

SPRING 2023

Lives
Politics
Page Turners



LIVES. POLITICS. PAGE TURNERS



Claret Press loves a great read about our shared world, about politics, people and places. Our page turners percolate with ideas to entertain and enlighten. We're London-based and the majority of our books are about Britain. But our travelogues take you around the world. So do many of our thrillers. Hearts and minds are opened by our memoirs and novels.

We've been trade publishing for 7 years now and have a growing presence. **Drachenhäus Verlag** has published the German translation of *Brushstrokes in Time* by Sylvia Vetta. *Black Tea* by Stephen Morris has been shortlisted for a **Royal Society of Literature Award**. *Daisy Chain* by Justine Gilbert has won the **Page Turner Award** and the **Silver Medallion** from the Historical Fiction Company.

Our distributor is **Gazelle Book Services**, with our backlist available print-on-demand through **Gardners**. Order information is on the back cover.

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COAST OF TEETH

Tom Sykes, author, and Louis Netter, illustrator
ISBN: 978-1-910461-66-2
Paperback: 162 pages, 40 original illustrations
£11.99

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The English seaside has long been seductive. Recently, many seaside towns have been pummelled by poverty and underinvestment – with predictable results. Brexit, COVID and the climate crisis have heightened tensions.

Writer **Tom Sykes** and illustrator **Louis Netter** take you on a wild tour of 21 English coastal communities. Their encounters are comical, sad, weird and beguiling – sometimes all at once. So knot a handkerchief on your head, crack open a warm beer and dive in.

'An enjoyable read. The illustrations have a certain mutant Donald McGill vibe.'
Will Self, author

'Hilarious and revealing encounters accompanied by brilliant drawings.'
Arthur Smith, writer and comedian



NEW RELEASES

DAISY CHAIN

Justine Gilbert

ISBN: 978-1-910461-62-4

Paperback: 294 pages

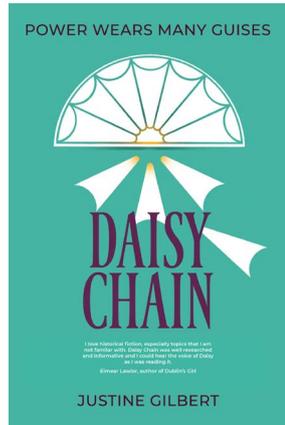
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**WINNER PAGETURNER AWARD,
SILVER MEDALLION HISTORICAL
FICTION COMPANY**



Spinster Daisy Suckley, a cousin of Franklin Roosevelt, was one of a band of unconventional women close to him: Frances Perkins, the architect of social security, Eleanor Roosevelt, the fiery labour organiser, Missy LeHand, the supersecretary who was a political operative in her right.

FDR gave them careers.

In turn, they ensured his presidency was stronger and bolder and more effective. But they all had their own secrets and ways of working the system. Told through Daisy's eyes, their friendships, animosities, affairs and political agendas shaped the president's terms.

This is their story, the women who influenced FDR, as told by his alternative wife, Daisy.

Justine Gilbert is the grandniece of Daisy and knew her personally. This novel is based on Daisy's diaries and other public records.

'Justine Gilbert shines new light on the tender side of one of America's legendary figures, President Franklin Roosevelt with a passionate and illuminating retelling of a seismic era from the perspective of 'the other woman.'

Louise Dean, award-winning author and founder of The Novelry.

NEW RELEASES

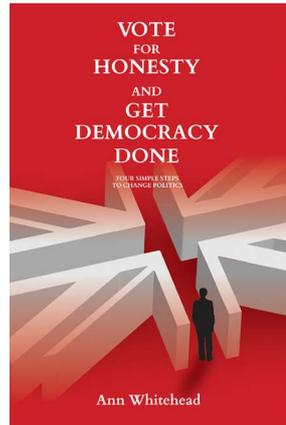
VOTE FOR HONESTY AND GET DEMOCRACY DONE

Ann Whitehead

ISBN: 978-1-910461-64-8

Paperback: 138 pages

£11.99



The truth matters. Democracy requires honesty in governance. It's better for our economy, our social values, our institutions, ourselves as individuals and ultimately the functioning of our democracy itself. This succinct and well researched guide offers a solution to the increasing problem of dishonest behaviour by some UK politicians. Positive change is possible with this simple solution to a complex problem.

