

Peters Fraser + Dunlop

Contemporary Classics

LBF 2026 Highlights Guide

At Peters Fraser + Dunlop, we are honoured to represent over 100 years of literary history.

We are proud to be responsible for an extraordinarily wide range of writers, including a number of the great names in twentieth-century literature.

Our Contemporary Classics list spans Booker winners to Edgar winners, poetry to prose, history to historical fiction, and commercial darlings to literary greats.

We believe that good writing never ages, great plots never tire, and the best classics never go out of fashion.

View our *full* guide here.

[Awards Season](#)

[Spotlight Fiction](#)

[Spotlight Non-Fiction](#)

[Perpetually Popular](#)

[New + Upcoming](#)

Clemence Dane



Len Deighton



C. S. Forester



E. M. Forster



Award Season

Susan Hill



Storm Jameson



Josephine Johnson



Clifford D. Simak





E. M. Forster

Edward Morgan Forster was born in London in 1879 and went on to King’s College, Cambridge, in 1897. He declared that his life as a whole had not been dramatic, but he was unfailingly modest about his achievements.

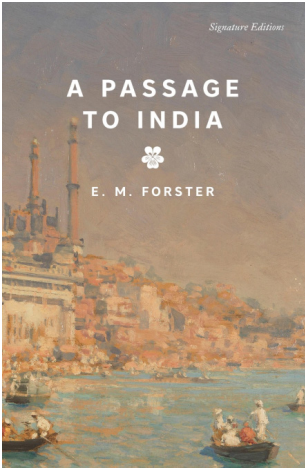
He wrote six novels, four of which appeared before the First World War, an interval of fourteen years elapsed before he published *A Passage to India*. It won both the Prix Femina Vie Heureuse and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. *Maurice*, his classic queer novel, finished in 1914, was published posthumously in 1971.

Why It’s Classic

A novel of a friendship doomed by false accusations and racism set in British India.

‘His great book . . . masterly in its prescience and its lucidity’
– Anita Desai

» Rights Listing Available Here



First Published: 1924
UK Pub: Union Square & Co.
19 February 2026 | 320 pages

Literary Fiction, Fiction Classics

‘Forester’s last and greatest novel’

– Damon Galgut,
Guardian

A Passage to India

Winner of the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction 1942

When Mrs Moore and her travelling companion Adela arrive in Chandrapore, they are frustrated and disappointed that all they can find is the claustrophobia of British colonial culture. Then a chance meeting with the charming and well-respected Dr Aziz seems to present the perfect opportunity to fulfil their desire to see the ‘real India’.

But during a guided tour of the Marabar Caves, a strange incident occurs, resulting in a shocking accusation that throws Chandrapore into a fever of racial tension and the doctor straight into the heart of a scandal from which he might never recover.

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Why It’s Classic

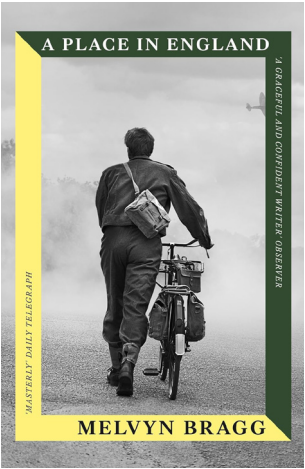
Melvyn Bragg’s historical fiction, which vividly conveys the spirit of the mid-20th century and the profound social changes taking place at the time.

» Rights Listing Available Here

Melvyn Bragg

Alongside his career in television and radio, Bragg has been a prolific author, writing some 22 novels and 17 works of non-fiction. His high public profile has not always led him to receive proper – or fair – recognition for his novels.

The Booker Prize 2001 judges, however, found in *A Son of War* a subtle and moving portrayal of a soldier returned to Cumbria to the family and working-class life from which war had offered an escape. Bragg’s portrayal of the difficulties of all his characters was notable for its lack of sentimentality.



First Published: 1970
UK Pub: Sceptre
26 February 2026 | 256 pages

Literary Fiction, Historical Fiction

‘Masterly’

– *Daily Telegraph*

‘A graceful and confident writer’

– *Observer*

A Place in England

Longlisted for the Lost Man Booker 2010.

Joseph Tallantire has hope and ambition – like his father before him he is determined to make something of himself and improve his lot.

But life is not easy for an uneducated young man in Cumberland before and during World War II, and Joseph’s struggle against the odds is the subject of this moving and evocative novel.

Suffering hardship and humiliation but eventually achieving a position of some independence, Joseph serves as a tribute to the many like him who lived through one of Britain’s periods of greatest social change.

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Bernice Rubens

Bernice Rubens (1928-2004) was born to a Jewish-Lithuanian father and a Polish mother. The particularly musical family lived in Cardiff. She began writing at the age of 35, when her children started nursery school.

Rubens was the first woman ever to win the Booker Prize and remains the only Welsh writer to be awarded this accolade. She won the Booker Prize in 1970 for her fourth novel, *The Elected Member*, and was shortlisted for the same prize again in 1978 for *A Five Year Sentence*.



First Published: 1978
UK Pub: Bloomsbury
4 March 2013 | 218 pages
Literary Fiction, Upmarket

‘Miss Hawkins looked at her watch. It was two-thirty. If everything went according to schedule, she could safely reckon to be dead by six o’clock.’

A Five Year Sentence

Shortlisted for the Booker 1978

Bernice Rubens’ intriguing novel about a factory worker who is forced to change her drastic retirement plan when she receives a diary as a gift.

A five-year diary, which she receives as a retirement gift, compels the dutiful Miss Hawkins to cancel her carefully prepared suicide.

Having been sentenced to live, she then embarks on a mission to taste life’s secret pleasures.

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Susan Hill

Hill is best known for her ghost story *The Woman in Black* – which has sold prolifically, been adapted for film and, as a play, has been running for some 25 years in the West End.

She has also written a series of crime novels featuring the detective Simon Serrailer.

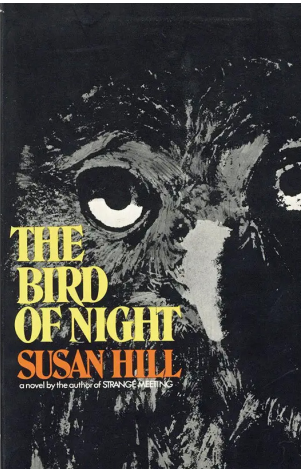
Hill is known for her no-nonsense views on politics and society which she airs to a devoted and substantial following on twitter.

Why It’s Classic

Known for this distinctive narrative voice, the novel is a profound exploration of genius and madness.

Noted as a 'gem' of the 1972 contenders, this is character-driven literary fiction at its best.

» [Rights Listing Available Here](#)



First Published: 1972
UK Pub: Audible
21 March 2012 | 176 pages
Literary Fiction, Based on Real Life

Winner of the Whitbread Literary Award 1972.

The Bird of the Night

Shortlisted for the Booker 1972

Susan Hill’s evocative exploration of love and madness charts the relationship between a brilliant but unhinged poet and his faithful companion

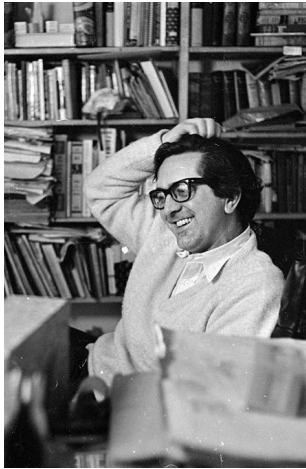
Francis Croft, the greatest poet of his age, was mad. His world was a nightmare of internal furies and haunting poetic vision.

Harvey Lawson watched and protected him until his final suicide.

From his solitary old age, Harvey writes this brief account of their twenty years together and then burns all the papers to shut out an inquisitive world.

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» [Rights Listing Available Here](#)



Len Deighton

At the Royal College of Art his teachers called him subversive, but it was his first novel – *The IPCRESS File* – that sealed his reputation as an iconoclast.

Through humour, characters with real depth, and impeccable research, Len Deighton’s original voice revolutionized the modern spy thriller.

Deighton is best remembered for Cold War spy novels with defiant, working class heroes, including the famed Bernard Sampson series and the Pat Armstrong Quartet.



First Published: 1970
UK Pub: Penguin Classics
20 May 2021 | 496 pages
Historical Fiction, War Story Fiction

‘A massively different novel... the effect is – quite literally – devastating.’

– *Sunday Times*

Bomber

Longlisted for the Lost Man Booker 2010

The date is 31 June, 1943. An RAF crew prepare for their next bombing raid on Germany. It is a night that many will never forget.

Len Deighton’s devastating novel is a gripping minute-by-minute account of what happens over the next twenty-four hours.

Told through the eyes of ordinary people in the air and on the ground – from a young pilot to the inhabitants of a small town in the Ruhr – *Bomber* is an unforgettable portrayal of individuals caught up in the wreckage of war.



Why It’s Classic

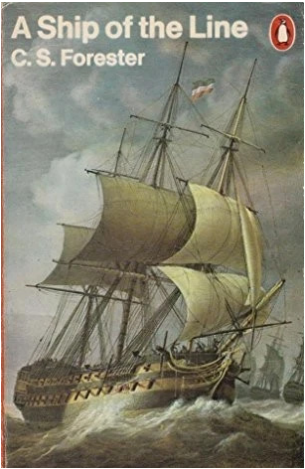
This is the sixth of eleven books chronicling the adventures of C. S. Forester’s inimitable nautical hero, Horatio Hornblower.

Flying Colours, the seventh in the series, jointly won the prize that year.

C. S. Forester

Cecil Scott Forester was the pen name of Cecil Louis Troughton Smith, who rose to fame with tales of adventure and military crusades. He was born in Cairo, where his father was a government official. On the outbreak of the WWII, he entered the Ministry of Information.

As well as the famous Horatio Hornblower series, his novels include *The African Queen*, adapted into the famous film, and crime novels *Plain Murder* and *The Pursued*.



