

**"Lots of buzz about this novel . . . [the author] has won many awards for her shorter fiction"
We Need New Names by NoViolet Bulawayo**

childhood. "Madden is the constant genius of Irish letters," says Sebastian Barry. BookScan N/S

**Jáchym Topol
The Devil's Workshop**

Granta, 6th, £12.99, hb, 9781846274176
"The devil had his workshop in Belarus. That's where the deepest graves are. But no one knows about it." A novel based on Thereisenstadt and the mass graves in Minsk, and about a young man growing up in a town with a sinister history. Boyd Tonkin and Cees Nooteboom are admirers of the Czech author. BookScan N/R

**CS Richardson
The Emperor of Paris**

Granta, 6th, £12.99, hb, 9781846271120
Octavio runs a Notre Dame bakery but has never mastered the art of reading. Isabeau hides her disfigured beauty away in the basement of the Louvre restoring paintings and reading stories. A curious chain of coincidences will bring them together, and this is a magical novel about the power of stories, says Portobello. BookScan N/R

**Paul Wilson
Mouse and the Cossacks**

Tindal Street, 6th, £11.99, tpb, 9781906994440
Our narrator Mouse de Bruin doesn't speak but instead writes letters, sends texts and grades the happiness of those around her, which is how she knows that her mother is often miserable. When they move to a rented farmhouse in the Pennines, Mouse becomes interested in the belongings of the former owner, and uncovers a sad history. BookScan N/R

**Janette Jenkins
Firefly**

Chatto, 27th, £12.99, hb, 9780701187422
The title is the name of Noël Coward's Jamaican retreat, and over a series of days in the 1970s we observe Coward and his manservant Patrice as they live a quiet life and dream of the London they used to know. Short and sparkling, says Chatto. BookScan N/R

**Evie Wyld
All the Birds, Singing**

Cape, 20th, £16.99, hb, 9780224096683
Jake White lives alone on an island with a flock of sheep but something is killing the sheep, picking one off every few days. Jake doesn't know if the predator is man, beast or something less easy to understand. This is the second novel after the hugely praised *After the Fire, A Still Small Voice* by the owner of the Review Bookshop in Peckham. BookScan N/R

**Rachel Kushner
The Flamethrowers**

Harvill, 6th, £16.99, hb, 9781846557910
Jonathan Franzen and Hari Kunzru are fans of this ambitious novel where speed, art, radical politics and terrorism collide. Our heroine Reno—named for her place of birth—heads to New York in 1977 and then a love affair with an Italian artist takes her to Rome. BookScan N/R

**Maggie Joel
The Second-Last Woman in England**

Canvas, 20th, £18.99, hb, 9781472101938
A great jacket sets off this dramatic tale of a woman who murders her husband during the Coronation, and the opening extract left me wanting to know much more. BookScan N/R

**Kate Manning
My Notorious Life by Madame X**

Bloomsbury, 6th, £12.99, hb, 9781408835647
"In the end, they celebrated. They bragged. They got me finally, was their feeling. They got me. They said I would take my secrets to the grave. They should be so lucky." Based on a true story, this testament of midwife and physician Axie Muldoon opens in 1860s New York and is full of sex and scandal. BookScan N/R

LITERARY DEBUT



**NoViolet Bulawayo
We Need New Names**

Chatto, 6th, £14.99, hb, 9780701188030
Lots of buzz about this novel that shows us Zimbabwe through the eyes of 10-year-old Darling and her friends in the shanty town who dream of Angelina Jolie and Madonna as they say cheese for foreigners, steal guavas and sing Lady Gaga. The author was born in Zimbabwe, moved to America when she was 18, and has already won many awards for her shorter fiction. BookScan N/R

**Sahar Delijani
Children of the Jacaranda Tree**

W&N, 27th, £12.99, hb, 9780297869023
Hotly-tipped emotional debut based on the author's family's experiences as political activists and prisoners in Iran that should appeal to readers of *The Kite Runner*. The author was born in Tehran, grew up in California and now lives in Italy. BookScan N/R

