



Get ready for summer

Our four-page guide to the essential 100 books for all your holiday reading starts here

NONFICTION

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR

EDWARD HEATH by PHILIP ZIEGLER, *HarperPress* £25 Psychologically fascinating biography — the most damning official life of a British PM ever written.

THE RUNNING SKY by TIM DEE, *Vintage* £8.99 This moving memoir of a bird-watching life is full of “poetry-saturated observation”.

BURYING THE BONES by HILARY SPURLING, *Profile* £15 Spurling breathes new life into forgotten Nobel prize-winner Pearl S Buck in her dazzling biography.

HAROLD LARWOOD by DUNCAN HAMILTON, *Quercus* £8.99 Magnificent life of the fast bowler who took the blame for the 1932-3 “bodyline” series.

TOP CHOICE

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by REBECCA SKLOOT, *Macmillan* £18.99 The gripping story of the unsung woman whose cells have been used in dozens of medical breakthroughs.

TOP CHOICE

THE HARE WITH AMBER EYES by EDMUND DE WAAL, *Chatto* £16.99 Unputdownable, exquisitely crafted family memoir about the fortunes of a collection of Japanese figurines.

KEEPER by ANDREA GILLIES, *Short Books* £8.99 Winner of this year’s Orwell prize, Gillies’s account of caring for her dementia-suffering mother-in-law is compelling.

YOUNG ROMANTICS by DAISY HAY, *Bloomsbury* £20 Byron and Shelley are the villains of this fresh and vivid group portrait.

DANCING TO THE PRECIPICE by CAROLINE MOOREHEAD, *Vintage* £10.99 Enthralling look at the sharp-eyed 19th-century memoirist Lucie de la Tour du Pin.

TRAUTMANN’S JOURNEY by CATRINE CLAY, *Yellow Jersey* £16.99 The remarkable life — as paratrooper and fascist — of Man City’s famous German goalie.

SEASONAL SUICIDE NOTES by ROGER LEWIS, *Short Books* £7.99 Brilliantly funny, bad-tempered

memoir, full of bile, jealousy and great reservoirs of melancholy.

DID YOU REALLY SHOOT THE TELEVISION? by MAX HASTINGS, *HarperPress* £20 Funny and moving memoir of the author’s eccentric childhood.

JUST KIDS by PATTI SMITH, *Bloomsbury* £18.99 Smith’s elegiac tribute to her childlike New York romance with the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe in the 1970s.

THE WORST DATE EVER by JANE BUSSMANN, *Pan* £7.99 Wickedly funny chronicle of the author’s amorous pursuit of a chisel-jawed peace negotiator.

HISTORY & WAR

THE LAST STAND by NATHANIEL PHILBRICK, *Bodley Head* £20 Blow-by-blow depiction of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Thrilling.

FAMILY BRITAIN 1951-57 by DAVID KYNASTON, *Bloomsbury* £10.99 A vast canvas, huge detail and imaginative empathy make for a satisfying piece of social history.

Passionate about maths:
Alex Bellos, right

TOP CHOICE

PARISIANS: An Adventure History of Paris by GRAHAM ROBB, *Picador* £18.99 A bustling study of Paris from 1750 to the present ingeniously told through its most vibrant characters.

D-DAY by ANTONY BEEVOR, *Penguin* £16.99 Beevor shows just how bloody the Normandy campaign was in this vivid, revelatory history.

HELLHOUND ON HIS TRAIL by HAMPTON SIDES, *Allen Lane* £25 Sides’s telling of the events leading up to Martin Luther King’s assassination reads like the most gripping of nonfiction thrillers.

GARDENING WOMEN by CATHERINE HORWOOD, *Virago* £17.99 The ladies step out of



the shadows in this study of their role in horticultural history.

CATCHING FIRE

by RICHARD WRANGHAM, *Profile* £8.99 Daringly unorthodox

book argues that humanity evolved not because of hunting or using tools, but because of cooking.

GERMANIA by SIMON WINDER, *Picador* £18.99 Part history of Germany, part chronicle of a personal passion for all things German — playful, erudite and fun.

FORDLANDIA by GREG GRANDIN, *Icon* £14.99 The extraordinary story of Henry Ford’s flawed attempt to build a model city deep in the Amazon jungle.

THE JUNIOR OFFICERS’ READING CLUB by PATRICK HENNESSEY, *Penguin* £9.99 This memoir of being on the modern front line, in Iraq and Afghanistan, is a powerful and unapologetic record of a young soldier’s life.

JUNGLE SOLDIER by BRIAN MOYNAHAN, *Quercus* £7.99 The swashbuckling story of Freddy

TOP CHOICE

OPERATION MINCEMEAT by BEN MACINTYRE, *Bloomsbury* £12.99 The rollicking tale of a second world war sting to dupe the Germans by using a corpse carrying false military plans.