

CLARET PRESS 2025

Lives
Politics
Page Turners





Claret Press loves a great read about our shared world, about politics, people and places. Our page turners percolate with ideas to entertain and enlighten. We're London-based and the majority of our books are about Britain. But our travelogues take you around the world. So do many of our thrillers. Hearts and minds are opened by our memoirs and novels.

We have been trade publishing for almost a decade now and have a growing presence. Drachenhaus Verlag has published the German translation of *Brushstrokes in Time* by Sylvia Vetta. *Black Tea* by Stephen Morris has been shortlisted for a **Royal Society of Literature Award 2020**. *Opera* by Julie Anderson has been longlisted for the **CWA Steel Dagger Award 2023** for best thriller. *Daisy Chain* by Justine Gilbert has been shortlisted for the **Paul Torday Memorial Prize 2024**, and won the **Page Turner Award 2022** and the **Silver Medallion** from the **Historical Fiction Company 2022**. *Those Absent On the Great Hungarian Plain* by Jill Culiner has won the **Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Best Memoir 2024**.

Our distributor is **Gazelle Book Services**, with our backlist available print-on-demand through **Gardners**. Order information is on the back cover.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMING SOON	1-5
LATEST RELEASES	6-9
MYSTERIES AND THRILLERS	10
HISTORICAL FICTION	11
MEMOIRS AND TRAVELOGUES	12
BRITISH POLITICS	13
ORDER INFORMATION	14

Harry Whitehead
ISBN: 9781910461808
Paperback: xxx pages
£12.99 | Autumn 2025
GENRE: Thriller, Eco-Thriller, Arctic Adventure



**ONLY ONE KNOWS THE TRUTH.
ONLY ONE CAN REVEAL IT.
ONLY ONE CAN SAVE THEM ALL.**

Carrie, a Scottish rescue swimmer out of her depth in the High Arctic. Ross, the owner of an oil rig with a guilty conscience. Amaruq, an Inuvialuit oil-rig worker caught between two worlds.

Stranded on the Arctic ice with a starving polar bear and a half-dead stranger, Carrie's left with nothing but deadly choices. Ross and Amaruq face their own crossroads. Lives hang on their decisions.

From the cruel Arctic to the corporate backrooms of shady Big Oil, *White Road* is an authentic and gripping eco-thriller of survival, battled out at the edge of everything.



Harry Whitehead is a novelist and Associate Professor in Creative Writing at the University of Leicester, where he is Co-Director of the Centre for New Writing.

He has been a Wingate Scholar and was 2016-7 Eccles Centre Fellow in North American Studies at the British Library, while researching *White Road*. He has a degree in Anthropology, an MSc in Medical Anthropology and a PhD in Creative Writing. He worked for many years in the film industry.

His literary debut *The Cannibal Spirit* (Penguin) was called 'powerful, brave, ambitious' (*The Globe & Mail*), 'a unique work, compelling, complex, thought-provoking and impressive' (*Quill & Quire*), 'a thriller with a Joseph Conradian plot' (*The Walrus*).

COMING SOON

THE MORTALITY THIEF

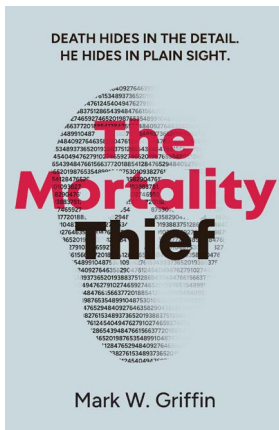
Mark Griffin

ISBN: 9781910461822

Paperback: xxx pages

£12.99 | Autumn 2025

GENRE: Thriller, Techno-thriller



DEATH HIDES IN THE DETAIL. HE HIDES IN PLAIN SIGHT.

Pencil-pushing risk-analyst Luke Smith has a bounty on his head and the police on his tail. A file accidentally sent to him by an investment bank is his only clue. Inside lies the secret his employer will kill to keep hidden.

Framed, on the run, hunted by an assassin and pursued by the public, Luke has no choice but to make London's underbelly his refuge. He has nothing but the clothes on his back and his own wits.

Luke must solve the file's mystery before he becomes just another mortality statistic.

