19 January 2024

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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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## Wish List Spotlight:



SUE WALLMAN

# **Every Word a Lie** by Sue Wallman

Award-winning author Sue Wallman tells a nailbiting story of a catfishing prank that gets out of control ... and gets deadly.

Two friends, Amy and Stan, plan revenge on their prankster friend Hollie by catfishing her as her crush. They only mean to do it for a day or two but then Hollie ends up dead.

As the catfish continues to strike others, Amy needs to find out: who is really in control of the catfish? Can she trust anyone?

And is she the killer's next target?

25th January: A Room of One's Own Day

A Room of One's Own Day is observed in the USA annually on the anniversary of Virginia Woolf's birth. It's named for her lecture series (later an extended essay) which famously advocated for the empowerment of women and their access to education. The eponymous Room symbolises independence and the power contained in the idea of being able to take time for yourself, as well as the right to take up space. The run of lectures was comprised of two talks by Woolf at women's colleges at the University of Cambridge, which were delivered by the author in 1928. The extended essay based on the lectures was published in 1929 and took its name from Woolf's conception that "a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction."

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, those who observe the day may wish to celebrate their independence and self-sustainability or take the name of the day more literally and dedicate it to decorating their room, or simply enjoying the comfort and privacy of their own space. Another appropriate way to spend the 25th of January may be reading Virginia Woolf's works or researching her life.

# Find out more here.



# A Room of One's Own by Virgina Woolf

 $\textit{One of the greatest arguments for female emancipation,} \ \mathsf{A} \ \mathsf{Room of One's Own} \ \textit{began as a lecture series at}$ Cambridge University defending women's independence. In this extended essay, Virginia Woolf brings to life the many issues facing women of her era and pioneered the path toward a more equal future. Passionate, insightful, and beautifully written, A Room of One's Own is a tour-de-force by one of the 20th century's greatest writers. Covering everything from why a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to fictional sister Judith, it remains a passionate assertion for female creativity and independence in a world dominated by men.

# On This Day in History...The British Museum Opens to the Public, 15<sup>th</sup> January



Opened to the public in January 1759, London's British Museum was established by a 1753 Act of Parliament that allowed the creation of the world's first free, national public museum. The museum's original catalogue came from President of the Royal Society, Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753), who wanted his collection of more than 71,000 'natural and artificial rarities', along with his library and herbarium, to be preserved after his death. The 1753 act purchased Sloane's collection for the public. Initially, visitors had to apply for tickets to see the museum's collection during limited visiting hours. In effect, this meant entry was restricted to well-connected visitors who were given personal tours of the collections by the museum's Trustees and curators. From the 1830s onwards, regulations were changed, and opening hours were extended. Gradually, the museum became truly open and freely accessible to all. In 2022, the British Museum ranked third in the list of most-visited art museums in the world.







Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Original Screenplay by J.K. Rowling

J.K. Rowling's screenwriting debut is captured in this exciting hardcover edition of the Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them screenplay. When Magizoologist Newt Scamander arrives in New York, he intends his stay to be just a brief stopover. However, when his magical case is misplaced and some of Newt's fantastic beasts escape, it spells trouble for everyone...

## Japanese Short Stories for Beginners by Lingo Mastery

In this book we have compiled 20 easy-to-read, compelling, and fun stories that will allow you to expand your vocabulary and give you the tools to improve your grasp of the wonderful Japanese language. Through Japanese Short Stories for Beginners We want you to feel comfortable while learning Japanese; after all, no language should be a barrier for you to travel around the world and expand your social circles.

Value(s): An Economist's Guide to Everything That Matters by Mark Carney A bold, urgent argument on the misplacement of value in financial markets and how we can and need to maximize value for the many, not few. As an economist and former banker. Mark Carney has spent his life in various financial roles, in both the public and private sector. VALUE(S) is a meditation on his experiences that examines the short-comings and challenges of the market in the past decade which he argues has led to rampant, public distrust and the need for radical change. Focusing on four major crises-the Global Financial Crisis, the Global Health Crisis, Climate Change and the 4th Industrial Revolution-- Carney proposes responses to each. His solutions are tangible action plans for leaders, companies and countries to transform the value of the market back into the value of humanity.

