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## BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS 2017

A selection of books to be published between now and Christmas

Price and availability may be subject to occasional revision

### BIOGRAPHY

#### MY HOUSE OF SKY: A LIFE OF J A BAKER

*Hetty Saunders, introduction by Robert Macfarlane*

First biography of the author of *The Peregrine*, winner of the Duff Cooper Prize in 1967 and recently described as “the gold standard for all nature writing”. £20

#### THE VANITY FAIR DIARIES: 1983-1992

*Tina Brown*

Vivid insights into life at the New York razor's edge where fashion, culture and politics meet. After her success there, it is hard to recall that this was a failing magazine when TB began her tenure as editor. £25

#### BRUTUS: THE NOBLE CONSPIRATOR

*Kathryn Tempest*

Still the most famous political assassin in history (*pace* Lee Harvey Oswald), it remains arguable that he was acting from duty to his country on the Ides of March. £25

#### CARRINGTON'S LETTERS

*Dora Carrington, edited by Anne Chisholm*

“Your letters are a great pleasure,” said Lytton Strachey, “I lap them down with breakfast and they do me more good than tonics, blood capsules or iron jelloids.” What more can one say? £30

#### THE FIRST IRON LADY: A LIFE OF CAROLINE OF ANSBACH

*Matthew Dennison*

The brilliant wife of George II, one of the German princesses who brought the Enlightenment to England: matriarch, politician and regent, she was also a champion of science, philosophy, gardening, inoculation, physics, literature and the arts. £25

#### THE DAWN WATCH: JOSEPH CONRAD IN A GLOBAL WORLD

*Maya Jasanoff*

From the author of *Liberty's Exiles*, this is a magnificent new interpretation of Conrad's art and times. An intellectually and emotionally compelling blend of biography, narrative history, vivid travel writing and literary analysis, it circumnavigates Conrad's extraordinary life through his four greatest novels, each prescient in its depiction of the newly globalised world in which political turbulence had replaced the old social order and destiny's iron rails had taken the place of God. £25

#### CHARLES DARWIN: VICTORIAN MYTHMAKER

*A N Wilson*

The first sentence of this new biography reads ‘Darwin was wrong’, so it seems safe to describe it as revisionist. However, one of the authorities he invokes in his introduction is E O Wilson, a distinguished evolutionary biologist (see his new book in the Science section)... Flocks of plump pigeons will remain undisturbed by Wilson's contrary cat. £25

**THE LOST IDOL: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A YOUNG OFFICER: ESMOND ELLIOT 1895 - 1917**

*Edited by Lord Astor of Hever & Alexandra Campbell*

Draws on unpublished letters and diaries from Eton to the Raj, where his father (Lord Minto) was Viceroy, and then to the trenches. Charismatic and loved, he died at Passchendaele. £25

**JOHN EVELYN: A LIFE OF DOMESTICITY**

*John Dixon Hunt*

A short life of the famous C17th English writer, gardener and diarist - by a noted garden historian. £14.95

**LADY FANSHAWE'S RECEIPT BOOK: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A CIVIL WAR HEROINE**

*Lucy Moore*

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**JOAN: THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF JOAN LEIGH FERMOR**

*Simon Fenwick*

The book's blurb says that she was only fleetingly glimpsed, but she was a regular at Sandoe's. A friend in the 1930s of John Betjeman, Cyril Connolly, Evelyn Waugh, Maurice Bowra, Osbert Lancaster etc, her first marriage came to an end because her husband did not share her views on open marriage. She met PL-F in Cairo in 1944, and remained with him until her death in 2003. Rrp £25, our price £22

**DIARY OF AN ORDINARY SCHOOLGIRL**

*Margaret Forster*

This is a short diary from 1954, a valuable posthumous publication from a wonderful writer. £10.99

**FREUD: THE MAKING OF AN ILLUSION**

*Frederick Crews*

A searing account that knocks Freud right off his pedestal, and demonstrates not least that his hunger for fame made him unscrupulous towards his own patients. Crews, an American academic, has spent many decades sharpening his axe. £30

