For more than twenty years, Pushkin Press has been publishing novels, essays, memoirs and children’s books – everything from timeless classics to the urgent and contemporary.

We are very excited about the books we are publishing in the second half of 2018. Ranging from a novel of love, cruelty and secrets, by one of the greatest living Syrian writers (States of Passion) to an epic novel of revenge and salvation in the mountains of Italy (The Soul of the Border), via a new translation of Kafka’s short stories (The Unhappiness of Being a Single Man), and a thrilling classic (An Untouched House) by one of the greatest 20th-century writers in the Netherlands, these are stories to savour from all around the world.

Along with another book by Gerard Reve, author of the best-selling The Evenings, Volker Weidermann and Robert Merle, this is a list of the world’s best stories, to be read and read again.

AN UNTOUCHED HOUSE
WILLEM FREDERIK HERMANS

A dazzlingly dark classic from one of the Netherlands’ greatest writers

Towards the end of the Second World War, a partisan fighting with the Red Army as it pushes into Germany comes across a grand, abandoned house, seemingly untouched by war in the midst of an otherwise devastated landscape. Exhausted, he falls asleep in the living room, but wakes to find that the Nazis have reoccupied the town and are marching up the garden path. His only hope is to pose as the house’s owner, but how will he keep up the pretence when the real owner returns?

Brilliant, breathless and scorchingly violent, this timeless classic of Dutch literature has the pace of a thriller, while offering a chilling dissection of the horror that ensues when the mask of decency is cast aside in the savagery of war.

Translated from the Dutch by David Colmer
Cover design by Anna Morrison

ISBN: 9781782274445
Price: £7.99
Published: July 2018
Extent: 96pp
Format: B-format PB

‘Disturbing and powerful’ Guardian

Willem Frederik Hermans (1921-1995) was one of the most prolific and versatile Dutch authors of the twentieth century. In 1977 he received the Dutch Literature Prize – the most prestigious literary prize in the Netherlands. He is considered one of the three most important authors in the Netherlands in the postwar period, along with Harry Mulisch and Gerard Reve.
The award-winning writer and literary critic Volker Weidermann was born in Germany in 1969, and studied political science and German language and literature in Heidelberg and Berlin. He is the cultural editor of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, and the author of Summer Before the Dark, which is also published by Pushkin Press.

At the end of the First World War in Germany, the journalist and theatre critic Kurt Eisner organised a revolution which overthrew the monarchy, and declared a Free State of Bavaria. In February 1919, he was assassinated, and the revolution failed.

But while the dream lived, it was the writers, the poets, the playwrights and the intellectuals who led the way. As well as Eisner, Thomas Mann and Rainer Maria Rilke, many other prominent figures in German cultural history were involved.

In his characteristically lucid, sharp prose, Volker Weidermann presents us with a slice of history – November 1918 to April 1919 – and shows how a small group of people could have altered the course of the twentieth century.

Dreamers: When the Writers Took Power, Germany 1918
Volker Weidermann

‘Weidermann’s storytelling is piquant’
Publishers Weekly
THE SOUL OF THE BORDER
MATTEO RIGHETTO

The de Boer family are tobacco growers in the Veneto region of northern Italy in the late 19th century. Life is hard, and the father, Augusto, occasionally supplements their income by smuggling tobacco across the border into Austria. Sometimes he takes his daughter Jole with him, and they journey together on the perilous route over the mountains. But Augusto mysteriously never returns from one of these trips, and Jole, driven to provide for her family, inherits her father’s smuggling route. She must retrace the dangerous journey through the spectacular landscape, hoping for a good trade – but also to discover the truth behind her father’s disappearance. An epic story of revenge and salvation, a tale of violence and corruption, and a journey into the wild.

Matteo Righetto (1972) lives and works in Padua, at the border of the wilderness of north-eastern Italy. Among his best-known novels are the celebrated La pelle dell’orso (The Bear Skin), recently made into a movie, and Apri gli occhi (Open Your Eyes), winner of the Premio Cortina 2016. Righetto is now working on the second title in the trilogy, The Last Homeland.

BIRD COTTAGE
EVA MEIJER

A novel based on the true story of a remarkable woman who retired to the English countryside to be surrounded by birds

Len Howard, the daughter of a famous poet, and a successful concert violinist was forty years old when she decided to devote the rest of her life to her true love: birds. She bought a small cottage in Sussex, where she wrote two international bestsellers, astonishing the world with her observations on the tits, robins, sparrows and other birds that lived in and around her house, and would even perch on her shoulder as she typed.

