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2026

NON FICTION

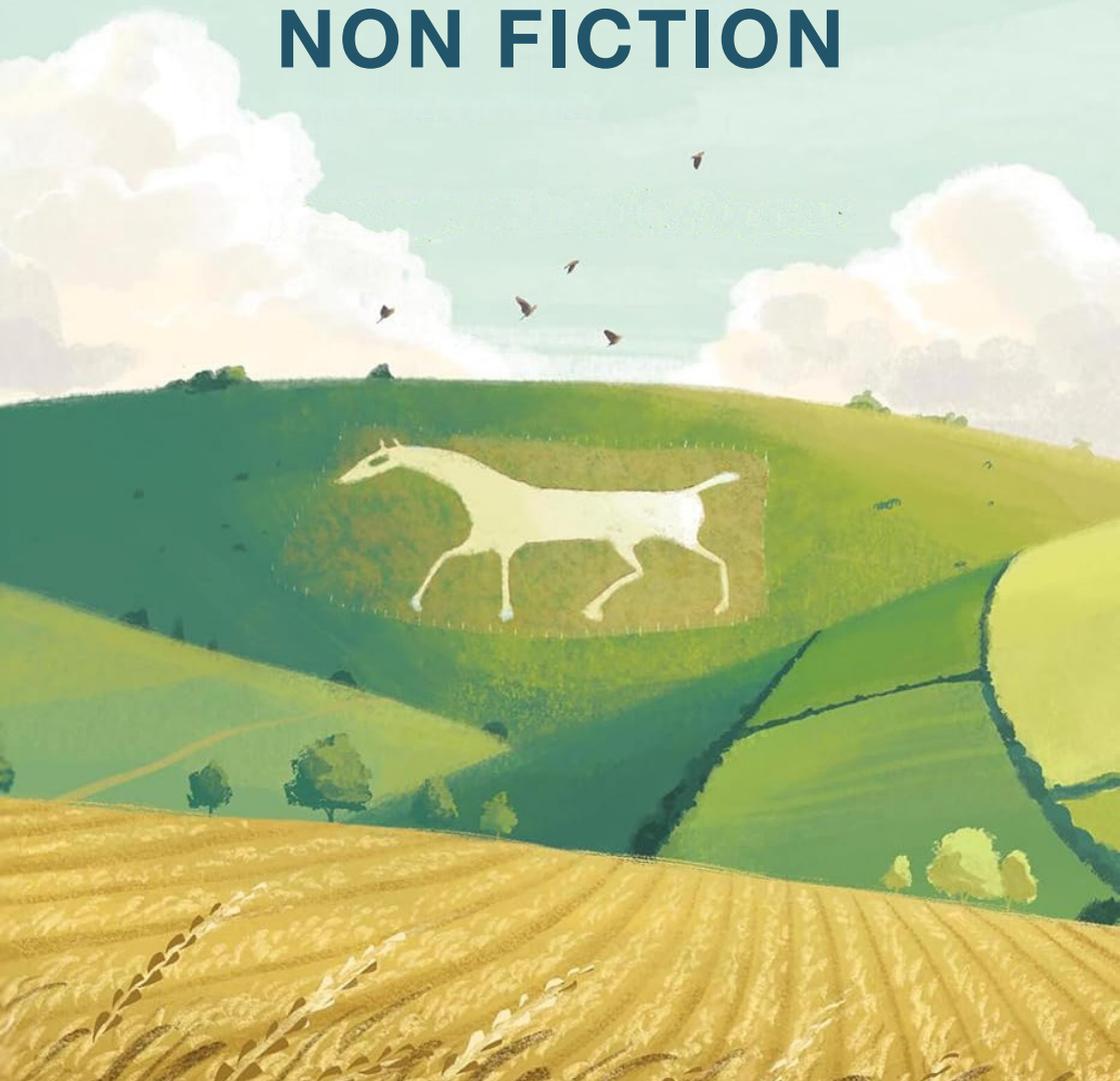


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Cover image: The Tattooed Hills by Jon Woolcott, to be published by Quarto

THE SYMPTOM TRAP

Rethinking Bodily Symptoms

by Professor Omer Van Den Bergh

What if everything we think about bodily symptoms is wrong?