## Waste: Uncovering the Global Waste Scandal by Tristram Stuart

With shortages, volatile prices and nearly one billion people hungry, the world has a food problem – or thinks it does. Farmers, manufacturers, supermarkets and consumers in North America and Europe discard up to half of their food – enough to feed all the world's hungry at least three times over. Forests are destroyed and nearly one tenth of the West's greenhouse gas emissions are released growing food that will never be eaten. While affluent nations throw away food through neglect, in the developing world crops rot because farmers lack the means to process, store and transport them to market. But there could be surprisingly painless remedies for what has become one of the world's most pressing environmental and social problems. Travelling from Yorkshire to China, from Pakistan to Japan, and introducing us to foraging pigs, potato farmers, freegans and food industry directors, Stuart encounters grotesque examples of profligacy, but also inspiring innovations and ways of making the most of what we have. Combining front-line investigation with startling new data, Waste shows how the way we live now has created a global food crisis – and what we can do to fix it.



## Alex Rider #13: Nightshade by Anthony Horowitz

Get ready for action, adrenaline and adventure in this explosive, brand new Alex Rider mission by bestselling author, Anthony Horowitz. In this adrenalinefuelled adventure in the number one bestselling series, Alex Rider is sent by MI6 Special Operations, to infiltrate a new and sinister organisation known only as Nightshade. Alex is on his own, with the fate of thousands of people resting in his hands.

Shimanami Tasogare Volume 1: Our Dreams at Dusk by Yuhki Kamatani Not only is high schooler Tasuku Kaname the new kid in town, he is also terrified that he has been outed as gay. Just as he's contemplating doing the unthinkable, Tasuku meets a mysterious woman who leads him to a group of people dealing with problems not so different from his own. In this realistic, heartfelt depiction of LGBT+ characters from different backgrounds finding their place in the world, a search for inner peace proves to be the most universal experience of all.



Mark

Carney

### Ladv Marv by Lucy Worsley

By turns thrilling, dramatic and touching, this is the story of Henry the Eighth and Catherine of Aragon's divorce as you've never heard it before - from the eyes of their daughter, Princess Mary. More than anything Mary just wants her family to stay together; for her mother and her father and for her - to all be in the same place at once. But when her father announces that his marriage to her mother was void and by turns that Mary doesn't really count as his child, she realises things will never be as she hoped. Things only get worse when her father marries again. Separated from her mother and forced to work as a servant for her new sister, Mary must dig deep to find the strength to stand up against those who wish to bring her down. Despite what anyone says, she will always be a princess. She has the blood of a princess and she is ready to fight for what is rightfully hers.

## Not Good for Maidens by Tori Bovalino

Lou never believed in superstitions or magic--until her teenage aunt Neela is kidnapped to the goblin market. The market is a place Lou has only read about--twisted streets, offerings of sweet fruits and incredible jewels. Everything--from the food and wares to the goblins themselves--is a haunting temptation for any human who manages to find their way in. Determined to save Neela, Lou learns songs and spells and tricks that will help her navigate this dangerous world and slip past a goblin's defenses--but she only has three days to find Neela before the market disappears and her aunt becomes one of them forever. If she isn't careful, the market might just end up claiming her too.

## Red Queen #4.5: Broken Throne by Victoria Aveyard

The perfect addition to the #1 New York Times bestselling Red Queen series, Broken Throne features three brand-new novellas, alongside two previously published novellas, Steel Scars and Queen Song - as well as never-before-seen maps, flags, bonus scenes, journal entries, and much more exclusive content. Fans will be delighted to catch up with beloved characters after the drama of War Storm and be excited to hear from brand-new voices as well.