Inspired by true events, *The Mortality Thief* is a razor-sharp and authentic thriller that's ripped from the headlines.



Mark Griffin is a qualified Chartered Financial Analyst, actuary and EMT. Working as a Chief Risk Officer, he has been responsible for not just a lot of analysis, but telling stories about what can go wrong, and serving as the corporate incarnation of cop, investigator and crime reporter.

THE HOUSE OF THE JUDAS GOAT

Douglas Kruger

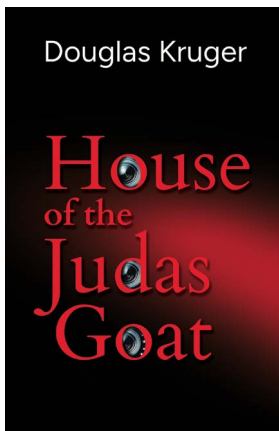
ISBN: 9781910461846

Paperback: xxx pages

£12.99 | Autumn 2025

GENRE: Thriller

3



When a network of sex traffickers sets up a fake exchange programme, families from around the world fall for their ruse. The Mayors are among them. They send their seventeen-year-old daughter, Kendall, jetting off on what she believes will be a Californian adventure.

Kendall arrives at a luxurious hillside mansion for 'Orientation Week'. But several things are amiss. Where is her passport? Why can't she have her phone? And why do kids keep disappearing from the mansion without explanation? Cossetted by the opulence of the great house, blinded by their own naivety, the global gathering of students remain ignorant of the danger they are in, even as hidden cameras transmit their images through the dark web to international buyers.

Escape is impossible. Not just because the house is sealed tight, but also because they are being managed from within. One of them is a traitor, a 'Judas Goat,' subtly curating their thoughts, sabotaging their every bid for freedom. But who? Unless they uncover the Judas Goat in time, they will all be sold to the highest bidder.



Douglas Kruger is a multiple award-winning international speaker, and the author of eight business books with Penguin Random House, including bestselling titles like *Own Your Industry - How to Position Yourself as an Expert*, and *Poverty Proof - 50 Ways to Train Your Brain for Wealth*.

Douglas's thought-leadership ideas have been featured repeatedly on CNBC Africa and he has been published in Forbes and Entrepreneur magazines.

COMING SOON

A MONSTER IN THE ASH

S. C. Gordon

ISBN: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Paperback: xxx pages

£xx.xx | 2026

GENRE: Historical Fiction

4

COMING
SOON

“The old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.”

Antonio Gramsci

It’s 1945. The old order is dead but the new post-war modernity has not yet been created. In this lull, the fascists once again start organising. Marches, leafleting and fomenting hatred – especially of Jews. In London’s East End, the Jewish community is staggering from the weight of its loss, exhausted and uncertain about what to do next.

One woman knows. She’s fighting back. For herself. For her community. For the man she loves.

COMING
SOON



S.C. Gordon is an author, poet and journalist. In the decade she spent living and working in Shanghai, she wrote and edited for English-language magazines covering business, lifestyle, travel, culture, and entertainment. She has also written for Virgin Media, Condé Nast, Executive Travel and the BBC. She was part of the Royal Court Theatre’s new writers’ programme from 2007-2008, and was a finalist and runner-up in British Vogue’s young writers’ competition in 2004 and 2005. She has a PhD in Comparative Literature.

She has published two poetry collections: *Peckham Blue* (Penned in the Margins) and *Harbouring* (Math Paper Press).

Declan Hill

ISBN: xxxxxxxx

Paperback: xxx pages

£xx.xx | 2026

GENRE: Non-fiction, Sport, Gambling

COMING
SOON

THE SOPRANOS MEETS THE TIPPING POINT

from the internationally bestselling author of *The Fix: Soccer and Organised Crime* and the “persona non-grata inside FIFA”.

Tens of thousands of British teenagers are gambling addicts. Jack Richie was one of them. At 17, he wandered into a betting shop during his school lunch break, won £1,000 and became hooked.

Seven years later, overwhelmed by gambling issues, he committed suicide.

His mother is unsparing in her views on the industry. “This is a form of child abuse. It is happening to ... thousands of other young people. (They) are being given a life-threatening illness and then told it’s their fault.”

