

CLARET PRESS 2025

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 have been trade publishing for almost a decade now and have a growing presence. Drachenhaus 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 2020**. *Opera* by Julie Anderson has been longlisted for the **CWA Steel Dagger Award 2023** for best thriller. *Daisy Chain* by Justine Gilbert has been shortlisted for the **Paul Torday Memorial Prize 2024**, and won the **Page Turner Award 2022** and the **Silver Medallion** from the **Historical Fiction Company 2022**. *Those Absent On the Great Hungarian Plain* by Jill Culiner has won the **Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Best Memoir 2024**.

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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Harry Whitehead
ISBN: 978-1-910461-80-8
Paperback: 288 pages
£12.99 | 08.09.2025
GENRE: THRILLER, ECO-THRILLER, ARCTIC ADVENTURE



**ONLY ONE KNOWS THE TRUTH.
ONLY ONE CAN REVEAL IT.
ONLY ONE CAN SAVE THEM ALL.**

Carrie, a Scottish rescue swimmer out of her depth in the High Arctic. Ross, the owner of an oil rig with a guilty conscience. Amaruq, an Inuvialuit oil-rig worker caught between two worlds.

Stranded on the Arctic ice with a starving polar bear and a half-dead stranger, Carrie's left with nothing but deadly choices. Ross and Amaruq face their own crossroads. Lives hang on their decisions.

From the cruel Arctic to the corporate backrooms of shady Big Oil, White Road is an authentic and gripping eco-thriller of survival, battled out at the edge of everything.



Harry Whitehead is a novelist and teaches creative writing at the University of Leicester, where he directs the annual free literature festival, Literary Leicester.

Before this, he lived in the Far East and then worked in the UK film business.

His debut novel, THE CANNIBAL SPIRIT (Penguin Canada) was reviewed as 'powerful, brave, ambitious' (The Globe and Mail), 'a thriller with a Joseph Conradian plot' (The Walrus), 'a unique work, compelling, complex, thought-provoking and impressive' (Quill and Quire).

COMING 2025

Douglas Kruger

ISBN: 978-1-910461-84-6

Paperback: 266 pages

£12.99 | 11.09.2025

GENRE: CROSSOVER YA HORROR/THRILLER

WHAT YOU SPY IS WHAT YOU GET. OR IS IT?



When a child trafficking network sets up a fake student exchange programme, families from around the world fall for it. Seventeen-year-old Kendall jets off on what she believes will be a Californian adventure. First stop: a luxurious hillside mansion for 'Orientation Week'.

Blinded by the opulence and their own naivety, the youngsters cavort. Meanwhile hidden cameras transmit images to international buyers of them flirting, sleeping, bathing and playing.

Slowly, Kendall begins to suspect that something is wrong.

Escape is impossible. The house is sealed tight. They are also being managed from within. One of them is a traitor, a 'Judas Goat,' subtly curating their thoughts, sabotaging their every bid for freedom. But who?

Kendall must persuade the other students that they are all prey. Together they must uncover the Judas Goat and find a way out, or they will be sold to the highest bidder. They only have a week.

Douglas Kruger is a multiple award-winning international speaker and the author of eight business books with Penguin Random House. Douglas's thought-leadership ideas have been featured repeatedly on CNBC Africa and he has been published in Forbes and Entrepreneur magazines.

His first Crossover YA Horror/Thriller, *House of the Judas Goat*, will be published by Claret Press in Autumn 2025. Available in paperback and ebook.



Mark Griffin

ISBN: 978-1-910461-82-2

Paperback: 214 pages

£12.99 | 18.09.2025

GENRE: THRILLER, TECHNO-THRILLER



DEATH HIDES IN THE DETAIL. HE HIDES IN PLAIN SIGHT.

Pencil-pushing risk-analyst Luke Smith finds himself with a bounty on his head, the police, the public and a paid assassin on his tail. A file accidentally sent to him in a high-stakes Initial Public Offering (IPO) transaction is his only clue. Inside lies the secret his client will kill to keep hidden.

On the run, he has no choice but to make London's underbelly his refuge. With nothing but the clothes on his back and his own wits, he must solve the file's mystery before he becomes just another mortality statistic.

Inspired by true events, *The Mortality Thief* is a razor-sharp and authentic thriller that's ripped from the headlines.

