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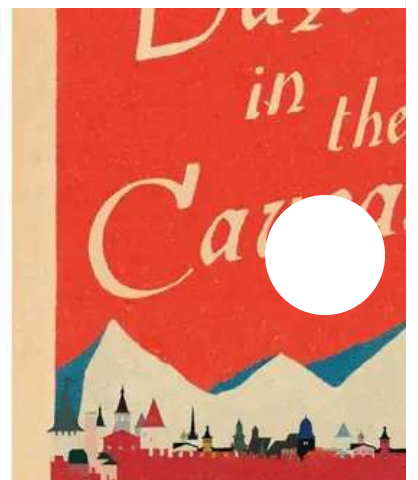
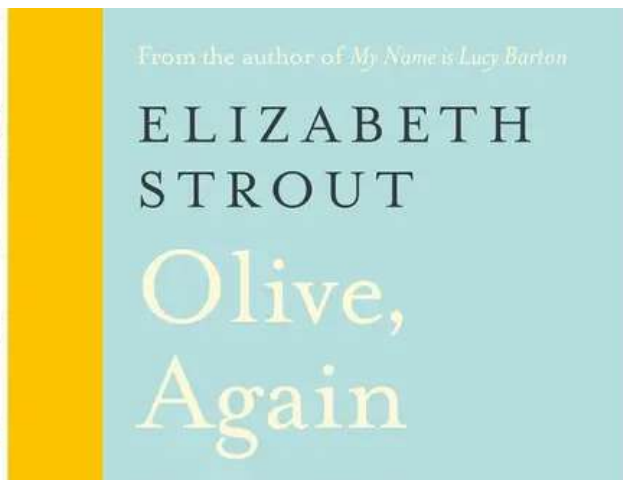
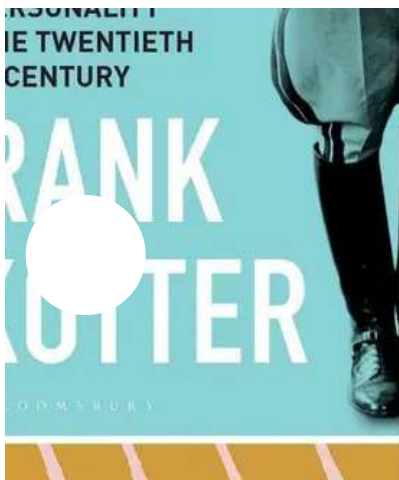
ES summer reading guide: the books we're taking on holiday with us this summer

We asked our reviewers to recommend the books they have most enjoyed so far this year — and the one that they are most looking forward to reading

