

# SCEPTRE 2022





# SCEPTRE 2022

Inspired writing. Irresistible reading.

After the strange and traumatic year we have all been through, we are glad to present a list for 2022 that is filled with optimism – lots of exciting new voices, ideas for the future and stories of rescue and healing.

The teenage hero of David Sanchez's debut novel *All Day is a Long Time* finds a way out of addiction through reading, advertising executive Ben Short leaves his life in the city for a new career as a charcoal burner in the Dorset woods and in multi-prize-winner Andrew Miller's latest novel, *The Slowworm's Song*, a father seeks to atone for his past.

We have new books from some of Sceptre's brightest stars:

Ned Beaman's novel is a fantastical story about the extinction crisis, Jill Dawson takes us back to the days of witch trials in sixteenth-century England in *The Bewitching* and *Milk Teeth* by Jessica Andrews, winner of the Portico Prize for her debut *Saltwater*, tells an arresting coming-of-age story set in London and Barcelona.

Sceptre is excited to introduce you to a number of new stars for the future in three debut fiction writers. Aamina Ahmad's novel *The Return of Faraz Ali*, set in 1960s Pakistan, has already garnered praise from Kamila Shamsie and Adam Johnson, *Tiepolo Blue* by James Cahill is a novel about sexual awakening and censorship set in the 1990s artworld and Leon Craig's story collection, *Parallel Hells*, plays with traditional tropes in a fresh take on the gothic.

Our non-fiction takes us from the internment camps of the Second World War in Simon Parkin's *The Island of Extraordinary Captives* to the textiles of Mary, Queen of Scots in *Embroidering Her Truth* by Clare Hunter, author of the acclaimed *Threads of Life*. Back in the Day is Melvyn Bragg's first ever memoir and in January we have another first: *East Side Voices*, an anthology of East Asian voices from actors to chefs, writing on everything from the NHS to a festival in Myanmar.

Sceptre's list for 2022 is full of fresh new voices and thought-provoking ideas. Books for readers looking not only to be entertained but to have their horizons broadened, perspectives shifted and imaginations fired.



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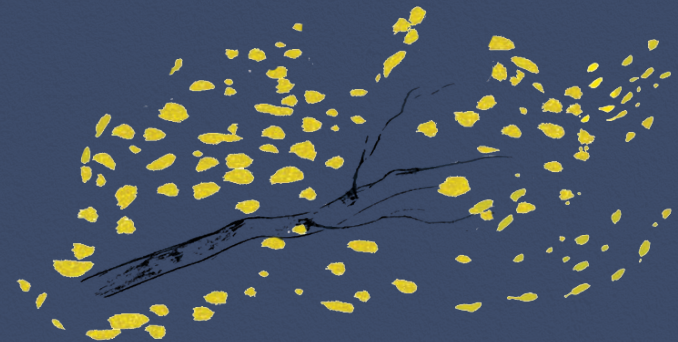
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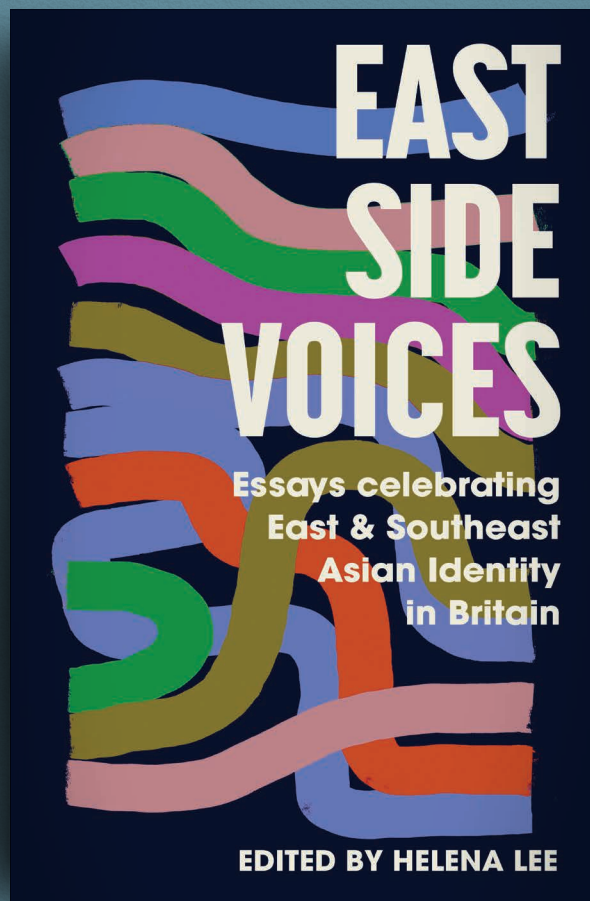




# ORIGINALS







We need good storytellers;  
stories are what help connect us.

## NON-FICTION

# EAST SIDE VOICES

ESSAYS CELEBRATING EAST AND SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN IDENTITY IN BRITAIN

EDITED BY **HELENA LEE**

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND ANTHOLOGY THAT SHOWCASES  
SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
VOICES IN BRITAIN TODAY.

In this bold collection, *East Side Voices* invites us to explore a dazzling spectrum of experience by writers from the East and Southeast Asian diaspora living in Britain today.

Showcasing original essays and poetry from well-known celebrities, prize-winning literary stars and emerging talent, *East Side Voices* takes us to many places: from the frontlines of the NHS in the midst of the Covid pandemic to the set of a Harry Potter film, from a bustling London restaurant to a spirit festival in Myanmar. In the process,

we navigate the legacies of family history, racial identity, assimilation and difference.

The collection is edited by Helena Lee, founder of the East Side Voices cultural salon and Acting Deputy Editor of *Harper's Bazaar*. It includes original work by actors Gemma Chan, Tuyen Do and Katie Leung, model Naomi Shimada, novelists Tash Aw, Rowan Hisayo Buchanan and Sharlene Teo, poets Will Harris, Romalyn Ante and Mary Jean Chan, and journalist and podcaster Zing Tsjeng.



© Toby Shaw

Helena Lee is the acting deputy editor of *Harper's Bazaar*. In February 2020, she founded the platform East Side Voices to raise the visibility of talent of East and Southeast Asian heritage, and is also a leader in the #StopESEA Hate campaign, a founding member of the Ginsburg Health Board, and a Women in Journalism mentor.

Hardback: 9781529344479 | £14.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU  
eBook: 9781529344486  
224pp | January | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: The Wylie Agency





In the story of my life that replays constantly in some faraway lobe in my brain, narration begins and ends and starts over . . .

## FICTION

# ALL DAY IS A LONG TIME

DAVID SANCHEZ

A SPECTACULAR DEBUT NOVEL AND A HALLUCINATORY JOURNEY INTO THE BRILLIANT AND TRAUMATISED MIND OF AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN.

David has a mind that never stops running. He reads Dante and *Moby Dick*, he sinks into Hemingway and battles with Milton. But on Florida's Gulf Coast, one can slip into deep water unconsciously.

He makes his way to a tenuous sobriety, but it isn't until he takes a literature class at the local community college that something within him ignites.

At the age of fourteen, David runs away from home to pursue a girl. He tries crack cocaine for the first time and is hooked instantly. Over the course of the next decade, he fights his way out of jail and rehab, trying to make sense of the world around him.

*All Day is a Long Time* is a remarkable, raw account of growing up and managing, against all odds, to carve out a place for hope. David Sanchez's debut resounds with real force and demonstrates the redemptive power of the written word.

