

UNITY BOOKS

ISSUE 53

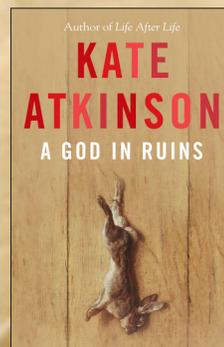
AUTUMN 15

Welcome to the Autumn 2015 edition of the Unity Books Newsletter. Our streets are paved with autumn leaves, readers are donned in wools and knits and we're all in search of words to warm us through the winter months. Here we have compiled our recommendations for the cooler season, Happy Reading!

FICTION

Aquarium
David Vann (Text) pb \$37

Twelve-year-old Caitlin lives with her mother next to an airport in Seattle. Each day after school, she visits the local aquarium to study the fish. Gazing at the creatures, Caitlin accesses a shimmering universe. When she befriends an old man at the tanks, she cracks open a dark family secret and propels her once-blissful relationship with her mother into turmoil.



A God in Ruins
Kate Atkinson (Doubleday) pb \$38

Kate Atkinson's dazzling *Life After Life* explored the possibility of infinite chances, as Ursula Todd lived through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. Now, Atkinson turns her focus on Ursula's younger brother Teddy - would-be poet, RAF bomber pilot, husband and father - as he navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century.

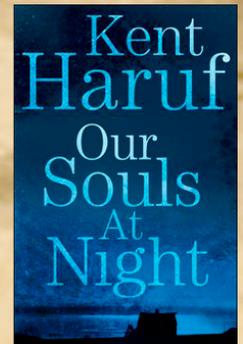


Academy Street
Mary Costello (Text) pb \$35

Tess' childhood in 1940s rural Ireland is defined by the sudden death of her mother. Later in New York, she encounters the ferocious power and calamity of love, and the effects of catastrophic fate. This elegantly written and affecting novel resonates with the rhythms of memory and home as well as those of America's greatest city.

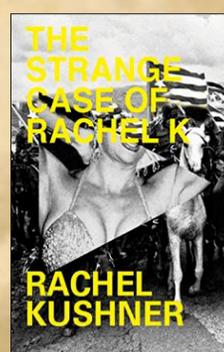
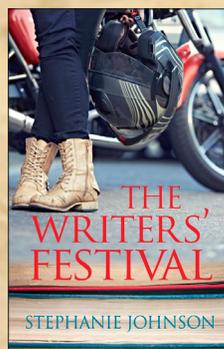
Our Souls at Night
Kent Haruf (Picador) hb \$33

Kent Haruf's final novel before he passed away last November is an exquisite and moving story about love and growing old with grace. Addie Moore and Louis Waters' spouses have long passed away, and as neighbours in Holt, Colorado, they have long been aware of each other. The nights are terribly lonely, but then one evening Addie pays Louis an unexpected visit.



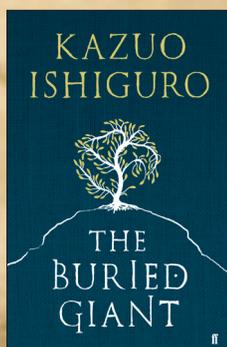
The Writers' Festival
Stephanie Johnson (Vintage) pb \$38

Cunningly published just prior to the Auckland Writers Festival, *The Writers' Festival* takes us backstage the hotbed of literary festivals and the publishing industry. Fresh from New York, festival director Rae McKay negotiates local and international writers, publishers and the organisers of the prestigious Opus Book Award. Expect romantic and bookish intrigue.



The Strange Case of Rachel K
Rachel Kushner (New Directions) hb \$38

This collects three bite-sized early short stories about myth, power, and sex from the author of firecracker novel *The Flamethrowers*. An explorer's unknown whereabouts keeps a queen in anticipation; a faith healer's illegal radio broadcasts gives hope to an oppressed people; and a president's offer of ice cream surprises a prostitute expecting to turn a trick.

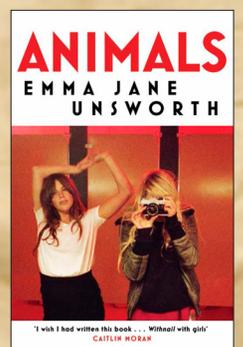


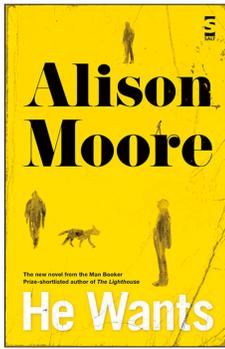
The Buried Giant
Kazuo Ishiguro (Faber) pb \$37

The Buried Giant begins as a couple embarking across a troubled land of mist and rain in the hope of finding a son they have not seen in years. Sometimes savage, often intensely moving, Kazuo Ishiguro's first novel in a decade is about lost memories, love, revenge and war. This is an extraordinary novel from the author of *Never Let Me Go* and the Booker Prize winning *The Remains of the Day*.

