

**John Murray Press
(Trade)**

**Frankfurt Book Fair
2021**

Rights Guide



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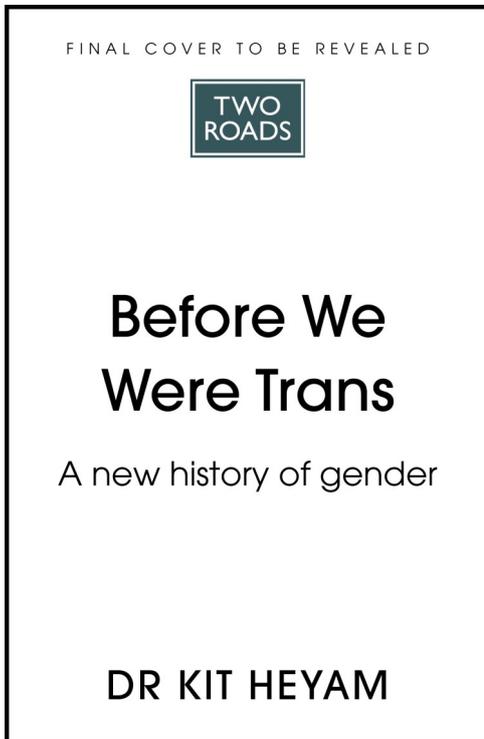
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BEFORE WE WERE TRANS

KIT HEYAM



Basic Books

Publication: June 2022

Editor: Kate Craigie

Length: 320

Across the world today, people of all ages are doing fascinating, creative, messy things with gender. These people have a rich history - but one that is often left behind by narratives of trans lives that focus on people with stable, binary, uncomplicated gender identities. As a result, these stories tend to be recent, binary, stereotyped, medicalised and white.

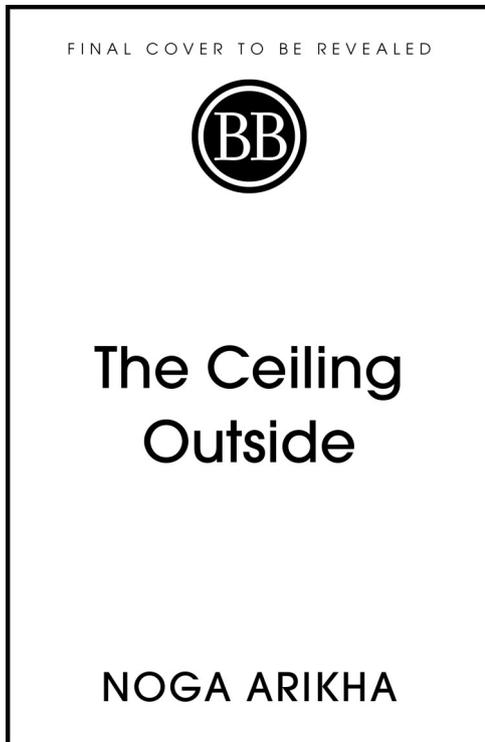
Before We Were Trans is a new and different story of gender, that seeks not to be comprehensive or definitive, but - by blending culture, feminism and politics, and drawing on the author's own experience of transition and gender non-binarism - to widen the scope of what we think of as trans history by telling the stories of people across the globe whose experience of gender has been transgressive, or not characterised by stability or binary categories.

Transporting us from Renaissance Venice to seventeenth-century Angola, from Edo Japan to North America, the stories this book tells leave questions and resist conclusions. They are fraught with ambiguity, and defy modern Western terminology and categories - not least the category of 'trans' itself. But telling them provides a history that reflects the richness of modern trans reality more closely than any previously written.

Kit Heyam is a university lecturer, a queer history activist, and a trans awareness trainer who has worked with organisations across the UK. They have been committed to queer history since their teens, when they found the sense of community they were lacking by identifying with queer figures from the past, and their first book, *The Reputation of Edward II, 1305-1697: A Literary Transformation of History*, was the first account of how fourteenth-century English king Edward II acquired his queer reputation. They live in Leeds with their partner Alex.

THE CEILING OUTSIDE

NOGA ARIKHA



The Ceiling Outside is a philosopher's moving investigation of her mother's mental illness and the way we understand identity. Neuroscientific research into interoception, how our sense of self is developed through the body as well as the mind, offers valuable insight into how mental illness can disrupt our lives. Alongside the stories of psychiatric patients - Vanessa, who has lost ten years of memories in an instant; Toussaint, haunted by voices; Thomas, who no longer knows how to answer questions - unfolds her mother's experience with Alzheimer's, as Arikha explores the ways scientific knowledge can be enriched by a greater understanding of the shifting boundaries between body, mind, and the ever-changing nature of consciousness.

Basic Books

Publication: April 2022

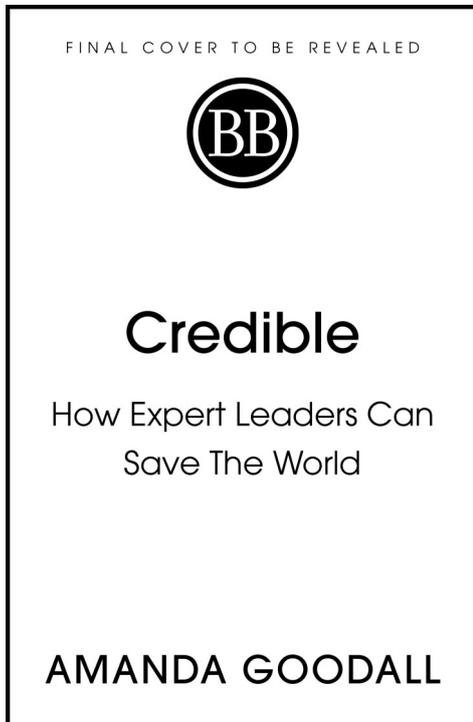
Editor: Sarah Caro

Length: 256

Noga Arikha is a philosopher, historian of ideas and science humanist. She is an Associate Fellow of the Warburg Institute, Research Associate at the Institut Jean Nicod, and member of the SPHERE Research Unit. Her first book, *Passions and Tempers*, was a New York Times Review Editor's Choice and one of the Washington Post Best Non-Fiction Books. Her second, co-authored with her husband Marcello Simonetta, was *Napoleon and the Rebel*.

CREDIBLE

AMANDA GOODALL



Credible is a powerfully argued response to the backlash against expertise which swept like a tsunami through much of the western world post-2016. Based on over 10 years of painstaking research in hospitals and football changing rooms, in universities and legal firms it demonstrates categorically that expertise does matter, that we need experts and in particular, we need our leaders to be experts. The most successful leaders have credibility because of a deep understanding of their organisations derived from many years spent learning the business and working their way up the corporate ladder. The people who work for them are happier because they feel better understood and the businesses they lead are more successful than those led by general managers. Goodall identifies the key characteristics of expert leaders and proposes a new model for career development which can be summed up as "go deep into a business, work hard, pay attention, and know your stuff." It may not be glamorous, but it's the real-and grossly underappreciated-recipe for success.

Basic Books

**Publication: September/
October 2022**

Editor: Sarah Caro

Length: 272

Amanda Goodall is an Associate Professor at Cass Business school and has been researching, publishing and communicating on this topic for 10 years. She is an experienced media performer and has extensive international media contacts. Her first book *Socrates in the Boardroom* (PUP, 2009) was widely praised.

DOWN TO EARTH ASTRONOMY

EMMA CHAPMAN



John Murray

Publication: August 2023

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 336

Rights Sold:

US (Basic Books)

'In the beginning, I chose physics as my field of study mainly because I didn't have a clue about it. I had found a book on the subject in the local library and, while my mind was blown with time travel and invisibility cloaks, I didn't understand anything apart from the overarching ideas. So I went to university to figure it out. Within my course I then had my mind blown again, this time by cosmology. How could the Universe be that big? And that old? How could it be expanding due to some mysterious energy, and how could something we have never detected, dark matter, make up 85% of the mass in the Universe? So much to learn! I still don't understand it all, and these are the messages I love conveying to the public: The Universe is mind-blowingly awesome... and there are endless questions to answer, producing endless excitement'.

'This book will tap into that enthusiasm and address a niche of astronomy that has been little covered: radio astronomy. It will introduce it by connecting to so many of the discoveries that we have made about our Universe in the past 80 years, the time since radio astronomy begun in earnest. I am ideally placed to write this book because I am a radio astronomer and a cosmologist. I study the Universe in its broadest terms: how it began, how it evolved and how that led to all we see today. And I use radio telescopes to do it. I use both a modern European telescope called LOFAR but am also involved in the development of the soon-to-be-deployed Square Kilometre Array. I hold a chair position within the first stars SKA science working group and have led an international team of scientists in determining the best layout of the 130,000 antennas, in order to maximise first stars science. I am one of the best-placed people in the world to keep up with both current and future radio astronomy work'.

EMMA CHAPMAN is an author, an award-winning astrophysicist and a Royal Society Fellow based at Imperial College London. Her research involves looking for the first stars to exist in our Universe using radio telescopes.

ESCAPE FROM MODEL LAND

ERICA THOMPSON



Basic Books

Publication: November 2022

Editor: Sarah Caro

Length: 256

Rights Sold:

US (Basic Books)

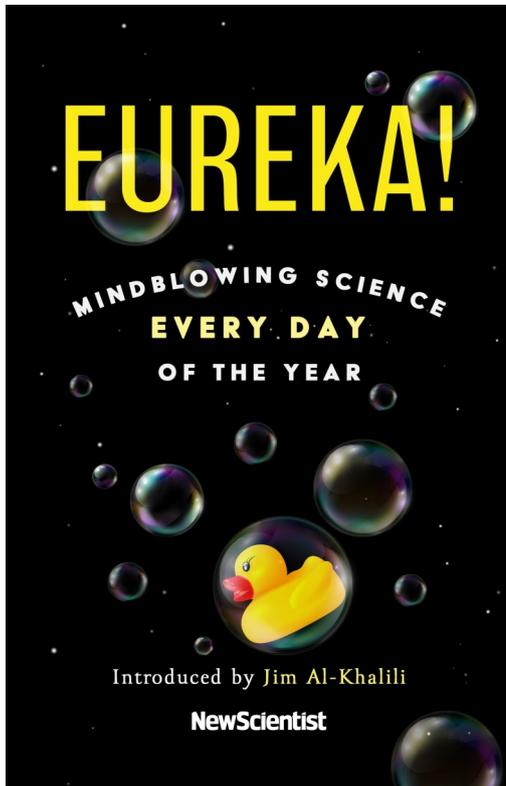
Explores the dangers of models when they are misunderstood and what we need to do to understand and use them correctly

Models have been very much in the news recently - usually at the centre of heated debates about their validity and with a renewed awareness of the disastrous consequences when the makers and interpreters of models get things wrong: think herd immunity; the financial crisis. But models are also vital to economics and all areas of modern science, they are like metaphors that help scientists simplify and codify the elements of a problem in order to properly understand it. Without models, however flawed they are often are, we would not be able to tackle the three major challenges facing modern society - the regulation of the economy, the control of COVID 19 and tackling climate change. Drawing on well publicised contemporary examples from all three areas, the author seeks to explain what models are, why we need them, how they work and what happens when they go wrong. This is not a book that argues we should do away with models but rather that we need to properly understand how they are constructed and in particular how some of the assumptions that underlie the models we use can have significant unintended consequences.