**GORBACHEV: HIS LIFE AND TIMES**

*William Taubman*

The first full biography, by Khrushchev's biographer. £25

**THE UNCOMMON READER: A LIFE OF EDWARD GARNETT**

*Helen Smith*

His name is not familiar, but as the trusted editor of D H Lawrence, Conrad, Galsworthy, Henry Green, T E Lawrence, Edward Thomas and many others, Garnett is in fact one of the great influences in C20th British lit. This is the first biography of him. £30

**GRANT**

*Ron Chernow*

This biography of the US Civil War general comes from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of similarly massive books on Alexander Hamilton, Rockefeller, the Warburgs, the House of Morgan... £30

**THE LAST ENEMY**

*Richard Hillary*

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*Paul Ham*

Considers whether Hitler was a freak accident, or an extreme example of a recurring type of demagogue, who will do and say anything to seize power. £16.99

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*Michael Holroyd, introduced by Martin Rickard*

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*Cyrus Kadivar*

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*Jenny Uglow*

What could be a happier conjunction of subject and writer than Lear and Uglow? And there is even one of his parrots on the cover. How pleasant to be Miss Uglow! Rrp £25, our price £22

**SARGENT'S WOMEN: FOUR LIVES BEHIND THE CANVAS**

*Donna M Lucey*

This is not a book about Sargent. It is a group biography of four of the women he painted, whose lives are doorways into the Gilded Age: Elsie Palmer, Elizabeth Chanler, Sally Fairchild and Isabella Stewart Gardner, whose great wealth enabled them to break the rules and live according to their own lights, if not always happily. £24

**DARE NOT LINGER: THE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS**

*Nelson Mandela*

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*Craig Brown*

An experiment in biography, and a witty meditation on fame, art, snobbery, deference, bohemia and high society. £16.99

**LOGICAL FAMILY: A MEMOIR**

*Armistead Maupin*

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**WHAT YOU DID NOT TELL: A RUSSIAN PAST AND THE JOURNEY HOME**

*Mark Mazower*

Family memoir from one of the great historians of C20th Europe. His father was the son of Russian Jewish emigrants who settled in London after escaping the civil war and revolution. But fate drove other family members into the siege of Stalingrad, the Vilna ghetto, occupied Paris, and even into the ranks of the Wehrmacht. £20

**THE SHIPWRECK HUNTER: A LIFETIME OF EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERIES ON THE OCEAN FLOOR**

*David L Mearns*

From HMS *Hood* to the crumbling skeletons of Vasco da Gama's C16th fleet, Mearns has searched for and found dozens of sunken vessels in every ocean of the world. His is an extraordinary story. £20

**THE LAST GIRL: A MEMOIR**

*Nadia Murad & Jenna Krajeski, introduction by Amal Clooney*

Murad is a young Yazidi woman, winner of the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, who writes about her life - altered forever by the genocide of her people and her capture by ISIS - with immense courage. £18.99

**RICHARD NIXON: THE LIFE**

*John Farrell*

An immense new portrait of the man who embodied post-war American political cynicism, and was destroyed by it. £30

**A CHILL IN THE AIR: AN ITALIAN WAR DIARY 1939-1940**

*Iris Origo, introduced by Lucy Hughes-Hallett*

Surprising as it may seem, this really is a previously unpublished diary of the period preceding her *War in Val d'Orcia* (pbk £9.99). It is brief, but it crackles with her intelligence and smoulders with the gossip and anxieties of brewing war. Every copy of the old book should be joined on the shelf by this. Rrp £14.99, our price £13

**NO ROOM FOR SMALL DREAMS: COURAGE, IMAGINATION AND THE MAKING OF MODERN ISRAEL**

*Shimon Peres*

Peres's memoir was completed shortly before his death in 2016; in it he casts his eye across the seven decades of his political life, first as hawk and later as dove. £25

**LETTERS OF SYLVIA PLATH VOLUME I: 1940-1956**

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**ANTHONY POWELL: DANCING TO THE MUSIC OF TIME**

*Hilary Spurling*

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*Murat Burakçi*

The last Sultan was her grandfather; on his deposition her other grandfather became Caliph until he too was removed from office and the entire imperial Ottoman family exiled. She married the last Khedive of Egypt and saw a second exile in the 1950s, before eventually being allowed to return to Istanbul. Her extraordinary life is also the story of the end of two pivotal dynasties. £24.95

