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# NON-FICTION HIGHLIGHTS



**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Basic Books, US & Canada

Proposal Available

**September 2025**

Royal Hardback

512pp £25

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Andrew Franklin

# Wine

A Global History

**Kathleen Burk**

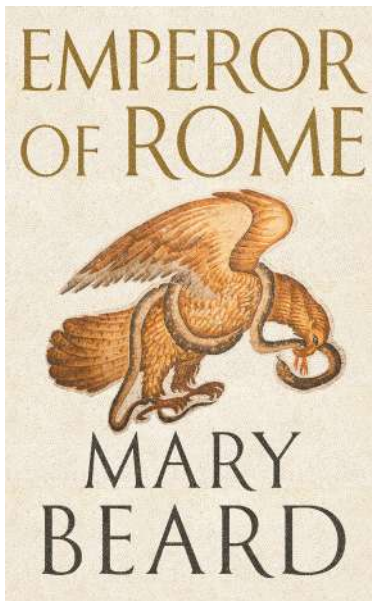
*The first genuinely global survey of wine, from Sumerian to sparkling*

For millennia, wine has been essential to global trade and diplomacy and not just one of life's great pleasures. Its very creation seemed to be a gift of the gods, inseparable from religious ritual. From the Egyptians to the Babylonians, the Greeks and the Romans, and to the Jews and the Christians, the juice of the grape is sacred. Almost as important from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century was the use of wine as a medicine: as an aid to digestion, as a cure for diseases, and as an antiseptic for the dressing of wounds.

Drinking wine was widespread over the ancient world, from the court of China to the western Mediterranean. Empires were important in the spreading of a wine culture around the world, expanding the vineyard frontier and developing ever more innovative methods in the process. More recently, the 20th and 21st centuries have seen vast changes in the world of wine. From the Soviet Union to the rise of social media, to the application of science, how we produce and consume wine today is changing in fascinating ways.

Across time, in all of its various facets – religious, medical, economic, cultural, literary, gastronomic, artistic, scientific, personal – wine touches all of life.

Kathleen Burk is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at University College London and the author of *Is This Bottle Corked? The Secret Life of Wine* (2009). Born in California, she studied at Berkeley and Oxford and sat three years of the wine trade's exams, emerging with the Diploma. Burk has written on wine for nearly twenty years. At UCL, she specialises in Anglo-American relations and has written or edited twelve books on the subject. She also founded in 1989 and edited for twelve years the journal *Contemporary European History*.



### World All Languages

Rights sold: W.W. Norton & Company, US & Canada; Fischer, Germany; Planeta, Brazil; Ginkgo, China; Gads Forlag, Denmark; Varrak, Estonia; Planeta, Portugal; Laguna, Serbia; Critica, Spain; Norstedts, Sweden; Le Seuil, France; Mondadori, Italy; Cappelen Damm, Norway; Athenaeum, Holland; Rebis, Poland; Rye Field, Taiwan

Manuscript Available

### September 2023

Royal Hardback  
512pp £30  
Imprint: Profile Books  
Editor: Andrew Franklin

# Emperor of Rome

Mary Beard

*A sweeping history of the Roman Emperors, from one of the greatest Classicists working today*

In her international best-seller *SPQR*, Mary Beard told the thousand-year story of ancient Rome. Now, she shines her spotlight on the emperors who ruled the Roman empire, from Julius Caesar (assassinated 44 BCE) to Alexander Severus (assassinated 235 CE).

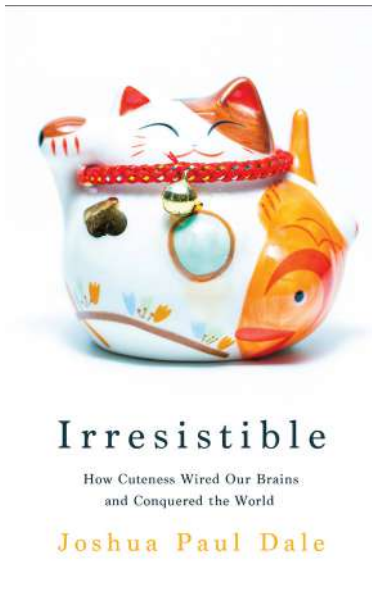
*Emperor of Rome* is not your usual chronological account of Roman rulers, one after another: the mad Caligula, the monster Nero, the philosopher Marcus Aurelius. Beard asks bigger questions: What power did emperors actually have? Was the Roman palace really so bloodstained?

*Emperor of Rome* goes directly to the heart of Roman (and our own) fantasies about what it was to be Roman, offering an account of Roman history as it has never been presented before.

### Praise for Mary Beard:

‘Mary Beard has pulled off that rare trick of becoming a don with a high media profile who hasn’t sold out, who is absolutely respected by the academy for her scholarship ... what she says is always powerful and interesting.’  
*Guardian*

Mary Beard is Professor Emeritus of Classics at Cambridge, and the classics editor of *The Times Literary Supplement*. She has worldwide academic acclaim. Her previous books include the bestselling, Wolfson Prize-winning *Pompeii*, *Confronting the Classics*, *SPQR* and most recently, *Women & Power* and *Twelve Caesars*. She has made numerous television series and her books have been published in over thirty languages.



**World All Languages**

Manuscript Available

**November 2023**

Demy Hardback

320pp £16.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Nick Humphrey

# Irresistible

How Cuteness Wired our Brains and Conquered the World

**Joshua Paul Dale**

*The psychology and biology behind what we find cute, and how cuteness has shaped cultures around the world*

Why are some things cute, and others not? What happens to our brains when we see something cute? And how did cuteness go global, from Edwardian children's books to Disney?

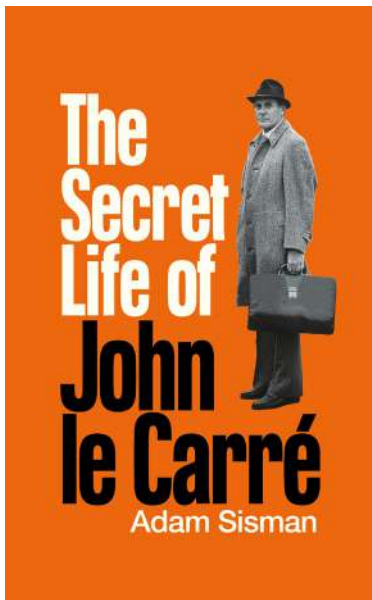
Cuteness is an area where culture and biology get tangled up. Seeing a cute animal triggers some of the most powerful psychological instincts we have - the ones that elicit our care and protection - but there is a deeper story behind the broad appeal of Japanese cats and saccharine greetings cards.

Joshua Paul Dale, a pioneer in the burgeoning field of cuteness studies, explains how the cute aesthetic spread around the globe, from pop brands to Lolita fashion, kids' cartoons and the unstoppable rise of Hello Kitty. *Irresistible* delves into the surprisingly ancient origins of Japan's kawaii culture, and uncovers the cross-cultural pollination of the globalised world. If cuteness really does rewire our brains, it can help answer some of the biggest questions we have about our evolutionary history and the mysterious origins of animal domestication.

This is the fascinating cultural history of cuteness, and a revealing look at how our most powerful psychological impulses have remade global style and culture.

Joshua Paul Dale is a Professor in the Department of English Literature and Culture at Chuo University in Tokyo. Since moving to Japan in the 1990s, Dale has pioneered the field of cuteness studies, and is the co-editor of *The Aesthetics and Affects of Cuteness*, and edited 'Cute Studies', a special issue of *The East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*. Dale has been featured as an expert on cuteness by media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *CNN*, *National Geographic*, *Guardian*, *The Cut*, *Refinery29* and *Discover Magazine*.





**World All Languages**

Rights sold: HarperCollins, US & Canada

**October 2023**

Hardback

192pp £16.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Nick Humphrey

## The Secret Life of John le Carré

**Adam Sisman**

*The extraordinary secret life of a great novelist, which his biographer could not publish while le Carré was alive*

Secrecy came naturally to John le Carré, and there were some secrets that he fought fiercely to keep. Nowhere was this more true than in his private life, which Adam Sisman discovered as le Carré's biographer. The novelist conducted a string of affairs throughout his marriage, handled with typical spycraft: cover stories, cut-outs and dead letter boxes. These clandestine operations brought an element of danger to his life, but they meant deceiving those closest to him. Small wonder that betrayal became a running theme in his work.

*The Secret Life of John le Carré* reveals a hitherto hidden perspective on the life and work of the spy-turned-author and a fascinating meditation on the relationship between biographer and subject.

'A completely fascinating and revelatory book, written with great sagacity, candour and judiciousness'  
William Boyd

Praise for *John le Carré: The Biography* :

'Smiley himself could not have done a better job'  
*The Times*

Adam Sisman is the author of *Boswell's Presumptuous Task*, winner of the US National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography, and the biographer of John le Carré, A. J. P. Taylor and Hugh Trevor-Roper. Among his other works are two volumes of letters by Patrick Leigh Fermor. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Honorary Professor at the University of St Andrews.





**World All Languages**

**October 2023**

Trade Paperback

128pp £7.99

Imprint: Wellcome Collection

Editor: Francesca Barrie

# Disobedient Bodies

**Emma Dabiri**

*An incisive, empowering essay by the bestselling author of What White People Can Do Next*

Body hair. 'Fat' thighs. Something's always 'too big' or 'too small'. What part of your beautiful self were you taught to hate?

We spend a lot of time hiding our 'defects', according to society's ideals of beauty. Ideals that are often tyrannical, commercially entangled, homogenizing and imposed upon us by oppressive systems that are further strengthened by our conditioned self loathing.

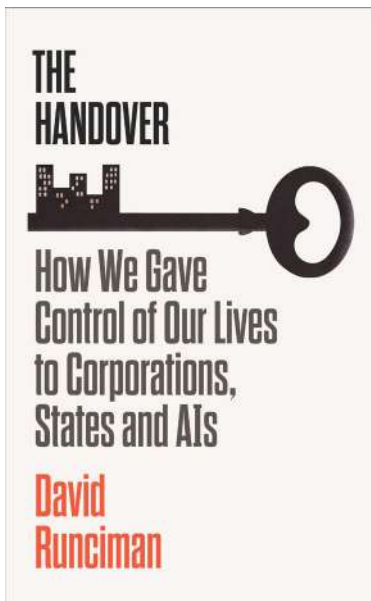
This book will explore how to unpack, process, rebel and subvert - offering alternative ways of 'seeing' beauty, drawing on other cultures, worldviews, times, places, and looking beyond the capitalist model - to find the inherent joy in our disobedient bodies.

Praise for Sunday Times bestseller *What White People Can Do Next*:

'Dabiri's manifesto for radical change...marries historical context with contemporary commentary and analysis in a direct, accessible style.' *Time*

'A game-changing skewering of social-media discourse with a historically grounded analysis of anti-racism, collectivism, neoliberalism, and post-colonialism.' *Vogue*

Emma Dabiri spent over a decade as a teaching fellow in the African department at SOAS. She is a final year Visual Sociology PhD researcher at Goldsmiths and author of the *Sunday Times* bestseller *What White People Can Do Next* and *Don't Touch My Hair*. She has presented several television and radio programmes including BBC Radio 4's critically-acclaimed documentaries 'Journeys into Afro-futurism' and 'Britain's Lost Masterpieces' and the Cannes Silver Lion award winning 'Hair Power' for Channel 4. She is a Contributing Editor at *Elle* and runs the Instagram account, Disobedient Bodies.



