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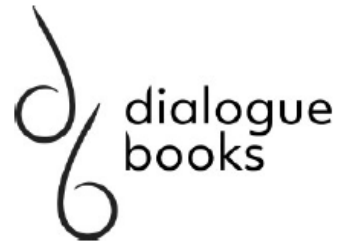
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**Non-fiction, June 2022**

OUR IMPRINTS





## THOROUGHLY MODERN by Sarah Knights

Biography | January 2023 | Virago | 320 pp | illustrations – to be decided

### A biography of Barbara Ker-Seymer, the pioneering avant-garde photographer who worked with the Bright Young Things, the Surrealists, and the Bloomsbury Group



This biography focuses on a closely-knit network of avant-garde artists, writers, designers and dancers who dominated the cultural landscape of 20<sup>th</sup> century Britain and beyond. At its centre, was Barbara Ker-Seymer (1905-1993), a pioneering photographer whose images define this talented forward-looking generation. She disdained lucrative ‘society’ portraits in favour of modern, abstract images, and her portraiture broke with convention, emphasising light, angles and planes. Her work was not only famous but widely admired among her peers, including Man Ray. Paul Nash championed her work. She was the photographer of choice for the leading actors, artists, dancers and writers of her generation. Her sitters

include Cyril Connolly, Evelyn Waugh, Margot Fonteyn, Jean Cocteau and Vita Sackville-West. Today, Ker-Seymer’s photographs are known for who they represent, rather than the face behind the camera. This irony is underpinned by the misattribution of some of her most daring and innovative images, to Cecil Beaton. This biography restores Ker-Seymer to her rightful position as an artist at the centre of the avant-garde. Moreover, it reveals a close network of like-minded practitioners across the arts. All shared a belief in a modern, stylistic unity between dance, theatre, design, music, art and photography. Ker-Seymer’s intelligence, wit and genius behind a camera enabled her to link arms with the Surrealists, with Jean Cocteau, the Bloomsbury Group and Bright Young Things, and the worlds of theatre, cabaret and jazz.

In contrast to the Bloomsbury Group, they did not hail from privilege or high academia – they were middle class or working class, and they earned their own living according to their merits. ‘Sexual ambiguity was the rule. Sexual promiscuity and sexual aberration the mode [...] everyone seemed to be very androgynous or bisexual’. They lived in an era and occupied an arena where heterosexuality was not necessarily considered a virtue.

**Sarah Knights** has unprecedented access to private archives and hitherto unseen material and photographs will enliven this biography and bring Ker-Seymer’s avant-garde vividly to life. Her first book, *Bloomsbury’s Outsider: A Life of David Garnett*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2015 to critical acclaim. It was short-listed for the Slightly Fox Best First Biography Prize (2015) and for the James Tait Black Prize for Biography (2016).

## ESTHER SIMPSON: by John Eidinow

History, biography | February 2023 | Robinson | 304pp | illustrations – to be decided

### The Woman who Defied the Nazis and Helped Shape the Cultural History of the World

Esther Simpson devoted her life to rescuing and resettling mostly Jewish, academic refugees, whom she called her ‘children’, in the late 1930s and early ‘40s. Each case had to be argued with the Home Office and Simpson prepared 560 applications. In the end – but how slow the process seemed – they succeeded. Simpson’s ‘family’ was described as ‘the most talented and distinguished in the world’. Among their ranks were sixteen Nobel Prize winners, eighteen Knights of the Realm, seventy-four Fellows of the Royal Society, thirty-four Fellows of the British Academy and two members of the Order of Merit. This is the story of a now largely forgotten woman, a woman whose relentless efforts and tireless bravery helped shape the face of modern world.

**John Eidinow** has published three books with David Edmonds, each describing clashes between men of titanic gifts: *Wittgenstein’s Poker* (shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award); *Bobby Fischer Goes to War* (long listed for the Samuel Johnson prize); and *Rousseau’s Dog*. He has also presented and interviewed for BBC Radio 4 and World Service, working in news and current affairs, and making documentaries on historical and contemporary issues.

