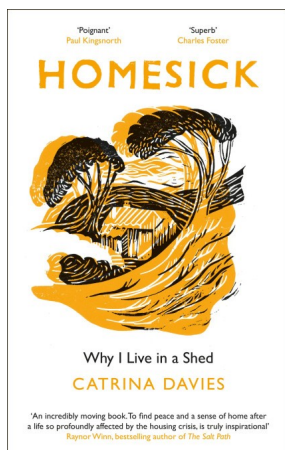


Books of the Month September 2019

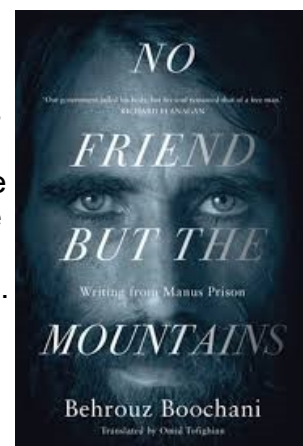


HOMESICK: Why I Live in a Shed **Catrina Davies £16.99**

At thirty-one, Catrina Davies lived in a box-room. Working several jobs and never knowing if she could make the rent, she felt like she was breaking apart. Homesick for the landscape of her childhood, in the far west of Cornwall, Catrina decided to give up the box-room and resolved to make a tiny, dilapidated shed a home of her own. With the freedom to write, surf and make music, Catrina rebuilt the shed and, piece by piece, her own sense of self. On the border of civilisation and wilderness she discovered the true value of home, while trying to find her place in a fragile natural world. This is the story of a personal housing crisis and a country-wide one, grappling with class, economics, mental health and nature. It shows how housing can trap us or set us free, and what it means to feel at home.

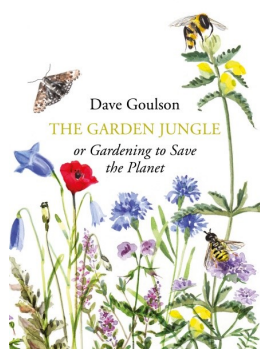
NO FRIEND BUT THE MOUNTAINS **Behrouz Boochani £9.99**

In 2013, Kurdish journalist Behrouz Boochani sought asylum in Australia but was instead illegally imprisoned in the country's most notorious detention centre on Manus Island. He has been there ever since. Behrouz Boochani spent nearly five years typing passages of this book one text at a time from a secret mobile phone in prison. Translated from Farsi, they form an incredible story of how, after escaping political persecution in Iran, he ended up trapped as a stateless person. This vivid, gripping portrait of his years of incarceration and exile shines a devastating light on the fates of so many people as borders close around the world. *No Friend but the Mountains* is a brave act of witness and a moving testament to the humanity of all people, in the most extreme of circumstances.



THE GARDEN JUNGLE: or Gardening to Save the Planet **Dave Goulson £16.99**

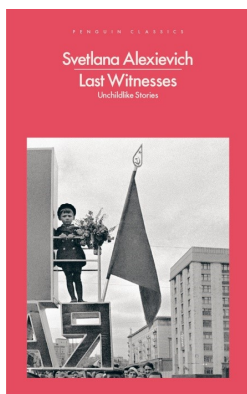
The Garden Jungle is about the wildlife that lives right under our noses, in our gardens and parks, between the gaps in the pavement and in the soil beneath our feet. Dave Goulson takes us burrowing into the compost heap, digging under the lawn and diving into the garden pond. He explains how our lives and ultimately the fate of humankind are inextricably intertwined with that of earwigs, bees, lacewings and hoverflies. Goulson argues that gardens could become places where we can reconnect with nature and rediscover where food comes from. With just a few small changes, our gardens could become a vast network of tiny nature reserves, where humans and wildlife can thrive together in harmony rather than conflict.



DREAMS OF LEAVING AND REMAINING **James Meek £16.99**

Since Britain's EU referendum the nation has been profoundly split: one side fantasizing that the referendum will never be acted upon, the other entrenched in assumptions about reclaimed sovereignty and independence. James Meek goes in search of the consequences of a nation's alienation from itself. He meets farmers and fishermen intent on exiting the EU despite the loss of protections they will incur; he reports on a Cadbury's factory shut down and moved to Poland, exploring the impact on the local community left behind; he charts how the NHS is coping with the twin burdens of austerity and an aging population, and asks what we can recover from the debris of an old nation as we head towards new horizons, and what we must leave behind. There are no easy answers.





LAST WITNESSES: Unchildlike Stories

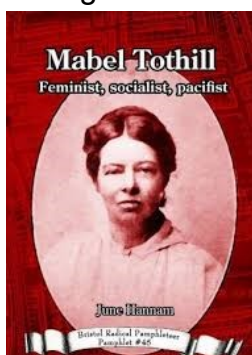
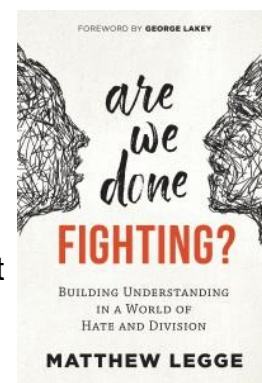
Svetlana Alexievich £12.99

What did it mean to grow up in the Soviet Union during the Second World War? In the late 1970s, Svetlana Alexievich started interviewing people who had experienced war as children, the generation that survived and had to live with the trauma that would forever change the course of the Russian nation. With remarkable care and empathy, Alexievich gives voice to those whose stories are lost in the official narratives, uncovering a powerful hidden history. Published to great acclaim in the USSR in 1985 and now available in English for the first time, this masterpiece offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of the human consequences of the war – and an extraordinary chronicle of the Russian soul.

ARE WE DONE FIGHTING?: Building Understanding in a World of Hate and Division

Matthew Legge of Canadian Friends Service Committee £17.99

Political and social divisions that can cascade into violence are threatening to pull the world apart. Responding to fear and aggression strategically and with compassion is vital if we are to push back against the politics of hate and live in greater safety and harmony. Here is the latest research, practical activities and inspirational stories of success for cultivating inner change and spreading peace at the community level and beyond. This is an essential toolkit for activists, community and peace groups and students and instructors working to build dialogue and understanding as the antidote to the politics of hate and division.



MABEL TOTHILL: Feminist, Socialist, Pacifist

June Hannam £5

June Hannam's pamphlet examines the life and work of Mabel Tothill, Quaker peace campaigner, socialist and Bristol's first woman councillor. As a campaigner for women's suffrage and a stalwart of the Independent Labour Party, Mabel saw the causes of women and labour as intertwined. Her interest in education and desire to bring people of all classes together led to her work in housing and the community, while during World War 1 she engaged in tireless work supporting Bristol conscientious objectors. The range of Mabel Tothill's work was testimony to her "belief that socialism and labour politics held the key to a better life for all".

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