

## **Biography Summaries**

### **BM 278A Isit me?byTerry Wogan**

"Is it me?" is written in Terry Wogan's own inimitable style. Terry brings to the reader a wry take on everyday life, mixed with a self-deprecating humour, as he describes his whole life, both personal and professional

### **BM 279U Ustinov At Eighty an Interview with John Bird**

In this much-praised interview, octogenarian Peter Ustinov talks to John Bird. The man of many talents has an astonishing range of accomplishments behind him as an Oscar-winning film and theatre actor, author of novels, plays, and screenplays. He is also a raconteur, graphic artist, photographer, stage director, and designer and the recipient of many humanitarian awards for his work with UNICEF and UNESCO.

He talks about his hectic life and times, about family life, schools, sports, the army, spying, Hollywood and radio comedy with Peter Jones, Nero and Pol Pot, God, and Andre Agassi.

Originally broadcast on Radio 4 in April 2001, unheard material and an introduction by John Bird is included.

### **BM 296U At War with Waugh by W.F.Deedes**

History, both political and literary, was made when W. F. Deedes met Evelyn Waugh in 1935. Both were in Abyssinia to cover a war which many in England regarded with bewildered indifference but which profoundly influenced an impending global conflict. Whilst Deedes was principally concerned with filing copy to London, the author of *Brideshead Revisited* had another agenda and another novel in mind, *Scoop*. As Waugh drank, played poker and observed hacks in seedy hotel bars in Addis Ababa, he focussed on one young reporter. W. F. Deedes has always denied his association with *Scoop's* Boot, the innocent abroad and nature-notes writer who is accidentally dispatched to a war-zone. However, he acknowledges some similarities - particularly the tonnage of kit he shipped from London.

### **BM 298U Behind the Black Door by Sarah Brown**

In this personal memoir about life at 10 Downing Street, Sarah Brown shares the secrets of living behind the most famous front door in the world.

Sarah gave up a successful career in business to serve the country. A passionate campaigner for women and children, she mobilised over a million people through her early adoption of Twitter. If you've ever wondered what it's like to pack for a photo call with supermodels or pause a speech in front of hundreds when the autocue fails, it's all here - from what to do when the school play clashes with a visit to the White House to what it feels like to support the man you love as he takes tough decisions to stave off global financial meltdown...

### **BM 301U Finding My Voice My Story by Russell Watson**

Russell 'The Voice' Watson is a star with a real story to tell. While most stars of today find success early, Russell was still working in a Salford factory at the age of 30. He spent the evenings singing in working men's clubs for extra cash to keep the bailiffs from his family's door. The chairman of Manchester United gave him his big break in May 1999: the opportunity to sing at Old Trafford. His extraordinary performance was quickly followed by a record deal and his phenomenal debut album.

Despite his outward success, Russell struggled with his health and family life. His rapid rise to fame led to a bitter divorce from his childhood sweetheart and his private life being splashed across the tabloids. Then last year he was struck down by a life-threatening brain tumour. This plunged Russell into a deep depression and it was only the thought of leaving his two children fatherless that kept him going.

Just when it seemed he was fully recovered he collapsed again while recording and had to have emergency surgery on a second brain tumour that threatened his voice, his sight and his life. Now, in his own words, Russell tells us the amazing story of his life.

### **BM 302U Memoirs Of A Cotswold Vet by Ivor Smith**

Tracing Ivor Smith's early days as a college student to setting up his own practice in the Cotswolds, this heart-warming account of veterinary life recounts almost 40 memorable years in the profession. Following in the Herriot tradition of veterinary humour, Ivor's memories of life as a small animal vet include hilarious incidents, colourful local characters, and engaging patients. From calving cows in the middle of cold spring nights, handling ferocious rabbits, and operating on lame greyhounds, to setting up home in a mouse-infested cottage, winning over farmers and estate managers alike, and even finding a new-born baby on his doorstep, Ivor shares his respect for animals and joy of the beautiful Cotswold countryside in this entertaining and absorbing read. This highly readable and light-hearted account of country life is sure to appeal to animal lovers and all who know the Cotswolds.