Animals
Emma Jane Unsworth (Canongate) pb \$35

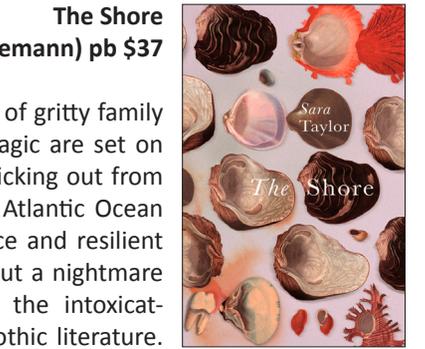
Writer Caitlin Moran says of *Animals*, "I wish I had written this book ... Withnail with girls," and novelist Nathan Filer says "If it's not an instant cult classic I'm leaving the cult." We agree but read it for yourselves! Manchester beer gardens and squalid flats provide the backdrop for this cheap white wine drenched novel of two thirtysomething female friends.





He Wants
Alison Moore (Salt Publishing) pb \$25

A creature of habit, retired teacher Lewis lives in the Midlands village where he was born. When a childhood friend appears on the scene, Lewis finds his life and comfortable routine shaken up. Like her Man Booker shortlisted novel *The Lighthouse*, *He Wants* is written with a beautifully clean, spare and fluid prose you will read eagerly and swiftly.

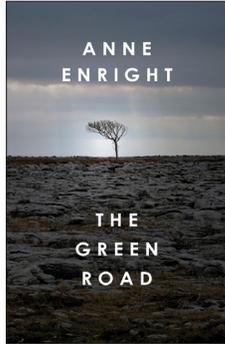


The Shore
Sara Taylor (William Heinemann) pb \$37

These interlinked short stories of gritty family violence, murder, rape and magic are set on a collection of small islands sticking out from the coast of Virginia into the Atlantic Ocean - home to generations of fierce and resilient women - sanctuary to some but a nightmare to others. *The Shore* recalls the intoxicating moodiness of Southern Gothic literature.

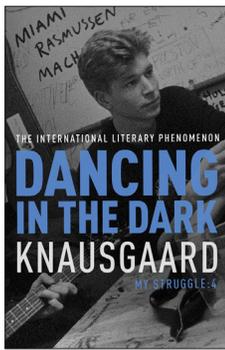
The Green Road
Anne Enright (Jonathan Cape) pb \$37

The Green Road is the stunningly observed story of Rosaleen Madigan, who years after her children have grown up and left the family home announces she would like them all to come back for one final family Christmas before she sells the house. Anne Enright is the harsh mistress of strikingly savage and hilariously spunky "Irish" tales of family and relationship dynamics.



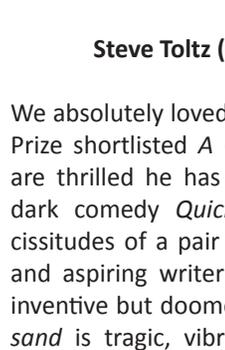
Satin Island
Tom McCarthy (Jonathan Cape) hb \$48

Mind-melting stuff! U is an in-house ethnographer or 'corporate anthropologist', employed by The Company to analyse the habits and idiosyncrasies of the corporate world and then generate reports based on his found data. He scrutinizes memes and rhetoric with intent to produce cultural theory for corporate brands. Man Booker shortlisted author Tom McCarthy is a startlingly original thinker and writer.



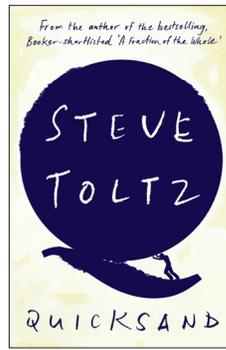
Dancing in the Dark: Book 4
Karl Ove Knausgaard (Harvill Secker) pb \$38

If you haven't been hit with the Karl Ove Knausgaard bug yet, brace yourself! This is the addictively moreish page-turning fourth part of the sensational literary cycle that has been hailed as "perhaps the most important literary enterprise of our times." (Rachel Cusk, Guardian).



