Frankfurt Book Fair 2016

CLASSIC HIGHLIGHTS

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Women Writers of the 20th Century

M.M. Kaye
Molly Keane
Marghanita Laski

Olivia Manning
Kate O’Brien
Muriel Spark

Josephine Tey
Dorothy Whipple
Mary Wesley
Few writers have been more versatile, or more prolific, than Anthony Burgess (1917-1993): one of the leading novelists of his day, he was also a poet, playwright, composer, linguist, translator and critic. Burgess wrote 33 novels; his best known work, *A Clockwork Orange*, is considered a classic novel of the 20th century. Stanley Kubrick’s 1972 film adaptation was received with critical acclaim and has developed a cult following. Other novels include *Dead Man in Deptford*, depicting the life and death of Christopher Marlowe, *Earthly Powers*, a panoramic saga of the 20th century and the *The Malayan Trilogy*, a comic triptych on the decolonisation of Malaysia, partly inspired by his time working there. He also wrote twenty-five works of non-fiction, two volumes of autobiography, three symphonies, more than 150 other musical works, reams of journalism and much more. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, received honorary degrees from St Andrews, Birmingham and Manchester universities and in France was created Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres, the highest level of the Order.

To celebrate Anthony Burgess’s extraordinary life, the International Anthony Burgess Foundation is planning a world-wide programme of events over the course of 2017, including Burgess-themed events at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and an international conference on Burgess’s life and work. In September 2017, a collection of his unpublished essays titled *The Ink Trade* will be published by Carcanet for the centenary year.

Along with H G Wells and Isaac Asimov, Sir Arthur C Clarke is rightly considered one of the founding fathers of modern science fiction. Born in Somerset in 1917, he became interested in science at an early age, constructing his first telescope at the age of thirteen. He authored or co-authored over 100 books of science fiction and science fact, and his visions of space travel and computing sparked the imagination of readers and scientists alike. In 1945 he published a paper setting out his hypothesis of the principles of satellite communication with satellites in geostationary orbits, which led to the global satellite systems in use today.

His works includes the classic short story *The Sentinel* (rights DHA), which formed the basis for 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, which he co-wrote with Stanley Kubrick. Other novels which received significant critical acclaim include *Rendezvous with Rama*, a story of a vast alien spacecraft entering the solar system that has been translated into more than 20 languages, *Fountains of Paradise* (Hugo and Nebula award winner 1979), *Childhood’s End*, a classic of alien literature and one of his best novels, and *The City and the Stars*.

He received numerous honours, including several Doctorates in science and literature, a Franklin Institute Gold Medal and the Marconi Fellowship, and in 1998 was knighted in the New Year’s Honours List. He died in 2008, at his home in Sri Lanka, shortly after completing his final book, *The Last Theorem*. 
Few writers have been more versatile, or more prolific, than Anthony Burgess (1917-1993): one of the leading novelists of his day, he was also a poet, playwright, composer, linguist, translator and critic. In addition to his best-known work, A Clockwork Orange, he wrote thirty-three novels, twenty-five works of non-fiction, two volumes of autobiography, three symphonies, more than 150 other musical works, reams of journalism and much more. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, received honorary degrees from St Andrews, Birmingham and Manchester universities and in France was created Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres, the highest level of the Order. Considered a modern master of English prose, the centenary of Anthony Burgess’s birth will be celebrated in 2017.

A DEAD MAN IN DEPTFORD (Vintage, UK)
A Dead Man In Deptford re-imagines the riotous life and suspicious death of Christopher Marlowe. Poet, lover and spy, Marlowe must negotiate the pressures placed upon him by theatre, Queen and country. Burgess brings this dazzling figure to life and pungently evokes Elizabethan England.

‘One of the most productive, imaginative and risk-taking of writers.’ Irish Times

‘One of the cleverest and most original writers of his generation.’ The Times
Graham Greene is recognised as one of the most important writers of the twentieth century, achieving both literary acclaim and popular success. His best known works include Brighton Rock, The Heart of the Matter, The Quiet American and The Power and the Glory. Born in 1904, he went into journalism on leaving Oxford, before dedicating himself full-time to his writing with his first big success Stamboul Train. He became involved in screenwriting and wrote adaptations for the cinema as well as original screenplays, the most successful being The Third Man. Religious, moral and political themes are at the root of much of his writing, and throughout his life he travelled to some of the wildest and most volatile parts of the world. Haiti, Vietnam, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cuba and Mexico all provided settings for his fiction. He died in 1991 at the age of 86.

