



Highlights from our book fair at BookStreet Carnival @SMU  
from 8th to 10th September 2017

Pushkin Press **ON** The London Library

# READING, WRITING



# AND LIVING WITH BOOKS

**A collection of writing by early members of The London Library about their relationships with books, celebrating its 175th anniversary**

This little body of thought, that lies before me in the shape of a book, has existed thousands of years, nor since the invention of the press can anything short of an universal convulsion of nature abolish it.

The London Library's members are, by their nature, interested in reading and preserving books. Many of the members have been, and still are today, some of the most impressive writers and thinkers of their time: from Dickens to David Hare, from Alfred Lord Tennyson to Kazuo Ishiguro.

On Reading, Writing and Living with Books collects writing by some of the early members of The London Library: George Eliot, Charles Dickens, EM Forster and Virginia Woolf, among others, write about the joy of living with books.

On Reading, Writing and Living with Books is part of 'Found on the Shelves', published with The London Library. The books in this series have been chosen to give a fascinating insight into the treasures that can be found while browsing in The London Library. Now celebrating its 175th anniversary, with over 17 miles of shelving and more than a million books, The London Library has become an unrivalled archive of the modes, manners and thoughts of each generation which has helped to form it.

**(96 pages / \$18)**



This title is curated for The Singapore Book Council

for their crime & mystery booth.

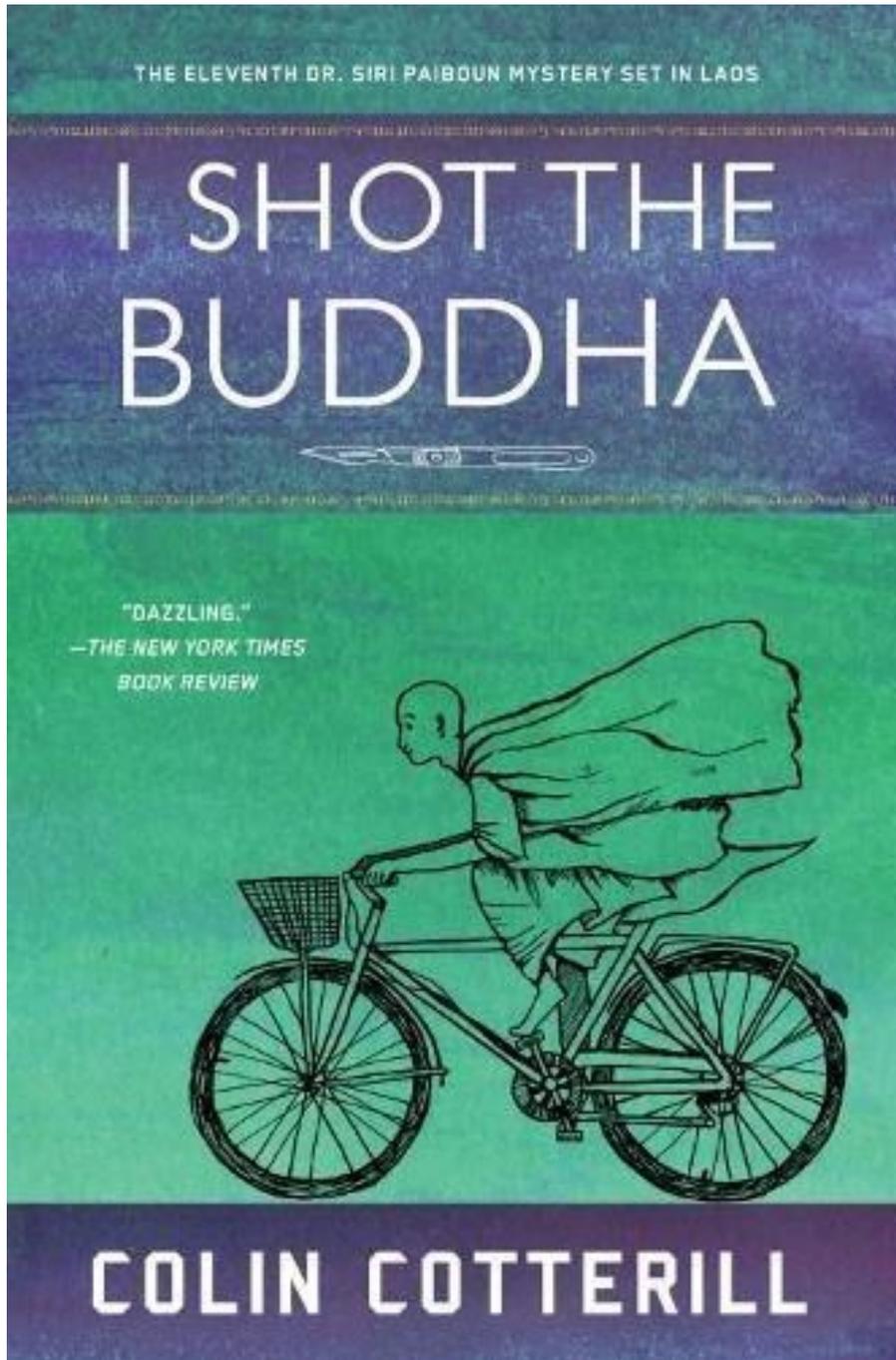
**Dear Mr. M is an unsettling and irresistibly readable literary thriller, set in the world of writing and bookselling.**

Mr. M is being watched. As a famous writer, he is no stranger to the limelight, although interest in his work has been dwindling of late. His print runs are smaller than they used to be, as are the crowds at his bookshop signings . . . Our narrator clearly takes a keen interest in M.'s work, and indeed in every aspect of his life. But what exactly are his intentions? And to what does Mr. M owe the honour of his undivided attention?

Our narrator seems to be no stranger to murder, while his own story appears to bear more than a passing resemblance to the plot of Mr. M's most famous novel: a teacher has an affair with a student, only to be brutally murdered by the girl and her teenage boyfriend. The body is never found.

That's the problem with fiction: in real life, bodies have an awkward habit of turning up. Mr. M has used some artistic licence, and our narrator is not pleased, not pleased at all. And just before he fades into obscurity, he's prepared to give Mr. M one last review. And it's unlikely to be a rave.

**(416 pages / \$20)**



**This title is curated for The Singapore Book Council**

**for their crime & mystery booth.**

**A fiendishly clever mystery in which Dr. Siri and his friends investigate three interlocking murders--and the ungodly motives behind them**

Laos, 1979: Retired coroner Siri Paiboun and his wife, Madame Daeng, have never been able to turn away a misfit. As a result, they share their small Vientiane house with an assortment of homeless people, mendicants, and oddballs. One of these oddballs is Noo, a Buddhist monk, who rides out on his bicycle one day and never comes back, leaving only a cryptic note in the refrigerator: a plea to help a fellow monk escape across the Mekhong River to Thailand.

Naturally, Siri can't turn down the adventure, and soon he and his friends find themselves running afoul of Lao secret service officers and famous spiritualists. Buddhism is a powerful influence on both morals and politics in Southeast Asia. In order to exonerate an innocent man, they will have to figure out who is cloaking terrible misdeeds in religiosity.

**(342 pages / \$23)**

.....  
a guide for cultivating mindfulness in education  
.....

