



2023

SCEPTRE



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THE SCEPTRE STORY

Inspired writing. Irresistible reading.

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

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

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



sceptre

originals



NON-FICTION

ASHES & STONES

A Scottish Journey in Search of Witches and Witness

Allyson Shaw

A lyrical search, through history and across landscapes, for the women persecuted during the Scottish witch hunts.

Ashes & Stones is a moving and personal journey, along rugged coasts and through remote villages and cities, in search of the traces of those accused of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Scotland.

We visit modern memorials, roadside shrines and standing stones, and roam among forests and hedge mazes, folklore and political fantasies. From fairy hills to forgotten caves, we explore a spellbound landscape.

Allyson Shaw untangles the myth of witchcraft and gives voice to those

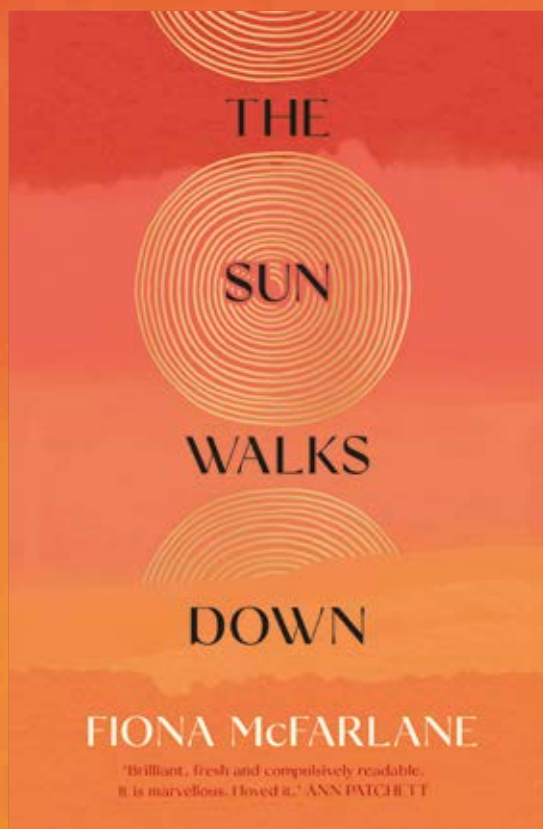
erased by it. Her elegant and lucid prose weaves threads of history and feminist reclamation, alongside beautiful travel, nature and memoir writing, to create a vibrant memorial. This is the untold story of the witches' monuments of Scotland and the women's lives they mark. *Ashes & Stones* is a trove of folklore linking the lives of contemporary women to the horrors of the past, and it is a call to choose and remember our ancestors.

ALLYSON SHAW has worked as a professional writer for the last thirty years. Her work has appeared in many literary journals and anthologies. Her writing on the Scottish witch trials has appeared in *Cunning Folk, Rituals & Declarations* and *A Beautiful Resistance*. She lives in Banff on the northeast coast of Scotland.

Hardback: 9781529395457 | £18.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781529395471 | Audio: 9781529395488
304pp | January | Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton
Other rights: The North Literary Agency



© Michael Row



THE

SUN

WALKS

DOWN

FIONA McFARLANE

'Brilliant, fresh and compulsively readable.
It is marvellous. I loved it.' ANN PATCHETT

FICTION

THE SUN WALKS DOWN

Fiona McFarlane

By the prize-winning author of *The Night Guest*, a panoramic novel about myth, art, love and dispossession.

In September 1883, after a dust storm bowls through a small town in the Australian outback, a dreadful discovery is made: six-year-old Denny Wallace has gone missing.

As they scour the desert and mountains for the lost boy, the residents of Fairly – newlyweds, landowners, farmers, mothers, artists, Indigenous trackers, cameleers, children, schoolteachers, widows, maids, policemen – confront their relationships with one another and with the ancient landscape they inhabit.

The colonial Australia of *The Sun Walks Down* is unfamiliar, multicultural, and

FIONA MCFARLANE'S first novel, *The Night Guest*, won several prizes and was shortlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award and Miles Franklin Literary Award among others. Her story collection, *The High Places*, won the International Dylan Thomas Prize. From Sydney, she now lives in the US where she teaches at the University of California, Berkeley. This is her second novel.

Hardback: 9781529389821 | £18.99 | BCN ex Can, ex ANZ, inc EU
eBook: 9781529389845 | Audio: 9781529389852
Export: 9781529389838 | 416pp | March
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Susanna Lea Associates

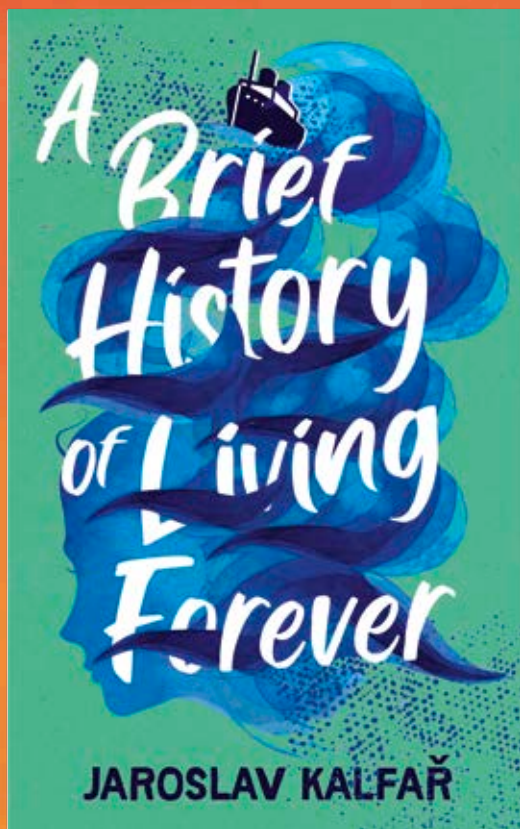
noisy with arguments, longings and terrors. It is haunted by many gods – the sun among them, rising and falling on each day in which Denny could be found, or lost forever.

'Gorgeous storytelling and superb characters... magnificent'
Michelle de Kretser

'Exceptional... the power with which Fiona McFarlane evokes the place and time is extraordinary' Evie Wyld



© Yarina Gelsinsky



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 son, Roman, in their native Czech village, she flies to the United States to find the long-lost daughter who never knew her.

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 Adéla, her mother dies mysteriously.

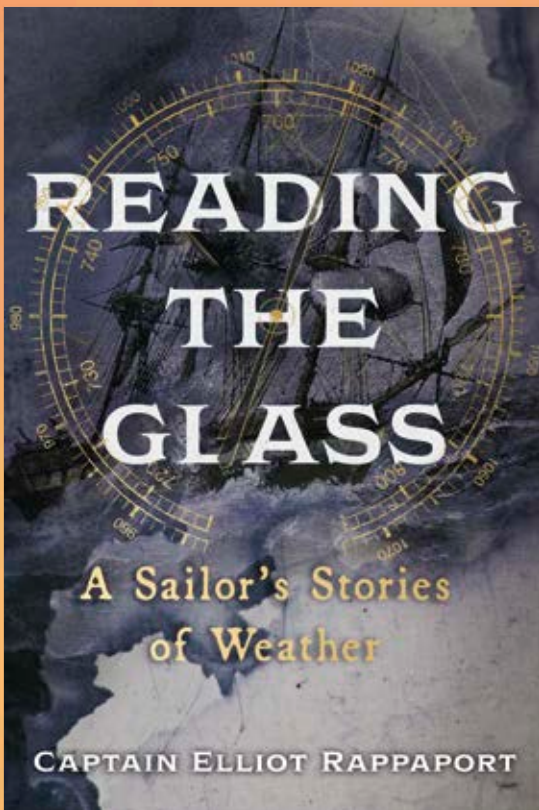
Narrated from the beyond by Adéla, *A Brief History of Living Forever* is a high-wire act of storytelling. By turns insightful, moving and funny, the novel blends an immigrant mother's heartbreaking journey through the American dream with her children's quest to reclaim her from a country that would erase any record of her existence.

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 and a film adaptation will be released soon. He lives in Brooklyn.

Hardback: 9781529368789 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU, ex Asia
eBook: 9781529368802 | Audio: 9781399705714
Export: 9781529368796 | 320pp | March
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Janklow & Nesbit



© Helen Melville



READING THE GLASS

A Sailor's Stories of Weather

Captain Elliot Rappaport

A fascinating insight into the science of weather and the strange, wild and wonderful world of life at sea.

What's in a cloud? What separates a tropical storm from a winter blizzard? And what exactly is El Niño? Elliot Rappaport, a professional captain of traditional sailing ships, has spent three decades at sea, where understanding weather could be the difference between life and death. In *Reading the Glass*, he offers a sailor's-eye view of the moving parts of our atmosphere and unveils the larger patterns it holds: global winds, storms, air masses, jet streams, and the longer arc of our climate.

Told through a series of tall ship voyages, Rappaport's narrative takes readers from the icy seas of Greenland to the Roaring Forties, places where one can experience

all four seasons in an hour. He navigates the turbulent waters of the Strait of Gibraltar, en route to storied port cities of the Mediterranean. In the vast tropical Pacific, he crosses the equator, where heat, moisture, and unsettled winds churn out powerful squalls, and drops anchor in isolated ports of call. He explores wide swathes of ocean to explain how the trade winds have carried ships westward for centuries, and how ancient Polynesian explorers pushed back the other way.

Written in stunning prose, brimming with wisdom, curiosity, and humour, *Reading the Glass* brilliantly blends science and memoir to reveal how weather has shaped our oceans, our history, and ourselves.

ELLIOT RAPPAPORT has sailed as a captain in the United States maritime industry since 1992, involved primarily in the training of other mariners aboard an assortment of traditional sailing ships. He is currently a faculty member at Maine Maritime Academy (MMA). *Reading the Glass* is his first book.

Hardback: 9781529369335 | £22.00 | BCN ex Can, ex EU
eBook: 9781529369359 | Audio: 9781529369366
Export: 9781529369342 | 336pp | March
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Felicity Bryan



© Stephen Rappaport

SOPHIE DUNCAN



Searching for
Juliet

THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF
SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST TRAGIC HEROINE

SEARCHING FOR JULIET

The Lives and Deaths of Shakespeare's First Tragic Heroine

Sophie Duncan

A cultural, historical and literary exploration of the birth, death and legacy of the ultimate romantic heroine.

Juliet Capulet is the heartbeat of the world's most famous love story. She is an enduring romantic icon. And she is a captivating, brilliant, passionate teenage girl who is read and interpreted afresh by each new generation.

Searching for Juliet takes us from the Renaissance origin stories behind William Shakespeare's child bride to the boy actor who inspired her creation onstage. From enslaved people in the Caribbean to Italian fascists in Verona, and real-life

lovers in Afghanistan. From the Victorian stage to 1960s cinema, Baz Luhrmann and beyond.

Sophie Duncan draws on rich cultural and historical sources and new research to explore the legacy and reach of *Romeo and Juliet* far beyond the literary sphere. With warmth, wit and insight, she shows us why Juliet is for now, for ever, for everyone.

DR SOPHIE DUNCAN is a Research Fellow and Dean for Welfare at Magdalen College, University of Oxford. She writes about Shakespeare, gender and race in theatre history, and acts as an historical advisor to theatre, radio and television. She was born in Stratford-upon-Avon and now lives in Oxford.

Hardback: 9781529365177 | £25.00 | BCN ex Can, inc EU, ex Asia
eBook: 9781529365139 | Audio: 9781529365146
Export: 9781529365153 | 416pp | April
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Hodder & Stoughton



TRISTAN GOOLEY

SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER



HOW TO READ A TREE

Clues & Patterns
from Roots to Leaves

NON-FICTION

HOW TO READ A TREE

Clues & Patterns from Roots to Leaves

Tristan Gooley

The bestselling author of *Walker's Guide* and *How to Read Water* shows us what to look for in a tree.

Looking at the trees around his house, Tristan Gooley realises how little he has noticed, or even really seen them. He decides to embark on a journey, to investigate the signs that can be read from trees and everything about them that we often overlook.

