

The Kenneth Williams Diaries

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The Kenneth Williams Diaries

Kenneth Williams 1993 For more than 40 years broadcaster and comedian Kenneth Williams kept a journal of his experiences - this book is a one-volume selection of these diaries. In addition to offering conclusive evidence as to the nature of Williams' death in 1988, the diaries reveal different sides of his character.

The Kenneth Williams Diaries

Kenneth Williams 2005 For

over forty years Kenneth Williams kept a completely private diary. After his death, rumours of its publication sent a shiver of dread through the theatrical world. This volume brings to light a complex and tormented personality, devastatingly honest and uninhibited about both himself and his fellow man.

The Orton Diaries Joe Orton
1996-08-22 "To be young, good-looking, healthy, famous, comparatively rich and happy

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is surely going against nature.” When Joe Orton (1933–1967) wrote those words in his diary in May 1967, he was being hailed as the greatest comic playwright since Oscar Wilde for his darkly hilarious *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* and the farce hit *Loot*, and was completing *What the Butler Saw*; but less than three months later, his longtime companion, Kenneth Halliwell, smashed in Orton's skull with a hammer before killing himself. The *Orton Diaries*, written during his last eight months, chronicle in a remarkably candid style his outrageously unfettered life: his literary success, capped by an Evening Standard Award and overtures from the Beatles; his sexual escapades—at his mother's funeral, with a dwarf in Brighton, and, extensively, in Tangiers; and the breakdown of his sixteen-year "marriage" to Halliwell, the relationship that transformed and destroyed him. Edited with a superb introduction by John Lahr, *The Orton Diaries* is his crowning achievement.

Life with Kenneth Connor

Jeremy Connor 2014-11-02 In this new publication, Kenneth Connor's son, Jeremy Connor, recalls many of the unique experiences that he shared with his much-loved father. At the same time, readers are given an engaging glimpse into life behind-the-scenes on many of the productions Kenneth worked on. With a foreword by Jeffrey Holland, and recollections from many of Kenneth's friends and colleagues, *Life with Kenneth Connor* offers a fascinating and personal insight into the actor who passed away in November 1993.

[Frankie Howerd](#) Graham McCann 2004 The rambling perambulations, the catchphrases, the bland brown suit and chestnut hairpiece—such were the hallmarks of a revolution in stand-up comedy that came in the unique shape of Frankie Howerd. This new biography from Graham McCann charts the circuitous course of an extraordinary career, moving from his early success in the

40s and early 50s as a radio star, through a period at the end of the 50s when he was all but forgotten as a has-been, to his rediscovery in the early 60s by Peter Cook and continued success. Graham McCann vividly captures both Howerd's colorful career and precarious private life through extensive new research and original interviews with such figures as Paul McCartney, Eric Sykes, Bill Cotton, Barbara Windsor, Joan Simms, and Michael Grade.

Whatshisname Wes Butters 2010 At last - the definitive biography of Charles Hawtrey! From Wes Butters, Sony award winning broadcaster and author of *Kenneth Williams Unseen*, comes an extensively researched and compelling book almost fifteen years in the making, featuring scores of exclusive interviews, including Hawtrey's inner circle and surviving descendents, never-before-seen photographs, and private documents and correspondence. The result is the first definitive account of a life Hawtrey himself was keen

to see evaporate into the mist of history. Years before, Hawtrey started out as a child actor in silent films, he was England's leading boy soprano and worked alongside a positive who's who of the thirties and forties. He had directed films and produced West End shows, starred in three hit TV series and was a prolific radio actor for the BBC. Yet he was never content and spent his life desperately searching for stardom and success, which, in his own deluded way of thinking, always failed to live up to expectations. He wasn't the least bit interested in his reputation or leaving a legacy, growing old disgracefully in Deal, the Kent seaside town he lived in for the last twenty years of his life: collapsing in pubs; swearing at autograph-hunting children; and, taking home teenage rent boys (one of whom set fire to Hawtrey's cottage, with Hawtrey still inside it). He died in 1988. Nine people were at his funeral.

