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WINTER BOOKS 2018

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Peter May We've heard that one before...Paris, Russia, a Scottish island, adultery, murder and - yes - tweed. One to wrap up with... £18.99

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Tara Bergin These poems reflect the ghost of Karl Marx's daughter Eleanor, the first English translator of Madame Bovary, who committed suicide in 1898 in much the same way as Flaubert's heroine. £9.99

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Roderick Cave & Sara Ayad From Sumerian songs and Aesop's fables to 'Emil and the Detectives': discovering the roots of children's fiction and exploring its themes. Illustrated. £25.00

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Linda Kelly Covering 50 years of married life and working out at about one and a half pages per year, this little notebook of jotted treasures is lean - and all the better for it. £10.00

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Alberto Manguel Manguel moved from a house in the Loire with a library of 35,000 books to an apartment in Manhattan. In this sequence of essays, he reflects on this and other library dramas - including lootings by ISIS. £16.99

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Edited by Lawrence Sail To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this remarkable press which has had only two directors - Alan Clodd for twenty years, and Stephen Stuart-Smith for the last thirty. It's edited by a poet who quotes another poet, Paul Muldoon, in his introduction: "Anyone who makes an anthology is almost certifiably mad". Ritsos, Raine, Gunn, Fanthorpe, Mayakovsky, Heaney, Horovitz, Abse, Pinter... and illustrated too, by the likes of Gwen Raverat, Jim Dine, David Jones, Peter Blake... £30.00

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Steven Pinker Contrary to what the headlines suggest, Pinker argues that we live in a world where Progress abides: the Enlightenment can be recharged for the 21st century. £25.00

WHAT SHE ATE: SIX REMARKABLE WOMEN AND THE FOOD THAT TELLS THEIR STORIES

Laura Shapiro What would have become of Wordsworth had his sister not diligently sharpened his literary palate with gooseberry tarts? Shapiro's portraits of Eleanor Roosevelt, Barbara Pym and others

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Bjorn G Braathen Published in Norway, this is a fascinating study of these extraordinary ship-like constructions, built without iron, very few of which still exist. Good photos of their interiors too, some of which have C16th painted decoration. £36.00

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Maria del Mar Villafranca-Jimenez "Now sleeps the crimson petal, now the white; [Now] waves the cypress in the palace walk; [Now] winks the gold fin in the porphyry font..." Fireflies surely dance through the courtyards too. £35.00

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Michael Morpurgo Morpurgo's latest is very good: a young autistic boy living in the Carmargue during WW2 befriends a German soldier. Ages 8+. £12.99

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Sara O'Leary, illustrated by Julie Morstad Delightfully humorous book about a father telling his son all the ways in which he was small and what he could do - or could be done with him. Illustrated with equally beguiling and witty drawings, showing the tiny person bathing in teapots, etc. Ages 3-5. £6.99

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Kelsey Oseid Accessible and intelligent guide for children, with Oseid's pleasing illustrated star maps of constellations and their associated tales, planets, phases of the moon, the many names of the Milky Way. Ages 7+. £12.99

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Photographs by Marzena Pogorzaly "Havana, once tasted, is an irresistible drug". So writes our Marzena in her introduction to a small but perfectly formed book of her photographs of Cuba's particular sort of melancholy beauty. A photographer who more usually works in black and white, she found in Havana that "colour was not only my medium but my subject too." £12.99

FLANEUSE: WOMEN WALK THE CITY IN PARIS, NEW YORK, TOKYO AND LONDON

Lauren Elkin 'Flâneuse [flanne-euhze], noun, from the French. Feminine form of flâneur [flanne-euh], an idler, a dawdling observer, usually found in cities.' Ambling around the great cities of the world with Jean Rhys, Virginia Woolf, and George Sand in her brother's boots and an illegal pair of trousers. A lively combination of memoir, literary criticism and detective work. £9.99

A IS FOR ASHBEE: AN ARTS AND CRAFTS ALPHABET

Peyton Skipwith & Brian Webb This delicious little book comes from an exhibition at Court Barn in Chipping Campden. A is for Ashbee and others; "Z is for ... Zeppelin, Zig-Zag, Zinkeisen, Zircon, Zodiac, Zorach & Zsolnay". £14.00

MY COUSIN RACHEL

Maurier, Daphne Du Everyone knows that du Maurier writes good yarns, and this gripping, romantic, creepy tale is no exception. But the technical wizardry of this novel is so dazzling - and so stealthy - that one wonders why she is not routinely ranked among the great novelists of the C20th. £8.99

A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW

Amor Towles For those who haven't read this yet, it is a tremendous pleasure. Count Rostov, spared a bullet on his surprising return to Moscow in 1922, must live out his house arrest and leaner times in the still opulent Hotel Metropol. Gently inventive, funny, ingenious and thoroughly beguiling. (Beware the paperback, which has surprisingly small print). £8.99

NEW FEAST: MODERN MIDDLE EASTERN VEGETARIAN

Lucy Malouf & Greg Malouf An outstanding cookbook that avoids restating the obvious, and mixes ingredients from all round the Mediterranean with delicacy: pastries with tarragon, lemon and goat's cheese; zucchini blossoms with halloumi; white bean soup with tomatoes, harissa and honey, Negroni sorbet ... £20.00
