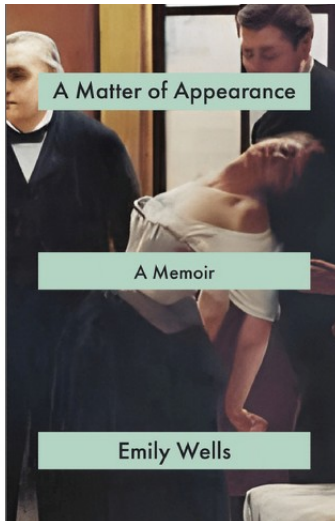


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Jon Curzon
Recent and upcoming highlights
London Book Fair 2024

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A Matter of Appearance by Emily Wells

A dazzling memoir of chronic illness that explores the fraught intersection between pain, language, and gender, by a debut author.

Emily Wells spent her childhood dancing through intense pain she assumed was normal for a ballerina pushing her body to its limits. For years, no doctor could tell Wells what was wrong with her, or they told her it was all in her head.

In *A Matter of Appearance*, Wells traces her journey as she tries to understand and define the chronic pain she has lived with all her life. She draws on the critical works of Freud, Sontag, and others to explore the intersection between gender, pain, and language, and she traces a direct line from the “hysteria patients” at the Salpêtrière Hospital in nineteenth-century Paris to the contemporary New Age healers in Los Angeles, her stomping ground. At the crux of Wells’ literary project is the dilemma of how to diagnose an experience that is both private and public, subjective and quantifiable, and how to express all this in words.

EMILY WELLS is a writer based in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA in creative writing from UC Riverside, and now teaches writing at UC Irvine. She writes for publications including *Bookforum*, *Vogue*, *Interview Magazine*, *The Lost Angeles Review of Books*, *The White Review*, *Flash Art*, *Purple Fashion Magazine*, and many others. Previously, she has been a magazine editor, fashion model, crime reporter, and classically trained ballet dancer.

“Drawing on the archives of sickness and her own experience as a patient, [Wells] demands a more nuanced understanding of the diagnostic categories of mental illness and biological illness”—***The New Yorker***

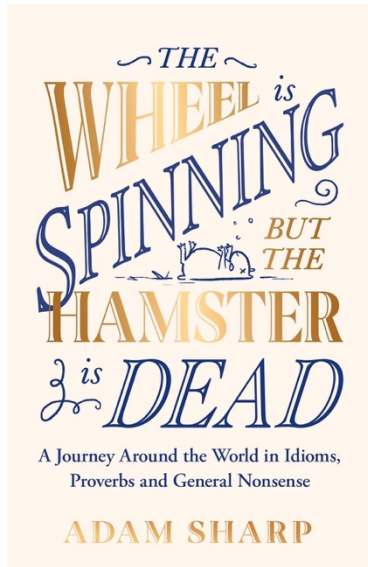
“Gorgeously written and brilliantly argued, *A Matter of Appearance* uses chronic illness as a lever to investigate the life of a body. It’s complex, inconclusive, and incredibly clear-eyed.

Moving fluidly between histories of psychoanalysis, desire, ambition, pathology, Wells reminds us of the liminal state we all live in between sickness and health.” —**Chris Kraus, author of *Aliens & Anorexia* and *Summer of Hate***

“*A Matter of Appearance* brilliantly gives language to the body, and measures the distance between the kinds of narratives that tend to be projected onto women’s bodies and the stories these bodies are actually telling. Perceptive, fascinating, superb.” —**Lauren Elkin, author of *Flâneuse* and *Art Monsters***

“*A Matter of Appearance* is what the genre of ‘sick lit’ is missing: Wells ties up the loose ends between the rich history of hysteria, consumption, and modern stories of autoimmunity, while resisting the maudlin. Absolutely dazzling.” —**Lena Dunham**

Publication date: May 2023 (Seven Stories Press, WORLD ENGLISH); Greek language rights to Ikaros Publishing S.A
Agent: Jon Curzon



The Wheel is Spinning but the Hamster is Dead: A Journey Around the World in Idioms, Proverbs and General Nonsense by Adam Sharp

‘The poet laureate of lists’ John Mitchinson, *QI* Elf

Join wordsmith Adam Sharp as he journeys around the world in idioms, proverbs and general nonsense. Learn unusual insults from France (*You are a potato with the face of a guinea pig*), how to hurry someone up in the US (*You’re going as slow as molasses in January*) and what they call a shark in Vietnam (*fat fish*).

Full of fascinating, ridiculous and hilarious translations from around the world, Adam has rounded up the very best of what every corner of the globe has to offer.

Let’s get this show on the road!