This is a gripping investigation into one of the largest and most dangerous phenomena in modern society. Sports gambling is the new opiate epidemic. It’s coming for our young people.

No one has investigated the true cost of gambling – until now.

Declan Hill, an award-winning investigative academic and journalist, is one of the world’s foremost experts on match-fixing and corruption in international sports. Currently, he is a senior research fellow in anti-corruption in sports at the University of Würzburg and a professor at the University of New Haven where he has opened the Centre for Sports Integrity in the Investigations Program.



COMING
SOON

OPERATION ARK

Pen Farthing

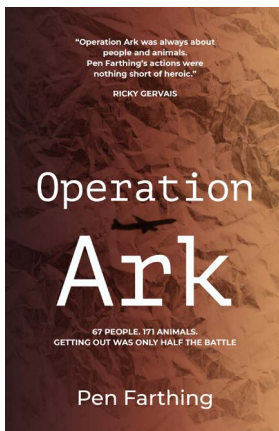
ISBN: 978-1-910461-70-9

Paperback: 258 pages

£12.99 | 08.07.2024

GENRE: MEMOIR/CURRENT AFFAIRS/AFGHANISTAN

6



67 PEOPLE. 171 ANIMALS. GETTING OUT WAS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE

August 2021. The Taliban invaded Kabul.

The British Government was “Missing in Action”.

The evacuation was disastrous, shambolic and deadly.

Pen Farthing refused to abandon his charity’s staff or rescue animals.

Operation Ark was born.

He was branded a villain who valued “pets over people”, blamed for deserting Afghans, accused of risking British soldiers – nothing could be further from the truth.



‘Pen Farthing is a man who has the Commando spirit writ through him: he never gives up.’ – *Daily Mail Online*

‘Heroic.’ – *Ricky Gervais*

‘Pen Farthing is still angry. It’s understandable.’ – *Private Eye*

‘A damning indictment of foreign policy failures.’ – *The Daily Beast*

‘The most remarkable book.’ – *Peter Egan*

Pen Farthing is an ex-Royal Marine Commando, founder of animal welfare charity Nowzad and author of *Sunday Times* bestseller, *One Dog At A Time*.

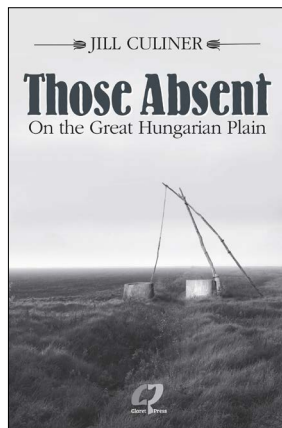
Jill Culiner

ISBN: 978-1-910461-72-3

Paperback: 340 pages

£12.99 | 28.02.2024

GENRE: TRAVELOGUE/JEWISH STUDIES/HOLOCAUST/HUNGARY



WINNER OF THE CANADIAN JEWISH LITERARY AWARDS FOR BEST MEMOIR 2024

A Hungarian village on the Great Plain: a microcosm reflecting this country's history from early tribal invasion to Soviet subordination to European Community membership. Here, peasants, herders, party girls, former Nazis and lapsed communists share gossip as well as love stories; and unscrupulous leaders, totalitarian or freely elected, decide behaviour.

Like a fly in amber, this is a moment captured of a time and a place under peaceful upheaval. The old ways are vanishing. But what is being lost and what is remaining only slowly comes clear.

Celebrated photographer and author, Jill Culiner, spends years of her life there, chronicling these changes, learning the language and buying property. She is as committed as any. She weaves her own story with the story of that community and the history of living on the edge of the Great Hungarian Plain.

It's a raw story, honestly told, of a people crisscrossed with violence and hatreds, loves and escapes. There remains one constant: hatred of the long-vanished rural Jew.



'The long history of hatred toward the Jews combined with the exploitation and misery of the peasants have forged Hungarian identity. Jill Culiner's Central Europe is plagued by the same demons that led to the tragedies of the past century.' **Dr Marcel Calvez, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Rennes**

'In a narrative of village life, coarse xenophobia and cruelty contrast with acceptance, friendship and laughter. The horror of the past is concealed, yet Culiner finds compassion in human failure.' **Penny-Lynn Cookson, Art Historian, Writer**

An award-winning, UNESCO-sponsored Jewish historian and writer, Jill Culiner has also written *A Contrary Journey*: in which Culiner traces the path of the Jewish bard Velvel Zbarzher across Eastern Europe.

