## **Hachette Highlights: 2024**

### Year in Review

Titles from January – December 2024

### **Locally Published Titles**

#### **Fiction**

- The Hachette Book of Indian Detective Fiction edited by Tarun K. Saint
- Shakchunni by Arnab Ray
- Eden Abandoned: The Story of Lilith by Shinie Antony
- The Hippo Girl and Other Stories by Shah Tazrian Ashrafi
- Manohar Kahani by Raghu Srinivasan
- Coins in Rivers by Rochelle Potkar
- 17, Morris Road by Parul Sharma
- Loka by S.B. Divya
- The Moon in the Lining of her Skin by Kiran Manral
- Border Crossers by Bhaskar Roy
- Kanchhi by Weena Pun
- Stroke of Death by Shampa Roy
- Hell Hath No Fury edited by Shinie Antony
- The Grudges of Gajanan Godbole by Salil Desai
- Sad Nuggie by Anastasia Sevastyanova and Sad Nuggie Ltd.

#### **Translated Fiction**

- Your Utopia by Bora Chung, trans. Anton Hur
- White Blood by Nanak Singh, trans. Dilraj Singh Suri
- Nocturne Pondicherry by Ari Gautier, trans. Roopam Singh
- Lootaloot by Baburao Bagul, trans. Manay Kambli
- The Menstrual Coupé by Shahina Rafiq, trans. Priya K. Nair
- Kurinji Malar by Na. Parthasarathy, trans. Malini Seshadri

#### Non-Fiction

- Becoming Bangalore: Stories That Shaped a Hometown by Roopa Pai
- The Jyotirlingas: Tales of the Twelve Shrines by Samhitha Reddy
- An Inky Parade by Pradeep Sebastian

- Boom Times for the End of the World by Scott Timberg
- Caste Away by Na. Vanamamalai, trans. Joshua Gnanaselvan
- A Green Day by Jeevesh Gupta, Chittranjan Dubey, and Anandajit Goswami
- The Fifteen by Angellica Aribam and Akash Satyawali
- Big Fiction by Dan Sinykin
- The Chambers Facts Series by Swayam Ganguly, Nimish Dubey, Akriti Rana, Kingshuk Chatterjee & Surbek Biswas
- Indian Philosophy by Raghavan Srinivasan

#### **Young Adult**

- Woebegone's Warehouse of Words by Payal Kapadia
- 565: The Dramatic Story of the Making of India by Mallika Ravikumar
- The Forestborns by Vardhini Amin

#### **Children's Fiction**

- Arun and the Royal Rumpus by Eoin Redahan
- Flying Horses, Secret Rivers, Magical Cities by Anu Kumar
- Young Earth Lover's Book of Nature edited by Deepa Agarwa;

#### **Children's Non-Fiction**

- Once Upon A Time in Delhi by Nita Berry
- A History of South India for Children by Pradeep Chakravarthy
- Travelling Treasures by Mala Kumar

#### **Picture Books**

- Lakshmi's Little Bird by Sharanya Kunnath
- Cactus Wants a Hug by Neil Flory
- Marvellously Mixed Up by Neil Flory

#### **International Titles**

#### **Top Translations**

- A Perfect Day to be Alone by Nanae Aoyama trans. Jesse Kirkwood
- Spontaneous Acts by Yoko Tawada, trans. Susan Bernofsky
- The Blanket Cats by Kiyoshi Shigematsu trans. Jesse Kirkwood
- The Full Moon Coffee Shop by Mai Mochizuki, trans. Jesse Kirkwood
- Yeonnam-Dong's Smiley Laundromat by Kim Jiyun, trans. Shanna Tan

#### **Top Thrillers**

- You Like It Darker by Stephen King
- Camino Ghosts by John Grisham

#### General Fiction

- Into The Uncut Grass by Trevor Noah
- Counting Miracles by Nicholas Sparks
- Stone Yard Devotional by Charlotte Wood
- This Strange Eventful History by Claire Messud
- The Details by Ia Genberg
- Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich
- First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston
- A Nest of Vipers by Harini Nagendra
- You Are Here by David Nicholls
- Kavithri by Aman J. Bedi
- The Mercy Of Gods by James S.A. Corey
- The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley
- The Universe in Verse by Maria Popova
- The Examiner by Janice Hallett
- Goddess of the River by Vaishnavi Patel

#### **Books on Artificial Intelligence**

- Genesis by Henry A. Kissinger, Craig Mundie, and Eric Schmidt
- How AI Will Change Your Life by Patrick Dixon

#### **Business and Self-Help**

- Revenge of the Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell
- Hyperefficient by Mithu Storoni
- Right Thing Right Now by Ryan Holiday
- Journey of Leadership by Dana Maor, Hans-Werner Kaas, Kurt Strovink, and Ramesh Srinivasan
- Third Millennium Thinking by John Campbell, Saul Perlmutter, and Robert MacCoun

#### **General Non-Fiction**

- FRAMED by John Grisham and Jim McCloskey
- Why We Die by Venki Ramakrishnan
- Longevity Imperative by Andrew J. Scott
- Fluke by Brian Klaas
- Mind Magic by James R. Doty

#### **Economy, Politics, and History**

- Slow Down by Kohei Saito
- Corporation in the 21st Century by John Kay
- What does Israel Fear From Palestine? by Raja Shehadeh
- The Stalin Affair by Giles Milton
- Takeover by Timothy W. Ryback
- Travellers in the Golden Realm by Lubaaba Al-Azami
- My Dear Kabul
- The Afghans by Asne Seierstad

#### **Autobiographies and Memoirs**

- The Bookshop Woman by Nanako Hanada, trans. Cat Anderson
- A Man of Two Faces by Viet Thanh Nguyen
- My Beautiful Sisters by Khalida Popal

#### **Children and Young Adult**

- The Girl At The Front of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf and Pippa Curnick
- Roswell Johnson Saves the World by Chris Colfer

### **Locally Published Titles**

## **Fiction**

# **The Hachette Book of Indian Detective Fiction**

**Edited by Tarun K. Saint** 

The professionals meet the amateurs in this first-ever anthology of Indian detective fiction.



#### February 2024

The first—ever anthology of its kind, *The Hachette Book of Indian Detective Fiction* compiles more than 30 compelling whodunits, supernatural mysteries, serial murders and absurd crimes spread across two volumes. Through hybrid, self—reflexive and experimental forms of writing (including translations from Bengali and Tamil), this collection invites readers to unravel mysteries with every turn of the page, masterfully showcasing distinctive instances of the genre.

**Volume 1:** An elite squad detective from the future travels back in time to hunt down a time escapee. Across the city of Tokyo, liquids are turning blue, and elsewhere a Tamil actress is kidnapped. The gruesome murder of an adult industry star spirals into a web of deceit and leads to a bizarre revelation. A journalist races against time to find the missing link between the deaths of a daily soap actress, a classical vocalist, and a famous painter. And more...

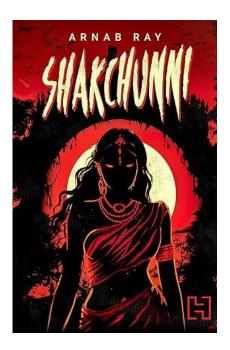
Volume 2: A detective delves into a cold case; a ship that disappeared in the Bay of Bengal in the year 1913. A man is bludgeoned to death in an under-construction building and a piece of paper with the word 'STOP!' is nailed to his forehead. Six deaths under mysterious circumstances and the only common link is a box of arsenic-laced sweets. A soldier's homecoming drudges up memories of a murder in the family that took place a decade ago.

And more...

# **Shakchunni**

### **Arnab Ray**

Shakchunni: a demon from Bengali lore, one who possesses married women.



February 2024

The Great Famine scours Bengal. Armies of the starving walk the lands, fighting for scraps of food. Yet none of that pain seems to touch the Banerjees, the lords of Shyamlapur. They rule their fiefdom in all the pomp and pageantry of the Raj at its height.

When Narayanpratap Banerjee, the eldest son of the ruler of Shyamlapur, abandons his education in London and returns home, his heart broken by an Englishwoman, he is married off to a poor girl from a distant village, the ethereally beautiful Soudamini.

But on the day of the wedding, a tantrik sounds an ominous warning.

'The Shakchunni dances tonight, and you shall all drop dead like flies.'

Soon it begins.

The terror. And a haunting of dark secrets that refuse to stay buried in the past.

# Eden Abandoned: The Story of Lilith Shinie Antony

An unforgettable and fierce recharacterization of the world's first woman, wife and divorcée.



February 2024

'Women are born in survival mode. Their job, they are told, is to love. But what is this love they neither know nor see – this illiquid, no-return-on-investment, invisible land they must buy with all their soul money?'

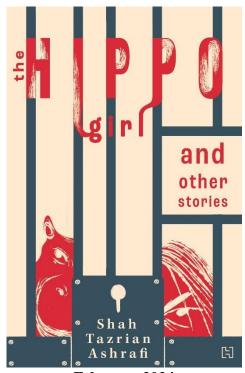
Lilith. Wild, untameable Lilith. She is the love of Adam's life – the only woman for the only man on Earth. Until Adam replaces her with Eve. Biddable, meek, subservient Eve. 'Lilith is demanding, short-tempered and unnatural in her sexual desires,' Adam complains to God. Cast out of Eden, Lilith roams the Earth, masters the dark arts and fights the system: dissent is delicious. She is now the Lilith – night monster, seductress of demons. And child-killer. Lilith, from whom the word lullaby comes – 'Lilith, begone,' sing mothers to protect their sleeping babies. Lilith, the irresistible temptress. Eden's controversial once-occupant goes on a rampage to discover all that she is and all that she could be. Beyond Adam. Beyond Eden. Beyond God.

In this gripping take on female rage and agency, Shinie Antony sculpts a ferocious woman born from the ashes of her former self. Exuberant, unapologetic and unrestrained, Lilith shines, soars and persists – a historic villainess and a modern-day heroine.

# The Hippo Girl and Other Stories

### Shah Tazrian Ashrafi

For fans of Petina Gappah's An Elegy for Easterly and Jamil Jan Kochai's The Haunting of Hajji Hotak comes an illuminating collection about lives in flux...



February 2024

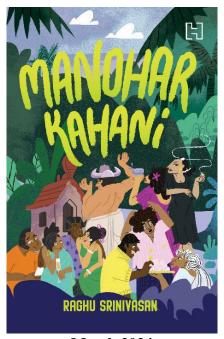
An outcast girl's friendship with a bloat of hippos is questioned when it's found that she is pregnant. A half-blind boy is ridiculed and bullied relentlessly, until one day it reaches a breaking point. A disturbed man, haunted by visions of the dead, is convinced he must relocate hit mother's grave. A woman takes up a lucrative job in a greedy corporation to fulfil her daughter's dreams, but a ghastly discovery threatens to disrupt the life they've built. A dog's loyalty is tested as a civil war brings out the worst in those around her.

Written in lucid prose and engulfed in intense emotions, *The Hippo Girl and Other Stories* is a searingly honest collection about what it is to be human in a world where rage, violence, grief, and obsession are part of everyday life. Set in Bangladesh, each of these atmospheric stories digs deep and paints a complex and rich picture of people's journey towards happiness.

# Manohar Kahani

### Raghu Srinivasan

A sophisticated, light-hearted farce from the author of The Avatari and Xianqui.



March 2024

Life is perfectly peaceful for the Mehtas, at least as close to perfect or even peaceful as it can be. Kalyani Mehta is busy running her homestay, Kokum Grove, on the Konkan coast. Her retired husband Bambi has taken an abiding interest in the occult. Their unemployed son, Mithu, daydreams about making it big in the city of dreams.

So, maybe things are not as picture perfect as they are in the movies.

Enters Bobby Chander, a billionaire NRI, with a lucrative offer for Kalyani – sell Kokum Grove to him and stay on as manager. She rebuffs his ludicrous offer, and the sleazy real estate magnate starts buying off the properties around the homestay. Kalyani has no choice but to turn to her younger sister for help. If it weren't for the slight inconvenience of her being currently incarcerated in a monastery. All things sorted and in place, Maya is ready to pull an elaborate con. But things quickly escalate when there's too many people involved, especially when each one has a plan of their own.

Manohar Kahani is a goofy misadventure with a bunch of chaos and a pinch of crazy.

# Coins in Rivers Rochelle Potkar

Fierce feminist poetry for fans of Kamala Das and Adrienne Rich.



April 2024

If I were a country and you my journalist

I would have shot you down a street

and left you to bleed.

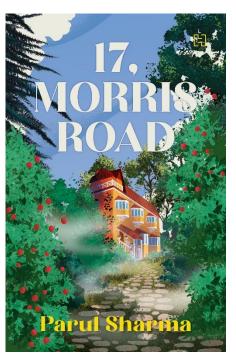
Fierce and unflinching, Rochelle Potkar's poetry springs from the deeply personal and ripples out to the world, capturing lovers' whispers and reverberations of explosions with equal ease.

Vividly depicting love, grief, anger, and defiance, these poems glimmer like coins beneath the water surface, tethered with the weight of wishes clinging to them. As sensuous as it is articulate, *Coins in Rivers* is a deep meditation on womanhood, motherhood, and citizenship.