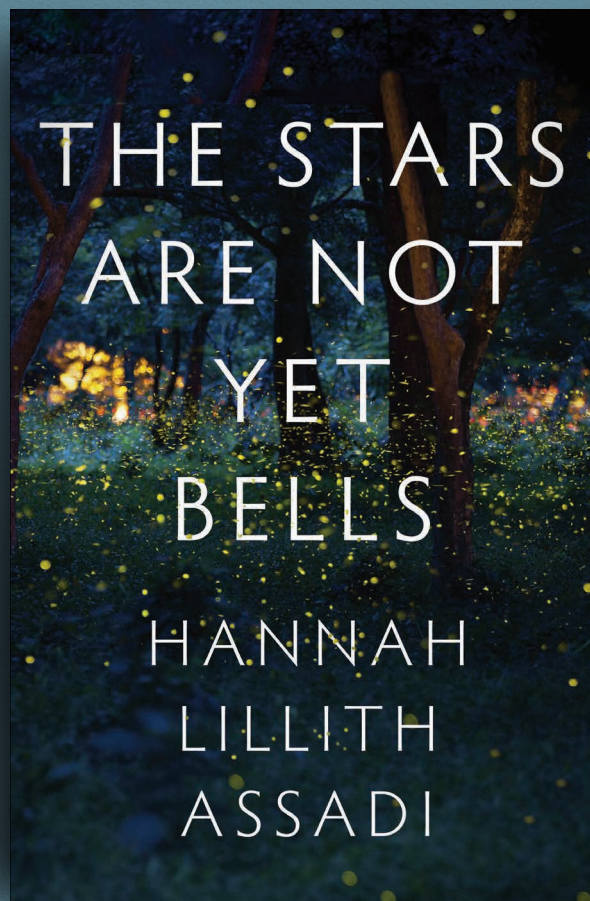


© David Sanchez

David Sanchez is a recipient of a Michener Creative Writing Fellowship at the University of Miami, a PEN America Writing for Justice Fellowship, and a Tin House Scholarship. He lives in Tampa, Florida. *All Day is a Long Time* is his first novel.

Hardback: 9781529367867 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can  
eBook: 9781529367881 | Export TPB: 9781529367874  
256pp | January | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Abner Stein





Moss descends from the oaks,  
thick as curtains, veiling the night's  
secrets from the living.

## FICTION

# THE STARS ARE NOT YET BELLS

HANNAH LILLITH ASSADI

DARKLY ROMANTIC AND BEAUTIFULLY IMMERSIVE, *THE STARS ARE NOT YET BELLS* PULLS US INTO A STORY ABOUT THE LIMITS OF MEMORY AND PEOPLE WE CAN NEVER FORGET.

It is the end of the Great Depression and Elle Ranier believes that by marrying her wealthy fiancé Simon she will be saving her life. Instead, she leaves everything she has known in New York City to live on the tangled shores of Lyra, an island off America's south-eastern coast. There, amid the wild horses and oak woods, Elle harbours a secret. Her so-called 'cousin' Gabriel, who comes to stay, is really a boyfriend from back home and the love of her life.

In subsequent years, while she and Simon raise a family and face a less than idyllic relationship, Elle can never forget her brief dalliance with Gabriel. Even fifty years later, when her memory recedes into the mists of Alzheimer's disease, she is haunted by his fate. With her mind a maze of questions about long-buried stories, the bewitching island of Lyra might eventually bring answers to light.



© Jen Steele

Hannah Lillith Assadi teaches fiction at the Columbia University School of the Arts. Her first novel, *Sonora*, was published in 2017 and was a finalist for the PEN/ Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction. In 2018, she was named a National Book Foundation '5 under 35' honouree. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Hardback: 9781529370652 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can  
eBook: 9781529370669 | Export TPB: 9781529370676  
240pp | February | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Janklow & Nesbit





Horror is not dissimilar to love,  
in that all time gets folded in  
to meet it.

## FICTION

# PARALLEL HELLS

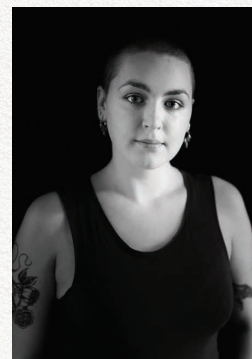
LEON CRAIG

A DELICIOUSLY STRANGE DEBUT COLLECTION THAT  
DRAWS ON GOTHIC FOLKLORE TO EXPLORE QUEER IDENTITY,  
LOVE, POWER AND HUMAN NATURE.

Some say that hell is other people and  
some say hell is loneliness . . .

In the thirteen darkly audacious  
stories of *Parallel Hells* we meet a  
golem made of clay, learning that  
its powers far exceed its creator's  
expectations; a ruined mansion that  
grants the secret wishes of a group of  
revellers; and a notorious murderer  
who discovers her Viking husband is  
not what he seems.

Asta is an ancient being who feasts  
on the shame of contemporary  
Londoners and who now, beyond  
anything, wishes only to fit in with a  
group of friends they will long outlive.  
Livia orchestrates a Satanic mass  
to distract herself from a recently  
remembered trauma and two lovers  
must resolve their differences in order  
to defy a lethal curse.

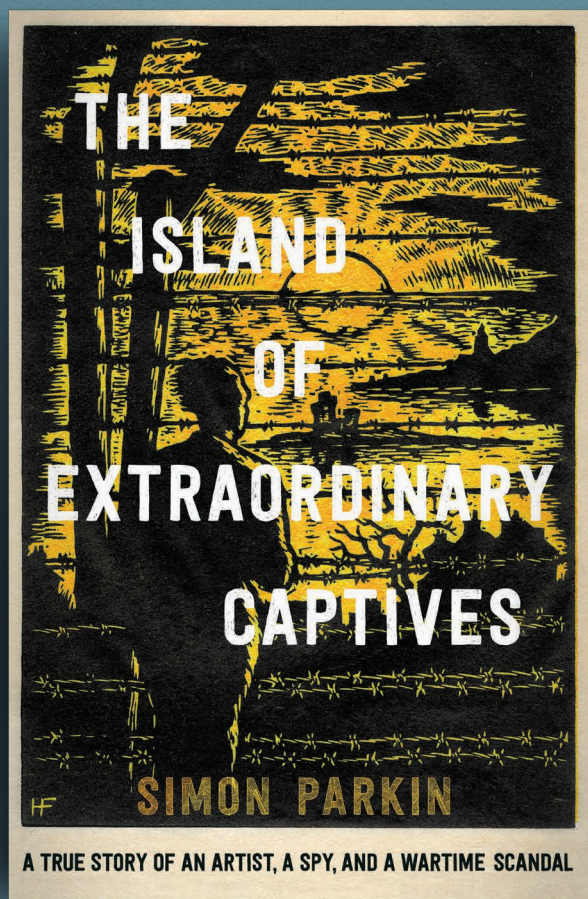


© Jan Radtke

Leon Craig is a writer from North London. She studied English  
at UCL, Medieval Literature at Oxford and Creative Writing at  
Birkbeck. Her writing has been published by the *White Review*,  
the *TLS*, *Another Gaze* and the *London Magazine* among others.  
Leon is a member of the LGBTQ+ Writing Collective The  
Future is Back.

Hardback: 9781529371420 | £14.99 | BCN inc Can, inc EU  
eBook: 9781529371437 | Export TPB: 9781529371741  
224pp | February | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Rogers, Coleridge & White





‘The British have detained in concentration camps the very people we found it necessary to detain. Where are those much-vaunted democratic liberties of which the English boast?’

ADOLF HITLER

## NON-FICTION

# THE ISLAND OF EXTRAORDINARY CAPTIVES

A TRUE STORY OF AN ARTIST, A SPY AND A WARTIME SCANDAL

SIMON PARKIN

THE GRIPPING STORY OF THE REFUGEES WHO CAME TO BRITAIN SEEKING SANCTUARY, ONLY TO BE INTERNED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PARANOIA AND SPY FEVER.

The police came for Peter Fleischmann in the early hours of the morning. It reminded the teenager of the Gestapo’s moonlit roundups he had narrowly avoided at home in Berlin. Now, having endured a perilous journey to reach England, he finds himself on a ship bound for the Isle of Man, suspected of being a Nazi spy. What had gone wrong?