POOR TABLE MANNERS

Steve Sheppard

ISBN: 978-1-910461-76-1

Paperback: 254 pages

£10.99 | 17.04.2024

GENRE: COMEDY THRILLER/SPY THRILLER



When their new employer dies in a suspicious road accident and his brother, a South African government lawyer disappears in Cape Town, Dawson and Lucy are recalled to MI6. For once their mission is straightforward: liaise with Rebecca Erasmus of South African State Security and find the missing lawyer.

Then Rebecca is kidnapped. Surely this has nothing to do with the forthcoming presidential election and

the vengeful Chinese assassin in town...

'Steve Sheppard is a gifted comic writer with a knack for clever plotting and thrills.'

Greg Mosse, writer

'A fun, page-turning thriller that kept me enthralled and chuckling. There's a wonderful sort of sophisticated goofiness reminiscent of Nick and Nora Charles of The Thin Man. I couldn't put it down!'

Steve Powell, author of Term Limits

BOOK 1 AND BOOK 2 IN THE DAWSON AND LUCY COMEDY THRILLER SERIES

ISBN: 978-1-910461-40-2

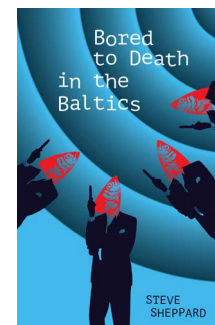
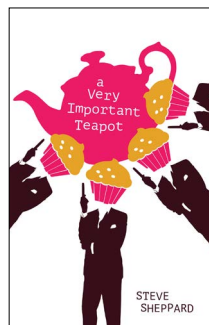
Paperback: 268 pages

£10.99

ISBN: 978-1-910461-31-0

Paperback: 262 pages

£10.99



PRAISE FOR THE DAWSON AND LUCY SERIES

'A curiously magical thriller with suburban subterfuge and sparkle.'

Helen Lederer, author of Losing it, comedian and Founder of the Comedy Women in Print Prize

'This is a thriller, a chase, a buddy story, a mystery [...] all smoothly told with hugely engaging characters, and rips along at a hectic pace.'

Adrian Magson, author of Hostile State

'My goodness! What a hilarious, energetic and entertaining roller-coaster of a read this is. The pace never lets up.'

Sue Clark, author of Note to Boy

+44(0)1524 528 500
Gardners Books
Gazelle Distributors

LATEST RELEASES

DAISY CHAIN

Justine Gilbert

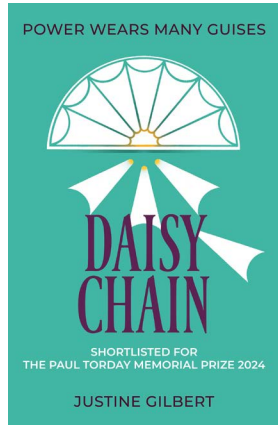
ISBN: 978-1-910461-62-4

Paperback: 294 pages

£11.99 | 01.03.2023

GENRE: HISTORICAL FICTION/

WOMEN IN HISTORY/AMERICAN HISTORY



It's the Great Depression. The world is tilting towards war. In the White House, nothing is as it seems. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the married president of the United States, has started a long and passionate affair with his cousin Daisy...

SHORTLISTED FOR THE PAUL TORDAY MEMORIAL PRIZE 2024, WINNER OF THE PAGE TURNER AWARDS 2022 AND WINNER OF THE HISTORICAL FICTION COMPANY SILVER MEDAL 2022.

THE DOOR THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE

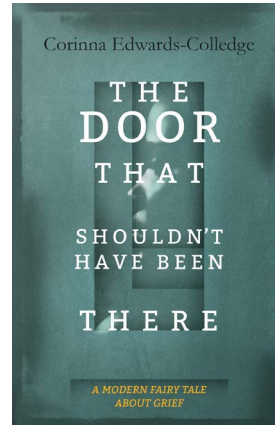
Corinna Edwards-College

ISBN: 978-1-910461-67-9

Hardback: 152 pages, 11 illustrations

£14.99 | 28.09.2023

GENRE: MODERN FANTASY/FAIRYTALE/GRIEF



A Modern Fairy Tale About Grief, in which a grieving husband pursues his dead wife through a series of mysterious doors.

