



## Truth Be Told

Kia Abdullah, HQ, £12.99

Hard on the heels of last year's cracking psychological thriller *Take It Back*, comes Abdullah's latest offering, a searing courtroom drama that centres on an accusation of male rape and lays bare the conversation around consent. Seventeen-year-old Kamran Hadid has the world at his feet, he attends an elite all-boy boarding school and has a place at Oxford. But a drunken encounter with a schoolmate leads to explosive consequences.



## The Mission House

Carys Davies, Granta, £12.99

On a former British Hill Station in India we meet Hilary Byrd, a middle-aged ex-librarian who feels out of step with the world. He finds sanctuary with a Christian Padre and his daughter and a friend in a rickshaw driver who takes him on trips. But there is tension in the air with the rise of Indian nationalism. Davies' first novel, *West*, has been described as "a miniature masterpiece".

## TOP 10 FICTION

- 1 The Midnight Library** Matt Haig
- 2 Summer** Ali Smith
- 3 Shugie Bain** Douglas Stuart
- 4 Six Tudor Queens** Alison Weir
- 5 Such A Fun Age** Kiley Reid
- 6 The Mirror And The Light** Hilary Mantell
- 7 Sisters** Daisy Johnson
- 8 Hamnet** Maggie O'Farrell
- 9 Invisible Girl** Lisa Jewell
- 10 Redhead By The Side Of The Road** Anne Tyler

## NON-FICTION

- 1 Finding Freedom** Omid Scobie & Carolyn Durand
- 2 Women Don't Owe You Pretty** Florence Given
- 3 The Boy, The Mole, The Fox And The Horse** Charlie Mackesy
- 4 Too Much And Never Enough** Mary L. Trump
- 5 Son of Escobar** Roberto Sendoya Escobar
- 6 A Cricketer And A Gentleman** Bob Willis & Mike Dickson
- 7 Dear NHS** Edited by Adam Kay
- 8 Breath** James Nestor
- 9 The Book In The Cathedral** Christopher de Hamel
- 10 Glorious Rock Bottom** Bryony Gordon

## AUDIOBOOKS

- 1 Midnight Sun** Stephenie Meyer
- 2 Finding Freedom** Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand
- 3 Cage of Souls** Adrian Tchaikovsky
- 4 Bad Dad** David Walliams
- 5 Dirty Little Secrets** Jo Spain
- 6 Mythos** Stephen Fry
- 7 The Flatshare** Beth O'Leary
- 8 The Midnight Library** Matt Haig
- 9 Where The Crawdads Sing** Delia Owens
- 10 The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out Of The Window And Disappeared** Jonas Jonasson

# Pick of the podcasts



## Stark Talk

BBC Sounds

Celebrating 20 years of her conversation series seemed like a good time for Edi Stark to take a look back at her extensive archive of interviews.

The broadcaster launched her Stark Talk show in 2000 and, in the period since, has conducted more than 400 chats for the Radio Scotland programme.

To mark the anniversary, Edi has launched a podcast, selecting highlights from across the series. The two-time gold winner at the Sony Radio Academy industry awards will also add new chats with past guests to update their stories.

Names featuring in the podcast include author Irvine Welsh, actor James Cosmo and singer Sharleen Spiteri, as well as former guests who are sadly no longer with us, such as author Iain Banks and Battle of Britain fighter pilot Iain Hutchinson.

Kicking off the series was her chat with poet Norman MacCaig, Edi's favourite guest. She recalled: "I was so excited

I could hardly breathe, but I settled down enough to conduct an interview that I enjoyed enormously and which I think has stood the test of time.

"He was such a twinkling presence, full of mischief and dry humour, it was impossible not to fall for his charisma and charm. And that was before he read his poetry."

The most recent interview to feature in the podcast comes from March, a chat with Dr Tommy Curry, newly-appointed head of Africana Philosophy and Black Male Studies at Edinburgh University.

"Neither of us could anticipate how much the world would radically change within weeks," Edi said. "In the podcast, I will speak to him again.

She added: "It's been fascinating to go through the recordings and re-live so many memorable moments. The archive is a treasure trove of the recent social and cultural history of Scotland and beyond."

## BudPod (Avalon)

Two rising stars of the British stand-up scene, regulars on panel shows, and best friends, Pierre Novellie and Phil Wang's podcast has racked up more than 75 episodes so far, and continues to build a following.

It's hard to define what they'll talk about. The question should probably be, what won't they talk about? What is guaranteed is comedy conversations and little nuggets of information they've found or made up.

## Gossipmongers (Avalon)

The internet might be a wealth of information, but equally it is a pit of misinformation. Playing off of that is *Gossipmongers*, where comedians David Earl, Joe Wilkinson and Poppy Hillstead are joined in each episode

by a fellow comedian (previous guests include Ricky Gervais, Richard Osman and Rob Beckett) to read out unsubstantiated rumours sent in by listeners. At the end of each episode they choose their favourite.

# Music

## Imploding The Mirage

The Killers

The rock superstars return for their uplifting sixth studio album. For fans, the wait may have been anxious given this is their first record without lead guitarist Dave Keuning.

There's no need for concern though, from the synths to the distinguished Brandon Flowers vocals, this is unmistakably The Killers.

Your dose of rousing rock is still here, accompanied by a pleasingly retro feel.

## The Ritual Begins At Sundown

Robby Krieger

The Doors' guitarist's new album should please fans of the band's jazz roots.

It's a trip through jazz taking in country rock, pop and stripped-back blues. With the exception of a cover of The Doors' *Yes, The River Knows*, Krieger fails to create an overarching narrative, making the album feel listless



## Playlist

It's International Dog Day on Wednesday, so we're barking up the right tree with tunes to celebrate our four-legged friends.

**I Love My Dog**  
Cat Stevens

**How Much Is That Doggie In The Window**  
Patti Page

**Hound Dog**  
Elvis Presley

**Hey Bulldog**  
The Beatles

**Drop It Like It's Hot**  
Snoop Dogg

**I Wanna Be Your Dog**  
The Stooges

**Dog Days Are Over**  
Florence + The Machine

**Black Dog**  
Led Zeppelin

**Walking The Dog**  
Rufus Thomas

**Who Let The Dogs Out**  
Baha Men

**Love Me Love My Dog**  
Peter Shelley

Listen to these and more at <http://bit.ly/PSMagSpotify>

## WEE REVIEW

### Death Sets Sail

Robin Stevens, Puffin, £6.99

Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells are off to Egypt for a Nile Cruise in the ninth and final *Murder Most Unladylike* novel. On board the boat are the bizarre cult, *Breath of Life*, who believe they are reincarnations of the pharaohs. But when the cult's leader is found dead the young detectives and their cohorts have to spring into action. The series for nine to 12-year-olds launched in 2014, is a winner of the Waterstones Children's book prize and is reported to have sold 750,000 copies in the UK alone. It's easy to see why.