# HAPPY TEACHERS CHANGE *the* WORLD

**Thich Nhat Hanh  
and Katherine Weare**

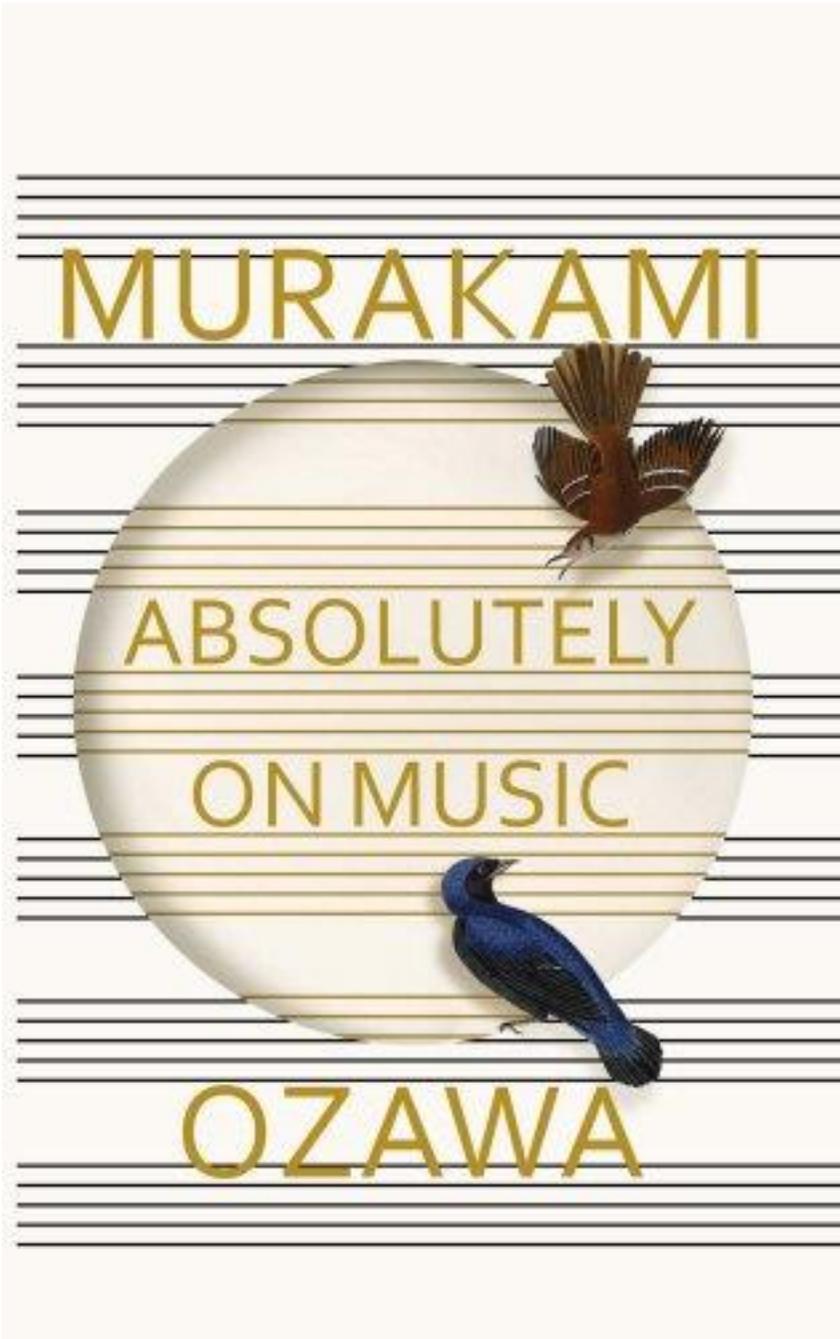
Foreword by Jon Kabat-Zinn



**Happy Teachers Change the World is the first official, authoritative manual of the Thich Nhat Hanh/Plum Village approach to mindfulness in education.** Spanning the whole range of schools and grade levels, from preschool through higher education, these techniques are grounded in the everyday world of schools, colleges, and universities.

The Plum Village approach stresses that educators must first establish their own mindfulness practice since everything they do in the classroom will be based on that foundation. The book includes easy-to-follow, step-by-step techniques perfected by educators to teach themselves and to apply to their work with students and colleagues, along with inspirational stories of the ways in which teachers have made mindfulness practice alive and relevant for themselves and their students across the school and out into the community. The book includes easy-to-follow, step-by-step techniques perfected by educators to teach themselves and to apply to their work with students and colleagues, along with inspirational stories of the ways in which teachers have made mindfulness practice alive and relevant for themselves and their students across the school and out into the community.

The instructions in Happy Teachers Change the World are offered as basic practices taught by Thich Nhat Hanh, followed by guidance from educators using these practices in their classrooms, with ample in-class interpretations, activities, tips, and instructions. Woven throughout are stories from members of the Plum Village community around the world who are applying these teachings in their own lives and educational contexts. **(256 pages / \$33)**



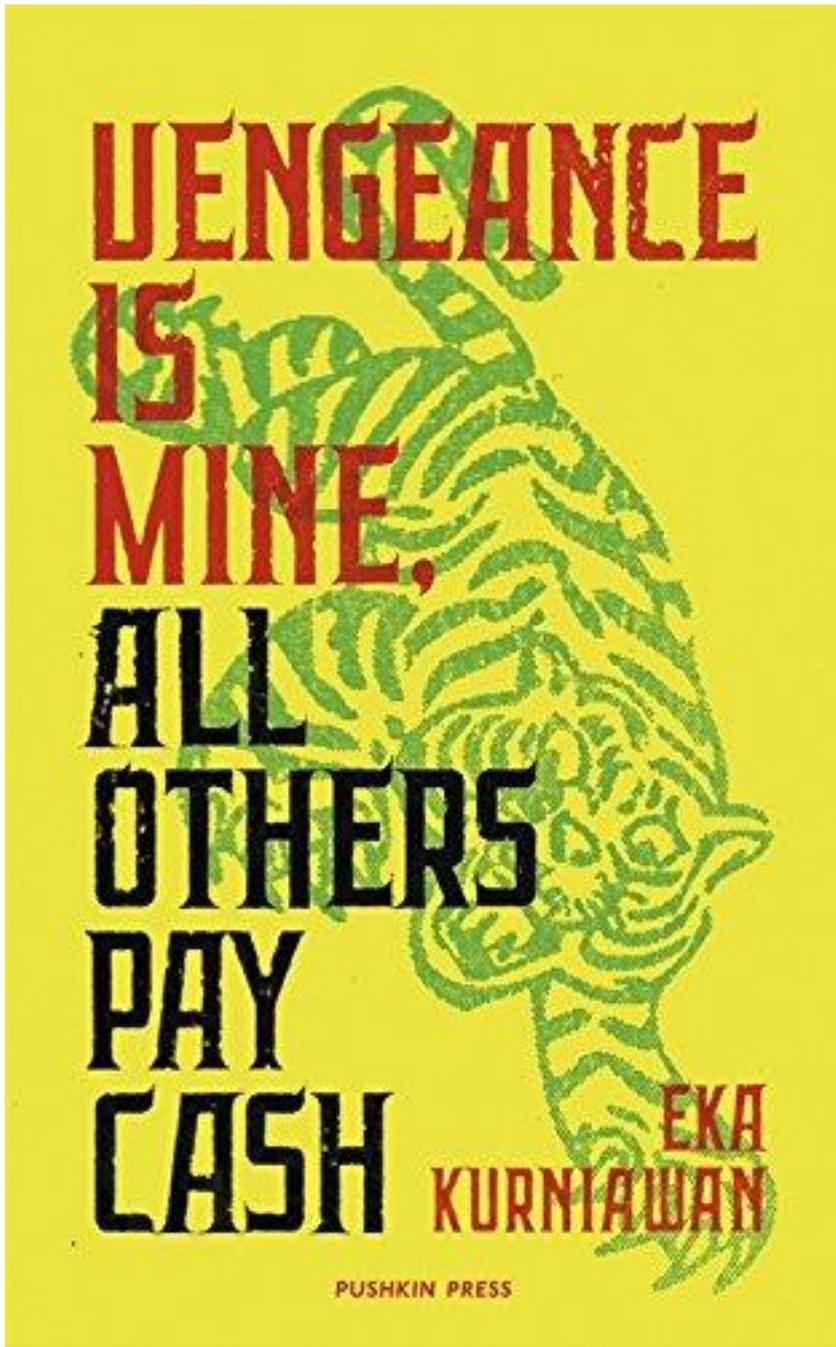
**An intimate conversation about music and creativity, between the internationally bestselling writer and a world-class conductor.**