Malice in Wonderland Hugo
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Vickers 2021-10-05 The witty and perceptive diaries kept by Cecil Beaton's authorized biographer during his many fascinating encounters with extraordinary—often legendary—characters in his search for the real Cecil Beaton. Hugo Vickers's life took a dramatic turn in 1979 when the legendary Sir Cecil Beaton invited him to be his authorised biographer. The excitement of working with the famous photographer was dashed only days later when Cecil Beaton died. But the journey had begun - Vickers was entrusted with Beaton's papers, diaries and, most importantly, access to his friends and contemporaries. In *Malice in Wonderland*, Vickers shares excerpts from his personal diaries kept during this period. For five years, Vickers travelled the world and talked to some of the most fascinating and important social and cultural figures of the time, including royalty such as the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, film stars such as Grace Kelly, Audrey

Hepburn and Julie Andrews, writers such as Truman Capote, and photographers such as Irving Penn and Horst. And not only Beaton's friends - Vickers sought out the enemies too, notably Irene Selznick. He was taken under the wings of Lady Diana Cooper, Clarissa Avon and Diana Vreeland. Drawn into Beaton's world and accepted by its members, Vickers the emerging biographer also began his own personal adventure. The outsider became the insider - Beaton's friends became his friends. *Malice in Wonderland* is a fascinating portrait of a now disappeared world, and vividly and sensitively portrays some of its most fascinating characters as we travel with Vickers on his quest.

Prostitute Flange Kenneth Devon Hawkins 2010-04

Jeb and Dash Jeb Alexander 1994-01 It occurred to me today with something of a shock how horrible it would be for this diary of mine to be pawed over and read unsympathetically after I am dead, by those incapable of

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understanding... And then the thought of the one thing even more dreadful and terrible than that - for my diary never to be read by the one person who would or could understand. For I do want it to be read - there is no use concealing the fact - by somebody who is like me, who would understand. Jeb Alexander was a gay man who lived in Washington, D.C., during the first half of the twentieth century. From 1918, when he was nineteen years old, until the late 1950s, he chronicled his daily life engagingly and unsparingly, leaving behind a unique record of ordinary gay life before Stonewall, a history that has remained largely hidden until now. Jeb came of age as the century did, witnessing and recording political and social change from the position of insider as an editor for the U.S. Government and outsider as a gay man. Painfully shy, and frustrated in his ambition to be a novelist by writer's block, Jeb turned to his diary as a way of expressing himself as well as recording events, creating a

full emotional self-portrait and unforgettable sketches of the men who made up his lively circle of friends. Jeb and Dash also details the joy and anguish of an extraordinary on-and-off love affair between Jeb and C. C. Dasham (Dash), whom he met in college and with whom he remained friends throughout his life. A rare and important historical document, a beautifully written memoir, a love story, an ode to old Washington, D.C., Jeb and Dash is a remarkable find and an enduring literary achievement.

[Kenneth Williams Diaries 27bk](#)

[Bin Russell Davies 1994-06-13](#)
When the Wind Changed Cliff Goodwin 2000 Tony Hancock reigned for fifteen years as the undisputed king of comedy. In this relatively short timespan he managed to leave an astonishing legacy of hilarious radio and television, including the enduring classic HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR.

When he committed suicide at the age of 44, comedy fans the world over mourned his loss.

Now, in this definitive new

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biography, Cliff Goodwin reveals at last the man behind the myth. Using a wealth of previously unpublished new material, he is able to fully explore the tensions between Hancock's status as comic genius and his personal battles with drink and drugs. He also examines in detail for the first time the reason for Hancock's depression and suicide. Hancock inspired such tremendous love and devotion in his public that they felt they were entitled to a part of his private life: Spike Milligan summed up Hancock's response: 'One by one he shut the door on all the people he knew; then he shut the door on himself.' In this major new biography, Cliff Goodwin opens the door to reveal Tony Hancock the fans never saw.

The Kenneth Williams Letters
Kenneth Williams 2008-06

Following the bestselling publication of THE KENNETH WILLIAMS DIARIES, the devastating self-portrait of one of our most loved and complex performers is completed with this marvellous selection of his

letters.

The Carry on Story Robert Ross 2008-04 As uniquely British an institution as there ever was, the saucy scripts, classic gags, and a repertory company of familiar stars helped to make the Carry Ons some of the best-loved comedies ever produced. Celebrating 50 years of fun, Robert Ross's inside story of Carry On is now reissued in a lavish hardback edition, with new material and new, previously unpublished illustrations. Packed with information and exclusive images from the archive of Gerald Thomas, who directed all 31 films in the series, *The Carry On Story* also features contributions from the actors, screenwriters, and other filmmakers who created a classic legacy. This lavish and in-depth 50th anniversary edition covers the films, television programs, and stage shows, making it the ultimate guide to a much-loved comedy phenomenon.

