

BOOKBAR

Festive Gift Guide 2024



Merry Christmas!

BookBar is nearly four years old, and this is our fourth festive gift guide. We've come a long way in four years, and we wanted to start by thanking every single person in our community who has helped us to celebrate the social side of reading along the way.

This year we've hosted our biggest ever event with David Nicholls speaking to a packed Conway Hall, had queues around the block celebrating Sally Rooney's *Intermezzo*, and started a monthly meet up for BookClub members. We saw one of our own team-members, Francesca Reece, publish a novel, partnered with local businesses and hosted wine tastings. We've shared recommendations, made coffee, poured wine, and had incredible conversations.

Thank you to every person who has taken our book recommendations, given us a book recommendation, joined us for a drink, read one of our newsletters, come to an event, ordered a book online or chatted with us in store.

We absolutely love our community and are so grateful that you are part of it.

We'd love to see you in the shop this festive season, for one of our festive events (check out our website for details), or enjoying an evening amongst the shelves with a steaming glass of mulled wine or a delicious hot chocolate.

Let us help you select the perfect gift for someone you love, pulling out suggestions while you relax with a drink, which we'll wrap in our iconic packaging to save you the trouble.

Not sure which book to choose? Our Shelf Medicate Service or a BookBar BookClub subscription make the perfect gift.

Our covetable merch is also a perfect stocking-filler.

We know you might not be able to make it down in person for our booksellers to match-make your loved ones with their perfect books, so we hope this catalogue of suggestions acts as a helpful alternative.

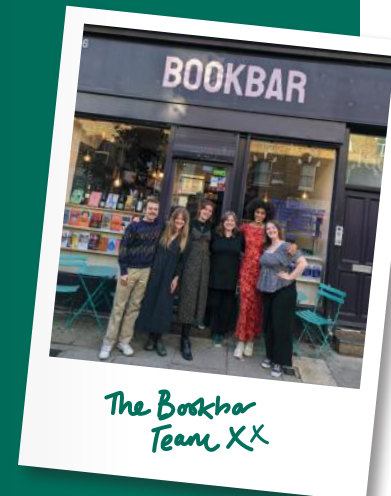
We hope that, whether you are marking it up to give a not-so-subtle hint to your friends and family as to what books you'd like to find in your stocking, or using it to help you find the perfect books for your loved ones, this gift guide is full of treats.

There's an even more extensive catalogue at our website, but not everything we stock is listed there, so please do get in touch via email or



phone and we can usually order most books to arrive the very next day.

December is a hectic, magical month. Whatever this season evokes for you, we hope that this reading list can comfort and inspire you, and that you have a restful, peaceful and happy end to this year.



A match made in literary heaven...

If you're spoilt for choice, our handy key will help you choose the right book for your recipient.

-  **For the bibliophile** – the prolific reader who loves a bookish blockbuster
-  **For the cosy reader** – readers who love heart-warming books
-  **For the culture culture** – from film to football, this reader keeps on top of all the latest cultural trends
-  **For the epic reader** – great stories with brilliant characters are this reader's kind of novel
-  **For the Fleabag fan** – your funny friend who loves a book full of wry wit
-  **For the history buff** – your family member who knows their Victorians from their Vikings
-  **For the horror fiends** – whether spooky or deranged, this reader loves their books to give them a chill
-  **For the literary explorer** – your friend who loves discovering the next big best-seller
-  **For the literature lover** – writers and readers who want to get behind the curtain of the craft
-  **For the love story addict** – your romantic friend for whom Christmas means endless re-runs of *The Holiday*
-  **For the page turner** – thriller lovers, who want to stay up into the wee hours for just one more chapter
-  **For the political aficionado** – they've listened to *The Rest Is Politics* and even been to see it live
-  **For the true story lover** – the reader who is curious about people and loves gripping true stories

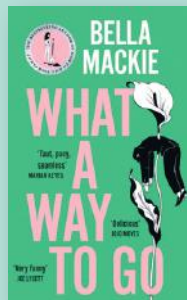
Festive Fiction

Some of our favourite novels of the Autumn, which should be in every Christmas stocking...

