

Icon Books

On Sale: Apr 11/23

7.09 x 9.06

9781785787850 • \$44.95 • cl

Language Arts & Disciplines / Etymology



LEAD

The Illustrated Etymologicon

A Circular Stroll Through the Hidden Connections of the English Language

by Mark Forsyth

The Etymologicon is an occasionally ribald, frequently witty and unerringly erudite guided tour of the secret labyrinth that lurks beneath the English language.

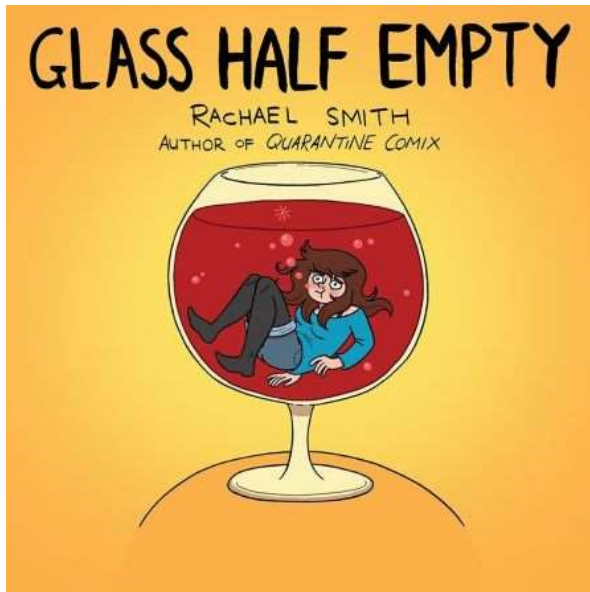
What is the actual connection between disgruntled and grunted? What links church organs to organised crime, California to the Caliphate, or brackets to codpieces?

Mark Forsyth's riotous celebration of the idiosyncratic and sometimes absurd connections between words is a classic of its kind: a mine of fascinating information and a must-read for word-lovers everywhere.

Author Bio

Mark Forsyth is a writer, journalist and blogger. His book *The Etymologicon* was a Sunday Times Number One Bestseller and his TED Talk 'What's a snollygoster?' has had more than half a million views. He is also the author of *The Horologicon* and *The Elements of Eloquence*, and wrote a specially commissioned essay The Unknown Unknown for Independent Booksellers Week. He lives in London with his dictionaries, and blogs at blog.inkyfool.com.





Glass Half Empty

by Rachael Smith

The highly-anticipated third installment of Rachael Smith's award-winning auto-bio comics

'Rachael Smith's trademark bittersweet, funny and very personal comics make for the perfect chronicle of the weird times we've been living through. They are funny and sad and relatable and wise.'**Chris Addison, comedian and director of Veep**

'It's no wonder people respond strongly to Rachael's work. Brave is a term people like to bandy around about personal comics, but it's appropriate sometimes. The real wonder of her work is the easy comic touch.'**Kate Beaton, author of Hark! A Vagrant**

At age ten, Rachael Smith was going to group meetings to help her handle her dad's alcoholism. After his death, trying to manage her grief, she found herself with her own problematic relationship with alcohol.

From the award-winning author of *Quarantine Comix*, *Wired Up Wrong* and *Stand in Your Power*, this is another extremely honest and relatable auto-bio comic shining a light on the realities of mental health with humour (...)

Author Bio

Rachael Smith is a UK-based comics creator, whose books include *Quarantine Comix*, *Wired Up Wrong*, *Stand in Your Power*, *Glass Half Empty* and *The Rabbit*, which was nominated for Best Book in the 2015 British Comic Awards, following her nomination for Emerging Talent.

