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For all other sales territories, point of sale and marketing materials

Maria Vassilopoulos
T +44 (0)20 7412 7704
T +44 (0)7710759720
maria.vassilopoulos@bl.uk

For publicity

Abbie Day
T +44 (0)20 7412 7266
abigail.day@bl.uk

For editorial and rights enquiries

publishing_editorial@bl.uk

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Specifications, prices and covers in this catalogue are subject to change prior to publication.
Today, Buddhism is one of the major world religions, with approximately 500 million followers worldwide and nearly 200,000 in the UK. Beginning with Buddha’s Enlightenment in north India in the 6th century BCE, Buddhism was adopted across Asia through the three main schools of Mahayana, Theravada and Vajrayana. Buddhism is well known and widely practised in the West today, and many people embrace a Buddhist lifestyle or certain practices, such as Buddhist meditation.

Accompanying the largest ever display of the British Library’s Buddhist treasures, *Buddhism* follows the key concepts of the exhibition in four main chapters: the life of the historical Buddha, Buddhist philosophy, the spread of Buddhism and Buddhist practice. These chapters are interspersed with short entries explaining the significance of specific items. Astonishing colour and beauty emanate from the scrolls, manuscripts and printed books that are reproduced throughout, while the idea of the ‘Middle Path’ – promoting mindfulness, compassion, tolerance and non-violence – is presented with a renewed relevance for a twenty-first-century audience.

Jana Igunma is Henry Ginsburg Curator for Thai, Lao and Cambodian collections at the British Library. San San May is Curator of Burmese collections at the British Library. Their joint publication, *Buddhism Illuminated: Manuscript Art from South-East Asia*, was published by the British Library in 2018.
If you centre a globe on Kiritimati (Christmas Island), all you see around it is a vast expanse of ocean. Islands of various sizes float in view while glimpses of continents encroach on the fringes, but this is a view dominated by water. The immense stretch of the Pacific Ocean is inhabited by a diverse array of peoples and cultures bound by a common thread: their relationship with the sea.

The rich history of the Pacific is explored through specific objects, each one beautifully illustrated, from the earliest human engagement with the Pacific through to the modern day. With entries covering mapping, trade, whaling, flora and fauna, and the myriad vessels used to traverse the ocean, Pacific builds on recent interest in the voyages of James Cook to tell a broader history.

This visually stunning publication highlights the importance of an ocean that covers very nearly a third of the surface of the globe, and which has dramatically shaped the world and people around it.
A stocking-filler-sized compilation of Christmas lore, revealing the intriguing origins of our annual festivities. This delightful compendium explores the feast of Christmas down the ages, with each tradition accompanied by charming vintage illustrations from the British Library’s unparalleled collection of Christmas books, cards and ephemera.

Why do we celebrate Christ’s birthday on 25 December? When did we start kissing under the mistletoe? Who invented the Christmas cracker? When did roast turkey and Christmas pudding become ‘traditional’? Where has Captain Christmas gone? Why did Santa Claus first appear dressed in stars and stripes and who invented red-nosed Rudolph to pull his sleigh?

*Christmas Traditions* is a celebratory guide to Christmases past and a welcome Christmas present. As Charles Dickens wrote: ‘There seems a magic in the very name of Christmas.’

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**Christmas Traditions**

George Goodwin

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Hardback £14.99
ISBN 978 0 7123 5294 9
128 pages, 187 x 124 mm
60 illustrations
Publishing September 2019

George Goodwin is a historian whose previous books include *Benjamin Franklin in London: The British Life of America’s Founding Father*, *Fatal Colours: Towton 1461*, and *Fatal Rivalry: Flodden 1513*. 
The Menu: A History
Memorable Meals from Elvis’ Wedding
Breakfast to Eating on the Moon
Eve Marleau

A curated collection of 100 memorable meals from the last 250 years, both fascinating and entertaining. The humble menu, as a record of the food we eat, tells us much about who we were and how we lived.

