

Daunt Books Publishing

DB

2015

2015

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Visitors to any of our bookshops will know that we have a wonderfully idiosyncratic way of organising our bookshelves, arranging our titles according to where in the world they're set. It's heaven for the browsing traveller, or any globally-minded reader who loves great stories with a strong sense of place. Our publishing list reflects this international outlook, and each title in this catalogue is part of a miniature voyage around the world.

In 2015 we're publishing *The Isle of Youth* by the extraordinary Laura van den Berg, a spectacular collection of stories that journeys from a disastrous honeymoon in Patagonia to a masked party in Paris, and several places in between. We have the Brazilian classic *Dom Casmurro*, a hilarious novel of paranoia and adultery; the delightful *Peking Picnic* by Ann Bridge, set in China in the 1930s; and *One Point Two Billion*, the second title from original Daunt author Mahesh Rao, which spans disparate lives across eleven different Indian states. And in non-fiction, John McPhee takes us deep into the wilds of Alaska with his iconic book *Coming into the Country*.

Enjoy your travels.



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## Contents

- 4-5 The Isle of Youth *Laura van den Berg*
  - 6 Dom Casmurro *Machado de Assis*
  - 7 The Crow Eaters *Bapsi Sidhwa*
  - 8 Peking Picnic *Ann Bridge*
  - 9 Sylvia *Leonard Michaels*
  - 10 Coming into the Country *John McPhee*
  - 11 Fierce Attachments *Vivian Gornick*
  - 12 One Point Two Billion *Mahesh Rao*
  - 13 The Smoke is Rising *Mahesh Rao*
  - 14 Duveen *S. N. Behrman*
  - 15 La Femme de Gilles *Madeleine Bourdouxhe*
  - 16 Limited Edition Short Story Series
  - 17 London Titles
  - 18-21 Backlist
  - 22 Contact Information
  - 23 About Daunt Books Publishing
-



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Cover design: Nayon Cho

#### PUBLICATION DATE

March 2015

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£9.99

244 pages

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Short stories

BCN ex Can.

# The Isle of Youth

*Laura van den Berg*

An elegant and deliciously compelling collection from a rising literary talent.

‘Uniformly excellent – emotionally complex, very raw – but always with a mixture of pathos and humour that made me think of Lorrie Moore.’  
– Dave Eggers, *Huck* magazine

*The Isle of Youth* explores the lives of women mired in secrecy and deception. From a newlywed caught in an inscrutable marriage, to private eyes working a baffling case in South Florida, to a teenager who assists her magician mother and steals from the audience, the characters in these stories are at once vulnerable and dangerous, big-hearted and ruthless, and they will do what it takes to survive.

#### PRAISE

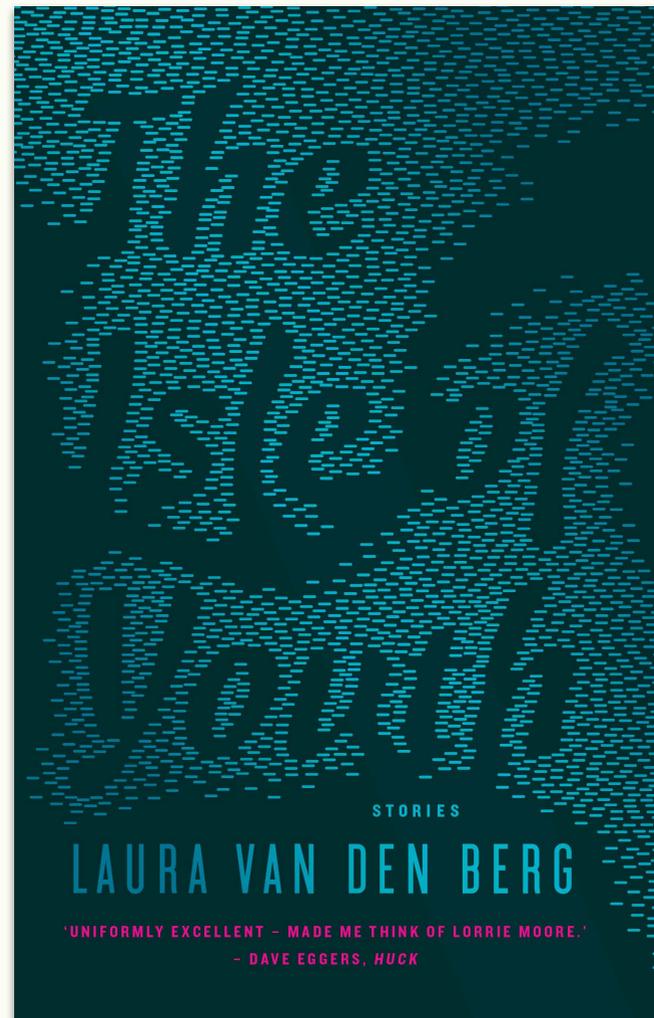
‘Van den Berg, in this wonderful collection, never lets us turn away.’ – *New York Times Book Review*