Patricia Highsmith: Her Diaries and Notebooks: 1941-1995

Patricia Highsmith 2021-11-16
New York Times • Times
Critics Top Books of 2021 The
Times (of London) • Best Books
of the Year Excerpted in The
New Yorker Profiled in The Los
Angeles Times Publishing for
the centenary of her birth,
Patricia Highsmith's diaries
"offer the most complete
picture ever published" of the
canonical author (New York
Times). Relegated to the genre
of mystery during her lifetime,
Patricia Highsmith is now
recognized as one of "our
greatest modernist writers"
(Gore Vidal). Beloved by fans
who were unaware of the real
psychological turmoil behind
her prose, the famously
secretive Highsmith refused to
authorize a biography, instead
sequestering herself in her
Switzerland home in her final
years. Posthumously, her
devoted editor Anna von Planta
discovered her diaries and
notebooks in 1995, tucked in a
closet—with tantalizing
instructions to be read. For
years thereafter, von Planta
meticulously culled from over
eight thousand pages to help

reveal the inscrutable figure
behind the legendary pen.
Beginning with her junior year
at Barnard in 1941, Highsmith
ritualistically kept a diary and
notebook—the former to
catalog her day, the latter to
brainstorm stories and hone
her craft. This volume weaves
diary and notebook
simultaneously, exhibiting
precisely how Highsmith's
personal affairs seeped into her
fiction—and the sheer darkness
of her own imagination.
Charming yet teetering on the
egotistical, young "Pat" lays
bare her dizzying social life in
1940s Greenwich Village,
barhopping with Judy Holliday
and Jane Bowles, among
others. Alongside Flannery
O'Connor and Chester Himes,
she attended—at the
recommendation of Truman
Capote—the Yaddo artist
colony in 1948, where she
drafted *Strangers on a Train*.
Published in 1950 and soon
adapted by Alfred Hitchcock,
this debut novel brought
recognition and brief financial
security, but left a heartsick
Highsmith agonizing: "What is

the life I choose?" Providing extraordinary insights into gender and sexuality in mid-twentieth-century America, Highsmith's diaries convey her euphoria writing *The Price of Salt* (1951). Yet her sophomore novel would have to be published under a pseudonym, so as not to tarnish her reputation. Indeed, no one could anticipate commercial reception for a novel depicting love between two women in the McCarthy era. Seeking relief from America, Highsmith catalogs her peripatetic years in Europe, subsisting on cigarettes and growing more bigoted and satirical with age. After a stay in Positano with a new lover, she reflects in her notebooks on being an expat, and gleefully conjures the unforgettable *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1955); it would be this sociopathic antihero who would finally solidify her true fame. At once lovable, detestable, and mesmerizing, Highsmith put her turbulent life to paper for five decades, acutely aware there must be "a few usable things in literature." A memoir

as significant in our own century as Sylvia Plath's journals and Simone de Beauvoir's writings were to another time, *Patricia Highsmith: Her Diaries and Notebooks* is an historic work that chronicles a woman's rise against the conventional tide to unparalleled literary prominence.

Dear Los Angeles David Kipen 2019-12-10 A rich mosaic of diary entries and letters from Marilyn Monroe, Cesar Chavez, Susan Sontag, Albert Einstein, and many more, this is the story of Los Angeles as told by locals, transplants, and some just passing through. "Los Angeles is refracted in all its irreducible, unexplainable glory."—Los Angeles Times The City of Angels has played a distinct role in the hearts, minds, and imaginations of millions of people, who see it as the ultimate symbol of the American Dream. David Kipen, a cultural historian and avid scholar of Los Angeles, has scoured libraries, archives, and private estates to assemble a

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kaleidoscopic view of a truly unique city. From the Spanish missionary expeditions in the early 1500s to the Golden Age of Hollywood to the strange new world of social media, this collection is a slice of life in L.A. through the years. The pieces are arranged by date—January 1st to December 31st—featuring selections from different decades and centuries. What emerges is a vivid tapestry of insights, personal discoveries, and wry observations that together distill the essence of the city. As sprawling and magical as the city itself, *Dear Los Angeles* is a fascinating, must-have collection for everyone in, from, or touched by Southern California. With excerpts from the writing of Ray Bradbury • Edgar Rice Burroughs • Octavia E. Butler • Italo Calvino • Winston Churchill • Noël Coward • Simone De Beauvoir • James Dean • T. S. Eliot • William Faulkner • Lawrence Ferlinghetti • Richard Feynman • F. Scott Fitzgerald • Allen Ginsberg • Dashiell Hammett • Charlton

