

A stylized graphic of books and a pencil. On the left, there is a stack of three books. A pencil is positioned diagonally across the top of the stack. To the right of the stack, there are two more books standing upright. The entire graphic is rendered in white on a dark blue background.

THE PUBLISHING POST

Issue 69

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As someone who was looking to get into publishing, I always found it hard to consistently keep up with what was happening in the industry. Remembering to visit separate websites, news sources, job portals and keep up with changes was quite challenging. I also know it can be difficult to find information, learn about trends in the industry, or about the specifics of roles that are not editorial.

The Publishing Post intends to provide all of this information and more to anyone wanting to learn about, or join, the publishing industry. We want to cover as much as we can for those, like us, who want to absorb as much of the industry as they can. *The Publishing Post* is a free resource that is encouraging, honest and

accessible to every single person who is considering publishing as a career.

The Publishing Post stands by the fact that 2023 is a time for breaking down barriers and encouraging diversity in the publishing industry. Learning about and being included in the industry should be for everyone.

The magazine is created by publishing hopefuls, for publishing hopefuls. Each and every person who works on the magazine each issue is dedicated to producing and educating fellow hopefuls with content that is informative and interesting.

Lastly, I just want to say a massive thank you to every single person who has supported, shared and

shouted about *The Publishing Post* since our first issue. On behalf of the whole team, we are so incredibly grateful and could not be more proud of the success.

Editor in Chief, Chelsea Graham

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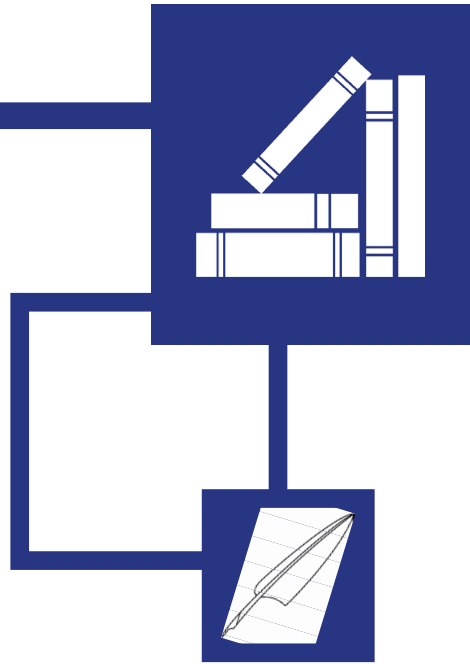
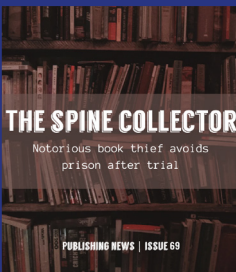
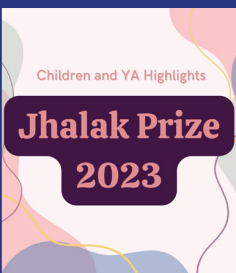
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US Judge Rules Against Internet Archive in Copyright Lawsuit

By Julia Fitzpatrick

Four US publishers have won a lawsuit against the digital library Internet Archive. Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins, John Wiley & Sons and Penguin Random House sued Internet Archive for “mass copyright infringement” during the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday 24 March, US District Court Judge John G. Koeltl sided with the publishers, ruling that Internet Archive’s unauthorised digital lending practices violate copyright law.

Although some of Internet Archive’s books are in the public domain, 3.6 million of them are protected by existing copyrights. Internet Archive justifies its distribution of copyrighted titles as “controlled digital lending” – temporarily lending one copy of a book at a time rather than allowing mass downloading. Internet Archive defends its practices by the doctrine of fair use, saying the platform’s goal is “universal access to all knowledge.”

Much of the case was centred around the National Emergency Library, a temporary online collection which Internet Archive developed in 2020 to lend digital books while physical libraries were closed due to lockdowns. Suspending Internet Archive’s standard policy of controlled digital lending, the National Emergency Library allowed multiple users to borrow the same title at the same time. The four publishers sued Internet Archive in 2020 over 127 titles included in the National Emergency Library.

Ruling in favour of the publishers, Judge Koeltl said that Internet Archive’s practices are not authorised under the doctrine of fair use because “IA’s wholesale copying and unauthorised lending of digital copies of the Publishers’ print books does not transform the use of the books, and IA profits from exploiting the copyrighted material without paying the customary

price.” The fact that Internet Archive had purchased the original print copies of the titles was irrelevant because “publishers do not price print books with the expectation that they will be distributed in both print and digital formats.” Therefore, acknowledging that Internet Archive retains the right to scan and lend books which are in the public domain, Koeltl denied the legality of distributing copyrighted titles without authorisation.

The Authors Guild praised the ruling, tweeting that “scanning & lending books w/out permission or compensation is NOT fair use – it is theft”. Maria Pallante, President of the Association of American Publishers, commented that the ruling “underscores the importance of authors, publishers, and creative markets in a global society.” Internet Archive will appeal the ruling, which it says “holds back access to information in the digital age, harming all readers everywhere.”

Publishing Rights Coordinator Charged for Years of Manuscript Theft

By Megan Whitlock

Filippo Bernardini, an ex-Simon & Schuster rights coordinator, has been spared jail, instead agreeing to pay a fine of £72,700 (source: [The Guardian](#)) to Penguin Random House over his targeting of influential manuscripts. Bernardini, who earlier this year was arrested for stealing over 1,000 unpublished manuscripts from notable authors, was on trial for wire fraud after impersonating Agents, Editors and Publishers to get his hands on exclusive writing.

The case is a particularly strange one, as Bernardini never leaked or sold the manuscripts, nor did he ever submit ransom demands or use them as leverage. Instead, he claimed in court documents that the theft came from a love of books, and a desire to feel like a publishing insider, which then spiralled into an “obsession.” Authors targeted in the scheme included Sally Rooney, Ian McEwan, and Booker

winner Margaret Atwood. His method relied on his targets falling for a phishing scam, where he impersonated publishing authorities through marginally altered emails. According to legal documents, over the course of the fraud, Bernardini registered over 160 false domains from 2016 onwards.

His previous employer, Simon & Schuster, is not believed to have been targeted by Bernardini’s theft. However, in a statement to the BBC earlier this year, their spokesperson stated that: “The safekeeping of our Authors’ intellectual property is of primary importance to Simon & Schuster, and for all in the publishing industry, and we are grateful to the FBI for investigating these incidents and bringing charges against the alleged perpetrator.”

Another notable twist in the tale is just quite how long the theft was able to go on for. *Publishers Weekly* reported on the phishing scam taking the industry by storm in

October 2018, followed by an article in the *New York Times* in December 2020. The latter explored the inexplicability of the crime and was closely followed by a *Vulture* article in August 2021, dubbing the “mysterious” thief “*The Spine Collector*.” The name caught on and was used to refer to the anonymous culprit until Bernardini’s arrest at JFK airport, New York, in January of this year. Publishing professionals had long suspected that the thief would be one of their own, due to his in depth knowledge on industry jargon and who to impersonate.

In court documents, Bernardini wrote: “The cruel irony is that every time I open a book, it reminds me of my wrongdoings and what they led me to.”

Latest Acquisitions & Adaptations

BY GEORGIE CUTLER, EVA LEE, EMMA LEASK, MOLLY PEARCE AND NIAMH PARR

Acquisition News

Usborne Acquires Muslim Rom-Com Collaboration from Two Celebrated YA Authors

Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídè, author of *Ace of Spades*, and Adiba Jaigirdar, author of *The Henna Wars* and *Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating*, have collaborated on a new YA novel which is set to be published by Usborne. UK and Commonwealth rights were acquired to *Four Eids and a Funeral*, as well as an as-of-yet untitled rom-com to come in the future. The book follows Said Hossain and Tiwa Olatunji, who were previously best friends, but have since grown apart after an incident that took place during Eid a few years ago. The pair are brought back together after the Islamic Centre in their town burns down, as they work together to bring it back for the community. Currently expected for publication in January 2024, this collaboration between two celebrated YA authors is

guaranteed to be a heart-warming, uplifting tale of friendship and identity that we can't wait to read.

Gregory Documents History of Women in Britain in New Feminist Non-Fiction

HarperVia has snatched up the world rights to best-selling historical novelist Philippa Gregory's new non-fiction work *Normal Women*, in which Gregory recounts British history with a focus on the significant roles of so-called ordinary women across society and culture. Drawing on a plethora of primary and secondary resources, Gregory's work extends across a wide history, from the 11th century creation of the Bayeux tapestry to the 20th century ordination of women by the Church of England. She brings women from all walks of society into the limelight – highwaywomen, pirates, miners, ship owners, international traders, etc. – and even highlights the lesser-discussed professional

relationships of women to male figures as prominent as Shakespeare. The original agreement was conducted in the UK, where Arabella Pike at HarperCollins UK imprint William Collins acquired the book. *Normal Women* will be available in the UK from October 2023 and in the U.S. from February 2024.

From Book to Screen: What to Watch?

Tiny Beautiful Things Coming to Hulu and Disney+

Cheryl Strayed's bestselling book based on the collection of Strayed's essays complied from her role as an advice columnist is set to be adapted into an eight episode limited series. Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern are confirmed to be executive producers for this production, with Kathryn Hahn announced as the main lead Clare. The adaptation of *Tiny Beautiful Things* follows Clare (Hahn), a writer who suddenly lands a role as an anonymous advice

columnist called "Dear Sugar" where she shares all her advice and help. But not all is great as she deals with her own struggles in life. The series will explore more of Clare's life experiences from childhood to the present day. Keep an eye out as this series will be released on 07 April 2023 on Hulu for American viewers and Disney+ for international audiences.

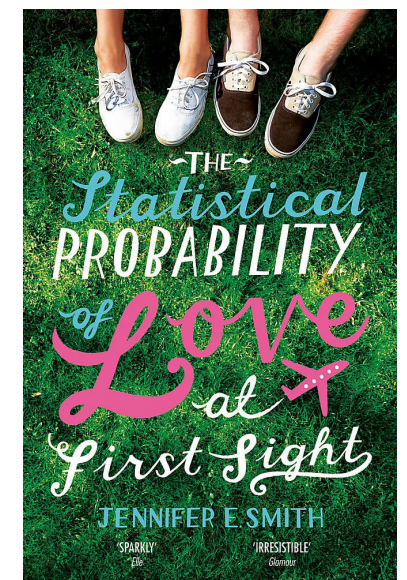
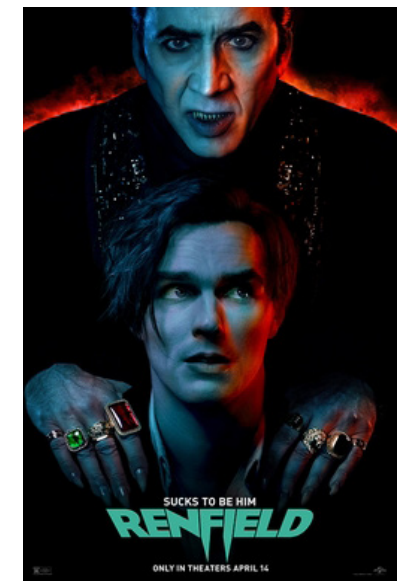
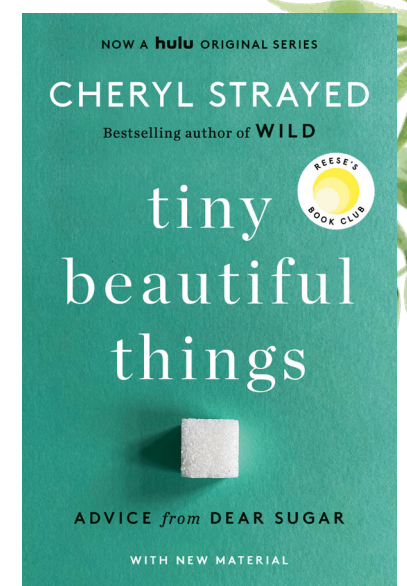
Renfield Coming to Cinemas This April

Modernizing the characters from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*, *Renfield* shifts the focus of this gothic horror classic to Count Dracula's servant, Renfield. Robert Kirkman's pitch and Ryan Ridley's resultant screenplay sees Dracula and Renfield in New Orleans. After devoting his life to his master for centuries, Renfield decides to take back his own, normal life with the help of his toxic-relationship support group. However, the Count won't let him get away without a fight. Nicholas Hoult plays the titular role and is joined by the likes of Nicolas Cage, Awkwafina, Ben Schwartz and Adrian Martinez in this star-studded cast. *Renfield* will be available to watch in cinemas from 14 April 2023.

In the Works:

The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight Coming to Netflix

Jennifer E. Smith's beloved 2013 romance novel *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* will be adapted into a film directed by Vanessa Caswill and produced by the same group responsible for the *To All the Boys* franchise. The film follows strangers Oliver and Hadley who unexpectedly meet on a flight from New York to London and are instantly drawn to one another. They lose touch once arriving in London, but life's plan does not keep them apart for long. This heart-warming romance stars Haley Lu Richardson (*Five Feet Apart*) and Ben Hardy (*Bohemian Rhapsody*), alongside appearances from Rob Delaney, Dexter Fletcher and Sally Phillips. This exciting adaptation continues Netflix's collaboration with ACE Entertainment. *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* is expected to appear on Netflix in September 2023 and we cannot wait to watch it.



YOTO: The Future of Reading

BY EMMA REGAN, HAYLEY GRAY, JORDAN MAXWELL RIDGWAY AND LAURA INGATE

One of the biggest trends the publishing world has only recently started to embrace is audiobooks. Audiobooks keep you company on your commute, help you sleep at night, or relax after a hard day's work without you having to lift a finger to turn a page. They have made books become even more accessible to those with visual impairments and made those who were never interested in reading pick up several books at a time. Over 71,000 audiobooks were published in 2020 and the global market is expected to expand by 26.4% by 2030. In 2021, The National Literacy Trust recorded that one in four children were listening to audiobooks, and this could be on the rise with products like Yoto.

Founded in 2015 by two parents concerned about excessive screen time and its disruption of children's sleep patterns, Yoto is a screen-free audio player which specialises in audiobooks. It works by using physical cards to insert and is aimed at children aged three and over. It offers hours of free stories, a daily podcast, family radio stations, sleep sounds, as well as educational audio too. Some of the physical cards you can purchase include

Paddington by Michael Bond, *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson and *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio.

Currently you can purchase an original Yoto Player for £89.99, or a Yoto Mini which is a smaller, more portable version of the product for £59.99. Both devices are camera, microphone and ad free, ensuring that children can explore this brand-new world of audio safely. As the devices are made of small parts such as the audiobook cards, it is not recommended for children under the age of three as this can be a choking hazard.

The original Player can have kids happily listening for ten hours at full charge. Rather than a screen, a pixel display appears showing a unique icon which helps indicate content and chapter changes. Kids can either plug in a pair of headphones to listen or the Yoto Player can be used as a Bluetooth speaker. It even has a nightlight and clock, which coupled with its archive of sleep friendly sounds, has made it a real asset for many bedtime routines. Children can even make their own playable stories using the app!

In a world where more and more children are turning to the internet and all its

risks for their daily content, every aspect of the Yoto Player is designed to be used intuitively by children, with children's safety in mind.

Ultimately, Yoto provides children from all ages and backgrounds with the freedom to explore things that inspire and interest them through an independent and interactive learning experience. Through a carefully connected screen-free speaker, Yoto highlights the power of words as a form of fun and education as children can listen, engage, learn and use their imagination within a safe environment.

Yoto is beneficial for children of all ages and learning abilities as – like adult audiobooks – listening to an audio file of a text is an accessible means of learning for those with learning difficulties (for example, dyslexia and ADHD), visual impairments and those who are reluctant to read. There is also an active online [Yoto community](#) that helps each other with any issues, or handy tips, that they come across while they use the device with their children.

The device can also be used without Wi-Fi which makes the device portable, accessible and easy to

Yoto Player features



use for children on the go. Additionally, [Yoto is environmentally friendly](#) with their packaging – all orders arrive in FSC approved recyclable cardboard, with no plastic in sight!

As Yoto continue to update their software and release new features based on customer feedback, the device is becoming a global phenomenon for children, and their parents, everywhere!

Since their launch in 2015, Yoto has quickly found a home whether that's on playmats, kitchen counters

or bedside tables. Parents no longer have to worry about the increasing amount of time children spend behind screens with their practical, compact and interactive audiobook player. Parents and children can choose from over 1,000 stories to listen to from some of the world's best creators, publishers and labels including household names like LEGO, Disney, Marvel and Peppa Pig.

Yoto Players and Yoto audiobook cards can be bought directly from Yoto's website, and they are also available from other retailers

including Amazon and WHSmith. On average, one audiobook card is £7.99 but there are opportunities to purchase audiobook bundles such as The Beatrix Potter: The Complete Tales collection which is £29.99 for five cards.

Yoto's unique offering is inspiring the next generation of independent, creative minds through the art of listening with its easy to use, child-friendly set up. Yoto is ultimately reinventing story-time.

