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# September Publishing

Spring–Autumn 2023  
Rights Catalogue

**Independent publisher of beautiful books,  
from expert insight to extraordinary stories**

[septemberpublishing.org](http://septemberpublishing.org)



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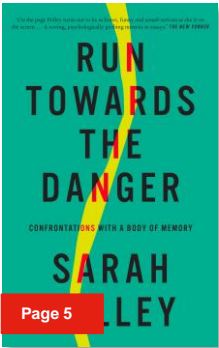
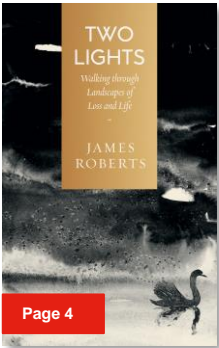
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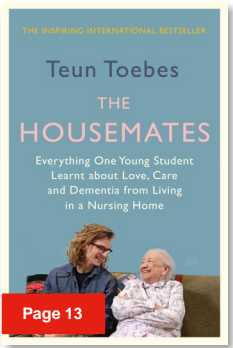
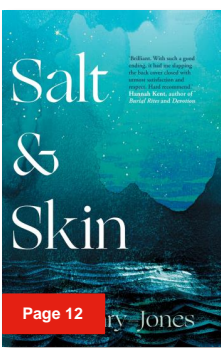
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# Key frontlist titles 2023

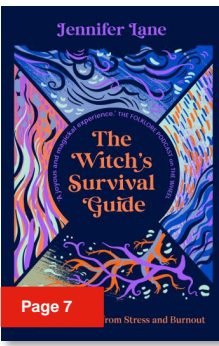
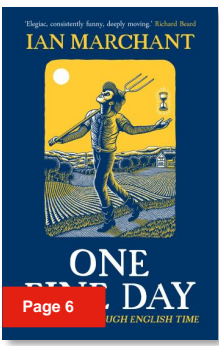
March 2023



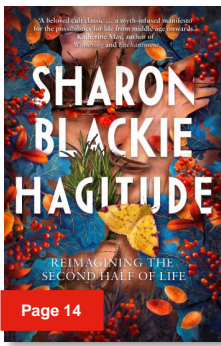
August 2023



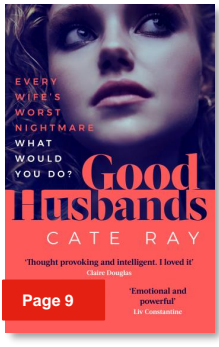
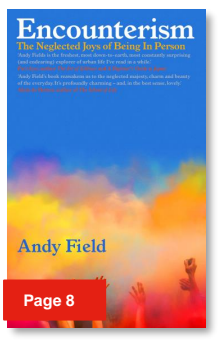
April 2023



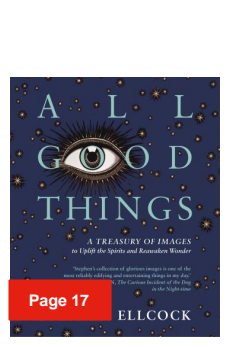
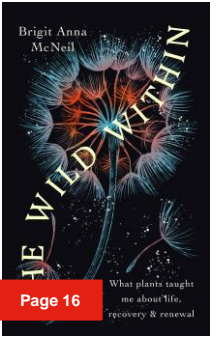
September 2023



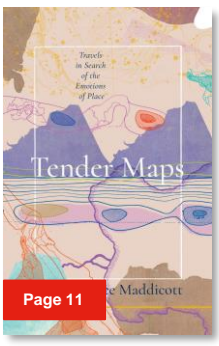
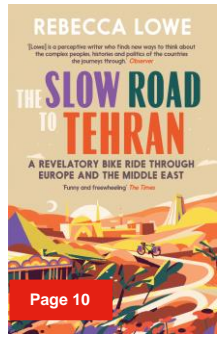
May 2023



October 2023



July 2023



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## Two Lights

**Walking through Landscapes of  
Loss and Life**

**James Roberts**

### Keynote

**A bold and brilliant new voice in the natural history and eco-memoir genres, about walking at dawn and dusk.**

### Summary

**An extraordinary account of searching for the wildness left in our world – spanning continents and geological eras, skies and oceans, animals and birds, and even the planets and stars.**

With dizzying acuity and insight Roberts paints a portrait of a life and its landscapes, creating precious connections with wild creatures and places, from swans in the Cambrian Mountains to wolves in the Pacific Northwest. By walking at dawn and dusk, in the two lights of awakening and deepening, through the stripped, windswept hills of Wales, and the jungles and savannahs of Africa, he tries to navigate from a soul-stripping sense of loss towards hope in the future.

