

Slightly Foxed

READERS' CATALOGUE • SUMMER 2021



'I love your books, catalogue, podcast, even your envelopes and feel like I'm opening a gift whenever something from Slightly Foxed arrives.' J. Downs, New York

OUR IMPRINTS

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITIONS (FORMAT: 170 X 110MM)

These classic memoirs, each published in a limited and hand-numbered hardback pocket edition of 2,000 copies, are perfectly designed to curl up with – neat, sturdy little books, just the right size to hold in the hand. More important still, they're wonderful reads – hitherto forgotten memoirs that bring alive a particular moment, that allow you into someone else's world and make you feel you have actually known the writer. Elegantly bound in cloth, with coloured endpapers, silk head- and tailband and ribbon marker, these charming volumes are compulsively readable and irresistibly collectable.

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These beautifully produced collectable children's books strike a nostalgic chord with many readers and introduce a younger generation to writers whose work has often been allowed to slip out of print.

OFFERS

Buy any four Slightly Foxed Editions and save £1 per book

Buy any four Plain Foxed Editions and save £1 per book

Buy any two SF Paperbacks and save £4 per book



THE READERS' CATALOGUE

Welcome to the Readers' Catalogue. Here you'll find listings for our cloth-bound limited-edition hardbacks, back issues of *Slightly Foxed* together with handsome slipcasses in which to keep them, Plain Editions, our Foxed Cubs series of classic children's fiction, a small collection of literary goods and our pick of titles from other publishers. We do hope you enjoy receiving it.

Everything listed in this catalogue or on our website can be sent to you, or directly to a recipient, in good time for a date of your choice. *SF* subscribers can use their usual discount on all items, whether they are to be sent to you or to someone else. Non-subscribers may purchase all items at the undiscounted rates as usual. The office is well-stocked with smart gift cards, reams of brown paper, foxed ribbon and handsome gift boxes in anticipation.

Please note that we can also order many other books so if there's a new or second-hand title you're looking for that isn't listed here or on our website (where you'll also find hundreds of books recommended in past catalogues, back issues of the quarterly magazine and on our podcast) do get in touch with Jess in the office and she will do her best to rootle it out for you.

With best wishes from Gail, Hazel and all of us here at Slightly Foxed

CONTENTS

New! SFE No. 55: Richard Cobb, <i>Still Life</i>	4
New! Plain Edition: Dodie Smith, <i>Look Back with Love</i>	5
Featured Summer Read: Frances Wood, <i>Hand-grenade Practice in Peking</i>	5
SF Editions/Plain Editions/SF Paperbacks arranged loosely by theme	
Vanished Worlds	7
An Old Rural Order	8
A World at War	10
Rogues & Rebels	13
Quietly Hilarious	14
Writing Life	16
The Quarterly	
Current Issue, Subscriptions & Back Issues	20
Goods	
Notebooks	20
<i>Pull-out Order Form (inc. Frequently Foxing Questions)</i>	
Slipcasses	21
Bags	21
The Bookplate	21
The Revolving Bookcase	21
Book Sets & Bundles	22
Slightly Foxed Cubs	
Rosemary Sutcliffe, <i>The Roman & Post-Roman Novels</i>	23
Ronald Welch, <i>The Carey Novels</i>	27
'BB'	32
Books Featured in <i>SF</i> Issue 70 and other summer reading	35

NEW THIS SUMMER

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 55

Richard Cobb

STILL LIFE

The historian Richard Cobb, famous for his brilliant books on France and the French Revolution, his inspirational teaching and his unconventional behaviour, grew up in the 1920s and '30s in the quiet and deeply conventional town of Tunbridge Wells. Yet Cobb loved that small world with its middle-class confidence and soothing predictability – it was, he writes, 'a society in which a rather frightened child could feel secure'.

In this unusual memoir he recreates it in entrancing detail as he experienced it between the ages of 4 and 13. Arriving at the Central Station, with its wooden staircase advertising 'Carter's Little Liver Pills', he leads us through the town and into the lives of the characters among whom he grew up, each minutely observed and remembered, from the mysterious Black Widow, seen always in deep yet unexplained mourning, to Baroness Olga, the town's only victim of the Russian Revolution, with her tight-fitting cloche hat and jade earrings. At home his mother entertains her tweed-and-Jaeger-clad Bridge-playing friends while down the road in their large, dank Victorian mansion his extraordinary cousins the Limbury-Buses live their lives according to an unchanging regime of walks, rests and meals which are timed to the minute.

The book is indeed a 'still life', a snapshot of a miniature world caught at a particular moment in time. Yet every page contains some wonderfully recaptured human or geographical detail which stays in the mind and brings the town and its people colourfully alive again. 'Strange and wonderful,' wrote Hilary Spurling in the *Observer* when the book was first published. And indeed it is.

PUBLISHED JUNE 2021 • HAND-NUMBERED LIMITED EDITION OF 2,000
CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK • 170 X 110 MM • FROM £17 • 224 PAGES

Dodie Smith

LOOK BACK WITH LOVE

Writing in *Slightly Foxed*, Dodie Smith's biographer Valerie Grove describes *Look Back with Love* as 'one of the happiest and funniest accounts of an Edwardian upbringing'.

Best known for her first novel *I Capture the Castle*, for the evergreen *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*, and for *Dear Octopus*, her 1938 play set at a family reunion, Dodie did not publish this account of her early life until 1974 when she was 78.

Brought up among her mother's family since her father had died when she was a baby, Dodie spent her childhood surrounded by doting adults. It was the jolliest environment imaginable – the Furbers adored seaside trips, motorcar outings, fairgrounds, circuses, jokes, charades and musical soirées. Above all they loved the theatre, and it was through her bachelor uncles' involvement in amateur dramatics that she conceived her passion for the stage.

Her memoir gives a wonderful picture of this large extended family and of life at that time in the 'basking Sunday afternoon charm' of Manchester's Victorian suburbs.

And of the funny, complicated, creative little girl who would later say of herself 'I think I'm an oddity really, but I do my very, very best to write well' – which in *Look Back with Love* she certainly did. PUBLISHED JUNE 2021 • PLAIN FOXED EDITION • FROM £17 • 272 PAGES



FEATURED SUMMER READ

Frances Wood, *Hand-grenade Practice in Peking*

SF PAPERBACK • 240 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £11

China in 1975 was a strange, undiscovered country, still half-mad from Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, when young Frances Wood boarded a plane in London to study for a year in Peking. Based on the letters she wrote home, this account of her experiences is both affecting and hilarious, a unique insight into a mysterious and painful moment in China's history.

Virtually closed to outsiders for the preceding decade, China was just beginning to make tentative moves towards the outside world when Frances Wood and her fellow students were driven in an ancient coach through the dark silent countryside to their new quarters at the Foreign Languages Institute. Here they were settled into small rooms with hard iron beds and a single dim light bulb. Outside were showers powered by an enormous boiler emitting boiling steam from cracks in the pipework. Next day, at the medical centre, they learned that

medical treatment was free but ‘we would have to pay for our own abortions’.

Throughout the following year in an extraordinary Alice-in-Wonderland world where ‘education’ consisted of shovelling rubble, hand-grenade practice, and crippling tedious ideological lectures, Frances never lost her sense of humour. Or indeed her fascination for the ancient civilization that lurked behind the Cultural Revolution’s grim façade. Based on the letters she wrote home in 1975–6, *Hand-grenade Practice in Peking* is both affecting and hilarious, a unique insight into a mysterious and painful moment in China’s history.



You can hear Frances Wood in conversation with SF Editors Gail and Hazel and listen to the story of the restoration of the world’s earliest dated printed book – the *Diamond Sutra* – discovered during Frances’s tenure as Head of the Chinese Collection at the British Library on Episode 2 of the Slightly Foxed Podcast: *The Oldest Paper in the World*.

The Slightly Foxed Podcast is free for all to listen to at www.foxedquarterly.com/pod and on Apple Podcasts and Google Play or your podcast platform of choice.

‘The Slightly Foxed podcast, like the quarterly . . . is almost muskily lovely. It’s the sort of thing you can imagine listening to with a dog at your feet and whisky by your side in a draughty Mitfordesque folly . . . Where other podcasts suffer from a crescendo of competing voices, this is steady and understated and, yes, all the cosier for being so.’ Daisy Dunn, *Spectator*

ALSO AVAILABLE

In hard times, both literal and metaphorical, there’s nothing like a good book to give a sense of comfort and relaxation. Our editions are designed to do just that – a collection of classic but momentarily forgotten memoirs that light up the recent past in a way no history book can, and put our own troubled times into a fresh perspective.

In the following pages you’ll find listings for all other available titles from the original SF Edition series together with others on a loosely similar theme that we have reissued as Plain Foxed Editions or SF Paperbacks. After a romp through our Foxed Cubs list of classic historical, adventure and nature novels for younger readers, you’ll discover a couple of pages dedicated to books featured in the new issue of the quarterly and our latest pick of good reading from other

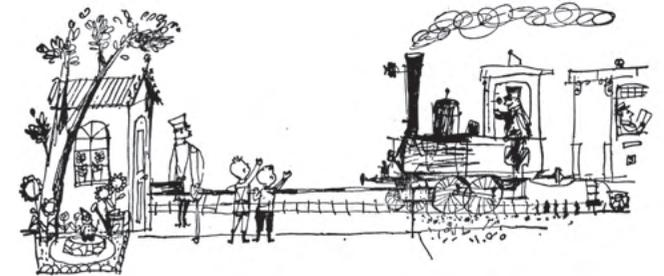
publishers’ shelves. So, whether you’re in need of a few good books for yourself or as presents for someone you’re fond of this season, we hope you’ll find our suggestions helpful.

