

## **2011 Collection**

### **Anonymous**

#### **A woman in Berlin**

Newly translated into English, this is an astonishing and deeply affecting portrayal of a woman fighting for survival amidst the horror and inhumanity of war. Begun on 20 April 1945, on the day when Berlin first saw the face of war, and ending on 22 June 1945, the anonymous author describes life within the falling city as it was sacked by the Russian army.

### **Camilleri, Andrea**

#### **Rounding the mark**

He began swimming in slow, broad strokes. The sea smelled harsh, stinging his nostrils like champagne, and he nearly got drunk on it ... In a fraction of a second, Montalbano realized he'd struck a human foot. Somebody else was floating right beside him, and he hadn't noticed. "Excuse me," he said hastily, flipping back onto his belly and looking over at the other. The person beside him didn't answer, because he wasn't doing the dead man's float. He was actually dead. And, to judge from the way he looked, he'd been so for quite a while.

Inspector Salvo Montalbano is considering retirement. Everything – the government, the world – seems to be going to the dogs. Even his favourite restaurant has closed. But when he bumps into a dead body during a bracing swim, his detective instincts are aroused once more. Particularly when the most likely identity of the victim is a man already long buried...

### **Courtenay, Bryce**

#### **The power of one**

First with your head and then with your heart ... So says Hoppie Groenewald, boxing champion, to a seven-year-old boy who dreams of being the welterweight champion of the world. For the young Peekay, it is a piece of advice he will carry with him throughout his life.

Born in a South Africa divided by racism and hatred, this one small boy will come to lead all the tribes of Africa. Through enduring friendships with Hymie and Gideon, Peekay gains the strength he needs to win out. And in a final conflict with his childhood enemy, the Judge, Peekay will fight to the death for justice.

### **De Waal, Edmund**

#### **The hare with amber eyes: a hidden inheritance**

264 Japanese wood and ivory carvings, none of them bigger than a matchbox. Edmond de Waal was entranced when he first encountered the collection in his great Uncle Iggie's Tokyo apartment. When he later inherited the 'netsuke,' they unlocked a story far larger and more dramatic than he could ever have imagined.

From a burgeoning empire in Odessa to *fin de siècle* Paris, from occupied Vienna to Tokyo, Edmund de Waal traces the netsuke's journey through generations of his remarkable family against the backdrop of a tumultuous century.

### **Donoghue, Emma**

#### **Room**

It's Jack's birthday, and he's excited about turning five. He lives with his Ma in Room, which has a locked door and a skylight, and measures 11 feet by 11 feet. He loves watching TV, and the cartoon characters he call friends, but he knows that nothing he sees on screen is truly real – only him, Ma and the thing in Room. Until the day Ma admits that there's a world outside ...

### **Dunant, Sarah**

#### **Sacred hearts**

1570 in the Italian city of Ferrara. Sixteen-year-old Serafina is ripped by her family from an illicit love affair and forced into the convent of Santa Caterina, renowned for its superb music. Serafina's one weapon is her glorious voice, but she refuses to sing. Madonna Chiara, an abbess as fluent in politics as she is in prayer, finds her new charge has unleashed a power play – rebellion, ecstasies and hysterias – within the convent. However, watching over Serafina is Zuana, the sister in charge of the infirmary, who understands and might even challenge her incarceration.

### **Dunn, Mark**

#### **Ella minnow pea**

As Ella Minnow Pea writes to her cousin with the latest news on the small, quiet island of Nollop, little does she imagine the crisis ahead. The letter **z** has fallen from the statue of Nevin Nollop, revered author of the sentence 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' - and the island's rulers interpret this as a sign of divine displeasure and ban its use in any form. In a novel composed of correspondence, the loss of **z** is inconvenient; but far worse is to come as more letters fall and more are banned, until only **l, m, n, o, p** remain ....