‘A smart, fun, noir-y treasure map of where families hide their secrets and lost souls hide themselves.’ – *New York* magazine

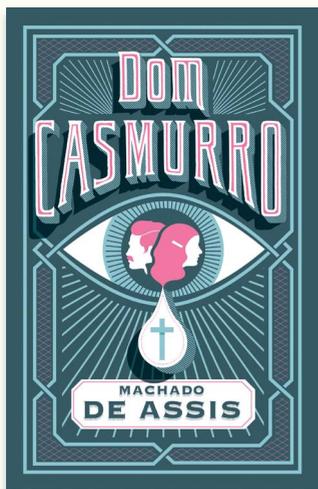
#### KEY POINTS

- *The Isle of Youth* was a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice, named a Best Book of 2013 by over a dozen venues, including NPR, *The Boston Globe*, *The New Republic*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*
- Laura van den Berg won the O. Henry Award in 2014, the Pushcart Prize in 2009, and has twice been shortlisted for the Frank O’Connor International Award and a host of other prizes
- Will appeal to fans of Lorrie Moore, Lionel Shriver and Angela Carter

LAURA VAN DEN BERG is also the author of *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us* and *Find Me*.  
[www.lauravandenbergh.com](http://www.lauravandenbergh.com)



‘A beautiful and compelling read.’  
– Ann Patchett



Cover design: Nathan Burton

#### PUBLICATION DATE

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£9.99

264 pages

B format paperback

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Fiction

BCN ex Can.

# Dom Casmurro

*Machado de Assis*

Translated by Helen Caldwell

'The greatest writer ever produced in Latin America.' – Susan Sontag

Bento Santiago is convinced that his son is the spitting image of his best friend, with whom he suspects his wife, Capitú, is having an affair. What follows is a rich and sardonic narrative, as Bento attempts to discern his son's paternity. Are his suspicions based in reality or have his obsessive ruminations given way to deceptive illusions?

Originally published in 1900, *Dom Casmurro* is a delightful and hilarious novel – told by an entertainingly unreliable narrator – about the powers of jealousy and the deceitful persuasiveness of a mind in the grips of paranoia.

**MACHADO DE ASSIS** (1839 - 1908) was born in Rio de Janeiro. Among his many novels are *Philosopher or Dog?* and *Epitaph of a Small Winner*.

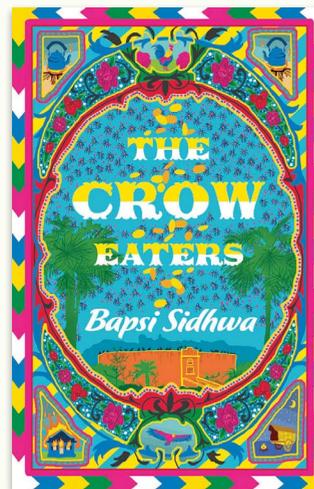
#### PRAISE

'If Borges is the writer who made Garcia Marquez possible then it is no exaggeration to say that Machado De Assis is the writer who made Borges possible.' – Salman Rushdie