VANISHED WORLDS

Erich Kästner, *When I Was a Little Boy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 40 • 216 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

Erich Kästner, author of the immortal children’s book *Emil and the Detectives*, was born at the end of the 19th century in Dresden – that ‘wonderful city full of art and history’ which was razed to the ground by the Allies in 1945. Erich’s gentle father Emil, a master saddler, and his mother Ida, an intelligent woman who set up as a hairdresser, had come to Dresden from small-town Saxony. Times were tough, and Erich grew up in a tenement flat at the shabby end of a long street called the Königsbrücker Strasse. Yet the book shines with the everyday happiness of a young boy’s life in a close-knit, hardworking family, set against the backdrop of the ancient city with its baroque buildings, its parades before the Kaiser, its trams and glittering shops. *When I Was a Little Boy* is an affecting picture of both Erich’s childhood and the city he never ceased to mourn.



Laurie Lee, *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 54 • 240 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

When Laurie Lee set out on foot from his home in the Gloucestershire village of Slad one midsummer morning in 1935 he was 19 and off to see the world with only his violin for company. So began a year of wandering that eventually took him from the north to the south of Spain, a country in which life had barely changed since the Middle Ages but which was now on the brink of a bitter civil war. The adventure that began as a romantic dream ended somewhat ignominiously, but it inspired Lee to produce this brilliant and darkly haunting account of a vanished Spain, and return to fight on the Republican side not long after.

Buy with *Cider with Rosie*, see p. 8

Ernest Shepard, *Drawn from Memory* and *Drawn from Life*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NOS. 44 & 45 • 192 & 224 PAGES • ILLUS. • PAIR FROM £34

The much-loved artist Ernest Shepard, whose delicate and humorous illustrations will forever define the characters of Winnie-the-Pooh, and Mole, Ratty and Toad in *Wind in the Willows*, grew up in London as the 19th century faded into the 20th. In *Drawn from Memory*, he tells,



in words and enchanting pictures, the story of his happy middle-class childhood, beginning in 1887, the year of the Golden Jubilee when Ernest was 8 and already determined to be an artist like his father. *Drawn from Life* opens with the tragic death of his mother when he was 10 and describes the family's brave recovery, Ernest's time at the Royal Academy Schools, and his happy marriage to a fellow artist. Together these two volumes form a vivid canvas filled with the vision of a gentler, more leisurely world which makes one long to return to it.

Priscilla Napier, *A Late Beginner*

SF PAPERBACK • 336 PAGES • FROM £11

Priscilla Napier grew up in Egypt during the last golden years of the Edwardian Age. Here she brings to life that far-off world – the house and its devoted Egyptian servants, the desert picnics with Nanny, the visits to Cairo Zoo, the afternoons playing in the grounds of the Gezira Sporting Club – and the long summers in England among their mother's family, as the First World War began to take its tragic toll of uncles and cousins. It is a wonderful evocation of a place, a time and a climate of mind – a book that, as Penelope Lively writes in her preface, 'ranks quite simply with the greatest accounts of how it is to be a child'.

Gwen Raverat, *Period Piece*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

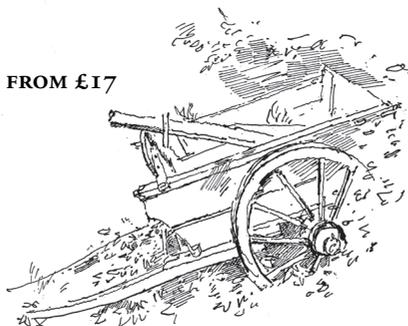
Gwen Raverat is best-known for her glorious wood engravings, but in her childhood memoir *Period Piece* she created a perfect small masterpiece of another kind – a deliciously funny, affectionate and atmospheric picture of life in the small world of 19th-century academic Cambridge among the eccentric Darwin clan. Illustrated with Gwen's own delightful drawings, it not only brilliantly captures a moment in time but also shows us the making of the artist Gwen was to become. As Rose Macaulay wrote when it was first published, it is 'funny, witty, beautifully written, more than beautifully illustrated, everything such a book can be'.

AN OLD RURAL ORDER

Laurie Lee, *Cider with Rosie*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 53 • 272 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

Laurie Lee was born in Stroud in 1914 and in 1917 the family moved to a damp and crumbling cottage in the remote Cotswold village of Slad. When the First World War was over Laurie's father abandoned his wife and children and life was hard, but for Laurie his warm



hugger-mugger home and the village with its familiar characters and unchanging round were full of wonder.

He writes ecstatically of going blackberrying in summer, and skating and carol singing in icy Christmas weather when it hurt to breathe and the air was 'like needles'. Yet he acknowledges that village life could be brutal too. *Cider with Rosie* is not just a rosy picture of a rural past, but a magical evocation of growing up in a lost world that still rings emotionally true. Buy with *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning*, see p. 7

John Moore, *Brensham Village*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 34 • 272 PAGES • FROM £17

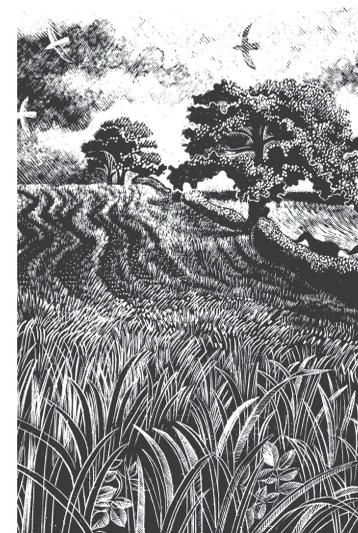
In this second volume of Moore's interwar trilogy the setting moves from Elmbury to a small village nearby. It is the 1930s, there is unemployment, and change is creeping in, with mannerless weekenders arriving from the city, a shady 'Syndicate' of developers, an ugly petrol station and a local cinema. But there is still cricket on the village green, and Moore and his friends still go fishing, ferreting and bird's-nesting. Moore tenderly evokes the last shadows of an England that was on the very point of vanishing.

John Moore, *The Blue Field*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 42

256 PAGES • FROM £17

The last in John Moore's trilogy, *The Blue Field* shifts the focus from town and village to a single farm and the life of its owner, William Hart. It is 1948 and the aftermath of the war signals the end of a particular way of rural life. In the touching, and often hilarious, stories of this wild and intractable man, Moore captures a very English sense of resistance and resilience. Hart is a master wagon-maker, reveller and brewer of parsnip wine; a steadfast defender of small liberties; a self-professed descendant of Shakespeare who grows the finest Brussels sprouts in England. And he's the man responsible for the field of linseed, grown in defiance of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, which flowers one summer morning on Brensham Hill.



Adrian Bell, *Corduroy*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 288 PAGES • FROM £17

Adrian Bell was a rather frail young man of 20 when, in 1920, he left London to learn agriculture on a Suffolk farm. He arrived one autumn day on an old motorbike feeling all wrong for the part. Like many townies, he assumed at first that the locals were somewhat simple, but soon his own ignorance and initial inability to do the most basic physical tasks taught him a new respect. A farmer, he discovered, stored away in his head thousands of facts about animals, crops and

fodder, while his eye for a pig was 'as subtle as an artist's'.

Bell's eye was subtle too. He grew to love the land, and *Corduroy* is filled with precise and poetic descriptions of the countryside and of farming life. It is not simply a period piece – it captures what is unchanging about the lives of those who live from, rather than simply on, the land.

Adrian Bell, *Silver Ley*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 30 • 288 PAGES • FROM £17

In this captivating sequel to *Corduroy*, Adrian Bell describes the hardships and happiness of setting up on his own farm. The story opens in 1921 as Bell wakes, full of hope, to start his new life at Silver Ley. This second book in Bell's trilogy is a quietly observed and unsentimental picture of a rural world and a way of life which were even then fading.

Adrian Bell, *The Cherry Tree*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 38 • 256 PAGES • FROM £17

In this final volume of his trilogy Bell makes a happy marriage and settles down with his wife Nora on their own small farm. But behind this cheerful picture lurks the shadow of the growing agricultural depression and the passing of an old rural order. Bell's poetic eye and farmer's knowledge come together once more to complete a timeless record of life on the land which still resonates today.

Special Offer: The Adrian Bell Trilogy

SF Subscribers: UK & Ireland £48; overseas £54 *SAVE £7.50
Non-Subscribers: UK & Ireland £52.50; overseas £58.50 *SAVE £3



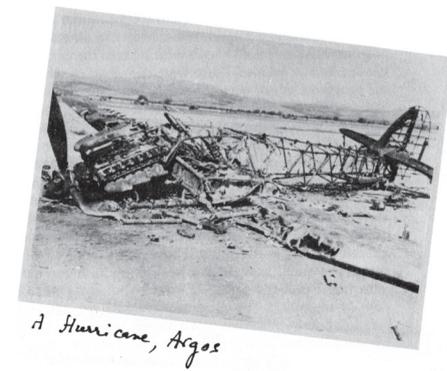
A WORLD AT WAR

Roald Dahl, *Going Solo*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 49 • 236 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

This sequel to *Boy* finds Dahl a representative of Shell, travelling the dirt roads of Tanganyika in an old station wagon visiting distant and often eccentric customers, the people who quite literally kept the machinery of Empire running. It was a free and adventurous life, but nothing like as hair-raising as what happened when war was declared and Dahl joined the RAF. Flying solo in 1941 to join his new squadron, he crashed in the Western Desert and suffered horrendous

injuries, but five months later he was up and off again to join the tiny British force attempting to defend Greece. He was clearly a brilliant pilot, and *Going Solo* is a story of extraordinary courage as well as a haunting evocation of the unspoiled beauty of East Africa in the 1930s and its now extinct breed of expatriates, 'the craziest bunch of humans I shall ever meet'. Buy with *Boy*, see p. 16



A Hurricane, Argos

John Hackett, *I Was a Stranger*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • FROM £17

In September 1944 John Hackett, commander of the 4th Parachute Brigade, was severely wounded and captured during the Battle of Arnhem. After being taken to a hospital in enemy hands and given emergency surgery, he was spirited away by the Dutch Resistance and hidden in a house owned by three middle-aged sisters, who risked their lives to nurse him back to health and help him escape down the canals of occupied Holland to the British lines. *I Was a Stranger* is less a war memoir than a story of friendship, a tribute by a very unusual soldier to a group of outstandingly brave, unassuming and resourceful people.