Quicksand
Steve Toltz (Hamish Hamilton) pb \$40

We absolutely loved Steve Toltz's Man Booker Prize shortlisted *A Fraction of the Whole* so are thrilled he has a new novel. Deliciously dark comedy *Quicksand* chronicles the vicissitudes of a pair of friends - police officer and aspiring writer Liam and his muse, the inventive but doomed backslider Aldo. *Quicksand* is tragic, vibrant, and wickedly funny.



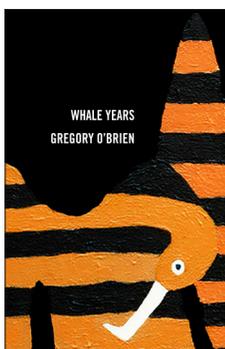
The Lady from Zagreb
Philip Kerr (Quercus) pb \$35

The Lady from Zagreb is another Bernie Gunther investigation from Philip Kerr: a rich, dark, racy adventure of a nightmarish time and a lonely, indomitable hero. In 1942 Zurich, detective Bernie Gunther is asked by a superior to track down a glamorous German actress believed to be hiding. Fast-paced and atmospheric, this will not disappoint fans of Kerr's Gunther thrillers.



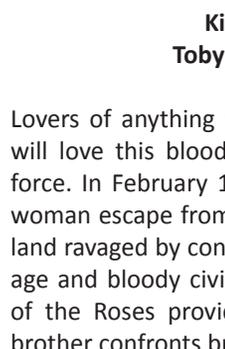
Arab Jazz
Karim Miske (MacLehose Press) pb \$38

Sushi, kebabs, a second hand bookshop and a bar: the 19th arrondissement in Paris is a cosmopolitan neighbourhood where multicultural citizens live, love and worship alongside one another. This peace is shattered when Ahmed Taroudant's melancholy daydreams are interrupted by the blood dripping from his upstairs neighbour's brutally mutilated corpse. A gripping and noirish French thriller of the highest order.



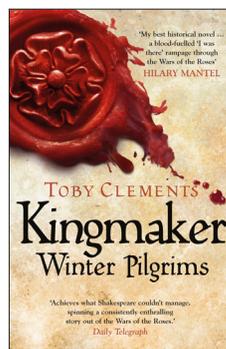
Whale Years
Gregory O'Brien (AUP) pb \$28

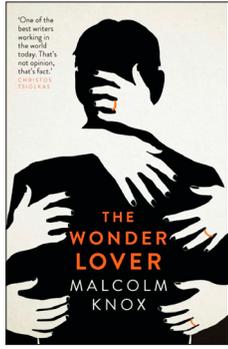
Between 2011 and 2014, poet and artist Gregory O'Brien found himself following the migratory routes of whales and seabirds across vast tracts of the South Pacific Ocean, resulting in work that O'Brien describes as 'acts of devotion - a homage to a series of remarkable locations and to the natural histories of those places'.



Kingmaker: Winter Pilgrims
Toby Clements (Arrow) pb \$25

Lovers of anything War of the Roses related will love this bloodthirsty historical tour-de-force. In February 1460, a young man and a woman escape from a priory, fleeing across a land ravaged by conflict. One of the most savage and bloody civil wars in history, the War of the Roses provides a background where brother confronts brother and king faces king.



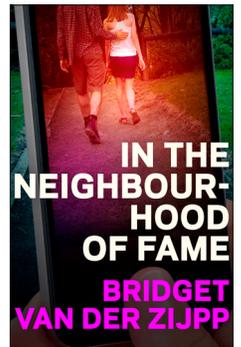


The Wonder Lover
Malcolm Knox (Allen & Unwin) pb \$40

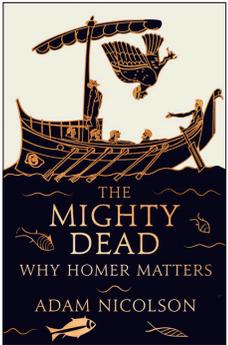
John Wonder has three families, each one kept secret from the other, each one containing two children, a boy and a girl, each called Adam and Evie. As he travels from family to family in different cities, he works as an authenticator, verifying world records, confirming facts while his own life is a head-spinning disarray of lies and betrayals.

In the Neighbourhood of Fame
Bridget van der Zijpp (VUP) pb \$30

Post fame, one-hit wonder rock musician Jed lives quietly, tinkering away in his home studio in the Auckland suburbs. When new, disturbing attention rocks his world, his life is caught up with three women around him: his wife; a childhood friend and a fifteen-year-old Jed befriends at the local dog park. Celebrity, social media and public shaming are tackled with insight.