THE END OF THE AFFAIR (Vintage, UK)
The love affair between Maurice Bendriix and Sarah, flourishing in the turbulent times of the London Blitz, ends when she suddenly and without explanation breaks it off. After a chance meeting rekindles his love and jealousy two years later, Bendrix hires a private detective to follow Sarah, and slowly his love for her turns into an obsession.
Muriel Spark originally worked as a secretary and then a poet and literary journalist. She was completely unknown and impoverished until she started her career as a story writer and novelist. Then everything changed overnight. From 1957, and the appearance of her first novel, *The Comforters*, she was warmly applauded by many famous writers of the day including Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene and W.H. Auden. Her novel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* was made into a play on Broadway and the West End of London and then a famous film for which Maggie Smith obtained an Oscar. Muriel Spark was made a Dame in 1993 in recognition of her services to literature. She was twice short-listed for the Booker Prize, in 1969 for *The Public Image* and in 1981 for *Loitering with Intent*. She received many honorary degrees from universities and was awarded countless prizes and honours, as well as being translated widely. She died in 2006, aged 88.

**THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE (Penguin Modern Classics, UK)**

Miss Jean Brodie is a teacher unlike any other, proud and cultured, enigmatic and freethinking; a romantic, with progressive, sometimes shocking, ideas and aspirations for the girls in her charge. At the Marcia Blaine Academy she takes a select group of girls under her wing. Spellbound by Miss Brodie’s unconventional teaching, these devoted pupils form the Brodie set. But as the girls enter their teenage years and they become increasingly drawn in by Miss Brodie’s personal life, her ambitions for them take a startling and dark turn with devastating consequences.
Dylan Thomas is one of the most celebrated poets in the English language. Born in 1914, he worked briefly as a journalist before deciding to embark on a freelance literary career. He rapidly established himself as a remarkable personality and one of the finest poets of his generation. His first collection, *18 Poems*, appeared in 1934; several further volumes followed over the next two decades. *In Country Sleep*, which featured *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night*, a eulogy to his dying father and one of his best-known and oft-quoted works, was published in 1952. His *Collected Poems* appeared during the same year and has been in print ever since. His short stories include *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog* and his plays include *Under Milk Wood*. He died at the age of thirty-nine in 1953. In 1982 a memorial stone was unveiled in ‘Poets’ Corner’ in Westminster Abbey.


This new edition of his poems, edited and annotated by Dylan Thomas expert John Goodby and released in 2014, commemorated the centenary of Thomas’s birth. With recently discovered material and an accessible critique, it looks at his body of work in a fresh light and takes us to the beating heart of Thomas’s poetry.
BRITISH AND IRISH WRITERS IN EUROPE
Kate O’Brien was born in Limerick City in 1897. After the success of her play *Distinguished Villa* in 1926, she took to full-time writing and was awarded the 1931 James Tait Black Prize for her debut novel *Without My Cloak*. Kate O’Brien is best known for her novels *The Ante-Room*, *The Land of Spices*, and *That Lady*. Many of her books deal with issues of female agency and sexuality in ways that were new and radical at the time. Throughout her life, O’Brien felt a particular affinity with Spain—while her experiences in the Basque Country inspired Mary Lavelle, she also wrote a life of the Spanish mystic Teresa of Avila, and she used the relationship between the Spanish king Philip II and Maria de Mendoza to write the anti-fascist novel *That Lady*. She died in Faversham, near Canterbury, in 1974.

