

Source: The i {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Saturday 5, September 2020
Page: 35,36,3...
Area: 4170 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 215640 Daily
Ad data: page rate £10,472.00, scc rate £44.00
Phone: 020 7005 2000
Keyword: Kia Abdullah



life
SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

75 of the best new books for autumn

A record number of releases are due to hit the shelves in the coming months as titles delayed by the coronavirus pandemic finally make it into the shops. So now is the perfect time to curl up and settle down with our pick of the top reads. By **Sarah Hughes**



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Gardens p40 ● **Culture** p47 ● **TV guide** p48 ● **itravel** p63 »

FEMINISM

More Than a Woman

Caitlin Moran

Ebury Press, £20, out now
The columnist returns with a collection covering everything from the newfound pleasures of Botox to, more seriously, her teenage daughter's eating disorder.

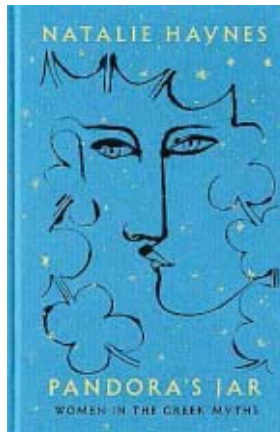


MYTHOLOGY

Pandora's Jar

Natalie Haynes

Picador, £20, out 1 Oct
Haynes turns her sharp eye on some of Greece's most famous myths, repositioning them so that the women's stories are centre stage.

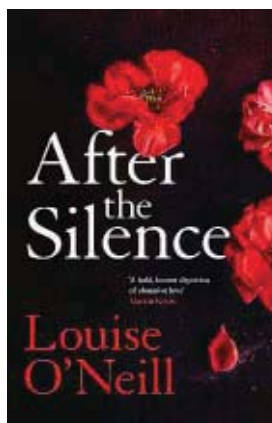


CRIME FICTION

After the Silence

Louise O'Neill

riverrun, £12.99, out now
The talented O'Neill turns her hand to psychological thrillers with this tale of a coercive relationship, long-buried secrets and a murder that tore a small community apart.



Continued on p36 »

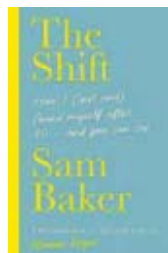
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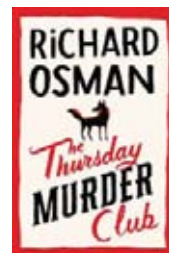
DEBUT
Sad Janet
Lucie Britsch
 W&N, £14.99, out now
 Sad Janet doesn't know why she's sad. She doesn't want to be. She just can't help it. Can a pill transform her world? Britsch's tart debut is a wicked satire of our obsession with happiness.

REISSUE
The Snow Ball
Brigid Brophy
 Faber & Faber, £8.99, out 5 Nov
 The welcome republication of the brilliant Brophy's best works starts with this delicious tale of a New Year's Eve costume ball with long-reaching ramifications.



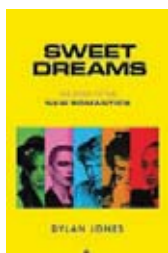
FEMINISM
The Shift
Sam Baker
 Coronet, £16.99, out Thursday
 Billed as a manifesto for women over 40, the former editor of *The Pool* tackles the menopause with her customary wit and wisdom.

FICTION
What You Could Have Won
Rachel Genn
 And Other Stories, £10, out 3 Nov
 Partially inspired by the death of Amy Winehouse, Genn's second novel examines fame, addiction and toxic relationships.



DEBUT
The Thursday Murder Club
Richard Osman
 Viking, £14.99, out now
 The Pointless presenter's debut is a lovely, cosy crime story about a group of elderly friends solving mysteries from their retirement village.

BIOGRAPHY
Tom Stoppard: A Life
Hermione Lee
 Faber & Faber, £30, out 1 Oct
 The acclaimed biographer tackles a living subject with this look at the celebrated playwright. Featuring hours of interviews with Stoppard, his family, friends and those with whom he has worked.



