When John Hatchard opened his small bookshop in 1797 he can have had no idea of the extent to which the shop would grow and flourish. Now the oldest and, we like to think, the best-loved bookshop in London, we are sure he would be pleased.

Throughout that time Hatchards has been at the forefront of bookselling and this catalogue is a selection of the best books that we have sold over the years — books which first John Hatchard and now our booksellers today have recognised as those which would stand the test of time: novels, non-fiction, poetry and children’s books which we and our customers have read, enjoyed and argued over.

The present booksellers have written the reviews, each person choosing the titles they feel particularly passionate about. We hope you find the selection as interesting and stimulating as we have.

Many of these titles are available in hardback and paperback editions. We also have a number of signed first or particularly fine editions in our Rare and Out of Print department on the fourth floor. Please ask a bookseller for more information.

Hatchards began as a publisher as much as a bookshop and in recent years we are proud to have resurrected this side of the business. We would like you to vote for the book you have enjoyed most from this selection. At our annual Christmas evening later in the year we will announce the winners, which will be published in a special limited editions.
By the time he was twenty-nine John Hatchard knew he wanted a business of his own. Born in 1768, he had served his apprenticeship at Mr Ginger’s bookshop just behind Westminster Abbey and had then gone to work at Mr Thomas Payne’s combined bookshop, coffee house and publisher on the site where the National Gallery now stands. Piccadilly, a fashionable part of town, already had several bookshops and John correctly guessed that the area could support another one. He took over Mr White’s bookshop at 173 Piccadilly, and recorded in his diary that he paid ‘31 pounds, 10 shillings goodwill and 40 pounds per annum’.

He began with just one assistant, George, but by 1801 the shop had outgrown the premises and moved down the road to the present site. At this point the house that stood there was numbered 189-190, possibly two small houses joined together. As well as extra space the new shop had benches outside where the customers’ servants could wait. With the renumbering of Piccadilly in 1820 the shop became number 187.
THE ODYSSEY (800 BC)
Homer
Homer’s epic, together with its companion The Iliad, is accepted as marking the beginning of Western Literature. It describes the journey of Odysseus during his return from the Trojan War to his kingdom of Ithaca and is a great adventure story as well as a vital starting point.

THE PRINCE (1532)
Niccolò Machiavelli
A treatise on statecraft which argues for the need for political realism; the prosperity of the state will depend on finding a leader who is not afraid to resort to unethical means to secure the higher interests of the people. The work which gave us the term ‘Machiavellian’ is as relevant today as it was in 1797.

SONNETS (1609)
William Shakespeare
Some of Shakespeare’s most exquisite writing is to be found within his sonnets: passionate, moving, melancholy and humorous by turns. Read beyond the few that feature in every anthology and marvel at the mastery.

GULLIVER’S TRAVELS (1726)
Jonathan Swift
This parody of travel literature for philosophic ends is so successful it can be read on any number of different levels. Apart from anything else Gulliver marked the beginning of the vastly successful political novel which is such a mainstay of today’s publishing.

JOHN DONNE
John Donne is the finest of the metaphysical poets; a Roman Catholic apostate, he took orders in the Anglican Church and became Dean of St Paul’s. His poetry reflects every stage of his life from the piratical Jack Donne who sailed with Raleigh against the Spaniards to the penitent and persuasive preacher.

‘So oft have I invok’d thee for my Muse, and found such fair assistance in my verse’
Sonnet LXXVIII
In 1804 gardening was the unlikely passion that drew seven men to the back room of the shop. There, Sir Joseph Banks, the President of the Royal Society and a renowned naturalist, was joined by John Wedgwood, a member of the famous pottery family, Richard Salisbury, a botanist, James Dickson, a nurseryman and Charles Grenville, a privy councillor. Completing the group were the head gardener at Kew, William Townsend Aiton and William Forsyth, head gardener at St James’ Palace. Beginning life as the Horticultural Society of London, this group soon became the Royal Horticultural Society with the aim of ‘instituting a society for the Improvement of Horticulture’.

These men are typical of the early visitors and customers to the shop; passionate and intelligent, they were keen to forge links between the scientific, natural and commercial worlds in which they lived. To a great extent the bookshops of eighteenth-century London were the Gentleman’s Clubs of the day and clearly John Hatchard had created the right atmosphere to attract this vital clientele.

JUSTINE (1791)
Marquis de Sade

Written in just two weeks while imprisoned in the Bastille, this is an early work by the infamous Marquis. Set just before the French Revolution Justine is the shocking story of a young woman’s life of misfortune. En route to punishment and death, she attempts to justify her actions.

RIGHTS OF MAN (1791, 1792)
Thomas Paine

Thomas Paine’s treatises, addressed to George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, were directly influenced by his involvement in the American Revolution. They steadfastly outline his ideology of reason and morality and when Part II was published it was almost immediately banned. Given his Tory leanings, it is unlikely that John Hatchard would have stocked them and the political and ecclesiastical books he published would certainly have argued against them.
THE ROMANTICS

The opening of John Hatchard’s bookshop coincided with an upsurge of interest in poetry. George Crabbe was published by him and many of the Romantic poets, including Lord Byron, were regular visitors to the shop.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH & SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

Wordsworth’s autobiographical poem *The Prelude* still stands as one of the major works of English poetry. Drug addict and political turncoat, Coleridge became friends with Wordsworth and together they wrote *Lyrical Ballads*. Published in 1798, it marked the start of the Romantic movement and became an instant bestseller at Hatchards.

PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Shelley saw no distinction between poetry and politics and his work revitalised the radicalism of the earlier Romantics. His extraordinary lyric powers and glamorous life were combined with intellectual courage and a hatred of injustice.

LORD GEORGE BYRON

The legend is often better known than the poetry and perhaps the Byronic hero is Byron’s most important invention; the outcast wandering in exile contemplating the injustices done to him in the past. However his masterpiece *Don Juan* mixes satire with impassioned writing and is a truly wonderful creation.

JOHN KEATS

Matthew Arnold captured the essence of Keats’ work when he said ‘Keats as a poet is abundantly and enchantingly sensuous’. If he lacked the intellectual resources of some of the others, Keats came closest to solving the problems of form they all struggled with and is still remembered as the most romantic of all the Romantics.

WILLIAM BLAKE

Blake received little formal education and this led to a crucial imaginative independence. *The Songs of Innocence & Experience*, a sublime collection particularly when read with his own extraordinary illustrations, has been by far the most popular and perhaps most influential of his many books.
Until the late Victorian period Hatchards was a publisher as well as a bookshop. John Hatchard’s first publication was a political pamphlet entitled Reform or Ruin: Take Your Choice; it was an important subject and drew prominent men such as William Wilberforce to the shop. Then, as now, one of the dominant political questions of the day was the relationship between Britain and Europe, the only difference being that in those days it was Napoleon Bonaparte rather than the EU.


FAUST (1808, 1832)
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Notoriously difficult to stage, Faust was perhaps never intended for the theatre. Poet, scientist and statesman, Goethe began work on his masterpiece in 1770 and completed the second part just before his death in 1832.

GRIMM’S FAIRY TALES (1812)
Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Described by W. H. Auden as ranking ‘next to the Bible in importance’, the tales collected by the brothers Grimm have been shaping our collective imaginations for many more than two hundred and twenty years. Inspiring countless adaptations, they are as enjoyable now as when they were first published.

WAVERLEY (1814)
Sir Walter Scott

Edward Waverley was a young man of a romantic disposition, rather harshly described by his creator as ‘a sneaking piece of imbecility’. Torn between conflicting family loyalties to the Hanoverian and Jacobite causes he followed his heart too often and was only saved from disaster by a lucky piece of bravery in battle.
It was at Hatchards that Jane Austen bought Ann Radcliffe’s *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, the novel which inspired *Northanger Abbey*. Although not published until 1817 this was her first novel, written between 1789 and 1803. Over the last two hundred years her books have been consistent bestsellers at Hatchards.

**SENSE & SENSIBILITY (1811)**

This was Jane Austen’s first major novel and is a gentle dig at the late eighteenth century’s cult of extreme sensibility. The opposing temperaments of two sisters are at the heart of the story: discernment versus impulsive emotional outpourings. In this witty and perceptive tale each must learn from the other.

*‘Know your own happiness. You want nothing but patience – or give it a more fascinating name, call it hope’*

*Sense & Sensibility*

**PRIDE & PREJUDICE (1813)**

The popularity of this story depends on the charm of the heroine, the splendid and often comical supporting characters and the subtleties of the plot. It is easy to cast Darcy as pride and Elizabeth as prejudice but this novel is too clever for such obvious divisions.

**NORTHANGER ABBEY (1817)**

Catherine Morland, the heroine of this story, finds life failing to follow the melodramatic trail laid by the gothic novels of the day. As with the best spoofs, it rises above the genre and is a worthwhile novel in its own right.

**JANE AUSTEN (1997)**

Claire Tomalin

‘Truly marvellous. I cannot think that a better life of Jane Austen than Claire Tomalin’s will be written for many years. Her readings of the novels are full of brilliant insights. She often seems to be standing behind Austen’s desk, observing her writing.’ Philip Hensher, *Mail on Sunday*
NIGHTMARE ABBEY (1818)
Thomas Love Peacock

This gentle poke at the romantic movement of the time is set in a dilapidated mansion between the sea and the Lincolnshire fens. Many of the gloomy Mr Glowry’s visitors are parodies of the author’s friends including Shelley, Coleridge and Byron.

FRANKENSTEIN (1818)
Mary Shelley

It was Lord Byron who prompted Mary Shelley to write this book when she was only nineteen. The well-known films tend to portray the creation as a fearsome monster but the book explores the devastating limits of man’s creativity and the very human feelings of fear, loneliness and rejection.

CONFESSIONS OF AN ENGLISH OPIUM-EATER (1822)
Thomas De Quincey

First published anonymously in 1821 in the London Magazine, Thomas De Quincey’s autobiographical story was released in book form in 1822, and again in 1856, revised by the author. A brilliant mind on the pleasures and pains of addiction.

THE PRIVATE MEMOIRS & CONFESSIONS OF A JUSTIFIED SINNER (1824)
James Hogg

The ‘Sinner’ of the tale is persuaded to murder and rape in the Lord’s name, safe in the knowledge that he is predestined for salvation. The book opens with the deeds and concludes with the confessions, found when the grave is opened a hundred years later.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF TASTE (1825)
Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin

At the time of publication French cuisine was undergoing a radical change with the advent of the restaurant. Suddenly food took a step away from being a mere means of survival. Witty and shrewd, the essays here cover taste, diet and dreams and include a number of remarkable recipes.
Thomas Hatchard was born in 1794 and was John’s second son. The elder (also John) entered the clergy but as soon as he was old enough Thomas began to work in the shop. As his father grew older Thomas gradually assumed more of the responsibilities of running the business, ensuring the change from father to son was seamless and almost unnoticed by customers.

THE BIRDS OF AMERICA (1827-1838)
John James Audubon

It is extraordinary now to think that John Audubon struggled to find financial support for his great project. More than fourteen years of field drawings and observations resulted in breathtakingly beautiful pictures that changed ornithology forever.

THE RED & THE BLACK (1830)
Stendhal

A psychological portrait and a social satire on the French class system; the novel describes the attempts of Julien Sorel, a handsome and ambitious carpenter’s son, to raise his social standing. Even as his talents for deception and hypocrisy lead him into the glittering heart of Parisian society, they begin to cause his downfall.

NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS (1831)
Victor Hugo

Victor Hugo was a prominent poet, dramatist and novelist as well as an active politician in the Third Republic. His passion for social justice shines through in this brilliant historical novel set in the fifteenth century.

EUGENE ONEGIN (1833)
Alexander Pushkin

This is probably the greatest work by the man many Russians regard as their country’s greatest writer. The story in verse is set in the 1820s and follows the fates of three men and three women.
Many of John Hatchard’s political customers followed him from Payne’s. The Duke of Wellington, George Canning, Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone were just four of the prime ministers who shopped here regularly, Disraeli being one of the first to combine the roles of customer and author. Gladstone was remembered by one of the staff interviewed in 1892 as ‘always taciturn in his manner and always insistent on being given 10% discount’. The shop’s political connections have lasted up to the present day.

John Hatchard’s link with royalty was established in the very early days of the shop. One of the first customers recorded in his daily ledger was Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III. Her first purchases were the five-volume *L’Histoire de France* and Baxter’s *Dying Thoughts*. She remained a faithful customer and her patronage undoubtedly helped the young bookseller. Hatchards has retained its link with the British Royal Family, providing books for the present Queen as well as many of her ancestors.