'Not only Brazil's greatest writer but on a par with Henry James, Flaubert and Hardy.' – *Guardian*

#### KEY POINTS

- For fans of Roberto Bolaño, Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- A classic of Brazilian literature, considered Machado de Assis's greatest novel
- Fan Woody Allen compared Machado de Assis to J. D. Salinger



Cover design: aka-alice.co.uk

#### PUBLICATION DATE

April 2015

£9.99

288 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-61-0

eISBN: 978-1-907970-62-7

Fiction

BCN ex Can. ex India

# The Crow Eaters

*Bapsi Sidhwa*

Foreword by Fatima Bhutto

'Sidhwa writes with an exuberance and geniality which makes *The Crow Eaters* illuminating and memorable.' – Jim Crace

Seeking capitalist ventures and fortune, Faredoon – Freddy – Junglewalla moves his pregnant wife, children and belligerent mother-in-law from their ancestral village in rural India to the bustling metropolis of Lahore. Welcomed by the small but tight-knit Parsi community, Freddy establishes a booming business and his family soon becomes one of the most respected in Lahore. It seems that the only thing holding Freddy back is his sizeable and burdensome mother-in-law.

Wickedly funny and searingly honest, *The Crow Eaters* is a vibrant portrait of a Parsi family taking its place in colonial India on the brink of the 20th Century, from one of Pakistan's best-loved and finest novelists.

**BAPSI SIDHWA** was born in Karachi in 1938 to Parsi parents, and raised in Lahore. She is the author of several novels including *An American Brat*, *Ice-Candy Man*, and *Water*. In 1991 she received the *Sitara-i-Imtiaz*, Pakistan's highest honour in the arts.

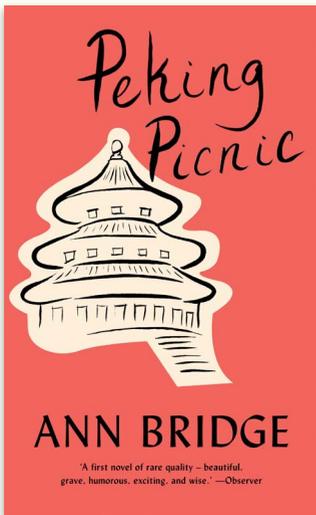
#### PRAISE

'Pakistan's finest English-language novelist.' – *New York Times*

'Sidhwa consistently imparts the magic and colour of India even in its most down-to-earth aspects. A novel that is always refreshing and never dull.' – *The Times*

#### KEY POINTS

- Bapsi Sidhwa is one of Pakistan's foremost female novelists and widely acclaimed to be one of its finest
- Will appeal to fans of Kamila Shamsie, Mohammed Hanif, and Marina Lewycka's *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*
- Published in the UK for the first time in a beautiful new edition



Cover design: Kelly Blair

#### PUBLICATION DATE

May 2015

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£9.99

288 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970- 59-7

eISBN: 978-1-907970- 60-3

Fiction

BCN

# Peking Picnic

*Ann Bridge*

‘Ann Bridge’s special blend of landscape and romance, in the first and perhaps the best loved of her many books, makes us feel that we have been there too and have shared its dramas and enchantments.’ – Linda Kelly

Peking in the 1930s – an ancient city of warlords, bordered by brutal civil war, and a place of exquisite beauty. Laura Leroy, whose marriage to a diplomat has taken her far from home, lives divided between England and the social farce of diplomatic life in Peking.

An enthralling novel that evokes a vanished era and the uneasy balance of living between two worlds, between east and west, and between old China and the coming of the new.

**ANN BRIDGE** was born Mary Dolling Sanders in 1889. The wife of a diplomat who was posted around the world, Ann Bridge came to writing relatively late. Her second novel, *Illyrian Spring* (1935 and reissued by Daunt Books in 2012), was a Book Society Choice. She died in 1974.

