

ISLAND BOOK CHART

Week starting
29 September

In association with



1) Desert God – Wilbur Smith

Taita has risen from nothing to become the most trusted man at the Pharaoh's side. Not only is he the close advisor to the Pharaoh, but he is guardian to Pharaoh Tamose's two beautiful teenage sisters, Tehuti and Bekatha. But the kingdom is not at peace. Taita, philosopher, poet and expert strategist, has a plan that will see Egypt destroy its greatest enemy, the Hyksos army, and form a coveted alliance with Crete in one move. This plan will take him, his expedition commander Zaras, and their mighty warriors on a perilous journey up the Nile, through Arabia to the magical city of Babylon, then across the open seas to Crete. They will meet battle and betrayal head on. But Taita must not forget his two charges, the spirited young princesses, whose attraction to the very warriors who lead the fight threatens Taita's meticulous plan and the future of Egypt itself.

2) The Sunrise by Victoria Hislop

In the summer of 1972, Famagusta in Cyprus is the most desirable resort in the Mediterranean, a city bathed in the glow of good fortune. An ambitious couple are about to open the island's most spectacular hotel, where Greek and Turkish Cypriots work in harmony. Two neighbouring families, the Georgious and the Ozkans, are among many who moved to Famagusta to escape the years of unrest and ethnic violence elsewhere on the island. But beneath the city's facade of glamour and success, tension is building.

3) Gone Girl – Gillian Flynn

Who are you? What have we done to each other? These are the questions Nick Dunne finds himself asking on the morning of his fifth wedding anniversary, when his wife Amy suddenly disappears. The police suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him, that she kept secrets from him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they weren't made by him.

4) Shopaholic to the Stars – Sophie Kinsella

Becky Brandon (nee Bloomwood) is in Hollywood! It's as if all her life has been leading to this moment. She's hanging out with the stars...or at least she will be, when she finally gets to meet movie superstar Sage Seymour, whom husband Luke is now managing. There's so much to see and do! And getting Minnie through the hurdles for her A-list Hollywood pre-school will require some...er...help. Becky sets her heart on a new career - she's going to be a celebrity stylist. Red carpet, here she comes! But Becky soon finds it's tough in Tinseltown.

5) Edge of Eternity by Ken Follett

The epic final volume in the Century trilogy. As the decisions made in the corridors of power bring the world to the brink of oblivion, five families from across the globe are brought together in an unforgettable tale of passion and conflict during the Cold War.

6) All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr

Marie-Laure has been blind since the age of six. Her father builds a perfect miniature of their Paris neighbourhood so she can memorise it by touch and navigate her way home. But when the Nazis invade, father and daughter flee with a dangerous secret.

7) Travels With Epicurus – Daniel Klein

Our society worships at the fountain of youth. Each year, we try to delay the arrival of old age. But in the process, are we missing out on a distinct and extraordinarily valuable stage of life?

8) More Fool Me by Stephen Fry

Stephen Fry is a hugely popular writer, comedian, star of stage and screen – much loved in A Bit of Fry and Laurie, Blackadder and Jeeves and Wooster. His legions of fans tune in to watch him host the popular quiz show Q! each week. Containing raw, electric extracts from his diaries of the time, More Fool Me is a brilliant, eloquent account by a man driven to create and to entertain – revealing a side to him he has long kept hidden.

9) Little Coffeeshop of Kabul – Deborah Rodriguez

In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together. Sunny, the proud proprietor, who needs an ingenious plan to keep her café and customers safe. Yazmina, a young pregnant woman stolen from her remote village and now abandoned on Kabul's violent streets.

10) The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell

One drowsy summer's day in 1984, teenage runaway Holly Sykes encounters a strange woman who offers a small kindness in exchange for 'asylum'. Decades will pass before Holly understands exactly what sort of asylum the woman was seeking... The Bone Clocks follows the twists and turns of Holly's life from a sacred adolescence in Gravesend to old age on Ireland's Atlantic coast as Europe's oil supply dries up - a life not so far out of the ordinary, yet punctuated by flashes of precognition, visits from people who emerge from thin air and brief lapses in the laws of reality.