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Claire Harman

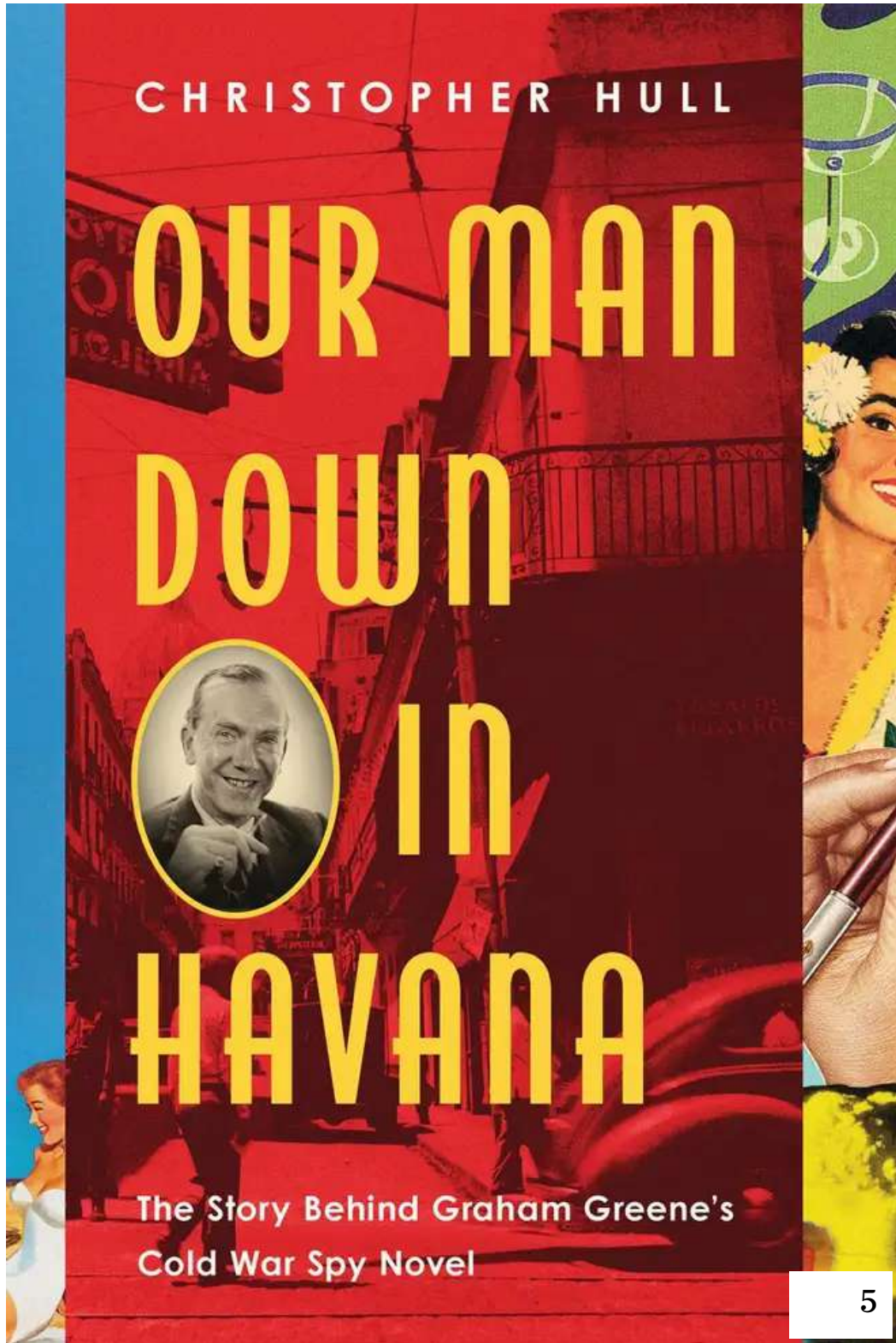
I'd like to encourage as many people as possible to pack Adam Nicolson's *The Making of Poetry* (William Collins, £25) in their summer suitcases, since the title doesn't readily convey what an engrossing book this is (about young Wordsworth and Coleridge in the West Country in 1797), full of emotion and quite beautifully written.

The book I'm most looking forward to reading is Patrick McGuinness's second novel, *Throw Me to the Wolves* (Cape, £14.99). His Booker-long-listed *The Last Hundred Days* was a bracing blend of great storytelling and highbrow drollery, so I have high hopes for this new policier.

Ian Thomson

Cuba meant a great deal to Graham Greene. *Our Man Down in Havana: The Story Behind Graham Greene's Cold War Spy Novel* (Pegasus Books, £19.99), by Christopher Hull, conjures the Cuban capital in all its pre-Castro glory. In Havana with a taxi-driver as guide, Greene fathomed an underworld of double-agents, dubious CIA operatives and a local sex artist called Superman, whose penis was said to be 12 inches long. John le Carré's new novel, *Agent Running in the Field* (Viking, £20, October), is set partly in the Estonian capital, Tallinn. I can't wait.

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larky, mordant inventiveness of Anna Burns's *Milkman* (Faber, £8.99) and couldn't understand why critics, and even the judges who gave it the Booker Prize, considered it challenging or difficult. I wolfed it down.

Though it's not one for the beach I'm looking forward to reading Posy Simmonds's graphic novel *Cassandra Darke* (Cape, £16.99) — her line and way of telling a story are equally deft.

