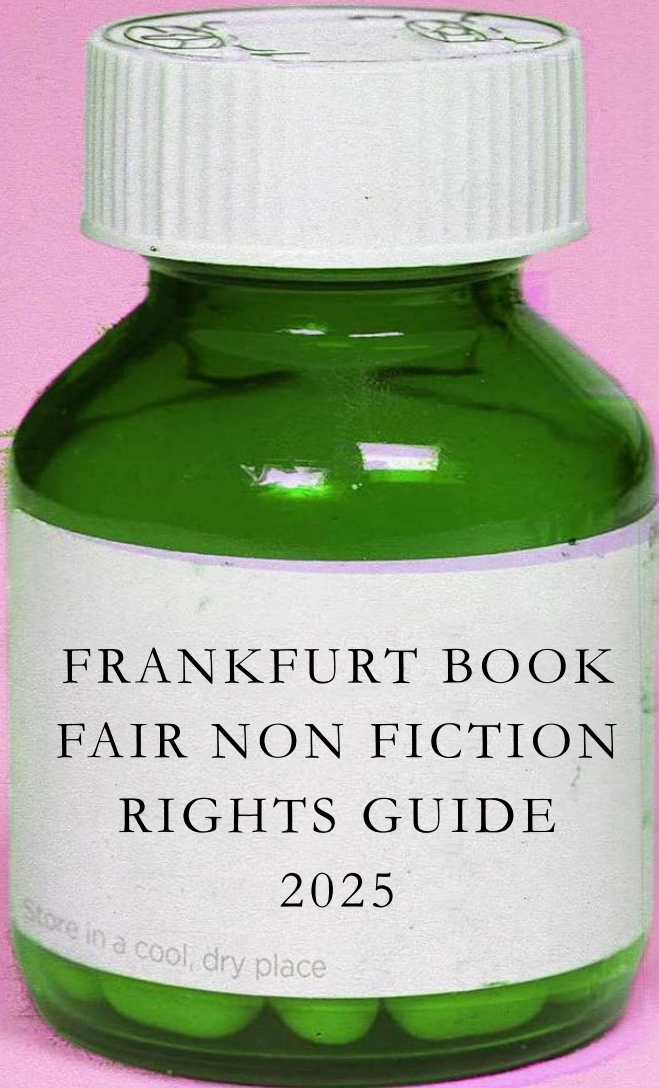


HARDMAN &



SWAINSON

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Cover image: Kokoro by Beth Kempton, published by Piatkus

BAD INFLUENCE

How the Internet Hijacked Our Health

by Deb Cohen

BAD INFLUENCE



DEBORAH COHEN

You used to see a doctor. Now you go online.

Want to track your blood sugar? Your heart rate? Your sleep? You can. Need to focus? Want to lose weight fast? Everything is a click away.

But who is regulating this?

As NHS waiting times grow ever longer and patients in the US are priced out of medical care altogether, influencers have filled the gap. From doctors promoting new therapies, to entrepreneurs selling solutions, these self-styled experts glow with good health and guarantee results.

But they are not familiar with our medical history. They don't owe us a duty of care. And they're rarely either qualified or impartial. So why do we trust them?



Deb Cohen is an award-winning print, radio and TV journalist. Medically qualified, and with a string of fearless and award-winning investigations to her name, she is widely recognised for evidence and insight into complex subjects for mass-market audience.

Deb was the Science Editor of ITV, and before that the UK and Health Correspondent for BBC Newsnight. She has specialised in complex investigations since establishing the investigations unit at *The BMJ*. Her acclaimed investigations for BBC Panorama, Channel 4 Dispatches, ITV Tonight and BBC's File on Four have brought about changes in medicine, healthcare and policy, and have recast discussion on troubled issues. Deb has also written longform for different audiences including the BBC, ITV, *The Telegraph*, *Unherd* and other general and specialist audiences.

UK Publisher: Oneworld

Editor: Cecilia Stein

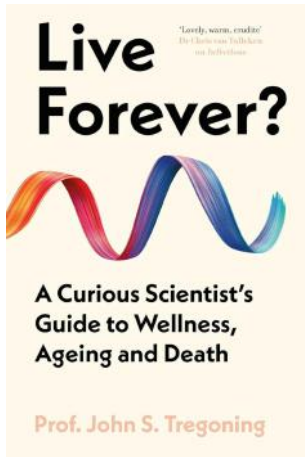
Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: January 2026

Material: Page proofs

LIVE FOREVER?

A Curious Scientist's Guide to Wellness, Ageing and Death by Prof. John S. Tregoning



An entertaining and good-humoured journey through the most common causes of death in the developed world.

Nature still wants you dead. Not just you, but your children and everyone you have ever met and everyone they have ever met. It wants you to cough and sneeze and poop yourself into an early grave. It wants your blood vessels to burst and pustules to explode all over your body. With the naivety of youth, we assume this is someone else's problem and we will in fact live forever.

Sadly, Nature does eventually win. And in spite of the vast steps forward in the prevention and treatment of infectious disease, which have basically doubled the average life expectancy from 40 to 80 years in the last century, we do have to die of something. There comes a point where each of us must seriously contemplate our own mortality. For the author, it was on the 1st of December 2022, just after he pulled out his first grey chest hair. Entering his 'late 40s' he turned to pondering how he might die and if there was anything that could be done about it.

Research scientist, Prof. John S. Tregoning takes us on an entertaining and good-humoured journey through the most common causes of death in the developed world and, using himself as the guinea pig, investigates what we can do to delay the grim reaper's inevitable visit.



Prof. John S. Tregoning MA, PhD is reader in respiratory infections at Imperial College London. His research focuses on how virus and bacteria infect our lungs. He has published over 60 academic papers and remains at the forefront of infectious diseases research based at Imperial College London where he runs a research group. Amongst other outlets, he has been interviewed by the *BBC*, *Bloomberg* and *The Sunday Telegraph*.

