

Luna

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

DECEMBER 2024



Welcome to our Holiday Gift Guide!

We have gathered here a bunch of books, old and new, that we think would make great gifts during this holiday season - whether for yourself (why ever not?) or for other readers in your life.

At just over two years old, we continue to embrace our 'offline only' identity. For readers who do not live in Hyderabad, but are intrigued by any of the books featured here, we encourage you to get them from your local independent bookshop.

Happy Reading! And Best Wishes for 2025!

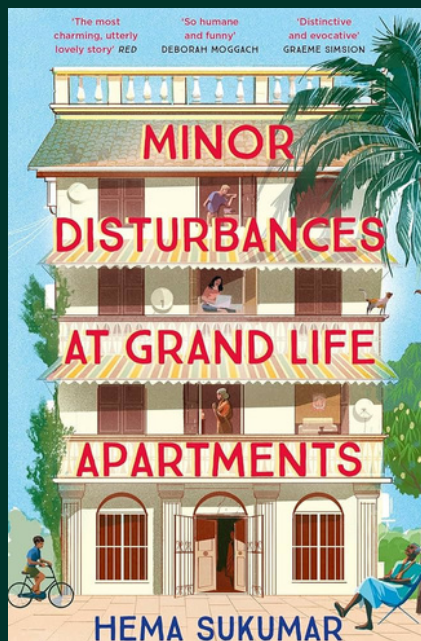


General Fiction - Indian authors (writing in English)



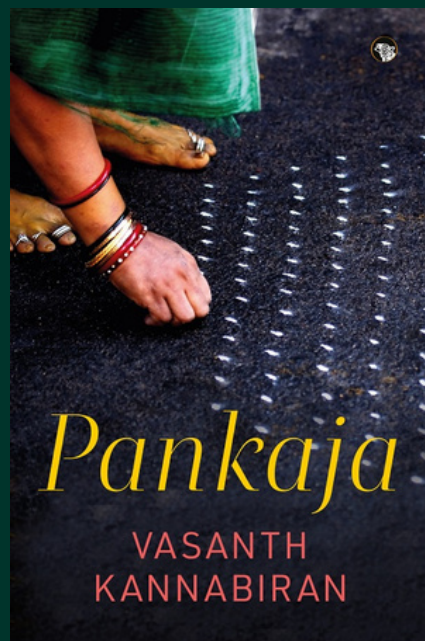
LORENZO SEARCHES FOR THE MEANING OF LIFE, BY UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE

Nineteen year old Lorenzo has a spiritual awakening of sorts after an accident leaves him bedridden for a month. After a decade in a monastery near Padua, he moves across the world to a monastery in Bangladesh. And finds that a life of service to God is enough, but that it is also not enough. Winner of the 2024 JCB Prize for Literature.



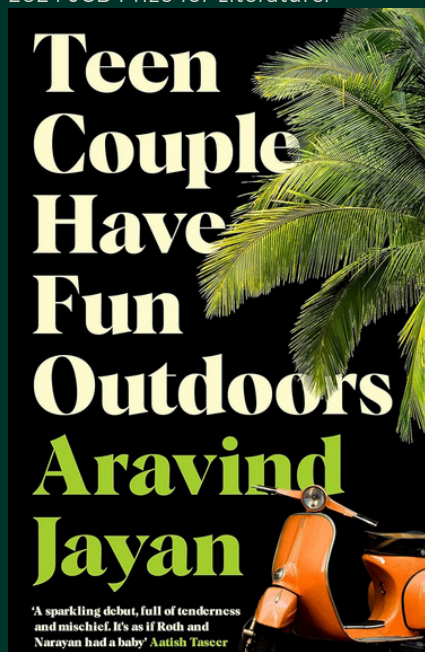
MINOR DISTURBANCES AT GRAND LIFE APARTMENTS, BY HEMA SUKUMAR

A heartwarming novel about the residents of a middle-class apartment block in Chennai, India. When a developer threatens to demolish their home, the quirky and lovable community bands together to protect it.



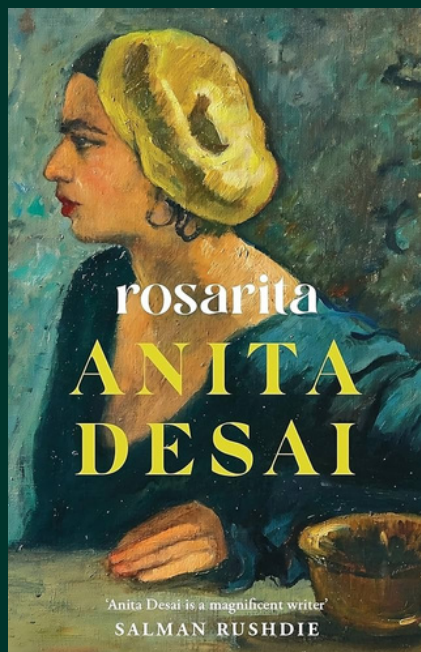
PANKAJA, BY VASANTH KANNABIRAN

An exploration of the lives of women in early 20th-century India, and the societal constraints placed upon them, particularly within marriage and widowhood. Pankaja and the women around her navigate a patriarchal society, challenging norms and seeking agency in their own lives.



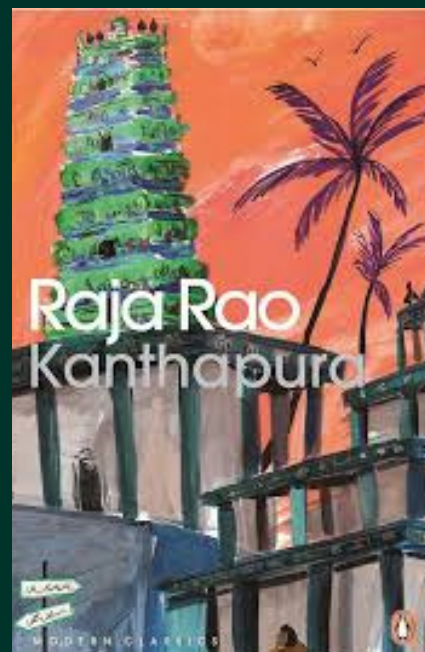
TEEN COUPLE HAVE FUN OUTDOORS, BY ARAVIND JAYAN

A darkly hilarious yet poignant novel that tackles the fallout of a leaked sex tape in an Indian family. As the video goes viral, it throws the families of the boy and girl into chaos and exposes a generational clash between tradition and modernity.



ROSARITA, BY ANITA DESAI

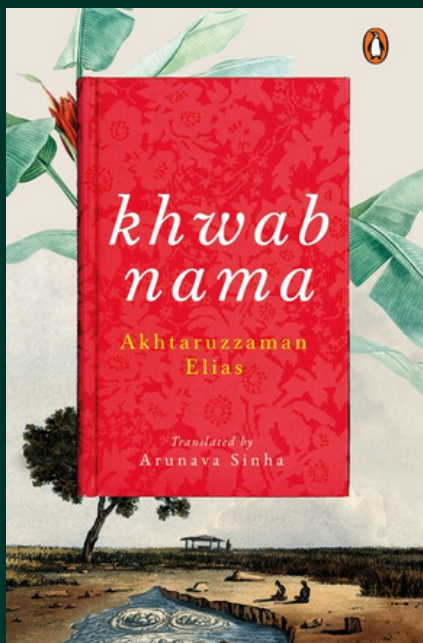
Bonita, a young Indian student in Mexico, is approached in a park one day by a woman who recognises her because of her resemblance to her mother. Bonita is unaware that her mother ever visited Mexico, but the woman is insistent, and Bonita is led on a journey into the past, as she tries to uncover her mother's true identity, and therefore her own.



KANTHAPURA, BY RAJA RAO

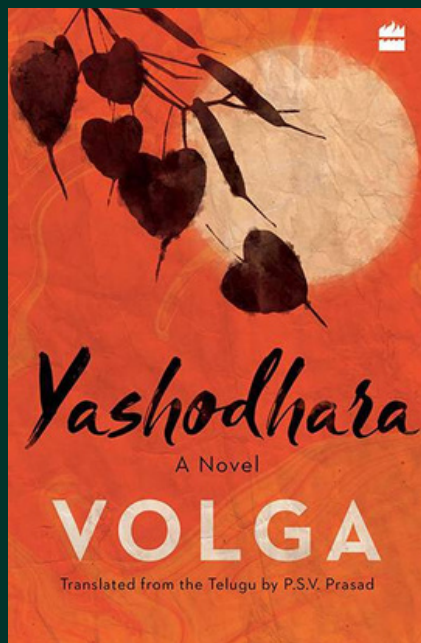
A landmark Indian novel that captures the spirit of the Gandhian movement for independence. Through the voice of an elderly village woman, it tells the story of a small South Indian village that rises up against British rule.

General Fiction - Indian authors (in translation)



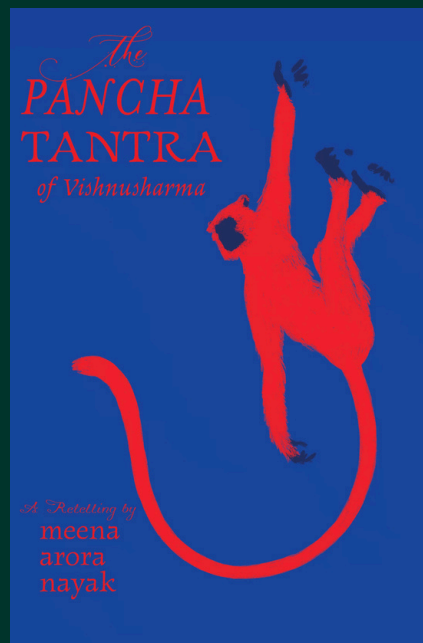
KHWABNAMA, BY AKHTARUZZAMAN ELIAS (TR. ARUNAVA SINHA)

A sweeping saga set in pre-partition Bengal that documents the Tebhaga movement, when peasants demanded two-thirds of the harvest they produced on the zamindars' land. Through interwoven stories and magical realism, we explore the lives of villagers grappling with poverty, exploitation, and the looming shadow of political upheaval.



YASHODHARA, BY VOLGA (TR. P S V PRASAD)

In this reimagining of the life of the Buddha's wife, we follow Yashodhara's spiritual journey as she comes to terms with Siddhartha's departure. Volga presents a feminist perspective, portraying Yashodhara as an intelligent and independent woman who challenges societal expectations and finds her own path to liberation.



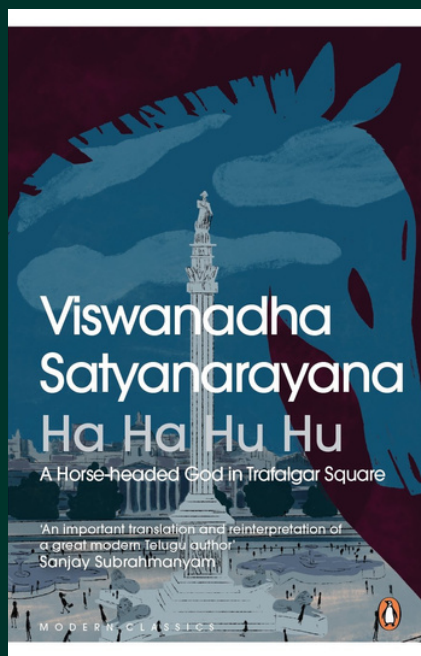
THE PANCHATANTRA OF VISHNUSHARMA, BY MEENA ARORA NAYAK

Authored in about 345-300 BCE by Vishnusharma, the Panchatantra has long been considered one of India's invaluable gifts to the world. Characters in these sixty-nine stories include lions, tigers, wolves, cats, tortoises, monkeys, deer, snakes, crows, cranes, and various other creatures. A few humans too. A timeless book of wisdom for all ages.



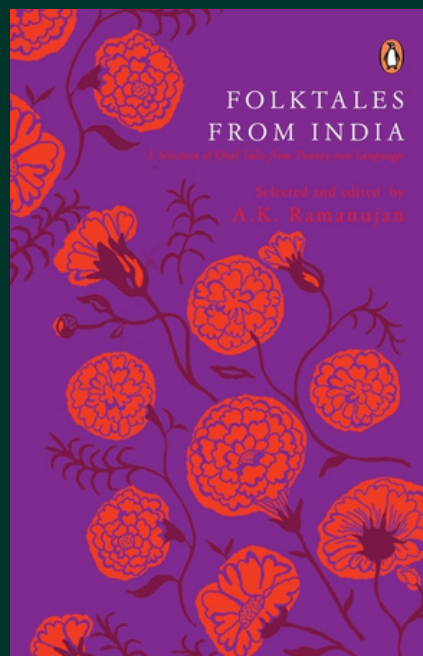
FIRST FLOOD (PONNIYIN SELVAN 1), BY KALKI (TR. GOWRI RAMNARAYAN)

Delving into politics, betrayal, desire and ambition in tenth-century Tamil Nadu, Ponniyin Selvan is Kalki's magnum opus, a gripping tale that has remained popular and beloved for decades. Translated by Gowri Ramnarayan, Kalki's granddaughter, First Flood is Book 1 in a series of four books.



HA HA HU HU, BY VISWANADHA SATYANARAYANA

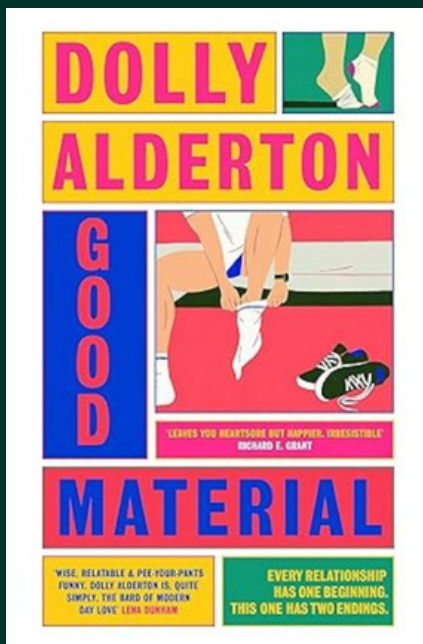
Contains two novellas by the Telugu writer. In Ha Ha Hu Hu, a mysterious horse-headed creature suddenly appears in London's Trafalgar Square, causing quite a stir. The story follows the attempts to understand this enigmatic being, its origins, and purpose.