'My only purpose in this book was for me, as a music lover, to have a discussion of music with the musician Seiji Ozawa that was as open and honest as possible. I simply wanted to bring out the ways that each of us (though on vastly different levels) is dedicated to music.'

Haruki Murakami's passion for music runs deep. Before turning his hand to writing, he ran a jazz club in Tokyo, and the aesthetic and emotional power of music permeates every one of his much-loved books. Now, in *Absolutely on Music*, Murakami fulfills a personal dream, sitting down with his friend, acclaimed conductor Seiji Ozawa, to talk about their shared interest.

Transcribed from lengthy conversations about the nature of music and writing, here they discuss everything from Brahms to Beethoven, from Leonard Bernstein to Glenn Gould, from record collecting to pop-up orchestras, and much more. Ultimately this book gives readers an unprecedented glimpse into the minds of two maestros. **(Hardcover / 352 pages / \$32)**



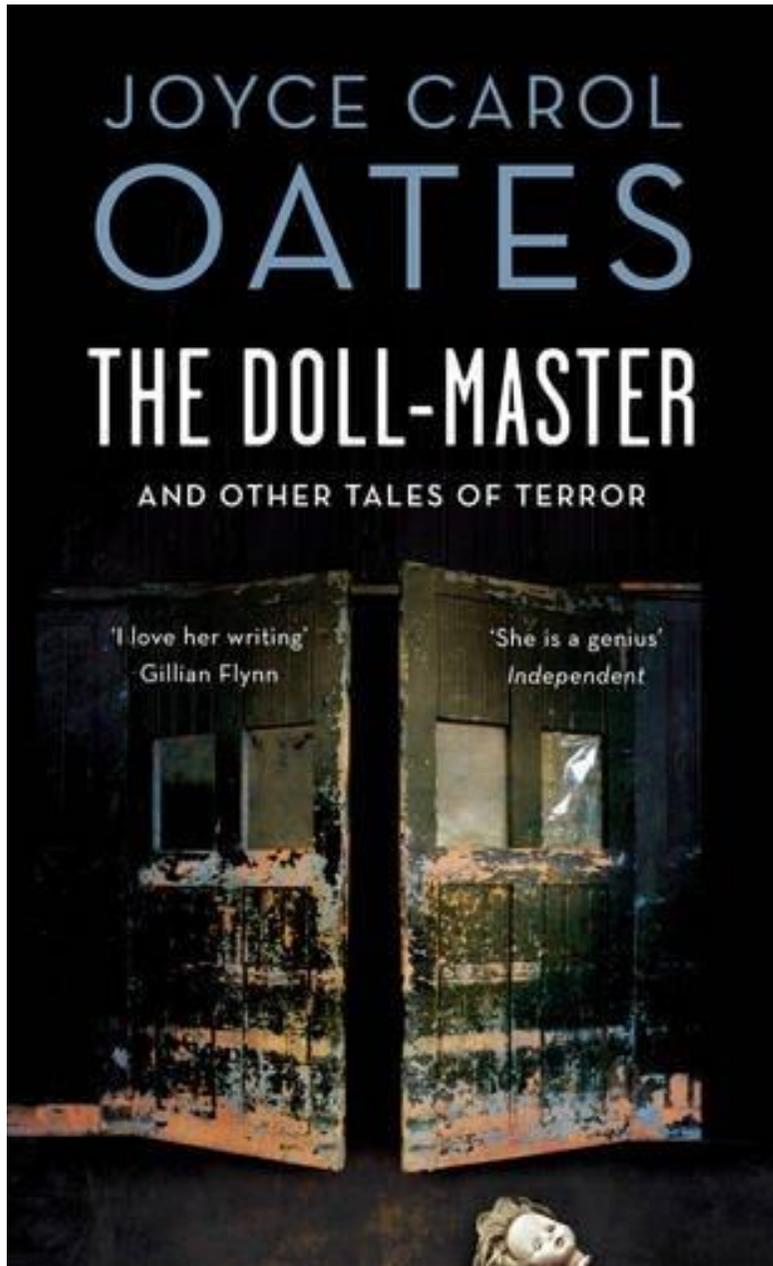


Ajo Kawir, a lower-class Javanese teenage boy **excited about sex**, likes to spy on fellow villagers in flagrante, but one night he ends up witnessing the **savage rape of a beautiful crazy woman by two policemen. Deeply traumatized, he becomes impotent.** His efforts to get his virility back all fail, and Ajo Kawir **turns to fighting as a way to vent his frustrations.**

He gets such a fearsome reputation as a brawler that he is hired to kill a thug named The Tiger, but instead Ajo Kawir falls in love with Iteung, a gorgeous female bodyguard who works for the local mafia. Alas, the course of true love never did run smooth... Fast-forward a decade. Now a truck driver, Ajo Kawir has reached a new equanimity, thinking that his penis may be trying to teach him a lesson and even consulting it in many situations as if it were his guru—love may yet triumph.