UK Publisher: Oneworld
Editor: Sam Carter
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: January 2025
Material: Final pdf

Rights sold:
Bulgarian - Kryg
German - MVG
Italian - Newton Compton
Romanian - Trei
Russian - AST
Turkish - Pegasus

*Praise for **Live Forever?***

‘Tregoning becomes a one-man experiment - exploring gene sequencing, microbiome testing, fasting, living in isolation and cold-water swimming to see what might make a difference [...] There’s a lot of serious medical information in here, but Tregoning leavens this by writing in an engaging manner with witty asides.’

The Daily Mail

‘This is a warm, charming and often laugh-out-loud funny book, and that is entirely down to Tregoning’s willingness to use himself as a guinea pig at every turn [...] The beauty of *Live Forever?* is that it acknowledges the fix we’re all in, but manages to do so in a way that almost feels like a comfort’

Book of the Day, *The Guardian*

‘A thoughtful and highly accessible book from one of the UK’s leading bioscientists, that presents a look at healthy living from an honest and balanced perspective.’

Professor Sir Jonathon Van-Tam, Former Deputy Chief Medical Officer

ANXIOUS AND HAIRY

The Evolution and Culture of Human Hair

by Judy Wearing

A journey into human nature through a study of hair, making the case for its entanglement in virtually every aspect of human experience and sociality.

Body hair: we are covered in it. And yet, most of us are grossly unsatisfied with it. We have too much or too little; it's the wrong colour or the wrong shape. We spray it with deodorant and run sharp blades across our jugulars to get rid of it. Collectively, we spend billions of dollars trying to control it. We're fascinated, disgusted, and amused, and we don't know why.

In *Anxious and Hairy*, Judy Wearing introduces hair as a portal into the ways that biology and culture intersect, and fleshes out how our animality deeply influences our daily lives. Through science, history, and popular culture, the book will show how the presence - and absence - of body hair defines who we are as a species, as members of society, and as sexual beings.

Fans of *Your Inner Fish* by Neil Shubin, and the work of Mary Roach, will delight in this exploration of our complex relationship with our follicles, why our fuzzy bits are so important, and why this aspect of our physicality might cause us so much anxiety.



Judy Wearing holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from Oxford University, as well as a second PhD in the social sciences. She has worked as a writer and editor for decades, largely in the educational sector. She's the author of *Edison's Concrete Piano* (ECW Press, 2009), which was optioned for film, and featured on TV and radio, as well as over twenty children's science and social studies books for the library market.

UK Publisher: Icon

North American publisher: House of Anansi

Editor: Connor Stait

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: Fall 2026

Material: Full MS

REJECTION

A User's Guide

by Liam Bell

Barely anyone working in the creative arts doesn't have war wounds when it comes to rejection. Yet is rejection only ever a negative?

In this thoughtful and engaging book, Liam explores the notion of rejection, asking questions of creative artists across a range of disciplines, from writing to acting, dance to music with the aim of offering pragmatic strategies for making use of rejection in a positive way, feeding creativity rather than stalling it, and enabling creatives to carry on with a sense of momentum. As such he seeks to transform our understanding of rejection from 'necessary evil' into a crucial and productive part of the artistic process.

Liam will be drawing on his own personal experience as a novelist and the experiences of his family (father an actor, sister a cellist) as well as interviewing creatives across the disciplines to arrive at a valuable template for dealing with the inevitable rejection that comes with a career in the arts. Rather than a roadmap to turn rejection into acceptance, or failure into success, avoiding the chastising tone of a self-help text or entrepreneurship manual and cliché advice of 'developing a thick skin' or 'every no gets you closer to a yes', it will seek to embrace rejection and to reconceive it as a vital and even celebrated part of every creative's journey so that when artists are asked, 'how do you deal with rejection?' they have a response which is positive and joyous.



Liam Bell has been gathering rejections for his writing since the age of eighteen. He is author of four novels (*So It Is*, 2012; *The Busker*, 2014; *Man at Sea*, 2022; *The Sleepless*, 2023). The eight year gap between the second and third books led to a crisis of confidence, in the face of a sustained period of rejection, and a subsequent fascination with the question of how and why creative artists keep persevering against all odds. He is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Stirling and, in the course of that day job, has the

opportunity not only to work regularly with wonderful writers but also to rub shoulders with many of the practitioners and artists who have been interviewed for the purposes of this book. His background as a novelist, as someone who comes from a family of creatives, and his immersion in these practice-based academic fields across the creative arts makes him the ideal person to investigate how the modern creative responds to rejection and reflect on whether we can propose a better model which allows for rejection to become a productive part of the creative process.

UK Publisher: Icon Books

Editor: Connor Stait

Agent: Joanna Swainson

Publication: January 2027

Material: Proposal, MS due January
2026

THE CALM AND HAPPY HOME

The Magic of Modern Feng Shui

by Kimberley Gallagher



An accessible guide that merges modern neurodesign ideas with traditional Feng Shui principles, offering practical, affordable suggestions to help make your home feel peaceful, balanced and joyful, and to help attract the life you want to create.

A guide to working with your home to unlock its power and magic.

The Calm and Happy Home will help turn your home into the most supportive, calm and peaceful space that you can imagine. To create a home that will help you flourish and thrive. This book will guide you and show you how to work with your home to

help unlock its power and magic. Kimberley is committed to sharing the secret of the ancient magical practice of Feng Sui in a modern way that everyone can use.

She often refers to Feng Shui as the missing piece of the manifestation puzzle. You may be doing everything in your power to assist your wealth, career, relationships, fertility, health, self-worth or mental health but nothing seems to be going right. Kimberly typically finds this is due to the energy in people's homes. This book will give you all the tips and tools needed to enable you to unblock stagnant energy in your home, absorb and diffuse bad energy and instead create the most beautiful and positive home and energy flow to support you and your family.



Kimberley Gallagher is a trained feng shui consultant. She set up her company The Feng Shui Flow to help explain this beautiful art in a way that everybody can understand and use in their own spaces. She is the feng shui expert on ITV's *This Morning* and works with individuals and businesses worldwide to bring peace, calm and abundance to their lives. She produces and hosts *The Feng Shui Flow Podcast*, and has created a growing community on social media.