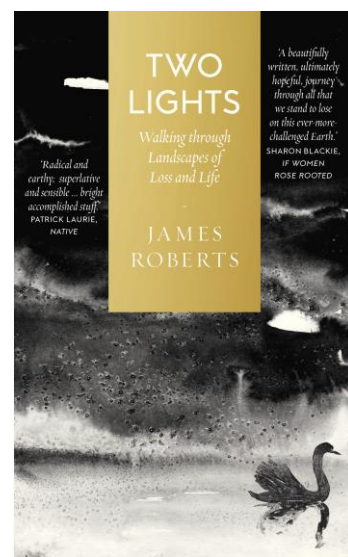
In the presence of wild creatures he finds a way back to life.

**‘Radical and earthy; superlative and sensible ... bright accomplished stuff.’**

**Patrick Laurie, author of *Native: Life in a Vanishing Landscape***

**‘A beautifully written, wonderfully tender – and ultimately hopeful – praise poem to all that we stand to lose on this ever-more-challenged Earth.’**

**Sharon Blackie, author of *If Women Rose Rooted***



Rights: **WEL**  
March 2023  
HB £16.99  
21 b/w illustrations  
9781912836178

### Author

**James Roberts** is a writer and artist who lives with his family within sight of the Welsh Black Mountains.

[@nightriverwood](https://twitter.com/nightriverwood)

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# Run Towards the Danger

Confrontations with a Body of Memory

Sarah Polley

## Keynote

An extraordinarily beautiful series of essays on embodied memories that explore the initiations into performance, pain, womanhood, sex, threat, motherhood and injury that we share, by the award-winning indie film director and one-time child actor.

## Summary

Sarah Polley's work as an actor, screenwriter and director is celebrated for its honesty, complexity and deep humanity. She brings all those qualities, along with her exquisite storytelling skills, to these six essays.

Each one captures a piece of Polley's life as she remembers it, while at the same time examining the fallibility of memory and the embodied reactions of children and women adapting and surviving. The guiding light is the possibility of experiencing the past anew, as the person she is now but was not then. In this extraordinary book, Polley explores what it is to live in one's body, in a constant state of becoming, learning and changing.

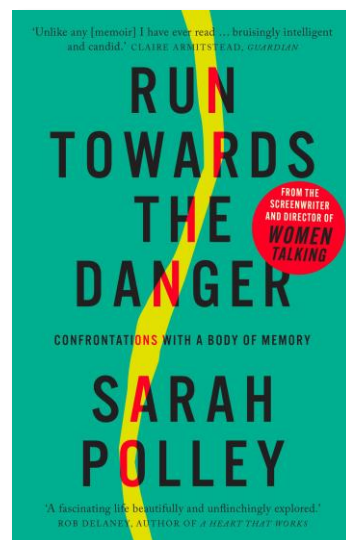
As she was advised after a catastrophic head injury – if we run towards the danger, then life can be reset, reshaped and lived afresh.

**'On the page Polley turns out to be as brave, funny and unself-serious as she is on the screen ... A roving, psychologically probing memoir in essays.'**

**The New Yorker**

**'An episodic memoir of life as an actor, director and human being unlike any I have ever read ... bruisingly intelligent and candid.'**

**Claire Armitstead, Guardian**



Rights: **UK & Com X Can**

**US & Can: PRH**

**March 2023**

**PB 272pp £11.99**

**9781914613296**

## Author

**Sarah Polley** is an Academy Award-winning screenwriter, director and actor. After making short films, Polley made her feature-length directorial debut with the drama film *Away from Her* in 2006. She received an Oscar nomination for the adapted screenplay, and one an Oscar for best adapted screenplay for 2023's *Women Talking*. The film was also nominated for best picture. Her other projects include the documentary film *Stories We Tell* (2012), which won the New York Film Critics Circle prize and the National Board of Review award for best documentary; the miniseries adaptation of Margaret Atwood's novel *Alias Grace* (2017); and the romantic comedy *Take This Waltz* (2011).

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## One Fine Day

A Journey Through English Time

Ian Marchant

### Keynote

A time-travelling, genealogical adventure, bringing pre-industrial, rural, eighteenth-century England vividly to life on the page.

### Summary

One day Ian Marchant, acclaimed author of books on music, railways and pubs, decided, as all men of a certain age must, to have a dig around his family history. Surprisingly quickly, a web search informed him that his seven-times-great great-grandfather, Thomas Marchant had left a detailed diary from 1714 to 1728. So far, so jolly ...

