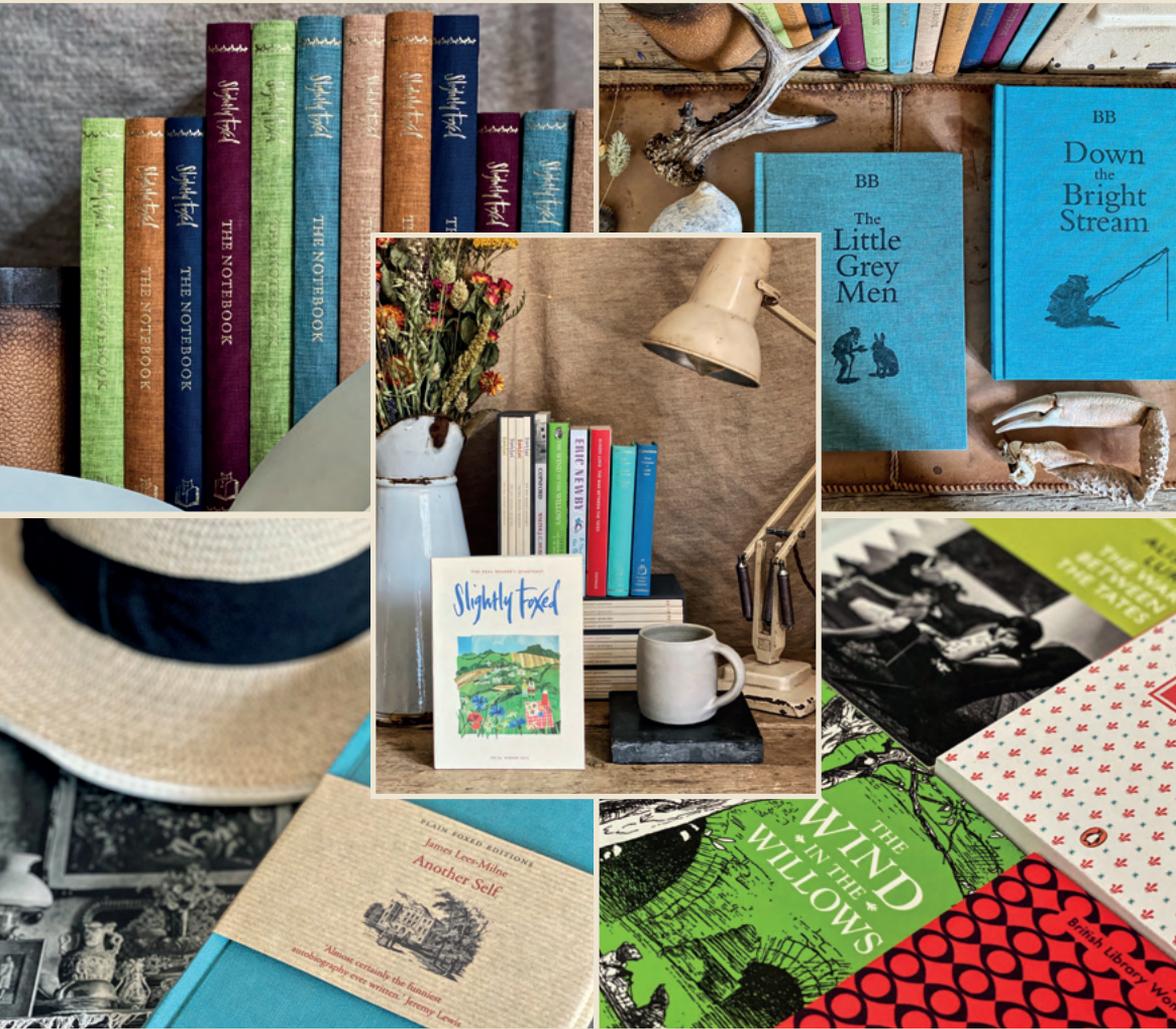


Slightly Foxed

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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 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 SUMMER

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 59

Flora Thompson

OVER TO CANDLEFORD & CANDLEFORD GREEN

In *Over to Candleford*, the sequel to *Lark Rise*, life begins to open out for Laura as she leaves Lark Rise for the first time to visit her father's family in Candleford, the local market town.

Here she is introduced to the households of her two uncles – James, a prosperous builder and pillar of the Temperance movement, and Tom, a liberal thinker and respected craftsman whose workshop produces ladies' made-to-measure shoes and hunting boots. Both have done well for themselves, but there the likeness ends, for in the first family Laura feels overwhelmed by the grand house and rich food, and patronized by her more sophisticated – not to say pretentious – cousins, while in the second all is generosity, warmth and welcome, and over time and successive visits she forms a special bond with her Uncle Tom, for they both love reading and he introduces her to books and to unusual people – known to the family as Tom's 'queer fish' – whom she would never have met in *Lark Rise*.

The close of this second book finds teenage Laura at home once more, unhappy and undecided about her future. Fortunately the decision is made for her by a letter from an old friend of her mother's, who runs the Post Office in a village a few miles from Candleford and is looking for an assistant. This is the setting for *Candleford Green*, an enchanting portrait of a village community and of Dorcas Lane, Laura's redoubtable new employer with her well-ordered household, high standards and firm traditional views. This is Laura's first real step out into the world, and an ideal situation for a budding writer, for the whole colourful society of Candleford Green passes daily through the Post Office. Flora Thompson's ability to catch the telling detail brings them vividly alive: Old Mr Stokes, the church organist and cabinet-maker who still worked at his



Sue Scullard

trade 'with his long lean form swathed in a white apron and his long white beard tucked into his waistcoat'; mysterious Mrs Macey the postwoman, who 'instead of plodding or sauntering country fashion, walked firmly and quickly, as if with a destination in view'. And Flora saw into the hearts of those around her, observing of Mrs Macey that though some villagers called her sour-looking 'anyone with more penetration would have known that she was not sour but sad'.

