

The
Portobello
Bookshop



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The Portobello Bookshop Gift Guide 2024



Welcome to The Portobello Bookshop 2024 Gift Guide!

It's hard to believe another year has flown by – and this one marked our fifth birthday! We started the year with a bustling shop and fantastic events, from a memorable evening with Michael Cunningham for *Day* to a celebration of *Gathering: Women of Colour on Nature*. From Jackie Kay to David Nicholls, Jacqueline Wilson to Andrew O'Hagan, we've enjoyed some incredible events around Edinburgh. This Autumn, we were especially excited for our event with Ali Smith who was generous enough to partially dedicate her new novel, *Gliff*, to the bookshop team – something we'll always treasure. Thanks to all the authors, publishers, venue staff and audiences who were involved in our events this year.

We also launched Party Books Masterclasses, our series of craft and writing workshops, and it's been wonderful to see attendees sharing ideas and being creative. Our masterclasses have covered the topics of floral embroidery, printing techniques, poetry and novel writing, and much more! We're grateful to all the workshop hosts who made each session a success and look forward to hosting more next year.

Our shop has seen more visitors than ever, and our website's grown in popularity too, with our lovely local customers ordering books for collection, and people from far and wide picking up signed editions from their favourite authors.

In March, we started a new tradition: closing the shop for a team day. We kicked things off with breakfast at Dishoom, followed by an afternoon of bowling – a great way to recharge!

The Portobello Book Festival is thriving, and it's a joy to work with their team of volunteers. We enjoyed running our October pop-up stall at the library and seeing so many readers delight in their free events. And as Christmas approaches, we're again teaming up with Home-Start Edinburgh, Street Reads, and Ecole du Bon Berger to provide books to those in need, thanks to your kindness and support.

Our team has handpicked some of this year's favourites for the Christmas guide. We hope you enjoy our selections and look forward to welcoming you this Winter!



ALICE

James, Percival Everett. £20.00

The Material, Camille Bordas. £16.99

Scaffolding, Lauren Elkin. £16.99

Clay: A Human History, Jennifer Lucy Allan. £20.00

Guapa, Saleem Haddad. £8.99



I started the year reading Percival Everett's latest novel *James*, and knew that it would become one of my stand-outs of 2024. This retelling of *Huckleberry Finn* is poignant, subtly tender and, as always with a Percival Everett novel, very funny, whilst highlighting the horrors of slavery through lacerating observations. If you ask me, it's a new classic, and I'm glad to see it on the Booker Prize shortlist alongside my favourite book of last year, *Orbital*. I also loved Camille Bordas' *The Material*. Set over the course of a single day, it follows students and lecturers from a stand-up

comedy masters – I'd describe it simply and concisely as a comic novel about sad people. I am a fan of Lauren Elkin (*Art Monsters* featured as one of my favourites of 2023), and she's back in my Top 5 with her debut novel *Scaffolding*, writing beautifully about stasis, history, the nature of desire and the places we inhabit. Another book that stayed with me since I read it is *Guapa*, the debut novel by Saleem Haddad, published in 2018. Finally, I've loved dipping in and out of *Clay: A Human History*, Jennifer Lucy Allan's exploration of this fascinating material.

The Book of Love, Kelly Link. £22.00

Henry Henry, Allen Bratton. £16.99

The Coin, Yasmin Zaher. £14.99

He Who Drowned the World, Shelley Parker-Chan. £9.99

Mother Naked, Glen James Brown. £10.99



AMOS



I did a lot of weird escapist reading in 2024, as usual! I've been a fan of Kelly Link's short fiction for a long time, and I really enjoyed her first novel, *The Book of Love*; it was dreamy and immersive, brimming with bittersweet magic, fairytale logic, and characters who are still on my mind. Shelley Parker-Chan's *He Who Drowned the World* and Glen James Brown's *Mother Naked* both took bold and very fun liberties in reimagining historical events (the founding of the Ming dynasty, and the lowest-paid entertainer in over 200 years of Durham Cathedral's

mediaeval records, respectively). These were eerie, atmospheric reads, full of characters choosing violence. I picked up Allen Bratton's *Henry Henry* expecting a deeply unserious queer retelling of Shakespeare's *Henriad* - unserious it was not! This was one of the best debuts I've read in ages; audacious, dark, compassionate, and charismatic. Yasmin Zaher's *The Coin* (a stylish, cut-throat novel about a glamorous and obsessive Palestinian woman teaching middle school in New York City) was another wildly good debut. It's been a year for them!



EUAN

Small Rain, Garth Greenwell. £18.99

Gliff, Ali Smith. £18.99

The Extinction of Irena Rey, Jennifer Croft. £16.99

When I Sing, Mountains Dance, Irene Solà. £9.99

The Wickedest, Caleb Femi. £14.99



2024 has brought quite a few books my way that I know will be sharing the top spots in my hypothetical ‘favourite books ever’ list for quite some time. *The Extinction of Irena Rey* is Jennifer Croft’s shapeshifting novel about the inextricable links between nature and language, the art of translation, morality and mortality. It’s a joyous inevitability that any year with a new Ali Smith novel will see it noted in my favourites. Lo and behold, *Gliff* is here and with it a generous glimmer of hope in the midst of the turmoil of its near-future

setting. Poet Caleb Femi turns to the joy of the house party in his latest collection, *The Wickedest*, which I enjoyed all the more after hearing him discuss it in August. *Small Rain* finds Garth Greenwell musing on health, home and happiness in his most beautiful prose yet. And finally, I think that the connections brought about in the hills of Catalonia by Irene Solà in *When I Sing, Mountains Dance* (translated from the Catalan by Mara Faye Lethem) made it one of the most captivating novels I’ve had the pleasure of reading.



JACK

Biography of X, Catherine Lacey. £9.99

Erasure, Percival Everett. £9.99

Evil Eye, Etaf Rum. £9.99

The Strangers, Ekow Eshun. £20.00

All Fours, Miranda July. £20.00



In my five years as a bookseller I've become acutely aware how hard it is to read all the great titles you'd like to read that land on the shop floor each month. So this year quite a few of my recs are for books that I didn't manage to tick off my to-be-read pile last year. I loved Catherine Lacey's *Biography of X*, which came out in paperback this year, a brilliant exploration of identity and how hard it is to ever truly know a person. Percival Everett's *Erasure* was a book I came to after loving his recent book *James*, which is featured more than

once in this guide, so *Erasure* is my pick if you're looking for another great read by Everett. Etaf Rum's *Evil Eye* is a really moving story of one woman's strength and resilience in the face of extremely trying circumstances. Ekow Eshun's *The Strangers* is a great non-fiction read telling the stories of five different black men throughout history, told in the second person, a truly engrossing read. My last pick is *All Fours* by Miranda July, a brilliant novel about middle age and the menopause that's been a favourite for a lot of the team.



JENNA

The Alternatives, Caoilinn Hughes. £18.99

Wandering Stars, Tommy Orange. £18.99

Gliff, Ali Smith. £18.99

Young Hag, Isabel Greenberg. £20.00

Intermezzo, Sally Rooney. £20.00



As a surprise to absolutely no one, I didn't venture into too much non-fiction and read an incredible array of fiction and graphic novels. Many of the books on this list I anticipated a great deal – and they did not disappoint! I have long admired Caoilinn Hughes' writing, and I was floored by her magnificent offering, *The Alternatives*, a magnificent novel about the tender but complex, sometimes fraught, bond between sisters. It really resonated with me. I was also entranced by Tommy Orange's Booker Longlisted novel, *Wandering Stars*, which is a masterclass

in storytelling and continues telling the story of a family readers met in Orange's first novel, *There There*. And like everyone at the bookshop, I adored Ali Smith's newest novel *Gliff*, an almost mysterious book about language and human nature. *Intermezzo* is a wonderful return for Sally Rooney, who explores complex sibling relationships with a keen eye and playfulness of form. Lastly, I read the brilliant graphic novel *Young Hag* by Isabel Greenberg, a fantastic tale inspired by Arthurian legend that will make any person venture out on a journey of self discovery.



