



Pebbles

Michael Rosen

New from prize-winning author and national treasure Michael Rosen

- New collection for grown-ups from best-selling children's writer
- Poetry-tweets by author with 250k followers on X/Twitter

About the book

Michael Rosen has been, for many years, a prodigious and prolific user of Twitter (now known as 'Eggs'). Unlike the armies of 'anonymous tweeters / raging in the twilight', his Tweets are variously fables, squibs, musings, daily observations and lifelong preoccupations – pitted prunes, anteaters, Sisyphus, the sound of rain stopping, garlic pickle, blocked sinks, lost suitcases, legs, hummus and bagels, Sats tests, Runcorn, grief, saggy jumpers, chicken soup, Eurovision, COVID, labyrinthitis, kookaburras, fringe-magnets, cucumber raita, sneezing, shamans, raisins, armpit scratching, Rishi Sunak's maths, pest-control, Dominic Raab and Franz Kafka, skip-wrestling, the after-life, the icing on the cake, antisemitism, Gaza...

Pebbles is a collection of some of Michael Rosen's most recent poetry-tweets. Sharp, pithy and eloquent, serious and comical, wise and perplexed, these are the everyday reports of an 'optimistic nihilist' –someone who doesn't believe there is any point to existence, but thinks that this is a good reason to make the most of this life while we can.

Poetry

ISBN: 9781739473440

RRP: £8.99

Pub date: 01/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 200pp, 127 × 197 mm

BISAC:

Thema:

Smokestack Books

Imprint: **Smokestack Books**

Author Bio

Michael Rosen was born in North London in 1946. After university he worked for the BBC on Play School and Schools TV. He has written and edited over 200 books, including *Mind Your Own Business*, *Wouldn't You Like to Know*, *Mustard*, *Custard*, *Grumble Belly and Gravy*, *You Tell Me*, *No Breathing in Class* and *Quick Let's Get Out of Here*. *You Can't Catch Me!* won the Signal Poetry Award. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, won the Smarties Prize. He currently presents Radio Four's long-running *Word of Mouth*. He was Children's Laureate from 2007-9 and is Professor of Children's Literature at Goldsmith's, University of London.

Purity

Andrzej Tichý



¶ It all starts with the voice. *I'll kick your teeth in.* Then I see the man. He's walking up the gangway of the bus. He moves forwards, spitting out threats. I'm standing by the doors, next to a buggy. I've been at my mum's seventy-fifth birthday party and have brought away two big plastic bags full of fruit. Apples, oranges, pears, pomegranates, kiwi fruits and grapes. I've put the plastic bags down in between my legs . . .
Translated by Nichola Smalley
Winner of an English PEN Award

Fiction

ISBN: 9781913505981

RRP: £14.99

Pub date: 04/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 176pp, 129 × 198 mm

BISAC: FIC019000

Thema: FBAN

And Other Stories

Imprint: **And Other Stories**

Author Bio

Andrzej Tichý was born in Prague to a Polish mother and a Czech father and has lived in Sweden since 1981. In Sweden, *Wretchedness* was a finalist for the August Prize and won the Eyvind Johnson Prize, while *Purity* was a finalist for the 2021 Nordic Council Literature Prize.

Purity

Andrzej Tichý? and translated by Nichola Smalley

Stylish and gritty, stories of class mobility and clash, from the author of International Booker finalist *Wretchedness*

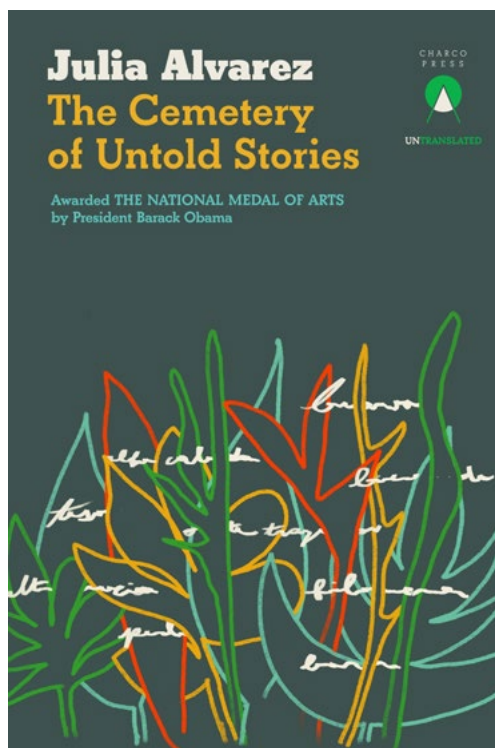
- Its themes are topical and popular and include immigration; urban/lost youth; masculinity; friendship; addiction; power of music and music; and race and racism.
- All his books get major prize attention in Sweden, where it is already widely recognized as one of the most important contemporary writers. (We discovered him because he was the single recommendation that Lina Wolff's editor in Sweden gave us from his list.)
- For readers of fiction who like their high-literary authors like Krasnahorkai, Thomas Bernhard and Mircea Cartarescu.

About the book

The stories in *Purity* take the reader through cities and suburbs, apartments and streets, to find characters struggling to survive in modern society: a man has an outburst on a bus; a fugitive finds insight in a colour wheel; a social realist kills his friend with a hammer; a thief finds himself in books. And cleaners reluctantly go on cleaning. With gravity and humour, against the backdrop of a violent civilization, people are depicted as fallen, or waiting to fall, rendered by Tichý with the fury, compassion and emotional complexity of Kendrick Lamar.

Reviews and endorsements

'How something can be simultaneously so powerful and so precise is hard to comprehend. But as a depiction of human existence in today's evermore precarious labour market, it is brilliant. The truth is that it's rare to find literary prose, or for that matter political criticism, as refined as this.' Dagens Nyheter

**Fiction**

ISBN: 9781913867829

RRP: £11.99

Pub date: 04/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 241pp, 129 x 198 mm

BISAC: FIC061000

Thema: FMM

Charco PressImprint: **Charco Press****Author Bio**

Alvarez has written many bestselling novels including: *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, *¡Yo!*, *In the Name of Salomé*, and *Afterlife*. She has also written collections of poems, non-fiction, and numerous books for young readers. *The Cemetery of Untold Stories* is her most recent novel. Her awards and recognitions include the Pura Belpré and Américas Awards for her books for young readers, the Hispanic Heritage Award, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award.

In 2013, she received the National Medal of Arts from President Obama.