### **BM 304U Yes Sister, No Sister by Jennifer Craig**

A trainee nurse in the 1950s had a lot to bear. In Jennifer Craig's enchanting memoir, we meet these warm-hearted yet naïve young girls as they get to grips with strict discipline, long hours, and bodily fluids. But we also see the camaraderie that develops in evening study sessions, sneaked trips to the cinema and mischievous escapades with the young trainee doctors.

The harsh conditions prove too much for some girls, but the opportunity to help her patients in their time of need is too much of a pull for Jenny. As she commits to her vocation and knuckles down to her exams, she is determined that when she reaches the heights of Ward Sister herself she will not become the frightening matron that struck fear into her student heart.

Rich in period detail, and told with a good dose of Yorkshire humour, *Yes Sister, No Sister* is a life-affirming true story of a life long past.

### **BM 303U Billy Brown, I'll Tell Your Mother by Bill Brown**

Born in Brixton, south London, in 1942, Billy Brown was a lovable scamp with a nose for mischief. Left to his own devices while both his parents went out to work, if there was trouble to be had Billy would be in the thick of it. Ignoring the shaking of fists from his neighbours, his mother's scolding and the regular thwack of the cane on his bottom at school, Billy wheeled and dealt, charmed Woolie's Girls, planned coronation celebrations, ran circles around circus performers and persuaded villains to work on his terms.

With energy and insight, Billy Brown paints a vivid and lively picture of Britain emerging from the ruins of the war, the hunger for opportunity, the growing pace of modernisation and the pride and optimism that held communities together. Londoners were intent on getting themselves back on their feet, and it provided the perfect opportunity for a boy with ambition and a lively imagination.

### **BM 305U Some Sunny Day by Dame Vera Lynn**

Born Vera Welch on 20 March, 1917 in the East End of London, Dame Vera Lynn's career was set from an early age - along with her father, who also did a 'turn', she sang in Working Men's Clubs from just seven years old.

### **BM306 U Me And Mine by Anna May Mangan**

The story of an Irish immigrant family who left rural Ireland in the 1950s to find work and a better way of life in England. From aunts who claimed their current hair shade as genetic and ferried leather suitcases dripping with blood from the Irish boat train because English meat was 'dirt' to one who mashed all of her only son's food until he was eleven in case he choked, and relatives being considered moneyed because of owning a post office account and a caravan! Battling poverty, death, illness and everyday life this is a story of survival, triumph and laughter in the face of adversity from a truly colourful cast of characters told with wit and warmth.

### **BM 307U Trautmann's Journey by Catrine Clay**

This is the extraordinary story of Bert Trautmann, famed as the goalkeeper who broke his neck in an FA Cup final and played on. But his early life is no less extraordinary: he grew up in Nazi Germany and fought for the Germans in World War Two. In 1945 he was captured and sent to a British POW camp where, for the first time, he saw a better way of life. He embraced England as his new home and before long became an England football hero.

### **BM 308U The King's Speech by Mark Logue**

This is the previously untold story of the remarkable relationship between Logue and the haunted future King George VI, written with Logue's grandson and drawing exclusively from his grandfather Lionel's diaries and archive. It throws an extraordinary light on the intimacy of the two men, and the vital role the King's wife, the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, played in bringing them together to save her husband's reputation and reign.

'The King's Speech: How One Man Saved the British Monarchy' is an astonishing insight into a private world. Logue's diaries also reveal, for the first time, the torment the future King suffered at the hands of his father George V because of his stammer. Never before has there been such a personal portrait of the British monarchy - at a time of its greatest crisis - seen through the eyes of an Australian commoner who was proud to serve, and save, his King

### **BM 309U Dylan Thomas A New Life by Andrew Lycett**

Dylan Thomas was a romantic and controversial figure; a poet who lived to excess and died young. An inventive genius with a gift for both lyrical phrases and impish humour, he also wrote for films and radio, and was renowned for his stage performances. As his status as a poet and entertainer increased, so did his alcoholic binges and his sexual promiscuity, threatening to destroy his marriage to his fiery Irish wife Caitlin. As this extraordinary biography reveals, he was a man of many contradictions. But out of his tempestuous life, he produced some of the most dramatic and enduring poetry in the English language.

### **BM 310U High Society The Life Of Grace Kelly by Donald Spoto**

High Society: The Life of Grace Kelly. Drawing on his unprecedented access to Grace Kelly, bestselling biographer Donald Spoto at last offers an intimate, honest, and authoritative portrait of one of Hollywood's legendary actresses.