Flora wrote these two final books of the trilogy in the dark days of the Second World War, and perhaps it was partly this that made her happy memories of this period in her life shine so brightly. Soon Candleford Green would become a mere suburb and the old self-sufficient life of the hamlet would disappear, but for us they are still there as they were during those last decades of the nineteenth century, captured for ever by Flora's understanding heart and the beautiful economy of her writing.

Candleford Green and *Over to Candleford* are published together as a single Slightly Foxed Edition

CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK • LIMITED EDITION OF 2,000
170 X 110 MM • FROM £18 • 400 PAGES

Buy with: Flora Thompson, *Lark Rise*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 58 • 328 PAGES • FROM £18

This first volume of the much-loved trilogy that came to be known as *Lark Rise to Candleford* recreates, in lightly fictionalized form, Flora Thompson's early childhood in the Oxfordshire hamlet of Juniper Hill (*Lark Rise* of the title) during the last decades of the nineteenth century. From the annual killing of the pig to the flowers in the cottage gardens and the characters of its older residents, the life of the hamlet is recalled in magical detail, a close-up, child's-eye view of a small, self-sufficient world.

NEW PLAIN FOXED EDITION

James Lees-Milne, ANOTHER SELF

James Lees-Milne, writer and architectural historian, is probably best remembered for his mischievously perceptive diaries, which chronicled the doings of upper-class English society from the Second World War onwards in twelve addictive volumes. *Another Self*, his fanciful, funny, yet poignant account of his early years, has the same gripping quality.

A deeply religious child, Jim spent much of his childhood wandering dreamily in the grounds of his parents' medieval manor house, Wickhamford Manor in Worcestershire. It gave him a nostalgia for the past and a love of historic buildings which would lead to his later distinguished



career with the National Trust. His father, however, had no time whatsoever for such arty attitudes. He determined that, after leaving Eton in 1926, Jim should 'stand on his own feet' and accordingly enrolled him in Miss Blakeney's Stenography School for Young Ladies in Chelsea where, as the only male student, he spent a lonely year learning shorthand and typing.

Thanks to his mother he escaped to Oxford (a disappointment) and thence to London, where he had another searing experience as assistant to Sir Roderick Jones, the boorish and dyspeptic chairman of Reuters. Droll, shy and sexually ambivalent, Lees-Milne wrote that he 'always felt an outsider in every circle'. It was this, combined with his eye for detail and highly developed sense of the ridiculous, that made him such a wonderful comic writer. John Betjeman compared the impact of *Another Self* to that of Evelyn Waugh's *Decline and Fall*.

PUBLISHED 1 JUNE 2022 • FROM £18 • 256 PAGES



FORTHCOMING

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 60

Richard Broad and Suzie Fleming (eds.),
Nella Last's War: The Second World War Diaries of Housewife, 49

PUBLISHED 1 SEPT 2022 • 392 PAGES • FROM £18

In 1937 the social research group Mass Observation set about creating a record of everyday life in Britain by recruiting 500 volunteer diarists. One of these was Nella Last, a housewife living in Barrow-in-Furness with a husband and two grown-up sons, one a trainee tax-inspector and the other in the army. So far, so seemingly ordinary, but there was nothing ordinary about Nella. Her account of life in wartime Britain is not only an unrivalled piece of social history but also the portrait of a woman you feel could have run the country, given half a chance.

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 perspective.

In the following pages you'll find listings for all other available titles from the original SF Edition series grouped together with others on a loosely similar theme that we have published as one-off special releases or reissued as Plain Foxed Editions or SF Paperbacks. To follow there's our Foxed Cubs list of classic historical, adventure and nature novels for younger readers, after which 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.

SUMMER READING

Eric Newby, *Love and War in the Apennines*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 47 • 360 PAGES • FROM £18

'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

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 cripplingly 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.

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

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 54 • 240 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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 £18

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 huggemugger 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



Adrian Bell, *A Countryman's Winter Notebook*

SLIGHTLY FOXED OCCASIONAL BOOKS • HB • 256 PAGES

ILLUS. • FROM £18

For all those who have loved Adrian Bell's trilogy describing his life between the wars on a Suffolk farm, there is now an additional treat. From 1950 to 1980 Bell wrote a popular column for his local paper, the *Eastern Daily Press*, 1,600 atmospheric little essays which vividly catch the fleeting moments that made up his life in the rural Suffolk he loved and knew so well. Surprisingly, very few have since been reprinted, but now they can be enjoyed again in this seasonal selection by Richard Hawking, with an introduction by Bell's son Martin and charming illustrations by Beth Knight. This is the first of four little seasonal books of Bell's writings.

Adrian Bell, *Corduroy*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 288 PAGES • FROM £18

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, *The Cherry Tree*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 38 • 256 PAGES • FROM £18

In *The Cherry Tree* Bell makes a happy marriage and settles down with his wife Nora on their own small farm. The picture of their young married life is a cheerful one as they share the work of the farm, explore the countryside in their pony and trap, and furnish the house with bits and pieces picked up in the Stambury junk shops. But *The Cherry Tree* also records in poignant detail the dying days of an old order before mechanization took over completely, and the growing agricultural depression which would change for ever the face of the countryside and the lives of their country neighbours. In this final book of his famous trilogy 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 Collection

Corduroy, *The Cherry Tree* and *A Countryman's Winter Notebook*

SF Subscribers: UK & Ireland £51; overseas £57 *SAVE £9

Non-Subscribers: UK & Ireland £57; overseas £63 *SAVE £3



John Moore's Brensham Trilogy

'I have written a book which gives me much pleasure. It is a kind of full-length portrait of a small country town – this small town – between the wars. The sort of life that will never come back.'

