

## Category Spotlight

# Discover: March

A preview of new titles published in March 2022

This month's selections are particularly broad in scope, taking on subjects ranging from capitalism to race and social isolation

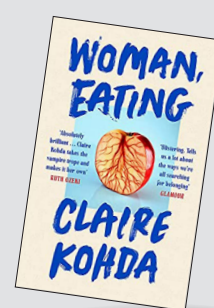
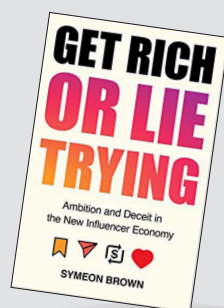
**Natasha Onwuemezi**  
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**A**rguably all books are a reflection of our societies and cultures but none more so than the five books I've highlighted as editor's choices this month. Get under the skin of capitalism by way of influencers in *Get Rich or Lie Trying*, explore past and present in *Deep South in The Trees*, delve into the first anthology of Kurdish speculative fiction ever published in English in *Kurdistan + 100: Stories From a Future State*, devour race and social isolation in *Woman, Eating* and unpick the roles of women in society in *When Women Kill*.

We've also got a bumper poetry spotlight this month with more than 20

titles from publishers including Verve Poetry Press, Smokestack, Prototype and Cinnamon Press. Highlights include a book-length poem called "Little Dead Rabbit", which is the result of a collaboration between poet Astrid Alben and graphic designer Zigmunds Lapsa, a bilingual anthology featuring Welsh poets that celebrates translation and language, and another collaboration between Kwame Dawes and John Kinsella that explores history, looking at public events and the literary imagination. There's also the collection from Gay's The Word bookseller Erica Gillingham. Onwards!



### Non-fiction

**Symeon Brown**

**Get Rich or Lie Trying**

Atlantic, 9781838950279, 3rd, HB, £16.99

*Get Rich or Lie Trying* (which wins my award for best title of the year) is a measured and incisive exposé of the influencer economy, which is fuelled by the rise of social media, hyper-individualism and aggressive glorification of "the hustle". Brown astutely and confidently investigates IRL streamers, Brazilian butt lifts, sex workers on OnlyFans and fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes to uncover the sinister stories that lurk behind the filtered selves and gleaming smiles.

### Fiction

**Percival Everett**

**The Trees**

Influx Press, 9781914391170, 24th, PB, £9.99

This novel opens with a series of brutal murders in the rural town of Money, Mississippi. At each crime scene there is a second dead body: that of a man who resembles Emmett Till, a young Black boy lynched in the same town 65 years before. A wild ride that is at turns hilarious then shockingly violent; it's sure to give you whiplash. But in a good way, sort of. Visceral and captivating, *The Trees* takes aim at police violence and racism with a caustic wit.

### Fiction

**Orsola Casagrande & Mustafa Gündogdu**

**Kurdistan + 100: Stories From a Future State**

Comma Press, 9781912697366, 31st, PB, £9.99

The latest installment in Comma Press' fantastic + 100 series is the first ever anthology of Kurdish speculative fiction published in English, according to the publisher. Featuring writers from Kurdistan and the diaspora who imagine a freer future, one in which it is no longer effectively illegal to be a Kurd. Winner of an English PEN Translates Award 2021.

### Fiction

**Claire Kohda**

**Woman, Eating**

Virago, 9780349015613, 24th, HB, £14.99.

The overriding feeling for our protagonist Lydia is hunger. She wants to try sashimi, ramen, onigiri with sour plum stuffed inside—the food her Japanese father liked to eat. But Lydia can't eat any of this. The only thing she can digest is blood. 'Cause she's a vampire. Pretty fantastic hook, right? Kohda's bold and evocative debut covers race, social isolation and unrequited love. Kohda is working on the script for an eight-part TV series as we speak. One to watch.

### Non-fiction

**Alia Trabucco Zerán, Sophie Hughes (trans)**

**When Women Kill: Four Crimes Retold**

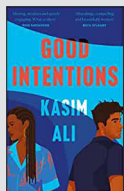
And Other Stories, 9781913505264, 3rd, PB, £11.99

Author Zerán has long been fascinated by women who have violently rejected the roles they were meant to inhabit by their culture. Centered on four iconic homicides perpetrated by Chilean women in the 20th century, she spent years researching this work of narrative non-fiction, detailing the murders themselves, and how society, the media and men in power reacted to the killings.