UK Publisher: Watkins

Editor: Fiona Robertson

Agent: Hannah Ferguson

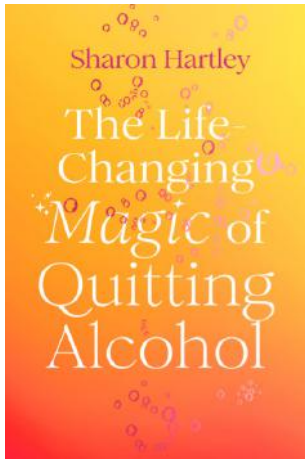
Publication: November 2025

Material: Final PDF

THE LIFE-CHANGING MAGIC OF QUITTING ALCOHOL

Stop Drinking and Start Living!

by Sharon Hartley



A down-to-earth, positive guide to begin a journey to an alcohol-free life. With encouraging words and practical tips Sharon shows that it's not about what you think you're giving up, but about everything you're going to gain.

The inspirational self-help guide to giving up alcohol, by BBC presenter Sharon Hartley.

After years and years of drinking too much, too fast and too often, Sharon Hartley jumped off the hangover hamster wheel of hell. She stopped drinking, and started living in ways she didn't think possible.

In *The Life-Changing Magic of Quitting Alcohol*, Sharon inspires you to do the same. She asks you to commit to 100 days alcohol free - a tipping point where the true life-changing magic happens as the clouds begin to lift, and the dial starts to shift.

As you embark on your 100 days, Sharon shows you how to navigate social situations, banish triggers, and find the will to set out on a life-changing path of exciting self-discovery.

Funny, full of warmth and brilliantly down to earth, this is the book you need to take that leap and banish the booze once and for all.



Sharon Hartley is co-host on the popular alcohol-free podcast *Over The Influence*. She has helped create an alcohol-free community with subscribed members worldwide. They offer connection, friendship, support, encouragement and inspiration and access masterclasses, OTI Outdoor Adventures and events. She is presenter of the popular daytime show on BBC Radio Lancashire and has been alcohol-free for the past five years.

UK Publisher: Aurum

Editor: Nira Begum

Agent: Hannah Ferguson

Publication: January 2025

Material: Final PDF

Praise for The Life-Changing Magic of Quitting Alcohol

‘Sharon Hartley’s down-to-earth attitude, Lancashire positivity and big warm heart always puts a smile on my face and cheer in my soul’

Ruth Jones, actress, comedian, writer and producer

‘Sharon is an absolute force for sobriety! Her enthusiasm is infectious’

William Porter, author of *Alcohol Explained*

MA

Japanese wisdom for a spacious life

by Beth Kempton

MA is the art of the conscious pause - a beautiful term at the heart of Japanese aesthetics which represents an aesthetic ideal, a gentle philosophy and a way of being.

The word ma is a beautiful term at the heart of Japanese aesthetics which represents the space between things – both the space itself, and all that is contained within that space. It is the gap between notes that makes the music, the white space that gives depth to the ink painting, the void from which all possibilities emerge.

Ma at once represents **an aesthetic ideal, a gentle philosophy and a way of being.**

It teaches us how to cultivate serenity, beauty and deep joy in the middle of things, however chaotic, noisy and demanding the world becomes.

MA draws on my three decades of personal encounters with people, places, poetry and philosophy from Japan, currently the world's hottest travel destination, to present a luminous treatise on simple, unhurried, spacious living.

Readers will travel from the iconic Mount Fuji to the site of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, from the Grand Shrine of Ise to the old tea houses of Kyoto, from the karesansui sand gardens to iconic buildings showcasing the architecture style which has made Japan a leader on the world design stage. From within the container of each of these places, we will contemplate the importance of creating space in our own lives.

MA offers a guiding philosophy that is rooted in Japanese aesthetics and philosophy but universally relevant, and astonishingly timely as a coping tool for humans living in a world in crisis.

As a guidebook for living a life with space, MA will inspire readers to fully embrace the pauses and transition moments in their lives, and appreciate the value of seeking out physical and mental space each and every day.



Beth Kempton is a mother, writer and entrepreneur committed to helping women achieve their full potential. She has worked with UN agencies, global brands, charities and individuals all across the world and has an MA in Japanese. Beth is on twitter @DoWhatYouLoveXx

UK Publisher: Piatkus / L,B

US Publisher: Storey/ Hachette

Editor: Jillian Young

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication:

Material: Proposal

Rights Sold for *Kokoro*:

Arabic - Jarir

Croatian - Planetopija

Complex Chinese - China Times

Czech - Jota

Dutch - Bruna

German- Suhrkamp/ Insel

Greek - Brain Food

Hebrew - Tchelet Books

Italian - Tre 60

Spanish and Catalan - Planeta

Russian - Exmo

Portuguese - Presenca

Thai - Biblio

Turkish - Destek

Option Publishers:

Slovenian - Učila

Vietnamese - Thai Ha

Praise for Kokoro

‘A masterpiece.’

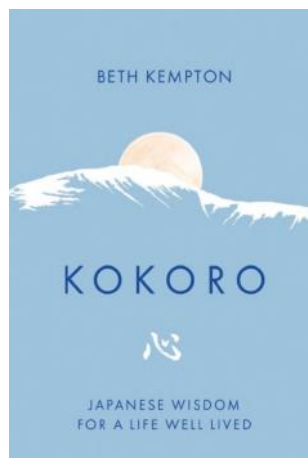
Joey Hulin, author of *Your Spiritual Almanac and Your Manifesting Year*

‘A remarkable book. I think about it all the time. It’s a stunning piece of writing and an extraordinary achievement.’

Dr Ali Foxon, author of *The Green Sketching Handbook*

‘Stunning.’