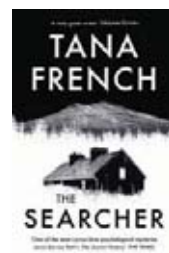
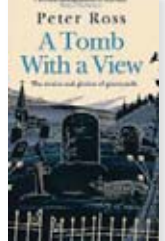
MUSIC
Sweet Dreams: The Story of the New Romantics
Dylan Jones
 Faber & Faber, £20, out 1 Oct
 Who better to tell the story of the super-stylish New Romantic movement than former GQ editor Jones.

FOOD
Home Cookery Year
Claire Thomson
 Hardie Grant, £30, out now
 Big hitters from Nigella Lawson to Yotam Ottolenghi might be out in force, but the one cookbook you really need this autumn is this practical work from the ever-inventive Thomson.



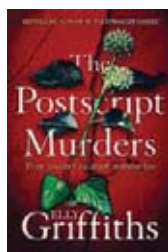
FANTASY
Piranesi
Susanna Clarke
 Bloomsbury, £14.99, out 15 Sep
 The long-awaited new book from the author of *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* is the idiosyncratic story of a world in which fantasy and reality constantly shift and nothing is as it appears.

SOCIAL HISTORY
A Tomb with a View
Peter Ross
 Headline, £20, out now
 Scottish journalist Ross is the perfect companion for this wonderful trek around graveyards great and small. An informative, playful work stuffed full of memorable stories.



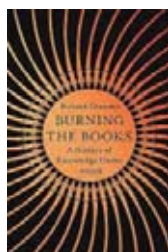
CRIME FICTION
The Searcher
Tana French
 Viking, £14.99, out 5 Nov
 Crime queen French nods to John Ford and the heyday of the Western with this addictive tale of an American cop caught up in events he doesn't understand in rural Ireland.

NATURE
The Wild Silence
Raynor Winn
 Michael Joseph, £16.99, out now
 Winn's follow-up to 2018's bestselling *The Salt Path* is a moving exploration of love, loss and the power of wild spaces.



CRIME FICTION
The Postscript Murders
Elly Griffiths
 Quercus, £18.99, out 1 Oct
 The prolific Griffiths spins a delightful story of murder and mayhem, in which her heroine DS Harbinder Kaur delves into the murky world of crime fiction.

MEMOIR
Bleak
Roddy Murray
 Saraband, £9.99, out 22 Oct
 Murray takes a raucous look at a life of "misadventure and mayhem", from bored teenage years on the Isle of Lewis to making mischief at art school with Peter Capaldi.



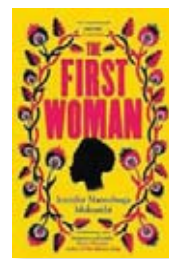
POLITICS
Burning the Books
Richard Ovenden
 John Murray, £20, out now
 As director of the Bodleian Library, Ovenden is well-placed to deliver this devastating take on the erosion of knowledge and the importance of libraries as a physical space.

CRIME FICTION
The Devil and the Dark Water
Stuart Turton
 Raven Books, £16.99, out 1 Oct
 The Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle author returns with this page-turner about an imprisoned detective, a murder at sea and hints of demonic possession.



FICTION
What Are You Going Through
Sigrid Nunez
 Virago, £16.99, out 1 Oct
 A smart look at the bonds and demands of friendship in which a terminally ill woman asks her best friend to help end her life.

FICTION
The First Woman
Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi
 Oneworld Publications, £16.99, out 1 Oct
 The Ugandan author blends folklore and feminism for this passionate coming-of-age story set during the dictatorship of Idi Amin.

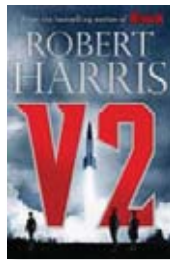


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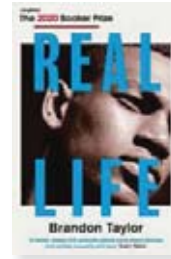
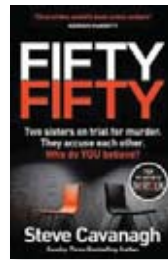
FANTASY
The Thief On the Winged Horse
Kate Mascarenhas
 Head of Zeus, £18.99, out 12 Nov
 This vividly imagined second novel tells the story of a family of magical doll-makers whose livelihood is threatened by theft.