NON FICTION

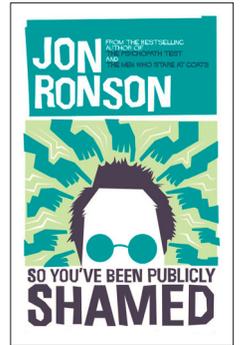


The Mighty Dead: Why Homer Matters
Adam Nicolson (William Collins) pb \$25.00

Longlisted for the 2014 Samuel Johnson Prize for Non Fiction, *The Mighty Dead* is a personal and passionate study of Homer's epics; a dialogue between past and present that poses the timeless question of what it means to be human. The book both tracks the history of his poetic works and addresses their relevance in the present day. In Adam Nicolson's words, "Homerity is humanity".

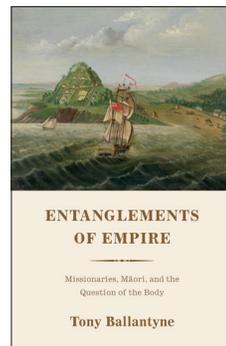
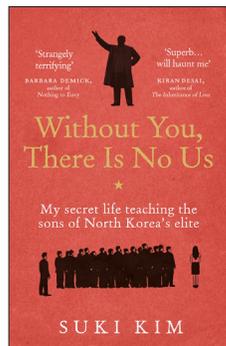
So You've Been Publicly Shamed
Jon Ronson (Picador) pb \$35.00

With *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*, Jon Ronson delves into the strange force that is shame. Both shamers and shamees are encountered, to explore the idea from all sides. Ronson is, as ever, both hilarious and informative as he works his way through the ins and outs of shame in our modern technological age.



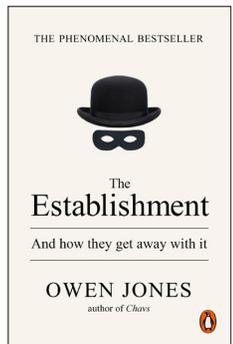
Without You, There is No Us: My Secret Life Teaching the Sons of North Korea's Elite
Suki Kim (Rider & Co) pb \$28.00

Without You, There is No Us is a haunting account of a year spent in the insulated monotony of a North Korean university. Struck by her students' servility and readiness to lie, Suki Kim's suggestions of an outside world are met with a curiosity that she quickly regrets inspiring. A compelling insight into the irrationality of this regime.



Entanglements of Empire: Missionaries, Maori and the Question of the Body
Tony Ballantyne (AUP) pb \$40.00

This fascinating study of the first Protestant mission in Aotearoa addresses the political, cultural and economic relationships between missionaries and Maori and the cross-cultural exchange that took place during this time. Tony Ballantyne explores a significant area of disagreement: the body and issues of sexual morality, clothing, hygiene and tattooing. An engaging analysis of the misunderstandings between disparate cultures.

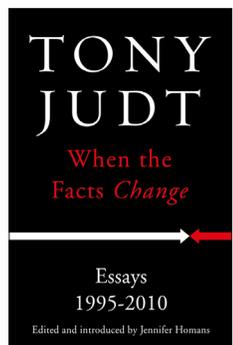
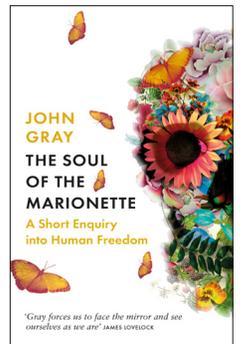


The Establishment: And How They Get Away With It
Owen Jones (Penguin) pb \$30.00

Owen Jones gives us an enlightening glimpse into the British establishment and the threat it poses to democracy. For Jones, the establishment includes the political class, the media, bankers and even the police: a broad range of people tied together by a shared ideology. An eye-opening investigation into what Jones calls "the socialism of the rich".

The Soul of the Marionette: A Short Enquiry into Human Freedom
John Gray (Allen Lane) hb \$45.00

Has knowledge cursed us? Has the truth curtailed us? John Gray, one of Britain's best-known public philosophers, has never shied away from tackling the big questions. In *The Soul of the Marionette* he discusses learnings from the ancient Greeks to science-fiction futurism, finding an ally in Philip K. Dick. An unpredictable and unsettling meditation on freedom.



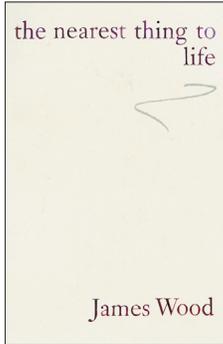
When the Facts Change: Essays 1995-2010
Tony Judt (William Heinemann) hb \$65.00

When accused of contradicting himself, Tony Judt remarked, "When the facts change, I change my mind." Edited and introduced by his widow, Jennifer Homans, this final collection of essays follows Judt's shifts in perspective on issues ranging from post-9/11 America to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Clear-sighted and frank, Judt's writing sacrifices consistency of opinion to an admirable commitment to the facts.



