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 Keyword: Kia Abdullah

REVIEWS

FICTION

PIRANESI by Susanna Clarke, Bloomsbury, £14.99, ebook £10.49

★★★★★

THE less you know about Susanna Clarke's enigmatic Piranesi, the better.

The novel is made up of a series of journal entries, following the titular character's near-solitary existence in their marble labyrinth of a home. You'll find yourself holding your breath as the truth of his reality is slowly revealed.

A 14-year absence has clearly not affected Clarke's skill in writing, as her simple narrative style builds tension into something fantastical and very special. Fans of her best-selling first novel *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* shouldn't expect more of the same; this is a relatively quick read, but its exploration of isolation and solitude makes for interesting reading.

TRUTH BE TOLD by Kia Abdullah, HQ, £12.99, ebook £5.99

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THIS dark thriller from Kia

Abdullah is set in the privileged world of high-flying executive parents and exclusive boarding school sons.

Kamran is from a family that expects a lot from him: top grades, a stellar attitude, and that he will continue to be successful long after he leaves his prestigious school. Things take a turn when he goes to a party and is assaulted by a classmate. Unable to make peace with what happened, Kamran gets in touch with a rape support advisor and the police.

With counsellor Zara by his side, Kamran takes his attacker to court.

Abdullah has cleverly sculpted a tale where you feel for both sides. The court scenes are pacy and there is more than one twist you won't see coming.



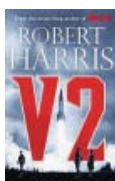
BOOK OF THE WEEK

V2 by Robert Harris, Hutchinson, £20, ebook £8.49

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YOU know you're in safe hands when you pick up a Robert Harris novel, and **V2** is no exception.

Largely written in lockdown, the novel turns back time to the end of 1944, focusing on the Nazi V2 ballistic rocket programme. Dr Rudi Graf and WAAF officer Kay Caton-Walsh work unknowingly against each other, showing us both the Nazi and Allied intelligence points of



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NON-FICTION

FATTILY EVER AFTER by Stephanie Yeboah, Hardie Grant, £12.99, ebook £5.05

★★★★★

YOU might recognise plus size blogger Stephanie Yeboah from Twitter or Instagram. In her debut book she covers everything from fatphobia to misogyny and racism, accompanying her personal experiences with research and interviews with other prominent voices, including writer and campaigner Natasha Devon.

It's a timely reminder of how black, plus size women are often belittled and othered.

While the writing is perhaps a bit colloquial for some tastes, that makes it perfect for informing and inspiring a younger audience.

At times it feels more like an extended blog post than a book, but you can't say Yeboah's personality doesn't come through: she's got a bucketload. Plus, the book is beautifully illustrated with cute and colourful cartoons.



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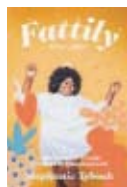
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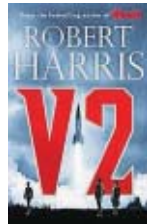


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 Phone: 01473 230 023
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Rebecca Wilcock

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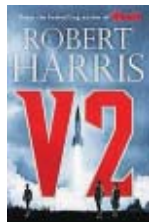


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Read all about it!
Book some me time

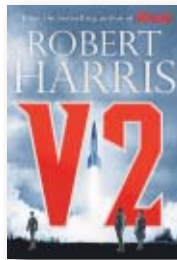
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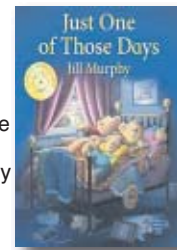


Just One Of Those Days by Jill Murphy is published in hardback by Macmillan Children's Books, priced £12.99 (ebook £6.99)

Just One Of Those Days tells the story of a very typical family – except, of course, they're a family of bears.

Jill Murphy's distinctive soft prose lulls you into relaxation from the very first page, when the Bear family seem to have a bad night – and all end up sleeping in the same bed together. We hear how a lack of sleep can wreak havoc at both nursery and the office, but when everyone pulls together, it can all work out OK – teamwork makes the dream work, and all that.

