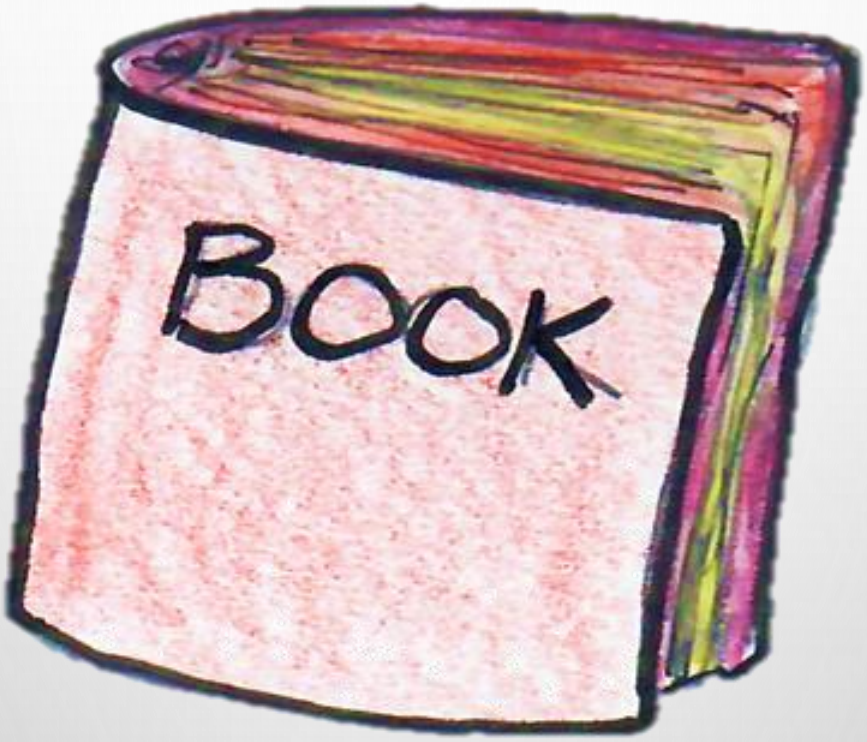
BOOK CLUB



A list of books
enjoyed by our
members

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INDEX

- A Life on our Planet
- A Time for Mercy
- A Woman of No Importance
- Battle of the Brothers
- Because of You
- Best of Our Spies
- Beyond
- Birds without wings
- Birdsong
- Blood and Sugar
- Blunt Force
- Bring back our girls
- Brooklyn
- Buried
- Cathedral
- Cause of Death
- Cormoran Strike
- Count of Monte Cristo
- Daughters of the Night
- Dead ground
- Dragonmage
- Early Morning Riser
- Fall
- Fall of the Giants
- Far from the Madding Crowd
- Fast Ice
- Ghosted
- Gormenghast
- Hard Landing
- His dark materials
- How much of these hills is gold
- Kathy Reichs
- Killing Floor
- Legacy of War
- Lord of the Rings
- Making Colors sing
- Margery Allingham
- ME Elton John
- My Amy
- Need a little Time
- Nighthawking
- Night's Dawn trilogy
- No time for Goodbye
- Patricia Cornwall
- Rising Sun
- Shuggie Bain
- Sue Grafton
- The Alchemist
- The Binding
- The Dig
- The Jigsaw Murders
- The Kingdom
- The Leopard
- The Realm of the Elderlings
- The Royal Secret
- The Silk Factory
- The Wizards of Once
- The Wolf Den
- Thread and Needle
- Travelling Through Duston's History
- Rainbow Milk
- Rebecca
- The Romance of the Three Kingdoms
- Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- Think
- Thursday murder club
- Turn a Blind Eye
- Victor the assassin
- What Lies Beneath
- WIN

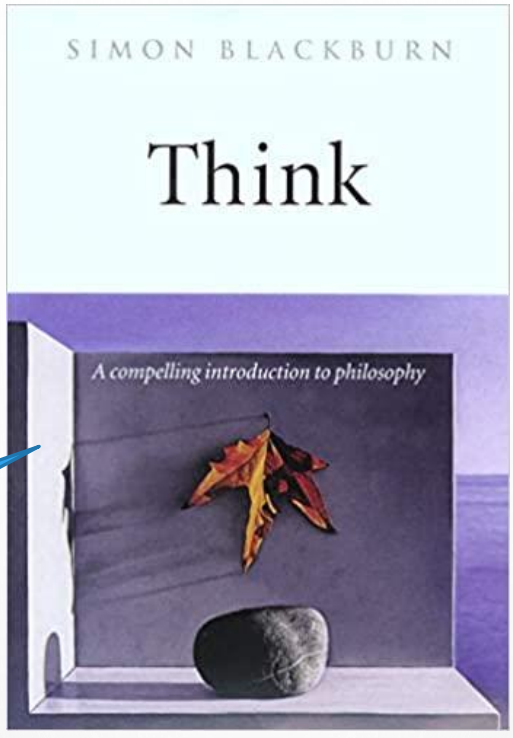
GENRIC INDEX

- NON FICTION — Think
- NON FICTION — Making Colors Sing
- FACTUAL — A Life on our Planet
- FACTUAL — Because of You
- FACTUAL — Battle of the Brothers
- FACTUAL — Beyond
- FACTUAL — Bring Back Our Girls
- FACTUAL — FALL
- FACTUAL — ME Elton John
- FACTUAL — My Amy
- FACTUAL — Rainbow Milk
- ??? — The Alchemist
- ???? — Cathedral
- ???? — Early Morning Riser
- HISTORICAL — A Woman of No Importance
- HISTORICAL — Shuggie Bain
- HISTORICAL — Birds without wings
- HISTORICAL — Brooklyn
- HISTORICAL — Blood and Sugar
- HISTORICAL — Count of Monte Cristo
- HISTORICAL — Daughters of the Night
- HISTORICAL — Fall of the Giants
- HISTORICAL — How much of these hills is gold
- HISTORICAL — Nighthawking
- HISTORICAL — Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- HISTORICAL — The Leopard
- HISTORICAL — The Dig
- HISTORICAL — The Romance of the Three Kingdoms
- HISTORICAL — The Royal Secret
- HISTORICAL — The Silk Factory
- HISTORICAL — The Wolf Den
- HISTORICAL — Travelling through Duston's History
- WAR & LOVE — Birdsong

GENRIC INDEX

SCI FI	The Reality Dysfunction
SCI FI	Need a Little Time
SWORD & SCORCERY	Dragonmage
SWORD & SCROCERY	Gormenghast
SWORD & SCORCERY	His dark materials
SWORD & SCORCERY	Lord of the Rings
SWORD & SORCERY	The Binding
SWORD & SCORCERY	The Realm of the Elderlings
SWORD & SCORCERY	The Wizards of Once
SWORD & SCORCERY	Thread and Needle
ROMANCE	Far from the Madding Crowd
ROMANCE	Ghosted
ROMANCE ? THRILLER	Rebecca
THRILLER	A Time for Mercy
THRILLER	Blunt Force
THIRLLER	Buried
THRILLER	Cormoran Strike
THRILLER	Cause of Death
THRILLER	Dead Ground
THRILLER	Fast Ice
THRILLER	Kathy Reichs
THRILLER	Legacy of War
THRILLER	Patricia Cornwall
THRILLER	Margery Allingham
THRILLER	No time for Goodbye
THRILLER	Rising Sun
THRILLER	Sue Grafton
THRILLER	Best of Our Spies
THRILLER	Hard Landing
THRILLER	The Jigsaw Murders
THRILLER	The Kingdom
THRILLER	Thursday murder club
THRILLER	Turn a blind Eye
THRILLER	Killing Floor
THRILLER	Victor the Assassin
THRILLER	What Lies Beneath
THRILLER	WIN

STARS
AL
AN
GA
GH
GM
JB
Ka
KR
LJ
ME
MS
TB ☆☆☆☆☆
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Colour Code
Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

An introduction to the subject of philosophy. Covers existence, self, morality, religion and more.

Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy: Amazon.co.uk: Blackburn, Simon: Books

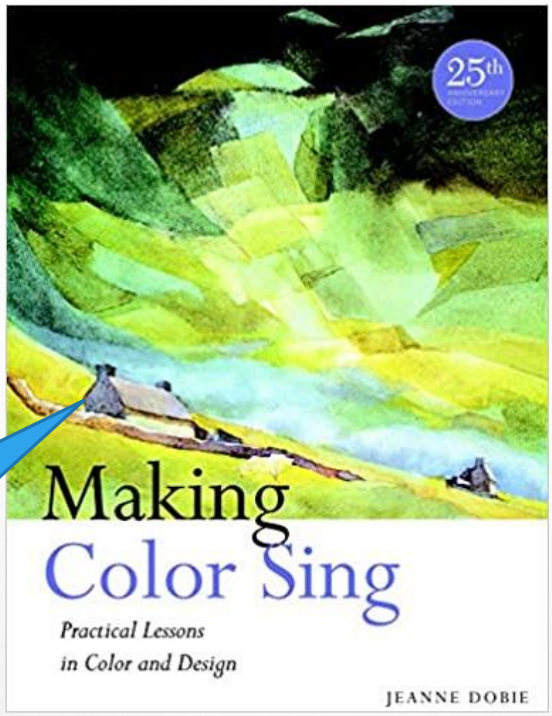
This is a book about the big questions in life: knowledge, consciousness, fate, God, truth, goodness, justice. It is for anyone who believes there are big questions out there, but does not know how to approach them. Think sets out to explain what they are and why they are important. Simon Blackburn begins by putting forward a convincing case for the study of philosophy and goes on to give the reader a sense of how the great historical figures such as Descartes, Hume, Kant, and Wittgenstein have approached its central themes. Each chapter explains a major issue, and gives the reader a self-contained guide through the problems that philosophers have studied. The large scope of topics covered range from scepticism, the self, mind and body, and freedom to ethics and the arguments surrounding the existence of God. Lively and approachable, this book is ideal for all those who want to learn how the basic techniques of thinking shape our existence.

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The only book I have bought 3 times, two as gifts. Wonderful



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Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Making-Color-Sing-25th-Anniversary/dp/0823031152/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=jeanne+dobie&qid=1611170677&s=books&sr=1-1

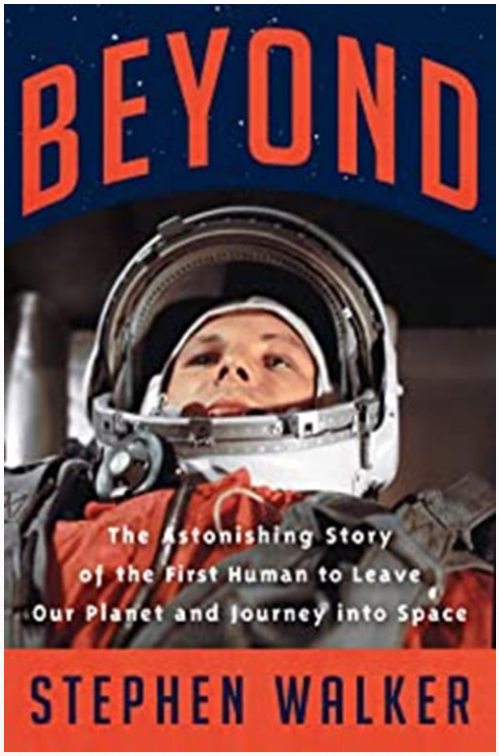
About the Author

Jeanne Dobie was educated at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art (now the Philadelphia College of Art) and she served on the faculty of Moore College or Art, Philadelphia, until 1981. Known for her fresh approach to colour and design, she has conducted workshops throughout the United States and in Europe. She is listed in Who's Who in American Art and is an elected member of both the American Watercolor Society (AWS) and the National Watercolor Society (NWS). Her work is represented in many collections, including the collection of the Frye Museum in Seattle and the private collection of Henri Marceau, former director of the Philadelphia Museum or Art. She has served as juror for national exhibitions, including the American Watercolor Society.

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STARS
AL
AN
GA
GH
GM
JB
Ka
KR
LJ
ME
MS
TB
TM



Colour Code
Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

[Beyond: The Astonishing Story of the First Human to Leave Our Planet and Journey into Space: Amazon.co.uk: Walker, Stephen: 9780008372507: Books]

Beyod, by Stephen Walker.

When Yuri Gagarin rode his 20-million horsepower Soviet rocket out of the atmosphere and into orbit, on April 12, 1961 he trounced the Americans — and that victory, not the fact that he was the first human in space, is the real subject of this excellent book.

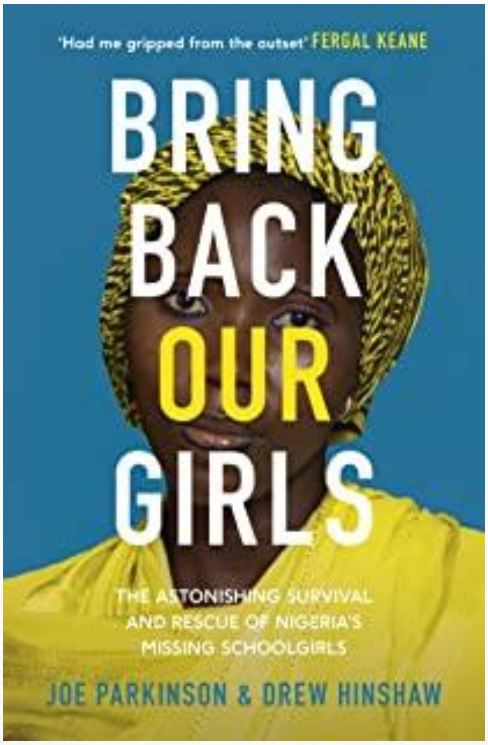
It is not the first study of Gagarin and the Vostok missions, still less of Nasa's "Mercury Seven" astronauts — John Glenn, Alan Shepard and the rest — but bringing the two stories together is a masterstroke. Stephen Walker is a documentary film-maker as well as a historian, and it shows in the sophistication of the storytelling.

The two space programmes could not have been in higher contrast. While the American astronauts tore up and down Cocoa Beach in their Corvettes, giving interviews to Life magazine, the Soviet cosmonauts lived a spartan and secret existence, sleeping in bunks on a volleyball court while their wives — who were not supposed to know what their husbands were doing — cleaned floors to help to get by. Forty-five million people watched Shepard take off, on May 5; Gagarin's mission was announced only after he was in orbit.

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AL
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GM
JB
Ka
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LJ
ME
MS
TB
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Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Bring Back Our Girls: The Astonishing Survival and Rescue of Nigeria's Missing Schoolgirls: Amazon.co.uk: Parkinson, Joe, Hinshaw, Drew: 9781800750272: Books

For two weeks it was the biggest story on earth: 276 Nigerian schoolgirls abducted from their dormitory in the middle of the night in April 2014 by a little-known but extremely deadly Islamist sect called Boko Haram. What had drawn the media was not the mass kidnapping, which initially was barely reported, but a catchy hashtag, #BringBackOurGirls, which was retweeted by millions across the globe, from Michelle Obama to Oprah Winfrey.

The Obama administration, the prime minister David Cameron, the French, Canadians and Israelis sent drones, spy planes and satellites to scour the Sambisa forest where the girls had been taken. Dozens of intelligence agents, hostage negotiators, psychosocial therapists and rescue teams set up office in the Abuja Hilton.

All to no avail. Seven years on, many of them are still in captivity. As initially revealed in this paper, one group of about 80 girls were located early on under a vast tamarind that the rescue team referred to as the Tree of Life, but nothing was done. The fear was that a rescue attempt would not only be highly risky but might make Boko Haram slaughter the others in revenge.

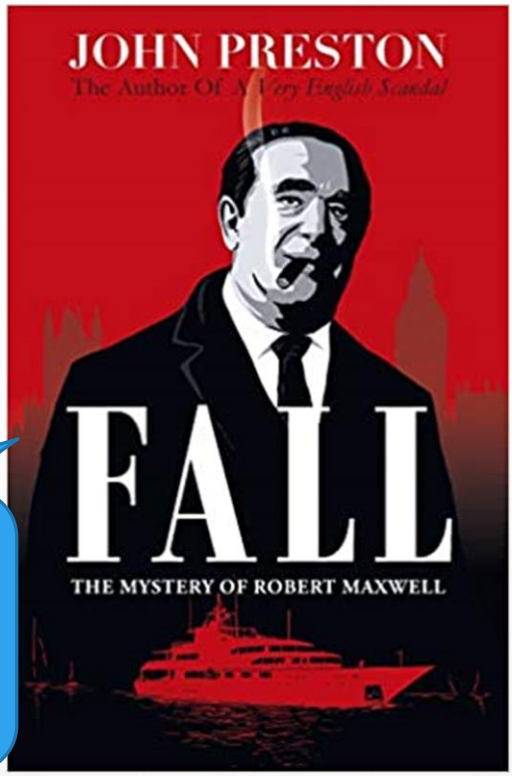
Yet travelling around northern Nigeria, there were camps with thousands of girls who had been released. Why not the Chibok girls? When I asked Nigeria's military spokesman, he laughed bitterly. "You have turned them into the Crown Jewels," he said. This is the uncomfortable question that hangs over this remarkable book. By focusing so much attention, did the world — and we in the media — make them such a valuable commodity that Boko Haram would not give them up?

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'The best biography yet of the media magnate Robert Maxwell - by turns engrossing, amusing and appalling' Robert Harris, *Sunday Times*



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Factual
Historical
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Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Fall: The Mystery of Robert Maxwell: Amazon.co.uk: Preston, John: Books

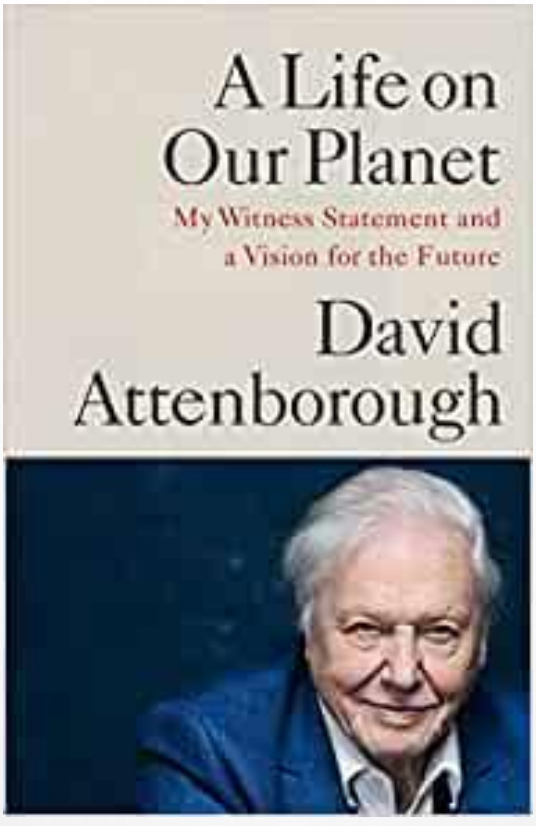
Fall: The Mystery of Robert Maxwell covers the rise and fall of a man who fooled financiers, businessmen, politicians and journalists into thinking he was serious. For those who weren't fooled, he was a con artist, a fraud or, in more mellow moods, we might say a monstrous buffoon. Yet Preston saw something he liked about the man.

"Plainly he was an ogre, but I found something engaging about him. I'm enough of an old hippy to find something rather admirable about the way he stuck two fingers up at the establishment, at notions of British politesse."

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Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

[A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future: Amazon.co.uk: Attenborough, David: 9781529108279: Books]

A Life On Our Planet

'I am 94. I've had an extraordinary life. It's only now that I appreciate how extraordinary.

As a young man, I felt I was out there in the wild, experiencing the untouched natural world - but it was an illusion. The tragedy of our time has been happening all around us, barely noticeable from day to day - the loss of our planet's wild places, its biodiversity.

I have been witness to this decline. *A Life on Our Planet* is my witness statement, and my vision for the future. It is the story of how we came to make this, our greatest mistake - and how, if we act now, we can yet put it right.

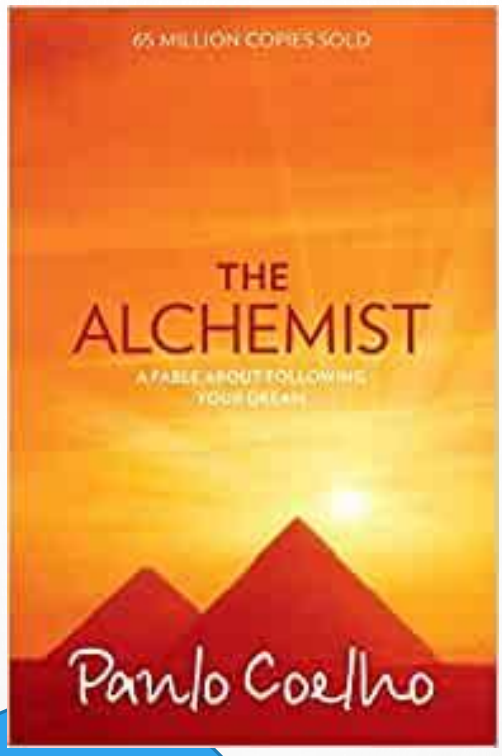
We have one final chance to create the perfect home for ourselves and restore the wonderful world we inherited.'

All we need is the will to do so.

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MS	
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Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

'**The Alchemist**' by Paulo Coelho - I read it when it first came out many years ago. I can remember that it really made a huge impression on me. It's all about having faith in your destiny and following your dreams - “When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.” Also, the main message that stayed with me throughout the years is 'sometimes happiness is right around the corner, if you'd only have the patience to look for it a bit longer'.

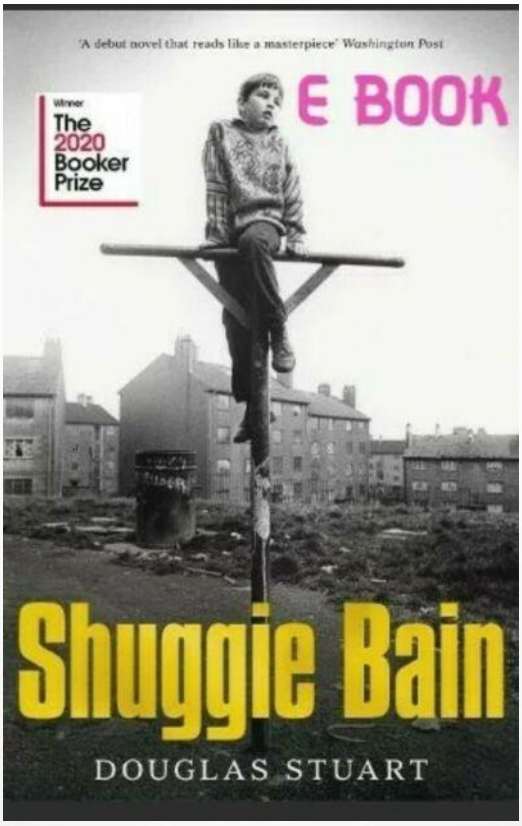
The Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream: Amazon.co.uk: Coelho, Paulo: 9780722532935: Books

Santiago, a young shepherd living in the hills of Andalucia, feels that there is more to life than his humble home and his flock. One day he finds the courage to follow his dreams into distant lands, each step galvanised by the knowledge that he is following the right path: his own. The people he meets along the way, the things he sees and the wisdom he learns are life-changing.
With Paulo Coelho’s visionary blend of spirituality, magical realism and folklore, The Alchemist is a story with the power to inspire nations and change people’s lives.