The story of a battle against tyranny, this extraordinary novel, written with an ever-shrinking alphabet, is at once a moving love story, a brilliant political allegory and an unforgettable celebration of language.

### **Fallada, Hans**

#### **Alone in Berlin**

Berlin, 1940. The city is paralysed by fear. But one man refused to be scared.

Otto, an ordinary German living in a shabby apartment block, tries to stay out of trouble under Nazi rule. But when he discovers his only son has been killed fighting at the front he's shocked into an extraordinary act of resistance, and starts to drop anonymous postcards attacking Hitler across the city. If caught, he will be executed.

Soon this silent campaign comes to the attention of the ambitious Gestapo inspector Escherich, and a murderous game of cat-and-mouse begins. Whoever loses pays with their life.

### **Fiennes, William**

#### **The music room**

William Fiennes' childhood was one of imagination and curiosity, bounded only by the horizon he saw from the roof tiles of his ancient family home. His older brother Richard, known for his towering presence, his inventiveness, his great passion for Leeds United, and his suffering due to severe epilepsy, was an adored and charismatic figure in his life.

Years later, eager to understand his brother's mind as fully as the ancient trees and secret haunts of his own journey towards adulthood, William Fiennes has written a profoundly moving account of his home, his family's care and above all, of Richard. The Music Room is a luminous testament to the miracle of consciousness and to the permanence of love.

### **Fletcher, Susan**

#### **Witch light**

'We – the witch-called ones – were meant to have less light in us, less goodness than the normal folk. But I have as much light in me as the next soul.'

1692. Corrag, a wild young girl living in the mountains of Scotland, has been imprisoned as a witch. Terrified, in a cold, filthy cell, she awaits her fate of death by burning – until she is visited by Charles Leslie, an Irishman, hungry to question her. For Corrag knows more than it seems: she was witness to the bloody and brutal Massacre of Glencoe.

But to reveal what she knows, Corrag demands a chance to tell her true story. It is a tale of passion and courage, magic and betrayal, and the difference that a single heart can make to the great events of history.

**Follett, Ken****The Pillars of the earth**

Set in the turbulent times of twelfth-century England when civil war, famine, religious strife and battles over royal succession tore lives and families apart, ***The Pillars of the Earth*** tells the story of the building of a magnificent cathedral.

Against this richly imagined backdrop, filled with intrigue and treachery, Ken Follett draws the reader irresistibly into a wonderful epic of family drama, violent conflict and unswerving ambition. From humble stonemason to imperious monarch, the dreams, labours and loves of his characters come vividly to life. ***The Pillars of the earth*** is, without doubt, a masterpiece – and has proved to be one of the most popular books of our time.

**Freeman, Castle****Go with me**

Somewhere in backwoods Vermont, a young woman refused to back down in the face of threats from a violent local villain. Her boyfriend has fled the state in fear and local law enforcement can do nothing to protect her. And so she resolves not only to stand her ground, but also to fight back. A pair of unlikely allies – Lester, a crafty old-timer, and Nate, built like a tractor and not much smarter – join her cause, willing to do whatever it takes. An eccentric Greek chorus of locals – wry, witty, sceptical, and not always entirely sober – keep a running commentary in the background as the threesome's quest reaches its terrifying conclusion.

**Gerritsen, Tess****The killing place**

He watches. Something terrible has happened in the snowbound village of Kingdom Come, Wyoming. Twelve eerily identical houses stand dark and abandoned. The people who lived in them appear to have vanished, seemingly into thin air.

He waits. Maura Isles is driving through the area with a group of friends when they find themselves trapped in a snowstorm. They stumble into the abandoned village to take shelter. Their nightmare has only just begun.

They disappear. Days later, Jane Rizzoli flies to Wyoming to search for her missing friend. A crashed vehicle has been found with four badly burned bodies still inside. Can one of the corpses be Maura's?

Jane's hunt for the truth leads to Kingdom Come. Where the person who was watching Maura now lies waiting for her ...