# 17, Morris Road

### **Parul Sharma**

A heartfelt story of times past and emotions buried, and most of all, of eventually finding one's place in an ever-changing world.



May 2024

Sometimes, home is a place between longings for the past and the allure of the future...

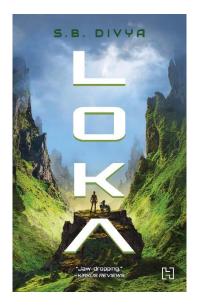
Soon-to-be empty-nester Gayatri Trivedi has found herself at a crossroads: her only son is off to the land of excessive pizza and cola, her husband remains indifferent to her feelings, and the object of her teenage affection is inviting her to Dehradun. But Dehradun has changed a lot, and so has Arbour House, the colonial-era bungalow that still has a piece of her heart. Now as she returns, she also returns in time, reminiscing about the memories she made with people who changed her life when she was sixteen.

As the cloud of nostalgia clears and her future comes into view, Gayatri must decide if she's ready to let go of what-ifs. Equal parts charming and delightful 17, Morris Road weaves together a heartfelt story of times past and emotions buried, and most of all, of eventually finding one's place in an ever-changing world.

# Loka

### S.B. Divya

Finding a place to belong becomes a girl's ambitious quest in a thrilling epic about space, humanity, and self-discovery by S.B. Divya, Hugo and Nebula Award finalist and author of Meru.



August, 2024

Farewell, home.

Hello, Earth.

Finding a place to belong becomes a girl's ambitious quest in a thrilling epic about space, humanity, and self-discovery by S.B. Divya, Hugo and Nebula Award finalist and author of *Meru*.

Akshaya is the hybrid daughter of a human mother and an alloy, a genetically engineered posthuman—and she's the future of life on the planet Meru. But not if the determined Akshaya can help it. Before choosing where her future lies, she wants to circumnavigate the most historic orb in the universe—the birthplace of humanity: Earth.

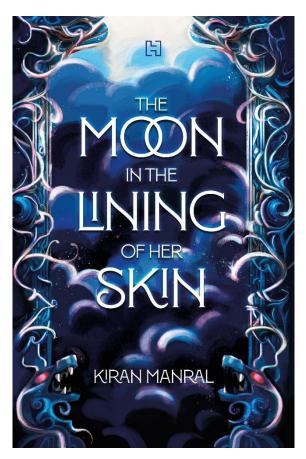
Akshaya's parents reluctantly agree to her anthropological challenge—one with no assistance from alloy devices, transport, or wary alloys themselves who manage humanity and the regions of Earth called Loka. It's just Akshaya; her equally bold best friend, Somya; and a carefully planned itinerary threading continent by continent across a wondrous terrain of things she's never seen: blue skies, sunrises, snowcapped mountains, and roiling oceans.

As the adventure unfolds, the travellers discover love and new friendships, but they also learn the risks of a planet that's not entirely welcoming. On this trek—rapturous, dangerous, and life-changing—Akshaya will discover what human existence really means.

# The Moon in the Lining of her Skin

#### **Kiran Manral**

In the shadows of their turbulent pasts, three women made of the light find their destinies intertwined.



August 2024

Noor, a fallen angel, is condemned to an eternal existence on Earth, forever fleeing from the hounds of hell and creatures of the netherworld. Rani, a once-vain beauty, is now possessed by an invisible lover, an entity that has consumed her body and soul, marking her for itself. Gulab, having murdered her father in cold blood, has escaped a nightmarish home and forges a perilous alliance with Teja, a hitman and collector of souls.

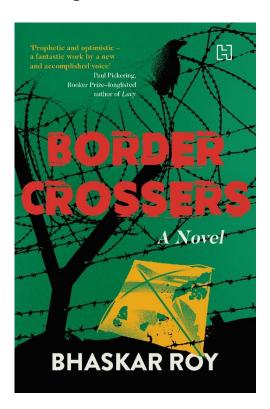
As their fates intertwine, they must navigate through realms of unimaginable darkness, where terrifying entities – both earthly and beyond – pursue them.

From the ethereal heavens to the infernal depths of hell and every realm in between, *The Moon in the Lining of Her Skin* weaves a spellbinding tale where love and loyalty are tested amidst the eternal struggle between light and dark.

# **Border Crossers**

### **Bhaskar Roy**

Lyrical, epic and devastating, Border Crossers brings into sharp relief the many shades of terror and religious intolerance that shape the subcontinent.



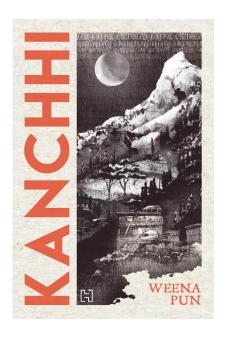
September 2024

Desperate for survival in the rude city, Rita is fortunate to get hired as a household help by a retired diplomat. At that moment, Arijit Basu does not know that she is an undocumented migrant. Convulsed by a marauding tide of events, the two are reduced to wrecks. Arijit's fiancée, Nandita, fights bravely to recover the vulnerable girl from the circles of evil. The outcome of this struggle irrevocably impacts their lives.

# **Kanchhi**

### Weena Pun

Early 2000s, Nepal. The Maoist civil war is raging across its hills, and men and women are disappearing from its villages.



#### September, 2024

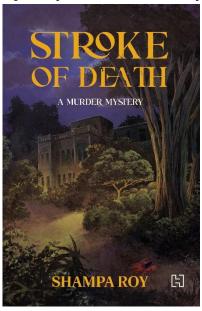
In Tori Khola, one of these hamlets in the distant hills, Maiju lights a lamp in front of the gods and goddesses, praying for her daughter Kanchhi, who disappeared 10 years ago, to return home. Kanchhi disappeared when she was sixteen, but she was also never one to play by the stifling rules of the village. She spoke to boys, laughed loudly, and above all, questioned the traditions handed down to her by the elders.

*Kanchhi* is the remarkable story about the consequences of a woman overturning society's expectations like a homebrew gone bad. In lyrical prose, Nepali writer Weena Pun's extraordinary debut novel runs through Nepal's steep hills and valleys, and like the winding river that cuts through Tori Khola, brings to life the ordeals and agonies of being a woman who does not want to play by the rules. With searing prose that breaks new ground, *Kanchhi* marks the debut of a very talented writer who introduces a new world to readers everywhere.

# **Stroke of Death**

## Shampa Roy

A historical mystery that explores the complex idea of crime and its detection within the context of early twentieth-century colonial Bengal.



September, 2024

Nothing ever disturbs the quaint idyll of the village Rajapur. That is, until one day, a young widow is discovered bludgeoned to death, flies swarming over her corpse.

Called in to investigate, Bansidhar, the local daroga, is at his wits' end about this grisly murder, further complicated by the slain woman's ties to the most important household in the village – the Rajbari.

Inspector Dhananjoy Lahiri has just arrived at his friend Bansidhar's for a break from work, but he can't stop himself from being drawn to the gruesome case.

As the duo begins to dig deep into the victim's life and her relationships with the people she worked for, they discover that the Rajbari residents are hiding secrets of their own.

With the clock ticking, will the two of them be able to find the killer before tragedy strikes again?

# **Hell Hath No Fury**

### **Shinie Antony**

Macabre, provocative and deeply absorbing, these 13 stories of dark twists and sweet revenge will leave you searching for escape.



October 2024

Be very afraid.

Thirteen stories of revenge.

These women are mad as hell, bloodthirsty. And they are coming for you.

A sixty-something woman finds unexpected love; another abducts her nephew; a writer strikes a deal with the devil – each story bares its fangs. Startling, sinister and seductive, these women go after those who wronged them with a ferocious cunning, sometimes underhanded, sometimes operatic. A sisterhood of betrayed wives, beheaded princesses, the belittled and gaslighted...

Hell Hath No Fury illuminates the electrifying space between love and hate.

# The Grudges of Gajanan Godbole

#### Salil Desai

A whacky tale of disproportionate vengeance and an itch to be violent that won't stop with a murder or two.



#### November 2024

After years of being married to an overbearing wife and wading through life pretending to be half-dead, Gajanan Godbole has finally found himself alone and, most importantly, free.

Courtesy COVID.

Lucky to have survived the pandemic by the skin of his teeth, Gajanan now discovers a side of his personality he never knew existed. Like a snake shedding its skin, Gajanan casts aside his meek old self and embraces his new homicidal avatar.

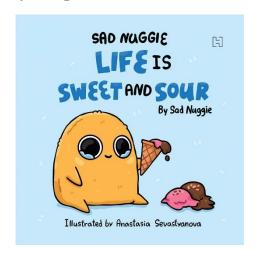
To satiate his grudgeful urges, he compiles a list of people he feels deserve to be punished for having wronged him.

Apologize or die is his simple motto! For murder, he believes, is the perfect cure for nastiness...

# Sad Nuggie

### Anastasia Sevastyanova and Sad Nuggie Ltd.

A stupendously charming comic about an anxious chicken nugget persevering through life despite his uncertain mental health



April 2024

Sad Nuggie has moved to a new city. It's huge. It's noisy. It's downright overwhelming! And Nuggie is, well, anxious. Duh. With his scary levels of social anxiety, making new friends has been an uphill battle. He routinely drowns in the pool of his salty tears at work - his equally 'fried' colleagues, too, are at their wit's end. But most of all, finding that one special nugget on 'Tender' is proving to be a task!

Nuggie's super-smart therapist has helpful advice for him. They are a little hard to follow... but Nuggie is doing his best to act on them, survive and hopefully THRIVE.

Adorable, rib-tickling and surprisingly wise, Sad Nuggie's (mis)adventures underscore the importance of self-love, healthy friendships and getting on with life no matter what!

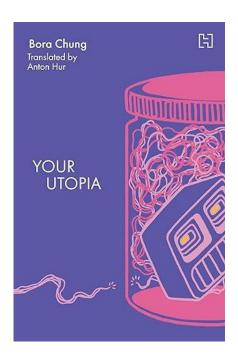
### **Translated Fiction**

# Your Utopia

Bora Chung, translated by Anton Hur

The thrilling sequel to the International Booker Prize 2022 shortlisted Cursed

Bunny.



February 2024

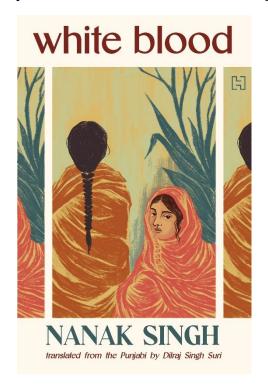
By the internationally acclaimed author of *Cursed Bunny*, in another thrilling translation from the Korean by Anton Hur, *Your Utopia* is full of tales of loss and discovery, idealism and dystopia, death and immortality.

'Nothing concentrates the mind like Chung's terrors, which will shrivel you to a bouillon cube of your most primal instincts' (*Vulture*), yet these stories are suffused with Chung's inimitable wry humour and surprisingly tender moments, too—often between unexpected subjects. Chung's writing is 'haunting, funny, gross, terrifying—and yet when we reach the end, we just want more' (Alexander Chee). If you haven't yet experienced the fruits of this singular imagination, *Your Utopia* is waiting.

# **White Blood**

Nanak Singh, translated by Dilraj Singh Suri

A lyrical, luminous offering from the pioneer of Punjabi novel writing and Sahitya Akademi-awardee Nanak Singh.



May 2024

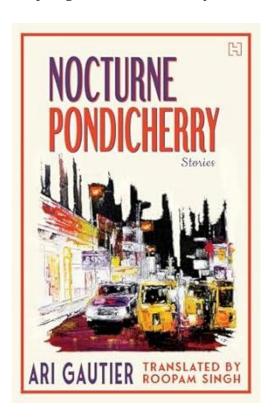
When a ticket officer apprehends a ticketless traveller at the Amritsar Railway Station, he is shocked to discover that the penniless young man in tattered clothes is none other than the widely acclaimed writer Gupteshwar. But even more disconcerting than the state of the author is the story of his new novel, one that lays bare the moral rot besieging twentieth-century Punjab. As the author reads from his unfinished manuscript, it becomes clear that the tale of the two women he is weaving is far from fictional.

With its nested narratives, rich prose and fascinating depiction of quotidian life, Nanak Singh's pivotal novel paints an unsparing portrait of a society infected with corruption, casteism and appalling inequality, where those who position themselves as guardians of morality are the ones most willing to abuse their power.

# **Nocturne Pondicherry**

# Ari Gautier translated by Roopam Singh

An all too realistic collection where mundane situations - featuring common people, ill-fated street dwellers and hapless immigrants - pull readers in and fling them into the abyss.



June 2024

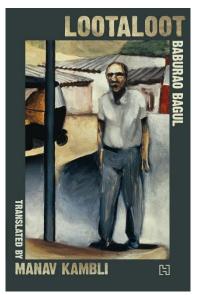
A postman struggles to deliver the last letter on his last day of work. A prostitute elopes with the auto rickshaw driver who arranged clients for her. An inspector discovers the dead body of the boy he had an altercation with the previous evening.

In seven riveting stories, Ari Gautier peels back the layers of human emotions until glimpses of greed, anger and lust can finally reveal themselves. Unsettling and irresistible, Nocturne Pondicherry is an all too realistic collection where mundane situations - featuring common people, ill-fated street dwellers and hapless immigrants - pull readers in and fling them into the abyss.