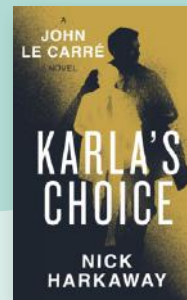


BOOKBAR
Book Of
The Year

This Booker-shortlisted book is an electric story about queer love, desire, home and ownership set in 1960s Netherlands. It's a masterclass in tension, and a BookBar team favourite of 2024. **£16.99**



When a billionaire is murdered, and each member of the family is primed to inherit his fortune, all are under suspicion. This is a must for fans of Mackie's blockbuster *How To Kill Your Family*. **£20**



John Le Carre's George Smiley is back in this critically acclaimed new novel by Le Carre's son. A retired Smiley is brought in when a Russian agent defects in strange circumstances, and the man he was sent to kill in London is nowhere to be found. **£22**



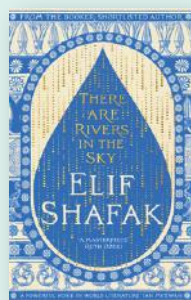
A well-regarded artist takes a two week road trip to New York, leaving her husband and child at home. Thirty minutes down the freeway, she checks into a motel, without telling her family where she is, beginning a story that is witty, weird and alive. **£20**



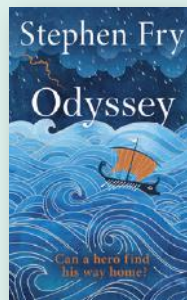
The cult author of *Normal People* returns at the height of her talents with a superb novel about brotherhood, grief, chess, and, of course, sex and love. Essential reading to see you through small talk at Christmas parties, it might even be Rooney's best novel yet. **£20**



Set over a sweltering Summer weekend in London, *Evenings and Weekends* is the 'London novel' for the rental generation, one that captures the exhausting and exhilarating realities of life in one of the world's least affordable cities, packed with heart, hope, love and friendship. **£16.99**



Elif Shafak's latest is set between two continents over two thousand years, the rich and whimsical stories of a Victorian child, fascinated by stories of Ancient Mesopotamia; a teenage girl who journeys from contemporary Turkey to Iraq; and a heartbroken hydrologist living on the River Thames. **£18.99**



Stephen Fry's retellings of the classical myths are Christmas staples. This time he's taking on Homer's *Odyssey* with the charming storytelling and sense of humour for which he is famous. **£25**



Twenty years after the final scene of *Brooklyn*, Eilis is settled in Long Island with her husband and children. When a man arrives on her doorstep and reveals a secret that will upend her life, she's driven back to the community in Ireland she left behind. **£20**



This retelling of *Huckleberry Finn* from the Booker-shortlisted author of *The Trees* and *Erasure* flips the classic American novel on its head, in a tender story that centres the formerly enslaved James, a young father on the run. **£20**

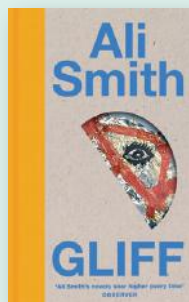


A new series from the bestselling Thursday Murder Club author and *Pointless* presenter Richard Osman, following a private security officer and her retired uncle on a madcap mystery adventure that is just as charming as his famous series. **£22**

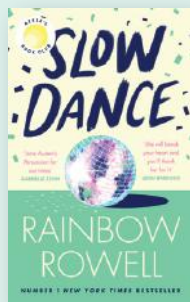




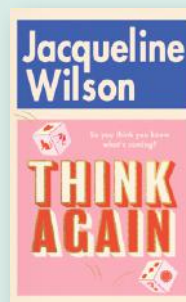
Strout's two most famous characters, Lucy Barton and Olive Kitteridge, meet for the first time in this hopeful, healing novel about new friendships, old loves, and the human desire to leave a mark on the world. **£16.99**



With a nod to the traditions of dystopian fiction, Gliff tells the story of two children fending for themselves in a hostile world, not dissimilar to ours. Ali Smith's writing, as always, is playful, rallying and completely original. **£18.99**



A gorgeous romance from the author of Eleanor & Park, about second chances and re-finding love in your thirties. You will want to stay up all night to find out how Shiloh and Cary's story ends. **£16.99**



