SCEPTRE 2020

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THE SCEPTRE STORY

Inspired writing. Irresistible reading.

Sceptre is the literary imprint of Hodder & Stoughton, publishing outstanding fiction and non-fiction by writers from around the world for over thirty years.

Since its inception in 1986, Sceptre has published authors who have won some of the world's most prestigious prizes including the Nobel, Booker, Prix Goncourt, Miles Franklin, Pulitzer, Whitbread, Costa, Nordic Council Literature Prize and the International Arabic Prize for Fiction. Several have been chosen for Granta's once-a-decade lists of the Best of Young British Novelists and Best of Young American Novelists. They have come from all corners of the globe and many have topped the bestseller charts.

Our mission is to publish books that matter and will last, that are thought-provoking, enriching, beautifully written and engage both heart and mind; books for readers looking not only to be entertained but to have their horizons broadened, knowledge deepened, perspectives shifted and imaginations fired.



'Since her sister died, she has been obsessed with minor events that lead to major ones.'



FICTION

A PURE HEART

RAJIA HASSIB

A powerful novel about two Egyptian sisters - their divergent fates and the secrets of one family.

Rose, an Egyptologist, married an American journalist and immigrated to New York City, where she works at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Her sister Gameela, a devout Muslim since her teenage years, stayed in Cairo.

During the aftermath of Egypt's revolution, Gameela is killed in a suicide bombing. When Rose returns to Egypt afterwards, she sifts through the artefacts Gameela left behind, desperate to understand how her sister came to die, and who she truly was. Why had she quit her job just a few months before her death and not told her

family? Who was she romantically involved with? And how did the religious Gameela manage to keep so many secrets?

'Exquisite' Vanity Fair

'Articulates the full-bodied chorus of Egypt's voices.' New York Times

'A timely, sweeping tale . . . beautifully written' Boston Globe

Rajia Hassib was born and raised in Egypt and moved to the United States when she was twenty-three. Her first novel, In the Language of Miracles, was a New York Times Editors' Choice and received an honourable mention from the Arab American Book Award. She has written for the New York Times Book Review and the New Yorker online.

Hardback: 9781529317367 | £16.99 | BCN ex CAN eBook: 9781529317374 | Export TPB: 9781529317398 320pp | January | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Viking USA



'News is to the mind what sugar is to the body.'



ORIGINALS

NON-FICTION

STOP READING THE NEWS A MANIFESTO FOR A HAPPIER, CALMER AND WISER LIFE

ROLF DOBELLI

A timely manifesto that taps into the zeitgeist from the internationally bestselling author of The Art of Thinking Clearly.

In 2013 Rolf Dobelli stood in front of a roomful of journalists and proclaimed that he did not read the news. It caused a riot. Now he finally sets down his philosophy in detail. And he practises what he preaches: he hasn't read the news for a decade. Stop *Reading the* News is Dobelli's manifesto about the dangers of the most toxic form of information – news. He shows the damage it does to our concentration and wellbeing, and how a misplaced sense of duty can misdirect our behaviour.

From the author of the bestselling The Art of Thinking Clearly, Stop Reading the News offers the reader guidance about how to live without news, and the many potential gains to be had: less disruption, more time, less anxiety, more insights. In a world of increasing disruption and division, Stop Reading the News is a welcome source of calm and wisdom.

Rolf Dobelli is a Swiss writer, novelist and entrepreneur. He is the author of The Art of Thinking Clearly which became an instant bestseller, has sold over three million copies worldwide and been translated into 40 languages, and The Art of the Good Life. Dobelli is also the founder and curator of WORLD. MINDS, a community of the most distinguished international thinkers, scientists and artists.

Hardback: 9781529342680 | £12.99 | BCN inc CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781529342697 176pp | January | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Piper Verlag



'Nova gherkins were the best ones. After the Curtain came down, we couldn't seem to get them anymore.'



FICTION

THERE WAS STILL LOVE FAVEL PARRETT

A tender and masterfully told story of memory, family and love from Miles Franklin-shortlisted author Favel Parrett.