This fascinating novel tells the story of this remarkable woman’s life, how she defied society’s expectations and changed our understanding of bird behaviour. It is also a wonderful evocation of the English countryside and joy that can come from a living, breathing relationship with the natural world around us.

‘Mesmerising and moving’ NRC Handelsblad

Eva Meijer (Hoorn, 1980) is a Dutch author, artist, singer-songwriter and philosopher. Her novels Het schuwste dier (2011, The Shyest Creature) and Dagpauwoog (2013, Adventures in Animal Activism) received great critical acclaim, as did Dierentalen (2016, Animal Languages), her non-fiction study on animal communication.

Translated from the Dutch by Antoinette Fawcett
Cover design by Helen Crawford-White
ISBN: 9781782273936
Price: £12.99
Published: August 2018
Extent: 256pp
Format: B-format HB

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ISBN: 9781782273936
Price: £12.99
Published: August 2018
Extent: 256pp
Format: B-format HB
CHILDHOOD: TWO NOVELLAS
GERARD REVE

From the author of the hit The Evenings – two classic novellas that are considered among Gerard Reve’s best work

Young Elmer longs to make friends and tries to control the world around him by forming secret clubs, of which he is always the president. When he invites Werther to become a member, a game of attraction and repulsion begins. What follows is a psychological masterpiece; Reve brilliantly conjures up a child’s whole world, full of oppression and enchantment.

During the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam, a boy watches as the family of one of his friends slowly loses everything and is then taken away. This is a deceptively simple story imbued with subtle horror.

These two classic novellas, from the giant of post-war Dutch literature Gerard Reve, have all of the uncanny atmosphere and the incisive, dark wit of The Evenings.

Gerard Reve (1923-2006) is considered one of the greatest post-war Dutch authors, and was also the first openly gay writer in the country’s history. A complicated and controversial character, Reve is also hugely popular and critically acclaimed. The first English translation of his masterpiece The Evenings was a three-time book of the year in 2016.

THE FORGING OF A REBEL
ARTURO BAREA

An astonishing trilogy of books, collected in one volume, documenting the tumultuous first half of the 20th century in Spain

Originally published in the late 1940s, Arturo Barea’s stunning Spanish trilogy is both the autobiography of a man and the biography of a nation during the first four decades of the twentieth century, one of the most crucial periods in Spain’s long history.

‘This is an exceptional book’ George Orwell

SALT OF THE EARTH
JÓZEF WITTLIN

The classic pacifist novel by a major Polish writer, who was nominated for the Nobel Prize

The villagers of the Carpathian mountains lead a simple, isolated life at the beginning of the twentieth century. But then the First World War comes to the mountains, and one of the peasants, Piotr, is drafted into the army. Unwilling, uncomprehending, the bewildered Piotr is made to fight a war he does not understand.

‘One of the great Central European war stories’ LA Review of Books

Translated from the Dutch by Sam Garrett • Cover design by Clare Skeats

Translated from the Polish by Patrick Corness • Cover design by Leo Nickolls
FORTUNES OF FRANCE 4:
LEAGUE OF SPIES
ROBERT MERLE

The fourth book in the bestselling Fortunes of France series

League of Spies is the fourth book in the swashbuckling Fortunes of France series.

Robert Merle (1908-2004) was born in French Algeria, before moving to mainland France in 1918. He was captured by the German army at Dunkirk, the experience of which served as the basis for his Goncourt-prize-winning Weekend at Zuydcoote. He published the 13 volumes of his hugely popular Fortunes of France series over four decades, the final volume appearing a year before his death.

MY CAT YUGOSLAVIA
PAJTIM STATOVCI

An internationally acclaimed debut novel about war, family, love and belonging, and a talking cat – now in paperback

Yugoslavia, 1980s: a 16-year-old Muslim girl is married off to a man she hardly knows. But what was meant to be a happy match soon goes terribly wrong. Her country is torn apart by war and she flees with her family.

Decades later her son, Bekim, has grown up a social outcast in Finland; both an immigrant in a country suspicious of foreigners, and a gay man in an unaccepting society. His only friend is a boa constrictor whom he lets roam his apartment.

But one night in a gay bar, Bekim meets a talking cat who moves in with him and his snake. This charming, manipulative creature starts Bekim on a journey back to Kosovo to confront his demons and make sense of the remarkable, cruel history of his family. It is a journey that will eventually lead him to love.