**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Liveright/Norton,  
US & Canada

Manuscript Available

**August 2023**

Royal Hardback

336pp £20

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Andrew Franklin

# The Handover

How We Gave Control to Corporations,  
States and AIs

**David Runciman**

*Does it matter if we are ceding power to AI?  
Especially if we have been there before*

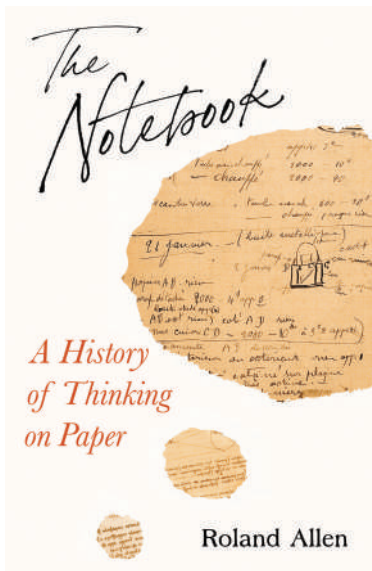
‘The Singularity’ is how inhabitants of Silicon Valley like to describe the ultimate break point in human history: that eventually, we will come face to face with machines that have minds of their own. What no one says, however, is that it might have happened before. The unspoken truth about the coming Singularity is that it is not singular. This will be the second time around.

The first took place a few hundred years ago, when human beings started building the artificial entities that now rule our world. They are called states and corporations: immensely powerful artificial entities, able to take decisions and act for themselves. They have capacities that go far beyond what any individual human being can do, for good and for ill; they have made us richer, safer, healthier and more capable than would have seemed possible even a few generations ago; and they may yet destroy us and the world we inhabit.

What sort of control are humans able to exercise over these manmade creatures? Have we been made less human by their existence? Will they work for us, or will we work for them? What, if anything, will remain of politics?

These quintessentially twenty-first century questions have deep roots in the history of modern political and legal thought. *The Handover* uncovers their origins in over three hundred years of thinking about how to live with artificial agency.

David Runciman is Professor of Politics at Cambridge University and the former Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies. His previous books for Profile include *Confronting Leviathan*, *Where Power Stops* and *How Democracy Ends*. He writes regularly about politics for the *London Review of Books* and hosted the widely acclaimed weekly podcast *Talking Politics*.



**World exc. US & Canada**

US & Canada: Curtis Brown

**November 2023**

Demy Hardback

320pp £20

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Mark Ellingham

# The Notebook

A History of Thinking on Paper

**Roland Allen**

*Diaries, sketchbooks, common-places, notebooks, ledgers and ships' logs: how the blank book changed the way we think and helped us change the world*

Notebooks are everywhere, yet we rarely notice them and never stop to consider where they came from or how they work. We use them every day to scribble notes, remember dates, and list our chores, but an empty notebook has limitless potential; it gives us the space to reflect on our innermost thoughts, to untangle our knottiest problems, or to draw out ground-breaking new discoveries. Without their notebooks, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso - and a legion of other writers, artists and scientists - would never have achieved what they did.

Roland Allen follows a trail of ideas, revealing how the notebook came to be our most durable tool for thinking. He shows how the blank book transformed life in Italy - prompting the rise of international banking and the intellectual advances of the Renaissance - before becoming Europe's most versatile information technology. Artists, writers, scientists, and engineers all came to rely on theirs; but so did fishermen, sailors, cooks, and thieves. *The Notebook* tells their stories, celebrating the infinite variety of our notebooks and their uses.

Referring to hundreds of fascinating examples, from 1300 to the present day, and drawing on the knowledge of a host of experts, Allen's stories will ensure that you look at - and use - your humble notebook in a whole new way.

Roland Allen is a publisher and author who lives in Hove. He studied at Manchester University and has worked for years in the book trade; he has written about subjects as diverse as bicycles and bread, kept a diary for decades, and enjoys stationery a little too much.



**World All Languages**

**March 2024**

Trade Paperback

256pp £14.99

Imprint: Souvenir Press

Editor: Cindy Chan

# Soothe

How to care for your overworked nervous system with somatic movement

**Nahid de Belgeonne**

*Are you overwrought and never rested, even after ample sleep and exercise? This is the malady of our times*

Our increasingly frantic lifestyles make it difficult for us to slow down and listen to our bodies, paying attention only when they are broken, without stopping to ask why. When we solve our problems intellectually without addressing the physical stress, more and more is stored in our bodies until we feel stretched and fragile like an elastic band pulled too tight.

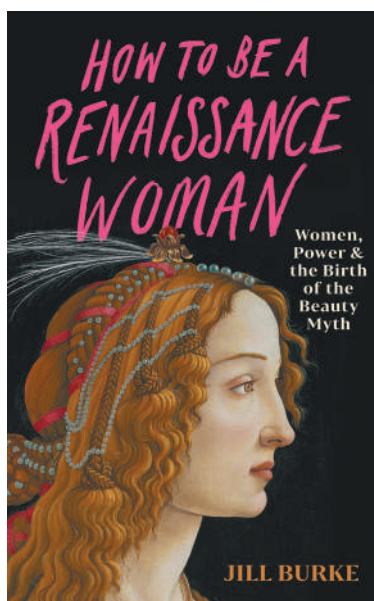
Somatic practitioner Nahid de Belgeonne explains the inner workings of the nervous system and helps restore calm by physically releasing held stresses. Her practical guide to soothing the nervous system will bring you back to balance, with guidance that includes:

- A foundational lesson on body sensing, establishing a physical and mental awareness
- Breathwork exercises to maximise oxygen intake, improving body function
- Simple movements with profoundly more soothing effects than lengthy workouts
- Lessons in combining rest and action using your circadian and ultradian rhythms
- How to nourish your nervous system with both food and nature

Nahid de Belgeonne shares somatic knowledge and practice perfected by years of work with her private clients. *Soothe* gives you the blueprint to ease your nervous system of disquieting events and to positively process future stresses as they come.

Nahid de Belgeonne, known as 'the nervous system whisperer', is a Somatic Movement coach, breath and yoga teacher with a passion for sharing the healing benefits of movement. She has been a pivotal part of the London fitness landscape for 15 years, operating the yoga and wellbeing brand Good Vibes and now focuses on private clients with her somatic and restorative system called The Human Method. She has been featured in publications including *The Times*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Tatler* and *Stylist*.

# HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY



**World All Languages**

Manuscript Available

**August 2023**

Demy hardback

288pp £25

Imprint: Wellcome Collection

Editor: Francesca Barrie

# How to Be a Renaissance Woman

Women, Power and the Birth of the Beauty Myth

**Jill Burke**

*Beauty, make up, art, power: An alternative history of the Renaissance told by the women behind the paintings*

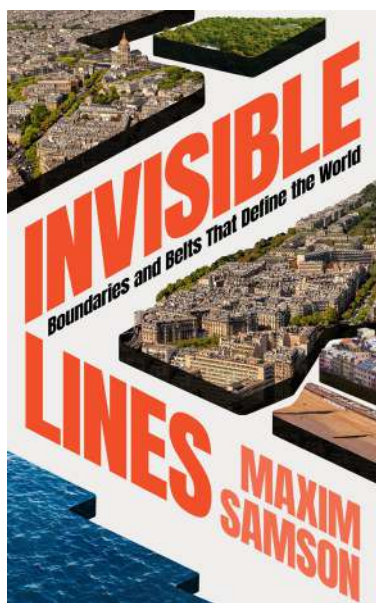
As the Renaissance visual world became populated by female nudes by the likes of Michelangelo and Titian, a vibrant literary scene of beauty tips emerged - fuelling debates about cosmetics and adornment, with answers for worries about everything from podgy upper arms, smelly armpits, droopy breasts, stretch marks and bad breath.

Telling the stories of courtesans, artists, actors and writers rebelling against the strictures of their time, when burgeoning colonialism gave rise to increasingly sinister evaluations of bodies and skin colour, this book puts beauty culture into the frame. It also includes some Renaissance recipes for beauty products to try at home.

It will make you question your ideas about your own body, and ask: why are women often so critical of their appearance? What do we stand to lose, but also to gain, from beauty culture? What is the relationship between looks and power?

Professor Jill Burke is a historian of the body and its visual representation, focusing on Italy and Europe 1400-1700. She is the Principal Investigator of a Royal Society funded project, 'Renaissance Goo', at the University of Edinburgh, working with a soft matter scientist to remake Renaissance cosmetic and skincare recipes. It is part of a wider investigation into how people in the Renaissance tried to look good - how they sought to change their bodies, faces and hairstyles to meet beauty ideals.





### World All Languages

Rights sold: House of Anansi, US & Canada; Laterza, Italy; Metaixmio, Greece; Saida de Emergencia, Portugal; Kanki, Japan; Will Books, Korea

Manuscript Available

**August 2023**

Royal Hardback

288pp £22

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Calah Singleton

# Invisible Lines

Boundaries and Belts that Define the World

**Maxim Samson**

*A geographer's exploration of the world's boundaries — the divisions we make, find or feel*

Our world has innumerable boundaries, ranging from the obvious - like an ocean - to subtle differences in language or climate. Most of us cross invisible lines all the time, but don't stop to consider them.

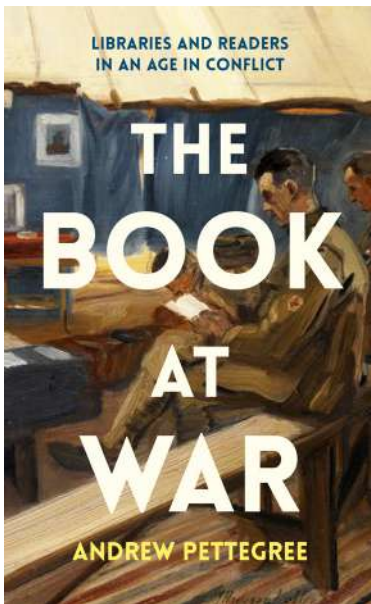
In *Invisible Lines*, geographer Maxim Samson presents 30 such unseen boundaries, intriguing and unexpected examples of the myriad ways in which we collectively engage with and experience the world. From football hooligans in Buenos Aires to air quality in China, Paris' banlieues to sub-Saharan Africa's Malaria Belt, the existence - or perceived existence - of dividing lines has manifold implications for people, wildlife, and places.

Fully illustrated with maps of each location, *Invisible Lines* reveals the extraordinary ways in which we try to render the planet more liveable and legible; a compelling guide to seeing and understanding our world in all its consistency - and all its messiness, too.

Samson is currently working on a follow-up to *Invisible Lines*, focusing on lines that connect as opposed to lines that divide.

Maxim Samson teaches Geography at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois. He specialises in geographies of religion, globalisation, multiculturalism and urbanisation.