**BM 313U I, Claudius by Robert Graves**

Robert Graves' novel opens with Claudius (or Tiberius Claudius Drusus Nero Germanicus) introducing himself and describing his personal motivation for writing this autobiography.

**BM 314U Robert Kennedy - His Life by Evan Thomas**

He was "Good Bobby," who, as his brother Ted eulogized him, "saw wrong and tried to right it . . . saw suffering and tried to heal it." And "Bad Bobby," the ruthless and manipulative bully of countless conspiracy theories. Thomas's unvarnished but sympathetic and fair-minded portrayal is packed with new details about Kennedy's early life and his behind-the-scenes machinations, including new revelations about the 1960 and 1968 presidential campaigns, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and his long struggles with J. Edgar Hoover and Lyndon Johnson.

**BM 315U Parky - My Autobiography by Michael Parkinson**

From prize-winning journalist to chat show king on a show voted one of the top 10 British TV programs of all time, Michael Parkinson's starry career spans over four decades. Now an international celebrity himself, the man from a humble but colorful Yorkshire mining family who can tease out the secrets of even the most reticent star guest, at last reveals his own story, with the easy manner and insight that has kept his audiences fascinated. His distinguished career has involved working on highly acclaimed current affairs and film programs. His wide interests and expertise include jazz, film, soccer, and cricket. Witty, humorous, and blessed with exceptional intellectual clarity, Michael Parkinson's memoir is a joy to read.

**BM 316U Paperboy by Christopher Fowler**

Christopher Fowler's memoir captures life in suburban London as it has rarely been seen: through the eyes of a lonely boy who spends his days between the library and the cinema, devouring novels, comics, cereal packets - anything that might reveal a story. Caught between an ever-sensible but exhausted mother and a DIY-obsessed father fighting his own demons, Christopher takes refuge in words. His parents try to understand their son's peculiar obsessions, but fast lose patience with him - and each other. The war of nerves escalates to include every member of the Fowler family, and something has to give, but does it mean that a boy must always give up his dreams for the tough lessons of real life? Beautifully written, this rich and astute evocation of a time and a place recalls a childhood at once entertainingly eccentric and endearingly ordinary.

**BM 317U Barbra - the way she is by Christopher Anderson**

She is a global icon, the ultimate diva, the Brooklyn girl made good, the ugly duckling who blossomed into a modern-day Nefertiti, the Oscar-winning actress and bona fide movie mogul, and arguably the greatest female singer who has ever lived. Yet even to the multitudes who idolize her, Streisand has remained aloof, unknowable, tantalizingly beyond reach . . . until now.

Drawing from in-depth interviews with eyewitnesses to her remarkable life and career, #1 New York Times bestselling author Christopher Andersen paints a fascinating, startling portrait of Barbra Joan Streisand—the artist, the woman, a true American original.

### **BM 318U The Elephant to Hollywood by Michael Caine**

Charming, engaging, and surprisingly forthright, Michael Caine gives us his insider's view of Hollywood and the story of his brilliant second act.

### **BM 319U Marilyn: A biography by Norman Mailer**

In 1973, Norman Mailer published Marilyn, his celebrated in-depth account of the life of Marilyn Monroe, as a glossy, fully illustrated coffee-table tome. His work was immediately acclaimed - and an enduring bestseller, rumoured to have sold more copies than any of his other works except *The Naked and the Dead*. Yet, until now, it has never been made available in an accessible mass-market paperback edition.

This is one of America's greatest writers taking on the legend of one of Hollywood's greatest stars.

### **BM 320U Beautiful by Katie Piper**

When Katie Piper was 24, her life was near perfect. Young and beautiful, she was well on her way to fulfilling her dream of becoming a model. But then she met Daniel Lynch on Facebook and her world quickly turned into a nightmare. After being held captive and brutally raped by her new boyfriend, Katie was subjected to a vicious acid attack. Within seconds, this bright and bubbly girl could feel her looks and the life she loved melting away. This is the moving true story of how one young woman had her mind, body, and spirit cruelly snatched from her and how she inspired millions with her fight to get them back.