In *The Symptom Trap*, Professor Omer Van den Bergh will dismantle one of medicine's most deeply held assumptions: that bodily symptoms are straightforward signals of physical dysfunction. This belief is misleading because it creates a false divide between symptoms that are linked to physical causes and those that are not. Drawing on experimental research and clinical insight, this book will explain that the experience of all symptoms - from the most mysterious to the most mundane - is constructed in the brain. Van den Bergh will explore when and why the connection between symptoms and physical dysfunction is typically strong, but also why it can be weak, inconsistent, or even absent. This helps explain why nearly half of all medical consultations end without a clear diagnosis. He will argue that the traditional distinction between "real" and "psychosomatic" symptoms is not only outdated, but harmful.

Through vivid case studies, cutting-edge neuroscience, and personal reflections from a career as a researcher and clinician at the intersection of psychology and medicine, he will show how symptoms can persist without disease, how the experience of emotions is deeply intertwined with the experience of bodily symptoms, and why the brain's role in symptom perception is far more central than we have acknowledged.

This book is not a rejection of biomedical science. It is a call to expand it. Professor van den Bergh will argue for a "*symptom science*" that complements disease science, one that embraces the complexity of human experience and the brain's powerful role in shaping it.

The Symptom Trap offers a radical, yet evidence-based framework that will resonate with patients, clinicians, and anyone interested in the future of healthcare.



Omer Van den Bergh was trained as a clinical and experimental psychologist at the University of Leuven in Belgium and at the NIMH-Center for the Study of Attention and Emotion, University of Florida, USA. As a professor in health psychology at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven), he taught various courses to students of medicine and psychological science. He is Emeritus Professor with ongoing assignment. He is a distinguished member of the Division of Health Psychology of the American Psychological Association, past

president of the International Society for the Advancement of Respiratory Psychophysiology (ISARP), and a fellow of the most important professional societies for psychologists and health psychologists. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Behavioral Medicine (ISBM) in 2018. He is currently a Mercator Fellow at the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and an Associate Fellow at the Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione (ISTC) of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche(CNR) in Rome, Italy.

Omer Van den Bergh is an expert in the broad area of the relationship between health and behavior and is internationally acknowledged for his cutting-edge experimental studies on symptom perception and (respiratory) psychophysiology. Van den Bergh is one of the world's leading authorities on the topic of this book. In addition to his native Dutch (Flemish), Omer speaks English, French, Italian and some German.

UK Publisher: On submission

Agent: Caroline Hardman

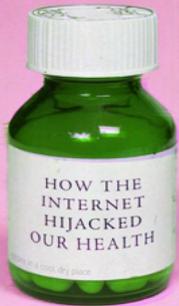
Material: Proposal

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?

UK Publisher: Oneworld
Editor: Cecilia Stein
Agent: Caroline Hardman
Publication: January 2026
Material: Final pdf

Rights sold:
 Korean - Whalebooks



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.

Praise for *Bad Influence*

'Your definitive guide to separating medical facts from online fiction.'
Adam Kay, author of *This is Going to Hurt*

'This superb book is an essential guide to the wild world of internet health.'
Chris van Tulleken, author of *Ultra-Processed People*

'In a world where online medical opinions are fast and often dodgy, this is the perfect antidote.'
Prof. Kevin Fong

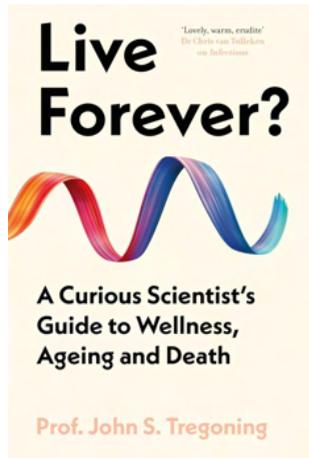
'Bad Influence is a fascinating and richly researched book, and an excellent guide for anyone who finds himself regularly googling their symptoms.'
The Economist

'This fascinating and simultaneously terrifying dive into 21st century healthcare should be mandatory reading in 2026 [...] you will read this book and become instantly better informed, self-aware and outraged'
***Stylist*, Best Non-fiction Books to read in 2026**

LIVE FOREVER?

