

## Ice 50th Anniversary Edition Penguin Classics

An Ice Cold Grave Picnic at Hanging Rock The Lamentations of Zeno Let Me Alone The Pregnant Widow The Shrinking of Treehorn The Autumn of the Ace Nottingham Eyes Small Giants The Left Hand of Darkness The Ice Palace Ice Parties The Making of the October Crisis To build a fire I Am Lazarus Sing a Song The Best of Richard Matheson Rise Up Ice A Charmed Circle Love Is Blind Who Are You? Oil on Water: A Novel Kooks and Degenerates on Ice The Art of Happiness Dissident Gardens Machines in the Head Book of Mutter The Ecstasy of Influence My Family and Other Animals The Parson Sleep Has His House Diary of a Drag Queen The Plains Asylum Piece and Other Stories Omensetter's Luck We Year of the Drought

### An Ice Cold Grave

How maverick companies have passed up the growth treadmill — and focused on greatness instead. It's an axiom of business that great companies grow their revenues and profits year after year. Yet quietly, under the radar, a small number of companies have rejected the pressure of endless growth to focus on more satisfying business goals. Goals like being great at what they do, creating a great place to work, providing great customer service, making great contributions to their communities, and finding great ways to lead their lives. In *Small Giants*, veteran journalist Bo Burlingham takes us deep inside fourteen remarkable companies that have chosen to march to their own drummer. They include Anchor Brewing, the original microbrewer; CitiStorage Inc., the premier independent records-storage business;

Clif Bar & Co., maker of organic energy bars and other nutrition foods; Righteous Babe Records, the record company founded by singer-songwriter Ani DiFranco; Union Square Hospitality Group, the company of restaurateur Danny Meyer; and Zingerman ' s Community of Businesses, including the world-famous Zingerman ' s Deli of Ann Arbor. Burlingham shows how the leaders of these small giants recognized the full range of choices they had about the type of company they could create. And he shows how we can all benefit by questioning the usual definitions of business success. In his new afterward, Burlingham reflects on the similarities and learning lessons from the small giants he covers in the book. From the Hardcover edition.

### Picnic at Hanging Rock

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY WILL SELF  
The citizens of the One State live in a condition of 'mathematically infallible happiness'. D-503 decides to keep a diary of his days working for the collective good in this clean, blue city state where nature, privacy and individual liberty have been eradicated. But over the course of his journal D-503 suddenly finds himself caught up in unthinkable and illegal activities - love and rebellion. Banned on its publication in Russia in 1921, Weis the first modern dystopian novel and a satire on state control that has once again become chillingly relevant.

### The Lamentations of Zeno

Heading for Doraville, North Carolina, to investigate the disappearance of a young boy, Harper

Connelly and her brother Tolliver are stunned to discover that he is one of several teens who had vanished over the previous five years, but when she uses her talent to communicate with the dead to find the missing boy, she discovers that her knowledge has placed her in the sights of a killer. 175,000 first printing.

### Let Me Alone

Short stories addressing the surreal realities of mental illness, from an incredible cult writer often compared to Kafka and Woolf. The tortured life of Anna Kavan brought her some reward in terms of great pieces of art. Her drug addiction bore fruit in the *Julia* and the *Bazooka* collection of stories; while this companion volume recalls her experience of the asylum—powerful, haunting works which can be harrowing but are full of sympathy too.

### The Pregnant Widow

A dazzling new collection—two novellas and four short stories from one of the most revered writers of our time, author of seven books of fiction, among them *The Tunnel* ( “ An extraordinary achievement ” —Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post*); *Middle C* ( “ Exhilaratingly ingenious ” —Cynthia Ozick, *The New York Times Book Review*, cover); and *Cartesian Sonata* ( “ The finest prose stylist in America ” —*The Washington Post*). It begins with “*In Camera*,” the first of the two novellas, and tells the story, which grows darker and dustier by the speck, of a Mr. Gab (who doesn ’ t