Or:

Let’s saddle the chickens! (German)

On with the butter! (Icelandic)

Forward with the goat! (Dutch)

ADAM SHARP has had over thirty jobs (he’s not a very loyal employee, either). He has been paid to:

8. Teach sport in kindergartens
7. Serve sandwiches in casinos
6. Catch footballs
5. Juggle bottles
4. Wash dishes
3. Review music
2. Change nappies
1. Walk on stilts

He can be found on Twitter @AdamCSharp

'Brilliant, hilarious fun from a master wordsmith - you will LOVE this book'—**Kit de Waal**

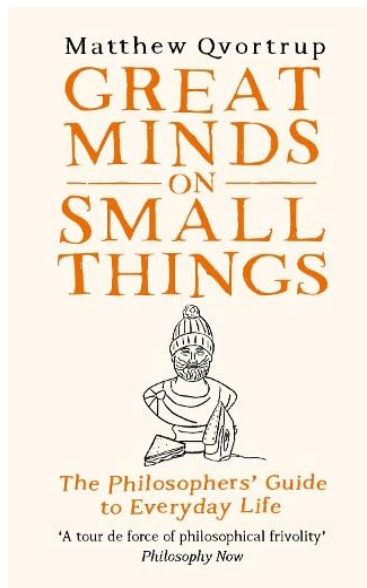
'Extremely entertaining and very useful for new insults'—**Russell Kane**

'Utter genius'—**Marian Keyes**

'Brilliant'—**Brian Bilston**

Publication date: September 2023 (Orion, UK AND C’WTH)

Agent: Jon Curzon



Great Minds on Small Things: The Philosophers' Guide to Everyday Life by Matthew Qvortrup

Nearly three centuries ago, François-Marie Voltaire published his *Dictionnaire philosophique*, taking in an idiosyncratic range of non-philosophical topics such as adultery, mountains, nakedness, and others besides.

In 1957, another French philosopher of more recent vintage, Roland Barthes, mused in his *Mythologies* on the masculine pursuits of wrestling, striptease, and the then-new Citroën DS.

Since the dawn of philosophy, the world's great thinkers have been unable to resist the lure of applying their formidable brains not only to the meaning of life, but also to the meaning of coffee, trapped wind or efficient boiler installation.

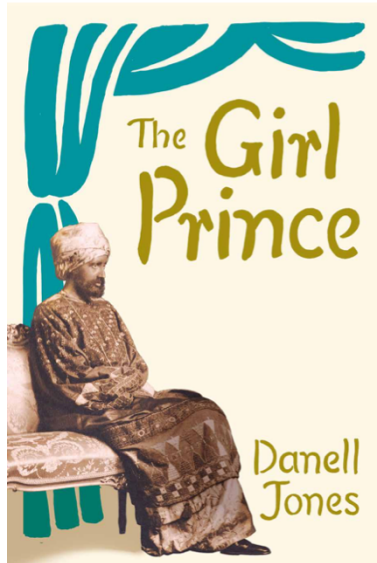
Now, from Wittgenstein to Wollstonecroft, Lao-Tse to Locke, Aristotle to Arendt, *Great Minds on Small Things* brings together their many and varied observations, alongside delightful black and white illustrations, in a highly entertaining and eye-opening miscellany that is guaranteed to make the mundanities of life suddenly seem a lot more highbrow.

MATTHEW QVORTRUP is Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Coventry University, Visiting Professor at the Australian National University in Canberra, and the acclaimed author of *Angela Merkel: Europe's Most Influential Leader*. He regularly appears on broadcast media and writes for publications including *Philosophy Now*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *The Guardian* and *The Times*. He also appears as a regular commentator for the BBC, on both radio and television.

'A tour de force of philosophical frivolity that enlightens as well as entertains'
—*Philosophy Now*

Publication date: October 2023 (Duckworth Books, WORLD)

Agent: Jon Curzon



The Girl Prince: Virginia Woolf, Race, and the Dreadnought Hoax by Danell Jones

THE GIRL PRINCE is a revelatory new biography of Virginia Woolf. Danell Jones uses the *Dreadnought Hoax* as an entry point to the writer's life, and presents an illuminating picture of race, gender and identity in the first half of the twentieth century.

In 1910, Virginia Woolf dressed in black-face and men's clothes and made headlines for ridiculing the pride of the British Navy, the HMS *Dreadnought*.

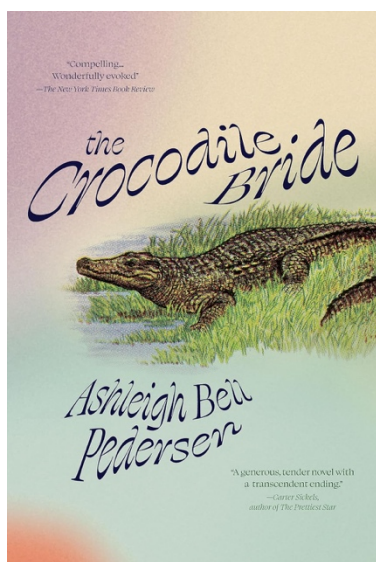
The *Dreadnought Hoax* is infamous - the group's photograph was acquired by the National Portrait Gallery - but the events themselves are wholly misreported and misunderstood; their implication on race, gender and class tell a compelling story about Woolf's time, and the stories we tell for and about ourselves.