Pajtim Statovci (b. 1990) moved from Kosovo to Finland with his family when he was two years old. My Cat Yugoslavia, his debut novel, was first published in Finland in 2014 to widespread critical acclaim and won the Helsingin Sanomat Prize for Best Debut. His second novel Heartlines won the Toisinkoinen Prize, and will be published by Pushkin Press in 2019.
ODessa Stories
ISAAC BABEL

A new mass-market edition of the acclaimed stories of violence, crime and sex

Odessa was a uniquely Jewish city, and the stories of Isaac Babel — a Jewish man, writing in Russian, born in Odessa — uncover its tough underbelly. Gangsters, prostitutes, beggars, smugglers: no one escapes the pungent, sinewy force of Babel’s pen.

From the tales of the magnetic cruelty of Benya Krik — infamous mob boss, and one of the great anti-heroes of Russian literature — to the devastating account of a young Jewish boy caught up in a pogrom, this collection of stories is considered one of the masterpieces of twentieth-century Russian literature.

Translated with precision and sensitivity by Boris Dralyuk, whose rendering of the rich Odessan argot is pitch-perfect, Odessa Stories is the first ever stand-alone collection of all the stories Babel set in the city.

Isaac Babel was a short-story writer, playwright, literary translator and journalist. He joined the Red Army as a correspondent during the Russian civil war. The first major Russian-Jewish writer to write in Russian, he was hugely popular during his lifetime. He was murdered in Stalin’s purges in 1940, at the age of 45.

‘Hard-boiled language reminiscent of Dashiell Hammett’ Vice

Translated from the Russian by Boris Dralyuk
Cover design by Anna Morrison

ISBN: 9781782274735
Price: £8.99
Published: November 2018
Extent: 224pp
Format: B-format PB

Iris Origo, one of the 20th century’s great diarists, was born in England in 1902. As a child, she moved around, never belonging. Only when she married an Italian man did she come to rest in one country. Fifteen years later, that country would be at war with her own.

With piercing insight, Origo documents the grim absurdities that her adopted Italy underwent as war became more and more unavoidable. Connected to everyone, from peasants to the US ambassador, she writes of the turmoil, the danger, and the dreadful bleakness of Italy in 1939–1940.

A Chill in the Air is the account of the awful inevitability of Italy’s stumble into an unwanted conflict. With an introduction by Lucy Hughes-Hallett, this is the gripping precursor to Origo’s bestselling diary War in Val d’Orcia.

‘Origo’s diaries, trenchantly and pithily written, are a glory’ Spectator

New paperback edition of this gripping diary from the bestselling diarist and biographer

Isabel Origo (1902–1988) was a British-born biographer and writer, who lived in Italy for most of her life. During WWII, she sheltered refugee children and assisted escaped Allied prisoners of war in defiance of Italy’s fascist regime and Nazi occupation forces. Pushkin Press also publishes her bestselling diaries, War in Val d’Orcia, as well as Images and Shadows, A Study in Solitude and The Last Attachment.

ISBN: 9781782273578
Price: £8.99
Published: October 2018
Extent: 192pp
Format: B-format PB

Cover design by Leo Nickolls
IN SEARCH OF LOST BOOKS
GIORGIO VAN STRATEN

The gripping stories of eight lost books, and the mysterious circumstances behind their disappearances – now in paperback

They exist as a rumour or a fading memory. They vanished from history leaving scarcely a trace, lost to fire, censorship, theft, war or deliberate destruction, yet those who seek them are convinced they will find them. This is the story of one man’s quest for eight mysterious lost books.

Taking us from Florence to London, Russia to British Columbia, van Straten unveils stories of infamy and tragedy. There are, among others, the Hemingway novel that vanished in a suitcase; the memoirs of Lord Byron, burnt to avoid scandal; the Magnum Opus of Schulz, disappeared along with its author in Poland.

As gripping as a detective novel, this is the tale of a love affair with the impossible, of the things that slip away but which, sometimes, live again in the stories we tell.

Giorgio van Straten is director of the Italian Cultural Institute of New York and one of the editors of the literature review Nuovi Argomenti. He is the author of several novels, including the prize-winning A Living Memory, along with two collections of short stories. He has translated the works of authors such as Kipling, London and Stevenson and has edited several works of non-fiction.