Heston • Zora Neale Hurston • Christopher Isherwood • John Lennon • H. L. Mencken • Anaïs Nin • Sylvia Plath • Ronald Reagan • Joan Rivers • James Thurber • Dalton Trumbo • Evelyn Waugh • Tennessee Williams • P. G. Wodehouse • and many more
Advance praise for *Dear Los Angeles* “This book’s a brilliant constellation, spread out over a few centuries and five thousand square miles. Each tiny entry pins the reality of the great unreal city of Angels to a moment in human time—moments enthralled, appalled, jubilant, suffering, gossiping or bragging—and it turns out, there’s no better way to paint a picture of the place.”—Jonathan Lethem “[A] scintillating collection of letters and diary entries . . . an engrossing trove of colorful, witty insights.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)
[The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer](#) Jennifer Lynch
2011-12-06 The secret diary of teenage murder victim Laura Palmer threatens to expose the long-hidden dark secrets of the

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inhabitants of Twin Peaks.
Reissue. TV and Movie Tie-In.
**Kenneth Williams Unseen:
The private notes, scripts
and photographs** Wes Butters
2010-07-15 To mark the 20th
anniversary of Kenneth
Williams' death, a beautiful
coffee table book celebrating
his life, including never-before-
seen photographs, sketches
and personal testimony from
Williams' closest friends, for
the very first time.

The Life of Kenneth Tynan
Kathleen Tynan 1995-03-02
Kathleen Tynan traces her
husband's life from his
illegitimate birth, through his
rebellious years at Oxford, to
his career as the first post-war
British myth - actor, director,
writer, flamboyant personality
and provocateur of the
establishment on both sides of
the Atlantic.

The Assassin's Cloak Irene
Taylor 2020-11-05 'A diary is
an assassin's cloak which we
wear when we stab a comrade
in the back with a pen', wrote
William Soutar in 1934. But a
diary is also a place for
recording everyday thoughts

and special occasions, private
fears and hopeful dreams. The
Assassin's Cloak gathers
together some of the most
entertaining and inspiring
entries for each day of the
year, as writers ranging from
Queen Victoria to Andy Warhol,
Samuel Pepys to Adrian Mole,
pen their musings on the
historic and the mundane.
Spanning centuries and
international in scope, this
peerless anthology pays tribute
to a genre that is at once the
most intimate and public of all
literary forms. This new
updated edition is published to
mark the twentieth anniversary
of the book's original
publication.

Illusions of Immortality
David Giles 2017-03-14 What
drives people to crave fame
and celebrity? How does fame
affect people psychologically?
These issues are frequently
discussed by the media but up
till now psychologists have
shied away from an academic
investigation of the
phenomenon of fame. In this
lively, eclectic book David Giles

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examines fame and celebrity from a variety of perspectives. He argues that fame should be seen as a process rather than a state of being, and that 'celebrity' has largely emerged through the technological developments of the last 150 years. Part of our problem in dealing with celebrities, and the problem celebrities have dealing with the public, is that the social conditions produced by the explosion in mass communications have irrevocably altered the way we live. However we know little about many of the phenomena these conditions have produced - such as the 'parasocial interaction' between television viewers and media characters, and the quasi-religious activity of 'fans'. Perhaps the biggest single dilemma for celebrities is the fact that the vehicle that creates fame for them - the media - is also their tormentor. To address these questions, David Giles draws on research from psychology, sociology, media and communications studies, history and anthropology - as well as his

own experiences as a music journalist in the 1980s. He argues that the history of fame is inextricably linked to the emergence of the individual self as a central theme of Western culture, and considers how the desire for authenticity, as well as individual privacy, have created anxieties for celebrities which are best understood in their historical and cultural context.

"...*the real war will never get in the books*" Louis P. Masur 1995-07-13 "These thousands, and tens and twenties of thousands of American young men, badly wounded, all sorts of wounds, operated on, pallid with diarrhea, languishing, dying with fever, pneumonia, &c. open a new world somehow to me, giving closer insights, new things, exploring deeper mines than any yet, showing our humanity, (I sometimes put myself in fancy in the cot, with typhoid, or under the knife,) tried by terrible, fearfulest tests, probed deepest, the living soul's, the body's tragedies, bursting the petty bounds of art." So wrote Walt

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Whitman in March of 1863, in a letter telling friends in New York what he had witnessed in Washington's war hospitals. In this, we see both a description of war's ravages and a major artist's imaginative response to the horrors of war as it "bursts the petty bounds of art." In "...the real war will never get in the books", Louis Masur has brought together fourteen of the most eloquent and articulate writers of the Civil War period, including such major literary figures as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville, Walt Whitman, Henry Adams, and Louisa May Alcott. Drawing on a wide range of material, including diaries, letters, and essays, Masur captures the reactions of these writers as the war was waged, providing a broad spectrum of views. Emerson, for instance, sees the war "come as a frosty October, which shall restore intellectual & moral power to these languid & dissipated populations." African-American writer

