

# JOHN SANDOE (BOOKS) LTD



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## BOOKS FOR THE NEW YEAR 2021

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### BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

#### **THE SOUL OF A WOMAN** *Isabel Allende*

“My theory and practice is to say yes to life and then I’ll see how I manage along the way.” Part memoir, part manifesto of a fiercely independent spirit; intelligent and lyrical. £14.99

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*Julia Parry*

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#### **HENRY ‘CHIPS’ CHANNON: THE DIARIES, 1918-38** *Edited by Simon Heffer*

First vol of the unexpurgated diaries, with the second due in the autumn. (A selection was published in 1967 but there was a 60-year embargo on the full text.) £35.00

#### **THE SINS OF G.K. CHESTERTON** *Richard Ingrams*

Ronald Knox, in his sermon at GKC’s funeral, said “All of this generation has grown up under Chesterton’s influence so completely that we do not even know when we are thinking Chesterton”, yet this prolific - and enormous - novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, philosopher, journalist & broadcaster has rather faded from view. £25.00

#### **DUCHESS, COUNTESS: THE WOMAN WHO SCANDALISED A NATION**

*Catherine Ostler*

Another scandalous woman? Well, when she went on trial at Westminster Hall for bigamy in April 1776, the story is said to have drawn more attention in society than the American War of Independence. The story of Elizabeth Chudleigh, Duchess of Kingston, Countess of Bristol, is a lively one. £20.00

#### **HEAVY LIGHT: A JOURNEY THROUGH MADNESS, MANIA AND**

**HEALING** *Horatio Clare*

Those who read Clare’s *Something of his Art*, about J S Bach, or *The Light in the Dark: A Winter Journal* (or others) will know that Clare is a writer of exquisite sensibility and nuance. He is also prey to depression, and this memoir of his hospitalization under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act is characteristically acute and affecting. £16.99

#### **THE CRICHEL BOYS: SCENES FROM ENGLAND’S LAST LITERARY**

**SALON** *Simon Fenwick*

Joan Leigh Fermor’s biographer turns to Eddy Sackville-West, Desmon Shawe-Taylor and Eardley Knollys and the unusual salon they created at Long Cricchel in Dorset, where Nancy Mitford, Benjamin Britten, Laurie Lee, Cyril Connolly, Somerset Maugham, E.M. Forster, Cecil Beaton were among the visitors. £25.00

#### **DOSTOEVSKY IN LOVE** *Alex Christofi*

An ingenious novelistic biography by a sharp young author that uses excerpts from the novels to shed light on the writer’s life. £20.00

#### **THE MYSTERY OF THE PARSEE LAWYER: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, GEORGE EDALJI AND THE CASE OF THE FOREIGNER IN THE ENGLISH VILLAGE** *Shrabani Basu*

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**A CURIOUS BOY: THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST** *Richard A. Fortey*

A delightful and fascinating memoir by the palaeontologist and natural historian. £20.00

**THE LETTERS OF THOM GUNN**

*Edited by August Kleinzahler, Michael Nott & Clive Wilmer*

Born in Gravesend in 1929, he died in 2004 in California, where he lived for most of his adult life. This collection presents the private life and reflections of the poet for the first time. £40.00

**DEVILS, LUSTS AND STRANGE DESIRES: THE LIFE OF PATRICIA**

**HIGHSMITH** *Richard Bradford*

The title is part of her 1947 New Year's Eve toast. Openly gay, Highsmith was famously beastly to lovers and friends. This new biography traces connections between her complex character and her work. £20.00

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Vice President Harris, lawyer and consummate politician, is the daughter of two graduate immigrants, born in segregated California in 1964. £20.00

**KEATS: A BRIEF LIFE IN NINE POEMS AND ONE EPITAPH**

*Lucasta Miller*

Looks closely at nine of his best known poems to see how this lower-middle-class outsider from a dysfunctional family became one of posterity's darlings. £17.99

Two small clothbound editions from Slightly Foxed of Laurie Lee's memoirs, £18.50 each:

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Lyrical evocation of a childhood in rural England during the years after WW1.

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Lee leaves his beloved village for London and then walks and busks his way around Spain. His Spanish sojourn is brought to end by the outbreak of the Civil War in 1936.