Icon Books

On Sale: Jun 6/23

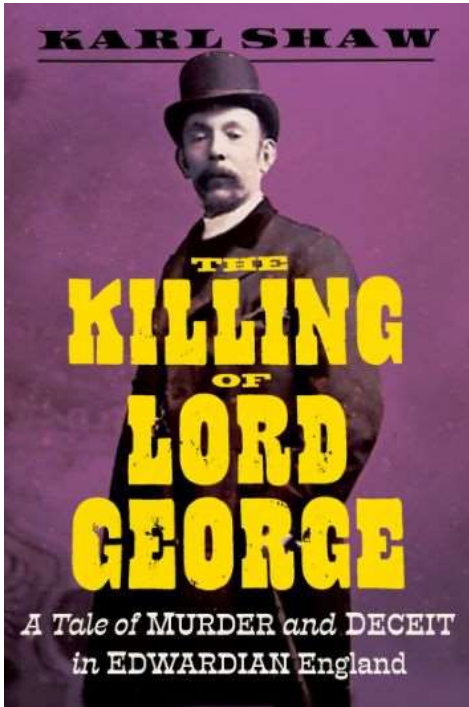
5.83 x 5.83 • 144 pages

9781785788970 • \$29.50 • pb

YA NonFic / Comics & Graphic Novels / Biography •

Ages 16 years and up





Icon Books

On Sale: Mar 14/23

6.4 x 9.4 • 304 pages

9781785788468 • \$45.50 • cl

True Crime / Murder / General • Ages 16 years and up



The Killing of Lord George

A Tale of Murder and Deceit in Edwardian England

by Karl Shaw

On 28 November 1911 a retired showman died violently at his home in North London. Known to the world as Lord George Sanger, he was once the biggest name in show business, and was venerated as a national institution.

The death of Britain's wealthiest showman read like a popular crime thriller: a merciless killer; a famous victim; sensational media headlines; a desperate manhunt laced with police incompetencies and a dramatic denouement few could have anticipated. But for over a century, questions have persisted about the murder.

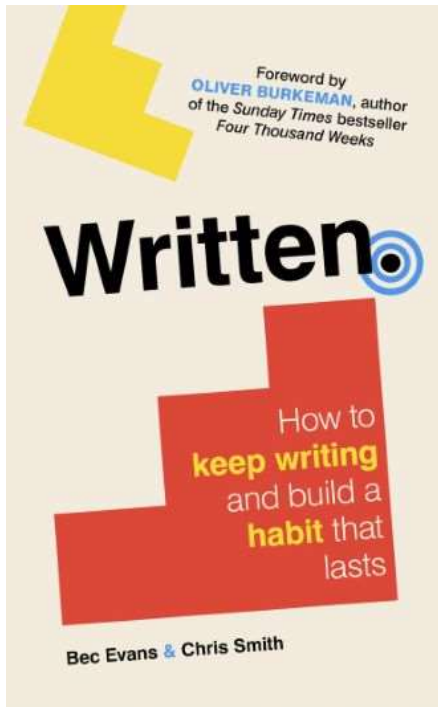
Weaving in the story of George's rise to fame and the history of Britain's entertainment industry, *The Killing of Lord George* uses previously unpublished archive material to reconstruct the events leading up to the death and reveal the true story behind the brutal crime that shocked Edwardian England.

Karl Shaw's enjoyable book takes us into the often tawdry sawdust rings of Victorian showmanship ♦ **compelling**. Karl Shaw has delivered **a riveting read**, weaving together the extraordinary biography of George Sanger - Britain's answer to PT Barnum - alongside the Edwardian investigation into his tragic and violent demise. With twists and turns along the way, and providing a unique insight into Victorian and Edwardian Britain, Shaw takes us into a **dark story of murder and deceit with verve and insight** backed with thorough research. Fascinating

Author Bio

Karl Shaw is an author and journalist. His previous books include *Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know*, *Abject Quizzery* and *The First Showman*. He lives in North Staffordshire.





Icon Books

On Sale: Apr 18/23

5.67 x 8.74 • 272 pages

9781785789038 • \$38.50 • cl

Reference / Writing Skills • Ages 16 years and up



Written

How to Keep Writing and Build a Habit That Lasts

by Bec Evans and Chris Smith, foreword by Oliver Burkeman

What a lovely, friendly book. Made me feel cheerful, buoyant, less alone and keen to get on with my writing. Highly recommended.' Cathy Rentzenbrink, author of *Write It All Down*

'If you want to go from writing" to "written", then you need this book.' Graham Allcott, author of *How to be a Productivity Ninja*

****With a Foreword by OLIVER BURKEMAN, author of the *Sunday Times* bestseller *Four Thousand Weeks* ****

Do you ever wish you could find more time to write? Do you ever feel frustrated that other things get in the way? Perhaps you're stuck at the start, mired in the middle or just can't get back into the writing groove?