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GA
GH
GM
JB
Ka
KR
LJ
ME
MS
TB
TM



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Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

[Shuggie Bain: Winner of the Booker Prize 2020: Amazon.co.uk: Stuart, Douglas: 9781529019278: Books]

Winner of the Booker Prize 2020

From the Back Cover
'Beautiful and bleak but with enough warmth and optimism to carry the reader through.' Graham Norton (on Twitter)

'A debut novel that reads like a masterpiece, *Shuggie Bain* gives voice to the kind of helpless, hopeless love that children can feel toward broken parents.' *Washington Post*

'[*Shuggie Bain*] would be just about unbearable were it not for the author's astonishing capacity for love . . . The book leaves us gutted and marveling: Life may be short, but it takes forever.' *New York Times*

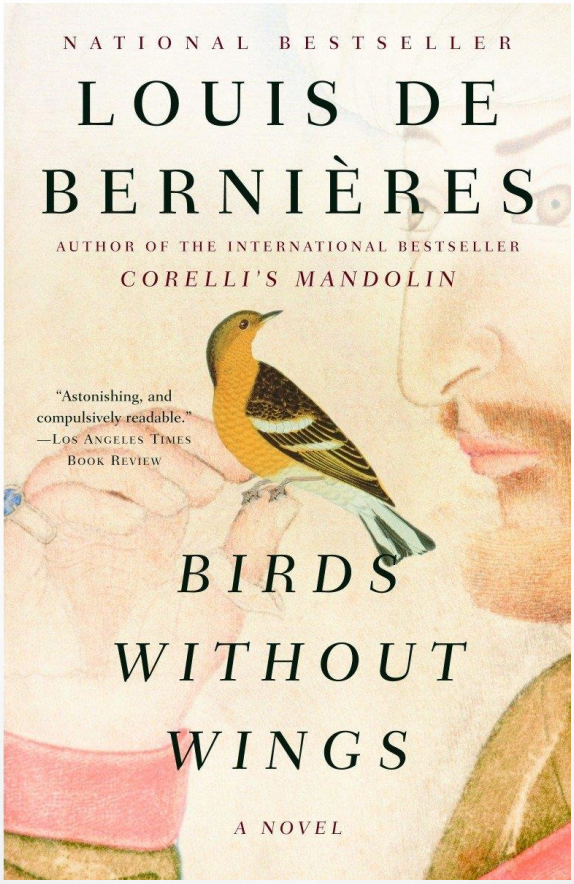
'A boy's heartbreaking love for his mother . . . as intense and excruciating to read as any novel I have ever held in my hand . . . brilliantly written.' *Newsday*

'A formidable story, lyrically told, about intimacy, family, and love.' *ELLE* (US)

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AL
AN
GA
GH
GM
JB
Ka
KR
LJ
ME
MS
TB
TM



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Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

[Birds Without Wings: Amazon.co.uk: de Bernieres, Louis: 9780099478980: Books]

Review

- A more ambitious novel than *Captain Corelli*, and a better one — *Financial Times*
- A mesmerising patchwork of horror, humour and humanity — *Independent*
- A magnificent, poetic, colossal novel... Superbly written... It is, in every sense, a sublime book — *Irish Times*
- His most serious and ambitious achievement to date — *Times Literary Supplement*
- Pleasurable... Like Steinbeck, de Bernières deserves praise for his imaginative sympathy — *Independent on Sunday*

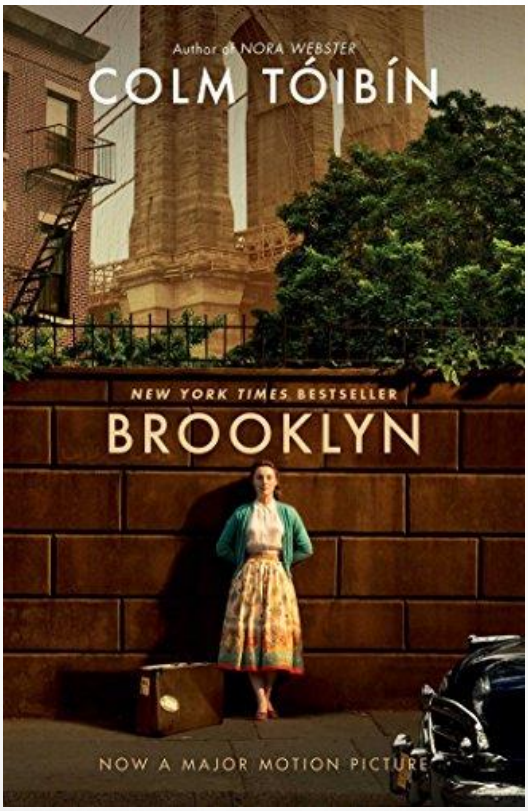
Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, the Gallipoli campaign and the subsequent bitter struggle between Greeks and Turks, "Birds Without Wings" traces the fortunes of one small community in south-west Anatolia - a town in which Christian and Muslim lives and traditions have co-existed peacefully for centuries. When war is declared and the outside world intrudes, the twin scourges of religion and nationalism lead to forced marches and massacres, and the peaceful fabric of life is destroyed. Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty, and Ibrahim the Goatherd who has courted her since infancy are but two of the many casualties. With the end of a community that once transcended religious differences, their great love seems destined to end in tragedy and madness...

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AN
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GH
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JB
Ka
KR
LJ
ME
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TB
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Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Brooklyn: Amazon.co.uk: Tóibín, Colm: 9780241972700: Books

From the Inside Flap

It is Ireland in the early 1950s and for Eilis Lacey, as for so many young Irish girls, opportunities are scarce. So when her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go.

Arriving in a crowded lodging house in Brooklyn, Eilis can only be reminded of what she has sacrificed. And just as she takes tentative steps towards friendship, and perhaps something more, Eilis receives news which sends her back to Ireland. There she will be confronted by a terrible dilemma - a devastating choice between duty and one great love.

From the Back Cover

It is Ireland in the early 1950s and for Eilis Lacey, as for so many young Irish girls, opportunities are scarce. So when her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go.

Arriving in a crowded lodging house in Brooklyn, Eilis can only be reminded of what she has sacrificed. And just as she takes tentative steps towards friendship, and perhaps something more, Eilis receives news which sends her back to Ireland. There she will be confronted by a terrible dilemma - a devastating choice between duty and one great love.

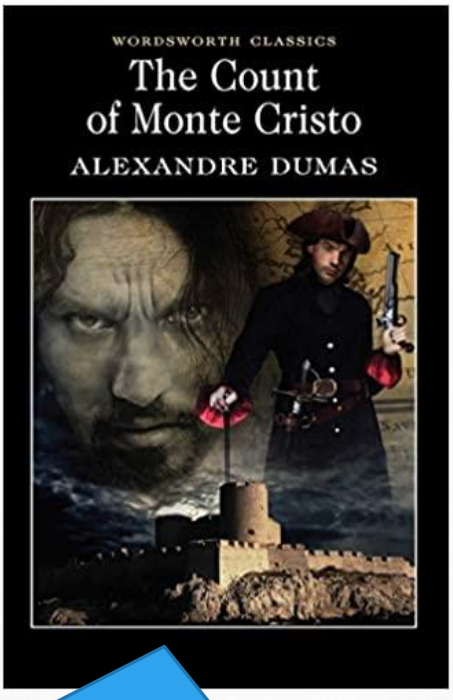
About the Author

Colm Tóibín was born in Enniscorthy in 1955. He is the author of nine novels including *The Master, Brooklyn, The Testament of Mary* and *Nora Webster* and, most recently, *House of Names.* His work has been shortlisted for the Booker three times, won the Costa Novel Award and the Impac Award. He has also published two collections of stories and many works of non-fiction. He lives in Dublin.

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Colour Code
Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

'The Count of Monte Cristo' by Alexandre Dumas (father) - a classic masterpiece, my all time favourite book! It's an adventure book filled with themes of hope, patience, injustice, vengeance, mercy, power and what goes around comes around vibes. It is centred around a man called Edmond Dantes, who is wrongfully imprisoned, breaks out from jail in a masterful and brilliant way, gets rich over night with a little bit of luck (finally!) and sets to exact vengeance on those responsible for all the misery and imprisonment that he suffered. A pure delight! I would highly recommend all three volumes of it! :)

The Count of Monte Cristo (Wordsworth Classics): Amazon.co.uk: Dumas, Alexandre, Wren, Keith, Carabine, Dr Keith: 9781853267338: Books

The story of Edmund Dantes, self-styled Count of Monte Cristo, is told with consummate skill. The victim of a miscarriage of justice, Dantes is fired by a desire for retribution and empowered by a stroke of providence. In his campaign of vengeance, he becomes an anonymous agent of fate.

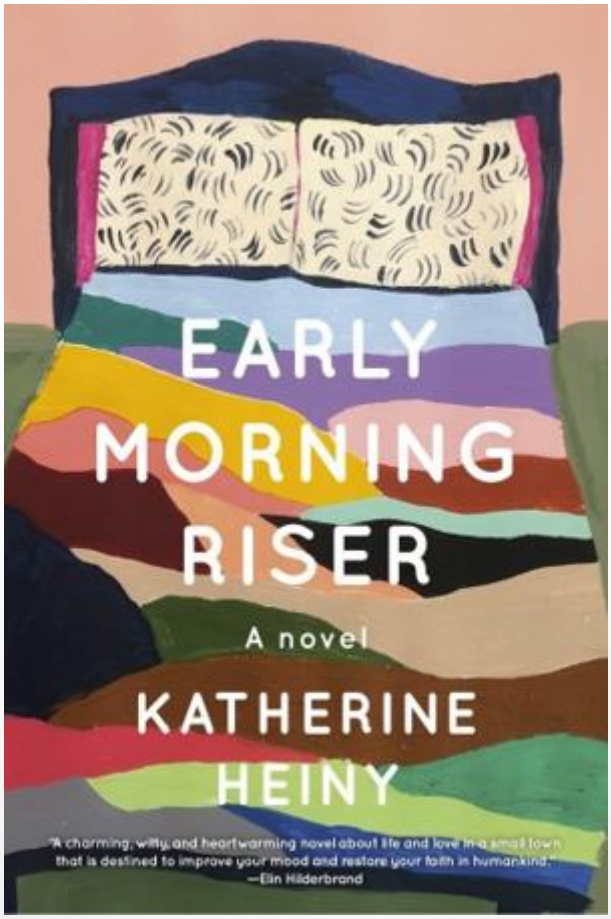
The sensational narrative of intrigue, betrayal, escape, and triumphant revenge moves at a cracking pace. Dumas' novel presents a powerful conflict between good and evil embodied in an epic saga of rich diversity that is complicated by the hero's ultimate discomfort with the hubristic implication of his own actions.

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KR
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Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel



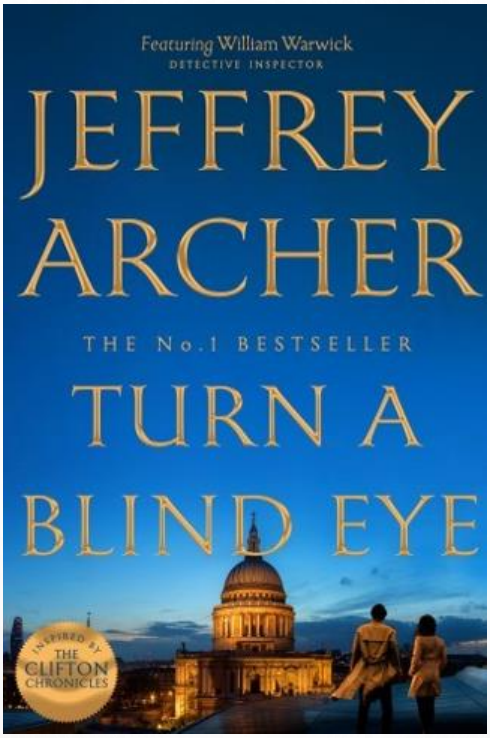
Early Morning Riser: The bittersweet, hilarious and feel-good new novel from the author of Standard Deviation eBook: Heiny, Katherine: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

Jane easily falls in love with Duncan: he's charming, good-natured, and handsome. He has also slept with nearly every woman in Boyne City, Michigan. Jane sees Duncan's old girlfriends everywhere--at restaurants, at the grocery store, even three towns away. While she may be able to come to terms with dating the world's most prolific seducer of women, she wishes she didn't have to share him quite so widely. His ex-wife, Aggie, still has Duncan mow her lawn. And his co-worker Jimmy comes and goes from Duncan's apartment at the most inopportune times. Jane wonders how the relationship is supposed to work with all these people in it. Not to mention most of the other residents of Boyne City, who freely share with Jane their opinions of her choices. But any notion Jane has of love and marriage changes with one terrible car crash. Now her life is permanently intertwined with Duncan's, Aggie's, and Jimmy's, and she knows she will never have Duncan to herself. But is it possible that a deeper kind of happiness is right in front of her eyes? A novel that is alternately bittersweet and laugh-out-loud funny, Early Morning Riser is Katherine Heiny's most astonishingly wonderful work to date.

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KR
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ME
MS
TB
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Factual
Historical
Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
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[Turn a Blind Eye (William Warwick Novels): Amazon.co.uk: Archer, Jeffrey: 9781509851362: Books]

***Turn a Blind Eye* is the third instalment in the gripping story of Detective Inspector William Warwick, by the master storyteller and *Sunday Times* number one bestselling author of the Clifton Chronicles.**

William Warwick, now a Detective Inspector, is tasked with a dangerous new line of work, to go undercover and expose crime of another kind: corruption at the heart of the Metropolitan Police Force. His team is focused on following Detective Jerry Summers, a young officer whose lifestyle appears to exceed his income. But as a personal relationship develops with a member of William's team, it threatens to compromise the whole investigation.

Meanwhile, a notorious drug baron goes on trial, with the prosecution case led by William's father and sister. And William's wife Beth, now a mother to twins, renews an old acquaintance who appears to have turned over a new leaf, or has she?

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TRAVELLING THROUGH DUSTON'S HISTORY



The Highways, Byways and Footpaths of a Parish in Northamptonshire

DAVID CARTER

Colour Code
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Sci Fi
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[(20+) Memories of Duston Past | Facebook]

£5 - all money for local charities.

A new book, available from the author, David Carter. 52 pages of fascinating history.

carterd1946@gmail.com 01604 583240 66 Beaune Close, Duston, NN5 6EJ

Margaret, Ian.

I hope that you find my latest book to be of interest.

David C.

TRAVELLING THROUGH DUSTON'S HISTORY

Printed in March 2021, this 52 page book takes the reader through the two thousand years and more that people have lived and travelled in the parish of Duston.

There are many photographs and maps, and newly-created maps based on the Duston estate map of the 1720s.

The book is only available from the author David Carter, costing £5, with all money going to local charities.

Contact via Facebook messaging or carterd1946@gmail.com

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The Wizards of Once: Book 1: Amazon.co.uk: Cowell, Cressida: Books

The Wizards of Once is a series of four fantasy adventure books for readers 8+ by Cressida Cowell, Waterstones Children's Laureate (2019-2022) and the author of the bestselling How To Train Your Dragon books.

The Wizards of Once is set in an ancient land of wizards, warriors, mythical creatures and powerful magic. The books follow the adventures of Xar and Wish, a boy and a girl from opposing tribes, both concealing secrets. Xar is from a wizard tribe, but was born with no magic, and Wish is from a Warrior tribe, yet is hiding a banned Magical Object. Wizards and Warriors are taught from birth to hate each other, but when Xar and Wish's worlds collide, a whirlwind adventure starts where they must work together and forget their differences.

The Wizards of Once series is a quartet which you need to read in order, and the fourth and final book, *The Wizards of Once: Never and Forever* came out in September 2020.

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100 years of social history. An excellent portrayal of life and times through the most turbulent century of world history.

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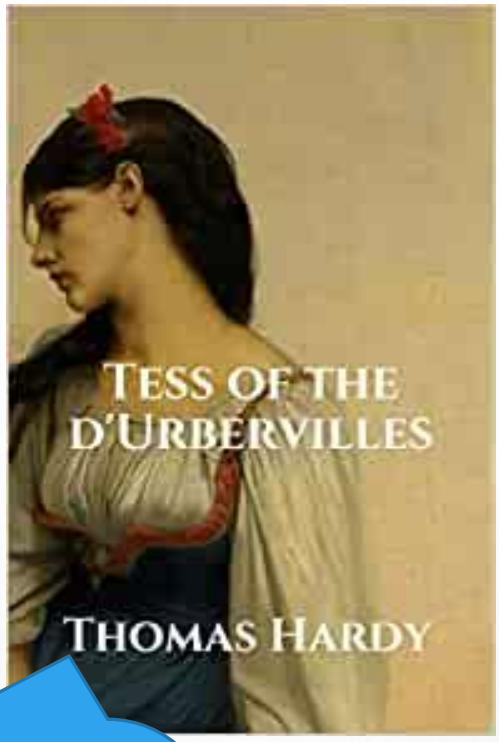
Fall of Giants (The Century Trilogy): Amazon.co.uk: Follett, Ken: 9781509848515: Books

A world in chaos.
1911, a thirteen-year-old boy, Billy Williams, begins working down the mines as George V is crowned king. The escalating arms race between the empire nations will put not only the king but this young boy in grave danger.
A terrible war.
Billy's family is inextricably linked with the Fitzherberts, the aristocratic owners of the coal mine where he works. And when Maud Fitzherbert falls in love with Walter von Ulrich, a spy at the German embassy in London, their destiny also becomes entangled with that of Gus Dewar, an ambitious young aide to Woodrow Wilson, and two orphaned Russian brothers, the Peshkovs, whose plan to emigrate to America falls foul of conscription, revolution and imminent war.
A revolution that will change everything.
When Russia convulses in bloody revolution and the Great War unfolds, the five families' futures are entwined forever, love bringing them closer even as conflict takes them further apart. What seeds will be sown for further tragedy in the twentieth century and what role will each play in what is to come?

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'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' by Thomas Hardy - Just beautiful, another masterpiece of the 19th century, I would say. Thomas Hardy has a way with words that resonates with me. It's storyline is sad, depressing, full of injustice, bad luck, deceit, unhealthy relationships, resilience, murder and death. The heroine is amazing, in my point of view, and the story almost makes you angry for all the things that are happening to her, like you are present in the action yourself. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I would recommend it, even though I am sure everybody has probably read it already.)

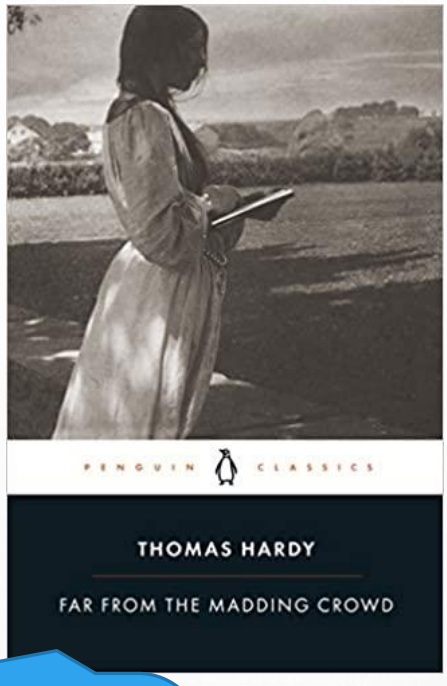
Tess of the d'Urbervilles: Amazon.co.uk: Hardy, Thomas: 9798553196301: Books

Tess of the d'Urbervilles: A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented is a novel by Thomas Hardy. It initially appeared in a censored and serialised version, published by the British illustrated newspaper The Graphic in 1891,then in book form in three volumes in 1891, and as a single volume in 1892

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'**Far from the Madding Crowd**' by Thomas Hardy - it's the perfect book! Perfectly written, believable story, a social and political observation of that time with a central heroine who frivolously plays a practical joke on her neighbour and all the issues that happen because of it

Far from the Madding Crowd (Penguin Classics S.): Amazon.co.uk: Hardy, Thomas, Russell, Shannon, Morgan, Rosemarie: 9780141439655: Books

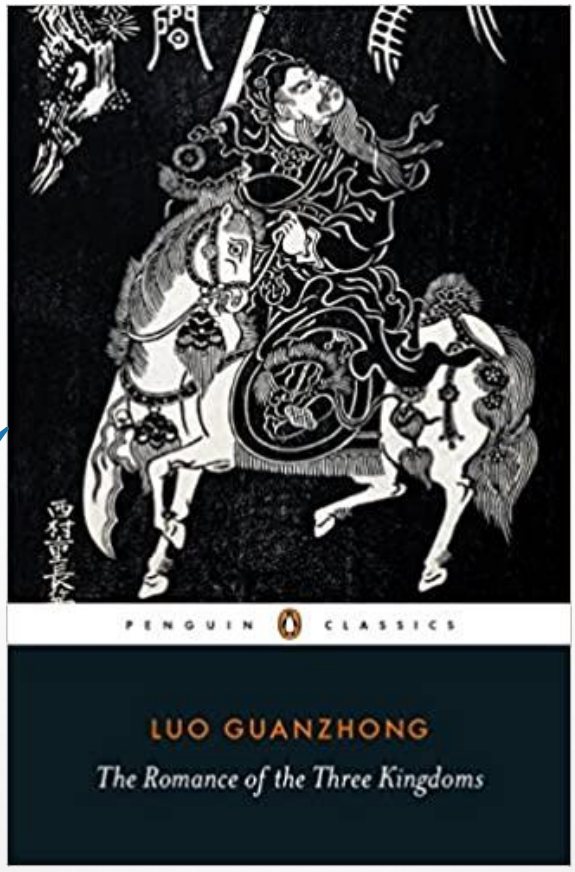
Thomas Hardy's novel of swift passion and slow courtship is imbued with evocative descriptions of rural life, and with unflinching honesty about sexual relationships. Its heroine, Bathsheba Everdene, takes up her position as a farmer on a large estate, where her confident presence draws three very different suitors: the gentleman-farmer Boldwood, the soldier-seducer Sergeant Troy and the devoted shepherd Gabriel Oak. Each, in contrasting ways, unsettles her decisions and complicates her life, and when tragedy ensues, the stability of the whole community is threatened.

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A semi-historical, semi-magical/fantasy account of the Three Kingdoms period of post-Han Dynasty China. Political/military epic spanning over 100 years.



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https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/7119005901/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_cYkdGb6T88ACQ?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1

Part historical and part legend, *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms* dramatizes the lives of feudal lords and their retainers, recounting their personal and military battles, intrigues and struggles to achieve dominance for almost a hundred years. It is one of the most beloved works of East Asian literature, and the most famous historical novel in China.

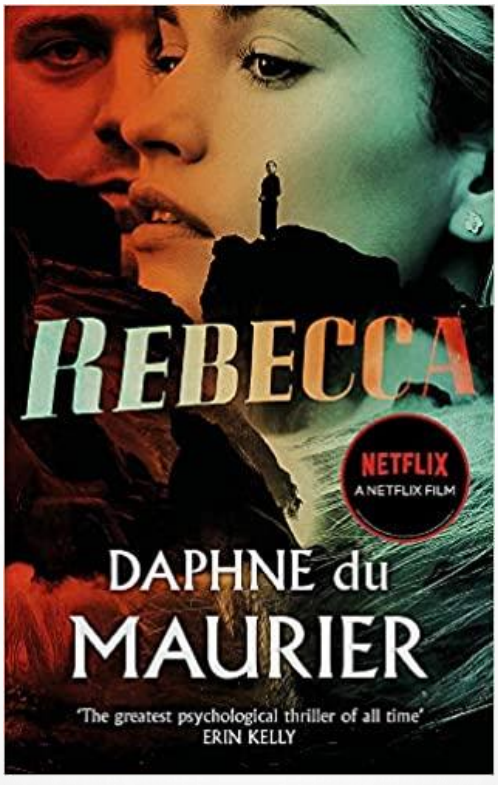
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Sword and Sorcery
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The novel starts with the much quoted line: 'Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again...' The un-named heroine is rescued from a miserable existence as a lady's companion to become the second Mrs de Winter, Rebecca being the first. Although she is dead, Rebecca's memory haunts the novel, and in the end she is responsible for the destruction of Manderley.



Rebecca: Now a Netflix Movie Starring Lily James and Armie Hammer (Virago Modern Classics): Amazon.co.uk: Du Maurier, Daphne: 9780349014982: Books

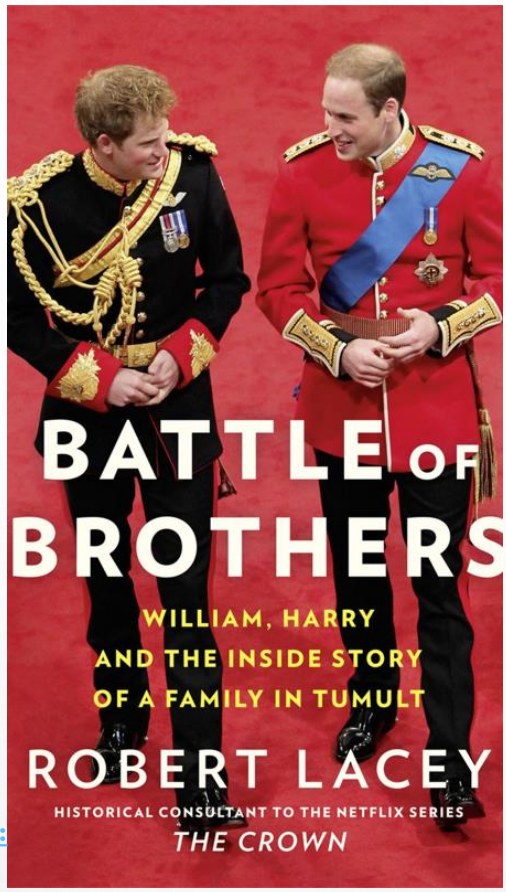
After a whirlwind romance in Monte Carlo with handsome widower Maxim de Winter, the naive young bride arrives at her husband's isolated Cornish estate, Manderley. A change comes over Max, and the friendless woman begins to realise that her husband is little more than a stranger. And in every corner of every room is the phantom of his beautiful first wife, Rebecca, her memory kept alive by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs Danvers.