#### PRAISE

‘A first novel of rare quality – beautiful, grave, humorous, exciting, and wise.’ – *Observer*

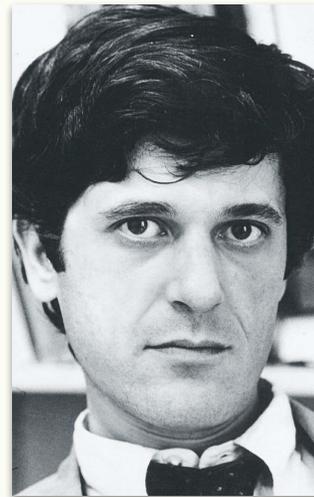
‘And unusual and beautiful first novel, which leaves one thinking long after one has put it down.’ – *Spectator*

#### KEY POINTS

- A gloriously funny and poignant novel set in China in the 1930s. An intelligent summer read
- By the much-loved author of *Illyrian Spring*, also published by Daunt Books
- Ann Bridge’s classic bestseller, available in a beautiful new edition

# Sylvia

*Leonard Michaels*



#### PUBLICATION DATE

June 2015

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£9.99

192 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970- 55-9

eISBN: 978-1-907970- 56-6

Fiction

BCN ex Can.

‘A novel that has the power and the rawness of memoir.’ – *New York Times*

When Leonard meets Sylvia by chance at a friend’s shabby Greenwich Village apartment, he’s instantly besotted with her striking beauty and quiet disdain. But when Sylvia’s depression and disturbances begin to emerge and take hold, their fights become increasingly violent and abusive, and the relationship drifts towards self-destruction.

In this remarkable, semi-autobiographical novel, we are drawn into the world of a young beatnik couple living in Manhattan in the early 1960s, and their *demi-monde* of jazz, poetry, late nights and early mornings. Written with extraordinary clarity and precision, this is a compelling portrait of the mad intensity, exquisite pain and destructive power of young love.

**LEONARD MICHAELS** (1933-2003) was one of the most admired and influential American writers of the last half century. He was the author of five collections of short stories, and two novels: *Sylvia* (1993), and *The Men’s Club* (1981), as well as numerous essays and screenplays.

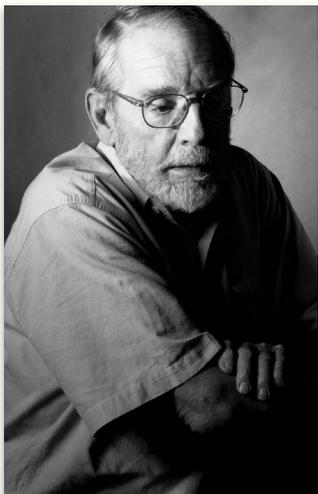
#### PRAISE

‘Every page reveals the mark of an extraordinarily original and gifted talent.’ – William Styron

‘The writing isn’t merely stylish; it’s vital . . . the ending is as shocking as that of any thriller.’ – Sarah Manguso

#### KEY POINTS

- Powerful novel by a critically acclaimed writer, published in the UK for the first time
- Evokes the glamour and excitement of New York City in the 1960s
- A classic of American fiction, Michaels was often compared to his contemporaries Philip Roth and Grace Paley



Author photo: Peter Cook

# Coming into the Country

*John McPhee*

'John McPhee is celebrated in America and all but unknown in this country. The volume I love most is *Coming into the Country*, an account of Alaska and the Alaskans. His genius is that he can write about anything.' – Robert MacFarlane

In this astutely observed travel account, Pulitzer Prize-winner John McPhee plunges into the wild frontiers and frigid climate of Alaska. Travelling by foot and canoe, McPhee moves from urban landscape, to dense wilderness, to the remote Alaskan bush, drawing a rich and comprehensive history of a land and its inhabitants.

**JOHN MCPHEE** has written more than thirty books and much of his work first appeared in *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer since 1963. He teaches non-fiction writing at Princeton University.

