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KEY=THE - DILLON DARRYL

FUNNY PECULIAR

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Sphere *With free audio sampler In 2001 Will Young shot to fame as the first winner of Pop Idol. It was clear from the start that he would never be a typical pop star - and more than ten years later he has become one of our best-loved and most intriguing artists. From his dramatic experiences on Pop Idol; to coming out in the glare of the media spotlight; to his valiant struggles against depression; to the crazy reality of being famous, Will is open about both the highs and lows of his life. He also provides sound and practical advice on dealing with the DVLA helpline - something that has been woefully neglected by all other celebrity memoirs. If you have ever wondered what it's like to attend a fashion show (and find yourself accidentally waving at Anna Wintour); how it feels to sing in front of thousands while fighting a catastrophic bout of low self-esteem; or be subjected to the terror that is a This Morning 'makeover', then Funny Peculiar reveals all. It also reveals what not to say if you ever meet David Beckham. Moving, witty and scrupulously honest, Funny Peculiar is a refreshingly different and fascinating autobiography by a true original.*

FUNNY, PECULIAR

THE TRUE STORY OF BENNY HILL

Pan Books Limited *Benny Hill`s saucy smirks at underdressed women are relished the world over. Yet the comedian cut an unlikely figure of global admiration:*

unmarried and emotionally enfeebled in his few relationships, he was a deeply private individual uninterested in the trappings of success, a frugal man content to live in his humble childhood home flooded, freezing and burgled while his building society account bulged with millions of pounds he didn't use and hadn't wanted to earn. Funny, Peculiar is the first objective and full account of Benny Hill's life and work. Tenaciously researched and yet sensitively reported, it charts the highs, lows and many paradoxes of a man whose professional strengths-observation, impression and mime-bought him unimagined success, and whose weakness, especially an inability to change, fashioned his ultimate downfall. - First in-depth biography since Benny's death in April 1992. - A return to favour with audiences who are jaded with 'alternative comedy'. - Existing biographies are unreliable, lightweight and out of date. - Benny has been screened in 109 countries, and enjoyed for over 50 years

FUNNY PECULIAR

GERSHON LEGMAN AND THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF HUMOR

Routledge *Why are jokes funny? Why do we laugh? In Funny Peculiar, Mikita Brottman demurs from recent scholarship that takes laughter-- and the broader domain of humor and the comical--as a liberating social force and an endearing aspect of self-expression. For Brottman, there is nothing funny about laughter, which is less connected to mirth and feelings of good will than to a nexus of darker emotions: fear, aggression, shame, anxiety. Brottman rethinks not only the mechanisms of humor but also the relation of humor to the body and the senses. To this end, she provides an engrossing account of the life and work of Gershon Legman, exiled author, publisher, and sexologist, Alfred Kinsey's first bibliographer, and legendary compiler of the dirty joke. Like Freud, Legman was convinced of the impossibility of understanding humor apart from sex, and Brottman shows how his two massive works on the subject, Rationale of the Dirty Joke and No Laughing Matter, provide a framework for understanding the ambivalent and often hostile impulses that underlie the comic impulse in its various guises. In lively and enlivening chapters, she traverses dirty jokes, the figure of the "evil clown" in popular culture, the current popularity of "humor therapy," changing fashions in stand-up comedy, and the connection between humor and horror. Brottman's sparkling prose, laced with wit, does not obscure the seriousness of Funny Peculiar. It is a thoughtful and wide-ranging elaboration of the Freudian claim that joking, in point of fact, is no laughing matter.*

BLACK IS THE NEW WHITE

Simon and Schuster *A contributor to Chappelle's Show, The Richard Pryor Show, Saturday Night Live, and many other programs recounts his many experiences with Pryor and describes his life as a TV writer, in a memoir that combines personal narrative with sharp, witty social insights.*

BORN STANDING UP

A COMIC'S LIFE

Simon and Schuster *Steve Martin has been an international star for over thirty years. Here, for the first time, he looks back to the beginning of his career and charmingly evokes the young man he once was. Born in Texas but raised in California, Steve was seduced early by the comedy shows that played on the radio when the family travelled back and forth to visit relatives. When Disneyland opened just a couple of miles away from home, an enchanted Steve was given his first chance to learn magic and entertain an audience. He describes how he noted the reaction to each joke in a ledger - 'big laugh' or 'quiet' - and assiduously studied the acts of colleagues, stealing jokes when needed. With superb detail, Steve recreates the world of small, dark clubs and the fear and exhilaration of standing in the spotlight. While a philosophy student at UCLA, he worked hard at local clubs honing his comedy and slowly attracting a following until he was picked up to write for TV. From here on, Steve Martin became an acclaimed comedian, packing out venues nationwide. One night, however, he noticed empty seats and realised he had 'reached the top of the rollercoaster'. BORN STANDING UP is a funny and riveting chronicle of how Steve Martin became the comedy genius we now know and is also a fascinating portrait of an era.*