Painstakingly researched from dozens of unpublished first-hand accounts and previously classified documents, *The*

*Island of Extraordinary Captives* tells, for the first time, the story of history’s most astonishing internment camp and of how a group of world-renowned artists, musicians and academics came to be seen as ‘enemy aliens’.

*The Island of Extraordinary Captives* reveals how Britain’s treatment of refugees during the war led to one of the nation’s most shameful missteps, and how hope and creativity can flourish in even the most challenging circumstances.



© Simon Parkin

Simon Parkin is an award-winning British writer and journalist. He is the author of *A Game of Birds and Wolves*, a contributing writer for the *New Yorker*, game critic for the *Observer* newspaper and a regular contributor to the *Guardian’s* Long Read and other publications. He lives in West Sussex.

Hardback: 9781529347227 | £20.00 | BCN ex Can, inc EU

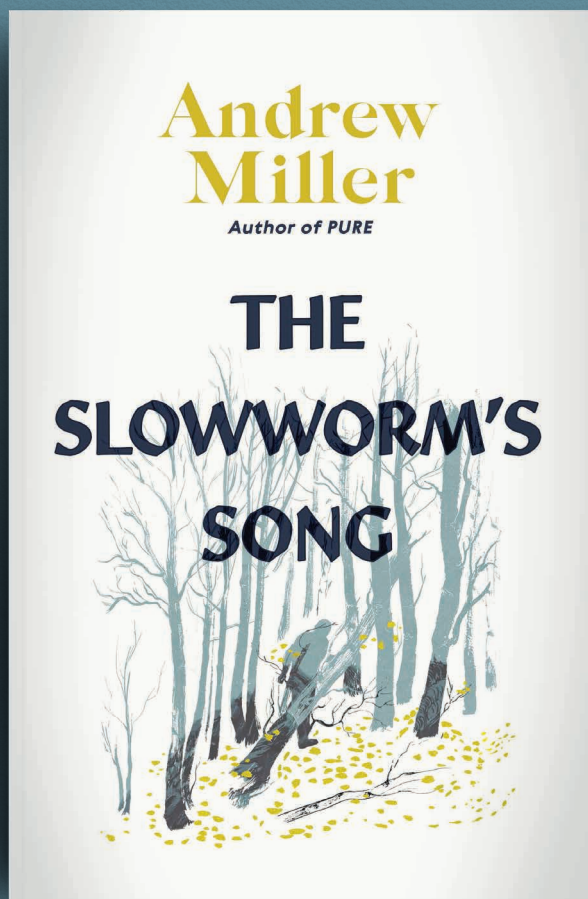
eBook: 9781529347203 | Export TPB: 9781529347197

Audio: 9781529347210

496pp | February | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton

Other rights: Lutyens & Rubinstein Literary Agency





I want you to know I was once  
someone others could speak well of.

## FICTION

# THE SLOWWORM'S SONG

ANDREW MILLER

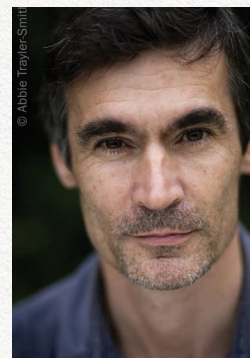
BY THE COSTA AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *PURE*,  
A PROFOUND AND TENDER TALE OF GUILT, A SEARCH FOR  
ATONEMENT AND THE HARD, UNCERTAIN WORK OF LOVING.

An innocent-looking letter drops onto the doormat in Stephen Rose's Somerset home like an unexploded bomb. It is a summons to an inquiry in Belfast about an incident during the Troubles, which he has long walled off in his mind.

An ex-soldier and recovering alcoholic, Stephen has just begun to form a bond with Maggie, the daughter whose upbringing he missed. For two years, he has worked to earn her trust. To testify now would put their fragile

relationship in jeopardy – and if he loses Maggie, he loses everything.

Instead, Stephen decides to write her an account of his life; a confession, a defence, a love letter. Also, a means of thinking aloud, of buying time. But time is running out, and the day comes when he must face again what happened in that distant summer of 1982.

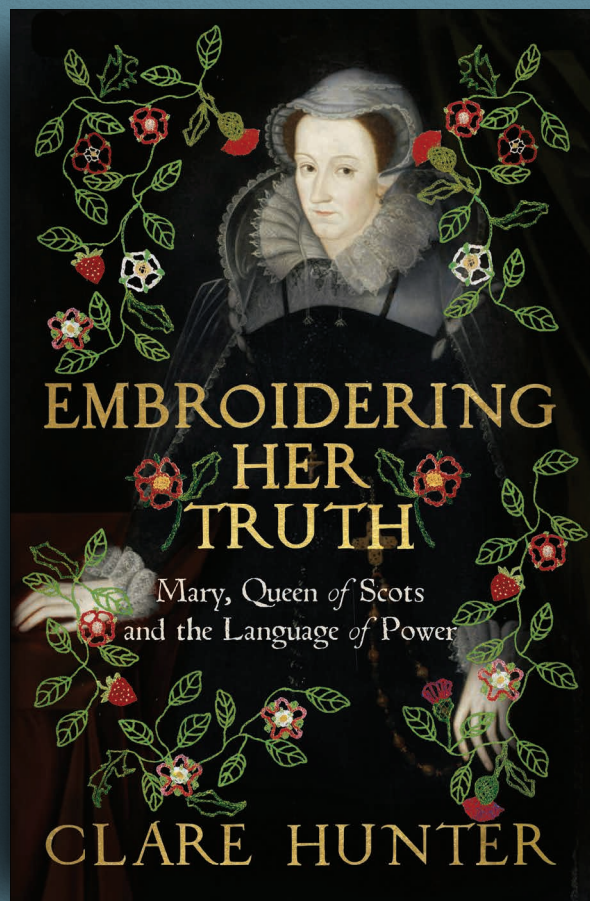


© Abbie Trayler-Smith

Andrew Miller is the author of eight novels including his debut *Ingenious Pain*, which won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, *Oxygen*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Whitbread Novel of the Year Award, *Pure*, winner of the Costa Book of the Year Award, and *Now We Shall Be Entirely Free*.

Hardback: 9781529354195 | £18.99 | BCN inc Can  
eBook: 9781529354218 | Export TPB: 9781529354201  
Audio: 9781529354225  
288pp | March | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Simon Trewin Ltd





I felt that Mary was there, pulling at my sleeve, willing me to appreciate the artistry, wanting me to understand the dazzle of the material world that shaped her.

## NON-FICTION

# EMBROIDERING HER TRUTH

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS AND THE LANGUAGE OF POWER

CLARE HUNTER

AN ALTERNATIVE BIOGRAPHY OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS THROUGH THE TEXTILES OF HER LIFE FROM THE AUTHOR OF SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER *THREADS OF LIFE*.

At her execution Mary, Queen of Scots wore red. Widely known as the colour of strength and passion, it was in fact worn by Mary as the Catholic symbol of martyrdom.

In sixteenth-century Europe women's voices were suppressed and silenced. Even for a queen like Mary, her prime duty was to bear sons. In an age when textiles expressed power, Mary exploited them to emphasise her female agency. From her lavishly embroidered gowns as the prospective wife of the French Dauphin to the

fashion dolls she used to encourage a Marian style at the Scottish court and the subversive messages she embroidered in captivity for her supporters, Mary used textiles to advance her political agenda, affirm her royal lineage and tell her own story.

In this eloquent cultural biography, Clare Hunter exquisitely blends history, politics and memoir to tell the story of a queen in her own voice.