have the gift) and his photography shop (in a part of town so drab even robbers wouldn't visit), a shop stuffed with gray-white, gray-bleach photographs, each in its own cellophane sheet, loosely side-filed in cardboard boxes, tag attached . . . an inner sanctum where little happens beyond the fulsome, deep reverence for Mr. Gab's images and vast collection, a homemade museum in the midst of the outer maelstrom . . . until a Mr. Stu (as in u-stew-pid) enters the shop, inspecting the extraordinary collection, and Mr. Gab's treasure-filled, dust-laden, meticulously contained universe begins to implode . . . In the story "Don't Even Try, Sam," the upright piano from the 1942 Warner Bros. classic *Casablanca* is interviewed ("I know why you want to talk to me," the piano says. "It's because everybody else is dead. Stars go out. Directors die. Companies fold. But some of the props get preserved. I've seen my friend the Vichy water bottle in the storeroom as wrapped up as the Maltese Falcon. We'd fetch a price now") . . . In another story, "Charity," a young lawyer, whose business it is to keep hospital equipment honestly produced, offers a simple gift and is brought to the ambiguous heart of charity itself. In "Soliloquy for a Chair," a folding chair does just that—talks in a barbershop that is ultimately bombed . . . and in "The Toy Chest," Disneylike creatures take on human roles and concerns and live in an atmosphere of a child's imagination. An enchanting Gassian journey; a glorious fantasia; a virtuoso delight. From the Hardcover edition.

### The Shrinking of Treehorn

"To Build a Fire" is a short story by American author Jack London. There are two versions of this story, one published in 1902 and the other in 1908. The story written in 1908 has become an often anthologized classic, while the 1902 story is less well known. The 1908 version is about an unnamed

protagonist who ventures out in the subzero boreal forest of the Yukon Territory. He is followed by a native dog and is en route to visit his friends—ignoring warnings from an older man about the dangers of hiking alone in extreme cold. The protagonist underestimates the harsh conditions and slowly begins to freeze to death. After building one fire and leaving it to venture on in his journey he later on attempts to build another but fails. He slips into unconsciousness and dies of hypothermia Famous works of the author Jack London: "The Cruise of the Dazzler", "A Daughter of the Snows", "The Call of the Wild", "The Kempton-Wace Letters", "The Sea-Wolf", "The Game", "White Fang", "The Iron Heel", "Martin Eden", "Burning Daylight", "A Son of the Sun", "The Abysmal Brute", "The Valley of the Moon", "The Mutiny of the Elsinore", "The Star Rover", "The Little Lady of the Big House" and many more.

### The Autumn of the Ace

In 1900, a class of young women from an exclusive private school go on an excursion to the isolated Hanging Rock, deep in the Australian bush. The excursion ends in tragedy when four girls and a teacher mysteriously vanish after climbing the rock. Only one girl returns, with no memory of what has become of the others . . . Co-founded by Jane and Glenn McGrath, the McGrath Foundation raises money to place McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities right across Australia and to increase breast awareness in young women. The McGrath Foundation believes 150 of these specially trained nurses are needed to ensure that every family experiencing breast cancer has access to a breast care nurse, no matter where they live or their financial situation. McGrath Breast Care Nurses offer a unique service to families who can self-refer to this free support. Penguin is proud to donate \$1 from the original sale of each Pink Popular Penguin to help the McGrath Foundation realise their goal. To find out how you can

make a difference visit [www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au](http://www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au)

### Nottingham

A definitive, mind-changing history of the October Crisis and the events leading up to it, publishing in paperback for the 50th anniversary of the Crisis. The first bombs exploded in Montreal in the spring of 1963, and over the next seven years there were hundreds more bombings, many bank robberies, six murders and, in October 1970, the kidnappings of a British diplomat and a Quebec cabinet minister. The perpetrators were members of the Front de lib é ration du Qu é bec, dedicated to establishing a sovereign and socialist Quebec. Half a century on, we should have reached some clear understanding of what led to the October Crisis. Instead, too much attention has been paid to the Crisis and not enough to the years preceding it. Most of those who have written about the FLQ have been ardent nationalists, committed sovereigntists or former terrorists. They tell us that the authorities should have negotiated with the kidnapers and contend that Jean Drapeau's administration and the governments of Robert Bourassa and Pierre Trudeau created the October Crisis by invoking the War Measures Act. Using new research and interviews, D'Arcy Jenish tells the complete story--starting from the spring of 1963. This gripping narrative by a veteran journalist and master storyteller will change forever the way we view this dark chapter in Canadian history.