Tristan takes the reader on a series of micro-expeditions to uncover the signs to look for in each tree. In each journey he highlights at least one exemplary sign or pattern; from the everyday to the more

exotic, from Kew Gardens in London to the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. Alongside his own observations, insights and deductions, he also meets a variety of experts and draws their wisdom out. He not only reveals the tree signs, but also allows other colourful and intriguing insights to feed into the narrative.

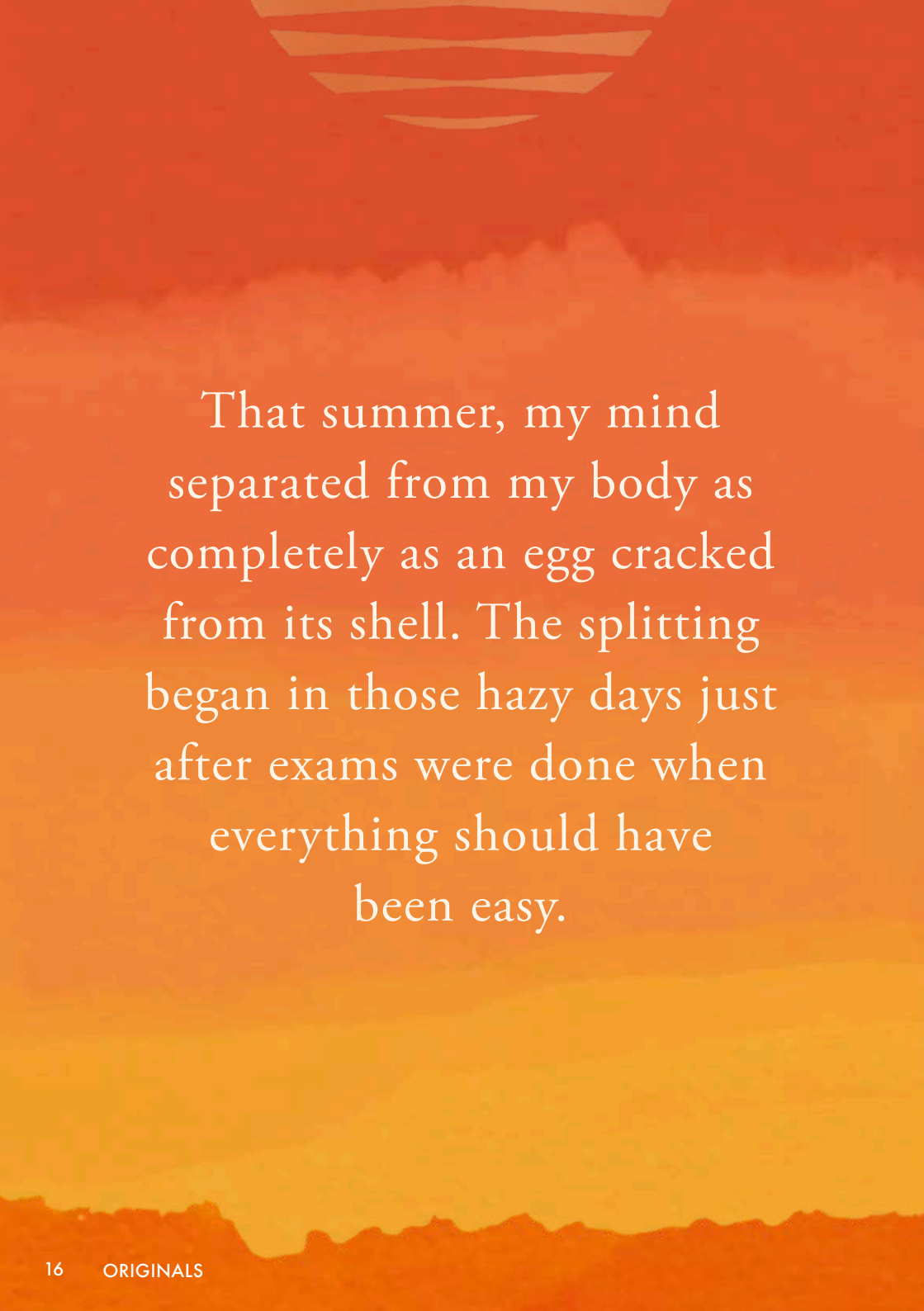
We will never look at a tree the same way again.

TRISTAN GOOLEY is a writer, navigator and explorer. Through his journeys, teaching and writing, he has pioneered a renaissance in the rare art of natural navigation. Tristan has led expeditions in five continents and is the only living person to have both flown solo and sailed singlehanded across the Atlantic.

Hardback: 9781529339598 | £20.00 | BCN ex Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781529339604 | Audio: 9781529339611 | 352pp | April
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Sophie Hicks Agency



© Micha Thierer



That summer, my mind
separated from my body as
completely as an egg cracked
from its shell. The splitting
began in those hazy days just
after exams were done when
everything should have
been easy.

FICTION

THE SLEEPWATCHER

Rowan Hisayo Buchanan

The strange and tender new novel from the Costa-shortlisted author of *Starling Days*: a teenage girl watches her family shatter from a surreal viewpoint.

When she is sixteen, Kit suffers a summer of sleeplessness that isn't quite what it seems; her body lies in bed while she wanders through her family home, the streets of her run-down seaside town and into the houses of friends and strangers. Unseen and unheard, she witnesses her parents and their deteriorating relationship in a painful new way. Her home thrums with quiet violence that she can no longer ignore. With this secret knowledge it becomes impossible not to react and a single word soon changes everything.

Intimate, tense and exquisitely observed, *The Sleepwatcher* is a moving portrait of family, danger and guilt, captured through the strange summer heat of adolescence.

'A bracing and compelling portrayal of adolescence and feeling uncanny at home. Rowan Hisayo Buchanan is one of the most distinctive and luminously original novelists of her generation' **Sharlene Teo**

ROWAN HISAYO BUCHANAN'S debut novel, *Harmless Like You*, won the Author's Club First Novel Award, a Betty Trask award and was shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize. Her writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Granta*, the *Paris Review* and the *Atlantic* among other places. She lives in London.

Hardback: 9781399710626 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU

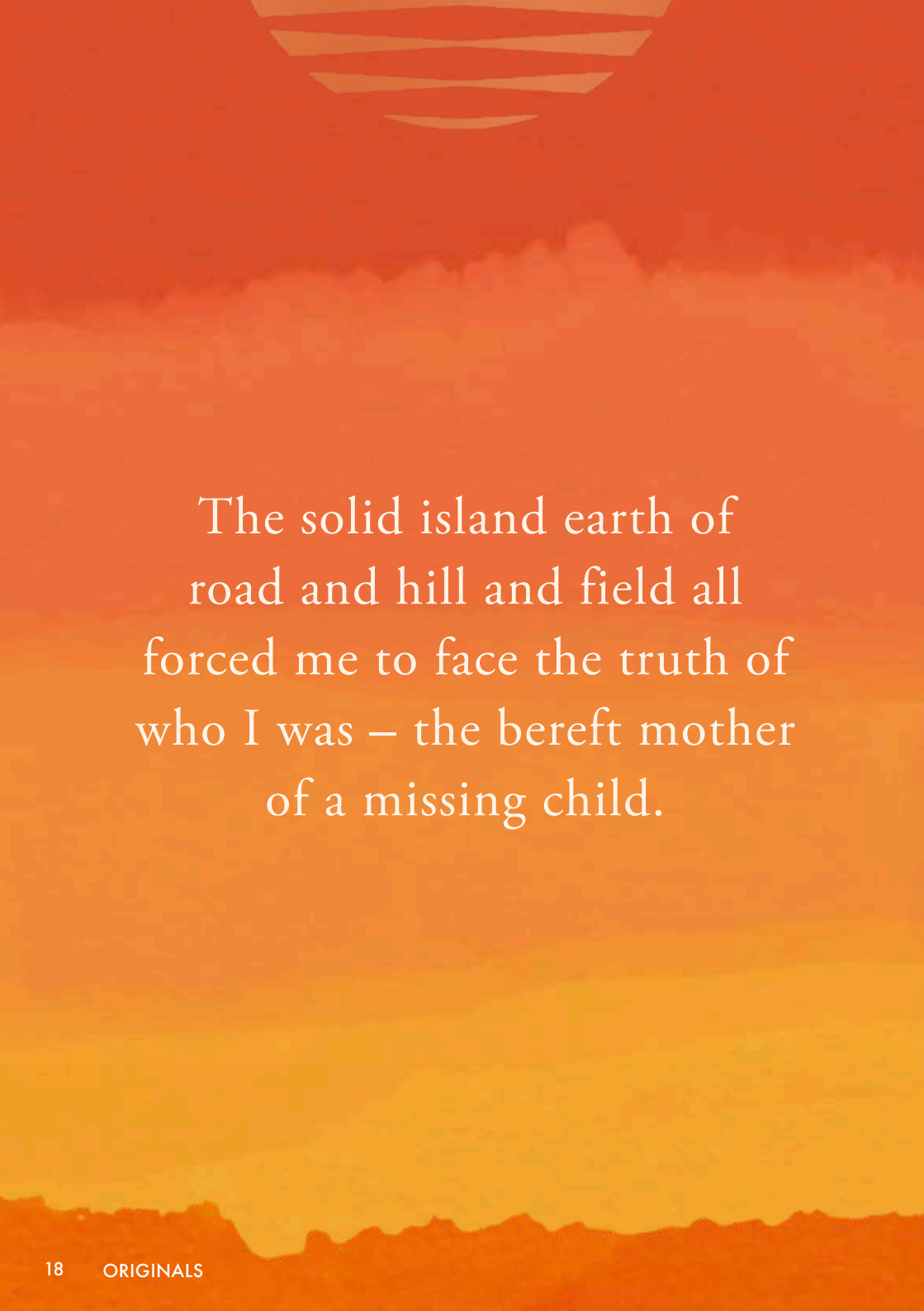
eBook: 9781399710640 | Audio: 9781399710657

Export: 9781399710633 | 256pp | April

Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: C&W



© Sophie Davidson



The solid island earth of
road and hill and field all
forced me to face the truth of
who I was – the bereft mother
of a missing child.

FICTION

THE ISLAND OF LONGING

Anne Griffin

A deeply affecting tale of grief, love and reconciliation by the Number One Irish bestselling author of *When All is Said*.

Eight years ago, Rosie's daughter Saoirse cycled into Dublin and never came back. After an extensive investigation into Saoirse's disappearance, Rosie is the only person who still believes that she might be alive. But when Rosie is persuaded to return home to the island of Roaring Bay for the summer, to help her father captain the ferry, she is forced to confront whether the hope that she will one day be reunited with her daughter comes at the cost of everything she has left.

'Her books are fable-like, deep musings on life, mortality, and what makes a life worth living, philosophy for everyday readers, cleverly disguised as a good old-fashioned story' *Irish Times*

'Ireland's long line of magical storytellers is further enriched by Anne Griffin' *Sunday Express*


'A writer whose work is always a must-read' *Billy O'Callaghan*

ANNE GRIFFIN'S first novel *When All is Said* was a Number One bestseller in Ireland in 2019 and chosen as the *Sunday Independent* Newcomer of the Year in the An Post Irish Book Awards. It was also shortlisted for the John McGahern Annual Book Prize and the RSL Christopher Bland Prize. She lives in Co. Westmeath, Ireland.

Hardback: 9781529372021 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781529372069 | Audio: 9781529372045
Export: 9781529372038 | 368pp | April
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: C&W



© Ger Holland



‘You don’t understand,
Detective. They’re not trying
to scare me. They already
know I’m scared.’

‘So what is it then?’
asked Lamar.

Arman lowered his head and
opened his eyes. ‘They’re
trying to remind me.’

FICTION

A LINE IN THE SAND

Kevin Powers

A powerful literary thriller by the prize-winning author of *The Yellow Birds*, a tale of corruption, the tentacles of war, and conscience.