The Nearest Thing to Life
James Wood (Jonathan Cape) hb \$37.00

Combining criticism and memoir, the relationship between fiction and life is put under the critical lens here, with James Wood describing the act and art of reading as something sacred, with fiction something that can shape and influence our lives above and beyond all other art forms. *The Nearest Thing to Life* is at once in-depth and uplifting.



Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen

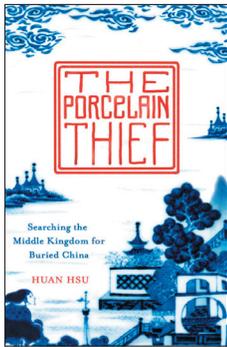
Mary Norris (Text) hb \$37.00

The *New Yorker* is a bastion of correct grammar and word usage. Mary Norris has been at the magazine for more than thirty years and this wealth of experience adds to this delightful read, an amusing book for thoughtful readers. If you're a lover of the nitty gritty of words, *Between You & Me* will be right up your alley.



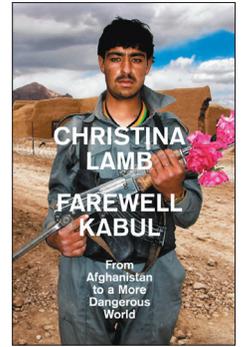
The Porcelain Thief
Huan Hsu (HarperCollins) pb \$35

Blending memoir, travelogue and social history, this book follows Huan Hsu through Mainland China and Taiwan as he hunts for the antique porcelain his great-great-grandfather buried during the Japanese invasion of China. His personal journey from Salt Lake City to Xingang, a village on the Yangtze River, reveals a history much larger than his family's. Fans of *The Hare with Amber Eyes* will love this.



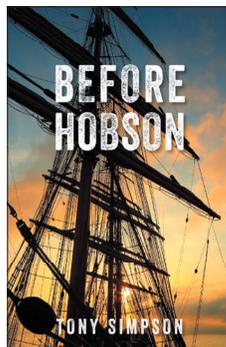
Farewell Kabul: From Afghanistan to a More Dangerous World
Christina Lamb (William Collins) pb \$35.00

The co-author of *I Am Malala* brings us an enquiry into the tragic failure of the West in the longest war fought in US history. Taking the reader from the poorest province in Afghanistan to Guantánamo, corresponding with key political and military figures as well as meeting with the Taliban, Christina Lamb is as comprehensive as she is compassionate.



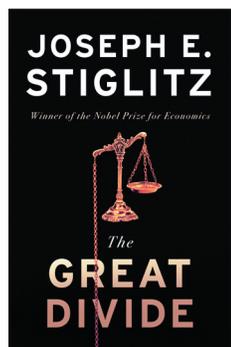
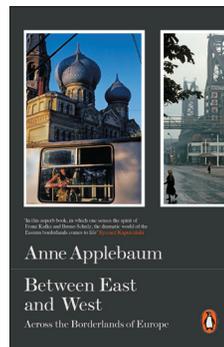
Before Hobson
Tony Simpson (Blythswood Press) pb \$38.00

Astute social historian Tony Simpson uses previously unpublished sources from the United States to explore the Treaty of Waitangi, plunging us vividly into the world of the early 19th century: British governments of the day, the trading and whaling economy, evangelical missionary activity and influence, and the financial communities in London and Sydney. No-one, including the missionaries, comes away unscathed.



Between East and West: Across the Borderlands of Europe
Anne Applebaum (Penguin) pb \$30.00

"A traveller can meet a man born in Poland, brought up in the Soviet Union, who now lives in Belarus – and he has never left his village," observes Anne Applebaum, in her insightful and immensely readable account of the journey she made across Europe's far east, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, after the fall of the Soviet Union.

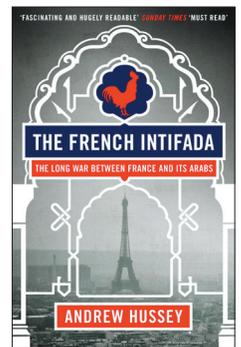


The Great Divide
Joseph Stiglitz (Allen Lane) hb \$55.00

A persuasive and timely collection of essays on the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots in America. Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz is a knowledgeable writer, whose voice has a pressing urgency. 'An insidious trend has developed over this past third of a century,' he warns. But it is not too late.

