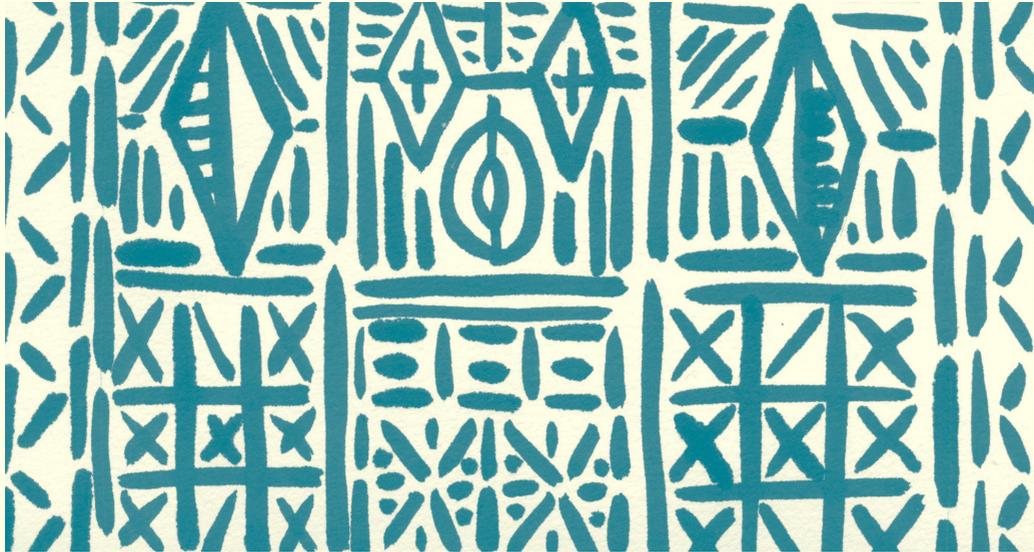




Daunt Books Publishing

DB

Spring & Summer 2014



Spring & Summer 2014

Since Daunt Books began publishing in 2010, we have been devoted to reissuing brilliant yet neglected books – the sort of titles we love to see on the shelves of our own bookshops. Over the past year we've also begun to discover and publish original works by talented authors from around the world. All of our books are inspired by the Daunt Books shops themselves, and the exciting atmosphere of discovery to be found in a good bookshop.

For our Spring & Summer season of 2014, we are pleased to be publishing two original titles. The first is a beguiling and hilarious debut novel – *The Smoke is Rising* by Mahesh Rao, set in the bustling Indian city of Mysore as it inches toward the future. Mahesh is one of the freshest new voices writing today. We are also delighted to be publishing *Park Notes*, a beautiful anthology exploring how London's parks continue to inspire artists and writers, curated by award-winning painter Sarah Pickstone.

And there are still plenty of classic reissues this season – including the darkly hilarious Nathanael West, a thriller set in revolutionary Iran by James Buchan, and a collection of stunning travel writing from the inimitable Sybille Bedford.

Happy reading!



Mendelssohn is on the Roof Jiří Weil

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STEFAN HEYM THE ARCHITECTS

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HELVETIAN SPRING ANN BRIDGE

HELVETIAN SPRING ANN BRIDGE

THE OIL ROAD

THE BEST



£10.99

96 pages

182 x 129mm hardback

Black and white illustrations throughout

ISBN: 978-1-907970-42-9

eISBN: 978-1-907970-43-6

Non-fiction

The London Scene

Virginia Woolf

Take a stroll through London with Virginia Woolf as your guide in this beautifully illustrated book. Introduced by Hermione Lee.

From the docklands of the East End to the Houses of Parliament; from the bustle of Oxford Street to peaceful moments on Hampstead Heath – Virginia Woolf explores the city's hidden places and draws a remarkable portrait of the daily lives of Londoners. Capturing the London of the 1930s, but also the eternal city we recognise today, this is the perfect snapshot of an extraordinary metropolis.

PRAISE

'While it might not list the hottest restaurants and the newest boutique hotels, *The London Scene* gives us an amalgam of intelligence and beauty that few, if any, guidebooks provide.'

– Francine Prose

'1930s London comes alive in these six evocative essays . . . a discerning, affectionate tour of Woolf's beloved city.'