Erica Thompson is a Senior Policy Fellow at the LSE Data Institute. She has a particular interest in real-world applications of modelling methods, having worked with humanitarian NGOs, insurance practitioners, UK government departments and other partners. This will be her first book.

EUREKA!

NEW SCIENTIST



John Murray

Publication: November 2021

Editor: Abigail Scruby

Length: 416

Shout 'Eureka!' all year round with this bumper new gift book from New Scientist: find out why flamingos are pink, why we get morning breath, how to measure the speed of light with a chocolate bar and does anything really eat wasps? Introduced by JIM AL-KHALILI.

Could you surf down an erupting volcano?

Are there any green mammals?

Why do pineapples have spikes?

Why do songs get stuck in your head?

What happens when black holes collide?

New Scientist has been a treasure trove of fascinating and surprising questions and answers for over a decade. From how to measure the speed of light using chocolate, to why dogs howl at sirens, Eureka! brings together 365 mindblowing questions, fascinating facts and exciting experiments.

If you've ever wondered how to escape quicksand, what would happen if the moon vanished, and why cats (nearly) always land on their feet, you've come to the right place.

Since 1956, New Scientist has established a world-beating reputation for exploring and uncovering the latest developments and discoveries in science and technology, placing them in context and exploring what they mean for the future. Each week through a variety of different channels, including print, online, social media and more, New Scientist reaches over 5 million highly engaged readers around the world.

HOW THE MIND CHANGED

DR JOSEPH JEBELLI



No other life form on the planet has generated a brain like ours. How did a bundle of cells weighing just 1.2 kg give rise to conscious, self-aware beings capable of understanding time, language, mathematics and music, of exploring outer space and sequencing their own DNA? The answer to such questions is a 7 million year saga.

How the Mind Changed: A Human History of Our Evolving Brain is the definitive book on human brain evolution: a sweeping natural history. Beginning with the first primate brain and the rise of our present-day, large human brain, it will describe the remarkable origin of our species' most mysterious organ, how it has developed, and how it will change in the future. To study the brain is to study the essence of what makes us human.

John Murray

Publication: May 2022

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 320

Rights Sold:

US (Little, Brown)

Option Publishers:

Brazil (Planeta)

China—simplified (China Science & Technology Press)

China—traditional (Gusa Walker Cultural Enterprise)

Israel (Modan)

Italy (Mondadori)

Korea (Soo Woo Joo)

Netherlands (Uitgeverij Balans)

Portugal (2020 Editora)

Russia (AST)

Spain (Ediciones de Intervencion Cultural SL)

Joseph Jebelli is a 32-year-old British neuroscientist and writer. He obtained his PhD in Neurobiology from the Institute of Neurology, University College London (UCL). He then worked as a research scientist at the University of Washington, United States. He has written for the Guardian and the Wellcome Trust. His first book, *In Pursuit of Memory*, was longlisted for the Wellcome Prize and shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Prize.

LAPIDARIUM

HETTIE JUDAH



John Murray

Publication: October 2022

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 336

Rights Sold:

US (Viking)

Lapidarium tells the surprising stories of the 75 most fascinating stones, from the red ground **hematite** which provided pigment to our cave-painting ancestors and the **amethyst** that the Romans carved into goblets, thinking it would cure drunkenness, to the **Iceland spar** that medieval sailors used to navigate before compasses, and the heart-warming story behind the **mother of pearl** buttons which adorn Pearly Kings and Queens.

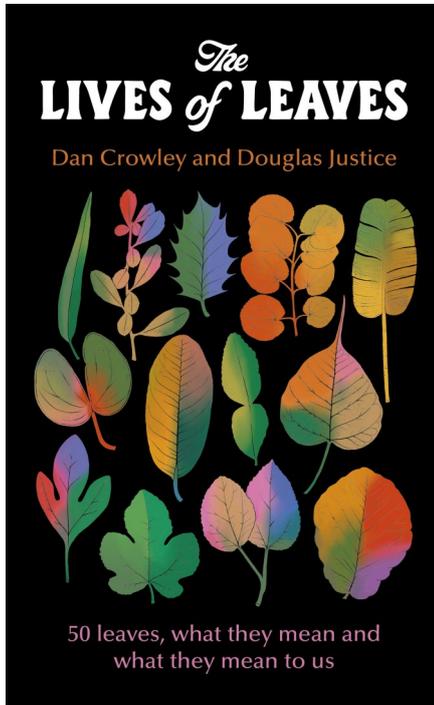
Journeying through the realms of art, myth, geology, philosophy and power, from the Stone Age onwards, *Lapidarium* is the dazzling, globe-spanning story of humanity, told through the minerals and materials that have allowed us to evolve and create.

HETTIE JUDAH is one of Britain's leading writers on art. She is the senior critic on the *i*, contributing editor to *The Plant*, and writes regularly for the *Guardian*, *Vogue*, *Frieze*, and the *New York Times*. She is also a sought-after public speaker. Her recent books include *Art London* (ACC Art Books, 2019) and *Frida Kahlo* (Laurence King, 2020). She has long been fascinated by stones: writing an introduction to *Emerald* (Thames & Hudson) and about jewellery for the *Financial Times*. She lives in London.

www.hettiejudah.co.uk

THE LIVES OF LEAVES

DAN CROWLEY AND DOUGLAS JUSTICE



A beautifully illustrated and curated compendium of leaves from around the world. Organised by leaf shape, it tells the stories, science and history of that leaf, from sugar maple and how leaves turn red, to ginkgo and how leaves are used as medicine.

Full of fascinating science and very accessible - *The Lives of Leaves* is the perfect companion for readers who appreciate, or are waking up to, the wonder of nature, and who want to get to know it better.

Two Roads

Publication: September 2021

Editor: Kate Hewson

Length: 336

Dan Crowley (Author)

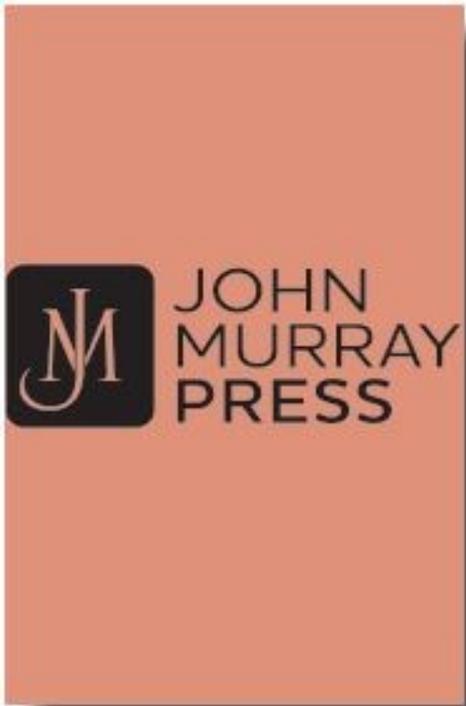
Dan Crowley is a dendrologist and biological consultant who has worked for the Forestry Commission and Westonbirt Arboretum. He is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Douglas Justice (Author)

Douglas Justice is associate director and curator of collections at UBC Botanical Garden. He is an advocate for trees and the conservation of natural ecosystems.

A NASTY LITTLE WAR: THE WESTERN FIGHT TO REVERSE THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

ANNA REID



John Murray

Publication: August 2022

Editor: Joe Zigmund

Length: 400

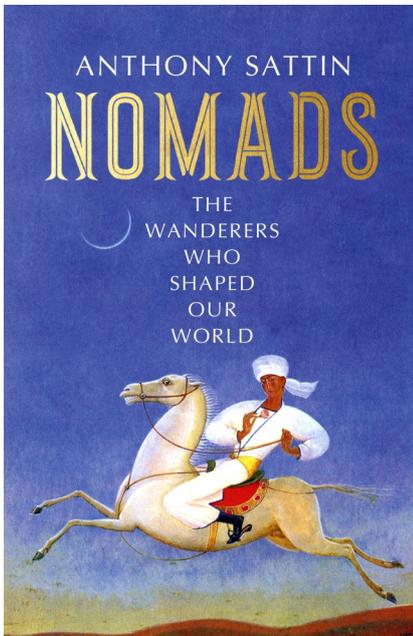
In the closing months of WW1, with the world exhausted and depleted by a long a brutal war, fifteen nations cobbled together an army of nearly 200,000 men and embarked on one of the most extraordinary and ambitious military ventures of the twentieth century. The Intervention in Russia's civil war was spearheaded by Britain, her colonial forces and allies. It was designed to stop the Bolsheviks in their tracks, reinstate conservative regimes in the Russian Empire and ensure that Germany did not fill the power vacuum which the Russian Revolution had created. Eighteen months later - after a long and bloody conflict between the Reds and the Whites, the execution of the former tsar and his family, and brutal famine - the British, American and French forces marched out again, surrendering to the unstoppable force of Soviet power. They sent thousands of White Russians into exile, and left death, starvation, destruction and mass pogroms in their wake.