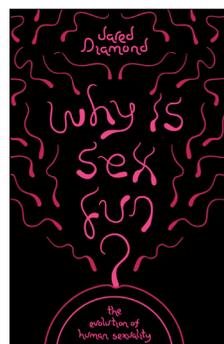
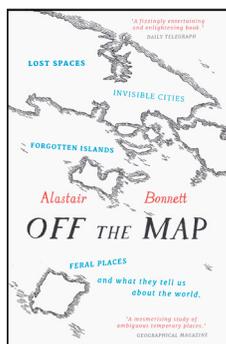
The French Intifada: The Long War Between France and its Arabs
Andrew Hussey (Granta) pb \$30.00

The French Intifada tackles the legacy left by France's colonization of Muslim populations in North Africa. Andrew Hussey, Dean of the University of London Institute in Paris, argues that France is in danger, 'under attack by angry and dispossessed heirs of its past colonial projects'. A deftly interwoven mix of personal anecdote and historical research, this is a disturbing yet thought provoking read.



Off the Map: Lost Spaces, Invisible Cities, Forgotten Islands, Feral Places and What They Tell Us About the World
Alastair Bonnett (Aurum) pb \$30.00

In this collection of 47 short essays Alastair Bonnet explores the non-places, borderlands, urban "gutterspaces" and shifting islands of the world. One is Sealand, the beguiling abandoned second world war gun platform off the coast of Essex, and another is the Pacific Trash Vortex, a huge island of ocean-borne garbage thought to be twice the size of Texas.



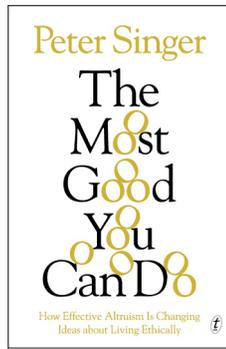
Why is Sex Fun?: The Evolution of Human Sexuality
Jared Diamond (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) pb \$30.00

Human sexuality may seem normal to us but it is bizarre by the standards of other animals. In this fascinating work, science writer Jared Diamond addresses the fundamental differences between human and animal procreation; analysing the reasons why most males do not lactate, why human females experience menopause and why humans have sex even when fertilisation is impossible or unlikely.



The Nature of the Beast: The First Genetic Evidence on the Survival of Apeman, Yeti, Bigfoot and other Mysterious Creatures into Modern Times
Bryan Sykes (Coronet) pb \$40.00

Professor Bryan Sykes, a leading expert on human genetics, set a goal to locate and analyse as many DNA samples as possible with links to the yeti. In doing so, he found himself entering a strange world of mystery and sensationalism, fraud and obsession and even the supernatural. There is something out there. But what?



The Most Good You Can Do: How Effective Altruism is Changing Ideas About Living Ethically
Peter Singer (Text) pb \$40 .00

The 'effective altruism' movement is a new one, but with proponents like Peter Singer (described by TED as "sometimes controversial, always practical"), the concept of doing as much good as possible to achieve a fully ethical life is gaining traction as it moves forwards. Singer has been writing about moral philosophy for decades – this is illuminating as ever.



Creatures of a Day: and Other Tales of Psychotherapy
Irvin D. Yalom (Scribe) pb \$35.00

Creatures of a Day is an examination of Irvin D. Yalom's career as a psychotherapist – paying particular attention to the dynamics of he and his patients regarding living a truly worthwhile life and the eventual inevitability of death. This is an at times emotionally fraught (but consistently engaging) tale of humanity and the human soul.

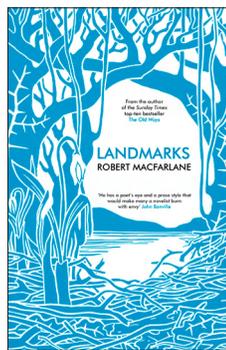
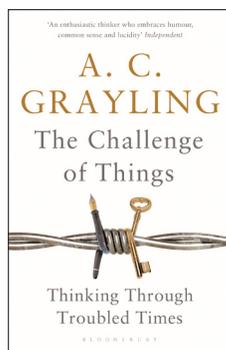
A Philosophy of Walking
Frederic Gros (Verso) pb \$25.00

This book contains beautiful philosophical perspectives on walking. As well as Gros's own musings, philosophers as varied as Nietzsche, Thoreau and Kant all had a deep connection with walking as a component of their thought and development process. A Philosophy of Walking proves to be delightfully full of rambling wanders and deeply intent marching alike.



