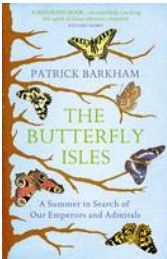


## New Books October 2011

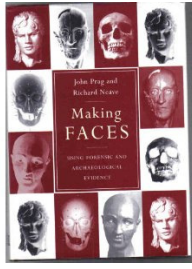
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### Non-Fiction



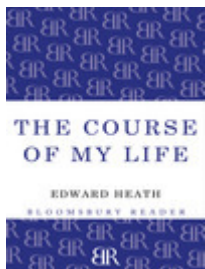
### *\*The Butterfly Isles: A Summer in Search of our Emperors and Admirals* by Patrick Barkham

Butterflies animate our summers but the 59 species found in the British Isles can be surprisingly elusive. Some bask unseen at the top of trees in London parks; others lurk at the bottom of damp bogs in Scotland. A few survive for months while other ephemeral creatures only fly for three days. Several are virtually extinct. This book charts Patrick Barkham's quest to find each of them - from the Adonis Blue to the Dingy Skipper - in one summer. Barkham brings alive the extraordinary physical beauty and amusingly diverse character of our butterflies. He witnesses a swarming invasion of Painted Ladies, experiences the curse of the Purple Emperor, makes a euphoric sighting of an exceedingly rare migrant and as summer draws to a close, suffers from butterfly burnout. He meets some deeply knowledgeable and eccentric butterfly obsessives and reconnects with lovely, overlooked corners of our countryside. As he goes, he looks back at the butterfly collectors of the past and ahead to a future in which many of our butterflies will struggle to survive on an overcrowded and overheating island.



## *\*Making Faces: Using Forensic and Archaeological Evidence* by John Prag

In recent years, the authors have performed pioneering work reconstructing the facial appearance of ancient people using the evidence provided by their remains. Some were victims of sudden death, like the Minoan priest and priestess crushed in an earthquake while carrying out a human sacrifice around 1700 BC, or Lindow Man, the Iron Age body found in a peat bog near Manchester in 1984. Others have died peacefully, like Seianti, an Etruscan woman whose remains are in the British Museum, and some are famous, like the great King Midas of Phrygia. Facial reconstruction brings together numerous specialists, from dentists to geneticists, archaeologists to radiologists. Here, both archaeologist and medical artist explain the historical circumstances surrounding each body, and give firsthand accounts of the search for evidence to recreate a likeness. The historical implications of such work are revealed in their confirmation that the body in tomb II at Vergina was that of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great. Step-by-step illustrations accompany a full explanation of technique.



## *\*The Course of My Life: My Autobiography* by Edward Heath

*The Course of My Life* is not only the autobiography of one of the most distinguished figures of modern times, but revealing panoply of twentieth-century political, international and social history. Born in 1916, Edward Heath became a Conservative Member of Parliament in 1950, following a glittering Oxford and military career, and was at the heart of political life for a long time - as Chief Whip (notably during the Suez Crisis), Minister of Labour, Lord Privy Seal at the Foreign Office, Leader of the Conservative Party from 1965-75, and Prime Minister from 1970 to 1974. When he relinquished the leadership in 1975, he maintained a central role in world affairs, as well as pursuing his wide musical and sailing interests. He describes the importance of a united Europe, one of the driving influences in his life since he observed a Nuremberg Rally as an undergraduate, and his thoughts on the subject after he took us into the European Community in the 1970s. He discusses the changes in the Conservative Party in his period as an MP and his modernisation of it as its leader, and the major issues of domestic policy, not least the economy, the trade unions and the Troubles in Northern Ireland; these are set against his range of activities on the international stage, including his negotiations with China and Saddam Hussein, shortly before the outbreak of the Gulf War in 1991.



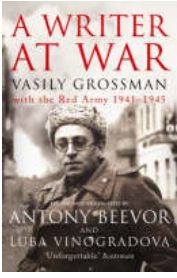
## *\*Victorian Painting* by Julian Treuherz

The personalities and careers of Victorian artists, and their social and intellectual context, are explored in this account, which aims to reveal how they blended foreign influences with the native British tradition. The range of artistic production in the Victorian age included history painting; topographical landscapes of the Continent and the Middle East; Landseer's royal portraits and heroic animal pictures; Pre-Raphaelite painting with its combined naturalism and symbolism; Leighton's classical mythologies; and Frith's popular depictions of the leisured middle classes. Amid this great variety of styles and emphasis, influential critics such as Ruskin dictated that art should be morally uplifting, an orthodoxy challenged by Whistler, Sickert, Steer and their fellows among the "London Impressionists".