Weaving the story together through the diaries, letters, and news reports of many of the participants this is a war of wildly contrasting fronts. A war of private armies and terrible communication, with participants freezing in bunkhouses or gorging on caviar at balls, riding into towns on steam trains or raiding naval bases in speed boats, inventing currencies, fishing for salmon and leading long straggling lines of typhus-infected refugees to safety, as well as bloody fighting. Few have acknowledged the Intervention since. When the smoke had cleared, Soviet propagandists had a field day with it; mythologizing the arrogance and incompetence of the British alongside their fat and be-medalled White allies. For the two million White Russians who emigrated following the Revolution it was the great betrayal. In Western versions, it was easier to pretend the catastrophe had never occurred. The Russia Stunt sets history straight, peopling the battlefield with unforgettable character as it brings this tragic failure to life.

Anna Reid holds a master's degree in Russian history and reform economics from London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies. She was the Kiev correspondent for the Economist and is the author of three critically acclaimed books: *The Shaman's Coat: A Native History of Siberia*; *Borderland: A Journey through the History of the Ukraine* and *Leningrad: Tragedy of a City under Siege, 1941-44*. She now lives in London.

NOMADS

ANTHONY SATTIN



John Murray

Publication: May 2022

Editor: Joe Zigmond and

Nick Davies

Length: 352

Rights Sold:

US (Norton)

**Korea (Kachi Publishing
Co. Ltd.)**

Option Publishers:

France (Noir sur Blanc)

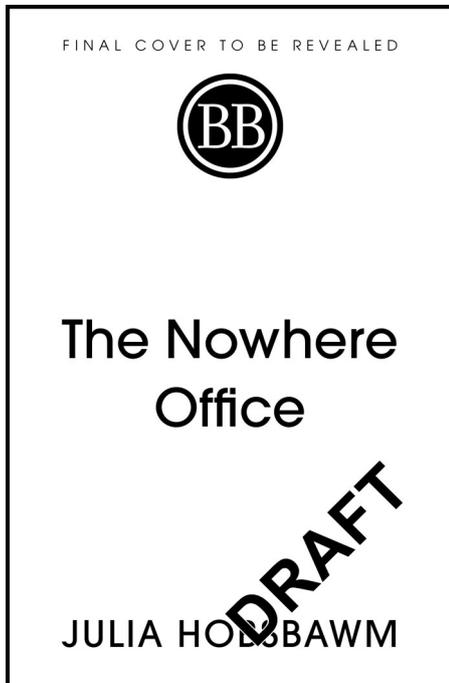
Moving across millennia, *Nomads* explores the transformative and often bloody relationship between settled and mobile societies. Often overlooked in history, the story of the umbilical connections between these two very different ways of living presents a radical new view of human civilisation. From the Neolithic revolution to the 21st century via the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, the great nomadic empires of the Arabs and Mongols, the Mughals and the development of the Silk Road, nomads have been a perpetual counterbalance to the empires created by the power of human cities.

Exploring the evolutionary biology and psychology of restlessness that makes us human, Anthony Sattin's sweeping history charts the power of nomadism from before the Bible, to its decline in the present day. Connecting us to mythology and the records of antiquity, *Nomads* explains why we leave home, and why we like to return again. This is the history of civilisation as told through its outsiders.

Anthony Sattin has been described as one of the key influences on travel writing today. His highly acclaimed books include *A Winter on the Nile* and *Young Lawrence*. His award-winning journalism has appeared regularly in the *Guardian*, *Observer*, *Sunday Times*, *FT*, *Daily Telegraph* and publications around the world including *Wall Street Journal*, *Al-Ahram* and *Al Jazeera*. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, editorial advisor on *Geographical Magazine* and a contributing editor to *Conde Nast Traveller*.

THE NOWHERE OFFICE

JULIA HOBBSAWM



As remote working becomes the norm rather than the exception for many office workers around the globe, *The Nowhere Office* offers a strategic and practical guide to negotiating this pivotal moment in the history of work. It addresses the inherent problems which beset work - the endemic stagnant productivity and crisis of stress which predate the pandemic - and argues that now is the time to develop something better, more meaningful, and more workable. Drawing on history, culture, personal accounts and contemporary research *The Nowhere Office* proposes a radical new way of thinking about work both now and in the future.

Basic Books

Publication: February 2022

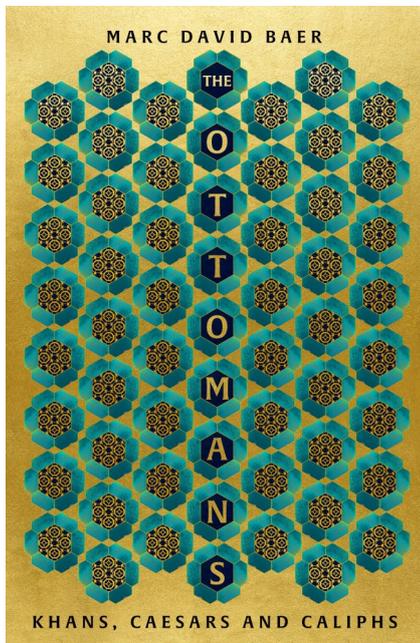
Editor: Sarah Caro

Length: 176

Julia Hobsbawm is an entrepreneur, writer, and consultant. She is Chair of The Workshift Commission and Founder and Chair of Editorial Intelligence. Her book *The Simplicity Principle* won Best Business Book and Best Self-Help Book of 2020 whilst *Fully Connected* was shortlisted for Management Book of the Year. She was awarded an OBE for services to business and regularly speaks to global audiences in government, public and private sectors.

THE OTTOMANS

MARC DAVID BAER



Basic Books

Publication: October 2021

Editor: Joe Zigmond

Length: 560

Rights Sold:

US (Basic Books)

China—simplified (Dook Media Group)

Sweden (Natur och Kultur)

'A superb, gripping and refreshing new history - finely written and filled with fascinating characters and analysis - that places the dynasty where it belongs: at the centre of European history' - Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of *The Romanovs* and *Jerusalem*

The Ottoman Empire has long been depicted as the Islamic-Asian antithesis of the Christian-European West. But the reality was starkly different: the Ottomans' multiethnic, multilingual, and multireligious domain reached deep into Europe's heart. In their breadth and versatility, the Ottoman rulers saw themselves as the new Romans.

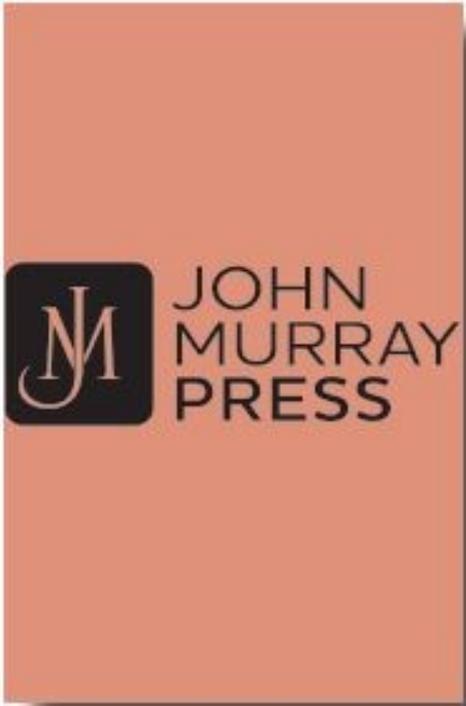
Recounting the Ottomans' remarkable rise from a frontier principality to a world empire, Marc David Baer traces their debts to their Turkish, Mongolian, Islamic and Byzantine heritage; how they used both religious toleration and conversion to integrate conquered peoples; and how, in the nineteenth century, they embraced exclusivity, leading to ethnic cleansing, genocide, and the dynasty's demise after the First World War. Upending Western concepts of the Renaissance, the Age of Exploration, the Reformation, this account challenges our understandings of sexuality, orientalism and genocide.

Radically retelling their remarkable story, *The Ottomans* is a magisterial portrait of a dynastic power, and the first to truly capture its cross-fertilisation between East and West.

Marc David Baer is professor of Middle Eastern and European History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is the author of five books, including *Honored by the Glory of Islam: Conversion and Conquest in Ottoman Europe*, which won the Albert Hourani Prize.

THE SNOW HARE

PAULA LICHTAROWICZ



John Murray

Publication: February 2023

Editor: Jocasta Hamilton

Length: 336

Rights Sold:

US (Little, Brown)

Inspired by the author's grandmother, *THE SNOW HARE* is a beautiful, wrenching novel about love and consequences and our incredible capacity for finding joy and cultivating hope in the darkest of times.

As Lena is dying, scenes from her storied life return to her: she sees the earnest young girl determined to become a doctor; the reluctant wife of an army officer; the baby daughter that changed her. She sees her Polish town transformed almost overnight by the Soviets and whispers of war are quickly followed by Lena and her family, now deemed Enemies of the State, being sent to Siberia.

Here, in the bitterly cold, endless forest, despite a constant hunger and back-breaking work, Lena falls in love for the first time. But the choices she makes will haunt her for the rest of her life.

Paula Lichtarowicz: 'This is a deeply personal novel based on my beloved *babcia's* journey from Southern Poland to Britain, by way of Siberia, during the Second World War. It was a journey that involved hardship and heartbreak almost beyond my understanding, and a story she could only bear to tell towards the end of her life. In reinterpreting my grandmother's experiences, *The Snow Hare* became about the choices we make when we feel we have no choice, and the decisions we take, even in the grimmest of circumstances, to be fully human. I like to think *Baba* – irrepressible, indomitable, a displaced survivor like so many, - would approve.'

STREET PHILOSOPHY

NIGEL WARBURTON



An accessible and practical guide to the way philosophical ideas underlie every aspect of our lives.

What is philosophy and how can it help us think about questions that matter? In Fifth Century Athens, Socrates discussed ideas with ordinary people in the marketplace. He wanted to get a clear sense of the most important questions people ask about the topics that matter to them, and in particular how we should live.

In this short, lively and accessible book, Nigel Warburton uses a walk along a city street to frame a series of philosophical explorations and discussions, from questions about the limits of individual responsibility in relation to careless driving, to the question of what makes a stencil-painted mural by Banksy a work of art. The author focusses on the city street because the experiences he describes are universal, and the issues that arise from thinking about this sort of public space very quickly get into some of the most interesting and important philosophical questions about how we should live and what we value in life.

The proposal consists of 10 chapters plus introduction and conclusion that cover topics such as reckless driving (moral luck), homelessness (inequality), surveillance (privacy) and pollution (duties to present and future generations) and street art. Each chapter opens with at least one real life example of a situation taken from the international news, but there will also be thought experiments too and a discussion of the benefits and limitations of using imaginary cases.