**Goodwin, Daisy****My last Duchess**

Cora Cash, possibly the wealthiest heiress in 1890s America, has been raised to believe that money will open every door to her. But when her mother whisks her to England to secure her an aristocratic match, Cora is dismayed by the welcome she at first receives. The great houses in which she is entertained are frosty and forbidding, dogged by intrigue above stairs, and gossip below. And it is only when she loses her heart – to a man she barely knows – that Cora realises the game she is playing is one she does not fully understand, and that her own future happiness could be the prize.

**Greig, Andrew****At the Loch of the Green Corrie**

For many years, Andrew Greig saw the poet Norman MacCaig as a father figure. Months before his death, MacCaig's enigmatic final request to him was that he fish on his behalf at the Loch of the Green Corrie; the location, even the real name of his destination was more mysterious still. His search took in days of outdoor living, meetings, and fishing with friends in the remote hill lochs of far North West Scotland. It led, finally, to the waters of the Green Corrie, which would come to reflect Greig's own life, his thoughts on

poetry, geology and land ownership in the Highlands and the ambiguous roles of whisky, love and male friendship.

**Gruen, Sarah**

**Water for elephants**

Orphaned, penniless, Jacob Jankowski jumps a freight train in the dark, and in that instant, transforms his future.

By morning, he's landed a job with the Flying Squadron of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. By nightfall, he's in love.

In an America made colourless by prohibition and the Depression, the circus is a refuge of sequins and sensuality. But behind the glamour lies a darker world, where both animals and men are dispensable. Where falling in love is the most dangerous act of all

**Hore, Rachel**

**The Glass painter's daughter**

In a tiny stained-glass shop in the hidden backstreets of Westminster lies the cracked, sparkling image of an angel.

The owners of Minster Glass have also been broken: Fran Morrison's mother died when she was a baby; a painful event never mentioned by her difficult, secretive father Edward. Fran left home to pursue a career in foreign cities, as a classical musician. But now Edward is dangerously ill and it's time to return.

Taking her father's place in the shop, she and his craftsman Zac accept a beguiling commission – to restore a shattered glass picture of an exquisite angel belonging to a local church. As they reassemble the dazzling shards of coloured glass, they uncover an extraordinary love story from the Victorian past, sparked by the window's creation. Slowly Fran begins to see her own reflection in its themes of passion, tragedy and redemption.

Fran's journey will lead her on a search for the truth about her mother, through mysteries of past times and the anguish of unrequited love, to reconciliation and renewal.

**Iggulden, Conn**

**Wolf of the plains**

The young boy abandoned without a tribe on the harsh Mongolian plains faced almost certain death. Hunted and alone, he dreamed first of revenge against his enemies. In time, he would unite the great tribes, forming one nation under the sky. He would be the father to that nation. He would be Genghis Khan.

**Jerome, Jerome K**

**Three men in a boat**

Martyrs to hypochondria and general seediness, J. and his friends George and Harris decide that a jaunt up the Thames would suit them to a 'T'. But when they set off, they can hardly predict the troubles that lie ahead with tow-ropes, unreliable weather-forecasts and tins of pineapple chunks – not to mention the devastation left in the wake of J.'s small fox-terrier Montmorency. **Three Men in a Boat** was an instant success when it appeared in 1889, and, with its benign escapism, authorial discursions and wonderful evocation of the late-Victorian 'clerking classes', it hilariously captured the spirit of its age.

In his introduction, Jeremy Lewis examines Jerome K. Jerome's life and times, and the changing world of Victorian England he depicts – from the rise of a new mass-culture of tabloids and bestselling novels to crazes for daytripping and bicycling.

**Koomson, Dorothy**

**The Ice cream girls**

As teenagers, Poppy Carlisle and Serena Gorrington were the only witnesses to a tragic event. Amid heated public debate, the two seemingly glamorous teens were dubbed 'The Ice Cream Girls' by the press and were dealt with by the courts.