## PRAISE

'It is a reviewer's greatest pleasure to ring the gong for a species of masterpiece.' – *New York Times Book Review*

'McPhee has acted like an antenna in a far-off place that few will see. He has brought back a wholly satisfying voyage of spirit and mind.' – *Time*

## KEY POINTS

- Classic travel writing at its best: will appeal to fans of Patrick Leigh Fermor, Paul Theroux, Robert MacFarlane
- The perfect travel companion to be published in time for the 2015 holiday season

## PUBLICATION DATE

July 2015

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£9.99

448 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-72-6

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Non-fiction/Travel writing

BCN ex Can.



## PUBLICATION DATE

September 2015

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£9.99

204 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970- 65-8

eISBN: 978-1-907970- 66-5

Non-fiction

BCN ex Can.

# Fierce Attachments

*Vivian Gornick*

'Admired, rightly, as "timeless" and "classic" . . . *Fierce Attachments* demands honour as the work of a breathtaking technician.' – Jonathan Lethem

Vivian Gornick's relationship with her mother is difficult. Out of duty, or perhaps guilt, she and her mother regularly meet for strolls along the streets of Manhattan. Once in a while, they'll hit a pleasant stride but most often their walks are tinged with a rage so hot her mother will stop strangers on the street and say, 'This is my daughter. She hates me'.

Originally published in 1987 to great acclaim, *Fierce Attachments* weaves between these tempestuous present-day jaunts and the author's memories of growing up in a bustling, blue-collar tenement house in the Bronx. In tracing her lifelong struggle for independence, Gornick realises the many ways in which she is still her mother's daughter.

**VIVIAN GORNICK** is an American critic, essayist, and memoirist. Her books include *Approaching Eye Level*, *The End of the Novel of Love*, and *The Situation and the Story*. She currently teaches writing at The New School. She lives in New York City.

## PRAISE

'A fine, unflinchingly honest book . . . The story of an abiding, difficult love, full of grace and fire.'  
– *New York Times Book Review*

'Brimming with life . . . *Fierce Attachments* is a work of emotional cartography.' – *Los Angeles Times*

## KEY POINTS

- For fans of Jeanette Walls, Jeannette Winterson, Geoff Dyer and Joan Didion
- A classic, timeless and cherished memoir with a beautifully realised sense of place
- Gornick is remarkably respected by her peers – Lethem and Marina Warner, to name a few



Author photo: Carlo Nicora

# One Point Two Billion

*Mahesh Rao*

There are 1.2 billion people living in India; 1.2 billion lives existing simultaneously within one country.

In this remarkable collection of stories, set across eleven Indian states, Mahesh Rao, author of the acclaimed novel *The Smoke is Rising*, illuminates this vast and complex nation. Moving from the megacities to a remote detention camp, and from the canals of rural Punjab to an exclusive Delhi club, we encounter disparate worlds where the bonds of history and tradition strain against new realities. An anxious woman seeks work in a yoga retreat, a family feud plays out against the background of horrifying discovery in Bundelkhand, and a man living in a tea plantation high up in the Nigiri Hills realises he is in love with his daughter-in-law.

Rao's writing has drawn comparisons with E. M. Forster and with the gentle humour of R. K. Narayan. Richly textured and haunting, *One Point Two Billion* reveals the impossible array of private lives and complex social layers existing in an uneasy balance in contemporary India.

**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. His novel *The Smoke is Rising* is also published by Daunt Books. He lives in Mysore, India. [www.maheshrao.info](http://www.maheshrao.info) @mraozing

## KEY POINTS

- Mahesh Rao's debut novel *The Smoke is Rising* was published in 2014 to great acclaim across the media in the UK and India
- Mahesh's work has been published in *The Baffler* and *Prairie Schooner*
- Will appeal to readers who loved *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, *The White Tiger*, *A Fine Balance*

## PUBLICATION DATE

October 2015

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£9.99

304 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-33-7

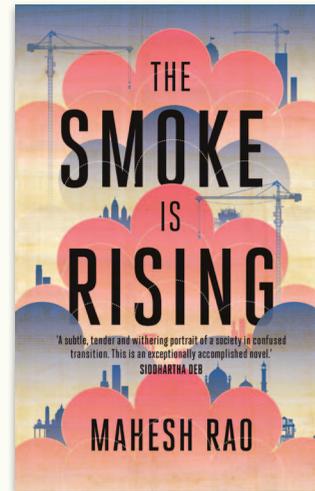
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Fiction