Nigel Warburton is a freelance philosopher, writer, and podcaster. Best known as the co-founder and main interviewer for the Philosophy Bites podcast (which has had over 42 million downloads worldwide), he is the author and editor of many books, including the bestseller *A Little History of Philosophy*, *Philosophy: the Basics* (5th edn), *Philosophy: The Classics* (4th edn), *Thinking from A to Z* 3rd edn (a book about critical thinking recently recommended reading for Steven Pinker's Harvard Rationality course), *Philosophy: The Essential Study Skills*, *Free Speech a Very Short Introduction*, and *The Art Question*. He is also a consultant Senior Editor for the online magazine *Aeon.co*. His books have been translated into more than 20 languages. On Twitter as @philosophybites he has over 90,000 followers.

Basic Books

Publication: TBA

Editor: Sarah Caro

Length: 320

Markets sold:

US (Basic Books)

Italy (Einaudi)

WOMEN IN WAR

SARAH PERCY



Basic Books

Publication: March 2023

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 400

Rights Sold:

US (Basic Books)

The army and the battlefield have been traditionally been seen as exclusively male environments (with the occasional female military leader such as Boudicca or Joan of Arc) but this is far from the truth.

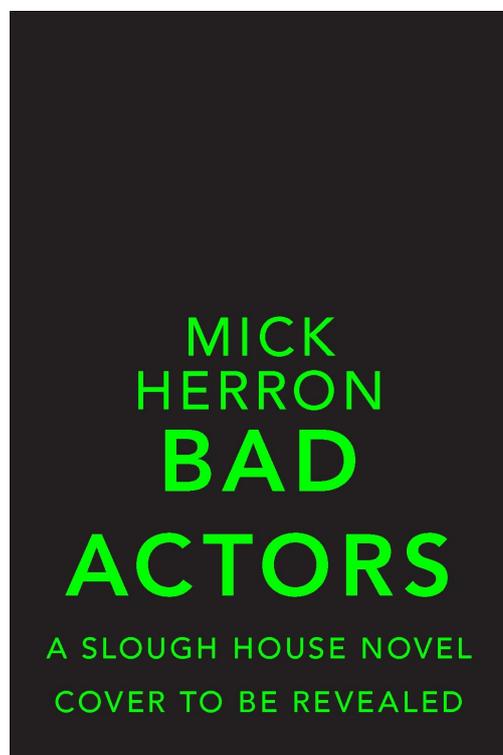
In this fascinating book, Sarah Percy tells the surprising, often heroic stories of the women who were determined to fight on the frontline and how they managed to do it. From Amy Johnson, a 27-year-old pilot who became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia to Marina Raskova, a Soviet who persuaded Stalin to create all-female air combat regiments – and by the end of the war, the Soviet Union had mobilized more women fighters than any other nation.

Examining the history of war reveals that women have fought on the battlefield as leaders of men; while dressed as men; and alongside men. Women have fought well: women have also fought badly – in short, they've fought just as men have fought. *Women in War* illuminates *why* women were allowed to fight, the way militaries organize, the way war is fought, and the significance of ideas about gender within societies of the time.

Former Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, **SARAH PERCY** is currently Associate Professor at the University of Queensland. *MERCENARIES*, her previous book, was published by OUP. This is her first trade book.

BAD ACTORS

MICK HERRON



John Murray

Publication: May 2022

Editor: Yassine Belkacemi

Length: 352

Previous Publishers:

Bulgaria (Ciela Norma)

Denmark (Olga)

Estonia (Kirjastus Varrak)

Finland (Docendo)

Germany (Diogenes)

Hungary (General Press Könyvkiadó)

Israel (Lesá Press)

Italy (Feltrinelli)

Netherlands (Prometheus)

Norway (Aschehoug)

Poland (Insignis)

Portugal (Presença)

Russia (Azbooka-Atticus)

Slovenia: Učila

Sweden@ Modernitsa

INTELLIGENCE HAS A NEW HOME

A governmental think-tank, whose remit is to curb the independence of the intelligence service, has lost one of its key members, and Claude Whelan-one-time head of MI5's Regent's Park-is tasked with tracking her down. But the trail leads straight back to the Park itself, with Diana Taverner as chief suspect. Has Diana overplayed her hand at last? What's her counterpart, Moscow's First Desk, doing in London? And does Jackson Lamb know more than he's telling?

Over at Slough House, with Shirley Dander in rehab, Roddy Ho in dress rehearsal, and new recruit Ashley Khan turning up the heat, the slow horses are doing what they do best, and adding a little bit of chaos to an already unstable situation . . .

There are bad actors everywhere, and they usually get their come-uppance before the credits roll. But politics is a dirty business, and in a world where lying, cheating and backstabbing are the norm, sometimes the good guys can find themselves outgunned.

'Herron has certainly devised the most completely realised espionage universe since that peopled by George Smiley' *The Times*

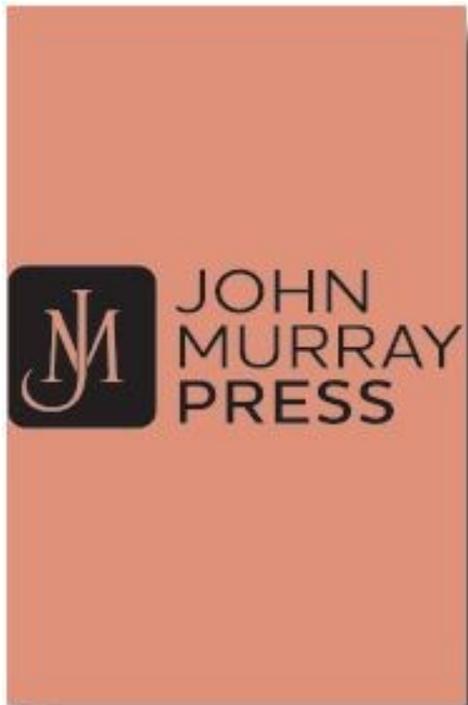
'Herron's novels are genuinely thrilling' *Daily Telegraph*

'Britain's finest living thriller writer' *Sunday Express*

Mick Herron is the author of the bestselling Slough House novels, which have won two CWA Daggers, been published in 20 languages, and are the basis of a major forthcoming TV series starring Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb. He is also the author of the Zoë Boehm series, and the standalone novels *Reconstruction* and *This is What Happened*. Mick was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, and now lives in Oxford.

CATCHLIGHTS

NIAMH PRIOR



JM Originals

Publication: June 2022

Editor: Becky Walsh

Length: 320

A young Irish vagrant with a strange talent wanders Kew Gardens. She knows that the weather won't be dry tomorrow, and the impending rain casts her mind back to a riverbank, where a leery fisherman once asked her to turn and grab his net for him.

The same fisherman, years later, runs into a shy childhood friend and becomes smitten with his new wife. She is drawn to his boldness and his confidence - but is it enough for him? She will leave home for a walk one day and never return - and her husband's reveries will come crashing down.

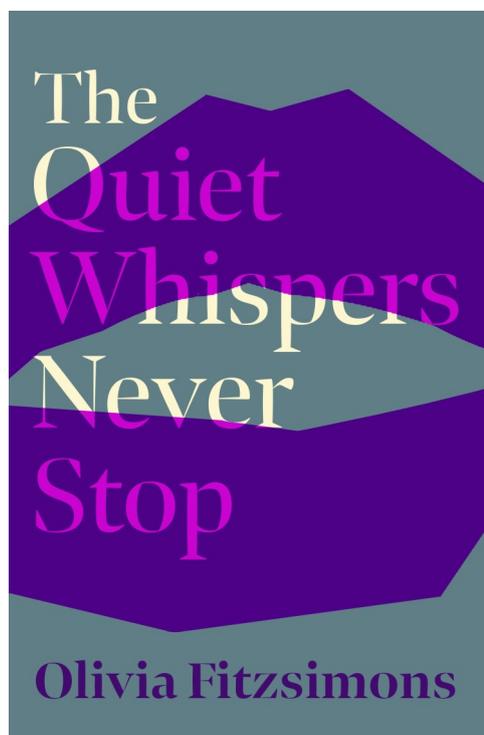
In another time, in another place, a photographer notices two ghostly latent figures on pictures developed from his vintage reflex lens - a cheerful woman and a grizzled, intimidating man. The images become clearer with each expensive roll of film, but his dogged investigation of this mystery could cost him his livelihood and his love.

So pool out the lives in *Catchlights*: the past contains the present and future; shallow and deep acts of cruelty, love, selfishness and kindness reverberate for years, across continents. *Catchlights* sets the innocence of childhood against the violence of adulthood, the joys of a passion against the horrors of an obsession, and the reality of death against the magic of life.

Niamh Prior studied English with Film and TV Studies at Brunel University London, and later Creative Writing at University College Cork where her PhD was funded by the Irish Research Council. Her poetry and fiction have been published in journals including *Penny Dreadful*, *Southword* and the *Stinging Fly*. She lives near the sea in County Cork.

THE QUIET WHISPERS NEVER STOP

OLIVIA FITZSIMONS



John Murray

Publication: April 2022

Editor: Becky Walsh

Length: 320

There's a whole fucking generation washed with this trauma from the moment they were born, by a fault of geography, a misstep that colours our whole lives ... how can we ever mend ourselves? Men get fixed first. Or they are allowed not to be fixed. To make mistakes. Women mend. Support. Accept. Men tell us all the stories about ourselves. Even the good ones. Especially the bad ones. Create tight circles of need.

What is it like to step outside all of that? To escape?