### Eyes

In this haunting and surreal novel, the narrator and a man known as "the warden" search for an elusive girl in a frozen, post-nuclear, apocalyptic landscape. The country has been invaded and is being governed by a secret organization. There is destruction everywhere: great walls of ice overrun the world in this hallucinatory quest-novel. Acclaimed by Brian Aldiss on its publication in 1967 as the best science fiction book of the year, this extraordinary and innovative novel has subsequently been recognized as a major work of literature in its own right.

### Small Giants

Nathan Makaryk's epic and daring debut rewrites the Robin Hood legend, giving voice to those history never mentioned and challenging who's really a hero and a villain. "The most pleasurable reading experience I've had since first discovering George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire*." — Bryan Cogman, Co-Executive Producer and Writer, *Game of Thrones*

King. No rules. England, 1191. King Richard is half a world away, fighting for God and his own ambition. Back home, his country languishes, bankrupt and on the verge of anarchy. People with power are running unchecked. People without are growing angry. And in Nottingham, one of the largest shires in England, the sheriff seems intent on doing nothing about it. As the leaves turn gold in the Sherwood Forest, the lives of six people—Arable, a servant girl with a secret, Robin and William, soldiers running from their pasts, Marion, a noblewoman working for change, Guy of Gisbourne, Nottingham's beleaguered guard captain, and Elena Gamwell, a brash, ambitious thief—become intertwined. And a strange story begins to spread . . .

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### The Left Hand of Darkness

"This book celebrates the 1969-70 Boston Bruins. While the country seethed from racial violence, war, and mass shootings, the "Big, Bad Bruins," led by the legendary Bobby Orr, brushed off their perennial losing ways to advance to the playoffs and defeat the St. Louis Blues in the Stanley Cup Finals for their first championship in 29 years"--

### The Ice Palace

A new edition of what is commonly seen as the legendary Norwegian writer's masterpiece, this story tells the tale of Siss and Unn, two friends who have only spent one evening in each other's company. But so profound is this evening between them that when Unn inexplicably disappears, Siss's world is shattered. Siss's struggle with her fidelity to the memory of her friend and Unn's fatal exploration of the strange, terrifyingly beautiful frozen waterfall that is the Ice Palace are described in prose of a lyrical economy that ranks among the most memorable achievements of modern literature.

### Ice

A debut novel set in a rural American town, where Brackett Omensetter arrives, with his wife, family, and all earthly belongings. It soon becomes apparent that he is someone out of the ordinary as he sets in motion a wave of violent emotions in the once tranquil community. A PENGUIN TWENTIETH-

## CENTURY CLASSIC.

### Parties

The definitive collection of terrifying stories by "one of the greatest writers of the 20th century" (Ray Bradbury), edited by award-winning author Victor LaValle Among the greats of 20th-century horror and fantasy, few names stand above Richard Matheson. Though known by many for novels like *I Am Legend* and his sixteen *Twilight Zone* episodes, Matheson truly shines in his chilling, masterful short stories. Since his first story appeared in 1950, virtually every major writer of science fiction, horror, and fantasy has fallen under his influence, including Stephen King, Neil Gaiman, Peter Straub, and Joe Hill, as well as filmmakers like Stephen Spielberg and J.J. Abrams. Matheson revolutionized horror by taking it out of Gothic castles and strange cosmos and setting it in the darkened streets and suburbs we recognize as our own. He infused tales of the fantastic and supernatural with dark explorations of human nature, delving deep into the universal dread of feeling alone and threatened in a dangerous world. *The Best of Richard Matheson* brings together his greatest hits as chosen by Victor LaValle, an expert on horror fiction and one of its brightest talents, marking the first major overview of Matheson's legendary career. "[Matheson is] the author who influenced me most as a writer." -Stephen King "Richard Matheson's ironic and iconic imagination created seminal science-fiction stories . . . For me, he is in the same category as Bradbury and Asimov." -Steven Spielberg "He was a giant, and YOU KNOW HIS STORIES, even if you think you don't." -Neil Gaiman For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres

and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

### The Making of the October Crisis

A dazzling and haunting vision of the end of the world, *Ice* is a masterpiece of literary science fiction now in a new 50th anniversary edition with a foreword by Jonathan Lethem "One might become convinced that Kavan had seen the future . . . A half century after its first appearance, Kavan ' s fever dream of a novel is beginning to seem all too real." -The New Yorker In a frozen, apocalyptic landscape, destruction abounds: great walls of ice overrun the world and secretive governments vie for control. Against this surreal, yet eerily familiar broken world, an unnamed narrator embarks on a hallucinatory quest for a strange and elusive " glass-girl " with silver hair. He crosses icy seas and frozen plains, searching ruined towns and ransacked rooms, all to free her from the grips of a tyrant known only as the warden and save her before the ice closes all around. A novel unlike any other, *Ice* is at once a dystopian adventure shattering the conventions of science fiction, a prescient warning of climate change and totalitarianism, a feminist exploration of violence and trauma, a Kafkaesque literary dreamscape, and a brilliant allegory for its author ' s struggles with addiction—all crystallized in prose glittering as the piling snow. Kavan ' s 1967 novel has built a reputation as an extraordinary and innovative work of literature, garnering acclaim from China Mi é ville, Patti Smith, J. G. Ballard, Ana ĩ s Nin, and Doris Lessing, among others. With echoes of dystopian classics like Ursula Le Guin ' s *The Lathe of Heaven*, Kurt Vonnegut ' s *Cat ' s Cradle*, and J. G. Ballard ' s *High Rise*, *Ice* is a necessary and unforgettable

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addition to the canon of science fiction classics. "One of the most mysterious of modern writers, Anna Kavan created a uniquely fascinating fictional world. Few contemporary novelists could match the intensity of her vision." —J.G. Ballard "There is nothing else like it." —Doris Lessing For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,800 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

### To build a fire

National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist A New York Times Notable Book A Best Book of the Year —Austin American-Statesman Includes a new, previously uncollected piece: "My Internet" In *The Ecstasy of Influence*, the incomparable Jonathan Lethem has compiled a career-spanning collection of occasional pieces—essays, memoir, liner notes, fiction, and criticism—which also doubles as a novelist's manifesto, self-portrait, and confession. The result is an insightful, charming, and entertaining grab bag that covers everything from great novels to old films to graffiti to cyberculture.

### I Am Lazarus

\*A 2018 BOOK OF THE YEAR\* 'An inspirational must-read.' Evening Standard 'A very

important book. ' Will Gompertz, BBC ' A motivational, inspirational oral history. ' Nikesh Shukla, iNews ' Don ' t sleep on it the future is looking #Merky. ' Metro \_\_\_\_\_ ' It ' s been a long time coming, I swear ' In four years Stormzy has risen from one of the most promising musicians of his generation to a spokesperson for a generation. Rise Up is the story of how he got there. It ' s a story about faith and the ideas worth fighting for. It ' s about knowing where you ' re from, and where you ' re going. It ' s about following your dreams without compromising who you are. Featuring never-before-seen photographs, lyrics and contributions from Team #Merky, Rise Up is the #Merky story, and the record of a journey unlike any other. \_\_\_\_\_ Edited and Co-written by Jude Yawson Contributions by Team #Merky Images by Kaylum Dennis

### Sing a Song

The Left Hand of Darkness tells the story of a lone human emissary's mission to Winter, an unknown alien world whose inhabitants can choose--and change--their gender. His goal is to facilitate Winter's inclusion in a growing intergalactic civilization. But to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own views and those of the completely dissimilar culture that he encounters. Exploring questions of psychology, society, and human emotion in an alien world, The Left Hand of Darkness stands as a landmark achievement in the annals of science fiction.

### The Best of Richard Matheson

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When he is hired as the personal piano tuner for a brilliant pianist, Brodie Moncur suddenly finds himself swept up into a life of luxury that he could never have imagined. But while accompanying his new employer on tours from Paris to St. Petersburg, Brodie falls madly in love with the Russian soprano Lika Blum: beautiful, worldly, seductive--and forbidden. Though seemingly doomed from the start, Brodie's passion for Lika only grows as their lives become increasingly more intertwined, more secretive, and, finally, more dangerous. A tale of dizzying passion and brutal revenge; of artistic endeavor and the illusions it can create; of the possibilities that life offers and the cruel speed with which they can be snatched away, *Love Is Blind* is a dazzling work of historical fiction that unfolds across fin de siècle Europe.