New book aims to help parents and their young children discuss gender

It was a question from a young boy while speaking at an event that led Sarah Savage to write *Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?*

BILLED as 'a simple question to a complex answer', *Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?* is a unique new children's book from writer Sarah Savage.

Sarah, who is transsexual, is a key transgender community advocate. Jersey born, Sarah now lives in Brighton. She appeared in the acclaimed 2011 documentary series *My Transsexual Summer* and it was while speaking at a charity event in conjunction with the documentary that Sarah first formed the idea for the book.

'I was speaking about transgender issues and was, at that point, still in the early stages of my own transition. I noticed a small boy was staring at me, as children do, and after the talk he approached me and asked, "Are you a boy or a girl?" I replied: "Inside I'm a girl, but outside I look like a boy."

Sarah found herself wishing more resources could be made available to introduce children to the idea that 'gender is theirs to decide, that it's something to be explored and enjoyed'.

The result is *Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?*, a book aimed at helping parents and their children explore and discuss gender in an open and sensitive way.

The full-colour book – which includes drawings by Fox, a professional illustrator and close friend of Sarah's – is aimed primarily at children from pre-school age to seven years old. It was, says Sarah, a challenge to write.

'Being a children's book it's fairly short: 32 pages, about 1,000 words. However, I had to ensure I wrote in a way that would be age-appropriate while remaining honest. I didn't want to make the book too "in your face", with the message spelled out in capital letters. I also had to decide on how to frame the message.'

Sarah eventually settled on the main character of Tiny, a character whose gender readers are left to decide for themselves.

'I deliberately chose a gender-neutral name. I wanted the book to challenge stereotypes. So, for instance, on one page we will see Tiny dressed as a princess and then on the next page



Transgender community advocate Sarah Savage Picture: SHARON KILGANNON

Tiny will be dressed as a knight. It's a book that includes all forms of gender expression and will hopefully encourage readers to talk about what different stereotypes and roles mean to them.'

The response to the book has so far been very positive and Sarah's hope is that it will soon become a regular fixture in schools.

To this end, she is also currently working with the charity Gendered

Intelligence to create an educational resource pack to distribute around schools across the country.

'It is an issue which I feel should be part of the curriculum. I hope the book will be the start of a wider debate and will encourage people of all age groups to talk more about transgender issues.'

To read more about *Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?* or to order a copy, visit www.sarah-savage.com

RECOMMENDATIONS

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CAN you recommend a book?

Every Saturday we will feature readers' recommendations, and if you tell us about a book that you've been reading you may win a Waterstones gift voucher worth £25 if your review is published.

Reviews should include the title of the book, the author and – in 80 words – why you think that the book is a good read. Submissions should be emailed to features@jerseyeveningpost.com, or sent to Book Reviews, JEP Features, Jersey Evening Post, PO Box 582, JE4 8XQ.



Reader recommendation of the week

FOUR SISTERS: THE LOST LIVES OF THE ROMANOV GRAND DUCHESSSES
Helen Rappaport

Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia, the four daughters of Tsar Nicholas II, were murdered by the Bolsheviks in 1918. This book brings to life the very different personalities and desires of these young women before their lives were so brutally cut short. Their exalted position and isolation in an imperial upbringing gave the sisters a craving for normality. Ironically, the advent of WW1 was to be both their salvation and downfall. A fascinating book for lovers of history and psychology alike.

Gail Lees



JEP staff recommendation of the week

A SPOT OF BOTHER
Mark Haddon

George discovers a growth and is convinced he is dying of cancer. His daughter is getting married, his son is falling out with his boyfriend that the family has yet to meet, and to cap it all he walks in on his wife who is having an affair with a former workmate of his – and in his own bed too. Follow the twists and turns of a family in turmoil. Will it all work out in time for the wedding? I picked this up on the basis that Mark Haddon had written *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. His descriptions of characters' thoughts and normal everyday relationships were spot on. Very satisfying holiday read.

Caroline Moody