SPRING SUMMER 2024

OHN NURRAY





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JOHN MURRAY



I SEEK A KIND PERSON Julian Borger



An original, investigative memoir by the Guardian's Pulitzer prize-winning World Affairs Editor, Julian Borger, to uncover the secrets of his family history and how the Holocaust determined the fate of their lives.

'I SEEK A KIND PERSON WHO WILL EDUCATE MY INTELLIGENT BOY, AGED 11.'

In 1938, Jewish families are scrambling to flee Vienna. Desperate, they take out adverts offering their children into the safe keeping of readers of a British newspaper, the *Manchester Guardian*. The right words in the right order could mean the difference between life and death.

Eighty-three years later, *Guardian* journalist Julian Borger comes across the advert that saved his father, Robert, from the Nazis. Robert had kept this a secret, like almost everything else about his traumatic Viennese childhood, until he took his own life. Borger traces the remarkable stories of his father, the other advertised children and their families, each thrown into the maelstrom of a world at war.

From a Viennese radio shop to the Shanghai ghetto, internment camps and family homes across Britain, the deep forests and concentration camps of Nazi Germany, smugglers saving Jewish lives in Holland, an improbable French Resistance cell, and a redemptive story of survival in New York, Borger unearths the astonishing journeys of the children at the hands of fate, their stories of trauma and the kindness of strangers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julian Borger is the *Guardian's* World Affairs Editor, based in Washington. He covered the Bosnian war for the BBC and the *Guardian* and returned to the Balkans to report on the Kosovo conflict in 1999. He has also served as the *Guardian's* Middle East correspondent and its Washington Bureau Chief.

Author lives in Washington, USA.

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SLEEPLESS Annabel Abbs



A moving, revelatory voyage into the dark, *Sleepless* invites us to feel less anxious about our sleep, and to embrace the possibilities of the night.

THE NIGHT SELF IS . . .

- Vulnerable
- Curious
- Fearful
- Enchanted
- Courageous

In the winter of 2020, Annabel Abbs experienced a series of bereavements. As she grieved, she kept busy by day, but at night sleep eluded her. And yet her sleeplessness led to a profound and unexpected discovery: her Night Self. As the night transformed into a place of creativity and liberation, Annabel found she wasn't alone. From the radical fifteenth-century philosopher Laura Cereta and subversive artist Louise Bourgeois, to Virginia Woolf and the activist Peace Pilgrim, women have long found sanctuary, inspiration and courage in darkness. Drawing on the latest science, which shows we are more imaginative, open-minded and reflective at night, Annabel set out to discover the potential of her Night Self. *Sleepless* follows her journey, from midnight hikes to starlit swims, from Singapore, the brightest city on Earth, to the darkest corner of the Arctic Circle, and finally to that most elusive of places – sleep.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Annabel Abbs is an award-winning writer of highly researched fiction and non-fiction. As Annabel Abbs, she is the author of *Windswept: Why Women Walk*, voted a top ten 2021 travel book. As Annabel Streets she wrote 52 Ways to Walk: The Surprising Science of Walking for Wellness and Joy, One Week at a Time and co-wrote The Age-Well Project: Easy Ways to a Longer, Healthier, Happier Life.

Author lives in London, UK.

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	US Publisher: Penguin Random House	



FLUKE Chance, Chaos, and Why Everything We Do Matters Brian Klaas



A provocative new vision of how our world really works and why chance determines everything.

In *Fluke*, myth-shattering social scientist Brian Klaas deep-dives into the phenomenon of randomness, unpicking our neat and tidy storybook version of events to reveal a reality far wilder and more fascinating than we have dared to consider. The bewildering truth is that but for a few incidental changes, our lives - and our societies would be radically different.

Offering an entirely new perspective, *Fluke* explores how our world really works, driven by strange interactions and random events. How much difference does our decision to hit the snooze button make? Did one couple's vacation really change the course of the twentieth century? What are the smallest accidents that have tilted the course of history itself?

The mind-bending lessons of this phenomenon challenge our beliefs about the very workings of the world. From the evolution of human biology and natural disasters to the impact of global events on supply chain disruptions, every detail matters because of the web of connectivity that envelops us. So what if, by exploding our illusion of control, we can make better decisions and live happy, fulfilling lives?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brian Klaas grew up in Minnesota, earned his DPhil at Oxford, and is now a professor of global politics at University College London. He is a contributing writer for *The Atlantic*, host of the award-winning Power Corrupts podcast, and frequent guest on national television. Klaas has conducted field research across the globe and advised major politicians and organizations including NATO and the European Union.

Author lives in London, UK.

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Advance book proofs available on request.



TIME AND TIDE The Long, Long Life of Landscape Fiona Stafford



A village waits at the bottom of a reservoir. A monkey puzzle tree bristles in a suburban garden. A skein of wild geese fly over a rusty rail viaduct. The vast inland sea that awed John Clare has become fields.

Chapter by fascinating chapter, alive with literary, local, and her own family history, Fiona Stafford reveals the forces, both natural and human, which transform places. Swooping along coastlines, through forests and across fens, following in the footsteps of Burns and Keats, Celia Fiennes and Charles Dickens, William and Dorothy Wordsworth, Noel Coward and Compton Mackenzie, join her, timetravelling deep into the stories of our Isles.

From red squirrels to brick vistas, from botanical gardens to hot springs, the landscapes of Britain are full of delights and surprises. Chance discoveries of rare species, shipwrecks and unlikely ruins, curious trees and startling towers, weird caves and disused airfields, or even just baffling placenames offer ways into unexpected histories and hidden lives. The clues to the past are all round us – *Time and Tide* will help you find them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fiona Stafford is Professor of English at Somerville College, Oxford and a Fellow of the British Academy. She has written several books, including *The Long*, *Long Life of Trees, The Brief Life of Flowers* and *Jane Austen*. Author lives in UK.