**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Basic Books, US & Canada; Book21 Publishing Group, Korea; Smak Slowa, Poland; Orenda, Turkey

**Manuscript Available**

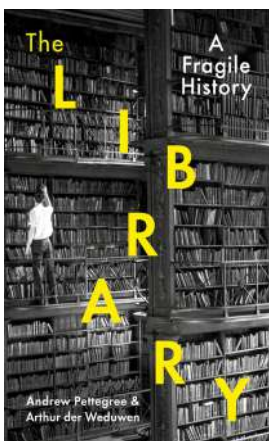
**October 2023**

Demy Hardback

592pp £25

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Cecily Gayford



**October 2021**

Rights sold: Basic Books, US & Can; Book 21, Korea; Hakusui-Sha, Japan; Smak Slowa, Poland; China Worker Publishing House, China; China Times, Taiwan; Orenda, Turkey

# The Book at War

Libraries and Readers in an Age of Conflict

**Andrew Pettegree**

*How books have gone to war, from the American Civil War to the present day*

Books have been on the front line of modern warfare – playing their part in astonishing attacks and desperate defences, and in helping combatants win the hearts and minds of civilians.

Winston Churchill used a travel guide to plan the invasion of Norway; lonely families turned to libraries while their loved ones were fighting in the Trenches, and during the Cold War both sides used books to spread their visions of how the world should be run.

From the bestselling author of *The Library: A Fragile History*, *The Book at War* is the tale of how we have gone to war with books – how we have used the printed word both as a weapon and as a force for peace.

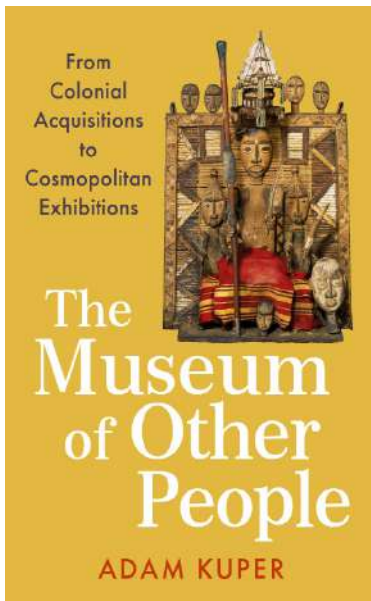
**Praise for *The Library*:**

‘A sweeping, absorbing history, deeply researched, of that extraordinary and enduring phenomenon: the library’ Richard Ovenden

‘This history of the library, from the Assyrians to the digital age, is itself a wonderful collection of knowledge ... a book full of fascination and ultimately one of optimism, too’ *New Statesman*

‘A glorious reminder that books are borderless and boundless and libraries priceless, in all senses’ Best Literary Non-Fiction Books 2021, *The Times*

Andrew Pettegree, FBA, is Professor of Modern History at the University of St Andrews and one of the leading experts on Europe during the Reformation. His previous books include *The Library: A Fragile History*, as well as the prize-winning *The Book in the Renaissance* and *The Invention of News*. He is a former Vice-President of the Royal Historical Society and the founding director of the Universal Short Title Catalogue.



**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Pantheon, US & Canada; CSTP, China; Jin Sung Books, Korea; Matichon, Thailand

Finished Copies Available

**February 2023**

Royal Hardback

432pp £25

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Andrew Franklin

# The Museum of Other People

From Colonial Acquisitions to Cosmopolitan Exhibitions

**Adam Kuper**

*A contemplation of the hotly-debated significance — and future — of anthropology museums, from a global expert*

This is a history of the ways in which foreign and prehistoric peoples were represented in museums of anthropology, with their displays of arts and artifacts, their dioramas, their special exhibitions, and their arrays of skulls and skeletons.

Originally created as colonial enterprises, what is the purpose of these places today? What should they do with the items in their custodianship? And how can they help us to understand and appreciate other cultures?

Informed by a lifetime of research and scholarship, this subtle and original work tackles painful questions about race, colonialism, difference, and cultural appropriation. The result is a must-read for anyone concerned with the coexistence of different modes of life.

‘A provocative look at questions of ethnography, ownership and restitution ... should be required reading for the trustees of big museums everywhere’ Richard Lambert, *FT*

‘Food for thought... nothing beats reading this book, without bias but with a sort of peaceful objectivity, sometimes polemical’ Olivier Gabet, Director of the Department of Art of the Louvre Museum

Adam Kuper was most recently Centennial Professor of Anthropology at the London School of Economics and a visiting professor at Boston University. A Fellow of the British Academy and a recipient of the Huxley Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Kuper has appeared on BBC TV and radio and reviewed regularly for the *London Review of Books* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, among others.



**World exc. US & Canada**

Translation Rights via Aitken

Alexander

US & Canada: Aitken Alexander

Rights sold: ACC, Arabic

Manuscript Available

**September 2023**

Royal Hardback

352pp £25

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Nick Humphrey

# Fear

An Alternative History of the World

**Robert Peckham**

*A ground-breaking examination of the societal impact of fear throughout world history*

It's been said that, after 9/11, the 2008 financial crash and the Covid-19 pandemic, we're a more fearful society than ever before. Yet fear, and the panic it produces, have long been driving forces — perhaps *the* driving forces — of world history: fear of God, of famine, war, disease, poverty, and other people. In *Fear: An Alternative History of the World*, Peckham considers the impact of fear in history, as both a coercive tool of power and a catalyst for social change.

Beginning with the Black Death in the fourteenth century, Peckham traces a shadow history of fear — through the French Revolution and the social movements of the nineteenth century to modern market crashes, Cold War paranoia and the AIDS pandemic, into a digital culture marked increasingly by uniquely twenty-first-century fears.

What did fear mean to us in the past, and how can a better understanding of it equip us to face the future? Fear can challenge as well as cement authority: some crises have destroyed societies; others have been the making of them. Through the stories of the people and the moments that changed history, *Fear* reveals how fear and panic made us who we are.

Robert Peckham is a cultural historian and founder of Open Cube, an organisation that promotes the integration of the arts, science, and technology for health. He was previously Professor of History and MB Lee Endowed Professor in the Humanities and Medicine at the University of Hong Kong. He has held fellowships at Cambridge, Oxford, LSE, and King's College London, and been a visiting scholar at NYU. A fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he has published in *Foreign Affairs*, *New Statesman*, *Prospect*, *Guardian*, *the Independent* and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He lives in New York.



**World English Language excl.  
Canada**

Translation Rights: Literarische  
Agentur Michael Gaeb

Canada: Simon & Schuster

**July 2024**

Royal Hardback

320pp £22

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Izzy Everington

# The Invention of Good and Evil

**Hanno Sauer**

*A grand, sweeping history of the evolution of morality  
across the existence of human civilization*

*The Invention of Good and Evil* traces the fundamental moral transformations of humanity, from our earliest non-human ancestors to modern day conflicts.

It can often seem that we are living in a time of crisis. Questions of identity, inequality, culture, belonging, and oppression are at the heart of social discourse, with more people than ever disagreeing over what it means to be good; what it means to be right. But we are experiencing just one moment of humanity.

With each new iteration of civilization comes a shift in the very concepts of 'Good' and 'Evil'. From the evolution of cooperation to the development of punishment to the emergence of inequality, our technologies and institutions have always evolved in lockstep with our shifting norms and morals. But morality has always had a dark side: cooperation both aids and excludes; inequality benefits some while stands on the necks of others.

Humanity has always grappled with the changing relationship between what is good and what is beneficial - both on an individual level and a societal level. Here, Hanno Sauer examines the shifting nature of morality, sifting through the eternal question of which values and norms we can and should apply to ourselves.

Hanno Sauer is an Assistant Professor of Ethics at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and a member of the Ethics Institute at Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

SCIENCE



**World excl. US & Canada**

US & Canada: Northbank Talent Management

**May 2024**

Hardback

256pp £16.99

Imprint: Wellcome Collection

Editor: Ellen Johl

# Rumbles

A Curious History of the Gut

**Elsa Richardson**

*The secret history of the body's most misunderstood organ: the gut*

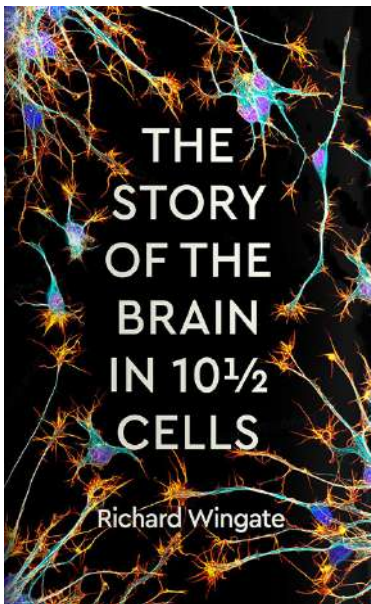
For centuries humans puzzled over the link between the stomach and the workings of the mind. Yet the nature of the gut's supposed influence over cognition, mental wellbeing and the emotions still remains a subject of fierce debate. Are we really ruled by our stomachs?

From the Australian Pintupi aboriginals who think emotions originate as part of the digestive process to the invention of the modern working lunch, Elsa Richardson's vibrant social history investigates the ways we have imagined, theorised and probed the mysteries of the gastroenterological system through the centuries - and explores how the gut became so central to our own sense of self.

Engaging, thought-provoking and thoroughly entertaining, this is a book that will change how you think - wherever those thoughts may come from.

Elsa Richardson is an academic at the University of Strathclyde. She holds a Chancellor's Fellowship in the History of Health and Wellbeing at the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare (CSHHH). In addition to lecturing in the history of medicine and her own research, she also curates arts and science events for public institutions, including the Wellcome Collection. In 2018/19 she was named one of the *BBC Radio 3/AHRC* New Generation Thinkers.





**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Bollati Boringhieri,  
Italy; Cheers, China

Finished Copies Available

**May 2023**

B Format Hardback

224pp £14.99

Imprint: Wellcome Collection

Editor: Ellen Johl

# The Story of the Brain in 10½ Cells

**Richard Wingate**

*Peer into a microscopic world - and fall in love with the beauty of the brain*

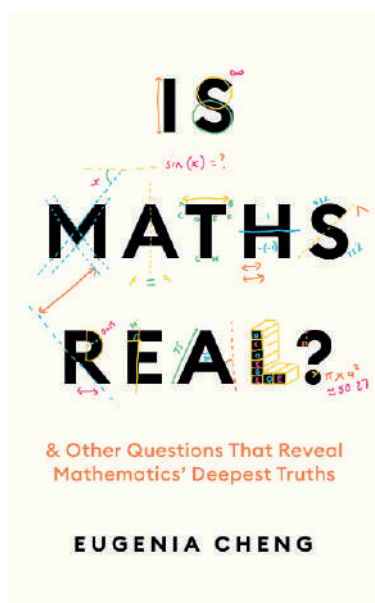
There are more than 100 billion brain cells in our heads, and every single one represents a fragment of thought and feeling. And yet each cell is a mystery of beauty, with branching, intricate patterns like shattered glass. Richard Wingate has been scrutinizing them for decades, yet he is still moved when he looks at one through a microscope and traces their shape by hand.

With absorbing lyricism and clarity, Wingate shows how each type of cell possesses its own personality and history, illustrating a milestone of scientific discovery and exploring the stories of pioneering scientists like Ramon y Cajal and Francis Crick, and capturing their own fascinating shapes and patterns.

Discover the ethereal world of the brain with this elegant little book - and find out how we all think and feel.

Richard Wingate is a world-renowned neuroanatomist and neuroscientist. He is principal investigator at the MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Professor of Developmental Neurobiology at King's College London. He is also editor-in-chief of *brainfacts.org*, the highly popular website that celebrates the wonders of the brain and is supported by The Kavli Foundation, the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and the Society for Neuroscience.