Reading Over Easter

BY GEORGIA WELLS, JAIME BUTLER AND ANNA ROBINSON

***In the Lives of Puppets*
by T J Klune**

24 April, Pan Macmillan

Following the success of his novel *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, T J Klune returns with his newest release, *In the Lives of Puppets*. Join the Lawson family in their quaint little home hidden in the depths of a strange forest...

This peculiar family is made up of three robots: Giovanni Lawson, a fatherly inventor; a small vacuum who has developed a big heart; and an unpredictably sadistic android nurse. The robots are also joined by their human, Victor Lawson. They are unknown. They are safe.

Victor discovers an unfamiliar android named 'HAP'. As he repairs his unusual finding, he comes to learn the dark past that Hap and Gio have shared – a past spent hunting humans.

But Hap's resurrection doesn't just shake Gio. Hap, beyond his control, sends out an alert to robots from their shared past life, informing them of the whereabouts of Gio and

his unconventional family. Gio is abducted and dragged away to the laboratory from his past, located in the City of Electric Dreams.

Distressed at the loss of their fatherly figure, Vic assembles the family to set out on a rescue mission. However, what awaits them is more than they could have anticipated.

***The Skin and Its Girl*
by Sarah Cypher**

25 April, Ballantine Books

Sarah Cypher's debut novel spans generations, following one Palestinian family and their emigration and establishment in the United States. The novel centres around Betty, who lives in the Pacific Northwest and is wrestling between staying in the country that has become her home or following the woman she loves. She embarks on a journey of discovery related to her now-deceased Aunt Nuha's secrets and, in doing so, realises Aunt Nuha was hiding more than she expected. As Betty attempts to weave together her aunt's identity and complex past

from partially translated notebooks, she may find answers for herself too.

This book includes elements of the fantastical, like Aunt Nuha's belief that a newborn baby in the family with blue skin is a sign of the beloved blue soap their family was famous for making back in Palestine. This novel also includes refreshingly real themes, such as through Betty acknowledging Aunt Nuha's struggles with her own sexuality. But at its core, this story is a search for identity among women whose histories are impacted by distance and time.

***Honey, Baby, Mine* by
Laura Dern and Diane Ladd**

25 April, Hodder & Stoughton

Laura Dern, best known for her roles as Ellie Sattler in *Jurassic Park* and Marmee in the recent adaptation of *Little Women*, is working with her mother Diane Ladd to discuss some of life's difficult topics. Both look to navigate their relationship as mother and daughter as they begin to break down traditional barriers.



Growing up, Laura and Diane had a close relationship as mother and daughter. However, when Diane developed a life-threatening illness, the two found themselves in unknown territory. To help her mother through the pain of her recovery, Laura started telling her mother stories as a distraction.

However, these stories moved from ligh conversation into more personal topics of love, life, art, legacy and ambition. As a way to encapsulate this new level of their relationship, Laura and Diane have written down these conversations, alongside other stories and reflections, all to create their novel *Honey, Baby, Mine*.

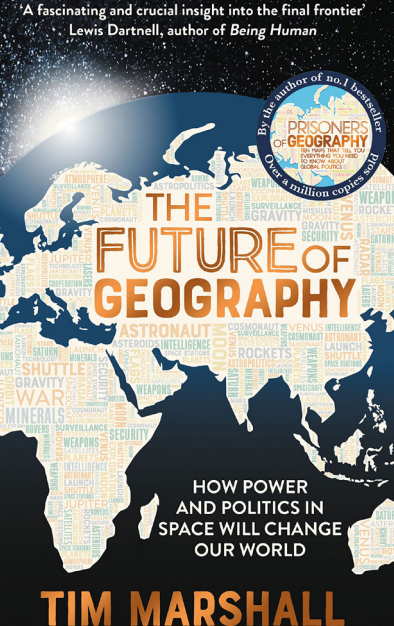


***The Future of Geography: How Power and Politics in Space Will Change Our World* by Tim Marshall**

27 April, Elliott & Thompson Limited

The bestselling author of the highly informative books *Prisoners of Geography* and *The Power of Geography* returns with a focus on the geopolitical space race. Tim Marshall's latest geographical exploration will analyse the efforts of Russia, China and the United States in reaching space and what it means for those on Earth.

There is much more in space than one might realise. Spy satellites orbit the moon, metals worth more than most countries' GDP float past the Earth and there are plans for people to be on Mars within the next ten years. This isn't



a sci-fi novel; Tim Marshall is investigating astropolitics.

What happens in space will soon shape human history as much as natural features – mountains, rivers, seas – have done on Earth. The next 50 years will change the face of global politics, and with highly powerful countries involved in the second wave of space races, politics is a significant part of the rapidly expanding world above us.

In his latest explorative book, Tim Marshall lays bare the new geopolitical realities to show how we got here and where we're going, ranging from the modern space race, powerful rivalries, technology, economics, war and how all of that will affect those on Earth. This deep dive into the world above will encompass all that is going on and its effects on us.

Our Picks: Novelisations

BY CAMERON PHILLIPS, NURIA BERBEL TORRES, SARUNICKA SATKURUPARAN AND KATHRYN ALLEY
.....

Novelisations are some of the most interesting books out there. Most of the time, films are adapted from books, but sometimes it’s the other way round. Novelisations are often useful however in adding to a narrative, especially the internal narratives of a character. With that in mind, here are our picks for our favourite novelised audiobooks.

Cameron’s pick:
Revenge of the Sith
by Matthew Stover,
narrated by Jonathan Davies

Before I begin, I just want to say that *Revenge of the Sith* being the best Star Wars film is a hill I will die on. Stover’s novelisation is absolutely fantastic and delivers where Lucas failed with his writing. The internal monologues of characters such as Obi-Wan and Anakin, and Yoda, are devastating, especially at the end of the story with Anakin and Obi-Wan’s climatic battle in Mustafar. The novel also fixes some of the pacing issues of the film, especially concerning Anakin’s fall to the dark side. Stover’s interpretation is far more subtle and internalized. Stover also manages to match the operatic feel that made the original Star Wars films so great, shifting effortlessly between world building scenarios, battle scenes, and thoughtful character moments. I adore Lucas’ third chronological

entry, but I’d be lying if I said Stover didn’t add some much-needed subtlety and, being honest, decent character writing. Davies narration is excellent too, especially during the emotional highs of the story. For any Star Wars fan, I can’t recommend this enough.

Nuria’s pick: ***The Lost Boys***
by Craig Shaw Gardner

It all starts with Lucy, a recently divorced woman who moves back to Santa Carla with her two teenage sons Michael and Sam to rebuild her life. Unbeknownst to her is the new sinister addition to Santa Carla’s population. Michael quickly falls in love with a local girl, Star, and they begin to hang out with a local biker gang. His time with them results in strange changes in Michael, sleeping all day, partying all night, a newfound sensitivity to sunlight...

Sam befriends a bizarre boy who works at a comic store and introduces him to all

sorts of conspiracies about the strangeness of Santa Carla.

If you are a fan of the film, then you know what wild events unfold.

This novelisation is a direct adaptation from the script and not the final movie, therefore we get to see important plot points and scenes that did not make it to the Final Cut. You get some extra knowledge of the characters’ drive and backstories as well as some new exciting vampire lore. It’d be a quick evening listen if you’re in the mood for an ominous vampire story with some great 80s vibes.

Sarunicka’s Pick:
Mulan Live Action Novelisation
by Elizabeth Rudnick,
narrated by Emily Woo Zeller

Remakes have the potential to make or break a story. Add that Elizabeth Rudnick is taking on the job of re-telling

a childhood classic and this task is far harder. *Mulan Live Action Novelization* is a fun, easy to listen, middle grade adaption to the original movie – once you rid your mind of the expectation that it has to be the exact same as the original!

We follow Mulan as she navigates her curiosity and draw towards adventure, her struggles to meet her village’s traditions, her calling as a soldier and her growth into her own. Mulan is a tale of accepting who you are, the rewards of determination and the importance of family.

Emily’s narration is whimsical yet captures the mood of the scene exceptionally. While the plot is set by the script, Rudnick explores the thoughts of the characters to give them additional depth in a way that is hard to replicate in movies. This seems to be this clear pattern these novelisations have – they really allow you to gain a deeper insight into the workings of the characters’ minds and this makes you understand the characters and story much better.

Kathryn’s Pick:
Coco
by Diana Lopez,
narrated by Frankie Maria Corzo

Disney films blend adventure and nostalgia for everyone to find comfort in. *Coco* was produced by Disney Pixar studios and has

resonated with audiences as an inspiring tale about the beauty of family and love that lasts beyond death.

This audiobook novelization is a fun retelling of the film with excellent pacing by Lopez and Corzo. We follow Miguel as he journeys to the afterlife and reunites the broken members of his family. What stood out to me are the emotional moments that are heightened by narration. Listening to Corzo enact the betrayal of the villain, Ernesto de la Cruz, and the devastation of an older family member forgetting loved ones, was incredibly powerful. Having a deeper insight into what Miguel is experiencing makes the *Coco* novelization so strong and invites audiences to share in those emotions in a more intimate way than the film can.

Coco is a celebration of family. This audiobook is a beautiful reminder that family is forever, and even after they are gone from this world, they continue to live in our memories.

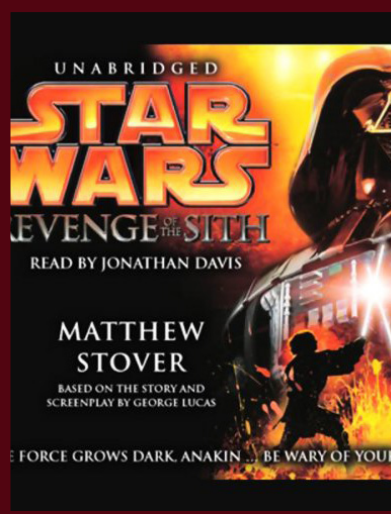
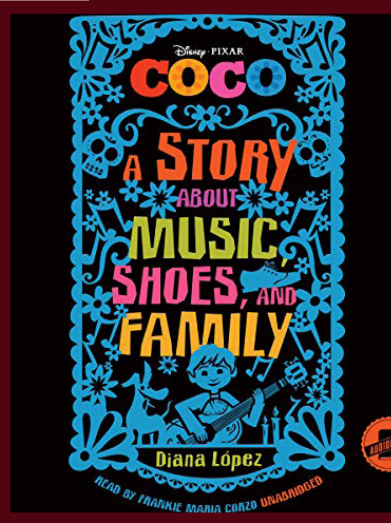


Photo Credit: Lisa Pike



Family, Female Voice and the Working Class in Lisa Pike's *Industrial Roots*

BY VICTORIA BROMLEY, ELEANOR BOWSKILL, LILY BALDANZA AND HANNAH McWHINNIE

Lisa Pike's *Industrial Roots* is an exceptional insight into the lives of working-class women in Canada. Rooted in the oral tradition of storytelling, Pike's novel is a linguistic gem that uses a variety of registers, slang, and standard English to challenge the limits of the English language. The result is a striking range of female voices shaped by experiences of blue-collar life. From a woman tempted to steal babies, ageing parents recalling parenthood, cousins torn apart by their love for the same man, and exhausted women working in academia – there is a place in these stories for everyone. Examining the relationship between themes such as social class, gender politics, intergenerational relationships, and personal identity, Pike presents nuanced and achingly honest illustrations of daily life as a working woman across several generations.

Pike's writing is born in such an "organic way" where inspiration from an idea or a particular line of dialogue overrides any form

of planning, letting herself be "free to explore and experiment." This collection was crosshatched with a cast of characters which created a harmony between the stories and the "sprawling intergenerational family" is familiar to Pike from her own "individual history." While "intellectually fascinated by these complex emotional dynamics" between the characters, Pike describes these connections as "visceral, lasting, and are part of the intergenerational passage of time."

When considering the structure of *Industrial Roots* Pike noted that "the stories rise up out of a place and are each quite open-ended." However, "the people are all connected" as each chapter of the novel reads as a short story; we meet all the characters as they interweave seamlessly throughout the collection. This was inspired by "the short story itself and its connections to orality" as she goes on to mention "everyone knows the story, it's how you tell it that's important." The pacing and

the connection between each story has similar feelings to James Joyce's *The Dubliners*, or NBC's *This is Us*.

From the very first story, *His Little Douchebag*, there is a clear sense of identity through the linguistic nuances within the narrator's voice. As an author, Pike said it was "crucial" that she used voice and narrative style to present these women's backgrounds and identities. Many of the women from the older generation had "little formal education," yet their "knowledge and life experiences are vast and deep." Therefore, Pike used their "speech" and "expressions" to form "creative resistance" where the women would often match, "or sometimes surpass," the men's brutality.

Looking at chapters more closely Pike states that *Sky Blue* was the "first of the collection to be both written and published." *Sky Blue* is a story about motherhood but developed into a complex and heart-wrenching story of loss. When asked if the chapter was hard to write

Pike stated, "It is the societal institution of motherhood that causes so much inner conflict, depression, confusion and pain for women." Pike explained that this is the overall conflict of the story as the character "wants something different for herself and her daughter but struggles to articulate and envision what that might be."

Two-Bit Tommy, presents a poignant image of a grandmother left to reflect on the rift that has grown between her family. The shared memories that exist between the generations unfold whenever she pauses to blow out her cigarette smoke. For Pike, these family members are "connected through a sense of love and loss." Their "unspoken" emotional baggage lingers and they can't seem to "articulate the effect of such love and longing." Pike explained that as the matriarch, Gramma Ruby is also "the storyteller" of the family, holding the knowledge of their history, making her the "keeper of their past".

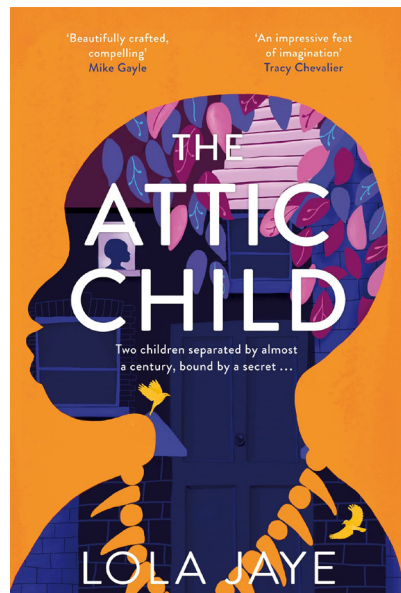
Later in the collection, *The Two Stellas* explores the relationship between two cousins with the same name, whose friendship had been severed through their romantic rivalries. While one of Pike's favourites from the collection, it explores the painful "rupture between two women" whose lives have been "intertwined" since



birth. Pike pointed out that, in "dire economic straits" the girls even shared a pair of shoes between them. Feelings of "guilt, regret and stubbornness" are more "complex and nuanced" than we might expect. In her own way, each woman wants to "reconnect with the other" as death approaches, but the fear of feeling "exposed and vulnerable" ultimately "thwarts their efforts at connection."

In *Go Ask Alice* Pike explores feelings of "outrage and anger" when lecturer Alice witnesses how institutions hypocritically exploiting social justice "destroys people." Pike explains that corporate influence

"has reduced education to a mere front" and that for Alice, this is "a source of absolute outrage." The death of Alice's close friend, Louise, who coped with teaching pressures through substance abuse, demonstrates Pike's point that front-line workers who have to get high, "to survive their jobs" are "at best unnoticed." Pike emphasized the extent to which "people are completely expendable," and made her readers deeply consider: "What access do women have to anger?"



Spotlight on the Jhalak Prize Longlist

BY SHANIAH SHIELDS, MICHELLE YE, LEANNE FRANCIS AND JIA WEN HO, AIMEE HALDRON, HOLLY ALLWRIGHT, EMMA ROGER, ROSIE PINDER AND NICOLE HAYNES

Returning for the sixth year, the Jhalak Prize is an annual literary prize that showcases diverse voices in the British literary landscape. Among its amazing list of winners are: Jacob Ross, Reni Eddo-Lodge, and Guy Gunaratne. The shortlist will be announced soon on 18 April 2023 and the winner on 25 May.

Birdgirl by Mya-Rose Craig

Mya-Rose Craig's memoir, *Birdgirl*, details how birdwatching has been an inspirational force in her life. Since childhood, birdwatching captured Craig's attention leading to a greater awareness of conservation. Craig is also a diversity activist pushing for greater minority involvement in global problem solving. *Birdgirl* brings together the threads of Craig's life and presents a pattern of determination and compassion to its readers.

Takeaway by Angela Hui

In her autobiography, *Takeaway*, Angela Hui recounts the facets of life behind a Chinese takeaway counter. With her home and the shopfront being one

and the same, Hui's life was intimately coloured by customer confrontations and xenophobic attacks. But the takeaway counter was also the source of an unceasing, joyful vitality. *Takeaway* brings together these disparities, highlighting the vibrancy of multicultural life.