Given Volume 1 by Natsuki Kizu Love of music unites the four members of the band Given: hotheaded guitarist Uenoyama, playboy drummer Akihiko, gentle bassist Haruki, and Mafuyu, a singer gifted with great talent and burdened by past tragedy. Their struggles and conflicts may drive them apart, but their bond to the music—and to each other—always brings them back together again. Ritsuka Uenoyama is bored with it all—with school, with his basketball club, and even with his one true passion: playing guitar. That is, until the day he finds his favorite hidden napping spot occupied by a strange boy cradling a broken-stringed guitar. At first, Uenoyama is nonplussed by Mafuyu Sato and his slightly odd behavior, but when, on a whim, he asks Mafuyu to sing, the power of that song pierces him to the core.

## The Iron King by Julie Kagawa

"My name is Meghan Chase. In less than twenty-four hours I'll be sixteen." Countless stories, songs and poems have been written about this wonderful age, when a girl finds true love and the stars shine for her and the handsome prince carries her off into the sunset. I don't think it will be that way for me. Something has always felt slightly off in Meghan's life, ever since her father disappeared before her eyes when she was six. She has never quite fit in at school...or at home. When a dark stranger begins watching her from afar, and her prankster best friend becomes strangely protective of her, Meghan senses that everything she's known is about to change. But she could never have guessed the truth - that she is the daughter of a mythical fairy king and is a pawn in a deadly war. Now Meghan will learn just how far she'll go to save someone she cares about, to stop a mysterious evil no faery creature dare face...and to find love with a young prince who might rather see her dead than let her go.



# A State of Fear: How the UK Government Weaponised Fear During the Covid-19 Pandemic by Laura Dodsworth

This is a book about fear. Fear of a virus. Fear of death. Fear of losing our jobs, our democracy, our human connections, our health and our minds. It's also about how the government weaponised our fear against us – supposedly in our best interests – until we were the most frightened country in Europe. But why did the government deliberately frighten us, and how has this affected us as individuals and as a country? Who is involved in the decision-making that affects our lives? How are behavioural science and nudge theory being used to subliminally manipulate us? How does the media leverage fear? What are the real risks to our wellbeing? Laura Dodsworth explores all these questions and more, in a nuanced and thought-provoking discussion of an extraordinary year in British life and politics.

## On This Day in History... The Birth of Anne Brontë, 17th January 1820



The youngest member of the Brontë family, Anne was born in Haworth, on the Yorkshire Moors, to Maria and Patrick Brontë. Her father was an Irish clergyman in the Church of England, and the Brontë family lived most of their lives in the parsonage that would become a museum dedicated to them many years later. As children, the Brontë siblings Charlotte, Emily, Anne, and Branwell had keen imaginations, inventing make-believe worlds populated with entire casts of fantastical characters. Their inventions began with Glass Town, a fantasy world inspired by Patrick Brontë's gift of twelve wooden soldiers to Branwell. From there, the fantasy grew exponentially and the Brontës wrote reams of prose and poetry featuring Glass Town and its citizens. These writings, among other early works, are known as the Brontë juvenilia.

Between 1839 and 1845, Anne worked as a governess, a largely negative experience which inspired her novel Agnes Grey,

published in 1847. Like the rest of the Brontë sisters, Anne published her novels under a male pseudonym in order ensure her privacy – Anne's chosen pen name was Acton Bell. Anne's second and final novel. The Tenant of Wildfell Hall was published in 1848, just a year after her first, and is often considered one of the first feminist novels

Anne passed away in 1849 at the age of just 29. Branwell and Emily died a year earlier, and Charlotte would die six years later in 1855. Officially, the Brontës all suffered from tuberculosis and died from complications of the disease; unofficially however, it is speculated that after Branwell died, the rest of the siblings died of



# Glass Town by Isabel Greenberg

The entrancing story of the Brontë sisters' childhood imaginary world, from the New York Times bestselling graphic novelist. Four children: Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne have invented a world so real and vivid that they can step right into it. But can reality be enough, when fiction is so enticing? And what happens to an imaginary world when its creators grow up? Plots are spiralling, characters are getting wildly out of hand, and a great deal of ink is being spilt... Welcome to Glass Town.