A VERY PUNCHABLE FACE

A MEMOIR

Crown *"Saturday Night Live head writer and Weekend Update co-anchor, Colin Jost, has six sets of stitches on his face alone. He's been punched in at least four different sketches on Saturday Night Live, including once by his boss, Lorne Michaels. But if there's one trait that makes someone well suited to comedy, it's being able to take a punch-metaphorically and, occasionally, physically. From growing up as an overweight kid in a family of firefighters on Staten Island to commuting three hours a day to high school and "seeing the sights" (like watching a Russian woman throw a stroller off the back of a ferry) to attending Harvard while Facebook was created (and choosing comedy instead!), Colin shares how he has navigated the world like a "slightly smarter Forrest Gump." You'll also discover things about Colin that will surprise and confuse you. You'll go behind the scenes at SNL (where he's written some of the most iconic sketches and characters of the past fifteen years) and Weekend Update (where's he's been "the white guy next to Leslie Jones.") And you'll experience the life of a touring stand-up comedian-from performing in rural cafeterias at noon to opening for Dave Chappelle at Radio City Music Hall. For every accomplishment (hosting the Emmys), there is a setback (hosting the Emmys). And for every absurd moment (watching paramedics give CPR to a raccoon), there is an honest, emotional one (recounting his mother's experience on the scene of the Twin Towers' collapse on 9/11.) A Very Punchable Face reveals the brilliant mind behind some of the dumbest sketches on television and lays bare the heart and humor of a hardworking guy-with a face you can't help but want to punch."--*

SOMETHING QUITE PECULIAR

Hardie Grant Books *Come inside the world of Steve Kilbey singer songwriter and bassist of one of Australia's best loved bands, The Church. From his migrant ten pound pom childhood through his adolescence growing up during the advent of The Beatles, Dylan and The Stones to his early adventures in garage bands and neighbourhood jams. His misadventures with a full time job and a 9 to 5 life and wild adventures with The Church as they conquer Australia and then the world. The tours. The records. The women. And then the heroin addiction which enslaved him for ten long years. Then the two sets of twins he fathers along the way and branching off into acting, painting and writing. From snowy Sweden to a cell in New York City, from Ipanema beach to Bondi, Kilbey stumbles through his surrealistic life as an idiot savant that will make you smile as well as want to kick him up the arse. After coming out the other side his tale is simply too good not to be told. Narrated with unusual and often pristine clarity we and with much focus on his considerable musical talent.*

OK2BG

Lulu Press, Inc *OK2BG is narrative nonfiction, a Memoir about a guy who wants to be a Mentor preferably to a teenager, so they can have a decent & meaningful conversation about stuff & preferably with a kid at-risk, or just otherwise lost, in order to help both the teenager as well as the determined subject of this story realize their unique potential & find or reinforce their place in the world. Overall, a chronicle about the author's attempt over several years to understand the question of 'why do I want to be a Mentor' which eventually helps him become a more insightful person. Subsequently in September, 2010 after a plague of teen suicides, Jack turns his attention to researching gay biographies into optimistically appropriate groups of books for gay kids at-risk, from bullying. After 5 years Jack has categorized 2,000+ books in the form of Memoirs, Biographies & Autobiographies written by or about 1,000+ allegedly gay men. The primary message in OK2BG is to read & reassess before you run asunder!*

IS THERE LIFE OUTSIDE THE BOX?

AN ACTOR DESPAIRS

Kings Road Publishing *His fans have spoken, but despite their requests, Peter Davison has gone ahead and written his autobiography anyway. It wasn't the book they tried to stop - it was more like the book they didn't want him to start. An aspiring singer-songwriter, once dubbed Woking's answer to Bob Dylan (by his mum, who once heard a Bob Dylan song), Peter actually penned a hit for Dave Clark but soon swapped a life on the pub circuit to tread the boards. From colonial roots - his dad was Guyanese and his mother was born in India - the family settled in Surrey where Peter's academic achievements were unspectacular - he even managed to fail CSE woodwork, eliciting a lament from his astonished teacher ('All you have to do is recognise wood!'). Despite this, Peter has secured his place in science fiction history, becoming the fifth Doctor Who, although he nearly turned down the role. The Time Lord connection continued with the marriage of his daughter Georgia to Dr Who*

number ten, David Tennant. The artist formerly known as Peter Malcolm Gordon Moffett has starred in a number of television series including *Love for Lydia*, *A Very Peculiar Practice*, *At Home with the Braithwaites* and *The Last Detective* and became a national treasure for having his arm up a cow in his role as Tristan Farnon in *All Creatures Great and Small*. He was also in a Michael Winner movie... He made his first stage appearance with an amateur dramatic company, but *The Byfleet Players'* loss was the West End's gain as he now has a number of musicals to his name, including *Legally Blonde*, *Chicago* and *Spamalot*. Most recently he starred in the box office record-breaking *Gypsy* where he rubbed shoulders backstage with *Dames* Meryl Streep, Maggie Smith and Judi Dench - all asking him for directions to Imelda Staunton's dressing room. One thing is for sure: of all the British screen and stage actors of the last fifty years, Peter Davison is certainly one of them and, within these pages, intrepid readers will at last have the dubious honour of sharing in his life and times - as he despairs over whether there truly ever can be life outside the box.

TO BE A GAY MAN

Random House *In To Be a Gay Man*, Will Young speaks out about gay shame, revealing the impact it had on his own life, how he learned to deal with it, and how he can now truthfully say he is gay and happy. We know Will as a multi-platinum recording artist, Olivier-nominee, and the first winner of the *Idol* franchise. But his story began long before his first audition. Looking back on a world where growing up being called gay was the ultimate insult and coming out after a lifetime of hiding his sexuality, Will explores the long-lasting impact repressing his true self has had. As Will's own story demonstrates, internalised shame in childhood increases the risk of developing low self-worth, and even self-disgust, leading to destructive behaviours in adult life. Will revisits the darkest extremes he has been to, sharing his vulnerabilities, his regrets, tracing his own navigation through it all and showing the way for others who might have felt alone in the same experience. Here you will find a friend, champion and mentor, breaking taboos with frank honesty, and offering invaluable practical advice on overcoming the difficult issues too often faced within the LGBTQ+ community.