Writing is important to many of us - for our careers, studies, businesses or creative fulfilment - but sitting down and doing it can feel *impossible*. We often struggle to give it the attention it deserves. We can't find time. Our focus is torn. Distractions are everywhere. Our inner critic keeps telling us we're no good.

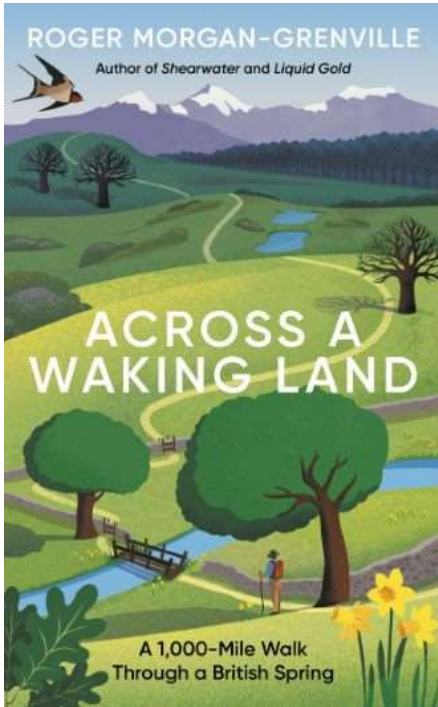
But (...)

Author Bio

Bec Evans and **Chris Smith** are the co-founders of Prolifiko, a coaching business that helps people build productive writing habits. They met while working together in a bookshop more than 20 years ago and have spent a lifetime writing and working with other writers. Prior to Prolifiko, Bec worked in publishing, led teams of writers and managed a writing centre for Arvon. She's also the award-winning author of *How to Have a Happy Hustle*. Chris has a background as a ghostwriter and content consultant to global business brands, charities and the public sector. He worked as an agency director before setting up his own communications consultancy and has written for national newspapers and magazines. He is also an award-winning comedy scriptwriter. The authors live in Yorkshire with their dog, Peggy.



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Icon Books

On Sale: Jun 13/23

5.32 x 8.5 • 368 pages

9781785789762 • \$42.95 • cl

Travel / Europe / Great Britain • Ages 16 years and up



Across a Waking Land

A 1,000-Mile Walk Through a British Spring

by Roger Morgan-Grenville

A veteran nature writer walks the length of Britain in pursuit of spring, and of hope

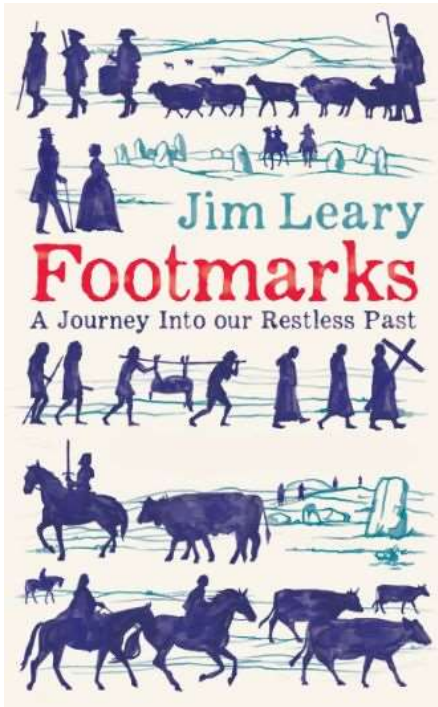
Fed up with bleak headlines of biodiversity loss, acclaimed nature writer Roger Morgan-Grenville sets out on a 1,000-mile walk through a British spring to see whether there are reasons to be hopeful about the natural world. His aim is to match the pace at which the oak leaves emerge, roughly 25 miles north each day.