FOLKTALES FROM INDIA, ED. A.K. RAMANUJAN

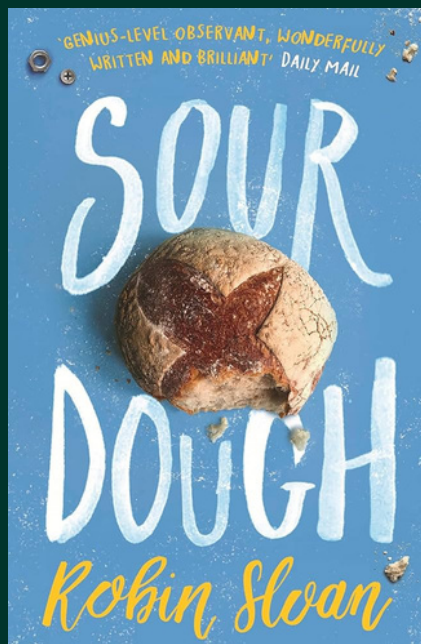
An enchanting collection of 110 Indian folktales, translated from twenty-two different languages. These tales, featuring gods and mortals, animals and tricksters, offer a glimpse into the rich oral tradition of India.

General Fiction - International



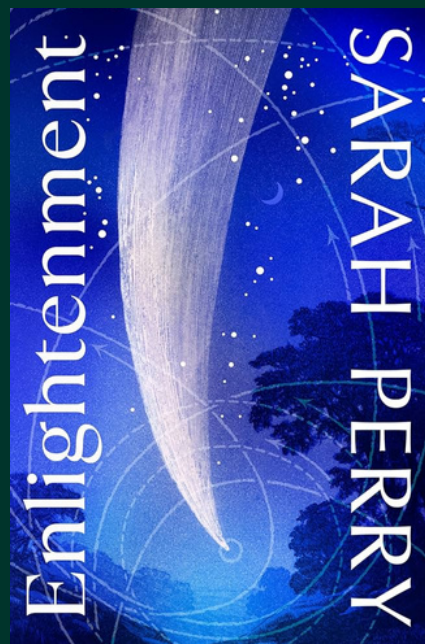
GOOD MATERIAL, BY DOLLY ALDERTON

When Andy's long-term girlfriend unexpectedly dumps him, he's left reeling and questioning everything. Through humor and raw honesty, Alderton explores the complexities of modern relationships and the challenges of starting over.



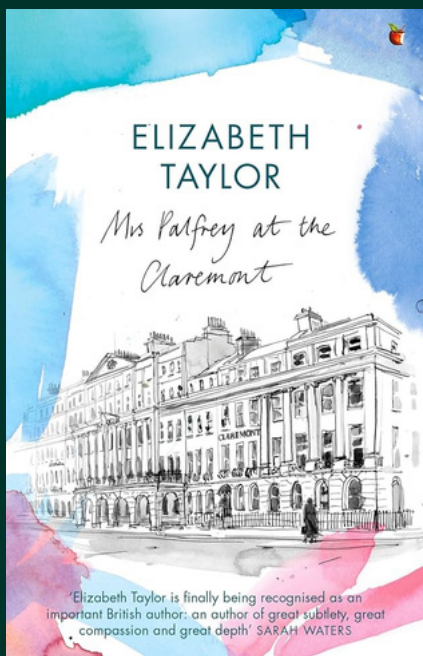
SOURDOUGH, BY ROBIN SLOAN

A quirky and heartwarming novel about a young woman who discovers the magic of baking bread. When Lois, a lonely software engineer, inherits a mysterious sourdough starter, it leads her to a hidden community of bakers and a world of culinary adventure.



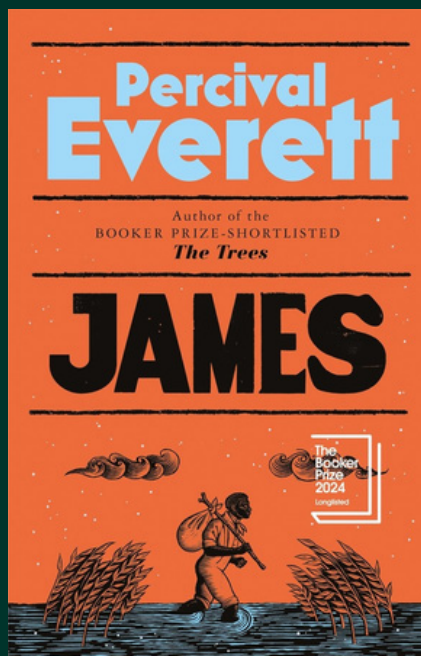
ENLIGHTENMENT, BY SARAH PERRY

Beginning in 1997 against the backdrop of the Hale-Bopp comet, the novel follows middle-aged writer and amateur astronomer Thomas Hart and his young friend Grace as they grapple with faith, friendship, love, and the possibility of the supernatural in a small Essex town.



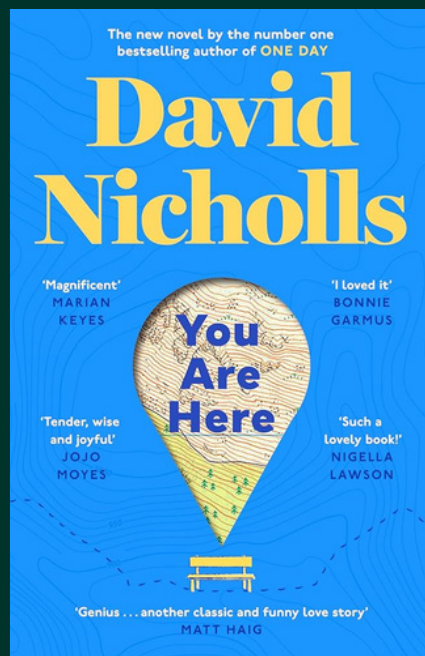
MRS. PALFREY AT THE CLAREMONT, BY ELIZABETH TAYLOR

Recently widowed Mrs. Palfrey seeks solace and connection at the Claremont Hotel, a residence for the elderly. Amidst the quirky residents and stifling routine, an unexpected friendship with a young writer brings a touch of warmth and vibrancy to her twilight years.



JAMES, BY PERCIVAL EVERETT

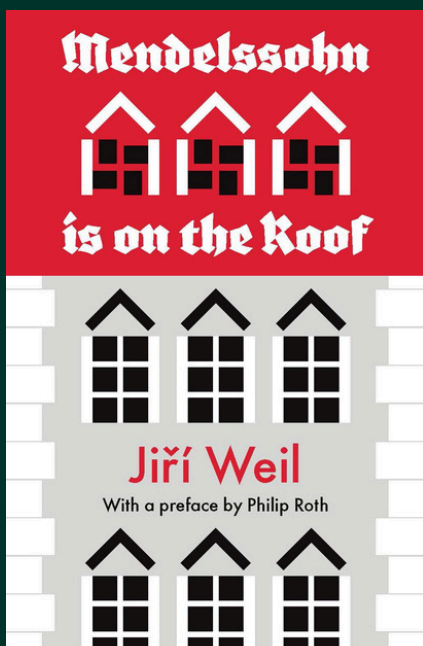
A bold reimagining of Mark Twain's classic "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." told from the perspective of the enslaved Jim, or 'James'. We get to experience the familiar story through James' eyes, gaining a deeper understanding of his motivations, fears, and hopes as he navigates a perilous journey to freedom.



YOU ARE HERE, BY DAVID NICHOLLS

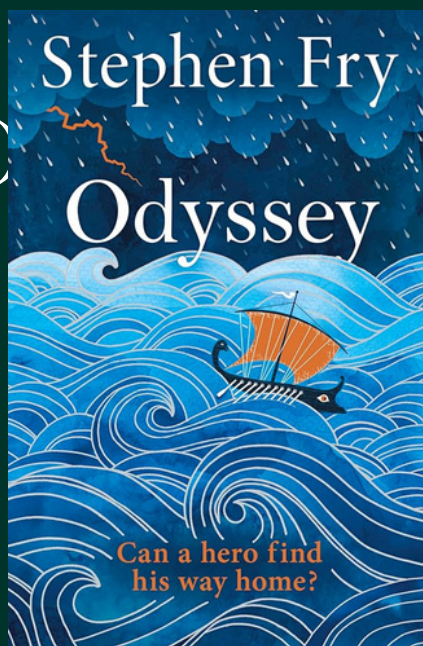
Two strangers, Michael and Marnie, are thrown together on a walking holiday in the Lake District. They are both at a crossroads in their lives. As they navigate the ups and downs of their journey, they find themselves opening up to each other and discovering the possibility of new beginnings.

General Fiction - International



MENDELSSOHN IS ON THE ROOF, BY JIRI WEIL

In Nazi-occupied Prague, a bumbling SS officer is tasked with removing a statue of the Jewish composer Mendelssohn from a concert hall roof. This darkly comic novel follows the absurd consequences of this order, exposing the ignorance and brutality of the Nazi regime.



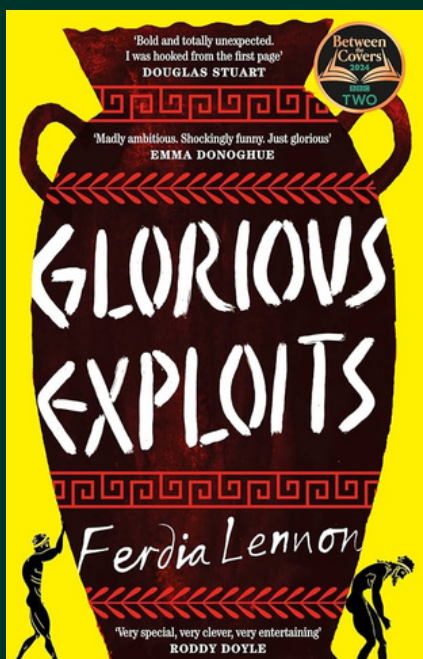
ODYSSEY, BY STEPHEN FRY

An engaging retelling of the epic Greek tale by Stephen Fry who brings his trademark light touch as well as a more modern idiom. Follow the cunning Odysseus as he battles monsters, navigates the perils of the sea, and faces the wrath of the gods, desperate to return to Ithaca to his wife Penelope and son Telemachus. The last of the Greek quartet by Fry (after Mythos, Heroes, and Troy)



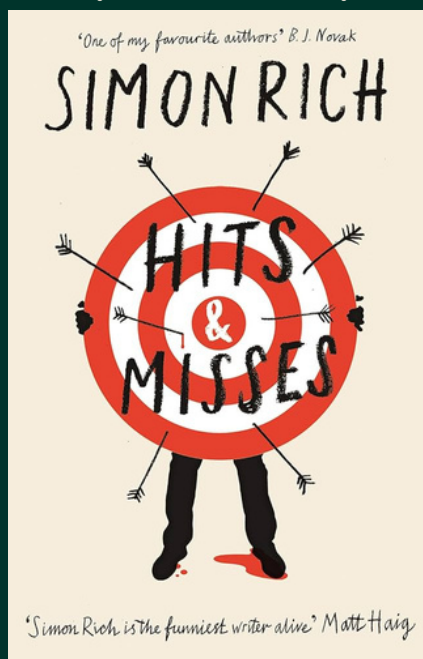
BEL CANTO (ANNOTATED EDITION), BY ANN PATCHETT

Ann Patchett revisits her beloved novel about a hostage crisis in South America, where terrorists and their captives forge unexpected bonds through the power of music. This special edition includes insightful commentary from Patchett and a glimpse into her creative process.



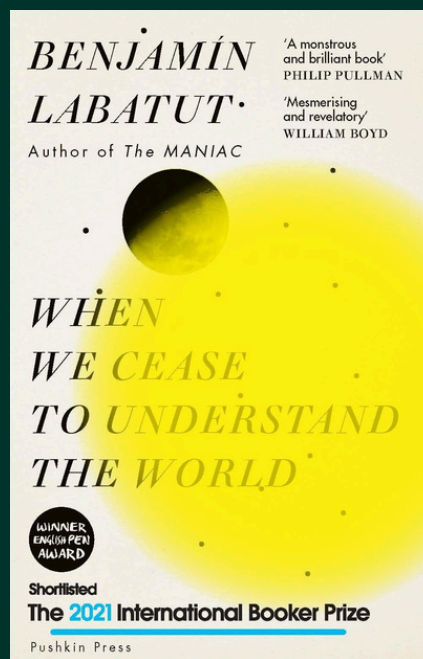
GLORIOUS EXPLOITS, BY FERDIA LENNON

During the Peloponnesian War in ancient Greece, two young potters hatch a wildly ambitious plan: to stage a play using the captured Athenian soldiers as actors. Driven by their love for Euripides' plays and their passion for theater, they soon discover that their theatrical ambitions are much more dangerous than they anticipated.



HITS & MISSES, BY SIMON RICH

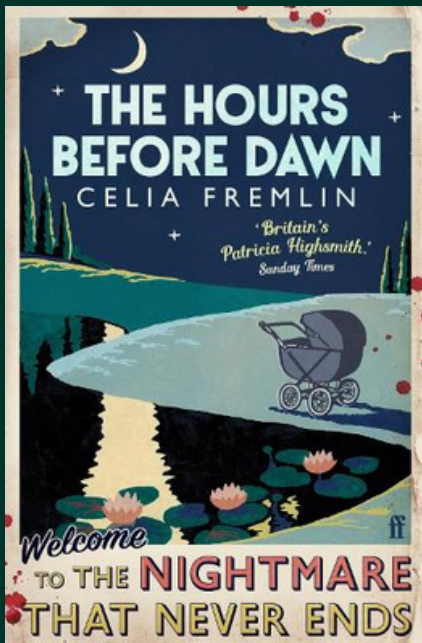
A hilarious and insightful collection of short stories exploring the absurdity of fame and the humanity of failure. From a bitter tell-all by Paul Revere's horse to a gushing profile of a beloved World War II dictator, Rich skewers our obsession with "making it big" with his signature wit and satirical edge.



WHEN WE CEASE TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD, BY BENJAMIN LABATUT

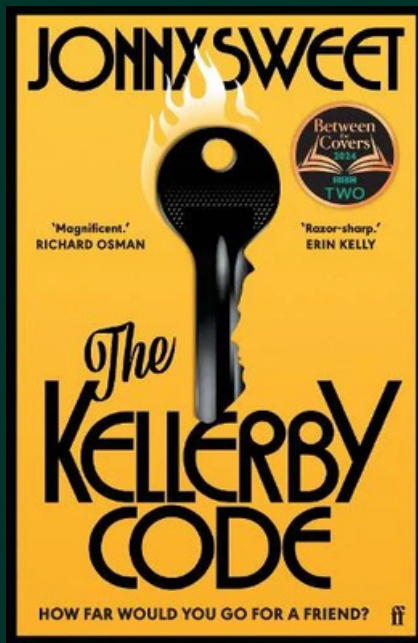
A mind-bending blend of fiction and history that delves into the lives of real-life scientists and mathematicians who made groundbreaking discoveries that pushed them to the brink of madness, and sometimes led to devastating consequences.

