

# Slightly Foxed

READERS' CATALOGUE • SPRING 2026



‘Your books are delightful to hold and even better to read.’ A. Kinney, USA

# 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 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. Bound in coloured cloth, with printed endpapers and original illustrations, the Cubs make ideal presents, as stand-alone titles or in sets.

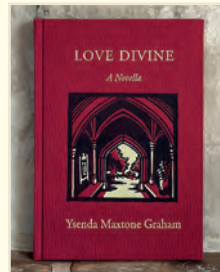
## **SLIGHTLY FOXED OCCASIONAL BOOKS**

In addition to our range of memoirs, biographies and children's books we occasionally produce special seasonal releases and commonplace books.

## OFFERS

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

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



Background artwork: Andrew Gifford, *Oak in Height of Spring*, *Wistman's Wood*, *Dartmoor*, oil on canvas

# 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 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 and on our podcast) do get in touch with the office staff and they will do their 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 SPRING

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 74

## ROBERT WESTALL

### THE MAKING OF ME

**Robert Westall, who died in 1993, was a writer for only the last third of his life, but during that time he produced some of the best children's books to come out of the decades following the Second World War.**

His first novel, *The Machine-Gunners*, won the 1975 Carnegie Medal (which he later won a second time, in addition to many other prizes). One reviewer wrote that his son had never forgotten the scene in which Grandma is blown off the lavatory by a wartime bomb.

Westall started his working life as an art teacher and that first novel was written in a series of exercise books for his own son Christopher, without thought of publication. He was a modest man whose writing was rooted in the working-class life of Tyneside where he grew up and where his father was a foreman fitter at the local gasworks. Though he never wrote a memoir he did leave behind some autobiographical sketches that take him from birth through school to the publication of his first book, and these were brilliantly woven together after his death into *The Making of Me* by his partner Lindy McKinnel.

Vivid, warmly human and written with a clarity and directness that make you feel its truth, it says everything about why Westall's children's books are still read and admired today. It takes us inside the head and heart of a boy growing up during the 1930s and '40s in the shadow of the great gasworks, a world benignly ruled over by his father, an almost godlike figure to his son, apparently able to fix anything, returning at night from his magical kingdom with 'boots of a fearsome chemical blackness and a strong smell of benzene on his cap'.

Westall catches the feel of a tight-knit community and the familiar characters who loom so large in the life of a child. Pale widowed Mrs Cook, their next-door neighbour, sits in her backyard with her small feathery dog, talking comfortably with her friends. This is Robert's first outdoor memory. It's as if she has always been reassuringly there. 'Like God she needs no justifying.' When Robert's family moves to a new house in a better part of town and he has to say goodbye to Mrs Cook and her dog, though his parents are delighted at this step up in the world he is inconsolable, suddenly overwhelmed by everything he is losing in his cosy shabby old neighbourhood. It's a truly heartrending scene, one of many in this lovely and original book that describe not just the making of the man but also the making of a writer.

PUB. 1 MAR 2026 • CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK  
LIMITED EDITION OF 2,000 • 170 X 110 MM • 200 PAGES • FROM £20

## A SLIGHTLY FOXED OCCASIONAL BOOK

‘Ysenda Maxtone Graham who is renowned for her astute, nostalgic social commentaries, has produced her first work of fiction. It is a novella (beautifully bound) that follows a year in the life of a church community in a *rus in urbe* village on London’s outskirts and that of a new widow poleaxed by grief and unanswered questions . . . The author knows her stuff – the ebb and flow of parish-church life is pitch-perfect – and inhabits each of her characters with perspicacity; the result is a gentle delight.’ *Country Life*

# YSENDA MAXTONE GRAHAM

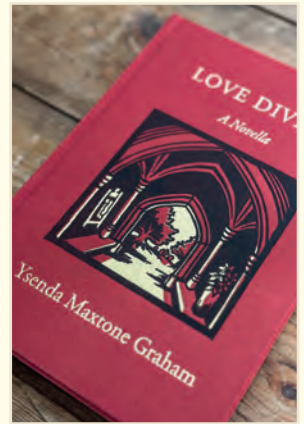
## LOVE DIVINE: A NOVELLA

It’s the first week in January, and the inhabitants of Lamley Green, a leafy village on the edge of London, are preparing to face the New Year. At No. 12 Holly Grove however the curtains remain closed. Lucy Fanthorpe’s husband Nick, respected lawyer and stalwart of the church choir, died unexpectedly on New Year’s Day and Lucy is in bed with her head under the duvet as letters of sympathy slip through the letterbox. Laid low by grief she’s also wracked by suspicion. Nick’s behaviour before he died was strange. Was he having an affair?

Meanwhile Lamley’s parish church St Luke’s is without a resident rector, and a team of retired priests and parishioners, under the leadership of Archdeacon Martin, is keeping the show on the road during the interregnum. An advertisement has been placed in the *Church Times* for a ‘collaborative and caring priest, with a passion for growth, who can build and sustain a vibrant and proactive team’.

Just as the parish is in a state of flux and anxiety, so are its parishioners: grieving Lucy, Carol the lugubrious church volunteer, snobbish Elizabeth, commitment-phobic Vicki and Eliot trying to break even with their B&B, Latin master Hugh on the cusp of a solitary retirement, ruthless newcomer Chantelle who’s prepared to do anything to get her daughter into the over-subscribed church school, and Rachel the ordained sceptic who dares to speak her mind.

With her usual consummate skill, Ysenda Maxtone Graham, well-known to readers of *Slightly Foxed* for her hilarious and bestselling *Terms & Conditions*, brings together the members of this small community in a light-hearted but touching story which also points up affectionately but with deadly accuracy what’s wrong – and what’s right – with the modern C of E. Is Love Divine in the air? If so it will come in many unexpected guises.



CLOTH-BOUND HARDBACK 210 X 148 MM • 272 PAGES • FROM £20

# BUY WITH

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

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 200 PAGES • FROM £20

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

## Ysenda Maxtone Graham, *Terms & Conditions: Life in Girls' Boarding-Schools, 1939–1979*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 272 PAGES • FROM £20

'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.

Special Offer: Buy the Ysenda Maxtone Graham Collection – *Love Divine*, *Mr Tibbits's Catholic School* and *Terms & Conditions* – and save £3.