Charlotte Forten writes sadly of the slaughter at Fort Wagner: "It seems very, very hard that the best and noblest must be the earliest called away. Especially has it been so throughout this dreadful war." There are writings by soldiers in combat. John Esten Cooke, a writer of popular pre-Revolutionary romances serving as a Confederate soldier under J.E.B. Stuart, describes Stonewall Jackson's uniform: "It was positively scorched by sun--had that dingy hue, the product of sun and rain, and contact with the ground...but the men of the old Stonewall Brigade loved that coat." And John De Forest, a Union officer, describes facing a Confederate volley: "It was a long rattle like that which a boy makes in running with a stick along a picket-fence, only vastly louder; and at the same time the sharp, quiet whit-whit of bullets chipped close to our ears." And along the way, we sample many vivid portraits of the era, perhaps the most surprising of which is Louisa May Alcott's explanation of

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why she preferred her noon-to-midnight schedule in a Washington hospital: "I like it as it leaves me time for a morning run which is what I need to keep well....I trot up & down the streets in all directions, some times to the Heights, then half way to Washington, again to the hill over which the long trains of army wagons are constantly vanishing & ambulances appearing. That way the fighting lies, & I long to follow." With unmatched intimacy and immediacy, "...the real war will never get in the books" illuminates the often painful intellectual and emotional efforts of fourteen accomplished writers as they come to grips with "The American Apocalypse." *Diary and Letters of Rutherford Birchard Hayes: 1834-1860* Rutherford B. Hayes 1922 [Private World of Kenneth Williams](#) Kenneth Williams 2004-04-01 In this documentary portrait of Kenneth Williams, who died in 1988, the much-loved comedy actor's diaries are drawn upon

to illustrate his life and career. *The Kenneth Williams Letters* Kenneth Williams 1995 Following the bestselling publication of THE KENNETH WILLIAMS DIARIES, the devastating self-portrait of one of our most loved and complex performers is completed with this marvellous selection of his letters. This is a wonderful treasure trove of correspondence with all manner of people, including Alec Guinness, Maggie Smith, Joe Orton, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, and the Stokers' Mess of HMS Leverton. Kenneth Williams took letters very seriously, and he was always disgusted by a morning that failed to provide him with some material to pore over. Letters called forth the performer in Williams in a way that his diaries never did: many of them are virtual comic monologues, and in general they suggest more strongly than the diaries the likeable and constructive side of a man who remains, nevertheless, as outrageous and 'difficult' as ever.

Diary of a Somebody John Lahr 1989 Screenplay to John Lahr's successful dramatization of The Orton Diaries that chronicles the last eight months of Joe Orton's life, his growing theatrical celebrity, and the corresponding punishing effect it had on his relationship with his friend and mentor Kenneth Halliwell, who murdered him on August 9, 1967, and then took his own life.

Welcome to Just a Minute!
Nicholas Parsons 2014-08-18 'A joyous compendium of facts, fun and stories. This hilarious and informative guide is destined to become the companion to radio's most enduring panel game' PAUL MERTON In this first ever official companion, chairman Nicholas Parsons tells the fascinating story of the much-loved panel game and Graham Norton, Sue Perkins, Jenny Eclair and Gyles Brandreth share their memories of the show. Over the decades, the greats of British comedy have entertained Just a Minute listeners with performances

that have come to define our comic heritage - from Kenneth Williams' outrageously funny 'battles' with Sheila Hancock, Clement Freud's acerbic wit and Derek Nimmo's tall tales to Paul Merton's imaginative flights of fancy, Julian Clary's flagrant innuendos and Pam Ayres' poetic humour. Welcome to Just a Minute! is an entertaining journey through British comedy history and a master class in comic timing, verbal dexterity and sharp one-liners.

Born Brilliant Christopher Stevens 2011 Kenneth Williams was the stand-out comic actor of his generation. Beloved as the manic star of Carry On films and as a peerless raconteur on TV chat shows, he was also acclaimed for serious stage roles. Born Brilliant will include much previously unseen material from Williams's candid daily journal and also draw on rare in-depth interviews with friends and colleagues. Since the publication of edited extracts from his diaries, much controversy has surrounded

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Williams's personal and professional lives. This biography traces the complex contradictions that characterised an extraordinary life and presents the first full portrait of a star who was born brilliant.