# **Lootaloot**

# Baburao Bagul Translated by Manav Kambli

Translation of the 1969 Marathi classic Maran Swasta Hot Aahe (Death is becoming cheap).



**June 2024** 

A brothel exposes the intricate mechanisms of power and exploitation within a family. A petty conman attempts to feed his desperately sick children. A poet and a writer walk around Mumbai's slums to cure themselves of writer's block, only to discover the gruesome life stories of its inhabitants.

In eleven explosive stories, Baburao Bagul, a pioneer of Marathi and Dalit literature, casts an unflinching look at the lives of those society has rendered invisible – goons, sex workers, criminals and the desperately poor. Even as they battle systemic exploitation, starvation and police brutality on Mumbai streets, Bagul's characters simmer with rage, and rebellion is always around the corner. As relevant today as when it was first published, *Lootaloot* lays bare the effects of caste on Indian society and marks Bagul as one of the most astute and remarkable chroniclers of our age.

# The Menstrual Coupé

### Shahina Rafiq,

### Translated By Priya K. Nair

A celebration of women's spirit and their endlessly inventive power to create their own realities.



July, 2024

A train filled with light wound through the city. I too wanted to get on that moving island of light and travel...

In Shahina Rafiq's carefully crafted stories, women fantasize about genies as well as murders, dive into hidden worlds, and seek to wrest control of their lives. Slipping past the tedium of homemaking and the frustration at husbands and fathers, they travel, stick together like migrating birds, and poke fun at the imposing patriarchal world.

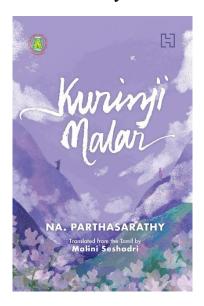
Deftly translated by Priya Nair, these unabashed stories cast an incisive look into the hidden layers of fundamentalism and misogyny in today's society.

# Kurinji Malar

### Na. Parthasarathy

### Translated by Malini Seshadri

A sweeping saga that conjures an unforgettable landscape of hope and heartbreak - a delicate balance only a master storyteller can offer.



September 2024

On a rock on the road to a hill temple are carved the names 'Aravindan' and 'Poorani'.

Barely out of her teens, Poorani is plunged into crisis with the sudden passing of her father. As she brings her life back on course, fate arranges a meeting with Aravindan. Gentle and idealistic, Aravindan makes it his goal to right the wrongs in society. Spirited and refined, Poorani blazes a trail to recognition and renown with her public-speaking knowhow. Their friendship soon blossoms into love. But can a world riddled with opportunism and deceit ever hold their dreams and ideals?

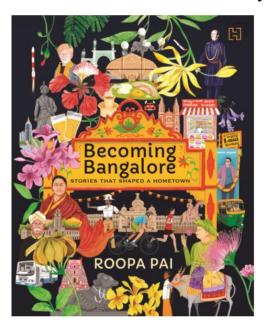
Written more than six decades ago and set in Madurai and the surrounding areas of the Tamil land, this classic romance - peopled by an array of compelling characters - was first serialized in a magazine in the 1960s, and later attained further popularity on-screen.

### **Non-Fiction**

# Becoming Bangalore: Stories That Shaped a <u>Hometown</u>

### Roopa Pai

A fascinating mosaic that reveals how a little 16th-century settlement on a hill became India's most charismatic city.



December, 2024

What makes a city uniquely itself?

Is it its geography, history, location?

Is it its leaders, aspirations, demographic?

Or is it a palpable spirit, wrought of a combination of all these, that seeps into the soil over centuries and charges the air, infecting residents and visitors alike?

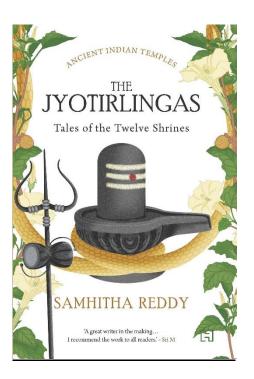
Two decades of exploring, discovering, and reading, writing and talking about her hometown has convinced Roopa Pai that the last is true – cities are neither born nor made, they *become*.

In a series of columns written over the past four years, now compiled into this book, she trawls the city's history to tease out bits of the Bangalore jigsaw – a scientist's quest for excellence, a maharani's foresight, an entrepreneur's vision, a chief minister's ambition, a writer's pride in his language, and more – in an effort to trace the genesis of the liberal spirit of the metropolis, its ability to offer inclusive, creative, laid-back spaces amid its frenetic growth.

# The Jyotirlingas: Tales of the Twelve Shrines

### Samhitha Reddy

Discover the evocative origin stories of the twelve auspicious jyotirlingas and the revered ancient temples that house them.



### December, 2024

Chandra's waning glow. The exacting test of Karthikeya and Ganesha. Vindhya's wish for glory. Bheemasura's vengeful quest. Rishi Gautama's confounding blunder. Ravana's devotion and his undoing. Rama's prayer for guidance. Reigns of terror unleashed by malevolent *asuras*, and the immutable faith of devotees. These tales of confrontation, salvation and repentance bring to life the many divine interventions of Shiva in the actions of *manavas*, *asuras* and *devas* alike.

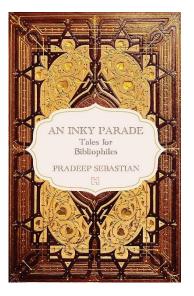
Embark on a journey through the three realms as Shiva resolves epic clashes, protects the zealous, chastises the guilty, forgives the repentant and rewards the devout, while revealing his infinite nature in the form of *swayambhu lingams* formed in the mortal realm. The chronicles of these sites enshrining the deeply venerated god are inextricably tied with Indian culture and traditions, unfolding a compelling canvas of unwavering belief and worship across ages.

Suffixed by unusual facts and travel tips, these lyrical retellings from the *Shiva Purana* weave mythology, history and spirituality into a unique volume to cherish.

# **An Inky Parade**

### **Pradeep Sebastian**

'For a genuine bibliophile or book collector, the world Sebastian creates is a slice of paradise.' – India Today



January 2024

A window into the charming world of antiquarian book trade in India and around the world, as well as an ode to the book as an object of art, sure to delight every reader.

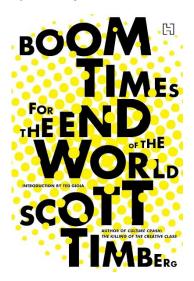
Pradeep Sebastian has been an avid bibliophile and book collector for over a decade. In this collection of essays, he paints in full splendour the picture of a life devoted to the romance of books, blending personal experience, revelatory conversations and bewitching legends from the world of books.

Meet the biryani chef guarding a prized Ottoman manuscript, track the mysterious 'Book Prince' of Kolkata, and visit the cottage in Kodaikanal that lures book collectors with its siren song. Discover how an emperor's defeat brought illuminated manuscripts into sixteenth-century India, how a rare 1865 edition of *Alice in Wonderland* surfaced in an Indian bazaar, and much more.

# **Boom Times for the End of the World**

### **Scott Timberg**

A rich banquet at the cutting edge of the arts, rooted in California's eclectic cultural gumbo, by one of America's most gifted critics.



March 2024

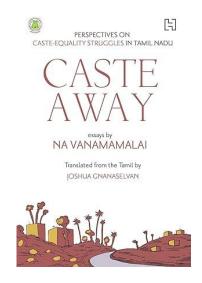
The late Scott Timberg championed artists earnestly and relentlessly, with empathy and persistence. An award-winning writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and many other publications, he was one of the first to sound the alarm on the escalating economic challenges that have faced creative workers in the twenty-first century. He ultimately became a victim of the "culture crash" he chronicled, but his own words form a valuable window onto the cultural shifts that have upended creative traditions and expectations.

Timberg had a knack, as Ted Gioia writes in his introduction, for "finding the best in the cultural scene on the dream coast." Drawn from across his career, the passionate and wideranging reflections in this book span West Coast jazz and Gustavo Dudamel's LA Philharmonic, the early films of Spike Jonze and Christopher Nolan, the comics of Los Bros Hernandez and Adrian Tomine, and many more musicians, writers, filmmakers, architects, and impresarios.

# **Caste Away**

### Na. Vanamamalai, translated by Joshua Gnanaselvan

A pithy and momentous collection of essays on caste-equality struggles in Tamil Nadu by scholar and social activist Na. Vanamamalai.



#### March 2024

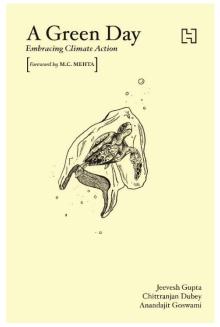
Offering a meticulous exploration of Tamil Nadu's intricate caste dynamics, Na. Vanamamalai's pivotal work unveils the endeavours of lower-caste communities in challenging established hierarchies. It spans the Chola dynasty to the early part of the twentieth century. Through extensive research and insightful analysis, the renowned scholar elucidates how certain communities strategically appropriated the varna system, elevating their social status. Drawing on various source texts – historical documents, verses by socially committed ascetics, court judgments – the work demonstrates how the Chola kings tactically offered concessions to different caste clusters, thereby navigating a delicate balance between benefits and exploitation.

Caste Away compellingly argues that caste-based conflicts were fundamentally manifestations of class antagonisms and challenges conventional interpretations, showing how the pursuit of caste equality was aimed not at creating an egalitarian society but at elevating the social standing of specific castes.

# **A Green Day**

### Jeevesh Gupta, Chittranjan Dubey, Anandajit Goswami

An engaging compilation of perspectives on climate activism.



April 2024

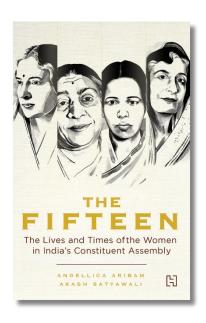
The impassioned essays, noteworthy profiles and first-person narratives in this anthology champion grassroots and global environmental movements that have persuaded policymakers and mobilized communities to take note of the worsening state of the natural order. From the Global South to the Global North, change advocates and those experiencing the thick of the emergency revisit the tipping points in their activism journey, lay out harsh truths about the extent of damage caused and offer scalable solutions to combat the mounting crisis.

Outlining their rage, despair, fears and hope for the future, the campaigners underscore that there may be reasons to be optimistic despite the dreary reality we find ourselves in. While calling for collective action, these wide-ranging, inspiring and urgent stories reflect a diverse landscape of climate activism and are enough evidence that a sea change is possible.

# **The Fifteen**

### Angellica Aribam and Akash Satyawali

A fresh take on the history of the Indian Constitution and the Constituent Assembly



July, 2024

In 1946, the Indian Constituent Assembly was tasked with formulating the document that would soon govern the largest democracy in the world. Among its 299 members, were 15 women.

These women were vastly different from each other – from members of royal families and the political elite to those from marginalized Dalit and Latin Christian communities; staunch Gandhians to revolutionaries; grassroots social workers to leaders of the global social order.

In this keenly researched book, Angellica Aribam and Akash Satyawali chronicle the lives of these trailblazing women – recounting the influences that shaped them, the norms they defied, and the convictions they stood for. Guided by their own life experiences, these women contributed to debates on the idea of India that resonate even today – from drafting progressive personal laws to the need for a uniform civil code, from the rights of detainees to their varied and evolving opinions on reservations.

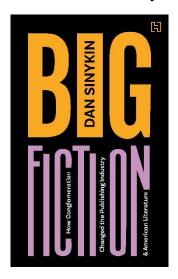
Bringing alive the history of the Indian Constitution in rich detail, *The Fifteen* pays tribute to the undeniable contribution of women to the Indian republic, while reminding us we must understand the past to better shape the future.

# **Big Fiction**

### **Dan Sinykin**

'Revelatory... Book lovers curious about how the proverbial sausage gets made will want to check this out.'

— Publishers Weekly



August, 2024

Dan Sinykin explores how changes in the publishing industry have affected fiction, literary form, and what it means to be an author. Giving an inside look at the industry's daily routines, personal dramas, and institutional crises, he reveals how conglomeration has shaped what kinds of books and writers are published. Sinykin examines four different sectors of the publishing industry: mass-market books by brand-name authors like Danielle Steel; trade publishers that encouraged genre elements in literary fiction; nonprofits such as Graywolf that aspired to protect literature from market pressures; and the distinctive niche of employee-owned W. W. Norton. He emphasizes how women and people of colour navigated shifts in publishing, arguing that writers such as Toni Morrison allegorized their experiences in their fiction.

Big Fiction features dazzling readings of a vast range of novelists—including E. L. Doctorow, Judith Krantz, Renata Adler, Stephen King, Joan Didion, Cormac McCarthy, Chuck Palahniuk, Patrick O'Brian, and Walter Mosley—as well as vivid portraits of industry figures. Written in gripping and lively prose, this deeply original book recasts the past six decades of American fiction.

### The Chambers Facts Series



#### Chambers Book of Cinema Facts by Swayam Ganguly

Plunge into the star-studded world of legendary actors, brilliant directors, mellifluous voices, incredible writers, music maestros, critically acclaimed performances, prestigious cinematic awards, behind-the-screen geniuses, passionate innovators and much more!