Please see the order form or website for details

# FORTHCOMING

## Eric Lomax, *The Railway Man*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 75 • 288 PAGES • FROM £20 • PUB. 1 JUN 2026

Growing up in Edinburgh during the 1920s, Eric Lomax became obsessed by the great steam engines he saw shunting wagons in the city's Portobello Goods Yard. As a lonely teenager he would cycle miles to remote branch lines for the satisfaction of spotting some obscure engine parked in the sidings. When war broke out he joined the Royal Signals and in 1942 he was sent to Malaya just as the Japanese invasion began. After the British surrender of Singapore, he was sent to work on the construction of the notorious Burma–Siam Railway, where he was interrogated and horribly tortured. Returning home he was possessed by hatred of the Japanese interpreter who was present at his interrogation. Only after many years was he able

to find freedom from the corrosive hatred that had been ruining his life in a moving act of reconciliation.

## SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITIONS

These limited and hand-numbered pocket editions of 2,000 copies each are irresistibly collectable, and make delightful presents. Printed by our craft printers Smith Settle each copy is bound in cloth and comes complete with coloured endpapers, silk head- and tailband and ribbon marker.

### Constance Tomkinson, *Les Girls*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 73 • 304 PAGES • FROM £20

‘Wanted. Dancers for Scandinavian tour. Must be experienced tap and ballet,’ read the advertisement in *The Stage*. Constance Tomkinson was experienced at neither, but as she tells us in her gloriously funny memoir *Les Girls*, she was broke and desperate. To her astonishment she passed the audition and in 1937 found herself in the chorus line of a company called the Millerettes and on her way to Sweden. This was followed by a stint in Paris at the Folies-Bergère and a tour of the European capitals with a travelling troupe called the Basil Beauties. The delectable memoir that came out of this is both a vivid picture of the seedy world of the chorus line and an unusual glimpse of Europe on the eve of the Second World War, before the curtain finally came down.



### Geoffrey Wellum, *First Light*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 72 • 392 PAGES • FROM £20

Geoffrey Wellum was still a 17-year-old schoolboy when, in March 1939, he volunteered to join the RAF – one of many teenagers inspired to join up at the time. What made him different was that he survived to write an account of his experiences so honest and so graphic that it still stands out as one of the best memoirs of flying in the Second World War, as the youngest Spitfire pilot in the prestigious 92 Squadron. Truly an incredible story and one that’s never been told by a braver, more open or more modest man.

### Nigel Slater, *Toast*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 71 • 224 PAGES • FROM £20

Nigel Slater, OBE, is perhaps Britain’s most treasured food writer, loved by cooks the nation over for his comfortingly do-able recipes and his colourful writing, the companionable tone of his bestselling cookbooks and his longstanding column in the *Observer*. In his funny and poignant memoir he describes the ingredients that combined to make him the cookery writer he is today – a childhood that certainly had very little that was comfortable about it. The book

is subtitled 'the story of a boy's hunger', and it is through food, ranging from the irresistible to the revolting, that Nigel relives his experiences of survival, growing up and final escape.



### Nigel Nicolson, *Portrait of a Marriage*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 70 • 288 PAGES • FROM £20

'Of course I have no right whatsoever to write down the truth about my life, involving as it naturally does the lives of so many other people . . .' wrote Vita Sackville-West in July 1920. But write it down she did, and when in 1973 her son Nigel took the decision to publish Vita's account of her passionate love affair with Violet Trefusis along with his own reflections on his parents' marriage, he feared he might be prosecuted for obscenity. Though attitudes have since changed, Vita's account of a forbidden relationship which nearly destroyed her marriage to the writer and diplomat Harold Nicolson is still both fascinating and disturbing.

### E. M. Delafield, *Diary of a Provincial Lady*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 69 • 256 PAGES • FROM £20

This fictional diary, which has many echoes of E. M. Delafield's own life, first appeared in instalments in *Time and Tide*. It was an immediate hit, speaking as it did to the millions of middle-class wives trapped in dull conventional marriages, struggling to pay the bills and keep up appearances in those difficult inter-war years. For us, the setting is different, but the brisk, unself-pitying voice of the Provincial Lady – married to the dependable but deeply boring Robert – still rings true. A funny, wryly observed picture of a marriage between the wars that anticipates those journalistic columns describing life in the 'squeezed middle' today.

### Dorothy Whipple, *The Other Day*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 68 • 256 PAGES • FROM £20

Born in 1893, the writer Dorothy Whipple grew up in the mill town of Blackburn, Lancashire, in a large, cheerful, middle-class family, with affectionate parents, friends to play with, her adored maternal grandmother near enough for dropping in, and a full complement of high-spirited young uncles and aunts. On the surface *The Other Day* is the account of an idyllic childhood, but Dorothy Whipple's genius is not only to bring this small world vividly alive but also to show the gulf of perception that exists between children and the adults who look after them. Though nothing overtly dramatic happens, this warm and funny memoir is a real page-turner.

### Pamela Bright, *Life in Our Hands*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 67 • 240 PAGES • FROM £20

This haunting memoir by a young nurse takes us into the wards of a casualty clearing station attached to the British Second Army in Normandy, which had landed a week after D-Day in June 1944. Very few of the patients in the hospital's 121 camp beds will return to the front line,

a few miles away. Pamela's job is to stabilize the wounded for evacuation, or comfort them till they die. The medical staff work heroically in impossible conditions, but the first thing that strikes you about this young nurse is her extraordinary humility and her determination to learn. Somewhere in the background the war is taking its course, but this is not an account of the military campaign. It describes with complete honesty what working with the injured and the dying in a wartime situation feels like, in words that come straight from the heart.

## Joanna Rakoff, *My Salinger Year*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 66 • 288 PAGES • FROM £20

In the winter of 1996, 23-year-old Joanna Rakoff moved to New York City and took a job as assistant to a colourful, old-style literary agent whose wood-panelled office on Forty-Ninth Street was still stuck in the era of the typewriter, the Dictaphone and the photocopier. One of the Agency's chief clients was J. D. Salinger, and when Rakoff was given the task of dealing with the steady stream of fan mail to the famously reclusive novelist she found herself becoming emotionally involved. Instead of sending the usual form letter, she started writing back. In this deliciously funny coming-of-age memoir, set against the backdrop of 1990s New York and the eccentric world of the Agency, she describes what happened next.

## Nicholas Fisk, *Pig Ignorant*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 65

160 PAGES • FROM £20

In this endearingly honest memoir the bestselling children's writer Nicholas Fisk (*Trillions*, *Grinny* and *A Rag, a Bone and a Hank of Hair*) lays bare his teenage soul as he takes us into the world of late 1930s London suburbia where he grew up. On the surface it's a comforting place of 'horse-drawn milk-floats, lorries delivering Corona soft drinks, postmen with conical hats peaked in front and behind, and "Wallsie", the Walls Ice-Cream man pedalling his freezer-box trike'. But underneath it's all embarrassment and uncertainty for Nick, the third-person narrator, as he experiences the Blitz, gets his first job with a theatrical agency, finds his faltering way into the Soho jazz clubs where he moonlights as a guitarist, and finally begins to write.