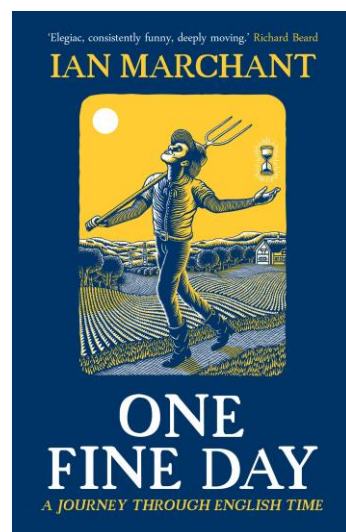
Life-loving diarist Thom - who liked a drink and a game of cards - feels recognisably Marchant to Ian. With fascinating detail we learn about Thom's family farm and fishponds; about dung, horses and mud; about beer, the wife's nights out, his own job troubles and their shared worries for their children. But as Ian digs deeper beyond the Sussex diary's bucolic portrait he discovers a subtext - a family descended from immigrants, with anti-establishment politics, who are struggling with illness, political instability and cash crises - just as their country does three centuries on.

Rich with immersive detail, *One Fine Day* draws a living portrait of Marchant family life in the 1720s and how their England (rainy, muddy, politically turbulent, illness-ridden) became the England of the 2020s.

**'A book everyone should read, a complex, joyful, polyglot of book for our troubled times.'**

**Monique Roffey, Costa Book of the Year award-winning author**

**'Elegiac, consistently funny, deeply moving.'** **Richard Beard**



Rights: **WAL**

April 2023

HB £20.00

10 b/w linocut illustrations

9781912836994

### Author

**Ian Marchant** has worked for 25 years as a writer, broadcaster and performer. His non-fiction books include *Parallel Lines* and *The Longest Crawl*, which were both chosen as Paperback of the Week in the *Guardian*. His latest book, *A Hero for High Times*, was long-listed for the Gordon Burns Prize. Ian is a presenter on Radio 4's long-running *Open Country*, is a regular diarist for the *Church Times* and has written for the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Independent on Sunday*, the *Sunday Times* and the *Sunday Express*.

[@ThatIanMarchant](https://twitter.com/ThatIanMarchant)

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## The Witch's Survival Guide

### Spells for Healing from Stress and Burnout

Jennifer Lane

#### Keynote

**Spells, rituals and elemental magick for those dealing with the stresses and strains of home, school and the working world.**

#### Summary

The modern world has pushed many of us to breaking point. Our bodies and minds are burnt out, and we can feel anxious, inadequate and lonely. This is because we were meant for a very different life – one that connects us with swaying trees, wild creatures and the rush of the elements across our skin. We are meant to feel the power and peace of being at one with nature.

In *The Witch's Survival Guide*, Jennifer Lane shows you how to take back control of your life and tap into the deep magick that resides in the plants, trees and ancient places of this world. Among the many spells and rituals, you will learn to:

- Make an energy protection spell with a simple apple
- Use candle magick to draw self-love into your life
- Soothe anxiety and create balance with the powers of water
- Let it all go under a full moon.

Through guided spell work, *The Witch's Survival Guide* shows us how to harness the natural forces of the four elements – Earth, Air, Fire and Water – so that we can finally restore and enrich our souls.



Rights: **WEL**

April 2023

Trade PB 240pp £12.99

9781914613340

#### Author

Jennifer Lane is a green witch and nature writer with a background in wildlife communications. As a journalist she has written for *Vogue*, *Dazed* and the BBC, promoting the wider health benefits of nature, birdwatching and living in tune with the land. In 2018, she won a Northern Writers' Award, and she is the author of *The Wheel* (see backlist). Jennifer is currently based near Manchester with her partner and a calico cat called Linnet.

[@thegreenwitchwriter](https://thegreenwitchwriter.com)

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## Encounterism

**The Neglected Joys of Being In Person**  
**Andy Field**

### Keynote

**A brilliant debut in the personal, meditative and investigative essay genre on all that we lose in a virtual world; a joyous book about the nature, grace and importance of everyday, face-to-face human interactions.**

### Summary

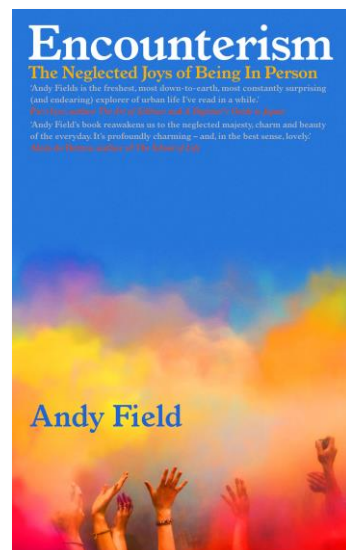
*Encounterism* is a joyous immersion into the everyday pleasure and shared humanity we stand to lose in an increasingly digital world. Andy Field explores both different kinds of and different venues for human encounters, from the hairdressers to the cinema, from nightclubs to eateries, shops staffed by people and free-form urban parks; these are the everyday yet invaluable spaces that allow for human encounters that enrich our lives.