On a beach in Virginia, a dead body is discovered by a man taking his daily swim – Arman Bajalan, formerly an interpreter in Iraq. After surviving an assassination attempt that killed his wife and child, Arman has been given lonely sanctuary in the US. Now he knows he's still not safe.

Seasoned detective Catherine Wheel and her partner have little to go on beyond a bus ticket in the man's pocket. It is to lead them to Sally Ewell, a local journalist as grief-stricken as Arman by the Iraq war, who is investigating

a nefarious corporation: one on the cusp of landing a multi-billion-dollar government defence contract. As victims mount around Arman, taking the team down wrong turns and towards startling evidence, they find themselves in a race, committed to unravelling the truth and keeping Arman alive – even if it costs them everything.

'A spellbinding and totally original thriller'
Philipp Meyer

'A rare novel that is both propulsive and contemplative' **Michael Koryta**

Born in Virginia, KEVIN POWERS served with the US army in Iraq in 2004–5. His debut novel, *The Yellow Birds*, won the *Guardian* First Book Award and the PEN/Hemingway Award, and was a finalist for the National Book Award. His poetry collection, *Letter Composed During a Lull in the Fighting*, was shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot and Forward prizes.

Hardback: 9781399711487 | £18.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU, ex Asia

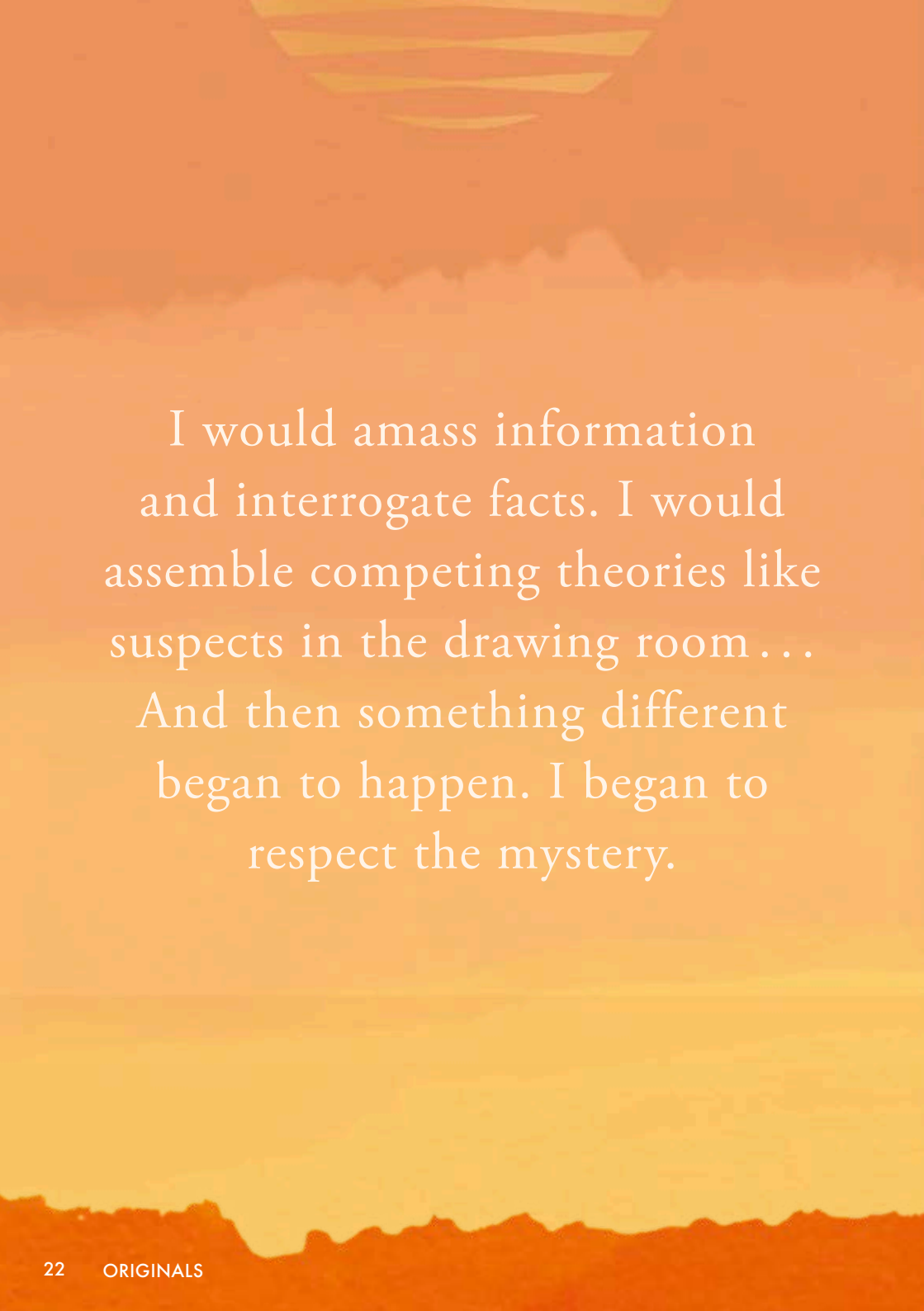
eBook: 9781399711500 | Audio: 9781399711517

Export: 9781399711494 | 368pp | May

Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: RCW



© Kevin Greenhalgh



I would amass information
and interrogate facts. I would
assemble competing theories like
suspects in the drawing room...
And then something different
began to happen. I began to
respect the mystery.

NON-FICTION

THE MISSING MUSK

A Casebook of Mysteries from the Natural World

Bob Gilbert

Detective stories from nature, from the author of the Wainwright and Folio Prize-longlisted *Ghost Trees*.

Bob Gilbert is a detective of the natural world. He's motivated by the curious, everyday phenomena found in wild places and by what these stories tell us about our relationship with nature.

Mixing history, memoir and nature writing, *The Missing Musk* takes the reader on a journey of discovery, uncovering the truth behind mysteries and myths from across the natural world. From the darkest corners of Britain's churchyards to Scotland's Pentland Hills, Bob Gilbert travels the length of the UK, and beyond,

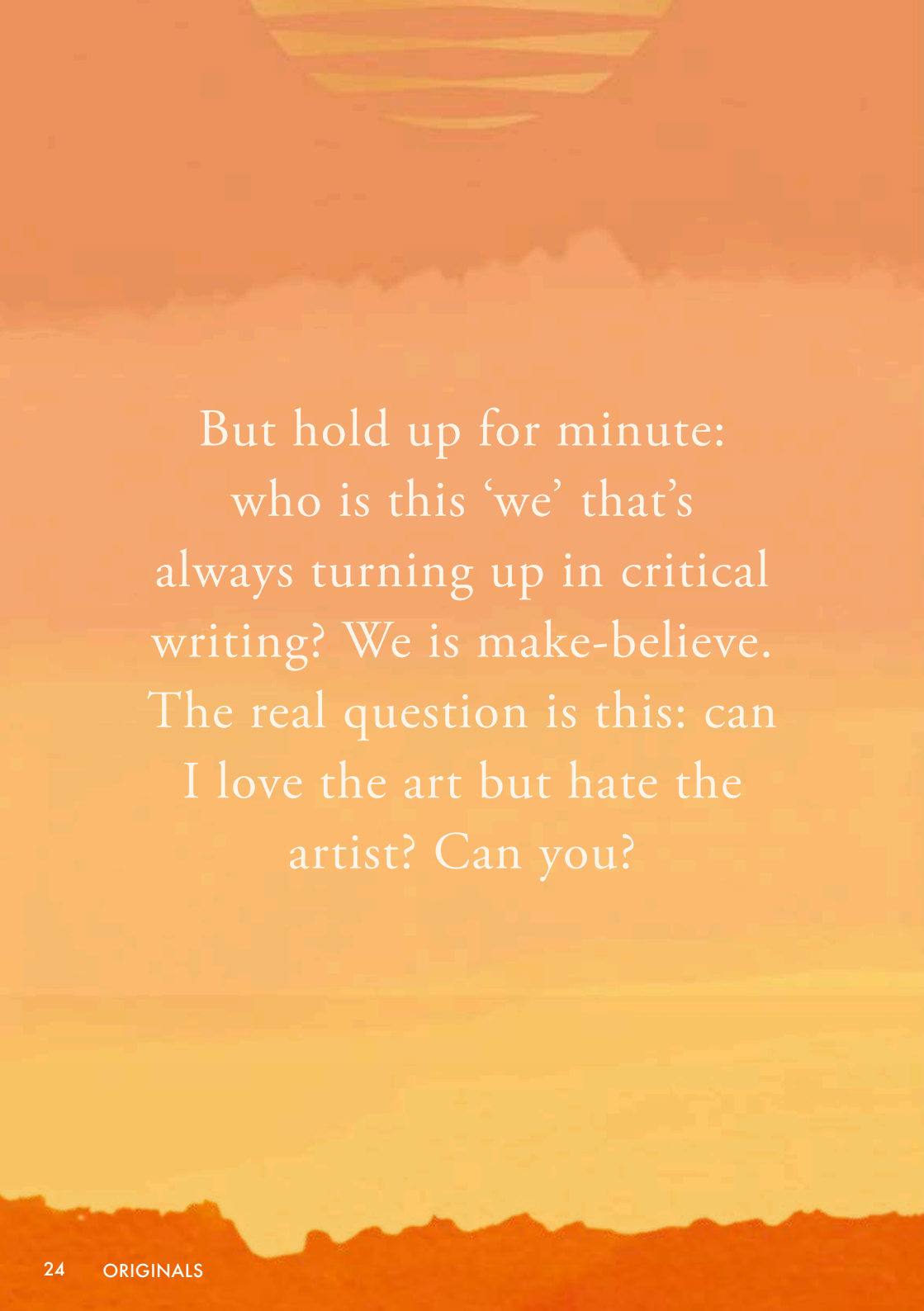
seeking answers to questions that have intrigued him throughout his life. He walks in the footsteps of Victorian plant-hunters in search of the long-lost scent of the Musk plant, researches UFO sightings, peers into microscopes and delves deep into horticultural archives, and in doing so finds that, when it comes to mysteries, the most joy is often found in the search, rather than the answer it leads you to...

BOB GILBERT is the author of *Ghost Trees* and *The Green London Way*. He has written on urban wildlife for the last twenty years, and is a regular contributor to TV and radio. Bob has also been a long-standing campaigner for inner city conservation and chair of The Garden Classroom, a charity that promotes environmental education in London.

Hardback: 9781529355970 | £20.00 | BCN inc Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781529355987 | Audio: 9781529355994 | 352pp | May
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Antony Harwood Ltd



© Jane Hodges



But hold up for minute:
who is this 'we' that's
always turning up in critical
writing? We is make-believe.
The real question is this: can
I love the art but hate the
artist? Can you?

NON-FICTION

MONSTERS

A Fan's Dilemma

Claire Dederer

A passionate, provocative and blisteringly smart interrogation of how we experience art in the age of #MeToo, and whether we can separate an artist's work from their biography.

What do we do with the art of monstrous men? Can we love the work of Roman Polanski and Michael Jackson, Hemingway and Picasso? Should we love it? Does genius deserve special dispensation? Is history an excuse? What makes women artists monstrous? And what should we do with beauty, and with our unruly feelings about it?