World

## INDIAN RIGHTS:

HarperCollins India



Cover design: Gray 318

£9.99

298 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-30-6

eISBN: 978-1-907970-32-0

Fiction

World

## INDIAN RIGHTS:

Random House India

# The Smoke is Rising

*Mahesh Rao*

WINNER: First Novel, Tata Lit Live Awards (India)

SHORTLISTED: *Guardian's* Not the Booker Prize (voted by readers)

SHORTLISTED: 2014 Shakti Bhatt Prize (India)

'An auspicious debut – its comedy is dry and biting, its perceptiveness acute, and its picture of India ringingly truthful.' – Neel Mukherjee

The future is here. India has just sent its first spacecraft to the moon, and the placid city of Mysore is gearing up for its own global recognition with the construction of HeritageLand – Asia's largest theme park. As government officials make plans for the expected tourism extravaganza, Mysore's many residents find themselves swept up in the ferment.

*The Smoke is Rising* is a riveting portrait of a city hurtling toward an epic clash of modernity and tradition, and all the wandering souls – some hopeful, some broken, and a few somewhere in between – who find themselves caught in the middle.

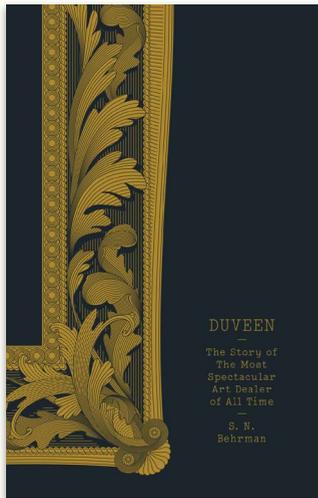
## PRAISE

'A fascinating drama of Mysore's halting journey into an uncertain future . . . it left me wanting more.' – *Guardian*

'The medieval and the modern India are depicted here as co-existing, and Rao has succeeded in capturing this with delicacy and insight.' – *Times Literary Supplement*

'A darkly comic novel . . . Rao veers between sharp, economic dialogue that can be both hilarious and disquieting.' – *Spectator*

'A subtle, tender and withering portrait of a society in confused transition. This is an exceptionally accomplished novel.' – Siddhartha Deb



Cover design: Darren Wall

£9.99

208 pages

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-57-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-58-0

Biography

BCN ex Can.

# Duveen

The Story of the Most Spectacular  
Art Dealer of All Time

*S. N. Behrman*

‘A masterful, deeply enjoyable work.’

– David Remnick, *The New Yorker*

Joseph Duveen was the world’s most famous art dealer. His clients were amongst the most prominent and infamous Americans of the 20th century and included Mellon, Frick, Hearst and Morgan.

In this exceptional biography S. N. Behrman tells the story of Duveen’s rise to prestige, from delftware peddler to selling the greatest European paintings to the greatest American millionaires. Everyone wanted a Duveen, because a Duveen was so much more than a painting or a vase; it was a chance at immortality.

## PRAISE

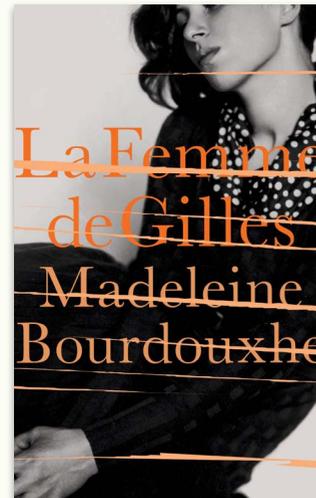
‘A witty and hypnotically readable biography.’