Anthony Rhodes, *Sword of Bone*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 35 • 320 PAGES • FROM £17

It's hard to imagine that anyone who took part in the disaster of Dunkirk could write an amusing book about it. But that is what Anthony Rhodes has done in *Sword of Bone*, his wry account of the events leading up to the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force in May 1940 – a 'strategic withdrawal according to plan' as the chaos was officially described. Being observant and cool-headed, with an ironic sense of humour, he manages to capture the absurdity as well as the tragedy of what took place.

Christabel Bielenberg, *The Past Is Myself*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 384 PAGES • FROM £17

In 1934, shortly after Hitler's rise to power, Christabel Burton, a beautiful woman from an influential Anglo-Irish family, married a liberal young German lawyer, Peter Bielenberg, and they settled in Berlin. When Allied bombing made the city too dangerous she fled with their children to a small village in the Black Forest, where she experienced a very different society from the Nazi-dominated one she had left behind. *The Past Is Myself* is her surprising account of life in that 'other Germany', and of her own nail-biting encounter with the Nazi regime.

Richard Hillary, *The Last Enemy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 39 • 224 PAGES • FROM £17

Richard Hillary was a charming, good-looking and rather arrogant young man, fresh from public school and Oxford, when, like many of his friends, he abandoned university to train as a pilot on the outbreak of war. At the training school, meeting men who hadn't enjoyed the same

gilded youth as he had, Hillary's view of the world, and of himself, began to change. In 1940, during the Battle of Britain, he shot down five German aircraft and was finally shot down in flames himself, sustaining terrible burns. With its raw honesty, lack of self-pity and gripping and terrifying accounts of aerial combat and the psychological aftermath, *The Last Enemy* is a wartime classic, the harrowing story of a carefree young man who, like many others, was suddenly and cruelly forced to grow up.

Eric Newby, *Love and War in the Apennines*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 47 • 360 PAGES • FROM £17

'That night something happened to me on the mountain . . . It was not physical; it was simply that part of my spirit went out of me, and in the whole of my life since that night it has never been the same again.' It was the winter of 1943 and young Eric Newby, later to become known for his jaunty accounts of his adventurous travels, was facing probably the hardest test of his life. Captured by the Germans in 1942 while on a secret mission to bomb a German airfield in Sicily and incarcerated in Northern Italy, he had escaped during the chaos of Italy's surrender to the Allies. During those long months on the run in the mountains he was fed and sheltered by poor peasant farmers who hated the Italian Fascist militia as much as he did and risked torture and execution to help him. As well as being a spine-tingling escape story it is a fascinating picture of life in these remote mountain communities which at that time had changed little since the Middle Ages. Buy with *Something Wholesale*, see p. 14

Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly, *To War with Whitaker*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 50 • 416 PAGES • FROM £17

Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly and her husband Dan had been married for less than a year when he was called up in September 1939. Their characterful cook-butler Whitaker volunteered to go with him, but Yeomanry rules decreed that though officers could take their servants to war they could not take their wives. Undeterred, however, Hermione immediately set off for Egypt in pursuit. Between snatched reunions with Dan, who was eventually taken prisoner, she



We went riding after learning that, like all yeomanry wives, I would not be allowed to go overseas

worked for SOE in Cairo and as personal assistant to General 'Jumbo' Wilson in Jerusalem, entertaining everyone who was anyone from King Farouk to Evelyn Waugh. This sparkling diary is both a passionate love story and a unique behind-the-scenes picture of the war in the Middle East and Europe as seen by a very unconventional aristocrat.

ROGUES & REBELS

V. S. Pritchett, *A Cab at the Door*

SF PAPERBACK • 296 PAGES • FROM £11

The writer V. S. Pritchett's mother was an irrepressible cockney, his father a reckless, over-optimistic peacock of a man, always embarking on new business ventures which inevitably crashed – hence the 'cab at the door' waiting to bear the family quietly away from yet another set of creditors. In this vigorous and original memoir Pritchett captures unforgettably the smells, sounds and voices of London in the first decades of the 20th century, and the cast of Dickensian characters among whom he grew up.



Diana Petre, *The Secret Orchard of Roger Ackerley*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 33 • 272 PAGES • FROM £17

Diana and her twin sisters grew up in Barnes, South London, in the care of an elderly housekeeper, having been abandoned in 1912 by their mother, the enigmatic Mrs Muriel Perry, whose real name and true identity were a mystery. After an absence of ten years, Muriel reappeared and took charge of her children, with disastrous results. For the girls, one of the highlights of their isolated lives were visits from a kindly man they knew as 'Uncle Bodger'. In fact, as Muriel finally revealed, he was their father, Roger Ackerley.

Christopher Robbins, *The Empress of Ireland*

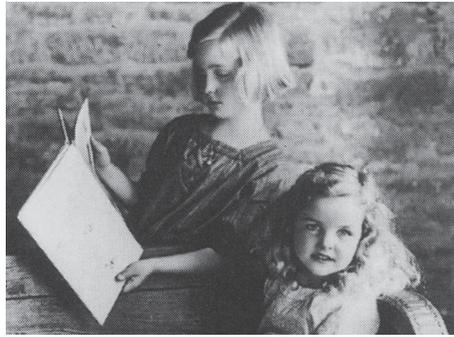
SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 51 • 384 PAGES • FROM £17

The subtitle to this delicious book is 'A Chronicle of an Unusual Friendship', and it would indeed be difficult to imagine two more unlikely companions than its author and his subject, the 80-year-old gay Irish film-maker Brian Desmond Hurst. Christopher Robbins was young, green and broke when he was first introduced to Hurst as a possible scriptwriter for a forthcoming film: a great religious epic covering 'the events leading up to the birth of Christ'. As he struggled to get his head round this fantastic commission for which he knew he was spectacularly ill-suited, Robbins began to realize that he had indeed entered a fantasy world. The film was never made of course, Robbins was never paid and the script was never finished. But in *The Empress of Ireland* he produced a comic masterpiece, a picture of a wickedly unapologetic old rogue it's impossible not to like.

Jessica Mitford, *Hons and Rebels*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 52 • 320 PAGES • FROM £17

In this funny and perceptive memoir Jessica Mitford describes growing up as the fifth of the six notoriously headstrong Mitford sisters. An isolated childhood in the hideous Cotswold house built by their father Lord Redesdale, where life centred round the church and the Conservative Party, turned 'Decca' as she was known into a lifelong socialist. At 18 she made her escape, eloping spectacularly with her charismatic left-wing cousin Esmond Romilly, moving to the East End of London and then running a bar in Miami. It's a story of sheer bravado brilliantly told by one of the most eccentric members of an eccentric family.



Eric Newby, *Something Wholesale*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 41 • 256 PAGES • FROM £17

Who would have thought that the adventurous traveller and decorated wartime hero Eric Newby had started his working life in the rag trade? But that is the story he tells in this characteristically jaunty and very funny book. Lane & Newby, 'Mantle Makers and Wholesale Costumiers', occupied a warren of offices in Great Marlborough Street. Here young Eric was put to work in the Mantle Department and forced to accompany Mr Wilkins, the head salesman, on his twice yearly excursions to drum up orders in the great industrial towns of the North. As Eric blundered his way through the various departments, things were beginning to go wrong. Eric's father, an Edwardian patriarch with a light-hearted attitude to accounting, had been running up debts, and during the Fifties Lane & Newby finally collapsed. By this time, however, Eric was laying plans for an excursion to the Hindu Kush – and the rest is travel history.

Buy with *Love and War in the Apennines*, see p. 12

QUIETLY HILARIOUS

Ysenda Maxtone Graham, *Mr Tibbits's Catholic School*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 200 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

Like many of the best books, this unusual history of an unusual school – St Philip's prep-school in Kensington, founded in 1934 by Catholic convert Richard Tibbits and still going strong today – is hard to classify. 'As you live through its story,' the author promises her readers, 'you'll be taken on a meander through the 20th century. War, rationing, smog, mini-skirts, strikes, Thatcherism, the first computer . . .' Enough to say that for anyone who has enjoyed *Decline and Fall* or *St Trinian's*, anyone who loves to laugh yet feels the poignancy of the passage of time, this book will be a treat.