**Michael Irwin
The Skull and the Nightingale**

HarperCollins, 20th, £16.99, hb, 9780007476312
Manipulation, sex and seduction in 1760s London are on offer when Richard Fenwick's wealthy godfather decides he wants to have intense experiences by using Fenwick as a proxy. The author is a professor of English specialising in 18th- and 19th-century literature. BookScan N/R

**Gabriel Roth
The Unknowns**

Picador, 6th, £14.99, hb, 9781447235569
One time school geek Eric now has the benefit of dotcom millions, but he has never managed to find love. When the gloriously named Maya Marcom enters his life he has all sorts of lessons to learn. Nice, smart jacket. BookScan N/R

**Lea Carpenter
Eleven Days**

Two Roads, 20th, £16.99, hb, 9781444776232
Jason is a Navy Seal who goes missing on 2nd May 2011, the night of the Osama Bin Laden raid. His mother Sara waits for him and the novel is about how and why we send our sons to war, and how as mothers we can bear it. Kevin Powers and Ben Fountain have both provided superb quotes. BookScan N/R

**Elizabeth L Silver
The Execution of Noa P. Singleton**

Headline, 11th, £14.99, hb, 9780755399505
Our narrator is on Death Row for a murder she committed nearly 10 years ago. She is resigned to her fate, but her victim mother's suddenly appears and wants her to be pardoned. The author has

practiced as an attorney in Texas and California, and has visited Death Row. BookScan N/R

**Andrew Porter
In Between Days**

Cape, 6th, £16.99, hb, 9780224089838
This debut novel from the author of the very well received story collection *The Theory of Light and Matter* shows us the Harding family on the brink of disaster. Marilynne Robinson, Kevin Brockmeier and Stuart Evers are all fans. BookScan N/R

**Susan Stairs
The Story of Before**

Atlantic, 1st, £12.99, tpb, 9780857899064
Ruth is only 11 when she foretells that a bad thing will happen to her family but she can't see what it is, nor know it will change things so completely that she will always think of her life on terms of before and after. Great, rather spooky opening. BookScan N/R

**Marli Roode
Call it Dog**

Atlantic, 1st, £12.99, tpb, 9780857899453
When Jo returns to South Africa after 10 years in the UK she agrees to help her estranged Afrikaans father who is trying to prove he was not involved in the murder of a black man many years ago. BookScan N/R

LITERARY SHORT STORIES



**Antal Szerb
Love in a Bottle**

Pushkin, 6th, £12, tpb, 9781908968425
Pushkin has brought out a new collection of stories and

novellas by Antal Szerb, curated to showcase his love of both life and irony. Many of them are set in 1920s and 1930s London and Paris, and the few pages I read were wonderful. Not quite within the remit of this column, but this beautiful little edition gladdens my heart and should sell very well. BookScan N/S

CRIME & THRILLER

**Janet Evanovich & Lee Goldberg
The Heist**

Headline, 18th, £18.99, hb, 9781472201720
Kate Winslow always gets her man. She's an ex-Navy seal, an FBI agent and she's hunting handsome and wealthy conman Danny Cole as he flies around the world pulling off high-profile cons—and never getting caught. This is crime, adventure and romance rolled into one as our dangerously desirable enemies feel a hint of admiration for each other. BookScan ★★★

**Nicci French
Waiting for Wednesday**

Michael Joseph, 20th, £14.99, hb, 9780718156985
This third outing for highly likeable psychotherapist Frieda Klein sees her personally rather than professionally involved in the case of an ordinary housewife who is discovered by her daughter lying in a pool of blood. Great opening which nicely balanced my interest between Frieda's ongoing issues and a new mystery to solve. BookScan ★★★

**Quintin Jardine
Pray for the Dying**

Headline, 6th, £13.99, tpb, 9780755356997
The new Bob Skinner novel starts with a very public shooting at a concert in