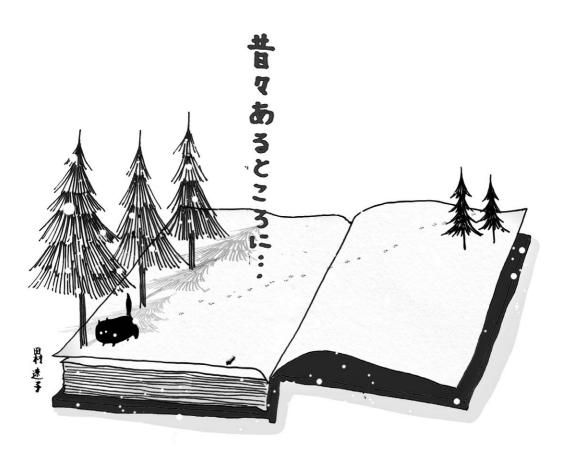
The Portobello Bookshop



The Portobello Bookshop Gift Guide



Welcome to The Portobello Bookshop 2022 Gift Guide!

It's been a busy year in bookselling! We've been readapting to life after the lockdowns, welcoming customers and authors from all over Scotland and beyond, as well as enjoying seeing all our lovely Porty regulars coming in to discover new books and tell us about their favourite reads. We've also had our busiest events programme yet and have been visited by so many authors who came to sign their books, and we can now look back to so many great memories with wonderful authors and readers from around the world. After a year of exciting new releases, our booksellers have compiled a varied book gift guide for the festive season!

We're delighted to be running our Gift Giving Tree again this year, in collaboration by Home Start Edinburgh and Street Reads, two local charities who do amazing work helping those in need and connecting readers to books. It's a campaign that's worked beautifully in the past, thanks to the generosity of our customers. Expect to see the tree in the shop and you're very welcome to ask our staff for details about taking part.

As always, we'd like to thank you for all your support and book chats over the past three and a half years. We wouldn't be here without you and without the wonderful community that we are a part of. We're lucky to be part of a bustling high street full of independent businesses, and we look forward to seeing you in the shop during the festive season – keep your eyes peeled for the announcement of our yearly late opening!

Bolla, Pajtim Statovci. £14.99

Maud Martha, Gwendolyn Brooks. £8.99

Boulder, Eva Baltasar. £11.99

Trust, Hernan Diaz. £16.99

Motherlands, Amaryllis Gacioppo. £20





Pajtim Statovci's *Bolla* (translated by David Hackston), an incandescent, devastating novel about a forbidden love affair between two men in mid-90s' Kosovo, is a standout for me from this year. I fell in love with *Maud Martha* – the book, and the protagonist in poet Gwendolyn Brooks' only novel, published in the UK for the first time this year. Hernan Diaz's metafiction *Trust*, a tale of deceit and greed set in

1920's Manhattan, grabbed my attention and was hugely enjoyable. In *Boulder* (translated by Julia Sanches), Eva Baltasar paints the portrait of an alienated woman in a perpetual quest for freedom. I haven't read as much non-fiction this year as I usually do but I loved Amaryllis Gacioppo's travelogue and memoir *Motherlands*, a compelling exploration of belonging and heritage.

The Portobello Bookshop | 2022 Gift Guide

3



Wayward, Vashti Bunyan. £16.99
Pharmacopoeia, Derek Jarman. £12.99
The Book of Trespass, Nick Hayes. £9.99
Another Way to Split Water, Alycia Pirmohamed. £10
When I Sing, Mountains Dance, Irene Solà. £12.99

Black Hearts, Doug Johnstone. £8.99

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow,
Gabrielle Zevin. £16.99

Dirty Work, Eyal Press. £20

Belonging, Amanda Thomson. £16.99

Nightcrawling, Leila Mottley. £16.99





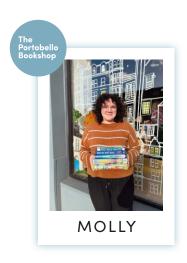
I've had an enjoyably erratic reading year since my books were in boxes for months! My first two favourite books were memoirs. Vashti Bunyan's Wayward shines with the wisdom she acquired through her unique journey from London to the Hebrides. In Pharmacopoeia, Derek Jarman's writings from his time at Dungeness are a love letter to plants, gardening and the local landscape, where he found solace during his illness. The Book of Trespass was a hugely entertaining and informative account on the relevance of land reform.