**FAREWELL SPAIN (Virago, UK)**

This distinctly personal elegy was written during the early days of the Spanish Civil War by a writer whose future was indelibly marked by a year of travelling in a unique and changing country. A series of reminiscences, impressions and vivid insights, Kate O’Brien’s thoughtful journey offers something unique at every stage, and captures perfectly the spirit of a lost place and the experience of travel and memory.
Eric Hobsbawm was remarkable among historians in being proud to call himself a Marxist long after Marxism fell out of favour in the West. To his admirers he was one of the greatest historians of the 20th century. To his critics he was an apologist for Soviet tyranny who never fully changed his views. But he was too shrewd, too open-minded to pursue a narrow Marxist approach in his work or his politics. In 2013 he received the Balzan Prize for ‘his brilliant analysis of the troubled history of the 20th century Europe and for his ability to combine in-depth historical research with great literary talent’. Eric Hobsbawm’s titles have been translated into 39 languages.

**Viva La Revolucion**, Eric Hobsbawm’s collection of essays on Latin America was published by Little, Brown in June this year.

**THE AGE OF EXTREMES**
In his trilogy, *The Age of Revolution, The Age of Capital and The Age of Empire*, he wrote the history of the 19th Century. In *The Age of Extremes*, he wrote the history of his own times. As a Marxist he believed historical events were driven by economic changes but his interests were broad. Remarkable in its scope, and breathtaking in its depth of knowledge, this immensely rewarding book reviews the uniquely destructive and creative nature of the troubled twentieth century and makes challenging predictions for the future.
Emmanuel Litvinoff was a British writer and well-known figure in Anglo-Jewish literature, born in 1915 in the Whitechapel area of London to Russian-Jewish immigrant parents. After enlisting in the army in 1940, he served in Northern Ireland, West Africa and the Middle East. After the war, Litvinoff worked briefly as a ghost writer before going on to write novels of his own, as well as various plays for television. His first novel, *The Lost Europeans*, was published in 1960. His other novels are *The Man Next Door*, *The Faces of Terror* trilogy and *Falls the Shadow*. Litvinoff is probably best-known for his memoir, *Journey Through a Small Planet*, in which he chronicles his working-class Jewish childhood and early adult years in London’s East End, a small cluster of streets that was right next to the City of London, but had more in common with the cities of Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa.

**THE LOST EUROPEANS** (*Apollo, re-issue 2016*)

*Coming back was worse, much worse, than Martin Stone had anticipated.*

When Martin Stone returns to Berlin, the city from which his Jewish family was driven in 1938, he knows his homecoming will be a painful one. He has concealed his destination from his father and hopes to win some form of restitution for the depressed old man living in exile in London. *THE LOST EUROPEANS* portrays a tense, ruined yet flourishing Berlin where nothing is quite what it seems.
Olivia Manning was born in Portsmouth and spent much of her youth in Ireland. In 1939 she married R D ‘Reggie’ Smith, and his work took them to Athens, and Jerusalem before returning to London in 1946, where she lived until her death in 1980. Manning’s experiences formed the basis for her best known work, the six novels making up The Balkan Trilogy (rights DHA) and The Levant Trilogy (rights Weidenfeld & Nicholson), published between 1960 and 1980 and known collectively as Fortunes of War, which was described by Anthony Burgess as ‘the finest fictional record of the war produced by a British writer’. In addition to her novels, Manning wrote short stories, essays and criticism, history, a screenplay and a book about Burmese and Siamese cats. Her work has been compared to that of Lawrence Durrell, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh and Anthony Powell.

THE BALKAN TRILOGY (Arrow, UK)
Living and working in Romania, Guy and Harriet Pringle are forced to evacuate to Greece before the steady advance of the German army. The Balkan Trilogy is the remarkable portrait of their marriage, a haunting evocation of a vanished way of life and a delightfully ironic comedy of manners in a breaking world.

‘Olivia Manning is an extraordinarily vivid writer, one with a true artist’s respect and discipline for her craft’  
*The Scotsman*
Alan John Percivale Taylor (1906–1990) is probably the most popular and influential British historian of the twentieth century. Known as ‘the People’s Historian’, Taylor believed history should be accessible to all and this populist approach was reflected in his use of irony and humour to entertain as well as to inform. Both a journalist and a broadcaster, he became well known to millions through his television lectures. His combination of academic rigour and popular appeal led the historian Richard Overy to describe him as “the Macaulay of our age”.