Mark W. Griffin, debut author of *The Mortality Thief*, is a Chartered Financial Analyst, actuary and EMT. Working as a Chief Risk Officer, he has been responsible for not just a lot of analysis, but telling stories about what has gone wrong, what could go wrong, and serving as the corporate incarnation of cop, investigator, and crime reporter.

He is passionate about ice hockey, and just about any outdoor activity, particularly uphill skiing. He has split his career between the UK, the US, and Canada. He lives in New York State with his family and their rescue dog Ollie.



STUPID

Steve Powell

ISBN: 978-1-910461-86-0

Paperback: 248 pages

£12.99 | 25.09.2025

GENRE: MYSTERY

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Phil Osgood has it all. The wonderful wife, the fabulous kids, the lucrative career. He really only has one problem. He's bored.

Quietly, Phil steps out of his lane and moonlights with a local detective. It's a good compromise.

What starts as a diversion turns into a hunt for missing friends. When the hunt leads to bodies and Phil is implicated, the diversion gets personal – and deadly.

For the first time, Phil isn't sure he's going to win. And if he loses, he loses everything.



Steve Powell is a retired bond trader. In 1994 he founded his own firm, Smith Point Investments, which he ran for fifteen years.

Steve is an avid runner and a struggling but optimistic golfer.

He is married with four grown sons and lives in Connecticut where he writes.

His bestselling novel, TERM LIMITS, was reviewed as 'Brilliant and timely political who-done-it' (Alan Steele-Nicholson, press officer for former US Senator Jacob Javits), 'required reading for all readers no matter what their political views', 'Fun, thought provoking and scary, all at the same time. 5 Stars'.

COMING 2025

Katie Isbester

ISBN: 9781910461785

Paperback: 170 pages

£12.99 | 19.06.2025

GENRE: SELF-HELP/ENTREPRENEURSHIP/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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FOR THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO PUBLISH

Micropublishing is neither fish nor fowl. It falls between self-publishing and small (but larger) indies.

Micros might only publish a few books a year but they operate with their own logic, have distinct goals, and use tools different from either small presses or self-publishers. As such, a micropublisher struggles to get appropriate information.

This book is unique in that it lays out what a micropress is, how it differs from either the self-publisher or the larger indie press, and how it can best operate. It is a friendly and personal guide, honest about mistakes to avoid and yet highly informed and experienced.

An excellent guide for those who want to professionalise their publishing, for businesses which want to use micropublishing to grow organically, for colleges and creative writing co-ops that want to share their works more widely, and for those who want to start their own micropress.

Dr. Katie Isbester had an academic career in which she published in peer review journals and imprints. After realising only a small number of people read academia, she set up Claret Press in 2016 to publish commercial trade fiction and non-fiction that inform, entertain and energise.

With the help of her trusted friend, Secco, her killer kitty, Charlie, and some extraordinary interns, Claret Press publishes around five books a year. It has won awards and is proud of publishing predominantly first-time authors.



COMING 2025

A MONSTER IN THE ASH

S. C. Gordon

ISBN: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Paperback: xxx pages

£xx.xx | 2026

GENRE: HISTORICAL FICTION

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COMING
SOON

“The old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.”

Antonio Gramsci

It's 1945. The old order is dead but the new post-war modernity has not yet been created. In this lull, the fascists once again start organising. Marches, leafleting and fomenting hatred – especially of Jews. In London's East End, the Jewish community is staggering from the weight of its loss, exhausted and uncertain about what to do next.

One woman knows. She's fighting back. For herself. For her community. For the man she loves.

S.C. Gordon is an author, poet and journalist. In the decade she spent living and working in Shanghai, she wrote and edited for English-language magazines covering business, lifestyle, travel, culture, and entertainment. She has also written for Virgin Media, Condé Nast, Executive Travel and the BBC. She was part of the Royal Court Theatre's new writers' programme from 2007-2008, and was a finalist and runner-up in British Vogue's young writers' competition in 2004 and 2005. She has a PhD in Comparative Literature.

She has published two poetry collections: *Peckham Blue* (Penned in the Margins) and *Harbouring* (Math Paper Press).



COMING
2026

Declan Hill

ISBN: xxxxxxxx

Paperback: xxx pages

£xx.xx | 2026

GENRE: NON-FICTION, SPORT, GAMBLING

COMING
SOON

THE SOPRANOS MEETS THE TIPPING POINT, from the internationally bestselling author of *The Fix: Soccer and Organised Crime* and the “persona non-grata inside FIFA”.