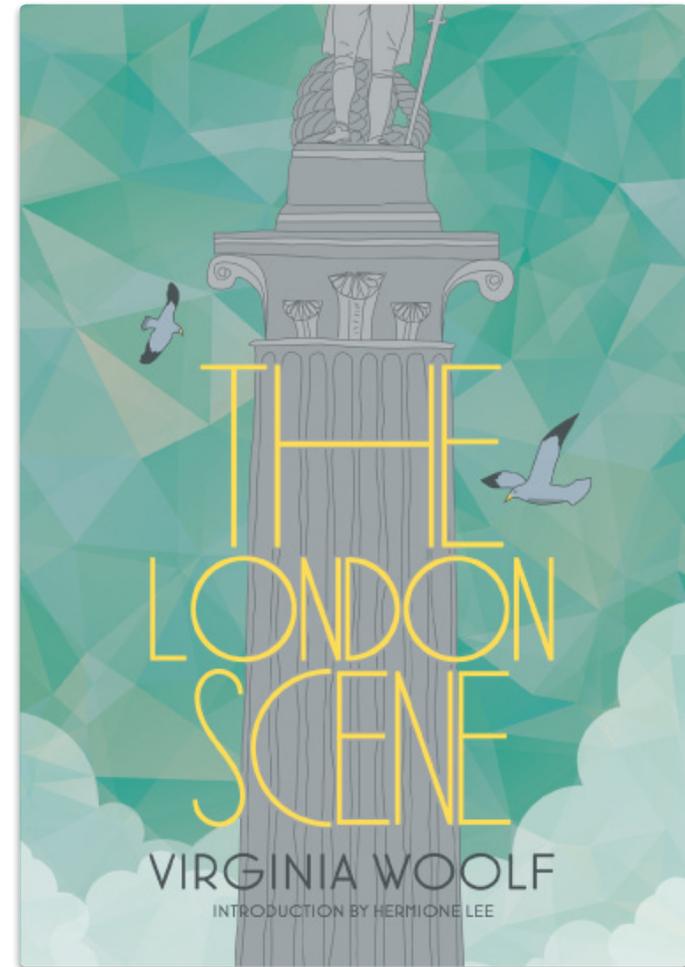
– *Washington Post*

KEY POINTS

- Featured in the *Telegraph's* Saturday Review.
- Includes a new introduction by Hermione Lee.
- Will appeal to fans of *London You're Beautiful* and *Tired of London, Tired of Life*.

VIRGINIA WOOLF (1882-1941) was a celebrated novelist, essayist, and critic. She is best remembered for her novels *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *To The Lighthouse* (1927), and the feminist classic *A Room of One's Own* (1929).

HERMIONE LEE is President of Wolfson College, Oxford. She is the author of critically acclaimed works on Elizabeth Bowen, Virginia Woolf, and Edith Wharton. Her most recent book is *Penelope Fitzgerald: A Life*.



'London perpetually attracts, stimulates, gives me a play and a story and a poem, without any trouble, save that of moving my legs through the streets . . . To walk alone through London is the greatest rest.'

– Virginia Woolf



The Smoke is Rising

Mahesh Rao

An exhilarating, deeply affecting debut novel from an exciting new author – set amongst the coffee houses, shopping malls, and crumbling mansions of contemporary India.

PUBLICATION DATE:

20 March 2014

£14.99

298 pages

Demy hardback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-31-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-32-0

Fiction

World

India has just launched its first mission to the moon. Meanwhile, the city of Mysore is also hurtling toward the future with the construction of HeritageLand – Asia's largest theme park. From the grand living rooms of Mahalakshmi Gardens to the shanty houses on the edge of town, the people of Mysore watch their city change on the nightly news – some anticipate a cultural triumph, others are wary of a catastrophe.