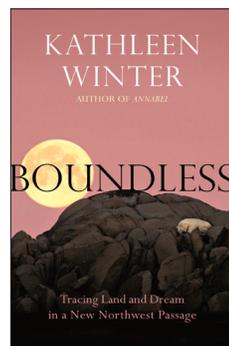
The Challenge of Things: Thinking Through Troubled Times
A.C. Grayling (Bloomsbury) pb \$37.00

This collection of A. C. Grayling's essays is delivered with his usual aplomb. *The Challenge of Things* focuses in on Grayling's thoughts in this era of global conflict. The difficulties of these times are explored but at the same time he looks at ways that we can collectively change and move onwards and upwards to a more harmonious future.



Landmarks
Robert MacFarlane (Hamish Hamilton) hb \$55.00

The mystery of who Richard III really was has fascinated historians, readers and audiences familiar with Shakespeare's dastardly portrait of a royal hunchback monster for centuries. *The King's Grave* will be both an extraordinary portrait of the last Plantagenet monarch and the inspiring story of the archaeological dig that discovered his remains, finally bringing the real King Richard III into the light of day.

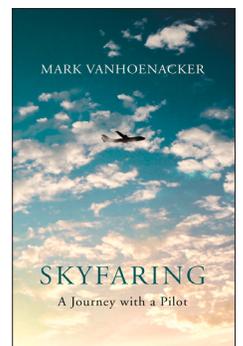


Boundless: Tracing Land and Dream in a New Northwest Passage
Kathleen Winter (Jonathan Cape) hb \$45.00

Kathleen Winter's amazing voyage is told in an equally amazing style in *Boundless*, where she describes the changing landscape of the northernmost parts of North America. Animals adapt in unexpected ways, the hunger for oil is continuously being fed and the Inuit local population deal with the issues arising from traditional lifestyles coming up against

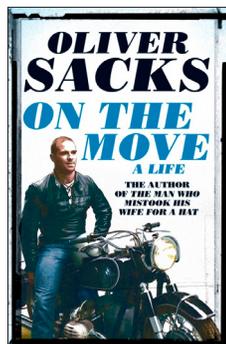
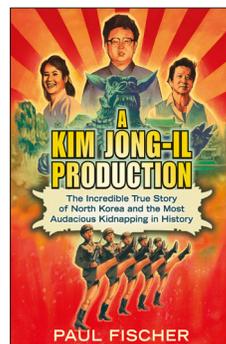
Skyfaring: A Journey with a Pilot
Mark Vanhoenacker (Chatto & Windus) hb \$47.00

The thrill of take-off and the joy of the world unfolding underneath you... even after years as a pilot, Mark Vanhoenacker remains in awe to the magic of flight. Take a trip through the sky from the comfort of home, with Skyfaring's tales of mapmaking from the air, the names of winds and the power of physics to keep the whole operation going.



A Kim Jong-il Production: The Incredible Story of North Korea and the Most Audacious Kidnapping in History
Paul Fischer (Viking) pb \$37.00

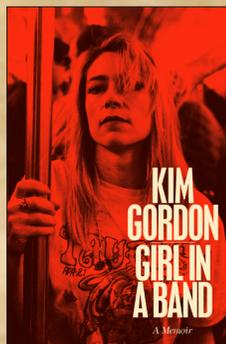
A thriller that puts Hollywood's most outrageous plotlines to shame, *A Kim Jong-il Production* tells the true story of the future dictator's foray into filmmaking. Head of cinema production in North Korea, in 1978 Kim Jong-il took the extraordinary measure of kidnapping South Korea's favourite movie star alongside her ex-husband, an admired director. Absurdity and cruelty intertwine in this astonishing read.



On the Move: A Life
Oliver Sacks (Picador) pb \$40.00

If you enjoyed *Musicophilia* or *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* by Oliver Sacks, learn more about the author behind them. *On the Move* combines elements of his working life with his own passions outside the examination room. Interests as varied as botany, weightlifting and motorcycles are explored, while his professional relationships and influences are also examined.

MUSIC

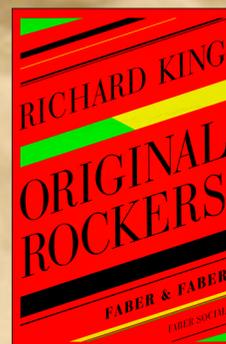


Girl in a Band
Kim Gordon (Faber) pb \$37

“Knowing what I know now, it’s hard to write about a love story with a broken heart,” begins Kim Gordon, founding member of rock group Sonic Youth, in her rigorous and raw memoir. The 1980s downtown New York art and music scene, and the 90s grunge era form the backdrop of her time in visual arts and music.