Vengeance Is Mine, All Others Pay Cash shows Eka Kurniawan in a gritty, comic, pungent mode that fans of Quentin Tarantino will appreciate. **But even with its liberal peppering of fights, high-speed car chases, and ladies heaving with desire, the novel continues to explore Kurniawan's familiar themes of female agency in a violent and corrupt male world.**

(224 pages / \$30)



**A collection of six psychologically daring, exquisitely suspenseful stories from the masterful Joyce Carol Oates**

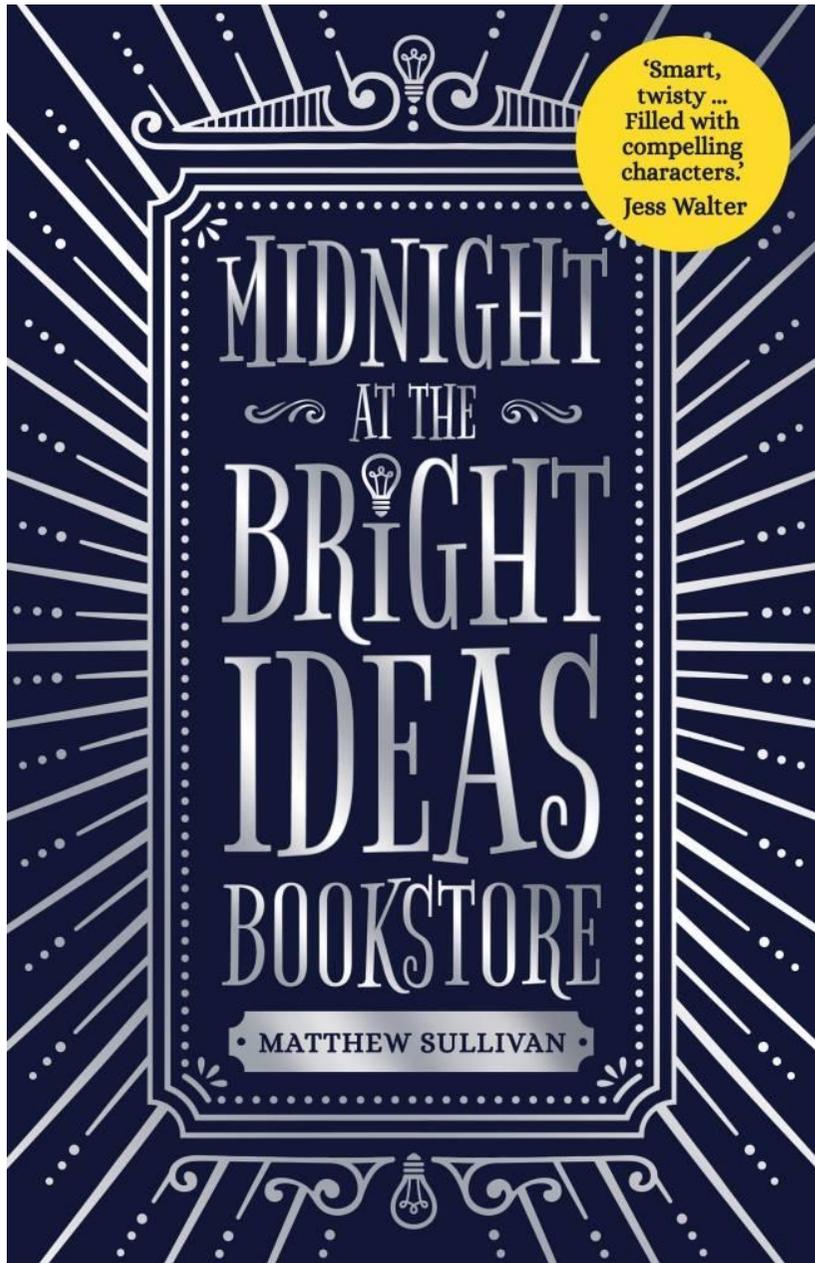
In the title story, a young boy becomes obsessed with his cousin's doll after she tragically passes away from leukemia. As he grows older, he begins to collect "found dolls" from the surrounding neighborhoods and stores his treasures in the abandoned carriage house on his family's estate. But just what kind of dolls are they?



In **"Gun Accident,"** a teenage girl is thrilled when her favorite teacher asks her to house-sit the elegant old Colonial she shares with her husband. But an intruder forces his way into the house while the girl is there, changing the fate of more than one life forever. **"Equatorial"** shifts setting to the exotic Galapagos, where an affluent American wife experiences disorienting assaults upon her sense of who her charismatic husband really is, and what his plans may be for her. The book closes with a **chilling biblio-mystery**, about the owner of a middling chain of mystery bookstores who employs rather unorthodox methods for expanding his little empire. The owner's plan for his latest takeover—of a rare bookstore in scenic New Hampshire—derails into a game of verbal cat-and-mouse that threatens to have more than just business consequences.

In *The Doll-Master and Other Tales of Terror*, Joyce Carol Oates evokes "the fascination of the abomination" that is at the core of the most profound, the

most unsettling, and the most memorable of dark mystery fiction. **(224 pages / \$30)**



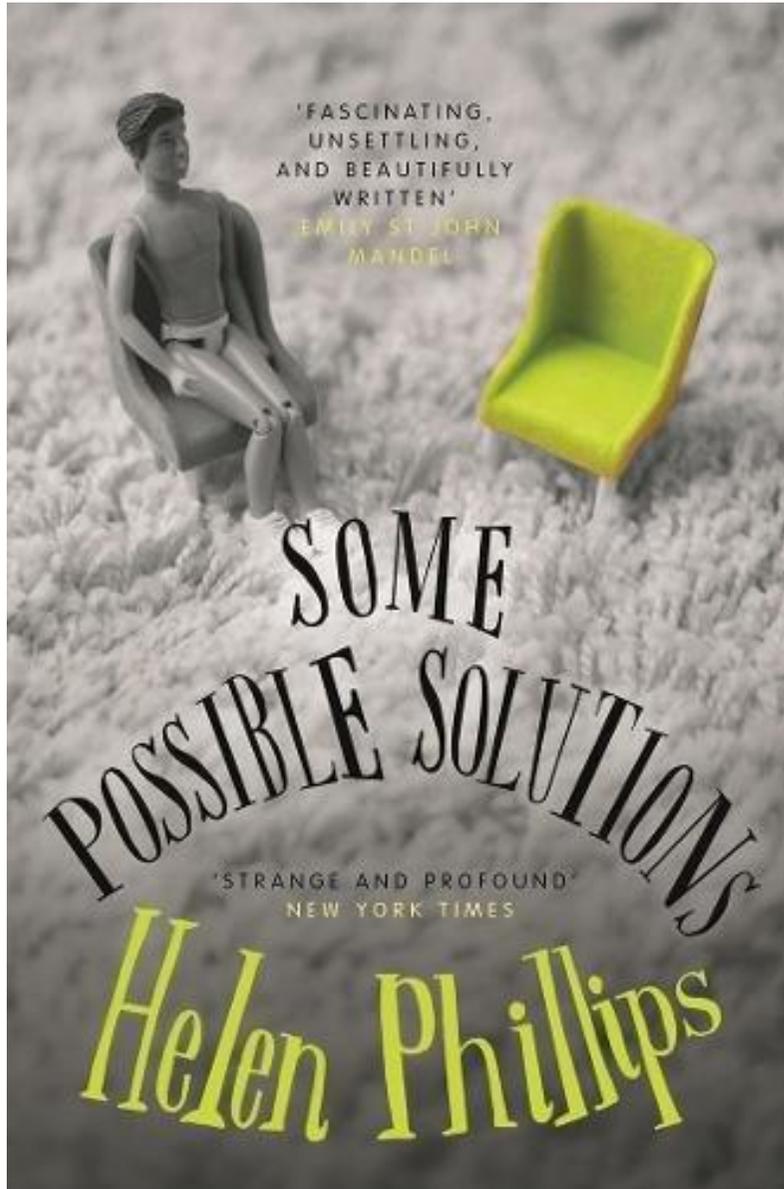
Lydia Smith lives her life hiding in plain sight. A clerk at the Bright Ideas Bookstore, she keeps a meticulously crafted existence among her beloved books, eccentric colleagues, and the BookFrogs—the lost and lonely regulars who spend every day marauding the store’s overwhelmed shelves.