#### **Chambers Book of Indian Election Facts** by Kingshuk Chatterjee & Surbek Biswas

Comprehensive coverage of all Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, derived from meticulous research that is blended with journalistic verve, makes the book fascinating and useful.

#### Chambers Book of Sports Facts by Nimish Dubey & Akriti Rana

Experience the full spectrum of the sports sentiment – humour, tragedy, thrill, wonder, inspiration with this thematically divided book that covers great arenas, champions, sporting gestures, quotes, controversies and much more!

#### **Chambers Book of Football Facts** by Swayam Ganguly

This book is a ticket to the exhilarating world of football, which will resonate with football fans, sports aficionados and novices alike. Experience the kick stemming from jaw-dropping anecdotes, know the GOATs in the game and stories of goals that were against the run of play.

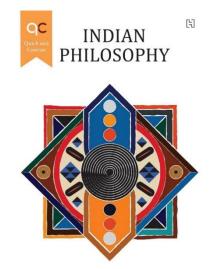
#### Chambers Book of Cricket Facts by Swayam Ganguly

Experience the cricket pitch like never before – from its early origins in England to its domination of the world today, from timeless Tests to the high-octane T20s, from the ICC World Cup to the Ashes rivalry, from explosive showdowns of the IPL to loyal fan bases and much more.

# **Indian Philosophy**

### Raghavan Srinivasan

A comprehensive exploration of the different schools of thought in Indian philosophy with comparisons between them.



Raghavan Srinivasan

#### **July 2024**

#### Did You Know?

In ancient times, the Digambara sect of Jainism did not consider nuns the equal of monks. Women could attain salvation only after they were reborn as men.

The earliest known formal document in Sanskrit on the method of conducting debates is the *Charaka Samhita*.

The Saamkhya system was among the first Indian philosophical schools to put forward the theory of matter, causality, knowledge and evolutionary process.

This Quick and Concise book on Indian Philosophy explores India's foundations in wisdom and reasoning.

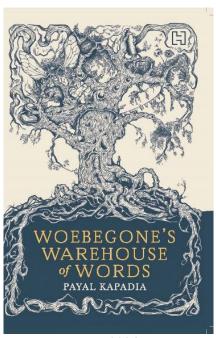
The *astika* and *nastika* schools are discussed in detail and the simple explanations make it easy to grasp the nuanced concepts discussed in ancient India. Modern readers will have no trouble traversing through the rich, erudite tapestry of our country with this book as their guide. *Indian Philosophy* offers a vault of information along with anecdotes, stories and poetry.

## **Young Adult**

# **Woebegone's Warehouse of Words**

### Payal Kapadia

A startling, scorching adventure from award-winning author Payal Kapadia, Woebegone's Warehouse of Words is a compelling cry for the freedom of speakers, and their words.



**July 2024** 

Six desperate Words. Two fearless Speakers. One audacious quest to reclaim the truth,

if such a thing can still be found.

In a world where you must pay a price to speak, Speakers have to buy words to use them. And at the click of a button, the flesh-and-ink Words at a warehouse are boxed and shipped to stay alive.

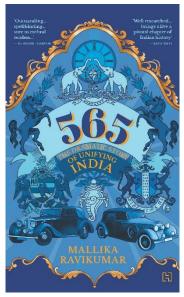
Everything changes when fifteen-year-olds Asha and Zeb break the rules and graffiti a wall. They collide head-on with the tyrannical Word Bloc and its sinister leader, Gunther Glib. For him, power is about controlling what can be said, even if it means silencing the Speakers by forever destroying their Words. In a losing battle, a dying Word urges her friends to escape to the forgotten Wood the Words first came from cAs the paths of the Words and their Speakers intersect, they embark on an epic journey to fight a brutal regime and find what they stand

tor

A startling, scorching adventure from award-winning author Payal Kapadia, Woebegone's Warehouse of Words is a compelling cry for the freedom of speakers, and their words.

# 565: The Dramatic Story of the Making of India Mallika Ravikumar

A gripping account of the last days of the British Raj.



August 2024

A jigsaw of over 565 states.

At the stroke of midnight on 15 August 1947,
India could emerge as a united nation.

Or disintegrate into several pieces.

On 3 June 1947, Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, makes a historic announcement. After two centuries of being a colony, India would finally be independent!

Yet there is no India as we know it today, only a patchwork of territories and kingdoms ruled by maharajas and nawabs who had pledged their allegiance to the British Crown. The rulers are given three choices; accede to India, join Pakistan, or remain free.

More than 565 rulers; some uncertain and jittery, others, eccentric and crafty. A few wait to strike a bargain, while others nurse lofty ambitions. As the sun is poised to set over the British Empire, the future of India hangs in the balance.

What unfolds in those nerve-wracking last days of the Raj? In a stirring and gripping dramatized account, highlighting the most important events and personalities, this thoroughly researched book tells young readers how our great nation was forged.

### **The Forestborns**

#### Vardhini Amin

The magical world of Vriksha is unknown to humans.

Each night in soft moonlight, from towering trees to the tiniest shrubs, lively plant souls roam free. Yet they must not travel too far, or they may perish forever.



August, 2024

On Earth is a hidden realm where the whispers of the trees hold ancient secrets. When sandalwood smugglers threaten to destroy the forest, Siah, a fiery young tree soul, must embark on a perilous journey to save her kind. In the winding paths of the woods, she encounters Avni, a young girl who often visits the sandalwood grove for solace. Siah and Avni must follow their own quests to preserve the harmony of their worlds. Until, in a twist of fate, a remarkable connection blooms between the two, and the forest witnesses a miracle in the face of danger – and *life finds a way. The Forestborns* is a heart-wrenching story of resilience, a shared past and the undeniable bond between humans and nature, reminding us that magic lives within us all.

#### **Children's Fiction**

## **Arun and the Royal Rumpus**

#### **Eoin Redahan**

Would you rather have the body of a tiger and the head of a boy, or the body of a boy and the head of a tiger?

(Arun wants to know)



April 2024

When Arun, a twelve-year-old mischief maker hiding in the mountains, finds out about the plot to capture the crazy King Lalu, he vows to stop the vicious Vin and his thugs – by joining them.

Armed only with a pea-shooter, Arun journeys through treacherous terrain, eerie forests, rushing rivers and even the sewers of Asamana with the help of the quick-tempered Krishma and scrappy Sai.

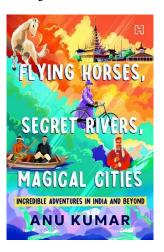
Whether it's outsmarting the brutes, stealing a grouchy giant's keys, or trotting down a narrow mountain ledge on a one-eyed pony, Arun is ready to brave it all to save the king.

Brimming with humour and adventure, this is not just one boy's gritty tale of friendship, family and mayhem – it's a downright royal rumpus!

## Flying Horses, Secret Rivers, Magical Cities

#### Anu Kumar

Just a hundred years ago, much of the world was unknown - believe it or not!



**June 2024** 

Secret cities lay hidden in the intimidating Himalayas, the perilous passes to them known to only a few. Fierce monsters were said to lurk in the swamps of north-east India. The mighty River Brahmaputra flowed through Assam and Bengal, but its place of origin was a big mystery. And in the cold, windy deserts of Central Asia, the fastest horse on earth galloped wild

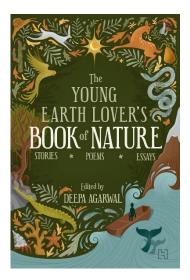
Yet, intrepid explorers - men and women - full of curiosity and thirsty for knowledge, travelled to these distant and forbidding places. They returned with extraordinary tales and important discoveries, forever leaving their mark on history.

Read their stories and join them on their exciting explorations in this rare book! Find how a way to Tibet was discovered, who brought the healing cinchona plant to the subcontinent, why the north-west frontier was once a very dangerous place, where exactly the Brahmaputra began its journey, what led to the rhododendron becoming a popular plant in faraway Britain, and much, much more!

## Young Earth Lover's Book of Nature

#### Deepa Agarwal

Listen. A tree has a message for you. Halt. There's a tiger on the prowl. Buckle up. You're rafting down an icy river. Get up and start bailing. The storm is rising and raging. Take note. The climate is changing.



**June 2024** 

#### STOP.

Be awed and inspired as this book takes you on a whistle-stop tour of the spectacular diversity of nature in more than 40 classic and modern stories, poems and essays.

Read some of the best writing by wildlife experts, bestselling authors, nature writers, adventurers and explorers. Feel oh-so-lucky about being on this life-giving Earth, and open your eyes to how we are harming it and endangering our own future.

Because, after all, YOU are going to inherit the one and only blue planet - and take care of it.

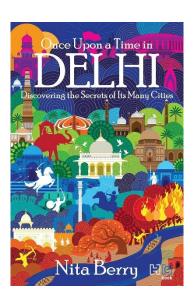
#### **Children's Non-Fiction**

### **Once Upon A Time in Delhi**

#### **Nita Berry**

The adventurous, the ambitious and the brave coveted its throne.

One invader after another crossed the mighty Himalayas to seek a fortune here.



October 2024

A pivot of power down the ages, it fascinated both settlers and rulers, to become the capital of mighty empires.

Across centuries, the 'Delhi Triangle' of about 200 square kilometres became the base of many a powerful monarch, with a different name and location every time: Dillika, Siri, Tughlakabad, Jahanpanah, Firozabad, Purana Qila and Shahjahanabad. These seven cities gave the historic hub its grand, varied and colourful heritage.

A centre of learning and culture, art and architecture, and trade and commerce, it was a megalopolis like no other. In time, New Delhi emerged from the light and shadows of its past to become the eighth city - modern India's seat of government!

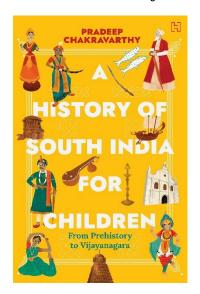
Among the oldest capital cities in the world, Delhi is a storehouse of legends and lore, history and mysteries, secrets and stories. Every nook and corner, pathway and rock here hides a tale - of triumph and defeat, riches and ruin; of builders, sculptors and artists, royalty and rebels; of saints and common folk, poets, writers and thinkers - waiting to be uncovered.

Are you ready to embark on an exciting journey of discovery?

## A History of South India for Children

#### **Pradeep Chakravarthy**

From glorious rulers to the sparkling Kohinoor, from sea trade to spices, and from breakthrough science to a vibrant culture, discover the history of south India like never before.



December, 2023

The Kohinoor diamond was once the eye of a Kakatiya deity.

The Pandyas are counted among the world's longest ruling dynasties.

Sanskrit poets spun mesmerizing verse that could be read in reverse too.

Tantalizing Malabar spices flavoured the most lavish ancient Roman banquets.

Make your way across south India, exploring its kaleidoscopic past and dazzling heritage, right from its first inhabitants up to the Vijayanagara Empire.

Meet its royalty and courtiers, builders and sculptors, poets and authors, traders and merchants, spiritual leaders and devotees, and all the other people who went to make it a top destination of the time.

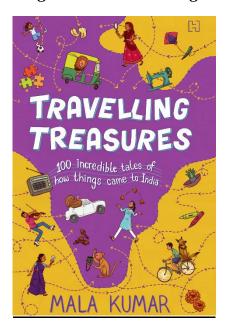
Separated from the north by the Vindhya mountains and surrounded on three sides by water, southern India developed its own unique features – with outstanding rulers, incredible literature, spellbinding architecture, stunning dance forms and delicious food.

Written in an easy style, by theme, and peppered with illustrations, photographs and tips for museum or monument visits, this very first history of south India for children (and their families) tells the thrilling and eventful story of the region's proud past.

#### **Travelling Treasures**

#### Mala Kumar

100 amazing stories of how things came to India: your passport to an eyeopening tour across time and continents that will make you see everyday things in a whole new light.



#### December, 2024

Have you ever wondered where the trusty bicycle came from? Or thanked your lucky stars for chocolate?

Ketchup on your fries, umbrella in the rain, pencil in your bag, lift in the mall, and even your favourite fruit – many ordinary things around you have extraordinary tales. Big or small, a trinket or a prized possession, these things zig-zagged across the globe, battled the odds and survived dangerous journeys to finally land in India. Traders, kings, soldiers, inventors, adventurers, and even smugglers have played a part in bringing these treasures to you.

With 100 amazing stories of how things came to India, *Travelling Treasures* is your passport to an eye-opening tour across time and continents that will make you see everyday things in a whole new light.

Jump aboard a fantastic A to Z expedition where each stop is a fun surprise.

Bon Voyage!

# A PICTURE PERFECT COLLECTION TO GROW UP WITH!

#### LAKSHMI'S LITTLE BIRD

by Sharanya Kunnath

All Lakshmi wants is a bird buddy – her very own pakshi.

After all, every cow has a bird. That's what her Amma says. One by one, many birds come, but they don't stay. With a skip in her step and a twinkle in her eye, Lakshmi waits... Until one day, there is a flutter of wings and a burst of laughter... A chatty, chirpy bird comes her way. Will this one stay?

Will Lakshmi finally find her forever friend?