So John Moore wrote to T. H. White in the summer of 1945.

That book was *Portrait of Elmbury*, the first volume in the trilogy based on his home town that Moore wrote shortly after the Second World War, following it in 1946 with *Brensham Village* and in 1948 with *The Blue Field*. Together the three books paint a picture of a lost rural world which is powerfully nostalgic yet unsentimental.

Born in 1907, Moore grew up in Tewkesbury at a time when such small English market towns had a sturdy and independent life of their own. Mass travel, mass media and the changes

brought about by two world wars would gradually destroy this self-contained society, but in *Portrait of Elmbury* Moore caught and preserved it and its inhabitants in captivating detail, from the wild and drunken inhabitants of the slums in Double Alley to Miss Benedict, the disapproving barmaid at the Shakespeare (the town had 28 pubs and a population of 5,000).

Brensham Village moves the story onward to the 1930s and from Elmbury to a small village nearby. Now 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 fishing, ferreting and bird's-nesting for Moore and his friends.

The final volume, *The Blue Field*, set in 1948, focuses on a single farm and the life of its owner, the wild and intractable William Hart, master wagon-maker and defender of individual liberties against increasing interference from the State. He is the man responsible for the field of blue linseed, grown in defiance of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, which flowers one summer morning on Brensham Hill.

Though Moore wrote many more books and spent time in London, he always returned to Tewkesbury – for him a place where somehow 'emotion seemed larger, pleasures were keener, sorrows sharper, the tragedy more profound and the comedy more riotous' – and it is for his wonderful Brensham trilogy that he is best known. All three books are now available again, *Portrait of Elmbury* in a Plain Foxed Edition and *Brensham Village* and *The Blue Field* as Slightly Foxed Editions. **FROM £18 PER TITLE**



Special Offer: The Brensham Trilogy

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Non-Subscribers: UK & Ireland £57; overseas £63 *SAVE £3

A WORLD AT WAR

Christabel Bielenberg, *The Past Is Myself*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 384 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

George Clare, *Last Waltz in Vienna*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 56 • 408 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

Roald Dahl, *Going Solo*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 49 • 236 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

This sequel to *Boy* (see p. 12) 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. 12

Richard Hillary, *The Last Enemy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 39 • 224 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

Anthony Rhodes, *Sword of Bone*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

John Hackett, *I Was a Stranger*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

ROGUES & REBELS

Roald Dahl, *Boy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 48 • 184 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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. 11

Diana Petre, *The Secret Orchard of Roger Ackerley*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 33 • 272 PAGES • FROM £18

'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.

Jessica Mitford, *Hons and Rebels*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 52 • 320 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

Christopher Robbins, *The Empress of Ireland*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 51

384 PAGES • FROM £18

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 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.



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.

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

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 50 • 416 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

QUIETLY HILARIOUS

Eric Newby, *Something Wholesale*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 41 • 256 PAGES • FROM £18

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. 7**

Diana Holman-Hunt, *My Grandmothers and I*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 288 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

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 £18

'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 £18

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.

WRITING LIFE

Richard Cobb, *Still Life*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 55 • 224 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

Dodie Smith, *Look Back with Love*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 272 PAGES • FROM £18

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.



Michael Holroyd, *Basil Street Blues*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 29 • 368 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

Jennie Erdal, *Ghosting*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 43 • 304 PAGES • FROM £18

'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.

Anne Fadiman, *The Wine Lover's Daughter*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 57 • 204 PAGES • FROM £18

The Wine Loving Father might be a more apt title for this affectionate but clear-eyed memoir in which the American writer Anne Fadiman remembers her convivial and amusing father Clifton Fadiman, successful author, critic, columnist, publisher and MC of the popular NBC radio quiz show *Information Please*. A complicated self-made Jew from Brooklyn with a passion for wine, Clifton moved in the best literary circles and was heaped with honours by the time he died in 1998, but he never felt he was quite good enough. This is not just a book for wine buffs, but one that evokes the atmosphere of a whole era in American life.

Jan Morris, *Conundrum*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 46 • 200 PAGES • FROM £18

'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 James Morris booked a return ticket to Casablanca and underwent what would now be called gender reassignment surgery. Soon afterwards Jan Morris wrote a book about what it had felt like to live – or try to live – for forty odd years with the absolute conviction that she was a woman trapped in a man's body, and how this agony had finally been resolved. Although she was not the first person to undergo this operation, she was probably the best known and apparently the least likely. After Oxford, and service in Intelligence during the Second World War, James Morris became a daring foreign reporter who scooped news of the first ascent of

Everest in 1953. During the 1950s and '60s 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 end. How James finally became Jan is an extraordinary story, and her memoir *Conundrum* is a gripping and thought-provoking read which casts fascinating light on the fevered debates of today.

Gavin Maxwell, *The House of Elrig*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 31 • 256 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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 £18

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.

Helene Hanff, *84, Charing Cross Road*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 240 PAGES • FROM £18

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.

DRAWN FROM LIFE

Gwen Raverat, *Period Piece*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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'.

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

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 208 PAGES

ILLUS. • FROM £18

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.



Erich Kästner, *When I Was a Little Boy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 40 • 216 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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 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.



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

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NOS. 44 & 45 • 192 & 224 PAGES • ILLUS. • PAIR FROM £36

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.