## Richard Cobb, *A Classical Education*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 64 • 224 PAGES • FROM £20

Everything about the historian Richard Cobb was unexpected, especially his writing. *A Classical Education* is no exception, a memoir that's more like a psychological thriller. Cobb and his friend Edward (surname withheld) were given the 'classical education' of the title at their public school, Shrewsbury, where they became friendly enough to visit one another's homes in the holidays. But whereas Cobb came from an exemplarily safe and conventional middle-class

family, Edward's was entirely the reverse. Enough to say that his nicknames for his parents were Moloch and Medea. The result was a shocking murder, on which Cobb looks back with wonder and dismay when he meets Edward again fourteen years later. *A Classical Education* is a book you won't be able to put down. [Buy with \*Still Life\*, see p.12.](#)

### **Luke Jennings, *Blood Knots***

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 63 • 224 PAGES • FROM £20

As a child in the 1960s, Luke Jennings was fascinated by the rivers and lakes around his Sussex home. Within their depths he sensed strange and mysterious worlds. In this beautiful and original memoir he describes how his passion for fly fishing gradually took hold, with the help of books from the library and the encouragement of his two boyhood heroes – his father, who had been awarded the Military Cross for bravery in the war, in which he had been badly burnt, and Robert Nairac, a charismatic figure who first befriended him as a teacher at his public school. As one might expect from an author who is, among other things, the dance critic of the *Observer* and the author of the *Killing Eve* novels, these two themes of fishing and friendship are woven together to produce a book of unusual subtlety that's about a great deal more than fishing.



### **Katrin FitzHerbert, *True to Both My Selves***

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 62 • 392 PAGES • FROM £20

By the time she was 14 Katrin FitzHerbert had lived in nearly thirty different places and attended fourteen schools – an unusual childhood, and the more so because it gave her two separate identities, one formed in Hitler's Germany, the other in post-war England. In *True to Both My Selves* she tells the gripping story of her family, and of growing up as the child of a half-English mother and a German father, a man she idolized but who was a committed member of the Nazi Party. With great courage and honesty she describes how she moved from a childhood dedicated to the ideals of National Socialism to face her past and make the final choice 'between England and Papa'.

### **Colin Clark, *The Prince, the Showgirl and Me***

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 61 • 256 PAGES • FROM £20

During the 1950s an unusual event took place at Pinewood Studios: the filming of *The Prince and the Showgirl*, a light comedy starring Sir Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe as the two leads. This unlikely combination proved to be a disaster – Marilyn failed to turn up on time and could barely act or remember her lines, while Sir Laurence was completely out of his depth with her and her very un-British entourage. The film appeared and sank without trace, but fortunately Colin Clark, a cheeky young man working on set as a general dogsbody, was there to record the agonies of its making in this sharp and hilarious diary.

## *Nella Last's War: The Second World War Diaries of Housewife, 49*

Richard Broad and Suzie Fleming (eds.)

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 60 • 392 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## *Flora Thompson, Lark Rise and Over to Candleford & Candleford Green*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NOS. 58 & 59 • 328 & 400 PAGES • FROM £20 PER TITLE

Flora Thompson wrote the much-loved trilogy known as *Lark Rise to Candleford* in the grim days before and during the Second World War, and perhaps it was this that made the memories of her country childhood shine so brightly. She grew up as the daughter of a builder's labourer in a poor Oxfordshire hamlet in the last years of the nineteenth century, yet she instinctively knew how to write, and these books are a unique record of a rural world that would soon disappear for ever.

The first book sees Flora – or Laura, as she called her childhood self – growing up in the hamlet of Juniper Hill, the 'Lark Rise' of the title. From the annual killing of the pig to the flowers in the cottage gardens, and the memories of the 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.

In *Over to Candleford* life begins to open out for Flora when she goes to visit her father's relations in the local market town where she makes particular friends with her uncle Tom, a liberal thinker and respected craftsman, who shares with her his love of books and his talent for attracting interesting and often eccentric people.

Back at home and now in her teens, Laura is restless and undecided about her future, until news comes of a vacancy for an assistant at the Post Office in a nearby village. *Candleford Green* is an enchanting picture of Flora's new life in this colourful community and of Dorcas Lane, her redoubtable – and unforgettable – employer. 'You are going to be loved by people you've never seen and never will see,' a gypsy tells Flora. It was a prophecy that turned out to be true. Her beautiful memoirs have never gone out of fashion and are as consoling today as they were in the dark times in which they were written.



## Anne Fadiman, *The Wine Lover's Daughter*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 57 • 204 PAGES • FROM £20

'Aside from his books, he loved nothing – and no one – longer, more ardently, or more faithfully than he loved wine.' 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 Loving Father* might be a more apt title for this affectionate but clear-eyed memoir. Not just a book for wine buffs, but one that evokes the atmosphere of a whole era of American life.

## Richard Cobb, *Still Life*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 55 • 224 PAGES • FROM £20

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 – it was, he writes, 'a society in which a rather frightened child could feel secure'. In this unusual memoir, he leads us through the town and into the lives of the characters among whom he grew up, from the mysterious Black Widow, seen always in deep yet unexplained mourning, to Baroness Olga, the town's only victim of the Russian Revolution. 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 which is timed to the minute. 'Strange and wonderful,' wrote Hilary Spurling in the *Observer* when the book was first published. And indeed it is.



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

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 54

240 PAGES • FROM £20

When Laurie Lee set out on foot from his home in the Gloucestershire village of Slad one midsummer morning in 1935 he was 19 and off to see the world with only his violin for company. So began a year of wandering that eventually took him from the north to the south of Spain, a country in which life had barely changed since the Middle Ages but which was now on the brink of a bitter civil war. The adventure that began as a romantic dream ended

somewhat ignominiously, but it inspired Lee to produce this brilliant and darkly haunting account of a vanished Spain, and return to fight on the Republican side not long after. [Buy with Cider with Rosie](#), see p.20.

## Jessica Mitford, *Hons and Rebels*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 52 • 320 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## Roald Dahl, *Going Solo*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 49 • 236 PAGES • FROM £20

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

Flying solo in 1941 to join his new squadron, he crashed in the Western Desert and suffered horrendous injuries, but five months later he was up and off again to join the tiny British force attempting to defend Greece. He was clearly a brilliant pilot, and *Going Solo* is a story of extraordinary courage as well as a haunting evocation of the unspoiled beauty of East Africa in the 1930s and its now extinct breed of expatriates, 'the craziest bunch of humans I shall ever meet'.