THRILLER
V2
Robert Harris
 Hutchinson, £20, out 17 Sep
 The king of the page-turning thriller heads back to the Second World War for this tightly paced story of a German rocket engineer and a young British intelligence officer.



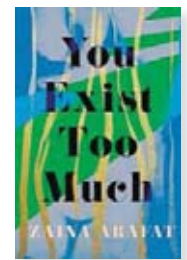
HISTORY
The Haunting of Alma Fielding
Kate Summerscale
 Bloomsbury, £16.99, out 1 Oct
 The award-winning author's latest novel uncovers an unnerving ghost story on the eve of the Second World War.

THRILLER
Fifty Fifty
Steve Cavanagh
 Orion, £8.99, out now
 Cavanagh is the king of the high-concept twist and his latest has an absolute humdinger: when a former NYC mayor is murdered, his daughters each accuse the other of the deed.



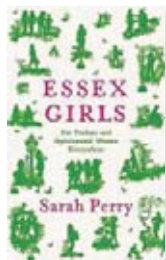
FICTION
Real Life
Brandon Taylor
 Daunt Books, £9.99, out now
 This Booker-longlisted novel is the hugely impressive story of black gay student Wallace, who finds himself confronting his past while grappling with racism, loneliness and grief.

DEBUT
You Exist Too Much
Zaina Arafat
 Dialogue Books, £14.99, out 19 Nov
 Arafat's debut is a wonderfully written queer coming-of-age story about a young Palestinian-American girl caught between two worlds.



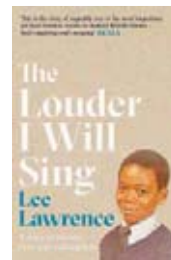
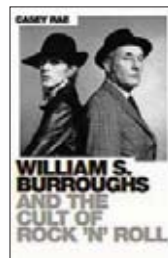
TELEVISION
The Age of Static
Phil Harrison
 Melville House UK, £9.99, out 22 Oct
 TV critic Harrison digs into our recent past to consider how the programmes we watch impact on our lives. Wide-ranging, witty and very well informed.

FICTION
Xstabeth
David Keenan
 White Rabbit Books, £14.99, out 12 Nov
 The imaginative Keenan tackles everything from golf to the classic Russian novel as he follows young Aneliya, whose life is upended by an angelic presence.



CULTURAL HISTORY
Essex Girls
Sarah Perry
 Serpent's Tail, £7.99, out 1 Oct
 The always-enthralling Perry returns with a spiky and subversive look at the power of all things Essex – and a feminist defence of "Essex girls".

MUSIC
William S Burroughs and the Cult of Rock'n'Roll
Casey Rae
 White Rabbit, £14.99, out Thursday
 An entertaining look at the ways cult novelist Burroughs "infected" and continues to infect music today.



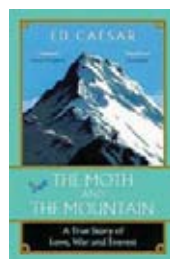
MEMOIR
The Louder I Will Sing
Lee Lawrence
 Sphere, £16.99, out 17 Sep
 Lawrence's moving memoir tells the story of his mother Cherry's police shooting in Brixton in 1985 – sparking the riots – before looking at how his life changed as he became his mother's carer.

CRIME FICTION
Unfollow Me
Charlotte Duckworth
 Quercus, £7.99, out 15 Oct
 Duckworth's second novel turns an acerbic eye on the world of the "influencer" with a twisty tale that asks what's really happening behind those perfectly curated images.



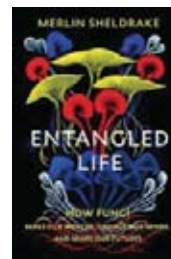
HISTORICAL FICTION
The Glorious Guinness Girls
Emily Hourican
 Headline Review, £20, out 17 Sep
 Irish novelist Hourican moves into historical fiction with this take on the early lives of the three glamorous Guinness heiresses.