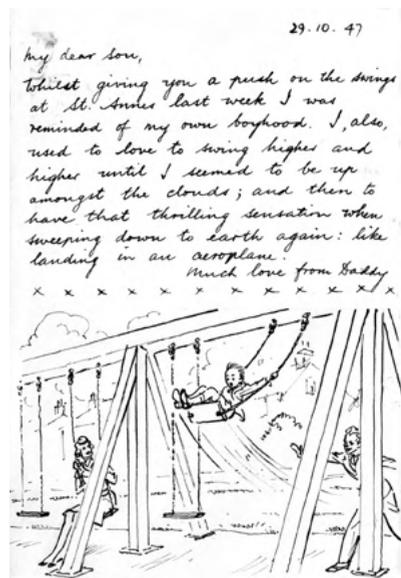
Drawn from Life opens with the tragic death of his mother when he was 10 and describes the family's brave recovery, Ernest's time at the Royal Academy Schools, and his happy marriage to a fellow artist. Together these two volumes form a vivid canvas filled with the vision of a gentler, more leisurely world.

Charles Phillipson, *Letters to Michael*

SLIGHTLY FOXED OCCASIONAL BOOKS

HB • 324 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £20

Between the spring of 1945 and the autumn of 1947 Charles Phillipson wrote a series of 150 illustrated letters to his young son Michael, who had just started school. These delightful, quirky letters, designed to whet Michael's appetite for reading, were done when Charles – a considerable artist who illustrated a number of children's books – had already been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, but they are full of the lightness and humour he still found in everyday situations, and full of encouragement for Michael's own efforts. Preserved by his wife and son after his death in 1974, these *Letters to Michael* give a most touching picture of the relationship between a father and his young son.



Slightly Foxed

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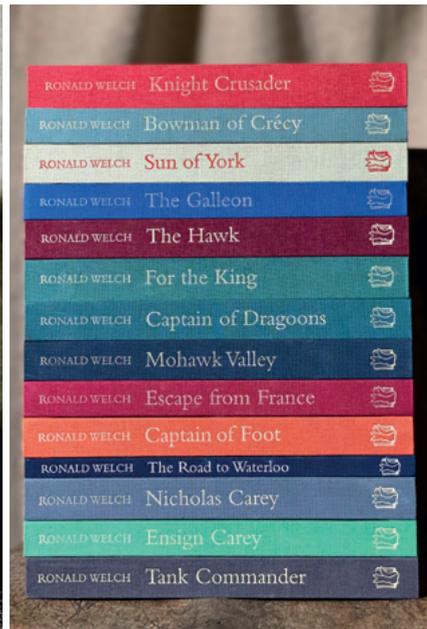
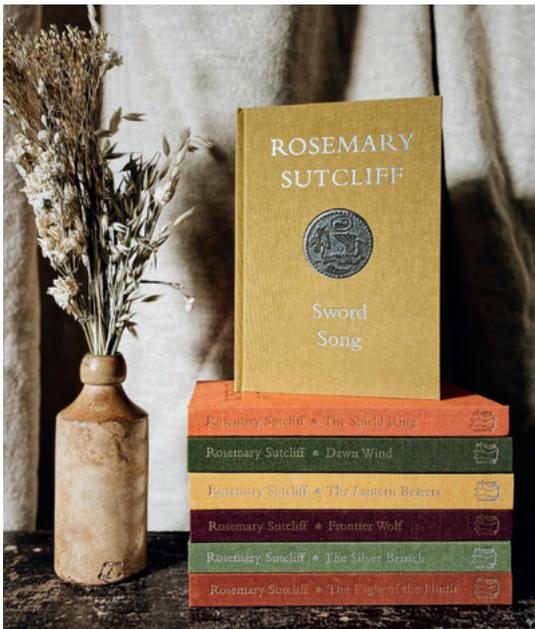
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Slightly Foxed Cubs is a series of beautifully produced collectable children's books, which strike a nostalgic chord with many older readers and introduce a younger generation to writers whose marvellous books have, unaccountably, been allowed to slip 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.

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.

THE EAGLE OF THE NINTH

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 248 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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 £18

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 £18

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

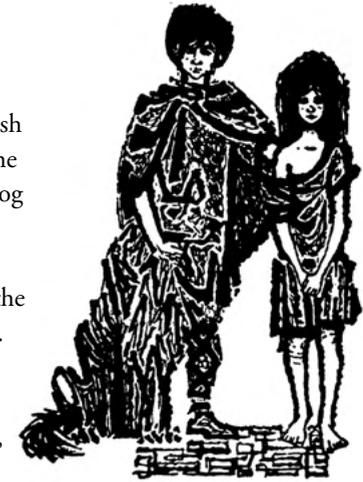
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The shadow of the approaching Dark Ages hangs over this last of the Roman novels. Rome's legacy is finally decaying, the regular legions have been withdrawn, and Saxon raiding parties are invading the British countryside. As commander of a cavalry 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 £18

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.



SWORD SONG

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUB • 228 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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 • ILLUS. • FROM £18

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.

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‘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

SLIGHTLY FOXED CUBS • 224 & 200 PAGES • ILLUS. • PAIR FROM £36

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 £18

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 £51; Rest of the World from £57 *save <£9



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.

