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# Miss Buncles Book Buncle 1 De Stevenson

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*As it was* New Directions  
Publishing

J. B. Priestly describes Dorothy  
Whipple as a "Jane Austen of the  
Twentieth Century."

*The Flame and the  
Flower* DigiCat

A story set in Walpole  
Street London where a  
newly-wed couple set up  
residence. In the novel Ian  
and Felicity struggle with  
their neighbours (who  
borrow without asking,  
and fail to return, first a  
step-ladder then a fish-  
kettle and finally fruit  
knives) and negotiate 'the  
chasm which separates  
the sexes'.

Celia's House HMH  
Books For Young

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## Readers

To celebrate having reached their one hundredth volume, here is Persephone's marvelous collection of short stories by women. They are very well chosen: some are by first-rank authors, including Katherine Mansfield, Edith Wharton, Dorothy Parker, Irène Némirovsky and Penelope Fitzgerald; others from well-known writers who have been championed by the imprint and deservedly gained fresh recognition, such as Dorothy Whipple and Mollie Panter-Downes. There are 30 stories in all, and all remarkably unhampered by their time. The first, Susan Glaspell's story of love and lexicography from 1909, seems as

bold as the last, by Georgina Hammick (from 1986), though you might not have found such an unflinching description of a gynaecological procedure 103 years ago. Put-upon mothers, exasperated wives, discarded mistresses - shared tropes bind these disparate stories into a coherent whole. A stand-out is Norah Hoult's 1938 story of a wife whose husband is grateful for the money her gentleman friend pays her for sex.

### **A Respectable Woman**

Isis Large Print Books

In this beguiling collection of short stories and memoirs, first published in 1969, Mordecai Richler looks back on his childhood in

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Montreal,  
recapturing the  
lively panorama of  
St. Urbain Street:  
the refugees from  
Europe with their  
unexpected  
sophistication and  
snobbery; the  
catastrophic day  
when there was an  
article about St.  
Urbain Street in  
Time; Tansky's  
Cigar and Soda with  
its "beat-up brown  
phonebooth" used  
for "private  
calls"; and tips on  
sex from Duddy  
Kravitz.  
Overflowing with  
humour, nostalgia,  
and wisdom, The  
Street is a  
brilliant  
introduction to  
Richler's lifelong

love-affair with  
St. Urbain Street  
and its  
inhabitants.

The Two Mrs. Abbotts Virago  
Celia Dunne knows that changing  
her will to leave Dunnian to her  
grand-nephew will ruffle family  
feathers. She also knows that the  
grand family estate has stood  
empty far too long, and intends for  
that to change after she's gone.  
Following the Dunnes through  
youthful antics, merry parties,  
heartbreaks, love, and marriages,  
Celia's House is an enchanting  
family novel that begs to be read  
over and over again.

The Fair Miss Fortune  
Sourcebooks, Inc.

July 1936 When Georgette  
Dorothy Marsh's dividends  
fall along with the banks, she  
decides to write a book. Her  
only hope is to bring her  
account out of overdraft and  
possibly buy some hens. The  
problem is that she has so  
little imagination she uses her  
neighbors for inspiration. She

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little expects anyone to realize what she's done. So when *Chronicles of Harper's Bend* becomes a bestseller, her neighbors are questing to find out just who this "Joe Johns" is and punish him. Things escalate beyond what anyone would imagine when one of her prominent characters turns up dead. It seems that the fictional end Georgette had written for the character spurred a real-life murder. Now to find the killer before it is discovered who the author is and she becomes the next victim. Book ONE in *The Poison Ink Mysteries*. Georgette Marsh might be a quiet wallflower and treated as such, but it's time for this wallflower to blossom. Are you ready to journey with her as she decides to craft a new life? If so, you'll love Miss Marsh! For fans of Carola Dunn, Jacqueline Winspear, Georgette Heyer, and Lee Strauss. A light, cozy historical mystery. No swearing, graphic scenes, or cliffhangers. Miss Buncle's Book Isis A stunning debut novel of a young American woman who becomes a spy in Paris during World War II. May 1940: Fleeing a glamorous Manhattan life built on lies, Claire Harris arrives in Paris with a romantic vision of starting anew. But she didn't anticipate the sight of Nazi soldiers marching under the Arc de Triomphe. Her plans smashed by the German occupation, the once-privileged socialite's only option is to take a job in a flower shop under the tutelage of a sophisticated Parisian florist. In exchange for false identity papers, Claire agrees to aid the French Resistance. Despite the ever-present danger, she

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comes to love the enduring beauty of the City of Light, exploring it in the company of Thomas Grey, a mysterious Englishman working with the Resistance. Claire's bravery and intelligence make her a talented operative, and slowly her values shift as she witnesses the courageous spirit of the Parisians. But deception and betrayal force her to flee once more--this time to fight for the man she loves and what she knows is right. Claire just prays she has the heart and determination to survive long enough to one day see Paris again...