Prague, 1938: Eva flies down the street. A man steps out suddenly. Eva runs into him, hits the pavement hard. His anger slaps Eva but his hate will change everything, as war forces so many lives into small brown suitcases.

Prague, 1980: No one sees Ludek. A young boy can slip right under the heavy blanket that covers this city – the fear cannot touch him. Ludek is free. And he sees everything. The world can go to hell for all he cares because Babi is waiting for him in the warm flat. She is his whole world.

Melbourne, 1980: Mala Liska's grandma holds her hand as they climb the stairs to their third-floor flat. Here, Mana and Bill have made a life for themselves and their granddaughter. A life imbued with the spirit of Prague and the loved ones left behind.

Because there is still love. No matter what.

Favel Parrett was the recipient of an Australian Society of Authors Mentorship in 2009 and has had a number of short stories published in various journals. *Past the Shallows*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the 2012 Miles Franklin Award and won the Australian Book Industry's Newcomer of the Year Award.

Hardback: 9781529343557 | £16.99 BCN inc EU, ex ANZ | eBook: 9781529343564 244pp | February | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Hachette Australia



'Your schooling is your voice, child. It will be speaking for you even if you didn't open your mouth to talk . . .'



FICTION

THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE ABI DARÉ

Abi Daré's unforgettable, award-winning debut sings from the page in a voice like no other.

All you have are your words.

Adunni is a fourteen-year-old Nigerian girl who knows what she wants: an education.

As the only daughter of a broke father, she is a valuable commodity. Removed from school and sold as a third wife to an old man, Adunni's life amounts to this: four goats, two bags of rice, some chickens and a new TV. When unspeakable tragedy swiftly strikes in her new home, she is secretly sold as a domestic servant to a household in Lagos, where no one will talk about the strange disappearance of her predecessor, Rebecca. No one but Adunni . . .

Adunni is repeatedly told that she is nothing. But she won't be silenced.

She is determined to find her voice – in whisper, in song, in broken English – until she can speak for herself, for the girls like Rebecca who came before, and for all the girls who will follow.

Abi Daré grew up in Lagos, Nigeria and has lived in the UK for over 18 years. Her novel The Girl with the Louding Voice won The Bath Novel Award in 2018 and was selected as a finalist in The Literary Consultancy Pen Factor competition in 2018.

Hardback: 9781529359237 | £12.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU eBook: 9781529359251 | Export TPB: 9781529359244 320pp | March | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Curtis Brown



'A twenty-firstcentury Balzac of the working classes'



FICTION

AND THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM

The Prix Goncourt-winning voice of a generation: a nostalgic portrait of disaffected youth over four sultry summers in the 1990s.

August 1992. Fourteen-year-old Anthony and his cousin decide to steal a canoe to fight their all-consuming boredom on a lazy summer afternoon. Their simple act of defiance will lead to Anthony's first love and his first real summer – that one summer that comes to define everything that follows.

Over four summers in the 1990s, Anthony and his friends grow up in a France trapped between nostalgia and decline, decency and rage, desperate to escape the confines

of their petty small town and the scrutiny of their parents, in search of a more hopeful future.

Nicolas Mathieu's eloquent novel gives a pitch-perfect depiction of teenage angst. Winner of the Prix Goncourt, it won praise for its portrayal of people living on the margins and shines a light on the struggles of French society today.

Nicolas Mathieu was born in 1978 in Épinal, a small town in north-eastern France. His first novel won various prizes and was adapted for TV. His second novel, And Their Children After Them, was published to universal acclaim in 2018 and won many prizes including the most coveted prize in France, the Prix Goncourt.

Hardback: 9781529303827 | £16.99 | BCN ex CAN eBook: 9781529303841 | Export TPB: 9781529303834 432pp | April | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Actes Sud



'The loneliness crisis matters not only because it is already damaging how we live, work, and even love right now. It matters because it has profound implications for the kind of society and institutions our children and grandchildren will choose to build, the type of relationships they will be able to develop and the sort of politicians they will decide to vote for - for the very future of democracy.'