The Cemetery of Untold Stories

Julia Alvarez

New from the international bestselling author of • *In the Time of the Butterflies* •

- A must-read for fans of Isabel Allende's *Violeta* and Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*
- Named a Most Anticipated Book of the Year by the New York Times, Washington Post, Today.com, Goodreads, Literary Hub, BookPage, BBC.com, and Zibby Mag
- Publishing in the US this spring- fantastic advance reviews, with over 20,000 marked to-read on Goodreads

About the book

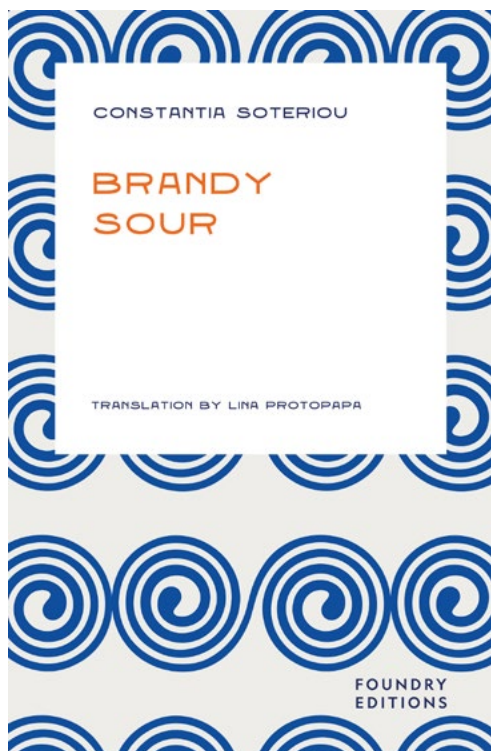
Alma Cruz, the celebrated writer at the heart of *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, doesn't want to end up like her friend, a novelist who fought so long and hard to finish a book that it threatened her sanity. So when Alma inherits a small plot of land in the Dominican Republic, her homeland, she has the beautiful idea of turning it into a place to bury her untold stories—literally. She creates a graveyard for the manuscript drafts and revisions, and the characters whose lives she tried and failed to bring to life and who still haunt her.

Reviews and endorsements

"In this imaginative new novel from critically acclaimed literary icon Julia Alvarez, untold stories are buried in a graveyard and laid to rest ... until the characters decide to revolt." Today.com

"A lyrical, thought-provoking meditation on truth, complicated family narratives, and the question of whose stories get told." Shelf Awareness

"Rich and moving... Buried stories find their way to the light in this finely crafted novel." Kirkus Reviews (starred review)



Brandy Sour

Constantia Soteriou and translated by Lina Protopapa

The hotly anticipated translation of the winner of the 2023 Cypriot National Book Prize

- New from the author of the 2019 Commonwealth Short Story Prize
- Launching with an unmissable campaign across broadcast, broadsheet, magazines and digital from Midas PR
- Beautifully produced reading copies available for booksellers

Fiction

ISBN: 9781738446308

RRP: £11.99

Pub date: 04/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 112pp, 129 × 198 mm

BISAC: FIC014090

Thema: Fiction

Foundry Editions

Imprint: **Foundry Editions**

Author Bio

CONSTANTIA SOTERIOU was born in Nicosia in 1975. Her novels *Aishe Goes on Vacation* and *Voices Made of Soil* were shortlisted for the Greek and Cypriot National Book Awards. Her short story, 'Death Customs', was the winner of the 2019 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Her short stories have been translated into English, Italian, Danish, Turkish, Serbian, and Ukrainian, and appeared on BBC Radio 4 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

About the book

When it was built in the 1950s, nothing symbolised Cyprus entering the modern world like the Ledra Palace Hotel. In Constantia Soteriou's jewel of a novella, the ambitions and shortcomings of the island's turbulent twentieth century are played out by its occupants. Among them we meet the king in exile who needs to drown his sorrows with a drink disguised to look like tea; the porter who, among the English roses of the hotel's gardens, secretly plants a rose from his village to make his rosebud infusions; the UN officer who drinks lemonade to deal with the heat and the lies; and the cleaning lady who always carries her holy water with her. They are reluctant actors in history, evocatively captured in this moving, personal, and highly original portrait of civil strife and division.

Reviews and endorsements

'Soteriou's is not a historical novel, but a novel that uses history in an inventive way to explore the trauma of today' Evgenia Bogianou, *I Avgi*

**Memoir**

ISBN: 9798988670049

RRP: £15

Pub date: 10/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 272pp, 156 x 234 mm

BISAC: BIO004000

Thema:

ZE BooksImprint: **ZE Books****Author Bio**

Twist

Unknown

“One of the most original, amazing stories I’ve ever read.” Mary Gaitskill

- In frank prose without an ounce of self-pity, *Twist* is an episodic survival of the fittest, navigating the crooked rivers of poverty, race, sexuality, and gender.

- It is a world of little girl gangsters, drag queen solidarity, wild roller-skating, and magical thinking. With *Twist*, Bertei gives us a story of violence and madness, of heartbreak and perseverance, and redemption.

- For fans of *Lady Sings the Blues* by Billie Holiday and *My Name is Why* by Lemn Sissay.

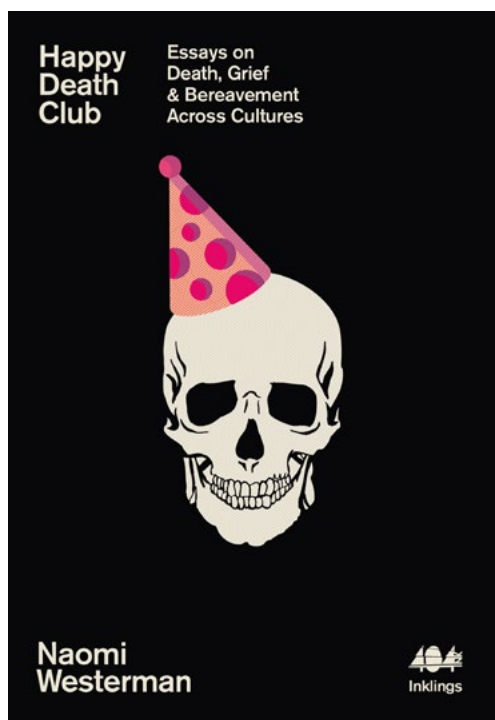
About the book

From iconoclastic writer and musician Adele Bertei comes a wholly original hero’s journey that wages war on the cliché of the “misery memoir.” Set in a 1960s and ’70s American neighborhood rife with poverty and violence, fatherless Irish mothers and Italian mobsters, and women crucified into madness by misogyny, Bertei speaks through her electrically alive avatar Maddie Twist to flip the victim script.

Bertei reveals what it’s like to be a queer teen at a time when discovery could be fatal. Maddie peers deeply into the American psyche, refusing to consent to the systems of harm. A compelling personal history of queer culture from a working-class view and a glimpse into worlds yet unseen, *Twist* is good medicine: for readers who’ve experienced similar traumas, for teens caught in the foster care system, for the formerly incarcerated looking for hope, for writers grappling with how to tell their own stories.

Reviews and endorsements

“One of the most original, amazing stories I’ve ever read” (Mary Gaitskill), iconic rock-and-roll musician Adele Bertei’s memoir *Twist* is her harrowing and electric story of transforming trauma through art, pluck, and imagination, as told through the inimitable voice of her young alter ego, Maddie Twist.



Happy Death Club

Naomi Westerman

The next in the acclaimed Inklings Series of nonfiction pocket books!