Among the archives for 1901 there are letters, heavily outlined in black as a mark of respect for Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who had died earlier in the year. Sadly they are the only papers we have relating to the stocking of the New Library at Sandringham. This had been the Prince of Wales’ private house; now it was one of the residences of King Edward VII.
The system of Royal Warrants, or Royal Charters as they were originally known, dates back to 1155 when King Henry II granted a Royal Charter to the Weavers’ Company. By the fifteenth century royal tradesmen such as William Caxton, the King’s Printer, were awarded a Royal Warrant of Appointment. These were abolished by Oliver Cromwell but reinstated by Charles II. During the reign of Queen Victoria the Royal Tradesmen began to gather together to celebrate the birthday of the monarch and to this day they still meet every year at a grand dinner.

Above: The Royal Warrant awarded to Arthur Humphreys on behalf of Hatchards in 1920 for bookselling to HRH the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII.
Left: A letter to Arthur Humphreys on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Mary, wife of George V.

Right: Her Majesty the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh signing the Hatchards visitor’s book at The Author’s of the Year Party, 17th March 1982.
In 1841 the London Library opened at 49 Pall Mall, not far from its present home in St James’ Square. It quickly became popular with the readers, writers and thinkers of the day; its members including Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, George Eliot and Henry James. John Hatchard keenly supported the venture, no doubt recognising that it would bring more potential customers to the area.

VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE (1839)
Charles Darwin

Hired as a gifted but somewhat aimless young man, a young Charles Darwin embarked on H.M.S. Beagle for a five-year circumnavigation of the globe. He produced a riveting and revolutionary account of the wonders and discoveries he encountered, including handy tips for surviving a typhoon at sea. A natural selection for our compilation.

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (1845)
Alexandre Dumas

Thrown into prison for a crime he did not commit, Edmond Dantès learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo. He determines to escape, find the treasure and use it to destroy the three men responsible for his incarceration. Quite simply one of the best adventures ever written.

‘The difference between treason and patriotism is only a matter of dates.’

The Count of Monte Cristo
A BOOK OF NONSENSE (1846)
Edward Lear

With his Book of Nonsense Edward Lear aimed to introduce entertainment and fun into the Victorian nursery, qualities which tended to be in short supply in most children’s books of the time. His illustrations are an inspired and intrinsic part of the text, bringing the limericks to a quirky and idiosyncratic life.

THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW FOREST (1847)
Captain Frederick Marryat

After a colourful career at sea Captain Marryat began writing historical adventures. Set against the backdrop of the English Civil War this story sees the Beverley children escape to a forester’s cottage when their family mansion is destroyed by Oliver Cromwell’s soldiers.

JANE EYRE (1847)
Charlotte Brontë

Suicide, madness, passion and morality form a heady mix in this story of an orphan who rises above adversity to claim the position of governess in a gloomy manor house. There she meets the mysterious Mr Rochester, sparks fly and things take a further turn for the gothic. A love story and social commentary but most of all a truly satisfying novel from first to last.

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (1847)
Emily Brontë

A dramatic and passionate tale of revenge set in the bleak moorlands of Yorkshire. Heathcliff and Catherine are doomed from the start, as are the younger Catherine and Linton, a generation later. That this should be Emily’s only novel is as much a tragedy as it is a triumph.
CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens enjoyed a close relationship with his reading public, famously changing the plot if his monthly sales fell. Once the stories were published in book form they became immediate bestsellers at Hatchards, the ‘must-have’ novels of the day.

OLIVER TWIST (1838)

The story of Oliver and the dangerous London Underworld that entraps him was conceived as a criticism of the Poor Law of 1824. The novel painted a harsh and realistic picture of London’s criminals, ‘skulking uneasily through the dirtiest paths of life, with the great black ghastly gallows closing up their prospect’.

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY (1839)

Nicholas’ adventures gave Charles Dickens the opportunity to portray an extraordinary gallery of rogues and eccentrics: the tyrannical headmaster Wackford Squeers, the dim orphan Smike, the splendidly theatrical Mr and Mrs Crummles and their daughter the ‘infant phenomenon’.

BLEAK HOUSE (1853)

In Bleak House Charles Dickens turns his attentions to the injustices of the out-of-date legal system and the hypocrisy of many of the so-called philanthropists. The elegant but haughty Lady Dedlock hides a guilty secret which the cunning lawyer Tulkinghorn discovers, thereby setting in motion a series of tragic events.

HARD TIMES (1854)

While writing Hard Times Charles Dickens visited Preston during a coal strike and his descriptions of Coketown convey with masterly realism the hardships of the times. Like many of his novels there is a serious message here but Charles Dickens’ characteristic humour shines through and, surprisingly, not everyone comes to a sticky end. An often undeservedly forgotten book.
At first the Hatchard family lived above the shop but as it prospered so did they, eventually moving to the leafy suburbs of Clapham. From the start the shop did well. There were larger and older bookshops in Piccadilly but Hatchards is the only one to have survived, and flourished for over two centuries. By the time of his death in 1849 John Hatchard could look back on his life with pride and satisfaction.

The company logo is allegedly based on the signature on John Hatchard’s will. Many of us mourn the loss of the apostrophe that we feel should be in the name, blaming twentieth-century sloppiness. However a little research revealed that there never was one. The shop opened as John Hatchard of Piccadilly, fairly quickly becoming J Hatchard, Bookseller to the Queen. There followed J Hatchard & son, T Hatchard, Hatchard & Co and by 1901 the shop had become became Messrs. Hatchard. Throughout much of this time Hatchards pops up, first appearing in 1852; which just shows the Victorians were sloppy too.

As you can see, his signature has gained a few embellishments over the years.

**VANITY FAIR (1848)**
W. M. Thackeray

A favourite of Charlotte Brontë and Leo Tolstoy, Vanity Fair remains one of the definitive novels of the nineteenth century. Masterfully blending satire with realism W. M. Thackeray captures readers with a host of marvellous characters, from the tenacious Becky Sharpe to the awkwardly likeable William Dobbin.

**THE SCARLET LETTER (1850)**
Nathaniel Hawthorne

Adultery, revenge and hypocrisy are at the heart of this story set in seventeenth-century Puritan Boston. Nathaniel Hawthorne’s masterpiece inspires strong feelings in its readers, whether you sympathise with the headstrong Hester Prynne or regard the minister Dimmesdale as the true villain.
LEAVES OF GRASS (1855)  
Walt Whitman

In 1844, Ralph Waldo Emerson published an essay called The Poet, in which he wrote of the need for the United States to have its own unique poet, to write about the new country’s virtues and vices. Walt Whitman’s storming, ground-breaking collection more than answered his call.

NORTH & SOUTH (1855)  
Elizabeth Gaskell

Margaret Hale moves from Pastoral Hampshire to Darkshire, a cotton town where Thornton is an autocratic mill owner. For both, prejudices and insensitivities break down through a wide range of experiences and emotions. A remarkable novel, regarded as her finest.

MADAME BOVARY (1857)  
Gustave Flaubert

Madame Bovary is Gustave Flaubert’s debut novel of 1857, scandalous in its time due to its immorality. Emma Bovary is bored and unhappy in her marriage, trapped in a provincial life she despises; she indulges her fantasies through extravagance and love affairs, with dire consequences.

‘The least romantic book I have ever read…one of the greatest novels of all time’  
A.S Byatt

LES FLEURS DU MAL (1857)  
Charles Baudelaire

In this, his only collection of verse, Charles Baudelaire attempted to create beauty and order in a world largely perceived as ugly and oppressive. In musical language and evocative images, he examines his sense of isolation and boredom, the power of love and the attractions of evil and vice.
ANTHONY TROLLOPE

BARSETSHIRE

The Warden is the first of Trollope’s Barsetshire novels and was the worthy winner of Our Favourite Novels catalogue in 2014. It introduces us to Barchester and the delightful world of Septimus Harding and Archdeacon Grantly. The gentle life of the cathedral close is disturbed by John Bold, an idealistic and zealous young man, and a whirl of accusations and recriminations follow. The following five novels follow the society life of the cathedral city through the religious turmoil of the mid nineteenth century.

The Warden (1855), Barchester Towers (1857), Doctor Thorne (1858), Framley Parsonage (1861), The Small House at Allington (1864), The Last Chronicle of Barset (1867)

THE PALLISERS

Anthony Trollope’s Political novels are more mature works and centre round the Palliser family. Lady Glencora, Planty Pall and Phineas Finn are among the greatest delights of English fiction.

Can You Forgive her? (1865) The Eustace Diamonds (1873), Phineas Redux (1874), The Prime Minister (1876), The Duke’s Children (1880).

PHINEAS FINN (1869)

In the second book of the series the charismatic Phineas Finn takes centre stage. Neither his love life nor his political career run smoothly as his principles lose him his government stipend and his heart loses him a potential fortune.
In 1858 Thomas Hatchard died. It is sad that the most detailed picture we have of him is from his obituary notice.

‘One who knew him well writes that he was a man of earnest, unostentatious piety; as a master kind and liberal, ever treating those under him with the greatest consideration; there was no house in the business where it was considered a greater privilege to be.’

The Guardian, 17th November 1858

THE WOMAN IN WHITE (1860)
Wilkie Collins

An essential book for everyone’s library, not only for the literary craftsmanship, and suspenseful writing, but also for being the first detective story ever written. With its villains, secrets and revelations, this mystery thriller still spooks and enthrals readers today. Wonderfully entertaining.

THE MILL ON FLOSS (1860)
George Eliot

A novel of contrasting halves. The first is a glorious easy-paced evocation of childhood, the second an epic tragedy governed by passion. Based on George Eliot’s own experiences of provincial life the book’s main character, Maggie, was D. H. Lawrence’s favourite (fictional) woman.
FATHERS & SONS (1862)
Ivan Turgenev

Ivan Turgenev’s creation of the first literary nihilist and his demonstration of the failure of communication between generations succeeded in enraging both fathers and sons in Russia at the time. A truly great novel, its hero Bazorov is one of the most remarkable characters in Russian literature.

THE JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH (1864)
Jules Verne

The journey down an Icelandic volcano takes Professor Lidenbrock into the centre of the earth and back in time to the origins of man. The fact that science has disproved Jules Verne’s ideas in no way detracts from the story; it remains enthralling, exciting and utterly believable.

ALICE’S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND (1865)
Lewis Carroll

In Wonderland Alice encounters a rabbit with a pocket watch, a blue caterpillar smoking a hookah and a madman in a top hat. And all this before she comes across the real lunacy of the Queen of Hearts. First told by mathematician, the Reverend Charles Dodgson to the three Liddell girls on a boat-trip up the River Cherwell in 1862 the Alice stories can be read on any level from childish nonsense to political satire.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT (1866)
Fyodor Dostoevsky

In 1865, when Fyodor Dostoevsky began writing the novel that was to bring him international recognition, he was as encumbered by debt as the hero he created. The student Raskolnikov decides to murder an old woman moneylender to solve his financial predicament. After the murder his financial worries are replaced by a growing sense of guilt as he struggles to come to terms with what he has done.
1868-1877

Henry Hudson, the founder’s great grandson carried on the business after Thomas’ death. Unfortunately we know little about him, other than that he clearly continued the Hatchards tradition of stocking the best books in a congenial commercial surrounding.

WAR & PEACE (1869)
Leo Tolstoy

Not only an epic retelling of Napoleon’s invasion of Russia in 1812, this is also a brilliant reconstruction of life in early nineteenth-century Russia. From the drawing rooms of Saint Petersburg to the field hospitals at the front this story of five intertwining families is a completely gripping read.

“The whole world is divided for me into two parts: one is she, and there is all happiness, hope, light; the other is where she is not, and there is dejection and darkness”

War & Peace

MIDDLEMARCH (1871-1872)
George Eliot

Coventry, in the 1820s just before the First Reform Bill, is the setting for this remarkable novel. Gossip, flirtation, pride and rigid class structure warp the bright young things whose lives otherwise would consist merely of pleasure.

BLACK BEAUTY (1877)
Anna Sewell

Anna Sewell drew on her own experiences when she wrote this protest against the cruelty to which many animals were subjected at the time. Now it is best known as the story of a horse’s life, with a particular heart-rending moment guaranteed to reduce any sentient being to tears.
On October 18th 1881 an advertisement was placed in *The Publishers’ Circular*:

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WANTED A Junior Assistant, age 20 to 25. A good writer, quick, active, industrious and thoroughly respectable, with some knowledge of the retail trade. Apply, by letter only, to Messrs. Hatchard, 187 Piccadilly
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The man who applied was to be a driving force in the shop for the following forty years. Arthur Humphreys had come from Bristol to work with Walter Mack at his shop in Paternoster Row. His application to work at Hatchards was successful and he started on the princely sum of one pound a week.