I loved Alycia Pirmohamed's debut poetry collection Another Way To Split Water for her mastery of metaphor and beautiful explorations of language, homelands, family and womanhood. When I Sing, Mountains Dance is the book I've recommended most, a poetic novel by a young Catalan writer that masterfully merges darkness and innocence, exploring the relationships between humans, animals, landscape and history in the Catalan Pyrenees.



I've not read anywhere near as much as I'd have liked this year, but there have been some real highlights! Doug Johnstone's writing is always a pleasure, and Black Hearts, the fourth in his Skelfs series, is just as good as the first three. Gabrielle Zevin's Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow was definitely my favourite fiction read of the year. Eyal Press' Dirty Work: Jobs and the Hidden Toll of Inequality in America is

a must read work of non-fiction, and one that reveals much about the sides of capitalism we prefer not to think about. Amanda Thomson's *Belonging* is a joy to read, whether she's writing about nature, or family and relationships, Scotland or art. Leila Mottley's *Nightcrawling* is an incredibly compelling and moving novel based on true events that I read in a single sitting.



The Marriage Portrait, Maggie O'Farrell. £25
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow,
Gabrielle Zevin. £16.99

The Nerves and Their Endings,
Jessica Gaitán Johannesson. £9.99
When We Were Birds, Ayanna Lloyd Banwo. 14.99

Sea of Tranquility, Emily St. John Mandel. £14.99

All the Lovers in the Night, Mieko Kawakami. £14.99
Fight Night, Miriam Toews. £14.99
Vagabonds!, Eloghosa Osunde. £14.99
The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois,
Honorée Fanonne Jeffers. £9.99
Strega, Johanne Lykke Holm. £14.99





Reading in 2022 for me has been slower, offering both escape and guidance throughout the year. I loved *The Marriage Portrait* for the way it made me care deeply about Lucrezia de' Medici and her short but meaningful life. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* validated how much Stardew Valley I've played with its passion for video games and its story of love in many forms. *The Nerves and Their Endings*, one of our Porty by Post books, is

a compelling essay collection about the environment and the body that I'll return to again. When We Were Birds was an unexpected favourite, following the relationship between a gravedigger and a woman who can speak to the dead, and recommended by Ali Smith at her April event. I knew however that I would love Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel and I was correct – I can't recommend her writing enough.



2022 has been a year full of great reads!
I enjoyed new novels from authors I love,
with releases from Mieko Kawakami and
Miriam Toews as particular highlights.
Kawakami is fast becoming one of my
favourite authors and I adored All The
Lovers in the Night, the latest of her back
catalogue to be translated to English.
Toews' Fight Night didn't disappoint either,
this story of a dysfunctional family had me

laughing out loud one minute and with tears stinging my eyes the next. I also came across some new authors to watch: Vagabonds! by Eloghosa Osunde and The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers are two of the most remarkable debuts I've read, and Strega by Johanne Lykke Holm provided the wonderfully gothic fix I didn't know I needed!



Small Things Like These, Claire Keegan. £8.99
Companion Piece, Ali Smith. £16.99
On Connection, Kae Tempest. £7.99
Wayward, Vashti Bunyan. £16.99
Imagine a Country,
Val McDermid & Jo Sharp (Editors). £10.99

The Reactor, Nick Blackburn. £12.99

Companion Piece, Ali Smith. £16.99

Homelands, Chitra Ramaswamy. £16.99
I'm a Fan, Sheena Patel. £14.99

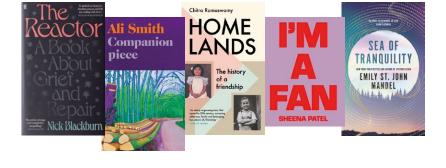
Sea of Tranquility, Emily St. John Mandel. £14.99