Crime Fiction



THE HOURS BEFORE DAWN, BY CELIA FREMLIN

In this suspenseful novel, a young mother's sleep-deprived nights take a sinister turn when a new lodger arrives at their home. As her fatigue and anxiety escalate, she becomes convinced that the seemingly respectable woman harbours a dark secret.



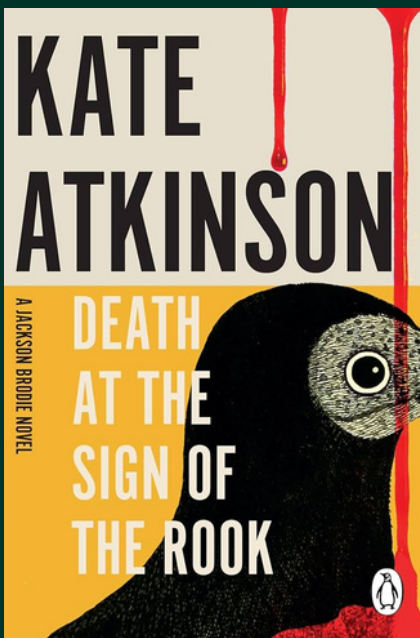
THE KELLERBY CODE, BY JONNY SWEET

A darkly comic thriller about social climbing and obsession. Edward, desperate to fit in with his wealthy friends, finds himself entangled in a dangerous game of secrets and lies when a mysterious code from their past resurfaces. Expect sharp wit, social commentary, and a plot that twists and turns like a labyrinth.



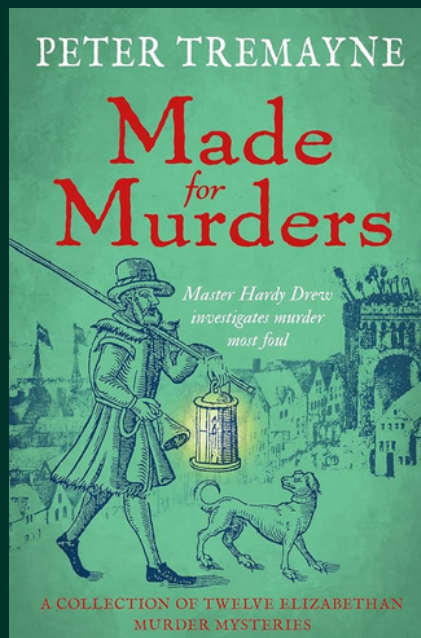
THE LITTLE SPARROW MURDERS, BY SEISHI YOKOMIZO

Detective Kosuke Kindaichi visits a remote mountain village only to find himself entangled in a series of bizarre murders linked to an old children's song. As the bodies pile up, Kindaichi must unravel the village's dark secrets and feuding families to catch the killer.



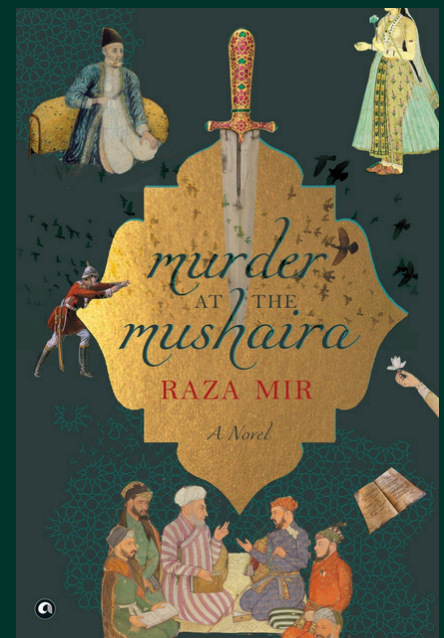
DEATH AT THE SIGN OF THE ROOK, BY KATE ATKINSON

The sixth novel in Kate Atkinson's beloved Jackson Brodie series, this is a classic whodunit set against the backdrop of a snowstorm in a Yorkshire country house that's been converted into a hotel hosting a Murder Mystery weekend. Brodie finds himself investigating the theft of a valuable painting and the disappearance of a housekeeper.



MADE FOR MURDERS, BY PETER TREMAYNE

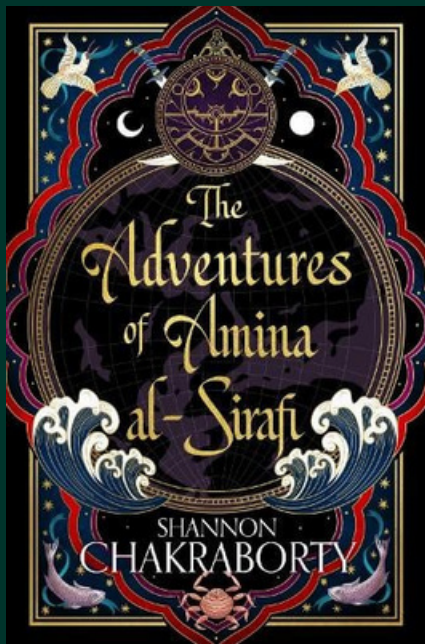
A collection of twelve short stories set in Elizabethan London. Master Hardy Drew, Constable of the Bankside Watch, investigates a series of murders amongst the playhouses, taverns, and brothels of Southwark. With the backdrop of Shakespearean theater and historical intrigue, these mysteries offer a glimpse into the criminal underworld of the era.



MURDER AT THE MUSHAIRA, BY RAZA MIR

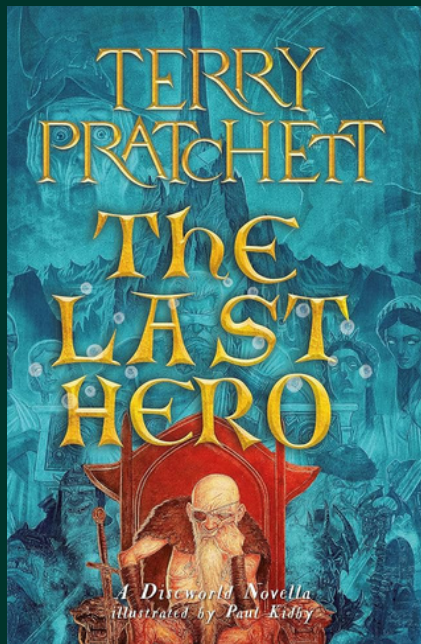
1857, Delhi. A mushaira, a night of Urdu poetry, ends in bloodshed when a renowned poet is found murdered. As whispers of rebellion against the British East India Company simmer, a sharp-witted investigator must navigate a world of courtly intrigue and hidden verses to uncover the killer.

Speculative Fiction & Fantasy



THE ADVENTURES OF AMINA AL-SIRAFI, BY SHANNON CHAKRABORTY

Once the most notorious pirate in the Indian Ocean, Amina Al-Sirafi has traded her cutlass for a quiet life. But when a wealthy noble offers her a job she can't refuse, Amina is pulled back into a world of sea monsters and perilous adventures. A thrilling tale of magic, mayhem, and one woman's quest to reclaim her legend.



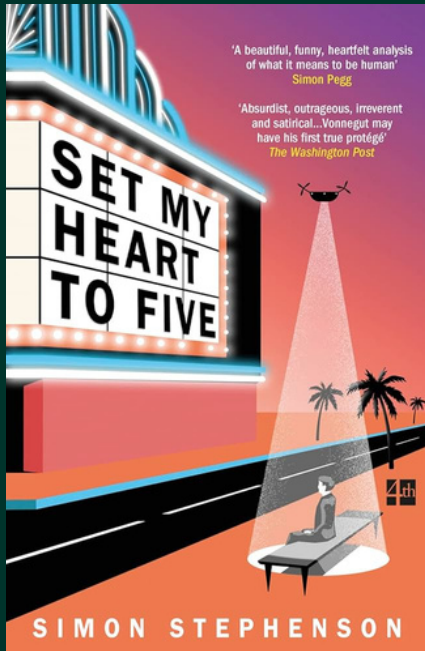
THE LAST HERO, BY TERRY PRATCHETT

In this hilarious Discworld adventure, Cohen the Barbarian, now elderly but no less heroic, embarks on one last quest. Determined to return fire to the gods, he sets out to climb the highest mountain in Discworld with his aging companions, leading to chaos, and a philosophical exploration of what it truly means to be a hero.



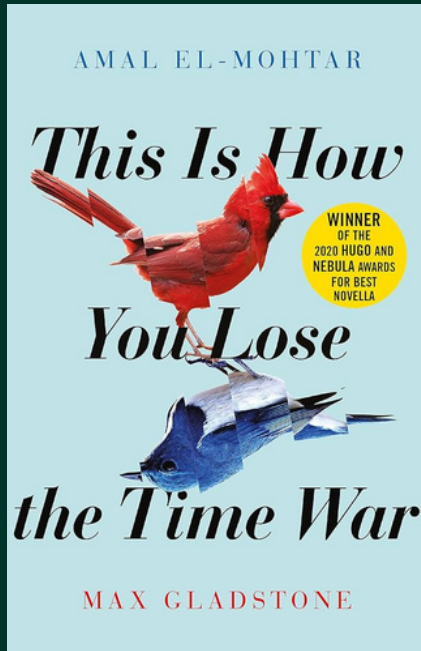
STARDUST, BY NEIL GAIMAN

A captivating fairy tale for adults. Young Tristran Thorn who will do anything to win the heart of his beloved Victoria, promises her a fallen star. This leads him on a fantastical adventure over the wall of his village and into the magical realm of Faerie. Tristran's quest becomes a journey of self-discovery, filled with danger, love, and unexpected twists.



SET MY HEART TO FIVE, BY SIMON STEPHENSON

Set in 2054, where humans have limited internet access and Elon Musk has incinerated the moon (!), this is the story of Jared, an android dentist who has an emotional awakening after watching classic movies. He embarks on a journey of self-discovery, seeking out other androids who might share his newfound emotions, posing the question of what it truly means to be human.



THIS IS HOW YOU LOSE THE TIME WAR, BY AMAL EL-MOHTAR AND MAX GLADSTONE

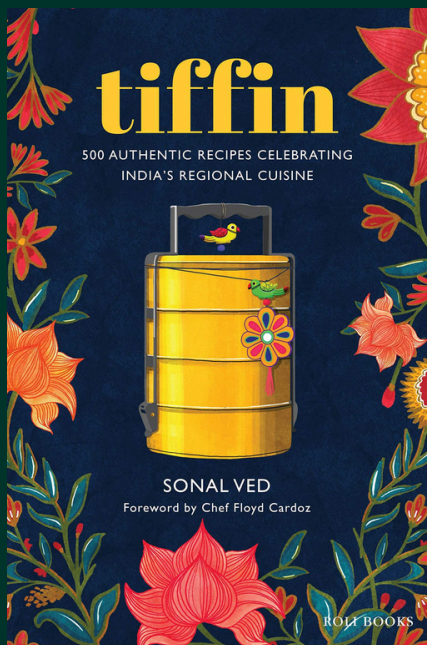
Two rival agents fighting a war across time fall in love through letters left for one another in the ruins of history. Their forbidden romance blossoms amidst bombs and betrayals, challenging their loyalties and threatening to unravel the very fabric of time.



THE MINISTRY OF TIME, BY KALIANE BRADLEY

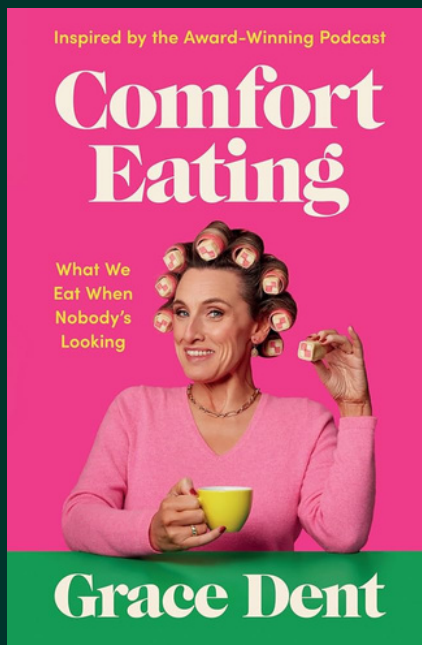
A civil servant is recruited to a mysterious government ministry that plucks "expats" from history to test the feasibility of time travel. As she navigates the complexities of her new role, she falls for her charge, a charismatic explorer from the past. A blend of time travel, romance, and political intrigue.

Food writing



TIFFIN, BY SONAL VED

From Patiala Papad ki Sabzi to Kerala Chicken Fry and from the sumptuous Mizo Dal to Bajre ka Soyta, Indian regional cuisine offers an incredible variety. With over 500 recipes, Tiffin showcases food that is a flavourful blend of all-time favourite Indian recipes (yes, there is Butter Chicken and Samosa) along with several lesser-known dishes.



COMFORT EATING, BY GRACE DENT

Through personal anecdotes and interviews with celebrities, Dent delves into the nostalgic power of comfort food, revealing the hidden stories and emotions tied to our favorite meals and snacks. It's a warm, witty, and relatable celebration of the joy and solace we find in what we eat (when no one's looking)



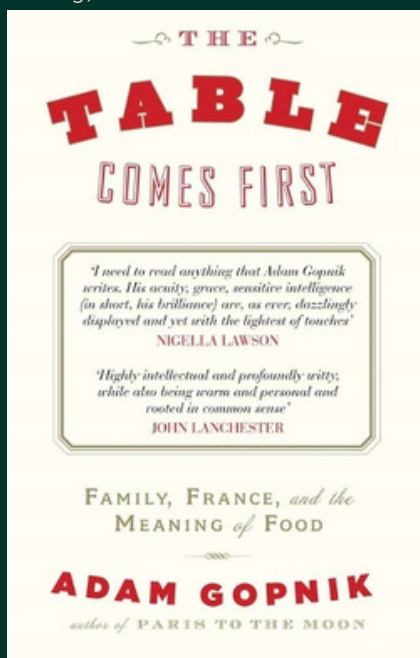
ANNAPURNI BY SABITA RADHAKRISHNA

A loving tribute to the diverse culinary heritage of Tamil Nadu. This journey through the region's vibrant food culture, features authentic recipes and stories passed down through generations, with a focus on traditional techniques and fresh ingredients.



