

Bookstore detective



Slightly Foxed

The front Books, cards, gifts displayed impeccably in a bright, uncluttered space. A revolving selection of modern paperbacks upstairs and an absorbing stock of second-hand hardbacks on a range of subjects downstairs. Place smells like a new book – previously a second-hand bookshop run by Graham Greene’s nephew, it was taken over by literary quarterly *Slightly Foxed* and reopened officially on March 22.

The angle A hand-picked selection of new and old books – good for presents for bookworms. High brow, so no Dan Brown or celeb biogs – but there are £1 bargain books outside.

The clientele A loyal set of regular customers, mainly well-read, well-shod shoppers and students of Knightsbridge and Kensington.

The skinny Knowledgeable, passionate employees, some of whom have been selling books since the early '80s. They know their second-hand collection and can also have the latest bestseller delivered overnight on request. Not merely bookish staff – shop assistant Jane McMorland Hunter is a published author.

The joint 123 Gloucester Rd, South Kensington, SW7 4TE (7370 3503, www.foxedbooks.com). *Emma Sleight*

Top three sellers

- **'This is London'** Miroslav Sasek (Universe)
- **'One Day'** David Nicholls (Hodder & Stoughton)
- **'Wigs on the Green'** Nancy Mitford (Penguin)

Paperback pick 'The Worst Date Ever' by Jane Bussmann

★★★★★

Macmillan £7.99



A comedy based in an African war zone? An unlikely topic that doesn't exactly strike as a must-write, let alone must-read. But comedian/journalist Jane Bussmann proves her skill

as a writer in this travelogue that gets off to a hilarious start with the tale of how she ended up in war-torn Uganda after acting on a reckless whim.

Bussmann fled north London in the early noughties and headed for the neon lights of LA intending to hit the big time as a movie writer but wound up as a celebrity journalist. Bussmann, exhausted chasing actors'

agents, fabricating quotes and lying about meeting stars, yearns to leave the Magic Kingdom and join the Useful People. When she develops a ridiculous crush on former White House director of African affairs, John Prendergast – a man whose 'day job it is to end war. In Africa' – she jets to Uganda in pursuit of her prey, and to write a Sunday supplement feature on him, of course.

Bussmann is irreverent and wittingly self-deprecating, especially when writing about her own trials: Prendergast being delayed in America, her laptop and camera being robbed, a bad case of the runs, eight-hour bus rides to the ATM. Comedy and conflict in Africa might sound like a tricky marriage, but this is a very amusing page-turner which also portrays an Africa you never read about in the foreign-news pages. *Kathryn Miller*

Literary events

How to use the listings

* Means the event is recommended.

FREE Means that admission is free.

How to be listed

Mail, fax (020 7813 6001) or email (poetry@timeout.com – no attachments please) information to Nina Caplan by Friday, **12 days** before publication. State date, venue, time, nearest tube/rail/bus and a contact phone number. Listings are free, but inclusion is not guaranteed due to limited space.

Thursday 1

Are you Sitting Comfortably?

Toynbee Studios, 28 Commercial St, E1 6AB. 020 7650 2350. Aldgate East. 7.30pm; £5. artsadmin.co.uk. A cosy evening of storytelling and homemade cakes that promotes new writers. The theme this month: magic.

Bang Said The Gun *The Roebuck, 50 Great Dover St, SE1 4YG. 020 7357 7324. Borough. 8pm; £5, concs £3. bangsaidthegun.com. This week's stand-up poetry event features Niall O'Sullivan and Paul Cree, plus open mic.*

FREE London Word Festival: Play On Words *Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2Y 8DS. Barbican. 7pm. barbican.org.uk. Architect and designer Ron Arad is, apparently, also a word fanatic. Cue John Hegley, pitching up to perform poems inspired by Arad's love of repartee. There's more from literary group Found in Translation and Barbican Young Poets.*

FREE Red Tory *RSA, 8 John Adam St, WC2N 6EZ. 020 7451 6868. Charing Cross. 1pm. theRSA.org/events. Phillip Blond, political thinker and author of 'Red Tory: How Left And Right Have Broken Britain And How We Can Fix It', argues we need a new 'political settlement' that unites the best of the right and left.*

Tall Lighthouse Poets *Poetry Café, 22 Betterson St, WC2H 9BX. 020 7420 9888. Covent Gdn. 8pm; £5, concs £3. A poetry reading by Tall Lighthouse poets Polly Atkin, Sarah Howe and Wayne Smith.*

Saturday 3

The Book Club Boutique *Black's, 67 Dean St, W1D 4QH. 07946 773301. Leicester Sq. 3pm; £7. A literary and musical day, hosted by poet/author Salena Godden, with authors reading from their works, followed by a performance from the Book Club Boutique Band.*

Sagan Ciné Lumière, Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT. 020 7073 1350. South Kensington. 6.10pm; £9, concs £7 (Mon and mats £7, concs £5). institut-francais.org.uk. A special screening of biopic 'Sagan' that looks at the tumultuous life of Françoise Sagan, the author of 'Bonjour Tristesse'.

