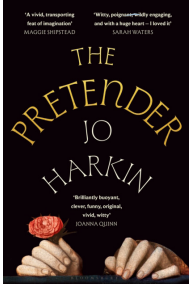


BOOKS OF THE YEAR

FICTION



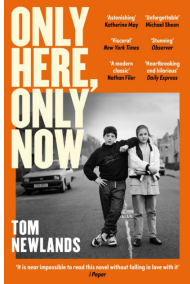
The Pretender by Jo Harkin (Vicky)

Original, laugh-out-loud funny and nothing short of genius. I still miss reading it.



The Boy from the Sea by Garrett Carr (Vicky)

I made a conscious decision to slow down just so it wouldn't have to end. Savour this one.



Only Here, Only Now by Tom Newlands (Vicky)

Once started, difficult to put down. Once finished, impossible to forget. Full of heartbreak, resilience and humour.



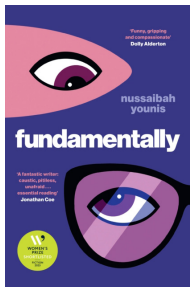
On the Calculation of Volume I by Solvej Balle (Jen)

This thought provoking meditation on time will enthrall you as Tara wakes up to the eighteenth of November over and over...



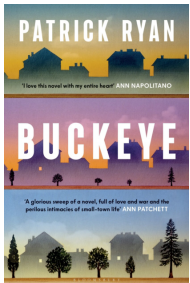
Muckle Flugga by Michael Pedersen (Nina)

Pederson turns prose into poetry in this imaginative and emotional novel set in the isolated outer reaches of Scotland.



Fundamentally by Nussaibah Younis (Rosamund)

Razor-sharp rollercoaster of a romp (yes, really) through the UN, via ISIS brides.



Buckeye by Patrick Ryan (Jen)

Prepare to be consumed by a small town story of love, betrayal, forgiveness and hope - heart-rending.



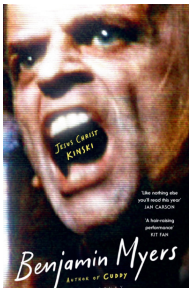
The Wedding People by Alison Espach (Bryony)

I was hooked from the first page by this poignant and original story of a woman reevaluating life; she is hard to forget.



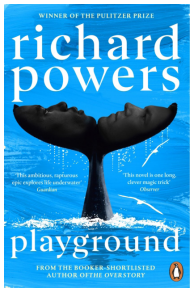
Virgin by Hollie McNish (Bryony)

Funny, emotional, tender. This collection of poetry shines a light on the man-made concept of virginity, everyone needs to read them.



Jesus Christ Kinski by Benjamin Myers (Bryony)

You don't know what you're getting next from Benjamin Myers. Bold and original, his latest examines the line between genius and insanity.



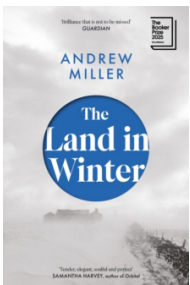
Playground by Richard Powers (Jen)

A mesmerising, deep dive of a novel - immerse yourself in a book about friendship, the ocean and its inhabitants, and the power of AI.



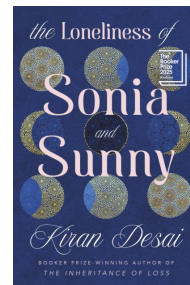
The Tarot Reader of Versailles by Anya Bergman (Bryony)

I waited patiently for Anya Bergman's second novel and it didn't disappoint - an epic historical tale of fate, betrayal and love.



The Land in Winter by Andrew Miller (Rosamund)

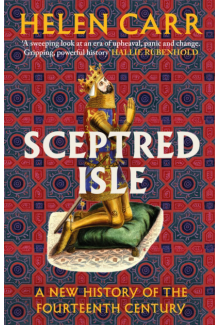
Set in the harsh winter of 1976, two young married couples adjust to their new reality. Beautifully rendered, understated, but so impactful.



The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny by Kiran Desai (Jen)

Lyricaly written with a sweeping and immersive plot. I am swooning over this long-awaited novel and want to reread it immediately.

NON-FICTION



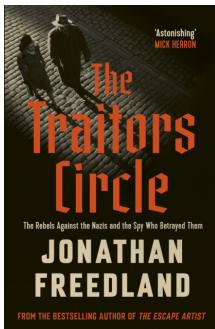
Sceptred Isle by Helen Carr (Vicky)

A peasant uprising, the black death, and not one, but two deposed kings. A propulsive account of one of the most tumultuous centuries in our history.



Careless People by Sarah Wynn-Williams (Rosamund)

We think we know about the power and irresponsibility of the tech sector, but this gripping account from an insider still shocks.