First Published: 1942
UK Pub: Penguin
14 June 2018 | 336 pages
Adventure + War Story Fiction

‘I recommend Forester to every literate I know’

– Ernest Hemingway

A Ship of the Line

Winner of the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction 1942

May, 1810: thirty-nine-year-old Captain Horatio Hornblower has been handed his first ship of the line

Though the seventy-four-gun HMS Sutherland is the least desirable two-decker in the Navy and a crew shortage means he must recruit 250 landlubbers, Hornblower knows that by the time Sutherland reach the blockaded Catalanian coast every seaman will do his duty.

But with daring raids against the French army and navy to be made, it will take all Hornblower’s seamanship to steer a steady course to victory and home...



Stanley Middleton

Stanley Middleton was born and educated in Nottinghamshire. He started writing while at university and published his first novel, *A Short Answer*, in 1958. He went on to write more than forty novels in a career spanning fifty years. Middleton taught English at a secondary Grammar school.

Middleton's landscape was The Midlands and in particular its suburban towns and he explored the dreams and feelings that exist in apparently ordinary domestic lives.

Why It's Classic

Stanley Middleton's prize-winning novel is both a precisely observed portrait of English provincial life and a moving exploration of grief and regret

» Rights Listing Available Here



First Published: YYYY
UK Pub: Windmill
11 September 2014 | 256 pages
Literary + Contemporary Fiction

‘Genuinely affecting’
– *The Times*

‘anyone coming to Middleton afresh has a real treat in store’

– *Allan Massie, Scotsman*

Holiday

Winner of the Booker 1974

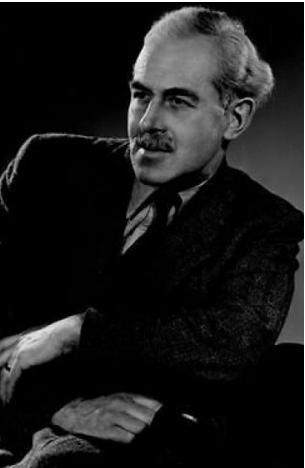
Holiday remains the most celebrated and popular novel from ‘the Chekhov of suburbia’.

Edwin Fisher has fled to a seaside resort of his childhood past to try to come to terms with the death of his baby son and the collapse of his marriage to Meg.

On this strange and lonely holiday, as he seeks to understand what went wrong, Edwin must find some way to think about where he has been and decide upon where he can go next.

But as painful memories rise unbidden and uncontrolled, Edwin must confront each in turn.

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Why It's Classic

Rising is a powerful re-creation of an episode of South American history, and also a profound and poignant exploration of the complexity of human relationships, and of one man's attempt at redemption. At its heart lies the burning struggle between good and evil.

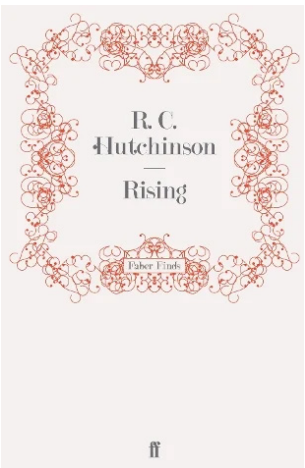
» Rights Listing Available Here

R. C. Hutchinson

Ray Coryton Hutchinson was a best-selling British novelist. His first novel, *Thou Hast a Devil*, was published in 1930. It was followed by *The Answering Glory* (1932), and *The Unforgotten Prisoner* (1933), which sold 150,000 copies in the first month.

In 1940 he joined the army. He travelled widely during the war, while continuing to write, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in June 1962.

He died before completing the last chapter of his novel, *Rising* (1975).



First Published: 1976
UK Pub: Faber
17 July 2008 | 336 pages
Modern + Contemporary Fiction

‘R. C. Hutchinson is a born novelist... a real creative writer, and we must cherish him.’

– J. B. Priestly

Rising

Shortlisted for the Booker 1976

Published posthumously, *Rising* is R.C. Hutchinson's powerful exploration of one man's attempt at redemption. At its heart lies the burning struggle between good and evil.

Sabino – the outcast member of a rich mine-owning family – is renowned for his arrogance and brutality.

For reasons of personal revenge, he agrees to lead an expedition to crush saboteurs who are attacking a railway line vital to the mine. As he leads his army of half-starved men across the arid and treacherous landscape, Sabino also embarks on a journey of the soul.

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Nicholas Mosley

Mosley, Third Baron Ravensdale, who died in 2017, won the Military Cross during the war and later wrote a highly critical account of his controversial father.

He was shortlisted for the first ever prize in 1969 with *Impossible Object* but caused a commotion in 1991 when he resigned from the judging panel in protest at his fellows' refusal to put Allan Massie's *The Sins of the Fathers* on the shortlist. For good measure, he complained that the other shortlisted books were light on ideas.

Why It's Classic

Nicholas Mosely presents eight carefully connected stories that pursue the notion that 'those who like unhappy ends can have them, and those who don't will have to look for them'.

» Rights Listing Available Here



First Published: 1969
US Pub: Dalkey Archive Press
1 May 2025 | 178 pages
Literary Fiction, Short Stories

‘Nicholas Mosley must be one of the most compelling writers in the English language today’

– Joyce Carol Oates

Impossible Object

Shortlisted for the Booker 1969

In eight linked stories, joined by introspective interludes on related subjects, the author presents the lives of a couple as seen by different narrators.

The impossible object of the title, ‘the triangle that can exist in two dimensions but not in three,’ symbolizes the impossibility of realising the good life unless one recognises the impossibility of attaining it: only then can it be possible to achieve it, through a kind of renunciation, in a ‘sophisticated, corrupt, chaotic world’.

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Why It's Classic

A vivid portrait of life behind the Iron Curtain, the novel perfectly pairs wit and empathy with political tension.

Winner of the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize.

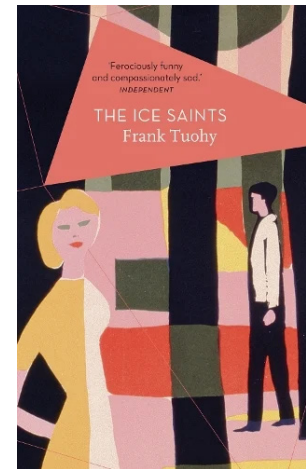
» Rights Listing Available Here

Frank Tuohy

John Francis ‘Frank’ Tuohy, was an English writer and academic. Upon completion of his studies, he worked in numerous academic posts under the auspices of the British Council. This included postings in Finland, Brazil and Poland.

In the 1950s, in the British Council School of São Paulo, Brazil, he ran a memorable course on The War Poets (WWI).

His posting in Poland provided the inspiration for his 1965 novel *The Ice Saints*.



First Published: 1964
UK Pub: Apollo (Bloomsbury)
14 May 2017 | 256 pages
Literary Fiction, Classic Fiction

‘A masterly novel, at once ferociously funny and compassionately sad’

– *Independent*

[Request Manuscript Here](#) «

The Ice Saints

Winner of the James Tait Black Prize for Fiction 1964

The drawing-room was entirely English. The Office of Works had provided deep armchairs, a sofa you could have slept on, though of course nobody had ever done so, and a low glass-topped table.

In the Spring of 1960, a young English woman arrives in the Polish People's Republic to visit her older sister, who married a Polish soldier after the war, disappearing into a life behind the Iron Curtain.

This award-winning novel of the harsh cruelties and deprivations of life in Communist Poland is told with truth, wit, and understanding.



Nicolas Freeling

Nicolas Freeling (1927–2003), was a British crime novelist, best known as the author of the van der Valk series of detective novels. Freeling’s *The King of the Rainy Country* received a 1967 Edgar Award, from the Mystery Writers of America, for Best Novel.

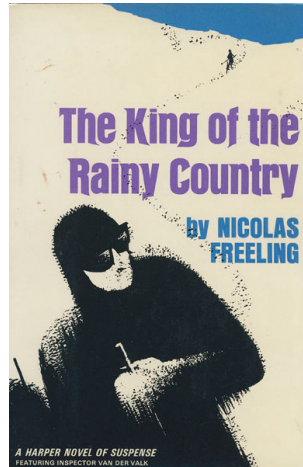
He also won the Gold Dagger of the Crime Writers’ Association, and France’s Grand Prix de Littérature Policière. In 1968 his novel *Love in Amsterdam* was adapted as the film *Amsterdam Affair* directed by Gerry O’Hara.

Why It’s Classic

Peak Van der Valk - it has the perfect blench of atmosphere and investigation that made the series so popular.

An investigation through a character study rather than traditional clue-hunting.

» Rights Listing Available Here



First Published: 1966
UK Pub: Bloomsbury
28 October 2011 | 182 pages
Mystery, Thriller

‘Freeling is the only British novelist of consequence to have tackled modern Europe’

– *Daily Telegraph*

The King of the Rainy Country

Winner of the Edgar Award for Best Novel 1967

This was the end of the story that had started ‘Once upon a time, in a rainy country, there was a king...’

The end had not happened in a rainy country, but on a bone-dry Spanish hillside, three hundred metres from where Van der Valk had left a lot of blood, some splintered bone, a few fragments of gut, and a ten-seventy-five Mauser rifle bullet.

No one had broken any laws. But a handsome, middle-aged millionaire had disappeared with a naked girl. And Van der Valk was given the job of finding out why.

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Why It’s Classic

Ambler’s classic thriller is a tour de force of psychological and political insight set against a vidi portrait of post-colonial Southeast Asia.

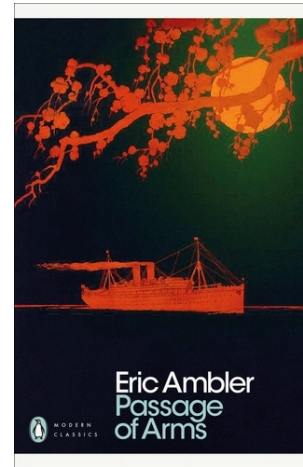
In signature Ambler style, it features an ordinary couple cuahgt up in extraordinary events.

» [Rights Listing Available Here](#)

Eric Ambler

Eric Ambler (1909–1998) began his writing career in the early 1930s and quickly established a reputation as a thriller writer of extraordinary depth and originality. He is often credited as the inventor of the modern political thriller and John Le Carré once described him as ‘the source on which we all draw.’