Field writes with tenderness and wit - born out of twenty years as a performance artist creating scenarios in which people are encouraged to see and interact with each other afresh. In *Encounterism* he not only examines how we physically encounter both strangers and friends - in all our human grace and awkwardness - but builds to a manifesto for the importance of real-world interaction. A rousing reminder that our cities, our residential and work places, must still allow for the possibility of spontaneity and shared, in-person joy.

**‘Andy Field’s book reawakens us to the neglected majesty, charm and beauty of the everyday. His book returns us to a childlike state of wonder. It’s profoundly charming – and, in the best sense, lovely.’**

**Alain de Botton**

**‘Andy Field is the freshest, most down-to-earth, most constantly surprising (and endearing) explorer of urban life I’ve read in a while.’** **Pico Iyer**



**Rights: UK & Com X Can**  
**US & Can: WW Norton**  
**May 2023**  
**Demy HB 320pp £18.99**  
**9781914613234**

### Author

**Andy Field** is an artist, writer and curator who specialises in human interactions, using performance to disentangle the histories, the politics and the physical choreography that underpin how we meet one another. His work involves creating encounters between strangers, such as gathering people on rooftops in Cairo, Milan and Madrid to talk together about the future of the world, creating a new local TV news show with 9-year-olds in Norwich, and producing a book of duets for strangers to perform together at a gallery in Beijing. [andytfield.co.uk](http://andytfield.co.uk)

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## Good Husbands

Cate Ray

### Keynote

**A gripping, voice-driven domestic-noir with a major moral dilemma at its heart: what would you do if someone accused your husband of raping a young woman, years before you met?**

### Summary

Jess, Priyanka and Stephanie live in the suburbs of Bath with their children and the partners they think they know inside out. Life feels predictable – happy, safe – until each of them receives the same letter. In it their husbands are accused of a sexual assault that took place 20 years ago.

This uniquely compassionate and provocative novel is told through the voices of the three women as they are forced to confront their husbands' past. Who do they believe, a complete stranger or the men they love and built their lives with? What should they do? And can they come together as one, even as their own security is threatened?

In this taut, finely plotted thriller big issues simmer and boil over in the home – questions of sexual consent and domestic inequality. But as *Good Husbands* builds relentlessly to a gripping finale one question dominates: *how far would you go to support another woman?*

**'Nerve-shattering ... an absolute triumph.'**

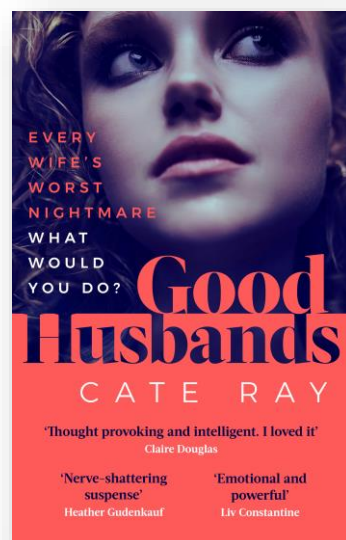
**Heather Gudenkauf, author of *The Overnight Guest***

**'Masterfully compelling ... I couldn't put it down.'**

**Sarah Haywood, author of *The Cactus***

**'Emotional and powerfully evocative ... expertly crafted.'**

**Liv Constantine, author of *The Last Mrs Parrish***



Rights: **UK & Com X Can**  
*US & Can: Park Row Books*  
May 2023  
Bpb 336pp £9.99  
9781914613302

### Author

Cate Ray writes suspense novels with compelling moral dilemmas, shining a light on the issues affecting women today. Her stories are created for readers to treasure and share with booklovers everywhere. She is the author of four previous novels of suspense published under the name Cath Weeks. She was named an 'Author to Watch by *ELLE*'. Cate lives in Bath with her family. @cateraywriter

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# The Slow Road to Tehran

A Revelatory Bike Ride Through Europe  
and the Middle East

Rebecca Lowe

## Keynote

One woman, one bike and one richly entertaining account of a year-long, solo cycle from Croydon to Tehran.