## **IT'S NOT ABOUT WHITENESS; IT'S ABOUT WEALTH: How the Economics of Race Really Work by Remi Adekoya**

Economics / identity / race | February 2023 | Constable | 190 pp

**An open and insightful investigation at how contemporary racial hierarchies are determined by wealth and economics, and how this is reflected in today's societal and economic hierarchies.**

*Adekoya seems poised to become one of the most important and subtle new voices in Britain's never-ending conversation about race* - David Goodhart

This book will approach the race issue in the realist spirit employed by Niccoló Machiavelli to explain politics in *The Prince*: an unsentimental examination of what shapes power dynamics between racial groups and how these determine the racial hierarchies causing so much frustration today. He puts forward the argument that these hierarchies are determined by economics which is why they are a faithful reflection of today's economic hierarchies.

Race relations are shaped by socioeconomic realities, not by ideologies à la 'white supremacy' as often currently argued. In a capitalist world, the most important power is financial power. Financial power is what enables the acquisition of both hard and soft power, hence the status of a racial group ultimately depends on its collective financial muscle. The existing racial hierarchy that fuels racism is the brutally logical consequence of a global economic hierarchy and must be faced as such to be debated effectively.

Throughout Adekoya's provocative and informative prose he examines this argument while taking into account his experiences he has observed from his own upbringing in Nigeria, his Polish heritage and also his experiences living in Britain.

**Dr Remi Adekoya** teaches Politics at the University of York. He is focussed on trying to understand identity in its emotional, psychological and political manifestations. He is particularly interested in the links between identity, history, psychology and politics in white-majority Western societies and in black Africa. He has written for *Guardian, Spectator, The Times, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, Washington Post, Politico, Evening Standard, UnHerd* and *Standpoint* among others, and he has commented on issues of identity and politics for BBC TV, Sky News, South Africa Broadcasting Corporation, BBC Radio, Times Radio and Radio France International among others. He lived in Nigeria and Poland before moving to Britain. He is the author of *BIRACIAL BRITAIN*.

## **WHERE ARE YOU FROM? NO, WHERE ARE YOU REALLY FROM?**

**by Audrey Osler**

Society / race | April 2023 | Virago | 256 pp

**A polemical and provocative investigation into the multi-generational impact of provenance**

*Where are you from? No, where are you really from?* explores three central themes: migration, identity and belonging, examining them in the context of empire, and its continuing impact on the lives of those in Britain today. The question, 'Where are you from?' is familiar to all. But for people of colour, it more often than not carries an insinuation that they don't really belong. This is made explicit in the frequent follow-up: 'No, where are you *really* from?' This book explores why the question continues to be asked and considers its impact on people of colour.

The author draws on memoir and historical research, tracing the experiences of empire and migration across seven generations of her family, delving back to the 1760s, spanning various countries, including Britain, Ireland, Imperial India and Singapore. She sets the stories of individual women and men in the socio-political contexts of their times and discusses the factors that lead them to set out on uncertain and arduous journeys across continents, including conflict, abduction, displacement, economic necessity, and love. The book explores the meanings of these stories for our age. The stories have resonance for anyone that has personal or family experiences of migration, but draw all readers to reconsider what it means to be British today.

**Audrey Osler** is Professor Emerita of Human Rights Education and Citizenship at the University of Leeds. You can find out more here - [essl.leeds.ac.uk/education/staff/394/emeritus-professor-audrey-osler](https://essl.leeds.ac.uk/education/staff/394/emeritus-professor-audrey-osler)

## PEOPLE, POWER, PAINTING by Caroline Campbell

Art history | April 2023 | Bridge Street | 560 | illustrated throughout

**'The visual arts speak to people anywhere in the world, across barriers of politics, religion and nation. We can all see ourselves, and our relationship with the wider world, reflected back to us in art.'**

PEOPLE, POWER AND PAINTING is an epic work of non-fiction that will transform our understanding of the world by unlocking the human stories behind millennia of art. Taking readers from ancient Babylon to contemporary Pyongyang, the eminent curator Caroline Campbell explains art's power to illuminate our lives, and inspires us to benefit from its transformative and regenerative power.

Unlike most of art history, this book is about much more than the cult of personality. Instead, each chapter is structured around a city at a particularly vibrant moment in its history, describing what propelled its creativity and innovation. The emotions and societies she evokes are recognisable today, showing how great art resonates powerfully by transcending the boundaries of time.