SIZE MATTERS NOT

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE & CAREER OF WARWICK DAVIS

Aurum Published to coincide with his highly anticipated new sitcom - a mockumentary follow-up to *Extras* from the pens of Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant - *Size Matters Not* is the surprising and hilarious story of the world's biggest little actor. When Nana Davis heard an advert on the radio seeking small people for the third *Star Wars* movie little did she know it was a moment that would transform her tiny grandson's life. Aged only eleven and just two-feet-eleven inches in height, Warwick went on to make his screen debut as *Wicket the Ewok* in 1983's box-office smash *Return of the Jedi*. It was the beginning of a career that would see him star in some of the biggest films of the last thirty years. Still just three-foot-six, Warwick owes his success to a boundless optimism. His one-in-a-million genetic

condition may have opened doors through which other actors couldn't fit, but it has also led to trials and tragedy – from the seemingly mundane challenge of supermarket shopping, to the sometimes heartbreaking story of his struggle to start a family. By turns funny and moving, *Size Matters Not* is a big story from a big man, who just happens to be very, very short.

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

A SORTABIOGRAPHY

Crown Archetype *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* • From the ingenious comic performer, founding member of Monty Python, and creator of Spamalot, comes an absurdly funny memoir of unparalleled wit and heartfelt candor. We know him best for his unforgettable roles on Monty Python—from the Flying Circus to *The Meaning of Life*. Now, Eric Idle reflects on the meaning of his own life in this entertaining memoir that takes us on a remarkable journey from his childhood in an austere boarding school through his successful career in comedy, television, theater, and film. Coming of age as a writer and comedian during the Sixties and Seventies, Eric stumbled into the crossroads of the cultural revolution and found himself rubbing shoulders with the likes of George Harrison, David Bowie, and Robin Williams, all of whom became dear lifelong friends. With anecdotes sprinkled throughout involving other close friends and luminaries such as Mike Nichols, Mick Jagger, Steve Martin, Paul Simon, Lorne Michaels, and many more, as well as John Cleese and the Pythons themselves, Eric captures a time of tremendous creative output with equal parts hilarity and heart. In *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*, named for the song he wrote for *Life of Brian* and which has since become the number one song played at funerals in the UK, he shares the highlights of his life and career with the kind of offbeat humor that has delighted audiences for five decades. The year 2019 marks the fiftieth anniversary of *The Pythons*, and Eric is marking the occasion with this hilarious memoir chock full of behind-the-scenes stories from a high-flying life featuring everyone from Princess Leia to Queen Elizabeth.

SPECIAL DELUXE

A MEMOIR OF LIFE & CARS

Penguin The perfect gift for music and car lovers, *Special Deluxe* is Neil Young's New York Times bestselling follow-up to *Waging Heavy Peace* that “reads like a great Neil Young song plays.” (*The Buffalo News*) In this acclaimed new memoir, New York Times bestselling author Neil Young has fashioned another extraordinary work of reminiscences told through the lens of one of his deepest passions: cars. A lifelong devotee and collector, Young explores his love for the well-crafted vintage automobile and examines his newfound awareness of his hobby's negative environmental impact. Witty, eclectic, candid, and filled with Young's original artwork, *Special Deluxe* will appeal to car lovers as well as the legions devoted to one of the most genuine and enigmatic artists of our time.

MIKE NICHOLS

A LIFE

Penguin *A National Book Critics Circle finalist • One of People's top 10 books of 2021 • An instant New York Times bestseller • Named a best book of the year by NPR and Time* A magnificent biography of one of the most protean creative forces in American entertainment history, a life of dazzling highs and vertiginous plunges—some of the worst largely unknown until now—by the acclaimed author of *Pictures at a Revolution* and *Five Came Back* Mike Nichols burst onto the scene as a wunderkind: while still in his twenties, he was half of a hit improv duo with Elaine May that was the talk of the country. Next he directed four consecutive hit plays, won back-to-back Tonys, ushered in a new era of Hollywood moviemaking with *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and followed it with *The Graduate*, which won him an Oscar and became the third-highest-grossing movie ever. At thirty-five, he lived in a three-story Central Park West penthouse, drove a Rolls-Royce, collected Arabian horses, and counted Jacqueline Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, Leonard Bernstein, and Richard Avedon as friends. Where he arrived is even more astonishing given where he had begun: born Igor Peschkowsky to a Jewish couple in Berlin in 1931, he was sent along with his younger brother to America on a ship in 1939. The young immigrant boy caught very few breaks. He was bullied and ostracized--an allergic reaction had rendered him permanently hairless--and his father died when he was just twelve, leaving his mother alone and overwhelmed. The gulf between these two sets of facts explains a great deal about Nichols's transformation from lonely outsider to the center of more than one cultural universe--the acute powers of observation that first made him famous; the nourishment he drew from his creative partnerships, most enduringly with May; his unquenchable drive; his hunger for security and status; and the depressions and self-medications that brought him to terrible lows. It would take decades for him to come to grips with his demons. In an incomparable portrait that follows Nichols from Berlin to New York to Chicago to Hollywood, Mark Harris explores, with brilliantly vivid detail and insight, the life, work, struggle, and passion of an artist and man in constant motion. Among the 250 people Harris interviewed: Elaine May, Meryl Streep, Stephen Sondheim, Robert Redford, Glenn Close, Tom Hanks, Candice Bergen, Emma Thompson, Annette Bening, Natalie Portman, Julia Roberts, Lorne Michaels, and Gloria Steinem. Mark Harris gives an intimate and evenhanded accounting of success and failure alike; the portrait is not always flattering, but its ultimate impact is to present the full story of one of the most richly interesting, complicated, and consequential figures the worlds of theater and motion pictures have ever seen. It is a triumph of the biographer's art.