- Part of an ongoing series: Compact deep dives into varied, interesting and timely topics, designed with an overarching series look.
- Pocket-sized: Small books offering a deep dive on interesting topics. Perfect impulse purchase, getting a lot of information for cost.
- Keywords: Death and grief, society and culture

Nonfiction

ISBN: 9781912489886

RRP: £7.5

Pub date: 13/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 112pp, 120 × 175 mm

BISAC:

Thema: JHBZ

404 Ink

Imprint: **404 Ink**

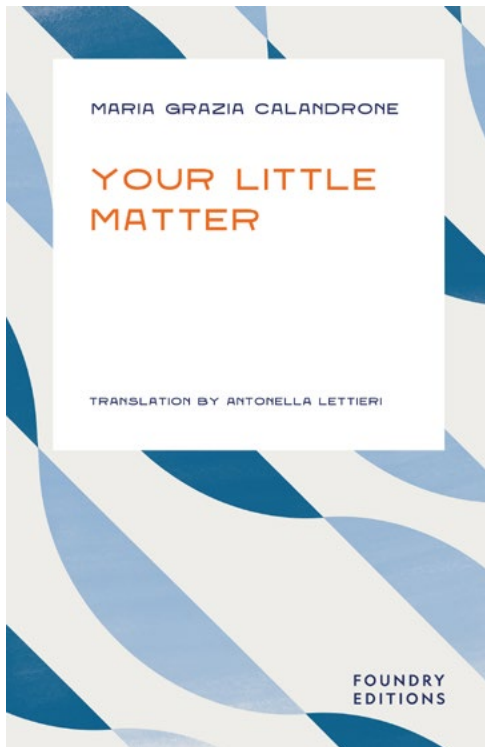
Author Bio

Naomi Westerman is a playwright and former anthropologist. As an anthropologist, Naomi studied death rituals around the world, also working on mental health and gender. She changed careers and became a professional writer in 2015, and since then her work has been widely performed at theatres in London and across the UK and internationally, including in the West End and off-Broadway. Her first TV series 'The Faulty Elephants', a comedy-drama about the world's first all-disabled criminal heist gang, is currently in development. She is a recipient of the Royal Society of Literature Award, the Michael Grandage Futures Bursary, the Derby Theatre / In Good Co Mid-Career Commission Award, and was a finalist for the Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award at the Young Vic.

About the book

Playwright Naomi Westerman was an anthropology grad student studying death rituals around the world when her whole family died, turning death from the academic to the deeply personal. She struggled with grief and talking about, particularly as a young woman, realising while death is everywhere in our culture, grief is harder to find in specialist ways.

This Inkling combines academic study with memoir to discuss the popularity of murder as entertainment in true crime podcasts; women working in the death industry; Naomi's love of horror and what it's like writing horror movies for a living when your mum was maybe murdered; the rise of death peer support groups; and death rituals in other countries. Happy Death Club provides a frank, touching and sometimes hilarious look at death, grief, and bereavement.



Your Little Matter

Maria Grazia Calandrone and translated by Antonella Lettieri

Shortlisted for the 2023 Premio Strega

- A must-read for fans of Elena Ferrante
- Over 35,000 copies sold in Italy
- Launching with a major UK campaign from Midas PR across traditional and digital media

Fiction

ISBN: 9781738446322

RRP: £12.99

Pub date: 18/06/2024

Format: Paperback, pp, 129 × 198 mm

BISAC: FIC041000

Thema: Fiction

Foundry Editions

Imprint: **Foundry Editions**

Author Bio

MARIA GRAZIA CALANDRONE is a poet, writer, journalist, playwright, visual artist, teacher, author and RAI host. She writes for *Il Corriere della Sera* and *7*. She has written numerous books of poetry for Mondadori "Specchio" and Crocetti. Her prose works include a novel about her adoptive mother, *Splendi come vita* (Ponte alle Grazie 2021), which was a finalist for the Strega Prize, the Trio Strega Giovani Prize, and the Bergamo and Comisso awards.

About the book

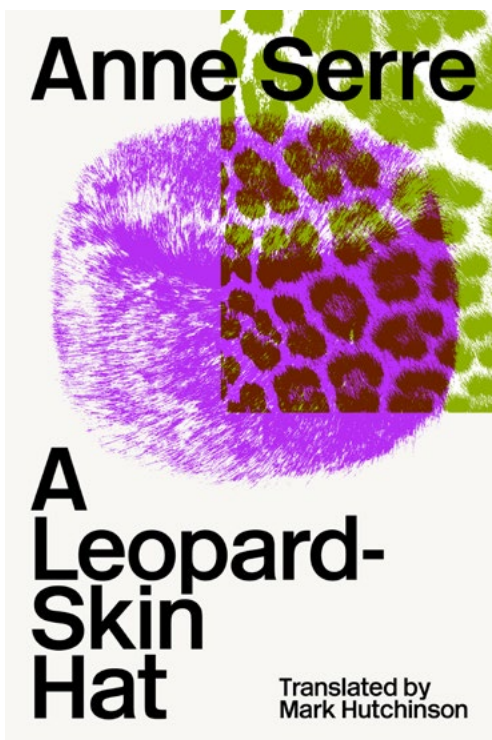
Rome 1965. A man and a woman, excluded from Italian society, abandon their eight month old daughter in the Villa Borghese and take extreme action. In 2021, that child, author Maria Grazia Calandrone, sets out to discover the truth of what happened, examining the places where her mother lived and suffered.

Your Little Matter is an intimate reconstruction of the life and death of a parent, a shocking insight into the real lives of marginalised women from the Italian South in the relatively recent past, and the revelation of a cause celebre that was a catalyst for social change in Italy. Combining poetic and philosophical insight with forensic investigation, the completely personal with the very public, the book tells a devastating story of how the institutionalised callousness of state and society can lead to tragedy, and how the dogged pursuit of personal choice can lead to liberation.

Your Little Matter was shortlisted for the 2023 Premio Strega.

Reviews and endorsements

'An incredible story, lyrically told, of the downtrodden and defeated in this world.' Federica de Paolis, *tuttolibri*, *La Stampa*

**Fiction**

ISBN: 9781915267245

RRP: £11.99

Pub date: 20/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 112pp, 125 × 185 mm

BISAC: FIC000000

Thema: FBA

Lolli EditionsImprint: **Lolli Editions****Author Bio**

ANNE SERRE (b. 1960) is the author of fifteen books, as well as numerous short stories and essays, and the recipient of a 2008 Cino del Duca Foundation award. Her first novel *Les Gouvernantes* was praised in *La Croix* for 'its remarkable economy of style and in *Libération* as 'a delightful Sabbath'. From its publication in 1992, till 2000, she worked under a pseudonym as book editor of a leading magazine for women. Serre won the 2020 Goncourt de la nouvelle for her short story collection *Au coeur d'un été tout en or* (*All in the Golden Afternoon*). *The Beginners* (2021) was Serre's third book to be translated into the English.

A Leopard-Skin Hat

Anne Serre and translated by Mark Hutchinson

"A Msterpiece of simplicity, emotion and elegance." Le Point

- Penned by the winner of the 2020 Prix Goncourt de la nouvelle.
- A story tolled through intimate, literary vignettes.
- Nostalgic translated fiction exploring childhood for fans of Elena Ferrante.

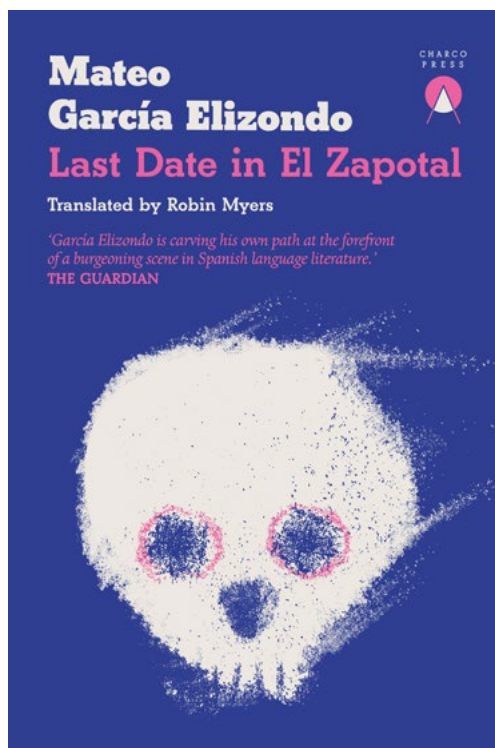
About the book

A Leopard-Skin Hat may be Anne Serre's most moving novel yet. Hailed in *Le Point* as a 'masterpiece of simplicity, emotion and elegance,' it is the story of an intense friendship between the Narrator and his close childhood friend, Fanny, who suffers from profound psychological disorders.