But when Joey Molina, a young, beguiling BookFrog, kills himself in the bookstore, Lydia’s life comes unglued. Always Joey’s favorite bookseller, Lydia has inherited his meager worldly possessions. **Trinkets and books; the detritus of a lonely man.** But when Lydia flips through his books she finds them defaced in ways both disturbing and inexplicable. They reveal the psyche of a young man on the verge of an emotional reckoning. And they seem to contain a hidden message. What did Joey know? And what does it have to do with Lydia?

As Lydia untangles the mystery of Joey’s suicide, she unearths a long-buried memory from her own violent childhood. Details from that one bloody night begin to circle back. Her distant father returns to the fold, along with an obsessive local cop, and the Hammerman, a murderer who came into Lydia’s life long ago and, as she soon discovers, never completely left.

**Bedazzling, addictive and wildly clever, *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* is a heart-pounding mystery that perfectly captures the intellect and eccentricity of the bookstore milieu.**

**(336 pages / \$30)**

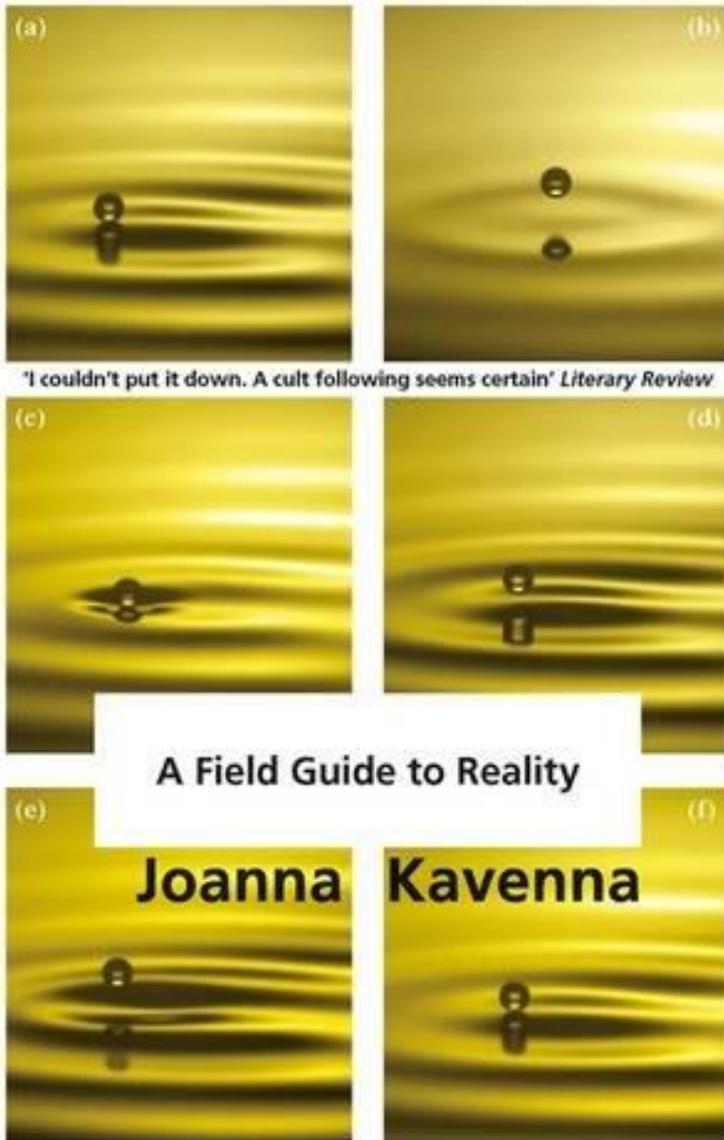


What if you knew the exact date of your death? What if your perfect hermaphrodite match existed on another planet? What if your city was filled with doppelgängers of you?

In these remarkably inventive stories Helen Phillips' characters search for solutions to the problem of survival in an irrational, infinitely strange world. We meet a wealthy woman who purchases a high-tech sex toy in the shape of a man, a mother convinced that her children are from another planet, and orphaned twin sisters who work as futuristic strippers. As they strive for intimacy and struggle to resolve their fraught relationships with each other, and with themselves, we realise these dystopias are uncannily close to our own world.

**By turns surreal, witty, and perplexing, these bewitching stories are ultimately a reflection of our own reality and of the biggest existential questions we all face.**

**(224 pages / \$19)**



**'I couldn't put it down. A cult following seems certain'** *Literary Review*

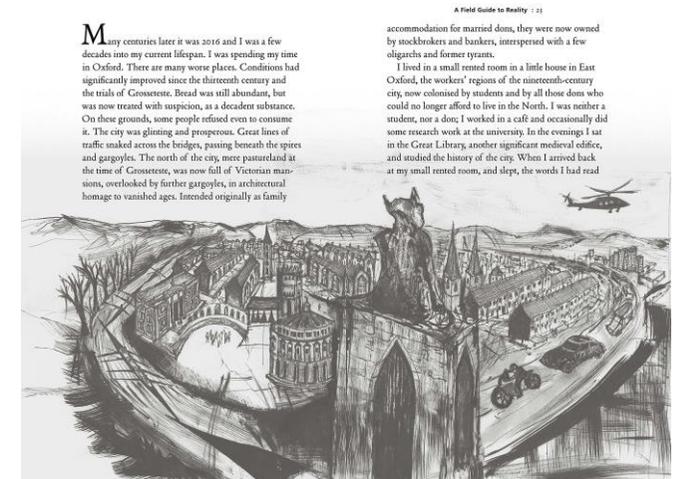
## A conceptual tour de force and a satire of pseudo-philosophy and literary devices, from the brilliantly comic ironist and Granta Best of Young British author

In this darkly ironic novel - a quest for truth, a satire, an elegy - Joanna Kavenna displays fearless originality and wit in confronting the strangeness of reality and how we contend with the death of those we love. Beautiful, ethereal drawings by Oly Ralfe illustrate this haunting journey through time, space and human understanding.