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[Battle of Brothers: The true story of the royal family in crisis – UPDATED WITH 12 NEW CHAPTERS: William, Harry and the Inside Story of a Family in Tumult eBook: Lacey, Robert: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]



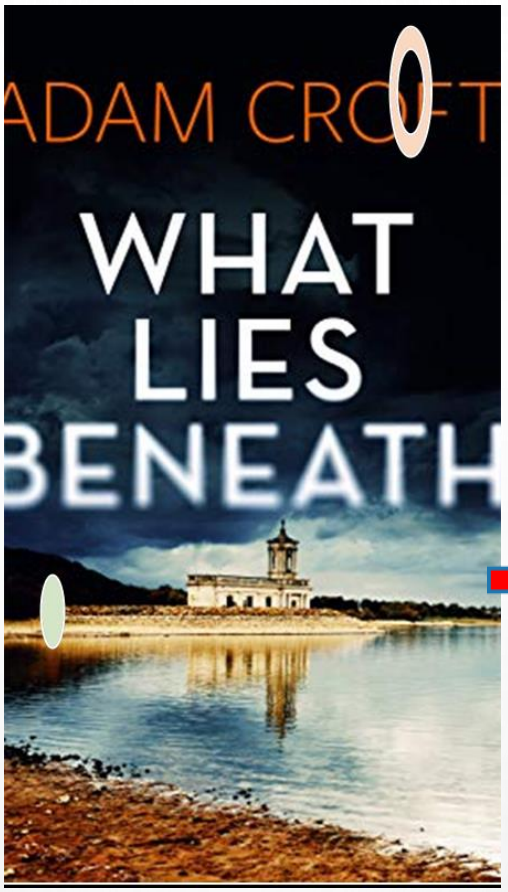
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'THE ROYAL BOOK OF THE YEAR ... You've read their side of the story, now read the real story' Daily Mail THIS CRISIS IS AS BIG AS THE ABDICATION – SAYS LACEY, HISTORICAL ADVISOR TO THE CROWN. The world has watched Prince William and Prince Harry since they were born. Raised by Princess Diana to be the closest of brothers, how have the boy princes grown into very different, now distanced men? From royal expert and bestselling author Robert Lacey, this book is an unparalleled insider account of tumult and secrecy revealing the untold details of William and Harry's early closeness then estrangement. It asks what happens when two sons are raised for vastly different futures – one burdened with the responsibility of one day becoming king, the other with the knowledge that he will always remain spare. How have William and Harry each formed their idea of a modern royal's duty and how they should behave? Were the seeds of damage sowed as Prince Charles and Diana's marriage painfully...

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Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
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What Lies Beneath (Rutland crime series Book 1) eBook: Croft, Adam: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

A peaceful Sunday morning in Rutland is shattered when a dead body is discovered on the rocks at Normanton Church. The victim has been laid out in a crucifixion pose, facing the altar. DI Caroline Hills is certain there's a religious connection — one which threatens the tranquillity of life in the area.

The killer has gone to extraordinary lengths to make the symbolism clear. And the deaths will continue until Caroline and DS Dexter Antoine uncover the truth behind the dark secret — and what lies beneath.

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[Me: Elton John Official Autobiography: Amazon.co.uk: John, Elton: 9781509853311: Books]



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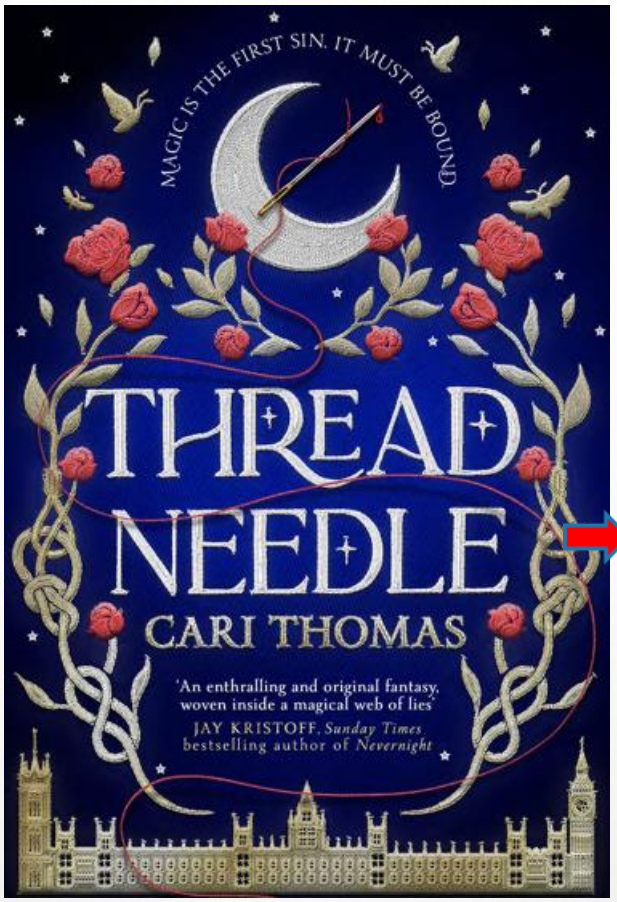
Christened Reginald Dwight, he was a shy boy with Buddy Holly glasses who grew up in the London suburb of Pinner and dreamed of becoming a pop star. By the age of twenty-three he was performing his first gig in America, facing an astonished audience in his bright yellow dungarees, a star-spangled T-shirt, and boots with wings. Elton John had arrived and the music world would never be the same again.
His life has been full of drama, from the early rejection of his work with song-writing partner Bernie Taupin to spinning out of control as a chart-topping superstar; from half-heartedly trying to drown himself in his LA swimming pool to disco-dancing with Princess Diana and Queen Elizabeth; from friendships with John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, and...

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[Threadneedle: SUNDAY TIMES bestseller and most anticipated debut fantasy release of the year eBook: Thomas, Cari: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]



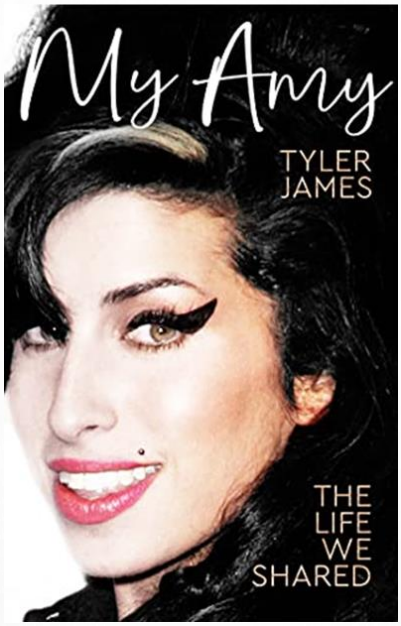
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Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Within the boroughs of London, nestled among its streets, hides another city, filled with magic. 'Magic and love. Love and magic. They destroy everything in the end ...' Anna's Aunt has always warned her of the dangers of magic. Its twists. Its knots. Its deadly consequences. Now Anna counts down the days to the ceremony that will bind her magic forever. Until she meets Effie and Attis. They open her eyes to a London she never knew existed. A shop that sells memories. A secret library where the librarian feeds off words. A club where revellers lose themselves in a haze of spells. But as she is swept deeper into this world, Anna begins to wonder if her Aunt was right all along. Is her magic a gift ... or a curse?

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My Amy: The Life We Shared: Amazon.co.uk: James, Tyler: 9781529042153: Books

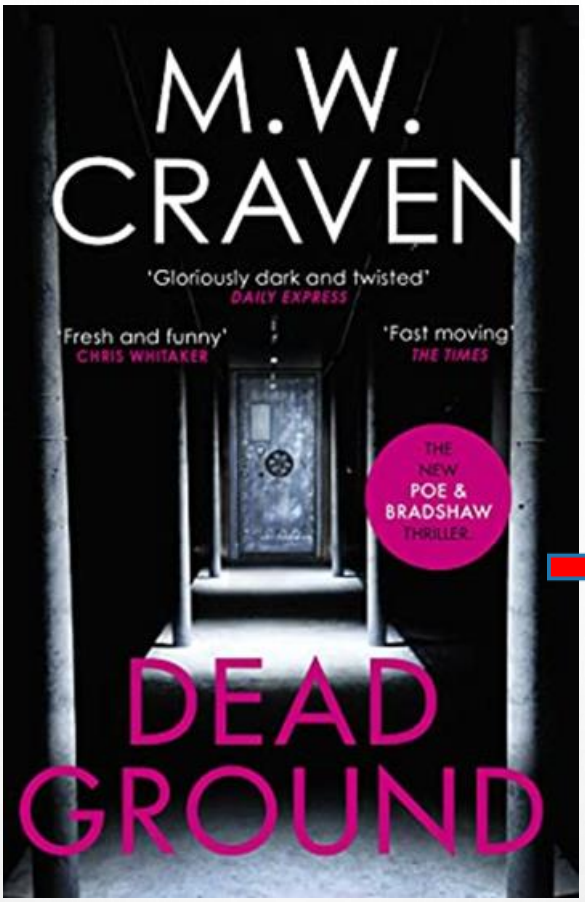
She was a habitual weed smoker, but her drug use mutated when she married Blake Fielder-Civil in 2007 and joined him in using heroin and crack, all subsequent conversation punctuated by her lighter's constant click. The professional side of her life was trashed as quickly as her Camden flat, Winehouse inexplicably missing expensive video shoots on her husband's word ("No Ame, f*** that, we ain't going."). On September 21, 2007, she duetted with Prince on her impeccable song *Love Is a Losing Game* at the O2 Arena: in the car home, to James's utter mortification, Fielder-Civil joked about the money he had taken from Prince's dressing room.

During a stint in St Lucia Winehouse cleaned up; abhorring the vacuum, however, her alcoholism and bulimia ramped up treacherously. Yet James shows how her lack of control wasn't just about intoxication: she was infantilised, deskilled, reliant on live-in bodyguards, not even allowed to choose her own house. She found comfort by admitting herself repeatedly to a private clinic, treating it like her personal spa, a 27-year-old woman hiding in perma-convalescence. James astutely shows how it created a dangerous helplessness: "The very things that were put in place to save Amy were part of the reason she wasn't saved, in the end."

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[Amazon.co.uk : dead ground]

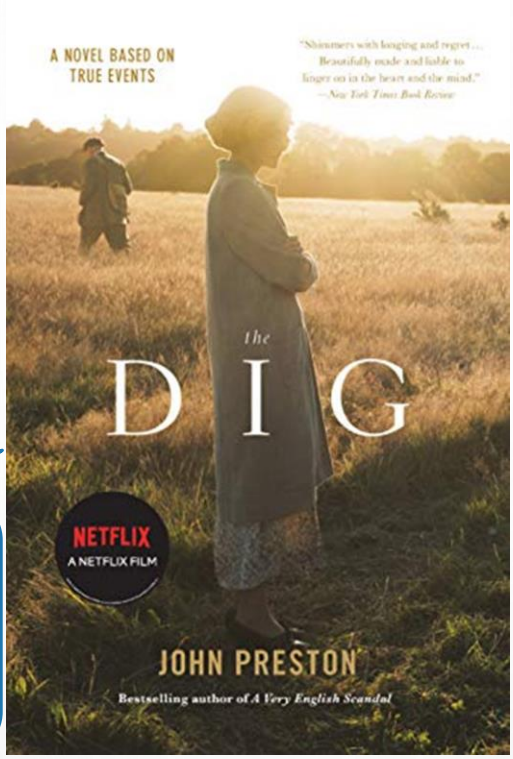
Detective Sergeant Washington Poe is in court, fighting eviction from his beloved and isolated croft, when he is summoned to a backstreet brothel in Carlisle where a man has been beaten to death with a baseball bat. Poe is confused - he hunts serial killers and this appears to be a straightforward murder-by-pimp - but his attendance was requested personally, by the kind of people who prefer to remain in the shadows

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- A literary adventure that tells the story of a priceless buried treasure discovered in England on the eve of World War II
- Now on NETFLIX



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[The Dig: Now a major motion picture starring Ralph Fiennes, Carey Mulligan and Lily James: Amazon.co.uk: Preston, John: 9780241989630: Books]

In the long, hot summer of 1939, Britain is preparing for war, but on a riverside farm in Suffolk there is excitement of another kind. Mrs. Pretty, the widowed owner of the farm, has had her hunch confirmed that the mounds on her land hold buried treasure. As the dig proceeds, it becomes clear that this is no ordinary find.

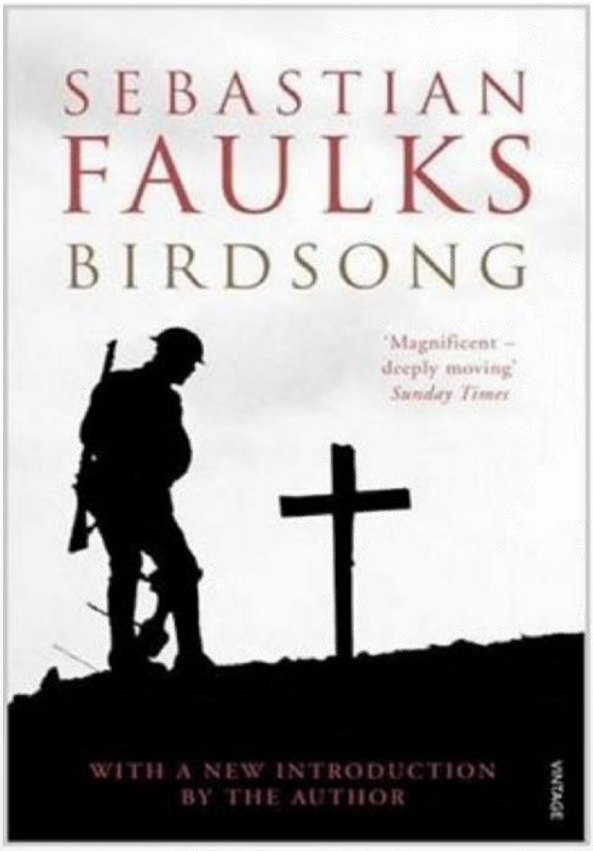
This fictional recreation of the famed Sutton Hoo dig follows three months of intense activity when locals fought outsiders, professionals thwarted amateurs, and love and rivalry flourished in equal measure.

As the war looms ever closer, engraved gold peeks through the soil, and each character searches for answers in the buried treasure. Their threads of love, loss, and aspiration weave a common awareness of the past as something that can never truly be left behind.

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Birdsong: Amazon.co.uk: Faulks, Sebastian: 9781784700034: Books

Review

- Magnificent - deeply moving — *Sunday Times*
- With *Birdsong* Faulks has produced a mesmerizing story of love and war... This book is so powerful that as I finished it I turned to the front to start again — *Sunday Express*
- Amazing... I have read it and re-read it and can think of no other novel for many, many years that has so moved me or stimulated in me so much reflection on the human spirit — *Daily Mail*
- An overpowering and beautiful novel... Ambitious, outrageous, poignant, sleep-disturbing, Birdsong is not a perfect novel, just a great one -- Simon Schama — *New Yorker*
- Engrossing, moving, and unforgettable — *The Times*
- This is a great love story -- Prue Leith — *Daily Express*
- One of the finest novels of the last forty years — *Mail on Sunday*
- This is literature at its very best: a book with the power to reveal the unimagined, so that one's life is set in a changed context. I urge you to read it — *Time Out*
- So powerful is this recreated past that you long to call *Birdsong* perfect — *The Times*
- A powerful novel that is difficult to put down — *Independent on Sunday*

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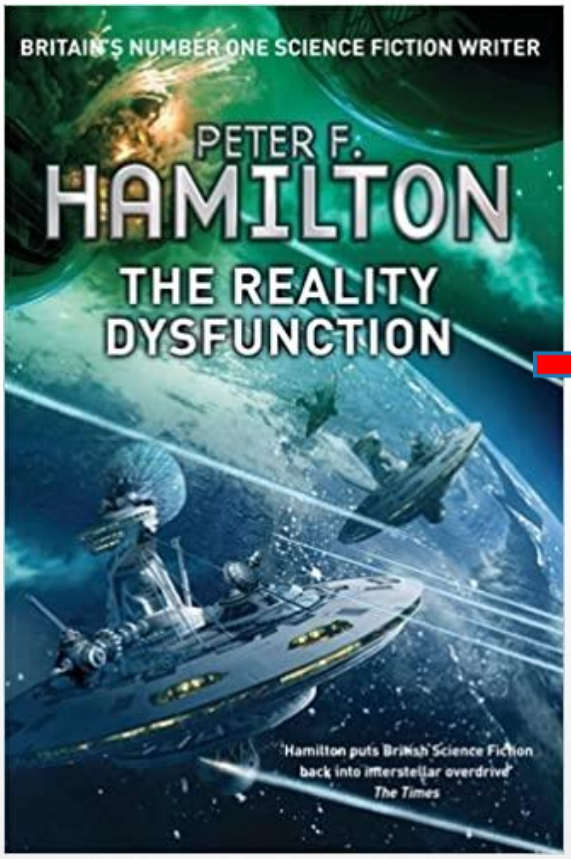
[Need a Little Time eBook: Eccles, Adam: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

Sometimes, the strangest things can happen, right on your doorstep. When you find out your best friend and business partner is secretly sleeping with your wife, it may be time to move on… From your job and your marriage... Which is precisely what happened to Jamie Newgent. A change of lifestyle is what's needed, and a bachelor pad on the fourth floor of a jutting tower provides a new home, a fresh start, and a new chapter in his life. Little does he know of the weird and wonderful journey he's about to take, or the effects a temporal rift has on the building plumbing and his troublesome toaster. He's living in the middle of an anomaly sandwich, with a retro woman upstairs, and a feisty hippy downstairs. But will either of them become anything more than friends? And, If it came down to it, would he be able to make the ultimate sacrifice to save a life:
Could he go back to an era before the Internet and Smartphones?

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Sci Fi on a grand scale but told from real human standpoint. Breathtaking in scope and will keep you wanting to keep reading (assuming you like the genre!!).

The Reality Dysfunction: 1 (The Night's Dawn trilogy): Amazon.co.uk: Hamilton, Peter F.: 8601200580747: Books

The Reality Dysfunction by Peter F. Hamilton is the first in a sweeping galactic trilogy from the master of space opera, The Night's Dawn trilogy.

In AD 2600 the human race is finally realizing its full potential. Hundreds of colonized planets across the galaxy host a multitude of wildly diverse cultures. Genetic engineering has pushed evolution far beyond nature's boundaries, defeating disease and producing extraordinary spaceborn creatures. Huge fleets of sentient trader starships thrive on the wealth created by the industrialization of entire star systems. And throughout inhabited space the Confederation Navy keeps the peace. A true golden age is within our grasp.

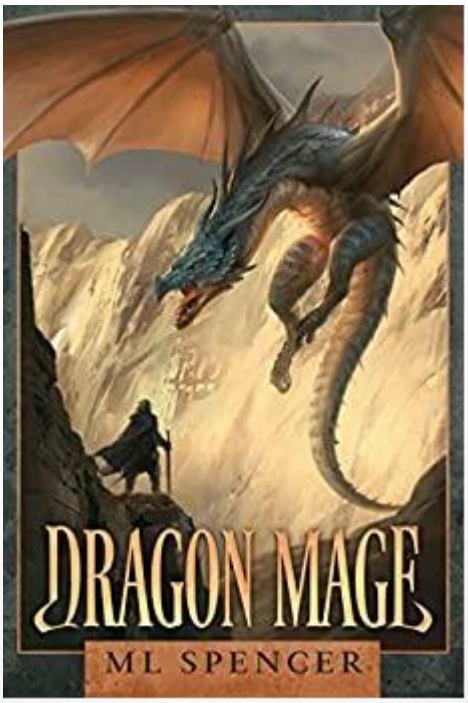
But now something has gone catastrophically wrong. On a primitive colony planet a renegade criminal's chance encounter with an utterly alien entity unleashes the most primal of all our fears. An extinct race which inhabited the galaxy aeons ago called it 'The Reality Dysfunction', and is the nightmare which has prowled beside us since the beginning of history.

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One of the best books of this genre I have read for a long time



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https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dragon-Mage-Epic-Fantasy-Adventure-ebook/dp/B08PDQ5XT4

Aram Raythe has the power to challenge the gods. He just doesn't know it yet.

Aram thinks he's nothing but a misfit from a small fishing village in a dark corner of the world. As far as Aram knows, he has nothing, with hardly a possession to his name other than a desire to make friends and be accepted by those around him, which is something he's never known. But Aram is more.

Much, much more.

Unknown to him, Aram bears within him a gift so old and rare that many people would kill him for it, and there are others who would twist him to use for their own sinister purposes. These magics are so potent that Aram earns a place at an academy for warrior mages training to earn for themselves the greatest place of honor among the armies of men: dragon riders.

Aram will have to fight for respect by becoming not just a dragon rider, but a Champion, the caliber of mage that hasn't existed in the world for hundreds of years. And the land needs a Champion. Because when a dark god out of ancient myth arises to threaten the world of magic, it is Aram the world will turn to in its hour of need.

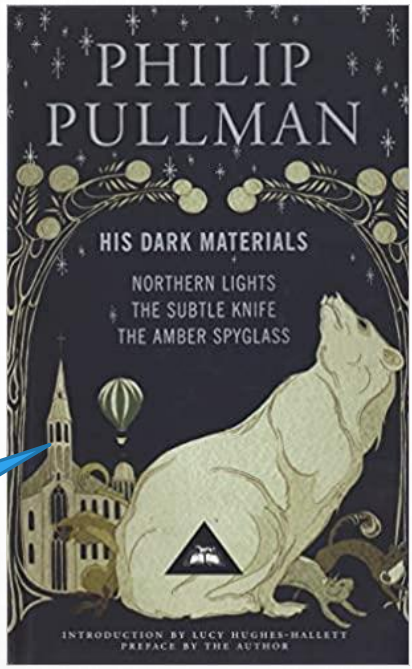
https://www.amazon.co.uk/product-reviews//B08PDQ5XT4/ref=acr_dpx_hist_5?ie=UTF8&filterByStar=five_star&reviewerType=all_reviews#reviews-filter-bar

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Fantasy about two young companions questing to overthrow destiny. Themes include philosophy, religion and meta-physics.



Read his Sally Lockhart Detective Stories too

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[His Dark Materials: Gift Edition including all three novels: Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass: Amazon.co.uk: Pullman, Philip, Hughes-Hallett, Lucy: Books]

From the Back Cover

This special collection features all three titles in the award-winning trilogy: Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass.

Northern Lights

Lyra Belacqua lives half-wild and carefree among the scholars of Jordan College, with her daemon familiar always by her side. But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, draws her to the heart of a terrible struggle - a struggle born of Gobblers and stolen children, witch clans and armoured bears.

The Subtle Knife

Lyra finds herself in a shimmering, haunted otherworld - Cittagazze, where soul-eating Spectres stalk the streets and wingbeats of distant angels sound against the sky. But she is not without allies: twelve-year-old Will Parry, fleeing for his life after taking another's, has also stumbled into this strange new realm.

On a perilous journey from world to world, Lyra and Will uncover a deadly secret: an object of extraordinary and devastating power. And with every step, they move closer to an even greater threat - and the shattering truth of their own destiny.

The Amber Spyglass

Will and Lyra, whose fates are bound together by powers beyond their own worlds, have been violently separated. But they must find each other, for ahead of them lies the greatest war that has ever been - and a journey to a dark place from which no one has ever returned . . .

About the Author

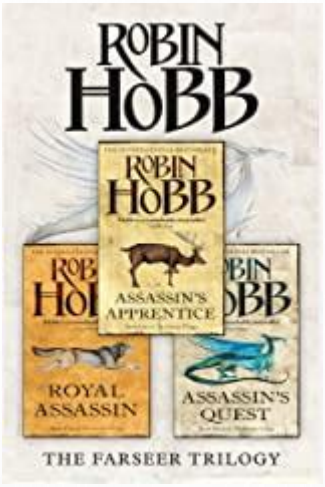
Philip Pullman is one of the most highly respected children's authors writing today. Winner of many prestigious awards, including the Carnegie of Carnegies and the Whitbread Award, Pullman's epic fantasy trilogy *His Dark Materials* has been acclaimed as a modern classic. It has sold 17.5 million copies worldwide and been translated into 40 languages. In 2005 he was awarded the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. He lives in Oxford.