In *The Girl Prince*, Danell Jones gives a new narrative of Virginia Woolf through the Hoax – a complex young girl eager to be included with her brother's hi-jinks, a family in turmoil, and latterly a distinguished writer loose with facts – that paints a captivating picture of the first half of the twentieth century.

DANELL JONES is a Woolf scholar, whose work has earned a Bennett Cerf Writing Award and a Whiting Fellowship. She is the author of *The Virginia Woolf Writers' Workshop* (Bantam) and, most recently, *An African in Imperial London* (Hurst/OUP).

Publication date: October 2023 (C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd, WORLD)

Agent: Jon Curzon



The Crocodile Bride by Ashleigh Bell Pedersen

Set during the swampy summer in 1982, this stunning debut novel follows eleven-year-old Sunshine Turner and her troubled father Billy as the secrets of their family's past swirl around them in the one-road town of Fingertip, Louisiana.

During a hot summer of June moods, grubworms, and dark storms, Sunshine discovers stones in her chest – and learns the dangers her coming-of-age will bring about in the yellow house she shares with her father. Without the vocabulary to comprehend Billy's actions or her own changing body,

Sunshine turns to an apocryphal story passed down from her grandmother: in the dark waters of the Black Bayou lives a crocodile with an insatiable appetite and a woman with a mysterious healing gift. As Sunshine's summer unspools, she turns to the one person who will need no explanation of the family secrets she carries—the crocodile bride.

The Crocodile Bride is at once a heartbreakingly tender coming-of-age tale and a lyrical, haunting reflection on generational trauma. Reminiscent of Jesmyn Ward and Helen Oyeyemi, Ashleigh Bell Pedersen is a promising new voice in American fiction

ASHLEIGH BELL PEDERSEN's fiction has been featured in *New Stories from the South*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Design Observer*, *The Silent History*, *A Strange Object*, and the New York Public Library's Library Simplified app. Her story "Small and Heavy World" was a finalist for both Best American Short Stories and a Pushcart Prize, and her story "Crocodile" won The Masters Review 2020 Flash Fiction Contest. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Pittsburgh, where she was the recipient of a teaching fellowship and Turow-Kinder Award. She currently resides in Brooklyn.

"*The Crocodile Bride*, the debut novel by Ashleigh Bell Pedersen, is a gripping family saga about the power of storytelling — especially its ability to warm and soften the edges of cold, harsh reality. Pedersen creates a world at once tragic and beautiful, violent and magical, desperately impoverished yet rich in meaning." —**Tina Chambers, *Chapter16***

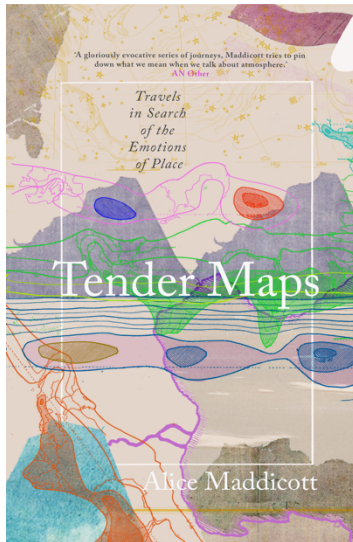
"The brackish setting allows for anger, fear, love and despair to all be felt as one. And the author delicately handles the messy union between human culpability and generational damage." —**Fiona Mozley, *The New York Times***

"Pedersen's expert character development and winding plot is aided by short, clipped chapters that bounce back and forth in time, showing the differing perspectives of women in Sunshine's family. Pedersen skillfully crafts a slow burn of a novel that eventually opens up to expose generations of family secrets, and more importantly, the value of unearthing truth." —**Booklist**

PAPERBACK publication date: December 2023 (Hub City Press, North American rights);

French language rights to Hauteville

Agent: Jon Curzon



Tender Maps: Travels in Search of the Emotion of Place by Alice Maddicott

Alice Maddicott wants to know what we mean when we talk about the ‘atmosphere’ of a place. In this personal account of travelling, reading, walking and absorbing the feeling of place she takes us from Tbilisi to Nashville, Istanbul to Japan, Prince Edward Island to the Wiltshire Downs.

Alice Maddicott has journeyed relentlessly and widely throughout her life. But this is more than a travelogue – it’s also a journey of ideas about how we experience place. Whether she is in search of Pamuk’s Istanbul or exploring the West Country Gothic strand that runs from Elizabeth Goudge to PJ Harvey Maddicott is rich, erudite company.

The book culminates in a manifesto on the power of being in place; of recognising the sentience of places, and entering into a dialogue with our cities. A collaboration with the land. Of seeing atmosphere – the emotion of place – as something political and vital, not a passive, negligible background to our activities.

An extraordinary book that blends beautiful writing on art, literature and travel into a unique exploration of why we feel so alien in some places within the world and so at home in others.