This delightful picture book by illustrator – author Sharanya Kunnath is a heartwarming story about acceptance and finding extraordinary friendships in the most unexpected places.



19 July 2024



19 July 2024

#### CACTUS WANTS A HUG

by Neil Flory

Everyone wants a hug, and so does prickly-pokey Cactus. He leaves the desert and looks for it up and down, far and wide.

Problem is, he's not very hug-friendly.

Ouch!

Cactus is sad and about to give up when someone surprises him. A sweet, funny and gorgeously illustrated tale about going all out to find a friend.

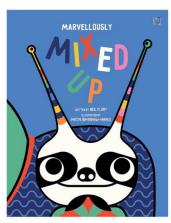
#### MARVELLOUSLY MIXED UP

by Neil Flory

Ever met a DONPIDRILL or a SNOTH? A HEDGEKUNK or a HIPSQUIRROT? How about a KANGAHOPPER? NO? WELL, YOU'RE IN FOR A REAL SURPRISE!

This book contains a universe of eye-popping creatures.

Marvellous mixes of differen animals and birds, each with their own unique features, waiting to be discovered. A stunningly illustrated, at times hilarious, adventure like no other!



19 July 2024

### **International Titles**

## **Trending Translations!**

#### A Perfect Day to Be Alone

by Nanae Aoyama translated by Jesse Kirkwood



9 May 2024

A love letter to Tokyo as it can only be seen through the eyes of a young woman setting out in the world.

It was raining when I arrived at the house. The walls of my room were lined with cat photos, set in fancy frames just below the ceiling. When her mother emigrates to China for work, 21-old Chizu moves in with 71-year-old Ginko, an eccentric distant relative, taking a room in her ramshackle Tokyo home, with its two resident cats and the persistent rattle of passing trains. Living their lives in imperfect symmetry, they establish an uneasy alliance, stress tested by Chizu's flashes of youthful spite.

As the four seasons pass, Chizu navigates a series of tedious part-time jobs and unsatisfying relationships, before eventually finding her feet and salvaging a fierce independence from her solitude. A Perfect Day to be Alone is a moving, microscopic examination of loneliness and heartbreak. With flashes of deadpan humour and a keen eye for poignant detail, Aoyama chronicles the painful process of breaking free from the moorings of youth.

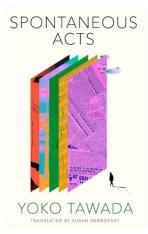
#### A Perfect Day to Be Alone

by Nanae Aoyama translated by Jesse Kirkwood

Spontaneous Acts reaches out to all of us who find meaning and even obsession in the words of those before us.

Patrik is a literary researcher living in Berlin, a city just coming back to life after lockdown. Though his beloved opera houses are open again, Patrik cannot leave the house and hardly manages to get out of bed. He is supposed to give a paper at a conference in Paris, on the poetry collection Threadsuns by Paul Celan, but he can't get past the first question on the registration form: 'What is your nationality?'

As Patrik attempts to find a connection in a world that constantly overwhelms him, he meets a mysterious stranger. The man's name is Leo-Eric Fu, and somehow he already knows Patrik . . . Yoko Tawada's mesmerizing new novel unfolds like a lucid dream in which the solace of friendship, reading, conversation, music - of seeing and being seen - is examined and celebrated.



11 July 2024



5 September 2024

#### The Blanket Cats

by Kiyoshi Shigematsu translated by Jesse Kirkwood

#### Is three days with a cat enough to change your life?

The troubled and anxious of Tokyo are desperate to find out. They all have their problems - and they all want to believe that a temporary feline companion from a unique pet shop can help them find a solution. Or at least provide a few days' relief and distraction.

But, like all their kind, the Blanket Cats are mysterious creatures with their own unknowable agendas, who delight in confounding expectations. And perhaps what their hosts are looking for isn't what they really need. Three days may not be enough to change your life. But it can be enough to change how you see it.

#### The Full Moon Coffee Shop

by Mai Mochizuki translated by Jesse Kirkwood

Heartwarming and magical, THE FULL MOON COFFEE SHOP will remind you that it's never too late to discover your purpose...

Under a glittering full moon, a Kyoto coffee shop with no fixed location or fixed hours appears only where and when it's needed. It is run by talking cats serving the finest teas and coffees, delicious desserts and age-old astrological wisdom. THE FULL MOON COFFEE SHOP attracts customers who have lost their way in their life, from a down-on-her-luck screenwriter to a failed video game developer. In the middle of the night, the feline guides will set them back on their fated paths.



29 August 2024

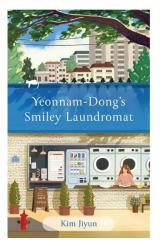
#### Yeonnam-Dong's Smiley Laundromat

by Kim Jiyun translated by Shanna Tan

Situated at the heart of a rapidly gentrifying district of Seoul, the Yeonnamdong Smiley Laundromat is a place where the extraordinary stories of ordinary residents unfold.

It is already a haven of tranquility and reflection for locals, but when someone leaves a notebook behind, the laundromat becomes a place that brings people together. One by one, customers start jotting down candid diary entries, opening their hearts and inviting acts of kindness from neighbours who were once just faces in the crowd.

But there is more to the diary than first appears, and before long the laundromat's regulars are teaming up to solve a mystery and help the notebook's former owner find peace.



29 August 2024

## **Top Thrillers**

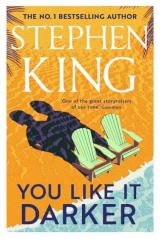
## You Like It Darker by Stephen King

'You like it darker? Fine, so do I', writes Stephen King in the afterword to this magnificent new collection of twelve stories that delve into the darker part of life - both metaphorical and literal.

King has, for half a century, been a master of the form, and these stories, about fate, mortality, luck, and the folds in reality where anything can happen, are as rich and riveting as his novels, both weighty in theme and a huge pleasure to read. King writes to feel 'the exhilaration of leaving ordinary day-to-day life behind', and in You Like it Darker, readers will feel that exhilaration too, again and again.

In 'Danny Coughlin's Bad Dream', a brief and unprecedented psychic flash upends dozens of lives, Danny's most catastrophically. In 'Rattlesnakes', a sequel to *Cujo*, a grieving widower travels to Florida for respite and instead receives an unexpected inheritance - with major strings attached. 'The Answer Man' asks if prescience is good luck or bad and reminds us that a life marked by unbearable tragedy can still be meaningful.

King's ability to surprise, amaze, and bring us both terror and solace remains unsurpassed. Each of these stories holds its own thrills, joys, and mysteries; each feels iconic. You like it darker? You got it.



23 May 2024

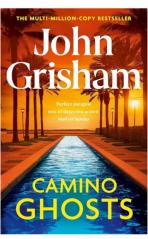
#### **Camino Ghosts**

by John Grisham

Filled with unpredictable twists, the return to Camino Island is guaranteed to be this summer's perfect escape.

In this new thriller set on Camino Island, popular bookseller Bruce Cable tells Mercer Mann an irresistible tale that might be her next novel. A giant resort developer is using its political muscle and deep pockets to claim ownership of a deserted island between Florida and Georgia. Only the last living inhabitant of the island, Lovely Jackson, stands in its way. What the developer doesn't know is that the island has a remarkable history, and locals believe it is cursed . . . and the past is never the past . . .

John Grisham, No.1 bestselling author and master of the legal thriller, takes us back to paradise.



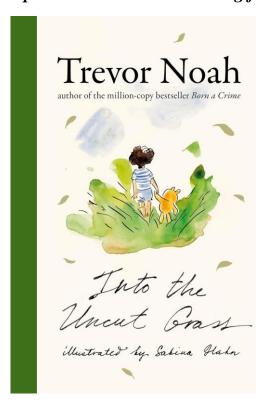
5 June 2024

#### **General Fiction**

### **Into The Uncut Grass**

#### **Trevor Noah**

'What will we find in the uncut grass?'
'It depends on what we're looking for.'



October 2024

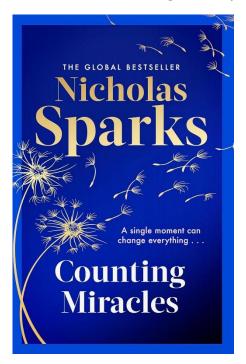
From the author of the #1 bestselling *Born a Crime* comes a gorgeously illustrated fable about a young child's journey into the world beyond the shadow of home, an enchanted landscape where he discovers the secrets of solidarity, connection, and finding peace with the people we love.

Infused with the author's signature wit and imagination, in collaboration with masterful artist Sabina Hahn, it's a tale for readers of all ages - to be read aloud or read alone.

## **Counting Miracles**

#### **Nicholas Sparks**

From the much-loved bestselling author of The Notebook comes a brand-new emotional and powerful novel about the journeys we take and those who touch our hearts along the way.



September 2024

'Find where you belong and make that place your own...'

Tanner has spent his whole life moving from place to place, belonging nowhere. So when his dying grandmother reveals the name and location of the father he never knew, he plans to visit Asheboro to lay the past to rest, then move on - just as he always has.

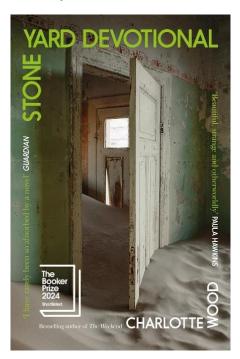
Kaitlyn knows exactly where she belongs. In Asheboro, she's built a life for herself and her kids that she's proud of, especially after the turmoil of divorce. But when she meets lone wolf Tanner, she can't help but feel something has been missing until now.

Jasper will never belong again. He had everything - and he lost it all. Now with only his old dog Arlo for company, he lives quietly, haunted by the tragic accident that took place decades before.

Three strangers' worlds are about to collide, changing the trajectory of all their lives. Because some paths cross, some merge, and others guide you home...

# Stone Yard Devotional Charlotte Wood

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2024.



October 2023

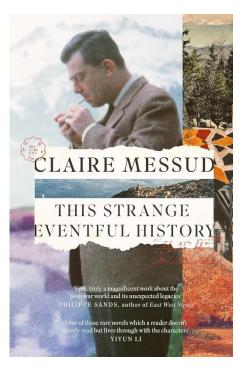
Burnt out and in need of retreat, a middle-aged woman leaves Sydney to return to the place she grew up, taking refuge in a small religious community hidden away on the stark plains of the Australian outback. She doesn't believe in God, or know what prayer is, and finds herself living this strange, reclusive existence almost by accident.

But disquiet interrupts this secluded life with three visitations. First comes a terrible mouse plague, each day signalling a new battle against the rising infestation. Second is the return of the skeletal remains of a sister who disappeared decades before, presumed murdered. And finally, a troubling visitor plunges the narrator further back into her past.

## **This Strange Eventful History**

#### Claire Messud

A work of breathtaking historical sweep and vivid psychological intimacy.



May 2024

June 1940. As Paris falls to the Germans, Gaston Cassar - honorable servant of France, devoted husband and father, currently posted as naval attache in Salonica - bids farewell to his beloved wife, aunt and children, placing his faith in God that they will be reunited after the war. But escaping the violence of that cataclysm is not the same as emerging unscathed.

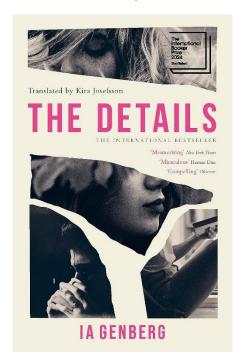
The family will never again be whole.

This Strange Eventful History charts the Cassars' unfolding story as its members move between Salonica and Algeria, the US, Cuba, Canada, Argentina, Australia and France - their itinerary shaped as much by a search for an elusive wholeness, as by the imperatives of politics, faith, family, industry and desire.

## **The Details**

#### Ia Genberg

A famous broadcaster writes a forgotten love letter; a friend abruptly disappears; a lover leaves something unexpected behind; a traumatised woman is consumed by her own anxiety.



#### January 2024

In the throes of a high fever, a woman lies bedridden. Suddenly, she is struck with an urge to revisit a particular novel from her past. Inside the book is an inscription: a message from an ex-girlfriend.

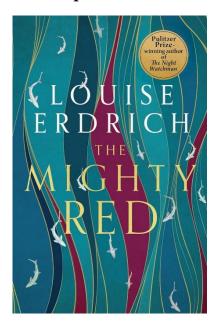
Pages from her past begin to flip, full of things she cannot forget and people who cannot be forgotten. Johanna, that same ex-girlfriend, now a famous TV host. Niki, the friend who disappeared all those years ago. Alejandro, who appears like a storm in precisely the right moment. And Birgitte, whose elusive qualities shield a painful secret.

Who is the real subject of a portrait, the person being painted or the one holding the brush? *The Details* is a novel built around four such portraits, unveiling the fragments of memory and experience that make up a life. In exhilarating, provocative prose, Ia Genberg reveals an intimate and powerful celebration of what it means to be human.

## **Mighty Red**

#### Louise Erdrich

As with every book this great modern master writes, The Mighty Red is about our tattered bond with the earth, and about love in all of its absurdity and splendour.



#### September 2024

In Argus, North Dakota, a fraught wedding is taking place.