E. H. Gombrich's *The Story of Art* has sold eight million copies since it was first published in 1950. Like Gombrich, Campbell is writing a single volume history of art that combines deep scholarship with engaging and absorbing writing. There are clear points of difference, however, in Campbell's that make PEOPLE, POWER AND PAINTING distinctive and timely. Gombrich's book looks more at individual artists rather than their contexts, and ends abruptly in the late 1930s. Campbell's book puts life, people and places back into the history of art, and brings us to the present day. Her book also goes beyond white Caucasian men in Europe and North America, by showing us that for much of human history the West wasn't the centre of artistic culture, but a relative backwater.

The cities Campbell describe include Kyoto, Baghdad, Florence, Beijing, Benin, New York, Delhi, Amsterdam, Brasilia, Pyongyang, among others.

**Dr Caroline Campbell** is Director of Collections and Research at the National Gallery. She will make an excellent and committed spokesperson for her book - an experienced public speaker, she is passionate about widening public engagement with art.

## FREE WHEELS by Sara Wheeler

Travel writing / memoir | March 2023 | Little, Brown |

**Renowned travel writer, Wheeler records her life of adventure from Zanzibar to north London.**

Sara Wheeler came of age when role models were scarce. The seventies launched a golden age for travel writing, but few women set sail. Wheeler did, and never looked back. From her renowned seven months in Antarctica, to the trains of India, to the Greyhound bus in north America, FREE WHEELS navigates a life lived across the planet.

This memoir will be Wheeler's tenth book, and her first encapsulating a multitude of geographical locations. Female narratives in travel are few and far between, and rarely with such experience and longtime audience as Wheeler's.

**Sara Wheeler's** books include the international bestseller *Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica*, CHILE: TRAVELS IN A THIN COUNTRY, EVIA: AN ISLAND APART, *The Magnetic North: Notes from the Arctic Circle*, which was chosen as Book of the Year by Will Self, Michael Palin, A. N. Wilson and others. She has published two biographies of travellers, *Cherry: A Life of Apsley Cherry-Garrard*, and *Too Close to the Sun: The Life and Times of Denys Finch Hatton*, and was immensely relieved to write about women at last in *O My America!* She lives in London.

Praise for Sara Wheeler: *A writer of rare talent – the Observer; Penetrating, vivacious and often amusing – The Times; What she has done could not be done better – Independent; Lively and sympathetic – Daily Telegraph; [A] literary maestro – Financial Times; You want to travel with her, and you want to travel blind – Scotsman; A writer of great composure and energy – Spectator*

## **P.S. BURN THIS LETTER, PLEASE**

LGBT, society, history | June 2023 | Sphere | 240 pp | illustrations: colour and b/w throughout

**A personal, vivid snapshot of drag culture in 1950s New York, showing readers how modern drag culture was born through first-hand letters, photographs and lively research**

*Their greatest act of resistance was simply existing*

Drags, fags and trans-women were attracted to the Big Apple because they were able to find work as impersonators in a small number of Lower East Side clubs.

Decades before Stonewall, they occupied the margins of society, determined to live as they pleased, despite the attentions of the police. Sometimes reduced to stealing to get their costumes, they were unstoppable, fearless and fabulous.

When a cache of their letters was discovered, these individuals were given a voice where they had traditionally been silenced. The letters they wrote bear witness to a time when gay community was hard to find.

Blending social, political and cultural history with memoir, this book is an unforgettable and moving encounter with a generation of incredible survivors and a necessary account of how modern drag culture was born.

Based on a documentary of the same name, *P.S. Burn This Letter, Please* was met with critical acclaim at the Tribeca Film Festival and BFI Flare. This book is a companion piece to the film, expanding on the stories and widening the audience even further. It is available on Discovery +

## **ONE FINE DAY by Matthew Parker**

British history | August 2023 | Little, Brown | extent: 400 | illustrations – to be decided

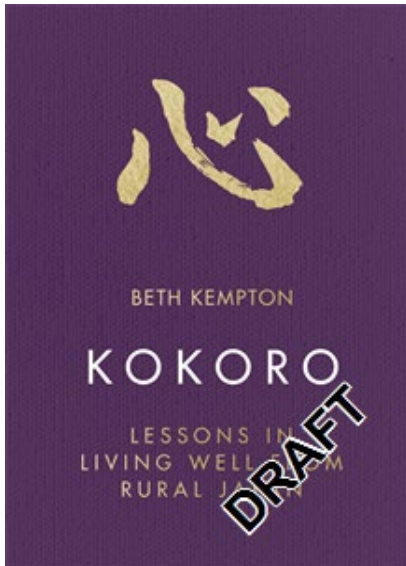
**The story of the greatest empire in world history at its absolute, hubristic zenith**