From the historically significant to the unexpected, discover what was eaten at the first Nobel Prize dinner; what Barack Obama chose for his inauguration meal; what the Tsar and Tsarina ate at their infamous fancy-dress balls; why the first pre-made sandwich was so significant; and what sort of inflight grub was served up at supersonic speeds on Concorde. Step in time to dinner dances at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom; delight in Elvis and Priscilla’s wedding breakfast; enjoy Parisian cocktails at the Moulin Rouge and marvel at Els Quatre Gats’ menu, designed by Picasso.

Eve Marleau is a food writer and editor. She has written for The Guardian and is the author of The Kitchen Shelf and Bake in Black. She lives in London.
The Central Office of Information Archive at the British Library consists of a unique collection of over 15,000 free information and guidance leaflets, posters, booklets and other promotional materials dating from the 1940s to 1997. This astonishingly rich and truly unique collection – designed and produced for a range of UK government departments and agencies by the COI – reveals what the government wanted its citizens to think or know about topical issues and the image of Britain it wanted to project to the outside world.

In Portrait of a People one of the world’s leading writers on propaganda and information projection presents a remarkably detailed history and critique of the workings and development of the COI from its origins in the Second World War through to the era of AIDS and the threat of nuclear war. As such this richly illustrated volume is of enduring interest to social historians, cold war historians and all those interested in post-war graphic design.

The collection covers the whole spectrum of British contemporary life, including education, public health issues, food safety, nuclear threat and civil defence, and careers in the public sector and armed forces.

Portait of a People
Projecting the Nanny State in Post-War Britain
David Welch

Hardback £30
ISBN 978 0 7123 5325 0
256 pages, 280 x 220 mm
150 colour illustrations
Publishing October 2019

David Welch is Professor of Modern History and Director of the Centre for the Study of War, Propaganda & Society at the University of Kent. He has published many books on propaganda including Persuading the People: British Propaganda in World War II, Germany and Propaganda in World War I, The Third Reich: Politics and Propaganda, and Propaganda: Power and Persuasion.
Captain Charles Johnson’s celebrated *A General History of the Pirates* (1724) is the most famous book about pirates ever written. Buoyed by the volume’s runaway success, Johnson followed up with the equally engrossing *The Lives and Adventures of the Most Famous Highwaymen* (1734) which, published here for the first time in two centuries, provides over 50 accounts of the most notorious British criminals of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These include the famous highwayman William Davis, alias The Golden Farmer, the cross-Channel gentleman highwayman Claude du Vall, the prolific road adventurer Old Mob and the royalist carriage raider James Hind.

Johnson’s volumes, featuring fictional accounts based on factual sources, are significant as the forerunners of the real-life criminal biography genre, and for their influence on such early novels as Defoe’s *Moll Flanders* and Fielding’s *Jonathan Wild*. Originally published in folio size complete with fine engravings, this new edition of *Highwaymen* not only includes the very best of these original decorative features but also presents a series of related illustrations, playbills and portraits from the British Library collections.

The identity of Captain Charles Johnson has long been a mystery. Suspected as a pseudonym for Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*, or even as a pirate himself, neither has ever been confirmed. His books are the prime source of information on the great age of piracy and road adventurers and have inspired numerous plays, books and films including *Treasure Island*, *Peter Pan* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.


The Illustrated Police News
The Shocks, Scandals and Sensations of the Week 1864–1938
Linda Stratmann

The Illustrated Police News cost just a penny, providing an affordable illustrated roundup of ‘all the startling events of the week’ from its first issue published on 20th February 1864.

Promising to educate the people with fantastic features such as ‘BURGLARIES OF THE WEEK’ and its bountiful, often outlandish illustrations, the paper was also a – perhaps unexpected – champion of social change. With crime historian Linda Stratmann as a guide, the articles and special reports of the newspaper provide a fascinating view into the reading tastes and daily lives of its readership throughout the decades.