Ambler’s first novel was published in 1936 and, as his reputation as a novelist grew, he turned to writing full time. He moved to Hollywood in 1957 and scripted some memorable films, including *A Night to Remember*.



First Published: 1959
UK Pub: Penguin Classics
26 January 2023 | 272 pages
Spy Stories, Espionage Thrillers

‘A taut and extraordinary piece of writing’

– *Sunday Times*

‘The man who lit the way for us all’

– Len Deighton

Passage of Arms

Winner of the Gold Dagger Award 1959

Girija Krishnan, an Indian clerk, sees the opportunity of his lifetime when he stumbles on a lost cache of arms hidden in the Malayan jungle.

If he can find a buyer for the weapons, he will be able to achieve his life-long dream of creating his own bus company.

But the risks are as high as the rewards, as the arms draw ever more people into their dangerous orbit: an entrepreneurial trio of Chinese brothers, a sleazy British former soldier, and a naive American couple who find themselves horribly out of their depth.

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Spotlight Fiction



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The Moon is Making

Storm Jameson

An epic novel by Storm Jameson, set in and inspired by the author's hometown of Whitby, North Yorkshire.

The Moon is Making is a bleak, unsettling and psychologically charged portrait of a fractured coastal community. Through the lens of the Wikker family – whose moral decline and eventual ruin is the focus of the novel – it explores class division and emotional alienation, all set against the stark backdrop of the socially divided town of Whitby at the turn of the twentieth century.

But despite all this, the book is also a love letter to the North of England, and to Whitby, and its enduring dramatic appeal to writers, artists and musicians (think Bram Stoker, Elizabeth Gaskell, Wilkie Collins, and Kate Atkinson).

Why It's Relevant

Storm's work was highly praised in her lifetime, and she was a well-known figure working alongside H.G. Wells, E.M. Forster and Rebecca West. But her writing and her achievements have been largely forgotten by critics and readers more recently.

Margaret Storm Jameson (d. 1986) was a prolific English writer of novels and criticism.

Storm's work was highly praised in her lifetime, and she was a well-known figure working alongside H.G. Wells, E.M. Forster and Rebecca West. But her writing and her achievements have been largely forgotten by critics and readers more recently.

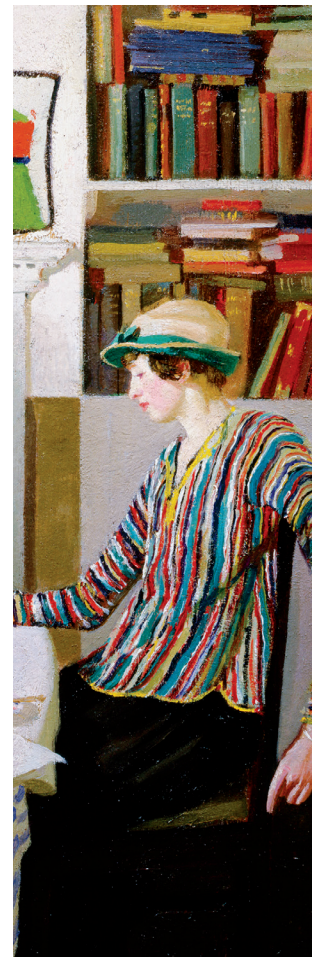
First Published: 1937

UK Pub: Manderley Press

Summer 2026 | 390 pages

Literary Fiction, Classic Fiction

REDISCOVERED + REDISCOVERED



» Rights Listing Available Here

WITH A FOREWORD
BY SOMEONE

Regiment of Women

CLEMENCE DANE

THE MERMAID
COLLECTION

Request Manuscript Here «

Regiment of Women

Clemence Dane

Set in a small town in Edwardian England, *Regiment of Women* is a page-turning and beguiling novel about the complicated relationship between a teacher and pupil at a private (and elitist) girls' school...

Miss Clare Hartill has a bewitching ability to get her own way, whether it is among the staff or the pupils who'll do anything to please her. When nineteen-year-old Alwynne Durand is hired, Clare takes this innocent and enthusiastic young teacher under her wing.

Soon, the pair are spending every moment together, with Alwynne growing as dependent on Clare as she is drawn to her beguiling wit and charm.

But when tragedy touches the school, Alwynne begins to question Clare's attentions. Sometimes, she thinks, her new friend can be cruel.

Torn between a Clare she loves and a Clare she fears, Alwynne must decide between loyalty and independence – before Clare chooses for her...

Why It's Relevant

Publishing in tandem with Pride Month in the UK, this is a classic from a pioneering female author.

The themes of power, desire, and control along with explorations of gender and sexuality brilliantly map onto conversation of today.

Clemence Dane CBE was a prolific novelist, playwright, screenwriter, journalist, , and artist. Between the wars she became one of Britain's most successful and versatile writers, with a distinctive place in literary, theatrical, and film history.

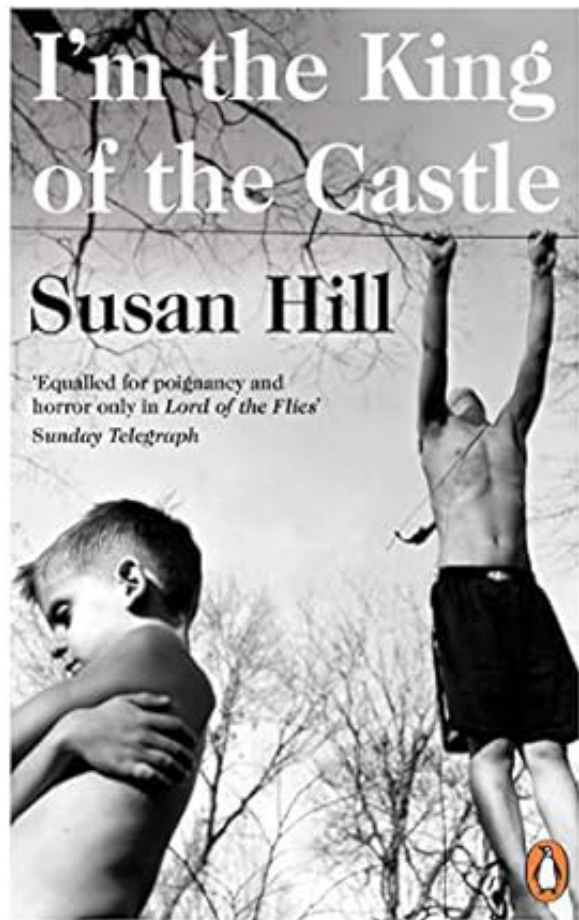
First Published: 1917

UK Pub: Michael Joseph

28 May 2026 | 496pages

Literary + Fiction Classics

REDISCOVERED + UPCOMING



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I'm the King of the Castle

Susan Hill

Discover a chilling twentieth century classic, delving into the dark and complex heart of childhood.

'Some people are coming here today, now you will have a companion.'

But young Edmund Hooper doesn't want anyone else in Warings, the large and rambling Victorian house he shares with his widowed father. Nevertheless Charles Kingshaw and his mother are soon installed and Hooper sets about subtly persecuting the fearful new arrival.

In the woods, Charles fights back but he knows that his rival will always win the affections of the adults – and that worse is still to come...

'Hill's exploration of a juvenile ghoulish and his natural prey is a brilliant tour de force'

– *Guardian*

Why It's Relevant

'Equalled for poignancy and horror only in Lord of the Flies'

– *Sunday Telegraph*

Recent BBC adaptation of Lord of the Flies.

Surge in interest in gothic and horror fiction.

Susan Hill has been a professional writer for over fifty years. Her books have won awards and prizes including the Whitbread, the John Llewellyn Rhys and a Somerset Maugham, and have been shortlisted for the Booker. In 2020 she was awarded a damehood (DBE) for services to literature.

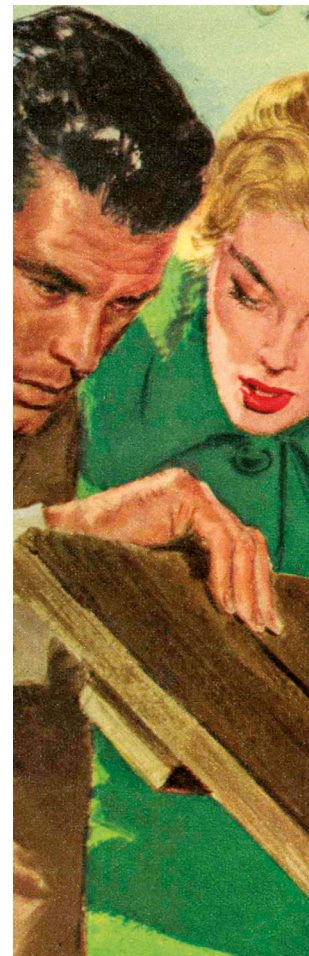
First Published: 1973

UK Pub: Penguin

7 February 2019 | 208 pages

Gothic Fiction, Contemp. Horror

ON TREND



» Rights Listing Available Here

WITH A FOREWORD
BY SOPHIE HANNAH

Answer in the Negative

HENRIETTA
HAMILTON



THE MERMAID
COLLECTION

Request Manuscript Here «

Answer in the Negative

Henrietta Hamilton

A 1950s Fleet Street murder mystery for classic crime fans

Frank Morningside, assistant at The National Press Archives on Fleet Street, is receiving nasty poison pen letters. His superior Toby Lorn wants to put a stop to it, so he calls on his friends Sally and Johnny Helder.

Married amateur sleuths, Sally and Johnny agree to go undercover, posing as researchers to scout out the many suspects in the Archives. But, soon after they begin, they find a body – bludgeoned to death by a box of glass negatives.

Suddenly, the genteel world of the Archives is a tangled web of suspicion and deadly danger. When another murder swiftly follows, the Helderars worry they are in over their heads.

And it is only a matter of time before one of them is next...

Why It's Relevant

Henrietta Hamilton fits perfectly into the revival of women crime writers, and Answer in the Negative is the answer to classic, cosy British mysteries:

- bibliophile based mysteries
- a 'fresh' voice for the classic crime market
- a female sleuth

Henrietta Hamilton wrote bibliophile golden age mysteries. During the Second World War, Hamilton served in the Wrens. Afterwards, she worked in a London bookshop, gaining first-hand experience of antiquarian bookselling – the background of her crime-solving duo, Johnny and Sally Helder.