ALICE MADDICOTT is a writer and artist from Somerset, England. Her work has spanned poetry, writing installations, children’s television scripts, travel and nature writing, including for Elsewhere Journal and the Waymaking anthology, as well as public art commissions such as The Car Boot Museum, as well as the book *Cat Women: An Exploration of Feline Friendships and Lingering Superstitions*. For nearly two decades she has worked on creative education projects and run writing workshops with young people. She lives with two rescue cats, Taniel and Sindri, and Ptolemy the tortoise who she’s had for 35 years.

'A rich and beguiling work of literary travel memoir that nimbly tracks the wider contours of the world in terms of feeling, memory, introspection and the imagination.'—**Travis**

Elborough, author of *Atlas of Vanishing Places*

'*Tender Maps* is a heartfelt, thought-provoking meditation on the "personality of place" and the profound interconnection between human emotion and the physical landscape. It will enliven your senses and enrich your experience of the world around you.'—**Rebecca Lowe,**

author of *The Slow Road to Tehran*

'Intimate, whimsical and utterly magical ... A unique and memorable read, it’s perfect for those who prefer to stray far from the path in hope of falling off the map altogether.'—

Buzzmag

PAPERBACK publication date: March 2024 (September Publishing, UK AND C’WTH)

Agent: Jon Curzon



Pink-Pilled by Lois Shearing (Cover TBC)

Right-wing extremism is on the rise. Over the last decade, there has been intense discussion around how young, mostly white, men are targeted by these groups. However, the role women play in these communities, the tactics used to lure them in, and what this tells us about gender and politics today, is vitally underexplored.

In *Pink-Pilled: Women, the Far-Right and the Dangers of a Very Modern Problem*, Lois Shearing explores the role of gender in the modern far-right; looking at the pervasiveness of far-right ideology and the ways in which it has taken root in modern internet culture, and into mainstream political discourse.

LOIS SHEARING is Senior Sex & Relationships writer at *Cosmopolitan*. An author, journalist, and activist with a background in writing on digital culture, politics, and gender, Lois is the author of *Bi the Way* (Jessica Kingsley, 2021), and has written for *The Independent*, *The Metro*, and *DIVA* among others.

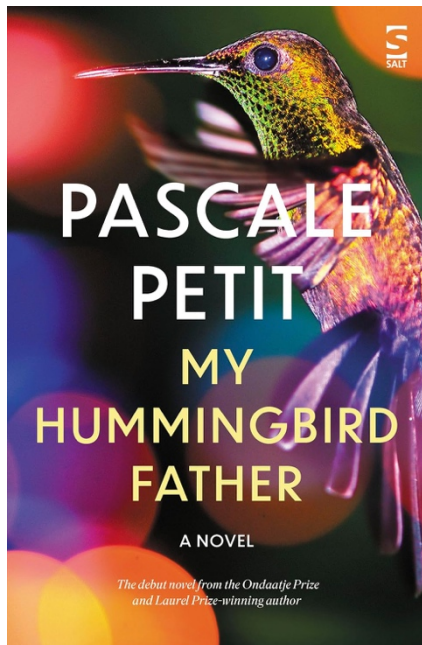
Praise for *Bi the Way* (Jessica Kingsley, 2021):

‘Bi the Way is the friendly introduction to all things bi that the world has needed for so long! Lois writes in an accessible, engaging, and informed way throughout, including helpful quotes from many other bi, pan, and queer people about their experiences and the ways in which their sexualities intersect with other aspects of their identities. If you’ve noticed yourself being attracted to more than one gender and want to explore what language to use, how to navigate outness and dating, and where to find community and support, this is absolutely the book for you.’—**Meg-John Barker, author of *Sexuality: A Graphic Guide and How to Understand Your Sexuality***

‘This excellent well thought out and balanced book is a much-needed addition to easy to access books around bi, pan and queer experience. This is a book that celebrates the glory of Bi life, takes a good hard look at some of the issues that Bi folk face on a daily bases and leaves us full of hope.’—**Gscene Magazine**

‘A masterfully crafted guide to all things bisexual.’—**The Psychologist**

Publication date: September 2024 (Manchester University Press, WORLD ENGLISH)
Agent: Jon Curzon



My Hummingbird Father by Pascale Petit

When artist Dominique receives a letter from her dying father, a reckoning with repressed memories and a pull for romantic and familial love sends shockwaves through her life, as she journeys to Paris to face the places and events of her early years.

Balanced with visits to the Venezuelan Amazon, where Dominique explores a spiritual and loving longing (meeting a young guide, Juan), a raw and tender unfolding of this love story is a parallel to the uncovering of the shocking truth of Dominique's birth, and her parents' relationship.

Pascale Petit's *My Hummingbird Father* is a beautifully lyrical debut novel in dialogue with Pascale's Ondaatje and Laurel Prize-winning poetry collection, *Mama Amazonica*.