**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Basic Books, US & Canada; Popular Science, China; Hakuyosha Publishing, Japan; Korean Studies Information Co., Korea

Manuscript Available

**June 2023**

Demy Hardback

336pp £16.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Andrew Franklin

# Is Maths Real?

How Simple Questions Lead Us to Mathematics' Deepest Truths

**Eugenia Cheng**

*One of the world's most creative mathematicians offers new ways to look at maths – focusing on questions, not answers*

Why does  $-(-1) = 1$ ?

Why do odd and even numbers alternate?

What's the point of algebra?

Is maths even real?

From imaginary numbers to the concept of zero, Eugenia Cheng – mathematician, writer and woman on a mission to rid the world of maths phobia – brings us maths as we've never seen it before, revealing how profound insights can emerge from seemingly unlikely sources.

How do we learn maths: from rules in a textbook? From logic and deduction? Not quite. For Cheng, we learn it from human curiosity – most importantly, from asking questions. Many people are discouraged from asking these questions in school, thinking they're too simple to be taken seriously – but often, they lead us to the most wondrous mathematical revelations. Far from finding our own preconceived limits, Cheng urges us to step beyond them, and question whether they even existed in the first place.

Written with intelligence and passion, *Is Maths Real?* is a celebration of the true, curious spirit of the discipline.

Eugenia Cheng is Scientist in Residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Honorary Visiting Fellow of Pure Mathematics at City, University of London. A Cambridge graduate, she previously taught at the Universities of Cambridge, Chicago and Nice. She is also a concert pianist, fluent in French, and the author of several Profile bestsellers, including *How to Bake Pi* and *x+y*. Her books are translated into fifteen languages.



**World English Language**

Translation rights: Andrew  
Lownie Literary Agency

**June 2024**

Royal Hardback  
320pp £20  
Imprint: Wellcome Collection  
Editor: Ellen Johl

# Nine Minds

**Daniel Tammet**

*A vivid insight into the inner worlds of  
nine people on the autism spectrum*

Dan Aykroyd is known for many things: one of Hollywood's biggest stars, his knack for impressions and physical comedy landed him leading roles in hits like *Ghostbusters* and *The Blues Brothers*. Less well-known is his Asperger's diagnosis, a discovery Daniel Tammet made by chance, which set him off on a fascinating journey into life on the autism spectrum.

*Nine Minds* profiles nine neurodiverse individuals, from beloved star Aykroyd to a Birmingham homicide detective, a young IBM prodigy, and a rabbi reinterpreting scripture through the lens of autism in New York (to name but a few). Each is remarkable in their field. And each is changing how the world sees those on the spectrum.

An autistic savant himself, Daniel Tammet reaches across the divides of age, gender, sexuality, and nationality to imaginatively reconstruct the minds of his subjects. Both illuminating and life-affirming, this is a literary expedition into the very borderlands of human understanding.

Daniel Tammet is the subject of the award-winning television documentary, *The Boy with the Incredible Brain*, as well as a BBC Radio 4 documentary, *Two Poets* (with Les Murray) and the Kate Bush song, *Pi*. He is the author of nine books, including the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Born on a Blue Day*. His writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Guardian*, *Aeon* and *Quadrant*, and his books have been translated into thirty languages. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2012, and awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, The Open University, in 2023. Daniel Tammet lives in Paris.

BUSINESS,  
ECONOMICS  
AND  
SUSTAINABILITY



**World All Languages**

**June 2024**

Hardback

256pp £16.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Mark Ellingham

# The Road to Net Zero

**Chris Goodall**

*A realist's handbook for how we can achieve a carbon neutral future*

A carbon neutral future is possible - we have the technology to transform the global economy and guard against the worst effects of climate change. So how do we get to net zero?

In *The Road to Net Zero*, entrepreneur and climate tech consultant Chris Goodall tackles sixteen challenges that we must overcome in making a just transition to carbon neutrality. He explores the technologies that will solve these challenges - from changing how steel, cement and fuel are made to locking carbon in healthy soils, and from supporting renewable energy initiatives to building climate-resilient homes. With case studies and success stories from entrepreneurs across the globe, Goodall illustrates the incredible potential of a Net Zero future - as well as the determination we will need to overcome these problems.

Smart, practical and clear-eyed about the challenges we face, *The Road to Net Zero* is essential reading for business leaders and individuals who are ready to step toward a climate-positive future.

Chris Goodall is a world-leading expert on new and renewable energy technologies. He is the author of multiple books on the climate and future technologies, including *What We Need To Do Now*, *The Switch*, and *Ten Technologies to Fix Energy and Climate*. As well as publishing *Carbon Commentary*, a website and newsletter on energy efficiency and renewables, he is an investor in new low-carbon technologies and a member of the Advisory Board for the Pictet Clean Energy fund in Geneva.



# Decisions Nobody Made

**Dan Davies**

*An insightful and darkly humorous look at the workings of management economics that reveals what a coup d'état in Chile and several hundred pulverised squirrels have in common*



**World All Languages**

**April 2024**

Royal Hardback

320pp £20

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Nick Humphrey

When we avoid taking a decision, what happens to it?

In *Decisions Nobody Made*, Dan Davies examines why markets, institutions and even governments systematically generate outcomes that everyone involved claims not to want. In answering that question he casts new light on the writing of Stafford Beer, a legendary economist who was arguing as far back as the 1950s that we should regard organisations as artificial intelligences, capable of taking decisions that are distinct from the intentions of their members.

Management cybernetics was Beer's science of applying self-regulation in organisational settings, but it was largely ignored – with the result being the political and economic crises that we see today. With his signature blend of cynicism and journalistic rigour, Davies looks at what's gone wrong, and what might have been, had the world listened to Stafford Beer when it had the chance.

Dan Davies is a former regulatory economist at the Bank of England and analyst for a number of investment banks. His career has seen him tackle all manner of financial crookedness, including the LIBOR and FX scandals, the collapse of Anglo Irish Bank and the Swiss Nazi gold scandal. He has written for the *Financial Times* and *The New Yorker* among other publications.



**World English Language**

Translation Rights: Agentur  
Nina Sillem

**September 2024**

Royal Hardback

352pp £25

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Andrew Franklin

# We've Done it Before

A Concise History of Sustainability

**Annette Kehnel**

*A fascinating look at the medieval precedents  
for modern concepts of sustainable living*

Communities that operated a barter trade system on the Monte Subiaco in Italy. Sustainable fishing at Lake Constance. Common lands in the UK. Transient grazing among Alpine shepherds in the south of France. Crowdfunding to finance bridges in Avignon.

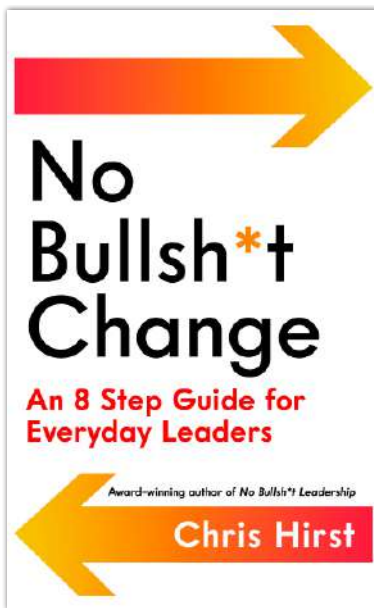
These are all just some of the sustainability initiatives from the Middle Ages that Annette Kehnel illuminates in her astounding new book, *We've Done it Before*. From the mythical-sounding City of Ladies and their garden economy to early microcredit banks, Kehnel uncovers a world at odds with what we think of as the typical medieval existence.

Pre-modern history is full of inspiring examples and concepts that are ripe for rediscovery. And we urgently need them as today's challenges - finite resources, the twilight of consumerism, growing inequality - threaten what we have come to think of as a modern way of living sustainably.

This is a stimulating and revelatory look at a past that has the power to change our future.

Professor Annette Kehnel studied History and Biology at the University of Freiburg, Sommerville College, Oxford and LMU in Munich. She received her doctorate from Trinity College, Dublin for her research on Irish convent communities and taught at the TU Dresden, where she received her post-doctorate in 2004. Since 2005 she has held a chair in Medieval History at the University of Mannheim. She has published numerous works on her main topics of research: cultural and economic history and historical anthropology.





**World exc. US**

US Rights: David Higham  
Associates

Manuscript Available

**June 2023**

B Format Hardback

224pp £14.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Louisa Dunnigan

'A punchy, straightforward, practical guide  
to what leaders do and how they should do it.'

Financial Times

**No  
Bullsh\*t  
Leadership**

**Why the World  
Needs More  
Everyday Leaders  
and Why That  
Leader Is You**

**Chris Hirst**



**May 2019**

Rights sold: Pallas Athene,  
Hungary; Business Weekly,  
Taiwan

# No Bullsh\*t Change

An 8 Step Guide for Everyday Leaders

**Chris Hirst**

*The no-nonsense guide to change: how to lead it and how to lead through it when the world is still spinning.*

Nothing stays the same. The only constant we now face is change, and the demand for those who can grasp its opportunities has never been greater. Organisations today must learn to continuously adapt — and adapt faster than their competition. It is this that will drive them forward and it is this that is the modern leader's greatest challenge.

Despite what we're told, leading change is not a secret knowledge available only to a chosen few. This book cuts through the bullsh\*t to enable everybody to do it and do it well. Drawing on over a decade of experience leading successful change programmes around the world, Chris Hirst cuts through the unworkable guff to reveal his uncomplicated, proven strategies for team, organisational and cultural transformation.

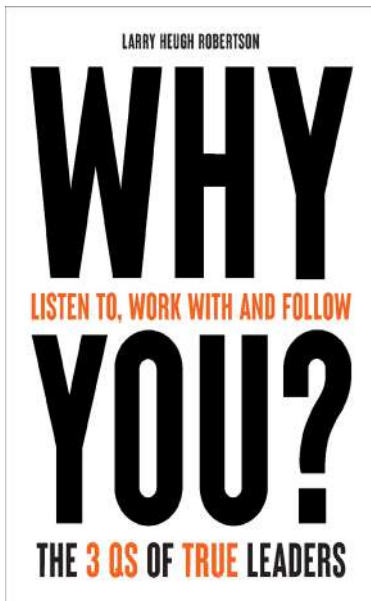
For everybody, from leaders of small teams to global enterprises, this book will transform how you lead, your results and the careers of those who work with you.

*Praise for No Bullsh\*t Leadership:*

'A punchy, plainly written guide, offering a readable and enlightened view of what leaders do and how they should do it' *Financial Times*

Chris Hirst is a change agent. After more than a decade in CEO positions - including as Global CEO of Havas Creative - he has a proven track record of leading transformation, delivering change, growth and cultures of enduring success. *No Bullsh\*t Leadership*, won Best Business Book of the Year 2020: Leadership for the Future.





**World All Languages**

**November 2023**

Trade Paperback

224pp £11.99

Imprint: Profile Editions

Editor: Peter Jones

## Why Listen To, Work With and Follow You? The 3 Qs of True Leaders

**Larry Heugh Robertson**

*How to be a better leader and a better you*

People around the world crave more meaning, greater engagement and better leadership in every aspect of their lives. And those who aspire to lead are searching for straightforward and practical solutions to deliver this in their own unique way. This book provides the answers.