THAT'S YOUR LOT

HarperCollins *This is Limmy's second book. It's a whole load of new, odd, and hilariously grim short stories.*

AN ACCIDENTAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Houghton Mifflin *In a provocative memoir of her life, work, the lessons she has*

learned, and the woman she has become, the author shares a collection of memories in such chapters as "Men and Gods," "Loot and lists and lust (and things)," and "Breathing lessons"

ROOM TO DREAM

Random House *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* • An unprecedented look into the personal and creative life of the visionary auteur David Lynch, through his own words and those of his closest colleagues, friends, and family "Insightful . . . an impressively industrious and comprehensive account of Lynch's career."—*The New York Times Book Review* In this unique hybrid of biography and memoir, David Lynch opens up for the first time about a life lived in pursuit of his singular vision, and the many heartaches and struggles he's faced to bring his unorthodox projects to fruition. Lynch's lyrical, intimate, and unfiltered personal reflections riff off biographical sections written by close collaborator Kristine McKenna and based on more than one hundred new interviews with surprisingly candid ex-wives, family members, actors, agents, musicians, and colleagues in various fields who all have their own takes on what happened. *Room to Dream* is a landmark book that offers a onetime all-access pass into the life and mind of one of our most enigmatic and utterly original living artists. With insights into . . . *Eraserhead* *The Elephant Man* *Dune* *Blue Velvet* *Wild at Heart* *Twin Peaks* *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me* *Lost Highway* *The Straight Story* *Mulholland Drive* *INLAND EMPIRE* *Twin Peaks: The Return* Praise for *Room to Dream* "A memorable portrait of one of cinema's great auteurs . . . provides a remarkable insight into [David] Lynch's intense commitment to the 'art life.'"—*The Guardian* "This is the best book by and about a movie director since Elia Kazan's *A Life* (1988) and Michael Powell's *A Life in Movies* (1986). But *Room to Dream* is more enchanting or appealing than those classics. . . . What makes this book endearing is its chatty, calm account of how genius in America can be a matter-of-fact defiance of reality that won't alarm your dog or save mankind. It's the only way to dream in so disturbed a country."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"SURELY YOU'RE JOKING, MR. FEYNMAN!": ADVENTURES OF A CURIOUS CHARACTER

W. W. Norton & Company One of the most famous science books of our time, the phenomenal national bestseller that "buzzes with energy, anecdote and life. It almost makes you want to become a physicist" (*Science Digest*). Richard P. Feynman, winner of the Nobel Prize in physics, thrived on outrageous adventures. In this lively work that "can shatter the stereotype of the stuffy scientist" (*Detroit Free Press*), Feynman recounts his experiences trading ideas on atomic physics with Einstein and cracking the uncrackable safes guarding the most deeply held nuclear secrets—and much more of an eyebrow-raising nature. In his stories, Feynman's life shines through in all its eccentric glory—a combustible mixture of high intelligence, unlimited curiosity, and raging chutzpah. Included for this edition is a new introduction by Bill Gates.

SHOW THEM A GOOD TIME

Bloomsbury Publishing USA *"Show Them a Good Time is a master class in the short story-bold, irreverent and agonizingly funny."* Sally Rooney, Author of *Normal People* and *Conversations with Friends* Named A Most Anticipated Novel of 2020 by *Entertainment Weekly* * *Marie Claire* * *Wall Street Journal* * *The A.V. Club* * *The Millions* * *Time* * *Parade* * *The Chicago Review of Books* * *LitHub* A blisteringly original and wickedly funny collection of stories about the strange worlds that women inhabit and the parts that they must play. A sense of otherworldly menace is at work in the fiction of Nicole Flattery, but the threats are all too familiar. *SHOW THEM A GOOD TIME* tells the stories of women slotted away into restrictive roles: the celebrity's girlfriend, the widower's second wife, the lecherous professor's student, the corporate employee. And yet, the genius of Flattery's characters is to blithely demolish the boundaries of these limited and limiting social types with immense complexity and caustic intelligence. Nicole Flattery's women are too ferociously mordant, too painfully funny to remain in their places. In this fiercely original and blazingly brilliant debut, Flattery likewise deconstructs the conventions of genre to serve up strange realities: In *Not the End Yet*, Flattery probes the hilarious and wrenching ambivalence of Internet dating as the apocalypse nears; in *Sweet Talk*, the mysterious disappearance of a number of local women sets the scene for a young girl to confront the dangerous uncertainties of her own sexuality; in this collection's center piece, *Abortion, A Love Story*, two college students in a dystopian campus reconfigure the perilous stories of their bodies in a fraught academic culture to offer a subversive, alarming, and wickedly funny play that takes over their own offstage lives. And yet, however surreal or richly imagined the setting, Flattery always shows us these strange worlds from startlingly unexpected angles, through an unforgettable cast of brutally honest, darkly hilarious women and girls. Like the stories of *Mary Gaitskill*, *Miranda July*, *Lorrie Moore*, *Joy Williams*, and *Ottessa Moshfegh*, *SHOW THEM A GOOD TIME* is the work of a profoundly resonant and revelatory literary voice – at once spiky, humane, achingly hilarious-- that is sure to echo through the literary culture for decades to come.