'Corinna beautifully balances the universal and particular in this individual story of loss and everyday grief. The imagery is poetic and layered and draws the reader forward, running to catch their breath.'

Henry Normal, multi award-winning writer, producer and broadcaster

FINAL APPROACH

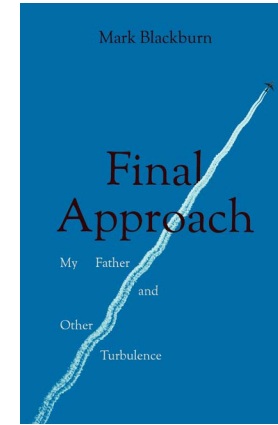
Mark Blackburn

ISBN: 978-1-910461-74-7

Paperback: 204 pages

£12.99 | 23.11.2023

MEMOIR/TRAVELOGUE/RELATIONSHIPS



Final Approach charts the turbulent flightpath between a jetsetting father and a planespotting son. Half memoir and half travelogue, wrapped in an ode to planespotting, this is one man's journey to break free.

'Final Approach is a beautiful and tender work.'

Shaun Levin, A3 Press

+44(0)1524 528 500

Gardners Books

Gazelle Distributors

OPERA

Julie Anderson

ISBN: 978-1-910461-56-3

Paperback: 318 pages
£9.99

BOOK 1 AND BOOK 2 IN THE CASSANDRA FORTUNE MYSTERY THRILLER SERIES

ISBN: 978-1-910461-47-1

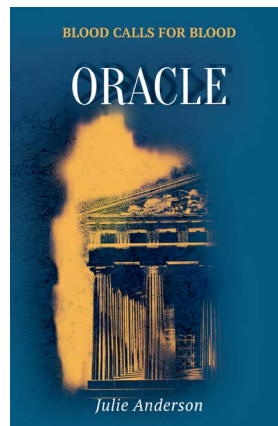
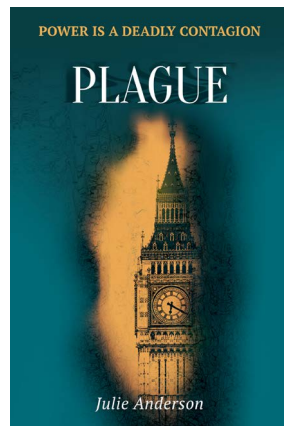
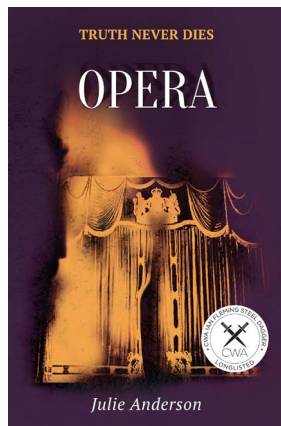
Paperback: 282 pages
£9.99

ISBN: 978-1-910461-48-8

Paperback: 286 pages
£9.99

+44(0)1524 528 500
Gardners Books
Gazelle Distributors

10



PRAISE FOR THE CASSANDRA FORTUNE SERIES:

'Absolutely enthralling...Thought provoking and genius - thank you Julie Anderson!'

Barbara Pidgeon, author of *Shakti Manifest*

'Fascinating and authoritative insider view of modern power politics that is all too frighteningly prescient. A gripping read.'

VB Grey, author of *Tell Me How It Ends*

'There are more twists, turns and unexpected revelations in this story than the path leading to the Corycian Cave and they will keep readers guessing until the unexpected end.'

Jean M. Roberts, author of *Blood in the Valley*

Cassandra Fortune, disgraced civil servant, knows the halls of Westminster better than she knows her own heart, and certainly better than she knows why she was kicked to the bottom rung of the career ladder. Then she gets tasked with solving the brutal murders. Everything rides on her success. Including her own life.