Through a series of thirty short narratives or scenarios, Larry Robertson shows how current or aspiring senior executives can draw on their own personal strengths to formulate their leadership style. The scenarios are based on one of the book's three key themes of Authenticity, Empathy and Intent. The narratives cover the fundamental aspects of leadership and are adaptable to any walk of life. Bullet points provide a recap on each narrative and give the reader a 21-90-day challenge to help them change their behaviour towards the habits for success.

Larry Robertson founded Australian leadership and communication consultancy Robertson Burns in 1993. A Brit who settled in Australia after an early career as an Army officer and in advertising, he has been working with executives from some of the world's largest organisations, including Boston Consulting, Fujitsu, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, PwC and Qantas.



**World excl. US & Canada**

Rights sold: Pegasus Books, US & Canada

**October 2023**

Trade Paperback

224pp £10.99

Imprint: Economist Edge

Editor: Clare Grist Taylor

# Giving Good Feedback

**Margaret Cheng**

*An essential new guide to giving, soliciting and receiving feedback*

We are surrounded by feedback, whether we're being asked to like, rate or otherwise comment on products, services or even people. At work, the right kind of feedback delivered at the right time and in the right way can help us all to learn and improve. On the ground, though, that's easier said than done.

Help is at hand. Margaret Cheng's six golden rules and Giving Good Feedback Framework offer a clear guide to what feedback is, how we can master the things that get in the way and deploy some simple techniques to make feedback a more routine - and less emotionally charged - part of our routine work communications.

Margaret Cheng has 30 years' experience as a Senior HR Manager, Executive and Career Coach and Director of a social enterprise. She previously wrote on business-related topics for an HR and outplacement consultancy and CIPD magazine and has appeared on Working Lunch. Cheng has also been published by *The Wildlife Trust*, *Bloomsbury Festival*, *Bloomsbury Radio* and *Friends on the Shelf*.

SELF-HELP  
AND  
GENERAL  
NON-FICITON



**World All Languages**

**September 2023**

Trade Paperback

288pp £14.99

Imprint: Souvenir Press

Editor: Cindy Chan

## How to Leave a Narcissist... For Good

Moving On From Abusive and Toxic Relationships

**Dr Sarah Davies**

*A psychologist's practical guide to understanding and moving on from toxic relationships with narcissists*

You cannot change a narcissist.  
But you can move on from a toxic relationship with one.

In *How to Leave A Narcissist ... For Good*, psychologist Dr Sarah Davies offers this practical guide to understanding and healing from a relationship with a narcissist. Drawing on her clinical work with individuals, as well as personal experience, she will help you to:

- Understand narcissism and identify narcissistic abuse
- Recognise negative patterns and break the cycle of abuse
- Restore focus to yourself and repair the damage to your self-esteem
- Address any resulting trauma and manage emotional overwhelm or distress
- Learn and develop healthy boundaries and communication skills
- Master self-care and compassion

With case studies and expert guidance on rebuilding self-confidence, developing healthy boundaries and learning emotional regulation skills, mindfulness and grounding techniques, *How to Leave A Narcissist ... For Good* will help you turn your back on narcissists and look forward to future loving relationships.

Dr Sarah Davies is an author, Chartered Counselling Psychologist and Trauma Therapist with a private practice established in Harley Street, London. She has extensive clinical experience in the area of narcissistic abuse, co-dependency and related trauma and PTSD. Dr Davies has contributed to many publications on these subject areas including in *Guardian*, *Daily Mail* and *Cosmopolitan*.



**World All Languages**

**April 2024**

Trade Paperback

288pp £12.99

Imprint: Souvenir Press

Editor: Cindy Chan

# The Calm Skin Guide

How to manage childhood eczema

**Jae Rance and Amber Hatch**

*A friendly guide to understanding, managing and living with child eczema*

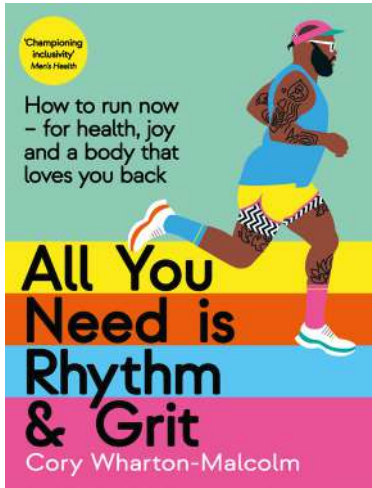
Eczema affects 1 in 5 children, and it can be especially upsetting for children under ten who can't understand why their skin is so itchy, sensitive and easily damaged. *The Calm Skin Guide* offers an overview of all the treatment approaches on offer, to equip you with your own management plan for your child. It includes clear guidance on:

- Eczema and the itch/scratch cycle
- Doctor and pharmacy-based treatments
- Alternative treatments and how to use them
- Identifying triggers in the home like dust, humidity, skincare products, detergents and foods
- The relationship between eczema, asthma and allergies, and how to manage these conditions together
- An emergency flare-up chapter - what to do first

With tips on washing and laundry routines, practical ideas for ensuring comfortable, itch-free sleep, and guidance from GPs and dermatologists, here is friendly, research-based advice to help you keep your child's eczema - and the distress resulting from it - calm, soothed and under control.

Jae Rance is a parent with a long history of eczema in her family. She founded Scratchesleeves, a company that produces child-friendly anti-scratch solutions for kids. She shares tips and advice for parents on the Scratchesleeves blog.

Amber Hatch is a writer, editor and childminder, with a passion for wellbeing and meaningful connection. She is the author of five books, including *The Nappy-Free Baby* and *Mindfulness for Parents*.



**World All Languages**

**January 2024**

Trade Paperback

256pp £16.99

Imprint: Souvenir Press

Editor: Cindy Chan

# All You Need is Rhythm and Grit

How to run now, for health, joy, and a body that loves you back

**Cory Wharton-Malcolm**

*An infectiously positive and inclusive guide to running, from everyone's favourite Apple Fitness+ and Nike trainer*

Think running isn't for you? Running coach Cory Wharton-Malcolm challenges this idea head-on with this joyful love letter to running and motivational guide for beginners.

Advocating running as an inclusive and community-focused activity, Cory shows us how to celebrate the incredible mind-body connection by getting our trainers on and starting our running journey from the couch to the end of the road and beyond.

Sharing stories of his own mental and physical health challenges and the way running — both alone and with track buddies — lifted him up, *All You Need is Rhythm and Grit* includes advice on kit, running routes, pacing, good beats and the will to start and keep going.

Cory believes you don't have to be a tall and slim super-human to run and feel good doing it! For anyone who thinks running isn't for them, here is a vibrant and inclusive guide to one of the most egalitarian sports for people of all genders, all bodies, all identities and every class and colour.

Cory Wharton-Malcolm is a running coach, *Runner's World* columnist, founder of West London running crew TrackMafia and Apple Fitness+ trainer who embarks on running adventures all over the world with 'Time To Run'. Previously Nike Run Club's European Head Coach and still the voice of the Nike Run Club app, he has been featured in publications including *Guardian*, *Evening Standard*, *Men's Health* and *Metro*.



**World All Languages**

**June 2024**

Hardback

320pp £16.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Jon Petre

# Amuse Bouche

How to Eat Your Way Around France

**Carolyn Boyd**

*A charming and fascinating guide to French cuisine by an award-winning food writer*

What makes a real salade niçoise?

What type of cheese is officially France's stinkiest?

Why does the sandy carrot have such a superior flavour?

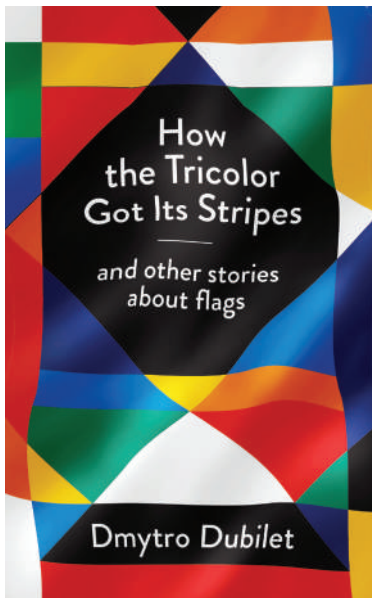
And who exactly are the Brotherhood of the Artichoke?

Leading expert on French food and culture Carolyn Boyd shares the stories behind the country's most fascinating foods and ingredients. Spanning every region of France and divided into 200 separate vignettes, each entry blends history and travel, personal anecdote and recipes.

*Amuse Bouche* is a book to be devoured: a beautifully illustrated, joyous celebration of French food, and a charming, practical guide to inspire your own travels - whether you're a proud Francophile or don't know your *ficelle* from your *flûte*.

Carolyn Boyd is an award-winning British travel and food writer who specialises in France, writing for a wide variety of publications including *The Times*, *Guardian*, *National Geographic Traveller*, and *BBC Good Food*. She is the author of *From the Source: France* (Lonely Planet, 2017), a collection of chef interviews and recipes from every corner of the country. Carolyn is also Communications Manager of the Roux Scholarship, the world's most prestigious chef competition.





**World All Languages**  
excl. Ukranian & Russian

Manuscript Available

**October 2023**

Demy Hardback

288pp £18.99

Imprint: Profile Editions

Editor: Peter Jones

## How the Tricolor Got Its Stripes

and other stories about flags

**Dmytro Dubilet**

*An entertaining and anecdotal illustrated history of flags*

This captivating history of flags explains their origins and hidden meanings, taking a chatty but always entertaining path through this universal subject.

Each chapter starts with a well-known flag - such as the French tricolor, where the white in the centre (the monarchy) is kept in check by the red and blue of the Parisian flag representing the people - and shows how that flag led, for example, to the red, white and green tricolor of Italy - thought in turn to represent the red of struggle, the white of the Alps and the green of Italy's lush vegetation. And then to a host of other tricolors in different parts of the world. Many of the over 200 colour illustrations feature alternative versions of existing flags - the flags that might have been - such as the red Canadian maple leaf between two bands of blue, representing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

First published in Ukrainian six months before the start of the Ukrainian-Russian War, this entertaining, chatty and very likeable history of flags was written by Ukrainian businessman and ex-cabinet minister Dmytro Dubilet as a lockdown project. It sold 5,000 copies in Ukrainian in its first 2 months.

Dmytro Dubilet is a businessman and politician. Born and raised in Dnipro, Ukraine, he studied at the University of Kyiv and London Business School. In 2017 he co-founded the IT company Fintech Band which then launched the mobile-only Monobank. In 2019 he was appointed Minister of the Cabinet Ministers in the Ukrainian cabinet.

# MEMOIR AND BIOGRAPHY



World All Languages

Rights sold: Avid Reader Press/S&S, US & Canada; Ginkgo, China; Serenad, Turkey; Errata Naturae, Spain

Finished Copies Available

**April 2023**

Demy Hardback

272pp £16.99

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Cecily Gayford

## George

A Magpie Memoir

Frieda Hughes

*A memoir of love, obsession and feathers*

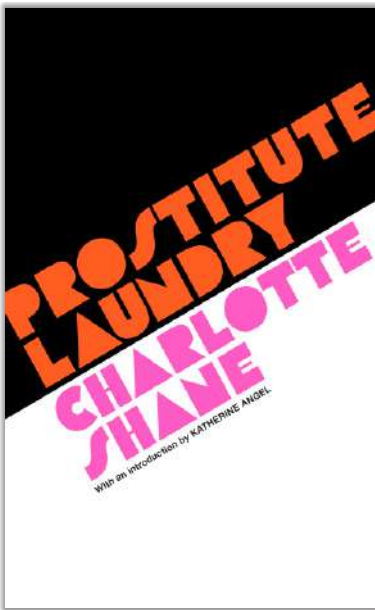
**Then, just in time, before I swung the spade again, I saw, right by the blade and camouflaged by the leaves on the ground, a magpie chick. It squatted belligerently, peering up at me with miniature magpie fury. George.**

When Frieda Hughes moved to the depths of the Welsh countryside, she was expecting to take on a few projects: planting a garden, painting and writing her poetry column for *The Times*. But instead, she found herself rescuing a baby magpie, the sole survivor of a nest destroyed in a storm – and embarking on an obsession that would change the course of her life.