### **BM 321U Eric Clapton the autobiography by Eric Clapton**

With striking intimacy and candour, Eric Clapton tells the story of his eventful and inspiring life in this poignant and honest autobiography. More than a rock star, he is an icon, a living embodiment of the history of rock music. Well known for his reserve in a profession marked by self-promotion, flamboyance, and spin, he now chronicles, for the first time, his remarkable personal and professional journeys.

### **BM322U Lost and Found by Lynda Bellingham**

*'Looking back, perhaps the single biggest problem was fear. Fear of failure, fear of other people - but mostly fear of myself. It has taken many years to discover who I really am. It's never too late to find yourself; however lost you may be ...'*

In Lynda Bellingham's blisteringly honest autobiography, the much-loved actress and Loose Women panellist reveals the truth about her life, including her search for her birth mother, only to lose her again to Alzheimer's, and her many years married to an abusive man while playing the 'nation's mum' in the Oxo adverts.

But Lynda never lost her sense of humour, and among the darker moments she recalls hilarious anecdotes from her time on stage and screen. Lost and Found is an inspiring story of getting through the tough times with the strong spirit of a survivor, and finally finding true love.

### **BM 323U    The 33 by Jonathan Franklin**

Having had unparalleled access to the Chilean mine disaster, award-winning journalist Jonathan Franklin takes readers to the heart of a remarkable story of human endurance, survival, and historic heroism.

33 Men is the ground-breaking, authoritative account of the Chilean mine disaster, one of the longest human entrapments in history. Rushing to the scene when the miners were discovered, Franklin obtained a coveted "Rescue Team" pass and reported directly from the front lines of the rescue operation, beyond police controls, for six weeks. Based on more than 110 intimate interviews with the miners, their families, and the rescue team, Franklin's narrative captures the remarkable story of these men and women, in details shocking, beautiful, comedic, and heroic.

### **BM 324U    Madeleine by Kate McCann**

Kate McCann's personal account of the agonising search for her missing daughter.

"The decision to publish this book has been very difficult, and taken with heavy hearts. My reason for writing it is simple: to give an account of the truth ... Writing this memoir has entailed recording some very personal, intimate and emotional aspects of our lives. Sharing these with strangers does not come easily to me, but if I hadn't done so I would not have felt the book gave as full a picture as it is possible for me to give. As with every action we have taken over the last four years, it ultimately boils down to whether what we are doing could help us to find Madeleine. When the answer to that question is yes, or even possibly, our family can cope with anything...

"What follows is an intensely personal account, and I make no apology for that ...

### **BM 325A    The Horse Boy by Rupert Isaacson**

An intensely personal yet epic spiritual journey, *The Horse Boy* follows one Texas couple and their autistic son as they trek on horseback through Outer Mongolia in a desperate attempt to treat his condition with shamanic healing.

**BM 326U Eat. Pray. Love by Elizabeth Gilbert**

*Eat, Pray, Love* is a memoir of Elizabeth Gilbert's experiences and relationships on a one-year journey across the world in the pursuit of pleasure, spiritual devotion, and the balance between the two. After her divorce and a failed relationship that followed, Liz embarked on a three-nation journey, with plans to spend four months each in Italy, where she intended to pursue her love of food and language; in India, where she would study at her guru's ashram, and on the island of Bali in Indonesia, where she hoped to find and maintain balance in her life.

Liz's story begins with a moment of despair that gripped her on her bathroom floor at a time when she was coming to terms with her thoughts of ending her marriage. Though she was not a very religious person, in a moment of desperation, Liz called out to God to ask what to do...

**BM 327U Mr Selfridge by Lindy Woodhead**

About shopping; seduction & Mr. Selfridge. If you lived at Downton Abbey, you shopped at Selfridge's. Harry Gordon Selfridge was a charismatic American who, in twenty-five years working at Marshall Field's in Chicago, rose from lowly stock boy to a partner in the business which his visionary skills had helped to create.

**BM 328U Out of Africa by Karen Blixen**

This book follows the life of Karen Blixen, who establishes a plantation in Africa. Her life is complicated by a husband of convenience (Bror Blixen), a true love (Denys), troubles on the plantation, schooling of the natives, war, and catching VD from her husband.

**BM 329U Constable in Love by Martin Gayford**

Love, not landscape, was the making of Constable. . .