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From war hero to moral wreck, Czech Jewish childhood to a yacht off the Canary Islands... £18.99

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**BELONGING** *Simon May*

SM's parents were German Jewish refugees; he was raised a Catholic and forbidden to identify as Jewish or German or British. His maternal aunts concealed their origins too and had very different trajectories. This is the remarkable tale of the author's quest to discover his smothered inheritance. £20.00

**THE LAST SHAH: AMERICA, IRAN, AND THE FALL OF THE PAHLAVI**

**DYNASTY** *Ray Takeyh*

From being America's most significant ally in the region, Iran suddenly became its greatest adversary: this account, from 1941 onwards, explains how the Shah himself contrived to lose support from all sectors of Iranian society. £25.00

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**THREE CENTURIES** *Emma Rothschild*

A panoramic account by the distinguished Harvard historian of five generations of the Rothschilds, crammed with stories and archival research. ER has a deep understanding of the period as well as her material. £30.00

**PLACES OF MIND: A LIFE OF EDWARD SAID** *Timothy Brennan*

*Orientalism*, the Barenboim-Said Foundation, the East-West Divan orchestra, 20 honorary degrees, umpteen prizes: there is much to say about this clever, cultivated, humane man. £25.00

**AMONG THE SUPPORTING CAST** *Tim Sainsbury*

A memoir of his double career in the family firm and in Parliament. £20.00

**IN MEMORY OF MEMORY** *Maria Stepanova*

Stepanova is an outstanding literary voice in contemporary Russia: here she creates a portrait of three Russian-Jewish generations sifted from the detritus in a late aunt's flat. (A volume of her poetry is also being published this month.) pbk £14.99

**THE VAN GOGH SISTERS** *Willem-Jan Verlinden*

Looks at unpublished correspondence to bring the three sisters out from the shadows of their brothers (Theo, as well as Vincent). £25.00

**VICTOIRE: A WARTIME STORY OF RESISTANCE, COLLABORATION AND BETRAYAL** *Roland Philipps*

Mathilde Carré joined the French Resistance in 1940 but was captured by the Germans a year later and betrayed her network. She survived working as a double agent and then - possibly - a triple agent. She died in 2007. £20.00

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*Peter Westmacott*

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### **ENDPAPERS: A FAMILY STORY OF BOOKS, WAR, ESCAPE AND HOME**

*Alexander Wolff*

As a young man in Germany, AW's grandfather published Kafka and several other depraved authors whose work the Nazis were keen to burn. He fled in 1933, eventually settling in New York where he published Pasternak and Lampedusa, but his son's wartime experiences were very different. A compelling excavation of a family's history and its secrets. £16.99

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*Richard Wollheim*

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## **HISTORY**

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*Jacques-Olivier Bondon*

In 2000, when the new owners of an Alpine château decided to renovate their parquet floor, they discovered that the original carpenter in the 1880s wrote a detailed diary on the underside of the planks: "Happy Mortal. When you read this, I shall be no more... My story is short and sincere and frank, because none but you shall see my writing." His record of the hopes, fears, criminality and efforts of this village make for extraordinary reading. £16.99

### **THE GUN, THE SHIP, AND THE PEN: WARFARE, CONSTITUTIONS AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD**

*Linda Colley*

Demonstrates how constitutions evolved in tandem with warfare, and how they have functioned to advance empire as well as promote nations, and worked to exclude as well as liberate. LC is a brilliant historian. She starts here from the Corsican constitution of 1755. £20.00

### **MIDNIGHT IN CAIRO: THE FEMALE STARS OF EGYPT'S ROARING '20S**

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The author is at the forefront of the use of genetic science in archaeology. Here he explains the process and how it completely alters our understanding of early humans. £20.00

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*Mary Hollingsworth*

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### **RIVER KINGS: A NEW HISTORY OF VIKINGS FROM SCANDINAVIA TO THE SILK ROADS**

*Cat Jarman*

Since they were neither writers (until their conversion to Christianity) nor builders, the Vikings are hard to pin down. This fascinating book shows how DNA and isotope analysis has opened up the study of these mysterious people, connecting their activities from Repton in England to the Caspian Sea. £25.00