A series of short scenes paints the portrait of a strong-willed and tormented young woman battling many demons, and of the narrator's loving and anguished attachment to her. Serre poignantly depicts the bewildering back and forth between hope and despair involved in such a relationship, while playfully calling into question the very form of the novel. Written in the aftermath of the death of the author's little sister, *A Leopard-Skin Hat* is both the celebration of a tragically foreshortened life and a valedictory farewell, written in Anne Serre's signature style.

Reviews and endorsements

I love Anne Serre, translated by Mark Hutchinson, for the rippling unreality of her prose. Reading her is like watching a mirage flicker in and out of focus.' – Merve Emre



Last Date in El Zapotal

Mateo García Elizondo and translated by Robin Myers

“García Elizondo is carving his own path at the forefront of a burgeoning scene in Spanish language literature.”
—The Guardian

- The exceptional debut novel from a prize-winning screenwriter and author- Last Date in El Zapotal won the City of Barcelona Award

- Selected by Granta as one of the world’s best writers in Spanish

Fiction

ISBN: 9781913867843

RRP: £11.99

Pub date: 25/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 163pp, 129 × 198 mm

BISAC: FIC025000

Thema: FXS

Charco Press

Imprint: Charco Press

Author Bio

Mateo García Elizondo (Mexico City, 1987) is a screenwriter and author. His work has appeared in magazines such as Nexos, Revista Casa de las Américas, Quimera, Origami, and Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos. He has written scripts for film and graphic narrative, including the screenplay for the feature film *Desierto* (2015), which won the FIPRESCI prize at the Toronto International Film Festival. His debut novel, *Last Date in El Zapotal*, won the City of Barcelona Award for fiction written in Spanish. In 2021 he was listed by Granta magazine as one of the world’s best writers in Spanish under thirty-five years of age.

About the book

This is a ghost story. A junkie has gone to El Zapotal to die – to rent a room in this crumbling backwater, melt into one last fix, and not come back. For someone so ready to no longer be alive, though, he can’t stop clinging to the past. His old dog, Kid, who he abandoned. His love, Valerie, who he introduced to drugs. There’s no such thing as a good memory.

El Zapotal doesn’t want him either. The people aren’t welcoming, the streets are empty except for strays, and he’s having trouble pacing his supply. As the drugs run out, the line between what’s real and what’s not blurs to the point of illegibility, and we’re left wandering a tenderly described hinterland of despair, hunger, and regret. García Elizondo has given us an homage to Pedro Paramo, a descent for the ages, a long goodbye with no clear line between the living and dead.



The Seers

The Seers

Sulaiman Addonia

'A unique & intelligent voice which makes sensual evocative poetry of the deepest, fiercest emotions.' –The Big Issue

*Sulaiman
Addonia*

Fiction

ISBN: 9781913513511

RRP: £12

Pub date: 27/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 232pp, 112 × 178 mm

BISAC: FIC019000

Thema: FBA

Prototype Publishing

Imprint: **Prototype Publishing**

Author Bio

Sulaiman Addonia is an Eritrean-Ethiopian-British novelist. He spent his early life in a refugee camp in Sudan, and in his early teens he lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He arrived in London as an underage unaccompanied refugee without a word of English and went on to earn an MA in Development Studies from SOAS and a BSc in Economics from UCL. His first novel, *The Consequences of Love* (Chatto & Windus, 2008), was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was translated into more than 20 languages.

- Addonia is an award-winning, highly acclaimed author, whose personal story as a child refugee underlies all of his writing, offering a vital and eye-opening perspective on the experiences of refugees and asylum-seekers.

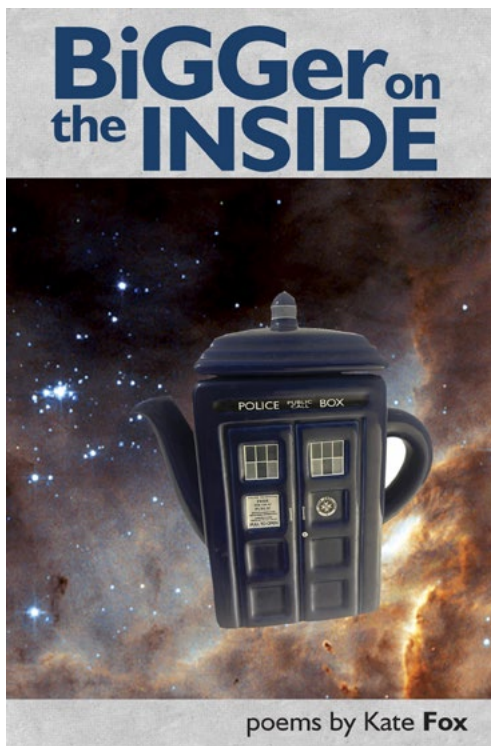
- *The Seers* is revelatory in its exploration of the sexual life of refugees, bringing great depth and humanity to its narrator's story, offering an entirely new, and deeply empowering, perspective.

- The book will appeal to a very wide readership, through addressing so many different themes: London, immigration, sexuality, queerness, the importance of poetry and literature.

About the book

The Seers follows the first weeks of a homeless Eritrean refugee in London. Set around a foster home in Kilburn and in the squares of Bloomsbury, where its protagonist Hannah sleeps, the novel grapples with how agency is given to the sexual lives of refugees, presenting gender-fluid, trans and androgynous African immigrants, and insisting that the erotic and intimate side of life is as much a part of someone's story as 'land and nations' are.

Hannah arrives in London with her mother's diary, containing a disturbing sexual story taking place in Keren, Eritrea, where the Allies defeated the Italians in the Second World War. In a gripping, continuous paragraph, *The Seers* moves between the present day and the past to explore intergenerational histories, colonial trauma, and the realities of the UK asylum system and its impact on young refugees.

**Poetry**

ISBN: 9781739473433

RRP: £7.99

Pub date: 01/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 64pp, 127 x 197 mm

BISAC:

Thema:

Smokestack Books

Imprint: **Smokestack Books****Author Bio**

Kate Fox is a stand-up poet, spoken word artist and broadcaster. She's a regular contributor to Radio 3's The Verb, has made two comedy series for Radio 4, been Poet in Residence for the Glastonbury Festival and the Great North Run and completed a PhD in stand-up comedy at the University of Leeds. Her books include Fox Populi, Chronotopia, The Oscillations and Where There's Muck There's Bras: True Stories of the North of England's Women.

Bigger on the Inside

Kate Fox

New collection by well-known comedian, poet and broadcaster

- Highly topical. Themes of queerness, neurodiversity and autism
- A must-read for fans of Doctor Who
- Launching alongside the eponymous spoken word show

About the book

Bigger on the Inside is a neuroqueer imaginary of Timelords, psychologists, octopuses, sparkly things and mushrooms. Kate Fox travels through time and space in search of solutions to the Double Empathy Problem. Along the way she encounters monotropists, labels, stigmas and people with differently wired brains. In this poetic exploration of neurodiversity, terms like Autism and ADHD can be bestowed, refused, fought for, resisted, queered or overturned. As the Doctor once said, 'a straight line may be the shortest distance between two points, but it is by no means the most interesting...'