‘A new and vast world of books was now opened before me. Whereas up to the day when I entered Hatchards the books I had handled were trifling things... here in Piccadilly I saw the best of everything. It was, of course, bewildering at first to a boy who was only sixteen.’

Arthur Humphreys

**CHRISTINA ROSSETTI**

Described by Ford Madox Ford as ‘the most valuable poet that the Victorian age has produced’, Christina Rossetti has left us poems which are quiet and gentle, controlled yet passionate.

‘Remember me when I am gone away, 
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand, 
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.’

Remember

**ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON**

Tennyson’s strength lies in his sense of the power and sound of language. T. S. Eliot described him as a great poet because of the ‘abundance, variety, and complete competence’ of his work, with ‘the finest ear of any English poet since Milton’.
THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY (1881)
Henry James

Henry James’s masterpiece is the portrayal of Isabel Archer, a headstrong American woman full of independence and ambition. Isabel is a compelling character and Henry James’s descriptive prose breathtaking: a complex psychological portrait and also a beautiful work of art.

SHORT STORIES (1881-1893)
Guy de Maupassant

Guy de Maupassant was influenced by Gustave Flaubert and many of these stories contain a strong vein of pessimism, disgust at bourgeois complacency and despair at the possibility of any human relationship. More charming than that sounds, they present a rich canvas of experience, from the Normandy in which he had grown up to excursions into the fantastic and supernatural.

ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN (1884)
Mark Twain

This is the triumphant sequel to Tom Sawyer, narrated with great élan by Huck himself. It is a splendid adventure story, charting the journey of Huck and the runaway slave, Jim, down the Mississippi. The seminal American novel, according to Ernest Hemingway.

KING SOLOMON’S MINES (1885)
H. Rider Haggard

Written for ‘boys young and old’ Rider Haggard’s adventure yarn tells the story of an English expedition to find the legendary wealth of King Solomon. An instant best-seller when it was first published it has now also happily become popular with adventurous girls, young and old as well.
Robert Louis Stevenson was an unconventional anti-authoritarian Scotsman who travelled constantly in search of happiness. His adventure stories for both adults and children, his poetry and the delightful tale of his travels with Modestine are testament to his versatility and talent.

**TRAVELS WITH A DONKEY IN THE Cevennes (1879)**

This is one of the most charming travel narratives; the story of a twelve day hike in the Cevennes in the company of a stubborn and manipulative donkey.

**TREASURE ISLAND (1883)**

This is a wonderful tale of adventure on the high seas. There is a splendid cast of characters, with the evil Blind Pugh, Long John Silver, a properly ruthless pirate and Young Jim Hawkins, a true hero.

**A CHILD’S GARDEN OF VERSES (1885)**

Based on the memories of his childhood and its wonders, real and imagined, Robert Louis Stevenson’s verses are the perfect introduction to poetry for any child. Highwaymen galloping past at night, the pleasant land of counterpane and travelling to where golden apples grow should be part of every childhood.

‘Take you this volume in your hands
And enter into other lands’

To Any Reader

**STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL & MR HYDE (1886)**

The phrase ‘Jekyll & Hyde’ has entered our language; everyone feels they know this story. Read it and allow Robert Louis Stevenson’s stylish prose to transport you into the murky world of Victorian London and human fallibility.
In 1891 the Hatchard family decided to sell the shop. An advertisement appeared in *The Times* which alerted the then manager Edwin Shepherd and a former manager, Alfred Taylor, who came on horseback to discuss the news. They decided to buy the business and make young Arthur Humphreys a partner. Private papers reveal that Arthur had approached several of his well-connected customers for references; one was Mr Isaac Henderson who wrote, ‘I scarcely believe that he has much capital, but I do believe that he has good intelligence, rare industry, and a good character. I can only add that were it convenient for me to lend him the amount you name I should probably do so’.

*LA BÊTE HUMAINE (1890)*
Emile Zola

One cannot deny that *La Bête Humaine* is a dark and pessimistic novel, but it’s also a great rip-roaring thriller. It simultaneously spins a tale of murder, passion and redemption while giving an extraordinary picture of nineteenth-century French working class life.

*NEW GRUB STREET (1891)*
George Gissing

In the eighteenth century, Grub Street was infamous for its concentration of impoverished hack writers, aspiring poets, and low-end booksellers, a world far away from the gentility of Hatchards. The book’s protagonists also come from the opposite ends of the literary spectrum: a talented but shy novelist and a journalist driven by financial ambition. An insider’s look at what you should write to get on in life.
THE DIARY OF A NOBODY (1892)
George & Weedon Grossmith

The Grosssmiths’ marvellous spoof diary tells the story of Mr Pooter, clerk, of Holloway, North London, who is definitely not a ‘somebody’ but who believes his life to be as interesting as anyone else’s. The irony and wit of the writing makes it one of the greatest comic novels.

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1892)
Arthur Conan Doyle

Forget the television series and films and instead revel in the writings of one of the masters of crime. This is the first collection of short stories that Arthur Conan Doyle wrote, the trusty Dr Watson recounting the adventures of his extraordinary friend.

THE JUNGLE BOOK (1894)
Rudyard Kipling

The ‘best beloved’ story of the growth to manhood of the boy Mowgli, reared by wolves and taught jungle-lore by Baloo the bear and Bagheera the black panther. No one would dispute that the Walt Disney film is a masterpiece of fun but the book has all the charm with added depth and adventure.

THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE (1895)
Stephen Crane

Astonishingly, Stephen Crane had never fought in battle when he wrote this deservedly famous novel. Set during the American Civil War, it contrasts one inexperienced soldier’s heroic ideals with the gruesome reality he encounters in battle.

JUDE THE OBSCURE (1895)
Thomas Hardy

Despite being described on publication as ‘simply one of the most objectionable books we have read in any language whatsoever,’ this last novel of Thomas Hardy’s has stood the test of time. Jude is a sensitive stonemason, the victim of his own weakness, fate and the ‘deadly war between flesh and spirit’.
In 1893 Hatchards received an unusual request from Cecil Rhodes; he wanted all the source material for Edward Gibbon’s six-volume *The History of the Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire*. He may have thought this was a perfectly reasonable request but the first volume alone had fourteen hundred footnotes to be examined. Further instructions were issued: Hatchards were to supply the translations they recommended and have everything else translated, printed and bound uniformly in red leather, in the meantime keeping the whole project secret. A team of six laboured over the translations for six years, regularly despatching completed volumes to Rhodesia. The correspondence with Cecil Rhodes varies from threatening to begging via cajoling but is generally a classic in how to deal with a tricky Hatchards customer.

A selection of letters from Cecil Rhodes

**THE HISTORY OF THE DECLINE & FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (1776-1789)**

Edward Gibbon

Edward Gibbon’s vast history covers thirteen centuries of one of the greatest empires the world has seen. Some modern historians may argue with his conclusions but you will be hard pressed to find such elegant prose. Almost the first historian to make extensive use of primary sources, his method became the model for most who followed him.
HEART OF DARKNESS (1899)
Joseph Conrad

Conrad’s real-life experience aboard a steamer on the Congo forms the basis of this story. The disquieting journey takes the reader from the supposed civilisation of colonialism to the depths of human depravity. With a change of location to Vietnam, it was the inspiration for the film Apocalypse Now.

KIM (1901)
Rudyard Kipling

The adventures of Kim’s life are set against the backdrop of the Afghan Wars in the mid-1890s. Spiritual life and espionage combine in this most vivid and authentic picture of India at the time. It made the term Great Game widespread and also gave us Kim’s Game.

‘Look on them as long as thou wilt, stranger. Count and, if need be, handle. One look is enough for me. When thou hast counted and handled and art sure that thou canst remember them all, I cover them with this paper, and thou must tell over the tally to Lurgan Sahib. I will write mine.’

Kim

THE PHOENIX & THE CARPET (1904)
E. Nesbit

Five children are bought a new (old) carpet for the nursery. So far so normal but when the carpet is unrolled it reveals an egg which hatches into the most splendidly haughty phoenix in literature, who announces to the children that they are the proud possessors of a magic carpet. The Phoenix is prepared to take them on wonderful adventures, as long as they pander to its ego.
Oscar Wilde was a regular customer, visiting the shop with Lord Alfred Douglas the day before the first production of *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Many of his books were signed sitting at the main table on the ground floor, known to this day as Oscar’s table. After his imprisonment his wife Constance, in an effort to protect herself and the children from public curiosity and criticism, took the name Holland. The family went to live abroad and her correspondence with Arthur Humphreys, the manager of Hatchards, reveals a close friendship, and possibly more. The letters date from 1897 with Arthur Humphreys keeping the family abreast of news in Britain, receiving an invitation to holiday with the family and supplying copies of Oscar’s final masterpiece.

—I only knew what hunted thought
Quickened his steps, and why
He looked upon the garish day
With such a wistful eye;
The man had killed the thing he loved,
And so he had to die.’

The Ballad of Reading Gaol

Telegram to Arthur Humphreys from Oscar Wilde.

**THE BALLAD OF READING GAOL (1898)**

Oscar Wilde

In May 1897 Oscar Wilde was released after serving two years hard labour for homosexual offences. While he was in prison the hanging of Charles Thomas Woodridge took place and this, together with a harrowing description of the brutality of prison at the time, forms the central core of this poem. It was first published under the name C33 (cell block C, landing 3, cell 3) with the true identity of the author not being openly acknowledged until the seventh printing the following year. Written in a popular ballad form, Oscar Wilde hoped it would be read by the criminal classes ‘to which I now belong’.
In 1909 the premises were rebuilt with three floors of bookshop, offices in the upper stories and a photographer’s studio in the roof.

**THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (1908)**
Kenneth Grahame

The appeal of Kenneth Grahame’s classic is akin to a visit from a beloved old friend. Both a lyrical ode to a sylvan landscape and a droll observation of English manners, this is a genuine charmer: ever pertinent, ever witty and wise.

**A ROOM WITH A VIEW (1908)**
E. M. Forster

Lucy arrives in Florence as an innocent young lady, her future mapped out for her and her chaperone in tow. The unconventional but charming Mr Emerson, his passionate son George and Italy itself undermine her certainties. If you liked the Merchant Ivory film, you’ll love the book.

**THE INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN (1911)**
G. K. Chesterton

A Roman Catholic priest may seem an unlikely detective but Father Brown is an outstanding sleuth. With a face ‘as dull as a Norfolk dumpling’ and eyes ‘as empty as the North Sea’ his unassuming and often comical air leads the guilty to underestimate him, to their cost.
We are very pleased to say that we have reinstated the Rare and Out of Print department. Old catalogues show that Hatchards has often sold antiquarian and second-hand books as well as the latest bestsellers; more experienced customers may remember Mr Laurie presiding over the glass cabinets on the second floor. We now again keep an extensive range of first and fine editions, including many signed copies. We specialise in twentieth-century fiction and poetry, although we like to think we have something that suits every taste and budget, from vintage cookery books to political memoirs, renaissance history to travel writing. Some books are kept in their relevant departments but we now have a growing range on display on the fourth floor.

A collection of Ian Fleming's James Bond titles.

First edition Titus Groan by Mervyn Peake, signed by the author.

A selection of classic Penguin paperbacks with their iconic orange covers.
Many of the books in this catalogue are available as paperbacks. Cheap and convenient, these are perfectly acceptable for the commute to work or the beach, but how much nicer to have the books you love as fine hardbacks in their original dust jackets. All first editions are carefully cleaned, with dust-wrappers housed in removable, archival-quality sleeves for protection. We also offer an out of print book-search service; whether it’s a signed edition of your favourite novel or a missing volume of Wisden, we can usually source a fine copy. Our stock changes all the time; please speak to one of our specialist booksellers to see the current selection.

The first edition of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* was very different to the one we know now. In 1902 Beatrix Potter produced a privately printed edition of two hundred and fifty copies, handwritten with black-and-white line drawings and a colour frontispiece. Produced primarily for her friends and family, Hatchards was one of the few bookshops to sell it.

Our special limited edition contains the full text, many of the original illustrations and decorative holly-patterned endpapers taken from the first edition published by Warne later the same year. Hand-numbered, with gilt edges and a ribbon marker, this will be a perfect gift for everyone who loves the naughty rabbit in the blue jacket.