Gary Geist, a terrified young man set to inherit two farms, is desperate to marry Kismet Poe. Gary thinks Kismet is the answer to all of his problems; Kismet can't even imagine her future, let alone the kind of future Gary might offer. During a clumsy proposal, Kismet misses her chance to say 'no' and so the die is cast.

Hugo has been in love with Kismet for years. He has been her friend, confidante and occasionally her lover - and now she is marrying Gary, Hugo is determined to steal her back. Meanwhile Kismet's mother, Crystal, hauls sugar beets for Gary's family, and on her nightly truck drives along the highway from the farm to the factories, she tunes in to the darkness of late-night radio, sees visions of guardian angels, and worries for the future - both her daughter's and her own.

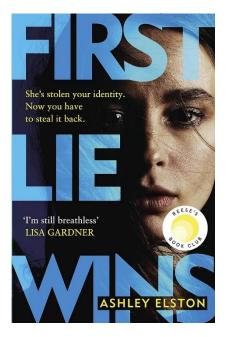
Starkly beautiful like the landscape it inhabits, *The Mighty Red* is about ordinary people who dream, grow up, fall in love, struggle, endure tragedy, carry bitter secrets.

## **First Lie Wins**

#### **Ashley Elston**

You meet a stranger at a party. She looks like you. Even has your name.

But she isn't a stranger. She's a warning...



January 2024

Evie Porter has everything a girl could want: a doting boyfriend and a house with a picket fence. The only catch: Evie Porter *doesn't exist*.

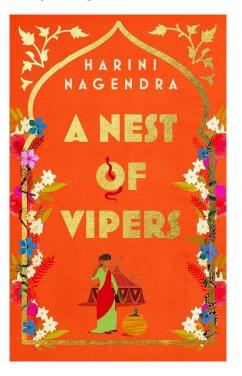
First comes the identity. Once given a name and location, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the target: Ryan Sumner.

The last piece of the puzzle is the job. But this job feels different. Ryan has gotten under her skin. And when a woman walks into town using the one thing Evie has been desperate to protect - *Evie's real identity* - she can't afford to make a mistake. As Evie's past begins to catch up with her, can she stay one step ahead to save her future?

## **A Nest of Vipers**

#### Harini Nagendra

Death stalks the streets of Bangalore when the Circus comes to town.



May 2024

January 1922.

The Bangalore Constabulary is on high alert as The Prince of Wales is scheduled to visit the city to redeem his reputation after disastrous visits marked by violent anti-British riots.

Kaveri has none of these concerns on her mind, not when she has just been given VIP tickets to the famous Bangalore circus. But when a celebrity magician, shackled in an iron cage filled with deadly snakes, disappears into thin air, she is stunned to discover her friend and favourite policeman, Inspector Ismail, is telling her to leave the case well alone.

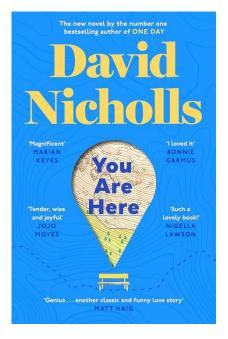
After solving two murder cases, Kaveri Murthy thought she had cemented her reputation as Bangalore's favourite lady detective. But when death threats are left at her doorstep, former friends become foes, and the bodies start to pile up, Kaveri realises she has never been in this much danger...

This is a story about the beauty of climbing into a book, free diving into its pages, and then resurfacing on the last page, ready to breathe a different kind of air...

## **You Are Here**

#### **David Nicholls**

Sometimes you need to get lost to find your way.



#### **April 2024**

Marnie is stuck.

Stuck working alone in her London flat, stuck battling the long afternoons and a life that often feels like it's passing her by.

Michael is coming undone.

Reeling from his wife's departure, increasingly reclusive, taking himself on long, solitary walks across the moors and fells.

When a persistent mutual friend and some very English weather conspire to bring them together, Marnie and Michael suddenly find themselves alone on the most epic of walks and on the precipice of a new friendship.

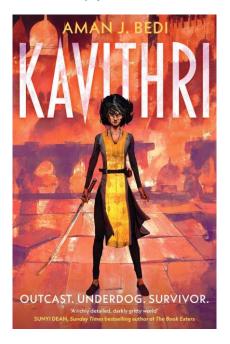
But can they survive the journey?

A new love story by beloved bestseller David Nicholls, *You Are Here* is a novel of first encounters, second chances and finding the way home.

## **Kavithri**

#### Aman J. Bedi

An action-packed South Asian epic fantasy featuring necromancers, jinn, and one seriously fearless heroine...



May 2024
Meet Kavithri. Outcast. Underdog. Survivor.

Kavi is a Taemu. Her people, once feared berserkers and the spearhead of a continentspanning invasion, are the dregs of Raayan society. Their spirits crushed. Their swords broken. Their history erased.

But Kavi has a dream and a plan. She will do whatever it takes to earn a place at the secretive mage academy, face the Jinn within its walls, and gain the power to rise above her station and drag her people out of the darkness.

Except power and knowledge come at a cost, and the world no longer needs a Taemu who can fight. So they will break her. Beat her down to her knees. And make her bleed.

But if blood is what they want, Kavi will give them blood. She will give them violence. She will show them a berserker's fury.

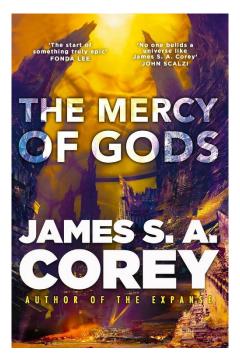
And she will make them remember her name.

An action-packed and empowering South Asian fantasy epic. An underdog story like no other - Kavithri will remind you of fantasy heroes like Arya Stark and Gideon the Ninth.

## **The Mercy Of Gods**

#### James S.A. Corey

A spectacular new space opera that sees humanity fighting for its survival in a war as old as the universe itself. Invasion is only the beginning.



August 2024

The Carryx - part empire, part hive - has waged wars of conquest for centuries, destroying or enslaving species across the galaxy in its conflict with an ancient and deathless enemy.

When they descend on the isolated world of Anjiin, the human population is abased, slaughtered and put in chains. The best and brightest are abducted, taken to the Carryx world-palace to join prisoners from a thousand other species.

Dafyd Alkhor, assistant to a prestigious scientist, is captured along with his team. Even he doesn't suspect that his peculiar insight and skills will be the key to seeing past their captors 'terrifying agenda.

Swept up in a conflict beyond his control and vaster than his imagination, Dafyd is poised to become humanity's champion - and its betrayer.

This is where his story begins.

## **The Ministry of Time**

#### **Kaliane Bradley**

A BOY MEETS A GIRL. THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE. A FINGER MEETS A TRIGGER. THE BEGINNING MEETS THE END. ENGLAND IS FOREVER. ENGLAND MUST FALL.



May 2024

In the near future, a disaffected civil servant is offered a lucrative job in a mysterious new government ministry gathering 'expats' from across history to test the limits of time-travel.

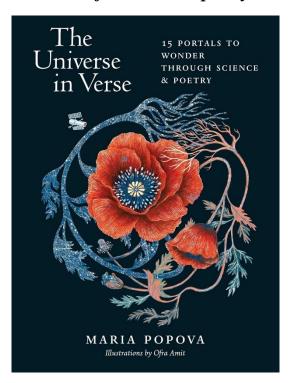
Her role is to work as a 'bridge': living with, assisting and monitoring the expat known as '1847' - Commander Graham Gore. As far as history is concerned, Commander Gore died on Sir John Franklin's doomed expedition to the Arctic, so he's a little disoriented to find himself alive and surrounded by outlandish concepts such as 'washing machine', 'Spotify' and 'the collapse of the British Empire'. With an appetite for discovery and a seven-a-day cigarette habit, he soon adjusts; and during a long, sultry summer he and his bridge move from awkwardness to genuine friendship, to something more.

But as the true shape of the project that brought them together begins to emerge, Gore and the bridge are forced to confront their past choices and imagined futures. Can love triumph over the structures and histories that have shaped them? And how do you defy history when history is living in your house?

## The Universe in Verse

#### Maria Popova

In this book of illustrated essays, Maria Popova, creator of The Marginalian, presents a celebration of the human search for truth and beauty through the lenses of science and poetry.

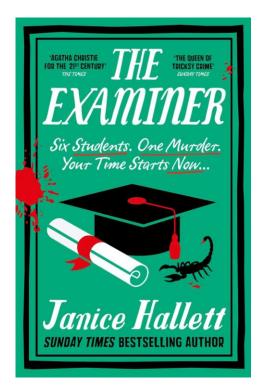


October 2024

Poetry and science, as Popova writes in her introduction, "are instruments for knowing the world more intimately and loving it more deeply." In 15 short essays on subjects ranging from the mystery of dark matter and the infinity of pi to the resilience of trees and the intelligence of octopuses, Popova tells the stories of scientific searching and discovery. These stories are interwoven with details from the very real and human lives of scientists—many of them women, many underrecognized—and poets inspired by the same questions and the beauty they reveal. Each essay is paired with a poem reflecting its subject by poets ranging from Emily Dickinson, W. H. Auden, and Edna St. Vincent Millay to Maya Angelou, Diane Ackerman, and Tracy K. Smith, and is stunningly illustrated by celebrated artist Ofra Amit. Together, they wake us to a "reality aglow with wonder."

# The Examiner Janice Hallett

Six Students. One Murder. Your Time Starts Now...



August 2024

The mature students of Royal Hastings University's new art course have been trouble from day one. From acclaimed artist Alyson who seems oddly overqualified, to hapless Patrick who can barely operate design software, and city boy Cameron who blusters his way through assignments. Not to mention Jem, who's a gifted young sculptor... but cross her at your peril.

The year-long course is blighted by students setting fire to one another's artwork, a rumoured extra-marital affair and a disastrous road trip. But finally they are given their last assignment: to build an art installation for a local manufacturer. With six students who have nothing in common except their clashing personal agendas, what could possibly go wrong?

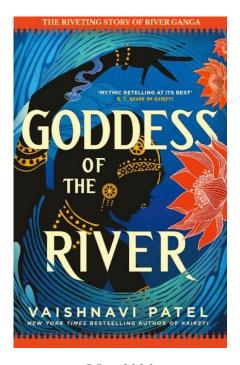
The answer is: murder. When the external examiner arrives to assess the students' coursework, he becomes convinced that a student was killed on the course and that the others covered it up. But is he right? Only a close examination of the evidence will reveal the truth.

Your time starts now...

## **Goddess of the River**

#### Vaishnavi Patel

A powerful reimagining of the story of Ganga, goddess of the river, and her doomed mortal son, from Vaishnavi Patel, author of the instant New York Times bestseller Kaikeyi.



#### May 2024

A mother and a son. A goddess and a prince. A curse and an oath. A river whose course will change the fate of the world.

Ganga, joyful goddess of the river, serves as caretaker to the mischievous godlings who roam her banks. But when their antics incur the wrath of a powerful sage, Ganga is cursed to become mortal, bound to her human form until she fulfils the obligations of the curse. Though she knows nothing of mortal life, Ganga weds King Shantanu and becomes a queen, determined to regain her freedom no matter the cost. But in a cruel turn of fate, just as she is freed of her binding, she is forced to leave her infant son behind.

Her son, prince Devavrata, unwittingly carries the legacy of Ganga's curse. And when he makes an oath that he will never claim his father's throne, he sets in motion a chain of events that will end in a terrible and tragic war.

As the years unfold, Ganga and Devavrata are drawn together again and again, each confluence another step on a path that has been written in the stars, in this deeply moving and masterful tale of duty, destiny, and the unwavering bond between mother and son.

## The Future of Artificial Intelligence

#### Genesis

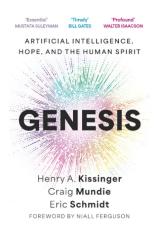
by Henry A. Kissinger, Craig Mundie, and Eric Schmidt

Three pioneering thinkers offer a powerful guide to our future amid AI's rapid acceleration.

Artificial intelligence is advancing at an alarming rate. Our responses to them could transform the nature of truth and our relationship to reality, the exploration of knowledge, the physical evolution of humanity, the conduct of diplomacy and war, and the international system. These are the crucial issues of the coming decades.

Future Al will facilitate enormous advances in education, healthcare and basic sciences. They could discover new medicines, or new materials to produce cleaner energy. They could predict the occurrence of earthquakes and design evacuation strategies, or revolutionize the availability of education in every language. Powers we have not yet imagined are set to infuse our daily lives - and come with technical and human risks. Today's technologies function in ways that their inventors did not predict, and that pattern is likely to continue. Their future capabilities, running at inhuman speeds, will require a fundamentally new form of control.

Al seems to compress human timescales. Objects in the future are closer than they appear.



21 November 2024

# How AI Will Change Your Life by Patrick Dixon

An in-depth but accessible exploration of AI.

Artificial Intelligence will create gigantic benefits for humankind but will become more powerful than many governments, with purposes and plans of its own, and the ability to alter the very basis of life on earth. Many believe that AI poses a threat to human dominance.

In this punchy, follow-up to his bestselling The Future of (Almost)
Everything, leading futurologist Patrick Dixon looks at the future of the subject and assesses both threats and benefits - from health and education to cybersecurity, business and the world of work.