KATYA

The Fellowship of the Ring, J.R.R. Tolkien. £9.99

Ancillary Justice, Ann Leckie. £9.99

The Dispossessed, Ursula K. Le Guin. £9.99

The Scent of Flowers at Night, Leila Slimani. £9.99

It Lasts Forever and Then It's Over, Anne de Marcken. £12.99



It's a great challenge to choose between all the incredible new titles that come into the shop, especially if you want to make time for some classics – but I think I got a good balance this year! I've been reading lots of fantasy and sci-fi, including (finally) starting *The Lord of the Rings*, but my top pick for this year is Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Dispossessed*. It's a riveting story, exploring the workings of an anarchist civilisation played off against a highly consumerist and hierarchical one, and it's threaded through with a truly human story of ambition and shared knowledge. I adore how Le Guin tells it all with empathy and

scrutiny – a rare experience that's made it one of my favourite books ever. I'm also pleased I made an effort to read more general fiction and non-fiction this year. Anne de Marcken's *It Lasts Forever and Then it's Over* was a surprising find, a poetic and darkly comical zombie novel, with a talking crow! And the dreaminess of Leila Slimani's memoir *The Scent of Flowers at Night* (translated by Sam Taylor), exploring the loneliness of writing and womanhood whilst walking through an empty Venetian museum, had me pondering for days afterwards.



LILY

Intermezzo, Sally Rooney. £20.00

Enter Ghost, Isabella Hammad. £9.99

Childhood, Youth, Dependency, Tove Ditlevsen. £10.99

The Garden Against Time, Olivia Laing. £20.00

All Fours, Miranda July. £20.00



As usual this year my tastes have tended towards fiction with a sprinkle of non-fiction thrown in. Sally Rooney and Olivia Laing are two of my favourite writers so it's no surprise that their latest offerings – *Intermezzo* and *The Garden Against Time* respectively – are two of my standouts from the year. I love the way Rooney delves into the complexities of relationships with insight and compassion, and it's such a joy to witness the growing maturity of her prose in *Intermezzo*. Similarly, Laing always writes with such care and understanding no matter the subject, and in *The Garden*

Against Time she spans the personal and historical with insight and hope. Isabella Hammad's *Enter Ghost* and Miranda July's *All Fours* were also favourites, both books that play with our expectations of what a novel can be. And I'm so glad I finally read *Childhood, Youth, Dependency* by the Danish writer Tove Ditlevsen (translated by Tiina Nunnally and Michael Favala Goldman) – I was utterly enthralled by Ditlevsen's writing; her stark observations, ambitions, and tender feelings are evoked with such clarity and understanding.



MARC

Grand Tour, Elisa Gonzalez. £10.99

Wrong Norma, Anne Carson. £14.99

Revolutionary Acts, Jason Okundaye. £20.00

The Coin, Yasmin Zaher. £14.99

A Flat Place, Noreen Masud. £10.99



Five is too few – here’s a flurry of recommendations from my not at all bad reading year: Janet Malcolm’s *Still Pictures* and *In the Freud Archives*; *All Souls* by Saskia Hamilton; *School of Instructions* by Ishion Hutchinson; *Love’s Work* by Gillian Rose; *Blackouts* by Justin Torres; *My Great Arab Melancholy* by Lamia Ziadé (translated by Emma Ramadan); *Inland* by Gerald Murnane; *Minor Detail* by Adania Shibli (translated by Elizabeth Jaquette); the poems and translations of Seamus Heaney; *Mortal Secrets* by Frank Tallis; *My Poems*

Won’t Change the World by Patrizia Cavalli (multiple translators); *The Book of Frank* by CAConrad; Plato’s *Symposium* (translated by Robin Waterfield); *Ruin, Blossom* by John Burnside; *The Girls of Slender Means* by Muriel Spark; *Henry Henry* by Allen Bratton; *Facing Down the Furies* by Edith Hall; *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead; *The Anthropologists* by Ayselgül Savaş; *Artful* by Ali Smith; *The Children’s Bach* by Helen Garner; and Brandon Taylor’s *The Late Americans*.



MOLLY

My Friends, Hisham Matar. £18.99

Seeing Further, Esther Kinsky. £12.99

Playground, Richard Powers. £20.00

Gliff, Ali Smith. £18.99

Brandy Sour, Constantia Soteriou. £11.99



This year, my reading was shaped by new novels from two of my favourite authors: Ali Smith and Richard Powers. In *Gliff* and *Playground* respectively, both writers are concerned with confronting the reality of today's world; their characters are somewhat at the mercy of large corporations and interconnected systems of abuse and greed. At the same time, they show there is always space for hope, resistance, intentionality and care for one another and the wider world. I read *My Friends* by Hisham Matar in January and immediately knew it would be on this list

so I was delighted to see it made the Booker longlist too. Similarly, *Brandy Sour* by Constantia Soteriou (translated by Lina Protopapa) is a short novel that has stayed with me since I read it in one day, following the lives of the guests and staff at a Cypriot hotel over the 20th century and published by a lovely new indie publisher, Foundry Editions. And finally, my one non-fiction choice is *Seeing Further* by Esther Kinsky, a beautiful declaration of love for cinemas as a vital physical space of connection and community.



NESS

Bellies, Nicola Dinan. £9.99

What My Bones Know, Stephanie Foo. £10.99

The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi,

Shannon Chakraborty. £9.99

I Shall Never Fall In Love, Hari Conner. £12.99

The Luis Ortega Survival Club, Sonora Reyes. £8.99



For me, this past year of reading has been about diversifying genres and mediums. I've read more graphic novels than in past years, and after a couple of years of almost exclusively listening to audiobooks, I've returned to physical books and ebooks. My top five represent the genres I read most of, and the standout of each category – *What My Bones Know* was my favourite non-fiction, a harrowing yet hopeful tale of recovery from childhood trauma, *Bellies* was the first literary fiction book I read in a while, and I felt so moved by both main

characters and the ways they find themselves at odds with each other but continue to care for each other deeply. *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi* was a fun historical fantasy pirate romp across the Indian Ocean, *I Shall Never Fall In Love* was a queer and cosy Austen mashup graphic novel, and *The Luis Ortega Survival Club* was a thoughtful YA novel that dealt with heavy topics skillfully and made space for joy, kinship and hope. I can't wait to see what the new year brings!



NIAMH

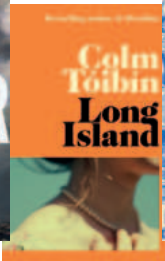
Clear, Caryl Davis. £12.99

Long Island, Colm Tóibín. £20

There are Rivers in the Sky, Elif Shafak. £18.99

Gliff, Ali Smith. £18.99

Arrangements in Blue, Amy Key. £0.99



In January, I picked up *Arrangements in Blue*, which truly influenced my perspective throughout the year. It encouraged me to savour and celebrate moments with friends and loved ones... and ensured Joni Mitchell stayed on repeat for months. Otherwise, I was most excited about much-anticipated novels from my favourite authors in 2024. Set against the historical backdrop of 1843 Scotland, Caryl Davies' *Clear* brings together two unlikely characters and weaves together a story of connection, language and the land that shapes us. I've long been awaiting Colm Tóibín's sequel to *Brooklyn* and was

delighted to meet these characters again 20 years later. *There Are Rivers in the Sky* entwines several narratives linked by water in various forms – from the humble snowflake, to a human tear to epic rivers running between countries. As always, Elif Shafak evokes a powerful sense of place across not only continents but centuries and these characters feel equally rich and real. Last but not never least, I loved Ali Smith's new novel, *Gliff*. At times melancholic as it confronts injustices in the world, it nonetheless instils a renewed sense of hope and care for one another and our shared stories.



SELENA

The Parisian, Isabella Hammad. £9.99

On Savage Shores, Caroline Dodds Pennock. £10.99

Thirst, Marina Yuszczuk. £16.99

There There, Tommy Orange. £9.99

A Sunny Place for Shady People, Mariana Enríquez. £14.99



With new releases by Tommy Orange and Isabella Hammad to look forward to, I found myself first drawn to their stunning debut novels, *There There* and *The Parisian*, respectively. Both deal with particularly brutal and turbulent periods of history and their aftermath, but it is the complexity of characterisation and depth of emotion that have made these two not only top of my 2024 reading, but new all-time favourites. As always, gothic and horror were quite prominent in my reading year with *A Sunny Place for Shady People*

(translated by Megan McDowell) and *Thirst* (translated by Heather Cleary) being the standouts. Finally, it was quite difficult to choose only one history book to feature on my list, so in addition to *On Savage Shores*, let me take a page out of Marc's book and recommend some more from this year's reading: *Fifth Sun* by Camilla Townsend, *Scenes of Subjection* by Saidiya Hartman, *The Story of Art Without Men* by Katy Hessel for some art history, *Dispossessed Lives* by Marisa Fuentes, and *Imperial Island* by Charlotte Lydia Riley.



