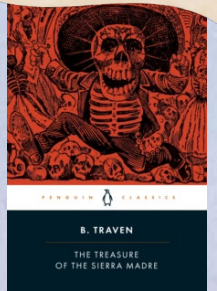
Provence, 1920, in the home of the great painter Edouard Tartuffe. Journalist Joseph has been invited by the reclusive artist to a sit down interview, which he hopes will make his name. But in this house full of secrets floats another person, Tartuffe's niece Ettie, a young woman who is ready to step out of the shadows... **Amy says:** "An atmospheric, sun-drenched debut of art, love and hope."

OFF-BEAT HISTORIES

THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE B. TRAVEN - PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN

Dobbs and Curtin, two American tramps in a Mexican oil town, team up with former prospector Howard, hoping to finally make their fortune. Chasing rumours of an untapped gold mine, they head for the Sierra Madre mountains... with predictably disastrous consequences. **Tom says:** "*Cannery Row-meets-The Call of the Wild* in this gloriously entertaining cult adventure novel, now back in print for the first time in decades."

TOM'S FAVE



THE MARE - ANGHARAD HAMPSHIRE PB - £9.99 - PENGUIN

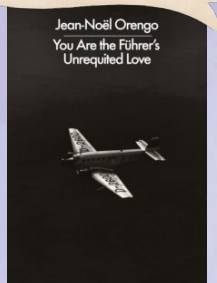
Based on the life of Hermine Braunsteiner, a concentration camp guard nicknamed 'The Mare of Majdanek' because she kicked and stamped on prisoners. After the end of the war, she made a new life for herself, marrying an American and living as a 'normal' suburban housewife, until a journalist reveals her true identity. This extraordinary novel is told partly from Hermine's perspective, which challenges the reader to empathise with her situation.



YOU ARE THE FÜHRER'S UNREQUITED LOVE JEAN-NOËL ORENGO - PB - £14.99 - PENGUIN

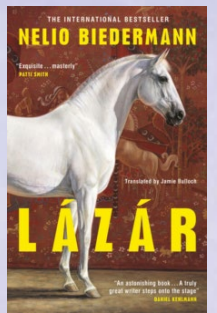
Albert Speer: high-society Nazi architect, Minister of Armaments and Hitler's beloved courtier. After serving 20 years in Spandau prison, Speer's bestselling memoirs whitewashed his public image and transformed our understanding of the Reich's inner workings, but were they true? **Rohan says:** "Orengo delivers a masterful account of history's malleability and our collective willingness to accept comfortable lies. The story of Speer's manipulations remains ever relevant to life in a post-truth era."

ROHAN'S FAVE



LÁZÁR - NELIO BIEDERMANN HB - £16.99 - QUERCUS

Tearing through five decades of one aristocratic Hungarian family's sinful, traumatic and dramatic history, this atmospheric novel is draped with vivid imagery and littered with twists and scandals. A crumbling institution destroyed from outside and within – if the endless adultery, ill-advised liaisons and tortured souls don't bring the house of Lázár down, then the end of the Habsburgs, World War Two and the Soviet occupation surely will.



DEAD GOOD



THE FIFTEENTH MAN - WILLIAM COOK HB - £16.99 - PROFILE

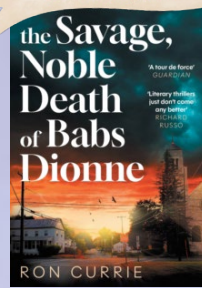
In 1942, 15 of the most powerful figures in the Nazi party meet secretly in Wannsee to firm up plans for The Final Solution. Half a century later, Anglo-German journalist Michael Braun scours the archives as he looks to bring one more escaped Nazi to justice. Has he just stumbled upon the story of a lifetime? A gripping historical thriller, perfect for fans of Robert Harris and Rory Clements.



A VIOLENT MASTERPIECE - JORDAN HARPER PB - £9.99 - FABER & FABER

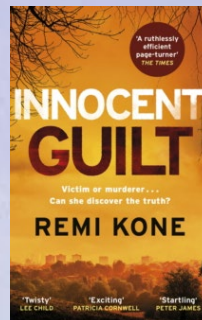
Jake spends his nights cruising LA, livestreaming crime scenes to his subscribers. Doug is a public defender, trying to change the system for the underprivileged. Kara works for a private concierge company, helping the rich get what they need. A series of gruesome murders will throw these three lives together in unimaginable ways. Pitch black LA noir for those who like it darker.

TOM H'S FAVE



THE SAVAGE, NOBLE DEATH OF BABS DIONNE RON CURRIE - PB - £9.99 - ATLANTIC

Babs Dionne rules her town with an iron fist, controlling the flow of drugs with her loyal lieutenants and eldest daughter, Lori, a former soldier battling addiction. When numbers are down, the cartel sends The Man to investigate. All the while, Babs's youngest daughter, Sis, has gone missing and the whole town seeks shelter from Babs's wrath. **Tom H says:** "The characters leap from the page in this brilliant and bloody bit of literary crime fiction."



INNOCENT GUILT - REMI KONE PB - £9.99 - QUERCUS

A woman covered in blood and clutching a baseball bat walks silently into a London police station. She refuses to speak. Victim or perpetrator? So begins a cat and mouse game between detective Leah Hutch and journalist Odie Reid, as they try to solve the mystery of the silent woman for their own ends. A cracking crime debut that hooks the reader and doesn't let go.

CRIME FICTION

THINK OF A NUMBER - ANDERS BODELSEN PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN

The days are closing in towards Christmas and, as bank clerk Flemming Borck squares up at closing time, he finds a draft hold-up note: THE THING IN MY POCKET IS A REVOLVER. HAND OVER THE CASH YOU'VE GOT IMMEDIATELY. It can only have been written by the shopping centre Father Christmas... and Borck spots an opportunity. Classic crime that bridges Agatha Christie and Raymond Chandler.



TELL ME SOMETHING TRUE - MICHAEL ROBOTHAM HB - £22 - LITTE, BROWN

Arlo Hackett is out of prison after 12 years and back in his small Australian hometown. But nobody in this loyal and dangerous place wants him back, and nobody has forgotten what happened all that time ago. A chance find of a mysterious letter sets off a chain of thrilling events that could lead to redemption... or death. A spectacular crime drama for fans of *All the Colours of the Dark* and *The Dry*.



THE CRIME SYNDICATE

FROM £12.99 A MONTH FOR CRIMINALLY GOOD READS.

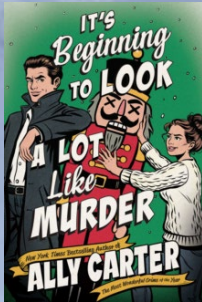
We'll scout the country, interrogate publishers, and inspect our bookshelves to select our most anticipated piece of crime writing each month.

Gift wrapped and delivered straight to your door (because we know where you live).

Investigate at mrbsemporium.com/gifts

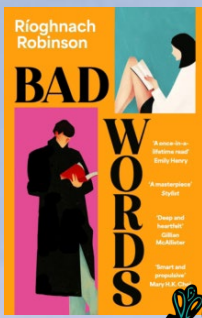


SWOON-WORTHY



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE MURDER ALLY CARTER - PB - £9.99 - HARPER COLLINS

Ella Chambers didn't kill Liam Montgomery. Sure, she had good reason: he did ruin her life, after all. But she's not to blame for this (attempted) murder. Now, there's a would-be killer on the loose at Liam's family Christmas party... and Ella's the only one who can help Liam figure out who wants him dead before it's too late. Deliciously festive - think *Knives Out*, but with Christmas jumpers. And kissing!