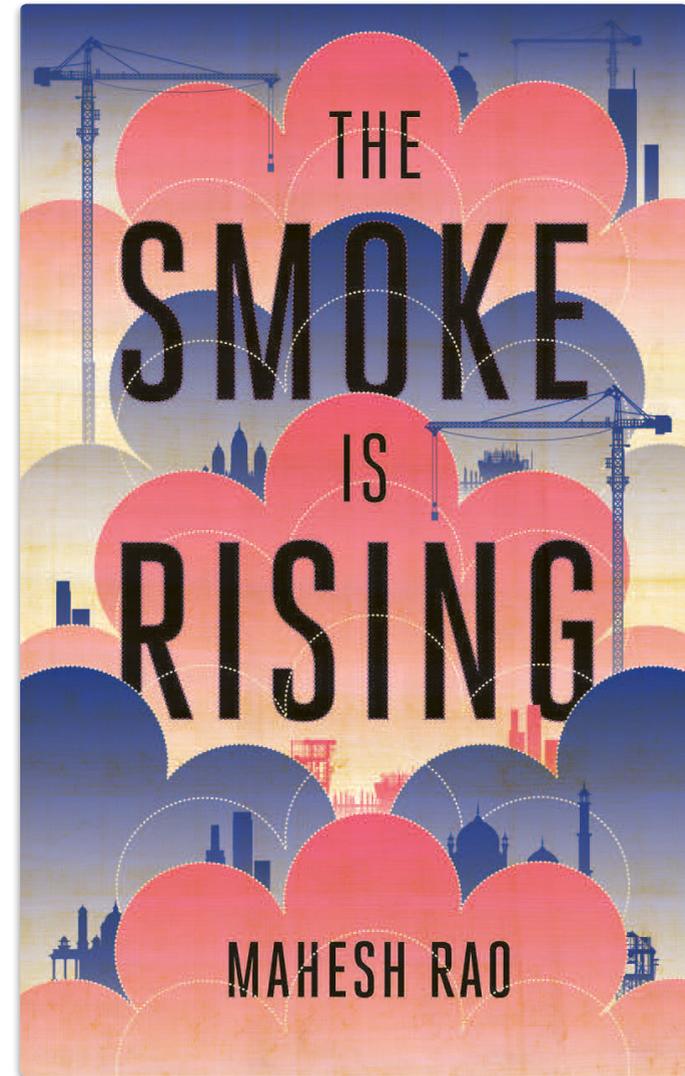
As the protests mount, Mysore's residents find themselves swept up in the chaos. Susheela, a recent widow, is forced to reconsider her isolation. Uma, trying to escape her painful past, learns the power of local gossip. And Mala, whose stifling marriage to Girish suddenly takes a troubling turn.

Brilliantly funny and deeply poignant, *The Smoke is Rising* is a panoramic portrait of a changing nation, and the forces that bind people together and tear them apart.

MAHESH RAO was born and grew up in Nairobi, Kenya. His work has been shortlisted for the 2013 Bridport Prize, the 2012 Commonwealth Short Story Prize and the 2010 Zoetrope: All-Story Short Fiction Contest. He lives in Mysore, India.

KEY POINTS

- Publication will coincide with the Daunt Books Spring Festival, and Mahesh will be on the panel of the headline event, alongside Colin Thubron, Sara Wheeler, and Tracy Chevalier.
- Mahesh's work has been published in *The Baffler* and will be published in *Prairie Schooner* next year.
- Indian rights acquired by Random House India.





Miss Lonelyhearts

Nathanael West

‘Rendered with scalpel-precision . . . Nathanael West’s masterpiece is a mercilessly unsympathetic novel on the theme of sympathy.’
– Jonathan Lethem

Day after day, Miss Lonelyhearts sits in his office responding to letters from ‘Broken-hearted, Desperate, and Sick-of-it-all’, all ‘stamped from the dough of suffering with a heart-shaped cookie knife.’ He dispenses words of hope, inspiration, and other platitudes to get his readers through their tormented days. But it’s all getting to be too much for Miss Lonelyhearts.

Set in New York City at the height of the Great Depression, *Miss Lonelyhearts* stands as one of the most intelligent and resonating works of 20th Century literature. Laced with dark humour, irony, and razor-sharp insight, this novel is as hauntingly relevant today as it was nearly a century ago.

NATHANAEL WEST (1903 – 1940) was born in New York City. His other novels include *The Dream Life of Balsa Snell*, *A Cool Million*, and *The Day of the Locust*.

PRAISE

‘It’s brilliant, savage and arresting – a truly good novel!’
– Dorothy Parker

‘In dark times, *Miss Lonelyhearts* shines the brightest light in the blackest places. For this reason West’s novel has never felt more alive than today.’
– *The Daily Beast*

KEY POINTS

- Will appeal to fans of Jennifer Egan, Gary Shteyngart, Thomas Pynchon, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- Nathanael West is a brilliant and highly regarded American author with a huge cult following.
- A beautiful new reprint of a classic novel which has remained relevant and well-regarded over its nearly 100-year lifetime.