**LONGLISTED FOR THE
CWA STEEL DAGGER
AWARD 2023**

MYSTERIES AND THRILLERS

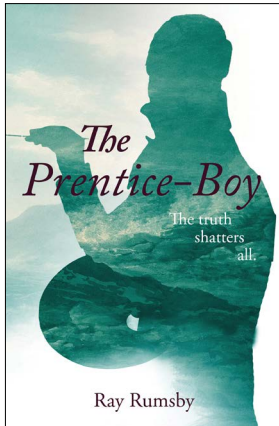
THE PRENTICE-BOY

Ray Rumsby

ISBN: 978-1-910461-60-0

Paperback: 308 pages

£11.99



The year is 1820. Aristocrat and painter William Daniell hires Jesse Cloud, a homeless teenager, as his apprentice. Both are hiding secrets.

'I was genuinely sorry to finish this book. It had me completely engaged... and I loved the clever surprise in the middle of it.'
Louis de Bernières, author of Captain Corelli's Mandolin

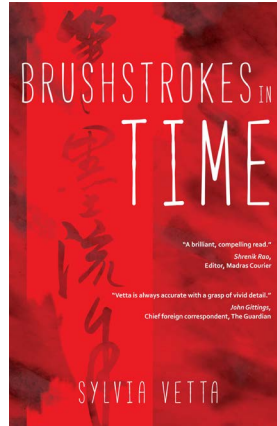
BRUSHSTROKES IN TIME

Sylvia Vetta

ISBN: 978-1-910461-10-5

Paperback: 204 pages

£11.99



A coming-of-age love story set in Post-Mao China.

'Weaving real events and Stars artists with the fictional, this moving story... gives us an engaging heroine who rises above oppression to discover love, hope and success.'
Frank Sieren, Asia Expert

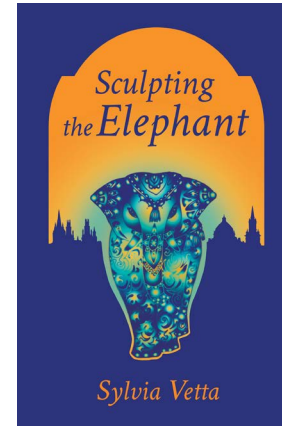
SCULPTING THE ELEPHANT

Sylvia Vetta

ISBN: 978-1-910461-34-1

Paperback: 276 pages

£11.99



Class, colour, culture. Can love overcome all three with the help of a 19th century Raj and a 5th century Buddhist emperor?

'A page turning love story – I was hooked... It reflected my life of gifts and travails of a mixed-race relationship.'
Polly Biswas Gladwin, screenwriter

+44(0)1524 528 500
Gardners Books
Gazelle Distributors

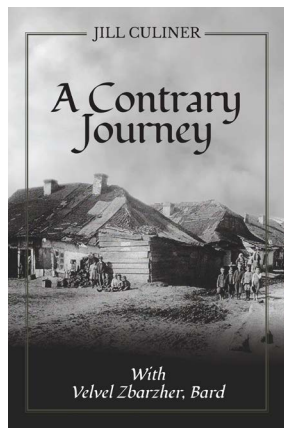
A CONTRARY JOURNEY

Jill Culiner

ISBN: 978-1-910461-43-3

Paperback: 274 pages

£12.99



Armed with a useless nineteenth-century map, a warm lumpy coat, and a healthy dose of curiosity Jill Culiner trudged through the snow in former Galicia, the Russian Pale, and Romania searching for Velvel the Jewish Bard, the houses where he lived, and the bars where he sang. But she was also on the lookout for a vanished way of life in Austria, Turkey, and Canada.

'What a beautiful book! The writing is clear and direct, the subject matter is interesting and important, and the characters are lively and realistically portrayed. In short, it's a good piece of reporting, and was entirely successful in wafting me to another time and place.'
Barrington James, author of *The Musical World of Marie Antoinette*

'Culiner's first-rate eye allows her to render the world of the shtetl, past and present, with more intimacy, complexity and telling detail than anything else I have read.'
Robert A Rosenstone, Emeritus Professor of History