‘I read it all in a single, enchanted sitting’
The Bookseller

Translated from the Italian by Simon Carnell and Erica Segre
Cover design by Anna Morrison

ISBN: 9781782273745
Price: £8.99
Published: September 2018
Extent: 144pp
Format: B-format PB

IN THE RESTAURANT
CHRISTOPH RIBBAT

The deliciously cosmopolitan story of the restaurant from eighteenth-century Paris to El Bulli, now in paperback

The restaurant is where we go to celebrate, to experience pleasure, to show off – or, sometimes, because we’re hungry. As this dazzlingly entertaining book shows, the restaurant is where performance, fashion, commerce, ritual, class, work and desire come together. Through its windows, we glimpse the world.

‘All edible life is here – and tasty gossip’
Tatler

Translated from the German by Jamie Lee Searle • Cover design by Anna Morrison

ISBN: 9781782273110
Price: £9.99
Published: September 2018
Extent: 224pp
Format: B-format PB

VENGEANCE IS MINE, ALL OTHERS PAY CASH
EKA KURNIAWAN

Vivid, bawdy, comic, and arresting: the exciting novel by the Indonesian phenomenon, now in paperback

Ajo Kawir is one of the toughest fighters in the Javanese underworld, his fearlessness matched only by his unquenchable thirst for brawling. But the young thug is driven by a painful secret – he is impotent. Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash is a gloriously pulpy tale of bloody fists, broken hearts and dueling Jakarta truckers, from the Man Booker International-longlisted author of Beauty is a Wound.

‘A blast of a book’ Financial Times

Translated from the Bahasa-Indonesian by Annie Tucker • Cover illustration by Anna Morrison

ISBN: 9781782274285
Price: £8.99
Published: July 2018
Extent: 224pp
Format: B-format PB
BROWSE: LOVE LETTERS TO BOOKSHOPS AROUND THE WORLD

A celebration of bookshops by an award-winning cast of writers including Ali Smith, Andrey Kurkov, Elif Shafak and Daniel Kehlmann, now in paperback

A cabinet of curiosities, a time machine, a treasure trove – we love bookshops because they possess a unique kind of magic. In Browse Henry Hitchings asks fifteen writers from around the world to reveal their favourite bookshops. These inquisitive, enchanting pieces are a celebration of bookshops – for anyone who has ever fallen under their spell.

‘Spellbinding’ Mail on Sunday

GLIMPSES OF THE MOON

EDITH WHARTON

A young couple’s love is threatened by the destructive power of money – by one of the greatest authors of her age

Nick Lansing and Susy Branch are young, attractive, but impoverished New Yorkers. They are in love and decide to marry, but realise their chances of happiness are slim...

In this luscious novel, Edith Wharton perceptively describes the seductions and temptations of society, through the lens of a couple facing a heart-wrenching dilemma.

‘A worldly, sensuous read’ Independent

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Extent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9781901285895</td>
<td>The Pendragon Legend</td>
<td>Antal Szerb</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273677</td>
<td>The Allure of Chanel</td>
<td>Paul Morand</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273660</td>
<td>Things Look Different in the Light</td>
<td>Medardo Fraile</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273684</td>
<td>Love in a Bottle</td>
<td>Antal Szerb</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273714</td>
<td>Fräulein Else</td>
<td>Arthur Schnitzler</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273448</td>
<td>A Short Life of Pushkin</td>
<td>Robert Chandler</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273691</td>
<td>The Man in a Hurry</td>
<td>Paul Morand</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782273707</td>
<td>Late Fame</td>
<td>Arthur Schnitzler</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274452</td>
<td>The New Sorrows of Young W.</td>
<td>Ulrich Plenzdorf</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274131</td>
<td>A Life</td>
<td>Italo Svevo</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274448</td>
<td>Laura: A Journey into the Crystal</td>
<td>George Sand</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274971</td>
<td>The Uncannily Strange and Brief Life of Amedeo Modigliani</td>
<td>Velibor Colic</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274469</td>
<td>Glimpses of the Moon</td>
<td>Edith Wharton</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274575</td>
<td>Salad Anniversary</td>
<td>Machi Tawara</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9781782274476</td>
<td>The Queen’s Necklace</td>
<td>Antal Szerb</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE EXTRA MAN
JONATHAN AMES

A hilarious novel from one of America’s funniest living writers – like a New York Withnail and I

Meet Louis Ives: well-groomed, romantic, and as captivating as an F. Scott Fitzgerald hero. Only this hero has a penchant for ladies’ clothes, and he’s lost his teaching post after an incident involving a colleague’s brassiere.