SPORT
The Moth and the Mountain
Ed Caesar
 Viking, £18.99, out 12 Nov
 New Yorker contributor Caesar's second book tells the enthralling story of adventurer Maurice Wilson and his doomed obsession with Mount Everest.



MEMOIR
Loved and Wanted
Christa Parravani
 Manilla Press, £14.99, out 10 Nov
 Details the writer's attempts to terminate a pregnancy due to health and financial issues. A harrowing critique of the US health system.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Really Saying Something
Sara Dallin & Keren Woodward
 Hutchinson, £20, out 29 Oct
 The Bananarama girls spill all in what promises to be one of the most entertaining celebrity memoirs of the year.



NATURE
Entangled Life
Merlin Sheldrake
 Bodley Head, £20, out now
 Sheldrake's enthralling book takes us on a journey deep into the woods to consider the many uses of the humble mushroom. You'll never look at fungi in quite the same way again.

DEBUT
Love Orange
Natasha Randall
 riverrun, £18.99, out now
 Translator Randall makes her fiction debut with this assured and funny story of an American family in crisis trying to hide behind their new "smart" home.



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CRIME FICTION

When No One is Watching
 Alyssa Cole
 William Morrow, £8.99, out 1 Oct
 An addictive tale of property and paranoia in which long-term residents start to disappear as a Brooklyn neighbourhood gentrifies.

SCI-FI/FANTASY

Afterland
 Lauren Beukes
 Michael Joseph, £16.99, out now
 The award-winning South African writer returns with this timely thriller set in a post-apocalyptic world three years after a virus has wiped out 99 per cent of the world's men.



FICTION

A Ghost in the Throat
 Doireann Ní Ghríofa
 Tramp Press, £12.99, out now
 Ní Ghríofa's beautifully written book skillfully combines the past and present to examine what it takes for women's voices to be heard.

CRITICISM

Shakespearean
 Robert McCrum
 Picador, £12.99, out now
 Veteran critic McCrum's latest is a beguiling mix of memoir, literary criticism and biography as he attempts to make sense of why Shakespeare means so much to so many.



DEBUT

The High Moments
 Sara-Ella Ozbek
 Simon & Schuster, £8.99, out 17 Sep
 Ozbek's hugely entertaining debut is an enjoyable takedown of the fashion industry which also asks: what does it take to be truly seen?

ESSAYS

Mantel Pieces
 Hilary Mantel
 Fourth Estate, £16.99, out 1 Oct
 We might have only just put down *The Mirror and the Light* but there is still time for more Mantel as the writer returns with the best book title of the year.



CRIME FICTION

A Song for the Dark Times
 Ian Rankin
 Orion, £20, out 1 Oct
 A smartly plotted tale in which Siobhan Clarke investigates the murder of a young Saudi playboy while Rebus searches for his missing son-in-law.

MEMOIR

Featherhood
 Charlie Gilmour
 W&N, £16.99, out now
 Emotional, touching and often odd, Gilmour's memoir about two key relationships – one with his late father and the other with a magpie – lingers long after the final page.

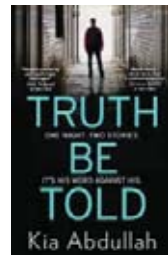
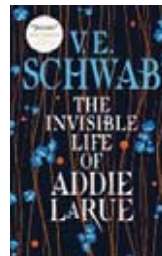


HISTORICAL FICTION

Mr Wilder & Me
 Jonathan Coe
 Viking, £16.99, out 5 Nov
 The versatile Coe heads back to the 70s for this sun-drenched story of a young woman who forms a bond with now-elderly Hollywood director Billy Wilder.

FANTASY

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue
 V.C. Schwab
 Titan Books, £17.99, out 6 Oct
 Fantasy star Schwab pulls out all the stops with this story of a girl who makes a deal with the Devil in exchange for immortality.