As the magpie, George, grows from a shrieking scrap of feathers and bones into an intelligent, unruly companion, Frieda finds herself captivated – and apprehensive of what will happen when the time comes to finally set him free.

‘A charming diary of life with a magpie – despite George’s bad behaviour, it will render covid lovers (like me) green with envy!’ Katherine May, author of *Wintering*

Born in London in 1960, Frieda Hughes is a painter and poet. She has written several children’s books, eight collections of poetry, articles for magazines and newspapers, and was the *Times* Poetry columnist. As a painter, Frieda regularly exhibits in London and has a permanent exhibition at her private gallery in Wales, where she resides with 14 owls, two rescue huskies, an ancient Maltese terrier, five chinchillas, a ferret called ‘Socks’, a Royal python and her collection of motorbikes.



**World exc. US & Canada**

US Rights: TigerBee Press

Finished Copies Available

**May 2023**

B format Hardback

384pp £14.99

Imprint: Serpent's Tail

Editor: Leonora Craig Cohen

# Prostitute Laundry

Charlotte Shane

With an introduction by Katherine Angel

*A taboo-breaking and radically honest memoir of love, friendship and sex work*

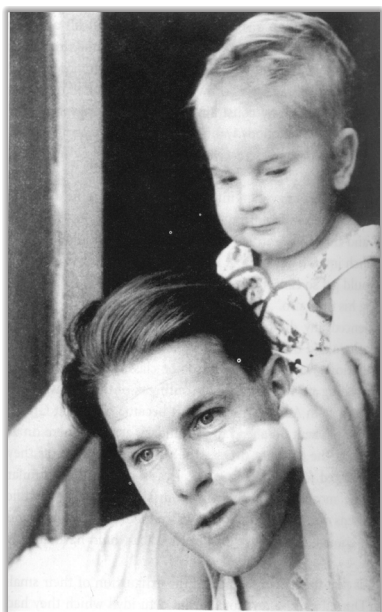
This serial memoir follows Charlotte over the course of several years as she falls in and out of love, muses on the nature of sex work and the value of beauty, discovers hidden emotional complexities and contemplates leaving her profession. Growing out of a series of confessional letters sent by the author to a small but devoted mailing list, her candid, unstinting and sometimes heart-breaking meditations have gained thousands of subscribers and a cult status.

*Prostitute Laundry* is a deeply thoughtful book about sexuality, money, and identity - how those forces can break us, and how they can make us whole again. By turns philosophical, funny and explicit, this is an affecting, immediate account of one life lived to its fullest.

‘Shane narrates . . . in a kind of gentle, considered past tense that makes each missive read as if it has been very sagely composed by a writer who has lived 50 years since . . . That’s exactly what Dickens had a talent for, too’  
*Guardian*

‘[Prostitute Laundry] is so beautiful and so heartbreaking. It’s a book that makes me feel a little less alone’  
*New York Times Books Podcast*

Charlotte Shane is a non-fiction author and essayist. Her two books are *Prostitute Laundry* and *N.B.* Charlotte’s writing has also appeared in the *New Inquiry*, *Adult Mag*, *Brooklyn Magazine*, *Hazlitt*, *Jezebel*, the *Hairpin* and elsewhere.



World All Languages

**February 2024**

Royal Hardback

480pp £30

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Mark Elingham

# Larry

**A new biography of Lawrence Durrell, 1912-47**

**Michael Haag**

*A new and definitive biography of Lawrence Durrell, covering his time in London and Paris, Corfu and Alexandria by the world's foremost Durrell expert*

When Durrells expert Michael Haag died in 2020, it was feared that his definitive biography of Larry would never emerge. But, happily, it turned out that he had left complete chapters covering Durrell's life up to the time he left for South America in 1947. These chapters include the most engaging and interesting years of Larry's life - his childhood in India and Burma, his Bohemian life in London and Paris, his madcap idea of moving his family to Corfu (immortalised in his brother Gerry's *My Family and Other Animals*).

But for Durrell enthusiasts, the key part of this new biography are the chapters set in Alexandria, which Michael had unrivalled knowledge about, having met many of the key figures, and walked every street. His account of those years bring to life the backdrop and real-life stories that Durrell interwove to create his acknowledged masterpiece, *The Alexandria Quartet*.

Michael Haag was a writer, historian and biographer. He wrote widely on the Egyptian, Classical and Medieval worlds; and on the Mediterranean and the Middle East. He was regarded as the world's foremost Durrells scholar. His books for Profile include *The Durrells of Corfu* and the bestselling *Templars* series.

FICTION





**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Dumont, Germany

Manuscript Available

**February 2024**

Demy Hardback

320pp £14.99

Imprint: Serpent's Tail

Editor: Luke Brown

# Night Swimmers

**Roisin Maguire**

*A funny and moving family story with an unconventional heroine in a quirky coastal community - Olive Kitteridge or The Shipping News on the edge on the Irish Sea*

Grace lives alone in Ballycathal, a little town on the sublimely beautiful Antrim Coast of Northern Ireland. She fills her days with sea swimming, fishing, quilting, and baiting the tourists who arrive from the city with more money than sense and who mistakenly think they own the place (something of a sport among the locals.) She hasn't left the town since something awful happened to her in London as a young woman at the end of the 1980s.

One of the irritating tourists in town is Evan, taking an enforced holiday from his family and work in Belfast after breaking down after the death of his daughter in infancy. He has come to try to process his grief and make himself desirable again as a husband, a father and a business partner.

But he hasn't been there for a week before he gets trapped by lockdown. When Grace saves his life after a kayaking accident that may not have been in fact an accident, and Evan's troubled son arrives to stay, all three are brought together in a way that forces a reckoning with their personal traumas and draws them back into society.

This is a moving and funny debut novel set in a quirky coastal community you will be desperate to visit after reading. It will appeal to readers of Elizabeth Strout, Maggie O'Farrell and Alice Munro.

Roisin Maguire lives in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland, where she works as a business manager. In 2019, she completed the Write Here... in Belfast novel-writing course, taught by Jan Carson, which was designed to discover exciting, new Northern Irish voices in fiction.



Tr

**World exc. US & Canada**

US &amp; Canada: Paper Literary

Finished Copies Available

**February 2023**

Demy Hardback

288pp £14.99

Imprint: Serpent's Tail

Editor: Luke Brown

# Queen K

Sarah Thomas

*A suspenseful and Ripleyesque debut about a private tutor who discovers the dark world behind Russian superwealth*

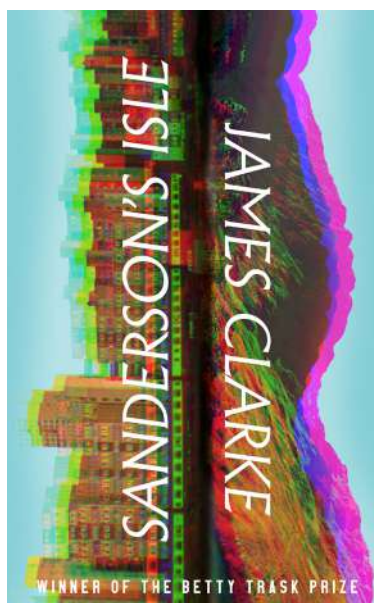
On a balmy evening in late March, Kata hosts a party on her husband's superyacht. Tables cover the massive deck, adorned with orchids, champagne bottles, name cards of famous people, while uniformed staff flank a red carpet on the landing dock. This night marks the attainment of something she's wanted for a long time: acceptance into the glittering world of high society. But some around Kata are full of resentment and closer to home than she could have ever imagined.

Narrated with delicious unreliability by an Englishwoman employed to tutor this family's precocious daughter, *Queen K* pulls back the curtain on the power plays within one extraordinary family, as world politics begin to encroach on their corrupt and fiercely defended haven.

'Thrilling, revealing and disturbing, *Queen K* dives deep into the hidden lives of the mega-rich, the dark structures of privilege and power, and the lies we tell ourselves to keep the illusion afloat. Thomas' dazzling debut is both a gripping mystery and a relevant treatise on the dangers of wealth without limits' Emma Stonex, author of *The Lamplighters*

'Balzac in Balenciaga... *Queen K* lures you in with escapist, beach-read vibes, then bares its teeth with a devastating portrait of the emotional cost of greed.' *The Times*

Sarah Thomas worked for years as a private tutor to the super-rich. She lives in London and this is her first novel.



**World All Languages**

Manuscript Available

**July 2023**

Hardback

320pp £16.99

Imprint: Serpent's Tail

Editor: Luke Brown

# Sanderson's Isle

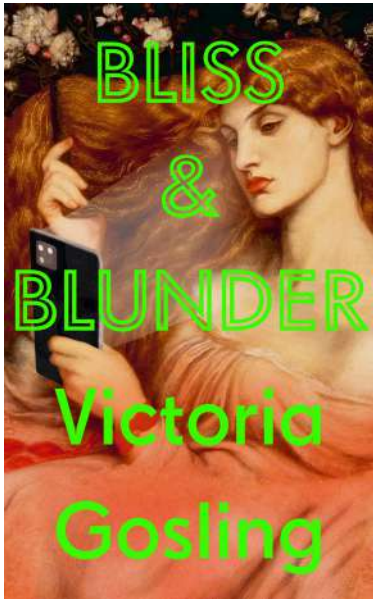
**James Clarke**

*A man searches for a stolen child through swinging London and the Lake District in the psychedelic 1960s*

Speake comes to London in 1969 to look for his father but finds Sanderson instead, a larger-than-life TV presenter who hosts 'midweek madness' parties where the punch is spiked with acid. There Speake meets Marnie and promises to help her find her adoptive child, who has been taken by her birth mother to live off-grid in a hippy cult in the Lake District.

Forced to lie low after a violent accident, Speake joins Sanderson on a tour of the Lake District, where he's researching his TV series, Sanderson's Isle. Here Sanderson too becomes fascinated by rumours of the cult and decides he must find them. Amid the fierce beauty of the mountains, the cult is forming the kind of community that Speake - a drifter who belongs nowhere - is desperate to find but has been sent to betray.

James Clarke was born in Manchester in 1985 and grew up in the Rossendale Valley, Lancashire. His debut novel *The Litten Path* was published by Salt and won the 2019 Betty Trask Prize.