1 Years later, having led very different lives, Poppy is keen to set the record straight about what really happened, while Serena wants no one in her present to find out about her past. But some secrets will not stay buried – and if theirs is revealed, everything will become a living hell all over again.

### **Lefteri, Christy**

#### **A Watermelon, a fish and a bible**

It is July 1974 and on a bright, sunny morning, the Turkish army has invaded the town of Kyrenia in Cyprus. For many people, this means an end to life as they know it. But for some, it is a chance to begin living again.

Everyone has always talked about Koki. They never believed she was her father's daughter and her mother died too soon to quiet their wagging tongues. And when she became pregnant and there was no sight of a husband, her fate was sealed.

So she lives outside the town and hides from her neighbours' eyes. But, held captive by the army with the very women who have made her life so lonely, Koki is finally able to tell them the truth. To talk of the Turkish shoe-maker who came to the town and took her heart away with him when he left.

Meanwhile, Adem Berker finds himself back in Kyrenia, his former home, now as a member of the invading force. By cover of darkness, risking his life, he is searching every house, every café, every old pathway, for just a glimpse of the only woman he has ever loved.

### **Lodge, David**

#### **Deaf sentence**

Being deaf is less an affliction than a sentence ... Retired professor of linguistics Desmond Bates is going deaf. Not suddenly, but gradually and – for him and everyone nearby – confusingly. It's a bother for his wife, Winifred, who has an enviably successful new career and is too busy to be endlessly repeating herself. Roles are reversed when he visits his hearing-impaired father, who won't seek help and resents his son's intrusions. And, finally there's Alex. Alex is the student Desmond agrees to help after a typical misunderstanding. But her increasingly bizarre and disconcerting requests cannot – unfortunately – be blamed on defective hearing. So much for growing old gracefully ...

### **Lupton, Rosamund**

#### **Sister**

Nothing can break the bond between sisters ... When Beatrice gets a frantic call in the middle of Sunday lunch to say that her younger sister Tess is missing, she boards the first flight home to London. But as she learns about the circumstances surrounding Tess's disappearance, she is stunned to discover how little she actually knows of her sister's life – and unprepared for the terrifying truths she must now face.

The police, Beatrice's fiancé and even their mother accept they have lost Tess, but Beatrice refuses to give up on her. So she embarks on a dangerous journey to discover the truth, no matter the cost.

### **MacCaig, Norman**

#### **The poems of Norman MacCaig**

Norman MacCaig (1910-96) was born in Edinburgh. He lived there all his life, though lengthy annual visits to Assynt enriched his life and work. He attended the Royal High School, studied Classics at the University of Edinburgh and then trained as a teacher. Having spent years teaching in primary schools, he later taught Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh, then at the University of Stirling.

As he became old, MacCaig's reputation grew and was recognised by the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and many other distinctions. However, his reputation as the 'grand old

man' of Scottish poetry rested less on these than on his continuing creative work his teaching and reading, and his fruitful influence on younger writers.

**Mantel, Hilary**  
**Wolf Hall**

In *Wolf Hall*, one of our very best writers brings the opulent, brutal world of the Tudors to bloody, glittering life. It is the backdrop to the rise and rise of Thomas Cromwell: lowborn boy, charmer, bully, master of deadly intrigue, and, finally, most powerful of Henry VIII's courtiers.

**Marlantes, K**  
**Matterhorn**

**Newman, Janis Cooke**

**Mrs Lincoln**

(May 20<sup>th</sup>)

Mrs Mary Lincoln admitted today – from Chicago – Age 56 – Widow of ex-President Lincoln – declared insane by the Cook County Court May 19<sup>th</sup> – 1875.

Patient Progress Reports for Bellevue Place Sanatorium.