The Complete Acid Drops

Kenneth Williams 1999 This is Kenneth Williams' collection of his favourite barbed stories and malicious bon mots in an A to Z of unsurpassed cruelty, including cartoons by Graeme Garden and introduced by Gyles Brandreth who knew Williams for many years and is an executor of Williams' estate. Kenneth Williams is regarded as one of the great raconteurs and comedy actors of the century. His bestselling diaries, edited by Russell Davis, reveal a complex, deeply insecure character whose bitter, excoriating wit alienated just about everyone who crossed his path. The brilliantly crafted vitriol in his private diaries found life through his TV interviews and appearances on radio shows such as Just a Minute. These outbursts have

made him synonymous with the wicked story and the caustic put down. Since his suicide in 1988, his popularity has grown. A two part Omnibus programme on his life appeared on ITV and a touring one man show of Williams' life has been playing to full houses for the last two years. Terry Johnson's play Cleo, Camping, Emanuelle and Dick, exploring Williams' relationship with Barbara Windsor and Sid James, ran to rave reviews and 'The Diaries' continue to sell.

Ma'am Darling Craig Brown
2018-06-18 A GUARDIAN
BOOK OF THE YEAR * A
TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR *
A SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF
THE YEAR * A DAILY MAIL
BOOK OF THE YEAR 'An
original, memorable and
substantial achievement' TLS 'A
masterpiece' Mail on Sunday 'I
honked so loudly the man
sitting next to me dropped his
sandwich' Observer 'She made
John Lennon blush and Marlon
Brando clam up. She cold-
shouldered Princess Diana and
humiliated Elizabeth Taylor.
Andy Warhol photographed

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her. Jack Nicholson offered her cocaine. Gore Vidal revered her. John Fowles hoped to keep her as his sex-slave. Dudley Moore propositioned her. Francis Bacon heckled her. Peter Sellers was in love with her. For Pablo Picasso, she was the object of sexual fantasy. "If they knew what I had done in my dreams with your royal ladies" he confided to a friend, "they would take me to the Tower of London and chop off my head!" Princess Margaret aroused passion and indignation in equal measures. To her friends, she was witty and regal. To her enemies, she was rude and demanding. In her 1950's heyday, she was seen as one of the most glamorous and desirable women in the world. By the time of her death, she had come to personify disappointment. One friend said he had never known an unhappier woman. The tale of Princess Margaret is pantomime as tragedy, and tragedy as pantomime. It is Cinderella in reverse: hope dashed, happiness mislaid, life

mishandled. Combining interviews, parodies, dreams, parallel lives, diaries, announcements, lists, catalogues and essays, Ma'am Darling is a kaleidoscopic experiment in biography, and a witty meditation on fame and art, snobbery and deference, bohemia and high society. 'Brown has been our best parodist and satirist for decades now ... Ma'am Darling is, as you would expect, very funny; also, full of quirky facts and genial footnotes. Brown has managed to ingest huge numbers of royal books and documents without losing either his judgment or his sanity. He adores the spectacle of human vanity' Julian Barnes, Guardian

Ever, Dirk John Coldstream
2011-09-08 The hitherto unpublished Dirk Bogarde - the best of his marvellous letters
The success of John Coldstream's bestselling biography of Dirk Bogarde demonstrates that the interest in one of Britain's leading actors, memoirists and novelists does not diminish,

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even though it is a decade since his death. Bogarde was a secretive man, who destroyed many of his own papers and diaries. Fortunately, the recipients of his letters treasured them, enabling John Coldstream to bring together this fascinating collection of hitherto unpublished material. Bogarde wrote to each correspondent according to the nature of the friendship, but invariably he was frank, gossipy, funny and often malicious. The joy of writing, particularly as he grew older and chose to live in France, was never far away. The letters display the qualities familiar to those who knew the private Bogarde: acute observation, laser-like intelligence, impatience with the foolish, compassion for the needy, a relish for the witty metaphor, and a catastrophic disdain for correct spelling and punctuation. Above all, to read his letters is to hear him talk, and no conversation with Dirk Bogarde was dull. Recipients included the film director Joseph Losey, Bogarde's first

publisher Norah Smallwood, the film critic Dilys Powell, and the novelist Penelope Mortimer.

My Unapologetic Diaries Joan Collins 2021-10-14 THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER!

