

CLARET PRESS 2024

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. **Drachenhause 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. *Opera* by Julie Anderson has been longlisted for the **CWA Steel Dagger Award** for best thriller.

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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Pen Farthing

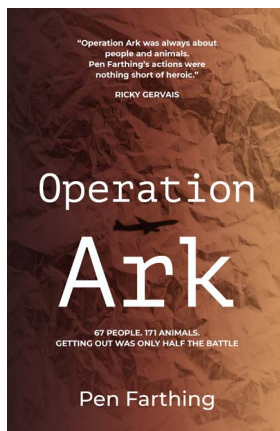
ISBN: 978-1-910461-70-9

Paperback: 200 pages approx

£11.99 | July 2024

GENRE: MEMOIR/CURRENT AFFAIRS/AFGHANISTAN

1



67 people. 171 animals. Getting out was only half the battle.

Pen Farthing was the most controversial figure of the 2021 Afghan Evacuation. His story was distorted by half-truths, outright lies and government select committees.

When the Taliban retook Afghanistan in 2021, Pen Farthing, his wife and the staff of his animal welfare charity were all in grave danger. The British government's evacuation plans were shambolic at best and disastrous at worst. Unwilling to abandon his staff or the rescue animals, Pen chose to stay behind. Operation Ark was born.

Pen was branded a villain who valued 'pets over people', abandoning Afghans and risking the lives of British soldiers.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

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*. He was CNN's Hero of the Year 2014.

**"Operation Ark was always about people and animals.
Pen Farthing's actions were nothing short of heroic."**

Ricky Gervais



THOSE ABSENT ON THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN

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Gardners Books

Gazelle Distributors

Jill Culiner

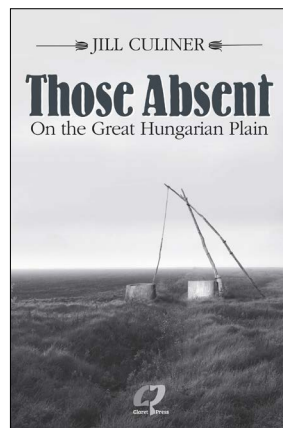
ISBN: 978-1-910461-72-3

Paperback: 340 pages

£12.99 | 28.02.2024

GENRE: TRAVELOGUE/JEWISH STUDIES/HOLOCAUST/HUNGARY

2



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.

UPCOMING RELEASES

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...

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

ISBN: 978-1-910461-40-2

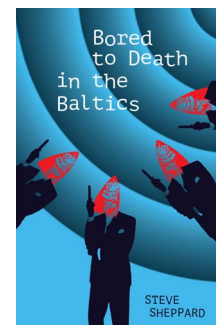
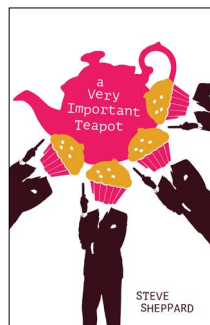
Paperback: 268 pages

£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

DAISY CHAIN

Justine Gilbert

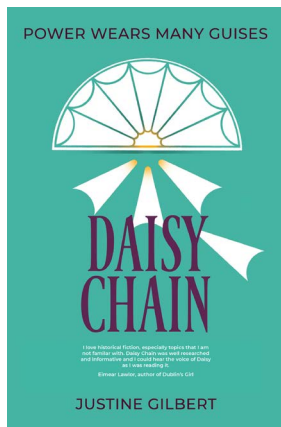
ISBN: 978-1-910461-62-4

Paperback: 294 pages

£11.99 | Spring 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...

WINNER OF THE PAGETURNER AWARD, THE CHILL WITH A BOOK AWARD AND LONGLISTED FOR THE HISTORICAL FICTION COMPANY BEST BOOK 2022