Led by the newspaper’s bombastic imagery sourced from the Library’s extensive collection, this new book revels in the infamy and social significance behind the exuberant headlines of this extraordinary periodical.

CHILD CARRIED OFF BY EAGLE!
LION’S ADVENTURES IN A PLAYGROUND!
MAN KILLED BY A COFFIN!

The Illustrated Police News
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The Philosophy of Tea
Tony Gebely

How did drinking the infusions of a unique plant from China become a vital part of everyday life? This gift book presents an entertaining and illuminating introduction to the history and culture of tea, from its origins in the Far East to the flavours and properties of different varieties, and the rituals of tea preparation and drinking around the world.

This simple hot beverage is suffused with artistic and religious overtones. The Chinese Ch’a Ching gave very precise guidelines to the preparation and sipping of tea, and the Japanese tea ceremony elevated it to an artform. Following its introduction to the royal court in the seventeenth century, the British created their own traditions, from the elaborate etiquette of afternoon tea to the humble pot of tea at the heart of family life, and the modern appreciation for speciality infusions.

Tony Gebely is a tea enthusiast and expert. He is the author of Tea: A User’s Guide (2016), and the founder of the award-winning blog World of Tea.

Reading Room
Inspirational Extracts for Every Day of the Year
Ian Sansom

This is a playful and provocative collection of 365 extracts sourced from the British Library’s collections. Selected to challenge and inform the reader, each excerpt is accompanied by the unique shelfmark number of the source publication. Encompassing a wide range of great works in literature, poetry, essays and letters, historical and scientific treatises, and including beloved and popular authors as well as curiosities and obscurities, each extract will encourage enquiry and stimulate the imagination.

Beautifully designed and illustrated with the Library’s collections, with one extract for every day of the year, this book can be read as a thought to start the day or can be dipped into for inspiration at random.

Includes extracts from:
Joseph Conrad: The Mirror of the Sea: Memories and Impressions
Sigmund Freud: The Interpretation of Dreams
Betty Friedan: The Feminine Mystique
David Hume: A Treatise of Human Nature
Plato: The Republic
Hannah Arendt: The Human Condition
Jane Austen: letter to Cassandra Austen, 17/18 Oct. 1815
Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol
George Orwell: The English People
Adam Smith: An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations
Walt Whitman: Leaves of Grass
Edward Lear and the Pussycat
The Adventures of Famous Writers and their Pets
Alex Johnson

Behind every great writer there is a beloved pet, providing inspiration in life and in death, and companionship in what is often a lonely working existence. They also offer practical services, such as personal protection, although they may sometimes eat first drafts or bite visitors.

This book salutes all of the cats and dogs, ravens and budgerigars, monkeys and guinea pigs, wombats, turtles, and two laughing jackasses, who enriched the lives of their masters and mistresses, sat on their keyboards, slept in their beds, and occasionally provided the creative spark for their stories and poems. Gathered here are the tales of Beatrix Potter’s rabbit, Benjamin Bouncer; Lord Byron’s bear; the six cats of T S Eliot; Camus’ cat, Cigarette; Arthur C Clarke’s dog, Sputnik; and George Orwell’s goat, Muriel. Enid Blyton’s fox terrier, Bobs, ‘wrote’ her columns in Teacher’s World magazine, while John Steinbeck’s poodle accompanied him on his 1960 US road trip, their exploits published as Travels with Charley. Agatha Christie dedicated her 1937 novel Dumb Witness to her favourite dog, Peter – the ultimate tribute.

A Children’s Literary Christmas
An Anthology

Immerse yourself in some truly festive magic with this brand-new collection of the finest Christmas stories, prose, songs and poetry from some of the greatest writers in the English language. Inspired by the approach and style of the British Library’s 2018 bestseller A Literary Christmas, this carefully chosen anthology moves its focus to those most deeply involved in the wonders of Christmas, the Christmas girls and Christmas boys.