Small Things Like These was my first read of 2022 and I cannot imagine a more perfect book for a dreich January afternoon. It's a moving story of courage and kindness which I've thought about ever since and recommended to countless friends, family and customers. 2022 has been a great year for new releases but also for live events! It's been a joy to hear so many authors speak about their work here in the shop. Welcoming Ali Smith to

celebrate the publication of her latest novel was a highlight; Companion Piece was as excellent as I'd hoped. Kae Tempest's On Connection has quickly become the book I most frequently gift to friends and loved ones. Tempest reflects brilliantly on the importance of sincere, creative connections in our lives and again, it was exciting to welcome them to the shop for a great conversation with Michael Pedersen back in August.



The first book I read this year was *The Reactor* by Nick Blackburn, which consists of sprawling, diaristic vignettes that illustrate how grief affects the author following his father's death. The best thing about reading slumps are the books that get you out of them and in April, *Companion Piece* by Ali Smith was a salve – her writing is as timely and wise as ever. Chitra Ramaswamy's *Homelands* is a careful documentation of a remarkable

friendship and I'm so glad that she brought the story of Henry Wuga's life, and her own, to the page. I'm A Fan by Sheena Patel is a savage debut novel, as intoxicating and compulsive as the relationship its narrator has with social media. Interviewing Emily St. John Mandel about Sea of Tranquility for our inaugural Porty by Post online event was another highlight of my reading year: it's been an outstanding one!



A Prayer for the Crown-Shy, Becky Chambers. £16.99
Sistersong, Lucy Holland. £8.99
The Darkness Outside Us, Eliot Schrefer. £8.99
They Came to Slay, Thomas James Carter. £7.50
Stay Another Day, Juno Dawson. £7.99

Our Share of Night, Mariana Enriquez. £18.99
Hex, Jenni Fagan. £7.99
Woman, Eating, Claire Kohda. £14.99
Young Mungo, Douglas Stuart. £16.99
Milk Teeth, Jessica Andrews. £16.99





In a year of personal and global uncertainty, I found myself reaching for familiar, cosy reads from beloved authors such as Jane Austen or Terry Pratchett.

There was time for some new additions to my all-time favourites, such as the latest Becky Chambers, masterful and moving as ever; Lucy Holland's debut, which proved that sometimes, you can safely judge a book by its cover, as it was as immersive as it is gorgeous; or Eliot Schrefer's new YA novel, which proved

the opposite, as what looked like an unassuming gays in space romance turned out to be one of the most surprising and thoughtful books I've ever read. Thom James Carter's Inkling had been rightfully mentioned to me by anyone who knew me, and did not disappoint. Finally, Juno Dawson's YA Christmas romcom was delightful and fun, and I cannot wait for a December night to fall back into it headfirst.



2022 has been a stellar reading year, full of surprises and new all time favourites. The standout book of the year for me was most definitely *Our Share of Night* by Mariana Enriquez: a dark, disturbing and gothic narrative that spotlights Argentinian politics, culture and mythology. Despite being 700+ pages, I couldn't get enough of it! In the same vein, I enjoyed similar thematics in Jenni Fagan's *Hex* and Claire Kodha's *Woman*, *Eating*. This year has taught me a lot about the literature,

authors and themes that I enjoy consuming such as female rage, the folkloric and the absurd. Douglas Stuart and Jessica Andrews respectively published their second novels *Young Mungo* and *Milk Teeth*. Both were delightful and devastating, and solidified the authors as some of my all time favourites. I'm looking forward to the forthcoming year of reading and devouring more weird and wonderful books.