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Details/ Review from Amazon (other booksellers are available)

ROBIN HOBB: The Realm of the Elderlings

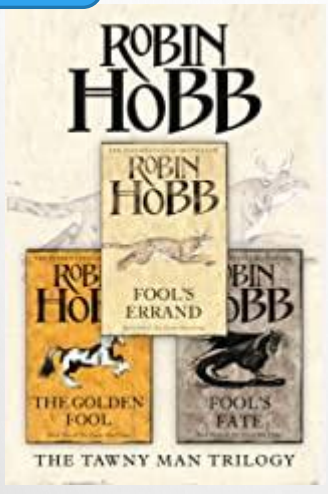
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Romance
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Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

A vast imaginary land of intrigue









https://www.amazon.co.uk/Robin-Hobb/e/B000AP7LIY%3Fref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_3&qid=1611412666&sr=8-3

- The Realm of the Elderlings
  - The Farseer Trilogy
  - The Liveship Traders Trilogy
  - The Tawny Man Trilogy
  - The Rain Wild Chronicles
  - The Fitz and the Fool Trilogy

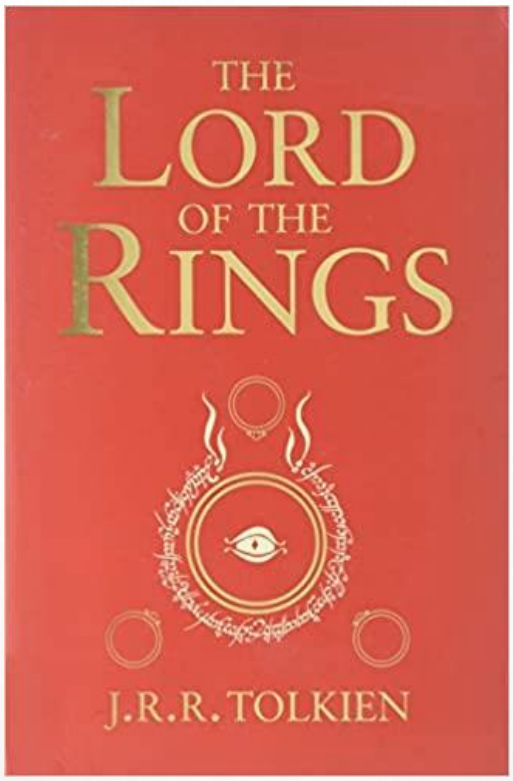
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. Well known by all, but still one of the most absorbing tales of how mortal and humble beings can overcome seemingly overwhelming adversity and prevail over evil .



[The Lord of The Rings: Amazon.co.uk: Tolkien, J. R. R.: 9780261103252: Books]

Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power – the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring – the ring that rules them all – which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as the Ring is entrusted to his care. He must leave his home and make a perilous journey across the realms of Middle-earth to the Crack of Doom, deep inside the territories of the Dark Lord. There he must destroy the Ring forever and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.

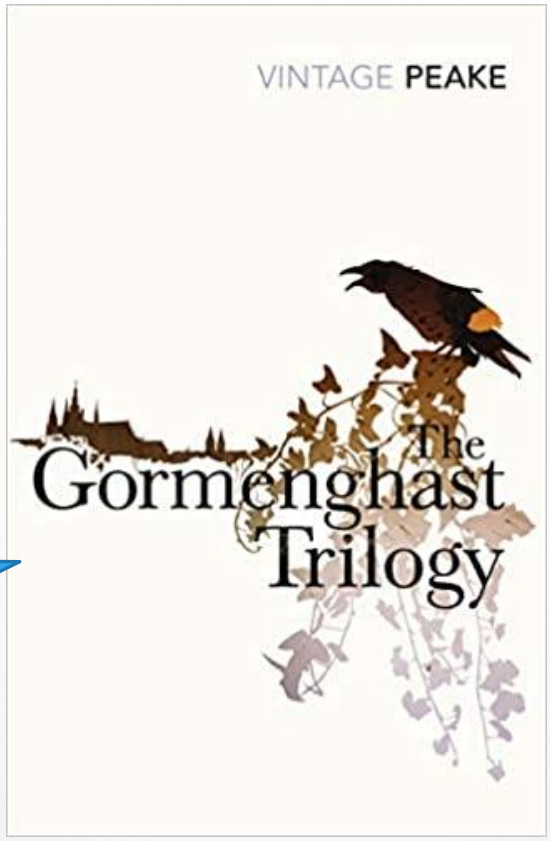
Since it was first published in 1954, The Lord of the Rings has been a book people have treasured. Steeped in unrivalled magic and otherworldliness, its sweeping fantasy has touched the hearts of young and old alike

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Dark and vast



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[The Gormenghast Trilogy: Amazon.co.uk: Peake, Mervyn: 9780099288893: Books]

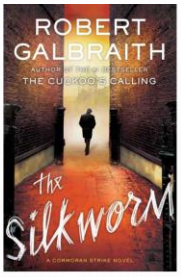
Gormenghast is the vast, crumbling castle to which the seventy-seventh Earl, Titus Groan, is lord and heir. Titus is expected to rule this gothic labyrinth of turrets and dungeons (and his eccentric and wayward subjects) according to strict age-old rituals, but things are changing in the castle. Titus must contend with treachery, manipulation and murder as well as his own longing for a life beyond the castle walls.

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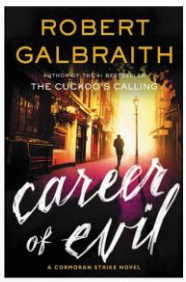
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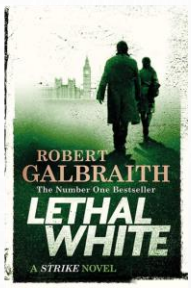




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- JK Rowling's alter ego
- Not Harry Potter, and an award winning BBC Series
- NB: READ IN ORDER !!





The Cuckoo's Calling: Cormoran Strike Book 1 eBook: Galbraith, Robert: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

Strike is a war veteran - wounded both physically and psychologically - and his life is in disarray. The case gives him a financial lifeline, but it comes at a personal cost: the more he delves into the young model's complex world, the darker things get - and the closer he gets to terrible danger . . .

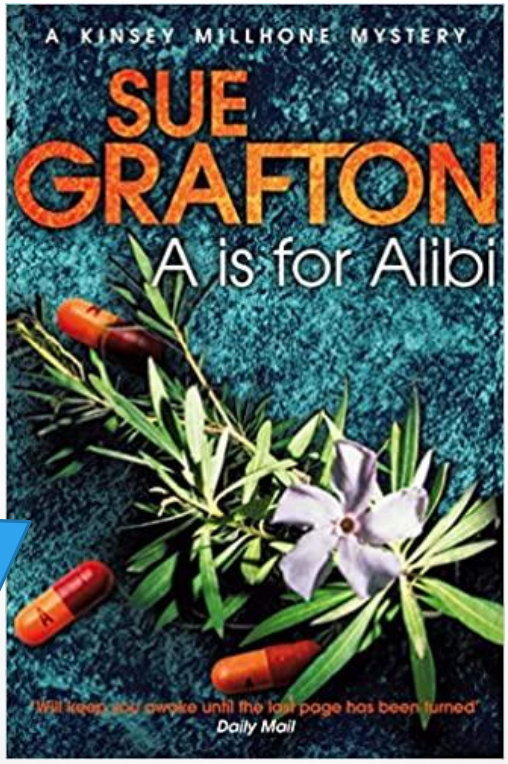
1. A Cuckoo Calling
   When a troubled model falls to her death from a snow-covered Mayfair balcony, it is assumed that she has committed suicide. However, her brother has his doubts, and calls in private investigator Cormoran Strike to look into the case.
2. The Silkworm
   When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, she just thinks he has gone off by himself for a few days - as he has done before - and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home.
3. Career of Evil
   When a mysterious package is delivered to Robin Ellacott, she is horrified to discover that it contains a woman's severed leg.
4. Lethal White
   When Billy, a troubled young man, comes to private eye Cormoran Strike's office to ask for his help investigating a crime he thinks he witnessed as a child, Strike is left deeply unsettled. While Billy is obviously mentally distressed, and cannot remember many concrete details, there is something sincere about him and his story. But before Strike can question him further, Billy bolts from his office in a panic.
5. Troubled Blood
   Private Detective Cormoran Strike is visiting his family in Cornwall when he is approached by a woman asking for help finding her mother, Margot Bamborough - who went missing in mysterious circumstances in 1974.

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Details/ Review from Amazon (other booksellers are available)

Sue Grafton is the author of 25 'alphabet' books

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Thriller
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Sue Grafton is the author of 25 'alphabet' books, the first being 'A is for Alibi' through to 'Y is for Yesterday'. The novels feature private investigator Kinsey Milhone, who is based in Santa Teresa. I enjoyed reading all the novels, except 'N is for Noose' which is, as far as I know, her only novel based on a real crime. Kinsey does not always stay the right side of the law. She's a loveable rogue, a maverick.

Amazon.co.uk : sue grafton alphabet series in order

Book Description

Meet Kinsey Millhone the private investigator in *A is for Alibi*, the first novel in Sue Grafton's thrilling alphabet mysteries.

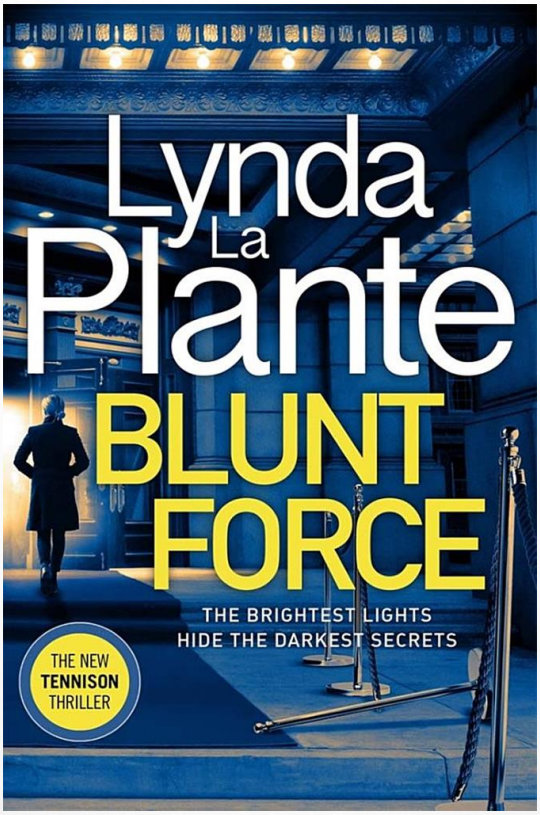
About the Author

Sue Grafton has become one of the most popular female writers, both in the UK and in the US. Born in Kentucky in 1940, she began her career as a TV scriptwriter before Kinsey Millhone and the 'alphabet' series took off. Two of the novels *B is for Burglar* and *C is for Corpse* won the first Anthony Awards for Best Novel. Sue wrote twenty-five novels in her alphabet series, the last was *Y is for Yesterday*, before her death in California in December 2017.

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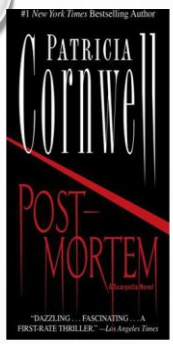
[Blunt Force: The Sunday Times bestselling crime thriller: Amazon.co.uk: Plante, Lynda La: 9781785769870: Books]

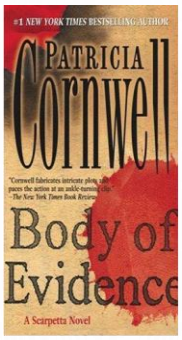
IT'S NOT JUST MURDER THAT IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT . . .
The blinding new Detective Jane Tennison thriller from the Queen of Crime Drama, Lynda La Plante.
Things can't get much worse for detective Jane Tennison. Unceremoniously kicked off the adrenaline-fuelled Flying Squad, she's been relegated to Gerald Road, a small and sleepy police station in the heart of London's affluent Knightsbridge.
With only petty crime to sink her teeth into, Tennison can feel her career slowly flatlining. That is until the discovery of the most brutal murder Jane has ever seen: Charlie Foxley has been found viciously beaten to death, his body dismembered and disembowelled.
As a big-time showbiz agent, Foxley had a lot of powerful friends - but even more enemies. And alongside her old friend DS Spencer Gibbs, Tennison must journey into the salacious world of show business to find the killer, before they strike again . .

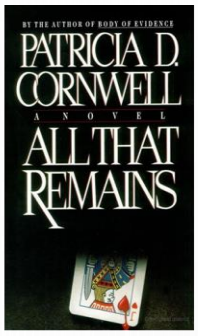
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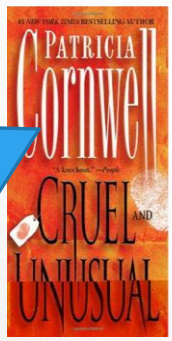
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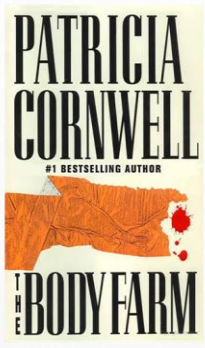


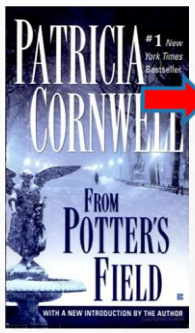




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PATRICIA CORNWELL – A VERY POPULAR AND WELL KNOWN AMERICAN FICTION AUTHOR WHO WRITES ABOUT KAY SCARPETTA, A MEDICAL EXAMINER.

Kay Scarpetta Books in Order

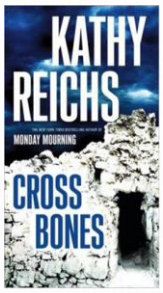
1. Postmortem (1989)
2. Body of Evidence (1991)
3. All That Remains (1992)
4. Cruel and Unusual (1993)
5. The Body Farm (1994)
6. From Potter's Field (1995)
7. Cause of Death (1996)
8. Unnatural Exposure (1997)
9. Point of Origin (1998)
9.5 Scarpetta's Winter Table (1998)
10. Black Notice (1999)
11. The Last Precinct (2000)
12. Blow Fly (2003)
13. Trace (2004)
14. Predator (2005)
15. Book of the Dead (2007)
16. Scarpetta (2008)
17. The Scarpetta Factor (2009)
18. Port Mortuary (2010)
19. Red Mist (2011)
20. The Bone Bed (2012)
21. Dust (2013)
22. Flesh and Blood (2014)
23. Depraved Heart (2015)
24. Chaos (2016)
25. Autopsy Intl (2021)

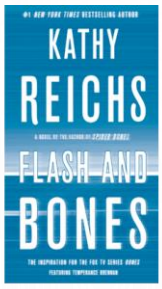
https://www.amazon.co.uk/Scarpetta-Collection-Patricia-Cornwell-Evidence/dp/9526540379/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=patricia+cornwell&qid=1615118767&s=books&sr=1-2

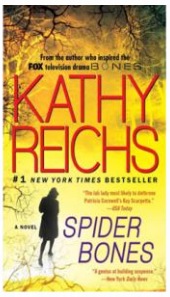
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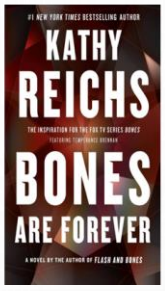


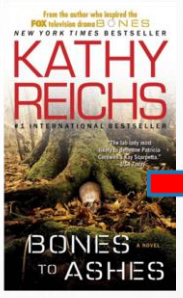




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KATHY REICHS – PERHAPS A LESS WELL KNOWN AMERICAN FICTION AUTHOR WHO WRITES ABOUT TEMPERANCE BRENNAN, A FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST

Temperance Brennan Books in Order

Deja Dead (1997)
Death du Jour (1999)
Deadly Decisions (2000)
Fatal Voyage (2001)
Grave Secrets (2002)
Bare Bones (2003)
Monday Mourning (2004)
Cross Bones (2005)
Break No Bones (2006)
Bones to Ashes (2007)
Devil Bones (2008)
206 Bones (2009)
Spider Bones / Mortal Remains (2010)
Flash and Bones (2011)
Bones Are Forever (2012)
Bones in Her Pocket (2013)
Bones of the Lost (2013)
Bones Never Lie (2014)
Speaking in Bones (2015)

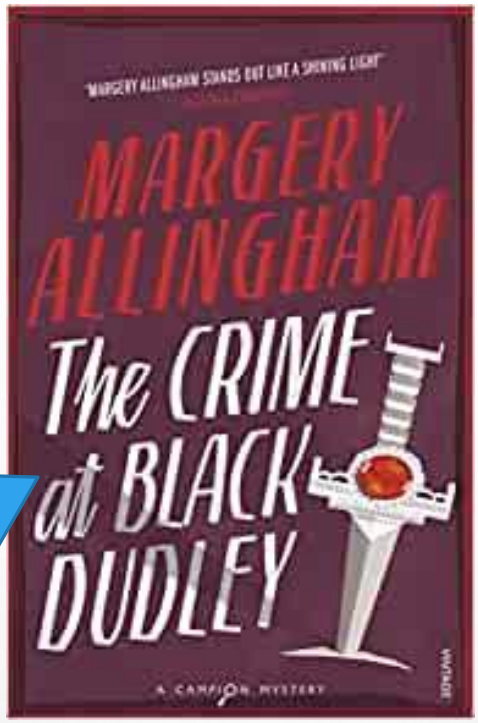
Amazon.co.uk : kathy reichs books in order

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Details/ Review from Amazon (other booksellers are available)

Margery Allingham's detective series

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Margery Allingham's detective is Albert Campion, who has a manservant called Lugg. There are 17 novels in total. I love the quirkiness, the humour. Albert Campion can be compared to Lord Peter Wimsey, both being from aristocratic backgrounds, but I prefer Margery Allingham's style.

The Crime At Black Dudley: Amazon.co.uk: Allingham, Margery: 9780099593492: Books

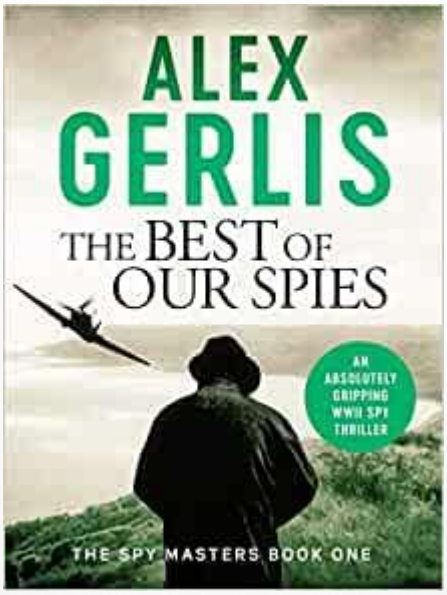
Biography

Margery Allingham was born in Ealing, London in 1904 to a family immersed in literature. Her first novel, Blackkerchief Dick, was published in 1923 when she was 19. Her first work of detective fiction was a serialized story published by the Daily Express in 1927. Entitled The White Cottage Mystery, it contained atypical themes for a woman writer of the era. Her breakthrough occurred in 1929 with the publication of The Crime at Black Dudley. This introduced Albert Campion, albeit originally as a minor character. He returned in Mystery Mile, thanks in part to pressure from her American publishers, much taken with the character. Campion proved so successful that Allingham made him the centrepiece of another 17 novels and over 20 short stories, continuing into the 1960s.

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[The Best of Our Spies (Spy Masters): 1: Amazon.co.uk: Alex Gerlis: 9781800320598: Books]

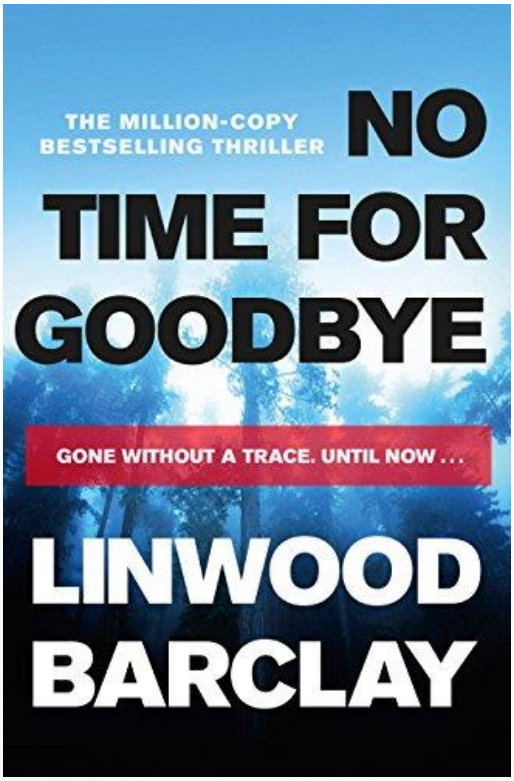
The Allies have landed, the liberation of Europe has begun.
In the Pas de Calais, **Nathalie Mercier**, a young British Special Operations Executive secret agent working with the French Resistance, disappears.
In London, her husband **Owen Quinn**, an officer with Royal Navy Intelligence, discovers the truth about her role in the Allies' sophisticated deception at the heart of D-Day.
Appalled but determined, Quinn sets off on a perilous hunt through France in search of his wife. Aided by the Resistance in his search, he makes good progress. But, caught up by the bitterness of the war and its insatiable appetite for revenge, he risks total destruction.
Based on real events of the Second World War, this is a thrilling tale of international intrigue, love, deception and espionage, perfect for fans of Robert Harris, John le Carré and Len Deighton.

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I like all of his books



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[No Time For Goodbye: A Richard and Judy bestseller eBook: Barclay, Linwood: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

On the morning she will never forget, suburban teenager Cynthia Archer awakes with a nasty hangover and a feeling she is going to have an even nastier confrontation with her mom and dad. But when she leaves her bedroom, she discovers the house is empty, with no sign of her parents or younger brother Todd. In the blink of an eye, without any explanation, her family has simply disappeared.

Twenty-five years later Cynthia is still haunted by unanswered questions. Were her family murdered? If so, why was she spared? And if they're alive, why did they abandon her in such a cruel way? Now married with a daughter of her own, Cynthia fears that her new family will be taken from her just as her first one was. And so she agrees to take part in a TV documentary revisiting the case, in the hope that somebody somewhere will remember something - or even that her father, mother or brother might finally reach out to her . . .

Then a letter arrives which makes no sense and yet chills Cynthia to the core. And soon she begins to realise that stirring up the past could be the worst mistake she has ever made . . .

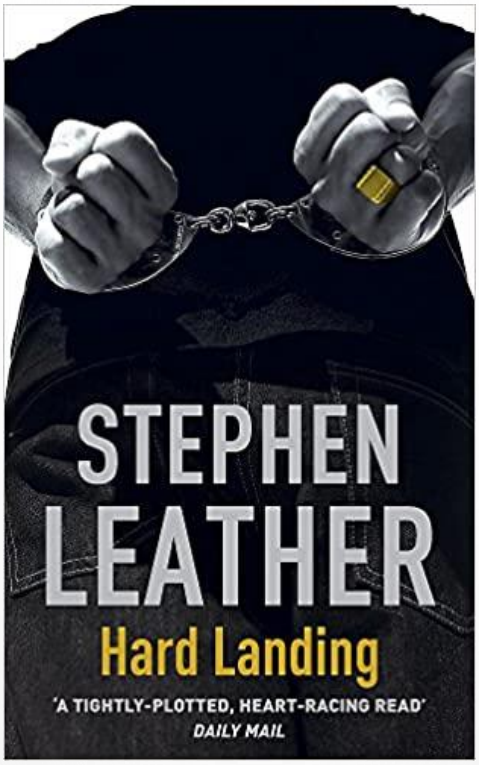
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The first of the Spyder Shepherd series



HARD LANDING (The 1st Spider Shepherd Thriller): Amazon.co.uk: Stephen Leather: 9780340734117: Books

Dan 'Spider' Shepherd is used to putting his life on the line. Working for an elite undercover squad he has lied, cheated and conned in order to bring Britain's most wanted criminals to justice.

But when a powerful drugs baron starts to kill off witnesses to his crimes, Shepherd is given his most dangerous assignment yet. He has to go undercover in a top security prison, a world where one wrong move will mean certain death.

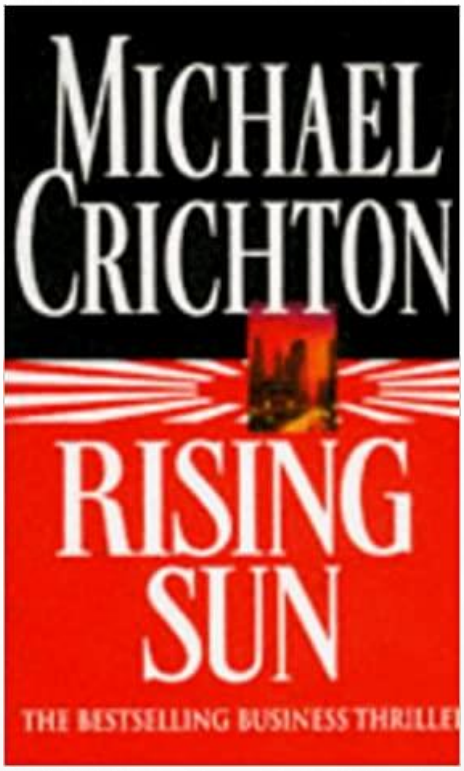
As Shepherd gambles everything to move in on his quarry, he soon realises that the man he is hunting is even more dangerous than the police realise. And that he is capable of striking outside the prison walls and hitting Shepherd where it hurts most.