**Fiction**

ISBN: 9781910183335

RRP: £8.99

Pub date: 04/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 384pp, 128 x 195 x 29 mm

BISAC: FIC014030

Thema: FB

Myrmidon BooksImprint: **Myrmidon Books****Author Bio**

Charles Cordell has been a career soldier, military intelligence officer and diplomat on the ground in the Middle East, South Asia and North Africa. He has seen humanity at its best, its worst and its most desperate. His novels draw both on time spent on the fraying margins of civilisation and studies of the great political and religious crises of 17th century Europe.

The Keys of Hell and Death

Charles Cordell

**'Charles Cordell, a former soldier, writes with a bravura confidence'
-The Times**

- Launching with a series of in-person author events featuring historical reenactors
- The hotly-anticipated follow-up to God's Vindictive Wrath, a Times Best New Historical novel
- Visceral historical fiction- must-read for fans of Giles Kristian, Conn Iggulden and Bernard Cornwell
- Set in the 1600, British civil war era.

About the book

The second novel of the visceral Divided Kingdom series sees the action turn westwards to Bristol, where a Royalist army is determined to wrest the city from the forces of Parliament.

Once again, the story revolves around the vicious enmity of the Reeve brothers: carefree and dissolute Ralph and embittered and fanatical Francis. Also caught up in the conflict are Moussa Dansocko, an African slave accused of sorcery, Kendall Tremain, Cornish fisherman and tinner, Abel Cowans, a former naval gunner from Newcastle and others, all with their own diverse reasons for siding with one cause or the other in England's bloody civil war.

Reviews and endorsements

'Charles Cordell, a former soldier, writes with a bravura confidence.' The Times

**Childrens**

ISBN: 9781915244796

RRP: £7.99

Pub date: 06/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 224pp, 129 × 198 mm

BISAC: JUV013000

Thema: YFM

Lantana PublishingImprint: **Lantana Publishing****Author Bio**

Now the owner of a business teaching English to Chinese children, Tricia Seabolt has worked in the field of occupational therapy and has tutored reading and co-led a summer club focused on empowering kids through play-based activities within the Down's syndrome community. Tricia lives in Michigan.

Ellie and the Marriage List

Tricia Seabolt and illustrated by Lucy Rogers

An utterly charming story about a lovable 10-year-old with Down's syndrome whose extra sparkle never fails to shine bright.

- A playful, illustrated summer read for 7-9 year olds featuring an empowered disabled protagonist.
- An empowering and positive portrayal of living with Down's syndrome.
- Shows how a supportive family and community help foster self-esteem and self-reliance in neurodiverse people.

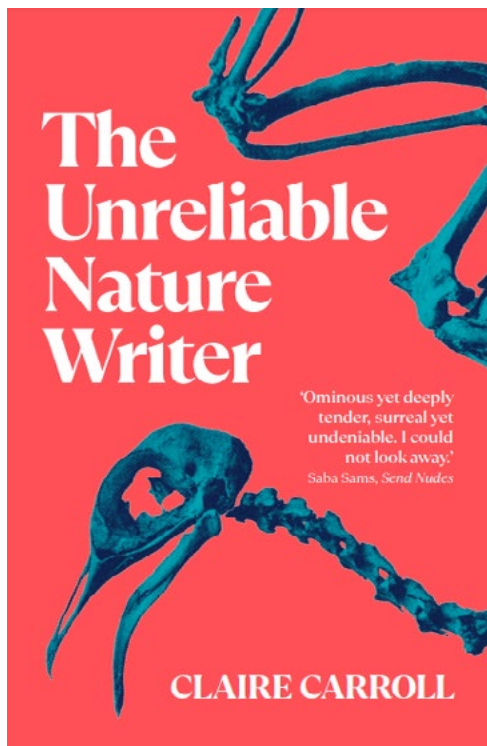
About the book

Ellie is ready to have the best summer ever. She's especially excited to draw under her favourite tree and hang out with her big brother, Ben. But all Ben seems to care about is impressing the new lip-glossy neighbour, Sara. And all Sara seems to care about is turning Ellie's brother into a Hawaii husband!

Luckily, Ellie's best friend, Ling, has the marriage list—a top-secret tool to track the lovebirds and stop a wedding before it starts. But nothing goes to plan, and while trying to rescue Ben, Ellie ends up putting the weeping willow in her garden in danger. Faced with losing everything she loves most, can Ellie find a way to win back her brother and save her beloved tree?

Reviews and endorsements

"A warm tale of family and friendship." —Kirkus Reviews



The Unreliable Nature Writer

Claire Carroll

The hotly-anticipated debut collection from the winner of the Wild Writing Prize

- Nationwide book tour- Bath, London, Sheffield, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol, Cardiff.
- Major review mailing targeting national and local media supported by podcast tour.

Fiction

ISBN: 9781739830182

RRP: £10.99

Pub date: 06/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 224pp, 129 × 198 mm

BISAC: FIC077000

Thema: FBA

Scratch Books

Imprint: **Scratch Books**

Author Bio

Claire Carroll lives in Somerset, UK, and writes experimental fiction about the intersection of nature, technology, and desire. She is also a PhD researcher at Bath Spa and Exeter Universities, where she explores how experimental writing – particularly short stories and prose-poetry – can reimagine how humans relate to the natural and non-human world. Claire's short stories and poetry have been published by journals including Gutter Magazine, perverse, Lunate Journal, The Oxonian Review, and Short Fiction Journal. In 2021, her short story My Brain is Boiling with Ideas was shortlisted for The White Review's Short Story Prize, and her short story Cephalopod was the recipient of the Essex University & Short Fiction Journal Wild Writing Prize.

About the book

The Unreliable Nature Writer is the eagerly-awaited debut collection of exhilarating, macabre and dreamy short stories from Claire Carroll. Shortlisted for The White Review Prize and winner of the Short Fiction Wild Writing Prize, Carroll portrays an unsettlingly hot, vaguely familiar world of humans facing the strain of intimate and global anxieties – trying to live alongside new technologies, failing environments and unknowable natural crises. Delightful to read and unsettling to imagine, these are haunting stories about love, loss, strangely-exposing housing applications and cows.

Reviews and endorsements

"Brilliant. A playful and witty take on our relationship with the natural world." Irenosen Okojie, Nudibranch



Belief Systems

Tamar Yoseloff

New from the winner of the Cholmondeley Award and Aldeburgh Poetry Festival Prize

- From the former Poetry Editor of Art World magazine and Reviews Editor of Poetry London
- Yoseloff has been Programme Coordinator for the Poetry School and lecturer in Writing Poetry at Newcastle University. She now teaches independently.
- Critically acclaimed- her collections have won and been listed for a number of awards, including the Ted Hughes Award.
- Belief Systems is an illustrated poetry collection centred on art and creation

Poetry

ISBN: 9781913437923

RRP: £12.99

Pub date: 06/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 72pp, 138 × 216 mm

BISAC:

Thema:

Nine Arches Press

Imprint: **Nine Arches Press**

Author Bio

Tamar Yoseloff has published six collections, including *The Formula for Night: New and Selected Poems* (2015) and most recently, *The Black Place* (2019), both from Seren. She's also the author of *Formerly*, a chapbook incorporating photographs by Vici MacDonald (Hercules Editions, 2012) shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award; and collaborative editions with artists Linda Karshan and Charlotte Harker respectively. She was a lecturer on the Poetry School / Newcastle University MA in Writing Poetry and continues to teach independently. She received a Cholmondeley Award in 2023.