29<sup>th</sup> September 1923. The British Empire was fourteen million square miles, just under a quarter of the globe's land area. 460 million people - a fifth of the world's population - inhabited it. In ONE FINE DAY Matthew Parker examines this astonishing edifice in all its glory but with all of its ugly underbelly clearly visible, and with the seeds of its demise already sown. Readers will be able to inhabit the lives of people, rich and poor, male and female, coloniser and colonised, who are agents in this moment of apparent imperial super-glory. We learn what they ate, what they wore, their likes and dislikes, what they thought. This magisterial survey takes in in trivial, personal events as well as momentous political and military ones. While there might be ground-breaking elections, military clashes and violent demonstrations, there are also marriages, suicides, strange disappearances, parties.

**Matthew Parker** was born in El Salvador in 1970 to an expatriate family and while growing up, lived in Britain, Norway and Barbados. He read English at Balliol College, Oxford and then worked in a number of roles in book publishing in London from salesman to commissioning editor.

## **KOKORO: JAPANESE WISDOM FOR A LIFE WELL-LIVED** by Beth Kempton

Lifestyle, personal development | November 2023 | Piatkus | 256 pp | illustrations – to be decided



### **An original and timely guide to slowing down and reconnecting with ourselves, inspired by Japanese culture, wisdom and traditions**

This book is an invitation to cultivate stillness and contentment in an ever-changing, uncertain world. Drawing on a thousand years of Japanese literature, culture and philosophical ideas to explore the true nature of time and what it means to be human, *Kokoro* - which mysteriously translates as 'heart-mind' - is a meditation on living well.

Join Japanologist Beth Kempton on this life-changing pilgrimage far beyond the tourist trail, to uncover the soul of the country, its people and its deeply buried wisdom. In doing so you'll discover a revolutionary way of looking at life and the world that will transform your approach to living. You will learn how to cultivate presence, awareness, calm and joy so that you can move beyond regret and fear to make the most of every day.

Distilling insight from a rich variety of sources, from centuries-old poetry and ancient Zen texts to martial arts teaching and contemporary philosophy, alongside the real-life stories of modern day pioneers, *KOKORO* offers a gentle and inspiring take on what it truly means to be happy and leads you to its heart, so you can live each day with wonder and ease. And then, when the time comes to look back on it all, you will know that yours was a life well-lived.

**Beth Kempton** is an award-winning entrepreneur and the bestselling author of *WABI SABI: JAPANESE WISDOM FOR A PERFECTLY IMPERFECT LIFE* and *CALM CHRISTMAS*. Her books have been translated into twenty-five languages, chosen as an Apple USA 'must listen' audiobook on iTunes, and recommended in *TIME Magazine*, *British Vogue*, the *Telegraph*, *Sunday Times Style* and *Psychologies*. She has two degrees in Japanese and has spent many years living and working in her second home, Japan. She is also a qualified yoga teacher and a Reiki Master trained in the Japanese tradition in Tokyo. As Founder of *Do What You Love*, she has produced and taught online courses and workshops that have helped tens of thousands of people all over the world to discover their passion, explore their creativity and live a more inspired life.

## **A WORD FROM THE MARGINS: THE INTERSECTIONS OF RACE, GENDER, CLASS AND AMBITION** by Lennina Ofori

Society / memoir | January 2024 | Dialogue | 304 pp

### **As a woman nearing forty, Ofori offers us a glimpse into her many lives: as a Black woman, as a pregnant teen, as an entrepreneur, and many more**

Lennina Ofori steps back to look at a life marginalised. Far more than a story of race, class, or womanhood, *A WORD FROM THE MARGINS* is part memoir, part essay largely based upon her personal experiences within the margins of society. We take in key moments of Ofori's life, starting out as a naive, pregnant sixteen-year-old, becoming an entrepreneur, and eventually wife and mother of five, living in Berlin. She speaks openly about the peaks and troughs of life beyond that normally exposed in memoir, about molestation, the fear of parenting, being involved with the wrong people, being set free, making it out of the margins yet still identifying with it and teetering in and out.