### Rise Up

The story of a family marooned in a country house near an ugly, expanding manufacturing town of the 1920s, while yearning for life in the capital. Anna Kavan masterfully contrasts the English countryside with the brittle London life of the era.

### Ice

A literary fiction about climate disaster and a scientist imploding on a journey to the Antarctic Zeno Hintermeier is a scientist working as a travel guide on an Antarctic cruise ship, encouraging the wealthy to marvel at the least explored continent and to open their eyes to its rapid degradation. It is a troubling

turn in the life of an idealistic glaciologist. Now in his early sixties, Zeno bewails the loss of his beloved glaciers, the disintegration of his marriage, and the foundering of his increasingly irrelevant career. Troubled in conscience and goaded by the smug complacency of the passengers in his charge, he starts to plan a desperate gesture that will send a wake-up call to an overheating world. *The Lamentations of Zeno* is an extraordinary evocation of the fragile and majestic wonders to be found at a far corner of the globe, written by a novelist who is a renowned travel writer. Poignant and playful, the novel recalls the experimentation of high-modernist fiction without compromising a limpid sense of place or the pace of its narrative. It is a portrait of a man in extremis, a haunting and at times irreverent tale that approaches the greatest challenge of our age—perhaps of our entire history as a species—from an impassioned human angle.

### A Charmed Circle

‘ I want to give a really bad party. I mean it. I want to give a party where there ’ s a brawl and seductions and people going home with their feelings hurt and women passed out in the cabinet de toilette. You wait and see. ’ The crackle of gin on ice, the low hum of gossip, the first chords of the band – whether you love or loathe parties, Fitzgerald writes them like no one else. From glittering occasions complete with an orchestra and dancing girls to a fist-fight at the end of a toddler ’ s birthday, this is a dazzling collection of party pieces from the master of celebration. Selected from *The Great Gatsby*, *Tender is the Night* and *Flappers and Philosophers* VINTAGE MINIS: GREAT MINDS. BIG IDEAS. LITTLE BOOKS. A series of short books by the world ’ s greatest writers on the experiences that make us human

### Love Is Blind

This haunting novel is a classic of Australian literature. A nameless young man arrives on the plains and begins to document the strange and rich culture of the plains families. As his story unfolds, the novel becomes, in the words of Murray Bail: a mirage of landscape, memory, love and literature itself.

### Who Are You?

Louis de Berni è res is the master of historical fiction which makes you both laugh and cry. This book follows an unforgettable family after the Second World War. Daniel Pitt was an RAF fighter in the First World War and an espionage agent for the SOE in the Second. Now the conflicts he faces are closer to home. Daniel's marriage has fractured beyond repair and Daniel's relationship with his son, Bertie, has been a failure since Bertie was a small boy. But after his brother Archie's death, Daniel is keen for new perspectives. He first travels to Peshawar to bury Archie in the place he loved best, and then finds himself in Canada, avoiding his family and friends back in England. But some bonds are hard to break. Daniel and Bertie's different experiences of war, although devastating, also bring with them the opportunity for the two to reconnect. If only they can find a way to move on from the past. Louis de Bernieres' new novel is a moving account of an extraordinary life in extraordinary times. Daniel is a flawed but captivating hero, and this coming-of-old-age story illuminates both the effect of two World Wars on a generation and the irrepressible spirit and love that can connect people despite great obstacles.

### Oil on Water: A Novel

An early work from Anna Kavan strongly evoking life in England and its colonies from the early years of the century through the period following the First World War. More straightforward than her more famous novels, *Let Me Alone* is nevertheless fascinating for its hint of the personal stresses that was to inform much of her uncompromising storylines.

### Kooks and Degenerates on Ice

Drawing on more than 2,500 years of Buddhist tradition and teaching, the spiritual leader demonstrates how to confront the negative emotions, stresses, and obstacles of everyday life in order to find the source of inner peace.