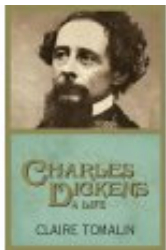
## *A Tiger's Wedding: My Childhood in Exile* by Isla Blair

Born in Bangalore, India, during the fading days of the Raj, the author's early years were spent in the lush, verdant hills of Kerala on a tea plantation run by her father. This warm, spice-scented idyll was abruptly ended when, obliged by tradition and believing there were doing the best for their daughters, her parents sent them 'home' to boarding school. Isla was not quite six years old. 'Home' as cold, gloomy, post-war austerity Scotland - a land of liberty bodices, chilblains, icy mornings and dank days: an alien land. The author writes of her beloved India; stoically of term times in Spartan British boarding schools and with great humour of the time after leaving school when she became one of the youngest students at RADA, training alongside Anthony Hopkins and others and throwing herself fully into life in London in the swinging sixties.



## *A Writer at War: Vasily Grossman with the Red Army 1941-1945* by Anthony Beevor and Luba Vinogradova

Vasily Grossman's masterpiece "Life and Fate" is rated by many as the greatest Russian novel of the twentieth century. Among its admirers is Antony Beevor, the bestselling author of Stalingrad and Berlin. This book is based on the notebooks in which Grossman gathered his raw material. It depicts as never before the crushing conditions on the Eastern Front and the lives and deaths of infantrymen, tank drivers, pilots, snipers and civilians alike. Deemed unfit for service when the Germans invaded in 1941, Grossman became a special correspondent for Red Star, the Red Army newspaper. He spent three of the following four years at the front observing with a writer's eye the most pitiless fighting ever known. He witnessed almost all the major events on the Eastern Front: the appalling defeats and desperate retreats of 1941, the defence of Moscow and fighting in the Ukraine. In August 1942, he was posted to Stalingrad where he remained during four months of brutal street-fighting. He was present at the battle of Kursk, the largest tank engagement in history, and, as the Red Army advanced, he reached Berdichev where his worst fears for his mother and other relations were confirmed. A Jew himself, he undertook the faithful recording of Holocaust atrocities as their extent dawned. His report 'The Hell of Treblinka' was used in evidence at the Nuremberg tribunal. This book offers the one outstanding eye-witness account of the war on the Eastern Front and perhaps the best descriptions ever of what the author called 'the ruthless truth of war'.



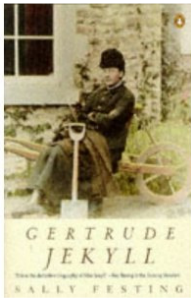
## *Charles Dickens: A Life* by Claire Tomalin

Charles Dickens was a phenomenon: a demonically hardworking journalist, the father of ten children, a tireless walker and traveller, a supporter of liberal social causes, but most of all a great novelist - the creator of characters who live immortally in the English imagination: the Artful Dodger, Mr Pickwick, Pip, David Copperfield, Little Nell, Lady Dedlock, and many more.

At the age of twelve he was sent to work in a blacking factory by his affectionate but feckless parents. From these unpromising beginnings, he rose to scale all the social and literary heights, entirely through his own efforts. When he died, the world mourned, and he was buried - against his wishes - in Westminster Abbey.

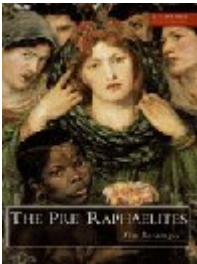
Yet the brilliance concealed a divided character: a republican, he disliked America; sentimental about the family in his writings, he took up passionately with a young actress; usually generous, he cut off his impecunious children.

The author paints a portrait of Dickens, capturing the complex character of this great genius.



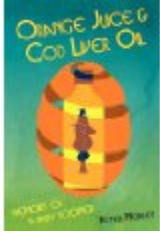
### *\*Gertrude Jekyll* by Sally Festing

A biography of Gertrude Jekyll - artist, craftswoman, garden designer, photographer, businesswoman and writer of prose. The book attempts to explain the forces behind Jekyll's world, exploring the contradictions of a single woman who overcame entrenched social and professional hurdles. More than 50 years after her death in 1932, Jekyll is recognised as the most influential gardener of the last 100 years. Her works are read with consummate interest and her following is without parallel in the gardening world. People are particularly interested in her working partnership with Lutyens and associate her with herbaceous borders and soft flower shades. Gardening for her was an art, and her philosophy made life and art inseparable. Through unity of house, garden and country side, she aimed to create surroundings which nurtured body and soul in the manner of an 18th-century landscape park. Her intuitive understanding of human needs made her an inspired creative influence in the home and its environment.