MAKER OF PATTERNS: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY THROUGH LETTERS

Liveright Publishing A lifetime of candid reflections from physicist Freeman Dyson, "an acute observer of personality and human foibles" (*New York Times Book Review*). Written between 1940 and the late 1970s, the postwar recollections of renowned physicist Freeman Dyson have been celebrated as an historic portrait of modern science and its greatest players, including Robert Oppenheimer, Richard Feynman, Stephen Hawking, and Hans Bethe. Chronicling the stories of those who were engaged in solving some of the most challenging quandaries of twentieth-century physics, Dyson lends acute insight and profound observations to a life's work spent chasing what Einstein called those "deep mysteries that Nature intends to keep for herself." Whether reflecting on the drama of World War II, the moral dilemmas of nuclear development, the challenges of the space program, or the demands of raising six children, Dyson's annotated letters reveal the voice of one "more creative than almost anyone else of his generation" (Kip Thorne). An

illuminating work in these trying times, *Maker of Patterns* is an eyewitness account of the scientific discoveries that define our modern age.

INFINITE TUESDAY

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RIFF

Crown Archetype *Michael Nesmith's eclectic, electric life spans his star-making role on The Monkees, his invention of the music video, and his critical contributions to movies, comedy, and the world of virtual reality. Above all, his is a seeker's story, a pilgrimage in search of a set of principles to live by. That search took Nesmith from a childhood in Dallas, where his single mother Bette invented Liquid Paper, to the set of The Monkees in Los Angeles; to the heart of swinging London with John Lennon and Jimi Hendrix; and to an unexpected oasis of brilliance in the Santa Fe desert, where his friendships with Douglas Adams and Los Alamos scientists would point him toward the power of the infinite and the endless possibilities of human connection. This funny, thoughtful, self-aware book is a window onto an unexpected life, inflected at every turn by the surprising candor and absurdist humor of an American original. Opening Infinite Tuesday is like stepping into the world of Michael Nesmith, where something curious is always unfolding, and where riffs on everything from bands to dogs to the nature of reality make for an endlessly engaging journey.*

SARAH

THE LIFE OF SARAH BERNHARDT

Yale University Press *Everything about Sarah Bernhardt is fascinating, from her obscure birth to her glorious career--redefining the very nature of her art--to her amazing (and highly public) romantic life, to her indomitable spirit. Well into her seventies, after the amputation of her leg, she was performing under bombardment for soldiers during World War I and toured America for the ninth time. Though the Bernhardt literature is vast, this is the first English-language biography to appear in decades, tracking the trajectory through which an illegitimate--and scandalous--daughter of a Jewish courtesan transformed herself into the most famous actress who ever lived, and into a national icon, a symbol of France.--From publisher description.*

ACT ONE

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

St. Martin's Griffin *The Dramatic Story that Capitvated a Generation With this new edition, the classic best-selling autobiography by the late playwright Moss Hart returns to print in the thirtieth anniversary of its original publication. Issued in tandem with Kitty, the revealing autobiography of his wife, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Act One, is a landmark memoir that influenced a generation of theatergoers, dramatists, and general book readers everywhere. The book eloquently chronicles Moss Hart's impoverished childhood in the Bronx and Brooklyn and his long, determined struggle to his first theatrical Broadway success, Once in a Lifetime. One of the most*

celebrated American theater books of the twentieth century and a glorious memorial to a bygone age, *Act One* is filled with all the wonder, drama, and heartbreak that surrounded Broadway in the 1920s and the years before World War II.

CAN YOU FEEL THE SILENCE

VAN MORRISON: A NEW BIOGRAPHY

Van Morrison is an enigma. The legendary rock star who wrote and recorded such influential albums as Astral Weeks and Moondance and has mesmerised millions live is also a reclusive and troubled man who'll do anything to avoid publicity. Through interviews with friends, through the music itself and through painstaking research, Clinton Heylin reveals for the first time the tensions in Morrison's life. From a Belfast childhood and marriage break up to the recording of classic songs and albums, this is Van Morrison laid bare.

DEVIL IN THE DETAILS

SCENES FROM AN OBSESSIVE GIRLHOOD

Back Bay Books *Jennifer Traig's memoir Devil in the Details paints a portrait of a well-meaning Jewish girl and her good-natured parents, and takes a very funny, very sharp look back at growing up with obsessive-compulsive disorder. Recalling the agony of growing up an obsessive-compulsive religious fanatic, Traig fearlessly confesses the most peculiar behavior like tirelessly scrubbing her hands for a full half hour before dinner, feeding her stuffed animals before herself, and washing everything she owned because she thought it was contaminated by pork fumes. Jennifer's childhood mania was the result of her then undiagnosed OCD joining forces with her Hebrew studies-what psychiatrists call scrupulosity. While preparing for her bat mitzvah, she was introduced to an entire set of arcane laws and quickly made it her mission to follow them perfectly. Her parents nipped her religious obsession in the bud early on, but as her teen years went by, her natural tendency toward the extreme led her down different paths of adolescent agony and mortification. Years later, Jennifer remembers these scenes with candor and humor. In the bestselling tradition of *Running with Scissors* and *A Girl Named Zippy*, Jennifer Traig tells an unforgettable story of youthful obsession.*

THANKS A LOT MR KIBBLEWHITE

MY STORY

Henry Holt and Company *The frontman of one of the greatest bands of all time tells the story of his rise from nothing to rock 'n' roll megastar, and his wild journey as the voice of The Who. "It's taken me three years to unpack the events of my life, to remember who did what when and why, to separate the myths from the reality, to unravel what really happened at the Holiday Inn on Keith Moon's 21st birthday," says Roger Daltrey, the powerhouse vocalist of The Who. The result of this introspection is a remarkable memoir, instantly captivating, funny and frank, chock-full of well-earned wisdom and one-of-a-kind anecdotes from a raucous life that*

spans a tumultuous time of change in Britain and America. Born during the air bombing of London in 1944, Daltrey fought his way (literally) through school and poverty and began to assemble the band that would become The Who while working at a sheet metal factory in 1961. In Daltrey's voice, the familiar stories—how they got into smashing up their kit, the infighting, Keith Moon's antics—take on a new, intimate life. Also here is the creative journey through the unforgettable hits including *My Generation*, *Substitute*, *Pinball Wizard*, and the great albums, *Who's Next*, *Tommy*, and *Quadrophenia*. Amidst all the music and mayhem, the drugs, the premature deaths, the ruined hotel rooms, Roger is our perfect narrator, remaining sober (relatively) and observant and determined to make *The Who* bigger and bigger. Not only his personal story, this is the definitive biography of *The Who*.

