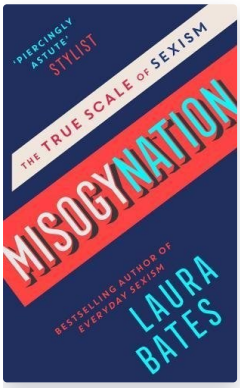
National Council of Women GB
For a fair and inclusive society
Since 1895

Network 18-30 Booklist

Recommended reads

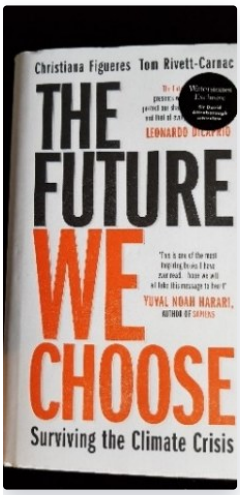


01

MISOGYNATION

Laura Bates

You may have read EVERYDAY SEXISM. This is Laura's third book. 'Drawing attention to sexism everywhere from the payroll to the pavement, Laura uncovers the discrimination in our relationships, our workplaces, our homes, our media, at our schools and on our streets ... She joins the dots to reveal the true scale of sexism: systemic, ingrained and ignored.



02

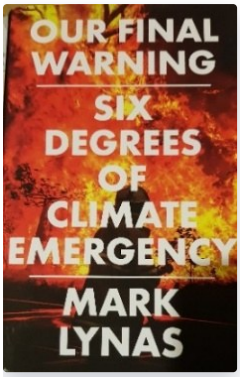
THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE

Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

Christiana was UN Executive Secretary for Climate Change, Tom was senior political strategist for the Paris Agreement.

This well received book shows the pathway to surviving the climate crisis, with chapters including; move beyond fossil fuels, reforest the earth, build gender equality.

> *"Full of heart, strength and solutions.... I will carry it with me everywhere" Ellie Goulding*

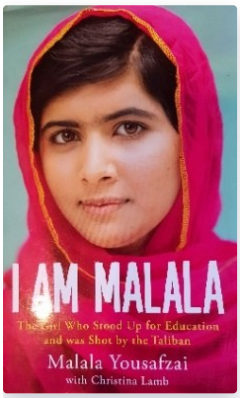


03

OUR FINAL WARNING

Mark Lynas

Rigorously cataloguing the very latest climate science, Mark Lynas charts the likely consequences of global heating, which show that the failure of Cop26 is not an option. This puts in context the vital nature of our need to activate ideas and actions which have an impact, witness those explored in the film The Earthshot Prize.

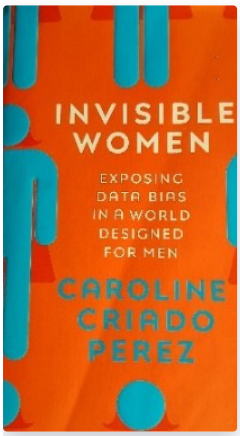


04

I AM MALALA

Malala Yousafzai

The inspirational story of Malala's miraculous recovery from being shot in the head in Pakistan to becoming a global symbol of peaceful protest and campaigner for girls' education. The youngest holder of the Nobel Peace Prize; she was awarded the honour in 2014. Malala graduated from Oxford in 2020 and continues her world-wide activism.

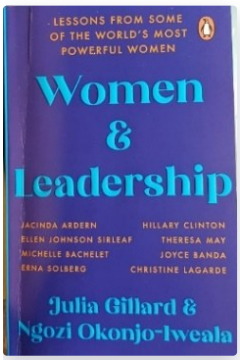


05

INVISIBLE WOMEN

Caroline Criado Perez

> *"Caroline Criado Perez shines her penetrating gaze on the absence of women from the creation of most societal norms – from algorithms to medicinal doses to government policy. Knowledge is power – we all need to know how our systems work if we want change. Arm yourself with this book and press it into the hands of everyone you know. It is utterly brilliant!"*
>
> Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, who is also an NCW Honorary Associate

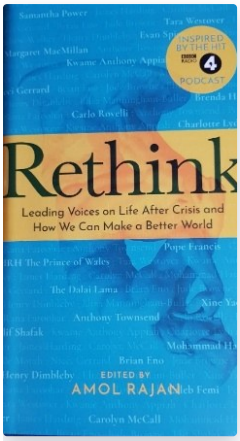


06

WOMEN and LEADERSHIP

Julia Gillard & Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Lessons we can learn drawing on conversations with some of the world's most powerful women, the authors explore gender bias and ask how we get more women into leadership roles. This is an issue which NCW has long supported, with resolutions seeking to get more women into Parliament and into the decision-making arena.

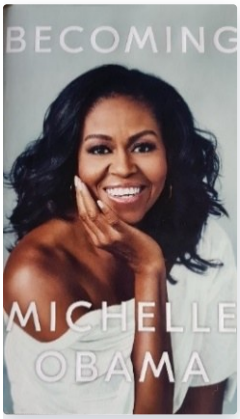


07

RETHINK

Amol Rajan

Puts together viewpoints of leading international figures on a better future after Covid. Each one explores a different aspect of public/private life. Includes Pope Francis on poverty, Lady Hale on the courts, Elif Shafak on uncertainty, Gina McCarthy on rethinking activism, Peter Frankopan on rethinking Asia. 'It reaffirms that after darkness there is always light'

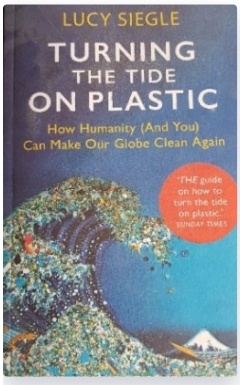


08

BECOMING

Michelle Obama

Michelle Obama's father taught her to work hard, laugh often, keep her word. Her mother showed her how to think for herself and how to use her voice. At Princeton she was the only black woman in a room, after this she worked as a high-powered corporate lawyer where one day a law student named Barack Obama came into her office. And upended her plans. With uncommon candour she provides a vivid account of her family's history-making launch into the global limelight, including 8 momentous years in the White House. Soon after arriving there she came to London, met HM the Queen and visited the Elizabeth Anderson School in Islington. Read about her memorable visit to this multi-racial school (known to NCYW!)-page 318!

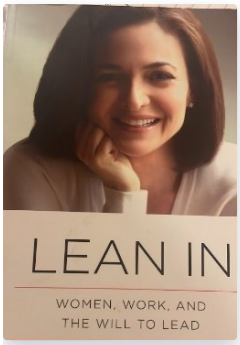


09

TURNING THE TIDE on PLASTIC

Lucy Siegle

Lucy Siegle says we can do something about the alarming volume of plastic waste polluting our environment. She writes about her journey, becoming an eco lifestyle expert, now offering her guide for change - Record, Replace, Refuse, Refill, Rethink. Here is an essential practical guide.



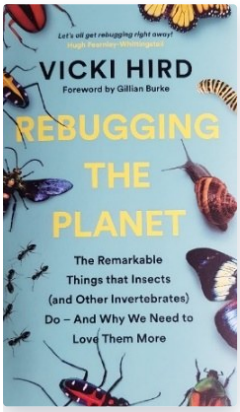
10

LEAN IN

Sheryl Sandberg

Sheryl Sandberg examines why men still hold the vast majority of leadership positions in government and industry.... She describes specific, practical steps women can take to combine professional achievement with personal fulfilment and demonstrates how men can benefit by supporting women in the workplace and at home.

This book suggestion is from Rachel Wibberley



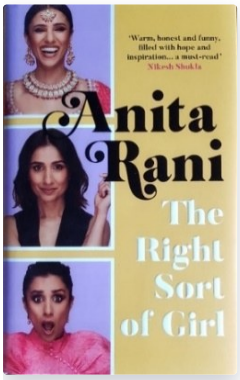
11

REBUGGING THE PLANET

Vicki Hird

> *The decline of insect life in the UK and globally is one of the biggest concerns of our biodiversity crisis.....so it's hugely inspiring to find out that there is something we can actually do about it.* *Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall*

> *If you've ever asked what bugs have done for us, read this book – and then join the movement to protect them* *Caroline Lucas, Green Party MP*

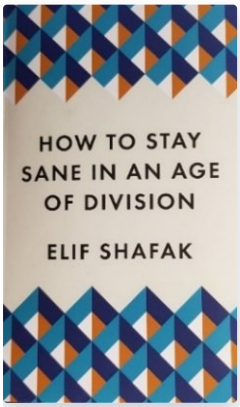


12

THE RIGHT SORT OF GIRL

Anita Rani

How is a woman built? What sort of building blocks in girlhood are needed to create the right sort of woman? These are some of the questions that Anita "one of the few brown women on TV" addresses as she tells us how she reached a place where she's accepted for who she is. A story of grit, determination and tenacity.

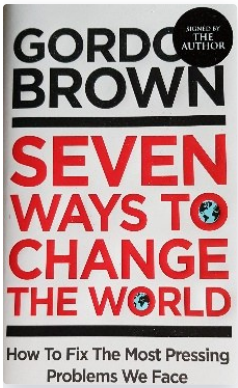


13

HOW TO STAY SANE IN AN AGE OF DIVISION

Elif Shafak

Elif Shafak is an award-winning novelist and an advocate for women's rights and freedom of speech. Quoting Maya Angelou "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you" Elif goes on to show that stories bring us together, untold stories keep us apart. She reveals how listening to each other can nurture democracy, empathy and our faith in a kinder and wiser future.