NON-FICTION

HE LONELY CENTURY HOW ISOLATION IMPERILS OUR FUTURE

AND HOW TO FIGHT BACK

NOREENA HERTZ

A radical call to arms and a bold new vision of how we must act, fast, to reconnect society at an individual, government and business level.

Professor Noreena Hertz has travelled the world to explore the loneliness epidemic first-hand: 'renting a friend' in Japan, visiting co-habitation spaces in Israel and trying a week experienced entirely online. From the spread of social media and the rise of AI to the architecture of our cities and the growing elderly population, loneliness is a global issue that is affecting our health and financial security.

She takes on a world increasingly dominated by big business and consumerism, and challenges us all - and most importantly, our politicians, business leaders and economists - to take urgent action to ensure we thrive in the centuries to come.

The Lonely Century is a bold, gamechanging book that has the power to transform how we behave.

Noreena Hertz is an Honorary Professor at UCL. Described as 'one of the most inspiring women in the world' by Vogue, she has an impressive track record in predicting global trends. She advises a select group of the world's leading business and political figures on strategy, economic and geo-political risk, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, millennials and post-millennials.

Hardback: 9781529329254 | £20.00 | BCN ex CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781529329285 | Export TPB: 9781529329261 352pp | June | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Hodder & Stoughton



'What is music for? Wrong question. Music isn't for anything. Music is, however, a bridge. A message in a bottle. Music is a visitor. Music is a host. A miracle so commonplace we forget it even is a miracle. Music is the soul insisting "I exist, I exist, l exist." Music isn't for anything. Music, simply, is.' UTOPIA AVENUE DAVID MITCHELL

'One of the most brilliantly inventive writers of this, or any country' (Independent) turns his unique eye on the dark end of the 1960s.

Utopia Avenue are the strangest British band you've never heard of. Emerging from London's psychedelic scene in 1967 and fronted by folksinger Elf Holloway, guitar demigod Jasper de Zoet and blues bassist Dean Moss, Utopia Avenue released only two LPs during its brief, blazing journey from the clubs of Soho and draughty ballrooms to Top of the Pops and the cusp of chart success, to glory in Amsterdam, prison in Rome and a fateful American fortnight in the autumn of 1968.

David Mitchell's captivating new novel tells the unexpurgated story of Utopia Avenue; of riots in the streets and revolutions in the head; of drugs, thugs, madness, love, sex, death, art; of the families we choose and the ones we don't; of fame's Faustian pact and stardom's wobbly ladder. Can we change the world in turbulent times, or does the world change us?

David Mitchell is the author of the novels Ghostwritten, number9dream, Cloud Atlas, Black Swan Green, The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet, The Bone Clocks and Slade House. Twice shortlisted for the Booker Prize, in 2018 he won the Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence.

Hardback: 9781444799422 | £20.00 | BCN ex CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781444799446 | Export TPB: 9781444799439 544pp | June | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Curtis Brown



THE NUMBER BIAS

SANNE BLAUW

'The time has come to put numbers in their place. Not high up on a pedestal, or out on the curb, but right where they belong: beside words."

A sharp-eyed, myth-busting reassessment of how history, society and politics have manipulated numbers and statistics.

It is not an overstatement to say that numbers dictate the way we live our lives. They tell us how we're doing at school, how much we weigh, who might win an election and whether the economy is booming. But numbers aren't as objective as they may seem; behind every number is a story. Yet politicians, businesses and the media often forget this – or use it for their own gain.

Sanne Blauw travels the world to unpick our relationship with numbers and demystify our misguided allegiance, from Florence Nightingale using statistics to petition

for better conditions during the Crimean War to the manipulation of numbers by the American tobacco industry and the ambiguous figures pedalled during the EU referendum.

Taking us from the everyday numbers that govern our health and wellbeing to the statistics used to wield enormous power and influence, *The Number Bias* counsels us to think more wisely.

Sanne Blauw is the numeracy correspondent for Dutch online news site De Correspondent, now also published in English as The Correspondent. She has a PhD in econometrics from the Erasmus School of Economics and the Tinbergen Institute. She has also worked at the OECD Development Centre, as a consultant for Oikocredit Netherlands and was a member of the University Council of the Erasmus University.