Twenty-four seasonal chapters allow the excitement to build as parents and grandparents can share pages of unforgettable adventures, festive traditions, tales of elves, snowmen and reindeer, fairytales, folklore and family fun. Age-old pleasures from those essential Christmas favourites, including Dickens, Kenneth Grahame, George Mackay Brown, Robert L May and Ezra Jack Keats, are presented alongside charming, but often more edgy, award-winning contemporary voices. This treasure trove of stories is brought to life by an equally beautiful selection of seasonal illustrations from the collections of the Library and the artwork of some of the great modern book illustrators.
The Library has one of the largest and most impressive cartographic collections in the world, including manuscript maps and atlases, administrative records and plans, large-scale surveys and digital maps. From this rich resource, 100 fascinating examples ranging from world and city maps, celestial and sea charts, literary and statistical maps, curiosities and fake maps have been selected as the basis for this puzzle book.

Each map is faithfully reproduced with a description of its creation and use, followed by details showing areas of particular interest. Readers are asked to scrutinise the maps to answer a series of historical and geographical questions, all the while enjoying new perspectives on the world we live in provided by our eclectic and extensive archive.

Philip Parker is a former diplomat and publisher who specialises in the late antique and early medieval periods. Philip ran the *The Times* series of mapping titles at HarperCollins publishers. Philip’s most recent books are *The Northmen’s Fury: A History of the Viking World*, *The Cold War Spy Pocket Manual* which he compiled and edited, and most recently *The Collins History of Britain in Maps*.
Fancy yourself a golden age detective? In these pages lie the clues you will need to crack the most impenetrable of cases. Culprits lurk between the lines of word searches. Imposters are unearthed in anagrams. A keen eye and a quick wit are your best tools for eliminating the suspects in a range of puzzles, suitable for all ages and levels.

For seven years, the British Library has brought neglected crime fiction writers into the spotlight in a series of republished novels and anthologies. Updated with brand new puzzle styles and including the very latest British Library Crime Classics titles, there are even more ways to solve the mystery in this sequel to The Pocket Detective.

**Fell Murder**

_A Lancashire Mystery_

E C R Lorac

First published in 1944 _Fell Murder_ sees E C R Lorac at the height of her considerable powers as a purveyor of well-made, traditional and emphatic detective fiction. The book presents a fascinating 'return of the prodigal' mystery set in the later stages of the Second World War amidst the close-knit farmerfolk community of Lancashire’s lovely Lune valley.

The Garths had farmed their fertile acres for generations and fine land it was with the towering hills of the Lake Country on the far horizon. Garthmere Hall itself was old before Flodden Field, and here hot-tempered Robert Garth, still hale and hearty at eighty-two, ruled his household with a rod of iron. The peaceful dales and fells of the north country provide the setting for this grim story of a murder, a setting which is one of the attractive features of an unusual and distinctive tale of evil passions and murderous hate in a small rural community.
For the most part, the dead man received public sympathy. A decent, hardworking chap, with not an enemy anywhere. People were surprised that anybody should want to kill Jim.

But Jim has been drowned in the Dumb River, near Ely, miles from his Yorkshire home. His body, clearly dumped in the usually silent (‘dumb’) waterway, has been discovered before the killer intended – disturbed by a torrential flood.

With critical urgency it’s up to Superintendent Littlejohn of Scotland Yard to trace the mystery of the unassuming victim’s murder to its source, leaving waves of scandal and sensation in his wake as the hidden, salacious dealings of Jim Teasdale begin to surface.

George Bellairs was the pseudonym of Harold Blundell (1902–1985), a prominent banker and philanthropist from Manchester who became the author of a popular series of detective stories featuring Thomas Littlejohn, which were published for nearly forty years.

We are thrilled to welcome John Dickson Carr into the Crime Classics series with his first novel, a brooding locked room mystery originally published in 1930.