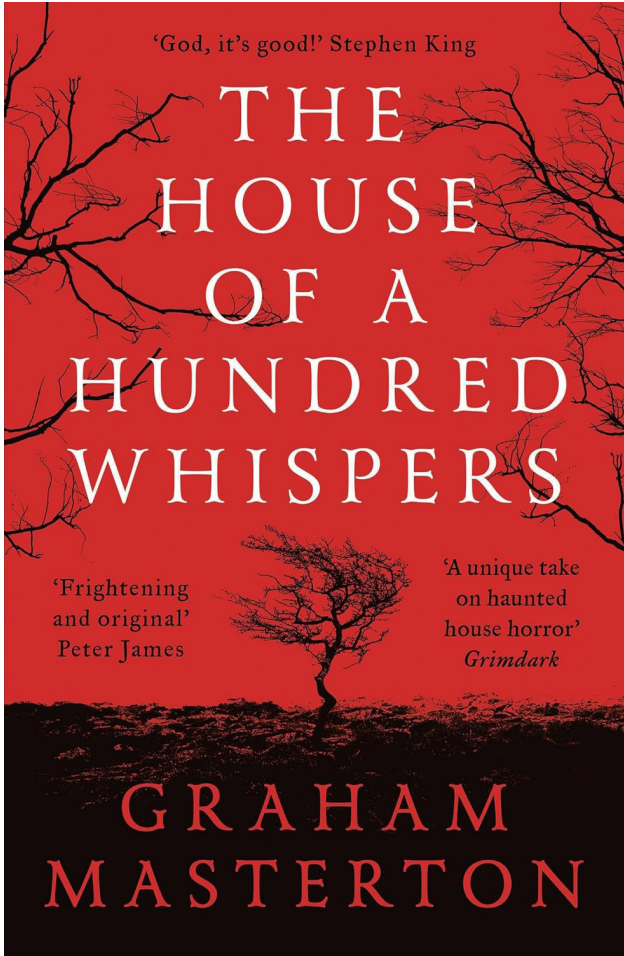
First Published: 1959

UK Pub: Michael Joseph

12 March 2026 | 240 pages

Classic Crime, Women Sleuths

REDISCOVERED & NEW PUBLICATION



» Rights Listing Available Here

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The House of a Hundred Whispers

Graham Masterton

Does evil linger in the walls? Or is evil only ever found inside the minds of men?

All Hallows Hall, a rambling Tudor mansion on the edge of the bleak and misty Dartmoor, is not a place many would choose to live. Yet the former Governor of Dartmoor Prison did just that. Now he's dead, and his children – long estranged – are set to inherit his estate.

But when the dead man's family come to stay, the atmosphere of the moors seems to drift into every room. Floorboards creak, secret passageways echo, and wind whistles in the house's famous priest hole. And then, on the same morning the family decide to leave All Hallows Hall and never come back, their young son Timmy disappears – from inside the house.

Why It's Relevant

Classic Haunted House:

- atmospheric + menacing setting
- decaying + gothic ancestral home
- supernatural haunting
- perfect starting place for new readers of Masterton

Graham Masterton was born in Edinburgh in 1946. Graham spent twenty-five years as one of the world's bestselling horror authors before he turned his talent to crime writing. Graham continues to write thrillers and horror novels alongside the Katie Maguire series, which has now sold over a million copies worldwide.

First Published: 2020

UK Pub: Head of Zeus

1 October 2020 | 400 pages

Ghost Horror, Horror Thrillers

ON TREND



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

City

Clifford D. Simak

This award-winning sci-fi classic explores a far-future world inhabited by intelligent canines who pass down the tales of their human forefathers.

Thousands of years have passed since humankind abandoned the city – first for the countryside, then for the stars, and ultimately for oblivion – leaving their most loyal animal companions alone on Earth. Granted the power of speech centuries earlier by the revered Bruce Webster, the intelligent, pacifist dogs are the last keepers of human history, raising their pups with bedtime stories, passed down through generations, of the lost ‘websters’ who gave them so much but will never return.

With the aid of Jenkins, an ageless service robot, the dogs live in a world of harmony and peace. But they now face serious threats from their own and other dimensions, perhaps the most dangerous of all being the reawakened remnants of a warlike race called ‘Man’.

Why It's Relevant

Winner of the International Fantasy Award, City is a magnificent literary metropolis filled with an astonishing array of interlinked stories and structures – at once dystopian, transcendent, compassionate, and visionary.

Clifford D. Simak was one of the leading science fiction writers of his generation and one of the giants of the genre. Simak won three Hugo Awards, one Nebula Award, and was the third Grand Master of the ‘Science Fiction Writers of America’ and was one of the first to receive the Bram Stoker Award for Lifetime Achievement.

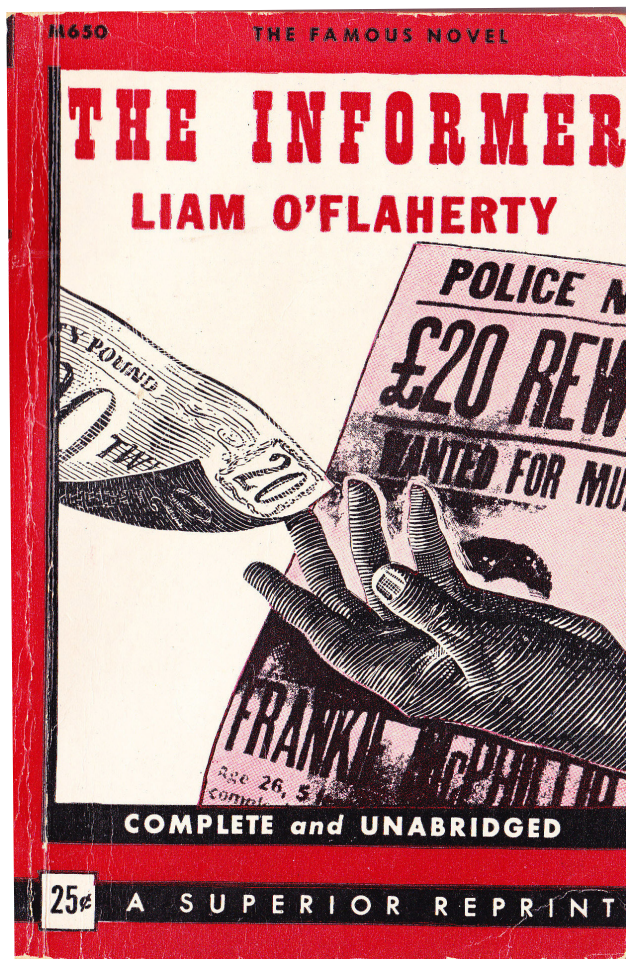
First Published: 1952

UK Pub: Gollancz

9 June 2011 | 272 pages

Dystopian, Science Fiction

POPULAR



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

The Informer

Liam O'Flaherty

The world-famous novel of a man who committed the unforgivable sin – and of man's passions, greeds, and search for redemption.

In *The Informer*, O'Flaherty turns to an entralling revolutionary drama in a gripping work of literature set against the turbulent backdrop of the Dublin underworld. This powerful novel plunges readers into a world of intense suspense, where the stakes are life and death, and loyalty is a dangerous commodity.

Gypo Nolan, an ex-policeman and informer, takes blood money for betraying his friend and comrade, Frankie McPhillip's.

After spilling Frankie's whereabouts of to the police, Gypo finds himself hunted by his revolutionary comrades who seek revenge for this betrayal.

Why It's Relevant

Set in 1920's Dublin in the aftermath of the Irish Civil War, Liam O'Flaherty's powerful novel is a story of political betrayal, a brand of sin long abominated in Irish history, and has created a character of Dostoevskian force.

Winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction in 1925.

Liam O'Flaherty was an Irish writer. A leading figure of the Irish Renaissance, his work blended psychology, poetry and sharp satire. After leaving the priesthood in 1917, he served in WWI and travelled through the Americas and the Middle East before returning to England, where, desitutue, he turned to writing.

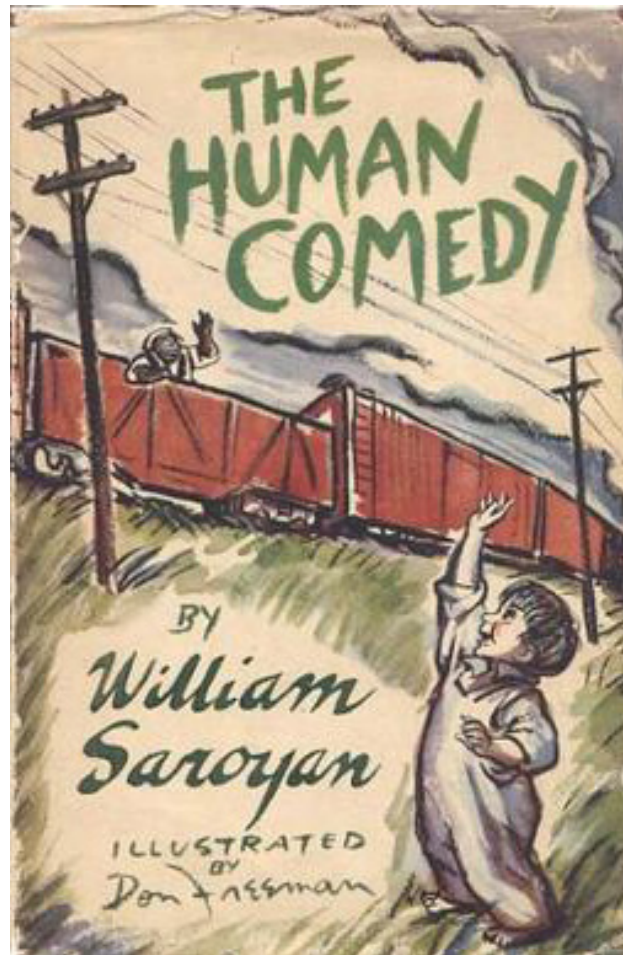
First Published: 1925

UK Pub: n/a

215 pages

Literary Fiction, Suspense

MODERN CLASSIC



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

The Human Comedy

William Saroyan

The classic american novel of an unforgettable California family.