## Summary

Shortlisted for the Edward Stanford Travel Book of the Year Award 2023.

In 2015, as the Syrian War raged and the refugee crisis reached its peak, Rebecca Lowe set off on her bicycle across the Middle East. Driven by a desire to learn more about this troubled region and its relationship with the West, Lowe's 11,000-km journey took her through Europe to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, the Gulf and finally to Iran.

It was an odyssey through landscapes and history that captured her heart, but also a deeply challenging cycle across mountains, deserts and repressive police states that nearly defeated her. Plagued by punctures and battling temperatures ranging from -6° to 48°C, Lowe was rescued frequently by farmers and refugees, villagers and urbanites alike, and relied almost entirely on the kindness and hospitality of locals to complete this living portrait of the modern Middle East.

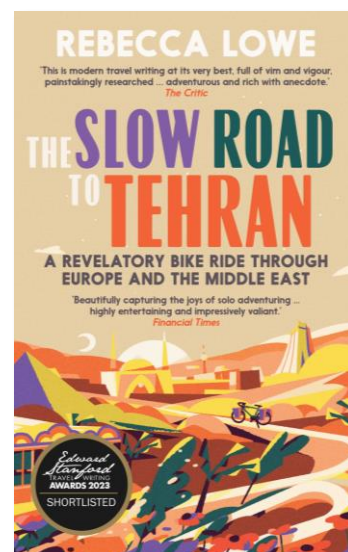
This is her evocative, deeply researched and often very funny account of her travels – and the people, politics and culture she encountered.

**'Terrifically compelling ... Lowe recounts the beauty, kindnesses and complexities of the lands she travels through with an illuminating insight. A wonderful new travel writer.'**

**Sir Ranulph Fiennes**

**'[A] funny and freewheeling account.'**

**James Barr, *The Times***



Rights: **WEL**

German: *Riva Verlag*

May 2023

B-format PB 416pp + 16pp

photos £11.99

9781914613388

Audiobook £16.99

9781914613388

(HB Feb 2022)

## Author

**Rebecca Lowe** is a freelance journalist from London who specialises in human rights and the Middle East. During her career, Rebecca has written for publications including the BBC, *Guardian*, *Independent*, *Huffington Post*, *Economist*, *Sunday Times Magazine*, *Daily Mail*, *Evening Standard* and the *Spectator*. Rebecca has a BA in English Literature from Cambridge University and an MA in Journalism from Stanford University, where she was awarded a scholarship.

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## Tender Maps

Travels in Search of the Emotions of Place

Alice Maddicott

### Keynote

**Travelling in search of atmosphere – a unique piece of travel writing weaving memoir, literature, art and psycho-geography.**

### Summary

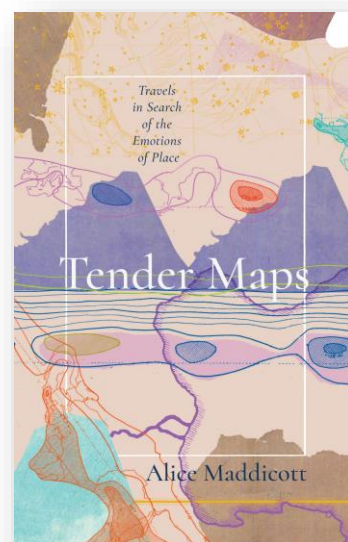
**Alice Maddicott wants to know what we mean when we talk about the ‘atmosphere’ of a place. In this personal account of travelling, reading, walking and absorbing, she takes us from Tbilisi to Nashville, Istanbul to Japan, Prince Edward Island to the Wiltshire Downs.**

Alice has journeyed relentlessly and widely throughout her life. But this is more than a travelogue – it’s also a journey of ideas about our experience of place, which encompasses early mapmaking, radical land art, Celtic Christianity, Situationism, children’s literature and much more.

Throughout this exploration is threaded the concept of tender mapping: starting with 17th-century maps of tenderness created by women in the salons of Paris.

*Tender Maps* also has a strand of personal memoir; a search for a home. After being made homeless during the pandemic Alice returns to her beloved West Country, circling back to her childhood where her enchantment with place began.

The book culminates in a manifesto on the power of being in place; of recognising the sentience of places, and entering into a dialogue with our cities. A collaboration with the land. Of seeing atmosphere – the emotion of place – as something political and vital, not a passive, negligible background to our activities. How we can all make tender maps, and in so doing we open up the world.