The Perfect Golden Circle, Benjamin Myers. £16.99
Lanny, Max Porter. £9.99
The Fell, Sarah Moss. £8.99
The No-Show, Beth O'Leary. £14.99
How We Are Translated,
Jessica Gaitán Johannesson. £8.99

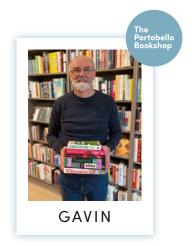
The Modern Middle East, Jeremy Bowen. £20

A New Scotland, Gregor Gall (Editor). £14.99

New Daughters of Africa, Margaret Busby (Editor). £20

Bibliomaniac, Robin Ince. £16.99

Radius, Yasmin El-Rifae. £14.99





2022 has been a year of needing rest and recovery for me which has meant a requirement for immersive stories to soothe and distract. Thankfully, engrossing books haven't been in short supply and my picks for this year seem to fall into two categories - the first being captivating writing of the nature that surrounds us. The Perfect Golden Circle explores friendship and a burning hot 80s summer; Max Porter's Lanny - which I read for the

second time – makes the soil beneath our feet come alive; and *The Fell* examines the need and impact of nature in the everyday and the difficulty of Covid isolation. The second category is love stories to drape yourself in and disappear for an afternoon. *The No-Show* is a cosy and lively read and Jessica Gaitán Johannesson's *How We Are Translated*, set in Edinburgh and full of wry humour, has become one of my favourite books.



In *The Making of the Modern Middle East* Jeremy Bowen writes about his assignments as a Middle East Editor for the BBC. He gives all the necessary historical background making each chapter complete, fascinating as well

as often quite disturbing. In A New Scotland various academics write about the different ways Scotland should go in the future, each chapter covering a different theme. Very thought-provoking.



Plain Bad Heroines, Emily M. Danforth. £9.99

The Fair Botanists, Sara Sheridan. £8.99

Hex, Jenni Fagan. £7.99

The Draw of the Sea, Wyl Menmuir. £16.99

The Secret Lives of Church Ladies,

Deesha Philyaw. £14.99

Juniper & Thorn, Ava Reid. £14.99
Cleanness, Garth Greenwell. £8.99
Sweet Days of Discipline, Fleur Jaeggy. £8.99
The Marriage Portrait, Maggie O'Farrell. £25
Piranesi, Susanna Clarke. £8.99

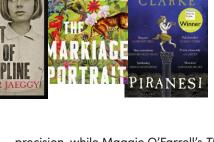




This year of reading for me proved to be one of the most eclectic and wonderful in recent memory. Plain Bad Heroines was an incredibly weird and delightful story of three women trying to figure out their place in the world, all while paired with stunning and spooky illustrations. The Fair Botanists provided me with much needed comfort and painted a beautifully vivid portrait of Edinburgh in the 1820s. Hex made me feel complete and utter rage

and I absolutely loved it; Jenni Fagan is an author I come back to time and time again! The Draw of the Sea was the perfect summer read and made me just want to jump in the ocean and go for a swim. And finally, short stories are some of my favourite books to consume, and The Secret Lives of Church Ladies portrayed heartfelt and devastating stories that I will definitely want to return to.





I sought, in hindsight, bittersweetness in the books I read this year, and I found it in lots of different forms. Ava Reid's Juniper & Thorn was an engrossing, atmospheric fairytale retelling that perfectly balanced darkness and nostalgia. Garth Greenwell's Cleanness and Fleur Jaeggy's Sweet Days of Discipline both took my breath away with their glorious language and emotional

precision, while Maggie O'Farrell's *The Marriage Portrait* started as a luxuriant, sinister read and became an unexpected comfort during a week of illness. This year I also belatedly discovered my love for Susanna Clarke, who instantly became a new favourite. *Piranesi* ticked all my boxes, and left me aching in spite of its whimsy – I've still not quite recovered from it.



Children of Paradise, Camilla Grudova. £14.99
Animal Joy, Nuar Alsadir. £12.99
The Furrows, Namwali Serpell. £16.99
Bad Gays, Huw Lemmey & Ben Miller. £20
Gentrification is Inevitable and Other Lies,
Leslie Kern. £14.99



If reading is really the act of making a map of your life, then each book is its own unique set of coordinates; and so these five books are part of the course I plotted this year. I've mostly been caught reading poetry and non-fiction in 2022 – which will have something to do with wanting to understand the world and my place in it – though I do make exceptions in this list for Camilla Grudova's superb *Children of*

Paradise and Namwali Serpell's unsettling The Furrows. My book of the year, Animal Joy, is about the possibilities of laughter, which seems especially apt after these past years of pandemic, political outrages, and cost-of-living surges. Laughter, in its involuntary form, is a "tiny revolution"; it can upset or startle those on the other end of it, but it is always revealing about the one who laughs.