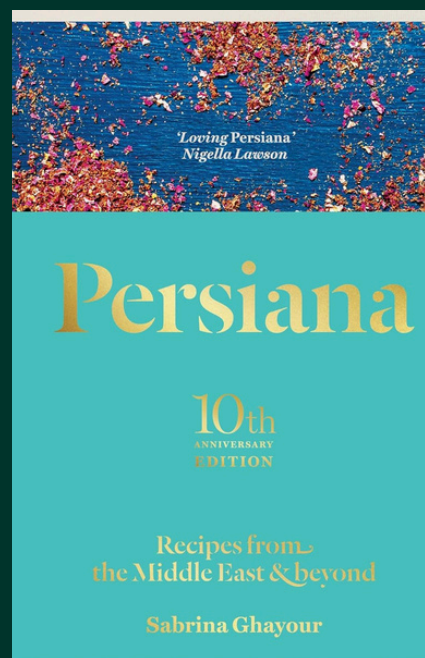
COMFORT, BY YOTAM OTTOLENGHI

Comfort food, Ottolenghi style! Weaving memories of childhood and travel with over 100 irresistible recipes, Comfort is a celebration of food and home - of the connections we make as we cook, and pass on from generation to generation.



THE TABLE COMES FIRST, BY ADAM GOPNIK

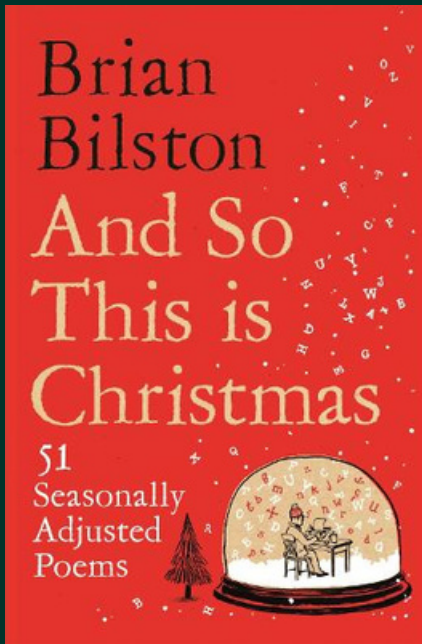
Gopnik delves into the history, philosophy, and culture of dining, examining how we think about, prepare, and share meals. With wit and insight, Gopnik reminds us that the table is where we connect, converse, and celebrate, making it the true heart of our social and personal experiences.



PERSIANA BY SABRINA GHAYOUR

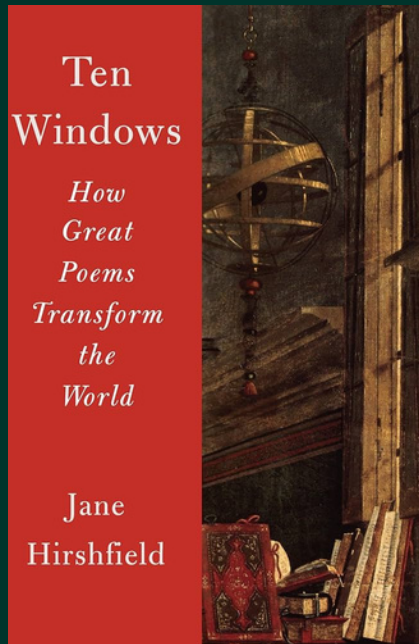
A vibrant celebration of Middle Eastern and Persian cuisine. With recipes ranging from fragrant stews and flavorful rice dishes to delectable dips and sweet treats. "Persiana" will inspire you to bring the warmth of Middle Eastern cooking to your own kitchen.

Poetry



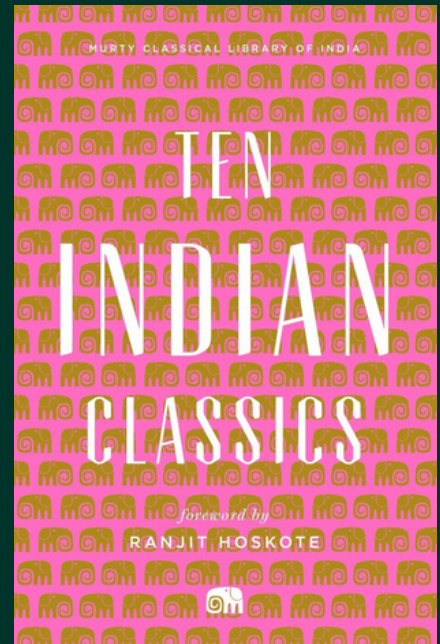
AND SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS, BY BRIAN BILSTON

A witty and festive collection of poems capturing the highs and lows of the holiday season. From awkward office parties and chaotic family gatherings, to Secret Santa shopping and disruptions to the regular bin schedule, Bilston's poems offer a humorous and heartwarming take on the most wonderful time of the year.



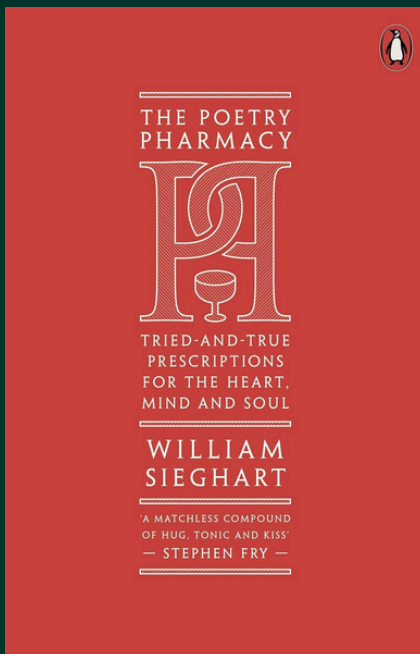
TEN WINDOWS, BY JANE HIRSHFIELD

A dazzling collection of essays on how the best poems work, from the master poet and popular essayist. Closely reading poems by Dickinson, Bashō, Szymborska, Cavafy, Heaney, Bishop, and Komunyakaa, among others, Hirshfield reveals how poems expand what is possible.



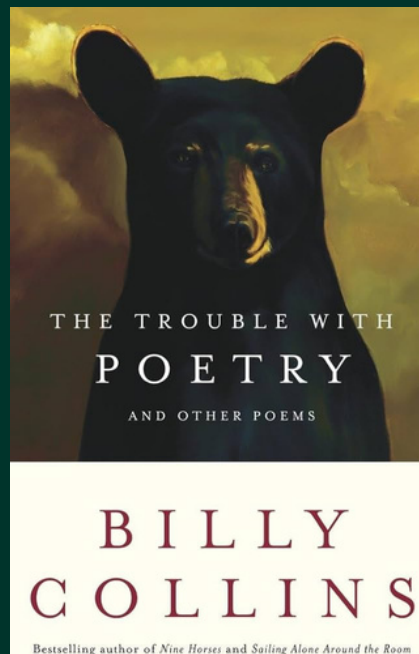
TEN INDIAN CLASSICS FROM THE MURTY CLASSICAL LIBRARY

This anthology showcases the rich tapestry of India's literary heritage. Spanning centuries and diverse languages, it features masterpieces of poetry, prose, and drama, including romantic ghazals, devotional quatrains, and medieval battles. Foreword by Ranjit Hoskote.



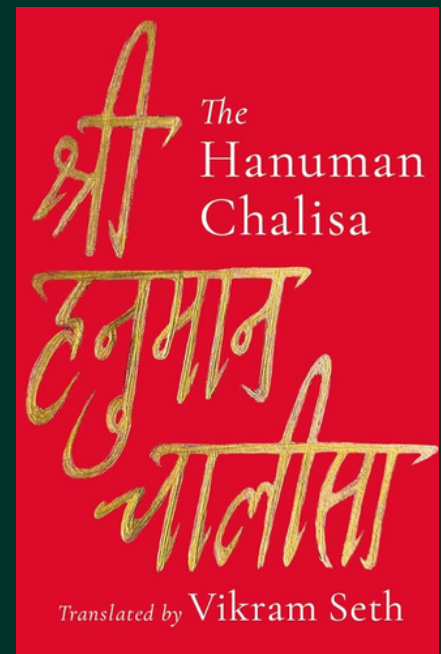
THE POETRY PHARMACY, BY WILLIAM SIEGHART

Whether you're heartbroken, anxious, or simply in need of a boost, Sieghart prescribes a poetic balm for what ails you, proving that sometimes the best medicine is a carefully chosen verse.



THE TROUBLE WITH POETRY AND OTHER POEMS, BY BILLY COLLINS

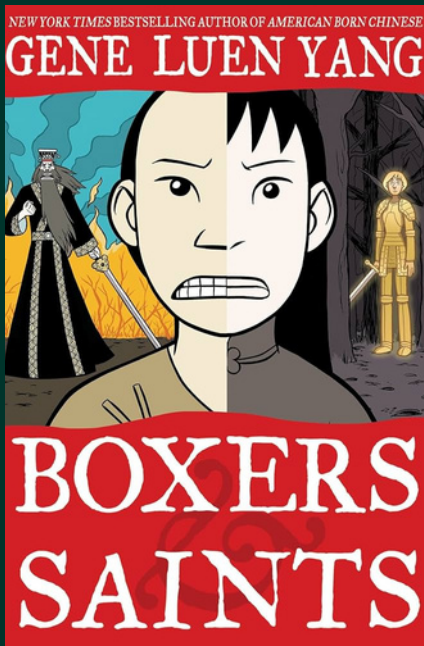
From pondering the nature of poetry itself, to musing on the lives of pigeons, Collins invites readers to find the extraordinary in the ordinary, offering a collection that is both humorous and thought-provoking.



HANUMAN CHALISA, TRANSLATED BY VIKRAM SETH

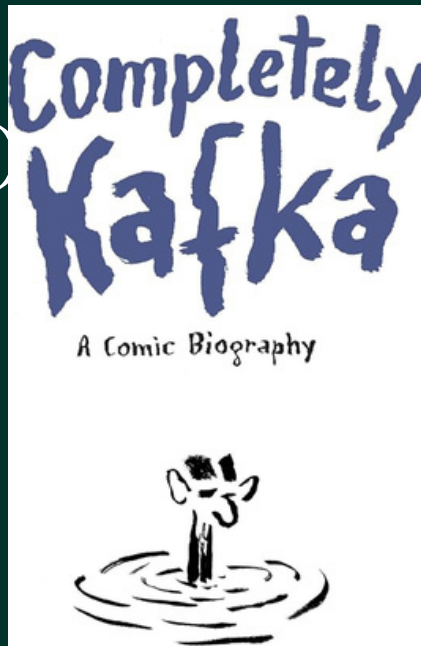
Vikram Seth offers a fresh and accessible translation of the beloved Hindu hymn, the Hanuman Chalisa. Originally composed by Tulsidas, this devotional work praising Hanuman is reimagined in Seth's lyrical English, capturing the spirit and rhythm of the original while making it accessible to a wider audience.

Graphic Novels



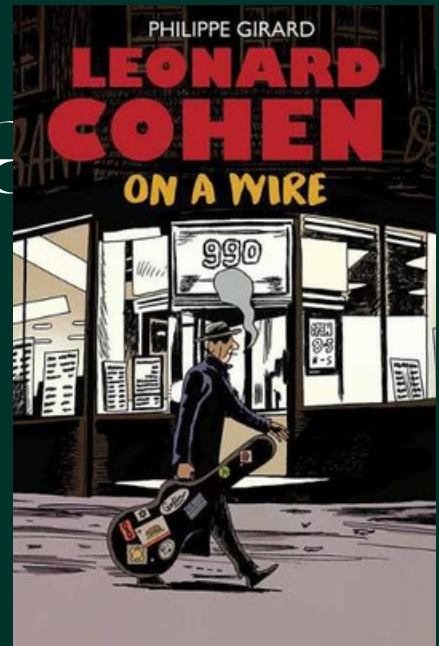
BOXERS AND SAINTS, BY GENE LUEN YANG

A powerful two-volume graphic novel that explores the Boxer Rebellion in China from both sides of the conflict. "Boxers" follows Little Bao, a young boy who joins the rebellion against foreign influence, while "Saints" tells the story of Four-Girl, a Chinese Christian seeking refuge and finding her faith.



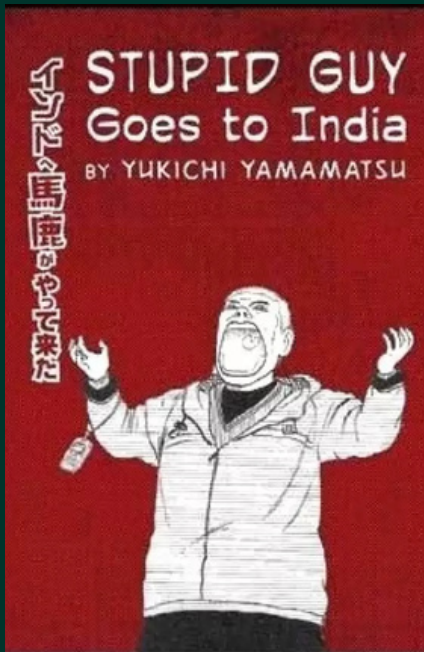
COMPLETELY KAFKA, BY NICOLAS MAHLER

This comic biography captures the essence of Franz Kafka's life and work, offering a unique and engaging portrait of this literary giant through minimalist illustrations and clever storytelling. Mahler delves into Kafka's struggles with anxiety, self-doubt, writer's block, and all the major and minor details that formed his life.



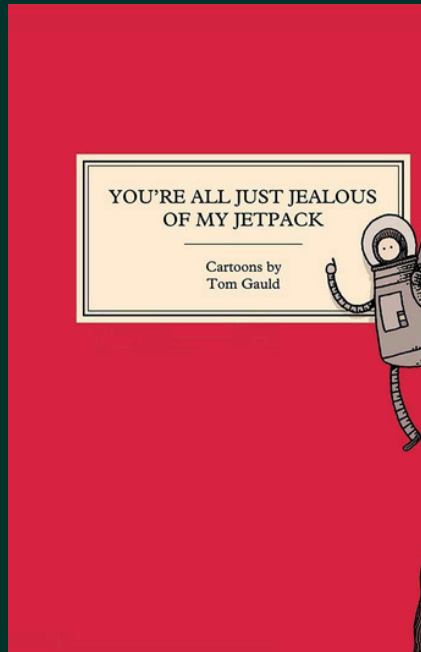
LEONARD COHEN: ON A WIRE, BY PHILIPPE GIRARD

This captivating graphic biography traces the iconic singer-songwriter's life journey. Through evocative illustrations and poignant storytelling, it explores Cohen's creative process, his spiritual seeking, and the profound impact of his music and poetry.



STUPID GUY GOES TO INDIA, BY YUKICHI YAMAMATSU

Follow the author's real-life misadventures as he travels through India, encountering chaotic traffic, bizarre customs, and unexpected friendships. Yamamatsu's honest and self-deprecating humour sheds light on the challenges and joys of navigating a vastly different culture.



