

  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

# CULTURE

November 27, 2022



## BOOKS OF THE YEAR

THE BEST READS FOR  
YOUR CHRISTMAS  
WISHLIST



# It will be sunny again

Rachel de Thame digs out Christmas hardy perennials for green-fingered readers

## GARDENING

**The Grove: A Nature Odyssey in 19½ Front Gardens** by Ben Dark  
Mitchell Beazley, £16.99

This enjoyable read throws a spotlight on the everyday, specifically the front gardens in one London street. Family walks along neighbouring roads were a significant feature of my childhood, and I came to know and love the local plants and individual gardens. So this book resonated for me, and I hope it will inspire readers to value the front gardens that enliven repetitive journeys to and from shops and work.

**Brilliant English Gardens** by Clive Nichols  
Clearview, £60

Seen through the lens of

## OUR BOOK OF THE YEAR



**A Greener Life: Discover the Joy of Mindful and Sustainable Gardening** by Jack Wallington  
Lawrence King, £19.99

In choosing this year's book of the year I've prioritised good sense and an accessible tone over sheer beauty. Engagingly written, practical and packed with useful information, *A Greener*

*Life* covers many subjects, from essential tools to edible flowers, but not at exhaustive length. Yet one doesn't get the sense that topics are skimmed over. This is an excellent starter book for those taking on their first garden and a springboard for learning more. But it's not only for beginners. Any experienced gardener, keen to update their practices, encourage wildlife into their garden and embrace sustainable methods, will find much food for thought.

**The Gardeners' Palette: Creating Colour Harmony in the Garden** by Jo Thompson  
Timber Press, £35

With multiple RHS gold medals under her belt, the designer Jo Thompson is renowned for imbuing her gardens with atmosphere, something she achieves with the help of a highly tuned sense of colour. That expertise is accompanied by beautiful photos and poured into the pages of a book that explores the subtlest nuances between shade and tone. It's sure to become a classic on the subject.

**How to Grow the Flowers: A Sustainable Approach to Enjoying Flowers Through the Seasons** by Camila Román and Marianne Mogendorff  
Pavilion, £20

Following the flower farmer's year from autumn's



In bloom Ordnance House, Wiltshire

propagation and preparation, to summer's glorious gathering in, we learn about growing, tending and harvesting cut flowers from the talented co-founders of a micro flower farm in north

London. The tone is practical and informative, and the emphasis is on seasonality and sustainability, all hand in hand with an invitation to enjoy the beauty and share the joy of flowers.

**Husbandry: Making Gardens with Mr B** by Isabel Bannerman  
Pimpernel Press, £14.99

Warm, candid and enormously entertaining,

this book is as much about a marriage as a garden. There are gems of observation and some really useful advice. It's clear the gardens created by the designers Isabel and Julian Bannerman are tightly woven into their relationship and part of the fabric of life for a couple for whom garden-making is akin to breathing.

**No Dig: Nurture Your Soil to Grow Better Veg with Less Effort** by Charles Dowding  
DK, £30

Growing flowers is a joyous activity. But for many of us, tending vegetables brings another level of satisfaction. I've long been a practitioner of the "no dig" method championed by Dowding. His latest title will inspire and educate those who aspire to veg-growing, and encourage seasoned gardeners to explore different methods.

**Roses: An Inspirational Guide to Choosing and Growing the Best Roses** by Michael V Marriott  
DK, £24.99

A must-have for any budding

## Wild Edens is a dizzying romp across the globe

rosarian, the author of this paean to the rose was a familiar face at David Austin Roses for several decades and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all aspects of rose care and the countless number of varieties, historic and modern. The book suggests what to choose for different situations, from mixed borders to walls and pergolas, with chapters focusing on hips, leaves and thorns, scent and those best suited to cutting for the vase.

**The Tree in My Garden: Choose One Tree, Plant It — and Change the World** by Kate Bradbury  
DK, £20

With the exception of the smallest plots, I'm in complete agreement with the

author that no garden is complete without at least one tree. This book harnesses Bradbury's expertise and eloquent style, and encourages us to choose a tree with wildlife in mind, from a useful selection of garden-worthy suggestions. A message that's further enhanced by Lucille Clerc's enchanting illustrations.