## Roald Dahl, *Boy*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 48

184 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

### Jan Morris, *Conundrum*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 46 • 200 PAGES • FROM £20

‘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 Morris 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 Morris also produced a succession of brilliant travel books. And Morris 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.

### Jennie Erdal, *Ghosting*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 43 • 304 PAGES • FROM £20

‘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 admiringly 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.

### Eric Newby, *Something Wholesale*

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 41 • 256 PAGES • FROM £20

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

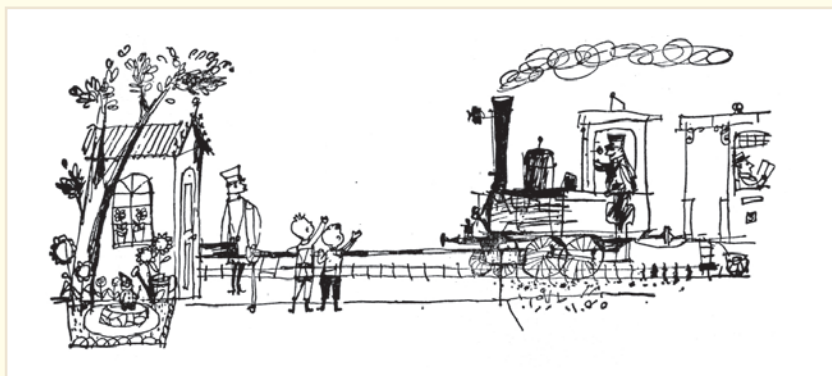


beginning to go wrong. Eric's father, an Edwardian patriarch with a light-hearted attitude to accounting, had been running up debts, and during the 1950s Lane & Newby finally collapsed. By this time, however, Eric was laying plans for an excursion to the Hindu Kush – and the rest is travel history.

### **Erich Kästner, *When I Was a Little Boy***

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 40 • 216 PAGES • FROM £20

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.



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

SLIGHTLY FOXED EDITION NO. 33 • 272 PAGES • FROM £20

"It was Uncle who was your father," she said. 1 January 1930. We were in Vienna, just the two of us . . . This was the eighteenth New Year's Day of my life. I was still seventeen and I was still rather desperately awaiting the start of a year in which my world as I knew it should be utterly changed . . . This was exactly the sort of New Year's Day I had been craving ever since I could remember: an unimaginable shake-up. Now, at last, it had come."

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

# PLAIN FOXED EDITIONS

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 Slightly Foxed 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.

## Edward Ardizzone, *The Young Ardizzone*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 216 PAGES • FROM £20

The creator of the ever-popular *Little Tim* and *Lucy* books begins his story in 1905 when he was 5 and his mother brought him and his two sisters home to England from Haiphong where his father was a telegraph engineer. Left in Suffolk in the care of their grandmother, the three grew up with a full complement of young bachelor uncles, great-aunts and eccentric family friends – a comfortable Edwardian world which is beautifully captured in Ardizzone's deceptively simple prose and delicately humorous drawings.



## Christabel Bielenberg, *The Past Is Myself*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 384 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## John Hackett, *I Was a Stranger*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • FROM £20

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

## Anthony Rhodes, *Sword of Bone*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## Gwen Raverat, *Period Piece*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 320 PAGES • FROM £20

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'.

## Rosemary Sutcliff, *Blue Remembered Hills*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 208 PAGES • FROM £20

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, 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. *Blue Remembered Hills* is the unforgettable record of the making of a writer. [For Rosemary Sutcliff's celebrated historical adventure novels, see p. 31](#)

## Michael Jenkins, *A House in Flanders*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 208 PAGES • FROM £20

In 1951, a shy and solitary 14-year-old boy was sent by his parents to spend the summer with 'the aunts in Flanders'. His account of those months in the dignified old French country house on the edge of the Flanders Plain has an idyllic, dream-like quality. Yet all was not as idyllic as at first it seemed. Gradually he teases out the history of the family and of the surrounding area and finally uncovers the secret at the heart of the book – the reason he has been sent there.



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

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 416 PAGES • FROM £20

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, which she kept at the end of long working days, 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.



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

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 208 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## Helene Hanff, *84, Charing Cross Road*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 240 PAGES • FROM £20

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's a gloriously heart-warming read, the account of a friendship – almost a love story – conducted through books.

## Diana Holman-Hunt, *My Grandmothers and I*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 288 PAGES • FROM £20

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.



## Dodie Smith, *Look Back with Love*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 272 PAGES • FROM £20

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 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'.

## James Lees-Milne, *Another Self*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 256 PAGES • FROM £20

A deeply religious child, Lees-Milne 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. 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*.

## Hilary Mantel, *Giving up the Ghost*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 232 PAGES • FROM £20

When Dame Hilary Mantel died, many readers of her novels learned more about her life and her heroic struggle with the serious medical condition from which she suffered for many years without a diagnosis. Nowhere is this more vividly or more movingly described than in her own

powerful and haunting memoir. *Giving up the Ghost* is a story of ‘wraiths and phantoms’, and of a life full of challenges. Compulsively readable, it is ultimately an optimistic account of what made Hilary Mantel the writer she became, full of courage, insight and wry humour.

## Graham Greene, *A Sort of Life*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 224 PAGES • FROM £20

Graham Greene said that writing this memoir of his early years ‘was in the nature of a psychoanalysis. I made a long journey through time and I was one of my characters.’ Certainly the younger self that emerges is as complex and intriguing as any of those he created in his novels. *A Sort of Life* takes him through Oxford, early married life and conversion to Catholicism, to the point where, against all advice, he gives up his safe job on *The Times* in order to write. This extraordinary memoir is, to quote Frances Donnelly’s introduction, ‘an act of great intimacy’, taking us through all the false starts and griefs that fired the engine of Greene’s desire to write, and laying out the issues and themes which would dominate his later great novels.



## Laurie Lee, *Cider with Rosie*

PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 272 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## Adrian Bell, *Corduroy* • PLAIN FOXED EDITION • 288 PAGES • FROM £20

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.

## 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 'emotions 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.