YOU'RE ALL JUST JEALOUS OF MY JETPACK, BY TOM GAULD

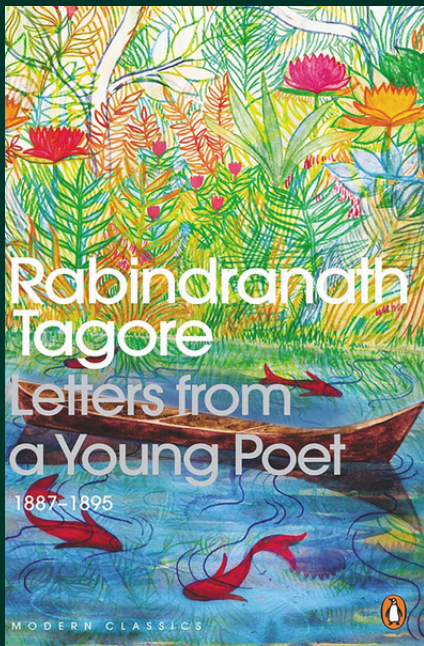
A witty and whimsical collection of cartoons that playfully skewers the quirks of literature, art, and modern life. With his signature minimalist style, Gauld offers wry observations on everything from robots and dinosaurs to literary classics and the creative process.



WHAT TO DO WHEN I'M GONE, BY SUZY HOPKINS & HALLIE BATEMAN

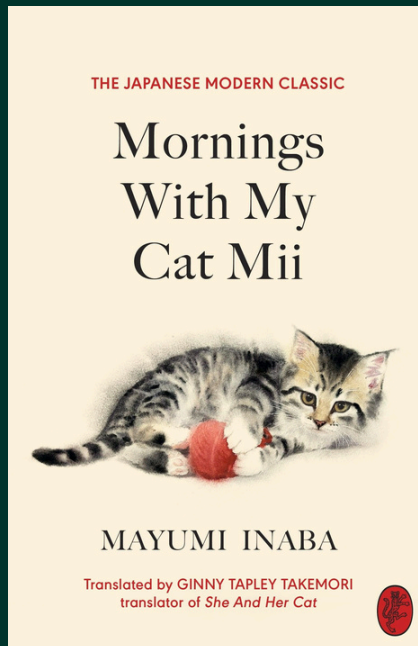
Written as a series of letters to her daughter, Hopkins offers practical advice, emotional support, and heartfelt wisdom on everything from dealing with grief to finding happiness. Illustrated with her daughter Hallie Bateman's quirky drawings, the book is both a poignant memoir and a loving manual for life.

Memoirs, Biographies



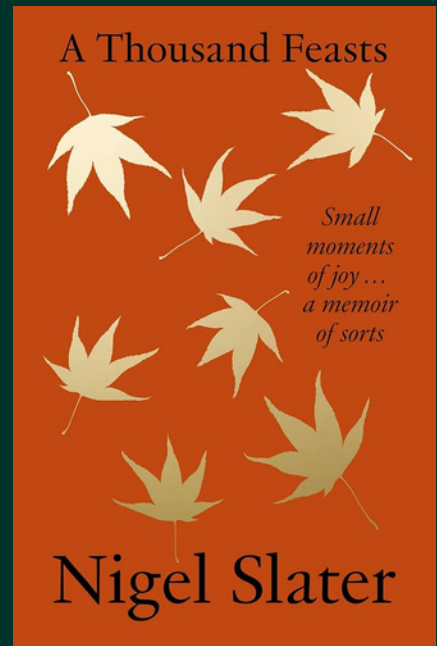
LETTERS FROM A YOUNG POET, BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Through letters written to his niece Indira Devi, we get a glimpse of Rabindranath Tagore's formative years. Penned between 1887 and 1895, these letters showcase his blossoming creativity, his deep connection to nature, and his insightful observations on society and human relationships.



MORNINGS WITH MY CAT MII, BY MAYUMI INABA

A beloved Japanese modern classic about our special connection with cats, and how they can change our lives. This chronicle by Inaba of her twenty-year old bond with her cat is a loving meditation on solitude, companionship, the writing life, and how we care for our cats as they grow older.



A THOUSAND FEASTS, BY NIGEL SLATER

A delightful culinary memoir that explores the profound connection between food, travel, and memory. Slater shares vivid anecdotes and personal reflections on cherished meals, culinary discoveries, and the simple joys of savoring life's small moments.



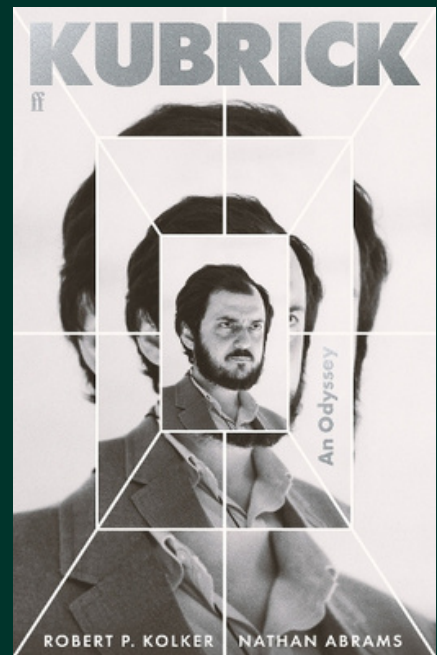
VIVE LE CHAOS, BY IAN MOORE

Comedian Ian Moore recounts his family's adventures as they swap their hectic life in England for a supposedly tranquil existence in rural France. He humorously chronicles the realities of renovating a ramshackle farmhouse, navigating cultural differences, encountering eccentric locals, while juggling family life and his own grumpy disposition.



THE CRANE WIFE, BY C.J HAUSER

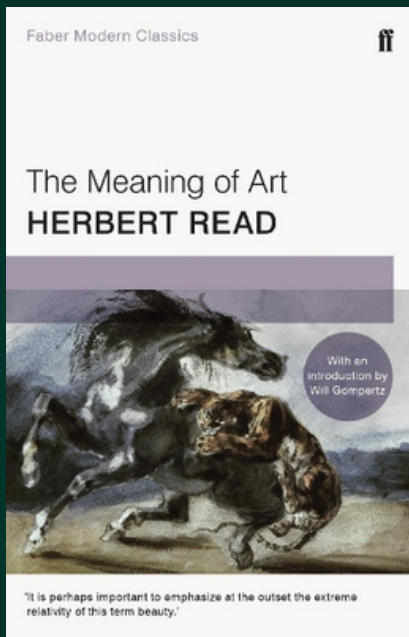
Following a broken engagement, Hauser shares her own experiences with romantic relationships, family, and finding her place in the world in this memoir-in-essays. This book is for anyone whose life doesn't look the way they thought it would, for anyone trying to find joy in the unexpected.



KUBRICK, BY ROBERT P. KOLKER, NATHAN ABRAMS

A fascinating deep dive into the life and work of the legendary filmmaker. Drawing on new research and interviews, Kolker illuminates Kubrick's creative genius, exploring his meticulous process, his complex personality, and the enduring impact of his cinematic masterpieces.

Art



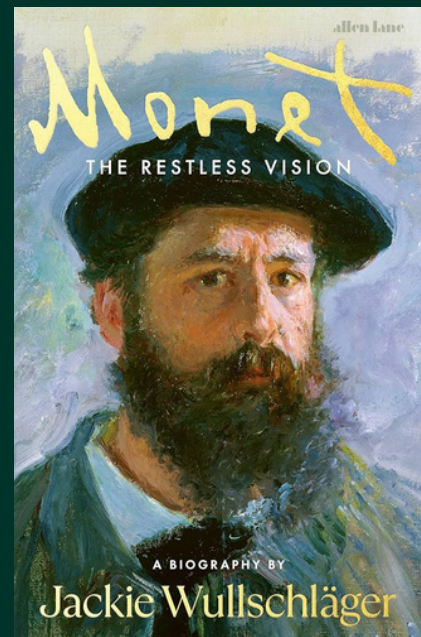
THE MEANING OF ART, BY HERBERT READ

A seminal work of art criticism that explores the fundamental principles and purpose of artistic expression. First published in 1931, it offers a clear and insightful analysis of various art forms, from painting and sculpture to architecture and poetry. Read provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and appreciating the enduring power of art.



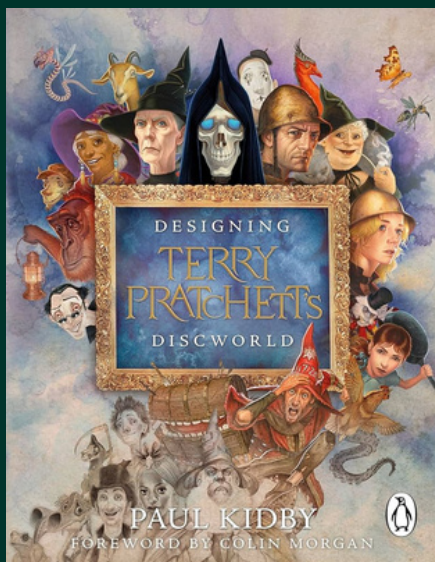
THE WOMEN WHO CHANGED PHOTOGRAPHY, BY GEMMA PADLEY

Showcasing the groundbreaking work of 50 female photographers who defied convention and reshaped the art form. From pioneers like Anna Atkins to contemporary icons like Zanele Muholi, the book highlights their diverse styles, techniques, and subjects.



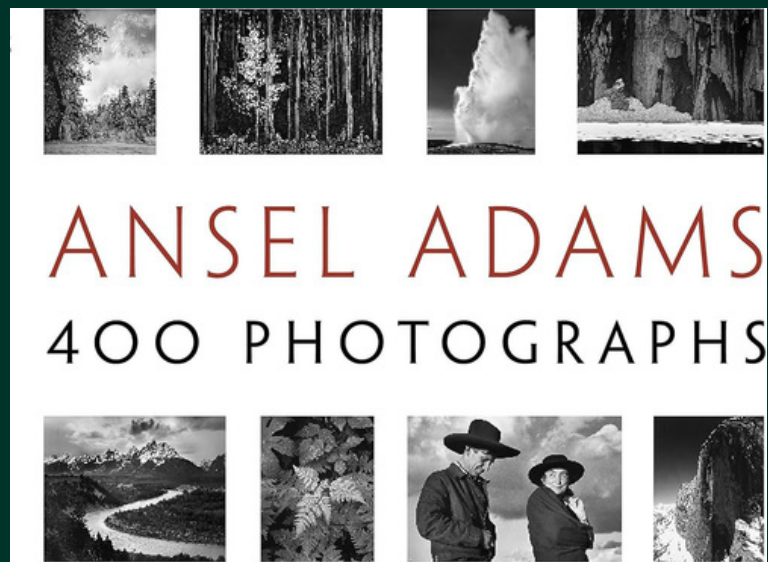
MONET: THE RESTLESS VISION, BY JACKIE WULLSCHLAGER

Jackie Wullschlager's "Monet" offers a captivating new portrait of the Impressionist master. She reveals a complex figure driven by ambition and plagued by self-doubt, whose revolutionary approach to painting transformed our perception of light and colour.



DESIGNING TERRY PRATCHETT'S DISCWORLD, BY PAUL KIDBY

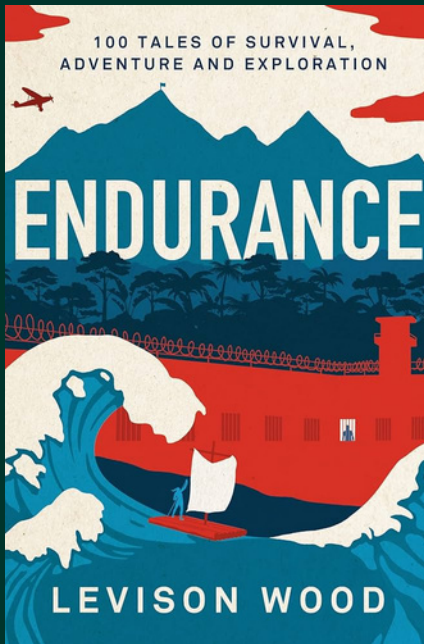
This one is a treat for Terry Pratchett fans! Pratchett's longtime illustrator, Paul Kidby, shares his process for bringing the iconic characters and locations to life, from initial sketches to finished paintings. Filled with previously unseen artwork and insightful commentary, the book explores the collaborative relationship between author and artist, revealing the inspiration and details behind Discworld's unique visual identity.



400 PHOTOGRAPHS, BY ANSEL ADAMS

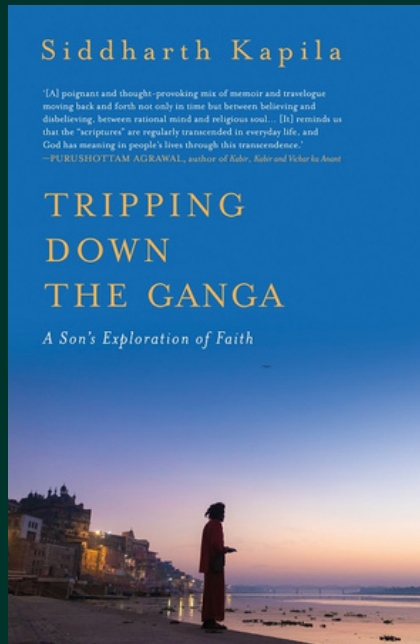
This stunning collection features iconic images alongside lesser-known gems from the legendary photographer Ansel Adams, showcasing the breadth of his work from sweeping landscapes to intimate portraits. With its diverse selection and insightful commentary, the book provides a deeper understanding of Adams' artistry and his profound connection to the natural world. A must-have for any photography enthusiast.

Travel



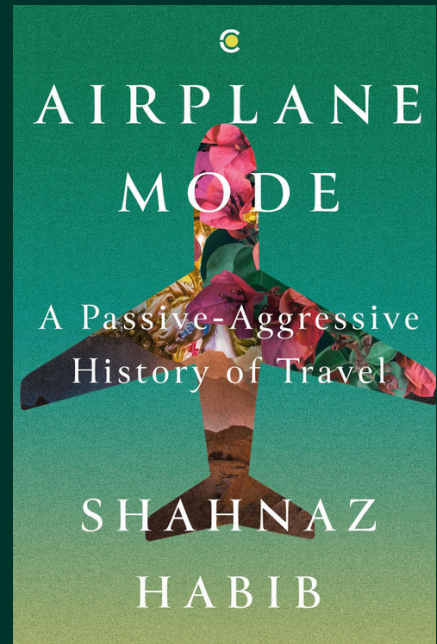
ENDURANCE, EDITED BY LEVISON WOOD

In this curated collection by explorer Levison Wood, he gathers inspiring stories from history and fiction that showcase human resilience in the face of extreme challenges. From polar explorers and mountaineers to war survivors and castaways, these tales celebrate courage, determination, and the human spirit.