About the book

The poems in Tamar Yoseloff's *Belief Systems* act as a call to make something worthwhile from the wreckage of our world, in the spirit of the radical artists she evokes, such as John Latham, John Cage and Robert Rauschenberg – visionaries who located power and beauty in what is forgotten.

Reviews and endorsements

'With the quiet authority and craft of a mature poet, Yoseloff takes on the human condition in the light of our present moment with a spare and unsparing precision.' – Jacqueline Saphra

'She rises just as freshly to artists as varied as Joan Eardley and Joseph Beuys, yet these are also poems that snuffle the here and now, never letting art replace life.'- Jonathan Jones



Mother Night

Serge ? Neptune and cover design or artwork by
Kremena Chipilova

The new pamphlet of poems from critically-acclaimed London-based author Serge ? Neptune

- ‘A dark little book that leads to some hope.’
- Launching with in-person events- author is an experienced public speaker.
- Neptune’s proposal was one of only two selected from 356 submissions of poetry and prose during The Emma Press’s open call.

Poetry

ISBN: 9781915628282

RRP: £7

Pub date: 13/06/2024

Format: Pamphlet, 36pp, 129 × 198 × 3 mm

BISAC: POE021000

Thema: Poetry

The Emma Press

Imprint: The Emma Press

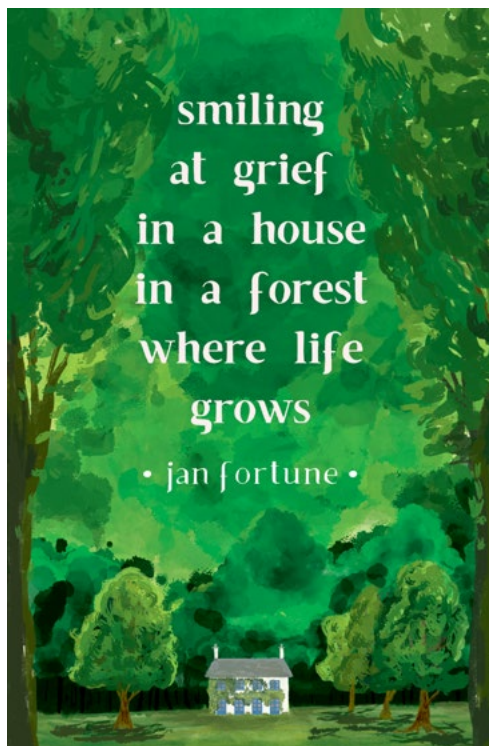
Author Bio

Serge ? Neptune has been called ‘the little merman of British poetry’. He is a Faber Academy alumnus and a queer neuro-divergent poet based in London. His first pamphlet, *These Queer Merboys*, was published with Broken Sleep (2020). His work was longlisted in the National Poetry Competition and the Winchester Poetry Competition. Several poems appeared in *The North*, *Propel*, *The Rialto*, *Banshee*, *Magma*, *Fourteen Poems*, and elsewhere.

About the book

Mother Night is a hallucinogenic journey across a city with too many alleyways and across a life surviving childhood sexual assault. Forming a nocturnal séance, Serge ? Neptune resurrects abusive old lovers and ghosts of the queers of the past – conjures men in cars and men in bedrooms – providing them invitation and shelter, or casting them to stormy waves.

In a book of many types of darkness – across poems of vulnerability and harm – what persists in *Mother Night* is its celebration of resilience, what shines brightest is the many ways it reaches for the light.

**Fiction**

ISBN: 9781911540250

RRP: £14.99

Pub date: 21/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 182pp, 130 × 198 mm

BISAC: FIC028070

Thema: FDB

Cinnamon PressImprint: **Cinnamon Press****Author Bio**

Jan Fortune is a writer, mentor, yoga nidr? teacher and herbalist living in a forest in Finistère. She has a doctorate in feminist theology and is the founding editor of Cinnamon Press. Jan has taught writing courses across Europe. Her previous publications include creative non-fiction on the alchemy of writing, poetry collections and novels, most recently *At world's end begin* and *Saoirse's Crossing*. Jan writes at the intersection of story, poetry, herbalism and alchemy. You can follow her on Substack (<https://substack.com/@janelisabeth>) and she blogs and runs the writing community, 'Kith: for a different story' (<https://janfortune.com/>).

Smiling at Grief in a House in a Forest Where Life Grows

Jan Fortune

A richly-layered, linguistically-daring and moving novel.

- Launching with a series of in person events in France, Wales and England.
- Major digital tour in June, featuring bloggers, substack writers and online ecological magazines.
- Innovative and timely, with themes and topics including pandemics, human relationships with nature and the importance of storytelling.
- Lanny meets House of Leaves.

About the book

Beyond the end of the world, where is life to be found?

Summer Solstice 2065, 16 years after a devastating pandemic and societal collapse.

Viola sets off into the forest to prepare for the gathering of her tiny community. Bringing their ghosts and fears, hopes and secrets, knowing that a single day changes everything.

But the humans are not the only voices. The forest also tell stories of grief and resurrection, abuse and forgiveness.

Reviews and endorsements

Jan's newest work invites you into an embodied journey through the colors of grief while reconnecting to the natural world. Reading this book is a healing act in its own right. — Yoli Maya

A Reading Scrapbook

David Cliffe

**An absorbing look at the history of
Reading through 150 pieces of printed
ephemera.**

- David Cliffe's other books about Reading have looked at churches, public libraries, cinemas, and pubs and breweries.
- This is an intriguing and absorbing dive into local history.

Nonfiction

ISBN: 9781915048141

RRP: £20

Pub date: 21/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 224pp, 200 × 200 mm

BISAC: HIS015080

Thema: WQH

Two Rivers Press

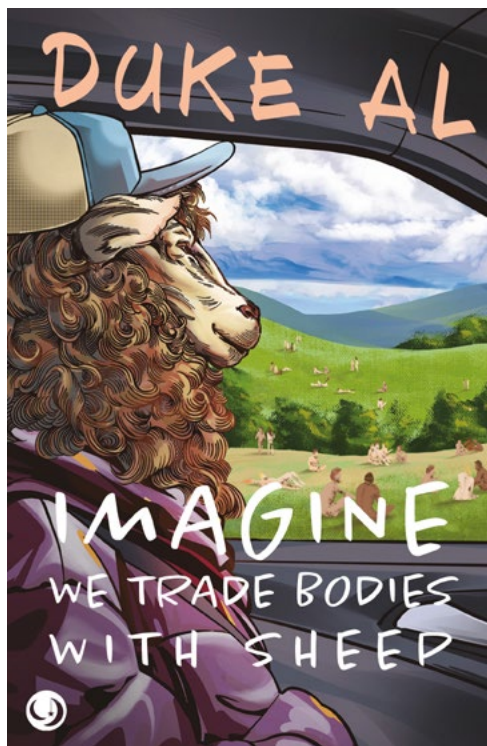
Imprint: **Two Rivers Press**

Author Bio

David Cliffe came to Reading in 1969 as a newly qualified librarian to work in public libraries. He worked for both Reading and Berkshire, and at the end of his career was able to spend time on the extensive local studies collection in Reading Central Library. This was the ideal job for someone who has been keen on local history for as long as he can remember! He is currently Chairman of The History of Reading Society and Berkshire Local History Association. His other books about Reading have looked at churches, public libraries, cinemas, and pubs and breweries.

