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The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie This delightful little book of unsung geniuses came out in the autumn but we missed it from our Christmas catalogue. It tells, among others, of the diminutive cleric who was valuable in the navy as a gun cleaner; this human loafah later became Dean of Windsor and was known to JdeF. £12.99

CORNERSTONES: SUBTERRANEAN WRITINGS; FROM DARTMOOR TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Edited by Mark Smalley A journey into the geology under our feet and the ways in which they affect our lives from agriculture to architecture. Essays about schist and shale, quartz and coal, caves and tundra, meteorites, gypsum and gneiss, by Alan Garner, Sarah Wheeler, John Burnside, Sarah Moss, Helen Mort and many others. £16.00

IN THE CITY OF LOVE'S SLEEP

Lavinia Greenlaw Set in London, this is a novel in which two middle-aged academics fall in love. Besides being wonderfully well written (and optimistic!) what makes it so good is that the baggage carried by each of the protagonists is persuasive: children, parents, guilt, ex-spouses... accrued responsibilities and habits that may or may not be bad but might complicate a new relationship. "Sally Rooney for the over-40s", quoth one of us. £14.99

UNSHELTERED

Barbara Kingsolver Kingsolver's latest novel combines a family drama with an intriguing historical scandal to demonstrate the struggle between community and truth. Many writers in the last three years have attempted to address contemporary America. Kingsolver does so with a defter touch than most and a cast of engaging characters. Intelligent, funny and moving. £20.00

HERMES: POP-UP

Stephane Foenkinos & Bernard Duisit, introduction by Pierre-Alexis Dumas Who could imagine such an eccentric and delightful thing as this? A book of creative wit, taste and imagination, in which mad words accompany the pop-up flights of fancy that are Hermes scarves, with Pegasus as our steed, cockatoos for company and a rooftop party as our destination. Beautiful colour printing on very good paper, this is a treat for hand and eye. £22.50