THE ORIGINS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR (Penguin Books, UK)

A.J.P. Taylor caused a storm of outrage with this scandalous bestseller. Debunking what were accepted truths about the Second World War, he argued provocatively that Hitler did not set out to cause the war as part of an evil master plan, but blundered into it partly by accident, aided by the shortcomings of others. Fiercely attacked for vindicating Hitler, A.J.P. Taylor’s stringent re-examination of the events preceding the Nazi invasion of Poland on 1st September 1939 opened up new debate, and is now recognised as a brilliant and classic piece of scholarly research.
FURTHER AFLIELD
J. R. Ackerley (1896-1967) was, for many years, the literary editor of the BBC Magazine, *The Listener*. A respected mentor to such younger writers as Christopher Isherwood and W. H. Auden, he was also a long time friend and literary associate of E. M. Forster. His works include two memoirs, *My Dog Tulip* and *My Father and Myself*, a travel journal, *Hindoo Holiday*, and a novel, *We Think the World of You*.


In the 1920s, the young J. R. Ackerley spent several months in India as the personal secretary to the Maharajah of a small Indian principality. In his journals, Ackerley recorded the Maharajah’s fantastically eccentric habits and riddling conversations, and the odd shambling day-to-day life of his court. *Hindoo Holiday* is an intimate and very funny account of an exceedingly strange place, and one of the masterpieces of twentieth-century travel literature.

‘His humour is the humour of pity and love. He is an artist of the understanding.’ V.S. Pritchett

‘Stands upon a superior and totally distinct plane of artistic achievement....It is a work of high literary skill and very delicate aesthetic perception radiantly delightful.’ Evelyn Waugh
Born in 1900, Richard Hughes was the author of the world’s first radio play, *Danger*, commissioned by the BBC and broadcast in 1924. Two years later he published the first and perhaps best known of his four novels, *A High Wind in Jamaica*. It became a worldwide bestseller and won the Prix Femina in France, establishing itself as a modern classic. In his latter years, he worked on a series of novels, called *The Human Predicament*, a massive project in which he explored the social, economic, political and moral forces which shaped the period from the 1920s through the Second World War, including real characters and events – such as Hitler’s escape following the abortive Munich putsch. Two of these novels, *The Fox in the Attic* (1961) and *The Wooden Shepherdess* (1973), were completed, and Hughes’s achievement has been widely praised. No other twentieth-century novelist has so successfully transposed history into fiction.

“I read Richard Hughes’ *A High Wind in Jamaica* this year and felt breathless with shock and awe... Appallingly dark story... dreadfully funny.” Meg Rosoff, Independent

“A thrillingly good book” Martin Amis

‘An exciting adventure story with great storms and earthquakes, terrific animals, unruly children and some dubious pirates. All this coexists with another narrative, darker and more sophisticated, complex and tragic. You can read this book over again and have read a different novel.” Michael Holroyd, Guardian

*A HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA* (Vintage Classics, UK; NYRB, US)
Richard Hughes’s celebrated short novel is a masterpiece of concentrated narrative. Its dreamlike action begins among the decayed plantation houses and overwhelming natural abundance of late nineteenth-century Jamaica, before moving out onto the high seas, as Hughes tells the story of a group of children thrown upon the mercy of a crew of pirates. A tale of seduction and betrayal, of accommodation and manipulation, of weird humour and unforeseen violence, this classic of twentieth-century literature is above all an extraordinary reckoning with the secret reasons and otherworldly realities of childhood.
M.M. Kaye was born in India and grew up there. After school in England she returned to India and lived there throughout her early married life. She earned international acclaim as the author of *The Far Pavilions*, and went on to write *Shadow of the Moon* and *Trade Wind*, also set in India, as well as atmospheric murder mysteries, *Death in...* series. She wrote three volumes of memoirs, collectively entitled *Share of Summer*. She died in January 2004.

**THE FAR PAVILIONS** *(Penguin UK, Martin Press US)*

*The Far Pavilions* is the story of an English man - Ashton Pelham-Martyn - brought up as a Hindu. It is the story of his passionate, but dangerous love for Juli, an Indian princess. It is the story of divided loyalties, of friendship that endures till death, of high adventure and of the clash between East and West. To the burning plains and snow-capped mountains of this great, humming continent, M.M. Kaye brings her exceptional gifts of storytelling and meticulous historical accuracy, along with her insight into the human heart.