ZOË

The Art Thief, Michael Finkel. £10.99

Queen B, Juno Dawson. £16.99

How to Say Babylon, Safiya Sinclair. £10.99

Lightfall: The Girl and the Galdurian, Tim Probert. £11.99

The Notebook, Roland Allen. £10.99



2024 saw me return to my usual 50/50 split between non-fiction and fiction. I was helped along by the inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, which introduced me to *How to Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair. I was captivated by Sinclair's memoir of growing up in a conservative Rastafari household and the father/daughter relationship. I hit the jackpot with two separate recommendations from friends: *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel is a stranger-than-fiction story as gripping as a thriller, and the *Lightfall* graphic novel series by Tim Probert provides the perfect escape to a cosy fantasy world with

magical quests and unlikely friendships. I loved Juno Dawson's *Queen B*, a perfectly-paced novella addition to the Her Majesty's Royal Coven series. Its exploration of female power and the patriarchy felt entirely in keeping with the original series but the additional flex of the Tudor court setting took it to another level. Finally, a late entry to my favourites of the year is *The Notebook: A Cultural History of Thinking on Paper* by Roland Allen. It's a delightfully entertaining book from someone who clearly loves his subject and is full of inspiration for filling all those empty notebooks I have lying around...



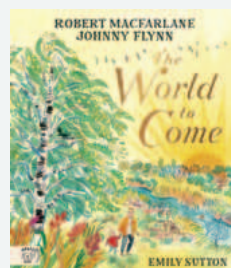
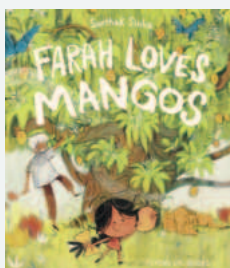
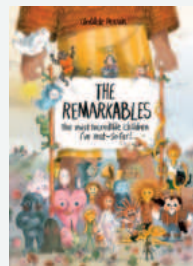
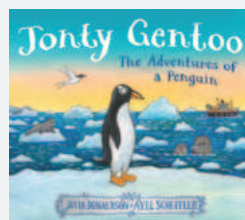
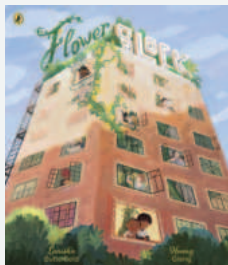
The Portobello Bookshop

Our Christmas Gift Giving Tree is back and this winter, with your help, we're working to get books into the hands of readers young and old, teaming up with three brilliant organisations: **Home-Start Edinburgh**, **Streetreads** at Simon Community Scotland,

and **Ecole du Bon Berger** in Rwanda. You can donate in-store by picking up a tag from our tree and purchasing a book, or online via our **Christmas Book Drive** page. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Children's Picture Books

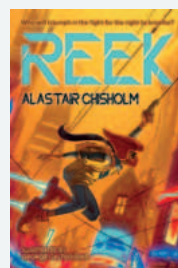
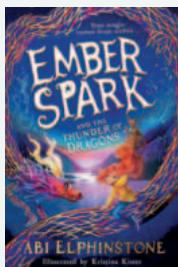
Combining beautiful illustrations with engaging stories, our picture book picks are populated with cheeky rabbits, funny pigeons, and children with a thirst for adventure! They all inspire curiosity and kindness, sparking our little ones' imagination.



The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods, Mikey Please. £7.99 **Flower Block**, Lanisha Butterfield. £7.99
Jonty Gentoo: The Adventures of a Penguin, Julia Donaldson. £12.99 **The Dictionary Story**, Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston. £14.99
HELP! Ralfy Rabbit and the Great Library Rescue, Emily MacKenzie. £7.99 **The Remarkables: The Most Incredible Children I've Met – So Far!**, Clotilde Perrin. £17.99 **Hank Goes Honk**, Maudie Powell-Tuck. £12.99
Farah Loves Mangos, Sarthak Sinha. £7.99 **The World to Come**, Robert Macfarlane & Johnny Flynn. £12.99

Children's Fiction

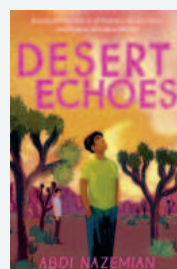
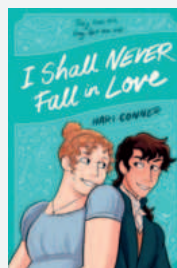
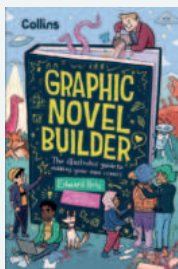
Scotland is home to brilliant children's writers such as Nadine Aisha Jassat, Alastair Chisholm, Abi Elphinstone, Joseph Coelho and Sibéal Pounder. Their new books are some of our favourite children's fiction titles of 2024, featuring here alongside the likes of Benjamin Dean and Kiran Millwood Hargrave.



Ember Spark and the Thunder of Dragons, Abi Elphinstone. £7.99 **The Boy Who Fell from the Sky**, Benjamin Dean. £7.99
Geomancer: The Storm and the Sea Hawk, Kiran Millwood Hargrave. £14.99
The Hidden Story of Estie Noor, Nadine Aisha Jassat. £7.99 **Sprouts**, Sibéal Pounder. £12.99 **Pablo and Splash**, Sheena Dempsey. £8.99
Relic Hamilton, Genie Hunter, Joseph Coelho. £7.99 **Bear & Bird: The Stick and Other Stories**, Jarvis. £9.99
Reek, Alastair Chisholm. £7.99

Young Adult

A holiday romance, a queer graphic novel, a stunning Glasgow-set debut, a sprinkle of thrill and a good dose of mythology-inspired fantasy... This year was filled with fantastic releases and there's a book for every teen and young adult on this list!



- Graphic Novel Builder**, Edward Ross. £12.99 **How to Survive a Horror Movie**, Scarlett Dunmore. £8.99
Glasgow Boys, Margaret McDonald. £8.99 **Some Like It Cold**, Elle McNicoll. £8.99 **Celestial Monsters**, Aiden Thomas. £8.99
I Shall Never Fall In Love, Hari Conner. £12.99 **Not for The Faint of Heart**, Lex Croucher. £8.99
Bloodtide & Bloodsong: The Complete Duology, Melvin Burgess. £10.99 **Desert Echoes**, Abdi Nazemian. £8.99



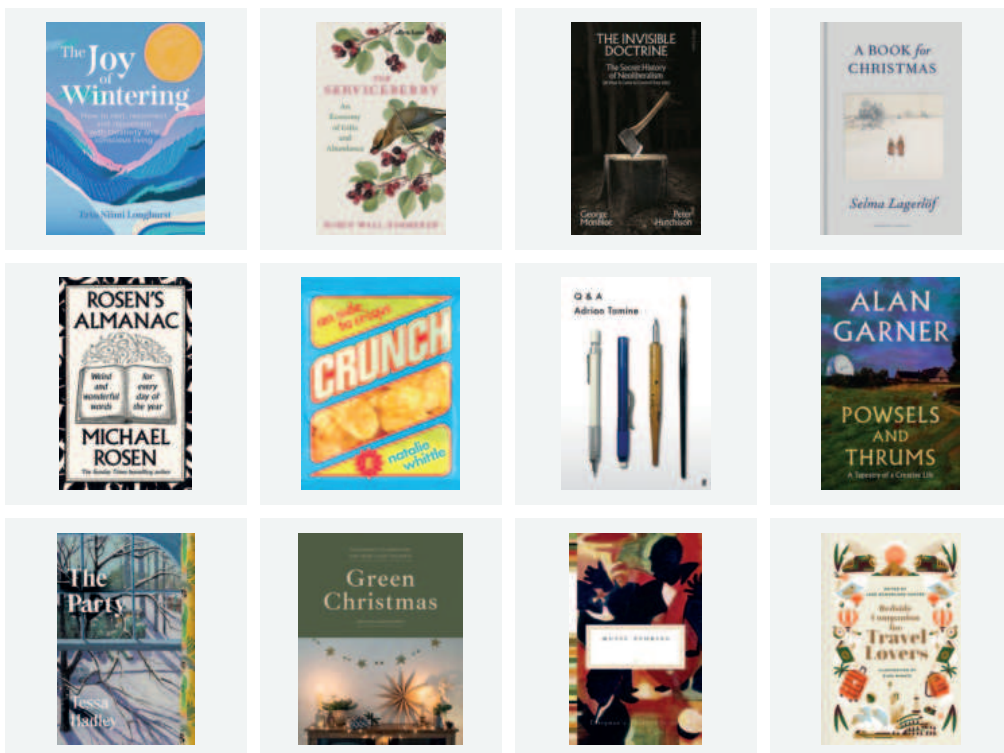
We've hosted **hundreds of events** from our bookshop on Portobello High Street. In the past few years we have been broadcasting most of them online, as well as growing our events programme, working with large venues in Edinburgh's city centre. This year, some of our events highlights included