The place is Ithaca, in California's San Joaquin Valley. The time is World War II. The family is the Macauley's - a mother, sister, and three brothers whose struggles and dreams reflect those of America's second generation immigrants... In particular, fourteen-year-old Homer, determined to become one of the fastest telegraph messengers in the West, finds himself caught between reality and illusion as delivering his messages of wartime death, love, and money brings him face-to-face with human emotion at its most naked and raw.

Gentle, poignant and richly autobiographical, this delightful novel shows us the boy becoming the man in a world that even in the midst of war, appears sweeter, safer and more liveable than our own.

Why It's Relevant

With the themes of re-turning home, character's names in the book, as well as the setting, the books is thematically linked to Homer's Odyssey, which has an upcoming and highly anticipated screen adaption.

William Saroyan was born in Fresno, California, the son of an Armenian immigrant. In 1934, *Story* magazine published *The Daring Young Man On The Flying Trapeze*. Saroyan travelled through the Soviet Union and Europe but, from 1958, he lived mainly in Paris and continued writing until his death in 1981.

First Published: 1943

UK Pub: n/a

192 pages

Literary Fiction, WWII

REDISCOVERED



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

Spy Hook

Len Deighton

Millions of pounds have gone missing, and the Department have sent agent Bernard Samson to Washington to track them down. But this mission is just the start of something far deeper and darker. It will take him from the English suburbs to Berlin, the South of France to Los Angeles and the heart of a maelstrom.

In the first part of the Hook, Line and Sinker trilogy, friends become enemies, pursuer becomes victim and no one – not even Bernard himself – is above suspicion.

‘Deighton’s Samson trilogies are as much about the elusiveness of human interactions as espionage. Spying is not a secret world sealed off from ordinary life but an extension of the world we all live in’

– John Gray, *New Statesman*

Why It’s Relevant

Perfect for fans of John Le Carré’s *The Night Manager*, the second season of which has just been released on Amazon Prime.

With its deep undercover operations and high-stakes politics, the first of Hook, Line, and Sinker trilogy is perfect for fans looking for more.

Len Deighton is an author, journalist, film producer, and a leading writer of spy novels. Along with Ian Fleming and John Le Carré, Deighton is considered to be one of the greatest spy novelists of all time. His internationally bestselling novels broke the mould of thriller writing and have become modern classics.

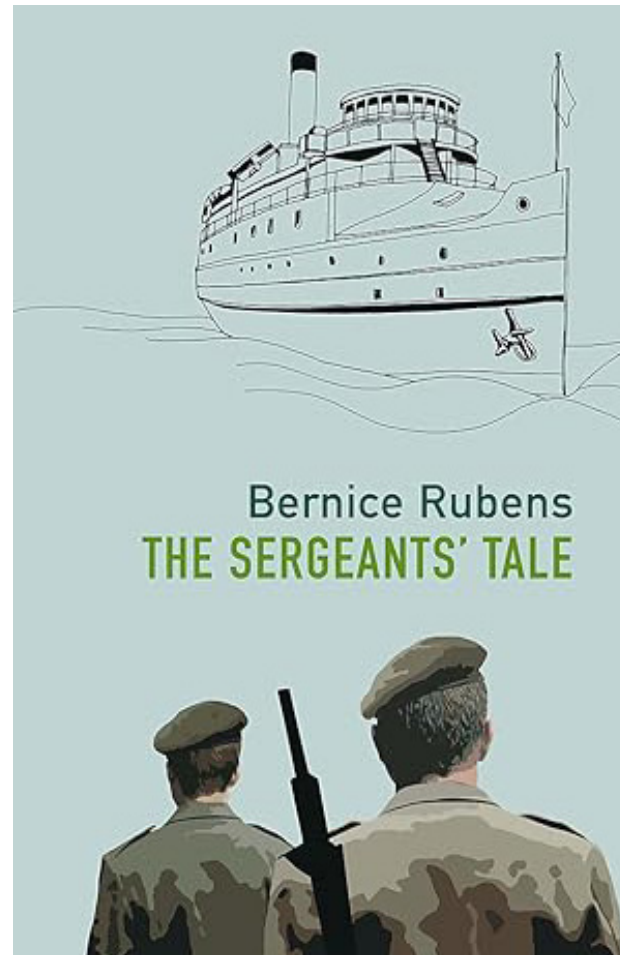
First Published: 1988

UK Pub: Penguin Classics

29 July 2021 | 288 pages

Espionage, Thrillers

POP CULTURE



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

The Sergeants' Tale

Bernice Rubens

From Booker winner, Bernice Rubens.

1947: One year before the Israeli War of Independence and Palestine is still under the British Mandate.

However, young Israelis are flocking to the leadership of Menachim Begin and his Irgun terrorist movement in an attempt to overthrow their rulers.

Two British sergeants are kidnapped by the Irgun. They will be executed unless there is a widespread amnesty for the Irgun freedom fighters – and so begins a hunt throughout Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the whole of Palestine to find and liberate the two innocent young men.

Why It’s Relevant

Based on a true story, *The Sergeant's Tale* illuminates an historical episode, and also has enormous contemporary poignancy.

Bernice Rubens (1928–2004) was a Cardiff-born novelist from a Jewish-Lithuanian and Polish family.

She began writing in her mid-thirties and became the first woman to win the Booker Prize – and the only Welsh writer to do so

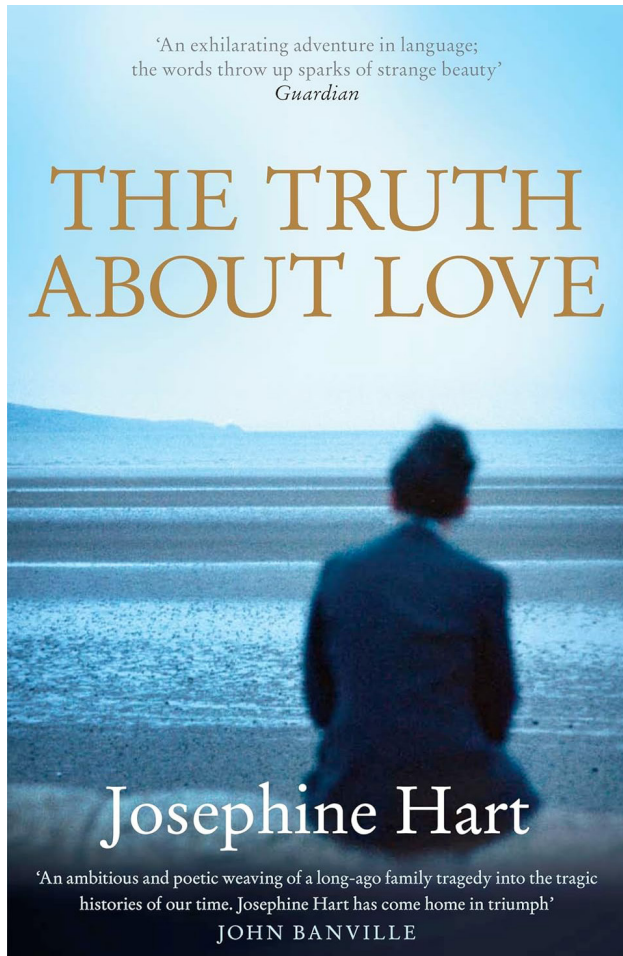
First Published: 2003

UK Pub: n/a

07 October 2004 | 224 pages

Literary + Historical Fiction

CURRENT EVENTS



» Rights Listing Available Here

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The Truth About Love

Josephine Hart

The accidental death of a teenage boy has a profound effect on a small Irish town in this compelling novel from bestselling author of *Damage*.

It's dangerous... and that's the truth about love...

As Sissy, the boy's mother, struggles to overcome her senseless loss, her daughter, Olivia, works to keep her brother's memory alive in a swiftly changing country. And Thomas – known as 'The German' to his neighbors – is drawn into the family's grief, forcing him to confront the past that has brought him to Ireland and a new crossroads.

Set in Ireland, this brilliant, intense story is about a family named O'Hara who chose to remain in the place of their loss, and the stranger from Germany who has run from his. It's about love – for another, for a country, for family – and survival, and it's remarkable.

Why It's Relevant

A brilliant meditation on love, loss, and the beauty of living even when times are tough, *The Truth About Love* shows us how men and women are shaped by tragedy, by their inherent characters, and by what they are able to learn from one another.

Josephine Hart was an Irish-born novelist and cultural advocate. She founded what is now The Josephine Hart Poetry Hour and championed poetry in schools. Her final novel, *The Truth About Love*, appeared in 2009, and *Damage* and *Sin* were reissued as Virago Modern Classics in 2011.

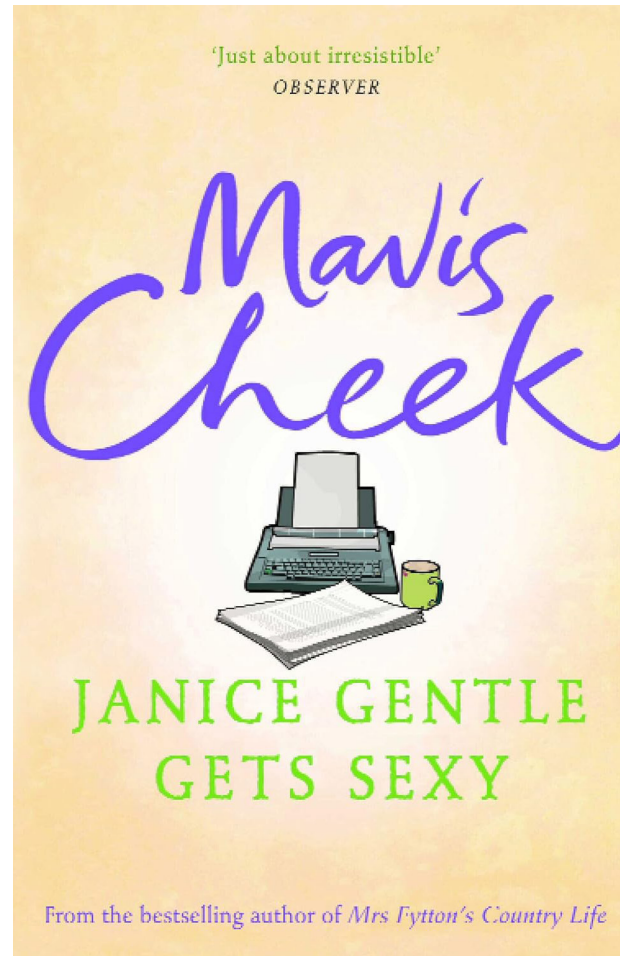
First Published: 2009

UK Pub: Virago

5 February 2009 | 224 pages

Literary & Contemporary Fiction

MODERN CLASSIC



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

Janice Gentle Gets Sexy

Mavis Cheek

A reclusive romance novelist looking for love is asked to make her books sexier in order to sell.

