

# Slightly Foxed

READERS' CATALOGUE • WINTER 2021



'I do get other magazines, but *Slightly Foxed* is the only one in which I read every line. I do sometimes hold you partially responsible for the dreadful accretion of books in my house.' O. Wells

# THE READERS' CATALOGUE

## 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.

### PLAIN FOXED EDITIONS (FORMAT: 170 X 110MM)

Bound in duck-egg blue cloth, with a silk ribbon marker, gold blocking and a paper belly band, the Plain Editions are reissues of our most popular SF Editions. They come in the same neat hardback format as the original Editions but are unnumbered. They will happily fill any gaps in your collection, as well as forming a delightful series of their own.

### SLIGHTLY FOXED PAPERBACKS (FORMAT: 170 X 110MM)

Our popular paperbacks are perfect for slotting into a pocket or bag, and make charming presents. We won't be reissuing titles in this format so do stock up now.

### SLIGHTLY FOXED CUBS (FORMAT: 220 X 155MM)

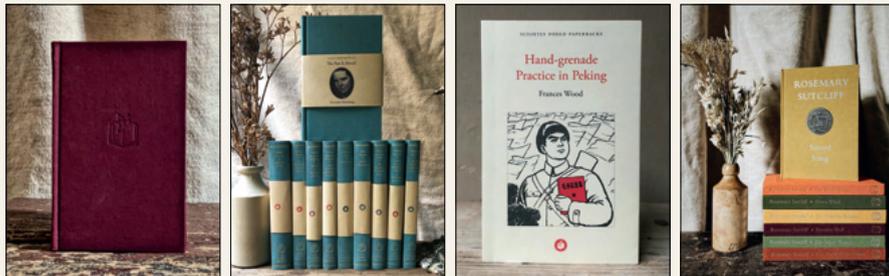
These beautifully produced collectable children's books strike a nostalgic chord with many readers and introduce a younger generation to writers whose work has often been allowed to slip out of print.

## 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



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 slipcases 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

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# NEW THIS WINTER

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 57

## Anne Fadiman

### THE WINE LOVER'S DAUGHTER

'Aside from his books, he loved nothing – and no one – longer, more ardently, or more faithfully than he loved wine . . . they both sparked conversation, they both were a lifetime project, they both were pleasurable to shelve, they were the only things he collected.'

The celebrated American author, editor and essayist Anne Fadiman was born in 1953 into a family of booklovers and writers. Her mother Annalee was the only female war correspondent in China during the Second World War, and her father Clifton was a successful author, critic, columnist, publisher and MC of the popular NBC radio quiz show *Information Please*. Anne and her brother Kim grew up surrounded by thousands of books and the entire family were committed 'sesquipedalians', besotted with very long words. The effect of this 'pathologically bookish' childhood was celebrated in Anne's well-loved collection of warm and witty essays, *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*.

*The Wine Lover's Daughter* began life as an idea for an article Anne pitched to *Harper's* magazine. 'I think I could tell the story of my father's life and character through wine,' she proposed. The article never materialized but the idea took root and, thankfully, Anne decided to write this memoir. Born in Brooklyn to eastern European immigrants, Clifton Fadiman believed his twin passions – books and an appreciation of wine – were essential to his reinvention as the model of a modern, cultivated man; to learn about wine was, as he often said, both civilized and civilizing. Anne traces her father's love affair with wine from his first taste of a white Graves 1927 (on a trip to Paris, where he went to retrieve his wayward first wife) to the Château Lafite-Rothschild 1904 he opened to celebrate his eightieth birthday, and, in doing so, she evokes an entire era of American life. With characteristic wit she also examines her own relationship with her father, writing tenderly and movingly about a vital man yet remaining clear-sighted about his failings.

First published in 2017, this delightful memoir has not until now been available outside America. And it should be, because it is a minor classic, one which will resonate with fathers and daughters, booklovers and wine-lovers, everywhere.



PUBLISHED DECEMBER 2021 • HAND-NUMBERED LIMITED EDITION OF 2,000  
CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK • 170 X 110 MM • FROM £17 • 204 PAGES



A SLIGHTLY FOXED ORIGINAL



Charles Phillipson

### LETTERS TO MICHAEL

*a father writes to his son 1945–1947*

'My dear Michael,  
Mummy and I are very pleased that you are now able to read books for yourself . . . As you grow older you will find that good books can be some of your best friends . . .  
Much love from Daddy'



It is 16 January 1947 and, as he does most days, Charles Phillipson has taken up his fountain pen to write to his young son Michael. Before Michael started school in 1944 Charles had already made him a book of playful drawings of the alphabet to encourage his reading. From early 1945 to the autumn of 1947 a sequence of 150 illustrated letters followed, creating a series which would, 'like the Pied Piper's irresistible sounds', draw Michael into a world of reading.

In these letters Charles captures the delight to be found in the mundane detail of everyday life, seen through the lens of his own quirky imagination: passengers on the morning train hidden behind their newspapers; clouds sketched as if they are players on a stage; the fun to be had on a revolving office chair; numerals that morph into animals; the different ways in which men carry their umbrellas; a walk on a very windy day; the sun rising over chimney-pots; the postman on his bicycle; carrying home a Christmas tree. Jotted on a sheet torn from a pad of office paper, and often sketched in haste in tea or lunch breaks, each letter was embellished with a hand-drawn stamp which made the young Michael feel as if he was receiving 'real' letters. And real letters they are – love-letters, even – for through their affectionate words, mischievous drawings and gentle encouragement of Michael's own literary and artistic explorations, a father's love for his son shines out.