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From the Andromeda Strain To Jurassic Park and more



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Rising Sun: Amazon.co.uk: Michael Crichton: 9780099233015: Books

Synopsis

On the 45th floor of the Matsumoto Tower in LA, the headquarters of the Japanese Electronics Corporation, celebrities from the film and music world mix with the captains of industry and politics. On the 46th floor, the dead body of a young woman is discovered. By the author of "Jurassic Park".

About the Author

Date: 2003-05-13

Michael Crichton was born in Chicago in 1942. He is also a film director and the creator of the hit television series ER.

Date: 2013-08-06

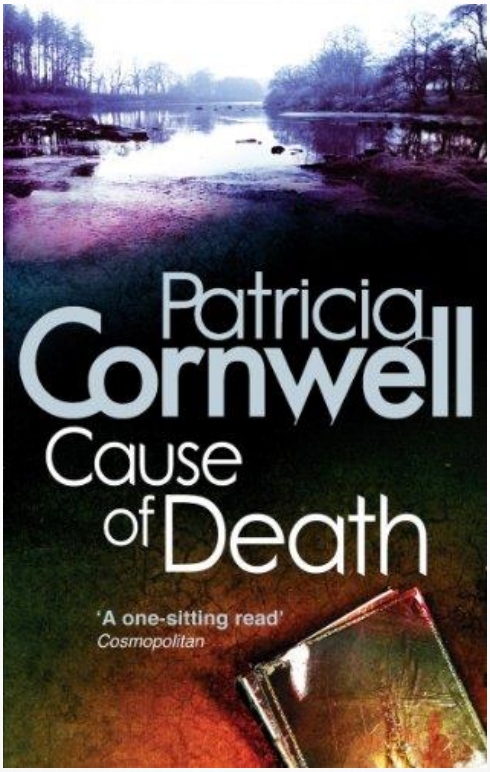
Born in Chicago in 1942, **Michael Crichton** first trained as a doctor before going on to become one of the most successful writers in the world. In 1994 he achieved a feat unmatched by any other writer: by having simultaneously a number one TV series, book and movie with, respectively, *ER* (which he created), *Disclosure* and Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*, on its release the highest-grossing film of all time. He also directed several movies, including *The Great Railway Robbery* with Sean Connery and Donald Sutherland. His high-concept thrillers were international bestsellers, and in total his books have sold more than 200 million copies worldwide. He died in 2008.

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Book 7 of a great series



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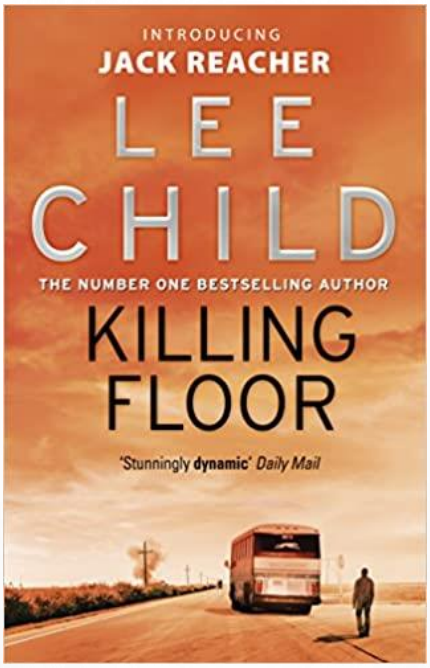
[Cause of Death (Scarpetta 7) eBook: Cornwell, Patricia: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

n investigative reporter is found dead in Virginia's icy waters ...New Year's Eve and the final murder scene of Virginia's bloodiest year takes Scarpetta thirty feet below the Elizabeth River's icy surface. A diver, Ted Eddings, is dead, an investigative reporter who was a favourite at the Medical Examiner's office. Was Eddings probing the frigid depths of the Inactive Shipyard for a story, or simply diving for sunken trinkets? And why did Scarpetta receive a phone call from someone reporting the death before the police were notified?The case envelops Scarpetta, her niece Lucy, and police captain Pete Marino in a world where both cutting-edge technology and old-fashioned detective work are critical offensive weapons. Together they follow the trail of death to a well of violence as dark and forbidding as water that swirled over Ted Eddings.

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'Jack Reacher' series by Lee Child - a six feet five, ex military police major, who has left the army and now travels around America righting wrongs and helping people. Thriller, 25 books so far...

Killing Floor: (Jack Reacher 1): Amazon.co.uk: Child, Lee: 9780553826166: Books

Jack Reacher jumps off a bus and walks fourteen miles down a country road into Margrave, Georgia. An arbitrary decision he's about to regret.

Reacher is the only stranger in town on the day they have had their first homicide in thirty years.The cops arrest Reacher and the police chief turns eyewitness to place him at the scene. As nasty secrets leak out, and the body count mounts, one thing is for sure.

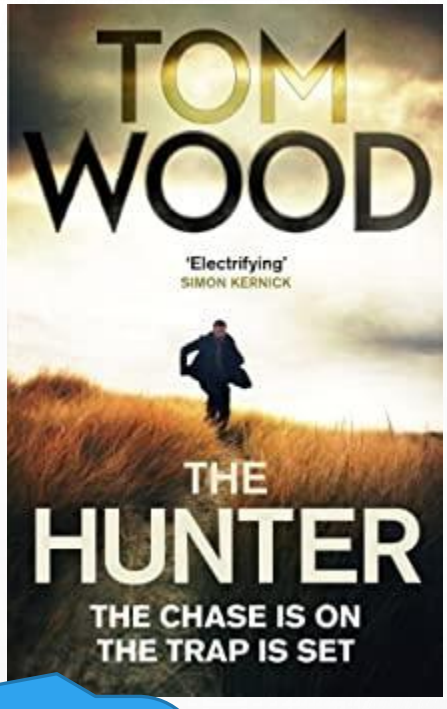
They picked the wrong guy to take the fall.

Although the Jack Reacher novels can be read in any order, Killing Floor is the first book in the internationally popular series. It presents Reacher for the first time, as the tough ex-military cop of no fixed abode: a righter of wrongs, the perfect action hero.

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'**Victor the Assassin**' series by Tom Wood - the travels and adventures of a hitman. Can provide many hours of enjoyment, highly recommend it. Thriller, 8 or 9 books so far...

The Hunter (Victor the Assassin Book 1) eBook: Wood, Tom: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

Book Description

Victor, the antihero hitman of Tom Wood's bestselling series, makes his debut in this intricate, action-packed thriller for fans of Lee Child, Bourne and Bond --This text refers to an alternate kindle edition edition.

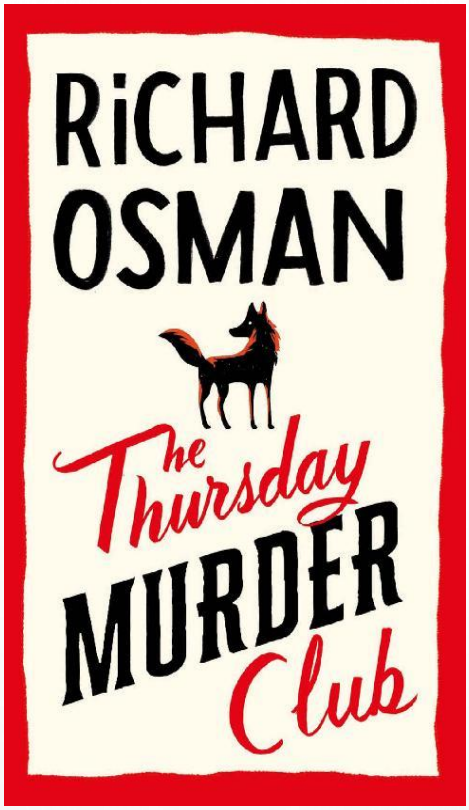
About the Author

Tom Wood is a freelance video editor and scriptwriter. He was born in Staffordshire, England, and now lives in London. *The Killer* is his first novel. He has also been published under the name Tom Hinshelwood.

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[The Thursday Murder Club: The Record-Breaking Sunday Times Number One Bestseller: Amazon.co.uk: Osman, Richard: 9780241425442: Books]

Review

- **'A little beacon of pleasure...SUCH FUN!'** -- Kate Atkinson
- **'So smart and funny. Deplorably good'** -- Ian Rankin
- **'Smart, compassionate, warm, moving and so VERY funny. I smiled a million times. This book will make a lot of people very, very happy'** -- Marian Keyes
- **'A gripping read and rather moving'** — *Sunday Times*
- **'Funny, clever and achingly British - what else would you expect from a book by Richard Osman?'** -- Adam Kay
- **'A superb debut. Thrilling, moving, laugh-out-loud funny and packed with characters you will want to see a LOT more of'** -- Mark Billingham
- **'Compelling. Mystery fans are going to be enthralled'** -- Harlan Coben
- **'So smart, so funny, so warm, and such a wonderful mystery. If we're lucky Richard Osman will keep these characters alive forever'** -- Caroline Kepnes
- **'A properly funny and totally charming murder mystery steeped in Agatha Christie joy. Also the best crime solving foursome and full of a type of Britishness that makes you smile'** -- Araminta Hall

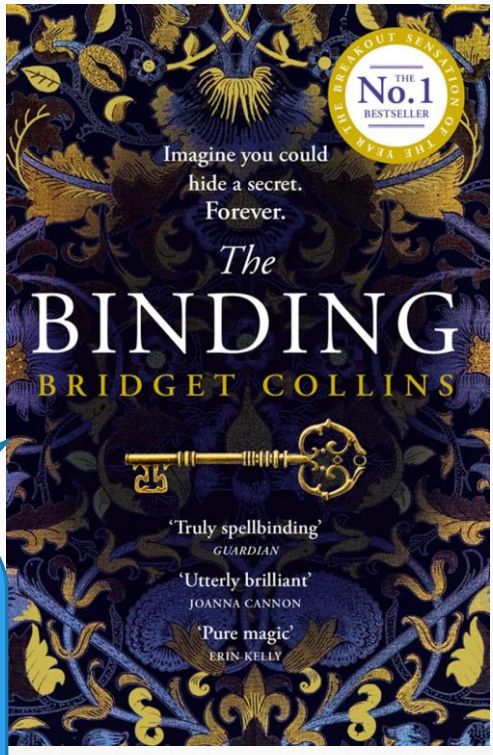
- **'Diabolically clever, very funny, highly entertaining - utterly delightful. I completely fell in love with it'** -- Shari Lapena

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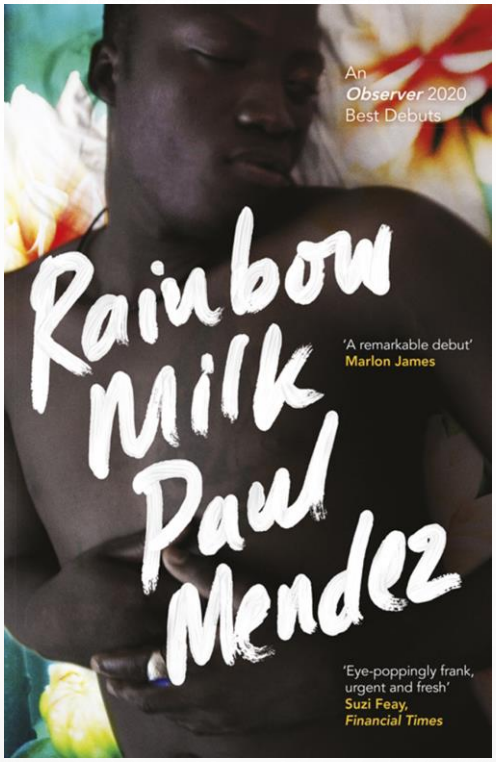
The Binding: THE #1 BESTSELLER: Amazon.co.uk: Collins, Bridget: 9780008272111: Books

Emmett Farmer is a binder's apprentice. His job is to hand-craft beautiful books and, within each, to capture something unique and extraordinary: a memory. If you have something you want to forget, or a secret to hide, he can bind it – and you will never have to remember the pain it caused. In a vault under his mentor's workshop, row upon row of books – and secrets – are meticulously stored and recorded. Then one day Emmett makes an astonishing discovery: one of the volumes has his name on it.

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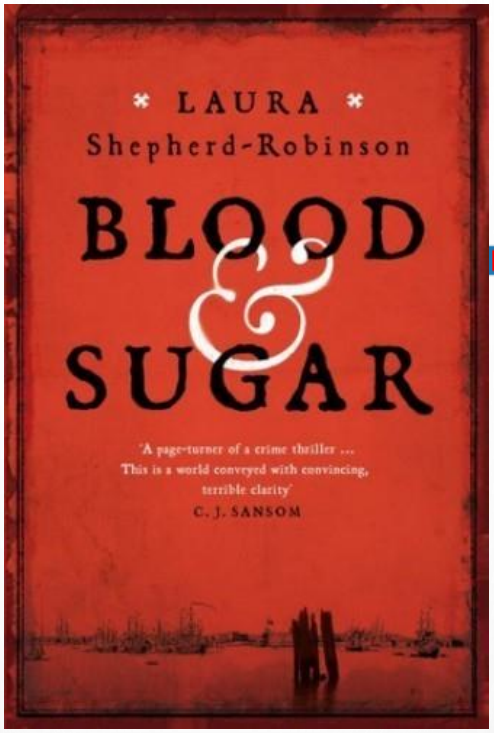
[Rainbow Milk: an Observer 2020 Top 10 Debut: Amazon.co.uk: Mendez, Paul: Books]

This debut cements Mendez as a stunning new voice in fiction. Semi-autobiographical, this **gripping** coming-of-age story set in the Black Country in the 1950s follows 19-year-old Jesse as he comes to terms with his racial and sexual identity against the backdrop of his repressive religious upbringing . . . **An original addition to the queer fiction canon** - Cosmopolitan

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Blood & Sugar: Amazon.co.uk: Shepherd-Robinson, Laura: 9781509880799: Books

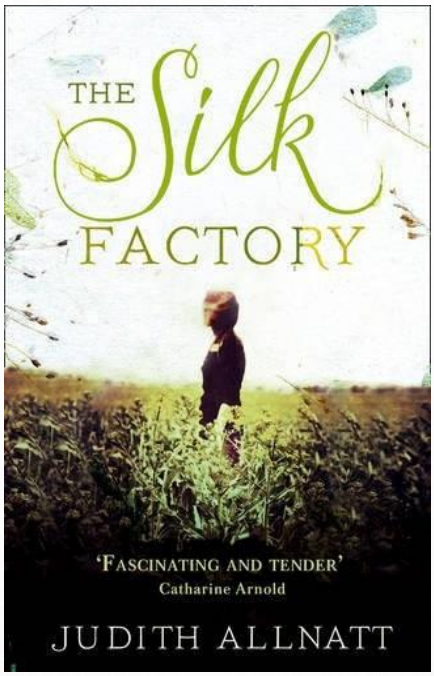
June, 1781. An unidentified body hangs upon a hook at Deptford Dock – horribly tortured and branded with a slaver's mark.

Some days later, Captain Harry Corsham – a war hero embarking upon a promising parliamentary career – is visited by the sister of an old friend. Her brother, passionate abolitionist Tad Archer, had been about to expose a secret that he believed could cause irreparable damage to the British slaving industry. He'd said people were trying to kill him, and now he is missing . . .

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Fascinating Local History story, and if you Click the picture, a guided walk



[The Silk Factory: Amazon.co.uk: Allnatt, Judith: 9780007523016: Books]

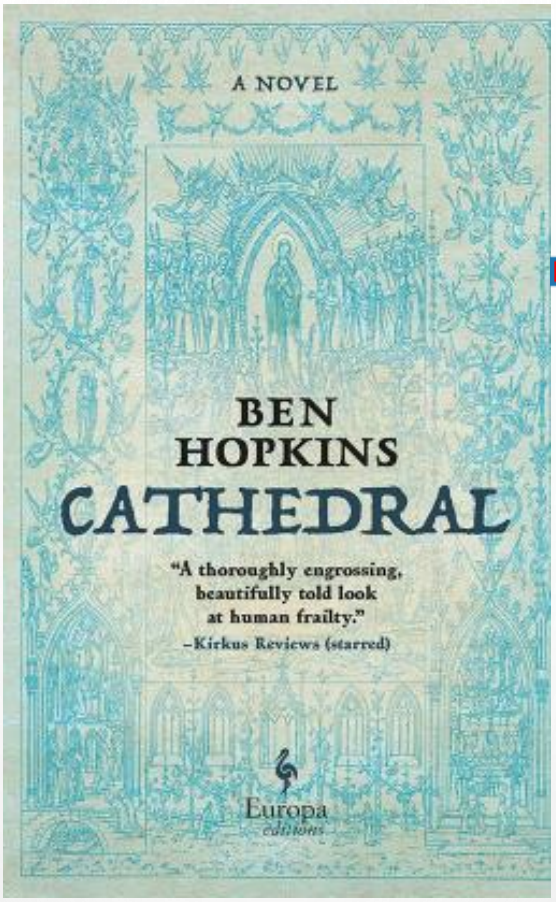
Anyone who's lost someone is haunted

Rosie Milford inherits a house in an old silk factory after her mother's death and moves there with her young children. The discovery of a shocking truth about her own childhood, when she is already reeling from the breakup of her marriage, fills her with distrust and fearfulness. Then she starts seeing a strange child, wandering in the garden, who seems as lost as she is.

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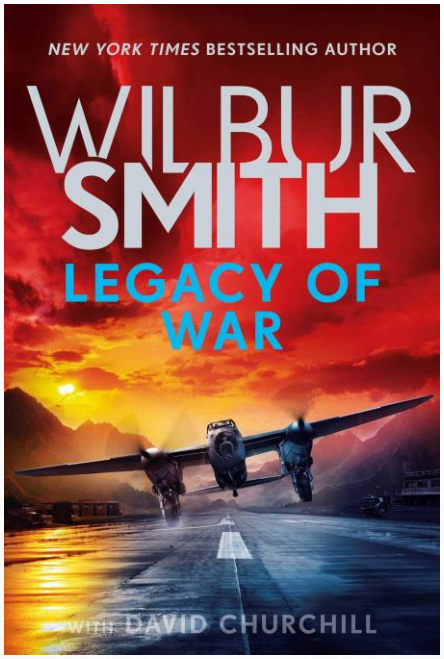
[Cathedral: a novel eBook: Hopkins, Ben: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

A thoroughly immersive read and a remarkable feat of imagination, Cathedral tells a sweeping story about obsession, mysticism, art, and earthly desire in gripping prose. It deftly combines historical fiction and a tale of adventure and intrigue. At the centre of this story is the Cathedral. Its design and construction in the 13th and 14th centuries in the Rhineland town of Hagenburg unites a vast array of unforgettable characters whose fortunes are inseparable from the shifting political factions and economic interests vying for supremacy. From the bishop to his treasurer to local merchants and lowly stonecutters, everyone, even the town's Jewish denizens, is implicated and affected by the slow rise of Hagenburg's Cathedral, which in no way enforces morality or charity.

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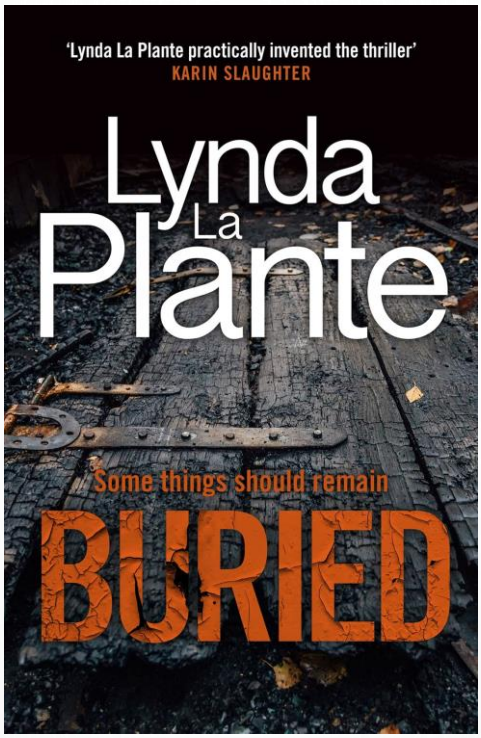
[Legacy of War: The action-packed new book in the Courtney Series: Amazon.co.uk: Smith, Wilbur, Churchill, David: 9781838772246: Books]

A nail-biting story of courage, bravery, rebellion and war from the master of adventure fiction. The war is over, Hitler is dead - and yet his evil legacy lives on. Saffron Courtney and her beloved husband Gerhard only just survived the brutal conflict, but Gerhard's Nazi-supporting brother, Konrad, is still free and determined to regain power. As a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse develops, a plot against the couple begins to stir. One that will have ramifications throughout Europe. . . Further afield in Kenya, the last outcrop of the colonial empire is feeling the stirrings of rebellion. As the situation becomes violent, and the Courtney family home is under threat, Leon Courtney finds himself caught between two powerful sides - and a battle for the freedom of a country.

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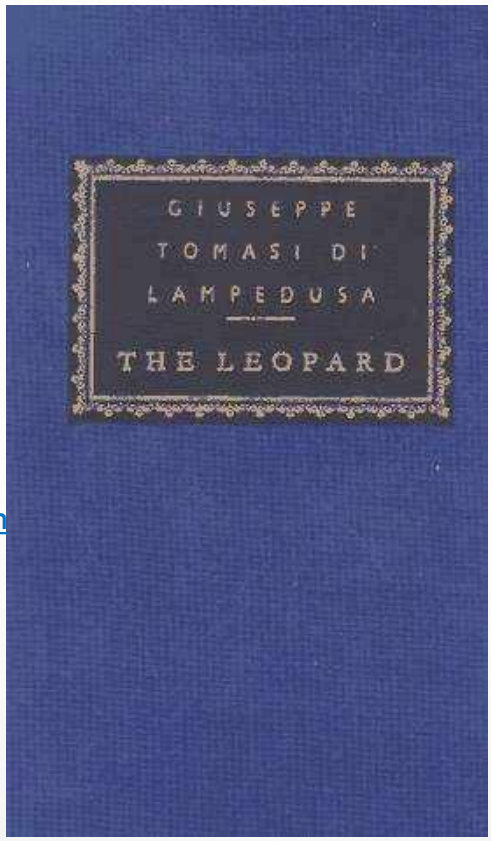
Amazon.co.uk : lynda la plante book buried

Millions of stolen, untraceable bank notes lie untouched in an old Victorian cottage, the hidden legacy of the Dolly Rawlins and her widows.
But the millions are not forgotten. Released from prison, Esther Freeman is determined to retrieve the money. And so too is Mike Withey, Shirley Miller's brother and Audrey's son.
When a fire breaks out at the derelict cottage, with a badly charred body inside along with what looks like thousands of burnt bank notes, it attracts the attention of the police and one young detective in particular, Jack Warr.
Jack's investigation into the fire, and the burnt body inside, coincide with an investigation into his own past. Adopted at birth, Jack discovers his birth father may have been none other than Harry Rawlins, a renowned criminal.
As he finds out the truth about his own identity, Jack finds himself becoming increasingly aggressive, stopping at nothing to find the truth - including breaking the law himself.

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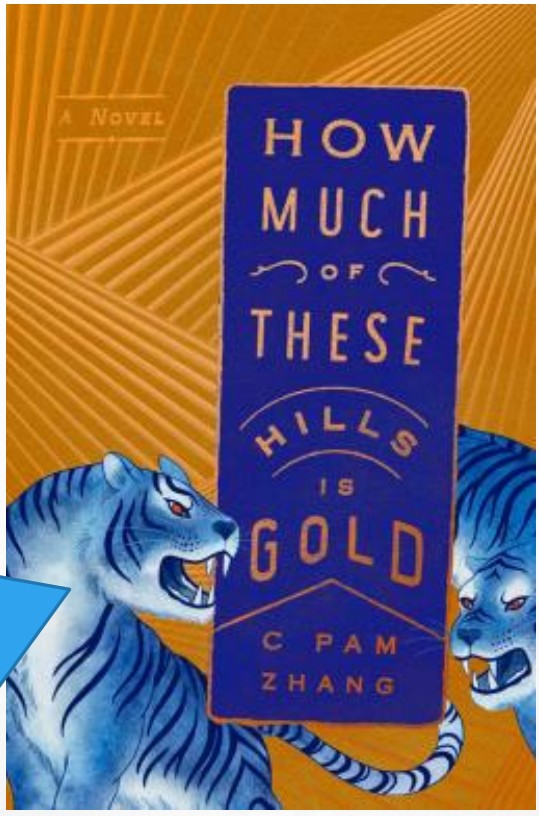
The Leopard: Revised and with new material (Vintage Classics): Amazon.co.uk: Giuseppe Tomasi Di Lampedusa, Archibald Colquhoun, Guido Waldman, Gioacchino Lanza Tomasi: 9780099512158: Books

The novel is a chronicle of fifty years of the Risorgimento, the Italian Unification's effect on Sicily, dating from Garibaldi's landing on the island in 1860 to the final decline of a once-opulent Sicilian family. The book represents a variation on the historical novel, in that it permits the present to intrude into the past--the omniscient narrator hints at what will happen after the story is finished. The protagonist is Don Fabrizio Corbera, Prince of Salina. He accepts that his nephew, Tancredi, joins the rebels, but sees the aristocracy displaced by the middle class. After the prince's deathbed scene, in which he sums up the small number of joyful hours as against his seventy years of boredom, the view deepens into psychological narrative. However, the story does not end in his death, but the final chapter, set in 1910, shows the decline of the family

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How Much of These Hills Is Gold(2020) is the debut novel of Asian American author C Pam Zhang. It was long-listed for the Booker Prize, named a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

[How Much of These Hills is Gold: Longlisted for the Booker Prize 2020 eBook: Zhang, C Pam: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

Ba dies in the night, Ma is already gone. Lucy and Sam, twelve and eleven, are suddenly alone and on the run. With their father's body on their backs, they roam an unforgiving American West dotted with giant buffalo bones and tiger paw prints, searching for a place to give him a proper burial.