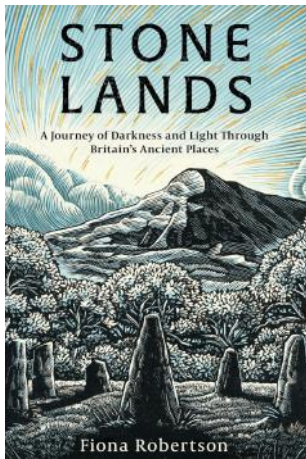
Anna Mathur, *Sunday Times* bestselling author



STONE LANDS

A Journey of Darkness and Light Through Britain's Ancient Places

by Fiona Robertson



How interacting with ancient sites can enrich our lives and offer inspiration in dark times.

Stone Lands combines folklore, history and archaeology with insights from a range of interesting stones enthusiasts, from Morris dancers, dowsers and pagans to artists, musicians and walkers to archivists and archaeologists. Describing her decades-long personal quest to explore the standing stones of Britain, it emphasises the wellbeing benefits that visiting ancient sites can bring, offering a way of connecting with nature, the past and ancient ways of being. Threaded through the book is the story of Fiona's experiences of

megalith hunting with her husband, Stephen, who she lost to cancer. While this story of loss and grief provides a narrative arc, this is a book that is very much about finding joy and embracing life whatever troubles we face. Fiona celebrates the empowering nature of megalith hunting, a hobby that, in her opinion, offers a profound way of interacting with our collective past and individual fates. Most of all she makes the point that tramping through fields in search of standing stones is just a huge amount of FUN.

There is a revival of megalith enthusiasm at the moment, which Fiona positions within the growth of movements such as Right to Roam, which promotes access to the countryside for all, and the work of artists such as Ben Edge, who sees visiting standing stones as a political act, enabling people of all backgrounds to find a common community in the pre-colonial deep past.



Fiona Robertson is Publisher of Watkins and Nourish where she commissions books about ancient wisdom, folklore, herbalism, witchcraft and the occult etc. She has a deep interest in history of all sorts with a BA in Modern History from The Queen's College, Oxford, and an MA in South Asian Studies from SOAS. She is a long-standing megalith enthusiast and you can find her as @stone_lands on Instagram and X.

UK Publisher: Robinson / L,B
Editor: Emma Smith, Tamsin Little
Agent: Joanna Swainson
Publication: June 2025
Material: Final pdf

Rights sold:
German - Aufbau (pre-empt)

Praise for Stone Lands

‘Forget about *The Salt Path* – this tale of Britain's ancient stone sites is superb. Stay awake all night, and you'll find that euphoria hits you with the dawn. It was with a similar euphoria to the one Fiona Robertson describes at solstice festivals that I finished her poignant, scholarly and poetic book.’

– *Telegraph*

‘A very, very good read ... this is one to treasure’

– **Blackwell's**

‘I would happily put *Stone Lands* on an introductory reading list for any university archaeology course to give students an accessible guide to major sites and finds; vice versa, I suspect this book will also become a staple on nature-writing courses. Few books manage such a cultural crossover [...] This book, like the stones it describes, deserves to endure.’

–

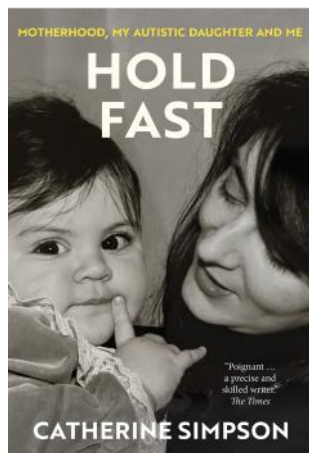
– *Current Archaeology*

‘Grief – and the management of it – is the thread that binds this story, yet this is not a self-absorbed memoir; it is assiduously researched, full of anecdotes and makes you look anew at these enduring landmarks.’

– *Country Life*

HOLD FAST

Mothering an autistic child to adulthood



An unforgettable story that shows what a gift it is to see someone not as the world tells them they should be, but as they are.

Catherine thought she was born to be a good mother. Surely any problems she encountered raising a child could be solved with love and effort - and boy, was she willing to put in the love and effort. So, aged thirty, she packed in her job to throw herself into full-time motherhood - only to crash headlong into the reality of a baby that did not seem to fit into the world. Catherine spent years being dismissed, told everything was her fault and being sent on yet another parenting course (only to receive contradictory advice from the last one) until her daughter, Nina, was eventually diagnosed with autism, aged 10. The diagnosis helped Catherine understand Nina, but the challenges did not stop there.

Hold Fast is a frank and often funny account of raising an autistic child, alongside a non-autistic child, from birth right through the complexities and triumphs of the teenaged years. It is a candid heartfelt story of resilience and love between a parent and child, and of the stresses and joys of family life with an autistic child.

Catherine has learned a lot from motherhood but especially that it is sufficient to be a 'good enough' mother.



Catherine Simpson was born and raised on a Lancashire dairy farm and moved to Edinburgh 30 years ago. In 2013, she won a Scottish Book Trust New Writers award for her novel *Truestory*. *Truestory* was inspired by Catherine's experiences raising her autistic daughter Nina. She and Nina now campaign for Autism Acceptance.

In 2016 Catherine received a Hawthornden Fellowship. Whilst there she began work on a memoir investigating the death by suicide of her

sister, Tricia. The resulting *When I Had a Little Sister* was published by Fourth Estate.

Another volume of memoir, *One Body*, was published by Saraband. This explores how a cancer diagnosis made Catherine reassess her experience of living in a woman's body and considers how our bodies tell the stories of our lives.

As a freelance journalist, her articles have appeared in, among others, *The Scotsman*, *The Herald* and *The Telegraph*.