The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho by Paterson Joseph

Paterson Joseph tells the true story of Charles Ignatius Sancho who has escaped slavery but is alone in the unwelcoming London of 1746. From the Atlantic Ocean to the city centre, *The Secret Diaries* traces Sancho's footsteps as he carves his own path to be a musician, composer and abolitionist; a testament to what can be accomplished even in the direst circumstances.

The Attic Child by Lola Jaye

A powerful and heart-wrenching story of two children who are a century apart but trapped in the same attic. Celestine, a twelve-year-old slave, is forgetting his identity as he languishes away in the attic. After a century, Lowra, who is born to privilege, suddenly finds herself orphaned and is banished to the same attic. She finds clues of Celestine and unravels his secrets.

The Room Between Us by Denise Saul

This collection is an introspective take on a mother-daughter relationship, through the lens of a patient and a carer. The daughter is a carer for her mother who is a stroke patient and has aphasia. Denise Saul puts into words

suffering that can't be intelligibly communicated, showing unconditional love.

I'm a Fan by Sheena Patel

Obsessive and uncomfortable, *I'm a Fan* reads like doom scrolling down an Instagram feed of toxic exes, players and mean girls. Forget main character energy, the unnamed narrator "she" is likened to a faded non-speaking background character in film. Lacking dialogues, scenes and even names, this is a wild and critical read about nasty relationships and the cultural desire for status and likes.

When We Were Birds by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

Ayanna Banwo blends romance with fantasy in her spellbinding debut novel *When We Were Birds*. Set in Trinidad, we follow Darwin, a down-on-his-luck gravedigger, and Yejide, a young woman whose family has the ability to commune with the dead. Yejide and Darwin's lives eventually intersect at the cemetery in a story rich with magic, love, loss and wisdom.

Hiding to Nothing by Anita Pati

This debut poetry collection is a visceral exploration of legacies; of lives prevented from reaching their full potential. Touching on

issues such as structural racism and infertility, Anita Pati uses vivid imagery and stunning lyricism to narrate the experience of existing in a brown female body within a hostile environment.

Another Way to Split Water by Alycia Pirmohamed

Alycia Pirmohamed's debut poetry collection is an intimate testimony to womanhood, spanning across generations. Flooded with arresting imagery, *Another Way to Split Water* is a meditation on lineage, exploring the idea of ancestral memory and longing for people and places we have never seen.

None of the Above by Travis Alabanza

This moving memoir examines seven sentences that people have directed to the author about their gender identity. Alabanza has crafted an honest discussion of non-binary identity in this deeply personal exploration of what it means to be a Black mixed-race, working-class, non-binary trans person in contemporary society.

Here Again Now by Okechukwu Nzelu

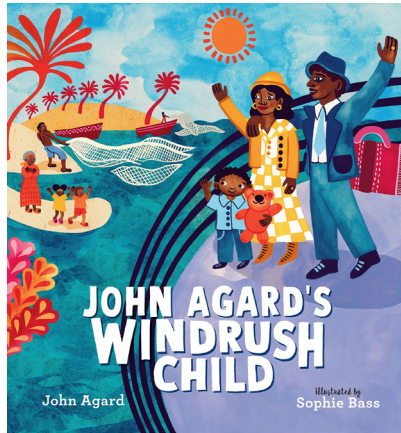
The award-winning author of *The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney* is back with a captivating literary novel that offers a deeply intimate examination of father/son relationships and love in

its many forms. Nzelu puts familial relationships in the spotlight and provides an honest interior view of masculine relationships in their many forms. Uplifting, hopeful and raw, Nzelu has established themselves as a tour de force.

Losing the Plot by Derek Owusu

Owusu experiments with form in this searching biographical fiction which offers a powerful reflection of a son attempting to imagine the life his mother had before his birth. Charting her journey from Ghana to the UK, this offers a sensitive and sincere look at parenthood, at the immigrant experience and at the inevitable effects of displacement.





John Agard's *Windrush Child* by John Agard

From the prominent poet John Agard and debut illustrator Sophie Bass, comes this stunning picture book following a child's journey from the Caribbean to Britain as a part of the Windrush generation. The gorgeous illustrations coupled with Agard's powerful writing create a stunning representation of a slice of history.

***In Our Hands* by Lucy Farfort**

In Our Hands is a heartwarming tale of hope and the importance of community. This dystopian picture book describes a place without colour after the "dulling" spreads across the world. With neighbours becoming enemies and communities falling into isolation, a group of children team up to bring the world hope.

Jhalak Prize Longlist: Children's and Young Adult's Highlights

***Creeping Beauty: Fairy Tales Gone Bad* by Joseph Coelho**

Turning the traditional fairytale on its head, this book written in verse by the award-winning poet, Joseph Coelho, is a funny and magical read for children with an active imagination. Eshe, a Fairy Godmother, has the ability to see into the future, but one day she has a glimpse of something terrifying that she must stop before it's too late.

***These are the Words* by Nikita Gill**

The only poetry collection on the list, Gill's young adult debut paints a portrait of modern life and how she traverses it. It is a letter of guidance to her childhood self accompanied by stunning illustrations by her own hand. Feminist and fearless, this collection would be an asset to any young adult as they too come to grips with the world.

***When Our Worlds Collided* by Danielle Jawando**

A powerful and thought-provoking story where a stabbing outside a Manchester shopping centre brings the lives of three teens from very different backgrounds together.

When fourteen-year-old Shaq is stabbed, the lives of Chantelle, Marc and Jackson are changed forever as they question the deep-rooted prejudice and racism that exists within society.



***Needle* by Patrice Lawrence**

A poignant look into the life of a girl trapped in both the care system and then the criminal justice system, *Needle* follows Charlene, an avid knitter who stabs her foster brother in the hand with a needle after he destroys her work. It is a powerful painting of loss, grief and family that truly shines a light on life in the complex systems of the United Kingdom.

***Mia and the Lightcasters* by Janelle McCurdy**

Born from Janelle McCurdy's love of gaming, *Mia and the Lightcasters* follows a young girl who dreams of being a magical umbra tamer. One day, her city of Nubis is attacked and her parents are kidnapped. Joined by her younger brother, two friends and a tamed umbra, Mia must travel to the City of Light to save her captured parents.

***Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by Tolá Okogwu**

Also named as Waterstones Children's Book of the Month for June 2022, this action-packed book encourages girls to embrace and love their Afro hair. Onyeka has

always felt insecure about her curls, until she discovers she can control her hair with her mind! After her mother sends her to a school in Nigeria to be trained with other children, Onyeka and her friends soon find themselves in a battle that puts their powers to the test.

***Ellie Pillai is Brown* by Christine Pillainayagam**

The perfect coming-of-age summer romance by debut author Christine Pillainayagam follows Ellie as she navigates high school, falling in love and following her heart. She soon realises that everything she's worried about herself – her misfit style, her skin colour, her songwriting – is all okay and that standing out isn't a bad thing.

***The Haunting of Tyrese Walker* by J.P. Rose**

A psychological horror for young adults, this haunting book follows a young boy dealing with the aftermath of a traumatic event. Whilst visiting his family in Jamaica, Tyrese begins to experience strange things and suspects he is being hunted by the infamous Shadow Man. Rooted in Jamaican folklore, this mystery explores themes of grief and family with a spooky twist.



***Rebel Skies* by Ann Sei Lin**

Inspired by Japanese culture, *Rebel Skies* is a pacy teen fantasy adventure following a girl with special powers as she embarks on a special mission to give the paper spirits of her world a voice. Full of flying ships and sky cities, this story deals with themes of empires, slavery and freedom.

***Dadaji's Paintbrush* by Rashmi Sirdeshpande**

This beautifully illustrated children's book reflects upon the experience of grief as a child mourns his grandfather's death. After he passes, the child struggles to pick up his paintbrush as it was a passion he shared with his grandfather.

Highlights in the Charts

Friends, Lovers and The Big Terrible Thing by Matthew Perry

REVIEW BY BECKY INNES

The American comedy series *Friends* has been a massive part of my life for decades. When I heard that Matthew Perry was releasing a memoir, I knew I had to read it. I didn't know much about his life or work outside of *Friends*, other than that he had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction. *Friends, Lovers and The Big Terrible Thing* is a title which is straight to the point; the three biggest things in his life.

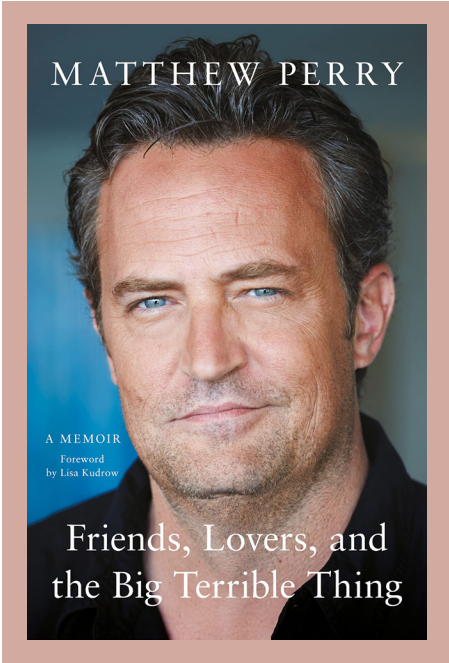
I'm lucky enough to have never experienced addiction. I don't think you can ever truly understand addiction unless you've gone through it, but Matthew Perry gave an excellent insight into what it feels like. His words were dark, punchy and painful and designed to shock the reader – and they did. Perry discusses his addictions like they are corporeal entities that live with him and that he battles daily.

Most shocking was that he was only sober for one series of *Friends*. This is testament to what an outstanding comedy actor he really

is because, watching it back, you can't tell. The only indicator that something isn't right is his fluctuating weight – he explains that he was in rehab between most series of filming. The most shocking fact to me is that at one point he was on fifty-five pills a day.

This book also screams isolation, abandonment and severe issues with intimacy. Paired with an inability to form close and lasting relationships which are down to childhood traumas, your heart goes out to him. All he has ever wanted was to marry and have children but his own fears prevent that from happening.

The book is fairly repetitive, with a timeline that feels quite jumpy, but I actually think it worked very well as an addiction memoir as it takes you into Perry's drug-addled mind. We read what he wanted us to see and the chronology of the events is irrelevant to the message he wanted to put out.



I often wonder what celebrities want to achieve by writing their story. Some do it for exposure, some do it for money, but Matthew Perry has both of these in buckets. I think his was the most noble cause for a memoir – I get the feeling that he wanted to tell his story to help others experiencing addiction and also to tell his truth after decades of the media reporting on his issues.

Cursed Bread by Sophie Mackintosh

REVIEW BY NATALIE BECKETT

The literati are exclusively describing Sophie Mackintosh's *Cursed Bread* with dazzling words of praise. According to the book jacket, Mackintosh's writing is sumptuous, visceral and luminous; mysterious yet indelible, full of narrative crescendo and incantatory prose. As someone partial to getting to the point, I prefer Megan Nolan's choice of phrase: it's "a knockout."

Cynicism aside, there is a reason everyone is pulling out the big words for Mackintosh. *Cursed Bread* is a literary fever dream, toeing the line between reality and obsessive fantasy. The story is told through the eyes of Elodie, the baker's wife who yearns to be desired, yet feels unworthy of desire. She is trapped in a passionless marriage to a strong man who makes a living from feeding others, but has no appetite for his wife.

Everything is turned on its head with the arrival of an alluring new couple: the Ambassador and his wife Violet. Driven by compulsion, Elodie is so bewitched by them that she clings to every scrap of gossip she can get her hands on. The couple appears amused by her and

she soon finds herself secretly listening to their private conversations and tangling herself in their relationship and sadistic games.

Meanwhile, a frenzy of darkness is seeping into every corner of the town. Violet takes Elodie to see eight dead horses laid out in a dry yellow field and the town watches as a young boy jumps willingly into a bonfire at the midsummer festival.

Mackintosh drip-feeds clues by jumping into a future reality where Elodie is living by the seaside and everyone from the town has since perished.

One might critique the book's title and lines like "eat the bread and you'll die" for giving away the central plot. However, the build up to a confession is so gripping that it doesn't matter. Besides, it is Mackintosh's exploration of desire that is most captivating. I was particularly taken with her

examination of the role shallow beauty can play in a person's perception of their own desirability. In a grim yet truthful reflection of how society measures the worth of a woman's body, Elodie remains firm in her belief that in this world she has a "specific" appeal; whereas Violet "will always find desire reciprocated, no matter how bleak."

In Margaret Atwood-esque fashion, *Cursed Bread* is based on a true story; a fact that lends itself to the entrancing nature of the book.



Short Stories in Translation

BY NIINA BAILEY AND ALICE REYNOLDS

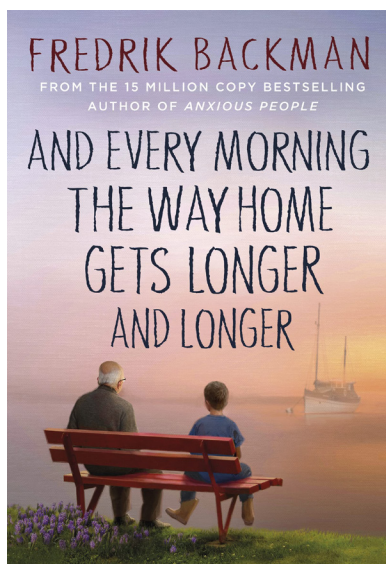
Short stories often get overlooked in literature in favour of novels, but there is a breadth of them out there to enjoy. To try and overcome this, this week we wanted to highlight some of our favourite translated short stories, novellas and short story collections. If you are looking for something quick to read, then this is for you. We hope you enjoy!

***And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer* by Fredrik Backman. Translated by Alice Menzies. Published by Atria Books in 2016.**

And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer might be short, but it packs a punch. It follows a grandfather and his relationship with his son and grandson. He has dementia and he is losing his memory. He desperately tries to hold onto the memories of his late wife and fears the day he will forget her and everything else. The story covers how the grandfather deals with slowly losing his memories, but also what it is like for his son and grandson to lose someone they love

bit by bit. They need to learn how to say goodbye while the grandfather is still there.

In just less than a hundred pages, Backman crafts complex relationships and characters that you cannot help but feel for. He vividly describes what it is like to slowly lose someone over time and having to come to terms with them not being the same as before and how that affects your relationship, as well as what it is like to lose yourself. The subject matter is something that a lot of people can relate to and, whether you have personally experienced something like it or not, this is a moving story

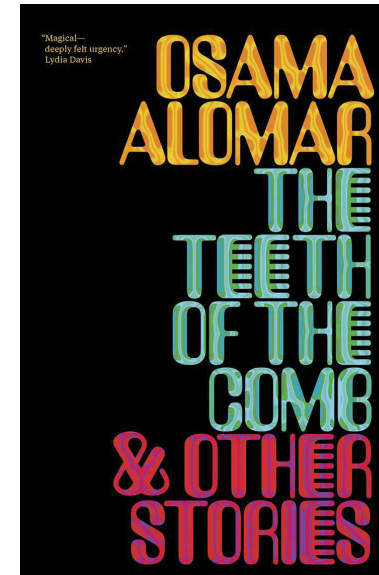


and it is guaranteed to make you emotional. I would have tissues close by, just in case.

***The Teeth of the Comb & Other Stories* by Osama Alomar. Translated by C. J. Collins and Osama Alomar. Published by New Directions in April 2017.**

This is a collection of very short stories by a brilliantly gifted Syrian refugee. Their length, sometimes only one sentence long, doesn't take away from their impact as they speak loudly to philosophical and political issues.

Osama Alomar is one of the most well-respected Arabic poets writing today, and a prominent practitioner of the Arabic-qisa al-qasira jiddan, the "very short story" which dates back more than a millennium in the Arab world. He comes from Damascus where he is regarded highly as a prize-winning writer, author of four books and many journal publications. Now living in exile in Pittsburgh, his first full-length collection



of stories is brimming with political allegories, hot street scenes and protests, long-winded jokes and forsaken government officials. In his stories, animals, inanimate objects and physical or spiritual parts of the body speak. The tales are told by wonderfully personified snakes and swamps, wolves, trucks and rainbows which plot, desire and fail in their realities. Good battles evil, and reality is questioned anew.

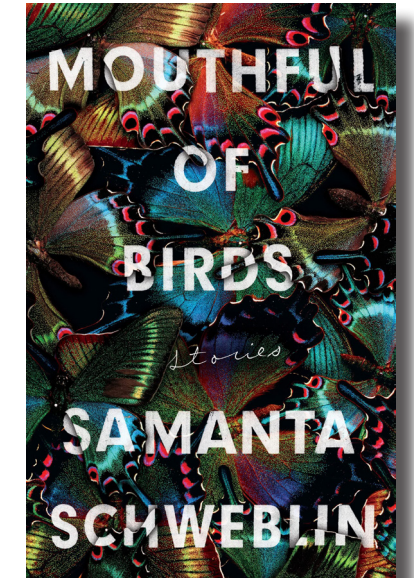
Somewhat autobiographical, the nameless narrator emigrates, fleeing from a place of oppression which allows him to make a plea for liberation and to progress but remain hopeful. Like the

teeth of a comb, he shines light on the unevenness of society and the story's translation to English readers serves as a fresh, deep way to understand this part of the world.