Priced at £9.99. This edition is not published until July, please reserve your copy with a bookseller.
THE SECRET GARDEN (1911)
Frances Hodgson Burnett

In 1911 the emphasis on self-reliance rather than obedience was a distinctly modern idea; here it is up to Mary, Colin and Dickon to control their lives. As the abandoned garden blossoms, so too do the children, changing, with Dickon’s help, from disagreeable and lonely into heroine and hero.

ZULEIKA DOBSON (1911)
Max Beerbohm

Zuleika Dobson, socialite and professional prestidigitator, visits Judas College, Oxford, where she entralls first the brilliant Duke of Dorset and subsequently the entire student body. ‘Death cancels all engagements,’ observes Max Beerbohm, as a generation of besotted scholars plunge en masse into the Isis. Expect no moral comfort from this brilliant farce.

IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME (1913-1927)
Marcel Proust

Forget the madeleines and don’t worry about the length. These six books are an enthralling story of love and loss, memory and the passing of time, and life in a France long-vanished. Read them and be swept into this wonderful world.

LE FEU / UNDER FIRE (1916)
Henri Barbusse

This First World War novel tells the story of a doomed squad of French soldiers in the trenches; men fighting a war that will never benefit them. Much of it was written while Henri Barbusse was fighting; it is war at its most harsh and pointless.

A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN (1916)
James Joyce

James Joyce’s autobiographical first novel was instantly recognised as a classic by the press and public alike. His descriptions of his Catholic upbringing and turn-of-the-century Dublin are vivid and exuberant, and deserve to be read as well as studied.
1918 - 1927

**EMINENT VICTORIANS (1918)**
Lytton Strachey

This celebrated study considers four of the most important of the High Victorians: Cardinal Manning, Florence Nightingale, Dr Arnold and General Gordon. In debunking the Victorian myth which they characterised, Lytton Strachey ushered in a new, fresh spirit of biographical writing.

‘Human beings are too important to be treated as mere symptoms of the past. They have a value which is independent of any temporal process.’

Eminent Victorians

**WOMEN IN LOVE (1920)**
D. H. Lawrence

D. H. Lawrence’s great novel is conceived in grand terms but its roots are in the minutiae of social behaviour and the intense relationship between man and his surroundings. A remarkable statement of the insecurities of his and every age.

**THE GOOD SOLDIER ŠVEJK (1921-3)**
Jaroslav Hašek

Švejk has been described as the archetype Czech hero, the ‘little man’ who fights against officialdom and bureaucracy using his native subterfuge and wit. We may now read it as hilariously funny but at the time of publication it was banned in several countries as being detrimental to good order and discipline.

‘Those who boggle at strong language are cowards, because it is real life which is shocking them, and weaklings like that are the very people who cause most harm to culture and character.’

The Good Soldier Švejk
THANK YOU JEEVES (1934)

The worrying start to this first Jeeves and Wooster novel sees Jeeves giving notice after a disagreement over Bertie’s playing of the banjolele. The lure of a rich American on board a yacht with his eligible daughter spells chaos and mayhem and Jeeves has to rescue Bertie from kidnap, ensure the correct young people are brought together and pacify an assortment of irate fathers and suitors.

SOMETHING FRESH (1915)

Blandings Castle was one of the great creations of P. G. Wodehouse. The pig-obsessed Lord Emsworth, his overbearing sister Constance and a succession of secretaries form the perfect backdrop for a series of splendidly farcical stories. This first book in the saga includes the daughter of a millionaire, a valet and a lady’s maid both intent on theft, several besotted young men and, of course, a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding.

LEAVE IT TO PSMITH (1923)

Debonair, monocled and with a devil-may-care attitude, Ronald Eustace Psmith sails through life leaving chaos in his wake. With typical Wodehousian splendour, Psmith visits Blandings posing as a poet, gets involved in a robbery and nearly gets engaged to the wrong girl.

‘A certain critic – for such men, I regret to say, do exist – made the nasty remark about my last novel that is contained ‘all the old Wodehouse characters under new names’. He has probably by now been eaten by bears, like the children who made mock of the prophet Elisha: but if he still survives he will not be able to make a similar charge against Summer Lightning. With my superior intelligence, I have outgeneralled the man this time by putting all the old Wodehouse characters under the same names. Pretty silly it will make him feel, I rather fancy’.

P. G. Wodehouse in Summer Lightning, the third Blandings novel.
By the early years of the twentieth century Hatchards was producing a wide range of extraordinarily detailed catalogues: Oriental Literature, Books of Interest to Motorists, Valuable Books Relating Chiefly to the Eighteenth Century and Miscellaneous Second-Hand Books were just a few of the many titles.
In 1924 Arthur Humphreys announced his retirement, placing a small notice in The Times. Letters flooded in, wishing him well and bemoaning his departure in equal measure. For many people he was Hatchards.

Arthur L. Humphreys, after many years of great happiness with friends and joy in work among books, has disposed of his interest in Messrs. Hatchard, booksellers, 187 Piccadilly, from this date (March 31st). He will also cease, as “Arthur Pendenys,” to edit or to contribute to “Books of To-day.” He intends to travel, and also to maintain all his interests in books and to keep in touch with friends. Letters from now onwards sent to him at the Devonshire Club, St. James’s, will always find him.

THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN (1924)
Thomas Mann

Thomas Mann’s novels perfectly capture the mood and troubles of the European bourgeoisie in the early twentieth century. This, his masterpiece, is set in a Swiss sanatorium, a cocooned environment away from the outside world. The eccentricity and extremism of the characters brilliantly mirrors the confusion and imbalance of the world which they have left.

THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM (1926)
T. E. Lawrence

A description of the revolt in Arabia against the Turks as it appeared to an Englishman who took part; this is how T. E. Lawrence would have described his book. Much more than a cold description of war and its campaigns, it is a book of portraits, descriptions, philosophies, emotions, adventures and dreams.

‘It ranks with the greatest books ever written in the English language.
As a narrative of war and adventure it is unsurpassable’

Sir Winston Churchill
1918 - 1927

**THE CASTLE (1926)**
Franz Kafka

K, as the protagonist is known, arrives at the village below the Castle, which seems to exert a strange control over the area. He is never accepted by the villagers and spends his time in a fruitless attempt to gain admission to the castle. Mirroring Kafka’s vision of the twentieth century the story reflects on the pathos of human isolation as well as man’s quest for freedom.

**WINNIE-THE-POOH (1926)**
A. A. Milne

A. A. Milne explored the world of his son’s imagination for this book, and (with the genius of E.H. Shepard’s illustrations) brought alive characters who are completely convincing, hapless and endearing. Their misadventures are laugh-out-loud funny too, as much for grown-ups as children.

**IN SEARCH OF ENGLAND (1927)**
H.V. Morton

Perhaps surprisingly, this book remains a useful guide to England today. Dated in some ways it may be but H. V. Morton’s attention to detail and sympathy with his subject shine through and will endear his writing and England to any traveller, armchair or otherwise.

**TO THE LIGHTHOUSE (1927)**
Virginia Woolf

Set at a family’s summer house on the Hebrides, this is the most autobiographical of Virginia Woolf’s novels. The rhythm of the characters’ lives, tempered by an elegiac sense of loss makes this one of her most beautiful works as well as her most popular.
Perhaps the unsung heroes of Hatchards at this time are the Shepherd family. Edwin had been instrumental in making Arthur Humphreys a partner in 1891 and, together with his two sons, ensured that the Hatchards tradition of great bookselling continued until the late 1940s.

**DECLINE & FALL (1928)**
Evelyn Waugh

*Decline & Fall*, his first novel, stands out as one of one of Waugh’s funniest. In the vanguard of the social-satire boom of the 1920s, it has lost none of its power to shock, dazzle and amuse. Despite professing no interest in the investigation of character, Evelyn Waugh serves up a delicious cast of misfits, rogues and scoundrels that linger long in the imagination.

‘The next four weeks of solitary confinement were among the happiest of Paul’s life.’

**ASHENDEN (1928)**
William Somerset Maugham

Largely autobiographical this tells the experiences of a writer recruited by the Intelligence Department during the First World War, sent to Switzerland and later Russia, to gather information, run agents and expose enemy spies. Ashenden’s understated emotions apparently influenced Ian Fleming, certainly he illustrates the archetypal literary spy. Some of the stories which were to have been included breached the Official Secrets Act and had to be omitted.

‘There’s just one thing I think you ought to know before you take on this job. And don’t forget it. If you do well you’ll get no thanks and if you get into trouble you’ll get no help’
THE LAST SEPTEMBER (1929)
Elizabeth Bowen

The occupants of the Anglo-Irish home at the heart of this story are poised on the brink of change. Tennis parties and dances are held while, outside, there are ambushes and burnings. Young officers alternately flirt and take part in armed patrols. A combination of social comedy and private tragedy, this is above all a story of transition from the old world to the new.

A FAREWELL TO ARMS (1929)
Ernest Hemingway

The arbitrary nature of death, both in war and peace, is the central theme to this novel born of Ernest Hemingway’s traumatic experiences as an ambulance driver in the First World War. The love between an American Lieutenant and an English nurse flourishes all too briefly in this moving tale.

MEMOIRS OF AN INFANTRY OFFICER (1930)
Siegfried Sassoon

Semi-autobiographical, Siegfried Sassoon’s prose masterpiece illustrates all the horror and desperation of the Great War, as seen by a sensitive, upper class officer. His response to his loss of friends, belief and hope is unforgettable and immensely moving.

1066 & ALL THAT (1930)
W. C. Sellar & R. J. Yeatman

Beware, this is not history for the faint hearted. Learned and concise, this is British history at its best, including all the key elements of our island’s story. Starting with The Romans, who saved us from being Natives, it teaches us good things and bad kings, and which was top nation. All in all, a Good Thing.
Agatha Christie’s writing career began as a bet - that she could not compose a detective novel in which the reader would not be able to ‘spot’ the murderer, though having access to the same clues as the detective.

‘The author has certainly won her bet, and in addition to a most ingenious plot of the best detective type she has introduced a new type of detective in the shape of a Belgian’

John Lane, The Bodley Head from the first edition.

THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES (1921)

Styles, a rambling country house, was ideally suited to murder. Here we meet Captain Arthur Hastings, invalided back from the Western Front and Hercule Poirot, a retired Belgian detective living nearby; their partnership was to endure for thirty-three novels and innumerable crimes, but it all started here.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS (1934)

Just after midnight, the famous Orient Express is stopped in its tracks by a snowdrift. By morning a seemingly impossible murder has taken place. Luckily Hercule Poirot is on the train and his old friend the director of the railway company asks him to solve the mystery, preferably before the train reaches the Italian border.

THE MURDER AT THE VICARAGE (1930)

When the unpleasant Colonel Lucius Protheroe is found murdered at the vicarage Miss Jane Marple, who just happens to live next door, is quick to stick her nose in. Of course she triumphs over Inspector Slack, solving her first case with an agile mind hidden beneath her old maid charm.

4.50 PADDINGTON (1957)

Mrs McGillicuddy is sitting on a train on her way to stay with her old friend Miss Marple when she sees a man strangling a woman on a train going in the opposite direction. Obviously Miss Marple will not rest until the mystery is solved.
TESTAMENT OF YOUTH (1933)
Vera Brittain

Vera Brittain won a scholarship to Oxford but she abandoned her studies to work as a nurse. This touching autobiography starts conventionally with her pre-1914 life but then moves to the horrors of the war where she witnessed events at their most brutal and lost most of those closest to her.

TENDER IS THE NIGHT (1934)
F. Scott Fitzgerald

Scott Fitzgerald considered his fourth and final novel to be his best work, surpassing even The Great Gatsby. Following Dr Dick Driver in his descent from wealth, power and companionship to poverty, loneliness and alcoholism, it is a powerful evocation of the corruption of the gilded age and undoubtedly one of the greatest American novels.

THE NINE TAILORS (1934)
Dorothy L. Sayers

When Lord Peter Wimsey is unexpectedly stranded in a remote fenland village he rather surprisingly proves himself to be a knowledgeable bell-ringer. Before long though it is his sleuthing skills which are in demand with missing jewels, a twenty year-old crime and a mysterious corpse.

MARY POPPINS (1934)
P. L. Travers

Life is never quite the same again after Mary Poppins sweeps through the door of the Banks’ house and declares the children ‘suitable’. With her capacious carpet bag and the ability to slide up banisters and initiate adventures with the flick of an umbrella she manages to be eminently respectable and completely magical at the same time, in short, the perfect nanny.