Hardback: 9781529342734 | £16.99 | BCN ex CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781529342758 | Export TPB: 9781529342741 208pp | July | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Janklow and Nesbit



'There were so many of us, children of these double families. That night, I fantasised about the separate spheres of our lives colliding....'

FICTION

THE MARGOT AFFAIR SANAË LEMOINE

A Parisian coming-of-age tale, exploring truth, deceit, desire and transgression from a bright new voice in literary fiction.

'Subtle, beautiful, serious' Karen Russell

French teenager Margot is the illegitimate daughter of a prominent stage actress and an influential politician. The comings and goings of their unconventional family, in a small Parisian apartment, cast her whole life under a veil of secrecy and shame.

One summer, Margot decides to exercise her own agency when she meets a wellregarded journalist whose trust seems surprisingly easy to gain. But as Margot is drawn into an adult world, she learns how one impulsive decision can change the contours of her life, and the lives of those around her, in ways she could never have imagined.

In this simmering debut Sanaë Lemoine explores private and public faces, truth and deceit, love and persuasion. The Margot Affair is a novel about the bone-deep bond between mothers and daughters, the devotion and betrayal of friendship and the dangers of pushing beyond the boundaries of a life lived in the shadows.

Sanaë Lemoine was born in Paris to a Japanese mother and French father. She was raised in France and Australia, and now lives in New York. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and her MFA at Columbia University. The Margot Affair is her first novel.

Hardback: 9781529384673 | £14.99 | BCN ex CAN eBook: 9781529384703 | Export TPB: 9781529384680 320pp | July | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: PRH, USA



'I have lived in disaster and disaster has lived in me. Our shared languages are thunder and reverberation.'

Aftershocks



Dispatches from the Frontlines of Identity
NADIA OWUSU

NON-FICTION

AFTERSHOCKS DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTLINES OF IDENTITY NADIA OWUSU

An exceptional memoir about race, family and belonging, for a moment when identity and division dominate our global politics.

When Nadia Owusu was two years old her mother abandoned her and her baby sister and fled from Tanzania back to the US. When she was thirteen her beloved Ghanaian father died of cancer. She and her sister often felt alone.

Nadia Owusu is a woman of many languages, homelands and identities. She grew up in Rome, Dar-es-Salaam, Addis Ababa, Kumasi, Kampala and London. At times she has felt stateless, motherless and identity-less. At others, she has had multiple identities at war within her. It's no wonder she started to feel fault lines in her sense of self. It's no wonder that those fault lines eventually ruptured.

Nadia Owusu is a writer and urban planner. She is an associate director at Living Cities, an economic racial justice organisation. In 2018 she won a coveted Whiting Award for the early chapters of Aftershocks. Her writing has appeared in the New York Times, Literary Review and Catapult, amongst others. She lives in New York.

Hardback: 9781529342864 | £16.99 | BCN ex CAN eBook: 9781529342888 | Export TPB: 9781529342871 320pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: DeFiore & Co

Aftershocks is the account of how she hauled herself out of the wreckage. It is the intimate story behind the news of immigration and division dominating contemporary politics. Nadia Owusu's astonishingly moving and incredibly timely memoir is a nuanced portrait of globalisation from the inside, in a fractured world in crisis. 'December 23, 1978, Arash the poet left our house in Tabriz and never came back. He was disappeared.'

WINTER IN TABRIZ SHEILA LLEWELLYN

The beguiling second novel from the author of Walking Wounded for fans of Anna Funder and William Boyd.

Gripping and atmospheric, Winter in Tabriz tells the story of four young people living in 1970s Iran during the months immediately prior to the revolution, and the choices they have to make as a result of the ensuing upheaval. The lives of Damian and Anna, both from Oxford University, become enmeshed with two Iranians, Arash, a poet, and his older brother Reza, a student sympathetic to the problems of the dissident writers in Iran, and a wouldbe photojournalist, interested in capturing the conflict on the streets.

When Arash disappears one morning, his unknown fate will haunt Damian, his lover, for years to come.

It is an expertly imagined tale of the fight for artistic freedom, young love and the legacies of conflict.

