Books of the Month August 2019





EDITED BY JUNE ERIC-UDORIE

CAN WE ALL BE FEMINISTS? Seventeen Writers on Intersectionality, Identity and Finding the Right Way Forward for Feminism June Eric-Udorie £13.99

Why is it difficult for so many women to fully identify with the word 'feminist'''? Why is intersectionality so important? Can a feminist movement that doesn't take other identities like race, religion or socioeconomic class into account even be considered feminism? How can we make feminism more inclusive? Seventeen writers from diverse backgrounds wrestle with these questions, exploring what feminism means to them in the context of their other identities – from a hijab-wearing Muslim to a disability rights activist to a body-positive performance artist to a transgender journalist. This impassioned, thoughtprovoking collection envisions a new, inclusive feminism that is truly for all.

VOICES FROM THE 'JUNGLE': Stories from the Calais Refugee Camp Calais Writers £14.99

Often called the 'Jungle', the refugee camp near Calais epitomises for many the suffering, uncertainty and violence which characterises the situation of refugees in Europe today. But the people who live there are looking for peace and a better future. Through these pages, the refugees reveal their childhood dreams and struggles for education; the wars and persecution that drove them from their homes; their terror and strength during their extraordinary journeys. They expose the reality of living in the camp and tell of their lives after the 'Jungle' and their hopes for the future. In powerful and vivid language, the refugees paint a picture of their 'Jungle': one with a powerful sense of community despite evictions and attacks, and of a solidarity which crosses national and religious boundaries.





REVOLUTIONARY YIDDISHLAND: A History of Jewish Radicalism Alain Brossat & Sylvia Klingberg £9.99

Within the territory of Yiddishland, before the Holocaust, revolutionaries arose from the Jewish misery of Eastern and Central Europe; they were raised in the fear of God, but were caught up in the great current of revolutionary utopian thinking. Socialists, Communists, Bundists, Zionists, Trotskyists, manual workers and intellectuals, they embodied the multifarious activity and radicalism of a Jewish working class that glimpsed the Messiah in the folds of the red flag. Today, the world from which they came has disappeared, destroyed by the Nazi genocide. This book traces the struggles of these militants, their oscillation between great hope and doubt, their lost illusions – a red and Jewish gaze on the twentieth century.

FABULOSA! The Story of Polari, Britain's Secret Gay Language Paul Baker £15.99

Polari is a language that was used chiefly by gay men in the first half of the twentieth century. At a time when being gay could result in criminal prosecution – or worse – Polari offered its speakers a degree of public camouflage and a means of identification. Its roots are colourful and varied, from Romani to cant to dancers' slang, and in the 1960s it gained weekly exposure on the BBC radio show *Round the Horne*. Paul Baker traces its origins, examines its linguistics, explores the ways in which it was spoken, explains the reasons for its decline and tells of its unlikely re-emergence in the twenty-first century. With a cast of drag queens and sailors, Dilly boys and macho clones, this is an essential document of recent history and a fascinating account of this funny, filthy and ingenious language.



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CRIPPLED: Austerity and the Demonization of Disabled People Frances Ryan £12.99

Austerity Britain's 12 million disabled people have been scapegoated by politicians and media alike for the failure of the benefits system and in recent years the public attitude towards disabled people has transformed from compassion to contempt. This book tells the story of those most affected by the devastating regime of austerity: a paralyzed man forced to crawl down the stairs because the council wouldn't provide accessible housing; the malnourished woman sleeping in her wheelchair; the young girl with bipolar forced to turn to sex work to survive. Frances Ryan offers a damning indictment of a safety net gone wrong, and a passionate demand for an end to austerity measures hitting those most in need.

THE LOST ART OF SCRIPTURE: Rescuing the Sacred Texts Karen Armstrong £25

In our increasingly secular world, holy texts are at best seen as irrelevant, and at worst as an excuse to incite violence and hatred. But for hundreds of years these texts were viewed as spiritual tools: scripture was a means for people to connect with the divine and experience a higher level of consciousness. Holy texts were seen as fluid and adaptable, rather than a 'truth' that has to be 'believed'. So what value, if any, can scripture hold for us today? Only through an open engagement with their holy texts will the world's religions be able to curtail intolerance and violence. And if scripture is used to engage with the world in more meaningful and compassionate ways, we will find that it still has a great deal to teach us.





WORDS OUT OF SILENCE Jill Segger £11.99

Quietness and conflict, life and death, place and memory, politics and pity, friendship and peace. In *Words Out of Silence,* Jill Segger weaves a tapestry of poetry and prose that takes us on journeys of personal transformation set against (and responsive to) the backdrop of turmoil in the world around us. The common ground of the words in this book is silence, and specifically the silence of the Quaker Meeting. This is the source of its deep humanity: something that will appeal both to those who see themselves as 'religious' and those who do not.

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