BAD WORDS - RÍOGHNACH ROBINSON HB - £16.99 - HARPER COLLINS

When Selina Chan, New York's fiercest literary critic, slams Parker Navarro's latest novel, he is pushed to breaking point. What begins as a private feud quickly erupts into a viral online spectacle - but, away from the spotlight, each unexpected encounter draws the pair closer... Sharp, smart, achingly romantic - this is enemies-to-lovers done right! A must read for fans of Emily Henry's *Beach Read*.



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LOVE STORIES

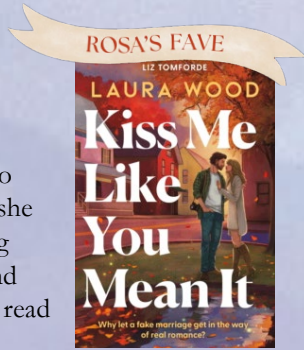
THE UNSELECTED JOURNALS OF EMMA M. LION BETH BROWER - PB - £9.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Get ready to meet your next obsession: Emma M. Lion. Warm, witty, and highly opinionated, Emma's journals detail her daily life in 1880s London, as she's swept into the activities and goings-on of the wonderfully eccentric inhabitants of her neighbourhood, St Crispian's - and meets a potential suitor, or two. Like a brilliant cross between *Gilmore Girls*, *Jane Austen*, and *Bridget Jones's Diary*, Emma's journals are a total delight.



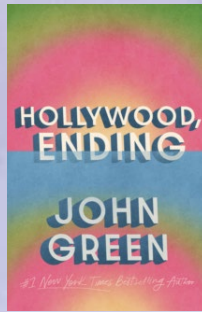
KISS ME LIKE YOU MEAN IT - LAURA WOOD PB - £9.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

When Lee went to Vegas, she didn't expect to find her long-time crush and brother's best friend Nico; she certainly didn't expect to spend a night out with him. After a year of trying to forget him, she receives a congratulations email from a Vegas chapel and avoiding him becomes much harder. **Rosa says:** "Sweet, swoon-worthy and one of the most romantic books I've ever read. The perfect cosy read that feels like a hug."



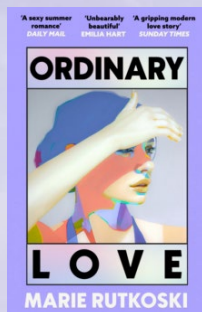
HOLLYWOOD, ENDING - JOHN GREEN HB - £22 - PENGUIN

Meet Kai Laramie and Juniper Castillo: two rising stars cast in a buzzy biopic about Andy Warhol. Wholly dedicated to their craft, hungry to succeed, and electrified by an unexpected chemistry, this film is the opportunity they've both been waiting for. But soon the film is blowing up beyond their wildest dreams... and so are their lives. A behind-the-scenes Hollywood love story, for fans of *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*.



ORDINARY LOVE - MARIE RUTKOSKI PB - £10.99 - LITTLE, BROWN

From the outside, Emily's life looks perfect: a beautiful Manhattan townhouse, two wonderful kids, and a wealthy husband. But when she catches sight of Gen at a party, she's transported back to her teenage self, and the summer they fell in love. As old passions are reignited, Emily's life unravels... but was it ever that perfect to begin with? A gorgeous novel about first love, regrets, and reconnection, for fans of Lily King and Coco Mellors.



FUTURE WORLDS

SÖFFI'S FAVE



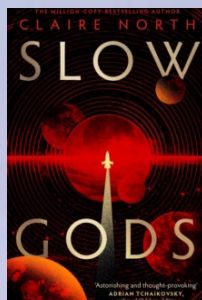
WHEN THERE ARE WOLVES AGAIN - E. J. SWIFT
PB - £10.99 - QUERCUS

Two women. Fifty years. A rapidly changing Britain. As Lucy and Hester navigate climate change, rewilding and resistance, from Chernobyl to Balmoral, a wolf pup and a makeshift bird box prove that the smallest acts can spark something much bigger. **Söffi says:** “A fierce warning about what we stand to lose, a hopeful vision of what we might still save, and a love letter to British wildlife. For fans of *Station Eleven* and *Greenwood*.”



WE ARE LEGION - DENNIS E. TAYLOR
PB - £10.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

Bob Johansson is dead. Luckily, he signed up to be digitally uploaded, and has awoken 117 years later, now a self-replicating von Neumann probe and America's last hope of finding a new home in the galaxy. But antagonistic earthly factions and other alien forces are not going to make his journey easy for him. Fans of *Project Hail Mary* and *Star Trek* rejoice - the Bobiverse welcomes you with open (VR) arms.



SLOW GODS - CLAIRE NORTH
PB - £10.99 - LITTLE, BROWN

Maw is a man living under the brutal rule of the Shine, when a mysterious intelligence known as the Slow warns that a supernova is coming to destroy worlds across the galaxy. Sent into deep space, Maw is the sole survivor of a catastrophic event, and is transformed into something no longer human, vowing to become the scourge of the world that wronged him. A centuries and world-spanning sci-fi epic.



THERE IS NO ANTIMEMETICS DIVISION - QNTM
PB - £9.99 - CORNERSTONE

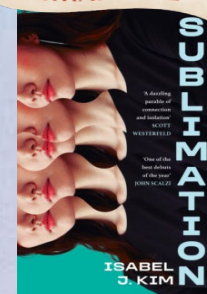
Quinn's day job is containing world-threatening antimemes: entities with self-censoring properties that can't be recorded or remembered. But how can you fight an enemy when you can never know you're at war? By turns terrifying, hilarious, mind-bending and gripping, with more twists than fusilli pasta and more “whoa” moments than your first acid trip. Welcome to the antimemetics division. No, this is not your first day.

ALTERNATE UNIVERSES

SUBLIMATION - ISABEL J. KIM
HB - £18.99 - PAN MACMILLAN

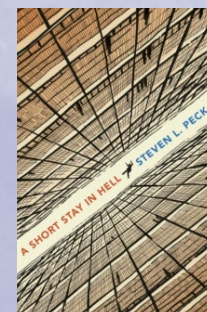
In this world, crossing borders splits a person into two halves – one who stays, and one who leaves. These instances might talk every day, or, like Soyoung and Rose, might part at the age of 10 and reunite only years later for their grandfather's funeral, wondering what life the other has lived. **Nethmi says:** “A speculative novel that explores a question at the heart of the immigrant (and indeed, human) experience: what if?”

NETHMI'S FAVE



A SHORT STAY IN HELL - STEVEN L. PECK
PB - £9.99 - VINTAGE

Soren was a geologist, a good family man, a devoted Mormon. Now he finds himself dead and cast into an incomprehensible Hell, a place modelled on Borges's Library of Babel. All he has to do to get out is search the unfathomably endless stacks for the story of his life. Shouldn't take too long, right? This dark and biting funny maze of a novella is an existential masterpiece.



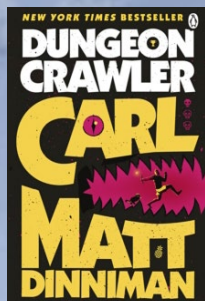
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ONCE UPON A TIME...



DUNGEON CRAWLER CARL - MATT DINNIMAN PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN

Carl is just a guy wearing heart-patterned boxer shorts who has let his ex-girlfriend's cat Princess Donut out for a wee, when the world ends and The Syndicate (Intergalactic Alien Association) takes control of the planet. While millions die, Carl has two options: enter a dungeon and fight to the death for televised alien entertainment, or freeze to death. Hugely fun cult RPG-lit, completely bonkers and yet strangely deep and emotionally complex.