14

SEVEN WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

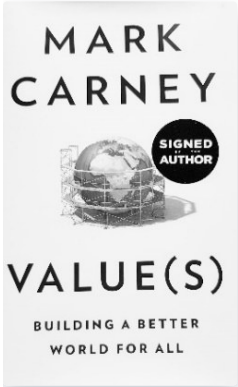
Gordon Brown

How To Fix The Most Pressing Problems We Face

> *'Gordon Brown has never given up trying to make the world a better, fairer place' Ed Balls*

> *'Immensely powerful and persuasive. ...study his compassionate solutions' Joanna Lumley*

Gordon Brown served as Prime Minister 2007-10. In his UN role as Special Envoy for Global Education he works to galvanise financial support to ensure education for every child.



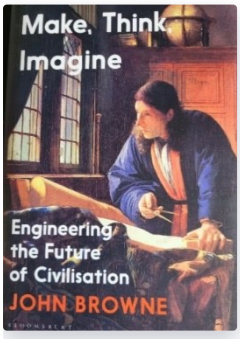
15

VALUE (S) Building a Better World for All

Mark Carney

Mark Carney was Governor of the Bank of England 2013-20. He holds many positions, including UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance.

> *'Drawing on a truly international perspective... this book sets out a framework for the change needed for an economic and social renaissance in a post-Covid world.... Embedding the values of sustainability, solidarity and responsibility into all decision-making is integral to his argument... for turning intractable problems into enormous opportunities'*



16

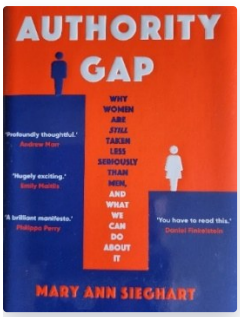
MAKE, THINK, IMAGINE

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE OF CIVILISATION

John Browne

John Browne argues compellingly that civilisation is founded on engineering innovation. He argues thoughtfully that human beings have a phenomenal problem-solving capacity, which can lead to a sustainable future.

A trained engineer, former head of BP, he is Chairman of the Crick Institute, a Fellow of the Royal Academy, past President of the Royal Academy of Engineering and former Chairman of The Tate.



17

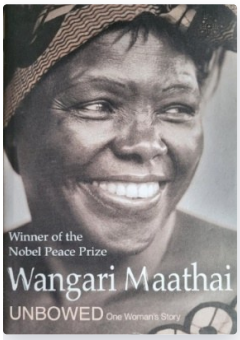
AUTHORITY GAP

Mary Ann Sieghart

20 years as Assistant Editor on The Times, a year as a Visiting Fellow at All Souls Oxford, Visiting Professor King's College London.

Why women are still taken less seriously than men, and what we can do about it. A startling perspective, using a wealth of data and interviews, including Baroness Hale, revealing the unseen bias in our everyday lives.

> *"Profoundly thoughtful" Andrew Marr "Hugely exciting" Emily Maitlis*



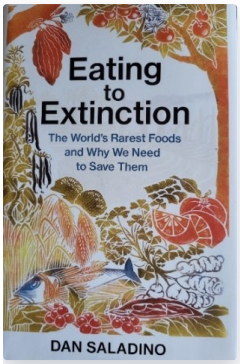
18

UNBOWED

WANGARI MAATHAI

> *From page 193.... Trees have been an essential part of my life and have provided me with many lessons. Trees are living symbols of peace and hope. A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky. It tells us that in order to aspire we need to be grounded, and that no matter how high we go it is from our roots that we draw sustenance. It is a reminder to all of us who have had success that we cannot forget where we came from. It signifies that no matter how powerful we become in government, or how many awards we receive our power and our strength and ability to reach our goals depend on the people, those whose work remains unseen, who are the soil out of which we grow, the shoulders on which we stand.*

From first encouraging women in Kenya to grow trees, Wangari founded the Green Belt movement, working for respect for human rights, sustainable and equitable management of resources and good governance in a culture of peace. After receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, Wangari attended a memorable event at a church in Marylebone Road, London when NCW members Patience Purdy, Sylvia Owen and Gwenda Kibble presented her with a poem.



19

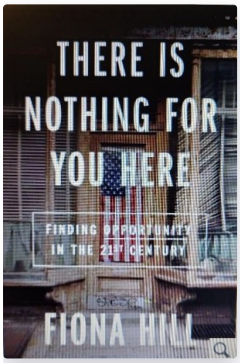
EATING TO EXTINCTION

DAN SALADINO

In this captivating and wide-ranging book, Dan Saladino spans the globe to uncover the stories of these foods. He meets the pioneering farmers, scientists, cooks, food producers and indigenous communities who are preserving food traditions and fighting for change. All human history is woven through these stories from the first great migrations to the slave trade to the refugee crisis today. But *Eating to Extinction* is about so much more than preserving the past. It reveals a world at a crisis point: the future of our planet depends on reclaiming genetic biodiversity before it is too late

This thought- provoking book made me want to encourage everyone to read it. I had the further advantage of listening to the author at the Hay Festival. Every chapter inspires discussion How about discussing a chapter with other Network members at a Zoom book club?

Let me know what you think!



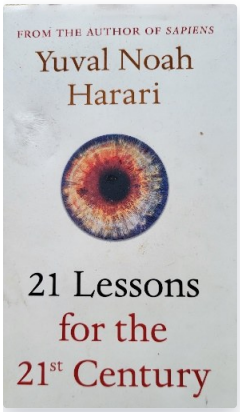
20

THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU HERE

Fiona Hill

Sheila Petersen, retired as NCW's International VP says "I am mesmerised by this book! Fiona Hill grew up in Bishop Auckland a miner's daughter, and the title of the book is what her father said to her to encourage her to go to university and leave the North East. Now in her mid-fifties she became an expert on Putin's Russia and has served under Bush, Obama, and Trump as a Brookings Institute expert on Russia. It is her autobiography and gives a stern warning about the global threats to democracy."

I too am familiar with the places mentioned by Fiona Hill and found the details of the way of life, the health, and employment, or lack of it, concerning several generations of her family, an absorbing piece of social history. *Gwenda Kibble*



21

21 LESSONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

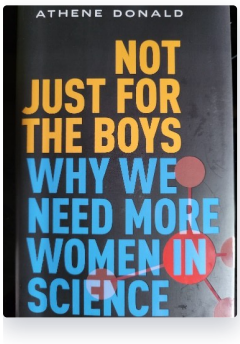
Yuval Noah Harari

How can we protect ourselves from nuclear war, ecological cataclysms and technological disruptions? What can we do about the epidemic of fake news or the threat of terrorism? What should we teach our children?

Yuval Noah Harari takes us on a thrilling journey through today's most urgent issues.

The golden thread running through his exhilarating new book is the challenge of maintaining our collective and individual focus in the face of constant and disorienting change. Are we still capable of understanding the world we have created? (*quote from the book)*

> In the light of current developments in Ukraine, do you think the author will be considering a further book? Can you suggest what changes he might make?



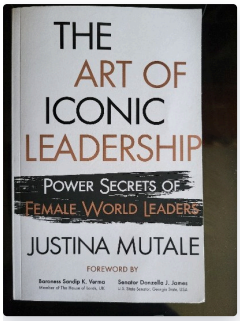
22

NOT JUST FOR BOYS WHY WE NEED MORE WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Athene Donald

Here Athene Donald explores, from her own experience and those of other top scientists who are women, the factors that drive women to give up on a career in science. She sets out in passionate prose the struggles women face against the cumulative impacts of societal expectations, prejudice, hostility, condescension, and unconscious and systemic bias, particularly in science research, as evidenced by recent studies. She also describes how creative, how exhilarating working in science can be. Diversity, she argues, is crucial to solving today's problems, and women must take their proper place as equals, in the lab, and in the committees where top-level decisions are made.





23

THE ART OF ICONIC LEADERSHIP

Justina Mutale

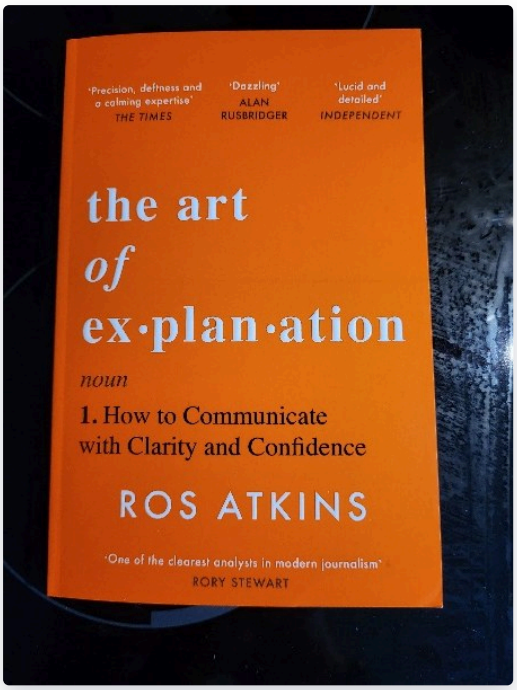
Justina Mutale has for years consistently advocated for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In 2012, she was named African Woman of the Year. She is Founder and President of the Justina Mutale Foundation, through which she advocates for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in political participation and economic empowerment by providing leadership and entrepreneurship training and mentorship.