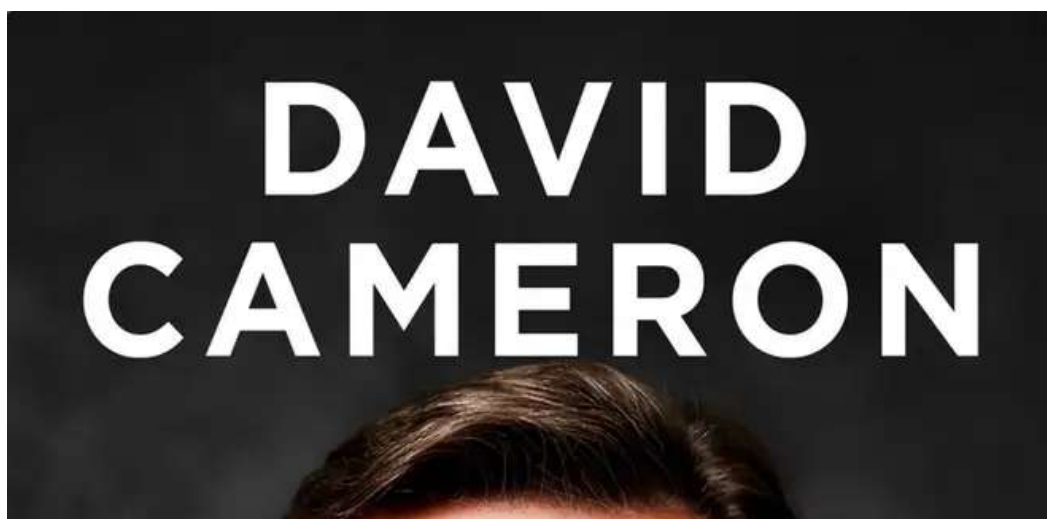
Katie Law

I was surprised by how much I enjoyed Carolina Setterwall's *Let's Hope for the Best* (Bloomsbury, £14.99), a bereavement memoir presented as an “autobiographical” novel about what happened after the author discovered her thirty-something husband dead in bed one morning.

I can't wait to read *The Coddling of the American Mind* by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt (Allen Lane, £10.99), which examines the terrifying new safety culture permeating US academic life, and the implications for us all.

George Osborne

I loved Ian McEwan's new novel on artificial intelligence, *Machines Like Me* (Cape, £18.99). It shows that fiction is often better at explaining our world than fact. I'm looking forward to David Cameron's memoirs, *For the Record* (William Collins, £25, September) — knowing him, they'll be a good read and remind us of what we're now missing.





Justin Marozzi

A long time in the making, Tim Mackintosh-Smith's erudite study, *Arabs: A 3,000-Year History of Peoples, Tribes and Empires* (Yale, £25) was worth the wait. On a separate but related note, I'm looking forward to Frank Dikötter's guide, *How to be a Dictator: The Cult of Personality in the Twentieth Century* (Bloomsbury, £25, September), a disturbing emblem of our times.

David Goodhart

The Human Tide: How Population Shaped the Modern World (John Murray, £25) by Paul Morland was a thrilling historical overview that managed to compress the complex subject of global demography into a manageable shape for the reader.

I am looking forward to reading *The Twice-Born: Life and Death on the Ganges* (Hurst, £20) by Aatish Taseer. He is an Indian Westerner, the son of an Indian



Alex Peake-Tomkinson

I loved Claire Adams's tough, original debut novel *Golden Child* (Faber, £14.99) about twin teenage boys in Eighties Trinidad — it made me realise how often I read novels with similar settings whereas this was radically different.

I'm looking forward to David Nicholls's *Sweet Sorrow* (Hodder, £20, July) because I can remember dodging work to read both *One Day* and *Us*. No one else writes novels that are both relatable and revelatory in the way he does.

William Moore

The National Portrait Gallery's superb exhibition of Elizabethan miniatures closed last month but for those who missed it, Elizabeth Goldring's *Nicholas Hilliard: Life of an Artist* (Yale, £40) is worth the cover price for its beautiful close-up photographs alone.

I'm looking forward to catching up with *The Last Leonardo* (William Collins, £20) by Ben Lewis, whose investigation into the history of Leonardo's Salvator Mundi (the world's most expensive painting at \$450 million) raised enough awkward questions about its authenticity to make front-page news in April.

Lucy Hunter Johnston

I greatly enjoyed *An American Marriage* (Oneworld, £8.99), by Tayari Jones. Heavy subject matter — race, injustice and a wrongful incarceration — is treated with a compelling lightness of touch, but packs a hefty emotional punch.

Why settle for uplifting this summer? I'm looking forward to *Three Women* (Bloomsbury, £16.99, July), by journalist and academic Lisa Taddeo, who spent eight years studying the erotic lives of three very different women.



5

Robert Fox

Sean McFate's *Goliath: Why the West Doesn't Win Wars* (Michael Joseph, £20) is my summer surprise — the sharpest account of the dilemmas of war and peace I've read for years. Often gloriously wrong, it is a wonderful read.

One for the holiday deckchair is *Chaucer, A European Life* (Princeton, £30) by Marion Turner. I have just started this wholly beguiling, original, vividly written appreciation of the hugely innovative author and his rich cultural and political European background. A parable for our time?

Johanna Thomas-Corr



through the paintings that enthrall her. It's clever, surprising and deeply seductive.

I'm desperate to read Amy Gentry's short book on Tori Amos's ambitious 1996 album *Boys For Pele* (Bloomsbury, £9.99, November). Amos's enigmatic music dared to confront dark and ugly subjects in the most bewitching ways.