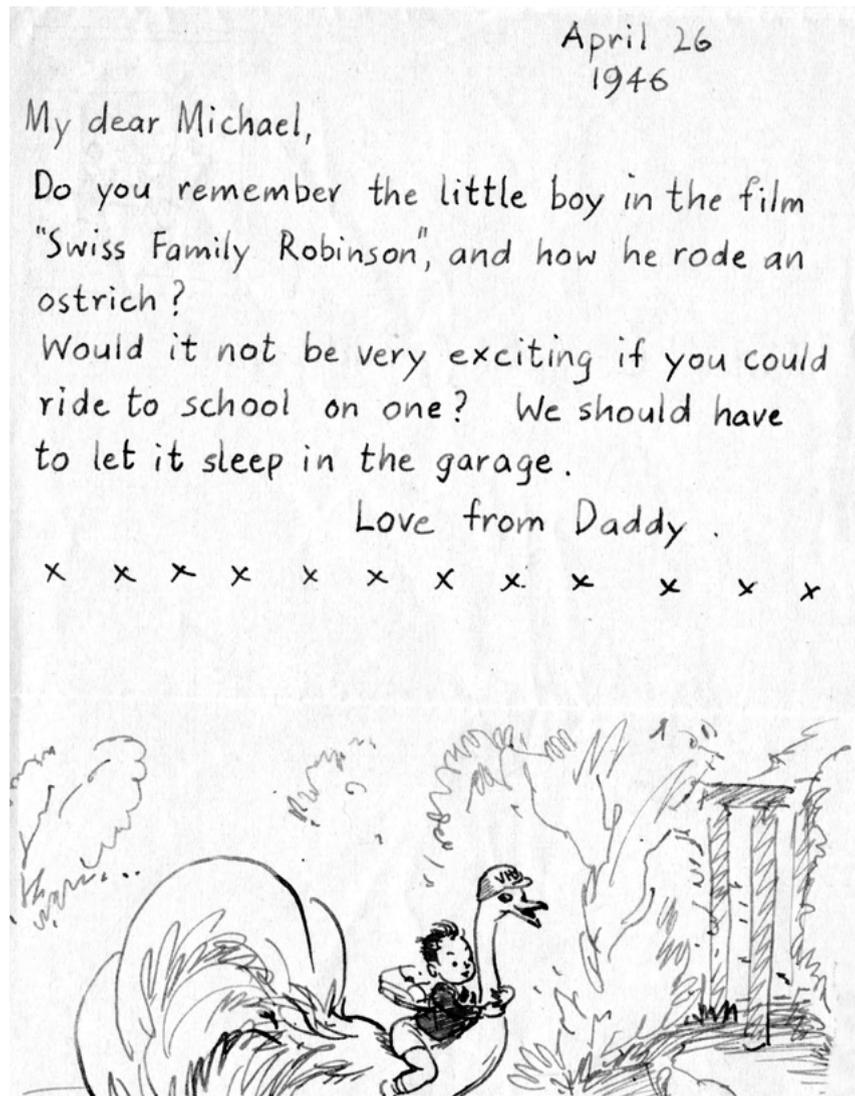
Charles Phillipson grew up in a green suburb of Manchester where much of his time was spent with pen, pencil or brush in hand, exploring the surrounding countryside. After leaving school at 14, he attended evening classes at the city's School of Art – L. S. Lowry was a fellow student – and developed his drawing and lettering skills as a printer's apprentice. Some years later he became head of the publicity department of a large chain-making company, where he used his humour and love of language to create instruction manuals and advertising for their products.

In 1937 Charles married Marjorie and they moved to a village just south of Manchester. For a short time, life seemed idyllic but then tragedy struck when Charles was diagnosed with progressive and untreatable multiple sclerosis. The war, with its barrage balloons and communal air-raid shelter in the garden, followed – as did Michael – and the letters began soon after.

Charles was made redundant in 1955 and from then on received only a small disability pension but, despite the inexorable progress of his disease, he never stopped painting and drawing, and he illustrated a number of educational children's books.

Now these letters, saved by Marjorie who recognized their unique quality, and treasured by Michael after his father's death in 1974, have been gathered together in a handsome cloth-bound hardback edition. *Letters to Michael* presents a touching portrait of the relationship between a father and his son and captures a bygone age when people still wrote letters using pen and paper. Altogether, this charming book is an antidote to troubled times and would make a perfect present.

**PUBLISHED 9 NOVEMBER 2021 • CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK  
ILLUSTRATED THROUGHOUT • 216 X 159 MM • FROM £20 • 324 PAGES**



## Adrian Bell

### A COUNTRYMAN'S WINTER NOTEBOOK

**'Bell writes always of the ordinary things, of the seasons, of memories, of rain and laughter. Gentleness fits him naturally, just as the purity of his words opens our eyes to a life all around us which we might otherwise never have seen.'**

So wrote the journalist Clement Court of his contemporary, the farmer-cum-writer Adrian Bell, best known for his rural trilogy, *Corduroy*, *Silver Ley* and *The Cherry Tree*, which vividly describe a time before machinery took over much of the work of men and beasts, altering the landscape and the face of farming forever.

In addition to the books that followed his famous trilogy, from 1950 to 1980 Bell wrote a weekly column called 'A Countryman's Notebook' for Suffolk and Norfolk's long-serving local paper, the *Eastern Daily Press*. His columns were, as his son Martin Bell says in his preface, 'not really journalism but prose poems about the natural life around him', and these essays share that which is common to all his writing – a deep appreciation of the small moments of each passing day. Now a selection of these beautifully crafted essays has been gathered together and introduced by Richard Hawking to form the first, we hope, of a quartet of Bell's writings on the seasons.



Winter, properly, begins the series. In those days the weeks after harvest were a peaceful time for seeing out the old year and planning for the new. With microscopic concentration, Bell watches as a dead leaf performs an exuberant dance on a single thread of gossamer; he plucks the very last rose from his garden; and he delights in stirring up, in a pot pourri, all the fragrances of summers past. As the first frost snuffs out the showy fireworks of dahlias, he rejoices in the emergence of the splendour of chrysanthemums in cottage gardens. No detail escapes his watchful eye.

This is poetic, sublime and profoundly wise writing, often surprising and sometimes very funny. A shaft of sunlight through a hole in the clouds becomes ‘a leak in the scheme of glory’, and, when skating on a frozen pond, even a hardworking farmer is ‘endowed with the motion of a bird, the grace of a seagull, the speed of a swallow’. But he can also chuckle when guests are alarmed in the early hours by a clanking sound: he knows it is simply ‘an itchy cow, rubbing her bony foretop on a reverberating water-tank’.