### *\*The Pre-Raphaelites* by Tim Barringer

Pre-Raphaelite art is par excellence the art of Mid-Victorian Britain and this reappraisal fills an important void within available scholarship on the subject. By adopting a thematic approach, the author navigates a course from analysis of key pictures to their significance within the complex cultural and social matrix of Victorian Britain. Individual chapters provide core concepts for understanding the Pre-Raphaelite engagement with medieval revivalism, nature worship, issues of class and gender and the reconciliation of the religious image and realism in the 19th century; these chapters are also enlivened by telling biographical information where it is significant for the meaning of an image.



## *Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil* by Peter Morley

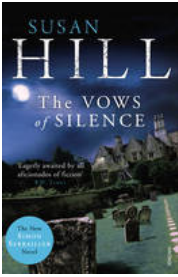
This is the story in three parts of an ordinary but resourceful family, told against a backdrop of the social and political events of the 20th century. *Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil* recalls the wars and turmoil of the first half of the century and chronicles the lives of a returning Tommy and his family surviving on temporary jobs and living in makeshift accommodation, including a mobile morgue. You will share the author's poor, but idyllic childhood in the New Forest and see how early lessons on the social order were drawn from teenage years passed as poacher, apprentice, motorcyclist and rower. Nourished by the Welfare State, the author eventually obtained enough education to have a successful career in an international company, with travel that provided opportunities to observe social conditions and attitudes of people around the globe. This book will make you laugh and cry as it takes you through a century that saw more change and social evolution than any previous time.



## *\*Painting in Britain: 1530 - 1790* by Ellis Waterhouse

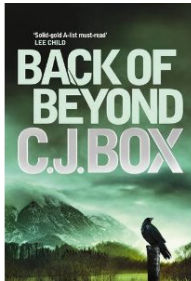
Part of the Pelican History of Art Series

## Fiction



### *\*The Vows of Silence* by Susan Hill

In the peaceful cathedral city of Lafferton, a gunman is terrorising young women. What - if anything - links the attacks? Is the marksman with a rifle the same person as the killer with a handgun or do the police have two snipers on their hands? Detective Chief Superintendent Simon Serrailer is in charge of the case, but he is also struggling to deal with a tragedy at the heart of his own family. Two forthcoming events - a local fair and the high-profile cathedral wedding of the Lord Lieutenant's daughter - only add to the pressure.



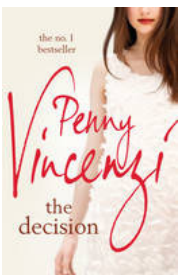
### *\*The Back of Beyond* by C J Box

Twilight falls on a cold, wet spring day in the mountains of Montana. A cabin smolders in the forest. In the remains of the kitchen, a table set for two; next door, the remains of a single body. Alerted by hikers, Detective Cody Hoyt is called to the scene. While a brilliant cop, Cody is also an alcoholic struggling with two months of sobriety and it doesn't help that the body in the cabin is his AA sponsor Hank Winters. It looks like the suicide of a man who's fallen off the wagon, but Cody knows Hank better than that. He's convinced it's foul play. But after years of bad behavior directly related to his drinking, Cody has few friends left in the department. And when he shoots and wounds the county coroner in a botched stakeout he is suspended from duty. But Hank was one of the few friends Cody had left and he's determined to find his killer, badge or no badge. Who was at Hank's cabin? Data pulled from Hank's fire-damaged hard drive leads Cody to a website running wilderness adventures deep into the most remote parts of Yellowstone National Park. Their big trip of the year has just left - a two-week horseback journey into the wild. The very same trip that Cody's estranged teenage son, Justin, has signed up for. Cody has no choice but to trek deep into the wild himself in pursuit of his son and the truth about Hank. In America's greatest wilderness, Cody is on his own, he's out of time, he's in too deep, he's in the Back of Beyond."



## *The Lady of the Rivers* by Philippa Gregory

Jacquetta, daughter of the Count of Luxembourg and kinswoman to half the royalty of Europe, was married to the great Englishman John, Duke of Bedford, uncle to Henry VI. Widowed at the age of nineteen she took the extraordinary risk of marrying a gentleman of her household for love, and then carved out a life for herself as Queen Margaret of Anjou's close friend and a Lancaster supporter - until the day that her daughter Elizabeth Woodville fell in love and married the rival king Edward IV. Of all the little-known but important women of the period, her dramatic story is the most neglected. With her links to Melusina, and to the founder of the house of Luxembourg, together with her reputation for making magic, she is the most haunting of heroines.