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SMOKE AND ASHES Opium's Hidden Histories Amitav Ghosh



The Booker-shortlisted author of the Ibis Trilogy explores the impact of opium on global history, economies, cultures, and his own understanding of self.

When Amitav Ghosh began the research for his monumental cycle of novels, the Ibis Trilogy, he was startled to find how the lives of the nineteenth century sailors and soldiers he was writing about were dictated not only by the currents of the Indian Ocean, but also by the precious commodity carried in enormous quantities on those currents: opium. Most surprising at all, however, was the discovery that his own identity and family history was swept up in the story.

Smoke and Ashes is at once a travelogue, memoir and a history, drawing on decades of archival research. In it, Ghosh traces the transformative effect the opium trade had on Britain, India, and China, as well as the world at large. The trade was engineered by the British Empire, which exported Indian opium to sell to China and redress their great trade imbalance, and its revenues were essential to the Empire's financial survival.

Moving deftly between horticultural histories, the mythologies of capitalism, and the social and cultural repercussions of colonialism, Ghosh reveals the role that one small plant had in the making of our world, now teetering on the edge of catastrophe.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amitav Ghosh is the author of the bestselling Ibis Trilogy, comprised of *Sea of Poppies* (shortlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize), *River of Smoke* and *Flood of Fire*. His other novels include *The Circle of Reason*, which won the Prix Médicis étranger and *The Glass Palace*. He is the author of many works of nonfiction, including *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* and *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*. In 2015 he was names as a finalist for the Man Booker International Prize.

Author lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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BLUESTOCKINGS The First Women's Movement Susannah Gibson



Women in 1750s Britan had no power and no rights - all money and property belonged to their fathers or husbands. A brave group risked everything to think and live as they wished, despite the sneers of contemporaries who argued that books frazzled female brains and damaged their wombs.

Meet the Bluestockings:

ELIZABETH MONTAGU hosted a series of glittering salons in her London drawing room. Discover how she took on Voltaire and won. Whilst nursing twelve children and helping run her bullying husband's brewery, HESTER THRALE took Dr Johnson and other writers under her wing. Find out what happened when she finally decided to follow her heart.

Find out how poetess and former milkmaid ANN YEARSLEY fought back when her snobbish patron refused to hand over her earnings . . . Or how CATHERINE MACAULEY's *History of England* helped inspire the American Revolution – while her unorthodox love-life scandalised her contemporaries. . .

In this brilliant book, Susannah Gibson explores the lives and legacies of these and other key women who went on to inspire writers and thinkers from Mary Wollstonecraft to Virginia Woolf and lead the way for feminism.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Susannah Gibson holds a PhD from Cambridge on the history of the life sciences of the eighteenth century, a master's degree in the history of nineteenth-century science, and a bachelor's degree in experimental physics. She is the author of two books: *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral*? and The *Spirit of Inquiry*.

Author lives in Cambridge, UK.

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	US Publisher: W. W. Norton	



THE BORROWED HILLS

Scott Preston



A blistering debut from a stunning new voice in British fiction.

As foot and mouth disease spreads across the hills of Cumbria, emptying the valleys of sheep and filling the skies with smoke, Steve Elliman and William Herne, two neighbouring farmers, join forces to reverse their fortunes by rustling livestock from the south. With the struggles of the land never far away, Steve's only distraction is his growing fascination with William's wife, Helen. When their mountain home comes under the sway of a ruthless outsider, it is left to Steve to save himself and what's left of their farming community, in a savage conflict that threatens an ancient way of life.

A reimagining of the American Western for the fells of northern England, Scott Preston's thrilling debut tells of men and women battered by circumstance, struggling to make lives for themselves in an unyielding land. Lyrical, cinematic, visceral and steeped in local folklore, *The Borrowed Hills* is an epic tale of a forgotten Britain.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott Preston is from Windermere in the Lake District, where his father was a drystone waller and his grandparents were national park wardens. He studied philosophy at the University of Sheffield before working as a copywriter. He is a graduate of the University of Manchester's creative writing program and received a PHD in prose fiction from King's College London.

Author lives in London, UK.

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MOEDERLAND Nine Daughters of South Africa Cato Pedder



One family. Four centuries. Nine extraordinary lives.

How did South Africa turn out the way it did? In *Moederland* – 'Motherland', in Afrikaans – Cato Pedder takes us on an eye-opening journey across four centuries, tracing the country's turbulent past and the rise and fall of apartheid (and her family's charged legacy) through the lives of nine very different women.

KROTOA is Khoikhoi translator to the newly arrived Dutch East India Company. ANGELA, a former slave from Bengal, climbs the ladder of settler society. ELSJE arrives from Germany aged 3, marries at 13, a mother at 15. ANNA, mistress of the Cape's grandest estate, regains control from her violent husband. MARGARETHA, uncompromising Afrikaner farmer, resists the abolition of slavery. ANNA loads her family on an ox-wagon and treks into the interior to elude the British. ISIE survives the Boer War to become wife of South Africa's Prime Minister and 'Mother of the Nation'. CATO escapes to England and the Quakers as white supremacy mutates into apartheid. PETRONELLA, returning to the Motherland, falls in love across the colour bar and risks everything to fight the system her grandfather set in motion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cato Pedder was born into the Quaker Clark shoe family and is a former newspaper reporter with 15 years of experience in South Africa and the UK. She graduated from Cambridge University in English Literature and holds further degrees in African Studies from SOAS and Creative Writing from Kingston University, where she won the academic prize. She is a published poet, was born in California and brought up in England. She has lived in South Africa and returns there regularly.

Author lives in Bristol, UK.

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US Publisher: Refer to Publisher

Advance book proofs available on request.



COMMITTED On Meaning and Madwomen Suzanne Scanlon



A raw and masterful memoir about becoming a woman and going mad – and doing both at once.

When Suzanne Scanlon was a student at Barnard in the 90s and grieving the loss of her mother, she made a suicide attempt that landed her in the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

After nearly three years and countless experimental treatments, Suzanne left the ward on shaky legs. In the decades it took her to recover from the experience, Suzanne came to understand her suffering as part of something larger: a long tradition of women whose complicated and compromised stories of self-discovery are reduced to 'madwoman narratives'.