Sheila Llewellyn was born in England and now lives in Northern Ireland. She has won the PJ O'Connor RTÉ Radio One Drama Award and the Silver Award for the Best Broadcast Radio Drama in the New York International Radio Drama Festival in 2012. She has also been shortlisted for the Bridport Short Story Prize, the Paul Torday Memorial Prize, the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize, and shortlisted twice for the Costa Short Story Award.

Hardback: 9781473663145 | £16.99 | BCN inc CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781473663138 | Export TPB: 9781473663152 288pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: AM Heath



'Private investigators once operated in the shadows . . . Today, private spying has never been cheaper and the business has never been more lucrative – just as its power has never been more persuasive.'

NON-FICTION

SPOOKED INSIDE THE SECRET WORLD **OF PRIVATE SPIES**

BARRY MEIER

This is a spy story like no other. Private spies are the invisible force that shape our modern world.

Private spies are influencing our elections, shaping the future of Hollywood, affecting government policies and the fortunes of companies. More deviously, they are also peering into our personal lives as never before, using off-the-shelf technology to listen to our phone calls, monitor our emails and decide what we see on social media.

Spooked takes us on a journey into a secret billion-dollar industry in which information is currency and loyalties are for sale. An industry so tentacular it reaches from Saddam Hussein to an 80s-era Trump, from the Steele dossier written by a British

ex-spy to Russian oligarchs sitting pretty in Mayfair mansions, from the devious tactics of Harvey Weinstein to the growing role of corporate spies in politics and the threat to future elections.

Spooked reads like the best kind of spy story: a gripping tale packed with twists and turns, uncovering a secret side of our modern world.

Barry Meier is a Pulitzer Prize-winning former New York Times investigative reporter. He's twice won the George Polk award for Investigate Reporting. Prior to joining the New York Times in 1989, he worked for the Wall Street Journal and New York Newsday.

Hardback: 9781529365900 | £20.00 | BCN ex CAN eBook: 9781529365931 | Export TPB: 9781529365917 336pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Abner Stein



'How could such a majestic mind as that give birth to a plain boy like me?'

FICTION THE DICKENS BOY THOMAS KENEALLY

The rollicking tale of Charles Dickens' son and his adventures in the Australian Outback.

In 1868, Charles Dickens dispatches his youngest child to Australia. Like his brother Alfred before him, sixteen-year-old Edward is expected to learn to apply himself in what his father considers to be the new land of opportunity.

Posted to a remote sheep station in New South Wales, Edward discovers that Charles Dickens' fame has reached even there, as has the gossip about his father's scandalous liaison with an actress. Amid colonists, ex-convicts, local tribespeople and a handful of eligible young women, Edward strives to be his own man - and

keep secret the fact that he's read none of his father's novels.

Conjuring up a life of sheep-droving, horse-racing and cricket tournaments in a community riven with tensions and prejudice, the story of Edward's adventures also affords an intimate portrait of Dickens himself. This vivacious novel is classic Keneally: historical figures and events re-imagined with verve, humour and compassion.

Thomas Keneally began his writing career in 1964 and has published both fiction and non-fiction since. His novels include Schindler's Ark, which won the Booker Prize, the Bookershortlisted The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, Confederates and Gossip from the Forest, and the recent The Daughters of Mars and The Book of Science and Antiquites.

Hardback: 9781529345070 | £20.00 BCN ex CAN and ANZ, inc EU | eBook: 9781529345087 288pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Rogers, Coleridge & White



'This is a book that contains very few numbers. Instead, it is about meeting people who have opened my eyes.' NON-FICTION

HOW I LEARNED TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD HANS ROSLING

The moving, playful memoir of Hans Rosling – Swedish statistics mastermind, researcher extraordinaire and author of the global bestseller, *Factfulness*.

It was facts that helped him explain how In coll the world works. But it was curiosity and Fanny commitment that made the late Hans memoir Rosling, author of the worldwide bestseller that m *Factfulness*, the most popular researcher of spoke. our time.

In collaboration with Swedish journalist Fanny Härgestam, Hans Rosling wrote his memoir with the same joy in storytelling that made a whole world listen when he spoke.