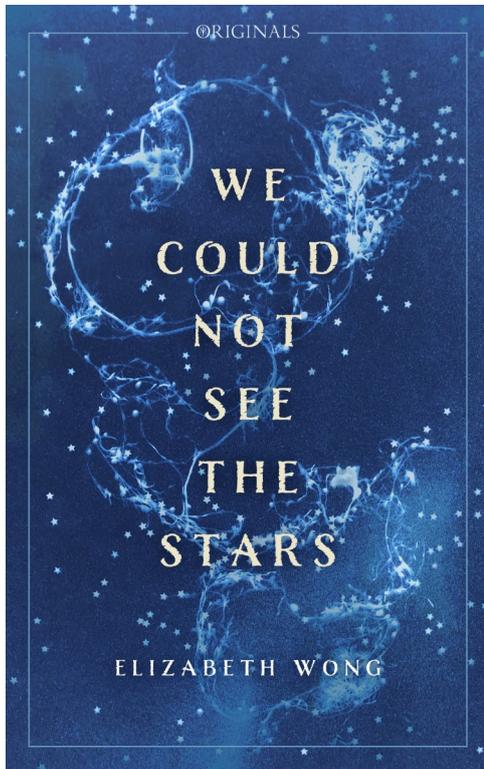
In 1982, Nuala Malin struggles to stay connected, to her husband, to motherhood, to the smallness of her life in the belly of a place that is built on hate and stagnation. Her daughter Sam and baby son PJ keep her tethered to this life she doesn't want. She finds unexpected refuge with a seventeen-year-old boy, but this relationship is only temporary, a sticking plaster on a festering wound. It cannot last and when her chance to leave comes, Nuala takes it.

In 1994, Sam Malin plans escape. She longs for a life outside her dysfunctional family, far away from rural Northern Ireland and all its troubles, free from her quiet brooding father Patsy, who never talks about her mother, Nuala; a woman Sam barely knew, who abandoned them twelve years ago. She finds solace in music, drugs and her best friend Becca, but most of all in an illicit relationship with a jagged, magnetic older man. She is drawn to him, and he to her, in a way she can't yet comprehend. Sam is more like her mother than she knows.

Olivia Fitzsimons is from County Down, Northern Ireland and now lives in Wicklow, but never lost her accent. She is the recipient of a literary bursary from The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and a SIAP Award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Her debut, *The Quiet Whispers Never Stop*, was an Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair Winner for 2020. She works as a screenwriter and in film development.

WE COULD NOT SEE THE STARS

ELIZABETH WONG



JM Originals

Publication: July 2021

Editor: Becky Walsh

Length: 336

Han was contemplative. Nothing that he had seen so far answered his questions about where his mama and he came from. Who they were. He was sad for his mama, and for himself, for not only did he not know her, he didn't even know the person whom she had become. And then, what of the people that led to him? His mama's father, his mama's mother, his mama's father's father, his mama's father's mother - the list went on and on, the people he did not know, the stories they had not told him, the names that they had lost. 'No people, only ghosts here,' he whispered.

Han's uneventful life in a sleepy fishing village is disturbed when a strange man arrives, asking questions about Han's mother. Han doesn't trust Mr Ng, but his cousin Chong Meng is impressed with the stories of his travels and tales of a golden tower. Together they steal the only thing Han has left to remember his mother by, before disappearing.

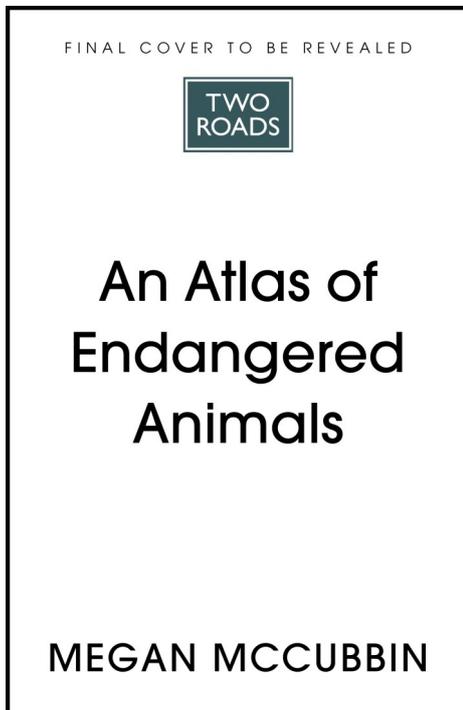
On a faraway island, across the great Peninsula and across the seas, the forest of Suriyang is cursed. Wander in and you will return without your memories. Professor Toh has been researching the forest of Suriyang for years. He believes that the forest hides something that does not wish to be discovered. An ancient civilization. A mysterious golden tower.

Chong Meng is tangled up in the professor's plans to discover the truth about Suriyang. Han travels the breadth of the Peninsula to find his cousin before it is too late. How much will Han sacrifice to discover who he really is?

Elizabeth Wong grew up in the quiet suburbs of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and currently works as a geologist in London. She is interested in stories of Malaysia and also of this large world we live in - its deserts, rocks and seas. She has degrees in Geology and English from Yale University and Imperial College London. *We Could Not See the Stars* is her first novel.

AN ATLAS OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS

MEGAN MCCUBBIN



Two Roads

Publication: March 2022

Editor: Kate Hewson

Length: 304

There are currently 41,415 listed endangered species, and over 16,000 of them are threatened with extinction. Some are well known, while others are at risk of being forgotten before they're gone.

This book takes just 20 of these amazing creatures, from the 'celebrities' of the red list - the tigers, the northern white rhino, the kakapo - to the lesser-known, and sometimes lesser loved ones, and paints a portrait of them, their world, and the people trying to protect them.

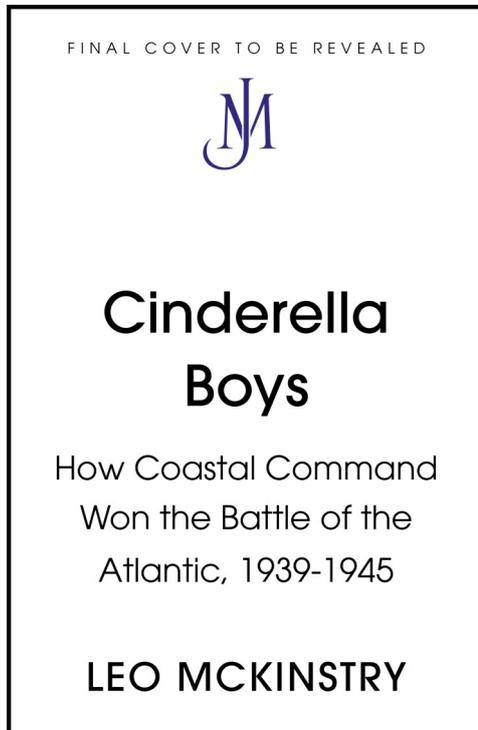
An Atlas of Endangered Animals is a beautifully illustrated, fascinating and important document of an incredible world at risk, and, just maybe, a handbook for restoring it.

Megan McCubbin is a zoologist, wildlife TV presenter, conservationist and photographer. Her interest stems from a childhood growing up in and around the Isle of Wight Zoo, which specialises in the rescue and rehabilitation of ex-circus and pet trade animals. She most recently presented Winterwatch alongside Chris Packham, and is the founder of The Self-Isolating Bird Club on twitter, and co-founder of Wildlife Rebellion.

A keen photographer, in 2019 she was appointed as the coordinator and judge of Young Bird Photographer of the Year.

CINDERELLA BOYS

LEO MCKINSTRY



John Murray

Publication: March 2023

Editor: Joe Zigmond

Length: 400

A powerful account of the unsung heroes of World War II.

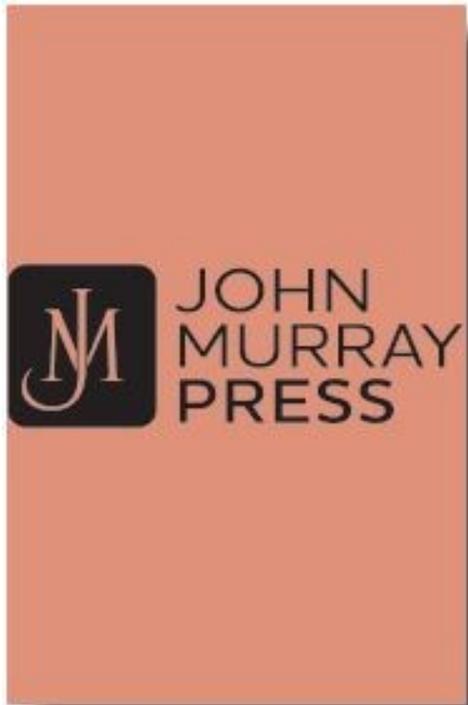
The triumph of Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain and the heroic stories of Bomber Command during WWII have passed into legend. But one front of Britain's war has for too long been overlooked – fought by the pilots and innovators in Coastal Command across the perilous Atlantic gap –. As scores of Maritime Navy vessels were picked off by German U-boats the British Isles were being effectively sieged, the Battle of the Atlantic seemed lost, and the capitulation of Britain inevitable.

This was a race against not only time but also technology as engineers and pioneers strove to support beleaguered soldiers and sailors on the front line with equipment capable of finding and fending off German attackers. *Cinderella Boys* is the thrilling and first full history of how, with cutting-edge technology, strategy and incredible daring, Coastal Command played a pivotal role in turning the Battle of the Atlantic, and the entire conflict, in the Allies' favour. It is the untold finest hour of Britain's war.

Leo McKinstry is a first-class historian of the Second World War and author of bestselling *Spitfire* and *Hurricane*. He writes regularly for the *Daily Mail*, *Sunday Telegraph* and *Spectator*. Born in Belfast, he was educated in Ireland and at Cambridge University. His most recent book, *Attlee and Churchill*, was described as 'Superb' by the *Daily Mail* and 'Terrific' by the *Observer*.

CLIMATE CAPITALISM

AKSHAT RATHI



John Murray

Publication: TBA

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 336

It's not too late to fix our future – *The Existential Economy* is the inspiring story of the extraordinary individuals and projects that are already successfully fighting climate change.

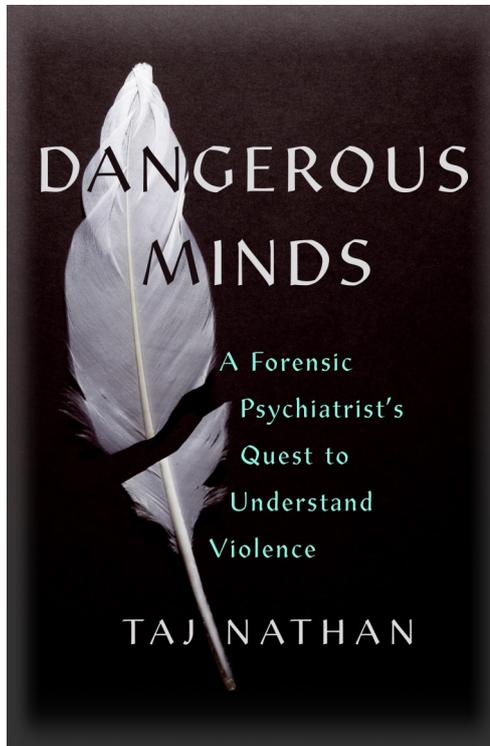
The global race away from fossil fuels and towards zero emission energy sources is underway and is beginning to shape our lives. Akshat Rathi shows us a different and positive way to look at our future, introducing us to the key people, ideas and technologies that are saving the world right here and now. The Western take on alternative energies is a limited one, *The Existential Economy* offers a compelling new global view full of uplifting surprises from the brilliant Chinese politician who is succeeding where Elon Musk failed with electric cars; to Indian solar power farms; and Texan wind turbines.