– Clifton Fadiman

‘Incredibly entertaining and at the same time a filling in of a chapter of American cultural history that hadn’t been written before.’ – Edmund Wilson

## KEY POINTS

- A funny and intimate portrait of one of the most significant figures in the 20th century art world. A classic biography, reissued in a stunning new edition
- Will appeal to art lovers and anyone interested in business
- Critically acclaimed when first published in *The New Yorker*



Cover design: aka-alice.co.uk

£9.99

208 pages

B format paperback

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eISBN: 978-1-907970-54-2

Fiction

BCN

# La Femme de Gilles

*Madeleine Bourdouxhe*

Translated by Faith Evans

‘One of the more remarkable literary discoveries of the last few years.’ – Jonathan Coe

Elisa is Gilles’ wife and her devotion to him is passionate and all-consuming. But when Gilles suddenly finds himself powerfully and helplessly attracted to Elisa’s younger sister, her world is overturned. The joys of home and family are destroyed and her desperation is so profound that it begins to threaten her every sense of reality and the core of her existence.

Set among the dusty lanes and rolling valleys of rural Belgium in the 1930s, *La Femme de Gilles* is a sensual and shattering novel about infidelity, lust, and the loneliness of losing the one thing that matters most.

## PRAISE

‘*La Femme de Gilles* is a little masterpiece.’

– *Sunday Times Culture*

‘A marvellous, rediscovered novel about selfless love.’

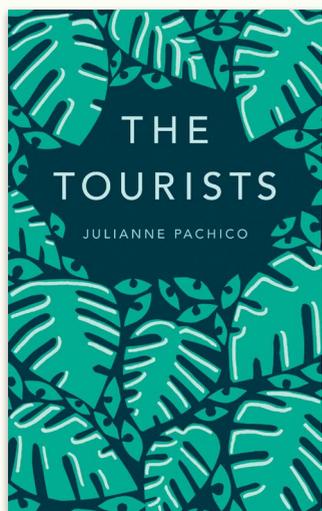
– Kate Kellaway, *Observer*

‘A haunting slim novel . . . it has the mesmeric inevitability of classical tragedy.’ – *Independent on Sunday*

## KEY POINTS

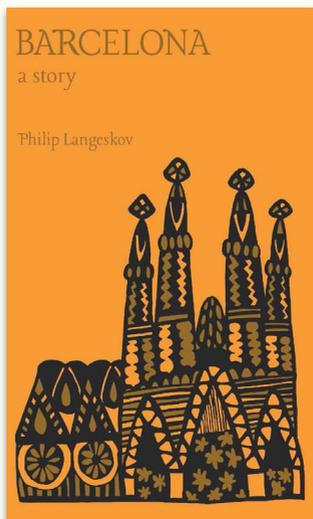
- First published to great acclaim in Paris in 1937, this is a remarkable rediscovered classic, translated from French
- A tragic love story that will appeal to readers of *Suite Française* by Irene Nemirovsky, or *The Days of Abandonment* by Elena Ferrante
- Praised by Simone de Beauvoir in *The Second Sex*, Madeleine Bourdouxhe is a thrilling writer whose work has become critically acclaimed in recent years

## Limited Edition Short Story Series



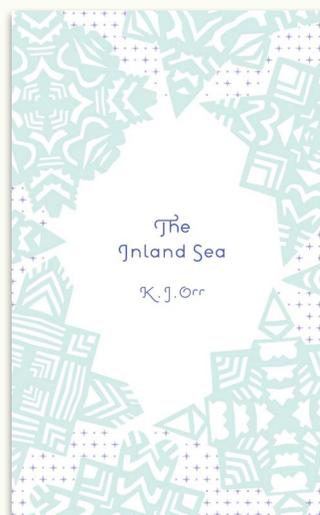
### The Tourists

£4.99  
Paperback  
ISBN: 978-1-907970-67-2



### Barcelona

£4.99  
Paperback  
ISBN: 978-1-907970-48-1



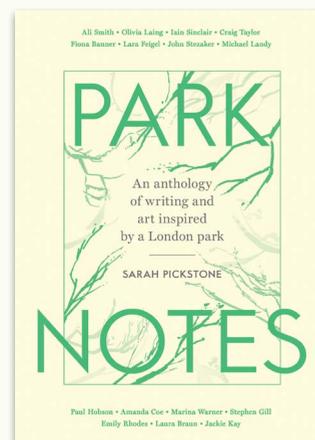
### The Inland Sea

£2.99  
Paperback  
ISBN: 978-1-907970-26-9

Original, stand-alone short stories written by exciting, new literary talents – beautifully packaged as pocket editions and released annually in December. Set around the world, each story in this series is exquisitely written and anchored by an unforgettable sense of place.