Janice Gentle, under pressure from her money-obsessed agent, writes delicate, romantic novels with one goal in mind: to make enough money to find the man she loved and lost twenty years ago.

But when Rohanne Bulbecker, a successful New York publisher, asks for Janice's help with an extremely marketable idea, it's an opportunity for Janice to abandon her usual predictable genre and try something entirely new...

'Cheek is a comic writer who is honourably fulfilling her contract to amuse... But she is also a proper writer and rage, passion and the authentic yowl of pain lies beneath her jolly prose'

– *The Observer*

Why It's Relevant

Comic, witty, and sharp, Mavis' books are perfect for that cosy, uplifting funny niche readers are looking to fill.

These books offer a bright spot in the uplift, domestic market.

Janice perfectly hits these notes in a comic nod to our current romance trends.

Mavis Cheek began her career in the contemporary art world, and later turned to writing. Her debut, *Pause Between Acts*, won the SHE/John Menzies First Novel Prize.

Often likened to "Jane Austen in modern dress," she went on to publish fifteen novels as well as radio and short-story work.

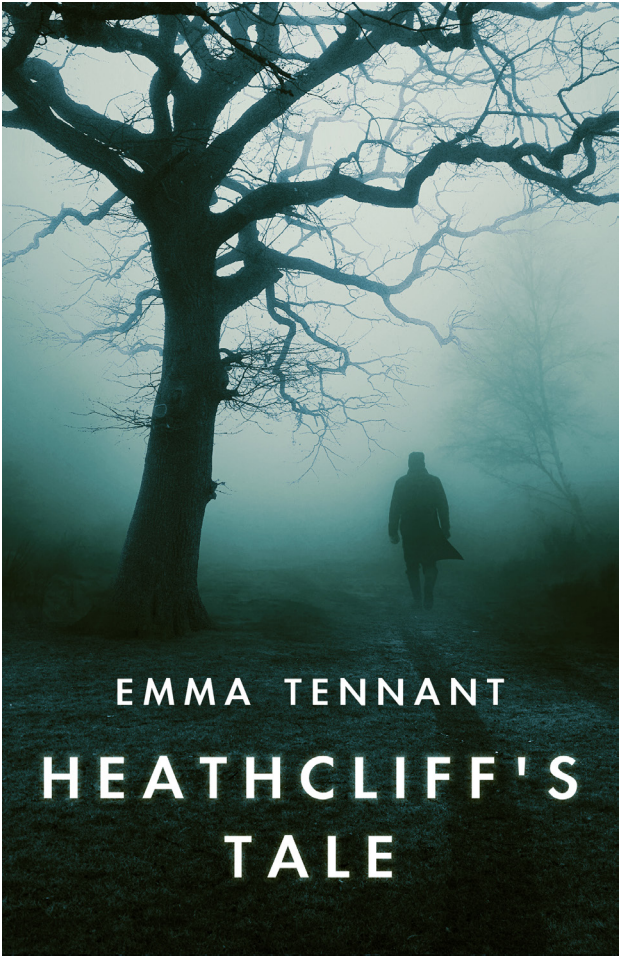
First Published: 1993

UK Pub: n/a

336 pages

Contemporary, Humorous

ON TREND



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

Heathcliff's Tale

Emma Tennant

This chilling tale revisits *Wuthering Heights*, Tennant shines a sliver of light on the mysterious Emily Bronte and her haunting novel.

After Emily Bronte's death, Henry Newby is dispatched to her home in Haworth Parsonage to retrieve an unpublished manuscript. Upon his arrival, he finds pages burning in a fire. Fearing this is the manuscript he's been sent for, he rescues what he can from the flames. Sheltered from the howling wind and the lashing rain, Henry reads long into the night. And as he does, the line between truth and fiction blurs...

Poring over the pages, Henry wonders whether this narrative is the work of fiction he was sent to recover – or something more sinister, more insidious. Is the spirit of Emily still lingering, spilling the black soul of Heathcliff among the flame and ashes?

Alone, afraid, and tormented, Henry must piece together the enigma of Heathcliff before the night catches up with him...

Why It's Relevant

Wuthering Heights book sales increased 500% with the release of Emerald Fennell's "Wuthering Heights".

Tennant expands on the heartwrenching gothic tale to satisfy readers looking for more.

Emma Tennant was an English novelist known for her post-modern approach to fiction. Tennant produced gothic fantasies, postmodern fairy tales, prequels, sequels, and literary doubles.

An avid reader of the classics, her novels return again and again to the bifurcated lives of women.

First Published: 2005

UK Pub: n/a

170 pages

Retellings, Gothic Fiction

POP CULTURE



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Death Stops the Frolic

George Bellairs

A murder in a chapel leaves everyone as a suspect.

Something strange is afoot at Zion Chapel's Anniversary Tea Party. The infamous Alderman Harbottle is behaving uncharacteristically playful – laughing, singing, and leading a rousing game of Follow-My-Leader throughout the chapel's winding halls.

But his jubilee is cut short when the revellers find the Alderman's murdered body in the dark recesses of the chapel, a bread knife buried to the hilt in his chest.

Superintendent Nankivell of the local police force takes up the case, and his investigation quickly stirs up sinister secrets lurking within the walls of Zion Chapel. His suspect list soon proves massive, as he learns many people would be happier without the sanctimonious Alderman Harbottle around...

Why It's Relevant

Perfect for fans of the most recent *Knives Out* films, *Wake Up Dead Man*.

Same cosy feel, similar setting, but in this case, a British detective.

George Bellairs was the pseudonym of Harold Blundell (1902–1982). He was, by day, a Manchester bank manager with close connections. He is often referred to as the English Simenon, as his detective stories combine wicked crimes and classic police procedurals set in quaint villages.

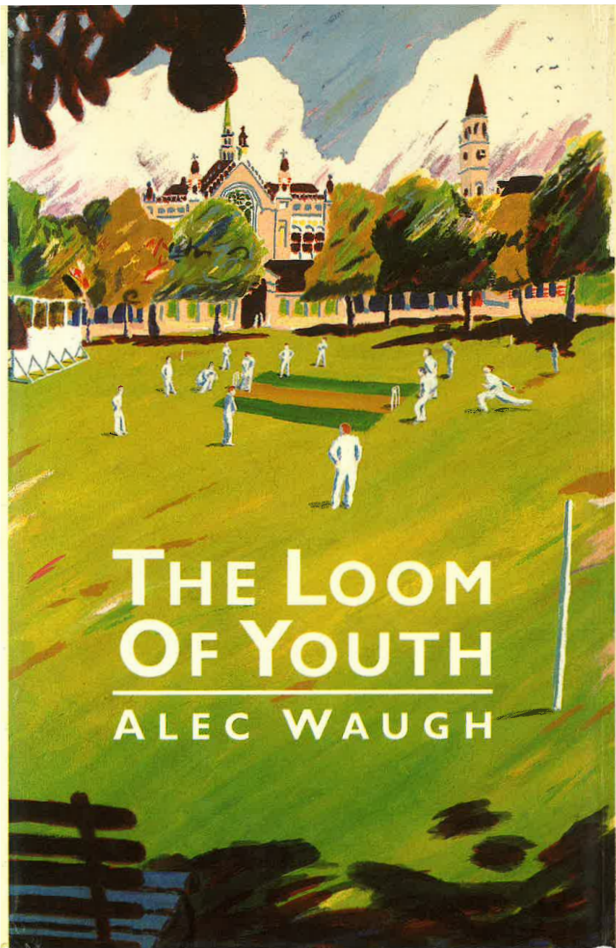
First Published: 1943

UK Pub: n/a

198 pages

Classic Crime, Cosy Crime

REDISCOVERED



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Request Manuscript Here «

The Loom of Youth

Alec Waugh

Published during the third year of WWII, ‘the rebelliousness of *The Loom of Youth* was in tune with the temper of the hour’.

This semi-autobiographical work tells the story of Gordon Caruthers’s schooldays at the English public school, Fenhurst.

From his confusion and isolation, through rebellious school escapades and relationships with fellow students, Alec Waugh reveals his own deep criticism of a system forcing pupils to conform to flawed ideals, and the inevitable consequences of thrusting thirteen-year-old children and eighteen-year-old adolescents together.

The book caused a storm of controversy at the time and was banned in many schools.

Today it can be rightly seen as a controversial comment on public school life, and a classic.

Why It’s Relevant

This semi-autobiographical best-seller was controversial for its ‘honest depictions of love among schoolboys’.

It opened up important discussions about toxic masculinity in the early twentieth century.

A charismatic rebel and part of the celebrated Waugh family, **Alec Waugh** is remembered in his own right for his many contributions as a novelist and travel writer.

In his career, Waugh authored over fifty books. Spending most of his adult life abroad, his writings often focused on travel.