Gilbert Markham is deeply intrigued by Helen Graham, a beautiful and secretive young Helen his friendship, but when her reclusive behaviour becomes the subject of local gossip and speculation, Gilbert begins to wonder whether his trust in her has been misplaced. It is only when she allows Gilbert to read her diary that the truth is revealed and the shocking details of the disastrous marriage she has left behind emerge. Told with great depiction of a woman's fight for domestic independence and creative freedom



Agnes, a rector's daughter, must take employment as a governess to help her family make financial ends meet. But her situations with the spoiled, self-obsessed Bloomfield children and later with the ruthless Murray family forces her into a lonely, humiliating experience that is a wearying one extraordinarily blossoming into a romantic relationship with the local vicar, Edward Weston. Agnes' concern for her family brings her to these unfortunate trials where she suffers stupid and egotistic proprietors and their over-indulged progeny. She was not able to foresee the hardships she would have to undergo along with the class snobbery to which she was also subjected. And yet a career as a governess was the only "respectable" job available to an unmarried woman in Victorian England. Bronte's simple and

authentic enough to necessitate investigation and improvement.

## Michael Morpurgo Backs Call to Ensure Children from Lower Income Families Have Access to Books

Michael Morpurgo, along with eleven other past and present children's laureates such as Julia Donaldson, Malorie Blackman, Cressida Cowell, Michael Rosen and Jacqueline Wilson, is backing a call by BookTrust to 'ensure that every child from a low-income family has access to books and reading activities.' Research by BookTrust found that only half of children between the ages of one and two from low-income families are read to every day, and less than half of children under seven are being read a bedtime story. The supporting authors have co-signed an open letter to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and other UK political leaders urging the government to invest in early years reading. Morpurgo said of BookTrust's research, "We have to acknowledge the right of every single child in this country to have access, physically, intellectually and emotionally, to reading. And that will not happen unless the books are there, and it will not happen unless books are shared early." He also urged local authorities to "never, ever, in this country close down a library again."



# Click here to read the original Guardian article.



# Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

Michael and his family are sailing around the world in their yacht, the Peggy Sue. Michael falls overboard and is washed up on a remote island. He must learn to survive on his own, until the day he discovers he is not alone.

# Alone on a Wide, Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo

How far would you go to find yourself? When orphaned Arthur Hobhouse is shipped to Australia after World War II he loses his sister, his country and everything he knows. The coming years will test him to his limits, as he endures mistreatment, neglect and forced labour in the Australian outback. But Arthur is also saved, again and again, by his love of the sea. And when he meets a nurse whose father owns a boatbuilding business, all the pieces of his broken life come together. Now, at the end of his life, Arthur has buil In special boat for his daughter Allie, whose love of the sea is as strong and as vital as her father's. Now Allie has a boat that will take her to England solo, across the world's roughest seas, in search of her father's long-lost sister. Will the threads of Arthur's life finally come together?

# War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

Joey is a warhorse, but he wasn't always. Once, he was a farm horse and a gentle boy named Albert was his master. Then World War I came storming through and everything changed. Albert's father sells Joey to the army where the beautiful, red-bay horse is trained to charge the enemy, drag heavy artillery, and carry wounded soldiers not much older than Albert off of battlefields. Amongst the clamouring of guns and slogging through the cold mud, Joey wonders if the war will ever end. And if it does, will he ever find Albert again?



# Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

be, means another moment closer to something which will change his life forever.

# Out of the Ashes by Michael Morpurgo

On New Year's Day Becky Morley begins to write her diary. By March, her world has changed forever. Foot and mouth disease breaks out on a pig farm hundreds of miles from the Morley's Devon home, but soon the nightmare is a few fields away. Local sheep are infected and every animal is destroyed. Will the Morley's flock be next? Will their pedigree diary herd, the sows with their piglets, and Little Josh, Becky's hand-reared lamb, survive? Or will they be slaughtered too? The waiting and hoping is the most agonizing experience of Becky's life.