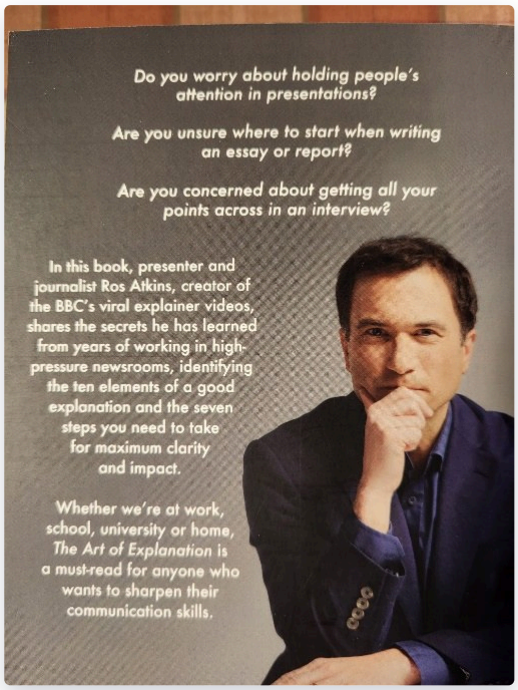


24 The Art of Explanation

How to Communicate with Clarity and Confidence

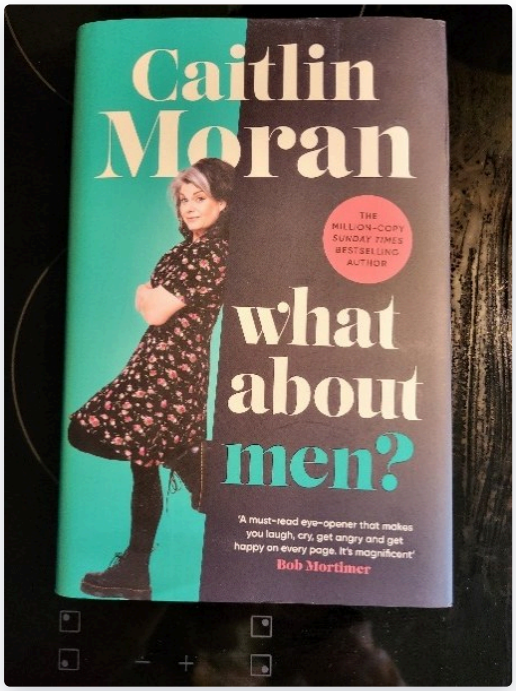
Ros Atkins

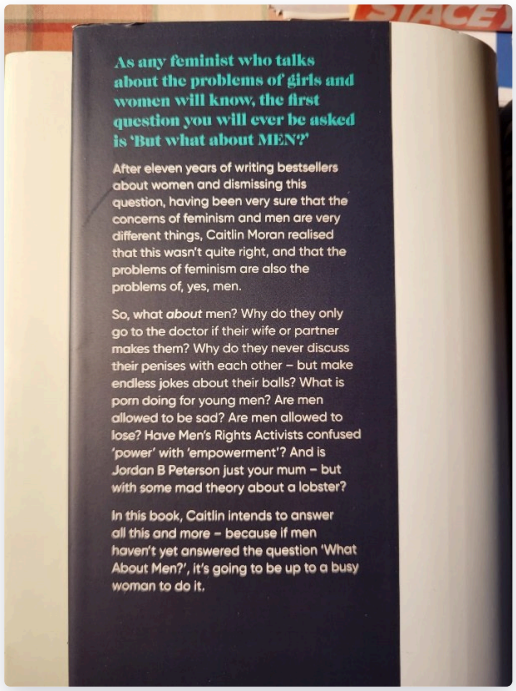




25 What About Men?

Caitlin Moran

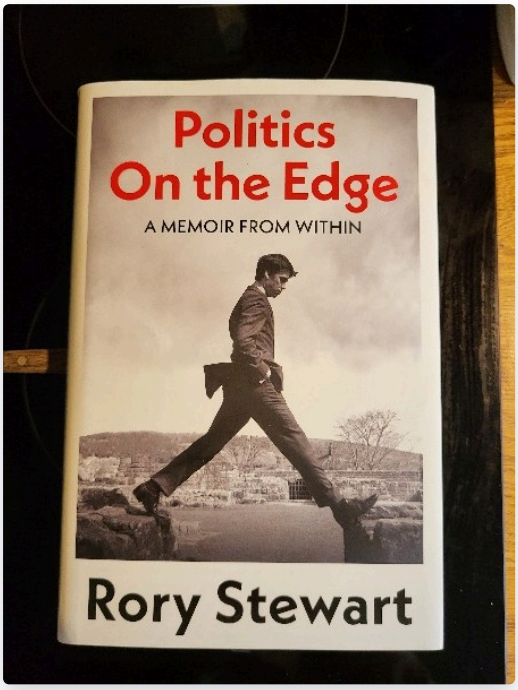


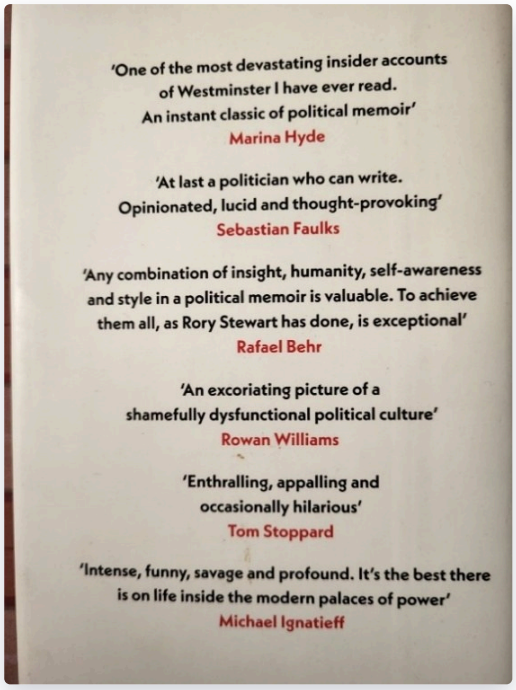


26 Politics on the Edge

A Memoir from Within

Rory Stewart

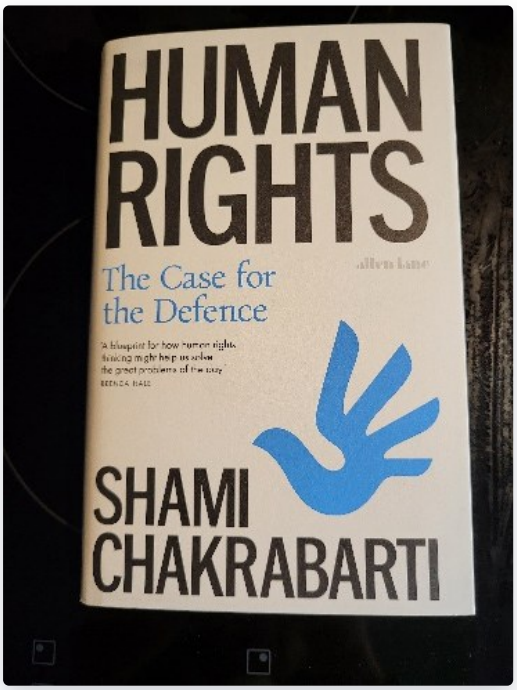


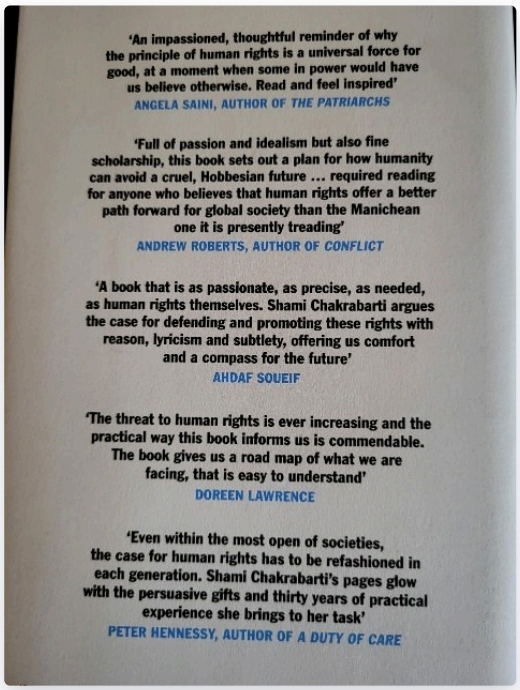


27 Human Rights

The Case for the Defence

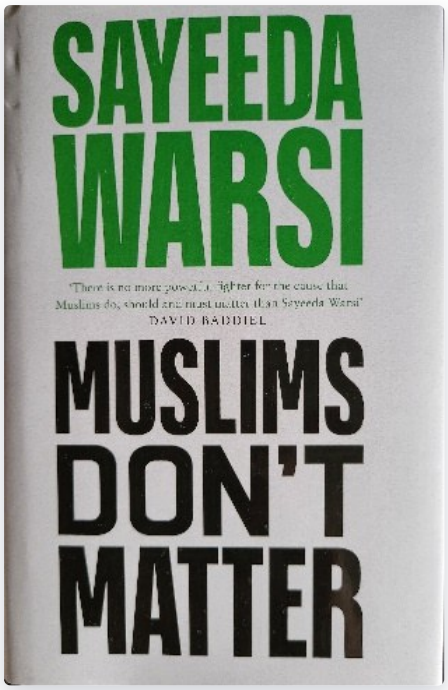
Shami Chakrabarti

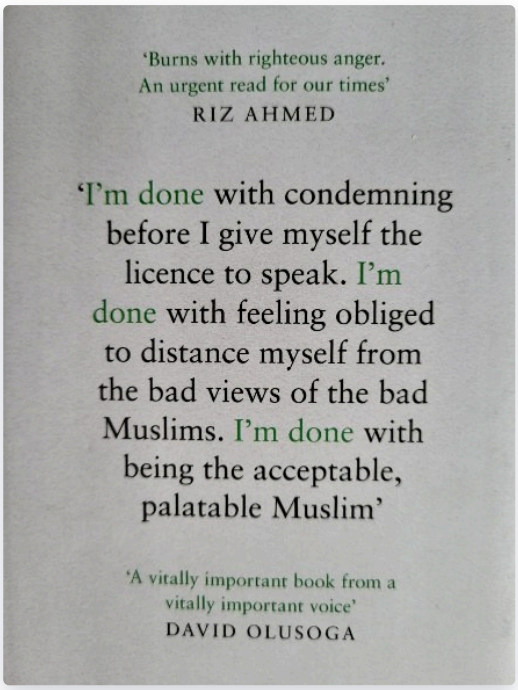