Ysenda Maxtone Graham,

Terms & Conditions: Life in Girls' Boarding-Schools, 1939–1979

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 272 PAGES • FROM £17

'When I asked some girls who had been at Hatherop Castle in the 1960s whether the school had had a lab in those days they gave me a blank look. "A laboratory?" I expanded, hoping to jog their memories. "Oh that kind of lab!" one of them said. "I thought you meant a Labrador."' As we discover from this quietly hilarious history of life in British girls' boarding-schools, this was a not untypical reaction. Harsh matrons, freezing dormitories and appalling food predominated, but occasionally these eccentric establishments imbued in their pupils a lifetime love of the arts and a thirst for self-education. In *Terms & Conditions* Ysenda speaks to members of a lost tribe – the Boarding-school Women, who look back on their experiences with a mixture of horror and humour.

Roger Hudson, *An Englishman's Commonplace Book*

SLIGHTLY FOXED OCCASIONAL BOOKS • HB • 112 PAGES • FROM £12.50

'Variety, the unexpected, a bit of vulgarity and the ridiculous mixed in with the elevated,' has been Roger Hudson's recipe in compiling this commonplace book from material he's gathered over the past 40 years. And that is what we are given in this wide-ranging collection by a well-read man with a sharp eye, an ironic – indeed very English – sense of humour and a devotion to history. Ranging over the centuries, it contains a rich mix of often arresting facts, vivid descriptions, absurd observations and wise words. Sir Christopher Wren rubs shoulders with Eddie Izzard, Princess Margaret with Elizabeth I. And all organized under subject headings to help find that appropriate quote.

Above all it gives us a perspective on our own history via the voices of those who were living it, reminding us that the past was not a rehearsal for the present, that there is no substitute for the horse's mouth. Altogether a book for the times and a perfect present for a thoughtful and humorous friend. It may even inspire you to start a commonplace book of your own.

Diana Holman-Hunt,

My Grandmothers and I

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 288 PAGES • FROM £17

Diana Holman-Hunt spent her Edwardian childhood shuttling between two wildly contrasting grandparents. Her paternal grandmother, the eccentric widow of the Pre-Raphaelite painter Holman Hunt, lived entirely in the past in her big gaunt house in Kensington, while her mother's mother, in her comfortable and well-ordered home on the edge of the Sussex marshes, lived entirely in the present. Both competed for Diana's affection while being spectacularly blind to her needs. *My Grandmothers and I* is Diana's touching and darkly funny memoir of that time – a small comic masterpiece of pitch-perfect dialogue and deadpan observation.



Richard Kennedy, *A Boy at the Hogarth Press & A Parcel of Time*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 208 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

In 1926, at the age of 16, Richard Kennedy left school without a single qualification and went to work at the Hogarth Press. The Woolfs clearly developed a fondness for their apprentice, but when he left several years later, Leonard pronounced him 'the most frightful idiot he [had] ever had the privilege of meeting in a long career of suffering fools'. But Kennedy, who became a successful artist and children's book illustrator, was taking everything in, and 50 years later he produced a minor classic in *A Boy at the Hogarth Press*, accompanied by his own wonderfully alive illustrations. Later still, he wrote his touching childhood memoir, *A Parcel of Time*. Now published together in a single edition, the two are a sheer delight.



WRITING LIFE

Hilary Mantel, *Giving up the Ghost*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 37 • 232 PAGES • FROM £17

Hilary Mantel has said that this powerful and haunting book came about by accident. She never intended to write a memoir, but the sale of a much-loved cottage in Norfolk prompted her to write about the death of her stepfather, and from there 'the whole story of my life began to unravel'. *Giving up the Ghost* is a story of 'wraiths and phantoms', and of a life full of challenges, but it is very far from being a misery memoir. Rather it is a compulsively readable and ultimately optimistic account of what made Hilary Mantel the writer she is, full of courage, insight and wry humour.

Roald Dahl, *Boy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 48 • 184 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

It's easy to see from this childhood memoir where the ogres who people Dahl's fiction come from: the vengeful and filthy-fingernailed sweetshop owner Mrs Pratchett, the school doctor who lances little Ellis's boil in such a heartless manner, the creepy headmaster of Repton who

wields the cane with unacceptable relish. But there's another, far more cheerful side to the story in the person of Dahl's adored mother Sofie who, widowed at 35 with six children to care for, nevertheless managed to leave them with idyllic childhood memories. Like many individualists, Dahl never fitted in at school and was ecstatic when he finally escaped to work for Shell, setting off for East Africa with the same infectious bounce and enthusiasm that permeate this irresistible little book. Buy with *Going Solo*, see p. 10

Helene Hanff, *84, Charing Cross Road*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 240 PAGES • FROM £17

In the drab and traumatized post-war London of 1949, Marks & Co., second-hand and antiquarian booksellers at 84, Charing Cross Road, received an enquiry from 'a poor writer with an antiquarian taste in books', a Miss Helene Hanff of New York City. It was not the kind of letter they were accustomed to receiving, but it was one that would make history.

After a while, letters between the feisty, eccentric New York writer and the staff of the bookshop began to encompass much more than books. Soon the whole office was joining in, slipping in notes about their families, describing life in London, and thanking her for the food parcels she sent from New York. It was a correspondence that would last for twenty years.

Helene never made her fortune as a scriptwriter, but when she finally had the idea of making the letters into a book, it became a bestseller. It's a gloriously heart-warming read, the account of a friendship – almost a love story – conducted through books.

Gavin Maxwell, *The House of Elrig*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 31

256 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

The writer and naturalist Gavin Maxwell is best known for *Ring of Bright Water*, his moving account of raising otters on the remote west coast of Scotland. In his childhood memoir *The House of Elrig* he describes, with the same lyrical power that made that earlier book a classic, how it all began. In loving detail he evokes the wild moors around his Scottish home and the creatures that inhabited them. As was then the custom, he was ripped away from this paradise to go to a series of brutalizing schools. But always in his imagination he was at Elrig. It was his refuge and his escape.



Jennie Erdal, *Ghosting*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 43 • 304 PAGES • FROM £17

'A large sapphire on the lapel of a bold striped suit, a vivid silk tie so bright that it dazzles . . . on his fingers a collection of jewels . . .' – this is the man Jennie Erdal calls 'Tiger', the flamboyant figure at the centre of *Ghosting*, the strange and gripping story of the 20 years in which she

became his ghost writer. Erdal created a whole literary oeuvre in his name, and even turned his ludicrous plot ideas and sexual fantasies into novels that were seriously and admirably reviewed. *Ghosting* is a wickedly funny book, but it is also a thoughtful look at deception and self-deception, and the masks that most of us wear.

Jan Morris, *Conundrum*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 46 • 200 PAGES • FROM £17

'I was three or perhaps four years old when I realized I had been born into the wrong body and should really be a girl.' In 1972 James Morris booked himself a return ticket to Casablanca, where he underwent what is now called gender reassignment surgery. Soon after she wrote a book about what it had felt like to live – or try to live – for forty-odd years with the conviction that she was a woman trapped in a man's body, and how this agony had finally been resolved. How James finally became Jan is an extraordinary story, and *Conundrum* is a gripping and thought-provoking read which casts fascinating light on the fevered debates of today.

Rosemary Sutcliff, *Blue Remembered Hills*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 208 PAGES • FROM £17

Rosemary Sutcliff is one of Britain's most distinguished children's writers. Born in 1920, the only child of a naval father and a pretty, manic-depressive mother, as a child Rosemary suffered from juvenile arthritis, which burned its way through her, leaving her permanently disabled. Yet *Blue Remembered Hills* is the very opposite of a misery memoir, full of poetry, humour, affection, and joy in people and the natural world.

In some ways, hers was an enchanted childhood, lived among the vivid sights and sounds of the dockyards, which would later feed into her books. When her father retired from the sea the family moved to North Devon, and at 14 Rosemary went to Bideford Art School, becoming a skilled miniaturist. In time, though, feeling cramped by the small canvas of her paintings, isolated in the country and wounded in love, she turned to writing. Her novels would bring the past vividly to life for generations of children. *Blue Remembered Hills* is the unforgettable record of the making of a writer.



Michael Holroyd, *Basil Street Blues*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 29 • 368 PAGES • FROM £17

Well-known for his frank biographies of such controversial figures as Augustus John and Lytton Strachey, Holroyd teases out the story of his own distinctly problematic family in this delightful and original book. His volatile father, always busy with his own enterprises, and his glamorous Swedish mother with her succession of exotic husbands, had only walk-on parts in his life. It was only after both parents died that he was overcome by a desire to find the 'connecting story' which his fragmented childhood had so lacked. The result is a very personal detective story, subtle, funny and poignant.



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SLIGHTLY FOXED CUBS

Slightly Foxed Cubs is a series of beautifully produced collectable children's books, which strike a nostalgic chord with many older readers and introduce a younger generation to writers whose marvellous books have, unaccountably, been allowed to slip out of print. Bound in coloured cloth, with printed endpapers and original illustrations, the Cubs make ideal presents, as stand-alone titles or in sets.