© Mel Lewis

Clare Hunter has been a banner-maker, community textile artist and textile curator for over twenty years and established the community enterprise NeedleWorks in Glasgow. Her first book, *Threads of Life*, won the Saltire First Book Award, was a Waterstones Scottish Book of the Month and a Radio 4 Book of the Week.

Hardback: 9781529346244 | £20.00 | World  
eBook: 9781529346268 | Export TPB: 9781529346251  
Audio: 9781529346275  
320pp | March | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Hodder & Stoughton



‘A gripping read – everything beautifully evoked, from the alleys of the Old City to the atmosphere of corruption and secrets.’

**KAMILA SHAMSIE**

‘Aamina Ahmad has done the impossible: made her literary debut with an enduring classic. Essential and compelling.’

**ADAM JOHNSON**

**FICTION**

# THE RETURN OF FARAZ ALI

**AAMINA AHMAD**

A SPELLBINDING DEBUT SET IN PAKISTAN DURING THE ANARCHIC LATE '60s - A MULTI-LAYERED TALE OF FAMILY, IDENTITY AND THE POLITICS OF POWER IN A CASTE-RIDDEN SOCIETY.

As riots erupt on the streets of Lahore, Inspector Faraz returns to his birthplace, the red-light district in the ancient walled city where women still pass on the profession of courtesan to their daughters. Plucked from it as a small boy by his influential father, Faraz has kept his roots well hidden. Now his father has sent him back: to cover up the murder of a young prostitute.

finds himself unable to obey orders or to resist searching for the mother and sister he left behind. Chasing down the walled city's labyrinthine alleys for answers that risk shattering his carefully constructed existence, he is unaware that his sister faces having to return too, and to a life she thought she had escaped.

It should be a simple task in the marginalised community, but Faraz

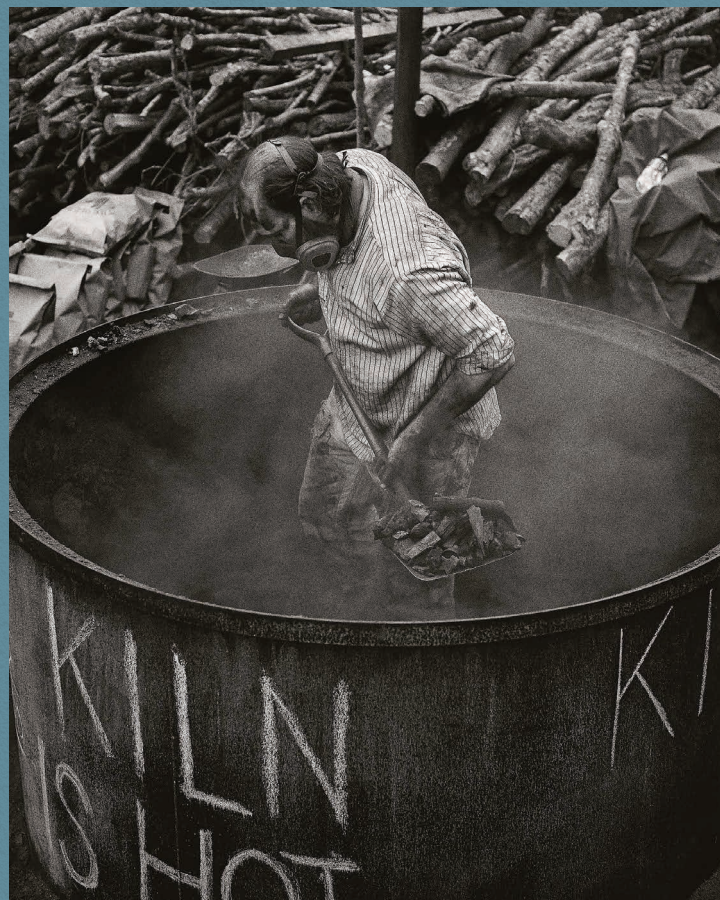


© Mohammed Naseer

Aamina Ahmad was born and raised in London, where she worked as a script editor for BBC Drama and other television companies. She has an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and is a recipient of a Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, a Pushcart Prize and a Rona Jaffe Writers Award. She lives in Berkeley, California.

Hardback: 9781529356014 | £14.99 | BCN ex Can and India  
eBook: 9781529356052 | Export TPB: 9781529356021  
Audio: 9781529356045  
352pp | April | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: PEW Literary





I came to the woods over a decade ago. I came to the woods because there was a fire in my head.

## NON-FICTION

# BURN

A STORY OF FIRE, WOODS AND HEALING

**BEN SHORT**

FROM ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE IN THE CITY TO CHARCOAL BURNER IN THE WOODS: A FRANK AND INSPIRING MEMOIR ABOUT THE BRUTAL SALVE OF NATURE.

Ben Short looks like he has it all – a successful career in advertising, a flat in London, an expensive motorbike . . . But inside, he's a wreck. Years of suffering from an anxiety disorder and depression have broken him.

Like his neighbour's rescue hawk, he acts on instinct and escapes. He takes on odd jobs trying to find somewhere he belongs. Until he feels the call of the furnace: a glowing charcoal kiln in the West Dorset woods, where he can re-forge his thoughts and start afresh

by immersing himself in the ancient ways of woods and fire. He lives in an old wagon in the woods, hauling water from wells and foraging for his supper. But this is no idyll – the road is hard, the work back-breaking, the woods dark and brimming with powerful energies.

Exquisitely written and laced with folklore, *Burn* is a hopeful story of transformation, a celebration of manual work and craft, and a love letter to the English landscape.



© Joya Berrow

Ben Short is a charcoal burner and woodsman, working in the Dorset countryside. A decade ago he worked as an advertising copywriter in London. He lives in Dorset with his partner and son.

Hardback: 9781529370348 | £16.99 | World  
eBook: 9781529370355 | Audio: 9781529370362  
256pp | April | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Hodder & Stoughton



*Nobody was ever  
thinking about me.  
Now that I'm dead,  
I dwell on this kind  
of thing a lot.*

## FICTION

# HERE GOES NOTHING

STEVE TOLTZ

A FIRECRACKER OF A NOVEL BY THE BOOKER-SHORTLISTED AUTHOR OF  
A FRACTION OF THE WHOLE – A SCATHINGLY FUNNY AND AFFECTING  
TALE OF LIFE, DEATH, LOVE AND THE QUESTIONABLE EXISTENCE OF GOD.

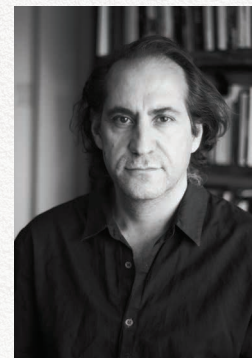
Angus Mooney is not happy – he's been murdered, cut off in the prime of his life.

He feels humiliated – he's never even believed in an afterlife. (How wrong he'd been.)

He's confused – death has provided more questions than answers.

And he desperately misses his audacious and fiery wife, Gracie, who's expecting their first child.

The only upside is that Angus has found a way to see what his murderer is up to, and how Gracie is faring. The downside: Gracie and his murderer are getting uncomfortably close, and a worldwide pandemic means the afterlife is about to become very crowded . . .



© Nigel Buck

Steve Toltz was born in Sydney, Australia. *A Fraction of the Whole*, his first novel, was published in 2008 to great acclaim and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the *Guardian* First Book Award. His equally applauded second novel *Quicksand* was published by Sceptre in 2015. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

Hardback: 9781529371574 | £18.99 | BCN ex Can  
eBook: 9781529371581 | Export TPB: 9781529371611

Audio: 9781529371598  
320pp | May | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Peters Fraser & Dunlop



‘I was brought up  
in a house of lies.  
The lies were  
intended to be kind.’