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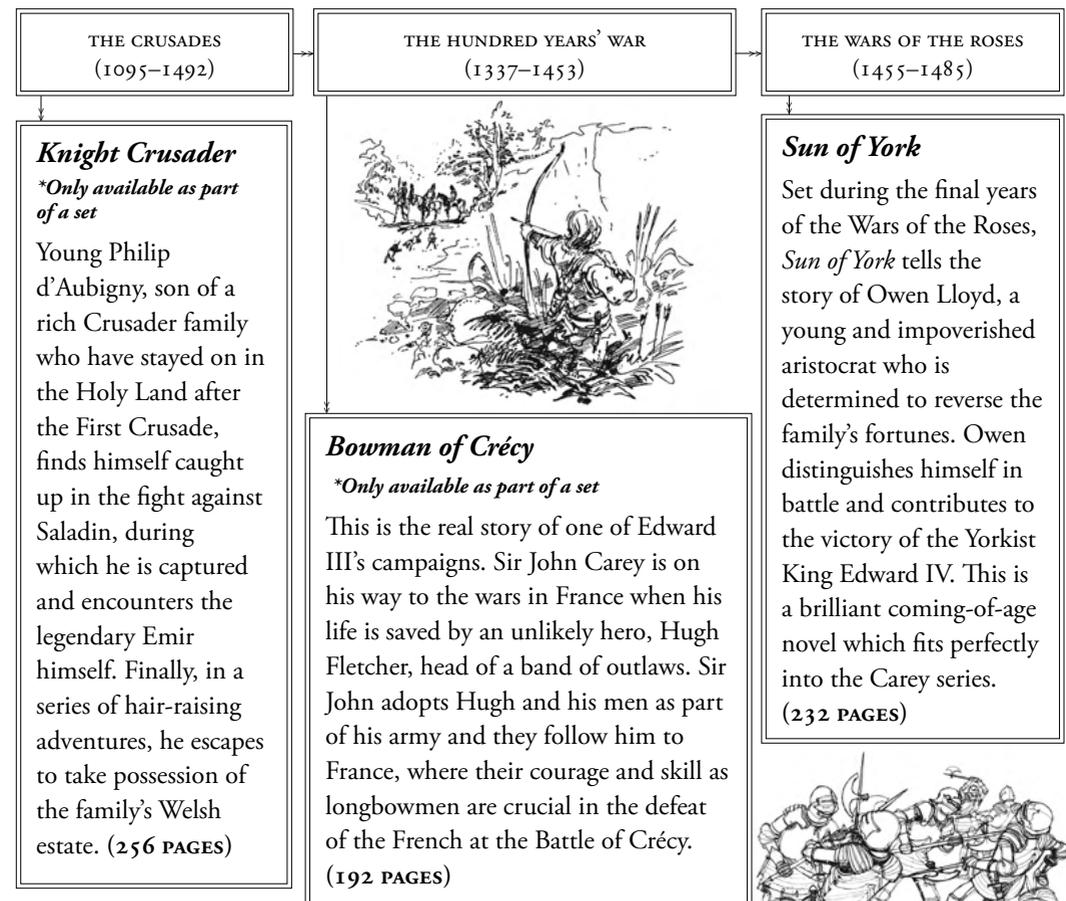
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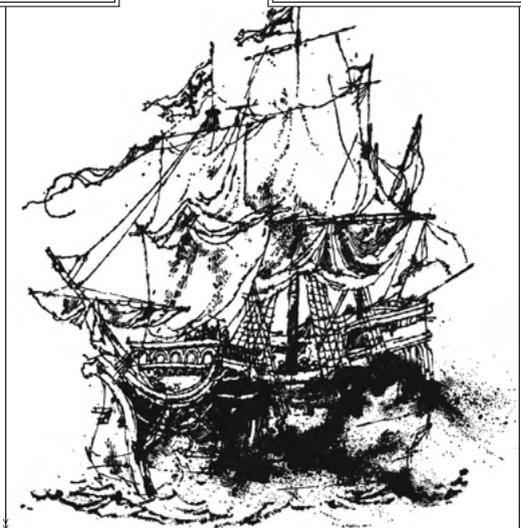
REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE
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(1803–1815)

The Hawk

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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)

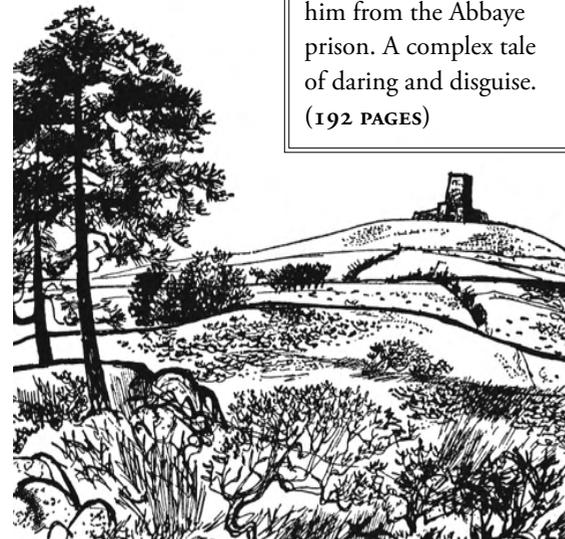
Captain of Dragoons

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)



THE REAL READER'S QUARTERLY

Slightly Foxed

BOOKS FEATURED IN ISSUE 74

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

Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

FARSHORE • HB • 224 PAGES • FROM £14.99

The Wind in the Willows is a classic that has been entertaining children and adults alike for over a hundred years. The Wild Wood seems a terrifying place to Mole, until one day he pokes his nose out of his burrow and meets brave Ratty, kind old Badger and the rascally Mr Toad. This hardback edition contains the original full-colour illustrations by E. H. Shepard, a partnership that has never been bettered.