Transporting, honest, and unflinching, Suzanne recounts her story alongside her reading of writers from the 'madwoman canon' – including Virginia Woolf, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Sylvia Plath and radical feminist Shulamith Firestone. The result is a profoundly moving journey through madness, from breakdown to breakthrough, and a revelatory exploration of being a woman and being mad – and how interwoven those experiences can be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Suzanne Scanlon is a feminist writer, educator and mental health advocate and is the author of two works of fiction published by indie presses: *Promising Young Women* (Dorothy, 2012) and *Her 37th Year, An Index* (Noemi Press, 2015). Her writing has appeared in *Granta, BOMB Magazine, Iowa Review* and *the Los Angeles Review of Books*. She teaches creative writing. Committed is her first work of nonfiction.

Author lives in US.

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CINEMA LOVE Jiaming Tang



Cinema Love is a sweeping debut novel about gay men in rural China, the women who marry them, and the secret theatres where their husbands cruised for love.

For over thirty years, Old Second and Bao Mei have cobbled together a meagre existence in New York City's Chinatown. But unlike other couples, these two share an unusual past. In rural Fuzhou, before they emigrated, they frequented The Workers' Cinema: a theatre where gay men cruised for love.

While classic war films played, Old Second and his fellow countrymen found intimacy in the privacy of the Workers' Cinema's screening rooms. Elsewhere, in the box office, Bao Mei sold movie tickets to closeted men – guarding their secrets and finding her own happiness with the projectionist.

But when secrets are unveiled, they set in motion a series of haunting events that propel Old Second and Bao Mei towards an uncertain future in America.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jiaming Tang is a queer immigrant writer. He holds an MFA from the University of Alabama, and his writing has appeared in such publications as AGNI, Lit Hub, Joyland Magazine, and elsewhere. He is a 2022-23 Center for Fiction Emerging Writer Fellow and lives in Brooklyn, New York. *Cinema Love* is his first novel.

Author lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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THE WARRIOR Rafael Nadal and His Kingdom of Clay Christopher Clarey



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher Clarey is the tennis correspondent for the *New York Times* and has covered international sports for nearly thirty years for *The Times* and *International Herald Tribune*, where he was chief sports correspondent and a longtime columnist. He is the author of *The Master: The Brilliant Career of Roger Federer* which was a *New York Times* bestseller.

An intimate biography of tennis's living legend Rafael Nadal.

Nadal has won big and won often on any of tennis's surfaces, securing two Wimbledon titles on grass and four U.S. Opens on acrylic hardcourts. But clay, the slowest and grittiest of the game's playgrounds, is where it all comes together best for his explosive movement and warrior mindset. Clay is the canvas on which he has mastered his choreography, underlining the precision, speed, and raw power required to accomplish one of the most impressive sporting achievements of the twenty-first century – it is the essential stuff of his life and success.

Legendary sports reporter and bestselling author Christopher Clarey has interviewed Nadal and his coaches from his first French Open victory at nineteen, marking his debut as a rising star on the premier clay-court event in the world, to his most recent victory in 2022, closing out an astonishing career as one of the greatest players of all time. Brimming with behind-the-scenes insight into the story of a global sporting icon, *The Warrior* is a must-read account for the loyal sports fan - and anyone interested in the evolution of excellence.

Author lives in US.

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LOST TO THE SEA A Journey Round the Edges of Britain and Ireland Lisa Woollett



Medieval kingdoms. Notorious pirate towns. Drowned churches. Crocodile-infested swamps.

Lost to the Sea is an exhilarating voyage around the evershifting shores of the British Isles, and a haunting ode to our profound relationship with the sea.

On a series of coastal walks, Lisa Woollett takes us on an illuminating journey, bringing to life the places where mythology and reality meet at the very edges of Britain and Ireland.

From Bronze Age settlements on the Isles of Scilly and submerged prehistoric forests in Wales, to a Victorian amusement park on the Isle of Wight and castles in the air off County Clare, Lisa draws together archaeology, meetings with locals and tales from folklore to reveal how the sea has forged, shaped and often overwhelmed these landscapes and communities.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lisa grew up on eroding cliffs on the Isle of Sheppey, with stories of local pubs and churches that had been lost to the sea. A photographer and beachcomber, she is the author of two award-winning books about the sea, and *Rag and Bone* won a Royal Society of Literature Giles St Aubyn Award for Non-Fiction.

Author lives in Cornwall, UK.

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EXILE Aimée Walsh



Leaving home was hard. Returning is impossible.

Fiadh's life is turned completely upside down on a night out in Belfast. Pretty soon everyone has heard about what happened; it is impossible to keep the rumours from spreading, the gossip from spiralling out of control. And just as she was beginning to finally figure everything out: she was feeling positive about her move to Liverpool, she was starting to get on top of her uni work and had made some new friends. Now her life is in freefall and Fiadh is helpless to do anything about it.

She starts missing assignment deadlines, stops turning up to class and doesn't respond to any of her friends' messages. Her nights revolve around random hook ups, fuelled by drink and drugs. Without the tightknit group of friends she left behind at home or the support of the new friends she has made in Liverpool, Fiadh's life quickly descends into chaos, a chaos that nearly costs her everything.

Taut and tender, a devastating exploration of the repercussions of one half-remembered night.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aimée Walsh is a writer from Belfast. Her writing has appeared in Extra Teeth, Refinery29, The Skinny and RTE.

Author lives in Belfast, Ireland.

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GENDER THEORY Madeline Docherty



'Beautifully captures the pain of growing into yourself, the intensity of all-consuming female friendship... one of my favourite books of the year' ROSE WILDING

You lose your virginity to a boy from your gender theory seminar, and the first person you tell is Ella.

Ella's with you at the party when you first kiss a girl.

And Ella takes you to the hospital the first time you're diagnosed.