Forever changed, Lucy and Sam must now forge their own paths in the twilight of the Gold Rush. Sam wants to live in their father's violent shadow, while Lucy seeks a different way. Denied and menaced at every turn, they encounter a sinister fur trapper, a brothel owner, a wealthy girl who offers conditional comfort . . but amid these new gods of greed, wealth and opportunism, can the siblings stay true to who they are? Will their shared family history - and the secrets behind it - bring them together, or break them apart?

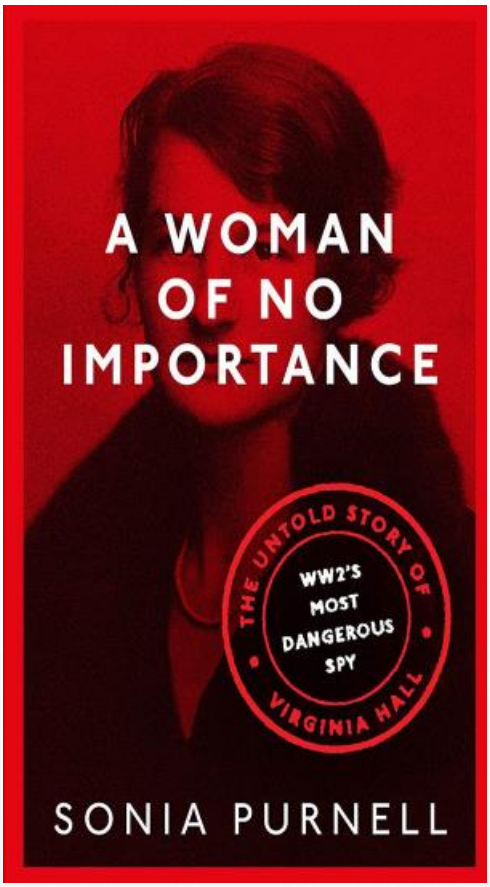
How Much of These Hills Is Gold is a sweeping adventure story about siblings, divided and bound, and the powerful illusion of the American Dream.

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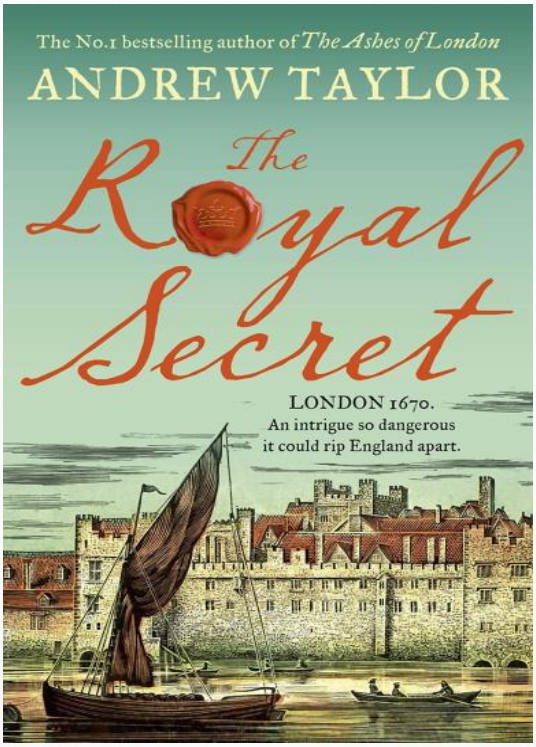
A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of Virginia Hall, WWII's Most Dangerous Spy eBook: Purnell, Sonia: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

A never-before-told story of Virginia Hall, the American spy who changed the course of World War II, from the author of Clementine. In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her." The target in their sights was Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill's "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare." She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and--despite her prosthetic leg--helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it. Virginia established vast spy networks throughout France, called weapons and explosives down from the skies, and became a linchpin for the Resistance. Even as her face covered wanted posters and a bounty was placed on her head, Virginia refused order after order to evacuate. She finally escaped through a death-defying hike over the Pyrenees into Spain, her cover blown. But she plunged back in, adamant that she had more lives to save, and led a victorious guerrilla campaign, liberating swathes of France from the Nazis after D-Day. Based on new and extensive research, Sonia Purnell has for the first time uncovered the full secret life ...

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https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08H7RQRNR/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

The Royal Secret by Andrew Taylor is the **fifth book in his Marwood and Lovett series**

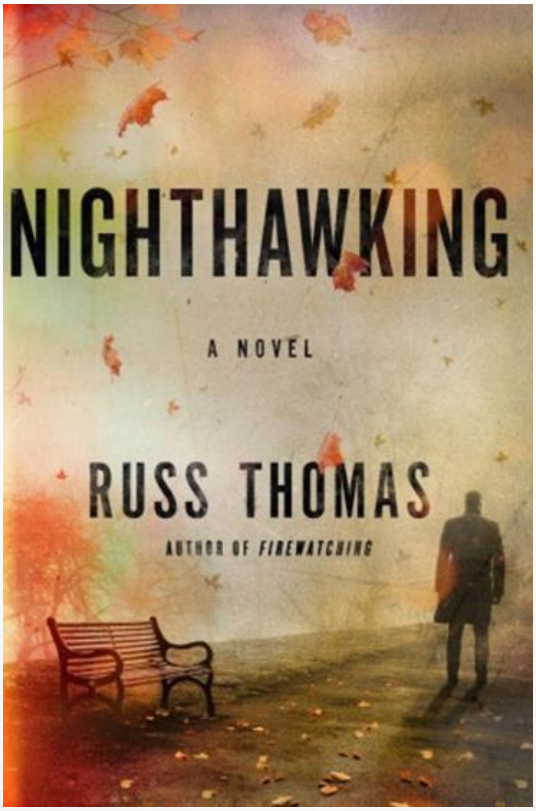
Witchcraft, dastardly plots and a devotion to truth lead James Marwood and Cat Lovett to discover a secret at the very heart of the royal court in the new thrilling novel from the master of historical crime.

Two young girls plot a murder by witchcraft. Soon afterwards a government clerk dies painfully in mysterious circumstances. His colleague James Marwood is asked to investigate – but the task brings unexpected dangers. Meanwhile, architect Cat Hakesby is working for a merchant who lives on Slaughter Street, where the air smells of blood and a captive Barbary lion prowls the stables. Then a prestigious new commission arrives. Cat must design a Poultry House for the woman that the King loves most in all the world. Unbeknownst to all, at the heart of this lies a royal secret so explosive that it could not only rip apart England but change the entire face of Europe...

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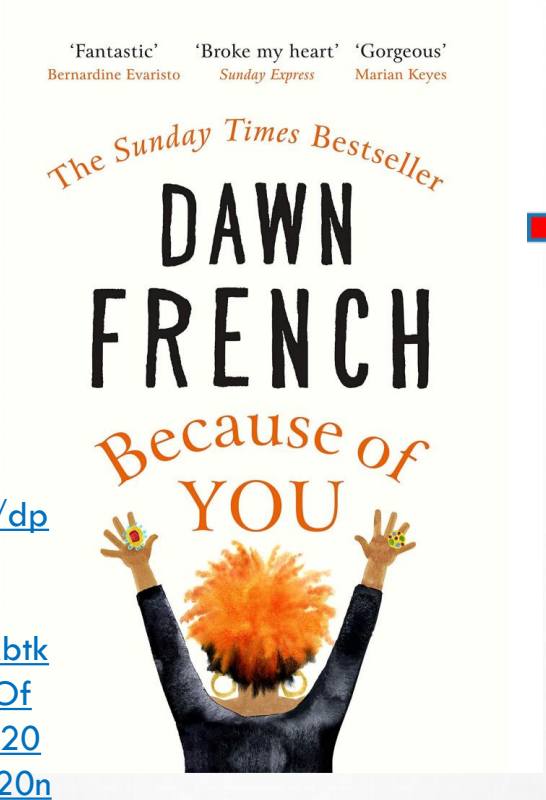
Another scorching blast of Sheffield Noir as DS Adam Tyler becomes embroiled in the esoteric world of 'night hawkers,' nocturnal treasure hunters bent on unearthing ancient relics.

When a nighthawker on the hunt for antiquities instead uncovers the body of a foreign student, Detective Adam Tyler is pulled into a serpentine mystery of dangerous secrets, precious finds, and illegal dealings.
You are a trespasser. You are a thief. You are a Nighthawker.
Under the dark cover of night, a figure climbs over the wall of the Botanical Garden with a bag and a metal detector. It's a dicey location in the populous city centre, but they're on the hunt—and while most of what they find will be worthless, it takes only one big reward to justify the risk. Only this time, the nighthawker unearths a body. . . .
Detective Sergeant Adam Tyler and his newly promoted protégé, Detective Constable Amina Rabbani, are officially in charge of Cold Case Reviews. But with shrinking budgets and manpower in the department, both are shunted onto the murder investigation—and when the victim is identified as a Chinese national from a wealthy...

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https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08DT8N1T1/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1#:~:text=Because%20Of%20You%20is%20Dawn%20French%27s%20stunning%20new,so%20perfectly%20executed%20they%20almost%20broke%20my%20heart.

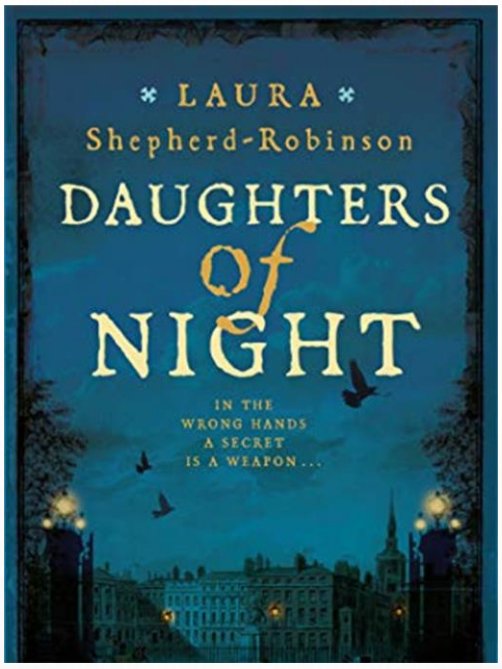
Tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock . . . midnight. The old millennium turns into the new. In the same hospital, two very different women give birth to two very similar daughters. Hope leaves with a beautiful baby girl. Anna leaves with empty arms. Seventeen years later, the gods who keep watch over broken-hearted mothers wreak mighty revenge, and the truth starts rolling, terrible and deep, toward them all. The power of mother-love will be tested to its limits. Perhaps beyond . . .Because of You is the remarkably poignant story perfect for every Dawn French fan, told with her signature humour, warmth and so much love.'

An extraordinary book - sad, heartening, gripping and reassuringly human'

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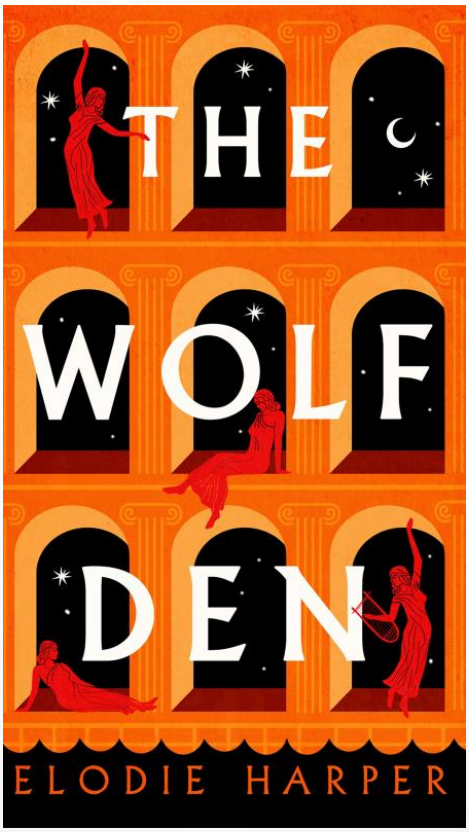
Daughters of Night & Blood & Sugar By Laura Shepherd-Robinson 2 Books Collection Set: Amazon.co.uk: Laura Shepherd-Robinson, Daughters of Night, 978-1509880829, 1509880828, 9781509880829, Blood & Sugar, 978-1509880799, 1509880798, 9781509880799: 9789124123581: Books

London, 1782. Desperate for her politician husband to return home from France, Caroline 'Caro' Corsham is already in a state of anxiety when she finds a well-dressed woman mortally wounded in the bowers of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. The Bow Street constables are swift to act, until they discover that the deceased woman was a highly paid prostitute, at which point they cease to care entirely. But Caro has motives of her own for wanting to see justice done, and so sets out to solve the crime herself. Enlisting the help of thieftaker Peregrine Child, their inquiry delves into the hidden corners of Georgian society, a world of artifice, deception and secret lives. But with many gentlemen refusing to speak about their dealings with the dead woman, and Caro's own reputation under threat, finding the killer will be harder, and more treacherous, than she can know . . .

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The Wolf Den eBook: Harper, Elodie: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

Sold by her mother. Enslaved in Pompeii's brothel. Determined to survive. Her name is Amara. Welcome to the Wolf Den...

Amara was once a beloved daughter, until her father's death plunged her family into penury. Now she is a slave in Pompeii's infamous brothel, owned by a man she despises. Sharp, clever and resourceful, Amara is forced to hide her talents. For now her only value lies in the desire she can stir in others.

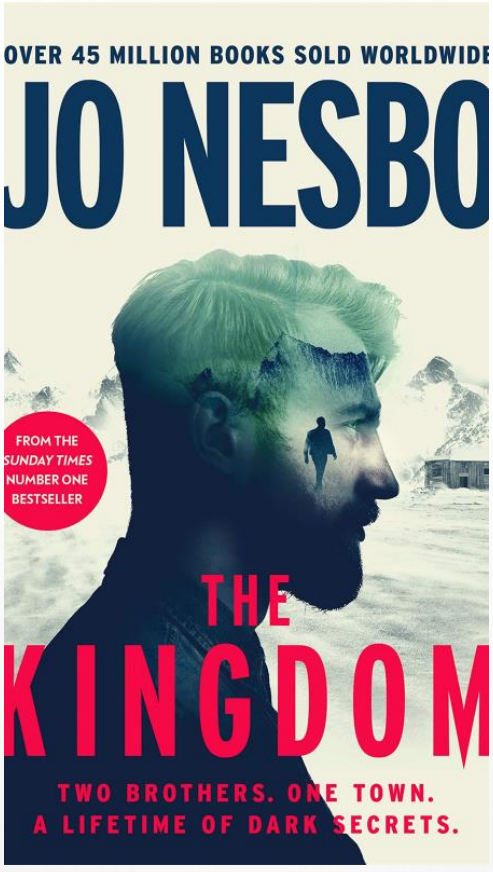
But Amara's spirit is far from broken. By day, she walks the streets with the Wolf Den's other women, finding comfort in the laughter and dreams they share. For the streets of Pompeii are alive with opportunity. Out here, even the lowest slave can secure a reversal in fortune. Amara has learnt that everything in this city has its price. But how much is her freedom going to cost her?

Set in Pompeii's lupanar, The Wolf Den is the first in a trilogy of novels.

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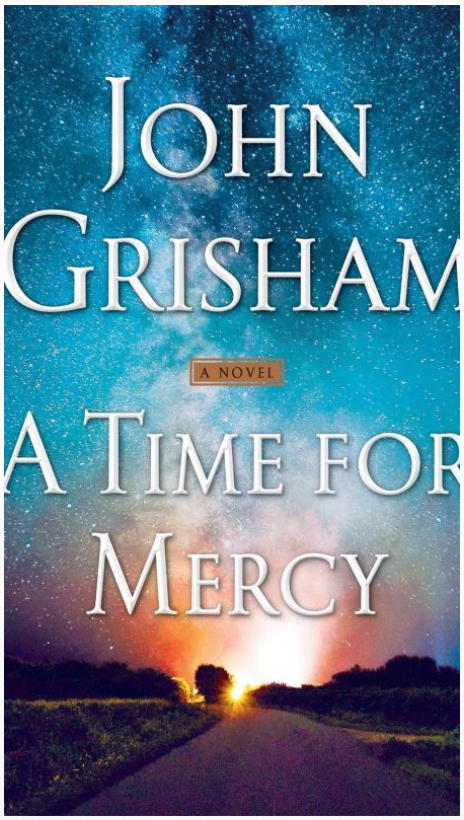
The Kingdom: The thrilling Sunday Times bestseller and Richard & Judy Book Club Pick eBook: Nesbo, Jo: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

'Suspenseful, original...special in every way' Stephen King TWO BROTHERS. BOUND BY BLOOD...AND A LIFETIME OF SECRETS. When Roy and Carl's parents die suddenly, sixteen-year-old Roy is left as protector to his impulsive younger brother. But when Carl decides to travel the world in search of his fortune, Roy stays behind in their sleepy village, satisfied with his peaceful life as a mechanic. Some years later, Carl returns with his charismatic new wife, Shannon - an architect. They are full of exciting plans to build a spa hotel on their family land. Carl wants not only to make the brothers rich but the rest of the village, too. It's only a matter of time before what begins as a jubilant homecoming sparks off a series of events that threaten to derail everything Roy holds dear, as long-buried family secrets begin to rise to the surface...

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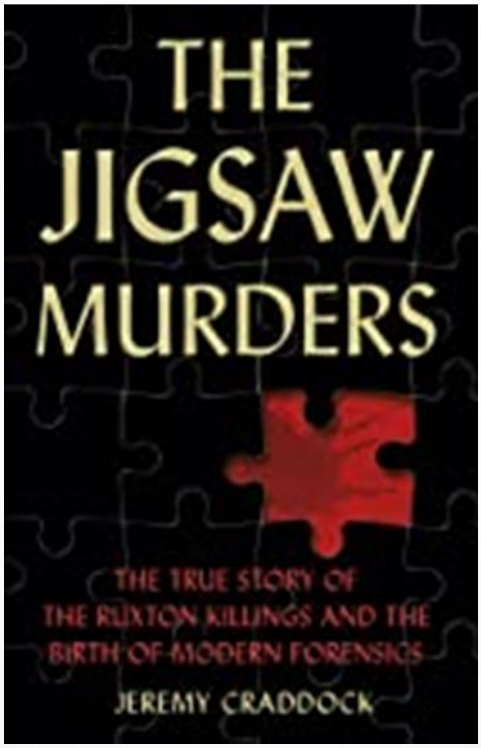
[A Time for Mercy: John Grisham's Latest No. 1 Bestseller eBook: Grisham, John: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

Jake Brigance, lawyer hero of A Time to Kill and Sycamore Row, is back, in his toughest case ever. 'A new Grisham legal thriller is always an event, but this one is exceptional as the author is returning to Jake Brigance, the hero of his very first book, A Time To Kill . . . There is a lot of Grisham in Brigance - they were both street lawyers on the side of the people, not big corporations. It gives the book an emotional core that burns with a white heat' - Daily Mail' A master of plotting and pacing . . . suspenseful' - New York Times CAN A KILLER EVER BE ABOVE THE LAW? Deputy Stuart Kofer is a protected man. Though he's turned his drunken rages on his girlfriend, Josie, and her children many times before, the police code of silence has always shielded him. But one night he goes too far, leaving Josie for dead on the floor before passing out. Her son, sixteen-year-old Drew, knows he only has this one chance to save them. He picks up a gun and takes the law into his own hands In Clanton, Mississippi, there is no one more hated than a cop killer - but a cop killer's defence lawyer comes close. Jake Brigance doesn't want this impossible case but he's the only one with enough experience to defend the boy. As the trial begins, it seems there is only one outcome: the gas chamber for Drew. But, as the town of Clanton discovers once again, when Jake Brigance takes on an impossible case, anything is possible ...Starring the same hero and setting that featured in John Grisham's multi-million-selling bestsellers A Time to Kill (adapted as a film starring Samuel L. Jackson and Matthew McConaughey) and Sycamore Row, A Time for Mercy is an unforgettable thriller you won't be able to put down.

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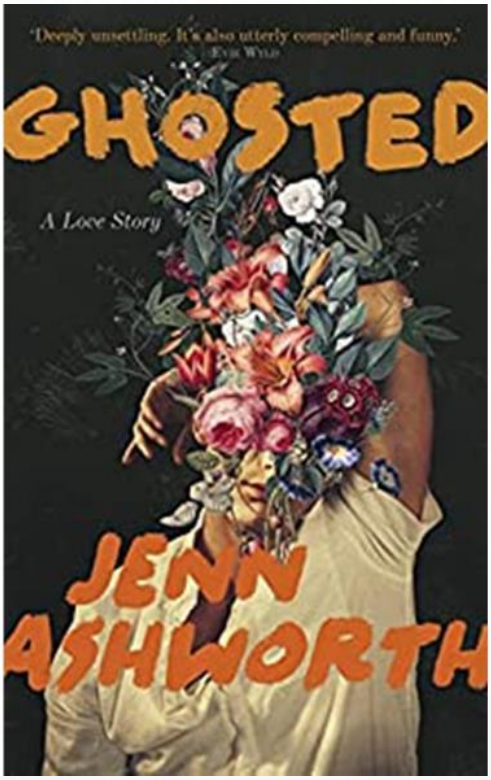
[The Jigsaw Murders: The True Story of the Ruxton Killings and the Birth of Modern Forensics eBook: Craddock, Jeremy: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

The Jigsaw Murders - An enthralling account of this macabre true to life story of murder by a respected doctor in 1930's Lancaster. With detailed depiction of the complex character of Dr Ruxton, his victims and those around them, as well as the ground breaking investigation and trial. A fascinating read, with a plot that unfolds more like a crime thriller, the author also details the pioneering forensic techniques used to convict the murderer. A real page-turner!

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[Ghosted: A Love Story eBook: Ashworth, Jenn: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

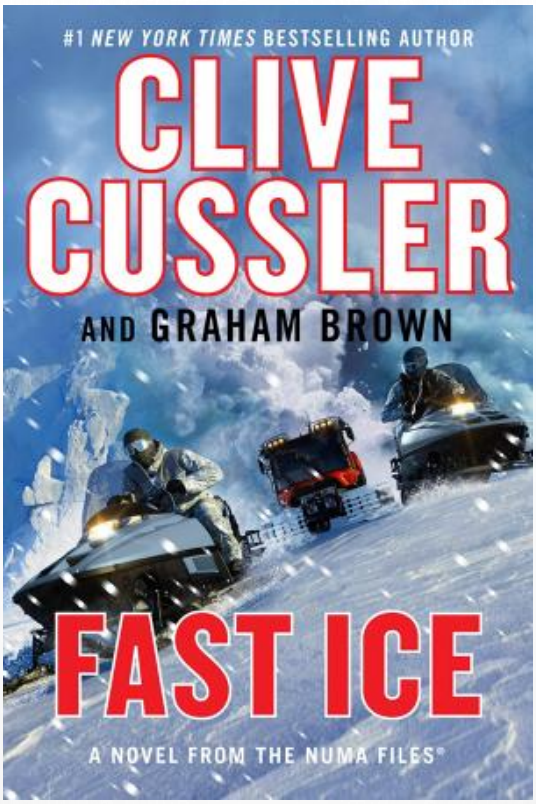
Absence haunts Jenn Ashworth's unnerving, absorbing fifth novel. It opens on a late May morning with a scene of marital intimacy. A couple, narrator Laurie and her husband, Mark, wake up and have indifferent sex. Mark switches off an alarm and retrieves his wife's glasses ("'I'll make your tea,' he said, just as he always did. I was extremely hungover, just as I always was"). When Laurie returns home that evening Mark has vanished, leaving his mobile and wallet. It takes her five weeks to call the police and admit his disappearance to their family. "He'll be fine," insists her colleague Eddie, suggesting her partner of 15 years has "ghosted" her, internet slang for when a lover cuts ties without explanation.