28 Muslims Don't Matter

Sayeeda Warsi

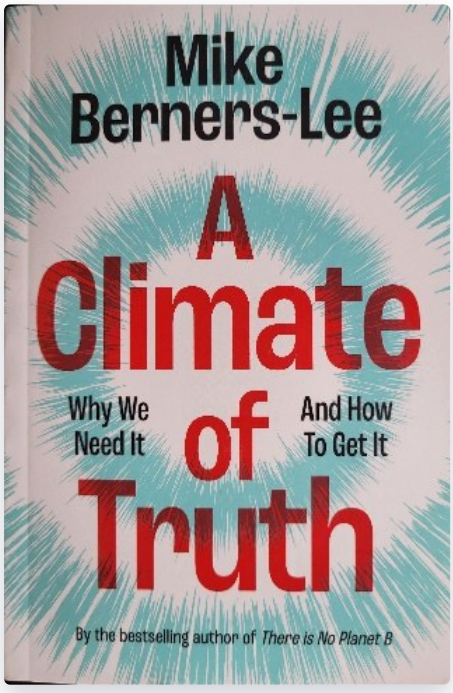


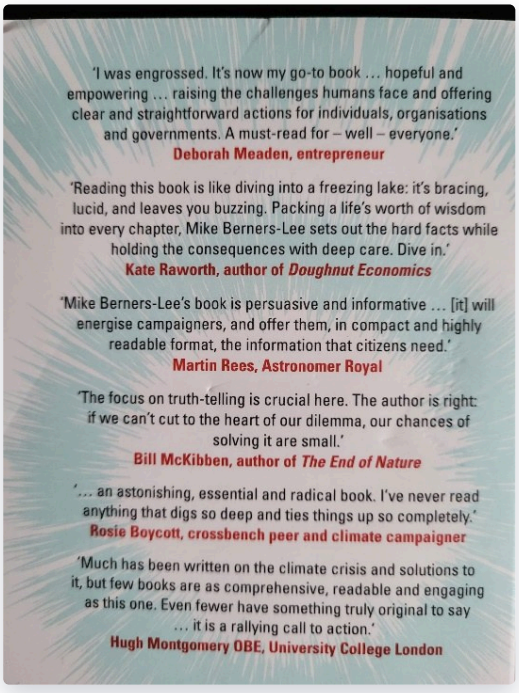


29 A Climate of Truth

Why We Need It and How to Get It

Mike Berners-Lee

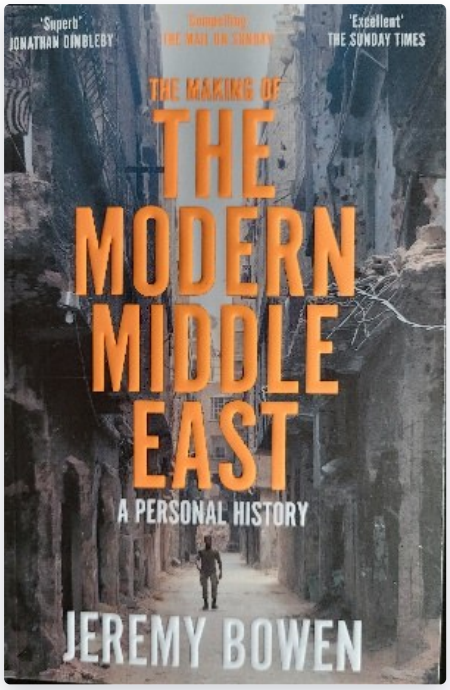


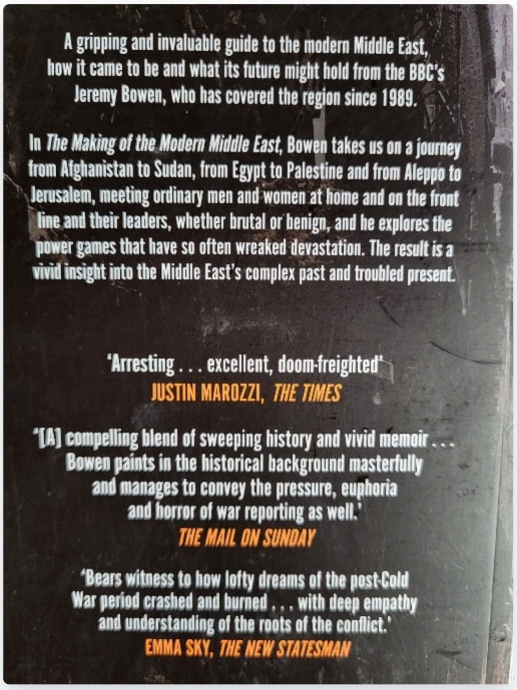


30 The Making of the Modern Middle East

A Personal History

Jeremy Bowen

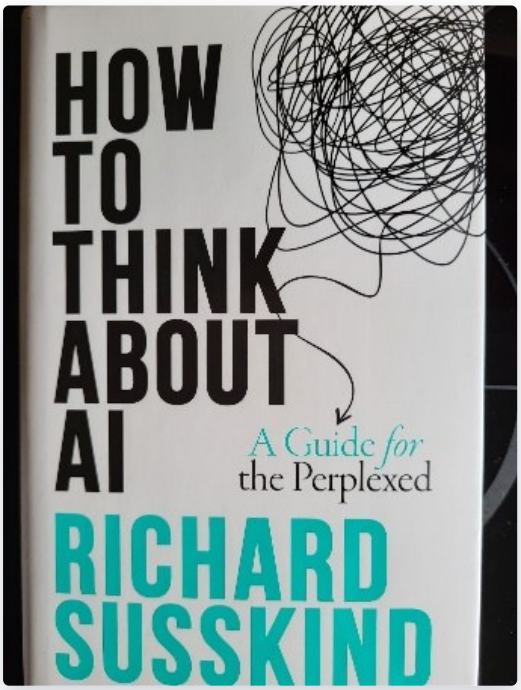


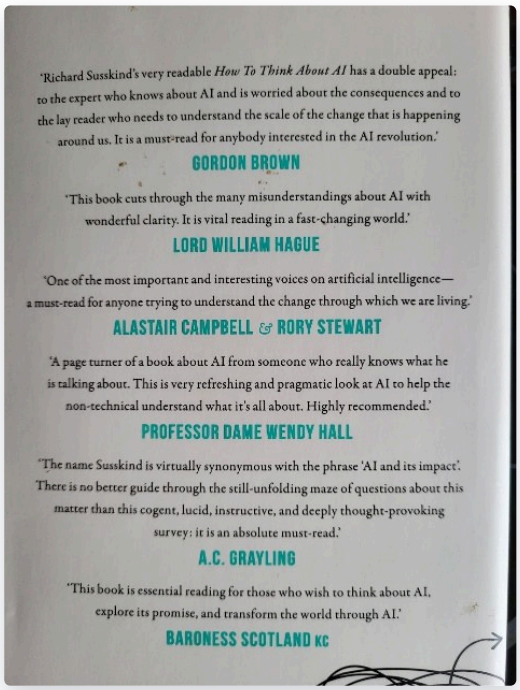


31 How to Think About AI

A Guide for the Perplexed

Richard Susskind



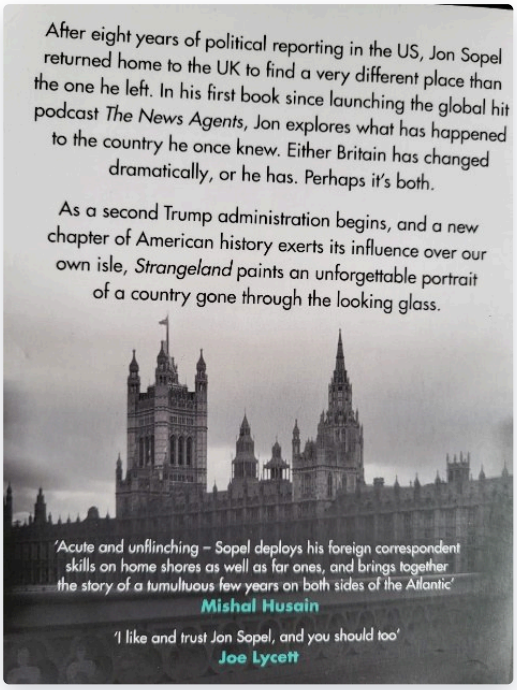


32 Strangeland

Is This Britain's New Normal?