Over the next few years you have a string of relationships and jobs, but you can always count on Ella to be there for you - until the drinking and the parties, the hospital visits and late-night calls, blur the lines of your friendship into something unbalanced and fragile, at risk of breaking altogether.

The worst part is you can see it coming. The worst part is you don't know how to stop.

Gender Theory is the dizzying debut from Madeline Docherty, an incisive, affecting novel about the implosion of a friendship, illness and finding your place in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Madeline Docherty is a 24-year-old Scottish writer and winner of the 2022 North Literary Agency Prize. She grew up in the Scottish Borders and now lives in Glasgow, where she works in communications and teaches creative writing workshops for the charity Mind Waves. *Gender Theory* is her first novel.

Author lives in Glasgow, Scotland.

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THE STALIN AFFAIR The Allies' Secret Mission to Wartime Moscow Giles Milton



The remarkable true story of the Allied men and women who worked alongside Stalin during four turbulent years of war.

In the summer of 1941, Adolf Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, shattering what Stalin had considered an ironclad partnership with the Führer. It was a shocking turning-point in the Second World War. The Allied reaction was twofold: delight that there was now a second front, but fears that the Red Army would be defeated. This would spell catastrophe for Britain and America.

In the wake of the Nazi invasion, a select team of British and Americans were given two vital goals: to befriend Joseph Stalin, hitherto an enemy of the Western powers, and to keep the Red Army fighting on the Eastern Front.

Full of vivid, intimate scenes between the Big Three wartime leaders, *The Stalin Affair* draws on private letters, secret reports and unpublished diaries to reveal a hitherto untold story of the path to Allied victory. It also provides a compelling, richly nuanced portrait of history's most complex and notorious dictator, Joseph Stalin.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Giles Milton is a writer and historian. He is the internationally bestselling author of eleven books including *Nathaniel's Nutmeg*, *White Gold*, *Samurai William*, *Paradise Lost*, *Russian Roulette*, *D-Day: The Soldier's Story* and *Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*. He has also written three novels and three children's books. His books have been translated into twenty-five languages.

Author lives in London, England.

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PORTRAITS AT THE PALACE OF CREATIVITY AND WRECKING Han Smith



An experimental, daring debut about a young woman who comes of age in a town that is reckoning with its past, for readers of *Milkman* and *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing*.

The almost daughter is almost normal because she knows how to know and also not know.

She knows and does not know, for instance, about the barracks by the athletics field, and about the lonely woman she visits each week. She knows - almost - about ghosts, and their ghosts, and she knows not to have questions about them. She knows to focus on being a woman: on training her body and dreaming only of escape.

Then, the almost daughter meets Oksana. Oksana is not even almost normal, and the questions she has are not normal at all.

Portraits at the Palace of Creativity and Wrecking is a story of seeing and part-seeing, of silence and speaking out, of conformation and confrontation, by an exhilarating new voice in fiction.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Han Smith grew up in Japan, Russia and elsewhere. A queer writer, translator and adult literacy teacher, Han is the recipient of a 2019/2020 London Writers Award, was shortlisted for the 2019 Mslexia Novella Award, the Bridport Prize and the Desperate Literature short story prize, and was longlisted for the Brick Lane short story prize. *Portraits at the Palace of Creativity and Wrecking* is her debut novel.

Author lives in London, England.

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BODIES Christine Anne Foley



It's not them.

It's me.

Johnny was my first. I was seventeen and I was only brave enough to talk to him after I'd had three vodkas. He was only brave enough to kiss me when no-one else was around.

Dave was different. We didn't go out or see friends. We were each other's world. Dave was all I needed. We were toxic before it became fashionable.

Kyle was my best friend. And that was the problem. Or at least that's what he said was the problem. Because friends can hook up but they can't date.

The first time I met Adam was at the hotel. He was wearing an Adidas tracksuit. Casual but cute. My friend told me that what I needed was some harmless Tinder fun. He was anything but harmless.

And then I met You. Maybe this time things would be different.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christine Anne Foley grew up in the beautiful town of Graignamanagh, Co.Kilkenny. She studied English Literature at Trinity College Dublin and completed a Masters in Creative Writing at Oxford University. Her work has appeared in literary journals, *Skirting Around, Neurological* and *Sonder* magazine. She currently lives in Dublin where she works part-time in the fashion industry. *Bodies* is her first novel.

Author lives in Dublin, Ireland.

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HOW TYRANTS FALL Marcel Dirsus



In the fight for freedom, we must not only understand how tyrants rise - but how they fall.

The history of humanity is mostly a history of tyrants. Safe in our democratic societies, it's easy to take freedom for granted. We shouldn't. Across the world, autocrats are scoping out territory to conquer and people to oppress, whilst established democracies flirt with strongman rule. To push back on tyranny in the twenty-first century, we need to learn how these dictators and despots gain power and, crucially, how they lose it.

How Tyrants Fall answers this urgent question. Drawing on extensive field research and over a hundred personal interviews with people in and around collapsed regimes, political scientist Marcel Dirsus explores the various conditions that spell the end for despots.

Even if, somehow, tyrants thread the needle to avoid both internal and external enemies, then eventually madness or old age comes for them all - and the way they meet their end determines the future of their nation

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Marcel Dirsus is a Non-Resident Fellow at the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University. He has advised democratic governments, foundations, multinational corporations and international organisations like NATO and the OECD. His writing has been featured by *Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Financial Times*, BBC, CNN, The Atlantic and Reuters.

Author lives in Germany.

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FIRST ENCOUNTERS How England and Mughal India Shaped the World Lubaaba Al-Azami



The dramatic century of England's first forays into India, and the modern world this relationship created.

First Encounters explores the broad diversity of the first English entrants to Indian shores, revealing a tempestuous and transformative period of England's mercantile and global birth against the backdrop of a rising Indian imperial power. The early interactions between England and India were not only crucial formative moments in the historic relationship between these two nations, but also helped forge some of England's most pivotal global connections.