**Read this write-up about A Field Guide to Reality to appreciate this book**

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/07/a-field-guide-to-reality-plays-superbly-with-mystery-trickery-and-scholarship/>

**(237 pages / with illustrations / \$22)**



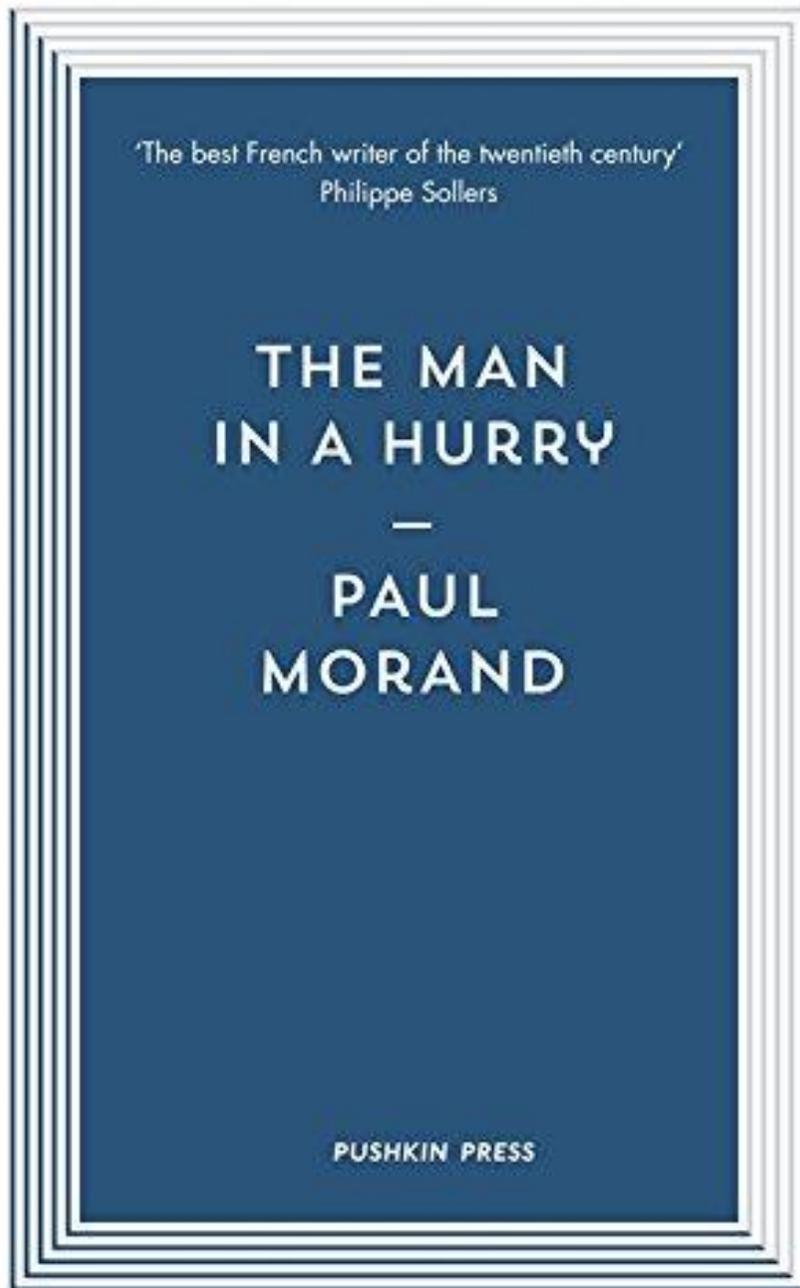
Many centuries later it was 2016 and I was a few decades into my current lifespan. I was spending my time in Oxford. There are many worse places. Conditions had significantly improved since the thirteenth century and the trials of Grosseteste. Bread was still abundant, but was now treated with suspicion, as a decadent substance. On these grounds, some people refused even to consume it. The city was glinting and prosperous. Great lines of traffic snaked across the bridges, passing beneath the spires and gargoyles. The north of the city, mere pastureland at the time of Grosseteste, was now full of Victorian mansions, overlooked by further gargoyles, in architectural homage to vanished ages. Intended originally as family

accommodation for married dons, they were now owned by stockbrokers and bankers, interspersed with a few oligarchs and former tyrants. I lived in a small rented room in a little house in East Oxford, the workers' regions of the nineteenth-century city, now colonised by students and by all those dons who could no longer afford to live in the North. I was neither a student, nor a don; I worked in a café and occasionally did some research work at the university. In the evenings I sat in the Great Library, another significant medieval edifice, and studied the history of the city. When I arrived back at my small rented room, and slept, the words I had read

41 | A Field Guide to Reality

'Beams sir! Chips or peas?'  
Milk with your coffee! Sugar with your beard! Marmalade with your air of venerable antiquity!  
Sir! Sir!  
Today there was a persistent theme. Everyone had something to contribute. 'The mist,' said the woman with a green pullover and a couple of kids in tow; 'The mist,' said a pair of students to each other, and how Harry fell off his bike on the Cowley Road, poor fool...  
Bevin, the manager, was frantic, he didn't like delays, he had fifteen plates to serve and his employees were as late and idle and useless as ever, the food was going cold and people kept complaining. The mist swirled beyond the windows, but the room was candle-lit, a fire burnt in the grate. The sun set slowly, the mist was stained orange... purple... black. I went to throw some rubbish out, I stood in the turgid night, listening to the hum of traffic, I thought of the many dead, tried not to think.  
When I looked up, I couldn't see the stars.  
I went back inside and as I closed the door behind me I realised my heart was thumping, I had started to sweat. But why?  
I often found that I was observing the transient residents of the café, as they rumpled papers or waited nervously for their friends or lovers. It was in this place that I first met Soleté. He had a distinct routine; he came into the café each morning at eleven a.m. and stayed until the lunchtime rush began, at one p.m. The café was in an ancient vault so the noise rumbled around like thunder. Soleté seemed not to notice. He had a small notebook and he wrote copious





***This feverish classic by one of the modern masters of French prose is a witty and touching parable for our busy times.***

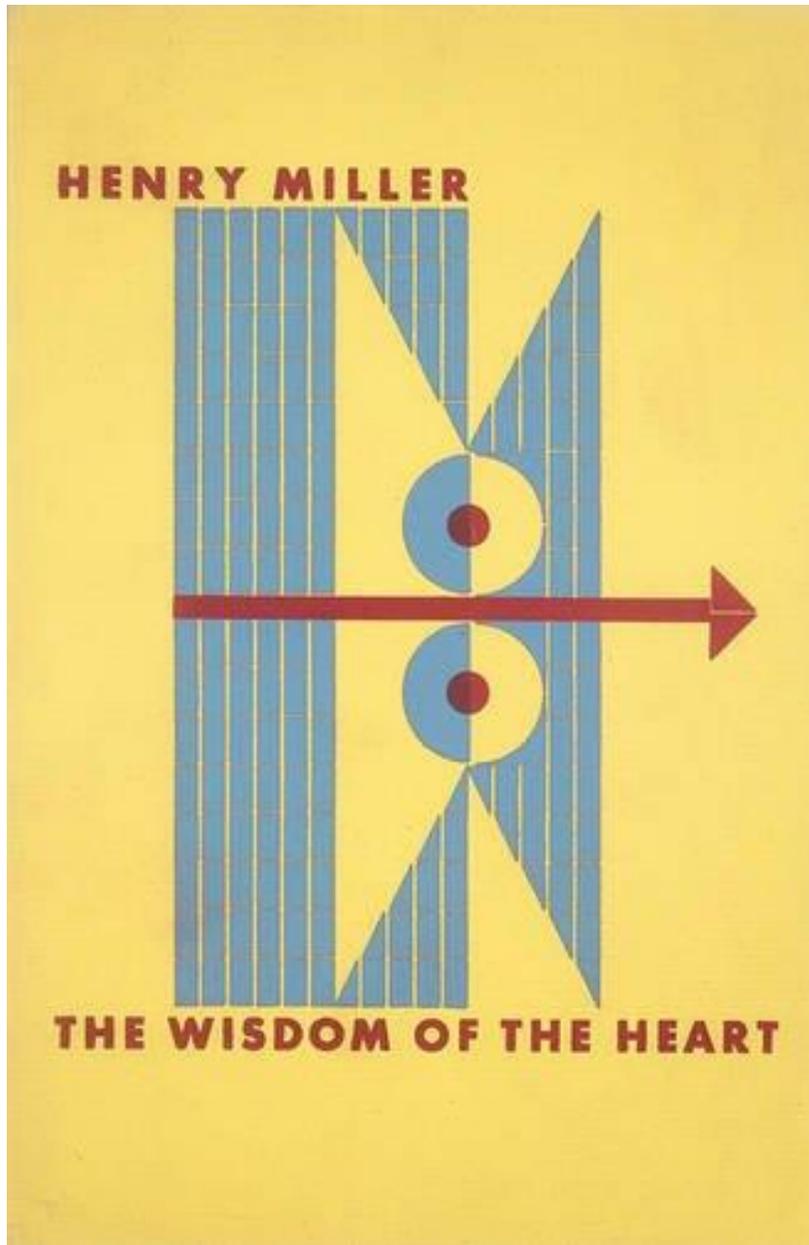
No one can keep up with Pierre Niox, the speediest antiques dealer in Paris - although not necessarily the most competent. As he dashes about at a dizzying pace, his impatience becomes too much to bear for those around him: his manservant, his only friend and even his cat abandon him.