## *The Decision* by Penny Vincenzi

Set against a vibrant sixties backdrop, this is the story of two bright young things: Eliza, an ex-deb making a splash in the world of fashion, and Matt, a working-class boy carving out a serious name for himself in property. Their story begins with a love affair, closely followed by a marriage, followed by a baby. But whilst their relationship is at first fuelled by passion, it's not of the enduring kind, and soon what started out with such promise descends into a harrowing divorce case and an epic custody battle. With everything at stake for both Eliza and Matt, and neither party willing to give up their little girl without a fight, it's high drama in the courts. Let battle begin...

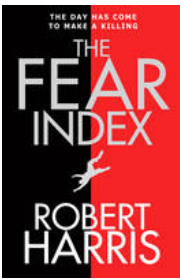


## *\*Death in a White Tie* by Ngaio Marsh

A body in the back of a taxi begins an elegantly constructed mystery, perhaps the finest of Marsh's 1930s novels.

The season had begun. Débutantes and chaperones were planning their luncheons, teas, dinners, balls. And the blackmailer was planning his strategies, stalking his next victim.

But Chief Detective Inspector Roderick Alleyn knew that something was up. He had already planted his friend Lord Robert Gospell at the scene. But someone else got there first...



## *The Fear Index* by Robert Harris

His name is carefully guarded from the general public but within the secretive inner circles of the ultra-rich; Dr Alex Hoffmann is a legend - a visionary scientist whose computer software turns everything it touches into gold. Together with his partner, an investment banker, Hoffmann has developed a revolutionary form of artificial intelligence that tracks human emotions, enabling it to predict movements in the financial markets with uncanny accuracy. His hedge fund, based in Geneva, makes billions. But then in the early hours of the morning, while he lies asleep with his wife, a sinister intruder breaches the elaborate security of their lakeside house. So begins a waking nightmare of paranoia and violence as Hoffmann attempts, with increasing desperation, to discover who is trying to destroy him. His quest forces him to confront the deepest questions of what it is to be human. By the time night falls over Geneva, the financial markets will be in turmoil and Hoffmann's world - and ours - transformed forever



## *\*The Butterfly Cabinet* by Bernie McGill

When Anna, the young woman she cared for as a child, announces her intention to visit the elderly Maddie, Maddie recognises her last chance to unburden herself of a story that has gnawed at her for sixty years. For Maddie, rather like the butterfly cabinet she keeps safely under lock and key, has for too long guarded a secret: that of the day that Charlotte, a four-year-old girl died at the big house where she worked as a nanny. Finally, Maddie knows, Anna is ready to hear what happened. As Maddie's mind drifts back through the years, so too is revealed the story of Charlotte's mother, Harriet Ormond. A proud, uncompromising woman, Harriet's great passion is collecting butterflies and pinning them under glass; motherhood comes no easier to her than her role as mistress of her remote Irish estate. When her daughter dies, her community is quick to judge her, and Harriet will not stoop to defend herself. But her journals reveal a more complex truth.



### *\*The Girl in the Polka Dot Dress by Bainbridge*

In the rain swept summer of 1968, Rose sets off for the United States from Kentish Town to meet a man she knows as Washington Harold, in her suitcase a polka-dot dress and a one-way ticket. In a country rocked by the assassination of Martin Luther King and a rising groundswell of violence, they are to join forces in search of the charismatic and elusive Dr Wheeler - oracle, guru and redeemer - whom Rose credits with rescuing her from a terrible childhood, and against whom Harold nurses a silent grudge. As they trail their quarry, zigzagging through America in a camper van, the odd couple - Rose, damaged child of grey postwar Britain, and nervous, obsessive, driven Harold - encounter a ragged counter-cultural army of Wheeler's acolytes, eddying among dangerous currents of obscure dissent and rage. But somewhere in the wide American darkness, Dr Wheeler is waiting.



### *Life and Fate by Vasily Grossman*

This is an epic tale of a country told through the fate of a single family, the Shaposhnikovs. As the battle of Stalingrad looms the characters must work out their destinies in a world torn apart by ideological tyranny and war.

*\*Donated books*

Many thanks for donating books to the Library, making them available for others to enjoy and also enriching our collection.