In the smoke-wreathed gloom of a Parisian salon, Inspector Bencolin has summoned his allies to discuss a peculiar case. A would-be murderer, imprisoned for his attempt to kill his wife, has escaped and is known to have visited a plastic surgeon. His whereabouts remain a mystery, though with his former wife poised to marry another, Bencolin predicts his return.

Sure enough, the Inspector’s worst suspicions are realised when the beheaded body of the new suitor is discovered in a locked room of the salon, with no conceivable exit. Bencolin sets off into the Parisian night to unravel the dumbfounding mystery and track down the sadistic killer.

Also includes the rare Inspector Bencolin short story ‘The Shadow of the Goat’.

George Bellairs

It Walks by Night
A Paris Mystery
John Dickson Carr

Paperback £8.99
ISBN 978 0 7123 5264 2
272 pages, 190 x 130 mm
Publishing September 2019

John Dickson Carr (1906–1977) was a hugely popular and prolific author of crime fiction, regarded as one of the finest writers of ‘Golden Age’ mysteries. Though born in Pennsylvania, USA, Carr developed a distinctly ‘British’ style to his mystery writing from his time in England and became one of only two Americans ever admitted to the Detection Club.
The Measure of Malice
Scientific Mysteries
Edited by Martin Edwards

The detective’s role is simple: to catch the culprit. Yet behind each casual observation lies a learned mind, trained on finding the key to the mystery. Crimes, whatever their form, are often best solved through deliberations of logic – preferably amid complicated gadgetry and a pile of hefty scientific volumes.

The detectives in this collection are masters of scientific deduction, whether they are identifying the perpetrator from a single scrap of fabric, or picking out the poison from a sinister line-up. Containing stories by R Austin Freeman, J J Connington and the master of logical reasoning, Arthur Conan Doyle, The Measure of Malice collects tales of rational thinking to prove the power of the human brain over villainous deeds.

The Christmas Egg
A Seasonal Mystery
Mary Kelly

The Easter egg. I told ‘im. All white an’ glittering, lovely, like ice an’ frost an’ stars ... An’ I lost it, I lost it. I lost all of it.

In a gloomy flat off Islington High Street, Chief Inspector Brett Nightingale and Sergeant Beddoes find an old woman dead. The Princess Olga Karukhin, who fled from Russia at the time of the Revolution, has lived in terror of being discovered ever since. Olga’s grandson, Ivan, appears to have run from the scene, but is later seen returning to the flat as though oblivious to the terrible crime. Taking place between 22nd and 24th December, Nightingale’s enquiry takes him across London, culminating in the wrapping of the mystery on Christmas Eve.

This never-before-republished novel from 1958 has a noticeably different feel to the neat puzzles and country house mysteries of crime fiction’s golden age, revealing the darker side of police detection in an evocative urban setting.

Mary Kelly was an English crime writer best known for the Inspector Brett Nightingale series. A crime writing contemporary of Julian Symons, Kelly infused her novels with a refreshingly dark suspense. Her novel The Spoilt Kill, published in 1961, was given the Gold Dagger Award.

Death in Fancy Dress
Anthony Gilbert

... Something really serious and unpleasant is taking place at Feltham Abbey. So often in a detective story trivial irregularities like blackmail and murder seem scarcely to ruffle the placid current of domestic affairs ... Here, the atmosphere of suspense and uneasiness really does pervade the household.

Dorothy L Sayers

The British Secret Service, working to uncover a large-scale blackmail ring and catch its mysterious mastermind ‘The Spider’, find themselves at the country residence of Feltham Abbey where a fancy-dress ball is in full swing.

In the tumult of revelry, Sir Ralph Feltham is found dead. Not the atmosphere that bewildered guest Tony was expecting, he sets out make sense of the night’s activities and the motives of the other guests. Among them is Hilary, an independently minded socialite still in her costume of vivid silk pyjamas and accompanying teddy bear...