Bell once said that he wanted his writing to show a unique moment, which will never come again. And so it does. The delight of this collection is its unexpectedness: it is like being in the company of a gentle old friend, whose mind and memory are as ramblingly various as they are endearing. He knew that, and he was glad: ‘I like inconsequence,’ he wrote. ‘It is so true to life.’

Compiled in a handsome cloth-bound limited hardback edition with specially commissioned illustrations by Suffolk artist Beth Knight, *A Countryman’s Winter Notebook* is an ideal companion for the season’s long, dark evenings and would make a perfect Christmas present.



**CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK • LIMITED EDITION OF 2,000  
170 X 110 MM • FROM £17 • 224 PAGES**

**Buy with The Adrian Bell Trilogy (see p. 11)**  
SF Subscribers: UK & Ireland £64; overseas £72 \*SAVE £10  
Non-Subscribers: UK & Ireland £70; overseas £78 \*SAVE £4

## 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

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

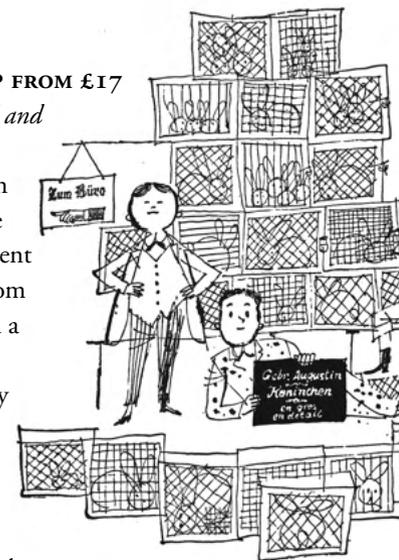
**SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NOS. 44 & 45 • 192 & 224 PAGES • ILLUS. • PAIR FROM £34**  
The much-loved artist Ernest Shepard, whose delicate and humorous illustrations will forever define the characters of Winnie-the-Pooh, and Mole, Ratty and Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*, grew up in London as the 19th 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.

### 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’.

### 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.



## Dodie Smith, *Look Back with Love*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 272 PAGES • FROM £17

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.

## 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 below.

# 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. 10

## 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

Buy the Trilogy with *A Countryman's Winter Notebook* (see p. 7)

SF Subscribers: UK & Ireland £64; overseas £72 \*SAVE £10  
Non-Subscribers: UK & Ireland £70; overseas £78 \*SAVE £4

## John Moore, *The Blue Field*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 42 • 256 PAGES • FROM £17

It is 1948 and the aftermath of the war signals the end of a particular way of rural life. In *The Blue Field* Moore captures a very English sense of resistance and resilience through the touching, and often hilarious, story of a single farm and its wild and intractable owner William Hart. 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 morning on Brensham Hill.

Hart might well be the last of a dying breed, but there is nothing sentimental about Moore's treatment of him. There are lusty summer evenings among the hedgerows, of course, but there are also frostbitten days bent double in the sprout fields. The prose is lively and quick-witted, with the glint of humour and pride that one might expect from an old local telling stories in the Horse and Harrow, Brensham's raucous pub. *The Blue Field* shows us the richly textured world of which Moore was immensely fond: people with 'poetry in their hearts and dreams in their heads – and, for much of the time, what feels like half the West Midlands on their boots'.

## A WORLD AT WAR

### George Clare, *Last Waltz in Vienna*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 56 • 408 PAGES • FROM £17

In February 1938, the grand Konzerthaus in Vienna was in full, glorious swing; bands were playing, there was dancing and singing and plenty of beer. It was the first ball ever attended by the 17-year-old Georg Klaar, and he stayed until the very last waltz. But on 11 March, lorries began thundering into the streets, filled with uniformed men waving swastikas and shouting 'Death to Jews'. Austria was now betrayed and had been annexed by the German Third Reich. Barely four years later, Georg Klaar had become George Clare and was serving in the British army, and his parents had been rounded up and taken to Auschwitz. Only with hindsight can George discern the complex reasons for his family's destruction, and for the whole appalling waste of war. This is a profoundly moving, honest and compassionate memoir, remarkably devoid of self-pity, though not of anger.



### 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 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.

### Roald Dahl, *Going Solo*

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

This sequel to *Boy* (see p. 18) 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. 18

### 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.

### 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. 15

### 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.



## ROGUES & REBELS

### 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.

### Diana Petre, *The Secret Orchard of Roger Ackerley*

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

'For God's sake someone take that child out of the room. I can't stand the way she watches me,' Diana Petre's mother Muriel is reported as saying. Diana was indeed watching, and it was this watchfulness, this ability to stand back and observe, that produced this utterly unselfpitying and often extremely funny account of a very odd childhood.

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 in characteristically brutal fashion, he was their father, Roger Ackerley.

### 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. 13

### 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.

### 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.



## QUIETLY HILARIOUS

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



### 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.



### 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's Cultural Revolution, when young Frances Wood boarded a plane in London to study for a year in Peking. Virtually closed to outsiders for the preceding decade, China was just beginning to make tentative moves towards the outside world when Frances and her fellow students were driven through the dark silent countryside to their new quarters at the Foreign Languages Institute. 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. Based on the letters she wrote home, *Hand-grenade Practice in Peking* is both affecting and hilarious.

## WRITING LIFE

### 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. 13

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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. I remember the moment well, and it is the earliest memory of my

life.' In 1972 the man who wrote those words booked himself a return ticket to Casablanca, where he underwent what would now be called gender reassignment surgery. Soon afterwards he wrote a book about what it had felt like to live – or try to live – for forty odd years with the absolute conviction that he was a woman trapped in a man's body, and how this agony had finally been resolved. Although James Morris was not the first person to undergo this operation, he was probably the best known and apparently the least likely. After Oxford, and service in intelligence during the Second World War, he made his name as a daring foreign reporter who scooped news of the first ascent of Everest in 1953. He also produced a succession of brilliant travel books. And he was married with four children – a partnership of complete trust and openness which survived to the very end. 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.

### 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.

### Richard Cobb, *Still Life*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 55 • 224 PAGES • FROM £17

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. 'Strange and wonderful,' wrote Hilary Spurling in the *Observer* when the book was first published. And indeed it is.