First Published: 1917

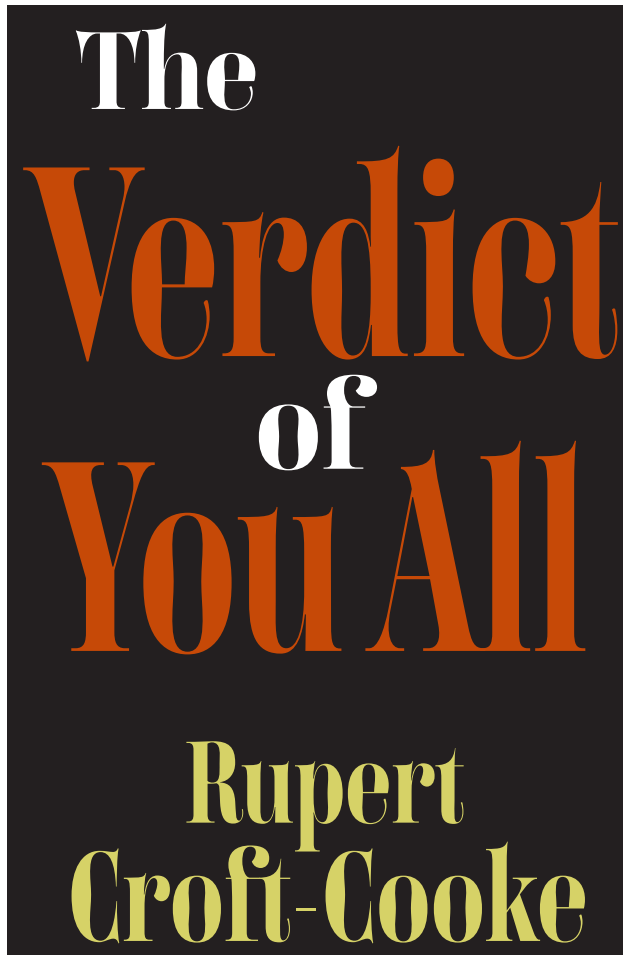
UK Pub: Bloomsbury

15 November 2012 | 370 pages

Literary Fiction, Classics

REDISCOVERED

Spotlight Non-Fiction



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The Verdict of You All

Rupert Croft-Cooke

The things I am describing, and most those I am about to describe, could have happened to anyone in Great Britain in this middle century.

In the Autumn of 1953 Rupert Croft-Cooke, a distinguished novelist with a fine war record, was arrested in his Sussex home and charged with a homosexual offence. In spite of evidence of his character given by Sir Compton Mackenzie and others, and many controversial aspects of the case, he was sentenced to nine months imprisonment.

He served the sentence for the most part in Wormwood Scrubbs, with a short interlude in Brixton Prison. In *The Verdict of You All* he deals with the events leading up to his sentence and with his experience as a prisoner.

Why It's Relevant

This memoir remains strikingly relevant to-day because its central concerns — state intolerance, the criminalisation of sexuality, and the realities of imprisonment — still echo in contemporary debates.

Rupert Croft-Cooke was an English biographer and author of fiction and non-fiction, including screenplays and biographies under his own name and detective stories under the pseudonym of Leo Bruce.

Under this pen-name, Bruce wrote over thirty crime novels.

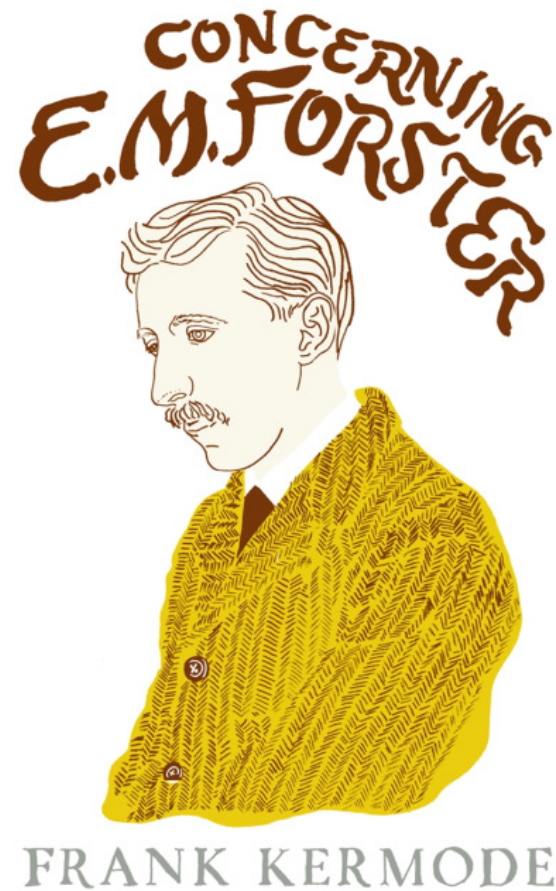
First Published: 1955

UK Pub: n/a

254 pages

Memoir, Essays + Journals

REDISCOVERED



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Concerning E. M. Forster

Frank Kermode

A rich, varied and original portrait of a literary great.

When Sir Frank Kermode delivered the Clark Lectures at Cambridge University, he chose E.M. Forster as his subject; these lectures form the core of this book. Kermode reappraises the influence and meaning of Forster's oeuvre, offering a fascinating interpretation of his most celebrated work, *A Passage to India*.

There follows a series of interweaving discussions that bring to life diverse topics – Empire, class, poverty, the condition of the novel, the role of the artist – but always return to our enigmatic subject. Kermode also reflects on Forster's considerable talent and shortcomings, places him within a wider social context, and casts spotlight on his contemporaries, presenting a unique panorama of twentieth-century English literature.

Why It's Relevant

A major reassessment of the one of the greatest English novelist of the twentieth century, from celebrated critic Sir Frank Kermode.

'Delightful, illuminating study'

– Boyd Tonkin
Independent

Sir Frank Kermode has been a prominent figure in the world of literary criticism since the 1960s.

He has been King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at Cambridge and Professor of Poetry at Harvard.

He was knighted in 1991.

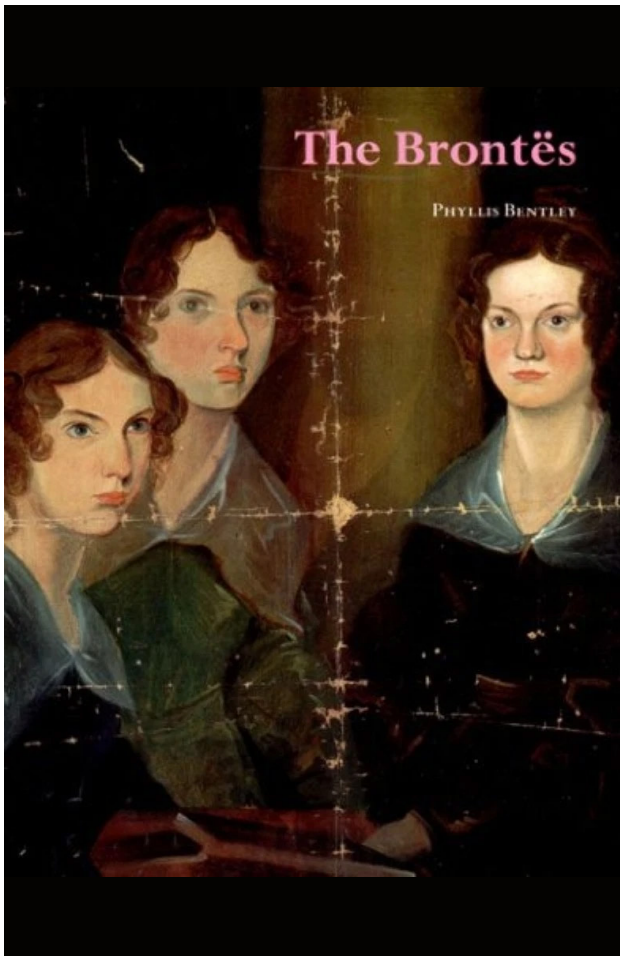
First Published: 2009

UK Pub: W&N

25 November 2010 | 192 pages

Literary Biographies, Lit. Criticism.

REDISCOVERED



» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «

The Brontës

Phyllis Bentley

Discover the inner lives of the three sisters who enduring and timeless work continues to inspire new generations with passion.

More than a century after the death of the three Brontë sisters, the highly individual and poetic flavour of their work attracts an increasing number of readers from all round the world.

Phyllis Bentley, herself a Yorkshirewoman and one of the leading authorities on the Brontës, suggests that their peculiar quality – ‘a unique blend of poetry with prose...of realism with romance’ – resulted from the fusion in their natures of their Celtic heredity (an Irish father and a mother from Cornwall) with their Yorkshire environment.

The wild and beautiful moors which surrounded and isolated Haworth Parsonage, played a vital part in their novels and Emily’s masterpiece *Wuthering Heights* owes both its setting and its characters to the moors.

Why It's Relevant

The Brontë sisters, who occupy such an important place in English literature, continue to fascinate us –the passionate intensity of Emily’s *Wuthering Heights*, the blend of romance and realism in Charlotte’s *Jane Eyre*, the domestic drama of Anne’s *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

Phyllis Bentley, who was herself a distinguished novelist, was a former member of the Brontë Society Council. She edited the Heather edition of the Brontë novels, and her critical work includes *The Brontës* (1947), *The Brontës and their World* (1969) and the PEN booklet, *The English Regional Novel*.

First Published: 1947

UK Pub: n/a

144 pages

Literary + Womens’ Biographies

POP CULTURE

Perpetually Popular



This Real Night
Rebecca West

An eccentric London family tries to find their place in this semiautobiographical novel by a New York Times–bestselling author.

Rose Aubrey is one of a family of four children. Their father, Piers, is the disgraced son of an Irish landowning family, a violent, noble and quite unscrupulous leader of popular causes. His Scottish wife, Clare, is an artist, a tower of strength, fanatically devoted to a musical future for her daughters.

This is the story of their life in south London, a life threatened by Piers’s streak of tragic folly which keeps them on the verge of financial ruin and social disgrace...

‘Extraordinary and enchanting’
— Hilary Spurling, *Observer*

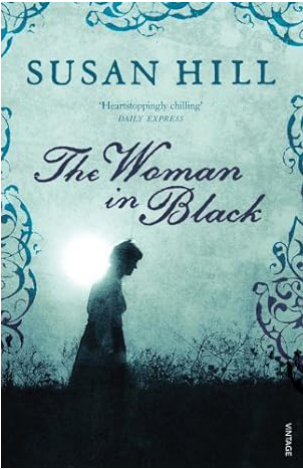
First Published: 1956
UK Pub: Virago
31 March 2011 | 449 pages
Literary Fiction, Fiction Classics

Why It's Popular

- a masterclass in child narration
- explores the tension between creativity and instability
- a witty and astute portrait of family life

» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «



The Woman in Black
Susan Hill

Read the truly terrifying classic English ghost story behind the play.

Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House.

The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black – and her terrible purpose.

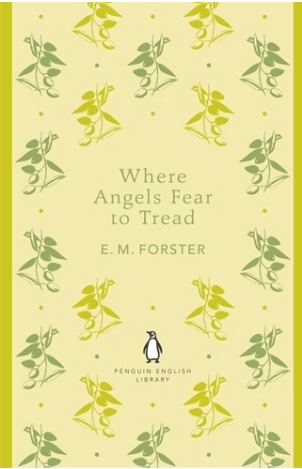
First Published: 1983
UK Pub: Vintage
20 June 2024 | 208 pages
Horror Fiction Classics, Contemp. Fic.

Why It's Popular

- revival of the Victorian ghost story tradition
- literary writing that is both classic and accessible
- a pervasively unsettling atmosphere
- haunting generations

» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «



Where Angles Fear to Tread
E. M. Forster

Forster’s first novel: a witty comedy of manners that is tinged with tragedy.

It tells the story of Lilia Herriton, who proves to be an embarrassment to her late husband’s family as, in the small Tuscan town of Monteriano, she begins a relationship with a much younger Italian man – classless, uncouth and highly unsuitable.

A subtle attack on decorous Edwardian values and a humanely sympathetic portrayal of the clash of two cultures, *Where Angels Fear to Tread* is also a profound exploration of character and virtue.

First Published: 1905
UK Pub: Penguin Classics
31 May 2012 | 176 pages
Classic Fiction, Romance

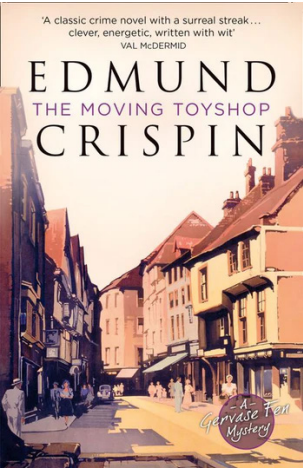
Why It's Popular

First novel by the classic author.

Explores the impact of personal choices on family dynamics and the quest for self-discovery.

» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «



The Moving Toyshop
Edmund Crispin

As inventive as Agatha Christie, as hilarious as P.G. Wodehouse – discover the delightful detective stories of Edmund Crispin.

Richard Cadogan arrives for what he thinks will be a relaxing holiday in the city of dreaming spires. Late one night, however, he discovers the dead body of an elderly woman lying in a toyshop and is coshed on the head.

When he comes to, he finds that the toyshop has disappeared and been replaced with a grocery store. The police are understandably skeptical of this tale but Richard’s former schoolmate, Gervase Fen, knows that truth is stranger than fiction .

Soon the intrepid duo are careening around town in hot pursuit of clues but just when they think they understand what has happened, the disappearing-toyshop mystery takes a sharp turn...

First Published: 1946
UK Pub: Collins Crime Club
4 June 2015 | 248 pages
British Detectives, Comic Crime

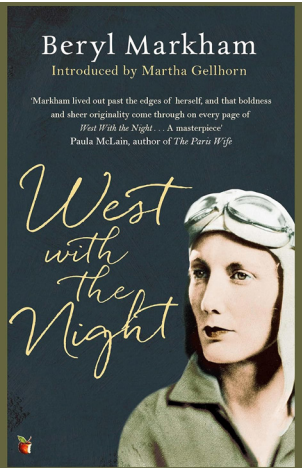
Why It's Popular

Erudite, eccentric and entirely delightful – Before Morse, Oxford's murders were solved by Gervase Fen, the most unpredictable detective in classic crime fiction.

Crime fiction at its quirkiest and best.

» Rights Listing Available Here

Request Manuscript Here «



First Published: 1942
UK Pub: Virago
27 August 2015 | 320 pages
Women's Biographies, Aviation Hist.

Why It's Popular

'A poet's feeling for her land, an adventurer's response to life'
– New York HERALD Tribune

'A beautiful and evocative story that deserves to be ranked alongside Karen Blixen's OUT OF AFRICA'
– Time Out

» Rights Listing Available Here

West With the Night

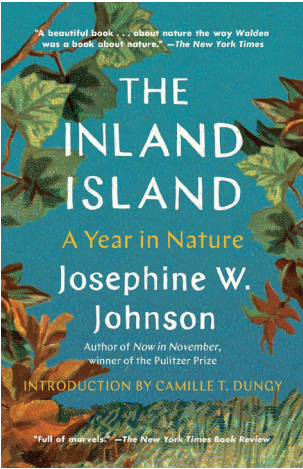
Beryl Markham

Appeared on 13 bestseller lists on first publication in 1942 and a *New York Times* bestselling memoir

A luminous account of Beryl Markham – the trailblazing aviator and racehorse trainer who came of age in colonial Kenya. Taken there as a child, she grew into one of the era's most compelling figures, moving among the adventurers and aristocrats who shaped the region's mythic allure. Encouraged by Denys Finch-Hatton, she learned to fly and became the first woman in Kenya to hold a commercial pilot's licence.

In 1936 she undertook a daring nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic, battling fierce headwinds in a modest aircraft. She crash-landed in Nova Scotia and emerged an overnight sensation – an emblem of courage, independence, and the romance of early aviation.

Request Manuscript Here «



First Published: 1969
US Pub: Scribner
19 July 2022 | 192 pages
Women's Biographies, Enviroment

Why It's Popular

Stunningly written and fiercely observed, this is a vital and relevant meditation on nature and time, capturing the wonder, beauty, hope – and flaws – of our turbulent world.

Johnson was a forerunner of iconic American women nature writers.

» Rights Listing Available Here

The Inland Island

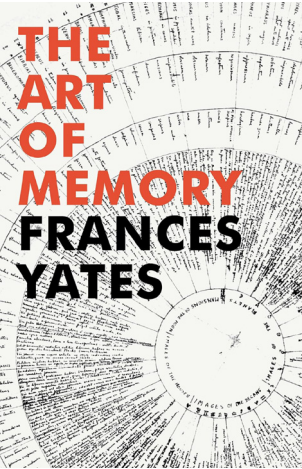
Josephine Johnson

‘A beautiful book... It should be read by everyone who still retains the capacity to feel anything’
– *The New York Times*

A startling and brilliant chronicle of nature and the seasons at Johnson's rambling thirty-seven-acre farm in Ohio, which she and her husband reverted to wilderness with the help of a state forester. Over the course of twelve months, she observes the changing landscape with a naturalist's precision and a poet's evocative language. Readers will marvel at the way she brings to life flashes of beauty, the inexorable cycle of growth and decay, and the creatures who live alongside her, great and small.

Johnson intersperses these “delicate marvels” (*The New York Times*) with profound reflections about racial inequality, urbanization, social justice, and environmental destruction that speak to our time.

Request Manuscript Here «



First Published: 2007
UK Pub: Penguin
11 November 2021 | 288 pages
Business, Smart Thinking

Why It's Popular

'Frances Yates is that rare thing, a truly thrilling scholar'
– Michael Ratcliffe, The Times

» Rights Listing Available Here

The Art of Memory

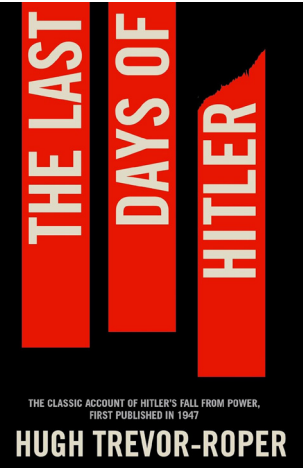
Frances Yates

This unique and brilliant books is a history of human knowledge.

Before the invention of printing, a trained memory was of vital importance. Based on a technique of impressing ‘places’ and ‘images’ on the mind, the ancient Greeks created an elaborate memory system which in turn was inherited by the Romans and passed into the European tradition, to be revived, in occult form, during the Renaissance.

Frances Yates sheds light on Dante's Divine Comedy, the form of the Shakespearian theatre and the history of ancient architecture; *The Art of Memory* is an invaluable contribution to aesthetics and psychology, and to the history of philosophy, of science and of literature.

Request Manuscript Here «



First Published: 1947
UK Pub: Picador
16 August 2012 | 303 pages
Historical Biographies, WWII Biogr.

Why It's Popular

One of the *Guardian's* 100 Best Nonfiction Books of All Time.

'This is an incomparable book... No words of praise are too strong.'
– A. J. P. Taylor, New Statesman

» Rights Listing Available Here

The Last Days of Hitler

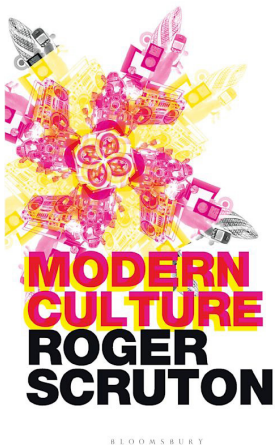
Hugh Trevor-Roper

A revelatory new history of German opposition to Hitler from 1935–1944.

In his last days, Adolf Hitler raged in his bunker that he had been betrayed by his own people, defeated from the inside. In part, he was right. By 1945, his armies were being crushed on all fronts, his regime collapsing with many fleeing retribution for their crimes. Yet, even before the war started, there were Germans very high in Hitler's command committed to bringing about his death and defeat.

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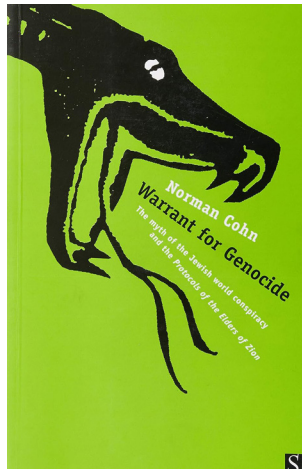
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