JAMAICA INN (1936)
Daphne du Maurier

Bodmin Moor in the 1820s was not a hospitable place. Even less so was Jamaica Inn, used as a base for a gang of smugglers and murderers. Orphaned, Mary Yellan comes to the inn in ignorance but as she attempts to unravel the secrets surrounding both the inn and its landlord she becomes more deeply involved than she would wish.
From 1919 to 1926 Edward Ardizzone worked as a clerk while attending evening classes at Westminster School of Art. On his own admission he ‘doodled a lot on his blotter’. In 1927 he gave up work in the office and from then on made his living as an artist. From Official War Artist to his last major work, the illustration of *A Child’s Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas in 1979, Edward Ardizzone has enriched the art world of the twentieth century.

**LITTLE TIM & THE BRAVE SEA CAPTAIN (1936)**

The Little Tim stories were written at the request of Edward Ardizzone’s second child, Philip. Tim’s adventures are the perfect fantasy; stories of a brave and independent child who goes out into the world and faces danger but then returns triumphantly and safely home.

**THE LITTLE TRAIN (1946/1974)**

Graham Greene

The story of the little train who became bored with life in Little Snoreing was first published in 1946, with Edward Ardizzone’s illustrations being commissioned for the 1974 edition. Adventurous at first the little train soon realises that city life can be a bit scary and that perhaps Little Snoreing isn’t so bad after all.

**EDWARD ARDIZZONE (2016)**

Alan Powers

This book provides the first fully illustrated survey of all Edward Ardizzone’s work, from illustrator to artist. Alan Powers had access to family and publishing archives and interviewed many of those who remembered the artist; the result is an informative, attractive and altogether delightful book.
HOMAGE TO CATALONIA (1938)
George Orwell

In 1936 George Orwell travelled to Spain as a reporter, but instead joined the fight against the fascists. The resulting account is vivid and gritty, describing everything from the internecine politics of the divided left, via the danger of running out of matches in a war zone, to how it feels to be shot.

BRIGHTON ROCK (1938)
Graham Greene

The squalid depictions of Pinky’s struggle to maintain power over ‘the mob’ and their petty schemes results in a deeply bleak tragedy. Graham Greene’s skilful use of language offers a masterpiece of twentieth-century literature that endures and wants to be read again.

THE SWORD IN THE STONE (1938)
T. H. White

The Wart, future King Arthur, is apprenticed to Merlyn, an unusual teacher who lives backwards in time, complaining that the ‘electric light and company’s water’ has failed to reach his cottage. Teaching is also undertaken by Archimedes, a tawny owl who confusingly pretends the Wart doesn’t exist.

‘There is no boy,’ said the owl hopefully, without turning round.’

The Sword in the Stone

FIVE ON A TREASURE ISLAND (1942)
Enid Blyton

Four children, a dog, a boat and an uninhabited island. What more could one want? Treasure, of course, and some baddies who are determined to get to it before the children. This is the first of twenty-one wonderful Famous Five adventures.

THE PURSUIT OF LOVE (1945)
Nancy Mitford

The amatory progress of the Radlett cousins, in particular the prolific love life of the gorgeous Linda is at the heart of this novel. In Nancy Mitford’s hands the course of true love would never run straight and Linda’s romances are a series of hilarious and tragic ups and downs.
The extract here is from the introduction to the 1941 catalogue and clearly describes the difficulties of ordinary life during the war years:

**HATCHARDS**

This war-time Christmas list is but a shadow of its previous forerunners. Paper shortage compels us to reduce its size.

What has been sacrificed in comprehensiveness, is, we hope, amply recompensed by greater selectivity. Every book listed herein is a recommendation from Hatchards, whose reputation of nearly 150 years of book service is behind it. There is something herein for every literary taste, but if, through the conditions under which we are all working to-day, there are any omissions or errors, we crave your indulgence.

*Please order early, for depleted stocks make it difficult to promise the usual prompt despatch for which we have built a reputation and of which we are justly proud.*

For those who can come to visit us at 187 Piccadilly, there is a warm welcome and the usual courteous and efficient service.

Shortage of paper means also less lists to be sent. When you have chosen your books it would be a helpful and generous gesture if you passed on the list to your friends who may not be so fortunate as you are in getting their copy.

Hatchards wish you as happy a Christmas as war-time will allow, and even more earnestly, a peaceful New Year.
The early fifties were not the best of times for Hatchards. In 1956 Sir William Collins bought the shop on behalf of Collins Publishers setting in place a link which lasted until 1990. ‘Billy’ had a strong personal attachment to Hatchards and said that he was not prepared to see the historic bookshop turned into a coffee shop.

THE GORMENGHAST TRILOGY (1946, 1950, 1959)
Mervyn Peake

When he created the world of Gormenghast Mervyn Peake gave us surely the most incredible castle in literature or indeed life. Titus Groan is born into this extraordinary world, with its cast of eccentrics, destined to be the lord of all he surveys. However Steerpike, the kitchen boy with grand ambitions, has other plans.

IF THIS IS A MAN / THE TRUCE (1947 / 1963)
Primo Levi

This first work is Primo Levi’s most direct, an account of his time in Auschwitz, described by Philip Roth as ‘one of the century’s truly necessary books’. In The Truce he describes his flight away from the hell in which he had been incarcerated. Until now Auschwitz had largely been thought too terrible for literature; these works prove that opinion wrong.

EASTERN APPROACHES (1949)
Fitzroy Maclean

While he was a diplomat in Moscow in the late thirties Fitzroy Maclean quickly tired of the daily round of receptions and parties. Ignoring all the regulations he simply took off – for Central Asia and the romance of Samarkand and beyond. Time in the SAS followed and lastly a period organising support for the Partisans in Yugoslavia. Diplomat, tourist, soldier and possibly spy, to these we should add brilliant writer.
A BOOK OF MEDITERRANEAN FOOD (1950)
Elizabeth David

Elizabeth David’s recipes were a revelation to the British who had suffered years of rationing and apparently thought that corned beef toad-in-the-hole was a perfectly acceptable meal. Her aim was to bring the light and flavour of the Mediterranean to British kitchens; in the event she revolutionised our entire way of cooking.

FOUNDATION (1951)
Isaac Asimov

The amazingly prolific Isaac Asimov wrote over three hundred books covering most aspects of life on earth and off it. His deservedly famous Foundation novels describe the fall of a galactic empire and the attempt to conserve human knowledge in readiness for the rebirth of civilisation.

A QUESTION OF UPBRINGING (1951)
Anthony Powell

The first volume in A Dance to the Music of Time, this serves as a perfect introduction to the series: wonderful characters, wonderful writing and unforgettable relationships. Don’t read it for fast paced action, but do read it for its extraordinary creation of a recognisable world. One of the great popular novels at Hatchards for over sixty years.

PRINCE CASPIAN (1951)
C. S. Lewis

All the Narnia stories are marvellous but Prince Caspian, the second published and fourth in the chronological sequence, is very much our personal favourite. Centuries of Narnian time have passed since the Pevensie children’s last visit and Caspian, the rightful king, is fighting to regain the crown. When he blows Queen Susan’s horn he magically summons both Aslan and the Kings and Queens of the golden age.

Steven Runciman

Steven Runciman describes the tale of the Crusades as ‘one of faith and folly, courage and greed, hope and disillusion’. A distinguished Byzantine historian, his writing is wonderfully lucid and accessible and this history rattles along at a splendid and exciting pace. Read it to be entertained as well as informed.
LUCKY JIM (1954)
Kingsley Amis

This quintessential 1950s ‘angry young man’ novel relates the trials of redbrick academic Jim Dixon. A perennial comic classic, it is still distinctive for its fine sense of the absurdities of academia, underdog spirit and splendidly chippy attitude.

LORD OF THE FLIES (1954)
William Golding

The disturbing and ultimately horrific story of a group of boys wrecked on an island and their descent into bestial behaviour. This fable of civilisation gone wrong was a grotesque parody of R. M. Ballantyne’s Coral Island.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS (1954-1955)
J. R. R. Tolkien

Written during the Second World War, The Lord of the Rings champions the survival of the small and ordinary against impossible odds and deadly evil. Seldom can so detailed a world have been created and never for so esoteric a purpose; Tolkien created Middle Earth and its inhabitants purely to provide a setting and speakers for the Elvish languages he had devised.

MY FAMILY & OTHER ANIMALS (1956)
Gerald Durrell

Gerald Durrell’s hilarious and evocative story depicts a dreamy, sunlit Corfu quite unfazed by the chaos caused by his characters, human or otherwise. The tales of his family and their animals (or, perhaps, the other way around) are thoroughly charming.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE (1957)
Ian Fleming

Ian Fleming’s Bond is a far grittier character than Sean Connery’s but he despatches his enemies with just as much panache. Here he is pitted against SMERSH, the most secret department of the Soviet government.

‘Vices: drink, but not to excess, and women. Not thought to accept bribes.’

Soviet Intelligence report on James Bond. From Russia with Love
SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Reporter, politician and writer, Sir Winston Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. He was a regular customer and the records show that his tastes were wide-ranging. Political works such as Adam Smith’s Wealth of Nations and four volumes of Pitt’s speeches are listed alongside Victor Hugo’s Les Miserables, Leo Tolstoy’s The Kreutzer Sonata and six volumes of Casanova’s Memoirs. Sir Winston Churchill’s work meant he was always busy and gentle reminders occasionally had to be sent regarding outstanding bills.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1948-1953)

As Lord of the Admiralty and then Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill led the British nation through six years of war. His use of primary source material is one of the things that makes this history so remarkable; the letters, memos and telegrams give a unique drama to the events. The six volumes cover the period from the Treaty of Versailles to the plans for the rebuilding of post-war Europe.


Winston Churchill’s skills as an historian have often been disregarded due to his lack of academic training but it would be hard to find a history of England with such a splendid sweep of events and delightful literary style. The four volumes cover Britain and its former colonies and possessions from the invasion of Julius Caesar in 55 BC to the outbreak of the First World War.

THE WICKED WIT OF WINSTON CHURCHILL (2001)
Compiled by Dominique Enright

The wartime speeches of Winston Churchill are justifiably famous; less well-known are the many witty remarks made to friends, rivals and colleagues. Hatchards has sold nearly twelve thousand copies of this little book!

On the necessary qualities of a politician:
‘The ability to foretell what is going to happen...And the ability afterwards to explain why it didn’t happen.’

On newspapers:
‘The Times is speechless and takes three columns to express its speechlessness.’
Having bought the shop Billy Collins needed managers who would safeguard his dream. In 1964 and 1965 he found two such men: Mr Giddy and Mr Joy. Tommy Joy, as he was affectionately known, had managed the book departments at both Harrods and the Army and Navy Stores. He heard the top job at Hatchards was going to become available and approached Billy. A gentleman’s agreement was made; apparently nothing was ever put on paper throughout his twenty years at the shop.

‘Hatchards gets right inside you – I loved Harrods, I liked the Army and Navy Stores, but I was in love with Hatchards.’

Tommy Joy

A BEAR CALLED PADDINGTON (1958)
Michael Bond

‘Please look after this bear’ is something we would all willingly do, especially when the bear in question is Paddington. As it is, the Brown family comes to the bear’s rescue and it is they who benefit from Paddington’s unique version of helpfulness.

THE LEOPARD (1958)
Giuseppe Tomaso di Lampedusa

Probably the greatest modern Italian novel, charting Don Fabrizio’s struggle to reconcile the future of his decaying Sicilian aristocratic world with the onslaught of social revolution during the battle for Italian unification.

‘In Sicily it doesn’t matter whether things are done well or done badly; the sin which we Sicilians never forgive is simply that of ‘doing’ at all.’

The Leopard
A SHORT WALK IN THE HINDU KUSH (1958)
Eric Newby

A weekend in Wales was bound to be ample preparation for a trip to the remote mountains of the Hindu Kush in Afghanistan. In the fine tradition of eccentric and unprepared Brits abroad this is a master story. Somehow Eric and his friend Hugh survive, their amateurish charm getting them out of innumerable scrapes. And at the end of the book there is the memorable meeting with the mighty Wilfred Thesiger.

‘The ground was like iron with sharp rocks sticking up out of it. We started to blow up our air beds. “God, you must be a couple of pansies,” said Thesiger.’