**Wild Edens: The History and Habitat of Our Most-Loved Garden Plants** by Toby Musgrave and Chris Gardner  
Kyle Books, £40

This large colourful book hooks one from the off. It opens with a photograph of a dazzling blue poppy, *Meconopsis aculeata*, flowering miraculously in the mountains of northwest India. What follows is a dizzying romp across the globe in the company of two expert botanists, with whom we explore the natural habitats of our best-loved garden plants. By the end you'll want to strap on a pair of crampons and head for the hills. 🍷

## THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLERS

● Michelle Obama's latest book, *The Light We Carry*, has debuted at No 1. Her first book, *Becoming*, spent exactly 52 weeks in the bestsellers list and sold 780,000 copies in the UK. Could she do it again? We suspect not, but you are likely to see her name in these lists for several weeks to come.

● Lady Anne Glenconner's second tome, meanwhile, sits at No 6 in its first week. Her first memoir, *Lady in Waiting*, spent 26 weeks in the charts and sold 180,000 copies. A royal success.

The lists are prepared by and the data is supplied by (and copyrighted to) Nielsen BookScan, and are taken from the TCM for the week ending 19/11/22. Figures shown are sales for the seven-day period.

GENERAL HARDBACKS		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	<b>The Light We Carry</b> Michelle Obama (Viking £25) The former first lady shares advice for navigating challenging times (15,110)	—	1
2	<b>Gloves Off/Tyson Fury</b> (Century £25) The boxer opens up about his life, career and challenges in and out of the ring (11,035)	2	2
3	<b>Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing</b> Matthew Perry (Headline £25) The <i>Friends</i> star on fame, fortune and his battle with addiction (10,365)	1	3
4	<b>Diddy Squat: 'Til the Cows Come Home</b> Jeremy Clarkson (M Joseph £20) The motorhead on another year at Diddy Squat Farm (10,360)	3	8
5	<b>Menopausal/Davina McCall and Naomi Potter</b> (HQ £22) Exploring the science and debunking damaging myths of the menopause (6,460)	8	10
6	<b>Whatever Next?/Anne Glenconner</b> (Hodder £22) The former lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret on events that have shaped her (5,900)	—	1
7	<b>The Twelve Dels of Christmas/David Jason</b> (Century £22) Festive tales from the actor's life and the set of <i>Only Fools and Horses</i> (5,550)	6	6
8	<b>Surrender/Bono</b> (H Heinemann £25) The rock star tells the story of his life through the prism of 40 U2 songs (5,170)	5	3
9	<b>Madly, Deeply/Alan Rickman</b> (Canongate £25) The award-winning English actor's diaries from 1993 to his death in 2016 (4,985)	11	3
10	<b>Lioness/Beth Mead</b> (Seven Dials £20) The Uefa Euro 2022 champion reflects on her journey to footballing glory (4,385)	4	2

GENERAL PAPERBACKS		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	<b>SAS: Rogue Heroes</b> Ben Macintyre (Penguin £9.99) Authorised wartime history of Britain's celebrated military organisation (11,480)	1	20
2	<b>Interesting Facts for Curious Minds/Jordan Moore</b> (Red Panda £13.99) More than 1,500 facts about subjects including history and popular culture (5,620)	2	5
3	<b>Taste/Stamley Tucci</b> (Fig Tree £9.99) A gastronomic journey through the actor's life in and out of the kitchen (4,825)	3	12
4	<b>What If?/Randall Munroe</b> (J Murray £10.99) The creator of the XKCD webcomic answers hypothetical science questions (3,835)	5	30
5	<b>And Away.../Bob Mortimer</b> (Simon & Schuster £8.99) The <i>Shooting Stars</i> and <i>Gone Fishing</i> funnyman's autobiography (3,120)	4	26
6	<b>This Much Is True/Miriam Margolyes</b> (J Murray £9.99) The Bafta-winning star of stage and screen reflects on her life and career (3,020)	7	20
7	<b>Atomic Habits/James Clear</b> (Random House £16.99) The minuscule changes that can grow into life-altering outcomes (2,530)	6	65
8	<b>Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies for the Future/Mario Reading</b> (Watkins £12.99) Decoding the 16th-century seer's numerous predictions (2,000)	—	4
9	<b>Gone Fishing/Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse</b> (Blink £8.99) Comedians' love letter to the joys of angling, inspired by the BBC2 series (1,900)	18	7
10	<b>The Body Keeps the Score/Bessel van der Kolk</b> (Penguin £12.99) Understanding psychological trauma and an alternative approach to healing (1,770)	8	12