Nourishing food for thought

Graham Allen, Former MP and Chair of the Select Committee on Political and Constitutional Reform

Honesty should be at the heart of politics and this elegant essay puts the case well.

Denis MacShane, Former Minister of State for Europe

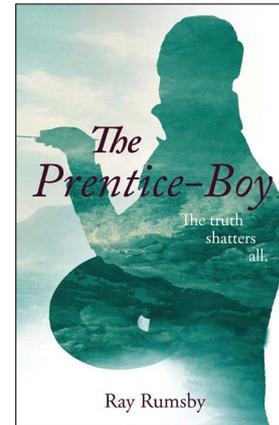
THE PRENTICE-BOY

Ray Rumsby

ISBN: 978-1-910461-60-0

Paperback: 308 pages

£11.99



In 1820 London, landscape artist William Daniell hires Jesse Cloud to be his apprentice. But all is not as it seems as their stormy east coast tour reveals. Both William and his prentice must make their own inner journeys to expose others' betrayals and explore their own possibilities. Faced with bankruptcy, starvation looms. Friendships fragment.

The artist must learn how to see and his prentice must learn how to survive – while the truth shatters all.

'I was genuinely sorry to finish this book. It had me completely engaged... and I loved the clever surprise in the middle of it.'

Louis de Bernières,

author of Captain Corelli's Mandolin.'

NEW RELEASES

PLAGUE

Julie Anderson

ISBN: 978-1-910461-47-1

Paperback: 282 pages

£9.99

ORACLE

Julie Anderson

ISBN: 978-1-910461-48-8

Paperback: 286 pages

£9.99

OPERA

Julie Anderson

ISBN: 978-1-910461-56-3

Paperback: 318 pages

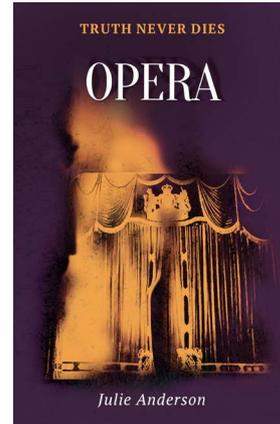
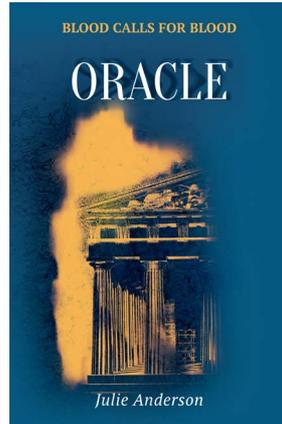
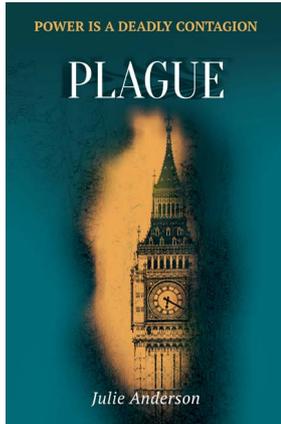
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Cassandra Fortune, disgraced civil servant, knows the halls of Westminster better than she knows her own heart, and certainly better than she knows why she was kicked to the bottom rung of the career ladder. Then she gets tasked with solving the brutal murders. Everything rides on her success. Including her own life.

'Absolutely enthralling...Thought provoking and genius - thank you Julie Anderson!'

Barbara Pidgeon, author of *Shakti Manifest*

'Fascinating and authoritative insider view of modern power politics that is all too frighteningly prescient. A gripping read.'

VB Grey, author of *Tell Me How It Ends*

'There are more twists, turns and unexpected revelations in this story than the path leading to the Corycian Cave and they will keep readers guessing until the unexpected end.'

Jean M. Roberts, author of *Blood in the Valley*

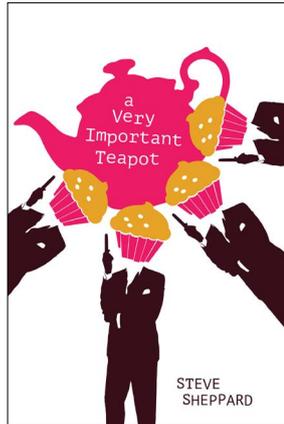
A VERY IMPORTANT TEAPOT

Steve Sheppard

ISBN: 978-1-910461-40-2

Paperback: 268 pages

£10.99



A comedy thriller about Nazi diamonds that includes more countries than an atlas, an unemployed am dram drifter, and a teapot. A hilarious page-turner.