Rights: **WEL**  
July 2023  
Demy HB 320pp £19.99  
9781914613326

### Author

Alice Maddicott is a writer, artist, creative practitioner and educator. She lives in Wiltshire and is the Head of Learning at Salisbury Museum. Her first book was the illustrated essay *Cat Women: An Exploration of Friendship and Superstition*.

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## Salt & Skin

Eliza Henry-Jones

### Keynote

A novel full of wildness, old magic and current danger, *Salt and Skin* weaves folklore into a compelling modern family drama with an incredible, climactic ending

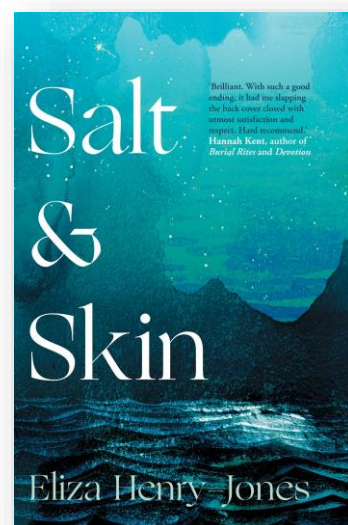
### Summary

‘Brilliant. With such a good ending, it had me slapping the back cover closed with utmost satisfaction and respect. Hard recommend.’

**Hannah Kent, author of *Burial Rites* and *Devotion***

Luda, a photographer, and her two teenagers arrive in the Scottish Northern Isles to make a new life. Everywhere the past shimmers to the surface; the shifting landscapes and wild weather dominates; the line between reality and the uncanny seems thin here. The teenagers forge connections, making friends of neighbours, discovering both longing and dangerous compulsions. But their mother – fallible, obsessive, distracted – comes up hard against suspicion. The persecution and violence that drove the island’s historic witch trials still simmers today, in isolated homes and church buildings, and where folklore and fact intertwine.

A compelling and magically immersive novel about a family on the edge and a community ensnared by history, that gathers to an unforgettable ending.



Rights: **WEL XANZ**  
ANZ: *Ultimo Press*  
July 2023  
Bpb 368pp £12.99  
9781914613364

### Author

Eliza Henry-Jones is a writer and academic based on a little flower farm in Victoria, Australia. Her previous novels have been listed for multiple literary awards including the ABIA, NSW Premier’s Literary Awards and QLD Literary Awards. Her work has also been published widely, appearing in place such as the *Guardian*, *Country Style*, *The Big Issue* and *The Age*. Eliza has qualifications in psychology as well as grief, loss and trauma counselling.  
[@elizahenryjones](https://www.elizahenryjones.com).

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# The Housemates

Everything One Young Student Learnt  
about Love, Care and Dementia from  
Living in a Nursing Home

Teun Toebe

## Keynote

**A unique memoir from a Gen Z activist and geriatric nurse. A heartfelt cry for change in how we care for the elderly.**

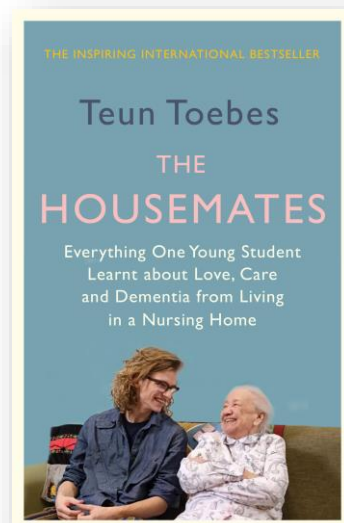
## Summary

Twenty-one-year-old nursing student Teun Toebe decided to rent a room in a care home to find out what it's like to live in one as a resident – not as a nurse or a carer. He was curious ... and he was broke. The experience changed his life, as well as the lives of his new housemates.

He introduced Friday drinks, camping evenings, trips to visit grown-up children, and he reintroduced pleasure in the small things in life – a laugh, a dance, a cup of good coffee, a chance to sit in the sun. As he became embedded in the community Teun became, however, devastated by the insight gained; at how society and the care system diminishes people living with dementia.

A number 1 bestseller in the Netherlands, *The Housemates* is his story of his year of being a housemate and a heartfelt cry for change in how we care for the elderly.

*Translated by Laura Vroomen.*



Rights: **WEL**

First edition Dutch:  
*de Arbeiderspers* with  
the title *VerpleegThuis*  
German: *Knaur*  
August 2023  
Bpb 256pp £9.99  
9781914613395

## Author

Teun Toebe (1999) is a healthcare student and care innovator, who fights for better care for people with dementia. He has received many awards for his work and is a popular speaker at international conferences and in the media. *The Housemates* was a number 1 bestseller in the Netherlands, where it was called *Verpleeg Thuis*.