ANNABEL'S FAVE



THE EVERLASTING - ALIX E. HARROW PB - £10.99 - PAN MACMILLAN

Tasked with writing a new history of his nation's founding myth, a jaded scholar is thrust back in time to live alongside the kingdom's only female knight, in the hopes of reigniting fervour in an unpopular war. **Annabel says:** "Time-loop fantasy at its most unexpected, this explores the intersections of propaganda and myth, with a wildly original magic system and a love story that will take your breath away."

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BEYOND THE REALMS

BETWEEN TWO FIRES - CHRISTOPHER BUEHLMAN HB - £22 - ORION

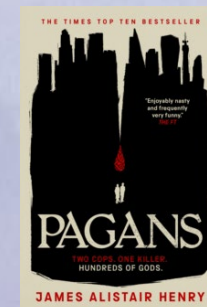
In godless plague-ridden medieval France the devils are running wild. A knight sunk lower than he could have imagined saves a girl who is evidently more than she seems and reluctantly agrees to escort her across this hellscape. **Ed says:** "Somewhere between *True Grit* and *The Road* with an unhealthy dollop of Hieronymus Bosch. This is at times staggeringly dark and yet rewarding in an unlikely Pullmanesque way. I bloody loved it."

ED'S FAVE



PAGANS - JAMES ALISTAIR HENRY PB - £9.99 - MOONFLOWER

A police procedural set in contemporary Britain. Except the Norman Conquest never happened and we're in a backwater wilderness holiday island, divided between the Picts, the Celts and the Saxons. When a Celtic diplomat gets murdered on Saxon land during a unification summit, Captain Aedith Mercia needs a Celtic liaison and gets assigned Tribal Detective Inspector Drustan to help solve the murder... and maybe prevent further political upheaval.



UNDER THE IRON SKY - A. T. EMERALD HB - £22 - CORNERSTONE

This sizzling dark romantasy pits a human commander of a kingdom at war, with the feared leader of her greatest enemy. Captured behind enemy lines, Soraya holds the secret of humanity's greatest weapon, but as she learns more, truths and loyalties begin to unravel, and her masked interrogator might become her only hope. An addictive and irresistible start to a new trilogy.



THE WHITE OCTOPUS HOTEL - ALEXANDRA BELL PB - £10.99 - CORNERSTONE

What would you do if you could time travel, change the past, and find true love by walking through one door in a derelict hotel? Eve Shaw is haunted by the moment in her childhood that changed the course of her life forever. When an old man with the same name as Eve's favourite composer walks into her office asking her to meet him at the hotel, this encounter changes everything once again.



INDIE PRESSES

LAURA GM'S FAVE

Three Wild Bodies

Permafrost. Boulder. Mammoth
Eva Baltasar



It's nice, up here. Finally. That's the thing about heights: a hundred meters of vertical glass. The air is air at a higher degree of purity and so also seems harder, at times almost solid. There is a hovering smell of metal. A layer of noise hangs down below, soot-heavy and latent, like a fine, crisp eye of oil, a sort of shiny, black gift. Translated by Julia Sanchez



NORTH OF THE WINTER SUN - VERONICA SKOTNES PB - £14.99 - AKOYA

It's been four years since Veronica Skotnes left the mainland for a life alone at sea on an old beloved sailing boat. As she sails towards Finnmark, the northernmost county of Norway, she visits islands and experiences the warmth and hospitality of isolated communities, as well as those who doubt her abilities as a solo female sailor. Through raging storms and silent snowfall, Veronica's memoir makes you see how even the darkest season can hold so much light.



AIR - CHRISTIAN KRACHT PB - £12.99 - PROFILE

Paul, an interior designer living in Orkney, gets commissioned to colour-drench a Norwegian data centre in the perfect white. In another time and space, a stranger is shot through the arm with an arrow, before being nursed back to health by a nine-year-old girl. Slowly the bounds of reality begin to fracture, and these two stories meld towards a stunning conclusion. A spectacular philosophical puzzle of a novel.



DAD HAD A BAD DAY - ASHTON POLITANOFF PB - £10.99 - DAUNT

Ned staves off the boredom brought on by being made redundant by throwing himself back into the love of his youth: tennis. He joins the local club, starts playing competitively, makes a few friends... then it all starts to go bad. This hilarious and unhinged picture of modern masculinity reads as if Patrick Bateman was found 20 years after *American Psycho* trying (and slowly failing) to make a steady life in the suburbs.

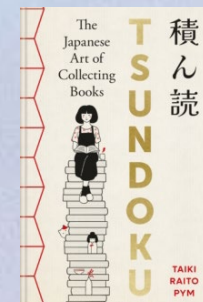
THREE WILD BODIES - EVA BALTASAR PB - £18.99 - AND OTHER STORIES

Eva Baltasar's loosely connected triptych has been collated for the first time in English. One of the most revered Catalan writers at work today brings her raw and vivid prose and her unflinching gaze to narrators on the verge of madness or finding themselves. **Laura GM says:** "A ticking bomb. There are cats, toothless shepherds, affairs, baby goats, prostitution, pregnancies, and a few disenchanting Barcelona city lesbians. Three punchy novellas that will make your gut shrink."

BOOK-ISH

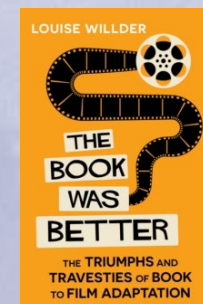
TSUNDOKU - TAIKI RAITO PYM HB - £16.99 - OCTOPUS

An ode to the vice of all true book lovers... buying more books than you will ever read! The term Tsundoku was first coined in Meiji-era Japan to describe the piles of unread books accumulating in the homes of devoted readers. This warm, funny, delightfully illustrated volume about organising your stacks, the joy of collecting books, and the pleasure of reading, is the perfect stocking filler for the bibliophiles in your family.



THE BOOK WAS BETTER - LOUISE WILDER HB - £14.99 - ONEWORLD

As the old saying goes, the book is always better than the film. Or is it? What about *The Godfather*? Or *Jaws*? In fairness, there is plenty of evidence in favour of the printed word compared to their big screen adaptations. In this insightful and entertaining book, Louise Wilder takes us on a tour of the best - and worst - big screen versions of some of our favourite novels.



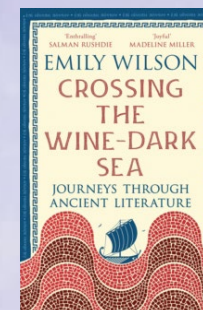
THE MAN WHO READ BOOKS - RACHIDE BENZINE HB - £12.99 - CANONGATE

A young photographer wanders Gaza under ceasefire to document how ordinary life goes on amid the rubble. He stumbles upon an old man sat reading outside a bookstore who, before he will allow his picture to be taken, wants to tell his story. It is a tale of grief, war, and devastation, but also of a life survived with the help of books. A novel for our times and a rallying call for the power of literature.



CROSSING THE WINE-DARK SEA - EMILY WILSON PB - £12.99 - PROFILE

Famed translator of *The Odyssey*, Emily Wilson, leads us on a journey into the classics in this vibrant and fascinating take on ancient literature. Wilson discusses the art of translation, the relevance of the classics to the modern day, the enduring nature of characters like Helen of Troy, and how old stories are made anew by modern artists. A riveting read for classicists new and old.