THE DOOR THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE

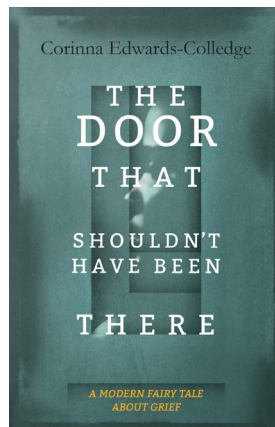
Corinna Edwards-College

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

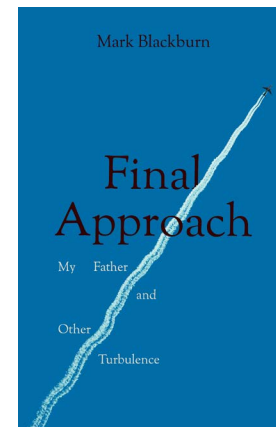
Mark Blackburn

ISBN: 978-1-910461-74-7

Paperback: 204 pages

£12.99 | 23.11.2023

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

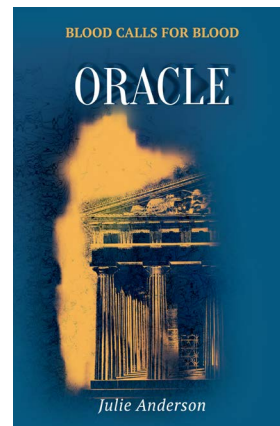
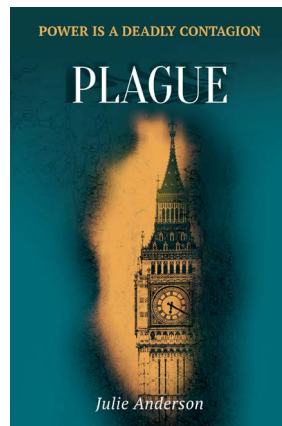
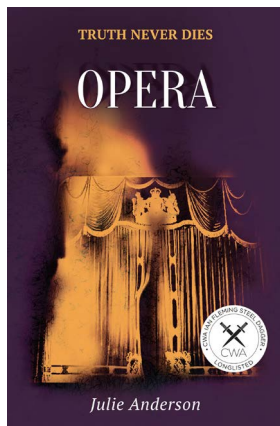
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5



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

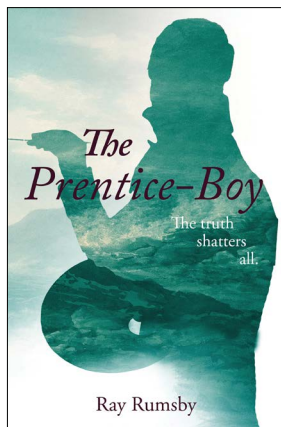
THE PRENTICE-BOY

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

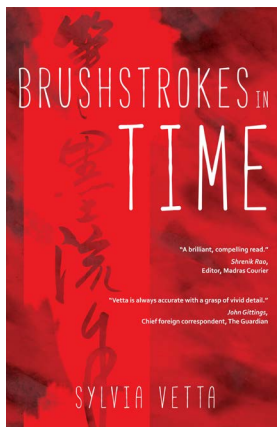
BRUSHSTROKES IN TIME

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

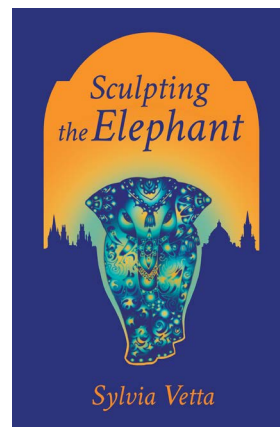
SCULPTING THE ELEPHANT

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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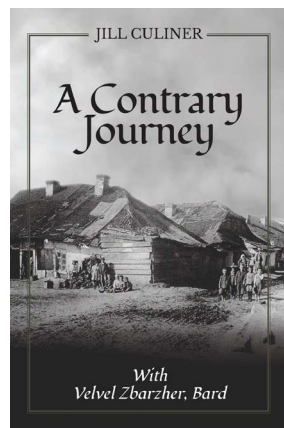
A CONTRARY JOURNEY

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

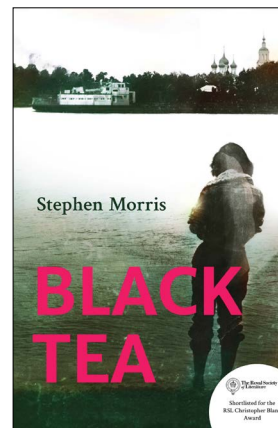
BLACK TEA

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

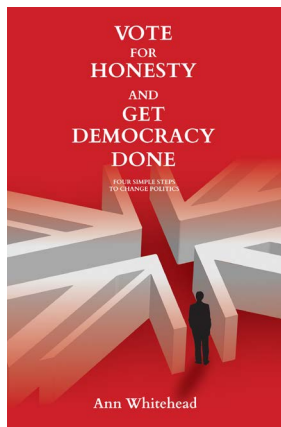
VOTE FOR HONESTY AND GET DEMOCRACY DONE

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

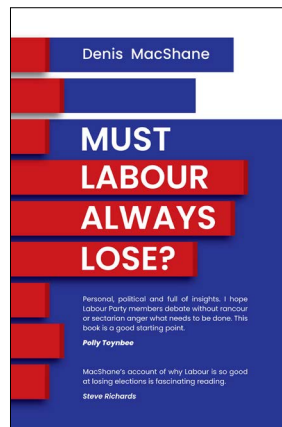
MUST LABOUR ALWAYS LOSE?

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

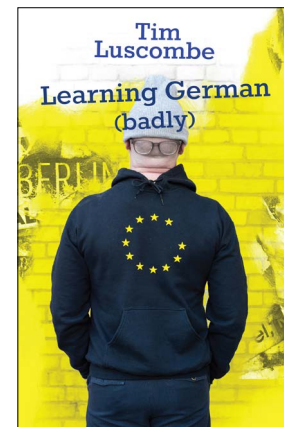
LEARNING GERMAN (BADLY)

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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