About the book

David Cliffe has unearthed a fascinating and varied selection of printed ephemera, largely from the collections of the Department of Typography at the University of Reading and the Local Studies section at Reading Central Library. Going back over the last 300 years and more, these scraps of paper show how the people of Reading lived, how they made a earned their money, what they did for entertainment, and much more. The author's commentary puts each piece into the context of their time and brings to life the story of the town.



Imagine we trade bodies with sheep

Duke Al

Radical new poetry from rapper, spoken word artist and poet Duke Al Durham.

- Duke Al Durham has appeared on the BBC, BT Sport, Amazon, and more.
- Satirical and surreal poetry.
- Durham has an active online social presence.

Poetry

ISBN: 9781739660970

RRP: £12

Pub date: 27/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 108pp, 138 × 216 mm

BISAC:

Thema:

Lucent Dreaming

Imprint: **Lucent Dreaming**

Author Bio

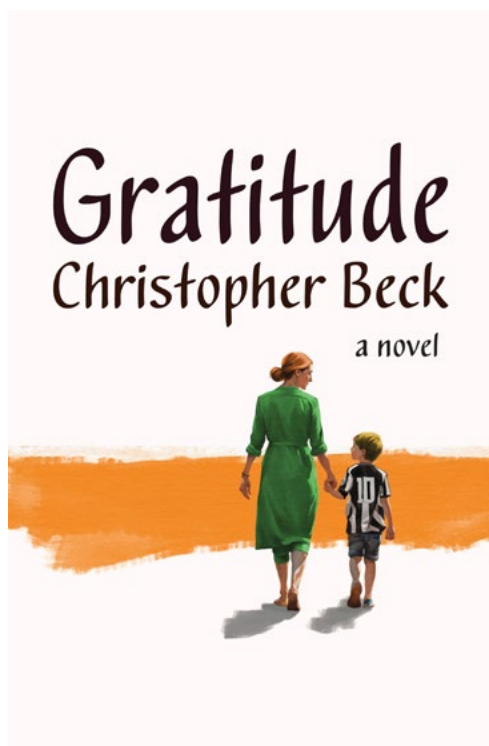
Duke Al Durham is a freelance poet, rapper and spoken artist living in Wales. He is widely recognised in the UK spoken word scene, with his appearances for BBC, BT Sport, Amazon, and others.

About the book

Are you ready to remove the wool from your eyes?

'Imagine we trade bodies with sheep' critiques human society as if humans now have the bodies of sheep.

This satirical, surreal and, in parts, emotional collection, explores how race, religion, politics, and mental health, may look like had humans traded bodies with sheep.



Gratitude

Christopher Beck

About the book

At 44, New York divorcee, Mel, is not ready to give up on God or the possibility of motherhood. Between running an actors' agency in Hammersmith and rehearsing her role in a rock musical, she agrees to take care of her stepdaughter, Jess's challenging four-year-old son, Billy, two afternoons a week. Writing: Playing Billy's Mom on a strip of paper to place in her Gratitude jar, she prays that her good deed will have a pay off: her own fertility.

Meanwhile, prepped with hormone tablets and injection at the ready, she awaits the return of charismatic Royce, who has been filming in Hollywood. But all is not well with Royce. A strange incident on Venice Beach after dark has shifted his world. Can he really be cursed? Desperate, Mel reaches out to her friend, Anto. He's gay but wants to be a parent. Thwarted again, will surrogacy be the answer? Will Mel be locked into taking on more responsibility for Billy as Jess spirals into depression following the loss of her father? Or can Mel make a life with the new man in her life, refugee Hassan, suffering from PTSD and raising his disabled eight-year-old son alone?

Or will life take an unexpected turn? As Mel's faith moves towards Buddhism under Anto's influence and a friend steps in to help with a problem deeper than infertility that is gripping her life, will she be able to answer the call when an unlooked for opportunity presents itself?

A deeply empathic, humane debut, *Gratitude* asks how we live now and how we make meaning in lives that rarely work to plan.

Fiction

ISBN: 9781788648936

RRP: £10.99

Pub date: 03/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 278pp, 130 x 198 mm

BISAC: FIC045000

Thema: FBA

Cinnamon Press

Imprint: Leaf By Leaf

Author Bio

Chris realised a long-held ambition to write when, owing to health problems, he was forced to give up a career as a medical practitioner. In 2007 he won a regional play-writing competition with *The Lesson* and had it performed at The Little Theatre, Wells. In 2010 he obtained an MA in Creative Writing at Southampton University. He had two short plays performed at the café, Nuffield Theatre, Southampton. He self-published a novel *The Summertime Blues* in 2015. Throughout his writing career there has been a steady output of poetry, some of which has been published. In 2021 his poem 'Still some way to go, Mother Rosa' was short-listed for the Wells Literary Festival Poetry Competition. Other interests include music, playing classical guitar and sailing.

**Poetry**

ISBN: 9781914914744

RRP: £6

Pub date: 03/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 36pp, 148 × 210 × 3
mm

BISAC: POE000000

Thema: Poetry

The Poetry BusinessImprint: **The New Poets List****Author Bio**

Freya Bantiff (previously Carter) is a Sheffield poet who has recently placed third in the National Poetry Competition 2022 and been highly commended in the Ginkgo Prize for Eco-poetry 2022. She was joint winner of the 2022 Bridport Poetry Prize (18-25s) (while being highly commended in their overall competition) and winner of the Canterbury Poet of the Year Competition 2021. Freya's poems and stories have been placed in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Award (2021), Mslexia Flash Fiction Competition (2020), Ilkley Literature Festival's Poetry Competition (2010 – 2015) and Foyle Young Poet of the Year (2015), along with many others. Currently, she is completing an MA in Poetry at UEA and was Apprentice Poet in Residence at Ilkley Literature Festival in October 2023.

All Appears Ordinary

Freya Bantiff

Extraordinary and illuminating poetry from Freya Bantiff.

- Winner of the New Poets Prize 2023.
- Moving and engaging poetry from an award-winning Northern poet.

About the book

Freya Bantiff's *All Appears Ordinary* was a winner of the 2023 New Poets' Prize.

Reviews and endorsements

Nothing is truly ordinary in this extraordinary pamphlet, where owls are 'light as an eyelash blown for luck' and where illness and pain can be rinsed and washed away like stains. These poems keep the faith that language can illuminate anything – from everyday acts of love like the removal of nits from a child's head to the extinction of a species.

– Kim Moore



The Hoarders

Caleb Leow

Innovative and challenging poetry from Caleb Leow.

- Winner of the New Poets Prize 2023.
- Politically engaged poetry from an exciting international new voice.

About the book

Caleb Leow's *The Hoarders* was a winner of the 2023 New Poets' Prize.

'The Hoarders resounds with a subtle and unsettling music which creates its own complex, multilingual logic, even as Leow brings an attentive eye and an inquisitive wit to bear on a wide range of themes both personal and political. These are vivid and evocative poems which bear re-reading, and Leow is clearly a talent to watch.' - Mary Jean Chan

Reviews and endorsements

A pamphlet which interrogates human waste is a risky strategy – but in these wide-ranging, inventive poems, it absolutely pays off. The objectification of the body – whether that is the migrant body, the female body or the working class body is held up to the light through skilful handling of form and imagery.