### Submissions

Category Spotlights preview forthcoming titles within a certain genre. For submission guidelines and publication dates, visit [thebookseller.com/publishing-calendar](https://thebookseller.com/publishing-calendar). The next Category Spotlight will be *Food & Drink* in the 22nd April issue.

## Fiction



### Kasim Ali **Good Intentions**

4th Estate, 3rd, HB, £15.99, 97800008450656  
4th Estate's lead spring debut follows Nur, who has made a pact with his girlfriend Yasmina, to tell his Pakistani parents that Yasmina is Black. Exploring family obligation and racial prejudice, alongside the flush of first love, *Good Intentions* is a modern love story about family and finding your own way.

### Jane Austin **Renegade**

Leaf by Leaf, 3rd, PB, £10.99, 9781788649346  
Austin's second novel is a story of '70s rebellion, revolution in Syria and a family in a tailspin. It follows a popular Leeds professor, who is struggling to hold his family together: his son is being drawn into radical politics by his lover.

### Stephen May **Sell Us the Rope**

Sandstone, 1st, PB, £8.99, 9781913207885  
From the Costa Book of the Year shortlisted author comes a book that follows young Stalin, who is in London for a conference of Russian communists. With Lenin, Trotsky, and Rosa Luxemburg, among others, he battles to keep the party radical, while dodging the attentions of the czar's secret police.

### Jia Pingwa **The Earthen Gate**

Valley Press, 3rd, PB, £15.99, 9781912436699  
This title is a reissue of Valley Press's 2018 translation of the 1996 novel *Tu Men*, which the publisher describes as a "key work from one of China's most renowned writers". The tale combines earthy humour, ancient wisdom and action to highlight the impact of creeping urbanisation on traditional country folk.

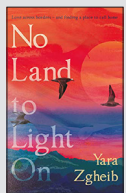
### Shahida Rahman **An Ayah's Choice**

Onwe, 29th, PB, £9.99, 9781913872090  
A historical novel exploring themes of feminism, race, independence and coming-of-age against a backdrop of the 20th-century suffragette movement, this title is the story of an ayah (nanny) who begins a tumultuous relationship with her British colonial employer in a small Indian village in 1900.



### Gogu Shyamala **Father May Be an Elephant, and Mother only a Small Basket, but...**

Tilted Axis, 31st, PB, £9.99, 9781911284741  
These feminist stories about a south Indian village dissolve the boundaries between realism, allegory and political fable. In them a young girl is sent away to school to save her from being declared the sexual property of the village's upper-caste men, the village water tank laments a passing child, and a Brahmin boy is considered "polluted" by the touch of a Dalit girl—the same action that saved his life.



### Yara Zgheib **No Land to Light On**

Allen & Unwin, 3rd, HB, £14.99, 9781838954857  
A novel about separation, *Exit West* meets *An American Marriage*. Follows a young Syrian couple in the throes of new love when a travel ban rips them apart on the eve of their son's birth.

### Yang Zhengguang **The Hour of the Locust**

Valley Press, 31st, PB, £10.99, 9781912436798  
When millions of locusts decimate the harvest, the residents of a village have no choice but to take to banditry to survive. As much as they believe this

is a temporary measure and their wives will faithfully await their return, the dozenstrong gang soon finds itself on a slippery slope leading to pillaging, murder and sadism.

## Non-fiction

### Yevgeniy Fiks **The Wayland Rudd Collection: Exploring Racial Imaginaries in Soviet Visual Culture**

Ugly Duckling Press, 1st, HB, £30, 9781946433275  
Bringing together post-colonial and post-Soviet perspectives, this book maps the complicated and often contradictory intersection of race and Communism in the Soviet context, exposing the interweaving of internationalism, solidarity, humanism, and Communist ideals with practices of othering and exoticisation.



### Hannah Gadsby **Ten Steps to Nanette: A Memoir Situation**

Atlantic, 29th, HB, £20, 9781911630234  
Comedian Hannah Gadsby takes us through the defining moments in her life: traces Gadsby's growth as a queer person from Tasmania—where homosexuality was illegal until 1997—to her ever-evolving relationship with comedy, to her struggle with late-in-life diagnoses of autism and ADHD. Publication will coincide with a major UK author tour in March 2022.