**World All Languages**

US Rights via Friedrich Agency

Manuscript Available

**August 2023**

Demy Hardback

368pp £14.99

Imprint: Serpent's Tail

Editor: Leonora Craig Cohen

# Bliss & Blunder

**Victoria Gosling**

*A breathtakingly fresh take on surveillance, corporate misogyny and xenophobia, weaving in timeless themes of love, adultery and war*

Morgan's heart is set on revenge. The only woman who truly loved her is dead and she knows who is to blame. On the eve of Arthur's fortieth birthday, she is coming back to face him and his friends. The Wiltshire market town of Abury is home to Arthur's company, a tech empire that brings jobs and prosperity – but which also licensed the Pegasus-like hacking technology responsible for Rashida's death. Until now, Arthur has been uncritically celebrated by all, with the exception of Gwen, his resentful wife, and Mo, his wayward adopted son. Soon it will all begin to crumble and Morgan will be there to watch. Larger than life, wounded by years of cruel bullying and yet undaunted, Morgan is a totally original heroine.

*Bliss & Blunder* is a nuanced exploration of both the violence that war inflicts on men and the violence of men's attempts at controlling women. Suffused with love and loss, the novel brings together an unforgettable cast of characters with unique flair and empathy. This novel is both a clever retelling of the King Arthur legend and a clear-eyed look at modern Britain, filled with raucous merriment, fierce arguing, dangerous flirtation and true friendship.

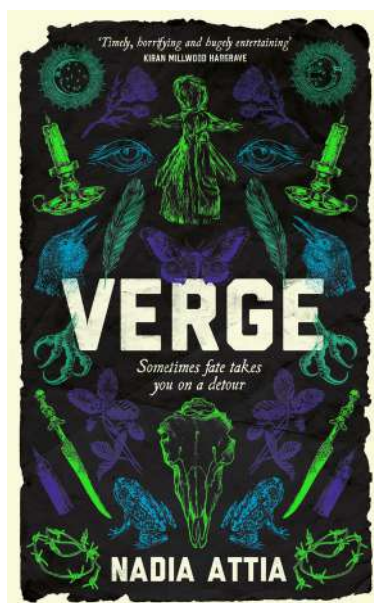
Praise for Victoria Gosling:

'A richly talented author' Sarah Waters

'A stylish, sophisticated writer' *The New York Times*

'Jaw-droppingly brilliant' Marian Keyes

Victoria Gosling grew up in Wiltshire and studied at Manchester University and the University of Amsterdam. She has lived in London, Australia, Brazil, the Czech Republic and Berlin. Victoria is the founder of The Reader Berlin and organises The Berlin Writing Prize. Her first novel is *Before the Ruins*.



Tr

**World exc. US & Canada**

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Bell Lomax Moreton

Manuscript Available

**May 2023**

Demy Hardback

272pp £14.99

Imprint: Serpent's Tail

Editor: Calah Singleton and  
Leonora Craig Cohen

# Verge

Nadia Attia

*A deadly curse, two young strangers thrown together by fate, and a road trip through a disunited Kingdom*

The day Rowena Murray was born, 250 starlings fell like stones from the sky. Ever since, she has been marked by Death. First the visions; then her boyfriend died suddenly; now her father, too.

Salvation, Rowena is told, lies to the North: in Culcrith, where her grandmother can save her from the curse. Her mother's farmhand, a young Egyptian man named Halim, is to drive her.

The trip isn't easy. Rowena is rebellious, spiky, and sees bad omens everywhere; Halim is reserved, quiet and prefers to play by the rules; the land is mysterious and treacherous, with people who have married old traditions with new prejudices. The pair's battle of wills may yet develop into an alliance, if they can only let their guards down and let the wild in.

Exploring belief, loyalty and legacies beyond our control, Nadia Attia's thrilling debut is as magnetic and unpredictable as the curse Rowena is racing to escape.

'Had me gripped from start to finish ... timely, horrifying, and hugely entertaining.' Kiran Millwood Hargrave, author of *The Dance Tree*

Nadia Attia is a BFI Network Talent Executive and a published journalist. She is a graduate of the Curtis Brown novel-writing course, won the 2019 FAB (Faber) prize for fiction and was selected for the London Writers Awards. *Verge* is her first novel.





**World All Languages**

**April 2024**

Royal Hardback

384pp £14.99

Imprint: Viper

Editor: Miranda Jewess

# The Underhistory

**Kaaron Warren**

*A dark and magnificently inventive upmarket thriller about the lengths a lone woman will go to protect her home, and the family history it hides within its walls*

Pera was twelve the day the pilot intentionally crashed his plane into her family's grand home, killing them, their friends and the Australian prime minister. She was the girl who survived the tragedy, a sympathetic oddity, growing stranger by the day. Over the decades she rebuilt the huge and rambling building on the original site, each room telling a piece of the story of her life and that of the many people who died, both before and after the disaster. Her sister, murdered a hundred miles away. The soldier, broken by the war. Death follows Pera, and she welcomes it in as an old friend.

On the day she runs the last haunted house tour of the season, an unexpected group of men arrive. One she recognises, but the others are strangers. But she knows their type all too well. Dangerous men, who will keep an old woman alive only so long as she is useful. But as she begins to show them the house and reveal its secrets, the dangerous men will learn that she is far from helpless. After all, death seems to follow her wherever she goes...

Sinister and lyrical, *The Underhistory* is a haunting tale of loss, self-preservation and the darkness beneath.

Kaaron Warren is the author of the novels *Slights*, *Walking the Tree*, *Mistification* and *The Grief Hole* and the short story collections *Through Splintered Walls*, *The Grinding House*, and *Dead Sea Fruit*. Her short stories have won Australian *Shadows Awards*, *Ditmar Awards* and *Aurealis Awards*. She lives in Canberra, Australia.





### World English Language

US Rights via Helen Edwards

Translation rights:  
Hardman & Swainson

Manuscript Available

**January 2024**

Royal Hardback

320pp £14.99

Imprint: Viper

Editor: Miranda Jewess

# Helle and Death

Oskar Jensen

*A witty modern murder mystery, which reinvents the Golden Age country house whodunnit for the twenty-first century*

A snowstorm. A country house. Old friends reunited. It's going to be murder...

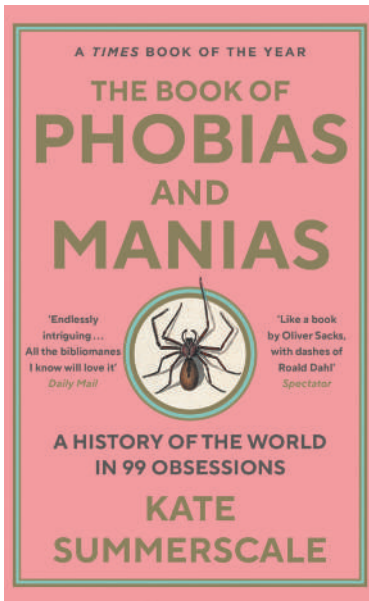
Torben Helle — art historian, Danish ex-pat and owner of several excellent Scandinavian jumpers — finds himself dragged to a remote snowbound Northumbrian mansion for a ten-year reunion with old university friends. At the dinner table their host, a reclusive and irritating tech entrepreneur, makes some shocking revelations. And when these are followed by an apparent suicide, the group faces a test of their wits... and their trust.

Snowed in and cut off, surrounded by enigmatic housekeepers and off-duty police inspectors, not to mention a peculiar last will and testament, suspicion and sarcasm quickly turn to panic. Kept afloat by strong drink and stronger women, Torben must draw upon the skills of his training and all the tricks of detectives past. As the temperature drops and the tension mounts, it is up to him to work out how much money it would take to turn one of his old friends into a murderer — before someone else ends up dead.

This witty murder mystery puts a modern spin on the classic country house whodunnit. A must-read for fans of Agatha Christie, Richard Osman and Janice Hallett.

Oskar Jensen is an author and academic. He teaches history at the University of East Anglia and is the author of two Viking Age children's books, as well as scholarly tomes on Napoleon. He is an occasional writer for the *New Statesman*, has appeared on *Who Do You Think You Are?* and acted as historical advisor for the 2018 ITV/Amazon production of *Vanity Fair*. *Helle and Death* is his first novel for adults.

# RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Tr A

**World All Languages**

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Autrement, FR; Dusbaz, TUR; Intrinseca,  
BRZ; Amarin, THAI; Vogais, POR; Jarir,  
Arabic, Klett-Cotta, GER; Athenaeum, HU

**October 2022**

256pp

Imprint: Wellcome Collection

Editor: Francesca Barrie

# The Book of Phobias and Manias

A History of the World in 99 Obsessions

**Kate Summerscale**

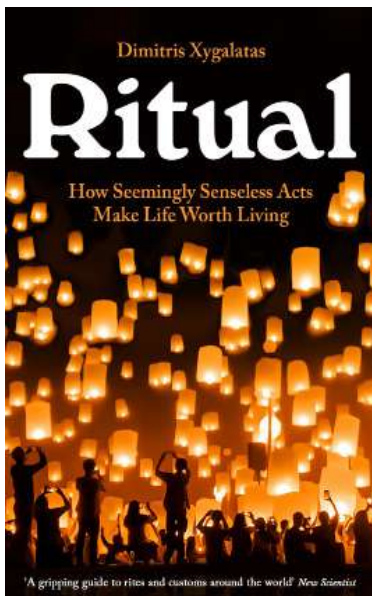
A captivating A-Z compendium of our fixations by the bestselling author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*.

'This fascinating compendium traces phobias and manias through their rich social, cultural and medical history' *Observer*

'This is an endlessly intriguing book, full of extraordinary stories and even the odd cure ... All the bibliomanes (book nutters) I know will love it' *Daily Mail*

'Fascinating ... Summerscale uses the same talent for elaborating on psychological tics that made her non-fiction thriller *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher* a top bestseller' *Mail on Sunday*

Kate Summerscale is the author of the number one bestselling *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*, winner of the Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction 2008, winner of the Galaxy British Book of the Year Award, a Richard & Judy Book Club pick and adapted into a major ITV drama. Her debut, *The Queen of Whale Cay*, won a Somerset Maugham award and was shortlisted for The Whitbread Biography Award. Her latest book, *The Haunting of Alma Fielding*, was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction.



Tr A

**World All Languages**

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Poznanski, POL; Temas e Debates,  
POR; Thinkingdom, CHI; Minumsa,  
KOR; Eagle, TAIW

**September 2022**

320pp

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Nick Humphrey

# Ritual

How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living

**Dimitris Xygalatas**

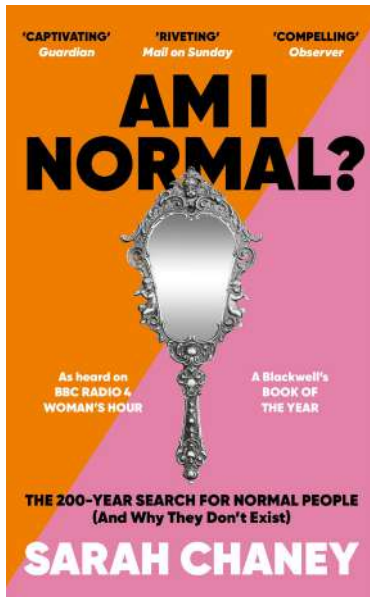
Ritual is the oldest, and certainly the most enigmatic, thread in the history of human culture. And it presents a profound paradox: people ascribe the utmost importance to their rituals, but few can explain why they are so important. In *Ritual*, pioneering scientist Dimitris Xygalatas leads us on an enlightening tour through this shadowy realm of human behaviour.