Inspired by his award-winning weekly newsletter 'The Race to Zero Emissions', every story and idea rigorously road-tested with his 12,000 expert subscribers (who include employees of all the world's major oil companies, utility companies, investment firms, environmental NGOs, think tanks, consultancies and politicians across the globe) Rathi combines economics, science and history in a vivid and unforgettable account of how these different forces are taking on the biggest challenge to the planet since the Second World War.

Akshat Rathi is a London-based journalist for Bloomberg News. He has a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Oxford, and a BTech in chemical engineering from the Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai. He tells stories of people and their ideas tackling the biggest problem facing humanity: climate change.

DANGEROUS MINDS

DR TAJ NATHAN



John Murray

Publication: June 2021

Editor: Kate Craigie

Length: 304

Markets Sold:

Brazil (Universo dos Livros)

Russia (Alpina)

'Exceptional . . . This thoughtful and engrossing book is as much about law as it is about minds' THE TIMES

What drives someone to commit murder?

What makes some people lash out on those that they love?

Can we predict whether a child will grow into a violent adult, and what can we do to prevent it?

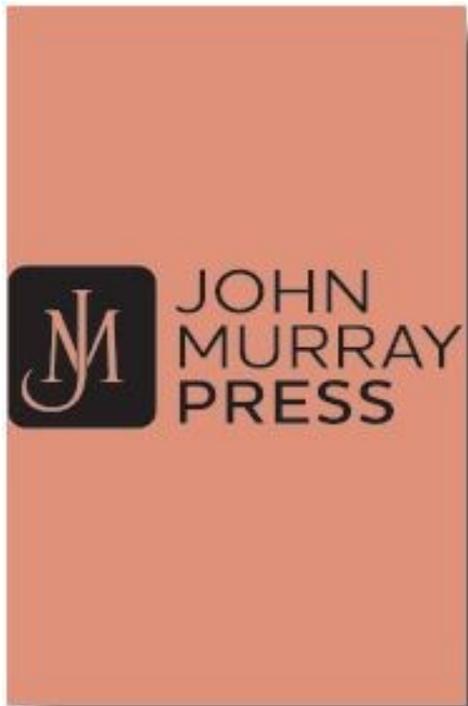
These are just some of the questions that forensic psychiatrist Dr Taj Nathan interrogates every day in his work with violent offenders. Stories about violent or deviant behaviour are the subject of sensational headlines or inflated dramatic portrayals, but infinitely more complex and intriguing are the real people behind labels like 'psychopath', 'sex offender' or 'serial killer'.

Taking us from secure hospital wards to high-security prisons to courtrooms, *Dangerous Minds* offers compelling and deeply compassionate accounts of ten people whose lives have been shaped by violence. From the impact of traumatic events in childhood to the evolutionary and cultural influences on the emergence of the social mind, this book is an insider's account of the origins of violence that asks its readers to re-evaluate all that they think they know about the people society deems most dangerous.

Taj Nathan is a medical doctor who has worked for over two decades as a forensic psychiatrist. In his clinical practice, he continues to assess and treat the perpetrators and victims of violence who reside in secure hospitals, prisons and the community. Alongside his clinical work, he has carried out extensive research in many areas of forensic psychiatry (including aggression and its causes), and he has led the development of innovative services for offenders with psychiatric difficulties. Drawing on both his clinical and academic expertise, he is frequently asked to provide expert evidence in criminal and family law courts. Having authored numerous scientific papers and academic book chapters, he turned to writing for a wider audience and in 2018 he won the John Murray and Spectator Essay Prize for a piece on the origins of violence. This is his first book.

EINSTEIN IN TIME AND SPACE

SAMUEL GRAYDON



John Murray

Publication: September 2023

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 336

Rights Sold:

Czech Republic (Nakladatelstvi LE-DA)

Germany (Verlagsgruppe Droemer Knaur)

Hungary (Scolar Kiado)

Israel (Miskal Publishing)

Lithuania (UAB Alma Littera)

Netherlands (Uitgeverij Atlas)

Poland (Insignis Media)

Portugal (Grupo Edições Saída de Emergência)

Romania (Nemira Publishing)

Serbia (Laguna)

Turkey (Epsilon Yayinevi)

EINSTEIN IN TIME AND SPACE: A Life in 99 Particles tells the life of Albert Einstein and his ideas in 99 short vivid moments, offering a choose-your-own-adventure approach to the twentieth century's most famous and controversial scientist. The first book from Samuel Graydon, the brilliant 26-year-old science editor of the TLS, it will take a refreshingly different and irreverent (highly Einstein-appropriate) approach to its subject.

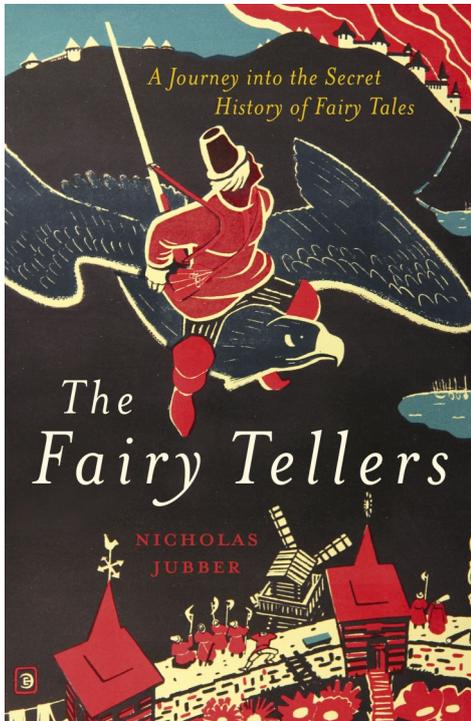
Some particles will be very short, some longer. One particle might simply be an extract from Einstein's fascinating, one thousand-page FBI file; or a list of references to him in song lyrics; while others will be essays about his scientific theories or the historical moment. Some will tackle themes of Einstein's life, such as his relationship with God, or his sister; others will take one particular episode as their subject, such as the time in 1931 that Einstein was initiated into the Native American Hopi Tribe.

Einstein became one of the most famous people in the world within his own lifetime, which enabled him to go to places, meet people, and advocate for ideas far beyond the experience of ordinary people. *Einstein in Time and Space* captures this transformation to trace Einstein's deep cultural impact, as his name becomes synonymous with genius and the mysteries of the universe.

SAMUEL GRAYDON is Science Editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, where he writes regularly on a variety of topics, including quantum mechanics, literature, music and comedy. He graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in English in 2015, and lives in Greenwich, in south London.

THE FAIRY TELLERS

NICHOLAS JUBBER



John Murray

Publication: January 2022

Editor: Kate Craigie and Joe Zigmond

Length: 352

Option Publishers:

China—simplified (Beijing Zhengqing Culture & Art Co. Ltd.)

Germany (DuMont)

Italy (Bompiani)

Fairy-Tales are not just fairy-tales: they are records of historical phenomena, telling us something about how Western civilisation was formed. In *The Fairy Tellers*, award-winning travel-writer Nick Jubber explores the secret history of fairy-tales: the people who told them, the landscapes that forged them, and the cultures that formed them.

While there are certain names inextricably entwined with the concept of a fairy-tale, such as the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen, the most significant tellers are long buried under the more celebrated figures who have taken the credit for their stories - people like the Syrian storyteller Youhenna Diab and the Wild Sisters of Cassel. Without them we would never have heard of Aladdin, his Magic Lamp or the adventures of Hansel and Gretel.

Tracking these stories to their sources carries us through the steaming cities of Southern Italy and across the Mediterranean to the dust-clogged alleys of the Maghreb, under the fretting leaves of the Black Forest, deep into the tundra of Siberia and across the snowy hills of Lapland.

From North Africa and Siberia, this book illuminates the complicated relationship between Western civilisation and the 'Eastern' cultures it borrowed from, and the strange lives of our long lost fairy-tellers.

Nicholas Jubber has travelled in the Middle East, Central Asia, North and East Africa and across Europe. Along the way, he has worked as a teacher, carpet-washer and even had a stint as a tannery assistant. He has written three previous books, *The Timbuktu School for Nomads*, *The Prester Quest* (winner of the Dolman Travel Book Award) and *Drinking Arak off an Ayatollah's Beard* (shortlisted for the Dolman Award). He has written for numerous publications, including the *Guardian*, *Observer*, *Globe and Mail*, *Irish Times* and *BBC History*.

THE GATHERING STORM

MICHAEL JONES



John Murray

Publication: January 2023

Editor: Joe Zigmond

Length: 352

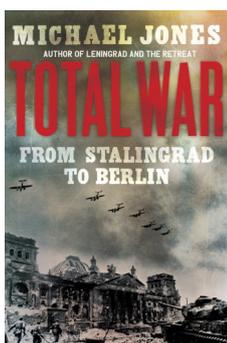
Previous Rights Sold for Total War:

Poland (Wydawnictwo Literackie)

Portugal (Editorial Bizâncio)

Spain (Editorial Crítica Grupo Planeta)

Also Available:



Summer, 1939.

The remarkable events that occurred between the Nazi-Soviet pact and the German army's eventual invasion of Poland on 1 September were neither foreseeable nor inevitable. *Gathering Storm* is the riveting new account of this most precarious and fraught race against time.