***Mouthful of Birds* by Samanta Schweblin. Translated by Megan McDowell. Published by Riverhead Books in 2019.**

This is a powerful work by an important international author, whose stories leave you unsettled and less complete than before you started to read. The author of Booker Prize International Prize finalist work, *Fever Dream*, and chosen by Granta as one of the twenty-two best writers in Spanish under the age of thirty-five, Schweblin has made a significant mark on the international publishing and translation world. Her books have been translated into thirty-five languages.

Strange, unnerving and never expected, the tales filling *Mouthful of Birds* are not to be missed. In the opening 'Headlights,' the stories of an abandoned bride, a murderous husband and a man stranded in a railway station all pan out in



unexpected, uncanny and ominous ways. She cleverly taps into the readers' nightmares. Recurring, disconcerting dreams, unnatural parent-child relationships and brutal yet artistic killings consume readers' imaginations to all-encompassing effects.

Second-Hand Books

BY SHUANGYUE ZHAO, HOLLY PRESSWELL AND TAMARA WILSON



Photo Credit: Paramount Books Manchester website

Reading is a pleasure that should be available to all. In today’s issue, we reveal some of the best second-hand bookshops around the country to help you know where to find brilliant books at a great price!

R and R Books, 4 Nelson Street, Stroud, GL5 2HL

Situated on the outskirts of Stroud, R & R Books is a second-hand bookshop with over thirty-five years of bookselling experience. The bookshop is a handy spot

for both local booklovers and tourists, adding to the cultural atmosphere of the market town.

Specialising in collecting old books, R & R Books list the condition of all books they stock in detail on their [website](#). You can also find a specific explanation of their terms to describe condition. For example, “cockled” refers to the fact that the paper has got damp at some stage and rippled. Helpfully, R & R Books provides postage services both within the UK and overseas.

Oxfam Bookshops

Oxfam’s bookshops can be found across the country, in many cities and towns. These

shops are the some of the best kept secrets in terms of shopping for second-hand books. These shops often have rooms filled with books, with prices starting at £2.50. They offer books from all genres, and if you’re lucky you may even find some signed copies hidden in the shelves!

Paramount Books, 25-27 Shudehill, Manchester M4 2AF

Paramount Books, located in the heart of Manchester, is a family run business which opened in 1965. This second-hand bookshop takes an old-fashioned approach to the way the shop is run, encouraging customers to keep their phones in their



Photo Credit: independentstirling.com

pockets while browsing the shelves. The shop stocks second-hand books as well as new releases and an impressive collection of vintage comics books and magazines. If you cannot make it to this beautiful store in person, then you can visit them via their [website](#).

The Book Nook Stirling, 24 Upper Craigs, Stirling, FK8 2DG

The Book Nook is a Scottish independent bookshop and café with a pretty appearance, spacious interior space and extensive second-hand collections. The store’s stock is focused on both adult’s and children’s fiction. The shop’s café serves homemade cakes, toasted bagels and hot

drinks, making it a perfectly cosy place to spend time.

The idea to open this exceptional shop came from two Stirling University graduates, who realised their dream in 2020. You can find their hand-picked recommendations on their [website](#), as well as various beautiful gifts, stationery and merchandise.

historic Edinburgh Castle, and above the colourful and vibrant Grassmarket, it can’t be better situated. The shop features a wonderful selection of literature, from vintage to contemporary books, organised in “very nearly alphabetised chaos!”

Bookmongers, 439 Coldharbour Ln, London SW9 8LN

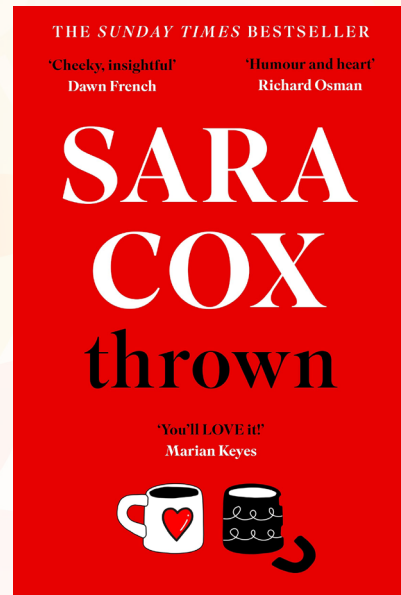
Bookmongers is a much-loved, second-hand bookshop that has been located on Coldharbour Lane since 1992. It is an eccentric and eclectic bookshop that will be sure to charm you. As well as an interesting and ever-changing selection of second-hand books, the shop is also home to a cuddly former stray cat, who can be found dozing on one of the many shelves!



Photo Credit: [armchairbooks.co.uk](#)

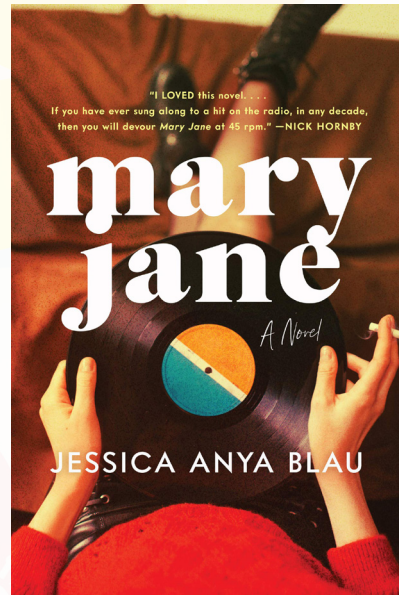
Shuffling of the Shelves: April 2023, Part One

BY MELISSA TRAN, LUCY SHARDLOW AND HANNAH MOORE



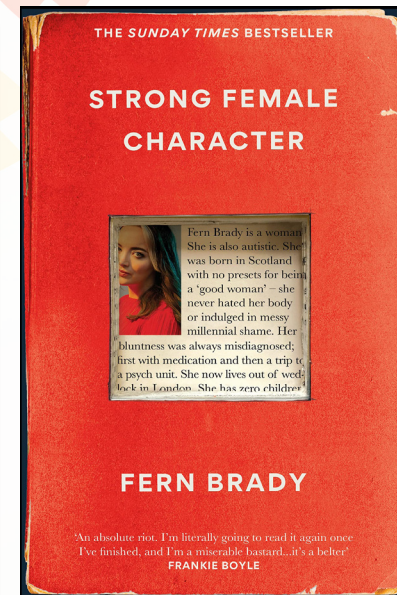
April brings us new reads and some fan favourites returning to the book charts!

WHSmith's top one hundred book chart shows some fan favourites resurfacing like *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Set in the 1960s, this novel follows chemist Elizabeth Zott as she struggles to be taken seriously by an all-male team of scientists. She reluctantly quits and becomes a cookery show host, a role where she finds herself and wows the nation with her innovative skills. Garmus' novel is now a number one *Sunday Times*



bestseller and BBC Between the Covers Book Club pick. The novel climbing back up to the top of the charts is perhaps because of the Apple TV+ series that is due to be released sometime this year starring Brie Larson.

A new novel making its way up the charts is *The 6:20 Man* by David Baldacci. The plot follows Travis Devine, a former army captain who now lives a quiet life as a financial analyst. This is until he receives an anonymous email that leads him into a crime investigation of his ex-girlfriend's death. This is



now a Richard & Judy Book Club Pick for spring 2023 which explains its place in the charts.

As spring officially approaches, let's see what's in store in the Waterstones chart. While some firm favourites remain high in the rankings, a new addition is *French Braid* by Anne Tyler. Tyler is a previous Pulitzer Prize winner and Booker Prize nominated author that has written a new novel that follows one family's journey from the 1950s until the present day. Funny and witty, *French Braid* is an

unflinching account of the intricacies of family life and a representation of the ups and downs we all face with those closest to us.

Also in the Waterstones chart at the moment is *The Rising Tide* by Ann Cleeves. This is the tenth instalment of Cleeves' Northumberland police procedural series and, once again, follows Vera Stanhope on her investigation. This series has been adapted into a well-known ITV series called *Vera*. *The Rising Tide* specifically follows the investigation into a group of lifelong friends whose true intentions get called into question when one of them is murdered.

With Easter just around the corner, there's no surprise to see so many fun spring themed reads dominating the Amazon Best Sellers chart. Plenty of which are bound to keep your little ones entertained! At number two, Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter are back with brand new *The Dinosaur That Pooped Easter*! Join Danny and Dino as they search for Easter eggs in this egg-cellent, laugh out loud adventure story. Other fantastic titles to keep your little ones busy include: *Bluey's Easter* and *We're Going on an Egg Hunt*.

Whilst the little ones are occupied, why not delve into *Thrown*; the debut novel from popular broadcaster Sara Cox. The novel centres around a newly established pottery class that brings a

group of unsatisfied women together, revealing everything from concealed passions and heartaches to the possibility of transformation. Described by critics as "a beautiful slice of escapism," this is the perfect Easter read!

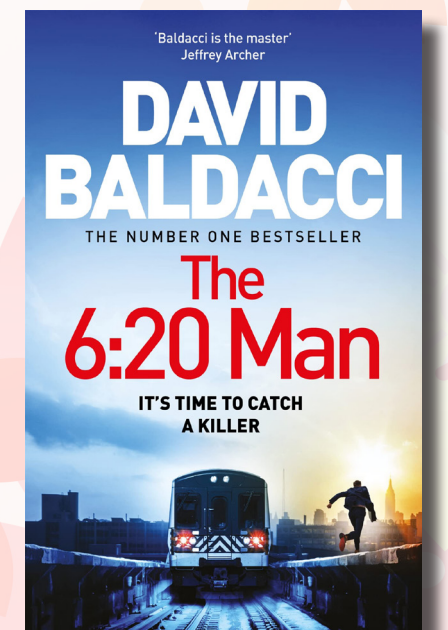
With the recent release of *Daisy Jones and The Six* on Amazon Prime, many BookTokkers have been suggesting books that are similar to much loved sixties, rock and roll storyline for new fans of the book and show. One user suggests *The Unraveling of Cassidy Holmes* by Elissa R. Sloan. Described by author of *Daisy Jones and The Six* Taylor Jenkins Reid as "a page-turning peek inside the glamour and brutality of life as a pop star" this book gives you a peek into the life and death of pop star Cassidy Holmes and her band members she leaves behind after her untimely death.

Another suggests *Mary Jane* by Jessica Anya Blau. This novel is set in 1970s Baltimore and follows fourteen-year-old Mary Jane after she gets a job as a nanny for the daughter of a local doctor. She is suddenly sucked into their chaotic world, a world where she feels she can breathe compared to her quiet and structured family life.

A beautiful writer with a unique voice and an even more unique story – our noteworthy author for April is comedian Fern Brady and her ground-breaking memoir

Strong Female Character. After being told she couldn't be autistic because she's had loads of boyfriends or is good at eye contact, Brady began to tell her story of how being a female can simply get in the way of being autistic. Exploring a whole range of topics from class, mental health, societal pressures and individual ambition, Brady only defies everyone's expectations and becomes a testament to the importance of self-knowledge.

This is ultimately a piece of text that will not only be relatable, but also refreshing for so many women. Already loved by so many readers, *Strong Female Character* has been described by critics as "a compelling, highly resonant portrait of what masked Autism feels like."



Classics Easter Egg Hunt

BY MEGAN POWELL, MAGALI PREL AND HANNAH SPRUCE

In the midst of the Easter holidays this April, the classics teams wanted to present some of their favourite Easter Eggs found in classic literature! In many classical works, authors were inspired and influenced by the works of previous writers; writing novels riddled with references and allusions from other texts. Intertextuality of the sort enables us to get an insight into what the author was reading and inspired by at the time, what sort of literature they likely consulted during their free time and what genre of novel they were into.

Writers also used allusions as a stylistic device to contextualise a story by referring it to another famous novel to relate more closely to their reader. From Jane Austen to Alexandre Dumas, these authors used allusions to present their personality through the novel as a way for us to understand what their philosophies and opinions were on the world.

***The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas**

The Count of Monte Cristo is an adventure novel by French writer Alexandre Dumas and narrates the story of a man who seeks revenge after escaping from prison and deals with themes such as vengeance, justice and forgiveness. Dumas was influenced by many authors, and this novel is packed with religious, literary and historical references. In this piece, we will comment on the references to Lord Byron and Shakespeare.

In the novel, a character named Countess G refers to the Count as Lord Ruthven and calls him as such behind his back. Lord Ruthven is the main character in Polidori's novel *'The Vampyre'*, Polidori being one of Byron's friends. Interestingly, Lord Ruthven is a shameless portrait of Byron, and Byron himself used the pseudonym Lord

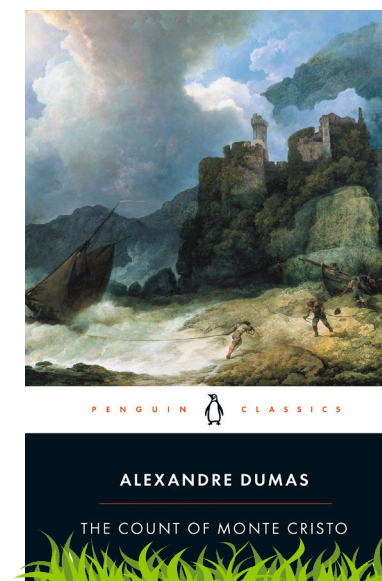
Ruthven when he was traveling. In addition, Countess G herself is believed not to be a fictional character but rather real-life Teresa Contessa Guiccioli who wrote a biography about Byron and slept with him too. Byron himself called her Countess G in his personal journals.

Dumas uses references to Shakespeare's *Hamlet* by comparing Prince Hamlet's legendary quest for revenge to Dantés' own: "Foul deeds will rise, as Hamlet says, and sometimes fly through the air like a will-o'-the-wisp, but these are flames that light us a moment to deceive".

***Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett**

Despite the inherent absurdity of Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*, the play is littered with literary references which represent a forgotten time in the wake of a dystopian reality. The erratic nature of Winnie's

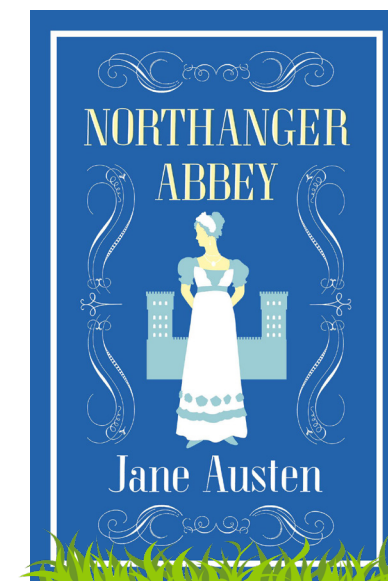
manner of speech means that these references are often overlooked on the first reading. However, inference into the text allows for a much richer analysis of Winnie and the situation she finds herself in. Winnie is buried up to her waist in a mound and her unfurling optimism despite her restrictive life is complex and rooted in her fear of the future. Beckett references *Romeo and Juliet*, Milton, Shakespeare and poet Thomas Gray in Winnie's dialogue which represents her desire to recall the past despite the futility of the act. By referencing *Paradise Lost* by Milton, Beckett is illustrating Winnie's fixation with death and the idea of a forgotten and lost civilisation. Similarly, recollections of *Romeo and Juliet* are linked to death and wasted potential. Winnie remembers only fragments of these lines but the lines



she does remember are indicative of her fragile mental state. For example, Winnie recalls the famous line 'woe is me' from *Hamlet*. Both Winnie and Hamlet are paralysed by indecision and the impending fear of death. Beckett combines the traditional with the absurd in his construction of *Happy Days* which purposefully leaves the audience to question the world Beckett has created and the hopeless state of Winnie and Willie.

***Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen**

Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* is a short classic that satirises the gothic genre which was expanding in popularity during her time of writing. This classic includes staple Austen themes of courtly love, however, it does differ to her usual style as she ventures into satire. Many elements of



the gothic are recognisable in *Northanger Abbey* from the setting to the weather. This aids the plot but also allows the reader to ascertain Austen's perspective on the gothic genre. The main Easter Egg that can be explicitly seen in this novel is the direct reference to Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*. This is an important novel in the story, which Catherine Moorland often refers to proclaiming herself as the gothic heroine. Radcliffe pioneered gothic fiction with her novel in 1794. Austen is mocking the genre and repurposing the gothic conventions in a way that is most associated with her form, crossing the gothic boundaries in her plot. Austen is seen to rationalise the irrationality of the genre, providing a useful context to the development of the gothic.