Meet Henry Harrison: former actor, failed playwright, well-seasoned escort for New York City’s women of means. He dances alone, sneaks into operas, and performs his life with the dignity befitting a man of the world. What can this ageless Don Quixote have to offer a young man such as Louis? What, indeed...

This is the kind of story that will make you cry with laughter, then leave you misty-eyed with pathos. It’s a story of friendship and frustration, of cocktails and cross-dressing, and you should read it immediately!

Cover design by Jamie Keenan

ISBN: 9781782274681
Price: £8.99
Published: August 2018
Extent: 384pp
Format: B-format PB

Lisa Zeidner has published five novels, including the critically acclaimed Layover, and two books of poems. Her stories, reviews, and essays have appeared in The New York Times, Slate, GQ, Tin House, and elsewhere. She directs the M.F.A. program in creative writing at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey.

ISBN: 9781911590019
Price: £8.99
Published: July 2018
Extent: 256pp
Format: B-format PB

LAYOVER
LISA ZEIDNER

A smart and sexy novel about a woman on the edge, soon to be a major film starring Penelope Cruz and Guy Pearce

Claire Newbold is not your typical heroine. Smart and sexy, yes, but she’s also been known to sneak into a hotel room or two without paying, seduce a teenager in wet bathing trunks, and just check out of things altogether – like her job. And her marriage.

Grieving the loss of her only child, and not sure what’s to become of her relationship, Claire takes a leave of absence from everyday life. She moves from hotel to hotel, basking in the anonymity of travel and forbidden sex, struggling to understand herself. Who has she become? And how will she ever find redemption?

‘Taut, intelligent, and seductive’ New Yorker

Cover design by Alice Laurent

ISBN: 9781911590019
Price: £8.99
Published: July 2018
Extent: 256pp
Format: B-format PB

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AND FIRE CAME DOWN
EMMA VISKIC

The pulsating follow-up thriller to the acclaimed Resurrection Bay

Caleb Zelic used to meet life head-on. Now he’s struggling just to get through the day. His best mate is dead, his ex-wife, Kat, is avoiding him, and nightmares haunt his waking hours.

But when a young woman is killed after pleading for his help in sign language, Caleb is determined to find out who she was. And the trail leads straight to his hometown, Resurrection Bay. The town is on bushfire alert and simmering with racial tensions.

As he delves deeper, Caleb uncovers secrets that could threaten his life and any chance of reuniting with Kat. Driven by his demons, he pushes on. But who is he willing to sacrifice along the way?

‘Captivating’ Jane Harper, author of The Dry, on Resurrection Bay

Emma Viskic is an award-winning Australian crime writer. Her critically acclaimed debut, Resurrection Bay, won the 2016 Ned Kelly Award for Best Debut, as well as an unprecedented three Davitt Awards. It was also iBooks Australia’s Crime Novel of the year. Emma studied Australian sign language in order to write the character of Caleb Zelic. She is currently writing the third Caleb Zelic thriller.

ISBN: 9781782274551
Price: £8.99
Published: August 2018
Extent: 336pp
Format: B-format PB

VANISH IN AN INSTANT
MARGARET MILLAR

A rediscovered classic of American noir from one of crime writing’s greatest talents

On a snowbound night near a small Michigan town, Virginia Barkeley is discovered staggering around, covered in blood and blind drunk. Nearby, wealthy lothario Claude Margolis is found dead, stabbed several times in the neck. The case seems open and shut. Even Virginia thinks she probably committed the crime, although she cannot for the life of her think why.

In this classic noir tale of blurred guilt and flawed innocence, a cynical lawyer uncovers the desperate lives of a group connected only by a gruesome murder.

‘Stunningly original’
Val McDermid

Margaret Millar (1915-1994) was the author of 27 books and a masterful pioneer of psychological mysteries and thrillers. Her 1956 novel Beast in View won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Novel. In 1965 Millar was the recipient of the Los Angeles Times Woman of the Year Award and in 1983 the Mystery Writers of America awarded her the Grand Master Award for Lifetime Achievement.