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[Fast Ice eBook: Cussler, Clive, Brown, Graham: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]



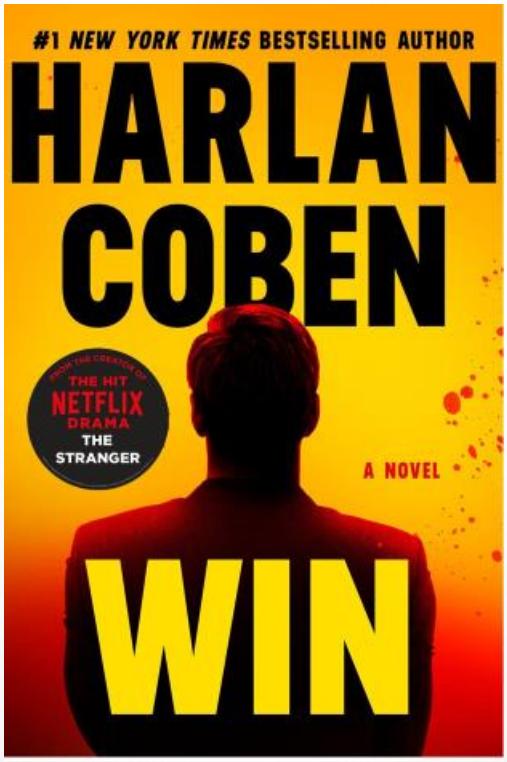
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In the early days of World War II, the infamous German Luftwaffe embark upon an expedition to Antarctica, hoping to set up a military base to support their goal of world domination. Though the military outpost never comes to fruition, what the Nazis find on the icy continent indeed proves dangerous...and will have implications far into the future.
In the present day, Kurt Austin and his assistant Joe Zavala embark for the freezing edge of the world after a former NUMA colleague disappears in Antarctica. While there, they discover a photo of the Luftwaffe expedition of 1939, and are drawn into a decades-old conspiracy. Even as they confront perilous waters and frigid temperatures, they are also are up against a terrifying man-made weapon--a fast-growing ice that could usher in a new Ice Age.
Pitted against a determined madman and a monstrous storm, Kurt and the NUMA team must unravel the Nazi-era plot in order to save the globe from a freeze that would bury it once and for all.

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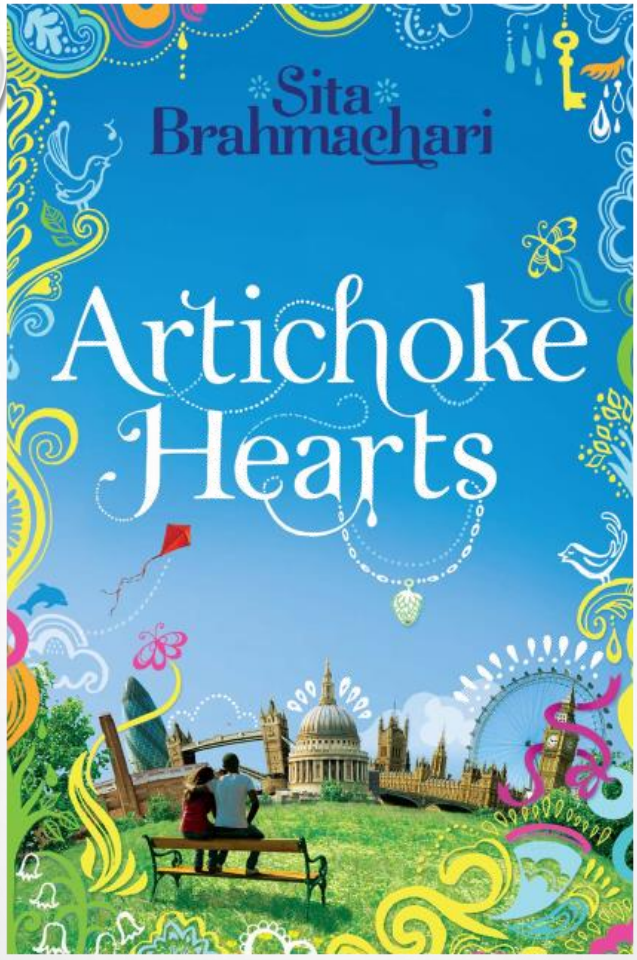
Win: New from the #1 bestselling creator of the hit Netflix series The Stranger eBook: Coben, Harlan: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store

a dead man's secrets fall into the hands of vigilante antihero—drawing him down a dangerous road. Over twenty years ago, the heiress Patricia Lockwood was abducted during a robbery of her family's estate, then locked inside an isolated cabin for months. Patricia escaped, but so did her captors — and the items stolen from her family were never recovered. Until now. On the Upper West Side, a recluse is found murdered in his penthouse apartment, alongside two objects of note: a stolen Vermeer painting and a leather suitcase bearing the initials WHL3. For the first time in years, the authorities have a lead — not only on Patricia's kidnapping, but also on another FBI cold case — with the suitcase and painting both pointing them toward one man. Windsor Horne Lockwood III — or Win, as his few friends call him — doesn't know how his suitcase and his family's stolen painting ended up with a dead man. But his interest is piqued, especially when the FBI tells him that the man who kidnapped his cousin was also behind an act of domestic terrorism — and that the conspirators may still be at large. The two cases have baffled the FBI for decades, but Win has three things the FBI doesn't: a personal connection to the case; an ungodly fortune; and his own unique brand of justice.

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Thriller
Travel

[Artichoke Hearts eBook : Brahmachari, Sita: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store]

Artichoke Hearts is a really wonderful novel about families and grief and love and growing up. I absolutely loved Meera and her quirky, real family, which is loving but not perfect. I loved her relationship with colourful, opinionated, artistic and occasionally deeply insensitive Nana Josie, who is dying of cancer but determined to "die well" - a process which includes painting her own coffin, with Meera's help.

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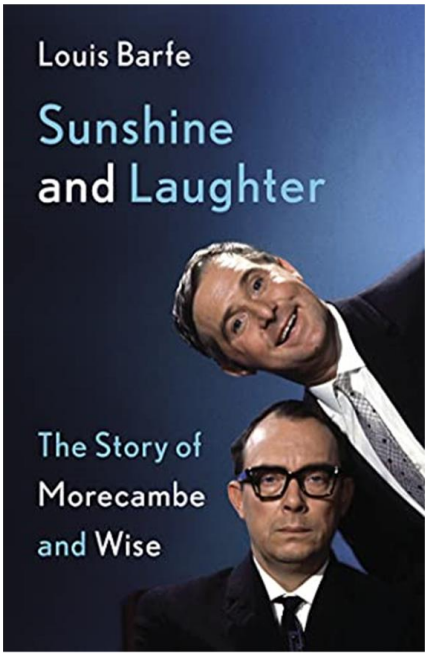
[A Shock: Amazon.co.uk: Ridgway, Keith: 9781529064797: Books]

It's been 8 years since Hawthorn & Child, Keith Ridgway's last book, which was rightly celebrated. A Shock is just as good. It's a London novel and much more, and a short novel that is so much more than the sum of its interlocking parts. It's moving, funny, startling, unnerving, and shocking. The various, interdependent stories come together satisfyingly but leaving as much open as closed, as is signalled towards the beginning of the book - "all stories are the same story, and here I am, the leftover part, the unresolved plot, the loose end." It's not dystopian in any recognisable sense but captures the unsettling, dysfunctional character of the contemporary world better than most dystopian novels. I can't imaging a better novel being published this year.

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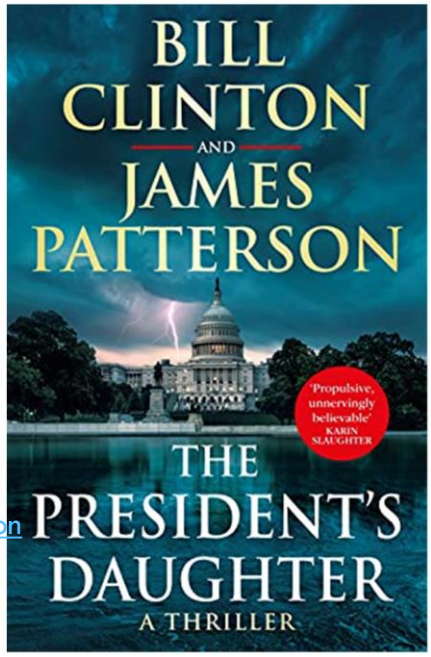
Sunshine and Laughter: The Story of Morecambe & Wise: Amazon.co.uk: Louis Barfe: 9781838933371: Books

Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, as they became, were the 20th century's most successful British comedy double act. Their 1977 Christmas special (with newsreaders performing There Is Nothing Like a Dame) recorded one of the highest viewing figures ever: 28 million. Their early lives shared remarkably similar trajectories. They were born six months apart, were both prepubertal stage performers and won sparkling reviews from the beginning.
Watching his performance, a disgusted Eric wrote him off as a "bighead". But Eric and Sadie found themselves travelling with Ernie on trains plying the same variety circuit, and a close friendship developed. One day, looking for cheap digs in Oxford, they found a triple bedroom. Sadie suggested the boys share the double bed while she took the single — and a running set-up of their later TV shows was (innocently) born. She also suggested they turn their exhausting repertoire of gags into a double act. Finger of God touched finger of Adam: a classic variety act was born.

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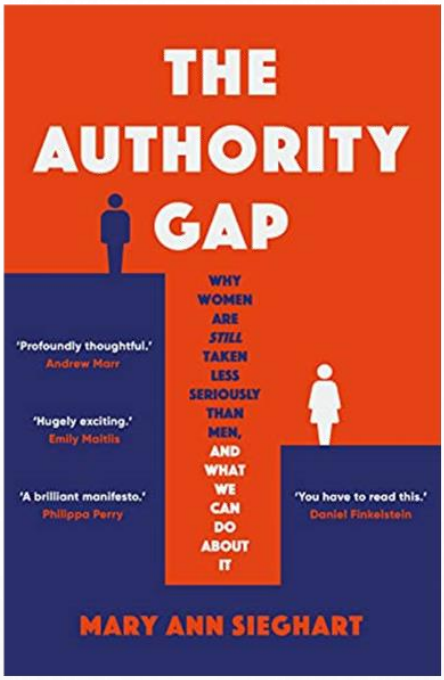
The President's Daughter: the #1 Sunday Times bestseller (Bill Clinton & James Patterson stand-alone thrillers): Amazon.co.uk: Clinton, President Bill, Patterson, James: 9781529125665: Books

James Patterson and Bill Clinton - the 'dream team' (Lee Child) - return with a thriller even more compelling than global number one bestseller The President is Missing. Every detail is accurate because one of the authors is President Bill Clinton. The drama and action never stop because the other author is James Patterson. ALL PRESIDENTS HAVE NIGHTMARES. THIS ONE IS ABOUT TO COME TRUE. Matthew Keating, a one-time Navy SEAL and a former US President, has always defended his family as fiercely as he has his country. Now these defences are under attack. And it's personal. Keating's teenage daughter, Melanie, has been abducted, turning every parent's deepest fear into a matter of national security. As the world watches, Keating embarks on a one-man special-ops mission that tests his strengths: as a leader, a warrior, and a father. Because Keating knows that in order to save Melanie's life he will have to put his own on the line . . . 'Rich with the authenticity only a president can deliver' Robert Crais, bestselling author of the Elvis Cole series 'James Patterson, the grand master of American storytelling, is on fire here and Bill Clinton's two terms in the White House give the book an authenticity that, quite frankly, the competition will never come even close to matching.' Tony Parsons, bestselling author of Your Neighbour's Wife

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[The Authority Gap: Why women are still taken less seriously than men, and what we can do about it: Amazon.co.uk: Sieghart, Mary Ann: 9780857527578: Books]

This review is by a man. A high-flying journalist, she was assistant editor of *The Times* for almost 20 years, and even had a Private Eye parody dedicated to her. (It had the byline "Mary Ann Bighead" — which, as she says, might as well have been subtitled "Woman, Know Your Place".)

She draws here on extensive academic research and her own interviews with some 100 successful women. They include Brenda Hale (the former president of the UK Supreme Court), Major General Sharon Nesmith (the most senior woman in the British Army), Amber Rudd, Liz Truss and the former leaders of Australia, Chile and Croatia. And Hillary Clinton

At one arresting moment in this punchy and incisive book Mary Ann Sieghart thanks her male readers. "You are unusual in picking up a book written by a woman," she says, "and even more unusual in being prepared to read a book primarily about women." I hope she is wrong. Because her book tackles what you might call the covert killer: not old-fashioned, overt prejudice, but unconscious or "implicit" bias. How, even when we think we are being fair, we disproportionately attribute authority — by which Sieghart means both expertise and power — to men.

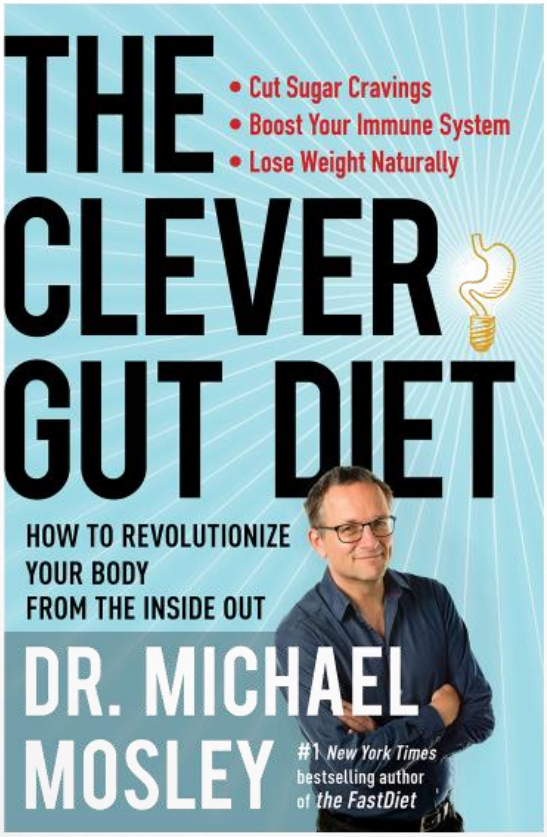
Women know all about the "authority gap". Men still want evidence. And Sieghart offers a barrage of it.

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[The Clever Guts Diet: How to revolutionise your body from the inside out : Michael Mosley: Amazon.co.uk: Books]



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From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Fast Diet* and *The 8-Week Blood Sugar Diet* comes a groundbreaking new book about your gut—known as the "second brain" of the body—that explains how taking care of its good bacteria can lead to optimal health and weight loss.

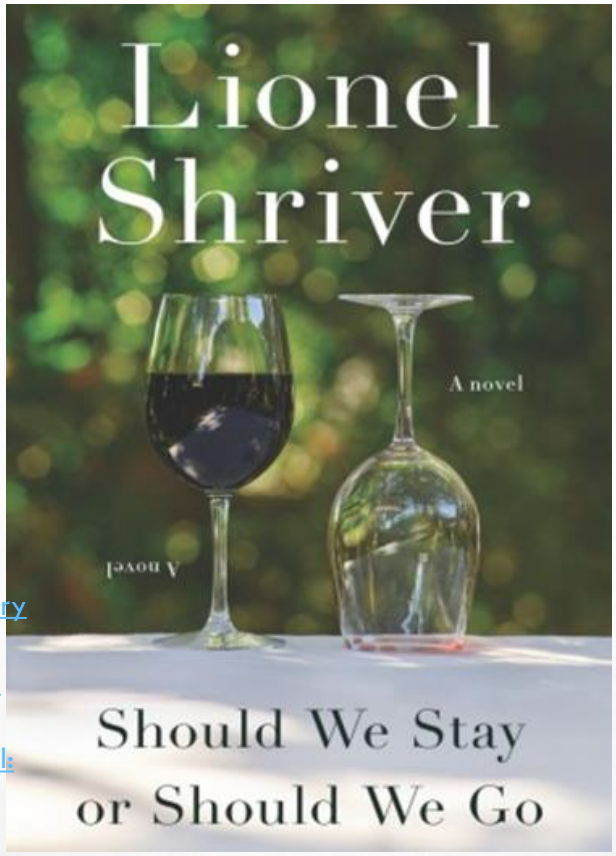
People often joke about "going with their gut" but the truth is that this part of your body exercises an astonishing degree of control over your mood, hunger, and general health. Written with the latest research on the microbiome—the alien bacteria that lives in our guts—*The Clever Gut Diet* also clearly explains what goes on inside your stomach and intestines every day. Discover up-to-the-date science on hunger hormones and learn how our "second brain" communicates with the rest of the body, shaping our appetite and immune system.

Although this is primarily a how-to book, Dr. Mosley uses his own body and experiences as a narrative, sharing his own...

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[Should We Stay or Should We Go: Hilarious new literary fiction from the award-winning author of We Need to Talk About Kevin: Amazon.co.uk: Shriver, Lionel: 9780008458560: Books]

When her father dies, Kay Wilkinson can't cry. Over ten years, Alzheimer's had steadily eroded this erudite man into a paranoid lunatic. Surely one's own father passing should never come as such a relief.

Both medical professionals, Kay and her husband Cyril have seen too many elderly patients in similar states of decay. Although healthy and vital in their early fifties, the couple fears what may lie ahead. Determined to die with dignity, Cyril makes a modest proposal. To spare themselves and their loved ones such a humiliating and protracted decline, they should agree to commit suicide together once they've both turned eighty. When their deal is sealed, the spouses are blithely looking forward to another three decades together.

But then they turn eighty.

By turns hilarious and touching, playful and grave, Should We Stay or Should We Go portrays twelve parallel universes, each exploring a possible future for Kay and Cyril. Were they to cut life artificially short, what would they miss out on? Something terrific? Or something terrible? Might they end up in a home? A fabulous luxury retirement village, or a Cuckoo's Nest sort of home? Might being demented end up being rather fun?

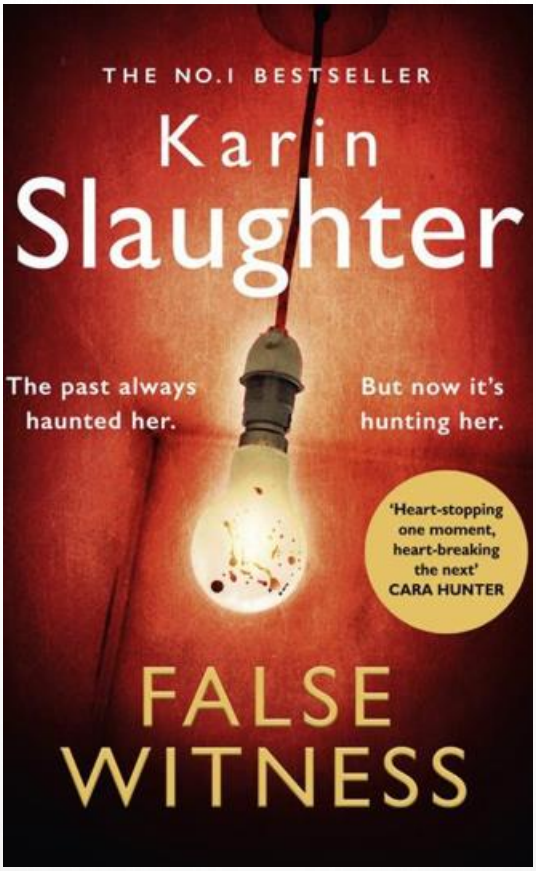
What future for humanity awaits—the end of civilization, or a Valhalla of peace and prosperity? What if cryogenics were really to work? What if scientists finally cure aging? Both timely and timeless, Lionel Shriver addresses serious themes—the compromises of longevity, the challenge of living a long life and still going out in style—with an uncannily light touch.

Weaving in a host of contemporary issues, from Brexit and mass migration to the coronavirus, Shriver has pulled off a rollicking page-turner in which we never have to mourn perished characters, because they'll be alive and kicking in the very next chapter.

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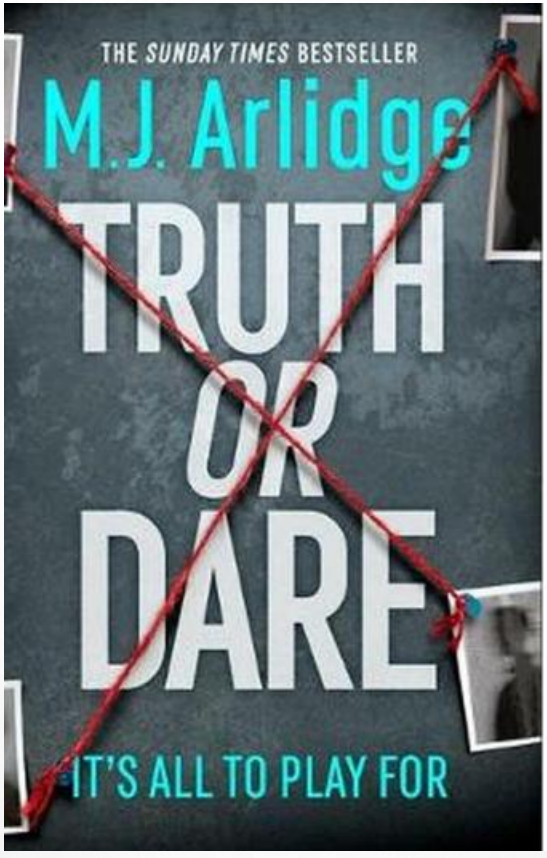
[Amazon.co.uk : false witness karin slaughter]

The stunning new thriller from the No. 1 Sunday Times bestselling author You thought no one saw you. You were wrong. Leigh and her sister Callie are not bad people – but one night, more than two decades ago, they did something terrible. And the result was a childhood tarnished by secrets, broken by betrayal, devastated by violence. Years later, Leigh has pushed that night from her mind and become a successful lawyer – but when she is forced to take on a new client against her will, her world begins to spiral out of control. Because the client knows the truth about what happened twenty-three years ago. He knows what Leigh and Callie did. And unless they stop him, he's going to tear their lives apart ... Just because you didn't see the witness ... doesn't mean he wasn't there.

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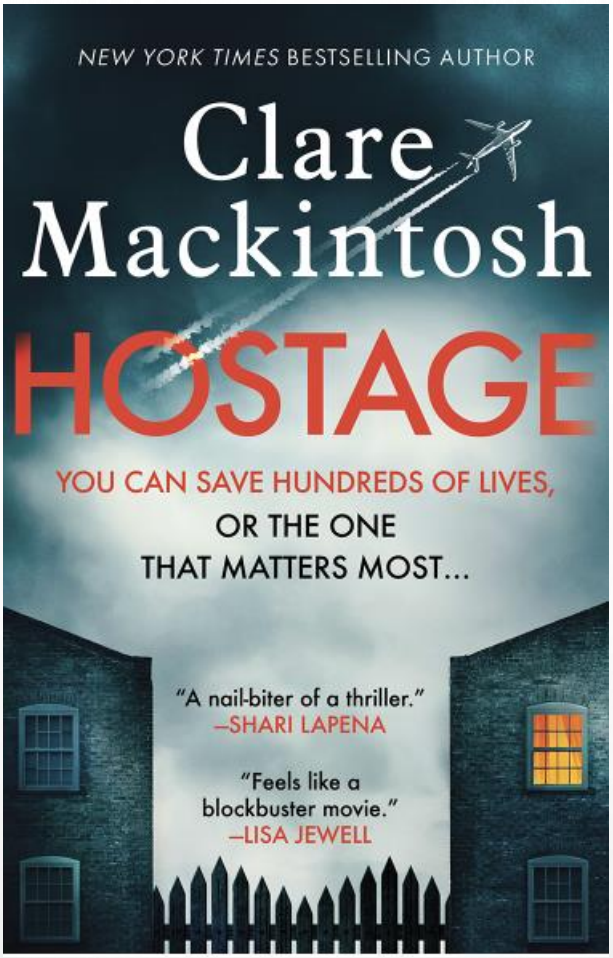
[Amazon.co.uk : mj aldridge truth or dare]

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY THE GAME? THE BRAND NEW THRILLER FROM THE MIND OF MILLION-COPY BESTSELLER M. J. ARLIDGEA crimewave sweeps through the city and no-one is safe. An arson at the docks. A carjacking gone wrong. A murder in a country park. What connects all these crimes without causes, which leave no clues? Detective Inspector Helen Grace faces the rising tide of cases which threatens to drown the city. But each crime is just a piece of a puzzle which is falling into place.And when it becomes clear just how twisted and ingenious this web of crime is, D.I. Grace will realise that it may be impossible to stop it . .

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[Amazon.co.uk : hostage clare mackintosh]

Mina is trying to focus on her job as a flight attendant, not the problems with her five-year-old daughter back home, or the fissures in her marriage. But the plane has barely taken off when Mina receives a chilling note from an anonymous passenger, someone intent on ensuring the plane never reaches its destination: "The following instructions will save your daughter's life..."