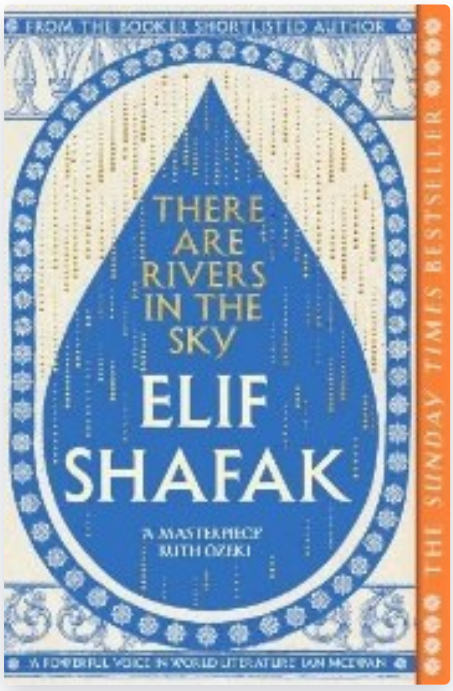
Jon Sopel

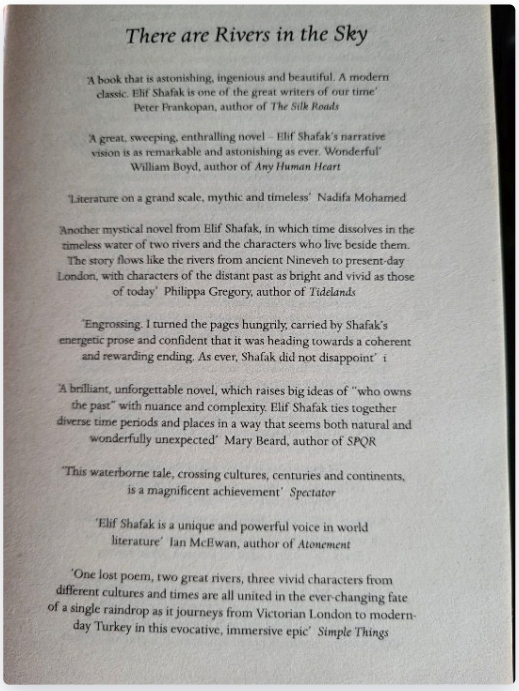




33 There Are Rivers in the Sky

Elif Shafak

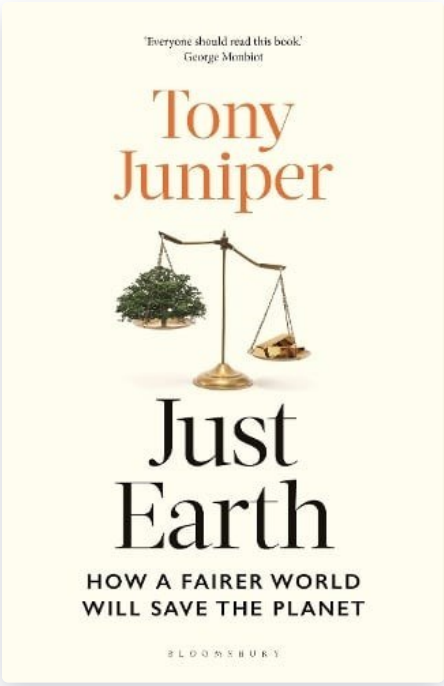


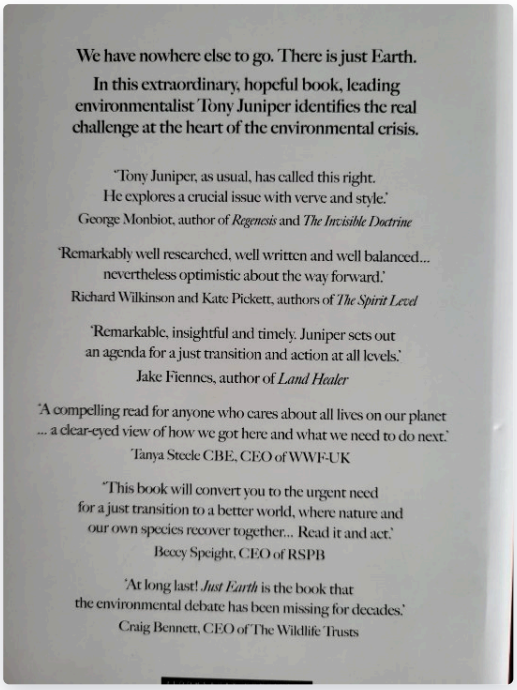


34 Just Earth

How a Fairer World Will Save the Planet

Tony Juniper



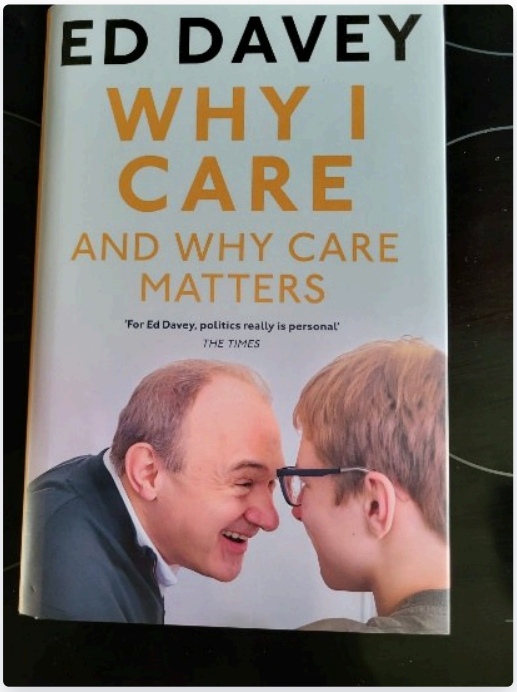


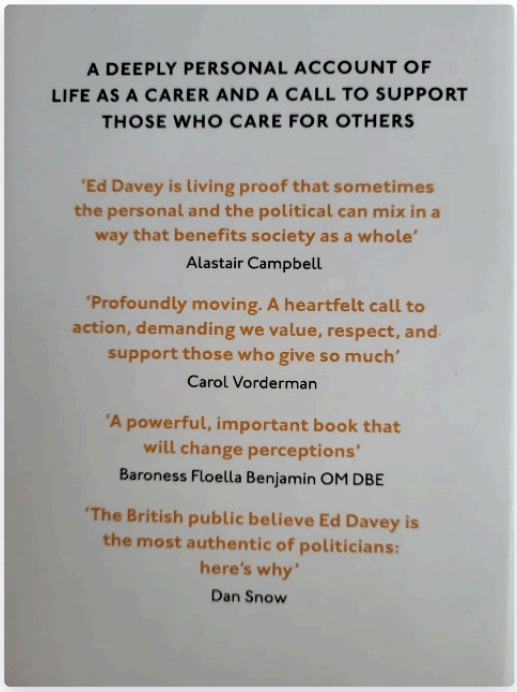
35 Why I Care

And Why Care Matters

Ed Davey

A different view of a party politician from that often seen on the media

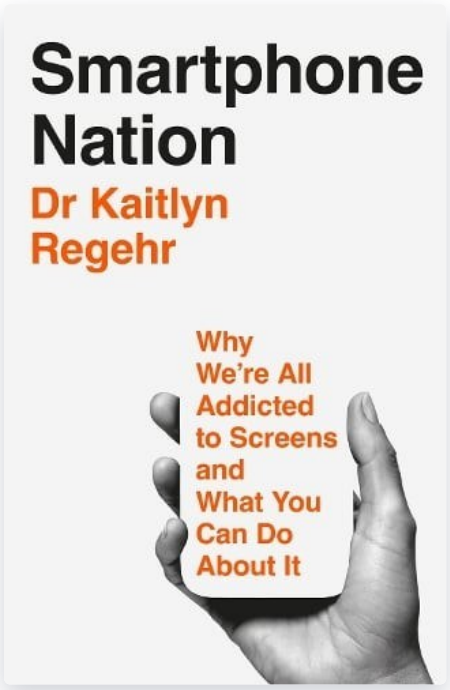


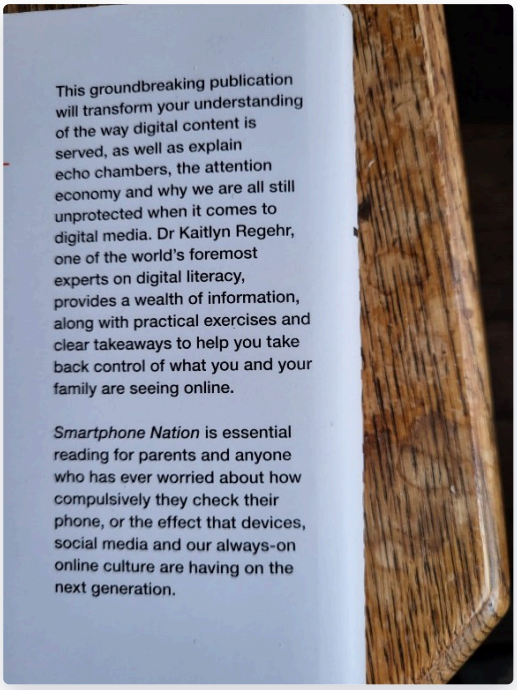


36 Smartphone Nation

Why We're All Addicted to Screens and What You Can Do About It

Dr Kaitlyn Regehr

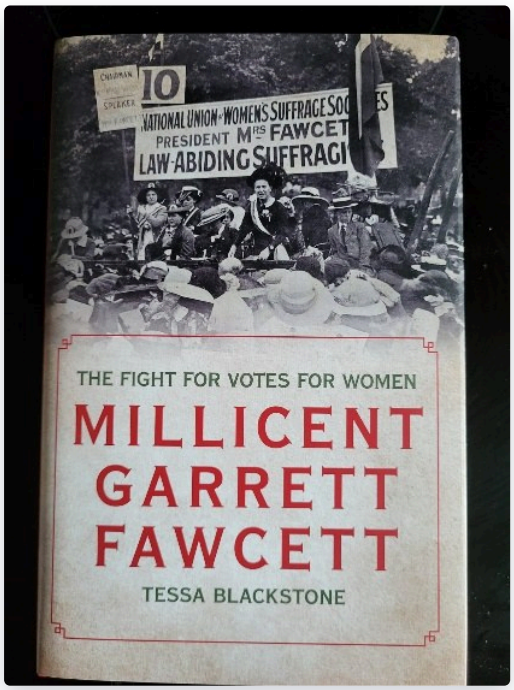


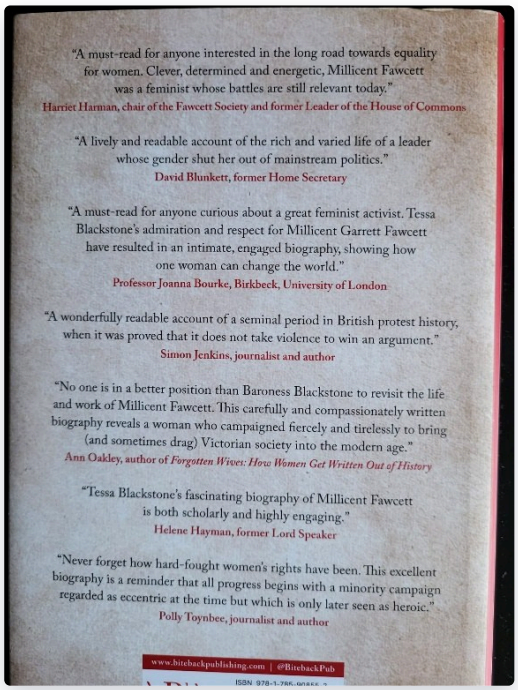


37 Millicent Garrett Fawcett

The Fight for Votes for Women

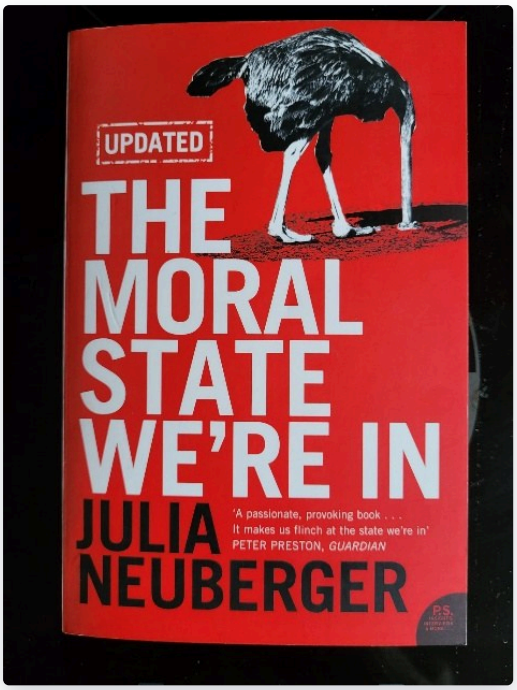
Tessa Blackstone

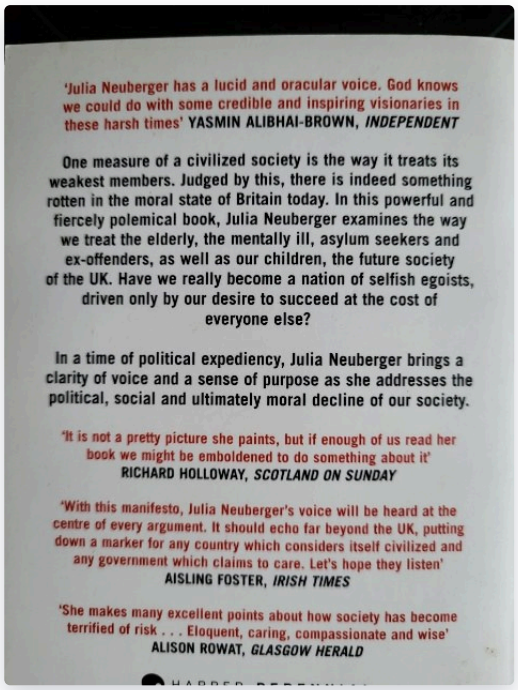




38 The Moral State We're In

Julia Neuberger




'Julia Neuberger has a lucid and oracular voice. God knows we could do with some credible and inspiring visionaries in these harsh times' YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN, *INDEPENDENT*

One measure of a civilized society is the way it treats its weakest members. Judged by this, there is indeed something rotten in the moral state of Britain today. In this powerful and fiercely polemical book, Julia Neuberger examines the way we treat the elderly, the mentally ill, asylum seekers and ex-offenders, as well as our children, the future society of the UK. Have we really become a nation of selfish egoists, driven only by our desire to succeed at the cost of everyone else?