PUBLICATION DATE:

20 February 2014

£7.99

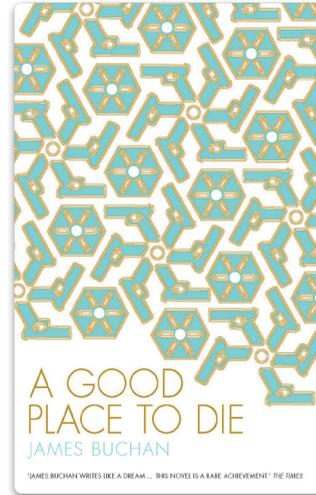
112 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-46-7

eISBN: 978-1-907970-47-4

Fiction



A Good Place to Die

James Buchan

‘James Buchan writes like a dream . . . This novel is a rare achievement.’
– *The Times*

The year is 1974. Eighteen-year-old drifter John Pitt has just arrived in Iran and lands a job as an English teacher. Quickly he becomes fixated on one of his students – a veiled girl with black eyes and ‘lovely feet’. Pitt soon finds himself embroiled in a chain of events that he barely understands, but will expose him to incalculable danger.

Exhilarating and lyrical, *A Good Place to Die* is a thrilling novel set against the violent backdrop of the Iranian Revolution that aptly evokes the history of a complex land and examines the lengths to which we’ll go for those we love . . . even when faced with the truly unthinkable.

JAMES BUCHAN is the former Middle East correspondent for the *Financial Times*. His most recent book, *Days of God: The Revolution in Iran and its Consequences*, was published in 2012.

PRAISE

‘Airy, graceful and big with truth . . . There is really no word for it but “masterpiece.”’ – *Spectator*

‘As always in Buchan’s fiction, the book contains pages of stunningly beautiful writing, and nobody – but nobody – tells a love story better.’ – *Daily Telegraph*

KEY POINTS

- Reissued in a new beautiful and modern edition, printed on fine paper stock, with French flaps.
- James Buchan’s recent work of non-fiction about the Iranian revolution was published in 2012 to critical acclaim. In this novel he brings to life that same period of recent history with thrilling effect.

PUBLICATION DATE:

24 April 2014

£9.99

336 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-44-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-45-0

Fiction

BCN ex Canada



Curated by award-winning artist Sarah Pickstone and featuring contributions from Iain Sinclair, Ali Smith, Craig Taylor, Olivia Laing, and many more.

Park Notes

Sarah Pickstone



A stunning collection of paintings, essays, and short stories about the writers and artists who found inspiration in Regent's Park and London's other natural spaces.

London has long been a beacon of creative stimulation for many writers and painters. For centuries, artists have been inspired by this remarkable city and its natural spaces. Sylvia Plath, Virginia Woolf, and Katherine Mansfield regularly featured London landscapes in their writings, and specifically reference Regent's Park in some of their most famous works. *Park Notes* explores the extraordinary artistic influence of Regent's Park and London's other open spaces, and the powerful impact they've had on English painting and writing over an expansive history.

In her paintings, Sarah Pickstone studies the ways in which people, places, and ideas convene. For her 'Writers Series', she was intrigued by the many writers associated with Regent's Park at different moments in history – those who wrote in it, about it, or were simply inspired by it. *Park Notes* features the many paintings from Sarah's series and places them alongside original essays and short stories from today's notable authors and commentators, as well as extracts from the park's most famous disciples. Together, their work explores the relationship between nature and art and creates a unique, collaborative anthology celebrating art, literature, and, above all, London.

SARAH PICKSTONE works from her studio at Cubitt in central London. She has exhibited widely and has work in the Saatchi Collection, The Walker Art Gallery, and The BSR. She is the current first winner of the 2012 John Moores painting prize.

KEY POINTS

- Features original works, essays, and short stories from some of today's most prominent artists and writers – Fiona Banner, Lara Feigel, Amanda Coe, and Marina Warner, among others.
- To be published in hardback with stunning full-colour illustrations.

PUBLICATION DATE:

22 May 2014

£14.99

128 pages

228 x 166 hardback

Colour illustrations

throughout

ISBN: 978-1-907970-38-2

eISBN: 978-1-907970-39-9

Non-fiction

World



Pleasures and Landscapes

Sybille Bedford

'Bedford writes of the lure of the sensual life, the picnics, lobster salad, hock and seltzer and going to the opera, in Italy, in summer . . .' – *The Times*

PUBLICATION DATE:

12 June 2014

£9.99

176 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-40-5

eISBN: 978-1-907970-41-2

Non-fiction

BCN ex. Can

A glorious collection of essays from one of Britain's most beloved travel writers. Bedford's elegant prose whisks us up the winding roads of Switzerland in 1953, drops us into the passenger seat of Martha Gellhorn's car in Capri, and makes our mouths water on a tour of the vineyards of Bordeaux. Unpredictable, and full of razor-sharp insight, *Pleasures and Landscapes* is a satisfying and sensuous literary expedition.