Tens of thousands of British teenagers are gambling addicts. Jack Richie was one of them.

At 17, he wandered into a betting shop during his school lunch break, won £1,000 and became hooked.

Seven years later, overwhelmed by gambling issues, he committed suicide.

His mother is unsparing in her views on the industry. “This is a form of child abuse. It is happening to ... thousands of other young people. (They) are being given a life-threatening illness and then told it’s their fault.”

Blrds of Prey is a gripping investigation into one of the largest and most dangerous phenomena in modern society. Sports gambling is the new opiate epidemic. It’s coming for our young people.

No one has investigated the true cost of gambling – until now.

Declan Hill, an award-winning investigative academic and journalist, is one of the world’s foremost experts on match-fixing and corruption in international sports. Currently, he is a senior research fellow in anti-corruption in sports at the University of Würzburg and a professor at the University of New Haven where he has opened the Centre for Sports Integrity in the Investigations Program.



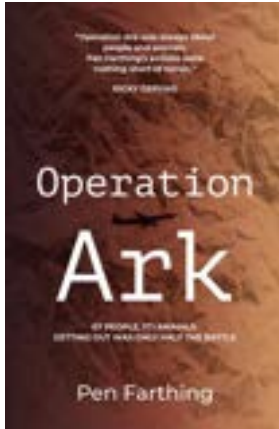
Pen Farthing

ISBN: 978-1-910461-70-9

Paperback: 258 pages

£12.99 | 08.07.2024

GENRE: MEMOIR/CURRENT AFFAIRS/AFGHANISTAN



67 PEOPLE. 171 ANIMALS. GETTING OUT WAS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE.

August 2021. The Taliban invaded Kabul.

The British Government was “Missing in Action”.

The evacuation was disastrous, shambolic and deadly.

Pen Farthing refused to abandon his charity’s staff or rescue animals.

Operation Ark was born.

He was branded a villain who valued “pets over people”, blamed for deserting Afghans, accused of risking British soldiers – nothing could be further from the truth.



‘Pen Farthing is a man who has the Commando spirit writ through him: he never gives up.’ – *Daily Mail Online*

‘Heroic.’ – *Ricky Gervais*

‘Pen Farthing is still angry. It’s understandable.’ – *Private Eye*

‘A damning indictment of foreign policy failures.’ – *The Daily Beast*

‘The most remarkable book.’ – *Peter Egan*

Pen Farthing is an ex-Royal Marine Commando, founder of animal welfare charity Nowzad and author of *Sunday Times* bestseller, *One Dog At A Time*.

Jill Culiner

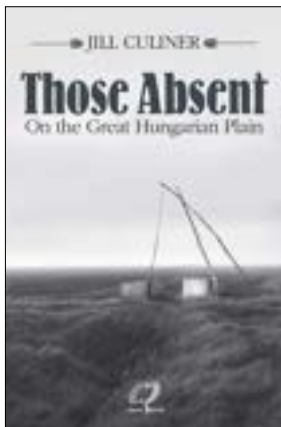
ISBN: 978-1-910461-72-3

Paperback: 340 pages

£12.99 | 28.02.2024

GENRE: TRAVELOGUE/JEWISH STUDIES/HOLOCAUST/HUNGARY

9



WINNER OF THE CANADIAN JEWISH LITERARY AWARDS FOR BEST MEMOIR 2024

A Hungarian village on the Great Plain: a microcosm reflecting this country's history from early tribal invasion to Soviet subordination to European Community membership. Here, peasants, herders, party girls, former Nazis and lapsed communists share gossip as well as love stories; and unscrupulous leaders, totalitarian or freely elected, decide behaviour.

Like a fly in amber, this is a moment captured of a time and a place under peaceful upheaval. The old ways are vanishing. But what is being lost and what is remaining only slowly comes clear.

Celebrated photographer and author, Jill Culiner, spends years of her life there, chronicling these changes, learning the language and buying property. She is as committed as any. She weaves her own story with the story of that community and the history of living on the edge of the Great Hungarian Plain.

It's a raw story, honestly told, of a people crisscrossed with violence and hatreds, loves and escapes. There remains one constant: hatred of the long-vanished rural Jew.