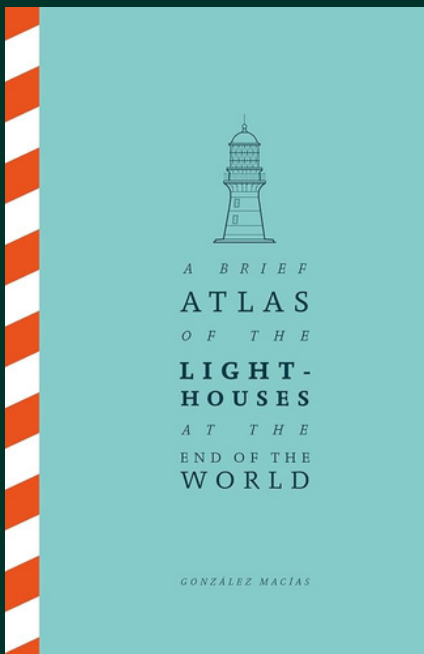
TRIPPING DOWN THE GANGA, BY SIDDHARTH KAPILA

In this memoir/travelogue, Siddharth Kapila retraces a pilgrimage route along the River Ganga, reflecting on his childhood journeys with his devout mother and grappling with his own evolving faith.



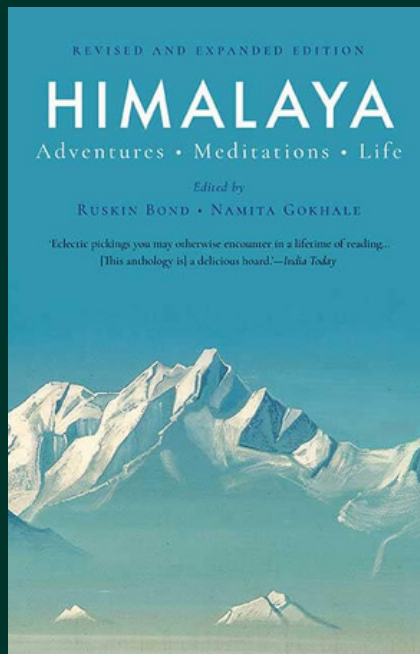
AIRPLANE MODE, BY SHAHNAZ HABIB

In this thought-provoking exploration of travel in the modern age, Habib critiques the impact of tourism, examining issues of colonialism, capitalism, and environmental damage. Habib threads the history of travel into her own personal history as a child on family vacations in India, and as an immigrant for whom round trips are an annual fact of life.



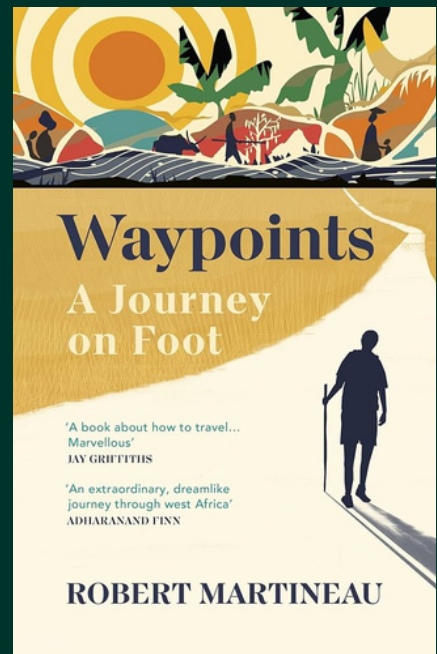
A BRIEF ATLAS OF THE LIGHTHOUSES AT THE END OF THE WORLD, BY GONZALEZ MACIAS

Macias explores remote lighthouses around the globe, exploring their fascinating architecture, the lives of their keepers, and the treacherous waters they illuminate. A journey to isolated outposts and a celebration of human resilience in the face of nature's power.



HIMALAYA, ED. RUSKIN BOND AND NAMITA GOKHALE

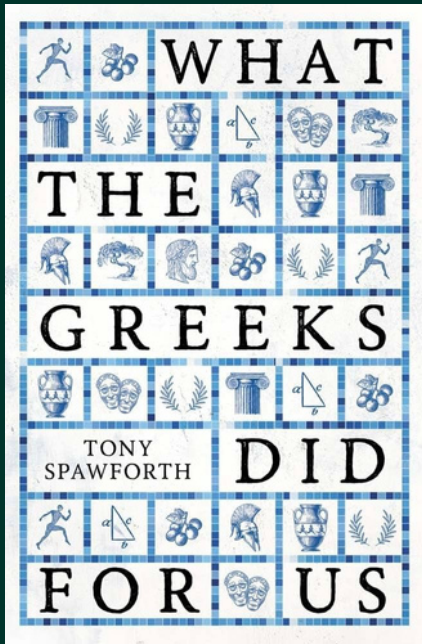
Through essays, stories, and poems, this anthology explores the rich history, culture, and natural beauty of the Himalayas. From thrilling adventures to quiet moments of reflection, "Himalaya" offers a captivating portrait of this majestic landscape and its enduring impact on those who live in its shadow.



WAYPOINTS, BY ROBERT MARTINEAU

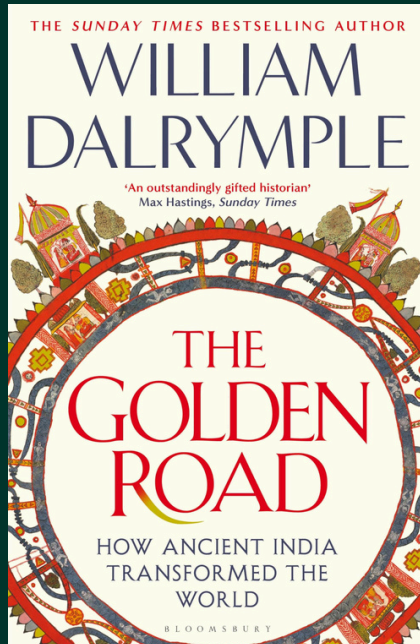
Robert Martineau recounts his transformative 1,000-mile walk across West Africa. Leaving behind a life that felt unfulfilling, he embarks on a solitary journey through Ghana, Togo, and Benin. Along the way, he encounters diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and moments of profound introspection.

History



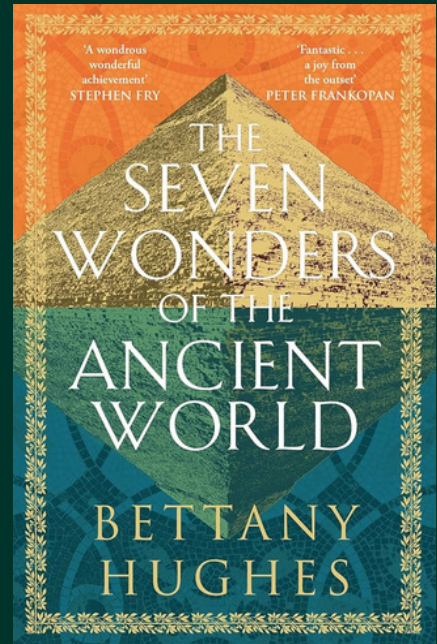
WHAT THE GREEKS DID FOR US, BY TONY SPAWFORTH

Tony Spawforth explores the enduring legacy of ancient Greece on modern society. He examines how Greek ideas and innovations in fields like philosophy, art, and democracy continue to shape our world today, while also considering the darker side of this influence.



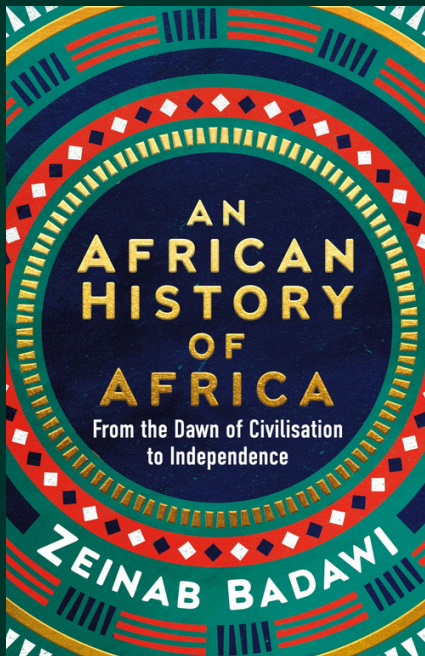
THE GOLDEN ROAD, BY WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

William Dalrymple illuminates how ancient India profoundly shaped the world. Tracing the flow of Indian art, religion, and ideas across Asia, along trade routes, Dalrymple reveals how Indian influence reached far beyond its borders.



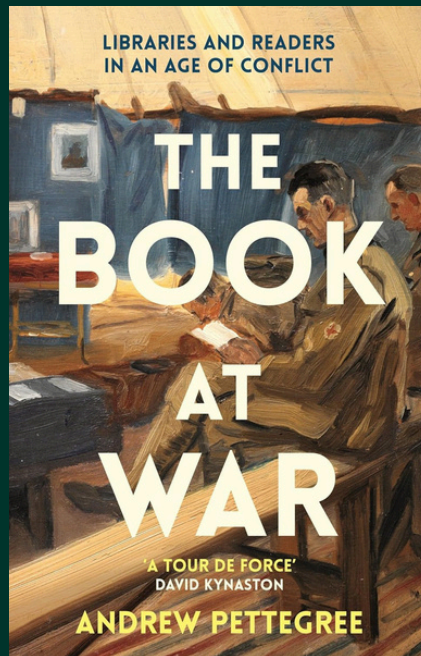
THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD, BY BETTANY HUGHES

Bettany Hughes explores the history of these incredible feats of engineering and artistry. She brings to life the stories behind the Great Pyramid, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, and other marvels, revealing the ambition, innovation, and cultural context that inspired them.



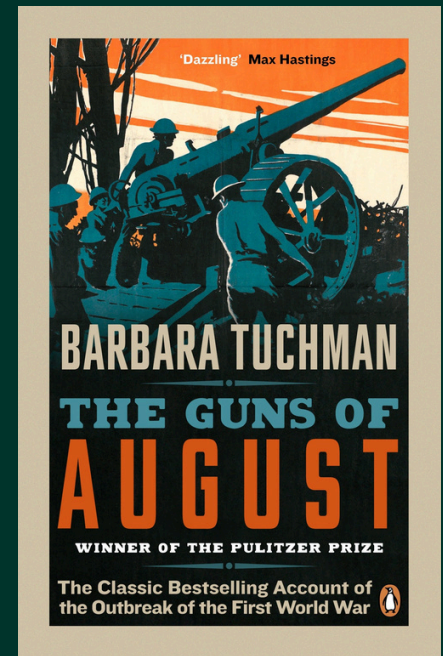
AN AFRICAN HISTORY OF AFRICA, BY ZEINAB BADAWI

Visiting more than thirty African countries to interview countless historians, anthropologists, archaeologists and local storytellers, Badawi unearths buried histories from across the continent and gives Africa its rightful place in our global story.



THE BOOK AT WAR, BY ANDREW PETTEGREE

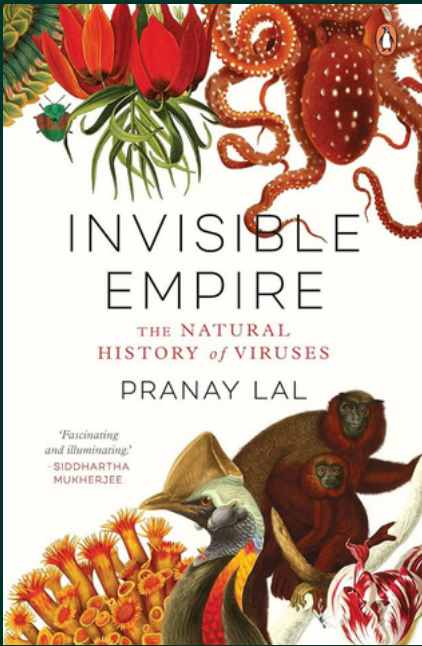
Andrew Pettegree examines the surprising relationship between books and warfare. He explores how books have been used as tools of propaganda and resistance, how wars have impacted libraries and literary production, and how authors and readers have been shaped by conflict.



THE GUNS OF AUGUST, BY BARBARA TUCHMAN

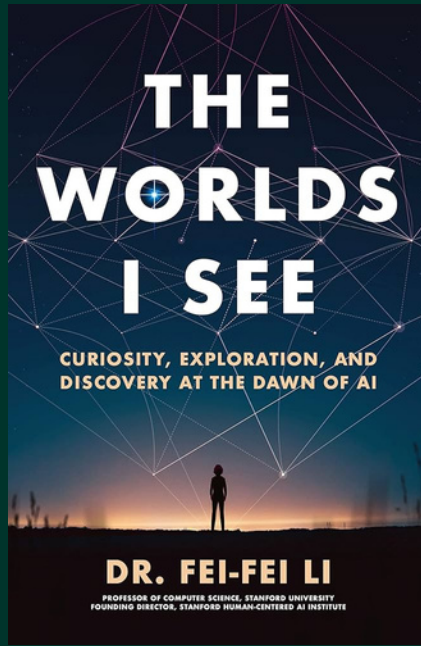
A gripping account of the first month of World War I. Tuchman vividly describes the diplomatic failures and military decisions that led to the devastating conflict, focusing on the key players and events of August 1914.

Science



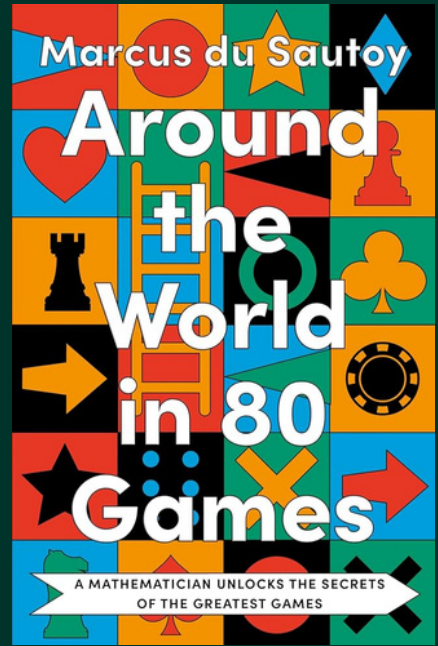
INVISIBLE EMPIRE, BY PRANAY LAL

Pranay Lal delves into the world of viruses, exploring their incredible diversity, their profound impact on life on Earth, and their complex relationship with humans. Lal challenges common perceptions of viruses as solely agents of disease, revealing their crucial roles in evolution and ecosystems.