This classic country house mystery, first published in 1933, contrasts the splendours and frivolities of the English upper classes with the sombre overhang of the First World War and the irresistible complications of deadly familial relationships.

Paperback £8.99
ISBN 978 0 7123 5340 3
240 pages, 190 x 130 mm
Publishing November 2019

Anthony Gilbert is a pen name of Lucy Beatrice Malleson (1899–1973) and Death in Fancy Dress is considered to be one of her finest works. It appeared just before Malleson introduced the mystery readership to her famed, unconventional, and magnificently named detective, Arthur Crook.

The Question Mark
Muriel Jaeger

In 1926 Muriel Jaeger, dissatisfied with the Utopian visions of H G Wells and Edward Bellamy, set out to explore ‘The Question Mark’ of what a future society might look like if human nature were properly represented. So, disgruntled London office worker Guy Martin is pitched 200 years into the future, where he encounters a seemingly ideal society in which each citizen has the luxury of every kind of freedom. But as Guy adjusts to the new world, the fractures of this supposed Utopia begin to show through, and it seems as if the inhabitants of this society might be just as susceptible to the promises of false messiahs as those of the twentieth century.

Preceding the publication of Huxley’s Brave New World by 5 years, The Question Mark is a significant cornerstone in the foundation of the Dystopia genre, and an impressive and unjustly neglected work of literary science fiction. This edition brings the novel back into print for the first time since its original publication.

Paperback £8.99
ISBN 978 0 7123 5298 7
272 pages, 190 x 130 mm
Publishing July 2019

Muriel Jaeger (1892–1969) was a prolific writer of history books, essays and science fiction, and was amongst the first women to receive degrees at Somerville College, Oxford. She later became associated with Leonard and Virginia Woolf, who published her pioneering science fiction novels The Question Mark (1926) and The Man with Six Senses (1927).
15 May 1944 – This morning I said to Terry, ‘I thought I heard guns through the night.’
‘Were you awake too?’ she asked.

Something has happened in Europe. Fearing the approach of war to Britain, Terry and Hugh retreat from their home to the remote highlands of Scotland, prepared to live a simple existence together whilst the fighting resolves itself far away.

Encouraged by Terry, Hugh begins a journal to note down the highs and lows of this return to nature, and to process their concerns of the oncoming danger. But as the sound of guns by night grow louder, the grim prospect of encroaching war threatens to invade their cherished isolation and demolish any hope of future peace.

Macpherson’s only science fiction novel is a bleak and truly prescient novel of future war first published in 1936, just 3 years before the outbreak of conflict in Europe. A carefully drawn tale of survival in the wilderness and the value of our connection with others, Wild Harbour is both beautiful and heart-rending.

Wild Harbour
Ian Macpherson

The fact that humanity is not alone in the universe has long preoccupied our thoughts.

In this compelling new collection of short stories from SF’s classic age, our visions of ‘other’ are shown in a myriad of forms – beings from other worlds, corrupted lifeforms from our own planet and entities from unimaginable dimensions.

Amongst these tales, the humble ant becomes humanity’s greatest foe, a sailor awakes in a hellish landscape terrified by a monstrous creature from the deep, an extra-terrestrial apocalypse devastates our world but also brings us together, and our race becomes the unwitting agent of another species’ survival. Be prepared to face your greatest fears and relinquish your hold on reality as you confront the menace of the monster.

Menace of the Monster
Classic Tales of Creatures from Beyond
Edited by Mike Ashley

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Menace of the Monster
Edited by Mike Ashley
Time travel has long been a staple of science fiction. Removing the bonds of time on a story allows for many interesting possibilities, but it also presents complicated problems and paradoxes.

In this collection, featuring stories from the 1880s to the 1960s, we are taken to the remote future and back to the distant past; we are trapped in an eternal loop and met with visitors and objects from the future; we come face to face with our past selves, and experience the chaos of living out of sync with everyone else in the universe.