NON-FICTION

# BACK IN THE DAY

A MEMOIR

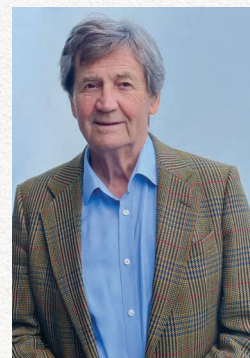
MELVYN BRAGG

MELVYN BRAGG'S FIRST EVER MEMOIR – AN ELEGIAC,  
INTIMATE ACCOUNT OF GROWING UP IN POST-WAR CUMBRIA,  
WHICH LYRICALLY EVOKES A VANISHED WORLD.

In this captivating memoir, Melvyn Bragg recalls growing up in the Cumbrian market town of Wigton, from his early childhood during the war to the moment he had to decide between staying on or spreading his wings.

This is the tale of a boy who lived in a pub and expected to leave school at fifteen yet won a scholarship to Oxford. Derailed by a severe breakdown when he was thirteen, he developed a passion for reading and study – though that didn't stop him playing in a skiffle band or falling in love.

It is equally the tale of the people and place that formed him. Bragg indelibly portrays his parents and local characters from pub regulars to vicars, teachers and hardmen, and vividly captures the community-spirited northern town – steeped in the old ways but on the cusp of post-war change. A poignant elegy to a vanished era as well as the glories of the Lake District, *Back in the Day* illuminates what made Bragg the writer, broadcaster and champion of the arts he is today.



Melvyn Bragg's novels include *The Maid of Buttermere*, *Credo* and *The Soldier's Return*. He has won the *Time/Life* Silver Pen Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, the WHSmith Literary Award and the Parliamentary Book Award for fiction, and has been longlisted three times for the Booker Prize (including the Lost Man Booker Prize). He lives in London and Cumbria.

Hardback: 9781529394450 | £20.00 | BCN ex Can, inc EU

eBook: 9781529394474 | Export TPB: 9781529394467

Audio: 9781529394481

416pp | May | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton

Other rights: Peters Fraser & Dunlop





NOT FINAL COVER

Ben turns and grins ironically.  
 'When you stopped just now and looked  
 at the sky, you weren't measuring it.  
 You weren't thinking about classical proportion.  
 You were feeling something.'

ORIGINALS

FICTION

# TIEPOLO BLUE

JAMES CAHILL

AN EXQUISITE DEBUT NOVEL ABOUT SEXUAL AWAKENING,  
 ART, BEAUTY AND CENSURE, SET IN 1990s LONDON, FOR  
 READERS OF ALAN HOLLINGHURST AND EDWARD ST AUBYN.

Cambridge, 1994. Professor Don Lamb is a revered art historian at the height of his powers, consumed by the book he is writing about the skies of the Venetian master Tiepolo. However, his academic brilliance belies a deep inexperience of life and love.

When an explosive piece of contemporary art is installed on the lawn of his college, it sets in motion Don's abrupt departure from Cambridge to take up a role at a museum in south London. There he

befriends Ben, a young artist who draws him into the anarchic 1990s British art scene and the nightlife of Soho.

Over the course of one long, hot summer, Don glimpses a liberating new existence. But his epiphany is also a moment of self-reckoning, as his oldest friendship – and his own unexamined past – are revealed to him in a devastating new light. As Don's life unravels, he suffers a fall from grace that shatters his world into pieces.



© Darren Wheeler

James Cahill has worked in both the art world and academia for the last ten years, combining writing and research with a role at a leading contemporary art gallery. He is currently a Fellow in Classics at King's College London. His writing has been published in the *TLS*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *London Review of Books* and the *Burlington Magazine*, among other publications.

Hardback: 9781529369397 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU

eBook: 9781529369403 | Export TPB: 9781529369380

Audio: 9781529369410

320pp | June | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton

Other rights: Blake Friedmann Literary Agency

ORIGINALS

30



Every artwork  
that takes the sea  
as a subject is a  
collaboration between  
an environment,  
a body and a mind.

## NON-FICTION

# LOOKING TO SEA

BRITAIN THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS ARTISTS

LILY LE BRUN

AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF BRITAIN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, TOLD THROUGH THE PRISM OF TEN ICONIC ARTWORKS OF THE SEA, ONE FOR EACH DECADE.

'We see nothing truly until we understand it.' John Constable

Britain went through revolutions of thought, experience and innovation in the twentieth century. *Looking to Sea* takes ten works of art inspired by the sea and uses them to tell the story of this century. Taking us from Vanessa Bell's first British modernist painting to Paul Nash's work bearing the scars of his experience in the trenches, from Briget Riley's work heralding the birth of the environmental movement to John Akomfrah's work about slavery,

race and colonialism, *Looking to Sea* is a new way of looking at our island nation.

With a fresh eye and penetrating insight, Lily Le Brun has collected ten works that together map the cultural, social and political history of the century. As a book, they tell the vital story of humanity's ever-changing relationship to the natural world; alone, each artwork is an invitation to see the world through someone else's eyes.



© ack Orlik

Lily Le Brun is an arts writer based in Paris. She has worked for Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses, and written for publications such as *Art Quarterly*, the *Financial Times* and *The Economist*. In 2018 Lily won a RSL Giles St Aubyn Award for the early chapters of *Looking to Sea*.

Hardback: 9781529309218 | £25.00 | World English  
eBook: 9781529309225 | Audio: 9781529309232  
368pp | June | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Aitken Alexander Associates



‘What do you want?’  
You trace the outline of my  
hips with your fingers.

FICTION

# MILK TEETH

JESSICA ANDREWS

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE AWARD-WINNING DEBUT  
SALTWATER COMES A BEAUTIFULLY TOLD LOVE STORY  
SET ACROSS ENGLAND, FRANCE AND SPAIN.

A fragmented portrait of a young, northern woman as she falls in love and makes the bold decision to move from London to Barcelona. As she does so, she begins to interrogate her past – an adolescence influenced by heroin chic, toxic encounters and years spent chasing artistic yet unattainable ideals. On the precipice of a new life, amid tropical plants and secluded beaches in the sticky Mediterranean heat, she must finally learn how to be at ease in her mind and body.

*Milk Teeth* is a novel about the joy and terror of taking risks and finding a way to feel deserving of love. Through Jessica Andrews' vivid and lyrical prose, we embark on a tender, painful exploration of what it means to understand ourselves and the things we truly want in life.



© Seth Hamilton

Jessica Andrews grew up in Sunderland. She writes for the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, BBC Radio 4, *Stylist* and *Elle* magazine among others. She co-runs *The Grapevine*, a magazine which aims to give a platform to under-represented writers, and co-presents literary podcast *Tender Buttons*. She lives in Bristol and teaches Creative Writing at Roehampton University.

Hardback: 9781473682856 | £14.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU

eBook: 9781473682832 | Export TPB: 9781473682849

Audio: 9781529341317

352pp | July | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton

Other rights: Aitken Alexander Associates



I feel a tremor here.  
*The same skills Martha has.*  
When did the skills of a  
cunning woman become  
witchcraft?

FICTION

# THE BEWITCHING

JILL DAWSON

A SHOCKING NOVEL THAT SPEAKS TO OUR TIMES,  
DRAWING ON THE SIXTEENTH-CENTURY CASE OF THE  
WITCHES OF WARBOYS.

Alice Samuel might be old and sharp-tongued, but she's no fool. Visiting the new neighbours in her Fenland village, she suspects Squire Throckmorton's household is not as God-fearing as it seems and finds the children troubled. What she cannot foresee is that all five daughters will succumb in turn to a terrifying affliction and accuse her of witchcraft – who else to blame than an ugly, black-capped woman with mysterious healing skills?

The Throckmortons' maid Martha, uncomfortably aware of strange goings-

on in the household herself, is reluctant to believe that Alice is a witch. Yet visiting scholars attracted by the news are convinced, evidence mounts and soon the entire village is swept up in the frenzied persecution of one of their own community.