### **UNDREAMED SHORES: THE HIDDEN HEROINES OF BRITISH ANTHROPOLOGY**

*Frances Larson*

A group biography of five women at Oxford in the early C20th who pioneered the study of remote communities in Siberia, Egypt, New Mexico and Easter Island. The women were Katherine Routledge, Maria Czaplicka, Winifred Blackman, Beatrice Blackwood and Barbara Freire-Marreco. £20.00

**FROSTQUAKE: THE FROZEN WINTER OF 1962 AND HOW BRITAIN EMERGED A DIFFERENT COUNTRY** *Juliet Nicolson*

A vibrant blend of social history and memoir: argues that this three-month period of nation-wide, wintry shutdown gave rise to unprecedented cultural renewal. Fingers crossed for 2021 and 2022... £18.99

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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*Cal Flyn*

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On the dilemmas of a constitution-less nation; King Log comes to mind. £16.99

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Communist Bucharest is submerged in a dizzying landscape of magical reveries and strange characters... First UK publication of this phantasmagorical classic from 1989. pbk £9.99

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Welcome revival by Persephone of a little-known 'sensational novel': a fallen woman attempts to rehabilitate herself, and meets with little sympathy from those around her. pbk £15.00

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The bickering begins on Christmas morning in this incredibly dysfunctional family. Originally published in 1935 and since described as Jane Austen on drugs. pbk £9.99

**WHO WAS CHANGED AND WHO WAS DEAD** *Barbara Comyns*

A re-issue of this strange tragi-comic tale (1954) in which an English village is flooded first by water, then by suicides. All observed by two sisters whose grandmother wields an enormous ear-trumpet. pbk £9.99

**PEACH BLOSSOM PARADISE** *Ge Fei* China, 1898: revolution is in the air, and a gold cicada in someone's hand. pbk £15.00

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For flâneurs and cinephiles: at an Italian film festival a celebrated director meets a local woman who offers to guide him round the city. Seductive, cinematic, with echoes of Andre Aciman. £14.99

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A Japanese girl stays with her lover's family in Norfolk but the resurfacing of a violent trauma interrupts her stay. Haunting, atmospheric prose from the author of 'Land of the Living'. £16.99

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Scant information has been vouchsafed about Sir Kazuo's forthcoming novel, but we're told it concerns an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities. Put not your trust in humans... £20.00

**THE PRINCE OF WEST END AVENUE** *Alan Isler*

The Jewish residents of a Manhattan retirement home put on a frenzied production of Hamlet. Published to critical acclaim in 1994, Isler's tale of geriatric theatrics probes, with steady, dark humour, the slippery regions of collective memory. pbk £8.99

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Three lives converge in Northern Ontario in the 70s, each with their own ominous blend of trauma and naivete. £14.99

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*Edited by David Brendel, introduction by Wes Anderson* Post-war France through the despatches of Mavis Gallant, James Baldwin, A J Liebling and others. This collection is the source for Wes Anderson's forthcoming film, 'The French Dispatch', and the introduction includes an interview with him. pbk £10.99

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A timely celebration of a class of beings so often derided or subjected to appalling mass murder, and upon whom we depend for our survival as a species. Mary Oliver, Alice Oswald, Donne, Marvell, et al and many poems translated from Chinese, Russian, Greek, Spanish, French... An addition to the charming Everyman poetry anthologies. £12.00

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*Madame d'Aulnoy, edited by Natalie Frank & Jack Zipes*

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## ART

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*Edited by Edith Devaney*

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**ROTHKO CHAPEL** *Pamela G. Smart*

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Cambridge University curators explore touch throughout art, how we leave our mark and how we connect. Illustrated essays from ancient limestone sculptures to contemporary abstract painting. £35.00

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The author is the well known Italian art dealer, widow of Gregor von Rezzori. At Santa Maddalena, their home near Florence, they made an arts retreat where a firmament of international stars has worked productively, beginning with Bruce Chatwin. (JdeF even went to interview her in 2007.) In this fine illustrated book, 27 authors have contributed essays bearing witness to the place's wonders. £45.00

**ARTS AND CRAFTS PIONEERS: THE HOBBY HORSE MEN AND THEIR CENTURY GUILD** *Stuart Evans*

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*Introduction by Fergus Garrett, photographs by Christopher Lloyd*

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## FOOD & DRINK

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*Jonathan Clements*

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THE END