Samuel Fishwick

Guy Gunaratne's debut novel *In Our Mad, Furious City* (Tinder Press, £8.99) is hewn from a London housing block, a hot, terrible story of teenage rage and redemption among the city's Irish, West Indian and Islamic communities told in a startlingly original voice. Initially I struggled with the patois but it's essential.

I can't wait to retreat with Niall Williams's *This is Happiness* (Bloomsbury, £16.99, November). Every sentence promises to enchant in a wonderful story of betrayal, guilt and redemption. And how the electricity came to Ireland.

Marcus Field

I'm currently deep into Laura Cumming's haunting *On Chapel Sands* (Chatto, £16.99, July), a poetic blend of memoir and detective story in which the author tries to solve the mystery of her mother's kidnapping in 1929. Cumming breathes new life into the form, with her art critic's analysis of the family photographs which appear on many of the pages. Next on my pile is Lucasta Miller's *L.E.L.* (Cape, £25), another biographical sleuthing project in which Miller goes on the trail of the "lost" Regency poet Letitia Elizabeth Landon.



5

Phoebe Luckhurst

The Female Persuasion by Meg Wolitzer (Vintage, £8.99), a graceful novel about the shifting plates of modern feminism, and the dynamics of female mentorship, was one of my favourites of last summer (even if, at almost 500 pages, it's a bit hefty for the beach).

The book I am looking forward to is *Fleishman is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner (Wildfire, £18.99), a whip-smart American journalist whose juicy profiles skewer smug A-listers; I can't wait to read her satire of status-obsessed New Yorkers.

Nicholas Lezard

Ian Marchant's *A Hero for High Times* (Cape, £16.99) is a huge, generous, and fascinating study of the counterculture, from its earliest inception to Rave; and much of it seen through the prism of one unlikely survivor from the era.



terms of form and subject.

Jane Shilling

Days in the Caucasus by Banine (Pushkin Press, £16.99) is an enchanting memoir about Ummulbanu Asadullayeva, known as Banine, who was born in Baku in 1905 into a family of vastly rich oil barons. Days after she inherited a fortune from her grandfather, the Russian revolution reached Azerbaijan and her wealth was gone.

Since Svetlana Alexievich was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 2015, her backlist has at last begun to appear in English. *Last Witnesses: Unchildlike Stories* (Penguin Classics, £12.99) tells the story of the war in the voices least heard of all — those of children.

Mark Sanderson

Summers, alas, are just not the same without the latest Ruth Rendell. The only thing to do is to work your way through her backlist. *One Across, Two Down* (Arrow, £8.99), first published in 1971, shows her skill at provoking horrid laughter was there from the start.

Lee Child's *Blue Moon* (Bantam, £20), due in October, has Jack Reacher heading for trouble again on a Greyhound bus. Praise be!

Susannah Butter

I lost a whole weekend absorbed in *Lost Dog* (Ebury, £16.99) by Kate Spicer. If, like me, you are not an “animal person”, don't let the title put you off. This is a beautifully written story about relationships, family and London, taking in dating, brother/sister dynamics and the guilt that comes with mislaying something left in your care.

I'm looking forward to reading *Olive, Again* (Viking, £14.99) by Elizabeth Strout, out in November. It picks up where Olive Kitteridge left off in a Maine seaside town.



5

David Sexton

Published in France and almost everywhere else in January, but not out here until September, Michel Houellebecq's *Sérotonine* (Flammarion, €22) is the novel I've liked best this year: a study in loss that's both intimate and public. What I want to read for recreation are books that tell me about vital subjects I don't know enough about — starting with the hugely informative *A History of the Bible: The Book and Its Faiths* by John Barton (Allen Lane, £25).



paperback shortly, so if you've time for a richly detailed and humorous account of the greatest bastard in English history, snap it up.

Coming up in October is the new Philip Pullman, *The Secret Commonwealth* (David Fickling, £20), second in his Book of Dust trilogy, which I'm looking forward to for a rattling read from a master storyteller for children, but not for the jejune anti-Christian prejudice.

William Leith

I loved Karl Ove Knausgaard's *The End* (Vintage £1.99), the sixth and final volume of his autobiographical series, in which he examines his inner conflicts, the added stress of writing about his inner conflicts, and the early life of Hitler.

I'm looking forward to Malcolm Gladwell's *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know* (Allen Lane, £20, September) a book about how we judge each other, which I'll probably read over and over, like his other books.

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