Exploring a neglected episode in English history to powerful effect, *The Bewitching* chillingly conveys the brutal tribalism that can erupt in a closed society and how victims can be made to believe in their own wickedness.



© Joanne Coates

Jill Dawson's novels include *Fred & Edie*, which was shortlisted for the Orange Prize and the Whitbread Novel of the Year Award, *Watch Me Disappear*, which was longlisted for the Orange Prize, *The Crime Writer*, which won the East Anglian Book of the Year, and most recently *The Language of Birds*. An award-winning poet, she has also edited several poetry and short story anthologies.

Hardback: 9781473654662 | £18.99 | BCN inc Can  
eBook: 9781473654648 | Export TPB: 9781473654679  
Audio: 9781473654716  
288pp | July | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: United Agents



She had other,  
non-professional reasons,  
reasons nobody knew  
about, for her interest in  
the venomous lumpsucker.

FICTION

# VENOMOUS LUMPSUCKER

NED BEAUMAN

THE DAZZLING NEW NOVEL BY THE MAN BOOKER-LONGLISTED  
AND GRANTA BEST OF YOUNG BRITISH NOVELIST.

Laugh-out-loud funny and with a page-turning plot, a speculative literary thriller for the age of Extinction Rebellion.

The near future. With tens of thousands of species dying out every year, our last hope is the biobanks, impregnable vaults where animals' remnants can be preserved forever. Until one day an audacious cyberattack obliterates every single one.

In the aftermath, a troubled conservationist and a crooked mining

exec have to team up in search of the venomous lumpsucker, a lost fish that they both desperately need to save. Together, they pursue it through the weird landscapes of the 2030s – a nature reserve full of toxic waste; a floating city on the Baltic Sea; the dangerous hinterlands of a totalitarian state. And the further they go, the deeper they're drawn into the mystery of the attack on the biobanks. Who was behind it? And why would anyone do such a thing?

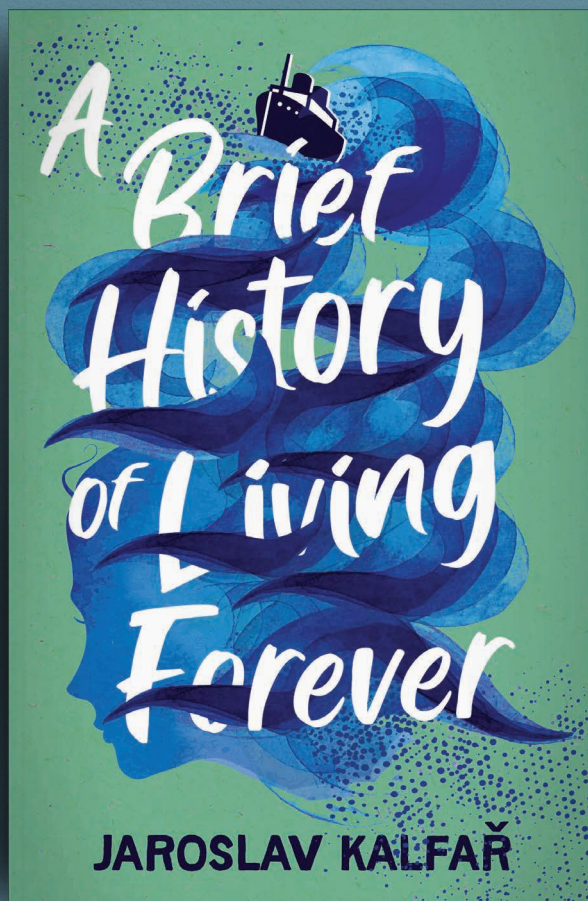


© Dylan Forsberg

Ned Beaman is the author of four novels: *Boxer*, *Beetle*, winner of the Writers' Guild Award for Best Fiction Book and the Goldberg Prize for Outstanding Debut Fiction, *The Teleportation Accident*, which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and won the Encore Award and a Somerset Maugham Award, and the highly acclaimed *Glow* and *Madness is Better Than Defeat*. He lives in London.

Hardback: 9781473613553 | £18.99 | BCN inc Can  
eBook: 9781473613546 | Export TPB: 9781473613560  
Audio: 9781473614185  
400pp | July | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Lutyens & Rubinstein





I never asked for this curse.  
Never in my life did I feel entitled  
to more youth or time.

## FICTION

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LIVING FOREVER

JAROSLAV KALFAŘ

AN AUDACIOUS NOVEL SET IN NEAR-FUTURE AMERICA,  
FROM THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF  
*SPACEMAN OF BOHEMIA*.

When Adéla discovers she has a terminal illness, her thoughts turn to Tereza, the American-raised daughter she gave up at birth. Leaving behind her moody, grown-up son in the Czech Republic, she flies to the United States to find her long-lost daughter.

In New York City, Tereza is working as the star researcher for two suspicious biotech moguls hellbent on developing a 'god pill' to extend human life indefinitely. But before Tereza can find a cure for Adela, her mother dies mysteriously.

Narrated from the beyond by Adéla, *A Brief History of Living Forever* is insightful, moving and funny. It blends an immigrant mother's heartbreaking journey in search of the the American dream with her children's quest to reclaim her from a country that would erase any record of her existence. Above all, it is a reminder that neither space nor time can sever our connection to the ones we love.



© Helen Melville

Jaroslav Kalfař was born and raised in Prague and immigrated to the United States at the age of fifteen. His critically acclaimed debut novel, *Spaceman of Bohemia*, was shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Science Fiction.

Hardback: 9781529368789 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU  
eBook: 9781529368802 | Export TPB: 9781529368796  
320pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Janklow and Nesbit



America was  
a shining dream,  
but it was just  
that – a dream,  
an interlude.

## FICTION

# AMERICAN FEVER

DUR E AZIZ AMNA

A COMPELLING AND HUMOROUS DEBUT NOVEL  
ABOUT ONE GIRL'S LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY FROM  
PAKISTAN TO AMERICA.

'Marks the debut of a thrilling new  
global voice' Peter Ho Davies

On a year-long exchange programme  
in rural Oregon, sixteen-year-old  
Hira must swap Kashmiri chai for  
volleyball practice and understand  
why everyone around her seems  
to dislike Obama. An unforgettably  
witty narrator, Hira finds herself stuck  
between two worlds. The experience  
is memorable for reasons both good  
and bad: a first kiss, new friends,  
racism, Islamophobia, homesickness.

Along the way, Hira starts to feel  
increasingly unwell until she begins  
coughing up blood and receives a  
diagnosis of tuberculosis, pushing her  
into quarantine and turning her newly  
established world upside down.

Equal parts life-affirming, wise and  
funny, *American Fever* announces Dur e  
Aziz Amna as a sparkling new literary  
talent.



© Nelson Pinheiro

Dur e Aziz Amna is a graduate of Yale University and the  
University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program, where  
*American Fever* won the Hopwood and Busch prizes. She won  
the Bodley Head/FT Essay Prize and the *London Magazine* Short  
Story Competition and has been longlisted for the *Sunday Times*  
Audible Short Story Award. She lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Hardback: 9781529393354 | £16.99 | World ex USA  
eBook: 9781529393378 | Export TPB: 9781529393361  
Audio: 9781529393385  
352pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton  
Other rights: Hodder & Stoughton



Our names tell a  
multitude of stories,  
reveal lost histories  
that embody who we  
really are and where  
we come from.  
Names are power.

## NON-FICTION

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

FRIENDSHIP, IDENTITY AND HISTORY IN MODERN  
MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN

**SHEELA BANERJEE**

THE HISTORY OF MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN THROUGH THE  
STORIES BEHIND OUR NAMES - FROM A LEGACY OF COLONIALISM  
TO CULTURAL INHERITANCE.

Our names are so familiar we barely notice them. But each name is a portal to another world containing a multitude of stories of belonging and heritage.