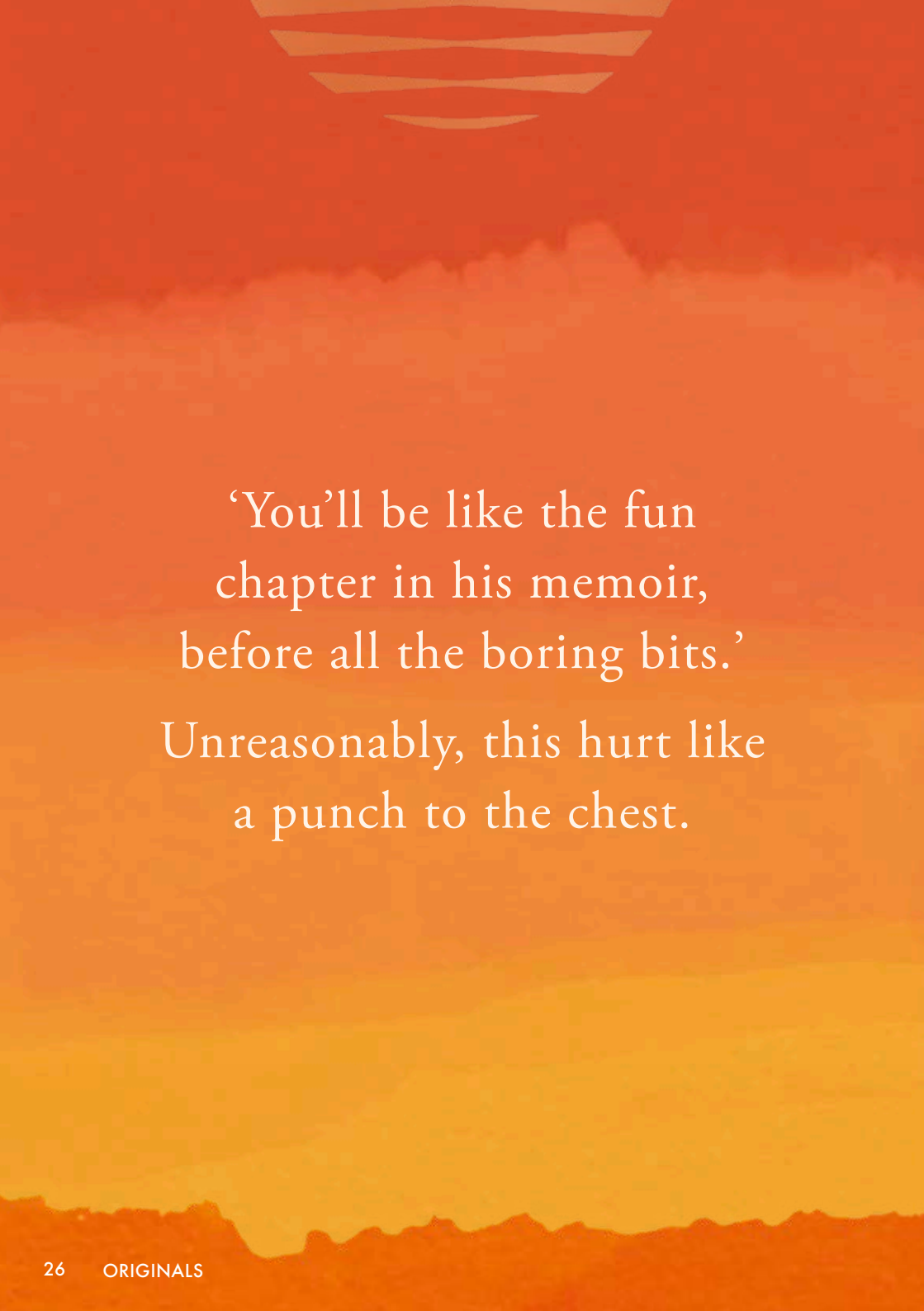
Claire Dederer explores these questions and our relationships with the artists whose behaviour disrupts our ability to apprehend the work on its own terms.

She interrogates her own responses and behaviour, and she pushes the fan, and the reader, to do the same. Morally wise, deeply considered and sharply written, *Monsters* gets to the heart of one of our most pressing conversations.

CLAIRE DEDERER is the author of *Love and Trouble*, and the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Poser: My Life in Twenty-Three Yoga Poses*. A book critic, essayist and reporter, Dederer is a long-time contributor to the *New York Times* and has also written for the *Atlantic*, *Vogue*, *Slate*, the *Nation* and *New York* magazine. She lives near Seattle with her family.

Hardback: 9781399715034 | £20.00 | BCN ex Can, ex EU
eBook: 9781399715058 | Audio: 9781399715065
Export: 9781399715041 | 288pp | May
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: C&W





‘You’ll be like the fun
chapter in his memoir,
before all the boring bits.’
Unreasonably, this hurt like
a punch to the chest.

FICTION

OKAY DAYS

Jenny Mustard

Naoise Dolan meets *500 Days of Summer* in this smart and spiky love story, from debut novelist and social media influencer Jenny Mustard.

Sam is 28, Swedish and spending the summer in London, working for a top marketing agency. Over the course of the sticky summer months, she falls hard for Lucas, a man she first met as a teenager. Lucas is working at a boutique clothing store whilst trying to get a foot on the corporate ladder, and struggling to hold the pieces of his life together. Sam is a gorgeous distraction. But you can only avoid reality for so long, and both Sam and Lucas know their relationship can't last. Nobody can be this happy forever, surely?

Okay Days tells the story of the rise and fall of Sam and Lucas's affection for each other, looks unflinchingly at

male body-dysmorphia and women's reproductive rights, and the pitfalls of modern love. When is okay good enough? And what are we willing to lose in the search for a life that is much better than just okay?

'One of the most intriguing books I've read in some time... fresh and sharply observant' **Elaine Feeny, author of *As You Were***

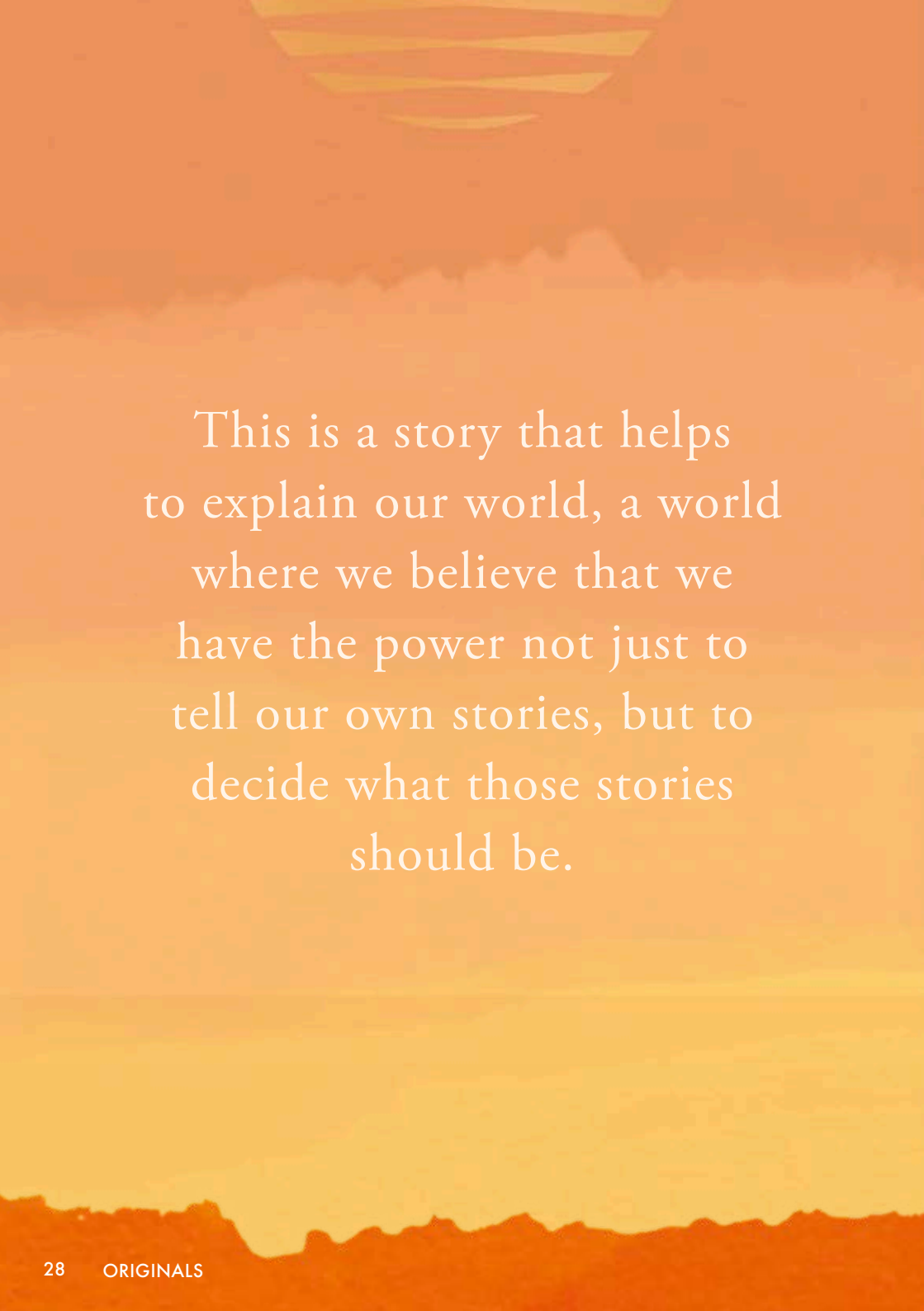
'A beautiful, bruising novel about love, sex and finding your place in the world... Sam and Lucas are unforgettable. Simply brilliant' **Molly Aitken, author of *The Island Child***

Born in Sweden, but living in London, **JENNY MUSTARD** is a social media influencer with over 600k followers, and more than 50 million views on YouTube. She also co-hosts a pop culture podcast with her partner David. *Okay Days* is her first novel.

Hardback: 9781399713467 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, ex EU
eBook: 9781399713498 | Audio: 9781399713481
Export: 9781399713474 | 320pp | June
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: RCW



© David Mustard



This is a story that helps
to explain our world, a world
where we believe that we
have the power not just to
tell our own stories, but to
decide what those stories
should be.

NON-FICTION

SELF-MADE

Creating Our Identities from Da Vinci to the Kardashians

Tara Isabella Burton

An exceptional history of ideas and a contemporary critique on the story of self-making: from the Renaissance to the present day.

In the twenty-first century, our defining celebrities have crafted public personae that walk the tightrope between authenticity and artificiality. Ordinary people have followed suit: lovingly tending our 'personal brands'.

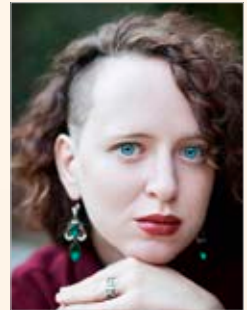
But today's self-creators are hardly new. Rather, the ruling idea that we not only can – but *should* – 'make' our own selves, curate our own image and shape our own destiny, is an inextricable part of the post-Enlightenment world: where the power of aristocracy and religion gave way to the

triumph of the individual and the myth of the self-made man.