'Wonderfully rich and mesmerising' William Boyd 'As brutal, withering and funny as you'd expect' Julian Clary 'Fabulously entertaining, impossibly glamorous, and utterly irresistible' Piers Morgan 'A treat from start to finish' Elizabeth Hurley ***

Joan Collins has been a diarist from the age of twelve, writing enthusiastically over the years. She dictated most of these entries in real time into a mini-tape recorder at the end of the day, and now she is spilling the beans - well, nearly all of them. What you will discover was written when Joan 'felt like it' between 1989 and 2009.

Whether it is an encounter with a superstar or a member of the Royal Family, or her keen and honest insights into other celebrities at dinner parties and events, Joan is honest and unapologetic. Taking us on a

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dazzling tour around the globe - from exclusive restaurants in Los Angeles to the glittering beaches of St Tropez, from dinner parties in London to galas in New York City - some of the characters you will meet in these pages include Rod Stewart, Princess Margaret, Donald Trump, Michael Caine, Princess Diana, Elizabeth Taylor, Rupert Everett, Roger Moore, Shirley MacLaine, Andrew Lloyd Webber and many more. Her diaries are intimate and witty, and they pull no punches, with NO apologies to anyone mentioned in them!

Prick Up Your Ears John Lahr
2013-01-22 This mesmerizing story of playwright and author Joe Orton's brief and remarkable life was named book of the year by Truman Capote and Nobel Prize-winning novelist Patrick White Told with precision and extensive detail, Prick Up Your Ears is the engrossing biography of playwright and novelist Joe Orton. Orton's public career spanned only three years (1964-1967), but

his work made a lasting mark on the international stage. From Entertaining Mr. Sloane to his career-making Loot, Orton's plays often shocked, sometimes outraged, and always captivated audiences with their dark yet farcical cynicism. A rising star and undeniable talent, Orton left much undone when he was bludgeoned to death by his lover, Kenneth Halliwell, who had educated Orton and also dreamed of becoming a famous writer. Prick Up Your Ears was the basis for the distinguished 1987 film of the same name, directed by Stephen Frears, with a screenplay by Alan Bennett, and starring Gary Oldman and Vanessa Redgrave. A brilliant, page-turning examination of the dueling forces behind Orton's work, Prick Up Your Ears secured the playwright's reputation as a great twentieth-century artist. Just Williams Kenneth Williams 1993-06

A London Year 2013-10-03 A London Year is an anthology of short diary entries, one or more for each day of the year,

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which, taken together, provides an impressionistic portrait of life in the city from Tudor times to the twenty-first century.

There are more than two hundred featured writers, with a short biography for each. The most famous diarist of all - Samuel Pepys - is there, as well as some of today's finest diarists like Alan Bennett and Chris Mullin. There are coronations and executions, election riots and zeppelin raids, duels, dust-ups and drunken sprees, among everyday moments like Brian Eno cycling in Kilburn or George Eliot walking on Wimbledon Common. Vividly evoking moments in the lives of Londoners in the past, providing snapshots of the city's inhabitants at work, at play, in pursuit of money, sex, entertainment, pleasure and power, *A London Year* is the perfect book for all who live in or love this eternal, ever-changing city.

Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh John Lahr 2014-09-22 National Book Critics Circle Award Winner:

Biography Category National Book Award Finalist 2015
Winner of the Sheridan Morley Prize for Theatre Biography
American Academy of Arts and Letters' Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award
A Chicago Tribune 'Best Books of 2014'
USA Today: 10 Books We Loved Reading
Washington Post, 10 Best Books of 2014
The definitive biography of America's greatest playwright from the celebrated drama critic of *The New Yorker*. John Lahr has produced a theater biography like no other.
Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh gives intimate access to the mind of one of the most brilliant dramatists of his century, whose plays reshaped the American theater and the nation's sense of itself. This astute, deeply researched biography sheds a light on Tennessee Williams's warring family, his guilt, his creative triumphs and failures, his sexuality and numerous affairs, his misreported death, even the shenanigans surrounding his estate. With vivid cameos of

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the formative influences in Williams's life—his fierce, belittling father Cornelius; his puritanical, domineering mother Edwina; his demented sister Rose, who was lobotomized at the age of thirty-three; his beloved grandfather, the Reverend Walter Dakin—Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh is as much a biography of the man who created *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* as it is a trenchant exploration of Williams's plays and the tortured process of bringing them to stage and screen. The portrait of Williams himself is unforgettable: a virgin until he was twenty-six, he had serial homosexual affairs thereafter as well as long-time, bruising relationships with Pancho Gonzalez and Frank Merlo. With compassion and verve, Lahr explores how Williams's relationships informed his work and how the resulting success brought turmoil to his personal life. Lahr captures not just Williams's tempestuous public

persona but also his backstage life, where his agent Audrey Wood and the director Elia Kazan play major roles, and Marlon Brando, Anna Magnani, Bette Davis, Maureen Stapleton, Diana Barrymore, and Tallulah Bankhead have scintillating walk-on parts. This is a biography of the highest order: a book about the major American playwright of his time written by the major American drama critic of his time.