Jacqueline Wilson at the Assembly Rooms (our biggest event to date!), as well as hosting **Ali Smith, David Nicholls, Garth Greenwell, George the Poet, Ian Rankin, Jackie Kay, Jenni Fagan, Kevin Barry, Meera Sodha, Rachel Kushner** and **Val McDermid**.

theportobellobookshop.com/events

Gift & Stocking Fillers

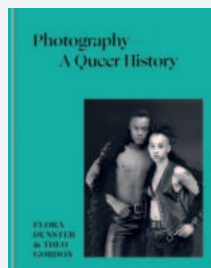
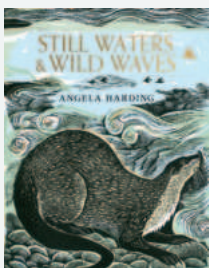
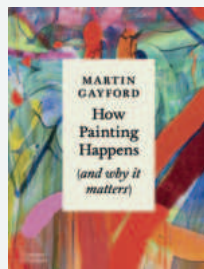
Though we can't actually guarantee they all fit in a stocking, these gifty books are sure to be a hit this Christmas! A wintry novella from Tessa Hadley, a short memoir from Alan Garner, a vision of how to reorient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity and community – these are perfect books to give to your loved ones.



The Joy of Wintering, Erin Niimi Longhurst. £12.99 **The Serviceberry**, Robin Wall Kimmerer. £14.99
The Invisible Doctrine, George Monbiot & Peter Hutchison. £12.99 **A Book for Christmas**, Selma Lagerlöf. £12.99
Rosen's Almanac, Michael Rosen. £16.99 **Crunch**, Natalie Whittle. £18.99 **Q&A**, Adrian Tomine. £12.99
Powells and Thrums, Alan Garner. £14.99 **The Party**, Tessa Hadley. £12.99 **Green Christmas**, Jen Chillingworth. £18.99
Music Stories, Wesley Stace (ed). £18.99 **Beside Companion for Travel Lovers**, Jane McMorland Hunter (ed). £22.95

Beautiful Books

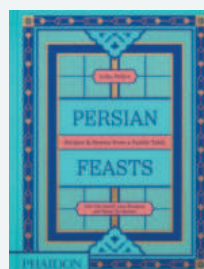
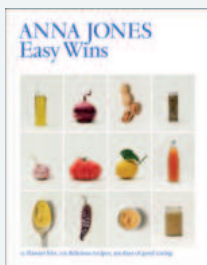
Our favourite coffee-table books of 2024 make beautiful additions to the bookshelves of lovers of art, travel, nature and astronomy. From a history of the moon to a queer history of photography, these are to be cherished and read for years to come.



The Art of Climbing, Simon Carter. £30.00 **Lunar**, Matthew Shindell (ed). £50.00
How Painting Happens (and why it matters), Martin Gayford. £35.00 **Still Waters & Wild Waves**, Angela Harding. £25.00
Trees in Winter, Richard Shimell. £25.00 **Photography: A Queer History**, Flora Dunster & Theo Gordon. £40.00
A Place in Scotland, Banjo Beale. £35.00 **Great Women Sculptors**, Phaidon Editors. £49.95
Voyages, Gestalten & Sidetracked Editors. £40.00

Cookery

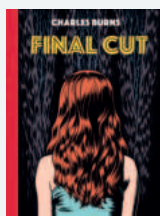
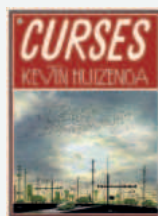
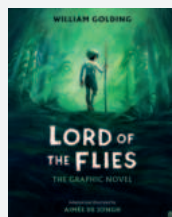
Our Food & Drink section at the shop often bends under the weight of wonderful cookbooks, so narrowing down this list was difficult! We couldn't miss out on new books from shop and customer favourites Meera Sodha, Yotam Ottolenghi, Rukmini Iyer and Anna Jones, and have travelled around the world with recipes from Lebanon, Iran and Vietnam.



Easy Wins, Anna Jones. £28.00 **Dinner**, Meera Sodha. £27.00 **What I Ate in One Year**, Stanley Tucci. £20.00
Midweek Recipes, Jess Elliott Dennison. £23.50 **The Green Cookbook**, Rukmini Iyer. £25.00
Quick and Easy Vietnamese, Uyen Luu. £25.00 **Ottolenghi Comfort**, Yotam Ottolenghi & Helen Goh. £30.00
Sofra, Karima Hazim Chatila & Sivine Tabbouch. £27.00
Persian Feasts, Leila Taghnia-Milani Heller, Lila Charif, Laya Khadjavi & Bahar Tavakolian. £34.95

Graphic Novels & Comics

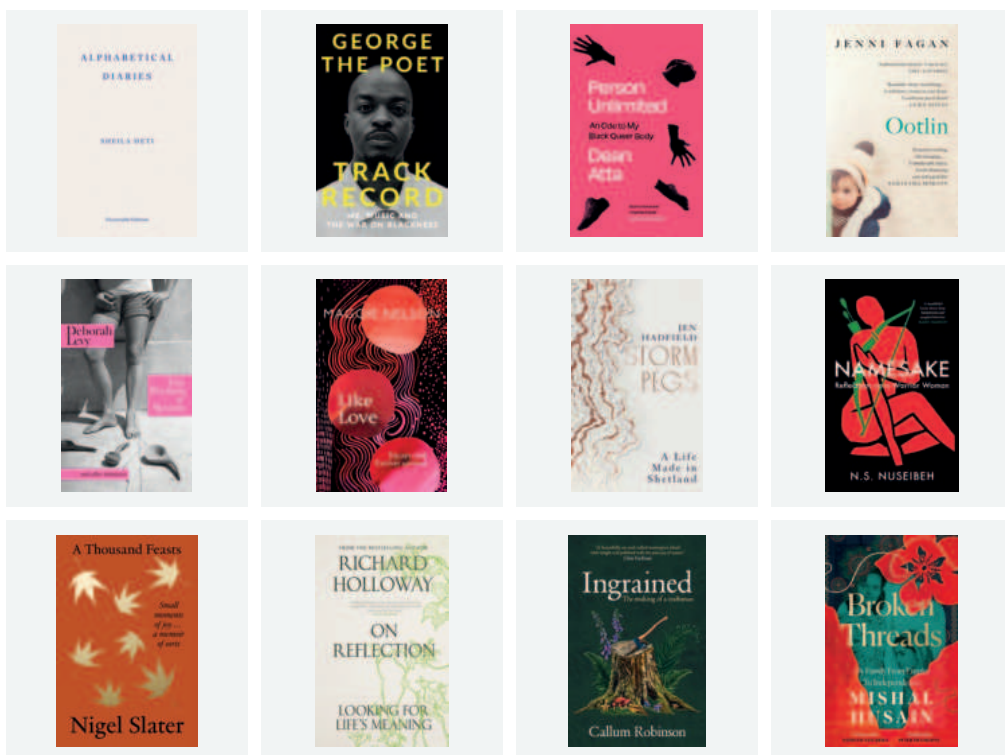
New graphic novels from Isabel Greenberg, Luke Healy and Emily Carroll amongst others have delighted us, moved us and – yes – terrified us. Also on this list is the fascinating and comprehensive book, *Comics: 1964-2024*, which is the perfect gift for any dedicated comic fan.