### 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.

THE REAL READER'S QUARTERLY

*Slightly Foxed*

### *Slightly Foxed* Issue 72 WINTER 2021 • FROM £12

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## GOODS

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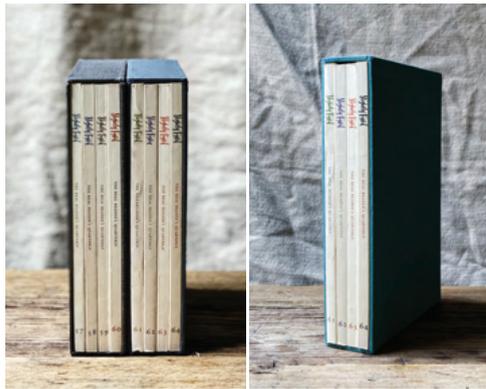
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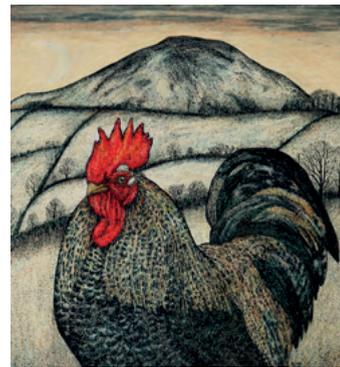


**2022 WALL CALENDAR**

SF Subscriber Prices: UK & Ireland £14.50; Overseas £16.50 inc. p&p

Non-Subscriber Prices UK & Ireland £16.50; Overseas £18.50 inc. p&p

This year *Slightly Foxed* celebrated the 70th issue of *The Real Reader's Quarterly* and we've decided to mark the occasion with a 2022 calendar featuring some more of the seasonal *Slightly Foxed* covers that readers enjoy so much. It's a handsome, spiral-bound decorative wall calendar printed on sturdy paper with a board backing, and we feel it will raise the spirits and look good in any room. It would make a charming present for anyone who loves *Slightly Foxed*, or indeed for anyone who hasn't yet come across it.



November

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

*Slightly Foxed*

Issue 64, Simon Bell, Winter Cakes!

"I couldn't contemplate life without *Slightly Foxed* - it should be available on the NHS for SAD sufferers - its arrival and the anticipation of the goodies therein always lift my spirits significantly." C. Stovner, Devon



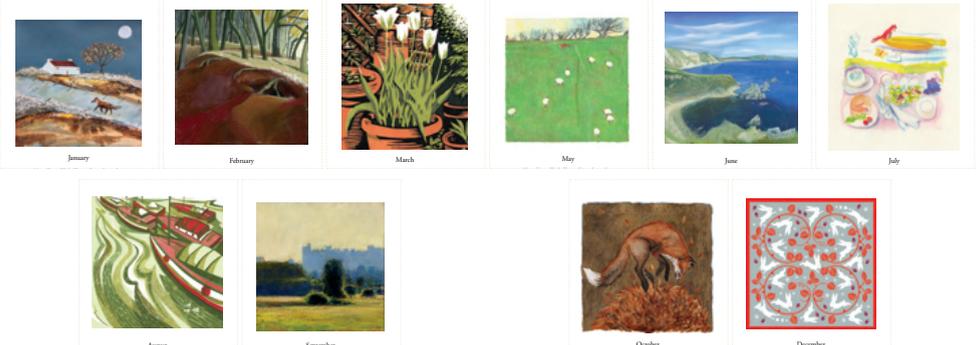
April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

*Slightly Foxed*

Issue 61, Kelly Louise Judd, Spring Fairs

"It really is a red-letter day when *Slightly Foxed* hops into my letterbox four times a year. I don't read it all at once but else it out, like very expensive honey, one or two bites at a time." R. Simpson, Johannesburg, South Africa



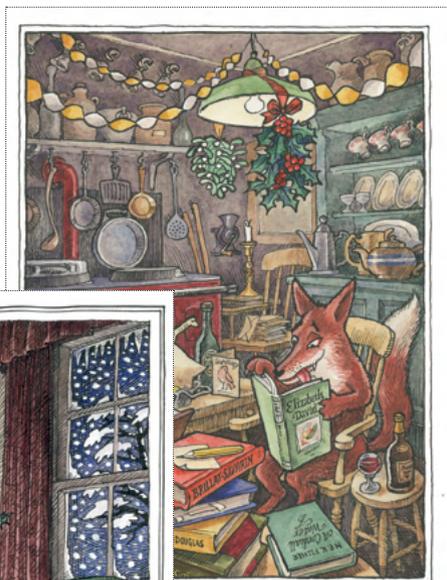
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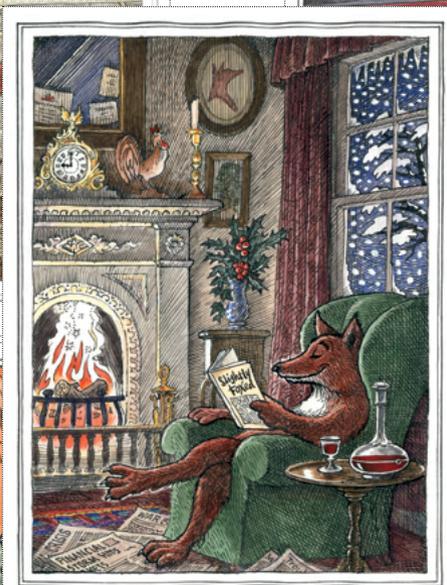
Our convivial cards, coloured in the Victorian manner, are available in packs of 10 of each design or a mixed pack of 10 comprising 2 of each design. All packs include white envelopes.