### Ye Guangqin **Sun Palace**

Valley Press, 24th, PB, £9.99, 9781912436736  
In her autobiographical novel, Ye Guangqin is a lonely girl, ignored by her ageing father and older half-siblings as she entertains herself in the dilapidated courtyard of her once-illustrious, storied family home in 1950s Beijing. The highlight of her year is a summer visit to a remote village, where she enjoys balmy days and sleepless

nights in the company of a yellow dog and a boy named Sunny.

### Jennifer Morag Henderson **Daughters of the North: Jean Gordon and Mary, Queen of Scots**

Sandstone, 17th, HB, £24.99, 9781913207755  
*Daughters of the North* reframes a turbulent period in history by focusing on Jean Gordon. It follows her from her birth as the daughter of the "King of the North" to her disastrous union with the notorious Earl of Bothwell—and her lasting legacy to the Earldom of Sutherland.



### Bian Jizu **The Communist Party of China: A Concise History**

ACA, 1st, PB, £29.99, 9781838900090  
The Communist Party of China (CPC) was founded in Shanghai in July 1921. This new edition offers readers the CPC's official account of its own dramatic history—a narrative key to understanding the politics and policies of China in the 21st century.

### Sophie L Morgan **Driving Forwards**

Sphere, 17th, HB, £16.99, 9780751582246  
This memoir from disability advocate Morgan details the life-changing injury that left her paralysed, her recovery, and her life since.



### Jia Pingwa **The Wild Land**

Valley Press, 10th, PB, £10.99, 9781912436729  
*The Wild Land* brings together a collection of Jia's most celebrated prose essays, each in their first English translation. Delving deep into his diverse preoccupations—fate, art, religion and

interpersonal relationships—this anthology gives an insight into the mind of "one of modern Chinese literature's most revered sons".

### Peter Stoneley **Reading Gaol: a short history**

Two Rivers Press, 21st, PB, £12, 9781909747937  
This history of Reading Gaol, from its 19th-century origins to the present day, looks at the social and political context of prison reform in the early 19th century and the design and building of Reading Gaol in the 1840s.



### Clive Stott, Nick Warr, Nathan Hamilton **Shadows of Reality: A Catalogue of W G Sebald's Photographic Legacy**

Boiler House Press, 7th, PB, £75, 9781911343660  
This volume presents a comprehensive, fully illustrated catalogue of all photographic materials (negatives, prints and slides) left by Sebald at the time of his death in 2001.

### Mu Tao **Irrational Things**

Valley Press, 17th, PB, £10.99, 9781912436651  
Through his collection of stories, essays, thoughts and meanderings, prose philosopher Mu gives us a tantalising glimpse into the colourful lives and landscape of Shaanxi Province. Combining intriguing personal asides, wry observations and pithy ponderings, he presents a unique collection of colourful vignettes.

## Poetry



### Qudsia Akhtar **Kamoshi**

Verve, 10th, PB, £9.99, 9781913917067

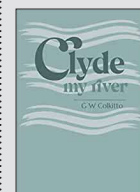
Khamoshi (meaning silence in Hindi) is a collection of poems from the Manchester-based Akhtar that explores "the female experience that is often kept hidden".

### Astrid Alben, Zigmunds Lapsa (illus) **Little Dead Rabbit**

Prototype, 22nd, PB, £16.50, 9781913513283  
During the lockdown of 2020/21 poet Alben and graphic designer Lapsa worked closely together on this a book-length poem that is part adult fairy-tale, part "concrete poem" about a little dead rabbit the poet found on the verge of a road.

### Olga Berggolts, Veniamin Gushchin (trans) **The Blockade Swallow**

Smokestack, 1st, PB, £8.99, 9781838465360  
This is an English-Russian edition of a selection of Soviet poet Berggolts' work from 1925-'60. She is known for her daily broadcasts on Leningrad radio during the Nazi blockade of the city between 1941 and '44.



### G W Colkitto **Clyde: My River**

Cinnamon Press, 1st, PB, £4.99, 9781788641302  
In *Clyde: My River*, Colkitto weaves together scenes from childhood to adulthood and from family to social commentary and politics.

### Kwame Dawes and John Kinsella **unHistory: a poem cycle**

Peepal Tree, 10th, PB, £19.99, 9781845235321  
This "essential record of our times by two world-leading poets" is an exploration of history's undertones, its personal, familial and institutional resonances and the relationship between public events and the literary imagination.