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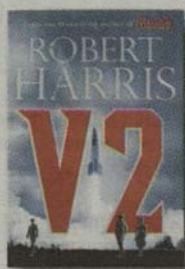
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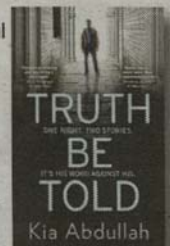
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ALSO RELEASED



NON-FICTION
NO FIXED ABODE
Maeve McClenaghan
(Picador, £20)

Maeve McClenaghan, an investigative reporter at the London-based Bureau of Investigative Journalism, was horrified when she discovered that no official figures existed for the number of people dying homeless in the UK each year. In response, she threw herself into compiling her own count, criss-crossing the UK for a year-and-a-half in search of answers.

The resulting book, *No Fixed Abode*, is an urgent, searing examination of our homelessness crisis. It maps out the scale of the worsening national scandal and gives a human face to the diverse group of individuals affected by it.

McClenaghan professes that, prior to her investigation, she, like much of the public, did not actively engage with the issue. When she came face to face with the “inconvenient evidence” of homelessness on her walk from the Tube to work, she felt guilty but was unsure how to help.

This changed when she got in touch with Jon Glackin, who ran Streets Kitchen in London. Through him and others who devote their lives to helping the homeless, McClenaghan built up an extensive network of contacts to help her with the death tally, which rose with alarming frequency to 449 in the first year and 800 after 18 months.

Importantly, they also enabled her to connect with people who live or have lived with homelessness, including Richard, who was in and out of hospital with chronic health problems, and David, who turned a corner with the help of a stranger and now raises awareness for the homeless through his artwork.

McClenaghan also writes

about people she never had the chance to meet. There is Fabian, born into a middle-class Belgian family, whose packed funeral she attends near Milton Keynes; Hamid, a talented Iranian physicist, who died in Harlow; and Jaydn, from the Isle of Wight, whose life ended one cold night in Stafford, when she was 53.

Jaydn’s story is perhaps the one that affects McClenaghan

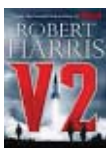
the most. McClenaghan builds a picture of her life before she became “this forgotten woman, this blur of blankets, a mound of moth-eaten clothes”.

On a visit to her mother, Pam, on the Isle of Wight, she sees Jaydn’s ashes scattered. “Pam remembered her skinny, happy daughter soaring, carefree, upwards on a trampoline. And then she slowly, sadly released her daughter back to the sky,” McClenaghan writes in one of the book’s many haunting passages.

No Fixed Abode delves into the reasons for the growth of homelessness over the past decade – from the slashing of local council budgets to the hostile environment on people who have moved to Britain.

Crucially, McClenaghan offers solutions to a very complicated and nuanced problem, looking into schemes such as Housing First, an initiative which has delivered results in Finland. The result is a much-needed antidote to the apathy that can often surround homelessness. It is movingly told, passionately argued and totally engrossing.

Rory Sullivan



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THRILLER
TRUTH BE TOLD
Kia Abdullah
(HQ, £12.99)

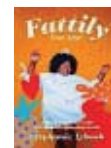
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NON-FICTION
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Prudence Wade



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It's a timely reminder of how black, plus size women are often belittled and othered.

While the writing is perhaps a bit colloquial for some tastes, that makes it perfect for informing and inspiring a younger audience.

At times it feels more like an extended blog post than a book, but you can't say Yeboah's personality doesn't come through: she's got a bucketload. Plus, the book is beautifully illustrated with cute and colourful cartoons.





Source: Western Morning News (Devon & Cornwall) {West}
 Edition:
 Country: UK
 Date: Saturday 3, October 2020
 Page: 25
 Area: 108 sq. cm
 Circulation: ABC 15295 Daily
 Ad data: page rate £2,448.00, scc rate £9.00
 Phone: 01752 765 500
 Keyword: Kia Abdullah



REVIEWS

FICTION

PIRANESI by Susanna Clarke, Bloomsbury, £14.99, ebook £10.49

★★★★★

THE less you know about Susanna Clarke's enigmatic Piranesi, the better.