Incarcerated in an insane asylum after committal proceedings instigated by her own son, Mary Lincoln resolves to tell her own story in order to preserve and to prove her sanity. Considered scandalous by a society in which women were expected to conform, Mary Lincoln attended séances, aired her own political opinions and ran up huge debts with her compulsive spending. Here she reveals the events and relationships which shaped her life, from her childhood in a Southern slave-owning family, through the fulfilment of a black conjure woman's prophesy, to Lincoln's assassination and the truth behind the scandals which hit the headlines. But ultimately can she say enough to prove she is sane and win back her freedom?

**Paterson, Bill**  
**Tales from the back green**

Memories of growing up in a Glasgow tenement in the 50's.

**Pratchett, Terry**  
**Good omens**

**Roffey, Monique**

**The White woman on the green bicycle**

When George and Sabine Harwood arrive in Trinidad from England George is immediately seduced by the beguiling island. But Sabine feels isolated, heat-fatigued, and ill at ease. Her only solace is her growing fixation with Eric Williams, the charismatic leader of Trinidad's new national party, to whom she pours out all her hopes and fears for the future in letters that she ever brings herself to send.

As the years progress, George and Sabine's marriage endures for better and for worse. When George discovers Sabine's cache of letters, he realises just how many secrets she's kept from him – and he from her – over the decades. And he is seized by an urgent, desperate need to prove his love for her ...

**Sabatini, I**  
**Boy next door**

**Shehadeh, Raja**  
**Palestinian walks.**

Notes on a vanishing landscape. When Raja Shehadeh first started hill walking in Palestine in the 1970s he was not aware that he was travelling through a vanishing landscape. The hills would have seemed familiar to Christ – until the day concrete was

poured over the flora and irreversible changes were brought about by those who claim a superior love of the land.

These seven walks span a period of twenty-seven years, in the hills around Ramallah, in the Jerusalem wilderness and through the ravines by the Dead Sea. Each walk takes place at a different stage of Palestinian history. Today, many Palestinian natural treasures have become impossible to access. By preserving them, at least in words, Raja Shehadeh invites a new perspective on the future of an endangered land.

### **Skloot, Rebecca**

#### **The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. Born a poor, black tobacco farmer, her cancer cells – taken without her knowledge – became a multimillion-dollar industry and one of the most important tools in medicine. Yet Henrietta's family did not learn of her 'immortality' until more than twenty years after her death, with devastating consequences ... Balancing the beauty and drama of scientific discovery with dark questions about who owns the stuff our bodies are made of, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is an extraordinary detective story in search of the soul and story of a real woman, whose cells live on today in all four corners of the world.

### **Staincliffe, Cath**

#### **The kindest thing**

When Deborah reluctantly helps her beloved husband, Neil, end his life and conceals the truth, she is charged with his murder. As the trial unfolds her daughter Sophie testifies against her, Deborah, still reeling from grief, fights to defend her actions. Twelve jurors hold her fate in their hands – and if found guilty she will serve a life sentence. But is the assisted suicide of a person you love murder?

### **Stockett, Kathryn**

#### **The Help**

Enter a vanished world: Jackson, Mississippi, 1962, where black maids raise white children, but aren't trusted not to steal the silver...

There's Aibileen, raising her seventeenth white child and nursing the hurt caused by her own son's tragic death; Minny, whose cooking is nearly as sassy as her tongue; and white Miss Skeeter, home from college, who wants to know why her beloved maid has disappeared.

Skeeter, Aibileen and Minny. No one would believe they'd be friends; fewer still would tolerate it. But as each woman finds the courage to cross boundaries they come to depend and rely upon one another. Each is in search of a truth. And together they have an extraordinary story to tell...

### **Strachan, Mari**

#### **The earth hums in B flat**

Gwenni Morgan is not like any other girl in her small Welsh town. Inquisitive, bookish and full of spirit, she can fly in her sleep and loves playing detective. So when a neighbour mysteriously vanishes, and no one seems to be asking the right questions, Gwenni decides to conduct her own investigation.