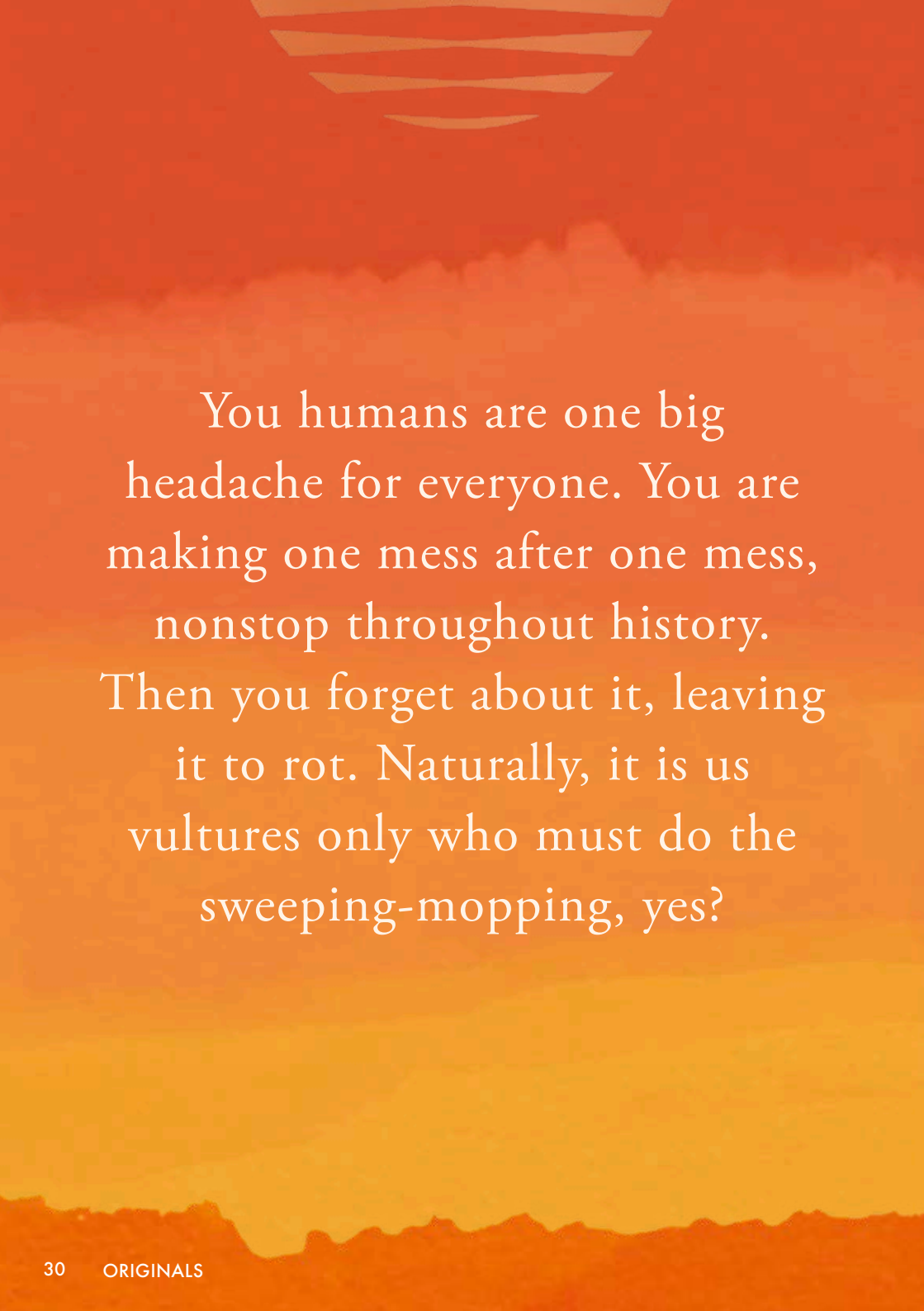
From the Renaissance genius to the Regency dandy, the American prophets of capitalism to the European obsession with the superman, the Golden Age of Hollywood to Silicon Valley, *Self-Made* takes us on a dizzying tour of modern history's most prominent self-makers, demonstrating the idea's liberatory power to set us free from oppressive environments as well as – all too often – its dark side.

TARA ISABELLA BURTON is the author of *Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World* and the novels *The World Cannot Give* and *Social Creature*, which is currently in development as a film for Lionsgate. She regularly writes on religion, meaning-making and the internet for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and more. She has a DPhil from the University of Oxford.

Hardback: 9781529364699 | £22.00 | BCN ex Can, ex EU
eBook: 9781529364712 | Audio: 9781529364729
Export: 9781529364705 | 320pp | June
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Janklow & Nesbit



© Rose Callahan



You humans are one big
headache for everyone. You are
making one mess after one mess,
nonstop throughout history.
Then you forget about it, leaving
it to rot. Naturally, it is us
vultures only who must do the
sweeping-mopping, yes?

FICTION

REMEMBER, MR SHARMA

A. P. Firdaus

A heart-soaring literary debut about a mother's love, inter-generational trauma and one boy's journey to uncover his family's hidden history.

Delhi, 1997: It is India's 50th year of independence, the year of Hindu Nationalists and atomic bombs.

But 12-year-old Adi has a bigger problem: his Ma has gone missing – again. Left with an ailing grandmother, a raging father and no answers, he finds an unlikely ally: a talking vulture who reveals himself to be a bureaucrat from the 'Department of Historical Adjustment'. The Department holds Adi's family files, which he must unlock in order to take a journey through time and memory, through fifty years

of India's history, revealing the darkest secrets of his mother's past, in a challenge requiring Adi to face his greatest fears.

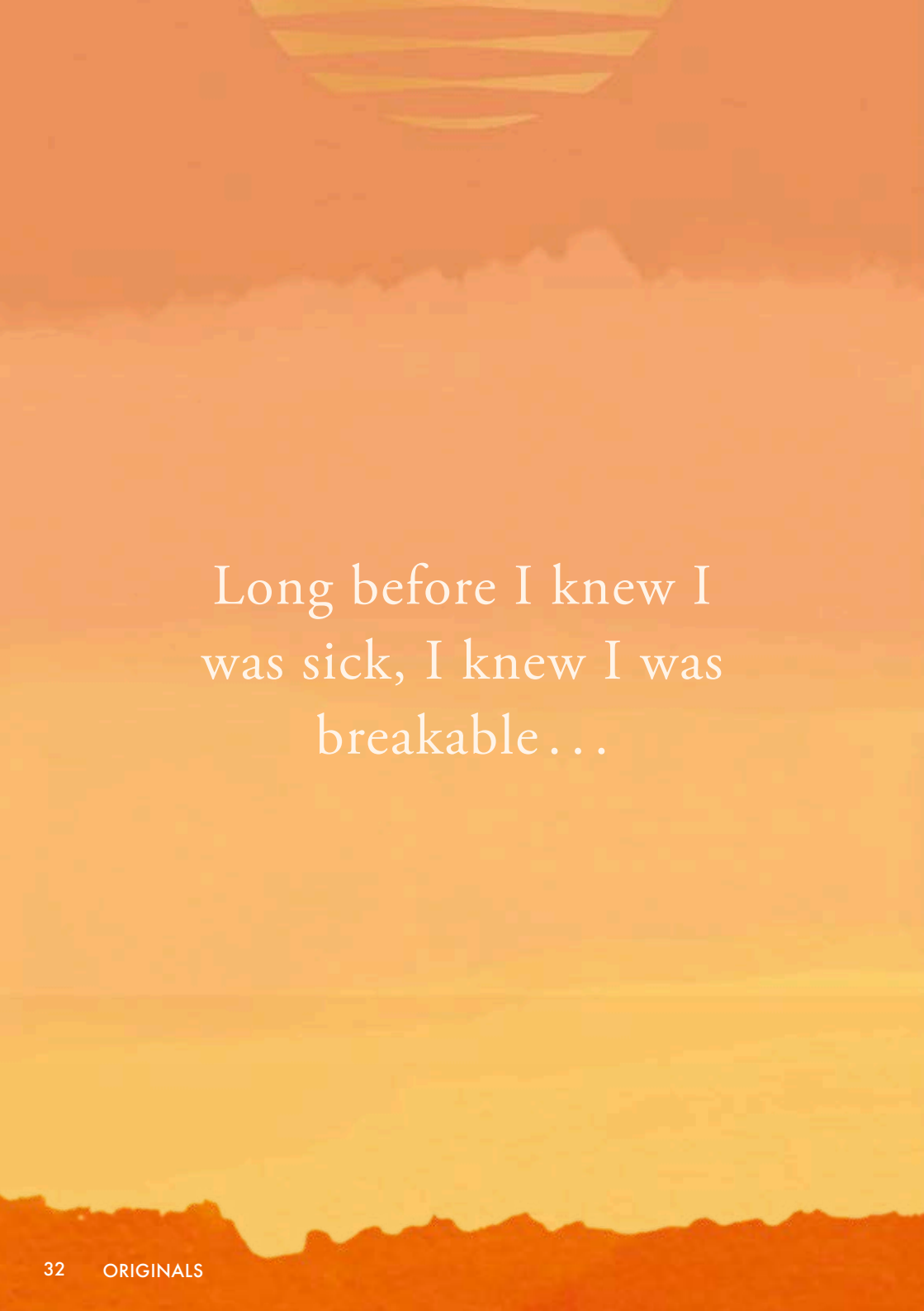
As bright and hopeful as it is devastating, *Remember, Mr Sharma* explores the ways in which we view the past, its inescapable hold over us and the stories we tell ourselves to create our present.

A. P. FIRDAUS has been writing advertisements by day and fiction by night for over a decade, in Mumbai, New Delhi, Singapore and London. He holds an MA in Creative Writing from UEA, where he was awarded an International Excellence Scholarship. He was born in India and currently lives in Berlin. *Remember, Mr Sharma* is his first novel.

Hardback: 9781399714433 | £16.99 | BCN inc Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781399714457 | Audio: 9781399714464
Export: 9781399714440 | 320pp | July
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Greyhound Literary Agents



© Indrani Balakrishnan



Long before I knew I
was sick, I knew I was
breakable...

NON-FICTION

SOME OF US JUST FALL

A Body Chronicle

Polly Atkin

A raw and exquisite meditation on chronic illness and our place within the landscape, from prize-winning poet Polly Atkin.

After years of unexplained health problems, Polly Atkin's perception of her body was rendered fluid and disjointed. When she is finally diagnosed with two chronic conditions in her thirties, she begins searching for a sense of belonging, trying to find a new place in the world even as her own body seems to be working against her.

Some of Us Just Fall combines memoir, pathography and nature writing to trace a fascinating journey from Polly's childhood in Nottingham to her current home in the

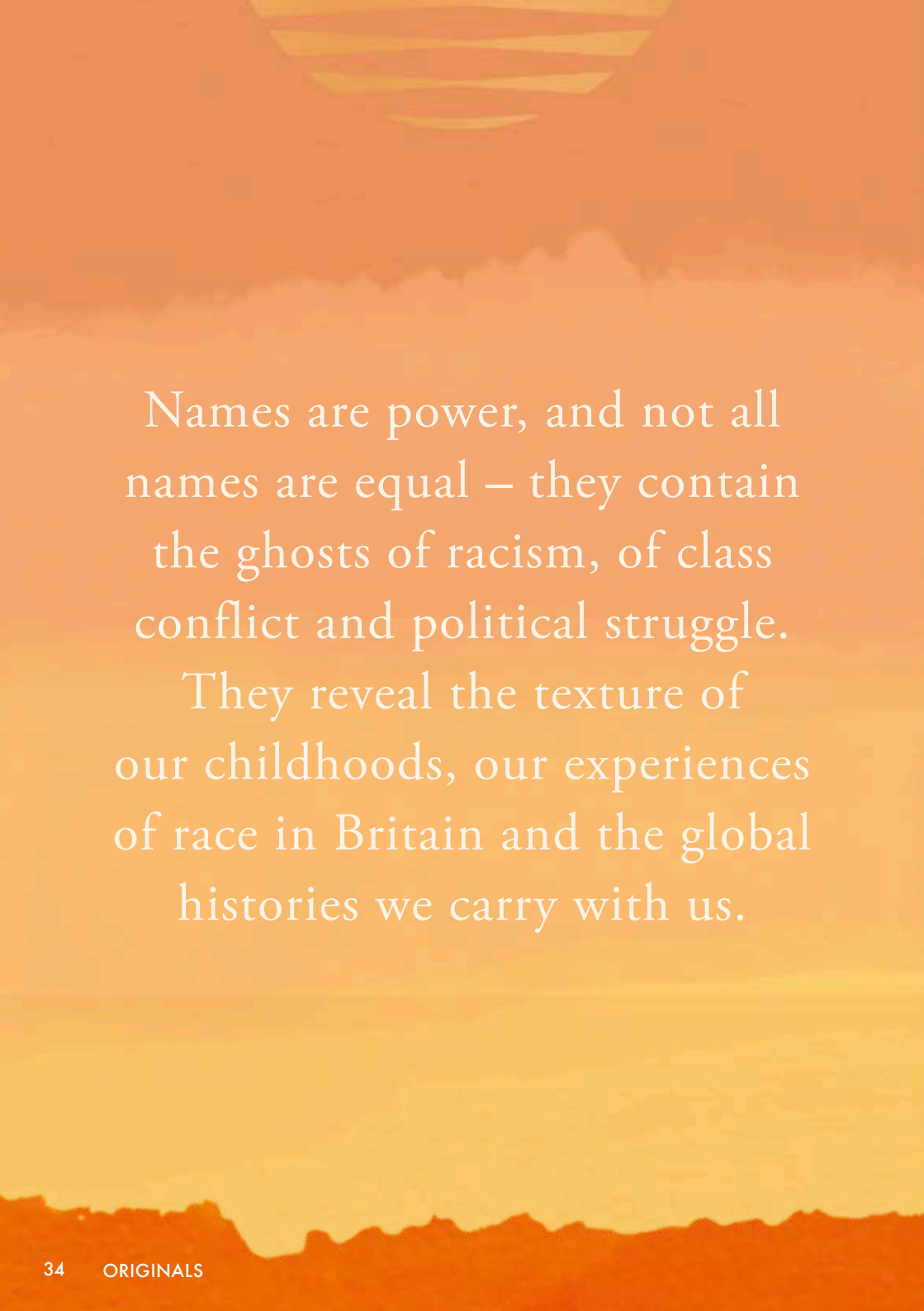
Lake District, where outdoor swimming is purported to cure all ills. Delving into the history of her two genetic conditions, Polly explores how these illnesses were managed (or not) in the past and how best to plan for her own future.