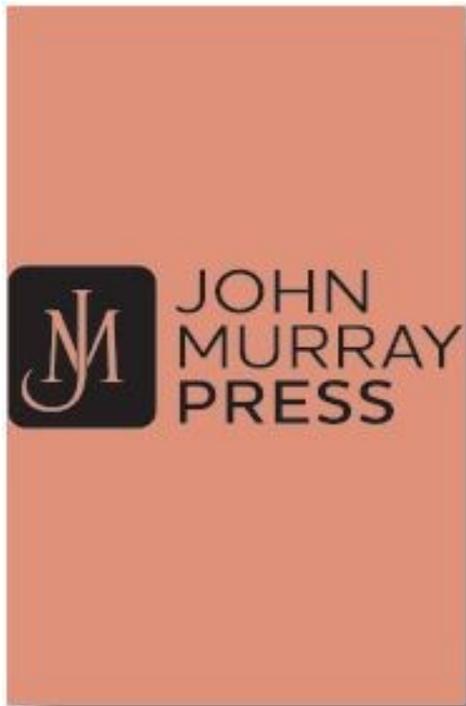
In a countdown covering the ten days from the aftermath of the Nazi-Soviet pact on 24 August 1939 to the outbreak of war on 3 September, Mike Jones' gripping narrative uses a wide range of source material - many completely new - to provide a fresh, global retelling of events, anchored by the deteriorating relations between Britain and Germany.

Penetrating the halls of power during the slide towards catastrophe, *The Gathering Storm* is a stunning new depiction of Prime Minister Chamberlain's Downing Street in this moment of crisis, the manoeuvrings of the Foreign Secretary Viscount Halifax, President Franklin Roosevelt, King Leopold of Belgium, King Emmanuel of Italy, as well as the opposing machinations of Hitler, Ribbentrop, Hess, Göring and Mussolini - and of course the stark voices of Chamberlain and Churchill.

Michael Jones was awarded a history PhD by Bristol University, and subsequently taught at Glasgow University and Winchester College. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a member of the British Commission for Military History, and works now as a writer, media consultant and presenter. He has written books on the battles of Bosworth, Agincourt and Stalingrad, the siege of Leningrad and the battle for Moscow, as well as *Total War: From Stalingrad to Berlin*. Most recently he has co-authored *The King's Grave: The Search for Richard III*.

THE MANDELA BRIEF

THOMAS GRANT



Sydney Kentridge carved out a reputation as South Africa's most prominent anti-apartheid advocate - his story is entwined with the country's emergence from racial injustice and oppression. He is the only lawyer to have acted for three winners of the Nobel Peace Prize - Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Chief Albert Lutuli. Already world-famous for his landmark cases including the Treason Trial of Nelson Mandela and the other leading members of the ANC, the inquiry into the Sharpeville massacre, and the inquest into the death of Steve Biko, he then became England's premier advocate.

Through the great set-pieces of the legal struggle against apartheid - cases which made the headlines not just in South Africa, but across the world - this biography is a portrait of enduring moral stature.

John Murray

Publication: June 2022

Editor: Joe Zigmond

Length: 320

Thomas Grant QC is a practising barrister and author. He lives in Sussex and London.

NATIONAL TREASURES

CAROLINE SHENTON



John Murray

Publication: November 2021

Editor: Joe Zigmond and Jocasta Hamilton

Length: 336

'Geeks triumph over the forces of darkness: nothing could have given me greater pleasure. Combining an exciting story with scrupulous research, Caroline Shenton has done her unlikely heroes proud' - Lucy Worsley

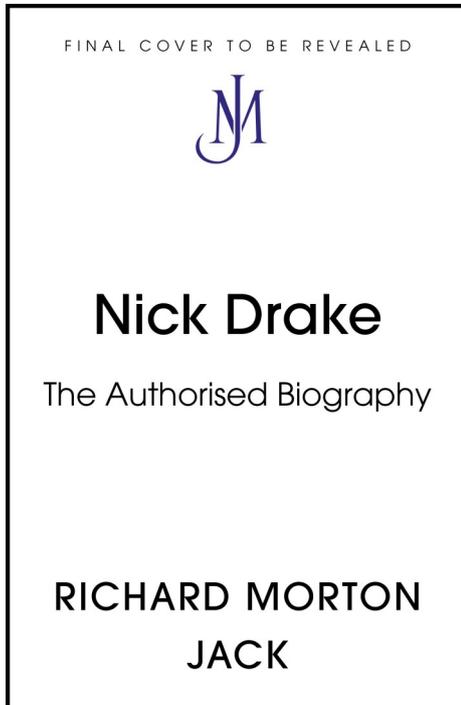
As Hitler prepared to invade Poland during the sweltering summer of 1939, men and women from across London's museums, galleries and archives formulated ingenious plans to send the nation's highest prized objects to safety. Using stately homes, tube tunnels, slate mines, castles, prisons, stone quarries and even their own homes, a dedicated bunch of unlikely misfits packed up the nation's greatest treasures and, in a race against time, dispatched them throughout the country on a series of top-secret wartime adventures.

National Treasures highlights a moment from our history when an unlikely coalition of mild-mannered civil servants, social oddballs and metropolitan aesthetes became the front line in the heritage war against Hitler. Caroline Shenton shares the interwoven lives of ordinary people who kept calm and carried on in the most extraordinary of circumstances in their efforts to save the Nation's historic identity.

Dr Caroline Shenton was Director of the Parliamentary Archives at Westminster, where she worked for eighteen years. Prior to this she was a senior archivist at the National Archives, and she is currently a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Historical Society. Caroline has written for the Guardian, The London Review of Books, and reviewed books for The Spectator.

NICK DRAKE

RICHARD MORTON JACK



John Murray

Publication: September 2022

Editor: Nick Davies

Length: 352

In 1968, the 19 year-old Nick Drake had everything to live for. The product of a loving, creative family and a privileged background, he was not only a handsome and popular Cambridge undergraduate, but also a new signing to the UK's hippest record label, Island.

Three years later, however - having made three well-reviewed but low-selling albums - he had been overwhelmed by a mysterious mental illness. Based back in his family home in rural Warwickshire as of 1971, he largely withdrew from life and died in obscurity and despair in 1974.

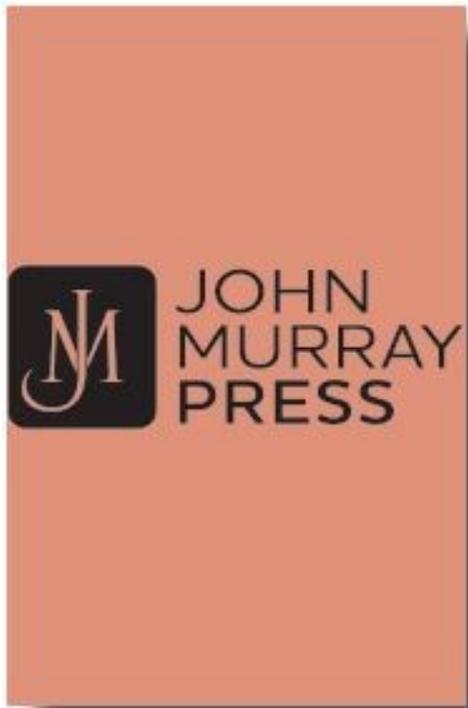
In the decades since he has become the subject of ever-growing fascination and speculation. Combined sales of his records now stand in the millions, his songs are frequently heard on TV and in films, and it is no exaggeration to call him one of the most widely known and best loved singer-songwriters of his generation.

Nick Drake: The Authorised Biography will be the only life of Nick to be written with the approval and involvement of his estate. Drawing on copious original research, new interviews with close family friends, schoolfellows and musical contemporaries and collaborators, as well as deeply personal archive material unavailable to previous biographers - including his father's diaries, his Cambridge essays and letters home from school, university and elsewhere - this book is the most comprehensive and authoritative account possible of this beloved figure's short and enigmatic life.

Richard Morton Jack is the editor of the music reference books Galactic Ramble and Endless Trip, and the author of Psychodelia: 101 Iconic Underground Rock Albums 1966-70. He founded Sunbeam Records, which has reissued over 100 rock, jazz and folk albums, and edits the rock history magazine Flashback. He is the co-founder of the music marketplace and archive elvinyl.com.

THE RACE TO THE FUTURE

KASSIA ST CLAIR



Peking to Paris: The Race to the Future in 1907 will tell the grandest adventure caper nobody has ever heard of: an endurance rally halfway across the world at the dawn of the twentieth century, when cars were still in their infancy.

Following a route with very few actual roads, through countries riven with political strife, the story of the Peking-to-Paris race captures the essence of an era of profound social, cultural and technological upheaval.

Featuring an eccentric Italian prince, his chauffeur, a con-man, petrol-bearing camels and cars whose engines had to be wound up like mechanical toys, this is an unforgettable tale of ill-advised bravado under adversity.

John Murray

Publication: July 2023

Editor: Georgina Laycock

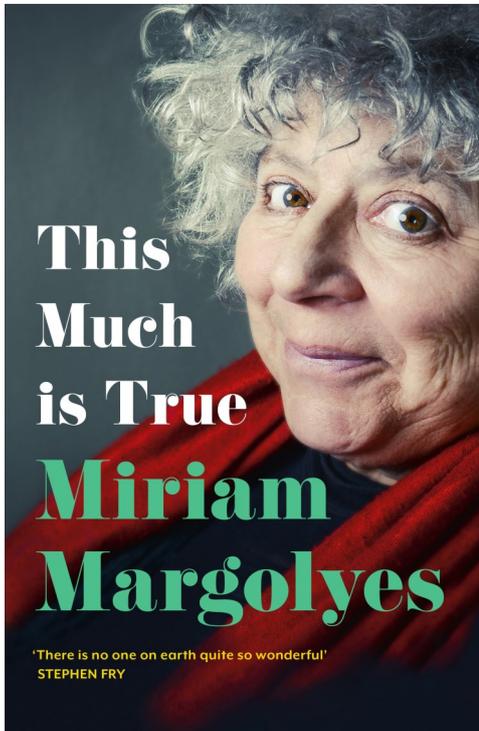
Length: 320

KASSIA ST CLAIR's first book, *The Secret Lives of Colour*, was a *Sunday Times* bestseller, a Radio 4 Book of the Week and has been translated into over a dozen languages; her second, *The Golden Thread*, was a *Sunday Times* Book of the Year and was shortlisted for the Somerset Maugham Award. She lives in London.

www.kassiaclair.com

THIS MUCH IS TRUE

MIRIAM MARGOLYES



John Murray

Publication: September 2021

Editor: Georgina Laycock

Length: 448

'There is no one on earth quite so wonderful' STEPHEN FRY

BAFTA-winning actor, voice of everything from Monkey to the Cadbury's Caramel Rabbit, creator of a myriad of unforgettable characters from Lady Whiteadder to Professor Sprout, MIRIAM MARGOLYES, OBE, is the nation's favourite (and naughtiest) treasure. Now, at the age of 80, she has finally decided to tell her extraordinary life story - and it's well worth the wait.