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MERCH ADO

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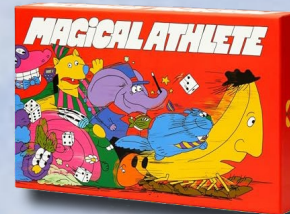
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GAME ON

MAGICAL ATHLETE - £26.99
CMYK GAMES - 2-6 PLAYERS - AGE 6+



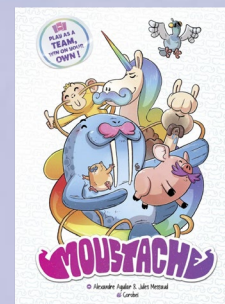
This hilarious racing game is a mad dash around the board, tripping up your opposition or hitching a ride before pipping them at the post. From flip-flops to suckerfish, or huge babies to bananas, the cast of a characters is unhinged, but beneath the craziness is a fun and frantic game of rolling dice and crossing the finish line first. Perfect for friends and family of all ages, and will keep everyone entertained for hours.

THE OLD KING'S CROWN - £65
NAYLOR GAMES - 1-4 PLAYERS - AGE 14+

Players represent competing heirs to a crumbling kingdom. Over rounds that represent years in the life of the kingdom you compete for control over the map, while managing your pool of supporters to consolidate your power. The gameplay is intricate, including asymmetric factions and hand-management, for endless strategic possibilities. With stunning illustrations, and immersive world-building and storytelling potential, this is the game you'll be bringing to the table all year.



MOUSTACHE - £17 - HACHETTE BOARD GAMES
- 3-6 PLAYERS - AGE 10+



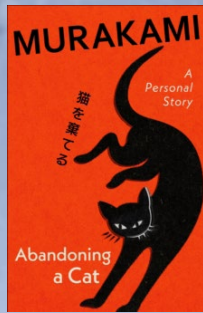
Moustache is the trick-taking game where players vie to collect the most valuable cards over four rounds. The game is played in teams, and each round those teams are randomized so that foes become friends. An additional rule is added each time to turn up the heat too, so keep your wits about you because there can be only one winner! This is a snappy, fun, card game with some beautiful moustachioed animals to boot.

**MANTIS FALLS - £34.99 - DISTANT RABBIT
GAMES - 2-3 PLAYERS - AGE 14+**

After witnessing a crime and fleeing the mob, players work together navigating the town of Mantis Falls, gathering allies and overcoming foes in hope of getting out alive. The twist? One of you might be an assassin, sent to kill the other. This game is full of intrigue and packs a real punch for a small box, and fewer players required than your usual social deduction game. This is *Traitors* with pistols, and a joy to play!



CREATURE COMFORTS



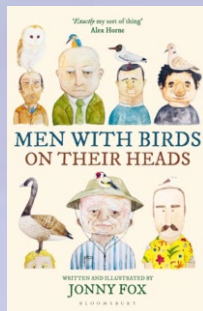
ABANDONING A CAT - HARUKI MURAKAMI HB - £14.99 - VINTAGE

Haruki Murakami's father was the son of a priest who fought in WWII, later becoming a haiku writer and teacher. As Murakami got older, he found they had little in common and ended up estranged, only reconciling as his father faced death. This touching personal essay – published in book form and fully illustrated – meditates on what it is to be a father and a son, and what it means to live a good life.



NAPOLEON'S ORANGUTAN - KATHERINE RUNDELL HB - £10 - FABER & FABER

From bestselling author of *The Golden Mole*, Katherine Rundell, comes this pocket treasury of wonderful beasts, with delightful illustrations by Chris Wormell. Find out about the majesty of an owl's head; discover why a pig was once charged with murder; say hello to Napoleon's orangutan, who ate at the dining table. All this and more in a curious and witty collection.



MEN WITH BIRDS ON THEIR HEADS - JONNY FOX HB - £16.99 - BLOOMSBURY

A resplendent heron adorns the head of a hopeless romantic. A butcher sports a handsome turkey. A curious magpie pecks at Peter's bald spot... these are just some of the oddities to be found in the most eccentric book of the year! Rejoice in this celebration of Britain's native birds as well as celebrating some of our unsung everyday people. A unique gift for the bird enthusiast in your life.



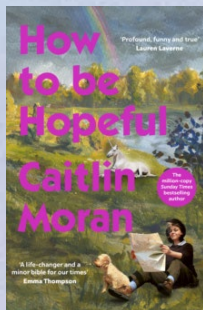
OWLS AND OTHER FANTASIES - MARY OLIVER HB - £12.99 - LITTLE, BROWN

Mary Oliver had an eye and ear like no other for the natural world. Here she considers snowy owls, hawks, swallows, crows, swans, kingfishers, catbirds and more across 26 exquisite poems that have become essential reading. One of the great nature poet's most beloved collections, now available in this beautiful gift edition, which also includes two of her best essays.

HOW TO BE HOPEFUL

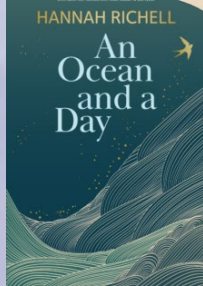
HOW TO BE HOPEFUL - CAITLIN MORAN HB - £22 - Ebury

The inimitable Moran - the aunt you wish you had - decides to choose hopefulness in an age of bad news, anxiety, and tech-induced isolation. With her signature chatty wit, she makes small changes to combat her general sense of doom and dread. Obsessing over her litter picker; rewilding her tiny garden; nearly passing out from hypothermia whilst wild swimming; Moran learns that hope, like laundry, must be done again and again.



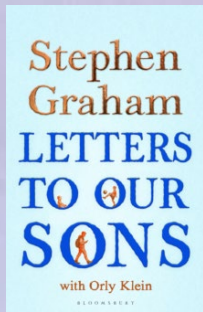
AN OCEAN AND A DAY - HANNAH RICHELL PB - £16.99 - BEDFORD SQUARE

An unflinchingly honest exploration of the shifting sands of the author's grief following her husband Matt's death in a surfing accident. The inspired chronology intersperses recollections of their earlier life with the chaos of the accident's aftermath. **Nic says:** "A celebration of holding dear the everyday, that somehow brims with hope and reassurance that grief is unpredictable and has no rights and wrongs. The best, bravest and most important book of my reading year."



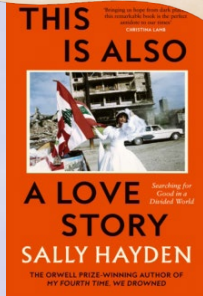
LETTERS TO OUR SONS - STEPHEN GRAHAM HB - £22 - BLOOMSBURY

Award-winning actor and star of *Adolescence*, Stephen Graham, tackles the masculinity crisis head-on with this important and hopeful new book. This incredible collection finds men from all walks of life penning letters to their sons, putting into words what they couldn't say out loud. From everyday people to famous faces like Danny Dyer, Riz Ahmed and Tom Daley, this book will make you laugh, cry, and be inspired.



THIS IS ALSO A LOVE STORY - SALLY HAYDEN HB - £20 - HARPER COLLINS

Drawing on more than a decade reporting on some of the worst conflicts and natural disasters in living memory, Sally Hayden uncovers the courage, love, and moments of hope that headlines often miss. From Ukraine to Rwanda, Lebanon to Japan, her on-the-ground journalism reveals resilience and romance alive amid displacement and injustice. **Sam Says:** "Devastating and hopeful, this is reportage transformed: a reminder to look for the best in humanity."