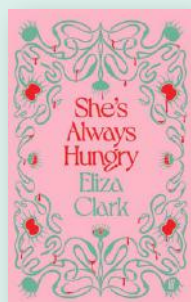
The Girls in Love return in Jacqueline Wilson's first adult novel. Now in their forties, Ellie, Magda and Nadine are still struggling through life and love. Perfect for any millennial raised by Jacqueline Wilson's heroines, who's ready for a large dose of nostalgia. **£22**



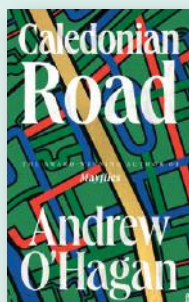
A brilliant fantasy romp set at an orphanage for magical children. This novel is a cosy invitation to return to The House in the Cerulean Sea and the wonderful, quirky characters that inhabit the world. **£22**



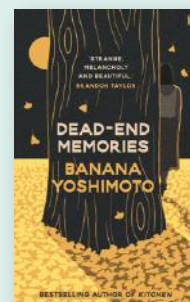
The follow up to the acclaimed Girl With The Louding Voice finds our fourteen year old heroine in Lagos, having escaped her rural village and enrolled in school. But leaving her past behind proves more of a challenge than anticipated. **£16.99**



These short stories from the author of Boy Parts and Penance are as depraved, troubling and playful as we have come to expect from Clark's writing. Body horror at its best, all these stories are about desire and the lengths we go to satiate it. **£15**



A respected art historian lives a privileged life in Islington, many miles from his Glaswegian childhood. But the relationships he pursues are about to bring about a public fall from grace. An addictive modern London epic about people, money, hubris, and social politics. **£20**



These five short stories from the internationally acclaimed Japanese author are translated into English for the first time, exploring the stories of five women who, following sudden and painful events, find solace in the blissful moments of everyday life. **£12.99**



Imagine if Demon Copperhead was written by Stephen King and you'll find yourself somewhere close to this gorgeous novel about friendship, trauma and community that will keep you turning the pages like the best thriller. **£20**

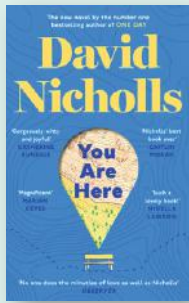


The author of the beloved Small Pleasures' latest novel is a charming story set in the 1960s. Helen is an art therapist at a psychiatric hospital, having an affair with one of the doctors, when a 37 year old man is admitted, having been shut up in his deceased aunt's house for decades. **£20**

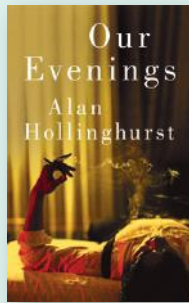


A brilliantly funny, existential and tender novel about marriage, life and second chances for fans of David Nicholls. Phoebe checks into her dream hotel, with the intention of taking her own life. Then she learns that the hotel has been booked for a week-long wedding. **£20**





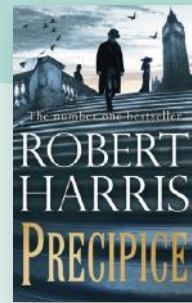
The touching new novel from One Day author David Nicholls follows Michael and Marnie, who are forced to go on a group walking holiday by a persistent mutual friend in this generous, witty, warm and wonderful novel by the laureate of romantic fiction, and a local author. **£20**



The Booker-winning novelist's highly anticipated latest novel is the story of two boys with different backgrounds who attend the same boarding school and grow to become very different men: one a gifted actor and the other a dangerous and ambitious politician. **£22**



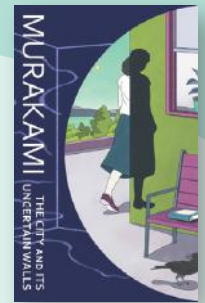
Two teenage-lovers are reunited in this deeply personal and political novel about home, first love, land and who is entitled to it, set in North Wales, from the author of Voyeur, and former BookBar Bookseller. **£20**



The 'King of the page-turning thriller' and cult author of Fatherland returns with a political thriller about the implications of Prime Minister Asquith's affair with a younger woman. **£22**