Easter Sunday

Beyond The Curve *Camden Head, 100 Camden High St, NW1 0LU. Camden Town. 3pm; £8, concs £6. musosguide.com. An artsy Easter special as theatre company Broken Glass join forces with online music mag Muso's Guide to present an all-day session taking in poetry, theatre, short film, music and cabaret.*

Sagan Ciné Lumière, Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT. 020 7073 1350. South Kensington. 6.10pm; £9, concs £7. institut-francais.org.uk. (see Sat)

East Monday

Kid, I Wrote Back *Bar Kick, 127 Shoreditch High St, E1 6JE. 020 7739 8700. Old St. 7pm; £3 (free for performers). cafekick.co.uk. A new open-mic session for new and established, spoken word and poetry talent.*

Tuesday 6

* Election 10: Common Values

Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 8XX. 0871 663 2500. Waterloo. 7.45pm; £10, concs £5. southbankcentre.co.uk. Human rights gets the thumbs up from a raft of writers presenting new and themed work with readings by Ali Smith, Jeanette Winterson, Lemn Sissay, Suheil Hamad, Hisham Matar and Kamila Shamsie as part of ongoing debate series, Election 10.

Maggie Gee *The Travel Bookshop, 13-15 Blenheim Crescent, W11 2EE. 0207 229 5260. Ladbroke Grove. 7pm; £3 (inc wine). thetravelbookshop.com. Maggie Gee shares her memories of the post war years and growing up in the '60s as she presents her latest book 'My Animal Life'.*

Sagan Ciné Lumière, Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT. 020 7073 1350. South Kensington. 6.10pm; £9, concs £7. (see Sat)

* Sebastian Peake on Mervyn

Peake *The Last Tuesday Society, at Viktor Wynd Fine Art Ltd, 11 Mare St, E8 4RP. Bethnal Green. 7pm (doors 6pm); £7. thelasttuesdayssociety.org. Peake junior remembers the life and work of his father, Mervyn Peake (of 'Gormenghast' fame) and offers a glimpse of his upbringing, school days, and the influence the great writer had on him.*

Wednesday 7

Alberto Manguel *Daunt Books, 83 Marylebone High St, W1U 4QW. 020 7224 2295. Baker St. 7pm; £8 (inc wine).*

dauntbooks.co.uk. The novelist and critic examines the art of reading and the enduring power of words as he discusses his new collection of essays 'A Reader on Reading'.

FREE Christopher Harvie *Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd, King's Cross, N1 9DX. King's Cross St Pancras. 7pm. housmans.com. Gordon Brown gets a battering as SNP MP Harvie talks about his latest book, 'Broomland: The Last Days Of Gordon Brown'.*

The Future of Antarctica *Conference Centre, British Library, 96 Euston Rd, NW1 2DB. 020 7412 7222. King's Cross St Pancras. 6.30pm; £7.50, concs £5. bl.uk*. Will climate change spoil this great region forever? Thinking heads discuss, including science writer and polar visitor Gabrielle Walker, author of 'The Magnetic North', Sara Wheeler, Klaus Dodds (Professor of Geopolitics at RHUL) and Chris Rapley (director of the Science Museum).

FREE Joe Meno *Mini Bar, Relentless Garage, 20-22 Highbury Corner, N5 1RD. Highbury & Islington. 7.30pm. Meno flies over from Chicago to read from his latest novel 'The Great Perhaps' – a sharp take on contemporary family life.*

Nick Kent *The Boogaloo, 312 Archway Rd, N6 5AT. 020 8340 2928. Highgate. 7.30pm; £5. theboogaloo.co.uk. Old school NME man Nick Kent rocks up to reminisce, discussing his outlandish, debauched, rock 'n' roll lifestyle in the 1970s while plugging his memoir 'Apathy For The Devil'. *The Word's* long-serving editor, Mark Ellen joins him in conversation.*

Roddy Doyle *Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 8XX. 0871 663 2500. Waterloo. 7.45pm; £10, concs £5. southbankcentre.co.uk. Roddy Doyle talks about and reads from his latest novel 'The Dead Republic', the third and final installment in a trilogy that takes in the history of modern Ireland while following the life of IRA veteran, Henry Smart.*

Sagan Ciné Lumière, Institut français, 17 Queensberry Place, SW7 2DT. 020 7073 1350. South Kensington. 6.10pm; £9, concs £7. institut-francais.org.uk. (see Sat)

FREE Southall Storytellers

Yellow Room at Spirit Level, Royal Festival Hall, Southbank, SE1 8XX. Waterloo. 2pm. southbankcentre.co.uk. Meet local Southall storytellers telling tales about the area as part of Alchemy, a series of events exploring India's culture and diaspora.

FOR MORE LISTINGS

► www.timeout.com/london

Books