ISBN: 9781782274797
Price: £8.99
Published: October 2018
Extent: 256pp
Format: B-format PB

Cover design by Anna Morrison

Cover design by Tom Sanderson
SLUGGER
MARTIN HOLMÉN

The third hard-hitting Harry Kvist thriller – a trail of guilt leads all the way to Hitler’s Germany

Stockholm, 1936. Harry Kvist, a bisexual ex-boxer now plying his trade as a debt collector, is bitter, angry and more alone than he has ever been. When his friend, Father Gabrielsson, is found brutally murdered by the altar in Katarina Church, it doesn’t look as if the police are interested in finding the culprit. So Kvist decides to do it himself.

As he investigates, he uncovers a trail leading all the way to Nazi Germany, where fascists are plotting a takeover in Sweden. But does Kvist have the strength to go to the final round with them on his own?

‘An atmospheric and compulsive series’ Attitude

Translated from the Swedish by A.A. Prime
Cover design by Tom Sanderson

ISBN: 9781782272199
Price: £8.99
Published: December 2018
Extent: 304pp
Format: B-format PB

THE CAKE TREE IN THE RUINS
AKIYUKI NOSAKA

Intensely moving stories that tell of the absurd violence of war, and tenderly depict the animals and children caught in its vortex

‘I am still unable to leave the burnt-out ruins’ Akiyuki Nosaka, 2014

In 1945, Akiyuki Nosaka watched the firebombing of Kobe kill his parents, and witnessed his sister starve to death. The blisteringly memorable stories of The Cake Tree in the Ruins are based on his own experiences as a child in Japan during the Second World War. They are stories of a lonely whale who sacrifices himself for love; of a mother desperately trying to save her son with tears; of a huge tree which grows amid the ruins of a burnt-out town, its branches made of cake.

Profound, heartbreaking and aglow with a piercing beauty, they express the chaos and terror of conflict, yet also how love can illuminate even the darkest moment.

‘So beautiful, so profound... A book that will last all your life’ Irish Times

Born in 1974, Martin Holmén studied history, and now teaches at a Stockholm secondary school. Slugger is the third thriller in The Stockholm Trilogy, following on from Clinch and Down for the Count.

Akiyuki Nosaka was born in 1930 in Japan. He was an award-winning novelist, short-story writer, essayist, lyricist, singer and politician. He is best known for Grave of the Fireflies, which was turned into a hugely successful Studio Ghibli film, and which is forthcoming in a new translation from Pushkin Press. Nosaka died in 2015.

Translated from the Japanese by Ginny Tapley Takemori
Cover Illustration by Mika Provata-Carlone

ISBN: 9781782274186
Price: £12
Published: August 2018
Extent: 200pp
Format: Flapped PB
THE ART OF THE CITY: ROME, FLORENCE, VENICE

GEORG SIMMEL

A quartet of essays on great European cities from the groundbreaking thinker Georg Simmel

Georg Simmel (1858-1918) was one of the first generation of German sociologists and an acquaintance of Max Weber, famous for his explorations of topics including urban life, the philosophy of history and the philosophy of money. The essays contained in The Art of the City are some of his most widely-read work.

Translated from the German by Will Stone
Cover design by Clare Skeats
ISBN: 9781782274483
Price: £12
Published: September 2018
Extent: 192pp
Format: Flapped PB

THE UNHAPPINESS OF BEING A SINGLE MAN: ESSENTIAL STORIES

FRANZ KAFKA

‘The greatest German writer of our time’
Vladimir Nabokov

Franz Kafka (1883-1924) was born to Jewish parents in Prague, and wrote in German. Most of his work was published posthumously, but he is now considered one of the most influential authors of the twentieth century.

New translations of the best stories by one of the twentieth century’s greatest and most influential writers

Kafka, whose name has generated an adjective, is one of the best loved writers of the twentieth century. Known for his enigmatic stories, for the nightmares he depicts, his extraordinary imaginative depth is clear in stories from ‘A Hunger Artist’ to ‘The Verdict’. But Kafka also wrote fizzingly funny, fresh stories, and The Unhappiness of Being a Single Man contains all the aspects of this genius: the wit and the grit; the horror and the humour; the longing and the laughing. They range from bizarre, two-sentence stories about Don Quixote to the famous depiction of violence and justice in ‘In the Penal Colony’.

In a nimble new translation by Alexander Starritt, this collection of Kafka’s essential stories shows the genius at his very best.

Translated from the German by Alexander Starritt
Cover design by Clare Skeats
ISBN: 9781782274391
Price: £12
Published: October 2018
Extent: 224pp
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