'A curiously magical thriller with suburban subterfuge and sparkle.'

Helen Lederer, author of *Losing it*, comedian and Founder of the Comedy Women in Print Prize

'My goodness! What a hilarious, energetic and entertaining roller-coaster of a read this is. The pace never lets up.'

Sue Clark, author of *Note to Boy*

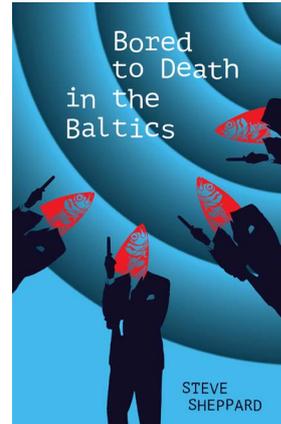
BORED TO DEATH IN THE BALTICS

Steve Sheppard

ISBN: 978-1-910461-31-0

Paperback: 262 pages

£10.99



When a bomb explodes in front of Dawson on a sunny June morning, he is lucky to escape with his life, certainly luckier than the man he is following. However, waking up several hours later in the bilges of a ship apparently heading for the Baltic Sea is quite depressing as it wasn't how he'd planned to spend his weekend.

Who was the man assassinated by the bomb? Who has kidnapped Dawson, and will Lucy Smith find him in time? What is happening deep underground in leafy Surrey and rural Estonia? And can Dawson avoid being bored to death?

'If Terry Pratchett wrote James Bond, it would be this.'

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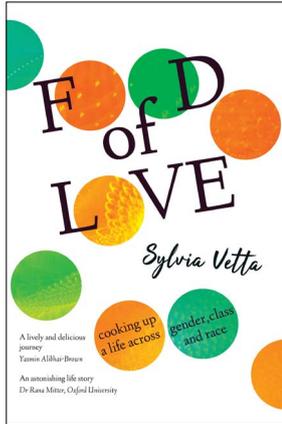
FOOD OF LOVE

Sylvia Vetta

ISBN: 978-1-910461-58-7

Paperback: 250 pages

£11.99



This memoir distills postwar Britain's transformation. Seasoned with facts, stirred with love, sprinkled with insight, hers is the story of a life lived in the cauldron of change, for women, for the working class and for people of colour. But with recipes.

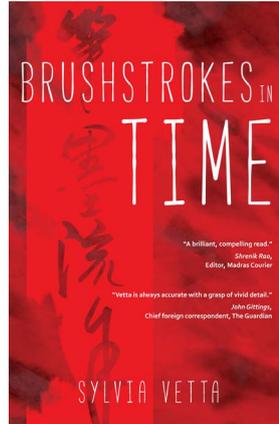
"Lively and delicious"
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, journalist

BRUSHSTROKES IN TIME

ISBN: 978-1-910461-10-5

Paperback: 204 pages

£11.99



A coming-of-age love story set in Post-Mao China.

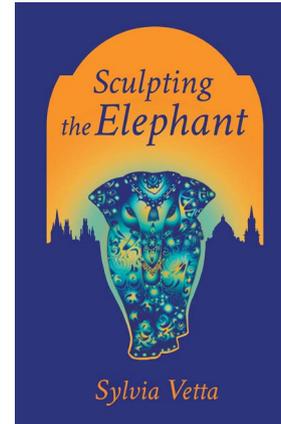
'Weaving real events and Stars artists with the fictional, this moving story... gives us an engaging heroine who rises above oppression to discover love, hope and success.'
Frank Sieren, Asia Expert

SCULPTING THE ELEPHANT

ISBN: 978-1-910461-34-1

Paperback: 276 pages

£11.99



Class, colour, culture. Can love overcome all three with the help of a 19th century Raj and a 5th century Buddhist emperor?