UK Publisher: Saraband

Editor: Sara Hunt

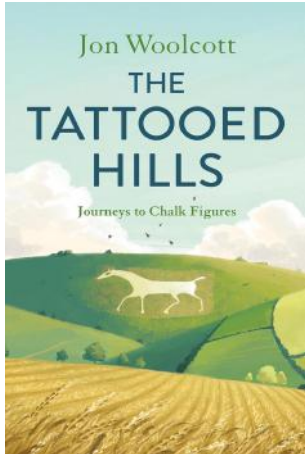
Agent: Joanna Swainson

Publication: September 2025

Material: Final pdf

THE TATTOOED HILLS

Journeys to Chalk Figures



A fascinating journey across Britain's landscape in search of its chalk figures and what they mean to us.

Across Britain, and especially in the southern chalklands, is a series of figures cut into the hills, exposing the chalk beneath. These hill-figures are strange, mysterious, and sometimes controversial. They are of varying and often contested age, and vague purpose. They are horses, giants, crosses, a lion, a lost panda, crowns, a kiwi, regimental badges. They are often sited near ancient trackways, iron age earthworks or dissolved monasteries, and or close to stone circles. Some are faded or lost, their names preserved only in the names of valleys

or hills.

Humans have long decorated their landscapes, but chalk hill figures are, almost uniquely, a feature of the English downland. This means they are sometimes seen as emblematic of Englishness, celebrated by poets, writers, artists and musicians. The book is a portrait of the places where these figures dominate, bringing in history, politics, literature, music, film and TV, but with a light touch. The Tattooed Hills isn't a nostalgic elegy for England, instead it uses the figures as a lens through which to explore the land and delves into more troubling undercurrents – the way that chalk hill figures have sometimes been appropriated, in an attempt to pin down a narrow definition of Englishness and belonging.

Chalk carvings are signals for our identity and identities, and that their long history, the way they have inspired artists, musicians and writers, and the communities that live in their shadows, offer an alternative way of thinking about ourselves. Often created as memorials for historical events, their meanings, like their shape, have shifted over the years, these new interpretations reflecting our changing society and values. They are beacons on the hills, they speak to us and of us, no matter where we live or where we're from.



Jon Woolcott is a writer and publisher from Dorset. His writing has appeared in *The Bookseller*, *Caught by The River*, *Slightly Foxed*, *Echtraí Journal*, for the Venice Biennale, and he writes regular travel articles for *The Guardian*. He is the author of *Real Dorset* (Seren 2023). He's the editor of *Going to Ground* (Little Toller, 2024), an anthology of writing about place and nature.

Jon works for the independent publisher Little Toller Books and he edits the online

Jon has held senior positions in the marketing team at Waterstones, was a buyer and Head of Marketing for Ottakar's, and Buying and Marketing Director for Stanfords.

UK Publisher: Aurum

Editor: Richard Green

Agent: Joanna Swainson

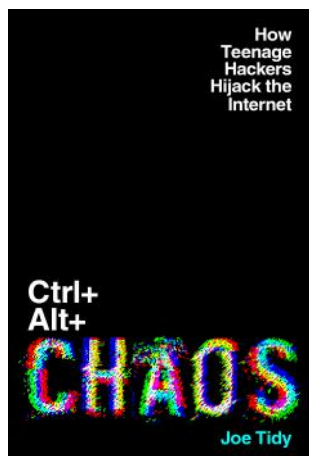
Publication: April 2026

Material: MS due October 2025

CTRL+ALT+CHAOS

How Teenage Hackers Rule the Internet

by Joe Tidy



From the BBC's cyber correspondent and foremost voice on cybercrime comes the insider exposé of the global rise of teen hackers: **Ctrl+Alt+Chaos**.

Cyber correspondent Joe Tidy has investigated and interviewed the most infamous teenage hacker gangs of the past decade for the BBC, and previously for Sky News. Now he unveils the dark digital underbelly where teenage boys are reshaping cybersecurity, cryptocurrency, and organised crime under the noses of their parents.

Throughout he chronicles the life of Julius Kivimaki, aka Zeekill, arguably the most hated hacker in history, from 12-year-old nuisance hacker

to a Most Wanted cybercriminal culminating in his 2023 capture. In one of the cruellest hacks in history, he blackmailed 30,000 Finnish psychotherapy patients with their stolen notes. Kivimaki's story gives us vital insights into how hackers find their feet and become dangerous criminals.

Tracking the rise and fall of groups such as LulzSec, HTP, UG Nazi, and Lizard Squad, *Ctrl+Alt+Chaos* features exclusive interviews with the hackers as well as the police officers trying to stop them. Joe Tidy also draws parallels with recent high-profile attacks from other teenage gangs and ask the question - **how can we stop the cycle of teenage boys hijacking life online?**



Joe Tidy is the BBC's first ever Cyber Correspondent and the foremost voice in the corporation on cybercrime and hacking. Over the past six years he has covered all major cyber-attacks for BBC TV, Radio, social media and website. He has made documentaries about cyber security travelling to the US, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Germany and Ukraine to track down stories and characters. Joe's most high-profile news feature and documentary saw him travel to Russia in November 2021 in search of the world's most wanted cyber criminal. This hunt was read by 1m

people, viewed across social media more than 2.4m times and translated into 30 different languages across the BBC network. His top six BBC News documentaries have garnered more than 7 million views including 2.2m for *The Teenage Millionaire Hacker* and 1.4m for *The Russian Hackers*. Before joining the BBC, he was a correspondent at Sky News where he regularly reported on technology and began his decade-long obsession with cybercrime after reporting on the infamous 2014 Christmas day Lizard Squad attack.

UK Publisher: Elliott & Thompson

Editor: Katie Bond

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: June 2025

Material: Final pdf

Rights sold:

Finnish - Bazar (pre-empt)

Praise for Ctrl+Alt+Chaos

‘An extremely useful dive into the impact of hacks and of the character of the person that the book describes as arguably the most hated hacker in history’

Popular Science

‘Joe has a gift for uncovering stories others can’t and turning them into something unforgettable. This book doesn’t just tell a story. It grabs you, pulls you in, and doesn’t let go.’

Jack Rhysider, *Darknet Diaries* podcast

‘An illuminating and often scary book’

The Daily Telegraph

THE INFECTIOUS MIND

How Social Contagion Makes Us Ill

by Matilda Gosling

A fascinating look at the way medical and psychological conditions are socially transmitted, for fans of Jonathan Haidt and Suzanne O'Sullivan.