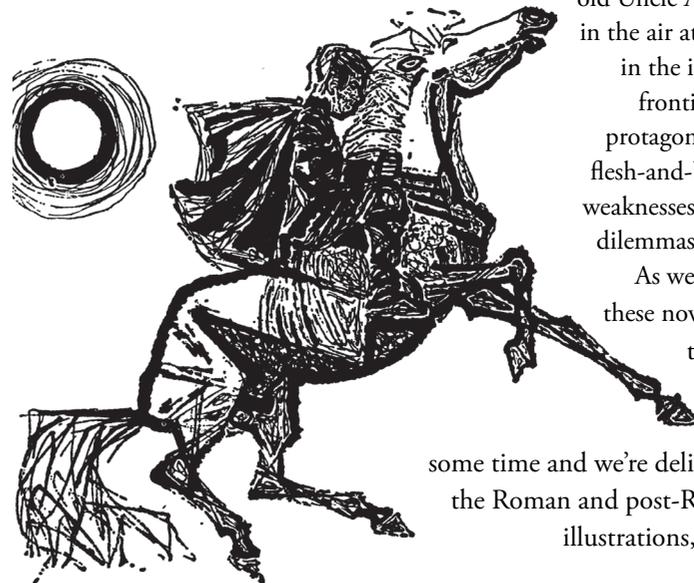
ROSEMARY SUTCLIFF

Rosemary Sutcliff (1920–92) wrote three of her four great historical novels for children set during the last years of the Roman occupation of Britain – *The Eagle of the Ninth*, *The Silver Branch* and *The Lantern Bearers* (winner of the Carnegie Medal) – between 1954 and 1959, and the fourth, *Frontier Wolf*, which comes third in the chronological story, in 1980. The four books are only loosely interconnected, but together they give a vivid picture of the ebbing away of imperial power from Britain as Rome's values were undermined and her defences gradually weakened by Saxon invasions. The three final novels that follow in this brilliant sequence – *Dawn Wind*, *Sword Song* and *The Shield Ring* – continue the story, forming a vivid panorama of the mysterious years from the departure of the Roman Legions, through the Dark Ages to the first decades of Norman rule.

Sutcliff was writing primarily for children, but she never talks down to her readers, and adults too find these novels impossible to put down. All of them are based on historical fact but it's Sutcliff's imaginative brilliance that makes you smell the burning cherry log warming

old Uncle Aquila's cosy study, feel the tension in the air at the Saturnalia Games, and shiver in the icy winds howling round the bleak frontier forts along Hadrian's Wall. Her protagonists are no cardboard cut-outs but flesh-and-blood people with understandable weaknesses and beset by recognizable human dilemmas, and it's they who drive the plots.

As well as being brilliant reads, together these novels make sense of a far-off period that left its mark on almost every aspect of British life. They have been difficult to find for some time and we're delighted to be reissuing all seven of the Roman and post-Roman novels, with their original illustrations, in a limited, numbered edition.

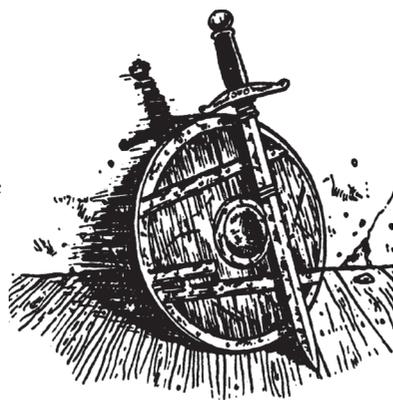


COMING THIS AUTUMN

SWORD SONG

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • ILLUS. • FROM £17

Sixteen-year-old Bjarni Sigurdson, a young Norwegian living in the Viking settlement of Rafnglas, is exiled for five years by the chief, Rafn Cedricson, for the hot-tempered murder of a priest, so breaking an oath Cedricson had sworn to his foster-brother to protect Christians within his lands. Bjarni joins a merchant ship sailing for Dublin from where, robbed of his possessions but with a new companion, a stray hound he calls Hugin, he embarks on a career as a mercenary in the wars between the clan chiefs in Ireland, Wales and the Scottish Isles. On Mull, he falls under the influence of the chief's devoutly Christian mother Lady Aud, and after a chance meeting on a journey with her to the monastery on Iona, he is able to return and receive absolution from Rafn Cedricson for the breaking of his vow.



THE SHIELD RING

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • ILLUS. • FROM £17

England is now under Norman rule, but hidden high among the Cumbrian fells is one last Viking stronghold. Into it comes the five-year-old Saxon girl Frytha, saved by her father's shepherd Grim after her family farm has been torched and her family murdered by the Normans. Here she meets another orphan, Bjorn, and over the years the two become inseparable. When William the Conqueror's son William II marches north through Lakeland to confront the Scots, the Norsemen send a peace envoy, who is cruelly

tortured and murdered by the Normans. It's clear William is determined to take this final tactical outpost, but Bjorn, disguised as a travelling harper and secretly accompanied by Frytha, enters the enemy camp and after a terrifying ordeal brings back vital information which gives the advantage to the Norsemen.

Buy a set of all seven novels and receive the same hand-numbered limited edition of each title. The first five books will be dispatched straightaway (or for a date of your choice) followed by *Sword Song* and *The Shield Ring* in September.

Please see the order form or the website for details.

ALSO AVAILABLE

THE EAGLE OF THE NINTH

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 248 PAGES

ILLUS. • FROM £17

As Marcus the young centurion arrives in Britain to take up his first command, he is haunted by the memory of his father and the 6,000 men of the Ninth Hispana Legion, who twelve years earlier had marched north of Hadrian's Wall to quell an uprising and were never seen again. Seriously wounded soon after in an attack by hostile tribesmen, invalided out of the Roman Army and wondering what to do with his life, Marcus determines to make the hazardous journey north in a bid to discover the fate of the Ninth Legion, and in particular of the Roman eagle, the Legion's standard and a possible rallying point for the northern tribes in their war against Rome. Sutcliff's most famous book is a gripping adventure and a touching coming-of-age story, based on the real disappearance of the Ninth Legion around the year AD 117.



THE SILVER BRANCH

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 216 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

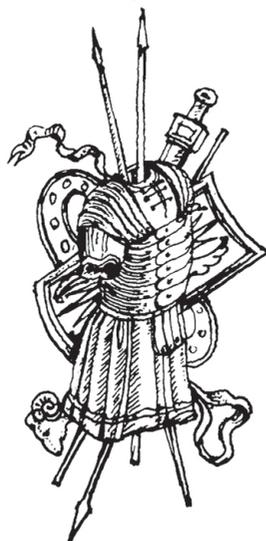
Roman influence in Britain is waning. The Empire is increasingly threatened by hostile tribes along its borders, and divided by political struggles at home. Two distant cousins who have met by chance in Britain – Justin, a shy, newly qualified army surgeon and Flavius, a young centurion – are caught up in the power struggles between Carausius, the charismatic Emperor of Britain, his cruel and ruthless treasurer, and the Emperor in Rome. Disgraced after their attempt to warn Carausius about a plot against him fails, the two go underground, rallying support for the legitimate Emperor and finally taking refuge at the home of their formidable great-aunt Honoria. Here they make an astonishing discovery which affects their future and links directly back to their ancestor Marcus and the disappearance of the Ninth Legion.



FRONTIER WOLF

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 224 PAGES • FROM £17

After a disastrous misjudgement which cost the lives of half his men, Alexios, another young centurion and member of the Aquila family, is sent to take charge of a bleak Roman outpost on Hadrian's Wall and the savage bunch of men who defend it, the Frontier Wolves of the title. Dealing with this notorious legion is literally a matter of life and death for Alexios, for a commander who alienates them is unlikely to survive. *Frontier Wolf* tells the story of how this flawed but likeable hero grows in stature, gradually gaining his legion's respect and the co-operation of the surrounding tribes, and defending Rome as the threat from the North grows.



THE LANTERN BEARERS

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB

264 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

The shadow of the approaching Dark Ages hangs over this last of the Roman novels. Rome's legacy is finally decaying, the regular legions have been withdrawn, and Saxon raiding parties are invading the British countryside. As commander of a cavalry troop, young Aquila has been ordered to leave, but he has grown to love Britain and stays on, only to see his father's farm torched by the Saxons, his father and the household servants murdered and his sister Flavia abducted. Aquila himself is captured and spends years as slave to a Saxon clan, but as the darkness gathers over Britain, it only strengthens his determination to avenge his family and keep Roman values alive.

DAWN WIND

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 248 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

Owain, the book's teenage hero who has both Roman and British blood in his veins, is the sole survivor of a terrible battle with the Saxons. Wounded and hungry, and with only a great fighting dog for company, he makes for the old Roman city of Viroconium where, among the ruins, he meets another survivor, Regina, a young and terrified orphaned girl and together they

set off for the coast, planning to leave Britain for a British settlement in Gaul. On the journey Regina falls desperately ill and Owain buys her safety with his own freedom, becoming a thrall in a Saxon household. But in the years that follow he never forgets Regina, and when he regains his freedom the two meet again.



RONALD WELCH

THE CAREY NOVELS

Ronald Welch's Carey novels, written between 1954 and 1972, follow the fortunes of the same family from their involvement in the Crusades to their service in the First World War. Grippingly plotted and scrupulously researched, together they join up the dots of English history in a remarkably vivid and human way.

Welch was a historian who served as a Tank Corps officer in the Second World War and in 1947 became Headmaster of Okehampton Grammar School in Devon. He was, by all accounts, an inspiring teacher, and he certainly knew how to bring history alive for younger readers. You can't finish a Welch book without having grasped such precise details as the construction of a crusader's armour and why it was so designed, or why the longbow was crucial to the English victory at the Battle of Crécy.

Most importantly they are brilliant reads – fast-paced, colourful and imaginative, with entirely believable central characters. The Careys are a distinguished Welsh land-owning family and they are involved in all the great events of their times, from the plots against Elizabeth I and the Civil War to the Peninsular War, the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny.