IS IT JUST ME?

THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

Hodder & Stoughton A Sunday Times Number One Bestseller Miranda Hart will carry you along with the sheer force of her charm, bumbling cheer and charisma. - Sunday Express Well hello to you dear browser. Now I have your attention it would be rude if I didn't tell you a little about my literary feast. So, here is the thing: is it just me or does anyone else find that adulthood offers no refuge from the unexpected horrors, peculiar lack of physical coordination and sometimes unexplained nudity, that accompanied childhood and adolescence? Does everybody struggle with the hazards that accompany, say, sitting elegantly on a bar stool; using chopsticks; pretending to understand the bank crisis; pedicures - surely it's plain wrong for a stranger to fondle your feet? Or is it just me? I am proud to say I have a wealth of awkward experiences - from school days to life as an office temp - and here I offer my 18-year-old self (and I hope you too dear reader) some much needed caution and guidance on how to navigate life's rocky path. Because frankly where is the manual? The much needed manual to life. Well, fret not, for this is my attempt at one and let's call it, because it's fun, a *Miran-ual*. I thank you.

ACTING MY LIFE

Corgi Over the last fifty years Ian Holm has become one of the most respected actors of his generation. From his brilliant début with the RSC in the 1960s, he has gone on to work with Harold Pinter and appeared in such cult and popular films as *Alien*, *Chariots of Fire*, *The Fifth Element* and *Lord of the Rings*. His varied career spans stage, screen, television and radio. Now he has written his autobiography. It is a compelling, personal story that takes in over half a century of acting, but also his colourful personal life - growing up next to the mental asylum run by his father, the women in his life, his on-stage breakdown (which led to a prolonged absence from the stage), and his battle with cancer. *Acting My Life* is both honest and touching. His one lifelong commitment has been to his acting, and that same intensity is now brought to his writing.

SICK IN THE HEAD

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE AND COMEDY

Random House *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE A.V. CLUB • Includes new interviews!* From the writer and director of *Knocked Up* and the producer of *Freaks and Geeks* comes a collection of intimate, hilarious conversations with the biggest names in comedy from the past thirty years—including Mel Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Jon Stewart, Sarah Silverman, Harold Ramis, Seth Rogen, Chris Rock, and Lena Dunham. Before becoming one of the most successful filmmakers in Hollywood, Judd Apatow was the original comedy nerd. At fifteen, he took a job washing dishes in a local comedy club—just so he could watch endless stand-up for free. At sixteen, he was hosting a show for his local high school radio station in Syosset, Long Island—a show that consisted of Q&As with his comedy heroes, from Garry Shandling to Jerry Seinfeld. They talked about their careers, the science of a good joke, and their dreams of future glory (turns out, Shandling was interested in having his own TV show one day and Steve Allen had already invented everything). Thirty years later, Apatow is still that same comedy nerd—and he’s still interviewing funny people about why they do what they do. *Sick in the Head* gathers Apatow’s most memorable and revealing conversations into one hilarious, wide-ranging, and incredibly candid collection that spans not only his career but his entire adult life. Here are the comedy legends who inspired and shaped him, from Mel Brooks to Steve Martin. Here are the contemporaries he grew up with in Hollywood, from Spike Jonze to Sarah Silverman. And here, finally, are the brightest stars in comedy today, many of whom Apatow has been fortunate to work with, from Seth Rogen to Amy Schumer. And along the way, something kind of magical happens: What started as a lifetime’s worth of conversations about comedy becomes something else entirely. It becomes an exploration of creativity, ambition, neediness, generosity, spirituality, and the joy that comes from making people laugh. Loaded with the kind of back-of-the-club stories that comics tell one another when no one else is watching, this fascinating, personal (and borderline-obsessive) book is Judd Apatow’s gift to comedy nerds everywhere. Praise for *Sick in the Head* “I can’t stop reading it. . . . I don’t want this book to end.”—Jimmy Fallon “An essential for any comedy geek.”—*Entertainment Weekly* “Fascinating . . . a collection of interviews with many of the great figures of comedy in the latter half of the twentieth century.”—*The Washington Post* “Open this book anywhere, and you’re bound to find some interesting nugget from someone who has had you in stitches many, many times.”—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* “An amazing read, full of insights and connections both creative and interpersonal.”—*The New Yorker* “Fascinating and revelatory.”—*Chicago Tribune* “Anyone even remotely interested in comedy or humanity should own this book.”—Will Ferrell

DAFT WEE STORIES

Random House *DAFT WEE STORIES* is Limmy’s first book. It is a collection of stories. There are short stories. There are longer stories. There are stupid stories. There are thoughtful stories. There are upside-down stories. There are normal-way-

up stories. There are weird stories. There are less weird stories. There are really weird stories. There is nothing else like it. Have a read.