A Curious Scientist's Guide to Wellness, Ageing and Death

by Prof. John S. Tregoning



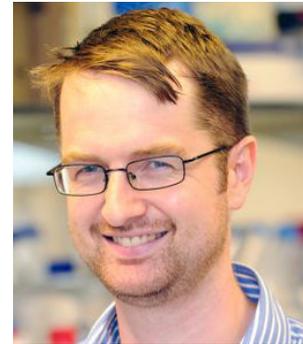
An entertaining and good-humoured journey through the most common causes of death in the developed world.

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 quirky and revealing exploration of the tangled science, history, and culture of human hair.

Body hair: we're covered in it. But for most of us, there's too much or too little, it's the wrong colour or in the wrong place. Collectively, we spend billions of dollars trying to change or control it. We're fascinated, disgusted, and amused, and we don't know why.

Each patch on this wild romp through your furry real estate—from the top of your head to the tips of your toes—tells a story about survival, sex, and social life. Judy Wearing explores how and why hair has provoked discomfort in people through the ages and contemplates how our animality influences daily life.

Equal parts curious, comic, and compelling, *Anxious and Hairy* draws on insights from evolutionary biology, psychology, anthropology, history, and art to uncover what our hair reveals about being human. From bearded female saints to Botoxed brows that dull empathy, hair exposes how biology and culture intersect. One thing is certain: you'll never look at the human body the same way again.



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 Books

North American publisher: House of Anansi

Editor: Connor Stait

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Publication: October 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: Unedited manuscript

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 Beth's 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: January 2027
 Material: Proposal

Rights sold:
 Dutch - Bruna
 Russian rights under offer

Option Publishers:
 Arabic - Jarir
 Croatian - Planetopija

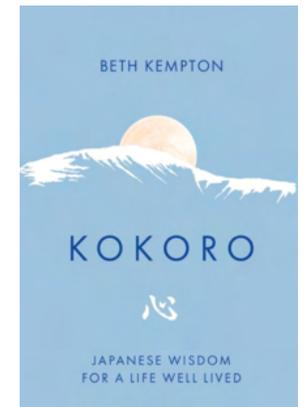
Complex Chinese - China Times
 Czech - Jota
 Dutch - Bruna
 German- Suhrkamp/ Insel
 Greek - Brain Food
 Hebrew - Tchelet Books
 Italian - Tre 60
 Slovenian - Učila
 Spanish and Catalan - Planeta
 Russian - Exmo
 Portuguese - Presenca
 Thai - Biblio
 Turkish - Destek
 Vietnamese - Thai Ha

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**



SANDWICHED

Caring Up and Caring Down

by Catherine Simpson

Catherine Simpson believed the hardest chapters of her life were behind her. She had raised two children – one of them autistic – and survived both a family suicide and her own cancer treatment. In her fifties, it was time to enjoy reducing work commitments, hanging out with friends and relaxing with her husband in their empty nest.

But when the global pandemic shut the world down, Catherine's nonagenarian father's independence began to slip away just as her adult daughter's mental health spiralled into crisis.

The Sandwiched is a candid memoir about being trapped in a high-pressure, intergenerational squeeze. Told with wit and compassion, this is a story of letting go of the superwoman myth and confronting the limits of control and responsibility, while retaining a sense of humour– and still providing loving care.



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

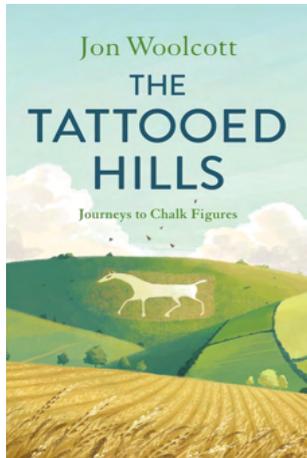
Publication: Autumn 2026

Material: Edited manuscript

THE TATTOOED HILLS

Journeys to Chalk Figures

by Jon Woolcott



A journey through Britain's chalklands, uncovering the stories, symbolism and shifting meanings of the mysterious figures carved into our hills.

Across southern England and beyond, the land bears the marks of centuries – white horses, giants, crosses, badges, even a lost panda – cut into the chalk and exposed to the sky. In *The Tattooed Hills*, writer Jon Woolcott travels to these remarkable sites, exploring their history and the deep cultural roots that link landscape to identity.