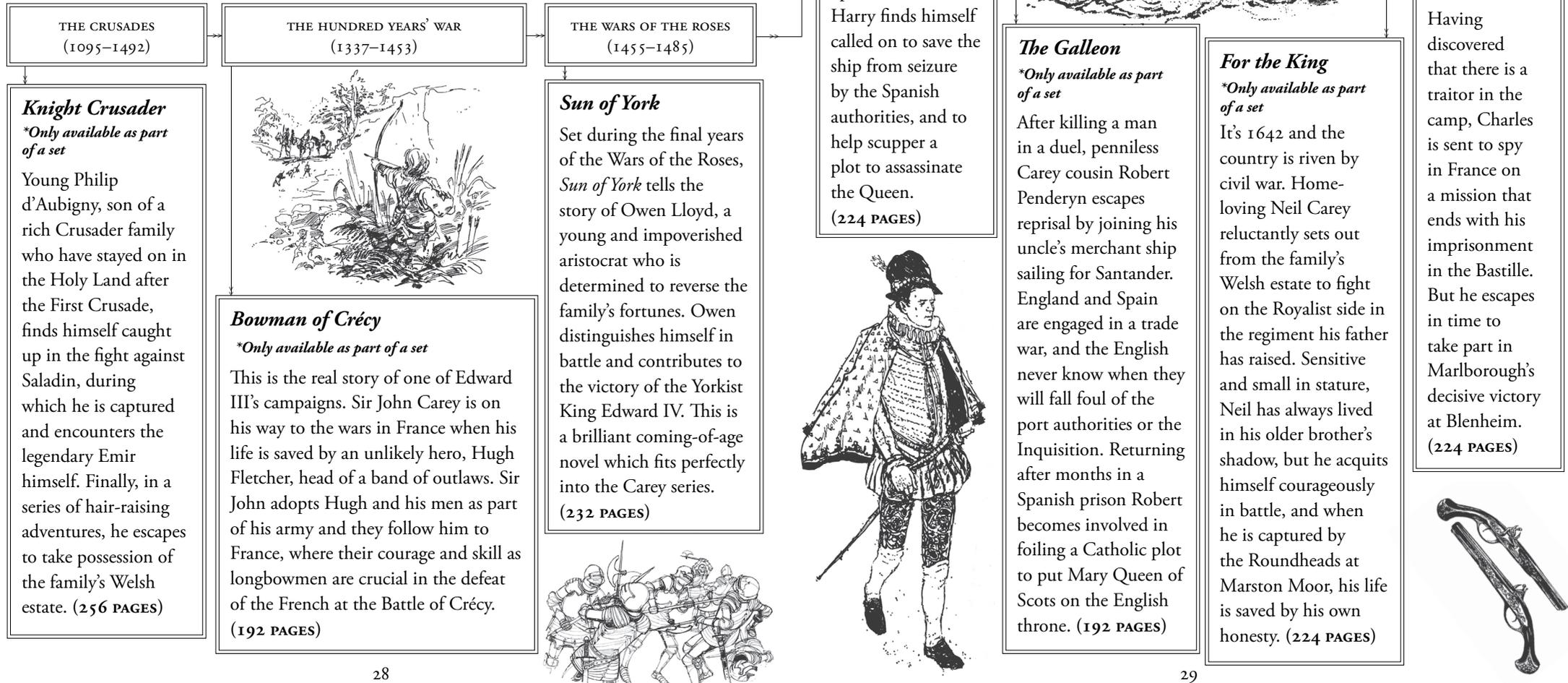
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Knight Crusader *Only available as part of a set

Young Philip d'Aubigny, son of a rich Crusader family who have stayed on in the Holy Land after the First Crusade, finds himself caught up in the fight against Saladin, during which he is captured and encounters the legendary Emir himself. Finally, in a series of hair-raising adventures, he escapes to take possession of the family's Welsh estate. (256 PAGES)



Bowman of Crécy

*Only available as part of a set

This is the real story of one of Edward III's campaigns. Sir John Carey is on his way to the wars in France when his life is saved by an unlikely hero, Hugh Fletcher, head of a band of outlaws. Sir John adopts Hugh and his men as part of his army and they follow him to France, where their courage and skill as longbowmen are crucial in the defeat of the French at the Battle of Crécy. (192 PAGES)

Sun of York

Set during the final years of the Wars of the Roses, *Sun of York* tells the story of Owen Lloyd, a young and impoverished aristocrat who is determined to reverse the family's fortunes. Owen distinguishes himself in battle and contributes to the victory of the Yorkist King Edward IV. This is a brilliant coming-of-age novel which fits perfectly into the Carey series. (232 PAGES)



The Hawk

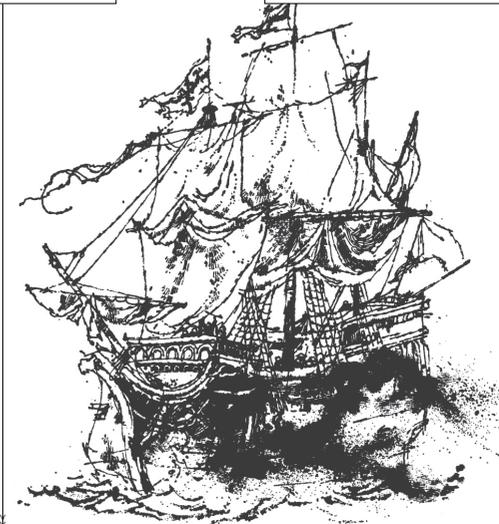
Harry is a young naval officer aboard one of his father, the Earl of Aubigny's merchant ships running between London and Santander during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Relations with Spain are tense and Harry finds himself called on to save the ship from seizure by the Spanish authorities, and to help scupper a plot to assassinate the Queen. (224 PAGES)



The Galleon

*Only available as part of a set

After killing a man in a duel, penniless Carey cousin Robert Penderyn escapes reprisal by joining his uncle's merchant ship sailing for Santander. England and Spain are engaged in a trade war, and the English never know when they will fall foul of the port authorities or the Inquisition. Returning after months in a Spanish prison Robert becomes involved in foiling a Catholic plot to put Mary Queen of Scots on the English throne. (192 PAGES)



For the King

*Only available as part of a set

It's 1642 and the country is riven by civil war. Home-loving Neil Carey reluctantly sets out from the family's Welsh estate to fight on the Royalist side in the regiment his father has raised. Sensitive and small in stature, Neil has always lived in his older brother's shadow, but he acquits himself courageously in battle, and when he is captured by the Roundheads at Marston Moor, his life is saved by his own honesty. (224 PAGES)

Captain of Dragons

Charles Carey is a Captain in the Duke of Marlborough's army – a moody, quick-tempered and charismatic figure who is also a brilliant swordsman. Having discovered that there is a traitor in the camp, Charles is sent to spy in France on a mission that ends with his imprisonment in the Bastille. But he escapes in time to take part in Marlborough's decisive victory at Blenheim. (224 PAGES)



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(1756-1763)

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(1789-1799)

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(1803-1815)

THE CRIMEAN WAR
1853-1856

THE INDIAN MUTINY
1853-1857

THE FIRST WORLD WAR
1914-1918

Mohawk Valley

In 1755 Alan Carey is sent to the colony of New York by his father the Earl to look into his estates in Mohawk Valley. It's a life-changing experience. Alan grows in moral stature as he deals with a dishonest bailiff, learns the ways of the forest, overcomes hostile Indians and renders invaluable service to General Wolfe during the capture of Quebec. (224 PAGES)

Escape from France

With news of the revolution in France, the Careys are anxious about the fate of their relatives, the aristocratic d'Assailly family. Young Richard Carey, still a Cambridge student but already an outstanding swordsman, is sent secretly by his father Lord Aubigny on a mercy mission to bring them back to England. When he arrives at their chateau in Normandy Richard finds that the Marquis has already been arrested and he and his cousin Armand set out for Paris with a bold plan to spring him from the Abbaye prison. A complex tale of daring and disguise. (192 PAGES)

Captain of Foot

Young Christopher Carey is serving as a Lieutenant in the 43rd Light Infantry – part of the famous Light Brigade – under Wellington. Chris takes part in the retreat to Corunna with Sir John Moore, fights in the major battles of Vimiero and Busaco, is captured by the French, escapes and falls in with Spanish guerrillas, and ends up as a Captain, having been noticed by Wellington himself. (224 PAGES)



The Road to Waterloo

The manuscript of *The Road to Waterloo* lay unread among Ronald Welch's papers for more than 30 years after his death and has now been published, with specially commissioned illustrations, for the first time. It's a thrilling picture of the build-up to Wellington's victory at Waterloo and of a great army preparing for battle, and it has all the inimitable Welch ingredients – a young hero who grows up during the course of the book, entirely believable characters and a fast-paced plot brought alive by vivid historical detail. (88 PAGES)

Nicholas Carey

On holiday in Italy, Captain Nicholas Carey is persuaded by his impulsive cousin to help three Italian revolutionaries avoid capture and escape the Papal States. After returning to England, Nicholas runs his cousin to earth in Paris, where he is still involved with the revolutionaries, and the two foil an assassination attempt on Napoleon III. Nicholas then rejoins his regiment and is sent to fight the Russians with Lord Raglan's army, where he distinguishes himself in the Battles of Sebastopol and The Redan. (224 PAGES)