SYBILLE BEDFORD (1911-2006) was born in Germany. The account of her travels in Mexico, *A Visit to Don Otavio*, was her first published book in 1953, and she followed it with several novels and works of non-fiction. Her novel, *Jigsaw*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1989.

PRAISE

'Sybille Bedford is a distinguished and neglected writer.'
– Hilary Mantel

'When the history of modern prose in English comes to be written, Sybille Bedford will have to appear in any list of its most dazzling practitioners.' – Bruce Chatwin

'Bedford's ability to recreate landscape is matched only by her appetite for mouth-watering descriptions of exotic food . . . She cannot write a dull page.' – *Financial Times*

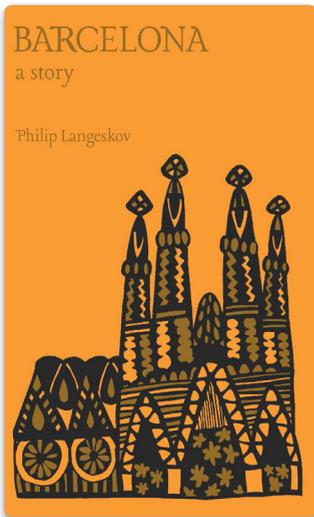
KEY POINTS

- Classic travel writing at its best; will appeal to fans of Patrick Leigh Fermor, Bill Bryson, and Paul Theroux.
- The perfect travel companion to be published in time for the 2014 summer holiday season.



Daunt Books Backlist





Barcelona

Philip Langeskov

'For their tenth wedding anniversary Daniel had arranged for them to spend a weekend in Barcelona . . .'

And so Daniel and Isla return to the city where they celebrated their honeymoon. Daniel hopes it will be a reminder of headier days, but from the start something seems to be conspiring against his plans: time, people, the city itself. A haunting and exquisitely written tale about love, sacrifice, and how the road not taken sometimes takes you instead.

PHILIP LANGESKOV was born in Copenhagen in 1976. His stories have been broadcast by the BBC and been published in *Bad Idea Magazine*, *Five Dials*, *The Warwick Review*, *Untology*, and *The Best British Short Stories 2011*.

£4.99

A format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-48-1



Improper Stories

Saki

'Saki is like a perfect martini but with absinthe stirred in . . . heady, delicious, and dangerous.' – Stephen Fry

'Hilarious . . . Amongst the finest short stories in the English language.' – Alexei Sayle

Eighteen deliciously disturbing tales by Saki, the Edwardian master of the short story. Saki's sharp satire pierces the polite veneer of country house parties, hunting meets, and evenings round the pianola. Wild beasts stampede through the drawing room, servants suffer murderous delusions, and sinister children plot revenge on their elders.

These witty, macabre, and sometimes bizarre stories cut through the social conventions of the Edwardian upper classes.

£8.00

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-00-9



The Inland Sea

K.J. Orr

Early one morning, two boys set out across a frozen lake.

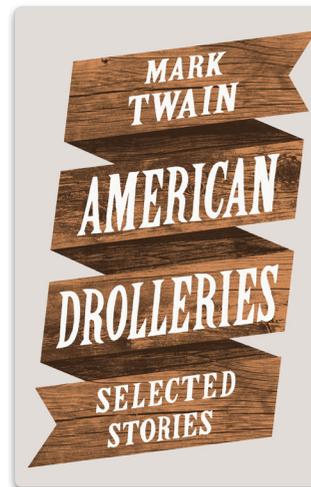
This beautifully told story is a small and finely-wrought epic, set in a remote part of Russia. A deeply touching tale of brotherhood, bravery, and the wild dreams of childhood.

K. J. ORR was shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award 2011. Her writing has been broadcast on BBC Radio Four, and published by Comma Press, *The Sunday Times Magazine* online, *The White Review*, and #NewWriting, among others.