Mari Strachan's unforgettable novel was one of the most acclaimed and successful debuts of 2009. It is a heartbreaking and hugely enjoyable book.

### **Swain, Jon**

#### **River of time**

Jon Swain left Britain as a teenager. After a brief stint with the French Foreign Legion he became a journalist in Paris, but soon ended up in Vietnam and Cambodia. In five years as a young war reporter Swain lived moments of intensity and passion such as he had never known. He learnt something of life and death in Cambodia and Vietnam that he could never have perceived in Europe. He saw Indo-China in all its intoxication beauty

and saw, too, the violence and corruption of war, and was sickened by it. Motivated by a sense of close involvement with the Cambodian people he went back into Phnom Penh just before the fall of the city to the Khmer Rouge in April 1975. He was captured and was going to be executed. His life was saved by Dith Pran, the New York Times interpreter, a story told by the film *The Killing Fields*. In Indo-China Swain formed a passionate love affair with a French-Vietnamese girl. The demands of a war correspondent ran roughshod over his personal life and the relationship ended. This book is one reporter's attempt to make peace with a tumultuous past, to come to terms with his memories of fear, pain and death, and to say adieu to the Indo-China he loved and the way of life that has gone forever.

**Tearne, Roma**  
**Brixton beach**

When family tragedy strikes, Alice Fonseka, a dreamy, artistic child with a Singhalese mother and Tamil father, leaves the beautiful island of Sri Lanka. Unable to bear the injustice of what has happened, her family heads for England.

There, in the cold, urban landscape of London, Alice grows up, creating a life for herself, with all that this means: struggles, a home in London – and a blossoming of the art through which she expresses herself. But there is much she cannot find. Understanding. Peace. Lasting love. She has nearly given up when, unbidden, it blooms brightly. Then on the clear summer morning of July 7, 2005, violence crosses her path again ...

**Vergheese, Abraham**  
**Cutting for stone**

Marion and Shiva Stone, born in a mission hospital in Ethiopia in the 1950s, are twin sons of an illicit union between an Indian nun and British doctor. Bound by birth but with widely different temperaments they grow up together, in a country on the brink of revolution, until a betrayal splits them apart. But fate has not finished with them – they will be brought together once more, in the sterile surroundings of a hospital theatre. From the 1940's to the present, from a convent in India to a cargo ship bound for the Yemen, from a tiny operating theatre in Ethiopia to a hospital in the Bronx, this is both a richly visceral epic and riveting family story.

**Wellum, Geoffrey**  
**First light**

Two months before the outbreak of the Second World War, seventeen-year-old Geoffrey Wellum becomes a fighter pilot with the RAF ...

Desperate to get in the air, he makes it through basic training to become the youngest Spitfire pilot in the prestigious 92 squadron. Thrust into combat almost immediately, Wellum finds himself flying several sorties a day, caught up in terrifying dogfights with German Me 109s.

Over the coming months he and his fellow pilots play a crucial role in the Battle of Britain. But of the friends that take to the air alongside Wellum, many never return.

**Whitehouse, Lucie**  
**The bed I made**

When Kate meets dark, enigmatic Richard in a Soho bar, she barely hesitates before going home with him. He is undeniably attractive – and dangerous. Now, eighteen exhilarating but fraught months later, Kate finishes their relationship and hopes that will be the end of it.

But it is only the beginning.

Fleeing London for the wintry Isle of Wight, she is determined to ignore the flood of calls and emails. But what begins as a nuisance becomes an ever more threatening game of cat and mouse...

**Woodrell, Daniel**

**Winter's bone**

Deep in the mountains of Missouri, you can get beaten up for asking the wrong questions, everyone knows how to fire a gun, and most families are cooking up crank on the back porch. A teenage girl takes on more than she bargains for when she sets out to find her missing father ...