Cultural historian Lubaaba Al-Azami offers a dramatic, engaging and eminently timely retelling of a long-forgotten story. Considerations of England's historic relationship with India too often fall victim to a narrative of western progress and inevitable domination over eastern empires. Al-Azami takes us on a lavish journey through the past, voyaging through the turbulent waves of history while recalibrating the present, to explore the historic relationship between Britain and India as it has never been seen before.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Lubaaba Al-Azami is a cultural historian and lecturer in Shakespeare and Early Modern Literature at the University of Manchester. Lubaaba is also Founding Editor of *Medieval and Early Modern Orients* (MEMOs, memorients.com), a transnational digital platform on premodern encounters between England and the Islamic Worlds.

Author lives in UK.

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SUNBIRDS Penelope Slocombe



One day, seven years ago, Anne's eighteen-year-old son Torran walked out of his hotel in the notorious Himalayan town of Manali – and disappeared.

Some say he had a run in with the local drug lords, others are convinced he joined an ashram or came to harm during a hike. All Anne knows is that she is unable to stop searching – for an answer to what happened, as well as for her son. Dealing with feelings of guilt and her own failings as a mother, she is still in India, haunted by the idea that someone must know something.

Then the first breakthrough in years comes with the unwanted arrival of Anne's niece Esther; Torran may be living in a hippie commune deep in the Himalayan foothills. Putting aside their differences, Esther and Anne set off into the mountains to find him. Along the way there is beauty and joy, forgiveness, and hope, missed opportunities and unconfirmed sightings. Anne begins to think that she'll never find the answers to her questions, but can this final journey at least bring her some sort of peace?

As is so often true in life, sometimes you go searching for one thing but end up finding something completely unexpected altogether.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Penelope Slocombe grew up in a New Age community (not a cult!) on a tiny Hebridean island (famous for featuring in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel Kidnapped) and has always been fascinated by people who choose to drop out of mainstream society to follow their own ideological or spiritual paths – all too often leaving loved ones behind, and not always telling them that they are going. She has lived and travelled extensively in India. She's an English Language teacher currently based in South London, with a Spanish husband and two small children. This is her debut novel.

Author lives in London, UK.

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BASKERVILLE



PAPER CAGE Tom Baragwanath



Both a nail-biting thriller and a beautifully written, acutely observed portrait of a community in crisis, *Paper Cage* is the award-winning debut from young New Zealand novelist Tom Baragwanath.

Shortlisted for Ngaio Marsh Awards 2023

Shortlisted for The Ned Kelly Awards 2023

Masterton, New Zealand may be a small town, but its residents are certainly not united. Old resentments and the simmering tensions of race and culture divide the Māori and white inhabitants, with everyone keeping to their own patch of turf. But when local children start to go missing, vanishing between the cracks, accusations are hurled, and community relations reach boiling point.

Caught in the middle is Lorraine Henry. She works as a lowly records clerk at the police station amongst towering piles of paperwork, quietly making connections and remembering things that the cops would rather not.

Solving cases is not part of her job, but when her great-nephew is the next to disappear, she must put her skills to the test as she is called in to help, all before time runs out for the children.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Baragwanath is a writer originally from New Zealand, currently living in Paris. His debut novel *Paper Cage* won the 2021 Michael Gifkins prize, and was released in Australia and New Zealand by Text Publishing. Between pastries, Tom is working on his next novel.

Author lives in Paris, France.

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THE RED HOLLOW Natalie Marlow



A dark and atmospheric 1930s-set historical crime novel, starring private detective William Garrett.

Deep in a hamlet in the Warwickshire countryside, Red Hollow Hall is a male-only sanitorium run by the charismatic psychiatrist Dr Moon. However, all is not well, and Dr Moon's patients are leaving Red Hollow in droves.

Recent disturbances, which originally appeared to be pranks, have descended into something more sinister, and now the men believe they have a malevolent visitor – the mermaid of Red Hollow. The ghost of a murdered girl, they believe the mermaid wreaks bloody revenge on unsuspecting men each time the hamlet floods.

When Private Enquiry agent, William Garrett, and freshly minted detective, Phyll Hall, are called in to uncover the identity of the intruder, they become trapped in a world of madness, the occult and grisly murder. A world where William must use all his strength to differentiate between the real-life monster haunting Red Hollow Hall and the monsters of the mind.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Natalie Marlow is an historical novelist with a fascination for the people and landscapes of the Midlands. Much of her writing takes inspiration from the stories her grandparents told. She holds an MA in Creative Writing (Crime Writing) from the University of East Anglia and is part-way through a PhD at Birkbeck, University of London.

Author lives in Warwickshire, England.

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THE STRANGER'S COMPANION Mary Horlock



A beguiling historical mystery set on the island of Sark and inspired by a real-life mystery, which remains unsolved to this day.

October 1933 Sark is the smallest of the Channel Islands. With a population of 500 souls it has a reputation for being 'the island where nothing ever happens'. Until, one day, the neatly folded clothes of an unknown man and woman are discovered abandoned at a coastal beauty spot.

The islanders speculate that some kind of bathing tragedy has occurred, but as the search for the missing couple catches the attention of first the local and then national newspapers, Sark finds itself front page news.

When young islander Phyllis Carey returns to Sark from England she throws herself into solving the mystery, reporting on the case under the moniker P. Carey. As Phyll digs through swirls of gossip in search of the truth she crosses paths with Everard Hyde, a surprise visitor from her past. As press coverage builds to fever pitch, long suppressed secrets from Phyll and Everard's shared, shadowy history begin to surface.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Horlock was born in Australia but brought up in Guernsey in the Channel Islands. She was previously a curator in contemporary art at Tate Liverpool and Tate Britain. Her first novel, *The Book of Lies*, was longlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award.

Author lives in London, England.

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BASIC BOOKS



THE ALTERNATIVE How to Build a Just Economy Nick Romeo



A provocative debunking of accepted economic wisdom which offers a new pathway to a sustainable, survivable economy.