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*Portrait of Elmbury* (PF Edition), *Brensham Village* & *The Blue Field* (SFE nos. 34 & 42)



# OTHER BOOKS

## Roger Hudson, *An Englishman's Commonplace Book*

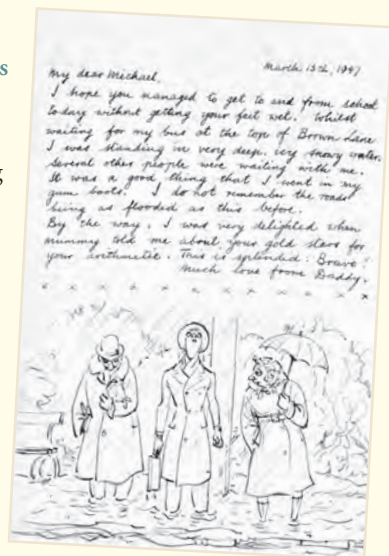
SF OCCASIONAL BOOKS • HB • 112 PAGES • FROM £14.50

'Variety, the unexpected, a bit of vulgarity and the ridiculous mixed in with the elevated,' 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.

## Charles Phillipson, *Letters to Michael* Last 60 copies

SF OCCASIONAL BOOKS • HB • 324 PAGES • FROM £22

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.



## Frances Wood, *Hand-grenade Practice in Peking*

SF PAPERBACK • 240 PAGES • FROM £12

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.

# A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTEBOOKS

When, in 1950, Adrian Bell was commissioned to write a weekly newspaper column about life in the Suffolk countryside, where he had settled to farm soon after the First World War, he can hardly have imagined that these little essays would still be enjoyed by readers all over the world more than seventy years later. Reading the *Notebooks* is like taking a stroll with a man who knows the East Anglian countryside like the back of his hand but always finds something new and interesting to look at, an escape into a lost world and also a call to look around us today and do things differently.

Each of our *Countryman's Notebooks* by Adrian Bell is compiled by Richard Hawking, with charming original illustrations by Beth Knight

## *Countryman's Spring Notebook*

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Bell captures beautifully the arrival of spring in the East Anglian landscape – the drills and harrows busy in the upland fields, primroses along the lanes, an expedition to buy seeds for the vegetable garden from an old-fashioned seed merchant. As always with Bell the past mingles with the present. He remembers stopping one spring day at a country pub and watching a local farmer halt outside on his cob to drink a mug of ale that the landlord took out to him: ‘There in the sunlight of that warm March, the ale glinting golden in his glass – it was like leisurely old England come again.’ Here are evocations of an East Anglian spring so vivid you can smell the sweet air and hear the far-off call of a cuckoo.



## *A Countryman's Summer Notebook* • 224 PAGES • FROM £18

In this volume of his seasonal quartet, Bell takes us into the summer countryside, to smell the hawthorn in ‘hedges suddenly become cliffs of white’, to linger in quiet churches, wander





through country towns, and hear the voices of the craftsmen and women, the farmers and farm labourers, whose lives are rooted in the Suffolk soil. 'Flowers and conversations are the best pleasures I know,' he writes. In these lovely glimpses of summer in the Suffolk landscape, he gives us both, from his meeting with an old farmer whose words 'were like something out of the Bible' to the sight of daisies 'glad as confetti in the long grass'.

### ***A Countryman's Autumn Notebook***

**224 PAGES • FROM £18**

'You can stand in the windless calm of an autumn evening and hear the heartbeat of the countryside,' Bell writes, and it's that steady, persistent, unchanging heartbeat that we can clearly hear in this selection. Now it is harvest-time,

'work is hard while the sun shines and every arm, leg and wheel is wanted'. The evenings are drawing in, the floor of his summer house is carpeted with fallen leaves, while on the lawn a cock pheasant and a rook at the top of a tree engage in a syncopated duet.

### ***A Countryman's Winter Notebook* • 224 PAGES • IN A SET FROM £72**

As frost snuffs out the brilliant shows of dahlias in cottage gardens, Bell takes pleasure in this season when the world falls quiet, when there is time to plan and to remember, to see the old year out and look forward to the new. He watches the dance of a dead leaf caught in a spider's web, plucks the last rose from his garden, stirring up thoughts of summers past. He watches skating on a frozen pond and observes how on the ice even a hardworking farmer is 'endowed with the motion of a bird, the grace of a seagull, the speed of a swallow'. **Only available in a set of 4 Notebooks**

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# Slightly Foxed

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'Ronald Welch, a tank commander turned schoolmaster, is one of the 20th century's most underrated children's writers. Like Hilary Mantel, he understood that what makes a lost epoch stick in your mind is not the dates but the details . . . Ronald Welch's novels will help your children fall in love with history.' Iona McLaren, *Telegraph*



## THE ROAD TO WATERLOO

FROM £18 • NAPOLEONIC WARS (1803–15) • 88 PAGES

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.



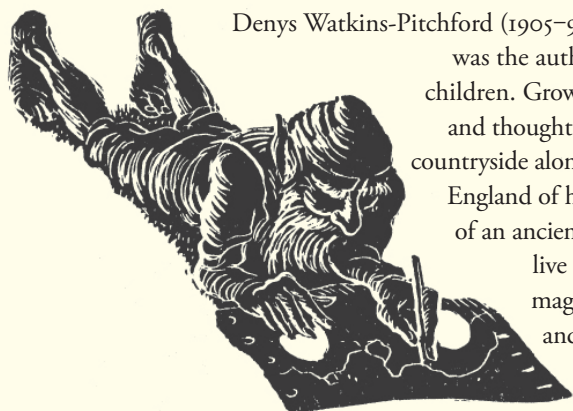
## ENSIGN CAREY

FROM £20 • THE INDIAN MUTINY (1857) • 200 PAGES

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.

Set of three available titles: UK from £55; overseas from £64 \*save <£9

## THE 'BB' BOOKS



Denys Watkins-Pitchford (1905–90), who wrote under the pseudonym 'BB', was the author of more than sixty books for adults and children. 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. 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.

## BRENDON CHASE

288 PAGES • FROM £20

Faced with the end of the holidays and the prospect of school, who hasn't dreamt of running away to the woods to live in the wild? 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.



First published in 1944, *Brendon Chase* has a wonderful cast of pre-war English village characters, none of whom believe the boys will make it past teatime. Needless to say, the boys outwit them all with remarkable resourcefulness. This is one of the great children's books, a bewitching blend of adventure, natural history, high jinks and skilled bushcraft.

## THE LITTLE GREY MEN & DOWN THE BRIGHT STREAM

224 & 220 PAGES • PAIR FROM £40

In *The Little Grey Men*, the last gnomes in England – Dodder, Baldmoney, Sneezewort and Cloudberry – are living contentedly in a burrow beneath the roots of an ancient 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, despite his brothers' warnings. Two years later, Baldmoney and Sneezewort decide they must look for him, but Dodder at first refuses to go, and with heavy hearts the two set off upstream in their boat the *Dragonfly*. So begins a heroic quest to find their missing brother, before the four gnomes are finally reunited.