In a time of political expediency, Julia Neuberger brings a clarity of voice and a sense of purpose as she addresses the political, social and ultimately moral decline of our society.

'It is not a pretty picture she paints, but if enough of us read her book we might be emboldened to do something about it' RICHARD HOLLOWAY, *SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY*

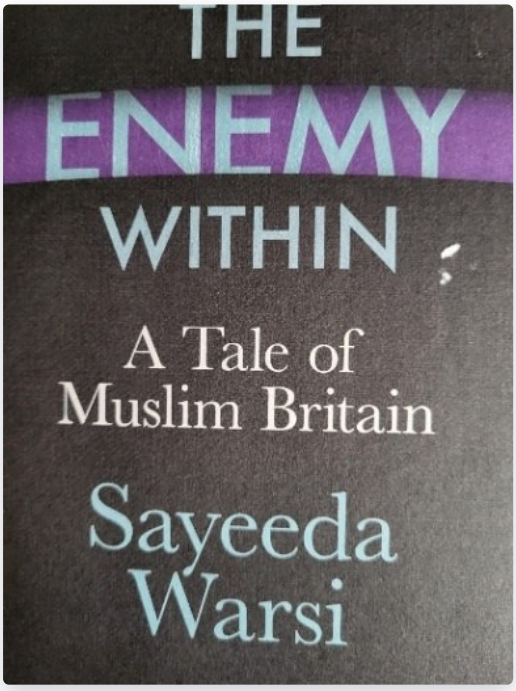
'With this manifesto, Julia Neuberger's voice will be heard at the centre of every argument. It should echo far beyond the UK, putting down a marker for any country which considers itself civilized and any government which claims to care. Let's hope they listen' AISLING FOSTER, *IRISH TIMES*

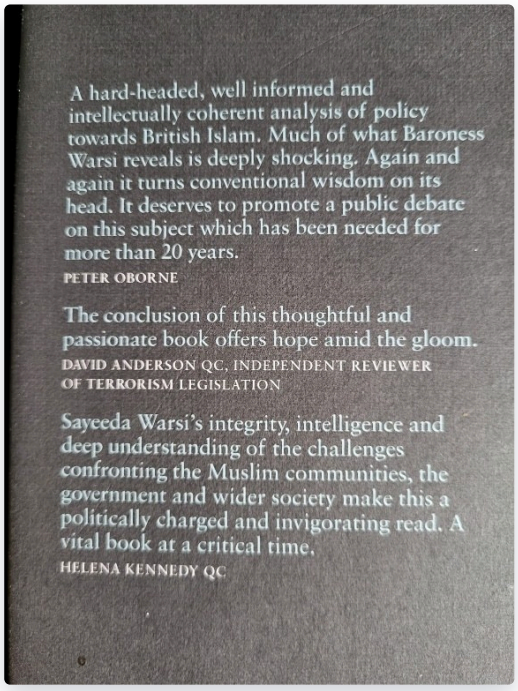
'She makes many excellent points about how society has become terrified of risk . . . Eloquent, caring, compassionate and wise' ALISON ROWAT, *GLASGOW HERALD*

39 The Enemy Within

A Tale of Muslim Britain

Sayeeda Warsi



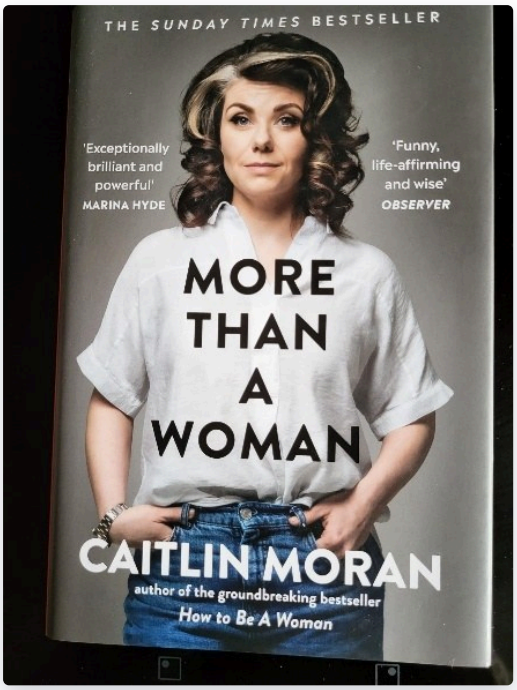

A hard-headed, well informed and intellectually coherent analysis of policy towards British Islam. Much of what Baroness Warsi reveals is deeply shocking. Again and again it turns conventional wisdom on its head. It deserves to promote a public debate on this subject which has been needed for more than 20 years.
PETER OBORNE