'The long history of hatred toward the Jews combined with the exploitation and misery of the peasants have forged Hungarian identity. Jill Culiner's Central Europe is plagued by the same demons that led to the tragedies of the past century.' – **Dr Marcel Calvez, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Rennes**

'In a narrative of village life, coarse xenophobia and cruelty contrast with acceptance, friendship and laughter. The horror of the past is concealed, yet Culiner finds compassion in human failure.' – **Penny-Lynn Cookson, Art Historian, Writer**

An award-winning, UNESCO-sponsored Jewish historian and writer, Jill Culiner has also written *A Contrary Journey*: in which Culiner traces the path of the Jewish bard Velvel Zbarzher across Eastern Europe.

POOR TABLE MANNERS

Steve Sheppard

ISBN: 978-1-910461-76-1

Paperback: 254 pages

£10.99 | 17.04.2024

GENRE: COMEDY THRILLER/SPY THRILLER



When their new employer dies in a suspicious road accident and his brother, a South African government lawyer disappears in Cape Town, Dawson and Lucy are recalled to MI6. For once their mission is straightforward: liaise with Rebecca Erasmus of South African State Security and find the missing lawyer.

Then Rebecca is kidnapped. Surely this has nothing to do with the forthcoming presidential election and

the vengeful Chinese assassin in town...

'Steve Sheppard is a gifted comic writer with a knack for clever plotting and thrills.'

Greg Mosse, writer

'A fun, page-turning thriller that kept me enthralled and chuckling. There's a wonderful sort of sophisticated goofiness reminiscent of Nick and Nora Charles of The Thin Man. I couldn't put it down!'

Steve Powell, author of Term Limits

BOOK 1 AND BOOK 2 IN THE DAWSON AND LUCY COMEDY THRILLER SERIES

ISBN: 978-1-910461-40-2

Paperback: 268 pages

£10.99

ISBN: 978-1-910461-31-0

Paperback: 262 pages

£10.99



PRAISE FOR THE DAWSON AND LUCY SERIES

'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

'This is a thriller, a chase, a buddy story, a mystery [...] all smoothly told with hugely engaging characters, and rips along at a hectic pace.'

Adrian Magson, author of Hostile State

'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

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LATEST RELEASES

DAISY CHAIN

Justine Gilbert

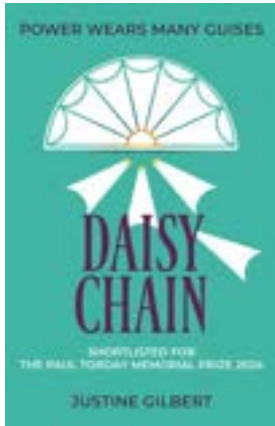
ISBN: 978-1-910461-62-4

Paperback: 294 pages

£11.99 | 01.03.2023

GENRE: HISTORICAL FICTION/

WOMEN IN HISTORY/AMERICAN HISTORY



It's the Great Depression. The world is tilting towards war. In the White House, nothing is as it seems. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the married president of the United States, has started a long and passionate affair with his cousin Daisy...

SHORTLISTED FOR THE PAUL TORDAY MEMORIAL PRIZE 2024, WINNER OF THE PAGE TURNER AWARDS 2022 AND WINNER OF THE HISTORICAL FICTION COMPANY SILVER MEDAL 2022.

THE DOOR THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE

Corinna Edwards-College

ISBN: 978-1-910461-67-9

Hardback: 152 pages, 11 illustrations

£14.99 | 28.09.2023

GENRE: MODERN FANTASY/FAIRYTALE/GRIEF



A Modern Fairy Tale About Grief, in which a grieving husband pursues his dead wife through a series of mysterious doors.

'Corinna beautifully balances the universal and particular in this individual story of loss and everyday grief. The imagery is poetic and layered and draws the reader forward, running to catch their breath' – Henry Normal, multi award-winning writer, producer and broadcaster

FINAL APPROACH

Mark Blackburn

ISBN: 978-1-910461-74-7

Paperback: 204 pages

£12.99 | 23.11.2023

GENRE: MEMOIR/TRAVELOGUE/
RELATIONSHIPS



Final Approach charts the turbulent flightpath between a jetsetting father and a planespotting son. Half memoir and half travelogue, wrapped in an ode to planespotting, this is one man's journey to break free.

'Final Approach is a beautiful and tender work.'
Shaun Levin, A3 Press

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LATEST RELEASES

OPERA

Julie Anderson

ISBN: 978-1-910461-56-3

Paperback: 318 pages
£9.99

BOOK 1 AND BOOK 2 IN THE CASSANDRA FORTUNE MYSTERY THRILLER SERIES

ISBN: 978-1-910461-47-1

Paperback: 282 pages
£9.99

ISBN: 978-1-910461-48-8

Paperback: 286 pages
£9.99

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Gardners Books
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PRAISE FOR THE CASSANDRA FORTUNE SERIES:

'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*

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.