Comics: 1964-2024, Various. £40.00 **Giant**, Mollie Ray. £18.99 **Lord of the Flies**, William Golding & Aimée de Jongh. £20.00
Self-Esteem and the End of the World, Luke Healy. £20.00 **When I Arrived at the Castle**, Emily Carroll. £14.99
My Great Arab Melancholy, Lamia Ziadé. £24.99 **Curses**, Kevin Huizenga. £22.00
A Witch's Guide to Burning, Aminder Dhaliwal. £23.00 **Young Hag**, Isabel Greenberg. £20.00 **Final Cut**, Charles Burns. £30.00
Woman, Life, Freedom, Marjane Satrapi. £30.00 **Lore Olympus: Volume Seven**, Rachel Smythe. £24.00

Essays & Memoir

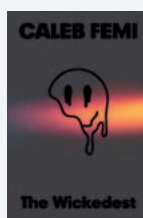
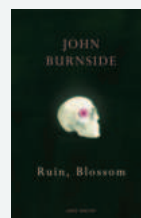
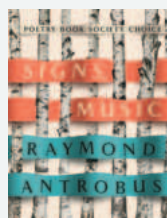
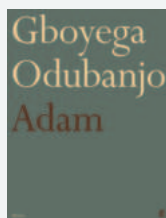
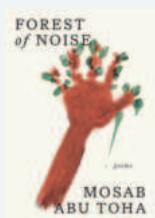
We've had the pleasure of hosting events with Sheila Heti, George the Poet, Dean Atta and Jenni Fagan this year, and thoroughly recommend their brilliant memoirs – and all the ones below! Our picks are by turns thought-provoking, moving, searching and entertaining, encouraging readers to walk in someone else's shoes for a while.



Alphabetical Diaries, Sheila Heti. £10.99 **Track Record**, George the Poet. £20.00 **Person Unlimited**, Dean Atta. £14.99
Ootlin, Jenni Fagan. £16.99 **The Position of Spoons**, Deborah Levy. £20.00 **Like Love**, Maggie Nelson. £20.00
Storm Pegs, Jen Hadfield. £18.99 **Namesake**, N.S. Nuseibeh. £16.99 **A Thousand Feasts**, Nigel Slater. £20.00
On Reflection, Richard Holloway. £18.99 **Ingrained**, Callum Robinson. £22.00 **Broken Threads**, Mishal Husain. £18.99

Poetry

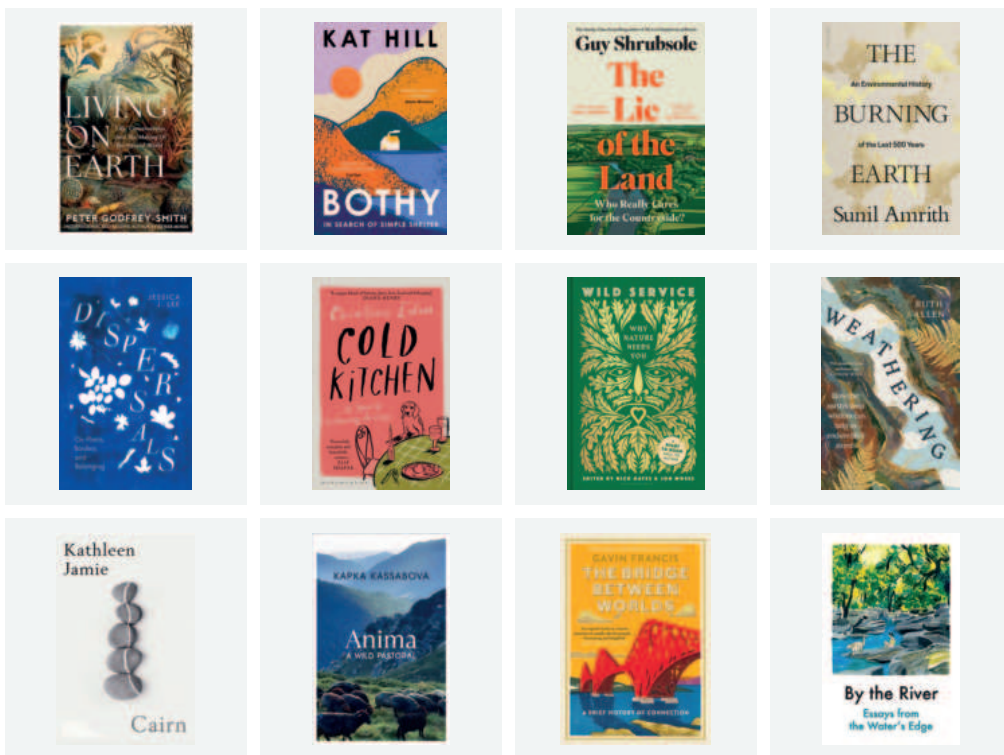
It's always difficult to narrow down a year of poetry! 2024 gave us many fantastic poetry collections, and here are a few that particularly stayed with us. We'd like to highlight Len Pennie's debut collection and Hollie McNish's latest, which have been a hit for us this year.



- Poyums**, Len Pennie. £14.99 **Forest of Noise**, Mosab Abu Toha. £10.99 **The Collected Poems**, Roger McGough. £25.00
Lobster, Hollie McNish. £18.99 **Collected Poems**, Wendy Cope. £20.00 **Adam**, Gboyega Odubanjo. £12.99
Signs, Music, Raymond Antrobus. £10.99 **Ruin, Blossom**, Johnny Burnside. £13.00
Polkadot Wounds, Anthony Vahni Capildeo. £12.99 **Ceremony for the Nameless**, Theresa Lola. £10.99
The Wickedest, Caleb Femi. £14.99 **Three Births**, K Patrick. £12.99

Nature & Travel

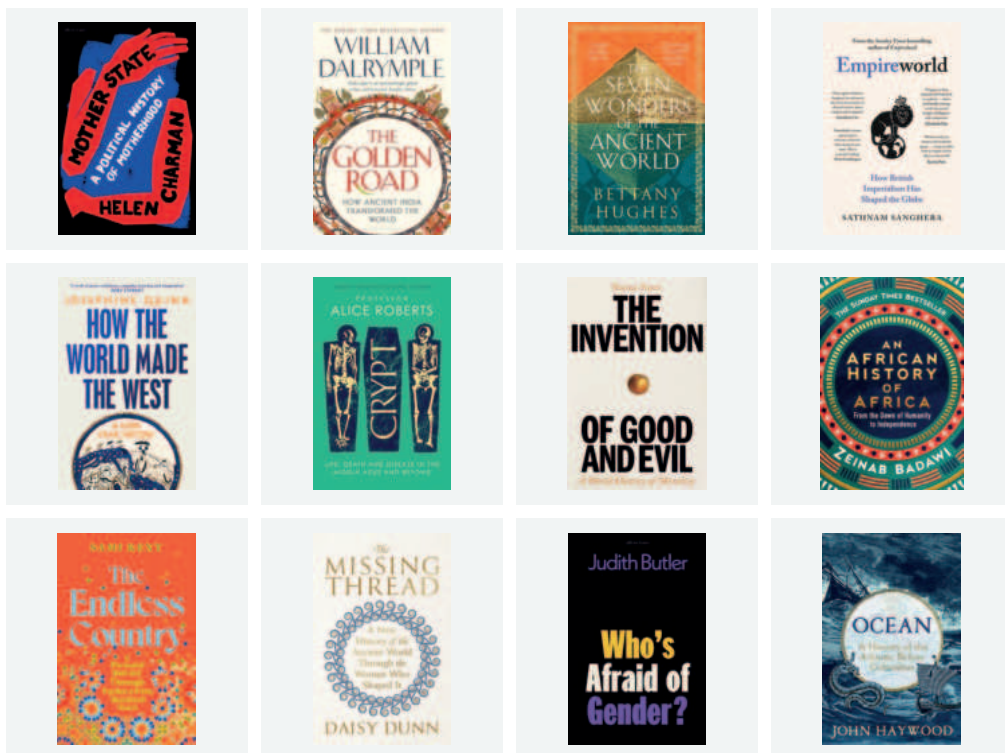
Discover the wonders of our world with our curated selection of this year's nature and travel writing. These books invite us on fabulous journeys, exploring the earth's landscapes and fragile ecosystem. Perfect for adventurers and nature enthusiasts alike, they are sure to inspire curiosity and a renewed appreciation for our planet's beauty.