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NO. III, PREPARING THE BIRD



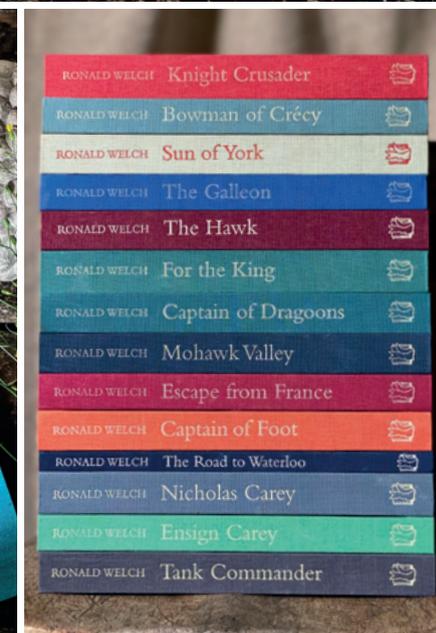
NO. I, A CHEERING GLASS



NO. V, WRAPPING THE PRESENTS



NO. IV, TOASTING THE SNOWMAN



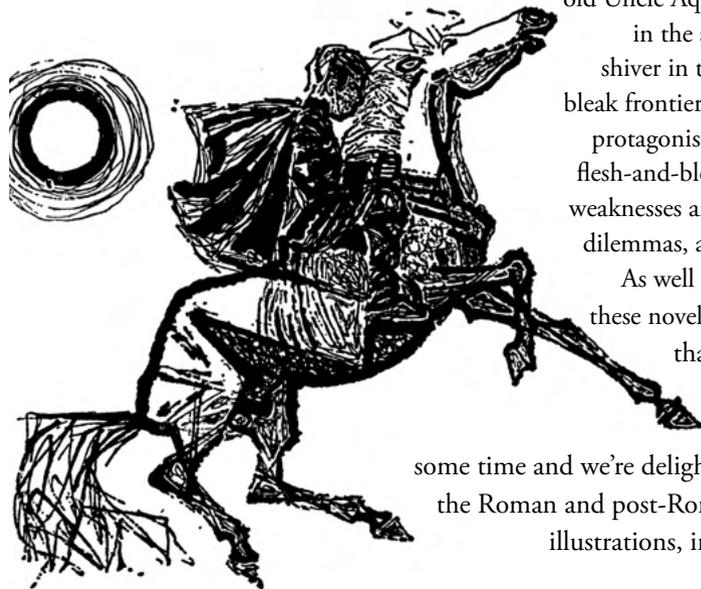
## SLIGHTLY FOXED CUBS

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



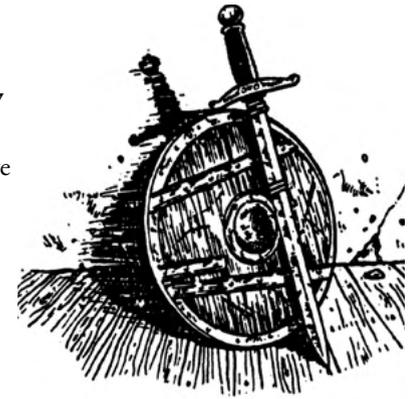
old Uncle Aquila's cosy study, feel the tension in the air at the Saturnalia Games, and shiver in the icy winds howling round the bleak frontier forts along Hadrian's Wall. Her protagonists are no cardboard cut-outs but flesh-and-blood people with understandable weaknesses and beset by recognizable human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

## NEW THIS SEASON

### SWORD SONG

**SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 228 PAGES • 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 • 216 PAGES  
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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 Rosemary Sutcliff novels and receive the same hand-numbered limited edition of each title. 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

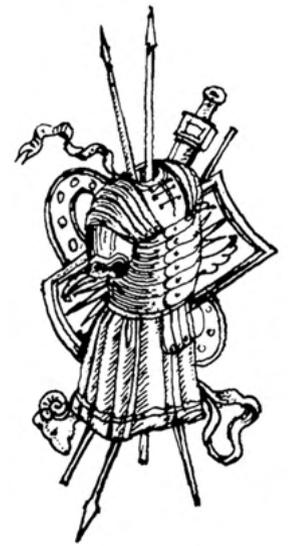
astonishing discovery which affects their future and links directly back to their ancestor Marcus and the disappearance of the Ninth Legion.



### 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.

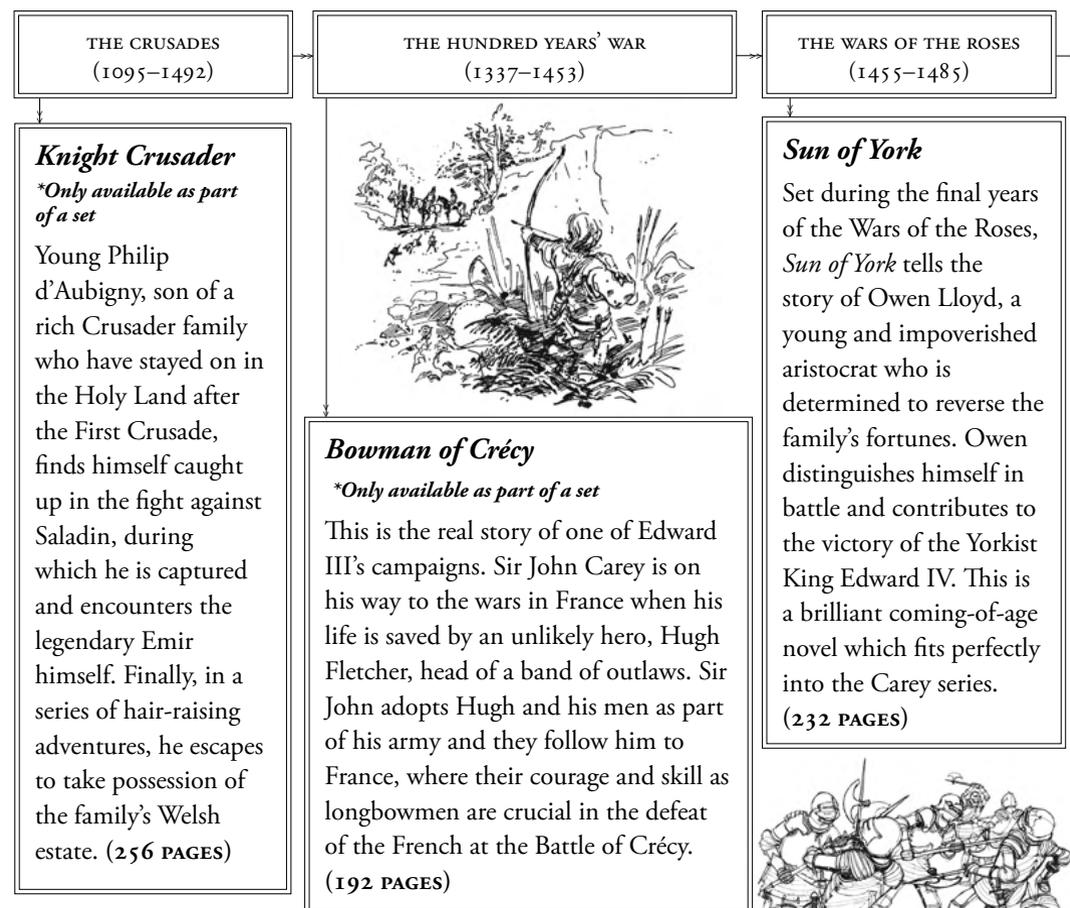
The original editions, published by Oxford University Press and illustrated by some of the best book illustrators of their day, are now almost impossible to find and fetch prohibitive prices. We're delighted to make these wonderful books available again, with their original illustrations, in an elegantly designed and highly collectable series.