How I Learned to Understand the World is Hans Rosling's own story of how a young scientist became a revolutionary thinker. It takes us from the swelter of an emergency clinic in Mozambique to the World Economic Forum at Davos.

Hans Rosling was a medical doctor, professor of international health and renowned public educator. He was an adviser to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, and co-founded Médecins sans Frontières in Sweden and the Gapminder Foundation. Together with his two long-time collaborators, Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund, he wrote the global bestseller Factfulness. He died in 2017.

Hardback: 99781529375022 | £20.00 | BCN ex CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781529375046 | Export TPB: 9781529327786 256pp | November | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Brockman Inc.



LOOKING TO SEA BRITAIN THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS ARTISTS

LILY LE BRUN

'A painting is never a mirror to a landscape, reflecting back exactly what it sees. It is a landscape recreated in the mind of a person, made richer and stranger by interactions with memory and feeling."

An alternative history of Britain in the twentieth century told through the prism of ten iconic artworks of the sea, one for each decade.

Looking to Sea takes us from Vanessa Bell's painting of Studland Beach, one of the first modernist paintings in Britain, to Paul Nash's post-war art that bore the scars of his experience in the trenches, to Martin Parr's photographs of seaside resorts in the 1980s. Lily Le Brun embraces ideas from modernism and the sublime, the impact of the world wars and the influence of America, to issues crucial to our world today like the environment and nationhood.

Looking to Sea is a work of cultural, historical and creative storytelling that brings a fresh and lively eye to the key ideas of the twentieth century and a new way of looking at our island nation.

Lily Le Brun is an arts writer based in London. She studied at the University of Edinburgh and the Courtauld Institute of Art. She has worked for Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses, and written for publications such as Art Quarterly, the Financial Times and The Economist. In 2018 Lily won a Royal Society of Literature Giles St Aubyn Award.

Hardback: 9781529309218 | £25.00 | World English eBook: 9781529309225 368pp | October | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: Rogers, Coleridge & White



'The only person I'd run through the airport for is you.'



ORIGINALS

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

FLEABAG THE SCRIPTURES

PHOEBE WALLER-BRIDGE

The complete Fleabag. Every Word. Every Side-eye. Every Fox.

The Sunday Times bestselling Fleabag: The Scriptures includes new writing from Phoebe Waller-Bridge alongside the filming scripts and the never-before-seen stage directions from the Emmy and BAFTA-winning series.

'Perfect' Guardian	'Perfect' Irish Times
'Perfect' Daily Telegraph	'Perfect' RTE
'Perfect' Stylist	'Perfect' Spectator
'Perfect' Independent	'Perfect' Refinery29
'Perfect' Evening Standard	'Perfect' Catholic Herald
'Perfect' Metro	'Perfection' Financial Times

Phoebe Waller-Bridge is a multi-award-winning actor, writer, creator and showrunner. She is the writer and performer of *Fleabag*, which debuted at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe as a one-woman show in 2013, followed by award-winning London and New York runs. *Fleabag* was adapted into a critically acclaimed television series, for which Waller-Bridge won a BAFTA for Best Female Performance in a Comedy Programme, and 11 Primetime Emmy Award nominations, winning for Outstanding Lead Actress on a Comedy Series, Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series and Outstanding Comedy Series.

Hardback: 9781529394801 | £20.00 | BCN ex CAN, inc EU eBook: 9781529394818 | Export TPB: 9781529322804 432pp | November, 2019 | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton Other rights: United Talent Agency





FICTION

LOVE WITHOUT END



MELVYN BRAGG

'Bragg's account of the passionate and painful love affair between the twelfth-century radical theologian, Peter Abelard, and the brilliant young convent-educated Heloise springs magnificently to life . . . Thrilling.'

'One of the greatest love stories of all time . . . By the pen of Arthur the novelist, Bragg with his own flair and perceptive imagination tells their story . . . a pleasure to read' SPECTATOR

'His compassion for Abelard and Heloise makes brilliantly real and present to us their anguished journey from erotic excess towards the mystical sublime.' ROSE TREMAIN



Paperback: 9781473690943 | £8.99 | January

FICTION

MEMORIES OF THE FUTURE



SIRI HUSTVEDT

'A multi-layered portrait of the artist as a young woman . . . Hustvedt has the imaginative mastery to encase complex ideas in the flesh and blood needed to render them visceral.'