Confronted by the devastating trends of the early twenty-first century widening inequality, environmental destruction, and millions of workers stuck in precarious, soul-destroying work – many economists, politicians and business leaders argue that there is no alternative. They cling to the dogmas that got us in this mess in the first place: private markets are more efficient than public ones; investment capital always flows where it is needed; inequality is an inevitable side effect of economic growth; people only behave well with the right incentives.

But a growing number of academic economists, business owners, policy entrepreneurs, and ordinary people are rejecting these myths and reshaping economies to reflect their ethical and social values. Journalist Nick Romeo, who covers the world's most innovative economic and policy ideas for the *New Yorker*, takes us on an extraordinary journey through the unforgettable stories and successes of people working to build economies that are more equal, just, and liveable. Combining original, in-depth reporting with expert analysis, Romeo explores everything from fair pricing in the Netherlands to large scale cooperatives in Spain to public sector marketplaces offering decent work and real protection to gig workers in California and demonstrates there is an alternative.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nick Romeo covers policy and ideas for the *New Yorker* and teaches in the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California. He has also written for the *New York Times, Washington Post, National Geographic, Rolling Stone, Atlantic, MIT Technology Review,* and many other venues

Author lives Athens, Greece.

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THE LONGEVITY IMPERATIVE Building a Better Society for Healthier, Longer Lives Andrew J. Scott

The Longevity Imperative

Building a Better Society for Healthier, Longer Lives

Andrew J. Scott



A leading expert on longevity calls for a revolution in the way we think about health, ageing, and the future . . .

The last century saw a revolution in life expectancy. Whether you are male or female, born in the global south or north, the chances are that you can expect to live much longer than previous generations. But instead of seeing this as a precious gift of extra life, we see it as a burden, with ageing populations dogged by infirmity, dependent on an ever-decreasing number of young people to support them.

Andrew Scott argues it doesn't have to be like that. Our longer lives can be a source of hope and fulfilment if we seize the opportunity to pursue the evergreen agenda, one in which we pursue a sustainable lifestyle both for ourselves as individuals - investing in our finances, health, skills and relationships to support a longer life - and for the planet.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew J. Scott is a professor of economics at London Business School, having previously taught at the University of Oxford and Harvard University. He is cofounder of *The Longevity Forum*, a consulting scholar at the Stanford Center on Longevity, and co-author of the global bestseller *The 100-Year Life*.

Author lives in London, UK.

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THE CIA: AN IMPERIAL HISTORY Hugh Wilford



A celebrated British historian of US intelligence explores how the CIA was born in anti-imperialist idealism but swiftly became an instrument of a new covert empire both in America and overseas.

As World War II ended, the United States stood as the dominant power on the world stage. In 1947, to support its new global status, it created the CIA to analyse foreign intelligence. But within a few years, the Agency was engaged in other operations: bolstering pro-American governments, overthrowing nationalist leaders, and surveilling anti-imperial dissenters in the US.

The Cold War was an obvious reason for this transformation - but not the only one. In *The CIA*, celebrated intelligence historian Hugh Wilford draws on decades of research to show the Agency as part of a larger picture, the history of Western empire.

Comprehensive, original, and gripping, *The CIA* is the story of the birth of a new imperial order in the shadows. It offers the most complete account yet of how America adopted unaccountable power and secrecy both at home and abroad.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and educated in the United Kingdom, Hugh Wilford taught at the University of Sheffield before moving to his current position as professor of United States History at California State University. A recipient of awards and fellowships on both sides of the Atlantic, he is the author of five books, including *America's Great Game: The CIA's Secret Arabists and the Shaping of the Modern Middle East* and *The Mighty Wurlitzer: How the CIA Played America*.

Author lives in California, USA.

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TWO ROADS



MY BEAUTIFUL SISTERS Khalida Popal



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Khalida Popal is an Afghan football player and director. She is the founder and director of Girl Power Organization, the Program and Event Director of the Afghanistan Women's National Football Team, Ambassador to Street Child World Cup, and the Event Manager & Mentor/ Refugee Consultant in COLUMN. She is also the former leader of the Afghanistan women's Football Committee, former Finance Officer of the Afghanistan Football Federation, and former captain of the Afghanistan Women's National Football Team.

Author lives in Copenhagen.

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A story of sisterhood and the fight for feminism in the age of the Taliban by exiled former team captain of the Afghanistan women's national football team.

In April 2020, Kabul fell to the Taliban. Overnight, life for women across Afghanistan changed. The national women's football team faced the imminent threat of execution, just for playing sport. Already in exile, former Captain Khalida Popal orchestrated a huge international evacuation strategy to get the players out of Kabul and into safety in the UK, Portugal and Australia. Khalida was taught how to play football by her mother even though women were not allowed to play sports. Despite daily attacks and persecution, she continued to play and twenty years later co-founded the woman's national team. Their training fields were bombed and the team were hounded daily, but they did not give up.

From growing up under the original Taliban regime, advocating for women's rights and exposing widespread sexual abuse in female sports – forcing FIFA and Interpol to act against the former president of the Afghan Football Association – to fleeing for her life and saving hundreds of women by smuggling them out of the country, this is the behind-the-scenes story of a woman turning to face her oppressors, for the women left behind.

HODDER FAITH



BLACK LITURGIES Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human Cole Arthur Riley



A stunning, all-new collection of prayers, poetry, and spiritual practices centring the Black interior world, from the *New York Times* bestselling author.

In the summer of 2020, Cole Arthur Riley was desperate for a spirituality she could trust. Amidst ongoing national racial violence, the isolation of the pandemic, and a surge of anti-Black rhetoric in many Christian spaces, she began dreaming of a harbour for a more human, more liberating expression of faith. She went on to create Black Liturgies, a digital project that connects spiritual practice with Black emotion, memory, and the Black body.