‘A long, romantic adventure story of the highest calibre ... wildly exciting.’ *Daily Telegraph*

‘Magnificent is the only possible description for *The Far Pavilions* ... not one of its 950 pages is a page too much.’ *Evening Standard*

‘A Gone With the Wind of the North-West frontier’

*The Times*
Paul Scott was born in north London in 1920. During the Second World War he held a commission in the Indian army, after which he worked for several years in publishing. His first novel, Johnnie Sahib was published in 1952, followed by twelve others of which the best known are The Raj Quartet (The Jewel in the Crown, The Day of the Scorpion, The Towers of Silence and A Division of Spoils), which were adapted for television in the 1980s. Scott’s novels persistently draw on his experiences of India and service in the armed forces, with strong subtexts of uneasy relationships between male friends or brothers, and explore both the social privilege and the oppressive class and racial stratifications of empire. Scott’s last novel Staying On won the Booker Prize in 1977. He died in 1978.

STAYING ON (Random House, UK)

Tusker and Lily Smalley stayed on in India. Given the chance to return ‘home’ when Tusker, once a Colonel in the British Army, retired, they chose instead to remain in the small hill town of Pangkot, with its eccentric inhabitants and archaic rituals left over from the days of the Empire. Only the tyranny of their landlady, the imposing Mrs Bhoolabhyo, threatens to upset the quiet rhythm of their days. Both funny and deeply moving, Staying On is a unique, engrossing portrait of the end of an empire and of a forty-year love affair.
CLASSIC CRIME REVIVED
Dorothy L. Sayers is recognised as one of the greatest mystery writers of the twentieth century. A refined author whose wry mysteries were spiced with quotations of verse and observations about English society, Sayers created aristocratic sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey who featured in eleven novels and 21 short stories, many of which have been adapted for television and radio.

WHOSE BODY? (Dover, US)
Lord Peter is intrigued by the sudden appearance of a naked dead body in the bath and investigates. A financier has also gone missing and it becomes clear that the two events are linked in some way. A hired man has just found a corpse in the bath in his flat: a body wearing nothing but a pair of pince-nez. In the meantime, the financier has apparently disappeared into thin air from his own bedroom....

Jill Paton Walsh was born in 1937. Amongst her awards are the Book World Festival Award, the Whitbread Prize, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, The Universe Prize, the Smartest Grand Prix, and the Phoenix Prize. In 1994 her novel Knowledge of Angels was short-listed for the Booker Prize. She also writes detective fiction, and she completed Dorothy L. Sayers’ unfinished Thrones, Dominations, before going on to write further Peter Wimsey novels.

A PRESUMPTION OF DEATH (Hodder & Stoughton, UK)
Following the international success of Thrones, Dominations, Jill Paton Walsh continues the story of Lord Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane using some articles left behind by Dorothy L Sayers at her death. The story opens in 1940. Harriet Vane has taken her children to safety in the country. But the war has followed them: glamorous RAF pilots and even more glamorous land-girls scandalise the villagers; the blackout makes the night-time lanes as sinister as the back alleys of London. Then the village’s first air raid practise ends with a very real body on the ground - not a war casualty but a case of plain, old-fashioned murder. ..
Josephine Tey is one of the best known and best loved of all crime writers. She began to write full time after the successful publication of her first novel in 1929, *The Man in the Queue*, which introduced Inspector Grant of Scotland Yard. In 1937 she returned to crime writing with *A Shilling for Candles*, but it wasn’t until after the Second World War that the majority of her crime novels were published. A number of her novels have been adapted for radio and television.

**SHILLING FOR CANDLES** (Random House, UK)
Beneath the sea cliffs of the south coast, suicides are a sad but common fact. Yet even the hardened coastguard knows something is wrong when a beautiful young film actress is found lying dead on the beach one morning. Inspector Grant has to take a more professional attitude: death by suicide, however common, has to have a motive - just like murder...