**MAYHEM: A MEMOIR**

*Sigrid Rausing*

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*Chris Skidmore*

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*Robert Dallek*

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*Leslie Peirce*

This Ottoman princess was Roxelana, concubine and later queen of Suleyman the Magnificent. £18.99

**MOSCOW CALLING: MEMOIRS OF A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT**

*Angus Roxburgh*

The author has been commentating on changes in Russia for 40 years. £17.99

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*Siegfried Sassoon*

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*Alan Taylor*

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*Claire Tomalin*

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*Deborah Cadbury*

Cadbury has written on a wide variety of subjects including the space race and Victorian fossil hunters. She is always good, and this is a rich subject which she has written about with great verve. £20

**LOVE, MADNESS, AND SCANDAL: THE LIFE OF FRANCES COKE VILLIERS, VISCOUNTESS PURBECK**

*Johanna Luthman*

Kidnappings, secret rendezvous, an illegitimate child, accusations of black magic, imprisonment, disappearances, exile, not to mention court appearances, high-speed chases, jail-break, deadly disease, royal fury... This exotic subject of James I had a busy time. £20

**DARLING POL: LETTERS OF MARY WESLEY AND ERIC SIEPMANN 1944-1967**

*Edited by Patrick Marnham*

"I find you brave and amusing, understanding and beautiful, simple and sophisticated, and I love you. More than that, I mean to get you," wrote Eric Siepman a fortnight after they first met. ES was Wesley's second husband, and it is Marnham's contention that she found her authorial voice through her letters to him. £18.99

**PRAIRIE FIRES: THE AMERICAN DREAMS OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER**

*Caoline Fraser*

Many know of LIW's extraordinary life through her 'Little House on the Prairie' books, but these stop when she reaches eighteen and marries. Her adult life was extremely challenging, and she only took to writing in her sixties when the Depression threatened their farm. This biography paints an astonishing picture of homesteading life in America from the mid C19th to mid C20th. £20

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## HISTORY

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A(e)lfred was important, but the Britain encountered by the Scandinavians of the C9th and C10th was one of regional diversity and self-conscious cultural identities: of Picts, Dal Riata and Strathclyde Britons; of Bernicians and Deirans, East Anglians, Mercians and West Saxons. £25

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*Abbas Amanat*

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### **RED FAMINE: STALIN'S WAR ON UKRAINE**

*Anne Applebaum*

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*Clare Brant*

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### **VICTORIOUS CENTURY: THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1800-1906**

*David Cannadine*

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*Ben Fogle*

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*Lawrence Freedman*

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From ancient Babylonia to the forests of east Africa, Greenblatt follows ways in which the tale of Adam and Eve has shaped conceptions of human origins and destiny. A Shakespeare scholar, Greenblatt also wrote *The Swerve: How the Renaissance Began* (pbk £11.99). £25

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JH-H is curator of Chinese ceramics at the British Museum and of the Sir Percival David Collection. £29.95

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### THE DARKENING WEB: THE WAR FOR CYBERSPACE

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*Richard McGregor*

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### FALL OUT: A YEAR OF POLITICAL MAYHEM

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**SIZE**

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*Annie Leibovitz, edited by Alexandra Fuller*

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*Duane Michals*

Features many actors, musicians, artists, and writers of the past fifty years. £34.95

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*Quentin Bajac & Lucy Gallun*

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*Martin Parr*

100 photographs documenting an academic year in the life of the university, 150 years after the first photo-documentary of Oxford by Henry Fox Talbot. £30

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*Photographs by Marzena Pogorzaly*

"Havana, once tasted, is an irresistible drug". So writes our Marzena in her introduction to a small but perfectly formed book of her photographs of Cuba's particular sort of melancholy beauty. An artist who more usually works in black and white, she found in Havana that "colour was not only my medium but my subject too." pbk £9.99

### THE RECENT PAST

*James Ravilious, introduced by Robin Ravilious, with an introduction by John Hatt*

Eric's son James spent his working life photographing rural Devon. This is a splendid selection of his superb work, mostly photographed within a ten mile radius of his home. An extraordinary record of a vanished way of life, and demonstrating a rare intimacy with his subjects. £30

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*Robin Ravilious*

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*Diane Cook, edited by Verlyn Klinkenborg, photographs by Len Jenshel*