A Short Walk In The Hindu Kush

ARABIAN SANDS (1959)
Wilfred Thesiger

With Arabian Sands, Wilfred Thesiger took his place among the great travellers, not only as an explorer but as a writer. Between 1945 and 1950 he crossed the Empty Quarter, one of the most inhospitable deserts on earth, twice. Often in disguise he travelled with the nomadic Bedu tribesmen, visiting places that none but they had seen.

CIDER WITH ROSIE (1959)
Laurie Lee

One of the most popular autobiographies ever written, this describes the richly sensuous world of Laurie Lee’s childhood in a remote Cotswold village. Nostalgic memories at their very best.

THE ORIGINS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (1961)
A. J. P. Taylor

This work wreaked considerable havoc when it first appeared as it seemed to redistribute blame for the Second World War in such a way as to make Hitler less of a devil and Chamberlain more of a gullible fool. Even today it remains a provocative and absorbing read.

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR (1961)
Hugh Thomas

A long and detailed account, whose monumental breadth defies brief summary or comment. Revised and updated since its first publication it remains the most balanced and comprehensive book on the subject.
Hergé is one of the seven famous Belgians. Published between 1930 and 1986 his books were topical adventures but also managed to be hilariously funny.

**THE SEVEN CRYSTAL BALLS (1948)**
The Sanders-Hardiman archaeological expedition has recently returned from the Andes. Inexplicably, each member falls into a coma with a mysterious shattered crystal ball found beside them. An Inca curse and the kidnap of Professor Calculus combine to make this one of the most exciting Tintin adventures.

**THE CASTAFIORE EMERALD (1963)**
Marlspike Hall, ancestral home of the Haddock family is invaded by the internationally-famous opera singer Bianca Castafiore and her entourage. Luckily the Thompsons are on hand when her jewels vanish and the diva herself is on hand to apply crushed rose petals to the Captain’s nose when he is stung by a bee. Confusion and mayhem abound.

It is often said that the English translations of the Asterix books by Anthea Bell & Derek Hockridge are funnier than the French originals by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo. We are inclined to agree.

**ASTERIX THE GAUL (1961)**
‘The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely…’ Meet Asterix, Obelix and the poor unfortunate Romans who have to guard the little Gaulish village. Vitalstatistix, Cacofonix and Getafix are just a few of the wonderfully named characters.

**ASTERIX IN BRITAIN (1966)**
History relates that Julius Caesar conquered Britain by force and military prowess. Wrong; he defeated the Britons by attacking at five o’clock when they stopped for hot water and at weekends, when they refused to fight.

‘Goodness gracious! This is a jolly rum thing, eh, what?’
‘I say, rather, old fruit!’

Ancient Britons watching the arrival of the Romans.
THE IPCRESS FILE (1962)
Len Deighton

Len Deighton’s first novel immediately marked him out as a master spy writer. His nameless and rather unlikely hero (later made famous by Michael Caine as Harry Palmer) appears to be a perfectly ordinary working-class man, with a razor-sharp mind who can easily hold his own against the establishment. Time has done nothing to diminish the excitement of the story.

THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS (1962)
Giorgio Bassani

From the start we know from the narrator that none of the Finzi-Contonis survived. This makes the story hauntingly sad as the reclusive Jewish family continues with the traditional pattern of their lives within their garden walls, while outside in Ferrara and the rest of Italy Mussolini’s race laws take force. A love story set within a world the Holocaust destroyed.

CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (1964)
Roald Dahl

Apparently Roald Dahl seriously loved chocolate, but even his earliest stories for children are neither too serious nor soft-centred nor over-sweet. Five children win a tour around the wizardly Willy Wonka’s empire, but four have bitten off more than they can chew. Darkly delicious and a particular joy to read aloud.

THE JEWEL IN THE CROWN (1966)
Paul Scott

The Raj Quartet, of which this is the first volume, tells the story of the last five years of the British in India, 1942-1947. The multiple narrative angles slowly build into a complex and symbolic picture.

THE MAGIC TOYSHOP (1967)
Angela Carter

A conventionally middle-class girl is orphaned and sent to live with her mysterious uncle in London. He lives in a twilight world of toymaking surrounded by a fabulously eccentric family who make the puppets seem normal. The girl’s increasing emotional awareness brings the heady state of affairs to breaking point.
To be a great diarist a person has not only to live an interesting life but be able to write about it interestingly. The four diarists here could make car manuals enticing.

**SAMUEL PEPYS**

Nine years recording the life of an extraordinary man living in extraordinary times. Pepys was Secretary to the Admiralty and a founding member of the Royal Society but for many readers it is his racy private life that is of most interest. Until Lord Braybrooke’s two volume edition of 1825, most of this had been decorously omitted.

**VIRGINIA WOOLF**

Not only was Virginia Woolf a remarkable novelist, she was also a distinguished critic and publisher. Add to this her unconventional home life and her descents into madness and the result is one of the most remarkable literary diaries of the twentieth century. ‘The map of a mind struggling against madness and reaching the equilibrium which made her greatest novels possible.’ Claire Tomalin

**DUFF COOPER**

What began as a bet became seventeen handwritten volumes. The first entry reads: April 14, 1915. Norton Priory. ‘Cynthia (Lady Cynthia Asquith) and I settled we would both start diaries and see who went on the longest’. Duff Cooper witnessed almost every event of importance during the first half of the twentieth century; he was a drinker, gambler and man-about-town but crucially he was also a talented writer.

**ALAN CLARK**

MP and privy councillor Alan Clark was described by Norman Lamont as ‘the most politically incorrect, outspoken, iconoclastic and reckless politician of our times’. The first volume of his diaries to be published covered the period 1982-1992. Coming out only a year later than the period in question his outspoken descriptions of people and events caused a furore. Historian, passionate animal rights supporter, politician and snob, his diaries could not be anything but entertaining.
Peter Giddy had joined Hatchards in 1965, having received his bookselling training at the famous Bumpus of Oxford Street. While Tommy Joy concentrated on the opening of new branches of Hatchards around the country, Peter Giddy looked after 187 Piccadilly, running it as his own personal shop. He was an outstanding bookseller and carried out his office work from the front desk of the shop whenever possible. At the time the shop had a dated and fusty atmosphere and was largely staffed by debutantes waiting for a suitable husband. He replaced them with people who actually wanted to sell books. He always said that his proudest moment was when a customer came into the shop wearing overalls; he bought a set of the Everyman Encyclopaedia. Authors too flocked to the shop and book signings became regular events.

THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT’S WOMAN (1969)
John Fowles

This semi-historical novel set in Lyme-Regis, is an epic love story of two people seeking escape from the hypocrisy and tyranny of their age. From the all-powerful stance of the nineteenth-century novelist, that he both assumes and gently mocks, John Fowles gives us an immaculate recreation of Victorian England.

CIVILISATION (1969)
Kenneth Clark

In 1969 Kenneth Clark explained Western civilisation to viewers in a thirteen-part television series. His personal approach, easy scholarship and great enthusiasm captivated the audience. Albeit less detailed, the book shares the same qualities and is an excellent introduction to art, architecture and intellectual ideas. He was also one of the many customers from the ‘gentlemen’s residences’ across the road in Albany.
1968 - 1977

MASTER & COMMANDER (1969)
Patrick O’Brien

This is the first of the wonderful Aubrey-Maturin novels. Set during the Napoleonic wars, the series is based round the unlikely friendship between Jack Aubrey, a naval captain and Stephen Maturin, a physician and spy. There are sea battles and wild escapades but also music, food, humour and romance, each story as good as the last.

84 CHARING CROSS ROAD (1970)
Helene Hanff

In 1949 Helene Hanff of New York, an author and journalist, wrote to Marks & Co. Booksellers of 84 Charing Cross Road requesting several books. Through the collection of letters we read of the love, lasting twenty years, between Helene Hanff, Frank Doel the bookshop manager, his family and all the staff at Marks & Co.

GOD’S ENGLISHMAN (1970)
Christopher Hill

A Marxist historian, Christopher Hill was one of the leading authorities on seventeenth-century England: brilliant and controversial. This is a compelling biography of Oliver Cromwell, the man who exerted such an extraordinary influence over the course of English history.

THE DAY OF THE JACKAL (1971)
Frederick Forsyth

The Jackal is a professional killer employed to assassinate President de Gaulle in the spring of 1963. We know the outcome of the mission but that in no way detracts from the story as we follow his meticulous preparations. Killer he may be but you find yourself wanting him to escape.

CRASH (1973)
J. G. Ballard

This ‘pornographic novel about technology’ (J. G. Ballard’s own description) shocked readers in the seventies and has retained the power to shock us today, if perhaps for different reasons. It is not a comfortable read but an engrossing exploration of the interaction of man and machine.
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (1974)
John le Carré

For those in the British Secret Service true retirement is never possible. There is always a chance that one day the past will find you and demand a reckoning. For George Smiley a Russian mole in the Circus spells the end of his short retirement and a return to the shadowy world of espionage.

“You’ll take the job...Do whatever is necessary? It’s your generation after all. Your legacy.”

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

THE GREAT RAILWAY BAZAAR (1975)
Paul Theroux

Paul Theroux had been bewitched by the romance of the railways from an early age and decided to take every train that came his way from Victoria Station in London to Tokyo Central. From the Orient Express to innumerable tiny branch lines the railways took him on an enthralling and magnificent journey.

NOT A PENNY MORE, NOT A PENNY LESS (1976)
Jeffrey Archer

Harvey Metcalf thinks he has committed the perfect crime when he swindles four men out of a million dollars with a non-existent oil well. However the heir, the doctor, the art dealer and the don band together to sting him for exactly what they have lost, to the penny.

A TIME OF GIFTS (1977)
Patrick Leigh Fermor

At the age of nineteen Patrick Leigh Fermor set off to walk across Europe, from the Low Countries to Istanbul. In this volume he reaches Hungary, living partly as he had planned 'like a tramp, a pilgrim, or a wandering scholar' and partly like a lord, in fabulous and romantic castles.

IN PATAGONIA (1977)
Bruce Chatwin

These travels through the southern tip of South America are like no other. Bruce Chatwin takes reality and fantasy, parable and paradox and weaves a magical path between them.
As you can see from the signatures and comments many famous stars of stage and screen have shopped and signed their books at Hatchards. These are two of our favourites.

THE MOON’S A BALLOON (1971)
David Niven

Like all the best show business memoirs this volume of autobiography takes us far beyond the screen. Whether describing his schooldays, his time as a soldier during the Second World War or his apprenticeship in ‘B’ movies David Niven’s writing is charming, witty and perceptive. When we get to his life in Hollywood it becomes gently indiscreet and utterly riveting.

A POSTILLION STRUCK BY LIGHTNING (1977)
Dirk Bogarde

Seldom can a childhood have been more idyllically remembered. Dirk Bogarde’s early years in Sussex were a world away from his later stardom. Technical college in Glasgow, an apprenticeship in printing and an art course at the Chelsea Poly were mere diversions before his successful audition for a scholarship to the Old Vic.
Under Mr Giddy’s watchful eye the shop flourished, taking over the lease of 188 in 1983. Putting the two shops together resulted in a Fawlty Towers-like array of staircases, none of which seemed to lead very far but it gave the shop much needed extra space.

THE SEA, THE SEA (1978)
Iris Murdoch

A theatre director retires to a lonely house by the sea and discovers his whole life has been governed by a woman he knew in his youth. This elaborate love story with a streak of philosophy was a worthy Booker winner.

LIFE IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE (1978)
Mark Girouard

The classic study of the English country house from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. An examination of the English upper classes with material drawn from personal archives and documents, this is an entertaining, enthralling and beautiful book.

THE EMPEROR (1978)
Ryszard Kapuściński

In the aftermath of Haile Selassie’s overthrow Ryszard Kapuściński travelled to Ethiopia to interview the out-of-work servants for an insight into the court’s downfall. The Emperor is a darkly comic examination of authoritarian power at its most clownish and crazed.

THE HITCHHIKER’S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (1979)
Douglas Adams

In the eponymous Guide, the entry for our planet just reads, ‘Mostly harmless’ but when the Earth is demolished for a new bypass, even that will need revising. The last human, Arthur, reluctantly embarks on a space odyssey, still in his dressing-gown. Douglas Adams explodes science fiction cliché with big ideas and big laughs.
1978 - 1987

Sadly in 1986 Joy Parker retired. For many years she had presided over the front desk, recommending books and feeling quite at liberty to chastise customers if she felt they had chosen badly. Many people assumed she owned the shop; on one particularly memorable occasion a customer swept past the three managers standing at the front desk, went up to Joy and congratulated her on her excellent staff.