Fighting illness, blizzards and his own ageing body, he visits every main habitat between Lymington and Cape Wrath in an epic eight-week adventure, encountering, over and over again, the kindness of strangers and the inspiring efforts of those fighting heroically for nature. With surprising conclusions throughout, what unfolds is both life-affirming and life-changing.

Author Bio

Roger Morgan-Grenville was a soldier from 1978-86. In 2007, he helped to set up the charity Help for Heroes, and in 2020 he was a founding member of the conservation charity, Curlew Action. His earlier titles, *Liquid Gold*, *Shearwater* and *Taking Stock*, are also published by Icon. He lives in West Sussex.





Icon Books

On Sale: Aug 15/23

5.32 x 8.5 • 288 pages

9781837730247 • \$42.95 • cl

Social Science / Archaeology • Ages 16 years and up



Footmarks

A Journey Into our Restless Past

by Jim Leary

Archaeologist Jim Leary reanimates the past with this riveting 'archaeology of movement'

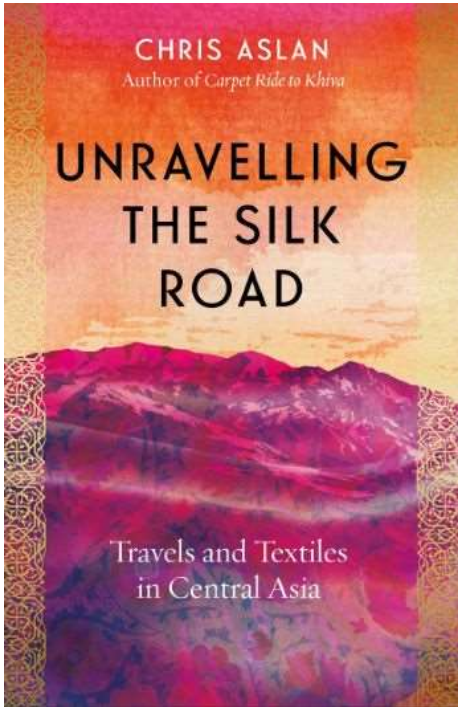
All too often we think of the past as static, 'frozen in time', and indeed movement is not always easy to decipher from the archaeological record. With Jim Leary's expert eye we explore the tangible remains, from fossilised footprint tracks to prehistoric wooden trackways, ridgeways, holloways, droveways, green ways, corpse roads, and Roman roads. Isotope studies and archaeogenetics now allow us see the arduous journeys that people made across continents and oceans, proving that migration has been continuous throughout our past, an endless ebb and flow of populations.

This new story of our past shows that history was warm and full of life, and no doubt at times cold, dark and miserable - but it was never motionless. Footmarks will make you look at the landscape around you with fresh eyes.

Author Bio

Dr Jim Leary is an archaeologist at the University of York and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He has directed major excavations across Britain, including Silbury Hill in Wiltshire, the largest Neolithic monument in Europe. A passionate walker, much of his research is centred on the way people moved around in the past.





Unravelling the Silk Road

Travels and Textiles in Central Asia

by Chris Aslan Alexander

Veteran traveller and textile expert Chris Aslan explores the Silk, Wool and Cotton Roads of Central Asia

Three textile roads tangle their way through Central Asia. The famous Silk Road united east and west through trade. Older still was the Wool Road, of critical importance when houses made from wool enabled nomads to traverse the inhospitable winter steppes. Then there was the Cotton Road, marked by greed, colonialism and environmental disaster.

At this intersection of human history, fortunes were made and lost through shimmering silks, life-giving felts and gossamer cottons. Chris Aslan, who has spent fifteen years living and working in the region, expertly unravels the strands of this tangled history and embroiders them with his own experiences of life in the heart of Asia.

Author Bio

Chris Aslan was born in Turkey and spent his childhood there and in war-torn Beirut. He lived in the deserts and mountains of Central Asia for 15 years, and still returns regularly to the region. Chris is currently based in the UK but is planning a move to North Cyprus.