Part travelogue, part cultural history, Woolcott examines how these figures – sometimes ancient, sometimes surprisingly recent – reflect our collective imagination, and how their interpretations have changed over time. Once emblems of pride or remembrance, they have become mirrors of our shifting values and contradictions.

From Iron Age hillforts to modern regimental carvings, *The Tattooed Hills* brings together archaeology, folklore, art, literature and music to reveal the evolving story of Britain's chalk landscapes and the people who shaped them.

Beautifully written and steeped in a sense of place, Woolcott visits many of England's Chalk figures, delving into their mysteries, including The Westbury White Horse, the Long Man of Wilmington, The Cerne Abbas Giant and the Uffington White Horse.

A captivating exploration of landscape, culture and belonging, *The Tattooed Hills* reveals how the chalk beneath our feet connects us to our past and continues to shape who we are today.



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: Final PDF

Praise for *The Tattooed Hills*

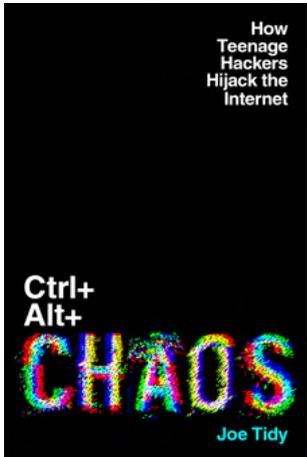
A fascinating detective story told with humour and joy that unravels the threads of history and legend to reveal the strange stories of Britain's hill figures.' **Fiona Roberston, author of *Stone Lands***

'Woolcott is the most splendid company on this intoxicating, immaculately researched tour of chalky weirdness. He has a keen ear for the murmuring voice of Deep England, and the wisdom to know that the more one knows about a place or a person, the more profound the mystery.' **Charles Foster, author of *The Edges of the World, Being Human and Being A Beast***

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.

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Editor: Holly Harley

Agent: Caroline Hardman

Delivery: January 2026

Publication: January 2027

Material: Edited manuscript due

April

A Political History of England in 100 Protest Songs

by Our Subversive Voice

A unique blend of history book, political education and musical anthology which is supported by a coherent and compelling contextual narrative, it will give readers a unique way of thinking about – and listening to – English political history.

This history is one of unceasing protest, through two revolutions, civil wars, waves of violent repression and millions of marchers on the street. Recent legislation against the rights of protestors to make their voices heard belongs to a long and storied history of vocal and indeed musical protest, rising above the attempts of authorities to silence it.

Combining beloved and familiar songs with a greater number of rare and fascinating works, this book demonstrates how relevant England's history of protest is to the struggles of today; acts as an accessible guide to that history and its key events, tragedies and controversies; and provides tools to appreciate and continue the struggles. It shows how songs shaped that history and open it up to us.

By focusing on England, this book intervenes in the increasing political debate over what England is as a political entity, and who belongs to it. It shows how that question has been part of the history of political protest, from the local to the global, and how that history has been shaped by singers and songwriters who come from all over the world but whose subversive voice sounded out in England.

Supported by a sophisticated online resource in the form of oursubversivevoice.com the book is written by world-leading experts in both historical and contemporary politics and political song, in a tone and format that makes it accessible to music fans (of all stripes), history enthusiasts and political activists alike.

Our Subversive Voice is made up of five scholars whose expertise spans history, music, politics and rhetoric, across the five centuries covered by this book.

Alan Finlayson is Professor of Political and Social Theory at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. He has developed novel approaches to the study of rhetoric as a way of understanding how political ideas spread and animate people through all kinds of media on various stages and involving different sorts of performance. He also writes regularly about British politics for newspapers such as the *Guardian*.

Oskar Jensen is the author of a number of books including *Vagabonds: Life on the Streets of Nineteenth-Century London* (Duckworth, 2022), which was shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize in 2023 and made *Foreword's* Indie History Book of 2024 in the US. He is the author of an acclaimed series of detective novels (Viper Books) and appears frequently on BBC TV, BBC R3 and R4, and RTÉ.

Angela McShane is Hon. Reader in History at the University of Warwick. She is author of *Political Broadside Ballads in Seventeenth Century England: A Critical Bibliography* (2011) and has published numerous book chapters and journal articles. Angela regularly appears on TV, radio and podcasts.