In *Down the Bright Stream*, the four gnomes are woken from a long winter sleep 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 more on the Folly in search of a new home, sailing downstream towards the big river and the sea.

Set of three BB books: UK from £57; overseas from £63 \*save <£9



# 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 *Frontier Wolf*, the fourth but chronological third, in 1980. The four books are only loosely interconnected, but together they portray the ebbing away of imperial power from Britain. The three final novels 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.

Though Sutcliff was writing primarily for children, she never talks down to her readers, and adults too find these novels gripping. Her protagonists are flesh-and-blood people with understandable human dilemmas, and it's they who drive the plots. All the books are based on historical fact, but it is Sutcliff's imaginative brilliance that gives reality to a far-off period that left its mark on almost every aspect of British life.

Single titles: UK from £20; overseas from £22

Full set of seven titles: UK from £140;

overseas from £154 \*save <£14

## THE EAGLE OF THE NINTH

248 PAGES *\*Only available as part of a full set*

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 216 PAGES • FROM £20

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 224 PAGES • FROM £20

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 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 264 PAGES • FROM £20

The shadow of the approaching Dark Ages hangs over this tale. 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 a 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 248 PAGES • FROM £20

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. 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.

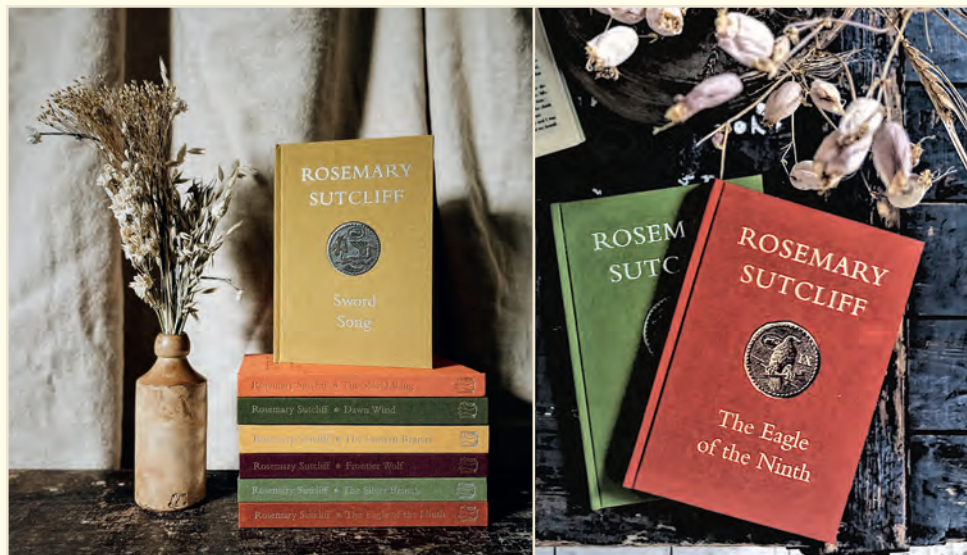
### **SWORD SONG 228 PAGES • FROM £20**

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 216 PAGES • FROM £20**

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.



# BOOKS FEATURED IN *Slightly Foxed* ISSUE 89

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

## Hugo Vickers, *Cecil Beaton: The Authorized Biography*

HODDER & STOUGHTON • PB • 832 PAGES • FROM £16.99 • ARTICLE BY SUE GEE

## Czesław Miłosz, *The Issa Valley*

PENGUIN • PB • 304 PAGES • FROM £12.99 • PUB 14 MAY • ARTICLE BY LUCY BECKETT

## Jeremy Clarke, *Low Life: The Spectator Columns: The Final Years*

QUARTET • HB • 300 PAGES • FROM £23.99 • ARTICLE BY ANDREW NIXON

## Penelope Fitzgerald, *Offshore*

HARPERCOLLINS • PB • 208 PAGES • FROM £10.99 • ARTICLE BY ROSE LYDDON

## Margaret Costa, *Four Seasons Cookery Book*

GRUB STREET PUBLISHING • PB • 364 PAGES • FROM £18.99 • ARTICLE BY OLIVIA POTTS

## André Maurois, *Fattypuffs and Thinifers*

VINTAGE • PB • 144 PAGES • FROM £9.99 • ARTICLE BY MARTIN SORRELL

## Bruce Chatwin, *On the Black Hill*

VINTAGE • PB • 272 PAGES • FROM £11.99 • ARTICLE BY ANDREW JOYNES

## Iris Murdoch, *A Fairly Honourable Defeat*

VINTAGE • PB • 464 PAGES • FROM £12.99 • ARTICLE BY FRANCES DONNELLY

## James Salter, *Burning the Days*

PICADOR • PB • 400 PAGES • FROM £14.99 • ARTICLE BY JUSTIN MAROZZI

## OTHER READING

A small selection of the latest releases and recommended reading from fellow publishers. The office can order in most new books so, if there's something you're looking for, do get in touch.

### *Fiction*

#### Elsa Morante, *Arturo's Island* • PUSHKIN PRESS • PB • 384 PAGES • FROM £14.99

Young Arturo grows up in isolated freedom on an island in the Bay of Naples, roaming the hills with his dog, sailing and reading tales of mythical heroes. This idyll is shattered when his father

returns home with a new wife, Nunziata. Barely older than Arturo, she awakens his fierce longing for tenderness, a longing which draws the family towards a painful reckoning in this powerful story of disillusionment and desire.

**Rebecca Perry, *May We Feed the King* • GRANTA • HB • 272 PAGES • FROM £16.99**

She is a curator, who spends her time dressing the rooms of historic buildings to bring them to life. In the lush private quarters of a medieval palace, she finds herself transfixed by a forgotten king: a reluctant ruler with no hunger for power, rushed to the throne after the untimely deaths of his brothers. *May We Feed the King* dances between the lives of a historical subject risking the future of his kingdom, and a woman turning to the past to find meaning.

**Amy Levy, *The Romance of a Shop* • UNNAMED PRESS • PB • 150 PAGES • FROM £14.99**

*The Romance of a Shop* follows the four Lorimer sisters in the wake of their father's death. Penniless and reliant on each other, they decide to open a photography studio at 20B Baker Street, offering the citizens of 1880s London quality portraits. With this newfound independence, they work to survive poverty, the grind and smoke of London, fraught courtships and melodramatic twists of fate.