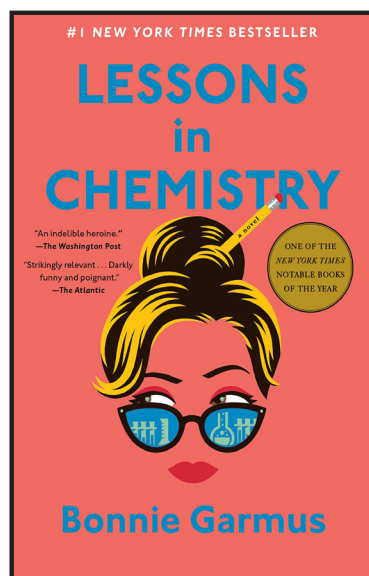
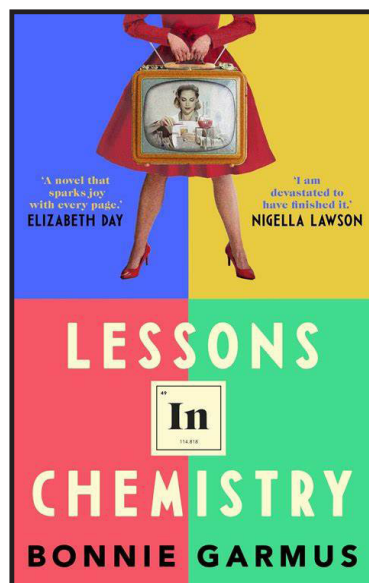




UK vs USA: A Book Cover Evaluation

BY MEGAN COOTE, ABBIE WRIGHT, JULIETTE TULLOCH AND LAURA WALLACE

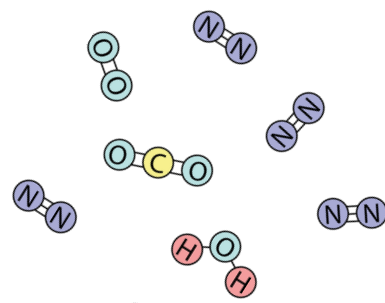
Choosing the right cover design is no easy decision for an author and different designs can give the same book a completely different feel. For this issue, the cover evaluation team is going to be comparing US and UK designs.



Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Bonnie Garmus's empowering debut *Lessons In Chemistry* has taken the book world by storm, reaching the number one spot on both the Sunday Times and New York Times Bestseller lists. The 1960's historical novel follows talented chemist Elizabeth Zott and her resistance against societal norms which perceive a woman's place as being in the domestic sphere, rather than the professional one. The US and UK cover designs, whilst both striking, are also quite different. The UK Cover is separated into four bright block squares, reminiscent of the periodic table, and can also be found under the hardcover jacket. The word *In* is stylised to look like the element Indium on the periodic table, providing another clear nod to chemistry, while a woman wearing a dress and heels is holding a television set. The screen shows a woman wearing a lab coat using a chemistry set, depicting

Elizabeth's job as a television cooking host during which she incorporates chemistry, her true love. In contrast, the US edition is pink with a woman's face peering over cat-eye sunglasses. This cartoon style design is especially popular for the romance genre. Whilst there is a love interest, this book is not a romance and the US cover's more light-hearted design contrasts with the contents as the book incorporates very serious themes such as sexual assault. However, there is still a nod to chemistry; a chemistry set is reflected in Elizabeth's glasses indicating that chemistry is constantly on her mind. The number two pencil which secures her hair references a pivotal scene and makes the character appear studious. Overall, the UK cover more accurately matches the book's tone but both are eye-catching.



Crying in H-Mart by Michelle Zauner

Crying in H-Mart is Michelle Zauner's incredible 2021 memoir, which revolves around the death of Zauner's mother and her connection to her Korean-American culture. Both the US (left) and UK (right) book cover provide a simplistic look at the story's contents.

The US cover ([Na Kim](#)) is an image of noodles paired with 2 sets of chopsticks, highlighting both Zauner's Korean background and the fact that her memoir contains a strong sense of companionship through her relationship with her mother. In addition, the deep red background highlights how vivid the pictures and memories that Zauner will present us with really are. I believe this cover is eye-catching and a perfect simple cover for the novel. The UK version of the cover takes a different approach, with an illustrated picture of Zauner carrying multiple food products in her arms providing the centerpiece of the cover. This imagery is far more poignant in comparison to the US cover as it highlights the struggle that Zauner has faced throughout her life, in particular in regard to her mother and her passing. The lighter-coloured background also gives the book a more mellow feeling and while not being as eye-catching as the US cover, I believe that it portrays the contents of the novel in

the correct light. Overall, I believe both covers are fantastic and provide a small insight into the novel itself, however, if I were to choose, I believe the symbolism in the UK cover is more relevant and emotional than the US cover.

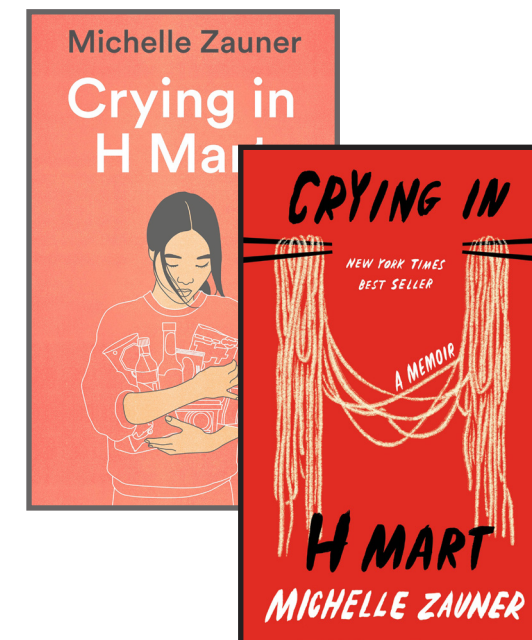
Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim

Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim is a YA book inspired by Hans Christian Anderson's fairytale, *The Wild Swans*. The US cover is shown on the right-hand side, with the UK cover on the left-hand side. Both covers are very different in style but compelling in their own way.

The US cover contains strong, bold images and bright red text, the bolder design being appropriate for the US market. The amazing artwork, courtesy of [Tran Nguyen](#), illustrates Shiori with a crane wrapped around her head, signifying the bowl she cannot remove, and the crane signifying the curse she has surrounding her brothers. The bowl cannot be removed as it prevents recognition and the curse means that she cannot speak - for each word she does speak, one of her brothers will die. The crane and the bowl are one and the same in the cover intertwining both curses held over her.

The UK cover has a dreamy pastel colour scheme, with subtle gold embossing giving the impression of

a lighthearted fairytale. The six cranes above her are her brothers who were turned into cranes by her stepmother. This is a very attractive colour and is our favourite out of the two.



Spotlight on: Boldwood Books

BY PRIYANKA JOSHI, MOLLIE GREGORY-CLARK AND ZOE MAPLE
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Founded in 2019 and winner of Independent Publisher of the Year at the 2022 Independent Publisher Awards, Boldwood Books is a global fiction house, praised for publishing the best that commercial fiction has to offer, covering crime and mystery, historical fiction, women’s fiction, romance and saga.

Based in London, the publisher aims to be innovative and fearless, priding itself on maintaining true partnerships with its authors, both new and established. Despite launching only four years ago, Boldwood Books has already published over 400 titles, signed over 100 authors and sold over twelve million books worldwide, showing astounding growth due to its modern publishing style and the highly successful and professional team behind it.

Upcoming Release

The Girl From Venice
by Siobhan Daiko

Releasing on 12 June 2023, *The Girl From Venice* is an epic novel with a compelling historical storyline. Based on the true events of World War II, award-winning author Siobhan Daiko has brilliantly portrayed the story of two

different generations by blending the past and the present seamlessly with the stories of Charlotte and Lidia. Affected by the wartime horrors, this book is an eye-opening read about their struggle to fight for their freedom while overcoming the atrocities committed by the fascist invaders. Siobhan’s phenomenal characters sweep us into an emotional and enthralling adventure full of love, betrayal, and self-discovery.

Recent Releases

Always On My Mind
by Beth Moran

Always On My Mind depicts the journey of Jessie, who unexpectedly finds herself homeless, jobless and alone when her boyfriend abandons her to find himself. Forced to move into her twin’s house in her hometown, she comes face-to-face with Elliot, the ghost of her teenage love. Convinced to help the boys move forward in their lives, she finds a way to accept the past and move forward with them. Filled with forgiveness, personal growth and irresistible romances, Beth Morgan has painted a heart-warming picture dealing with issues of guilt and disability and balancing these with a good dose of humour. Her idiosyncratic but endearing

characters, combined with her masterful narrative, make this a cosy and uplifting weekend read.

The Last Wife by J. A. Baker

Set on a small remote island, *The Last Wife* is a story intricately woven around the mysterious inhabitants of the island and the not-so-secret past of Fiona and Neil. Hoping to escape their past and start anew, the couple moves to Winters End and finds an isolated community with no women in sight. Following the couple as they discover the true cause of this, we see the shocking turn of events that proves Fiona’s intuition accurate. Utilising the different points of view, Baker has successfully written a gripping thriller by creating a sinister and spine-chilling atmosphere that slowly unravels the web of secrets to reveal the culprit, ultimately leaving us reeling.

Notable Releases

Murder in Tuscany
by T. A. Williams

This is the first book of a brand-new cosy crime series, set in the beautiful hills of Tuscany. The unassuming and newly retired detective Dan Armstrong decides to attend a creative writing retreat, led by the renowned crime writer Jonah Moore,

with the hopes that this break will help him think about the next chapter in his own life’s story. But when Jonah Moore is found stabbed to death with his own award-winning silver dagger, it becomes clear that Dan’s detective days are not over yet. The killer can only be one of his fellow retreat guests, and as Dan questions them one by one, it seems that each of them has something to hide. An addictive and compelling mystery, perfect for fans of Lee Strauss and Beth Byers.

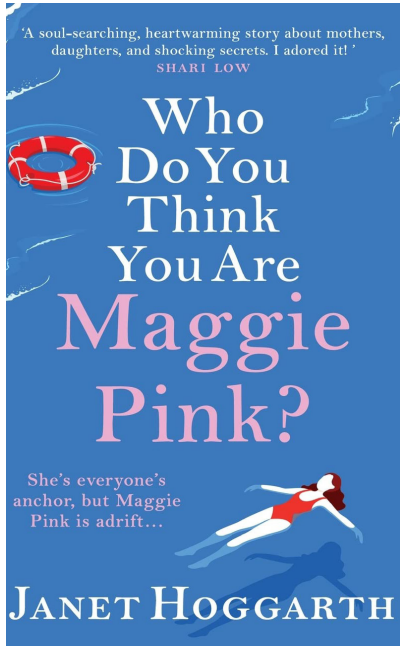
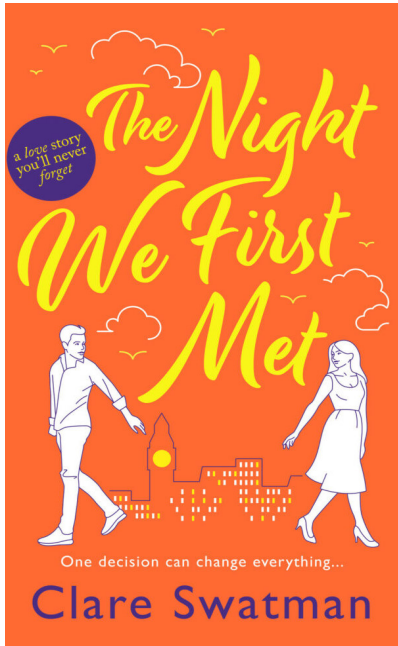
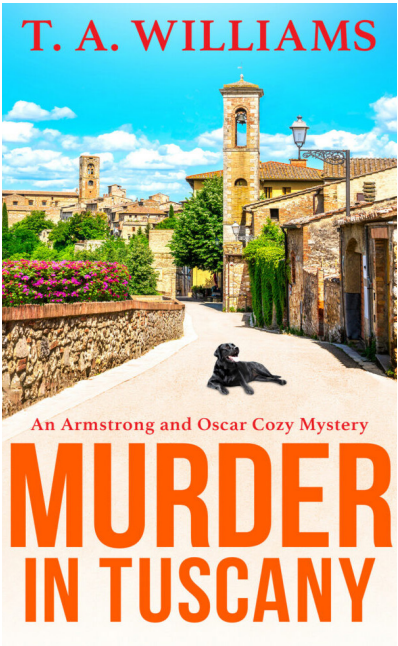
Who Do You Think You Are, Maggie Pink? by Janet Hoggarth

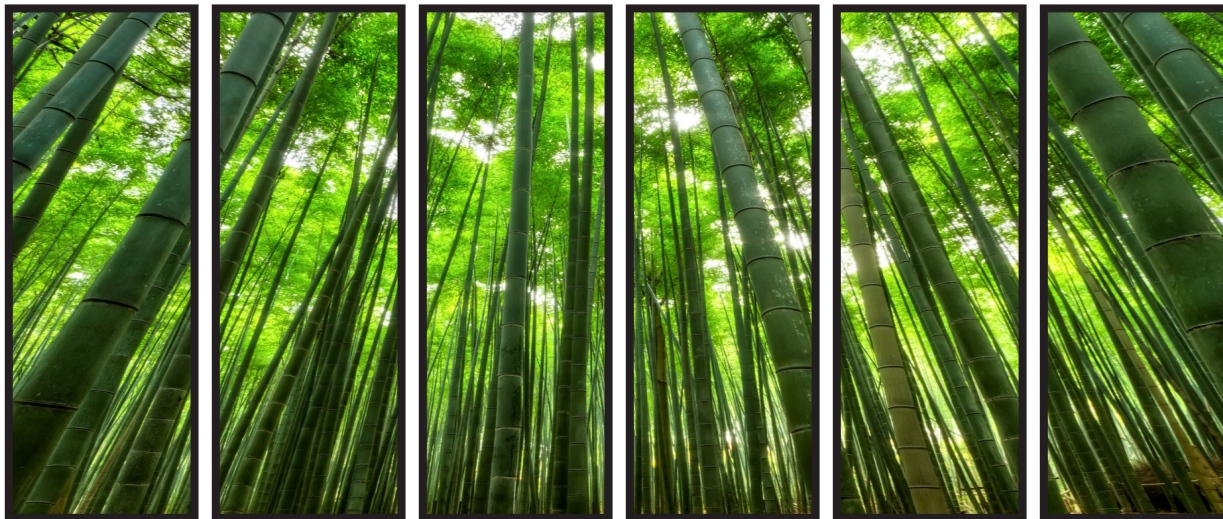
Equal parts heart-wrenching and hilarious, Janet Hoggarth weaves a beautiful story

about a mother’s love, and finding one’s own identity. In the light of her adopted mother’s death, her crumbling marriage, and a difficult relationship with her teenage daughter, Roxie, Maggie Pink decides to finally reach out to her birth mother, Morag, heading to the Scottish Highlands to reconnect, and perhaps to learn something about herself. But when Maggie unearths Morag’s teenage diaries, a whole new set of questions are raised: What really made Morag give Maggie up all those years ago, and how have the echoes of the past resounded through the generations, still affecting Maggie and her daughter to this day?

The Night We First Met
by Clare Swatman

A gorgeous tale of enduring love, spanning two decades. Marianne and Ted are both having a difficult night; Marianne is reeling from the revelation that her boyfriend has been cheating on her, and Ted is struggling to make the most important decision of his life. When a chance encounter brings them together that night, Ted suspects there might be a spark between them, but he never gets the chance to get Marianne’s number. Over the next twenty years, we follow the two of them as they navigate life’s twists and turns, all the while wondering what might have been, and whether fate will ever bring them together once more.





Industry Insights with Émilie Hames

By GEORGIE GRAHAM, LEYLA MEHMET, KAROLINE TÜBBEN AND AIMEE WHITTLE

This week, we spoke to Émilie Hames, the Sustainability Production Controller at Penguin Random House UK.

Why did you decide to work in production initially and then transition over to a sustainability focused role?

I never intended to work in production when I began to apply for entry-level roles in publishing, I actually wanted to work in marketing! However, while I was studying for my Masters in Publishing at UAL, I gained a lot of skills and knowledge that equipped me for a role in production. In one module, we were put into teams and tasked to design and produce a publication. I was given the role of Production Manager and was

responsible for managing the print production schedule, sourcing the materials and monitoring the budget. This prepared me for a role in production and enabled me to secure my first job in the PRH Children’s production team.

As a Production Assistant, I became aware of how unsustainable book production can be, which fuelled my desire to find sustainable solutions. During lockdown, we reprinted one book series successively that featured glitter varnish on the cover and I couldn’t help but wonder just how much glitter – a pervasive microplastic – we had used. I researched how many units

of this series we had printed historically and asked the printer to confirm the amount of glitter used per cover. I then calculated the total amount of glitter used for the entire series, presented it to my managers and successfully petitioned for the removal of glitter across PRH Children’s titles. This encouraged me to pursue a career in sustainability. Unfortunately, sustainability roles in the publishing industry are quite elusive so I planned to continue working in production while pushing for sustainable initiatives on the side. Then by chance, my current role was advertised last spring and here I am!

Are there any trends in production focusing on sustainability within publishing that you think will become more mainstream/popular?