'A page turning love story – I was hooked... It reflected my life of gifts and travails of a mixed-race relationship.'
Polly Biswas Gladwin, screenwriter

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MEMOIRS AND TRAVELOGUES

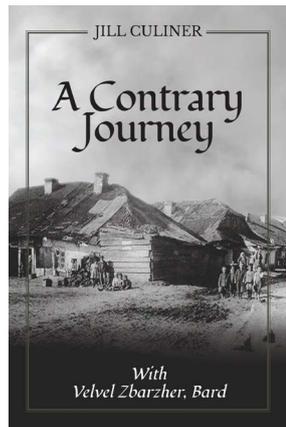
A CONTRARY JOURNEY

Jill Culiner

ISBN: 978-1-910461-43-3

Paperback: 274 pages

£12.99



Jewish writers, actors, rebels and bards unended the 19th century Old Country. Campaigning for education and freedom of expression, they fought the religious stranglehold. Velvel Zbarzher sang, argued and joked his way from Ukrainian shtetl to Constantinople. Culiner, an award-winning author and artist, follows in

his footsteps to better know him and the Jewish Renaissance, and to find a vanished way of life.

'Culiner's first-rate eye allows her to render the world of the shtetl, past and present, with more intimacy, complexity and telling detail than anything else I have read.'

Robert A Rosenstone, Emeritus Professor of History, California Institute of Technology

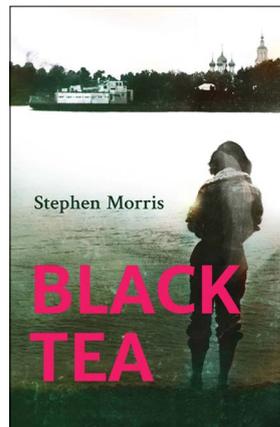
BLACK TEA

Stephen Morris

ISBN: 978-1-910461-39-6

Paperback: 222 pages

£12.99



SHORTLISTED FOR THE RSL CHRISTOPHER BLAND PRIZE 2020

Stephen Morris combines elements of his life forged during the breakup of the Soviet Union to create a memoir based on reflections and memory. A narration that starts in England leads the reader on a journey through

Russia from the White Sea to the Caucasus. A reflection and a travelogue, *Black Tea* hauntingly explores love and identity, commitment and family.

'Elegaic, evocative and disarmingly candid.'
Lucy Ash, BBC Russia Correspondent

'A triumphant of art as well as of observation.'
Paul Binding, cultural critical and author

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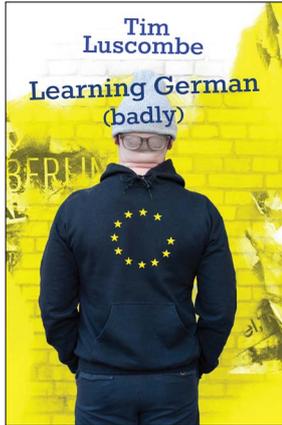
LEARNING GERMAN (BADLY)

Tim Luscombe

ISBN: 978-1-910461-45-7

Paperback: 212 pages

£11.99



The only hilarious book ever written about Brexit. It's an ode to a potential union, a lament for a lost citizenship and a celebration of the cosmopolitan bubble of Berlin. Having his German good enough to pass a language exam to get a German passport requires celebrated theatre director Luscombe to learn seven different ways to say the word 'the' and to determine where he belongs.

'Not many know and love Europe and our complex relationship with it, like Luscombe. And no-one can communicate that with such fantastically self-deprecating wit.'

Federay Holmes, Associate Artist, Globe Theatre, London

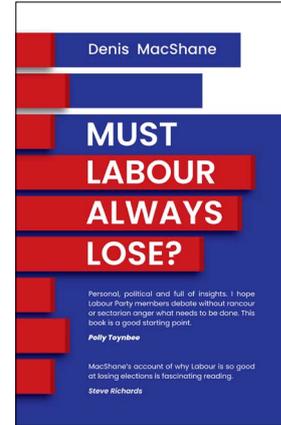
MUST LABOUR ALWAYS LOSE?

Denis MacShane

ISBN: 978-1-910461-53-2

Paperback: 326 pages

£11.99



Since 1970, Labour has won in just 4 of 14 general elections. This angry and passionate book asks why Labour is so good at losing elections and so unhappy and edgy when it does win. Denis MacShane is the former minister of state for Europe.

'Fascinating reading. What to do to get Labour back into power is a central question if we don't want to live in a one party state.'

Steve Richards, journalist and presenter

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