**Lennina Ofori** is a multi-hyphenated entrepreneur, academic, transformation consultant, wife and mother. A creative activist, she has been writing since her youth. With an MA in Applied Theatre, she began writing theatre for change and theatre in the criminal justice system, touring plays to various establishments. Her passion to support marginalised youth and adults is the catalyst for her opening a semi-independent provision for young people in care and undertaking a doctorate in the provision of services for young people. Her creativity and business acumen have also extended itself to see the opening of an empowering women's fashion brand 21st Mill.



## THE REJECTS by Jamie Collinson

Music | March 2024 | Constable | 336pp

### The Rejects takes an intimate, thoughtful look at people who've been kicked out of bands, what they experienced and what came afterwards.

Imagine you've made it. You and your friends have hit the big time in music and you're going to be a star. But then, quite suddenly, it's over. Your best friends don't want you anymore, and you're on the outside. Perhaps they're tired of your bad habits, they think you're not good enough, or they sense you just don't want it as much as they do. Whatever the cause, you're a reject. So, what do you do next? Featuring a player rejected by both Nirvana and Soundgarden who became a decorated special forces soldier, Britpoppers who spiralled into addiction before becoming novelists and missionaries, the terrifying story of Guns N' Roses' first drummer, super-rejecting band leaders, self-destroying rappers, troubled hard rock bassists and girl-band burnouts, *The Rejects* takes an intimate, thoughtful look at people who've been kicked out of bands, what they experienced and what came afterwards. Coming from a writer with twenty years' music industry experience, *The Rejects* is a sympathetic study of some of music's most fascinating characters, and what happens when the dream comes crashing to an end.

**Jamie Collinson** has worked in the music business for over twenty years, primarily for two iconic independent record labels; Ninja Tune and Domino. Having worked with Arctic Monkeys, My Bloody Valentine, Franz Ferdinand, Wiley, Roots Manuva and Bonobo, he's lived in London and Los Angeles, where he founded Ninja Tune's US HQ. He's been backstage at some of the world's most famous venues and festivals in the company of the artists he's worked with, navigated colourful characters, A&R'd albums and directed marketing campaigns to sell them. Along the way, he's seen success and failure, heartbreak, joy, addiction, violence, terrifying egoism and stunning generosity. Throughout it all he's done a lot of writing, including journalism for the Guardian Online, Spectator, Caught by the River and many music magazines. He published a novel, *The Edge*, with Oneworld Publications in 2020.

## UNDRESSING WOMEN by Vanessa Nicholson

Social and cultural history / feminism | March 2024 | Virago | 400 + 200 photos

### A hundred years of beauty-fascism, 1860 – 1960

This is the story of women's lives in Great Britain from 1860-1960 through fashion and beauty - from the suffragettes casting off corsets to Christian Dior reintroducing the hourglass; from wartime uniforms to the first Miss World bikinis; from skin lightening creams to Coco Chanel's tan. It blends fascinating source material with authorial analysis to outline a century of change in the way we see and feel about women's bodies. The best feature of Virginia Nicholson's work is her ability to discover great primary sources and tell a story through insight into real lives. She is an outstanding researcher and has access to unseen or newly opened archives. Her quoted material is touching, often funny, and driven by personality. It's charming and memorable to read. The point of the book will be to give a wide-lens historical view and lots of period detail, allowing the author to point out parallels and paradoxes.

Praise for Virginia Nicholson for *How Was It For You?*

*Virginia Nicholson is one of the great social historians of our time, and How Was It For You? is another jewel in her crown. No one else makes history this fun* – Amanda Foreman; *Fine intelligence and irresistible brio...* *How Was It For You? is a kaleidoscopic tribute to the generation that put the "F" into feminism.* – Tina Brown; *Intimate, immersive, often moving* - David Kynaston; *Nicholson is the outstanding recorder of British lives in the twentieth century* - Carmen Callil; *Great and wonderfully revelatory* - Anne Sebba; *An absorbing study of an extraordinary age. Beautifully written and intensively researched* - Selina Hastings; *A dazzling kaleidoscope of facts, feelings and observations* - Juliet Nicolson; *A hugely ambitious, kaleidoscope of a book* - Richard Vinen; *Makes it feel like the Sixties have never been away* - Hunter Davies; *Sparkling* - Daisy Goodwin, *The Sunday Times*

**Virginia Nicholson** was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grew up in Yorkshire and Sussex, and studied at Cambridge University. She lived abroad in France and Italy, then worked as a documentary researcher for the BBC. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, her books include the acclaimed social histories *Among the Bohemians*, *Singled Out*, *Millions Like Us*, and *Perfect Wives in Ideal Homes*. She is married with three grown-up children and lives in Sussex.