I think the main trend will be the continued phasing out of unsustainable materials in the supply chain and switching to more environmentally-friendly alternatives. Lots of publishers have already decided to remove glitter varnish from their books, have opted to use vegetable-based inks over mineral-based inks and are actively looking at and mitigating their plastic consumption. However, there is still a lot more that we can do to amplify sustainable book production across the industry and encourage all publishing houses to review the materials in their supply chain.

We are starting to see legislation around sustainable practice that will necessitate publishers to take direct action in this space. The UK Plastic Packaging Tax, the UK Extended Producer Responsibility and France’s upcoming ban on mineral inks will all influence how publishers design, produce and transport their books. While the potential legal ramifications of these legislations seem daunting, I hope that they will facilitate an explosion of creative innovation in book design and production in the coming years.

What is it about PRH UK that brings you to work every day?

Knowing that through my role I am having a positive impact on our planet. When you work in the sustainability field, the constant negative discourse can be overwhelming and disheartening and you can feel as though you’re fighting a losing battle. But it’s important to remember that small progress is still progress! I can’t solve the global crisis single-handedly, but I can utilise my position at Penguin to embed sustainable book production and implement carbon reduction initiatives to mitigate our carbon footprint. I feel honoured to hold my current position and proud that I am contributing to the global movement that addresses climate change.

Also, I’ve met so many wonderful humans at Penguin over the years, all of whom are passionate about what they do!

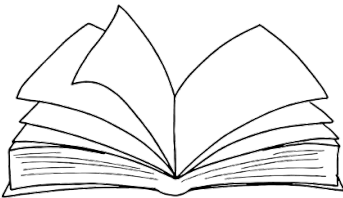
What does a typical day in your role look like?

The essence of my role is to support my manager on embedding sustainable initiatives within the business and enforcing ethical compliance across the supply chain. My typical day therefore varies greatly depending on the projects we are working on and the

needs of the business. I’ll start my morning by going through and answering any emails and drawing up a to-do list for the day so I can identify urgent and priority tasks. This can entail liaising with suppliers for information on a material or paper brand, assisting production colleagues with sustainable production queries, conducting desk research for a project, creating internal or external communications, writing reports, drafting business proposals, checking a supplier’s recent ethical audit reports and querying any non-compliances with them and handling FSC logo approvals and queries.

Would you recommend your role to others?

I would wholeheartedly recommend my role to anyone who is passionate about environmental sustainability and wants to make a positive change in the industry. I hope that the urgency of the climate crisis will result in the creation of more sustainability roles and we eventually become the norm in publishing.



Job Opportunities

BY PENNY RUDDOCK AND SHERIDAN PENA



Publicity Assistant at Hurst Publishers

Closing Date: 14 April 2023 (extended closing date)

Salary: £23,000–£25,000

Location: London, hybrid

Working in publishing and publicity – what could be better? If these are two fields that interest you, then we've got a job opportunity for you!

Hurst Publishers are looking for a new Publicity Assistant to join their team full time, helping to promote all their trade and academic books. This is an exciting opportunity where you will take on many roles such as organising events and managing social media. Hurst's books are regularly featured in many well-known news outlets, so run a very busy publicity department.

This role would require you to pitch to various media outlets, draft press releases and liaise with other departments in the company.

A successful candidate will be up-to-date with current affairs and trends, have a genuine interest in the books produced and have excellent attention to detail and organisational skills. Whilst publishing experience is always appreciated, it is not necessary for this role! Find out more [here](#).

Design Assistant at Dorling Kindersley (DK)

Closing Date: 14 April 2023

Salary: £27,000–£29,000

Location: London, hybrid

The DK Knowledge division is looking to welcome a Design Assistant to their team!

The person chosen for this role will receive the chance to help with all design aspects ranging from the first rough sketch to the final illustration. DK Knowledge produces illustrated reference books for a whole host of categories, including subjects like science and history to materials published specifically for children and families.

If interested, you will be required to have a working knowledge of Adobe InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator. DK also asks that you be open to learning other software as needed. A passion for publishing is always a plus and a skillset that includes typographic and design skills along with project management will be essential for this job.

Along with your CV and a cover letter, please include a PDF with six to ten samples of your design work when applying. Click [here](#) for more details.



Personal Assistant at Dorling Kindersley (DK)

Closing Date: 14 April 2023

Salary: £27,000–£29,000

Location: London, hybrid

A Personal Assistant role has opened up at DK. If you have prior administration skills and do well in a busy environment, keep reading!

This position will look after the Publishing Director of the DK Knowledge division. A list of day-to-day activities includes, but is not limited to, schedule management, overseeing invoices and expenses, booking travel and entertainment, co-ordinating agendas, taking minutes during meetings and working with other teams and departments. This role requires great organisation and administration skills from an individual who is able to take initiative when they feel the need to do so. The full job description and details on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Operations Assistant at Hachette UK

Closing Date: 15 April 2023

Salary: £23,850

Location: Sheffield, hybrid option with three in-office and two work from home days

The Octopus Publishing Group at Hachette UK has a vacancy in their Editorial Operations department. The role is based in Sheffield with a hybrid work option.

The Operations Assistant will be tasked with managing data in the publishing system, Biblio 3. This includes being able to create, look after and clean any and all data as needed. General administrative tasks are also involved with this assistant position. If you are interested in learning about the operations side of publishing and witnessing how the different departments work together, this is the job for you.

Octopus Publishing Group is searching for an individual who has a sharp eye for accuracy and detail, good organisation skills and who is comfortable with database software and able to learn new systems. Additionally, strong time management and an urge to be self-driven are beneficial qualities to possess. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.



**TRIGLYPH
BOOKS**

Editorial Assistant at Triglyph Books

Closing Date: 30 April 2023

Salary: £23,000–£28,000

Location: Sussex

A wonderful opportunity to join Triglyph Books, a high-end illustrated books publishing house, as an Editorial Assistant has arisen!

If successful with your application, you will be tasked with responsibilities such as helping revise manuscripts, proofreading, prepping manuscripts to be sent to other departments, communicating with authors, answering internal and external queries and general administrative tasks.

The ideal candidate will have excellent verbal and written communication abilities, good time management, interpersonal skills, initiative, a creative mind, great organisational skills and the ability to work well in a team. A degree is preferred, but it is not required. For more information, click [here](#).

LGBTQIA+ Book-to-Screen Adaptations Arriving in 2023

BY RHYS WRIGHT AND CARLY BENNETT

2023 is a year for headline-grabbing book-to-screen adaptations and there are plenty of adaptations with LGBTQIA+ representation to get excited about too. There are both TV and film adaptations aplenty, from big budget adaptations of literary fiction which star household names, to under-the-radar queer classics finally getting their moment on the silver screen. Whether you're looking for the next major award nominee to enjoy in the cinema or a TV show to binge on the sofa, we hope you find your next recommendation in our selection.

Eileen

The film adaptation of Ottessa Moshfegh's Booker Prize-shortlisted debut novel, *Eileen*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, which means we can likely look forward to seeing it later in 2023. Starring Anne Hathaway and Thomasin McKenzie, the film follows Eileen (McKenzie), a lonely and self-loathing secretary in a juvenile prison and her dangerous infatuation with Rebecca (Hathaway), the institution's charismatic new counsellor.

The first of several film adaptations of Moshfegh's novels in the works (including *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*), *Eileen* was both co-written and produced by Moshfegh herself. Touted as a tonally faithful adaptation of the novel, [Moshfegh jokingly](#)

[told Entertainment Weekly](#) that after seeing the first cut of *Eileen*, her reaction was: "This is so much better than my book."

Described by Hathaway as "[Carol meets Reservoir Dogs](#)", this adaptation of *Eileen* looks sure to continue the fascination with the grotesque that characterises Moshfegh's work. Once *Eileen* finally receives a theatrical release, it should likely be prime viewing for any fan of *Carol* or *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*.

Red, White and Royal Blue

Based on Casey McQuiston's popular 2019 star-crossed romance, a film adaptation of *Red, White and Royal Blue* is set to hit Amazon Prime Video this year. While there is no confirmed date, press

releases have suggested audiences can look forward to the film in "early 2023."

Red, White and Royal Blue tells the rivals-to-lovers story of Alex, the son of the first female President of the United States, and Henry, Prince of Wales. An incident at Prince Henry's older brother's wedding attracts press that could harm Alex's mother's re-election campaign, leading to Alex and Henry's worlds colliding with all the drama and sparks readers have come to expect from McQuiston's always queer, always lovely romances.

Starring Taylor Zakhar Perez and Nicholas Galitzine, as Alex and Henry respectively, as well as Stephen Fry, Uma Thurman, and Sarah Shahi (of *The L Word*), *Red, White and Royal Blue* has all the elements to make a fantastic screen adaptation.

Frog and Toad

Arriving on Apple TV+ in April 2023, *Frog and Toad* is a long-awaited adaptation of Arnold Lobel's children's classic, *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. While classifying *Frog and Toad Are Friends* as canonically LGBTQIA+ has been much debated, it's hard to deny the books' innate queerness and the series has become something of a queer cult classic over the years.

Perfectly embodying the grumpy/sunshine trope, optimistic Frog and perpetually pessimistic Toad share life's happy mundanity together, building a shared home and embarking on all manners of wholesome challenges – wild swimming, cooking the perfect meal and mustering up enough courage to face the day. Sweet, insightful and often funny (knowingly or not), *Frog and Toad Are Friends* will doubtless make for a warm cottagecore adaptation when it hits Apple TV+ in April.

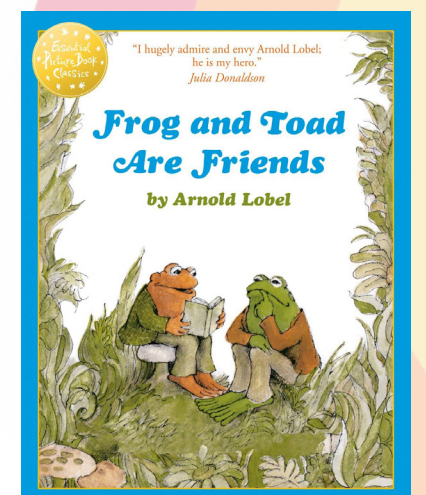
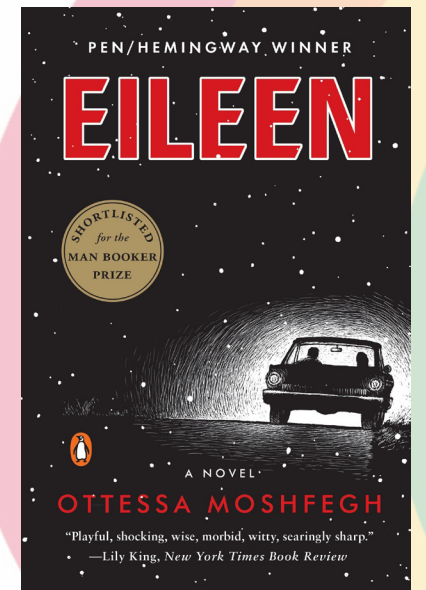
The Color Purple

A brand new adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is scheduled to hit cinemas December 2023. This is not the first time *The Color Purple* has been adapted – once as a

film in 1985 and also as a stage musical in 2005. The production team is an A-list mishmash of those who worked on both the original film and the musical: Steven Spielberg, Quincy Jones, Scott Sanders and Oprah Winfrey are all at the helm of this latest adaptation.

Following the story of Celie, an African American teenager who grows up in rural Georgia in the 1900s, *The Color Purple* charts the triumphs, tragedies and loves of Celie's life. The novel is told through the regular letters that Celie writes to God to try and make sense of her life and tenderly explores existence under the racist patriarchy, where a man's word is substitute for God and even the idea of an autonomous life feels like rebellion.

The 2023 film adaptation features a hugely talented cast made up of Fantasia, Taraji P. Henson, Colman Domingo, Danielle Brooks, Halle Bailey and H.E.R., movie-goers are already excited to see what this fresh take on the seminal sapphic classic will bring.

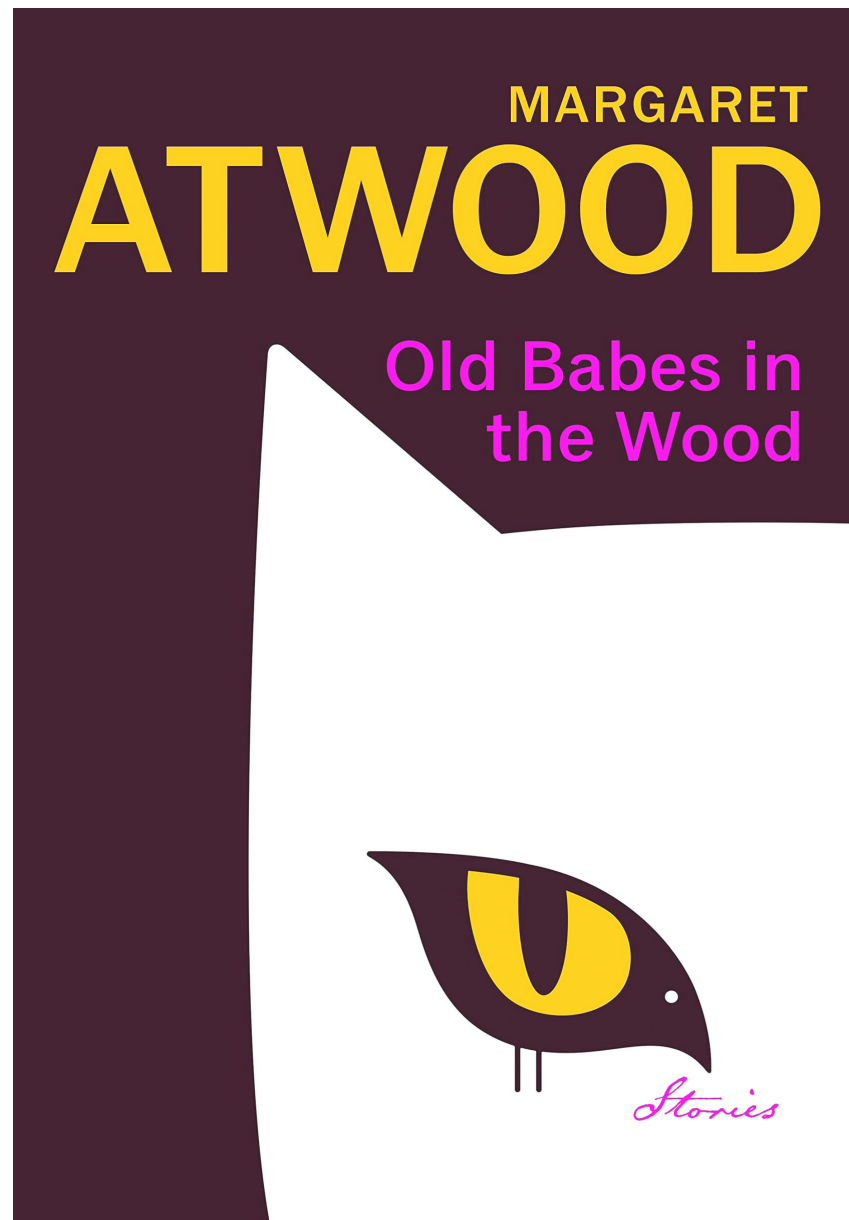


Campaign Spotlight: *Old Babes in the Wood* by Margaret Atwood

BY AMY GREENSMITH, DANIELLE HERNANDEZ, EMILY LAVIN AND GEORGIA REES

Hailed as “the outstanding novelist of our age” (*The Sunday Times*), Margaret Atwood’s latest publication has suitably generated a lot of buzz. Published in the UK on 7 March 2023 by Vintage, *Old Babes in the Wood* is Atwood’s first release since 2019’s *The Testaments*, and her first short story collection for a decade.

Although best known for her speculative fiction, Atwood is also a prolific short story writer. Her latest collection boasts fifteen “deeply personal” (Penguin) stories, offering reflections on the human condition and marriage. Dedicated to her partner Graeme Gibson, who passed away in 2019, *Old Babes in the Wood* is structured in three parts. A healthy serving of short stories is sandwiched between the tale of a lengthy marriage between characters Nell and Tig which we follow from its early beginnings to the very end. As you’d expect, this release was hugely anticipated, with a two of the stories already appearing in both *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Magazine*.



Digital

Margaret Atwood has collected a group of loyal readers from every generation. With such a varied audience to engage with, it is no surprise that the Marketing team at Chatto Books, an imprint of Vintage, have taken their campaign to a wide range of channels, including digital.

As always, digital marketing is aided by pleasing visuals. Thus, *Old Babes in the Woods*’ stunning cover, illustrated by Noma Bar, cannot go unmentioned. The design drew on the imaginative motifs in the book, whilst also complementing the new covers created for several of Atwood’s other titles. Leaning into the powerful legacy of her work by tying these stories together with similar covers was a clever move that helped to encourage readers to share photos of their copies.