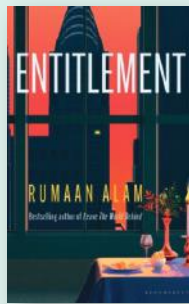
The latest Kiley Reid is a campus novel full of the sharp social observations we loved in her debut Such A Fun Age, examining money, class and power. **£16.99**



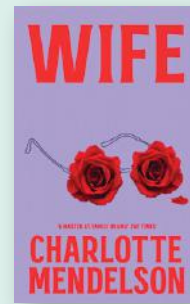
Murakami returns with a novel about the boundaries between worlds and people. When a young man's girlfriend mysteriously vanishes, he sets out to find the imaginary city where her true self lives. His search will lead him to take a job in a remote library with mysteries of its own. **£25**



Small Rain follows a man who is plunged into the dysfunctional American healthcare system, and, as he struggles to understand what is happening to his body, reflects on life and the things that give it value. **£18.99**



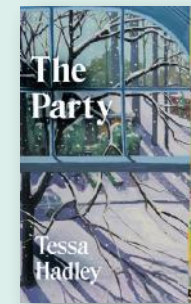
An ambitious young Black woman is taken under the wing of a philanthropic billionaire, who enlists her to help him donate his fortune to worthy causes. A thrilling and wry read about money and power from the author of Leave The World Behind. **£20**



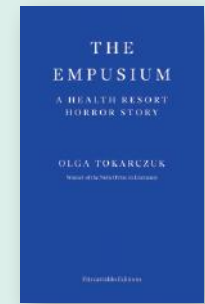
Mendelson's superb writing explores the damage left behind once passion has curdled. A romance begins between two women, but as their desire to have children exposes the cracks in one's glamorous facade, their partnership sours. Tense and exquisite storytelling. **£18.99**



Booker-shortlisted and critically lauded, Creation Lake is an eco-thriller-come-spy-novel set in South West France that's full of political intrigue, revelations and a killer plot. **£18.99**



An exquisite novella has to be the perfect stocking filler for any book-lover. Tessa Hadley's writing gets under the skin of her characters - and her readers - so beautifully and the gorgeous cover is sure to wow your loved one on Christmas morning. **£12.99**



The Nobel Prize-winning author of Drive Your Plough Over The Bones of the Dead and Flights returns with a horror novel set in a spa retreat for tuberculosis sufferers, which riffs on Thomas Mann's The Magic Mountain. Fitzcarraldo lovers, this one's for you. **£12.99**



Noel Non-fiction



The best non-fiction from the year, covering memoir, essays, history, politics and more.



She's served as Hackney's MP since 1987, and was the first Black woman to sit in the House of Commons. Now she is Mother of the House and a celebrated figure on the political left, shunned by the political establishment, hounded by the media, and telling her story for the first time in this book. **£25**



This beautiful collection from the Booker-shortlisted Deborah Levy invites the reader into the interiors of her world, sharing her most intimate thoughts and experiences, as she traces and measures her life against the backdrop of the literary and artistic muses that have shaped her. **£20**



The six day siege of the Iranian embassy on April 30, 1980, during which 26 hostages were taken, is the subject of Ben Macintyre's gripping new book. From the author of The Spy And The Traitor comes another thrilling historical true story. **£25**



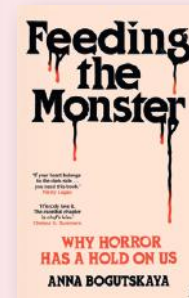
When art dealer Inigo Philbrick was charged with defrauding his clients of millions of pounds, his best friend and former business partner Orlando Whitfield set out to discover the truth. A real life Goldfinch, this extraordinary story about power and corruption in the art world reads like a thriller. **£20**



The first part of Cher's much-anticipated memoir details the life and career of an unparalleled superstar. Singer, actor, philanthropist, daughter, sister, mother, lover, wife, woman, Cher's is an extraordinary life, far too large for one book. **£25**



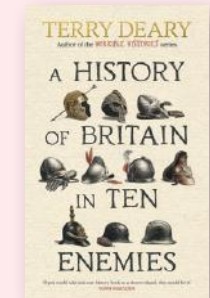
Outlining the lives of five extraordinary, but undercelebrated Black men, from polar explorer Matthew Henson and activist Malcolm X to footballer Justin Fashanu, Ekow Eshun charts their lives with lyricism and empathy. **£20**