Living on Earth, Peter Godfrey-Smith. £22.00 **Bothy**, Kat Hill. £16.99 **The Lie of the Land**, Guy Shrubsole. £22.00
The Burning Earth, Sunil Amrith. £30.00 **Dispersals**, Jessica J. Lee. £16.99 **Cold Kitchen**, Caroline Eden. £18.99
Wild Service, Nick Hayes & Jon Moses (eds). £20.00 **Weathering**, Ruth Allen. £18.99 **Cairn**, Kathleen Jamie. £9.99
Anima, Kapka Kassabova. £22.00 **The Bridge Between Worlds**, Gavin Francis. £20.00 **By the River**, Various. £9.99

History & Society

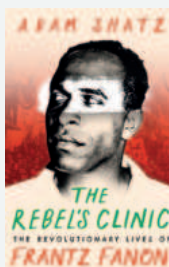
Our booksellers' history and society picks for 2024 delve into the ancient world and the British Empire, explore the history of motherhood, the Atlantic Ocean and the notion of morality – and much more! Perfect for curious minds out there...



Mother State, Helen Charman. £30.00 **The Golden Road**, William Dalrymple. £30.00
The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Bettany Hughes. £25.00 **Empireworld**, Sathnam Sanghera. £20.00
How the World Made the West, Josephine Quinn. £30.00 **Crypt**, Alice Roberts. £22.00
The Invention of Good & Evil, Hanno Sauer. £25.00 **An African History of Africa**, Zeinab Badawi. £25.00
The Endless Country, Sami Kent. £20.00 **The Missing Thread**, Daisy Dunn. £25.00
Who's Afraid of Gender?, Judith Butler. £25.00 **Ocean**, John Haywood. £30.00

Biography

Portraits of Franz Kafka, Hannah Arendt, MF DOOM, Frantz Fanon, and Joni Mitchell make up some of our favourite biography titles of the year. They feature alongside collective biographies of the rural lives of three important writers, five remarkable Black men and neurodivergent people from around the globe.



- Travelling**, Ann Powers. £25.00 **The Strangers**, Ekow Eshun. £20.00 **Rural Hours**, Harriet Baker. £25.00
How to Win an Information War, Peter Pomerantsev. £20.00 **The Chronicles of Doom**, S.H. Fernando Jr. £25.00
The Rebel's Clinic, Adam Shatz. £25.00 **We Are Free to Change the World**, Lyndsey Stonebridge. £22.00
Nine Minds, Daniel Tammet. £20.00 **Metamorphoses**, Karolina Watroba. £18.99



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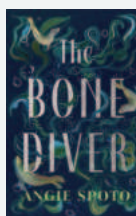
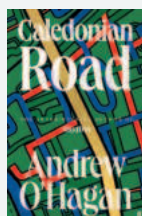
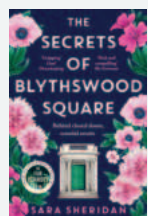
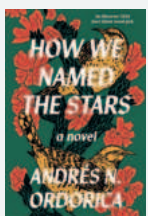
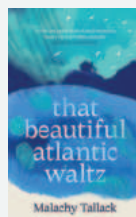
Website &
Signed Editions

Our website offers millions of titles, including **signed editions**, available to order for delivery or collection. It also features our **curated bookseller recommendations**, and makes it easy to

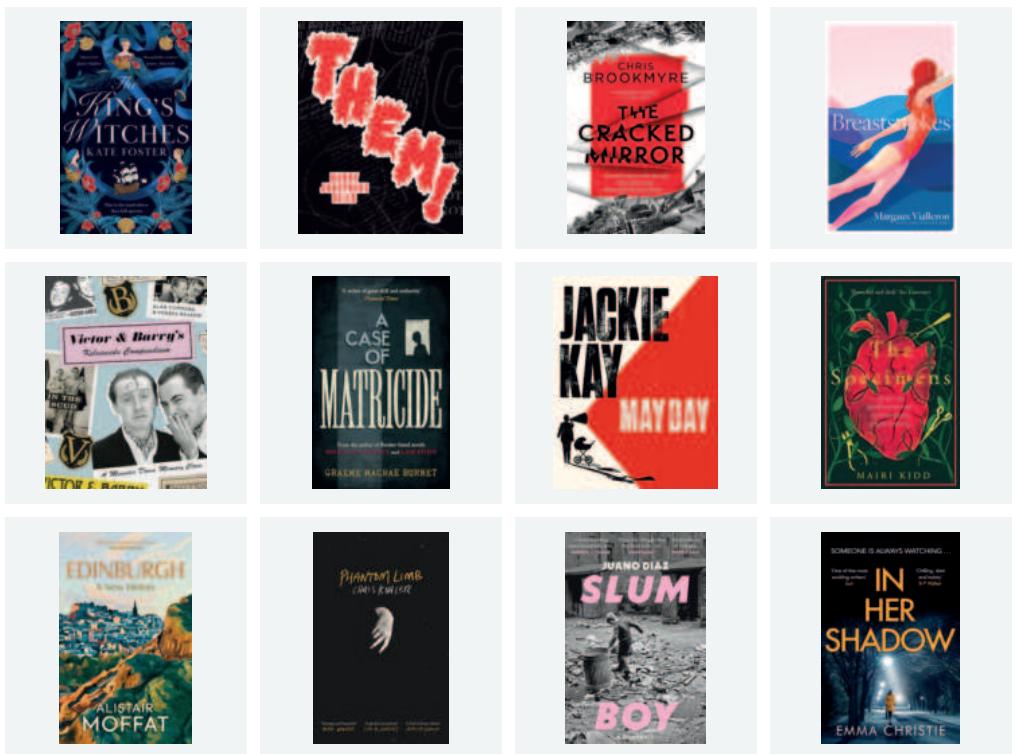
sign up to our **in-person and online events**. Our online community has grown over the years and we've enjoyed providing books to many book lovers at home and all around the world.

Picks from Scotland

From poetry to science fiction, historical fiction to great new crime, memoirs to – of course – an exploration of sex robots, this year’s Scottish book roster is packed with treats. If you give any of these brilliant titles to your family and friends this Christmas, you know you’ll be supporting a fantastic Scotland-based writer!



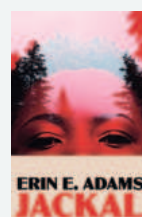
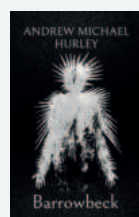
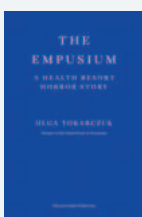
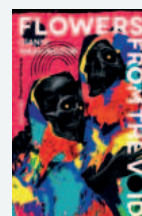
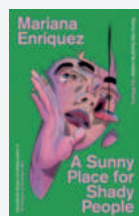
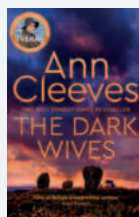
Electric Dreams, Heather Parry. £7.50 Hunted, Abir Mukherjee. £14.99 Queen Macbeth, Val McDermid. £12.00
 That Beautiful Atlantic Waltz, Malachy Tallack. £18.99 The Cat Prince & Other Poems, Michael Pedersen. £10.99
 Make Good Trouble, Briana Pegado. £14.99 Between Two Waters, Pam Brunton. £20.00 Real Boys, Thomas Stewart. £10.99
 How We Named The Stars, Andrés N. Ordorica. £10.90 The Secrets of Blythwood Square, Sara Sheridan. £9.99
 Caledonian Road, Andrew O'Hagan. £20.00 The Bone Diver, Angie Spoto. £16.99