£2.99

A format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-26-9



American Drolleries

Mark Twain

'Twain is still the liveliest, sharpest, most humane observational satirist and wit.' – A. A. Gill

'The greatest humorist of his age.' – *New York Times*

In these extraordinary stories Mark Twain takes us from the sleepy banks of the Mississippi, through frontier towns, and across the deserted gold plains of California.

The breadth, skill, and comic ingenuity of these tales reminds us why Mark Twain is truly the 'father of American literature'.

£8.00

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-04-7



The Matriarch

G. B. Stern

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-28-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-29-0

Published with a new introduction by Linda Grant, this neglected and wonderfully gossipy novel whisks readers through the glamorous worlds of turn-of-the-century Vienna, Paris, and London.



The Invention of Memory

By Simon Loftus

£30.00

Royal hardback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-14-6

eISBN: 978-1-907970-15-3

'A remarkable memoir'

– Selina Hastings

The story of a family set against the backdrop of the history of Ireland that weaves together memory, myth, and legend.



The Architects

Stefan Heym

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-09-2

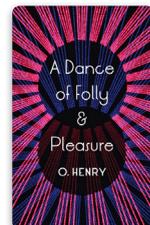
eISBN: 978-1-907970-13-9

'Totally absorbing . . .

Stefan Heym is, by any measure, a literary phenomenon.'

– *Times Literary Supplement*

A thrilling novel about the darkest days of the East German regime.



A Dance of Folly and Pleasure

O. Henry

£8.00

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-10-8

eISBN: 978-1-907970-25-2

Bringing to life the glamour and squalor of the 1900s, O. Henry's unmistakable tales are by turns hilarious or tragic, but always deeply poignant.



A Favourite of the Gods

Sybille Bedford

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-02-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-18-4

Sybille Bedford tells the story of three generations of women, of Europe and America, and the turbulence and excitement of the early twentieth century.



Kalimantaan

C. S. Godshalk

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-05-4

eISBN: 978-1-907970-21-4

'Like being taken to a magical unknown planet, yet suddenly realising it all takes place on this globe, in mysterious Borneo and Sarawak: a beautifully written, elegant and rich dream.' – John Fowles



Life With a Star

Jiri Weil

£9.99

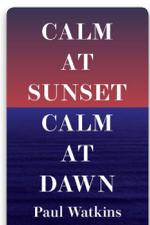
B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-06-1

eISBN: 978-1-907970-22-1

'One of the finest novels of the century' – *Independent*
'One of the most powerful works to emerge from the Holocaust . . . a fierce and necessary work of art.'

– *New York Times*



Calm at Sunset, Calm at Dawn

Paul Watkins

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-08-5

'Few contemporary novelists have the ability to grab readers by the throat with such intense storytelling power and not release them until the final page has been turned.'

– *Sunday Times*



Illyrian Spring

Ann Bridge

£9.99

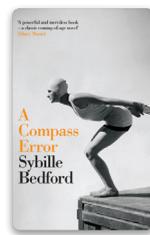
B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-07-8

eISBN: 978-1-907970-23-8

'This is the most intelligently escapist novel – and scandalous for its time. Reading it is like taking a holiday – although it is a serious sentimental education too.'

– Kate Kellaway



A Compass Error

Sybille Bedford

£9.99

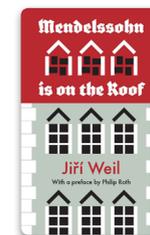
B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-03-0

eISBN: 978-1-907970-19-1

'A powerful and merciless book – a classic coming-of-age novel.' – Hilary Mantel
'Bedford has the ability to trace significant patterns in seemingly inconsequential things.'

– *The Times*
The sequel to *A Favourite of the Gods*.



Mendelssohn is on the Roof

Jiri Weil

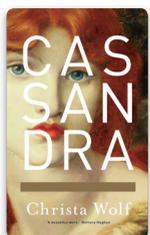
£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-01-6

eISBN: 978-1-907970-17-7

'Comic, sardonic and deeply moving . . . we ignore such rich literature at our cultural peril.' – Simon Mawer
A remarkable novel about the Holocaust in Prague, published with a preface by Philip Roth.



Cassandra

Christa Wolf

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-11-5

eISBN: 978-1-907970-27-6

'Christa Wolf's *Cassandra* is fierce and feverish poetry that engages with the ancient stories while also charting its own path. Filled with passionate and startling insight into human nature.'

– Madeline Miller, author of *The Song of Achilles*

allery ~ British Isles
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Downstairs ~ Rest of the World



AMERICA
ASIA
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