PASCALE PETIT was born in Paris, grew up in France and Wales and lives in Cornwall. She is of French, Welsh and Indian heritage. Her eighth collection, *Tiger Girl*, from Bloodaxe in 2020, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection, and for Wales Book of the Year. A poem from the book won the Keats-Shelley Poetry Prize. Her seventh poetry collection *Mama Amazonica*, published by Bloodaxe in 2017, won the inaugural Laurel Prize in 2020, won the RSL Ondaatje Prize in 2018, was shortlisted for the Roehampton Poetry Prize, and was a Poetry Book Society Choice.

Praise for previous works:

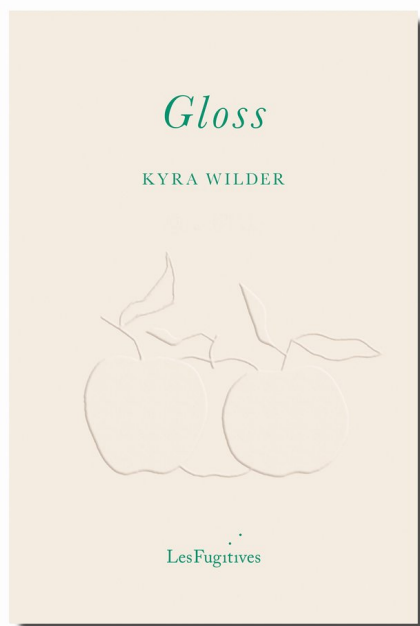
'Petit is a passionate laureate of the natural world, but alive to the cruelty of human depredation.'—Aingeal Clare, *The Guardian*

'Beautifully sad, the imagery inexhaustible, the sorrow and torment both tempered and sharpened by the relish for language and the ingenuity of the imagination.'—Simon Armitage

'She has a powerful, imagistic authority over the landscape.'—Daljit Nagra, *Front Row*, *BBC Radio 4*

Publication date: September 2024 (Salt, WORLD)

Agent: Jon Curzon



Gloss by Kyra Wilder

In this semi-experimental second novel, Kyra Wilder transposes the Greek myth of the Hesperides to Marin County in California at the turn of the Millennium.

Ari, Eleni and Hesper, three young adults struggling with an eating disorder, are reunited after they met one summer at the unconventional, rural treatment facility Golden Apples Farm. A trial is underway, and the girls attempt to elucidate what it is exactly that happened with Lee, the charismatic man and passionate cook who runs Golden Apples.

With childlike candour and a lightness of tone that belies the seriousness of her subject Wilder elaborates a kaleidoscopic picture of trauma, in the protagonists' own words. Through a succession of short chapters, evocative of a study in music, *Gloss* makes for a new psychological thriller with surreal hijinks, bringing together the symbolic and the hyperreal, and opposites that are somehow never so far apart: succulence and abjection, human and animal stories, traditional cuisine and synthetic foods, speleology, deep sea diving, remembering and forgetting, healing and hurting, or tending unpicked apples — to perhaps discover all that a girl may and can be.

KYRA WILDER is an author and poet who grew up in the United States and received her BA and MA in English Literature from San Francisco State University. She worked as a pasta chef at the Michelin-starred Quince under Michael Tusk, continuing her culinary career in restaurants in New York before moving with her family to Switzerland where she now lives. Her first novel, *Little Bandaged Days*, was published by Pan Macmillan in 2021. *Gloss* is her second novel, and her first to be published by Les Fugitives.

Praise for *Little Bandaged Days* (Picador, 2020):

‘Beautifully written and frighteningly honest, this feverish debut delivers a brave appraisal of a woman’s spiral into madness.’—**Eithne Farry, *Sunday Express***

‘Gripping, composed, observant, wonderfully written and extravagantly cruel.[...] The story comes closer to reality when it dramatises something wider: the performance of an enviable lifestyle, and the various miseries that make this performance possible.’—**Daisy**

Hildyard, *Guardian*

‘Wilder artfully cranks up the tension, so you don't quite know when you begin to hold your breath. A chilling read’ — **Oyinkan Braithwaite, author of *My Sister, the Serial Killer***

Publication date: December 2024 (Les Fugitives, UK AND C’WTH)

Agent: Jon Curzon

Forthcoming 2025

***The Polish Mafia* by Christopher Othen (The History Press, WORLD)**

Christopher Othen's *THE POLISH MAFIA: GUNS, DRUGS, AND MURDER IN THE WILD, WILD EAST* is a story about a ground-breaking betrayal in the Polish Mafia; more than this, though, it's a universal story of poverty and greed, and what happens in a power vacuum at nation-state scale.

Most Europeans think of Poland and associate it with pierogi, migrant workers, and questionable LGBTQ+ policies. But after the fall of communism, Poland was a gangster state where criminals bled the country dry while police and politicians looked the other way.

When the Cold War ended and the country was left in limbo, a story played out in this poor, icy corner of Eastern Europe as thuggish gangsters meted it out for dominance - and its Mafia would spread its tentacles across Poland, Europe, and all the way to South America.