John Constable and Maria Bicknell might have been in love but their marriage was a most unlikely prospect. Constable was a penniless painter who would not sacrifice his art for anything, while Maria's family frowned on such a penurious union. For seven long years the couple were forced to correspond and meet clandestinely.

But it was during this period of longing that Constable developed as a painter. And by the time they'd overcome all obstacles to their marriage, he was on the verge of being recognised as a genius.

**BM 330U One Child by Torey Hayden**

One Child is the story of a lost little girl and the extraordinary teacher who works to find her. Sheila has been forgotten by the system, her family, and society itself. She has been shuffled between relatives and institutions before landing in Torey Hayden's secluded annex classroom.

### **BM 331U Agatha Christie - An Autobiography by Agatha Christie**

When Agatha Christie died on 12 January 1976, she was known throughout the world as the Queen of Crime, unrivalled as the best-selling novelist of all time with two billion books sold in more than 100 languages. Though she kept her private life a mystery, for some years Agatha had secretly written her autobiography, and when it was published after her death, millions of her fans agreed - this was her best story!

From early childhood at the end of the 19th century, through two marriages and two World Wars, and her experiences both as a writer and on archaeological expeditions with her second husband, Max Mallowan, this book reveals the true genius of her legendary success with real passion and openness.

### **BM 333U Felix Gale: Life Interviews and Burma poem by Felix Gale**

### **BM 334U Call the Midwife by Jennifer Worth**

An unforgettable story of the joy of motherhood, the bravery of a community, and the hope of one extraordinary woman

At the age of twenty-two, Jennifer Worth leaves her comfortable home to move into a convent and become a midwife in post war London's East End slums. The colourful characters she meets while delivering babies all over London-from the plucky, warm-hearted nuns with whom she lives to the woman with twenty-four children who can't speak English to the prostitutes and Dockers of the city's seedier side-illuminate a fascinating time in history. Beautifully written and utterly moving, The Midwife will touch the hearts of anyone who is, and everyone who has, a mother.

### **BM335U Shadows of the Workhouse by Jennifer Worth**

Jennifer Worth, a midwife working in the docklands area of East London in the 1950s tells more stories about the people she encountered.

There's Jane, who cleaned and generally helped out at Nonnatus House - she was taken to the workhouse as a baby and was allegedly the illegitimate daughter of an aristocrat. The Reverend Thornton-Appleby-Thornton, a missionary in Africa, visits the Nonnatus nuns and Sister Julienne acts as matchmaker. And Sister Monica Joan, the eccentric ninety-year-old nun, is accused of shoplifting some small items from the local market. She is let off with a warning, but then Jennifer finds stolen jewels from Hatton Garden in the nun's room.

### **BM 339U Charles Dickens A portrait in letters by David Timson**

Charles Dickens was a prolific writer of letters throughout his life. There are extant more than 13,000 letters that he wrote to friends, family, fellow authors, and actors as well as many letters written to people involved in good causes he espoused. In the hands of actor and writer Simon Callow, one of the most prominent Dickens interpreters of our time, this informative and entertaining selection shows Dickens in his many guises. We know Charles Dickens the author, but these letters offer a fascinating glimpse into Charles Dickens the man.

### **BM 340U As Luck Would Have It by Derek Jacobi**

Funny, warm and honest, Jacobi brings us his insider's view on the world of acting. From a simple childhood in the East End to the height of fame on stage and screen, Derek recalls his journey in full: from the beginnings of his childhood dreams to the legendary productions, the renowned stars and the intimate off-stage moments.

### **BM 341U Twelve Years a Slave by Louis Gossett**

Hard working Solomon Northup, an educated free man of colour in 1841, enjoys family life with his wife and three children in Saratoga, New York. He delights his community with his fiddle playing and antic spirit, and has positive expectations of all he meets. When he is deceived by "circus promoters" to accompany them to a musical gig in the nation's capital, his joyful life takes an unimaginable turn. He awakens in shackles to find he has been drugged, kidnapped and bound for the slave block in D.C.

After Solomon is shipped 1,000 miles to New Orleans, he is assigned his slave name and quickly learns that the mere utterance of his true origin or rights as a freeman are certain to bring severe punishment or death. While he endures the brutal life of a slave in Louisiana's isolated Bayou Boeuf plantation country, he must learn how to play the system and plot his escape home.