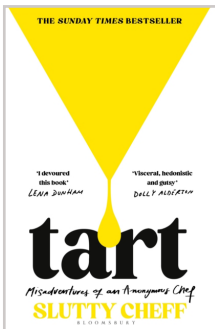
The Traitors Circle by Jonathan Freedland (Rosamund)

The astonishing true story of a group of high-ranking Germans, from Countesses to intelligence officers, who took on the Nazi regime from the inside.



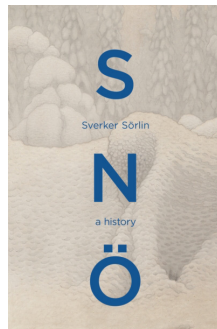
Sister in Law by Harriet Wistrich (Vicky)

Prepare to be angry, frustrated and appalled. An inspirational book by an indefatigable woman.



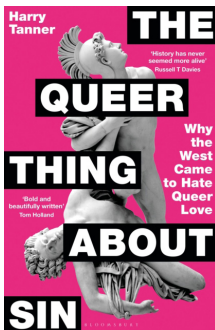
Tart by Slutty Cheff (Nina)

For anyone who's ever worked in hospitality - hilarious, vivid and oh so relatable.



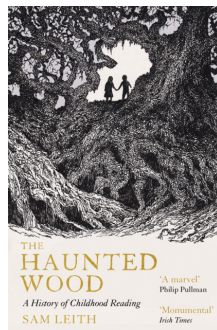
Snö: A History by Sverker Sörlin (Jen)

As the world melts and seasons are disrupted, this is a captivating and considered read. Perfect for cosying down with as winter draws in.



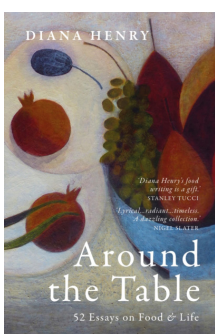
The Queer Thing About Sin by Harry Tanner (Bryony)

A powerful examination of homophobia and the danger of losing all that's been gained. Engaging, relevant and beautifully written.



The Haunted Wood by Sam Leith (Jen)

This black and white cover hides a colourful time machine revisiting those special books of childhood that resonate into adulthood.



Around the Table by Diana Henry (Jen)

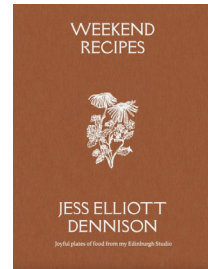
Reading Diana Henry nourishes the soul. Deliciously evocative, these 52 essays tuck into food, places and people. Bon Appétit!



Fly, Wild Swans by Jung Chang (Rosamund)

For anyone who missed *Wild Swans* the first time around, start here - China from foot-binding to the end of Mao. A family memoir like no other.

COOKERY



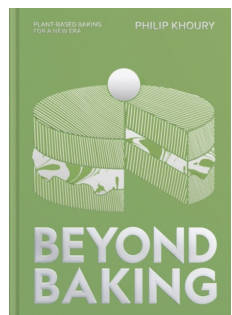
Weekend Recipes by Jess Elliott Dennison (Jen)

Jess has done it again with perfect recipes and personal insights. There are not enough weekends in the year so don't limit yourself...



Service by Anna Hedworth (Nina)

Every recipe is a triumph. Don't miss the extras at the back - they complete every dish to perfection.



Beyond Baking by Philip Khoury (Vicky)

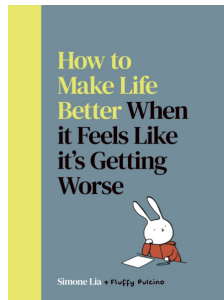
Khoury has gone back to basics to reinvent baking. The result? A delicious masterclass.



Ferment by Kenji Morimoto (Bryony)

That rare combination of healthy and tasty. You have to try the courgette bread and butter pickles!

ILLUSTRATED



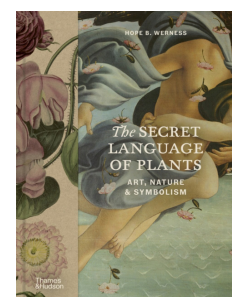
How to Make Life Better When it Feels Like it's Getting Worse by Simone Lia and Fluffy Pulcino (Vicky)

Fluffy helps you ponder life's big questions whilst making you see the funny side. A mood-booster if ever there was one.



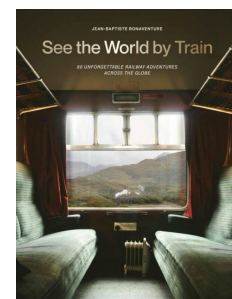
Raucous Invention by Mark Hearld (Rosamund)

A gorgeous journey behind the scenes at the studio with the super-talented artist and maker, Mark Hearld.



The Secret Language of Plants by Hope B. Werness (Jen)

Art: yes, plants: yes, literature: yes! A stunning and fascinating reference book that will enthrall you.



See the World by Train by Jean-Baptiste Bonaventure (Rosamund)

Who doesn't secretly want to sit back and enjoy the scenery on a beautiful train journey through epic landscapes...