Christopher Othen is a popular history writer, whose many books, from *The Men from Miami* to *The King of Nazi Paris*, have been reviewed in *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, *The TLS* – serialised in the *Daily Express* and featured in *The Big Issue*.

***Controlling Women* by Sandra Hempel (C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd, WORLD ENGLISH)**

‘...a radical aristocrat from an ancient land-owning family; a journalist born in an East End workhouse to a single mother; a hunger-striker, force-fed in Holloway and obsessed with Christabel Pankhurst's lover, Annie Kenney, the so-called “irresistible blue-eyed beggar”... the widow of the former Bishop of London’.

In *CONTROLLING WOMEN: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE FIRST FEMALE POLICE FORCE*, Sandra Hempel tells the remarkable tale of a small group of women – from grande-dames of society to pioneering courtroom journalists – whose efforts for representation in WW1 Britain would change the course of women's rights and justice forever.

These are the members of the Women Police Volunteers.

CONTROLLING WOMEN charts how these trailblazers, whose initiatives still exist today (the current National Council of Women stems from the organisation), fought back against prejudice, telling the story of how this group – not without its internal politics and (eclectic) ‘characters’ – strived to transform the face of a post-war world.

Sandra Hempel (a former *Times* journalist, the author of *The Medical Detective* (Granta), *The Inheritor's Powder* (W&N), and *The Atlas of Disease* (White Lion)), weaves an absorbing narrative around these incredible individuals and events.

***Invisible Infrastructure* by Lukasz Bednarski (Columbia University Press, WORLD)**

INVISIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE: THE HIDDEN BUILDING BLOCKS THAT RUN THE MODERN WORLD tells the revelatory story of the networks that shape countries' power, welfare and politics through the technology supply chain – with a specific focus on the US-Asia dynamic.

From iPhones to fighter jets, individual to state, our lives are dependent on technology – and technology is dependent on its invisible building blocks – chips, batteries, advanced materials, and satellites.

These key materials represent an unprecedented blurring of geopolitics: key components historically outsourced by the West become bedrocks of developing economies; Apple chips made in Taiwan influence US attitudes and international policy – and Taiwan's standing on the world stage. INVISIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE explores the way in which this global network of interdependence shapes world powers, and points towards an upsetting of the global power balance.

Lukasz Bednarski is the author of *Lithium: The Global Race for Battery Dominance and the New Energy Revolution* (Hurst, 2021). He began his career supplying critical materials for high-tech companies, before moving to analyse supply chains for top market research firms. He is a Senior Lithium and Battery Metals Analyst at IHS Markit.

***Ravshan's Real Stories* by Ilya Leutin, translated by Anna Aslanyan (Paper + Ink, WORLD ENGLISH)**

The PEN translates-winning *Ravshan's Real Stories* collects the work of Russian writer Ilya Leutin for the first time in the English language; two of these stories featured in *The White Review*, and Vadim Levental said simply 'Everything is beautiful in this book'.

Uncanny and boundary-pushing, Leutin's stories are incisive on love, loss, sex, death, art, politics, and myth; from 'Dictators' Hands' ('There are different versions as to what happened to the hands of the Argentine dictator Juan Perón, allegedly stolen after his death') to 'The State of Things', in which a young man struggling between his sexuality and his love of music befriends an old woman, a Parisienne washed up in Moscow, the only surviving witness to the events of a bygone era.

Ilya Leutin was born in Siberia in 1986. A video artist with a background in film, he has worked as a screenwriter and contributed to a number of Russian publications. *Ravshan's Real Stories* was published in 2012, and longlisted for the National Bestseller award and shortlisted for the Debut prize.

Author guide, Jon Curzon

Adam Sharp

Adam Sharp (@AdamCSharp) is the author of *The Correct Order of Biscuits* and *The Wheel is Spinning but the Hamster is Dead*.

In 2019, his short piece of memoir, 'Play', was published in Kit de Waal's *Common People: An Anthology of Working-Class Writers* (Unbound). Adam's books have been featured in *the Guardian*, *The Stylist*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The Irish Times*, *Harper's Magazine*, and on Radio 4's *Front Row*.

Adam has won The Literary Consultancy's Pen Factor prize, been shortlisted for the NorthBound Book Award, is the recipient of funding from Arts Council England, and is a Creative Associate at New Writing North.

Alice Maddicott

Alice Maddicott is the author of *Cat Women: An Exploration of Feline Friendships and Lingering Superstitions*. She is Head of Learning at Salisbury Museum.

Her latest book, *Tender Maps: Travels in Search of the Emotions of Place*, is a blend of memoir and cultural exploration; a manifesto on the power of being in nature, of recognising the sentience of atmosphere, and entering into a dialogue with our cities.

Alice lives in the far west of Wiltshire with various animals, domesticated and wild.