Miss Buncle Married

Sourcebooks, Inc.

When Erika Drake, of the Westmount Drakes, met and fell in love with Marc Reiser, a Jew from northern Ontario, their respective worlds were turned upside down. Set against the backdrop of the first three years of the Second World

War, *Earth and High Heaven* captured the hearts and minds of its generation and helped to shape the more diverse and inclusive culture we have today. Published in 1944, this classic novel was very timely; it spoke of the prejudices of its time, when Gentiles and Jews did not mix in society. *Earth and High Heaven* was the most successful novel of its time, winning many awards and prizes, including the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in 1945 (an award founded to reward books that exposed racism or explored the richness of human diversity). It was translated into eighteen languages and the film rights were purchased by Samuel Goldwyn for a remarkable \$100,000. *Earth and High Heaven* was the first Canadian novel to top the New York Times bestseller list for the better part of a year.

The Second Persephone Book of Short Stories Thorndike Press  
Large Print

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A New York Times Book Review  
Editors' Choice Selection

" [Lucey] delivers the goods, disclosing the unhappy or colorful lives that Sargent sometimes hinted at but didn't spell

out. " —Boston Globe In this seductive, multilayered biography, based on original letters and diaries, Donna M. Lucey illuminates four extraordinary women painted by the iconic high-society portraitist John Singer Sargent. With uncanny intuition, Sargent hinted at the mysteries and passions that unfolded in his subjects' lives. These women inhabited a rarefied world of wealth and strict conventions—yet all of them did something unexpected, something shocking, to upend society's rules.

The Making of a Marchioness  
(Emily Fox-Seton, Complete)

Sourcebooks, Inc.

Nothing Goes Unnoticed in the  
Small Town of Wandlebury!

Much as changed in Wandlebury since Barbara Buncle (now Barbara Abbott) first moved to the charming English village. But as the mistress of her own home with two small children to look after,

Barbara finds that she has distressingly little time to keep up with the goings-on of her friends and neighbors. Luckily, Barbara's niece, Jerry Abbott, is more than willing to keep tabs on the news in Wandlebury. And with juicy tidbits of gossip about everything from inconvenient romantic entanglements to German spies hiding in the woods, there is plenty to keep the two Mrs. Abbotts busy in this humorous account of life in World War II England. D.E.

Stevenson delivers another well-crafted gem with *The Two Mrs. Abbotts*, the third and final book of the beloved Miss Buncle series.

Amberwell Zubaan

"I'm not really worrying, but it's very isolated. Boscath is like an island in some ways." "I see what you mean," nodded Jock. "And Rhoda isn't used to islands." James Dering and his new wife Rhoda are returning from their honeymoon, and Jock and Mamie Johnstone are delighted to welcome them to their new home on a neighbouring farm. But Mamie's concern proves justified, and Rhoda, a talented painter who has chosen marriage over art, finds

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rural Scotland lonely after life in London. She soon finds new inspiration in the beauty around her, and in the process gives the bright but difficult young Duggie a new lease on life. But her art will also uncover secrets, and lead to dramatic, far-reaching consequences for those around her. In this novel, in which characters from Vittoria Cottage and Music in the Hills recur, D.E. Stevenson wonderfully evokes the chill and bluster of winter in the Scottish Borders, contrasted with the warmth and charm of her irresistible characters. This new edition features an introduction by Alexander McCall Smith. "Miss Stevenson has her own individual and charming way of seeing things." Western Mail

The Girls of Slender Means (New Directions Classic) Prelude Books  
Mr Edgar Finchley, unmarried clerk, aged 45, is told to take a holiday for the first time in his life. He decides to go to the seaside. But Fate has other plans in store... From his abduction by a cheerful crook, to his smuggling escapade off the south coast, the timid but plucky Mr Finchley is plunged

into a series of the most astonishing and extraordinary adventures. His rural adventure takes him gradually westward through the English countryside and back, via a smuggling yacht, to London. This gentle comedy trilogy was a runaway bestseller on first publication in the 1930s and retains a timeless appeal today. It has been dramatized twice for BBC Radio, with the 1990 series regularly repeated. What people are saying about the Mr Finchley series:

‘ Wonderful character from a kinder slower England between the wars. ’ ‘ An overlooked gem. An innocent picaresque novel set in an arcadian version of mid 20th century England. The literary equivalent of naive painting, it narrates the adventures of a respectable upper middle-aged man who takes retirement. ’ ‘ An antidote to the rush of the early 21st century. ’ ‘ A thoroughly enjoyable stroll through a vanished England with some lovable characters. Don't expect modern, fashionable agonisings, here there is good, evil, and understanding. A lovely reminiscent wallow of a read. ’ ‘ Gentle well told simple

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story, full of pleasant surprises, and a mild mannered believable hero. Loved it to bits. ' ' So gentle, it hurts. ' ' There is a freshness about the writing which is charming and that disarms criticism. Don't expect any great profundities, a gripping plot or inter-character tensions - these books are of the world of Billy Bunter and William Brown - but do expect a very well-written and enjoyable romp through early twentieth-century England in the company of an engaging protagonist. ' ' A delightful story of a man who finds himself jolted out of his comfort zone and taken on a journey beyond his wildest imaginings. ' ' Another lovely book detailing the adventures of Mr Finchley in altogether far too short a series. Full of humour and a book I was sorry to finish as I wanted it to go on and on. ' ' Highly recommended for anyone seeking an entertaining amusing read. ' ' A delight to be transported to an England I never knew despite growing up in the 1950s and to experience the countryside through the sharp eyes of the author who obviously had a great love of all things rural. ' Editorial reviews: ' Quite delightful, with an atmosphere of quiet contentment and humour that cannot fail to charm ... The longer we travel with Mr Finchley, the better we come to love him. He makes us share his bread and cheese, and beer and pipe. His delight at the beauties of the countryside and his mild astonishment at the strange ways of men are infectious. ' Daily Telegraph ' His gift of storytelling is obviously innate. Rarely does one come on so satisfying an amalgam of plot, characterisation and good writing. ' Punch ' A paean to the beauties of the English countryside and the lovable oddities of the English character... [Mr Finchley] runs into one astonishing situation after another, sticking gamely to his resolve that he must take things as they come and accept them. ' New York Times ' What counts for most in the story, as it did for Mr Finchley, is his mounting pleasure in vagabondage and the English scene. ' The Times ' There is such a gentle humour in the book ... Mr Finchley is the ideal



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Englishman. ' Daily Sketch  
Mr Finchley Discovers His  
England Fontana Press

A novel, set in the Scottish  
highlands, first published in 1942.  
The Four Graces New Canadian  
Library

Yes, her job was the loneliest in the  
world. No king, no dictator set  
high upon a pinnacle, was as  
friendless as the headmistress of a  
girls' school. Charlotte Fairlie  
loves her position at the illustrious  
St. Elizabeth's, but it's not without  
its challenges-first among them her  
trouble-making maths mistress  
Miss Pinkerton, who yearns for  
Charlotte's job and spares no  
effort to complicate her life. Then  
there's the charming Lawrence  
Swayne, headmaster of a nearby  
boys' school, who has plans of his  
own for Charlotte's future. But it's  
the arrival of Tessa MacRynne,  
desperately homesick for the  
Scottish isle of Targ and distraught  
about her parents' impending  
divorce, who really stirs things up-  
giving Miss Pinkerton fresh  
ammunition, helping the  
unfortunate Eastwoods, who  
cower beneath their father's snide,  
critical personality, and inspiring

Charlotte to spend an unforgettable  
holiday on Targ. Adventures,  
pleasures, misunderstandings, and  
tragedies follow, told with D.E.  
Stevenson's inimitable sensitivity  
and humour, and Charlotte's  
loneliness is soon forgotten . . .

First published in 1954 and long  
out of print, Charlotte Fairlie is the  
irresistible, sometimes poignant  
tale of a talented professional  
woman gaining a new lease on life.  
This new edition includes an  
autobiographical sketch by the  
author. "Miss Stevenson has her  
own individual and charming way  
of seeing things." Western Mail  
The Vanderbeekers Make a  
Wish Independently Published  
Barbara Buncle, who is  
unmarried and perhaps in her  
late 30s, lives in a small village  
and writes a novel about it in  
order to try and supplement her  
meagre income.