An entertaining and comprehensive look at how horror responds to and fuels our feelings of fear, anxiety, pain, hunger and power. With hilarious footnotes throughout, you best be prepared for your watchlist to grow and grow. **£16.99**

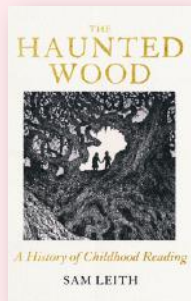


Joan Didion and Eve Babitz are two of America's most celebrated female writers and thinkers, who formed a complicated alliance. With deftness and skill, journalist Lili Anolik uses Babitz as the key to unlocking Didion. **£20**



Horrible Histories for grown ups, told by Terry Deary, the creator of the smash-hit series. Telling the story of Britain's history from the enemies that shaped it, this witty book is perfect for historians who like to digest the past with a laugh. **£20**

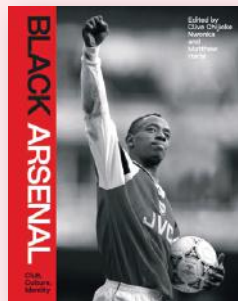




Charting the history and canon of children's literature, this beautiful book is both a celebration and fascinating history of books written for and about children, and their pervading cultural and emotional power. **£30**



This mischievous book of original paintings and commentary from comedian and political commentator Joe Lycett is vibrant, colourful fun, full of Lycett's characteristic playfulness, wit, intelligence and satire. **£35**



This gorgeous book explores Arsenal Football Club's multicultural fandom and unique relationship with Black British popular culture, told through contributions from Arsenal legends from Ian Wright to Paul Davis, and critics like Paul Gilroy, with stunning photography. **£35**



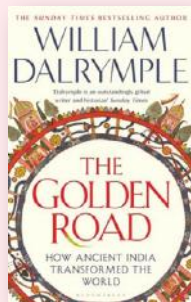
New Yorker journalist Jonathan Blitzer uncovers America's relationship to immigration, from the civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador in the 1980s to Trump's manipulation of immigration to pursue his populist agenda, in this Baillie Gifford Prize-longlisted and Obama-endorsed work. **£22**



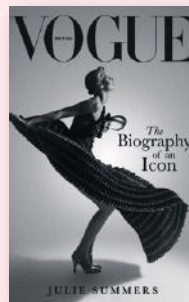
Much-loved historian David Olusoga and his siblings bring new insights, facts and stories about well-known figures and inspirational unsung Black heroes. **£25**



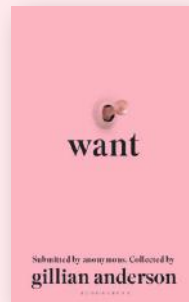
When did Britain get so... weird? After years living and reporting abroad, the News Agents Presenter and former BBC North America Editor Jon Sopel examines the political and social landscape of the UK and asks whether it's the country that has changed, or the writer. **£22**



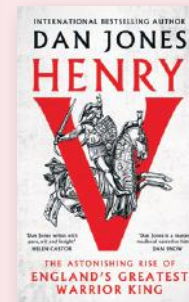
For a millennium and a half, Indian culture, art, thought and technology blazed a trail across the world. William Dalrymple draws from a lifetime of scholarship to highlight India's position as the heart of ancient Eurasia. Perfect for the history buffs in your life. **£30**



A glittering official history of British Vogue, telling the magazine's story from the first issue in 1916 right up to the present day, written with exclusive access to the Vogue archives. **£30**



A collection of sexual fantasies submitted by anonymous women and collected and introduced by Gillian Anderson herself. Want reveals the real and often unexpressed sexual desires of women around the world. **£18.99**



The king famous for victory at Agincourt and immortalised by Shakespeare and Churchill, Henry V is a lauded and mysterious figure. Who better to unpack the real Henry than Dan Jones, Britain's pre-eminent medieval historian returning with his masterwork? **£25**



Poisoned by the Russian security services in 2020, Alexei Navalny died in a brutal Siberian prison earlier this year. This autobiography tells the story of his Soviet childhood, political awakening, and his commitment to taking on a corrupt regime. **£25**