**OFFSHORE (1979)**
Penelope Fitzgerald

Penelope Fitzgerald’s delightful tragi-comic novel depicts a community of like-minded, lost and eccentric people living on tethered barges on Chelsea Reach. ‘Tilda cared nothing for the future, and had, as a result, a great capacity for happiness.’

‘The barge-dwellers, creatures neither of firm land nor water, would have liked to be more respectable than they were.’

**THE SHOCK OF THE NEW (1981)**
Robert Hughes

Subtitled *The Hundred-Year History of Modern Art, Its Rise, Its Dazzling Achievement, Its Fall* this is absorbing and required reading for anyone interested in twentieth-century art, architecture and design. Accompanying a television series of the same name, the book reveals Robert Hughes as a clear and engaging writer.

**MIDNIGHT’S CHILDREN (1981)**
Salman Rushdie

Here is the story of India given to us through one extraordinary boy. Salman Rushdie’s mix of history, imagination, satire and autobiography is exciting, mesmerising and beautiful. Revered as the Best of Booker and a magical realism benchmark, this emotional saga deserves all its accolades.
MONEY (1984)
Martin Amis

The hapless and debauched John Self gives us an account of his jet-set lifestyle in New York and London. Martin Amis paints a compellingly awful picture of twentieth-century decay, related in an original comic language.

A HISTORY OF VENICE (1982)
John Julius Norwich

A wide-ranging but nonetheless detailed treatment of the history of one of the most enigmatic cities of the Mediterranean. Whether you are on holiday, or pining to be so, or know nothing about the city at all, this volume will enrich your life.

HOTEL DU LAC (1984)
Anita Brookner

Edith Hope is one of Anita Brookner’s most appealing and interesting characters. She has, in the eyes of her friends and family, behaved unforgivably and they hope that a time away will encourage her to see sense. The hotel on the lake is eminently respectable, but Edith will not be crushed so easily.

Marc’s cartoons appeared in both The Times and The Guardian. No one was safe from his sharp pen, neither the politicians of the day nor the royal family, nor indeed Hatchards.
**1978 - 1987**

**HAWKSMOOR (1985)**  
Peter Ackroyd  

This is a chilling and highly original story centring round the construction of seven city churches. Two hundred and fifty years later, detective Nicholas Hawksmoor is attempting to make sense of a series of seemingly unsolvable crimes. Unsettling and atmospheric, it is a true gothic tale of London.

**RIDERS (1985)**  
Jilly Cooper  

In Rutshire Jilly Cooper has created a wonderful county where prowess in the show jumping arena is as important as prowess in bed. Rupert Campbell-Black is the self-appointed ruler of this realm but old rival Jake Lovell is determined to unseat him in more ways than one.

**THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT (1985)**  
Oliver Sacks  

Oliver Sacks, who died in 2015, was a highly literate, treasured neurologist who used his patients’ case-histories to illustrate the richness of humanity and complexity of the body and mind. This book, aided by a characteristically brilliant title, remains his most recognisable work: on neurological disorders yielding wildly curious results.

**THE HANDMAID’S TALE (1986)**  
Margaret Atwood  

In the Republic of Gilead women exist purely to breed. That is until Offred, forcibly separated from her husband and daughter, decides to challenge the system. A futuristic scientific parable which is as alarming today as when it was first written.

**THE MASK OF COMMAND (1987)**  
John Keegan  

What makes a great leader and why will entire nations follow the rule of a single man? John Keegan uses four very different case studies: Alexander the Great, the Duke of Wellington, Ulysses S. Grant and Adolph Hitler. The four biographies bring to light unexpected and thought-provoking answers.
In 1990 Hatchards became part of the Dillons group, one of Britain’s largest chains of booksellers. Over the summer of 1991 they invested £2.5 million in a total refit, the biggest change to the shop since 1908. Throughout the building works the shop remained open, shrinking and moving round the builders as necessary. For one weekend in October it closed, the temporary dividing walls were taken down, everyone worked frantically to get all the books in place and the shop triumphantly opened its doors on Monday morning.

The new carpet was especially woven and was based on a design taken from a book published by Hatchards in the Victorian era.

A FAR CRY FROM KENSINGTON (1988)
Muriel Spark

Mrs Hawkins, the forthright and determined narrator of this novel, looks back on her bedsitter life in 1950’s South Kensington. This marvellous comic creation worked in publishing and came into conflict with hack writer Hector Bartlett; her brusque comments have devastating results.

‘His writings writhed and ached with twists and turns and turgidations, inept words, fanciful repetitions, far-fetched verbosity and long, Latin-based words.’

A Far Cry from Kensington

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME (1988)
Stephen Hawking

The ambition of the title alone makes many potential readers baulk - how can you summarise the history of the universe? The beauty lies in Stephen Hawking’s rare ability to make complex ideas not only understandable, but so simple and logical that you wonder why you hadn’t come to the same conclusion before.
A HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 10½ CHAPTERS (1989)
Julian Barnes

As the title suggests, this is no ordinary history, but a kaleidoscope of narrative voices which slowly but intriguingly come into focus, interlocking in unexpected ways. An audacious and entertaining book.

THE LIGHT YEARS (1990)
Elizabeth Jane Howard

For the Cazalet family the years preceding the war seem light and sunny. This first volume of the chronicles introduces us to three generations of the family, their friends and servants and gives us a tapestry of life at the time. The exquisitely portrayed characters gently draw the reader into their lives, entwining you into their hopes, fears and futures.

WILD SWANS (1991)
Jung Chang

From the fall of Emperors to the Cultural Revolution and its aftermath Jung Chang presents deeply personal individual tales from the lives of her grandmother, her mother and herself: three contrasting women against a backdrop of perpetual change.

THE SECRET HISTORY (1992)
Donna Tartt

Snow swirls down on an ivy-cloaked Vermont college as unsuspecting Richard Papen is drawn to a mysterious group of Classics students who champion the sublime terror of beauty and indulge in Bacchanalian rituals. ‘Beauty is rarely soft or consolatory. Quite the contrary. Genuine beauty is always quite alarming.’
THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTARS (1992)
Eamon Duffy

In England the period leading up to the Reformation was often regarded as one of religious decay and decline. Prof Eamon Duffy argues that, on the contrary, English Catholicism in the late Middle Ages was both strong and popular. A meticulously researched, ground-breaking and fascinating book; academic history at its best.

THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII (1992)
Antonia Fraser

One of the most well-known stories from royal history receives a refreshing take. By shifting the focus from the male orientated aspects of history, which often reduce the wives to no more than Henry’s unfortunate props, Antonia Fraser is able to examine these powerful women on their own terms.

THE DOWNING STREET YEARS (1993)
Margaret Thatcher

Whatever your opinion of her, there is no doubt that Margaret Thatcher was a memorable woman. Her autobiography was published in ‘reverse’, with this first volume covering her time as Prime Minister. Astonishingly frank and extremely well-written, she describes all the crucial moments of her eleven years in power, passing judgements on cabinet colleagues and world statesmen alike.

BIRDSONG (1993)
Sebastian Faulks

Sebastian Faulks’ First World War novel sits at the beginning of his achingly beautiful French trilogy (The Girl at the Lion d’Or 1989, Charlotte Gray 1998). In it we follow Wraysford, a young Englishman in France, from an illicit, passionate love affair to the horror of the trenches and beyond.

CAPTAIN CORELLI’S MANDOLIN (1994)
Louis de Bernières

Despite being part of the occupying force, Captain Antonio Corelli would like to spend the war peacefully on the Greek island to which he has been sent. Music and love earn him a place in the hearts of the islanders but the brutality and inhumanity of war threatens everything.
HATCHARDS CATALOGUES

The early 1990s saw for the first time, the inclusion of jacket illustrations in the catalogues. Several letters arrived asking for their removal, pointing out that Hatchards customers are quite able to make decisions on literary merit and did not need pretty pictures.
THE WIND-UP BIRD CHRONICLE (1994-1995)
Haruki Murakami

Released in Japan in three parts as the books of the Thieving Magpie, the Prophesying Bird and the Bird-Catcher Man the story is ostensibly about the search for a missing cat. In fact the narrator Okado loses much more than his pet as gradually becomes clear in this mesmerising and intriguing novel.

NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND (1995)
Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson arrived in England in 1973, memorably spending his first night with a pair of boxer shorts on his head. Nearly twenty years later, just before he moved back to America, he travelled round Britain by public transport, zigzagging across the country. His observations are gentle, astute and utterly hilarious.

NORTHERN LIGHTS (1995)
Philip Pullman

Marvellous and intricate and vast in its imagination and scope, Northern Lights is the first in Philip Pullman’s extraordinary trilogy about a girl and her daemon. Still one of the best children’s books ever written, a new installment is due for publication this Autumn, entitled The Book of Dust.

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF (1996)
Beryl Bainbridge

Unlike the characters in this masterly novel we know the fate that awaits them; the sinking of the unsinkable ship. Mixing real and imagined people Beryl Bainbridge paints an intriguing picture of life on board the Titanic on her ill-fated maiden voyage.

A GAME OF THRONES (1996)
George R. R. Martin

Good as the television adaptations are, the books are a thousand times better. The fantasy world (inspired by the Wars of the Roses, Imperial Rome and much besides) is heading towards the darkness of winter and all its accompanying dangers. A wonderfully complex story which is still unfolding today.

GUNS, GERMS & STEEL (1997)
Jared Diamond

Events do not evolve in the same way around the globe. Mixing science and history Jared Diamond argues convincingly that environmental and geographical factors are the most important determinates in determining a nation’s history. An immensely impressive and influential book.
It is nearly always the case that the book is better than the film, although as booksellers we may, perhaps, be biased. Here are three books where, brilliant though the films are, the books are unsurpassable.

**OSCAR & LUCINDA (1988)**
Peter Carey

This great novel sprawls over a century of murky Australian history. At its centre are the bizarre results of a love affair between an Oxford seminarian and a Sydney heiress told through a coruscating story of colonialism, corruption and survival.

**THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (1989)**
Kazuo Ishiguru

Kazuo Ishiguro is probably best known for this Booker prize-winning novel. It tells the story of Stevens, an aging English butler, who has worked at Darlington Hall for a lifetime. Kazuo Ishiguro compassionately writes about how memory affects our lives and how emotions are often hidden deep within us. A masterpiece.

**REGENERATION (1991)**
Pat Barker

*Regeneration* is the first book in Pat Barker’s brilliant Great War trilogy (*The Eye in the Door* 1993, *The Ghost Road* 1995). It explores the experience of British army officers being treated for shell shock and was inspired in part by her grandfather’s memories and in part by the famous meeting between Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. The compelling cast of historical and fictional characters vividly portray the suffering of traumatised troops in this poignant and memorable novel.

Far left: Film still from *Oscar & Lucinda*.  
Centre: Film still from *The Remains of the Day*. 

In 1998 the Dillons group became part of Waterstones. In 1982 Tim Waterstone had opened a single shop in London’s Old Brompton Road. The combined chain was now the largest in Britain, with bookshops in nearly every major town and city. Hatchards benefitted from being part of the large group but retained its name and individual character. The tradition of a knowledgeable and friendly face at the front desk was maintained with the managers Roger Katz and Gavin Pilgrim, and booksellers such as Stephen Simpson whose career at Hatchards spanned over forty years. Even today you are likely to be greeted by one of the managers: Francis, Mary and Ian, all of whom spend most of their days in the shop itself, often recommending personal favourites to customers.

THE NO. 1 LADIES’ DETECTIVE AGENCY (1998)
Alexander McCall Smith

When Precious Ramotswe sells her cattle herd and sets up a detective agency it looks like a rash move. Instead, within a week clients are queuing at her door, reporting everything from a wayward husband to a probable murder. Delightful, uplifting and very jolly.

STALINGRAD (1998)
Antony Beevor

The behemoth battle of four months and over a million deaths is explained with a scholarly command that never falls into military obscurity. A panoramic evaluation of the battle from the details of Soviet lives to the tyrants that presided over the carnage.

THE GIRL WITH THE PEARL EARRING (1999)
Tracy Chevalier

Seventeenth-century Holland comes alive in Tracy Chevalier’s deft hands. We are drawn into the world of painting, just as Griet is drawn, unsuspecting, into the world of Johannes Vermeer. Beginning her time as a servant she becomes a vital part of the artist’s studio as she matures into an adult.
The arrival of Harry Potter and his friends (and enemies) changed the magical world of children’s books for ever. There are now a number of different editions available to suit everyone’s needs. Whether you need a paperback to slip into a pocket, an illustrated edition to read at bedtime or a collector’s copy to keep forever, we have them all.