### The Art of Happiness

A classic later novel by Anna Kavan. A largely autobiographical account of an unhappy childhood, this daring synthesis of memoir and surrealist experimentation chronicles the subject's gradual withdrawal from the daylight world of received reality. Brief flashes of daily experience from childhood, adolescence, and youth are described in what is defined as "nighttime language"—a heightened, decorative prose that frees these events from their gloomy associations. The novel suggests we have all spoken this dialect in childhood and in our dreams, but these thoughts can only be sharpened or decoded by contemplation in

the dark. Revealing that side of life which is never seen by the waking eye but which dreams and drugs can suddenly emphasize, this startling discovery illustrates how these nighttime illuminations reveal the narrator's joy for the living world.

### Dissident Gardens

### Machines in the Head

A fragmented, lyrical essay on memory, identity, mourning, and the mother.

### Book of Mutter

A multigenerational saga focuses on two extraordinary women, including Rose, a tyrannical Communist who terrorizes her neighborhood with her absolute beliefs, and her daughter Miriam, who embraces the counterculture of Greenwich Village.

### The Ecstasy of Influence

"If you want to pretend you're shrinking, that's all right," said Treehorn's mother, "as long as you don't do it at the table." A small boy finds himself shrinking in this oddly offbeat, surreal, and funny story,

illustrated with Edward Gorey's signature pen and ink drawings. No one around seems to appreciate what Treehorn's going through--his parents are busy, his friends laugh at him, and he gets sent to the Principal's office for shrinking. Or was it shirking? Clearly, the adults in his life have no clue and can't help. In the end, Treehorn figures it out on his own, and all is well. At least until he turns green. A charming, imaginative classic that will appeal to any kid who feels they're not truly seen or heard by the grown-ups in their life. Works for adults, too. An ALA Notable Children's Book A New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Book of the Year

### My Family and Other Animals

Enter the strange and haunting world of Anna Kavan, author of mind-bending stories that blend science fiction and the author's own harrowing experiences with drug addiction, in this new collection of her best short stories. Anna Kavan is one of the great originals of twentieth-century fiction, comparable to Leonora Carrington and Jean Rhys, a writer whose stories explored the inner world of her imagination and plumbed the depths of her long addiction to heroin. This new selection of Kavan ' s stories gathers the best work from across the many decades of her career, including oblique and elegiac tales of breakdown and institutionalization from *Asylum Piece* (1940), moving evocations of wartime from *I Am Lazarus* (1945), fantastic and surrealist pieces from *A Bright Green Field* (1958), and stories of addiction from *Julia and the Bazooka* (1970). Kavan ' s turn to science fiction in her final novel, *Ice*, is reflected in her late stories, while " *Starting a Career*," about a mercenary dealer of state secrets, is published here for the first time. Kavan experimented throughout her writing career with results that are moving, funny, bizarre, poignant, often unsettling, always unique. *Machines in the Head* offers American readers

the first full overview of the work of a fearless and dazzling literary explorer.

### The Parson

Illustrations and easy-to-read text follow a family through five generations as each is inspired by the song written in 1900 to honor Abraham Lincoln. Includes author's note on the history of the song and its meaning in her family.

### Sleep Has His House

Gerald Durrell's *My Family and Other Animals* is a charming and comic autobiographical novel. Fleeing the gloomy British climate, the Durrell clan move to Corfu carrying the bare essentials of life—acne cures for Margo; revolvers for Leslie; books for Larry and a jam jar full of caterpillars for Gerry. Recounted with warmth and humour, it is a heart-warming portrait of an eccentric family surrounded by a wonderful cast of friends and fauna.

### Diary of a Drag Queen

The eagerly anticipated new novel from the inimitable Martin Amis. Summer 1970 — a long, hot summer. In a castle in Italy, half a dozen young lives are afloat on the sea of change, trapped inside the history of the sexual revolution. The girls are acting like boys, and the boys are going on acting like boys,

and Keith Nearing — twenty years old, a literature student all clogged up with the English novel — is struggling to twist feminism and the rise of women towards his own ends. The sexual revolution may have been a velvet revolution (in at least two senses), but it wasn't bloodless — and now, in the twenty-first century, the year 1970 finally catches up with Keith Nearing. *The Pregnant Widow* is a comedy of manners and a nightmare, brilliant, haunting and gloriously risqué. It is Martin Amis at his fearless best. From the Hardcover edition.