**Ben Lerner, *Transcription* • GRANTA • HB • 144 PAGES • FROM £16.99 • PUB. 9 APRIL**

A writer returns to his college town where he is to conduct what will be the final published interview with Thomas, his 90-year-old mentor. But after he drops his smartphone in the hotel sink, he arrives at Thomas's house with no recording device – a fact he is mysteriously unable to confess. What unfolds is both a brilliant meditation on those technologies that enrich and impoverish our connections and a moving exploration of the relationships that make us who we are.

**Jonas Hassen Khemiri, *The Sisters* • HODDER & STOUGHTON • HB • 656 PAGES • FROM £22**

Meet the Mikkola sisters: Ina, Evelyn and Anastasia. Ina is tall, serious, a compulsive organizer; Evelyn is dreamy, magnetic, a smooth talker; and Anastasia is moody, chaotic, quick to anger. Following them from afar is Jonas. *The Sisters* is an ambitious family saga, unfolding as Jonas's life intersects with theirs across decades and continents, from Tunis to Berlin and New York.

**Mark Z. Danielewski, *Tom's Crossing* • PANTHEON • HB • 1,232 PAGES • FROM £32**

While folks still like to focus on the crimes that shocked the small city of Orvop, Utah, back in the fall of 1982, far more remember the adventure that took place beyond municipal lines. No one expected an act of courage so great, and likewise so appalling, that it still staggers the heart and mind of anyone who knows anything about the Katanogos massif, to say nothing of Pillars Meadow. Hard to figure how so much awful horror could've started out with just two horses, and not a one yet named . . .

**Mario Fortunato, *The Innocent Days of War***

**OTHER PRESS • PB • 240 PAGES • FROM £17.99**

Central Italy, on the eve of the Second World War: Stefano Portelli, a hopeful lawyer with a head full of utopias, is in love with Eleonora. Other lives run parallel to theirs: that of Alastair Ormiston, an English Royal Air Force pilot, who adores Virginia Woolf's books, and that of Edna, his best

friend. In this gripping coming-of-age novel, a group of young people's lives and passions collide in unexpected ways as the Second World War transforms Italy and England.

**Garret Carr, *The Boy from the Sea* • PICADOR • PB • 336 PAGES • FROM £11.99**

In 1973 on the west coast of Ireland, a baby is found abandoned on the beach. Who is he? Where is he from? Ambrose, a local fisherman, is far more interested in who he will become and – with a curious community looking on – takes the baby home and adopts him. But for Declan, Ambrose's young son, this arrival is surely bad news. Rivalries can be decades in the making, and families are easy to break . . .

**Elisa Shua Dusapin, *The Old Fire* • DAUNT • HB • 176 PAGES • FROM £16.99**

In the wake of her father's death, Agathe leaves New York and returns to her childhood home in the French countryside after fifteen years away. She and her sister Véra have not seen each other in all that time. Now they must empty their home before it is knocked down. Tender, melancholic and evocative, *The Old Fire* is an exploration of time and memory, of family and belonging, of the unsaid and the unanswered.

**Herta Müller, *The Fox Was Ever the Hunter* • GRANTA • PB • 256 PAGES • FROM £11.99**

Romania, the last months of the dictator's regime. Adina is a young schoolteacher. Paul is a musician. Clara, Adina's friend, works in a wire factory. Pavel is Clara's lover. But one of them works for the secret police and is reporting on the group. Tracked by the ever-watchful state, Adina and her friends struggle to keep living in a world permeated with fear, where even the eyes of a cat seem complicit, where it is hard to tell the victim from the perpetrator.

**John Dickson Carr, *The Seat of the Scornful***

**BRITISH LIBRARY • PB • 240 PAGES • FROM £11.99**

Over a long career in the courts Justice Horace Ireton has garnered a reputation for merciless rulings and a dedication to meting out strict, impartial justice. Taking a break from his duty after a session of assizes, Ireton turns his attention to his family. Specifically: attempting to bribe his daughter's lover Morrell into leaving her alone. It seems something about the deal with Morrell must have gone amiss, however, when the police are called to the Justice's residence to find Morrell shot dead and the judge still holding a pistol . . .

## *Non-Fiction*

**Graeme Lawson, *Sound Tracks: A Musical Detective Story***

**VINTAGE • PB • 416 PAGES • FROM £14.99**

From the present day back to the dawn of time, here is the history of mankind's relationship with music. We see a child's delight in Peru in AD 700, playing with a water-filled pot that chirps like a bird; we shiver with a soldier sending trumpet signals to the next watchtower on Hadrian's Wall; we sway to the rhythms of the 64 bells buried in a tomb in China in the fifth century BC. Brimming with astonishing insights, *Sound Tracks* provides an enthralling alternative history of humanity.

**Christopher Clark, *A Scandal in Königsberg* • ALLEN LANE • HB • 192 PAGES • FROM £24**

The former Prussian and German port of Königsberg has always been a somewhat sleepy place, doomed to be famous for having once been the residence of Immanuel Kant. But in the late 1830s, just for a short while, it became famous for all the wrong reasons. Christopher Clark brings to life a Prussia reeling in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, delving into a scandal in which spiritual hunger, vanity, professional rivalry, naivety and sheer human waywardness threatened to tear a city apart.

**Anuradha Roy, *Called by the Hills: A Home in the Himalaya***

**DAUNT • PB • 204 PAGES • FROM £14**

When the novelist Anuradha Roy and her husband stumble upon a derelict cottage in the hill station of Ranikhet, they decide it is where they will now live. After the frenetic life of Delhi, Roy is initially bemused by the gentle pace in the mountains but she is soon won over. *Called by the Hills* is a tender and intimate portrait of a home, a community and an extraordinary rugged landscape.

**Gerri Kimber, *Katherine Mansfield: A Hidden Life***

**REAKTION • HB • 304 PAGES • FROM £22**

This biography explores the life and work of Katherine Mansfield, one of literary modernism's most significant writers, a writer at the heart of literary London at its most experimental. By the time of her death in 1923, aged just 34, she had broken boundaries and created new ways of writing that led her literary sparring partner Virginia Woolf later to admit that Mansfield's 'was the only writing I was ever jealous of'.

**John Cooper, *The Lost Chapel of Westminster: How a Royal Chapel Became the House of Commons* • BLOOMSBURY • PB • 272 PAGES • FROM £14.99**

Begun in 1292, the royal chapel of St Stephen was the crowning glory of the old palace of Westminster – a place of worship for kings and a showcase for the finest architecture the Plantagenets could muster. But in 1548, as the Protestant Reformation reached its height, St Stephen's was given a new purpose as the House of Commons. Threading together religion, politics, art, architecture and narrative history, John Cooper tells the story of the lost chapel, an iconic building that reflects the national transition from medieval divine-right monarchy to modern parliamentary democracy.