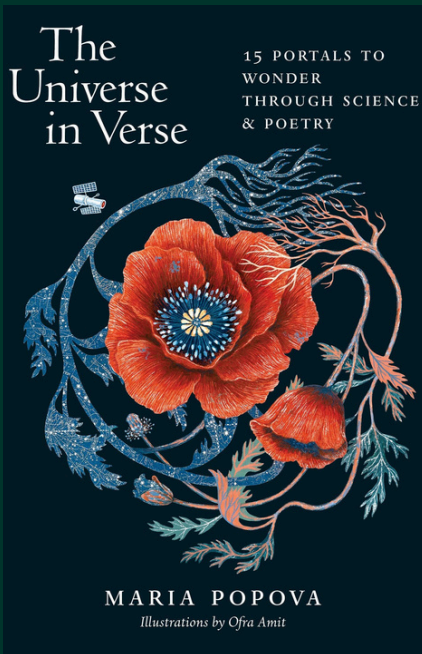
THE WORLDS I SEE, BY DR. FEI-FEI LI

A blend of personal journey and scientific exploration. Dr. Li, a renowned AI pioneer and creator of ImageNet, a key catalyst of modern artificial intelligence, recounts her path from immigrant childhood to leading researcher. She offers a unique perspective on the development and potential of AI, while also making a case for a human-centric and ethical approach.



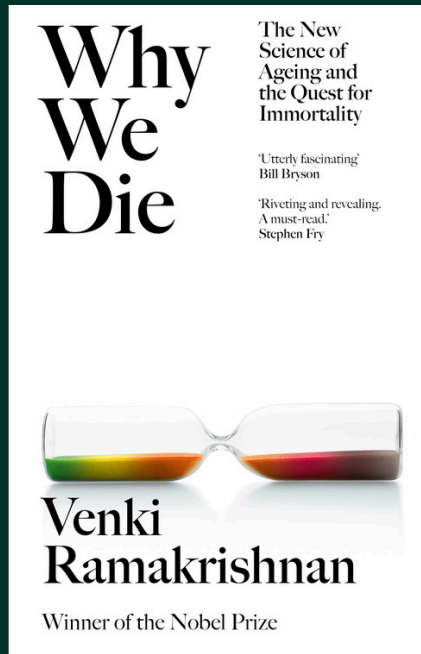
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 GAMES, BY MARCUS DU SAUTOY

Marcus du Sautoy takes readers on a globe-trotting adventure exploring the fascinating intersection of games and mathematics. From ancient board games to modern video games, he reveals the hidden mathematical principles that underpin our favorite pastimes.



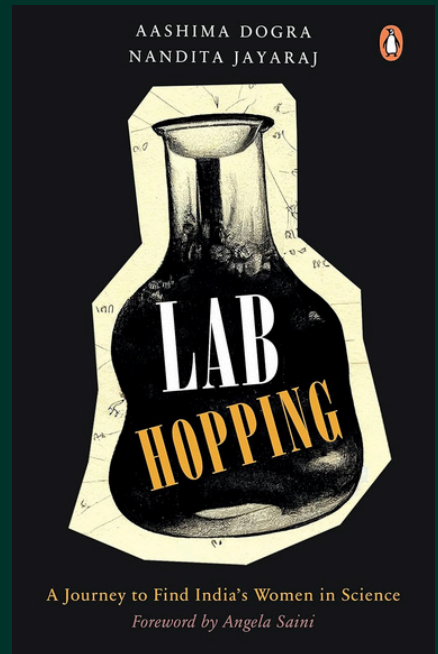
THE UNIVERSE IN VERSE, BY MARIA POPOVA

A captivating exploration of science through poetry. Popova's collection of essays and poems illuminate the wonders of the cosmos, from the mysteries of dark matter to the intricacies of the human mind.



WHY WE DIE, BY VENKI RAMAKRISHNAN

Venki Ramakrishnan explores the science of ageing and death. Examining the biological processes that cause us to age, and the latest research on extending lifespan, he discusses the ethical and societal implications of potential immortality.



LAB HOPPING, BY AASHIMA DOGRA AND NANDITA JAYARAJ

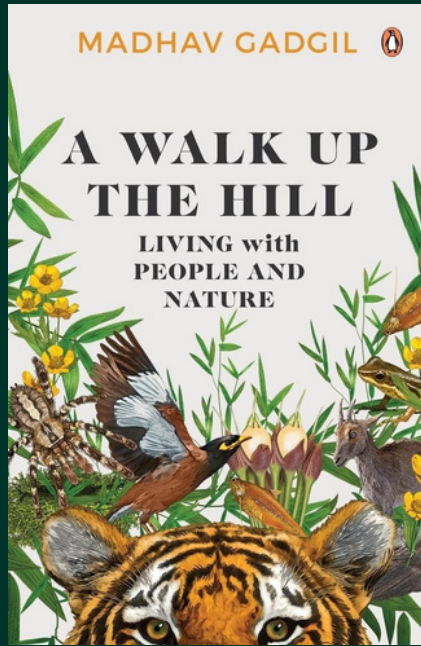
The authors explore the under-representation of women in Indian science, the systemic challenges and biases that female scientists face, and call for greater inclusivity in scientific institutions.

Nature writing, Climate



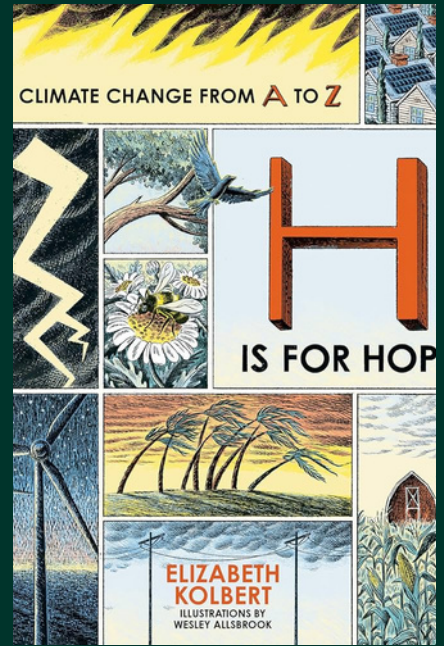
THE GARDEN AGAINST TIME, BY OLIVIA LAING

In this meditative exploration of gardens and their significance throughout history, Laing weaves together personal reflections, historical insights, and literary references, to examine how gardens have always served as spaces of refuge, creativity, and resistance.



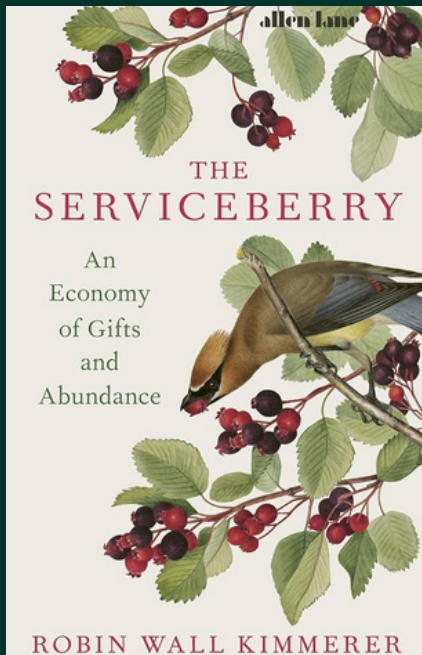
A WALK UP THE HILL, BY MADHAV GADGIL

Gadgil, a renowned ecologist, recounts his experiences traversing the diverse landscapes of India, from the Western Ghats to the Himalayas. The book is both a celebration of India's natural heritage and a call for responsible stewardship of our planet.



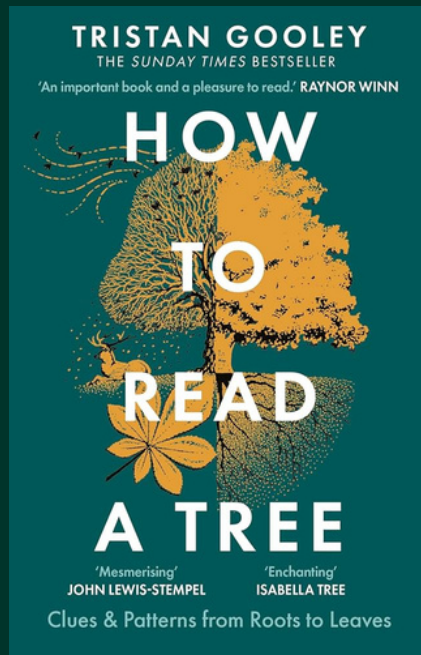
H IS FOR HOPE, BY ELIZABETH KOLBERT

Structured as an alphabet book for adults, Kolbert tackles complex topics with a touch of dark humour. From the history of climate science to the potential for technological solutions, she provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead.



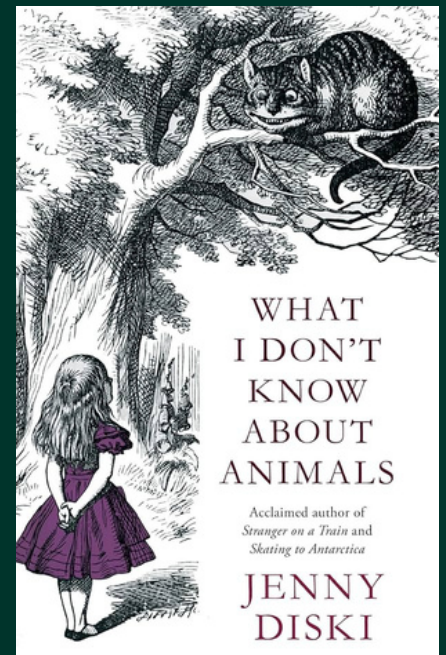
THE SERVICEBERRY, BY ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Robin Wall Kimmerer reflects on the lessons of reciprocity and generosity embodied by the serviceberry tree. Using indigenous knowledge and scientific observation, she offers a powerful message about the importance of sharing, respect, and sustainability.



HOW TO READ A TREE, BY TRISTAN GOOLEY

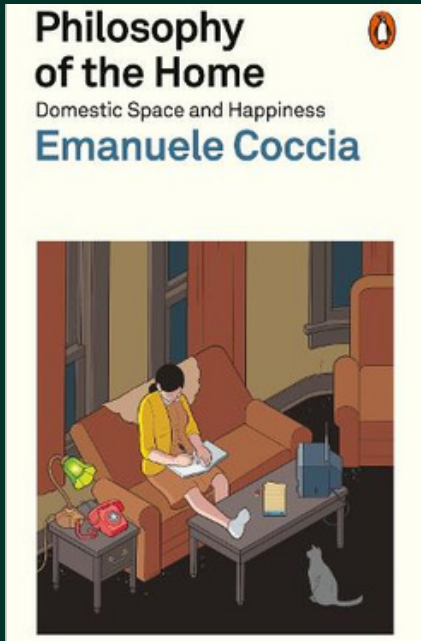
Tristan Gooley teaches readers to observe subtle clues in bark, branches, leaves, and growth patterns to understand a tree's history, its health, and its relationship to the surrounding environment. Become a tree detective, and discover a deeper connection to the natural world.



WHAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANIMALS, BY JENNY DISKI

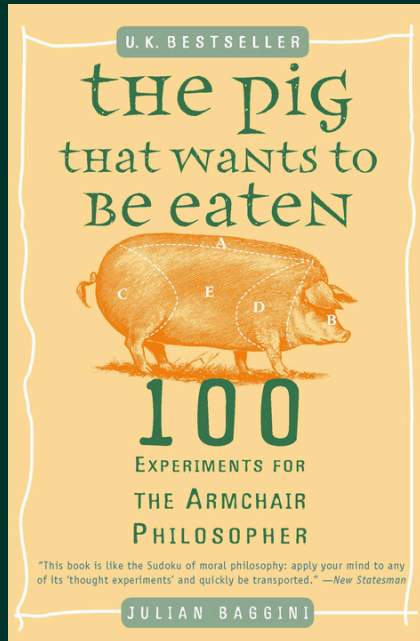
Diski examines how we perceive and interact with animals, challenging our anthropocentric biases. She explores topics including pet ownership, animal rights, and the ethics of zoos, offering a thought-provoking and often humorous critique of our place in the natural world.

Philosophy



PHILOSOPHY OF THE HOME, BY EMANUELE COCCIA

Coccia argues that homes are not just physical shelters, but spaces that shape our identities, relationships, and our understanding of the world. He explores how the architecture and objects within our homes influence our thoughts and behaviors, and encourages us to cultivate a deeper appreciation for the spaces we inhabit.



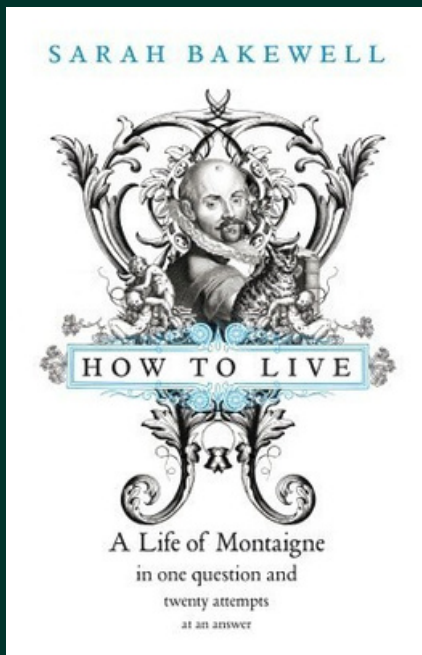
THE PIG THAT WANTS TO BE EATEN, BY JULIAN BAGGINI

A collection of thought-provoking philosophical puzzles that challenge our assumptions about morality, identity, and reality. From a pig that consents to be eaten to a teleportation device that might destroy the original you, these experiments encourage readers to engage with philosophical questions in a fun and accessible way.



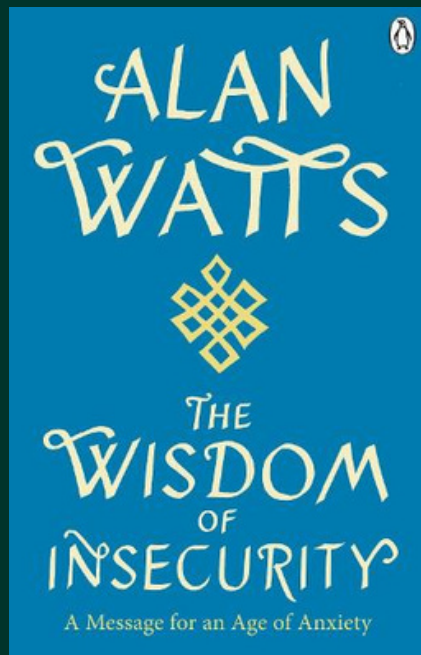
WAYS OF BEING, BY JAMES BRIDLE

Bridle explores the diverse forms of intelligence found in nature, challenging our human-centric view. He encourages us to recognize these "non-human" intelligences and consider what we can learn from them about ourselves and the planet we share.