His book looks at likely outcomes for both individuals and businesses in all areas of life and provides advice for the reader and a charter for governments to exploit the benefits and avoid the risks.



12 September 2024

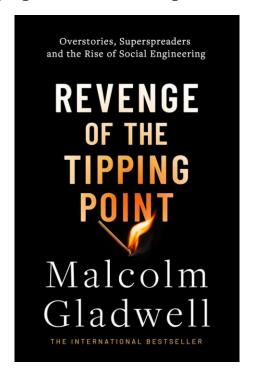
#### **Business and Self-Help**

## **Revenge of the Tipping Point**

#### **Malcolm Gladwell**

Twenty-five years after the publication of his groundbreaking first book,

Malcolm Gladwell returns with a brand new volume that reframes the lessons
of The Tipping Point in a startling and revealing light.



#### October 2024

What does the heartbreaking fate of the cheetah tell us about the way we raise our children? Why do elite universities care so much about sports? What is the Magic Third, and what does it mean for racial harmony? In this provocative new work, Malcolm Gladwell returns to the subject of social epidemics and tipping points, this time with the aim of explaining the dark side of contagious phenomena.

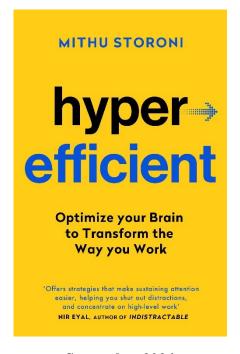
Through a series of riveting stories, Gladwell traces the rise of a new and troubling form of social engineering. He takes us to the streets of Los Angeles to meet the world's most successful bank robbers, rediscovers a forgotten television show from the 1970s that changed the world, visits the site of a historic experiment on a tiny cul-de-sac in northern California, and offers an alternate history of two of the biggest epidemics of our day: COVID and the opioid crisis.

Revenge of the Tipping Point is Gladwell's most personal book yet. With his characteristic mix of storytelling and social science, he offers a guide to making sense of the contagions of the modern world. It's time we took tipping points seriously.

## **Hyperefficient**

#### Mithu Storoni

Take back control. Optimize your brain. Become hyperefficient.



September 2024

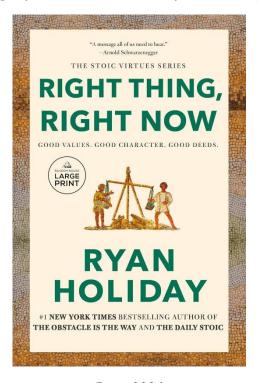
In today's digital age, we move through life at a frantic pace to keep up with the never-ending influx of information and daily tasks. But what if some simple shifts could help boost creativity and optimise how we focus and process data, to elevate our mental performance and productivity?

In *Hyperefficient*, Dr Mithu Storoni lays out the tools to retune our brains to the best settings for complex thinking, concentration, and decision-making. Storoni proposes *we impose the rhythm of our brains on our work* in order to create the perfect environment for us to thrive individually at work and at home. Rooted in the very latest scientific research, *Hyperefficient* is a must-have practical manual for your brain.

## **Right Thing Right Now**

#### Ryan Holiday

Your values, your character and your deeds determine your success and your legacy. This book shows you the way.



**June 2024** 

For the Stoics, justice was more than an idea. It was a way of life, a personal commitment to doing the right thing, no matter how difficult the path.

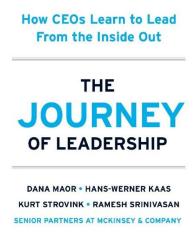
Our ability to live by our values and do good is life-changing; it is key to self-respect, purpose and success on our own terms. In this third instalment of his bestselling Stoic Virtues series, Ryan Holiday draws on historical icons and contemporary heroes to show us how to embrace the power of owning our convictions and acting accordingly in an era of dishonesty. Ultimately, the path to greatness is impossible without goodness.

## **Journey of Leadership**

#### Dana Maor, Hans Werner Kaas,

#### Kurt Strovnik, and Ramesh Srinivasan

The Journey of Leadership brings the experience of one of the world's most influential consulting firms right to your fingertips.



#### September 2024

When the pressure is on, many of the world's top CEOs turn to McKinsey & Company to reinvent themselves and their organizations.

This book is the first-ever explanation of McKinsey's step-by-step approach to transforming leaders both professionally and personally, including revealing lessons from its legendary CEO leadership program, The Bower Forum, which has counseled more than five hundred global CEOs over the past decade. It is a journey that helps leaders hone the psychological, emotional, and, ultimately, human attributes that result in success in today's most demanding top job.

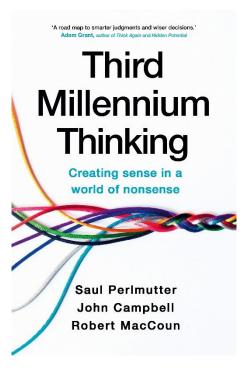
Packed with insightful and never-before-heard reflections from leaders, including Ed Bastian (CEO of Delta Air Lines), Makoto Uchida (CEO of Nissan Motor Corporation), Mark Fields (former CEO of Ford Motor Company), Reeta Roy (CEO of Mastercard Foundation), and Stéphane Bancel (CEO of Moderna).

The Journey of Leadership is an invaluable resource for anyone running or hoping to run an organization in today's ever-more-complex world.

## **Third Millennium Thinking**

#### Saul Perlmutter, John Campbell, and Robert MacCoun

A definitive guide to thinking clearly in a world full of overwhelming information.



#### March 2024

In our deluge of information, it's getting harder and harder to distinguish the revelatory from the contradictory. How do we make health decisions in the face of conflicting medical advice? How can we navigate the next uncomfortable discussion with family members, who follow completely different experts on climate?

In *Third Millennium Thinking*, a physicist, a psychologist, and a philosopher introduce readers to the tools and frameworks that scientists use to keep from fooling themselves, to understand the world, and to make decisions. We can all borrow from these trust-building techniques that scientists have tested and developed for more than two millennia to tackle problems both big and small.

Through engaging thought exercises, clear language free from technical jargon, and compelling illustrations drawn from history, everyday life, and insider stories of scientists, *Third Millennium Thinking* presents a fresh approach for readers to untangle the confusing and make sense of it all.

#### **General Non-Fiction**

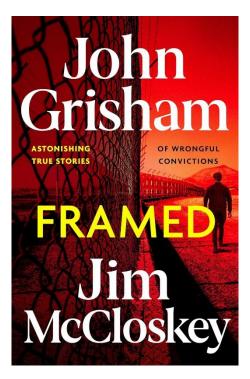
#### **FRAMED**

## John Grisham and Jim McCloskey

Ten wrongful conviction cases.

Twenty-one innocent people.

Framed tells ten stories with a truth more shocking than fiction.



#### October 2024

John Grisham, the master of the legal thriller, teams up with Jim McCloskey, who has dedicated his life to exonerating innocent people, to uncover stories that shine an astonishing light on miscarriages of justice. All the cases in this book are simply extraordinary. And all are true.

Joe Bryan suffered the unbearable tragedy of his wife's murder, only to be tried and found guilty of the crime himself - despite being 120 miles away at the time it was committed. Clarence Brandley spent nine years on Death Row, coming to within six days of execution, before new evidence cleared him of all charges.

And in the case of the Norfolk Four, police and prosecutors continued to arrest innocent people until not one but four men were behind bars.

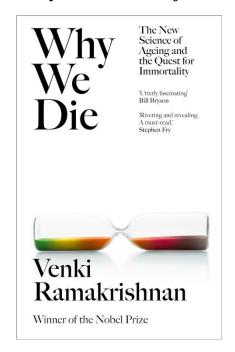
Impeccably researched and told with page-turning conviction, in *Framed*, these cases are finally laid bare.

Most importantly, they show how truth can prevail and how freedom can be won when all seems lost.

## Why We Die

#### Venki Ramakrishnan

Would you want to live forever?



April 2024

Nobel Prize-winning molecular biologist Venki Ramakrishnan transforms our understanding of why we age and die - and whether there's anything we can do about it.

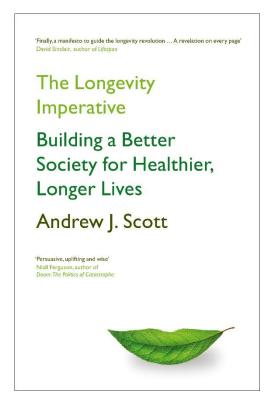
We are living through a revolution in biology. Giant strides are being made in our understanding of why we age and die, and why some species live longer than others. Immortality, once a faint hope, has never been more within our grasp.

Examining recent scientific breakthroughs, Ramakrishnan shows how cutting-edge efforts to extend lifespan by altering our natural biology raise profound questions. Although we might not like it, does death serve a necessary biological purpose? And how can we increase our chances of living long, healthy and fulfilled lives? As science advances, we have much to gain. But might we also have much to lose?

## **Longevity Imperative**

#### Andrew J. Scott

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



March 2024

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

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

## <u>Fluke</u>

#### **Brian Klaas**

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



#### January 2024

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

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

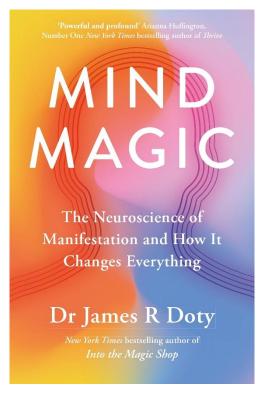
The mind-bending lessons of this phenomenon challenge our beliefs about the very workings of the world.

From the evolution of human biology and natural disasters to the impact of global events on supply chain disruptions, every detail matters because of the web of connectivity that envelops us. So what if, by exploding our illusion of control, we can make better decisions and live happy, fulfilling lives?

## **Mind Magic**

## Dr James R Doty

This empowering book helps readers discover the power of manifestation.



May 2024

Neurosurgeon, compassion expert and bestselling author Dr James Doty reframes manifesting not as a way of gaining great wealth and possessions, but as a daily practice. He teaches us how to direct our attention in the right way and gives readers the tools and insights they need to manifest their own visions and improve their circumstances. With compassion, heart and captivating storytelling, we learn how to become captain of our own journey.

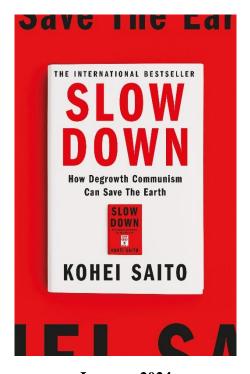
James shows us how an empowering inner dialogue and self-agency are the keys to manifestation, inspiring change and positive transformation. By following the guided meditations and journaling practices in the book, readers will be able to create the life they want and deserve.

## **Economy, Politics, and History**

## Slow Down

#### **Kohei Saito**

Will green capitalism save the planet? Is it even trying?



January 2024

Not when the very logic of the capitalist system pits it against Earth's life-support systems, as the Japanese philosopher Kohei Saito demonstrates in this astonishing international bestseller.

Drawing on cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines, Saito shows how nothing but a transformation of our economic life can save us from climate collapse. Karl Marx himself reached this breakthrough at the

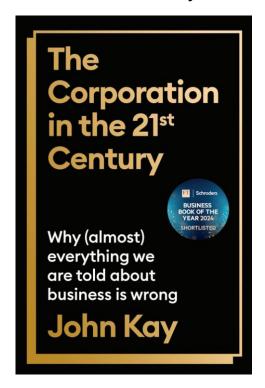
end of his life, long before climate change had even begun. It radically altered his vision of proletarian revolution. Now that we are entering our own end-game, we must grasp Marx's final lesson before it is too late.

If we are to avoid the most terrible political prospects of of climate change, the future must belong to degrowth communism, a fair and humane existence within the limits of nature.

There is no alternative: the endless acceleration of capital has run out of road. We must slow down.

# **Corporation in the 21st Century John Kay**

One of the greatest economists of our time describes how the pursuit of shareholder value has destroyed some of the leading companies of the twentieth century.



August 2024

For generations, we have defined a corporation as a business run by a capitalist elite, that uses its accumulated wealth to own the means of production and exercise economic power.

That is no longer the reality. In the twenty-first century, our most desired goods and services aren't stacked in warehouses or on container ships: they appear on your screen, fit in your pocket or occupy your head.

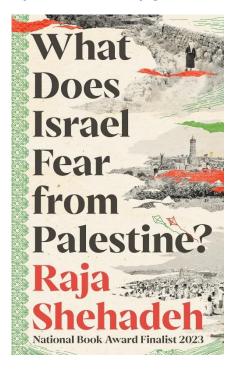
But even as we consume more than ever before, big business faces a crisis of legitimacy. The pharmaceutical industry creates life-saving vaccines but has lost the trust of the public. The widening pay gap between executives and employees is destabilising our societies. Facebook and Google have more customers than any companies in history but are widely reviled.

Incisive and provocative, this book redefines successful commercial activity and leadership, the knowledge economy and what the future of the modern corporation might be.

## **What does Israel Fear From Palestine?**

### Raja Shehadeh

In graceful, devastatingly observed prose, this is a fresh reflection on the conflict in a time of great need.



