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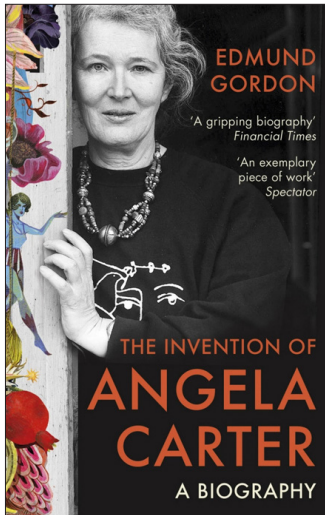
Slightly Foxed



The Biographers' Club  
Supporting, promoting and connecting  
biographers at all levels



ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF THE SLIGHTLY FOXED BEST FIRST BIOGRAPHY PRIZE 2017



## Edmund Gordon

### *The Invention of Angela Carter: A Biography*

In this finely judged and elegantly written biography, Gordon teases out the truth behind Angela Carter's fictions about her own life, while recounting the brilliant and volatile career of this born writer, critic and fabulist.

Widely acknowledged as one of the most important English writers of the last century, Angela Carter's work stands out for its bawdiness and linguistic zest, its hospitality to the fantastical and the absurd, and its extraordinary inventiveness and range. Her life was as vigorously modern and unconventional as anything in her fiction. This is the story of how Angela Carter invented herself – as a new kind of woman and a new kind of writer – and how she came to write such seductive and distinctive masterworks as *The Bloody Chamber*, *Nights at the Circus*, and *Wise Children*. Author Edmund Gordon has followed in Angela Carter's footsteps – travelling to the places she lived in Britain, Japan, and the USA – to uncover a life rich in adventure and incident. With unrestricted access to her manuscripts, letters, and journals, and informed by interviews with Carter's friends and family, Gordon offers an unrivalled portrait of one of the twentieth century's most dazzlingly original writers. (£10.99 • Chatto & Windus)

'A fascinating journey . . . triumphantly bringing us closer to the brilliantly wayward personality and mind of one of the finest, most original writers of the last 50 years'

Kazuo Ishiguro, *Guardian Books of the Year*

#### THE PRIZE

This is the fourth year of the literary quarterly and independent publisher Slightly Foxed's sponsorship of the *Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize*, with a winner's award of £2,500. Previous winners: Hisham Matar, *The Return*; Alan Cumming, *Not My Father's Son*; Claudia Renton, *Those Wild Wyndhams*; Charles Moore, *Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography*; Thomas Penn, *Winter King: The Dawn of Tudor England*; and Matthew Hollis, *Now All Roads Lead to France*.

#### THE WINNER

Edmund Gordon was born in 1982. He studied philosophy at Trinity College Dublin and modern literature at University College London, and since 2011 has taught creative writing at King's College London. A regular contributor to the *TLS* and the *London Review of Books*, he has also written for a variety of national newspapers, including the *Guardian*, *Observer* and *Sunday Times*.

#### THE JUDGES

Caroline Moorehead, Ian Kelly and Sam Leith

'This was an exceptional shortlist, in which every book showed not only thorough knowledge of its subject but deep and sympathetic understanding. From the Tudor court, to the battlefields of the First World War, from a busy Obs/Gynae ward on the NHS to the august halls of the National Gallery, from a book-lined study to a Japanese love-hotel, we were thoroughly immersed, too, in the worlds these books inhabit. In the end, though, we had to pick a first among equals. And for its elegant writing, fastidious research and becomingly modest yet entirely authoritative portrait of its fascinating subject and her unique work, we chose Edmund Gordon's *The Invention Of Angela Carter* as our winner.' Sam Leith, Literary Editor of *The Spectator*

## THE SHORTLIST

- Thomas Dilworth, *David Jones: Engraver, Soldier, Painter, Poet* (Cape)
- Edmund Gordon, *The Invention of Angela Carter: A Biography* (Chatto & Windus)
- Adam Kay, *This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor* (Picador)
- Gareth Russell, *Young & Damned & Fair: The Life & Tragedy of Catherine Howard* (Collins)
- Helen Smith, *The Uncommon Reader: A Life of Edward Garnett* (Cape)
- James Stourton, *Kenneth Clark: Life, Art and Civilisation* (Collins)

## SLIGHTLY FOXED

*Slightly Foxed: The Real Reader's Quarterly* and its acclaimed list of classic limited-edition memoirs have become something of an institution in the literary world. Contributors to the magazine include Diana Athill, Quentin Blake, Ronald Blythe, Margaret Drabble, Adam Foulds, Melissa Harrison, Michael Holroyd, Amy Liptrot, Penelope Lively, Richard Mabey, Robert Macfarlane, Dervla Murphy, Sarah Perry, Jane Ridley, Christopher Rush, Posy Simmonds, Adam Sisman and Ali Smith. A subscription to the quarterly includes access to the full digital archive and offers from partner organizations, including: The Library Club, The National Trust and The Royal Society of Literature. The Slightly Foxed series of memoirs includes works by: Edward Ardizzone, Adrian Bell, Graham Greene, Diana Holman-Hunt, Michael Holroyd, Hilary Mantel, Gavin Maxwell, Rosemary Sutcliff and, forthcoming: Jennie Erdal, Jan Morris, Eric Newby and Ernest Shepard. **Single issues from £11; Subscriptions from £40; Books from £16 • Worldwide shipping • [www.foxedquarterly.com](http://www.foxedquarterly.com)**

## THE BIOGRAPHERS' CLUB

Founded in 1997, the Club is committed to supporting, promoting and connecting biographers at all levels. It offers three prizes each year: the *Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize*; the *Tony Lothian Prize* and the *Exceptional Contribution to Biography Award*. President: Andrew Lownie. Committee & Associates: Jane Ridley (Chairman); Sarah Anderson; Nicholas Clew; Caroline Knox; Anne de Courcy; Ariane Bankes (Prize Administrator) and Jane Mays. [www.biographers.club](http://www.biographers.club)

## LIBRARY LONDON

LIBRARY London is a beautifully designed private members' club for bookworms, right in the heart of London's theatre land on St Martin's Lane. *Slightly Foxed* subscribers can enjoy a 50% discount on annual membership. [www.lib-rary.com](http://www.lib-rary.com)

For a review copy of Edmund Gordon, *The Invention of Angela Carter: A Biography* or for extract or interview requests contact: Fran Owen / Sophie Mitchell, Chatto & Windus  
[mitchellowen@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk](mailto:mitchellowen@penguinrandomhouse.co.uk) • +44(0)20 7840 8688

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Stephanie Allen/Jennie Harrison Bunning  
020 7729 9368 • [press@foxedquarterly.com](mailto:press@foxedquarterly.com)  
[www.foxedquarterly.com](http://www.foxedquarterly.com) Social @foxedquarterly  
53 Hoxton Square, London N1 6PB