### **BM 351U I Always Loved You by Robin Oliveira**

The young Mary Cassatt never thought moving to Paris after the Civil War to be an artist was going to be easy, but when, after a decade of work, her submission to the Paris Salon is rejected, Mary's fierce determination wavers. Her father is begging her to return to Philadelphia to find a husband before it is too late, her sister Lydia is falling mysteriously ill, and worse, Mary is beginning to doubt herself. Then one evening a friend introduces her to Edgar Degas and her life changes forever. Years later she will learn that he had begged for the introduction, but in that moment their meeting seems a miracle. So begins the defining period of her life and the most tempestuous of relationships.

### **BM352U Charlie Chaplin: A brief life by Peter Ackroyd**

He was the very first icon of the silver screen and is one of the most recognizable of Hollywood faces, even a hundred years after his first film. But what of the man behind the moustache?

Peter Ackroyd's new biography turns the spotlight on Chaplin's life as well as his work, from his humble theatrical beginnings in music halls to winning an honorary Academy Award. Everything is here, from the glamour of his golden age to the murky scandals of the 1940s and eventual exile to Switzerland. There are charming anecdotes along the way: playing the violin in a New York hotel room to mask the sound of Stan Laurel frying pork chops and long Hollywood lunches with Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. This masterful brief biography offers fresh revelations about one of the most familiar faces of the last century and brings the Little Tramp vividly to life.

### **BM365      Maggie Smith A Biography by Michael Coveney**

No one does glamour, severity, girlish charm or tight-lipped witticism better than Dame Maggie Smith. Michael Coveney's biography shines a light on the life and career of a truly remarkable performer, one whose stage and screen career spans six decades. From her days as a West End star of comedy and revue, Dame Maggie's path would cross with those of the greatest actors, playwrights and directors of the era. Whether stealing scenes from Richard Burton, answering back to Laurence Olivier, or playing opposite Judi Dench in *Breath of Life*, her career can be seen as a 'Who's Who' of British theatre.

Paradoxically she remains an enigmatic figure, rarely appearing in public. This absorbing biography, written with the actress's blessing and drawing on personal archives, as well as interviews with immediate family and close friends, is a portrait of one of the greatest actors of our time.

### **BM 367U      A Likely Tale, Lad by Mike Pannett**

*A Likely Tale, Lad: Laughs & larks growing up in the 1970s (Lad series)* For a young lad like Mike Pannett, growing up in the North Yorkshire countryside in the late 1960s and early '70s was a dream come true.

### **BM 369U      Birds Beasts and Relatives by Gerald Durrell**

*Birds, Beasts, and Relatives* (1969) by British naturalist Gerald Durrell is the second volume of his autobiographical *Corfu Trilogy*, published from 1954 to 1978. The trilogy records his memoirs about his childhood with his family between 1935 and 1939, when they lived on the Greek island of Corfu...

### **BM371U A Year in the Life of the Yorkshire Shepherdess by Amanda Owen**

Amanda Owen has been seen by millions on ITV's *The Dales*, living a life that has almost gone in today's modern world, a life ruled by the seasons and her animals. She is a farmer's wife and shepherdess, living alongside her husband Clive and seven children at Ravenseat, a 2000 acre sheep hill farm at the head of Swale dale in North Yorkshire. It's a challenging life but one she loves.

In *The Yorkshire Shepherdess* she describes how the rebellious girl from Huddersfield, who always wanted to be a shepherdess, achieved her dreams. Full of amusing anecdotes and unforgettable characters, the book takes us from fitting in with the locals to fitting in motherhood, from the demands of the livestock to the demands of raising a large family in such a rural backwater. Amanda also evokes the peace of winter, when they can be cut off by snow without electricity or running water, the happiness of spring and the lambing season, and the backbreaking tasks of summertime - haymaking and sheep shearing - inspiring us all to look at the countryside and those who work there with new appreciation.

### **BM 372U Les Parisiennes by Anne Sebba**

What did it feel like to be a woman living in Paris from 1939 to 1949? These were years of fear, power, aggression, courage, deprivation and secrets until – finally – renewal and retribution. Even in the darkest moments of Occupation, glamour was ever present. French women wore lipstick. Why?