**June 2024** 

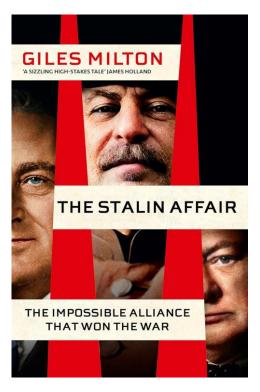
Since the formation of the state of Israel in 1948, the Nakba (or 'disaster' as the Palestinians call it), there have been many opportunities to move towards peace and equality between Palestine and Israel - after the Six-Day War in 1967, the Oslo Agreement and even the 7 October 2023 War. Each opportunity has been rejected by Israel, which is why life is unbearable in the West Bank now and there is genocide in Gaza. This book explores what went wrong again and again, and why. And how it could still be different.

It is human nature to feel prejudice. But in this haunting meditation on Palestine and Israel, Shehadeh suggests that this does not mean the two nations cannot live together to their mutual benefit and co-existence.

## **The Stalin Affair**

#### **Giles Milton**

From internationally bestselling historian Giles Milton comes the remarkable true story of the Allies' secret mission to wartime Moscow.



May 2024

In the summer of 1941, as Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, Stalin's forces faced a catastrophic defeat which would make the Allies' liberation of Europe virtually impossible. To avert this disaster, Britain and America mobilized an elite team of remarkable diplomats with the mission of keeping the Red Army in the war.

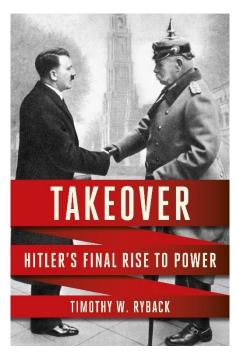
Into to the heart of Stalin's Moscow Roosevelt sent Averell Harriman, the fourth richest man in America and his brilliant young daughter Kathy. Churchill dispatched the reckless but brilliant *bon vivant* Archie Clark Kerr - and occasionally himself - to negotiate with the Kremlin's wiliest operators. Together, this improbable group grappled with the ingenious, mercurial Stalin to make victory possible. But they also discovered that the Soviet dictator had a terrifying masterplan for the post-war world.

Based on astonishing unpublished diaries, letters and secret reports, *The Stalin Affair* reveals troves of new material about the most unlikely coalition in history.

## **Takeover**

## Timothy W. Ryback

A dramatic recounting of the six critical months before Adolf Hitler assumed power, when the Nazi leader teetered between triumph and ruin.



March 2024

In the summer of 1932, the Weimar Republic was on the verge of collapse. One in three Germans was unemployed. Violence was rampant. Hitler's National Socialists surged at the polls. Paul von Hindenburg, an aging war hero and avowed monarchist, was a reluctant president bound by oath to uphold the constitution. The November elections offered Hitler the prospect of a Reichstag majority and a path to political power. But instead, the Nazis lost two million votes. As membership hemorrhaged and financial backers withdrew, the Nazi Party threatened to fracture. Hitler talked of suicide. *The New York Times* declared he was finished. Yet somehow, in a few brief weeks, he was chancellor of Germany.

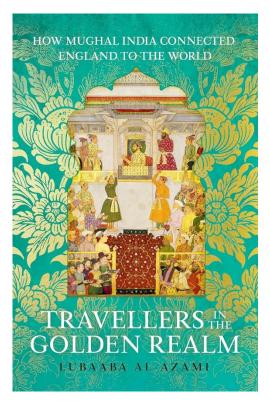
In fascinating detail and with previously un-accessed archival materials, Timothy W. Ryback tells the remarkable story of Hitler's dismantling of democracy through the democratic process. He provides a fresh perspective and insights into Hitler's personal and professional lives in these months, in all their complexity and uncertainty-backroom deals, unlikely alliances, stunning betrayals, an ill-timed tax audit, and a fateful weekend that changed our world forever. Above all, Ryback makes clear why a wearied Hindenburg, who disdained the "Bohemian corporal," ultimately decided to appoint Hitler chancellor in January 1933.

Within weeks, Germany was no longer a democracy.

## **Travellers in the Golden Realm**

#### Lubaaba Al-Azami

When the first English travellers in India encountered an unimaginable superpower, their meetings would change the world.



**July 2024** 

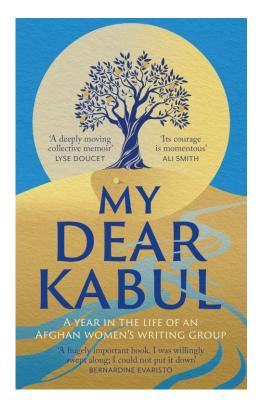
Before the East India Company and before the British Empire, England was a pariah state. Seeking better fortunes, 16th and 17th century merchants, pilgrims and outcasts ventured to the kingdom of the mighty Mughals, attempting to sell coarse woollen broadcloth along the silk roads; playing courtiers in the Mughal palaces in pursuit of love; or simply touring the sub-continent in search of an elephant to ride.

Into this golden realm went Father Thomas Stephens, a Catholic fleeing his home; the merchant Ralph Fitch looking for jewels in the markets of Delhi; and John Mildenhall, an adventurer revelling in the highwire politics of the Mughal elite. It was a land ruled from the palatial towers by women - the formidable Empress Nur Jahan Begim, the enterprising Queen Mother Maryam al-Zamani, and the intrepid Princess Jahanara Begim. Their collision of worlds helped connect East and West, launching a tempestuous period of globalisation spanning from the Chinese opium trade to the slave trade in the Americas.

Drawing on rich, original sources, Lubaaba Al-Azami traces the origins of a relationship between two nations - one outsider and one superpower - whose cultures remain inextricably linked to this day.

## My Dear Kabul

In August 2021, as the Taliban approached the gates of Kabul, twenty-one women writers in Afghanistan came online in their WhatsApp chat group: they asked what news others had heard and if everyone was safe.



August 2024

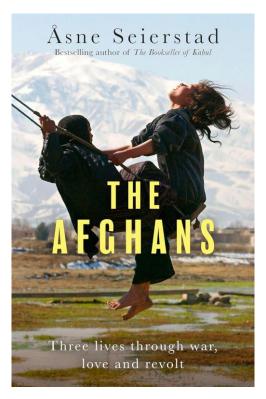
These women had been brought together as a writing group. They were about to publish their first collection of short stories, while working regular day jobs. Some were students, some newly married, one was a grandmother: all were afraid of what was now to come. Over the next year, in the makeshift refuge of their WhatsApp group, they shared the day-to-day reality of life after a fall.

Publishing on the anniversary of the Fall of Kabul, this is the women's courageous collective diary: in it the writers watch cities transform, schools close, families change and freedoms disappear. They share stories of chaos, protest and flight - and of life continuing. Checkpoints are a daily trial; men start behaving differently. Children can't afford the ice-cream man's wares; passports are near impossible to obtain. Together, their messages form a powerful chorus of resistance and solidarity.

## **The Afghans**

## by Åsne Seierstad

A book to help us understand Afghanistan's past, present and future, told through the lives of three unforgettable people.



**June 2024** 

In her compelling, intimate and thought-provoking new book, Seierstad introduces us to three people whose lives have been shaped by the fall and rise of the Taliban - Jamila, Bashir and Ariana - as well their families, friends, foes and co-fighters. Jamila is a women's rights activist; Bashir is a Taliban commander; Ariana is a law student who had one semester left when the Taliban came to power.

The stories of these three Afghans encompass love, loss, revolt and war as well as the everyday rhythms of family life. Through them, we experience and come to understand the lead-up to the Taliban retaking power in 2021, how the first year of Taliban rule unfolded, and where this leaves Afghans today, and tomorrow.

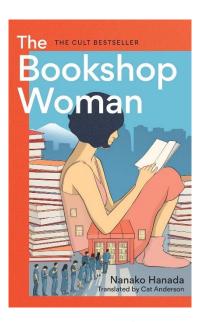
## **Autobiographies and Memoirs**

## **The Bookshop Woman**

#### Nanako Hanada

trans. Cat Anderson

THE BOOKSHOP WOMAN IS A LOVE STORY, A LOVE STORY ABOUT BOOKS.



June, 2024

Nanako Hanada's life has not just flatlined, it's hit rock bottom... Recently separated from her husband, she is living between 4-hour capsule hostels, pokey internet cafes and bookshop floors. Her work is going no better - sales at the eccentric Village Vanguard bookstore in Tokyo, which Nanako manages, are dwindling. As Nanako's life falls apart, reading books is the only thing keeping her alive.

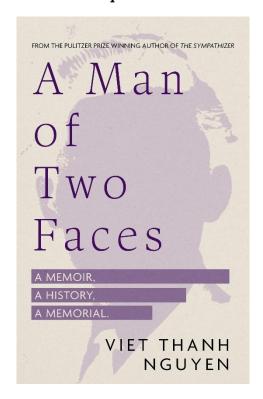
That's until Nanako joins an online meet-up site which offers 30 minutes with someone you'll never see again. Describing herself as a sexy bookseller she offers strangers 'the book that will change their life' in exchange for a meeting. In the year that follows, Nanako meets hundreds of people, some of whom want more than just a book...

Acerbic and self-knowing, *The Bookshop Woman* is a soul-soothing story of a bookseller's self-discovery and an ode to the joy of reading. Offering a glimpse into bookselling in Japan and the quirky side of Tokyo and its people, this is a story of how books can help us forge connection with others and lead us to ourselves.

## **A Man of Two Faces**

### **Viet Thanh Nguyen**

The highly original, blistering, and unconventional memoir by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Sympathizer, which has now sold over one million copies worldwide.



April 2024

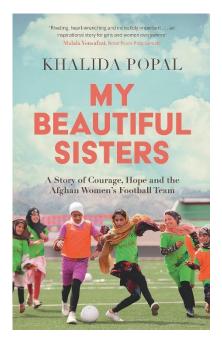
With insight, humour, formal invention, and lyricism, in *A Man of Two Faces* Nguyen rewinds the film of his own life. He expands the genre of personal memoir by acknowledging larger stories of refugeehood, colonization, and ideas about Vietnam and America, writing with his trademark sardonic wit and incisive analysis, as well as a deep emotional openness about his life as a father and a son.

Resonant in its emotions and clear in its thinking about cultural power, *A Man of Two Faces* explores the necessity of both forgetting and of memory, the promises America so readily makes and breaks, and the exceptional life story of one of the most original and important writers working today.

## **My Beautiful Sisters**

## Khalida Popal

A story of sisterhood and the fight for feminism in the age of the Taliban.



June 2024

August, 2021: Kabul falls to the Taliban.

Overnight, life for women across Afghanistan changes.

The national women's football team faces an imminent threat to their lives, just for playing sport.

For Khalida Popal, the team's first captain and co-founder, this is not an unprecedented event. Born in Afghanistan, she fled Taliban rule as a child with her family and grew up in a refugee camp in Pakistan. On her return to Afghanistan, football gave her and her teammates power, comradeship and freedom. But advocating for women's rights in sport put Popal's life increasingly at risk, forcing her to flee the country, this time alone.

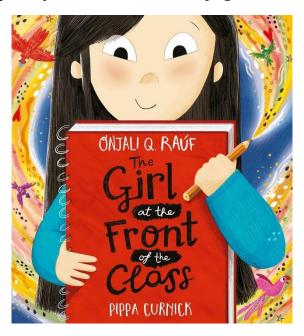
As a refugee in Denmark, Popal worked to uncover widespread sexual abuse of players by the former president of the Afghanistan Football Federation - forcing FIFA and the government of Afghanistan to act. When Kabul falls Khalida is safe, but her teammates are left behind. Against all the odds, she and a small but mighty network of allies orchestrate an international evacuation strategy to save them.

My Beautiful Sisters is a gripping memoir about courage, the power of teamwork against all odds and the existence of hope in dark times.

## **Children and Young Adult**

# The Girl At The Front of the Class Onjali Q. Rauf and Pippa Curnick

This heartfelt story about the power of friendship and kindness shows young readers what steps they can take to make refugee children feel welcome.



September 2024

A stunning new picture book from Onjali Q. Raúf and Pippa Curnick.

There's a new girl in my class. *She has eyes as wide and as golden as a tiger's, a face as pale as a glass of milk, and hair as shiny as a mirror*. I'd like to be her friend. But she never wants to play with me in the playground or make sandcastles in the sandpit.

The cleverest people I know say that the new girl is sad because she had to leave her home, her family, her school, her toys, her books and all her friends too.

But I've got a plan! There's something I can do to make her feel better when she's missing everything she's left behind...

## Roswell Johnson Saves the World Chris Colfer

Can Roswell and his eccentric gang of alien adventurers save Earth from invasion?



**June 2024** 

The bestselling author of *The Land of Stories* and *A Tale of Magic* returns with a funny, heartfelt, action-packed adventure to save the world! Perfect for fans of *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

Eleven-year-old Roswell Johnson is obsessed with space and life beyond our planet. So, when he's accidentally

abducted in a spaceship, it feels like his biggest dream has come true - aliens are real!

With the sinister General Xelic and his evil army of Reptoids planning to attack Earth, Roswell must team up with a quirky group of other-worldly beings: a Mantis with a fear of germs, a Cyborg programmed to take everything literally, a telepathic Pleiadean, two bickering Grays, and an overly confident Fungarian.