In this book, she deepens the work of that project, bringing together new prayers, letters, poetry, meditation questions, breath practice, and the writings of Black literary ancestors to offer 43 liturgies that can be practised individually or as a community. With a poet's touch and a sensitivity that has made her one of the most important spiritual voices at work today, Riley invites readers to reflect on their own experiences of wonder, rest, rage, and repair, while also including liturgies for holidays like Lent, Advent and Mother's Day.

For those healing from spiritual spaces that were more violent than loving; for those who have escaped the trauma of white Christian nationalism, religious homophobia, and transphobia; for anyone asking what it means to be human in a world of both beauty and terror; *Black Liturgies* is a work of healing and liberation, and a vision for what might be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born and for the most part raised in Pittsburgh, Cole studied Writing at the University of Pittsburgh. She once took a professor's advice very seriously to begin writing a little every day, and has followed it for nearly a decade.

Author lives in USA.

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MIND FUEL FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS Bear Grylls and Will Van Der Hart



The world's most recognised adventurer Bear Grylls offers brilliant tips and activities to help you build mental resilience in this fully illustrated and designed book for older children and teens.

Bear Grylls draws on his survival experience to share the principles that have helped him overcome fear, develop a positive mindset and live life with confidence.

Written with emotional health advocate Will Van Der Hart, MIND FUEL FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS offers you practical ways to help you to increase your resilience, combat stress and learn more about yourself.

Brilliantly illustrated throughout and including new introductions from Bear, the book explores topics like motivation, courage, relationships, self-care and determination. We've teamed up with children's experts to handpick the best bits of Bear's book for grownups – *Mind Fuel* – to create this relevant guide for whatever life throws at you.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Bear Grylls starred in Discovery's hit TV series *Man vs Wild* for seven seasons, before hosting the National Geographic Channel series, *Running Wild with Bear Grylls*. This show has seen him take global stars such as Julia Roberts, Ben Stiller and even President Obama on adventures into the wild.

Rev Will van der Hart is an experienced life coach and emotional health expert who speaks at a number of national forums. He is a mental health first aider and is passionate about equipping leaders to look after their own emotional health as well as those in their care.

Authors lives in UK.

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A GOOD LIFE Pope Francis



You are important. You are unique. You are a wonder of creation!

This is Pope Francis' message to you today. It is the departure point for your birth or rebirth, whatever form that may take; it is the glowing centre that sustains life, whatever your age. You are a wonder of creation!

Even when your face is lined with worries or fatigue, remember that you are always a light that shines through the night. This is the greatest gift you've ever received, and no one can take it away from you. Dream on! Never stop dreaming. Believe! Believe in even greater and more beautiful truths. Let yourself be surprised by love. This is what it means to Live Well. This is the greatest and most beautiful wish we can extend to each other.

Always.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The first Pope of the Americas, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, hails from Argentina. The 76-year-old Jesuit Archbishop of Buenos Aires is a prominent figure throughout the continent, yet remains a simple pastor who is deeply loved by his diocese, throughout which he travelled extensively on the underground and by bus during the 15 years of his episcopal ministry. He was elected Supreme Pontiff on 13 March 2013.

Author lives in Rome, Italy.

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Christianity



P IS FOR PILGRIM Stephen Cottrell



This A-Z of the Christian faith is written for beginners of all ages. You can read it if you're nine – or ninety!

As you explore the Christian faith, you will soon encounter some challenging words: Trinity, Sacrament, Reconciliation, Sin, Incarnation, even the word 'Christ' itself. It isn't Jesus's surname! It is a title with a meaning and history.

Sooner, or later, these words, and the ideas behind them, must be addressed and understood. It is simply not possible to be a Christian, without understanding sin and forgiveness, knowing what a sacrament is, or accepting Jesus as the Christ.

This book by the Archbishop of York is here to help. It explores and explains the key concepts and ideas that underpin the Christian faith.

I had assumed that someone else had already written a book like this. It seemed such an obvious thing to do. But while I could find weighty tomes on the topics explored here, I couldn't find a book which covered all these things in ways that were accessible, comprehensive and friendly: a simple book about complex things, one which just about anyone could read and find helpful.

So, I wrote one.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Cottrell is the Archbishop of York and was for almost ten years Bishop of Chelmsford; before that he was Bishop of Reading. He has worked in parishes in London and Chichester, as Canon Pastor of Peterborough Cathedral, as Missioner in the Wakefield diocese and as part of Springboard, the Archbishop of Canterbury's evangelism team.

Author lives in York, England.

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FULLY ALIVE Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times Elizabeth Oldfield



If the world really is ending, or at least expecting turbulent change, what kind of people will we need when it happens?

Using the seven deadly sins as a playful framework, popular podcaster Elizabeth Oldfield considers how to garden our inner lives so we grow towards developing the spiritual core strength necessary for when things fall apart.

How can I move from Sloth to Attention and make the most of my short life, focus on the most important things, and stop getting so distracted by trivialities. Is it possible to move from Wrath to Peacemaking? How do I become a depolarising person in an age of outrage, deepening tribalism and division?

What might it look like to move from Gluttony to Awe and find my highs, my moments of ecstasy, awe and transcendence in expansive, life-giving ways, not in the bottom of a tub of ice cream or a bottle of wine?

Deeply serious, yet amusingly relatable, this part memoir, part philosophical reflection on modern life is a thought-provoking, practical and hopeful read

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Oldfield is an established voice on matters of spirituality, identity, meaning and ethics, having appeared multiple times on BBC One, Radio 5 Live, Radio 4, and The World Service, and in Prospect, *The Times*, CNN, the *Guardian* and beyond. She has a regular column for UnHerd and presents The Sacred podcast which explores the deep values of a range of guests and is in the top 3% of British podcasts.

Author lives in London, UK.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Chris Moore ministers in the Church of England, in rural Herefordshire, and sits on General Synod. He is a Director of Wider Church Engagement for Church Society. David G. Peterson teaches at Cornhill Sydney and Moore College in Sydney, Australia. Formerly Principal of Oak Hill Theological College in London. Eric Ortlund is Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew at Oak Hill Theological College in London. He has written commentaries on Esther and Malachi, and two books on Job. Martin Salter is the Lead Pastor of Grace Community Church in Bedford and a trustee of Keswick Ministries.