CAMP DAVID

Penguin UK *Britain's Got Talent is BACK . . . so it's time to get serious with Britain's favourite funny man. Famous comedian and actor, funniest judge on Britain's Got Talent, high-achieving sportsman and BESTSELLING AUTHOR of The World's Worst Children series, David Walliams is a man of many talents . . . Launched to fame with the record-breaking Little Britain, his characters - Lou, Florence, Emily, amongst others - became embedded in our shared popular culture. You couldn't enter a playground for a long while without hearing "eh, eh, eh" or "computer says no". And Walliams is a mystery. Often described as a bundle of contradictions, he is disarming and enigmatic, playing up his campness one minute and hinting about his depression the next. To read Camp David is to be truly shocked, as well as tickled pink: David Walliams bares his soul like never before and reveals a fascinating and complex mind. This searingly honest autobiography is a true roller-coaster ride of emotions, as this nation's sweetheart unlocks closely guarded secrets that until now have remained hidden in his past. 'Will surprise, entertain, and allow fans and newcomers to enter the comic's uniquely brilliant world' GQ Magazine 'Raucously funny and superbly written' Heat 'Hilarious' Telegraph 'A great read. My only criticism is it ended too soon' The Sun 'A fascinating read' Star Magazine 'Brilliantly written' Express 'Fascinating stuff' Closer 'Uproariously great' Guardian*

HELLO, GORGEOUS

BECOMING BARBRA STREISAND

HMH *"Masterful . . . Many books have been written about Streisand but few, if any, put readers as close to the subject as Mann does" (Miami Herald). A legendary singer, songwriter, actress, and filmmaker with multiple Academy, Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and even two Peabody awards to her name, Barbara Streisand is a talent like no other. In Hello, Gorgeous, celebrity biographer William J. Mann profiles the Brooklyn-born talent, focusing on her early years, honing her persona at Greenwich Village nightclubs like the Blue Angel and the Bon Soir. Streisand lost her father at an early age and had a rocky relationship with her mother, but her natural abilities and supernatural chutzpah soon earned her the role of a lifetime: a starring role as Fanny Brice in the Broadway musical, Funny Girl. In lush detail, Mann chronicles Streisand's dizzying ascent from an unknown dreamer into one of the world's most beloved superstars. "Mann's meticulous research and insightful analysis go deeper than any previous biography: shedding light on the formative years that shaped Streisand's persona, debunking some myths . . . and providing a cultural snapshot of the wild and free-spirited era in which Streisand blossomed." —USA Today*

MY PARENTS: AN INTRODUCTION / THIS DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU

MCD *Two books in one in a flip dos-à-dos format: The story of Aleksandar Hemon's parents' immigration from Sarajevo to Canada and a book of short memories of the*

author's family, friends, and childhood in Sarajevo In *My Parents*, Aleksandar Hemon tells the story of his parents' immigration to Canada—of the lives that were upended by the war in Bosnia and siege of Sarajevo and the new lives his parents were forced to build. As ever with his work, he portrays both the perfect, intimate details (his mother's lonely upbringing, his father's fanatical beekeeping) and a sweeping, heartbreaking history of his native country. It is a story full of many Hemons, of course—his parents, sister, uncles, cousins—and also of German occupying forces, Yugoslav partisans, royalist Serb collaborators, singing Ukrainians, and a few befuddled Canadians. *My Parents* is Hemon at his very best, grounded in stories lovingly polished by retelling, but making them exhilarating and fresh in writing, summoning unexpected laughs in the midst of the heartbreaking narratives. *This Does Not Belong to You*, meanwhile, is the exhilarating, freewheeling, unabashedly personal companion to *My Parents*—a perfect dose of Hemon at his most dazzling and untempered in a series of beautifully distilled memories and observations and explosive, hilarious, poignant miniatures. Presented dos-à-dos with *My Parents*, it complements and completes a major work from a major writer. In the words of Colum McCann, "Aleksandar Hemon is, quite frankly, the greatest writer of our generation." Hemon has never been better than here in these pages. And the moment has never been more ready for his voice, nor has the world ever been more in need of it.

SOUNDS LIKE TITANIC: A MEMOIR

W. W. Norton & Company A young woman leaves Appalachia for life as a classical musician—or so she thinks. When aspiring violinist Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman lands a job with a professional ensemble in New York City, she imagines she has achieved her lifelong dream. But the ensemble proves to be a sham. When the group "performs," the microphones are never on. Instead, the music blares from a CD. The mastermind behind this scheme is a peculiar and mysterious figure known as The Composer, who is gaslighting his audiences with music that sounds suspiciously like the *Titanic* movie soundtrack. On tour with his chaotic ensemble, Hindman spirals into crises of identity and disillusionment as she "plays" for audiences genuinely moved by the performance, unable to differentiate real from fake. *Sounds Like Titanic* is a surreal, often hilarious coming-of-age story. Hindman writes with precise, candid prose and sharp insight into ambition and gender, especially when it comes to the difficulties young women face in a world that views them as silly, shallow, and stupid. As the story swells to a crescendo, it gives voice to the anxieties and illusions of a generation of women, and reveals the failed promises of a nation that takes comfort in false realities.