Sheela Banerjee's parents arrived in London from West Bengal in the 1960s. Their newborn daughter grew up with a name that felt neither English nor Indian and a surname that reeks of the legacy of British colonial rule in India. Her name is emblematic of the cultural no-man's-land where Sheela will always exist. And what

of Sheela's daughter, growing up in twenty-first-century London, and her cultural legacy?

Telling the stories of friends and family through their names, Sheela Banerjee shows how each name contains centuries of history, from an escape from civil war in Nigeria to Jamaica in the 1960s and pre-Revolutionary Russia. Told with eloquence and wit, *What's in a Name?* is an exceptional interrogation of the history of multicultural Britain today.



© Dollan Cannell

Sheela Banerjee is a journalist and academic and previously worked as a documentary maker for the BBC and Channel 4. She has been published in the journal *Modernism/modernity* and in the book *Modernist Women and Spirituality*. She lives with her family in London.

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320pp | August | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton

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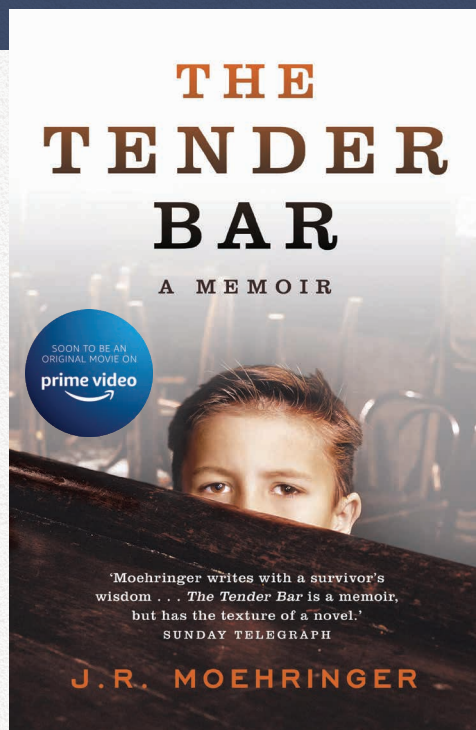


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J. R. MOEHRINGER



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'J. R. Moehringer lovingly and affectionately toasts a boyhood spent on a barstool.'

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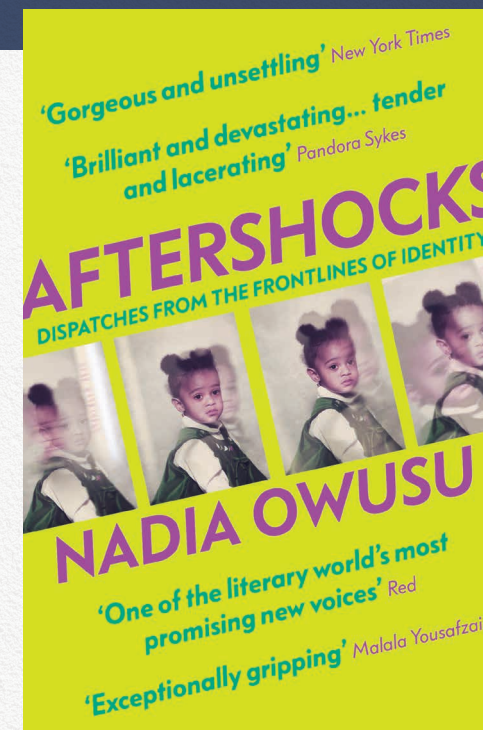
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NON-FICTION

# AFTERSHOCKS

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTLINES OF IDENTITY

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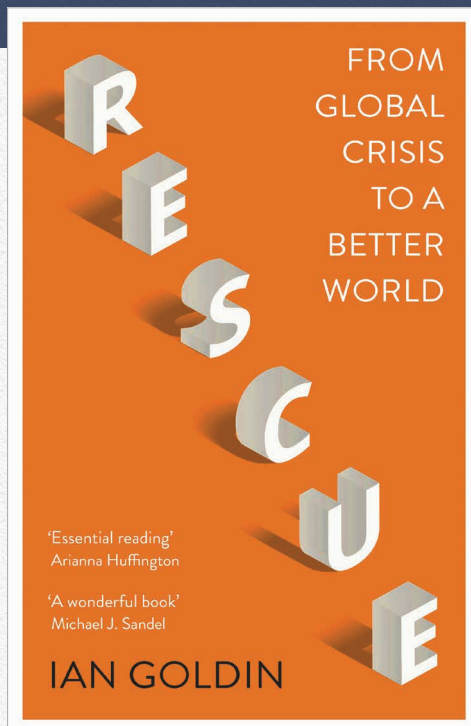


NON-FICTION

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FICTION

# RED MILK

SJÓN

TRANSLATED BY VICTORIA CRIBB

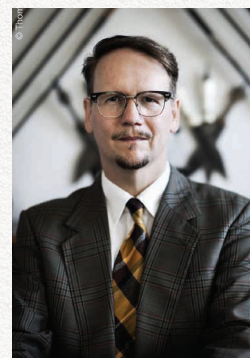
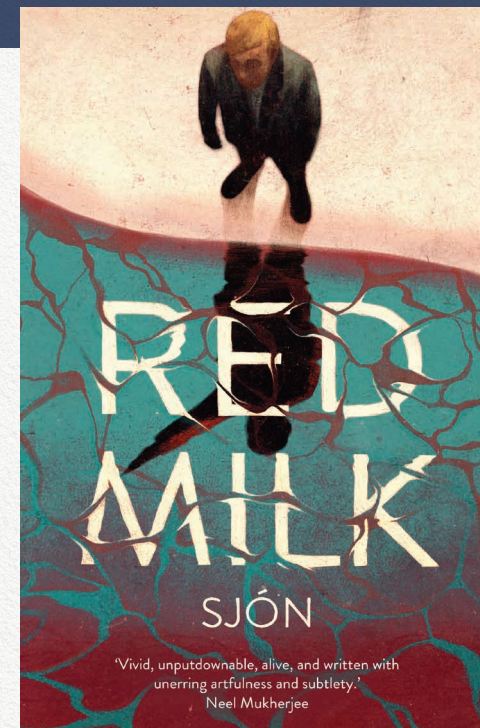
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## THE SECRET RISE OF PRIVATE SPIES

BARRY MEIER



HARDBACK COVER

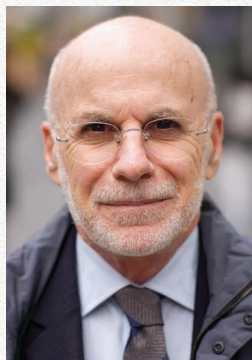
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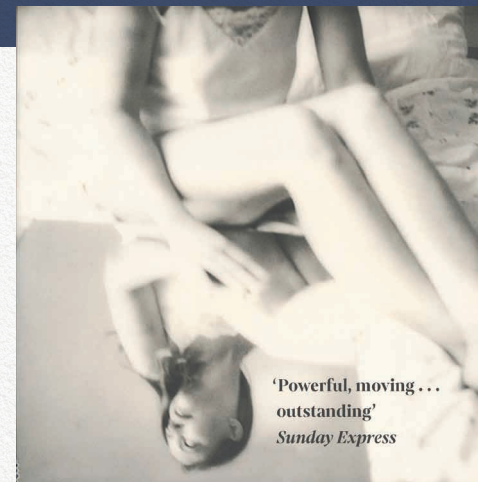
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There are deep thoughts sown beneath the light and charming surfaces of Griffin's novels. Her books are fable-like, deep musings on life, mortality, and what makes a life worth living'

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FICTION

## OTHER PEOPLE'S CLOTHES

CALLA HENKEL



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'I couldn't stop turning the pages . . . a debut you won't want to miss'