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JOHN MURRAY ONE



FLIP YOUR LIFE How to Find Opportunity in Distress – In Real Estate, Business and Life Tarek El Moussa



Upgrade your life with these unique and inspiring self-help lessons from the world's most famous house flipper.

Tarek El Moussa – known to millions as the star of *Flip or Flop*, *Flipping 101 with Tarek El Moussa* and *The Flipping El Moussas* – shows how the principles that make him such a successful house flipper can also be applied to improving your personal life.

In *Flip Your Life*, Tarek uses his story – that of a lost young man trying to find his way in the world – to take you through the steps that will help you achieve your own goals. Whether in real estate or life, Tarek reveals his proven four-step process: Evaluate, Emulate, Renovate, Duplicate.

Tarek shows you how to identify your goals, find the people to help you accomplish them, and then make those first steps with confidence. Along the way, he reveals the man behind the beloved HGTV persona, and sheds light for the first time on pivotal moments in his life, from the very early days of his real estate career, filming *Flip or Flop* with his ex-wife Christina, to his earth-shattering bouts with thyroid and testicular cancer, a crippling back injury, his subsequent addiction to steroids, and his long and hard-earned path to recovery.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

When he is not filming his hit HGTV shows, Tarek El Moussa travels the world as an in-demand speaker sharing his experiences as a successful businessman, house flipper and a two-time cancer survivor. But El Moussa's no. 1 priority is being a hands-on dad and spending time with his children Taylor, Brayden and Tristan, and wife Heather Rae who stars on hit Netflix show *Selling Sunset*.

Author lives in USA.

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YOU ONLY DIE ONCE Jodi Wellman



A kick-in-the-pants wake-up call to start living meaningfully in light of how many Mondays you have left from longtime coach. positive psychology expert, and Penn Resilience Program instructor Jodi Wellman.

How many Mondays do you have left?

Does that question send you into a panic spiral, or are you convinced that, unlike everyone in the history of life on earth, you will somehow avoid the tragic end and live to tell the tale? Statistically, we get about 4,000 Mondays in our lifetime, so if you're halfway through your life, you might have roughly 2,000 Mondays to go. The good news is that you are in charge of how you spend those days!

You Only Die Once is a real-life guide to small changes that will reawaken your passion and curiosity for life. Packed with inspiring stories, charming illustrations, exercises, quizzes, quotes, and a step-bystep plan to awaken the liveliest version of you, You Only Die Once is the healthy dose of mortality you need to start living with urgency and meaning.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jodi Wellman is a former corporate executive turned executive coach. She has a Master's in Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, where she is an instructor in the Master's program and a trainer in the world-renowned Penn Resilience Program. She is a Professional Certified Coach with the ICF and a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach from CTI. She has coached and spoken with clients like American Express, Fidelity, pwc, Royal Bank of Canada, BMW, and more, and runs her own business, Four Thousand Mondays. She lives between Palm Springs and Chicago with her husband and cat, Andy.

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SECOND ACT What Late Bloomers Can Tell You About Success and Reinventing Your Life Henry Oliver



It is never too late to change your life. This fiercely intelligent overview of late-onset success will inspire you to reinvent yourself and live the life you deserve.

Our society tells us over and over that if we're going to achieve anything, we'd better do it while we're young. Whether we are at the start of our careers and sense we're on the wrong path, or feeling unsettled in our late or middle years, we all wonder how we can reinvent ourselves? Is it too late?

This book has answers. Late bloomers – individuals who experience significant success later in life – offer lessons for people who feel frustrated. After all, it's never too late to discover our hidden talents and our accomplish our goals – the road to success is never as straightforward as we are lead to believe.

This inspiring, passionate book combines wonderful storytelling with fascinating new research, to shift expectations around our life trajectories. You'll discover a range of blueprints for self-reinvention, pairing the newest insights from psychology and neuroscience with late bloomers' remarkable life stories.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Henry Oliver studied English at the University of Oxford, Law at BPP College, and Biography at the University of Buckingham. After a period as a Parliamentary researcher, he spent a decade as a global brand researcher and consultant in talent attraction. In 2022 he was awarded an Emergent Ventures grant by the prominent economist and thinker Tyler Cowen to fund a book about late bloomers and talent. His blog, *The Common Reader*, has five thousand subscribers and was named by Helen Lewis as one of her favourite Substacks.

Author lives in UK.

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THE GIFT OF EMPATHY How Generosity of Spirit can Transform your Life Imi Lo

The Gift of Empathy

How generosity of spirit can transform your life

Imi Lo

In a complex, chaotic, sometimes indifferent world, empathy is your key to being understood and understanding others. It might just change your life.

Empathy is that profound moment when we step into someone else's shoes, perceive the world through their eyes, and genuinely understand their emotions. It's the bridge connecting us and the compass guiding us toward deeper connections. Yet, despite knowing empathy's value, there are times when it seems just beyond our reach.

One of the most perplexing aspects of empathy is how we extend it to those who've harmed us and balance empathy with self-respect and our own emotional needs.

This book will help you cultivate empathy both for yourself and others, even in situations where it seems the most difficult thing to do. It is a guide to mend broken relationships, nurture deeper connections and enhance self-love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Imi Lo is a psychotherapist, trainer and consultant. She is the author of *Emotional Sensitivity* and *Intensity and The Gift of Intensity*. She has extensive international experience and she has worked for the National Health Service (UK), Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders, Samaritan Befrienders, and Mind.

Author lives in Hong Kong.

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CONTACTS

Managing Director nick.davies@johnmurrays.co.uk

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Middle East & North Africa

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Mainland China

Jenny Wang jenny.wang@hachette.co.uk Jingyi Cai jingyi.cai@hachette.co.uk

South Korea & Taiwan

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