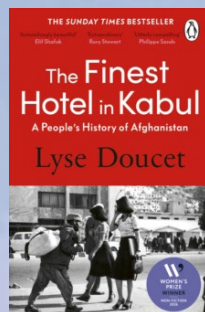


HISTORY LESSONS



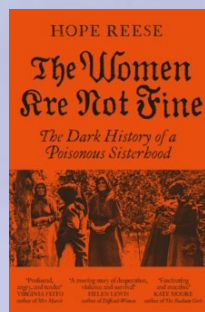
DOMESDAY - MAX ADAMS HB - £25 - BLOOMSBURY

In 1085 William I sent his agents around the country to enact the Great Survey, documenting the land, property and workforce, to figure out what he was owed. The result of this undertaking: *The Domesday Book*. In this fascinating new history, Max Adams takes us on a journey in the footsteps of William's agents, to build a unique picture of the workings of everyday medieval life. Perfect for anyone caught in the Bayeux Tapestry fervour.



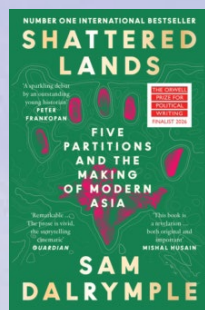
THE FINEST HOTEL IN KABUL - LYSE DOUCET PB - £11.99 - CORNERSTONE

The Hotel Inter-Continental opened in Kabul in 1969 as a symbol of hope for Afghans for a prosperous future. In the half a century since, it has stayed resolutely open, its staff continuing to work through war, coups, the US invasion, the Taliban and countless other events. In this superbly researched, Baillie Gifford Prize-winning masterpiece, Lyse Doucet delivers the year's stand-out social history.



THE WOMEN ARE NOT FINE - HOPE REESE PB - £10.99 - OCTOPUS

Journalist Hope Reese spent a six-week holiday in Hungary where she first stumbled upon the Angel Makers. Through an amalgamation of history, social commentary, police records and newspaper clippings we find ourselves immersed in early 1900s rural Nagyrév where a group of women killed their abusive husbands over decades by boiling flypaper in their kitchen and sharing their knowledge through neighbourhood gossip. A compelling and fascinating read.



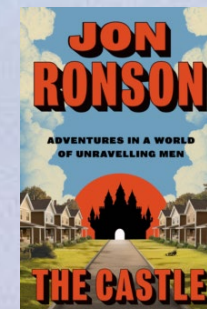
SHATTERED LANDS - SAM DALRYMPLE PB - £10.99 - HARPER COLLINS

An incredible debut by an energetic young historian, Dalrymple traces the five partitions that dismantled the British Indian Empire, reshaping a quarter of the world and creating modern South Asia. Panoramic and intimate, with a staggering amount of research drawing on archives, memoirs, and interviews from multiple languages, Dalrymple combines vast geopolitical history with cinematic eye-witness testimonies of the people trapped in these upheavals.

TRUE STORIES

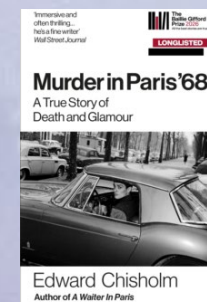
THE CASTLE - JON RONSON HB - £20 - PENGUIN

One morning, Ronson wakes to find a string of messages from his son, describing a strange and frightening party at a billionaire's castle in the middle of a New England forest. Ronson knows he should be concerned as a father... but he also smells a story. So begins a bizarre journey into the heart of modern masculinity. A terrifyingly fun book about the underworld of a species in crisis.



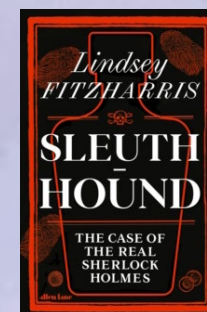
MURDER IN PARIS '68 - EDWARD CHISHOLM HB - £22 - OCTOPUS

A body is discovered in a ravine near the Palace of Versailles. The victim turns out to live at the same Paris address as Alain Delon and was found wearing the renowned actor's clothes. So begins an investigation not only into one death, but an odyssey into the underbelly of New Wave Paris. Chisholm's non-fiction thriller expertly recreates the glamour, the sleaze, and the hidden dangers of an iconic era.



SLEUTH-HOUND - LINDSEY FITZHARRIS HB - £25 - PENGUIN

A young medical student squeezes into the packed theatre to watch the work of Joseph Bell, Scottish surgeon and master of detection; a man of such skill he often assisted police in assessing crime scenes. The student, a certain Arthur Conan Doyle, would eventually abandon his studies and, inspired by Bell, create the most famous character in literary history: Sherlock Holmes. Compelling and thrilling history from a Mr B's fave.

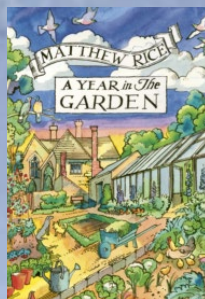


SHADOW DIVERS - ROBERT KURSON PB - £10.99 - PENGUIN

John Chatterton and Richie Kohler had made a life of deep sea wreck diving, but even they were unprepared for what they would discover one morning in 1991. A German U-boat bearing no identifiable marks, filled with human remains, lay at the bottom of the Atlantic. The mystery would take expert divers and historians decades to unravel. An incredible work of narrative history for fans of David Grann.

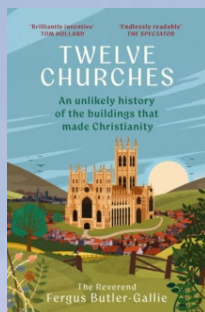


HOME & AWAY



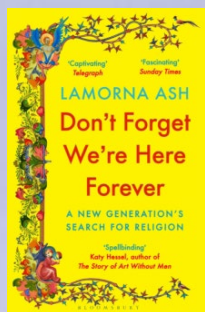
A YEAR IN THE GARDEN - MATTHEW RICE HB - £25 - QUARTO

In 2012 Matthew Rice bought Ham Court, an estate in the Cotswolds on land that was once Bampton Castle. Surrounding the house are vast gardens comprising an orchard, paddock, greenhouse, and small farmyard. In this lavishly illustrated volume, Rice describes a year in his garden as the seasons change. A true delight filled with a mix of recipes, gardening tips and humorous anecdotes.



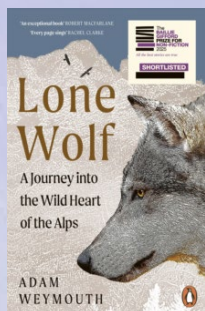
TWELVE CHURCHES - FERGUS BUTLER-GALLIE PB - £14.99 - HODDER & STOUGHTON

When Butler-Gallie set out to investigate the beauty and brokenness of global Christianity, he did so through its buildings: 12 famous (or infamous) sites which have fascinated people for centuries. The resulting blend of history, travelogue, and reflection explores the lives of those who shaped these spaces – from a martyr's cave in Japan to one of the KKK's worst bombings, this book considers Christianity's past and how that shapes its future.



DON'T FORGET WE'RE HERE FOREVER LAMORNA ASH - PB - £10.99 - BLOOMSBURY

Ash sets out to understand why many young people, raised in mostly secular Britain, are turning to Christianity. Travelling across Britain, from charismatic evangelical festivals to Quaker meetings and silent Jesuit retreats, she explores the religion's many expressions, meeting the Gen-Z faith-seekers finding community and purpose in older sources of meaning. Combining travelogue with memoir, Ash immerses herself in this world, and wrestles with her own beliefs.



LONE WOLF - ADAM WEYMOUTH PB - £11.99 - CORNERSTONE

A young wolf named Slave sets out from Slovenia, travelling thousands of miles in harsh conditions across the Alps, landing four months later on the plateau above Verona. En route he meets a female wolf, and the whole way Slave is tracked by GPS. Ten years later the area is littered with his descendants and, in their wake, comes Adam Weymouth, following Slave's incredible journey through these wild corners of Europe.