The King's Witches, Kate Foster. £16.99 **Them!**, Harry Josephine Giles. £10.99 **The Cracked Mirror**, Chris Brookmyre. £22.00
Breaststrokes, Margaux Viàlleron. £16.99 **Victor and Barry's Kelvinside Compendium**, Alan Cumming & Forbes Masson. £12.99
A Case of Matricide, Graeme Macrae Burnet. £14.99 **May Day**, Jackie Kay. £10.99 **The Specimens**, Mairi Kidd. £16.99
Edinburgh: A New History, Alistair Moffat. £14.99 **Phantom Limb**, Chris Kohler. £17.99 **Slum Boy**, Juano Diaz. £20.00
In Her Shadow, Emma Christie. £9.99

Crime & Horror

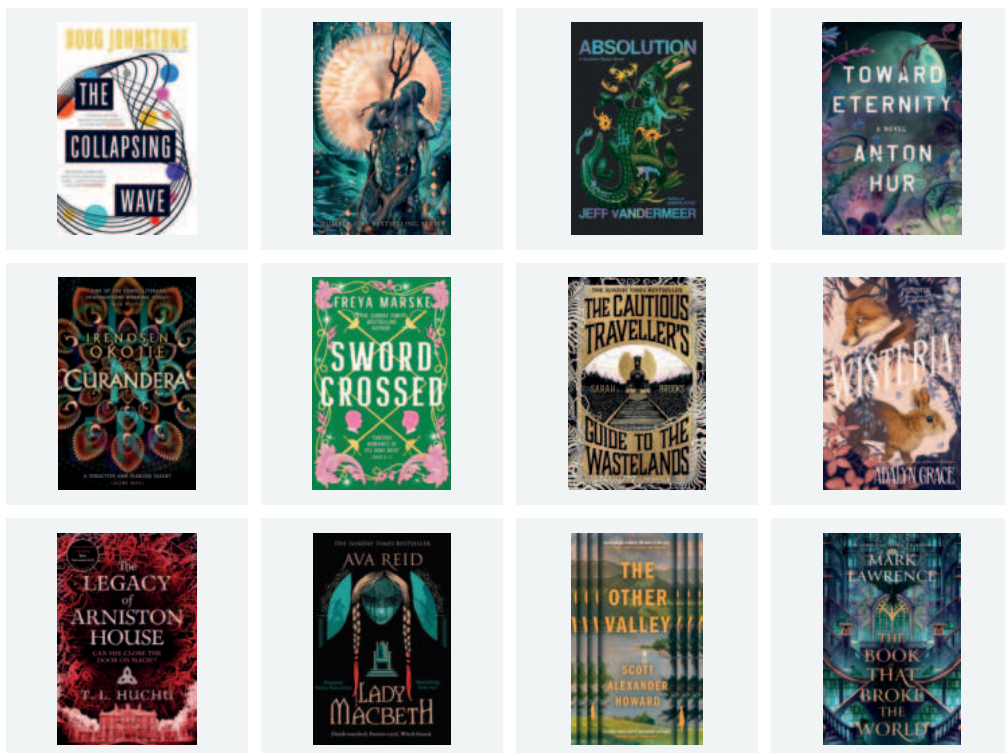
Half crime and thriller, half horror and gothic, this list will satisfy the fans of the macabre and the dark, those who love a good scare or a clever mystery. Our Crime & Horror section is one of the most popular in the shop, and 2024 gave us plenty of new books to add to our bookshelves and yours!



Midnight and Blue, Ian Rankin. £22.00 **We Solve Murders**, Richard Osman. £22.00 **The Dark Wives**, Ann Cleeves. £22.00
Death at the Sign of the Rook, Kate Atkinson. £22.00 **The Blue Hour**, Paula Hawkins. £22.00
Death at the Sanatorium, Ragnar Jonasson. £20.00 **A Sunny Place for Shady People**, Mariana Enriquez. £14.99
Flowers from the Void, Gianni Washington. £14.99 **The Empusium**, Olga Tokarczuk. £12.99 **Freakslaw**, Jane Flett. £16.99
Barrowbeck, Andrew Michael Hurley. £16.99 **Jackal**, Erin E. Adams. £10.99

Sci-fi & Fantasy

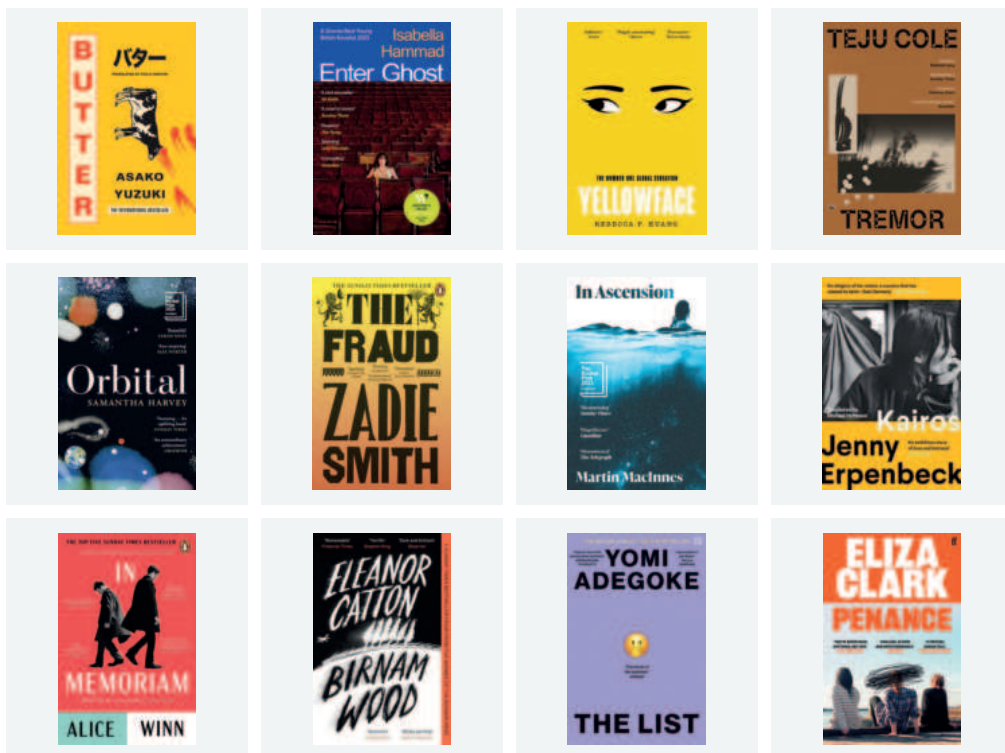
For those who want to be transported to imagined worlds, distant galaxies and magical realms, we have just the books for you. Our science fiction and fantasy picks feature new titles from the likes of Jeff VanderMeer, Freya Marske and Hannah Kaner, and debut novels from translator Anton Hur and philosopher Scott Alexander Howard.



- The Collapsing Wave**, Doug Johnstone. £9.99 **Sunbringer**, Hannah Kaner. £16.99 **Absolution**, Jeff VanderMeer. £18.99
Toward Eternity, Anton Hur. £16.99 **Curandera**, Irenosen Okojie. £20.00 **Sword Crossed**, Freya Marske. £22.00
The Cautious Traveller's Guide to the Wastelands, Sarah Brooks. £16.99 **Wisteria**, Adalyn Grace. £20.00
The Legacy of Arniston House, T.L. Huchu. £18.99 **Lady Macbeth**, Ava Reid. £16.99
The Other Valley, Scott Alexander Howard. £16.99 **The Book that Broke the World**, Mark Lawrence. £16.99