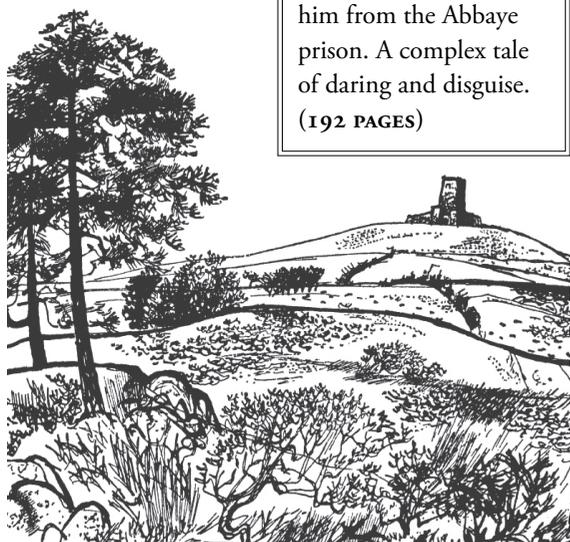
Ensign Carey

In the seedy and dangerous mid-nineteenth century London underworld, William Carey has a frightening encounter with George Hampton, a violent and unprincipled young man on the make. Banished from Cambridge as a result, in 1856 William travels to India, where his father has obtained a commission for him in the 84th Bengal Native Infantry, and his path again crosses that of Hampton. William is no saint, but when the Indian Mutiny breaks out among the native troops, he acts with generosity and courage. (200 PAGES)



Tank Commander

In the summer of 1914 the Germans enter Belgium and Britain mobilizes for war. Second Lieutenant John Carey, with his regiment the West Glamorgans, exchanges his comfortable quarters at Tidworth for the mud and bloodshed of the trenches. As the death toll mounts, John is called on to take responsibility far beyond his rank and experience in what often seems a hopeless situation. But with the introduction of a revolutionary new weapon – the tank – the tide begins to turn. (232 PAGES)



‘BB’

Denys Watkins-Pitchford (1905–90), who wrote under the pseudonym ‘BB’, was the author of more than sixty books for adults and children, but *The Little Grey Men*, which won the 1942 Carnegie Medal, its sequel *Down the Bright Stream* (1948), and the classic adventure story *Brendon Chase* (1944) are his masterpieces.



BB was both a writer and an illustrator, and his charming original illustrations decorate these books. But above all he was a countryman, whose intimate and unsentimental knowledge of animals, birds and plants, as well as his gifts as a storyteller, make these books unique.

Growing up in a rural Northamptonshire rectory and thought too delicate to go to school, BB roamed the countryside alone. His nostalgic evocation of the unwrecked England of his childhood, inhabited by the last survivors of an ancient and characterful tribe of small people who live in total harmony with their surroundings, is magical. *The Little Grey Men*, *Down the Bright Stream* and *Brendon Chase* will be remembered by many adult readers as the best-loved books of their childhood, and they still enchant today.

THE LITTLE GREY MEN & DOWN THE BRIGHT STREAM

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUBS • 224 & 200 PAGES • ILLUS. • PAIR FROM £34

The last gnomes in England – Dodder, Baldmoney, Sneezewort and Cloudberry – are living contentedly in Warwickshire, in a burrow beneath the roots of an aged oak tree on the banks of the Folly Brook. Contentedly, that is, until Cloudberry becomes obsessed with the idea of exploring the world beyond the riverbank and sets off alone, ignoring his brothers’ fears and warnings. Two years later he has not returned and Baldmoney and Sneezewort decide they must look for him. But Dodder at first refuses to go with them, and so with heavy hearts the two gnomes set off upstream in their boat the Dragonfly, leaving him behind.

est of Brendon Chase. So begins a heroic quest to find their missing brother. Before the four gnomes are finally reunited they confront shipwreck, starvation and their worst enemy – Man – in the form



of the terrifying gamekeeper Giant Grum, with his ‘stick that roars’ and his horrifying gibbet on which hang the corpses of some of their animal friends.

In *Down the Bright Stream*, Dodder, Baldmoney, Sneezewort and Cloudberry are woken from a long winter sleep in their snug burrow beneath the roots of an ancient oak tree, to find their world collapsing. The brook beside which they have lived for five hundred years, and on which they and their animal friends depend, is being diverted to supply water for a new reservoir and is drying up. Human civilization is beginning to destroy the idyllic English countryside.

Now the gnomes must set out once again on the Folly in search of a new home, sailing downstream towards the big river and the sea. It’s a perilous journey as they move from one temporary base to another, taking refuge in a disused mill and in a friendly badger’s sett. Before their journey is done their boat will have been sunk and one of them will have come to a nasty end. Will the remaining little grey men finally find an unspoilt home?



BRENDON CHASE

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 288 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £17

Faced with the end of the holidays and the prospect of school, who hasn’t dreamt of running away to the woods to live wild as a badger, to hunt and forage like a woodsman, to tread as softly and cautiously as a fox through the undergrowth? In *Brendon Chase* this is precisely what three boys do. At the end of the Easter holidays, Robin, John and Harold Hensman escape their aunt’s house and go to live in an eleven-thousand-acre forest. It’s a marvellous idea.

Brendon Chase was first published in 1944 but is set roughly thirty years earlier. There’s a wonderful cast of pre-war English village characters: a fussy maiden aunt, a butterfly-collecting vicar and a rather hapless policeman and his bicycle, among others. None of the grown-ups believe the boys will make it past teatime, or nightfall, or the end of the week. Needless to say, the brothers outwit them all. With remarkable resourcefulness, they last till just after Christmas, living in a hollow oak tree and spending their days hunting for their supper, swimming in the Blind Pool and playing tricks on all who come searching for them.

The book is also full of finely observed detail from the natural



world, beautifully captured in BB's illustrations. We discover which trees the rare Purple Emperor butterfly prefers, and how it is quite impossible to kill a hedgehog, even for a hungry teenage boy: 'they looked so comical when they ran along and their little eyes were full of intelligence'. BB captures the freedom and simplicity of childhood without idealizing it (the brothers squabble and worry, and they crave the sweet things of Aunt Ellen's kitchen).

Brendon Chase is one of the great children's books, a bewitching blend of adventure and natural history, high jinks and skilled bushcraft – just the thing for anyone who has caught themselves eyeing up a patch of woodland and wondering what fun might lie there.

Set of three BB books: UK & Eire from £48; Rest of the World from £54 *save <£9



'Thank you for producing this wonderful collection of BB books. They are truly stunning editions and it's so exciting to see his work still in print and being made available for a new generation of readers.' E. Mayes

'I had to write and say thank you for reissuing the Carey novels. They are so beautifully produced, and an absolute pleasure to look at and handle . . . we are now reading them as a family – out loud – to our 11-year-old daughter, and we are all absolutely gripped.' C. Shaw

'Rosemary Sutcliff has been one of my favourite authors since childhood and it's such a treat to have these beautiful new editions.' R. Jaquery

BOOKS FEATURED IN SLIGHTLY FOXED ISSUE 70 (SUMMER 2021)

Anthony Burgess, *The Malayan Trilogy*

VINTAGE • PB • 608 PAGES • FROM £14.99

Anthony Burgess was an officer in the Colonial Service and in *The Malayan Trilogy* he satirizes the dog days of colonialism. Victor Crabbe is a well-meaning, ineffectual Englishman in the tropics, keen to teach the Malays what the West can do for them. Through Crabbe's rise and fall, and through a series of wonderfully colourful characters, Burgess lays bare the racial and social prejudices of post-war Malaya during the upheaval of Independence.



Laurie Colwin, *Home Cooking*

FIG TREE • PB • 208 PAGES • FROM £14.99

Weaving together memories, recipes and wild tales of years spent in the kitchen, *Home Cooking* is Laurie Colwin's manifesto on the joys of sharing food and entertaining. From the humble hot-plate of her one-room apartment to the crowded kitchens of bustling parties, Colwin tells stories of meals gone both magnificently well and disastrously wrong.



Buy with: Laurie Colwin, *Happy All the Time*

WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON • PB • 224 PAGES • FROM £10.99

Guido is not in the habit of falling in love with women he sees in museums, until he meets Holly. Precise about everything, she knows what she likes: pressed sheets, oranges, tea on a tray – and now, Guido. Meanwhile Vincent, Guido's eternally cheerful best friend, falls for his misanthropic new colleague, Misty. She seems as uninterested in love as she is in Vincent. Through courtship, arguments, wedding plans and other perils, the couples find a way to be happy (almost) all the time.

Robert Graves, *I, Claudius*

PENGUIN • PB • 416 PAGES • FROM £11.99

Written in the form of Claudius's autobiography, this is the first part of Robert Graves's brilliant account of the madness and debauchery of ancient Rome. Despised for his weakness and regarded by his family as little more than a stammering fool, the nobleman Claudius quietly survives the bloody purges and mounting cruelty of the imperial Roman dynasties.

Buy with: Robert Graves, *Claudius the God*

PENGUIN • PB • 448 PAGES • FROM £12.99

Claudius has survived the murderous intrigues of his predecessors to become, reluctantly, Emperor of Rome. In this second part of Robert Graves's fictionalized autobiography, Claudius – wry, rueful, always inquisitive – brings to life some of the most scandalous and violent times in history.



Rose Macaulay, *The Towers of Trebizond*

FLAMINGO • PB • 288 PAGES • FROM £12.99

A group of highly unusual travel companions makes its way from Istanbul to legendary Trebizond. Aunt Dot is there to improve the lot of women, while her friend Father Hugh Chantry-Pigg is hoping to convert the masses to his particular brand of High Anglicanism. Somewhere along the way, Dot and Hugh go missing – possibly to Jerusalem, possibly to Russia – and rumour spreads that they are spies.