Nicola Upson reads English at Downing College, Cambridge. She has developed a passion for the theatre and literature of the interward period, and an admiration for the writing of Josephine Tey in particular. *London Rain* is the last instalment in a series of crime novels featuring as a main character a fictionalised version of Josephine Tey - one of the leading authors of Britain’s Golden Age of crime writing.

**LONDON RAIN** (Faber & Faber, UK)
Bestselling writer Josephine Tey is in town to oversee a BBC radio production of her play, Queen of Scots - but adultery, treachery and pent-up jealousies stalk the corridors of Broadcasting House. At the height of the Coronation celebrations, Detective Chief Inspector Archie Penrose is called in to investigate the murder of one of the BBC’s best-known broadcasters. A second victim - his mistress, and the play’s leading actress - suggests that the motive lies close to home, but Josephine suspects that the killings are linked to a decade-old scandal.
Joseph Jefferson Farjeon (1883 - 1955) was an English crime and mystery novelist, playwright and screenwriter described by Dorothy L. Sayers as ‘unsurpassed for creepy skill in mysterious adventures’. His novel, Mystery in White: A Christmas Crime Story, was reissued by the British Library in 2014, selling more than 100,000 copies in the UK. Following this great success, The Z Murders and Thirteen Guests have were reissued in 2015.

THE Z MURDERS (The British Library, UK)
Richard Temperley arrives at Euston station early on a fogbound London morning. He takes refuge in a nearby hotel, along with a disagreeable fellow passenger, who had snored his way through the train journey. But within minutes the other man has snored for the last time - he has been shot dead while sleeping in an armchair. Temperley has a brief encounter with a beautiful young woman, but she flees the scene. When the police arrive, Detective Inspector James discovers a token at the crime scene: ‘a small piece of enamelled metal. Its colour was crimson, and it was in the shape of the letter Z.’ Temperley sets off in pursuit of the mysterious woman from the hotel, and finds himself embroiled in a cross-country chase - by train and taxi - on the tail of a sinister serial killer. This classic novel is a gripping thriller by a neglected master of the genre.
Born Dikran Kouyoumdjian, the son of an Armenian merchant, **Michael Arlen** was an essayist, short-story writer, novelist, playwright and scriptwriter who enjoyed his greatest success in the 1920s while living and writing in England. He is most famous for his satirical romances which epitomised the brittle gaiety and underlying cynicism and disillusionment of the fashionable London society of the time, but he also wrote gothic horror and psychological thrillers. His best-known work, *The Green Hat*, was published in 1924 and was subsequently adapted for both stage and screen (as *A Woman of Affairs*, starring Greta Garbo). The book brought him almost overnight fame on both sides of the Atlantic. Micheal Arlen’s other novels include *Young Men in Love*, *Lily Christine*, and *Man’s Mortality*.

**THE GREEN HAT** (Capuchin Classics, UK)

*The Green Hat* perfectly reflects the atmosphere of the 1920s - the post-war fashion for verbal smartness, youthful cynicism and the spirit of rebellion of the ‘bright young things’ of Mayfair. Iris Storm, femme fatale, races around London and Europe in her yellow Hispano-Suiza surrounded by romantic intrigue, but beneath the glamour she is destined to be a tragic heroine. A perfect synecdoche, in fact: as the hat is to the woman, so the words of the title are to an entire literary style.

‘If F Scott Fitzgerald was the chronicler of America’s jazz era, in the UK it was Michael Arlen who catalogued the hedonism of the Lost Generation.’ - *The Independent*
Molly Keane was born in Co. Kildare, Ireland in 1904 to an Anglo-Irish gentry family. She described her interests when young as ‘hunting and horses and having a good time’ and said that she began writing only to supplement her dress allowance. Between 1928 and 1956 she published eleven novels under the pseudonym M.J. Farrell; in the circles in which she moved, to be known as a writer would have been social death. Witty, perceptive, and often remorselessly cruel, Molly Keane had an acute eye for character, writing not only about the beauty of the sheltered world of big houses and field sports she knew so well, but also the all-pervading selfishness of people whose only loyalty was to their pet dogs.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR (Virago, UK)
Silverue - an enchanting Irish mansion - is owned by one of the most frightening mothers in fiction - the indomitable, oppressively girlish Lady Bird. Blessed with wealth and beautiful children she has little to worry about except the passing of the years and the return of her son John’s sanity. To help her through the potentially awkward occasion of John’s return from the asylum she has enlisted the support of Eliza, a woman she believes to be her confidante. But Eliza has her own secrets, and John’s homecoming will prove the catalyst for revelations which Lady Bird would much rather leave buried.