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## THE CRUSADES – THE FIRST WORLD WAR



ELIZABETH I  
(1558–1603)

THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR  
(1642–1651)

THE BATTLE OF  
BLenheim (1704)

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR  
(1756–1763)

REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE  
(1789–1799)

NAPOLEONIC WARS  
(1803–1815)

### *The Hawk*

*\*Only available as part of a set*

Harry is a 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, 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)

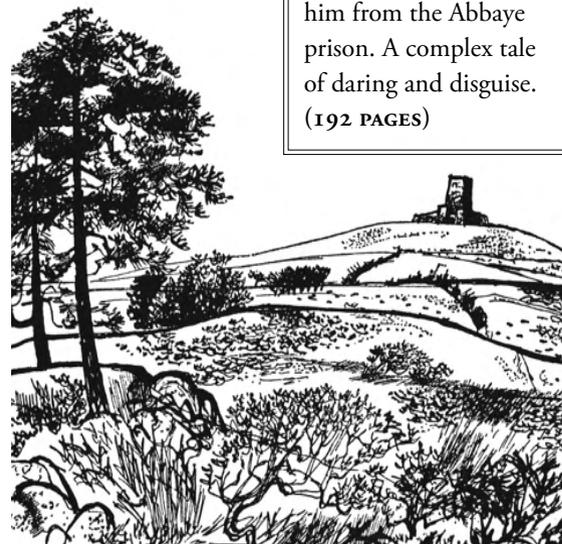
### *Captain of Dragons*

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)



### *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*

*\*Only available as part of a set*

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, 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)



THE CRIMEAN WAR  
1853–1856

THE INDIAN MUTINY  
1853–1857

THE FIRST WORLD WAR  
1914–1918

### 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.

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

‘I was absolutely delighted to receive *Sword Song* and *The Shield Ring*. As always, the quality of these Slightly Foxed volumes is unparalleled and the content, of course, is wonderful, nostalgic and a pure delight.’ A. Bown

‘I was brought up on BB. I think it is wonderful that the three great children’s books are back in print, and I am minded to take them away with me over Christmas to re-read – the perfect antidote to too much food and wine.’ J. Dereham

‘Thank you very much for publishing Ronald Welch, Rosemary Sutcliff and BB sets. Your editions are a joy to handle and have given me many happy hours.’ W. Smith

## BOOKS FEATURED IN SLIGHTLY FOXED ISSUE 72 (WINTER 2021)

Don Marquis, *The Best of Archy and Mehitabel*

EVERYMAN’S LIBRARY • HB

224 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £11.99

A poet in a former life, Archy has been reincarnated as a cockroach who types by diving head first on to a typewriter (and is famously unable to operate the shift key to produce capital letters); his side kick Mehitabel is an alley cat who claims to have once been Cleopatra. Funny, wise, tender and tough, Archy’s poems evoke Jazz Age New York as seen from the alley. This volume includes George Herriman’s whimsical illustrations and a classic introduction by the novelist E. B. White.



Hugo Vickers, *Behind Closed Doors*

ARROW • PB • 480 PAGES • FROM £14.99

Hugo Vickers has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Royal Family, and has had a fascination with the story of Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, since he was a young man. While he has his own theories

about the Abdication itself, and he makes it clear that Mrs Simpson did not lure the King from the throne, the drama of this narrative comes from the criminal exploitation of a sick woman after the death of her husband.

### Stephen King, *Nightmares & Dreamscapes*

HODDER & STOUGHTON • PB • 992 PAGES • FROM £12.99

A solitary finger pokes out of a drain. Novelty teeth turn predatory. Flies settle and die on an old pair of sneakers in New York. The Nevada desert swallows a Cadillac. Stephen King's wild imagination is richly demonstrated in this collection of short stories, from tales of the macabre and monstrous to brilliant pastiches of Raymond Chandler and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, as well as a heartfelt piece of non-fiction on Little League baseball that first appeared in *The New Yorker*.

### David Jones, *The Anathemata*

FABER • PB • 272 PAGES • FROM £22

In 200-odd pages of verse, prose, image and inscription, David Jones's *The Anathemata* explores, and muses on, the development of humankind from its pre-human ancestors; the formation of Europe, both geological and cultural; the nature of human beings as creatures who make things; and, key to it all, faith and the Christian mysteries.

### Anthony Berkeley, *The Poisoned Chocolates Case*

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

PB • 224 PAGES • FROM £10.99

Joan Bendix is killed by poisoned liqueur chocolates that cannot have been intended for her to eat, and the police investigation rapidly reaches a dead end. Chief Inspector Moresby calls on Roger Sheringham and his Crimes Circle – six amateur but intrepid detectives – to consider the case. The evidence is laid before the Circle and the members take it in turn to offer a solution. Each is more convincing than the last, slowly filling in the pieces of the puzzle, until the dazzling conclusion.



### Isabel Colegate, *The Shooting Party*

PENGUIN • PB • 224 PAGES • FROM £11.99

It is the autumn of 1913 and Sir Randolph Nettleby has assembled a brilliant array of guests at his Oxfordshire estate for the biggest shoot of the season. Everything about this weekend would seem a perfect consummation of the pleasures afforded the privileged in Edwardian England, yet the moral and social code of this group is not as secure as it appears. Competition beyond the bounds of sportsmanship, revulsion at the slaughter of the animals and anger at the inequalities of class are about to rise up and engulf social peace.

