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M A Y F A I R

SUMMER RECOMMENDATIONS 2017

BIOGRAPHY, LETTERS & MEMOIRS

- †**JAMIE BLACKETT** *The Enigma of Kidson: Portrait of an Eton Schoolmaster*
Subversive Chipsian schoolmaster brought to life by the Etonians he inspired & protected Jun £25
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The author of *Do No Harm* looks back on his forty year career as a neurosurgeon £16.99
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Heywood Hill is proud to play a supporting role in one of the publishing events of 2017. We have been selected as the exclusive London bookseller for an extraordinary three-volume photographic record of the Sistine Chapel, produced by the Vatican Museum and the esteemed Italian art publisher Scripta Manent. Only 1999 numbered copies are being prepared. The book is priced at £10,000. A display copy is available to view at Heywood Hill.

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SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HEYWOOD HILL TEAM

CAMILLE VAN DE VELDE

LAURENT BINET
The 7th Function of
Language
£16.99

With an impressive amount of research and imagination, Binet has created a thrilling murder mystery set in a circle of French intellectuals and political figures in the 1980s. The leading question of the investigation is: was the death of Roland Barthes a murder? And if so, who did it and why? One need not be fully acquainted with the theories of semiotics or structuralism, or the details of the 1980 French presidential campaign to enjoy this riveting read.

ELEANOR FRANZEN

JON MCGREGOR
Reservoir 13
£16.99

When a girl disappears at the beginning of this novel, you read on with the expectation that her body will be found, a suspect tracked down. Instead, McGregor uses the disappearance as a window onto the lives of ordinary people who live nearby. Over the next thirteen years, the village grows and changes, always outlined by measured, observant prose.

HARI KUNZRU
White Tears
£14.99

In this Blues-infused ghost story, British novelist Hari Kunzru takes the reader on a journey through time and through the United States, from New York to Mississippi via Virginia. Two young music fanatics from New York discover a song that forces them to face up to the past and the people abused by their ancestors. This novel tackles not only the dark past of exploitation through forced labour in the Southern States but also the current issue of cultural appropriation.

SARAH SCHMIDT
See What I Have Done
£12.99

Schmidt's powerful, sensuous style interweaves the life of Lizzie Borden – tried and acquitted of the murder of her father and stepmother in 1892 – with the viewpoints of Lizzie's sister Emma and the household's maid Bridget. Schmidt resists sensationalising, and creates a magnificent sense of unease without resorting to anachronism.

KARIN SCHERER

IAN MORTIMER
The Time Traveller's Guide
to Restoration Britain
£20

If one could travel back in time to between 1660 and 1700 one would come across one of the most exciting destinations in history. It is the age of Samuel Pepys, the Great Fire of London, the bawdy and libertine court of Charles II, Christopher Wren's architecture, Henry Purcell's music and Isaac Newton in science.

EDWARD DOCX
Let Go My Hand
£16.99

The subject is grim: a father who is diagnosed with a terminal illness and decides to end it all at Dignitas in Switzerland. However, he wants the approval of his three sons, and they travel through Europe in a camper van which was last used in the boys' childhood. What could have easily been a true tear-jerker is exactly the opposite: witty, tender, poignant, sometimes laugh-out-loud. Docx writes absolutely beautifully – some paragraphs are like poetry.

ANDREW TURTON

HENRY MARSH
Admissions: A Life in Brain
Surgery
£16.99

Following on from his best-selling *Do No Harm*, Henry Marsh continues to chronicle his life as one of Britain's most distinguished brain surgeons. Angrily terminating his career with the NHS, Marsh faces a busy retired life which will take him from his lock-keepers cottage in Oxford to working with friends and former colleagues in both Nepal and the Ukraine. This is a brilliantly written and often emotional account of his important work and his search for contentment in retirement.

BOBBIE PEERS
William Wenton and the
Luridium Thief
£14.99

William Wenton is extraordinary – he can crack codes, solve the hardest puzzles and is probably a bit clever for his own good! When his grandfather disappears his family must flee from their London home and he doesn't know why. Against his mother's orders, he finds himself in front of a large audience, somewhere in Norway, trying – and succeeding – to crack the world's trickiest code. From there, he is whisked away to an amazing secret laboratory full of mechanical creatures... and then the adventure really begins!

NICKY DUNNE

JAMIE BLACKETT
The Enigma of Kidson
£25

Few teachers publish memoirs; a tiny number are themselves memorialised in print. Michael Kidson was an inspirational schoolmaster and an unforgettable character. During a teaching career of 30 years, he influenced generations of Etonians, as revealed in this charming, highly readable – if unorthodox – biography. Jamie Blackett has skilfully assembled recollections from dozens of former pupils, for many of whom 'Kidney' became an ally and staunch defender.

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FICTION

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A dying father asks his sons to accompany him across Europe; a humorous story of filial love £16.99
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A renowned silhouette portrait artist is murdered and the suspects are his last six sitters Jul £14.99
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The unsolved 1892 Lizzie Borden murders re-told from conflicting perspectives £12.99
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A U.S. spy who defected to Moscow in the 50s wants to publish his shocking memoirs Jun £14.99
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