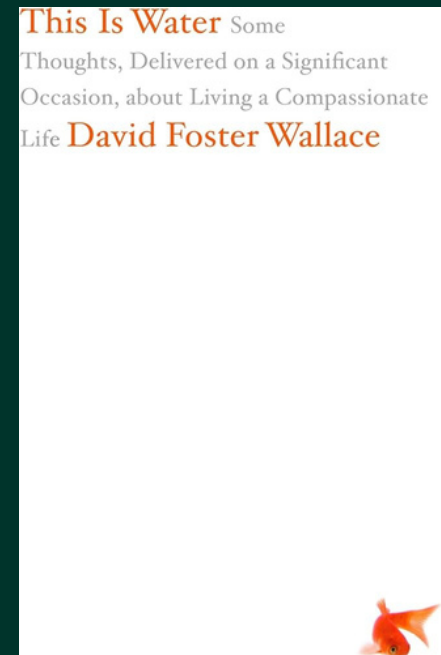
HOW TO LIVE: A LIFE OF MONTAIGNE IN ONE QUESTION AND TWENTY ATTEMPTS AT AN ANSWER

Bakewell explores the life and work of 16th-century French essayist Michel de Montaigne, through the lens of the timeless question: "How should we live?" Using Montaigne's insightful essays and experiences, she offers a guide to navigating life's complexities.



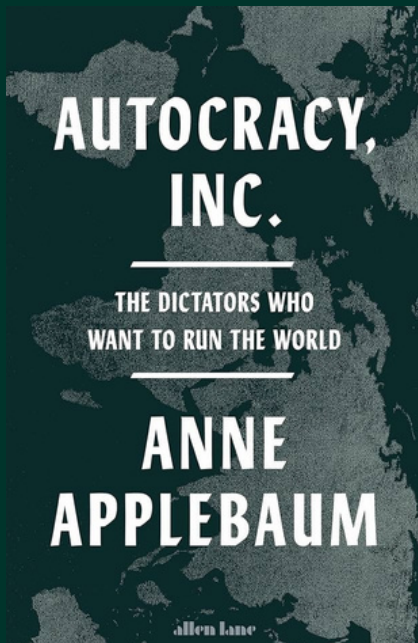
THIS WISDOM OF INSECURITY, BY ALAN WATTS

Alan Watts argues that our constant striving for security and our obsession with the future create a sense of dissatisfaction with the present moment. He encourages us to embrace the impermanence of life and find liberation in the "wisdom of insecurity," by living fully in the now.



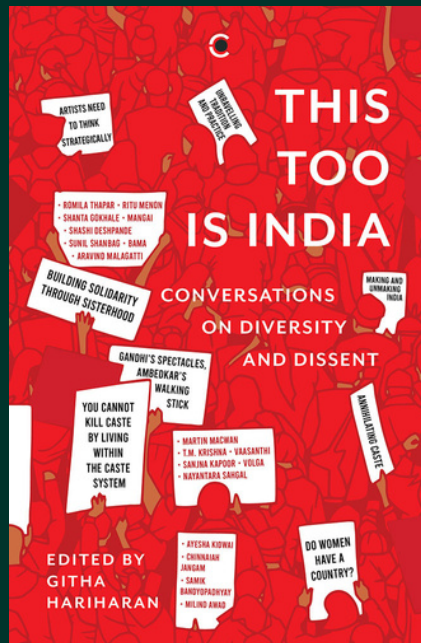
THIS IS WATER, BY DAVID FOSTER WALLACE

A profound and insightful essay based on his 2005 Kenyon College commencement speech. Wallace challenges the graduates to think critically about their default ways of seeing the world, urging them to choose empathy and awareness over self-centeredness as they navigate the everyday challenges and routines of adult life.



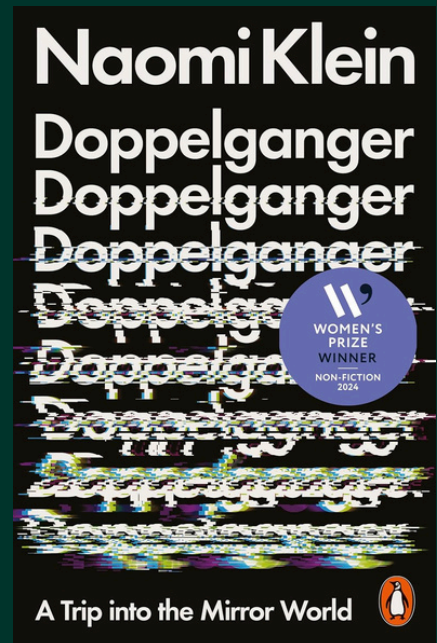
AUTOCRACY INC. BY ANNE APPLEBAUM

Anne Applebaum examines the rise of modern authoritarianism around the world. She argues that these regimes, rather than being isolated, operate as a network, sharing tactics and resources to maintain power and undermine democracies.



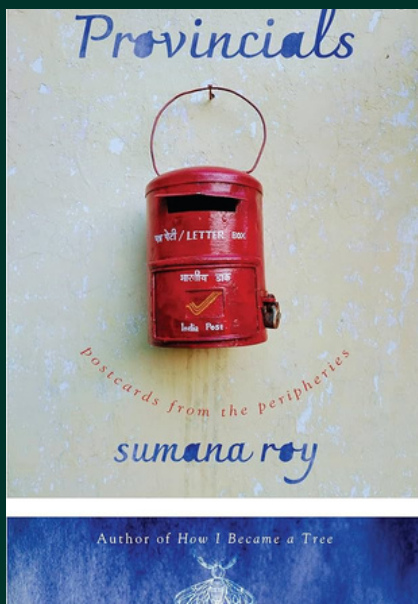
THIS TOO IS INDIA, CONVERSATIONS ON DIVERSITY AND DISSENT, ED. BY GITHA HARIHARAN

A collection of conversations with prominent Indian thinkers, artists, and activists as they discuss critical issues facing India today, including freedom of expression, social justice, and cultural identity. The diverse perspectives highlight the importance of dissent, inclusivity, and the ongoing struggle for a more equitable society.



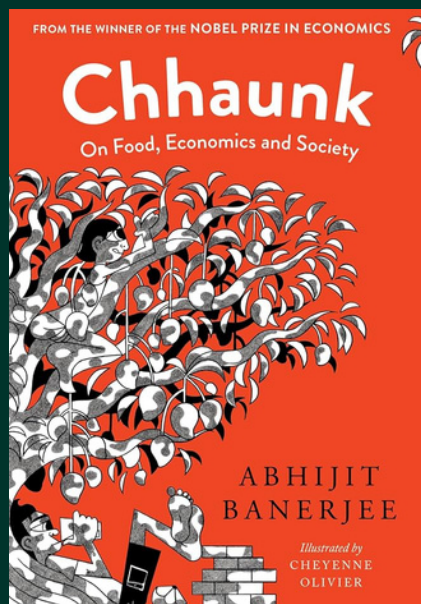
DOPELGANGER, BY NAOMI KLEIN

Klein intertwines her personal experience of being mistaken for another Naomi (Naomi Wolf) with insightful analysis of political polarization, conspiracy theories, and the erosion of truth in the digital age. She explores the historical and psychological significance of doppelgängers and how it manifests in our current fragmented reality.



PROVINCIALS, BY SUMANA ROY

"Provincials" explores the complexities of identity and belonging in India's smaller towns and cities. Drawing on personal experience and cultural observations, Roy highlights the rich intellectual and emotional lives of those living outside the major metropolises.



CHHAUNK, BY ABHIJIT BANERJEE

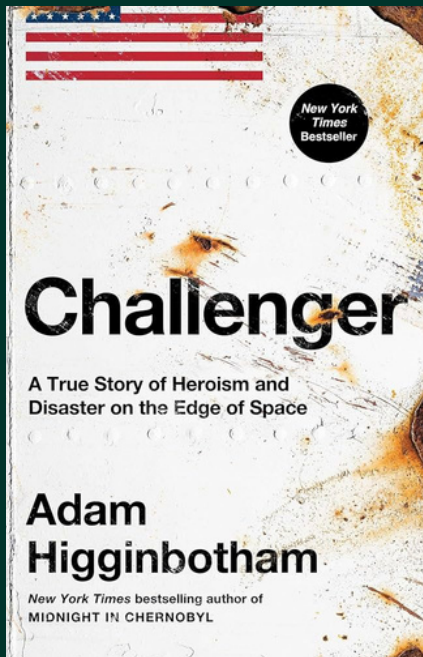
Abhijit Banerjee uses food, especially the Indian technique of tempering spices ("chhaunk") as a metaphor to explore Indian society and economics. Blending personal stories, recipes, and social commentary, Banerjee examines topics including gender roles, ageing, and consumerism.



ON FREEDOM, BY TIMOTHY SNYDER

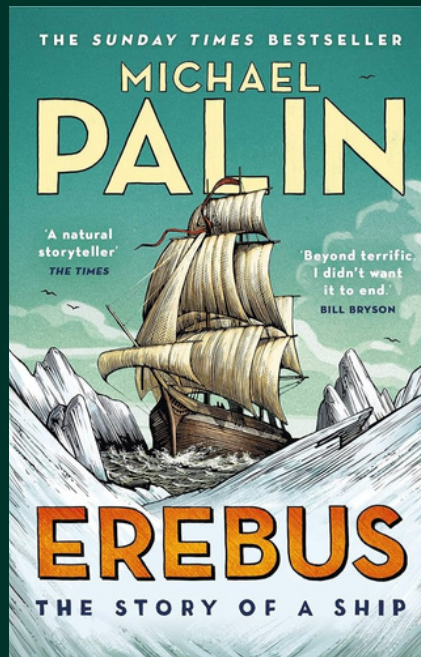
Snyder argues that our idea of freedom has become distorted, often equated with individual liberty and consumerism. He emphasizes the importance of civic responsibility, historical awareness, and collective action as crucial to sustaining democratic values in an increasingly challenging world.

Other Non-fiction



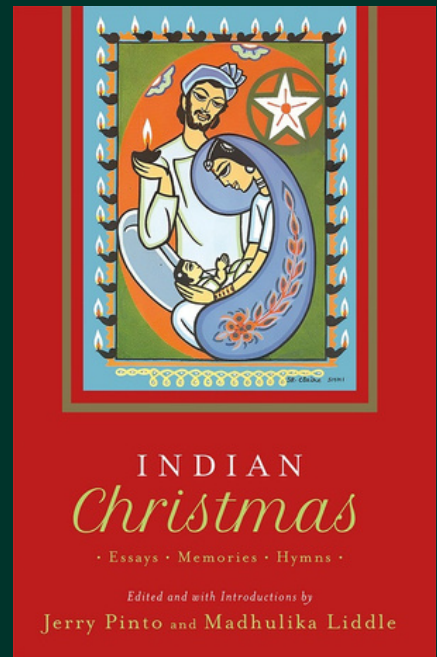
CHALLENGER, BY ADAM HIGGINBOTHAM

A gripping account of the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. Going beyond the familiar narrative, Higginbotham delves into the complex history of the shuttle program and the decisions that led to the tragedy, while also bringing to life the stories of the seven astronauts who perished.



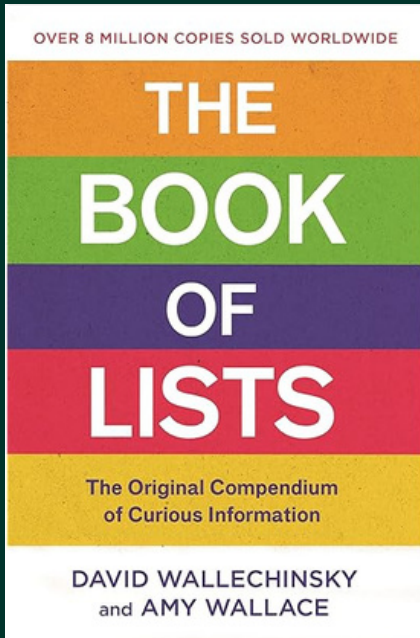
EREBUS, BY MICHAEL PALIN

Palin tells the story of the HMS Erebus, a Royal Navy ship that met a tragic end in the Arctic in 1845. Palin traces the ship's journey from its construction to its voyages of exploration in the Antarctic and ultimately its disappearance in the Arctic while searching for the Northwest Passage.



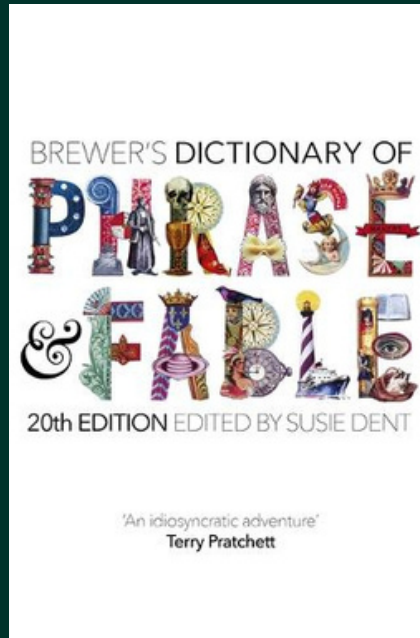
INDIAN CHRISTMAS, ED. JERRY PINTO AND MADHULIKA LIDDLE

A vibrant anthology capturing the diverse ways in which Christmas is celebrated across India, through essay, poems, hymns, and images that reflect India's rich cultural tapestry and the unifying spirit of the holiday.



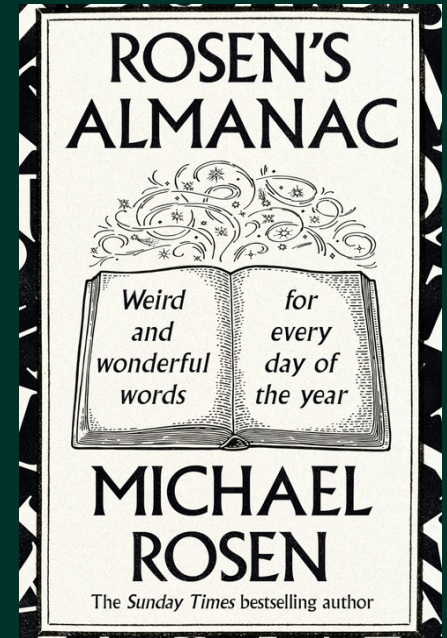
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