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## Hagitude

Reimagining the Second Half of Life

Sharon Blackie

### Keynote

The bestselling writer on myth, landscape and feminism leads women into a dynamic second stage of life.

### Summary

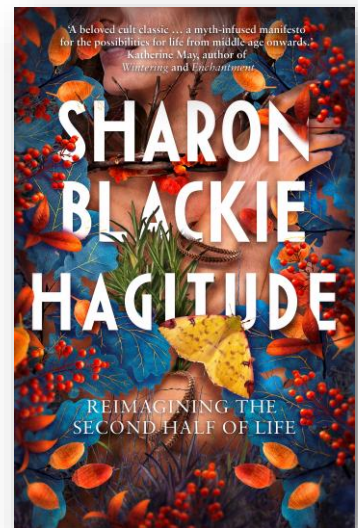
For any woman over 50 who has ever asked 'What now? How do I wish to age?' comes a life-changing new book showing how your second half may be your most dynamic yet ...

Sharon Blackie's new book, rich with the combination of myth, landscape and eco-feminism that took her first book *If Women Rose Rooted* to cult status, the mid-years are reclaimed as a liberating, alchemical moment – from which to shift into your chosen, authentic and fulfilling future. Drawing inspiration from mythic figures and archetypes ranging from the wise woman and the creatrix to the henwife and the trickster, as well as modern mentors, Sharon Blackie plots a liberating new path into elderhood.

*Hagitude* is a radical rewriting of the future for all women in their mid and elder years, its pages rich with possibility; the promise of adventure and influence, and an emphasis on a woman's value and impact in the second half of life.

**'A fascinating book ... well researched, packed with stories and bursting with lovely descriptions of the natural world.'**

**Christina Patterson, *The Sunday Times***



Rights: **WAL**

Sold! **US, New World Library**

September 2023

PB with b/w illustrations

320pp £11.99

9781914613319

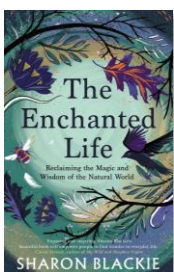
### Author

**Dr Sharon Blackie** is an award-winning writer of fiction and non-fiction, a psychologist who has specialised both in neuroscience and narrative, and a mythologist with a specialisation in Celtic studies. Her unique approach to working with myth, fairy tales and folklore highlights the insights these traditions can offer us into authentic and meaningful ways of being which are founded on a deep sense of belonging to place, a rootedness in the land we inhabit.

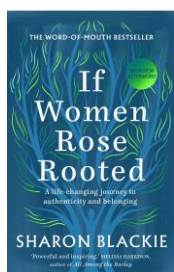
[sharonblackie.net](http://sharonblackie.net)

[Hagitude.org](http://Hagitude.org)

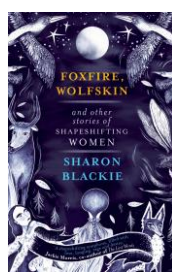
[#hagitude](https://twitter.com/hagitude)



US, Dutch & Latvian sold



French & Brazilian sold



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## Ruskin Park

Sylvia, Me and the BBC

Rory Cellan-Jones

### Keynote

**Our parent's stories often hold surprises ... A compelling, emotive journey of discovery, from broadcaster and social media favourite @Ruskin147.**

### Summary

Rory Cellan-Jones knew he was the child of a brief love affair between two unmarried BBC employees. But until his mother died and he found a previously unknown file labelled 'For Rory' he had no idea of their beginnings or ending, and why his peculiarly isolated childhood had so tested the bond between him and his mother. 'For Rory,' his mother had written on the file 'in the hope that it will help him understand how it really was ...'

This is a tender account of what Rory uncovered in the papers, letters and diaries; a relationship between two colleagues (two romantics) and the restrictive forces of post-war respectability and prejudice that ended it. It is also an evocation of the progressive, centrifugal force at the centre of all their lives – the BBC itself.

Both compelling and moving, the drama moves from wartime radio broadcasts, to the glamour of 1950s television studios, to the golden era of BBC drama. His father may have directed *The Forsythe Saga* and Rory may have watched him from the corridors, but he would never actually meet him until much later in adulthood. Until then Rory's life was bound to the one-bedroom flat he shared with his mother in Ruskin Park.