These are just some of the mind-bending narratives to discover as we unwind the constraints of time.

Strangling vines and meat-hungry flora fill this unruly garden of strange stories, selected for their significance as the seeds of the ‘killer plant’ trope in fiction, film and video games.

Before the Demogorgon of Stranger Things and the appearance of Mario’s iconic foe the Piranha Plant, writers of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were exploring the lethal potential of vegetable life, inspired by new carnivorous species discovered on expeditions into the deep jungles of the world and breakthroughs in the grafting and genetics disciplines of botany.

Suddenly, the exotic orchid could become a curiously alluring, yet unsettlingly bloodthirsty menace; the beautifully sprawling wisteria of the stately home could become anything but civilised, and the experimentation of botanists weening new shoots on their own blood could become fuel for a new genre of horticultural nightmare.

Every strain of vegetable threat (and one deadly fungus) can be found within this new collection, representing the very best tales from the undergrowth.
From the imaginations of Gothic short-story writers such as Edgar Allen Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mary Shelley, and such later weirdists as H P Lovecraft, came one of the most complex of villains – the mad scientist.

_Promethean Horrors_ presents some of the greatest mad scientists ever created, as each cautionary tale explores the consequences of pushing nature too far. These savants take many forms: there are malcontents who strive to create poisonous humans; technologists obsessed with genetic splicing; mesmerists interested in the way consciousness operates after death and inventors who believe in a hidden reality. United by an unhealthy obsession with wanting to reach beyond their circumstances, these mad scientists are marked by their incredible capacity to alter the present, a gift that always comes at a price...

From one of the most imaginative and prolific authors of twentieth century weird fiction come four of the very best strange stories ever told.

_The Willows_  
Two men become stranded on an island in the Danube delta, only to find that they might be in the domain of some greater power from beyond the limits of human experience.

_The Wendigo_  
A hunting party in Ontario begin to fear that they are being stalked by an entity thought to be confined to legend.

_The Man Whom the Trees Loved_  
A couple is driven apart as the husband is enthralled by the possessive and jealous spirits dwelling in the nearby forest.

_In conversation with the occult detective and physician Dr John Silence, a traveller relates his nightmarish visit to a strange town in Northern France, and the maddening secret from his past revealed by its inhabitants._

_It is my firm opinion that …‘The Willows’ is the greatest weird tale ever written._  
H P Lovecraft
The excruciating beauty, exoticism and mystery of tattoos is laid bare in this new collection of 12 stories ranging from the 1880s to the 1940s.

Uncovering the history of the tattoo in classic fiction for the first time, this original selection depicts the tattoo as a catalyst for scandal in society, as a symbol for an unknowable supernatural force, and as transcendent living art merging the spirits of a tattooer and his or her living canvas.

Featuring previously hidden works from the pages of rare literary magazines such as ‘The Starfish Tattoo’ alongside such classics of the genre as Tanizaki’s ‘The Tattooer’ and Saki’s ‘The Background’, this exploration of the tattoo in fiction is guaranteed to leave an indelible impression.

Published to coincide with a landmark interactive exhibition at the British Library, this beautifully illustrated book celebrates the act of writing from across the globe. It explores the history of writing and includes more than 150 illustrations from carved stone inscriptions and medieval manuscripts to samples of early printing, modern handwriting and digital inputting systems.

Published November 2019

John Miller is Senior Lecturer in Nineteenth-Century Literature at the University of Sheffield, with a particular interest in the tattoo in literature. The front cover features an original illustration by tattoo artist Luca Ortis.

Ewan Clayton is Professor in Design at the University of Sunderland. For twelve years he worked as a consultant to Xerox PARC, the research lab in California that developed much of today’s digital technology. He is also a calligrapher and lettering artist. He grew up in and around a craft community at Ditchling in Sussex founded by Eric Gill. Ewan’s book The Golden Thread, a history of writing, has been translated into a number of languages.
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