**Jon Woolcott, *The Tattooed Hills: Journeys to Chalk Figures***

**QUARTO • HB • 256 PAGES • FROM £19.99 • PUB 23 APRIL**

Across southern England and beyond, the land bears the marks of centuries – white horses, giants, crosses, badges, even a lost panda – cut into the chalk and exposed to the sky. In *The Tattooed Hills*, the writer Jon Woolcott travels to these remarkable sites, bringing together archaeology, folklore, art, literature and music to reveal the evolving story of Britain's chalk landscapes and the people who shaped them.

**Edward Thomas, *The Icknield Way* • LITTLE TOLLER • PB • 228 PAGES • FROM £17**

In *The Icknield Way*, originally published in 1913, Edward Thomas walks one of the great ancient

footpaths of England. Running from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Suffolk, the Icknield Way has a claim to be one of Britain's oldest roads. In startling and evocative prose, Thomas recounts the history of the path through the ages, telling us how it was established and who used it and so taking us on a journey through time and place.

**Ed. Daniel Hahn, *Worlds of Wonder: Celebrating the Great Classics of Children's Literature* • PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS • HB • 256 PAGES • FROM £27**

A beautifully illustrated journey through the most beloved classics of children's literature. Spanning the Victorian era to the present and focusing on books for readers aged 5 through to the teens, *Worlds of Wonder* will take you on an enthralling nostalgic journey through the most important works in children's literature from across the globe.

**Andrew Graham Dixon, *Vermeer: A Life Lost and Found***

ALLEN LANE • HB • 416 PAGES • FROM £32

The paintings of Johannes Vermeer are some of the most beautiful, even sublime, in the history of art. Yet like the life of Vermeer himself, they are mysterious and have for centuries defied explanation. Following new leads, Andrew Graham-Dixon vividly evokes the world of the Dutch Republic as it was in its so-called Golden Age, setting the painter firmly in the context of his time. Dixon reveals the patterns of patronage that make sense of his work, painting a dramatically new picture of the artist Vermeer.

**Nathalie Cooke, *Tastes and Traditions: A Journey through Menu History***

REAKTION • HB • 192 PAGES • FROM £32

Menus are invaluable snapshots of the food consumed at specific moments in time and place. *Tastes and Traditions* explores how menus entertain adults, link food with play for children, reflect changing notions of health, and highlight the enduring human need to make meals meaningful. Lavishly illustrated, *Tastes and Traditions* provides a glimpse into the meals of royalty and the feasts of rogues throughout history.

**Catherine Clarke, *A History of England in 25 Poems***

ALLEN LANE • HB • 400 PAGES • FROM £27

This is the history of England told through twenty-five remarkable poems written down between the eighth century and today, connecting us directly with the nation's past, and the experiences, emotions and imaginations of those who lived it.

**Helene Hanff, *Underfoot in Show Business***

MANDERLEY PRESS • HB • 220 PAGES • FROM £20

When Helene became an apprentice playwright with New York's prestigious Theatre Guild, she was high on the champagne of her hopes. What did she care about living chiefly on coffee in meagre bedsits when she could always borrow her best friend's best blouse for lunch with a producer, and was meeting awe-inspiring people? Brought back into print after several decades, this is a delightful account of her early days as a struggling writer on the edge of show business.

**François-René de Chateaubriand, *Memoirs from Beyond the Grave: 1815–1830***

TRANS. ALEX ANDRIESSE • NEW YORK REVIEW BOOKS • PB • 640 PAGES • FROM £28

In 1815 – with the Napoleonic era at an end and royalty restored – François-René de Chateaubriand seemed poised, along with the Bourbon family he'd long supported, to wield unprecedented power. Already one of France's most celebrated writers, he now became an ambassador and statesman of the French kingdom. In these memoirs, Chateaubriand writes about international politics, a papal conclave and the revolutionary strife of 1830, alongside reflections on ruins, moonlight and mortality.

**Jenny Uglow, *A Year with Gilbert White: The First Great Nature Writer***

FABER & FABER • HB • 472 PAGES • FROM £27

In 1781, Gilbert White was a country curate, living in the Hampshire village he had known all his life. Fascinated by the fauna, flora and people around him, he kept journals for many years, and, at that time, was halfway to completing his path-breaking *The Natural History of Selborne*. Jenny Uglow accompanies Gilbert from frost to drought, from the migration of birds to the sex lives of snails and the coming of harvest.

**Andrew Ross Sorkin, *1929: The Inside Story of the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History***

ALLEN LANE • HB • 592 PAGES • FROM £32

In 1929, the world watched in shock as the unstoppable Wall Street market went into freefall, wiping out fortunes and igniting a depression that would reshape a generation. But behind the flashing ticker tapes and panicked traders, another drama unfolded: one of visionaries and fraudsters, titans and dreamers, euphoria and ruin. Andrew Ross Sorkin takes readers inside the chaos of the crash, behind the scenes of a raging battle between Wall Street and Washington, and recalls the larger-than-life characters whose ambition and naivety in an endless boom led to wreckage.

**Fiona Robertson, *Stone Lands: A Journey of Darkness and Light through Britain's Ancient Places***

LITTLE, BROWN • HB • 400 PAGES • FROM £27

Journeying across Britain, from West Penwith and Avebury to the Lake District and Orkney, *Stone Lands* uncovers the magic and rich history of our incredible prehistoric standing stones. A memoir woven delicately around a great grief, it is about embracing life, joy and ancient wonder – a luminous reminder of what it means to exist on this earth. *Stone Lands* is beautifully illustrated with stunning black-and-white line drawings by the illustrator and printmaker Philip Harris.

**Dan Cruickshank, *The English House: A History in Eight Buildings***

CORNERSTONE • HB • 512 PAGES • FROM £28

This is the story of the superbly elegant early eighteenth-century Pallant House in Chichester. It is the story of 19 Princelet Street in Spitalfields, built for a Huguenot silk-weaver. It is also the story of a row of two-up, two-downs in Toxteth, a block of flats in London's East End, and what the magazine *Ideal Homes* described in 1926 as Britain's 'first modern house' – in Northampton. *The English House* is the story of homes and their occupants: their aspirations, their struggles and their place in a fast-changing world.

# Slightly Foxed Ltd

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L. Hozhabrafkan, UK