Similarly, social media also played a key part in creating buzz around this release. Bookstagrammers posted images of their proof copies and bookshops promoted signed copies as well as posting photos of the live events hosted for this release. At the end of February, just weeks before the release of her latest collection of short stories, readers were given the chance to win a bundle of

Atwood’s books, including *Old Babes in the Woods*, on Instagram. Twitter was also used by the publisher to spark conversations about the new release.

Another notable element of the campaign was the exclusive excerpt that was released in *The Guardian*. The newspaper has written several articles on Atwood over the years, from announcements of her releases to interviews with the author, as well as review of her work and guest edits from the author herself. Targeting the loyal readership of this newspaper surely would have helped expand the campaign’s reach significantly, building excitement around the release.

Book Events

When working on a release by an author as internationally acclaimed as Margaret Atwood, it is understandable that a large bookshop tour is not always possible. However, the Marketing team at Chatto did take advantage of the popular ‘In Conversation’ events at Waterstones. The team paired Atwood with fellow writer Pandora Sykes for an evening of celebration at London’s Emmanuel Centre. The event was also livestreamed for those who could not be there in person. All ticket holders were offered the chance to purchase a copy of the book,

with in person attendees able to have their copies signed by the author.

Following the event with Pandora Sykes, Atwood was also present at another exclusive live event. Held at Liverpool’s Philharmonic Hall, the event saw the author in conversation with television presenter Kirsty Wark about the creative process behind her latest collection of short stories. The audience were also treated to a Q & A session and a live reading by actress Maxine Peake. A similar display was held in New York at Symphony Space on Broadway. A variety of actors joined to perform a selection of “funny, thought-provoking, terrifying, and touching stories” from *Old Babes in the Wood*.

Since the book’s release on 7 March, the Marketing team at Chatto Books and Vintage have continued to promote *Old Babes in the Wood* with podcast features on BBC 4’s *Open Book* and *Talking Scared* (episode 134). With a steady presence after publication, it is no surprise that Atwood’s latest release has once again secured her a spot on *The Sunday Times*’ bestseller list, as well as an editor’s choice pick in the *New York Times*.

Not to be Overlooked

BY SANDHYA CHRISTINE THEODORE

Not To Be Overlooked introduces a variety of wonderful but lesser-known books to assist readers in finding their next great reads. This week's column covers a review of *Last Summer in the City* by Gianfranco Calligarich and *Dirty Women* by Madhumita Bhattacharyya.

***Last Summer in the City* by Gianfranco Calligarich (translated from Italian by Howard Curtis)**

Leo Gazzara moved from Milan to Rome for a job at a medical-literary newspaper. When the paper shuts down, he spends his days and nights in a drunken haze, almost penniless, living off the goodwill of his rich friends. *Last Summer in the City* follows an almost-thirty-year-old Leo grappling with his complicated love for a city and a woman.

Leo's life of heedless pleasure-seeking is interrupted by his sporadic attempts to get his life together. He grapples with failure after failure, losing jobs and people along the way. He meets Arianna, an

architecture student, an enchanting woman as lost and confused as him. Her high hopes of saving Venice from drowning are forever on the back-burner as she meanders through her days, not unlike Leo. Leo escapes his dull and directionless days with his friend Graziano, with whom he intends to make a film. *Last Summer in the City* offers a slice of life of the unsatisfied rich and social-ladder climbers.

Interspersed with the story are multiple love letters to the city itself. Leo holds Rome in the highest regard despite many of his friends escaping to what they deem greener pastures.

"She's not so much a city as a wild beast hidden in some secret part of you. There can be no half-measures with her, either she's the love of your life or you have to leave her, because that's what the tender beast demands, to be loved."

The story is filled with careful descriptions of settings that might be the next best thing to a Roman holiday. "You'll have summer evenings glittering with lights, vibrant spring mornings, café tablecloths ruffled by the wind like girls' skirts, keen winters, and endless autumns, when she'll seem vulnerable, sick, weary, swollen with shredded leaves that are silent underfoot."



This is the first translation of the novel into English. It includes an afterword by Andre Aciman that traces the rocky history of the novel which has drifted in and out of the spotlight in Italy. Aciman also traces numerous parallels between Leo Gazzara and Calligarich himself that make the story all the more interesting.

Last Summer in the City which was originally published in 1973 can seem a bit outdated at the surface level. But the abundance of feeling that this short read is bursting with will be relevant to readers even today.

***Dirty Women* by Madhumita Bhattacharyya**

Kolkata, India: a vibrant city with a colourful music scene. A city that seems to have made room for the charismatic and beautiful Drishti, a successful singer-songwriter. But the city's acceptance of Drishti's unconventional life is not without its limits. When her four-year-old daughter disappears from her home while she's out performing at night, the city is quick to point accusing fingers at the single mother determined to live life on her own terms.

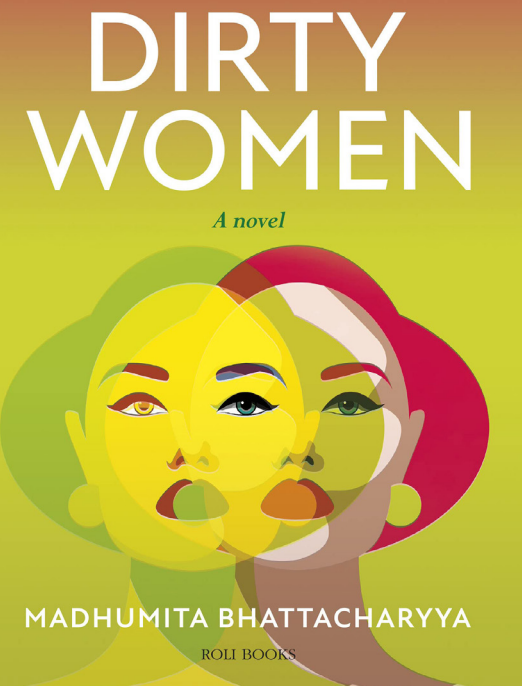
Ahana writes a true-crime book within the novel. She tells her perspective of 2002 when she was assigned to the biggest story of her career. One night, Drishti's

performance at a hotel bar is interrupted by a call from her domestic help, Sumita. The disappearance of the popular singer's daughter fires up the imagination of the city. The news media chases juicy gossip about Drishti's personal life and the identity of Tara's father. Ahana, a young reporter on the entertainment beat who usually covers swanky events around the city is suddenly expected to cover a high-profile crime. Ahana has to balance her position as Drishti's sympathetic acquaintance and her editor's source of inside details.

Bhattacharyya has put a unique spin on the traditional crime novel. *Dirty Women* explores messy conceptions of gender, morality and privacy in an environment of sensationalist media. She successfully weaves together stories of private and public affairs. She tells a story that is gripping yet believable.

Every character is written with purpose. The novel gives an all-encompassing view of a society without a uniform

'Storytelling at its best: beautifully written, gripping and compassionate.'
Ann Cleeves, award-winning author
of the *Shetland* and *Ira* series

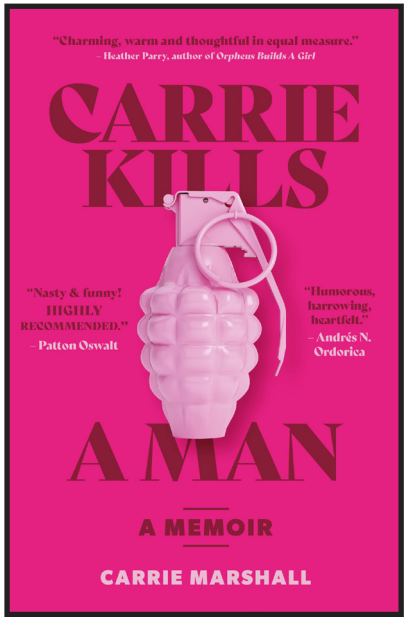


moral compass. Even the main characters are written unapologetically. Drishti is flawed and many readers will consider her unlikeable. Yet Bhattacharyya manages to arouse sympathy for her plight while also highlighting her flaws.

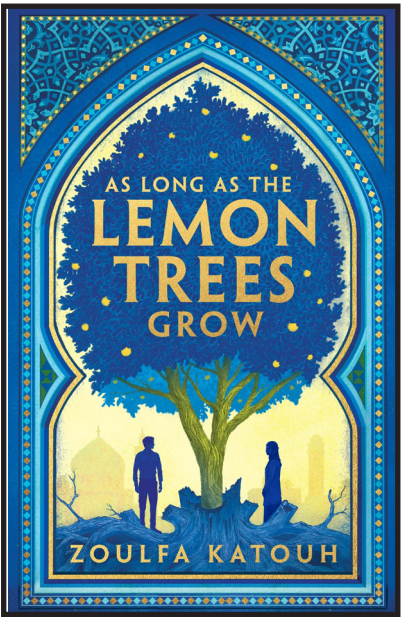
Dirty Women may seem slow-paced for a crime novel. But that is because it is more than just the case of a missing person. It is a story of how a society treats the perceived rebels. It is an exploration of societal expectations and the many women struggling to live beyond them.

The British Book Awards: Spotlighting the Discover Category

BY BRODIE MCKENZIE, CLARA GARNIER-BARSANTI, ANNA-MARIA POKU AND GRACE BRIGGS-JONES



The excitement of finally seeing the long-awaited first trailer of season two of your favourite show is how we feel about the Nibbies when they dropped their shortlist on 17 March 2023. The British Book Awards, affectionately nicknamed The Nibbies, is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the UK. We decided to spotlight the “Discovery Category” which aims to feature “an even more comprehensive collection of books by traditionally underrepresented writers.”



Carrie Marshall’s memoir, *Carrie Kills A Man*, is one of the many vibrant, important books on the shortlist – and what a fearless, frank and funny glory of a book it is. An irreverent, brash and frequently laugh-out-loud hilarious trans memoir, *Carrie Kills A Man* explores coming out, trans parenthood and cringeworthy fashion disasters with fabulous aplomb. “Marshall documents great friendships, meaningful acts of kindness, and the euphoria and emancipation that comes with freedom of self-expression” according to Laura Waddell of *The Scotsman*.



“A searing story of war, loss, family and love, of seeking grace in madness and hope in tragedy,” according to Sabaa Tahir, *As Long As The Lemon Trees Grow* by Zoulfa Katouh, is another novel on the shortlist. Set in war-torn Syria, this deeply powerful work centres around Salama and her agonising decision as to whether to flee her native country or stay and help those in danger. Elizabeth Laird says, “the tender love story at the heart of the novel humanises the horrors of war and the shocking tragedy that has befallen Syria.” Being hailed as a must read it is no

wonder this novel has been recognised by The British Book Awards!

Sheena Patel’s electric debut novel *I’m A Fan* has also been shortlisted. Having been termed “spellbinding” by *The New Statesman*, it certainly does not disappoint. The novel’s chapters are a patchwork of punchy, powerful happenings, exploring gendered power imbalances, privacy and access, as well as society’s unhealthy, obsessive interest in status and celebrity. Patel’s protagonist rebels against respectability and the status quo as we know it: “As unreasonable and

were just some of the terms uttered by Gordon Burn Prize judges in their feedback following her win. A book that elicits that kind of response? Count. Us. In. *Aftermath* is a ground-breaking piece of creative non-fiction which successfully and strikingly blurs genre and form, daring to examine the ill-placed suspicion invoked by misinformed and ignorant populations towards Muslims in a society which expends abundant resources on counterterrorism but refuses to acknowledge its own dark, imperial past. This work is complex, significant and utterly ground-breaking – a must read.

“The conversations around these books are already so prevalent and exciting – we can’t imagine how the selection committee will make their final choice.”

unhinged as the power structures she rails against, she’s the person we’re most afraid of being seen as, but secretly wish we could be. At points you pity her, at points you hate her guts, but above all else you will recognise seeds of your own thought processes in her often quite extreme behaviour...” (Emma Garland, *Dazed*). We absolutely adore this book – and its glorious cover!

Another phenomenal work nominated in the category is *Aftermath (And Other Stories)* by Preti Taneja, having already won the Gordon Burn Prize 2022. “Brutal,” “unnerving” and “radical”

Garnering much praise since its release is Paterson Joseph’s début *The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sanchez*. Also nominated in this category, the novel tells the fictionalised story of Sancho, who lived a unique life in Georgian London, ultimately becoming the first Black Briton to vote. Described as “an absolutely thrilling, throat-catching wonder of a historical novel,” the book, Joseph’s passion project, is chock full of compassion and deftly narrates the life of an incredible individual – a story that “resonates with compassion and offers a welcome insight into the

presence of Black people in Georgian England.” Upon release, Joseph performed as Sancho in full costume at the Waterstones launch, propelling the book to smash its sales target in eight weeks and go on to become Dialogue Books’ bestselling hardback debut. A must read if you ask us.

Last, but not least, is Johny Pitts and Roger Robinson’s *Home Is Not A Place*, a free-form collection of photography, poems and essays reflecting on Black Britishness, *Home Is Not A Place* is a spectacular look at Black Britishness in the 21st century. Born from a cross country trip the authors took from London to Margate to Land’s End, Bristol to Blackpool, Glasgow to John O’Groats and Scarborough to Southend-on-Sea, the collection looks to shine a light on the often-overlooked history of Empire and transatlantic slavery to which every Briton is tethered. A complex, resilient and necessary book, this is definitely one not to miss.

The conversations around these books are already so prevalent and exciting – we can’t imagine how the selection committee will make their final choice as they all deserve the winning spot! Pick any book from that category, and we promise you a worthwhile literary trip.

Upcoming Publishing Events

BY ERIN EVETT AND MARIA SADEK
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Book Launch: Michael Magee – *Close to Home*

13 April, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Waterstones, Belfast

Join Michael Magee in Belfast Waterstones as he celebrates the launch of his debut novel *Close To Home*, which is set in the city of Belfast and focuses on the questions of what it means to be a man. Magee will be joined by Wendy Erksine, author of collections *Sweet Home* and *Dance Move*, also hailing from Belfast. For more information, click [here](#).

Online Careers Clinic with *BookCareers* and the London Book Fair

14 April, 9:30–2:30 p.m.

Online

Do not worry if you are unable to get to London to attend the London Book Fair on the 14 April, because *BookCareers* will also be hosting a virtual careers clinic to answer any burning questions. Hosted by Suzanne Collier, founder of [bookcareers.com](#) and shortlisted for Career Coach of the Year 2022, this virtual event will provide a breadth of advice to help you on your job hunt. Between 10:00–11:00 a.m., HarperCollins will also be dropping in to talk through their recruitment process and answer any questions, with more guests hopefully being announced in the weeks leading up to the event. To reserve your ticket to the free virtual careers clinic, [follow this link](#).

Cecelia Ahern in Conversation with Joanna Cannon

17 April, 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Waterstones, Liverpool

Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet bestselling authors Cecelia Ahern and Joanna Cannon. Ahern will be launching the release of her brand new novel *In A Thousand Different Ways*, which follows Alice, a very emotionally sensitive girl who struggles to find her place in the world. Cannon will be celebrating the paperback release of her novel *A Tidy Ending*, about an avid puzzle solver who decides to investigate the disappearances of people in her neighbourhood. For more information and ticket prices, click [here](#).

Brixton Review of Books: Fifth Birthday Party

18 April, 7:00 p.m.

Foyles Charing Cross, London

Join Foyles Charing Cross as they celebrate the fifth birthday of the *Brixton Review of Books*. The magazine has become a literary staple since its founding in 2018, distributing out of Lambeth to bookshops, libraries and art centres across London, as well as being available as a subscription. On this special evening, there will be a variety of guest speakers, authors and poets, as well as a panel led by Michael Caines on the future of independent literary journals. To book your ticket to this exciting event, click [here](#).

London Book Fair

18–20 April

Olympia, London

We are so excited to share that the London Book Fair is coming back for 2023. If you are a publishing hopeful, this event cannot be missed. Spanning across three days, there will be seminar programmes about every aspect of the book industry, conferences offering invaluable networking opportunities and the much-anticipated Spotlight Programme, which will bring the literature of a selected market to the fair's international audience. This year, the programme will look at literature from Ukraine.

As well as these organised panels and events, there will also be the opportunity to visit the Writer's Block, where authors can network and create awareness for their new releases. This will be a fantastic opportunity to find some great recommendations if you're looking to add more works to your to be read pile.

Excitingly, on 20 April 20 from 3:00–4:45 p.m., there will also be a *BookCareers* Clinic at the Fair, where publishers such as Penguin, Hachette and HarperCollins will be there to answer any questions you might have as a publishing hopeful. The recruitment teams will be able to give advice to anyone currently searching for a job.

Do not miss out on this fantastic event, which is sure to be one of the yearly highlights within the publishing world.

To find out more and to reserve your ticket, click [here](#).