### Betty Doyle **Girl Parts**

Verve Poetry Press, 10th, PB, £7.50, 9781913917081  
Doyle's poems explore the "seldom covered subject"

of the disabled body as it engages with itself and with the bodies around it.



**Sarah Fletcher**

**Caviar**

Outspoken Press, 1st, PB, £9.99, 9781838427245  
Fletcher's third pamphlet navigates the line between decadence and depravity.

**Erica Gillingham**

**The Human Body Hive**

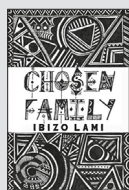
Verve Poetry Press, 10th, PB, £7.50, 9781913917074  
This collection from Gay's The Word-bookseller Gillingham is composed of two halves that focus on the body in a queer relationship. Opening with a celebration of sex and desire, the collection expands the boundaries of love to include friendship, romance, and lifelong partnership.



**Rachael Hegarty**

**Dancing with Memory**

Salmon Poetry, 1st, PB, £11, 9781915022011  
Called a "unique suite" of poems by the publisher, this collection recreate memories slipping away from a mother afflicted by dementia and grow into a social portrait of Irish working-class life over the past century.



**ibizo lami**

**Chosen Family**

Burning Eye, 9th, PB, £6.99, 9781913958176  
Adapted from a spoken word show, *Chosen Family* is a "raw but gentle" story of recovery and strength. Set in the waiting room

of a doctor's office, these emotionally charged poems and monologues unpick the importance of boundaries, love and expression.

**Jessie Lendennie**

**The Salmon's Tale**

Salmon Poetry, 1st, PB, £12, 9781915022080  
This "unique project in the history of Irish poetry" sees Salmon Poetry publisher and poet Lendennie showcase the broad range of the press' work, its creative output and its influence on the world of Irish and international poetry.



**Sue Lewis**

**Journey**

Cinnamon Press, 1st, PB, £4.99, 9781788641326  
Lewis' collection contains quietly elegant poems that explore the *sensibility of the fragility of life*.

**John McCullough**

**Panic Response**

Penned in the Margins, 15th, PB, £9.99, 9781913850050  
From award-winning poet McCullough comes a dark and experimental book that puts personal and cultural anxiety under the microscope.

**Sian Northey (ed)**

**A470: Poems for the Road**

Arachne Press, 1st, PB, £9.99, 9781913665555  
This fully bilingual anthology features 51 poems by Welsh poets laid side by side with their translation from or into Welsh. It celebrates the magnificence of both languages, and the artistry of both poets and translators.

**Fay Roberts**

**Spectral**

Burning Eye, 23rd, PB, £9.99, 9781913958183  
This collection, which can be read chronologically or shuffled, is split into sections that explore moods and atmospheres: Passion, Anger, Joy, Nature/The Sea, Melancholy, Philosophical/Mystical, and finally Whimsy.

**Omar Sabbagh**

**Morning Lit: Portals After Alia**

Cinnamon Press, 1st, PB, £9.99, 9781788641272  
Sabbagh brings a concentrated gaze to bear on turbulent emotions. *Morning Lit* is an exploration of fatherhood, marriage and bereavement: of love and its shadow side, which is loss.

**Jacob Sam-La Rose and Ruth Sutoyé**

**Before Them, We**

flipped eye, 3rd, PB, £11.99, 9781905233779  
This anthology explores the lives of grandparents and elders before the families they went on to establish, digging deep into those narrative of their lives that are lesser known. A poetic meditation on how we engage with the practice of memory.



**Anastasia Taylor-Lind**

**One Language**

smith | doorstep, 1st, PB, £10.99, 9781914914102  
This debut collection from the perspective of a female photojournalist features poems that draw on first-hand experience of war to explore how damage is generated and perpetuated.



**Bonnie Thurston**

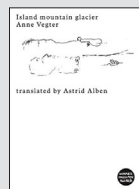
**Forgotten Futures: A Memoir**

Cinnamon Press, 1st, PB, £4.99, 9781788641319  
This poetic memoir is a "tender heart's cry and a passionate celebration in one". It travels through two landscapes and explores the sacredness of small things and the transforming power of memory.

**Alexander Tvardovsky, Patricia Wheeler (trans)**

**Tyorkin in the Other World**

Smokestack, 1st, PB, £8.99, 9781838465353  
Written in the early 1950s, this poem imagines Hell as if it were the Soviet Union under Stalin: an oppressive, bureaucratic and culturally conservative society of dead souls. Published for the first time in English, *Tyorkin in the Other World* is a reminder of the complexities of Soviet culture, and an example of the serious, subversive and subtle possibilities of political satire in a closed society.