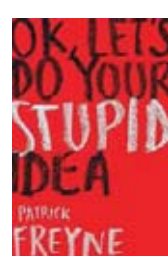


CRIME FICTION

Truth Be Told
 Kia Abdullah
 HQ, £12.99, out now
 Abdullah's thought-provoking second novel follows a privileged student whose life is upended after an assault occurs at a raucous party.

ESSAYS

Ok, Let's Do Your Stupid Idea
 Patrick Freyne
 Penguin Books, £12.99, out 17 Sep
 Irish journalist Freyne's essay collection, covering everything from his dad's job to forming a band, is laugh-out-loud funny.



FICTION

Exit Management
 Naomi Booth
 Cinder Press, £9.99, out Weds
 Ice-cold and unflinching, Booth's unsettling second novel follows the troubling relationship between two young Londoners desperate to get on the property ladder.

MEMOIR

To the End of the World
 Rupert Everett
 Little Brown, £20, out 1 Oct
 The irrepressible actor-turned-director returns with his long-awaited third memoir. This one focuses on his 10-year journey to make a film about the last days of Oscar Wilde.

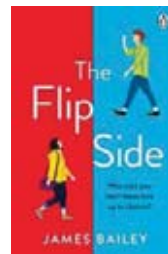
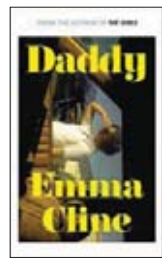


AUTOBIOGRAPHY

It Takes Blood and Guts
 Skin with Lucy O'Brien
 Simon & Schuster, £20, out 24 Sept
 The former Skunk Anansie singer pulls no punches in this heady trawl through her life from tough beginnings in Brixton to work as an LGBTQ+ activist.

SHORT STORIES

Daddy
 Emma Cline
 Chatto & Windus, £14.99, out now
 The first short-story collection from the author of *The Girls* focuses on masculinity, power and troubled (and troubling) relationships.

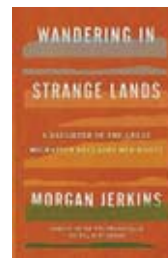


DEBUT

The Flip Side
 James Bailey
 Penguin, £7.99, out 26 Nov
 Bailey's lovely debut is the very funny tale of the hapless Josh who, after his marriage proposal goes very wrong, decides to make all future decisions by simply flipping a coin.

MEMOIR

Wandering in Strange Lands
 Morgan Jerkins
 Harper, £20, out now
 Jerkins' second book is a deeply personal journey into her family, which looks at their migration from south to north and considers the impact it had.

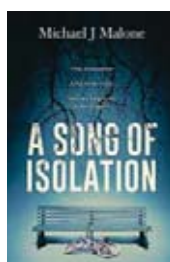
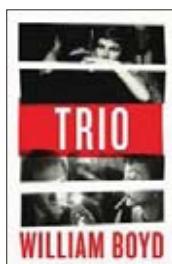


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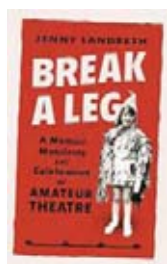
FICTION
Strange Flowers
Donal Ryan
 Doubleday, £12.99, out now
 Ryan continues to stake his claim as one of Ireland's greatest writers with this beautifully written examination of religion, love and loss in rural Tipperary.

HISTORICAL FICTION
Trio
William Boyd
 Viking, £18.99, out 8 Oct
 The inventive Boyd's latest offering follows the making of a film in Brighton in the heady summer of 1968, the "trio" being a producer, a novelist and an actress.



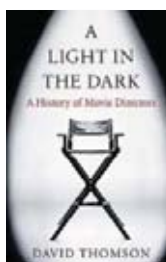
CRIME FICTION
A Song of Isolation
Michael J Malone
 Orenda Books, £8.99, out 17 Sep
 A dark thriller following the fall-out after a film star's boyfriend is accused of child sex abuse. A cleverly handled look at power and the nature of celebrity.

THEATRE
Break a Leg
Jenny Landreth
 Chatto & Windus, £16.99, out 1 Oct
 Landreth's charming book is both a cultural history of amateur theatre and a loving look at am-dram and its role in British life.