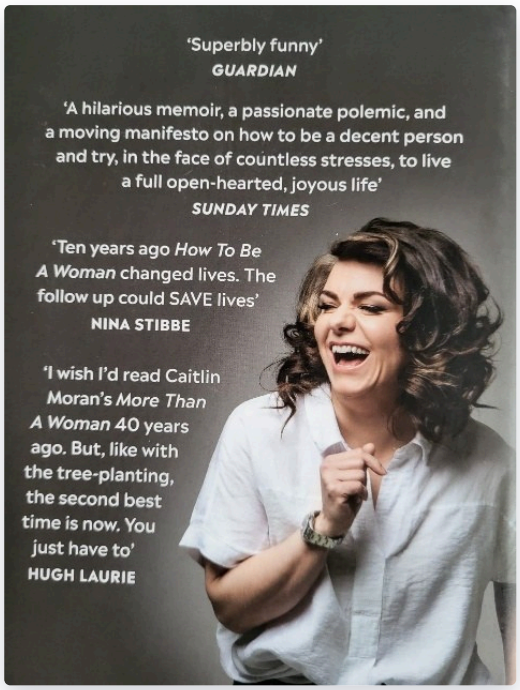
The conclusion of this thoughtful and passionate book offers hope amid the gloom.
DAVID ANDERSON QC, INDEPENDENT REVIEWER OF TERRORISM LEGISLATION

Sayeeda Warsi's integrity, intelligence and deep understanding of the challenges confronting the Muslim communities, the government and wider society make this a politically charged and invigorating read. A vital book at a critical time.
HELENA KENNEDY QC