**Anna Vegter, Astrid Alben**

**(trans)**

**Island mountain glacier**

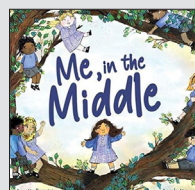
Prototype, 8th, PB, £12, 9781913513207  
This collection from the Netherlands' first female Poet Laureate is Prototype's first translated poetry title. Featuring illustrations by Vegter it was awarded the prestigious Awater Poetry Prize in the Netherlands.

## Kids

**Benjamin Dean**

**The Secret Sunshine Project**

S&S Children's, 31st, PB, £7.99, 9781471199752  
A story of kindness, courage and love in all its forms, for fans of Elle McNicoll, Lisa Thompson and Onjali Rauf. It follows Bea, who forms a project to bring the Pride parade to the countryside to cheer her sister up after their father dies.



**Annette Demitriou, Angela Mayers (illus)**

**Me, in the Middle**

Owlet, 1st, PB, £7.99, 9781913339357  
As her class all explore their family trees, a girl learns to be proud of her far-reaching roots.

The title includes a "make your own family tree" pull out.

**Ayana Gray**

**Beasts of Prey**

Penguin, 3rd, PB, £7.99, 9780241532546  
This fantasy adventure is the first in a new YA fantasy trilogy. Inspired by Pan-African mythology, it combines monsters, myths and magic. A Netflix adaptation is already in the works.



**Danielle Jawando**

**When Our Worlds Collided**

S&S Children's, 31st, PB, £7.99, 9781471178795  
A coming-of-age story about chance encounters, injustice and how the choices that we make can completely change our future. The second YA novel from Jawando is for fans of Angie Thomas, Jennifer Niven and Nikesh Shukla.

**Aneesa Marufu**

**The Balloon Thief**

Chicken House, 3rd, PB, £7.99, 9781913696078  
This debut novel from new talent, 24-year-old Marufu, draws on the author's South Asian heritage. It explores racism, misogyny and discrimination in a fantasy adventure that follows a 16-year-old who flees her home in a stolen hot air balloon to escape an arranged marriage.

**Nofel Nawras**

**Brighton Funk**

Hope Road, 24th, PB, £8.99, 9781913109868  
Set in 1970s Brighton, cool records and sharp fashions form the backdrop to this story of 15-year-old Naz, a young man on the verge of adulthood and heading for his first experience of love.

**Lee Newbery, Laura Catalan (illus)**

**The Last Firefox**

Puffin, 3rd, PB, £7.99, 9780241493533  
A story about family and friendship, it follows a young boy who is on a quest to save the last

firefox from a sinister hunter from another world.

**Jamar J Perry**

**Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 3rd, PB, £6.99, 9781526646859  
Inspired by West-African and Igbo mythology, this is Percy Jackson meets "Black Panther" in a middle-grade adventure.

**Nadia Shireen**

**Grimwood**

S&S Children's, 3rd, PB, £6.99, 9781471199318  
This fully illustrated new series from Shireen follows fox cub siblings Ted and Nancy are on the run from the scariest street cat in the Big City.

**Maudie Smith, Jen Khatun (illus)**

**My Must-Have Mum**

Lantana, 3rd, HB, £11.99, 9781913747688  
A story about the unbreakable bond between a mother and her son that features "an extremely positive" portrayal of disability.

**Katie and Kevin Tsang**

**Dragon Rising**

S&S Children's, 17th, PB, £7.99, 9781398505902  
The fourth book in the fantasy series returns with unexpected water dragons and a deadly battle.

**Khan Wong**

**The Circus Infinte**

Angry Robot, 8th, PB, £9.99, 9780857669681  
Hunted by those who want to study his gravity powers, Jes makes his way to the galaxy's infamous pleasure moon. Soon he joins forces with his circus friends to take down a crime boss.

**Kelly Yang**

**New From Here**

S&S Children's, 1st, PB, £7.99, 9781398505001  
When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, 10-year-old Knox's mum makes the decision to move him and his siblings to California, where they think they will be safe from the virus. But life in America isn't easy. As racism skyrockets during covid, can Knox stand up to hate while finding his place in his new country?