In 1518, Frau Troffea started dancing and found herself unable to stop. A short while later, an estimated fifteen people a day were dancing themselves to death.

At a time in which cats were thought to be familiar with the devil, a French nun began to meow. Her behaviour spread until her sisters were meowing for hours each day in what were later described as the convent's 'cat-concerts'. A 1997 television episode of Pokémon reportedly caused up to 12,000 Japanese children to fall ill, many of whom were later discovered to have developed symptoms only once they'd seen their friends succumbing.

These social outbreaks have gained new purchase with the internet. In 2019, Jan Zimmerman started a Youtube channel. His videos showed him with tics and tic-like behaviours that included strange movements, swear words and insults. Within three months, he had a million subscribers. These tic-like behaviours started to spread, and those afflicted passed them on to a fresh wave of contacts.

The Infectious Mind describes the social contagion of physical and mental illness, together with the factors that drive transmission. It explores how humans change the way they express their distress through time and culture, and what this means for some very modern epidemics, including TikTok tics, orthorexia, long Covid, chronic pain and broader mental ill-health. How do social and psychological forces combine with biology to create such strange, visceral symptoms? What turns a social outbreak into something that insinuates its way into the neural pathways of large swathes of humanity? Why are we all vulnerable to the social contagion of illness? The Infectious Mind uses stories from outbreaks past and present to answer these questions. It offers readers a reassuring road-map to their solution and prevention in an era of internet-enabled rapid transmission.



Matilda Gosling is an author, social scientist and researcher. She is the author of *Evidence-Based Parenting* (Swift Press, 2024) and *Teenagers: the Evidence Base* (Swift Press, 2025).

Matilda has degrees from the University of Cambridge and the London School of Economics. She has worked for governments, charities, foundations and private-sector organisations internationally, and has overseen field research in more than 60 countries.

In 2010, Matilda co-founded an international social research consultancy, the Research Base, which she ran for 12 years before working independently. An experienced speaker, she recently took part in two panel discussions at The Battle of Ideas, and has delivered talks at the House of Commons, Royal Society of Arts, the University of Kent and for various organisation and institutes.

UK Publisher: Head of Zeus

Editor: Holly Harley

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Delivery: January 2026

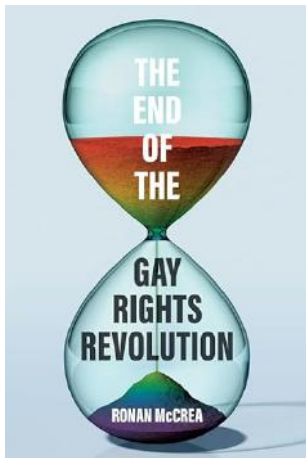
Publication: January 2027

Material: Proposal & sample

THE END OF THE GAY RIGHTS REVOLUTION

How Hubris and Overreach Threaten Gay Freedom

by Ronan McCrea



Why we risk a great regression on gay rights in the west – and how to stop it.

The gay rights movement in the West has succeeded beyond its wildest dreams – but this success seems suddenly fragile.

Ronan McCrea's important book argues that this is no blip. Forces favourable to gay rights – such as the wider cultural shift towards greater sexual freedom – are weakening, while political developments, cultural changes and migration patterns mean that sources of opposition, both old and new, are gaining strength. The gay rights movement is ill-equipped to meet this challenge.

Convinced that history is on its side, the movement

has expanded its aims and made new enemies while refusing to consider whether elements of the sexual freedoms it fought for have had unforeseen downsides, including for gay people themselves.

For the gay rights revolution to endure, a fundamental reconsideration of its goals, its history and its limits is required. Anyone wanting to understand the challenges faced by gay rights and the wider liberal project needs to read this timely warning.



Ronan McCrea is professor of constitutional and European law at University College London, where his work focuses on the future of the European Union and on the role of religion in law and politics. He has postgraduate degrees in law and comparative politics and has worked as a refugee lawyer, advisor to a judge of the European Court of Justice. He has acted pro-bono in cases before the European Courts in which the right to freedom of religion has clashed with the right to be free of discrimination on grounds of sex and sexual orientation.

He has published close to a hundred op-ed pieces over the years in *The Irish Times*, *The Financial Times*, *Handelsblatt*, *The Irish Independent*, *Euronews*, *The Conversation* and *Aeon Magazine*, covering themes ranging from the future of Europe and the decline in liberal values to Brexit, migration and the relationship between law and religion. He is an experienced commentator on radio and television and has appeared regularly on *BBC*, *Sky News*, *RTE*, *France24* and various radio stations and had a monthly slot discussing international legal and political affairs on an Irish radio station. His *Sky News* interview on Brexit went viral and was viewed over 1.5 million times.

UK Publisher: Polity (World Rights)

Editor: George Owers

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: 10th October 2025

Material: Final PDF

(UN)KIND

How 'Be Kind' Entrenches Sexism

by Victoria Smith



A brilliantly witty and insightful analysis of how kindness culture is used against women.

Using the #JustBeKind trend of the 2020s as a starting point, *(Un)kind* explores how traditional beliefs about women's 'kind' nature have been repackaged for an age that remains dependent - socially, politically, economically - on female self-sacrifice while finding the concept outdated and essentialist.

Looking at the various guises under which kindness culture is sold to women and girls - from play to self-help, social justice activism to empowerment -

it argues that the pressure on women and girls has not decreased, but instead been incorporated into the 'work' of feminism. *(Un)kind* also proposes that this phenomenon ultimately distorts relations between humans, harming not just those coerced into performing 'kindness work' but the supposed recipients of their services. Kindness culture supports the backlash against feminism while claiming to represent feminism's - and women's - true nature. It is, at heart, unkind.