### Amor Towles, *A Gentleman in Moscow*

WINDMILL BOOKS • PB • 512 PAGES • FROM £10.99

On 21 June 1922, Count Alexander Rostov – recipient of the Order of Saint Andrew, member of the Jockey Club, Master of the Hunt – is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol. Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely. But instead of his usual suite, he must now live in an attic room while Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval.

### Buy with Amor Towles, *The Lincoln Highway*

HUTCHINSON • HB • 608 PAGES • FROM £22

In the summer of 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. With his mother long gone and his father recently deceased, Emmett plans to pick up his young brother Billy and head to California to start a new life. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have stowed away in the warden's car. They have a very different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take the four of them on a journey in the opposite direction, to New York City.

*NB This list only contains in-print books featured in this issue. For a full bibliography for this issue, please visit the website. For second-hand books, please contact the office.*

## Other Winter Reading

### REMARKS AND RUMINATIONS

#### Anne Fadiman, *Ex Libris: Confessions of a Common Reader*

PENGUIN • PB • 144 PAGES • FROM £11.99

Anne Fadiman is the sort of person who learned about sex from her father's copy of *Fanny Hill*, and who once found herself poring over a 1974 Toyota Corolla manual because it was the only thing in her apartment that she had not read at least twice. In this collection of essays, she recounts a lifelong obsession with books. Writing with humour and erudition, she moves easily from anecdotes about Coleridge and Orwell to tales of her own pathologically literary family. Buy with *The Wine Lover's Daughter*, see p. 4

#### Philip Rhys Evans, *Wonders and Absurdities 2021*

COUNTRY DOCTOR BOOKS • PAMPHLET • 28 PAGES • FROM £9.95

The annual slim volume of the Country Doctor's commonplace selection is available once again with the usual mixture of wit, humour, good sense, nonsense, eccentricity and absurdity.

## Tove Jansson & Tuulikki Pietilä, *Notes from an Island*

**SORT OF BOOKS • HB • 112 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £14.99**

In her late forties, Tove Jansson built a cabin on an almost barren outcrop of rock in the Gulf of Finland. The island was Klovharun, and for twenty-six summers Tove and her life partner, the graphic artist Tuulikki Pietilä ('Tooti'), retreated there to live, paint and write. *Notes from an Island*, published in English for the first time, is both a memoir and homage to the island the two women loved. It is also a unique collaboration between two artists. Tove's diary entries, vignettes and extracts from a seaman's log frame the subtle washes and aquatints created by Tooti, and together they form a work of meditative beauty.



## Patricia Highsmith, *Diaries and Notebooks*

**WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON • HB • 1024 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £32**

Unbeknownst to most, Patricia Highsmith kept 18 diaries and 38 notebooks throughout her life. The way she talked about these journals – especially her notebooks – indicates that she always meant to bring them into the open one day. They reveal a complex life and tell the story of a woman battling with the social norms and sexual mores of her time. Highsmith's own drawings and watercolours appear alongside the journals.

## UNCOMMON LIVES

### Jane Ridley, *George V: Never a Dull Moment*

**CHATTO & WINDUS • HB • 624 PAGES • FROM £32**

The lasting reputation of George V is for dullness. His biographer Harold Nicolson quipped 'he did nothing at all but kill animals and stick in stamps'. However, George V navigated a constitutional crisis, the First World War, the fall of thirteen European monarchies and the rise of Bolshevism. The suffragette Emily Davison threw herself under his horse at the Derby, he refused asylum to his cousin the Tsar Nicholas II and he facilitated the first Labour government. How this supposedly limited man managed to steer the Crown through so many perils is a remarkable story. And with it comes a riveting portrait of a royal marriage and family life.

### Adrian Tinniswood, *Noble Ambitions*

**JONATHAN CAPE • HB • 416 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £32**

In the years after the Second World War, the nation's stately homes were in crisis. Tottering under the weight of rising taxes and a growing sense that they had no place in twentieth-century Britain, hundreds of ancestral piles were dismantled and demolished. From the Rolling Stones rocking Longleat to Christine Keeler rocking Cliveden, *Noble Ambitions* takes us on a lively tour of these crumbling halls of power, as a rakish aristocratic Swinging London collides with traditional rural values. Adrian Tinniswood shows that the country house is a lens through which we can understand the shifting fortunes of Britain in an era of monumental social change.

## Robert Harris, *The Cicero Trilogy*

**HUTCHINSON • HB • 992 PAGES • FROM £37**

Robert Harris charts the career of the Roman statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero from his mid-twenties as an ambitious young lawyer to his dramatic death more than thirty years later, pursued by an assassination squad on a cliff-top path. The life that unfolds between these two episodes is recounted by Cicero's private secretary, Tiro: the law cases and the speeches that made his master's name; the elections and conspiracies he fought; the rivals who contended for power around him; and, at the heart of it all, the complex personality of Cicero himself. Published in a single volume for the first time, *The Cicero Trilogy* brings the world of the Roman republic to life.



## Rebecca Solnit, *Orwell's Roses*

**GRANTA • HB • 320 PAGES • FROM £18.99**

'Outside my work the thing I care most about is gardening' wrote George Orwell in 1940. Inspired by the surviving roses that Orwell planted in his cottage in Hertfordshire, Rebecca Solnit explores how his involvement with plants illuminates his other commitments as a writer and anti-fascist, and the intertwined politics of nature and power. Following his journey from the coal mines of England to taking up arms in the Spanish Civil War; from his critique of Stalin to his analysis of the relationship between lies and authoritarianism, Solnit encounters a more hopeful Orwell, whose love of nature pulses through his work and actions.

## Virginia Cowles, *Looking for Trouble*

**FABER • HB • 560 PAGES • FROM £18.99**

This 1941 memoir of life on the frontline of wartime Europe by a pioneering correspondent is a rediscovered classic. Flung off her heels under shellfire; meeting Hitler ('an inconspicuous little man'); gossiping with Churchill by his goldfish pond; dancing in the bomb-blasted Ritz; reading *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism* on a Soviet train; eating reindeer with guerrilla skiers – Virginia Cowles's incredible dispatches provide a vivid eyewitness account of Europe from the 1930s into the Second World War.