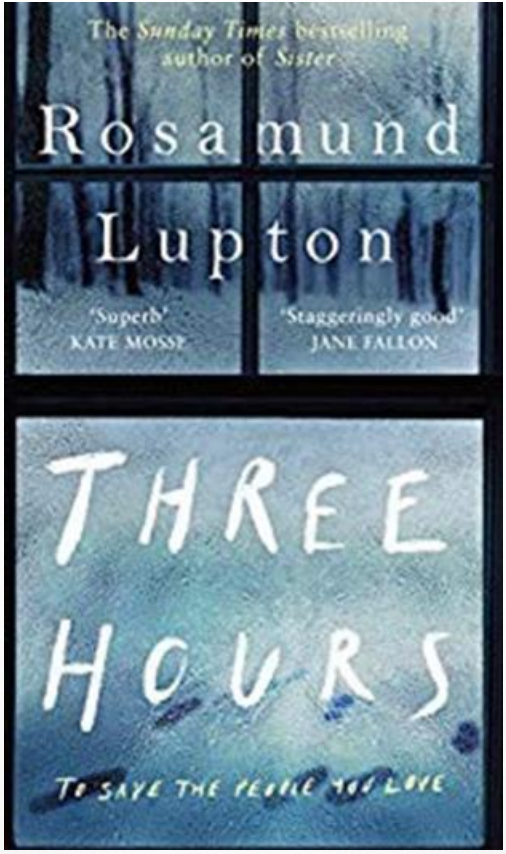
Someone needs Mina's assistance and knows exactly how to make her comply.

When one passenger is killed and then another, Mina knows she must act. But which lives does she save: Her passengers...or her own...

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Amazon.co.uk : three hours

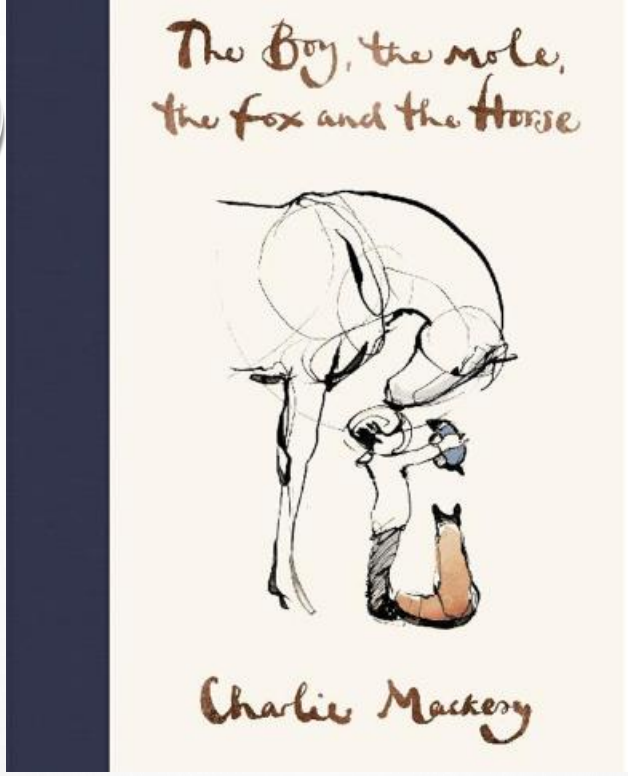
Three hours is 180 minutes or 10,800 seconds. It is a morning's lessons, a dress rehearsal of *Macbeth*, a snowy trek through the woods. It is an eternity waiting for news. Or a countdown to something terrible. It is 180 minutes to discover who you will die for and what men will kill for. In rural Somerset in the middle of a blizzard, the unthinkable happens: a school is under siege. Told from the point of view of the people at the heart of it, from the wounded headmaster in the library, unable to help his trapped pupils and staff, to teenage Hannah in love for the first time, to the parents gathering desperate for news, to the 16 year old Syrian refugee trying to rescue his little brother, to the police psychologist who must identify the gunmen, to the students taking refuge in the school theatre, all experience the most intense hours of their lives, where evil and terror are met by courage, love and redemption.

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[Amazon.co.uk : the boy the mole the fox and the horse]



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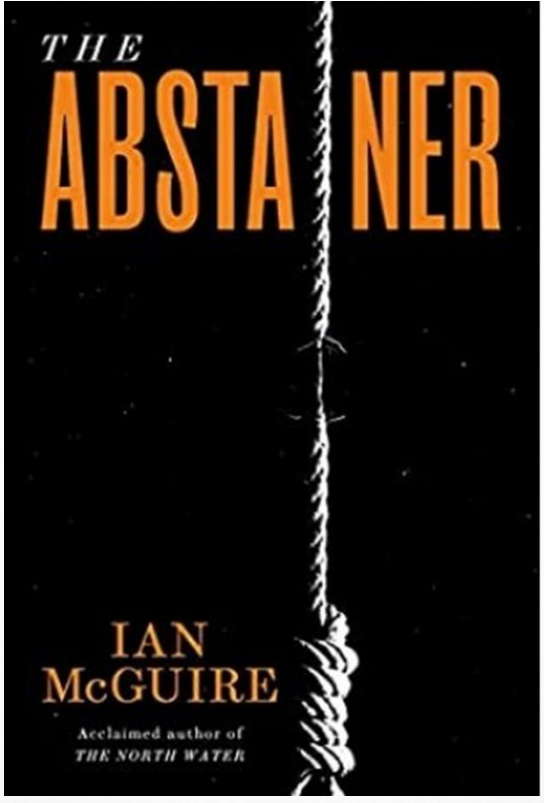
From British illustrator, artist, and author Charlie Mackesy comes a journey for all ages that explores life's universal lessons, featuring 100 color and black-and-white drawings.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked the mole. "Kind," said the boy. Charlie Mackesy offers inspiration and hope in uncertain times in this beautiful book, following the tale of a curious boy, a greedy mole, a wary fox and a wise horse who find themselves together in sometimes difficult terrain, sharing their greatest fears and biggest discoveries about vulnerability, kindness, hope, friendship and love. The shared adventures and important conversations between the four friends are full of life lessons that have connected with readers of all ages.

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Travel

The Abstainer: Amazon.co.uk: McGuire, Ian: 9781471163593: Books

An Irishman in nineteenth-century England is forced to take sides when his nephew joins the bloody underground movement for independence in this propulsive novel from the acclaimed author of *The North Water*.

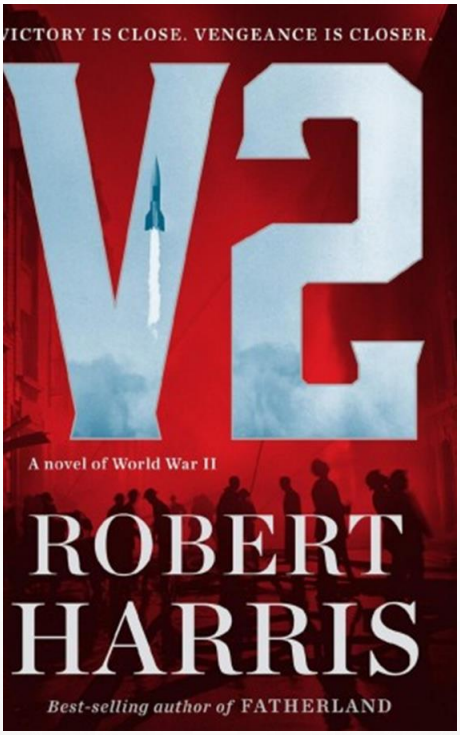
Manchester, England, 1867. The rebels will be hanged at dawn, and their brotherhood is already plotting its revenge.

Stephen Doyle, an Irish-American veteran of the Civil War, arrives in Manchester from New York with a thirst for blood. He has joined the Fenians, a secret society intent on ending British rule in Ireland by any means necessary. Head Constable James O'Connor has fled grief and drink in Dublin for a sober start in Manchester. His job is to discover and thwart the Fenians' plans whatever they might be. When a long-lost nephew arrives on O'Connor's doorstep looking for work, he cannot foresee the way his fragile new life will be imperiled—and how his and Doyle's fates will become fatally intertwined.

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Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Amazon.co.uk : robert harris - v2

The gripping new thriller from the bestselling author of Munich and Fatherland.
'The first rocket will hit London in five minutes.
You have six minutes to stop the second'.
Rudi Graf has dreamt since childhood of sending a rocket to the moon.
Instead, along with his friend Werner von Braun, he has helped create the world's most sophisticated weapon - the V2 ballistic missile, capable of delivering a one-ton warhead at three times the speed of sound.
In a desperate gamble to avoid defeat, Hitler orders 10,000 to be built.
Now, in the winter of 1944, Graf finds himself in a bleak seaside town in Occupied Holland.
Haunted and disillusioned, he's tasked with firing the V2s at London.
Nobody understands the volatile, deadly machine better than he does.
Kay Caton-Walsh is an officer in the WAAF.
She has experienced at first-hand the horror of a V2 strike.
As the rockets rain down, she joins a unit of WAAFs on a mission to newly-liberated Belgium.
Armed with little more than a slide rule and a few equations, the hope is that Kay and her colleagues can locate and destroy the launch sites.
But at this stage in the war it's hard to know who, if anyone, you can trust.
For every action on one side, there is an equal and opposite reaction on the other.
As the death toll soars, the separate stories of Graf and Kay ricochet off one another, until in a final explosion of violence their destinies are forced together.

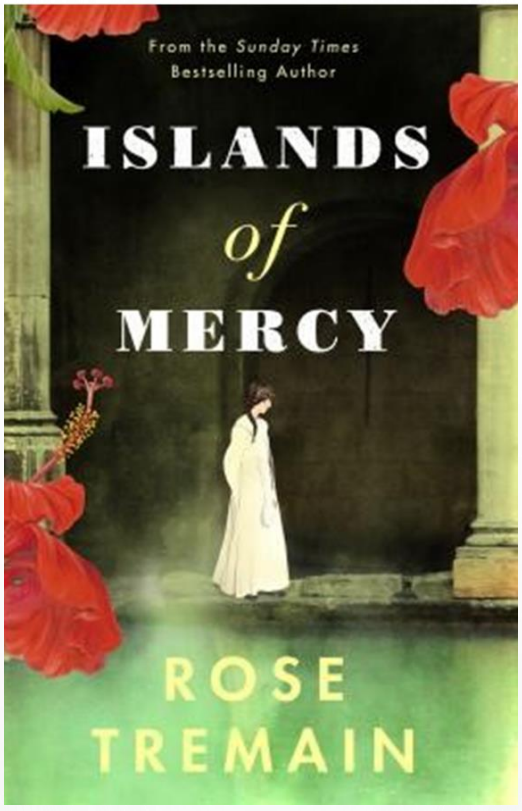
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Satire
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Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Islands of Mercy: Amazon.co.uk: Tremain, Rose: 9781784743314: Books



Islands of Mercy, her zestful 16th novel, which opens in 1865, centres on Jane Adeane, the spirited 6ft 2in daughter of an eminent surgeon in Bath. She is attracted to women, but curious to experience a man's desire in "its wildness and desperation".As Jane's aunt Emmeline tells her: "In most conflicts between desire and other sentiments, desire always wins."

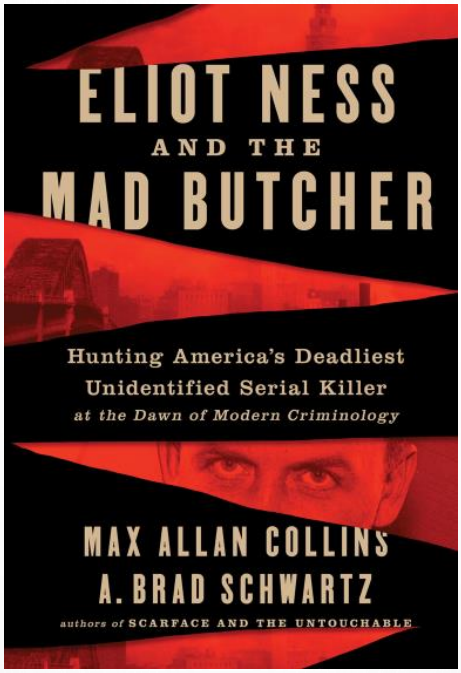
When Jane turns down an offer of marriage from her father's brooding business partner, Valentine Ross, it is worldly Emmeline who rescues her. In Bath, Jane has earned renown as the "Angel of the Baths" for her apparent ability to cure any ailment in the city's famous waters. But in London she meets Julietta, the charmingly promiscuous Italian wife of an esteemed publisher — and naturally desire wins. The two women embark on a steamy romance involving cosplay and dildos, which produces in Jane "a white, pulsing delirium".

The men are no less lustful, but rather less impressive with it. Jane's father, Sir William, all in a fluster after his daughter leaves Bath, enlists the baking skills of Chlorinda Morrissey, the resourceful proprietor of the city's best teashop. Chlorinda has escaped the Irish famine and "vowed to alter her lot as quickly as possible". Sure enough, her meat pies are an aphrodisiac for Sir William.

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Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Eliot Ness and the Mad Butcher: Hunting a Serial Killer at the Dawn of Modern Criminology : Collins, Max Allan, Schwartz, A. Brad: Amazon.co.uk: Books

One evening in September 1935 two boys playing softball in a run-down area of Cleveland, Ohio, found a young man's corpse hidden in undergrowth. The body was naked except for a pair of black socks, and bore the marks of torture. Its genitals and head were missing. Decapitation seemed to be the cause of death.

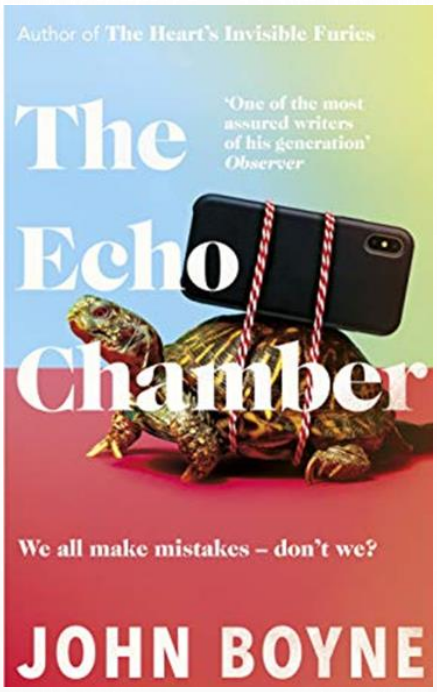
Detectives were perplexed. They were used to seeing mutilated bodies. Yet as one noted, this was usually done "to prevent identification, but almost never to kill. It's a hell of a job to remove a human head."

Police later worked out that the dead man was Edward Andrassy, a small-time drug dealer, pornographer and pimp who worked shifts in Cleveland's City Hospital. And his was not the only body they found that day. Dumped 30ft away was another male corpse, similarly abused. No one ever established who this second man was. But he and Andrassy would come to be known as victims of a serial killer known as the Cleveland Torso Murderer or the Mad Butcher of Kingsbury Run. During the next three years ten more chopped-up cadavers appeared around the city, and the case became notorious across America and as far away as Nazi Germany. It embarrassed Cleveland's police, who could do nothing to stop it. And it dogged the man in overall charge of the force: the fabled American crime-fighter Eliot Ness. The case was never solved.

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Thriller
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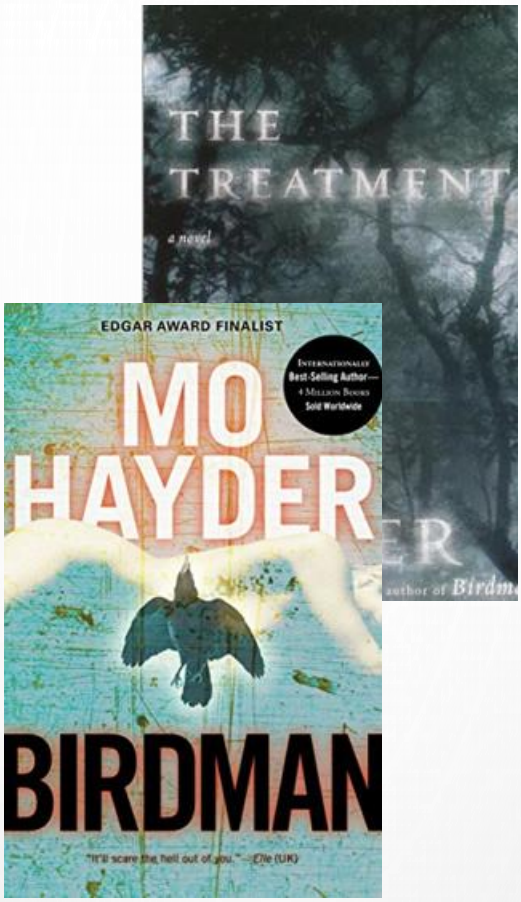
The Echo Chamber: John Boyne: Amazon.co.uk: Boyne, John: 9780857526212: Books

George Cleverley is an ageing chat-show host and "national treasure". George "prides himself on being a free thinker" untainted by "the historical bigotries of the previous generation". He attends Pride marches, opposes blood sports, has even named his eldest son Nelson Fidel, and yet George is hopelessly confused: "I try to keep up, I really do, but every day something else has changed and it's impossible to stay abreast of it all."George is not the only one feeling the heat from modernity's moronic inferno. His wife Beverley, a bestselling romantic novelist, thinks that the writing process consists of throwing out random "ideas" while hiring a succession of ghostwriters to get the actual words on the page. Her reflections on the artistic process are pure gold. When a new ghost threatens to tart up her clichéd ramblings, she retorts acidly, "I don't know if you're mistaking me for the publishing director of Faber & Faber."The Cleverley children are no better. Oddball Nelson can only function when dressed up in his collection of professional uniforms. Daughter Elizabeth is a vicious Twitter troll "posting the most outrageous things she could think of". The baby of the family, teenage gigolo Achilles, runs a nice little earner honey-trapping gay men online before blackmailing them for vast sums. All are in thrall to their phones, and in the end all will face a bitter reckoning.

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Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

[Amazon.co.uk : mo hayter]

Clare Dunkel/Mo Hayder - Died yesterday at 59. Her most notable, and most clothed, role was as Miss Belfridge, the dizzy secretary in the popular sitcom *Are You Being Served?* in which she revealed a deft comic touch in the Marilyn Monroe/Jayne Mansfield school of blondes.

With the forensic acumen of Patricia Cornwell and the atmosphere of Lynda La Plante's Prime Suspect series. Birdman Five bodies, all young women, all ritualistically murdered and dumped near the Millennium Dome in southeast London. A post-mortem examination tells the police they're dealing with a sexual serial killer. Detective Inspector Jack Caffery knows he has only limited time before the sadistic killer strikes again.

The Treatment In a residential neighbourhood in south London, a husband and wife are found tied up and imprisoned in their house. Their young son is missing. Detective Jack Caffery is called in to investigate. When the child's body is found, he attempts to unravel the motive and sequence of events, especially when he discovers that a tragedy in his own past is indirectly connected to the murder.

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Non Fiction
Romance
Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
Travel

Churchill's Shadow: An Astonishing Life and a Dangerous Legacy: Amazon.co.uk: Wheatcroft, Geoffrey: 9781847925732: Books

A few years before he died the Italian writer Umberto Eco wrote an essay about what he called “fluctuating” fictional characters, so well known that they live outside their original texts. He listed examples, from Odysseus to Superman.

Then, tongue firmly in cheek, he threw in another. A poll had found that a fifth of British teenagers believed that Winston Churchill was a fictional character. So Churchill too earned a place on Eco’s list.

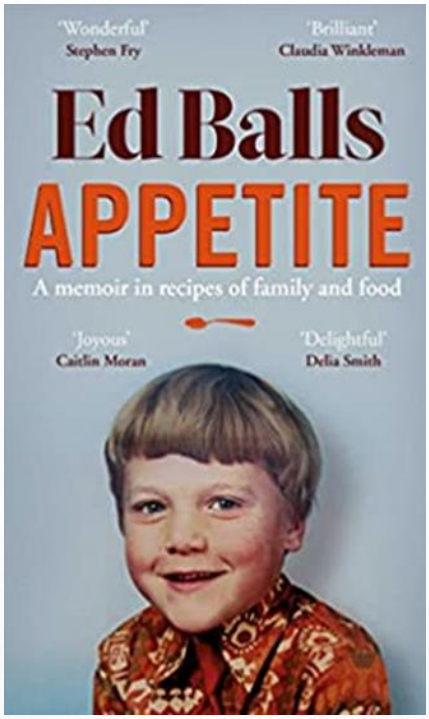
“Those children,” Geoffrey Wheatcroft writes in his trenchant new take on the man and his legacy, “weren’t entirely wrong.” As he points out, the man who led Britain to victory in the Second World War has long since left the realm of history and entered that of legend. For his admirers and his critics, Churchill is no longer a warts-and-all human being, but simply the personification of Britain and its history. He is, in other words, a “fabulous personage, like King Arthur or Robin Hood”.

For Wheatcroft, a veteran journalist, all this is very frustrating. He seeks a “reckoning” with the great man, which is something of a fool’s errand because there can never be a final reckoning with such a complicated character. Part of the problem, he admits, is the “sheer vastness of Churchill’s life”. It’s extraordinary to think that Churchill was born a decade after the American Civil War and died a decade before the foundation of Microsoft. “He rode in a cavalry charge in 1898,” Wheatcroft writes, “he lived to control atomic bombs.”

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Satire
Sci Fi
Sports
Sword and Sorcery
Thriller
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https://www.amazon.co.uk/Appetite-Memoir-Recipes-Family-Food/dp/1398504742

Economist, politician, dancer: Ed Balls truly is the 21st century's answer to the Renaissance man. However, his greatest passion is food.

The former shadow chancellor has written a culinary memoir of his life and career; a series of recollections interspersed with favourite recipes.

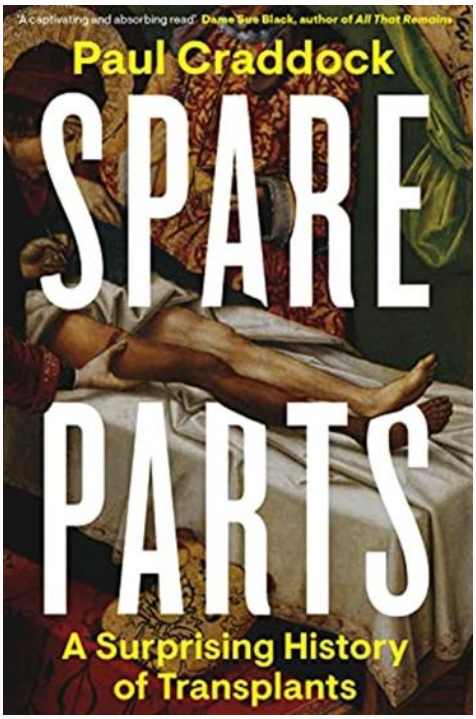
At times the pace is plodding and it is served with lashings of dad humour. It is a book that shouldn't really work, and yet does, quite charmingly so. Partly this is because his love of food is as pure as his performance of *Gangnam Style*; it is a love affair that began when he was three weeks old and his mother fed him roast beef. It stayed with him through his bachelor days as a young journalist at the *Financial Times*, his shift into politics and courtship of his fellow special adviser Yvette Cooper and beyond.

It is also the story of a nation's culinary shift. Balls, the son of an academic, grew up in Norwich, in an ordinary British home where Angel Delight was a thrill and restaurants were treated with suspicion, but he grew into a man who can rustle up a Cajun jambalaya and is undaunted by a Ghanaian peanut stew. There is politics here for those who want it — particularly enjoyable are the vignettes about Gordon Brown, his mentor, who notoriously refused to eat anything more adventurous than meat with vegetables. When Brown arrived at Granita for that infamous meal with Tony Blair, it was the menu that threw him: "What exactly is polenta?" he growled.

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[Spare Parts: A Surprising History of Transplants: Amazon.co.uk: Craddock, Paul: 9780241370254: Books]

Human beings have always been more adept at removing each other's body parts than stitching them back on again. Pharaoh Ramesses III, for instance, ordered that all his magistrates should have their noses removed for plotting against him. Conspiring with his wife, Queen Teya, they had planned to cut the pharoah's throat while he was playing board games. There were so many who had suffered this fate, indeed, that there was even a city for them to live in, on the edge of the desert, called Rhinokoloura, "the city of cut-off noses". During the Italian Renaissance, however, in 1549, the first genuine reversal of such practices took place in "a little fishing village on the northern coast of Calabria", when the Vianeo brothers created a new nose for a man who had lost his fighting in Lombardy, by using some skin from his left arm. By all accounts it was a success.

William Harvey, the Englishman who first described how our blood circulates, experimented with transfusions on poor dogs and other animals. (He also coolly dissected his own dead father and sister.) It's rather dismaying to learn that Sir Christopher Wren was prepared to conduct similar experiments on humans: "an inferior domestic servant", belonging to the French ambassador, was made ready, but fortunately fainted before the experiment could proceed, and it was abandoned.

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