This essential book examines how we talk about, and deal with, bodies that diverge from the norm, and why this urgently needs to change. This is not a book about getting better, but about living better with illness.

POLLY ATKIN is the author of two prize-winning collections of poetry, *Basic Nest Architecture* and *Much With Body*. She is also the author of *Recovering Dorothy: The Hidden Life of Dorothy Wordsworth*. A strong advocate for the need for more disabled voices in the arts, Polly co-founded the Open Mountain initiative at Kendal Mountain Festival. Polly lives in Grasmere, Cumbria.

Hardback: 9781399717984 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, ex EU
eBook: 9781399717991 | Audio: 9781399718004 | 304pp | July
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Portobello Literary





Names are power, and not all names are equal – they contain the ghosts of racism, of class conflict and political struggle.

They reveal the texture of our childhoods, our experiences of race in Britain and the global histories we carry with us.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Friendship, Identity and History in Modern Multicultural Britain

Sheela Banerjee

A sharp and timely examination of race, class and history in Britain, through the prism of something intimate and everyday – our names.

What's in a Name? is a brilliant distillation of the story of twentieth-century immigration to the UK, told through our names.

Our names are so mundane we barely notice them. But they contain a multitude of stories of belonging and heritage, be that a legacy of colonialism or persecution, the desire to fit in, or cultural inheritance from one's parents. Journalist, academic and ex-TV producer Sheela Banerjee's fascinating first book is a blend

of history, memoir and politics and tells the history of multicultural Britain.


In *What's in a Name?* Sheela tells stories of friends and family through their names and takes us from the fight against racism in Britain to the trauma of Partition in India, from Jamaica in the 60s to pre-Revolutionary Russia. Each name contains centuries of history and acts as a portal to other worlds.

SHEELA BANERJEE is a journalist and academic and worked for many years at the BBC and Channel 4, directing programmes which told powerful stories of individual lives. She has also worked as a radio reporter and BBC producer on current affairs and political programmes. She left TV to undertake a PhD on Virginia Woolf and T. S. Eliot. *What's in a Name?* is her first book.

Hardback: 9781529367591 | £18.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781529367621 | Audio: 9781529367614
Export: 9781529367584 | 320pp | August
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Kate Barker



© Dorian Connell



In the spring of 2016,
halfway through the hottest
year of the hottest decade in
recorded history, a new kind
of fire introduced itself to
the world.

NON-FICTION

FIRE WEATHER

A True Story from a Hotter World

John Vaillant

A stunning account of this century's most intense urban fire, and a panoramic exploration of the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind.

In May 2016, Fort McMurray, Alberta, the hub of Canada's oil industry, was overrun by wildfire. The multi-billion-dollar disaster turned entire neighbourhoods into firebombs and drove 88,000 people from their homes in a single afternoon. Through the lens of this apocalyptic conflagration, John Vaillant reveals a shocking preview of what we must prepare for in a hotter, more flammable world.

For hundreds of millennia, fire has been a partner in our evolution, shaping culture and civilization. Yet this volatile energy has always threatened to elude our

control, and in our age of intensifying climate change, we are seeing its destructive power unleashed in ways never witnessed by human beings.

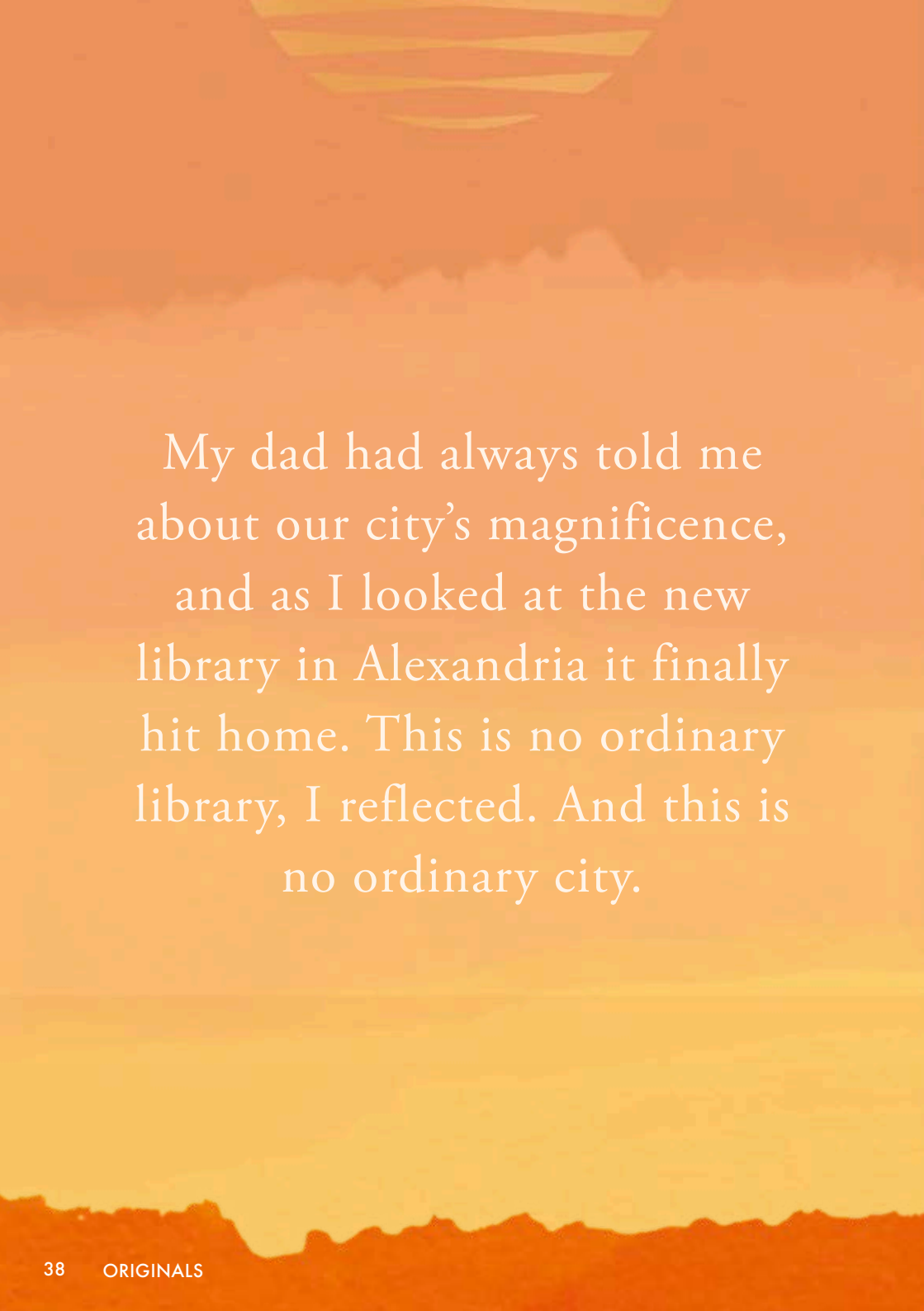
With masterly prose and cinematic style, Vaillant explores the intertwined histories of the oil industry and climate science, the unprecedented devastation wrought by modern forest fires, and the lives forever changed by these disasters. *Fire Weather* is an urgent book for our new century of fire.

JOHN VAILLANT is the international bestselling author of *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival* and *The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness, and Greed*. He has written for, among others, the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, *National Geographic* and the *Wall Street Journal*. He lives in Vancouver.

Hardback: 9781399720199 | £25.00 | BCN ex Can
eBook: 9781399720212 | Audio: 9781399720229
Export: 9781399720205 | 448pp | August
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Lutyens & Rubinstein



© Michael Lionstar



My dad had always told me about our city's magnificence, and as I looked at the new library in Alexandria it finally hit home. This is no ordinary library, I reflected. And this is no ordinary city.

NON-FICTION

ALEXANDRIA

The City that Changed the World

Islam Issa

An original, authoritative and lively cultural history of the first modern city, from pre-Homeric times to the present day.

Combining rigorous research with myth and folklore, *Alexandria* is an authoritative history of a city that has shaped our modern world. Soon after being founded by Alexander the Great, Alexandria became the crucible of cultural exchange between East and West for millennia and the undisputed global capital of knowledge. It was at the forefront of human progress, but it also witnessed brutal natural disasters, plagues, crusades and violence.

Major empires fought over Alexandria, from the Greeks and Romans to the

Arabs, Ottomans, French and British. Key figures shaped the city from its eponymous founder to Aristotle, Cleopatra, Saint Mark the Evangelist, Napoleon Bonaparte and many others, each putting their own stamp on its identity and its fortunes. And millions of people have lived in this bustling seaport on the Mediterranean.

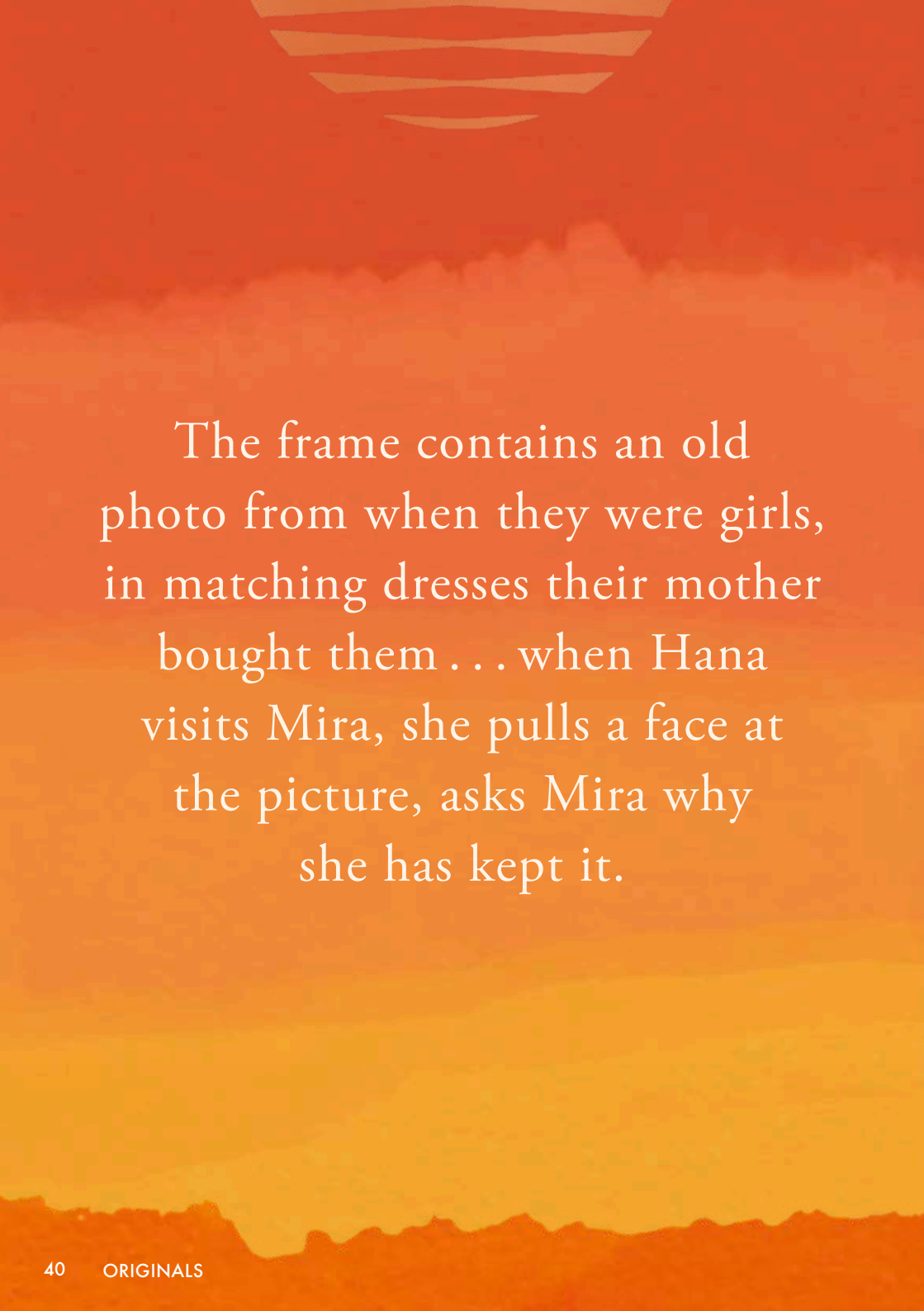
From its humble origins to its dizzy heights and its latest incarnation, Islam Issa tells us the rich and gripping story of a city that changed the world.