Find out how being conceived in an air-raid gave her curly hair; what pranks led to her being known as the naughtiest girl Oxford High School ever had; how she ended up posing nude for Augustus John as a teenager; why Bob Monkhouse was the best (male) kiss she's ever had; and what happened next after Warren Beatty asked 'Do you fuck?'

From declaring her love to Vanessa Redgrave to being told to be quiet by the Queen, this book is packed with brilliant, hilarious stories. With a cast list stretching from Scorsese to Streisand, a cross-dressing Leonardo di Caprio to Isaiah Berlin, This Much Is True is as warm and honest, as full of life and surprises, as its inimitable author.

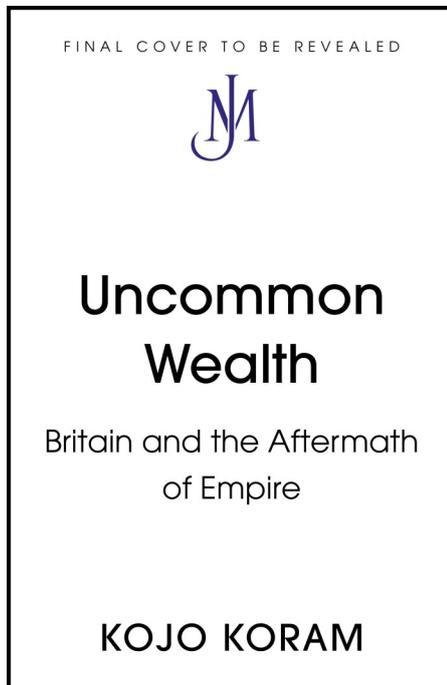
'Gleefully **outspoken** and bursting with **hilarious anecdotes**, gloriously **larger than life**... I pity every person that is not me right now, drinking in the glory of Margolyes at 80.' - **EVA WISEMAN, OBSERVER**

'**Startling, thrillingly outspoken, provocative, potty-mouthed and exhilarating**...THIS MUCH IS TRUE is **never boring**. Her personality is **so likeable she can only leave you wanting more**.' - **LYNN BARBER, DAILY TELEGRAPH**

Born in Oxford, England in 1941 & educated at Newnham College, Cambridge, MIRIAM MARGOLYES is an award-winning veteran of the stage and screen, and an internationally acclaimed voice-artist. Winner of the BAFTA Best Supporting Actress award for The Age of Innocence, she received an OBE in 2002 for Services to Drama.

UNCOMMON WEALTH

KOJO KORAM



John Murray

Publication: February 2022

Editor: Joe Zigmund and Yassine Belkacemi

Length: 304

Britain didn't just put the empire back the way it had found it.

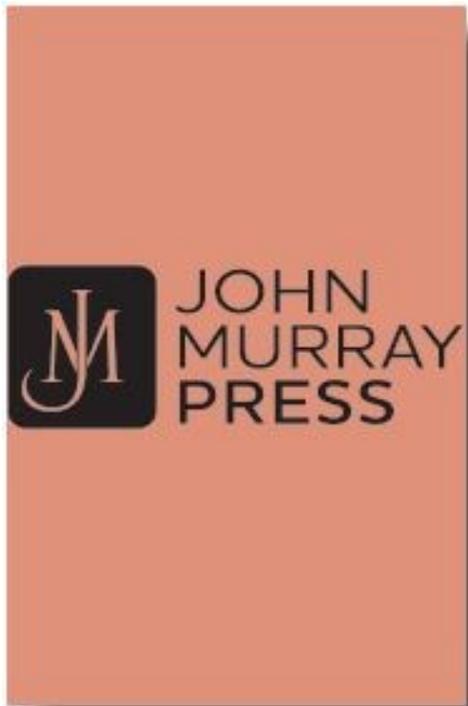
In *Uncommon Wealth*, Kojo Koram traces the tale of how after the end of the British empire an interconnected group of well-heeled British intellectuals, politicians, accountants and lawyers offshored their capital, seized assets and saddled debt in former 'dependencies'. This enabled horrific inequality across the globe as ruthless capitalists profited and ordinary people across Britain's former territories in colonial Africa, Asia and the Caribbean were trapped in poverty. However, the reinforcement of capitalist power across the world also ricocheted back home. Now it has left many Britons wondering where their own sovereignty and prosperity has gone...

Decolonisation was not just a trendy buzzword. It was one of the great global changes of the past hundred years, yet Britain - the protagonist in the whole, messy drama - has forgotten it was ever even there. A blistering uncovering of the scandal of Britain's disastrous treatment of independent countries after empire, *Uncommon Wealth* shows the decisions of decades past are contributing to the forces that are breaking Britain today.

Dr Kojo Koram is a lecturer at the School of Law at Birkbeck College, University of London. He is the editor of *The War on Drugs* and the *Global Color Line*. Prior to academia, Kojo worked in social welfare law, youth work and teaching. Kojo has written for the *Guardian*, the *Washington Post*, the *Nation*, *Dissent*, the *New Statesman* and *Critical Legal Thinking*.

STRONGER THAN DEATH

FRANCESCA BRATON



JM Originals

Publication: July 2023

Editor: Kate Craigie

Length: 320

In April 1931, modernist poet Hart Crane arrived in Mexico City. Between mood swings, dire financial struggles, and a rotating series of personal estrangements, Hart was struggling to make the parts of a fragmentary world cohere. This move to Mexico was one in long list of attempts to find security. In just over a year he would be dead.

In July 1932, Grace Crane picks up the morning paper. Scanning the headlines, she is halted on page five. Her son's eyes stare back at her, tinted pink by the thin paper: 'POET LOST AT SEA FROM SHIP'.

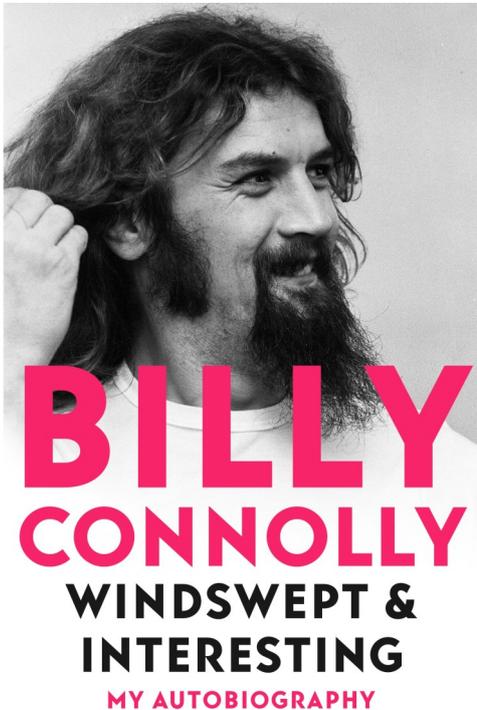
Hart Crane's last year has accrued a morbid mythology, seen as a period of self-destructive creative drought. In *Stronger than Death* Francesca Bratton tracks Hart's year among the vibrant artistic and political communities of Mexico City. His story is interwoven with that of his mother, exploring Grace's lifelong frustrated creativity and, after his death, debilitating grief. Finally the book explores Hart's legacy as a queer man and as a poet, informed by Francesca's responses to his work during her own periods of struggling with mental illness.

Part-memoir, part-biography, *Stronger than Death* is a profound and lyrical meditation on grief, mental health, enduring love and the power of poetry.

Francesca Bratton is a writer, critic, poet and researcher at the Department of English at the University of Maynooth. Her academic monograph, *Visionary Company: Hart Crane and Modernist Magazines* was published by Edinburgh University Press (June 2021). She has previously taught at Durham University, where she studied for a doctorate on Hart Crane, and she is a graduate of St John's College, Oxford and UCL. Francesca has lived in Paris, worked as a bookseller and as a librarian.

WINDSWEPT & INTERESTING

BILLY CONNOLLY



Two Roads

Publication: October 2021

Editor: Nick Davies

Length: 400

In his first full-length autobiography, comedy legend and national treasure Billy Connolly reveals the truth behind his windswept and interesting life.

Born in a tenement flat in Glasgow in 1942, orphaned by the age of 4, and a survivor of appalling abuse at the hands of his own family, Billy's life is a remarkable story of success against all the odds.

Billy found his escape first as an apprentice welder in the shipyards of the River Clyde. Later he became a folk musician - a 'rambling man' - with a genuine talent for playing the banjo. But it was his ability to spin stories, tell jokes and hold an audience in the palm of his hand that truly set him apart.

As a young comedian Billy broke all the rules. He was fearless and outspoken - willing to call out hypocrisy wherever he saw it. But his stand-up was full of warmth, humility and silliness too. His startling, hairy 'glam-rock' stage appearance - wearing leotards, scissor suits and banana boots - only added to his appeal.

It was an appearance on Michael Parkinson's chat show in 1975 - and one outrageous story in particular - that catapulted Billy from cult hero to national star. TV shows, documentaries, international fame and award-winning Hollywood movies followed. Billy's pitch-perfect stand-up comedy kept coming too - for over 50 years, in fact - until a double diagnosis of cancer and Parkinson's Disease brought his remarkable live performances to an end. Since then he has continued making TV shows, creating extraordinary drawings... and writing.

Windswept and Interesting is Billy's story in his own words. It is joyfully funny - stuffed full of hard-earned wisdom as well as countless digressions on fishing, farting and the joys of dancing naked. It is an unforgettable, life-affirming story of a true comedy legend.

Sir William Connolly, CBE is a much-loved Scottish comedian, musician, TV presenter, actor, and artist. Now a 'welder statesman', he is the recipient of a BAFTA Lifetime Achievement Award and is regularly voted the nation's favourite stand-up comedian. His collected stand-up routines, TALL TALES & WEE STORIES, was a No.1 bestseller and has spent over a year in the Sunday Times' charts. Billy was born and raised in Glasgow and now lives in America.