Anietie Isong

Anietie Isong's debut novel *Radio Sunrise* (Jacaranda Books, 2017) won the SoA's McKitterick Prize. In 2022, Anietie was included in the Borough Press anthology *Of This Our Country*, celebrating acclaimed Nigerian writers.

Anietie holds a PhD in New Media and Writing, and his latest book, *News at Noon*, is published by Jacaranda Books.

Ashleigh Bell Pedersen

Ashleigh Bell Pedersen's debut novel *The Crocodile Bride* is a *New York Times* Editors' Choice.

Ashleigh holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA from Virginia Commonwealth University. Ashleigh's fiction has appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *New Stories from the South*, and has been shortlisted for a Pushcart Prize and Best American Short Stories. Her short story "Crocodile" won the 2020 *Masters Review* Flash Fiction Contest.

Carmine Pariante

Carmine M. Pariante (@ParianteLab) is Professor of Biological Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, and Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

His debut non-fiction book, *HOT BLOODED*, explores how our moods and behaviours are governed, unlocking the secret to the mystery of mental health disorders (and how to understand ourselves as humans).

Caroline Elenowitz-Hess

Caroline Elenowitz-Hess (@ElenowitzHess) is a fashion historian and curator, whose research focuses on modernism and ideals of femininity in the 20th century. Her writing has been published in *Atlas Obscura* and the *Journal of Design History*.

Caroline's debut non-fiction proposal, *TO CATCH A COUNTESS*, is the story of the Comtesse de Monteil: a butcher's daughter and fake countess, who charmed and cat-burgled her way through the dazzling French Riviera society of the late 18th and early 19th century.

Christopher Othen

Christopher Othen is a writer and former legal representative for asylum seekers. He is the author of *The King of Nazi Paris: Henri Lafont and the Gangsters of the French Gestapo* (Biteback, 2022) and four other books, including *Franco's International Brigades* and *Katanga 1960-63*.

Chris's writing has been featured and reviewed in *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, and the *TLS*; serialised in the *Daily Express* and featured in *The Big Issue*. His last published book is *The Men from Miami* (Biteback, 2022), and his next work – on The Polish mafia – is out through The History Press in 2025.

Danell Jones

Danell Jones is a writer and scholar with a PhD in literature from Columbia University. She is the author of *The Virginia Woolf Writers Workshop*, the poetry collection *Desert Elegy*, and *An African in Imperial London* (Hurst, 2018), which won the High Plains Book Award for Nonfiction.

Her latest book is *The Girl Prince: Virginia Woolf, Race and the Dreadnought Hoax*.

Eli Davies

Eli Davies writes on the cultural & personal politics of home. She is a research associate in the English department at Ulster University, and her PhD is on women, domestic space & the Troubles.

Eli's debut non-fiction proposal, *THE SPINSTER COOKBOOK*, is a personal and cultural history of single women and their relationships with food and cooking.

Emily Wells

Emily Wells is a writer based in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA in creative writing from UC Riverside and teaches writing at UC Irvine. She writes for publications including *Bookforum*, *Vogue*, *Interview Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The White Review*, *Flash Art*, and *Purple Fashion Magazine*.

Her debut non-fiction book *A Matter of Appearance* is a dazzling memoir of chronic illness that explores the fraught intersection between pain, language, and gender.

Eraldo Souza dos Santos

Eraldo Souza dos Santos is a historian of political thought with research interests in the global history of ideas. His current book project is a global history of civil disobedience. His writing has appeared in [The Washington Post](#), [Jacobin Brasil](#), [Nexo](#), [World Politics Review](#), [The Diplomat](#), [The Philosopher](#), and [elsewhere](#).

He has a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Panthéon-Sorbonne University, and is currently assistant professor at the University of California. <https://twitter.com/esdsantos>

Ilya Leutin

Ilya Leutin was born in Siberia in 1986. He is a screenwriter and a columnist for a number of Russian publications, including *Snob* and *The Russian Muslim*. His short stories have been published in *The White Review*.

His debut English-language short story collection, *The State of Things* (Paper + Ink, 2024), won a PEN Translates award.

Joshua Kotin

Joshua Kotin is Associate Professor of English at Princeton University, and the author of *Utopias of One* (Princeton University Press, 2018).

Kotin is also the Director of the *Shakespeare and Company* project, a digital humanities initiative based on the records of Sylvia Beach's bookshop and lending library in interwar Paris.

From this, he is working on *READING AT SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY*, investigating how what we read influences the lives we lead. Chapters discuss the reading practices of members of the Shakespeare and Company lending library, including Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, Dolly Wilde, Walter Benjamin, and Aimé Césaire.

He is also at work on a book about Amiri Baraka, which tells the story of the writer's revolutionary year (1965) – asking what it is that makes art revolutionary in a compelling twist on the biography format.

Kyra Wilder

Kyra Wilder is the author of *Little Bandaged Days* (Picador/The Overlook Press/S. Fischer), a debut described by the *Guardian* as 'Gripping . . . wonderfully written'. Oyinkan Braithwaite called the novel 'A chilling read'.