Buy with

Matthew Dennison, *Eternal Boy: The Life of Kenneth Grahame*

HEAD OF ZEUS • PB • 304 PAGES • FROM £10.99

Kenneth Grahame sat behind a mahogany desk as Secretary of the Bank of England during the week; at the weekend he retired to the house in the country he shared with his wife Elspeth and son Alistair and took lengthy walks along the Thames in Berkshire. The result of these pastoral wanderings was *The Wind in the Willows*. Like its remarkable author, it balances maverick tendencies with conservatism. Grahame was an Edwardian pantheist whose work has a timeless appeal, and Matthew Dennison paints a vivid portrait of this strange, shy, awkward figure.

Eric Newby, *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*

COLLINS • PB • 256 PAGES • FROM £11.99

It was 1956 and Eric Newby was earning an improbable living in the chaotic family business of London haute couture. Pining for adventure, he sent his friend Hugh Carless the now-famous cable – CAN YOU TRAVEL NURISTAN JUNE? – thus setting in motion a journey from Mayfair to Afghanistan and the mountains of the Hindu Kush, north-east of Kabul. Inexperienced and ill-prepared (their preparations involved nothing more than some tips from a Welsh waitress), the amateurish rogues embark on a month of adventure and hardship in one of the most beautiful wildernesses on earth.

Buy with Love and War in the Apennines (see p. 7) and *Something Wholesale* (see p. 14)

Alison Lurie, *The War Between the Tates*

VINTAGE • PB • 368 PAGES • FROM £11.99

Brian and Erica Tate appear to have every advantage in life: academic careers, two children, nice friends and money. When Brian begins an affair with one of his students the disintegration of their lives is swift and shocking. Things spiral when a protest against a sexist professor at the university escalates and Brian, hopelessly compromised by split loyalties, gets caught up in the action. Alison Lurie skewers both sides of the Tates' marriage in this campus satire of 1960s feminism, parenthood, infidelity and academic pomposity.



Walter J. C. Murray, *Copsford*

LITTLE TOLLER • PB • 168 PAGES • FROM £16

Walter Murray was a young man tired of living in the city. Early in the 1920s, he persuaded a Sussex farmer to rent him a derelict cottage with no running water or electricity. It was dirty, dark and overrun by rats. He bought a brush and pail in the village, forced the rats to retreat and became alert to the wildlife and plants around him. It was here he met his future wife, 'The Music Mistress', with whom he would later found a school. However, this is no simple story of a rural idyll – life at Copsford was hard and Murray doesn't shy away from the occasional terrors of a house that had its hauntings.

Peter Hopkirk, *The Great Game*

JOHN MURRAY • PB • 592 PAGES • FROM £14.99

For nearly a century the two most powerful nations on earth, Victorian Britain and Tsarist Russia, fought a secret war in the lonely passes and deserts of Central Asia. Those engaged in this shadowy struggle called it 'The Great Game', a phrase immortalized by Kipling. When it first began the two rival empires lay nearly 2,000 miles apart. By the end, some Russian outposts were within 20 miles of India. Peter Hopkirk tells the story of the Great Game through the exploits of the young officers, both British and Russian, who risked their lives playing it. Disguised as holy men or native horse-traders, they mapped secret passes, gathered intelligence and sought the allegiance of powerful khans. Some never returned.

A. J. Liebling, *The Sweet Science: Boxing and Boxiana – A Ringside View*

PENGUIN • PB • 256 PAGES • FROM £11.99

Take a ringside seat next to A. J. Liebling at some of the greatest fights in history. Here is Joe Louis's devastating final match; Sugar Ray Robinson's dramatic comeback; and Rocky Marciano's rise to heavyweight glory. The heated atmosphere, the artistry of the great boxers and the blows and parries of classic fights are all vividly evoked in a volume described by *Sports Illustrated* as 'the best American sports book of all time'.

John Fowles, *The Magus*

VINTAGE • PB • 672 PAGES • FROM £12.99

A young Englishman, Nicholas Urfe, accepts a teaching post on a remote Greek island to escape an unsatisfactory love affair. There, his friendship with a reclusive millionaire evolves into a mysterious – and deadly – game of violence, seduction and betrayal. As he is drawn deeper into the trickster's psychological traps, Nicholas finds it increasingly difficult to distinguish past from present, fantasy from reality. He becomes a desperate man fighting for his sanity and survival.

Edgar Mittelholzer, *My Bones and My Flute*

PEEPAL TREE • PB • 96 PAGES • FROM £11.99

Edgar Mittelholzer subtitled his 1955 novel *A Ghost Story in the Old-fashioned Manner*. Milton Woodsley is invited to stay with the wealthy businessman Henry Nevinson and his family in their remote jungle cottage in Guyana. Woodsley, an artist, thinks he's there to do some paintings for Nevinson, but when the family mention a flute player that no one else can hear, he begins to realize that there is more to their stay. The tension rises as the cottagers' sanity and lives are threatened.

**Julia Child, Louisette Bertholle & Simone Beck
*Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Vol. I***

PENGUIN • PB • 784 PAGES • FROM £14.99

Julia Child revolutionized cooking in the US and this was the book that launched her career. Having studied at the famous Cordon Bleu in Paris, she started her own cooking school, L'Ecole des Trois Gourmandes, with Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle, and the three women began compiling the first volume of *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. It was published in 1961 and was an instant hit. It remains the classic work in English on French cooking.

Buy with:

Julia Child & Simone Beck, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Vol. II*

PENGUIN • PB • 784 PAGES • FROM £14.99

'If you can read, you can cook.' This was the simple, revolutionary philosophy behind *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961 and 1970). Even with sixty years' hindsight, the book's lasting success is remarkable. In two volumes and running to well over a thousand pages of precise technical French cuisine it was launched on a nation of home cooks who knew little about *la belle France*, yet it became a runaway bestseller and catapulted one of its authors to fame.