### The Plains

This collection of stories, mostly interlinked and largely autobiographical, chart the descent of the narrator from the onset of neurosis to final incarceration in a Swiss clinic. The sense of paranoia, of persecution by a foe or force that is never given a name, evokes "The Trial" by Kafka, a writer with whom Kavan is often compared, although her deeply personal, restrained, and almost foreign --accented style has no true model. The same characters who recur throughout--the protagonist's unhelpful 'adviser, ' the friend and lover who abandons her at the clinic, and an assortment of deluded companions--are sketched without a trace of the rage, self-pity, or sentiment that have marked more recent accounts of mental instability.

### Asylum Piece and Other Stories

“ This book changed my life. Tom Rasmussen ’ s honesty, vulnerability, and fearlessness jump out of

every page and every word. It is the queer bible I ' ve always needed. ” —Sam Smith, singer and songwriter In these pages, find glamour and gaffes on and off the stage, clarifying snippets of queer theory, terrifyingly selfish bosses, sex, quick sex, KFC binges, group sex, the kind of honesty that banishes shame, glimmers of hope, blazes of ambition, tender sex, mad dashes in last night's heels plus a full face of make-up, and a rom-com love story for the ages. This is where the unspeakable becomes the celebrated. This is the diary of a drag queen—one dazzling, hilarious, true performance of a real, flawed, extraordinary life. "I hope people like me will read this and feel seen and loved by it. I hope people who aren't like me will enjoy it, laugh with it, learn from it. And I hope people who don't like me will file lawsuits just so I can wear my brand-new leopard-print skirt suit and bust their asses in court." —Crystal Rasmussen, in *Refinery29*

### Omensetter's Luck

“ The new generation of twenty-first-century African writers have now come of age. Without a doubt Habila is one of the best. ” —Emmanuel Dongala In the oil-rich and environmentally devastated Nigerian Delta, the wife of a British oil executive has been kidnapped. Two journalists—a young upstart, Rufus, and a once-great, now disillusioned veteran, Zaq—are sent to find her. In a story rich with atmosphere and taut with suspense, *Oil on Water* explores the conflict between idealism and cynical disillusionment in a journey full of danger and unintended consequences. As Rufus and Zaq navigate polluted rivers flanked by exploded and dormant oil wells, in search of “ the white woman, ” they must contend with the brutality of both government soldiers and militants. Assailed by irresolvable versions of the “ truth ” about the woman ’ s disappearance, dependent on the kindness of strangers of

unknowable loyalties, their journalistic objectivity will prove unsustainable, but other values might yet salvage their human dignity.

### We

The Parson was not published in Anna Kavan ' s lifetime, but found after her death in manuscript form. Thought to have been written between the mid 50s and early 60s, it presages, through its undertones and imagery, some of Kavan ' s last and most enduring fiction (such as Ice). It was published finally, to wide acclaim, by Peter Owen in 1995. The Parson of the title is not a cleric, but an upright young army officer so nick-named for his apparent prudishness. On leave in his native homeland, he meets a rich and beguiling beauty, the woman of his dreams. The days that the Parson spends with Rejane, riding in and exploring the wild moorland have their own enchantment. But Rejane grows restless in this desolate land; doubtless in love with the Parson, she discourages any intimacy. Until that is, she persuades him to take her to a sinister castle situated on a treacherous headland. This is less a tale of unrequited love than exploration of divided selves, momentarily locked in an unequal embrace. Passion is revealed as a play of the senses as well as a destructive force. There have been valid comparisons to Poe, Kafka, and Thomas Hardy, but the presence of her trademark themes, cleverly juxtaposed and set in her risk-taking prose, mark The Parson as 100% Kavan.

### Year of the Drought

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Depicting the hopeless, emotional polarity of a young couple, this novel follows their doomed marriage spent in a remote, tropical hell. She—described only as "the girl"—is young, sophisticated and sensitive. He, "Mr. Dog-Head," is an unreconstructed thug and heavy drinker who rapes his wife, otherwise passing his time bludgeoning rats with a tennis racket. Together with a visiting stranger, "Suede Boots"—who urges the woman to escape until he is banished by her husband—these characters live through the same situations twice. Their identities are equally real—or unreal—in each case. With slight variation in the background and the novel's atmosphere, neither the outcome nor the characters themselves are quite the same the second time. The constant question of the jungle "brain-lever" bird remains unanswered: who are you?

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