He begins to find that while he is racing through life, it is passing him by. But when Pierre falls in love with the languid, unpunctual Hedwige, the man in a hurry has to learn how to slow down.

*'Admired both by Ezra Pound and by Marcel Proust as a pioneer craftsman of Modernist French prose (...) The sheer shapeliness of his prose recalls Hemingway; the urbanity of his self-destructiveness compares with Fitzgerald's; and his camera eye is as lucidly stroboscopic as that of Dos Passos'*

*The New York Times*

**(384 pages / \$19)**

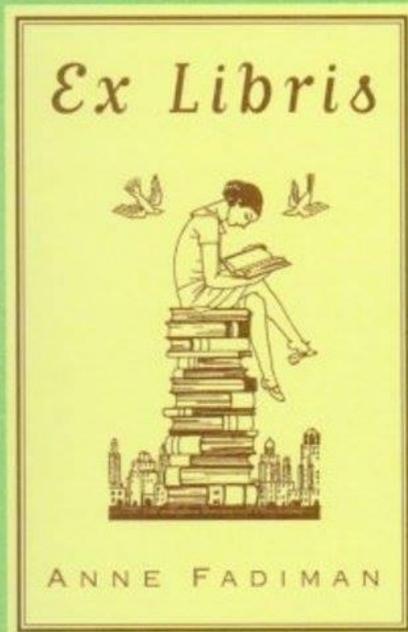


In this selection of stories and essays, Henry Miller elucidates, revels, and soars, showing his command over a wide range of moods, styles, and subject matters.

Writing “from the heart,” always with a refreshing lack of reticence, Miller involves the reader directly in his thoughts and feelings. “His real aim,” Karl Shapiro has written, “is to find the living core of our world whenever it survives and in whatever manifestation, in art, in literature, in human behavior itself. It is then that he sings, praises, and shouts at the top of his lungs with the uncontrollable hilarity he is famous for.”

Here are some of Henry Miller’s best-known writings: an essay on the photographer Brassai; “Reflections on Writing,” in which Miller examines his own position as a writer; “Seraphita” and “Balzac and His Double,” on the works of other writers; and “The Alcoholic Veteran,” “Creative Death,” “The Enormous Womb,” and “The Philosopher Who Philosophizes.”

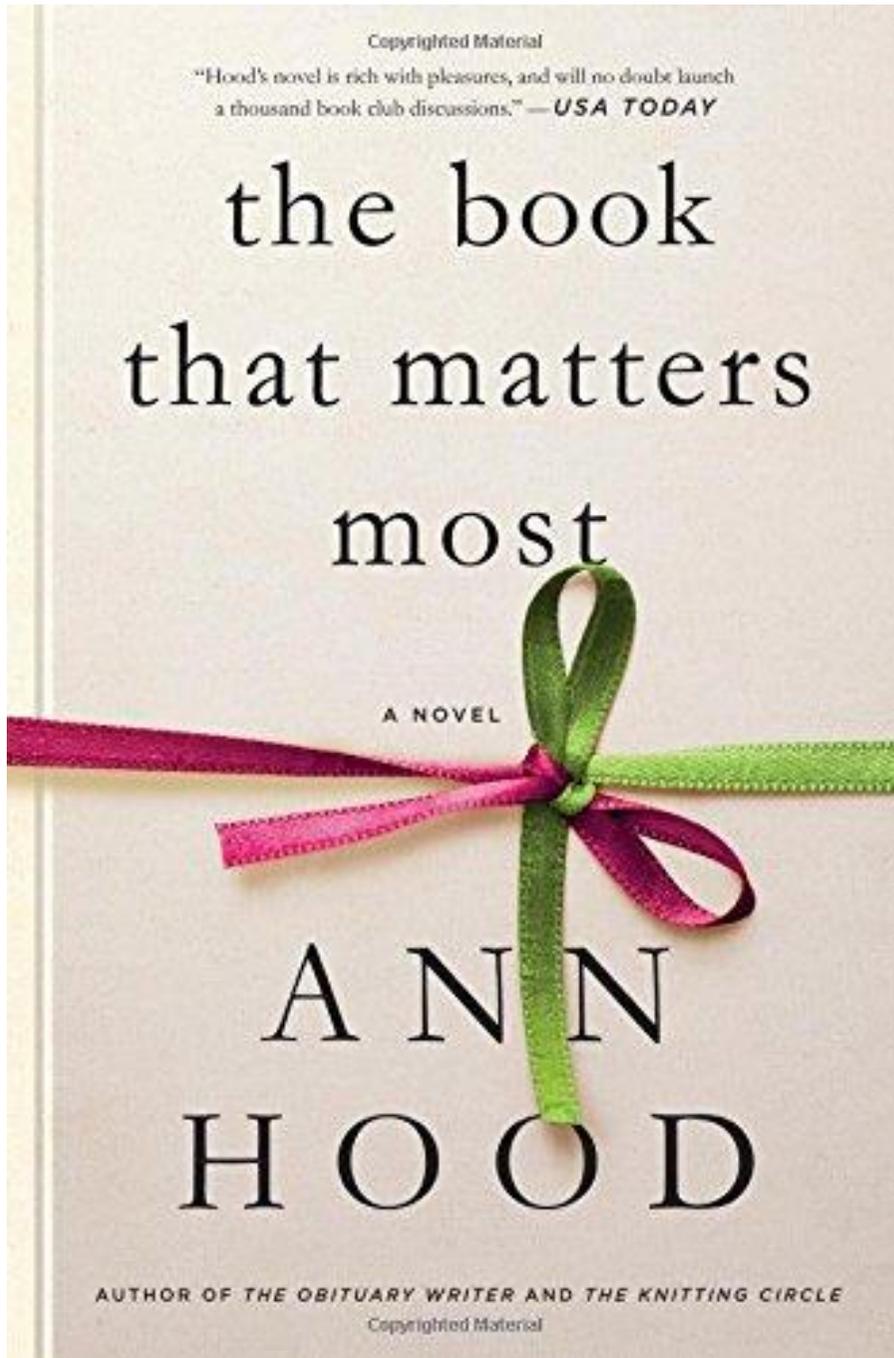
(256 pages / \$29)



Anne Fadiman is--by her own admission--the sort of person who learned about sex from her father's copy of *Fanny Hill*, whose husband buys her 19 pounds of dusty books for her birthday, and who once found herself poring over her roommate's 1974 Toyota Corolla manual because it was the only written material in the apartment that she had not read at least twice.