Rights: **WEL**  
September 2023  
HB 336pp £16.99  
9781914613432

### Author

**Rory Cellan-Jones** was the BBC's principal technology correspondent until 2018. He now writes an influential and fast-growing substack column on medical innovation and tech. Through this and his 300k+ twitter followers @ruskin147 he spreads awareness of technological developments in the fields of medicine, health care and – more specifically – Parkinson's.

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## The Wild Within

**What Plants Taught Me about Life,  
Recovery and Renewal**

**Brigit Anna McNeill**

### Keynote

**From a herbalist and eco-therapist who became an Instagram success with her uniquely beautiful content, comes an inspiring account of her journey from childhood trauma to a naturally rich, grounded life.**

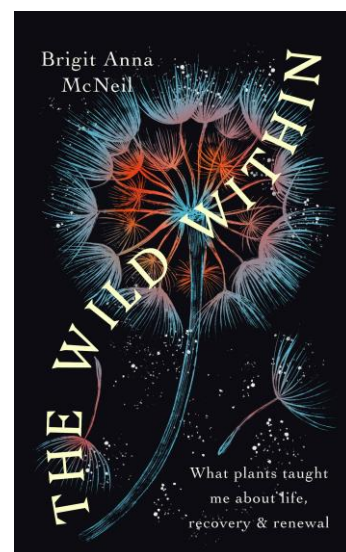
### Summary

**Echoing the journey of a plant itself, this is a personal exploration of rewilding and recovery.**

In a series of short, beautifully written, viscerally alive chapters, eco-psychotherapist and herbalist Brigit Anna McNeill tells her own story and explores the lives of the plants in her wooded Devon landscape. She explains how the natural cycle of dispersal, growth and bloom can inspire our own recovery from trauma, stress and illness. By focusing on totemic plants and wildlife, Brigit delivers a botanical journey to healing.

She changes our attitudes to ourselves, to the potential wildness within us and shifts our interaction with even the most ordinary wildernesses – from backyards to window boxes to parkland.

**This gloriously uplifting book is illustrated with beautiful drawings and will both inform and transform reader's daily lives.**



Rights: **WAL**  
October 2023  
Trade PB 336pp £14.99  
9781914613258

### Author

Brigit Anna McNeill is an eco-psychotherapist and herbalist, and the author of *Bloom & Thrive: Essential Healing Herbs and Flowers* published by Penguin random House. She has approx 50,000 followers on instagram: [@brigitannamcneill](https://www.instagram.com/brigitannamcneill). She lives in Dartington, Devon.

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## All Good Things

A Treasury of Images to Uplift the Spirits  
and Reawaken Wonder

Stephen Ellcock

### Keynote

**Simon Ellcock's first collection of the best of the world's beauty, creativity and curiosity.**

### Summary

**'Perfect for our time.'**

**Adrian Searle, *Guardian***

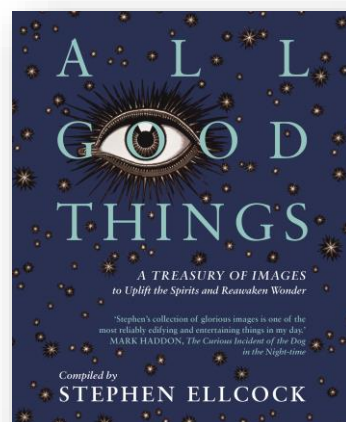
**A wondrous journey with the world-renowned image hunter and social media art curator Stephen Ellcock.**

Designed to stimulate and inspire, *All Good Things* is an exciting, eclectic collection of over 200 images from world-leading museums as well as lesser-known collections. In a finely calibrated procession of image, quote and myth, Stephen Ellcock leads us through the Realms of Creation - from the Stars to the Seas, the Natural to the Supernatural - to give us his extraordinary world vision.

A treasure trove of 3,000 years of artistic creation, scientific enquiry and pan-global magical, philosophical and religious traditions. The best of the world's beauty, creativity and curiosity in a single book.

**'A celebration of art, illustration, photography and humanity ... the perfect antidote to these dark winter months.'**

***New Statesman***



Rights: **WAL**  
October 2023  
PB 210 x 180mm  
240 colour images  
320pp £19.99  
9781914613456

### Author

**Stephen Ellcock** is a curator who has expanded his Facebook page into an online museum of images, visual delights, oddities and wonders drawn from every conceivable culture, era and corner of the globe. Find Stephen at [facebook.com/stephen.ellcock](https://facebook.com/stephen.ellcock) or on instagram [@stephenellcock](https://instagram.com/stephenellcock).

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