Paperbacks of the Year

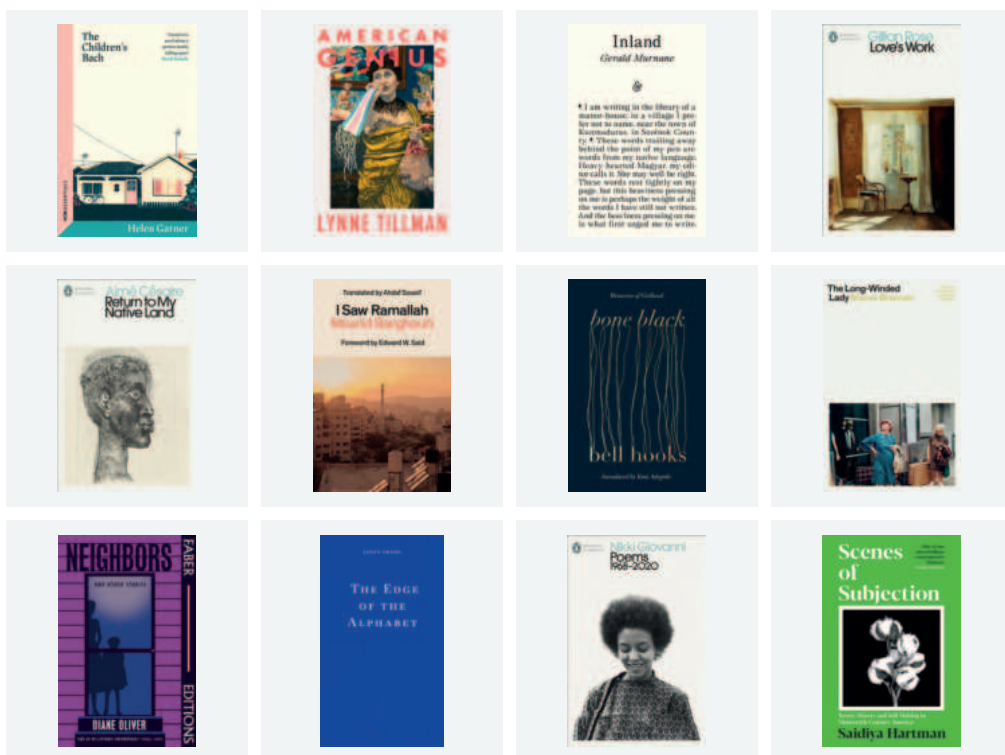
The circle of life (well, books) means that our favourite new titles of last year have been coming out in paperback recently. It initially felt impossible to narrow this list down to twelve titles – but below is a selection of some that have been flying off the shelves this year and that we loved.



Butter, Asako Yuzuki. £14.99 **Enter Ghost**, Isabella Hammad. £9.99 **Yellowface**, Rebecca F. Kuang. £9.99
Tremor, Teju Cole. £9.99 **Orbital**, Samantha Harvey. £9.99 **The Fraud**, Zadie Smith. £9.99
In Ascension, Martin MacInnes. £9.99 **Kairos**, Jenny Erpenbeck. £9.99 **In Memoriam**, Alice Winn. £9.99
Birnam Wood, Eleanor Catton. £9.99 **The List**, Yomi Adegoke. £9.99 **Penance**, Eliza Clark. £9.99

Rediscoveries

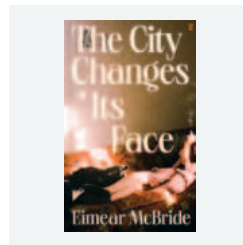
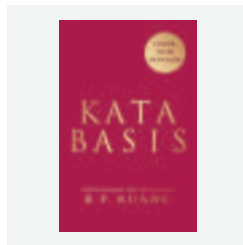
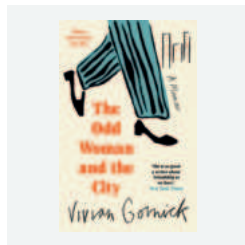
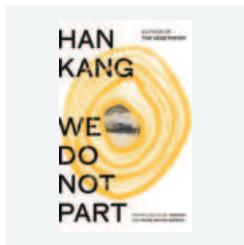
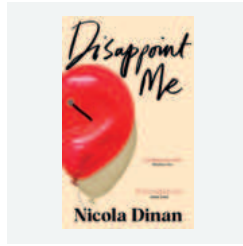
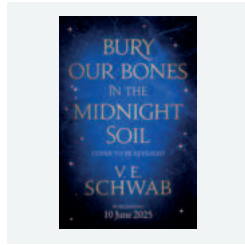
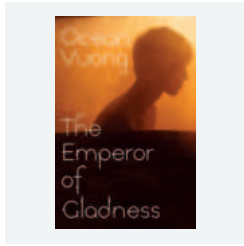
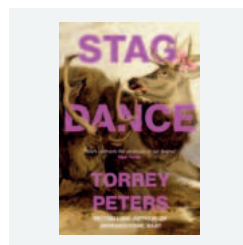
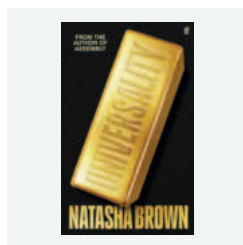
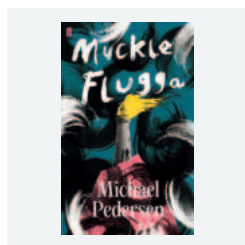
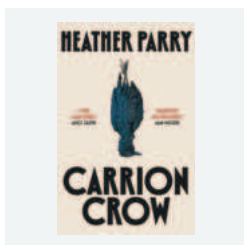
Every year, publishers uncover lost manuscripts, out-of-print titles, previously neglected works, for our reading pleasure! These reissues and rediscoveries include brilliant novels by Australian and American writers, recount an author's return to Ramallah after thirty years of exile, and feature a slice of the New York life between the 1950's and 1980's.



- The Children's Bach**, Helen Garner. £9.99 **American Genius**, Lynne Tillman. £12.99 **Inland**, Gerald Murnane. £14.99
Love's Work, Gillian Rose. £9.99 **Return to My Native Land**, Aimé Césaire. £10.99 **I Saw Ramallah**, Mourid Barghouti. £9.99
Bone Black, bell hooks. £10.99 **The Long-Winded Lady**, Maeve Brennan. £12.99
Neighbors and Other Stories, Diane Oliver. £9.99 **The Edge of the Alphabet**, Janet Frame. £12.99
Poems 1968-2020, Nikki Giovanni. £12.99 **Scenes of Subjection**, Saidiya Hartman. £14.99

Looking Ahead to 2025

Here are some exciting glimpses of books we look forward to in the first half of the coming year. Look out for new books from some of our favourite Edinburgh-based writers (some aren't featured below as they don't have a cover yet): Esa Aldegheri's anthology of travel writing, and a memoir from Katie Goh.



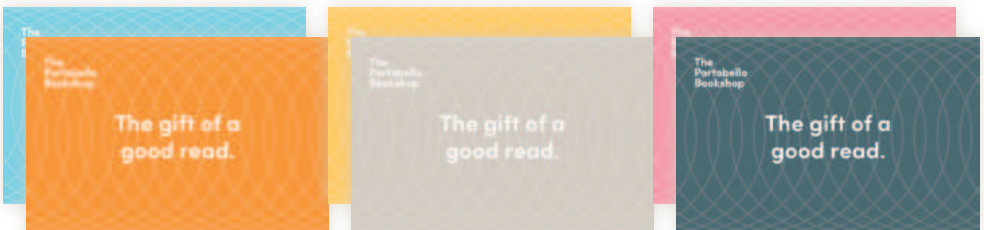
Carrion Crow, Heather Parry. £16.99 **Muckle Flugga**, Michael Pedersen. £16.99 **Universality**, Natasha Brown. £14.99
Stag Dance, Torrey Peters. £16.99 **The Emperor of Gladness**, Ocean Vuong. £20.00
Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil, V.E. Schwab. £22.00 **Disappoint Me**, Nicola Dinan. £16.99
Love in Exile, Shon Faye. £20.00 **We Do Not Part**, Han Kang. £18.99 **The Odd Woman and the City**, Vivian Gornick. £10.99
Katabasis, R.F. Kuang. £22.00 **The City Changes Its Face**, Eimear McBride. £20.00

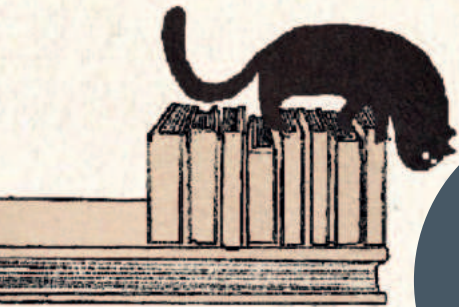
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The Portobello Bookshop Team!



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田村達子



Design: Esther Clayton, Vipond & Co.

Esther's book of 2024 is **The Story of a New Name**, Elena Ferrante.

Cover illustration: Ryoko Tamura

Ryoko's book of 2024 is **The Book of Jones**, Ralph Steadman.