'A gripping guide to rites and customs around the world' *New Scientist*

'Fascinating ... pacy, adventurous' *Mail on Sunday*

'An elegantly simple and deeply persuasive argument which generalises to other forms of delusional belief.' Mark Solms, author of *The Hidden Spring*

Dimitris Xygalatas is an anthropologist and cognitive scientist at the University of Connecticut. He has spent his career studying rituals all over the world, combining ethnographic observations with novel scientific experiments. Xygalatas has published over 100 articles, and has been interviewed about his pioneering work by the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New Yorker*, *Forbes*, *PBS*, the *History Channel* and others. He has a particular interest in walking through fire.



Tr US A

**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Poznanskie, POL; Uitgeverij Brandt, NL; MiraeN, KOR; Irene, TUR; Goldmann, GER; Locus, TAIW, Bollati Boringhieri, IT; CTPH, CHI; Presenca, POR; Jarir Bookstore, Arabic

**July 2022**

336pp

Imprint: Wellcome Collection

Editor: Francesca Barrie

# Am I Normal?

The 200-Year Search for Normal People (and Why They Don't Exist)

**Sarah Chaney**

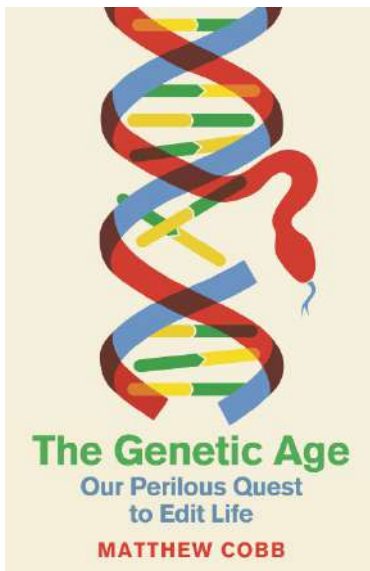
The riveting history of the strange science of the 'Normal', and the origins of an anxiety-ridden modern obsession.

'Eureka! Sarah Chaney's excellent *Am I Normal?* is one of those rare pop-science books that makes you look at the whole world differently' Tim Smith-Laing, *Daily Telegraph*

'Captivating' Josie Glausiusz, Book of the Day, *Guardian*

'Riveting ... The moral of the story, indeed of this engaging book, is that instead of ruminating endlessly on the worried (and unanswerable) question "Am I Normal?", we should be asking ourselves instead whether normal even exists and why, quite frankly, anyone cares' *Mail on Sunday*

Sarah Chaney is a research fellow at the Queen Mary Centre for the History of the Emotions. She spent her teens and twenties furiously rebelling against the mainstream, whilst secretly longing to be normal. It wasn't until she passed thirty that she (mostly) stopped worrying about this mythical ideal. Alongside her research work she runs the public exhibitions and events programme at the Royal College of Nursing, occasionally writes for *The Conversation* and *Psychology Today* and reads far too much X-Men fanfic.



Tr A

**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Basic Books, US & Canada; Einaudi, Italy; SangSangSquare, Korea

**September 2022**

448pp

Imprint: Profile Books

Editor: Nick Humphrey

# The Genetic Age

Our Perilous Quest To Edit Life

**Matthew Cobb**

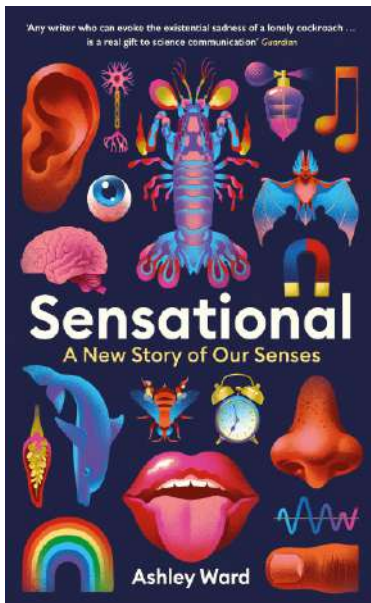
How fifty years of genetic engineering has brought us to the brink of a profound and disturbing future.

'Fascinating, occasionally chilling and very readable' Rhys Blakely, *The Times*

'Detailed and deeply researched ... striking ... complex' Henry Marsh, *New Statesman*

'[A] deeply researched and often deeply troubling history of gene science' *The New York Times*

Matthew Cobb is Professor of Zoology at the University of Manchester. His previous books include *The Idea of the Brain: A History*, which is shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford prize, *Life's Greatest Secret: The Race to Discover the Genetic Code*, which was shortlisted for the Royal Society Winton Book Prize, and the acclaimed histories *The Resistance* and *Eleven Days* in August.



Tr US A

**World All Languages**

Rights sold: Basic Books, US & Can;  
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Grazie, IT; SangSangSquare, KOR;  
Bertrand, POR

**January 2023**

Royal Hardback  
384pp £20  
Imprint: Profile Books  
Editor: Nick Humphrey

# Sensational

A New Story of Our Senses

Ashley Ward

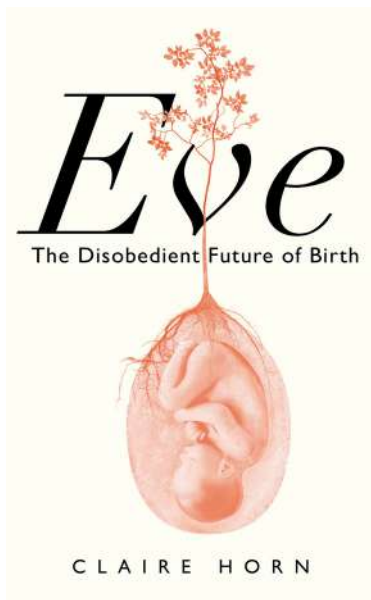
A smorgasbord of the senses from a professor of animal behaviour: how they work, why they're there, and what they mean for both human and animal lives.

'[An] infectiously enthusiastic survey of the human senses ... underneath the entertainment this is a serious and thoughtful book' James McConnachie, *Sunday Times*

'A rollercoaster combination of science, cultural history, rumour and schoolboy humour' *Guardian*

'Combining biological science with history, culture, sociology and personal reflections, this is a wide-ranging and highly engaging read' *Observer*

Ashley Ward is the author of *The Social Lives of Animals* and is a professor in Animal Behaviour at the University of Sydney, where he specialises in the sensory behaviour of animals. His career has taken him around the world, from studying krill in Antarctica to sampling sensory deprivation tanks in Australia. He has published over 100 scientific journal articles and a highly cited academic book, *Sociality*. He is also the author of the bestselling audiobook, *Animal Societies*. In addition to his professional accolades, he has 4:20 vision and no sense of smell or taste.



Tr A

**World All Languages**

Rights sold: House of Anansi, US &  
Canada; Saenggakieum Books, Korea

**March 2023**

Demy Hardback  
224pp £14.99  
Imprint: Wellcome Collection  
Editor: Ellen Johl

# Eve

The Disobedient Future of Birth

Claire Horn

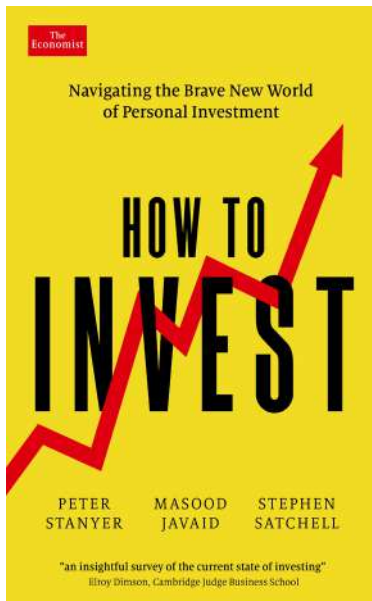
Scientific research is on the cusp of being able to grow babies outside human bodies, from machines, for the very first time. Claire Horn takes us on a truly radical and urgent deep dive into the most challenging and pertinent questions of our age. Could artificial wombs allow women to redistribute the work of gestating? How do we protect reproductive and abortion rights? And who exactly gets access to this technology, in our vastly unequal world?

In this interrogative and fascinating story of modern birth, *Eve* imagines with eye-opening clarity what all this might mean for the future of humanity.

Claire Horn is a Killam postdoctoral research fellow at Dalhousie University's Health Law Institute. Her work over the last six years has focused on law and policy governing sexual and reproductive health, rights, and technologies. She has written for a variety of academic and non-fiction publications, including the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, the *Medical Law Review*, *Feminist Legal Studies*, *Catalyst*, *Aeon*, and *Lady Science*.



## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



**World exc. US & Canada**

Rights sold: Pegasus, US & Canada

**March 2023**

256pp £10.99

Imprint: Economist Books

Editor: Clare Grist Taylor

# How To Invest

Navigating the Brave New World of Personal Investment

**Peter Stanyer, Masood Javaid, Stephen Satchell**

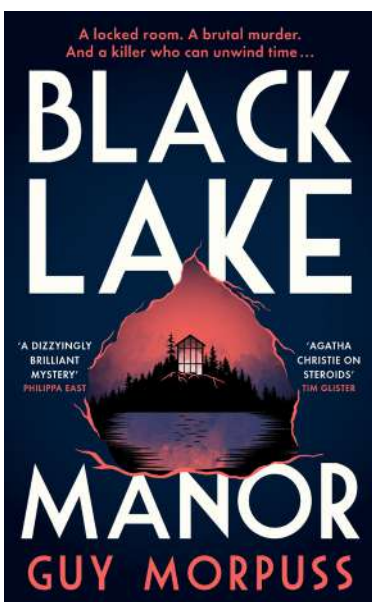
The first quarter of the new century has seen developments in technology, monetary policy and the management of large companies that have transformed personal savings and investment around the world.

*How to Invest* aims to help investors navigate this new world, offering a principles-based, keep-it-simple approach to help them make investment decisions and have investment conversations that will make the most of their money.

Peter Stanyer is an independent investment economist. He was previously chief investment officer of a US-based wealth management firm, a managing director at Merrill Lynch and investment director of the UK's Railways Pension Fund.

Masood Javaid was Senior Advisor in the Managing Director's Office to a large sovereign wealth fund. Prior to that, he held senior positions at Mercury Asset Management and Merrill Lynch, and managed the UK's Post Office and British Telecom pension fund assets.

Stephen Satchell is Economics Fellow at Trinity College Cambridge. He is also The Reader in Financial Econometrics (Emeritus) at Cambridge University and an Honorary Member of the Institute of Actuaries.



**World ex. US & Canada**

US & Canada: Aevitas

Rights sold: Hayakawa, Japan

**September 2022**

Demy Hardback

400pp £14.99

Imprint: Viper

# Black Lake Manor

**Guy Morpuss**

A thrilling story of time travel, murder and buried secrets from the author of *Five Minds* – for fans of *The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* and *Glass Onion*

*'Morpuss overlays sci-fi concepts on the conventions of vintage crime fiction [and] arrives at a satisfying destination'* *Financial Times*

*'A delicious, sophisticated puzzle you'll want to take your time to solve. It gripped me for a week. Incredible!'* *Janice Hallett, author of The Twyford Code*

*'A very enjoyable read. An endlessly inventive murder mystery - gripping from the first page!'* *Alex Pavesi, author of Eight Detectives*

Guy Morpuss is a London-based barrister and QC whose cases have featured drug-taking cyclists, dead Formula 1 champions and aspiring cemetery owners. His debut novel was *Five Minds*, and he is currently working on his third novel.



CONTACTS

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