CREATIVE WRITING

A WORKBOOK WITH READINGS

Routledge *Creative Writing* is a complete writing course that will jump-start your writing and guide you through your first steps towards publication. Suitable for use by students, tutors, writers' groups or writers working alone, this book offers: a

practical and inspiring section on the creative process, showing you how to stimulate your creativity and use your memory and experience in inventive ways in-depth coverage of the most popular forms of writing, in extended sections on fiction, poetry and life writing, including biography and autobiography, giving you practice in all three forms so that you might discover and develop your particular strengths a sensible, up-to-date guide to going public, to help you to edit your work to a professional standard and to identify and approach suitable publishers a distinctive collection of exciting exercises, spread throughout the workbook to spark your imagination and increase your technical flexibility and control a substantial array of illuminating readings, bringing together extracts from contemporary and classic writings in order to demonstrate a range of techniques that you can use or adapt in your own work. Creative Writing: A Workbook with Readings presents a unique opportunity to benefit from the advice and experience of a team of published authors who have also taught successful writing courses at a wide range of institutions, helping large numbers of new writers to develop their talents as well as their abilities to evaluate and polish their work to professional standards. These institutions include Lancaster University and the University of East Anglia, renowned as consistent producers of published writers.

LIFE AND LAUGHING

MY STORY

Penguin UK Discover Michael McIntyre's hilarious life-story in *Life and Laughing*. Michael McIntyre is Britain's biggest comedy star. He has released two record-breaking DVDs, *Live and Laughing* and *Hello Wembley*; hosts his own BAFTA-nominated BBC1 series, *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow*; and has picked up British Comedy Awards for Best Live Stand-Up and Best Male TV Comic. Last year he became the youngest ever host of the Royal Variety Performance, and now in 2011 he takes the hot seat as a judge in the hit ITV show *Britain's Got Talent*. How did he get there? Michael reveals all in his remarkably honest and hilarious autobiography. His showbiz roots, his appalling attempts to attract the opposite sex, his fish-out-of-water move from public to state school and his astonishing journey from selling just one ticket at the Edinburgh Festival to selling half a million tickets on his last tour. Michael McIntyre's *Life and Laughing* is riveting, poignant, romantic and above all very, very funny. Michael McIntyre was born in South London in 1976 to parents from the world of showbiz. His Hungarian mother was a dancer and his Canadian father co-wrote *The Kenny Everett Television Show*. Now he is a stand-up comedian who in 2009 sold out a record six nights at Wembley Arena and four nights at London's O2. Michael lives in North London with his wife Kitty and their sons Lucas and Oscar. This is his first book.

THE STRANGEST MAN

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF PAUL DIRAC, MYSTIC OF THE ATOM

Basic Books Paul Dirac was among the great scientific geniuses of the modern age. One of the discoverers of quantum mechanics, the most revolutionary theory of the

past century, his contributions had a unique insight, eloquence, clarity, and mathematical power. His prediction of antimatter was one of the greatest triumphs in the history of physics. One of Einstein's most admired colleagues, Dirac was in 1933 the youngest theoretician ever to win the Nobel Prize in physics. Dirac's personality is legendary. He was an extraordinarily reserved loner, relentlessly literal-minded and appeared to have no empathy with most people. Yet he was a family man and was intensely loyal to his friends. His tastes in the arts ranged from Beethoven to Cher, from Rembrandt to Mickey Mouse. Based on previously undiscovered archives, *The Strangest Man* reveals the many facets of Dirac's brilliantly original mind. A compelling human story, *The Strangest Man* also depicts a spectacularly exciting era in scientific history.

BOYS IN THE TREES

A MEMOIR

Flatiron Books Carly Simon's New York Times bestselling memoir, *Boys in the Trees*, reveals her remarkable life, beginning with her storied childhood as the third daughter of Richard L. Simon, the co-founder of publishing giant Simon & Schuster, her musical debut as half of The Simon Sisters performing folk songs with her sister Lucy in Greenwich Village, to a meteoric solo career that would result in 13 top 40 hits, including the #1 song "You're So Vain." She was the first artist in history to win a Grammy Award, an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award, for her song "Let the River Run" from the movie *Working Girl*. The memoir recalls a childhood enriched by music and culture, but also one shrouded in secrets that would eventually tear her family apart. Simon brilliantly captures moments of creative inspiration, the sparks of songs, and the stories behind writing "Anticipation" and "We Have No Secrets" among many others. Romantic entanglements with some of the most famous men of the day fueled her confessional lyrics, as well as the unraveling of her storybook marriage to James Taylor.

I SAID YES TO EVERYTHING

A MEMOIR

Penguin "Lee Grant has lived her life and practiced her craft with reckless abandon, bravery, honesty, and ultimately brutal clarity."—Tony Award-winner Frank Langella Already a celebrated Broadway star and *Vogue* "It Girl," Lee Grant was just twenty-four when she was nominated for an Academy Award for *Detective Story*. A year later, her name landed on the Hollywood blacklist, destroying her career and her marriage. Grant spent twelve years fighting the Communist witch hunts and rebuilt her life on her own terms: first stop, a starring role on *Peyton Place*. Set amid the 1950s New York theater scene and the starstudded parties of 1970s Malibu, *I Said Yes to Everything* will delight film and theatre buffs as well as the beloved star's myriad fans.

TRYING TO FLOAT

COMING OF AGE IN THE CHELSEA HOTEL

Simon and Schuster *"New York's Chelsea Hotel may no longer be home to its most famous denizens--Andy Warhol, Leonard Cohen, Patti Smith, to name a few--but the eccentric spirit of the Chelsea is alive and well. Meet the family Rips: father Michael, a lawyer turned writer with a penchant for fine tailoring; mother Sheila, a former model and renowned artist who matches her welding outfits with couture; and daughter Nicolaia, a precocious high school junior at work on a record of her peculiar seventeen years. Nicolaia is a perpetual outsider who has struggled to find her place in public schools populated by cliquish girls and loudmouthed boys. But at the Chelsea, Nicolaia need not look far to find her tribe"--*