HOW THE WORLD WORKS

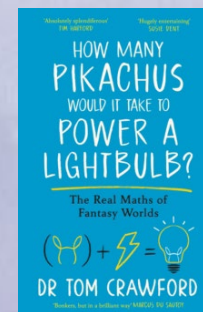
ON THE EQUALITY OF ALL THINGS - CARLO ROVELLI HB - £20 - PENGUIN

Join one of the world's great science communicators on a journey of enlightenment about our universe. Acclaimed physicist Rovelli takes us to the edges of reality to ponder the nature of electrons, galaxies, and the human mind... his lessons might just shift your entire view of existence. A brilliant, mind-expanding exploration of physics and philosophy.



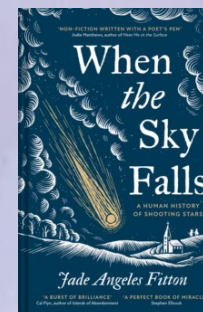
HOW MANY PIKACHUS WOULD IT TAKE TO POWER A LIGHTBULB? - DR TOM CRAWFORD - HB - £22 - CORNERSTONE

What would it take to feed a Charizard? Could the Death Star's laser really blow up a planet? How rich would Mario be if those were real coins he was collecting? And is the meaning of life, 42? All these questions from the worlds of sci-fi and fantasy are tackled in this brilliantly fun and original book, based on years of mathematical research. The perfect Christmas gift for fans of *What If?*



WHEN THE SKY FALLS - JADE ANGELES FITTON HB - £15.99 - BATSFORD

Shooting stars have captivated humans for thousands of years. Their magic has never dimmed, influencing our culture, history, belief systems, and art in myriad ways. In this vibrant mix of natural and social history, journalist Jade Angeles Fitton takes a deep dive into the wonder of shooting stars and their impact on the people changed by seeing them.



THE REVERSE CENTAUR'S GUIDE TO LIFE AFTER AI CORY DOCTOROW - HB - £16.99 - VERSO

With clarity and humour, Doctorow explains not only how AI works, but whom it serves and whom it harms. Deeply informed by the economics of AI investment and the technology's potentials and pitfalls, he cuts through the hype and highlights uncomfortable truths. Centring on the provocative image of the reverse centaur - a creature not empowered by technology, but colonised by it - he lays out a path forward for human work and dignity.

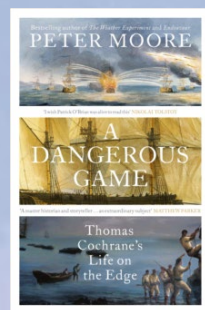


BATTLES & BRAVERY



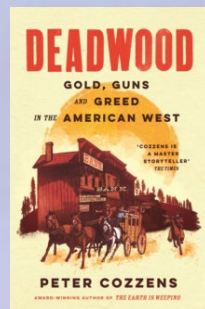
HOW TO BUILD A SPITFIRE - DAVID PRICE PB - £10.99 - BLOOMSBURY

The Spitfire: the plane that won the Battle of Britain, sealing its place in the hearts of a nation and becoming a symbol of national resilience. In 2018, David Price, historian and aviation museum volunteer, decided to build a replica from scratch in his back garden. In this witty homage to the great aircraft, which mixes technical detail with a touching personal diary, he recalls how he pulled it off.



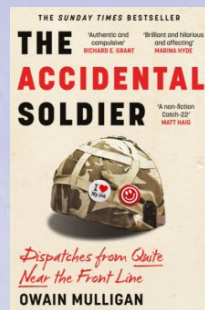
A DANGEROUS GAME - PETER MOORE HB - £30 - VINTAGE

Thomas Cochrane was no ordinary naval hero. From explosive victories against the French to political scandals, prison escapes and revolutionary battles across the world, his life reads like the most outrageous adventure novel. Peter Moore brings this rebellious, fiercely ambitious figure vividly to life in a pacy, engrossing biography packed with drama, intrigue and larger-than-life characters. A brilliant portrait of a man who played by nobody's rules.



DEADWOOD - PETER COZZENS PB - £12.99 - ATLANTIC

Gold prospectors, whisky barons, prostitution rings, bar fights, and shootings; Deadwood, South Dakota, was once 'the most diabolical town on Earth'. In this raucous new book, acclaimed historian Peter Cozzens tells the history of this iconic part of the Wild West, from its founding on stolen Lakota land in 1876, through the legends of Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok, to its spectacular demise.



THE ACCIDENTAL SOLDIER - OWAIN MULLIGAN PB - £10.99 - HODDER & STOUGHTON

Owain Mulligan was a middling teacher and weekend member of the Territorial Army when the call came: the Army was desperate for volunteers in Iraq. Swapping the classroom for the front(ish) line, Mulligan recounts training fails, homicidal militias, and profane camaraderie as he sets foot on the streets of Basra at the height of the conflict. A brutally hilarious and refreshing account of modern warfare.

REAL LIVES

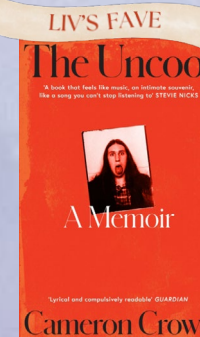
I DELIVER PARCELS IN BEIJING - HU ANYAN PB - £12.99 - PENGUIN

This is what cheap labour looks like. Recent graduate Hu Anyan needs work, alongside countless others. Easy to exploit by successive employers, his is a world of long hours, low pay, poor working conditions and high staff turnover. Warehouses, delivery depots, retail work – each job is filled with bizarre, nightmarish, wry experiences. What sets this memoir apart is the author's determination to succeed and keep his integrity.



THE UNCOOL - CAMERON CROWE PB - £11.99 - HARPER COLLINS

Cameron Crowe might call himself uncool, but no one else has a coming-of-age story quite like his. Aged 15, Crowe was writing for Rolling Stone, sitting down for all-access interviews with David Bowie and Joni Mitchell, and touring with legends such as Led Zeppelin and Fleetwood Mac - the basis for his hit film, *Almost Famous*. **Liv says:** "A front-row ticket to the world of 70s rock-and-roll, Crowe writes for the geeks, fans, and dreamers. Undeniably very cool."



MOTHER MARY COMES TO ME - ARUNDHATI ROY PB - £12.99 - PENGUIN

In her first memoir, Booker-Prize winner Arundhati Roy tells the story of her life through her complicated relationship with her mother, a woman who was "shelter and storm". Mary Roy was an educator, feminist campaigner, and fiercely independent single mother. She gifted Arundhati with abilities and constraints that shaped the writer's life. Characterised by Roy's precise and colourful prose, this is an incredible account of the making of an artist.

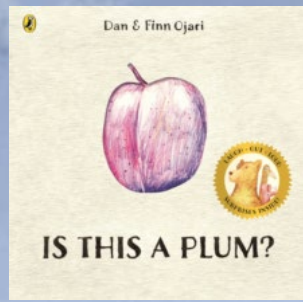


LESSONS FROM A DEFAULT PARENT - LOU BECKETT PB - £10.99 - DK

For all the parents out there feeling weighed down by the invisible mental load, those who are spaced out, or bored, or missing the thing that made them who they are outside of the home: this book is for you. Lou Beckett explores the triumphs and trials and of parenthood, motherhood, and marriage with babies, with wit, honesty, facts, and lots of heart. As the subtitle says, this will show you how to survive family life, "without losing your shit."