John Street is Professor of Politics at the University of East Anglia. He has written extensively about the relationship between politics and popular culture, especially popular music. He has authored and co-authored several books on politics and popular culture. He is among the editorial group of the journal *Popular Music*, and regularly appears on national radio.

Matthew Worley is Professor of Modern History at the University of Reading. He has written widely on British politics in the interwar period and British youth culture in the postwar period, including the books *Zerex Machine: Punk, Post-Punk and Fanzines in Britain, 1976–88* (2024) and *No Future: Punk, Politics and British Youth Culture, 1976–84* (2017). He is co-founder of the Subcultures Network.

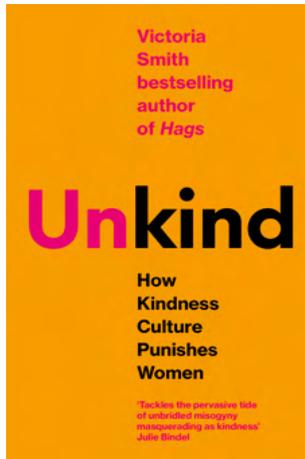
UK Publisher: Icon
 Editor: Connor Stait
Agent: Joanna Swainson

Delivery: October 2026
Publication: 2027
 Material: Unedited manuscript

(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

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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*

'Defly 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'

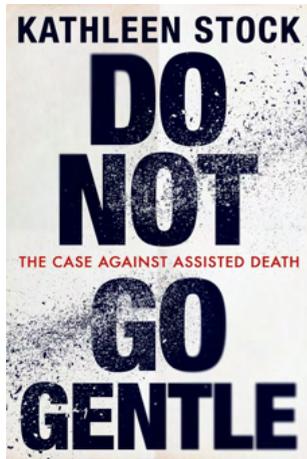
The Scotsman



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

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Material: Final PDF



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 Do Not Go Gentle

'*Do Not Go Gentle* is a bracing, often chilling wrestle with the ethical dilemmas surrounding the assisted death service – a deeply unsettling read, clear and powerful. Kathleen Stock remains fearless, endlessly thought-provoking and always entertaining.'

Nick Cave

'Riveting... a must-read for anyone interested not only in this specific debate but what it is to be a human being in a world pulverised by shrill argument and disruption.'

Matt D'Ancona

'Kathleen Stock advances the case against an assisted death service with characteristic incisiveness, lucidity, and humour. This timely book is a must-read, regardless of your starting position in this debate.'

Sonia Sodha

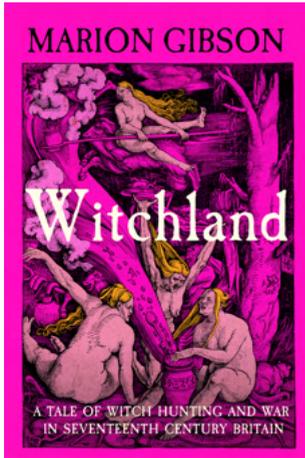
'This is a deeply thoughtful book, scholarly while being highly accessible, and an antidote to the superficial - and often misleading - soundbites propagated by campaigning groups.'

Professor Katherine Sleeman, King's College London

WITCHLAND

A Tale of Witch Hunting and War in Seventeenth Century Britain

by Marion Gibson



If the witchfinders came to your town, who would you have believed – and what would you have done?

With the English civil wars raging in the background, *Witchland* reveals how economic uncertainty, religious extremism and deprivation created the ideal conditions for mass witch-hunting in Britain. Across the country, fear spread rapidly, and neighbours turned on one another in panic. Women and the poor were especially vulnerable, scapegoated by the powerful looking for someone to blame, and hundreds of witch trials across the country soon followed. The hysteria provided a

handbook for similar trials to occur around the world, most famously just a few decades later in Salem.

Moving from village to village, Professor Marion Gibson reveals how accusations grew out of everyday tensions – poverty, grief, and resentment – and how entire communities became involved in the persecution of the innocent. Drawing on newly uncovered historical records, this gripping historical account restores the voices of those accused of witchcraft. These were ordinary people, largely forgotten by history, along with their families and neighbours caught up in suspicion and moral panic.

Both a powerful history and a warning from the past, *Witchland* is the captivating story of witchcraft, inequality and the violence that surfaces during times of political and economic upheaval.



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.

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UK Editor: Fran Jessop

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Agent: Joanna Swainson

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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*