– Kim Moore

Poetry

ISBN: 9781914914768

RRP: £6

Pub date: 03/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 36pp, 148 × 210 × 3 mm

BISAC: POE000000

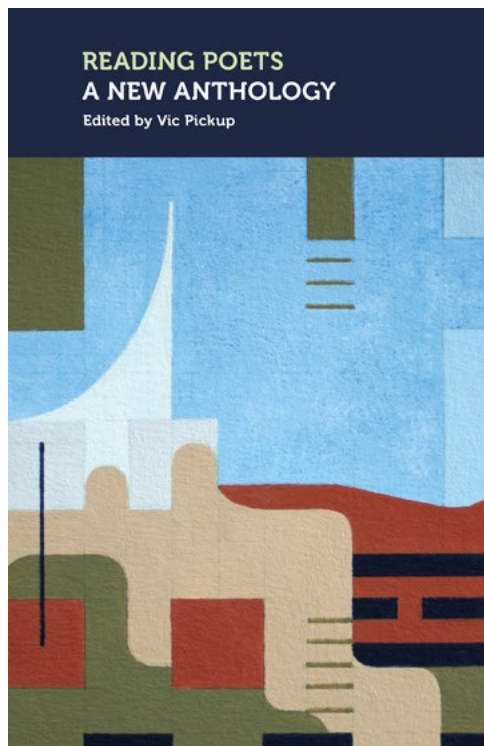
Thema: Poetry

The Poetry Business

Imprint: **The New Poets List**

Author Bio

Caleb Leow is an emerging poet from Singapore. He won third place in the inaugural Oxford Poetry Prize (2022) and his poems have been recognised in the Bridport Prize and the National Poetry Competition. He studies History and French at the University of Oxford.



Reading Poets: a new anthology

Edited by Vic Pickup

**A wide-ranging new collection edited
by the winner of the Café Writers and
Cupid's Arrow poetry competitions**

- A key local interest title launching with in person events
- Edited by co-organiser of The Poetry Society's Reading Stanza, Poets' Café

Poetry

ISBN: 9781915048134

RRP: £12

Pub date: 21/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 84pp, 135 x 210 mm

BISAC: POE001000

Thema: Poetry

Two Rivers Press

Imprint: **Two Rivers Press**

Author Bio

Vic Pickup is the author of *Lost & Found* (Hedgehog Press, 2020), *What Colour is My Brain?* (Hedgehog Press 2022) and *The Omniscient Tooth Fairy* (Indigo Dreams, 2023). She is a co-organiser of Poets Café Reading and the town's Stanza group.

About the book

This new anthology features work from 37 emerging and established Reading poets. Edited by award-winning poet Vic Pickup, this book presents a vibrant and diverse collection, reflecting the energy and variety of the town's arts scene.

Includes poems from: Liam Anslow-sucevic; Kate Behrens; Denise Bundred; J. A. Clothier; Maisie Crittenden; Marcin Czy?; Fiona Dignan; Jo Farrant; John Froy; Anastasia Gale; Martin Haslam; Kitty Hawkins; Megan Hay; Frances Hudson; Karen Izod; Andrew Jamison; Charlotte Johnson; Zannah Kearns; Gill Learner; Katherine Meehan; Kate Noakes; Louise Ordish; Patrick Osada; Lillie Postlewhite; Victoria Pugh; Kate Pursglove; Susan Roberts; Lesley Saunders; Geoff Sawers; Isobel Shirlaw; Megan Slater; Antonia Taylor; Robin Thomas; Susan Utting; Jean Watkins; Ann Westgarth; Jules Whiting.

Reviews and endorsements

'In 'Reading Poets', each poem stands testament to the fact that, whilst life constantly changes, we also have the chance to stand still and take account of the now.' – Claire Dyer

Thistle

Nadia de Vries

About the book

Thistle is a young woman whose father, a pilot, dies suddenly in a plane crash when she is thirteen years old. The airline's compensation payout is substantial but doesn't assuage the family's grief. By the time she is seventeen, Thistle has lost most of her teenage years trying to make sense of her father's premature death. In the meantime, her body is developing, and she finds herself sexualized and objectified by men against her will. Teenaged Thistle is increasingly aware of her allure but unsure of how to use that to her advantage. When her mother gifts her a camera, Thistle decides to turn the lens on herself, capturing her nude body in various poses just before she turns eighteen.



Poetry

ISBN: 9789083384146

RRP: £12.99

Pub date: 01/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 230pp, 129 × 198 mm

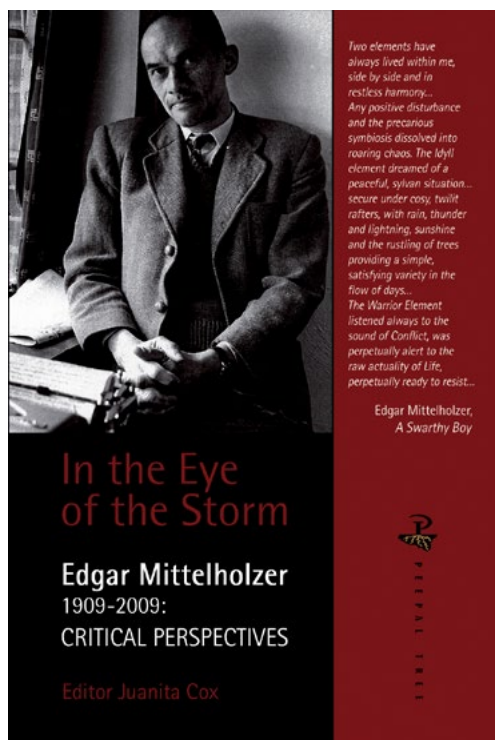
BISAC: FIC000000

Thema:

The New Menard Press

Imprint: **The New Menard Press**

Author Bio



In the Eye of the Storm: Edgar Mittelholzer - Critical Perspectives

Juanita Cox

- Edited by Juanita Cox, whose research on Mittelholzer's life and writing has played an important role in the rediscovery of this important Caribbean writer.
- Explores Mittelholzer's treatment of race and the divided person, of sexuality, history, heredity and the charge that he wrote pornography.

About the book

The essays in this collection explore Mittelholzer's treatment of race and the divided person, of sexuality, history, heredity and the charge that he wrote pornography. More recent essays discuss his formal inventiveness in exploring analogies for musical forms, the leitmotiv in his fiction, and the diversity of genres he employs in his short stories. Contributors include A.J. Seymour, Michael Gilkes, Joyce Sparer and an important biographical essay from Mittelholzer's widow, Jacqueline Ward. More recent critics include Keith Jardim, J. Dillon Brown, Juanita Cox and Jeremy Poynting. The collection is edited by Juanita Cox, whose research on Mittelholzer's life and writing has played an important role in the rediscovery of this important Caribbean writer.

Nonfiction

ISBN: 9781845231286

RRP: £19.99

Pub date: 20/06/2024

Format: Paperback, 352pp, 156 x 216 mm

BISAC: LIT004100

Thema: DNT

Peepal Tree Press

Imprint: **Peepal Tree Press**

Author Bio

Juanita Cox is of Guyanese parentage. She is completing a PhD on the work of Edgar Mittelholzer. She currently teaches at the University of North London.