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*Leif Bersweden*

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*Stephen Harris & Rene Redzepi*

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*Jim Harrison*

An anthology of pieces about food and the pleasure of the senses, by the late American writer most famous for his novel *Legends of the Fall*. He must have relished being known as 'the laureate of appetite'. £17.99

### **THE MODERN COOK'S YEAR**

*Anna Jones*

A third book from the author of *A Modern Way to Eat*; modern vegetarian. Contains spelt and rose geranium so may be inimical to hardened *rosbifs*, but her previous books have been greatly admired. £26

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*Nigella Lawson*

The return of the traybake, by her magnificence 'The Queen of the Frozen Pea' (*dixit* Nigel Slater). £26

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**DINNER & PARTY: GATHERINGS. SUPPERS. FEASTS.***Rose Prince*Sitting down or standing up, for a handful or a crowd. By the author of *The Pocket Bakery* and *The New English Table*, whose first teachers were Justin de Blank and Clarissa Dickson-Wright. £25**IN THE RESTAURANT: SOCIETY IN FOUR COURSES***Christoph Ribbat*

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*Orlando Weeks*

A sensitive story about an old man with a van, who sells ice cream from it in summer and grits road in winter. It's Christmas Eve, and he has just received his notice from the council that employs him. Permeated with an understated and sympathetic melancholy, this is about being alone quite as much as old age. Atmospheric and subtle colour pencil drawings. Ages 8-12. £17.99

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*Patrick Baty*

This gorgeous book has been a resounding success with us this year. Baty is not only a purveyor of pigments for palaces, pavilions and pantries (from his shop, Papers and Paints in Park Walk): he is also a top analyst and consultant, whose projects range from the Holborn Viaduct to Hampton Court. This is a wide-ranging, technical study of colour and colour theories which also explores fashions for colours, mostly in Britain but also in Europe and the US. Rrp £35, our price £30

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On this extraordinary but short journey, WF exposes entrenched social attitudes in early C19th Deep South America. It contains one of the most famous chapters in literature (chapter 12), 'My mother is a fish.' The pervasive 'chuck-chucking' of Cash's saw is haunting. As Edna O'Brien said, "Ah! He dug... he really dug!" hbk £12.99 / pbk £8.99

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*Andy Friend, introduction by Alan Powers*

The overlapping lives - and loves - of several students of Paul Nash and others at the Royal College of Art: Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden, Barnett Freedman, Enid Marx, Tirzah Garwood, Percy Horton, Peggy Angus and Helen Binyon, etc. This is a beautifully produced study with many illustrations set in the text, rather in the mode of Alexandra Harris's marvellous *Romantic Moderns*. £24.95

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*Simon Leys*

If you like essays, this volume will keep you happy for all of its 500 pages. Simon Leys is the pen name of a Belgian-born Australian scholar, and his range of interests includes the aesthetics of Chinese calligraphy, Cervantes, the opinions of Christopher Hitchens and political terror in our times. His voice is witty, scholarly, and often iconoclastic. The writing is always accessible and free of academic jargon or literary pretension. pbk £12.99

### THE NIX

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*Cora Millet-Robinet, translated by Tom Jaine*

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*Dan Pearson*

A gardener's year, moving back and forth between his former garden in Peckham (which he loved but in which he eventually became "pot-bound") to airier space on a south-facing, weather-prone Somerset slope. Mostly drawn from the column he wrote for the *Observer* for a decade, this book is a great and lasting pleasure. Pearson is a knowledgeable plantsman too and continually trails seductive beauties before the mind's eye. And a romantic... he, like Vita Sackville-West, came upon pink tiger lilies growing amongst *Astrantia* in the Pyrenees... £20

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*William Finnegan*

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*Monica Dickens, introduction by Harriet Lane*

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*Mark Hearld*

In 2015 the York Art Gallery reopened with an exhibition curated by the artist and printmaker Mark Hearld, who ransacked the museum stores for overlooked treasures of the kind that might be found in the attic of Saki’s eponymous story. The catalogue, beautifully produced by St Jude’s Press, is a scrapbook of this eccentric array with, in addition, works by Hearld, Emily Sutton, and the full text of Saki’s story illustrated by Jonathan Gibbs. pbk £22.95

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