What The Butler Saw Joe Orton 2013-12-30 "Joe Orton's last play, *What the Butler Saw*, will live to be accepted as a comedy classic of English literature" (Sunday Telegraph) The chase is on in this breakneck comedy of licensed insanity, from the moment when Dr Prentice, a psychoanalyst interviewing a prospective secretary, instructs her to undress. The plot of *What the Butler Saw* contains enough twists and turns, mishaps and changes of fortune, coincidences and lunatic logic to furnish three or four conventional comedies.

But however the six characters

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in search of a plot lose the thread of the action - their wits or their clothes - their verbal self-possession never deserts them. Hailed as a modern comedy every bit as good as Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Orton's play is regularly produced, read and studied. What the Butler Saw was Orton's final play."He is the Oscar Wilde of Welfare State gentility" (Observer)

Loot Joe Orton 2014-05-01 A black farce masterpiece, *Loot* follows the fortunes of two young thieves, Hal and Dennis. Dennis is a hearse driver for an undertaker. They have robbed the bank next door to the funeral parlour and have returned to Hal's home to hide-out with the loot. Hal's mother has just died and the pair put the money in her coffin, hiding the body elsewhere in the house. With the arrival of Inspector Truscott, the thickened plot turns topsy-turvy. Playing with all the conventions of popular farce, Orton creates a world gone mad and examines in detail English attitudes at mid-

century. The play has been called a Freudian nightmare, which sports with superstitions about death - and life. It is regularly produced in professional and amateur productions. First produced in London in 1966, *Loot* was hailed as "the most genuinely quick-witted, pungent and sprightly entertainment by a new, young British playwright for a decade" (Sunday Telegraph). The Student Edition offers a plot summary, full commentary, character notes and questions for study, besides a chronology and bibliography.

Just Williams Kenneth Williams 2009-07

My Week with Marilyn Colin Clark 2011-10-04 Imagine sneaking away to spend seven days with the most famous woman in the world... In 1956, fresh from Oxford University, twenty-three-year-old Colin Clark began work as a lowly assistant on the set of *The Prince and the Showgirl*, the film that united Sir Laurence Olivier with Marilyn Monroe. The blonde bombshell and the

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legendary actor were ill suited from the start. Monroe, on honeymoon with her new husband, the celebrated playwright Arthur Miller, was insecure, often late, and heavily medicated on pills. Olivier, obsessively punctual, had no patience for Monroe and the production became chaotic. Clark recorded it all in two unforgettable diaries—the first a charming fly-on-the-wall account of life as a gofer on the set; the other a heartfelt, intimate, and astonishing remembrance of the week Clark spent escorting Monroe around England, earning the trust and affection of one of the most desirable women in the world. Published together here for the first time, the books are the basis for the upcoming major motion picture *My Week with Marilyn* starring Michelle Williams, Judi Dench, and Kenneth Branagh. England was abuzz when Monroe arrived to shoot *The Prince and the Showgirl*. She hoped working with the legendary Olivier would give her acting further credibility, while he hoped the

film would give his career a boost at the box office and some Hollywood glamour. But Monroe, feeling abandoned when Miller left the country for Paris, became difficult on the set. Clark was perceptive in his assessment of what seemed to be going wrong in Monroe's life: too many hangers-on, intense insecurity, and too many pills. Olivier, meanwhile, was impatient and condescending toward her. At a certain point, feeling isolated and overwhelmed, Monroe turned her attention to Clark, who gave her comfort and solace. Before long, she escaped the set and a remarkable true adventure took place. Monroe and Clark spent an innocent week together in the English countryside and Clark became her confidant and ally. And, like any man would be expected to, he fell a bit in love. Clark understood how best to handle Monroe and became Olivier's only hope of getting the film finished. Before long, young Colin was in over his head, and his heart

may well have been broken by the world's biggest movie star. A beguiling memoir that reads like a fable, *My Week with Marilyn* is above all a love letter to one of our most enduring icons.

Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle & Dick Terry Johnson 1998

Filming's not as glamorous as it's cracked up to be. It's a bit

of a miserable business if your caravan leaks, your co-star's a manic depressive, and those younger women aren't as young as they used to be. Carrying on in the great tradition of British comedy, *Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick* takes some familiar faces and gets a bit familiar with them.