## Colm Tóibín, *The Magician*

**VIKING • HB • 448 PAGES • FROM £20.99**

*The Magician* tells the story of the German writer Thomas Mann, whose life was filled with great acclaim and contradiction. He would find himself on the wrong side of history in the First World War, cheerleading the German army, but he anticipated the horrors of Nazism in the 1930s. He would have six children and keep his homosexuality hidden; he was forever connected to his family and yet bore witness to the ravages of suicide. He would win the Nobel Prize for Literature, but would never return to the country that inspired his creativity.



### Jenny Uglow, *Sybil & Cyril: Cutting through Time*

FABER • HB • 416 PAGES • FROM £22

In 1922, Cyril Edward Power, a fifty-year-old architect, left his family to live and work with Sybil Andrews, who was twenty-six years his junior. They would be together for twenty years. Both became famous for their dynamic, modernist linocuts. Yet at the same time they looked back to medieval myths and early music, to country ways disappearing from sight. *Cyril & Sybil* traces their struggles and triumphs, following them from Suffolk to London, from the New Forest to Vancouver Island, and bringing to life their world of Futurists, Surrealists and pioneering abstraction. (Cyril's work 'The Eight' appears on the cover of *SF* Issue 18.)



## STRANGE AND GRIPPING STORIES

### Colin Thubron, *The Amur River: Between Russia and China*

CHATTO & WINDUS • HB • 304 PAGES • FROM £22

The Amur River is almost unknown. Yet it is the tenth longest river in the world, rising in the Mongolian mountains and flowing through Siberia to the Pacific to form the tense, highly fortified border between Russia and China. In his eightieth year, Colin Thubron takes a 3,000-mile long journey from the Amur's secret source to its giant mouth. Harassed by injury and temporarily arrested by the local police, he makes his way along both the Russian and Chinese shores on horseback, on foot, by boat and via the Trans-Siberian Railway, talking to everyone he meets.

### Herman Melville, *I Would Prefer Not To: Essential Stories*

PUSHKIN • PB • 256 PAGES • FROM £14

A lawyer hires a new copyist, only to be met with confounding resistance. A cynical lightning-rod salesman plies his trade by exploiting fears in stormy weather. After boarding a beleaguered Spanish slave ship, an American trader's cheerful outlook is repeatedly shadowed by paralyzing unease. In these stories about the surreal mundanity of office life and obscure tensions at sea, Melville's darkly modern sensibility plunges us into a world of mystery, where nothing is as it first appears.

### Rose Tremain, *Lily: A Tale of Revenge*

CHATTO & WINDUS • HB • 288 PAGES • FROM £20.99

Abandoned at the gates of a park one winter's night in 1850, baby Lily Mortimer is saved by a young police constable and taken to the London Foundling Hospital. Later, released into the harsh world of Victorian London, Lily becomes a favoured employee at Belle Prettywood's Wig Emporium, but all the while she is hiding a dreadful secret. Across the years, policeman Sam Trench keeps watch over the young woman he once saved. When he meets her again, there's an attraction between them and Lily is convinced that Sam holds the key to her happiness – but might he also be the one to uncover her crime and so condemn her to death?

### John Banville, *April in Spain*

FABER • HB • 368 PAGES • FROM £16.99

When Dublin pathologist Quirke glimpses a familiar face while on holiday with his wife, it's hard at first to tell whether his imagination is just running away with him. Could she really be who he thinks she is, and have a connection with a crime that nearly brought ruin to an Irish political dynasty? Unable to ignore his instincts, Quirke makes a call back home and Detective St John Strafford is soon dispatched to Spain. But he's not the only one en route. As a terrifying hitman hunts down his prey, they are all set for a brutal showdown.

### John le Carré, *Silverview*

VIKING • HB • 224 PAGES • FROM £22

Julian Lawndesley has renounced his job in the City for a simpler life running a bookshop in a small English seaside town. Only a couple of months into his new career, Julian's evening is disrupted by a visitor. Edward, a Polish émigré living in Silverview, the big house on the edge of town, seems to know a lot about Julian's family and is rather too interested in his modest new enterprise. When a letter turns up at the door of a spy chief in London warning him of a dangerous leak, the investigations lead him to this quiet town by the sea.

## FEASTS & SEASONAL TREATS

### Ghillie Basan, *A Taste of the Highlands*

BIRLINN • HB • 208 PAGES • FROM £22

From the glens of the Cairngorms, the waters of the Moray Firth and the rolling farmland of the Black Isle to the lochs, moors and mountains of Sutherland and Argyll, Ghillie Basan discovers a huge variety of local produce. Here she shares some of the best of it: wild venison, salmon and langoustines, fruits and berries, cheeses and charcuterie, as well as whisky, gin and beer. Alongside a hundred recipes, Basan tells the stories of the people she meets on her culinary journey.



### Nigel Slater, *A Cook's Book*

4TH ESTATE • HB • 512 PAGES • FROM £32

From the first jam tart he made with his mum standing on a chair trying to reach the Aga, through to what he's cooking today, this is the ultimate Nigel Slater collection. Alongside more than 200 recipes, he recalls the first time he ate a baguette in Paris, his love of jewel-bright Japanese pickled radishes and discovering the best way to roast a chicken. Chapters include: a slice of tart, a chicken in the pot, everyday greens, the solace of soup and the ritual of tea.

### Letitia Clark, *La Vita è Dolce*

HARDIE GRANT • HB • 256 PAGES • FROM £28

Featuring over 80 Italian desserts, *La Vita è Dolce* showcases Letitia Clark's favourite puddings inspired by her time living in Sardinia. Complete with anecdotes and beautiful location photography

throughout, each recipe is authentic in taste but with a delicious, contemporary twist. From a joyful Caramelised Citrus Tart to a classic Torta Caprese, this is a celebration of the sweet things in life.

### **Annie Gray, *At Christmas We Feast***

PROFILE • HB • 256 PAGES • FROM £14.99

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