UK Publisher: Fleet / Little, Brown

Editor: Clare Smith

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: February 2025

Material: Final PDF

Option Publishers:

Simplified Chinese - Beijing Green

Beans (pre-empt)

Swedish - Bonniers

Russian - Azbooka - Atticus



Victoria Smith is a regular contributor to the *Critic*, writing on women's issues, parenting and mental health. Her work has also appeared in the *New Statesman*, the *Independent* and *Unherd*. Her newsletter, The OK Karen, looks at midlife women's experiences of feminism, and she tweets @glosswitch. She holds a PhD in German literature, with a particular interest in Romanticism and dark fairy tales. She lives in Cheltenham with her family.

Praise for Hags

**SHORTLISTED for the NERO BOOK AWARDS
2023**

'My polemic of the year . . . a book that could not be more necessary (a sword and a shield) in the current climate'

Rachel Cooke, *Observer*

'The greatest joy of *Hags* is its lively erudition . . . This eloquent, clever and devastating book describes the last remaining acceptable prejudice, one that is now even posited as progress: the loathing of older women'

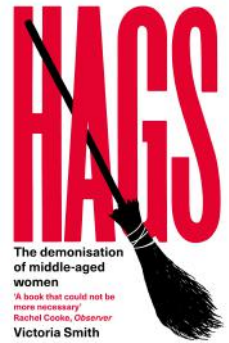
Janice Turner, *The Times*

'Deftly illustrates how ageist misogyny remains an acceptable prejudice and, in laying out the ignominies visited upon middle-aged women, feels justifiably livid'

The Guardian

'A brilliantly witty, engaging and insightful book; a righteous polemic which examines and questions why so much hatred is directed towards middle-aged women - and, crucially, what this means for women today . . . a punchy, thought-provoking and thoroughly enjoyable read'

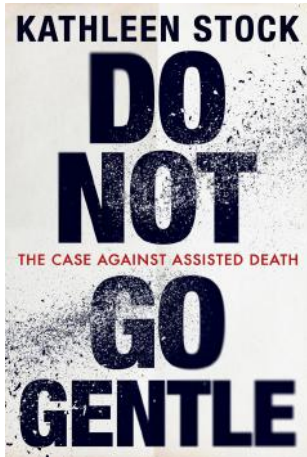
The Scotsman



DO NOT GO GENTLE

The Case Against Assisted Death

by Kathleen Stock



Is there a right to die?

Is assisted death really compassionate?

Are we sleepwalking into a moral disaster?

In *Do Not Go Gentle*, acclaimed writer and philosopher Kathleen Stock tackles one of the great debates of our time: should we set up a system of assisted death? With her trademark sharp thinking and dry wit, the bestselling author of *Material Girls* argues that despite what some progressives might tell you, assisted death will not give a person more "freedom" or "control" over their lives. Whether you have a terminal illness, are

in chronic pain, or are disabled, being able to ask your doctor to kill you fundamentally changes society's attitude towards the vulnerable - and in a sinister direction.

Life is complex. For some individuals, an assisted death might be the right choice. But we should be deeply wary of introducing a system that offers death as just another option, especially when palliative care is so under-resourced. Expertly marshalling the arguments, Stock's laser polemic cuts through the wishful thinking and clouded reasoning that surrounds the issue and reaffirms life, rather than death, as what we should be fighting for. Collectively, we should rage against the dying of the light.

UK Publisher: Little, Brown

Editor: Sameer Rahim

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Delivery: May 2026

Publication: February 2026

Material: Proposal



Kathleen Stock OBE is a contributing writer at *UnHerd*, a frequent columnist at *The Sunday Times* and the *Times*, and a co-director of The Lesbian Project which she runs with journalist and activist Julie Bindel. She is the author of *Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism* (Little Brown 2021). From 2021-2023 she was a Founding Faculty Fellow at UATX. Until 2021, she was a Professor of Philosophy at Sussex University. In the last few years, Stock has written for UK national newspapers on a range of social, cultural, and ethical issues, and has a growing US profile.

She was a founding faculty fellow at the University of Austin from 2021-23. She has written for Bari Weiss's Free Press and done a number of high-profile podcasts, including Richard Dawkins, Coleman Hughes and Peter Boghossian

Praise for Material Girls

'Boy, does she pack a punch...A methodical dismantling of weak, misleading and false arguments... A call for cool heads at a time of great heat and a vital reminder that revolutions don't always end well.'

Christina Patterson, *The Sunday Times*

'*Material Girls* is a meticulously researched and carefully argued case for returning reason in an increasingly unreasonable world.'

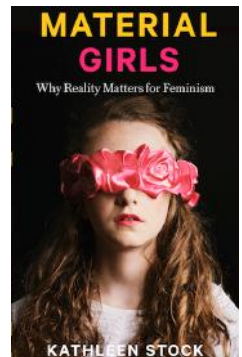
The Spectator

'A clear, concise, easy-to-read account of the issues between sex, gender and feminism... It highlights the problem, it focuses on concrete evidence, it explores all affected parties and seeks to find practical resolution... An important book.'

Stella O'Malley, *Evening Standard*

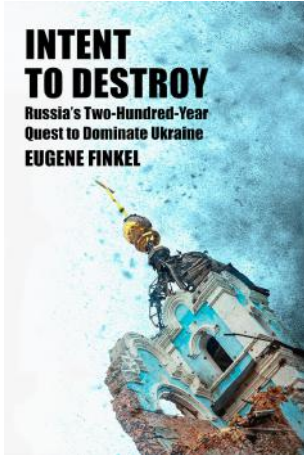
'*Material Girls* exposes "The Emperor's New Dress". It is a brave, enlightening, closely argued book, by a fearless woman.'

Jane O'Grady, *The Telegraph* 5*



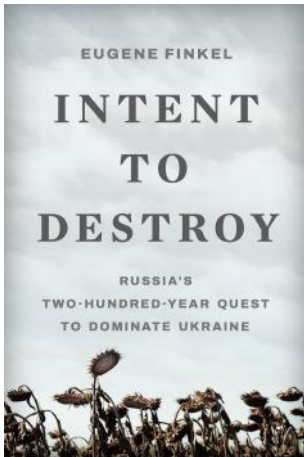
INTENT TO DESTROY

Russia's Two-Hundred-Year Quest to Dominate Ukraine by Eugene Finkel



A history of Russian violence waged against Ukraine across the centuries.

Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 shocked the world. And yet this attack was in fact the latest episode in a centuries-long Russian campaign. In *Intent to Destroy*, leading scholar of genocide and Eastern Europe Eugene Finkel uncovers the deep roots of the Russo-Ukrainian War. Ever since the rise of Russian nationalism in the nineteenth century, the domination of this key borderland has become a cornerstone of Russian and Soviet policy. Using genocidal tactics - killings, deportations, starvation and cultural destruction - against ethnic Ukrainians and minorities including Tatars, Jews and Poles, Russia's long-standing policy has aimed to obliterate Ukrainian identity. This eradication has consistently been a part of the Kremlin playbook and leads inexorably to the violence we see today.



Told with the astonishing power of Finkel's connection to this living history, and the authority of two decades of research, *Intent to Destroy* casts today's war in its broadest historical context, illuminating as never before Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.



Eugene Finkel was born in Ukraine and is an expert on Ukraine and political violence. He is associate professor of international affairs at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. He is a scholar of political violence, war and genocide, mostly in Eastern Europe and Israel/Palestine. He was the first Western expert to argue that Russian violence against civilians in Ukraine meets the definition of genocide.

UK Publisher: John Murray /
Hodder

Editor: Joe Zigmond

US Publisher: Basic Books

Editor: Brian Distelberg

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: November 2024

Paperback publication: 9th October
2025

Material: Final PDF

Rights sold:

Dutch - Ambo Anthos

‘A powerful indictment of Russia’s centuries-long obsession with eliminating the Ukrainian identity, language and people.’

Yaroslav Trofimov, Chief Foreign-Affairs Correspondent, *The Wall Street Journal*

‘Russia’s attack on Ukraine in 2022 surprised many of us. But it shouldn’t have. Eugene Finkel’s masterful account of centuries of Russian designs on Ukraine spells out why Moscow won’t leave Kyiv alone and what defenders of Ukraine should do about it. A must read account of the most important foreign policy question of our age.’

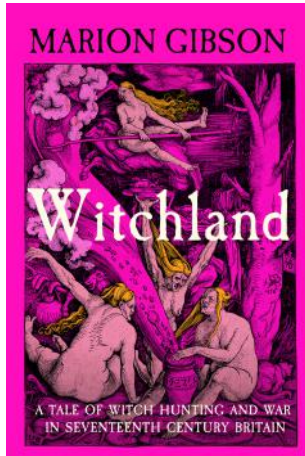
Ben Ansell, author of *Why Politics Fails*

‘Eugene Finkel, who correctly called Russia’s war against Ukraine ‘genocidal,’ makes the case here with erudition and verve. Those who want Russian perspectives on the war will find the relevant ones here.’

Timothy Snyder, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *On Tyranny*

WITCHLAND

A Tale of Witch Hunting and War in Seventeenth Century Britain



A completely new history of Britain's biggest witch hunt (of 1640-50) and why it is relevant today.

Witchland tells the sensational story of a series of witch trials that convulsed Britain between 1640 and 1650. It was a witch hunt that began separately in south-east England and Lowland Scotland in the early 1640s and grew into a mass panic that killed hundreds of convicted 'witches' over the next decade. Most of these people lived in England's eastern counties, where around 200-300 probably died – records are incomplete – but there were also important trials across Britain from West Lothian to Cornwall to Northamptonshire to Northumbria

during this time. These trials were all related – by the puritan theology that drove them and by the violence and economic disruption that encouraged people to turn on each other. Some of the witch hunts' stories have been told individually before, but this book brings together ten cases demonstrating the huge national scale of the crisis. The ten cases each explore a community in turmoil, with a strong focus on the characters of the accused and accusers.

The British civil wars of the seventeenth century can seem intimidating in their complexity, but this book keeps the focus tightly on personal stories. The war rages in the background, but the reader will be fascinated by what happened to Anne West, Ellen Driver, Henry Maggs, Ann Jefferies and the other accused people whose stories structure each chapter in turn. One accused witch shares the author's name – Marion Gibson – with provides a unique opportunity for the author to explore the personal impact of a witch trial and the sense that 'it could have been me'.

The 1640-50 witch hunt shows us an unreasonable, angry and polarised Britain with echoes in the present. It deals with topics such as inequality, the refugee crisis of the civil war, and the violence that can develop from name-calling and stereotyping.



Marion Gibson is Professor of Renaissance and Magical Literatures at the University of Exeter, UK. She's been researching witches for thirty years and is the author of six academic books on witches in history in literature. Marion is regularly interviewed on radio, TV and for podcasts, especially at Halloween. Marion has worked on original documents from witch trials across Britain, America and Europe.

UK Publisher: Simon & Schuster

UK Editor: Fran Jessop

US Publisher: Scribner

US Editor: Sally Howe

Agent: Joanna Swainson

Publication: June 2026

Material: unedited MS

Option Publishers:

Brazilian Portuguese - Pensamento

Dutch - Ambo Anthos

Estonian- Varrak

French - FYP Éditions

German - Aufbau

Turkish - Orenda

Spanish - Siruela

Russian - Azbooka-Atticus

Polish - Otwarte

Praise for *Witchcraft*

‘An empathetic survey of witch trials spanning seven centuries and three continents... this vividly drawn and often surprising account succeeds in its aim to provide an expansive vision of the witch trial that extends far beyond Salem.’

Publisher's Weekly

‘Gibson is a sensitive and empathetic guide...’

Jessie Childs, *The Times*

‘Marion Gibson’s recent book, “Witchcraft: A History in Thirteen Trials”, explores the ever-changing definition, both literal and metaphorical, over the course of seven centuries, and ends up shedding light, too, on the commonalities shared by the accusers.’

The Washington Post