PICTURE BOOKS



IS THIS A PLUM? - DAN OJARI, FINN OJARI PB - £8.99 - PUFFIN

From father and son creators, *Is This a Plum* is a wonderful play on the imagination for the whole family. From babies just starting to imagine to grandparents reading it aloud, everyone will enjoy this delightful play on shapes. Because is this a plum? Well, no, it's a hippopotamus's bum! **Age 2+**



THE MAGIC BEDTIME TRAIN RIDE LAUREN DEGRAAF - HB - £16.99 - QUARTO

Hop aboard this absolutely delightful sound book, perfect for sending your little ones into a deep, dream filled sleep. With hand painted pages that seem to glow, this is a must for every family. We follow passengers like Lullaby the leopard, Rockabye the rabbit, and Starlight the sloth along a river, through the woods and up to the mountains, with every page offering a relaxing song. **Age 1+**



THE STARMAKER - CATHERINE DOYLE, PADDY DONNELLY PB - £7.99 - BLOOMSBURY

From the brilliant duo Catherine Doyle and Paddy Donnelly comes a tale of Stella and the star that she was given at birth – her best friend who's always by her side. When Stella's baby brother won't stop crying, she and her star journey deep into their village to find someone who can help. With enchanting illustrations and inviting writing, this is a story made for your shelves. **Age 2+**



THE BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BEING A WIZARD KEITH NEGLEY - PB - £8.99 - PUFFIN

So you want to become a wizard? Excellent choice. Grab your wand and dive into this laugh-out-loud how-to guide, full of surprises and adorable illustrations. This handbook covers everything from essential tools for aspiring wizards, to choosing a familiar, casting spells, duels - and (of course!) much-needed snacks to fuel all that magic. Both hilarious and heartwarming, this book sparkles with just as much wisdom as it does wizardry. **Age 4+**

ARTY FACTS

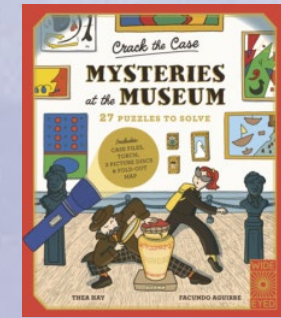
HOW TO MAKE AWESOME COMICS NEILL CAMERON - PB - £10.99 - DAVID FICKLING

Learn to make your own comics with Phoenix legend Neill Cameron, creator of *Donut Squad* and *Mega Robo Bros*! Let Neill guide you through the tricks and techniques to bring your ideas to life. Packed with prompts and ideas, and loads of space to get creative, this is a sure-fire hit that will keep comic-loving kids occupied for hours. **Age 6+**



MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM - THEA HAY HB - £16.99 - WIDE-EYED

A brand new interactive detective series, where you use the included detective torch and maps to shine a light on unsolved mysteries! Slot the correct disc into the torch and dive into a world of puzzles, codes, and hidden clues, as you fight crime in the museum. With 25 cases to solve, this innovative and original gamebook will delight fans of *Pierre the Maze Detective* and *Murdle Junior*. **Age 8+**



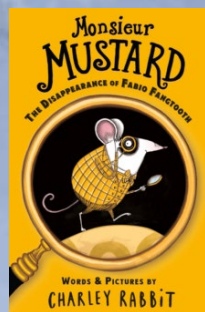
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LITTLE READERS



MONSIEUR MUSTARD - CHARLEY RABBIT PB - £9.99 - ANDERSEN PRESS

A mystery beyond your wildest expectations, set in Bath, featuring our very own Mr B as a bookselling baboon? Yes please. Famed detective Monsieur Mustard has just moved to the beautiful city of Bath when Fabio Fangtooth disappears, and the poor monsieur is thrown into a headscratcher of a case. Filled with Charley Rabbit's delightful illustrations, this is the perfect chaotic read for *Grimwood* lovers. **Age 5+**



THE DRAGON MOUNTAIN - MATHIEU PIERLOOT, FRANCOIS MAUMONT - HB - £12.99 - POST WAVE

When a young boy and his pet duck Custard stumble upon two young witches, his world is turned upside down. Especially when he discovers the egg he stole is actually a dragon egg! Full of incredible full page illustrations, this is a fantastic fantasy adventure that's sure to charm the whole family. **Age 6+**



MAGIC SCHOOL FOR DOGS - PIPPA CURNICK HB - £10.99 - HACHETTE

A new magical adventure perfect for fans of *Isadora Moon*. Kind cocker spaniel Chip has just started magic school to learn how to protect himself from the spells of the local cats. But the harder Chip tries, the more things go wrong. This is a delightful read full of bright illustrations for newly independent readers. **Age 5+**



HOW TO GROW MAGIC - RACHEL MORRISROE, STEVEN LENTON - PB - £7.99 - PUFFIN

When Mr Pottifer tries to teach Sarah's class how to grow magical beanstalks, some mischievous garden gnomes cause havoc and suddenly Enchantment Primary has a giant beanstalk in their school garden and there is no way to make it go away. Sarah soon discovers they might not be alone and that there might be something rather special atop the beanstalk... Dripping with magic and mystery, this is perfect for young bookworms. **Age 5+**

KIDS AT CHRISTMAS

THE CHRISTMAS BOOK - KATHERINE WOODFINE, LIZZY STEWART - HB - £10 - FABER & FABER

Author Katherine Woodfine and illustrator Lizzy Stewart team up to bring this delightful and heart-warming story to life. Head inside this warm little farmhouse, where the air is filled with the scent of Christmas spices and hot cocoa, as young Tómas devises a plan to place his grandfather's stories at the heart of the festive season. A beautiful story based on the Icelandic tradition of Jólábókafloðið for readers of all ages. **Age 8+**



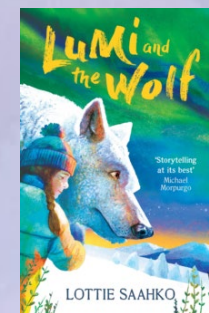
ROBIN - SARAH ANN JUCKES PB - £7.99 - SIMON & SCHUSTER

Eddie has always struggled to speak his mind, and when his sister goes into hospital before the Christmas holidays, he starts to feel even more invisible and alone. Until a little robin leads him to the woods behind his uncle's house to meet a girl who helps him to find his voice. Sarah Ann Jukes is a master at big emotion paired with delicate storytelling. **Age 8+**



LUMI AND THE WOLF - LOTTIE SAAKHO HB - £14.99 - HACHETTE

Lumi has never felt that she's been in the right place at the right time. That is, until she meets a wild wolf on the snowy tundra of Lapland. Lumi will do anything to protect her wolf from hunters, including walking hundreds of miles to get him to the safety of the national park. It will take every ounce of brain power and strength she has to survive the Finnish wilderness and find her place in the world. **Age 8+**



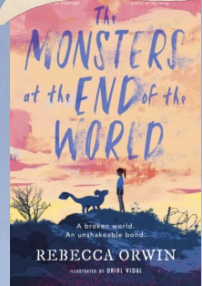
ONCE UPON A STOLEN SLEIGH - NATALIE O'HARA, LAUREN O'HARA - PB - £8.99 - PAN MACMILLAN

From the creators of *Once Upon a Fairytale* comes a new choose your own adventure story, all about Santa! Your little reader has a very important job – helping Santa to save Christmas from the Thief King. This magical story full of enchanting illustrations encourages new readers to spark their imaginations and become storytellers. **Age 3+**



MIDDLE-GRADE TALES

HANNAH'S FAVE



THE MONSTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD
REBECCA ORWIN, ORIOL VIDAL - PB - £8.99 - PUFFIN

Sunny has always known the monsters from the water are dangerous, evil, and killing their land. But when she meets a monster, Mo, on the outskirts of their town and forms a bond with him, everything she thought she knew about her home and their world changes. **Hannah says:** "A beautiful, original story of friendship and bravery." **Age 9+**