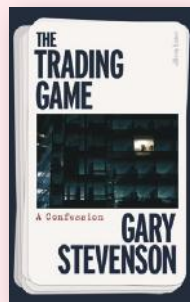


The Double British Champion and the first Black woman ever to swim for Great Britain charts her career's ascent and her singular love of the water, before explaining why she walked away from it all. **£18.99**





Professor of Postcolonial Studies at Leicester University Corinne Fowler brings rural life and colonial rule together through ten country walks, roaming the UK with varied companions. **£25**



This addictive story follows trader Gary Stevenson from his childhood in East London to the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf, and the murky and intoxicating world of trading. **£25**



This extraordinary account of Ghislaine Maxwell's trial is by the inimitable author of My Body Keeps Your Secrets, Lucia Osborne-Crowley. Lucia was one of the few journalists allowed to attend and report on the trial live, and in this empathetic book she centres Epstein and Maxwell's victims. **£22**



The critical duo collectively known as the White Pube ask the question: why do artists make art? With testimony from real artists (including a Turner Prize winner or two), Poor Artists explores the emotional, existential and financial experience of artists today in a journey through modern art like no other. **£20**



A Culinary Christmas



North London's culinary hero, Nigel Slater, returns with his generous writing, in this memoir-in-snippets about food, and the tiny joys of daily life. **£20**



Following national treasure Stanley Tucci through twelve months of eating, in restaurants, kitchens, film sets, press junkets, at home and abroad, with friends, family and strangers. **£20**



Rayner takes us on a tour of his favourite restaurants and recreates their iconic dishes for the home cook. Perfect for your foodie friend who's always at the latest restaurant opening. **£22**



Claire Dinhut takes us on a tour of our condiment cupboards, with recipes, flavour combinations, food pairings, and facts, history and stories about our much-loved and most indispensable ingredients. **£14.99**



120 easy-to-make vegetarian and vegan dishes from the author of Fresh India, East and Made in India, including baked butter paneer, kimchi and tomato spaghetti, and aubergines roasted in satay sauce. **£27**



Sift is a brilliant collection of tips and recipes that make baking both accessible and impressive. Structured by the length of time they take to bake, there are cookies that can be whipped up in a few hours to whole weekend masterpieces. **£30**



Brits buy tens of millions of packets of crisps every day. From lunch box essentials squashed into sandwiches or passed around pub tables, journalist Natalie Whittle explores how this humble potato snack became a national dish. **£18.99**



Ottolenghi's take on comfort food is a celebration of food and home, the connections we make as we cook, and pass on from generation to generation. **£30**