**‘Very smart-looking chapbooks.’**

– Nicholas Royle, editor of *The Best British Short Stories*



## Park Notes

An Anthology of Writing and Art  
Inspired by a London Park

*Sarah Pickstone*

Featuring work from Ali Smith, Iain Sinclair, Fiona Banner, Amanda Coe, Craig Taylor, Marina Warner and more.

‘Beautifully crafted ruminations on Regent’s Park . . . a wonderful, intimate history of the park itself.’ – *Observer*

‘A brilliant book about the creative process . . . I promise you, if you read it you’ll be inspired.’ – *Open Book*, BBC Radio 4

“Curated” by the artist Sarah Pickstone and punctuated by her gorgeous paintings, which contrive to combine portrait, splinter and blur, this covetable volume takes the reader far from the herbaceous border, tea room and floral clock.’ – *Independent*

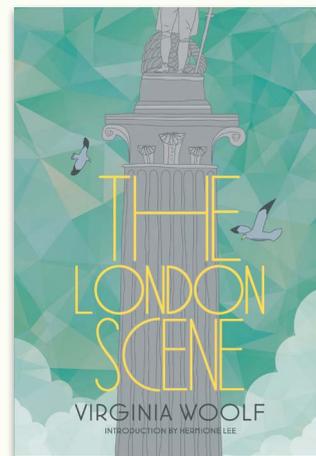
Cover design: aka-alice.co.uk

£16.99

128 pages

228 x 166 hardback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-38-2



## The London Scene

*Virginia Woolf*

With an introduction by Hermione Lee

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

‘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 her beloved city.’ – *Washington Post*

Cover design: aka-alice.co.uk

£10.99

96 pages

182 x 129mm hardback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-42-9

eISBN: 978-1-907970-43-6



## Daunt Books Backlist



### Miss Lonelyhearts

Nathanael West

£7.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-46-7

eISBN: 978-1-907970-47-4

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



### A Good Place to Die

James Buchan

£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-44-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-45-0

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



### Improper Stories

Saki

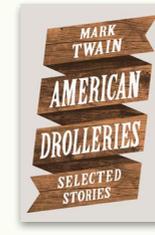
£8.00

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-00-9

eISBN: 978-1-907970-16-0

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



### American Drolleries

Mark Twain

£8.00

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-04-7

eISBN: 978-1-907970-20-7

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



### The Matriarch

G. B. Stern

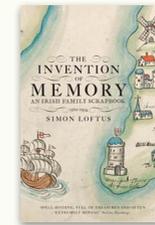
£9.99

B format paperback

ISBN: 978-1-907970-28-3

eISBN: 978-1-907970-29-0

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



### The Invention of Memory

Simon Loftus

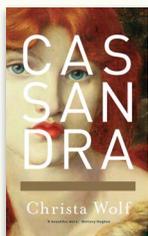
£10.99

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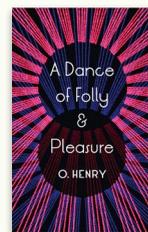
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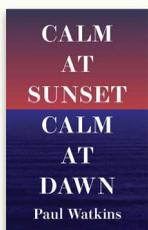
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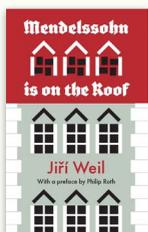
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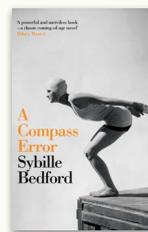
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