The Last Time I Saw Paris  
Persephone Books

This carefully crafted ebook:  
"The Making of a Marchioness  
+ The Shuttle (2 Unabridged  
Classic Romances)" contains 2

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books in one volume and is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. Frances Hodgson Burnett worked on two books simultaneously: *The Shuttle*, a longer and more complicated book; and *The Making of a Marchioness*, which she wrote in a few weeks and published to good reviews. It is about the rejuvenating effects of Americans and American money on a somewhat decadent English aristocracy. *The Making of a Marchioness* (1901) It was originally published in two parts: the first tells the fairy tale-like story of how our heroine, Emily Fox-Seton, became the Marchioness of Walderhurst. The second, originally titled *The Methods of Lady Walderhurst*, is a down-to-earth portrayal of the realities of Victorian marriage, with a bit of a Victorian sensation vibe to it. *The Shuttle* (1907) It was begun in 1900 but frequently abandoned while its author, Frances Hodgson Burnett, wrote several other books, including, most famously, *The Making of a Marchioness*. *The Shuttle* is about American heiresses marrying English aristocrats; by extension it is about the effect of American energy and dynamism rejuvenating a somewhat decadent English aristocracy: Rosalie Vanderpoel, the daughter of an American multimillionaire marries an impoverished English baronet and goes to live in England. She all but loses contact with her family in America. Years later her younger sister Bettina, beautiful, intelligent and extremely rich, goes to England to find what has happened to her sister. She finds Rosalie shabby and dispirited, cowed by her husband's ill treatment. Bettina sets about to rectify matters... Frances Eliza Hodgson Burnett (1849 – 1924) was an English-American playwright and author. She is best known for her children's

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stories, in particular Little Lord Fauntleroy , A Little Princess, and The Secret Garden.

The Priory Cormorant Books

The Harvey sisters are unconventional, unschooled and oddly named they have been brought up at quite some distance from the rest of the world. Living with their famous detective writer father, and their fragile mother, they have been one another's friends - with hardly any experience of people outside their family.

Spring Magic Dean Street Press  
'Charming, very funny indeed.

Angela Thirkell is perhaps the most Pym-like of any twentieth-century author, after Pym herself' - Alexander McCall

Smith Edgewood Rectory may be set in an ancient landscape, but the Grantly family are very much of their time. Caught up in the uncertain world that has emerged since the outbreak of peace, the Rector and Mrs

Grantly are bewildered by the challenges facing their eldest children: Eleanor, longing for more excitement than can be found in the Red Cross Library; and Tom, struggling to readjust to student life at Oxford after his military service. When their elderly neighbour Miss Sowerby sells her beloved Old Bank House to self-made MP Sam Adams, the one-time outsider finds himself at the heart of Bassetshire society. And while Sam may dismiss her advice that the house needs a mistress, even a contented widower can be surprised by love.

The Baker's Daughter  
DigiCat

No Matter What Life Throws at Them, the Grace Sisters Always Have Each Other The four Grace sisters-Liz, Sal, Tilly, and Addie-love their quiet life in the country village of Chevis Green. To some, their insular world might seem dull, but the

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sisters and their father, Mr. Grace, never seem to run out of conversation, jokes, and pleasant ways to pass the time together. They truly are the happiest of families. That is, until Aunt Rona comes to town. Rona intends to stay with the Graces indefinitely, and her superior, meddlesome attitude immediately sets the sisters' teeth on edge. Throw in another unexpected houseguest, some potential suitors, and a case of mistaken intentions, and the members of the Grace family suddenly find themselves quite out of their element. Will they manage to make it through the summer and return to their quiet ways? Or will their close-knit family change forever? The Four Graces is another heartwarming tale from D.E. Stevenson, beloved author of Miss Buncle's Book

Readers Love The Four Graces: "Reading D.E. Stevenson is simultaneously profoundly entertaining and heart-wrenching." Miss Plum and Miss Penny W. W. Norton & Company

‘ It took my mother, Khonuo, exactly forty-five years before she could bring herself to talk about the war. ’ These powerful words introduce the reader to Easterine Kire ' s stunning new novel, A Respectable Woman. In Nagaland, the decisive Battle of Kohima has been fought and won by the Allies, and people in and around Kohima are trying hard to come to terms with the devastation, the loss of home and property, and the deaths of their loved ones. Forty years after the event, Khonuo recreates this moment, stitching together her memories, bit by painful bit, for her young daughter. As memory passes from mother to daughter, the narrative glides seamlessly into

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the present, a moment in which Nagaland, much transformed, confronts different realities and challenges. Using storytelling traditions so typical of her region, Kire leads the reader gently into a world where history and memory meld — where, through this blurring, a young woman comes to understand the legacy of her parents and her land.