PROFESSOR ISLAM ISSA is an award-winning British-Egyptian writer, curator and broadcaster, and was recently named by the BBC as 'one of the UK's most significant new thinkers'. He is Professor of Literature and History at Birmingham City University, has authored several academic books and contributes regularly to the *Guardian*, *New Statesman* and *Times Literary Supplement*.

Hardback: 9781529377583 | £25.00 | World
eBook: 9781529377606 | Audio: 9781529377613
Export: 9781529377590 | 416pp | November
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Hodder & Stoughton



© Birmingham City University



The frame contains an old photo from when they were girls, in matching dresses their mother bought them . . . when Hana visits Mira, she pulls a face at the picture, asks Mira why she has kept it.

FICTION

PLAYING GAMES

Huma Qureshi

The remarkable debut novel from critically acclaimed writer Huma Qureshi: a poignant story of art and sisterhood, family, marriage and betrayal.

Hana and Mira are sisters. They are each other's only family. They are very different.

Hana wants a perfect life. She's a rising star in her legal field. Her wardrobe is as elegant as her north London home. Her friends are having their second children and she is ready to be a mother. But Samir is hesitating, and Hana feels like time is running out.

Mira wants a creative life. She's subletting from a noisy flatmate and her café job drains her energy. She has always dreamed of being a playwright but she

can never finish anything, and Hana's dismissal of her artistic ambitions wears away at her.

One night, after dinner, Mira overhears a fight between Hana and Samir: an exchange that rings in her mind and finds its way into a new script. In her tender and insightful debut novel, Huma Qureshi asks what sisters can borrow from each other and what a strained but loving relationship can withstand.

HUMA QURESHI is an award-winning writer, and the author of the memoir *How We Met: A Memoir of Love and Other Misadventures*, shortlisted for the Indie Book Awards, and the short story collection *Things We Do Not Tell the People We Love*, longlisted for the Jhalak Prize and the Edge Hill Prize, both published in 2021. She lives in London.

Hardback: 9781529368741 | £16.99 | BCN ex Can, inc EU
eBook: 9781529368758 | Audio: 9781529368734
Export: 9781529368765 | 288pp | November
Serial rights: Hodder & Stoughton | Other rights: Peters Fraser & Dunlop



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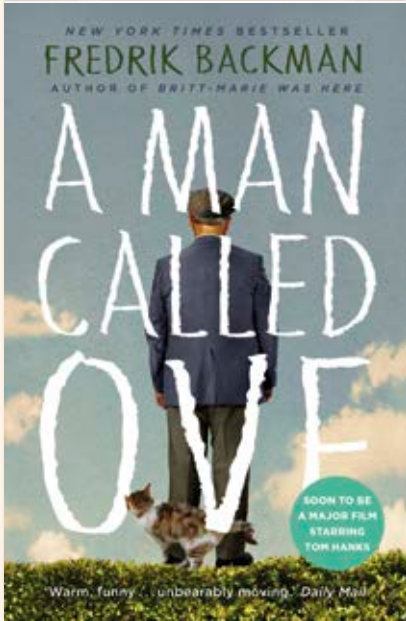
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RECENTLY PUBLISHED – FICTION

A MAN CALLED OVE

Film Tie-in Edition

Fredrik Backman



The Number One *New York Times* bestseller, now adapted into a major motion picture, *A Man Called Otto*, starring Tom Hanks.

‘Warm, funny... unbearably moving’
Daily Mail

‘Charming... you’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll feel a new sympathy for the curmudgeons in your life’ *People*

‘An uplifting, life-affirming and often comic tale of how kindness, love and happiness can be found in the most unlikely places’
Daily Express



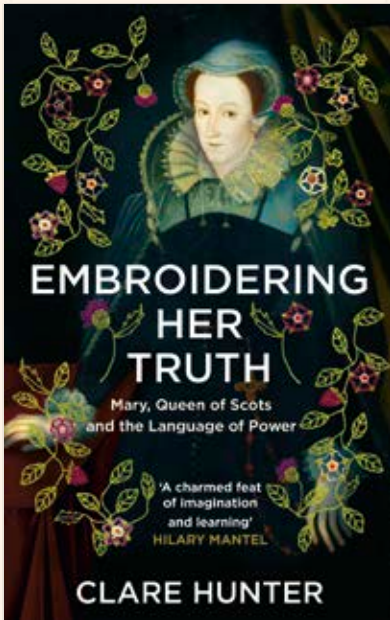
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Paperback: 9781399713269 | £8.99 | December 2022

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*.

'In this charmed feat of imagination and learning, the beauties and disasters of Mary Stuart's life unfold again, and her nimble brain and fingers are alive'

Hilary Mantel

'[A] densely packed, elegantly written book... brilliant'

Scotsman

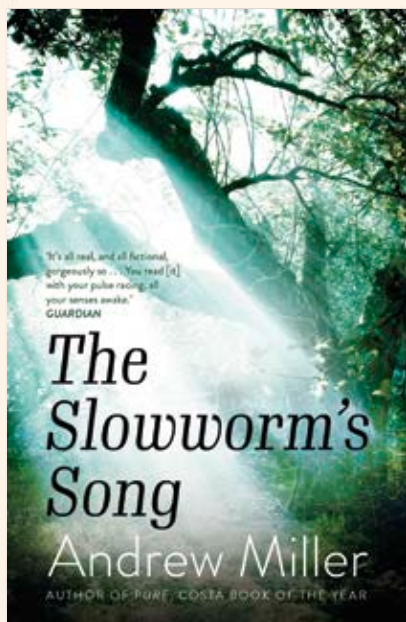


Paperback: 9781529346282 | £12.99 | January

FICTION

THE SLOWWORM'S SONG

Andrew Miller



'It's all real, and all fictional, gorgeously so. You read [it] with your pulse racing, all your senses awake'

Guardian

'[A] beautiful novel...
Miller is a wonderful storyteller'

Spectator

'Stephen is an unforgettable character, and Miller has pulled off the miraculous feat of sketching a full human life in a few hundred pages'

Sunday Times

'A tender, compelling and exquisitely written novel of extraordinary power'

Daily Express



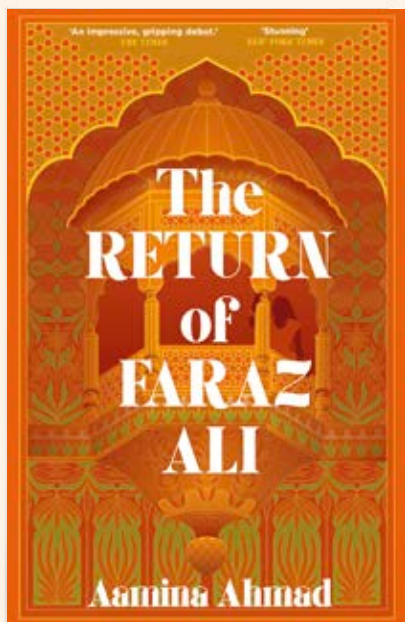
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Paperback: 9781529354232 | £9.99 | January

FICTION

THE RETURN OF FARAZ ALI

Aamina Ahmad



'Stunning, not only on account of the author's talent, of which there is clearly plenty, but also in its humanity'

New York Times Book Review

'A layered, fascinating portrait of a fractured family and of Pakistan. An impressive, gripping debut'

The Times

'A stunning debut novel – a noir-inspired thriller that weaves in politics, family ties, corruption and murder, while also being sharp about different kinds of power, particularly as it relates to women'

Kamila Shamsie, Observer

'Rich and deeply moving... Marvellous'

Yaa Gyasi



© Lisa Keating photography

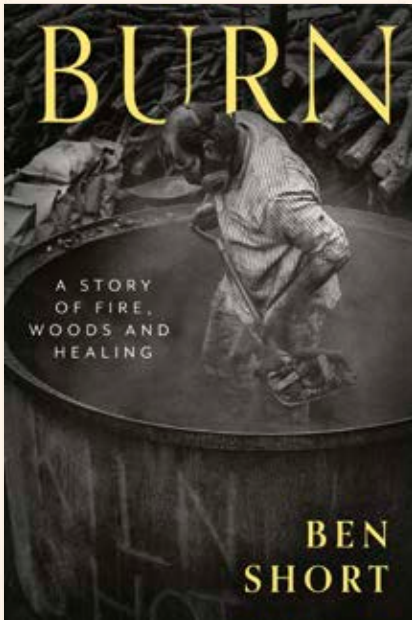
Paperback: 9781529356038 | £9.99 | February

NON-FICTION

BURN

A Story of Fire, Woods and Healing

Ben Short



HARDBACK COVER

'Lyrical, moving and never self-pitying'

The Times

'*Burn* is melancholy and hopeful in equal measure. Like taking a forest ramble in changeable weather, reading it leaves you feeling ruffled but alive'

Mail on Sunday

'An intriguing, touching and beautifully written book, about how it feels to be in a dark place spiritually, to move into the woods but enter an increasingly lighter place'

Ruth Pavey



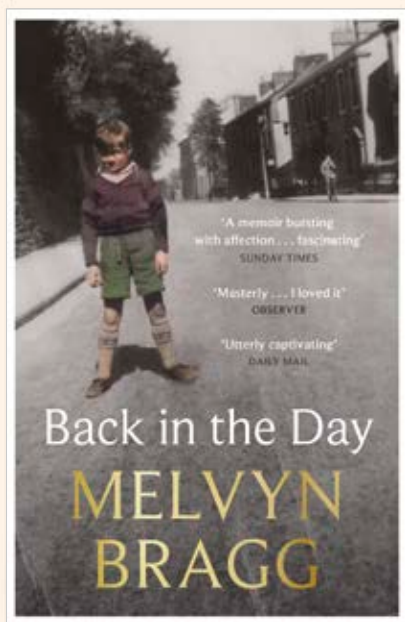
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Paperback: 9781529370379 | £10.99 | February

NON-FICTION

BACK IN THE DAY

Melvyn Bragg



'A masterly evocation of his early life in Cumbria... I loved it'

Observer

'A childhood memoir bursting with affection... fascinating'

Sunday Times

'Beautifully written, lyrical and romantic, touching and tender'

Oldie

'A moving portrait of a lost England... remarkable'

Daily Telegraph

'Utterly captivating'

Daily Mail

'An instant classic... affecting and evocative'

Mail on Sunday



© Liam Nolan

Paperback: 9781529394498 | £10.99 | March

FICTION

HERE GOES NOTHING

Steve Toltz



HARDBACK COVER

'Toltz's fabulously impressive third novel cannonballs straight into heady existential questions, magicking up a vision of human life at once generous and absurd'

Guardian

'A morbidly two-fisted tour de force'