The Illustrated Editions

Jim Kay’s dazzling pictures have breathed new life into Hogwarts, Diagon Alley and the Sorting Hat. Fawkes the Phoenix is here in all his splendour, as are the Mandrakes in all their gruesomeness. These editions contain the full text and have colour illustrations throughout.

The Gift Editions

This series is perfect for sophisticated Potter fans who want copies they can treasure for ever. Each book is colourfully bound and comes in a slipcase with line art by Jonny Duddle etched in foil.

The Boxed Hardbacks & Paperbacks

The striking red box opens to reveal the hardbacks while a magical slipcase houses the paperbacks. Perfect to keep either when you’ve finished reading them (and before you go back to the beginning and start again).

The Boxed Audio Collection

If you want to hear the seven spellbinding stories in full you’ll need to set aside just over five days (and do nothing else during that time!) Stephen Fry brings Harry’s adventures to life in this wonderful reading.
DISGRACE (1999)
J. M. Coetzee

This spare, dark, and unsettling novel matches the sexually troubled history of a university professor with the racially difficult history of his home-nation, South Africa. Winner of the Booker prize, from a Nobel Prize winning author, this is required reading throughout its country of origin, and is utterly thought-provoking and truthful.

TRIESTE & THE MEANING OF NOWHERE (2001)
Jan Morris

A meditative masterpiece. Jan Morris, in search of her identity during an unforgiving century, searches for the identity of this commercial city that sits in the Northern Italian borderlands. She steeps the reader in the customs, culture, history and her own adventures while, unusually, making no great claims for the city.

ATONEMENT (2001)
Ian McEwan

The atonement in question is that of Briony Tallis, arising from an event which happened when she was thirteen, just before the Second World War. She was old enough to influence the course of events, yet not old enough to fully understand what she saw. The story follows those affected by her ‘crime’ through the twentieth century, in what many consider to be Ian McEwan’s finest novel.

AUSTERLITZ (2001)
W. G. Sebald

W. G. Sebald’s great novel displays his trademark blurring of fact, fiction & digressive storytelling, disentangling biography, memory and the events of twentieth-century European history.

‘It seems to me then as if all the moments of our life occupy the same space, as if future events already existed and were only waiting for us to find our way to them at last, just as when we have accepted an invitation we duly arrive in a certain house at a given time.’

Austerlitz

ANY HUMAN HEART (2002)
William Boyd

Logan Mountstuart’s life spans the twentieth century. It contains successes, failures and brief brushes with fame but most of all it is made up of tiny everyday details. Logan is not renowned in any way but that is what makes his life so fascinating.
P. D. JAMES

P. D. James was one of the many authors who were also customers at Hatchards. For the 200th Anniversary she wrote: ‘I make my way to Piccadilly safe in the knowledge that I shall receive a warm welcome from friends, be helped to find what I need, have the satisfaction of browsing in a shop with a remarkable range and variety of books, and know that I am in a proper bookshop not a general emporium. I hope very much that I shall be spending many more occasions browsing, buying and signing my novels at Hatchards.’ She continued to visit the shop right up to the year of her death: attending our parties, buying books and signing her novels. We miss her a lot.

COVER HER FACE (1962)

This is where we meet Adam Dalgliesh, P. D. James’ poetry-writing detective. In his first foray against the criminal world of East Anglia he investigates the murder of Sally, a young servant whom many people seem to wish dead.

ORIGINAL SINF (1994)

The ninth Inspector Dalgliesh mystery immerses him in the world of London publishing. The managing director of the city’s oldest publishing house, Peverell Press is murdered and it is clear the killer does not intend to stop at one victim.

THE PRIVATE PATIENT (2008)

For his last case Adam Dalgliesh is in Dorset, investigating the murder of a journalist at an exclusive cosmetic surgery clinic. The detective’s detailed methodical approach will be familiar to readers but that is no bad thing; it is what makes us love this quiet, reserved policeman.
**THE STORY OF LUCY GAULT (2002)**
*William Trevor*

Rural Cork in 1921 is no longer a peaceful idyll and the Gault family realise they must move away. For eight-year old Lucy the idea of leaving the world she loves is unthinkable and she takes drastic action to prevent the move. In his subtle and restrained prose William Trevor recounts a tale of hope and tragedy.

**FINGERSMITH (2002)**
*Sarah Waters*

Following the lives of two orphans, Sue Trinder and Maud Lily, Sarah Waters concocts a page-turning Victorian mystery in the vein of Charles Dickens and Willkie Collins. The novel is a daring composition of deception, hidden pleasures and furtive plots which will keep any reader spellbound.

**THE LINE OF BEAUTY (2004)**
*Alan Hollinghurst*

Nick Guest, Oxford graduate and the middle class’ latest admission into high society, finds pleasures, devilry and hypocrisy abounding in the lives of the British ruling class. This astute novel went on to win the 2004 Booker Prize.

**ARMAGEDDON (2004)**
*Max Hastings*

Max Hastings refuses to apotheosise the final push to end the war. Instead of famous victories and the joys of liberation *Armageddon* focuses on the apocalyptic scale of violence, chaos and claustrophobia during the frenzied final battles and streetfights of the Second World War.

**THE UNCOMMON READER (2007)**
*Alan Bennett*

Following one of her corgis into a mobile library, the Queen discovers the joys of reading. She becomes an avid reader, devouring everything from Thomas Hardy to Samuel Beckett. Chaos ensues when she attempts to discuss Jean Genet with the French president and smuggles a book to read into the State Opening of Parliament.
TWENTIETH-CENTURY POETRY

The twentieth century has seen an explosion of new forms, new styles and new subjects for poetry. Hatchards has been proud to have led the way, supporting and stocking everyone from Thomas Hardy to Max Porter.

THE WASTE LAND (1922)
T. S. Eliot

Probably the most influential poet of his time, T. S. Eliot gained renown with these four hundred and thirty-four lines, which deeply gratify both aesthetic and intellectual sensibilities. Vivid in imagery and complex in form, this work fuses loss with desire and remains timelessly grounded in ancient myth.

LOOK, STRANGER! (1936)
W. H. Auden

The great poet of the thirties, W. H. Auden combined a love of landscape, life and literature. The poems here were composed between 1931 and 1936, the time when he finally committed to earning his living as a writer. Set against a background of political and national turmoil they show the remarkable talents of the young poet.

THE WHITSUN WEDDINGS (1964)
Philip Larkin

Described as the John Clare of the housing estates by John Betjeman, Philip Larkin is one of the twentieth-century’s finest and most accessible poets. This collection considers death, disappointment and lost love but, through the pessimism, his tender and thoughtful observations on life shine through.

SEEING THINGS (1991)
Seamus Heaney

From book to book Seamus Heaney gained in technical assurance and thematic ambition and Seeing Things is one of his greatest collections. Translations from Virgil and Homer enclose works such as the twelve-line Squarings, poems of exquisite beauty.
In 2014 a second branch of Hatchards opened, in London’s St Pancras International. Whether commuting to work or journeying to Paris and beyond, we firmly believe that travellers need books and ‘Little Hatch’ has become a favourite supplier. Just as in Piccadilly, it is situated next to Fortnum & Mason.

‘When we saw the site was next to Fortnum & Mason we thought there was a symmetry there and we thought it would be quite a fun place to open a second Hatchards.’

James Daunt in The Bookseller
WOLF HALL (2009)
Hilary Mantel

Hilary Mantel’s novel exploded into what had seemed the saturated sub-genre that was fictionalised accounts of the Tudors. Setting a new standard for historical writing, this rich, dazzling, tower of a novel manages to put our sympathies firmly with Cromwell, which is a surprising achievement in itself.

THE GLASS ROOM (2009)
Simon Mawer

On a hillside near a provincial Czech town stands the Landauer House with its celebrated Glass Room, a modernist masterpiece filled with light and hope. However for the Jewish owners the optimism and stability of the period cannot last and they are forced to flee, the building passing through Nazi, then Soviet, then State hands. An engrossing and unusual picture of the twentieth century.

‘Stability is the last thing I want. This house must float in light. It must shimmer and shine. It must not be stable!’
Rainer von Abt, architect, The Glass Room

BROOKLYN (2009)
Colm Tóibín

1950s small-town Ireland has little to offer young women like Eilis Lacey. The chance to emigrate to America seems too good to miss and, after a time of dislocation she becomes used to her new home and thrives. Just at this point tragedy forces her to return to Ireland and Eilis must choose between her two now very different lives.

THE HARE WITH AMBER EYES (2010)
Edmund de Waal

Britain’s foremost potter, Edmund de Waal, traces his family history through a most intriguing inheritance, a cabinet of netsuke. The movement of this collection of ornaments guides the reader through the intellectual and commercial movements of nineteenth-century Europe to the Holocaust and its aftermath.
MY BRILLIANT FRIEND (2011)
Elena Ferrante

This is the first of Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan Novels, and introduces us to the brilliant, bookish Elena and the fiery Lila. Against the backdrop of a Naples that is as seductive as it is perilous, this is the story of a lifelong friendship.

THE NIGHT CIRCUS (2011)
Erin Morgenstern

It arrives without warning, a sea of black and white tents met with whispers of anticipation. ‘Les Cirque des Rêves’. The story begins when two magicians pair their young apprentices against each other in a mysterious competition spanning numerous lifetimes. There are no written rules, only the venue: a circus. Let the magic begin.

‘All over the tents, small lights begin to flicker, as though the entirety of the circus is covered in particularly bright fireflies.’

The Night Circus

H IS FOR HAWK (2014)
Helen Macdonald

To quote Emily Dickinson, ‘grief is a thing with feathers.’ Reeling from the death of her father Helen Macdonald finds recovery in the raising of a goshawk. Not since Ted Hughes’ Crow have birds and death mixed so well on the page.

DAYS WITHOUT END (2016)
Sebastian Barry

A tumultuous, passionate novel of America’s Indian Wars and, ultimately, Civil War, the story is a study of friendship, hardship and the vividness of life during a terrible period in America’s great history. A worthy winner of the 2017 Costa Prize.
As the shop enters its two hundred and twenty-first year we are, as ever, on the lookout for the best books. Below is a selection of the ones we’ve liked so far.

**IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY**
Sarah Dunant

The family in the title are the Borgias; powerful and unscrupulous rulers in sixteenth-century Italy. Into the world of Rodrigo, Lucrezia and Cesare comes Niccolò Machiavelli. The young diplomat, with soot-black hair and a face like a weasel, is every bit as ambitious as them, but a lot more likeable.

**INTO THE WATER**
Paula Hawkins

Paula Hawkins leapt to our attention with her brilliant *The Girl on the Train*. In the same compelling style she has written the story of two sisters: one a presumed suicide, the other increasingly afraid - of long-buried memories, of the old Mill House, of the place they call the Drowning Pool and, most of all, of thinking that her sister would never have jumped.

**HOUSE OF NAMES**
Colm Tóibín

Barbarous acts can have devastating consequences. On the day of her wedding, Agamemnon has his daughter sacrificed to the gods. His other daughter Electra, a silent witness, and his son Orestes, forced into exile, must somehow right his wrongs, using ever more brutality. Colm Tóibín retells the great epic with his customary style, emotion and brilliance.

Published 18th May
ADMISSIONS: A Life in Brain Surgery
Henry Marsh

Following on from the success of Do No Harm, Henry Marsh now turns his attention to his own life, as a neurosurgeon and beyond. His retirement from the NHS and his continuing work in Nepal and Ukraine prompt him to consider the implications of his career and also his trepidation as he faces the prospect of old-age, possibly as a patient rather than a doctor. Revealing and movingly written.

ROGUES’ GALLERY
Philip Hook

In his inimitable style Philip Hook lays bare the history of the commercial art world. Spies, merchants, connoisseurs and far too many rogues have bought and sold art for profit, love or simply the desire to possess. Taking the reader from sixteenth-century Antwerp, with paintings being sold by weight, to the high glamour of London, Paris and New York today, this is a fascinating story.

ISTANBUL
Bettany Hughes

An absorbing story of a city with three names, half in the East and half in the West. Bettany Hughes weaves in details bringing the city and its occupants to life and showing its vast influence on Europe and beyond.

JANE AUSTEN AT HOME
Lucy Worsley

Jane Austen was the first novelist to write about ordinary home life in Georgian England and this new biography does much to explain the background against which she wrote. It places her novels in context and reveals an interestingly 'un-saint-like' woman. Published 18th May
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