'She's a twenty-first century Virginia Woolf' LITERARY REVIEW

'Provocative and mysterious, this fictionalised portrait of the author as a young woman is comic and sensual as well as thematically meaty, touching on memory, witchcraft and male violence.' MAIL ON SUNDAY



Paperback: 9781473694460 | £8.99 | February

MY PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY A MUSLIM FEMINIST FINDS HERSELF



with immense strength, and a lot of love' Preti Taneja, author of We That Are Young

A MUSLIM FEMINIST FINDS HERSELF

ZEBA TALKHANI

A compelling exploration of faith, feminism and self-compassion

> 'A brave new voice that reaches out to us all' MIRANDA DOYLE

'Talkhani writes with disarming honesty about how she was able to finally forge an identity away from the confines of family and religion'

'An addictive, vital read. Talkhani interrogates the outsider narrative in ways that feel expansive, timely and wholly inspiring.' IRENOSEN OKOJIE



Paperback: 9781473684058 | £9.99 | February

FICTION

THE BOOK OF SCIENCE AND ANTIQUITIES



THOMAS KENEALLY

'Like The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith, it uncovers a rich hidden seam in Australian history ... passionate and heartfelt' THE TIMES

'A book of wonder and regular brilliance . . . In a book that teems with journeys, both spiritual and physical, he finds something true, brave and powerful to say about mankind's fate.'

HERALD, GLASGOW

'Electric with life, passion and appetite . . . intensely personal, hugely inventive and often moving' AUSTRALIAN



THREADS OF LIFE A HISTORY OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE



CLARE HUNTER

An evocative and moving book about the need we all have to tell our story

Shortlisted for the Saltire First Book of the Year Award

'It's an astonishing feat, this patchwork quilt of history, culture and politics, which takes us from Saxon England to colonised African tribes, Palestinian villages, rural China and the cramped homes of American slaves . . . Her highly impressive debut is a richly textured and moving record of a history that has largely been lost.' SUNDAY TIMES

> 'Enthralling . . . beautiful' SUNDAY EXPRESS



FICTION

Jill

Dawson

THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS

By the author of the

Fred & Edie

Orange Prize-shortlisted



'Has the ineluctable pull of tragic myth. We know what must come, but this knowledge never detracts from the memorable beauty and intelligence of the novel.'

'Highly engrossing . . . Dawson gives powerful voice to someone silenced in history'



Paperback: 9781473654556 | £8.99 | April

Paperback: 9781473687936 | £9.99 | March

FICTION

'Raw, intimate

and authentic

'Powerful'

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The Sunday Times

Evening Standar

SALTWATER

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'Stunning'

Independent

Daisy Johnson

Sublime'

'Poignant'

Daily Mail

JESSICA ANDREWS

'A stunning new voice in British literary fiction' INDEPENDENT

'Lyrically poetic'

'Raw, intimate and authentic . . . Andrews obviously has talent' SUNDAY TIMES

'Luminous'

'A sharply observed and poignant first outing.' DAILY MAIL

'This book is sublime. It dares to be different, to look in a different way. Andrews is not filling anyone's shoes, she is destroying the shoes and building them from scratch.' DAISY JOHNSON



Paperback: 9781473682801 | £8.99 | April

FICTION

THE WHISPERING MUSE



A reissue of Sjón's masterful award-winning novel

'Long-term fans of Sjón will recognise this trademark interweaving of myth and postmodern playfulness . . . essential reading' GUARDIAN

'Funny, strange, provoking and disturbing; darkness with a light touch' *τιs*

'An extraordinary, powerful fable, travelogue, adventure story . . . a marvel.' ALBERTO MANGUEL



Paperback: 9781529342994 | £8.99 | April

44 PAPERBACKS

FICTION

STARLING DAYS

'Poetic.

hypnotic'

Stylist

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