Curated with care: New writing to get excited about and gifts from independent brands we love.

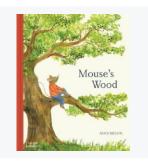
Delivered to your door: Hand-wrapped by us and posted to you each month.

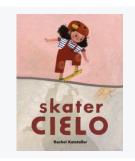
A perfect gift: Treat yourself or someone else, with the option to add a bespoke message.

Join the conversation: Exclusive access to online events and our subscribers-only book chat.

Children's Picture Books

The books on these lists are ideal gifts for the little ones in your life, including beautifully illustrated tales of friendship, courage and fun or carefully curated poetry collections that will last for years to come.



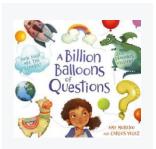
















 Mouse's Wood, Alice Melvin. £14.99
 Skater Cielo, Rachel Katstaller. £12.99
 Friends, Daniela Sosa. £12.99

 Well Done, Mummy Penguin, Chris Haughton. £12.99
 The Missing Piece, Jordan Stephen & Beth Suzanna. £12.99

 A Dress With Pockets, Lily Murray & Jenny Løvlie. £7.99
 A Billion Balloons of Questions, Amy Moreno. £12.99

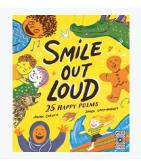
 And Everything Will Be Glad To You, Ella Risbridger. £20
 The Spectacular Suit, Kat Patrick. £12.99

Story Books 5-8

In one of the most varied lists in this gift guide, we've included hilarious books set in schools and at sleepovers, whimsical stories to be shared before bedtime, and fun tales following beloved animals causing havoc!

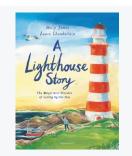






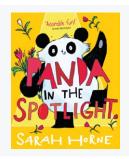








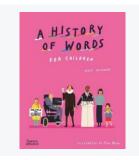




The Worries, Jion Sheibani. £7.99 The Faber Book of Bedtime Stories. £20 Smile Out Loud, Joseph Coelho. £12.99
Listen to the Music, Mary Richards & Caroline Bonne-Muller. £16.99 Grimwood, Nadia Shireen. £12.99
A Lighthouse Story, Holly James. £12.99 Dragon Storm, Alastair Chisholm. £6.99
The Secret School Invasion, Pamela Butchart. £7.99 Panda in the Spotlight, Sarah Horne. £6.99

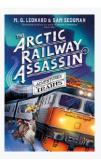
Story Books 9-12

Thrilling adventures on trains, magical journeys around Edinburgh, dystopian worlds and heartwarming family tales – these are just some of the brilliant books for young readers featured on this list. We were lucky to host events with several of these wonderful authors!



















A History of Words for Children, Mary Richards. £14.99

Leila and the Blue Fox, Kiran Millwood Hargrave. £12.99

If You Read This, Kereen Getten. £7.99

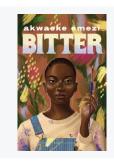
Our Sister, Again, Sophie Cameron. £7.99

The Consequences Girl, Alastair Chisholm. £7.99

Like A Charm, Elle McNicoll. £6.99

Young Adult

From TikTok sensations to little-known gems, this list includes our top picks for teen and young adult books this year. Whether you're looking for a sweeping romance, a heart-racing adventure or a companion to a certain beloved TV series, we've got them all.

