DEBUT
Who They Was
Gabriel Krauze
 Fourth Estate, £14.99, out now
 Krauze's debut – also Booker-Longlisted – is an immersive and ferocious look at young London street life – from a writer who has lived that life himself.

FICTION
When the Lights Go Out
Carys Bray
 Hutchinson, £14.99, out 12 Nov
 This novel about a family falling apart in the face of climate change is one of the best things you'll read: warm, witty and wise.



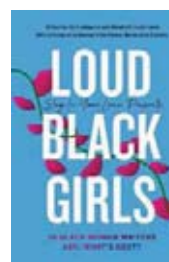
FILM
A Light in the Dark
David Thomson
 Orion, £20, out now
 The veteran film critic turns his idiosyncratic eye on the film directors who "shaped cinema", from Orson Welles to Spike Lee.

FICTION
Mayflies
Andrew O'Hagan
 Faber & Faber, £14.99, out now
 O'Hagan perfectly captures the changing nature of friendship, from the fierce passions of youth to melancholy middle age, in this moving novel.



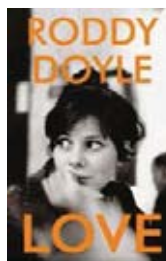
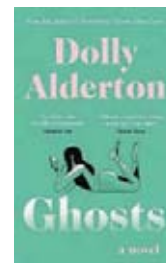
CRIME FICTION
Three-Fifths
John Vercher
 Pushkin Vertigo, £12.99, out 1 Oct
 Vercher's timely debut asks searching questions about race, identity and violence in this story of a biracial man who finds himself the witness to a terrible crime.

PARENTING
House of Music
Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason
 OneWorld, £18.99, out now
 What's the key to raising a family of musical geniuses? Anyone who watched the Arena documentary following the talented Kanneh-Mason family in lockdown will be keen to find out.



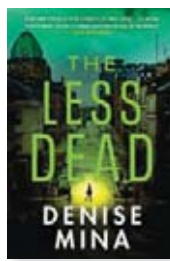
ESSAYS
Loud Black Girls
Yomi Adegoke and Elizabeth Uviebinené
 Fourth Estate, £14.99, out 1 Oct
 Timely anthology edited by the authors of *Slay in Your Lane* and with a foreword from Booker Prize winner Bernardine Evaristo.

DEBUT
Ghosts
Dolly Alderton
 Fig Tree, £14.99, out 15 Oct
 The columnist's debut novel tackles dating in the modern world and the gendered double standard of the biological clock.



FICTION
Love
Roddy Doyle
 Jonathan Cape, £18.99, out 15 Oct
 Doyle's latest is a lovely examination of friendship, love and loss which follows two old friends, both hiding secrets, over the course of a long evening.

REPORTAGE
Anatomy of a Killing
Ian Cobain
 Granta Books, £18.99, out 5 Nov
 The investigative reporter delves into the Troubles, focusing on the murder of an off-duty police officer to examine how one event can destroy many lives.



CRIME FICTION
The Less Dead
Denise Mina
 Harvill Secker, £14.99, out now
 After the hijinks of *Conviction*, Mina returns to more sombre fare with this dark story about a series of historic sex worker murders and the ways in which they upend her protagonist's comfortable life.

HISTORICAL FICTION
The Quickening
Rhiannon Ward
 Trapeze, £16.99, out now
 Ward, who also writes as Sarah Ward, deftly combines crime, historical fiction and romance for this 20s-set tale of séances, secrets and things that (might) go bump in the night.



CRIME FICTION
One By One
Ruth Ware
 Harvill Secker, £12.99, out 12 Nov
 Few writers do locked-room murders like Ware. Her latest follows the estranged staff of an online firm who find themselves trapped in a ski resort.

FICTION
A Little London Scandal
Miranda Emmerson
 Fourth Estate, £12.99, out now
 This sequel to the excellent *Miss Treadway & the Field of Stars* is a pitch-perfect evocation of 60s London with a smart, sharp voice all of its own.