Icon Books

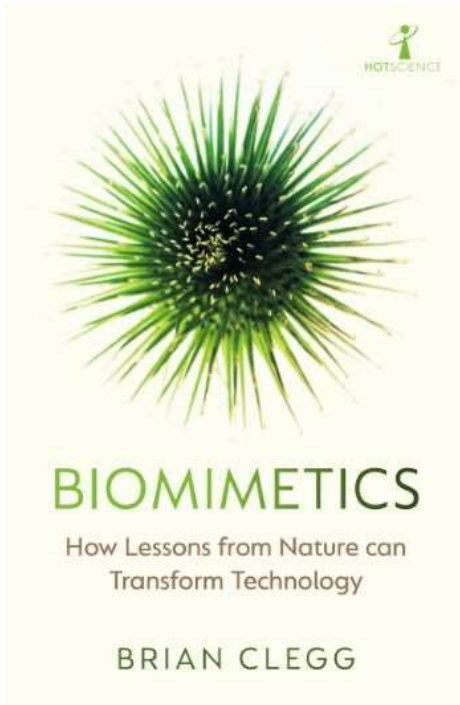
On Sale: Jun 13/23

6.02 x 9.21 • 352 pages

9781785789861 • \$44.95 • cl

Travel / Asia / Central • Ages 16 years and up





Icon Books

On Sale: May 16/23

5.08 x 7.8 • 176 pages

9781785789892 • \$22.50 • PB - B-format paperback
Science / Life Sciences / Biology / General • Ages 16
years and up
Series: Hot Science



Biomimetics

How Lessons From Nature can Transform Technology

by Brian Clegg

An exploration of the transformative ways in which nature has inspired the technological advancement of humankind.

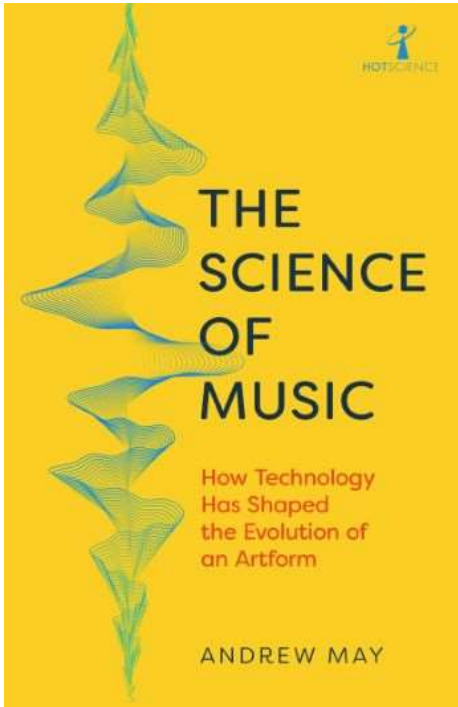
Biomimetics literally means emulating biology - and in a broader sense the term covers technological advances where the original inspiration came from nature. The Earth is a vast laboratory where the mechanisms of natural selection have enabled evolutionary solutions to be developed to a wide range of problems.

In this new title in the Hot Science series, science writer Brian Clegg looks at how humans have piggybacked on natural experimentation, redeploying a solution to create things that make our lives easier. He looks at how the hooks on burdock seeds inspired the creation of Velcro, how the stickiness of the feet of geckos and frogs has been used to create gripping surfaces, such as tyre treads, and how even the most basic optical enhancement in the form of spectacles is itself a form of biomimetics.

Author Bio

Brian Clegg's many books include *Dice World* and *A Brief History of Infinity*, both longlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize, and, most recently, *Ten Days in Physics That Shook the World*





Icon Books

On Sale: May 16/23

5.08 x 7.8 • 176 pages

9781785789915 • \$24.95 • PB - B-format paperback

Music / Reference • Ages 16 years and up

Series: Hot Science



The Science of Music

How Technology has Shaped the Evolution of an Artform
by Andrew May

Music is shaped by the science of sound.