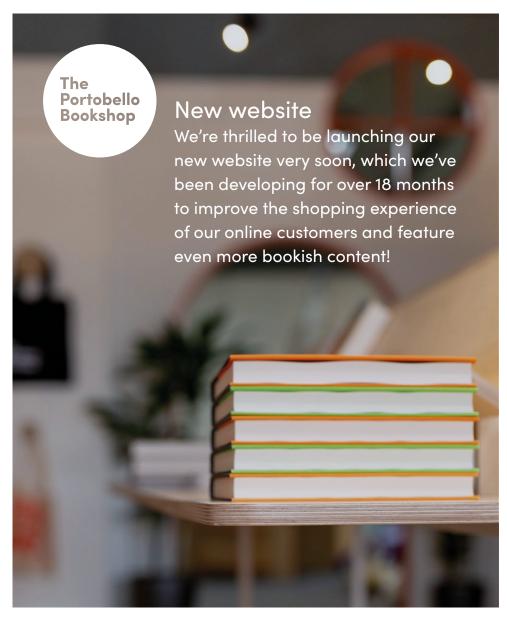


Bitter, Akwaeke Emezi. £7.99 Oxygen Mask, Jason Reynolds. £9.99 Rapunzella, Ella McLeod. £8.99

Destination Unknown, Bill Konigsberg. £8.99 This Book Will Save the Planet, Dany Sigwalt. £9.99

Only on the Weekends, Dean Atta. £8.99 If This Gets Out, Sophie Gonzales & Cale Dietrich. £7.99

The Heartstopper Yearbook, Alice Oseman. £14.99 Unraveller, Frances Hardinge. £14.99



The new website will include millions of browsable titles and offer a host of new features, recommendations pages, a fresh design and a new, easier way to access our online events. Our online community

has grown over the years and we've enjoyed talking to so many book lovers from around the world – we look forward to sharing our favourite books with you all through this new platform!

Beautiful Books

If the gift you're searching for is a large, handsome hardback that could easily serve as a coffee-table book, this list is made with you in mind. Ideal for either dipping into or reading through, these books, with their beautiful cover designs and illustrations, are perfect additions to a loved one's home.



















Home is Not a Place, Johny Pitts & Roger Robinson. £25

The Writers, Laura Wilson. £30

Trees, Paul Smith. £40

A Book of Days, Patti Smith. £25

The Story of Art Without Men, Katy Hessel. £30

The Islands Book. £29.99

A Therapeutic Atlas. £22

Queer Spaces, Adam Nathaniel Furnan & Joshua Mardell (Editors). £40

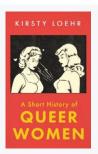
Gift/Stocking Fillers

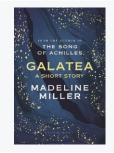
From this list, our booksellers have been loving *A Short History of Queer Women*, an accessible guide to LGBTQ+ history; Hanif Abdurraqib's *A Little Devil in America*, a wide-ranging essay collection focusing on performance; and *The Golden Mole*, with its gorgeous cover and illustrations.



















Night Sky Almanac, Storm Dunlop & Will Tirion. £9.99 A Little Devil in America, Hanif Abdurraqib. £9.99

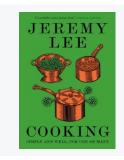
The Golden Mole, Katherine Rundell. £14.99 A Short History of Queer Women, Kirsty Loehr. £8.99

Galatea, Madeline Miller. £6.99 What Writers Read, Pandora Sykes (Editor). £12.99 Lapidarium, Hettie Judah. £20

In the End, it was all About Love, Musa Okwonga. £11.99 A Horse at Night On Writing, Amina Cain. £9.99

Cookery

The shop's display shelves often house the best of our cookery books: beautifully designed, stout hardbacks filled with tantalising photographs of recipes. Unpacking these titles during deliveries is often dangerous work if being done before lunch hour.



















 Cooking, Jeremy Lee. £30
 Africana, Lerato Umah-Shaylor. £22
 Home Food, Olia Hercules. £26

 Motherland, Melissa Thompson. £26
 Extra Good Things, Yotam Ottolenghi. £25
 India Express, Rukmini Iyer. £22

 Mezcla, Ixta Belfrage. £26
 Persiana Everyday, Sabrina Ghayour. £26
 The Italian Pantry, Theo Randall. £26

Graphic Novels

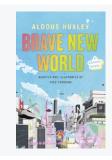
Our shop's lovingly curated selection of graphic novels bears a huge variety of themes, forms and styles. This list moves from sketchbooks to fiction, including titles by Nick Drnaso and Lizzy Stewart, as well as Will McPhail, with whom we hosted an event to celebrate his stunning cartoon collection *Love & Vermin*.



