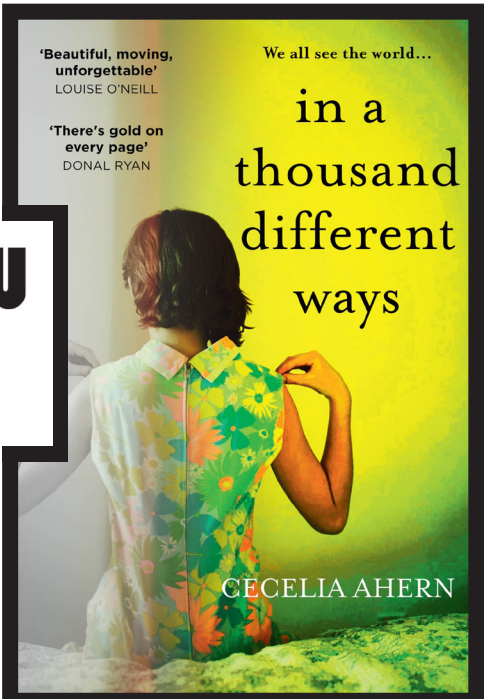
An Evening with Michael Rosen

21 April, 7:30 p.m.

The Wanstead Tap Ltd, London

Join beloved poet and children's author Michael Rosen as he reads from his latest poetry collection *Advantages of Nearly Dying*. In this emotional new book, Rosen reflects on his experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, looking at the government's actions during the crisis and ultimately ending with a song of praise for the NHS and the front-line workers. This collection marks a move away from children's literature and poetry for Rosen as he shares his new, just for grown-ups, anthology. Don't miss out on this intimate evening of reflection and click [here](#) to buy your tickets.

BRIXTON REVIEW OF BOOKS



Springtime Reads: Books to Get You Excited About Better Weather

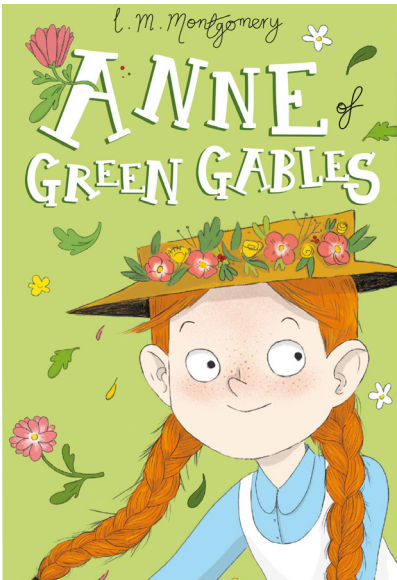
BY LAUREN JONES, ZOE DOYLE AND AMY WRIGHT
.....

Now that spring is here, we can look forward to the longer and warmer days that this season promises. The weather should be getting better, which means reading outside will become more of a possibility. It is also the perfect time to try something new, fresh and uplifting as we head further away from winter and closer to blue skies and sunshine. We recommend three reads that will get you excited about the approaching change in atmosphere; they celebrate the outdoors, offer light-hearted escapism and embrace a sunnier setting. Here are our top picks for your spring reading list.

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

Although widely considered a children’s book, *Anne of Green Gables* is a classic that we would recommend to readers of all ages. After spending a childhood in various orphanages and strange people’s homes, eleven-year-old Anne arrives in Avonlea hoping for permanence at last. Then, she discovers that siblings Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert wanted to adopt a strong boy to help around the farm – not a wiry, red-headed girl with a fiery temper. Despite not fitting the bill of who the Cuthberts were searching for initially, Anne finds a place in their family and a loving home in Green Gables.

A whimsical and fanciful character, Anne has a wild imagination and a love for bombastic, flowery words.



Her desire to see the beauty in everything paints rich descriptions of scenery and nature, which makes this book a perfect escape from the final dregs of winter and helps us to get ready for the possibilities that spring and summer may bring.

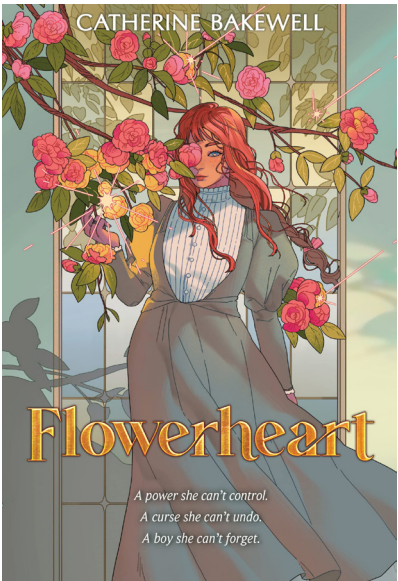
Anne of Green Gables is simply a really joyful, light-hearted read – a wonderful companion for this seasonal transition! We hope that Anne’s determination to see the good in everything inspires you to appreciate all the happiness this budding world has to offer.

Flowerheart by Catherine Bakewell

Cosy fantasy has become an increasingly popular subgenre, but have you heard of cottagecore fantasy? *Flowerheart* is saturated with magic, flowers, casually queer characters and mental health representation.

Clara possesses powerful, unpredictable magic that has always been difficult to control. After accidentally causing a poisonous flower to bloom in her father’s chest,

she determines to find a cure, teaming up with her former best friend, Xavier, who has changed over the years from a sweet child to a distant young man. As Clara hunts for the cure, she soon realises that he



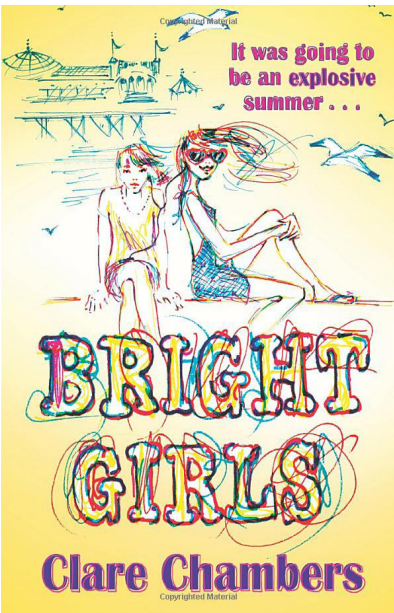
is hiding secrets and that a terrible darkness is seeping throughout the queendom.

While it has an escapist and light-hearted tone, *Flowerheart* also weaves in important conversations about mental health through Clara’s struggles with her magic. It’s a book about family, love and finding the strength to embrace yourself as you are. Those who love charming and whimsical stories like *Howl’s Moving Castle* will definitely enjoy this read and, if that doesn’t

convince you, check out how stunning the cover is – it just screams springtime!

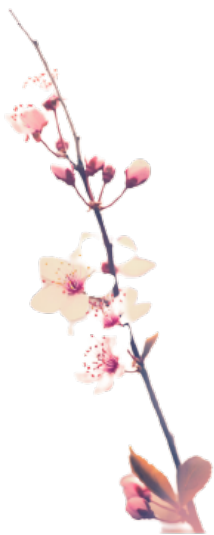
Bright Girls by Clare Chambers

If you have read books by Clare Chambers before, you will be familiar with her well-written, interesting characters and the cleverness of her engaging storylines. *Bright Girls* is no exception. Fifteen-year-old Robyn and her older sister Rachel travel from their home in Oxford to stay with their eccentric Aunt Jackie in Brighton for the summer. Their widowed father needs them to stay away from home for their own safety, for reasons that become apparent as the story progresses.



Staying with Aunt Jackie is never boring. The story follows Robyn as she experiences an exciting and unforgettable summer, and you will grow to love her as a narrator. Her storytelling is filled with humour and charm, and whilst there is a certain competitiveness and rivalry between the very different Robyn and Rachel, they undoubtedly hold a great deal of sisterly love for each other.

If you’re looking for an uplifting and witty book to cheer you up, *Bright Girls* is the perfect feel-good spring read. You are likely to want to pick this book up again and again, and the summery Brighton will definitely make you dream of future holidays, spending more time outdoors and the better weather to come.





Politics and Humour

BY ALEXANDRA CONSTABLE, HAYLEY CADEL, BRITTANY HOLNESS, MAISIE CLARKE AND BIANCA SCASSERRA

There is no doubt that the past few years have been turbulent and eventful in global politics. From Trump to Brexit to Megxit, the world has undergone several colossal changes in the political sphere. It is no surprise that this social and political turmoil has been reflected in the publishing industry, with a number of writers and politicians taking to the page to highlight the supposed humour in all of this change. Whether it be parodies, satirical novels, journalism or a manifesto of tweets, an emerging trend of self-professed humorous political content is sweeping through the publishing world.

The first offenders of the political reduction come in the form of parodies and satire. There are many different variations of this theme that are rife in the existing publishing market. Its lighter and humorous tone allows for a more superficial outlook amidst the tumultuous noise of change and political frenzy. Writers within the publishing sphere, those primarily with comical genes, have taken advantage of such change to pen novels that are exaggerated for their readers' entertainment.

Although some of its context has been inflated, the substance of these caricatured books is borne from allegedly factual accounts. The contentious launch of Prince Harry's non-fiction book, *Spare* was laid bare for public dissection. Not to mention, Bruno Vincent's impending satirical release *Spare Us: A Harrody* due to be published on 23 April. It follows Prince Harry's memoir told in a comedic voice, intending to mock the content of the original piece and give the narrative a more jovial feel. The comedic assault doesn't stop there; a political figure at the centre of many media storms was former Prime Minister Boris Johnson. A tenure blighted by a series of controversial decisions and duplicity, he became the opportune candidate for humorous parodies. Notable inclusions are from Iain Hollingshead, who authored the political satire, *Boris Johnson: The Neverending Tory: The Adventure Where You Take Back Control* offering readers a chance to take up the lofty mantle held by Mr. Johnson and embark on their own quest to become "World King."



Twitter often acts as the home for political commentary, with many choosing it as a platform to air opinions, using the character limit to create sound bites. With many Twitter users using the platform for this purpose, it comes as little surprise that satirical books have been created from this content. One example is John Bull, who had a thread of his tweets go viral, penned *The Brexit Tapes*. Styled as a "Brexitorian" account, set in the year 3563, Bull imagines the discovery of the first cache of secret tapes of conversations held in Westminster. These tapes document the "lost years" from the Brexit Referendum to the Second Dark Age, to give a clear picture of the events which led up to the Civil War which followed. Published by the crowdfunding publisher, Unbound, it shows a clear market interest in ideas distilled in a Twitter thread and expanded upon in book form, and the potential overlap between the two.

Journalists have also joined this upsurge of parody and humour. A great example of this is Marina Hyde's *What Just Happened*:

Dispatches from Turbulent Times. Released in October 2022, Hyde weaves her way through the past six years, poking fun at all of the characters who take centre stage in the theatrics of the British government. Despite this exploration of the political sphere through satire-driven analysis, Hyde's journalistic talent is the driving force that helps to wickedly bolster this work from a collection of pinpoint jokes to a grounded and witty reflection of the chaos of recent years. Peter Conrad at *The Guardian* characterises Hyde as "lethally funny" and it is clear through the popular reception of the book that many feel the same. Hyde's book is an example of how comedy can relieve the gloom of modern politics whilst never undermining the rightful criticisms of these conditions. Potentially, the popularity of this is due to the sheer intensity of 'gloom' British people have had to endure recently, and as true Brits, the best way to tackle this is through derision and mockery.

Overall, with the massive changes in the political industry amassing globally, there should be some expectation that the

publishing industry would not only reflect the events occurring but also act as some form of comedic relief – though the tasteful nature of these books is potentially questionable. In the surge to produce titles and publish other political content, like those emphasised in this article, it is evident that there is an emergence of various types of media reflecting politics in some way. It is clear that this trend is not new, as this has been the outcome for years in the publishing industry; books acting as a clear indicator of political strife in one way or another. With every great political shift, there will be content to reflect this change, as seen in books like *Animal Farm*, which paralleled the Russian Revolution. For the foreseeable future, with the constantly changing political sphere, this trend will likely remain.





Upskilling Tips for the London Book Fair 2023

BY MEGHAN CAPPER, MISHA MANANI AND JOE PILBROW

The London Book Fair (LBF) is the biggest publishing event in the UK. Many international and UK-based publishers, booksellers, marketing agencies, distributors and literary agents gather at Olympia London for three days. It is useful for publishing hopefuls aiming to develop their knowledge and network. It is also great for publishing professionals to learn, connect and exhibit. This issue, we are highlighting the unmissable seminars and exhibitors to visit and share our advice for maximising your experience.

Useful Seminar Programmes

tuesday

Day 1: 18 April 2023

[Shaping the Business and the Art of the Book Industry](#): an interview with the CEO of HarperCollins Publishers regarding the future of publishing.

[So We Opened a Bookshop](#): fresh insights into the business of bookselling from the owners of three new bookshops.

[How to Create Successful Influencer Marketing Campaigns](#): an exploration of book influencers and social media marketing; a must-see for aspiring marketing executives.

[Partners, Not Censors](#): explaining the process and debunking myths surrounding cultural accuracy editing; a topical discussion on social responsibility in publishing.

wednesday

Day 2: 19 April 2023

[Global Audio Publishing Opportunities](#): Spotify Vice President and Chief Digital Officer at HarperCollins discuss emerging opportunities in audiobooks.

[Sustainability in Books Publishing](#): gain valuable insight into a major issue in publishing today.

[Is the Publishing Industry an Attractive Workplace for the Generation of Tomorrow?](#): discover industry professionals' thoughts about recruitment in publishing; no doubt they'll have tips for publishing hopefuls too.

[Indie Publishing: The Creative Heart of the Industry](#): hear the challenges and successes of independent publishing from founders of indie presses.

thursday

Day 3: 20 of April

[Reaching a TikTok Generation](#): learn how marketers leverage social media for the benefit of readers and publishers alike.

[Around the World in Books](#): a look at the most popular books from last year and what trends are dominating the industry.

[SYP - The Price\(s\) of Publishing](#): how the cost of living crisis will impact those looking to enter the sector.

[The Power of the Written Word](#): a discussion on the role of the industry in bringing societal topics like mental health, inclusivity and sustainability to the forefront of public consciousness.

Bonus Discussions: [Literary Magazines: Current Reality and Future Prospects](#) (18 April) and [The Role of Technology in Publishing](#) (19 April).

Top Exhibitors to Visit

Conglomerate Publishers: Hachette (6D81), HarperCollins (6D10), Penguin Random House (6D11), Pan Macmillan (6D50), Simon & Schuster (6D20).

Independent Publishers: Faber & Faber (6D80), Bonnier Books UK (6D40), Nosy Crow (1E28), Sweet Cherry Publishing (1F31), Atlantic Books (6E81), Canongate Books (6D84), Profile Books (6D90), Thames & Hudson (6E50), The Indigo Press (2D94), Bloomsbury Publishing (6D60).

Academic/Scholarly Publishers: Sage Publishing (7A30), Cambridge University Press (3E240), Oxford University Press (7G20), Springer Nature (7J10), Agenda Publishing (7E50), Peter Lang Group (7E50), De Gruyter (7C03), Taylor & Francis Group (7H10).

International Publishers: 24 Ore Cultura (Italy) (6F30), National Book Council of Malta (6E45), Bilgeoguz Publishing House (Turkey) (7E31), Clio Publishers (Ukraine) (2B01), Diogenes Verlag (Switzerland) (6D71), Sheth Publishing house

(India) (1F21), Fischer Kinder- und Jugendbuch Verlag (Germany) (6D61), Giunti Editore Spa (Italy) (2D86).

Literary Agencies: Curtis Brown Group, David Higham Associates (V20-V23/W20-W21), Aitken Alexander (Q2-Q5), Lorella Belli Literary Agency (K6-K7), A.M Heath (M12-M13/N12-N13), C&W, Felicity Bryan Associates (M16/N16-N17), Greene & Heaton, Peters Fraser & Dunlop (H4-H5/J4-J5). However, access to the agenting section is restricted.

Additional Exhibitors: Independent Publishers Guild (7E50, 6E70), Publishers Association (6G55), The Bookseller (2A111), Book Trade Charity (6G36), Society of Authors (1E500).

You can find the full Exhibitors Directory [here](#).

Top Tips

Ask questions: there are question-and-answer sessions or chances to approach the panellists/speakers at the end of seminars. It is a great way to stand out, introduce yourself and satisfy your curiosity!

Use the 'Add to Plan' icon: go through the seminar session directory and add the talks you are interested in. Click on the heart in the top right-hand page and export as PDF. Print this out or download it on your phone to track your schedule.

Look around the stands: exploring the stalls makes you aware of the book market which is great to share in applications or interviews. A book might catch your eye, the design of the stand or a marketing campaign. Remember our recommendations above to hit every aspect of the industry.

Attend the Bookcareers Careers Clinic: Suzanne Collier hosts a session for jobseekers at LBF. This is from 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on 20 April, but look for updates on [Twitter](#). To register, click [here](#). There is also a must-listen-to podcast about [Making the Most of the London Book Fair 2023](#).

Bring a notebook and pen: LBF is filled with publishing professionals, so you never know when you will need to jot notes down. It could stem from seminars, socials or networking opportunities!

Thank you for reading issue sixty-nine! Join us again for issue seventy, where we will cover Upskilling Dictionary: Marketing.



Special Thanks

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