How can music - an artform - have anything to do with science? Yet there are myriad ways in which the two are intertwined, from the basics of music theory and the design of instruments to hi-fi systems and how the brain processes music.

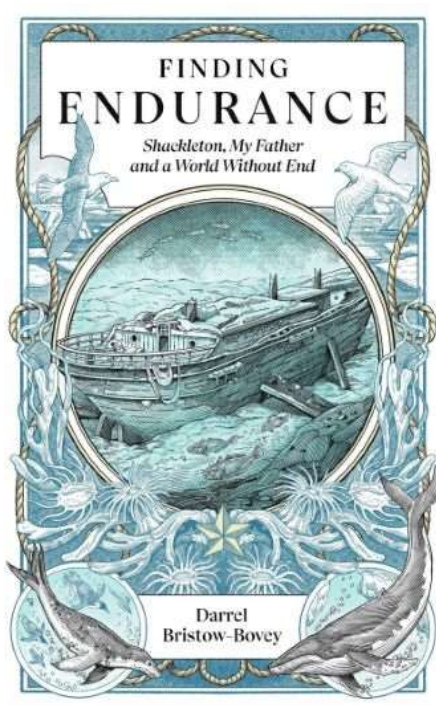
Science writer Andrew May traces the surprising connections between science and music, from the theory of sound waves to the way musicians use mathematical algorithms to create music.

The most obvious impact of science on music can be seen in the way electronic technology has revolutionised how we create, record and listen to music. Technology has also provided new insights into the effects that different music has on the brain, to the extent that some algorithms can now predict our reactions with uncanny accuracy, which raises a worrying question: how long will it be before AI can create music on a par with humans?

Author Bio

Andrew May is a freelance writer and former scientist, with a PhD in astrophysics. He has written five books in Icon's Hot Science series: *Destination Mars*, *Cosmic Impact*, *Astrobiology*, *The Space Business* and *The Science of Music*. He lives in Somerset.





Icon Books

On Sale: Jun 13/23

5.32 x 8.5 • 272 pages

9781915563026 • \$42.95 • cl

History / Maritime History & Piracy • Ages 16 years and up



Finding Endurance

Shackleton, My Father and a World Without End

by Darrel Bristow-Bovey

Beautiful, thrilling, heroic and kind, a ripping yarn **CLAIRE ROBERTSON, AUTHOR OF *THE SPIRAL HOUSE***

'Tender, heartfelt and lyrical **PETINA GAPPAN, AUTHOR OF *OUT OF DARKNESS, SHINING LIGHT***

Since the discovery of the wreck of Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* on the bed of the Antarctic ocean, the world has been enthralled anew by one of the greatest stories of all time.

Acclaimed South African writer Darrel Bristow-Bovey, himself a Shackleton aficionado, revisits this dramatic event, which managed to sweep the tide of anger and rancour off the timelines and front pages of the world.

He asks how so many ordinary people, who don't know a nunatak from a barquentine, were so moved at the finding of a small wooden ship once sailed by a half-forgotten Irishman? In re-examining the story and its players, he presents new details and a new understanding of the courage and hardship of the *Endurance* voyage, and reminds us of how extraordinary humans can be. Not all is lost, and what has been lost can be regained: the ocean has given us something back.

What's more, we are reminded that miracles still happen: human miracles, performed by flawed people in helpless situations.

Finding Endurance is **beautiful, thrilling, heroic and kind, a ripping yarn** and a generous and humane reflection on this business of being human. - Claire Robertson, author of *The Spiral House*, winner of the 2014 Sunday Times Fiction Prize

Tender, heartfelt and lyrical. - Petina Gappan, author of *Out of Darkness, Shining Light*

Author Bio

Darrel Bristow-Bovey is a prize-winning screenwriter and travel writer and a newspaper and magazine columnist. He's the author of five books which have been translated into seven languages, including Spanish, Estonian and Portuguese. He was born in South Africa, studied under JM Coetzee and Andre Brink, and currently divides his time between Cape Town, the UK and a hillside on the Greek Peloponnese. His fascination with the *Endurance*



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