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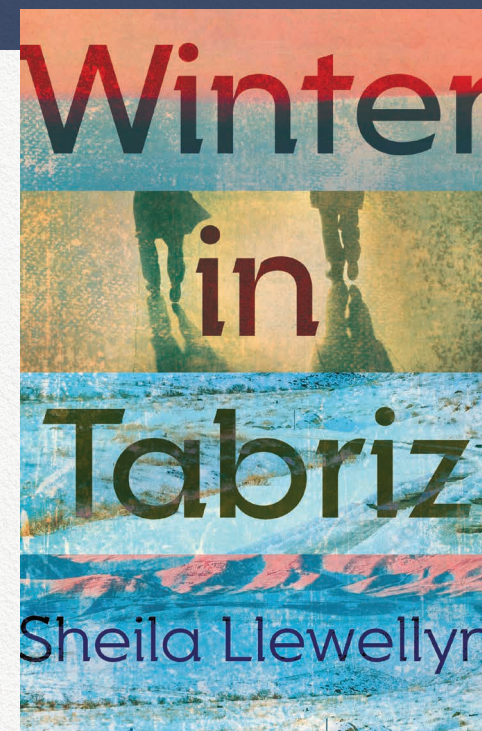
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FICTION

## WINTER IN TABRIZ

SHEILA LLEWELLYN



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'Takes on huge, political and personal themes and carries them off superbly'

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A LOVE STORY

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'Brilliant'

*IRISH TIMES*

'Stunning'

*LONDON MAGAZINE*

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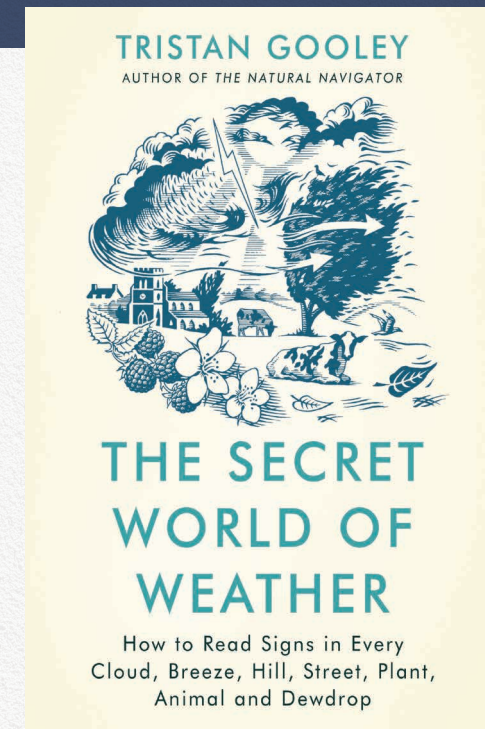
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HOW TO READ SIGNS IN EVERY CLOUD, BREEZE, HILL, STREET, PLANT, ANIMAL AND DEWDROP

TRISTAN GOOLEY



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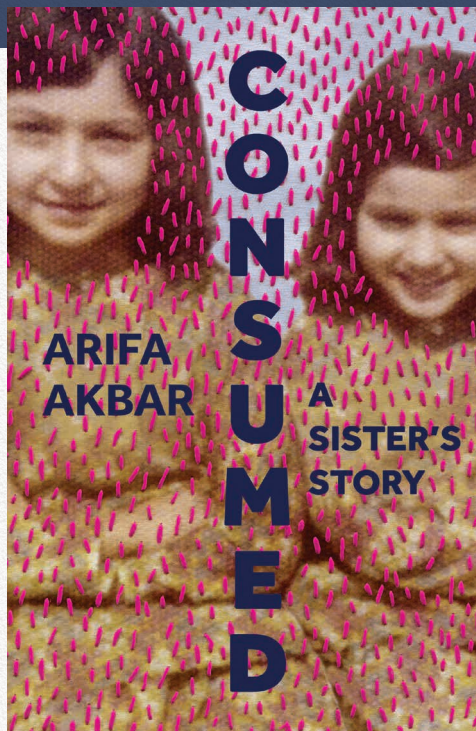


NON-FICTION

## CONSUMED

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ARIFA AKBAR



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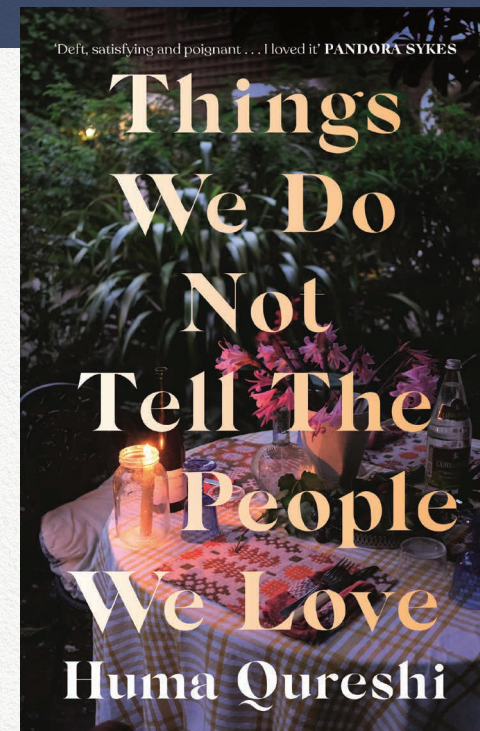
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FICTION

## THINGS WE DO NOT TELL THE PEOPLE WE LOVE

HUMA QURESHI



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AUTHOR OF *WINTERING*



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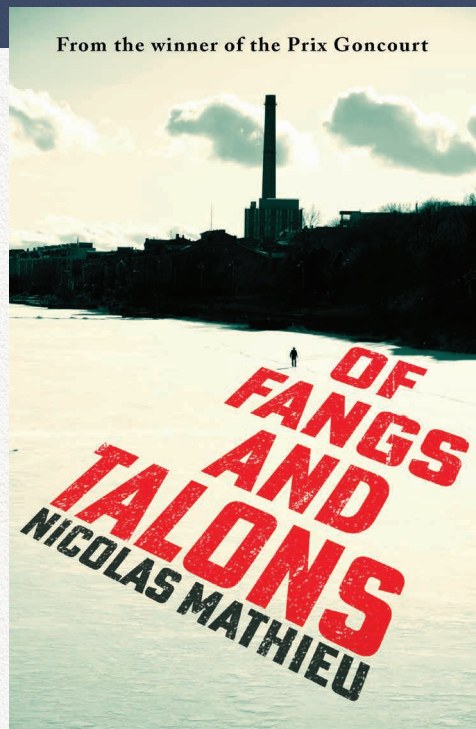
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FICTION

# OF FANGS AND TALONS

NICOLAS MATHIEU  
TRANSLATED BY SAM TAYLOR



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'Before Nicolas Mathieu won the Prix Goncourt in 2018 for *And Their Children After Them* he wrote this remarkable novel . . . Mathieu, a wonderful writer, echoes the grittiness and compassion of Émile Zola in *Germinal*.'

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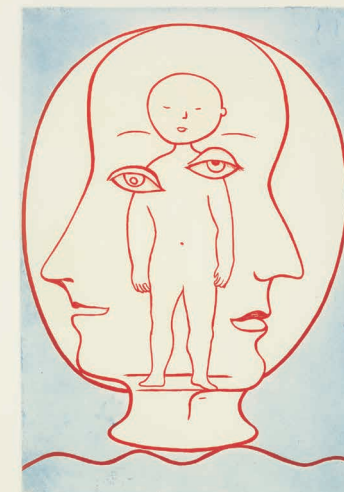
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NON-FICTION

# MOTHERS, FATHERS, AND OTHERS NEW ESSAYS

SIRI HUSTVEDT

MOTHERS, FATHERS,  
AND OTHERS



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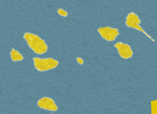
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