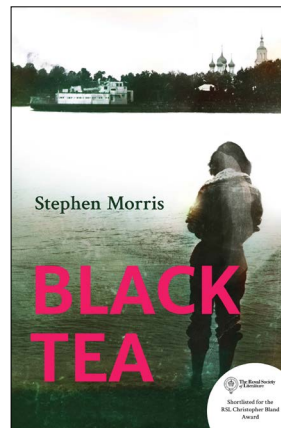
BLACK TEA

Stephen Morris

ISBN: 978-1-910461-39-6

Paperback: 222 pages

£12.99



Highly informed with a unique perspective, Stephen Morris' *Black Tea* chronicles the changing face of Russia over thirty years. Both memoir and travelogue, Stephen hauntingly explores love and identity, commitment and family

SHORTLISTED FOR THE RSL CHRISTOPHER BLAND PRIZE 2020

*'Elegiac, evocative and disarmingly candid, *Black Tea* rattles along like a Russian train. It can be soothingly poetic and then bring you to a standstill with its sharp, searing honesty.'*

Lucy Ash, BBC Russia Correspondent

'A triumph of art as well as of observation.'

Paul Binding, cultural critic and author

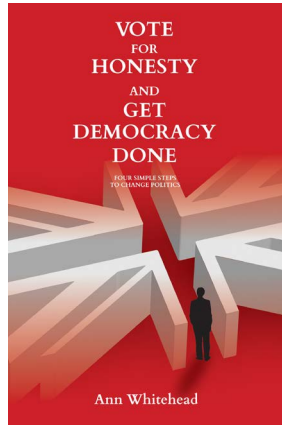
VOTE FOR HONESTY AND GET DEMOCRACY DONE

Ann Whitehead

ISBN: 978-1-910461-64-8

Paperback: 138 pages

£11.99



This succinct and well researched guide offers a solution to the increasing problem of dishonest behaviour by UK politicians. Positive change is possible with this simple solution to a complex problem.

“Honesty should be at the heart of politics and this elegant essay puts the case well.”

Denis MacShane, Former Minister of State for Europe

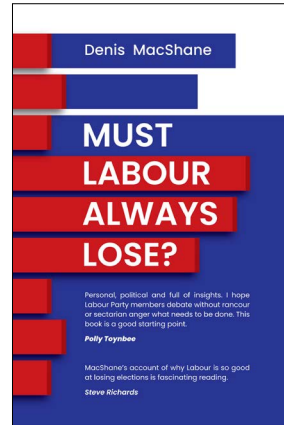
MUST LABOUR ALWAYS LOSE?

Denis MacShane

ISBN: 978-1-910461-53-2

Paperback: 326 pages

£11.99



Since 1970, Labour has won in just 4 of 14 general elections. Written by the former Minister of State for Europe, this angry and passionate book asks why Labour is so good at losing elections and so unhappy when it does win.

“The book is like MacShane himself: lively, witty, entertaining, indiscreet, and every so often you can hear the satisfying clunk of an old score being settled.”

Francis Beckett, Camden New Journal

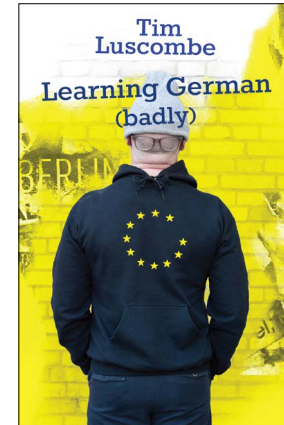
LEARNING GERMAN (BADLY)

Tim Luscombe

ISBN: 978-1-910461-45-7

Paperback: 212 pages

£11.99



The only hilarious book ever written about Brexit. It's an ode to a potential union, a lament for a lost citizenship and a celebration of the cosmopolitan bubble of Berlin.

“Not many know and love Europe and our complex relationship with it, like Luscombe. And no-one can communicate that with such fantastically self-deprecating wit.”

Federay Holmes, Associate Artist, Globe Theatre, London

+44(0)1524 528 500
Gardners Books
Gazelle Distributors



CLARET PRESS BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE TO BE ORDERED FROM:

Gardners: sales@gardners.com +44 (0) 1323 521555

Gazelle: sales@gazellebookservices.co.uk +44 (0) 1524 528500

Follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter through our website to get updates about awards and new releases.

For any stock issues, author information and all other queries, contact us at:

contact@claretpress.com | +44 (0) 77 367 169 27

As an indie publisher we relish meeting new people and making contacts. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at Claret Press to see how we can better work together.