Arthur Ransome, *Coot Club*

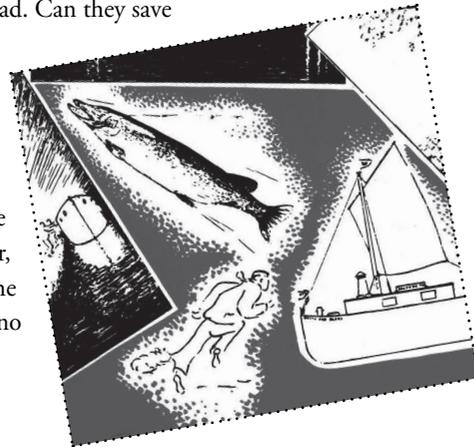
RED FOX • PB • 368 PAGES • FROM £9.99

Dick and Dorothea arrive in Norfolk all ready to learn how to sail. They couldn't hope for a better teacher than Tom Dudgeon. But Tom is in a spot of trouble. After seeing the beastly *Margoletta* moored clean across the nests of his beloved coots, Tom set the motorcruiser adrift. Now the enemy have offered a bounty on his head. Can they save the birds' nest from almost certain destruction?

Buy with: Arthur Ransome, *The Big Six*

RED FOX • PB • 400 PAGES • FROM £9.99

When Dick and Dorothea return to the Norfolk Broads all set for a blissful summer on the river, they find three of their friends under suspicion by everyone on the river, accused of setting boats adrift, sabotage and theft. In the meantime, the real culprits are still at large. There's no choice but to form a crime-busting team: The Big Six.



V. S. Naipaul, *A House for Mr Biswas*

PICADOR • PB • 640 PAGES • FROM £12.99

Mr Biswas has been told since the day of his birth that misfortune will follow him. Intending only to avoid punishment, he causes the death of his father and the dissolution of his family. Wanting simply to flirt with a beautiful woman, he ends up marrying her and reluctantly relying on her domineering family for support. In spite of endless setbacks, Mr Biswas is determined to buy a home of his own. V. S. Naipaul's classic follows a man's quest for autonomy against the backdrop of post-colonial Trinidad.

Felice Benuzzi, *No Picnic on Mount Kenya*

MACLEHOSE PRESS • PB • 336 PAGES • FROM £14.99

When the clouds covering Mount Kenya part one morning to reveal its peaks, prisoner-of-war Felice Benuzzi is transfixed. The tedium of camp life is broken by the beginnings of a sudden idea. There are not many people who would break out of a POW camp and trek for days across perilous terrain before climbing Mount Kenya with improvised equipment, meagre rations and only a picture of the mountain on a tin of beef as a map. There are probably fewer still who would break back in to the camp on their return. This is the remarkable story of three such men.

George Eliot, *Silas Marner*

PENGUIN • PB • 272 PAGES • FROM £7.99

Wrongly accused of theft and exiled from a religious community, the embittered weaver Silas Marner lives alone in Raveloe, his sole focus his work and his precious hoard of money. But when his money is stolen and an orphaned child finds her way into his house, Silas is given the chance to transform his life. In *Silas Marner* George Eliot creates an unsentimental but affectionate portrait of rural life.

Gavin Maxwell, *Ring of Bright Water*

LITTLE TOLLER • PB • 224 PAGES • FROM £16

Hailed as a masterpiece when it was first published, the story of Gavin Maxwell's life with otters on the remote west coast of Scotland remains one of the most lyrical, moving descriptions of a man's relationship with the natural world.

OTHER SUMMER READING

Edmund de Waal, *Letters to Camondo*

CHATTO & WINDUS • HB • 192 PAGES • FROM £16.99

Count Moïse de Camondo lived a few doors away from Edmund de Waal's forebears, the Ephrussi. Like the Ephrussi, the Camondos were part of *belle époque* high society. They were also targets of anti-Semitism. Camondo filled his house with a private collection of French eighteenth-century art for his son Nissim to inherit but when Nissim was killed in the First World War, it became a memorial and has remained unchanged since 1936. Edmund de Waal explores the lavish rooms and detailed archives and uncovers new layers to the family story. In a haunting series of letters addressed to the Count, he tells us what happened next.

In the Garden: *Essays on Nature and Growing*

DAUNT BOOKS • PB

224 PAGES • FROM £11.99

In this collection of essays, fourteen writers go beyond simply considering a plot of soil to explore how gardening is a shared language, an opportunity for connection, something that is always evolving. Penelope Lively trains her gardening eye on her gardens past and present; Paul Mendez reflects on the image of the paradisaical garden; Jon Day asks whether an urban community garden can be a radical place; and Victoria Adukwei Bulley considers the power of herbs and why there is no such thing as a weed.





Patrick McGrath, *Last Days in Cleaver Square*

HUTCHINSON • HB • 320 PAGES • FROM £16.99

It's 1975 and Francis McNulty is sleeping fitfully; the air is thick with Spanish jasmine floating in from his overgrown garden and he's not sure whether he'll be woken by General Franco sitting on the end of his bed. A veteran of the Spanish Civil War, Francis is tormented by grief and guilt about a brief, terrible act of betrayal from that time, and he's started seeing his old nemesis on the street, in the garden and now in his bedroom. Neither he nor his daughter Gillian, who lives with him in Cleaver Square, know what to do.

Rachel Cusk, *Second Place*

FABER • HB • 224 PAGES • FROM £16.99

In this short novel, addressed to a character named Jeffers, a woman known only as M invites a famed artist to visit the remote coastal region where she lives with her second husband. The artist's work inspired her to leave her first marriage years earlier. Over the course of one hot summer, his provocative presence provides the frame for a study of human relationships.

Judy Batalion, *The Light of Days*

VIRAGO • HB • 576 PAGES • FROM £22

One of the most important untold stories of the Second World War, *The Light of Days* brings to light the extraordinary accomplishments of brave Jewish women who inspired Poland's Jewish youth groups to resist the Nazis. These 'ghetto girls' smuggled guns in loaves of bread and coded intelligence messages in their plaited hair; they helped build life-saving systems of underground bunkers and sustained thousands of Jews in safe hiding places; they bribed Gestapo guards with liquor, assassinated Nazis and sabotaged German supply lines.

Paula Byrne, *The Adventures of Miss Barbara Pym*

WILLIAM COLLINS • HB • 704 PAGES • FROM £27

Barbara Pym's career was defined, in many senses, by rejection. Her first novel was turned down by every publisher she sent it to in 1935, and was only published fifteen years later. Even then, her subsequent books received very modest praise and ever decreasing sales. This biography, brimming with Pym's private diaries and intimate letters, gallops through her love affairs and lifelong relationships and shows how – with a little help from her most ardent fans and friends, including Philip Larkin – her work eventually resurfaced, finding new readers and bringing her resounding acclaim in the last years of her life.

Charmian Clift, *Mermaid Singing*

MUSWELL PRESS • PB • 212 PAGES • FROM £10.99

In 1951 the Australian writers Charmian Clift and George Johnston left post-war London for Greece. Settling first on the island of Kalymnos, then Hydra, their plan was to live simply and focus on their writing. The result is two of Charmian Clift's best known and most loved books, the memoirs *Mermaid Singing* and *Peel Me a Lotus*. *Mermaid Singing* relays the culture shock and the sheer delight of their first year on the tiny sponge-fishing island of Kalymnos. Clift paints an evocative picture of the characters and sun-drenched rhythms of traditional life, long before backpackers and mass tourism descended.

Buy with: Charmian Clift, *Peel Me a Lotus*

MUSWELL PRESS • PB • 210 PAGES • FROM £10.99

Peel Me a Lotus recounts Clift and Johnston's move to Hydra where they bought a house and grappled with the chaos of domestic life and three children while also becoming the centre of an informal community of artists and writers. The group included Leonard Cohen, who became their lodger, and his girlfriend Marianne Ihlen.

Jon McGregor, *Lean Fall Stand*

4TH ESTATE • HB • 288 PAGES • FROM £16.99

When an Antarctic research expedition goes wrong, the consequences are far-reaching – for the men involved and for their families back home. Robert 'Doc' Wright holds the clues to what happened, but he is no longer able to communicate them. While Anna, his wife, navigates the sharp contours of her new life as a carer, Robert is forced to learn a whole new way to be in the world.

John Sutherland, *Monica Jones, Philip Larkin and Me*

WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON • HB • 288 PAGES • FROM £22

Monica Jones was Philip Larkin's partner for more than four decades. She was cruelly immortalized as Margaret Peel in Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim* and widely vilified for destroying Larkin's diaries and works in progress after his death. But she was also an inspiring teacher and a brilliant academic in her own right. Through his careful reading of Monica's never-before-seen letters, and his own recollections, John Sutherland reveals a new side to Larkin's story and allows Monica finally to step out from behind the poet's shadow.



Adrien Bosc, *Outrageous Horizon*

PROFILE • HB • 256 PAGES • FROM £16.99

In March 1941 a converted cargo ship, the *Paul-Lemerle*, left Marseille on a voyage to the Caribbean, fleeing Vichy France and the devastation of the war. The ship was filled with immigrants from the east, exiled Spanish Republicans, Jews and decadent artists. Among them were Claude Lévi-Strauss, the painter Wifredo Lam, the writers Anna Seghers and André Breton, and the Russian revolutionary Victor Serge. Adrien Bosc takes us from Marseille to Casablanca, then on to Martinique and New York, as he tells a story of migration, cultural crisis and the intellectual cost of the rise of fascism.

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‘Both the books and quarterly magazine are eagerly awaited. Thank you so much for all the pleasure they give. I have all the back issues so I can pick and choose at whim, finding all sorts of treats I have long forgotten.’ L. Clarke, Berkshire