Kyra received her BA and MA in English Literature at San Francisco State University; she then worked in San Francisco's restaurants, notably under Michael Tusk at the Michelin-starred Quince, making pasta, before moving to New York. She now lives with her family in Switzerland.

Kyra's follow-up novel is *Gloss*, a modern take on the Hesperides myth set in Southern California, published by Les Fugitives.

Laura Demers

Laura Demers has been published in *Granta*, *The Masters Review*, the *North American Review* and *New Voices*. She was nominated for the PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers, was a winner of The Masters Review Anthology Prize and the Appalachian Review's Denny C. Plattner Award, and a finalist for the Robert Day Award for Fiction – and shortlisted for the *Sunday Times Audible Short Story Award*.

Laura's debut novel, *MARY, MARY*, is gripping upmarket literary fiction that tells the story of a mysterious missing sister and her even more mysterious return. Laura lives in Los Angeles.

Lois Shearing

Lois Shearing is an author, journalist, and activist with a background in writing on digital culture, politics, and gender. Lois is the author of *Bi the Way* (Jessica Kingsley, 2021), and has written for *The Independent*, *The Metro*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *DIVA* among others.

Lois's latest book, *Pink-Pilled: Women, the Far-Right, and the Dangers of a Very Modern Problem* is published by Manchester University Press.

Lukasz Bednarski

Lukasz Bednarski is a battery materials analyst, founder of the lithium industry portal *Lithium Today* and a former commodity trader. His debut non-fiction, *Lithium: The Global Race for Battery Dominance*, was published by Hurst in 2021.

For the book, Lukasz was featured in outlets including the *Financial Times* and the *Daily Mail* and interviewed on Channel 4 News.

Lukasz's latest project, INVISIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE, is with Columbia University Press (2025).

Matt Qvortrup

Matt Qvortrup is Professor of Political Science at Coventry University and Visiting Professor at the Australian National University. He is also joint editor-in-chief of The European Political Science Review. A lawyer as well as a political scientist, he earned his doctorate at Oxford University.

Among his published books are *Angela Merkel: Europe's Most Influential Leader* (Duckworth Books, 2016) and *I Want to Break Free: A Practical Guide to Making a New Country* (Manchester University Press, 2022).

His latest book, GREAT MINDS ON SMALL THINGS, is published by Duckworth.

Matt's proposal on neuro-politics, THE BRAIN AND THE BALLOT BOX, is drawn from his BBC Radio 4 programme 'The Democratic Brain' (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001rlgn>), and is currently on submission.

Namita Gokhale

Namita Gokhale is the founder-director of Jaipur Literature Festival, and the chair of judges for the Dylan Thomas Prize.

Namita's writing life began with the now-classic *Paro* (Chatto & Windus, 1984), and she has published many works of fiction, non-fiction and criticism since. Her most recent work is *The Blind Matriarch* (Penguin Random House India, 2022); her most recent publication in the UK is *Jaipur Journals* (HopeRoad, 2021).

Pascale Petit

Pascale Petit is the Ondaatje and Laurel Prize-winning poet, whose acclaimed *Mama Amazonica* was published by Bloodaxe Books in 2017. Pascale is the author of seven other collections, four of which were shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize.

Pascale's debut novel, *My Hummingbird Father*, is the searing story of a lost daughter confronting childhood trauma in her father's City of Light, Paris, and is published by Salt. Pascale is a founder of The Poetry School, and has written for publications including *Granta* and *Aeon*. A French-born British writer of French, Welsh and Indian heritage, Pascale currently lives in Cornwall

Sam Illingworth

Sam Illingworth is a Senior Lecturer in Science Communication. His research is concerned with trying to engage and empower people with science, especially those without a voice. He writes science poems to try and communicate some of the beautiful and important scientific research that is being done on a daily basis, all across the world.

Sam is published in *The Conversation*, *The Poetry of Science, Nature, Times Higher Education*; his poetry has been featured on Radio 4. He is currently working on his trade non-fiction debut, looking at language and its role in science and communicating our world.

Sandra Hempel

Sandra Hempel is a former *Times* journalist, and the author of *The Medical Detective* (Granta), *The Inheritor's Powder* (W&N), and *The Atlas of Disease* (White Lion).

Her next book, *Controlling Women*, is with Hurst (UK and Commonwealth).

William J. Simmons

William J. Simmons is an art historian, curator, and writer based in Los Angeles. His chapbook, *Queer Formalism: The Return*, is distributed by Columbia University Press and is on its fourth printing.

Simmons's THE EDGE OF GLORY: MOMENTS IN MILLENIAL CULTURE THAT MADE US is a celebration and exploration of the 2000s and early 2010s, from B.o.B. and Haley Williams to Kristen Stewart; a collection that takes interconnected albums, films, cultural moments, and asks: what made us who we were then, and how we are now?

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