This **witty collection of essays** recounts a lifelong love affair with books and language. For Fadiman, as for many passionate readers, the books she loves have become chapters in her own life story. Writing with remarkable grace, she revives the tradition of the well-crafted personal essay, moving easily from anecdotes about Coleridge and Orwell to tales of her own pathologically literary family.

As someone who played at blocks with her father's 22-volume set of Trollope ("My Ancestral Castles") and who only really **considered herself married when she and her husband had merged collections** ("Marrying Libraries"), she is exquisitely well equipped to expand upon the art of inscriptions, the perverse pleasures of compulsive proof-reading, the allure of long words, and the satisfactions of reading out loud. There is even a foray into pure literary gluttony--Charles Lamb liked buttered muffin crumbs between the leaves, and Fadiman knows of more than one reader who literally consumes page corners. **Perfectly balanced between humor and erudition, Ex Libris establishes Fadiman as one of our finest contemporary essayists. (1st edition / 176 pages / \$25)**

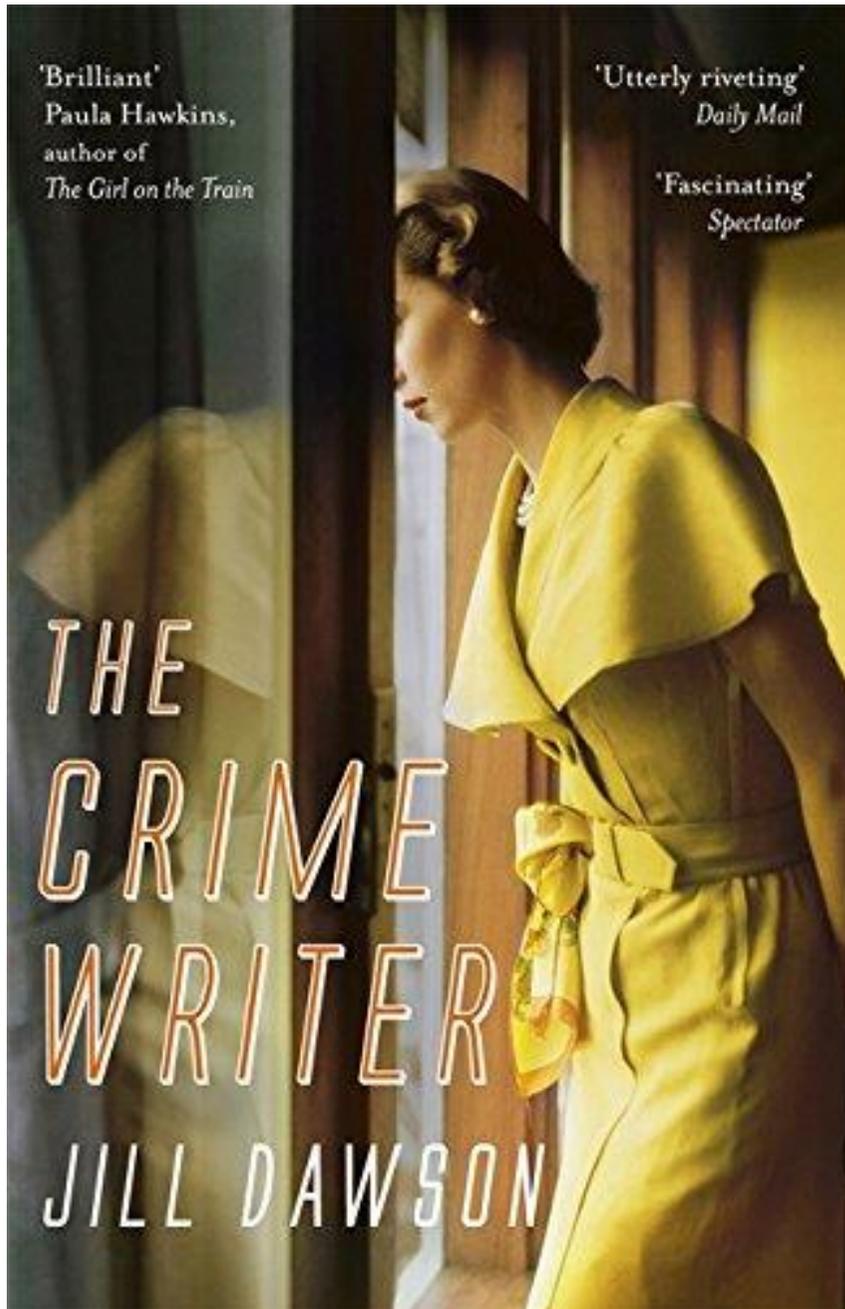


Ava's twenty-five-year marriage has fallen apart, and her two grown children are pursuing their own lives outside of the country.

Ava joins a book group, not only for her love of reading but also out of sheer desperation for companionship. **The group's goal throughout the year is for each member to present the book that matters most to them.** Ava rediscovers a mysterious book from her childhood—one that helped her through the traumas of the untimely deaths of her sister and mother.

Alternating with Ava's story is that of her troubled daughter Maggie, who, living in Paris, descends into a destructive relationship with an older man. Ava's mission to find that book and its enigmatic author takes her on a quest that unravels the secrets of her past and offers her and Maggie the chance to remake their lives.

**(384 pages / \$26)**



In 1964, the eccentric American novelist Patricia Highsmith is hiding out in a cottage in Suffolk, to concentrate on her writing and escape her fans. She has another motive too - a secret romance with a married lover based in London. Unfortunately it soon becomes clear that all her demons have come with her. Prowlers, sexual obsessives, frauds, imposters, suicides and murderers: the tropes of her fictions clamour for her attention, rudely intruding on her peaceful Suffolk retreat. After the arrival of Ginny, an enigmatic young journalist bent on interviewing her, events take a catastrophic turn. Except, as always in Highsmith's troubled life, matters are not quite as they first appear . . .

Masterfully recreating Highsmith's much exercised fantasies of murder and madness, Jill Dawson probes the darkest reaches of the imagination in this novel - at **once a brilliant portrait of a writer and an atmospheric, emotionally charged, riveting tale.**

**(256 pages / \$33)**

Author Patricia Highsmith wrote her first stories in high school. After graduating from Barnard College in 1942, she published several short stories in magazines before the release of her first novel *Strangers on a Train* (1950). Her next work, *The Price of Salt*, was a huge hit, but it was published under the pen name Claire Morgan. Her most famous character, Tom Ripley, made his debut in 1955's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. *Ripley Under Water* (1991) was her last published work. She died in 1995