**LONGLISTED FOR THE
CWA STEEL DAGGER
AWARD 2023**

MYSTERIES AND THRILLERS

THE PRENTICE-BOY

Ray Rumsby
ISBN: 978-1-910461-60-0
Paperback: 308 pages
£11.99



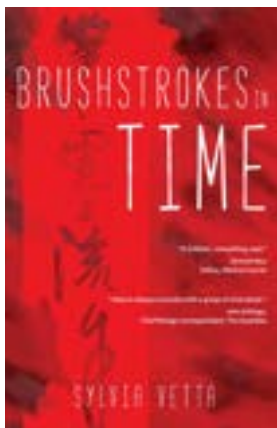
The year is 1820. Aristocrat and painter William Daniell hires Jesse Cloud, a homeless teenager, as his apprentice. Both are hiding secrets.

'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

BRUSHSTROKES IN TIME

Sylvia Vetta
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

Sylvia Vetta
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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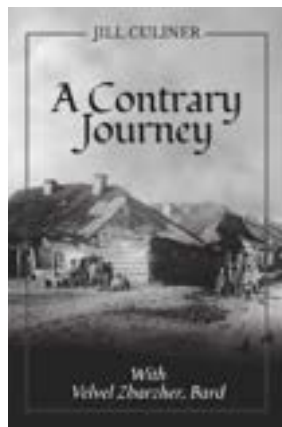
A CONTRARY JOURNEY

Jill Culiner

ISBN: 978-1-910461-43-3

Paperback: 274 pages

£12.99



Armed with a useless nineteenth-century map, a warm lumpy coat, and a healthy dose of curiosity Jill Culiner trudged through the snow in former Galicia, the Russian Pale, and Romania searching for Velvel the Jewish Bard, the houses where he lived, and the bars where he sang. But she was also on the lookout for a vanished way of life in Austria, Turkey, and Canada.

'What a beautiful book! The writing is clear and direct, the subject matter is interesting and important, and the characters are lively and realistically portrayed. In short, it's a good piece of reporting, and was entirely successful in wafting me to another time and place.'
Barrington James, author of *The Musical World of Marie Antoinette*

'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

BLACK TEA

Stephen Morris

ISBN: 978-1-910461-39-6

Paperback: 222 pages

£12.99



Highly informed with a unique perspective, Stephen Morris' *Black Tea* chronicles the changing face of Russia over thirty years. Both memoir and travelogue, Stephen hauntingly explores love and identity, commitment and family

**SHORTLISTED FOR THE RSL
CHRISTOPHER BLAND PRIZE 2020**

*'Elegiac, evocative and disarmingly candid, *Black Tea* rattles along like a Russian train. It can be soothingly poetic and then bring you to a standstill with its sharp, searing honesty.'*
Lucy Ash, BBC Russia Correspondent

'A triumph of art as well as of observation.'
Paul Binding, cultural critic and author

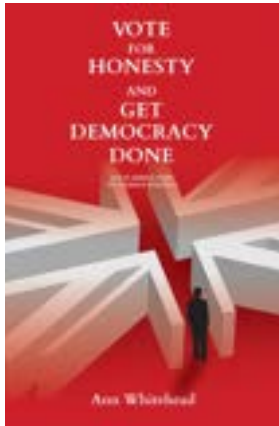
VOTE FOR HONESTY AND GET DEMOCRACY DONE

Ann Whitehead

ISBN: 978-1-910461-64-8

Paperback: 138 pages

£11.99



This succinct and well researched guide offers a solution to the increasing problem of dishonest behaviour by UK politicians. Positive change is possible with this simple solution to a complex problem.

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

Denis MacShane, Former Minister of State for Europe’

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. Written by the former Minister of State for Europe, this angry and passionate book asks why Labour is so good at losing elections and so unhappy when it does win.

‘The book is like MacShane himself: lively, witty, entertaining, indiscreet, and every so often you can hear the satisfying clunk of an old score being settled.’

Francis Beckett, Camden New Journal

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.

‘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

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As an indie publisher we relish meeting new people and making contacts. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at Claret Press to see how we can better work together.