The novel is made up of a series of journal entries, following the titular character's near-solitary existence in their marble labyrinth of a home. You'll find yourself holding your breath as the truth of his reality is slowly revealed.

A 14-year absence has clearly not affected Clarke's skill in writing, as her simple narrative style builds tension into something fantastical and very special. Fans of her best-selling first novel *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* shouldn't expect more of the same; this is a relatively quick read, but its exploration of isolation and solitude makes for interesting reading.



tale where you feel for both sides. The court scenes are pacey and there is more than one twist you won't see coming.

TRUTH BE TOLD by Kia Abdullah, HQ, £12.99, ebook £5.99

★★★★★

THIS dark thriller from Kia

Abdullah is set in the privileged world of high-flying executive parents and exclusive boarding school sons.

Kamran is from a family that expects a lot from him: top grades, a stellar attitude, and that he will continue to be successful long after he leaves his prestigious school. Things take a turn when he goes to a party and is assaulted by a classmate. Unable to make peace with what happened, Kamran gets in touch with a rape support advisor and the police.

With counsellor Zara by his side, Kamran takes his attacker to court.

Abdullah has cleverly sculpted a





Source: Yorkshire Post {Magazine}
 Edition:
 Country: UK
 Date: Saturday 3, October 2020
 Page: 22
 Area: 276 sq. cm
 Circulation: ABC 21817 Daily
 Ad data: page rate £11,476.08, scc rate £18.63
 Phone: 0113 243 2701
 Keyword: Kia Abdullah

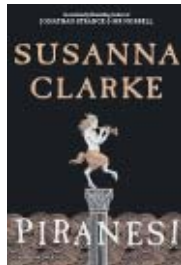


books quick reviews

Piranesi by Susanna Clarke

BLOOMSBURY, £14.99 (EBOOK, £10.49)

REVIEW BY NICOLE WHITTON



The less you know about Susanna Clarke's enigmatic Piranesi, the better. The novel is made up of a series of journal entries, following the titular character's near-solitary existence in their marble labyrinth

of a home. You'll find yourself holding your breath as his reality is slowly revealed. A 14-year absence has clearly not affected Clarke's skill or confidence in writing, as her simple narrative style and careful language build tension into something fantastical. Fans of her bestselling first novel Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell shouldn't expect more of the same; this is a relatively quick read, but its exploration of isolation and solitude makes for interesting reading.

Truth Be Told by Kia Abdullah

HQ, £12.99 (EBOOK, £5.99)

REVIEW BY RACHEL HOWDLE



This dark thriller is set in the privileged world of high-flying executive parents and boarding school sons. Kamran is from a family that expects a lot from him: top grades, a stellar attitude, and that he

will be successful long into his future. Things take a turn when he goes to a party and is assaulted by a classmate. Unable to make peace with what happened, Kamran contacts a rape support adviser and the police. With counsellor Zara by his side, Kamran takes his attacker to court. Kia Abdullah has cleverly sculpted a tale where you feel for both sides of the case. The court scenes are pacy and atmospheric, and there is more than one twist you won't see coming.

Fattily Ever After by Stephanie Yeboah

HARDIE GRANT, £12.99 (EBOOK, £5.05)

REVIEW BY PRUDENCE WADE



You might recognise plus size blogger Stephanie Yeboah from Twitter or Instagram. In her debut book, she covers everything from fatphobia to misogyny and racism, accompanying her

personal experiences with research and interviews with other prominent voices, including writer Natasha Devon. It's a timely reminder of how black, plus size women are often belittled and othered. While the writing is perhaps a bit colloquial for some tastes – with plenty of slang, exclamation marks and “tbh's” throughout – that makes it perfect for informing and inspiring a younger audience. Plus, the book is beautifully illustrated with cute and colourful cartoons.

Red Pill by Hari Kunzru

SCRIBNER UK, £14.99 (EBOOK, £8.99)

REVIEW BY JAMES CANN