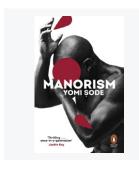
 Love & Vermin, Will McPhail. £18.99
 The Third Person, Emma Grove. £30
 The Joy of Quitting, Keiler Roberts. £23

 Acting Class, Nick Drnaso. £20
 Brave New World, Fred Fordham. £20
 Ducks, Kate Beaton. £25

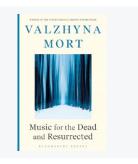
 Je Ne Sais Quoi, Lucie Arnoux. £20
 Alison, Lizzy Stewart. £18.99
 Suzanne, Tom Humberstone. £17.99

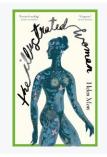
Poetry

We're a group of big poetry readers in the shop, so we take a great deal of pleasure in arranging what's on the poetry shelves. This list was especially difficult, and there are 20-30 more books that could easily find a place on it.



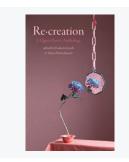


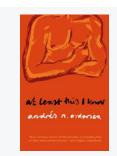














Manorism, Yomi Sode. £12.99

Music for the Dead and Resurrected, Valzhyna Mort. £9.99

Limbic, Peter Scapello. £10.99

More Fiya, Kayo Chingonyi (Editor). £16.99

Re-creation, Éadaoín Lynch & Alycia Pirmohamed (Editors). £10

At Least This I Know, Andrés N. Ordorica. £9.99

Heritage Aestheics, Anthony Anaxagorou. £10.99

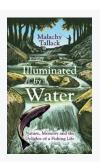
Picks from Scotland

From novels to essays, memoirs to music writing, this year's Scottish book roster is packed with treats.

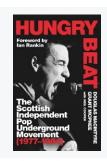










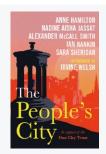














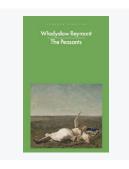
Rediscoveries

We're not just focused on new releases here at Porty. Here's a list of some of our booksellers' favourite reissues and rediscoveries released in 2022.



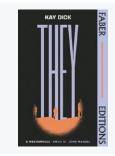


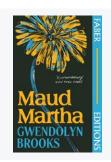














Blind Owl, Sadeq Hadayat. £10.99 The Easy Life, Marguerite Duras. £12.99 The Black Jacobins, C.L.R. James. £12.99
The Peasants, Władysław Reymont. £16.99 Lolly Willows, Sylvia Townsend. £9.99 Too Much of Life, Clarice Lispector. £20
They, Kay Dick. £8.99 Maud Martha, Gwendolyn Brooks. £8.99 Nevada, Imogen Binnie. £8.99

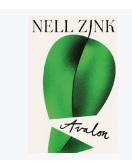
Picks from Scotland

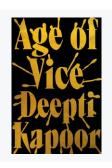
Case Study, Graeme Macrae Burnet. £9.99 Boy Friends, Michael Pedersen. £14.99 1989, Val McDermid. £20 Illuminated by Water, Malachy Tallack. £16.99 A Heart Full of Headstones, Ian Rankin. £22 Hungry Beat, Douglas MacIntyre & Grant McPhee. £20 Spaceships Over Glasgow, Stuart Braithwaite. £20 Free To Go, Elsa Aldegheri. £14.99 We Are All Witches, Mairi Kidd. £16.99 Belonging, Melissa Thomson. £16.99 The People's City. £7.99 Orpheus Builds a Girl, Heather Parry. £16.99

Looking forward to next year

Here's a little look at three 2023 titles we in the shop are excited for.







Toy Fights, Don Paterson. £16.99 Avalon, Nell Zink. £14.99 Age of Vice, Deepit Kapoor. £20

Gift Cards

If you can't decide on a book for a loved one, don't fear: Our Gift Cards, available in physical and digital forms, are the perfect alternatives!













Wishing you a Wonderful Festive Season from The Portobello Bookshop Team!







46 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh EH15 1DA

theportobellobookshop.com 0131 629 6756 @portybooks