SIX WEEKS - MATT GOODFELLOW, JOE TODD-STANTON - PB - £8.99 - HACHETTE

Alfie Piper has six weeks of summer, and nothing left to lose. Since his mum's death nearly a year ago, his world has unravelled, and the silence with his stepdad grows louder and louder. So, Alfie grabs his bike and rides into the hills. Beautifully written and deeply moving, this unforgettable story from the author of *The Final Year* explores love, loss, family, and hope. **Age 9+**

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BIG ADVENTURES

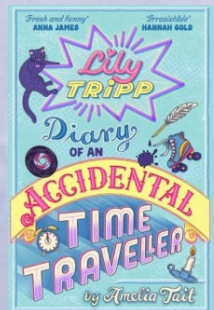
HOLOMONSTERS - LEE NEWBURY
PB - £8.99 - PUFFIN

Newt Hawkin is a superfan of the sensationally popular Holomonsters – a battlefield game where monsters are brought to virtual life by hologram technology. When Newt wins a local tournament, he gets invited to Holomonsters HQ, where he soon discovers the monsters are being brought into the real world for devious means. A brilliant adventure for fans of *Jumanji*, *Pokémon* and *Yu-Gi-Oh!* **Age 8+**



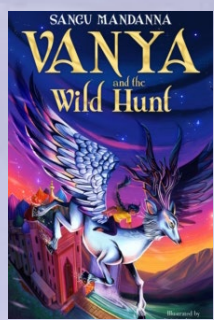
DIARY OF AN ACCIDENTAL TIME TRAVELLER
AMELIA TAIT - PB - £8.99 - HACHETTE

Lily Tripp has a very inconvenient secret: every New Year's Eve at exactly midnight, she'll travel back in time to a completely different century. Fortunately, her family, her best friend, and her crush always seem to travel with her. Unfortunately, so does her bully. How is she supposed to survive as a servant in the 1600s? And more importantly, why haven't chicken nuggets been invented yet? A hilarious, time-travelling adventure. **Age 9+**



VANYA AND THE WILD HUNT - SANGU MANDANNA
PB - £8.99 - PAN MACMILLAN

Vanya's first year at the magical school has a lot going on - from walking nightmares attacking the school to making friends when her ADHD brain is trying to stop her, Vanya doesn't know if she's up for it all. With talking books and winged deer, this is a banger of a series starter for fans of *Skandar* and *Impossible Creatures*. **Age 9+**

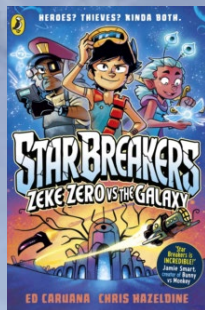


CINNAMON CRUMB, BAKING DETECTIVE
HARRY WOODGATE - PB - £8.99 - USBORNE

What's better than books? Cake and books obviously! In the town of Marzipan, Cinnamon Crumb is caught in a sticky (toffee) mess of crime and shenanigans as two rival superstar bakers will stop at nothing to win the town's coveted Twelve Tier Crown - even sabotage! She's no baker, but Cinnamon is about to become the best baking detective Marpizan has ever seen, one that Bake Off would be proud of! **Age 8+**



WORDS, PICTURES, ACTION!



STAR BREAKERS - ED CARUANA, CHRIS HAZELDINE - PB - £10.99 - PUFFIN

Zeke Zero had been getting by fine, even though his dad traded him for a spare battery when he was little. But after a slight misunderstanding over a priceless star map, he's been forced to join the Star Breakers, a crew of brave/foolish explorers who scour monster-infested planets for treasure. What could possibly go wrong? A hilarious adventure that reads like *Guardians of the Galaxy* crossed with *Bunny vs Monkey!* **Age 7+**



WILOMINA - JOHN CHALMERS, SANDRA MARRS - PB - £9.99 - SCHOLASTIC

One moment Wilomina is on the way to visit her mother in hospital; the next she finds herself stranded in a strange dreamworld with only a talking cat called Mephisto for company. Can she battle monsters and solve fiendish puzzles, and finally make her way back to the real world and be reunited with her family? A stunning graphic adventure for fans of *Amulet*, *Lightfall*, and *Studio Ghibli* movies. **Age 8+**



HENRI & MIKO - REBECCA GREEN - HB - £14.99 - WALKER BOOKS

Henri the mouse and Miko the bee are best friends who just love the winter. They climb into their snowsuits, throw snowballs, and eat great feasts by candlelight. And their woodland home is full of all kinds of critter friends! An utterly delightful and gorgeously illustrated collection of wintery stories, perfect for fans of *Brambly Hedge* and *Beatrix Potter*. **Age 5+**



MARIONNETTA - MIRIAM BONASTRE TUR - PB - £12.99 - ONEWORLD

Julia is just a regular, ordinary girl. Until she visits a travelling circus with her friend Kamille and the pair find themselves thrust into a bizarre world filled with secrets and dark magic, where danger lurks around every corner. Julia must push herself to her limits – and strike an impossible deal – if she is to survive. A stunning new series from the author of *Hooky*. **Age 12+**

THE NEXT ADVENTURE

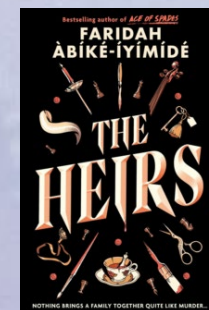
CUT HIM OUT IN LITTLE STARS - LUCY STRANGE - PB - £8.99 - CHICKEN HOUSE

Heartbroken after the death of her pilot fiancé, Juliet is sent to be with her sister. But when she discovers the body of a local girl washed up on the beach, past mysteries come flooding back. Under the darkening skies of wartime England, Juliet must find the courage to confront her deepest fears, right a terrible injustice and, even as the world burns around her, maybe risk falling in love again? **Age 12+**



THE HEIRS - FARIDAH ABÍKÉ-ÍYÍMÍDÉ - PB - £9.99 - USBORNE

Knives Out meets *The Umbrella Academy* in this new edge of your seat thriller from the author of *Ace of Spades*. Adopted and trained under the Button Method, Leon Button's six children are prodigies, each excelling in their own skill. But when their father winds up dead on his boat during their annual prodigy ball, the chase for the killer begins. A fast-paced, intricate murder mystery full of wit, twists, and excellent characters! **Age 13+**



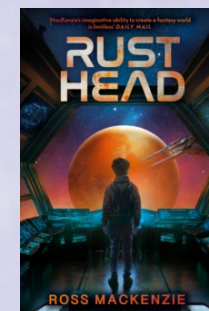
TRAITORS' NEST - FRANCES HARDINGE - HB - £16.99 - PAN MACMILLAN

From the inimitable Frances Hardinge comes a high concept fantasy full of myth, magic and world building. Castles move; it's a fact. When Burr's village is taken over by a castle and implements changes, Burr is not happy. He thinks it's about time to bring the castles down. But there's more above the valleys of the kingdom than meets the eye, and Burr might not be ready for the challenge. **Age 13+**



RUSTHEAD - ROSS MACKENZIE - PB - £8.99 - ANDERSEN PRESS

Kol and Sully live the unglamorous lives of treasure-hunting rustheads on the planet Rush. Deep in the darkest hole, they stumble upon a long-dormant spaceship buried beneath the junk. But when the ship suddenly comes to life and propels them into deep space, they discover they're not alone. A mysterious girl is aboard, too, with a mission: free the galaxy from the oppressive Reaper Empire and stay alive! **Age 10+**



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This catalogue was created by Tom Mooney, Sôffi James and Nethmi Karunajeewa. The reviews were written by the whole Mr B's Team. Thank you once again to Jackie Morris for her beautiful artwork.