‘She writes with the clarity and wisdom of someone who can make sense of human foibles through all their stages from youth to old age.’ - Guardian
Marghanita Laski was born in 1915 to a family of prominent Jewish intellectuals in Manchester. After working in fashion she read English at Oxford and worked in journalism. Her six novels, including *Little Boy Lost*, *The Village* and *The Victorian Chaise-Longue*, address class issues and gender barriers, often satirically. They reflect the political, social and economic anxieties and tensions felt during the Second World War and the Cold War. A well-known critic, her non-fiction works included books on Jane Austen and George Eliot, as well as *Ecstasy*, which explored the nature of religious experiences and *Everyday Ecstasy* which looked at their social effects. Her distinctive voice was often heard on the radio, and she submitted some 250,000 illustrative quotations to the Oxford English Dictionary. She died in 1988.

**THE VICTORIAN CHAISE-LONGUE** (Persephone Books, UK) The charming, childish wife of a successful lawyer falls asleep one afternoon on her Victorian chaise-longue, recently purchased in an antique shop, and wakes in the fetid atmosphere of an ugly, over-furnished room she has never seen before. This is the story of a trip backwards in time in which a nostalgia for the quaint turns into a hideous nightmare.

‘Disturbing and compulsive’ - Penelope Lively
Described as the ‘Jane Austen of the 20th Century’ by J B Priestley, Dorothy Whipple (1893-1966) was an extraordinarily gifted story-teller who enjoyed a period of great popularity in the 1930s and 1940s with her tales of mainly middle-class domestic trauma which were hailed as worthy successors to the work of Elizabeth Gaskell and George Eliot. Two of her novels, They Were Sisters and They Knew Mr Knight were made into feature films. Her books have been re-issued by Persephone to great success.

SOMEONE AT A DISTANCE (Persephone Books, UK)
This classic is centred around the deceptively simple story of the disintegration of a happy marriage in 1950s suburbia. Avery North, a London publisher, has been married to his wife Ellen for twenty years when the arrival of a French girl, the companion to his mother, threatens to destroy their relationship. This is a deeply perceptive and realistic portrayal of the nature of love, told with Dorothy Whipple’s trademark flair and clarity.

‘A very good novel indeed about the fragility and the tenacity of love’ – Spectator (on Someone at a Distance)

‘The portraits in the book are fired by Mrs Whipple’s article of faith - the supreme importance of people.’ TLS (on They Knew Mr Knight)
Mary Wesley (1912–2002) was one of Britain’s most successful post-war novelists. She wrote books for children and adults, including the novel *The Camomile Lawn*, adapted for television by Peter Hall. She also wrote a memoir, *Part of the Scenery*, and after her death was the subject of an authorised biography, *Wild Mary*, by Patrick Marnham.

**THE CAMOMILE LAWN (Vintage, 1984)**

Behind the large house, the fragrant camomile lawn stretches down to the Cornish cliffs. Here, in the dizzying heat of August 1939, five cousins have gathered at their aunt’s house for their annual ritual of a holiday. For most of them it is the last summer of their youth, with the heady exhilarations and freedoms of lost innocence, as well as the fears of the coming war. *The Camomile Lawn* moves from Cornwall to London and back again, over the years, telling the stories of the cousins, their family and their friends, united by shared losses and lovers, by family ties and the absurd conditions imposed by war as their paths cross and recross over the years.

Mary Wesley presents an extraordinarily vivid and lively picture of wartime London: the rationing, imaginatively circumvented; the fallen houses; the parties, the newfound comforts of sex, the desperate humour of survival - all of it evoked with warmth, clarity and stunning wit. And through it all, the cousins and their friends try to hold on to the part of themselves that laughed and played dangerous games on that camomile lawn.
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