Norman Lewis, *Voices of the Old Sea*

ELAND • PB • 208 PAGES • FROM £14.99

In the late 1940s, Norman Lewis settles in a remote fishing village on what is now the Costa Brava in Spain, relishing a society where the villagers regulated their lives by the sardine shoals of spring and autumn and the tuna fishing of summer, and made frugal ends meet. Over the course of three years he watches with sorrow and affection as they struggle to hang on to a way

of life unchanged for centuries. How long can their precarious economy, their ancient feuds and traditions – not least the evenings of impromptu blank verse in the bar – hold out against the encroaching tide of package tourism?

F. Tennyson Jesse, *A Pin to See the Peepshow*

BRITISH LIBRARY • PB • 320 PAGES • FROM £11.99

Julia Almond dreams of a more exciting and glamorous life away from the drab suburbia of her upbringing. Her work in a fashionable boutique in the West End of London gives her the freedom that she craves but escape from her parental home into marriage soon leads to boredom and frustration. She begins a passionate affair with a younger man, which has deadly consequences. Julia's story is based on the events of the sensational Thompson/Bywaters murder trial in the 1920s.

Arthur Ransome, *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea*

RED FOX • PB • 352 PAGES • FROM £9.99

'Now Susan,' Mother said, 'and you too, John. No night sailing. No going outside the harbour. And back the day after tomorrow. Promise.' But promises can't always be kept. Within twenty-four hours John, Susan, Titty and Roger find themselves fighting a gale at night in the treacherous waters of the North Sea, adrift and in the main shipping lanes. Only their sailing skills can help them now.



OTHER SUMMER READING

Stephen Bates, *The Poisonous Solicitor: The True Story of a 1920s Murder Mystery*

ICON BOOKS • HB • 336 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £18.99

In February 1921, Katharine Armstrong died in her bedroom on the first floor of a villa overlooking the borderlands between Wales and England. Within fifteen months of the tragedy, her husband, Herbert Rowse Armstrong, would be arrested, tried and hanged for poisoning her with arsenic. Armstrong's story was told again and again, decade after decade, in newspaper articles across the world. With all the ingredients of a classic murder mystery, the case is a near-perfect whodunnit. But who, in fact, did it? One hundred years after the execution, Stephen Bates examines and retells the story of the case, evoking the period and atmosphere of the early 1920s, and questioning the fatal judgement.

Jane Bowles, *Two Serious Ladies*

WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON • PB • 272 PAGES • FROM £10.99

'I am going on a trip. Wait until I tell you about it. It's terrible.' Miss Goering, an eccentric, impulsive New York heiress, resides in her house and tries not to be unhappy. Mrs Copperfield, an anxious, dutiful married woman, has a great fear of drowning, of lifts and of intruders in the

night. Anything is possible for these two serious ladies. For Miss Goering: a move to a squalid little house on an island and a series of sordid encounters with strangers. For Mrs Copperfield: a trip to Panama, where she abandons her husband for the love of a local prostitute. Both go to pieces – and both realize that this is something they have wanted to do for years.

Edward Chisholm, *A Waiter in Paris: Adventures in the Dark Heart of the City*

MONORAY • HB • 384 PAGES • FROM £18.99

Edward Chisholm's memoir of his time as a Parisian waiter goes below the surface of the city and right into its glorious underbelly. He inhabits a world of inhuman hours, snatched sleep and dive bars; he scrapes by on coffee, bread and cigarettes, with a wage so low he's fighting colleagues for tips. These colleagues include thieves, ex-Legionnaires, paperless immigrants, wannabe actors and drug dealers, and are the closest thing to family he's got. It's physically demanding, frequently humiliating and incredibly competitive. But it doesn't matter because he's in Paris, and there is nowhere else in the world he'd rather be.



Buy with

George Orwell, *Down and Out in Paris and London*

PENGUIN • PB • 256 PAGES • FROM £11.99

'Many years ago, when I was in my early twenties, I lived in Copenhagen where I was registered with the Foreign Ministry as correspondent for *The Times*. But I made my living washing dishes. The paper paid by the line and used so little of my copy that I was forced to find illegal work as a scullion in one of the city's less elegant restaurants. And it was during this time, morbidly attracted by the title, that I found a copy of *Down and Out in Paris and London*.

The book was the first full-length work by Orwell to be published. A tale of poverty in two cities, it is divided into two parts: in the first the author becomes a dishwasher in Paris; in the second he lives the life of a tramp in London. The book's obvious appeal for me was that it seemed to be written by a soul mate, a letter from one unpublished writer and dishwasher to another. It enabled me to romanticize my deadly dull occupation, not least by allowing me to think of myself not as a dishwasher but as a *plongeur*.' Christopher Robbins, *SF Issue 21*

Elena Ferrante, *In the Margins: On the Pleasures of Reading and Writing*

EUROPA EDITIONS • HB • 172 PAGES • FROM £14.99

In four new essays, Elena Ferrante writes about her influences, her struggles and her formation as both a reader and a writer. She describes the perils of 'bad language' and suggests ways in which it has long excluded women's truth, and she brilliantly discourses on the work of Emily Dickinson, Gertrude Stein, Ingeborg Bachmann and many others. This collection of candid essays explores adventures in literature, both in and out of the margins.

Tove Jansson, *The Summer Book*

SORT OF BOOKS • HB • 192 PAGES • FROM £11.99

An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter spend a summer together on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland. As the two learn to adjust to each other's fears, whims and yearnings, a fierce yet understated love emerges. Written in a clear, unsentimental style, full of brusque humour and wisdom, *The Summer Book* is a life-affirming story. Tove Jansson captured much of her own life and spirit in the book, which was her favourite of her adult novels. This 50th anniversary edition includes an afterword by Sophia Jansson (on whom the child in the story is based) who returns to the island at the point of becoming a grandmother herself.