## THE SELECTED LETTERS OF JANE CARLYLE edited by Claudia Fitzherbert

History, letters | April 2024 | Virago | 320 pp | illustrations – to be decided

### The selected letters of a remarkable Victorian woman



Jane Welsh Carlyle (1800-1866) was a writer like her husband, the historian Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), but while he wrote volumes about the French Revolution, Oliver Cromwell and Frederick the Great she abjured big books in favour of letters and found her epics closer to home. In this selection of her letters she is revealed to be a hugely entertaining companion—wry, good on detail, and just as prone to the vagaries of mood and health, and full of the joys of an unexpectedly good literary party. It is clear that she didn't need to write books, because her energies went into these lively letters, and being married to Thomas Carlyle.

Says Claudia FitzHerbert: 'Jane Carlyle is a writer who has been rescued by the academy but who doesn't belong in the academy. In her compelling mixture of everywoman concerns and what she called her 'I-ety' she sheds light on what it was to keep house and stay married, fall ill, and stay sane, in a lightless nineteenth century world of smog and soot, and morphine over the counter. But she also, miraculously, closes the gap between now and then. Her distrust of organised religion and her ear for cant, her mockery of mansplainers, fondness for strays and madmen and refusal to

recognise conventional boundaries in her relationships with her maids – these are just some of the strains in her correspondence which make her attractive to the modern reader. In recent decades, Jane Carlyle's autonomy as a life-writer has been recognised and with this has come the suggestion that the clever and frustrated doctor's daughter chose her tyrant Man of Genius husband with her eyes wide open.'

Home was a tall dark house in Cheyne Row, Chelsea, into which the Carlyles moved from Scotland in 1834 and stayed for the rest of their lives. Her letters rejoice in the everlasting sound 'of men, women, children, omnibuses, carriages glass coaches, streetcoaches, waggons, carts, dog-carts, steeple bells, doorbells, Gentlemen-raps, twopenny-post-raps, footmen-showers-of raps... This stirring life is more to my mind, and has besides a beneficial effect on my bowels.' Her letters read like a most intelligent and engrossing novel.

**Claudia Fitzherbert** is a renowned book reviewer. Her *SELECTED LETTERS OF JANE CARLYLE* has the potential to reach a much wider audience than the current academic editions. The most recent selection appeared in 2004, published by Ashgate, and the cover price was £50. Our book consists of one hundred and fifty letters and is divided into six sections tracking Carlyle's development.

### UNTITLED autobiography by John Grant with Fiona Sturges

Autobiography, music | November 2024 | Little, Brown | 352 pp | illustrations – to be decided

### Grant's story is about family, alienation, masculinity, self-destruction, survival, the creative spirit – his voice on the page is just as unique and intimate as his music



In the past seven years John Grant has risen to become a hugely acclaimed singer-songwriter. His musical career started in the mid 90s when he and four other musicians formed the alternative, Denver-based rock band The Czars, and released six albums, while Grant struggled with drug and alcohol addictions. His last two LPs reached the Top Ten in the album charts and topped the end-of-year critics' lists in national newspapers and leading music magazines. He has been nominated for a Brit and a Q Award, won Attitude's Man of the Year award, and has sold out The Roundhouse, Hammersmith Apollo, Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall, some of them several times over. *Mojo* named his first album, *Queen of Denmark*, 'an Instant Classic' (only the second time *Mojo* has ever done that) and it was *Mojo*'s album of the year in 2010. He has followed up with two further critically acclaimed studio albums and a live album with the BBC Philharmonic. He was Rough Trade's top-selling artist.

John Grant has collaborated with Elton John, Kylie Minogue, Sinead O'Connor, Robbie Williams, Tracey Thorn, Allison Goldfrapp, Amanda Palmer, the BBC Philharmonic and the Northern Royal Sinfonia, and is a regular stand-in presenter on BBC6 Music. In 2016 he made a programme for Radio 4 about his adopted home of Reykjavik. The filmmaker Daisy Asquith is currently making a documentary about Grant.