Sunday Times

'One of the funniest and most original writers at work today' *The Times*

'Savagely comic' *Spectator*

'Thought-provoking, inventive and full of literary pyrotechnics, this remarkable novel is unlike anything you will read this year'

Mail on Sunday



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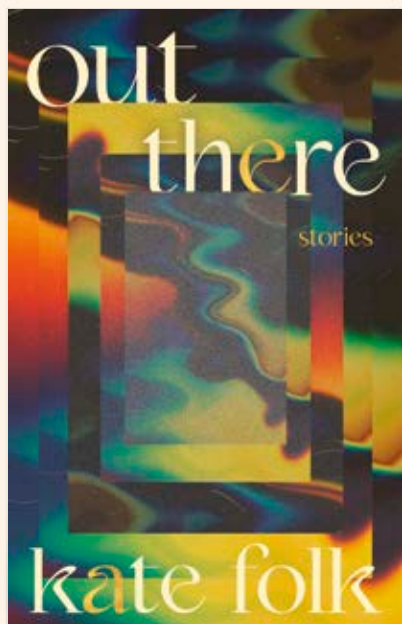
Paperback: 9781529371604 | £9.99 | March

FICTION

OUT THERE

Stories

Kate Folk



HARDBACK COVER

'The literary love child of Kafka and Camus and Bradbury penning episodes of *Black Mirror*'

Chang-Rae Lee

'Disturbing, alluring, dazzling and creepy, *Out There* is a riveting collection that keeps you enthralled with every page'

Claire North

'A literary swordsmith of feline dexterity, very dark and very funny'

Lisa Locascio

'Funny, fearless, and moving... Folk's imagination is uncanny and arresting'

Alex McElroy



© Rehan Dacosta

Paperback: 9781529372663 | £9.99 | April

FICTION

TIEPOLO BLUE

James Cahill



HARDBACK COVER

'The best novel I have read for ages'
Stephen Fry

'Meticulous and atmospheric... delicious unease and pervasive threat give this assured first novel great singularity and a kind of gothic edge' **Guardian**

'A heavily perfumed, sexually tender, psychologically acute novel' **Daily Mail**

'The smart, sexy read you need'
Evening Standard

'Wildly enjoyable' **Financial Times**

'Mesmerizing'
Times Literary Supplement



© Darren Wheeler

Paperback: 9781529369427 | £8.99 | April

FICTION

VENOMOUS LUMPSUCKER

Ned Beaman



HARDBACK COVER

'As intelligent as it is funny'
The Times

'Full of extraordinary ideas and brilliant set pieces, but also generous and poignant... A novel that delights, dazzles and moves in equal measure'
Financial Times

'A hilarious, terrifying novel'
Chris Power

'An astute, whimsical send-up of the logic of contemporary capitalism' *i*

'Brutally satirical and grimly hilarious'
Daily Mail

'Exhilarating' *Spectator*



© Alice Neale

Paperback: 9781473613577 | £9.99 | May

FICTION

THE BEWITCHING

Jill Dawson



HARDBACK COVER

'Novels about witch-hunts are not rare beasts, but *The Bewitching*... is a particularly fine example' *The Times*

'A vivid retelling... the plot unfolds with the unrelenting pace of a psychological thriller'
Financial Times

'A terrific piece of storytelling... rich in resonance for the Twitter generation'
Mail on Sunday

'Weaves history and literary fiction to powerful, chilling effect'
Daily Express

'Handles its material with panache and has real slow-burning power and pace'
Guardian



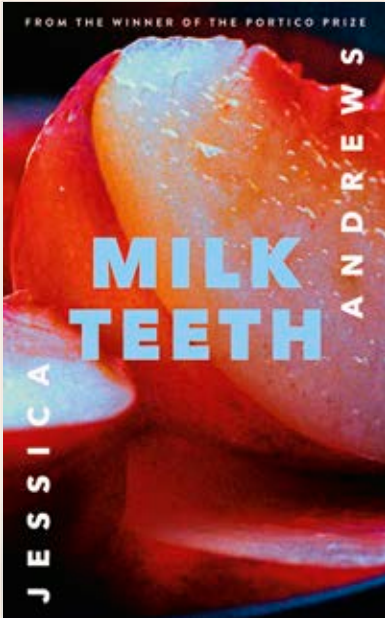
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Paperback: 9781473654655 | £9.99 | May

FICTION

MILK TEETH

Jessica Andrews



HARDBACK COVER

'Jessica Andrews's first novel, *Saltwater*, was wonderful. The follow-up, *Milk Teeth*, is even better. A story of young love and desire that's full of the most gorgeous writing'

Observer

'Andrews's lyrical prose overflows with sweet metaphors and sensuous imagery'

New Statesman

'Languid, elegantly written and dripping with a rich emotional humidity... *Milk Teeth* is a transporting, gorgeous novel'

Independent

'Consuming and sexy'

The Times



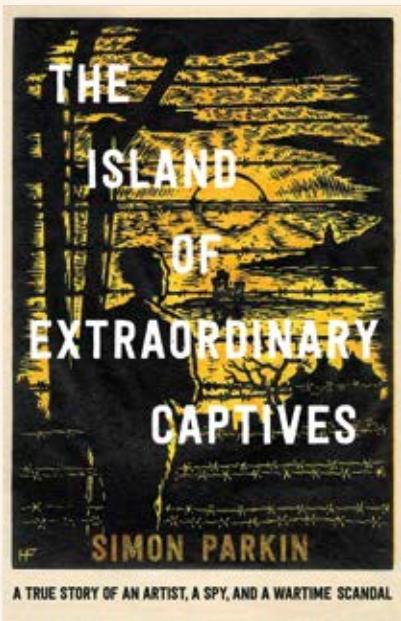
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Paperback: 9781473682825 | £9.99 | June

THE ISLAND OF EXTRAORDINARY CAPTIVES

A True Story of an Artist, a Spy,
and a Wartime Scandal

Simon Parkin



HARDBACK COVER

'Eye-opening, insightful and
brilliantly written'

Daily Mirror

'Vivid and moving... Spotlights a sorry
aspect of Britain's war which deserves to
be better known'

Sunday Times

'Compelling... Parkin has unearthed
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Daily Telegraph

'A curiously exhilarating read: an
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and meaning in the absurd and mundane'

Spectator

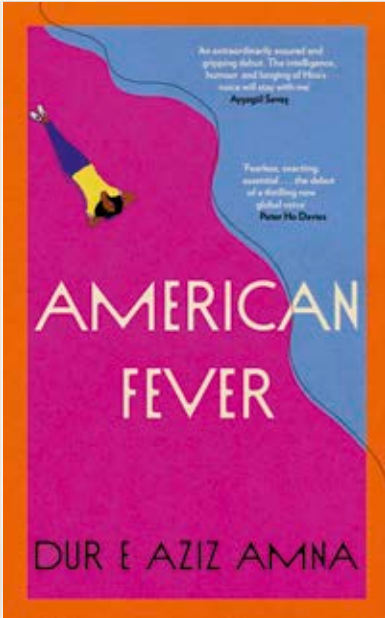


Paperback: 9781529347234 | £12.99 | June

FICTION

AMERICAN FEVER

Dur e Aziz Amna



HARDBACK COVER

A deeply compelling and funny coming-of-age story about a teenage girl's life-changing journey from Pakistan to America, and the challenges of a debilitating illness.

'Subversive... Her spiky prose style provocatively undercuts received narratives about the "American dream" from the immigrant's perspective'

Guardian

'Fearless, exacting, essential'

Peter Ho Davies

'Every page is filled with the zest of life that makes you want more'

Kit Fan



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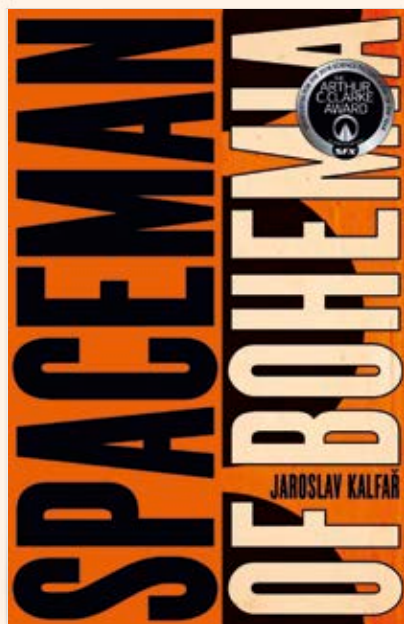
Paperback: 9781529393392 | £8.99 | July

FICTION

SPACEMAN

Film Tie-in Edition

Jaroslav Kalfař



COMING IN 2023

Originally published as *Spaceman of Bohemia*, Jaroslav Kalfař's spectacular debut has now been adapted into a major film starring Adam Sandler and Carey Mulligan.

'Dizzily inventive, alternately lyrical, earthy, silly and sad'

Times Literary Supplement

'A frenetically imaginative first effort, booming with vitality and originality'

New York Times

'A superb debut'

Literary Review

'Outstanding... simultaneously shocking, terrifying, wondrous, funny, and beguiling'

Los Angeles Review of Books



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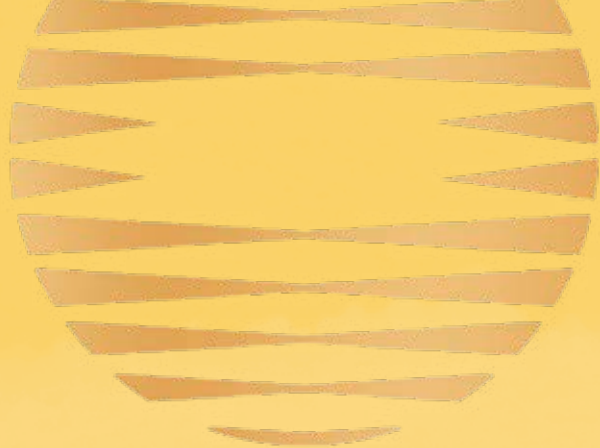
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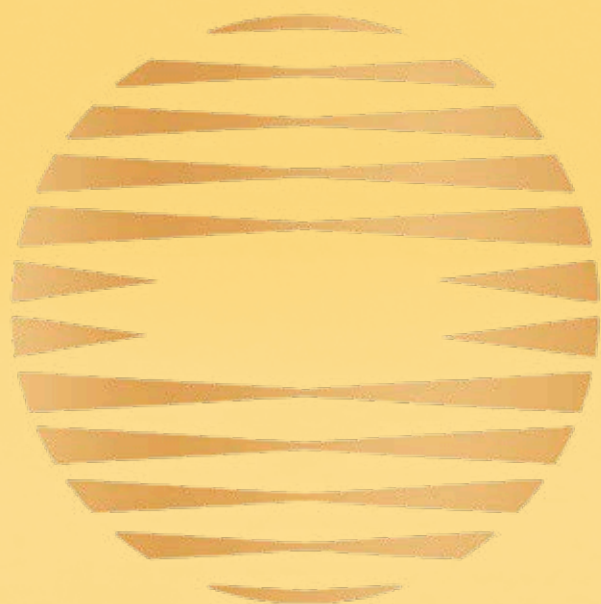
Mainland China

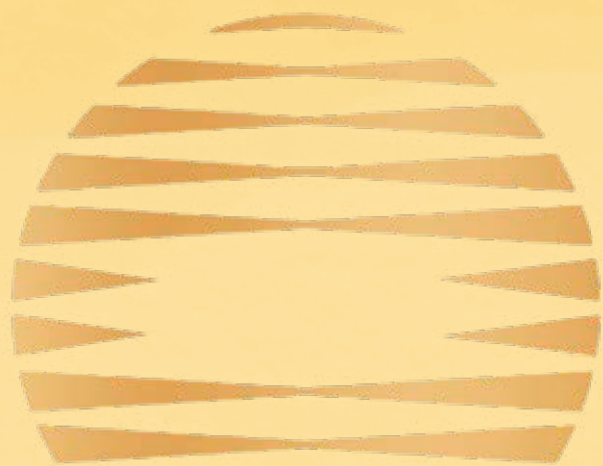
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