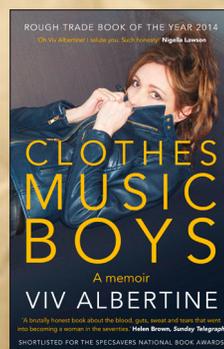
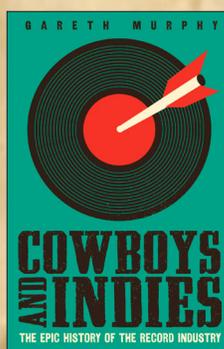
Original Rockers
Richard King (Faber) hb \$40

This wonderful book recalls the debauched glory days of the independent record shop. Music writer Richard King spent several years working in Bristol’s Revolver, and this is his clear-eyed yet romantic account of life behind the counter in a business run from the heart not the head and with a tendency towards dysfunction.



Cowboys and Indies: The Epic History of the Record Industry
(Gareth Murphy (Serpent’s Tail) pb \$40

This is the story of the mavericks and moguls who have shaped the music industry from the first sound machines of the 1850s through to today’s digital streams. Gareth Murphy brings us the behind-the-scenes stories of how music gets made and sold. “A fascinating account of the way recorded music has evolved, touched people and helped shape popular culture as we know it today.” - Sir George Martin.



Clothes, Clothes, Clothes, Music, Music, Music, Boys, Boys, Boys
Viv Albertine (Faber) pb \$25

Viv Albertine was songwriter and guitarist in the hugely influential dub-punk group the Slits, who fearlessly took on the male-dominated music scene and became part of a movement that changed music. This is Albertine’s thrilling, inspiring and revealing account of life post-punk - a career in film, the pain of IVF, illness, divorce and regeneration. Highly recommended.

FOOD

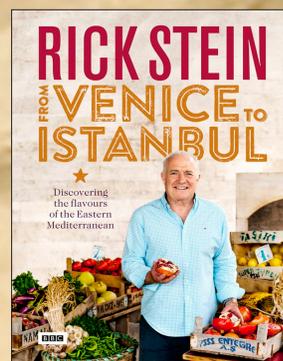


My Underground Kitchen
Jess Daniell (Random) pb \$50

It all started by word of mouth among friends, and now everyone is talking about this talented home-cook and her thriving underground business. The talented foodie behind Jess’ Underground Kitchen, Jess Daniell, makes delicious home-cooked meals for people in Auckland who pick them up from ‘secret’ locations. Now the secret is out, as Daniell shares her most loved recipes.

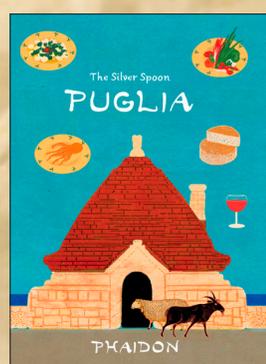
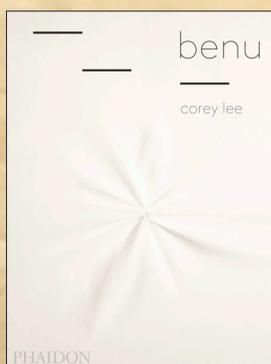
Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul
Rick Stein (BBC Books) hb \$65

From the mythical heart of Greece to the fruits of the Black Sea coast; from Croatian and Albanian flavours to the spices and aromas of Turkey and beyond – the cuisine of the Eastern Mediterranean is a vibrant melting pot brimming with character. From *Venice to Istanbul* includes over 100 spectacular recipes discovered by Rick Stein during his travels in the region.



Benu
Lee Corey (Phaidon) hb \$85

This is the debut cookbook from the celebrated, James Beard Award-winning Lee Corey, chef/patron of San Francisco’s three Michelin starred Benu and pioneer of modern Asian food. Uniquely presented as a 32-course tasting menu in which you experience the drama and poetry of Lee’s cooking through recipes and beautifully written essays detailing his inspirations and motivations.



Puglia
Tara Russell (Phaidon) hb \$60

Puglia is the third title in the wildly popular regional Silver Spoon cookbook series. Featuring more than 50 simple and authentic recipes from the Silver Spoon kitchen, this is a culinary journey through a fascinating area of Italy. This recipe collection focuses in on Puglia, a single province whose culinary expertise is well known. For lovers of rustic gastronomy.

CONTACT US TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

UNITY BOOKS

UNITY BOOKS AUCKLAND 19 High St, Auckland, 1010 | Ph (09) 307 0731 | Fax (09) 373 4883 | Email: shop@unitybooksauckland.co.nz

UNITY BOOKS WELLINGTON 57 Willis St, Wellington, 6011 | Ph (04) 499 4245 | Fax (04) 499 4246 | Email: wellington@unitybooks.co.nz | Free Phone 0800 4 UNITY