Ana Kinsella, *Look Here: On the Pleasures of Observing the City*

DAUNT BOOKS • PB • 224 PAGES • FROM £11.99

This is a book about the joy that comes from chance encounters, unexpected sights and sounds, the rush of the everyday. Wherever she goes, Ana Kinsella looks around her with a keen eye for small illuminating details, variety and emotional connection. And she reflects on whether the never-ending carousel of clothing we see on strangers holds some deeper meaning. *Look Here* is a layered portrait of a city and its people, a book that urges us to slow down and look closer.

Amy Liptrot, *The Instant*

CANONGATE • HB • 192 PAGES • FROM £16.99

Wishing to leave behind the quiet isolation of her Orkney island life, Amy Liptrot books a one-way flight to Berlin. Searching for new experiences, inspiration and love, she rents a loftbed in a shared flat, tours the streets, nightclubs and parks, and seeks out the city's wildlife – goshawks, raccoons and hooded crows. She looks for love through the screen of her laptop and hopes for the unexpected. This comes in the form of a love affair that obsesses her. *The Instant* explores the cycles of the moon, the flight paths of migratory birds, the mesmerizing power of Neolithic stonework and the trails followed by a generation who exist online.

Ruth Pavey, *A Wood of One's Own*

DUCKWORTH • PB • 256 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £12.99

After years spent living in London, Ruth Pavey yearned to reconnect with the countryside. Touring the West Country in the late 1990s, she found herself in the Somerset Levels and set out to plant a wood, tree by tree. She bought four acres and transformed them into a haven

where woodland plants and creatures could flourish. Interwoven with her descriptions of the practical challenges she faced are forays into the Levels' local history, as well as portraits of its inhabitants both past and present. The author's hand-drawn illustrations accompany her lyrical prose.

Buy with:

Ruth Pavey, *Deeper into the Wood*

DUCKWORTH • PB • 256 PAGES • ILLUS. • FROM £12.99

Beneath the shade of the trees she spent two decades planting, Ruth Pavey reflects on the fate of her wood. As steward, she had witnessed nature's forces shifting and the abundance of species dwindling. When the rabbits suddenly vanished, she knew it was time to take a closer look at what she could do to preserve the legacy of the wood for generations to come. *Deeper into the Wood* recounts a year in the life of an amateur naturalist working with wildlife experts to interpret the language of the land.



Charlotte Philby, *Edith and Kim*

BOROUGH PRESS • HB • 384 PAGES • FROM £16.99

In June 1934, Kim Philby met his Soviet handler, the spy Arnold Deutsch. The woman who introduced them was called Edith Tudor-Hart. She changed the course of 20th-century history, then she was written out of it. Drawing on the secret intelligence files on Edith, along with the private archive letters of Kim Philby, this novel – by Kim's granddaughter – tells the story of the woman behind the Third Man.

Deeshaw Philyaw, *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*

PUSHKIN PRESS • HB • 224 PAGES • FROM £16.99

Fourteen-year-old Jael nurses a crush on the preacher's wife. A mother bakes a sublime peach cobbler every Monday for her date with the married Pastor. Eula and Caroletta, single childhood friends, seek solace in each other's arms every New Year's Eve. With their secret longings, new love and forbidden affairs, these church ladies are by turns seductive, unrepentant, vulnerable and free.

Ella Risbridger, *The Year of Miracles: Recipes about Love + Grief + Growing Things*

BLOOMSBURY • HB • 288 PAGES • FROM £24

This cookbook is about a year in the kitchen (and in the garden under the fire-escape steps). A year of grief and hope and change; of fancy fish pie, cardamom-cinnamon chicken rice,



chimichurri courgettes, quadruple carb soup, blackberry miso birthday cake and sticky toffee Guinness brownie pudding. A year of loss and fried jam sandwiches. A year of seedlings and pancakes. A year of falling in love. A year of recipes. A year, in other words, of minor miracles.

Miranda Seymour, *I Used to Live Here Once: The Haunted Life of Jean Rhys*

COLLINS • HB • 432 PAGES • FROM £27

Memories of a conflicted Caribbean childhood haunt the four novels that Jean Rhys wrote during her extraordinary years as an exile in 1920s Paris and later in England. But until now no biographer has researched the crucial seventeen years that Rhys spent living on the remote island of Dominica. Throughout her life Rhys experienced tragedy and extreme poverty, alcohol and drug dependency, romantic and sexual turmoil – yet she was never a victim, and all these experiences became grist for her writing. Miranda Seymour’s biography reveals a fiercely independent artist, one who is self-mocking, self-absorbed, unpredictable and darkly funny.

Ben Short, *Burn: A Story of Fire, Woods and Healing*

SCEPTRE • HB • 256 PAGES • FROM £18.99

‘I came to the woods over a decade ago. I came to the woods because there was a fire in my head.’ On the outside, Ben Short looks like he has it all: a successful career in advertising, a flat in London, an expensive motorbike. But inside, he’s a wreck: a drastic change is needed. Like his neighbour’s rescue hawk, he acts on instinct and escapes the city. He feels the call of the furnace: a glowing charcoal kiln in the West Dorset woods where he can start afresh by immersing himself in the ancient ways of fire. He lives in huts and old wagons, hauling water from wells and foraging for his supper. Laced with folklore and the history of burning, the right way to lay a hedge and the age-old wisdom of the woods, *Burn* is a celebration of manual work.

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