FICTION HARDBACKS		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	<b>The Bullet That Missed</b> Richard Osman (Viking £20) The Thursday Murder Club investigates the death of a journalist ten years ago (21,645)	2	10
2	<b>It Starts With Us/Colleen Hoover</b> (Simon & Schuster £14.99) Sequel to <i>It Ends With Us</i> , revealing Atlas's side of the story (16,845)	1	5
3	<b>The Satsuma Complex/Bob Mortimer</b> (Simon & Schuster £16.99) A legal assistant scours London looking for a woman he met in a pub (14,955)	4	4
4	<b>No Plan B/Lee Child and Andrew Child</b> (Bantam Press £22) The police rule a woman's death a suicide; Jack Reacher knows it was murder (14,595)	3	4
5	<b>Mad Honey/Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan</b> (Hodder £16.99) A single mum's popular teenage son is charged with his girlfriend's murder (6,925)	—	1
6	<b>A Dowry of Blood/ST Gibson</b> (Orbit £14.99) A retelling of the story of Dracula, told through love letters from his first bride (6,095)	—	1
7	<b>Desert Star/Michael Connelly</b> (Orion £22) Renée Ballard and Harry Bosch hunt a psychopath who has haunted Bosch for years (5,260)	5	2
8	<b>A Heart Full of Headstones/Ian Rankin</b> (Orion £22) John Rebus is on trial for a crime that could put him behind bars for the rest of his life (5,210)	9	6
9	<b>Dawnlands/Philippa Gregory</b> (Simon & Schuster £20) England stands on the brink of a civil war; third novel in the Fairmile series (5,075)	7	2
10	<b>Lessons in Chemistry/Bonnie Garmus</b> (Doubleday £16.99) In 1960s America, a chemist becomes the star of a TV cooking show (4,460)	13	27

FICTION PAPERBACKS		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	<b>It Ends With Us</b> Colleen Hoover (Simon & Schuster £8.99) A first love's reappearance threatens a woman's relationship (14,035)	1	64
2	<b>It Ends at Midnight/Harriet Tyce</b> (Wildfire £8.99) Two guests at a New Year's Eve party in Edinburgh fall to their death from a roof (9,625)	8	2
3	<b>The Man Who Died Twice/Richard Osman</b> (Penguin £8.99) Stolen diamonds worth £20 million cause chaos for the Thursday Murder Club (9,495)	2	28
4	<b>The Thursday Murder Club/Richard Osman</b> (Penguin £8.99) Four friends in a retirement village team up to solve a murder on their doorstep (9,015)	6	72
5	<b>A Wedding in Provence/Katie Fforde</b> (Penguin £8.99) A young woman becomes a nanny to three children at a chateau in Provence (8,760)	11	1
6	<b>No Less the Devil/Stuart MacBride</b> (Penguin £8.99) While chasing a serial killer, a detective sergeant is distracted by another case (8,520)	13	1
7	<b>Jailhouse Lawyer/James Patterson and Nancy Allen</b> (Penguin £8.99) Two legal thrillers, including the tale of a town ruled by a judge with an iron fist (7,740)	21	1
8	<b>Small Things Like These/Claire Keegan</b> (Faber £8.99) A coal merchant confronts the complicit silences of a town controlled by the Church (7,550)	4	3
9	<b>How to Kill Your Family/Bella Mackie</b> (Borough £8.99) A woman avenges her mother's death by bumping off her father and his family (7,495)	5	33
10	<b>Girl, Forgotten/Karin Slaughter</b> (HarperCollins £8.99) US marshal Andrea Oliver probes the unsolved murder of a teenager (6,995)	3	3

MANUALS		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	<b>Guinness World Records 2023</b> (Guinness £22) The latest and greatest record-breaking achievements (24,645)	1	10
2	<b>One</b> Jamie Oliver (M Joseph £28) Recipes with eight ingredients or fewer that can be cooked in one pan (11,535)	2	12
3	<b>Ripley's Believe It or Not! 2023</b> (Century £22) Extraordinary facts, hair-raising stories and unusual images (8,340)	3	10
4	<b>Private Eye Annual 2022</b> (Private Eye Productions £12.99) Cartoons, jokes and topical sketches from the news and current affairs magazine (8,185)	4	10
5	<b>Viz Annual 2023</b> (Viz Magazine £12.99) Cartoons, features and joke advertisements collected from issues 292 to 301 (5,145)	5	10