40 More Than a Woman

Caitlin Moran

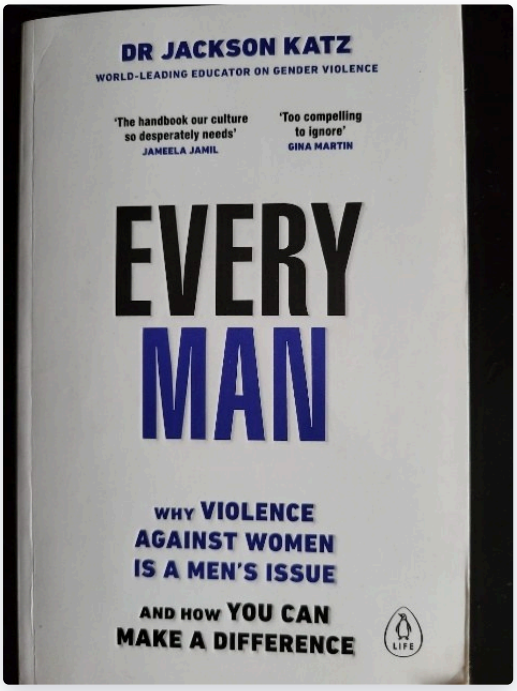


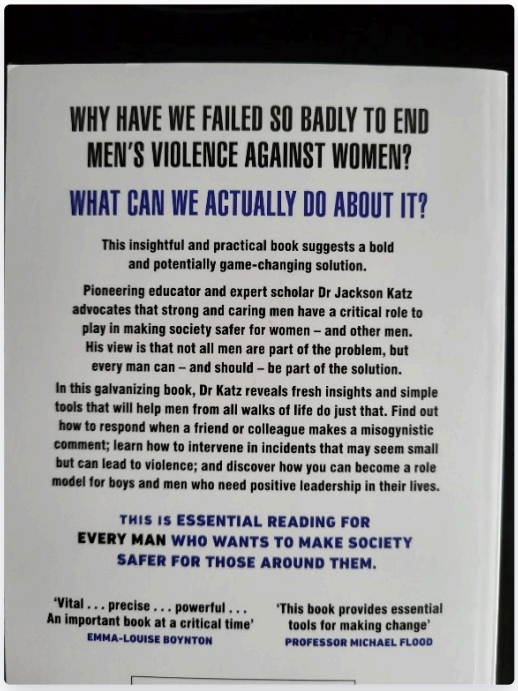


41 Every Man

Why Violence Against Women Is a Men's Issue and How You Can Make a Difference

Dr Jackson Katz

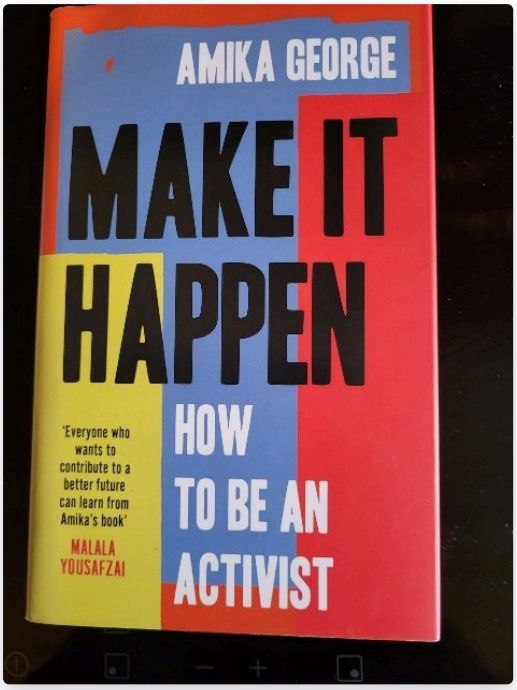


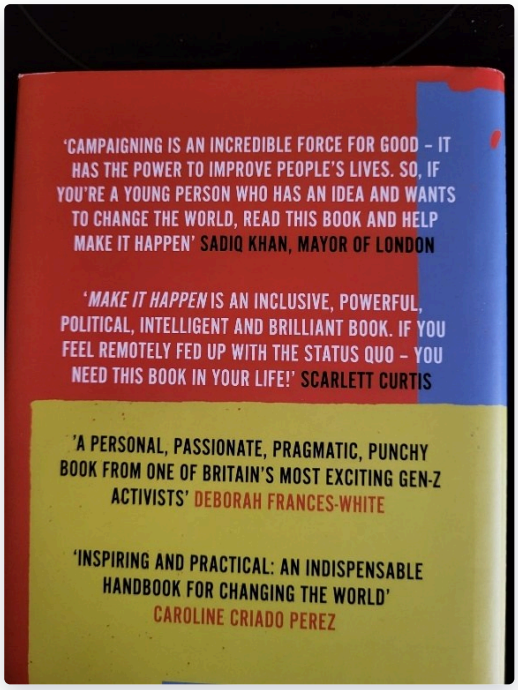


42 Make It Happen

How to Be an Activist

Amika George

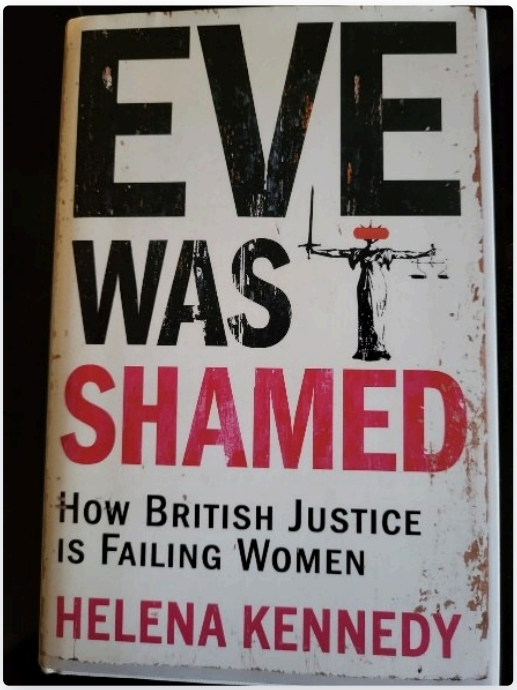


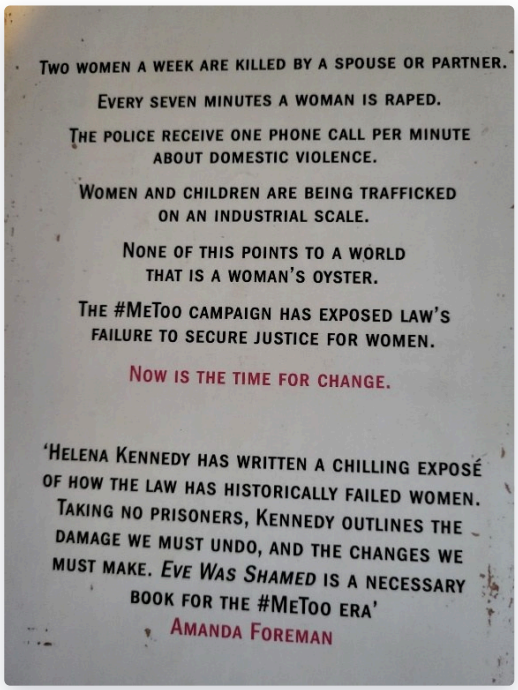


43 Eve Was Shamed

How British Justice Is Failing Women

Helena Kennedy

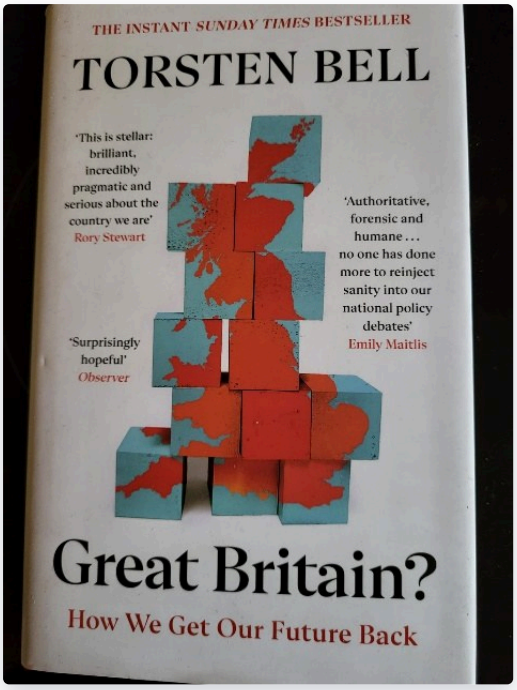




44 Great Britain?

How We Get Our Future Back

Torsten Bell

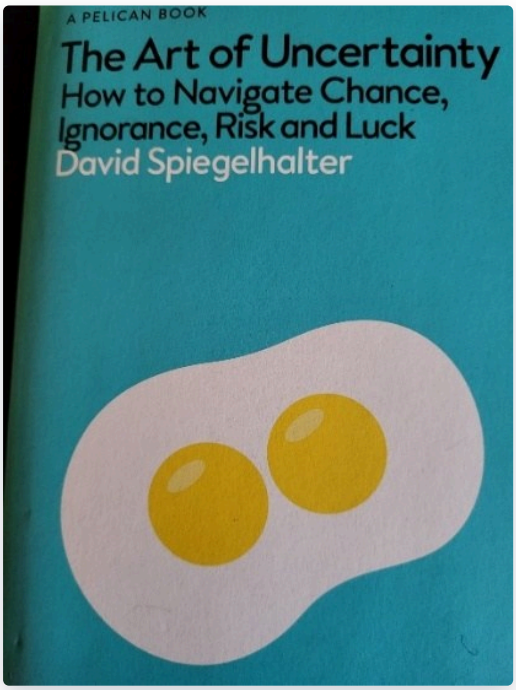


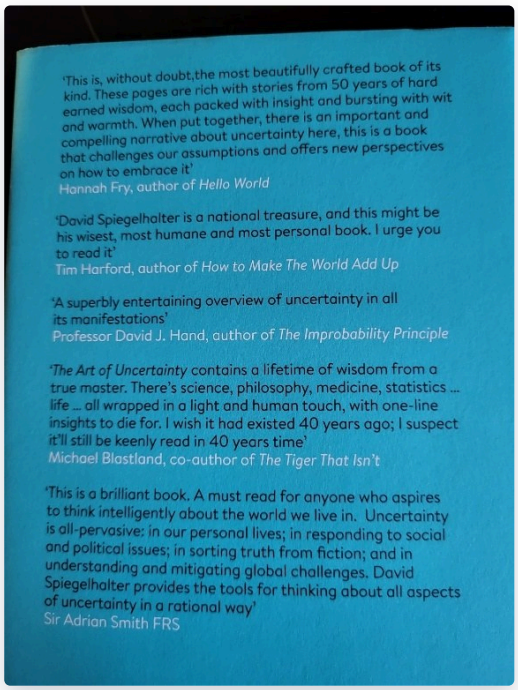


45 The Art of Uncertainty

How to Navigate Chance, Ignorance, Risk and Luck

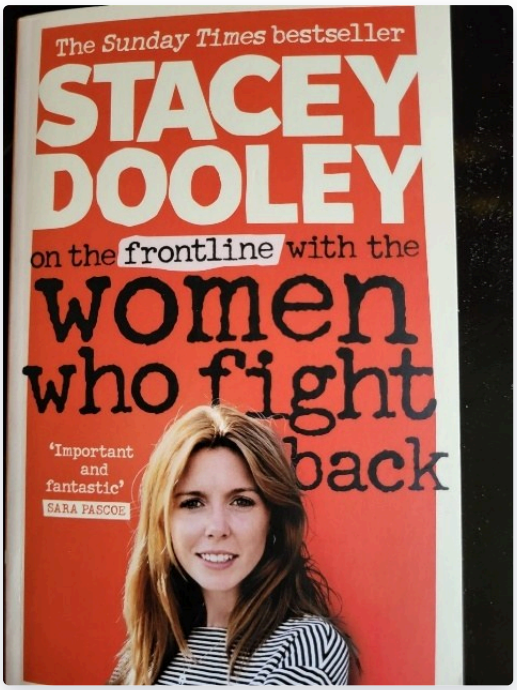
David Spiegelhalter





46 On the Frontline with the Women Who Fight Back

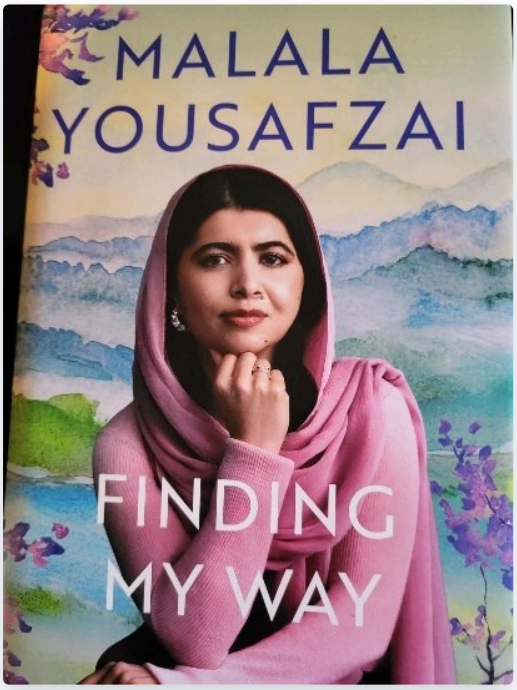
Stacey Dooley

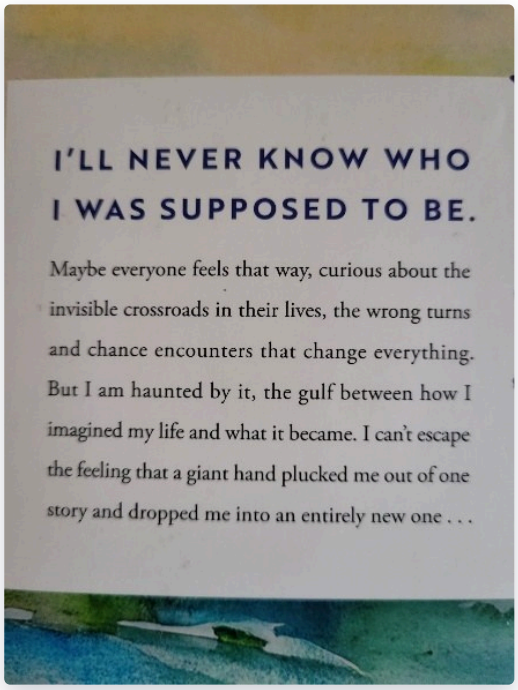




47 Finding My Way

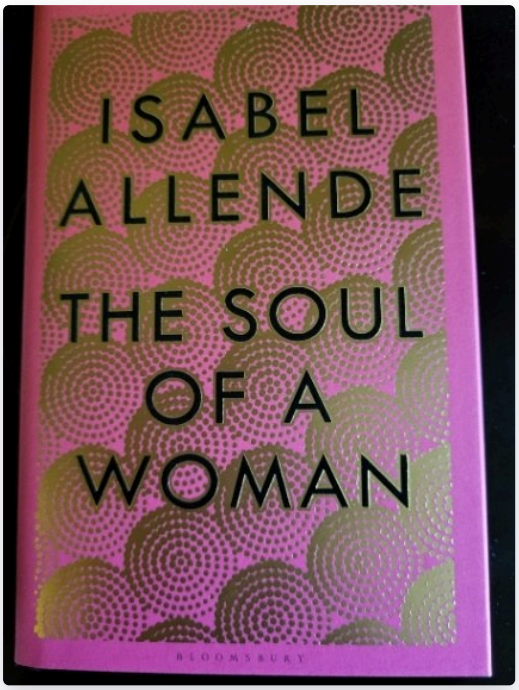
Malala Yousafzai

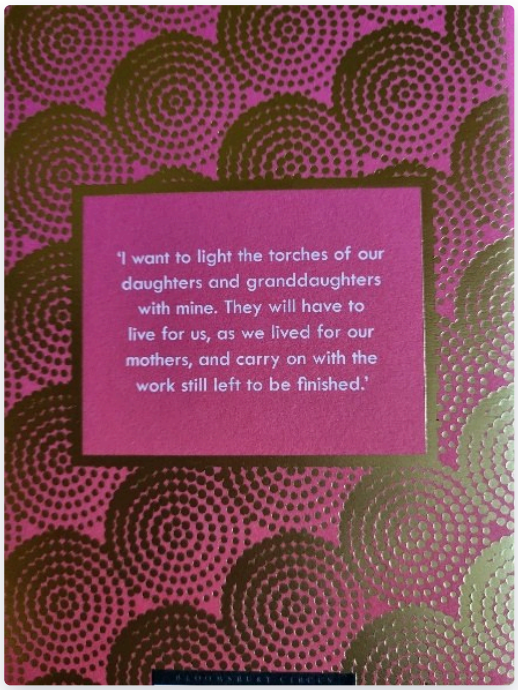




48 The Soul of a Woman

Isabel Allende





49 The Cyber Effect

A Pioneering Cyberpsychologist Explains How Human Behaviour Changes Online

Mary Aiken