### **BM 374U Young Elizabeth by Kate Williams**

We can hardly imagine a Britain without Elizabeth II on the throne. It seems to be the job she was born for. And yet for much of her early life the young princess did not know the role that her future would hold. She was our accidental Queen.

Elizabeth's determination to share in the struggles of her people marked her out from a young age. Her father initially refused to let her volunteer as a nurse during the Blitz, but relented when she was 18 and allowed her to work as a mechanic and truck driver for the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service. It was her forward-thinking approach that ensured that her coronation was televised, against the advice of politicians at the time.

### **BM 373U The Hairy Bikers: Blood, Sweat & Tyres by Si King & Dave Myers**

Si King and Dave Myers, AKA the Hairy Bikers have travelled an interesting road. Born in the north of England, both Si and Dave had their childhood challenges. For Si, being bullied as the fat kid in class was part of his daily school routine. For Dave, his life changed when he became a childhood carer for his mother. But through the challenges of their early years came a love of really good food.

And it was food that brought Si and Dave together. Their eyes met over a curry and a pint on the set of a Catherine Cookson drama, and they knew they would be firm and fast friends for life.

### **BM 375U 80 Not Out by DickieBird**

Hardly a week goes by without Dickie Bird visiting a county or Test match arena where he can keep up to date with all that is happening in the cricket world, while at the same time taking the opportunity to reflect, in the company of old friends and acquaintances, on his own colourful contribution to the sport that lasted for over half a century.

Dickie remains the most famous umpire of them all and is still highly respected throughout the world. A lovable eccentric with a joyful sense of fun, he decided, as he approached his eightieth birthday, to recall the highlights of his life in cricket, while also providing an illuminating insight into what he has been up to since his retirement

### **BM376U Jam Butties and a Pan of Scouse by Maggie Clarke**

A gritty yet heart-warming memoir set against the backdrop of Liverpool's tightknit working-class docklands community. The story covers Maggie Clarke's upbringing in the tenements close to the docks, the River Mersey and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal: an area notorious for having the worst slums in Britain, yet the closest community as well.

At the tender age of 11, Maggie Clarke finds herself the matriarch of the family when her Irish mother runs off with another man. Leaving school at 14 to work at a local factory putting sticks into lollies, she is determined to make a better life for herself and her family - before starting her own family with her childhood sweetheart, who she marries at 19 after 'falling in the family way'. She has one night of married life with her husband before he is sent to India with the Navy and is devastated when she never hears from him again, presuming him a casualty of the war that is raging at home and abroad.

### **BM377U Horses, Heifers and Hairy Pigs by Julian Norton**

Horses, Heifers and Hairy Pigs: The Life of a Yorkshire Vet. Star of Channel 5's television series The Yorkshire Vet, Julian Norton has written a warm and evocative memoir of his life and the animals and people he has met along the way.

### **BM 378 Five Minutes of Amazing by Chris Graham**

Chris Graham is a 39 year-old former British Army soldier who was diagnosed with dementia five years ago. He has just completed a 16,000 mile cycle across North America.

A profoundly moving and inspirational story of one person's battle against early onset dementia and an adventure undertaken in the name of living life to the fullest, as well as helping to change the lives of others.

**BM 379U Spymaster by Martin Pearce**

The extraordinary story of the most highly decorated British spymaster of the Cold War, Sir Maurice Oldfield. Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (commonly known as the SIS or MI6), he was the first Chief to be named and pictured in the press, and often alleged by them to be the model for the screen versions of both Ian Fleming's M and John Le Carré's George Smiley.

This is the fascinating life story of Maurice Oldfield, written by his nephew Martin Pearce, who remembers asking his uncle what he did for a job. 'Oh it's quite boring really, dear boy. I'm a kind of security guard at embassies,' was the reply...

**BM 380U Hearts and Minds by Jane Robinson**

Set against the colourful background of the entire campaign for women to win the vote, Hearts and Minds tells the remarkable and inspiring story of the suffragists' march on London.

This is a story of ordinary people effecting extraordinary change. By turns dangerous, exhausting and exhilarating, the Great Pilgrimage transformed the personal and political lives of women in Britain for ever. Jane Robinson has drawn from diaries, letters and unpublished accounts to tell the inside story of the march, against the colourful background of the entire suffrage campaign.

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