Great Gifts



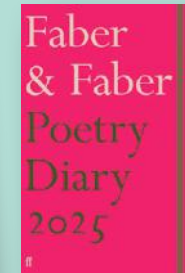
BookBar Gift Voucher



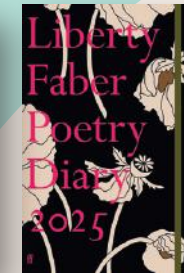
BookBar Tote Bag £10.99



Complete Poems
Wendy Cope
£20



Faber Poetry Diary
£12.99



Liberty Faber Poetry Diary
£18.99



Three Wise Men
Carol Ann Duffy
£12.99



London Food
£11.95

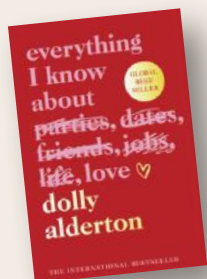


London Bookshops
£10.95



London Wine
£10.95

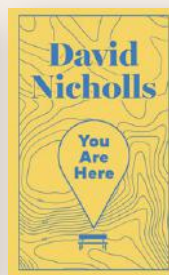
Special Gift Editions



Everything I know About Love
Dolly Alderton
£20



Ministry of Time
by Kaliane Bradley
£20



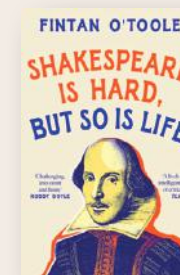
You Are Here
by David Nicholls
£25



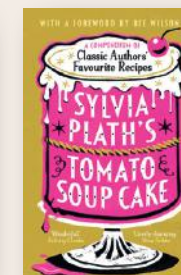
A Room With A View
£16.99



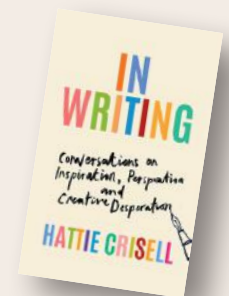
Corker
Hannah Crosbie
£16.99



Shakespeare is Hard, But So Is Life
Fintan O'Toole
£12.99

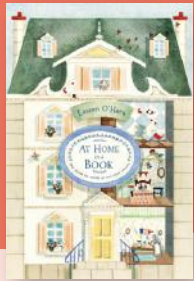


Sylvia Plath's Tomato Soup Cake
£12.99



In Writing
Hattie Crisell
£16.99

Children's Crackers



Step inside the worlds of classic children's books, look through the contents of Sherlock's deducting bag and pore over the map of Neverland in this gorgeous book that lets you step into iconic houses and explore their stories. **£16.99**



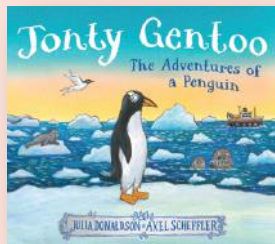
The Story Orchestra's annual contribution to their library of gorgeous, interactive stories adapted from famous pieces of music is a stunning retelling of Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream with accompanying music on each page. **£16.99**



Set in the California Wine Country, this beautifully whimsical young adult novel is filled with family curses, love stories within love stories, soufflés, and talking dogs. It is atmospheric and filled with magic. **£8.99**



When favourite toy Little Fox goes missing in the park, a magical fox appears to take the boy on an adventure to find them. A magical, seasonal tale from the author of Odd Dog Out. **£12.99**



The latest from 'the Lennon and McCartney of children's publishing' (The Times) tells the story of a plucky penguin who escapes the zoo and travels to Antarctica. **£12.99**



A brilliant history of language, from the very first words and dictionaries to slang, told with Bryson's characteristic humour. Perfect for ages eight to eighty. **£25**

Shelf Medicate Subscriptions

Find your new favourite books, branch out of your comfort zone or get into reading for the first time with BookBar's Shelf Medicate Subscriptions.

Purchase a Shelf Medicate Subscription and receive a book delivered to your door every month, personally selected for you by BookBar's literary experts. You'll meet with our expert for a consultation before embarking on your reading adventure.



PAPERBACK
One year – £230
Six months – £125



HARDBACK
One year – £350
Six months – £190



BookBar BookClub

Sign up, receive your book in advance of the BookClub with plenty of time to read it, send in the questions and discussion points you'd like us to talk about, and attend an additional meet up with other BookClub members, in which we will discuss the book.

Previous authors have included Bonnie Garmus, Maggie O'Farrell, Emily Ratajkowski, Natasha Brown, Sheena Patel, Ann Patchett, Meg Mason, Elif Shafak, Claire Keegan, Brit Bennett, and Douglas Stuart.

Your ticket price includes a copy of the book, as well as attendance at the virtual event. Buy a ticket to a single event for £18 or subscribe to the BookClub for £15 a month.

Being a subscribed BookClub member also gives you extra perks, discounts and early access to our in-person events. Find out more on our website.

Prices:
£15/month membership
£18 for a one-off book and ticket



How to order

Order by noon on 12th December and we'll wrap and post your books to your loved ones in time for Christmas. Don't see something in stock? We can order it for you to arrive within a few working days. All of our postal orders come beautifully gift wrapped, ready to go straight under the Christmas tree.

Visit BookBar:

166 Blackstock Road,
London, N5 1HA

Order at our website:

www.bookbaruk.com



Email us:

hello@bookbaruk.com

Give us a ring:

020 3575 5186

Order via bookshop.org

uk.bookshop.org/shop/bookbar

Gift Vouchers:

bookbaruk.com/gift-card

Keep in touch:

 [@BookBarUK](https://www.instagram.com/BookBarUK)

Subscribe to our mailing list
at bookbaruk.com